

Vision Section

Old Values, New Horizons

The residents of Windham are proud of the community they have built. Windham exudes a shared sense of responsibility and volunteer spirit combined with the prudent Yankee values that define New Hampshire. Where there was once a rural hamlet of homesteads and farms now stands a suburban mecca of cul-de-sacs complete with a thriving commercial district.

Windham stands at a crossroads.

The results of 2020 town survey along with the 2021 municipal election and town warrant have indicated a clear mandate: **do what is necessary to hold on to the “rural oasis”**. The town has decided to take a pause from the exponential growth of the last 20 years.

Guiding Principles

- **Conserve** the town’s remaining natural resources
- **Preserve** the character and integrity of existing neighborhoods
- **Enrich** residents’ environmental and recreational quality of life

Conserve

Protection of Natural Resources

Protecting the remaining natural resources in town is Windham’s highest priority. Priority should be given to conservation of the lakes, streams, and waterways in Windham. Conservation and preservation of forests and open spaces should be actively pursued including the purchase of additional conservation lands. Further deforestation or increased stress on the lakes, streams, and wetlands should be discouraged along with implementing incentive programs that will improve natural resources.

Protection of drinking water is of paramount importance. Actions that preserve and replenish the existing aquifers are required. The town needs to research and implement actions that will replenish the aquifer. In addition, to protect the public health and general welfare it may be necessary to prevent development and land use practices that would contaminate or reduce the recharge of aquifers with the implementation of Aquifer Protection Districts.

Conservation Directives

- [Protect lakes, ponds, streams, watersheds & wetlands](#)
- [Protect forests & open spaces](#)
- [Increase conservation land](#)
- [Protect & replenish the aquifer](#)

Preserve

Safeguard the Character & Integrity of Windham’s Neighborhoods

Windham neighborhoods are a great variety of single-family homes. Residents love the character of their neighborhoods and want to preserve the sense of community they evoke. Townsfolk have

resoundingly said they want to preserve the charm and character of Windham therefore current incentives promoting non-single-family housing should be removed. Several areas of town have light industrial and commercial zones bordering rural zones. A buffer between needs to be enacted to protect existing residential homes.

Preservation of the town's historic sites should be given priority where possible. The historical treasures of stonewalls, barns, and other historic buildings should be protected. Ordinances should be developed to incentivize re-use of historic buildings.

Preservation Directives

- [Maintain neighborhood integrity](#)
- [Remove residential development incentives](#)
- [Enact buffers between light industrial/commercial and rural zones](#)
- [Protect historic sites](#)

Enrich

Improve and Enhance Quality of Life for Residents

Recreational programs promote the tight knit community residents aspire to maintain and expand upon. Community access to Windham's abundant water bodies, town forests, and trails are jewels to be nurtured and promoted. Expansion of community offerings at Windham's parks, especially Griffith Park, should be initiated. The **Recreational Master Plan** should be updated to promote coordination and help organize recreational priorities.

Traffic congestion and lack of pedestrian connectivity have both been identified as problem areas in need of resolution. Solving traffic circulation issues is an important objective in enriching residents' overall quality of life. Route 111 will continue to serve as Windham's main east-west travel corridor and therefore should remain a Limited Access route. Existing access points along Route 111 should be consolidated where possible.

In the existing commercial zones, Windham residents have indicated a desire to see entertainment, destination dining, and educational services developed. Incentives to develop these commercial offerings should be considered.

Enrichment Directives

- [Promote and develop new and existing recreational resources](#)
- [Solve traffic flow and pedestrian connectivity issues](#)
- [Steer commercial development towards entertainment, destination dining, and education](#)