



City of New Bedford

Department of City Planning

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MAYOR
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MEMO: WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ZONING

Updated: 3/5/21

Purpose

The two New Bedford Waterfront Redevelopment Plans (Focus Area North, and Focus Area South) provide summaries of current conditions, visions for future uses, and detail the tools needed to accomplish this vision for the waterfront area bordering the downtown industrial waterfront. The Waterfront Redevelopment Plans include recommendations for zoning and design guidelines to create tailored zoning subdistricts that will support growth and expansion of desired uses within the redevelopment areas. In response to market conditions over time, the redevelopment zones will transform to a mixed-use area that combines support for water-dependent commercial uses with a growing neighborhood of residential uses, local retail and services.

Partnerships, History and Timeline

There were many partners involved in the each component of the Waterfront Redevelopment Plan and Zoning project, including the Department of City Planning, the Port of New Bedford and its Commissioners, the Office of Housing and Community Development, the New Bedford Economic Development Council, the New Bedford Redevelopment Authority, City Councilors, and many other Steering Committee members.

The City of New Bedford began drafting plans for the Waterfront in 2015, beginning with an initial engagement of Sasaki Associates, APEX Companies LLC, FXM Associates and the Cecil Group, who collaborated to develop the study area boundaries, evaluate existing conditions of the waterfront, explore potential changes, and highlight development opportunities. This work led to a contract with the planners at Harriman, who have worked with the City departments, Port Authority, boards and stakeholders extensively to draft the final Waterfront Redevelopment Plan and Zoning that is being put forth at this time.

Redevelopment Plan Boundaries

There are two Waterfront Redevelopment Plans; each plan covers one of the waterfront study areas; **Focus Area North (FAN)** and **Focus Area South (FAS)** as shown in the diagrams attached. In the proposed waterfront zoning, these focus areas merged into one Waterfront Mixed Use (WМУ) district¹, with four subareas.

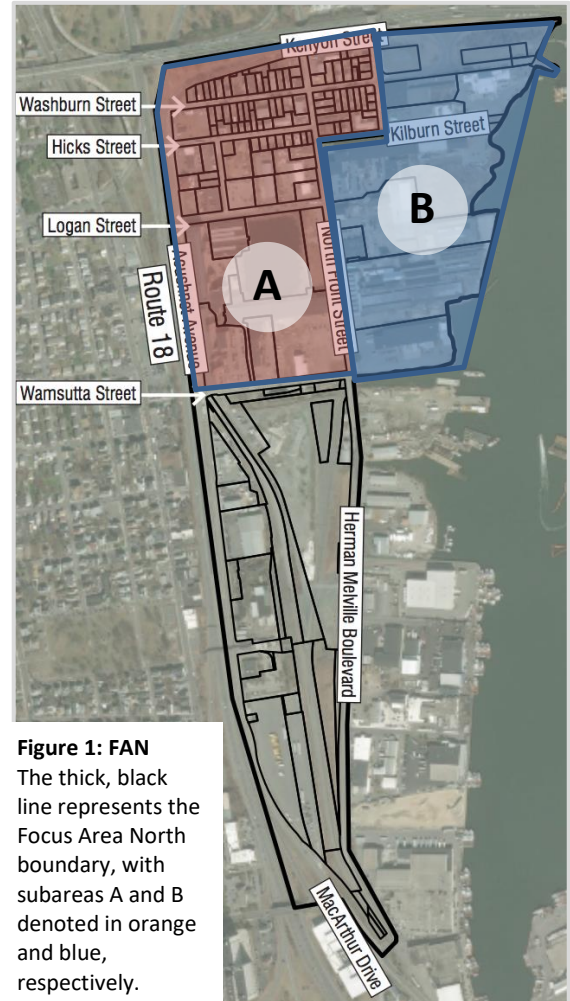


Figure 1: FAN

The thick, black line represents the Focus Area North boundary, with subareas A and B denoted in orange and blue, respectively.

¹ See Waterfront Mixed Use District maps, attached

Waterfront Mixed Use (WMU) Subareas

- **Subarea A (Wamsutta):** Subarea A is bound by Interstate 195 to the north, Belleville Avenue and North Front Street to the east, Wamsutta Street and Kilburn Street to the south, and Route 18 to the west.

