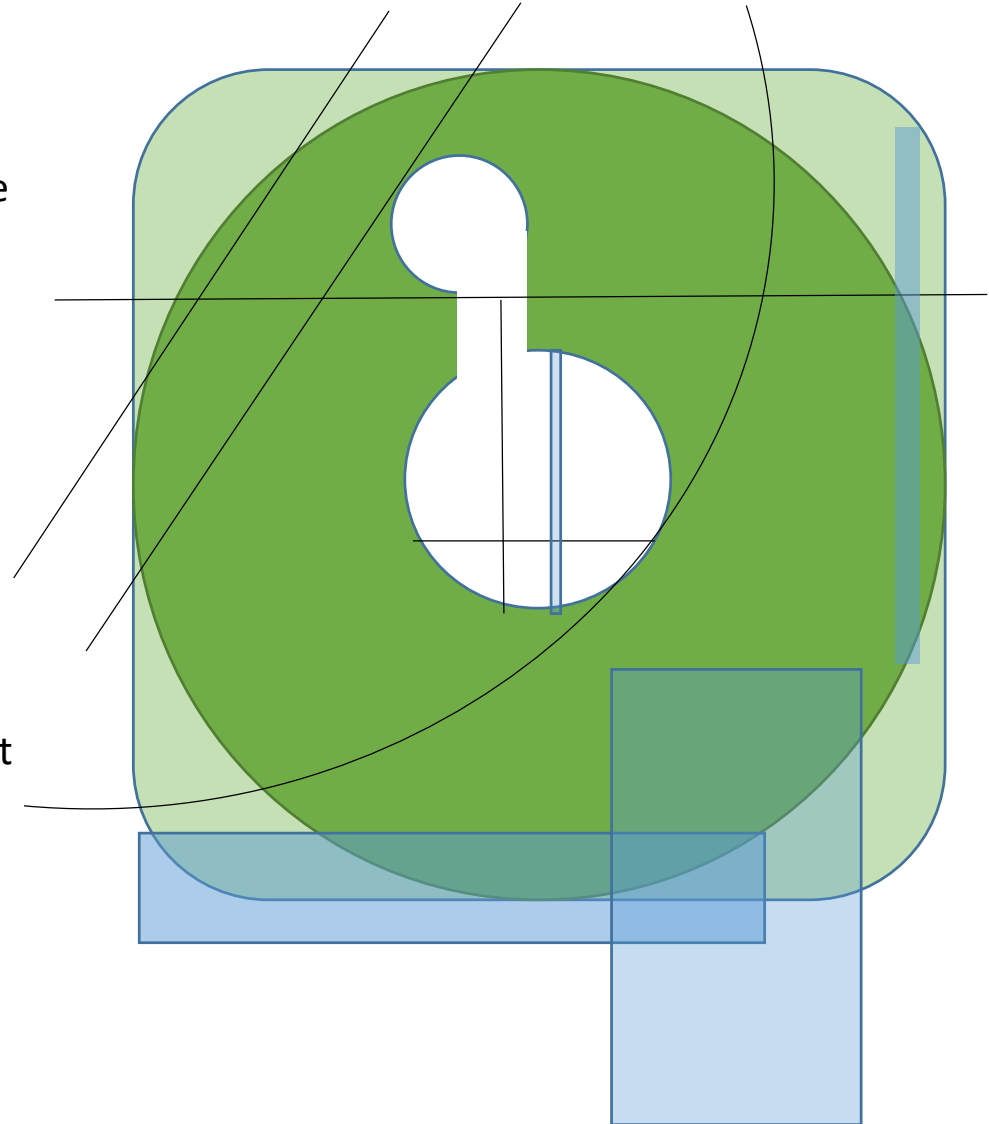


THE SK RING

The Town of South Kingstown (SK) cherishes its natural resources. For decades, the Town has pursued land use policies designed to preserve the woodlands, wetlands, agricultural fields, beaches and ponds scattered throughout the geographic bounds of the municipality.

SK is also home to the former-mill villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield as well as the main campus of the University of Rhode Island.

Taken together, the Town's development history and pattern can be understood as a conservation "ring" around an area of careful township/urban preservation and development. This strategy has produced and preserved a balance of human and wildlife habitats that is truly unique in the Northeastern United States. Working-class neighborhoods, farms, beach homes, a major university and large open spaces have thrived in SK.



SK is a village surrounded by a park (or at least a park-like setting) . . .

