

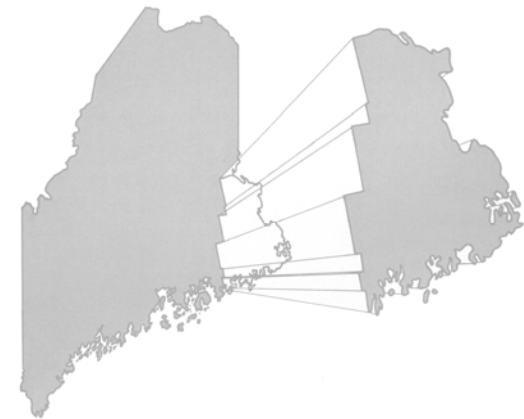
Maine's Growth Management Goals

State law establishes statewide goals that relate to the subject areas Comprehensive Plans. To be consistent with Maine's Growth Management Act, Comprehensive Plans' Goals, Policies, & Implementation Strategies must be consistent with the following goals:

1. Plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.
2. Promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.
3. To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.
4. To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.
5. To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public.
6. To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers, and coastal areas.
7. To preserve the State's historic and archaeological resources.
8. To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.
9. To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the state's rural character, making efficient use of public services, and preventing development sprawl.
10. To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources.
11. To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.
12. To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas, and unique natural areas.
13. To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

Source: State Planning Office www.maine.gov/spo

Be a Part of Your Town's Future



A Quick Reference on
Comprehensive Planning in Maine

For more information, contact:

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What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is an official, public document adopted by local government as a guide to decisions regarding the future development of the town.

The Comprehensive Plan contains:

- A description of the town's past, present and desired future including its population, economy, public facilities, public services and natural resources;
- Policies & Goals: statements about where the town wants to be in the future;
- Strategies: how the town plans to achieve these goals.

A comprehensive plan is the collective thoughts of the community. The plan describes the community and is an expression of the town's vision for its future.

A Comprehensive Plan is not...

- A comprehensive Plan is **not** an ordinance. However, the plan is the legal basis or foundation for local ordinances.
- The plan is not forever or "cast in stone." It will be necessary to periodically review the plan to ensure that it continues to reflect the conditions and desires of the community.

What's in a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is divided into chapters that address 14 subject areas:

- Population & Demographics
- Economy
- Housing
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Marine Resources (if applicable)
- Water Resources
- Critical Natural Resources
- Historic & Archaeological Resources
- Agricultural & Forest Resources
- Public Facilities & Services
- Fiscal Capacity & Capital Investment Plan
- Existing Land Use
- Future Land Use

Why Have A Comprehensive Plan?

- **To access grant money.** To apply for many State grants programs (including many Community Development Block Grants), a Town must have a comprehensive plan that has been adopted locally and deemed consistent with Growth Management.
- **To identify and protect those aspects of the community that are important to its citizens.** These controversies can be minimized when standards have been previously established.
- **To control the costs to the town for future development.** The Plan identified strategies to encourage growth in place where town services exist, so that new development is less costly to all taxpayers.

Control Your Own Destiny

A Comprehensive Plan can help your community set "the rules for the game." For example, under your current system, if a developer wanted to locate a chemical plant in a residential neighborhood, once the Department of Environmental Protection's criteria was met, the project could proceed. The homeowner's only recourse would be costly litigation to prove damages resulted.

As part of the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan, your community looks broadly at your town's character, existing land use pattern, and natural resource opportunities and constraints to identify where different types of development would be most appropriate.

With local controls in place, your community could determine where different types of development could occur and what development standards would be achieved.

A comprehensive plan is not about taking away your rights; but instead, it is about giving the control back to the local people.

What can you do?

This is **your plan** and should reflect your community's wants and needs. To make sure that it does, you can:

- Think about what defines your town as a distinct community and discuss why you chose to be part of this community.
- Envision your town's future
- Participate in the process and express your ideas and concerns
- Join the Comprehensive Plan Committee