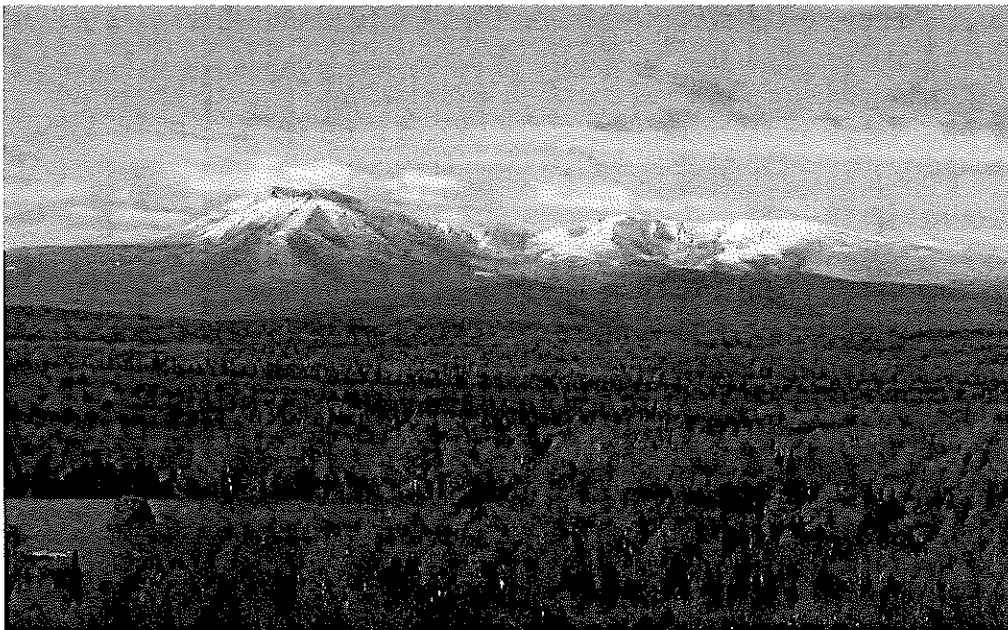


TOWN OF PATTEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2017



A Vision for the Future



Patten Academy.



Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Patten

Adopted by the Residents on: _____

I (we) certify that this comprehensive plan was prepared with the intent of complying with the Growth Management Act (30 M.R.S.A §§ 4312 – 4350.), that it includes all of the applicable required elements of the Maine Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule (07 – 105 CMR 208), and that it is true and accurate.

Board of Selectmen:

Reginald Porter, Sr., Chair _____
Kenneth Perkins, Co-Chair _____
Sally Landry

Lana Tucker _____
Richard Schmidt III

Planning Board Members:

Harriette Parker, Chair _____
Janice Dancer _____
Henry Raushnot

Craig Greenier _____
George Merrow _____
Rebecca Phillips

Bryan Buhler

Additional funding was provided by the Maine Department of Transportation.

Town of Patten Comprehensive Plan Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction

Mission Statement

Vision Statement

Summary of Findings

Demographics

Inventory and Analysis	1
Goal, Policy, and Strategy	12

Housing

Inventory and Analysis	13
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	29

Transportation

Inventory and Analysis	32
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	52

Local Economy

Inventory and Analysis	56
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	75

Public Facilities and Services

Inventory and Analysis	78
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	105

Recreation and Open Space

Inventory and Analysis	111
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	122

Natural Resources

Inventory and Analysis	125
Agriculture and Forestry Inventory and Analysis	140
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	147

Hazard Mitigation

Inventory and Analysis	155
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	159

Historic and Cultural Resources

Inventory and Analysis	163
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	175

Land Use

Inventory and Analysis	178
Proposed Land Use Plan	188
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	191

Fiscal Capacity

Inventory and Analysis	198
Goals, Policies, and Strategies	218
Capital Improvement Plan	221

Regional Coordination

223

Acknowledgements

The development of this Comprehensive Plan is the culmination of a year-long effort by many community members. It is through their volunteer efforts that this plan came to fruition. The Town of Patten would like to thank:

Patten's residents for providing funding and participating in the planning process.

Raymond Foss, Town Manager, for his work editing sections and providing information.

Janice Dancer, Planning Board member, who co-authored sections of the plan.

Rebecca Phillips, Planning Board member, for her assistance with the development and writing of this plan.

Greg and Debra Bivinghouse for their contributions to several sections

Debbie Coolong for providing a copyright waiver for use of information, maps, and photographs from her book, The History of Patten and Mount Chase.

Town Department Heads who provided information and data.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of prior Planning Board members who worked to develop a revision to the Town's earlier comprehensive plan. Your efforts laid the groundwork for many sections of the plan.

Introduction:

The Town of Patten has spent the last year (2016 and 2017) developing this comprehensive plan. The last plan was adopted in the 1970s and had not been updated since then. That plan was completed so long ago that the great majority of the information is outdated and of little use now except for valuable historical information.

A comprehensive plan is a mechanism for managing the future of a community. Much like a business plan for a private business, the town's plan evaluates its assets and customer satisfaction levels, determines strategies to improve performance and profitability, and allocates resources. When it is a town doing the planning, our resources are the taxpayers' money, so even greater thought and effort must be put into spending wisely.

Maine enacted the Growth Management Act in 1988, specifying the format and goals for local comprehensive planning and has subsequently been amended to require local comprehensive plans to undergo a new State review for consistency every 12 years, incorporating new data and findings into the planning process. Therefore, the Town felt the need to take a fresh look, using the new State guidelines. This led to the 2016-2017 planning process.

Since the current plan is supposed to still technically guide the Town in its everyday activities, its age makes it of little use. Responsibility for the update was assigned to the Planning Board, with the instruction to involve all community members to the extent possible.

There are two main components of the Plan: Inventory and Analysis and Goals, Policies, and Strategies. The Inventory and Analysis reviews and examines the town's assets and uses State and Federal data found at but not limited to the US Census, Maine Department of Transportation, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, taxable sales, and other regional data. It also examines local data such as assessments, permits, and business inventories. As stated below, there were discussions with town officials, department heads, business owners, land owners, economic development, environmental, historic and cultural, and residents to gather their input and ideas. Ultimately, the Inventory and Analysis examines what is working well and what needs improvement and identifies future opportunity.

Goals, Policies, and Strategies are the action items of the Plan. They identify programs and services that Patten wants to accomplish during the next 10-12 years. The key to a successful plan is not in the number of recommendations it generates, but how well those recommendations are (can be) put into action. The responsibility for implementation almost always falls on the leadership of Patten. For example, capital improvements should be matched up with grant possibilities for desired programs or purchases. New initiatives were identified and others continued.

