

Chapter
10

REGIONAL CONCERNS

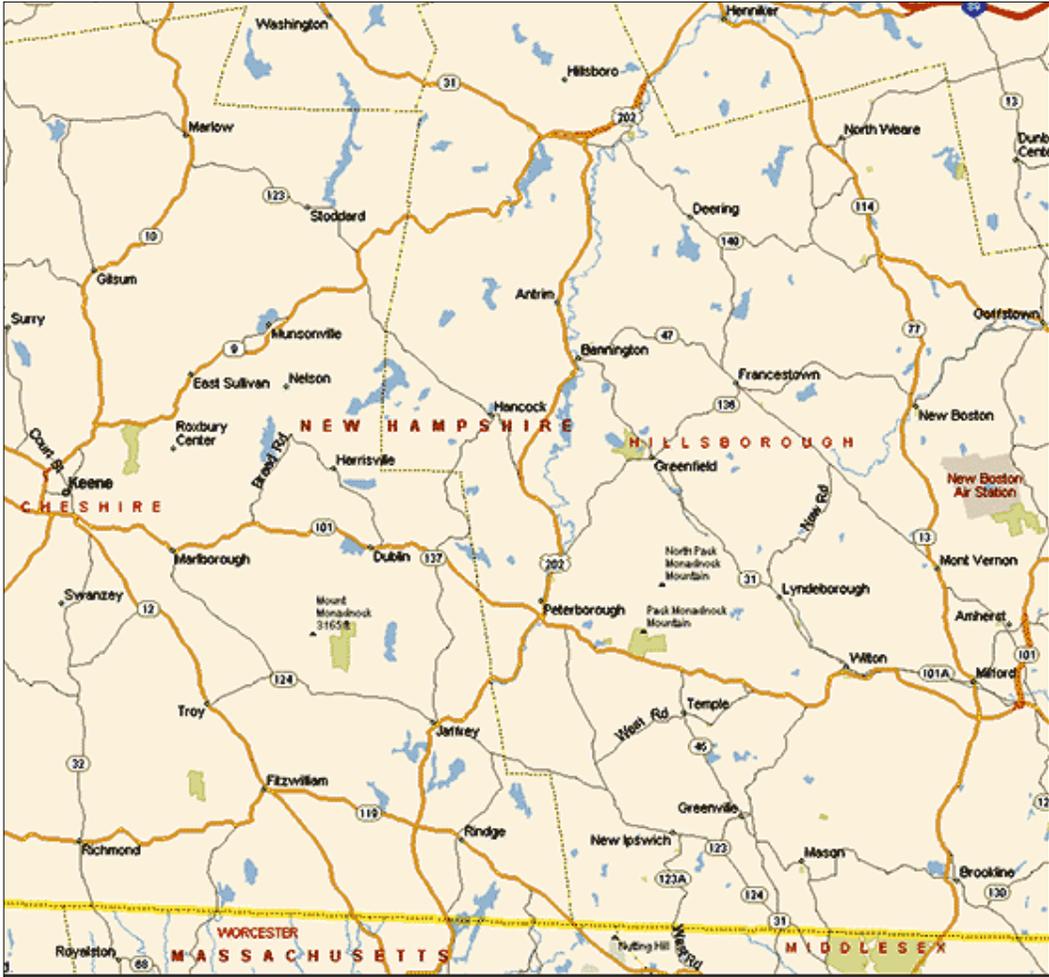


Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. Peterborough and its Region	2
III. Assessment of Regional Issues.....	4
A. Public Safety	5
1. Police	5
2. Fire & Rescue	6
3. Emergency Management	8
B. Public Works	9
C. Water Resources.....	10
D. Workforce Housing.....	16
IV. Conclusions	19

MAPS

Map #1: Peterborough and Its Region	2
Map #2: Groundwater Protection Overlay Zone.....	12
Map #3: Water and Sewer Distribution Lines.....	13
Map #4: The Contoocook River Watershed	14



I. Introduction

The New Hampshire state statutes that address the purpose and description of a master plan (RSA 674:2) include a regional concerns section as one of 14 optional sections of a master plan. The section should identify specific areas in the Town that are of significant regional interest. The intent of this section is to “promote regional awareness in managing growth while fulfilling the vision statements.” (RSA 674:2, III (i)). The statute allows that these areas of interest may be contained wholly within the Town, or may consist of resources that are shared with neighboring towns.

There are, in the Committee’s view, numerous resources, services, and facilities that have a regional component to them – either already existing, or that should be considered from a regional perspective; at this time, however, the Committee is focusing on these four topics:

- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ Water Resources
- ❖ Workforce Housing

Other topics that may be of interest to be addressed at a later date are listed below. (Please note that Cultural Facilities are addressed in a separate chapter.)

- ❖ Healthcare
- ❖ Waste Management
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Cultural Facilities
- ❖ Recreation
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Telecommunications
- ❖ Alternative Energy Production/Infrastructure

II. Peterborough and its Region

Peterborough is situated in what is known as the Monadnock Region, an area in southwestern New Hampshire whose identity is largely shaped by the presence of Mount Monadnock, located in the neighboring towns of Jaffrey, Dublin and Marlborough. Peterborough is also situated within the Contoocook River Valley, and is a member, along with eight other towns in the Valley that belong to the Contoocook Valley (ConVal) School District. The map below illustrates the location of Peterborough with the surrounding towns; included on the

map are the non-abutting towns with which Peterborough shares resources, facilities, or services.

