

Introduction

Planning is an organized method of finding out what a community's needs are, and then setting up goals and policies to address those needs in a manner that will allow for future growth within the community, while making it a better place to live.

The Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988 established a cooperative program of comprehensive planning and land use management among the municipalities, regional planning councils, and the state. The focal points of the Act are:

1. The establishment of state goals to provide overall direction and consistency to the planning and regulatory actions of the municipalities and the state
2. The establishment of technical and financial assistance programs through the state planning office and regional planning councils to encourage and help communities develop comprehensive plans, and
3. The establishment of a process for the review of the comprehensive plans by the State Planning Office and regional planning councils to ensure that they are consistent with the Comprehensive Planning Act.

Easton's Comprehensive Plan addresses the past and present resources, analyzes recent trends, and identifies potential problem areas. This section provides the overall community profile of such things as transportation, public facilities and services, natural and cultural resources, housing, land use, the local economy, and the town's fiscal capacity.

Easton is unique in many ways; however, the community shares its natural resources and public facilities with surrounding towns and likewise utilizes other communities' services and resources. A portion of the plan identifies those natural resources and public facilities that extend beyond the town's borders and develops implementation actions for the joint management of each.

At the end of each section are specific goals, policies, and strategies. These policies relate the findings of the inventories to the state, regional, and local goals. It is this portion of the Comprehensive Plan that residents can assist in the shaping of Easton. The strategies discuss those programs, activities, and regulations that Easton and its residents will undertake in the future to make sure that the goals and policies are met.