



Master Plan Steering Committee

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00 PM

**City Hall,
2nd Floor Council Chambers**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Update on Strategic Pillar Task Forces
- III. Draft Outline for Strategic Pillar Chapter
- IV. Keene Solid Waste, Composting, and Recycling Program
- V. Next Steps:
 - a. Prioritization Survey
 - b. Future Land Use Map
 - c. Story Maps
 - d. June 3 Future Summit, 5:00 PM, Heberton Hall
- VI. New Business
- VII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 1, 6:00 PM
 - a. April Agenda preview: Review of draft prioritization survey, overview and feedback on the future land use map, update on youth engagement, presentation from SWRPC regarding regional transportation issues.



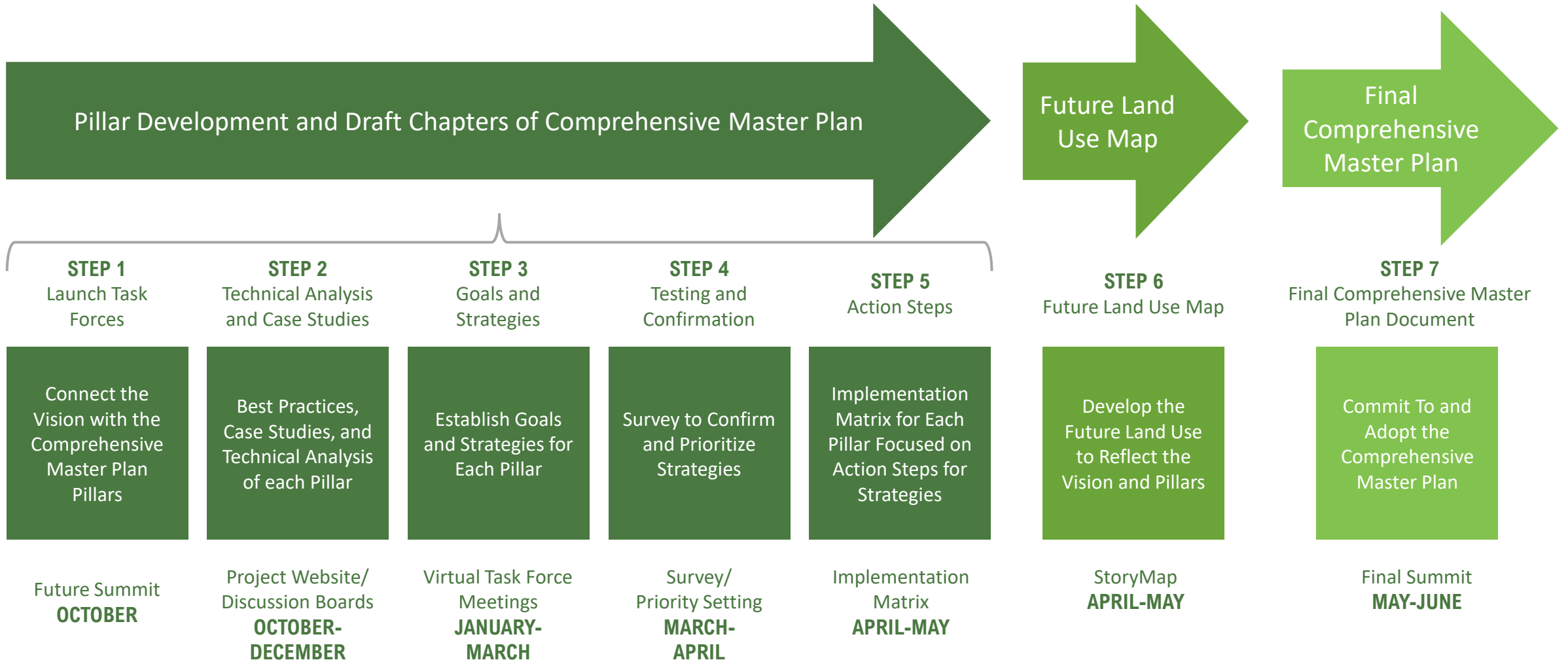
WELCOME TO THE VISION KEENE 20-FORWARD PROJECT

PROCESS UPDATE MARCH 2025



VISION KEENE 20-FORWARD

City of Keene, New Hampshire **Comprehensive Master Planning Process**
Phase 2: Comprehensive Master Plan and Future Land Use Map





Pillar Build-Out

Community Conversations

Pillar Coordination

Technical Analysis

Demographic, socioeconomic, and economic findings

Trends and current happenings

Planning goals and implications

Assessment of practical solutions and processes

Implementation framework, strategies, timeline, and future land use map

Draft Pillar Document

Test and refine



Overarching Themes

These overarching themes extend beyond the pillars of Vision Keene 20-Forward and will be incorporated throughout the Comprehensive Master Plan as they have been identified as crucial to the success of Keene's future.





Pillar Coordination

WORKING DRAFT. FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY.



Flourishing Environment
Champion environmental stewardship and climate action.

- Proactively conserve and protect the natural and agricultural landscape.
- Lead from the front by becoming a leader in sustainability, showcasing the benefits of environmental stewardship.
- Effectively and efficiently promote sustainability through eco-friendly policies, initiatives, and projects.
- Embrace new technologies, strategies, and best practices regarding sustainability.
- Leverage partnerships and collaborations to better implement sustainability initiatives.

