

What does the future hold for AQUIDNECK ISLAND?

Aquidneck Island is at a critical moment in its history. While our population has remained constant over the past 30+ years, the Island continues to develop rapidly, adding over **6,200 new units since 1980**, most of which has been in the form of suburban sprawl. If we continue on this path, **all of our unprotected open space will be developed by 2050!** Once this land is developed, it will be gone forever.

The images below compare the Island today and the Island in 2050 if current sprawl trends continue. The red buildings represent new development based on existing zoning and current real estate demand. This development trend will result in additional water pollution, beach closures, traffic congestion, the loss of iconic open space views, farms being replaced by subdivisions, reduced outdoor recreation opportunities, greenhouse gas emissions, and more.

**Aquidneck
Land Trust**
SASAKI



2050 If Sprawl Continues

 **5,000**

Nearly 5,000 new housing units will be built, mostly in suburban-style subdivisions.

 **100%**

100% of unprotected farms, woods, and other open spaces will be lost to development.

 **8,000**

Over 8,000 new vehicles will occupy the Island's roads, increasing traffic congestion.



A BETTER PATH FORWARD

It is not too late for the Island to change course and prevent the negative impacts of current sprawl trends. Through a combination of well-funded conservation and alternative development policies, the Island can preserve its landscape heritage while accommodating the same level of real estate demand and economic growth.

Example Site 1 - Portsmouth Cropland

Sprawl threatens our cropland; conservation can protect the Island's agricultural assets.



Example Site 2 - Portsmouth Roadside Farm

New developments can also block pristine views; conservation can preserve them.



"Plan & Protect" vs "Sprawl Continues"

An alternative "Plan & Protect" future for the Island was rigorously modeled and analyzed along with the "Sprawl Continues" future. The Plan & Protect future assumes the **same number of housing units** as the Sprawl Continues future, but with two very critical differences:

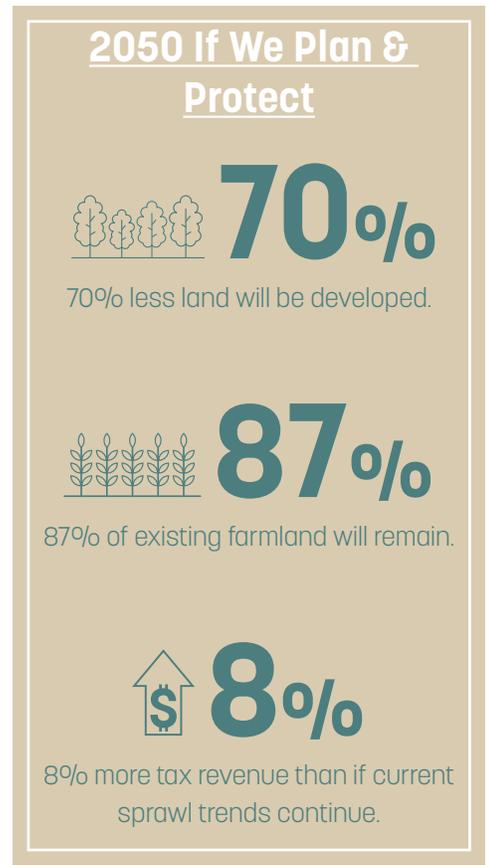
1. It proposes a **robust, well-funded conservation** program that protects 1,800 acres of farmland and open space by 2050, shown on the map to the left.
2. It envisions a mixed style of housing development that offers greater consumer choice and the transformation of underutilized urban areas into high-quality, compact, walkable town centers, sometimes called "**Smart Growth**".

By choosing Plan & Protect, the Island can still accommodate the same level of growth with **greater fiscal sustainability** while reducing the negative impacts of development on water, recreation, agriculture, and quality of life. This ensures that future generations can continue to enjoy Aquidneck Island's **treasured landscape and quality of life in perpetuity**.

Smart Growth Development

"Smart Growth" development policies - which prioritize compact footprints, a mix of uses, and pedestrian-friendly designs - can transform existing strip malls into vibrant town centers to support new residents while contributing to the charming character of the Island.

Example Site 3 - Middletown Strip Mall Transformation



How do I get involved?

Contribute to Conservation Funding - A donation to the Aquidneck Land Trust supports conservation efforts across Aquidneck Island.

Protect Your Land - Get in touch with the Aquidneck Land Trust for opportunities to conserve open spaces on your property.

Support Smart Growth - Advocate for Smart Growth strategies that promote infill redevelopment in order to shift demand away from suburban sprawl.