

2013 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION

Falmouth in the early 2020's....a smart town, with great neighborhoods

Imagine... It is 2023. Ten years have passed since the Long Range Plan was approved. The Town has visibly come together in the direction residents and businesses desired. The progress feels good.

Four major motivations helped to focus this direction.

- *Our tradition of fiscal and management prudence,*
- *Our desire to move the local economy forward; encouraging business development and expansion to the benefit of all residents,*
- *Our recognition that demographics are changing with the “graying of America” and population diversity, and*
- *Our long passion and commitment to open space.*

Three themes give shape to this plan’s vision for Falmouth:

1. *Commercial Hubs and Economic Development*
2. *Conservation, Protection, and Connectivity*
3. *Diverse Residential Opportunities*

Falmouth has kept a balanced tax base by funding further investments through effective economic development. We improved the overall business environment and attracted new employers, who have populated the two commercial hubs in Falmouth along portions of Route 1 and Route 100. They attract an even flow of jobs, both stable and seasonal, that also benefit local residents. This has created a new community of consumers during weekdays and, for residents, a more dynamic area for shopping and entertainment on weekends. These commercial areas are welcoming — with green spaces for gathering and relaxing — enhancing our sense of community.

Trails connect these commercial hubs with other Town areas, in keeping with the Open Space vision.

*Extensive Town open spaces form a green network that connects many areas of the Town and surrounding communities, enabling varied types of activity — promoting a healthy environment. **This network connects through paths, trails, and bike paths that give residents access to parks, fields, and places of solace and natural beauty.***

*Residents enjoy a myriad of housing opportunities that can fit changing life circumstances; housing that affords easy maintenance — with cost and energy efficiencies. **There are neighborhoods that offer convenient and walkable access to services and entertainment,** and others that offer privacy and quiet in a rural environment. Our geographic location and public transportation provide residents easy connections to businesses, entertainment, and the arts in surrounding areas.*

Collaboration among, and coordination between, Town departments, our outstanding schools, and our local businesses, and clear rules and permit process enable the community to grow; keeping Falmouth lively and sustainable year-round.

We call it “home.”

TRANSPORTATION

Issues and Implications:

- Despite an expansion of the pedestrian and bicycle network, there remains a need for additional improvements to allow the interconnection of neighborhoods.

Goals:

- Develop a functional bicycle network on Falmouth's roads.
- Construct new sidewalks in growth areas (and in other areas, where appropriate) on an ongoing basis to provide for safe places to walk.
- Develop a network of interconnected trails, to allow residents and visitors to move easily through town.

Policies:

- Improve the shoulders to add bicycle lanes and/or sidewalks, each time a road is being repaved or reconstructed, and where appropriate. Expand and interconnect the pedestrian trail network in Falmouth. Interconnect and link pedestrian trails with sidewalks where possible. Connect Falmouth trails to those of adjacent towns.
- Develop a safe pedestrian and bicycle network that connects neighborhoods together and serves as an alternative means of transportation throughout town.
- Require development to include pedestrian facilities for residents and link those facilities with existing or proposed public sidewalks, bikeways, or trails, where feasible and appropriate.
- Explore potential outside funding sources to maximize opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and outdoor recreation.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Policies:

- Explore creating a linked community-wide pedestrian and bicycle network, where feasible, that consists mostly of trails and paved shoulders and connects all parts of town to its commercial centers.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. Establish a bicycle and pedestrian transportation plan that shows how a linked network can be created throughout the community.
2. Map current and proposed bicycle, pedestrian, and trail improvements and post on Town's website.
3. Amend the land use regulations to require interconnection by new developments with surrounding bicycle and pedestrian networks.
4. Establish permanent access to the River Point Conservation Area once the existing railroad bridge becomes no longer serviceable.
5. Establish a safe trail connection between the school campus and Falmouth Community Park.
6. Amend the Land Use Ordinances to encourage compact, walkable developments in the growth area.