IMPLEMENTING

THE PLAN

Implementation is a critical step in the Master Plan process. The Implementation Plan is a step-by-step guide for Blandford to follow over the coming years to ensure that the Master Plan recommendations are put into action. Implementing the Master Plan will require a concerted and ongoing effort on the part of the town's elected and appointed officials, volunteers and dedicated citizens. The actions that the town takes now will create a lasting legacy for future generations.

We exist in an ever changing world with ever expanding and increasing social and technological advances requiring that planning must be an iterative process whereby a community should continually evaluate and respond to new external and internal circumstances and challenges as well as changes in the goals and desires of its residents. This Master Plan has a planning horizon of approximately 15 years: that is, planning needs are evaluated and recommendations are made based on their projected benefit over the same timeline. However, the Implementation Plan only has a much shorter timeframe in the sense that most of the Master Plan strategies are targeted to be commenced within the next three-six years. The Planning Board should periodically revisit the Master Plan to determine whether its goals and general strategies are still appropriate to the town. The town should facilitate a public review of the document, modify the goals and strategies as necessary, and prepare a new Implementation Plan for the subsequent six years. The town should consider reviewing the status of its Master Plan around 2030, at which time conditions in the town could have changed and a new plan will be needed to address the challenges that these conditions present.





IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION PLAN

The Implementation Action Plan summarizes all of the Master Plan strategies in a matrix format that identifies the approximate timeline and the group(s) responsible for implementing each one. The strategies are divided according to the element in the master plan that is addressed. Most of the actions will cost little or no money to implement because they can be brought about by Town Meeting vote or other action to change local policies. In some cases, the town may need to devote staff resources or hire a consultant to assist with this process (e.g., to help prepare zoning changes). If the town is able to hire a professional planner, this staff person may take the place of a consultant in many of these recommendations. Some of the actions that involve facility or infrastructure improvements will require the expenditure of funds, which may come from the town, the state, and/or other sources.

In the "Timeframe/Priority" column of the Action Plan matrices, actions are classified as either Short Term (indicating action within 12-24 months), Medium Term (indicating action within 2-5 years), and Long Term (indicating action within 5+ years). Many of these strategies are ongoing, indicating action that should be continually repeated and expanded as necessary. All items and strategies within this Master Plan are important however, and the priority designation is simply a means to prioritize generally among all the actions contained within the plan. A number of actions will require state involvement and/or major capital expenditures may require more than six years to implement. Many strategies are linked to one another, requiring much effort in the early phases to lay the groundwork for future progress. The feasibility of implementing certain strategies will be dependent on the town's ability to set the foundation with a number of the shorter-term strategies and allow the longer-term strategies build from those efforts.

