Town of Shrewsbury, Vermont
Town Plan



Adopted: _____

Signatures: _____

SHREWSBURY
VERMONT

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 1
Town Plan History 5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: 6
OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION: 6
1. Purpose 7
2. Goals 8
3. Legal and Procedural Notes 9
4. Community Profile 10
5. Natural Resources 11
A. Introduction 11
B. Geology and Soils 11
C. Water Resources 14
D. Forest 17
E. Wildlife 21
F. Fragile and Significant Natural Areas 25
G. Pollinators (Meadowlands and Open Lands) 26
H. Air Quality 26
I. Night Sky 27
J. Natural Resources – Policies 28
6. Scenic and Historic Resources 30
A. Scenic Resources 30
B. Historic Resources 31
C. Scenic and Historic Resources - Policies 32
7. Recreation Resources 33
A. Introduction 33
B. Trail Networks and Public Recreation 33
C. Recreation Organizations 34
D. Water-Based Recreation 34
E. Community Recreation Facilities 34
F. Recreation - Policies 35

8. Land Use 36
A. Existing Land Use Areas 36
ii. Commercial Development 36
iv. Agricultural Working Lands – (Prime, Statewide, and Locally important soils) 38
v. Forestry Working Lands 40
vi. Preservation Areas 41
vii. Resource Protection Areas 42
B. Future Land Use 44
C. Future Land Use Map 46
D. Land Use - Policies 46
9. Housing 48
A. Housing Stock/Inventory 48
B. Housing and Population Trends 49
C. Housing Affordability and Costs 51
E. Future Housing Needs 54
F. Housing - Policies 54
10. Economy 56
A. Economic Base 56
B. Workforce and Income 57
C. Inflow/Outflow Commuting Patterns 58
D. Economic Future Opportunities 58
E. Economy - Policies 59
11. Facilities and Services 60
A. Town Governance 60
B. Municipal Facilities (Land and Buildings) 61
C. Fire Protection 61
D. Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer 62
E. Waste Management 63
F. Police Protection 64
G. Emergency Medical Services 64
H. Emergency Management 64

K. Facilities and Services - Policies 66
12. Utilities 68
A. Electric Service 68
B. Broadband & Telecommunication 69
C. Cellular Service & Wireless Telecommunications Facilities 69
D. Water Infrastructure 70
E. Wastewater Infrastructure 70
F. Utilities – Policies 70
13. Education 72
A. Shrewsbury District Schools 72
B. School Transportation 73
C. Education Costs 73
D. Higher Education in the Area 73
E. Other Educational Resources in Town 73
F. Education - Policies 74
14. Cultural Resources 75
A. Introduction 75
B. The Shrewsbury Library 75
C. The Shrewsbury Historical Society 75
D. Cultural Assets – Facilities and Organizations 76
E. Cemeteries 76
F. Policies 77
15. Transportation 78
A. Transportation Network 78
B. Roads and Bridges Control and Maintenance 81
C. Town Highway Safety 84
E. Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks 87
F. Regional & Area Transportation Services 87
G. Transportation - Policies 88
16. Energy 90
A. Energy Consumption 90

B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation 91
C. Energy Burden and Barriers to Energy Conservation and Efficiency 92
D. Energy Transitioning Targets 92
E. Residential Scale Renewable Energy Production 94
F. Energy Production Planning 94
H. Solar Facility Sites 95
I. Wind Facility Sites 96
J. Hydro Facilities 96
K. Energy - Policies 97
17. Climate and Flood Resilience 98
A. Climate Change 98
B. Climate Trends 99
C. Flood Resilience 101
D. Ice Storms 102
E. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 102
F. Climate and Flood Resilience – Policies 103
18. Regional Plan & Surrounding Communities 103
A. Relationship to Regional Plan 103
B. Intermunicipal Coordination 104
C. Regional Initiatives 104
19. Program for Implementation 105
20. Capital Improvement Plan 114
21. Town Maps 115

Town Plan History

Shrewsbury has a long history of municipal planning and land use regulation. The following summarizes the adoption and amendment history of the Town Plan and major land use regulations.

Document	Adoption / Amendment Dates
Town Plans	1972; 1978; 1985; September 1, 2003; December 12, 2008; November 20, 2013; April 3, 2019
Zoning Regulations	October 19, 1965; March 5, 1968; Interim Regulations, May 1, 1975; Interim Regulations, May 4, 1976; May 4, 1977; May 1, 1978; June 10, 1985; Interim Regulations, March 6, 2002; April 21, 2004; July 1, 2009
Subdivision Regulations	1971; 1988
Unified Zoning & Subdivision Regulations	2017; December 7, 2022
Sewage Regulations	1987; retired
Flood Hazard Regulations	1978; 1990; May 4, 2011
Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Regulations	December 7, 2022
Towers & Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance	2005

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Shrewsbury Planning Commission:
Laura Black
Melissa Reichert
Connor Self

Shrewsbury Selectboard:
Aaron Korzun
Francis Wyatt
Marc Cimonetti

Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

Sean Beatty, Rutland Regional Planning Commission

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OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION:

In preparation for this Town Plan, the Planning Commission developed several public outreach events. In April 2024 the Planning Commission held a Community Values Mapping event. At this event, town participants marked town maps to identify places of importance/value in eight different categories. Approximately 40 town residents participated including selectboard members, conservation commissioners, DRB members and the town ZA. The results were compiled and digitized and made available to the town for viewing.

Other public engagement events included Focus Group meetings which the Planning Commission held in 2025 and 2026. Focus Group meetings were advertised in the Times of Shrewsbury to invite all townspeople to join a discussion on particular topics. The results of these meetings gave the Planning Commission local information on the subject matter including Recreation, Forest Land Use, Forest Health, Agricultural Land Use, invasive plants, invasive insects, local weather data, and pollinator health/status, The Planning Commission met with the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission and VT Fish &Wildlife staff/director on their wildlife tracking project and the resulting mapping of the data.

As required by Vermont Planning and Development Act, public hearings were held by both the Planning Commission and Selectboard prior to the final adoption by the Selectboard as signified by their signatures on cover page.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Shrewsbury Town Plan, hereinafter referred to as "the Town Plan," is to state goals, actions, policies, and programs of the municipality to guide the future development of land while providing community services and facilities, recreational and cultural opportunities, and protecting the environment.

The official adoption of the Town Plan represents a conscious community decision about the Town's future character, its priorities for land use, and its conservation of physical resources.

Shrewsbury residents strongly believe that their community is a unique and special place. This perception gives rise to a sense of affection, civic responsibility and loyalty, and shared commitment to the Town's welfare. The unique and special character of Shrewsbury is principally derived from the rural character of the community, its historical land uses and settlement patterns, and the natural beauty of its mountain setting, containing large areas of wooded and open land, wetlands, and other habitats. The Town Plan is designed to protect and reinforce all these cultural and physical elements and, particularly, to preserve the rural nature of the Town by directing well-considered and controlled development. These goals benefit both the individual landowner and the community at large, for it is the protection of the rural character and beautiful natural setting that underpins both the economic value and the aesthetic value of all land in the Town. Achieving these goals may, from time to time, involve conflicts in specific situations between a landowner and the community. Adopting clearly stated ordinances and bylaws will help minimize such situations.

Shrewsbury today is facing increasing pressures on development. Contributing to these pressures are recent advances in wastewater treatment technologies, which have made previously undevelopable land available for residential development, and major changes in communications technology contribute to increasing pressure for new rural home sites in our town. The Town of Shrewsbury anticipates that a changing climate poses multiple challenges likely to affect many aspects of our daily lives, from changing growing conditions to more extreme and chaotic weather patterns to increasing numbers and varieties of invasive pests. Specific policies outlined in this Town Plan serve to address this serious concern.

The people of Shrewsbury recognize that Shrewsbury does not exist in isolation from the region and will be affected by what happens in the surrounding municipalities. However, the Town Plan does not suggest that Shrewsbury should reflect the type and intensity of new development occurring elsewhere; rapid or incompatible growth will destroy those qualities that make Shrewsbury unique. Through the implementation of the Town Plan, Shrewsbury can contribute to the region and the State by protecting and preserving a "special place" of a type that is becoming less common elsewhere. In so doing, the Town and its residents are exercising their best stewardship for these resources with which nature, geography, and previous generations have so abundantly endowed them.

2. Goals

It is the objective of this Plan to guide future growth and development within the Town of Shrewsbury by providing a framework of planning policies and recommendations which will assure that decisions made at the local, regional, and state levels are consistent with the following goals:

1. To protect and preserve the rural nature, scenic quality and sense of community of Shrewsbury.
2. To protect public health and welfare and property values from air, noise, water and light pollution, and other disturbing physical influences.
3. To assure that basic needs of health, safety, education, housing, and recreation will be met and maintained at appropriate levels.
4. To provide for the conservation and prudent use of natural resources, the protection of fragile areas, and the preservation of agricultural land, forest land, and wild lands. Wild lands are unsettled, uncultivated land left in, or returning to, its natural condition. (3.11) To maintain and improve aquatic and upland ecosystems, critical wildlife habitats and corridors, and unfragmented forest blocks and wildlife habitat.
5. To protect and preserve scenic and historic features.
6. To maintain and encourage agriculture and forestry as a part of Shrewsbury and maintain agricultural and forestry land blocks large enough to support working farms and forests.
7. To require that public utilities be located and maintained in such a way that they will not have an adverse effect on the scenic quality, biological and general health, and land use in the Town.
8. To allow for future growth in a way that will meet the needs but will not place an undue burden, financial or otherwise, on the Town to provide community facilities and services.
9. To encourage that the Town and State roads permit safe travel within and through the Town in the least disruptive manner to the land and within the limits of Town financial resources.
10. To encourage energy efficiency, energy conservation, and non-polluting renewable energy production.

3. Legal and Procedural Notes

Shrewsbury's Town Plan has been prepared pursuant to the Vermont Planning and Development Act, 24 V.S.A Chapter 117. Vermont law authorizes municipalities to prepare and adopt town plans to guide future growth and development, promote the public health, safety, and welfare, and establish policies that reflect community values and priorities. The Town Plan serves as a policy document that guides local decision-making and provides a framework for future municipal actions and investments.

The Town Plan is not a zoning bylaw, subdivision regulation, or other regulatory document. Rather, it establishes the community's vision, goals, policies, and recommended actions for the future of Shrewsbury. Municipal bylaws, capital planning efforts, and other implementation tools should be developed in a manner consistent with the goals and policies contained within this plan. The Plan may also be used to inform state and regional planning processes, support grant applications, and communicate the Town's priorities during state permitting proceedings.

This plan builds upon previous Town Plans adopted by the Town of Shrewsbury and reflects current community priorities, updated information, and evolving statutory requirements. The Plan incorporates available local, regional, and state data; information is provided by municipal officials, commissions, and community organizations, and feedback is gathered through public meetings and community engagements conducted as part of the planning process.

The Planning Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining the Town Plan. Following review and public hearing by the Planning Commission, the proposed plan is forwarded to the Selectboard for further review, public hearing, and adoption in accordance with the procedures established under Vermont Law. Once adopted, the Plan remains in effect for eight years unless readopted or amended sooner.

Prior to adoption, the Town Plan will be reviewed through the public hearing process required under Vermont law, providing residents, neighboring municipalities, regional organizations, and state agencies an opportunity to comment on the proposed Plan. The Planning Commission and Selectboard will consider public comments before taking final action on adoption.

4. Community Profile

Data Disclaimer

As a small community, Shrewsbury can be difficult to represent through available datasets. Some sources may exclude certain types of employment or rely on estimates, and small changes in population or employment can result in a relatively large percentage change. This plan includes demographic, economic, and housing data sourced primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey. While these sources provide insight, some ACS estimates may not fully reflect local conditions due to small sample sizes and statistical margins of error. Shrewsbury's Planning Commission recognizes these limitations and encourages readers to interpret ACS data with caution.

The Town of Shrewsbury is a hilly and mountainous town located in Rutland County, Vermont, largely along the main ridge of the Green Mountains. Elevations range from about 725 feet on Mill River at the Clarendon town line to 3,737 feet at Shrewsbury Peak on the Mendon town line. Shrewsbury's unique and special character stems from its historically rural and village settlement pattern and the natural beauty of its mountain setting containing large areas of wooded and open land, wetlands, and upland waterways within its 32,172 acres. Shrewsbury's residents' strong community spirit kindles a sense of affection, civic responsibility, and loyalty, and a shared commitment to the Town's well-being.

Shrewsbury remains a rural, mostly undeveloped town and is the ninth-smallest municipality in Rutland County. Its landscape of scattered farmhouses and outbuildings reflects its farming history. Declines in dairy agriculture over recent decades have replaced open fields, forests, and farm clusters with patterns of new-growth woodlands and small-scale residential development.

The 2020 Decennial U.S. Census shows a population of 1,096 and 563 housing units, of which around 470 are occupied year-round. Between 2010 and 2020, the median age of Shrewsbury residents increased from 50 to 53.2, surpassing Rutland County's median age of 47. Twenty-eight percent of the population in Shrewsbury is over 65, and around 12 percent are considered disabled.

Shrewsbury's estimated median income is estimated $91,250 in 2024 and the Vermont State employment and industry data shows that Shrewsbury residents work in a variety of employment sectors. According to national census data, the highest percentage of Shrewsbury residents are employed in the education, service and health care industry and most employed residents travel outside the town for their jobs. Only 3% of jobs are described to be in agriculture and forestry.

5. Natural Resources

A. Introduction

Shrewsbury has an abundance of valuable and high-quality natural resources, including some that are of regional and state importance. Soils that support agriculture and forests; forest blocks and wildlife corridors that provide habitat for many species; clean rivers, streams, ponds, and wetlands that also support many species and provide for flood resilience; and clean air that supports all life are all critical natural resources. These resources create a diversity of ecosystems in Shrewsbury that sustain numerous plant and animal communities while supporting human habitation. Shrewsbury's natural resources also play an important role in supporting human health by providing opportunities for recreation, relaxation, as well as economic opportunities. These interconnected ecosystems, consisting of humans, animals, plants, earth, air, and water can be sustained through careful resource use and conservation.

B. Geology and Soils

i. Geology

Bedrock Geology of the Shrewsbury VT Area, by Charles A. Ratte, State Geologist

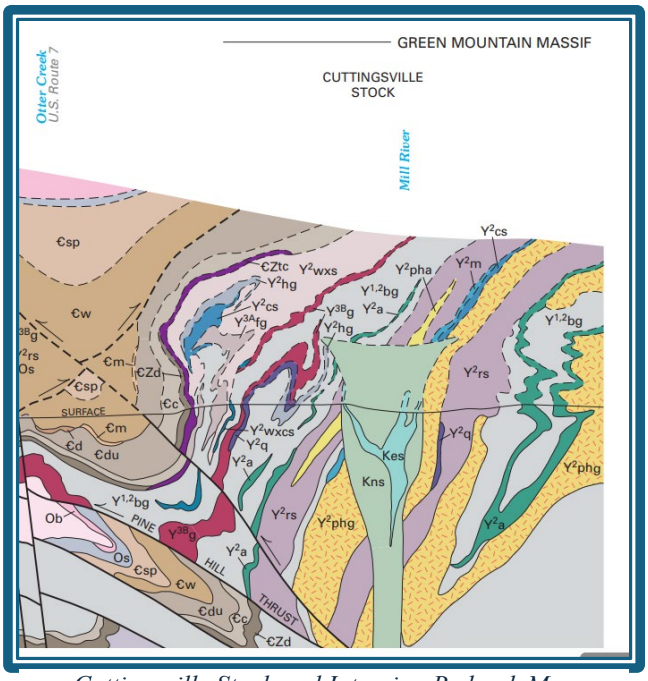
The bedrock underlying the Town of Shrewsbury is composed of ancient metamorphic rocks of Precambrian Age (600 million years and older). The region has been mapped by William F. Brace (1953) and the results of his work have been published by the Vermont Geological Survey (see reference below)

Rock units mapped by Brace include the Wilcox Formation which is composed of a group of gray-to-black schist, buff-to-tan colored dolomite and white-to-black gneiss about 3,000 feet think. This formation is exposed in out cropping's in the western part of the Town of Mendon and Shrewsbury and can be seen in exposure along Mendon Brook, Cold River, and on Wilcox Hill. The major Precambrian rock unit mapped by Brace is known as the Mt. Holly complex. This unit is composed of metamorphic rocks known as gneiss, quartzite, schist, and marble. Gneiss is by far the dominant rock variety. An interesting bright green Schist with chromium bearing mica is expose in a small saddle on the north side of Round Hill in Shrewsbury (Brace, P. 27).

Geology and Soils

The relationship between soils and geology is fundamental to understanding soil formation and characteristics. Geology influences soil properties through the type of parent material, which affects soil texture, mineral composition, and drainage capabilities. The geological substrate from which soil develops plays a crucial role. Different rock types yield different soil characteristics. Factors such as weathering, climate, and biological activity interact with geological materials to form soils.

Unique geologic areas are uncommon formations which illustrate the past actions of natural geologic processes. As such, they have important educational and recreational value. Shrewsbury is home to highly unique geological occurrence known as the Cuttingsville intrusion or stock. Several relatively young (110-130 million years old) igneous bodies of rock base intruded the older Precambrian rocks in the Cuttingsville area. These igneous bodies are referred to as syenite stocks. Iron, copper, and molybdenum sulfide minerals as well as minor amounts of gold are known to be associated with these igneous intrusive. Exploratory core drilling in 1969 (see Doll, 1969) and 1982 on Copperas Hill east of Cuttingsville was not successful in locating sufficient minerals to constitute a workable ore deposit. A molybdenite prospect is known to exist on the northwest edge of Granite Hill southwest of Cuttingsville, and a granite (syenite) quarry is now abandoned in this same mountain (see Schmidt, 1978).



Cuttingsville Stock and Intrusion Bedrock Map

Other unique geological areas in Shrewsbury are: Shrewsbury Peak which features an ancient core of dark gneiss rock formed over a billion years ago during the Grenville Orogeny (a major mountain-building event that shaped Earth's crust between 1.3 bullion and 980 million years ago); the Clarendon Gorge which features a 1,000 foot wide band of exposed calcium rich bedrock shapes the area and colorful metamorphic rock on the canyon walls display striking white marble, river carved rock sculptures, and purplish basalt; Granite Hill which features an uncommon alkaline intrusive complex containing rare minerals and anomalous radioactivity tied to the younger White Mountain Plutonic; and the Round Hill fuschite locality which is an unusual formation in Vermont.

ii. Soils

Soil and water are basic components of the resource base on which all life depends. Soils have a wide range of characteristics and capabilities. For example, impervious, shallow, or wet soils are generally unsuitable for subsurface sewage disposal, but they may be suited for other uses, such as crop or timber production. Since certain soils act as a filter for sewage pollutants, it is important that development on these soils protect the environment from pollution.

There are 97 different soil classifications in Shrewsbury's 32,172 acres of land as identified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). These soils are classified by both national and state classification systems. There are many groups, classes, subclasses, and value ratings.

Each soil is named and differentiated by the slope on which it occurs. Each soil is rated for its agricultural value, forestry value, and septic value. Each soil is also rated for its hydric properties (i.e., determining the extent of saturation of the soil during the growing season) and is categorized based on its hydrological group (i.e., determining if the soils hold enough water during the growing season to support anaerobic growth).

iii. Agricultural Prime, State

Soils have numerous agricultural classifications and ratings. Some relate to the soil's potential or limitations for crop use. In addition to chemical and biological make-up, criteria determining a soils agricultural value include erodibility, flooding, wetness, dryness, shallow depth (to bedrock), stony conditions, and steep slope locations. More detailed information on Agricultural lands is in the Land Use Working Lands Agricultural Section.

Agricultural soils are also nationally rated as "prime", (best combination of chemical and physical characteristics for growing crops), "Statewide" (some potential but having some limitations for growing crops), and "local" (soils that have some crop value at a very local level).

Shrewsbury has approximately 629 acres of "prime" soils and 2,617 acres of "statewide: soils, for a total of 3,245 acres. The location of these soils is shown on the Shrewsbury Natural Resource map located in the Appendix at the end of the Town Plan.

iv. Shallow Soils, Steep Slopes, and High Elevations

The NRCS in Vermont classifies "shallow" soils, often defined as having bedrock or a restrictive layer within 20 to 40 inches (moderately deep) or even 1 to 20 inches (very shallow/rocky), affecting root growth, water capacity, and land use, with series like Tunbridge (20-40" to bedrock) being common, while very rocky mountain soils have even shallower restrictive layers, influencing suitability for farming versus woodland {nrcs.usda.gov}. Much of Shrewsbury has shallow depth to bedrock. Shallow soils present design constraints for the construction of roads, clearing, paving, and re-grading of land, as well as the location, planning, and construction of homes and wastewater systems which are regulated by the State of Vermont. These soils also cause root restrictions, are prone to erosion, and can be poorly drained.

Steep slopes generally refer to land with a topographical gradient of 15% or greater. Steep slopes are more prone to excessive soil erosion and runoff which can degrade water quality. Development on slopes more than 15% without proper precautions may threaten the stability of the property being developed and the quality of the surrounding property. On-site sewage disposal hazards, soil erosion due to increased rates of runoff, and landslides not only jeopardize the development in question, but are also a threat to the water supplies and properties of down-slope owners.

As part of the Green Mountain Range, the land in Shrewsbury rises to relatively high elevations, with Shrewsbury Peak being one of Vermont's highest peaks (16th) at 3,720 feet above sea level. On high elevations, generally above 2,000 feet, precipitation is greater, air and soil temperatures

are lower, soils are shallow and low in nutrients, slopes are steep, and fewer varieties of plants exist. Such characteristics create an environment which is intolerant of intensive use or development.

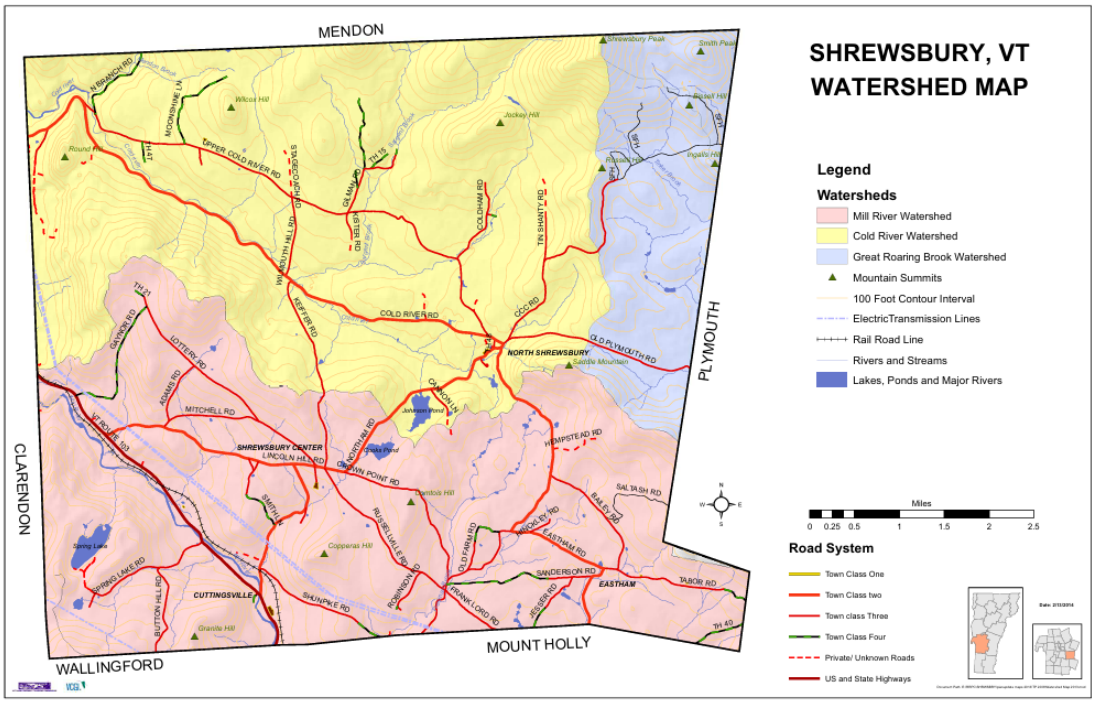
Excessive erosion may result when these high-elevation areas are disturbed because the few natural species of plants at these altitudes grow quite slowly, thus reducing their ability to control erosion.

These mountain areas play a vital role in the water cycle. The greater amounts of precipitation filter through the thin soils, eventually reaching major groundwater supplies. Uses which result in excessive soil compaction or the removal of vegetation or soil cover are especially detrimental to the natural drainage of water. Also, the natural topography of Shrewsbury is such that the high elevation peaks and ridgelines that bound Shrewsbury's watersheds on the north lie not within Shrewsbury, but in the neighboring town of Mendon. The majority of these abutting lands in Mendon are state or federal land.

C. Water Resources

i. Watersheds

Water resources are vital to the health of Shrewsbury's ecosystems and human population. Most of the 50-square-mile area of Shrewsbury is in the Otter Creek watershed, which drains west into the Lake Champlain basin. There is a small portion in the Northeast corner in the Ottauquechee and Black River watersheds, which drain east into the Connecticut River basin. Within Shrewsbury, the Mill River and the Cold River are the principal Otter Creek tributaries, and the Great Roaring Brook is the main Black River tributary. Spring Lake (63.7 acres), Cooks Pond



(21.3 acres), and Johnson Pond (34.5 acres) are the largest lakes in Shrewsbury and are located in the Otter Creek watershed. The Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan was approved in 2024, and the Ottauquechee, Black Rivers & Connecticut River Direct Tributaries Basin Plan was approved in 2023. The plans identified no impaired waters in Shrewsbury. Most of the monitored river segments were in good to excellent condition, with the exception of Mill River near the boundary with Clarendon, which was only in fair condition. A few river segments are identified as needing bio survey data and Cook and Johnson Ponds have insufficient data.

ii. Surface Waters & Riparian Areas

Most surface waters, including streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs, are "Class B" with the exception of any waters occurring above 2500' (e.g., Shrewsbury Peak, waters in Coolidge State Forest, Saddle Mountain, etc.), which are "Class A" by statute [Vermont Water Quality Standards, Environmental Protection Rule Chapter 29(a)]. Water quality is protected by state regulations which prohibit direct and nonpoint source discharges of waste into streams.

Riparian areas, including shorelines and stream banks, are fragile zones of interaction and influence between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems along streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and other bodies of water. Certain species of wildlife are greatly dependent upon the particular habitat of these areas. Vegetation along the water's edge acts as a stabilizing force, helping to prevent erosion and siltation and providing shade to water. All surface waters are under state jurisdiction. Building too close to shorelines negatively impacts stream ecosystems. Effluent leaching from septic systems placed too close to the water's edge can pollute ground and surface water. Riparian areas in Shrewsbury can be protected through the State of Vermont's recent addition of river corridor planning and zoning. The Vermont Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program recognizes riparian areas as one of six designated Environmentally Significant Treatment Areas, which can be designated on qualifying UVA parcels, adding another level of protection to water resources in Shrewsbury.

Vermont's Clean Water Initiative, Act 64, tasked the Vermont Agency of Agriculture with developing the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality across the State. The RAPs standards are intended to improve the quality of Vermont's surface waters and groundwaters by reducing and eliminating cropland erosion, sediment losses, and nutrient losses through improved farm management techniques, technical and compliance assistance, and, where appropriate, enforcement. The RAPs establish standards for manure and waste storage, soil nutrient management, and soil conservation. The RAPs standards establish requirements for vegetated buffer zones and livestock exclusion from surface water.

iii. Wetlands & Vernal Pools

Wetlands are those areas of the state that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support significant vegetation or aquatic life that depend on saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Such areas include marshes,

swamps, sloughs, potholes, fens, river and lake overflows, mud flats, bogs, and ponds. Vernal Pools are small wetlands in a shallow natural depression that typically fills with water during the spring and/or fall and may dry during the summer. (Vermont Wetland Rules 2023).

Mapped wetlands in Shrewsbury cover 2,091 acres. These areas fulfill many important functions. Because of their high water-absorption and holding capacity, they retain runoff, reducing the hazards of flooding and providing an important link in replenishing groundwater supplies. Wetlands often occur in association with lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, creating transitional areas between dry land and open water. Wetlands are the source of major food chains, thus providing a unique habitat for a wide range of wildlife. These areas provide many recreational and educational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and nature study. There are a few confirmed and numerous potential mapped vernal pools in Shrewsbury. These pools provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians.

Wetland areas place very critical constraints on settlement. Studies have shown that up to 39% of Vermont wetlands may not be mapped at all. The easiest way to see if a plan may be affected is to use the Wetland Screening Tool

The screening tool offers an initial check for nearby hydric soils, wetland projects, wetland permits, wetland natural community types, and wetland advisory layers. Use of subsurface sewage disposal in these areas can result in pollution of surface and ground water due to a lack of sufficient unsaturated soil for adequate sewage treatment.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources regulations should be consulted for detailed specifications controlling water quality. The Town of Shrewsbury Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations identify surface waters and wetlands as a special features overlay zone and require a 100-foot setback for any development. The Town of Shrewsbury also has a Municipal Road General Permit

Classification of Wetlands

(6) "Class I Wetland" means:

(a) A wetland identified on the Vermont significant wetlands inventory maps as Class I wetlands; or

(b) A wetlands that the former Water Resources Board identified in rules of the Board as a Class I wetlands; or

(c) A wetland that the Secretary, based upon an evaluation of the extent to which the wetland serves the functions and values set forth in subdivision 905b(18)(A) of this title, determines is exceptional or irreplaceable in its contribution to Vermont's natural heritage and, therefore, merits the highest level of protection.

(7) "Class II Wetland" means:

(a) a wetland other than a Class I or Class III wetland that;

(b) Is a wetland identified on the Vermont significant wetlands inventory maps; or

(c) The secretary determines to merit protection, pursuant to section 914 of this title, based upon an evaluation of the extent to which it serves the functions and values set forth in subdivision 905b(18)(A) of this title and the rules of the Department.

(8) "Class III Wetland" means:

(a) A wetland that is neither Class I Wetland nor a Class II Wetlands

that is intended to reduce stormwater-related erosion and damage on municipal roads that can degrade surface waters and wetlands.

iv. Groundwater/Aquifers

Groundwater is found in two basic types of formations in Shrewsbury: metamorphic rock and nonindurated sediments of sand and gravel. The aquifers in rock are usually of low yield (1-25 gallons per minute) and may be of considerable depth. The average porosity of the rock is generally low, so that yields sufficient for home water supply are usually located in fractures or faults in the rock which are not always easily located.

On the other hand, the aquifers in alluvial materials, especially along the Mill River, have a much higher specific yield, are shallow in depth (75 feet or less), and are recharged by streams and brooks. Ground Water Favorability Maps, prepared by Vermont State Water Resources, indicate the general area of these aquifers which have excellent groundwater potential.

Some of the homes in the rural areas draw their water from springs, while others have drilled wells. The great majority of wells are in rock with depths averaging about 150 feet. The Shrewsbury Mountain School and Cuttingsville Fire District operate local water systems. Spring Lake Ranch and Crisanver House have private systems inspected and regulated under state guidelines.

The quantity and quality of the Town's groundwater supply is related to the type and intensity of uses that occur in areas of high aquifer recharge. Settlement can reduce these areas of recharge and increase surface runoff, thus decreasing infiltration of surface water. Also, groundwater quality may be threatened through improperly functioning subsurface sewage disposal systems. Because a potable water supply of sufficient quantity is of critical necessity to life itself, these fragile recharge areas require protection.

D. Forest

Vermont forests have seen steady regrowth over the last century due to westward expansion, the decline of the sheep industry, and reduced timber harvesting. Today’s forests are the result of major reforestation. Approximately 86.4 percent, or 27,786 acres, of Shrewsbury is in forest land. Deciduous trees mainly Northern Hardwoods (maple, beech, birch) some small areas of mixed hardwoods (oak, hickory, maple), red maple/elm-type make up 21,996 acres (79%) of the canopy. Coniferous trees mainly red spruce, balsam fir, white pine make up 5,790 acres (21%) of the canopy. Various mixtures of tree species including poplar make up the rest of the forested canopy. The Town's forestlands are a valuable resource for aquifer recharge, carbon sequestration and storage, plant and wildlife habitat, recreation, maple syrup, timber production, and other forest products (see Working Landscape Section). Town Plans are required by state statute to identify forest blocks and habitat connectors, and the Agency of Natural Resources has mapped high-priority forest blocks, also known as habitat blocks, critical for protecting native species

and the integrity of natural systems. The Town of Shrewsbury contains 13,110 (41%) acres of highest-priority forest blocks shown on the Natural Resources and Habitat Map.

The Town contains a large quantity of public forestland: Coolidge State Forest, Jim Jeffords State Forest, Plymsbury Wildlife Management Area, Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, and Appalachian/Long Trail corridor managed by the United States Forest Service. Due to this large quantity of public land, Shrewsbury is directly affected by the management practices and uses on these lands. Along with other benefits, the portions of the State Forests lying within the Town act as a critical buffer zone to protect Shrewsbury from expanding commercial recreation and residential development in adjacent towns and will become increasingly important to the region as a whole for its plant and wildlife habitat, aesthetic qualities, wild lands, and non-commercial recreation possibilities. The Appalachian/Long Trail corridor provides an undeveloped corridor of forestland that links Coolidge State Forest and the Green Mountain National Forest. This federal land provides a narrow but unfragmented corridor of forestland through the Town.

