

## Guiding Principles for Comprehensive Plan Chapters

Each of these guiding principles represent a summary of survey results and in-person workshop results.

<p><b>Climate and Sustainability</b></p> <p>Build climate resilience at the municipal and community level by supporting equitable and innovative practices that protect natural resources, improve energy efficiency, ensure food security and improve village parks and open spaces.</p>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Promote a variety of housing types that create and sustain affordable, stable, multi-generational and diverse neighborhoods.</p>	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <p>Support a safe, accessible and climate resilient transportation network that connects residents to natural areas, public amenities, village centers and surrounding communities and includes expanded options for travel beyond the gas-powered automobile.</p>
<p><b>Economic Development and Culture</b></p> <p>Encourage sustainable economic development projects that maintain and enhance Montague’s vibrant creative communities, while offering a wide variety of business and job opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Community Facilities and Services</b></p> <p>Improve and expand community spaces, recreation options, and services to support the needs of residents, while recognizing and embracing the unique nature of Montague’s diverse population and village character.</p>	<p><b>Land Use &amp; Zoning</b></p> <p>Encourage climate-resilient development and land management practices that balance the need for jobs, vibrant village centers and housing choices with the protection of farmland, forests and open space as well as historic preservation.</p>

Potential Action Items to Implement Guiding Principles											
The following lists potential actions that were brainstormed by workshop participants. These actions were suggested to help implement the guiding principles. No judgement was made as to how feasible or realistic the actions may be. The "Count" column indicates if an idea was seconded by others and how many times. A total of 40 participants attended the virtual workshop on 3/9/23.											
Climate and Sustainability	Count	Housing	Count	Transportation	Count	Economic Development and Culture	Count	Community Facilities and Services	Count	Land Use & Zoning	Count
Edible landscaping and native species in all municipal plantings.	1	Yes, create a Village neighbors group.		Roller skating (indoor/outdoor?)		Support local business		support branch libraries which serve individual village needs		make zoning easier to understand	1
Local wi-fi provider like Greenfield has. (I know this doesn't belong in this category..)		Host a ReStore or similar		use other modes of transportation more than driving		My magic wand says: Make A Guest House or a small Hostel a reality		financial support for aging in place improvements	2	allow dense housing to protect adjacent open space	1
partner with state for air conditioner return & rebate for new units		Renovate existing houses and apartment buildings		school bus transport in Turners Falls	1	mixed use senior housing at Farren with community center	1	Free store at transfer station	1	reduced minimum lot size on septic	
Have DPW practices align with climate sustainability goals	2	Redevelop Farren site to have multi-generational affordable housing, community center, playground and open sapce		Turners Falls Rd. is not safe for pedestrians	2	brand = playful + farming + creative		continue to support branch libraries each of which supports the individual character of the village it is in		assist homeowners in learning to increase pollinator environments and reduce lawns	2
Increase tree coverage in public spaces	2	Would love to see more single family units, as well... I would like to own my own home and I love Montague!		provide free safety equipment - lights, vests etc (p.s. there's an organization that does this - I'll try to remember the name)	1	something in the red fire farm stand on 63		Work toward acquisition of golf course for park/dog park/botanical garden connecting upper and lower neighborhoods		Preserve Hedges, wetland, buffer zones for birds.	1
Provide more native species in public spaces. The native grasses at Unity Park field house are great example		Be open to building repurposing (old school - > apartments)		shared transport to UMass		mutual aid creative workshops		MA does not support combined Library and Senior		Multi story low income housing	2
Are there any buildings suitable for rooftop gardens?		start a village neighbors group	1	ride sharing opportunities	2	What is the CHAMBER of COMMERCE doing?		An improved/new library in Turners would also provide community meeting space.		Restrict solar panels to buildings/brownfields (no solar developments on farms/forest)	2
Grass roots (ha) invasive species management events (kind of like the green river cleanup; big whole-community effort on specific day)	1	tiny houses	1	Less cars more mass transit		Economic development should prioritize locals, not tourists		A new senior center could be combined with a new library.		More business/mixed-use zoning among single-family areas to create walkable business	1
Install lampshades on street lights to reduce light pollution		Focus on walkable neighborhoods		keep basic public transit services affordable (or free!)		Private Lodging, not AirBnB	1	Community kitchen in community center for free meals.	2	Wherever a RAIL YARD would be, Montague should be aware of RAIL ROAD rules reg Hazardous freights	
Provide more shady nooks.		senior housing at Farren site (in old office building?)		SAFE BIKEem PATH TO greendield	1	Job training/internship programs for high schoolers		More public art that is also a functional play structure (for both kids and adults!).	1	Preserve all current agricultural land.	1
Encourage more solar development (through tax right-off, for example)	1	support proposals to create affordable homeownership oportunties	1	clear snow from bike path	4	Avoid complexity - Growth is not our friend	2	Edible landscaping in all new public plantings.		Transparent online public map of zoning areas	1
Add emphasis to wildlife corridor maintenance to town priorities.		use dense housing with shared open space	1	clear ALL sidewalks	1	have kayaks by parking lot/unofficial dog park		Consolidate schools turn schools into low income housing	1	Create and maintain "history trail" or similar cultural experience to increase awareness of town's changes over time	1
Add native tree guidelines for municipal tree plantings		direct new housing in villages and not on farms	1	promote getting around in ways other than driving a personal vehicle		jobs that work for parents, including single parents		maintaining and modernizing our library facilities	1	Reuse and renovate current buildings for additional housing.	1
Food forests		building on brownfield, not greenfield sites	1	support new bike shop		Prioritize economic growth that provides services rather than products. More ecological.		public restrooms (year-round) at Unity Park		Allow YURTS where an owner might want to have one.	