Community Involvement:

Patten's Planning Board has taken the lead in drafting this update to the plan, assisted by the Town Manager and other local volunteers. Early in the process, the board reached out to Patten's local committees and organizations (many of which are profiled in this plan), different staff of the Town

and individuals in constituencies such as real estate, business, downtown. The Planning Board's weekly meetings were always open to community members to participate in the discussions.

Community involvement culminated in a public hearing held in September 2017. The Fire Station was the venue for the discussion of the direction of the town with regards to economic development, natural and scenic resources, public facilities and services, and land use/development, as well as downtown improvements.

The development of this comprehensive plan is the culmination of a year- long effort by many community members. It is through their volunteer efforts that this plan came to fruition.

- Funding was approved by Patten's residents.
- The MaineDOT assisted with funding.

The Planning Board and residents spent many evenings reviewing, editing, and providing input. Their efforts should be acknowledged.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Town of Patten's mission is to strive to be a safe place to live for all citizens and a place of welcome and nurture where neighbors are known to each other. We honor our past and we strive to grow our community into a thriving future, recognizing that we are in a continuing time of change.

Notice of Patten's First Town Meeting

Notice

These are to summon and notify the inhabitants of the Town of Patten qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the school house near Henry Blakey in said town on Friday the thirtieth day of April at one of the O'clock in the afternoon to act upon the following articles V.S.H.

- 1st. To Choose a moderator to govern said meeting
- 2d. To Choose a Clerk for said Town
- 3d. To Choose three select men
- 4d. To Choose three assessors
- 5d. To Choose a treasurer
- 6d. To Choose a Collector
- 7d. To Choose a Constable
- 8d. To Choose a Town agent
- 9d. To Choose Highway Surveyors
- 10d. To Choose a School Committee
- 11d. To Choose fence viewers
- 12d. To Choose fire viewers
- 13d. To Choose a surveyors of Lumber
- 14d. To Choose Hay Constables
- 15d. To Choose Fighting men
- 16d. To Choose pound keepers
- 17d. To see what sum of money they will raise for the support of schools
- 18d. To see what sum of money they will raise for Highways

19. To see what sum of money they will raise for the
current expenses of ^{the} ensuing year

20. To Choose overseers of the poor

21. To see in what way they will provide a pound
To Choose a committee to define the limits of
School district & transact all other business that
may legally come before said meeting

By ^{and} W. B. Lesley Justice of the Peace

George P. Raby

Witnessed at Patten the twenty third day of April 1841

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision for our town is to protect, preserve, prosper and plan for the future of Patten, that all might have quality of life. The Town of Patten will constantly strive to be:

1. A dynamic community that is economically, culturally, and socially inviting;
2. A community that embraces change and protects our heritage;
3. A community that safeguards our assets and resources entrusted to us;
4. A community that values all of its people, our greatest resource;
5. A community that encourages new business and economic development;
6. A community that embraces the values and lessons of our farming and logging heritage that serves as its strength and as its foundation; and
7. A community that is a safe place to live for all citizens.

Inventory and Analysis

Summary of Findings

Patten's Planning Board, through the Comprehensive Planning process, completed an inventory and analysis of statistical information as required by the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act. The following summary of findings identifies the major issues that have been addressed through the development of policies and implementation strategies over the ten-year planning period.

Demographics

1. In 2010, Patten's population was 1,017, a decline of 8.46 percent from 2000.
2. In 2010, over thirty-one (31) percent of Patten's population was between 45 and 64, accounting for Patten's median age of 47.6, which was nearly the same as Aroostook County's (45.3). Patten's median age is significantly higher than the median age of Penobscot County (39) and that of the State (42).
3. In 2000, Patten's median age was approximately 43.9 years of age. By 2010, the median age had increased to 47.6, and change of 8.4 percent.
4. Over the next 15 to 20 years, the total population of Patten is expected to decline to around 906 people.
5. Declining school enrollment in Patten and other nearby communities coupled with the closure of additional schools may have significant implications on how K-12 education is delivered in the area.
6. The creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, significant growth from several service organizations, industrial and commercial development, ample available land, the development of scenic byways and bike routes can create opportunity for growth in the future.

Housing

1. The 2010 US Census indicated that there were 565 housing units. The number of units has been steadily increasing in Patten since the 1970s due to the construction of seasonal units.
2. The 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate indicates that 33.3 percent of the housing stock was constructed before 1949, which parallels the age of housing stock in both Aroostook and Penobscot Counties.
3. Most of housing types in Patten, surrounding communities, Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, and Maine are largely single family detached units. Approximately 10 percent are mobile homes and 15 percent are multi-family units.
4. Mobile homes have become an increasingly popular form of housing in Maine including the town of Patten.
5. Patten has not operated a low-income housing rehabilitation program in more than 24 years and the presence of substandard housing and abandoned buildings is apparent in the community.
6. Affordable housing is not a significant problem.

7. There is a general perception that the housing stock in some areas of Patten “looks old.” Town officials will begin to seek funding to assist homeowners with the rehabilitation of those homes.
8. Town officials will also work and partner with other agencies with weatherization and heating assistance programs.

Transportation

1. Patten is a gateway community and a regional transportation hub. The town has major transportation routes, specifically State Highway Route 11 north/south (known locally as South Patten Road, Main Street, and North Road) and Route 159 (Crystal Road and Houlton Street to the East, Shin Pond Road to the west) that runs east/west right through the center of Patten.
2. There are 16.1 miles of local roads in Patten and the Town is responsible for snow plowing an additional 4.2 miles of State Aid Road (Shin Pond Road).
3. Road repair had not been budgeted for in Patten since 2004. As a result, the condition of most local roads has deteriorated.
4. A seven (7) year Capital Improvement Plan was approved by residents in 2017. Town officials are putting \$100,000 of excises taxes aside to begin to implement the plan.
5. The Happy Corner Road, especially the first 2,000 feet west of Route 11, has been identified as the road in the worst condition in Patten
6. At an increasing rate, there have been conflicts with horse and buggies and vehicles especially along Routes 11 south of Patten’s downtown and Route 159 east toward Crystal.
7. The Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic Byway is 89 miles long and offers views of Mount Katahdin and parts of the Appalachian Chain.
8. The Corridor Partnership plan identified Ash Hill as one of several “impressive long views” of the Katahdin area and offers a “wow” factor for travelers.
9. Bridges in Patten are generally in a good state of repair.
10. Culverts in Patten are in fair to good condition. Town officials have developed a plan to replace several culverts located in the first 2,000 feet of the Happy Corner road and have set funding aside in the 2017 budget.
11. MaineDOT plans to replace the large culvert at Webb Brook on Route 11 (Main Street) in 2018 with an open bottom box culvert to allow fish passage.
12. Sidewalks are in fair to good condition. Town officials need to plan for the long-term maintenance of the sidewalk systems and should work with MaineDOT as issues arise.