A. COMMUNITY PRIDE AND RURAL COMMUNITY COMPETITIVENESS

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Priority	Funding	Resources	
A-1	Continue to support service and capital improvements for operations like the Blandford Porter Memorial Library and Town Hall.	Select Board	Town Adminstrator	Ongoing	Capital budget, MA State Rural & Small Town grants	PVPC's LTA program for research and grant writing	
A-2	Pursue noise abatement through MassDOT to alleviate noise from the Turnpike.	Town Administrator	Highway Superintendent	Long-Term	MassDOT Noise Abatement program	MassDOT, Volunteers, PVPC's LTA program	
A-3	Consider prohibiting use of jake brakes near residential areas.	Select Board	Town Adminstrator, Highway Superintendent	Long-Term	Town funds	Local signage	
A-4	Continue to engage and coordinate planning efforts with Springfield Water and Sewer Commission around Cobble Mountain Reservoir and Long Pond Reservoir watershed lands and continue to collaborate and increase access. Pursue legal review of contract if necessary.	Conservation Commission	Town Adminstrator	Ongoing	Town funds	Volunteers	
A-5	Continue to advance work with nearby communities that bring like-businesses and economic development strategies together for the benefit of all, including members of the Gateway Hilltowns Collaborative.	Town Administrator	TAs, SBs, Ec Dev comms - Gateway Hilltowns	Ongoing	Capital budget, MA State Rural & Small Town grants	Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
A-6	Provide a series of mini grants through recovery funding to enable local businesses to employ new strategies that activate and enliven the use of outdoor spaces in the town center (use of outdoor spaces provide a more attractive option given continuing Covid-19 concerns). Also look into grants and incentives that may be available through the Massachusetts Office of Business Development, particularly the Economic Development Incentive Program.	Select Board	Town Administrator, Finance Committee	Short-Term	American Rescue Plan (ARPA)	Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
A-7	Advance drinking water upgrades to ensure continued integrity of homes, institutions, and businesses in the town center.	Water Department	Town Administrator	Ongoing	Capital budget, MA State Rural & Small Town grants, MVP Action grant	PVPC's LTA program for research and grant writing	
A-8	Create a visitor readiness plan for the town center that includes good wayfinding systems to nearby attractions, pedestrian friendly amenities, bathroom facilities, and helpful printed information.	Conservation Commission	Recreation Committee	Medium-Term	Healthy Hampshire, DLTA, MA Community One Stop for Growth	Gateway Hilltowns, Hilltown CDC, Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
A-9	Analyze permanent and temporary street-side signage to understand what would be most effective for attracting passersby to town center businesses, as well as events held by town center institutions and share results with local businesses and institutions. This work could also aim to develop an aesthetic for town center signs and achieve new zoning standards, which currently allow for only one sign per business, and do not allow a business to have a sign on their building and also a separate standing sign near the street.	Planning Board	Zoning Board of Appeals	Medium-Term	MA Community One Stop for Growth, DLTA, Town funds	Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
A-10	Promote shared technical skills to enable all town center businesses and institutions maximum social media exposure.	Town Administrator	Select Board	Medium-Term	Local	Gateway Hilltowns, Hilltown CDCVolunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	

A-11	Explore and identify possible trail linkages, thinking expansively about the use of the dirt road network, existing off-road trails, and potential opportunities on existing publicly accessible lands, and working with willing landowners to create new trail linkages where needed.	Conservation Commission	Recreation Committee	II ong-Term	DCR Trails fund, CPA	Scouts, Volunteers	
A-12	Develop trail wayfinding resources, including a recognizable directional sign that heightens the identity of Blandford trails.	Conservation Commission	Recreation Committee	Medium-Term	DCR Trails fund, CPA	Scouts, Volunteers	
A-13	Evaluate parking, signage, and access to bathroom facilities along the trail network. Authors of the <i>Gateway Hilltowns Economic Development Strategy</i> note that channeling visitors to a centralized parking location adjacent to complementary attractions could result in increased spending. Collaborating on a system of parking lots, bathrooms, and possibly a parking shuttle is an option.	Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee	Gateway Hilltowns, Hilltown CDC	Long-Term	DCR Trails fund, CPA	Scouts, Volunteers	
A-14	Meet with trail advocates in other towns to begin identifying how connections could be made for longer walking journeys.	Conservation Commission	Recreation Committee	II ong-Term	DCR Trails fund, CPA	Scouts, Volunteers	
A-15	Initiate a more robust conversation with the owners of Ski Blandford to understand whether and how the Town might help to support exploration of a mountain biking park.	Town Administrator	Conservation Commission	Short-Term	Local	Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
A-16	Work with local mountain bikers and perhaps local Northeast Mountain Biker Association members to gauge interest in furthering mountain biking resources in and around Blandford.	Town Administrator	Conservation Commission	Medium-Term	Local	Volunteers	