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Update building codes for energy efficiency innovations		help landlords who want to improve their properties to make them accessible, age-friendly, lead-free, and affordable		get more people to use the services FRTA already offers!		Year round farmer's market	2	Plug in to Connecticut River Paddler's Trail (AMC maintained) - improve the Turners Falls portage		Have someone on town staff to deal with removal of invasive species.	2
Provide Incentives/support for small-scale farming/gardening		More housing by the Canal (Ave A) accessible to transit/walkable		bus on weekends	1	keep it Simple and Local		Bike paths to connect between the villages	3	How do we get more businesses in Montague Center?	
Contract study of health of Montague Plains aquifer - this is a critical local environmental resource that may be changing with climate shifts.		Prioritize multi-unit housing (as opposed to single family), esp. in downtown areas and near schools		Bike/Walking paths under powerlines to connect villages?		Highlight existing public art		electric bikes to borrow would help make access more equitable		Recommendations are hard to make for people who don't already know the zoning	
		Rent control/rent cap	4	More amenities in each village would reduce the need for travel between villages and out of town	1	provide lodging for out of town visitors	2	warming+cooling stations inside libraries.		Krushevska low income housing	
Food forests to be planted that handle hotter temperatures, i.e. chestnut trees		ADU (accessory dwelling units)	2	ADA accessibility (ramps and lifts, auto doors) would also be great for parents with young kids in strollers!		make sure economic develop is equitable		have public restrooms at the Montague Center playground.	2	Community land/housing trusts	
Have at least 1 community garden in each village center		Changing Zoning to favour Housing, tiny, and alternative. Building materials		sponsor bike rodeo	1	child care	1	increased services and support for people who are struggling with health, mental health, and basic needs, as well as social connections		more trees and plants	2
Have the Town help homeowners and renters provide an energy efficiency rehab program and educational workshop. Reach out to Shelburne Falls about their program.		Keep farmland in tact. Allow property owners to add small buildings. Yes, multi-family homes.	2	SIDE WALK TO GRenfiled and other areas	1	worker coops	2	community gathering spaces in village centers!		Create appropriate solar siting plan and guidelines	2
Explore renting solar arrays		Afford Co-ownership, including Elder housing.		More Bus Service: Since there are few car-less people, offer RIDES BY DEMAND>		River is an important fishery -- concerned about potential of damaging water levels from potential river rafting		Montague Center playground improvements needed!		encourage multiple-unit developments	1
Install solar panels over town parking lots which would produce clean power and shade cars to reduce AC needs.		Focus housing in centers rather than building on agricultural land.	6	Bike path to Greenfield	3	Community Center could have space for creative endeavors (a theater, artist workshops/resources etc.).	1	make libraries ADA accessible!	4	Allow tiny houses	3
Adopt a CPA to help fund conservation and historic protection programs.		Refurbish the factory buildings into afford Housing.	1	Walkable communities, reduce need for public transportation	2	Keep the fall festival alive!!!!!!		Make Turners Falls better -- Miles (3 years old)		Promote cluster development	1
Promote no-lawn front yards!		Create housing for seniors	4	Bike lines between communities	1	More concerts at Unity Park	1	Indoor recreation (gym, workout studios)	1	Reduce lot size requirements	2
Town should avoid using herbicides and pesticides	2	Promote energy savings	1	Loop van - not point to point like FRTA provides, but something that loops through the villages periodically	2	Food, drink along the bike path.	1	Community gathering space in every village	5	Connect open spaces	2
Plant trees along bike paths for long stretches.		Multi-generational co-housing	4	Improve ADA accessibility of sidewalks	2	Food trucks downtown	1	Improve schools	1	Keep forests intact	4
Encourage sharing economy. No unnecessary new goods.	3	Allow smaller housing options	1	More bike parking	3	extend bike path behind farren to a park with new Senior center and Library	2	More programming & spaces for youth	2	Improve stormwater management	2
Electric school buses?		Home Energy efficiency property tax rebate - this could introduce inequities, complex issue		More EV chargers	4	Lighting on Rock Paper Scissors sculpture		Upgrade accessibility features throughout	1	More pollinator habitat	2
Provide more maps and signs so people know what's in town	1	Town regulations to protect renters.	1	Clear all sidewalks in winter	1	Seek manufacturing or other uses for Industrial Park by airport		Create swimming options	4	Map and advertise open space value as natural resource	1
Build a 3 season flex building for events and markets to provide shade and protection from rain, etc.		continue to update bylaws to reflect current best practices (like when we got rid of the definition of family)		Bike/walking paths between villages	6	Create destination activities; hiking in Montague plains, other outdoor recreation		Community center for winter indoor recreation	3	Still need to figure out the derelict buildings on the power canal.	2

