

1 - History & Archaeology



STRATEGIES

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!

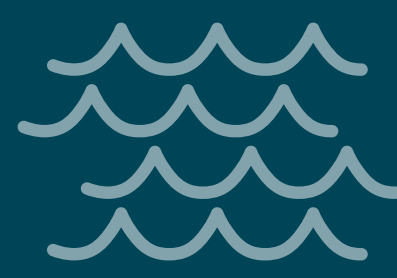


- 1.1 Support an inventory and general assessment of historic resources in the town by working with the Historic District Commission, local or county historical society and/or the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to plan for a comprehensive community survey of the community’s historic and archaeological resources and supporting efforts to maintain an up to date inventory, including recording changing conditions and transfers of ownership.
- 1.2 Support efforts to identify high priority properties for protection, conservation, and acquisition. Develop criteria for assessment which might include considerations for such things as: level of endangerment, opportunities for acquisition (underutilized, for sale, abandoned), importance to the story of York and/or state history.
- 1.3 Support a regular outreach program to contact owners of historic properties. The program would provide information on available technical assistance, funding and financing, and tax credits. Outreach can also include a regular survey to understand owner needs and judge effectiveness of preservation programs and assistance efforts.
- 1.4 Use the historic inventory and general assessment, as well as feedback from any property owner surveys, to inform Town policies. Use this feedback to consider preservation incentives and set priorities for possible publicly funded purchase, restoration, and protection.
- 1.5 Support the formation of a new organization or expand the mission of an existing non-profit to conduct town-wide advocacy, identify grants and funding opportunities, provide education, and offer technical assistance (guidance on use of Historic Tax Credits, energy efficient updates to properties, etc.), and other resources for owners of historic and older properties in York to encourage and support preservation and adaptive reuse.
- 1.6 Support the expansion of historic resources, histories, and destinations for visitor and resident activities in York through local and regional collaborations, such as increasing awareness through additional signage, historic markers, information pamphlets, and online marketing tools, incorporating untold historic narratives of indigenous people and slavery, creating historic trails, and supporting enhanced offerings by the York Public Library, the Old York Historical Society, and the York Public Schools.

- 1.7 Evaluate the local Historic Tax Credit application process and consider streamlining or simplifying the requirements. Evaluation of the current program could be supported by an owner survey identifying barriers to applying for the tax credit.
- 1.8 Consider expanding the York Center Historic District, using current Town map of proposed expansion and the 2018 Survey of Properties as a guide.
- 1.9 Consider increasing Town administrative and other support for the Historic District Commission, including space for document archives and resources to meet state and local standards.
- 1.10 Support the reactivation of the Historic Markers initiative, including which entity or department will be responsible for implementation and management, an inventory of existing markers, criteria and priority for new markers, and marker maintenance.
- 1.11 Work with local and state archaeologists to determine priority sites (historic and prehistoric) and better prepare for potential threats such as development, climate change, and sea level rise. Work should include a review of the “Short Sands Shipwreck Project Documentation and Analysis,” identification of funding sources for survey and inventory work, and preparation for designation of Wild and Scenic status and accompanying grant and funding opportunities.
- 1.12 Join state-wide efforts to address how to protect architectural and archaeological resources in low lying areas (Atlantic coast, York and Cape Neddick River areas) that are threatened by sea level rise and inland flooding.
- 1.13 Partner with local non-profits such as the York Land Trust to preserve important archaeological sites in York. Consider acquiring ownership or easements to protect the archaeological sites included in the Cider Hill Archaeology District and other archaeological sites.
- 1.14 Amend ordinances to require subdivision or non-residential development projects to take appropriate measures to protect known historic archaeological sites and areas sensitive to prehistoric archeology, including but not limited to, modification of the proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation.
- 1.15 Amend land use ordinances to strengthen requirements for the Planning Board to incorporate maps and information provided by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission into its review process.



2 - Natural Resources



STRATEGIES

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

2.1 Work with local and regional conservation organizations to identify high priority natural resources, open space, and recreational land to be conserved or protected. Prioritization criteria should be developed using the latest available data from the state and other sources and might include areas with multiple high-value natural resources or high conservation value, continuity of wildlife corridors, proximity to water bodies or existing conservation land, and land with high value in limiting climate change impacts.★

2.2 Support the protection and conservation of high priority natural resources, open space, and recreational land through tools such as working with local and regional conservation groups to pursue public/private partnerships, certification or Town policies, and promoting a plan to annually review and place undeveloped property of high conservation value into permanent conservation status.

2.3 Establish a program to track and monitor land conservation status throughout York and coordinate with the York and Kittery Water Districts to ensure permanent protection of their lands from development and ensure the safety of water supply.

2.4 Study and amend zoning in the Rural Areas of the Future Land Use Plan to reflect land conservation and protection priorities. Continue to direct development to within the Growth Area boundaries and outside of resource protection districts. Consider adoption of new zones and/or revisions to current resource protection areas, such as defined Rural zones and a high-value conservation land protection overlay district.

2.5 Support the identification of key wildlife corridor areas and consider integrating information into local regulatory and non-regulatory resource protection approaches. Create development standards in these areas, to protect wildlife travel paths.

