

Doesn't the Town already have a Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2006?

Yes. But that was 15 years ago. Because conditions are constantly changing, the State recommends that town plans be updated at least every 10 years, so we are catching up.

Why do we need to update the 2006 Comprehensive Plan?

We need to keep the Town eligible for a large number of programs that are helpful, important, and available only to towns with current town plans. New economic challenges, development pressures, and increasingly adverse weather events may affect our quality of life. The updated plan takes them into account.

What would Brooksville lose by not adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan?

Brooksville would lose the opportunity to qualify for state and federal grants and funds that are not available to towns without an updated Comprehensive Plan, such as funds from Land for Maine's Future, Coastal Community grants, transportation assistance and water-quality protection funds.

What do we gain by adopting it?

Having an up-to-date comprehensive plan will keep Brooksville eligible for grants that could help finance infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects that are likely to be needed in the face of climate change and ongoing demand for civic services.

What's the process and timing for getting Brooksville's plan approved?

The Selectmen intend to submit the plan for approval by written ballot at the polls the day before Town Meeting in March of 2022. First, though, the plan is sent to the State so that all the affected agencies have a chance to check to be sure it is complete. This process takes several months. The plan will be sent to the State on December 1, 2021. After the state has weighed in with their comments, the plan is revised if needed, and the plan becomes available for adoption by the Town. We do not anticipate changes to arise from the state review.

The DRAFT plan is available for your review now! Between now and December 1, please weigh in with suggestions or corrections.

How do I find out more?

Copies of the draft Plan are available for review at the Town Office and the Library. Large copies of the maps are there as well. All the chapters are also at the Town website, on this page:
<https://www.brooksvillemaine.org/index.php?sectionID=266&pageID=2331>

The Comprehensive Planning Committee can be contacted by email (brooksvillecpc@gmail.com) or by phoning Debbie Grimmig at 326-8788.

The Committee welcomes your input!

This is YOUR plan and we want you to be proud of it!

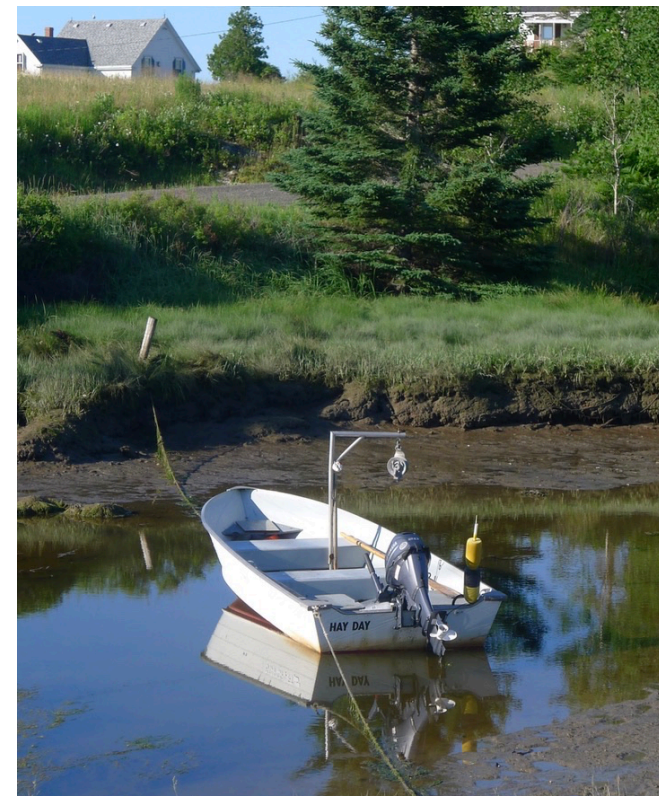
Jonathan Hall and John Gray, Co-Chairs
Brooksville Comprehensive Plan Committee

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about
Brooksville's Updated
Comprehensive Plan

What is a "Comprehensive Plan"?

In a nutshell, It's a document, developed by the Town, that sets forth a vision of the Town's desired future and a path for getting there.



What subjects have to be included in a Comprehensive Plan?

Maine has a law that governs what has to be in a town plan for it to be considered complete. A comprehensive plan starts with an inventory of the current conditions in Town with respect to its population, economy, natural resources, outdoor recreation, waterfront access, inland and marine resources, housing, land use, transportation, municipal services, planned capital investments, quality of life, and other subjects as desired by the Town. This large array of topics is what makes the plan "Comprehensive".

After describing current conditions, the plan goes on to predict the future where possible and makes recommendations for improving existing conditions, if needed, and preserving what we love about the Town in the face of pressures for change.

The details of the plan are up to the Town to decide, as long as the state-mandated subjects are covered.

Brooksville Days 2016

Will adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan affect my property rights?

No. A Comprehensive Plan does not create any ordinance or regulations. As has always been the case, any such regulation has to go to Town Meeting for approval.

Is a Comprehensive Plan the same thing as zoning?

No. A Comprehensive Plan is not, and does not create, zoning.

Will adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan raise my property tax?

No, to the contrary. Adoption of an updated plan will qualify Brooksville for state and federal funding that can reduce the town's tax expenditures on projects that will improve our town.

How was Brooksville's updated draft plan developed?

Starting in 2018, a Comprehensive Plan Committee of local volunteers was appointed by the Selectmen. It met frequently and, with the assistance of the Hancock County Planning Commission, developed the draft plan over a period of three years. This involved sending out a public opinion survey, and many hours devoted to meetings. During the Covid pandemic, those meetings were held via Zoom conferencing. Each individual chapter went through many drafts, posted on the Town website for review and comment. Each chapter contains a set of recommendations for future actions that the Town can consider. The committee and all of its subcommittees worked hard to achieve consensus on these recommendations.

Do the voters have to approve the plan?

Yes. For the plan to be accepted as complete and up to date, it has to be approved by the voters at a Town Meeting.

