

**PORTLAND'S COMMUNITY VISION
FOR
THE FUTURE**

Distinctive Features to Value, Preserve and Build Upon

And

Future Directions for Portland

A COMMUNITY VISION FOR PORTLAND

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF PORTLAND TO VALUE, PRESERVE & BUILD UPON

Portland is an **intimate city, small in scale but big in urban amenities and a high quality of life**, which is situated around a scenic Maine coastal peninsula. Portland is a city of **neighborhoods around a vibrant downtown**, which make up the building blocks to the community as a whole.

I. A City That Provides For People

Portland is the largest city in Maine and is the **economic and service center** for the region.

Portland continues to attract people of workforce age due to **diverse job opportunities** (particularly in business and technology), quality employment, and a stable economy.

Portland has a **vital working waterfront** with diverse coastal commerce activities and water dependent uses.

Portland is the center for many **regional service institutions**, which offer high quality medical care, an extensive range of social services for those in need, and numerous higher education opportunities.

II. A City That Is A Good Place To Live

Portland retains a **small town feel** with a built environment that is scaled for people, is pedestrian friendly, and is accessible to the community. Residents value and seek to enhance the safety of the community, the proximity of commercial uses near residences, and the walkable nature of the city.

Portland enjoys a personable and congenial atmosphere that makes it a **welcoming place to work, live and visit**.

Portland offers the **amenities and services** of a big city. Throughout Portland there are diverse arts, cultural and educational offerings, assorted shopping opportunities, numerous scenic parks and active athletic facilities, and high quality municipal services and infrastructure.

Portland has an **active and vibrant downtown** both day and night due to its interwoven mix of residential, commercial, institutional and cultural land uses.

Portland is the **visual and performing arts center** of Maine.

Portland is a **city of neighborhoods** with a range of residential neighborhood types, such as high-density areas on the peninsula, early 20th century neighborhoods off the peninsula, suburban neighborhoods and the more rural areas of the Islands.

Portland is a great place for families with **good neighborhood schools** that serve families throughout their life cycle.

III. A City That Values Its Natural, Architectural And Cultural Heritage

Portland is a **coastal community** that is geographically varied and dynamic with:

- Spectacular views of Casco Bay and the Islands, Back Cove, and Maine's Mountains from the City's promontories; and

- Three meandering rivers with significant saltwater estuaries and streams that flow through neighborhoods;

- Significant wildlife and fisheries resources; and

- Access to our natural features through the City's trails, parks and scenic viewpoints.

Portland is a **culturally and ethnically diverse community** that values its shared history, is proud of its cultural diversity and is working together for a cohesive community.

Portland is a **historic maritime city**, which:

- Retains a rich historic character for both commercial and residential neighborhoods;

- Offers a broad spectrum of architecture and distinctive landmarks; and

- Maintains unifying features, such as brick buildings and sidewalks, and established and traditional neighborhoods with narrow and interconnected streets.

A COMMUNITY VISION FOR PORTLAND

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR PORTLAND

Portland is Maine's principal city, the **center of employment, housing, and services** for the region. In the future Portland will evolve as an extension, continuation and enhancement of the best qualities and characteristics of Portland today. Progress and prosperity will result from both incremental growth and bold initiatives tempered by careful consideration and foresight in planning. Portland's future will:

I. Build A Vibrant Small City

Build upon the distinctive fabric of Portland's built environment by **rehabilitating historic resources** and by **developing new buildings that respect the scale and character of traditional development patterns**. New development shall be pedestrian oriented and accessible.

Strive for innovation and bold initiatives that increase the livability and quality of life in Portland.

Support a **dynamic downtown** that embraces an intertwining of uses, including residential, business, retail, institutional, service, and arts and cultural uses.

Promote, **support and celebrate the arts and cultural community** that enriches the lives of our citizens.

Capitalize on Portland's economic assets and develop a strong economy based upon traditional industries, a strong retail and office center, and emergent opportunities in industry, business, and coastal commerce.

II. Serve The People

Provide compassionate services for the city's vulnerable citizens, while leading regional approaches to share the responsibility of caring for citizens in need.

Foster **expanded opportunities, innovative solutions** and **exemplary services** from Portland's institutions for higher education, health care, and community services.

Achieve and operate excellent neighborhood schools with state of the art facilities and which serve the educational needs of all students. Establish wide recognition that Portland schools meet or exceed the educational performance of any other public school system in the region.

Support and encourage the creation and preservation of an **adequate supply of quality housing** for all.

III. Provide High Quality Leadership

Create a **sustainable community** with vital neighborhoods, high quality infrastructure, a strong economy, and a healthy environment, while keeping municipal taxes affordable.

Encourage **excellence in City government and comprehensive planning** through increased civic involvement, responsive local government, accountable decision making, and creative and adaptive local and regional planning. Innovative thinking and leadership will preserve those attributes of Portland that we value.

Incorporate environmental, economic and neighborhood considerations in municipal decision-making.

Take the lead in developing **clear standards and rules and ensure adherence** thereto.

IV. Protect Our Community Attributes

Protect the natural environment and historic resources.

Preserve and enhance the park system with its trails, active recreation facilities and natural areas.

Strengthen alternative transportation options in order to create an accessible City that promotes ease of movement for all citizens, serving neighborhood needs, pedestrians, handicapped persons, bicyclists and vehicles.

Listen to, embrace, empower and support our diverse citizenry.