

Land Use

Visioning Sessions Summary

Density: Expanding or Building Up?

- Focus development along existing sewer/water infrastructure.
- Connect expansion areas with downtown to support integration.
- Consider environmental and community impacts of new development.
- Increase density levels in already developed areas to prevent urban sprawl.
- Encourage higher-density housing development where appropriate.
- Promote “eyes on the street” concepts to enhance safety for children, vulnerable populations, and seniors.
- Recreation hubs and connectivity between recreation areas
- Appropriate use plans for protected areas
- Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor protection
- Protect existing farm land
- Land Use & Environmental Management – These items emphasize sustainable development and ecological restoration, including *Develop outside of low lands, Expand Floodplain Use, Landscape Alteration, Promote Land Trust, and Reconnect River to Flood Plain.*

Housing

Visioning Sessions Housing Summary

The majority of housing comments focused on affordability, accessibility, while maintaining community character.

Affordability & Accessibility:

- Prioritize affordable housing for all demographics and income levels.
- Ensure accessible housing (ADA-compliant) for individuals with disabilities.

Housing Development Strategies:

- Support higher-density housing as a sustainability and affordability solution.
- Consider vertical height limits while maintaining community character, particularly on S. Main.
- Encourage clustered and compact housing options to optimize space and affordability.
- Convert existing structures (Armory, State Office Complex, industrial areas) into housing.
- Utilize underdeveloped existing buildings for housing.

Regulations & Zoning Adjustments:

- Revise zoning codes to promote sustainable density.
- Reduce regulatory barriers like fire code compliance for multi-family housing (note: state requirement).
- Address short-term rental impacts with "smart restrictions," including owner-occupied regulations.
- Consider tax incentives and deed restrictions to support affordable housing.

Community & Infrastructure:

- Ensure housing aligns with population stabilization and demographic changes.
- Strengthen community involvement in housing decisions and development.
- Invest in infrastructure improvements like water/sewer expansions for housing growth.
- Promote intergenerational property exchange to encourage long-term residence stability.
- Making Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) easier to build
- Support alternative housing types like tiny homes and intergenerational neighborhoods.
- Implement community-friendly designs, including dementia-friendly spaces and non-monolithic housing styles.

Housing Stock & Availability:

- Increase diversity of housing stock (rental vs. ownership) and housing types, including smaller homes, ADUs, and multi-unit developments to satisfy a variety of demographics.
- Incentivize long-term rentals over short-term rentals.

- Address the shortage of starter homes and vacant properties to maximize housing stock.

Housing & Economic Development

- Support **small-scale landlords** and promote **long-term rentals** over short-term accommodations.
- Expand **homeownership opportunities** and create policies that prioritize local property owners over outside investors.
- Address **housing cycles, affordability, and demographic shifts** in planning efforts.
- Encourage **homesteading and community-driven development, especially outside the downtown district.**
- **Housing & Community Livability**
 - Address housing shortages with expanded inventory, multi-unit ownership models, and utilization of vacant buildings.
 - Maintain affordability to attract residents and support a livable community.

Flood Mitigation/Resilience

Visioning Sessions Summary

1. **Flood Resilience & Adaptation** – Many of these entries highlight strategies to improve infrastructure and communities' ability to withstand flooding, including *Flood Mitigation*, *Flood Resilience Design*, *Improve flood resilience at Randall Meadow*, and *Flood Resilience Guidelines*.
2. **Policy & Planning** – Several ideas touch on regulatory approaches and disaster preparedness, such as *Adding Flood-related building codes*, *Contingency / Disaster Planning*, and “fix the river”
3. **Land Use & Environmental Management** – These items emphasize sustainable development and ecological restoration, including *Develop outside of low lands*, *Expand Floodplain Use*, *Landscape Alteration*, *Promote Land Trust*, and *Reconnect River to Flood Plain*.
4. **Infrastructure & Network Resilience** – There is a focus on maintaining and strengthening transportation and utility networks to withstand flood risks, seen in *Resilient Transportation Network*, *Network Resilience*, and *Preventative Washout Strategies*.
5. **Climate Resilience & Mindset Shift** – The idea of fostering a proactive approach to climate adaptation comes through strongly, such as *Adopt a highwater mindset*, *Build on Resilience*, and *Climate Resilience*.
6. **Collaboration & Communication** – Some entries highlight the need for cooperation and transparency in flood planning, such as *Flood planning communication*, *Regional Cooperation*, and *Trust FEMA maps?*.

Together, these themes show a holistic approach to flood resilience—balancing infrastructure, policy, environmental restoration, and community collaboration.

