

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives – Land Use

Goal 1: Provide for and maintain a well-balanced pattern of land use that meets the needs of Plaistow residents and business owners in an environmentally sound, economical, and equitable manner that is consistent with the town's small town New England character.

Objective 1: Encourage and manage growth in the areas of Plaistow that will minimize environmental impacts and will not exceed the capacity of the town's municipal services.

Objective 2: Promote a variety of residential opportunities throughout the town.

Objective 3: Utilize access management techniques and appropriate landscaping and buffering along major roadways.

Objective 4: Continue to provide opportunities for business growth, particularly within existing commercial and industrial areas.

Objective 5: Establish a village center district.

Goal 2: Preserve those community features that contribute to Plaistow's quality of life.

Objective 1: Preserve the natural and cultural features such as streams, rivers, prime agricultural land, valuable woodlands, quality views, wetlands, country roads, stone walls and other valuable open space areas.

Objective 2: Adopt regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms that will protect and enhance the town's character.

Objective 3: Identify and protect specific scenic areas and view corridors.

Objective 4: Encourage residents and property owners to support the establishment of land use and design guidelines that will preserve the town's character.

Objective 5: Encourage public and private partnerships designed to improve and upgrade the physical attractiveness of downtown.

Goals and Objectives – Population and Housing

Goal 1: To better appreciate and understand the existing and projected housing needs of Plaistow's citizens.

Objective 1: To identify the specific housing needs in Plaistow.

Objective 2: To educate and inform the townspeople on the local housing issues.

Goal 2: To continue to meet the overall housing needs of various income groups.

Objective 1: To ensure through the Town's Land Use Regulations that there is opportunity for a variety of choices for residential housing.

Goal 3: To encourage and support the construction of various types of housing.

Objective 1: To identify areas in town suitable and appropriate for senior housing.

Objective 2: To assist providers of elderly housing with assistance and information.

Objective 3: Opportunities for a range of housing types including single and multi-family.

Goals and Objectives – Community Facilities

Goal: To plan and provide for quality community facilities and services to effectively meet the municipal, social, educational and other service needs of Plaistow's residents and businesses in an efficient manner.

Objective 1: Ensure that the town can provide an acceptable level of community services that meet the needs of both the existing and projected population.

Objective 2: Ensure that the public health and safety of local residents are met.

Objective 3: Encourage public and private cooperation in planning for and financing community facilities, including an examination of opportunities to privatize selected municipal services when it is appropriate and practical.

Objective 4: Ensure continued cooperation and coordination between the fire and police departments in order to encourage a cost-effective use of resources.

Objective 5: Provide a rational approach for the financing of the town's community facilities and services.

Objective 6: Ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive the best possible and affordable education so that they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to make a positive contribution to the community.

Objective 7: Encourage educational programs that use a variety of community resources including conservation lands, historic resources, community facilities and local businesses.

Objective 8: Encourage close coordination between the needs identified in the Community Facilities Chapter and the Capital Improvements Program.

Goals and Objectives - Transportation

Goal: Provide and maintain a transportation system that allows for the efficient movement of people and goods and provides adequate access to places of employment, residential areas, commercial and shopping areas, and recreational opportunities.

Objective 1: Maximize the safety of drivers and pedestrians through regular maintenance and enhancement to the transportation system.

Objective 2: Improve the current roadway system to provide efficient traffic flow in the town's urban area while maintaining a safe environment for pedestrians.

Objective 3: Provide opportunities for a range of non-automotive transportation alternatives that are easily available to the residents of Plaistow.

Objective 4: Ensure that transportation improvement projects are consistent with the town's policies for protection of natural, cultural and historic resources, and minimize the impact on residential neighborhoods.

Objective 5: Participate in the coordination of state and local transportation planning that addresses both local and regional needs and use all opportunities for funding.

- Objective 6: Expand opportunities for pedestrian access and safety by identifying and improving sidewalks in need of immediate repair and adding additional sidewalks where appropriate.
- Objective 7: Establish a system of bicycle routes and multi-use trails/paths for the enjoyment of Plaistow citizens that is coordinated with state and regional trail systems.
- Objective 8: Continue the process of funding for transportation enhancement projects through the local capital improvement planning process.
- Objective 9: Encourage public/private cooperation in the financing of additions and improvements to the transportation system.

Goals and Objectives – Natural Resources

Goal 1: Protect and enhance environmentally sensitive natural resources areas in order to maintain their ecological integrity and/or to promote public health and safety.

- Objective 1: Ensure a safe and adequate water supply for all citizens through proper management of land, water supply areas, and aquifer recharge areas.
- Objective 2: Protect and maintain the valuable functions of wetlands by minimizing the impact of development and allowing appropriate multiple use of these resources for recreation, wildlife habitat and limited timber harvest.
- Objective 3: Encourage only those uses within the 100-year floodplain that are enhanced or unharmed by flooding.
- Objective 4: Protect surface water resources by minimizing non-point source pollution from storm water discharge.
- Objective 5: Protect unique or unusual natural resource features or communities.

Goal 2: Maintain the quality of Plaistow’s living environment by encouraging the appropriate balance between protection and active use of the town’s natural resources.

- Objective 1: Protect significant higher elevations for their visual value.
- Objective 2: Increase public awareness of Plaistow’s unusual and rare plant and animal species.
- Objective 3: Encourage the maintenance and proper management of the town’s agriculture and forestry resources.

Goals and Objectives – Open Space

Goal 1: Protect and manage Plaistow’s valuable open space resources.

- Objective 1: Provide an integrated network of open space areas and recreation facilities.
- Objective 2: Improve, protect, and encourage public access to Plaistow’s surface waters.
- Objective 3: Encourage new developments to protect and, where possible, enhance valuable natural and open space resources.
- Objective 4: Preserve natural features such as ponds, streams, rivers, prime agricultural land, valuable woodlands, quality viewsapes, wetlands, and other valuable open space areas that contribute to Plaistow’s character.
- Objective 5: Support regional open space initiatives.
- Objective 6: Ensure protection of wildlife corridors and habitats.

Goals and Objectives – Recreation

Goal 1: Provide suitable recreation opportunities—land, programs, and facilities—to service the town’s existing and projected populations.

- Objective 1: Meet the town’s current and projected recreational needs by ensuring that there is an appropriate amount of land and facilities.
- Objective 2: Provide suitable recreation facilities that are within easy access of the town’s major neighborhoods.

Goal 2: Encourage the long-term use, maintenance, and improvement of existing recreational facilities.

- Objective 1: Ensure that there are available recreation resources for all age groups.
- Objective 2: Provide for the maintenance and enhancement of existing recreation facilities.