



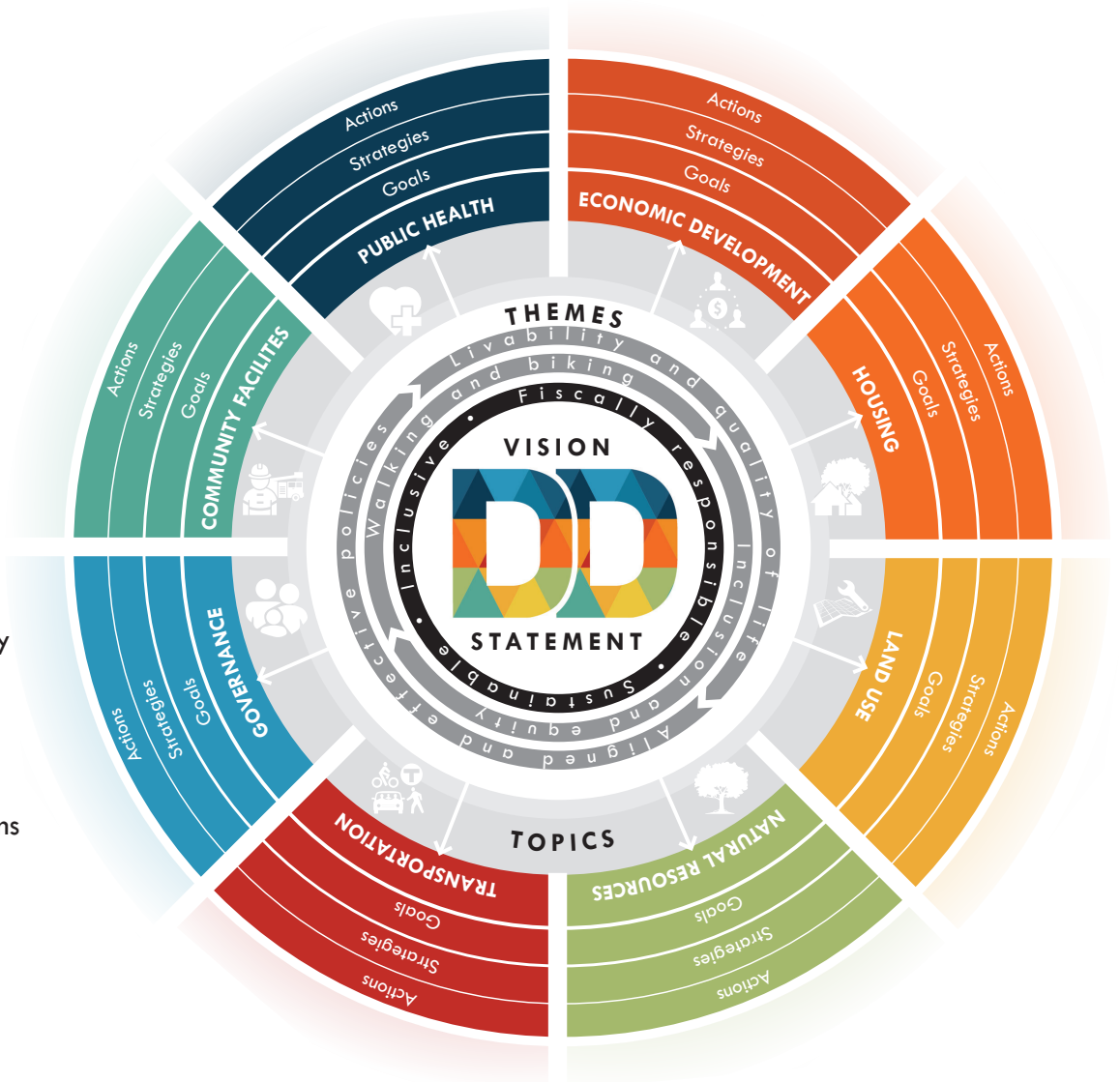
# Designing Dedham 2030 Draft Vision Statement

## Introduction

Dedham’s Master Plan addresses the current needs and priorities of the town for the next 10 years based on a robust community engagement process with input from all of Dedham’s neighborhoods and engagement with thousands of residents. This is a result of Dedham’s commitment to long-range planning; in 2007, Town Meeting voted to engage in a comprehensive master planning process every ten years.

The process is an important way to have the residents of the town speak to each other, reflect on where the town is today, and to define new ideas and ambitions for the town. The Designing Dedham Master Plan Committee drafted this Vision Statement to reflect the overarching values and priorities that have been shared by community members through surveys, meetings, and workshops over the course of this two year process. The Vision Statement has been written, reviewed, edited, and rewritten, to ensure it is representative of the broad diversity of Dedham residents and inclusive of the ideas and ambitions that have been articulated by hundreds of residents.

