



## Plan NH Merit Awards of Excellence Program 2018

Plan NH believes that what we build, where we build, and how we build have an influence on the health and vibrancy of a community.

Our mission is to raise awareness of that link – within those professionals in the building industries, and within the communities themselves – by fostering excellence in planning, design and development of New Hampshire’s built environment.

We champion Smart Growth and Livability Principles, Social Responsibility, and creative approaches to collaboration and cooperation.

One way we do that is by showcasing **outstanding** projects that reflect the mission and spirit of Plan New Hampshire, and that demonstrate how the built environment can make a positive contribution to people and places.

**Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 Merit Awards of Excellence Program.**

Do you know of, or have you worked on yourself, a project here in New Hampshire (completed since 2011) that embodies Smart Growth/Livability Principles, Social Responsibility, and/or creative approaches to cooperation and collaboration?

Has this project had a positive impact on the social, economic and/or environmental (including health) fabric of the community?

Is this an *exceptional* project that merits recognition?

If so, we invite you to submit a nomination of that project for Merit Award consideration.

This is not a contest with a set number of winners or a competition to showcase architectural / site design. Although design is important, selection will be based on the project’s fulfillment of the Mission of Plan NH and how it addresses the questions listed above and below.

### **Selection and Awards**

Award selection is made by a jury comprised of Plan NH members representing the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, planning, construction and/or others.

**Nominations are due, via Dropbox, May 16, 2018.** Awardees will be notified by June 1, and recognized at an Awards event on June 28, 2018 in Concord. OWNERS will receive an award; key team members will receive certificates of recognition.

Questions? Call the Plan NH offices at 603-452-7526 OR email [info@plannh.org](mailto:info@plannh.org).

### 2018 Merit Awards Nomination

Please have all **in one file, PDF format** and email (via Dropbox) to [r\\_leblanc@plannh.org](mailto:r_leblanc@plannh.org)  
no later than May 16, 2018.

- Project information COVER PAGE (see below)

In narrative form, please address/submit:

- Brief overview of project, including a full description of the initial project or challenge and solutions to address the challenge.
- Projects must be located within New Hampshire and completed no earlier than 2011.
- If applicable, what principles of Smart Growth and/or Livability does this project exemplify? (see page, below)
- In the past, exemplary projects have embodied several of these.
- How does this project demonstrate Social Responsibility and/or creative approaches to collaboration and cooperation?
- What impact has this project had on the social, economic, and/or environmental fabric of the community?
- What makes this project **stand out**?

Please also include the following (as applicable):

- Provide any graphics that help describe the project thoroughly to the judges; these may include site plans, architectural plans, maps ...

*Reminder: to be included in PDF format, inserted with narrative so that it is all one file.*

- Photographs showing before, during and after project development*  
*No more than 5 - to be submitted as 300 dpi jpgs. Please also note that by doing so, Plan NH has permission to use these and publish them in Press Releases and as part of stories on the Vibrant Villages NH website. **Please provide any credits you wish us to include.***
- An application fee of \$200 per submission (\$100 for Plan NH members)  
*Checks may be payable to Plan New Hampshire and sent to*

Plan NH ~ PO Box 1105 ~ Portsmouth NH 03802-1105

**Must be received no later than May 16, 2017.**



## **2018 Merit Awards Project Information (COVER PAGE)**

*Please complete this page thoroughly and insert it as the first page of your submission. Should your project be chosen to receive a Merit Award, this information will be used for Awards and Press Releases.*

**Your name, company name, address, phone number, email, and relation to / role in the project:**

**What is the *official* name of your project?**

**Where is the project located?**

**Who is/are the Owners? (Company name, address, phone number & email)**

**Please list other key team players, their companies, and their roles in the project.**

*(In the event the project receives a Merit Award, the owner will receive an award and all individuals listed as key team players will receive certificates of recognition.)*

### Smart Growth Principles for New Hampshire

(From: New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives)

Smart Growth Principles for New Hampshire can help guide developers and citizens as they work together to create development patterns consistent with community goals and values.

- Principle #1 - [Maintain traditional compact settlement patterns](#) efficiently use land, resources, and investments in infrastructure;
- Principle #2 - [Foster the traditional character of New Hampshire](#) downtowns, villages, and neighborhoods by encouraging a human scale of development that is comfortable for pedestrians and conducive to community life;
- Principle #3 - [Incorporate a mix of uses](#) to provide a variety of housing, employment, shopping, services, and social opportunities for all members of the community;
- Principle #4 - [Preserve New Hampshire's working landscape](#) by sustaining farm and forest land and other rural resource lands to maintain contiguous tracts of open land and to minimize land use conflicts;
- Principle #5 - [Provide choices and safety in transportation](#) to create livable, walkable communities that increase accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motor vehicles;
- Principle #6 - [Protect environmental quality](#) by minimizing impacts from human activities and planning for and maintaining natural areas that contribute to the health and quality of life of communities and people in New Hampshire;
- Principle #7 - [Involve the community](#) in planning and implementation to ensure that development retains and enhances the sense of place, traditions, goals, and values of the local community; and
- Principle #8 - [Manage growth locally](#) in the New Hampshire tradition, but work with neighboring towns to achieve common goals and address common problems more effectively.

### Livability Principles

(adapted from those developed by the Granite State Future project)

- **Provide transportation and travel choices**  
Develop safe, reliable and economical means of travel for all to access jobs, education, food, medical services and social connections – in order to equitably decrease household transportation costs, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve our air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improve public health and well-being.
- **Promote equitable, affordable places to live**  
Expand location- and energy-efficient choices of where to live for people of all ages, incomes and levels of mobility – in order to lower the combined costs of where one lives with how one travels as well as to increase access to jobs, education, healthy food, medical services and more.
- **Enhance economic vitality**  
Improve access to employment and education opportunities, services and other basic needs of the workforce as well as expanded resources for businesses including key technology and communications infrastructures, freight options, appealing communities for workers to live in, more.

- **Support existing communities**  
Fund existing communities and their revitalization through strategies such as transit-oriented development, mixed-use projects and land recycling – in order to improve infrastructure investments and to safeguard rural landscapes.
- **Coordinate policies and leverage investment**  
Align policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration in order to leverage funding and increase accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for growth, especially in infrastructure and energy-related issues.
- **Value communities and neighborhoods**  
No matter the size of the community, its town center, or a specific neighborhood, preserve and enhance its unique identity by investing in making them safe to get around in (whether by foot, bike, in a car) and appealing for all who live, work and/or play there.