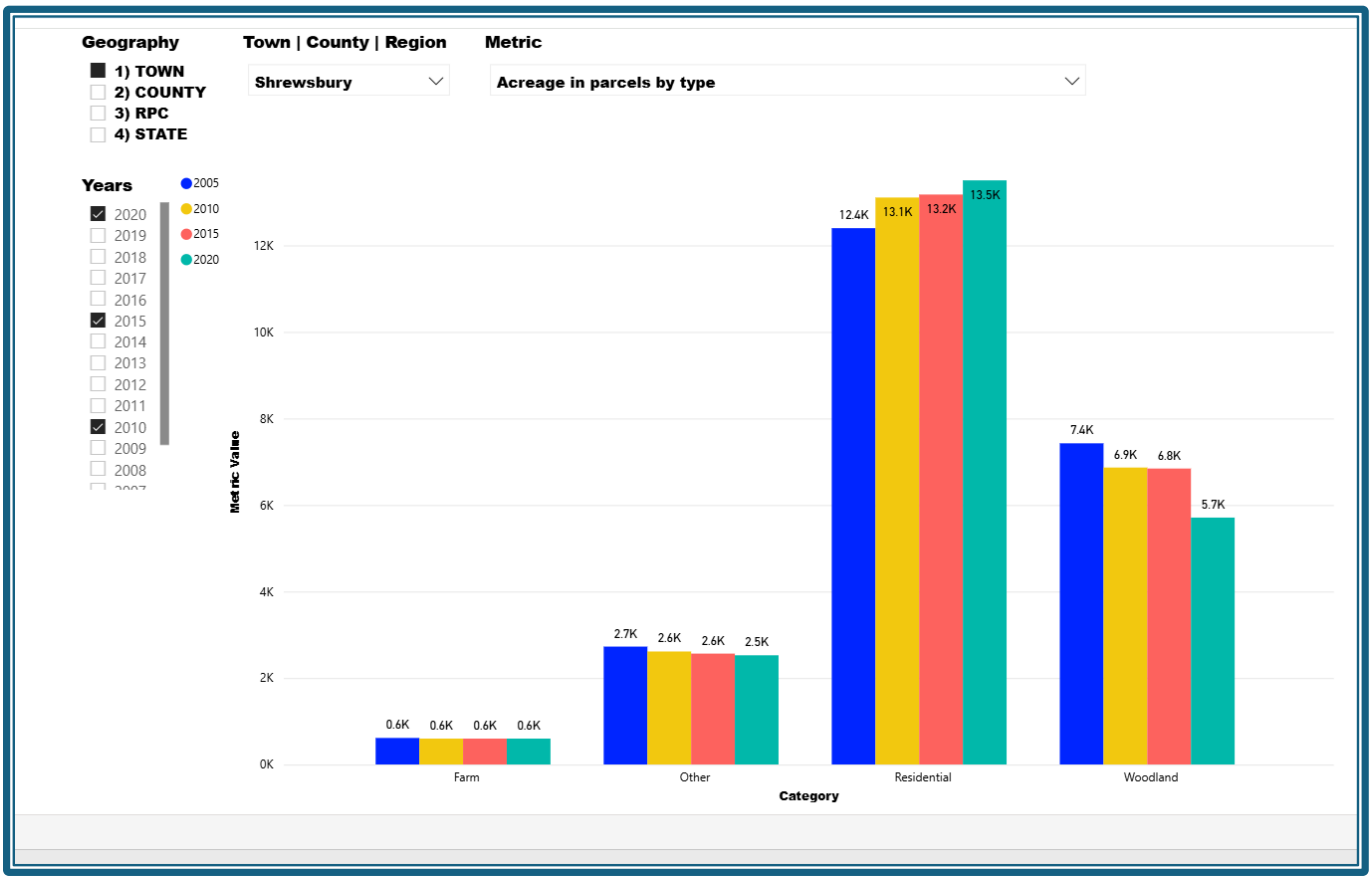
UVA Forestland Program

- Managed actively for timber
- Managed actively for timber and for significant wildlife habitat
- Managed actively for timber and for special places and sensitive sites
- Managed for Ecologically Significant Treatment Areas (ESTAs)
    - Natural communities of Statewide significance
    - Rare, threatened, and endangered species
    - Riparian areas
    - Vernal pools with amphibian breeding habitat
    - Forest wetlands
    - Old forests

It is important to the Town that all public lands within its boundaries be protected and/or managed according to the highest standards of stewardship. Use of these lands should be consistent with a comprehensive long-range management plan that is adopted by the responsible State or Federal agency after reasonable opportunity for comment and input by the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Select Board, and interested residents. Proper management of private forestlands is also important. The Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program can be utilized by forestland owners with at least 25 acres of forestland. Participation in UVA reduces the tax burden on productive lands and requires a management plan approved by the County Forester. Vermont Coverts provides training for landowners and professionals on forest management to enhance wildlife habitats.

There are many challenges to maintaining healthy forests in today's environment. Forests are being fragmented by rural sprawl. It occurs incrementally, beginning with cleared swaths or pockets of non-forest within an otherwise unbroken expanse of tree cover. Over time, non-forest pockets tend to multiply and expand. Eventually, the forest is fragmented and reduced to scattered, disconnected forest islands. These remnant forests are often surrounded by land uses

that threaten the health, function, and value of these forest islands for animal and plant habitat, as well as human use. As forest fragments become ever smaller, practicing forestry becomes operationally impractical, economically nonviable, and culturally unacceptable, and the significant contributions forests make to natural systems, the economy, and culture are lost. According to the Vermont Natural Resource Council's VT Parcelization website, Shrewsbury has lost 1,700 acres of forestland from 2005 to 2020.



Shrewsbury Land Use Conversions 2005 - 2020

Invasive pests and diseases are also a threat to maintaining healthy forests in Shrewsbury. Invasive pests and diseases that are in Shrewsbury or neighboring towns include:

• Beech Bark Disease - results from a tiny scale insect (the beech scale, Cryptococcus fagisuga) sucking on a tree and introducing a fungus (Neonectria) to the tree's vascular tissue. BBD is characterized by the smooth bark developing a pockmarked appearance. Estimates suggest between 50 and 90 percent of mature beeches eventually die from it, but since beech trees send out root sprouts, it is not eradicating the beech trees.

• Beech Leaf Disease - caused by Litylenchus crenatae ssp. mccannii, a microscopic nematode (i.e., a tiny roundworm), from Japan. The nematodes overwinter inside buds and affect leaves

before budbreak in the spring. As a result of cellular damage caused by nematodes in the leaf buds, the leaves become leathery and crinkled. As the nematode numbers increase, the nematodes migrate from the infected leaves to newly forming buds. There, they feed on the bud tissues and damage the next generation of leaves. Repeated insults can kill juvenile beech trees and weaken trees of all ages, making them more susceptible to other pests and pathogens (such as Beech Bark Disease).

• Emerald Ash Borer - Emerald ash borer (EAB, Agrilus planipennisi) is an invasive wood borer, which targets all species of ash (Fraxinus spp.). Adult emerald ash borers are 1/4 to 1/2 inches long, narrow, and bullet-shaped, with a flat back and metallic coloring, including purple/red abdominal segments beneath their wing covers. EAB leaves a signature "S-shaped gallery" just beneath the tree's bark. Infested trees may have bark splitting; D-shaped exit holes on the bark surface; woodpecker flecking; dieback; "waterspouts" and other small, fast-growing shoots emerging on the main trunk (bole) of a tree; and mortality.

• Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA, Adelges tsugae) is an invasive sapsucking insect, which feeds on eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis) and Carolina hemlock (T. caroliniana). It causes needles to yellow and fall prematurely. This results in branch dieback, crown thinning, and eventual mortality of infested hosts. HWA spreads via wind, birds, mammals, human activities, and the transport of infected nursery stock. Trees die in four to six years; survivors tend to have sparse foliage, losing value as a shelter for wildlife and their ability to shade streams. Researchers have found that some trees are naturally resistant or at least tolerant to HWA; therefore, premature cutting of trees is not recommended. Extreme cold temperatures (esp. below -20°F) slow the spread of HWA.

• Elongate Hemlock Scale - Elongate hemlock scale (EHS, Fiorinia externa) is an invasive armored scale, which feeds on needles of evergreens. It causes the needles to yellow, resulting in premature needle loss and dieback. This scale was first documented in New York in 1908; it was detected in Vermont in 2014. EHS overwinters as eggs or as fertilized females, which then lay eggs over the spring and summer. In three to four weeks, eggs hatch into "crawlers" that migrate to new needles on the same plant. Life stages overlap, so crawlers can be found throughout the spring and summer.

• Elm Zigzag Sawfly - Elm zigzag sawfly (EZS, Aproceros leucopoda) feeds on the leaves of elm trees (Ulmus spp.), leaving a signature "zigzag" pattern and defoliating the tree. Female sawflies reproduce without needing a mate. While trees can recover from an occasional defoliation event, year after year of defoliation stresses trees, making them more susceptible to other diseases and pests.

• Spotted Lanternfly - Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) is an invasive planthopper that sucks on plant juices and excretes a sticky, sugary fluid called honeydew that promotes sooty mold growth, which can further damage plants. It feeds on over 70 species of plants, including maples, walnuts, oaks, hops, grapes, and apples. There are isolated reports of it in Vermont.

Education, foresight, and mitigation measures are critical to prevent what may be dismissed as inevitable spread of invasive pests and diseases. Actions such as limiting the movement of wood and plant material, cleaning equipment, properly disposing of infected plant material, and removing bird feeders in spring can decrease the spread of these diseases. Reporting infestations to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation can also help slow their spread.

Climate Change is altering the growing conditions of forests in Vermont. Increases in severe weather events cause erosion, which removes topsoil and impacts forest growth. Severe weather events also cause tree loss and damage. Climate change is expected to continue to exacerbate the threats that invasive plants, insects, and diseases already pose to the health of Shrewsbury's forests. Invasive plants utilize space and nutrients that native species need for healthy growing conditions. This can affect the forest's ability to regenerate. Deer browsing is also a concern for forest regeneration. The climate is becoming more favorable for southern-adapted tree species, like northern red oak, shagbark and bitternut hickory, and black cherry. These conditions amplify the importance of good forest management practices.

E. Wildlife

i. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

The heavily wooded, rugged, and low-population characteristics of Shrewsbury make it one of the most important wildlife habitats in Rutland County. This is demonstrated by the fact that most of Shrewsbury is identified as highest priority or priority for interior forest blocks and connectivity blocks by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR) Conservation Design. Wildlife species in all forms (both terrestrial including: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and invertebrates like insects and arachnids; and aquatic including fish and invertebrates) are part of the broader ecosystem. The health and function of both wildlife populations and wildlife habitat are essential to the proper functioning of the overall system. All wildlife species require three elements for viable habitat: food, water and cover. Even with these elements, viable habitat for some species is dependent on contiguous tracts of undisturbed land (interior forest blocks and habitat connectors).

According to the Act 171 Guidance interior forest blocks and habitat connectors provide many important benefits including: wildlife habitat, biological diversity, flood protection, clean air and water, climate change mitigation, forest products, scenery, tourism, recreation, public health and cultural heritage. Fragmenting habitat areas and the connecting corridors limits the availability and diversity of these benefits. As areas become isolated, species diversity may diminish, and certain species may be unable to recover when numbers become low. The status of viable and varied wildlife habitat is an important barometer of the Town and our region's ability to maintain a healthy ecosystem as well as the rural landscape while accommodating growth. Shrewsbury's abundant forests contribute significantly to its wildlife habitat. The bear habitat is among the best in this section of the state, and Shrewsbury has been identified as a critical corridor for bear movement between habitat north and south regions of the state. The Deer population is generally

healthy and stable Ruffed grouse are present where habitat is varied and in early stages of succession, and stands of poplar can be managed to encourage them. Waterfowl and woodcock nest on or frequent the natural ponds, beaver ponds, and wet areas throughout the Town, and loons nest on Spring Lake. Wild turkey, mink, porcupines, weasels, otter, bobcat, grey fox, red fox fisher and coyotes are now well established, bear sightings are on the increase, and moose continue to be observed. The viability of these habitats is due to their interconnectedness. In August of 2024 a Canada lynx entered our town following designated wildlife corridors and stayed for approximately two weeks before leaving Shrewsbury through the unfragmented Coolidge State Forest heading north. This occurrence exemplified the importance of the forest blocks and habitat connections in Shrewsbury.



2024 Lynx on Russellville Road

ii. Interior Forest Blocks

Interior Forest Blocks are habitat blocks that best provide interior forest conditions. These forest lands and other natural habitats are unfragmented by roads, development, or agriculture. Habitat blocks are primarily forests, but also include wetlands, rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, cliffs, and rock outcrops. Forests included in habitat blocks may be young, early-successional stands, actively managed forests, or mature forests with little or no recent logging activity. Approximately 23,001 acres (72 %) of Shrewsbury's land is high priority or priority interior forest blocks according to the VANR. These forest lands include the Coolidge State Forest, Jim Jeffords State Forest, Plymsbury Wildlife Management Area, Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, the Appalachian and Long Trail Corridor, and much of the land in between Shrewsbury's road system. These areas are important for supporting wide-ranging animals such as bears,

bobcats, and interior forest birds, including the Bicknell's Thrush, which is located in spruce -fir forests on Shrewsbury Peak. These areas were identified as important natural areas in the Community Values Mapping event held in April 2024, demonstrating that the community recognizes the significance of the interior forest blocks.

Along with the conservation of interior forest blocks, it is important to conserve specific types of forest habitats. Preservation of den, bat roosting and nest trees and a good distribution of trees in various age classes over an area are critical to preserving a variety of wildlife species. Mast trees provide food for a variety of species, particularly black bear. Deer wintering shelter is provided by stands of eastern hemlock, red spruce, balsam fir, and eastern white pine. The Vermont Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program (current use) now recognizes significant wildlife habitat as a managed forestland subcategory as well as six Environmentally Significant Treatment Areas (ESTA's) for which landowners can designate portions of their UVA-qualifying lands.

iii. Habitat Connectors and Wildlife Corridors

Habitat Connectivity Blocks are the network of forest blocks that together provide terrestrial connectivity at the regional scale. These areas include and connect the larger interior forest blocks. Wildlife corridors (or "habitat connectors" as termed by VANR) link patches of wildlife habitat within Shrewsbury and the surrounding landscape, allowing the movement, migration, and dispersal of animals and plants and the functioning of ecological processes. The importance of this habitat connectivity for the future is illustrated in The Nature Conservancy's Migration in Motion Map that shows the probable movement of species due to climate change through Vermont. The Shrewsbury wildlife corridor overlay was developed in for the 2013 Town Plan using VANR data, and local information from a Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) biologist and a land conservation specialist. Since that time the VFWD has further developed the data on habitat connectors. Shrewsbury has a significant area that is high priority or priority habitat connectivity blocks connecting to the large amount of interior forest blocks in and around Shrewsbury. Through the work done in Vermont Conservation Design, the western side of Shrewsbury has been identified as a Connectivity Focus Area that goes from Mount Tabor to Mendon.

Wildlife and fish movement is often associated with specific road crossing areas and may be seasonal, as evidenced by salamander spawning migrations in early spring. Many species of wildlife are selective to specific habitat conditions along roads and are faithful to crossing them in the same place as long as those habitat conditions persist. These crossing areas are often within riparian corridors adding to their ecological importance.

The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission (SCC) conducted a wildlife road crossing inventory during the winters from 2020 to 2025. The purpose was to identify important wildlife road crossings in our town, and educate townspeople about the number and variety of animals whose travel corridors intersect our roadways. Places along the roads where the inventory was conducted were identified using Biofinder and VFWD. Two culverts on Route 103 were also

surveyed for one year for wildlife crossing using game cameras. The information provided by this inventory will be used to reevaluate the town wildlife corridor overlay map so that it more accurately reflects the data, review the Town Plan information and make changes to reflect new data, and provide information to landowners so that they will conserve these areas and understand the importance of conserving forested land on each side of the roadway. The ultimate goal is to increase safety for the wildlife that must venture across town highways to access food, find mates, migrate, patrol territories, and flee danger, while ultimately conserving habitat that is conducive to this.

SHREWSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION WILDILIFE ROAD CROSSING PROJECT

2020-2025

- Total volunteers participating: **19**
- Number of road sections surveyed: **17**
- Total number of surveys throughout the project duration: over **350**
- Surveys of bear corridor areas: **52** visual identifications of bear sign, tracks, or bears themselves
- Multiple sightings of a **rare Canada Lynx** were captured during the 2023-24 project year
- Number of species identified: **18**
- Approximate number of tracks logged: **1,725 plus!**

iv. Riparian Habitats and Connectors

Shrewsbury's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands provide vital habitat for aquatic species, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates (e.g., insects, mussels, snails, worms, freshwater sponges), and plants. This represents an enormous contribution to Vermont's biological diversity. Riparian areas are also essential habitat for many species of terrestrial wildlife, including mink, otter, beaver, kingfisher, spotted sandpiper, and wood turtle. Riparian connectivity is the connected network of riparian areas in which natural vegetation occurs, providing natural cover for wildlife movement and plant migration. It includes all tree canopy, wetlands and shrublands. Hydrological connectivity is also crucial in riparian habitats. Most of Shrewsbury's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands have been identified as highest priority riparian areas and riparian connectivity areas by VANR.

Culverts under roadways contribute to riparian connectivity by providing opportunities for safe wildlife and aquatic passage. Dams and perched culverts obstruct the natural movement of fish and other aquatic species, leading to reduced populations in upstream habitats and contribute to habitat fragmentation, which can disrupt breeding cycles and reduce genetic diversity among aquatic species populations. Two dams (the Connolly Pond Dam near Northam Rd and the dam

near Mountain School RD) and one perched culvert (also on Mountain School RD) have already been removed, reconnecting the riparian areas on two headwater streams. In 2026, the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission began a project to identify and replace perched culverts with culverts designed to allow for safe wildlife and aquatic organism passage.

v. Other Wildlife Habitats

Other wildlife habitats in Shrewsbury are important as well. Large tracts of open fields and meadows provide habitat for birds, rodents, deer, rabbits, foxes, and pollinators; early successional or transitional shrub and forest areas are an important habitat for many species, including deer, snowshoe hares, ruffed grouse and other birds, pollinators, and reptiles. Early successional habitat is often created through small patch timber harvests. These two habitat types are largely ephemeral and dependent on land management practices and are best addressed through non-regulatory means (education, outreach, etc.).

F. Fragile and Significant Natural Areas

Fragile and Significant Natural Areas are rare or irreplaceable natural resources. These areas may have significant or unique value for biological habitat, scientific research, educational, aesthetic, and recreational purposes, or may simply be an area especially valued by Townspeople. Because these areas contribute to maintaining the environmental health and quality of the Town, such areas require special conservation and protective measures. Areas of high elevation, wetlands, and shorelines are often fragile and significant natural areas because they contain rare and/or unusual natural communities, plants, or animals.

The Shrewsbury Peak Natural Area in Coolidge State Forest is the 100 acres above 3,100 feet. It is an undisturbed high-elevation forest that is habitat for a variety of forest birds and is part of the Coolidge State Forest High Peaks Area. The Montane Spruce-Fire Forest on Shrewsbury, Killington, Mendon, and Little Killington peaks provides breeding habitat for Bicknell's thrush, a rare songbird in Vermont.

The Clarendon Gorge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 55-acre parcel of land owned by the State of Vermont. The Gorge formed by the Mill River in this area is of statewide botanical significance due to its exemplary diversity of some 50-60 moss and liverwort species growing along the rock-walled gorge.

Add photo of Clarendon Gorge

The Agency of Natural Resource Atlas also identifies other areas in Shrewsbury as hosting rare or uncommon species. Notably the shorelines of Johnson and Cooks Pond host uncommon animal and plant species respectively.

G. Pollinators (Meadowlands and Open Lands)

Pollinators are broadly defined as the group of animals and insects that move pollen from one flower to another. This includes species of bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, and bats. Between 60 and 80 percent of wild plants in Vermont are dependent on pollinators, mostly bees, for the "ecosystem service" of pollination. In Vermont, there are 352 species of bees, more than any northern New England state. Despite the growing number of species, concerns remain that bees overall are on the decline. A decade-long study of the Vermont Atlas of Life, published in October 2025, revealed that 60% of bee species are likely in need of conservation, largely due to the 13 introduced bee species in Vermont. These species could compete with native bees for food and nesting areas and may spread disease to native populations.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department believes that pollinators are losing portions of their habitat (esp. wildflowers) to single-crop farming, non-native invasive plant species, and development. Non-native invasive plants in Shrewsbury fall into three broad categories relating to the length of their presence here: Historically planted by homeowners and farmers; more recently introduced but still present for many years already; and plants that have arrived within the past 2 decades, some even a shorter time ago.

There are a number of avenues by which plants are unintentionally brought into Shrewsbury, the chief among them being our roads. Plowing, road maintenance (especially culvert work), and utility line work can all spread seeds and even introduce seeds in material or on equipment that has been used elsewhere. Other avenues are power corridors, logging roads and landings, clearing of wooded tracts, snowmobile and ATV trails, rivers, floods, birds, and even hiking trails. The Shrewsbury Conservation Commission and volunteers have been conducting non-native invasive plant removal for several years. These efforts have significantly decreased invasive plants along Shrewsbury's roads. To educate Shrewsbury residents on the importance of pollinators and native plant species, the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission and other volunteers are now planting a pollinator garden in North Shrewsbury between Pierce's Store and the Old Plymouth Road bridge.

Additionally, pesticides are killing off pollinators even when they are not the target. In 2024, as part of the effort to address the decline and based on a finding that use of insecticides may cause significant environmental damage without necessarily increasing agricultural yields, Vermont legislators passed the Pollinator Protection Act into law. Under this law, neonicotinoids may not be used on flowers, annuals, perennials, and groundcovers planted for aesthetic purposes as of July 1, 2025. Restrictions on treated seeds for soybeans and cereal grains (for example, corn, wheat) will take effect January 1, 2029. See 6 V.S.A. § 1105b (eff. June 17, 2024).

H. Air Quality

A layer of gases, known as the atmosphere, surrounds the earth and contains elements essential to human, plant, and animal life. Its primary elements, nitrogen and oxygen, are cycled between organisms and the environment to support the production and use of organic energy. Certain

natural resources, such as wetlands, trees, and soils, help clean the air by filtering out pollutants like carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides. In addition, the atmosphere acts as a medium for weather patterns, helps regulate temperatures, and shields life from harmful radiation. Shrewsbury's air sheds (the physical boundaries that tend to shape air flows) correspond to the Town's watersheds. The hills and mountains block air flow, which can trap air and protect lower sections from wind. This allows lower sections to retain the heat of the sun and trap polluted air such as emissions from vehicles, wood-burning heating devices, and open burning that occurs in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) monitors air quality at 5 sites in Vermont, the closest being on State Street in Rutland. Real-time data is available for the Rutland site on the DEC real-time air quality data website: AirData.Vermont.Gov.

Ozone and particulate matter pollution tends to rise significantly during summer, especially on warm, sunny days. This is often a regional concern, with pollution drifting from urban areas into Southern Vermont. Another example of regional air pollution impacting our area is wildfire smoke such as the major wildfires in Canada in the summers of 2023, 2025, and 2026 that led to multiple air quality alerts in the Rutland Region.

As climate patterns shift and emissions from various sectors increasingly affect environmental and public health, it is essential for Shrewsbury to implement policies and technologies that reduce pollutants at their source.

I. Night Sky

In the past, Shrewsbury's distance and topographic isolation from large population centers provided a unique resource in the natural darkness of its night sky and clear views of the stats above. This resource has been diminished by increased amounts of outdoor lighting within Shrewsbury and lighting of large-scale development in nearby towns. Large population centers tend to emit a night-time glow that obliterates the visibility of stars and other heavenly bodies. This is directly due to high levels of outdoor lighting of a powerful and indiscriminate nature. In addition, residential and public lighting fixtures in Shrewsbury can create excessive and costly over-illumination and be hazardous when poorly positioned. The development in Rutland Town along Route 7 has created an impact on the night sky in Shrewsbury. Expansion of this type of development without regard to responsible lighting policies is discouraged.

The following are typical problems incurred with outdoor lighting:

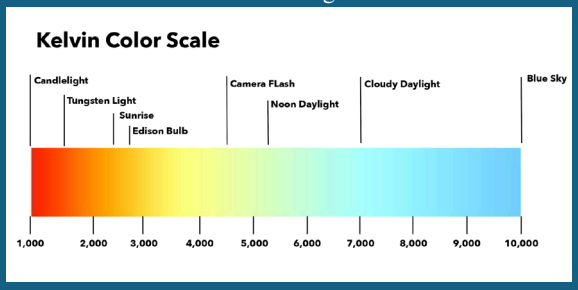
- Sky Glow – Light shines upward into the sky where it serves no useful purpose; sky glow also limits the visibility of the stars in the night sky;
- Glare – Occurs when you can see light directly from the fixture or bulb; glare creates a hazard rather than increasing safety because it hampers the vision of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers;
- Light Trespass – Poor outdoor lighting shines off the owner's property;

- Energy Waste – Lighting which is stronger than necessary for its intended purpose and/or is poorly directed.

Light pollution has been proven to increase health risks, including sleep problems, depression, weakened immune responses, and diseases like Alzheimer's. Recent research also shows that wildlife and plants suffer from a range of behavioral issues due to the misbehaviors caused by artificial light. Exterior lights, especially those emitting blue light, negatively impact various wildlife species. Blue light appears white or cooler than amber or warmer light. Insects are attracted to this blue light, and certain birds use blue skylight for migration. Nocturnal animals can filter or block blue light to avoid glare, but deer are highly susceptible.

Warm, amber-rich lights have a color temperature of 2,700 Kelvin or lower.

Cool, blue-rich lights have a color temperature of 4,000 Kelvin or higher.



Keeping Shrewsbury's skies dark at night is best for wildlife. If low levels of light are used in contained areas, it is best to utilize warm (yellow-amber color) to minimize the negative effects on our wildlife.

Therefore, protecting dark skies is essential for maintaining human health and preserving the natural light-dark cycles that regulate essential biological rhythms. Consequently, it is important to protect the darkness of the night sky not only for residents to have the opportunity to enjoy natural darkness and clear views of the stars above but also to create a healthy night environment for animals and plants.

J. Natural Resources – Policies

POLICY:

1. Unique geological areas shall be protected from any uses which would destroy or impair their scientific or non-commercial recreational value
2. Any development on slopes over 15% may be allowed only if it can be demonstrated that the development will meet all appropriate state and local regulations including those for preventing soil erosion at construction sites. On lots where substantial portion of developed area exceeds a slope of 15%, an erosion control plan shall be required
3. Conduct site studies to determine suitability for development where steep slopes occur with shallow soils. Ensure that all development proposals on such soils provide and conform to a site drainage plan and an ANR approved erosion control plan for construction phases of the development.
4. Prohibit all development on slopes of 20% or great
5. Protect elevations above 2,000 feet from intensive uses and commercial recreation and prohibit development of any kind of 2,300 feet.
6. Support tactical basin planning to maintain ecological integrity in watersheds.

7. Protect Surface waters, riparian areas, wetlands, and vernal pools from uses that may be expected to cause pollution, erosion, increase water temperature, and reduce scenic qualities of these resources.
8. Manage water resources and forestlands as necessary to include control, eradication and prevention against invasive species that threaten Shrewsbury's forest and water resources. More information for landowners can be found at VT Invasives, or by speaking with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.
9. Maintain appropriate vegetative buffers to protect water quality, allow natural channel modification, and protect buildings along surface waters, riparian areas, wetlands, and vernal pools.
10. Support the Vermont Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) and Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMPs).
11. Protect aquifer recharge areas from uses and development that would significantly reduce their permeability or endanger the quality and/or quantity of groundwater supplies.
12. Protect priority wildlife habitat blocks corridors and riparian connectors development that reduces their vital biological function and preserve contiguous areas of wildlife habitat and forest blocks and connectors.
13. Fragmentation of significant and necessary wildlife habitat shall not be approved.
14. Incorporate wildlife corridors connecting habitat blocks in plans for management and conservation of forested areas.
15. Ensure access for future forest management when subdividing forestland.
16. Manage forestlands according to sound, environmentally acceptable forestry practices, such as the preparation of formal forest management plans. Minimize the impacts of clearcuts on wildlife habitat, erosion, sound buffers, lighting shields, and views from neighboring and distant properties.
17. Manage State lands in accordance with the comprehensive long-range management plan prepared in cooperation with appropriate State agencies and Town officials, and in compliance with the Town Plan.
18. Oppose the sale, lease, or deeding of State and Federal lands in the Town to any person or entity for any form of development prior to consultation with the Town. When possible, the Town will adopt regulations to control subsequent use by the new owner or lessee.
19. Improve connectivity among natural areas and priority wildlife habitat blocks.
20. Protect and maintain the functional integrity of other important wildlife habitats such as deer wintering areas, mast trees, den and nesting trees and early successional habitat.
21. Encourage management of open fields and meadows so as to provide habitats for a variety of species that are dependent on these areas.
22. Encourage landowners to include forest management practices that will benefit wildlife in their Use Value Appraisal forest management plans; to work with land trusts and non-profit organizations such as Vermont Coverts to protect wildlife habitats; and, if they

wish, to apply for financial assistance in enhancing wildlife habitat, such as from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

23. Support the designation of State or regionally significant natural areas, fragile areas, and rare, threatened or endangered species and protect these areas from development by providing a buffer designed in consultation with the appropriate state agency.
24. Plant native tree, shrub, and flower species on Town lands.
25. Encourage the washing of road, logging, and construction equipment to avoid spreading invasive plants.
26. Support the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission's efforts to remove invasive plants and educate Town residents on invasive plants and pollinator-friendly plant species.

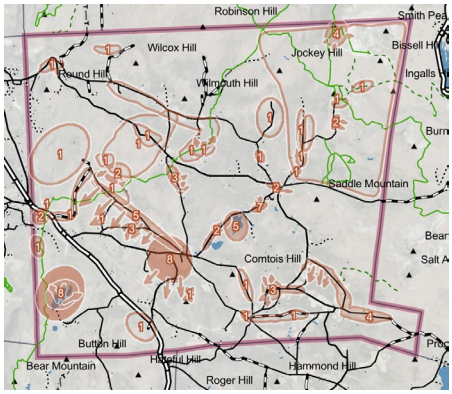
6. Scenic and Historic Resources

Add scenic and historic photos – maybe triptych – 3 across the top

A. Scenic Resources

Physical features and landscapes that give Shrewsbury its visual character include forested mountain ridgelines and side slopes, farm landscapes and meadowlands, historic villages, cascading streams, waterfalls, gorges, ponds, wetlands, and scenic corridors with stone walls and stately trees. These scenic resources provide opportunities for recreation, tourism, and daily enjoyment by residents and visitors.

The Community Values Mapping held in April of 2024 identified many areas in Shrewsbury as scenic. Some of the area's most frequently noted were Shrewsbury Center, Spring Lake, Shrewsbury Peak, Lottery Road, Cooks and Johnsons Ponds, Bailey Road, Tabor Road, Northam Road, and Old Farm Road. Many of these areas were also noted for the viewsheds that could be seen from the area.



Scenic Areas identified by the 2024 Community Values Mapping event

Forested ridgelines, mountain peaks, hilltops, and steep side slopes are prominent and highly visible features of Shrewsbury. These features are a source of unspoiled beauty and contribute to Shrewsbury's unique scenic and aesthetic quality, providing seasonal variation. Shrewsbury Peak, Smith Peak, Salt Ash Mountain, Saddle Mountain, Copperas Hill, Robinson Hill, Jockey Hill, Angelo's Hill, and Kinsman Hill are a few examples of such landforms. Since they are often focal points of distant or local views and panoramas, alteration of these features by settlement, development, clearcutting, and shelterwood cuts could significantly affect the Town's physical landscape. The mountain peaks and ridgelines also provide opportunities for scenic views of the surrounding countryside.

Shrewsbury's scenic landscape has been influenced by past farm activities. The isolated groupings of farm dwellings and outbuildings are characteristic of these activities. They provide focal points of scenic and historic interest. The traditional mix of open fields bordered by stone walls, woodlands, and farm or village clusters is threatened by the decline in farming activity. Many woodlands also have stone walls running through them that are remnants of past farming land use. The open lands provide habitat variety and opportunities for scenic views. The contrast created by distinctly different land uses from one parcel to another is being lost to a more homogenous landscape of woodlands and residential development.

Part of Shrewsbury's scenic charm is the villages with classic 18th and 19th century New England architecture. Shrewsbury is still an overwhelmingly rural town with three main focal points of population and services. These are Cuttingsville, Shrewsbury Center, and North Shrewsbury. Each contains striking historic buildings with community importance. There are also small hamlets with clusters of these scenic buildings.

An important aspect of Shrewsbury is the network of scenic roads comprising the Town's highway system. The character of the roads, with their winding nature, tree-lined borders and stone walls, and panoramic views, provides the opportunity to experience Shrewsbury's scenery via various modes of transportation. Road maintenance and utility lines have the potential to compromise the scenic integrity of these roads.

Rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands are all of high scenic, recreational, and wildlife habitat value. Some of the most scenic and noteworthy surface waters in Shrewsbury are Clarendon Gorge on the Mill River, Cold River, Sargent Brook, Gould Brook, Freeman Brook, Spring Lake, Johnson's Pond, and Cook's Pond. These surface waters are visible from roads and trails, adding to their scenic quality. Shoreline Development, removal of vegetation, and floods in a watershed can affect the quality of the waters downstream, causing erosion and compromising the scenic quality of surface waters and wetlands.

B. Historic Resources

Shrewsbury is located on land which is the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples who were the stewards of these lands and waters for thousands of years before western European peoples arrived in New England. Shrewsbury was chartered in 1761 following the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars and settled by New Englanders from Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1823, a section of Plymouth, known as the "Mile Square," was annexed to Shrewsbury and is still part of the Town today, lying to the southeast of Eastham. By 1800 there were 748 Shrewsbury residents. The new settlers cleared land, cleared stones from the planted fields, built stonewalls to mark property boundaries, and dug cellar holes lined with massive glacial boulders and cut stone. The many streams provided power for sawmills and an active lumber industry. Cheese factories, of which there were several, bought the local milk after the sheep boom waned in the 1860's.

Today, stone walls still exist—some surrounding open meadows, some leading through second growth forest that used to be meadows and pastures. The back roads lead to cellar holes reflecting Shrewsbury's population of 1,289 in 1830.

Shrewsbury contains beautiful historic homes such as those in the Greek revival style, built by Moses Lefevre (The Haynes house on Eastham Rd, the Oresman house on Russellville Rd, and the Bailey house on Bailey Rd. are examples), and three churches, the earliest in Shrewsbury Center built in 1804. Pierce's Store in Northam, now under the trusteeship of the Vermont Preservation Trust, is a classic example of a Vermont country store. The Aldrich Cheese factory, also in the Northam area, is now a private home. The Aldrich Farmhouse is the former Shrewsbury Parsonage and is now a private home.