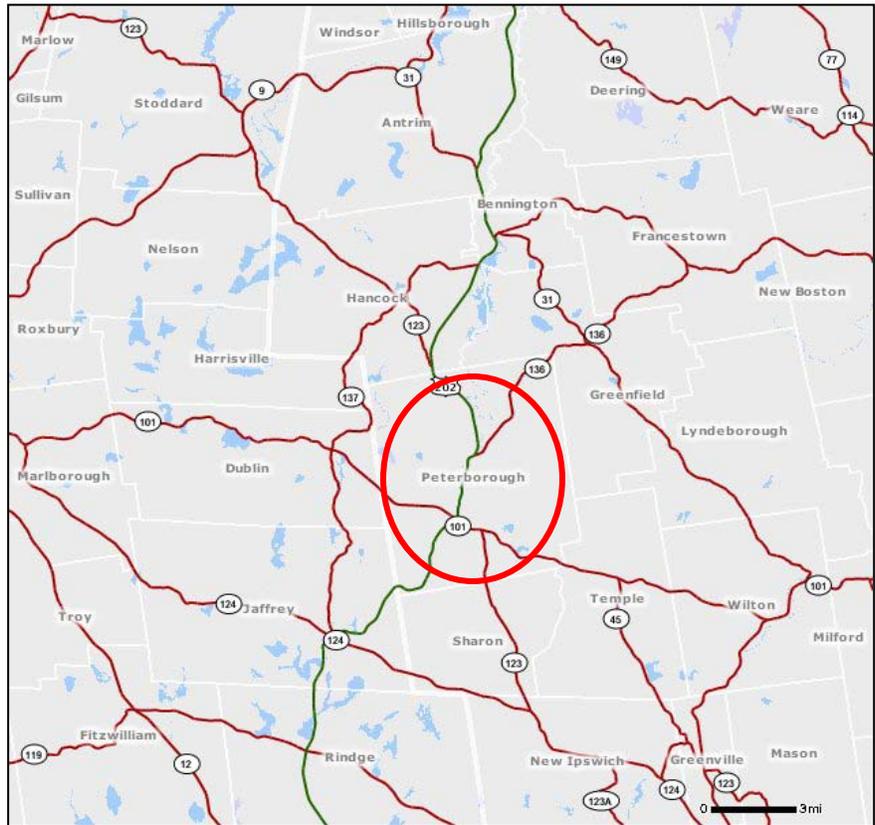
Peterborough is bisected north to south by US Route 202, which also follows the path of the Contoocook River. Route 202 is the primary access in this region to Interstates 89 and 93, and thus brings a great deal of traffic through the town. Another major highway, NH Route 101, bisects Peterborough east to west. This road is the only major east-west highway in southwest New Hampshire and

it, too, carries a lot of traffic, although most of it is local (meaning from Keene to Milford).

Another defining feature of Peterborough, regarding the road network, is the absence of an interstate, here and in the region. Some see this as a luxury, but it also has its detriments, especially in the area of economic development.

The Contoocook River is also a defining feature of Peterborough. The river begins at Pool Pond and Contoocook Lake at the Jaffrey/Rindge town line, and empties into the Merrimack River just north of Concord, traversing the entire length of Peterborough adjacent to Route 202 for most of this length.

**Map #1:
Peterborough and its Region**



Peterborough is one of four towns in the region that have populations that far exceed that of neighboring towns, with Jaffrey, New Ipswich and Rindge being the other three. The remaining nine towns have less than half the population of Peterborough, with Sharon being the smallest town at 352 persons.

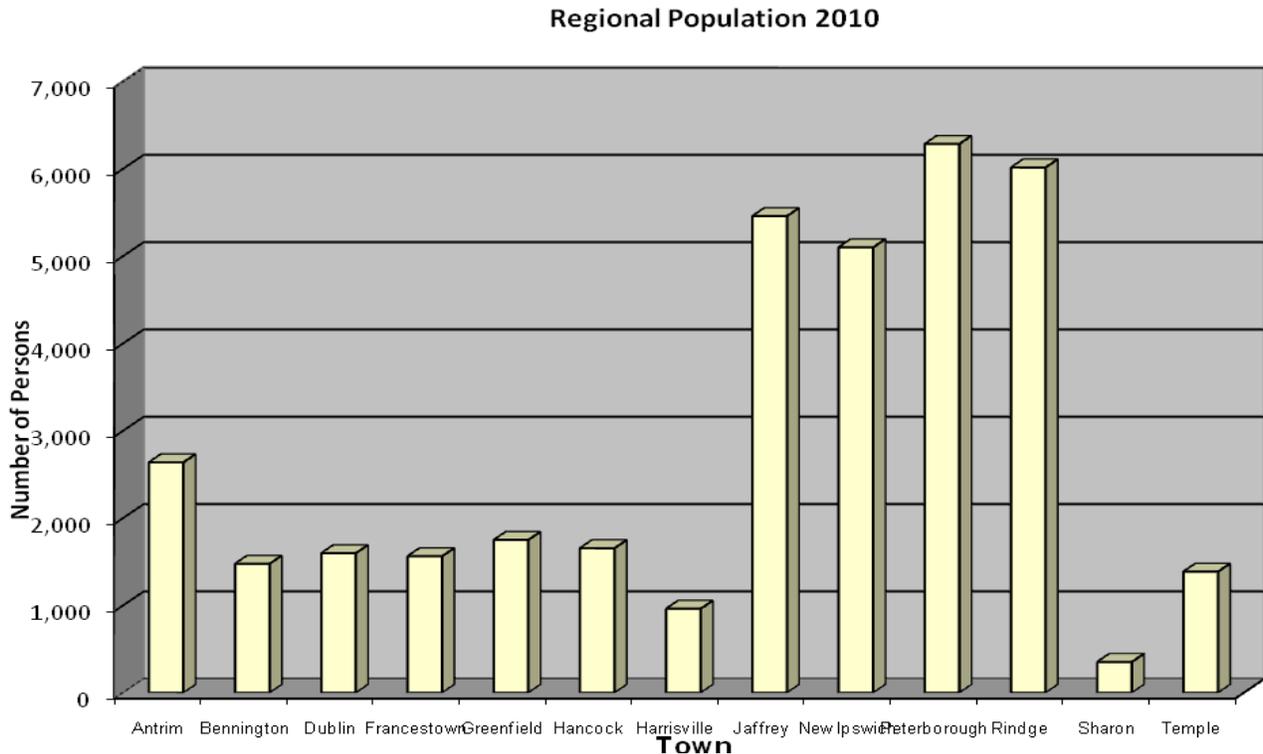
Table #1 presents the 2010 Census data for the population of Peterborough and 12 of its neighboring towns, and Figure #1 represents this information graphically.