Economic Development

Visioning Sessions Economic Development Summary

Your ideas revolve around key themes related to **economic development, housing, business support, infrastructure, and sustainability**. Here's a condensed summary of the core concepts:

1. Economic Growth & Business Sustainability

- o Support locally owned businesses, incubators, and new industries (tech, trades, activity-based businesses, manufacturing, etc.).
- o Strengthen economic diversity to balance market cycles
- o Revive local markets (farmers market, flea market, small waterbury center market).
- o Incentivize business development through policy changes, tax incentives, and financial support.
- o Encourage mixed-use development in key areas like Main Street.
- o Leverage recreation and tourism to boost business, but prioritize resources for locals first.
- o Consider the impact of federal funding on infrastructure investment.
- o Encourage **food trucks near recreation centers** to support local businesses.
- o Recognize housing as essential for economic vitality and workforce retention.

2. Infrastructure & Urban Planning

- o Expand water and sewer capacity to allow for controlled, dense growth.
- o Maintain walkability and small-town balance while developing smartly.
- o Improve internet access for economic growth and entrepreneurship.
- o Invest in industrial areas and state complexes as job centers.
- o Lean on state resources for infrastructure improvements

3. Economic Development & Local Business Support

- o Creating **office space and facilities** for businesses that don't fit into existing small or large spaces.
- o Supporting **restaurants and local businesses** as economic anchors of the community.
- o Using **utility investments** (water/sewer, energy, broadband) to drive business expansion strategically.
- o Diversify types of retail services offered by local businesses such as household goods

4. Collaboration & Strategic Planning

- o Strengthen connections between local businesses, government, and industry leaders.
- o Prioritize growth with sustainability, maintaining Waterbury's role as a regional hub.
- o Focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes, ensuring resources are allocated wisely.

Facilities/infrastructure

Visioning Sessions Facilities and Utilities Summary

Your list highlights themes centered around **community infrastructure, sustainability, economic development, and accessibility**. Here's a breakdown of the overarching themes:

1. Community Facilities & Public Spaces

- o Developing multi-use **community centers** for recreation, meetings, and all-age activities (pickleball, climbing wall, senior area).
- o Improving **public amenities** like bathrooms, parking, and municipal trash collection for efficiency and affordability.
- o Expanding **daycare and senior center integration** to serve broader community needs.

2. Infrastructure & Growth Management

- o Expanding **water and sewer systems** to support economic development, including Route 100 and Duxbury.
- o Maintaining and updating **public utilities** like broadband, underground utilities, and fiber-optic networks (CVFiber).
- o Improving **road infrastructure** and supporting transportation-centered growth.
- o Planning for **business expansion**, balancing commercial spaces with housing availability.

3. Resilience & Sustainability

- o Strengthening **disaster preparedness** with AEDs, flood resilience measures, and contingency plans for power outages.
- o Exploring **renewable energy options** like district heat and geothermal power.
- o Ensuring **smart zoning and planning** to balance growth with a small-town feel.

4. Public Communication & Regional Coordination

- o Enhancing **public information efforts** for infrastructure projects (bridges, culvert repairs, zoning plans).
- o Leveraging **state resources** for major infrastructure projects (Route 100 improvements, State Office Complex development).
- o Strengthening **town-wide communication systems** for community coordination.

Local Government

Visioning Sessions Government Summary

Your list highlights key themes related to **civic engagement, government accessibility, housing, and community sustainability**.

Here's a summary of the core ideas:

1. **Community Engagement & Government Transparency**
 - o Improve **communication** and access to government processes (emails, town hall meetings, public forums).
 - o Develop a **cohesive town calendar** for better civic participation and knowledge sharing.
 - o Encourage **involvement of younger generations (20s-30s) in government** and decision-making.
 - o Strengthen **public education on local policies, assessments, food security, and resilience**.
 - o Ensure **people feel heard and can meaningfully contribute to town governance**.
2. **Infrastructure & Sustainability**
 - o Improve **regional transportation access** (GMTA scheduling, USPS delivery services).
 - o Consider **electrification of town services/tools** for environmental sustainability (mowers, street lighting, etc.).
 - o Strengthen **contingency planning for long-term power outages** and municipal infrastructure.
 - o Expand **public utilities and sewer access** to support smart growth and housing expansion.
 - o Explore **new technology solutions** to improve town services.
3. **Social Equity & Community Resources**
 - o Ensure **equitable access to civic engagement and decision-making processes**.
 - o Enhance **social services for elderly residents** and broader community support programs.
 - o Foster **inclusive spaces for community discussions, events, and recreation**.
4. **Tax & Financial Planning**
 - o Ensure transparent and equitable taxation policies.
 - o Plan budgets with preventative strategies rather than reactive spending.
 - o Consider local option taxes carefully to balance affordability with community funding.
5. **Strategic Planning & Local Identity**
 - o Maintain **Waterbury's small-town feel** while balancing thoughtful growth and expansion.
 - o Improve **government efficiency and coordination** (unified municipal approach, town/state collaboration).
 - o Advocate for **policy reforms and exemptions to better serve Waterbury's unique needs** (e.g., Act 250 exemptions).
 - o Recognize **Waterbury's reputation for smart problem-solving** and use it to drive innovative solutions for the future.
6. Considerations for public safety (police, etc.) such as reconstituting town police department.