2.6 Evaluate the Town's existing Open Space Conservation Subdivision (OSCS) Zoning Development Ordinance and consider improvements such as identifying opportunities to simplify the process, improve coordination, and strengthen requirements.★

2.7 In areas where appropriate, consider establishing standards (including performance standards) and a mechanism for administrative site plan review for construction not already being reviewed through site plan or subdivision processes, including clear review thresholds based on level of construction.

2.8 Ensure all Planning Board decisions will strive to optimize conservation of natural resources while enabling development that has minimal environmental impacts and align with all town goals, including consideration of pertinent information on critical natural resources and evaluation of existing standards for private road construction.

2.9 In areas where appropriate, consider prioritizing non-residential development related to natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers' markets, and home occupations that would not have undue impacts on Rural Areas.

2.10 Adopt or amend local land use ordinances as applicable to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with state requirements, as necessary.

2.11 Explore the applicability of the Shoreland Overlay Zone and/or opportunities to extend it when considering implementing recommendations from the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission's 2018 York River Watershed Study: Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Recommendations Report.

2.12 Continue to protect public drinking supplies through the York Watershed Protection Overlay District and other protection mechanisms, as necessary.

2.13 Continue to build protections for Scenic Points and Scenic Routes, including, but not limited to the points and views identified in Appendix A3: Natural Resources, into existing ordinances and review processes.

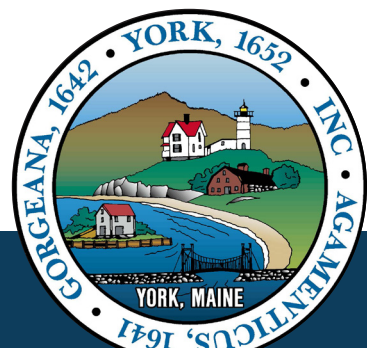
2.14 Evaluate and, if necessary, improve the Farm Enterprise Overlay District to make inclusion in the district easier and more attractive to new and existing York farmers.

2.15 Evaluate and, if necessary, amend Town ordinances to clearly define and permit land use activities that support agricultural operations, such as roadside stands, greenhouses, and pick-your-own operations.

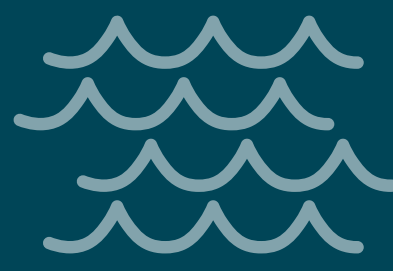
2.16 Evaluate and, if necessary, amend Town ordinances to include clear definitions for small-scale farming and community gardening and make it easier to conduct small-scale farming and community gardening on public and private land where appropriate.

NOTE: STRATEGIES LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN ABBREVIATED. SEE CHAPTER 5 OF THE YORK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FULL STRATEGY LANGUAGE.

★ THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PLAN.



2 - Natural Resources



STRATEGIES (CONT.)

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



2.17 Require that commercial or residential development applications identify areas with prime farmland soils, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and that they be maintained as open space to the greatest extent practicable.

2.18 Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by the state’s cooperative forestry management forest practices.

2.19 Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.

2.20 Protect and manage critical habitat and natural areas of town, state, and national significance, and seek to minimize impacts to ecologically fragile areas. This might include developing guidelines and/or restrictions for recreational uses such as sunbathing, picnicking, dog-walking and pet waste at areas such as the Wiggly Bridge, Strawberry Island, Seabury Gut, and Brave Boat Harbor.

2.21 Support continued research and testing to identify specific sources of water pollution and pursue implementation of mitigation strategies, particularly in the Cape Neddick River Watershed and York’s beaches.

2.22 Pursue efforts to improve Cape Neddick River water quality. This may include, but not be limited to sewer expansion; establishing maintenance and upgrade standards of existing septic systems; review of stormwater management and low impact development standards; and landscape buffers and other forms of geese and pet deterrents.

2.23 Evaluate and, if needed, consider strengthening the standards for the upgrade, operation, and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems (including septic systems). Investigate increasing Town capacity for enforcement of these standards.

2.24 Identify priority areas for expanded public sewer service according to Chapter 6: Future Land Use Plan. Coordinate with local sewer authorities and neighboring communities on these priorities, as well as on regular upgrades to existing service infrastructure to minimize potential for pollution.

2.25 Support ongoing Town and local efforts to improve management of stormwater runoff and other sources of pollution.

2.26 Identify primary pollution sources and consider allocating resources for daily low-tide clean-up of beaches during peak tourist season.

2.27 Evaluate current development regulations and, if needed, enhance Low Impact Development (LID) requirements in existing regulations, or develop a separate LID Ordinance, to better manage and minimize impervious (non-porous) surfaces in new development and construction. This may include measures such as requiring pervious (porous) surfaces, such as pavement, and enhancing tree cover and vegetation below.

2.28 In consultation with the York Water District, consider adopting more stringent water quality protection practices and standards for construction and maintenance of public and private property, and require their implementation through enforceable ordinances.

2.29 Promote agriculture and forestry best practices that protect environmental resources and preserve to the greatest extent possible areas identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service as prime farmland soils or farmland of statewide importance.

