

IMPLEMENTATION



IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Implementation of a Comprehensive Plan is a long-term process requiring significant effort from many entities. This Comprehensive Plan includes suggested timeframes for implementing each strategy, to be used as a guide to set priorities. Implementation will depend on many factors such as timing, resources, the workload of specific groups, many of which consist of volunteers, and the capacity of the lead partner. A Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a “living document” that is formally updated every 10-15 years. Many of the recommended strategies and actions require further evaluation and research prior to implementation.

PLAN COMPONENTS

The implementation plan is organized around goals, identified in the adjacent shaded box. Each goal comprises a series of objectives, or major efforts needed to meet that goal. To fulfill each objective, the table lists a set of strategies and potential actions which illustrate how the town could achieve the objectives and goals.

The plan identifies over 150 strategies. For each of these, a **Lead** and **Partners** are noted. Lead persons or entities are tasked with directing the strategies, with the assistance of partners, who will initiate the action steps. While the table suggests potential leads and partners, these persons or entities may change or expand over time. For some strategies, an entirely new planning process will be needed to define roles and responsibilities of the leads and partners.

Implementation

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS

GOAL 1: To promote the DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION of people visiting, living, and working in Lexington

GOAL 2: To promote a wide range of HOUSING options that respond to the needs of households, regardless of income and life stage

GOAL 3: To promote a VITAL ECONOMY, including a variety of small and large businesses that contribute to the tax base and provide goods and services to meet the needs of residents, employees, and visitors

GOAL 4: To enhance quality of life, health, and safety by implementing practices and policies that enhance SUSTAINABILITY and RESILIENCY in our community

GOAL 5: To protect OPEN SPACES and NATURAL RESOURCES and to enhance their connections

GOAL 6: To protect, preserve, and promote awareness and appreciation of Lexington’s HISTORIC and CULTURAL RESOURCES from throughout its history

GOAL 7: To make TRAVELING into, out of, and within Lexington safe, pleasant, and efficient with sustainable and equitable mobility options for all ages and abilities

GOAL 8: To improve and expand facilities for RECREATION AND COMMUNITY GATHERING to support holistic wellbeing, a sense of belonging, enhanced community connections, fun, and to build community through social engagement

GOAL 9: To provide well-maintained, updated, inclusive and sustainable PUBLIC FACILITIES to serve and meet community needs

GOAL 10: To support and advance goals 1-9 through wise LAND USE PLANNING

Some strategies call for additional studies to understand the actions that would best achieve the goals and objectives. Many strategies will require discussion and approval at Town Meeting, especially changes to Lexington’s General or Zoning Bylaws.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

IMPLEMENTATION LEAD

Planning staff and the Planning Board should oversee implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Their charge is to:

- (1) oversee implementation of the strategies and action steps, receiving updates from other departments and committees on progress;
- (2) incorporate appropriate actions into their own work plans;
- (3) keep the comprehensive plan up to date; and
- (4) provide an annual “State of the Comprehensive Plan” report within the Planning Board’s Annual Report.

INCREASING CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN

There are many strategies and potential actions listed in the implementation plan. It may be necessary to increase the town’s capacity to implement the recommended actions to achieve the plan’s goals and objectives. Capacity can be increased in a number of ways, including:

- Hiring additional staff;
- Hiring contractors for specific projects;
- Recruiting additional volunteers;

- Creating new task forces or committees to oversee specific efforts;
- Increasing inter-departmental cooperation; and
- Regional cooperation on such topics as transportation planning, electricity aggregation, household hazardous waste collection, and climate change adaptation.

SEEK FUNDING

Many of the recommended strategies will require additional funding. Additional funding sources should be explored, including American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Potential sources are listed in the Implementation Tables whenever possible.

KEY TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TABLES

The following is a key to the notation used in the Implementation Plan tables. The Implementation Plan is organized around the identified goals with accompanying objectives, with separate columns provided for:

- **Strategies** – avenues for achieving the goals and objectives, cross-referenced to other related strategies through the tables (designated by *SEE ALSO*)
- **Potential Actions** - steps for carrying out the strategies
- **Existing Resources** – a list of relevant organizations and other resources to support the strategy
- **Funding** – possible sources of funding for the strategy

- **Lead** – the town department, board, committee, or other entity considered most appropriate for taking the lead with the strategy
- **Partners** – entities or individuals to serve as partners in carrying out the strategy and associated actions
- **Phasing** -
 - #1= Immediate (1 to 5 years)
 - #2 = Intermediate (5 to 10 years)
 - #3 = Future/Re-evaluate in 10 years (10 to 20 years)
 - Ongoing (continue and support action already in progress)
 - Sustained Effort (initiate new action step and sustain over time)
- **Guiding Principles** – a brief description of how the strategy fulfills the Comprehensive Plan’s guiding principles
- **Planning Board Work Plan Item** – where applicable, the item number identified in the Planning Board’s current work plan
- **Ripe Apple** – an action step that is “low-hanging fruit” – with a relatively low cost, low level of effort, and desirable impacts. By undertaking these immediately, the town will foster a belief in the planning process and will provide momentum for implementing other actions identified in the plan. Acting on recommendations quickly and visibly builds credibility for the Comprehensive Plan and also pays tribute to the individuals who committed time and thought to the planning process.



END NOTES. End Notes are provided after each section. These provide information more extensive than can be given in a footnote.