

3. IMPLEMENTATION

This Implementation Chapter supports Chichester to utilize, review, and implement the Plan’s recommendations. This plan contains the two statutorily required chapters, the community vision (Chichester Tomorrow) and Existing and Future Land Use. While these two chapters are the foundation of the community’s decision making, complementary chapters were developed, including Economic Base, Housing, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Community Facilities, to provide a more rounded analysis of Chichester. Each of these chapters have important conclusions to contribute in the form of recommendations.

Each of the chapters of the Master Plan Update contains recommendations that seek to implement the Plan’s goals and objectives. While the Master Plan is a document prepared and adopted by the Planning Board, the recommendations range from very broad policies to specific actions that could be undertaken by various boards and committees over the Plan’s lifetime. Although the Planning Board sought to highlight priority recommendations, it does not diminish the remaining recommendations found in the Plan.

The Implementation Chapter summarizes the Implementation Program, which includes the recommendations contained in the Master Plan, and outlines a priority, timeline and identified leader (Planning Board, Selectmen, etc.) for each of the recommendations. The highest priorities are described first.

Implementing a Master Plan is truly a long-term effort. The true success of this Master Plan will be in the success of implementing the recommendations over the coming years.

674:2 Master Plan; Purpose and Description. –

I. The purpose of the master plan is to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection.

II. The master plan shall be a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with such accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptions as to give legal standing to the implementation ordinances and other measures of the planning board. Each section of the master plan shall be consistent with the others in its implementation of the vision section. The master plan shall be a public record subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A. The master plan shall include, at a minimum, the following required sections:

(a) A vision section that serves to direct the other sections of the plan. This section shall contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan, not only for their locality but for the region and the whole state. It shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision.

(b) A land use section upon which all the following sections shall be based. This section shall translate the vision statements into physical terms. Based on a study of population, economic activity, and natural, historic, and cultural resources, it shall show existing conditions and the proposed location, extent, and intensity of future land use.

III. The master plan may also include the following sections:

An implementation section, which is a long range action program of specific actions, time frames, allocation of responsibility for actions, description of land development regulations to be adopted, and procedures which the municipality may use to monitor and measure the effectiveness of each section of the plan. (amended 2013)

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the highest priorities for future implementation as identified by the Planning Board. All other recommendations follow in the *Implementation Program* table.

Consider further implementation of the 2014 Community Design Charette, “A Village Center, Again” through the designation of small-scale mixed use development zones at Library Corner and Parade Corner.

Priority: Ongoing

Leaders: Planning Board

The 2014 Plan NH Community Design Charrette “A Village Center, Again” provided a series of land use and transportation related recommendations for the Main Street corridor, including proposed areas along Main Street for village-type mixed use “nodes.”

The adoption of the Town Center zone at 2019 Town Meeting was the initial implementation measure of the Charette. A potential second node in the vicinity of the Library and a third node near the Chichester Central School and the intersection with NH28 were also identified in the Design Charette.

Prioritize the four conservation focus areas of Perry Brook, Lynxfield Pond, Suncook Valley and the Plausawa Highlands in future conservation efforts. Pursue strategies for the protection of large unfragmented blocks, travel corridors, vernal pools and other important wildlife habitat features.

Priority: Medium (3-5 years)

Leaders: Conservation Commission

The transition from soils-based to district-based was approved at Town Meeting 2019. A key part of the process was the effort to

capture the intent of soils based zoning - protecting important areas of Town as highlighted in part by the 2003 Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Essentially, the zoning update utilized the NRI’s focus areas when developing the new zoning framework, specifically minimum lot sizes.

In 2020, the Conservation Commission updated most of the NRI maps and added new maps related to wildland habitat from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Wildlife Action Plan. As part of the Town’s NRI, four conservation focus areas were identified for conservation planning. These areas include Perry Brook, Lynxfield Pond, Suncook Valley, and the Plausawa Highlands.

The NRI is a valuable tool that can be utilized in future discussions regarding permanent protection of properties within the focus areas.

Coordinate across Town boards and committees to develop a trails system linking Town facilities and community nodes along Main Street, including the Elementary School, Library, and Grange Hall. Include trail connections to recreation areas and open spaces, including Carpenter Park.

Priority: Ongoing

Leaders: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Trails Committee

In the community survey, over 82% of those responding noted either strong or moderate support to preserve and expand network of public trails.