2.30 Explore the feasibility of a crowd management system for access and use of coastal and other natural resources.

2.31 Consider potential tax incentives and other benefits that might be available to convert existing subdivision open space into gardens, orchards, or native tree stands rather than unproductive landscaped or lawn areas.

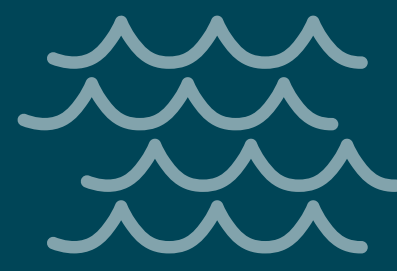
2.32 Encourage the development of a new cost model or delivery approach for water usage that supports operational costs while encouraging water conservation. Promote a new cost model that will help ensure high quality drinking water is equitably available to older adults, disabled, low-income residents, and group residences.

2.33 Consider development of water conservation policies and mechanisms for enforcement for times of drought.

2.34 Consider surveying other communities’ efforts to monitor, control, and regulate noise and lighting pollution and formulate a plan to take actions necessary to adopt new or strengthen existing ordinances as appropriate.



2 - Natural Resources



STRATEGIES (CONT.)

2.35 Explore requiring the use of natural materials to stabilize erosion (i.e., vegetation to stabilize roads or slopes) where appropriate.

2.36 Increase town-wide tree canopy through a tree planting program.

2.37 Explore the feasibility of instituting a ban on the commercial food service use and sale of plastics in York (plastic bags, bottles, eating utensils, cups, etc.).

2.38 Assess and periodically measure changes in tree and forest coverage. Use this information when establishing or guiding changes in land use policies to achieve the Town’s goals to protect high conservation value forest and shrubland and increase tree canopy.

2.39 Consider adopting a Fertilizer and Pesticide Ordinance or regulations to control and reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides in York.

2.40 Consider monitoring groundwater levels to develop outreach and education programs to well users to inform them about best management practices, saltwater incursion and other climate change impacts.

2.41 Support the development of natural resources outreach and education programs on topics such as water quality protection, water conservation, native plants and invasive species, septic system maintenance, littering, sustainable forestry and agricultural practices, and the value of natural resources in York.

2.42 Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the State of Maine’s “current-use taxation programs” by supporting public education and outreach efforts on the programs’ advantages and the process for enrollment.

2.43 Continue to participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality.

2.44 Continue to collaborate regionally and support the efforts of the numerous conservation organizations working in and around York to identify opportunities for protection, management, planning, and regulation of shared critical and important natural resources. Examples include MtA2C (Mt. A to the Sea) initiative.

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

2.45 Coordinate with neighboring communities to implement the 2018 York River Watershed Stewardship Plan, which may include coordinating with the Wild & Scenic Partnership Committee and increasing Town capacity to pursue grant funding associated with implementation.

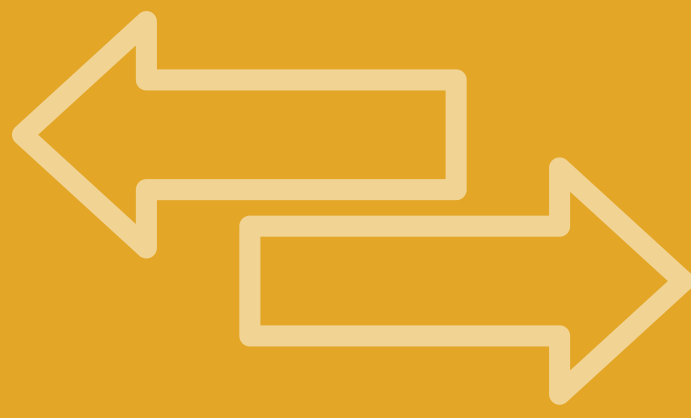
2.46 Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans.

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓



STRATEGIES	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓
3.1 Plan for, develop, and manage opportunities for residents to access and enjoy the Town’s limited marine resources, including working with local property owners, land trusts, and others to protect major points of physical access to water resources and Scenic Points and Routes, as well as establishing an interdisciplinary, ad hoc committee to study, plan for, and direct implementation of possible increased public access to the York River. Committee responsibilities might include: identifying possible riverfront property for acquisition; conducting a separate legal review of the deed for the Grant House; and evaluating and amending dock regulations, as necessary. ★		3.9 Establish an implementation committee to liaise with the York River Wild and Scenic Committee to provide recommendations to the York Harbor Board on management of the York River. A plan of management should be established to ensure a clear focus on priorities and meeting of goals.
3.2 Plan for and support commercial uses of York’s marine resources, such as by giving preference for access and facilities to traditional working waterfront and commercial fishing businesses, removing the collection of Town of York “trap taxes,” exploring possible locations and developing a plan for aquaculture, identifying additional commercial fishing access needs, and encouraging owners of marine businesses to participate in clean marina and boatyard programs.		3.10 Establish a process by which concerned residents in the Cape Neddick and Brave Boat Harbor areas can give feedback to the Harbor Board for management of these areas and encourage their active participation.
3.3 Plan for and take action to minimize erosion and the flow of sediment throughout the York River.		3.11 Periodically review the Harbor fee structure to explore strategies to manage access and capacity at Strawberry Island.
3.4 Plan for and enact performance standards for marine infrastructure that adapt to, and minimize the effects of, sea level rise.		3.12 Periodically review and adjust Harbor Usage Fees to make sure they are sufficient to maintain marine infrastructure and set aside funds for future dredging.
3.5 Actively pursue state and federal grants and funds to help maintain and improve marine resources.		3.13 Upgrade Harbor infrastructure to support demand. Explore expansions of Town Dock 2 for commercial loading and unloading and Town Dock 1 for greater dingy and tender tie-up for mooring holders.
3.6 Explore the feasibility of partnering with local business or provide in some other way a water vessel pump-out facility, to develop a Town plan to manage watercraft waste.		3.14 Provide sufficient funding and staffing of the Harbormaster position and the Harbor Board.
3.7 Provide information about the “Working Waterfront Access Protection Program” and “Working Waterfront Current Use Taxation Program” to owners of waterfront land used to provide access to or support the conduct of commercial fishing activities.		
3.8 Support implementation of local studies and plans, including recommendations from the York Harbor & River Capacity Study (2019) and the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan (2018).		

