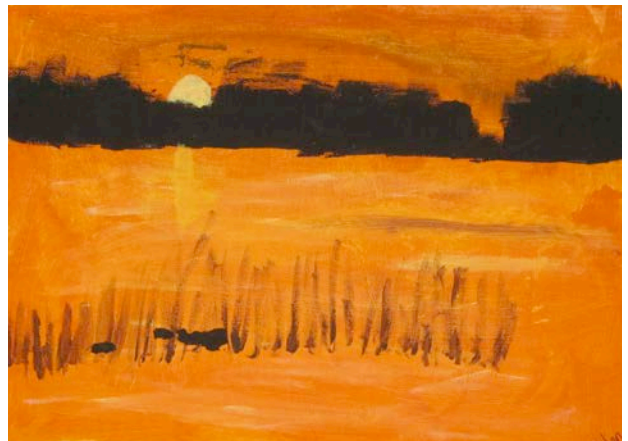


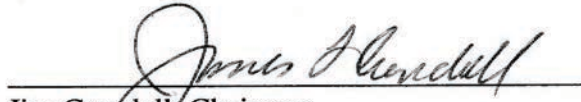
2015 Master Plan

Town of Washington, NH



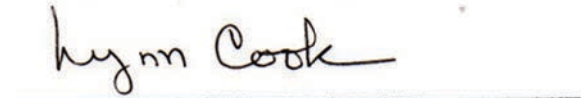
The effective date of this Master Plan, shall be October 6, 2015.

Certified to be a true copy, attest:

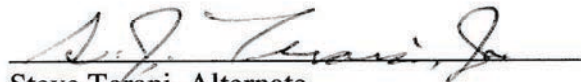

Jim Crandall, Chairman

Michelle Dagesse, Vice Chair


Nancy Schwartz, Secretary

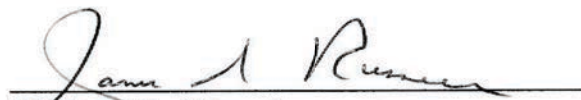

Lynn Cook, Member


Tom Marshall, Ex-Officio


Steve Terani, Alternate


Jean Kluk, Alternate


Paul Dulac, Alternate


Jim Russell, Alternate

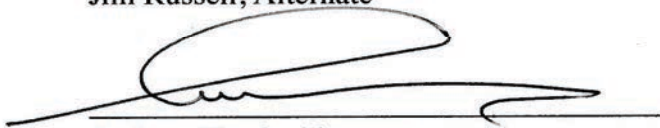

Andrew Hatch, Alternate

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION iii

VISION STATEMENT iv

Chapter 1: LAND USE AND ZONING 1-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 2: NATURAL RESOURCES 2-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 3: COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES 3-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 4-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 5: HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING 5-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 6: RECREATION 6-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 7: CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES 7-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 8: ENERGY 8-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 9: UTILITIES 9-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 10: HOUSING 10-1
 Overview of Current Situation
 Summary of Community Input
 Goals and Recommendations

Chapter 11: POPULATION 11-1
 Overview of Current Population
 Population Projections
 Goals and Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan is authorized by and was developed according to N.H. RSA 674:2.

The Master Plan of the Town of Washington was first published in 1982 and revised in 1992 and 2005 prior to this update in 2015. It is a statement that combines a vision for the Town, a public record of land use and development goals and recommendations for guiding future Town growth. It also discusses Washington's population, services and facilities, economic activity and natural, historical and cultural resources.

The plan is based upon an analysis of the existing conditions in the Town and the opinions and knowledge of Town residents, Town officials and Planning Board members. The plan recognizes changing public opinion in relation to the use of land and water resources for both residential and economic growth and establishes parameters for guiding such growth through the Town's Land Use Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

The Master Plan Update Committee that developed the 2015 update consisted of a subset of Planning Board members and community volunteers. Public input to the plan was gathered through a comprehensive Community Survey that was conducted in the fall of 2013 and a community-wide workshop that was held in June of 2014. Input was also solicited from Town boards, committees and staff.

The committee hopes that this updated plan will serve to guide the Town's leadership over the next 10 years.

Master Plan Update Committee Members:

Annie Bissonnette	Jean Kluk (Planning Board)
Carolyn Bullock	Nan Schwartz (Planning Board)
Jim Crandall (Planning Board)	Steve Terani (Planning Board)
Lolly Gilbert	Bob Williams

VISION

The residents of Washington, a mix of year-round and seasonal homeowners, share one overarching goal: to safeguard our Town, which is rich in natural resources, historic landmarks and sense of community.

We treasure our unique historic heritage, our abundance of freshwater lakes, working farmland, pristine woodlands and diversity of topography. Having inherited the fruits of our forbearers' endeavors to build lasting community structures and preserve vast tracts of land for open space and recreation, we recognize we have a duty to maintain these assets through sustainable development practices.

Our vision for the future imagines a Town where:

- ◆ We preserve our unique village centers and gathering places through zoning protection and land use ordinances enforced to safeguard our natural resources and to maintain community pride of place;
- ◆ We serve as active stewards of our rural surroundings, scenic vistas and recreation resources to preserve and expand protected open space and perpetuate the rural character our townspeople cherish;
- ◆ We conserve our iconic historic structures through maintenance and repair, find opportunities to expand community use of these structures and repurpose them as needed with community support;
- ◆ We cultivate opportunities for economic development that will not hinder our community's rural character but rather will expand our tax base, encourage small enterprise and home-based cottage industry and provide affordable housing;
- ◆ We provide a portfolio of Town services and facilities that ensure the quality of life for our community residents, offering access to quality education, waste management, fire protection, safety services and medical care.

In summary, we want to stay our centuries-long course: to be a Town our residents and guests treasure as a place that nourishes our minds and spirits, provides the comforts and resources we want in a hometown and offers immeasurable natural beauty at every turn.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

The Town is currently zoned as a single zoning district with six types of permitted use: residential, civic, agricultural, business (minor home occupation, home business, business), earth excavation and communication towers. Historically, several of the subdivisions were developed with deed restrictions in order to ensure residential use only. The current land use regulations for Washington include: the Land Use Ordinance, Site Plan Review Regulations and Subdivision Regulations.

The Town has 16 owners of tracts of more than 200 acres, four of whom are organizations rather than individuals, about 352 owners of 10-200 acre tracts and 603 owners of tracts between two and 10 acres. There are approximately 1,115 smaller lots (under two acres), many in lakeside communities planned for summer cottages that are gradually being winterized.

Only 10 - 15 % of the Town is suitable for industrial or commercial development. Their slopes (less than nine percent), good drainage, lack of ledge and the fact that they are not subject to flooding define these lands as suitable for this type of development. Approximately 30-35% of the land in Town is suitable for houses with basements. This land has a slope of less than 15%, is not in a flood plain and is not poorly drained.

Residential Development:

Development in Washington is primarily residential, split between year round and seasonal use. As stated in the chapter on Population, the 2010 Census data show that 54% of the homes are seasonal. The majority of these are clustered on relatively small lots around five of the Town's 20-some ponds: Ashuelot Pond, Island Pond, Highland Lake, Millen Pond and Halfmoon Pond.

Lake Ashuelot Estates, on the eastern shore of Ashuelot Pond, was developed in the late 1960s, prior to any land use regulations in Washington. There was an original total of 482 lots. The Town has taken ownership of a number of lots for nonpayment of back taxes and, in recent years, has sold most of these lots to abutters who have then merged their lots. There are, therefore, now a total of 383 lots, 241 of which have been developed. Lots in this subdivision have deed restrictions ensuring residential use. Eleven miles of private roads, maintained by the homeowners' association, service it. LAE is accessible via a paved Town road and a dirt road with their junction at the entrance to the development. The average lot size in Lake Ashuelot Estates is approximately one acre. The main section of development, which abuts the pond, consists of lots averaging about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre and is 80% built out. Another section that is further away from the pond for the most part cannot be developed due to a high incidence of ledge. The northern section, along the east bank of the Ashuelot River, has many open lots, which range from one to two acres. While the lots within this development are generally undersized, most of the homes are substantial, not just small summer "camps." Many people have built homes to be used as summer residences for a time, with the intention of eventually using them as their retirement homes. Lately there has been a trend toward construction of year round homes on available lots. Obviously, as the population continues to age, there is potential for this trend to continue.

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

Island Pond was also developed in the late 1960s and consists of water front lots of less than one acre and off shore lots of three acres or more. A number of properties have been converted from seasonal homes into full-time residences in recent years. Lots in this subdivision also have deed restrictions ensuring residential use. There are currently about 150 lots on the east side of the pond, but there is potential for future subdivision on the west side, greatly increasing the size of the overall developed area around the pond.

The west side of Highland Lake, **Highland Lake Shores**, was subdivided into some 250 lots in the 1930s and consists mostly of summer camps which are winterized, although a few houses built during the last 20 years are substantial, year-round homes. There are many trailers in the area, which due to recent changes in State Law and the Land Use Ordinance must each have its own septic disposal system. This is a heavily populated area in the summer.

Highland Haven, a development on the east side of Highland Lake, contains some 75 lots, 25 of which have been developed with full-time or part-time residences. There are about 10 small lots on the shore of the lake, (1/2 acre or less), the remainder being two acres or more. Just south of this there is another 10-lot subdivision, approved in the early 1990s, while further south along the lake there is **Highland Forest**, a subdivision of some 40 10-acre lots which is actually close to if not south of the Washington/Stoddard town line. Most of these lots are not yet developed.

Millen Pond has many homes around it, many dating from early in the last century, some seasonal and some year round, on a total of 73 lots. Camp Morgan, a Town-owned recreational facility, occupies a good deal of the northeastern shore of the pond. There are few remaining developable lots around the pond.

Halfmoon Pond has a few older summer cottages along the southeastern shore, but there is potential for a future sizable development along the western shore.

A subdivision around **Freezeland Pond** was approved in 1990, consisting of 26 lots, ranging in size from five to 20 acres, but none have been built on. The Town purchased two lots for the Transfer Station and Department of Public Works.

South of this, around **Smith Pond**, a subdivision of 10 to 15 lots has been created, with substantial homes on about nine of them.

There are **three major subdivisions** in Town that are not located on or near a body of water: **Washington Heights, Martin Road and Sandy Knolls Road**. These subdivisions all have larger lots (five to 10 acres) and are geared toward year-round residences.

Washington Heights has 32 lots off Lempster Mountain Road, with an additional eight lots on Route 31. Eighteen of these lots have been developed.

The **Martin Road** subdivision is on the western side of Lovewell Mountain; 17 of the 29 lots have either full-time or part-time residences.

Sandy Knolls Road, off Mountain Road in East Washington, consists of 22 lots, 10 of which have year round homes; the remainder are as yet undeveloped.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

A new subdivision was approved in 2006 between Mill Street and East Washington Road consisting of 13 lots of approximately five acres. Six lots have been developed.

Table 1.1 Subdivision Table (Source: Town of Washington Assessor's Data)

Subdivision	Year	Total Acreage	Total Lots +/-	Built Lots +/-
Lake Ashuelot	1969	532	383	24
Island Pond	1966	168	150	79
Highland Lake	1930's		25	17
Highland Haven		324	75	25
Highland Haven -2	1990's		10	3
Highland Forest		400	40	13
Millen Pond	1900's		73	59
Halfmoon Pond			48	33
Freezeland Pond	1990	308	26	0
Smith Pond		43	13	9
Washington		135	32	18
Martin Road	1982	454	29	17
Sandy Knolls		77	22	10
Mill Street	2006		13	6
Total			1,166	683

Village Districts:

Ashuelot Pond Dam Village District: In 2001 a village district was formed solely to manage and maintain the dam at the exit of Ashuelot Pond, when insurance costs became so high that it was not possible to afford liability protection by any other means. This entity is run by a board of elected commissioners consisting of residents of Lake Ashuelot Estates and is funded by Village District taxation.

Highland Haven Village District was established on August 6, 1994 in order to protect and maintain the land and property held in common and is also funded by Village District taxation.

The 2008 Natural Resource Inventory Report indicates that there are approximately a total of 2,200 lots currently existing, and it estimates that there could be an additional 2,200 four-acre lots in the future. Thus, there is still substantial potential for future subdivisions in Washington, which eventually could increase the Town's present population. However, because of the minimum requirements of the present Land Use Ordinance (four acres) and septic disposal designs there can no longer be a summer cottage type development. The earliest projects in Town were designed for purely summer use and did not have regulations to control them. There are no public water or sewer services in Washington, with all lots depending on individual wells and septic systems, and it is conceivable that a higher density of homes could lead to future groundwater pollution problems. Building permit activity has been very quiet for the past five years. Most activity involves additions or renovations rather than new dwelling units. With so many

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

empty lots in subdivisions already approved, it is unlikely that additional major subdivisions would be easily marketable, unless they had some amenity not found in existing developments.

With so few available water front lots there may, however, be a certain amount of pressure on land near other as yet undeveloped ponds.

Commercial Development:

Commercial or industrial land use presently consists mostly of the General Store, the Post Office and a few small businesses scattered throughout the Town. There are no industrial businesses in Washington. The types of businesses currently in operation are: building trades, logging, minor home-based businesses, professional services, consulting, internet-based mail order, bakery, artisans and antiques.

Agricultural:

There is one remaining operational farm, Eccardt farm, which is situated on 109.7 acres in East Washington. Several small family farms and sugaring operations are scattered throughout the Town.

Religious Institutions:

The religious organizations that currently own substantial property include The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the East Washington Baptist Church. The Slaves own and built the Montfort Retreat, a 200-acre facility for their summer youth programs, which is located off of King Street. The birthplace of the Seventh Day Adventist Church is also located on King Street on 18.3 acres. Their historic meetinghouse, built in 1842, is situated on this property. The East Washington Baptist church also owns the Grange building on the village green and, together, they are situated on .96 of an acre in East Washington. The Washington Congregational Church in the Town Center stands on municipally owned property.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

Table 1.2 Land Use Table

(Source: 2014 Assessor's MS1 (NH DRA) report and 2008 Washington Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Report)

Land Use	Total Acreage +/-	% of Total Land	Comments
DEVELOPED:			
Residential (Subdivided or built)	3,670	12.0%	Per 2014 MS1 report filed by Assessors to DRA
Commercial/Industrial	61	0.2%	Per 2014 MS1 report filed by Assessors to DRA
Agricultural	463	1.5%	
Municipal/Religious	752	2.5%	Calculated from 2014 MS1 report
UNDEVELOPED:			
Land in Current Use	19,288	62.8%	Includes Farm, Forest and Wetlands
(CU: Conservation Land)	(4,431)	(14.4%)	SPNHF, DRED, ASNH, NEFF
(CU: Town owned Forests)	(720)	(2.3%)	
Lakes	1,478	4.8%	Jager, R & G, <i>Portrait of a Hill Town</i> , 1977, p.531
Pillsbury State Park	5,000	16.3%	
Total Town Acreage	30,712 +/-		

LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT:

A “Constraints to Development” map, included at the end of this section, was produced in 2008 for Washington’s Natural & Cultural Resource Inventory. The map identifies four absolute constraints to development: wetlands, wellhead protections areas, steep slopes (>15%), conservation and public lands. It also identifies partial constraints to development that would not prohibit development but would be unattractive to development because of site characteristic or regulatory hurdles. These partial constraints include: Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act Zone, flood plains and Washington Town Forests.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Our vision statement for Washington’s future encourages us to preserve our unique village centers and gathering places through zoning protection and land use ordinances enforced to safeguard our natural resources and to maintain community pride of place. The vision also encourages us to serve as active stewards of our rural surroundings, scenic vistas and recreation resources to preserve and expand protected open space and perpetuate the rural character our townspeople cherish.

Through the **Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Land Use and Zoning:

Specific sections of Town should be designated for different land use.	74% agree or strongly agree
Different minimum lot sizes should be required in these different sections.	68% agree
Areas in which to locate business and industrial development are important to identify.	84% agree or strongly agree
The current NH state building code is adequate for the Town.	66% agree or strongly agree
No development in forested areas or on present farmland.	Favored by over 55%
The Town should encourage historic preservation.	90 % agree
There are historic sites or areas in Town that should be protected.	62% agree

With reference to housing growth, the largest percentages of respondents favored single-family dwellings (82%) and seasonal homes (74%).

To be discouraged were apartment buildings (83%), mobile homes (79%) and condominium complexes (73%).

The **Community Workshop** generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Land Use and Zoning in the breakout group:

STRENGTHS: Current Land Use Ordinance (LUO) discourages development; strong Planning Board continues to update the LUO; large amounts of land are currently protected (privately owned, Town owned and State owned); the Camp Morgan property and Montfort Retreat are positive land uses.

WEAKNESSES: Property values are impacted when regulations do not exist; junky yards should disappear; a lack of visual screening exists; lack of code enforcement exists; there is a need to rezone to allow smaller lots in village sections; senior accommodations are lacking.

OPPORTUNITIES: There is a small vibrant downtown, within 1/4 mile of Town Hall, that is a defined area; certain intensive businesses could be restricted to certain areas; more land can be protected for future generations; cottage industries that blend with the character of the neighborhood can be encouraged; our quality of life asset should be maintained; growth could be achieved through keeping what currently exists; diversity could be attracted to our Town.

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

The **Community Workshop** included the following Land Use and Zoning priorities:

- Enforce all codes and Land Use Ordinances;
- Protect land for future generations;
- Encourage businesses to downtown and cottage businesses to neighborhoods where they blend in;
- Maintain rural character and tranquility through zoning.

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Preserve and protect the rural character, scenic beauty and tranquility of Washington through the Land Use Ordinances and Subdivision Regulations.

Recommendations:

1. Regularly review and amend the Town's ordinances, site plan review regulations, subdivision regulations and codes to ensure that they provide the appropriate protection and preservation while allowing reasonable opportunity for land use.
2. Consider light and sound ordinances and setbacks for commercial/light industrial.
3. Recommend land use practices that preserve steep slopes and other natural and built features.
4. Actively encourage conservation easements on forested areas and on present farmland.

Goal B: Protect and enhance property values through implementation and enforcement of Town ordinances.

Recommendations:

1. Enforce provisions of all State regulations, Town ordinances, Town regulations and codes in order to protect property values, public safety and scenic beauty.
2. Explore methods and opportunities for instilling pride in property appearance and reducing the number of junky yards.
3. Enforce Town and State regulations to manage storm water runoff and prevent erosion, sedimentation and environmental degradation of our waterways and bodies of water.

Goal C: Manage growth and prohibit scattered or premature subdivision* or development of land.

Recommendations:

1. Utilize the Natural Resources Inventory data and recommendations, particularly "Constraints to Development" map, to identify the appropriate areas for development.
2. Identify specific sections of Town to be designated for different land uses (residential, commercial, industrial, farming, recreational). Establish different minimum lot size requirements in these different sections.
3. Thoroughly research and evaluate each subdivision and development proposal to ensure that the Town's prohibition of scattered or premature subdivision or development of land is observed.
4. Investigate the various undeveloped subdivisions in Town and seek guidance from the State regarding the future of these subdivisions.

*Note: scattered or premature subdivision is subdivision that would involve danger or injury to health, safety or prosperity by reason of the lack of water supply, drainage, transportation, schools, fire protection or other public services or necessitate the excessive expenditure of public funds for the supply of such services.

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

Goal D: Preserve our unique village centers through zoning protection and land use ordinances to safeguard our historical resources and to maintain community pride of place.

Recommendations:

1. Determine methods to encourage historical preservation of specific sites.
2. Investigate and implement land use tools and zoning that will protect historic areas of Town such as “Neighborhood Heritage Districts” and “Form-Based” planning.

Goal E: Provide for housing development compatible with sound land use planning, including the provision of safe, healthy housing available to low income people and those with special needs (such as elderly and handicapped people).

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of current housing stock whenever feasible.
2. Develop alternative housing approaches in an effort to provide lower cost dwelling units for families unable to afford conventional homes.

