



TOWN OF NAPLES

Comprehensive Plan FAQ

The Town of Naples has developed a Comprehensive Plan to guide future growth, policy, and investment decisions. This Plan is the product of many months of work by the Comprehensive Plan Committee, Municipal Planner, other Town staff, and the community. The Plan is shaped by input from residents, visitors, business owners, and community leaders gathered during the planning process, and the content reflects the vision, values, and priorities of the community.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a long-term planning document to address the needs and concerns of community members. This type of plan establishes a guiding framework for land use planning, future growth and development, and where to direct resources.

What It Is:

- ✓ A broad statement on the Town's visions, goals, and policies
- ✓ A framework to guide decision-making
- ✓ A long-range perspective on growth and development
- ✓ A reflection of the community's ideas, experiences, and concerns
- ✓ A living document that can be adapted as needs change

What It Is Not:

- ✗ A zoning ordinance or land development code
- ✗ A Town budget
- ✗ A specific development plan for a project

The Plan:

The plan is structured around five key focus areas that were identified as the Town's top priorities based on feedback from community members:

A Vibrant and Year-Round Economy

Support businesses and amenities that meet the needs of residents and visitors to create a vibrant and year-round economy.

Environmental Stewardship

Protect the environment and the Town's lakes, rivers, streams, forests, farms, and open space through environmental stewardship.

Community Connectedness

Continue to strengthen civic engagement and collaboration to foster community connectedness and a strong sense of place.

Responsible Growth

Encourage responsible growth to support economic sustainability and protect natural resources.

Fiscal Responsibility and Good Governance

Implement fiscally responsible practices and help ensure effective governance through intentional, long-term capital investments, planning, thoughtful resource allocation, and collaboration.

What is in the Plan?

The Plan lays out policies and actions for the Town to implement to address the Town's priorities. The Plan provides recommended actions for ordinance changes, new programs or initiatives, partnerships, and capital investments. The implementation plan includes guidance for how actions could be implemented, including examples of programs and policies, anticipated timeline, and the department or agency that is responsible for implementing the action.

The future land use plan serves as a guide for future policy making and a basis to update the Town's land use ordinance. The future land use map identifies areas where different types of growth and development are appropriate and areas that should be protected.

Who Will Implement the Plan?

The Naples Select Board has overall responsibility for implementing the Plan; however, there are many Town departments, regional agencies, and community groups that will play a role in implementing the Plan. The Select Board will designate an implementation committee or working group to oversee implementation, including tracking progress and coordinating various departments and groups.

How Will the Town Pay for This?

Many of the actions within the Plan will not result in additional expenses, but will provide direction for departments, boards, and committees in decision-making. Other actions include guidance for intermunicipal coordination, partnerships with other agencies, and leveraging State or federal funding. In addition, policies and actions guiding development patterns and municipal investments are intended to support long-term fiscal sustainability by supporting development that will expand the Town's tax base and encouraging public investments that will support business and workforce growth. This Plan does not commit the Town to funding initiatives but instead clarifies investment priorities for capital planning purposes and guidance on how these projects could be implemented. Any additional spending would require review and approval by the Select Board and the Town.

Why is this Important?

- A comprehensive plan provides clear direction for Town leadership and staff to support the values and priorities of the community.
- A plan accepted by the State under Maine's Growth Management Act allows the Town to continue to implement and enforce land use and zoning regulations.
- Clearly identified goals and policies can help support the Town in accessing funding to implement actions.
- The planning process has brought community members together to identify common values and priorities and to work more collaboratively in the future to implement the Plan.