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use zoning to mandate putting land in conservation to mitigate huge developments		Creative mechanisms including CLTs, co-housing, etc to support affordable co-ownership.		Better public transit options	3	Leverage the river!	5	Dog park	1	Fund purchase of conservation easements	2
need townwide policy/ culture shift		federal funds to renovate existing buildings for affordable housing		Passenger rail in Montague	4	Create a "brand" for out-of-towners	3	Trail maintenance development	1	Local wi-fi provider, like Greenfield's	
make all new recreation opportunities senior and disability friendly		Facilitated Group Housing for people with developmental disabilities and autism	1	Loop van - not point-to-point like FRTA provides, but a line that loops through the villages periodically	2	More public art	3	Larger-scale community garden (20x20 plots for rent by residents)	1	Be vigilant where 5G antennas are placed anywhere in the 5 villages. Know about Cell tower placement: distances to residences.	
workshops and information sessions to inform folks about bylaws/grants/state laws to take advantage of		Multi-use development	3	On-demand ride share between residential areas and shopping / entertainment areas		Support passenger rail stop in Montague	3	Reg Trail Maintenance: Are these hiking trails? If yes, YES.		create and protect wildlife corridors and large open space	1
Montague City is overrun with bittersweet, an invasive plant. Intentional replanting across from Farren.		More housing for seniors- one level- close to shopping and offices	1	community communication network	2	Utilize vacant buildings (redevelop or remove)	7	Create tiny forest near Discovery Center. Lot is trashed in summer and could be a show case for tiny forest = Natl mo		Link affordable housing and public transit walkable to village centers and shopping...	
solar bicycle path	1	digital information for folks moving to town about building/buying process		Electric vehicles and electric bikes to share	2	Pop up markets and food trucks in downtown	5	Focus on climate and health-smart economic development		Make creative land use EASIER (cluster development, etc)	2
Design parks for multiple age levels.	2	actively pursue state/federal grants that bring financial incentives to Montague		SAFE Bike Lane marking		Farren Care property to become community anchor	5	Ice Skating Rink- maybe an outdoor one at Unity Park.	2	re-examine 2 acre minimum zoning/ denser districts	1
Aquaculture		We Need More Places to Build - Not Just in Turners Falls.		Clear all sidewalks in winter	2	Create shared workspace like the coworking facility in Amherst and others.	1	Swimming Pool!	3	Create Space for New Housing Throughout Town	
More public food gardens and fruit trees	2	Renovate for net-zero multi-family affordable housing, consider housing cooperatives		planning to reduce number of trips per vehicle		more things like swanson's classes!		Montague City needs a center and activity. Maybe a new park in Montague City.		promote mixed use, affordable access, cluster development -- support creative recombination	1
Enhance bike paths between towns	2	Take failing/ dangerous houses into receivership and renovate		Work with other towns!		Incentives for local small business and employers	1	More beautification of the villages: trees, gardens. Professional gardening of the beds on Avenue A.		Create Cross Village Trail Link through Plains	2
Add solar on as many large buildings in town as possible and over large parking lots	1	Ensure New Housing Projects are Economically Integrated		citizen-citizen town supported ride share				Make the Cultural Coordinator a full time position		Connect open spaces AND connect access to open spaces with bike paths & public transit..	1
Electric vehicle chargers	2	Intergenerational cohousing		Normalize (increase) routes to Amherst where there are more job opportunities.ALSO- Routes direct to Northampton	2	Create a free, larger community gathering space or several around the different villages	1	Build a large outdoor pavillion as a free community meeting/event space	2	Cohousing	2
Municipal electric vehicles	2	senior co-housing communities	2	More transportation to UMASS/ Colleges. Do a study about the times most needed by students.		Local author readings and art shows in the libraries. Community space to gather that is supported by the Town without a fee.	2	General store/community center in Lake Pleasant	1	Excited for redesign of the Farren Property!	
community gardens/free food forests/etc	2	tiny homes and micro units	3	Develop transit alongside affordable housing and access to workplaces to create effective corridors for affordable lives.	1	excellent way finding throughout the villages		Use public buildings flexibly to reduce costs of single purpose spaces.		Protect agricultural land, while allowing cluster development -- and also allowing mixed-use add-ons to single-family properties (with limits)	2
Make all municipal buildings more energy efficient		Single use occupancy apartments. Diversify apartment types for youth and seniors.		Senior bus services to get to medical appointments		Support the Arts through an annual contribution to RiverCulture and the local cultural councils	1	Boat access to CT River		Are zoning requirements for building near water updated for more frequent extreme flooding?	