Goal F: Provide for appropriate commercial development and light industry ** to expand the tax base and provide employment opportunities in the Town without jeopardizing our rural character and scenic beauty.

Recommendations:

1. Consider adding a new zoning district to the Town to provide a location for commercial and light industry businesses.
2. Adopt regulations that will provide the flexibility needed by such developers while maintaining the control needed to protect the public safety and the aesthetic qualities of the area.
3. Explore expansion and upgrading of broadband services and power supplies to encourage internet-based technology businesses that offer minimal environmental impact.

** Note: light industry is characterized by less capital-intensive and more labor-intensive operations. Products made tend to be targeted toward end consumers rather than other businesses.

1. LAND USE AND ZONING

Implementation Techniques:

The most common techniques used to control growth and land use are zoning and subdivision regulations. Many innovative tools are available through zoning to guide growth in terms of location and also in terms of housing cost. Public or private housing trusts are also used to promote low cost housing. Regulations can allow the construction of accessory apartments or the conversion of large older homes into several apartment units. By combining appropriate regulations regarding commercial development in the Land Use Ordinance and Site Plan Review Regulations, a community can have economic development without it being an eyesore, public nuisance or hazard to the health, welfare and safety.

Land use regulations can be used to protect open space, environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife habitats and forests, all of which have recreational value. The most common of these is cluster development, which allows the developer to build all the houses in one small area of the site while preserving the remaining land as open space for the enjoyment of the residents of the development and sometimes for the general public. The overall density prescribed in the zoning ordinance is adhered to, but the location of the buildings is changed. Other regulations to protect certain elements of the environment (such as wetlands, shorelines, floodplains, etc.) are commonly used to keep development out of those areas, sometimes providing a buffer for protection.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and Conservation Plan (CP) are an integral part of the Town's Master Plan. Much of the following information was excerpted from those documents, and we recommend that, if you are interested, you read both documents and consult the NRI maps to learn more about the natural resources in Washington and the Town's efforts to protect them.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

The area, now known as the Town of Washington, was settled in 1768. On December 9, 1776 it was incorporated as a town, taking the name of a soon-to-be-famous Revolutionary War general, George Washington. Washington is situated in the southeast corner of Sullivan County and covers approximately 30,712 +/- acres or 47.6 square miles. Elevations in Washington range from a low of 880 feet, in the lower Shedd Brook area on the Windsor town line, to a high of 2,473 feet at the summit of Lovewell Mountain. Steeper slopes, of up to 50%, cover about a quarter of the Town including much of Lovewell Mountain, the northern corners of the Town, Oak Hill and a line running northeast from Ames Hill to the Town line.

Washington includes two villages: The Town Center has an elevation of 1,507 feet, while East Washington is at 939 feet. The highest summit is Lovewell Mountain, at 2,473 feet, but several other peaks reach to about 2,000 feet. It is a rocky Town with many large boulders, outcrops and areas of ledge underlying stony loam. Maple, beech, birch, red oak, ash, red spruce, hemlock and scattered stands of white pine cover some 90% of the Town. The mix of forest, farms, fields, ponds and wetlands is much admired by both residents and visitors. As of the 2010 census Washington had 1,123 full-time residents.

The terrain in the Town and its relative remoteness from large population areas have contributed to the quiet, rural character it maintains today. In its history, natural resources and quality of life, Washington, NH, is unique. Its development pattern has been that of two traditional small town centers surrounded by farms, lakes and ponds, large areas of forest and undeveloped open space. Historically important for its forestry resources in such areas as "Cherry Valley" (a vast, former logging site that is now part of Pillsbury State Park), large unfragmented forest blocks still comprise much of the Town—highly valuable for wildlife, forestry and recreation. Washington's natural resource base is rich and varied, important both on a local and statewide level.

Water Resources:

Ponds/Lakes:

Washington has a fairly large number of lakes and ponds of various sizes, and several of these straddle the Town lines. Our ponds are impounded water bodies that rely on dams to control the water level. The maintenance of these dams is essential for keeping the water bodies as natural features, used by the public for recreation and enjoyment.

The most significant of these water bodies in terms of size are Ashuelot Pond (361 acres), Island Pond (192 acres), Millen Lake (156 acres), May Pond (158 acres), Halfmoon Pond (76 acres) and the Washington portion of Highland Lake (243 acres). A total of 13 Great Ponds

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

occurs in Washington, such designation afforded to bodies of water that are generally maintained at an area of 10 acres or more. Certain land use restrictions apply to Great Ponds, including forestry laws and the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Public beaches are maintained at Mill Pond in East Washington and at the east end of Millen Lake at Camp Morgan.

Ten named ponds in Pillsbury State Park, most notably Butterfield/May Pond (a combined 158 acres) and North Pond (56 acres), are protected from development and major impacts by virtue of their ownership by the State of New Hampshire. With the exception of the Town-owned Camp Morgan at the eastern end of Millen Lake and a small frontage on the north shore of Island Pond, owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the shores of the other major water bodies in Washington are unprotected by conservation lands. Much of this frontage is already developed, but significant areas remain undeveloped today.

Dams:

According to the data, there are 19 active dams in the Town. An additional eight other sites are either remains of old dams or sites of removed dams. The 1872 stone dam at the outlet of Ashuelot Pond, one of the oldest in Town, is still functioning.

Streams:

Washington has approximately 74 miles of intermittent or seasonal streams and 44 miles of perennial streams, the vast majority of them unnamed. Many of the reaches of these streams are in undeveloped, relatively pristine condition. The most pristine portion of the entire Ashuelot River flows through Washington. While most of the stretches of streams in Washington are single tributaries to larger streams or water bodies, several are of a higher order.

Fourth Order Streams in Washington (*according to official DES list*):

1. Beards Brook at and below the junction with Woodward Brook in East Washington
2. Ashuelot River at and below the junction with Richardson Brook in Lempster and then flowing southwesterly back into Washington
3. Shedd Brook below the junction with an unnamed fourth order stream
4. Unnamed stream or river—outflow of Highland Lake (added to list in 2008)

Aquifers:

There are relatively few high-yield aquifer areas in Washington. The most significant in size is the 228-acre Washington portion of a large aquifer in East Washington that straddles the Hillsboro line. Another area on both sides of the north lobe of Ashuelot Pond is 114 acres in size and includes portions that have the highest yield rate in Town. The remaining major area occurs along the drainage basin of Shedd Brook; the Washington portion of this aquifer is 40 acres in size. Considering their local scarcity, aquifers as a resource should be a high priority for protection. Washington depends on ground water for residential wells, and the only existing public well in Town is the well on the Camp Morgan property, which supplies the Elementary School and Lodge. The water being supplied from wells generally comes from some of the precipitation landing within a watershed that seeps into the ground through a

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

layer of permeable material. This water is commonly referred to as groundwater or aquifer recharge.

Flood Prone Areas:

There are several areas in Town that are mapped by FEMA as being prone to flooding. These areas occur generally in low areas along streams and water bodies. Recent historic flood events in Washington and the larger Ashuelot River watershed underscore the real threat to life and property that even small streams can pose in flood prone areas. Land conservation should be a priority in any flood prone area to help prevent personal injury and property damage from localized floodwaters, and building and development should be highly discouraged in these areas. Washington has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 2008.

Wetlands:

Washington has an abundance of wetlands with their important functions and benefits. These functions include benefits to drinking water, as aquifer recharge areas, sediment capture and control and nutrient cycling to lock up excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Wetlands help minimize and prevent shoreline erosion by stabilizing the banks of lakes and streams and allow for storm and floodwater storage to buffer the effects of flooding during high-water events. They provide critical habitat during at least a part of the life cycle of many animal species and are hotspots of plant and animal biodiversity. They also provide more obvious contributions to the quality of life we enjoy in New Hampshire, including distant scenic views of wetlands and surrounding hills, as well as hunting and fishing opportunities.

The largest wetland areas in Washington are as follows:

1. Along Shedd Brook on the Windsor town line
2. In the area between Rte. 31 and Valley Road and crossing over Rte. 31 just south of Washington Village
3. A series of wetlands east of Ashuelot Pond
4. A series of wetlands north of Ashuelot Pond and near Farnsworth Hill Town Forest
5. A series of wetlands associated with Bog Brook and Halfmoon Pond
6. A wetland on the upper reaches of Woodward Brook west of Ayers Pond Road.

The wetland functions, as well as the human values to which they equate, are provided to our community at virtually no cost. Destruction or serious alteration of wetlands diminishes their effectiveness in supporting a healthy and safe community and high quality of life. Wetlands deserve to be protected as much as possible, whether by force of law or by means of land protection.

Watersheds:

Washington straddles the dividing line between the Connecticut River drainage and the Merrimack River drainage. The dividing line between these two regional watersheds follows a roughly north-south line that passes a short distance to the west of Washington Village. By virtue of its topographical location, Washington is truly connected hydrologically, not only

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

with the rest of southern New Hampshire, but also with the states of Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Ashuelot River Head Waters:

As previously noted, the most pristine portion of the entire Ashuelot River flows through Washington. From its headwaters at Butterfield Pond in Pillsbury State Park, the Ashuelot flows southwest into the Town of Lempster, then back across the line into Washington and continues more-or-less southwesterly through Ashuelot Pond and Russell Mill Pond into the Town of Marlow, ultimately arriving at the Connecticut River in Hinsdale. The Ashuelot is the major river of this region of the state.

Vernal Pools:

Vernal pools are little studied and often overlooked micro-environments that provide important habitat. Vernal pools exist everywhere but are most common in the river floodplain. They characteristically appear as the ground thaws, and snow melts, following the winter season, and they provide important breeding habitat for many invertebrate and vertebrate species, including spotted salamanders. Washington has many vernal pools, but they are not mapped. It is important that the upland areas around vernal pools are protected because these areas are used as habitat by the species that breed in the pools each spring. These areas are as vital to species survival as are the vernal pools themselves.

Threats to Water Resources:

In particular, the water quality of lakes in Washington should continue to be a major concern in Town planning and site development. Washington has a fairly large number of lakes and ponds of various sizes, with much development surrounding these water bodies. Maintaining the water quality and health of these water bodies becomes difficult with more building activity, resulting in more storm water runoff and non-point pollution.

- Non-point source pollution is caused by increased imperviousness near water bodies that prevents water from soaking into the ground, thereby increasing the amount of runoff and the rate at which runoff occurs. Pollutants, picked up by this storm water runoff, increase the amount of non-point source pollution entering nearby waterways. Storm water management plans for development are needed, and there are techniques that can be implemented by homeowners on an individual scale.
- Septic systems that are not properly maintained or replaced when needed are a threat to wells and water bodies.
- Forestry done in a careless manner can cause uncontrolled storm water runoff and sedimentation in surface waters. Best Management Practices should be utilized to ensure that forestry activities do not compromise surface water quality.
- The primary sources of groundwater contamination in New Hampshire are found to be fuel storage and transfer, improper management of hazardous waste, salt piles and salted roads.
- Destruction of wetlands means the loss of important wildlife habitat, diversity and storm water containment.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

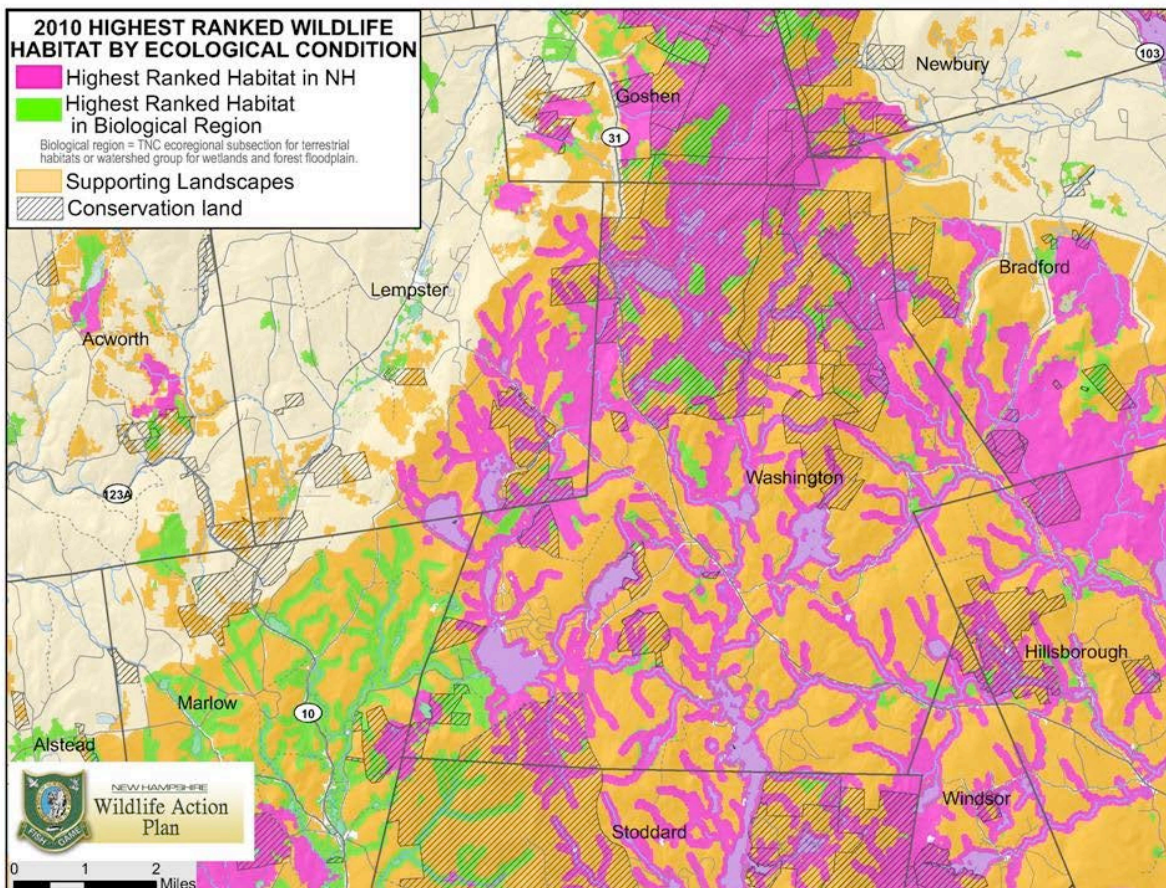
- Special concerns include the high level of mercury in three of Washington’s ponds and the reported finding of Eurasian milfoil and other invasive vegetation in lakes in surrounding communities. We must be diligent in watching for invasive species. Volunteer groups such as the Weed Watchers, Lake Hosts and the VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) water testers are a great first line of defense.

Wildlife Habitats

NH Wildlife Action Plan:

In the most comprehensive and sophisticated study yet undertaken in New Hampshire for wildlife habitat mapping and conservation planning, the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department unveiled its Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) in late 2006. Recently updated, it is an important tool for towns in planning for the conservation of high quality and/or imperiled wildlife habitat, rare plant habitat and exemplary natural communities and systems.

A very significant portion of the Town is classified as Highest Rank either on a State or Ecological Region basis, primarily due to the high-condition tributaries in the upper portions of the Ashuelot River watershed. The remainder of the Town is classified as Supporting Landscape. Of special note are the Tier 1 or Highest State ranking of all major lakes and ponds in the Town.

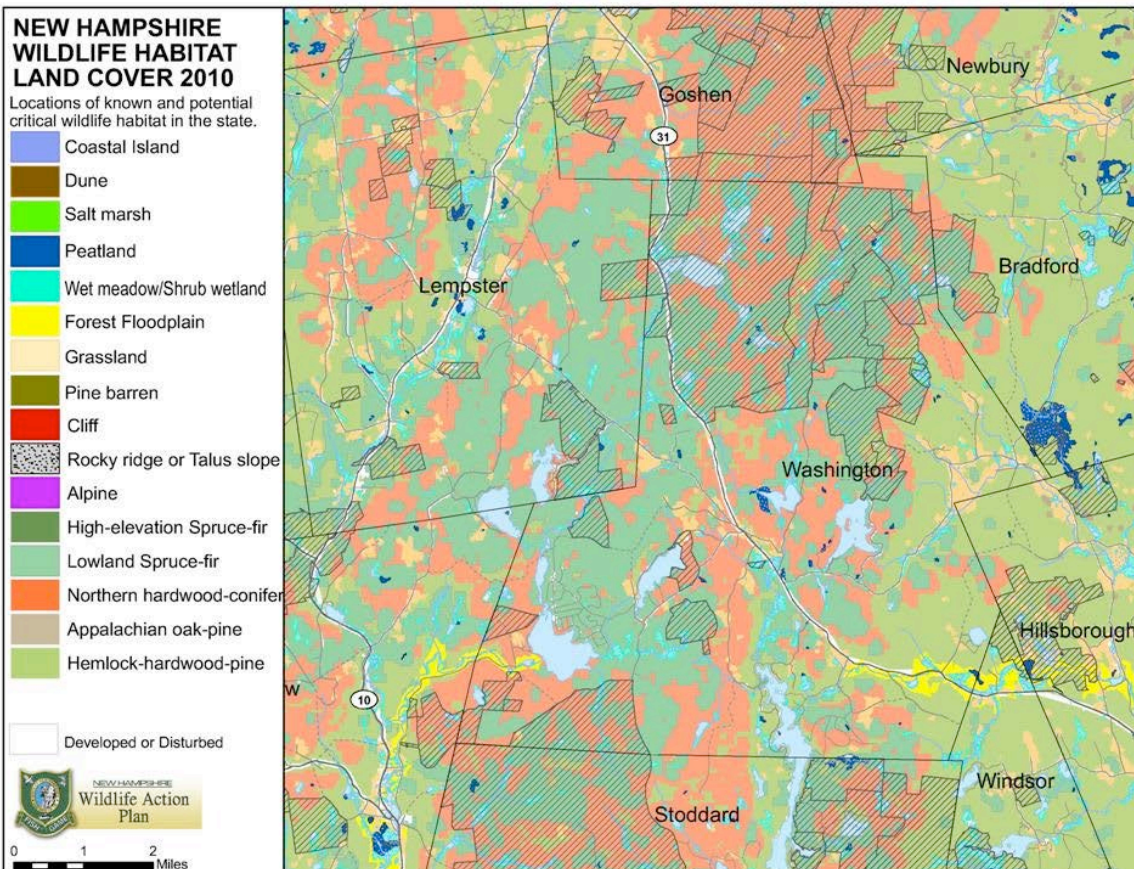


2. NATURAL RESOURCES

Habitat Types:

Habitat for wildlife provides food, shelter, water and space for animal species to survive and thrive. Every species has unique habitat requirements and preferences. Virtually all portions of the landscape provide some form of wildlife habitat from time to time, yet some habitat areas are disproportionately important either to a particular species or to a diversity of species.

Washington has examples of four *Small Scale Priority Habitat Types*: Marsh Complex (Wet Meadow/Shrub Wetland), Peatland, Grassland (25+ acres) and Floodplain Forest. These habitats, while represented in Washington by relatively small areas, are considered by this study to be especially critical habitats for wildlife, as well as being, in many cases, relatively uncommon. Floodplain forests were identified by the WAP in two locations in Washington. The most extensive of these is associated with Shedd Brook, and another is located along the Ashuelot River downstream of Ashuelot Pond. The plan also identified four large grasslands in Town. The largest of these by far is an 80 acre grassland/field complex in East Washington on the Eccardt Farm. Others occur on Bailey Road, Lempster Mountain Road and Valley Road. The most significant is the 30-acre peatland on the west end of Halfmoon Pond. Other smaller areas are mapped in the general vicinity of Island Pond, near Shedd Brook and in association with Frog and Bacon Ponds.



2. NATURAL RESOURCES

A small number of locations in Washington remain in active agricultural use. For the most part, they are sources of hay or feed corn or grazing areas for cattle, horses and sheep. The vast majority of Washington is forested, making open fields now a relatively rare phenomenon. Diversity of wildlife is enriched by the retention of active agriculture and the incidental habitat it provides. Wildlife species typically associated with active agriculture rely on open habitat and also benefit to some degree from the crops and byproducts of farming.