4 - Economy



STRATEGIES

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



4.1 Establish an Economic Development Committee (EDC) to develop a vision for economic opportunities and a business recruitment plan. The EDC will promote the town and potential developable sites including the possibility of re-purposing existing vacant buildings, as well as help implement economic development strategies by recommending changes to zoning.★

4.2 Form a Tourism Industry Committee to share information, address tourism impacts, coordinate marketing and branding of the town, and work on shared priorities and goals. Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce when appropriate.

4.3 Advocate for state passage of a local option hotel/motel tax.

4.4 Conduct design charrettes (workshops) for the area surrounding Short Sands Road to determine the appropriate mix of uses for this site, incorporating business, residential, and recreational opportunities. Include possibilities for initiatives related to climate change and GHG mitigation/green energy.★

4.5 Conduct a study, led by the EDC, to explore in greater detail what kinds of businesses and economic development residents would like to see in York, with particular attention to the density, use, and business types along U. S. Route 1 and in York’s villages.

4.6 Explore changes to policies and zoning requirements to encourage the scale, design, intensity, and location of desired economic development, including reevaluating allowed business types and amending definitions and categories to better reflect current economy conditions.

4.7 Identify properties and existing vacant buildings, as appropriate, for business recruitment, and create a recruitment plan that aligns with the identified businesses and appropriate sites. Work with property owners interested in development or redevelopment to achieve goals, such as conducting an inventory of available sites and spaces for businesses, exploring possible spaces for co-working or shared workspace, and identifying spaces for entrepreneurs.

4.8 Explore ways York can attract and support businesses and industries that are related to the “Maine Won’t Wait” State of Maine climate action planning initiatives (clean energy, solar, etc.).

4.9 Partner with larger employers such as hospitality businesses and York Hospital to identify aligned interests and achieve goals regarding employee recruitment and attainment, workforce housing, and other issues.

4.10 Produce a guide to locating or starting a business in York with profiles of successful firms, including arts and cultural businesses.

4.11 Work with the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (SMPDC) and York Region Chamber of Commerce to promote development sites and connect York to regional economic development initiatives.

4.12 Apply appropriate public finance mechanisms and town funding needed to implement economic development strategies.

4.13 Establish a York Village Business Committee to incorporate the completion of infrastructure efforts and to promote a vibrant, walkable community for residents and visitors. Committee objectives should include business development in York Village with membership including representatives of the Town, businesses, York Hospital, residents, and property owners. The new committee would be complementary to other organizations such as the York Region Chamber of Commerce and focus exclusively on York Village. Roles for the group would include addressing local business and organization development needs, collaborating on marketing and events, recruiting to fill vacant spaces, and advocating for businesses with the Town.

4.14 Use the York Village Business Committee as a model, if appropriate, to create additional neighborhood business groups with similar roles for Cape Neddick Village, York Beach, and Short Sands Road area.

4.15 Promote an inclusive and supportive environment to recruit, start, grow, and retain small businesses by providing technical and financial assistance, in partnership with state, regional and federal small business development programs.

4.16 Work with Southern Maine Finance Agency to market its loan programs to local businesses.

4.17 Amend zoning to allow for, and designate, specific locations for pop-up and mobile business options (kiosks, booths, trucks) on town property.

NOTE: STRATEGIES LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN ABBREVIATED. SEE CHAPTER 5 OF THE YORK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FULL STRATEGY LANGUAGE.



THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PLAN.



4 - Economy



STRATEGIES (CONT.)

4.18 Expand business/commercial zoning along U.S. Route 1 and in other areas in town while ensuring business growth supports the character of the town in terms of form and density.

4.19 Consider amending zoning to reduce the restrictions and encourage growth of marine-related ventures along U.S. Route 1 to support the character of York as a coastal community.

4.20 Explore the possibility for form-based zoning and design guidelines along a portion of U.S. Route 1, the villages, and the Short Sands Road area.

4.21 Review and update the allowed business, office, and industrial uses; consider switching the use list to indicate commercial uses expressly not allowed, instead of listing those that are allowed.

4.22 Ensure that existing non-conforming commercial uses in existence prior to 2022, particularly within residential zones, can continue to be allowed and may expand under certain conditions.

