

# **TRURO LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SUMMARY**

Draft August 28, 2023



*(Photo by Gus Orr)*

## **2023 Local Comprehensive Plan Committee (LCPC) Members**

Mara Glatzel, Chair  
Ellery Althaus, Vice Chair  
Susan Areson, Select Board Representative  
Kait Blehm, Member

Christopher Clark, Member and former Chair  
Anne Greenbaum, Planning Board Representative  
Raphael Richter, Member

## OVERVIEW

The full Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) contains an extensive section on Existing Conditions in Truro. This includes data and discussion of topics including people, environment and climate change, history, housing, geography and land use, economy, community government and engagement. All this provides the background for the focus of this plan – what’s next. This summary is focused on the future focused section of the plan - our 5 priorities and how to address them. The interrelated 5 priority areas are: Housing, Environment & Climate Change, Economy, Local & Regional Infrastructure and Community Culture.

The Draft LCP is available at <https://www.truro-ma.gov/>

## FINDING BALANCE

As Truro moves forward, our work is to balance the different needs and priorities of our community. We deliberately use the word balance rather than choose. For example:

Truro should add more housing AND protect the environment.

Truro should better serve its residents AND not price longtime residents out of town.

Truro should support the needs of young families AND the needs of senior residents.

Truro should support a thriving summer tourist economy AND a thriving year-round community.



## **VISION**

Truro's vision is to be an innovative, sustainable community with a socio-economically and culturally diverse population of all ages. To achieve community sustainability, the vision for this LCP is to support the needs of year-round and part-time residents, tourists, and seasonal employees for housing, economic opportunity, and public services while continuing to provide stewardship of Truro's land and natural resources upon which our community depends for its livelihood and way of life.

### **Truro's top priorities for the next 5 – 10 years are:**

- Truro will take action to address the housing crisis across a wide variety of demographics and income levels
- Truro will work to protect the natural and built environment and address the impacts of climate change
- Truro will support business and economic opportunities
- Truro will work with other Cape communities to address regional and Outer Cape infrastructure needs
- Truro will build a collaborative and supportive community culture

## **GROWTH POLICY**

The Town of Truro Growth Management Policy expressed throughout this Local Comprehensive Plan is to guide growth toward geographic areas that are or can be adequately supported or improved by infrastructure, including on-site wastewater management systems. Growth should be avoided in areas that must be protected, such as for ecological, historical, or economic reasons. Many Truro homes now and in the foreseeable future use private wells for drinking water. Therefore, protecting the quality of untreated drinking water is an integral component of our growth policy.

Growth will be intentional, designed to meet identified needs, including but not limited to year-round housing for seniors, young families, and local workers of all types, as well as housing for seasonal employees.

New housing should be integrated throughout our town as we build neighborhoods and community, not simply structures.

## **OUR PRIORITIES**

**Truro will take action to address the housing crisis across a wide variety of demographics and income levels by:**

- Encouraging community housing development at multiple sites throughout town
- Ensuring potential environmental impacts are adequately addressed in all new housing development, including high quality wastewater treatment
- Encouraging creative approaches, including regulatory reform to support housing development

**Truro will work to protect the natural and built environment and address the impacts of climate change by:**

- Ensuring adequate, safe, and reliable drinking water is available to meet future needs
- Supporting municipal, business, and private efforts to mitigate the Town's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and providing support for appropriately scaled and sited renewable energy projects
- Seeking climate resilience by working with the Cape Cod National Seashore and other local, regional, state, and federal partners to implement coastal adaptation measures
- Strongly encouraging energy conservation/reduction measures in all new development

**Truro will support business and economic opportunities by:**

- Supporting development of adequate space and housing opportunities for tradespeople to live and work in Truro
- Supporting existing businesses and exploring creative ways to entice new businesses in Truro
- Providing additional educational opportunities for future workers
- Ensuring the availability of adequate support services including recreation and healthcare to allow Truro residents to live and work in Truro

**Truro will work with other Cape communities to address regional and Outer Cape infrastructure needs by:**

- Focusing housing development in areas with existing or planned infrastructure, including water and wastewater, transportation, and reliable internet services
- Working with Internet service providers, regional agencies, and OpenCape Corporation to extend broadband and reliable Internet service to all users throughout Truro
- Seeking improvements to the regional transportation system including pathways, sidewalks, and year-round public transportation to improve safety, reliability, and mobility for all users.

**Truro will build a collaborative and supportive community culture by:**

- Ensuring that community conversations are respectful and constructive
- Communication between town staff, Boards and members of the public will be done in ways that promote collaboration and cohesion among all citizens
- Providing transparency in decision-making
- Promoting events to engage and reach all generations throughout the year
- Actively encouraging participation by part-time residents, seasonal homeowners, seasonal residents, local workforce, and underrepresented groups in the community
- Provide opportunities for full participation in community decision making events by removing barriers to participation, such as lack of childcare, lack of transportation, scheduling challenges etc.

# WHAT A LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (LCP) IS AND IS NOT

## An LCP is:

- an important planning tool used to guide the growth and direction of Truro while balancing a wide variety of needs
- a living document guiding the long- and short-term decisions of the town.
- a guide future decision making for elected officials, board members, and community members

## An LCP is not:

- law or regulation
- a list of required actions

Voting in favor of this Local Comprehensive Plan is voting in favor of the big picture direction for Truro. It is not voting to adopt every recommendation.



*(photo by Anne Greenbaum)*

## **OUR PROCESS - HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?**

The LCP Committee (LCPC) began meeting in 2017. We have reenergized our work over the past two years and engaged the community in all stages of this process including:

- **Fall 2021 Town Community Input Survey** in partnership with the Walsh Community Planning Committee and Truro Housing Authority –611 respondents provided input on housing, economic development, and the Walsh property which helped us create a community vision.
- **May 2022 through August 2022 LCP Postcard Campaign** – Over 235 people responded to 1 or more of the 3 questions asked on postcards placed at high traffic areas around Truro
  - What word or phrase best describes Truro today?
  - What word or phrase best describes your vision for the future of Truro?
  - Do you want Truro to have a town center providing a mix of business, residential, and municipal uses? If so, why?
- **October 15, 2022 Public Forum #1: What's Your Vision for Truro?** Over 70 people worked in small groups to help shape our vision and goals
- **June 15, 2023 Public Forum #2: Feedback on Vision Statement, and Goals & Objectives** – Over 50 people spent several hours on a beautiful evening working individually and in small groups to provide us with feedback on draft vision and draft goals
- **February 2023 to present** – we have received thoughtful comments from a number of town boards
- **May 2023 to present** - Through meetings and written feedback we have benefited from a range of feedback from Town staff members

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are currently collecting feedback on this draft
- September 7 Community Forum at the Community Center
- Final version of the plan presented to community at the October 21, 2023 Special Town Meeting for approval
- Approved plan submitted to Cape Cod Commission
  - Approval of Truro's LCP by the Cape Cod Commission will give us access to technical assistance and other benefits from the Commission



*(Submitted during Postcard Campaign)*

**PLEASE SEND ANY FEEDBACK TO THE LCPC BY EMAILING  
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