Soils:

Forest Soils: Some soils are especially suitable for the growth of forests, but the species of trees they excel at growing varies by soil type. Valuable and productive forest soils, Class IA and IB, best for growing hardwood, are well represented in Washington (nearly 20,000 acres). Soil type IC, optimal for the growth of conifers such as pine, however, is uncommon (163 acres).

Nearly all of the land is capable of growing repeated forest crops. This represents a significant economic potential. In addition to providing a permanent supply of fuel wood, lumber and other wood products, as well as forest industry jobs, the forests have several functions and associated benefits. These include:

- Soil stabilization, especially on hillsides. Deforestation diminishes the soil's ability to absorb and hold water and results in the erosion of slopes, sedimentation in streams and lakes and more frequent and severe flooding;
- Providing natural wildlife habitats;
- Offering areas for outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, skiing, hunting and camping;
- Acting as a screen or buffer of sights, sounds and the wind; and
- Providing natural beauty and scenic views for both residents and tourists, especially in the fall.

Agricultural Soils: 5,446 acres of all combined designations of Important Agricultural Soils are mapped by NRCS in Washington, representing 17.9% of the total area of the Town. These acres include all areas of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance and farmland of local importance.

Physical characteristics of land that contribute positively to agricultural potential are the zero to low grade slope, moisture, good drainage, depth to bedrock and seasonal high groundwater table. Some land use techniques can increase the productivity of soils, such as crop rotation and applying compost before the growing season. Other techniques can be detrimental to productivity, and certainly land conversion from farming to residential uses would remove the soils from farming completely.

Farm sales in Washington include milk and ornamental horticulture (greenhouse and nursery products), hay and silage corn, fruit (including apples and berries), livestock, eggs and poultry, maple syrup, Christmas trees, sweet corn and other vegetables. Protection of local farmland

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

has many benefits, including:

- Ensuring that land remains available for farming;
- Providing access to fresh local farm products, without significant transportation costs;
- Making productive use of floodplains;
- Keeping local money in the local economy;
- Providing open space and habitat for wildlife, including deer, turkey, bluebirds and woodcock;
- Providing scenic views while making productive use of the land and maintaining rural and cultural qualities of the land;
- Continuing the visual and land use tradition of the region's working landscape;
- Enhancing the region's economic development potential including agricultural tourism and rural enterprises.

Wet Soils: Hydric or saturated soils are mapped widely in Washington, normally in the same locations as the wetlands that they underlay.

Forest Resources:

In a town as rural as Washington with little in the way of commercial development, local sources of income are relatively limited. Keeping forestland in productive use provides an economically viable alternative to more intensive uses such as residential development. Forestland offers additional benefits as well, including preservation of rural character, wildlife habitat, stabilization of the soil, runoff retardation, water quality protection, recreational opportunities, hunting and fishing access, and scenic enjoyment among others. Forests help to naturally take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and release the oxygen we breathe. The trees capture and store most of the carbon in the process of terrestrial carbon capture and sequestration. Two-thirds of the taxable land (about 23,800 acres) is forest, capable of repeated crops of wood for industry, and provides a renewable source of fuel. State (5,000 acres) and Town (720 acres) forests continue to be managed in ways that are compatible with Town goals, but smaller tracts are vulnerable to growth pressures. A "forest block" is an area of forest that is not fragmented by roads or development. A 500-acre block is generally large enough to support significant wildlife, protect water quality and allow some economic forest management.

Threats to Forest Resources: The effects of climate change on the forests of New Hampshire remain uncertain at this time. Another concern to our forests are invasive species and their affect on the natural environment. Many invasive insects, fungi and bacteria have been introduced to our forests causing disease and killing various species of trees. In 2011, the State of NH implemented a ban on untreated, out-of-state firewood in New Hampshire to prevent the spread of invasive species to our forests. The State also implemented a quarantine of all hardwood firewood, ash wood products and all nursery stock for Merrimack County. The three insects of greatest concern today are hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle. The hemlock woolly adelgid and emerald ash borer are found in New Hampshire, but fortunately, only affect two genera: hemlock and ash. No big losses have occurred yet in New Hampshire, but hemlock woolly adelgid are being found throughout

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

southern NH counties, and a recent discovery of emerald ash borer in the Concord and Weare areas is of great concern.

Conservation and Public Lands:

Conservation and Public Lands protect open space and traditional uses. These lands typically have no buildings or other complex man-made structures in current service. The lands may remain in their natural state to serve important environmental and/or aesthetic functions, or they may be used for agriculture, forestry and/or outdoor recreation. Either way, they ensure the continued functioning of natural processes and recreational resources that are essential to sustaining Washington’s quality of life. Open space lands may also have historic structures or may have supported former uses that are important elements of Washington’s history. The Town’s largest landowner is the State. Pillsbury State Park, about 5,000 acres, is largely in Washington (4,455 acres), and the State also owns the 628-acre Max Israel tract, about half a mile east of the park, and the 478-acre Lovewell Mountain State Park. Other public lands include the commons in the two villages, the Town garage and transfer station, the roadways, the Town Forests and the 157-acre lakeshore recreation area known as Camp Morgan.

State Land in Washington	
Lovewell Mountain State Park	478 acres
Max Israel State Forest	628 acres
Pillsbury State Park	4,455 acres

Privately Owned Conservation Land in Washington	
Clark Robinson Memorial Forest (NEFF)	243 acres
Webb Forest Preserve (SPNHF)	231 acres
Andorra Forest (11,000 acres in Stoddard & Washington)	810 acres
Orenda-Stickey Wicket Wildlife Sanctuary	285 acres
Ashuelot Wildlife Sanctuary (Audubon)	25 acres
Journey’s End (SPNHF)	207 acres
Andrews (SPNHF)	40 acres
Farnsworth Hill Forest Reservation (SPNHF)	313 acres
MacNeil Family Forest Reservation (SPNHF)	245 acres
New Forestry LLC (SPNHF)	207 acres
Eccardt Farm (SPNHF)	141 acres
Rasmussen Forest (SPNHF) Marlow & Washington	572 acres
Wild Pond Easement Stoddard & Washington	278 acres

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

Town Forests:

Ten town-owned properties are designated Town Forests, although three are considered conservation lands, as they are not forested. All of these properties were designated by vote of the Town. The statute allowing for this designation specifically exempts certain Town property, including a Town Forest, from the selectmen’s authority, and places the management of Town Forests in the hands of the Forestry Committee. The Forestry Committee is presently updating the comprehensive forestry plan written in 1999 for the Town Forest properties and will manage any logging activity planned in accordance with the updated forestry plan. To date our Town forests are not permanently protected but are considered a priority for protection by conservation easements in the future.

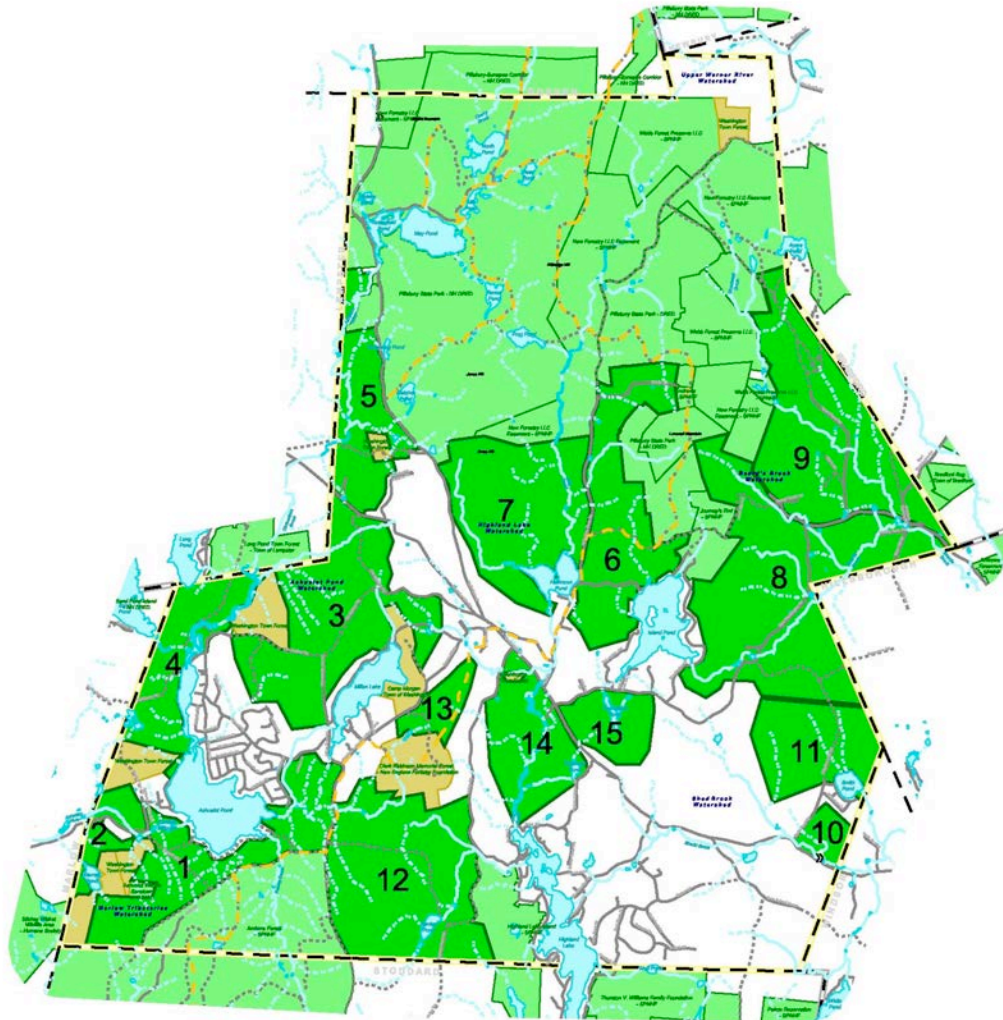
Town Forests	
Camp Morgan	157 acres
Farnsworth Hill	146 acres
Back Mountain	65 acres
Barrett Pond	191 acres
Huntley Mountain Road	106 acres
New Road (Twin Bridge)	55 acres
Old Meadow (wetlands complex)	18.4 acres
Gateway	1.7 acres
Valley Bog	.5 acres
Nuthatch Way	20 acres

Land Use in Washington	Acres
Farm Land	465
Forest Land	10,927
Forest Land with Management	6,874
Unproductive Land	334
Wetland	611
Total Current Use	19,211
Total Current Use Parcels	452
Washington Conservation land:	
State	5,008
Municipal	759
Non-profit	668
Total acres	6,436
Total Town Acres	30,712

Conservation Priority Areas:

Five Conservation Focus Areas were selected as priority areas for land conservation in the Conservation Plan. Within these five areas, a total of 15 specific, primarily undeveloped, areas were identified as Conservation Priority Areas (CPA). These areas were selected as priorities because, based on the referenced studies, they contain the most significant natural resources in Washington that remain unprotected. The resources they contain are among the most significant in the Town, by virtue of being high quality, uncommon, at risk, critically important or in pristine condition. Taken together, they encompass much of what still makes Washington special and unique—rural landscapes, productive forest and farm lands, wetlands and ponds, scenic vistas, pristine watersheds, trails and trout streams.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES



The fifteen CPAs are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Starks Hill / Ashuelot Pond CPA | 8. Beards Brook CPA |
| 2. Barrett Pond CPA | 9. Woodward Brook CPA |
| 3. Farnsworth Hill CPA | 10. Shedd Brook CPA |
| 4. Huntley Mountain CPA | 11. Smith Pond CPA |
| 5. Codman Hill CPA | 12. Barden Pond CPA |
| 6. Island Pond CPA | 13. Camp Morgan/Robinson Forest |
| 7. Ames Hill / Halfmoon Pond CPA | 14. Bog Brook / Highland Lake CPA |
| | 15. Freezeland Pond CPA |

Each CPA is documented with a description, and the benefits of conservation are discussed in the NRI and Conservation Plan documents. Additional priority areas may be identified at a later time, and these would be based on information yet to be gathered through fieldwork and other means.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

The Master Plan Vision statement expresses that we should serve as active stewards of our rural surroundings, scenic vistas and recreation resources to preserve and expand protected open space and perpetuate the rural character our townspeople cherish. It encourages our responsibility to the natural environment in Washington and reminds us that we have a duty to protect all that makes Washington special.

The **2013 Community Survey** showed a high degree of appreciation and support for protection of natural resources as well as promotion of actions that educate, conserve and maintain these resources.

• **More land should be protected for:**

Preserving our lakes/ponds through natural woodland buffers	90% agree
Recreation, including hunting, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, etc.	86% agree
Agriculture	84% agree
Open space for wilderness and wildlife habitat	84% agree
Aesthetics, including scenic vistas	78% agree
Forestry	75% agree

• **The Town should:**

Encourage conservation easements be donated to land trusts	70% agree
Acquire full ownership of land by donation to the Town	66% agree

• **Efforts should be made to protect:**

Wildlife corridors	89% agree
Wetlands, surface waters and their buffers	88% agree
Scenic views and viewpoints	86% agree
Wetlands and surface water with stormwater management	83% agree
Hilltops and ridgelines	78% agree
Town forests from development (permanently)	77% agree
Steep slopes	75% agree

• **The Town should promote:**

Use of Pillsbury State Park and Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway	88% agree
Public access to trails	83% agree
Identification/mapping of invasive plants and eradication efforts	79% agree
Educational programs about environmental issues	69% agree
Creation of more trail systems for recreation	67% agree
Public access to lakes, rivers and ponds	67% agree

When asked, “**What is the ONE best thing about living/owning property in Washington?**” 249 people out of 289 who responded mentioned **the rural character, environment and community.**

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

The Community Workshop:

The workshop did not have a specific Focus group for Natural Resources, and yet our natural resources were well represented in discussions and workshops. While not all of the comments directly relate to Natural Resources as their subject matter, they do relate in a tangible way.

When the large workshop group was asked what **Washington looks like today**, relative to our natural resources, the group mosaic mentioned that Washington is: rural, with outdoor recreation, a place of retreat, tranquil; valuing the environment; actively buying forest areas; forested, with clear air, water and wildlife; an integrated part of the Monadnock/Sunapee Greenway, a system of premier watersheds, inaccessible and a caring community.

When asked about **the future of Washington**, workshop attendees replied that they wanted: to preserve a pristine environment with dirt roads to walk and relax; to continue a strong conservation effort to protect trees and water; to make the Town buildings and community energy efficient; to have more recreation opportunities for adults and children; to retain our rural character; to instill pride in the entrances to Town (discourage junky yards) and to preserve, encourage, support and promote local farming.

The **Rural Character and Sense of Community** focus group generated ideas and action items corresponding to natural resources. The attendees were given the following definitions to work from: **Rural** means open land, and **Character** is the value placed on aspects of the rural environment. **Sense of Community** is an emotional connection, shared goals, sense of belonging and shared purposes.

The **Town's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities**, as relating to Rural Character and a Sense of Community, were found to be the following:

STRENGTHS: Peace and quiet; air and water; small population = quieter; wildlife acceptance; responsibility for/ to one another—people care/ invested in community not just themselves; seasonal people respect their environment recognizing that it is a special place; great walking; ski-mobile trails; kayaking; protection of forests = healthy forests and logging industry helps maintain wildlife.

WEAKNESSES: Lack of initiative to start groups (hiking, crafts, kayaking); forestry regulations fail to provide post-cut environmental protections; high percentage of seasonal people do not have commitment to the well-being of Town.

OPPORTUNITIES: Retain/limit population density to maintain current rural character; "Buy Local;" people will gain personal initiative to have a good time; Pillsbury State Park should be made free to our residents.

Key issues pertaining to Natural Resources surfaced in several other workshop groups:

Historic Resources & Preservation: Maintain rural character and tranquility through zoning.

Land Use and Zoning: Protect land for future generations.

While not making the top five issues of the workshop, these were regarded as important ideas.

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

People perhaps felt that while we need to protect our natural resources, the Town and Conservation Commission were actively paying attention to and working on these important issues.

GOALS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

Washington is certainly blessed with exemplary natural places and resources, including abundant surface water resources, productive forests and important farmland, high-value wildlife habitat and extensive recreational access. Washington is fortunate to still have the opportunity to protect its most important resources; most of the wild places remain intact. The Town of Washington should make it a priority to engage the resources of the Town as well as an involved citizenry to protect these beautiful places permanently. The Conservation Commission is the Town's only board whose primary goal is to work with our citizens to provide for the protection and appreciation of the natural resources and environmental assets found in the Town of Washington. The Commission members work to guard our ecological systems by promoting responsible forest management, conservation, environmental education, use of renewable energy and biodiversity. They encourage scenic and historic preservation and understand that an enhanced community awareness of the natural treasures of Washington will inevitably lead to greater commitment to their careful stewardship and preservation for future generations.

GOAL A: Permanently protect open space, critical habitats and wildlife corridors, expand recreational opportunities, responsibly manage the natural resources and maintain the rural character of Washington by conservation easements and other means.

Recommendations:

1. Work with willing landowners to help them protect their property, identifying critical and important parcels using the Conservation Commission's protection criteria developed for this purpose.
2. Continue outreach to landowners and cultivate a working relationship with the Forest Society and other land trusts. Work with the Forestry Committee to expand the protection on our Town Forests by using conservation easements.
3. Use conservation funds strategically to leverage their use to better protect our natural resources, quality of life and the many outdoor recreation choices that people value.
4. Make the effort to protect and connect parcels that, in the larger view, do the greatest job of creating corridors of protected land.
5. Keep an eye out for development proposed in sensitive areas and seek ways to mitigate problems and protect the natural resources.

GOAL B: Work to maintain Washington as a vibrant, rural community.

Recommendations:

1. The Planning Board should partner with the Conservation Commission and other Town boards to use available information to make educated, informed decisions about land use in the Town.
2. Update the Land Use Ordinance to better protect the essential qualities that people value: clean air and water, natural and working forests, local agriculture, views, outdoor

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

recreation, buffers of sensitive areas, wildlife corridors and habitats, biodiversity, open space, trails, etc.

3. Recognize threats and challenges to maintaining our natural resources, and actively work toward managing these through updating the Town ordinances and adopting innovative land use planning techniques.

GOAL C: Educate the public about our natural resources, water quality issues, wildlife habitats, farming, forestry, recreational opportunities, sustaining the rural character of Washington and the threats to these resources.

Recommendations:

1. The Conservation Commission should continue to work in the schools with the youth of Washington, conduct field trips and hikes, host adult and family educational programs on various important subjects.
2. The Conservation Commission should conduct more field surveys to identify areas of ecological significance, identify our prime wetlands and continue and expand the invasive species identification project, establish other similar projects in Town and involve the public in these projects.

Important natural resources occur at a variety of sites and locations and, in many cases, are not protected by land conservation alone. Residential areas have been established near important resources such as lakes, streams, aquifers and in productive soil areas for many years. Although conservation planning can have an influence on the future uses of important resource areas, it will never be capable of comprehensive protection by itself. Local, state and federal governments have already established regulations in order to protect certain natural resources in Washington. There is a role that new regulations may be able to play in protecting specific resources in an efficient and fair manner.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Washington provides a range of services for its residents and property owners that includes emergency services (i.e., police and fire/rescue protection), public works (i.e., road maintenance and solid waste disposal/recycling), municipal governance and administration, education and social services. Many of these services require facilities either for operations or storage of equipment and records. The following summarizes existing facilities in the Town and public input regarding the quality of services. We also review existing deficiencies and suggested enhancements.

Generally, the size of a community dictates the level of services that the municipal government needs to provide. Community planning necessarily includes evaluating the capacity and capabilities of the facilities and services available and working to anticipate future demands and to manage existing facilities. At present, Washington provides services in a manner that adequately meets the needs of residents and landowners. However, there are deficiencies, especially in relation to some of our facilities. There clearly exists a need for improvements to existing facilities to improve safety for personnel and property, preserve the historical significance and provide long-term integrity of town buildings. It should be a priority for the municipal government to address these needs.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

In addition to information collected as part of the Master Plan Update process, this chapter also considers information contained in the Municipal Buildings and Space Needs Task Force Report (2010) and the Planning Board's Capital Improvement Plan Subcommittee Report (2012). These reports have extensive information relating to needs analysis of the various Town facilities and have contributed much to the planning that has been done. They are available on the Town's website.