In turn, the park is surrounded by the largest urbanized area in North America.

The next slide is an unaltered NASA satellite image of the eastern seaboard at night. Notice that one of the only dark places that actually touches the waters of the Atlantic is Charlestown/Matunuck. SK is part of one of the last oases on the Atlantic coast. This is truly a very special place.



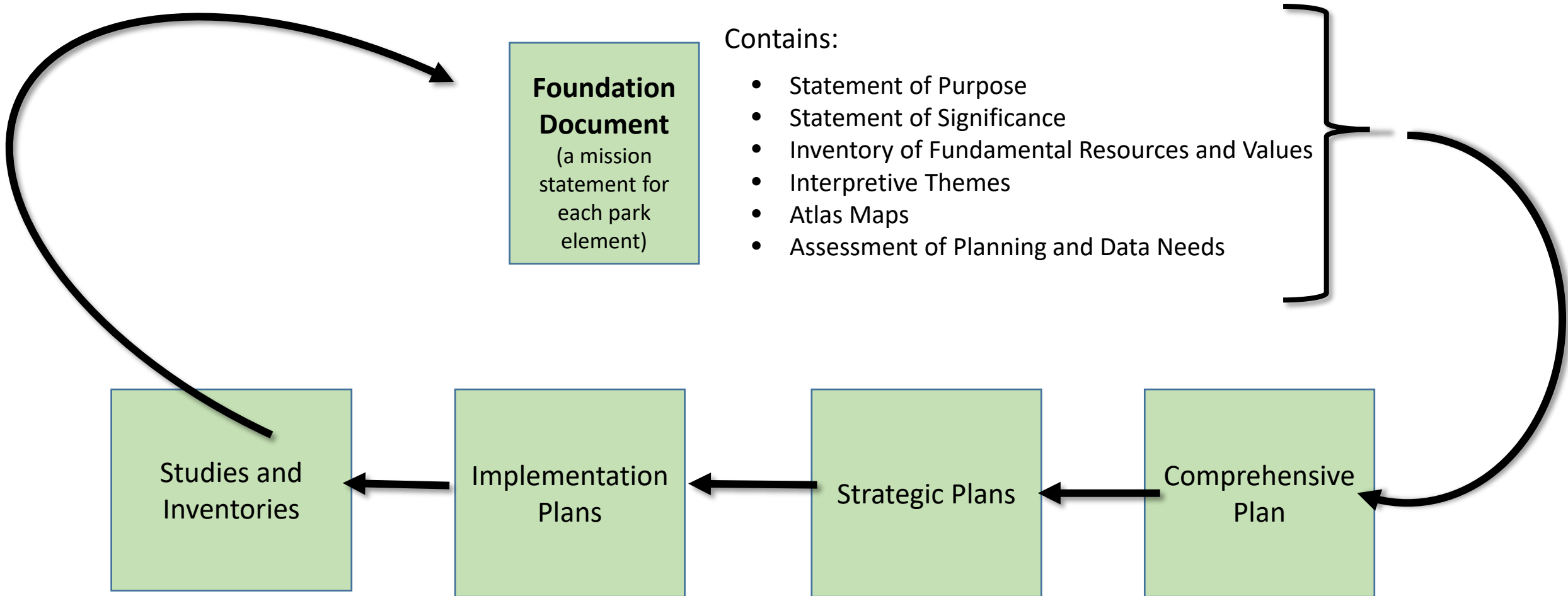
The results of careful planning can be seen from outer space. South Kingstown (Matunuck) and Charlestown are one of the few places on the eastern seaboard where the forest still meets the sea.

The Community's Vision

The residents of South Kingstown recognize that the land we occupy and the waters adjacent to those lands are limited and invaluable resources that cannot be squandered and must be responsibly managed. The community is committed to conserving our natural environment, preserving its history and responsibly developing human habitats that promote belonging, success and fulfillment for people from all walks of life.