4.23 Explore opportunities to fund and create an Economic Development Director staff position at Town Hall. Job responsibilities should include acting as liaison to a newly formed Economic Development Committee and the Chamber of Commerce, assisting entrepreneurs and existing businesses in navigating town requirements, accessing resources to start and grow new business enterprises, grant writing and management, and recruiting desired businesses.

4.24 Create and sponsor events, activities, and marketing to support year-round tourism and activities highlighting all there is to do in York. Ensure, where possible, that these offerings appeal to town residents.

4.25 Install parking wayfinding signs as recommended in the York Village Master Plan and create and install similar signage for Cape Neddick Village and York Beach Village. Use a parking and transportation study to guide related wayfinding strategies.

4.26 Continue implementation of the York Village Master Plan.

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!

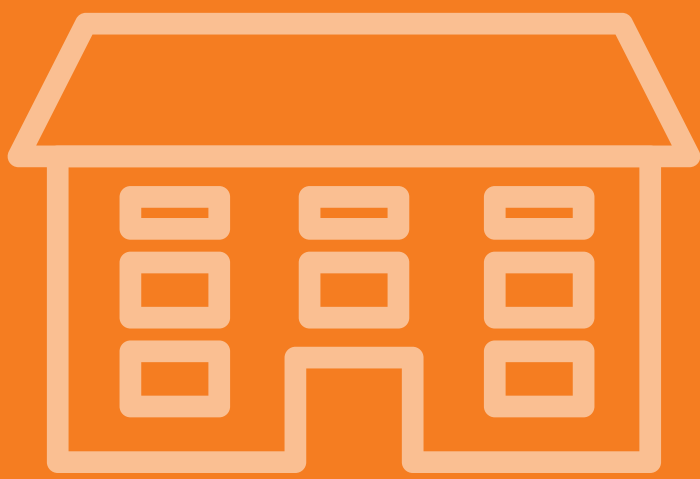


4.27 Explore with the York Water and Sewer Districts an option for businesses to pay water and/or sewer impact fees over time.

4.28 The Town of York should become a Maine Downtown Affiliate (MDA). The Maine Development Foundation’s Maine Downtown Center offers the MDA program to help communities build an appropriate organizational and funding base for commercial district support and revitalization.



5 - Housing



STRATEGIES

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



5.1 Revise York’s land use policies to proactively support housing production for a variety of residents and needs that is consistent with town character, using Chapter 6: Future Land Use Plan to guide decisions. This should include addressing housing needs for older adults, retirees, and empty-nesters; younger, more diverse families with school-age children; smaller households/young professionals; low- and moderate-income residents; disabled residents; and seasonal workers. Strategies might include consideration of an inclusionary zoning ordinance, allowance of multi-family in more locations, identification of infill opportunities, incentives for low- and moderate-income and workforce housing creation; streamlined requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU); and zoning changes to allow for creation of smaller homes.

5.2 Consider modifying ordinances to address local concerns about community character and natural resource protection, while still permitting more economically feasible housing choices.

5.3 Consider policies to track short-term rentals (STRs) and create a standard for allowable rentals to reflect the impacts of STRs on the community and STRs as business enterprises. Study the impact of STRs and use the results of the study to inform policies that will register and regulate STRs.

5.4 Create a Community Housing Committee to address the range of housing costs and types needed in York. The committee would inform affordable and workforce housing policies and identify funding sources for same. The committee would also support land use policies that allow and encourage a range of housing types for York’s residents.★

5.5 Explore the use of the Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) tool to encourage additional affordable housing.

5.6 Consider direct Town support for low and moderate-income housing, including establishing a fund dedicated to providing affordable housing.

5.7 Strengthen the Town’s relationship with the York Housing Authority to increase communication and collaboration including identifying land acquisition opportunities for affordable housing.

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!



5.8 Consider a number of tools to enhance support of affordable housing in York, including allocating land held by the Town through tax lien foreclosures to the YHA for new housing development, establishing a housing real estate transfer tax (RETT) on the sale price of private sector property sales within the town, and imposing impact fees or payment-in-lieu requirements on private developers who do not construct or convert a certain percentage of affordable housing units.

5.9 Collaborate with surrounding communities on regional housing solutions.

5.10 Commission a tourism workforce housing plan to expand housing supply to address the industry’s seasonal housing needs. Partner with tourism businesses (through the proposed Tourism Industry Committee and possibly the Chamber of Commerce) to set goals for the study and to collaborate on implementation.

NOTE: STRATEGIES LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN ABBREVIATED. SEE CHAPTER 5 OF THE YORK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FULL STRATEGY LANGUAGE.



THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PLAN.



6 - Recreation



STRATEGIES

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

6.1 Establish an ad hoc committee to create a list of recreation needs and develop a recreation plan to meet those needs. This committee, or a Town department, will also explore ways of implementing the policies and strategies outlined in that plan, including creating a recreational resources map, developing a monitoring and maintenance plan for existing trails, and identifying opportunities to increase trail accessibility, mitigate impacts to natural resources, and enhance connectivity.

6.2 Facilitate a strategic management and access plan involving all owners and managers of York’s forest and water resources to balance recreational access with working uses and conservation.

