

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan is authorized by and was developed according to N.H. RSA 674:2.

The Master Plan of the Town of Washington was first published in 1982 and revised in 1992 and 2005 prior to this update in 2015. It is a statement that combines a vision for the Town, a public record of land use and development goals and recommendations for guiding future Town growth. It also discusses Washington's population, services and facilities, economic activity and natural, historical and cultural resources.

The plan is based upon an analysis of the existing conditions in the Town and the opinions and knowledge of Town residents, Town officials and Planning Board members. The plan recognizes changing public opinion in relation to the use of land and water resources for both residential and economic growth and establishes parameters for guiding such growth through the Town's Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

The Master Plan Update Committee that developed the 2015 update consisted of a subset of Planning Board members and community volunteers. Public input to the plan was gathered through a comprehensive Community Survey that was conducted in the fall of 2013 and a community-wide workshop that was held in June of 2014. Input was also solicited from Town boards, committees and staff.

The committee hopes that this updated plan will serve to guide the Town's leadership over the next 10 years.

Master Plan Update Committee Members:

Annie Bissonnette	Jean Kluk (Planning Board)
Carolyn Bullock	Nan Schwartz (Planning Board)
Jim Crandall (Planning Board)	Steve Terani (Planning Board)
Lolly Gilbert	Bob Williams

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VISION

The residents of Washington, a mix of year-round and seasonal homeowners, share one overarching goal: to safeguard our Town, which is rich in natural resources, historic landmarks and sense of community.

We treasure our unique historic heritage, our abundance of freshwater lakes, working farmland, pristine woodlands and diversity of topography. Having inherited the fruits of our forbearers' endeavors to build lasting community structures and preserve vast tracts of land for open space and recreation, we recognize we have a duty to maintain these assets through sustainable development practices.

Our vision for the future imagines a Town where:

- ♦ We preserve our unique village centers and gathering places through zoning protection and land use ordinances enforced to safeguard our natural resources and to maintain community pride of place;
- ♦ We serve as active stewards of our rural surroundings, scenic vistas and recreation resources to preserve and expand protected open space and perpetuate the rural character our townspeople cherish;
- ♦ We conserve our iconic historic structures through maintenance and repair, find opportunities to expand community use of these structures and repurpose them as needed with community support;
- ♦ We cultivate opportunities for economic development that will not hinder our community's rural character but rather will expand our tax base, encourage small enterprise and home-based cottage industry and provide affordable housing;
- ♦ We provide a portfolio of Town services and facilities that ensure the quality of life for our community residents, offering access to quality education, waste management, fire protection, safety services and medical care.

In summary, we want to stay our centuries-long course: to be a Town our residents and guests treasure as a place that nourishes our minds and spirits, provides the comforts and resources we want in a hometown and offers immeasurable natural beauty at every turn.