

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Easthampton in 2027 is a model small city of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It retains its mill town soul, while fostering innovation. Community members treasure the abundant resources, dynamic downtown, and vibrant neighborhoods. By adapting, evolving, and making tough choices, Easthampton is sustainable, inclusive, balanced, and a great place to live.

## **MISSION STATEMENTS**

### Housing

Easthampton provides safe, high-quality housing options that people of all economic means can attain. This diversity is achieved while sustaining neighborhood character and enhancing, respecting and protecting the natural beauty of the city.

### Economic Development

The City of Easthampton has been “coming on strong” in recent years. Although its image and reality are changing, the small town charm remains. Today, depending less on its traditional bases of manufacturing and agriculture, its new economy is fueled by small businesses, predominantly in the service sector and the creative economy. The most visible signs of the City’s renaissance are the reclaimed mill buildings that are now home to small businesses, artisan studios and galleries, restaurants, social service agencies, and residences.

### Open Space and Natural Resources

The future state of open space in Easthampton will be largely dependent upon how the community will manage to strike a balance between growth and protection of its natural (open space) resources. The City of Easthampton will need to continue to recognize the importance of protecting its agricultural lands, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, sensitive ecosystems and unique passive recreation areas. It is imperative that the City actively lobby and provide resources for the continuation of open space protection and preservation employing creative foresight, sustained will and collaboration with others, both in and outside the community, if the goals of this plan are to be met.

### Recreation

Easthampton already provides a wide variety of exciting recreational opportunities. Now, our focus must be to maintain, improve, and expand both passive and active recreational facilities and programs so we can better serve all city residents and visitors.

### Cultural Resources

Easthampton is both visually and structurally enhanced by its rich, diverse cultural resources. These resources are strongly supported by its citizens and government through funding and active involvement. Strengthening Easthampton’s cultural economy through a supportive and reciprocal relationship between its cultural institutions and citizens will further enhance the visibility and impact of Easthampton’s cultural identity.

### Historic Resources

Easthampton is evolving in new and exciting directions and its history is moving with it. Using today’s tools and resources, we seek to educate the community about our collective past while integrating our history and celebrating the innovative character that is Easthampton. We celebrate and promote the innovative character that embodies Easthampton’s history through identifying, protecting, and preserving our historic resources.

### Energy and Sustainability

A sustainable Easthampton looks for ways to be a self-sufficient community, which includes growing more food locally, generating energy locally, creating more local jobs, keeping local businesses alive by purchasing locally made or grown items.

### Transportation

The City of Easthampton is committed to finding safe, efficient and creative ways to manage all forms of transportation, be it automobiles, bicycles or pedestrians. The integration of all forms of transportation will include promoting more pedestrian and bicycle friendly roadways and making available convenient and affordable public transportation.

### Public Services and Facilities

Easthampton's public facilities and infrastructure will meet today's stringent standards, allow for expansion as the city grows and incorporate sustainable practices wherever possible.

### Education

Easthampton public schools are to be state-of-the-art at all educational levels in curriculum, programs and facilities. The Easthampton school system is to be staffed with the highly qualified teachers, administrators and staff who encourage students to become lifelong learners while promoting mutual respect and cooperation.