The 2019 Suncook Valley Trails (SVT) Plan highlighted the overall future trails priority of developing a Main Street Corridor Community Trail System for four-season usage to accommodate a wide variety of users. Identified priorities include rehabilitating the

Marsh Pond Loop Trail behind the Fire Station, pursuing a Depot Street connection to Thunder Bridge and the former Suncook Valley Railbed for a regional multi-use trail with other Suncook Valley communities, and connecting Carpenter Park to the Elementary School. A key step is the formation of the Chichester Trails Committee.

Support design improvements (see Transportation Chapter) at the Main Street/Center Road/Canterbury Road intersection that encourages small-scale mixed use development in the Town Center Zone. Consider expansion of zone to CV zone boundary.

Priority: Ongoing

Leaders: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board

Beyond the zoning changes described above, the 2014 Plan NH Community Design Charrette “A Village Center, Again” included a number of options to improve the Main Street/Center Rd/Canterbury Road intersection and adjoining areas.

The options for the intersection include (1) a four way stop, or (2) an improved intersection that separates Center Road and Canterbury Road traffic without stopping traffic on Main Street. The installation of curb and sidewalks along with textured/colored pavement at the intersection as well as a midblock cross walk near town hall could signal that this is a special place. The use of a narrowed road section, textured pavement, lighting and attractive signage, and lowered speed limit at the approaches to the new Village Center would signal that this area is special and would act to calm traffic and divert regional traffic from the center of Town.

In addition to the potential changes to the Main Street/Center Rd/Canterbury Road intersection and adjoining areas, the next step to further implement the 2014 Charette would involve the extension of the Town Center zone that was adopted in 2019 to the Commercial Village zone boundary. The Town Center zone currently extends only to the boundary of the Commercial/Industrial Multi-Family zone that is 1000’ beyond the US4 right-of-way.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
		Ongoing	Short 2 years	Medium 3-5 years	Long 5+ years
Chapter 4: Economic Base					
Encourage additional local investment by (1) seeking Town Meeting approval of a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Zone (NH RSA 79-E) for the Town Center Village Zone and (2) development of Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) zones along appropriate areas of US4.	Economic Development Committee	X			
Investigate and consider the future adoption of the Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption.	Planning Board/Economic Development Committee		X		
Support the continued work of the Economic Development Committee.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Support the formation of the Chichester Trails Committee to develop a local four season multi-use trail system that connects to a potential regional rail trail.	Board of Selectmen/Trails Committee	X			
Chapter 5: Housing					
Continue to promote the appropriate use of the Open Space Conservation Development Ordinance.	Planning Board	X			
Continue to support the existing Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance that allows for ADUs wherever single family homes are permitted.	Planning Board	X			
Continue to support multi-family housing as a permitted use throughout the CI-MF zone.	Planning Board	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 5: Housing Continued					
Continually monitor the effectiveness of Chichester’s Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Regulations related to housing choice and affordability.	Planning Board	X			
Chapter 6: Natural Resources					
Strengthen Town ordinances that protect important resources such as surface water, views, wildlife habitat, agricultural and forestry soils.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission		X		
Support local and state ordinances, regulations, and legislation that are farm and forest friendly, including opportunities for agritourism.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission	X			
Work with the Conservation Commission to identify and prioritize parcels of land that the Town feels should be permanently protected and develop a plan for the protection of these parcels. Actively seek out grant opportunities, donations and bequeathment to fund the acquisitions of, or easement on these parcels.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission		X		
Work with abutting communities when appropriate for the protection of corridors that traverse Town boundary lines.	Planning Board	X			
Use data from the Town’s Natural Resources Inventory and other sources to further assess the natural resources of Chichester and to recommend potential preservation opportunities to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.	Conservation Commission	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
		Ongoing	Short 2 years	Medium 3-5 years	Long 5+ years
Chapter 6: Natural Resources Continued					
Identify and monitor potential threats to the Town's surface waters and groundwater resources, including stormwater runoff and the storage of hazardous materials.	Conservation Commission	X			
Review Town ordinances and regulations to adequately address the issues of stormwater management, erosion, and sediment control to preserve the quality of the Town's waterbodies to incorporate best management practices.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission	X			
Review and evaluate wetland setbacks included in the Town's zoning ordinance to ensure that wetlands are being adequately protected.	Planning Board	X			
Consider an aquifer protection ordinance to regulate the future development of land in the vicinity of the Soucook River to protect the existing high quality groundwater supply. Utilize the Town's high value wetlands study to provide additional protection to these areas and consider impacts to these areas from adjacent developments.	Planning Board	X			
Continue to participate in NHDES's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program in Marsh Pond and other water bodies in Town.	Conservation Commission/local volunteers	X			
Improve access to the Spaulding Lot/Town Forest.	Board of Selectmen/ Conservation Commission		X		

