

Saco's Age Friendly Community Assessment

Developing a Community Plan for an Age Friendly Saco



Why An Age Friendly Community Assessment?

- Maine and Saco's Changing Demographics
- Creates some public policy issues in transportation, housing, health and other areas
- 8 areas defined by WHO and AARP
- Maximize opportunities for Saco and residents

By department....

- Economic Development
- City Planning
- Recreation
- Public Safety



Impact of the Aging of the Baby Boomers on Your Community (AARP)

- Housing
- Health
- Transportation
- Land Use Planning
- Public Safety
- Parks and Recreation
- Arts and Cultural Activities
- Workforce Development/Education
- Volunteerism/Civic Engagement
- Economic Development/Fiscal Impact



Focus on 8 Domains

- Transportation – safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation.
- Housing – wide range of housing options for older residents; aging in place; and other home modification programs.
- Outdoor spaces and buildings – accessibility to and availability of safe recreational facilities.
- Social participation – access to leisure and cultural activities; opportunities for older residents to participate in social and civic engagement with their peers and younger people.



The 8 Domains (cont)

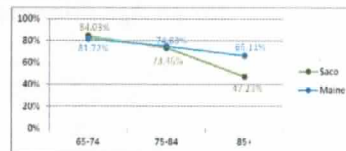
- Respect and social inclusion – programs to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, along with programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue.
- Communication and information – promotion of and access to the use of technology to keep older residents connected to their community and friends and family, both near and far.
- Civic participation and employment – promotion of paid work and volunteer activities for older residents and opportunities to engage in formulation of policies relevant to their lives.
- Community support and health services – access to homecare services, clinics, and programs to promote wellness and active aging.



Saco's Statistics Similar to State's:

- Median age: Saco 41.9, Maine 42.7
- Percent of population 45+: Saco (44.8%) vs. Maine (46.7%)
- 65+ population below the poverty line: Saco (9.5%) vs. Maine (9.0%)
- Percent of seniors who live alone that are women: Saco (72.2%) vs. Maine (71.9%)

Percent of homes that are owned, by age of householder



Where Saco Varies....

- Saco's older population is growing faster than Maine's (103% age 45-64, 63% 65+ vs. state 87%, 50%) in 30 years. (faster population growth)
- Residents on Social Security: Saco (26.1%) vs. Maine (32.1%)
- Senior citizens who live alone: Saco (35.5%) vs. Maine (29.6%) (senior housing)
- Homeowner vs. Renting, 65+: Saco (72.7% owner occupied) vs. Maine (77.3%) (multis)

Age Friendly Saco

- Housing Policies
 - Contract zone for many elder housing projects
 - Zoning supportive of appropriate densities for elder housing
 - Accessory apartments
- Senior Tax Relief Program
- City initiated project – 32 Market Street
- Assisted VOA in finding land



Planning Approach

- Gather data
- Review and analyze with committee(s)
- Develop additional information (survey?)
- Review and analyze with committees
- Identify issues in 8 areas
- Recommendations of policies to address issues
- Implementation strategy (what, who, when)

Progress To Date

- Demographic research
- Inventory
- AARP assistance
- Process outlined
- Kick off meeting
- Additional meetings and discussions
- Seniority – Recreation Department

City Responsibilities vs. Community Responsibilities

- Transportation, walkability, open space - City has primary responsibilities
- Volunteerism, housing, social inclusion - City has some involvement
- Health care, social inclusion, housing, volunteerism – Community responsibilities; plan should identify who has primary responsibility



Immediate Activities (Within 1 Year)			
Regulatory Issues			
L.36	-Revise the Zoning Ordinance to implement the land use designations set out in the Future Land Use Plan including creating/revising zoning districts as necessary. This includes revisions to the Established Residential Neighborhoods to better accommodate, and to consider alternatives for regulating infill development.	Planning Board, F&DD	Incorporated in amendments now before City Council
L.36 L.38	-Revise the Zoning Ordinance to implement the land use designations set out in the Future Land Use Plan including revisions to the downtown zones, and the creation of new mixed-use districts as needed.	Planning Board, F&DD	Downtown completed by PB 8/11 Partially adopted by Council Council workshop 3/5
L.36 L.38	-Revise the Zoning Ordinance to implement the land use designations set out in the Future Land Use Plan including creating/revising zoning districts as necessary. This includes revisions to and/or the creation of new mixed-use and non-residential districts as needed.	Planning Board, F&DD	Completed by PB 9/11 and 11/11 Council workshop 3/5/12
L.9	Review and update site and building design standards as necessary. In updating the standards consideration should be given to the differing design requirements of buildings in urban or in-town locations versus buildings in more suburban or highway locations.	Planning Board, F&DD	Incorporated in several amendment packages now before Council
F.32	Review parking requirements in the Downtown area	Planning Board, F&DD	Completed by PB 11/15/11 Council: 3/5/12

Imagine...

- Saco with a variety of housing type to serve elders as their needs evolve.
- A transportation and service system that assures there are groceries in the cupboard each week.
- A volunteer program that takes advantage of the incredible skills of Saco's retirees in every institution in the community.
- Job opportunities for those who want them.

Imagine...

- A program like Village to Village to make sure no senior is isolated.
- A health care delivery system where doctors, housing, hospitals and other service providers coordinate to provide the best possible care to all seniors.
- A City government that uses its good offices to help the community organize itself on a volunteer basis to do what needs to be done