

2018-2023 MONTAGUE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Prepared by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department

The Town of Montague's 2018 Community Development Strategy (CDS) summarizes the Town's efforts to engage in community-based planning and priority setting and to outline a plan of action intended to accomplish specific community development goals.

Montague's CDS incorporates goals and work plans from relevant plans and documents including: Montague Comprehensive Plan (1999); Open Space and Recreation Plan (2017); Economic Development Plan (2014); Montague Housing Plan (2015); ADA Transition Plan (1999); Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (2012); Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan (2013); Canal District Vision Plan (2016); Turnpike Road Industrial Park Master Plan (2012), Franklin County Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (2013); Montague Energy Reduction Plan (2010); Millers Falls Slum and Blight Designation Study (2017); Turners Falls Canal District Slum and Blight Designation Study (2017).

This CDS was prepared by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department. All goals were selected previously as a result of the extensive public outreach and participation from the above mentioned plans. The Comprehensive Plan goals were narrowed down, placed in order of importance and reviewed by the Montague Planning Board. The projects were selected after discussions with relevant town staff. Finally, the document incorporates public input from a Community Development Strategy Public Meeting held on November 28, 2017.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL #1: Revitalize the Canal District in Turners Falls

- Foster public/private cooperation and commitment to revitalizing Canal District
- Work toward the revitalization, re-use, and redevelopment of target sites in Canal District

GOAL #2: Support industrial and commercial growth

- Create incentives for revitalization and reinvestment
- Increase supply of shovel-ready industrial land
- Encourage co-working, shared office spaces and business incubation

GOAL #3: Support revitalization of Turners Falls and Millers Falls village centers

- Foster public/private cooperation and commitment to revitalizing key historic properties such as Shea Theater and St. Anne's Church
- Continue to employ arts and culture as an economic engine for revitalization
- Develop marketing strategies for the Town as a regional destination

HOUSING

GOAL#1: Expand Montague's diverse housing stock

- Support a mix of housing types at a range of price points
- Maintain at least 10% of housing inventory as affordable
- Identify and assess funding opportunities for housing rehabilitation and redevelopment
- Evaluate land use regulations for impediments to maintaining a diverse housing stock

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TRANSPORTATION

GOAL #1: Improve the viability of village centers through transportation, streetscape enhancements

- Implement streetscape improvements in Turners Falls to improve pedestrian environment including pedestrian scale lighting, ADA accessibility, and Complete Streets Compatibility.
- Implement streetscape improvements in Millers Falls to improve pedestrian environment including pedestrian scale lighting, ADA accessibility, and Complete Streets Compatibility

GOAL #2: Improve network connectivity for all modes of transportation

- Repair and maintain critical transportation infrastructure such as bridges for vehicular and pedestrian use
- Develop bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout town

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

GOAL #1: Enhance access to parks and recreation in each of Montague's 5 villages

- Rehabilitate existing parks and playgrounds to reflect modern needs and ADA standards
- Improve or develop access to Montague's Rivers

GOAL #2: Preserve Montague's pristine natural resources and agricultural heritage

- Evaluate land use regulations for impediments to preservation of natural resources and agricultural heritage
- Protect prioritized lands identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan

TOWN FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL #1: Provide functional, code compliant public facilities that allow exceptional service delivery to residents.

- Construct a centralized Department of Public Works facility
- Assess conditions and identify funding sources for improvements to Montague Public Libraries
- Continue to support the improvement of school buildings and grounds
- Prioritize energy efficiency for all capital improvements
- Update ADA Transition Plan and continue to work toward ADA improvements

GOAL #2: Provide drinking water, wastewater and stormwater collection systems adequate to serve the community's current and projected needs and to protect the town's natural resources

- Support cost and energy reduction innovations at the Water Pollution Control Facility
- Continue to systematically repair the Town's aged sewer lines

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND WELFARE

GOAL#1: Continue to ensure a safe, harmonious community for all residents

- Embrace Montague as socio-economically diverse community
- Provide a high quality of life and the option to age in place for elderly residents

PRIORITIZED LIST OF ACTION PROJECTS

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The Town will use the 2017 CDS to direct financial resources, including local, state and federal funding, toward projects that address the needs identified by the community as a high priority.

	Priority Action Projects	Funding Source
	Economic Development	
E1	Prepare Strathmore Mill Site for redevelopment	State bond/ EPA Brownfields/ Town Funds
E2	Prepare Railroad Salvage Site for redevelopment	EPA Brownfields Program
E3	Develop pedestrian and bike access to the Canal District w/ critical utilities	MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Site Readiness Fund
E4	Implement Phase II Shea Theater Revitalization	Cultural Facilities Fund/Green Communities/ Town
E5	Develop a co-working or shared office space and artist work spaces	NEA/ Mass Cultural Council/ Mass Development/Private
E6	Identify a sustainable funding source for RiverCulture Program	Town of Montague/ NEA
E7	Extend Sandy Lane to provide land for industrial development	Economic Dev. Administration, Site Readiness Fund
	Housing	
H1	Maintain Housing Rehabilitation Program	CDBG CDF
H2	Continue Receivership Program for rehabilitation	Attorney General
	Transportation	
T1	Secure funding for Avenue A Streetscape Improvement Program Phase III	CDBG/Complete Streets/ Ch 90/ MOD ADA grant
T2	Rehabilitate Gen. Pierce Bridge and 5th St. Bridge	MassDOT Transportation Improvement Program
T3	Mitigate seasonal flooding on Millers Falls Road	MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program/ Town
T4	Improve accessibility of sidewalks in village centers	Ch 90/ MassDOT Complete Streets
T5	Become a "Complete Streets" community and prioritize implementation	MassDOT
T6	Partner with School district to become a "Safe Routes to School" Community	MassDOT
T7	Replace and add streetscape trees in Millers Falls	DCR Urban Forestry Program
	Open Space and Recreation	
O1	Rehabilitate Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant	CDBG CDF/ Town Funds
O2	Rehabilitate Spinner Park in Turners Falls	CDBG CDF/ Town Funds
O3	Improve Montague Center park	Town Funds/ PARC/ KaBoom
O4	Improve Highland Park Millers Falls	Town Funds/ KaBoom/ Playful Cities
O5	Develop River Access in Millers Falls, Turners Falls, and Montague City	Private funds, DCR Rec Trails Program, PARC
O6	Improve Playgrounds at elementary schools	Playful Cities/ KaBoom/ Town Funds
O7	Improve Cabot Woods recreation area	Private
O8	Develop town-wide public trail system and map	Direct Local Technical Assistance
	Town Facilities and Infrastructure	
F1	Develop new public works garage	Town funds
F2	Inventory capital needs for all municipal facilities	Town funds
F3	Assess functionality and accessibility of libraries	Town Funds
F4	Support needed capital improvements at schools	Town Funds
	Community Services and Welfare	
C1	Support social service programs that promote self-sufficiency, substance abuse and violence prevention, and ESL skill development	CDBG