Public Facilities and Services

1. The Town is governed by an elected five (5) member Board of Selectmen.
2. The Town Manager is the chief administrative officer of the Town.
3. Education, roads, sewer treatment, police protection, and the potential for change where tourism increases as an economic driver have been identified as major issues.
4. Patten does not have a constable or municipal police department.
5. Residents have expressed a concern of increasing crime in town which is often associated with drug use.
6. Town officials are considering several options to increase police protection.

7. Fire protection is provided by the Patten Volunteer Fire Department. There are currently 15 volunteer fire fighters for the town. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief are elected by the fire fighters and approved by Patten's Board of Selectmen. The Fire Department is working with the National Park Service to provide coverage to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.
8. Patten Ambulance Service is a municipal ambulance service run under the direction of the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. The Ambulance Service responds to approximately 250 to 300 calls per year.
9. The Patten Ambulance Service is under contract to provide ambulance coverage to surrounding towns including Sherman, Benedicta, Stacyville, Moro Plantation, Mt. Chase, Hersey, Crystal and several unorganized townships in both Aroostook and Penobscot Counties. The Ambulance Service will provide coverage to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.
10. Through a volunteer effort, Main Street(s) are lined with American flags and there are approximately 100 flags that are displayed per year in the town.
11. Patten is part of Regional School Unit (RSU) #50 which is comprised of Katahdin Elementary School (PK-6), Katahdin Middle/ High School (7-12), and Southern Aroostook Community Schools (PK-12).
12. Patten school children make up between 16 and 19 percent of the total enrollment in the RSU. The number of students from Patten has declined by 46, a 29% reduction, since 2011.
13. Per pupil operating costs have increased by 26.7% 4 out of the last 5 years and with State projections indicating that the school age population continue to decrease in each of the RSU's communities, costs will continue to increase.
14. In the Fall of 2017, voters will voice their opinion whether to withdraw from RSU 50.
15. The water department supplies over 8 million gallons of clean, safe drinking water to its approximately 180 customers. This is enough capacity to meet the daily needs of customers and provide fire protection as well along with several days of back up water supply for emergencies. Patten has a wellhead protection program that was developed in 2010.
16. Patten's sewer system has become a financial burden on the Town and as a result, all taxpayers are subsidizing the 45 users of the system.
17. The public sewer system is a vital economic development tool for the town and officials are faced with the hard question of how to increase the number of users of the systems and/or should the sewer lines be expanded to reach additional areas of the downtown. Ultimately, the more users on the system decreases the cost per user.

Recreation and Open Space

1. Patten has a well-supported recreation program conducted by the Patten Recreation Department.
2. Patten has two (2) facilities, Recreation Center and Recreation Area, that are in need of updates and upgrades.
3. The Department offers a variety of recreational programs year-round for community members of all ages and is overseen by a part-time Recreation Director.
4. Popular youth programs include the Sports Program which includes basketball, soccer, and softball; Theater programs; dodgeball; kickball; and dances.

5. Patten also partners with RSU 50 (Katahdin Elementary and Middle/High School) for after school recreational programs
6. Adult and senior activities are limited and residents have been asking for increased programming.
7. Several popular programs have been eliminated in recent years including swimming lessons and BINGO night.
8. Recreation Department staff is looking at rejuvenating these programs along with the creation of a new ice skating program in the winter.
9. Patten ATV Club was established in 2010 and maintains trails in Patten, Mount Chase, Moro, Hersey, Crystal and Stacyville. The club has over 150 members join and close to 100 landowners who have granted permission to utilize their land for the trail systems.
10. There are over 100 miles of trails.
11. The Rockabema Snow Rangers maintain snowmobile trails including segments of the Interconnecting Trail System (ITS) as well as local club trails. ITS 81 extends northerly through Patten from Sherman Station and continues through Shin Pond and points north. ITS 112 begins in Patten and heads west towards Island Falls where it connects to ITS 83. There are also local trails 112 and 64 located in Patten
12. All of the trail system is located on private land.
13. The Club maintains a groomer (Rockabema Screama) and relies heavily on volunteers to maintain equipment and the trail systems.
14. Patten is the gateway to the north entrance of Baxter State Park.
15. Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is a U.S. National Monument which was designated in August 2016.
16. The closest Public Reserve Lands are located in Moro Plantation and around Scraggley Lake in T7 R8.
17. The International Appalachian Trail (IAT) is a hiking trail which runs from the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail at Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, through New Brunswick to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.
18. There are plans to seek permits to build a \$5 million outdoor education facility near Baxter State Park and the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. If permitted by the MDEP, the Maine Waterside Trails will be built on the East Branch of the Penobscot River off Route 11.
19. The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) are exploring the creation of a federally designated bicycle route in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties.

Fiscal Capacity

1. Patten, as with many other northern Maine towns, has had a shrinking population, resulting in a smaller tax base.
2. A logging company closed in 2015, which had a significant impact on the personal property tax base.
3. Recent expansions of the Haymart mill in 2017 and other commercial real estate acquisition and renovations which could increase the tax base in 2018.
4. There have been over \$3.8 million in real estate transfers between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

5. Town officials will be exploring changing the fiscal year from January to December to July 1 to June 30, to better align with the revenue stream.
6. There was an effort by Selectmen and the Town Manager to have a revaluation of all town real estate included in the 2017 and 2018 town budgets but that effort failed at town meeting.
7. Property tax values increased in 2015 as Patten applied a factor to double the land valuation. That decision helped to increase the assessment for tax years 2015, however there was a slight decrease again in 2016. The taxable base is shrinking as some old properties have been demolished and not re-built as the population has been declining.
8. Patten has subsidized the shortfall of property tax revenues with a portion of excise tax revenues to balance the general fund budget, for at least 15 years. That has kept the mil rate from being as high as it might have been otherwise; but that has meant that these funds were not available for road maintenance or improvements.
9. It is estimated that the property tax spending per capita on a five- year average totaled \$745.
10. Property tax revenues represent an average of 58% of total revenues from 2007 through 2016.
11. Property tax revenue has remained fairly stable over the past five years, however the increase in the mil rate for 2016 increased property tax revenue by an additional \$143,604.
12. Changes in the homestead exemption had a major impact on the increase for both 2016 and 2017, removing more than \$1.5m from the denominator of the mil rate calculation and 2016 had the purposeful replenishing of the general fund.
13. Expenditures totaled on a ten-year average \$1,219,473.
 - a) Education expended on average \$425,788 which represents 35% of total expenditures.
 - b) Public safety expended on average \$114,315 that represented 9% of the total expenditures. That included the fire department and other safety expenses.
 - c) Public works represents all highway costs, road maintenance and snow removal. The ten-year average of public works expenditures was \$291,033 or 24% of total expenditures.
 - d) General government expended on average \$173,025 or 14% of total expenditures.
 - e) These four categories of expenditures represent 82% of total expenditures.

