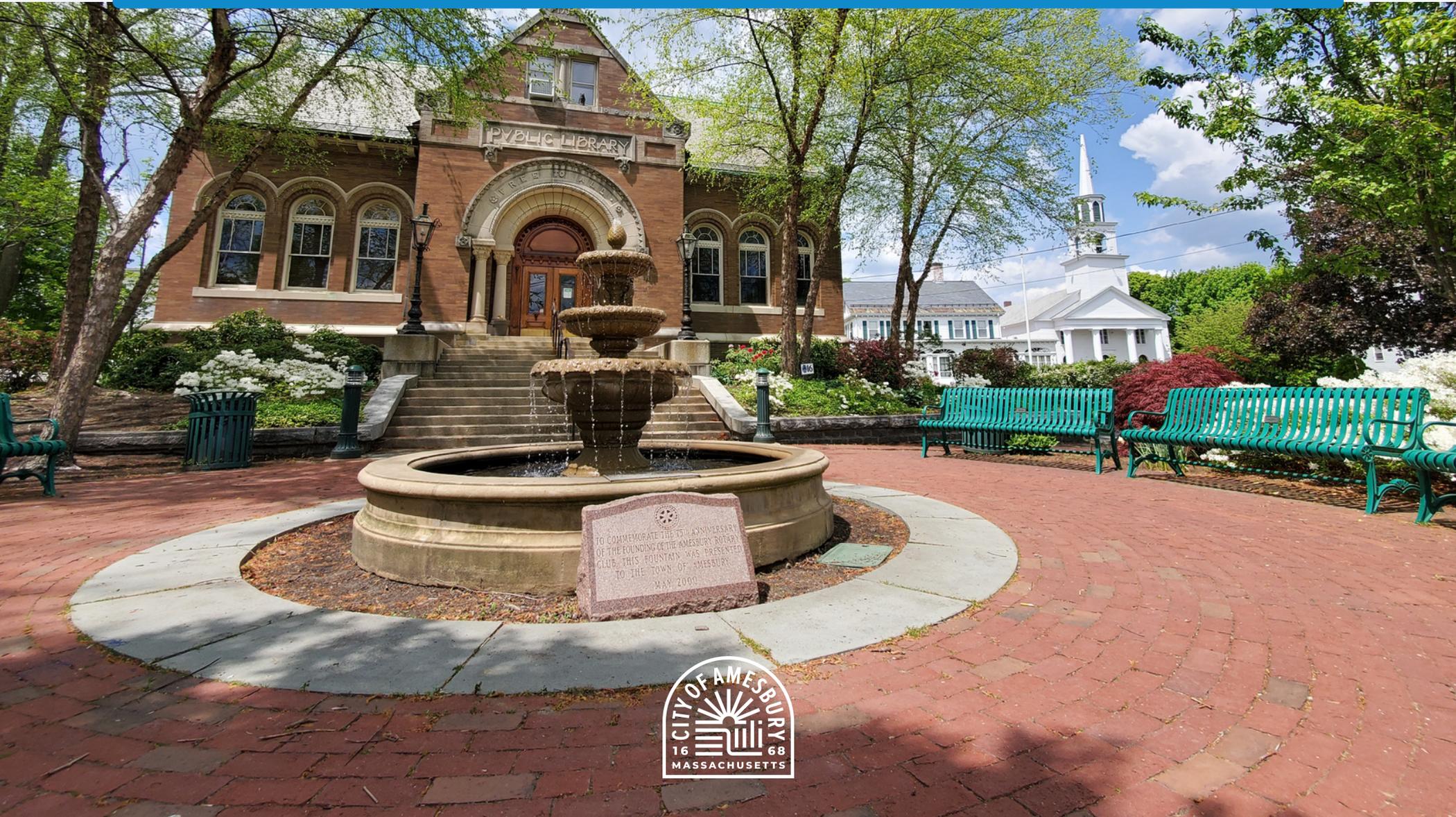


I AMESBURY
2030
MASSACHUSETTS

LEARNING & EDUCATION



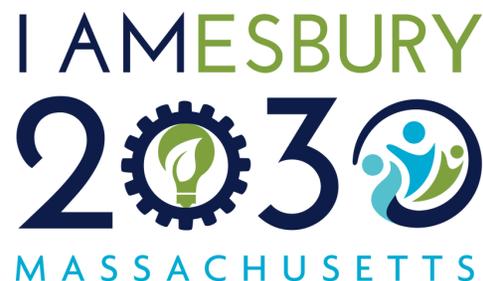
I AMesbury 2030

Mayor Kassandra Gove created the I AMesbury 2030 Task Force to help our community plan for the future. This group is spending two years (2021-2022) gathering community feedback, evaluating our strengths and weaknesses and helping to determine where we collectively want Amesbury to be in the next 10 years.

I AMesbury 2030 is looking at every aspect of our community to make sure that we're moving forward with one vision. They are looking at eight elements: open space and recreation, learning, arts and culture, mobility, infrastructure, economic development, housing, and operations. They are considering each of these elements with three lenses top of mind: equity, health, and resilience / sustainability. These three key areas are an important consideration to incorporate into every aspect of the 2030 plan.

As the Task Force completes an element, they release a short document to share some background, research and goals. These short documents reflect the work and findings that will be found in the complete, comprehensive document, which will be released at the end of this process in 2023.

We hope this document sheds light on the work of the Task Force, with the understanding that this document will not have all the answers. We look forward to sharing the full, comprehensive plan with you in 2023!



I AMesbury 2030 Task Force

Mary Chatigny, Co-Chair

Brittany Steingesser, Co-Chair

Peter Frey

Peggy Green

Ann McKay

Jonathan Miller

Michael Woo

Learning and education in Amesbury spans everything from youth learning in school and out of school, to adult lifelong learning, to expanding our personal and professional development and knowledge of equity, diversity and culture.

