



**CHAPTER III: THE
VISION**



THE VISION

THE SOUTHAMPTON OF THE FUTURE WILL PROTECT ITS VALUABLE NATURAL, HISTORIC AND SCENIC RESOURCES; ENHANCE PUBLIC FACILITIES; MAINTAIN AND DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY; AND PROVIDE MORE TRAVEL CHOICES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

I. THE TOWN WILL PROTECT ITS VALUABLE NATURAL, HISTORIC AND SCENIC RESOURCES.

- 1. The wealth of natural resources in Southampton Town today, from the Pine Barrens and its pristine aquifer, to the estuaries, wetlands, beaches, parks and open spaces, are integral to Southampton's unique quality of life enjoyed by both seasonal and year-round residents. As such, the ecological integrity of Southampton's natural resources must be maintained and protected.*
- 2. As with natural resources, the historic and cultural past of Southampton is integral to its sense of place, sense of community, and its attraction as a visitor destination and second home market. In order for these resources to be adequately protected, this historic identity must be recognized, preserved, and interwoven into the fabric of the Town.*
- 3. Southampton's unique scenic quality and sense of place is derived from the interrelationship between rural farmlands, areas of undeveloped open space, water frontage (bay and ocean), and the hamlet centers. This rural character, graced with significant natural and historical resources is the quality that maintains its vitality as a resort, second home and visitor attraction, and an attractive place to live and work.*

II. THE TOWN WILL ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH A VARIETY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT SOUTHAMPTON CAN MEET THE FULLEST RANGE OF NEEDS FOR ITS ENTIRE COMMUNITY TODAY AND TOMORROW.

- 1. Establish a network of interconnected greenways which will in turn safeguard the visual and rural qualities of Southampton Town, provide both passive and active recreational opportunities, and provide opportunities for alternative modes of transportation within the Town.*
- 2. Southampton should pursue regulatory and financial incentives that promote affordable housing. Although Southampton offers a high quality of life for its residents, it lacks housing opportunities that are affordable for many first-time buyers, young and seasonal workers, and many senior citizens and others who are hard-pressed to maintain their homes.*
- 3. Community Facilities should be expanded to meet evolving needs, yet should seek out collaborative and multiple uses so as to achieve economic and service delivery efficiencies. Facilities should be ideally sited in or near hamlet centers, both to be convenient and to contribute to each hamlet's sense of community.*

III. THE TOWN WILL MAINTAIN THE EXISTING NATURE OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY, WHILE WORKING TO ENHANCE THE DIVERSITY OF THE ECONOMY FOR THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF TOURISM AND THE SECOND HOME INDUSTRY, BY PROTECTING THE TOWN'S CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF PLACE.

1. *Southampton should emphasize those types of economic development that capitalize upon but do not erode the Town's outstanding resource qualities. Indeed, as long as the second-home resident and visitor sectors remain the driving force in the local economy, the Town and others should seek to enhance the amenities and other qualities that give Southampton its unique, regional advantage. These include the Town's rural and historic scenery, beach and recreational amenities, and cultural and specialty retail amenities.*
2. *The traditional resource-based economic sector of farming must be preserved and protected to ensure that the scenic, historic, cultural and economic identities of the Town are protected.*
3. *As both a traditional economic sector and a mainstay of the visitor and second-home industry, fisheries must be preserved and protected from the pressure for growth and development throughout the Town.*
4. *Promote business centers that not only meet consumer needs, but also enable small business retention and attraction, and bolster the hamlet and village centers that are essential to Southampton's economy, "town and country" image and quality of life.*

IV. THE TOWN WILL CREATE MORE CHOICES FOR RESIDENTS IN HOW THEY TRAVEL TO AND THROUGH TOWN, AND WILL CREATE A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT WORKS IN TANDEM WITH LAND USE TO PRESERVE A LANDSCAPE OF RURAL ROADS WITH DISTINCT VILLAGE AND HAMLET CENTERS.

1. *Improve how residents and visitors perceive the experience of traveling on Southampton's streets, in all forms of transportation.*
 2. *Create better management, classification, and improvement of the existing street infrastructure rather than building new highways and arterials.*
 3. *Acknowledge the joint use of streets by bicycles and pedestrians in addition to motor vehicles in all future street and traffic planning.*
 4. *Enhance train and long-distance bus services through amenities that increase ridership and rider satisfaction, especially those targeted for recreational use, but eventually accommodating utilitarian use as well.*
 5. *Seek inter-municipal, inter-governmental and public/private partnerships to promote alternatives to deal with regional transportation issues.*
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The “Vision and Goals” statements presented here were derived from the public participation element of the Plan (see Public Participation chapter, Part I of the Technical Reports). Although the primary development of the vision and goals statements was derived from the Visioning Workshop, the statements were refined from subsequent meetings with the Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee, the Planning Board, and the Town Board, as well as general public comment.

VISIONING WORKSHOP

Nearly 50 people including CAC members, Chambers of Commerce members, elected officials, and Town staff

participated in a day-long Visioning Workshop conducted by the consultant team on July 15, 1995. Participants were lead through a series of exercises which developed vision statements for the Comprehensive Plan. First, participants were asked to describe Southampton as it is today. Next, participants were asked to describe how Southampton might look in 20 years if the Town were to continue to develop at its present rate without any preventative growth management controls. Finally, respondents were asked to describe what they would like to see Southampton become in 20 years if preventative planning practices were implemented today. Participants then worked in small groups identifying key issues related to all aspects of life in town. The results of the visioning workshop are included in Appendix A-5 to the Comprehensive Plan.

