



East Providence Comprehensive Plan

TOPIC WORKSHOPS:
Historic & Cultural Resources and the Arts
City Services & Infrastructure

September 30, 2021

Agenda

Overview of Topics in the
Comp Plan

City Snapshot

What We've Heard So Far

What's Happening How

Moving Forward

Small Group Discussions



In the Comprehensive Plan

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standard Manual

Historic & Cultural Resources

- List and describe resources
- Are there current or potential future threats to significant resources?
- What are existing local programs, policies, City committees, and/or community groups that manage these resources?

City Services & Infrastructure

- Does current capacity meet existing population needs?
- Will future development impact level of service?
- Do services/infrastructure need to be expanded, upgraded, etc.?

Solid waste management/recycling, drinking water, sewer, school facilities, libraries, community/senior center, public safety



City Snapshot



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel

Historic Resources

National Register Districts/Sites/Structures	# of Sites/ Structures
Rumford Historic District	81
Phillipsdale Historic District	125
Rumford Chemical Works Historic District	8
Elm Tree Plat*	53
Rose Land Park Plat*	39
Individual Sites/Structures	18
Total Structures	324

Historic Resources

Management, Protection, & Awareness

Historic District Commission

- Designates individual properties or a concentration of properties as local historic districts
- Issues certification of appropriateness for any construction, alteration, repair, removal or demolition affecting the exterior appearance of a structure within a local historic district

Local Historic Districts

- Hunt's Mill Historic District
- Rumford Historic District



Historic Resources

Carousel Commission

- Establishes programs for the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Crescent Park Carousel
- Undertakes fundraising activities necessary to finance such programs.

Management, Protection, & Awareness



Photo credit: Daniel Case

Historic Resources

Management, Protection, & Awareness

2013 Historic Resources Reconnaissance Study

- Tool to identify future historic districts
- Rose Land Park & Elm Tree designated
- Whitcomb Farm Plat also has merit

2014 Early European Settlements & Native Lands Mapping

- c. 1636 to 1740
- East Providence, Barrington, Bristol, and Warren
- Identify and protect important resources



Historic Resources

East Providence Historical Society

Mission

To enrich and educate the citizens of East Providence and surrounding communities about its history through excellent museum experiences and quality educational programs that are relevant and accessible to everyone.



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel

Arts & Culture

Mission

The East Providence Arts Council's mission is to create an arts community that is inclusive, diverse, and accessible to all the people of East Providence; to connect creatives to each other and the resources they need to succeed. And in so doing, enriching all the lives of those who live and work in the City.

East Providence Arts Council



looff : noun | \lʊf-
a whirlwind of art, music and life.

Arts & Culture

Arts and Cultural Events



Photo credit: East Bay RI Papers



Photo credit: Portuguese Feasts and Events



Photo credit: EP Reporter



Photo credit: East Bay RI Papers



Photo credit: Robert Perry



Photo credit: What's Up Newport

City Services/ Infrastructure

Public Safety



Photo credits: Kenneth C. Zirkel

City Services/ Infrastructure

9 Divisions

Building Inspection

Central Garage

Engineering

Highway

Parks

Public Building

Refuse and Recycling

Water Utilities

Water Pollution Control

Public Works

- Road and sidewalk maintenance
- Parks and grounds maintenance
- City building maintenance
- Trash and recycling collection
- Drinking water service/infrastructure
- Wastewater service/infrastructure
- Building and code inspections
- Construction inspections
- City mapping

City Services/ Infrastructure

East Providence School District

Pre-K

Oldham Pre-K & Early
Learning Center
Marin Annex

K-Grade 5

Orlo Avenue School
Kent Heights School
Silver Spring School
Waddington School
Myron J. Francis School
Whiteknact School
Agnes B. Hennessey School

Grades 6-8

Martin Middle School
Riverside Middle School

Grades 9-12

East Providence High School
Career Technical School



Photo credit:
EP School District

City Services/ Infrastructure

Public Library

Weaver Library

Riverside Branch

Fuller Creative Learning Center

Senior Center

Recreation Dept.