Municipal Governance and Administration

Governance/Administration: The Board of Selectmen manages the day-to-day work of the town, while major decisions affecting the town are made at each year's annual Town Meeting. Other administrative tasks are handled by the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector, the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board. While an elected Board of Assessors once managed property assessment, this town management function is now subcontracted to

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

M&N Assessing. The Town administration also includes a Welfare Department and a Health Officer, each with staff hired by the Select Board.

Offices for Town administrators are located in the Town Hall/Meetinghouse, though town-wide meetings are regularly held at Camp Morgan Lodge. The Meetinghouse was built in 1787 and has been in continuous use since that date. Since passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, the second floor of the Meetinghouse has not been used for public meetings because it is not handicapped accessible. A study of the building structure has noted that the foundation and under-footings need improvement and that wiring and plumbing need to be upgraded. In addition, heat loss could be contained through installation of insulation and work on the windows (storm windows/window rehab). There is a need for appropriately ventilated/dehumidified space for storage of town records. A plan for doing this renovation work, adding new stairways and an elevator to the rear of the building, providing ADA access and bathrooms, has been proposed but not adopted at Town meetings in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Emergency Services

Fire and Rescue: The Washington Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department operates under the direction of an elected Fire Chief. Fire is staffed by about 25 volunteers, while Rescue has about 12 staff members and its own Rescue Captain. Rescue members are expected to respond to in-town fire calls, and Fire members assist Rescue in helping to move patients from their residences and/or in driving the ambulance. Fire responds to an average of 30 calls a year, while Rescue's average call number is 100 calls per year. Both services rely on mutual aid for assistance and also provide mutual aid, when needed, to the towns of Lempster, Hillsboro, Windsor and Bradford, among others. Rescue, within recent years, has lost several long-time members and has been seeking ways to replace them, adding new members who are available to respond to daytime and weekend calls. The squad has asked the Town (at Town Meeting) and the Selectmen to start thinking about hiring rescue staff who would be available at times when volunteers are not. Emergency dispatch for both Fire and Rescue calls is currently under contract with the Hillsboro Police Department.

Fire and Rescue have seven vehicles: three engines, two tankers, a forestry truck, a utility vehicle, and an ambulance. In addition they have a range of rescue equipment for use in water and ice rescue as well as for search operations and wildfire control. These vehicles and equipment as well as offices and meeting space for Fire and Rescue are housed in the Washington Center Station and the East Washington Fire Station. The Center Station was

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

built in 1966 on land initially leased but now owned by the Town. The East Washington Station is on privately owned land with no space for expansion. (The Town has purchased a parcel of land in East Washington for the eventual construction of an expanded facility.) Both buildings have significant deficiencies and do not have space for additional or larger vehicles and equipment for Fire and Rescue. The Center Station does not meet ADA requirements, so it cannot be used for training for groups that might include individuals who are not Washington Fire/Rescue members. A Safety Complex Committee met during recent years and in both 2014 and 2015 presented recommendations for construction of a new facility to replace the Center Station. The current plan includes keeping the old building for storage and other uses. As with the Meetinghouse, these plans were rejected by the voters at the 2014 and 2015 Town meetings.

Emergency Management: The Washington Emergency Management Team is comprised of an Emergency Management Director appointed by the Board of Selectmen and a deputy chosen by the Director and approved of by the Selectmen. All other department heads, including the Chair of the Select Board, facilitate the delivery of emergency response to deal with disasters that affect the Town and surrounding communities. It operates under a comprehensive Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) and is housed in the Center Station, which becomes the Emergency Operations Center when the plan is activated. In addition, The Emergency Management Team updates and utilizes a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify and target specific weather and man hazards. The plan is used for grant funding to mitigate these hazards. Both plans were updated in 2015.

Emergency Management does not have any dedicated space for operations or storage. This is one of the space requirements that have been included in the Safety Complex plans.

Police: The Washington Police Department has a staff of four (one full-time chief and three part-time officers). They handle all protection and safety issues for the Town—from traffic violations to animal control. Two of the officers are also EMTs on the Rescue Squad and two are also part of the Fire Department. A proportion of each officer's shift time is spent on patrol within the town, but officers must also go to Hillsboro if or when they need to place a person in custody, to Newport if they are required to attend a court hearing or to Swanzey for animal control placement. Washington Police has mutual aid agreements with all neighboring towns and is a signatory to an extended authority agreement encompassing all municipal agencies in Sullivan County. Dispatching is handled through an agreement with the Hillsboro Police Department.

The Town has one police cruiser. It is garaged in the Old Highway Garage on Halfmoon Pond Road at night and in winter months, but that facility is not heated. The officers operate out of

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

the Old School House in the center of Town, next to the Meetinghouse. The cruiser is equipped with a digital radio and a computer for recording call information/reports. The officers share three portable radios. The Old School House does not meet ADA code, nor is it compliant with regulations for juvenile processing, nor is it in keeping with industry best practices for current police stations (in terms of both privacy and safety concerns). In 2014, the Safety Complex Committee had recommended that Police be part of the proposed new building, which would have allowed for heated garage space for the cruiser as well as secure areas for police equipment, records, and activities. In 2015 police facility needs were not considered in the revised plans for the Safety Complex. Addressing these issues is a priority for the Town.

Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintenance and repair of all town roads and bridges and for repair, winter maintenance and work for other Town departments, as well as for the operation of the Washington Transfer Station. Washington has a director of Public Works, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The department employs four full-time staff and several part-time plow and wing operators, as well as a Transfer Station manager and attendants.

Public Works operates out of a newer building located on the same property as the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. This facility is adequate at this time but will need additional covered storage in the foreseeable future. The current Transfer Station and Recycling Center, established in 1996, is located on Rte. 31 about two miles southeast of the center of Town. The Old Highway Garage on Halfmoon Pond Road is used for off-season equipment storage and to garage the police cruiser. This building is not heated and has moisture problems; there is a plan in place to remedy that issue.

Highway, Road and Bridge Maintenance: Washington maintains approximately 12 miles of paved road and 30 miles of dirt roads. These are the Town's only transportation system—there is no public transportation of any nature (train, boat, bus or taxi), nor has there been since the stagecoach era. During the 1800s more than 50 miles of Town roads reached out from the main thoroughfare—the Second New Hampshire Turnpike (now Route 31), but by the middle of the century, farming and local industry began a decline, reducing the need for road maintenance. During the 1920s and 1930s several miles of Town roads were officially discontinued. By 1958, less than half of the original mileage was maintained in a condition suitable for motorized travel. The “old” roads, class VI Highways, continue to be used for recreational purposes and are an essential part of a regional system of snowmobile trails.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

A vote of the Selectmen designated all Class VI Highways as Fire Lanes enabling the Public Works Department to do minimal maintenance for forest fire protection.

Maps in the Town Hall show Town roads and their classifications. Three roads are State maintained: a) ½ mile of the road from E. Washington into Bradford, b) a one-mile Class 3 recreational road in Pillsbury State Park and c) approximately 12 miles of Route 31, the main artery through Town. Two of these roads are paved, while the one in Pillsbury State Park has a gravel surface. The Town maintains four paved Class 5 roads, totaling about 12 miles: a) East Washington Road (5.4 miles), b) Lempster Mountain Road (2.5 miles), c) Faxon Hill Road (3 miles) and d) Washington Drive (1.7 miles). Most of these roads were built on existing cart paths and were never engineered to carry the traffic counts and loads of today's modern vehicles. Significant reconstruction has been completed on Lempster Mountain Road; however, the rest of the paved roads are in serious need of rehabilitation.

The Town also maintains about 34 miles of gravel or dirt Class 5 roads. Some of these roads are heavily used, especially during the summer when many seasonal residents live in Washington. There are also roads that are privately maintained, e.g., those in the Ashuelot Pond development; these also have increased traffic during the summer.

Public Works is also responsible for the care and maintenance of nine bridges. Many of these bridges, dating from the 1800s or early 1900s, were built with whatever stone and timber was available at the time. Most were constructed on hand-laid stone abutments and have inadequate width and load-bearing capacities for today's traffic. The highway department (Public Works) has replaced or rehabilitated seven of the bridges and has plans in place to replace or repair the remaining two red-listed structures.

Solid Waste Disposal: This facility serves the Town of Washington and Stoddard residents on the eastern side of Highland Lake and accepts both private and business generated recyclables and solid waste. These are deposited into roll-off containers for transportation to a Materials Recovery Facility or marketer. Household waste is compacted on site and transferred to an approved disposal facility in Berlin, NH. Glass, metal and plastic containers, as well as paper, cardboard, tires, old appliances and construction or demolition waste are all collected for recycling. Hazardous wastes are collected on designated dates for proper disposal. Brush and garden waste are also collected and disposed of separately. The facility is well run and appears to be functioning adequately, although some categories of materials may be approaching a critical point because of the expense or inconvenience of disposing of them. The sale of recycled materials is deposited into a trust fund and used for the replacement of equipment for the Recycling Center. Demolition and construction debris

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

is accepted, and a fee is charged for its transportation and disposal. The scale fees are deposited into the general fund and used to offset the cost of operating the facility.

Education

Washington is part of School District (SAU) 34, comprising the towns of Hillsboro, Deering, Windsor and Washington. In 2001 the Duncan-Jenkins Trust was created and endowed by the last will and testament of Sally E. Jenkins of East Washington. The purpose of the trust is to benefit the schools, staff and students of the Washington and Hillsboro-Deering schools by adding enrichment above and beyond what taxpayers are expected to finance. It provides scholarships for students entering college and grants for a variety of supplemental programs for student and teacher enrichment.

While at one point in the past Washington had as many as 10 schools, today it has only three school buildings. One of those, in East Washington, is a museum owned and run by the Washington Historical Society. A second of the old schools, in the center of Town, was in use until the 1990s, and is now the Police station. The third, Washington Elementary School, is a modern facility, built in 1992 and enlarged in 2000. It currently serves preschool through fifth grade students. The school contains classrooms, a large recreation and assembly hall, a computer room, cafeteria facilities, a nurse's room, special needs space and office space. It is located on Town land that was part of the Camp Morgan property.

Students in grades six through 12 attend the Hillsboro-Deering Middle and High Schools, for which the Town pays both tuition and transportation costs. In 2003-2004 an independent study was done on the advisability of returning the sixth grade students to Washington rather than busing them to Hillsboro, but a Town vote showed a sizable majority favored the continuance of the out-of-town arrangement.

Library Services

The Shedd Free Library is on N. Main Street in the Town Center. It was founded in 1869 from a bequest in the will of Sarah Shedd, who worked in the mills in Lowell, MA, and left her life savings and a few books to start the library. The library itself is a small brick building, constructed in 1881 with funds donated by Luman T. Jefts. The building does not meet ADA standards, but the library provides services to individuals who cannot access the site (outreach/home delivery). Because it is located on a small lot, there is no way to expand

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

library space or make the building ADA accessible. The parking area for the library is across the street at a distance that is also beyond ADA requirements.

The library has more than 1,000 registered patrons and a “Friends of the Library” organization that sponsors and/or funds events to promote reading and library use. Services the Library provides to town residents include an up-to-date collection of current bestsellers, access to other books through the State’s interlibrary loan service, movies in both DVD and VHS format, audio books on CD, photocopying and fax services, public access computers with DSL internet, and free Wi-Fi, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also sponsors a number of special programs: story-time for infants, toddlers and preschoolers; monthly exhibits of art, crafts or collectibles, book club discussions, summer story-time at Camp Morgan, gifts of books to children at Christmas and to new babies in town. The Town Archives are housed in the Library basement. If they could be moved to a renovated Town Hall/Meetinghouse, this would free up that space for Library use.

Camp Morgan Lodge and Beach

The Camp Morgan property was purchased by the Town in 1980 and the Lodge is used for public meetings, including the annual Town Meeting, town events and private events sponsored by town organizations or by individual town residents. More information about this facility can be found in the Recreation Chapter.

Town Website and Communication

Website: The Town has an official website – www.washingtonnh.org – that is used for information and document sharing, including minutes of committee meetings and announcement of events. The website was started in 2005 when the Town realized it needed a single site that could provide full-time access to Town information. Police Chief Steve Marshall created the original website. It is managed today by the firm Virtual Towns & Schools; two local webmasters post news and information and keep the site current. All Town services are represented, each with its own web page. You can subscribe to e-news from the Select Board, the Library or the Police through the website, and you can also sign up to receive the Select Board’s minutes by e-mail. The website has improved Town communications and made it easier to find Town documents and information.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

Nixle: Nixle is a text/e-mail/webserver service that provides weather alerts, road closings, notices of crime trends, other emergency information and routine notices and town announcements. You must sign up on the Town website to receive this service.

Other Town Communication: Local Washington and area town news and announcements are reported in two Hillsboro-based weekly newspapers: *The Villager* and *The Messenger*. At the 2015 Town Meeting, residents voted to have an informational sign installed at the Transfer Station along Rte. 31 for announcement of Town events.

Cell Phone Service: Because there is only one cell tower in Washington (providing AT&T coverage), cell service is spotty to nonexistent in most parts of town if you subscribe to a different cell company. Four more cell service providers can be accommodated on this tower in the future. More information on cell, broadband and internet services can be found in the Utilities Chapter.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Through the **Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Community Services and Facilities:

SERVICES

Quality of Town Services rated by more than 50% of the respondents as Excellent or Very Good

Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling	68% Excellent – Very Good
Highway Maintenance	62% Excellent – Very Good
Town Clerk	61% Excellent – Very Good
Tax Collector	56% Excellent – Very Good
Police Department	54% Excellent – Very Good
Rescue	51% Excellent – Very Good

Note: Town Communication and Information Sharing was the only service that received a rating of Fair or Poor by at least 20% of respondents.

Usage of Town Services was high within the last five years for the following services:

Tax Collector	89%
Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling	88%
Town Clerk	87%
Website	81%
Highway Maintenance	71%
Police Department	70%

Cost of Town Services

Most respondents felt we should continue to spend the SAME for town services.

Services that 15% or more of respondents indicated we should spend MORE included:

Rescue Services	25%
Highway Maintenance	22%
Fire Services	19%
Library	16%

Note: NO area was identified by more than 15% of respondents indicating we should spend LESS.

Future Services for Consideration or Not

- Transportation assistance for residents-in-need (medical visits, shopping, etc.): 69% of respondents **agreed** the town should investigate.
- Animal control officer: 74% of respondents **disagreed** that the town should consider hiring an animal control officer.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

FACILITIES

Town facilities rated by 40% or more respondents as being in Very Good or Excellent condition included:

Transfer Station	56% Excellent – Very Good
Camp Morgan Beach Area & Recreational Facilities	49% Excellent – Very Good
Camp Morgan Lodge	42% Excellent – Very Good
Washington Elementary School	42% Excellent – Very Good
Public Works Garage	40% Excellent – Very Good
Library	40% Excellent – Very Good

Town facilities rated as Most Important for improvement included:

Fire & Rescue Station	25%
Town Office/Meetinghouse	21%
Police Station	19%

94% of respondents agreed the Town offices should remain at the Meetinghouse.

The **Community Workshop** generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Community Services and Facilities in the various breakout groups:

STRENGTHS: Fire and Rescue squad-- response time and ability have saved lives; our strong road crew/road plowing, the recycling crew; WES is equipped for growth and our students excel; great services onsite for townspeople at Town Hall; the Town web site; the library (great access to other libraries); sense of community; summer reading; focal point within town and a lot of social apps; Camp Morgan (good facilities, summer program, great beach, summer employment for youth).

WEAKNESSES: Services for families with young children seem limited; Meetinghouse (may be reaching limits, wasn't built for technology/internet); the library is small and has limited access for folks with physical limitations; small space for police facility- needs upgrade of building (is space appropriate for safety and confidentiality?; same applies for rescue and fire); cell and internet service needs to be improved; lack of services to support seniors (a coordinated network of transportation, etc.); all services in town cannot be volunteer- we must judge which services need to be paid for.

OPPORTUNITIES: Improvement in Fire and Rescue facility (update as needed); services and facilities need to be planned up front to respond to changes anticipated 10 years hence, so infrastructure will be appropriate.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

The **Community Workshop** voting on top priorities for the town resulted in five of the top 10 items having an impact on Community Services and Facilities:

- Ranked #1- Improved cell phone service (*was merged with Economic Development item for voting).
- Ranked #2 – Local newsletter and community website for marketing social events and business; better communication and publicity.
- Tied for #4- Improvement of important government facilities (Fire & Rescue, Meetinghouse and Police).
- Tied for #4 - Appropriate infrastructure (i.e. roads, internet, cell phone service, etc.) and energy efficiency.
- Ranked #7- Improve/Establish in-town paramedical services.
- Ranked #10- Maintenance of our quality of life. Maintain services to protect life and property.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Provide adequate municipal governance and administrative services and facilities that meet the needs of the Town's current population and future growth.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure that administrative services used often by the public, such as Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Welfare, continue to be conveniently available and easily accessible.
2. Encourage all Town boards, commissions and committees (i.e., Select, Planning, Assessor, Adjustment, Parks and Recreation, Conservation, Health, etc.) to conduct business transparently, encourage public input, publish minutes in a timely manner and work collaboratively for the betterment of the Town.
3. Continue the planning and design efforts for necessary upgrades to the Town Hall/Meetinghouse for town offices and storage; determine the critical success factors for ensuring public support of the project at Town Meeting.
4. Continue and expand private fundraising to support Meetinghouse restoration and accessibility.
5. Determine whether additional services are needed for families with young children and/or seniors and investigate transportation assistance for residents in-need.
6. Ensure funding level of town services is adequate to meet the technological changes that provide more secure and efficient business conduct (software, computers, networks, servers, printers, wifi, large screens, etc.).

Goal B: Provide adequate public safety through the Police, Fire and Rescue Departments' services and facilities that meets the needs of the Town's current population and future growth.

Recommendations:

1. Emphasize the Capital Improvements Program and reserve funds for the replacement and addition of police, fire and rescue equipment and vehicles.
2. Continue the planning and design efforts for a new safety complex or campus at the Center Station location that meets the current and future needs for adequate public safety; determine the critical success factors for ensuring public support of the project at Town Meeting.
3. Continue and expand private fundraising to support Police, Fire and Rescue building needs and ancillary activities.
4. Ensure appropriate funding level of these departments to ensure a qualified/trained level of volunteer and professional providers; investigate paid staff to fill potential gaps in volunteer resources.
5. Investigate the feasibility of in-town paramedical services.
6. Refer to Goals and Recommendations in the Hazards and Emergency Planning Chapter.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

Goal C: Provide for safe and efficient movement of traffic within the Town and appropriate emergency access to remote locations.

Recommendations:

1. Continue long-term plans to improve any Town roads that do not currently meet the Town road standards to enhance safety and traffic flow.
2. Continue with the Capital Improvement Program to plan and reserve funds for bridge, culvert and road maintenance/upgrades; perform maintenance and replacement as needed and planned.
3. Similarly, use the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to plan and reserve funds for heavy equipment needed for road maintenance.
4. Preserve the class VI roads for emergency access to remote locations for fire and safety protection and for public recreation; enforce existing vehicular ordinances for use of these roads during mud season to preserve them.
5. Continue with CIP plans for a cold-storage addition to the Public Works garage to provide better storage for equipment currently stored outside under tarps.
6. Remedy moisture issue at the old Highway Garage on Halfmoon Pond Road in order to better preserve the equipment stored there.

