Master Plan Vision Statements and Goals

NH LIVABILITY PRINCIPLES in MUNICIPAL MASTER PLANS

1

Traditional Settlement Patterns & Development Design

Farm Stand in Hollis

Milford Oval

Traditional Settlement Patterns & Development Design – keep the traditional New Hampshire landscape intact by focusing development in town centers and village areas, while leaving open and rural areas for agriculture, recreation, and other suitable uses.

EXAMPLES:

BROOKLINE
"Brookline residents are attracted to the Town's traditional New England look and feel. Therefore, any decisions about Brookline's future must be made in the context of maintaining and enhancing its quaint, rural community character."

LITCHFIELD
"Identify, protect and enhance the principal natural and man-made feathers of the Town which, collectively, define Litchfield's physical character and cultural heritage, and which constitute the basis for future planning actions."

MONT VERNON
"Keep the village center the "heart" of the town by continuing to locate municipal services, schools and small businesses there, keeping in mind that preservation of farmlands is the highest priority."

MASON
"Dirt roads, vast forested areas, scenic views, historic landmarks, stone walls, pristine streams, and small town character are highly valued by the citizens of Mason. Our vision is one where all of these valuable assets are protected; for once they are lost, they cannot be replaced "

LYNDEBOROUGH
"Preserve the Town Center, historic homes, mills and stone bridges."

MILFORD
"Ensure that downtown Milford (Union Square, the Oval, and adjacent neighborhoods) remains the commercial, social, and community hub of Town by protecting its historic character, promoting and enhancing its economic vitality, and integrating the Souhegan River and its tributaries into the public realm."

PELHAM
"Preserve, protect and enhance historic buildings, structures, sites and areas."

Common Elements:

◊ Preserve rural character
◊ Preserve town character
◊ Protect historic and cultural resources
◊ Plan for growth and sustainability
◊ Strengthen and clarify land use regulations
◊ Encourage mixed use and villages

2

Community and Economic Vitality

Wilton Main Street

Paddling in the Souhegan River

Community and Economic Vitality – continue to make New Hampshire a great place in which to do business, raise a family, recreate, visit, and retire. Our neighborhoods and communities offer opportunities for an excellent education, good health, cultural happenings, and social connections.

EXAMPLES:

BROOKLINE
"The overall vision for Brookline is a community that supports and preserves its rural character while simultaneously embracing 21st century technology, environmentally progressive strategies, and local business opportunities."

LITCHFIELD
"Maintain and enhance the quality of education in local schools through sound planning and adequate facilities."

LYNDEBOROUGH
"Encourage good government and active citizen participation within."

NASHUA
"Every effort will be made to make Nashua a desirable place to live by...promoting...a strong economic community."

WILTON
"Small town feel with local thriving businesses, jobs and strong community culture.

MASON
"Will support efforts to bring viable access to DSL, Broadband and/or wireless internet accessibility to home-based and commercial businesses."
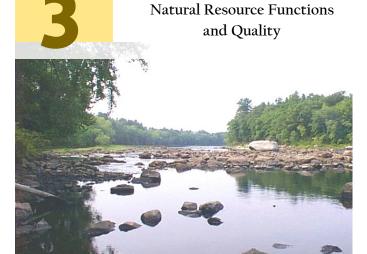
MERRIMACK (in draft form)
"This Plan seeks to preserve the Town's character and the great quality of life experienced by its residents. Merrimack is a great community to raise a family and live regardless of whether you are a single, younger or elder community member."

Common Elements:
◊ Protect health and safety
◊ Provide for economic development
◊ Support efforts to expand broadband
◊ Encourage good government and citizen participation/ community spirit
◊ Manage commercial and industrial development
◊ Diversify tax base
◊ Provide quality education

3 — Natural Resource Functions and Quality

Merrimack River

Natural Resource Functions & Quality – make sure that we protect New Hampshire's beautiful natural landscape, which is home to all of us as well as a wide range of wildlife species. This includes protecting and improving the water we drink, the air we breathe, the forests we love, and the farmland that sustains us.

EXAMPLES:

HOLLIS
"There is great concern and attention by residents of the Town on preservation and protection of the diverse natural resource base. In particular, special attention is required for water resources. Residents strongly support the use of both regulatory and non-regulatory conservation methods."

HUDSON
"Protect existing and potential public drinking water supplies and on-site wells, groundwater, and recharge areas from harmful developments, land use practices, and roadway contamination."

Common Elements:
◊ Preserve agricultural resources
◊ Preserve scenic beauty and natural resources
◊ Preserve habitat diversity
◊ Protect water resources

4 — Transportation Choices

Nashua Transit Service Bus

Transportation Choices – provide a number of options that help people safely and efficiently get where they need to go, whether it is by walking, driving, biking, public transportation, carpooling, or taking a train or plane. Transportation networks should make it easy to get from one place to another, and should also allow the efficient movement of goods to support the economy (commercial freight, rail, and air transport).

EXAMPLES:

NASHUA
"Every effort will be made to make Nashua a desirable place to live by...providing...A clean and safe community with efficient, functional transportation."

LITCHFIELD
"Provide safe and adequate access to public roadways and public transportation alternatives."

MONT VERNON
"Encourage pedestrian traffic throughout the town with pathways, sidewalks, scenic roads and road shoulders forming a network connecting residential areas with the village center."

Common Elements:
◊ Improve roads/infrastructure
◊ Minimize traffic congestion/increase road safety
◊ Transportation alternatives

5 — Housing Choices

Condominiums in Hudson

Housing Choices— ensure that everyone, no matter what their income level, has convenient and affordable choices in where they live. This includes a variety of housing options and ownership types that appeal to people at any stage of life and is convenient to where they work, shop, and play.

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST
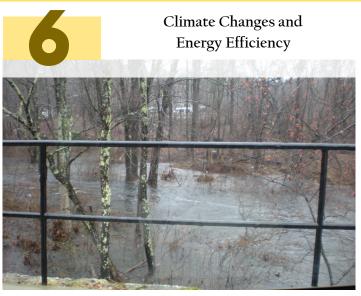*"Encourage diversity in housing"*

HUDSON
"Provide reasonable opportunities for the development of housing affordable to families and individuals of all income levels."

LITCHFIELD
"Provide adequate and diverse housing to meet the needs of residents, while maintaining the character of the Town. This includes adequate spacing, appropriate scale and reasonable opportunity within the Town and region for affordable and adequate housing stock for our children and those on fixed incomes."

Common Elements:
◊   Provide variety of housing options
◊   Provide for workforce housing

6 — Climate Changes and Energy Efficiency

Roadside Flooding in Brookline

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency – identify opportunities to save energy and costs and reduce risks to our communities, businesses and citizens. How can we reduce dependence on outside sources of energy, construct homes and buildings that are more efficient, and reduce impacts to our communities and infrastructure from extreme storms and flooding?

EXAMPLES:

MERRIMACK (in draft form)
"Promote energy efficiency in municipal and public operations, starting with an Energy Committee that can advise and support energy efficiency efforts by Town departments ."

BROOKLINE
"Environmentally progressive policies with respect to energy, natural resources, building standards, and land use patterns are also critical to Brookline's long term sustainability."

PELHAM
"Provide cost effective, centrally located community facilities and services (including schools, recreation, fire, police, library and solid waste disposal) for Town residents consistent with both demand and the Town's ability to pay."

Common Elements:
◊   Provide needed facilities and services
◊   Promote energy efficiency