

Regional Policy Plan Goals (2019)

Natural Systems - To protect and restore the quality and function of the region's natural environment that provides the clean water and healthy ecosystems upon which life depends.

Water Resources

- Goal: To maintain a sustainable supply of high-quality untreated drinking water and protect, preserve, or restore the ecological integrity of Cape Cod's fresh and marine surface water resources.

Ocean Resources

- Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of ocean resources.

Wetland Resources

- Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of inland and coastal wetlands and their buffers.

Wildlife and Plant Habitat

- Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore wildlife and plant habitat to maintain the region's natural diversity.

Open Space

- Goal: To conserve, preserve, or enhance a network of open space that contributes to the region's natural and community resources and systems.

Built Systems- To protect and enhance the built environment and infrastructure necessary to support the region and healthy activity centers.

Community Design

- Goal: To protect and enhance the unique character of the region's built and natural environment based on the local context.

Coastal Resiliency

- Goal: To prevent or minimize human suffering and loss of life and property or environmental damage resulting from storms, flooding, erosion, and relative sea level rise.

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

- Goal: To guide the development of capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the region's needs while protecting regional resources.

Transportation

- Goal: To provide and promote a safe, reliable, and multi-modal transportation system.

Energy

- Goal: To provide an adequate, reliable, and diverse supply of energy to serve the communities and economies of Cape Cod.

Waste Management

- Goal: To promote a sustainable solid waste management system for the region that protects public health, safety, and the environment and supports the economy.

Community Systems - To protect and enhance the linkages between society, the natural environment, and history vital to the way of life on Cape Cod by supporting development of amenities and life opportunities necessary to support vibrant and diverse communities.

Cultural Heritage

- Goal: To protect and preserve the significant cultural, historic, and archeological values and resources of Cape Cod.

Economy

- Goal: To promote a sustainable regional economy comprised of a broad range of businesses providing employment opportunities to a diverse workforce.

Housing

- Goal: To promote the production of an adequate supply of ownership and rental housing that is safe, healthy, and attainable for people with different income levels and diverse needs.

Place Type Explanation and Goal Making Strategies

Natural Areas

The vision for Natural Areas is to minimize adverse development impacts to sensitive resource areas, to preserve lands that define Cape Cod's natural landscape and contribute to its scenic

character, and to improve the Cape's resilience to severe storms and the effects of climate change.

Natural Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Accommodate sea-level rise by allowing low-lying areas to absorb rising seas and wave action/tides from severe storms
- 2) Provide natural areas for plant and wildlife habitat
- 3) Retain natural cover and restore wooded areas
- 4) Integrate green infrastructure practices to accommodate sea-level rise and storm events
- 5) Provide areas for passive recreation such as walking and hiking
- 6) Limit development to protect natural resource functions and encourage removal of development where appropriate

Rural Development Areas

The vision for Rural Development Areas is to ensure that development is located, sited, and scaled appropriately to avoid impacts on scenic and/or cultural resources, and to help maintain the economic diversity that agriculture can provide for the region including opportunities for the continuation of traditional agricultural occupations, and for the availability of locally-grown food.

Rural Development Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Preserve lands in agricultural production to encourage locally-grown food
- 2) Protect agricultural lands and natural cover to preserve existing natural functions
- 3) Ensure development respects the surrounding landscape by using existing topography to guide the development layout, cluster the development on the site, and preserve wooded buffers
- 4) Protect scenic and cultural landscapes and historic structures within these landscapes that contribute to the Cape's unique character and history
- 5) Provide connections to adjacent open space lands to create an open space network with opportunities for passive recreation such as walking and hiking

Suburban Development Areas

The vision for these areas is to redevelop commercial and industrial Suburban Development Areas consistent with the community's vision to create more concentrated nodes of development,

and to improve their design and function so that they are better integrated into surrounding neighborhoods. The vision for residential Suburban Development Areas is to cluster residential development to reduce the development footprint and provide high-quality open space.

Suburban Development Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Encourage redevelopment of existing commercial suburban development with denser clusters of buildings surrounded by less developed areas
- 2) Integrate existing commercial development into surrounding areas with mixed-use and/or residential development providing greater housing opportunities and employment diversity
- 3) Create pedestrian and bicycle amenities within and between developments to improve safety for all users and reduce auto dependence
- 4) Improve the design and function of commercial and industrial areas through landscaping, storm water treatment, and building layout/design
- 5) Encourage infill and cluster residential development to limit further suburban sprawl

Historic Areas

The vision for Historic Areas is to protect historic resources and to support infill development that respects the form, scale, and character of existing historic areas.

Historic Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Support infill development at appropriate scale and density to retain the vitality of these areas
- 2) Preserve the character and traditional function of historic areas
- 3) Encourage the re-use of historic structures to accommodate small businesses and/or greater diversity of residential opportunities

Maritime Areas

The vision for Maritime Areas is to support the fin- and shell-fishing industry as well as other commercial, recreational, educational, and research activities associated with the marine environment and to protect water dependent trades. Storm events and climate change, along with the use, scale and form of adjacent development pose challenges to maintaining valuable maritime infrastructure and activities, as well as their character.

Maritime Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Encourage towns to develop and regularly update Harbor Plans

- 2) Identify harbor use policies that support traditional maritime activities while also accommodating other users, such as tourism, transportation, energy, and marine science focused operations
- 3) Preserve and/or expand public access to water/beaches
- 4) Preserve historic structures and overall scale and character

Community Activity Centers

The vision for Community Activity Centers is to accommodate mixed-use and multifamily residential development in a walkable, vibrant area, preserve historic buildings, and to provide diverse services, shopping, recreation, civic spaces, housing, and job opportunities at a scale of growth and development desired by the community, with adequate infrastructure and pedestrian amenities to support development.

Community Activity Centers Place type Strategies:

- 1) Encourage mixed-use commercial and residential development in a compact form to support a vibrant downtown area
- 2) Encourage development at a human scale that facilitates interaction and a sense of community
- 3) Develop infrastructure necessary to support greater density and mix of uses, including access to transit
- 4) Integrate pocket parks and create streetscapes that enhance the built environment and provide community gathering places

Industrial Activity Centers

The vision for Industrial Activity Centers is to support their development as significant employment centers with adequate infrastructure. Industrial land uses such as manufacturing, assembly, storage, processing and/or contracting in these areas is generally incompatible with residential development and should be appropriately separated and buffered from other uses.

Industrial Activity Centers Place type Strategies:

- 1) Maintain adequate buffers between industrial development and surrounding uses
- 2) Provide employee services and facilities and access to transit
- 3) Develop incubator spaces for emerging industry clusters and entrepreneurs
- 4) Plan for renewable energy generation facilities

Military and Transportation Areas

The vision for these areas is to support comprehensive master planning with community input, encourage growth of industries appropriate to the diversification of the regional economy, and encourage partnerships for use of shared infrastructure.

Military and Transportation Areas Place type Strategies:

- 1) Ensure transportation routes provide safe and adequate access to and from these facilities
- 2) Support opportunities for shared infrastructure
- 3) Support development of renewable energy generation where appropriate