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Protecting and caring for existing trees on town spaces		Encourage infill housing in village centers.	3	walking path to Greenfield!	2	Encourage local energy efficiency, renewable energy, fossil-fuel free businesses	1	Youth climate corps? Engage youth in upgrading community facilities & outdoor facilities?	1	Build Elderly Housing to Allow Transition Out of Over-Sized Homes, Make Room for Next Family	1
Build a large pavillion for outdoor meeting	1	Allow smaller apartment units, accessory dwellings	3	clear rules posted in all wildlife walking trails esp.between villages explaining hunting seasons and safety for walkers and hunters		Concentrate on inclusiveness of events	2	Maker spaces	2		
implement wind/water turbines	2	Adopt opt-in stretch energy code that requires more energy efficient new construction and larger renovations to move us away from fossil fuels	1	digital equity will help access to on-demand transportation		Consider if local / municipal procurement could support localizing production	1	Encourage landscaping on mall in Turners Falls.			
Solar panels on town bldgs	7	Renovate existing buildings to be energy efficient, affordable, and have solar to bring down energy costs as much as possible.	2	People Must Use FRTA - Need to "Earn" More Transit Funding		Consider incubator / maker spaces as part of vacant building redevelopment	4	NEW LIBRARY in Turners Falls. (A main community space/library/conference center/museum.) The best spot is next to the Discovery Center.			
More downtown garden spaces	4	Accessory dwelling units		embrace the density of villages	2	Partner with college to encourage new entrepreneurs in small market	1	Canoe access in the Connecticut River			
more warming & cooling shelters	3	Require stretch code for new buildings.		Multi-Use Trail in Plains to Connect Villages	1	Space sharing for seasonal businesses.	2	utilize CT river	5		
swimming pool for hot days	4			elementary school busses from downtown Turners Falls to Hillcrest & Sheffield Schools	4	Control taxes to encourage economic stability.	2	Have you done focus groups w/ specific segments of population? to reach those with needs who aren't here?	1		
Plant native species	3	Promote energy savings	2	Develop a ride share for neighbors in town	2	education to emphasize closed loop systems of consumption	1	Walking trails are not clear enough (signage, number of miles).	1		
Expanded public transit	2			Increase public bus trips to Greenfield for shopping, services access	2	all local companies to manufacture, etc with an environmental sustainability lens	2	Intentional outreach to people of color.	2		
Develop a culture of regeneration -- help develop understanding among residents		Allow smaller housing options	3	Electric public buses		Clear Strathmore buildings and create a river park.	3	Involve youth in activity planning.	2		
Decarbonize buildings -- including deep energy retrofits	2	consider increasing density allowed in zoning	1	Rentable electric bikes	1	community engagement and systems for reuse/recycle	2	The carnegie library needs to meet the needs of small children. (bathroom)			
Update and improve the Montague Center playground: updates equipment, perhaps a community garden, native plants and shrubs, park benches etc.		Decarbonize existing affordable housing: move them from fossil fuel heating, stoves, etc to efficient electric heat pumps	2	Re-instate trolley service between villages	3	community murals/sculpture	2	Elementary Schools Need Renovation			
municipal support for home energy efficiency				Regular passenger rail service to Boston	2	Opportunity (through the demolition of the Farren) create a community center in Montague City	1	Childcare options? Could childcare offerings support both economic development & public engagement? childcare collective?	1		
increase options and accessibility for recycling and composting				EV charging in villages other than Turners Falls.	2	Use public building spaces flexibly to reduce costs of multiple spaces.	1	Q: when is CT River considered swimmable? Could that be made clearer with more accessible access points?			
preserve and maintain all current open land for agricultural purposes				Provide better advertisement for on-demand FRTA service.	3	allow space/regulations for commercial/industrial use		prioritize the needs and input of most vulnerable, least heard citizens in developing and improving facility and services.	3		
make guidelines for minicipal tree planting that prioritize native species						Double Down on Funky and Local in Our Downtowns	2	Create Riverfront Access Below the Dam	1		