Local Economy

1. Patten's economy is often thought of being based on the abundant natural resources in the region.
2. Many residents work or worked in the woods or at mills located in East Millinocket, Millinocket, Lincoln, Masardis, New Limerick and Ashland.
3. While large scale potato farming has declined, there are numerous smaller farms that grow a variety of produce and sell to the general public.
4. Tourism, in the form of hunting, fishing, ATVing and snowmobiling, has been part of Patten's economy for many years.
5. Patten is located at the gateway to the North entrance of Baxter State Park and now the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The impact of the new monument has yet to be determined but Baxter State Park draws many visitors to the region each year.

6. Patten's downtown is a regional economic hub and contains a variety of retail and service establishments.
7. Several businesses, such as Patten Drug Store, Katahdin Trust, Ellis Family Market, and Richardson's Hardware have been at the same location for many decades.
8. A vast majority of employers fall into the 1-4 employee range and nearly all of the employers fall into the less than 20 employee categories.
9. Patten and Houlton LMA had an unemployment rate near or above the State's average.
10. The leading areas of employment or occupations fall into four broad categories: Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities; Construction; Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.
11. On average, there are about 723 acres of land (18 harvesting operations) harvested in Patten each year.
12. There is a varied and diverse agricultural community that grows a variety of crops that are for sale to the general public. These include vegetables, beef, dairy, pigs, hay, oats, barley and other crops.
13. Priorities for economic development in Patten identify natural resource based businesses as vital economic engines with the greatest potential to create jobs and enhance the local economy. One area of focus is on forestry and agricultural resources and supports for businesses that produce, harvest and add value to these resources. Haymart is an outstanding example of this where they add value to the land and to the products.
14. For tourism purposes, Patten is part of the Maine Highland Region. An estimated 4.4 million visitors came to the region in 2016, a nearly 10% increase over 2015 and visitors spent \$856 million.
15. The Butler Foundation is seeking permits to build a \$5 million outdoor education facility south of Patten near Baxter State Park and the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.
16. Total taxable retail sales have increased by 9.5 percent since 2007.
17. In 2015, the median household income for Patten was \$40,547.
18. Per capita income equals \$22,646. This is slightly lower than the per capita income for Penobscot County at \$24,149 and higher than that of Aroostook County, which equals \$21,763.

Hazard Mitigation

1. The most recent floodplain map was developed in 1985 and identifies unnumbered A zones.
2. The largest blocks of floodplains are associated with Fish Stream, Peavey Brook, Rowe Brook, Webb Brook, and Weeks Brook.
3. According to the Penobscot County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA), there have been three flood loss events in Patten.
4. In the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, Patten identified a culvert located on the Happy Corner Road as needing replacement.
5. PCEMA lists four priorities in their Hazard Mitigation Plan when discussing hazard mitigation; flooding, severe winter storms, severe summer storms, and wildfires.
6. Town Officials are also aware that hazardous industrial and commercial chemicals and fuel oil are transported to and through Patten via heavy trucks.

Natural Resources

1. According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), Wiley Pond is the only Great Pond.
2. Two (2) additional surface waters; Giles Pond and Potter Pond have not been monitored for water quality or invasive species.
3. MDEP the following brooks and streams are located in Patten: Swift Brook (Middle Branch and East Branch), Fish Stream, Rowe Brook, Peavey Brook, Weeks Brook and the Molunkus Stream (West and East Branches). All but Fish Stream have an A classification while Fish Stream is a B classification.
4. There is one sand and gravel aquifer of approximately 416 acres located in the central portion of Patten. This aquifer is located along the Route 159 corridor and is mostly rated as being able to provide 10-50 gallons of water per minute. A small portion, located on the northern portion of the aquifer near Crystal is rated as having the potential of providing over 50 gallons of water per minute.
5. There are four (4) public wells (two (2) with the Patten Water Department) registered with the Maine Source Water Assessment Program as public water systems.
6. Patten has participated in the MDEP's Small Community Grant program for replacement of faulty septic systems.
7. Patten's Water Department has a source water protection plan in place that regulates land uses within the wellhead protection area.
8. There are one (1) identified rare plant species that occur in town. The Swamp Birch (*Betula pumila L.*), also called dwarf or low birch, is a medium-sized shrub. The Showy Lady Slipper has been identified but not listed by the State.
9. According to IF&W, no animal species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern have been documented in Patten.
10. Patten contains Inland Waterfowl/Wading Bird Habitat (IWWH) which are wetland complexes important to the breeding and migration/staging of waterfowl and breeding feeding, loafing, migration, and roosting of inland wading birds. This habitat was mapped in 2008 and is located along the upper reaches of Fish Stream, around Wiley Pond, on the west Branch of Swift Brook, and along Weeks Brook at the Crystal town line.
11. According to IF&W, there are no identified Significant Vernal Pools.
12. IF&W has not documented any high or moderate value deer wintering areas. Beginning with Habitat map shows three "candidate" deer wintering areas located along the East and West Branches of Swift Brook and around Potter Pond.
13. Patten has been identified as having critical habitat for Atlantic Salmon by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, especially in those tributaries located in the Mattawamkeag watershed.
14. Thirty-four (34) culverts were surveyed in Patten of which thirteen (13), or 38%, were considered to be blocking fish habitat. As part of their creation of the 20 Year Road Improvement Plan, Town officials are utilizing this data to upgrade and increase the size of culverts to improve stream flow and fish passage as part of their normal culvert replacement program.
15. There are 72 parcels of land in Tree Growth.