In Cuttingsville, handsome brick homes reflect a variety of architectural styles, and the Laurel Hall built by John Bowman in 1880-82 is a classic Victorian statement of the financial success of John Bowman, the tannery baron. Laurel Glen, the Cuttingsville cemetery, contains Bowman's white marble mausoleum where sculpted life-sized, he visits his family at the mausoleum door holding his silk hat, and wreath in one hand, and keys to the door in the other, next to his heart. Laurel Hall and the Laurel Glen Mausoleum were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The Laurel Glen Cemetery Association is a 501(3)c organization committed to maintaining the home and mausoleum.

Shrewsbury's Brown Covered Bridge, spanning the Cold River, is carefully maintained and still in use. The Brown Bridge was designated National Historic Landmark in 2014, as one of the least-altered examples of a Town lattice truss covered bridge.

C. Scenic and Historic Resources - Policies

POLICIES:

1. Avoid development on ridgelines, mountain peaks and hilltops, or higher elevations.
2. Protect working farms and open lands from development that would detract from the scenic value of the farm landscape and impair agricultural functions.
3. Site any development in a way that minimizes impairment of the scenic qualities of the landscape and be in harmony with the natural terrain and vegetation.
4. Preserve stone walls that border existing agricultural fields, roads, and, where feasible, stone walls that still exist in woodlands.
5. Encourage the preservation and maintenance of the scenic vistas on public lands and protect the scenic resources within them.
6. Preserve scenic viewing points and viewsheds and cooperate with neighboring towns to preserve scenic views.
7. Improvements and maintenance of Town roads should be conducted in a manner that will protect and enhance scenic features on Town roads while maintaining safety and durability.

8. Encourage the planting and maintenance of roadside trees where appropriate and designate areas for shade trees for preservation.
9. Protect surface water (streams, lakes, and ponds) and wetlands from development and uses that degrade the scenic quality of these features.
10. Preserve structures and sites of historical significance to maintain their architectural and/or cultural and aesthetic value to the community

7. Recreation Resources

A. Introduction

Given the abundance of State and Federal forestland, conserved lands, and Wildlife Management Areas, Shrewsbury offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Residents and visitors enjoy access to hiking trails, snowmobile trails, cross-country skiing routes, mountain biking, hunting areas, fishing areas, paddling resources, and scenic back roads.

Recreation contributes significantly to Shrewsbury's quality of life and supports physical health, community connections, appreciation of natural resources, and local economic activity. Recreation opportunities in Shrewsbury are closely tied to the Town's forests, waterways, scenic landscapes, and historic settlement patterns. Maintaining these resources while protecting the rural character of the community is an important consideration for future planning.

B. Trail Networks and Public Recreation

Shrewsbury contains an extensive network of recreational trails crossing both public and private lands. These trails provide opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, wildlife observation, and snowshoeing.

Major trail systems and recreation corridors include:

- VAST snowmobile trails
- Catamount Cross-Country Ski Trail
- The Plymsbury Trail Network
- The Appalachian Trail/Long Trail (AT/LT)
- Shrewsbury Peak Trails
- State Forest Trails

Many additional recreational opportunities exist on old logging roads, Class 4 highways, legal trails, and informal trail networks throughout the Town. Access to these lands is made possible through the cooperation of private landowners, recreational organizations, and state and federal land management agencies.

C. Recreation Organizations

A number of organizations help maintain and manage recreational resources within Shrewsbury. These include:

- Shrewsbury Outing Club
- Shrewsbury Sno-Birds
- Green Mountain Club
- Catamount Trail Association
- Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST)

These organizations collaborate with private landowners and public land managers to maintain trails, manage access, and support recreational opportunities throughout the community.

D. Water-Based Recreation

Shrewsbury's ponds, rivers, and streams provide opportunities for swimming, paddling, fishing, and wildlife observation.

Spring Lake is among the Town's most valued recreational resources. The lake is owned by Spring Lake Ranch, which allows public use of the boat launch. Recreation facilities at the lake include a waterfront picnic area and swimming dock managed by the Shrewsbury Outing Club. Other popular swimming and water recreation locations include Brown's Bridge on the Cold River and the Clarendon Gorge.

E. Community Recreation Facilities

Residents also have access to outdoor recreational facilities associated with the Shrewsbury Mountain School, including a walking track, athletic field, and playground. These facilities provide opportunities for community recreation outside of school hours and contribute to the health and well-being of residents.

Residents value the peacefulness, scenery, and solitude associated with recreation in Shrewsbury. Community discussions have identified concerns regarding increasing recreational use, particularly where activities may affect traffic, parking, noise, resource impacts, or public safety. Issues identified by residents include:

- Limited parking at trailheads
- Littering and improper waste disposal
- Unsafe use of firearms on public land
- Unauthorized use of motorized vehicles
- Trail damage and erosion
- Logging slash and debris obstructing trails

F. Recreation - Policies

POLICIES:

1. Land use development in Shrewsbury should occur so as not to significantly diminish the value and availability of non-commercial recreational activities to the people of Shrewsbury.

2. Use trails, old roads, seasonal roads, and wilderness areas in a manner that

    a) Maximizes the opportunity for various kinds of users to experience their own particular joys.

    b) Minimizes the situations in which one kind of use impedes the enjoyment anticipated from another kind, such as the speed, noise, and exhaust fumes from motorized recreational vehicles which may detract from the enjoyment of quieter recreational activities.

    c) Preserves the environment, which is the key source of enjoyment for everyone.

    d) Encourages cooperation with State and Federal agencies and with appropriate recreational groups (e.g., VAST, Green Mountain Club, Catamount Trail Association, Shrewsbury Outing Club) in the best interests of Shrewsbury.

3. Protect the Shrewsbury Peak trail with an undisturbed corridor of at least 500 feet. The Town may designate the protection of other trails as the need arises.

4. Any new shelter or parking areas should be submitted to the Shrewsbury Planning Commission and Selectboard for review.

5. Support the conservation of trail corridors to protect trails in perpetuity.

8. Land Use

A. Existing Land Use Areas

i. Village Areas

Shrewsbury is still an overwhelmingly rural town with three main focal points of population and services. **Shrewsbury Center** is located on Lincoln Hill Road. As dairying developed, it supported one of the Town's cheese factories. To the north, the village of **North Shrewsbury**, locally called "Northam," developed along the Cold River Road, the Upper Cold River Road, the CCC Road, and Gilman Road. Northam had two cheese factories and numerous sawmills in the late 1800s. With the coming of the railroad in the mid 1800s, **Cuttingsville** became the business center of the town. The collection of farms in the eastern part of the town is called "Eastham" but is not designated as a village anymore.

- **Shrewsbury Center** is home to the Community Meeting House, a church, a Town storage garage, as well as businesses and residences
- **North Shrewsbury** is home to the Town office, Town road maintenance garage, Town transfer and recycling center, Shrewsbury Mountain School, a fire station, a church, the Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store, as well as residences and businesses.
- **Cuttingsville** is located on Route 103, the Mill River, and is home to the Cuttingsville Post Office, Shrewsbury Library, Shrewsbury Historical Society, Bowman Mansion, Laurel Glen Cemetery, as well as businesses and residences.

A substantial and growing number of employment opportunities for Town residents are located in adjacent towns and Rutland City. With commercial and industrial growth in nearby towns, the bedroom community aspect of settlement in Shrewsbury has become more pronounced and the incidence of scattered development is increasing. Settlement should be encouraged in existing centers.

ii. Commercial Development

Shrewsbury's commercial makeup is a combination of commercial industries, small businesses, and home-based businesses dispersed throughout the community. Cuttingsville, on Route 103, is home to the largest concentration of commercial business activity in Town; however, without regulation, the possibility exists for commercial enterprises on presently rural land, creating particularly intense and/or potentially negative impacts to the Town.

Some of the effects of businesses large and small that need consideration are:

- increased traffic
- elevated levels of noise or light
- industrial odors
- widespread or toxic emissions

- unreasonable demands on public utilities and municipal services
- unacceptable quantities or types of waste
- visual impact of poorly planned industrial or commercial development in a rural setting and its effect on property values
- loss of agricultural land and fragile areas

It is vital that the Town's zoning ordinances continue to address these issues and others that may arise.

iii. Rural Residential Areas

The preservation of Shrewsbury's rural and agricultural nature and the maintenance of the view-scapes that give the Town its charm are threatened, both by the pressure of large-scale development, and by the gradual "parcelization" and subsequent development of the Town because of many individual and well-intended development decisions.

The charm of the New England landscape resides in the juxtaposition of clustered homes in a village setting with outlying farms and wooded areas. In Shrewsbury, where residential development pressure is significant, the risk exists of supplanting essential components of a functioning rural and natural landscape with development that could be more appropriately situated elsewhere. The Town seeks a rural rather than a suburban pattern of residential land use.

An approach to maintaining and promoting the Rural Residential Landscape might be found in one or more of the following techniques:

- clustering development
- transfer of development rights
- use of planned residential and unit development
- conservation easements
- incentives to promote development in villages
- incentives to keep land in production
- combined driveways
- Vermont Use Value Appraisal program
- protection of undeveloped areas.

Shrewsbury has used the technique of minimum lot size requirements to ensure that the intensity of development is appropriate to the different areas of the Town. While the goal of minimum lot size designation is understandable, the limitations and drawbacks are increasingly evident:

- Lot size has nothing to do with the protection of rural and scenic qualities. In some parts of Shrewsbury, even land parceled into large lots is inappropriate for the area, while in

village centers, the smallest lots now utilized may be too large to retain compact settlement.

- A focus on lot size tends to divert attention from more important questions involving the configuration and inherent characteristics of the parcel being developed.
- Rigid lot requirements can lead to illogical land use decisions, such as not allowing the creation of a 3.9-acre lot in a 4-acre zone when in reality the smaller lot may be better suited, with appropriate boundaries, for development.

An optimal approach to guiding the nature and intensity of development would be one that would gradually move the Town away from minimum-lot zoning to a more flexible and case-specific approach. This could include a blend of acreage limitations and permitting appropriate development including clustering and density-based zoning.

As a step toward this goal, in 2013, the town adopted Open Space Development zoning to offer flexible development planning which allows for clustering and preservation of open space. (See the Unified Zoning and Subdivision regulations for more details).

Working lands are considered to include agriculture, food systems, forestry, and forest product-based businesses (https://workinglands.vermont.gov/history-initiative). Vermont's and Shrewsbury's unique agricultural lands and forestlands are crucial to the town's community, character, economy and culture. These lands provide jobs, food, energy, fiber, raw materials for construction and furniture making, tourism and recreational opportunities, scenic quality and a sense of well-being.

iv. Agricultural Working Lands – (Prime, Statewide, and Locally important soils)

There are approximately 3245 acres of prime, statewide important, and locally important agricultural land in Shrewsbury, of which approximately 629 acres are of prime agricultural soil, just 2% of all land in town. These lands represent the soils mapped by the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) and Vermont Agency of Agriculture for soils that are suited for growing and agricultural potential. At one time, the Town of Shrewsbury was primarily an agrarian community, producing sheep, wool, maple, and dairy products. No dairy farms remain in the town, but the following forms of agriculture are currently practiced in town:

- Vegetable and fruit production
- Sheep and goat raising for wool, milk, and meat
- Cattle raising for beef
- Maple sugaring operations
- Tree farming for Christmas, ornamental, shade, and fruit stock
- Specialty crop farming (herbs; fresh and dried flowers)
- Aquaculture
- Beekeeping

Shrewsbury follows regional trends of farms operating on smaller acreages, and an increasing number of vegetable and specialty crop farms. Shrewsbury farms play an important part in the growing local food economy, selling most of their goods locally through Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions, farmstands, at local farmers markets, and to local retailers, food hubs, and wholesale distributors.

If maintained and encouraged, agricultural land use will continue to have a tremendously positive effect on the visual appeal and value of Shrewsbury's landscape and the productivity of the community. After 200 years of cultivation, many meadows cleared by the first settlers are no longer being used for productive means. Some are reverting to forest or are being used for housing sites, while many others are being mowed simply to keep scenic vistas intact. This poses increasingly high costs to landowners. Shrewsbury residents are truly interested in preserving the traditional rural character and scenic value of the Town, but unless economically viable forms of agriculture are encouraged, incentivized, or otherwise adopted, the bucolic scenery treasured by so many will be dependent on landowners with the means keep the land cleared at their own expense. Some of the most visible ways in which residents are maintaining large open fields are through grazing of cattle and cutting hay. Open fields are also facing increasing pressure from invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed, multiflora rose, bittersweet, autumn olive, buckthorn and more which are hard to control, requiring increasing effort and resources.

Perhaps the biggest threat of all to preserving agricultural soils and open land is development. Residential, commercial, or industrial development of agricultural lands provides at best a shortsighted benefit. Loss of productive land may reduce Shrewsbury’s long-term ability to support its population. Conversion to non-agricultural use increases costs to the community and diminishes its capacity for agricultural production. The more the requirements of Shrewsbury’s land uses match the properties of the underlying soils, the more likely the Town is to have a productive, healthy, and vigorous community now and in the future

In alignment with regional and trends, Shrewsbury is seeing an increase in the use of more regenerative farming practices. Reduced tillage, cover cropping, heavy use of mulches and compost, and intensive planned grazing are some of the ways that farmers are able to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the soil. This puts farmers in the unique position of being able to combat the rising levels of atmospheric CO2 that are causing global temperature increase and more frequent climate catastrophes.

At the same time, farmers are on the front lines when catastrophe strikes. Shrewsbury has seen damaging floods and drought affect farmers in recent years, as well as unpredictable frosts and prolonged heat waves. These challenges will only increase until we can draw down the greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere. See Climate Resilience Chapter.

As the cost of land rises, and pressure to build more housing increases, many wonder how the next generation of farmers will be able to afford land. Land conservation has been an effective strategy to keep land costs down, including the Vermont Land Trust’s Farmland Access Program,

and the Option to Purchase Land at Agricultural Value. Another tool to help keep property taxes lower is the Use Value Appraisal program, which assesses property taxes at its use value rather than its residential or commercial development value.

In 2023 the USDA updated its Plant Hardiness Zone Map and much of Shrewsbury is now in a Zone 5a or 5b, meaning the average annual extreme minimum winter temperature is -20 Degrees or -15 degrees respectively. This is one zone warmer than the 2013 map (formerly 4b) meaning that the minimum temperature has risen by 4-7 degrees Fahrenheit according to local and USDA data. This warmer climate has implications for which plant and animal species can survive and thrive in our town.

As of 2017, Vermont has implemented a set of Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality across the State. All agricultural practices are required to meet or exceed the standards defined by the RAPs

v. Forestry Working Lands

Many of the forested lands in Shrewsbury are working forests. These forests produce maple syrup, Christmas trees, balsam boughs, lumber, firewood, specialized products such as burls for carving, and vegetative products like mushrooms, ramps, fiddleheads, and ginseng. There are currently 10,077 acres on 89 parcels that are enrolled as forestland in the Use Value Appraisal (UVA) program. This accounts for 31 percent of Shrewsbury's land base. One of the benefits of the UVA program is that a forest management plan that is approved by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation VFPR) County Forester is required. Since the plan must ensure that the land is being managed according to accepted forestry standards, most landowners contract with private licensed foresters to develop, write, and implement the plan. According to the county forester, a good mix of both hard and softwood sawlogs, firewood, and pulp is being harvested from managed forestlands in Shrewsbury.

All logging jobs are required to follow Accepted Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMPs). The AMPs were developed to implement Title 10 V.S.A. Chapter 47: Water Pollution Control and were subsequently revised effective on August 11, 2018. The AMPs are intended to prevent discharges of sediment, along with other hazardous materials and woody debris (logging slash), from entering streams and other bodies of water, to control soil erosion, and to maintain natural water temperature. According to the VFPR website, the AMPs are available as an App for a smartphone or tablet.

One major product of working forests in Shrewsbury is maple syrup. Approximately 17 syrup producers of varying sizes operate in town, including some award-winning producers. Sugar bushes are eligible to be in the Use Value Appraisal program under forests or agriculture.

Climate change is affecting how Shrewsbury sugar makers operate, creating a need to tap trees earlier and boil earlier. Keeping sap cool until it can be boiled has also become an issue. Technology is also changing how sugaring is conducted, with tubing replacing buckets. Trees

can be tapped earlier to be ready for the first spring run. The use of tubing may benefit the maple trees, as tapping and collecting can be done from forest roads, lessening compaction on tree roots. Most sugar maples in the forests and along roads are quite old. There are a number of factors that can affect their health, including tent caterpillars, saddle prominent caterpillars, ice storms, and drought. One of these factors will not usually kill a tree, but when they occur consecutively in a season, they can severely damage or kill the tree. Another concern is that sugar maples are not regenerating readily. Invasives and deer browsing prevent regeneration, as well as competition from trees such as beech, birch, and red maple that regenerate more easily and are not favored by deer for browsing.

vi. Preservation Areas

(a). High Elevation Areas Above 2,300 Feet

As part of the Green Mountain Range, the land in Shrewsbury rises to relatively high elevations, with Shrewsbury Peak being one of Vermont's highest peaks at 3,720 feet above sea level. On high elevations, generally above 2,300 feet, precipitation is greater, air and soil temperatures are lower, soils are shallow and low in nutrients, slopes are steep, and fewer varieties of plants exist. Such characteristics create an environment which is intolerant of intensive use or development

Excessive erosion may result when these high-elevation areas are disturbed because the few natural species of plants at these altitudes grow quite slowly, thus reducing their ability to control erosion.

These high mountain areas play a vital role in the water cycle. The greater amounts of precipitation filter through the thin soils, eventually reaching major groundwater supplies. Uses which result in excessive soil compaction or the removal of vegetation or soil cover are especially detrimental to the natural drainage of water.

These lands also provide scenic beauty as noted in the Community Value mapping event as well as critical wildlife habitat and corridors, priority forest blocks, headwaters, and fragile natural environments. This also fosters the important role played by these areas in the water cycle and carbon sequestration and storage.

(b). Conserved Lands – Public and Private

Conserved lands in Shrewsbury include lands in State and Federal ownership include Coolidge State Forest (3,773.3 Acres), Jim Jeffords State Forest (834.4 Acres in Shrewsbury), Plymsbury Wildlife Management Area (1,571 Acres), Town Farm Wildlife Management Area (530 Acres), Clarendon Gorge Wildlife Management Area (54.4 Acres), and The Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Long National Recreation Trail Lands managed by the Green Mountain National Forest (2,315.49 Acres). The Town of Shrewsbury also owns 146 acres of undeveloped land, and there are 2,585 acres of land in private ownership conserved with the Vermont Land Trust.

Ownership/Area Name	Acres	Percent of Shrewsbury Land	Percent of Shrewsbury Conserved Land
Coolidge State Forest	3,773.3		32%
Jim Jeffords State Forest	834.4		7.1%
Plymsbury Wildlife Management Area	1,571		13.3%
Town Farm Wildlife Management Area	530		4.5%
Clarendon Gorge Wildlife Management Area	54.4		0.5%
Total State Land	6763.10	21%	57.3%
Appalachian & Long Trail Managed by Green Mountain National Forest	2,315.49	7.2%	19.6%
Town Of Shrewsbury – Conserved Land	146	.45%	1.2%
Private Conserved Land through the Vermont Land Trust	2585	8.0%	21.9%
Total Conserved Land	11809.59	36.7	

Conserved Land Acreage in Shrewsbury as of 2026

vii. Resource Protection Areas

(a). High Elevation Residential District

The lands between 2,000 and 2,300 feet above sea level that are not preserved through State or Federal ownership will be predominantly used for forestry, recreation, wildlife habitat management, and agriculture. The purpose being to protect the natural beauty of the mountain terrain and its resources as critical wildlife habitat and corridors, priority forest blocks, headwaters, and fragile natural environments; to prevent erosion of steep slopes and fragile soils. This also fosters the important role played by these areas in the water cycle and carbon sequestration and storage.

(b). Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are defined as areas with a grade in excess of 20%. These areas often have fragile and thin soils that are prone to erosion. Development on these slopes I prohibited with the exception of access roads with a slope of 15% of less. Slopes are identified in Natural Resource Map.

(c). Surface Waters and Wetlands

These areas identified in Natural Resource Lands and Managements Map shall not be drained, filled, or altered to accommodate land development or agricultural use. Proposals for the development or agricultural use of a lot involving or adjacent to an identified surface water and wetland shall provide for adequate setbacks of roads, buildings, structures, cropland additives,

and sewage systems from the surface waters and wetlands. Setbacks shall be adequate to protect the following surface waters and wetland values:

- Water quality control
- Groundwater supply
- Flood and erosion control
- Flora and fauna
- Education and recreation

(d). Source Protection Areas

A source protection area (SPA) is the surface and subsurface area from or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to reach a public water source. Any development within a state designated SPA shall demonstrate compliance with applicable state regulations. SPA's are identified on Natural Resource Lands and Managements Map.

(e). Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors are those areas of land that permit wildlife such as deer, bear, moose, bobcat, and other animals to move from one area of their range to another. Habitat fragmentation by development, such as roads and houses, prevents wildlife from accessing their full home range. It is important that animals be able to move for food and to preserve the genetic diversity of the species. These corridors also help provide contiguous habitat for plants, invertebrates, essential pollinators, and other wildlife. Wildlife corridors are crucial for bears as they must be able to move seasonally to areas of mast production, beech and oak nuts, in order to prepare for hibernation. Natural Resources and Habitats Map delineates important North – South corridors on both the Eastern and Western boundaries of Shrewsbury.

(f). Deer Wintering Areas

Areas which are used year after year by deer seeking winter shelter are called "wintering areas" or "deer yards". These areas consist of two basic habitat components. The "core range" is often characterized by concentration of softwoods and high crown closure. This provides numerous thermal and microclimatic advantages to the deer, such as reduced snow depths, less wind, increased daily mean temperatures, and increased relative humidity. South-facing slopes are often preferred yarding areas because they receive more direct solar radiation. The second component consists of mixed hardwood and softwoods adjacent to or within the core range, which provides accessible browse (Management guide for deer wintering areas in Vermont, Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department).

(g). Meadowlands and Open Lands

Meadowlands are hereby construed to mean open fields or cropland. These lands provide important habitat

Insert scenic meadow photo

diversity for wildlife and pollinator habitat. They also provide opportunities for agricultural use and views of the surrounding scenic landscape.

B. Future Land Use

The pattern and character of future land uses are guided by the policies in this plan and serve as the basis for zoning regulations. This plan does not propose to change the boundaries of any existing land use areas. There are issues related to many land use areas that deserve further community discussions and consideration. Future land use will be planned to occur in a manner which will be compatible with the natural resources, rural nature, scenic values, and historic pattern of the Town. Development will be directed away from areas which are not favorable for development for a variety of reasons to locations which are more beneficial to the Town, both in maintaining its present high environmental quality and in avoiding significant cost increases in municipal services.

Recent state regulations will influence future land use. Act 47, the Vermont Home Act, passed in 2023 allows duplexes in any zoning district that allows single family homes. This has the potential to increase housing densities in most land use areas. Act 59, the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act, also passed in 2023, establishes a statewide vision to maintain an ecologically functional landscape that sustains biodiversity, supports working farms and forests, strengthens community resilience, and upholds Vermont's historic pattern of compact villages surrounded by rural lands and natural areas. In order to achieve this the Act sets ambitious goals to conserve 30% of Vermont's landscape by 2030 and 50% by 2050. Village Center designation was updated to support communities and revitalization efforts in Act 181 passed in 2024.

Village Areas

All three of Shrewsbury's villages play an important role in the community. North Shrewsbury and Cuttingsville are recognized village centers in the Rutland Regional Plan, Shrewsbury Center is not. Cuttingsville has the most commercial and business development but the ability of future development to occur in Cuttingsville is severely restricted because it is in a flood hazard zone. Future land use issues are where to guide future development to occur including commercial development and housing while retaining the historic and scenic character of these villages. Development is also limited by the lack of public sewer and water. A community discussion on official Village Center designation, expansion of the Shrewsbury Center and North Shrewsbury village boundaries and how and where new development in the villages can occur will be critical to future land use decisions.

Village Center Designation supports the revitalization efforts of small and medium-sized historic centers. The designation brings financial incentives, training and technical assistance needed to attract new business and vitality to Vermont's smaller communities.

Commercial Development

The main concentration of commercial development is located in Cuttingsville with small commercial enterprises located in other parts of Shrewsbury. There is little opportunity for new commercial development in Cuttingsville since it is in a flood hazard zone. The siting of any new commercial enterprises particularly in the other village areas is a community discussion that can occur with the discussion of the villages. Commercial development outside the village areas will continue to be small scale fitting with the rural landscape.

Rural Residential Areas

Most of Shrewsbury will continue to be rural residential which includes the Rural Residential and Limited Residential zones. These lands are used mainly for housing, home businesses, agriculture and forestry. Development in these areas is limited by the lack of public sewer and water. Parcelization is a continued threat to the rural landscape and can take lands away from uses such as agriculture and forestry. Expansion of overlay zones to protect important resources such as wildlife crossings and land conservation efforts for working landscapes can lessen the impacts of subdivisions of these lands.

Agricultural Working Lands

The retention of working agricultural lands is important to the character of Shrewsbury. Retaining these lands will take a community effort that may include the diversification of agricultural uses, economic and technical support for agricultural working land businesses, continued and possibly increased tax support through the Use Value Appraisal program, and land conservation efforts. Act 59 may present opportunities for agricultural working lands to receive conservation funding.

Forestry Working Lands

Working forestlands in 2026 make up a significant amount of Shrewsbury's land base, 10,077 acres (31%). The retention of these areas is critical for maintaining forest blocks for wildlife habitat, production of forest products, recreation and opportunities for solitude. The Working Forest lands are located in many of the Town zoning districts making them susceptible to subdivision and housing development if not in the Use Value Appraisal program or other types of conservation. As with Agricultural working lands, working forestlands will benefit from continued and possibly increased tax support through the Use Value Appraisal program, and land conservation efforts. Act 59 may present opportunities for forestry working lands to receive conservation funding.

Preservation Areas

Shrewsbury will continue to preserve high elevation lands over 2300 feet for the environmental as well as scenic benefits. Permanently conserved land in Shrewsbury is already 39% of the land

base, well ahead of the 30% by 2030 desired in Act 59. In order to reach the 50% land conservation by 2050, a community discussion on preservation priorities will be important. Developing a preservation strategy for the future based on community land conservation priorities will assist with land conservation opportunities.

Resource Protection Areas

The Wildlife Road Crossing inventory provided new and more detailed information on wildlife activity in Shrewsbury. Based on this and potential further wildlife crossing inventory data a community discussion on the location and potential expansion of the wildlife corridor would be beneficial. Meadowlands have also been a resource protection area that has been discussed as needing reexamination. The issues of the size of the meadowlands protected in the overlay, the need for maintenance of these lands, and whether or not prime and secondary agricultural soils should be included in the overlay are others area for community discussion.

C. Future Land Use Map

See Appendix for Future Land Use Map

D. Land Use - Policies

1. The retention of the Town's scenic and rural character is a primary goal. The density and location of rural development shall be guided by the policies set forth in this Plan and by the provisions of the Shrewsbury Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

2. The review and approval of subdivision of land should follow the natural boundaries of physical or biological features when feasible.

3. Develop and maintain zoning regulations to reinforce the development of Shrewsbury’s three village centers.

4. Cluster related and compatible commercial uses in suitable areas.

5. Encourage the use of Open Space Development allowed in the Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations in order to provide more flexible approaches to residential development that are better suited to the land use goals set forth in this document.

6. Preserve the remaining agricultural land and to assure that farming remains a viable economic occupation and land use in Shrewsbury.

7. Encourage agricultural uses of the Town's agricultural land. These lands shall be protected so that their full potential for farming may be preserved, whether it is realized at the present time or at some future time.

8. Discourage non-agricultural development on Prime agricultural land. Development on Statewide or locally important soils should occur only in locations, patterns, and densities that will not substantially reduce the area or the productivity of these lands.

9. Discourage the subdivision of agricultural land. Agricultural land includes areas with agricultural soils and/or open fields identified in the Meadowlands map.

10. Encourage farmers and landowners to take advantage of existing State and Federal programs assisting the development and operation of viable agricultural operations.

11. Concentrate development on productive forestland in a pattern and density that does not substantially reduce the acreage available for productive forest management.

12. Support the development of forest product processing and value-added forest products.

13. Support land preservation efforts that will protect Shrewsbury's most valuable resources.

14. Permit development in resource protection areas only when development will not negatively impact the protected resource.

9. Housing

Shrewsbury's housing situation is influenced by the fact that many people prefer to live in an area like Shrewsbury that offers a rural lifestyle yet is close to Rutland and other centers of employment, business, and entertainment.

Shrewsbury has evolved from an agricultural community of densely populated villages and hamlets with sparsely populated farm and forest lands, into a rural residential community where the Town's population is spread-out across the rural land. Many new residential lots today are created through subdividing larger parcels, often by families whose land has been in their families for generations. Residential density in villages and hamlets is low and has remained static over several decades. Some of the reasons that residential growth is not occurring in villages and hamlets:

- Declining number of occupants per households;
- Virtually all of Cuttingsville's homes are located in a flood hazard area;
- Generally, soil capacity to easily add simple septic systems is a challenge on small lots;
- Few if any duplexes, and/or accessory dwelling units have been added;
- Small lots in village and hamlet areas have not been available on the real-estate market.

Labor availability may also constrain housing development in Shrewsbury. A limited regional construction workforce, including builders and skilled tradespeople, can affect the timing and cost of new construction, rehabilitation, and renovation of existing housing. These challenges are particularly important for smaller or more affordable housing projects where increased construction costs affect overall affordability.

The manner in which the Town accommodates new types of housing, and the distribution of housing in Town will partially determine the character Shrewsbury will have in the future. Although subdivisions of large farms into residential "lots" of 20-40 acres occurred in the 1970s-90s, more recent subdivision lot sizes have been per the minimum lot size allowed by the zoning district. These smaller lot sizes allow for a less costly option for potential residents to buy land and to build homes in town. Housing sites built in the 1970s-90s often were sited in open meadow lands, Shrewsbury's zoning now encourages new construction to be sited to retain open fields for future agricultural use and to be cognizant of and to protect wildlife habitat while tucking new construction into forest edges. If siting considerations are followed, Shrewsbury's lands can accommodate both residential growth as well as preservation of agricultural and silvicultural lands and protection of our wildlife habitat.
By looking at what housing is available, and at local population growth trends, the Town may be able to anticipate and influence the housing growth that may occur.

A. Housing Stock/Inventory

The 2025 Grand List shows that Shrewsbury had 550 residential properties. Most of these properties have only one residential unit.

Affordable housing in Shrewsbury is limited because of the relatively high real estate and development costs for new homes, particularly since the Town does not have water or sewer services. However, some older houses do occasionally come up for sale and a variety of rentals are available. Rentals include apartments and houses and increasingly, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Over the past nine years (2017 to 2026), although 189 building permits were issued, only 5 were for new houses. The vast majority were for decks, porches, sheds, a few garages, and other minor additions to existing properties. The town approved 16 subdivisions in this nine-year period, but only 12 created new lots. (Others were Boundary Line Adjustments).Although Shrewsbury recorded a high number of Property Tax Transfers in this period, they did not all represent sales of homes to new residents but instead they represent transfers of legal ownership for various legal means (mortgages, family members, trusts, change of names, etc.).

In addition to the above, one housing project was approved (by the town and by Act 250) and constructed. This project was for three residential buildings and was built by and at Spring Lake Ranch therapeutic community to accommodate residents and staff of the program. A community center serving the Spring Lake Ranch was also part of this project.

There are several camps in Town. Camps can be converted into residential homes as long as they meet requirements such as year-round access for emergency vehicles, an approved wastewater system, and change-of-use building permits.

New Housing and Lots				
New Housing / Lots	**1990 - 2000**	**2001 - 2010**	**2011 - 2020**	**2021 – 2026**
New houses permitted and built	46	39	20	1
New lots created (by subdivision)	Not Tracked	Not Tracked	Not Tracked	12
Total number of dwelling units per Grand List in 2025: 550				

Data from Shrewsbury Zoning Administrator Files

B. Housing and Population Trends

Shrewsbury's housing inventory changed relatively little between 2010 and 2020. The number of occupied housing units increased, while the number of vacant and seasonal units declined. Owner-occupied housing remains the predominant form of housing in Town, although the number of renter-occupied units increased between 2010 and 2020.

Housing Inventory Trends					
Housing Characteristic	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**% Change (2010 – 2020)**
Occupied Housing Units	382	426	446	469	↑ 5%
Vacant Housing Units	99	80	122	94	↓ 29%
Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use	68	71	83	68	↓ 22%
Total Housing Units	481	506	568	563	↓ 1%
Owner Occupied	334	364	395	410	↑ 3%
Renter Occupied	48	62	50	59	↑ 18%

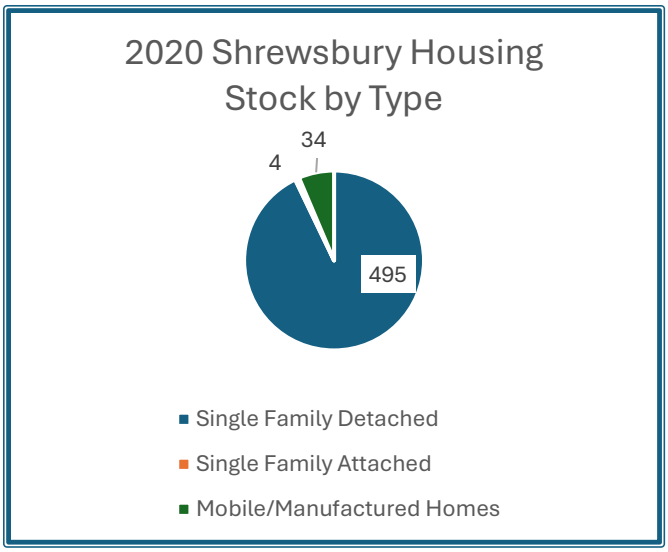
Source: U.S. Census Data

Between 2010 and 2020, Shrewsbury's total population increased slightly, from 1,056 to 1,096 residents. During the same period, the number of households increased from 446 to 469. According to U.S. Census data, Shrewsbury's average household size declined from 3.0 persons in 1980 to 2.3 by 2010 and remained at approximately 2.3 in 2020. As household sizes decline, a relatively stable population may still require additional housing units. The growth of the Town's older population may also influence the sizes, designs, locations, and types of housing needed in the future.

