









TOWN OF DARTMOUTH COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN MARCH 2023



Prepared For: Town of Dartmouth 400 Slocum Road Dartmouth, MA 02747

Prepared By: Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District 88 Broadway Taunton, MA 02780 This document was created to be in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws Title VII Chapter 41 Section 81D. which requires that the Dartmouth Planning Board as established make and update a Master Plan for the Town. The Plan is designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality. As required the Planning Board approved Plan shall be submitted to the Massachusetts State Department of Housing and Community Development. This Master Plan will be supplemented by an updated economic development supplement in preparation for applications for state grants from the Commonwealth. The supplement shall be at least one page in length and shall contain the goals of the town with respect to industrial or commercial development, affordable housing, and preservation of parks and open space.

Key Documents used in developing this Master Plan:

- 2007 Dartmouth Master Plan
- 2015 Dartmouth Open Space and Recreation Plan
- 2018 Dartmouth Housing Production Plan
- 2019 Padanaram Harbor Management Plan
- 2020 Dartmouth Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mapping

The maps in this document are not the products of a professional land survey, they were created for general reference, informational, planning and guidance purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Dartmouth Planning Board would like to thank and recognize the efforts of those involved in the development of the Master Plan update.

First and foremost, this Dartmouth Master Plan would not have come together without the time, ideas, efforts, and insights generously offered by members of the Dartmouth community. We sincerely thank all those who attended Master Plan Workshop public meetings throughout the planning process. This Master Plan was developed during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We especially appreciate that members of the Dartmouth community were able to join the project team in continuing to move the planning processes forward during these novel conditions, with us as we moved to online platforms and digital engagement. Thank you sincerely for the time that you gave, across forums and platforms, to consider the future of our town and community.

We also specifically thank the following boards and individuals that led this process.

Select Board Members (2019 - present)

David Tatelbaum - Chair, Stanley M. Mickelson - Vice-Chair, Frank S. Gracie III, Shawn D. McDonald, and Heidi Silva Brooks

Former members – John Haron

Planning Board Members (2019 – present)

Kevin Melo, Chair, Christopher O'Neil – Vice-Chair, Margaret Sweet – Clerk, Kevin Estes, and Nicholas Psichopaidas

Former members - Lorri-Ann Miller, John Sousa, and Stephen Taylor

Town Administration

Shawn MacInnes, Town Administrator Christine A. O'Grady, AICP, Planning Director Cody Haddad, Assistant Town Administrator Michelle Vieira, Office Administrator

Thank you to all Departments that contributed to this plan.
Thank you to all Boards, Commissions, and Organizations
A special thank you to Town resident - William "Bill" Chandler

Master Plan Consultant

This Master Plan was prepared by staff of the Southeastern Regional Planning Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Helen Zincavage, AICP, Environmental Planning Manager
Sara Brown, CPO, Comprehensive Planner

With additional assistance from Grant King, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager; Phillip Hu, AICP, Principal Comprehensive Planner, and Jackie Jones, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, and all SRPEDD staff members who assisted in staffing public workshops.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY CHARACTER	1-1
Life in Dartmouth, Massachusetts	1-1
The Role of Dartmouth's Community Master Plan	1-1
Dartmouth Demographics	1-3
COMMUNITY VOICES	2-1
Master Plan Development Process	2-1
Public Engagement Events	2-2
COMMUNITY GOALS AND POLICIES	3-1
Community Values	3-1
Community Vision	3-2
LAND USE	4-1
Historical Land Development Patterns	4-1
Dartmouth's Neighborhoods	4-2
Land Use in 2020	4-2
Other Significant Land Use Typologies	4-5
Zoning	4-8
Other Significant Bylaws	4-13
Recent Development Trends	4-13
HOUSING	5-3
Dartmouth's Households	5-4
Dartmouth's Existing Housing Stock	5-8
Tenure, Occupancy, and Seasonality	5-9
Housing Affordability	5-12
Housing Permitted by Zoning District	5-16
Balancing Housing and the Natural Environment	5-18
Other Regional Trends	5-20
Community Goals and Objectives for Housing in Dartmouth	5-21
Housing Goals and Strategies	5-28
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	6-3
Dartmouth's Labor Force and Employment	6-4
Local Industry	6-7
Leading Industry Profiles	6-11