16. Patten and the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District are supporting community farming projects. The District is presently engaged in a project to develop a local producer cooperative and to create better access to locally grown foods in the community. Local farmers' markets have waned in recent years for lack of leadership and management.
17. The Amish community has purchased many of the underutilized or abandoned farms in Patten and surrounding communities. The Amish are utilizing many of the farms for livestock, vegetable production, and the manufacturing of furniture, both for their own consumption and for sale

Land Use

1. Debbie Coolong recently completed a book, The History of Patten and Mount Chase, which identifies early settlement patterns in Patten. Development in Patten was driven and supported by the timber industry and farming. While the first settlers arrived by canoe, in 1830, a trail called the Aroostook Trail was built through the woods between Mattawamkeag and Patten (then T4 R6).
2. While many communities in northern Penobscot and southern Aroostook Counties are feeling the opposite sensation of development pressure – the continued decline of population (especially youth), employment opportunities, availability of services, and housing quality, Patten appears to be bucking the trend.
3. Patten contains both an urban and rural area. The urban area is served by municipal sewer and water and has relatively compact mixed-use development. Patten's downtown is located off Route 11 (Main Street) and Routes 159 Houlton Road and Shin Pond Road).
4. Patten has adopted four ordinances that regulate the use of land within the municipality. The Building Ordinance was adopted in 1975 and updated in 2000, and while it contains a minimum lot size it regulates building construction and types. Patten needs to adopt Maine Uniform Building Code, the Maine Uniform Energy Code, or the Maine Uniform Building or Energy Code if they want to continue to regulate construction in town
5. The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance is a minimum standard ordinance that follow models developed by the State in 1992. This ordinance is also in need of updating.
6. The Floodplain Management Ordinance is also a minimum standard ordinance that follows models developed by the State and is up to date.
7. Patten employs a part-time Code Enforcement Officer and maintains an all-volunteer Planning Board and Board of Appeals that administers these ordinances. Permits are issued by either the Code Enforcement Officer or the Planning Board but many activities do not require a permit as long as they are conducted in accordance with the land use standards found in each ordinance. Copies of the ordinances and official maps are available at the town office.
8. There is no town wide zoning ordinance in place. Town officials are considering the development of a smaller, more specific land use ordinance that regulates certain activities and creates two (2) land use districts. In this new ordinance, officials are considering creating minimum lot sizes and setbacks, regulating mobile homes, automobile graveyards, junk yards, and automobile recycling facilities.

Demographics



DEMOGRAPHICS

Introduction

Demographic analysis and projections are the basic elements of any comprehensive plan. Information generated from demographic projections enhances the capacity of the town to prepare for the impact of future growth or declines on such things as land use, housing demand, public services and economic development. The Maine Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provides population and demographic data discussed in this section. Actual population figures are provided by the decennial US Census while projections are based on a methodology that uses Penobscot and Aroostook County level projections derived from more detailed information than is available at the local level. Town projections are calculated using recent growth or decline in the town's share of the County's population and the County level population projections. The local, town level, population projections are based on assumptions and past trends that may or may not hold into the future.

Census Data Disclaimer:

Current census data contained within this chapter is compiled from the 2010 US Census and American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-year estimate. The ACS 5-year estimates data for rural communities is based on a very small sample, and therefore is subject to often-substantial sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error, whenever possible. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value.

The Planning Board and Northern Maine Development Commission recognize that existing Census data is often quite inaccurate in its reflection of the community of Patten. Whenever possible, local planning study data is used in place of Census data. However, in most cases, the most recent data available is the ACS 2011-2015 5-year estimate. Therefore, this data is quoted as current and utilized to make assumptions about local trends, but the understanding exists that a generous margin of error should be allowed for in the ACS 5-year estimate data.

Patten is located in northern Penobscot County but often more closely mirrors and associates itself with the rural communities located in southwestern Aroostook County. The table below compares population and population change for surrounding communities located in northern Penobscot and southern Aroostook County.

The seven selected communities show a mixture of growth and decline between 1970 and 2010. All but Hersey and Island Falls lost population between 2000 and 2010. Patten and Medway are largest communities in the subregion and have a population over 1,000. According to the 2010 US Census, Patten had a population of 1,017, a decline of 8.46 percent from 2000. Since 1970, Patten's population declined by 19.7 percent. With the exception of Mount Chase (Mount Chase gained population from 1970 to 2010), Patten's population declines are very similar to surrounding communities located in Penobscot County as well as Sherman and Island Falls in Aroostook County. Patten's population decline is also closely related to that of Aroostook County. Between 2000 and 2010, Penobscot County's and Maine population grew.

**Patten's
population
declined by
nearly 8.5
percent
between 2000
and 2010.**

Total Population 1970-2010

Town	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 1970-2010	Percent Change 2000-2010
Patten	1,266	1,368	1,256	1,111	1,017	-19.67	-8.46
Sherman	949	1021	1027	937	848	-10.64	-9.5
Crystal	281	349	303	285	269	-4.27	-5.61
Hersey	81	67	69	63	83	2.47	31.74
Medway	1,491	1,871	1,922	1,489	1,349	-9.52	-9.4
Stacyville	547	554	480	405	396	-27.61	-2.22
Mount Chase	197	233	254	247	201	2.03	-18.62
Island Falls	913	981	897	793	837	-8.32	5.54
Aroostook County	92,463	91,331	86,936	73,938	71,870	-22.27	-2.79
Penobscot County	125,393	137,015	146,601	144,919	153,923	22.75	6.21
Maine	993,722	1,125,043	1,227,928	1,274,923	1,328,361	33.38	4.19

Source: US Census 1970-2010

The following table shows historical and projected population for Patten and surrounding communities. Town population projections are calculated using two pieces of information:

- The recent historical growth of each town's share of its county's population and
- County population projections.

Town population projections should always be used with caution. While they provide a good building block and can point to future trends, they are based on assumptions and past trends that may or may not hold into the future. In some ways, these population projections represent what will happen under a business-as-usual scenario where all the pieces (including migration rates, life expectancies, and sprawl patterns) continue on their current trajectories. It should be noted that when projecting population numbers, even the smallest gain or loss in a small population can significantly impact statistical data.

Almost all of the communities are projected to lose population over the next 10 years. The rate of decline is expected to slow but for the most part double digit declines are projected.

It should be noted that the region's efforts, including Patten's, to attract business and industry, its location near Baxter State Park and now the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, its outdoor recreational opportunities and its quality of life has the potential to slow or reverse this

decline in population. The region is an attractive area for people and families to live and changes in the local economy help retain population.

