



Town of Hampton, NH Master Plan

Background, Uses & Options

Rockingham Planning Commission
156 Water Street | Exeter, NH 03833
603-775-0885 | www.theRPC.org

Master Plans Basics in NH

RSA 674:1 - Planning boards are required to **prepare and amend** a master plan to guide the development of the municipality.

Master plans per state law:

- Should be updated every 5-10 years.
- Only require vision and land use chapters.
- May have other chapters.
- Planning board must consult with stakeholders.

Why Do Municipalities Need a Master Plan?

RSA 674:2, II: “[t]he master plan shall be a set of statements and **land use and development principles** for the municipality...**to give legal standing to the implementation ordinances** and other measures of the planning board.”

In other words –

Without a master plan you cannot have zoning, site plan or subdivision regulations!

What Is a Master Plan?

- It's a Plan!

That reflects the values of the community to help guide it's future development.

- Should be long-ranging (typically 25 years).

- Considers communities assets and functions related to:



- It's a Plan!

To guide town officials and staff when making short and long-term decisions about the town.

Required chapters:

- **Vison**
- **Land Use**

Optional chapters:

- **Transportation**
- **Community Facilities**
- **Economic Development**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Natural Hazards**
- **Recreation**
- **Utility and Public Services**
- **Historical/Cultural Resources (includes agriculture)**
- **Regional Concerns**
- **Neighborhood Plans**
- **Community Design**
- **Housing**
- **Energy**
- **Coastal Management**
- **Implementation Section**
- **Growth Management**

Master Plan's Connection with Zoning

Master Plans = general policy

Zoning Ordinances = specific regulations

RSA 674:16 states that the zoning ordinance shall be designed to regulate and restrict:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures.2) Lot sizes, the percentage of a lot that may be occupied, and the size of yards, courts and other open spaces.3) The density of population in the municipality.4) The location and use of buildings, structures and land used for business, industrial, residential or other purposes.
RSA 674:17 states that a zoning ordinance must be designed for the following purposes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To lessen congestion in the streets.2) To secure safety from fires, panic and other dangers.3) To promote health and the general welfare.4) To provide adequate light and air.5) To prevent the overcrowding of land.6) To avoid undue concentration of population.7) To facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, solid waste facilities, water, sewerage, schools, parks, child day care.8) To assure proper use of natural resources and other public requirements.9) To encourage the preservation of agricultural lands and buildings.10) To encourage the installation and use of solar, wind, or other renewable energy systems.

What A Master Plan Can Do For You!

- Use it as a work plan –

Planning Board, Select Board, CIP/ Budget Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, etc.

- Use it to leverage \$\$\$ -

Examples:

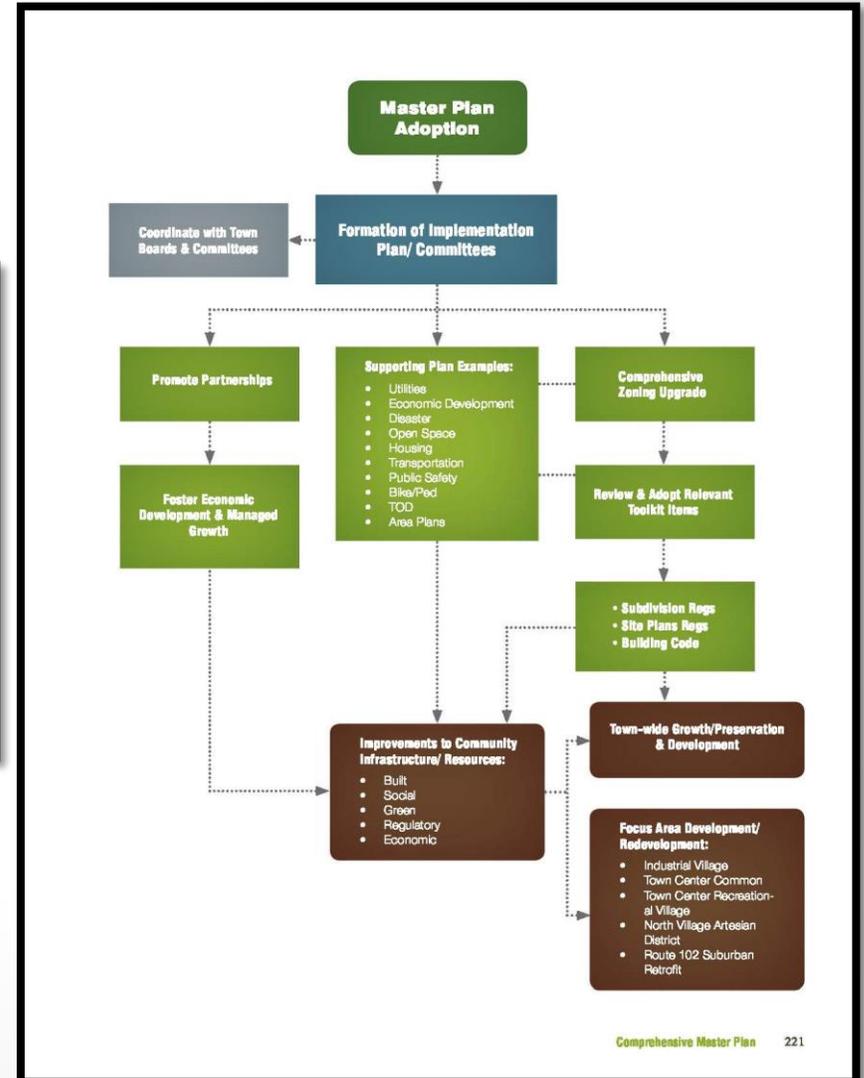
- Identified transportation projects can be prioritized in NHDOT Transportation Plans.
- Having a Coastal Hazards chapter – eligible for NHDES Coastal Program grants to modify tidal culverts.
- Natural resource protection goals – help leverage land conservation funding.