Goal D: Manage the solid waste recycling and disposal center to meet the needs of a Town population that doubles during the summer season and is projected to grow another 28% in the next two decades.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to deposit scale revenues into the Recycling Equipment Trust Fund to plan and reserve funds necessary for upgrades to the transfer station such as additional enclosed storage for miscellaneous recyclables (tires, batteries, propane, fluorescent bulbs, etc.) that can be accessible by mechanized equipment/forklift.
2. Continue to partner with the Regional Planning Commission for hazardous waste disposal opportunities.
3. Continue to promote public awareness of the practical necessity of a comprehensive solid waste management program that protects human health and the environment and encourage household composting to reduce solid waste.
4. Investigate the pros and cons of alternative solid waste programs such as “pay as you throw” (PAYT) and/or “single stream” to understand the risks and/or results of such programs.

Goal E: Provide educational opportunities that meet or exceed state standards in an environment conducive to high scholastic achievement.

Recommendations:

1. Provide liaison to the School Board to ensure continual provision of quality facilities.
2. Encourage the School Board to consider alternatives to Hillsboro-Deering for middle and high school students.
3. Continue and expand opportunities for public involvement in Washington Elementary School activities, particularly activities that provide mentorship to students.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICES and FACILITIES

Goal F: Provide library services and facilities that appeal to all age segments and interests of the community.

Recommendations:

1. Continue providing the excellent variety of activities and services currently offered.
2. Relocate the Town's archives out of the Library basement to provide more library storage space.
3. Expand the "marketing" of the Library special events, exhibits and services through various media and in conjunction with other Town organizations/activities.

Goal G: Provide a comprehensive Town website and ensure communication of Town information and events.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to fund the efforts to maintain the Town's website and provide notification of Town activities, events and emergency notifications; also continue to fund Nixle, the community alert service.
2. Encourage all Town boards and committees to submit all announcements and minutes of public meetings for posting on the Town's website and ensure that the website serves as an up-to-date repository of Town ordinances, regulations and permit applications.
3. Encourage the use of the new community information sign at the Transfer Station for announcement of Town events.
4. Consider a part-time communications position to promote the Town's rich history, cultural events, Town artisans and both Town and school current events through a variety of media and channels.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Washington's early economy was based on agriculture, forestry and related commerce typical of a pre-industrial rural community. The economic trends affecting present-day Washington depend far more heavily on regional economies rather than the prior centuries' localized economies as confirmed by the average 43-minute commute for the local labor force. *(Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates).*

Washington has a very limited amount of commercial development. Most goods and services for residents are purchased elsewhere. Concord, Hillsborough, Keene, Newport and Claremont are the main economic centers that provide employment, a range of retail and wholesale goods, medical care, and personal and professional services. Most of the businesses in Town are of a home-based nature. The largest employers are the Town of Washington, Eccardt Farm and the Washington General Store.

Planning for the community's future must recognize Washington's reliance on regional employment and economic trends. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Council's economic development strategies include developing specialized regional business incubators focused on value-added products in the agriculture, arts, entertainment, recreation and manufacturing sectors. Additional UVLSRPC strategies include promoting the tourism economy, developing vocational training opportunities and providing technical assistance to rural communities to expand cottage and home-based businesses. Involvement with these efforts could serve to benefit the Town of Washington.

The challenge for the Town will be to leverage our historical and cultural assets, recreational opportunities, artisans' and craftsmen's talents, vast natural resources, agriculture and forestry in order to develop a healthier local economy that will attract future employers and residents while preserving our cherished rural character. The cornerstones of such an economy include appropriate utilities/services (communications, energy, waste management, etc.), quality education, childcare, transportation infrastructure, housing options and public policy (land use and taxation).

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Population:

In 1773 when the first census was taken in Washington, the population was 132. By 1830, the population of Washington had grown to a high of 1,135. As of the 2010 census, the population is nearing that high at 1,123.

The table below indicates the changing age demographic of Washington from 2000 to 2010. Total population has grown over 25%, which is a much higher rate than the Sullivan County growth rate of 8.1%. Although growth is reflected in all age brackets, the 20-44 age bracket was the slowest and the 75+ had the highest growth.

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Council projects that the region, like the State of New Hampshire as a whole, will grow at slower rate, less than 9% between 2010 and 2040. This may not necessarily apply to Washington, as we grew at a much higher rate than Sullivan County in the past decade.

Table 4.1 Population by Age Group (Source: U.S. Census 2010)

Age	Year 2000		Year 2010		Actual Change	% Change
0-19	211	24%	264	24%	53	25.1%
20-44	236	26%	264	24%	28	11.9%
45-59	220	25%	282	25%	62	28.2%
60-74	181	20%	236	21%	55	30.4%
75+	47	5%	77	7%	30	63.8%
Total Population	895		1,123		228	25.5%

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employment:

The following three tables highlight the recent trends in employment, unemployment and employment by industry. As a primarily residential community, 88.4% of the Town's labor force commutes to work with an average travel time of 43 minutes. Approximately 10% of the labor force works at home, and 1.6% walk to work. (Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau)

Table 4.2 Annual Average Employment (Source: NH Employment Security – Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau, NHES-ELMI)

	Year 2003	Year 2013
Civilian Labor Force	454	493
Employed	435	467
Unemployed	19	26
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	5.3%

Table 4.3 Annual Average Unemployment (Source: NHES-ELMI)

	Year 2003	Year 2013	Year 2014
Washington	4.2%	5.3%	5.4%
New Hampshire	4.4%	5.1%	4.3%
U.S.	6.0%	7.4%	6.2%

Table 4.4 Employment by Industry (Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau)

Industry	Percent Employed 2000	Percent Employed 2013
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	4.9%	2.1%
Construction	10.9%	12.1%
Manufacturing	20.4%	20.3%
Wholesale trade	0.6%	3.7%
Retail trade	14%	6.8%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	2.5%	1.2%
Information	0.2%	0.7%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, leasing	3.0%	4.2%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste mgmt.	4.4%	9.3%
Educational services, health care, social assistance	15%	24.9%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food	6.0%	2.3%
Other services, except public administration	6.0%	4.9%
Public administration	3.0%	7.5%

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Income:

Median income levels in Washington lag behind the state but are higher than the U.S. average. The median household income is defined as the total earnings derived by all members of the household, which when ranked together with all household incomes would divide the top and bottom half of all incomes. It is a measure of economic well-being. The estimated median household income for Washington in 2013 was \$54,500, which was about 15% lower than the State of New Hampshire, but was 4% higher than the U.S.

Table 4.5 Estimated Median Household Income Comparison (Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey, U.S. Census)

	<i>Estimated Median Household Income</i>
Hillsborough County	
Antrim	\$64,224
Hancock	78,702
Hillsborough	52,788
Windsor	51,500
Sullivan County	
Acworth	\$53,945
Charlestown	45,080
Claremont	42,236
Cornish	72,356
Croydon	77,000
Goshen	51,563
Grantham	96,810
Langdon	71,522
Lempster	58,942
Newport	51,000
Plainfield	101,250
Springfield	71,797
Sunapee	74,890
Unity	60,250
Washington	54,500
New Hampshire	64,230
United States	52,250

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

The Vision Statement for Washington’s future states that we cultivate opportunities for economic development that will not hinder our community’s rural character but rather will expand our tax base and encourage small enterprise and home-based cottage industry.

Through the December 2013 **Community Survey** the following input was received relative to Economic Development:

Specific sections of Town should be designated for different land uses, such as rural, residential, business and industrial	74% strongly agreed or agreed
Farming, forestry, building trades, professional services, retail services and home-based businesses should be encouraged.	60% or more of the respondents chose those economic activities to be encouraged.
Manufacturing should be discouraged.	Almost 60% agree to discourage.
Bakery/coffee shop, bed and breakfast lodging, guided tourism and communication services ranked highest of desired businesses.	60% or more of the respondents wanted to see these businesses/services in Town.
Areas in which to locate businesses and industrial development should be identified.	84% of respondents strongly agree or agree that it is important to identify these areas.
An Economic Development Committee should be created.	50% strongly agree or agree, 20% no opinion.

The **Community Workshop** held in June 2014 generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to economic development.

STRENGTHS: Increasing year round population; established Farmers Market; local farm stands; cottage industries; Pillsbury State Park; hiking trails and Monadnock Sunapee Greenway; local artisans; July flea market and November holiday bazaar; Washington General Store; home-based businesses; Snowriders club that draws visitors.

WEAKNESSES: Washington’s remote location; lack of broadband and cell phone service; lack of communication and marketing of local businesses and activities; cumbersome business license process; limited public access to some lakes and ponds; lack of a Town niche; lack of activities to attract young people and families.

OPPORTUNITIES: Improved broadband and cell service; continuing education for all ages; more social activities; artisans cooperative; Town wide community website; vibrant general store; restaurant and B&B; local newsletter for businesses and activities; guided tourism (sugarhouses, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiles, x-country skiing, kayaking); winery/brewery; renewable energy sources; paramedic services in Town.

The **Community Workshop** priorities that relate to Economic Development include:

- Improve communication services (cell and broadband).
- Create local newsletter and community website for marketing social events and businesses.
- Buy local, use local businesses if possible (plumbers, store, builders).
- Keep education local.
- Encourage businesses in downtown areas and cottage (home) businesses in neighborhoods where they blend.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Encourage economic growth that achieves a balanced, diversified and healthy local economy and enhances Washington's comparative advantage and uniqueness over other communities.

Recommendations:

1. Lobby appropriate authorities and providers to improve broadband, cell service and power supply which are potential barriers to entry for certain businesses and limit residents' ability to telework. Work with the UVLSRPC to implement the UVLSRPC Regional Broadband Plan.
2. Foster the formation of businesses and tourism that showcase our historical and cultural assets, recreational opportunities, artisans' and craftsmen's talents, our vast natural resources, agriculture and forestry.
3. Consider public/private partnerships, tax incentives and grants to attract businesses/services important to a healthy local economy such as: paramedical service, technology services, childcare, restaurant and lodging.
4. Encourage the formation of cooperative enterprises to reduce the cost hurdles of business startup.
5. Establish an agricultural commission to work cooperatively with Town boards and commissions to make sure the concerns and interests of farmers are understood and considered.

Goal B: Guide the physical location of economic growth to complement and protect our rural and historical character.

Recommendations:

1. Define and designate specific sections of Town for different land uses: agricultural, forestry, residential, business and light industry.
2. Modify the LUO to allow different lot sizes and setbacks in these different sections.
3. Foster the use/renovation of existing historic buildings in village centers for appropriate retail and professional service businesses and ensure the LUO provides appropriate flexibility to encourage this use.
4. Provide a predictable local permit process with clear expectations that is equitable to all applicants.

Goal C: Foster a supportive economic development and planning environment for existing and potential new businesses.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage diverse private-interest participation in economic planning and promotion through the creation of a Town Economic Development Committee.
2. Actively provide marketing and promotional support through a variety of media and channels, an online business directory and a community website.

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

Washington is vulnerable to a variety of natural and human-made hazards. The hazards affecting the Town of Washington are dam failure, flooding, hurricane, tornado, thunderstorm (including lightning and hail), severe wind, extreme winter weather (including extreme cold and ice storms), earthquake, landslide, erosion, drought, extreme heat, wildfire, radon and hazardous materials spills.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), updated and approved in June 2010, is a document that sets out specific proposed actions to mitigate known hazards and work to minimize danger to the public before an incident. This chapter contains excerpts of the HMP and serves as a strategic planning tool, for use by the Town, in its efforts to reduce future losses from natural and/or man-made hazard events before they occur. The purpose of the **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**, written in 2007 and updated in 2014, is to facilitate the delivery of all types of emergency response and to help deal with the consequences of significant disasters. Excerpts of the EOP are also included in this chapter.

Washington's Hazards:

Dam Failure: Although there are 26 dams in Washington, there are only three "significant" hazard dams in Washington: Millen Lake Dam, Ashuelot Pond Dam and May Pond Dam.

Flooding: Floods in the area are most likely to occur in the spring due to the increase in rainfall and snowmelt; however, floods can occur at any time. A sudden winter thaw or a major summer downpour can cause flooding. Floodplains indicate areas potentially affected by flooding and there are 61 lots with buildings located within the FEMA determined flood areas of town.

Hurricane: A hurricane is an intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. Over the years there have been several hurricanes that have impacted New England and New Hampshire, including Washington.

Tornado & Downburst: A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel shaped cloud. These events are spawned by thunderstorms and, occasionally by hurricanes, and may occur singularly or in multiples. Significantly high winds occur especially during tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms and thunderstorms. Falling objects and downed power lines are dangerous risks associated with high winds.

Thunderstorms: A thunderstorm is a rain shower during which you hear thunder. Since thunder comes from lightning, all thunderstorms have lightning. A thunderstorm is classified as "severe" when it contains one or more of the following: hail, three-quarter inch or greater, winds gusting in excess of 50 knots (57.5 mph), tornado.

Severe Winter Weather: Ice and snow events typically occur during the winter months. Washington has heavy snowstorms, blizzards, extreme cold, ice storms and Nor'easters that occur and can cause loss of life, extended power outages, downed trees and other property damage.

Earthquakes: There is a 10% probability of an earthquake in 50 years with moderate perceived shaking and very light potential damage.

Drought: A drought is defined as a long period of abnormally low precipitation, and costs can include loss of agricultural crops and livestock.

Extreme Heat: Extreme heat would impact the entire town, though it would have less impact on

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

those with air conditioning in their homes. The costs of extreme heat are most likely to be in human life, and the elderly are especially susceptible.

Erosion: Soil erosion, although a natural process, can be greatly accelerated by improper construction practices. Because of the climate in New Hampshire and the general nature of our topography, eroded soils can be quickly transported to a wetland, stream or lake. There have been several town roads washed out in association with major storms, and many private road problems throughout town caused by erosion.

Wildfires: Wildfires are defined as any unwanted and unplanned fires burning in the forest, scrub or grass. They often occur during drought and when woody debris on the forest floor is readily available to fuel the fire. Wildfires are unpredictable and usually destructive, causing both personal property damage and damage to community infrastructure and cultural and economic resources.

Natural Water & Air Contaminants: Radium, radon and uranium are grouped together because they are radionuclides, unstable elements that emit ionizing radiation. These three particular substances are a health risk only if taken into the body by ingestion or inhalation. They occur naturally in the environment: uranium and radium as solids in rock while radon exists as a gas. Radon gas can also be found in the soil. Openings between the soil and buildings, such as foundation cracks and where pipes enter, provide conduits for radon to move into structures. There are many other natural contaminants, such as arsenic, which can render drinking water unsafe.

Hazardous Materials Spills: Hazardous materials spills or releases can cause loss of life and damage to property. Short or long-term evacuation of local residents and businesses may be required, depending on the nature and extent of the incident. Spills are possible in transportation as there is substantial through traffic on Route 31. In addition, heating fuel is delivered to homes on many of the town's roads.

Terrorism: The Town of Washington's Emergency Operations Plan document provides greater detail of terrorism threats.

The Plan also identifies the **Town's Critical Facilities/Locations:**

Emergency Response Facilities, Services & Structures:

Camp Morgan Lodge (full service primary shelter), Elementary School (full service secondary shelter), Public Works Garage (full service backup shelter), Police Station, Center Fire & Rescue Station (EOC), East Washington Fire Station, Town Hall (shelter only) and Town Offices, radio tower on Faxon Hill, Evacuation routes and bridges: Route 31, East Washington Road, Lempster Mt. Road, Ashuelot Lake (via boat or snowmobile), three aquifers, public well for Camp Morgan and Washington Elementary School, Granite State Telephone Switch Station, LAE beach house.

Non-Emergency Response Facilities & Structures:

Roads and bridges (non-evacuation), Washington General Store (food & gas)

Other Facilities & Populations To Protect:

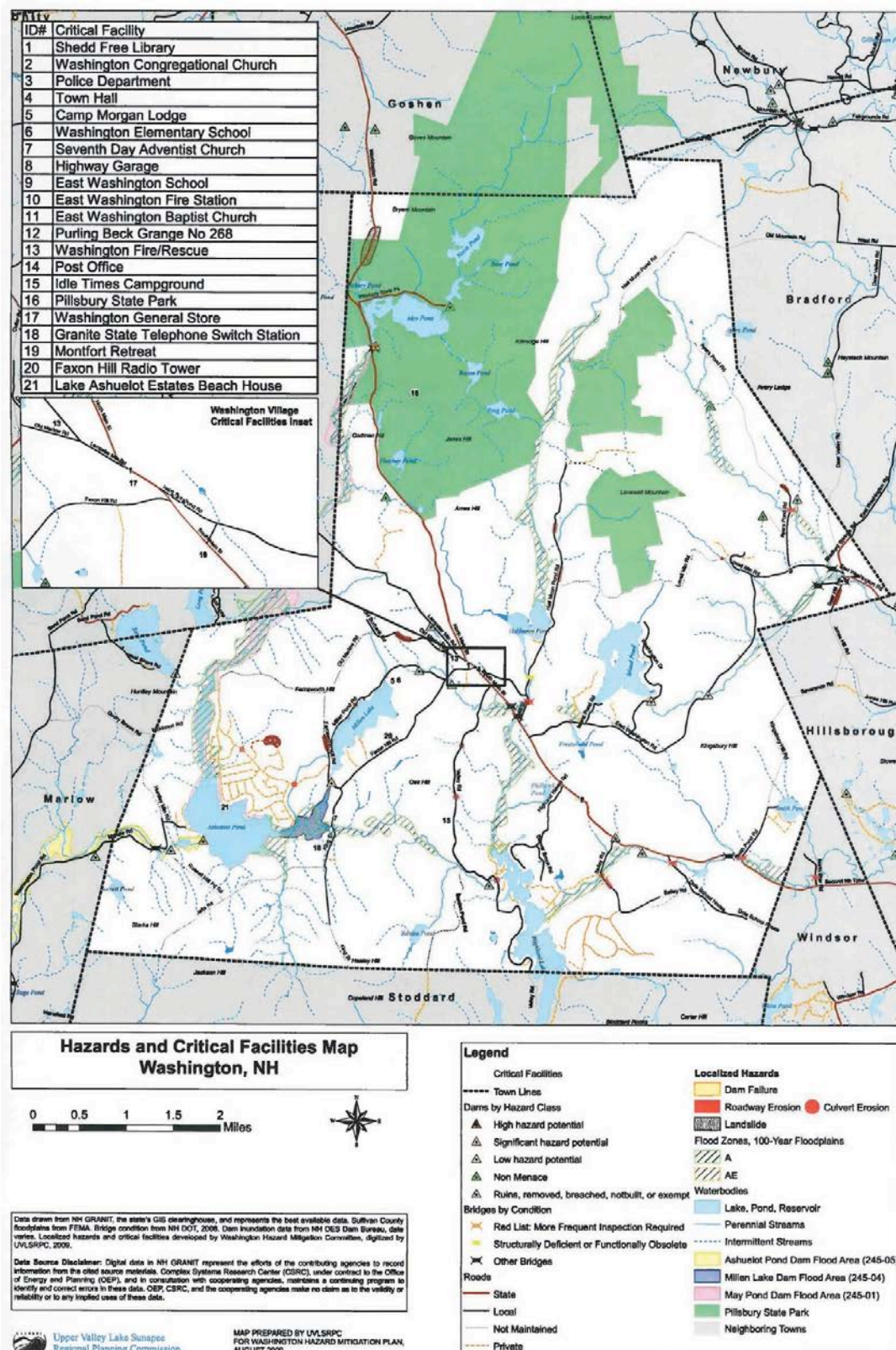
All homes, All non-residential buildings, dams, bridges, Shedd Library, Congregational Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Purling Beck Grange, East Washington Baptist Church, Montfort Retreat, Camp Morgan beach & recreation area, Pillsbury State Park, Campground, Monadnock – Sunapee Greenway

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING



5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Washington Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes a framework for local government to provide assistance in an expeditious manner to save lives and to protect property in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. The Plan outlines the planning assumptions, policies, concept of operations, organizational structures and specific assignments of responsibility to the Town departments and agencies involved in coordinating the Local, State and Federal response activities.

The EOP is applicable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes; manmade incidents such as civil disturbances; and technological situations such as hazardous materials incidents (including Terrorism), power failures, nuclear power plant incidents, and national security emergencies.

