



## NB RESILIENT IS NEW BEDFORD'S PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION + RESILIENCE

WE ARE FOCUSING ON SIX AREAS



Climate & Energy



Economy & Jobs



Infrastructure, Utilities, & Waste



Natural Resources



Public Health & Safety



Transportation & Land Use



# Natural Resources

VISION

NEW BEDFORD'S natural environment is robust, healthy, accessible to residents, enhances the community's quality of life and supports local ecosystems.

## GOALS

- ☐ Reduce air, water, soil, noise and light pollution.
- ☐ Take an integrated water resource management approach that considers the needs of the natural water ecosystem, human water use, and potential droughts and flooding.
- ☐ Add more open space and tree canopy coverage equitably across the City.
- ☐ Protect wildlife and their habitat by using native or sustainable species in landscaping throughout the city.

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT NEW BEDFORD'S **WILDLIFE, OPEN SPACES, AIR & WATER**



Straining habitats and risking of extinction



Forcing animals and plants to migrate to new places



Threatening water quantity and quality



Worsening air pollution

# 50%



of the Atlantic sea scallop population could disappear over the next 30 to 80 years due to **ocean acidification**. Impacting \$500 million worth of scallops harvested each year.

## ocean acidification

**noun** • When the ocean absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>, a chemical reaction occurs that reduces the seawater's pH or makes it acidic, which breaks down shellfish shells.

# WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY'S CONNECTION TO THE SEA AND NATURE

We can take steps now to bolster the resiliency of our ecosystems to the disruptions of climate change.

Trees cool our city

Healthy soil improves resilience to extreme weather

Plants reduce CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere

Green space soaks up flood waters



15

neighborhood parks



12+

miles of trails and bikeways



26

acres of beaches



275

picnic areas



53

playgrounds and tot lots

WE'VE MADE PROGRESS CLEANING UP OUR ENVIRONMENT BUT WE WON'T STOP UNTIL WE'VE REACHED 100%.

## brownfield

**noun** • a former industrial or commercial site where future use is affected by real or perceived environmental contamination.

484

average number of trees planted annually since 2014



## POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Analyze equitable tree canopy coverage and plant 5,000 targeted tree plantings to reduce urban heat island by 2030.
- Attain the National Recreation and Park Associations Standard for at least 50% of park and amenity types.
- Initiate a Green Business Challenge that incentivizes actions that improve air and water quality
- Implement stricter no-idling enforcement.
- Prepare a plan to reduce coastal soil erosion.
- Investigate opportunities for restoration of degraded wetland resources.
- Implement a policy to ensure the use of native or sustainable plants in new developments by 2030.