

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES TOOLKIT

Glossary of Terms



- » **Active Transportation:** Any form of human-powered mode of travel including walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating, or skateboarding. There are many ways to engage in active transportation, whether it is walking to the bus stop, or cycling to school/work.
- » **Bikeability:** A measure of ease and safety of access in a town/region for those who want to bicycle. It refers to the infrastructure, such as bike lanes or paths, that exist along with other helpful amenities such as directional signs and bicycle racks or parking spaces to support and promote bicycling.
- » **Healthy Communities:** A healthy community is one in which all residents have access to a quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, and nutrition, in addition to quality health care
- » **Community Agriculture:** Community agriculture or community farming is the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a village, town, or city. Town agriculture can also involve animal husbandry (such as keeping of chickens), aquaculture (such as raising oysters), forestry, beekeeping, and horticulture.
- » **Community Cohesion:** A community where there is a common vision and shared sense of belonging and sense of place.
- » **Complete Streets:** Streets designed for everyone; they are safe and are easy to use by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit riders of all ages and abilities.
- » **Connectivity:** The density of connections in a path or road network, and the directness of links. A well-connected network has many short links, numerous intersections, and minimal dead-ends (cul-de-sacs). It includes links among roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transit. As connectivity increases, travel distances decrease and route options increase.
- » **Design Guidelines:** A set of guidelines intended to encourage sound and quality development; they are development standards and design considerations for land use.
- » **Food Hub:** As defined by the USDA, a food hub is a centrally-located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products. By actively coordinating these activities, food hubs provide wider access to institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized producers, and increasing access of fresh healthy food for consumers, including underserved areas.
- » **Incentivize:** To offer incentives or an incentive to do something; to motivate someone to do something.

- » **Open Space:** Open space is any open piece of land that is undeveloped (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public. Open space can include:
 - Green space is land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation; it includes parks, natural preserves, community gardens, and cemeteries.
 - Schoolyards
 - Playgrounds
 - Public seating areas
 - Public plazas
 - Vacant lots
- » **Organic Certification:** A certification process for producers of organic food and other organic agricultural products. In general, any business directly involved in food production can be certified, including seed suppliers, farmers, food processors, retailers and restaurants.
- » **Overlay Districts:** Districts that provide a means to incorporate various development regulations or design guidelines across a specified area. These districts are special zones that lie on top of existing zoning categories to supplement or supersede existing regulations.
- » **Placemaking:** A creative approach to the planning, design and management of public spaces. It uses a community's assets, vision, and potential, in the process. The goal is to create public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well-being.
- » **Playability:** Playability is the opportunity for play in all possible spaces. This is done by fostering activity, discovery, and creativity in unexpected or unconventional town spaces such as small parks/parklets at street intersections.
- » **POCD:** Plan of Conservation and Development: The POCD in Connecticut is a comprehensive plan for a community that includes the vision, policies, and strategies it will employ to guide the future structure, character, and form of development there.
- » **Public-Private Partnerships:** A contractual arrangement between a public agency (federal, state or local) and a private sector entity. Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public.
- » **Quality of Life:** The extent to which people's 'happiness requirements' are met; it is a broad multidimensional concept that usually refers to the community's collective perception of both positive and negative aspects of life.
- » **Social Capital:** The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.
- » **Social Equity:** Equal opportunity, in a safe and healthy environment for all members of a community; fair access to livelihood, education, and resources; full participation in the political and cultural life of the community
- » **Transfer-of-Development Rights (TDR):** A voluntary, incentive-based program that allows landowners to sell development rights from their land to a developer or other interested party to use those rights to increase the density of development at another designated location.
- » **Walkability:** A measure of ease and safety of access in a town/region for those who want to walk. It refers to the infrastructure, such as sidewalks or paths, that exist along with other helpful amenities such as directional signs and shade.
- » **Wayfinding:** A system of signage, symbols, and/or indicators designed to communicate where a person is relative to the broader area. Successful wayfinding provides guidance on how to get to desired locations.