**Table #1:
2010 Population by Town for Peterborough and Region**

Town	Population
Antrim	2,637
Bennington	1,476
Dublin	1,597
Francestown	1,562
Greenfield	1,749
Hancock	1,654
Harrisville	961
Jaffrey	5,457
New Ipswich	5,099
Peterborough	6,284
Rindge	6,014
Sharon	352
Temple	1,386

Source: US Census

**Figure #1:
2010 Population by Town for Peterborough and Region**



As one of the three largest towns in the Contoocook Valley, Peterborough has played a strong role as a regional employer, a center of commerce (with publishing playing a large role), industry, and the arts. Over time these various roles have shifted, in part due to technology, changing life styles, and the willingness of people to commute long distances. The two shopping plazas were once destinations for shoppers in the region. The plazas' role is now more local, since large retail/grocery stores and other shopping opportunities are located in towns within 20 miles of Peterborough in all directions. Peterborough has, however, become home to a wide variety of specialty retail shops and services that are destinations for shoppers and tourists from around the region, state, and beyond.

Peterborough remains a provider of regional jobs, but is no longer home to many of the manufacturing establishments that once were located here; on the other hand, Peterborough's role in the arts and culture has grown to the point that it now has broad regional and statewide awareness; some examples of this are Peterborough Players, MacDowell Colony, the Mariposa Museum, the Sharon Arts Center, to name only a few. (A separate chapter on Cultural Resources inventories and describes the resources in detail.)

Peterborough is the location for the Monadnock Community Hospital, a facility that serves the Contoocook Valley and is the largest employer in town with over 700 employees. The ConVal School District offices are located in Peterborough, along with three schools (Peterborough Elementary, and the ConVal Regional Middle and High Schools), which make up the second largest pool of employees in town.



Peterborough's library – the oldest free library supported by taxation in the United States, provides a moderate regional service. Library services are available for a fee to neighboring towns and to the students of the Middle School and ConVal High School, which are made up of eight towns surrounding Peterborough.

III. Assessment of Regional Issues

The four topic areas addressed in this section – Public Safety, Public Works, Water Resources, and Workforce Housing, are all considered to have regional components to them, but not necessarily all for the same reason. Factors that influence regional interest in one area may not affect another – for example, physical proximity in one case, or being located within the same watershed in another. Because of these various factors there is no one definition of what constitutes regional concern or interest; these are addressed separately for each topic area the Committee has determined to have a regional component to it. Also of importance to mention is that many issues of regional concern are outside of the control of the Town (for example, upstream pollution).

A. Public Safety

Public Safety services in Peterborough consist of Police, Fire & Rescue, and Emergency Management. There are systems in place that facilitate sharing of services and some resources, which is what makes this an area of regional interest.

1. Police

The Town of Peterborough supports a full-time Police Department located on Grove Street near the Downtown, with 11 full-time officers, three part-time officers, and one clerk/dispatcher. The Department runs two patrols at a time that provide 24-hour coverage.

Regional planning elements that are already in place include:

- Hillsborough County Mutual Aid and Extended Authority Contracts.
- Individual contracts for specific coverage to the towns of Sharon, Dublin, Jaffrey, Rindge, and Keene.
- The Hillsborough County Chiefs of Police Association meets once a month.



Aside from the regional efforts already in place, the Police Department can continue to explore the following questions:

- Is there an opportunity for training across departments?
- Is there an opportunity for joint purchasing of vehicles or equipment?
- Should specialty jailing for women and juveniles in the region be investigated?
- Are there additional areas of cooperation between police, fire, and ambulance in the region?

Future issues for consideration are:

- There is a need for a regional SWAT Team, or Regional Response Team, for armed and barricaded situations. This may include Jaffrey, Dublin, Marlborough, Rindge, Hancock, and Greenfield.
- There is currently no participation with the Cheshire County Chiefs of Police Association.

2. Fire & Rescue

The Peterborough Fire Department provides fire, rescue and ambulance service to the residents of Peterborough from station headquarters on Summer Street in the Downtown.

The regional planning elements that are already in place are:

Fire:

- Immediate mutual aid is provided to Jaffrey, Hancock, Dublin, Temple, New Ipswich, Greenfield, Frankestown, and Sharon.
- An automatic mutual aid with Jaffrey for specific geographical areas (Routes 202 and 123) that alerts both towns simultaneously.
- Rapid Intervention Crews for multiple alarm fires to rescue/recover people in burning buildings.
- Under a State Mobilization Plan strike teams and task forces may be sent out from all over the state to cover and contain a major event.
- The Incident Command System kicks in with a multiple alarm event, with the host Chief in charge, who directs Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs from other towns to specific jobs (e.g., Safety Chief, Staging Chief, or Division Chief). All share a mobile command center.
- Peterborough participates in regional fire and rescue training.
- HazMat Teams and trailer are shared regionally.
- The Monadnock Area Fire Chiefs Association was formed five years ago and now has 20 participating Town Fire Chiefs. Together they work out joint purchasing agreements and develop shared training programs.