B. LIVING WITH WILDLIFE AND NATURE

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Priority	Funding	Resources
B-1	Maintain seven-year updates to the Open Space and Recreation Plan that considers priorities for acquisition or protection of open space.	Conservation Commission	Planning Board	Ongoing	Conservation	Volunteers, competitive procurement for Consultant srvs as needed, PVPC
B-2	Protect Blandford's Scenic Vistas by adopting a new local regulation.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission	Long-Term	,	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
B-3	Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees through passage of the Scenic Roads Act.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission	Long-Term	DLTA, PBA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
B-4	Explore and consider promoting <i>Tread Lightly</i> and <i>Leave No Trace</i> educational campaigns for residents.	Conservation Commission	Recreation Commission	Long-Term	Local	Scouts, Volunteers
B-5	Prepare and implement a comprehensive strategy for protecting surface water and groundwater and the watersheds that feed them.	Conservation Commission	Highway Superintendent, Town Administrator	Short-term	IMA DEP	Volunteer time, Consultant
B-6	Review subdivision regulations and evaluate addition of performance standards for sensitive natural areas.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission		MVP Action grant, PBA	PVPC, Consultants
B-7	Require adequate vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter stormwater runoff and to allow room for river migration and expansion during heavy storms.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Local, PBA, DLTA	MACC, Volunteers, PVPC, Consultants

ſ				Conservation				
	D 0	F	Diamaina Danud	Commission,	Ongoing	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteers, PVPC,	
	B-8	Evaluate the potential for a performance-based stormwater management bylaw.	Planning Board	Highway	Ongoing	LOCAI, PBA, DLIA	Consultants	
				Superintendent				

C. BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

C-1	Explore a Site Plan Review Bylaw and coordinate it with Design Guidelines that ensure that development and redevelopment are consistent with the size, scale and character that the Town is trying to achieve with its buildings.		Zoning Board of Appeals	Ongoing	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
C-2	Proactively work with developers to develop projects that are a visual asset to the community and promote Blandford's small-town New England rural character.	Planning Board	Zoning Board of Appeals	Ongoing	Local, PBA	Volunteers
C-3	Explore an open space residential development/cluster housing bylaw to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission	Short-Term	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations
C-4	Adopt a Town Center Overlay District to create incentives for mixed use development, including business, retail, residential, and civic uses and including other requirements to assure consistency with the existing look and feel of the Town.	Planning Board	possible Ec Dev Committee	Medium-Term	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
C-5	Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments.	Planning Board	Conservation Commission	Ongoing	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
C-6	Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw.	Planning Board	Council on Aging, Select Board	Medium-Term	Local, PBA, DLTA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
C-7	Expand the types of residential uses allowed in town, including zoning changes to allow three or four unit homes.	Planning Board	Council on Aging, Select Board	Long-Term	District Local Technical Assistance	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations
C-8	Plan for Affordable Housing by developing a Housing Production Plan.	Planning Board	Council on Aging, Select Board	Short-Term	District Local Technical Assistance, Community Preservation Committee Funding	Volunteer time, PVPC
C-9	Plan for and implement building and maintenance improvements by developing and implementing a Capital Improvement budget and plan outlining opportunities for possible funding through Community Development Block Grant.	Select Board	Town Administrator, Finance Committee	Ongoing	CDBG via PVPC	Volunteer time, PVPC
C-10	Complete feasibility study for new, accessible Highway Department building utilizing site with salt shed.	Select Board	Town Administrator, Finance Committee, Highway Department	Ongoing	Community One Stop for Growth	Consultants, PVPC