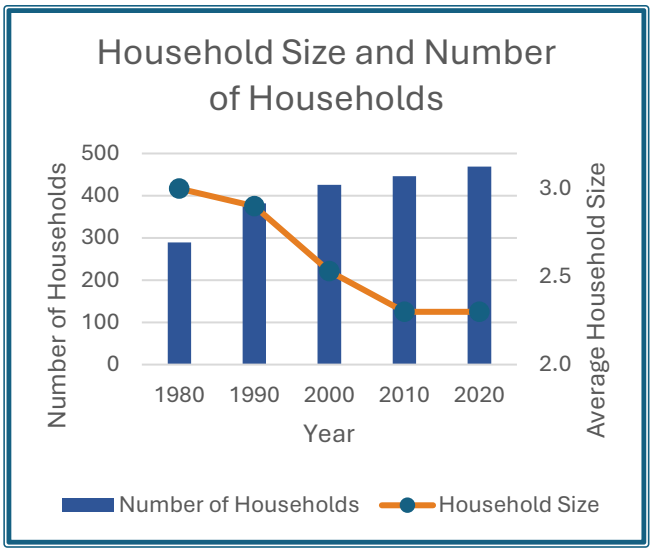
The age distribution of the population changed more significantly. Between 2010 and 2020, the number of residents age 65 and older increased from 201 to 310, while the number of adults between ages 18 and 64 declined from 684 to 620. The Town's median age increased from 50.0 to 53.2.

Population and Household Trends					
Population or Household Characteristic	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**% Change (2010 – 2020)**
Total Town Population	1,107	1,108	1,056	1,096	↑ 3%
Number of Households	382	426	446	469	↑ 5%
Size of Average Households	2.9	2.53	2.3	2.3	→ 0%
Number of Families	293	323	311	352*	↑ 13%
Number of Children Under 18	297	266	171	166	↓ 3%
Number of Adults Aged 18-64	686	706	684	620	↓ 10%
Number of Adults over 64	124	136	201	310	↑ 65%
Median Age of Residents	34.8	42.6	50.0	53.2	↑ 6%

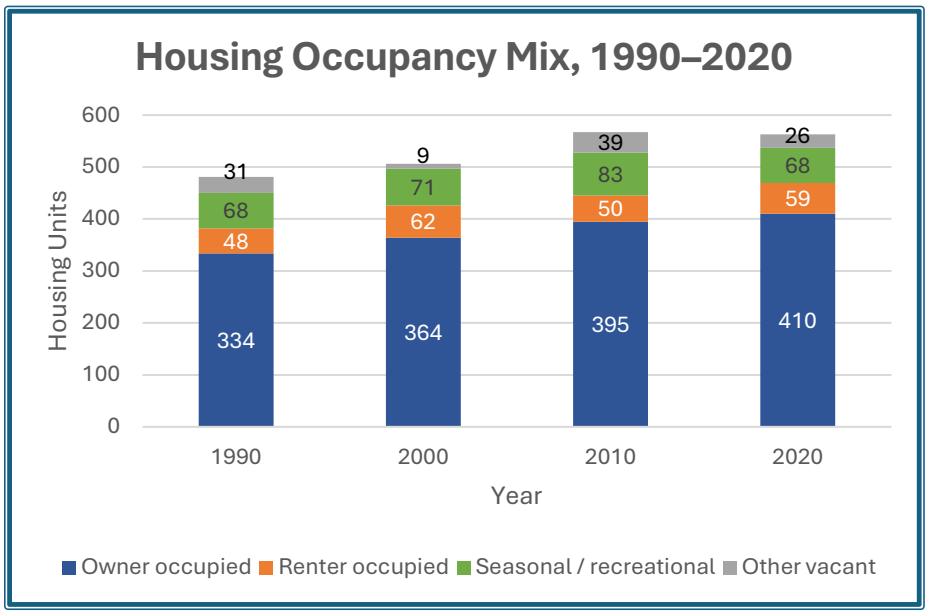
Source: ACS 2021 Five-Year Estimates



ACS 2024 Survey - Table B25024 - "Units in Structure"



U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census,1980-2020.



U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990–2020

C. Housing Affordability and Costs

Housing affordability depends on the relationship between household income and the cost of purchasing, renting, maintaining, and paying taxes on a home. Although Shrewsbury's median household income is relatively high compared with Rutland County, that figure does not reflect the circumstances of every household. Renters, older residents, first-time homebuyers, and households with low or moderate incomes may face substantially different housing conditions.

Housing Costs and Income						
Housing Cost or Income Measure	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**% Change (2010 – 2020)**
Median Household Income	$15,875	$35,000	$48,472	$60,179	$77,813	Increased
Median Sales Price of Homes	$41,300	$91,000	$109,800	$135,500	$220,000	Increasing fast
Median Rent	$250	$436	$456	$791	$1,142	Increasing fast

Source: HousingData.org

Although Shrewsbury's median household income is significantly higher than that of Rutland County, the median income of renter households is substantially lower. When considered alongside rising rents, this difference presents a significant challenge for rental housing affordability. Shrewsbury has relatively few rental units, but available data indicate that renters experience a greater housing-cost burden than homeowners.

Stable and affordable housing allows individuals and families to remain in the community and establish long-term community involvement. Housing affordability, however, varies considerably depending on household income, age, family size, employment, transportation expenses, property taxes, utility costs, and other individual circumstances.

Census and American Community Survey data cannot, by themselves, provide a complete assessment of housing needs and affordability in Shrewsbury. A local housing needs assessment would provide a more complete understanding of the types, sizes, price points, and quantities of housing needed by current and future residents.

High home prices and property taxes can limit a household's ability to purchase a home in Shrewsbury. High rents also create barriers for households with low or moderate incomes. Home sales prices and rents have increased rapidly, and although household incomes have also increased, they have not increased at the same rate as the cost of purchasing or renting a home.

Shrewsbury is not unique in experiencing higher housing costs. Rutland County, Vermont, and national trends all show increases in household income, rents, and home sales prices. In Rutland County, rents have increased more rapidly than incomes. In Shrewsbury, homes are selling at prices that would have been difficult to imagine a decade ago.

The increase in the market value of homes is often attributed in part to demand for second homes. Between 2020 and 2024, Vermont experienced an influx of out-of-state homebuyers with substantial financial resources for purchasing homes and land. Some acquired properties were constructed or upgraded for this market and are beyond the financial reach of many first-time homebuyers and working Shrewsbury residents.

Some of these properties are now second homes owned by nonresidents. Although second homes may place relatively limited demands on certain Town services, demand from the second-home market may affect local property values and increase the price of otherwise moderately priced homes that could serve year-round residents.

Shrewsbury's proximity to Okemo, Killington, and Pico may contribute to its attractiveness within the second-home market. However, Shrewsbury has not experienced the concentrated resort-related development that has occurred in communities closer to those ski areas

Cost Burden

30% is the federal standard of housing affordability. When households spend more than 30% of their income on mortgage, property taxes, insurance, utilities, and/or rent, it can be difficult to afford other basic necessities such as food, transportation, and healthcare.

D. Housing Needs

In 2024, 44 percent of Shrewsbury households, whether homeowners or renters, were headed by a person age 65 or older. Shrewsbury was also the fifth-highest median age in Rutland County in 2020.

The growth of the Town's older population, combined with increasing ownership and rental costs and declining household sizes, supports the need for housing in a wider variety of types, sizes, and price points. Housing that serves people with low and moderate incomes, older adults, single-person households, small families, and first-time homebuyers will be particularly important.

Recent changes to Vermont law have made accessory dwelling units more permissible and made duplexes allowed wherever single-family homes are permitted. These changes provide additional opportunities to accommodate housing within existing residential areas and buildings.

The 2026 Rutland Regional Plan Housing Needs Assessment identifies a 2023–2040 midpoint housing target of 39 new housing units for Shrewsbury. The housing targets described in the Regional Plan reflect a range of regional housing demand scenarios—from historical trends to recent increases, with the 'midpoint' balancing both. This target of 39 units to be added by 2040 represents a substantial increase over the Town's recent rate of housing production. Only five new homes were built between 2016 and 2026. Meeting the regional target would therefore require the pace of housing development to increase considerably.

The Town recognizes that achieving the housing target will be challenging under current economic and development conditions. Nevertheless, the target demonstrates the scale of the

region's housing need and the importance of identifying realistic opportunities for additional housing in Shrewsbury.

E. Future Housing Needs

The Town recognizes the need to respond to demand for affordable housing and smaller homes that can serve the variety of individuals and families who currently live in, or would like to live in, Shrewsbury.

Future housing opportunities should include starter homes and homes priced for households with a range of incomes. Smaller lots, homes in village centers, multifamily homes, accessory dwelling units, and rental housing could all contribute to meeting this need.

Shrewsbury Center could potentially accommodate a higher density of residential development. The Town could also consider whether appropriate hamlet areas should be designated for village-style development with smaller minimum lot sizes than are currently allowed. Changes of this type would require public discussion, evaluation of infrastructure and environmental constraints, and community support.

Affordable Housing

The State of Vermont defines "Affordable Housing" as "an average price new home or an older house in good condition that a person with an average income ought to be able to buy or rent."

The renovation and conversion of existing buildings may also create additional housing opportunities. Large residences may be suitable for conversion into duplexes or multifamily dwellings, provided adequate wastewater capacity and other applicable requirements can be met. Such conversions could provide housing for single people, small families, older adults, and others seeking smaller homes.

Accessory dwelling units offer another opportunity to add housing while maintaining the Town's rural character. State law provides greater flexibility for accessory dwelling units, including allowing detached units and units of up to 30 percent of the habitable floor area of the primary home or 900 square feet, whichever is greater.

Residential development shall be discouraged in flood hazard areas and river corridors. New residential development should be planned with consideration for road safety, emergency services, school capacity, wastewater suitability, and potential effects on the Town's fragile areas, natural resources, scenic resources, and working lands.

F. Housing - Policies

POLICY:

1. Encourage higher-density housing in village areas.
2. Encourage higher-density development, including clustered development within the Town's Open Space Development zoning framework, where it can reduce the cost per housing unit while preserving more open land than development based solely on minimum parcel sizes.

3. Permit a broad variety of housing alternatives, including conventionally constructed homes, prefabricated homes, tiny homes, mobile homes, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and multifamily housing where appropriate.
4. Support housing opportunities affordable to low- and moderate-income households by encouraging smaller homes, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, multifamily housing, and the rehabilitation or conversion of existing buildings where appropriate.
5. The Unified Subdivision and Zoning Regulations shall be updated to allow duplexes in all districts in which single-unit dwellings are permitted. Dimensional standards shall not be more restrictive than those applicable to a single-unit dwelling, and review requirements shall be consistent with those applicable to a single-unit dwelling.
6. The Unified Subdivision and Zoning Regulations shall be updated to define an accessory dwelling unit as a distinct unit that is clearly subordinate to a single-family dwelling and contains facilities for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation, provided that:
    a. The property has sufficient wastewater capacity; and
    b. The unit does not exceed 30 percent of the total habitable floor area of the single-family dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is greater.
7. The Development Review Board shall continue to provide timely review of residential permit applications within its jurisdiction.
8. Consider performing a housing needs assessment for Shrewsbury in coming years.

Housing Needs Assessment

Our neighboring town of Mount Holly undertook a housing assessment in 2025-6 (funded by the Municipal Planning Grant Program, under VT Dept of Housing and Community Development) The purpose of their study was to help them understand their current housing conditions, identify gaps in the local housing market, and outline practical strategies that respond to both immediate needs and long-term goals and to provide the Town address affordability issues and find new locations for housing that make sense from an economic, environmental, and social perspective.

10. Economy

Timber, agricultural land, and sand/gravel deposits are still a part of Shrewsbury's economic base, but the greatest resource Shrewsbury has is its land and its rural and scenic nature. This special land resource contributes to the local economy and that of the Region and State where tourism and recreation are the leading industries. The Town's challenge is to keep Shrewsbury predominantly rural. Silviculture including timber and maple syrup production, small and medium scale agriculture, small commercial businesses and local home occupations offer economic opportunities for Shrewsbury residents while reinforcing the basic rural economy of the Town.

A. Economic Base

Maple Syrup Industry. The maple syrup industry is an important economy in the town. In 2026, at least three large scale sugaring operations collected sap from maple stands in Shrewsbury's forested lands; some of the land owned by, and other land leased by the sugaring operations. Two maple syrup operations not only collect, boil and ship bulk syrup but also sell the product in local retail shops in Town, including at their own store. This industry employs a moderate number of residents and a few outside the town, though it is often mostly family-owned and operated. The industry depends on healthy forest stands of sugar maple trees.

Timber Harvests. Timber harvests are also an economy that depends on healthy regenerative forest management. Although Shrewsbury's lands and forests provide the product, the actual timber harvest, whether for lumber, wood pulp, or firewood, is typically hired out to larger contractors, none of whom reside in Shrewsbury. As well, many of the larger timber lots in Town are owned by out-of-state commercial operations. The closing of paper mills in New England has reduced the market for wood pulp.

Tourism and Recreation. The AT/LT runs through Shrewsbury and some economic activity results from hikers visiting local retail stores. Winter ski trails serve locals but are not owned or managed for commercial tourism. Winter sports and summer biking, the open-studio arts and crafts weekends, as well as the tourism during "leaf-peeping" season bring added business for local stores and home occupations, the restaurant, as well as short term rentals and the two inns located in Shrewsbury Center.

Agriculture. Though the last dairy farm in Shrewsbury stopped sending milk and sold off its dairy cows by the early 2010's, recent years have seen an increase in established local vegetable and fruit farms, most of them owned and operated by a new generation of farming families. These diverse farms provide employment for town residents as well as for part-time and seasonal employees. The produce from these farms is marketed through Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), farmers markets, roadside markets, restaurants spotlighting local foods, and small grocery stores and coops including Shrewsbury Cooperative at Pierce's Store in Town. Locally raised meats also make up the bounty of locally produced and locally marketed food

products. Nearby markets for fresh produce, and local meats are crucial to the success of these Shrewsbury farmers.

The largest employer in Town is Spring Lake Ranch, one of the oldest residential therapeutic communities in the United States.

Despite these economic bases, Census In-Flow and Out-Flow data (*U.S. Census 2024*) shows that most (98.3%) of Shrewsbury residents find employment outside of Town, with 18% of these commuting to Rutland for their employment.

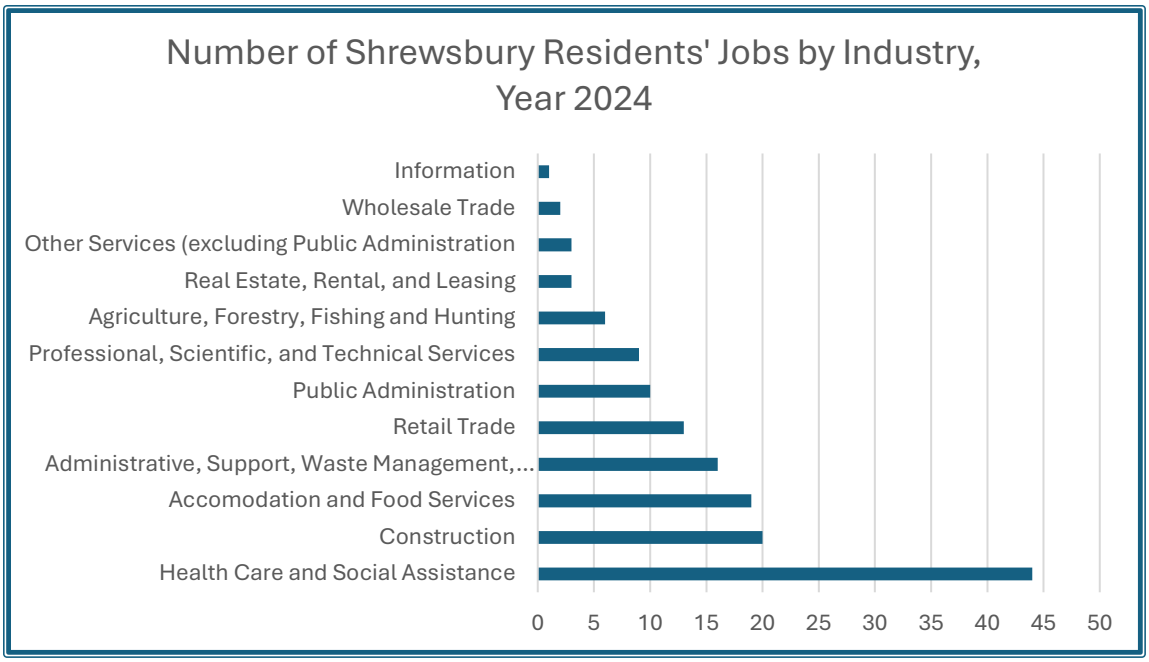
B. Workforce and Income

Shrewsbury's unemployment rate decreased from 6.1% in 2010 to 2% in 2024. According to the 2020-2024 American Community Survey, approximately 93.7% of Shrewsbury residents age 25 and older are high school graduates or higher, and 41% hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Shrewsbury's 2024 median household income is estimated at $91,250, compared with $81,203 statewide and $68,616 in Rutland County. In 2024, Shrewsbury had 167 "covered jobs" across 42 establishments with an average annual wage of $55,736.

"Covered Jobs"

"Covered Employment and Wages" refers to those that are tracked by American Community Survey which the Vermont Department of Labor uses to track labor data in Vermont. "Covered Jobs" are those with employer provided insurance. The data tracked does not include many home occupations, self-employment and small agriculture.

Shrewsbury's estimated median household income was $91,250 in 2024. Employment data show that jobs in Shrewsbury span a variety of sectors, with health care and social assistance accounting for the largest share at 30.1%. Construction and accommodation and food services were also significant sectors, accounting for 13.7% and 13.0% of employment, respectively. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting accounted for a combined 4.1% of employment. *(Source: 2024 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics).*



U.S. Census Bureau Workforce & Commuting Data Maps, 2024

C. Inflow/Outflow Commuting Patterns

According to employment statistics *(U.S. Census Bureau Workforce & Commuting Data Maps)* in 2024, 98.3% of employed Shrewsbury residents work outside of Shrewsbury. Approximately 18% of these residents commute to Rutland City for employment, while others commute to employment centers throughout the surrounding region.

D. Economic Future Opportunities

The emphasis for Shrewsbury's economic future is in supporting the development of a dynamic and resilient economy characterized by a strong workforce and a solid base of diverse businesses. The type of economic activity that is most suitable is the type that meets the social and economic needs of its residents while preserving the environment's ability to support it. Community based economic approaches encourage local economic activity to ensure that the benefits generated from these activities can be retained in the community.

The Community Forum on the Future of Shrewsbury, held in 2012, asked Shrewsbury residents to share their vision for the future. Ideas related to economic activity expressed a desire for small industry and stores, home cottage businesses, green enterprises, and educational facilities. Some of these visions have been fulfilled.

A number of small service businesses existing in Shrewsbury including a hair salon, a restaurant, a gift shop, a grocery-coop, and a meat and maple syrup retail store. While the largest concentration of economic activity has been located in Cuttingsville on Route 103, where the town's post office is located, Cuttingsville now has only a few commercial establishments serving the public. As of 2026, a retail store is open in each of the villages of Shrewsbury Center

and in Northam (North Shrewsbury). Northam is also home to the Town Office. Several on-farm retail produce stands are now located in Town.

There are also several and varied types of building contractors and handyman services in Town. These include home renovation, energy efficiency improvements, heating and plumbing, roofing, carpentry, and new home construction. Several property management businesses in Shrewsbury provide services such as year-round home maintenance, plowing and sanding in winter, and landscaping, excavating, during the construction season. The property management industry is beneficial in that it provides economic opportunity and assists homeowners to continue to stay in their homes with the help to manage their property and home. On the other hand, an indication of the growth of property management businesses is that it may indicate a preponderance of vacation homeowners and non-local property owners.

Advances in technology have enabled more people to work from their homes while having jobs located in other parts of the state, country, or even the world. High speed fiber broadband, now accessible to all Shrewsbury residents, as well as access to nearby train and air travel, have contributed to the growth and potential for home occupations in Shrewsbury.

E. Economy - Policies

POLICY:

1. Foster locally appropriate economic growth that supports existing businesses, creates opportunities for new small-scale businesses and home occupations, and strengthens Shrewsbury's local economy while maintaining the Town's rural character.
2.
3. Encourage home occupations that do not disrupt neighborhood character.
4. Support using financial, physical, and technical resources to facilitate economic development, including the creative use and revitalization of suitable existing space.
5. Encourage support of Shrewsbury’s existing businesses
6. Limit commercial development to the scale and character necessary to protect Shrewsbury’s rural and small-town atmosphere.

11. Facilities and Services

A. Town Governance

Shrewsbury's governance is by the three-member Selectboard elected for 3-year terms. The Selectboard's role is defined by VT statute and includes appointing town officials, managing town employees, controlling the town highways, and completing orders. The Selectboard adopts town policies, the town plan, ordinances and bylaws. Their responsibilities include setting and maintaining the town budget and deciding legal matters (a quasi-judicial role). All Selectboard meetings are required, by Vermont's Open Meeting law, to be public, accessible remotely, and recordings must be posted for public access afterwards.

In 2025, the Selectboard hired a part-time administrative assistant to the Selectboard. Duties of this position include drafting/maintaining Selectboard meeting minutes, grant applications, town website maintenance and postings, maintaining the town's email, and managing remote meeting access.

The Town Office located in North Shrewsbury(Northam) is the center of town government activities and the location of all hard copy town records, maps, property records (including the digital records search workstations), and more. Most official meetings of governing officials and commissions are held at the town office. The town office is home to the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and contract Assessors' local office. The Town Clerk, which is an elected position, is responsible for maintaining town records, running elections, and providing many civil service duties for town residents.

Many of the town's operations and functions are made possible by the volunteers dedicated to Shrewsbury. Along with the employees who keep our town roads maintained, our records in order, our orders paid, our school functioning, and our transfer station operating, many boards and positions are held by volunteers. These include - Selectboard, Zoning Administrator, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, local school board members, a health officer, town constables, and many more. Other than the elected Selectboard and school board members, town officials are appointed by the Selectboard. Filling these important positions with engaged townspeople is crucial to the ongoing function of the town.

In 2023, the town website was updated to allow for user-friendly access to town announcements, events, and town government public information. In 2024, a video conferencing system was installed at the Town Office to allow for increased remote participation and transparency in town government activities. Recordings of Selectboard meetings and other non-advisory meetings are posted with links available on the Town website.

Shrewsbury is a member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with the mission of serving and strengthening Vermont's local governments. Shrewsbury is a member of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC),

which provides regional planning and technical assistance in areas such as municipal planning, transportation, emergency management, economic development, and water quality. The town pays annual membership dues to RRPC and appoints representatives to serve on its Board of Commissioners and represent Shrewsbury's interests in regional planning and decision-making.

B. Municipal Facilities (Land and Buildings)

The Town owns undeveloped land on Jockey Hill (119.8 acres), the Mandigo Meadow to the west off the CCC Road (18.3 acres), a parcel to the west of Northam Rd across from town transfer station property, (83 acres), lots 189 and 190 (totaling 202 acres) located in Coolidge State Forest (aka the Glebe lots), the area adjacent to the Brown Covered Bridge (aka 'Warner Swimming Hole,' 17 acres), and a lot on Lincoln Hill Rd just west of Shrewsbury Center (aka 'Former Ahorn Lot,' 3.8 acres). The Town owns the Town garage and transfer station near Northam (28.7 acres), the Community Meeting House in Shrewsbury Center including the parcel and the small garage where the Community Meeting House sits (2.3 acres) and the Town Office in Northam (0.94 acre).

C. Fire Protection

Insert photo of Fire Truck- Rescue 1

The Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (SVFD), is a private, non-profit corporation organized in March 1952, by request of the Selectboard, to provide fire protection to the community. The department's primary purpose is the saving of life. Its secondary purpose is the saving and protection of property. All equipment is purchased and training conducted in accordance with these purposes.

The SVFD responds to about fifty (50) calls each year. Members are not just firefighters but first responders who deal with vehicular accidents, downed trees and wires, alarm responses, injured hikers and more. SVFD consists of about eighteen (18) unpaid members; though the number of volunteers varies over time. Members meet on a weekly basis and collectively spend hundreds of hours annually to train, maintain equipment, to fundraise and to perform other tasks to be ready for any emergency. Through membership in the Rutland County Fire Mutual Aid Association the SVFD Chief can summon nearby fire departments when a given emergency requires additional manpower or equipment.

SVFD operates out of two fire stations. Cuttingsville Station (23 Shunpike Road) was built in the 1950s. It has two small bays for vehicles and a second-floor meeting room. In 2026, the SVFD was working to expand the boundaries of the small lot acquired in 1956 toward plans to enlarge or replace the current building in order to accommodate standard twenty-first century fire trucks. Northam Station (9171 Cold River Road) was erected in the 1960s. It is a one-story building with two truck bays. This structure may also need to be enlarged in the future to meet fire protection equipment storage needs.

i. SVFD Equipment as of 2026:

SVFD owns five vehicles, the most recent (2025) acquisition being a four-wheel drive "mini-pumper" built with Shrewsbury needs in mind. Named "Rescue 1, " this vehicle has a 1500 gpm pump and sits on a Ford F550 chassis which is small enough to fit in Cuttingsville Station. "Engine 1" is a 2000 Freightliner 1250 gpm pumper; it is also currently stationed in Cuttingsville. "Engine 2" – a 2007 Pierce 1250 gpm pumper. This pumper is currently stationed in Northam. SVFD also owns "Tanker 1" (on a 1992 Ford F800 chassis) and "Tanker 2" (on a 2003 International chassis). Until recently, these two tankers were housed in Cuttingsville and Northam respectively. In 2026 (the year this Town Plan was drafted), due to the lack of a fifth station bay, only Tanker 1 is located in Northam while Tanker 2 is housed off site (though readily available if needed). Given their age, one or more of these vehicles will likely have to be replaced in the coming decade. The Town purchased these vehicles with assistance from the SVFD Equipment Reserve Fund, established in 1995 for fire truck acquisition.

ii. SVFD Funding:

The Town annually funds the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department's operating budget with property taxes, supplemented by fundraising efforts. In 2025, SVFD's operating expenses were $84,356. The Town contributed $35,000 (41%), while the balance ($59%) was raised by SVFD. The Town also contributes annually to the SVFD Equipment Reserve Fund through property taxes.

iii. Water Sources for Firefighting:

There are 5 dry hydrant locations including Cold River, Mill River and a stream on Spring Lake Road. There are several dry hydrants on landowners' fire ponds. These ponds require regular maintenance such as dredging. The State of Vermont (Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force) offers some financial assistance to install the dry hydrants.

D. Drinking Water and Sanitary Sewer

There are two community water systems in Shrewsbury. Cuttingsville Fire District #1 supplies water to 108 residents in the village of Cuttingsville using two drilled wells and a 16,000-gallon reservoir located north of the village. A much smaller system at Spring Lake Ranch serves 70 residents via two protected groundwater sources. One other mapped protected groundwater source is the one serving the Shrewsbury Mountain School. Homes and businesses otherwise rely on individual shallow or drilled wells for their water supply. Groundwater Protection Areas are shown on the Natural Resources Map.

Wastewater (sewage) is disposed of through individual on-site septic systems. Permitting approval of both drinking water and sanitary sewer are wholly under the jurisdiction and control of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Wastewater Systems and Potable Water Supply Program. (https://dec.vermont.gov/water/wastewater-systems-and-potable-water-supply-program/wastewater-systems-and-potable-water)

E. Waste Management

Solid wastes can cause serious health and environmental problems if not treated and disposed of properly. It is essential for the Town to require and, where appropriate, to provide adequate and safe disposal systems for solid waste products.

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC). In 2002 Shrewsbury joined in an Interlocal Contract with the towns of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven to address the solid waste needs of these communities. The contracting towns are known as the Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC).

SWAC contracts with a part-time administrator to represent the member towns at state-wide solid waste and hazardous waste meetings, disseminate information to the towns, obtain grants for the benefit of the SWAC towns, coordinate recycling pickups, oversee shared equipment, and help maintain a Solid Waste Implementation Plan (required by State regulation) covering all SWAC towns.

A Shrewsbury representative to SWAC is appointed annually by the Selectboard. The SWAC representative reports quarterly on Shrewsbury's waste and recyclables and contacts SWAC to arrange pick-ups of paper recycling and electronics. SWAC arranges household hazardous waste collections that are available to residents four days per year with drop-off service available through an agreement with the Rutland County Solid Waste Management District throughout the year. The cost of these collections is shared by the SWAC towns.

Solid Waste Transfer Station. Shrewsbury operates a solid waste transfer station, open for use by residents twice a week. To use the facility, a town issued transfer station sticker is required on the resident's vehicle. Shrewsbury residents can dispose of household trash at a cost per trash bag that corresponds with the tipping (hauling) fee, as required by State statute. These trash bags go to a landfill. By state law, food waste is not allowed in household trash bags, however, a compost bin is available for residents to dispose of food scraps.

Other items are disposed of in several separate bins per the recycling stream: the "Zero-Sort" collects plastic items (#1,#2, #5), cardboard, and glass; other bins are used to collect white paper, glossy/magazine paper, newspaper, tin cans, metals, and other items. Residents can find recycling rules on the town website or the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation-Waste management website page (https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid).

The transfer station is attended by 1-2 part-time transfer station attendant town employees. The attendants are responsible for assisting residents, punching trash bag disposal cards, and maintaining a clean and orderly facility.

Shrewsbury contracts with a private, licensed waste hauler who disposes of: household trash (collected in a compactor), “zero-sort” recyclables (cardboard, glass, plastics), metals (at no charge to the town), and a few other recyclable materials. Food scraps are transported weekly by a town volunteer to the waste hauler’s site. Except for metals, all trash and recyclables are collected and hauled at a cost per pound by the licensed waste hauler.

The town transfer station undergoes a five-year renewal inspection, certification, and licensing process by the State. Reducing the quantity of waste materials is essential to controlling the cost of solid waste disposal. Recycling and reusing materials keeps them out of landfills as does composting organic matter.

The Town has a solid waste ordinance, titled ‘Town Of Shrewsbury Civil Ordinance Variable Rate Pricing By Volume Or Weight For Municipal Solid Waste Collection’. This ordinance implements rules for variable rate pricing charges for municipal solid waste collection from residential customers for disposal based on the volume or weight of the waste collected. This ordinance applies to all solid waste haulers and facilities that accept and collect municipal solid waste from residential customers.

F. Police Protection

The Town is served by a first and second constable elected on Town Meeting Day. In addition, Shrewsbury is covered to a limited extent by the Vermont State Police Troop "C" barracks located in Rutland Town and the Rutland County Sheriff’s department. As of 2024, the Town contracts for services through the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department including animal control, and speed enforcement,

G. Emergency Medical Services

Rutland Regional Ambulance Service, Inc. (RAS) provides emergency medical response to Shrewsbury residents. The Rutland Regional Ambulance Service receives funds from the Town at a per capita rate of $4.00.

H. Emergency Management

Shrewsbury is subject to a variety of hazards, both natural and man-made. Floods, lightning and thunderstorms, ice storms, and heavy snows can wash out roads, cause fires and floods, cause serious power outages, isolate sections of the Town, and inflict personal injury.

The Town maintains a Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) which is updated annually and posted on the Town website. The LEMP provides information such as the contact information for the Town’s Emergency Management Director (EMD) and Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), the town’s emergency shelters, as well as contact information and appointed responsibilities for personnel during an emergency (town clerk, health officer, fire department, road commissioner, etc.).

The Town Office on Cold River Road serves as the primary location for both the emergency operations center (EOC) and local shelter. Similarly, the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House on Lottery Road serves as an alternate location for both. Both properties can operate as warming centers in winter, but only the Town Office currently has cooling center capabilities for summer.

Planning for emergencies can reduce the impact of expected but unpredictable natural hazards. Thus, a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is drafted by the town's hazard mitigation planning team with the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. The LHMP is renewed and adopted every five years. The purpose of this Plan is to identify all natural hazards facing the Town of Shrewsbury, to rank them according to local vulnerabilities, and to develop strategies to reduce the risks posed by these hazards. The LHMP seeks to be in accordance with the most recent State Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as with LHMPs of neighboring towns. The most recent Shrewsbury LHMP was adopted in November 2026.

The town maintains an Emergency Information Facebook page.

The town owns and maintains a radio antenna on the top of Kinsman's Hill to enhance communication among all the first responders in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas.

The town has an Emergency Management Ordinance adopted in May 2006. The ordinance establishes a local coordinating agency for all activities to ensure the efficient and effective use of the Town's facilities to "combat attacks or other disasters." This ordinance outlines the emergency authority, duties, and responsibilities of the Emergency Management Director and all municipal employees, equipment, facilities, and departments related to emergency management to minimize damage, and protect and restore Community Lifelines and critical services.

I. Child Care Services

Child Care services are critical for many families. The after-school programs at Shrewsbury Mountain School fill that need for school aged children, allowing parents to pick up students after the workday. Shrewsbury Mountain School has an afterschool program for Pre-K students. The Mill River Union District offers a District-wide afterschool program at the Shrewsbury Mountain School for grades K-6. Both programs are 3:00-5:15 pm, Mon-Fri, and are staffed by fully licensed childcare providers.

J. Elder Services

As Shrewsbury continues to follow the state-wide trend for an increasingly older population, the need arises to provide services to accommodate the senior members of Town. Many of Shrewsbury's seniors have been residents since birth or young-age and others have chosen to move here decades ago to enjoy the natural beauty and true sense of community the area has to offer. Even as they age, many desire to stay in Shrewsbury and continue participating and volunteering in local organizations and Town functions, thus remaining a vital part of this community.

