

Summary of Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Smithfield

The points listed below are a very brief summary of the sections covered in the 2026 Comprehensive Plan. In order to read this information in greater detail and to learn more about the enhancements recommended by residents, please visit the Smithfield Website and click on **Notices**. There will be a link to the Comprehensive Plan located there.

Section 1: History of Smithfield: Prior to European settlement, the area that would become Smithfield was inhabited primarily by the Norridgewock band of the Abenakis. The town was first settled by Europeans in 1799 with the establishment of a sawmill, and the population now hovers just under 1,000.

Section 2: Growth & Development: In recent years, Smithfield's growth has been due to its popularity as a vacation destination, based on its proximity to East and North Ponds. This has also led to some commercial growth. Over the past 5 years, Smithfield has seen a significant increase in the total evaluation of the real estate in town of 51.71% and now falls in the median of property value increases among the neighboring towns.

Section 3: The Economy of Smithfield is tied very much to the two lakes within it.

- The two significant employers in town are summer camps with over 100 seasonal employees each.
- The average business in town employs fewer than 5 people each.

Section 4: Government Facilities and Services: The town of Smithfield, like many other agreements, and citizen volunteerism to meet its public service demands. This includes Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Police Services.

- **Smithfield is part of a School Administrative District (MSAD/RSU#54)** that provides educational services for Pre-K-12 students in the towns of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and to Smithfield.

Section 5: Natural Resource Conservation and Management: Smithfield consists of 19.9 square miles (12,700 acres) of land area. Adding in the area of the lakes, Smithfield's total area is over 25 square miles. Residents of Smithfield have indicated that water quality and the preservation of open space are major concerns.

Section 6: Land Use and Development: Private property and its various functions hold significance for both individuals and the broader community. While there is generally little desire to intervene in private affairs, concerns arise when an individual's actions on their

property have implications for neighboring residents, property values, or municipal expenditures. As towns consider regulations, they must weigh the interests of private property owners against the need to maintain environmental quality, public health, and overall community well-being.

Section 7: Cooperation with Neighboring Towns and Agencies: The actions taken by neighboring towns as they deal with development and public service issues give Smithfield opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. The surrounding towns and agencies provide Smithfield with access to schooling, emergency services, public safety, solid waste, water protection and conservation.

Section 8: Action Plan: It is important to remember this plan is not law. Adopting this plan will not force the town to follow the plan as suggested. It is simply a guide to consider in order to meet the expected changes the town will face in the next 10 years and how the town can best prepare for those changes in ways that benefit the community as a whole.