

# I. Introduction

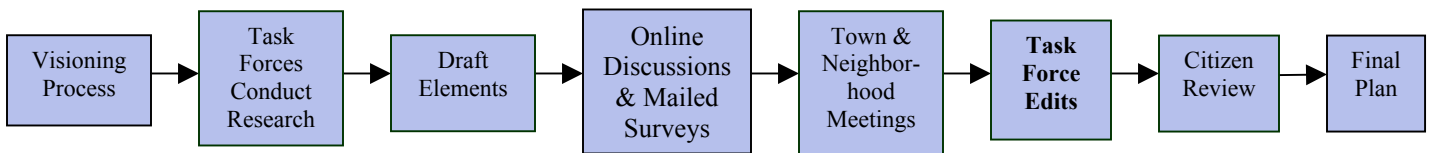
## Purpose of Plan

The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to make basic policy decisions and provide a flexible framework for managing growth and change in Micmac over the next twenty years. Over the life of this plan, growth will occur at different rates and in different patterns than currently foreseen. At best, this plan is an educated guess about how to address future conditions. An effective plan must be flexible enough to succeed within a range of likely scenarios, and adjust as those conditions are monitored and evaluated while maintaining a steady aim at its ultimate goals. It is in this spirit that this planning process was initiated. We hope that this plan will be flexible enough to respond to Micmac's critical issues, now and over the next twenty years.



## Planning Process

Micmac's Comprehensive Plan is designed to set a positive course for Micmac. Based on an assessment of where Micmac is today and expectations of future trends, the Comprehensive Plan describes our vision for guiding Micmac's future. This Draft Land Use Element is one component of Micmac's first Comprehensive Plan, which is currently being developed through a unique partnership including town officials, the Micmac Planning Department, volunteer task forces, non-profit organizations, and citizens. The sequence of our Comprehensive Planning process is shown below in **Figure 1**; this draft represents the result of the task force editing stage.



**Figure 1: Plan Creation and Review Process**

The initial visioning process included one town-wide public meeting facilitated by an experienced professional, three neighborhood meetings, an online discussion forum, and postage-paid mailings to all citizens for comments. A translator was on hand to help facilitate the South Side neighborhood meeting, which a number of our Somali residents attended. The end goal of this process was the Micmac Vision. This vision will be the guiding principle for the writing and implementation Micmac's Land Use Plan, and should be apparent in each of Micmac's goals, objectives, and policies. However, in no way does this vision statement restrict Micmac's scope of town planning.

Following the visioning, groups of residents formed specific task forces according to their interests. Each task force worked with the Planning Department on a specific element of the Comprehensive Plan. Elements include Land Use, Housing, Environment, Economy, Transportation, Historic Preservation, Open Space and Recreation, and Public Services and Facilities. Each task force also assessed current problems and assets related to its Element, turned the general values from the visioning process into specific goals for the Element, and met with various stakeholders and the Planning Department to draft realistic, achievable objectives and policies. In the fall of 1999, the task forces sponsored a number of activities designed to solicit community input on its draft goals, objectives, and policies, which it then took back to the drafting board. The Land Use Element draft that follows incorporates the feedback from these responses.

### Participants in Micmac's Planning Process Included:

- Smart Growth Maine (Abenaki)
- Micmac Main Street
- Historic Maine (Abenaki)
- Lewiston Regional Service Center
- Maine Downtown Center (Augusta)