In 2021 “Green Mountain Neighbors” was established to fill some of the needs of senior residents of Shrewsbury and the towns of Mt Holly and Wallingford. Green Mountain Neighbors (GMN) provides their members with the support and non-medical services they need to stay in their homes while getting older. GMN helps its members remain active, socially connected, and independent for as long as possible by linking volunteers to neighbors who need services and providing a gateway to information about existing social, recreational, and support services in the area. GMN is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization associated with the Village-to-Village Network, a national network across the United States. (https://greenmountain.helpfulvillage.com)

K. Facilities and Services - Policies

POLICY:

1. The town should maintain its membership in VLCT. The town should encourage all town officials (elected and appointed) and staff to take advantage of the resources and training available through VLCT.
2. The town should maintain membership to RRPC. And continue to take advantage of the collaboration with RRPC especially for their assistance in MRPG updates, Culvert inventory updates, etc.
3. The town should consider developing Capital Planning for operations, maintenance, and replacements of Town facilities, equipment, and highways.
4. All future development within the Town should be in accord with the capabilities of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department to service the development.
5. If development includes a pond, consideration should be given to installation of a dry hydrant.
6. Facilities and effective equipment for fire protection shall be provided within the financial capabilities of the fire department and Town.
7. Encourage the continuation of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund.
8. Encourage the continuation of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Operating Fund.
9. Encourage residents to join the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department.
10. With any significant increase in population or development, consideration should be given to ways in which police protection can be made available on a more comprehensive basis.
11. Encourage support of the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service
12. Continue to develop and train an effective Emergency Management Team and volunteer program.
13. Continue to develop and enhance the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Review, update and readopt the LHMP at minimum every five years or more often as may be warranted.
14. Deploy the assistance of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission in developing the LHMP.

15. Update the Town Emergency Management Ordinance and post it on the town website.
16. Post a link to the Town's emergency management Facebook page on the town website.
17. Identify and apply to funding sources for essential equipment, such as radios and generators.
18. Maintain the easement agreement with the landowner where the emergency communications radio antenna is located.
19. Educate Shrewsbury citizens about Emergency Management and potential hazards through articles in the Times of Shrewsbury and at local and regional workshops.
20. Actively participate in multi-town emergency preparedness activities while striving to be self-sufficient wherever possible.
21. Promote emergency safety among households in Shrewsbury.
22. Support local organizations such as Green Mountain Neighbors.
23. Support planning, development of elder support services and facilities in the region.

12. Utilities

A. Electric Service

Electric utility power in Shrewsbury is provided by Green Mountain Power whose local headquarters are in nearby Rutland, VT.

All of the electric distribution in Shrewsbury was originally constructed as overhead lines mounted on utility poles and most routes are original to the layout of the first electrified farms and homesteads in the town. Most of the routes thus run across the landscape rather than along or in proximity to roads. The overhead lines are subject to power outages due to falling and downed trees especially where constructed of older uninsulated conductors. The corridors that must be continually maintained clear of tree growth on each side of the distribution wires is minimum 25 feet.

Electric Lines in Town

A transmission line is the set of conductors (wires) and supporting towers that carry electric power from a generation source to a substation. They are typically at a higher voltage than distribution lines. VELCO transmission lines traverse Shrewsbury in a 300 foot right-of-way corridor.

An electric distribution line is the local utility conductors and poles that carry electric power from the substation to the utilization points in the area such as residences, farms and businesses. They typically are constructed today along transportation corridors though originally (1940's-1950's) were run cross-country from farm to farm.

In 2025, GMP upgraded and replaced an older section of the town's electric distribution with underground electric distribution. The underground project included a conduit for communications wires (previously mounted on the same older utility poles) to be installed in the same trench. GMP also upgraded some areas with insulated wires, which helps to make the lines more resilient to falling and icy tree branches brushing against the live wires during storms.

Overhead utility lines (electric and communications) inappropriately sited along roadsides has an aesthetic impact. The tree-trimming required to maintain them can significantly change the character of a road where branches arch overhead. The web of overhead lines in village centers may also limit the size of trees that can grow there. Careful siting of overhead lines can mitigate the visual impact (using a crisscross layout rather than running alongside the road; setting a single feeder at a height above the tree canopies; and eliminating the lower and often more visually impacting communications lines by installing them underground.

Power Outage Summary (2021-2025)

Average number of times a customer was without power in a year	4.80 times
Average length of each outage in hours	4.27 hours
Total duration of the average customer interruptions per year in hours	25.22 hours

3-Phase power is not distributed in Shrewsbury and in most areas, it is a significant distance away from an existing 3-phase distribution source. This makes utility scale renewable power sites less attractive to developers.

Shrewsbury currently has two major electrical power transmission line corridors running through the town. Both of these are operated and managed by Vermont Electric

Company (VELCO). These transmission lines have environmental and aesthetic impacts on the Town, such as electromagnetic radiation, noise, wildlife corridor interruption, and the visual impact of clear-cut swaths (much greater for transmission lines) across ridgelines and hillsides.

B. Broadband & Telecommunication

Shrewsbury has two telephone carriers providing services within the town's borders. These carriers are responsible for providing and maintaining phone services in their designated areas. Vermont Telephone Company (VTel, headquartered in Springfield, VT) services most of the town with a fiber-optic network which provides high-speed broadband for internet service and phone service. Most of Vermont Telephone Company's fiber network is installed underground. Fidium (previously named Consolidated Communications, Inc.) provides a fiber-optic network which provides high-speed broadband for internet and phone service in a small area of northwest Shrewsbury). Fidium's legacy copper telephone system still exists as of 2026 serving a handful of customers. All of Fidium fiber and copper network is installed overhead on existing utility poles.

One additional broadband/cable TV service provider, Comcast (aka Xfinity), provides services in limited areas of the town. Comcast provides broadband for medium-speed internet, cable TV and phone service via its coaxial cable network. All of Comcast's coaxial network is installed overhead on existing utility poles.

The fiber optic cables that provide landline phone service and/or telecommunications service over internet depend upon power available at the service location (home or business). During utility power outages the fiber-optic cable service box must be provided with a battery back-up device. These devices are made available from the broadband and telecommunications providers.

Shrewsbury is a district member town of the Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD) which was formed to ensure high-speed broadband access to rural areas. OCCUD contracted with Fidium for the Shrewsbury service area which was constructed in 2024. OCCUD's contract with Fidium includes oversight of service performance and pricing.

C. Cellular Service & Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Cellular service is Shrewsbury is limited due to the nature of the town's mountainous terrain and the lack of cellular service facilities to provide adequate coverage of all areas of the town. There is one telecommunications facility (building mounted) providing cellular service located in Cuttingsville; other telecommunications towers from which some Shrewsbury locations get cellular service are: Tower (monopole) located in Mount Holly (Stewart Hill); Tower in Clarendon (on Boardman Hill); (possibly) Tower on Killington peak.

Cellular service towers erected to provide wireless telecommunications services require careful siting consideration. These structures tend to be located in highly visible locations on mountaintops and ridgelines. While the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 placed certain limitations over municipal control of these structures, in order to protect the Town's historic

character, rural nature and aesthetic beauty, Shrewsbury has adopted an Ordinance for Towers & Telecommunications Facilities.

Toward that end, this ordinance incorporates appropriate guidelines and regulations governing at least the following areas: aesthetics, integrity of residential zones (that is, intrusion of commercial structures into residential areas), ridgeline protection, preferred locations (whether general or specific), co-location or clustering of tower facilities, and protection of wildlife—particularly birds.

When planning new infrastructure or upgrades to existing systems, special consideration shall be given to any primary or secondary impacts that would reduce resource values (including, but not limited to, aesthetics, agricultural land, timber resources, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and historic sites). In addition, when a new facility is planned, there must be clear evidence that the proposed location is necessary based upon economic considerations, potential impacts on resource values, and the resulting public benefits. In all cases, appropriate and suitable techniques shall be used to minimize or prevent any adverse impacts from the placement of towers and related infrastructure.

D. Water Infrastructure

Shrewsbury has one community water system which serves several residences in the Village of Cuttingsville. This water system is managed by the Cuttingsville Fire District. The ground water protection area for this water source is depicted on town maps.

Spring Lake Ranch has a community water well which serves the ranch residences, shops, and agricultural facilities. The ground water protection areas for this water source are depicted on town maps.

E. Wastewater Infrastructure

There are no municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the Town. Generally, each resident/parcel is served by its own wastewater system for sewerage. Some parcels have wastewater systems that serve multiple buildings. Spring Lake Ranch's residential and mixed-use buildings are an example of this case.

F. Utilities – Policies

POLICY:

1. The Town encourages the burying of utility distribution lines when appropriate to increase reliability and resiliency of electric service from storms.

2. Utility distribution line siting should be carefully designed to have minimal visual impact on the area and to minimize tree cutting, removal and/or extensive trimming.

3. The expansion of electric transmission outside of existing transmission corridors shall have minimal environmental impact, minimal impact to neighboring properties, and shall require visual and environmental buffering.

4. The Town recommends the non-use of herbicides on all utility rights-of-way. The Town encourages the use of transmission corridors for pasture as an environmentally friendly way of keeping this land cleared.

5. Electric distribution or transmission lines shall be planned and constructed to minimize aesthetic and ecological impacts. For example: clear-cut swaths, created for power lines or access roads which go straight up the mountainside, often create far more adverse impacts than the facilities they serve, and are not acceptable.

6. Encourage buried broadband and telecommunications lines.

8. All such facilities shall be in appropriate areas, respecting the integrity of residential areas, aesthetic concerns, and natural resource issues. Through an ordinance, the Town may specify reasonable areas where these facilities may be located. This is important on a macro scale (general areas in Town) as well as a micro scale (specific desirable placement or location; for example, below ridgelines, camouflaged, tucked into groves of trees, and the like).

9. Wherever possible, facilities shall be co-located at or on existing structures or facilities, unless the Development Review Board determines that separate facilities will create less visual and aesthetic impact.

10. Towers and related facilities shall only be as tall as necessary. Where towers are located within tree lines, they should be made to be extendable, so they can grow with the trees, and remain the minimum height needed above the treetops.

11. Unless required by the FAA, towers shall not be illuminated. Where required, lights shall be shielded to minimize aesthetic impacts, and so that light is cast only where needed. Towers requiring illumination shall only be allowed where not visible to any Town or neighboring town residents.

12. Any permits granted for these facilities shall be for a limited time. This will allow for periodic review and new permit conditions reflecting advances in knowledge, experience, and technology. The Town encourages the downsizing of equipment as technology advances and its removal when no longer used or needed. These requirements can minimize aesthetic intrusion, while maximizing the potential to serve a greater number of users in the same physical area. A bond shall be required to ensure that funds are available to accomplish these purposes.

13. Education

A. Shrewsbury District Schools

The Town contributes to the education of its children in the form of property taxes that help fund the Mill River Unified Union School District (MRUUSD, the District). The District owns and administers the elementary schools of Shrewsbury, Wallingford, Clarendon, and Tinmouth, which educate children from pre-school and/or kindergarten through grade 6, and Mill River Union High School, which educates children from grade 7 to grade 12. Students currently have elementary school choice within the District, though transportation is not provided for students attending a school outside their town of residence. The District is managed by a single school board made up of elected school board representatives from each town. The Shrewsbury Mountain School's (SMS) enrollment has ranged from 72 to 75 students between 2013 and 2025, though the 2025-2026 year enrollment dropped to just 65 students. The Mountain School building's capacity is for 100 students, although staffing aligns with current enrollment.

Mill River Union High School's Annual Report provides total student enrollment, no longer tracking enrollment per town, as it had in the past. The enrollment at Mill River Union High School has been 379 (2023-24), 364 (2024-25), 359 (2025-2026) and is projected to be 369 in the school year 2026-2027.

Like many school districts across Vermont, Mill River Unified Union School is navigating uncertainty related to the Education Transformation Act 73, passed in the Vermont Legislature in 2025 as well as Act 170 passed in 2026. While the intent is to improve how education is funded statewide, many details are still being worked out.

The goal of Mill River Unified Union School District is to continue to provide quality educational opportunities for young people. Shrewsbury's schools are an essential part of the community and seek to provide a safe, encouraging environment where a life-long love for learning creates self-reliant, successful, well-rounded, and caring members of society.

Shrewsbury Mountain School (SMS) is a "Sustainability Academy," which means the SMS curriculum includes a sustainability, ecology, and environmental science focus while preparing students with the required academic skills for their high school studies. Shrewsbury residents have first priority to attend SMS, but they can also choose to attend elementary schools in Wallingford ("Progression-Based Learning"), Clarendon ("Project-Based Learning"), or Tinmouth ("Wilderness/Adventure Academy"). The Shrewsbury Mountain School's program also incorporates trained local volunteers who provide additional special lessons during the school year. This program, titled Four Wind, supports the students' development of a deep sense of "place" in the Town as well as fostering an understanding of the environmental sciences. Shrewsbury has never voted down a school budget, a testament to our Town's deep commitment to the education of our children.

B. School Transportation

Transportation to and from the SMS and the MRUHS by means of rural school bus routes is coordinated at the District level. School bus drivers are hired directly by the District to drive the District owned buses. Drivers are required to have their appropriate training (both Commercial Driver's License and a school bus driver certification).

C. Education Costs

Education continues to be a major expenditure for the Town, and despite long-term negative growth in student population at the district level, these costs continue to increase. Shrewsbury faces this challenge amid sobering statistics: as the state's and school district's populations age, the tax burden will be shared by fewer people.

D. Higher Education in the Area

Higher Educational opportunities within a short driving distance include Vermont State University-Castleton, in Castleton and the Community College of Vermont, in Rutland. Shrewsbury students attending Mill River Union High School have access to dual enrollment opportunities at these schools, allowing them to gain college credits while completing their senior year. These two local colleges, along with the Stafford Technical Center and Vermont Adult Learning, in Rutland, offer adult and continuing education in several fields including workforce development.

E. Other Educational Resources in Town

Shrewsbury has a strong homeschooling tradition, and homeschooled students have access to a variety of school resources, such as music classes, physical education, and extracurricular activities.

The Shrewsbury Library provides a rich and current collection of books and DVDs for both adults and children to borrow and offers numerous reading programs and educational events.

The Shrewsbury Historical Society's museum's collection of artifacts is open to public viewing, and volunteers are always available to inform visitors of the culture and history that formed our Town.

Many other types of education are available in Shrewsbury by means of group and/or private lessons offered by Town residents and private organizations. Lessons in music, crafts, computer skills, yoga, and horseback riding are some of the many educational opportunities that are available on a year-round basis. SAGE (Shrewsbury Institute for Agricultural Education), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to "encouraging traditional and innovative ways of farming organically in Vermont" offers a wide variety of programming to local schools and the public, including farm tours, workshops, guest speakers, storytelling, and other forms of experiential education.

F. Education - Policies

POLICY:

1. Actively support the Mill River Union School District and the continued operation of Shrewsbury Mountain School and Mill River Union High School.
2. Advocate for Shrewsbury Mountain School and students via Shrewsbury's two elected school board representatives.
3. Continue to monitor enrollment trends, school capacity, and educational facility needs to ensure Shrewsbury students continue to have access to adequate educational facilities and services.
4. Continue community support of the Shrewsbury Library, the Shrewsbury Historical Society, , and SAGE as educational entities of our town.

14. Cultural Resources

Insert Photos – Library, Historical Society Museum, Laurel Glen buildings, Community Mtg House

A. Introduction

Enriching the creative and social lives of Shrewsbury inhabitants are a variety of organizations, and facilities. The organizations include the Shrewsbury Historical Society, the Shrewsbury Library, the Shrewsbury Community Church and the Shrewsbury Singers.

Facilities housing some of these organizations include the Cuttingsville Church (deeded to the Historical Society as a museum), the Shrewsbury Library, the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House (which houses a meeting and activity room as well as a place of worship), the Shrewsbury Elementary School, including the Pierce Playground (named after the Pierce family) which are available for both education and recreation.

These facilities are used for a variety of concerts, lectures, plays, folk dances, and children's programs. Individual homes of some residents provide studios for graphic artists, potters, photographers, poets, dancers, cabinetmakers, and both classical and folk musicians. The creative and artistic cultural traditions are strong in Shrewsbury and enrich the creative lives of the citizens.

Townspeople should be encouraged to support and volunteer to foster local cultural activities. Citizens of Shrewsbury receive significant benefits when cultural programs are presented to either the school system or the greater community.

B. The Shrewsbury Library

First opened in 1975, the Shrewsbury Library, a non-profit, private corporation, is an important element of the educational and cultural infrastructure in Shrewsbury. It operates primarily on donations of time and money, with a modest contribution from the Town. The Library has a Board of Trustees and is open during regular hours. Despite its modest funding, the Library continues to offer a broad range of programs for children and adults, such as hosting presentations by local community members and free film showings. Library fund-raisers are significant cultural and social events for the community.

The Library also hosts the Community Food Shelf which is maintained by the Shrewsbury Community Church.

C. The Shrewsbury Historical Society

The Shrewsbury Historical Society is a nonprofit corporation whose organization's purpose is to discover, acquire, record, preserve, and make available material, and to disseminate information through instruction, or by any other means, which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the Town of Shrewsbury and its progress through the years. The Historical Society's volunteers carefully maintain and curate a large collection of historic artifacts, photos, and stories at the Shrewsbury Historical Museum located in the former Cuttingsville church building next to the Laurel Glen Cemetery.

D. Cultural Assets – Facilities and Organizations

The Shrewsbury Community Meeting House is one of the most historic buildings in town, constructed in 1852 as both a Town Church and a Town Meeting House. It is truly one the most important buildings in town and the centerpiece of Shrewsbury Center. The building is used by both community and church, for town meetings, voting, dances, hearings, church services, committee meetings, concerts, weddings, memorial services, and many other functions. The building is available for any town or church function, general community or civic gathering, and it can be reserved for private functions by town residents. It is also an emergency shelter since it is equipped with emergency power and internet services. The Trustees of the Shrewsbury Community Meeting House are responsible for the management and maintenance of the building.

The village of Shrewsbury Center hosts vibrant town-wide events. From the annually held Shrewsbury Day, an event to celebrate the town, its residents, its organizations, and most of all its children, to the Summer Music Concert Series held outdoors on the Meeting House lawn (weather-permitting) during the warm summer months.

The Times of Shrewsbury is the monthly newspaper that is printed and distributed to all residents and is available in electronic form on the Town website and on the Shrewsbury Historical Society website. The Times publishes a community calendar, and regular Town meetings, notices of events, Selectboard meeting minutes, letters, announcements, news from town organizations, and advertisements. The Times is edited and managed by volunteers and is funded primarily by donations.

E. Cemeteries

There are fourteen (14) cemeteries in Shrewsbury. They are:

1. Bullard Cemetery
2. Center Cemetery* - maintained by D. and J. Smith
3. Colburn-Tabor Cemetery - maintained by the Tabor family.
4. Durham Cemetery
5. Finney Cemetery
6. First Cuttingsville Cemetery – maintained by J. and R. Landon
7. Haley Cemetery – maintained by the Haley family
8. Laurel Glen Cemetery* maintained by T. Stewart
9. Mitchell Cemetery – maintained by the Mitchell family
10. Northam Cemetery*
11. Plumley-Page Cemetery - maintained by L. Page and L. Page Jr.
12. Shippee Family Cemetery
13. Sirjane Cemetery
14. Woodward-Wilder Cemetery

**Cemeteries with a cemetery association (and shown on Town map)*Three Cemetery Commissioners are elected for 3-year terms. The responsibility of the Shrewsbury Cemetery Commission is to oversee and maintain the small family cemeteries in Town, almost all of which are located on privately owned property.

F. Policies

POLICY:

1. The Town's Board of Cemetery Commissioners should continue to cooperate with the private landowners for the upkeep of those cemeteries in Town that do not have their own cemetery association.
2. A list of criteria should be developed by the Cemetery Commission for enlarging an existing cemetery or for establishing a new cemetery.
3. Encourage the continuation of Town organizations and facilities that support and stimulate creative activity.
4. Support the cultural organizations and the individuals who volunteer and contribute to maintain the dynamic quality of life in Shrewsbury.

15. Transportation

A. Transportation Network

i. Introduction

A carefully planned, safe, and well-maintained highway system is important to provide efficient vehicle travel for town residents, egresses to businesses, access to resources in Shrewsbury, and deliveries of fuel, goods, and services to residents and businesses. Many town highways also provide recreational opportunities, including walking, biking, and horseback riding, and several are especially valued for offering scenic views.

Although vehicles are the main mode of transport for people and businesses in Shrewsbury, this section also discusses alternatives like walking or cycling, along with the infrastructure and accessibility for these options within and around Shrewsbury.

As provided in Vermont Planning Law, the general objective to be considered in planning transportation is:

"To provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists." *(24 VSA 117 Section 4302).*

ii. Town and State Highways

The present highway system in Shrewsbury consists of approximately 60.5 miles of Class 2 and Class 3 Town highways, 4.2 miles of state highway, 8.5 miles of Class 4 Town highways and 0.4 miles of legal trails

Shrewsbury has 17.95 miles of Class 2 town highways, comprised of Cold River Road (TH-1), Town Hill and Northam Roads (TH-2), Lincoln Hill Road (TH-4), and Eastham/Mt Holly Roads (TH-3). All of these are paved except for 2.57 miles of Eastham Road, which is hard-packed surface gravel. Class 2 Town Highways serve to gather and feed traffic from local roads to an arterial road and to our village centers.

Most of the remaining 38.3 miles of town roads are Class 3 highways, serving outlying homes, farms, and forests. Some Class 3 town roads are not plowed in their entirety in winter, including Adams Road (TH-5) and Bailey Road (TH-30). Most of the Class 3 town roads are hard-packed gravel surface.

The arterial Route 103 (VT-103) is the only arterial state highway in Shrewsbury. While it runs directly through Shrewsbury's historic village of Cuttingsville, it carries non-local through traffic. Maintenance of this state highway is managed by the State, whose 2015 traffic counts recorded 5,800 vehicles for annual average daily traffic.

The State of Vermont also owns and maintains approximately 1.5 miles of a seasonal state forest highway, named the CCC Road, which extends from Shrewsbury's CCC Road through the Coolidge State Forest and eventually down to VT State Route 100 in the Town of Plymouth. State forest highways are constructed and maintained primarily for the long-term management of lands owned by or under the control of the VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Shrewsbury residents enjoy the access that the CCC state forest highway provides to popular hiking trails (Black Swamp Trail and Shrewsbury Peak) when it is open to public use. The road is typically open between late May and the end of October or when conditions allow. Status of the CCC Road is posted in Shrewsbury at Pierce's Store, the Town website, and by contacting the Shrewsbury Town Clerk.

iii. Class 4 Roads and Legal Trails

Shrewsbury has approximately 8.51 miles of Town rights-of-way that are Class 4 Town Highways. These are roads that are not maintained by the Town for passage of vehicles in all seasons and, in many cases, are primarily used as trails for recreation such as walking, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. Snowmobiling is allowed on Class 4 roads during snow season. Shrewsbury has one 0.38 mi. Legal Trail which extends from the end of Class 4 TH-13 and runs along Sargent Brook in the Appalachian Trail Corridor.A few private roads and Vermont State Forest roads also exist in Shrewsbury.

2026 Shrewsbury Highways		
Class, Type	**Mileage**	**Travel Function**
Town Highway – Class 1	0	n/a
Town Highway – Class 2	17.95	Motor Vehicles, Recreational (Bike, Pedestrian, Etc.)
Town Highway – Class 3	38.28	Motor Vehicles, Recreational (Bike, Pedestrian, Etc.)
Town Highway – Class 4	8.51 (+ .89 of Class 3 roads functioning as Class 4)	Primarily Recreational use unless maintained by landowners (with Town permission)
Town Highway – Legal Trails	0.38	Recreational (Hiking)
State Highways (Rt. 103)	4.236	Motor Vehicles
Federal Forest Highways (CCC Road)	Coolidge State Forest	Motor Vehicles, Recreational (Bike, Pedestrian, Etc.)
State Forest Highways	VT State Wildlife Management Areas	Recreational (Hiking), State Use
Private	Saltash Road, Hempstead Road, Stagecoach Road	Property Owner Use

Based on VTrans Map prepared May 27, 2026: Mileage as of February 10, 2026

Shrewsbury's settlement patterns tend to follow existing roadways. Homesteads have been and continue to be developed along existing roadways within 1,000 feet of the town highway ROW.

This practice has helped keep Shrewsbury's large forest blocks intact and undisturbed by human development.

New driveways, as well as any work within the limits of a town right-of-way, require careful planning to protect public safety, ensure proper drainage and protection from erosion, maintain a reasonable level of service and access for emergency vehicles, and protect public investment in town infrastructure. Therefore, any work within the limits of a town highway right-of-way (for example, construction of a driveway, installation of a culvert, excavation of a ditch, or re-grading) requires a permit from the town (19 V.S.A. §1111).

Development along town highways and work in town rights-of-way can disrupt wildlife habitat travel corridors if not carefully planned. Retaining adequate cover and planning of culverts and buffers can allow for Shrewsbury's homes, forests, fields, wildlife, and river corridors to exist in harmony.

Work in the right-of-way can also displace and spread invasive plants that inhabit roadsides. Efforts to reduce the proliferation of roadside invasive plants have been ongoing over the past five years, led by the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission.

Class 4 roads are also important to residents. Many of these rights-of-way are popular recreational trails (for hiking, hunting, foraging, sightseeing, mountain biking, horseback riding), especially where they extend through to other roads and where they adjoin conservation areas. Recent concerns over significant erosion on some areas of Class 4 roads led to a Selectboard-directed study of the Class 4 roads in 2023 by an appointed committee of townspeople. The study provided information such as condition, usage, and whether roads were dead-ends or connected to other roads or towns. The first actions taken by the Selectboard in 2025 were to discontinue three Class 4 roads that simply dead-ended on single parcels under one owner.

New VT State Statute

Property owners who sell property on a class 4 highway or legal trail are required to disclose to the buyer that the town is not required and must not be expected to maintain or upgrade the road or tail. (27 V.S.A. § 617 and 19 V.S.A. § 310)

Discontinued or Reclassified Class 4 Roads	Year
Town Highway #41, Town Highway #46 (.10 Mile Portion), Town Highway #47	2025

B. Roads and Bridges Control and Maintenance

i. Bridges and Culverts

Shrewsbury owns and maintains eight (8) long structures (bridges with greater than 20’ span) and twenty (20) short structures (bridges with 6’-20’ span). There are two short structures (B52 and B53 on VT-103) and two long structures (B50 and B51 on VT-103) that are owned and maintained by the State of Vermont.

The Brown Covered Bridge (B34), a historical landmark designated in 2014, is one of the Town-owned long structures. Built in 1880, it spans the Cold River just east of the intersection of Upper Cold River Road and Cold River Road in northwest Shrewsbury. In 2013, the Town entered into a Historic Bridge Preservation Easement Agreement with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), which includes municipal responsibilities for annual inspection and cleaning of the structure.

There are ±607 culverts in the town road right-of-way in Shrewsbury.

ii. Town Highway Control

Town highways are owned, controlled, and maintained by the Town. The Town Highway Commissioner has direct maintenance responsibility while reporting to the Selectboard. The Selectboard has control over all the Town highways, which means they adopt policies, post speed and weight limits, approve permits for curb cuts and work in the highway right-of-way, and approve discontinuances and changes of classifications of town highways.

Shrewsbury’s current Policies, Ordinances and Permits relating to Town Highways include:

- Traffic Ordinance – effective 1/17/2022
- Class 4 highway & Trail policy – adopted 1/01/2025
- Town Highway Policy – 1994
- Application for work within the Right-of-Way (used for “curb-cut” permits)
- Excess Weight Permit (application)
- Town Plan
- Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations

Access to town highways is guided by the Road Commissioner and is under the Selectboard's permit authority. Otherwise known as a “curb-cut,” these accesses must be designed and constructed to ensure that they drain water properly, adequately protect the safety of the traveling public while maintaining reasonable levels of service on the existing highway system, and protect public investment in the existing infrastructure.

iii. Town Highway Maintenance

The municipal costs for provision and maintenance of the Town highway system is a substantial share of the Town's annual budget. Maintaining roads, bridges, culverts, equipment, and highway

facilities represent a significant and ongoing municipal expense. As infrastructure ages and construction, material, equipment, and storm-recovery costs increase, long-term capital planning and outside funding will remain important to keeping transportation infrastructure affordable for the Town.

Routine maintenance of existing road infrastructure includes snowplowing, grading, restoration of ditches, cleaning of culverts, restoring and repaving, restoring gravel road base as well as roadside tree trimming and more.

Restoration and rebuilding of town highway infrastructure may be due to repairs after extreme weather events or to normal end-of-life replacement.

The rising costs of maintenance are driven by both higher material prices and the need for more frequent repairs, as well as increased fuel prices.

- Since 2020, the prices of materials such as sand, salt, gravel, and asphalt have gone up by 62% (*Source: Meadowhill Consulting*)
- The increased frequency and severity of storms, along with other weather events like heavy rains, contribute to erosion. Strong winds lead to fallen trees blocking roads, while deep freezes damage both paved and gravel roads. As a result, highway department staff face a heavier workload, heightened equipment usage, and greater demand for maintenance materials.

Shrewsbury's roads are highly susceptible to erosion because many are close to streams and rivers on steep terrain. According to the 2025 inventory, 43% of town roads lie within 100 feet of surface water or wetlands, making them prone to flooding and erosion.

Another road infrastructure that needs to be maintained is bridges and culverts. While it is less frequent than regular road maintenance, the costs for upgrades and/or replacements are high.

The RRPC, with the assistance of the Town Road Commissioner, maintains a mapped culvert inventory, indicating the location and condition of all culverts in the town. Current culvert location and status is shown on the Transportation Map. Culvert replacement, especially of large-diameter culverts, is an expensive endeavor, including engineering study and design, and can run nearly a half million dollars for one large culvert replacement project (example – Northam Culvert #2, completed in 2026, had a final cost of approximately $450,000).

Of the Town’s 607 culverts, 58 were classified in 2021 as being in “poor”, “urgent”, or “critical” condition, and many of those are undersized per current standards. Culvert size requirements have increased due to increased stormwater management as well as aquatic organism management. The 2026 Shrewsbury Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies several culverts for replacement over the coming five years. The town’s bridge and culvert structures inventory and information can be viewed at VTCulverts.org

Per Vermont's Clean Water Initiative, Act 64, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation requires a Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). The MRGP addresses all hydro-connected road segments (within 100 ft of surface waters or wetlands). Under the Municipal Roads General

- Under the Municipal Roads General Permit, Shrewsbury must maintain a Road Erosion Inventory (REI) of hydrologically connected municipal road segments. The inventory identifies road segments that meet, partially meet, or do not meet MRGP standards and helps the Town prioritize drainage and erosion-control improvements. Road segments that do not meet MRGP standards are addressed through implementation planning and projects over time. Practices used to meet MRGP standards may include improvements to roadside drainage, ditches, turnouts, road crowning, culverts, and stabilization of areas affected by erosion. State programs such as Better Roads and Grants-in-Aid can help municipalities implement eligible improvements.
    - RRPC assists Shrewsbury with MRGP-related planning and road and culvert inventories. Bridge and culvert inventory information is maintained through the statewide VT culverts system
- Standards (e.g., Better Roads) for implementing solutions such as stone-lined and U-shaped ditches, turnouts, check dams, road crowning, and grass-lined drainage ditches; and upgrading drainage culverts and stabilizing culvert outlets where erosion is present.
- Funding to implement improvements (Better Roads, Grants-In-Aid)

Permit, Shrewsbury must implement a customized, multi-year municipal stormwater discharge management plan. Strategies under the MRGP include:

The Town Highway Department has been proactive in following these guidelines and thus has received grants and funding for road upgrades and maintenance.

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission assists towns in fulfilling the requirements of the MRGP and applying for available grants for town highway maintenance.

Shrewsbury's bridges are inspected regularly. VTrans provides periodic inspections for long bridge structures regardless of whether they are town-owned or not. Inspections of town-owned short structures are the town's responsibility.

The location maps and inspection reports of long bridges (both town- and state-owned) can be accessed online through https://vtransparency.vermont.gov/.

Town-owned bridges are eligible for state funding through the Town Highway Bridge Program.

iv. Maintenance of Class 4 road and Legal Trails

The State of Vermont requires Vermont towns to maintain only the hydro connected segments, bridges, and culverts on Class 4 roads. Any further upkeep or maintenance of Shrewsbury's Class 4 roads by the town highway department is at the discretion of the Selectboard. (19 V.S.A. § 996).

Shrewsbury Selectboard adopted a Class 4 Highway and Trail Policy in 2025 defining the maintenance, usage, work in the right-of-way, and other matters on Shrewsbury's Class 4 roads and trails.

Vermont towns have the authority to maintain town trails but shall not be responsible for any maintenance, including culverts and bridges on these rights-of-way.

v. Town Highway Equipment

Town Highway Equipment as of 2026	
Description	**Estimated Value**
2026 Western Star 47x With Plow/Sander	$299,545
2024 Ford F-600 With Plow/Sander	$146,000
2020 International HV 513 With Plow/Sander	$130,000
2017 International 7600 With Plow/Sander	$60,000
2015 Caterpillar 12 M Grader	$235,000
2015 International 7600 with Plow/Sander	$15,000
2014 Ford 550 With Plow/Sander	$20,000
2010 International 7600 with Plow/Sander	$20,000
2015 Massey Ferguson 5710 Tractor/Mower	$70,000
2009 John Deere 5065e Tractor/Mower/Broom	$20,000
2005 Caterpillar 307c Excavator	$25,000
2020 Cam Trailer	$15,000
2019 John Deere 5441 Loader	$120,000
2013 Caterpillar 430f Backhoe	$35,000
1995 Woodchuck Chipper	$3,000
Miscellaneous Tools	$15,000
Goosen Bale Chopper	$3,000

2025 Inventory of Town Equipment, Road Commissioner's Report from Shrewsbury 2025 Annual Report

C. Town Highway Safety

i. Traffic Volumes and Safety Concerns

Vermont State Route 103 (VT-103). While traffic counts on Route 103 have increased approximately 12%-14% over the past two decades according to VT State data, the capacity of Route 103 far exceeds the volume, and it is not anticipated that future capacity will become an issue. However, safety concerns arose in recent years with Shrewsbury residents and business owners recognizing an increase in speeding motorists. After two fatal crashes in 2020, the town selectboard petitioned VTrans to lower the speed limit on an expanded section of Route 103 in Shrewsbury. After considering the town's commitment to increase enforcement and testimony about the high number of vehicles turning onto/off Spring Lake Road, in 2024, VTrans agreed to expand the 35-mph speed limit on Rt 103, which stands today.