City Hall



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel





What We've Heard So Far



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel

Assets & Opportunities

There is a vibrant local arts community, and it needs to be strengthened and supported.

Venue at BPP is great, but there are opportunities for small venues for the arts.

The Carousel and surrounding area are an asset that should be promoted more.

Many of the historic structures, landmarks, and cemeteries City-wide add to its character.

The new high school offers many opportunities to the City as a whole.

Library, Police and Fire Departments, are highly praised.

Challenges

Historic and cultural assets are not accessible by walking or biking

Limited places to experience the arts

Some feel the City is losing its historic places

Sustaining resources for upkeep and upgrade of infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, sidewalks)

Continued investment in school facilities and public education

Providing services for disadvantages residents (low income, with disabilities, veterans, etc.)

Rising costs of services to residents, including taxes, fees, etc.



What's Happening Now



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel

City Services/ Infrastructure

Moving forward with new drinking water connection to Bristol County Water Authority

\$1 million for new sidewalks and improvements to existing

Feasibility study of a new community wellness center for all ages

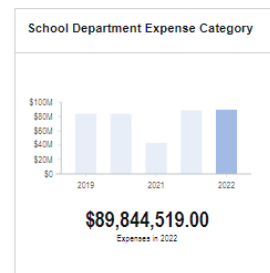
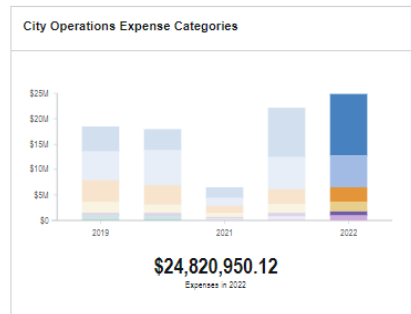
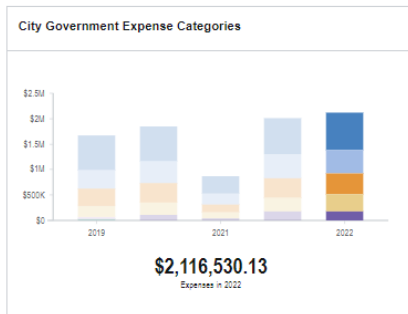
City's improved bond credit rating at the onset of the pandemic