6.3 Maintain access to the Cliff Walk for public use and continue to pursue easement opportunities with property owners.

6.4 Provide educational materials regarding the benefits and protections for landowners allowing public recreational access on their property. At a minimum this will include information on Maine’s landowner liability law regarding recreational or harvesting use.

6.5 Publicize and make available a coordinated map of recreational opportunities in York, including a visitor education summary that highlights the importance of natural resources in York, and provides guidelines for recreational use.

6.6 Work with public and private partners to direct motorized uses, such as ATVs, to appropriate trails that can support these uses with minimal impacts to natural resources. Provide educational materials on trail-use best practices and connect with regional trail systems where possible.

6.7 Strengthen partnerships with other towns and local and regional organizations to conserve land, complete trail segments, educate recreational users, enforce rules of use, and expand programming offerings.



7 - Transportation



STRATEGIES

- WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓
- 7.1 Commission a comprehensive transportation, traffic, and parking study for the town, including a more in depth understanding of transportation system user patterns, preferences, and needs, opportunities and potential locations for a transportation hub or center, inventory and evaluation of parking supply and demand, parking fee structure, options for public transportation services (including fixed and on-demand services), policies and opportunities for alternative forms of transportation, and revision of parking requirements in the York Zoning Ordinance. ★
 - 7.2 Adopt Complete Streets policies to guide Town investments and policies, including Planning Board review policies, DPW paving and sidewalk planning, and the Capital Program, Apply Complete Street philosophy and policies in a review of existing transportation infrastructure and assess necessary retrofits/rebuilds over time to meet new Complete Streets Town policy.
 - 7.3 Promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety by advertising safe walking and biking routes around town. Coordinate with the schools, York Police Department, and other town entities to communicate information on safe biking and walking practices.
 - 7.4 Encourage bicycle and pedestrian use by providing amenities such as bike racks, repair stations, signage, and benches.
 - 7.5 Develop access management standards for development along roads such as U.S. Route 1, Short Sands Road, Ridge Road, York Street, Route 103 (Lilac Lane), and others as necessary to proactively manage vehicular access points to adjacent parcels.
 - 7.6 Prioritize and/or focus new development in areas that minimize the need for car dependence. Explore methods to do this such as offering density bonuses in these areas and ensuring mixed-use development can occur.
 - 7.7 Ensure that higher density, mixed-use areas such as York Village have adequate alternative mobility options.

- WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓
- 7.8 Continue to perform regular road assessments, update paving plans, and update the Capital Program to meet identified needs.
 - 7.9 Maintain, enact, or amend local ordinances as appropriate to address or avoid conflicts with the policy objectives of the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, state roadway entrance management regulations, and state traffic permitting regulations.
 - 7.10 Organize and support a community inventory and survey of all sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes in York and use this information to develop data layers in the Town GIS system. Create maps for public use that include “rules of use” and location of amenities. Develop protocols and a calendar for regular updates to this data and involve all organizations and Town departments involved in oversight and advocacy.
 - 7.11 Create a plan for physical connectivity that identifies and prioritizes locations for sidewalk and trail connections and related pedestrian amenities, bicycle lanes and related amenities, and facilities to guide implementation as opportunities arise. Include recommendations to address high-use pedestrian/bicycle areas such as the beaches, the York Public Schools, and housing along U.S. Route 1.
 - 7.12 Work with local and regional non-profits and organizations that advocate for and maintain recreational trails and pathways to develop a plan to complete missing segments of trails and connect to town sidewalks, adjacent communities, and major destinations.
 - 7.13 Maintain, enact, or amend ordinance standards for subdivisions and for public and private roads as appropriate to foster transportation-efficient growth patterns, protect natural resources, and provide for future street, transit, and pedestrian connections.
 - 7.14 Review and update standards for private roads, public roads, and subdivisions to establish clear requirements and policies for roadway design that are appropriate to all areas of town. Design roads that are appropriate for the desired traffic speeds and use traffic calming strategies where appropriate.

7 - Transportation



STRATEGIES (CONT.)

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

- 7.15 Explore additional inter-city transit and trail options, including connections to the Wells and Portsmouth Transportation Centers, Portland, Boston, and trail systems such as the East Coast Greenway.
- 7.16 Initiate or actively participate in regional and state transportation efforts, including the Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System (KACTS).
- 7.17 Actively recruit businesses that rent, sell, and/or service various modes of transportation including bicycles, electric bikes, and scooters.
- 7.18 Institute a no-idling policy in public areas and provide signage as appropriate. Consider instituting fines for violations of the no-idling policy.
- 7.19 Adopt policies to facilitate the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) ownership and use.
- 7.20 Implement strategies and programs to educate residents about the availability of alternative transportation options, including active transportation (walking, bicycling, skate-boarding), public transportation, and electric vehicles.



