

# Somersworth Master Plan Vision

Planning Board Workshop 1 | Draft Goals

## What We Heard

- The community is in search of a standout “identity” or “role.”
- The community has historically contained a bedroom community feeling despite its robust New England mill downtown.
- Much of the discussion in the Master Plan outreach process contrasted the above with the distinct attractions, focal points, events, and other cultural touchstones of fellow Seacoast region communities.
- City staff and leaders wish to continue work that counters the historically auto-dependent development patterns of Route 108, largely through the upcoming Complete Streets upgrade and continued zoning changes. The community affirmed this, with positive reactions to improvements to the pedestrian environment here and some suggestions for mixed use, housing, and greenspace.

## Theme 1: Somersworth: A Name to Know

### What does it mean?

The community is in search of a standout “role” or “identity” that has evolved from “bedroom community” or similar. Families and teens are in search of more things ‘to do.’

### Proposed Goals

**Vision 1A.** Define Somersworth’s identity for 2030 and beyond.

**Vision 1B.** Define, enhance, and preserve Somersworth’s neighborhoods and their character.

**Vision 1C.** Craft engaging and compelling outreach that excites and informs all ages, abilities, and groups.

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

### Relevant Goals from Other Chapters

**Housing #5.** Revitalize downtown as a place to live, visit, and do business.

**Natural Resources #4.** Improve public outreach and education and foster leadership development.

## Theme 2: Sights & Assets

### What does it mean?

Somersworth has a unique 'belt' of wetlands surrounding its downtown, and the community is curious to know how this can be linked with Willand Pond and the Salmon Falls River to form a trail and greenspace network. Survey-takers expressed interest in expanding trail options beyond those of Malley Farm and Scoutland in neighboring Rollinsford, as well as an expanded or enhanced riverfront.

### Proposed Goals

**Vision 2A.** Expand Somersworth's green corridors and trail network to improve neighborhood access to parks, regional trails, and water-based recreation.

**Vision 2B.** Identify businesses and amenities that pair well with recreation.

**Vision 2C.** Prepare and energize the community for a refreshed riverwalk area.

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

### Relevant Goals from Other Chapters

**Natural Resources #2.** Expand and maintain land conservation, trails, and connectivity.

**Land Use #4.** Foster the need for resilient infrastructure through incentives and regulation.

## Theme 3: Somersworth & the Seacoast

### What does it mean?

The community sometimes perceives there to be "two Somersworths;" the downtown and the Route 108 corridor. Both areas face land use challenges as a result of Somersworth's historical nature as a bedroom community. In downtown, the growth of neighboring Berwick has implications for business and traffic. On Route 108 and High Street, major shopping hubs draw in residents from many communities.

### Proposed Goals

**Vision 3A.** Collaborate with neighboring communities to review progress on housing production.

**Vision 3B.** Grow with Berwick rather than in response.

**Vision 3C.** Support creative site planning and collaborate with Dover and Rollinsford for a refreshed Weeks Crossing area.

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

Vision: \_\_\_\_\_

**Relevant Goals from Other Chapters**

**Land Use #1.** Maintain balanced, sustainable development and smart growth.

**Housing #4.** Allow for mixed-use development nodes in more locations around the city.

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