Recreation

Visioning Sessions Recreation Summary

Your ideas highlight **recreational development, accessibility, infrastructure, and community engagement**. Here's a summary of the key themes:

1. Expanding Recreation & Accessibility

- o Transform and **expand access to key recreational areas**, ensuring **ADA-accessible opportunities**.
- o Develop **multi-use community facilities**, including a **pool, indoor sports center, and teen-friendly spaces**.
- o Support **bike-friendly infrastructure**, expanding bike paths, trails, and safer biking routes for tours and races.
- o Improve **public spaces** like parks, walking trails, and outdoor venues for concerts and events.

2. Infrastructure & Sustainable Land Use

- o Complete and **maintain the community path**, ensuring long-term land management and connectivity.
- o Improve **parking solutions** to support recreational areas and ease access for residents and visitors.
- o Strengthen **trail development coordination** between the town and landowners to prevent uncontrolled expansion.
- o Explore **lit fields for evening recreation** and **maintain existing sports facilities** like pools, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

3. Economic & Community Growth

- o Reinvent **Pilgrim Park for mixed-use business and public engagement**.
- o Promote **Waterbury as a regional recreation hub**, balancing visitor influx with local needs.
- o Draw **younger generations through recreation-focused infrastructure and programming**.

4. Public Engagement & Local Identity

- o Host **more outdoor events, concerts, and community activities**.
- o Engage **schools and local youth** in recreational planning.
- o Strengthen **town involvement in trail and park maintenance**.
- o Reinforce **Waterbury's identity as a crossroads for recreation and community gathering**.

Transportation

Visioning Sessions Transportation Summary

Your list covers themes related to **transportation infrastructure, pedestrian and bike accessibility, community connectivity, and sustainability**. Here's a breakdown of the major themes:

1. Transportation Infrastructure & Safety

- **Bridge & Road Upgrades** – Addressing challenges with **Stowe St Bridge replacement**, and **Exit 10 congestion** to improve safety and flow.
- **Road Conditions & Maintenance** – Managing **mud issues, frost heaves, culvert capacity, drainage, and ROW limitations** for safer travel.
- **Traffic Management** – Implementing **traffic calming measures** (speed signs, roundabout redesigns, enforcement during peak tourism times).
- **Public Transit Expansion** – Strengthening **regional transit**, including **shuttles, bus services, train connections**, and innovative options like **Uber-style micro-transit**.
- **Infrastructure and Development Considerations** – Evaluating whether infrastructure can support additional growth and implementing strategies like speed bumps to manage vehicle noise.
- **Transportation and Traffic Management** – Addressing land-use impact on traffic flow, promoting centralized parking strategies, and ensuring sidewalks in urban areas.

2. Pedestrian & Bike Accessibility

- **Bike Path Expansion & Connectivity** – Developing **cohesive bike networks**, connecting **Guptil Rd, Rt. 100, and Maple Street**, and **prioritizing safety measures** like bike lanes and marked routes.
- **Sidewalks & Safe Crossings** – Increasing **pedestrian infrastructure**, installing **crosswalks, RRFB signals**, and creating **safer routes near schools and busy corridors**.
- **Promoting a Culture of Walking & Biking** – Encouraging **daily bike commuting, alternative paths** for major roadways, and **bike rentals/e-bike services**.

- **Community Path Expansion** – Improving links between Waterbury Village, Center, and recreational hubs to support alternative commuting.
- **Trails & Green Spaces** – Maintaining walking trails, park access, and recreational opportunities like Randall Meadow and Perry Hill trails.
- **Recreation & Outdoor Engagement** – Strengthening bike/pedestrian access to parks, reservoirs, and activity centers to enhance local and visitor experiences.