Ambulance

- Ambulance services outside of Peterborough are provided to the towns of Dublin, Hancock, Greenfield, Frankestown, Sharon, and Temple under a contractual agreement whereby the towns contribute to the cost of the ambulances.
- Intercepts (for ambulances or specialized personnel, e.g. Medic) can be requested by the towns of Jaffrey, New Ipswich or Antrim.



- Monadnock Community Hospital is the area Resource Hospital where Ambulance Chiefs meetings are held.
- There is monthly training for nine regional towns by the Academy of First Response, the purpose of which is to acquaint the personnel with each other so that when they meet on a call they are familiar.
- There are state protocols that ensure that procedures are the same all over the state for each type of event.

As part of the data-gathering exercise, a MPSC member attended a District Fire Chief’s meeting at the Monadnock Community Hospital, reported below:

Report on a District Fire Chief’s Meeting of February 2010¹ attended by Sue Chollet of the Master Plan Steering Committee:

Basically this group is a model for the benefits of regional cooperation. They are collegial, and look to the needs of towns outside their own. They communicate easily and well together.

Input from the Chiefs included:

Need for Regional Recruitment

The biggest problem is manpower, not being able to hire personnel. No one wants blue collar jobs anymore. People are not looking to do service for their community the way they once were. Families are struggling. Also, there is a lack of knowledge about how the stations are run. Townspeople don’t seem to understand that the stations rely on volunteers. They come

¹ Note that since the time of this meeting, some of these issues have been resolved, for example the need at the time for regional recruitment; Peterborough and other departments in the area are now better staffed than they were at this time.

into the station and say, “where is everybody?” as if there were full time employees. Because of manpower shortage, there is a greater reliance on others than ever before.

Regional Manned Stations

The volume of ambulance and fire calls is increasing. Much of this is due to citizens calling for help for little things that they once took care of themselves. At the same time, employers are not letting volunteers out of work like they used to. It is just a sign of the times. Employers can no longer support letting manpower out of work. Regional manned stations could work with rotating volunteers from each town: Peterborough, Jaffrey and Francestown for instance.

Regional Emergency Operations Center

The ice storm of 2008 pointed out a weakness in the plan to work together during a regional crisis. A new plan would designate a specific meeting place, and one representative from each station would be appointed to go and work out the logistics of service so that each town gets what it needs, especially those hardest hit. All town departments need to use their own mutual aid system better, because when they ask the state for help, the state may be already overwhelmed. Also needed is a multi-agency coordinating entity. There are, for example, the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network and the Department of Health and Human Services. What system is used when? It is confusing. Some of this planning improvement has to happen at the state level. Guidelines are needed for which system to use.

Meadowood Concept

Meadowood is a private fire department based in Fitzwilliam. It buys and maintains specialty equipment that towns cannot afford, and would only use once in a while. So Meadowood’s mission is to supply this specialty equipment to any town that needs it. But not all towns help to fund this service and the staff has to rely on fundraising. Some of the items are a tower truck with bucket, underwater rescue equipment, light towers, letter signs, and spider lift to get into small areas safely. Perhaps there is an opportunity for regional fundraising and an expanded sharing program through Meadowood.

3. Emergency Management

In an emergency situation (e.g. a natural disaster), the State Emergency Operations Center takes control of all response plans, provision of supplies, make up of response teams, etc. Each town has its own Emergency Management Director, but the State is responsible for any issue that is beyond the ability of a town to manage. In Peterborough, the Fire Chief is also the Emergency Management Director. In the case of emergencies, the meeting room at the Fire Station becomes the Emergency Operations Center.

Future issues for consideration with Fire & Rescue and Emergency Management as identified by the Peterborough Chief are:

- There is a need for more automatic Mutual Aid Agreements between neighboring towns for more immediate emergency responses.
- There should be more joint purchasing of items such as turnout gear, vehicles, etc.
- The growing and aging population is resulting in a greater demand on the ambulance service.
- Staffing is still a challenge. There is less interest on the part of younger people to become EMT's, in part because of the increased need for new skills for advanced technology. Attention needs to be paid to the Explorer Program to ensure that there is support and encouragement for young people to join the Department.
- The feasibility of a regional fire station should be further explored, including whether the concept makes sense; where would it be located, how many towns would it serve, how would it be staffed, etc.? An associated issue is the training and skill sets of the various fire departments around the region.
- The fire departments in the region should evaluate the service areas to see whether they still make sense today.

B. Public Works

The Town of Peterborough Public Works Department is responsible for highway maintenance, buildings and grounds, the recycling center, and the water and wastewater systems.

One area of regional cooperation within Public Works is the Highway Department. Selectmen and Road Agents from the neighboring towns of Dublin, Temple, and Hancock meet in Peterborough on a regular basis to discuss issues the towns have in common and work cooperatively to problem-solve and share resources where they can. In addition, since 2006 the towns have been collaborating to jointly purchase public works supplies. A member of the Dublin Select Board takes the lead on these purchases; every spring he solicits the orders, places the ads and draws up the individual contracts for each town.

On the recycling side, Peterborough participates in the City of Keene Household Hazardous Waste Day, which is held 12 times a year. The City charges are based on a participating town's population, and for Peterborough this charge is less than it would cost the Town to hold its own hazardous waste collection.

Recently the towns of Peterborough, Dublin and Temple have joined with the ConVal School District to collectively purchase diesel fuel and heating oil. The Peterborough DPW Director takes the lead on this activity; he collects information on costs and drafts the individual contracts for the towns. This has resulted in significant cost savings, especially for the smaller towns.