The EOP describes the basic mechanisms and structures by which Washington would respond to potential and/or actual emergency situations. To facilitate effective response operations, the EOP incorporates a functional approach that groups the types of assistance to be provided into Emergency Support Functions (ESFs, see below). Each ESF is assigned a primary or co-primary agency, which has been selected based upon statutory authority, current roles and responsibilities, resources and capabilities within the particular functional area. Other agencies have been designated as support agencies for one or more of the ESF(s) based upon their expertise, resources and capabilities to support the functional areas.

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

1. Transportation
2. Communications and Alerting
3. Public Works and Engineering
4. Fire Fighting
5. Information and Planning
6. Mass Care and Shelter
7. Resource Support
8. Health and Medical Services
9. Search and Rescue
10. Hazardous Materials
11. Food and Water
12. Energy
13. Law Enforcement and Security
14. Public Information
15. Volunteers and Donations
16. Animal Health

Departments, positions and organizations that would likely play a role in emergency operations include:

- Chairman of the Board of Selectmen
- Board of Selectmen
- Emergency Management Director
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Rescue Squad
- Department of Public Works

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

- Auxiliary
- School Board
- Town Clerk
- Town Treasurer
- Health Officer
- Welfare Administrator
- Planning Board
- Granite Chapter of American Red Cross

The Emergency Response Organization is composed of inter-department coordination and operational support elements from participating departments.

The five (5) support elements are described as follows:

- a. Command and Control
- b. Operations
- c. Information & Planning
- d. Logistics
- e. Administrative & Finance

The EOP unifies the efforts of government, volunteers and the private sector for a comprehensive approach to reducing the impact of emergencies and disasters on the Town.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Through the **Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Hazards and Emergency Planning:

Rate the following Town Services:

Police Department	54% Excellent – Very Good
Fire Department	48% Excellent – Very Good
Rescue	51% Excellent – Very Good
Emergency Management	30% Excellent – Very Good 55% No Opinion
Highway Maintenance	62% Excellent – Very Good

Used this Service in the last 5 years:

Police Department	70% Yes
Fire Department	23% Yes
Rescue	32% Yes
Emergency Management	16% Yes
Highway Maintenance	71% Yes

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

Rate the following Town Facilities:

Public Works Garage	40% Excellent – Very Good
Police Station	31% Fair – Poor
Fire/Rescue Station	14% Fair – Poor
East Washington Fire Station	14% Fair – Poor 57% No Opinion

Rank for improvement:

Police Station	33% Important
Public Works Garage	29% Important
Fire/Rescue Station	26% Important
East Washington Fire Station	20% Important

The **Community Workshop** generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Hazards and Emergency Planning in the various breakout groups:

STRENGTHS: Rescue Squad; organized and efficient; strong road crew/recycling crew; rah-rah for Police Department; Fire and Rescue - response time and ability have saved lives in town.

WEAKNESSES: Small space for Police facility - needs upgrade of building, is space appropriate for safety and confidentiality?; same question applies for Rescue and Fire; can our town support a growth in population etc.; make sure services are planned way ahead of "changes" anticipated; involve our own existing services and existing regulations to ensure safety relative to property issues.

OPPORTUNITIES: Improvement in Fire and Rescue facility (update as needed); services and facilities need to be planned up front to respond to changes anticipated 10 years hence; infrastructure will be appropriate.

The **Community Workshop** included the following Hazard and Emergency Planning priorities:

- Improvement of Important Government Facilities (Fire & Rescue, Meeting House and Police);
- Improve/Establish in-town Paramedical Services;
- Maintenance of our quality of life; Maintain services to protect life and property;
- Services and Facilities need to be planned up front to anticipate 10 years hence.

5. HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PLANNING

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Hazard Mitigation Plan: Reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on the Town:

Emergency Response Services;
Critical Facilities;
Infrastructure;
Private property;
Economy;
Natural environment;
Historic treasures;
General Population - its citizens and visitors.

Recommendations:

1. Regularly review and update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Take mitigating actions to eliminate or reduce the probability of some disaster occurrences. Include long-term activities that lessen the undesirable effects of unavoidable hazards or reduce the degree of hazard risk, as identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
3. Improve the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and Recovery Capability.
4. Utilize a community education program to reduce liabilities with respect to natural and man-made hazards.
5. Work in conjunction and cooperation with the State of New Hampshire's Hazard Mitigation Goals.

Goal B: Emergency Operations Plan: Integrate planning efforts in the maintenance, implementation and exercising of the EOP with all primary, co-primary and support agencies with emergency responsibilities whether Federal, State, local or private.

Recommendations:

1. Regularly review and update the Town's Emergency Operations Plan.
2. Utilize annual training and exercise to evaluate the capability of the Town to respond to minor, major and catastrophic disasters. The Emergency Management Department (EMD) will coordinate the training of local and volunteer personnel on their roles and responsibilities in the four phases of emergency management (i.e., preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation).
3. Use preparedness activities to develop emergency response capabilities. Planning, exercising, training, mitigation, developing public information programs and alerting and warning are among the activities needed to ensure the most effective and efficient response in a disaster.
4. Maintain a suitable EOC facility for centralized direction, coordination and control of emergency operation.
5. Provide adequate and required facilities and equipment for Fire, Rescue and Police and training for emergency operations and response.
6. Provide for an emergency dispatch service that meets the needs of all town services for essential communication during emergency events.
7. Conduct community education programs to promote household safety and emergency preparedness. Focus on emergency supplies and equipment along with usage and maintenance of household safety devices such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

6. RECREATION

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Growth within the region and the Town of Washington is due in large part to the high quality of the environment, scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of the area. Washington is in the center of an extensive system of well maintained trails used by hikers, snowshoers, cross country skiers, snowmobilers, hunters, fishermen and horse riders. Washington has a fairly large number of lakes and ponds of various sizes, with much development surrounding these water bodies. Boaters/fishermen have access to water on all the great ponds (10 acres or more in size) at public boat ramps. Public beaches are maintained at Mill Pond in East Washington and at the east end of Millen Lake at Camp Morgan. Recreational use is an important activity in Town, so it is important for the Town to continue to recognize the significance of the recreational opportunities that exist, and to guide growth and development in such a manner as to protect the high quality of the environment and maintain the recreational potential.

One of Washington's most important recreational amenities is Camp Morgan, owned by the Town since 1980. It is located on the east end of Millen Pond, not far from the center of Town. The major facilities there include a beach, swim floats/docks, designated swim area, raft, playground, tetherball and volleyball courts, softball field/soccer field and a heated handicapped-accessible building (Camp Morgan Lodge) that includes a kitchen. This facility is used for dances, public meetings, elections, meetings and activities of various Town groups, as well as being used as a shelter during Town emergencies and natural disasters. It is also available for rental to the public for private events. During the winter months lunches are served in the lodge to seniors by volunteer seniors twice a month for a nominal fee, and bingo games are held. The Parks and Recreation Commission oversees the Camp Morgan property and runs the summer camp program each year for more than 100 local children. The summer camp program gives town children access to swimming instruction, leading to Red Cross certification and boating safety and watercraft skills (including canoeing and kayaking). There is public access to the Town's trail network from the property as well as access to the Camp Morgan Town Forest. The Forestry Committee oversees the Town Forest portion of the Camp Morgan property and maintains the trails.

Recreational Resources:

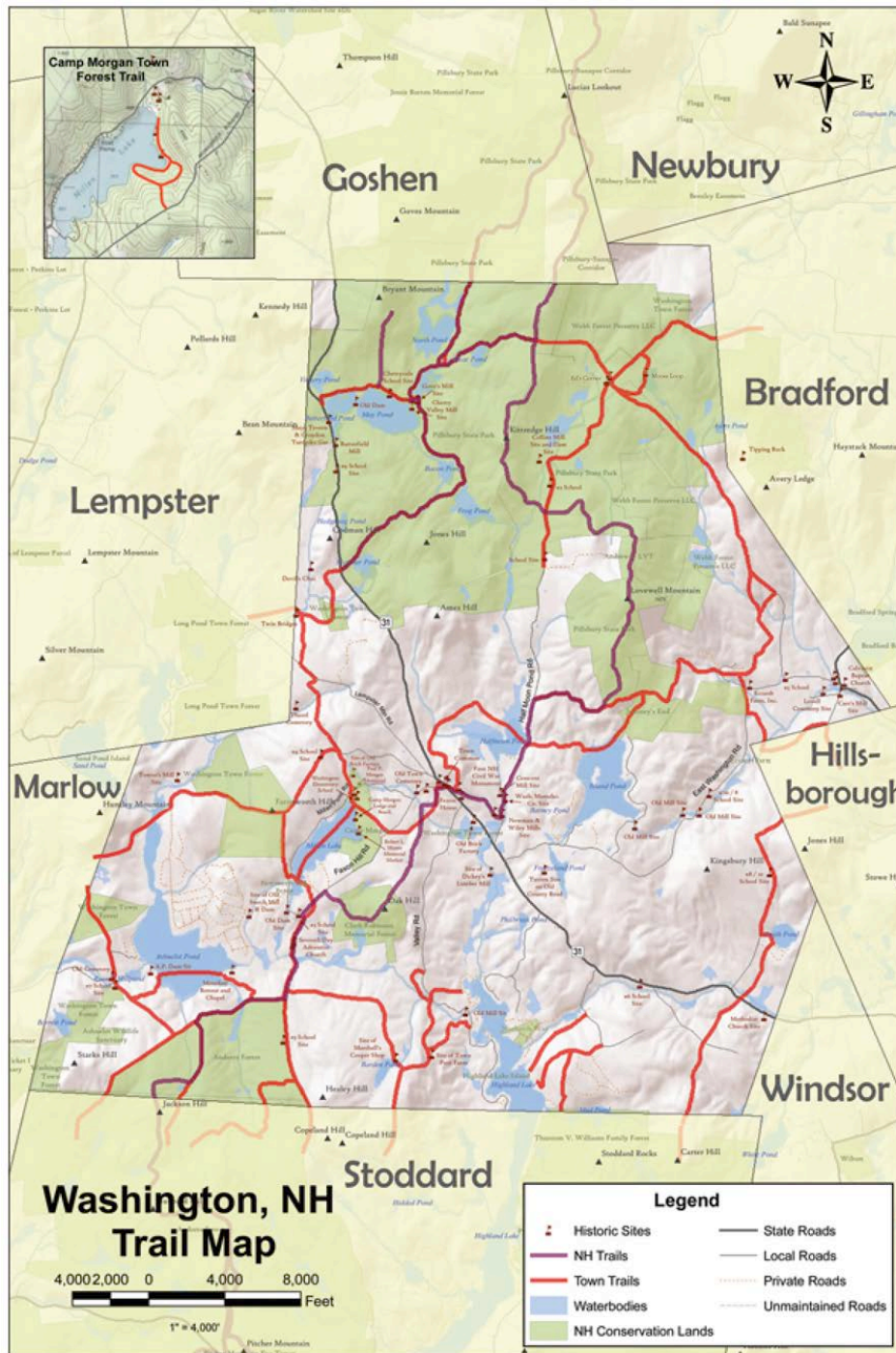
Trails: An impressive network of hiking, skiing and snowmobile trails crisscrosses the Town of Washington. There are 57 miles of established snowmobile trails and 60 miles of hiking/skiing trails in Town. Through-hikers and day hikers on the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway and snowmobilers on the trails maintained by the Washington Snowriders utilize these trails heavily. Lovewell Mountain, the highest point in Town with a commanding view of much of Washington and surrounding towns, is accessible by the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway and other trails.

Picnic areas and Playgrounds: Waterfront picnic areas are available at Mill Pond in East Washington and at Camp Morgan Beach, with tables, trash barrels and grills. Playgrounds are found behind the Town Hall and at Camp Morgan, with swings and some climbing apparatus.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire Master Plan 2015

September 2015

6. RECREATION



Water Access: Numerous lakes and ponds in Washington provide opportunities for swimming, boating, paddling and fishing. Town-owned public access for most of these activities is available at Mill Pond in East Washington and at Camp Morgan beach at the eastern

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

6. RECREATION

end of Millen Lake. For boating, the State of NH maintains a public ramp at May Pond in Pillsbury State Park and other public access points (boats ramps) at Smith Pond, Island Pond, Ashuelot Pond and Millen Lake.

Pillsbury State Park and Trails: Pillsbury State Park is a valuable asset and is one of the more primitive and lesser-known gems of the New Hampshire State Park system. Heavily wooded and sprinkled with several ponds and wetlands, its diversity of habitats makes it home to a great variety of wildlife, including moose and loons. Crossed by a network of hiking and mountain bike trails, the park is an important link in the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway, a 51-mile hiking trail that connects Mount Monadnock with Mount Sunapee to the north. It is a place to camp with 41 campsites including 20 pond-side tent sites, or picnic, canoe, kayak or hike. History buffs enjoy exploring the park's long-abandoned and overgrown cellar holes, remnants of early farm settlement and lumbering of the late 1700s and early 1800s when the area was called Cherry Valley.

Hunting and Fishing: Large tracts of uninterrupted vegetation cover the diverse topography of this region creating suitable habitat for a wide range of game animals. The most common upland game species are white-tailed deer, bear, moose, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, bobcat, fisher, fox, gray squirrel, grouse, woodcock, pheasant and turkey. Aquatic species include beaver, otter, muskrat, raccoon, mink and waterfowl, such as ducks, teals and the hooded merganser. Due to the variety of water body sizes, depths and elevations, fishing enthusiasts have access to both warm water and cold-water fisheries. Cold-water fish found in this area include brook, rainbow, lake and brown trout, salmon, northern pike and smallmouth bass. NH Fish and Game stocks several ponds with trout. The warm water species include pickerel, largemouth bass and walleyes. Ice fishing is enjoyed by many in the winter months. There is river fishing available in the Contoocook River and North Branch River in Hillsboro.

Winter Recreation: Pillsbury State Park has logging roads suitable for cross-country skiing; these are, as a rule, not groomed or patrolled and are shared with and groomed for snowmobiles. Two publicly owned facilities for downhill skiing and snowboarding are located nearby. They are Mt. Sunapee at Mt. Sunapee State Park in Newbury, NH, and Pat's Peak located in Henniker, NH. There are 57 miles of snowmobile trails maintained and groomed by the Washington Snowriders Club. These trails also connect to an extensive trail network that crosses town lines. A public sledding hill is available just west of the Camp Morgan Lodge.

Sightseeing: The Town has many sights worth visiting year round. There are numerous historic sites including;

Washington Common Historic District:

The Meetinghouse, 1787

Washington Center School, 1883

Washington Congregational Church, 1840

6. RECREATION

War Memorials:

- Brigadier General Sylvanus Thayer, The Father of West Point
- Civil War Memorial
- Spanish American War
- World War I Memorial

Other:

- The birthplace of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Sabbath Day trail
- Two Historic Town Centers: Washington Village and East Washington Village
- Shedd Free Library, 1881
- East Washington Baptist Church, 1878
- Purling Beck Grange Hall, East Washington, 1859
- Schoolhouse #5, East Washington, 1849
- Historic graveyards in Washington Village and East Washington Village
- Historical Society Barn/Museum
- Eccardt Farm, an East Washington working dairy farm and Farm Museum that welcomes all visitors
- Quintessential New England landscape and fall foliage, winding country roads
- Sugarhouses
- Historic Dam sites, ruins of many water-run mills and manufacturing sites

Sports: Local children can join the Hillsboro Youth Athletic Association for organized league baseball, softball, basketball, soccer and cheering for age groups starting at age six through 15. When they enter high school, they are eligible to join the Hillsboro-Deering school teams.

Sponsored and other Cultural Events:

The Shedd Free Library holds many events including exhibits of local artists' work, a book club and children's story time and activities, to name a few. The Historical Society offers periodic programs and presentations of historic significance. The Senior group, with support from P&RC, hosts lunches, bingo games and bus trips for seniors and an end of summer picnic. The churches offer hymn sings, music performances and fellowship. A community garden has plots available to those wishing to grow their own vegetables. Conservation Commission sponsors hikes and educational programs on nature and conservation. The Parks and Recreation Commission (PR&C) holds many recreational and cultural programs throughout the year for citizens of all ages including band concerts, Easter egg hunts and Christmas carol sings. They display flags and bunting in the Town Center for special occasions and celebration of patriotic events and provide free ice cream to the public on Memorial Day to honor veterans. The Snowmobile Club has several dances each year and a yearly yard sale on the Town Common. Periodic Old Home Days are held bringing large crowds out to celebrate the Town's history. St. Benedict's Center, with PR&C, holds band concerts, tours and BBQ lunches for the public. The Fire Department and Auxiliary hold a chicken barbeque each summer and breakfasts during the year.

Associations/Clubs/Organizations/Offerings:

Recreational and cultural opportunities in or near Washington, NH, can be found on the town's website: www.washingtonnh.org. There is an opportunity for starting new activities; contact Parks and Recreation Commission with your ideas.

6. RECREATION

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Our vision statement for Washington’s future encourages us to expand our recreational and cultural offerings to the public, preserve our natural resources and open space, keep land available for outdoor recreation, protect our water resources and perpetuate the rural character our townspeople cherish. Many new activities were suggested including art shows, outing clubs, lectures and activities that bring together year-round and summer residents.

Through the **2013 Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Recreation:

- **More land should be protected for recreation:**

Includes hunting, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, etc.	86% agree
--	-----------

- **The Town should promote:**

Use of Pillsbury State Park and Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway	88% agree
Public access to trails	83% agree
Public access to lakes, rivers and ponds	66% agree

- **Cultural Resources/Local Community Events:**

There are adequate cultural opportunities/events available in Town	59% agree
Promotion and communication of Town cultural and recreational opportunities/events are sufficient	46% agree

The **Community Workshop** generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Recreation in the breakout groups:

STRENGTHS: Camp Morgan activities and camp program; beach; Memorial Day Event; Old Home Days; Band Stand; Pillsbury State Park; Washington hiking trails; Monadnock Sunapee Greenway (“we should capitalize on these somehow”); camping at Pillsbury State; great walking; snowmobile trails; kayaking; protected land.

WEAKNESSES: Camp Morgan Lodge is highly booked and often unavailable for Town functions; public access to Highland Lake, Island Pond and Ashuelot limits use for fishing, boating and recreational visitors; activities lacking to attract young folks/families; lack of marketing of our local assets using flyers, ads, etc.; lack of communication of activities; lack of initiative to start groups (hiking, crafts, kayaking); few social opportunities that cross socio-economic boundaries; lack of services to support seniors; no coordinated network for transportation, etc.; recreational and cultural services are lacking year round.

6. RECREATION

OPPORTUNITIES: Continue summer band concerts; improve communication regarding historic events and Town events; promote or sponsor event; offer well-rounded activities for families and young adults: year-round, sports and arts; offer more social events in Town—dances, hikes, movies, square-dancing; guided tourism: sugarhouses, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiles, x-country skiing, kayaking; offer continuing education for all ages, i.e., classes in nature, dance, arts, crafts, technology, photography; make Pillsbury State Park free to our residents; increase Town events to bring people together to bring summer and permanent residents together; provide before and after school and camp care; encourage more recreational and cultural services to meet the needs for Washington people.

The **Community Workshop** priorities included the following Recreation priorities:

- Activities which bring together "summer" and year round folks;
- Protection of land for future generations;
- Better communication and publicity (promote events through library, Town wide event such as to promote ancestry);
- Local newsletter and community website for marketing social events and businesses.

6. RECREATION

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: As one of the most important recreational amenities, continue to maintain the physical assets of Camp Morgan and provide a summer camp program for youth.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure that the summer camp program continues to be funded at an appropriate level to provide a quality day camp experience.
2. Provide funding to adequately maintain physical assets: buildings, basketball court, softball field, beach, swim floats, lifeguard stand, equipment sheds, playground, etc.
3. Ensure appropriate balance of use between private and public events.

Goal B: Link existing trails to the larger regional network of trails creating more trail options for multi-use purposes.