Increased transparency of the City's budget on OpenGov

Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act

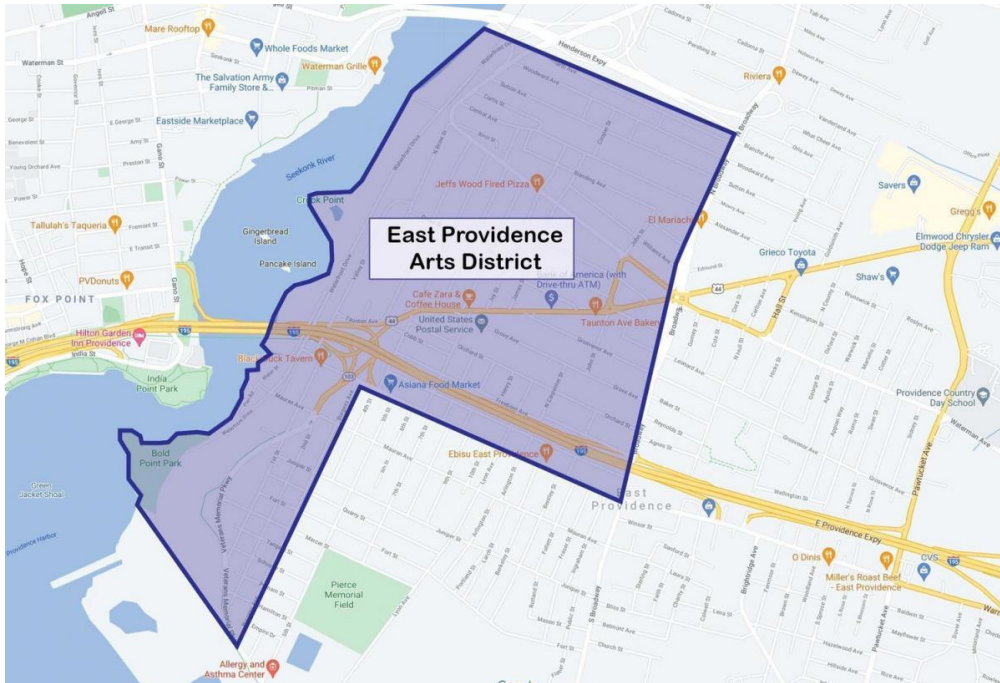
Data

Expand All	FY19 Actuals	FY20 Actuals	FY21 1/2 Year Actuals	FY21 Approved Budget	FY22 Mayor's Proposed
► Property Taxes	\$ 107,278,931	\$ 92,276,968	\$ 23,452,870	\$ 114,654,448	\$ 115,211,805
► State Aid	42,473,629	37,069,762	19,847,927	43,013,617	49,525,667
► Departmental	7,117,166	5,551,593	3,705,811	8,585,486	8,739,403
► Operating Transfers	1,939,233	1,394,603	0	2,813,465	2,813,465
► Miscellaneous	124,542	115,951	248,066	25,000	1,010,006
► Rents, Charges & Fees	208,209	236,172	201,481	270,000	270,000
Total	\$ 159,141,710	\$ 136,645,049	\$ 47,456,155	\$ 169,362,016	\$ 177,570,346



Arts, Culture, and History

East Providence Arts District



Watchemoket Square Waterfront Gateway



Member of the Providence/Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau



Moving Forward



Photo credit: Kenneth C. Zirkel

Historic and Cultural Resources and the Arts

Continue to Nominate Historic Sites and Districts

Adapt and Reuse Historic Structures and Sites

....> Opportunities to showcase properties with new uses

Connect Resources and Increase Awareness

-> Walking and biking connections with recreation areas, open spaces, and other destinations
-> Wayfinding and interpretive signs/markers

Littleton, CO



Historic and Cultural Resources and the Arts

Grow the Arts in East Providence

-> Partner with East Providence Arts Council, East Providence School District, and other local arts and cultural organizations
-> Attract artists to live and work in East Providence
-> Incorporate art in public spaces
-> Use the Arts District to promote art-related businesses

Showcase the City's Heritage and Diversity

-> Work with local organizations to highlight the different cultures and communities in the City
-> Increases awareness, inclusiveness, acceptance



Photo credit:
Cape Verdean Museum

City Services and Infrastructure

Invest in Long-term Maintenance and Upgrades of Facilities and Infrastructure

Buildings and facilities, roads and sidewalks, water and sewer, stormwater, parks and playgrounds

-> Develop/maintain regular scheduled programs of maintenance and upgrades of facilities, equipment, amenities
-> Identify long-term funding sources
-> Accessibility for people with disabilities

Support Public Safety Needs

Fire, Police, Rescue, Emergency Management

-> Ensure adequate staffing
-> Maintain vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement
-> Support community-based initiatives and outreach between departments and residents

City Services and Infrastructure

Support the Social Needs of the Community

- Promote inclusion and acceptance, build trust and community
- Promote inter-generational programming and services (recreational activities, social programs, educational activities)
- Continue to strengthen the Public Library, Senior Center, and other core services provided by the City
- Continue programs that improve quality of life of residents, particularly those that support housing security, economic opportunities, and education.
- Maintain connections with organizations in the City/region that provide support services for residents (EBCAP, Family Services, etc.)