And now, these same towns and the School District have joined to collectively purchase wholesale electricity. Peterborough was the first town to test this concept, and after observing Peterborough's experience in 2009, the others agreed to participate. All have benefited from this collaboration with what is now known as the Peterborough Electric Consortium.

In addition to Peterborough's efforts to rely on regional solutions, there is a New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program (that includes Water and Wastewater) that functions as a clearinghouse for towns either requesting assistance or wishing to provide assistance. This program has been in place since 1999, and Peterborough and its neighboring towns do participate in the program. Peterborough has not ever requested assistance through this program, but it has provided assistance on two occasions: to Keene in 2005; and to Goffstown in 2006.

The DPW also takes advantage of the state-wide bid purchasing opportunities offered by the NH Department of Administrative Services, Bureau of Purchase and Property. The Bureau's main responsibility is the purchase of goods and services for all state agencies and institutions and the public. Peterborough is able at any time to bid on a wide range of goods and equipment that the state offers for sale at replacement.

Future issues for consideration include:

- The challenges of sharing resources between towns with varying budgets and staffing levels.
- The challenge of joint purchasing when the towns have different needs and preferences.
- Continuing to be aware of additional opportunities for sharing of resources that have not yet been explored?

C. Water Resources

Peterborough has an abundance of water resources, both surface and ground water. The Contoocook River runs the length of the town, south to north; Nubanusit Brook flows from MacDowell Reservoir in West Peterborough to the downtown, where it empties into the Contoocook; Cunningham and Cranberry Meadow are the two largest surface water ponds in town; in addition, there are numerous smaller streams and ponds scattered throughout the town.

Surface waters in Peterborough are provided some protection through the local Shoreland Conservation Zone, which imposes a 100-foot setback for all structures and limits the uses that can take place within these 100 feet. This ordinance applies to any surface water that appears on either the 1953 or 1987 USGS map.

Wetlands serve an important function for water supplies in that they act as filters for many pollutants that can make their way



into the groundwater, thus affecting the drinking water supply.

Peterborough has an extensive wetland system, much of it in still undeveloped areas. The Town adopted a Wetlands Protection District ordinance in 1990 that calls for a 50-foot setback from all wetlands greater than ½ acre in size.

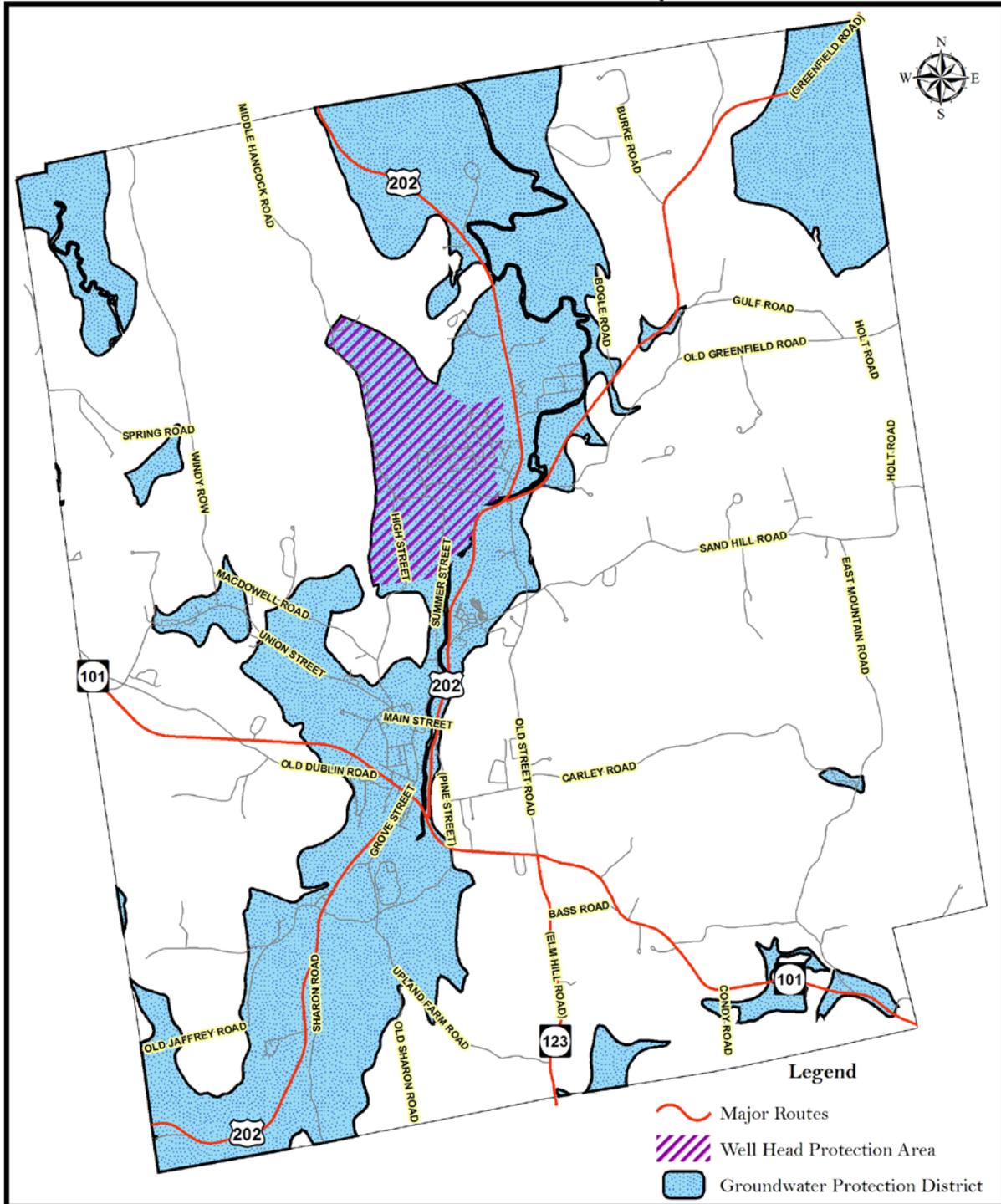
Groundwater in Peterborough is largely comprised of a stratified drift aquifer that traverses the town roughly south to north underneath

Route 202 and the Contoocook River. The Town has adopted a Groundwater Protection Zone (see Map #2) that prohibits certain uses over the aquifer and the wellhead protection area, and provides performance standards for other uses, in order to prevent these resources from becoming polluted.