A Framework for Managing a Village Inside a Park

Based on the National Park Service Planning Model



The Ring

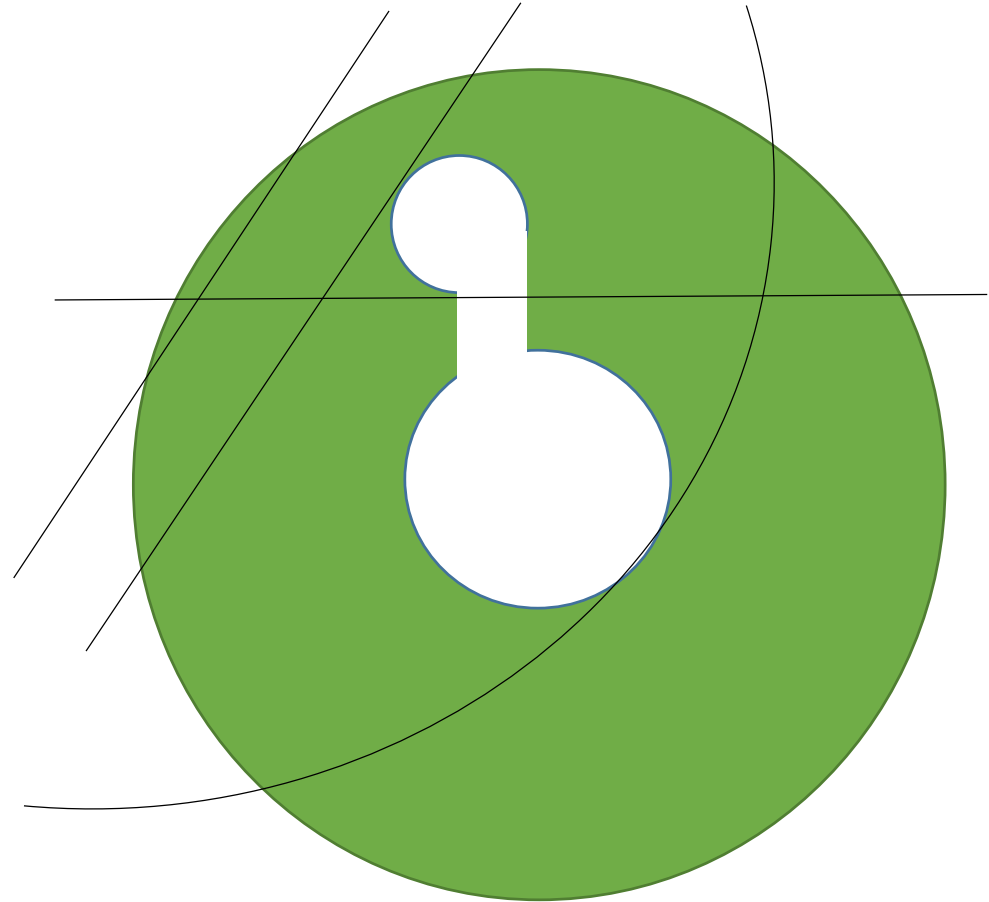
The last time the data were collected (early 2000s), 34% of South Kingstown's total area was occupied by Natural Heritage Areas – areas that are home to threatened or endangered plant and animal species.

32% of the land area of South Kingstown is conserved, deed-restricted, open-space.

Taken together, deed and zoning restrictions provide that 80% of the land in SK cannot have more than one principal structure per acre. The farms, woodlands and wetlands of SK are protected.

South Kingstown is home to 2 federal, 5 state, 1 private and 19 municipally-managed parklands, totally more than 4,300 acres.

There are more than 20 miles of hiking trails and nearly 9 miles of bike paths, 2.5 more miles of bike paths currently under construction.



Local Management of Parks

A total of 20 municipal park properties, 552 acres of a combination of green space, athletic fields and courts, greenways, trails, gardens and shoreline are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Since 1909, when the Village Green in Peace Dale was developed by the Hazard family, South Kingstown has recognized the value of public parks as places that unify communities, offer enjoyment of nature as a great equalizer. In 1938 the Hazard Family gifted Old Mountain Field to the Town as the second public green space with the specific purpose of conserving a significant green space in the center of town as the Town began to develop and grow. It was the beginning of a lasting commitment to public green space and outdoor recreation as an essential element of the community.

Since 1973, the Town has systematically grown the park system, with additional land and recreational resources to keep pace with the growth and development of the town and its population.

The table below lists the Town's municipal parks and outdoor recreation properties, and the year each was established.