Class 2, 3, and 4 Town Highways. Traffic count data for Shrewsbury's town highways indicate only minor changes over the last nine years. Thus, Shrewsbury has no need to plan additional

highway infrastructure for its residents and businesses. However, safety concerns continue to arise, including the increased volume of retail delivery trucks and speeding vehicles. As Shrewsbury residents enjoy the use of the town highways for pedestrian, biking, and horseback riding as well as for vehicular travel, controlling speeds for everyone's safety is a high priority. The town selectboard has taken several actions in recent years in response to speeding vehicles. These included: conducting a traffic study in 2021; adopting the Shrewsbury Traffic Ordinance on November 17, 2021, to establish speed limits; and posting speed limit and 'Stop' and 'Yield' traffic signs; contracting with a local sheriff to provide enforcement on town roads at locations directed by the selectboard; and procuring and placing a speed feedback sign on various town highway locations.

ii. Traffic Counts

Highway Name	2017 Average Daily Traffic Count*	2021 Average Daily Traffic Count**	2026 Average Daily Traffic Count***
Cold River Road	940	-	591
Town Hill/Northam Road	260	204	187
Lincoln Hill Road	400	-	365
Eastham Road	110	115	114
Mt. Holly Road	-	110	117
Russellville Road	-	184	162
Spring Lake Ranch Road	-	234	223
State Highway Rt. 103	5,800 (2015)	-	-

**VTrans Automatic Traffic Recorder Station History 2008-2017*
***08/10 – 08/1, 2021 RRPC Traffic Study & 09/15 Traffic Report*
****2026 RRPC Traffic Study Data*

D. Town Highway Infrastructure Priorities and Funding

Maintaining Shrewsbury's road network, bridges, culverts, highway facilities, and equipment requires substantial and ongoing investment. The Town relies primarily on local revenues and reserve funds to support routine highway operations and capital expenses, while state and federal funding can help offset the costs of eligible planning, maintenance, infrastructure, stormwater, safety, and emergency-repair projects.

Because outside funding is generally tied to particular programs and eligible project types, it does not replace the need for local highway funding and long-term capital planning. Maintaining reserve funds and identifying upcoming infrastructure needs can help the Town prepare for major expenses and take advantage of outside funding opportunities as they become available.

Shrewsbury's highest transportation priorities are maintaining the existing town road network, protecting public safety and emergency access, maintaining and improving drainage infrastructure, and addressing road and culvert conditions that increase erosion or flood

vulnerability. Improvements should prioritize maintaining and strengthening existing infrastructure before expanding the transportation network.

i. Local Funding and Capital Planning

Shrewsbury also uses local funding and reserve funds to plan for major highway-related expenses. The town maintains separate reserve funds for highway equipment and the Town Garage. These funds let the town set aside money over time for anticipated equipment replacement and facility needs, rather than relying entirely on a single year's municipal budget.

At present, Shrewsbury does not maintain a separate reserve fund specifically for road infrastructure projects. Establishing and regularly contributing to such a reserve could give the Town greater flexibility to plan major road, bridge, and culvert projects and provide local matching funds when outside funding opportunities become available.

ii. State and Federal Funding Opportunities

Several state and federal programs are available to assist municipalities with eligible transportation planning, road, bridge, culvert, stormwater, safety, and infrastructure projects. The availability, eligibility requirements, funding levels, and local match requirements vary by program.

Grant Program Name	State or Federal Funds	Local Match	Funding Use	Schedule
Better Roads Category B	State	20%	Erosion Correction/Stormwater Mitigation	Annual
Better Roads Category D	State	20%	Structure/Culvert Upgrades/Replacements	Annual
Bicycle & Pedestrian Program	Federal	20%	Scoping Study & Design/Construction	Annual
Grants In Aid Program	State	20%	Best Management Practice Implementation	Annual
Transportation Alternative Program	State	20%	Variety of smaller scale Transportation Projects	Annual
Municipal Highway & Stormwater Mitigation	Federal	20%	Any environmental mitigation related to highway construction/runoff	Annual
Town Highway Bridge Program	State/Federal	10%	Funding for major rehabilitation projects to extend the life of existing structures	No deadline
Town Highway Structures Grant	State	20%	Funding for short bridges, culverts, retaining walls, and other town highway-related structures	Annual
Town Highway Class 2 Program	State	30%	Funding for the preservation of any Class 2 highways for resurfacing or reconstruction	Annual
Town Highway Emergency Grant	State	10%	Provides funds for emergency storm damage repairs	
Better Connections Grant Program	State	10%	Planning grant to develop roadway master plans to increase multi-modal transportation options	Annual
Mobility & Transportation Innovations Grant	State	20%	Program to create or support efficient modes of transportation best suited for each community	Annual
RRPC's Role				
Rutland Regional Planning Commission is available to provide support for project development and assistance writing of the grant application				

Transportation Grant Funding Programs (information provided by E. Pepin, RRPC)

E. Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks

Shrewsbury's topography and settlement pattern constrain the potential for bicycle and pedestrian traffic; however, several routes are frequented by bicyclists, namely VT 103, Cold River Road, Northam Road, Lincoln Hill Road, and Town Hill Road. The scenic nature and minimal traffic make these popular bicycle routes. Pedestrians walk on nearly all of the town roads, though the ones with less and slower traffic are most frequent. The Community Values maps identified Lottery Road as a popular road for recreation and scenic viewsheds, and many townspeople park their vehicles at the Community Meeting House to access Lottery Road for walking and/or jogging.

F. Regional & Area Transportation Services

i. Regional Public Transit

Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD), or "The Bus," provides public transportation to Shrewsbury on a seasonal basis (Thanksgiving-Easter). The 'Ludlow Route' travels from the transit center in downtown Rutland and services the towns of Rutland, Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Mount Holly, and Ludlow. Stops in Shrewsbury are on an "as requested" basis; the bus stop location is in Cuttingsville in the privately owned parking lot on the northwestern side of the Mill River Bridge; there is no covered shelter at the bus stop.

ii. Air Transportation

Rutland-Southern Vermont Regional Airport (R-SVRA), located in Clarendon, is one of ten state-owned and operated public use airports in Vermont. The next nearest airport to the Rutland market is Burlington International, located 67 miles to the north, followed by Albany County Airport in New York State, over 80 miles to the southwest. The airport in Manchester, NH, while farther away, also serves increasing numbers of residents due to the presence of budget airlines. The R-SVRA supports one scheduled air carrier, Cape Air. Access to air travel is important in the Rutland Region because it helps attract new business, industry, and tourism to the area, while also helping to retain existing businesses and increasing access to and from the region for long-distance travel. A Regional Air Transportation Committee (of which Shrewsbury is a member) is currently partnering with other entities, both public and private, to develop planning to help ensure R-SVRA can handle more essential air services, commercial air travel, general aviation, and cargo/freight, as well as necessary emergency services and transport.

iii. Passenger and Freight Rail

Regional passenger rail service is available at the Amtrak station in Rutland. Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express provides daily passenger rail service through Rutland, with connections south to Albany and New York City and north to Middlebury, Vergennes, and Burlington.

The Green Mountain Railroad, part of the Vermont Rail system, runs through Shrewsbury, primarily elevated from the roadway parallel to VT 103. It extends from Rutland through Bellows Falls. The route is currently used for freight.

iv. Ride Services

MVRTD also offers complementary paratransit service for Medicare patients and the elderly, and for people with disabilities.

v. Carpooling

There is no town-owned or state-owned park-n-ride in Shrewsbury. Residents often use the Community Meeting House parking lot or the privately owned parking lot behind the Cuttingsville Post Office to meet and park vehicles for the day.

G. Transportation - Policies

POLICIES:

1. Shrewsbury's network of highways and roads should provide for the safe and efficient movement of traffic as well as pedestrian, cycling, and other non-motorized use of roads.

2. The Town shall continue to support the Highway Department to perform maintenance, inventories, and upgrades to achieve stormwater management per the rules/standards of the DEC MRGP.

3. The Town should develop plans for funding of Town Highway infrastructure improvement, upgrades, and replacements.

4. The Town should continue to fund and should develop plans for funding improvements, upgrades, and replacements of Highway maintenance facilities. (currently have an annual $5K Town Garage Reserve fund)

5. The Town should continue to fund and should develop plans for funding replacements of Town Highway Equipment. (currently have an annual $85K Town Road Equipment Reserve fund).

6. Support access to training for Town Highway Department personnel.

7. Support Town Highway Department personnel with administrative/office assistance.

8. New roads that are constructed shall be privately maintained and conform to State erosion-control standards and Town specifications.

9. Maintain the health of roadside vegetation and streams. (add wording to say that the intent is to continue training/knowledge of Hwy staff on invasive plant management and habitat maintenance, develop a working relationship between SCC and the Highway Department.

10. Support efficient modes of transportation in our region.

16. Energy

Energy planning has come to the forefront in Vermont in the 21st century. In addition to energy generation, distribution, and use, energy planning and policy are tied to economic development, land use, transportation, community, and Vermont's landscape. Vermont State statute (24 V.S.A. section 4382) requires that municipal plans include an energy plan including, "an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs, such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, to implement that policy, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, and a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy."

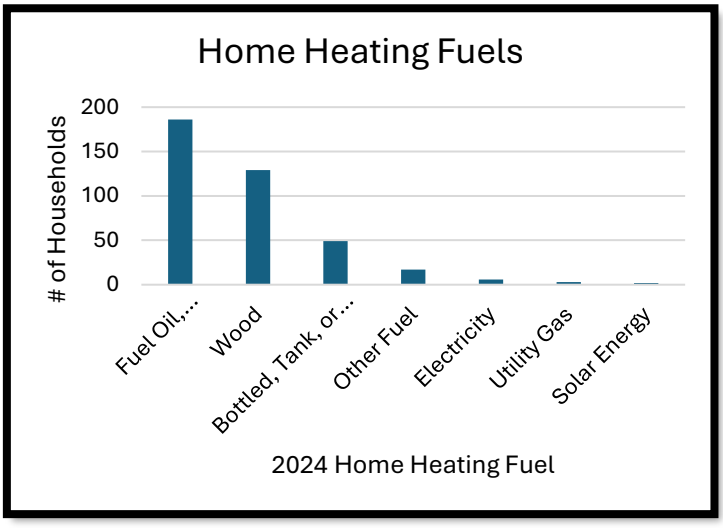
The State of Vermont's energy goal, developed through its Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP), is to attain 50% renewable energy by 2035, and 90% renewable energy in the state by 2050. The data and targets shown in this Town Plan were provided by the VT Public Service Department's Low Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP). These data and targets show a pathway towards the statewide goals, though Towns (and Regions) may need to adjust them to their own local needs.

Improving energy efficiency will mean reliance on more electricity for heating, transportation and powering everyday needs. That electricity can be generated locally from renewable sources. Improved efficiency through weatherization of homes and the use of more efficient appliances will reduce the energy needs in our homes and will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

This energy plan is intended to provide the residents and local leadership of Shrewsbury with the information and strategies needed to maintain our homes and businesses in coming decades while the energy sector is transformed, to better preserve the environment, lower energy costs, and promote local renewable energy development.

A. Energy Consumption

In Shrewsbury, overall energy use is relatively low due to the Town's low population and few businesses and limited Town facilities. The primary sources of energy in Shrewsbury currently are wood, passive solar, oil, and propane for heating; Green Mountain Power utility for electricity; and gasoline and diesel and a small amount of electricity for transportation.



The data for residential heating sources shows that a majority of homes heat with oil, but a

close second are homes heated with wood. Residential wood heating is acknowledged as a traditional and culturally significant practice in the Region and depending on the cost of heating oil and propane, may be considerably less expensive. However, due to the emissions from woodburning appliances, residents are encouraged to consider cleaner alternatives where feasible.

Woodburning Emissions

Wood burning emits levels of greenhouse gases that are 2.5 times higher than those of natural gas and 30% higher than those of coal. Additionally, wood combustion releases other hazardous air pollutants.

B. Energy Efficiency and Conservation

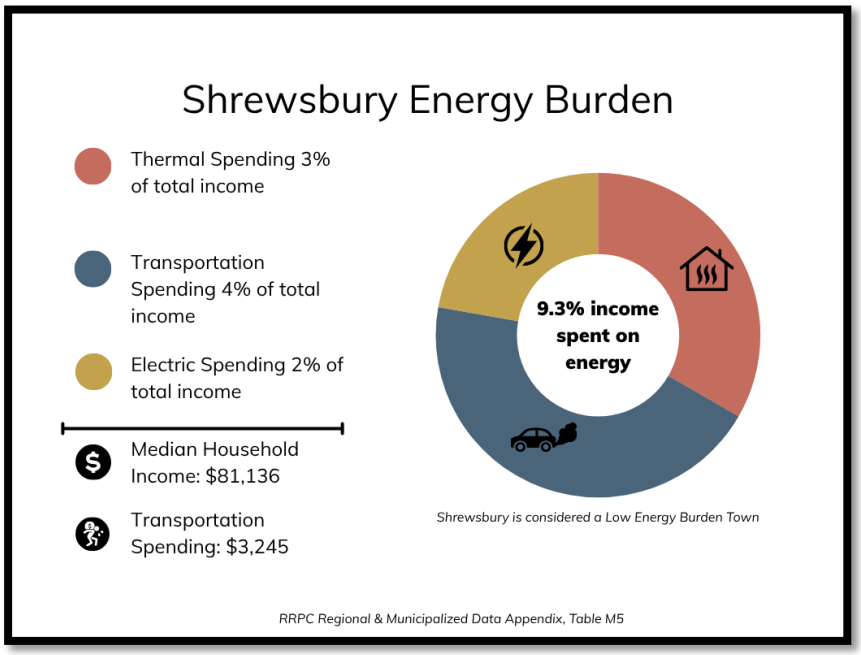
The energy consumption of a household is its major environmental impact. This should be limited through both energy conservation methods and transition to efficient appliances and lighting to the greatest extent practical. Weatherization has been effectively applied to homes and commercial buildings both old and new, resulting in significant savings of heating fuels and electricity. Local organizations and specialized local contractors are available in the Rutland region to assist Shrewsbury property owners with weatherization and other efficiency programs to reduce their overall energy use in existing homes and new construction. The Town and residents can cooperate and engage with energy conservation installation and incentive programs such as Efficiency Vermont to make energy efficiency improvements and become informed about the available services and financial assistance offered by such programs.

The Vermont Residential Energy Code requires that new residential construction meet minimum standards for energy-efficient building components and construction practices. The builder is required to self-certify compliance by filing a Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards Certificate with the State and the Shrewsbury Town Clerk.

Transportation is the leading source of energy use in the Rutland Region and throughout the State. In 2017, it accounted for 36.8 percent of all energy consumed in the State and 44.7% of carbon dioxide emissions. In Shrewsbury, transportation energy (51,765 MMBTUs) closely matched the MMBTUs used for residential heating (52,690 MMBTUs) in 2025. There has only been a very slow transition to all-electric vehicles (AEV) and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV) through the end of 2025. (Source: PSD Municipal Consumption Tool, VTrans datasets).

C. Energy Burden and Barriers to Energy Conservation and Efficiency

Energy burden refers to the percentage of household income spent on energy bills . When a larger portion of income goes to energy costs, less remains for other expenses. Energy burdens are assessed for towns and census tracts, reporting the average energy burden for households in a specific area . According to the 2025 Efficiency Vermont Energy Burden Report, Shrewsbury residents, on average, spend 9.3% of their annual income on energy. This is considered a low energy burden, with a state average of 11%. However, not all residents fall into the median household income bracket that drives this "low" energy burden, and the ever-increasing costs of fuel make home heating and transportation difficult for many households.

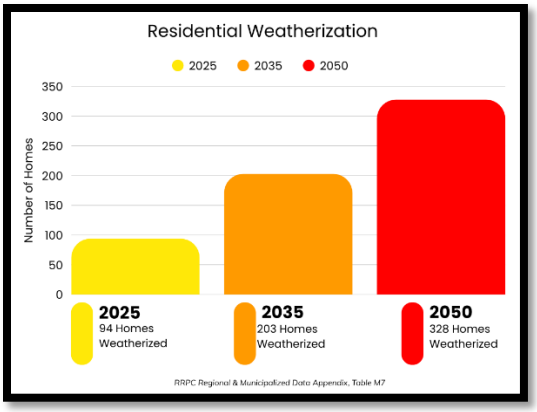


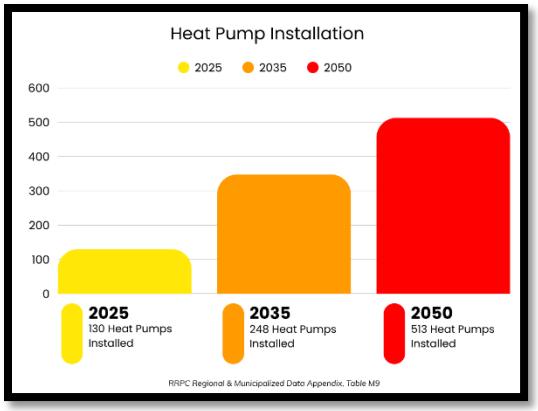
While incentives exist to assist Shrewsbury homeowners to benefit from energy efficiency, fuel switching and renewable energy generation installations, most incentives require reimbursement for measures installed. Thus, homeowners need to be able to finance the initial installation, and many cannot afford to do so.

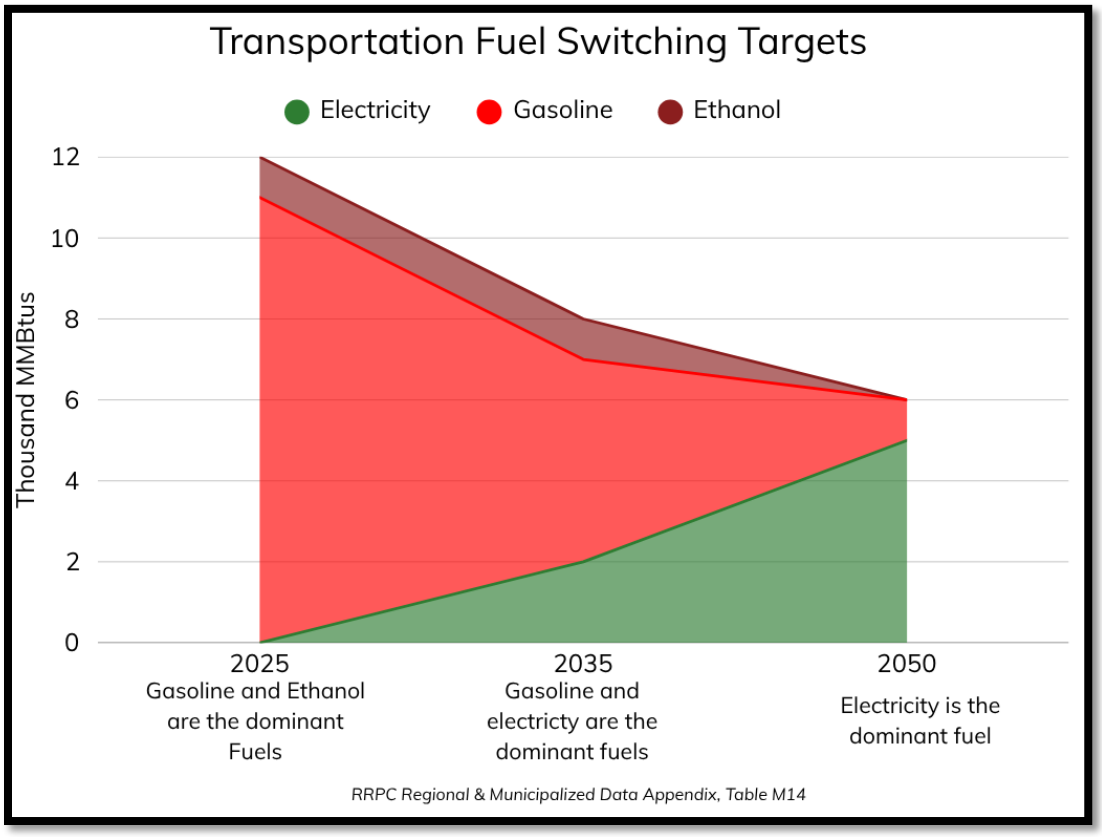
D. Energy Transitioning Targets

Transitioning to lower cost energy sources and/or renewable energy sources to reduce both energy use and GHG emissions in Shrewsbury's homes includes - weatherization, switching to more efficient appliances, including heat-pumps for heating and cooling, and heat-pump hot water heating. Technologies such as induction stoves are becoming more popular for efficient stovetop cooking.

Current numbers of weatherization and for installed heat-pumps as well as targets for future transitions have been developed by LEAP as shown below:

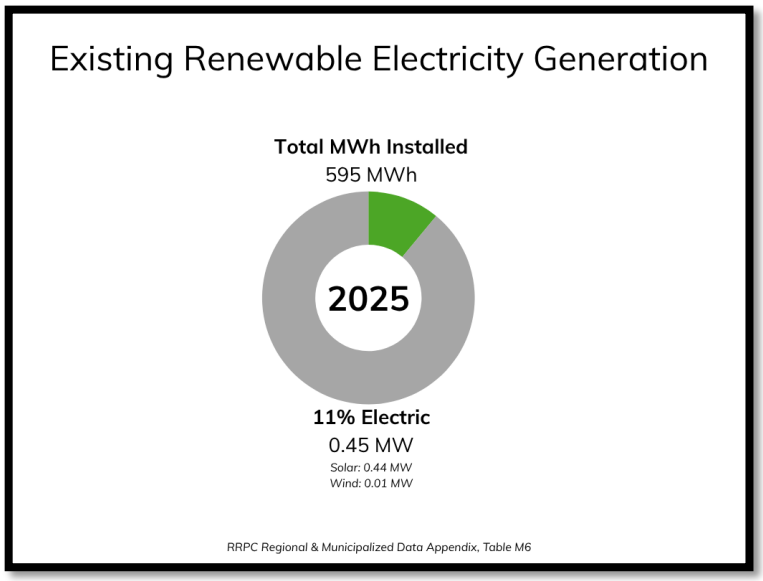

Residential Weatherization
2025
2035
2050
Number of Homes
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
2025
94 Homes
Weatherized
2035
203 Homes
Weatherized
2050
328 Homes
Weatherized
RRPC Regional & Municipalized Data Appendix, Table M7


Heat Pump Installation
2025
2035
2050
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2025
130 Heat Pumps
Installed
2035
248 Heat Pumps
Installed
2050
513 Heat Pumps
Installed
RRPC Regional & Municipalized Data Appendix, Table M9


Transportation Fuel Switching Targets
Electricity
Gasoline
Ethanol
Thousand MMBtus
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
2025
Gasoline and Ethanol are the dominant Fuels
2035
Gasoline and electricty are the dominant fuels
2050
Electricity is the dominant fuel
RRPC Regional & Municipalized Data Appendix, Table M14

E. Residential Scale Renewable Energy Production

A number of homes in Town use roof and ground-mounted solar panels to provide net-metered electricity. With the development of efficient heat-pump technology, homeowners are using their solar electricity to heat and cool their homes, to heat hot water and to charge electric vehicles. In 2025, the solar (and a small amount of wind) generation in Shrewsbury produced 595 MWh (595,000 kWh) of electric power. This is 11% of the total Shrewsbury electricity usage .



As of 2018, there are 42 solar sites in Shrewsbury, of which 6 are ground-mounted PV, 33 are roof-mounted, and 2 produce hot water. Together they produce 312,968 kWh of electricity per year (data from Vermont Energy Dashboard).

F. Energy Production Planning

The State of Vermont and the Town of Shrewsbury differentiate between small-scale and commercial-scale solar energy systems. A small-scale system is designed to generate energy for use on the lot where it is located, whether it is a residence, business, or farm.

Commercial-scale systems primarily generate energy to supply the utility grid to be sold to the general public These commercial solar developments may convey an image of industrial development inconsistent with Shrewsbury's agricultural and rural residential community if not sited carefully.

Community-scale systems are typically of a small-scale size; these systems are shared by numerous households and may include municipal use and even town-wide participation.

With renewable sources such as sun and wind power already in use, and with more installations being planned , towns across Vermont are crafting guidelines to regulate the development of commercial and residential energy system installations. Regulations are necessary to protect the interests of the Town of Shrewsbury, its residents, its farmland, and its businesses. Act 174 of 2016 established municipal and regional energy planning standards. An energy plan incorporating these required regional energy planning standards is currently referred to as an "enhanced energy plan." These standards, if adopted by municipalities, allow Town Plans to carry greater weight in the state process for siting renewable energy generation. At this time, Shrewsbury does not have an enhanced energy plan.

Approvals of renewable energy facilities are under the jurisdiction of The VT Public Utility Commission through Act 248a. While a Town Plan may not specifically prohibit solar, wind, and other energy generation from a site, it does identify areas that are protected from development.

Commercial scale electricity production requires proximity and access to three-phase electrical distribution power lines. Typically, a developer of a commercial energy project is responsible for the project's total cost, including the build-out of the power line access to where it can be utilized. While three-phase power lines have not been located throughout Shrewsbury in the past, recent distribution line upgrades (2017-2018) have included a second feeder as well as the infrastructure (poles, cross-arms, and triplex supports) for three-phase power to more easily be built in the southeast section of the Town.

It will be important for Shrewsbury residents to be engaged in any proposals for commercial scale wind and/or solar projects in the Town and region, and to determine how to balance the policies of this plan with the potential for renewable energy production. Project development review will need to include not only the energy production sites, but the access roadway and the electrical power lines.

Commercial solar, wind, hydro, facilities are licensed by the State Public Utility Commission.

H. Solar Facility Sites

Commercial/industrial solar farms are typically built on open landscapes. The Town Plan recognizes the value of the Vermont UVA program, preservation of agricultural soils, and other open spaces in the landscape (see mapped resources in Natural Resource Map 1 of 2 and Meadow Lands Zoning Overlay Map). Open spaces, fields, and prime soils that have agricultural and aesthetic potential should be evaluated for conformance with the Town Plan prior to the siting of large-scale solar projects.

Solar development issues include aesthetics and land use depending on the size of the system. Solar panels are typically mounted on the ground with posts or some form of ground mounting structure which can have a visual impact to neighboring properties if not properly sited, or can impact open space and agricultural lands if the panels are not sited or clustered to maximize the open space.

New commercial solar facilities and transmission facilities should be sited in locations that reinforce the community's traditional and planned patterns of development, which is of a landscape pattern that includes large amounts of working farm and forest land and residential development in villages and hamlets. The following siting considerations will need to be evaluated for the development of larger, utility-scale commercial solar electricity generation and transmission facilities to be consistent with Shrewsbury's pattern of development:

- Sites where existing hedgerows, hills, or other topographical features naturally screen the proposed array from view by neighbors and by the public on main highways.

- Sites where facilities can be clustered at the edge of timber stands and in previously disturbed areas, such as gravel pits, closed landfills, or former quarries. Clear-cutting forest areas for commercial solar arrays is inconsistent with the nature of the Town of Shrewsbury.
- Solar facilities should be located so as to retain use of prime agricultural soils.

I. Wind Facility Sites

Wind energy development presents different siting considerations than solar energy because wind resources are generally associated with exposed locations and taller infrastructure. The Town recognizes the potential contribution of wind energy to Vermont's renewable energy goals while also recognizing the importance of Shrewsbury's scenic landscapes, ridgelines, wildlife habitat, forests, and other natural resources.

Larger-scale wind energy development should be evaluated for consistency with the Town Plan and the natural resource and land use priorities identified elsewhere in this Plan. Particular consideration should be given to potential impacts on prominent ridgelines and scenic views, significant wildlife habitat and connectivity areas, forest resources, avian migration routes, neighboring properties, and other mapped natural resources.

Wind energy facilities should be sited and designed to minimize adverse impacts on Shrewsbury's natural and scenic resources while allowing appropriately scaled renewable energy development in locations consistent with the Town's overall pattern of development and energy goals.

Siting considerations for larger wind energy facilities include:

- Avoiding or minimizing impacts to prominent ridgelines and important scenic resources.
- Avoiding fragmentation of significant forest blocks and wildlife habitat and maintaining important habitat connectivity.
- Avoiding avian migration routes
- Considering potential impacts on nearby residences and neighboring properties.
- Using existing access roads and previously disturbed areas where feasible to reduce land disturbance.
- Evaluating proposed sites in relation to the Town's mapped natural resources and the State's Act 174 wind energy potential and constraint mapping.

J. Hydro Facilities

While small-scale hydro was an energy source in the past, it is unlikely to be developed as a significant energy source again. However, some locations in the Town of Shrewsbury could potentially be used to develop small, residential-scale hydropower. The State of Vermont has full oversight of water resources to maintain the environmental and biological integrity of Vermont’s streams, brooks, and rivers.

K. Energy - Policies

POLICY:

1. Encourage household energy conservation through the use of more efficient, cleaner-burning wood stoves and boilers, as well as better insulation and weatherization methods, and the use of passive-solar construction in new homes, high-efficiency appliances and heating systems, and energy-efficient lighting.
2. Encourage household energy production through passive and active solar generating and co-generating opportunities, as well as small-scale hydroelectric and wind-power electric generation technologies where an environmental and biological impact study performed by qualified agencies and affirmed by the Town indicates that the impact would not be adverse.
3. In any future construction of Town buildings, attention should be explicitly given to ways to minimize the potential future costs of energy.
4. Support programs to provide education and information about efficient building methods for new and existing residential and commercial buildings.
5. Support programs to provide education and information about financial assistance and incentives for weatherization, and efficiency programs.
6. Renewable energy generation facilities shall not be located in protected areas as delineated by this Town Plan. See Natural Resources Chapter and Land Use Chapter.
7. Renewable energy generation facilities shall not be located so as to adversely impact scenic resources as described in this Town Plan. See Scenic and Historic Resources Chapter, Natural Resources Chapter, Land Use Chapter.
8. Wind turbines shall not have an audible effect, producing noise above ambient levels, to any area residents.
9. Solar energy facilities shall be sited with the least amount of impact to valuable agricultural soils and open space. Solar energy facilities are encouraged to be sited on roofs or in areas where the panels can be situated to allow use under them. If panels are to be sited on agricultural soils or other designated open spaces, panels shall be clustered to preserve the soils and allow for continued use of the land for agricultural purposes.
10. Shrewsbury shall require site remediation of decommissioned wind tower sites and ground mounted solar sites.
11. Support car-pool programs and planning for ride-shares for Shrewsbury residents.

17. Climate and Flood Resilience

A. Climate Change

The subject of the Earth's changing climate is a topic of intense scientific research and widespread public policy discussion. Climate change resulting from increasing concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide due to fossil fuel use poses an immediate threat to our town, to our society, and to the global environment and economy. Scientific evidence confirms that climate change is causing more frequent and severe storms and floods; wildfires, drought, and hot weather health threats; ecosystem disruption and species extinction; and changes in precipitation and growing seasons with potential impacts on agricultural, forestry, maple sugaring, and recreational skiing industries. Many of these changes are already occurring in Vermont or may soon be experienced.

Average temperatures in Vermont have increased with winter starting later and spring arriving earlier according to the Vermont Climate and Health Profile released by the Vermont Department of Health in 2016. This is also true in Shrewsbury as shown in the local climate data. Vermont's annual precipitation has increased by seven inches over the past fifty years. Specific annual precipitation data for Shrewsbury is not available. The annual precipitation data for Rutland County shows an increase of approximately 3 inches over the past 50 years. Extreme weather events have become more frequent with 14 federally declared disasters occurring in Shrewsbury between 2011 and 2025. resulting in 3.5 times as many disasters as the previous ten years. Shrewsbury has and will continue to take actions to build resilience against the effects of climate change.

As hot weather increases, heat stroke and other health related issues are anticipated to increase state-wide. Hot weather emergency preparedness plans, increased planting of trees and vegetation, and modifying buildings to increase cooling can help Shrewsbury adapt. The Department of Health has recommended the strategy of building resilience against climate effects. Improving resilience to increased heat and extreme weather events will position the community well to respond to changes in our climate.

The Vermont Climate Action Commission's (VCAC) 2018 report offers recommendations on how Vermont can meet the reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions called for in the 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan to combat climate change. There is a lot of overlap between energy strategies and GHG emission reductions. Increased weatherization, renewable energy resources, incentivizing electric vehicles, and improving bike and pedestrian paths are all strategies that reduce GHG emissions and decrease energy use. Other strategies recommended to reduce GHG in the atmosphere include land conservation, rebuilding soil health, and sequestering carbon in our forests and soils. The 2018 VCAC report states that more than half of Vermont's annual carbon emissions are being absorbed by the annual growth of these forests;

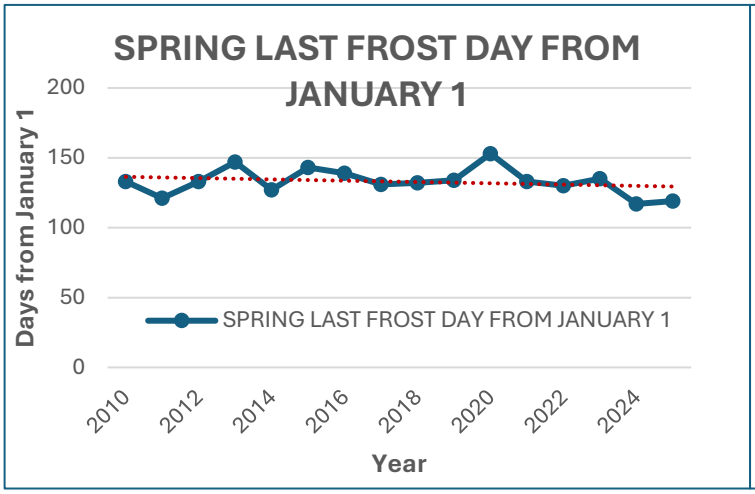
however, that growth is declining. Shrewsbury has taken actions to promote forested areas and curb forest fragmentation, which will aid in sequestering carbon in our forests and soils.