Current Trends in Master Plan Formats

Implementation Plans

North Hampton Master Plan Implementation Table							
Master Plan Vision Principle(s) and Strategy(ies) that support this Goal							
Master Plan CHAPTER TOPIC GOAL 1	<i>Goals should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Agreeable to all involved, Realistic, and have a Timeframe)</i>						
	Timeframe		Expected Outcome				
	Measure						
			Responsible Party	Timeframe	Cost (if known)	Funding Source	Task Progress, Year:
g							
TASK 1.1	Some goals will have multiple tasks/ action items, some may only have one or two.		<i>Planning Board, Select Board, Building Inspector</i>	<i>Year</i>		<i>Grant, town budget, in kind, other</i>	

North Hampton



Master Plan Development Process



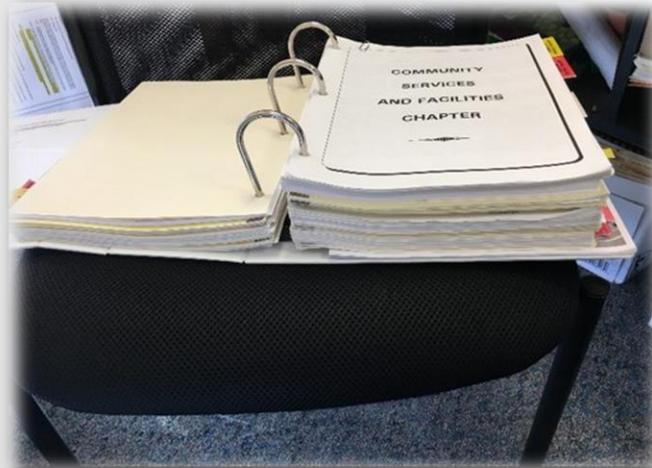
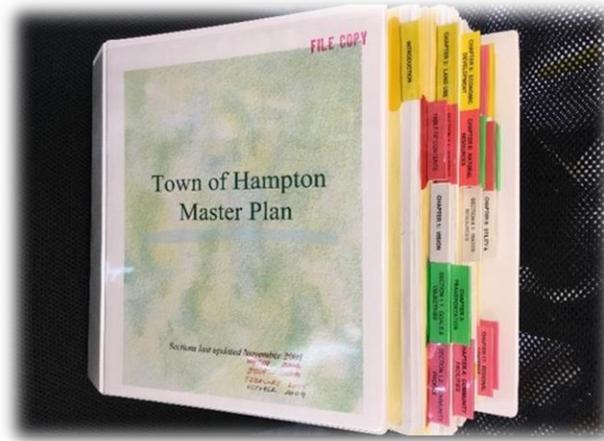
RPC Recent Master Plan Work

- Hampton Falls: Full update
- Newington: Full update
- North Hampton: Vision, currently Land Use & Natural Resources
- East Kingston: Land Use
- Greenland, Stratham, Rye and Seabrook: Coastal Hazards

Current Hampton Master Plan

Town of Hampton Master Plan Table of Contents

Adopted
1985- 2005



	Amendment Date (tentative date)
1 VISION (introduction)	1996
1.1 Goals and Objectives	1985
1.2 Community Profile	1995 (2004) <i>2005</i>
2 LAND USE	
2.1 Existing Land Use	March 2003
2.2 Future Land Use	1985 (2004) <i>2005</i>
3 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS	March 2003
4 COMMUNITY FACILITIES (currently combined with Community Services and called Community Services and Facilities)	1995
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	currently no chapter
6 NATURAL RESOURCES	
6.1 Water Resources	1996
6.2 Soils and Construction Materials	March 2003
6.3 Open Space and Land Conservation	1996
7 NATURAL HAZARDS (All Hazard Mitigation Plan)	2004
8 RECREATION (currently combined with Community Services and called Community Services and Facilities)	1995
9 UTILITY AND PUBLIC SERVICES (currently combined with Community Services and called Community Services and Facilities)	1995
10 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES	1996
11 REGIONAL CONCERNS	currently no chapter
12 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN	
12.1 Hampton Beach Area Master Plan	2001
13 COMMUNITY DESIGN	currently no chapter
14 HOUSING	1995
15 IMPLEMENTATION (also refer to each chapter)	1985

Options to Consider

- Conduct outreach: surveys, public input sessions, etc.
- Focus on require chapters: Vision and Land Use
- Complete update or a few chapters at a time?
- Use mainly volunteers or hire outside assistance?

Recommendations

- Have a plan for how you want to use the Master Plan.
Helps guide format, outreach, and buy-in from public, town staff and officials.
- Keep it short!
Makes it more user-friendly and less expensive to update.
- Prioritize implementation.
Routinely tracking progress keeps the Master Plan current and useful. Otherwise, it will sit on a shelf...

Atkinson
Brentwood
Danville
East Kingston
Epping
Exeter
Fremont
Greenland
Hampstead
Hampton
Hampton Falls
Kensington
Kingston
New Castle
Newfields
Newington
Newton
North Hampton
Plaistow
Portsmouth
Raymond
Rye
Salem
Sandown
Seabrook
South Hampton
Stratham



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