When discussing learning and education in our community, the conversation expands beyond the school district and youth learning. Community organizations like the Amesbury Public Library, the Council on Aging and Amesbury Recreation, and formal education centers like Northern Essex Community College and Newburyport Adult & Community Education provide ongoing opportunities for learning to residents of all ages. Through community surveys and conversation, we know that these resources can be promoted better, and additional opportunities can be created by utilizing the talent, knowledge and skills of our residents who are willing to share those experiences with others in a formal setting.



Per the 2020 Federal Census:

- **96.0% of Amesbury residents age 25 and older are high school graduates or higher**
- **39.9% of Amesbury residents age 25 or older have a Bachelor's degree or higher**

In a 2016 Pew Research survey, 73% of adults surveyed identified themselves as lifelong learners.

In the same survey, 87% of workers said it was essential for them to get training and develop new job skills in order to keep up with changes in the workplace.

In a 2016 report from the National Academies of Sciences, experts recommended: "The education system will need to adapt to prepare individuals for the changing labor market."

Where have Amesbury residents participated in learning opportunities?

*Responses from the 2021 Community Learning Survey

Council on Aging sponsored activities.

Amesbury Carriage Museum programs.

Crafting and yoga classes Brewery Silvaticus, Barewolf Brewing and Cider Hill Farm.

Opportunities at local community colleges, Newburyport Adult Ed.

Amesbury Public Library art lectures.

Knitting at Newburyport Library, book clubs at Salisbury Library, classes at Northern Essex Community College.



When asked what our community's core values regarding learning should be, one respondent replied, "To provide opportunity for all Amesbury residents to learn, grow, and thrive, and to give them the vehicles to achieve it."

- 2021 community survey respondent, District 1

Our Vision for Learning & Education

The City of Amesbury will enable residents to contribute and benefit from the pursuit of knowledge in order to enhance active citizenship and individual development. Intergenerational connections and community wide learning opportunities create a learning society acknowledging that learning occurs in all forms and venues. We must activate and utilize our local and regional network of formal, non formal, and informal providers for a holistic approach to create an overall system of lifelong learning. The City endeavors to build community partnerships and incorporate learning in all areas.

GOAL: Improve local access and awareness of existing learning opportunities for personal and professional growth.



We heard from many residents that information about educational opportunities locally is difficult to find. Not many people are aware of the classes and programming available in our region. By 2030 we will make sure that information is easy to find and access, and widely promoted.

Some action items to help us achieve this goal will include:

- Expand existing newsletters to highlight content, services, and resources available across the community and explore potential for combining distribution.
- Increase regular ongoing social media interactions between City owned pages to reach diverse audiences.
- Create and establish a central calendar and registration platform with regular maintenance and management as well as a physical informational board for community members.
- Market and promote learning opportunities to intentionally include visual, historical, digital, and cultural learning outcomes.
- Explore partnerships with neighboring communities and institutions currently offering diverse learning opportunities for adults.

GOAL: Provide opportunities to engage local experts in sharing their talents and knowledge.



In our 2021 Community Learning Survey, many respondents said they would be willing to teach courses and share their knowledge and expertise with others! Organizations like the Amesbury Public Library can tap into our community's vast network to expand programming offerings.

Desired topics included:



DIY Home Projects
(56 votes)



Nature / Plants / Animals
(51 votes)



Learn a New Language
(44 votes)



Art Classes
(44 votes)

Some action items to help us achieve this goal will include:

- Develop a human library featuring local experts under the management of the Amesbury Public Library.
- Increase awareness and capacity of the Senior & Veteran Tax Work Off program for residents to contribute and benefit as active citizens.

GOAL: Actively bridge generations within our community through varied programming and participation modes.



There are health benefits to having intergenerational spaces and programming. "Active, involved older adults with close intergenerational connections consistently report much less depression, better physical health, and higher degrees of life satisfaction. Children develop higher self-esteem, better emotional and social skills (including an ability to withstand peer pressure), and can even have better grades in school."

www.legacyproject.org, Guide to Benefits of Intergenerational Connections

Some action items to help us achieve this goal will include:

- An increasing percentage of annual programs led by the Public Library, Recreation, and Council on Aging will be dedicated to multi-generational participants.
- Elevate the reputation of Partnership for Amesbury Community & Teens (PACT) and support their work in building strong relationships between youth and adults in our community.
- Incorporate successful intergenerational programming on a regular, recurring basis.
- Create and foster space and participation platforms that bring all generations in our community together.

GOAL: Community-wide learning opportunities will align with the mission of the Amesbury Public School District.



Mission of Amesbury Public Schools

“The Amesbury School District is unconditionally committed to every child, ensuring that all students experience success through the development of attitudes and skills necessary for lifelong learning by providing the highest quality staff, meaningful learning experiences, and a vitally involved community.”

Some action items to help us achieve this goal will include:

- Local and regional providers will be selected thoughtfully to develop a diverse catalog of opportunities and allow equitable pursuit of knowledge.

Resources and Existing Plans

- [2004 Master Plan](#)
- [2016 Pew Research Center Survey on Lifelong Learning and Technology](#)
- [2016 National Academies of Sciences report: Information Technology and the U.S. Workforce](#)
- [2020 Census Data \(QuickFacts\)](#)
- [2021-2022 District & School Committee Goals](#)
- [2021-2022 Superintendent's Goals](#)

Community Input

- [2021 Community Survey on Amesbury's Identity](#) - 413 respondents
- Amesbury Listens Learning & Education Listening Sessions - 7 participants
- 2021 Community Learning Survey - 210 respondents

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