

Williston's Vision for the Future

Williston will strive to balance responsible, livable suburban growth with rural character and conservation. To do this, the town will ...

- concentrate and limit high intensity development to areas within the town's designated Growth Center in and around Taft Corners;
- permit the flexibility and intensity of use necessary to foster creation of a design-conscious, mixed use, pedestrian-friendly commercial center around Taft Corners;
- encourage and support the use of mass transit and non-motorized modes of transportation through mixed use development policies, Complete Street applications and transportation facilities planning;
- sustain rural landscapes by requiring usable, on-site open space for subdivisions and other multi-family developments, conserving lands identified in Chapter 13 - Open Space and Working Landscapes through acquisitions or easements; and finding ways to help the owners of working lands continue their stewardship;
- use design review and public investment to maintain the character of its historic village center;
- manage the timing of and pace of new development to ensure that necessary public facilities and services are available when development occurs;
- protect residential neighborhoods from incompatible uses and offer incentives for the provision of a diverse housing stock. Housing will be constructed in a manner that supports the health and safety of the occupant. and include homes that are affordable to working people and their families;
- attend to the details of site planning with human-scale architectural design, including outdoor lighting, signage, access, and landscaping that give development both market appeal and long-term community value;
- invest in new facilities, including utilities, roads, schools, parks, community gardens, and trails, as necessary, while managing the location and pace of development to ensure that growth does not outstrip the capacity of public facilities and services, including fire protection and law enforcement;
- conserve energy in its own operations through energy efficiency, and by incentivizing and encouraging builders to meet "green" building standards;
- use regulatory and non-regulatory tools, including funding for the acquisition of development rights or land, to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic views, and other natural and cultural resources; and
- consider a resolution to establish a food policy council, park and recreation agreements, and other local government policies supporting community gardens and a year-round farmers market.
- engage all citizens who are interested and willing to participate in the town's planning process. Provide accessible opportunities for residents from all backgrounds, ages and abilities to participate in the town's planning process. (Note: this could mean varying the times of the engagement events, providing childcare, ensuring reasonable transit options to lower the attendance barriers as much as possible.)