

NHARPC Mission

The main mission of NHARPC is to provide a forum to coordinate regional planning initiatives on a statewide basis and to disseminate information about RPCs to other agencies and organizations. NHARPC maintains strategic partnerships with state agencies, develops shared planning policies, and monitors planning related legislation. NHARPC works on behalf of its member commissions and, by extension, the member cities and towns across New Hampshire.

NHARPC Board of Directors

The NHARPC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of up to two commission representatives and the Executive Director from each RPC. The Board meets generally every quarter to coordinate and exchange information.

RPCs Areas of Expertise

Data Management and Development

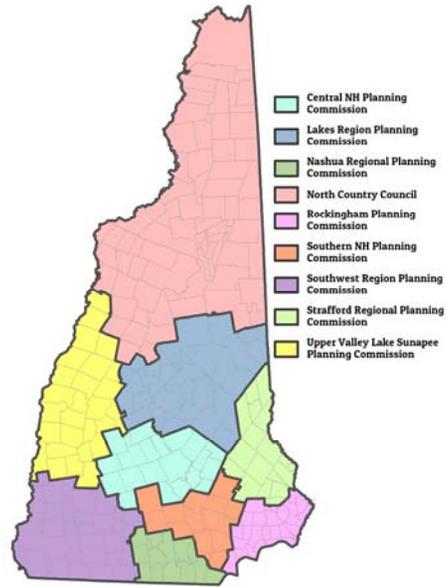
- Geographic Information Systems
- US Census Data Center Affiliates

Land Use, Environmental Planning, and Community Development

- Local Master Planning, Zoning Ordinances, and Regulations
- Environmental Planning
- Economic Development Planning
- Emergency Management Planning including Hazard Mitigation

Transportation Planning and Technical Assistance

- Developing and maintaining regional Transportation Plans
- Traffic Analysis, Transit Planning, Special Studies, and other Technical Assistance



CONTACT INFORMATION



Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
Concord, NH 603-226-6020 www.cnhrpc.org



Lakes Region Planning Commission
Meredith NH 603-279-8171 www.lakesrpc.org



Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Merrimack, NH 603-424-2240 www.nashuarpc.org



North Country Council www.nccouncil.org
Littleton, NH 603-444-6303 www.nccouncil.org



Rockingham Planning Commission
Exeter, NH 603-778-0885 www.rpc-nh.org



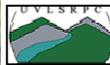
Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
Manchester, NH 603-669-4350 www.snhpc.org



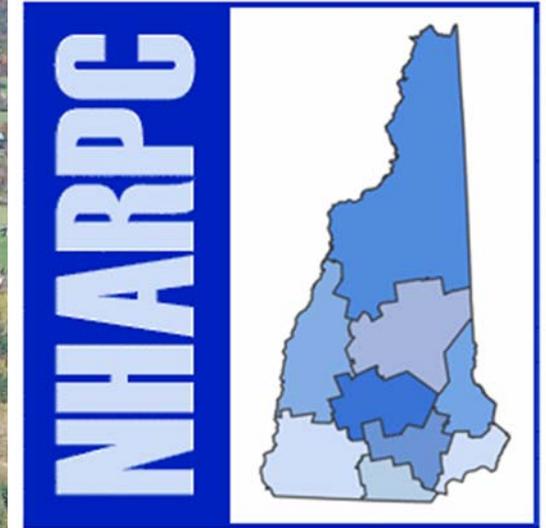
Southwest Region Planning Commission
Keene, NH 603-357-0557 www.swrpc.org



Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Rochester, NH 603-994-3500 www.strafford.org



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Lebanon, NH 603-448-1680 www.uvlsrc.org



**NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSIONS**

The New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions is an association to promote and support the nine RPCs in New Hampshire.

The Association undertakes joint public information and outreach efforts to inform state and local officials and the public about the RPCs, establishes common policies and recommendations on legislation, and coordinates various statewide activities of the RPCs.

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions

Planning Principles

The NHARPC has adopted principles to encourage best planning practices in NH. Central to these principles is the concept that decisions are made at the local level, in the spirit of regional cooperation, with public participation. The principles are organized within four general categories:

Livability

- ◆ Support vibrant community centers that meet needs of residents.
- ◆ Use design principles to create neighborhoods with character.
- Provide housing for a wide range of incomes.
- Support social and cultural capacity building.

Mobility

- Provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
- Create a balanced system incorporating all viable modes of travel.
- Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicles.

Prosperity

- Integrate economic development into the planning process.
- Incorporate costs and non-monetary values into policies and decision-making.
- Balance employment opportunities with the cost of living.

Sustainability

- Retain viable options for future generations.
- Design for energy efficiency.
- Preserve natural carrying capacity of land and water resources.
- Create choice in housing opportunities.

About New Hampshire's Regional Planning Commissions

- ◆ In 1968 the State legislature enabled New Hampshire municipalities to create Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs).
- ◆ Currently over 90% of NH's 234 municipalities are voluntary members of one of the nine RPCs.
- ◆ Each municipality that is a member of an RPC is entitled to between 2 and 4 representatives depending on population.
- ◆ Each RPC is governed by the local representatives who are nominated by the planning board and appointed by the governing body of each municipality.
- ◆ The RPCs are required by NH Statutes to carry out a variety of duties, including:
 - Create a Regional Comprehensive Plan;
 - Complete a Housing Needs Assessment;
 - Review Developments of Regional Impact.
- ◆ The primary role of RPCs is to support local municipalities in their planning and community development responsibilities. This is done in a variety of ways such as:
 - Assisting communities in preparing local planning documents such as master plans, CIPs, natural resource inventories, open space plans and hazard mitigation plans;
 - Developing local ordinances and providing technical assistance and general guidance to local land use boards;
 - Helping to secure funding for transportation and other infrastructure and projects;
 - Working with municipalities to obtain and administer state and federal grant programs;
 - Reducing costs to municipalities through regional coordination, intermunicipal cooperation and problem solving.

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions

Activities

The NHARPC is an informal association of the nine RPCs of New Hampshire. The NHARPC assists the RPCs by:

- Promoting regional and statewide cooperation and coordination between RPCs and other agencies.
- Promoting opportunities for regional collaboration within and across regional RPC boundaries.
- Supporting the capabilities of RPCs by sharing information, resources and expertise.
- Helping make state and local government more efficient and effective in the delivery of services.
- Identifying legislation that is important to planning and land use decisions in New Hampshire.
- Identifying legislation that is important to the economic prosperity of municipalities of NH.
- Helping to promote the skills and services of the RPCs.