Adaptable Workforce
Foster a future-ready, abundant, and diverse workforce.

- Expand credential pathways.
- De-silo efforts, broaden partnerships, and increase collaboration.
- Meet quality of life needs and reduce workforce barriers.
- Prioritize workforce and community health and wellness.
- Expand workforce.

Vibrant Neighborhoods
Support vibrant community neighborhoods that reflect their unique culture and identity.

- Support a built environment that encourages social connections and interactions.
- Foster relationship-building and collaboration.
- Ensure safe and effective movement around town.
- Ensure a high quality of life for all residents.
- Cultivate a business-friendly environment.

- Boost infill development.
- Remove barriers to housing development.
- Encourage smart growth and housing that reflects community character.
- Increase diversity of housing types and price points.
- Address housing needs of all residents.

Livable Housing
Expand enticing housing options for all.

- Expand Keene's industries.
- Prioritize sustainability and resiliency.
- Attract and grow businesses.
- Strengthen Keene's position as a leader.
- Foster an inclusive economy.

Thriving Economy
Grow a dynamic economy of the future that spans local to international.

- Maintain a comprehensive multimodal mobility network that is safe and accessible.
- Aim to eliminate all traffic deaths and major injuries on local roads.
- Expand mobility options that are convenient and attractive.
- Promote environmentally sustainable transportation options.
- Improve local and regional connectivity to support economic growth.

Connected Mobility
Build regional and local connectivity, transportation, and recreation networks.



Pillar Chapter Outline

Section 1: Importance of the Pillar

- What this means to Keene and its relation to the 7 overarching themes
- Connection to other pillars
- Data insights

Section 2: Community Aspirations

- What people said, bold ideas
- Data insights

Section 3: Emerging Trends, Challenges and Opportunities, Trade-Offs

- Implications and potential solutions
- Examples and case studies
- Future insights

Sections 4: Planning Goals and Action Areas

- Overarching goals with action areas
- Prioritization data
- Planning insights



Comprehensive Master Plan Build-Out

- **Community Vision**
 - Process
 - Overarching Themes
 - Strategic Pillar Diagram
- **Strategic Pillar Chapters**
 - Livable Housing
 - Thriving Economy
 - Connected Mobility
 - Vibrant Neighborhoods
 - Adaptable Workforce
 - Flourishing Environment
- **Future Land Use Map**
- **Implementation**
 - Matrix





Next Steps

1. **Task Force Meeting #3 in March**
 - Review the draft pillar document and refine
2. **Prioritization Survey (April Launch)**
3. **Implementation Matrix & Future Land Use Map**
4. **Comprehensive Master Plan Draft**
5. **StoryMaps**
6. **Future Summit (Keene Public Library, 5:00pm, 3 June 2025)**





CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Master Plan Steering Committee

FROM: Duncan Watson, Assistant Public Works Director

THROUGH: Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

DATE: February 28, 2025

SUBJECT: City of Keene Solid Waste, Composting, and Recycling Program

Recommendation:

For your information.

Background:

Keene, New Hampshire, has, for several decades, sustained a comprehensive solid waste, composting, and recycling program to promote environmental sustainability and reduce landfill usage. The City's Public Works Department oversees the management of transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste infrastructure, ensuring efficient and environmentally sensitive services for residents and visitors.

The Keene Recycling Center and Transfer Station, located at 55 Old Summit Road, serves as the central hub for waste disposal and recycling. Operating Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, the facility accepts various waste types, including tires, solid waste, hazardous waste, and inert materials. The vast majority of Keene residents have their waste and recycling collected at curbside. Serviced by approximately 14 private operators varying in size, Keene processes 20,000 tons of refuse at the transfer station generated within the city limits. The Keene Recycling Center operates a materials recovery facility and operates as a dual-stream system, meaning that containers are collected separately from fiber materials and through human and mechanical sorting the material received is processed for sale into the commodities market. The Recycling Center processes approximately 5,000 tons of material. Recycling is incentivized by offering recycling services "free of charge" with an eye towards the savings realized by not sending the recycling to disposal, thereby saving \$99 per ton as well as receiving some revenue from the sale of the commodities.

Staffed by fourteen employees, the solid waste facility sees upwards of 19,000 unique visitors per year.

In 1994 the City went from a single digit % recycling rate to the current ~25% by investing in the infrastructure necessary to process materials efficiently. Technology currently exists to bump the

diversion rate to +80%; however, this would involve a scale that Keene cannot do on its own. It is hoped that in the near term a facility (we'll call it an advanced materials recovery facility for lack of a better word), will be located within economical transportation distance and achieving a community goal of increased recycling/diversion and decreased landfill reliance as well as decreased emissions fueling climate change.

There is increased interest in improving organics diversion, and the Solid Waste Division is actively exploring ways to successfully facilitate composting of organics in an economical way. For decades the Solid Waste Division has sold backyard compost bins at cost to encourage homeowners to divert kitchen scraps from their refuse disposal. The City has sold hundreds of these bins, with unknown empirical diversion.

Through these combined efforts, Keene aims to reduce waste sent to landfills, promote recycling, and encourage composting, fostering a more sustainable community.