

PORTSMOUTH LISTENS

2024 PLACES TO LIVE STUDY CIRCLE DIALOGUES

HOUSING RESOURCES

Here is a list of resources for data and other information about places to live – for Portsmouth, for New Hampshire, and also related articles about how other communities in the country are addressing this issue.

This, of course, is nowhere near exhaustive, and does not include every related topic. If you come across something of interest you think might be of interest to all study circles, please send the link to Howard Snyder, City of Portsmouth’s Housing Navigator, at hasnyder@cityofportsmouth.com.

PORTSMOUTH

- **Portsmouth Listens** report from the [2017 Housing Dialogues](#).
- [2015 Master Plan](#)– This plan is not set up in the traditional way, so you will need to look around for information specifically about housing.
- YouTube video recording of the **Portsmouth Listens and City of Portsmouth Places to Live Kickoff / Housing 101** event on January 11, 2024
- **Portsmouth Housing Authority PHA Housing Market Study 2022**. The aim of this study was to evaluate housing demand, prospective market opportunities, and barriers to market entry.

GENERAL DATA AND INFORMATION

- **New Hampshire Housing**
 - Housing Needs Assessment: [NH Housing 2023 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment](#)
 - Residential Rental Cost Survey Report: [NH Housing 2023 Residential Rental Cost Survey Report](#)
 - Housing Challenges and Solutions: [Housing Challenges and Solutions](#)
 - Housing Terms and Definitions: [Frequently Used Housing Terms and Definitions](#)
- **NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions**
 - Regional Housing Needs Assessments: [NHARPC Regional Needs Assessment Web Page](#)
- **Rockingham Regional Planning Commission**
 - Housing Needs Assessment: [RPC 2023 Regional Housing Needs Assessment](#)
 - Regional Master Plan: [RPC Regional Master Plan - Overview Section](#)
- **Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast**
Hyperlink: [Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast](#)
- **Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies**
Hyperlink: [Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies Home Page](#)
- **Urban Institute**
Hyperlink: [Urban Institute - Place the Blame Where it Belongs](#)

PLANNING AND ZONING LAWS

Here are some helpful resources – within each, you may wish to refine your search by entering *housing*, *dwelling*, or similar.

- Local laws
 - For Portsmouth: [Land Use and Zoning Regulations](#)
 - May also be found in the [New Hampshire Zoning Atlas](#). The zoning laws of each jurisdiction in the state were coded and form the foundation of this extremely comprehensible tool. Click on the map where you are interested, and information will come up for the jurisdiction and underlying zoning district. Links to the land-use regulations are provided, where available, at the bottom of that jurisdiction’s window. *(from the website)*

- State laws and information about planning and zoning laws may be found:
 - (Portsmouth’s own) Loughlin, Peter, *Land Use Planning and Zoning* (4th ed.) This is Volume 15 of the New Hampshire [Municipal Law] Practice Series. According to information provided:
This volume deals with the purposes, adoption, amendment and enforcement of zoning ordinances; nonconforming uses; vesting; preemption; variances; special exceptions; subdivision and site plan approval; historic districts; excavations and wetlands.
It is available for purchase via LexusNexus and is more than likely to be found in the public library.
 - [New Hampshire Municipal Association](#) holds workshops and webinars that address land- use regulations, as well an annual day in October for municipal leaders, planners, builders and others with a stake in knowing what the laws say and mean.
 - The [New Hampshire Law Library](#) at the **New Hampshire Supreme Court** is a treasure trove of information related to zoning in the state.
 - [The Resources page](#) of the **New Hampshire Office of Planning and Development** offers yet more information about zoning here in the Granite State.
 - And of course, New Hampshire Housing has a page dedicated to [Housing Challenges and Solutions](#), with lots of great information for people expanding housing options in their communities.

In addition, the **NH Office of Planning and Zoning** has lots of great ‘training’ materials, found [here](#). Scroll down the page for recordings of their monthly webinar series on a variety of related topics.

OTHER INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE REGION AND STATE

- **New Hampshire Housing Toolbox**
Hyperlink: <https://nhhousingtoolbox.org/>

- **New Hampshire Housing**
Hyperlink: [How-Do-We-Talk-About-Housing?](#)

MEDIA

- **NH Housing’s** Sarah Wrightsman videos regarding housing in cities.
Hyperlink: [Working the Housing Problem in Cities](#)