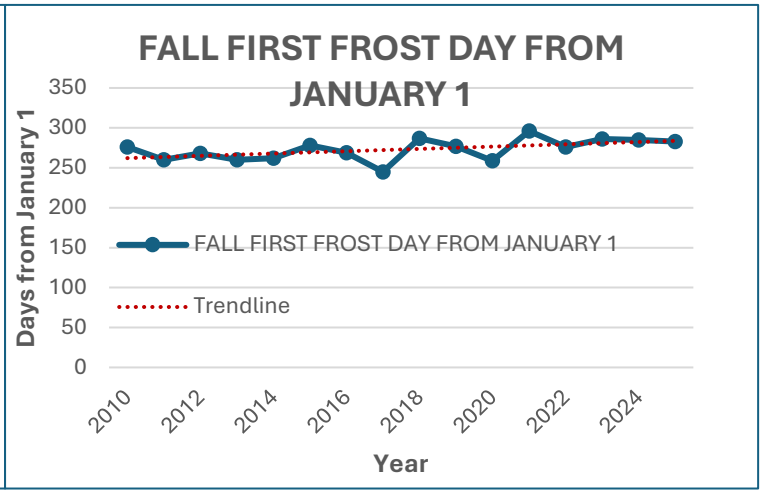
Throughout the Town Plan there are policies that, taken together, initiate a strategy for resilience to protect both our natural resources and our quality of life against adverse climate effects. At the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, Shrewsbury residents strongly approved a resolution asking State officials to move decisively toward meeting renewable energy goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are causing the planet's climate to warm.

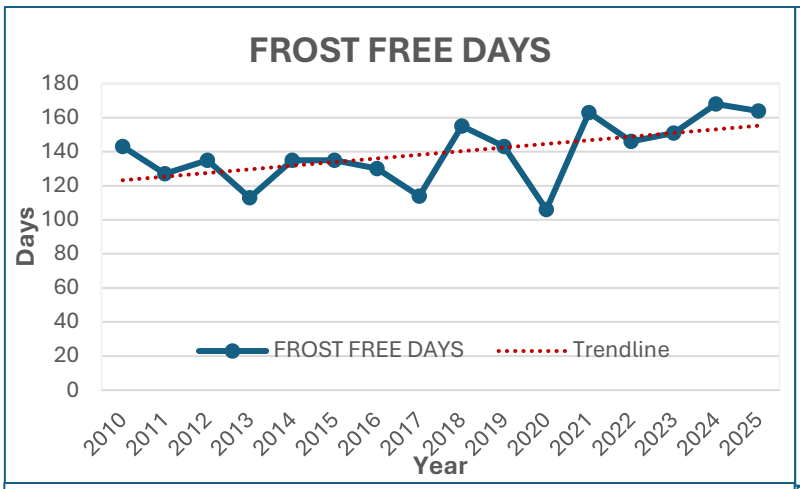
B. Climate Trends

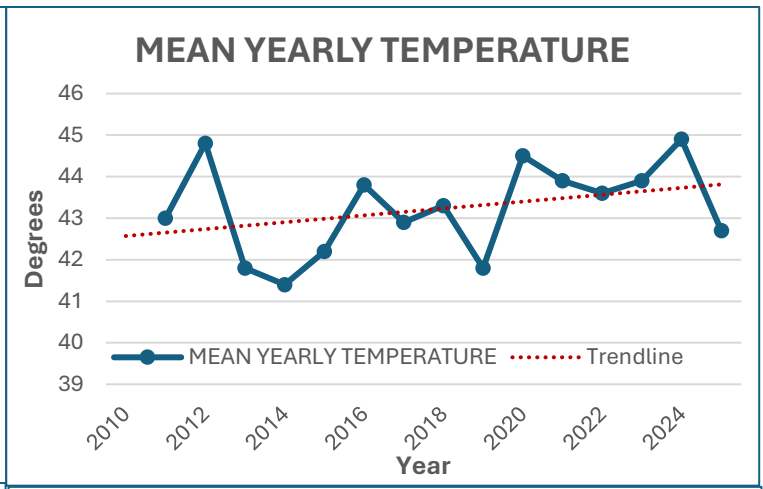
The average annual precipitation in Shrewsbury is 47.7 inches with June being the rainiest month. Snowfall averages 93.1 inches annually with January being the snowiest month. Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the seasons.

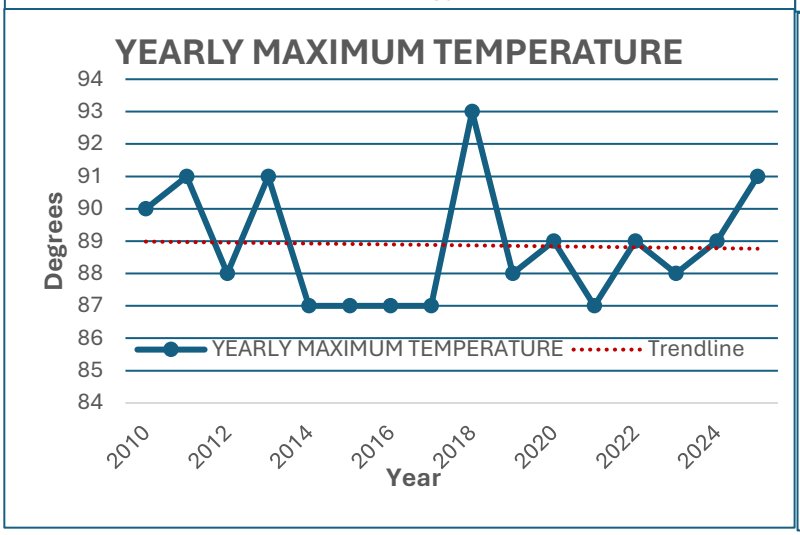
Temperatures range from approximately 21 degrees mean temperature in January which is the coldest month to to 77.30 degrees mean temperature in July the warmest month. Local weather station data reporting shows the lowest temperature from 2011 to 2025 was-24 degrees and the highest temperature was 93 degrees. Local weather station data shown in the following graphs indicate temperatures getting warmer in Shrewsbury from 2010 to 2025.

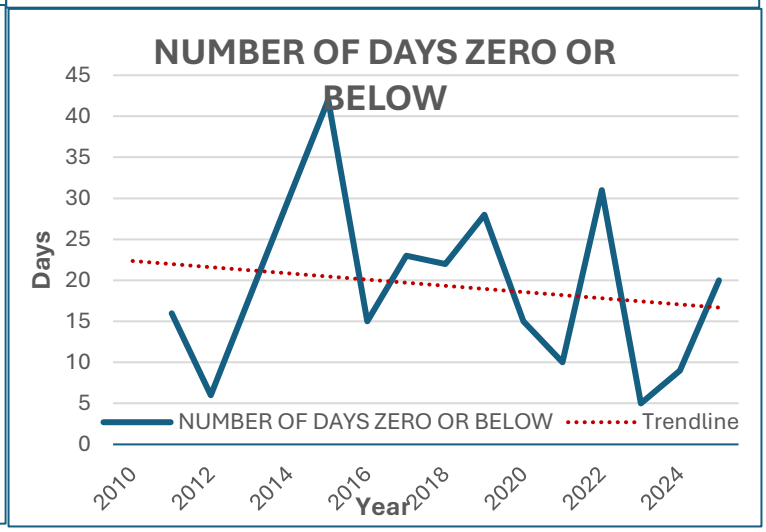


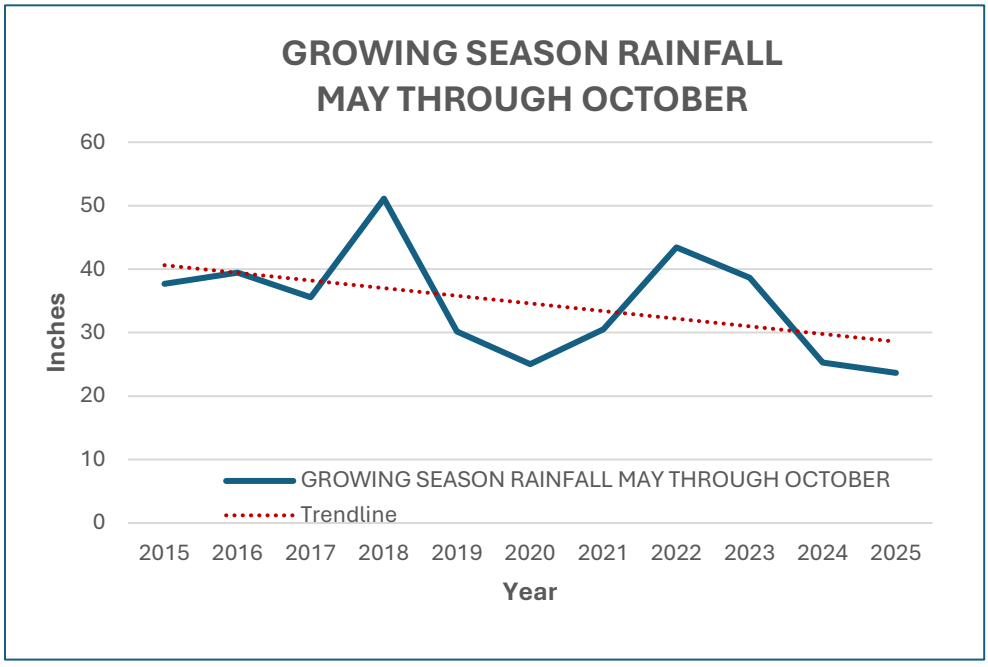



FROST FREE DAYS
Days
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
FROST FREE DAYS
Trendline
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
Year


MEAN YEARLY TEMPERATURE
Degrees
46
45
44
43
42
41
40
39
MEAN YEARLY TEMPERATURE
Trendline
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year


YEARLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
Degrees
94
93
92
91
90
89
88
87
86
85
84
YEARLY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE
Trendline
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year


NUMBER OF DAYS ZERO OR BELOW
Days
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
NUMBER OF DAYS ZERO OR BELOW
Trendline
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020
2022
2024
Year


GROWING SEASON RAINFALL MAY THROUGH OCTOBER
Inches
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
GROWING SEASON RAINFALL MAY THROUGH OCTOBER
Trendline
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
Year

C. Flood Resilience

Add flood photo

Shrewsbury has many areas identified as flood prone in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps including Cold River, Mill River, Freeman Brook, Gould Brook, Sargent Brook, Cooks Pond and Johnson Pond. Shrewsbury participates in the FEMA NFIP which sets engineering and construction standards for development in the special flood hazard area (SFHA). In 2022 Shrewsbury updated the Flood Hazard Area regulations and included the regulation of development in the river corridor, an area subject to fluvial erosion (rather than inundation). Most of Cuttingsville is in the SFHA. Flooding is the most common and most destructive natural disaster for a community in Vermont. The NFIP program is operated by FEMA, its purpose is to address impacts caused by inundation flooding, which is more commonplace across the country.

The geology and topography of Vermont compel an additional regulatory response to reduce the impact of fluvial erosion. In Vermont and in Shrewsbury fluvial erosion events are common and occur when riverbanks are destroyed by the movement of streams. The process can range from gradual bank erosion to catastrophic realignments of the river channel during flood events. Major erosion events are typically associated with periods of heavy rainfall or rapid snow melt and tend to worsen the effects of flooding that often accompany these events. Following the wide-scale impact of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 the Vermont River Management Program developed a program that first mapped river corridors throughout the state. The purpose of the river corridor is to establish a zone where the stream can move within in its floodplain, reestablishing equilibrium conditions and habitats. This approach avoids wherever possible the straightening and berming of rivers to prevent the channel from moving. As climate change continues the frequency and intensity of fluvial erosion events are also increasing. This hazard pattern presents challenges to communities such as Shrewsbury where the existing road network is often in narrow valleys. This network evolved from an era when settlements relied on stream water for power generation and waste removal, and when upland areas were used for timber harvesting and cleared for grazing of livestock, not low-density residential use. Shrewsbury's participation in the River Corridor program further restricts development in the designated area to prevent more conflicts and damage to private and public property. Part of the benefit of participation in this program is more support from the state for the Town of Shrewsbury to repair vital infrastructure when the county experiences more than $1 million in damage due to a storm event.

Many of the culverts and bridges on Shrewsbury's roads are not designed to handle the increase in water volume and velocity caused by the increased intensity of storms. The Shrewsbury Highway Department has been replacing culverts and bridges with new structures that are sized

and aligned to match the natural stream width and slope, reducing the risk of clogging and washout. These new structures also provide increased passage aquatic organisms and wildlife.

D. Ice Storms

The Rutland region has experienced a noticeable shift toward more frequent winter ice storms and heavy, wet freezing rain events over the past 15 years. While the historic **1998 Northeast Ice Storm** remains Vermont's benchmark for extreme ice devastation, local data from the National Weather Service in Burlington reveals that recent winters have brought an uptick in localized and regional icing events. In Shrewsbury, this causes power outages, downed trees blocking roads and driveways making them impassable, costing the town and homeowners time and money for their removal. Climate change has increased temperatures which in turn increases the volume of water vapor in the atmosphere. This is experienced on the ground in the form of more large-scale ice storms or heavy wet snow impacting a landscape and infrastructure suited to a different climate. The issue is exacerbated now by the frequency of rain-on-snow events which can make flood risk both more difficult to predict and increase the impact of flooding that occurs from rapid snow melt alone. We are now realizing that these climate changes pose a growing challenge for an aging somewhat physically isolated population and a small-town system of government with limited ability to mobilize in response to these emergencies.

E. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



Microburst wind event on Bailey Road July 2026

Shrewsbury worked with RRPC to complete its most recent update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2027 and approved by FEMA. The plan uses a standard format for municipalities in Vermont using data drawn from a vulnerability assessment to develop a plan to mitigate against the most likely hazard events which cause the most damage to public and private property and the most risk to human life. The assessment considered the effects of future conditions, such as climate change or potential development, on the types, locations, and intensity ranges of identified hazards. The emphasis is on the experience of flooding and its causes and the steps the community is taking to become more resilient. The assessment also identified extreme cold, snow, ice and strong wind as likely hazard events in Shrewsbury. The plan focuses on risks posed to physical assets. A more comprehensive understanding of resilience now acknowledges the stress imposed on people surviving traumatic events and the unequal experience of these stressors by marginalized groups. Shrewsbury can contribute to, and benefit from, an ongoing regional discussion of hazard mitigation and emergency management

responses by participating in the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee hosted by the RRPC.

F. Climate and Flood Resilience – Policies

POLICY:

1. Support community efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Maintain eligibility for the highest level of Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) funding from the state.
3. Ensure eligibility for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by implementing federal/state regulations on development within mapped flood hazard areas.
4. Review the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan every 5 years as required and implement the actions in that plan.
5. Uphold Shrewsbury's special flood area, fluvial erosion regulations and wetland regulations.
6. Limit development in proximity to rivers and streams as required by the Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor regulations, and Unified Zoning and Subdivision regulations.
7. Guide new residential development away from sites that are remote from community services, difficult to access or at higher risk of damage from severe storms.
8. Consider historic structures when planning flood mitigation and resilience projects, and support measures that reduce flood risk while preserving their historic character where feasible.
9. Support organizations and volunteer efforts that provide shelter, medical assistance, transportation, food, water, communication, and other support services to Shrewsbury residents during disasters or emergencies.
10. Support regional initiatives to improve preparedness for future disasters and emergencies.

18. Regional Plan & Surrounding Communities

A. Relationship to Regional Plan

Shrewsbury is one of the municipalities within the Rutland Region and participates in regional planning through the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC). The 2026 Rutland Regional Plan, adopted May 19, 2026, provides a regional framework for land use, housing, transportation, economic and community development, natural resources, energy, resilience, and public facilities and services.

The Shrewsbury Town Plan is intended to be consistent with the Rutland Regional Plan while reflecting Shrewsbury's local conditions, priorities, and rural character. Both plans recognize the importance of coordinating land use and infrastructure planning while allowing the appropriate scale and form of growth to vary among communities. The Regional Plan specifically recognizes

that growth is needed throughout the Region while emphasizing locally appropriate approaches based on community infrastructure, capacity, and character.

B. Intermunicipal Coordination

Shrewsbury shares municipal boundaries with Clarendon, Wallingford, Mount Holly, Plymouth, and Mendon. Because land use, transportation, natural resources, watersheds, wildlife habitat, emergency services, and other issues extend across municipal boundaries, planning decisions in Shrewsbury can affect neighboring communities and vice versa.

The Town Plan seeks to maintain land use patterns that are compatible with surrounding communities and to avoid conflicts along municipal boundaries. Similar compatibility language is used in other Rutland Region municipal plans, including Wallingford and Tinmouth, which consider neighboring land use patterns and the Regional Plan when establishing their own future land use direction.

Shrewsbury will continue to communicate and coordinate with neighboring municipalities when issues or opportunities of shared importance arise.

C. Regional Initiatives

Many of the issues addressed by this Town Plan extend beyond Shrewsbury's municipal boundaries and benefit from regional cooperation. Shrewsbury will continue to participate in regional planning efforts and work with neighboring municipalities, RRPC, State agencies, and other partners on matters of shared importance, including transportation, housing, emergency preparedness, natural resources, energy, infrastructure, and community and economic development.

RRPC provides municipalities in the Rutland Region with technical assistance in areas including land use, transportation, energy, emergency management, natural resources, and community and economic development.

19. Program for Implementation

Abbreviations

Shrewsbury Selectboard – SSB
Shrewsbury Planning Commission – SPC
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission - SCC
Shrewsbury Development Review Board - DRB
Otter Creek Communication Union District - OCCUD
Rutland Regional Planning Commission - RRPC
Shrewsbury Outing Club - SOC
Solid Waste Alliance Communities - SWAC
Shrewsbury Highway Department - SHD

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
5. Natural Resources	1. Conduct natural resource inventories and assessments for: a. vernal pools inventory to describe, verify, and identify vernal pools in Shrewsbury b. forestlands to determine the significant forest blocks c. wildlife habitat corridors to determine and verify road crossing areas. d. evaluate areas to designate as Natural Forest Preserves in response to ACT 59, for community resilience and biodiversity protection, as unmanaged areas for education, biodiversity, and sustainability.	SCC with SPC & volunteers	By 2032
	2. Display the location of aquifer recharge areas that form the groundwater supply for Shrewsbury on maps.	SPC, RRPC	2032
	3. Continue supporting the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission efforts to remove invasive plants.	SSB	ongoing
	4. The Town of Shrewsbury should work closely with other municipalities in the region in planning and reviewing development along the Town's boundaries. This includes participation in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings, in local zoning proceedings and in regional discussions as	SPC SSB	As needed

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	appropriate to achieve these goals and to safeguard Shrewsbury's interests.		
	5. Join the Vermont Dark Sky Chapter (appoint a representative)	SSB	2027
	6. Amend USZ bylaws on outdoor lighting per Vermont Dark Sky guidance	SPC	2027
6.Scenic and Historic Resources	1. Conduct a scenic road inventory and consider officially designating or designating within the Town Plan certain sections of road as "scenic" in accordance with the Vermont Scenic Highway Law.	SPC & Volunteers	2028
	2. Continue roadside improvement actions such as invasive plant removal and Green-Up day	SCC & Volunteers	ongoing
	3. Complete and adopt a Shade Tree Preservation Plan.	SPC, RRPC & Volunteers	2027
	4. Shrewsbury Center, North Shrewsbury Center, Brown Covered Bridge, and Cuttingsville are currently designated as historic districts. Continue their designation as historic districts and continue requirements for construction in these areas to follow historic district zoning regulations.	SPC & DRB	ongoing
	7. Implement Design Review Districts as a means of protecting areas containing structures of historic, architectural, or cultural merit. Such districts may be recommended by the Planning Commission and approved by the Select Board. Within such designated Design Review Districts, no structure may be erected, reconstructed, substantially altered, restored, moved, demolished, or changed in use or type of occupancy without approval of the project by the Development Review Board (DRB).	SPC	2030

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	8. Recommend that important historic sites be identified with plaques (by the Shrewsbury Historical Society or others) to encourage their preservation.	Shrewsbury Historic Society	ongoing
7. Recreation Resources	9. Maintain existing trails for recreational use (hiking,skiing)	SOC	
	10. Maintain access to Spring Lake for recreational use	SOC	
8. Land Use	1. Conduct community forums on villages – including expansions of village areas, village designation, and new development in villages.	SPC	2028
	2. Develop conservation priorities and strategies to guide future conservation initiatives.	SPC, SCC SSB	2030
	5. Identify parcels that are good candidates for conservation and UVA, then work with the landowners to help them enroll in appropriate programs.	SCC & Volunteers	
	5. Support the work of the Conservation Commission in educating forest landowners on resources available to them such as Vermont Coverts and the Use Value Appraisal program.	SCC, SSB & Partners	ongoing
	6. To assist landowners in complying with the goals and policies of this Plan, the Town may consider setting up a voluntary "Site Assistance Program." This program would be carried out by a committee of Townspeople with skills in engineering, architecture, forestry, agriculture, and landscaping. The committee would advise landowners on ways to carry out planned development and construction so as to preserve agricultural and forest productivity and to protect the scenic quality of the Town.	SPC & Volunteers	
	7. Continue to require a site review procedure for development at elevations between 2,000 and 2,300 feet in the Shrewsbury Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations in order to assure that any development in these	SPC & DRB	ongoing

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	zones will not adversely affect the fragile ecosystems and scenic quality of the terrain.		
	8. The Planning Commission will show agricultural and open lands on maps, research and consider revising the meadowland overlay and adding a prime agricultural soils overlay to the Zoning Regulations by 2030.	SPC, DRB, & RRPC	2030
	9. The Planning Commission should develop a plan for farmland preservation and propose specific incentives to implement a farmland conservation program. As part of the program, the Conservation Commission or others should offer voluntary assistance to land owners to help them preserve farm and pasture land for continued agricultural use.	SPC, SCC, Volunteers & Partners	2030
	10. The Town shall consider a variety of techniques to maintain the agricultural productivity of prime, state, and locally important agricultural soils, conserve forestlands and resource protection areas: a. Tax stabilization and incentives b. Agricultural protection districts c. Purchase/transfer-of-development-rights programs d. Assistance programs e. Town agricultural land revolving fund f. Town land conservation fund g. Assessment of farm and forest land at its use value h. Easements i. Open Space Development (OSD)which is similar to Planned Unit Development (PUD); Open Space Development (OSD) recognizes the value of the open space and allows flexible lot development while protecting the open space j. Other flexible planning strategies designed to preserve agricultural land,	SPC, SCC & SSB	2030

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	k. Land Trusts: A land trust is a tax-exempt, charitable organization working with landowners to facilitate land conservation and open space protection; i.e., purchase development rights, donation of development rights, land gifts, and community projects to protect public land. l. Add 3 to list		
	11. The Town's official bodies should work cooperatively with State agencies on long-range management plans and shall include the identification of scenic areas, wildlife habitat for game and non-game species (deer yards, bear, bird, and amphibian habitats), wetlands, fragile soils, wild lands, areas for quiet recreation, and techniques for their protection.	SPC, SCC & SSB	As needed
	11. Develop a town sugar bush regeneration program.	SCC, Tree Warden, Volunteers & Partners	2030
9. Housing	9. The Shrewsbury Planning Commission should hold community forums to consider amendments to the Unified Subdivision and Zoning Regulations that establish appropriate districts and reasonable standards for multiunit and multifamily dwellings, including the conversion of large houses into multiunit dwellings.	SPC	2028
	10. The Shrewsbury Planning Commission should consider applying for grant funding to complete a local housing needs assessment.	SPC	2029
	11. The Unified Subdivision and Zoning Regulations shall be updated to allow duplexes in all districts in which single-unit dwellings are permitted. Dimensional standards shall not be more restrictive than those	SPC	2027

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	applicable to a single-unit dwelling, and review requirements shall be consistent with those applicable to a single-unit dwelling.		
	12. The Unified Subdivision and Zoning Regulations shall be updated to define an accessory dwelling unit as a distinct unit that is clearly subordinate to a single-family dwelling and contains facilities for independent living, including sleeping, food preparation, and sanitation, provided that: a. The property has sufficient wastewater capacity; and b. The unit does not exceed 30 percent of the total habitable floor area of the single-family dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is greater.	SPC	2027
	5. The Development Review Board shall continue to provide timely review of residential permit applications within its jurisdiction.	DRB	ongoing
10. Economy	1. Update the USZ regulations in regard to accessory on-farm businesses per current VT statute.	SPC	2027
11. Facilities and Services	1. Educate Townspeople on the Vermont State Statutes and Guidelines for waste disposal and recycling, including safe disposal and storage of toxic household wastes.	SSB & SWAC	ongoing
	2. Continue to operate the Town Transfer Station, upgrading its facilities as funding permits.	SSB	ongoing
	3. Continue to keep records of the amounts of solid waste disposed of and recycled at the municipal transfer station, including metal waste.	SWAC Rep. & Town Treasurer	ongoing
	4. Maintain Town membership to Vermont League of Cities and Towns.	SSB	ongoing

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	5. Maintain Town membership to RRPC.	SSB	ongoing
	6. Develop Capital Planning programs for operations, maintenance, and replacements of Town facilities, equipment, and highways.	SSB	ongoing
	7. Continue support of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund and the Operating Fund.	SSB	ongoing
	8. Continue support of the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service	SSB	ongoing
	9. Continue the Town Emergency Management Team.	SSB	ongoing
12. Utilities	1. Update zoning bylaws and town highway policies to encourage buried electric distribution and telecommunication lines.	SPC & SSB	2028
	2. Review and update the Town's Telecommunications Ordinance	SPC	ongoing
	3. Inform Shrewsbury residents and business owners about the battery back-up for their broadband and telecommunications service.	SSB & OCCUD representative	2027
13. Education	1. Support the MRUUSD, and the SMS with its added value programs for Town families.	SSB	ongoing
14. Cultural Resources	1. Continue to support the Shrewsbury Library with funds in the Town's annual budget.	SSB	ongoing
	2. Continue to support the Shrewsbury Historical Society with funds in the Town's annual budget.	SSB	ongoing
15. Transportation	5. Selectboard/Town should continue to uphold a traffic ordinance and post and enforce speed limits.	SSB	ongoing
	2. Develop a reserve fund(s) to both fund and match funding for major maintenance projects.	SSB & SPC	2028

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
	3. Develop capital planning for highway maintenance and highway facilities.	SSB & SPC	2028
	4. Develop capital planning for highway equipment replacements, upgrades, and procurement.	SSB & SPC	2028
	5. Support Highway Department administrative tasks.	SSB	ongoing
	6. Roadside banks should be re-seeded immediately following any earth disturbance.	SHD	ongoing
	7. No herbicides shall be used on Shrewsbury's roadsides,	SHD	ongoing
	8. Minimize use of (straight) salt on the Town's roads.	SHD	ongoing
	9. Invasive plants along roads should be removed and efforts made to avoid the spread of any existing plants.	SHD & SCC	ongoing
16. Energy	1. Develop an active Shrewsbury Energy Committee.	SSB & Volunteers	2028
17. Climate and Flood Resilience	1. Encourage property owners to maintain woody vegetation and tree cover at higher elevations, riverbanks, and on steeper slopes to avoid further intensification of downslope flooding or erosion during severe storms.	SPC, SCC &partners	ongoing
	2. Maintain a current, adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.	SSB, SPC	Every 5 years
	3. Continue to monitor the health of and remove diseased hazardous trees within the public right-of-way.	SHD &Tree Warden	ongoing

Chapter Section	Action	Who is Responsible	Time Table
20. Capital Improvement Plan	1. The Town shall prepare and adopt a Capital Program.	SBB, SPC	2028

20. Capital Improvement Plan

Expenditures of public funds will be required to implement some of the recommendations contained in this Plan. In this regard, the Planning Commission may establish priorities for an annual capital budget and program for a period of not less than eight years.

A capital budget lists and describes the capital projects to be undertaken during the coming fiscal year, their estimated cost, and the proposed method of financing. The capital program is a plan of capital projects to be undertaken during each of the next eight years and also projects estimated costs and methods of financing. Both tools may be used effectively in promoting sound fiscal Town management.

Such a budget and program are essential to enable a town to anticipate the need for municipal services and to minimize the burden of providing for them.

The Town shall prepare and adopt a Capital Budget and Program as soon as possible.

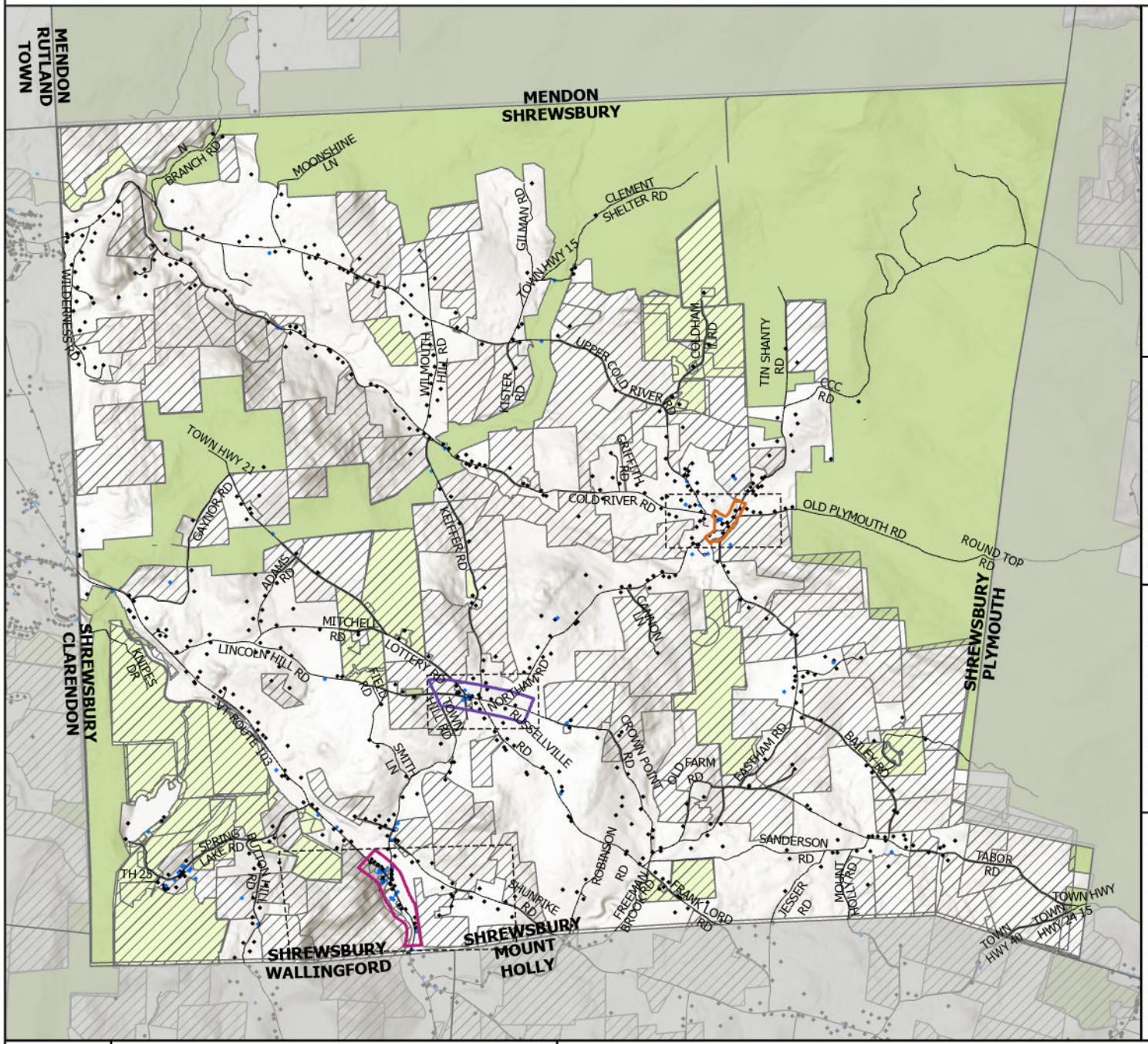
21. Town Maps

List of Shrewsbury Town Plan Maps:

1. Map 1 - Current Land Use
2. Map 3 – Elevation
3. Map 3 – Flood Hazard & River Corridor
4. Map 4 – Future Land Use
5. Map 5 – Municipal Map
6. Map 6 – Natural Resource Lands & Land Management
7. Map 7 – Recreation Resources
8. Map 8 – Natural Resources & Habitats
9. Map 9 - Transportation Map

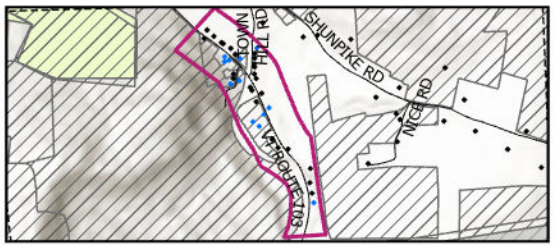
Current Land Use

Map 1



- Publicly Protected Lands
- Privately Conserved Lands
- Cuttingsville
- North Shrewsbury/ Northam
- Shrewsbury Center
- Shrewsbury Roads
- Non Residential Structures
- Residential Structures
- Roads
- Current Use Parcels
- Insets Borders

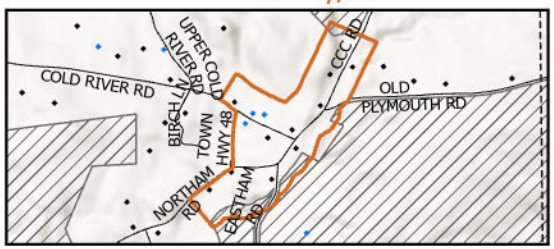
Cuttingsville



Shrewsbury Center



North Shrewsbury/Northam



N

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Sources: VCGI, Vermont Department of Taxes, Vermont ANR, Town of Shrewsbury, RRPC