Regional Position	6-12
Dartmouth Revenue	6-15
Community Goals and Existing Local Economic Development Plans, Programs, and Ind	centives 6-16
Economic Development Goals and Strategies	6-22
NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES	7-1
Dartmouth's Land Features	7-2
Water Resources	7-4
Habitats and Unique Ecosystems	7-11
Environmental Challenges	7-18
Cultural Resources	7-20
Recent and Ongoing Planning Work	7-25
Community Goals and Objectives for Natural and Cultural Resource Preservation in Da	artmouth 7-25
Natural and Cultural Resource Preservation Goals and Strategies	7-27
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION	8-3
Types of Open Space and Recreation Areas	8-4
Land-Based Recreational Opportunities	8-5
Water-Based Recreational Opportunities	8-10
Open Space Tracts and Conservation	8-14
Parkland Protection Status	8-19
Community Goals and Objectives for Open Space and Recreation in Dartmouth	8-20
Open Space and Recreation Goals and Strategies	8-31
SERVICES AND FACILITIES	9-1
Town Hall	9-2
Public Works Facilities	9-3
Drinking Water Supply Systems	9-5
Wastewater Systems	9-8
Dartmouth Public Schools	9-12
Libraries	9-15
Dartmouth Council On Aging	9-20
Police Department	9-22
Fire Districts	9-25
Emergency Management Agency	9-26

	Ambulance Services	.9-27
	University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth	.9-27
	Harbors and Waterways	.9-28
	Community Goals and Objectives for Services and Facilities in Dartmouth	.9-29
С	IRCULATION & TRANSPORTATION	.10-3
	Workers and Transportation in Dartmouth	.10-4
	Modal Networks	.10-4
	Community Goals	.10-8
	Existing Local Transportation Plans, Programs, and Initiatives	.10-9
	Circulation & Transportation Goals and Strategies	.10-15
С	LIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCE	.11-3
	Defining Terms and Definitional Concepts	.11-3
	Anticipated Climate Change in Dartmouth	.11-7
	Picture of a Warming World seen Locally	.11-15
	Community Goals and Objectives for Climate Change and Resilience in Dartmouth	.11-18
	Previous Resilience Planning and Ongoing Projects in Dartmouth	.11-22
IN	/IPLEMENTATION	.12-1
	Moving This Plan Forward	.12-1
	Implementation Table	.12-1

FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Overall Population of Dartmouth, 1920-2020	1-4
Figure 1.2: Rate of Population Change in Dartmouth, 1920-2020	1-4
Figure 1.3: Comparative Rate of Population Change	1-5
Figure 1.4: Relative Age Distribution in Dartmouth, 2000 and 2019	1-6
Figure 1.5: Dartmouth School Enrollments, 2009-2021	1-6
Figure 1.6: Notable Household Characteristic Trends	1-8
Figure 1.7: Race and Ethnicity in Dartmouth, 2010 and 2020	1-8
Figure 3.1: Wordcloud: My Favorite Thing about living in Dartmouth is	3-3
Figure 4.1: Relative Distribution of Land Uses in Dartmouth, 2020	4-3
Figure 4.2: Overall Amount of Land in Major Land Use Categories in Dartmouth, 2020	4-4
Figure 4.3: General Land Use Trends in Dartmouth, 1999-2020	4-5
Figure 4.4: Acres of Agricultural Land in Dartmouth by Product Type	4-7
Figure 4.5: Absolute Acreage in Dartmouth occupied by each Zoning District	4-9
Figure 4.6: Proportion of Dartmouth in each Zoning District	4-9
Figure 4.7: Building Permits issued in Dartmouth, 2011 to 2020	4-13
Figure 5.1: Households in Dartmouth by Category of Occupants	5-5
Figure 5.2: Distribution of Households in Income Brackets Across Three Geographies	5-6
Figure 5.3: Distribution of Household Income in Dartmouth	5-7
Figure 5.4: Housing Stock Variety in Dartmouth	5-9
Figure 5.5: Year Homes Built in Dartmouth	5-9
Figure 5.6: Distribution of Household Income in Dartmouth	5-10
Figure 5.7: Housing Tenure by Age of Householder in Dartmouth, 2019	5-11
Figure 5.8: Real Estate Listings - Single Family Homes in Dartmouth, July 2018 and Sept 2022	5-12
Figure 5.9: Targeted Income Levels for Affordable Housing: Dartmouth, 2020	5-13
Figure 5.10: Estimated Housing in Flood Hazard Areas, Dartmouth	5-19
Figure 5.11: Housing Workshop Comments	5-26
Figure 6.1: Dartmouth's Labor Force	6-4
Figure 6.2: Unemployment Rates in Dartmouth and Massachusetts (2010 - 2021)	6-5
Figure 6.3: Dartmouth's Educational Attainment	6-6
Figure 6.4: Dartmouth Jobs by Industry	6-7
Figure 6.5: Employment by Industry in Dartmouth, 2021	6-8
Figure 6.6: Massachusetts Industry Sectors	6-9
Figure 6.7: Wages in Dartmouth	6-9
Figure 6.8: Dartmouth's Largest Employers	6-10

