

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RSA 9-A) *O u t l i n e*

Purpose

1. Establish state policy on issues related to development of land and resources
2. Propose new or expanded programs to implement such policies.
3. Provide a basis for identifying critical issues facing the state, determining state priorities, allocating limited state resources, and taking into account the plans of various state, regional, and local governmental units.
4. Establish policies in areas related to the orderly physical, social, and economic growth and development of the state.
5. Serve as the basis for policy and program development by the various departments of state government. State agencies shall develop plans that are consistent with the policies and priorities established in the comprehensive development plan.

Underlying Theme: Maximize Smart Growth. Each topical section should specifically relate to smart growth principles identified in *Achieving Smart Growth in New Hampshire*.

Topical Sections

1. **Vision:** Serves as the direction for the other sections of the plan.
 - a. **Statements** that articulate the desires of the public relative to the future.
 - *Economic opportunity*—freedom to excel in all geographic areas and in a variety of fields (but not necessarily all fields in all places); promotion of an entrepreneurial spirit
 - *Choice*—freedom to live in a city, a village, or the woods
 - *Livability*—keeping the best of what makes NH the best
 - b. **Guiding principles and priorities** to implement that vision, with special emphasis on maximizing the smart growth principles in RSA 9-B.
 - Smart growth principles
 - Maintain **traditional compact settlement patterns** to efficiently use land, resources and infrastructure investments.
 - Foster the **traditional character** of New Hampshire downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging a **human scale** of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life.
 - Incorporate a **mix of uses** to provide variety of housing, employment, shopping, services and social opportunities for all members of the community.
 - Preserve New Hampshire's **working landscape** by sustaining farm and forest land and other rural resource lands to maintain contiguous tracts of open land and to minimize land use conflicts.
 - Provide choices and safety in transportation to create **livable, walkable communities** that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motor vehicles.
 - Protect **environmental quality** by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas that

contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in New Hampshire.

- **Involve the community** in planning and implementation to ensure that development retains and enhances the sense of place, traditions, goals, and values of the local community.
- **Manage growth locally** in the New Hampshire tradition, but work with neighboring towns to achieve common goals and more effectively address common problems.

2. **Land Use:** Examines the state's role in land development and in funding projects and programs that affect land uses.
3. **Transportation:** Considers all pertinent modes of transportation and provides a framework of policies and actions which will provide for a safe and adequate transportation system to serve the needs of the state.
4. **Public Facilities:** Examines the projected needs of state institutions and coordinates with other governmental units, whether federal, county, local, special districts, or school districts, as to their needs as well.
5. **Housing:** Sets forth approaches to meeting the need for affordable housing.
6. **Economic Development:** Proposes actions and policies to suit the state's economic goals and needs, based on the current and projected economic strengths and weaknesses.
7. **Natural Resources:** Identifies trends in land protection, open space, farm land preservation and protection, and proposes policies and actions necessary at the state level to protect those resources which are perceived to be of statewide significance.
8. **Natural Hazards:** Identifies actions to improve the ability of the state to minimize damages from future disasters that affect land and property subject to such disasters.
9. **Recreation:** Assesses current and future recreation needs within the foreseeable future and identifies policies and a plan of action to support them at the state level.
10. **Utility and Public Service:** Details state level policies and actions necessary to assure adequate service to the citizens of the state.
11. **Regional Concerns:** Describes specific areas of the state with potentially unique concerns and identifies policies and actions which may reasonably be undertaken to assist in addressing those issues.
12. **Cultural and Historic Resources:** Identifies state policies and actions necessary to protect cultural and historic resources of statewide significance and assist in their rehabilitation or preservation, and generally assure their availability for future generations of state citizens.
13. **Implementation:** A long range action program for assessing the effectiveness of each section of the plan.