

# *Sustainable Northampton:*

*Focus on...  Social Equity*



## *Goals*

Invest in all segments of the community to retain a population with a diverse demographic and income levels

Ensure high quality and affordable health care for all children

Ensure high quality and affordable housing and care for the elderly

Ensure environmental justice in all Northampton neighborhoods

*Photos: PVTA bus on Main Street; James House community learning center; freshly mulched street tree on Main Street; disused railroad tracks that may one day be part of the city wide rail trail network*

Invest in all segments of the community to retain a population with a diverse demographic and income levels

<i>how our budgets are supporting this goal</i>	
FY 2011	FY 2012
<p>All libraries are available for use by anyone in the community regardless race, gender, religion or income level. All materials may be used in the building by anyone; those having a valid free library card may check-out materials and request materials from other libraries. Our Libraries are committed to equality of service for all library users.</p>	
<p>CEDO uses CDBG funds to support non-profit programs in the City that provide services to diverse cultural and low income populations.</p>	
<p>Police obtained grant funding from DMH for Mental Health First Aid training for 20 first responders. Training increases first responders' knowledge and skill in dealing with persons with mental health or serious emotional distress issues, to obtain appropriate services for them, rather than moving them directly into the criminal justice system. NPD was first in the state to apply for and receive training.</p>	
<p>Planning &amp; Health partnered to bring health and equity analysis to open space and recreation efforts, and access to healthy food to broaden the conversation in considering social equity.</p>	

Veterans office does community outreach to supplement income of eligible senior and disabled veterans to provide a living income.

<i>how our budgets are supporting this goal</i>	
FY 2011	FY 2012
<p>Inasmuch as recreation and sports are part of overall good health, Recreation provides scholarships for programs, summer camps and AFC memberships to those who need it &amp; would like to join.</p>	<p>Recreation anticipates budgeting about \$10,000 for scholarship aid, which is supplemented by a private scholarship fund supported by a charity golf tournament.</p>

Board of Health collaborated with Cooley Dickinson Hospital and Casa Latina to perform needs assessment to identify health disparities that relate to the built environment and access to health care. Using this information we develop programs to address these disparities. For example, a current grant funded project is looking at the issue of access to healthy food and has funded all farmers markets in the city to enable them to accept food assistance benefits.

Ensure high quality and affordable health care for all children

Ensure high quality and affordable housing for the elderly

<i>how our budgets are supporting this goal</i>	
FY 2011	FY 2012
The Mayor's Office and the Energy and Sustainability Officer are working with the Northampton Housing Authority to identify and implement projects to reduce energy use and costs at Housing Authority properties.	
Veterans office supports veterans and their surviving spouses for all the financial benefits they are eligible for.	

<i>how our budgets are supporting this goal</i>	
FY 2011	FY 2012
Planning mapped environmental justice areas with large concentrations of low income and minority populations to ensure that recreation, open space, rail trail, and transportation efforts serve these populations.	
Health Director worked with Cooley Dickinson hospital on citywide health survey.	
65% of Northampton households now have easy access to an entrance to the rail trail network. Planning is working toward making that number 75% in next ten years.	
DPW and tree committee made street trees available to anyone in the city (first come first serve) for planting in their home neighborhoods.	

Ensure environmental justice in all Northampton neighborhoods