Summary of South Kingstown Municipal Park Expansion

South Kingstown Parks & Outdoor Recreation Properties	Acreage	Year Established
Village Green*	6.5	1909
Hazard Garden	1	1920
Old Mountain Field*	60	1938
Town Farm*	3	1953
Tri-Pond Park	99	1973
Saugatucket Park	4	1975
Brousseau Park	5	1976
Fagan Park	1.5	1979
Treaty Rock Park	8	1988
Town Beach Matunuck*	20	1988
Tuckertown Park*	65	1990
West Kingston Park*	12	1993
Marina Park	12	1994
Curtis Corner Playfields	53	1997
Abbie Perry Park	2.5	1999
William C. O'Neill Bike Path	15	2000
Broad Rock Play Fields*	151	2001
Green Hill Park*	20	2002
Domenic Savio Property*	13.44	2009
Saugatucket River Walk	0.5	2018
Total acreage	552.44	

* Acquired or improved with state and or federal assistance

Strong and Continuing Commitment

For the last five decades the Town of South Kingstown has dedicated resources to ensuring that public parks and green space has been maintained and developed for the continued public use and enjoyment.

Park Acres per 1,000 residents:	54.3
Expenditure per resident:	\$64.79
Program Revenue per resident:	\$22
Net Expenditure per resident:	\$42.79

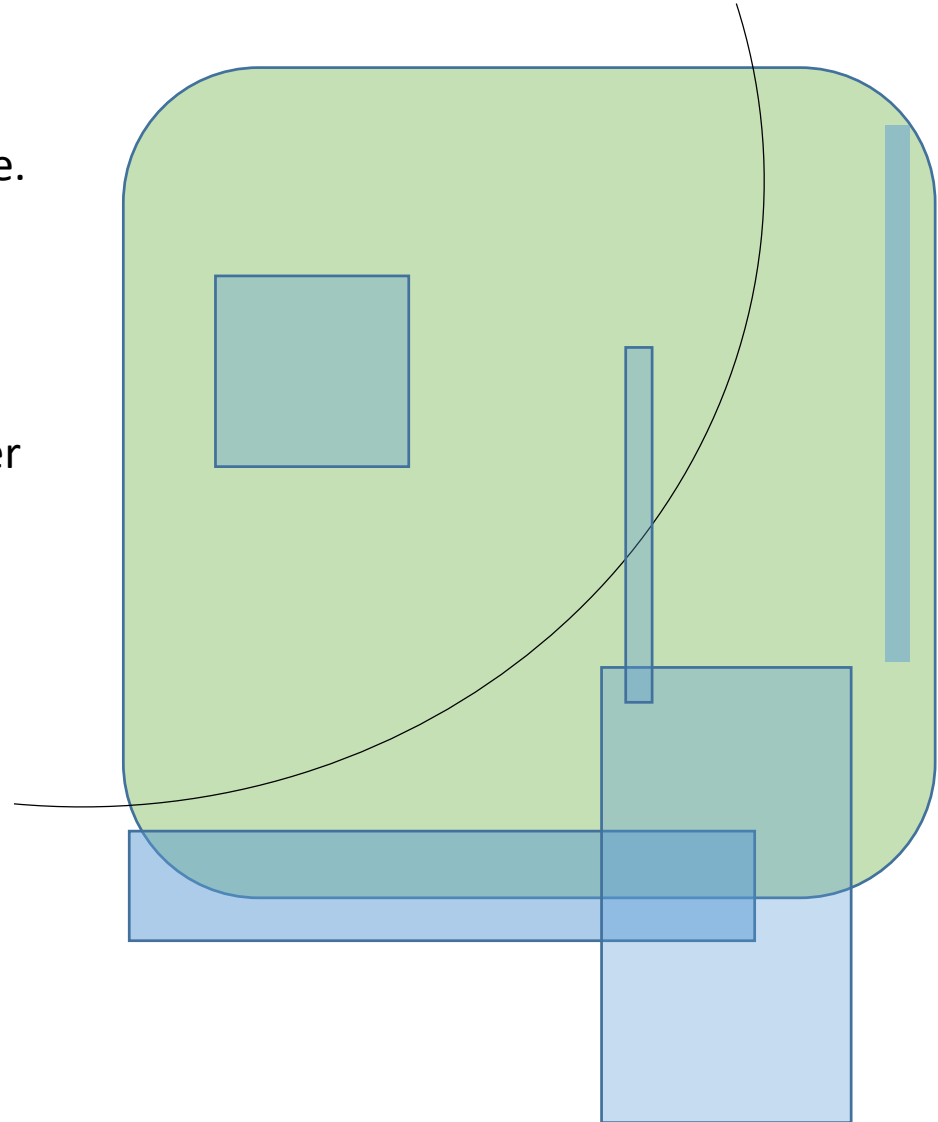
The Waterfront

SK's water resources are incredible. SK is home to both the largest salt pond and the largest fresh water pond in the state.

