CAPE COD COMMISSION UPDATE

The 2018 Regional Policy Plan

ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
OCTOBER 3, 2018
PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE REGION'S RESOURCES

FOCUS GROWTH IN EXISTING CENTERS OF ACTIVITY
Cape Cod Systems

The Growth Policy recognizes the importance of each system and the need to balance their impacts and functions to sustain the Cape over the long term. These natural, built, and community systems are described on the following pages.
NATURAL SYSTEMS

To protect and restore the quality and function of the region's natural resources that provide the clean water and healthy ecosystems upon which life depends.

BUILT SYSTEMS

To protect and enhance the built environment and infrastructure necessary to support the region and healthy activity centers.

COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

To protect and enhance the linkages between society, the natural environment, and history vital to the way of life on Cape Cod by supporting development of amenities and life opportunities necessary to support vibrant and diverse communities.
Natural Systems

Water Resources
Goal: To maintain a sustainable supply of high quality, uncharged drinking water and protect, preserve, or restore the ecological integrity of Cape Cod's fresh and saltwater surface water resources.

Objectives:
1. Protect and preserve groundwater quality
2. Prevent and mitigate loading of nutrients and other contaminants to fresh water resources
3. Prevent and mitigate loading of nutrients and other contaminants to marine water resources
4. Manage and treat stormwater to protect and preserve water quality
5. Manage groundwater recharge and discharges to maintain hydrologic balance and protect surface and groundwater resources

Ocean Resources
Goal: To protect, preserve, and restore the quality and natural values and functions of ocean resources.

Objectives:
1. Protect and preserve ocean habitats
2. Maintain and protect ocean habitat and the species it supports
3. Protect significant human use areas and habitats

Wetland Resources
Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of inland and coastal wetlands and their waters.

Objectives:
1. Protect wetlands and their buffers from vegetation and grade changes
2. Protect wetlands from changes in hydrology
3. Protect wetlands from stormwater discharges
4. Promote the restoration of degraded wetland resource areas

Wildlife and Plant Habitat
Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of inland and coastal wetlands and their waters.

Objectives:
1. Maintain existing populations and species diversity
2. Restore degraded habitats through use of native plant communities
3. Protect and preserve native species and habitats, areas, and 350-foot buffers to seasonal pools
4. Manage invasive species
5. Promote best management practices to protect wildlife and plant habitat from the adverse impacts of development

Open Space
Goal: To conserve, preserve, or enhance a network of open lands and green spaces that contribute to managing the effects of development on the region's resources and support human health.

Objectives:
1. Protect remaining developable land and resource areas within Natural Areas, including lands suitable for future water supply sites
2. Protect or provide open lands and/or green spaces appropriate to context
3. Protect highest natural, cultural, and agricultural resource values and functions
4. Increase the connectivity of protected open space
Built Systems

To protect and enhance the built environment and infrastructure necessary to support the region and healthy activity centers.

Community Design
Goal: To protect and enhance the unique character of the region's built environment based on the local context.

Objectives:
1. Promote context-sensitive building and site design
2. Minimize the amount of newly disturbed land and impervious surfaces
3. Guide new development to locate in activity centers

Coastal Resiliency
Goal: To prevent or minimize human suffering and loss of life and property or environmental damage resulting from storms, flooding, erosion, and relative sea level rise.

Objectives:
1. Minimize development within the floodplain
2. Plan for sea level rise, erosion, and floods
3. Reduce vulnerability to coastal hazards

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Goal: To guide the rate and location of development with the provision of the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the region's needs while also coordinating the achievement of other Goals and Objectives contained within this plan.

Objectives:
1. Locate capital facilities and infrastructure to promote community resiliency to natural, deliberate and other threats and promote compact low-use patterns where feasible
2. Locate capital facilities and infrastructure to enhance the provision of safe, high quality services and facilities that are responsive to the diverse needs of the region and its people
3. Ensure capital facilities and infrastructure address existing and anticipated needs of Cape Cod while protecting cultural heritage and natural resources, quality and functions, and promoting context-based community design

Transportation
Goal: To provide a safe, reliable, and multi-modal transportation system.

Objectives:
1. Improve safety and eliminate hazards for all users of Cape Cod's transportation system
2. Provide and promote a balanced and efficient transportation system that includes healthy transportation options and appropriate connections for all uses
3. Provide an efficient and reliable transportation system that will serve the current and future needs of the region and its people

Energy
Goal: To provide an adequate, reliable, and diverse supply of energy to serve the communities and economies of Cape Cod.

Objectives:
1. Minimize energy consumption through planning and design, including energy efficiency and conservation measures
2. Support renewable energy development that is context-sensitive
3. Increase reliability and resiliency of energy generation and delivery

Solid Waste Management
Goal: To manage solid waste for the region to protect public health and safety.

Objectives:
1. Properly manage construction and demolition waste, including recycling as available
2. Promote waste reduction and diversion programs including recycling and composting
3. Promote an integrated solid waste management system
Community Systems

To protect and enhance the linkages between society, the natural environment, and history vital to the way of life on Cape Cod by supporting development of amenities and life opportunities necessary to support vibrant and diverse communities.

Cultural Heritage

Goal: To protect and preserve the significant cultural, historic, and archaeological values and resources of Cape Cod.

Objectives:
1. Protect and preserve farms, layouts, trails, meaning, and key characters defining features of historic resources, including traditional development patterns of villages and neighborhoods
2. Protect and preserve archaeological resources and assets from alteration or relocation
3. Preserve and enhance public access and rights to and along the shore
4. Protect and preserve traditional agricultural and maritime development and uses

Economy

Goal: To promote a sustainable regional economy comprised of a broad range of businesses providing an expansion of employment opportunities to a diverse workforce.

Objectives:
1. Protect and build on the Cape's competitive advantages, including historic villages and natural areas, and a healthy natural environment
2. Use resources and infrastructure efficiently
3. Foster a balanced and diverse mix of business and industry
4. Support industries that provide living wage jobs to a diverse workforce
5. Expand economic activity and regional wealth through exports, value added, import substitution, and local ownership

Housing

Goal: To promote the production of an adequate supply of ownership and rental housing that is safe, healthy, and attainable for people with different income levels and diverse needs.

Objectives:
1. Promote an increase in housing diversity and choice
2. Protect existing housing stock and promote an increase in year-round housing supply
3. Increase housing affordability
CAPE COD PLACETYPES

- Natural Areas
- Rural Development Areas
- Suburban Development Areas
- Historic Character Areas
- Maritime Areas
- Community Activity Centers
- Industrial Activity Centers
- Military and Transportation Areas
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Protected Habitat
- Drinking Water
- Sidewalk Network
- Coastal Water
- Historic Resources
- Activity Centers
- High Wage Jobs
- Housing Affordability
- Floodplain Development
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY
REGIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING
STREAMLINED LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
CLIMATE RESILIENCY PLANNING
THRESHOLD RELIEF EVALUATION
DRAFT RPP TIMELINE

- **OCTOBER 11**
  - Public Hearing
  - Sandwich

- **OCTOBER 24**
  - Public Hearing
  - Yarmouth

- **NOVEMBER 19**
  - Public comment period ends

- **END OF NOVEMBER**
  - Final revisions completed

- **DECEMBER**
  - Submit to Assembly of Delegates

- **SEPTEMBER 21**
  - Draft plan released for public comment

- **OCTOBER 17**
  - Public Hearing
  - Truro
THE 2018 REGIONAL POLICY PLAN

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