The Town has a municipal water and sewer system that serves most of the more densely-developed areas (see Map #3). The water system is supplied by three wells, all of them located near the Contoocook River adjacent to Route 202 north. The wellhead protection area identified in Map #2 was created specifically to provide protection to these wells, which are the only source of drinking water for the municipal system.

The sewer system was put in place, in part, as a response to water quality issues that are common when densely-developed areas rely on on-site septic systems for each property. The system is now at capacity, having been in operation for more than 50 years, and as of this writing, a new wastewater treatment plant is under construction. It is expected to be online by the spring of 2012 and has been designed for a 20-year lifespan. However, because treatment relies on water from the Contoocook River, the standards that must be met today for treatment are much higher than they were for the current plant. In addition, the water quality of the river is also degraded due to the impacts of abutting land uses upstream from the plant, which also puts greater demands on the process.

Map #2:
Groundwater Protection Overlay Zone



NOTE: This map only serves as a guide to Peterborough's Land Use Regulation Chapter 245. Written descriptions are the official Zoning Delineations.

Map #3:
Water and Sewer Distribution Lines

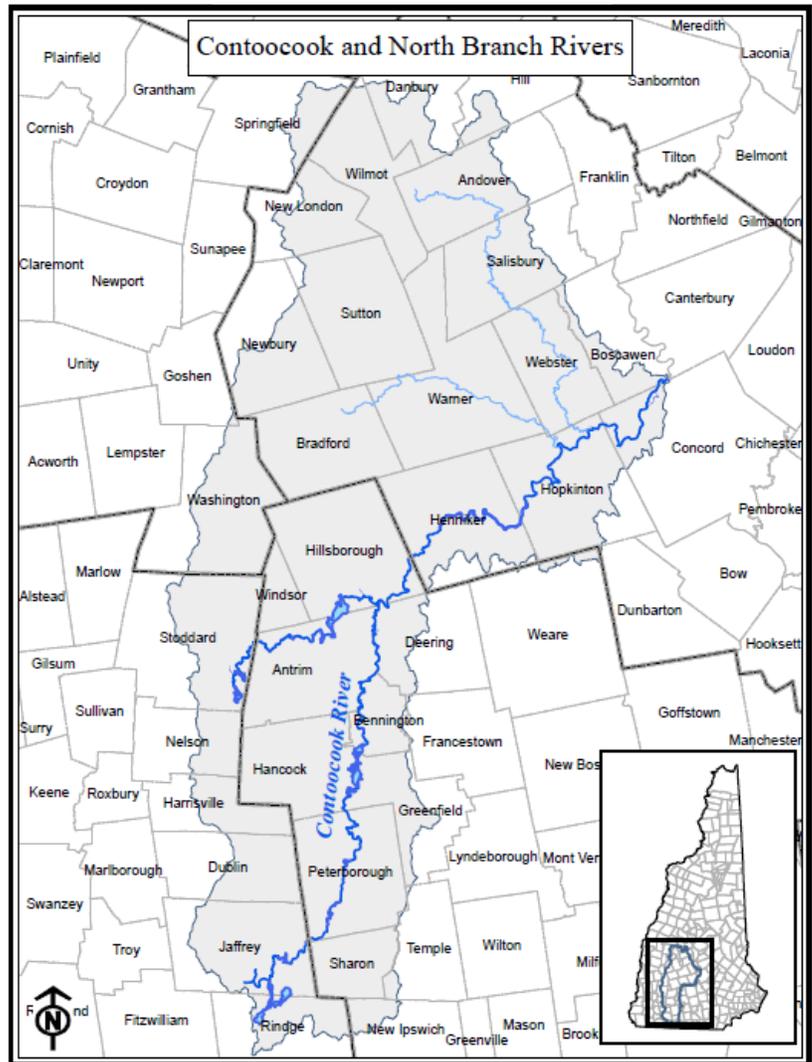


Peterborough Watershed:

Peterborough is located entirely within the Contoocook River Watershed (see Map #4; it shares this watershed with 34 other towns. The water in this watershed flows north and drains into the Merrimack River and Merrimack Watershed. As can be seen from this map, Peterborough is located in the southerly portion of the watershed; there are only five towns in this watershed that are upstream of Peterborough, affecting it's water quality, and 29 that are downstream and potentially affected by Peterborough's land use activities.