Due north of Block Island, Point Judith Pond is a natural stop for boaters on their way to or from the island.

At 1,043 acres, Worden Pond is the largest natural fresh water lake in Rhode Island.

5 of Rhode Island's 9 mainland Great Salt Ponds are in South Kingstown.

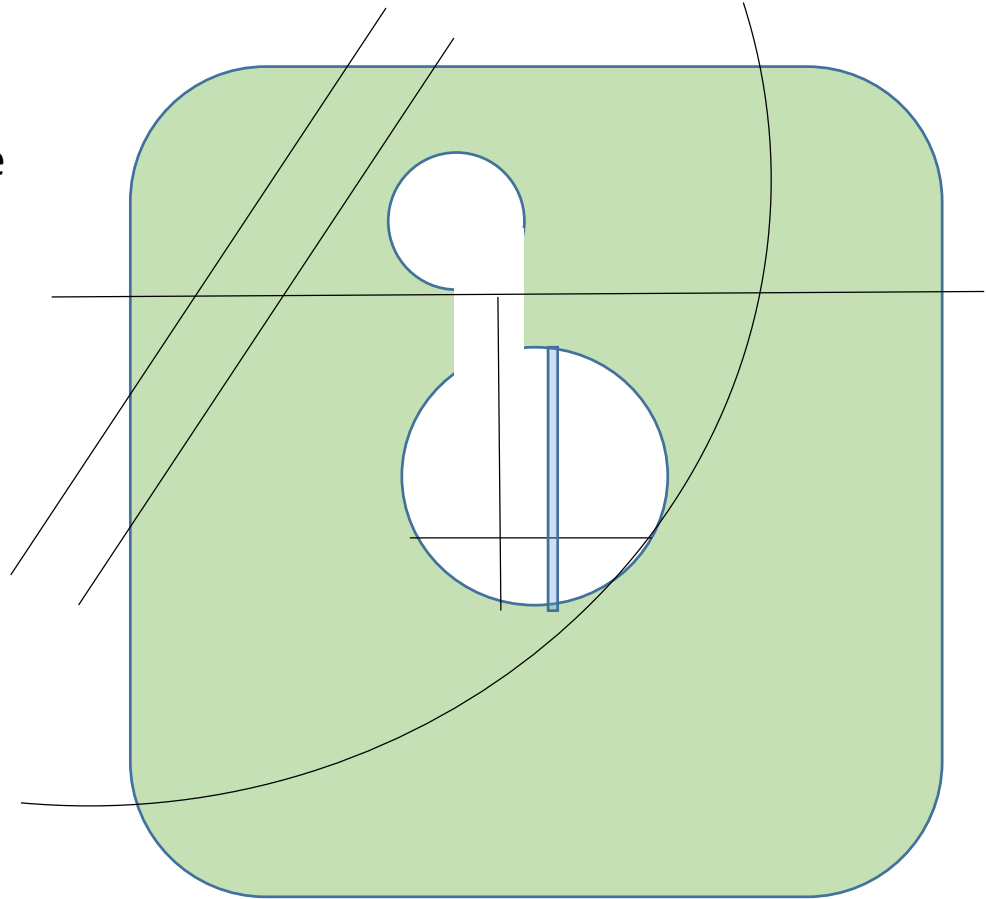


The Core Villages

The Core Villages in SK are: Wakefield, Peace Dale, Kingston and West Kingston. Each of the four villages that comprise the “Core” have their own distinct character and each functions somewhat different from the others.