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 6: Natural Resources Continued					
Establish trails along or around parts of Lynxfield Pond in tandem with land protection.	Conservation Commission/Trails Committee			X	
Evaluate new trails or trail enhancements on the Plausawa highlands network, near Marsh Pond, the Shaw Pasture, and other locations.	Conservation Commission/Trails Committee		X		
Establish access to existing bodies of water.	Board of Selectmen/ Conservation Commission			X	
Evaluate potential impacts to wildlife of any new trail building or trail uses. The Trails for People and Wildlife materials developed by New Hampshire Fish and Game can be used as a resource.	Conservation Commission/Trails Committee	X			
Work with adjacent communities to create trail systems that span Town lines and connect communities.	Trails Committee		X		
Conduct public outreach on Chichester’s Natural Resources through participating in local community events and partnering with other Town groups as appropriate.	Conservation Commission		X		
Encourage farmers and forest landowners to follow “Best Management Practices” in the management of their farm including soil management, fertilization, and livestock waste management.	Conservation Commission	X			

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Chapter 6: Natural Resources Continued					
Encourage residents to “buy local” to support local agriculture.	Conservation Commission	X			
Educate the importance of surface water pollution caused by residential, commercial, and agricultural practices. Promote alternative practices that reduce or prevent this type of pollution, including stormwater regulations and best management practices.	Conservation Commission	X			
Continue efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species through education and monitoring, as described in the Natural Resources Chapter.	Conservation Commission	X			
Develop Town wide support and understanding for the long-term health of the aquifer.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission	X			
Chapter 7: Transportation					
Support efforts to undertake an extensive corridor planning process for the US 4 corridor between I-393 and the Northwood/Nottingham Town border.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board	X			
Continue to participate in project planning related to the NH 28 and Main Street intersection improvements project currently scheduled for construction in 2025.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 7: Transportation Continued					
Continue to ensure that Chichester’s transportation needs and priorities are adequately represented in the both the regional and statewide transportation planning process by participation on the CNHRPC Transportation Advisory Committee and the New Hampshire Ten Year Plan update process.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board	X			
Continue the work of the Chichester Roads Committee to annually update the Road Management Plan.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Continue to actively work with NHDOT to repair, replace, and/or upgrade bridges as needed.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Work to implement the Main Street Charette through infrastructure improvements which calm traffic and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board	X			
Evaluate roads that may be suitable for Scenic Road designation.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board			X	
As necessary, the Planning Board should seek transportation/traffic impact studies for new developments of a certain size or for developments located in areas where significant transportation problems are known to exist.	Planning Board	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 7: Transportation Continued					
As a condition of the final approval of a Subdivision or Site Plan Application, the Planning Board, where appropriate, should require the developer to pay a proportionate share of the costs of municipal transportation related improvements, which are necessitated in whole or in part by the development. At its discretion, the Board may require the developer to construct capital improvements, as an alternative.	Planning Board	X			
As a condition of the final approval of a Subdivision or Site Plan Application, the Planning Board, where appropriate, should require the developer to provide highway improvements made necessary by the applicant's development, including but not limited to turning lanes and signalization at project entrances.	Planning Board	X			
Incorporate access management provisions in both the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations.	Planning Board	X			
Consider the development of a US 4 Access Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Planning Board and NHDOT District 5 to enhance coordination during the development review /driveway permitting process.	Planning Board	X			
Require, when applicable, developers to provide rights-of-way and/or direct access to connect both new and existing developments.	Planning Board	X			
As appropriate, promote connectivity through the requirement of local street connections between existing, new and future developments.	Planning Board	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 7: Transportation Continued					
Support the establishment of a Town Trails Committee or equivalent to assist in the implementation of potential trails as identified in the 2019 Suncook Valley Trails Plan and consider additions to the existing network of walking and snowmobile trails.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Consider the designation, as Class A Trails, of some of the Class VI roads within Town by working with abutting landowners and the Conservation Commission.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board		X		
Consider the development of a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Plan promote walking and bicycling to the Chichester Central School.	Board of Selectmen/ Planning Board	X			
Coordinate with surrounding Towns within the region to study the potential expansion of the Concord Area Transit (CAT) fixed route bus system and the potential Concord to Portsmouth Inter-city Bus Service along US 4, including a potential park and ride location in Chichester.	Board of Selectmen		X		
Continue to promote the availability of the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) volunteer driver programs currently serving Chichester.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Chapter 9: Community Facilities					
Work with Department representatives annually to develop and update a Capital Improvement Program.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Continue to provide training and continuing education opportunities to current employees and volunteers.	Board of Selectmen	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 9: Community Facilities Continued					
Evaluate staffing levels of all the Town Departments annually so to ensure that department needs are being met.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Continue to develop and follow the annual report from Road Advisory Committee, including planned road reconstruction projects.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Continue the maintenance of the Town's existing fire protection water supply system. Modernize and expand the Town's existing fire protection water supply to ensure adequate fire protection water in case of emergency. This would include adding additional cisterns and dry hydrants.	Board of Selectmen/ Fire - Rescue	X			
Evaluate the need for additional office space for the Town Office, considering various options including new construction, construction of an addition to an existing Town facility, or sharing space with another Town department.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Evaluate the need to build a second Fire/EMS station or consider an addition to the current facility.	Board of Selectmen/Fire - Rescue				X
Continue to maintain and improve Carpenter Memorial Park expanding recreational opportunities and activities.	Board of Selectmen	X			
Provide additional and improved access to water based recreational activities.	Board of Selectmen		X		

