

Making the Action Plan Local

GrowSmart Maine and Maine Downtown Center are engaging with communities to bring the Brookings Report *Charting Maine's Future* to the local level.

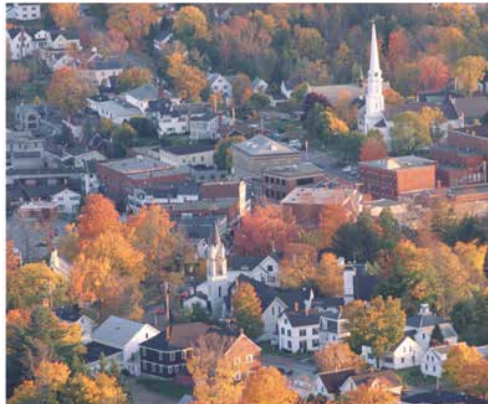
Within Maine communities there are opportunities for municipal leadership, businesses and citizens to engage in community and economic efforts to sustain and protect their unique quality of place. This worksheet provides a variety of actions to consider for your town and is a place to start the conversation.

What is your municipality doing to

- **Encourage** access to venture capital and angel investment funds for strategic economic development;
- **Seek** opportunities to collaborate with other communities;

In capturing our successes, we celebrate forward momentum, striving towards the next steps to keep making headway. And always remember to promote your efforts and share your accomplishments!

- **Conserve** unique natural areas for agriculture and fisheries, protect forest and open space, and provide public access;
- **Invest** in downtown revitalization;
- **Improve** walking and bicycling access and safety;
- **Explore** Tax-Increment Financing and other programs to focus tax revenue on economic development including downtowns, recreational trails, arts and culture; and
- **Update** and implement your comprehensive plan.



Services Offered by Resource Organizations

- Technical Assistance
- Professional Development/Capacity Building
- Mapping/GIS
- Education, Information
- Workshops and Training
- Financial Support such as Grants and Loans
- Grant Writing
- Advocacy
- Community Planning

Your support makes it happen

Our supporters know the satisfaction of being part of a movement to protect and enhance Maine's economy, environment and communities. With your help, we are building a network of engaged individuals, organizations and businesses that are shaping Maine's future.

GrowSmart Maine is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Maine Downtown Center is a program of the Maine Development Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are welcome and tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

This program was started with the generous support of the Elmina B Sewall foundation

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A Guide to Promoting Lasting Prosperity for Maine Cities and Towns



Illustrative plan created by the Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative, LLC for the town of Yarmouth



In this guide:

- A worksheet to chart your goals, identify allies and highlight successes
- Connections to resources to support your work



A program of the MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
mdf.org

Mainers love their hometowns

Making Headway in Your Community builds local connections, capacity and confidence by focusing on what each community values most. We provide a spark; a connection to information and inspiration to help each town better recognize and manage growth and change. Our goal is more smart growth outcomes across Maine with more strategic land conservation and better downtown and Main Street revitalization. We aim to focus new development where development already exists to maximize efficiency of existing infrastructure for transportation and communication. We aim to protect and reuse existing, perhaps historic, structures in a way that fosters community and economic development and also strengthens local communities and the environment. We know these efforts succeed with small projects that build toward larger initiatives.

MAKING HEADWAY IN _____

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF MAINE CITIES AND TOWNS

Core Principles	What Matters Most	Community Projects	Who Should Be Involved?
<p>Community Connections: People & Infrastructure</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Effective & Inclusive Public Participation & Civic Engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training for Volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Access to High Speed Broadband Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Schools & Local Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Choices in Transportation Including Public Transit 			<p>■ Leader: _____</p> <p>■ Supporter: _____</p> <p>■ Funder: _____</p>
<p>Local Economy: What a Community Can Do</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation & Entrepreneurship Training & Support <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Small Business Development Incentives <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality & Tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Farming, Fisheries & Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing & Maker Businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street Businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Predictable & Reasonable Local Regulations 			<p>■ Leader: _____</p> <p>■ Supporter: _____</p> <p>■ Funder: _____</p>
<p>Smart Design: Thoughtful Regulations & Incentives</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for All Ages, Incomes & Abilities <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Conservation of Water Access, Productive Lands & Open Space; <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfield Restoration & Reuse <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Rehabilitation & Low-Income Housing Tax Credits <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Economic & Physical Connections between Downtowns & Rural Areas 			<p>■ Leader: _____</p> <p>■ Supporter: _____</p> <p>■ Funder: _____</p>
<p>Climate & Energy: Community Resiliency & Independence</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize Risks to Infrastructure & Property <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Energy Efficiency in Municipal, Institutional, Commercial & Residential Spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Use incentives from Efficiency Maine to Reduce Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Local Energy Production <input type="checkbox"/> Buy, Grow & Harvest Food from Maine & New England 			<p>■ Leader: _____</p> <p>■ Supporter: _____</p> <p>■ Funder: _____</p>
<p>Healthy Communities: Encourage Smart Lifestyle Choices</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Activity: Bicycle, Walking & Boating Options <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Foods: Farmers' Markets, CSAs & Co-Ops <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Recreation: Parks & Public Gathering Spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Green Infrastructure: Street Trees & Urban Forests <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Powered Transportation Choices: Safe Sidewalks, Crossings & Trails 			<p>■ Leader: _____</p> <p>■ Supporter: _____</p> <p>■ Funder: _____</p>

Please share efforts & accomplishments with the press, social media and newsletters.

www.makingheadway.me