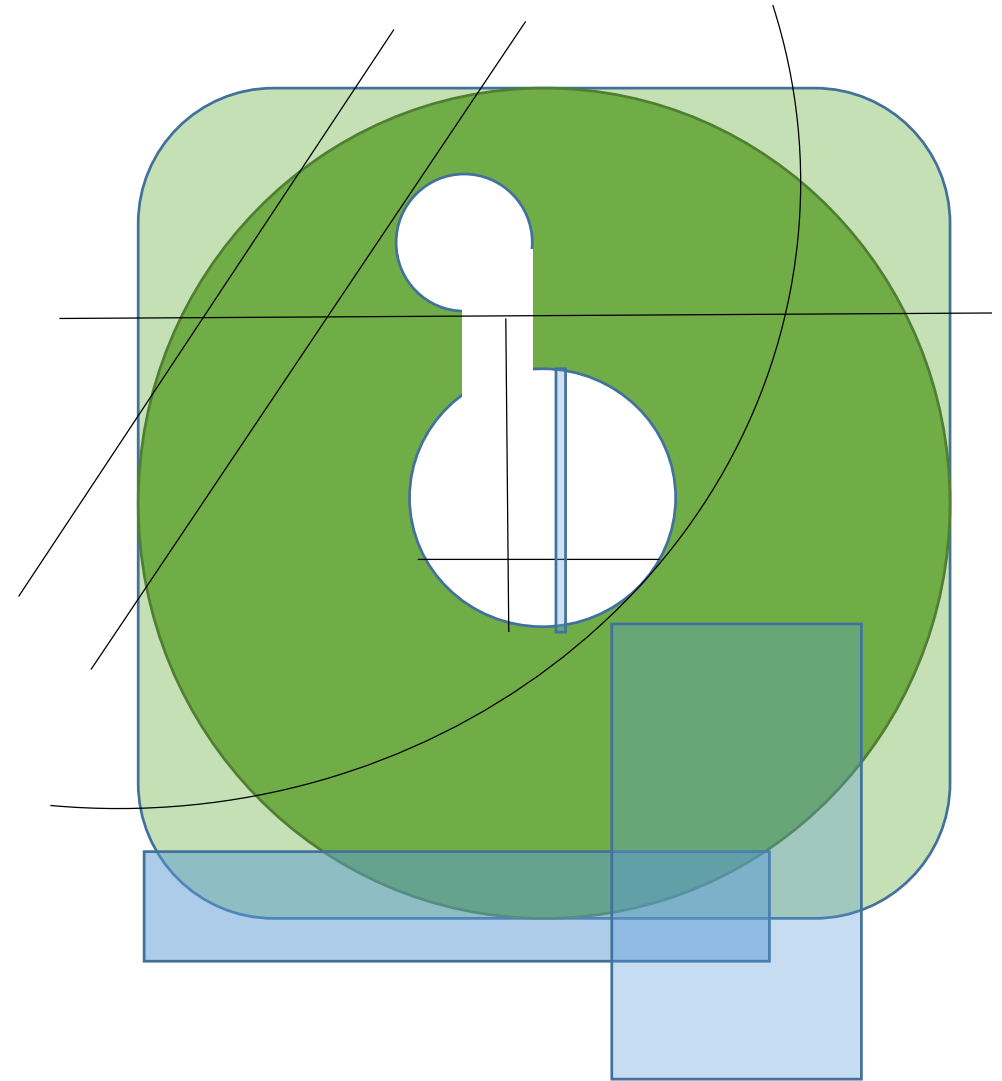
However, the patterns of development that have already emerged within these four villages largely (but not completely) defines what can be called the *natural* urban growth boundary. The core can be observed and planned for.

Notably, as is common with development pattern, the transportation network (the Northeast corridor rail line and routes 138, 108, 1 and 2) has provided the substratum on which commercial and civic development has already grown.





This South County light pollution map (depicting satellite data), shows a pattern of development that matches the ring-core model.



Inventory of resources and attributes

To effectively manage the SK Ring and plan for the future of the Village Core, a basic understanding of the Town's resources, values, and history is needed - a foundation for planning and management. This kind of inventory and mission statement is more basic and more fundamental than a comprehensive plan.

Foundational Questions for Managing the SK Ring and Village Core

- What is the purpose of the Ring?
- And the purpose of the Core?
- Why do we want to conserve the Ring?
- What characteristics do we want to see manifested in the Core?
- What makes the Ring and Core significant?
- What are its fundamental natural and human resources and values of the Ring and the Core?
- What legal and policy requirements, special mandates, and administrative commitments apply to each area?
- What are key planning and data requirements that must be met to conserve the Ring and preserve and appropriately develop the Core?

The Ring Mission Statement

Statement of Purpose: The South Kingstown Ring and its water features are the primary attraction to the town. The parks, trails, boat launches, canoe and kayak venues, farmer's markets, bike paths and beaches contained within The Ring are what make SK an attractive place for visitors, second-home buyers and, of course, our residents.

Statement of Significance: *The Ring* is where Rhode Islanders and people from throughout southern New England come to relax and enjoy the recreational resources of largest contiguous coast forests in the region.