**Map #4:
Contoocook River Watershed**

Since water is affected by everything it comes into contact with, the types of land uses that take place within a watershed affect water quality for everyone else downstream. The kinds of activities that can have detrimental impacts include: surface or ground water discharges (point source pollution); agricultural runoff, drainage from lawns and parking areas, or road salt (non-point source pollution). According to the EPA, non-point source pollution poses the greatest threat to water quality and is the most significant source of water quality impairment in the country.²

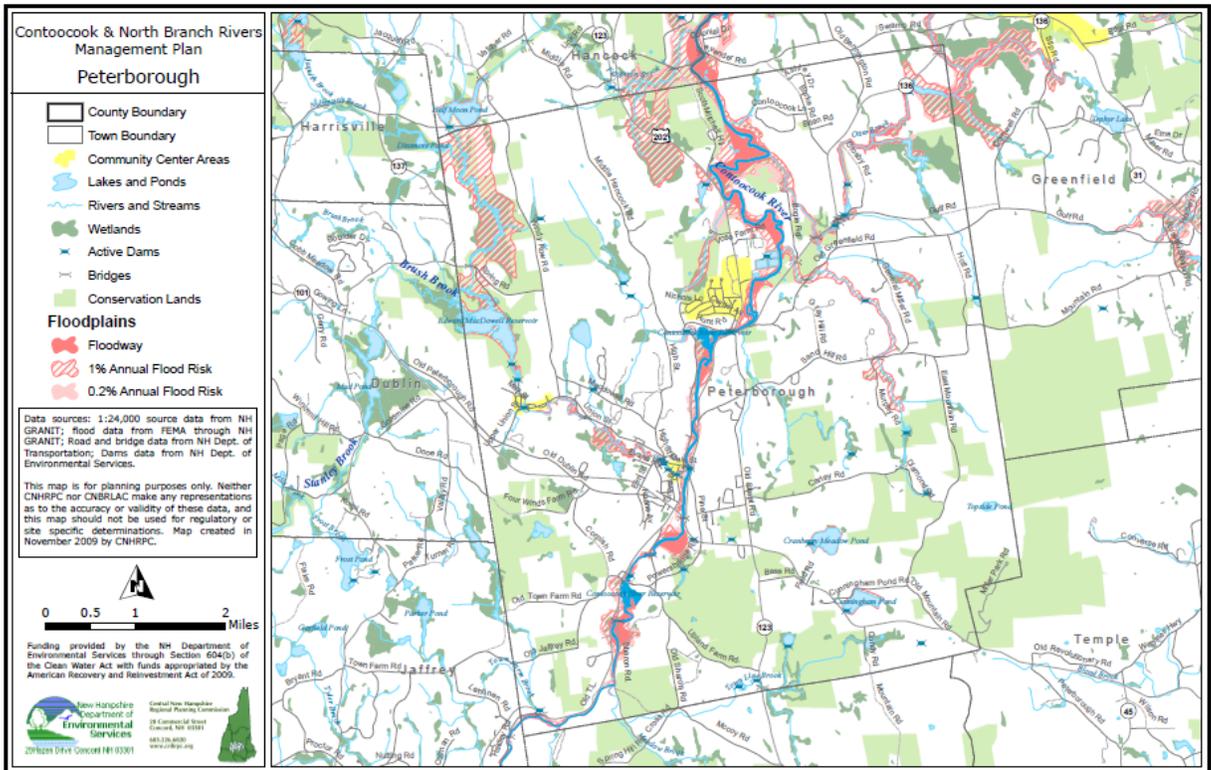
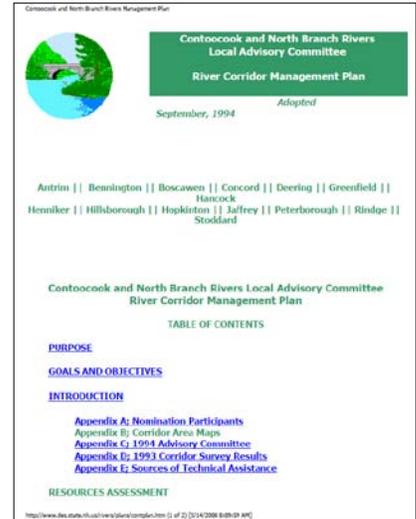


² Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters; US Environmental Protection Agency; March 2008.

Contoocook River Management Plan³:

Another regional water initiative in which Peterborough is involved is a River Management Plan for the Contoocook and the North Branch Rivers. The Contoocook River corridor includes the towns of Rindge, Jaffrey, Peterborough, Greenfield, Hancock, Bennington, Antrim, Deering, Hillsborough, Henniker, Hopkinton, Boscawen, and Concord. The North Branch flows from Stoddard to Hillsborough, where it joins the Contoocook.

The Plan was adopted in 1994 as part of a state-wide river corridor management program that was established by the Legislature in 1988; it is managed by a Local Advisory Committee that was set up to have representation from each of the 14 communities within the two corridors. The Plan contains a range of objectives and action items that are based in large part on an initial survey and data collection effort that was held in the early stages of the Plan development. The map below reflects the recent efforts to update the 1994 Plan.



³ The Plan is available for review or download at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/plans/contplan.htm>.

The quality of Peterborough’s water resources is only partially under the control of the residents of Peterborough. As mentioned earlier, some resources extend beyond a town’s boundaries and are therefore subject to impact by factors over which one particular town has no control. Water resources are a perfect example of this: groundwater comes into Peterborough from all directions; surface waters come in from numerous directions; and the Contoocook River comes in from the south, where the Jaffrey wastewater treatment plant is located.

Future issues for consideration include:

- ❖ The impact of upstream pollution on the quality of Peterborough’s surface and ground waters, which affects drinking water quality.
- ❖ The challenges of developing a Watershed Plan that would incorporate all the stakeholders in the watershed.
- ❖ Ways in which Peterborough can cooperate with its neighbors to address upstream and downstream impacts of water resources.

D. Workforce Housing

Housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income workers is not only a local and regional issue, but the NH State Legislature has deemed it to be of statewide importance. RSA 672: I states that all citizens of the state benefit from a balanced supply of housing, and that towns shall not use their planning and zoning powers to prohibit or discourage the opportunity for such housing to be developed. In 2008 the Legislature adopted RSA 674:

58-61 that requires every municipality with land use ordinances and regulations to make reasonable and realistic opportunity available for the development of workforce housing⁴ in a majority of the land area that is zoned for residential uses.



