












Key Points

-  Pawtucket is at a critical point in its history and the city is truly evolving. With a number of exciting public and private investments in Pawtucket's downtown, either happening or in the pipeline, *Now is Pawtucket's Time* to align these efforts and set the stage for those projects to catalyze others. The birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution is now poised to undergo its 21st century evolution into Rhode Island's premier arts and cultural destination, an ideal community to live, work, play, start a business, and raise a family.
-  Development of Pawtucket's downtown and riverfront will enhance the city's diverse array of recreational, housing, entertainment, cultural, tourism, and business & job options.
-  Pawtucket's Growth Center encompasses more than the downtown/main street area. It extends from the site of the future commuter rail station through Main Street and City Hall to the east side of the riverfront. Smart investment in this area will drive the city's future growth.
-  Public investments have been leveraged for the commuter rail station, bike path, commerce, the arts, and historic preservation. Additionally, Pawtucket is now the gateway to our National Historical Park, the Blackstone River Valley, with Slater Mill as its crown jewel.
-  Once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, like the commuter rail, must be capitalize on.
-  Pawtucket's waterfront has tremendous potential for quality development and increased public access. Master plans have been developed for riverfront parcels on Division Street and the Tidewater site. The City has also upgraded Festival Pier, a one-of-a-kind riverfront park.
-  The City of Pawtucket is reinvesting in its critical infrastructure, such as roads, bike paths, parks, and schools – setting the stage for future growth and tourism.
-  Pawtucket's private businesses, like Collette Tours, Pet Food Experts, Sara Bella Jewelry, Narragansett Insurance, the Gamm Theatre, Isle Brewers Guild and others, have chosen to invest in our community and *Join the Evolution* because they see the value and potential.
-  The potential relocation of Pawtucket's baseball stadium to downtown fits into the City's existing vision for the future and could catalyze planned projects. The totality of these projects, if aligned properly, can be even more than the sum of its parts, and could create a multiplier effect spurring additional economic development.
-  We need to raise public awareness and build on this momentum to further spur private investment in amenities such as restaurants, entertainment, specialty stores, and housing.
-  The City and its downtown property owners and businesses can collaboratively shepherd development within the Growth Center to transform downtown into a dynamic, walkable city center that appeals to modern preferences and will attract new residents and businesses.



Follow us on [Facebook.com/CityofPawtucket](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPawtucket) & Twitter @CityofPawtucket

To learn more about the Ballpark at Slater Mill and to get involved:
<https://www.theballparkatslatermill.com>

Development Highlights

Pawtucket-Central Falls Commuter Rail Station

The new station will be built on the western side of downtown, an area envisioned as a prime opportunity for [transit-oriented development](#). RIDOT expects to award a design-build contract this fall, break ground in 2018, and open in 2020. The \$40 million project is funded largely by a \$13.1 million federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program and the State's ten-year plan. This [transit hub](#) will link rail access with RIPTA, pedestrian and cycling routes, and other multi-modal opportunities.

Craft Beer Capital

Pawtucket is home to three standalone breweries: [Foolproof](#), [Crooked Current](#), and [The Isle Brewers Guild](#). The Guild, a craft beer cooperative, launched their brewing operation this spring brewing for [Narragansett Beer](#), [Newburyport Brew](#), [Devil's Purse Brewing](#), [Farmer Willie's](#), [Sons of Liberty Spirits](#), and [Great North Aleworks](#). They have the capacity to produce 60,000 barrels of beer, or 19.8 million 12-ounce cans, every year. The Guild's offers indoor and outdoor event space, and an outdoor beer garden, and plans to expand to include tasting rooms, restaurants, classroom space and corporate offices. The craft beer industry has great tourism, employment, and economic development implications for Pawtucket and Rhode Island.

Division Street Development

The City has partnered with local developer Peregrine Group to redevelop the 11-acre riverfront property at [45 Division Street](#). Future development would likely include a mix of market-rate residential apartments, commercial and retail space, and a restaurant. Perhaps nowhere in Rhode Island does a more idyllic riverfront development parcel exist.

Tidewater Site

The Tidewater site is a former manufactured gas plant and electric generation facility at the end of Merry and Tidewater streets. The property is now largely vacant, and National Grid has offered 13 acres of land for development along with an abutting 7-acre City-owned parcel. Pawtucket and Grid collaborated on a master plan for the site that includes possible options such as recreation, development, residential, and commercial uses.

Broad Street Regeneration

Pawtucket is collaborating with Central Falls, Cumberland, and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council on a regional planning project to revitalize the Broad Street corridor. Through a State Transportation Improvement Program grant, design work will begin on the project this year to sustainably develop this key thoroughfare to stimulate business growth, encourage youth involvement, enhance safety along the street, and support heritage tourism in the region.

A More Welcoming Downtown

The City is committed to revitalizing its downtown and creating a more welcoming space for residents and visitors. Access improvements like the [riverfront bike path](#), and street/sidewalk enhancements will further the experience of visiting downtown and the [National Park](#), which begins at [Slater Mill](#). Through a state grant, the [downtown parking garage](#) will be renovated this year. Existing vacant storefronts will be replaced with a new open concept garage. [Façade improvement grants](#) and small loans were implemented by the City this winter to incentivize private investment in beautifying downtown. [Pet Food Experts](#) recently moved to downtown, and companies like [Narragansett Insurance](#) are being retained.

Live.Work.Create!

The Industrial Revolution began at Slater Mill in 1793. Artistic creativity and skills flourished on the Blackstone River. Today, Pawtucket's mills are home to businesses, restaurants, artists, and apartments. Visitors can experience art galleries across the city, attend performances at the [Gamm Theatre](#), [Mixed Magic Theatre](#) and [Community Players](#), and hear live music at [Machines with Magnets](#), [the Met](#) and other venues. The City's infrastructure is also infused with art, such as the [Pawtucket River Bridge](#), and murals along the I95 corridor by world-renowned artist [Gretchen Dow Simpson](#).

Festival Pier

After a \$2 million revitalization, the pier on the Seekonk River now has updated lighting, benches, an improved boat ramp and beautiful open space along the city's waterfront. The boat ramp also has docking space adjacent to the ramp for fishing. On land there is a park with picnic tables and a large plaza overlooking the river. The site is also the launch area for the Rhode Island Chinese [Dragon Boat Races](#).