



# RPC Newsletter

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission  
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## Achieving Smart Growth

New Hampshire is the fastest growing state in New England, growing at a rate of 15,000 people per year, and it is expected to continue growing at this rate. New Hampshire's growth rate of 1.9 percent from April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2001, tied with California's as the eighth fastest in the nation. Growth brings many benefits, such as new intellectual and cultural energy, but unchecked growth can also bring dramatic changes to our landscape and our community character.

In response to this threat, the New Hampshire Office of State Planning (now called the New Hampshire Office of State Planning and Energy Programs) produced *Achieving Smart Growth in New Hampshire* in April 2003, a document that outlines smart growth principles and highlights case studies of smart growth in NH. This document was distributed on CD to every municipality in New Hampshire, as well as to regional planning commissions. The "Principles of Smart Growth for New Hampshire" outlined in the document are intended to guide citizens and developers to create development patterns consistent with community goals.

**Principle #1: Maintain** traditional compact settlement patterns to efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure.



*The Hanover Residential Infill project at the corner of South Park and East Wheelock streets created a more dense and diverse neighborhood by combining 16 existing and 22 new multi-family units.*

**Principle #2: Foster** the traditional character of New Hampshire downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging a human scale of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life.

**Principle #3: Incorporate** a mix of uses to provide a variety of housing, employment, shopping, services, and social opportunities for all members of the community.

**Principle #4: Preserve** New Hampshire's working landscape by sustaining farm and forest land and other rural resource lands to maintain contiguous tracts of open land, and to minimize land use conflicts.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collections

**September 6** at the Hartford Waste Facility, Rt. 5 South, WRJ VT; 8AM-NOON. Participating communities include Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, Plainfield, and Cornish NH, and Fairlee, Hartford and Corinth VT, and the member towns of the GUVSWD including Hartland and Norwich.

**October 25** at the Claremont Municipal Airport in Claremont, NH; 9AM-NOON. Participating communities include Claremont and Unity.



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*NH Land Conservation Investment Program conservation easements have protected over 10,000 contiguous acres of land that straddle the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway and link Pillsbury State Park and Sunapee State Park in Goshen and Newbury.*

**Principle #5: Provide** choices and safety in transportation to create livable, walkable communities that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle or in motor vehicles.

*Advance Transit offers Upper Valley residents an easy way to get to work and shopping. Free service, free parking lot shuttles, and a regional carpool system are helping to solve area transportation problems.*



**Principle #6: Protect** environmental quality by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in New Hampshire.

**Principle #7: Involve** the community in planning and implementation to ensure that development retains and enhances the sense of place, traditions, goals, and values of the local community.

**Principle #8: Manage** growth locally in the New Hampshire tradition, but work with neighboring towns to achieve common goals and address common problems more effectively .

To learn more about Achieving Smart Growth in the Region, please join us at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 10, 2003, at Whitney Hall in Enfield. The guest speaker will be Steve Whitman of the NH Office of State Planning and Energy Programs.

*For more information, contact Victoria Boundy at UVLSRPC.*