

Implementation

USE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION CHAPTER

The purpose of the Implementation Chapter is to help the Town's boards, committees and residents continually utilize, review and implement the Plan for Tomorrow. The 2023 Plan for Tomorrow contains the two statutorily required chapters, the Vision chapter and the Existing and Future Land Use chapter. While these two chapters are the foundation of the Plan, other chapters were developed, including Canterbury Today (Demographics), Implementation, Transportation, Housing, Community Facilities, and Natural Features to provide a more rounded and detailed Plan for Tomorrow.

To develop the Implementation chapter, the Planning Board reviewed the many recommendations and identified the highest priorities. Those prioritized recommendations are included in the table beginning on page 3.3, sorted by chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, short-term is identified as through Town Meeting 2026, medium-term is 3 to 5 years, and long-term is 5 years and over. It was also noted if it was a priority to undertake the action on an ongoing basis.

KEY PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

In the Existing and Future Land Use chapter, key priorities include the encouragement of the use of the Cluster Development Ordinance by simplifying the ordinance and the consideration of a range of density incentives. This was also noted in the Housing chapter and was initiated with changes approved at Town Meeting 2024. Other key priorities include the consideration of possible changes in the Zoning Ordinances and Subdivision Regulations to direct development away from cleared fields and prime agricultural land to those areas of limited agricultural or conservation uses. In addition, continuing

to identify, inventory, protect and maintain features that make up the rural character of the Town, such as dirt roads, stone walls, open land, the trail system, and old farm buildings was identified as a high priority.

In the Transportation chapter, high priorities include monitoring and participation in project planning activities related to the NH 106 widening and the recently completed US 4 (Hoit Road), Old Boyce Road and Whitney Road Intersection Improvement projects and the promotion and support of the existing services offered by the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties Inc. In addition, there is support for the exploration of options to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety such as construction of sidewalks and widening shoulders as appropriate and continuing to monitor safety issues in the vicinity of the Kimball Pond Road and Morrill Road intersection.

In the Housing chapter, high priorities include the previously noted support of cluster developments, support for mixed-use zones in the vicinity of Exits 17 and 18 to accommodate a mix of housing and small-scale retail/office uses and the update the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to meet the goals, policies and objectives described in this Plan update. Some of that implementation was addressed at Town Meeting 2024, including support for accessory dwelling units.

In addition, priorities include the consideration of possible changes to the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations to direct development away from cleared fields and prime agricultural land to those areas of limited agricultural or conservation uses. Finally, there was support to periodically reevaluate the existing "building permit cap."

Regarding Canterbury's Community Facilities, high priorities include continued efforts to improve broadband and cellular service and the exploration of community power with the goal of reducing electrical costs and establishing Canterbury as an energy conscious community.

Furthermore, annual updates to the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), assessment of the Town's waste management and recycling program (including potential Household Hazardous Waste collections), and regular PFAS-type chemical water quality testing were identified as high priorities.

Key priorities of the Natural Features chapter included:

- Support for the evaluation and improvement of zoning and subdivision regulations to limit cumulative adverse effects caused by scattered development on larger contiguous areas.
- Support for the protection surface waters, groundwater, and watersheds to ensure clean, drinking water for residents.
- The restriction of development on prime agricultural lands to ensure the ability to produce food locally for the benefit of local people and the economy.
- The conservation of landscapes and habitats that can mitigate climate change or be most resilient in adapting to climate change and maintaining the intangible qualities of rural character such as scenic quality, quiet, and rural roadways.
- Support for plant and wildlife habitat conservation before allowing development or

changes to the natural environment in priority habitats and natural areas.

- The identification of opportunities to conserve streams, riparian corridors, and wildlife corridors that connect open spaces, encouragement for landowners to protect their remaining fields for agricultural use and to conduct operations in a sustainable manner.
- Identification of key town-owned properties along with the development of a stewardship plan to ensure that they are properly managed to enhance their value for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, agriculture, forest management, scenic enjoyment; and
- Support for funding for land conservation through continued dedication of 100% of the Land Use Change Tax to acquiring conservation land or easements or supporting such projects in town initiated by qualified organizations.

While these are the priorities and implementation recommendations that the Planning Board sought to highlight, it does not minimize the remaining recommendations found in the Plan. The highlighted tasks should be reviewed annually by the Planning Board to ascertain progress or reprioritize if necessary.