

3.5 - Open Space - The Town of Williston will continue to protect open space resources, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities for its residents, as directed by Chapter 12 - Open Space and Working Landscapes.

Williston adopted its first Open Space Plan in 1989. In 2005 the Open Space Plan was broadened and became Appendix C to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. Since it was decided that Williston's Open Space Plan is in no way ancillary to the way that Williston is managed, Appendix C and incorporated into the town Plan in 2011. It remains in this plan as two chapters, Chapter 9 - Parks & Recreation and Chapter 13 - Open Space & Working Landscapes, and incorporated into the main body of this Plan. Williston's open space rules have guided the town in development review and successful land conservation efforts for 27 years.

3.6 - Williston Village - The Town of Williston will continue to maintain and protect the historic character of its village center.

The Village Zoning District (VZD) encompasses one of the two focal points of Williston's settlement (the other was in North Williston, at the railroad). A portion of the VZD is included in the Williston Village Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places (see Map 6). A larger portion of the VZD includes a mix of historic and more recent development. Development in both areas must comply with the *Williston Village Historic District Design Review Guide*, as incorporated into the town's zoning bylaw. For more on the design review process please see Chapter 4 - Community Design. Williston Village also contains a state-designated Village Center. In Williston, village center designation is particularly important because it impacts the designated growth center adjacent to it. Ongoing approval of the growth center depends on it incorporating a designated downtown, village center, or new town center. Village center designation can also potentially provide financial benefits to landowners and tenants, including tax credits for work on buildings, priority consideration for state facilities, grant opportunities, and flexibility in the use of special assessment district funds. These incentives can help maintain the historic character of the Village.

3.6.1 Develop and Adopt a Village Master Plan. The village planning process should aim to preserve the historic character and pedestrian friendliness of the village and consider the present town green, the possibility of connecting streets within the village to enhance traffic and pedestrian circulation, and appropriate improvements at the intersection of North Williston, Oak Hill, and Rt. 2, as well as limitations on development imposed by the wetlands and streams that are found throughout the Village. As of June, 2016 the town has begun the process of creating a Village Master Plan.

3.6.2 Examine the Density Standards for Mixed-Use Development in the VZD. The existing development standards for the VZD allow properties to have a mix of residential and some non-residential uses on the same property. The current standards do not address how the maximum allowable residential density might be affected by the location of non-residential uses on the same property. The town should consider developing standards for mixed use developments in the VZD. The Village Master plan process will include recommendations for changes to the bylaws that will address the density and intensity of development within the VZD. See Chapter 4, Community Design, for more discussion of this.