



Strafford Regional Planning Commission

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“Planning and action for sustainable development and an improved quality of life.”

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Vision 2020-Strafford Region:

A New England regional community committed to responsible growth and cooperative actions to improve our quality of life.

- Regional community means working together to consider regional and local needs and meet them fairly and equitably.
- Responsible growth means economic and residential development that is sustainable and balanced with environmental and natural resource protection.
- An improved quality of life means a better living environment achieved by continually raising and meeting higher standards for individual and community physical, social, and economic wellbeing.

We celebrate and enhance our enterprising spirit; our historic buildings and evolving patterns of development; our scenic landscape of rivers, lakes, forests, and farmlands; and our cultural values for the benefit of future generations.

Policy Principles – Growth Management

1. Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns to efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure.
2. Protect the traditional character of Strafford Region’s downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging historic/traditional New England styled architecture and a human scale of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life.
3. Incorporate a mix of uses to provide a variety of housing, employment, shopping, services, and social opportunities for all members of the community.
4. Preserve Strafford Region’s working landscape by sustaining farm and forestland and other rural resource lands by maintaining contiguous tracts of open land and by minimizing land use conflicts.
5. Provide choices and safety in transportation to create livable, walkable communities that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motorized modes.
6. Protect environmental quality by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas and water resources that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in the Strafford Region.
7. Involve the community in planning and implementation to ensure development retains and enhances the sense of place, traditions, goals, and values of the local community.
8. Manage growth locally in the New Hampshire tradition, but encourage neighboring towns to work collectively, think regionally and locally to achieve common goals and address common problems more effectively.