

2018-2023 MONTAGUE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Prepared by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department

INTRODUCTION

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 was presented at a Community Development Strategy Public Meeting on **November 28, 2017** allowing for public input.

GOAL 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

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- Identify and assess funding opportunities for housing rehabilitation and redevelopment
- Evaluate land use regulations for impediments to maintaining a diverse housing stock

GOAL#2: Continue to ensure a safe, harmonious community for all residents

- Evaluate land use regulations for impediments to maintaining a diverse housing stock
- Identify and assess funding opportunities for housing rehabilitation and redevelopment.

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
- 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 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 BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL #1: Provide functional, code compliant public buildings 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

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

PRIORITIZED LIST OF ACTION PROJECTS

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 high priority and which fall within the context of the Community Development Strategy.

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	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	Support social service programs that meet community needs	CDBG CDF
H3	Evaluate land use regulations for impediments to maintaining a diverse housing stock	Town Funds
	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	Upgrade conditions 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	
T1	Rehabilitate Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant	CDBG CDF/ Town Funds
T2	Rehabilitate Spinner Park in Turners Falls	CDBG CDF/ Town Funds
T3	Improve Montague Center park	Town Funds/ PARC
T4	Improve Highland Park Millers Falls	Town Funds
T5	Develop Millers River access at Newton Street	DCR Recreational Trails Program
T6	Develop Connecticut River access below dam	Private/PARC
T7	Improve Poplar Street river access point	Private
T8	Improve Cabot Woods recreation area	Private
T9	Develop town-wide public trail system and map	Direct Local Technical Assistance
	Town Buildings and Infrastructure	
B1	Develop new public works garage	Town funds
B2	Inventory capital needs for all municipal facilities	Town funds
B3	Assess functionality and accessibility of public libraries	Town Funds
B4	Support needed capital improvements at schools	Town Funds
B5	Explore feasibility of cost and energy reductions at the Water Pollution Control Facility	Town Funds, Green Communities

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