As can be seen in the diagram to the right, the Vision Statement is at the center of the master plan content. All other themes and topics flow from and relate back to the core element of the Vision Statement.





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### Dedham Yesterday and Today

Dedham is a vibrant community with diverse residential neighborhoods, thriving and convenient commercial and neighborhood centers, rich and well-managed natural and historic assets, and a strong record of fiscal responsibility and financial management. Dedham acknowledges that the history of this place and its land predate the history of the Town and recognizes the Massachusetts and Wampanoag People on whose ancestral lands the Town of Dedham resides. The positive beginning marked by Dedham's incorporation in 1636 also marks a painful era and an ending for many diverse indigenous peoples.

Since its incorporation, Dedham has embraced forward-thinking, ambitious, and innovative efforts such creating the country's first manmade canal, the Mother Brook, to attract industry, mills, and a diverse ethnic population. The Town took early steps to advance education, opportunity, and equity for its residents by establishing the nation's first tax supported and free public school. Dedham supported the defense of human dignity and freedom through the organization of civil war regiments, including the historic 54th Regiment at Camp Meigs. The town has proactively and responsibly planned for town facilities and amenities, such as the care and stewardship of the historic Endicott Estate and the grass roots support and partnership to reuse the Avery School as the Mother Brook Arts and Community Center.

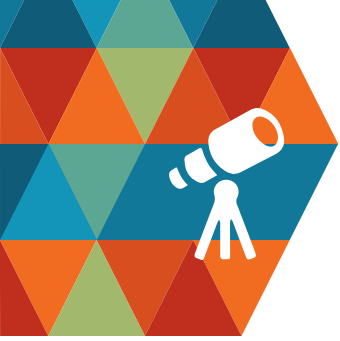
Through its history the Town has faced challenges and the two years of this master plan have been a challenging time. The global spread of COVID-19, has both ended and upended lives. It has also highlighted the importance of planning for a future with more risks, defined new ways of engaging in civic discourse, and confirmed the importance of integrating public health with the master plan. It has also made painfully clear, through the disparate outcomes and impacts of COVID-19, that the racial and social inequities that have been present for generations continue to be present today. In the same two years, the nationwide reckoning with continued racial and social injustices has grown an awareness that all communities need to reexamine practices, conventions, and regulations that serve to exclude groups of people from full participation in opportunities, institutions, and resources. In Dedham, this reexamination sheds new light on some parts of its history where past practices may not match current ideals. It is through the continued experiences of these dual pandemics that the Vision Statement for this master plan is written with a sense of optimism, knowing that the challenges faced by the Town are becoming more widely known and more clearly articulated, and that a dialogue is underway to meet these challenges and enrich the lives of all residents.



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## **A Vision for Dedham Tomorrow**

As Dedham looks to 2030, the Town is poised to continue its great heritage of bold leadership while at the same time ensuring that such leadership is in service of and with the participation of all of its residents. Dedham has the opportunity to advance its legacies of environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability while recognizing that inclusivity and respect are fundamental for the success of the community and the individuals who live here. The town recognizes that all residents, much like the master plan topics, are interconnected and that it is important to remain engaged in the process of drawing the threads of community together so that all residents may enjoy a high quality of life with livable neighborhoods that prioritize walking and biking and embrace inclusion and equity, all through aligned and effective policies. Dedham is committed to this vision by:



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- Creating a community where residents of all backgrounds and ages can thrive and be healthy;
- Strengthening and connecting the compact and walkable places of each neighborhood to build vibrancy and unity across the town;
- Striving toward inclusiveness in the town by increasing access to quality housing, transportation choices, recreation and open space, governance, and economic opportunity;
- Managing growth strategically to invest in and support local businesses, neighborhoods, vibrant business districts, thriving employment centers, and active transit hubs;
- Creating more opportunities to safely walk or bike to destinations, services, amenities, and resources within each neighborhood and across the town;
- Committing to strong, quality and equitable education as a public good and empowering learning opportunities for people of all ages, needs, and interests;
- Strengthening inclusive self governance that benefits from nurturing broad civic engagement across neighborhoods and ethnic backgrounds by creating more opportunities for all residents to be heard, to participate, and to be invested in decisions for the future;
- Celebrating the diversity of ethnicity, culture, and nationalities found in Dedham and supporting groups that have been marginalized through its history;
- Supporting stewardship of historic, cultural and natural assets to provide high quality shared amenities and to enhance livability;
- Planning for future needs and challenges, including regional and climate-related, in order to plan accordingly and equip the Town's workforce to manage change while providing transparent and resident-centered public services;
- Balancing the above commitments with an understanding that they are all interconnected.