Figure 6.9: Labor to Jobs Ratio in Dartmouth Over Time	6-12
Figure 6.10: Travel Time to Work for Dartmouth Residents	6-12
Figure 6.11: Means of Transportation	6-13
Figure 6.12: LQ Table	6-14
Figure 6.13: Dartmouth's Tax Base	6-15
Figure 6.14: Regional Tax Base Comparison	6-16
Figure 7.1: Monthly Average Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit, 2020	7-2
Figure 7.2: Monthly Inches of Precipitation, 2020	7-3
Figure 7.3: BBC Baywatcher Program Water Quality Score for Waterbodies in Dartmouth	7-6
Figure 7.4: Vascular Plants in Dartmouth	7-12
Figure 7.5: Rare animal and insect species sighted in Dartmouth	7-15
Figure 8.1: Acreages of Recreation and Open Space Land by Primary Purpose	8-5
Figure 8.2: Seasonal Offerings provided by Dartmouth Parks and Recreation	8-7
Figure 8.3: Recommendations related to Recreation from the 2019 Padanaram Harbor Ma Plan	nagement 8-13
Figure 8.4: Top Ten Parkland Owners by Total Acreage of Holdings in Dartmouth	8-19
Figure 8.5: Open Space and Recreation in Dartmouth Land by Level of Protection Status	8-20
Figure 8.6: Main Themes related to Open Space and Recreation from the Open Space, Re Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan Workshop	creation, and
Figure 9.1: Dartmouth Water Demands	9-7
Figure 9.2: Dartmouth's 2020 SWMP – Brief Overview of Permit Requirements	9-10
Figure 9.4: Total Dartmouth Public Schools Enrollment	9-13
Figure 9.3: Dartmouth School System Enrollment Over Time	9-13
Figure 9.5: Dartmouth Library Facilities	9-17
Figure 9.6: Dartmouth Library System Usage Statistics, Fiscal Year 2021	9-19
Figure 9.7: 2020 Calendar Year Police Activity Summary	9-23
Figure 10.1: Relative Distribution of Roadway Jurisdiction Types in Dartmouth	10-5
Figure 10.2: Intersections by Crash Frequency	10-5
Figure 11.1: Predicted Changes in Annual Average Temperature for the Buzzards Bay Wate	ershed11-8
Figure 11.2: Seasonal changes in average temperature, heat waves, and cold spells by 20 (Business-as-usual' emissions scenario (RCP8.5)	050 under a 11-10
Figure 11.3: Predicted Changes in Annual Total Precipitation (Inches)	11-10
Figure 11.4: Seasonal changes in precipitation under a medium and high emissions scena 11-12	ario by 2050
Figure 11.5: Seasonal changes in extreme precipitation under a medium and high emission 2050	
Figure 11.6: Historical and projected changes in the number of consecutive dry days	11-14

Maps

Community Overview Map	1-9
Neighborhoods & Centers Map	4-19
Existing Land Use Map	4-21
Open Space & Chapter 61 Lands Map	4-23
Agricultural Lands Map	4-25
Community - Waterbody Nexus Map	4-27
Zoning - Base Districts Map	4-29
Zoning- Overlay Districts Map	4-31
Population Density Map	5-33
Median Household Income Map	5-35
Age of Structure Map	5-37
Priority Preservation and Priority Development Area Map	5-39
South Coast Rail Station Commute-Shed Map	5-41
Prime Agricultural Soils Map	7-33
Sub-Watershed Map	7-35
Designated Shellfish Growing Areas Map	7-37
Wetlands Map	7-39
NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species Map	7-41
NHESP/TNC BioMap2 Core and Critical Habitat Area Map	7-43
Green Infrastructure Map	7-45
Integrated Waters by Impairment Category Map	7-47
21E Hazardous Materials Sites Map	7-49
Historic Features Map	7-51
Open Space and Recreation Land by Primary Purpose Map	8-41
Water Access Map	8-43
Open Space and Recreation Land by Ownership Type Map	8-45
Open Space and Recreation Land by Level of Protection Map	8-47
Services and Facilities Map	9-35
Roadway Network by Jurisdiction Map	10-21
Bicycle and Pedestrian Route Map	10-23
Public Transit System Map	10-25