STRATEGIES	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓
8.1 Perform a complete re-evaluation and re-writing of the existing Zoning Ordinance to ensure that York’s zoning clearly matches the goals for each Future Land Use area and is easy to understand, streamlined, and modernized.★		8.11 Take steps to protect critical assets and infrastructure that will be impacted by flooding and temperature change by 2030 and 2050, as identified by the Town’s climate planning efforts.
8.2 Amend the Zoning Ordinance to align with York’s need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including new coastal resiliency overlay zoning, encouraging renewable energy infrastructure and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, encouraging energy efficient and resilient new housing, and increasing resilience of infrastructure and natural resources to inland precipitation-based flooding.		8.12 Facilitate the transition of all municipal, quasi-municipal, and commercial fleets operating in York to battery electric vehicles or other zero-emission technologies as appropriate, including school buses and public transportation.
8.3 Adopt new policies and regulations to align with York’s need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including adopting State of Maine projections, adopting the Maine Energy Stretch Code (IECC 2021), facilitating net zero new construction, adopting new resilience standards for new and heavily renovated structures, and evaluating Town policies regarding the removal of healthy trees.		8.13 Facilitate, promote, and document the installation of publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure for York residents, employees, and visitors. Mandate signage and safety standards for public EV charging stations.
8.4 Explore creating a tourism impact fund to which large employers contribute to address industry impacts and fund affordable workforce housing and community projects.		8.14 Publicize and promote programs such as Efficiency Maine that aid businesses and residents to achieve reductions in energy usage and/or generation of clean on-site energy, including in existing homes.
8.5 Make use of performance standards and other tools, including Universal Design standards, to ensure development creates walkable and accessible areas for families and older adults.		8.15 Facilitate the installation and improvement of high-speed wired or wireless internet service in York to improve emergency communications and to enable remote work and learning, and other communications that could reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
8.6 Consider establishing a system of impact fees that are higher in the Rural Areas to acknowledge higher local costs for infrastructure and services. Fees could be allocated for specific needs, including emergency response services or land conservation.		8.16 Ensure that public facilities and services promote and support growth and development in the town’s Growth Area.
8.7 Consider a strategic planning process to review, update and modify the Green Enterprise Recreational Overlay District to best encourage the types of uses desired.		8.17 Locate new public facilities and direct a minimum of 75% of new municipal growth-related capital investments into the designated Growth Area.
8.8 Assign responsibility for implementing the Future Land Use Plan to the appropriate committee, board, or official.★		8.18 Coordinate with the York Water and Sewer Districts to ensure that service extensions are in agreement with the Future Land Use Plan.
8.9 Include in the Capital Plan anticipated municipal capital investments needed to support proposed land uses.		8.19 Conduct a feasibility assessment for the creation of a Town-affiliated stormwater utility, which would collect fees related to the control and treatment of stormwater and would be used to fund a stormwater management program. Service fees could be a flat rate or proportional to the amount of impervious (non-porous) surface on a parcel.
8.10 Track new development in the community by type and location through a regularly updated database maintained collaboratively by relevant Town departments.		8.20 Support ongoing efforts to ensure adequate water supply during periods of drought or other water supply stressors, including but not limited to regional cooperation among water suppliers.

STRATEGIES (CONT.)	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓
8.21 Increase staffing capacity for enforcement of existing Town Ordinances and standards.		8.30 Consider conducting a full Town facility study, including existing conditions, capacity, and anticipated future needs. This would include information from recent studies performed by separate departments incorporated into one study with similar baseline information for all facilities.
8.22 Provide excellence in the curriculum and public school experience by preparing students to be informed and civically engaged citizens, expanding and supporting academic, social, and cultural diversity, and providing sufficient staffing and facilities to students through 12th grade.		8.31 Hire or contract for a Facilities Manager for all Town facilities to oversee day-to-day facilities management, prepare or manage the process to produce a master plan for all facilities, collaborate and coordinate with the York Public Schools, and ensure equipment and facility needs are met in a timely fashion through the Town’s capital improvements plan.
8.23 Provide lifelong learning opportunities for learners of all ages and backgrounds through the Schools, Center for Active Living, Parks and Recreation, and other educational resources in town.		8.32 When and where feasible, install sustainable, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems in existing and new Town facilities.
8.24 Engage the broader community in school community events, policies, and outcomes.		8.33 Support the York Recycling and Composting Committee in completing a financial feasibility study for town-wide compost pick-up.
8.25 Evaluate current policies for community use of public-school facilities and other town properties and implement changes, if necessary, to identify and make better use of underutilized town properties, optimize use of school spaces after school hours and simplify the reservation process, support broader opportunities for community involvement in school life, and consider the possible future conversion of one of the elementary schools if space becomes available because of changing demographics.		8.34 Expand social connectivity in York by supporting existing events and the creation of new community activities aimed at building community connections and celebrating arts and culture. Consider collaboration with, and support of arts and cultural, historical, and recreational non-profits and businesses to expand activities and events.
8.26 Commission a feasibility study for a multi-generational community center in York that includes a survey of resident needs and desires, potential locations, and cost. Consider flexibility in use to allow for changing needs and demographics in the future.		8.35 Increase efficient use of Town-owned facilities. Encourage and expand the reach and use of facilities such as the York Community Auditorium, school gymnasiums, and athletic fields for larger community events and gatherings. Consider televising events. Explore space reservation and oversight systems that streamline the process for identifying and booking available spaces.
8.27 Support the Center for Active Living to make sure its facilities are safe, clean, and updated, and that services meet the needs of residents and changing demographics.		8.36 Support expanded reach of local communications, such as the Town of York Parks & Recreation newsletter, Center for Active Living communications, York Public Library newsletters, and other means to engage more members of the York community.
8.28 Support the design and development /or retrofit of outdoor park and civic spaces using Universal Design principles, which would improve accessibility, including for older adults with compromised mobility and sight. Adopt Universal Design principles for renovations to existing parks, trails, and other civic spaces.		8.37 Encourage the creation of social and civic gathering places. Encourage temporary uses of public spaces for arts, culture, and gathering where appropriate.
8.29 Maintain and upgrade buildings and equipment as needed, to continue delivery of quality services to keep up with demand.		