Recommendations:

1. Create several loop trails of varying length (6/12/18 miles) by linking existing trails where possible.
2. Create trails in Town Forests in conjunction with Forestry Committee, Conservation Commission and private organizations.

Goal C: Protect existing recreational opportunities and work to expand offerings to the public ensuring a variety of activities suitable to various age brackets.

Recommendations:

1. Coordinate "continuing education" event planning (nature classes, dance, art, crafts, technology, photography, quilting, kayaking, etc.) with P&RC, Library, Conservation Commission, Historical Society and public volunteers.
2. Encourage the development of new activities and programs by Parks and Recreation Commission, utilizing volunteers to help achieve success.

Goal D: Improve communication and promotion of recreational and cultural opportunities and events offered by ALL organizations (in conjunction with Goal E of Cultural and Historical Resources).

Recommendations:

1. Encourage and coordinate communication from all Town organizations to promote recreational, historical, cultural and artistic events.
2. Create/maintain a new webpage and calendar linked to the Town website, that shares event information in a creative and timely way.
3. Establish a part-time communications position to promote these events through a variety of media and channels with appropriate funding for the communications.

7. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Historic Background:

Washington, a rural town in southwestern New Hampshire, was first settled in 1768 and was incorporated and named in honor of General George Washington in December of 1776. The first census taken in Washington Township was in 1773, by Isaac Temple of Stoddard. At that time, the population was 132. Subsequent census records show the population increased to a high of 1,135 in 1830, when the Town's economy sustained a variety of small mills, a resident physician, a dentist, three churches and a hotel, in addition to 200 farms. The Town then maintained more than 50 miles of roads to provide transportation routes for these uses. There were 10 schools to provide educational opportunities for the children.

The Seventh Day Adventist faith had its origins in Washington in the 1840's, and from here spread throughout the world; the original church building still stands in the southwestern part of Washington. A prestigious academy (Tubbs Union Academy) was founded in Washington in 1849, and although short-lived, at one time had an enrollment of more than 100 students from all over New Hampshire and beyond.

Many sons and daughters of the Town have gone on to distinguished careers in a variety of fields. These include at least one United States Congressman, several college presidents, a number of college professors and quite a few doctors, lawyers, ministers and founders of major businesses. Most of these came from the mid-nineteenth century, when the population was higher than at any time before or until recent years. Some of Washington's distinguished citizens have been memorialized on the Town common: 12 young men who died in the Civil War, honored with a soldiers' monument, and Sylvanus Thayer, "the father of West Point." The Town library is named after Sarah Shedd, who worked in the Lowell Mills and gave her savings for the library.

The population of the Town decreased continually from 1830 until 1960 when it reached 162. The mills and businesses were gone by the beginning of the 20th century, and many farms were abandoned as people moved west. Washington changed from a diverse, nearly self-sufficient community to a predominantly rural residential town. Several large summer communities began on the shores of some of the lakes in Town. The many acres of land cleared for crops and pasture have returned to woodland, and many of the old roads have been abandoned or closed "subject to gates and bars." All but one of the schools were closed, as the diminishing population did not warrant so many, and transportation from outlying areas became easier.

After World War II the country began to grow anew, and Washington was no exception, although growth was slow to come to this area. Since 1960, the population has grown, but at a slower rate than the previous population boom in the 1800's. In 2010 the Town's year-round population was 1,123, and the Town had a total of 1,093 housing units.

Over the years, organizations in the Town have sponsored a range of cultural activities for

7. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Town residents and the adjoining communities. These have been as varied as Old Home Days, sponsored by the Town, musical productions and plays presented in the Meeting House, community dinners put on by the Congregational Church, band concerts at the Gazebo sponsored by Parks and Recreation, lectures on historical themes given at the Historical Society and travelogues offered by Town members and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Two large volumes provide a history of the Town:

A History of Washington, New Hampshire 1768 – 1886, published in 1886 and reprinted in 1976.

Portrait of a Hill Town: A History of Washington, New Hampshire, 1876 – 1976, published in 1976.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

The Vision Statement for Washington's future encourages us to conserve our iconic historic structures, maintaining and preserving them for future residents, and find ways to expand their use by the community.

The analysis of the **2013 Community Survey** showed that 90.38% of those responding agreed that the Town should encourage historic preservation. Further, 62% agreed that there are historic sites or areas in Town that should be protected. Just under half of the respondents (44.37%) felt that there are adequate cultural opportunities/ events available in Town.

The **Community Survey** identified the following buildings or sites as ones that should be protected:

Town Common Buildings:

The Meeting House, 1787

Old School House, 1883

Congregational Church, 1840

East Washington Center Buildings:

Purlingbeck Grange, 1859

East Washington Baptist Church, 1878

East Washington School, 1849

Historical Society Museum and Barn

Shedd Free Library, 1881

The Seventh Day Adventist Church and site, 1842

Town cemeteries

Old school house and mill sites

Camp Morgan

Old animal pounds in Town Center and East Washington

Old growth forest (end of Bailey Road and Long Pond Road)

7. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The **2013 Community Survey** suggested the following opportunities or events that individuals would like to see happen in Town:

- Concerts/musical programs
- Community theater
- Adult education programs
- Art exhibits
- Community meals
- Multi-cultural events
- Film or film series

The **Community Workshop** held in June 2014 identified and summarized data from the survey:

STRENGTHS: Active historical society with barn, museum, & newsletter; quintessential Town centers/meetinghouse; Civil War Memorial; bandstand; Memorial Day event; Old Home Days; historic library; old cemetery upkeep; village store; old school house; Saturday farmers' market.

WEAKNESSES: Few funds for preservation; no ordinance to prevent demolition of historic buildings; unused upper level of Town Hall; old buildings not kept up; lack of publicity – print or on website – about historic sites/buildings; not many visitors; tendency to do large projects rather than think of doing things in small increments.

OPPORTUNITIES: Maintenance of historic buildings/sites; economic growth based on historic sites; use of old buildings by artisans; continue summer band concerts; promote events through the library or sponsor events; zoning (village areas or historic districts); signage to identify historic places or sites; Town-wide events to identify/promote history/old families; better communication about historic events and Town events.

The **Community Workshop** priorities included the following Cultural and Historical Resources priorities:

- Better communication and promotion regarding historic events and Town events;
- Maintenance of historic sites/buildings;
- Signage to identify historic places;
- Zoning (village areas);
- Town-wide events;
- Businesses that reflect the historic nature of the Town.

7. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Preserve and protect Washington's village centers and historic sites.

Recommendations:

1. Explore designating historic or "Neighborhood Heritage" districts for Washington Village and East Washington Village.
2. Conduct an historic resources survey to develop an inventory of historic sites, structures, buildings and objects. Arrange for NH Division of Historical Resources to conduct a training workshop for surveying sites.
3. Improve signage to identify historic buildings and sites.
4. Establish funding within the Town budget for maintenance and restoration of town-owned historic sites.
5. Investigate sources of grant money such as: the Certified Local Government Program (a federal grant program), NH Pre-Disaster Planning Grants and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance small grants program to assist in funding preservation planning.
6. Consider an ordinance to prevent demolition of historic buildings and work with private owners to encourage preservation.
7. Establish a volunteer Heritage Commission as an advisory and review board to protect historical and cultural resources.
8. Inform property owners with barns of the NH Preservation Alliance's Historic Barn Assessment Program.
9. List historic properties on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the NH Register of Historic Places, thereby opening access to federal and state preservation grants and tax benefits.
10. Ensure that historic sites/structures are identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Goal B: Continue and create events to identify and promote the Town's history.

Recommendations:

1. Collaborate with and support the activities of the Historical Society.
2. Continue Old Home Days.
3. Continue the Memorial Day remembrance event.
4. Identify and promote families with generational roots in Town.
5. Add a Town event/program connected to the "living history" event in Hillsboro.
6. Add or encourage the teaching of Town history to the Washington Elementary School curriculum.
7. Develop maps of historic areas/sites in Town for public information and distribution.
8. In collaboration with other Town commissions and committees consider creating trails in Town Forests that feature historic sites.

Goal C: Encourage economic growth based on Town history/historic sites.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage a restaurant or B&B that reflects the historic nature of the Town.
2. Use historic buildings as sites for artisan workshops/shops.
3. Hold a summer "fair" of work/events by local artisans.
4. Connect with the "living history" event in Hillsboro.
5. Develop self-guided walking tours of historic areas in Town.

7. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Goal D: Continue and expand cultural events for Town residents and visitors.

Recommendations:

1. Continue musical events at the Town bandstand (summer concert series).
2. Promote Historical Society lectures and events.
3. Encourage or establish a community theater group.
4. Hold a film showing or film festival (indoor or outdoor at Camp Morgan).
5. Improve communication (print and/or digital) about historic and Town events.

Goal E: Promote Washington's history, historic sites and cultural events.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage and coordinate communication from all Town organizations to promote historical, recreational, cultural and artistic events.
2. Share information in a creative and timely way through a variety of media and channels.
3. Establish a part-time communications position to promote our rich history, cultural events and Town artisans through a variety of media and channels.

8. ENERGY

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

All energy resources except wood, solar and wind are imported into town. There is one gas station at the General Store in Washington Center for automotive and recreational vehicle use. The Town has its own fuel facility. All other petroleum products, including heating fuels, are purchased from companies in other towns. Several dams that once produced mechanical energy have fallen into disuse. Potential hydroelectric sites have not been formally identified. There has been some discussion of town woodlots in the past, but only a minimal amount of tree harvesting on town land has been completed. The Forestry Committee is planning a cut on a town forest property in the near future. There are several solar electricity installations in town but none involving the use of wind.

The Washington Energy Committee was formed in 2007, following a favorable vote at Town Meeting. The Committee was one of many formed around the state at that time through the advocacy of Clean Air-Cool Planet. Its mission is to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency and explore other ways to reduce carbon emissions among the Town's residents, businesses and in municipal affairs.

Since its inception, the Energy Committee has engaged in educational activities and programs designed to encourage people to pay attention to their energy needs and consumption habits. Several "Button Up" workshops have been held to provide citizens with the tools and information to conduct home weatherization projects.

The Committee has also worked with Town boards, officials and staff to quantify energy use, identify opportunities to reduce municipal energy consumption and incorporate energy efficiency and upgrades into the Capital Improvement Plan.

Following an energy audit, early initiatives included installing energy-efficient lighting in several town buildings, removing four streetlights and converting the rest to energy efficient bulbs.

Washington Baseline Inventory Report

This report is a summary of greenhouse gas emissions and energy use for the Town of Washington, NH for the calendar year 2008. The focus of this report is the municipal operations of the town, with special emphasis on Town-owned buildings.

Different types of energy use were considered in municipal building, vehicle and streetlight operations such as electricity/heating fuel use for buildings and gasoline/diesel fuel for vehicles. This report also factors in the cost of purchasing this energy in cases where records were available.

8. ENERGY

In collaboration with Town staff, an intern from UNH and staff at Clean Air-Cool Planet and Energy Committee members collected energy use data and entered it into Portfolio Manager, a software program created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This created an energy use baseline to assess and prioritize energy saving initiatives.

Energy Audits

Following a successful application, the Town was selected to participate in the NH Municipal Energy Assistance Program, (MEAP). Professional “Decision Grade” Energy Audits were conducted on a number of municipal buildings.

January 2010 – Town Hall/Meetinghouse

May 2010 – Old School House (Police Station)

August 2011 – Camp Morgan Lodge, Center Fire/Rescue and the Shedd Free Library

Dec 2011 –Elementary School

Significant opportunities for improvement were identified in these audits. Many of the Town buildings are old and few energy efficiency initiatives had been implemented previously. Estimates of a potential for 30% to 50% reduction in total energy consumption were reported.

Many of the findings from these reports were incorporated into the Planning Board’s Capital Improvement Plan’s Interim Report in September of 2012.

Solar Array

The solar array at the Transfer Station was funded by a Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, through the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP). The application was approved in March 2010 and construction began later that year on a ground-mounted, 18kW Photovoltaic (PV) system. It is tied to the electricity grid and began to produce electricity in May 2011. It provides 100% of the electrical needs of the Town Garage. As of December 2014 it had generated a total of 61,126 kWh.



The Town Garage further improved its energy efficiency by installing a wood pellet heating system in 2013.

8. ENERGY

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Through the **Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Energy:

The Town should promote:

Energy conservation initiatives	75% agree
Educational programs about environmental issues	69% agree
Alternative energy production (solar panels, wind towers) on a personal scale	68% agree
Alternative energy production (solar panels, wind towers) on a commercial scale	47% agree, 37% disagree

The **Community Workshop**

The workshop question about how Washington should look in the future mentions that the Town buildings and community should be energy efficient and take advantage of passive energy opportunities. Although there was not a focus group dedicated to Energy issues, there were ideas and discussions about Energy within several groups. The following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Energy were generated in the breakout groups:

STRENGTHS: Energy efficiency at town garage allows money for roads.

WEAKNESSES: Town not responding to energy needs defined in town.

OPPORTUNITIES: Renewable energy sources being encouraged; Less restriction on installing alternative energy; All buildings will be energy efficient; Passive energy options for individuals will be available for homes and businesses.

The **Community Workshop** priorities included the following Energy priority, which was voted as the number 5 priority:

- Appropriate infrastructure & energy efficiency.

At the **2014 Town Meeting**, the Energy Committee provided the public with statistics of energy use in Town Buildings for 2013. They also invited participation in an attitudinal survey.

8. ENERGY

2014 TOWN MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS:

Q1. *Do you think the Energy Committee should be consulted by the Select Board and other Town departments before major capital improvements are made in order to make sure energy efficiency and savings options are fully considered?*

YES 18 NO 0

Q2. *Would you be willing to have the town invest a little more money upfront in order to save long-term on energy expenditures?*

YES 16 NO 2

One comment – “Should have data and alternatives for possible savings.”

Q3. *What other tasks do you think the Energy Committee should be involved with?*

Arrange for low or no-cost energy home audits to include use of an infrared sensing device/camera.

Provide affordable ways to save energy/money for Washington households and information on cost of solar, wind, wood pellet energy and pay back rates.

Evaluate all town buildings for efficiency.

Getting a warrant article to require the Selectmen to inspect construction for compliance with energy conservation and insulation requirements.

8. ENERGY

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Reduce energy consumption in municipal buildings.

Recommendations:

1. Monitor energy use using Energy Star™ Portfolio Manager.
2. Continue to facilitate energy audits from the utilities' providers.
3. Adopt NH energy code in new buildings.

Goal B: Promote energy conservation to the Town's general public including homeowners and businesses.

Recommendations:

1. Inform citizens of new technology developments and grant opportunities.
2. Provide home energy efficiency assessments.
3. Develop a weatherization support program.

Goal C: Promote the purchase and effective use of energy efficient equipment by the Town.

Recommendations:

1. Facilitate Town operating procedures and training.
2. Implement a Town-wide no idling policy.

Goal D: Encourage Washington's future energy independence.

Recommendations:

1. Increase engagement with the Washington Elementary School to encourage energy conservation.
2. Identify opportunities to create, store and distribute energy locally.
3. Investigate a Micro Hydro or Community Solar project.

9. UTILITIES

Adequate utilities, their presence and availability are vital to the welfare of our Town, specifically for meeting the health, safety and security needs of our citizens and, in general, for providing comfort, entertainment and quality of life. The availability of certain utilities will impact the Town's ability to achieve economic growth and maintain quality of life.

The utilities addressed in this chapter include: water and sewer, electricity and power, and telecommunications infrastructure (telephone/wireless communications, internet service and cable television and emergency communications).

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Water and Sewer:

No central water distribution facilities exist in Washington; residents rely entirely on individual wells. No major problems with this arrangement have been reported. Likewise, there is no central sewage disposal system in town; all buildings rely on individual septic facilities. Some of these systems are antiquated and may be operating at full capacity or beyond. A few residents along some of the lakeshore depend on holding tanks that must be pumped out periodically by commercial haulers; this is left up to the individual owner to arrange. Although, by contract pursuant to state regulations, the town has a disposal site for emergency use only, there is no regular facility for sewage disposal, and it is left to the commercial haulers to find an approved disposal site. The most important potential problem with the septic system arrangement is the contamination of lakes and ponds, creating a health hazard for swimmers. Town residents must be vigilant toward the possible existence of marginal, inadequate or failing systems that may be polluting the ground or surface waters. Although the situation is far from critical, some thought should be given to strengthening regulations protecting ground water resources and controlling housing density so that they correspond with the ability of the land to handle sub-surface sewage disposal.

Electricity and Power:

Eversource (formerly Public Service of New Hampshire and Northeast Utilities) is the main electricity supplier for Washington. Electricity is distributed through one substation in Hillsboro and carries two circuits. One feeds East Washington from Coolidge Road in Hillsboro and the other feeds Washington Center from NH Rt. 31 (South Main Street). The circuits are both single-phase and serve all customers in Town. It is unknown at this point if this capacity is adequate for potential build out of existing subdivisions.

Three-phase power is currently not available in Washington. It is used to power large motors and/or for other high demands typical of commercial and institutional properties.

New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC) services 334 homes on both the east and west sides of Lake Ashuelot which include both Ashuelot Pond Association (APA) and Lake Ashuelot Estates (LAE). NHEC also services four homes on Lempster Mountain Road and one on Sisters Way.

9. UTILITIES

Telecommunications Infrastructure:

Telephone: Granite State Communications (GSC), an independent telephone company that was never part of the former Bell System, provides landline phone and internet service to Washington and six other communities in southern New Hampshire.

Wireless: There is currently one wireless communications tower in Washington, off Old Marlow Road, which provides cellular service through AT&T. Other cellular service providers can be accommodated on the same tower in the future. This tower improved cellular coverage in certain sections of Town. A second tower at the Public Works property is under consideration.

In 2002 the Town adopted the Wireless Telecommunications Facility Ordinance that established general guidelines for the siting of towers and antennas.

Broadband Internet Access: “Broadband” is a high data rate internet access capable of providing high-speed transmission of data, voice, music and video. Broadband internet access can occur over telephone lines (Digital Subscriber Line, DSSL), cable connections, satellite systems and cellular wireless services. According to Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission’s (UVLSRPC) 2014 Regional Plan, “In a relatively short period of time, fast and reliable broadband has become essential for economic and community development and is critical infrastructure for public safety, education, health care, business and government operations.”

In Washington, broadband internet access is typically provided by Granite State Communications over telephone lines (DSL) and the majority of customers have up to 3 Mbps connections. Higher speed DSL connections (up to 7 Mbps) are available only in certain areas of Town. In one neighborhood, GSC has rolled out fiber optic cable as a pilot program. The UVLSRPC’s plan reports that Washington is underserved, meaning that the highest advertised broadband service speed is less than 7 Mbps (download)/1.5 Mbps (upload).

Regionally, according to the UVLSRPC Regional Plan, New Hampshire FastRoads, LLC, has constructed a fiber-optic backbone through parts of Orford, Lyme, Hanover, Lebanon, Enfield, Springfield, New London, Sunapee, Newport, Claremont, Goshen and Lempster. FastRoads is beginning the planning process for the next phase of construction.

Cable television: Cable television is currently not available in Town. Granite State Communications will be offering a limited 10-channel digital option to DSL subscribers in the near future under a cable franchise agreement with the Town. Many residents utilize satellite dish services for television.

Emergency Communications:

Hillsboro Dispatch handles all communications for all Police and Public Works related matters. They also handle Fire and EMS communications for most areas in Washington. The exceptions are the west side of Ashuelot Pond (APA) and some Ashuelot Pond houses that are water access

9. UTILITIES

only in Washington. Keene Mutual Aide Dispatch services these exceptions for a response by Marlow Fire and Ambulance. The Town owns a UHF repeater located at Faxon Hill and it services Fire and EMS only. All other communications are direct radio link to Hillsboro Dispatch. Police operate on a dedicated digital frequency separate from other emergency services but interoperability is possible.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

Our vision statement for Washington’s future states that we will provide a portfolio of Town services that ensures the quality of life for our community residents.