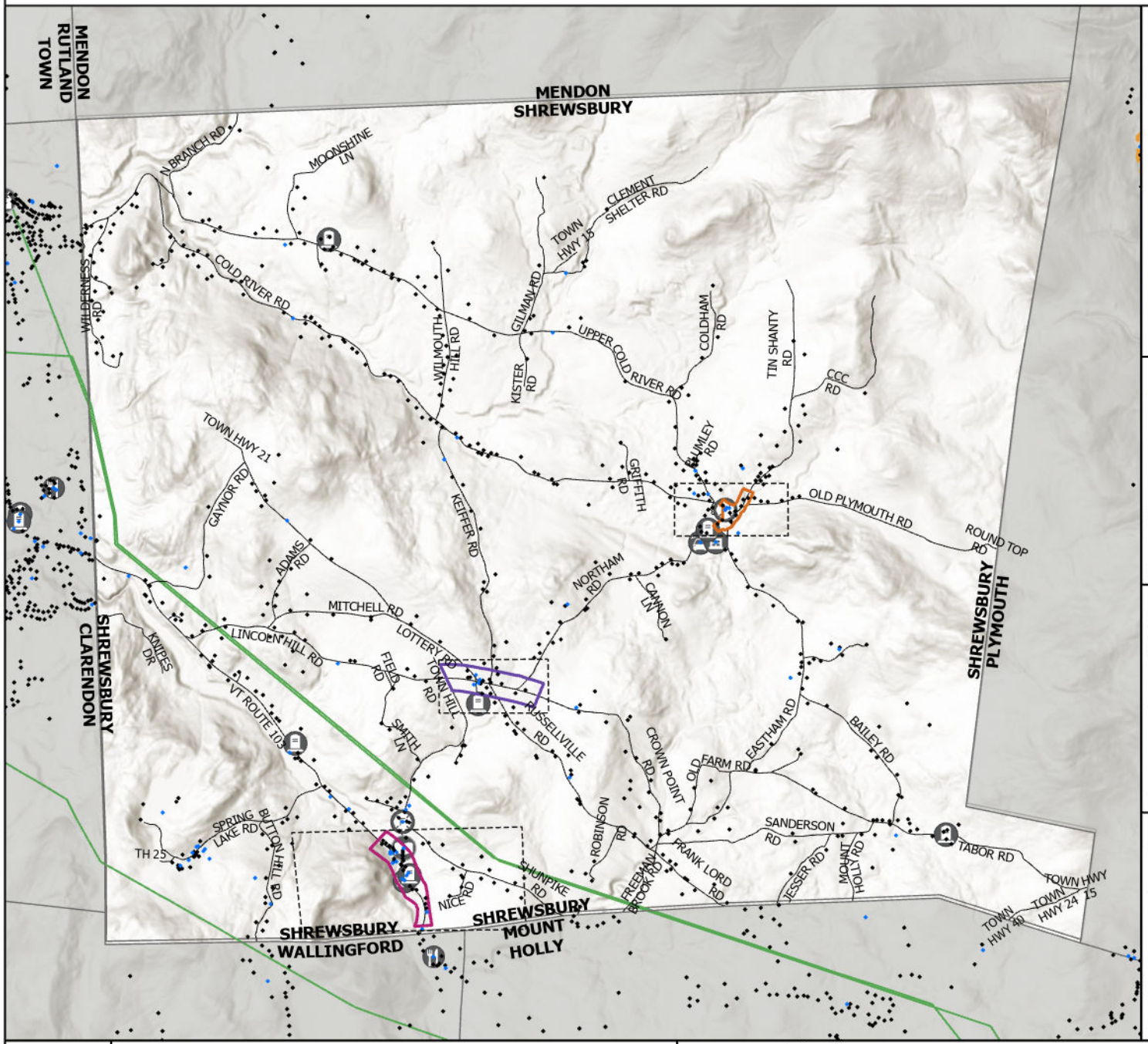
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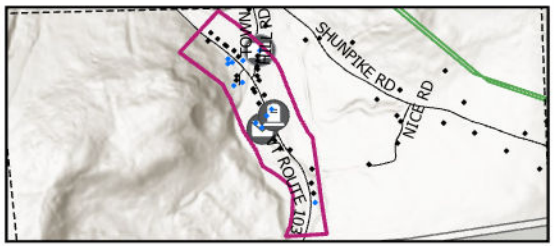
Municipal Map

Map 5

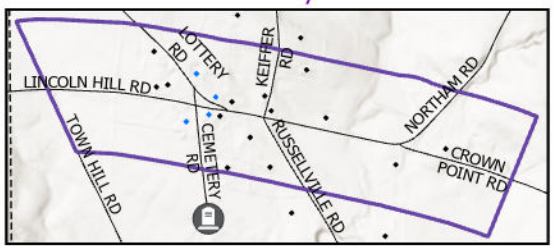


Insets Borders
Non Residential Strucutres
Residential Structures
Cuttingsville
North Shrewsbury/Northam
Shrewsbury Center
Shrewsbury Roads
VELCO Transmission Lines
3 Phase Power
Cemeteries
Communications Tower
City/Town Office
Firestation
Post Office
Library
Restaurant
Schools
Substations
Town Garage
Transfer Station

Cuttingsville



Shrewsbury Center



North Shrewsbury/Northam



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Sources: Town of Shrewsbury, VCGI, E911, RRPC

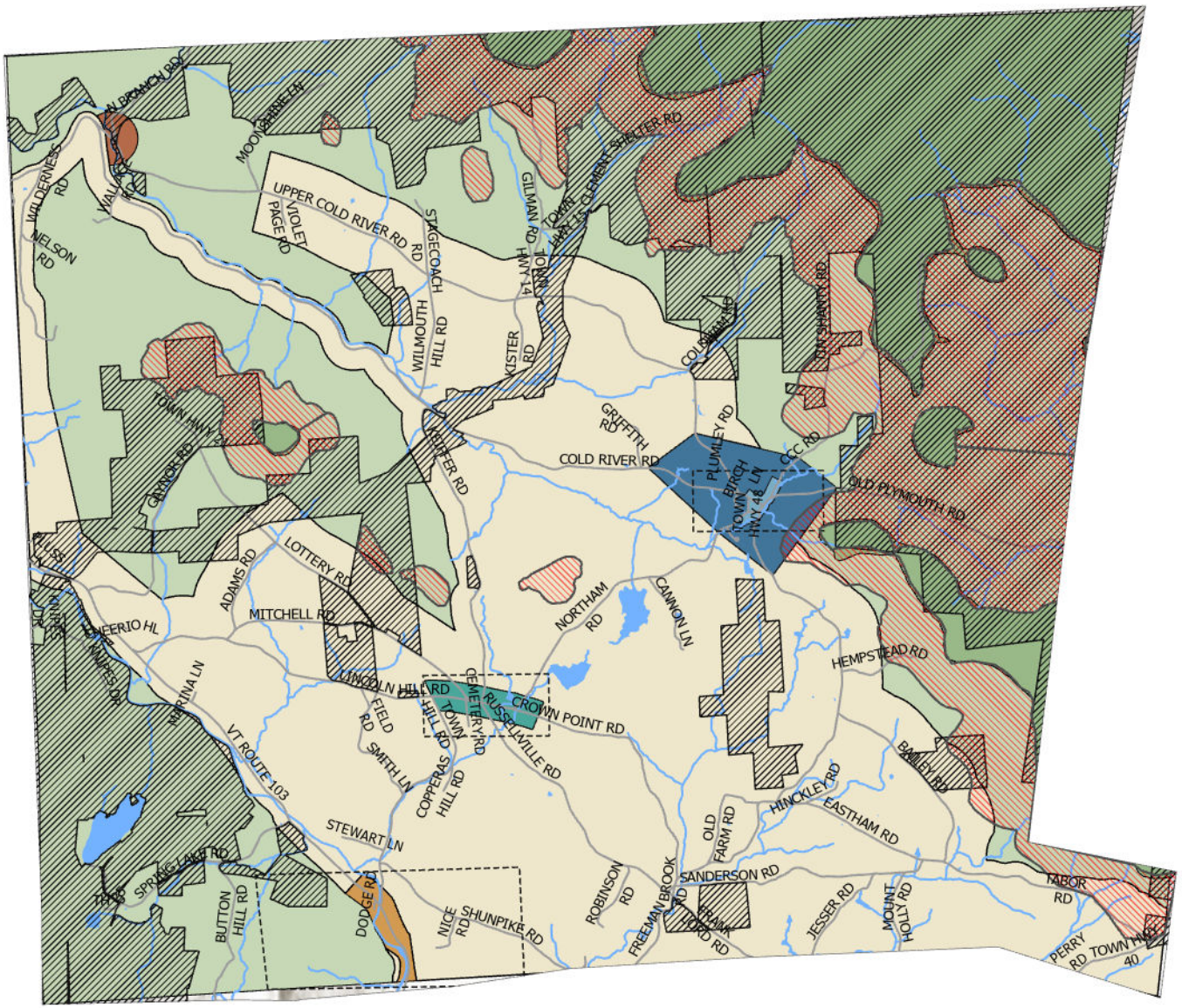
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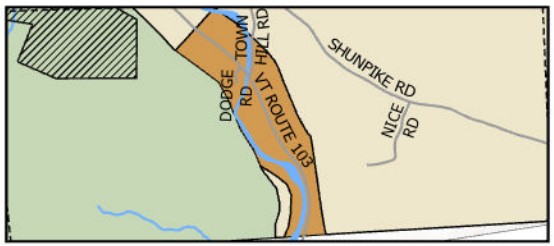
Future Land Use

Map 4

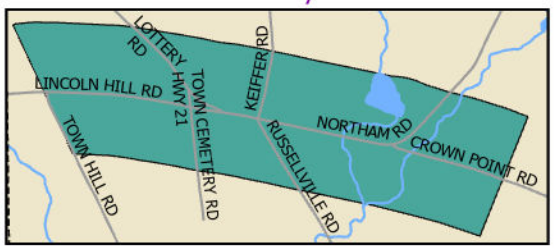


- Insets Borders
- SHREWSBURY
- Shrewsbury Roads
- Rivers_and_Streams
- Lakes_and_Ponds
- Brown Covered Bridge Area
- Cuttingsville
- High Elevation Areas above 2,300 Feet
- Limited Res. (Min. Lot Size 10 Acres)
- North Shrewsbury/Northam
- Rural Res. (Min. Lot Size 4 Acres)
- Shrewsbury Center
- Village Residential: North Shrewsbury
- Conserved Land
- High Elevation Residential District

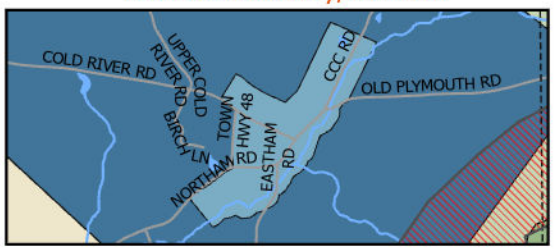
Cuttingsville



Shrewsbury Center



North Shrewsbury/Northam



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Sources: Town of Shrewsbury, VCGI, RRPC

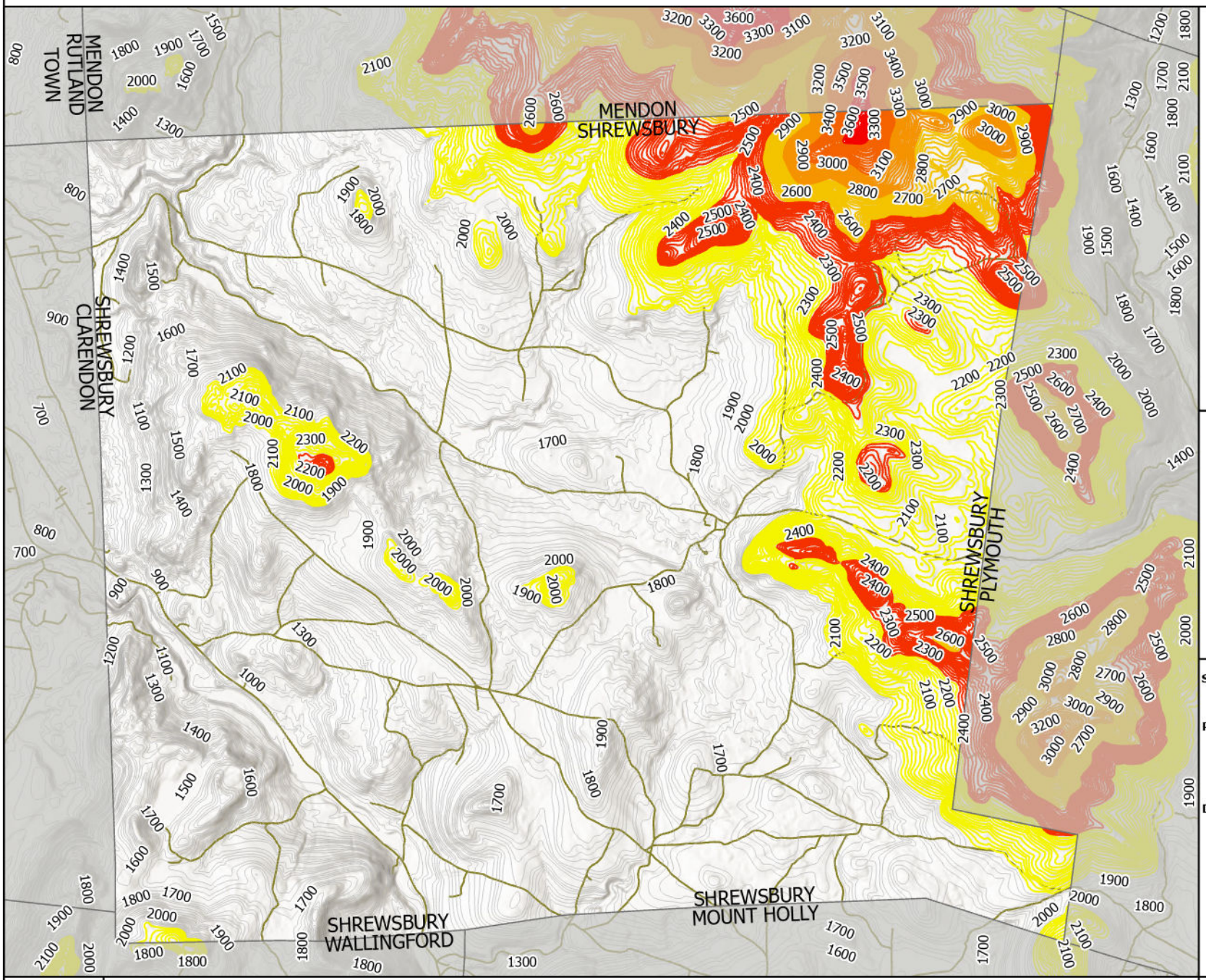
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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Elevation

Map 2



ELEVATION (ft)

- 2000 - 2300
- 2301 - 2600
- 2601 - 2900
- 2901 - 3200
- 3201 - 3500
- 3501 - 4000
- 20 foot Contour
- Roads

Elevation Data: Elevation data are from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VGCI).

Sources: VCGI, USGS, RRPC

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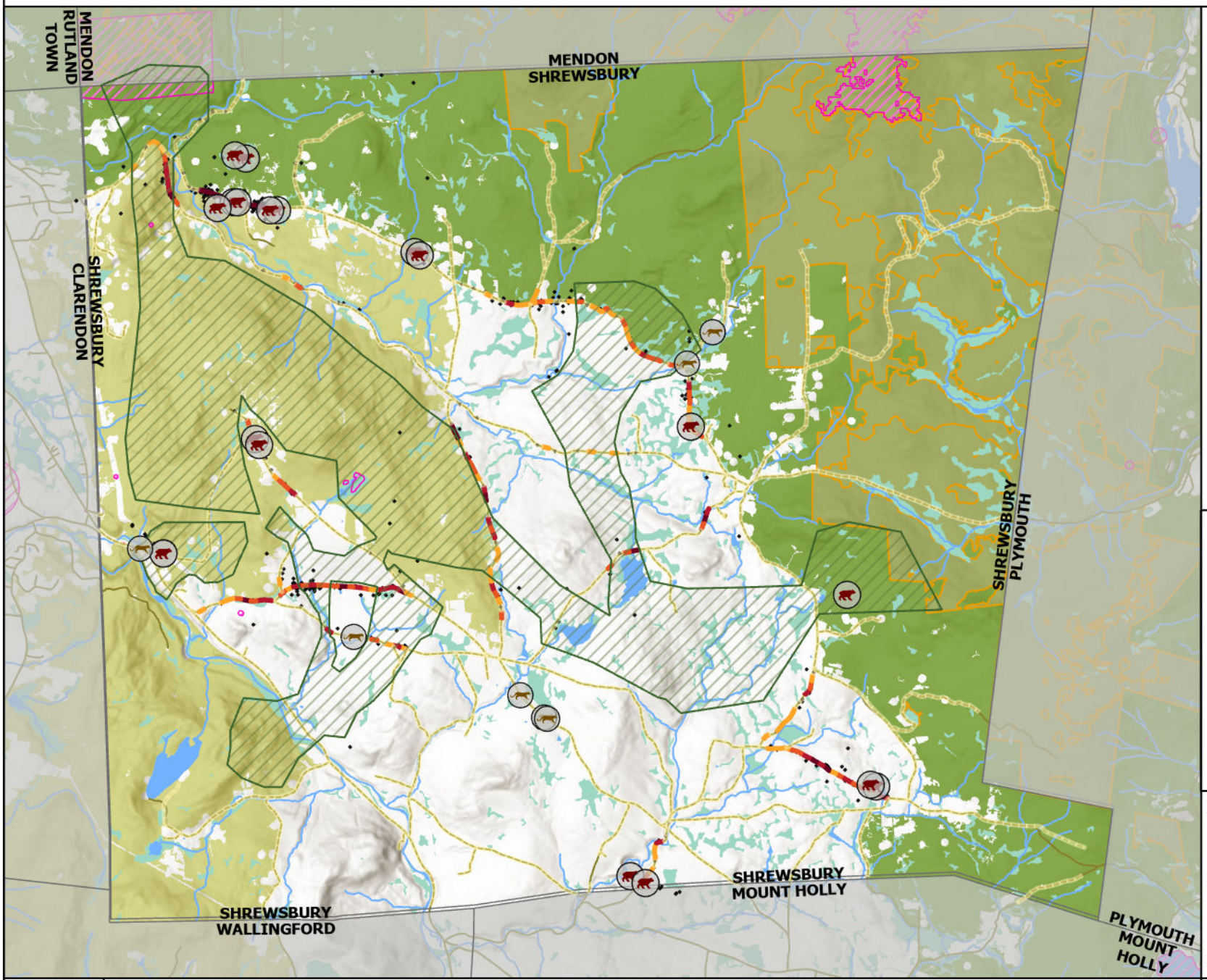
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0 2 4 8 Miles

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Natural Resources & Habitats

Map 7



Local Track Density
- 0.00 - 0.01
- 0.02 - 0.03
- 0.04 - 0.06
- 0.07 - 0.09
- 0.10 - 0.23

Lynx Sightings 2024

Bear Clawed Telephone Poles Summer 2023

Wildlife Corridor Overlay District

Track Sitings

Roads

Rare Threatened & Endangered Species

Rivers & Streams

Lakes & Ponds

Wetlands

Significant Natural Resources

Highest Priority Interior Forest Blocks

Highest Priority Connectivity Blocks

Wildlife Track Density: Winter wildlife tracks recorded during the 2021-22 through 2024-25 seasons. Density accounts for tracks observed, days since snowfall, and the 300-footo road segment surveyed.
Lynx Observations: Locations where lynx were observed or recorded on video.
Bear-Clawed Poles: Bear-clawed telephone poles documented during the 2023-24 tracking season.
Habitat & Connectivity: Habitat blocks, riparian areas, and wildlife crossings show broader patterns of forest habitat and connectivity.

Sources: ANR, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), Vermont Fish and Wildlife (VFWD), VCGI, Vermont Department of Taxes, Town of Shrewsbury, RRPC

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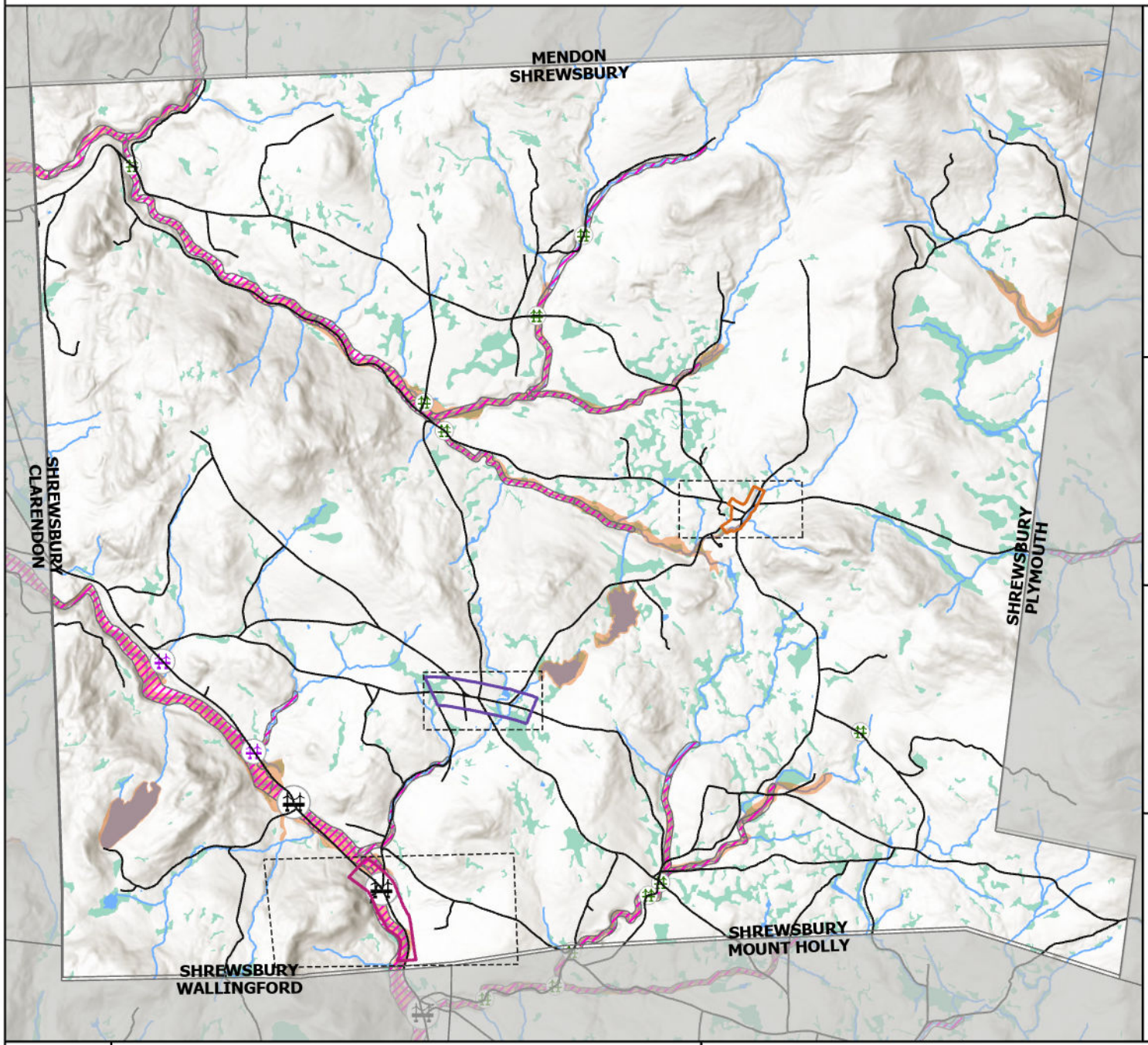
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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Flood Hazard & River Corridor

Map 3



Cuttingsville
North Shrewsbury/Northam
Shrewsbury Center
Roads
Long Structure
Short Structure
Town Structure
River Corridors
Special Flood Hazards
Rivers & Streams
Lakes & Ponds
Wetlands
Insets Borders

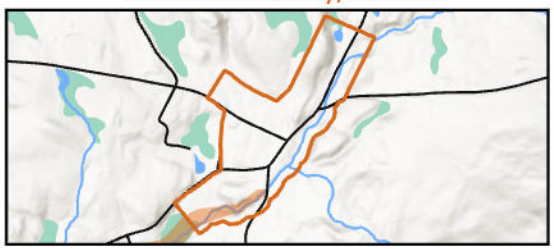
Cuttingsville



Shrewsbury Center



North Shrewsbury/Northam



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Sources: FEMA, ANR, VCGI, Town of Shrewsbury, RRPC

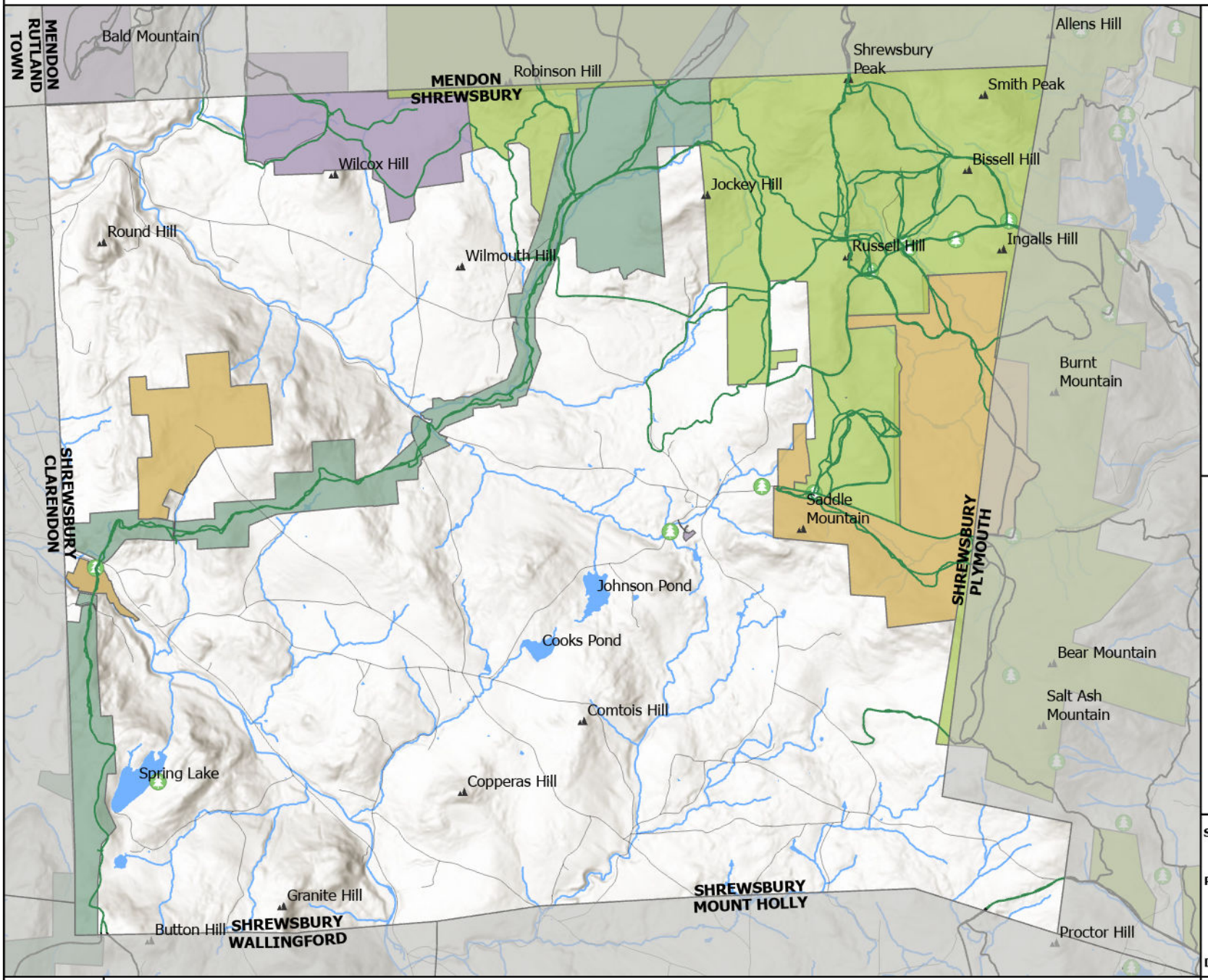
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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Recreation Resources

Map 8



Trails in Shrewsbury
State Forest
Green Mountain National Forest
Lake
Summit
Outdoor Rec Sites
Fishing Access
Roads
Wildlife Management Areas
Land Management Areas
Rivers & Streams
Lakes & Ponds

Trails: Includes the Long Trail/ Appalachian Trail and the Shrewsbury Mountain School trail network.
State and Federal Lands: LPublic recreation lands include state forest lands and the Green Mountain National Forest. Coolidge State Forest supports hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, and other dispersed recreation in and around Shrewsbury.
Appalachian/Long Trail: WThe Appalachian Trail and Long Trail share an alignment through this portion of Vermont. The map shows both the trail and associated protected corridor lands.
Recreation Trails: Mapped trails include hiking and other recreation routes, including snowmobile routes

Sources: Town of Shrewsbury, Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation (FPR), VCGI, RRPC

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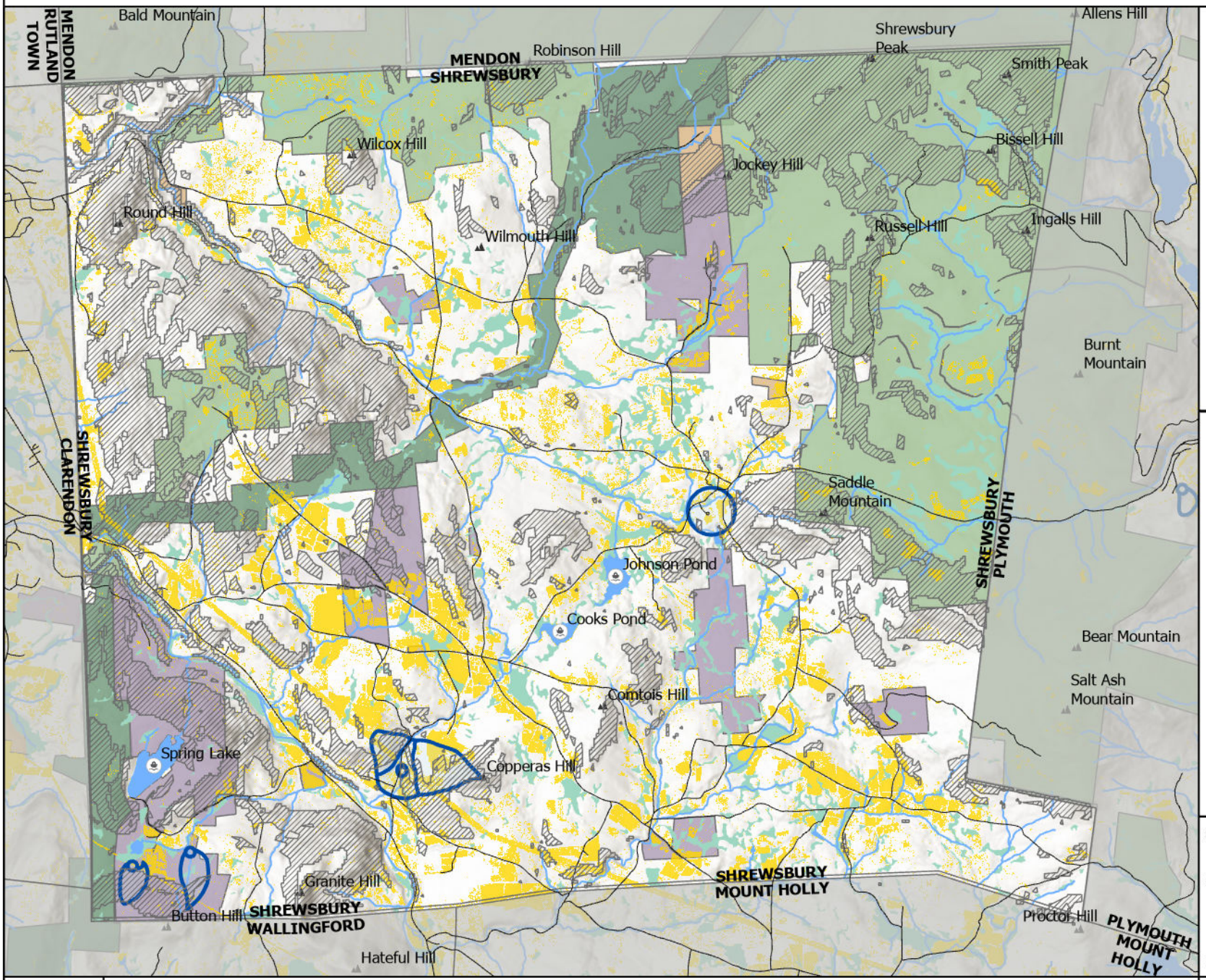
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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Natural Resource Lands & Management

Map 6



Roads
Lake
Summit
Lakes & Ponds
Rivers & Streams
Significant Wetlands
Grass/Shrubs
Town Lands
Federal Lands
Private Conserved Land
State Lands
Steep Slopes
Ground Water SPAs

Protected Lands: Lands The Vermont Protected Lands Database identifies lands protected through public ownership, conservation ownership, or other legal protections. Lands are shown as State, Federal, Town/Local, or Privately conserved lands.

Groundwater Protection Areas: Source Protection Areas identify areas surrounding public groundwater sources, including wells and springs. Data are from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Drinking water and groundwater protection program.

Grass/Shrub Area: Open or early-successional habitat that provides habitat diversity alongside Shrewsbury's forested lands.

Sources: ANR, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife (VFWD), DEC, VCGI, RRPC

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RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Transportation Map

Map 9



Insets Borders
Cuttingsville
North Shrewsbury/Northam
Shrewsbury Center
Bridges
Closed
Critical
Excellent
Fair
Good
Poor
Unknown
Urgent
Sidewalks
Rail_Lines
DISCONTINUED
GRAVEL
IMPASSABLE OR UNTRAVELED
INTERSTATE OR DIVIDED HIGHWAY
LEGAL TRAIL
SOIL OR GRADED AND DRAINED EARTH
STATE - HARD SURFACE OR PAVED
TOWN - HARD SURFACE OR PAVED
UNIMPROVED OR PRIMITIVE

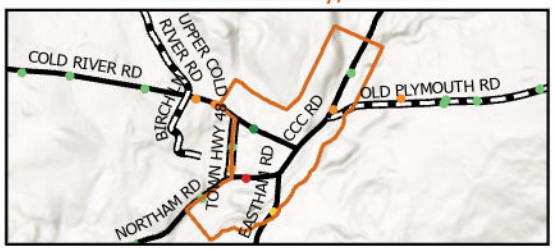
Cuttingsville



Shrewsbury Center



North Shrewsbury/Northam



N

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Sources: Town of Shrewsbury, VTrans, VCGI, RRPC

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