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
		Ongoing	Short 2 years	Medium 3-5 years	Long 5+ years
Chapter 9: Community Facilities Continued					
Provide additional and improved open space and trails for passive recreation.	Trails Committee		X		
Provide improved information and awareness about recreational opportunities and facilitate communication between various user and interest groups.	Trails Committee/ Conservation Commission	X			
Develop a plan for Community Based Programs including a needs assessment and identified opportunities to meet those needs. This assessment should be developed jointly with other recreational partners, the public, and, if possible, similar groups from surrounding communities.	Board of Selectmen		X		
Continue to participate as a member of the BCEP Solid Waste District.	Board of Selectmen	X			
As part of the site plan review process, ensure that new developments consider or provide adequate water supply for fire protection.	Planning Board/Fire-Rescue	X			
Evaluate opportunities to install water supply lines for commercial development and fire protection underneath Routes 4 and 28.	Board of Selectmen		X		
Chapter 10: Existing and Future Land Use					
Continue to promote the appropriate use of the Open Space Conservation Development Ordinance to protect open space and agricultural areas and promote forestry management.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
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Chapter 10: Existing and Future Land Use Continued					
Clarify issues related to agritourism through the incorporation of the state definition of agritourism in the zoning ordinance and by addressing site plan review regulation thresholds for proposed agritourism uses.	Planning Board	X			
Consider the adoption of aquifer protection measures that establish best management practices with the Town's aquifer areas.	Planning Board/ Conservation Commission		X		
Support efforts of the Conservation Commission to identify and protect important conservation areas as outlined in the 2020 Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Update.	Conservation Commission		X		
Examine the intensity of commercial uses throughout the overall Commercial Industrial/Multi-Family (CI-MF) zone. Consider the designation of certain areas as light and medium intensity zones. Incorporate specific special exception criteria for certain intense commercial and industrial uses.	Planning Board	X			
Consider the modification of the CI-MF zone along US4 and NH28 to follow parcel boundaries as appropriate. Consider the moderate expansion of the CV District to the east and west along US4 and the possible reduction of the zone area along the southern section of NH28 nearest the Epsom town boundary to reflect the aquifer boundary.	Planning Board		X		
Provide greater emphasis on access management within the corridors, including shared driveways, interconnected developments, and access roads (See Transportation Chapter).	Planning Board	X			

Recommendation	Leader(s)	Priority/Timeline			
		Ongoing	Short 2 years	Medium 3-5 years	Long 5+ years
Chapter 10: Existing and Future Land Use Continued					
Consider the use of available economic development tools such as the Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) program and the Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption within certain areas of the CI-MF zone (See Economic Base Chapter).	Economic Development Committee/	X			
Encourage additional local investment by seeking Town Meeting approval of a Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Zone (NH RSA 79-E) for the Town Center Village Zone (See Economic Base Chapter).	Board of Selectmen/ Economic Development Committee	X			