

Comprehensive Plan Process & Timeline

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Participatory Process

- ▶ “Bottom-up” rather than “top-down” planning
- ▶ Participation required by Maine’s Growth Management Program
- ▶ Also a best practice—more is better
- ▶ Also built in to each phase of the process
- ▶ **The people set the City’s guiding policy document for:**
 - ▶ Overall vision – Ellsworth in 10 years, 20 years...?
 - ▶ Land use decisions (zoning, development regulations, etc.)
 - ▶ Program decisions (provision of services, sources of revenue, etc.)
 - ▶ Capital decisions (facilities and utilities, staffing, natural resources, etc.)



Upcoming Roles for the Public

- ▶ Follow along with agendas, minutes, website/social media
- ▶ Volunteer to serve on a committee:
 - ▶ Topic-area committees
 - ▶ Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
- ▶ Comment at committee meetings, Planning Board & City Council hearings
- ▶ Comment at charrettes, listening sessions, on surveys, etc.
- ▶ Encourage others to participate
- ▶ Read draft plan; compare to old plan; comment before it is adopted



Timeline

	Actions by Council	Actions by Planning Committee / Staff	Actions by Public
Short Term	- Allocate TIF funds - Designate Planning Committee (Planning Board) - Potential action regarding release of RFP for consultant - FY23 Budget Process – complete funding of reserve account - Award contract for Consultant	- FY23 Budget preparation - Draft RFP for Comprehensive Plan Consultant - RFP Process through to selection of Consultant - Accept applications for Steering Committee	- Citizen's Comments, Regular Council Meetings - Attend Budget Workshops - Apply for Steering Committee appointment - Serve on Steering Committee
Medium Term	- Hear updates from Council Appointees to Steering Committee - Follow agendas, minutes, and website/social media updates - Stay informed by Manager, monthly staff reports	- Full timeline TBD with consultant - Steering Committee formation & meetings - Initial data gathering - Topic-area Committee formations & meetings - Various surveys, charrettes, interviews, listening sessions, etc.	- Serve on Committees - Follow agendas, minutes, and website/social media updates - Attend and comment at Committees, Regular Council Meetings - Attend various charrettes, listening sessions, take surveys, etc.
Long Term	- Continue to hear updates and follow along - Vote to adopt plan upon recommendation by Planning Board	- Draft chapters, full plan with help of consultant - Draft presented to Planning Board for recommendation, final draft to Council - Take comments and make revisions as needed	- Continue to serve, follow along, provide comment - Review drafts - Comment on draft at Planning Board hearings 2x - Comment on final draft at Council hearings 2x - Comment on adopted plan to DACF
After Adoption	- Align CIP, yearly budgets with Comp Plan - Align ordinances with Comp Plan	Align land use ordinances with Comp Plan	Continue to comment and remind Council and Planning Board when Comp Plan should be consulted

Topic Areas

- ▶ Existing Land Use
- ▶ Population & Demographics
- ▶ Economy
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Public Facilities & Services
- ▶ Fiscal Capacity & Capital Investment Plan
- ▶ Historic & Archaeological Resources
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Natural Resources
- ▶ Agricultural & Forest Resources
- ▶ Regional Coordination
- ▶ Future Land Use
- ▶ Addressing sea level rise (optional)

Why Participation is Important

- ▶ Comp Plan forms the legal basis for certain ordinances
 - ▶ Zoning – what goes where
 - ▶ Impact Fees – fees based on development's impact to facilities/utilities
 - ▶ Rate of Growth – limits permits in times of rapid growth
- ▶ Comp Plan forms the factual/analytical basis for Capital Improvements Program
 - ▶ 10-year Planning & Funding Mechanism
 - ▶ How do the data about Ellsworth and the needs and desires expressed by its residents affect City's long-term plans for capital investments?
- ▶ Comp Plan establishes **goals** and **implementation strategies**
- ▶ **Wise & legal decisions by City Council & Planning Board depend on Comp Plan**

Thank you!

- ▶ No action by Council required for this agenda item
- ▶ Following item requests allocation of TIF funds toward Comprehensive Plan