Town	Population			Projected Population			Percent Change	
	1990	2000	2010	2017	2022	2027	1990-2027	2010-2027
Patten	1,256	1,111	1,017	973	942	906	-27.87	-10.91
Sherman	1,027	937	848	804	777	749	-27.07	-11.67
Stacyville	480	405	396	388	383	376	-21.67	-5.05
Mount Chase	254	247	201	188	177	166	-34.65	-17.41
Island Falls	897	793	837	838	845	851	-5.13	1.67
Crystal	303	285	269	259	253	247	-18.48	-8.18
Hersey	69	63	83	86	89	93	34.78	12.04
Medway	1,922	1,489	1,349	1,274	1,220	1,160	-39.64	-14.01

Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010 and Office of Policy and Management Projections 2016

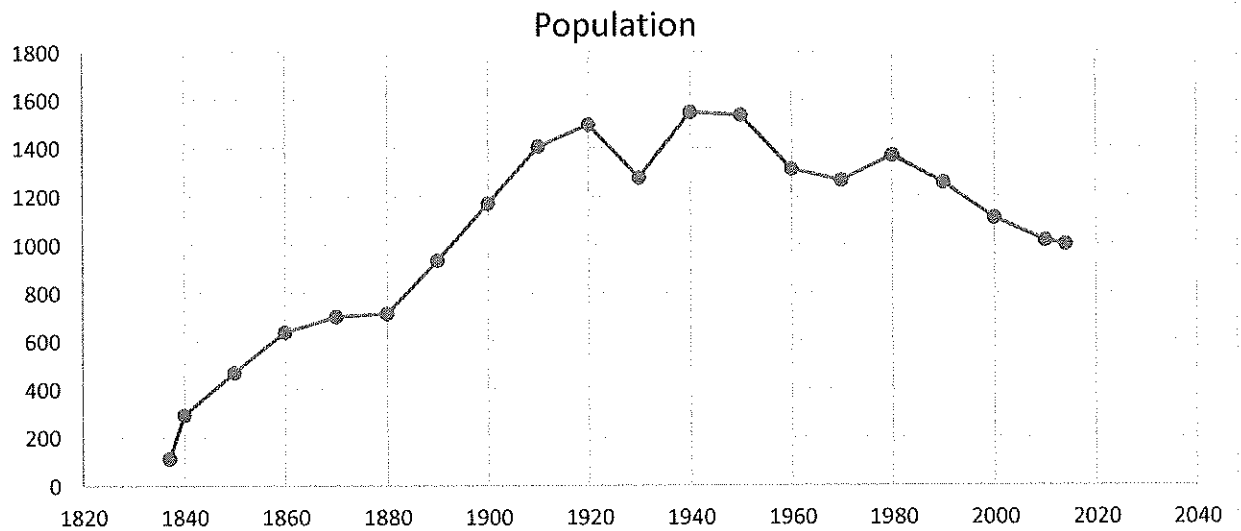
Patten's Historic Population

The following table shows Patten's population from 1837 to 2014. Patten was settled in 1828 and was known as Township 4, Range 6. On April 16, 1841, it became the Town of Patten. The 1840 US Census for Aroostook County's T4R5 (now Crystal, Maine) was called Fisk'e Township but was more likely Fish's Township as it included most of the early settlers of Patten. Population peaked in 1940 when the town had 1,548 residents and has been declining since. Town officials attribute this out-migration to the lack of employment opportunities in the area, declines in the forestry sector, and mill and plant closures in Patten, Sherman, Island Falls, Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway. Because of the out-migration, the town is left with an older population.

Year	Population	Percent Change
1837	114	
1840	294	157.89
1850	470	59.86
1860	639	35.96
1870	704	10.17
1880	716	1.70
1890	936	30.73
1900	1,172	25.21
1910	1,406	19.97
1920	1,498	6.54

Year	Population	Percent Change
1930	1,278	-14.69
1940	1,548	21.13
1950	1,536	-0.78
1960	1,312	-14.58
1970	1,266	-3.51
1980	1,368	8.06
1990	1,256	-8.19
2000	1,111	-11.54
2010	1,017	-8.46
2014	1,002	-1.47

Source: US Census and American Community Survey



Source: US Census and American Community Survey

Town officials are working to reverse the trend. Here are some examples.

Reversing population declines is difficult but Patten continues to work on a variety of economic and community development projects (to be discussed in more detail in the Local Economy and other sections). For example, in 2015 Haymart purchased a veneer mill at the base of Mill Hill which originally closed in 2010 and is installing three (3) large silos to pelletize soybean, oats, barley, and wheat. There are also plans to operate 24 hours per day to produce wood pellets. This expansion of hours could help retain or provide additional jobs.

Katahdin Valley Health Center recently completed a \$3.5 million construction of an administration building on Ash Hill and a \$480,000 expansion to its health center on Houlton Street. These expansions have brought jobs to Patten.

In August 2016, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was designated to the west of Patten. Impacts to Patten are undetermined at this time but there has been a resurgence of interest in the Town and significant real estate transactions. While all cannot be attributed to the designation, a portion of the sales have been Monument related. There are also plans to construct a \$5 million outdoor education center in Soldiertown Township that potentially could host over 3,500 students per year. Other initiatives are on-going and designed to attract new business or industry to the area and retain jobs.

Age Group Population

In 2010, over thirty-one (31) percent of Patten’s population was between 45 and 64, accounting for Patten’s median age of 47.6, which was nearly the same as Aroostook County’s (45.3). Patten’s median age is significantly higher than the median age of Penobscot County (39) and that of Maine (42).

Approximately 20 percent of Patten’s population is under 18 while 23 percent are over the age of 65. Just under one half of Patten’s residents are between the ages of 30 and 65 which is considered the working age population. As stated above, the older portion of the age group (45-64) makes up approximately 31 percent of that amount.

The Town saw declines in the number of residents under the age of 19 between 2000 and 2010. There were also declines in the number of 30-55 year old in town. Conversely, Patten saw growth in the 20 to 21 year old, 55 to 65, and 75 plus age brackets.