Inventory of Fundamental Resources and Values:

34% of total area = Natural Heritage Areas; 32% of the land area of South Kingstown is conserved, deed-restricted, open-space; 80% zoned for low-density development or no development at all; 4,300 acres of parklands, including 2 federal, 5 state, 1 private and 19 municipally-managed properties; 20 miles of hiking trails; nearly 9 miles of bike paths.

Key Interpretive Themes: Seashore, operating farms, active (biking, shooting, golf, boating) and passive recreation.

Atlas Maps: Recreational maps.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs: Complete inventory of recreational facilities.

The Village Mission Statement

Statement of Purpose: The villages of South Kingstown are the primary commercial, retail and entertainment venues of the community. They are also where the majority of SK residents reside and work.

Statement of Significance: Our villages provide a major portion of the development opportunities and tax base necessary to sustain the ring park surrounding the village core.

Inventory of Fundamental Resources and Values: “Small-town feel.” Safe. Comfortable. Slow-paced.

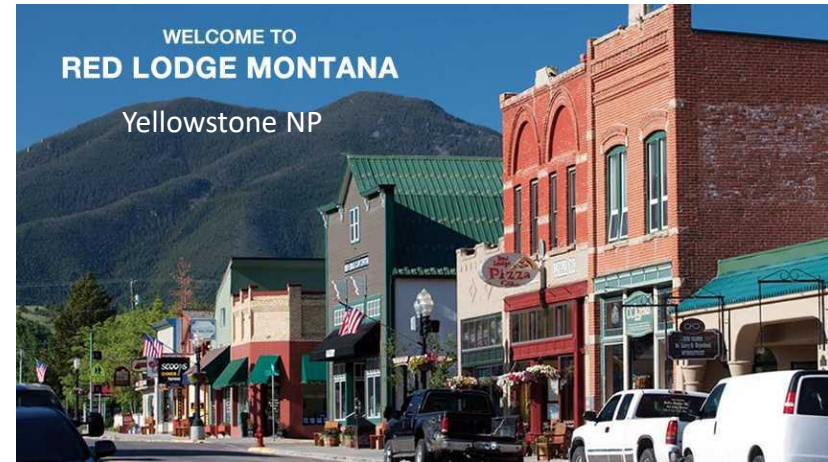
Key Interpretive Themes: British Colonial, 19th Century Mercantile, “New English” and Native Stonework and constructions

Atlas Maps: A collection of contemporary, historic and aspirational maps that present cultural and commercial resources.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs: Historic data structures and people of the villages. Inventories of current and prior architectural types. Inventory of vacant properties. Inventory of in-fill potential properties. Inventory of amenity adjacencies. Et Cetera.



Bar Harbor Maine
Acadia NP

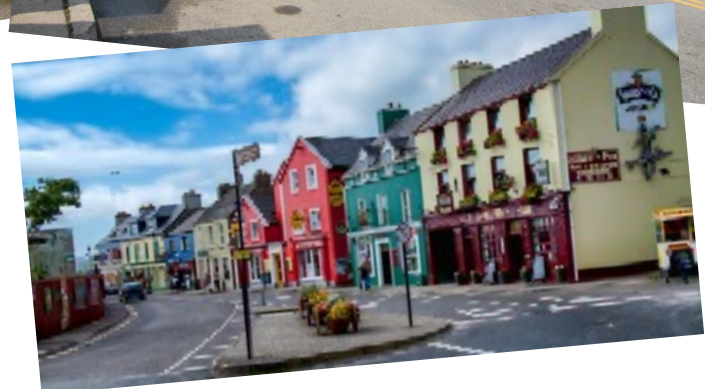


Examples to Emulate

Each of the examples presented here is a gateway community just outside one of our National Parks. They've work with the park service to marry park and town development standards.



Village Design Elements



Park Design Elements



Park Design Elements



Village Designs that may fit SK . . .



Standards and patterns that don't fit SK . . .

Not every gateway community strikes the balance that SK residents have been working to achieve.