3. Sustainability & Alternative Transportation

- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure** – Expanding EV charging stations, upgrading park & ride spaces, and exploring electrified transit options (trolley, van services).
- **Mass Transit Transformation** – Promoting public transit, reducing vehicle reliance, and developing low-impact commuting solutions.
- **Environmental Considerations** – Preserving wildlife corridors, implementing smart zoning regulations, and reducing unnecessary road expansion until infrastructure is adequate.

4. Community & Economic Integration

- **Strengthening Regional Transit Partnerships** – Collaborating with Ben & Jerry's, Amtrak, and state transit agencies to improve public accessibility.
- **Balancing Development & Infrastructure Needs** – Managing parking shortages, downtown access issues, and ensuring growth aligns with available infrastructure.
- **Public Engagement & Education** – Encouraging citizen participation, improving communication on transportation projects, and making transit planning more inclusive.

Natural Resources/Conservation

- **Environmental Considerations** – Preserving **wildlife corridors** (e.g. **Shutesville**), implementing **smart zoning regulations**, and **reducing unnecessary road expansion** until infrastructure is adequate.

Here are some overarching themes that stand out:

1. **Balancing Development and Conservation** – Many points discuss finding equilibrium between growth and environmental protection, preventing sprawl, limiting development on mountainsides, and implementing conservation subdivisions.
2. **Preserving Natural Resources** – Emphasis on protecting wetlands, watersheds, wildlife corridors, forests, and riparian buffers.
3. **Sustainable Land Management** – Calls for holistic land-use planning, addressing road water runoff, managing sediment flow, and implementing climate-conscious culvert and dirt usage practices.
4. **Zoning and Growth Planning** – Discussion of zoning along roads while preserving larger lots, promoting development in designated centers, and discouraging sprawl along major corridors.
5. **Community Engagement in Land Conservation** – Developing a local land trust, recognizing the Waterbury Land Initiative, and maintaining open vistas and working farms.
6. **Public Accessibility and Recreation** – Ensuring trail networks are maintained, connecting recreation hubs, and promoting environmental awareness
7. **Agricultural and Forest Management** – Supporting local farms through tax policies and market support while advocating for selective forest cutting based on ecological needs.
8. **Climate Resilience and Best Practices** – Implementing state requirements in town bylaws regarding river corridors, encouraging green spaces, and supporting policies that enhance ecological sustainability.

Your themes reflect a thoughtful approach to shaping sustainable growth while maintaining ecological integrity.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Visioning Sessions Historical and Cultural Resources Summary

1. Community Engagement & Gathering Spaces

- o Strengthen neighborhood connections through **events, cultural activities, and shared spaces** (grange, Steele).
- o Create **inclusive town meetings** to promote equitable participation.
- o Develop **community centers and recreation facilities** that serve all ages, including teens and kids.

2. Historic Preservation & Local Identity

- o Maintain **historic buildings and districts**, ensuring thoughtful modernization while preserving architectural integrity.
- o Support **Waterbury's Historic Society**, including better funding for **storage, display, and curation**.
- o Leverage **historic tourism** as an economic and cultural draw.
- o Acknowledge and integrate **local history into town planning**, ensuring residents learn and honor the past.

3. Public Art & Creative Placemaking

- o Expand **public art installations** (e.g., Jack's Alley) to enhance community spaces.
- o Establish a **performing arts center** to support local creativity and expression.
- o Implement **placemaking strategies** like bike racks, benches, and signage to improve public spaces.

4. Balancing Growth with Tradition

- o Maintain Waterbury's **small-town feel** while evolving to promote **equity and accessibility**.
- o Ensure that **growth aligns with historic preservation**, maintaining the town's identity while adapting to new needs.
- o Improve **marketing for the Waterbury Land Trust & Land Initiative** to support local conservation efforts.

Your vision emphasizes a **thoughtful blend of history, culture, and community-building**.

Energy

Visioning Sessions Summary

Clean Energy & Renewables

- Promote and maximize solar, wind, and hydroelectric energy at both private and municipal levels.
- Investigate innovative power generation technologies, including small-scale wind and solar canopy installations.
- Strengthen the local energy grid and encourage self-sufficiency.

Electric & AI-Driven Town Infrastructure

- Electrify town equipment and fleets.
- Support EV access, infrastructure, and charging stations.
- Utilize AI and alternative equipment for efficiency improvements.

Energy Management & Policy

- Conduct energy audits and create a town energy contingency plan.
- Implement net metering policies and prevent shading of solar panels.
- Evaluate contracts like Hydro-Québec for energy stability.

Public Lighting & Environmental Considerations

- Regulate public lighting, including Dac Rowe lights and downward-facing designs to reduce light pollution.
- Establish the town's stance on wind power generation and collaborate on sustainability efforts with groups like WTB LEAP.