Patten Age Group Distribution, 2000-2010

Age Group	2000	Percent of Total	2010	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2000-10
Under 5 years	54	4.86	47	4.62	-12.96
5 to 9 years	60	5.40	56	5.51	-6.67
10 to 14 years	72	6.48	52	5.11	-27.78
15 to 17 years	52	4.68	44	4.33	-15.38
18 and 19 years	23	2.07	13	1.28	-43.48
20 years	4	0.36	6	0.59	50.00
21 years	4	0.36	11	1.08	175.00
22 to 24 years	23	2.07	22	2.16	-4.35
25 to 29 years	50	4.50	41	4.03	-18.00
30 to 34 years	68	6.12	41	4.03	-39.71
35 to 39 years	73	6.57	55	5.41	-24.66
40 to 44 years	90	8.10	76	7.47	-15.56

Age Group	2000	Percent of Total	2010	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2000-10
45 to 49 years	91	8.19	80	7.87	-12.09
50 to 54 years	83	7.47	72	7.08	-13.25
55 to 59 years	70	6.30	80	7.87	14.29
60 and 61 years	31	2.79	40	3.93	29.03
62 to 64 years	43	3.87	49	4.82	13.95
65 to 69 years	69	6.21	61	6.00	-11.59
70 to 74 years	46	4.14	56	5.51	21.74
75 to 79 years	50	4.50	53	5.21	6.00
80 to 84 years	22	1.98	25	2.46	13.64
85 years and over	33	2.97	37	3.64	12.12
Total	1111	100	1017	100	-8.46

Source: US Census, 2000 and 2010

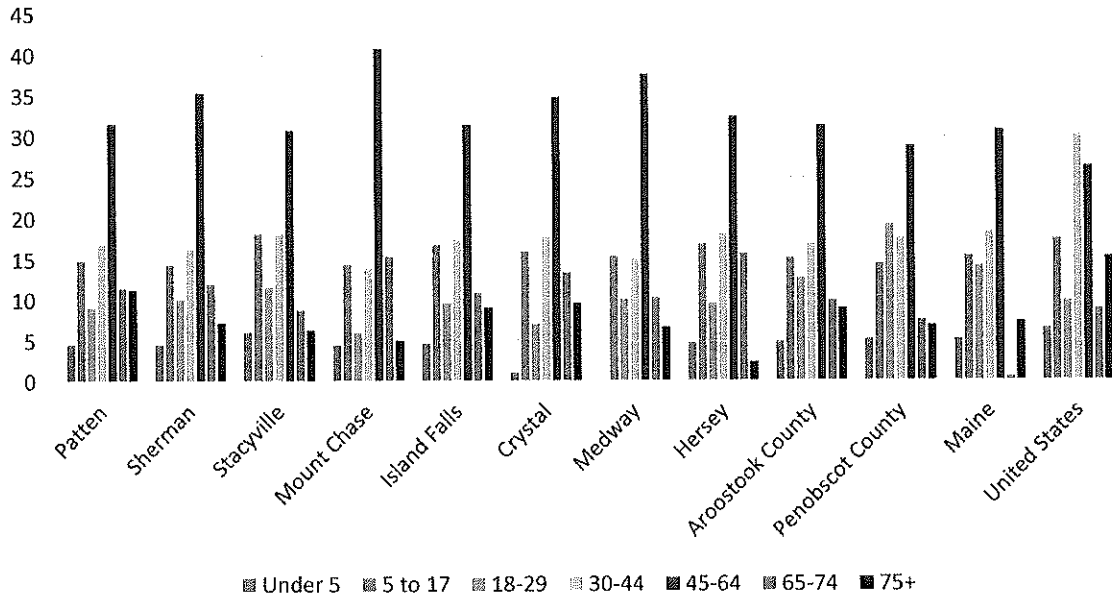
Patten's age group breakdown is about the same as those in the surrounding communities. These figures should be considered in light of the fact that Aroostook County and Maine, as a whole, have an older population, one of the oldest in the country.

Age Group Distribution-Selected Communities 2010

Town	Under 5	5-17	18-29	30-44	45-64	65-74	75+
Patten	4.6	14.9	9.1	16.9	31.6	11.5	11.3
Sherman	4.6	14.4	10.1	16.3	35.4	12.0	7.2
Stacyville	6.1	18.2	11.6	18.2	30.8	8.8	6.3
Mount Chase	4.5	14.4	6.0	13.9	40.8	15.4	5.0
Island Falls	4.7	16.8	9.6	17.4	31.5	10.9	9.1
Crystal	1.1	16.0	7.1	17.8	34.9	13.4	9.7
Medway	0.1	15.4	10.1	15.0	37.7	10.3	6.7
Hersey	4.8	16.9	9.6	18.1	32.5	15.7	2.4
Aroostook County	4.9	15.2	12.7	16.9	31.4	10.0	9.0
Penobscot County	5.2	14.5	19.3	17.6	28.9	7.6	6.9
Maine	5.2	15.4	14.2	18.4	30.9	0.5	7.4
United States	6.5	17.5	9.9	30.2	26.4	8.9	15.3

Source: 2010 US Census

Age Group Breakdown 2010



Source US Census 2010.

Median Age

In 2000, Patten’s median age was 43.9 years of age. By 2010, the median age had increased to 47.6, a change of 8.4 percent. The median age has shifted as a segment of the younger age population has decreased as reflected in the 2000 and 2010 US Census. This is due in part to smaller number of families, smaller number of children per family, the decline and mechanization of the agricultural and the lumber industries, and out-migration. In comparison with the other communities in the region, there are very similar occurrences as the median age increased in every community during the same time. Patten closely mirrors Aroostook County’s median age while Penobscot County, is significantly younger than Patten.

Median Age 2000 and 2010

Town	2000	2010	Percent Change
Patten	43.9	47.6	8.43
Sherman	42.5	48.8	14.82
Stacyville	40.9	42	2.69
Mount Chase	46.3	50.1	8.21
Island Falls	46.3	46.4	0.22
Crystal	42.4	51.8	22.16
Hersey	38.5	45.3	17.6
Medway	39.3	47.8	21.63
Aroostook County	40.7	45.3	11.3

Town	2000	2010	Percent Change
Penobscot County	37.2	39.9	7.26
Maine	38.6	42.7	10.6
United States	35.3	37.2	5.38

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

Gender Distribution

In 2010, Patten's population was made up of 497 males (48.8%) and 520 females (51.2%). While this is not too dissimilar from comparable towns, it is much closer to a 50-50 split than the others. Several of the surrounding communities are dissimilar to the region as well as the County in the males outnumber females.

Gender Distribution 2000 and 2010

Town	2000		2010	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Patten	557	554	497	520
Sherman	470	467	424	424
Stacyville	191	214	217	179
Mount Chase	131	116	111	90
Island Falls	377	416	415	422
Crystal	144	141	134	135
Hersey	31	32	40	43
Medway	784	705	670	679
Aroostook County	36,095	37,843	35,387	36,483
Penobscot County	70,715	74,204	75,853	78,070
Maine	620,309	654,614	650,056	678,305

Source: US Census 2000 and 2010

The residents of Patten have a proud tradition of serving in the armed forces and during times of conflict. According to American Factfinder, in 2015 16% of Patten's population over the age of 18 were veterans. In 2015, there are 129 veterans living in Patten who have served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars.