- **NH Housing's** Sarah Wrightsman videos regarding housing in towns.
Hyperlink: [Working the Housing Problem in Towns](#)
- **Communities and Consequences II** Series of documentaries produced by Jay Childs about impacts of housing decisions around the state.
Hyperlink: [CLICK HERE](#) for the NHPBS page to watch.
- [Portsmouth Smart Growth](#) is a local organization that focuses on forward-thinking ideas and strategies to create an even better city. It would be good to just see what all they have. Here is a housing-related sessions:
 - National planning and smart-growth expert Jennifer Hurley joined our community to lead two workshops for the public and business owners to explore affordable housing options in Portsmouth.
Hyperlink: [A SMART-GROWTH APPROACH TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING \(January 2016\)](#)
- **Affordable homes built in Dover:** A new neighborhood of tiny homes is being built in Dover to help deal with New Hampshire's housing shortage.
Hyperlink: [Developers build tiny home neighborhood to address workforce housing shortage \(Feb. 2023\)](#)
Hyperlink: [Cottages in Dover open for tenants. Dream of small, affordable homes becomes a reality. \(Oct. 2023\)](#)
- **New Hampshire Business Review**
Hyperlink: <https://www.nhbr.com/survey-shows-depth-of-housing-anxieties/>
- **Seacoast Online**
Hyperlink: [90000-units-needed-new-report-puts-a-big-number-on-nh-housing-crisis \(April 27, 2023\)](#)
 - As employers try to fill essential health care worker vacancies they say the state's tough housing market - with its high costs and limited options - is standing in the way.
Hyperlink: [NH housing crisis making it hard to hold on to essential health care workers \(May 2023\)](#)
- **Valley News**
Hyperlink: [\\$9M fund created to boost Upper Valley housing, backed by area employers](#)

OLDER ADULTS

- **WBUR:** Housing for New England's seniors is in short supply and could worsen as the region's population ages.
Hyperlink: [New England's population is graying, its homes are less "aging-ready" \(Oct. 2023\)](#)
- **Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies**
Hyperlink: <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/housing-americas-older-adults-2023>
- **AARP:** Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities
Hyperlink: [AARP Livable Communities Resources](#)
Hyperlink: [Aging in Place – A Toolkit for Local Government](#)
- **Strong Towns:** Produces content that analyzes the failures of the post-war North American

development pattern while giving citizens the knowledge and tools to start making our places better today.

Hyperlink: [A-home-to-grow-old-in-and-no-way-to-leave](#)

MISSING MIDDLE

[Missing Middle](#): *In between the large single-family homes on big lots on one end of the spectrum and apartment-style buildings on the other (not including rural spaces) are middle-sized homes that are currently missing in many communities. Portsmouth has a lot from the mid-twentieth century.*

- [Discovering and Developing Missing Middle Housing](#)
- [Adaptable-stock-plans-missing-middle-housing](#)
- [missing-middle-combines-cottages-mixed-use](#)
- [this-citys-permanent-middle-housing-rules-should-set-a-statewide-standard](#)

ISOLATION

[Isolation has been named an epidemic in the US by the Surgeon General](#). Here are a couple of articles that might be of interest in our context:

- [how-to-design-a-city-that-fights-loneliness](#)
- [fighting-loneliness-through-community-design](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Here are some articles related to housing, including its connection to the broader community. These are meant to inform and inspire. This is not an exhaustive list – there are thousands of articles on this topic.

- **Frameworks Institute** studies how people think about issues, how that that thinking is shaped through language, and how changing language can lead to positive changes in thinking. Here are several tools that are related to talking about housing:

Hyperlink: <https://www.frameworksinstitute.org/search/housing>

- **AARP's** [Livability Index](#)
- **CNT: Center for Neighborhood Technology**
 - [Where Matters Tool](#)
 - [Transit-oriented development](#)
- **Congress for New Urbanism:**
 - [5-minute-neighborhood-15-minute-city-and-20-minute-suburb](#)
 - [Ten Features of Walkable Communities](#)
 - [Pocket Neighborhood Designed Connection](#)
- **Next City:**
 - [As Chicago Punts On Apartment Safety, Denver Shows What's Possible](#)
 - [adus-can-help-address-housing-crisis-but-theyre-bad-urban-design?](#)
 - [ending-minimum-parking-requirements-was-a-policy-win-for-the-twin-cities](#)
- **Bloomberg News:** [pro-housing-yimbys-build-a-zoning-reform-winning-streak-across-us](#)

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- **Planetizen:** [5-trends-affordable-housing-2024](#)
- **Strong Towns:** [The-best-evidence-yet-for-the-housing-musical-chairs-theory](#)

OTHER GREAT RESOURCES

- [Public Square](#) - Articles from the Congress for New Urbanism
- [Strong Towns](#) - Advocating for a radically new way of thinking about the way we build our world.
- [Project for Public Spaces](#) – Focuses on the importance of placemaking.
- [Next City](#) - Work as a nonprofit to spread real stories and workable ideas, from one city to the next, to connect people, places and solutions that move our society toward justice and equity.