

Salem, Connecticut

Our Vision Over the Next 10 Years

Salem is a town poised for the future and shaped by the past. It has an excellent school system, proximity to employment centers, and residents with a strong sense of community spirit as demonstrated by their volunteerism and cooperation. Those qualities along with a charm inherited from its agricultural roots and history give Salem an engaging rural character and make it an inviting place to live.

The goal of the vision statement is to reflect the sentiments, desires, and priorities of Salem residents for Salem's leadership in order to inform them and to foster cooperation among the various Boards and Commissions.

The following is our vision for Salem.

The high quality of life will be maintained by:

- Continuing to engage dedicated people for staff and volunteer positions, people who foster cooperation among [Salem's] citizens and government groups to get things done.
- Working to expand the variety of educational, social, recreational and library programs available
- Increasing opportunities for people to gather by promoting existing sites, and developing new public places
- Building an extensive system of bikeable, walkable greenway trails to connect open spaces and neighborhoods

Salem will work to reduce dependence on residential property taxes [diversify and balance the tax base] by encouraging economic development that:

- Is concentrated in appropriate areas
- Maintains the town's character
- Promotes attractive building designs incorporating common traditional elements
- Provides conveniences for the community
- Attracts destination business

Salem will balance the preservation and protection of its natural resources and (the) expansion of its open spaces with the need for economic development by:

- Implementing the 8-Mile River Management Plan with Lyme and East Haddam
- Expanding open space in accordance with the Town's Open Space Plan
- Ensuring that regulations adequately protect water supply and quality
- Sponsoring "educational" events on all age levels to raise awareness

Housing in Salem will:

- Be attractive and consistent with the town's rural character and quality of life

- Accommodate our unmet housing needs by permitting a variety of housing types and configurations that encourage Salem's residents, including senior citizens and young adults, to remain in the community

Salem will retain a town meeting form of government that strives to be responsive, transparent, and efficient. The selectmen, boards, commissions, and committees will be accessible to our citizens and provides for their safety, education and recreation. Salem's government will take advantage of innovation and technology to contain costs and improve town services, and strive to communicate effectively with its citizens and other local, state, and federal government groups.

Salem will continue to seek opportunities to partner with surrounding communities to achieve mutual goals in such areas as education health, safety, recreation, and to preserve and protect our natural resources.

Our view of Salem's future will focus the community's decisions and actions. This will help us to achieve our vision for maintaining quality of life, regionalism, housing, government, economic development, and natural resources.