

A Vision for Unity, the “Garden of Waldo County”

We the People of Unity envision a future where we thrive in a vibrant community that cherishes our environment, supports and celebrates our citizens, and welcomes all.

In the 1800s, Unity was known as the garden spot of Waldo County. We envision a future Unity that is a flourishing garden—a place of beauty that nurtures life in multiple ways: growing good food; enhancing our health; fostering our economic prosperity; and enabling us to lead safe and fulfilling lives.

We see Unity in the future as a community that has:

- Retained our small town character, historic downtown, and identity as a farming community, while carefully growing as an economic hub for surrounding towns.
- Improved our economic future by building off our many strengths—including being a crossroads location, home to Unity College, and a growing center for sustainable agriculture.
- Attracted businesses/employers that fit our character and identity, and that pay living wages which attract young families and enable all residents to thrive.
- Adapted to more complex demands on local government, like road maintenance and municipal services, while retaining Town Meeting as our chosen form of government.
- Engaged more of our citizens in civic and community activities by increasing government transparency, communications, and volunteer opportunities.
- Enhanced public access to recreational and cultural facilities.
- Dramatically improved the water quality of Unity Pond and protected and preserved the local aquifer.
- Invested in the health of our citizens by building a “walking town” with all-season sidewalks and trails that connect common destinations like schools and stores.

A new comprehensive plan is being developed to pursue this vision. During 2013 and early 2014—through an online and paper survey, an open visioning session, one-to-one and small group discussions—residents have identified six broad areas of focus for this plan: natural resources; agriculture; town governance; economic opportunity; community spirit; and the relationship with Unity College.

Ongoing work in 2014 and early 2015 will result in a new comprehensive plan designed to:

- Provide a broad overview of what Unity could be in the next 10-15 years;
- Develop objectives and goals to reach that future;
- Determine specific actions to reach the goals; and
- Set benchmarks for progress.