

Waterfront West Area

Summary of Recommendations from the City's 2003 Waterfront Strategic Plan

A 2003 Waterfront Strategic Plan, developed by City officials with support from planning consultants, recommended that the City take action, in coordination with private developers, like NED, to:

1. “Extend the scale and character of downtown Newburyport to the waterfront by establishing a vibrant Harborside neighborhood.”
2. “Establish a system of public ways extending the historic street pattern of Newburyport to the water.”
3. “Enhance and expand public parks and civic spaces along the harbor for relaxation and recreation.”
4. “[Provide] a variety of experiences for pedestrians traversing the waterfront as water views are held back and revealed in a dramatic way.”
5. “Improve the pedestrian character of Merrimac Street with trees, walks, and infill development from the North End [*and through Waterfront West*] to the Downtown.”
6. “Require all new development to conform to and reflect the historic character and quality of downtown Newburyport.”
7. “Ensure a healthy mix of uses that serve the downtown community and support a vibrant mix of activities year round.”
8. “Create a framework of streets, walks and squares.”
9. “Create a third street to the waterfront in between the Market and Green Street extensions.”
10. “Create an extension of Market Street to the water. Reorient this extension to lead directly to and frame views of the embayment and the Merrimack River.”

11. “Create a public plaza for public events, activities, and vendors. This plaza should be lined with public uses such as a public market, shops, a hotel, and the like.”
12. “Establish general design guidelines enforced by municipal site plan review.”
13. “Adapt zoning and subdivision regulations to support this strategic waterfront vision.”