Through the **2013 Community Survey**, the following input was received relative to Utilities:

<p>“What types of businesses or services would you like to see, or see more of, in Washington?”</p>	<p>Over 72% of the respondents choose Communications Services: enhanced cell-phone, internet and wi-fi capabilities.</p>
<p>“What service(s) is not being provided that should be?”</p>	<p>The most frequently repeated answer indicated cell phone coverage.</p>

The **Community Workshop** generated the following strengths/weaknesses/opportunities relative to Utilities in the breakout groups:

STRENGTHS: none

WEAKNESSES: Cell service is bad; cell tower situation (we need AT&T or other connection opportunities); we need better internet services (faster and cheaper).

OPPORTUNITIES: Communications availability and access in all areas need to meet our needs; provide services to encourage the retention and attraction of families; cell phones ringing all over town.

The **Community Workshop** priorities included the following Utilities priorities:

- Improved communication (cell service, internet, technology) - the #1 priority!
- Appropriate infrastructure (i.e., roads, internet, cell phone service) and energy efficiency.

9. UTILITIES

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Expand wireless cellular service availability/coverage throughout Town.

Recommendations:

1. Determine current barriers to entry for service providers and investigate options to overcome them.
2. Consider establishing a Telecommunications reserve fund or tax incentives that would attract service providers.
3. Investigate the use and feasibility of distributed antenna systems.

Goal B: Improve broadband speed and quality in Town through regional collaboration.

Recommendations:

1. Participate in inter-municipal or regional coordination on broadband expansion efforts, including expansion of the FastRoads consortium.
2. Encourage legislators to support state legislation that provides new options for broadband financing for companies to extend service to underserved areas.

Goal C: Ensure emergency communication equipment/services meet Town needs.

Recommendations:

1. Investigate newer, better dispatch services and equipment for all jurisdictions.

Goal D: Ensure appropriate power supply quality and stability.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in emergency automatic standby power generators for critical facilities and shelters in Town.
2. Encourage three-phase power supply in Town.
3. Encourage local utilities to invest in hazard tree removal and regular line trimming maintenance to reduce outages.

Goal E: Provide safe and environmentally sound disposal of sewage and hazardous waste.

Recommendations:

1. Educate homeowners about septic systems and best practices for extending system life.
2. Promote safe disposal of hazardous waste through partnering with the Town's Health Officer, Public Works and regional organizations.
3. Make site inspections of marginal or inadequate septic systems particularly those that may be contaminating waters used for recreational purposes.
4. Develop financial assistance programs that will help make septic repairs and replacement more affordable as the high costs can be an obstacle in some situations.
5. Complete installation of new septic system at Camp Morgan.
6. Encourage the Health Officer to identify and mitigate possible hazardous waste locations in Town.

10. HOUSING

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION:

Currently the town consists of one zoning district. The Land Use Ordinance allows a single family or duplex home on a four-acre lot or on a previously approved non-conforming lot provided the terrain (wetlands, ledge and slopes) would support it. Apartments are limited to two per building, and only one dwelling is allowed on a single lot. Multi-family (defined in RSA 674:43 as more than two units per building) development is prohibited. Mobile home parks are also prohibited.

Cluster developments are permitted anywhere in town; the total number of single-family lots in a cluster subdivision can not exceed that which would be permitted if the entire parcel were divided into conforming lots. Construction is limited to single family dwellings with a minimum lot size of one acre for each home, and proportionate “open space.” As of this writing, no developments have been created under the cluster development regulations.

Table 10.1 shows the housing stock data for Washington by year and type. It shows that single-family housing is predominant in Town. The 1990 data are from the 1990 Census plus the permits issued for the remainder of the year. The figures for 2000 were based on the number of permits issued for each type of housing since 1990. The data for 2010 were from the 2010 U.S. Census and the Town’s assessor’s data (multi-family and mobile homes). The housing numbers grew from 866 at the end of 1990 to 1,093 by the end of 2010, an increase of 227 units, or 26% over 20 years. This includes seasonal homes.

Table 10.1 Housing Stock by Type in Washington 1990-2015 (Source: U.S. Census, Town of Washington Assessor’s Data)

Year	Single Family	Duplex	Mobile Home	Total	% Increase
1990	795	7	64	866	
2000	852	7	77	936	8.0 % over 10 years
2010	1,043	7	43	1,093	16.8 % over 10 years
2015	1,075	7	46	1,128	3 % over 5 years

As **Table 10.2** illustrates, despite a substantial margin of error, the age of the housing stock is fairly equally distributed over the decades from 1950 until 2010. This would indicate that although nearly half of the subdivision lots in Town were created in the 1960’s (533 out of 1,166 from Table 1.1), building has occurred at a steady rate over the years.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

10. HOUSING

Table 10.2 Age of Housing Stock in Washington (Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2009-2013, Town of Washington Assessor's Data)

Year Built	Estimated Units	Margin of Error	Percent
2010 or later	35	+/-4	0.3%
2000's	169	+/-52	14.6%
1990's	120	+/-43	10.4%
1980's	187	+/-53	16.2%
1970's	184	+/-50	15.9%
1960's	112	+/-42	9.7%
1950's	141	+/-61	12.2%
1940's	25	+/-19	2.2%
Built 1939 or earlier	181	+/-43	15.7%

Table 10.3 highlights Washington's high proportion of seasonal housing compared to other surrounding towns of similar population. Of the 1,093 housing units, 591 or 54% are seasonal, and 459 or 42% are year-round. The significance of these numbers is that the Town has a significant increase in the population during the summer months when these units are occupied. This puts additional demands on public services and increased traffic on local roads during the summer.

Table 10.3 Seasonal Versus Year-Round Housing Comparison for 2010 (Source: 2010 U.S. Census)

Town	Population	Total Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units	Seasonal Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units
Washington	1,123	1,093	459	591	43
Goshen	810	444	344	80	20
Lempster	1,154	679	479	160	40
Newbury	2,072	1,559	869	636	54
Springfield	1,311	702	512	140	50
Stoddard	1,232	1,044	502	517	25
Unity	1,671	736	601	114	21

The population growth of a community is typically inseparable from its growth in housing units. In Washington's case though, the high percentage of seasonal homes could provide substantial population growth without a corresponding increase in housing, as seasonal owners become full-time residents. Thus, there may be a need to plan for future "seasonal to year-round" conversions and the resulting increased demand on services with only a marginal increase in the tax base.

In **Table 10.4** the 2010 occupied housing units are examined more closely in order to assess owner versus renter occupancies and the vacant housing units are examined to determine available housing stock for rent or for sale. This information is compared with nearby towns of similar population. As the data in both **Tables 10.3 and 10.4** indicate, Washington has the lowest percentage of occupied housing units and yet the highest percentage of occupied units are owner occupied. This, of course, results in a low percentage of renter occupancy.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

10. HOUSING

Table 10.4 Occupied and Vacant Housing Unit Comparison for 2010 (Source: 2010 U.S. Census)

Town	Total Occupied Housing Units	Owner Occupied Housing Units	% Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied Housing Units	% Renter Occupied	Total Vacant Housing Units	Vacant Housing Units for Sale	Vacant Housing Units for Rent
Washington	459	420	92%	39	8%	43	16	2
Goshen	344	287	83%	57	17%	20	7	3
Lempster	479	414	86%	65	14%	40	6	1
Newbury	869	778	90%	91	10%	54	19	8
Springfield	512	454	87%	58	13%	50	12	20
Stoddard	502	438	87%	64	13%	25	5	5
Unity	601	550	92%	51	8%	21	5	1

Workforce Housing:

Workforce Housing refers to affordable homes and rental units for low and moderate income families (NH Housing Finance Authority). In 2008 the New Hampshire legislature enacted a Workforce Housing Law based on court rulings in the case of Britton v. Town of Chester, 134 NH.434 (1991). This law, RSA 674:59, requires that all New Hampshire municipalities have an obligation to afford reasonable opportunities for the development of housing, including rental multi-family housing (structures containing 5 or more dwelling units), for low and moderate income families, including *fair share* of the *regional need* for such housing. In order to provide such opportunities, lot size and overall density requirements for workforce housing should be reasonable.

According to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's (UVLSRPC) 2012 Housing Needs Assessment Technical Report, the "fair share" in the RSA appears to refer to enabling reasonable opportunity for workforce housing development rather than a numerical quota for housing development. Numerical quotas were rejected in the NH Supreme Court decision in Britton v. Chester. The UVLSRPC report states that "for most of the non-urban communities of the Upper Valley, the test of compliance with the workforce housing statute will center on the reasonableness of local regulations and future opportunities."

The UVLSRPC's 2012 Housing Needs Assessment Report contains charts that provide proportionate demand and supply measures that can be used to evaluate the regional distribution of affordable housing resources. A community can then compare to those measures its share of the affordable housing supply (measured by its share of multifamily, rental, or manufactured housing, or its share of the region's homes selling or renting within workforce cost limits). Those cost limits are determined by what is affordable to households with incomes up to 100% of the HUD Area Median Family Income (AMFI) for a family of four persons, and for rental housing up to 60% of the AMFI for a household of three persons. The 2010 benchmarks for household income for the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region indicate that 100% of the HUD AMFI is \$62,914 and 60% is \$37,814. Various financing authorities calculate that a \$215,000 home is affordable on a \$50,000 annual salary. The report also

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

10. HOUSING

indicates that in 2010 the median single-family home value in Washington was \$201,800 and the median sale price was \$125,000.

One of the challenges of using these measures to determine the need for low cost housing in Washington is that the Town has little to do with the economic center of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region, the Hanover/Lebanon area. Washington residents probably have more to do with the Hillsborough/Concord area than with the Hanover/Lebanon area. The state has mandated that these studies be done based on regional planning areas.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT:

The **2013 Community Survey** supports the theory that Washington could see population growth occurring without additional housing units being built, as seasonal owners become full-time residents. Of the 197 seasonal-use respondents, 26%, or 52, responded that they intend to become full-time residents within the next 10 years.

The only types of housing that the majority of respondents chose to “encourage” were:

Single-family dwellings	82%
Seasonal houses	74%
Senior housing	51%
One accessory (in-law) apartment	69%

Only 28% or fewer of the respondents wanted to encourage the following housing types:

Two-family/duplex	26%
Apartment buildings/multi-family	6%
Affordable housing	28%
Condominium complex	14%
Mobile homes	8%

The following input was received relative to Land Use and Zoning that could impact options for housing alternatives:

Specific sections of Town should be designated for different land use.	74% agree or strongly agree
Different minimum lot sizes should be required in these different sections.	68% agree

Although there was not a breakout group for housing in the June 2014, **Community Workshop**, it is notable that none of the priorities from any of the workshop breakout groups included a priority related to housing. The only mention of housing was from the Land Use and Zoning group that identified a lack of senior accommodations as a current weakness.

10. HOUSING

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Ensure housing growth, and/or seasonal home conversions, are at a pace that is consistent with the Town's ability to accommodate its impact upon transportation infrastructure, utilities, services and community facilities.

Recommendations.

1. Require impact studies for major subdivisions.
2. Continue to plan for capital facilities and improvements with a Capital Improvement Plan.

Goal B: Provide for housing development compatible with sound land use planning.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of current housing stock whenever feasible.
2. Encourage use of "innovative land use planning techniques" to help meet housing needs and ensure sustainable development.
3. Consider modification of the Land Use Ordinance, if needed, regarding one accessory (in-law) apartment and accommodation of senior housing.
4. Review current Land Use Ordinances with UVLSPRC to determine compliance with the Workforce Housing Law and to develop alternative housing approaches in an effort to provide lower cost dwelling units for families unable to afford conventional homes and for those with special needs.
5. Investigate utilizing the Downtown Tax Incentive, RSA 79-E, that encourages downtown or village center buildings to be rehabilitated in exchange for temporary tax relief.
6. Consider identifying specific sections of Town in which different minimum lot sizes and housing density are allowed in order to accommodate alternative housing approaches.

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

11. POPULATION

HISTORIC POPULATION GROWTH:

In 1773, when the first census was taken in Washington Township, the population was 132. By 1830, the population of Washington had grown to a high of 1,135. As of the 2010 census, our population of 1,123 is nearing that high.

Table 11.1 reflects the population growth for Washington from 1960 to 2010, the most recent U.S. Census year. As indicated in the table, the population growth rate of the Town of Washington (25.5%) from 2000 to 2010 was significantly higher than that of Sullivan County (8.1%) or the state of New Hampshire (6.5%). The Town of Hillsborough (22.0%) also grew substantially during this period. These higher growth rates may be attributable to the NH Route 9 bypass that was constructed in 2001 enabling shorter commuting times to employment centers of Concord and Manchester.

Table 11.1 Population Growth, 1960 to 2010 (Source: U.S. Census, N.H. Office of Energy and Planning)

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
Hillsborough County	4,188	5,849	6,910	8,569	9,317	10,526	13.0%
Antrim	1,121	2,122	2,208	2,360	2,449	2,637	7.7%
Hancock	722	909	1,193	1,604	1,739	1,654	-4.9%
Hillsborough	2,310	2,775	3,437	4,498	4,928	6,011	22.0%
Windsor	35	43	72	107	201	224	11.4%
Sullivan County	28,067	30,949	36,063	38,592	40,458	43,742	8.1%
Acworth	371	459	590	776	836	891	6.6%
Charlestown	2,576	3,274	4,417	4,630	4,749	5,114	7.7%
Claremont	13,563	14,221	14,557	13,902	13,151	13,355	1.6%
Cornish	1,106	1,268	1,390	1,659	1,661	1,640	-1.3%
Croydon	312	396	457	627	661	764	15.6%
Goshen	351	395	549	742	741	810	9.3%
Grantham	332	366	704	1,247	2,167	2,985	37.7%
Langdon	338	337	437	580	586	688	17.4%
Lempster	272	360	637	947	971	1,154	18.8%
Newport	5,458	5,899	6,229	6,110	6,269	6,507	3.8%
Plainfield	1,071	1,323	1,749	2,056	2,241	2,364	5.5%
Springfield	283	310	532	788	945	1,311	38.7%
Sunapee	1,164	1,384	2,312	2,559	3,055	3,365	10.1%
Unity	708	709	1,092	1,341	1,530	1,671	9.2%
Washington	162	248	411	628	895	1,123	25.5%
New Hampshire	606,921	737,578	920,475	1,109,117	1,235,786	1,316,470	6.5%

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

11. POPULATION

Population Age Distribution:

The pie chart to the right highlights the current age distribution of the Town’s population. Almost 75% of the population is under the age of 60. And a healthy portion, 49%, of the population is in the working age bracket.

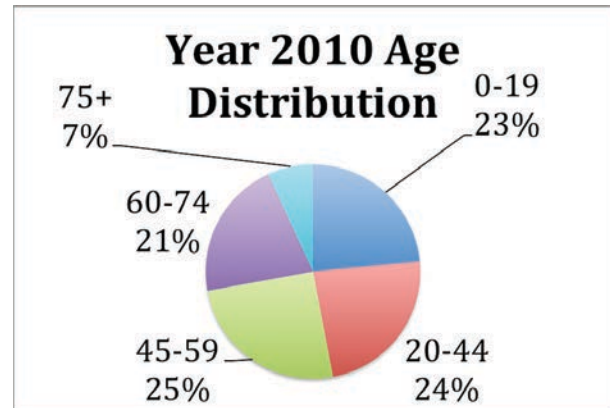


Table 11.2 below indicates the changing age demographic of Washington from 2000 to 2010. Although growth is reflected in all age brackets, the 20-44 age bracket had the slowest growth rate (11.9%) and the 75+ the highest growth rate (63.8%). This reflects the “Silver Tsunami” (coined by the NH Center for Public Policy Studies) that is occurring in Grafton, Merrimack and Sullivan Counties as reported in the UVLSRPC 2014 Regional Plan. Fortunately for Washington, our age distribution, i.e., the percent of population in each bracket, has remained relatively stable between 2000 and 2010.

Table 11.2 Population by Age Group (Source: U.S. Census 2010, N.H. Office of Energy and Planning)

Age	Year 2000	Year 2010	Actual Change	% Change
0-19	211 24%	264 24%	53	25.1%
20-44	236 26%	264 24%	28	11.9%
45-59	220 25%	282 25%	62	28.2%
60-74	181 20%	236 21%	55	30.4%
75+	47 5%	77 7%	30	63.8%
Total Population	895	1,123	228	25.5%

School Age Population Growth

Included in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission’s Housing Needs Assessment Technical Report from March 2012 were data on changes in school age population in communities within UVLSRPC’s region. There were only seven communities that sustained long-term (20-year) net increases of 50 or more in their school-age populations from 1990 to 2010. Washington was one of these seven communities as shown to the right.

Community	Net Increase
Hanover	+386
Grantham	+297
Springfield	+88
Washington	+88
Lyme	+77
New London	+70
Wilmot	+54

Town of Washington, New Hampshire

Master Plan 2015

September 2015

11. POPULATION

Year-Round versus Seasonal Population:

A major factor for consideration in planning is the seasonal variation in Washington’s population. The data above are based entirely on the full-time population of the Town and do not reflect the summer seasonal population. There are approximately 1,093 housing units in Town of which 591 units, or 54%, are occupied seasonally. If and when those seasonal units are all occupied full time by the average 2.5-person household size, the population grows to over 2,500. This population increase puts additional demands on public services and increases traffic on the local roads during the summer. These fluctuations in the population should be considered when the Town plans for expenditures for public services.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS:

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Council projects that the region, like the State of New Hampshire as a whole, will grow at a slower rate, less than 9% between 2010 and 2040. This may not necessarily apply to Washington, as we grew at a much higher rate than Sullivan County in the past decade.

The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning predicts that by the year 2040 the population of Washington will be 1,439, which is a 28% change from the 2010 population. This is substantially higher than the Sullivan County population change, which is only predicted to increase by 13%. If these organizations are as accurate as the weather forecasters, it will be anyone’s guess as to Washington’s population in 2040.

Table 11.2 Population Projections (Source: N.H. Office of Energy and Planning)

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Percent Change 2010 - 2040
Sullivan County	43,742	44,511	45,492	46,650	47,840	48,724	49,249	13%
Acworth	891	900	913	937	960	978	989	
Charlestown	5,114	5,193	5,297	5,432	5,571	5,674	5,735	
Claremont	13,355	13,150	12,991	13,322	13,662	13,914	14,064	
Cornish	1,640	1,590	1,544	1,583	1,623	1,653	1,671	
Croydon	764	803	846	867	890	906	916	
Goshen	810	829	852	873	896	912	922	
Grantham	2,985	3,364	3,772	3,868	3,967	4,040	4,084	
Langdon	688	728	772	792	812	827	836	
Lempster	1,154	1,227	1,309	1,342	1,376	1,401	1,417	
Newport	6,507	6,484	6,486	6,651	6,820	6,946	7,021	
Plainfield	2,364	2,376	2,397	2,458	2,521	2,568	2,595	
Springfield	1,311	1,481	1,664	1,707	1,750	1,783	1,802	
Sunapee	3,365	3,456	3,564	3,655	3,748	3,817	3,858	
Unity	1,671	1,709	1,755	1,800	1,846	1,880	1,900	
Washington	1,123	1,222	1,329	1,363	1,398	1,424	1,439	28%

11. POPULATION

Washington's unique proportion of seasonal versus year-round housing (54% seasonal) significantly affects the predictions of future population growth. In the **2013 Community Survey**, 26% of the respondents (approximately 52 households) indicated that they intended to become full-time residents within the next 10 years. This is yet another consideration in planning for Washington's future.

11. POPULATION

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Goal A: Ensure population growth, including seasonal population growth, is at a pace that is consistent with the Town's ability to accommodate its impacts upon transportation infrastructure, utilities, services and community facilities.

Recommendations:

1. Require impact studies for major subdivisions.
2. Continue to plan for capital facilities improvements with a Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Review road infrastructure/access to seasonal home locations to determine policy for development on Class V or VI roads.