Located within FAN, Subarea A will include zoning to promote opportunities for housing and mixed-use development as well as incentives for investments in capital improvements, such as pedestrian pathways and creation of passive recreation space, particularly surrounding the fire pond.

- **Subarea B (Revere Copper):** Subarea B is bound by Kilburn Street and Interstate 195 to the north, the New Bedford Harbor to the east, the Wamsutta Street outflow to the south, and North Front Street and Belleville Avenue to the west.

Located within FAN, Subarea B will be geared towards attracting commercial, and waterfront industrial development.

- **Subarea C (Fairfield Inn and Eversource):** Subarea C is bound by MacArthur Drive to the south and east and JFK Memorial Highway to the north and west. Subarea C is zoned to promote opportunities for mixed-use development and contemporary accessory uses as well as incentives for investments in capital improvements, such as pedestrian pathways and creation of passive recreation space.

- **Subarea D (Sprague/Eversource):** Subarea D is bound by MacArthur Drive and Leonard's Wharf to the north, New Bedford Harbor to the east, MacArthur Drive to the west, and comprised of parcels 47-181, 47-241 and 42-287 at the southern end of the subarea. Subarea D will aim to attract water-dependent development opportunities.

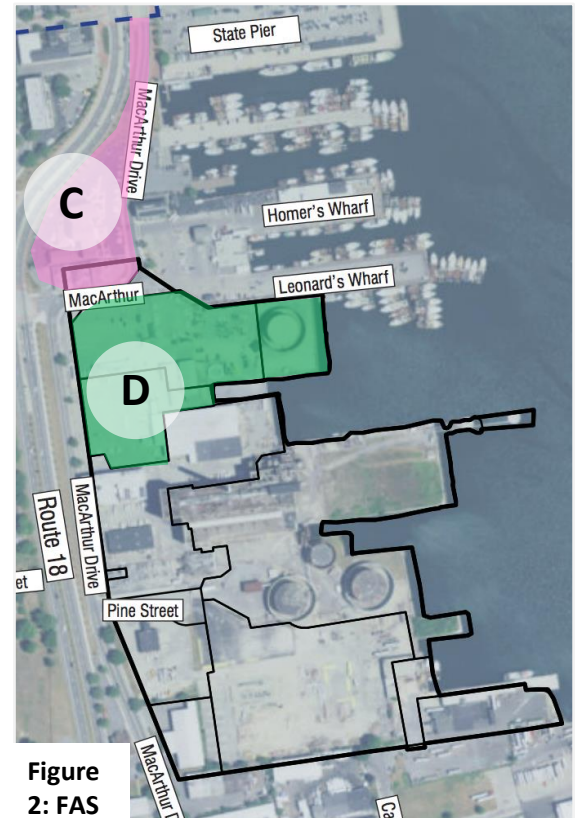


Figure 2: FAS

The thick, black line represents the Focus Area South boundary, with subareas C and D denoted in green and pink, respectively.

Relationship to Existing Zoning

The WMU supersedes all other zoning district regulations for this area, except the Flood Hazard Overlay District (FHOD). The WEDROD and portions of the Hicks Logan Sawyer IPOD are being eliminated in lieu of this zoning.

Development Incentives and Design Guidelines

The zoning includes a set of development incentives and specific design principles emphasizing public access to the waterfront, pedestrian oriented building treatments, and landscaping improvements to balance commercial interest with good design and walkable development.

Past Processes and Next Steps

The NBRA endorsed the Waterfront Redevelopment Plans in their meeting on April 22, 2020. The Planning Board determined that redevelopment plans were consistent with Master Plan in a meeting on May 13, 2020 and were provided with the draft zoning associated with the study area. The Planning Board reviewed the Waterfront Mixed Use Zoning at their October 7, 2020 meeting, sending a favorable recommendation to City Council. Subsequent to that, the zoning amendment was withdrawn to address inconsistencies which have been rectified. The Planning Board will now issue a recommendation to the Ordinance Committee on the redrafted zoning, and City Council will subsequently be petitioned to adopt the zoning via a vote. After that, the plan will require sign-off from the Mayor's Office, approval by the State's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEOEA) through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office (MEPA) process. An Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for each plan will be filed with MEPA at the same time the plans are filed with DHCD.