C-11	Move Fire Department operations to current Highway Department building to accommodate better operational capacity for both firefighters and firetrucks.	Select Board	Town Administrator, Finance Committee, Fire Department	Ongoing	Community One Stop for Growth	Consultants, PVPC	
C-12	Pursue adoption of a local Complete Streets Policy and develop a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to become eligible for funding from the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program.	Town Administrator, Select Board	Highway Department	Long-Term	DLTA, MassDOT Complete Streets	Consultants, PVPC	
C-13	Continue to monitor pavement condition in the Town of Blandford and advance pavement maintenance and improvement projects based on the results of the 2020 Local Pavement Management Study.	Highway Department	Town Administrator	Ongoing	PVPC LTA, MassDOT Rail & Transit Div	Blandford 2020 Pavement Management Report	
C-14	Perform regular traffic data collection to assess existing travel speeds and volumes at key locations in the Town.	Highway Department	Town Administrator	Ongoing	PVPC LTA	PVPC Traffic Counting System	http://www.pvpc. org/projects/traffi c-counting-system
C-15	Consider an in-depth safety study for the curved section of Otis Stage Road as identified in this chapter.	Highway Department	Town Administrator	Short-Term	MassDOT Roadway Safety funds	PVPC Safety Planning, MassDOT Road Safety Audits	http://www.pvpc. org/content/safet y-planning; https://www.mass .gov/service- details/road- safety-audits
C-16	Work with MassDOT to identify opportunities to replace the existing deficient structure on Otis Stage Road.	Highway Department	Town Administrator, Select Board	Short-Term	MassDOT, PVPC	MassDOT Municipal Transportation Dashboard	https://gis.massdo t.state.ma.us/Data Viewers/Municipa IDashboard/
C-17	Continue to monitor the state of bridges and culverts in town through the MassDOT municipal data dashboard. Conduct a town-wide inventory and condition assessment of culverts and map of hot spot flooding in public rights-of-way, and prioritize maintenance, repair, and replacement for future investment.	Highway Dept, Town Administrator	Select Board, Town Clerk	Short-Term	FEMA/MEMA BRIC, MVP from EOEEA	Volunteer time	
C-18	Continue to study the feasibility for the regionalization of some municipal services, like a Conservation Agent or Town Planner. Explore regionalized social services delivery.	Town Administrator	Select Board, Finance Committee	Ongoing	District Local Technical Assistance	PVPC	
C-19	Advocate for PILOT payment revenue so that it adequately compensates Blandford for the full value of protected open space.	Town Adminstrator	Select Board	Ongoing	PBA, DLTA	possible Ec Dev committee	
C-20	Continue to seek out assistance and useful tools for permitting solar and marijuana development projects and ensuring that payments (either PILOT, tax, or host community profit share agreement) are of net benefit to the Town of Blandford.	Town Administrator	Select Board	Ongoing	РВА	UMASS Clean Energy Extension, PVPC	
C-21	Review and consider adopting the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency Policy.	Select Board	Town Administrator, Planning Board	Short-Term	Local, DLTA, PBA	Volunteers	
C-22	Continue to apply for competitive grants to make municipal buildings and vehicles as energy efficient as possible saving the town money and reducing GHG emissions, including working to integrate the Gateway Regional School District (GRSD) into the Town's Energy Reduction Plan (ERP).	Town Administrator	Building Inspector, Select Board	Ongoing	DOER funded Technical Assistance via PVPC	Volunteer time, MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER), W MA staffperson,	
C-23	Work with PVPC through the current Green Communities funding to develop a net zero action plan for residents and businesses.	Town Administrator	Resilient Master Plan Committee members	Short-Term	DOER funded Technical Assistance via PVPC	Volunteer time	

C-24	Educate applicators of roadway snow/ice management products about alternative products to minimize environmental impact, their use, and the equipment associated with their use.	Highway Dept	Town Administrator	Ongoing	DEM, EPA, MVP from EOEEA	Volunteer time	
C-25	Improve the resilience of and modernize the operations of the public water treatment and distribution systems to meet DEP compliance standards.	Town Administrator	Conservation Commission	Long-Term	MVP from EOEEA	Consultants, PVPC	
C-26	Develop and implement a method of tracking hazardous materials transported on I-90 and MA Rt-23; train Fire Department, and others as appropriate on how to respond to spills of different types of chemicals, how to recognize and interpret Tier II symbols, etc.		Highway Dept, Town Administrator	Long-Term	FEMA/MEMA BRIC, MVP from EOEEA	Volunteer time	