Family and Household Size

According to the US Census, there were 447 households in Patten. Family households make up the highest percentage of households in town and males as the head of the household account for 49 percent of the family households. A household that has at least one member of the household related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption is a Family household. Nonfamily

households account for over 36 percent of the total households and consist of people living alone and households which do not have any members related to the householder. Approximately 71 percent of the households in Patten consist of one or two persons.

In 2010, the average family size was 2.73 persons. Families consist of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Patten Household and Family Information, 2010

Type	Number	Percent of Total
Total households	447	100.0
Family households	283	63.3
Male householder	222	49.7
Female householder	61	13.6
Nonfamily households	164	36.7
Male householder	78	17.4
Living alone	64	14.3
Female householder	86	19.2
Living alone	81	18.1

Size	Number	Percent of Total
Total households	447	100.0
1-person household	145	32.4
2-person household	171	38.3
3-person household	67	15.0
4-person household	39	8.7
5-person household	16	3.6
6-person household	5	1.1
7-or-more-person household	4	0.9
Average household size	2.20	
Average family size	2.73	

Source: 2010 US Census

When compared to surrounding communities, Patten is very similar in both household size and family size. Patten is also comparable to Aroostook and Penobscot Counties and Maine but slightly smaller than that of the United States.

Household and Family Size, 2010

Town	Household Size	Family Size
Patten	2.2	2.7
Sherman	2.34	2.8
Stacyville	2.44	2.9
Mount Chase	2.14	2.7
Island Falls	2.31	2.9
Crystal	2.34	2.75
Hersey	2.59	2.8
Medway	2.34	2.74
Aroostook County	2.26	2.79
Penobscot County	2.33	2.9
Maine	2.32	2.8
United States	2.58	3.14

Source: 2010 US Census

Educational Attainment

According to the 2010 US Census, 18.5 percent of Patten's population did not have a high school diploma compared to 10.5 percent in Penobscot County, 16.1 percent in Aroostook County, and 10.2 percent statewide. Approximately 81.5 percent of Patten's residents had at least a high school diploma and 11.1 percent had completed four or more years of college. Comparable figures for Penobscot County were 89.5 percent and 23.3 percent. (It should be noted that because educational attainment in the 2010 Census was not an actual count, the margin of error in these statistics can be very high). Patten more closely mirrors Aroostook County where 83.9 percent have at least a high school diploma and 16.2 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Educational Attainment, 2010	Patten	Penobscot County	Aroostook County	Maine
Less than 9th grade	93	3,903	4,089	35,336
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	87	6,802	4,272	59,859
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	452	37,584	20,176	326,777
Some college, no degree	151	20,473	10,257	178,022
Associate degree	82	9,693	4,619	82,580
Bachelor's degree	51	15,196	6,116	159,601
Graduate or professional degree	57	8,650	2,259	87,126
Percent High School Graduate or Higher	81.50	89.50	83.90	89.80
Percent% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	11.10	23.30	16.20	26.50

Source: US Census 2010

Analysis

Over the next 15 to 20 years, the total population of Patten is expected to decline to around 906 people. According to population projections, three significant demographic trends are expected to continue:

- 1) The decline in Patten's school age population
- 2) Patten's aging population will continue to increase
- 3) There will be a growing number of seasonal residents.

One significant implication of these demographic changes is on the school system. Some elementary schools in the area have already closed. Declining school enrollment in Patten and other nearby communities coupled with the closure of additional schools may have significant implications on how K-12 education is delivered in the area. Changes in the public K-12 educational system will have important impacts on the Town, affecting both its fiscal health and community life. During the November 2017 election, residents will have the opportunity to vote on withdrawing from RSU 50. This effort is led by the thought that more local control over the education, lower cost per student, and the potential for additional educational opportunities could help attract younger families to the town or subregion.

A likely implication of the aging population will be continued demand for in-town housing, including apartment, independent living, and assisted living facilities. The Town will continue to monitor these trends and make appropriate policy decisions based on changes in the population.

Patten's residents enjoy the conveniences and challenges that exist with living in a small rural community. Patten, like many towns in Aroostook and northern Penobscot counties, has lost population which is projected to continue through the planning period. However, Patten acts as a "mini service center" for the subregion and has the largest population of any of the surrounding communities. Activities such as an expansion of shifts and activities at Haymart, the potential opening of Dollar General, and the development of other large retail stores could quickly reverse this trend. While larger population centers of Houlton (Patten's Service Center) and Bangor are an hour or more away, and are accessible via Interstate 95, Patten offers the day to day needs of residents and visitors.

Population growth is greatly restricted by the number of jobs in the region. Patten was particularly hard hit when mills and plants closed in Island Falls, Sherman, East Millinocket and Millinocket. Reversing the trend can be difficult but the town contains a number of attributes (to be discussed in detail in other sections of the Plan), that could help stem the out-migration of population. Town officials and regional planners are working on a number of initiatives ranging from diversified forestry to tourism development that may help bring new jobs to the region. Patten is well poised to take advantage of these opportunities.

The Town of Patten should continue to seek strategies to maintain its current population and encourage growth. Just as greater economic opportunities outside an area can cause a population decline, a trend to modest growth can occur in a community due to its recreational opportunities, social services and the quality of life it affords. The town is working on initiatives that are designed to help population grow and attempts to keep younger families in the region.

The creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, significant growth from several service organizations, industrial and commercial development, ample available land, the development of scenic byways and bike routes all can create opportunity for growth in the future. Town officials also need to participate in activities occurring in the Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Medway area and participate in planning activities carried out by the Chambers and UVEC. The potential for the region with its recreational opportunities and quality of life attributes may substantiate more positive projections.

In addition, the towns must monitor the effects of an aging population on the public services which it offers. They must also monitor the trend towards a smaller youth segment of the population. A smaller youth segment combined with an aging population can have an effect on school, recreational, cultural and other community programs, as well as the funding for these. An aging population will create a need to develop additional programs for the elderly such as walking programs, shopping excursions, recreation and social activities. The Town of Patten may wish to examine the possibility of increased public transportation and/or additional elderly housing and services, as it continues to keep services in balance with the needs of its population.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Policy and Strategy

Local Goal: Patten will use complete and current information about their population when making administrative and policy decisions for the town.

Policy	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Actively monitor the size, characteristics, and distribution of Patten's population	Seek assistance in the collection and maintenance of census data to ensure accuracy.	Town officials	On-going and as needed