

Hardwick Town Plan – Hybrid Update Strategy (2025–2027)

Purpose

To deliver an updated, integrated Town Plan by **June 2027** that reflects Hardwick’s flood recovery, housing goals, wellness and food security priorities, new education mandates, and land-use reforms.

1. Scope of Update

Major Chapter Updates

- Land Use & Development
- Historic, Scenic & Archeological Resources
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Water Resources
- Flood Resilience
- Public & Private Facilities and Services
- Energy & Infrastructure
- **Education** (expanded for State initiatives)
- **Community Wellness & Food Security** (new)
- Implementation Plan

Medium Revisions

- Land Resources
- Natural Areas and Wildlife
- Transportation (with 2025 Scoping Study)
- Regional Compatibility

2. Core Team & Partners

Core Team

- Planning Commission
- Town Planner (project manager)
- Town Manager
- Select Board liaison
- CAE, Civic Standard/N2N, Food Shelf
- Conservation District
- Jeudevine Library

- Hazen Union School District

Technical Partners

- SLR Consulting
- NVDA or independent reviewer
- DEC, ANR, Agency of Education

3. 18-Month Timeline

Phase 1: Kickoff & Crosswalk

Dec 2025 – Feb 2026

- Review 2019 Plan
- Identify inconsistencies and required statutory updates
- Form Core Team
- Deliverable: **Annotated crosswalk memo + updated outline**

Phase 2: Engagement Launch

Mar 2026 + May 2026 – Jun 2026

- Launch community survey (Google Form)
- Pop-ups at Library, Farmers Market (late May), Civic Standard
- Neighborhood micro-sessions (East Hardwick, Granite Street, Downtown, other – Mackville, West Hill)
- Deliverable: **Survey report + community themes summary**

Phase 3: First Draft Updates – Part I

Jul 2026 – Oct 2026

- Draft revised chapters:
 - Land Use & Development
 - Historic, Scenic & Archeological Resources
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Water Resources
 - Flood Resilience
 - Public & Private Facilities and Services
 - Energy & Infrastructure
- Integrate new maps and model outputs
- Deliverable: **First Draft Set #1**

Phase 4: Education + Wellness/Food Security Development

Nov 2026 – Jan 2027

- Draft new **Community Wellness & Food Security** chapter
- Draft updated **Education** chapter (align with AOE reforms, climate resilience, CTE pathways)
- Convene partners: CAE, Food Shelf, Hazen, Health Center
- Deliverable: **Draft Set #2 (Education + Wellness)**

Phase 5: Public Review Round 1

Feb 2027 – Mar 2027

- “Resilience, Wellness & Future Hardwick” forums
- Youth engagement at Hazen Union
- Online comment tool
- Deliverable: **Public feedback log + edits memo**

Phase 6: Second Draft + Final Maps + Implementation Plan

Apr 2027 – May 2027

- Integrate all feedback into full Public Draft
- Complete implementation matrix (funding sources, timelines, leads)
- Finalize maps (flood, river corridor, land use, resilience sites)
- Deliverable: **Complete Public Draft**

Phase 7: Hearings & Adoption

Jun 2027

- Planning Commission hearing → revisions
- Select Board hearing → final adoption
- Submit to Regional Planning Commission
- Deliverable: **Adopted 2027 Hardwick Town Plan**

Phase 8: Implementation Kickoff

July 2027 onward

- Year-One Work Plan
- Grant alignment (Act 57, FEMA, USDA, EDA, etc.)

- Annual progress review process set up

4. Community Wellness & Food Security Integration

Chapter Purpose

Position food security, mental and physical wellness, and community connection as fundamental resilience elements.

Key Objectives

1. Expand year-round food access
2. Link food systems to emergency planning
3. Strengthen mental/physical wellbeing
4. Connect food and wellness to the local economy
5. Support youth wellness and intergenerational learning

Cross-Chapter Integration

- Land Use → gardens, edible landscapes, shared kitchens
- Housing → wellness design in multi-unit housing
- Flood Resilience → soil, wetland, and food system ties
- Economic Development → CAE & food-based economy
- Education → nutrition, climate, and resilience curricula

5. Education Chapter Expansion (State Initiatives)

Incorporate

Whatever arises from the state legislature

6. Adoption & Follow-Through

- Regional review in early June 2027
- Select Board adoption by late June 2027
- Implementation cycle starts July 2027
- Annual check-ins with PC + SB to monitor progress