D. HIDDEN STORIES AND RICH HISTORY

D-1	Develop a Blandford Preservation Plan to identify significant cultural resources and to prioritize documentation and projects to include all aspects of Blandford's history.	Historical Commission	Historical Society, Porter Memorial Library, Other Town Agencies, Volunteers	Short-Term	Local	PVPC, MHC, Preservation MA, and other preservation plans and programs for reference	Seek training and develop an outline by the end of 2021
D-2	Develop emergency response plans for significant built cultural resources and collections including long-term maintenance plans for significant public and private resources. Utilize existing resources like the Blandford Country Store and Café, Porter Memorial Library, and Blandford Fair Grounds as Disaster Response Locations.	Porter Memorial Library Director and Board	Town Administrator, Historical Society, Historical Commission, Blandford Country Store and Café, Blandford Fair Grounds, local emergency response groups	Short-Term	and Memorials; Regrant Program; Roving Archivist Program; Conserving & Digitizing Historical	COSTEP MA, MHC, Preservation MA, Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board, Massachusetts Libraries Board of Library Commissioners MA Cultural Council, Simmons West Mt. Holyoke; CPA	Prepare list of priority properties and collections by the end of 2021
D-3	Consider new outreach techniques such as story mapping, historic building signs, and wayfinding and interpretive signs to help tell the story of Blandford.	Historical Commission	Historical Society, Porter Memorial Library, Planning Board	IShort-Term	MA Historic Preservation	Volunteer time, PVPC, MHC, Preservation MA, and other preservation plans and programs for reference	Seek training and develop an outline by the end of 2021
D-4	Formally investigate Feasible Reuse of Shepard Farm by applying to the Rural and Small Town Fund for a feasibility study for the best use of the town-owned Shepard Farm Area on Otis Stage Road.		Historical Commission, Historical Society, Conservation Commission, Recreation Committee, Friends of Shepard Farm	Ongoing	OneStop for Growth (Rural and Small Town Fund), EEA, Preservation Massachusetts	Volunteer time, PVPC	Expression of Interest due April 2021

D-5	Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as this locally sourced and state matched funding could help to allow residents to control and support many of the current initiatives, challenges, and opportunities present in Blandford.	Form a CPA Committee	Town of Blandford, Community Preservation Coalition, PVPC	Short-Term		Community Preservation Coalition, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, talk to reps from other Western MA towns that have this program in place	
D-6	Pursue Cultural District Designation for the Main Street Area between the General Store and Cafe to the Blandford Country Club to include Watson Park. Planning should include consideration for the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance to make Blandford's historic and cultural resources available to anyone who would like to enjoy them.	Cultural Council	Blandford Historical Society, Porter Memorial Library, Blandford Fair Committee, Blandford General Store and Café, Blandford Country Club, Recreation Committee	Short-Torm	MA Cultural Council funding	Hilltown Mobile Market, Healthy Hampshire (Blandford Walks), Mass Humanities, Mass Cultural Council, look to other Western MA towns that have adopted cultural districts	
D-7	Establish meetings, at least on a quarterly basis, with representatives from key groups (like the past "All Boards" meetings) and add to public information on related websites to keep stakeholders and residents informed and outline goals through 2030 to foster local, regional, and national partnerships to strengthen Blandford's existing historic and cultural resources.	Historical Society	Historical Commission, Cultural Council, Conservation Commission, Porter Memorial Library Board, Fair Committee	Short-term	Mass Humanities "Revolution Happened Here"	Mass Cultural Council, Revolution 250, Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, Community Foundation of Western MA	Prepare Collaboration Outline and begin core group meeting prior to 2021
D-8	Consider the adoption of a statement affirming celebration of Native American history.	Historical Commission	Select Board	Ongoing	Local	Volunteers	
D-9	Explore national standards for historic preservation and consider their applicability for Blandford.	Historical Commission	Historical Society	Ongoing	Local	Volunteers	