Niagara Falls State Park
New York



Hampton Beach State Park
New Hampshire



Niagara Falls State Park
New York

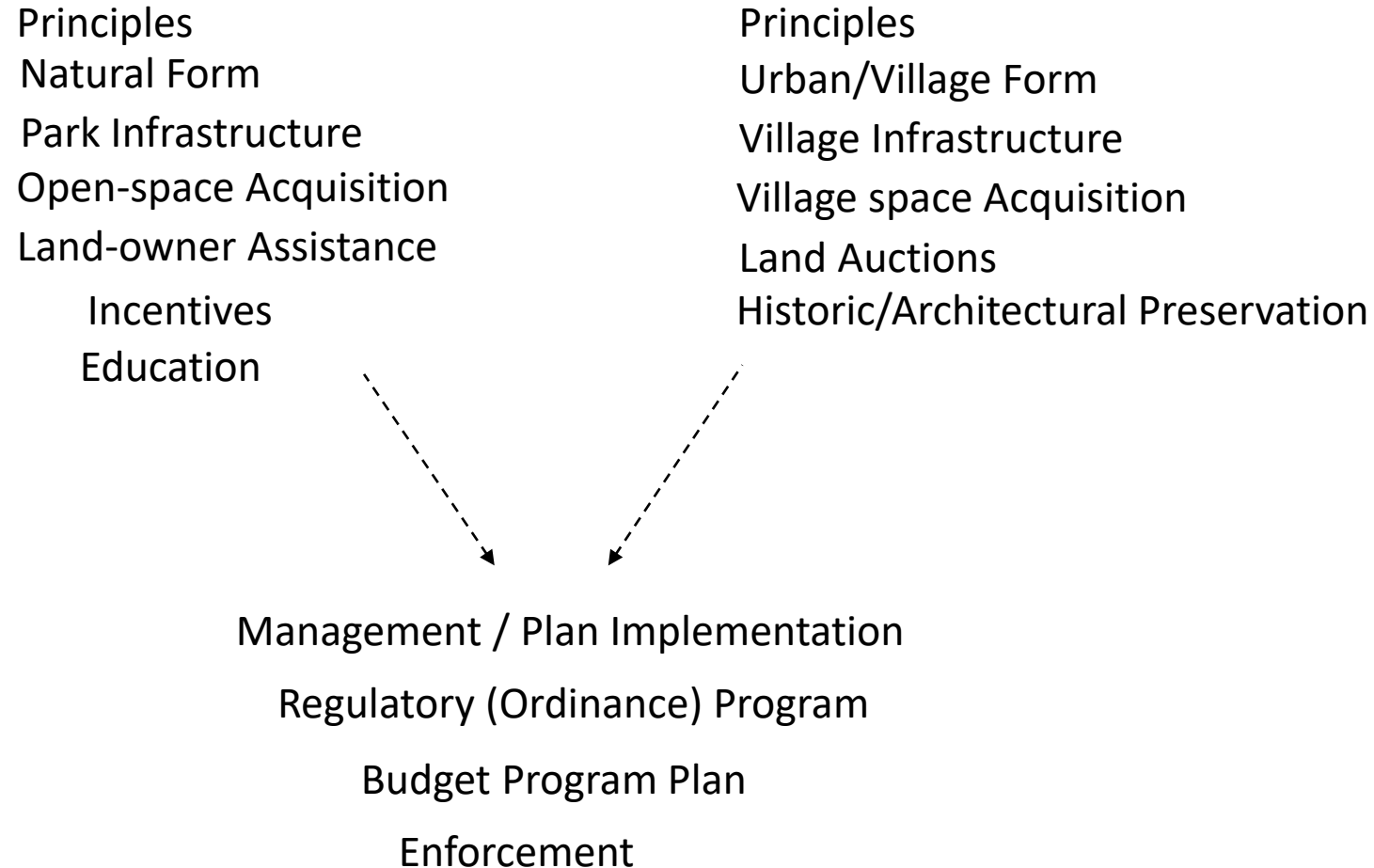
Turning the Layered Elements into a Work Plan

The Park Ring

Principles
Natural Form
Park Infrastructure
Open-space Acquisition
Land-owner Assistance
Incentives
Education

The Village Core

Principles
Urban/Village Form
Village Infrastructure
Village space Acquisition
Land Auctions
Historic/Architectural Preservation



The diagram illustrates the process of turning layered elements into a work plan. It features two columns of principles and elements on the left and right, respectively. Dashed arrows from the bottom of each column point towards a central stack of implementation steps at the bottom. The central stack includes 'Management / Plan Implementation', 'Regulatory (Ordinance) Program', 'Budget Program Plan', and 'Enforcement'.

Management / Plan Implementation
Regulatory (Ordinance) Program
Budget Program Plan
Enforcement