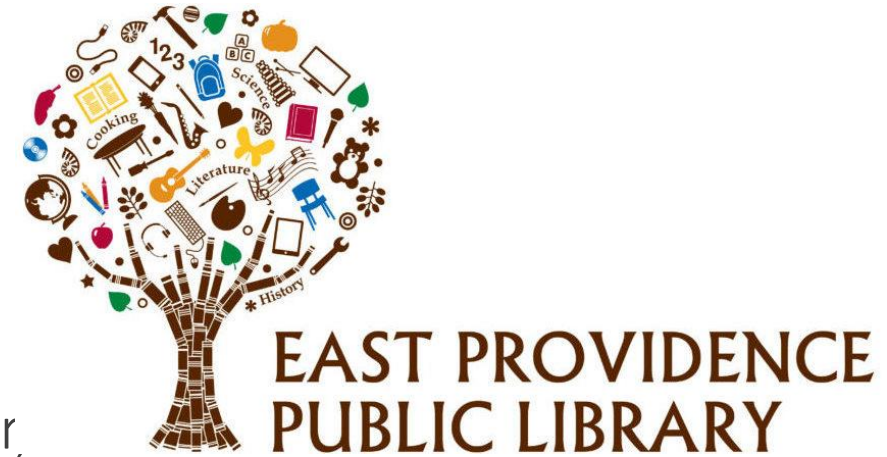
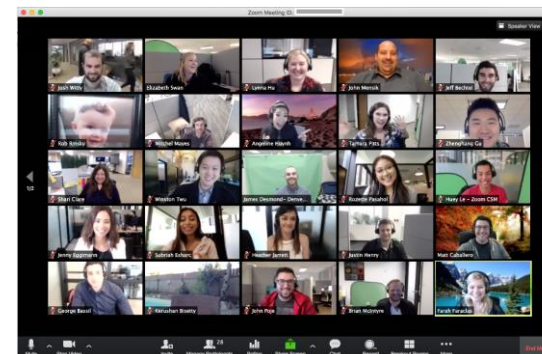
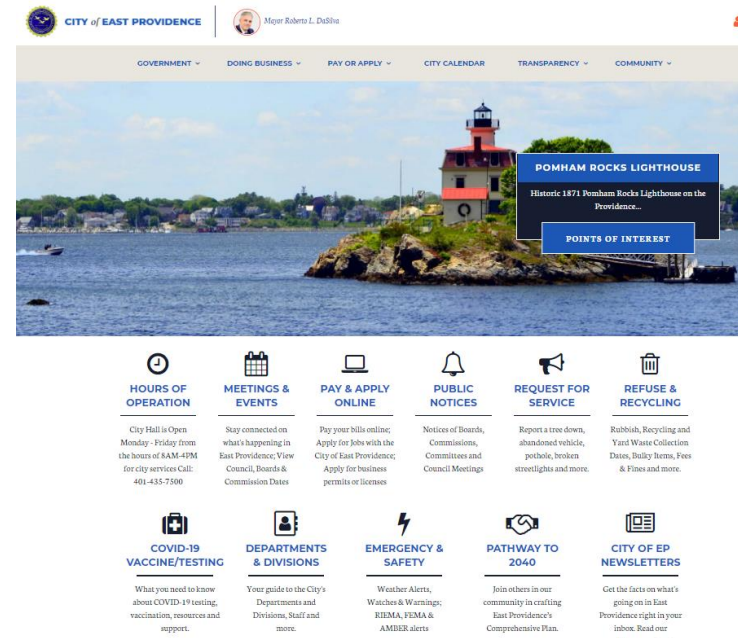


Photo credit: East Bay Community Action Program

City Services and Infrastructure

Ensure Transparent Communication and Active Citizen Participation

-> Use diverse methods of getting information out to the public
-> Increase awareness of how decisions are made and have different, accessible ways for residents to participate in government and the decision-making process
-> Understand what prevents residents from participating and how to overcome barriers





Tonight's Conversation

1. Confirm the Issues – Now & Future
 - Agree? What's missing?
2. Are we headed in the right direction?
 - What could be better?
 - New ideas!
3. How do we get there?
 - Who's involved?



Ground Rules

Everyone should have an opportunity to talk

Focus on the group's discussion

Be concise

Listen, be honest, and avoid criticizing other's ideas

Think big!

Have fun!