E. COMMUNITY INTERCONNECTIONS AND ROOTS

E-1	the Select Board. b. Use the Master Plan recommendations and implementation table as a guide of decision making. c. Convene an annual all Town Boards, Committees and Commissions Meeting to share	Resilient Master Plan	Lown	Ongoing	ILocal, PBA	Volunteer time, Consultant	
E-2	progress on implementing the Master Plan and discussing change of priorities and plans. Work with residents to promote home occupations and cottage industries within their residential buildings, and providing adequate protections for neighbors as the zoning bylaw allows.	Planning Board	Zoning Board of Appeals	Medium-Term	Local, PBA	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning	

E-3	Explore senior housing development and programs that allow for aging in place, such as an accessory apartment bylaw or other regulatory and non-regulatory tools.	Planning Board	Council on Aging	Medium-Term	Community Development Block Grants; Home Modification Loan Program	Hilltown CDC; Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; State and federal	
E-4	Support services for seniors, disadvantaged residents, and veterans.	Town Administrator	Select Board, Council on Aging	Ongoing	Massachusetts Council on Aging	Volunteers	
E-5	Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition and recreation programs.	Council on Aging	Select Board, Town Administrator	Ongoing	Massachusetts Council on Aging	Volunteers	
E-6	Provide intergenerational opportunities and space (i.e., a community center) for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors, exploring programming through the school district and other opportunities.	Town Administrator	Select Board, Council on Aging	Ongoing	Massachusetts Council on Aging	Gateway Regional High School, Volunteers	
E-7	Explore opportunities with the FRTA to improve the reliability of existing services and to expand existing Senior Van service in the future.	Town Administrator	Council on Aging	Medium-Term	Massachusetts Council on Aging, Masschusetts Community Transit Grant Program	FRTA, PVPC, Volunteers	http://frta.org/#
E-8	Apply to the Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program to help support existing volunteer senior and disabled ride services provided in town.	Council on Aging	Town Administrator	Medium-Term	Massachusetts Community Transit Grant Program	MassDOT Rail and Transit Division, Volunteers	https://www.mass .gov/community- transit-grant- program
E-9	Work with surrounding communities and special interest groups to identify opportunities to provide additional senior and disabled ride services in the future.	Council on Aging	Town Administrator	Long-Term	Local	Hilltown CDC, Surrounding Communities Councils on Aging	https://www.ridec onnector.org/
E-10	Utilize the results of WalkBoston's Walk Audit to advance improvements to pedestrian safety and encourage more pedestrian activity.	Town Administrator, Highway Superintendent	Council on Aging	Ongoing	MassDOT Complete Streets funding	Hilltown CDC, Healthy Hampshire	
E-11	Expand the existing map of walking routes for use by local residents.	Town Administrator	Council on Aging	Long-Term	PVPC LTA, DLTA	Hilltown CDC, Healthy Hampshire	
E-12	Improve town outreach and communication to residents for purposes of civic engagement and emergency response preparedness, increasing awareness of Blackboard Connect and other tools.	Town Administrator, Select Board	Emergency Management Director	Ongoing	Local, Homeland Security funding	W Region Homeland Security Advisory Council	
E-13	Form a local collective that brings together all the institutions of the town center for collaborative problem solving and planning.	Select Board	Town Administrator	Ongoing	Local Community One Stop for Growth	Gateway Hilltowns, Volunteers, possible Ec Dev committee	
E-14	Meet MEMA and DPH standards and requirements to make Gateway Regional School and Blandford Town Hall active emergency shelters, including securing backup power. Explore the option of solar generation and battery storage for backup power.	Emergency Management Director, Town Administrator	Select Board	Short-Term	FEMA/MEMA BRIC, MVP from EOEEA	Volunteer time, American Red Cross	
E-15	Continue to facilitate the installation of Town-wide broadband.	Municipal Light Board	Town Administrator, Select Board	Ongoing	MA Broadband Initiative	Volunteers	