8 – Town, Public Facilities & Services



STRATEGIES (CONT.)	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓	WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST? PLACE A DOT! ↓
8.38 Provide funding and/or staffing support to increase community educational opportunities, recreational programming, and other enrichment programs through the York Schools, Parks & Recreation, Center for Active Living, and other Town departments and partner entities as applicable.		8.48 Consider consolidation of business licensing and building permit processes to align Town and York Sewer and Water Districts’ requirements.
8.39 Consider encouraging and supporting more diverse population of residents, entrepreneurs, and businesses in town through efforts such as outreach, advocacy and support, collaboration, foreign and cultural exchange programs, language education and translation services, housing choices and assistance, and support for seasonal workers.		8.49 Provide an annual report on implementation progress of the Comprehensive Plan with assessments on changing priorities, challenges, etc.
8.40 Support service programs for people of limited means.		8.50 Consider conducting a Town staffing and volunteer board needs assessment to understand capacity and resources needed to address increasing needs and expectations for services.★
8.41 Identify the needs and desires of older adults and those with disabilities by conducting surveys, and through sharing knowledge with local and regional organizations.		8.51 Increase Town capacity and resources to address identified increasing needs and expectations for services, including Town operations and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, support for volunteer Boards, Commissions and Committees, training and development opportunities for Town staff, and enforcement of Town ordinances, municipal codes, and municipal building permit approvals.
8.42 Amend policies, programs, tools, and services to meet the identified needs of a growing older adult population and those with disabilities.		8.52 Allocate funding to ensure that the Town, or a contracted entity, has sufficient staff, expertise, and other resources for the implementation of climate change adaptation and greenhouse gas mitigation strategies.
8.43 Develop partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and health care providers to enhance services to older adults, including developing a system for referrals for social needs, identifying trends and challenges of providing support, and conducting a study of transportation needs.		8.53 Consider creating and funding a Director of Grants and Strategic Partnerships (or similar) position with the responsibilities of monitoring the availability of and pursuing grants, overseeing grant implementation and compliance, identifying best practices in other communities, and identifying collaborations and partnerships.
8.44 Consider the Town becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.		8.54 Maintain, expand, and improve partnerships among Town staff, schools, boards, commissions, committees, quasi-public (e.g., sewer and water), and non-profit groups.
8.45 Explore the mission statement of the current Senior Citizens Service Advisory Board to identify potential changes to meet ongoing needs of older residents and support the board, including needed expansion to meet these needs and achieve the goals.		8.55 Conduct annual Selectboard progress reviews for chartered boards and committees to align with and enable these groups to carry out their charter.
8.46 Streamline and simplify Town customer-facing processes and licensing and permitting requirements.		8.56 Document existing coordination and collaboration occurring within town and also with regional entities to allow for formalized and continued future relationships. Commit to participating in more partnerships with non-profits, or other entities, as appropriate to achieve Town goals.
8.47 Work towards implementing on-line licensing and permitting applications.		

NOTE: STRATEGIES LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN ABBREVIATED. SEE CHAPTER 5 OF THE YORK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FULL STRATEGY LANGUAGE.

★ THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PLAN.

8 – Town, Public Facilities & Services



STRATEGIES (CONT.)

WHAT EXCITES
YOU MOST?
PLACE A DOT!
↓

8.57 Support collaborative efforts among the Select Board, School Committee, and Budget Committee to maximize opportunities for cost savings, create long range operating plans, coordinate and maximize use of Town buildings, share resources, ensure effective maintenance of Town property, and effectively plan for new infrastructure and capital expenditures.	
8.58 Evaluate the cost of municipal resources directly related to tourism and determine if the charges and fees to visitors need to be adjusted to cover these costs.	
8.59 Explore hiring or sharing a regional Sustainability Coordinator to implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.★	
8.60 Pursue state, regional, and federal funding and financing opportunities that support climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, and work in concert with regional efforts to share best practices.	
8.61 Work regionally to develop and implement climate adaptation solutions, coordinate efforts, pursue funding, and pool expertise, including collaboration among water and sewer districts, public works departments, and other public services entities and working collaboratively with the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC).	
8.62 Support and expand regional and state collaboration for facilities and services and explore cost sharing and saving opportunities, including sewer and water services, housing, economic development, natural resources preservation, social services, recreation, energy conservation, transportation, emergency response, and other initiatives.	
8.63 Meet and collaborate with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.	

NOTE: STRATEGIES LISTED HERE HAVE BEEN ABBREVIATED. SEE CHAPTER 5 OF THE YORK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR FULL STRATEGY LANGUAGE.

★ THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEM TO BUILD A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FULL PLAN.