One of the buildings at *Gile Hill*, a 120-unit/12 building workforce housing apartment and condominium project in Hanover, NH, developed by the Twin Pines Housing Trust.

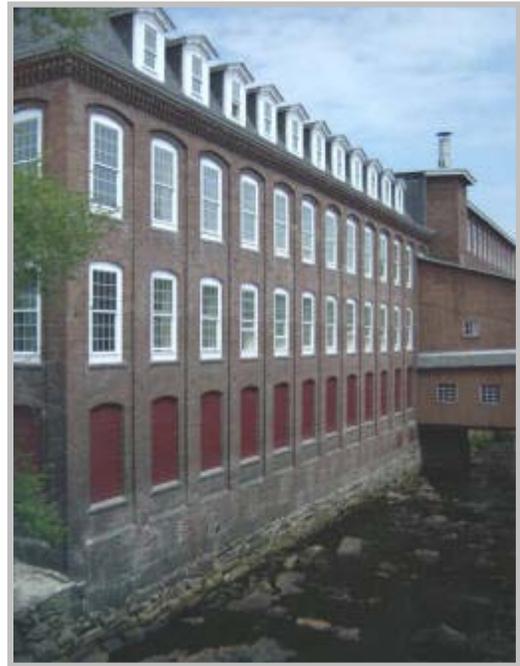
⁴ For the purposes of the law, “workforce housing” means: (1) home ownership that would be affordable to a household with an income of no more than 100% of the median income for a 4-person household; (2) rental housing that would be affordable to a household with an income of no more than 60% of the median income for a 3-person household; and (3) rental multi-family of five or more dwelling units.

The law does not in any way mean that a town is required to provide or build the housing; only that its ordinances and regulations do not unduly restrict the ability of such housing to be built. Further, a town is also allowed to take its existing housing stock into consideration in determining whether it complies with this law. Since the adoption of this law, a number of communities in the region have either adopted or are preparing to adopt, a workforce housing amendment to their zoning ordinances. As of this writing, however, no project specific to workforce housing has been built or proposed in the region.

In Peterborough and throughout the region are dozens of apartment units that are available to low- and moderate-income persons; some are subsidized but many are not. They all, however, are rentals, and this is one of the issues the workforce housing law is trying to address – the scarcity of ownership opportunities for people whose incomes are within the state guidelines to qualify for an “affordable” home.

In addition to the privately-owned and managed apartments referenced above, there are four housing agencies that provide housing for low-and moderate-income persons throughout the region; they are:

1. Keene Housing Authority
2. Cheshire Housing Trust
3. Southwestern Community Services
4. Contoocook Housing Trust



Jaffrey Mills – A former mill building in Jaffrey that has been converted to affordable apartments and condominiums.

The Contoocook Housing Trust focuses its efforts within the 13 towns in Contoocook River valley, which includes Peterborough. The Trust relies on contributions from the 13 towns, to which Peterborough has been a contributor. Southwestern Community Services covers all of the Monadnock Region and has recently acquired ownership of Prescott Hill in Peterborough.

A relatively new entity, called “Heading for Home,” is a not-for-profit workforce housing coalition, whose primary mission is education. The office is located in Keene, but their area of interest is the entire Monadnock Region. Every fall the group hosts a Business Leaders Breakfast, whose focus is on some component of workforce housing. The group is currently in the process of planning a Housing Summit, the goal of which is to educate the public about the importance of workforce housing and offer some strategies that have proven successful in other places.

In Peterborough, a number of zoning amendments since 2004 have increased opportunity for residential development of all types in the Downtown Commercial, Village Commercial, and West Peterborough Districts. The increased opportunity in these districts comes from changes to the ordinance that eliminated or reduced minimum lot sizes and building setbacks. In addition, in the Commercial and Business/Industrial Districts, residential uses are now permitted if they are accessory to the principal non-residential use. The Town's road standards have also been amended to allow for narrower travel lanes, which reduces the costs of construction. The Rural District, on the other hand, having the largest land area in Town, does not allow the statutorily-mandated multi-family building. The Planning Board should address this gap through an appropriate amendment(s) to the zoning ordinance.

Peterborough is doing what it can locally to ensure that there are no overt regulatory obstacles to the development of workforce housing. One of the biggest factors in the provision of reasonably-priced housing is the cost of the land; and this is something that the Planning Board, through its proposed regulations, has little ability to affect. The price of a building lot in Peterborough continues to be high, despite the relaxed zoning provisions. Furthermore, even with the changes to the ordinance since 2004 there have been no applications for workforce housing anywhere in town. Insofar as decisions to build housing are market-driven, it is somewhat uncertain whether further amendments to the ordinance would encourage such applications.

Future issues for consideration include:

- Continued awareness of the issue and a commitment to work with the appropriate entities to further the goals of attainable housing for all.
- There is a large supply of rental housing in Peterborough that meets the definition of affordable; however opportunities for home ownership continue to be limited.
- Is the Town doing enough to facilitate housing opportunities, either through its ordinances and regulations, or by other means?
- Being aware of potential opportunities for the Town to partner with major employers to make affordable housing available to the workers.
- An ongoing awareness of the role that Peterborough plays in the regional provision of workforce housing. Can the Town do more than it is doing?

IV. Conclusions

As noted in the Introduction, the statutory purpose of this chapter is to “promote regional awareness in managing growth...” The Town Administration and several Departments are involved in regional issues on a variety of levels. There is certainly awareness that there are local issues that can have regional impacts, and there are conditions outside of the Town boundaries that can impact Peterborough. This chapter attempts to identify those distinctions when possible. While many of the activities engaged in by the Town might not necessarily assist in “managing growth” as the statute states, nevertheless the collaboration among the towns’ results in regional awareness, the potential for more efficient delivery of services, and the facilitation of joint responses to regional problems.