

Regional Planning Assumptions

Seven planning assumptions emerged from the asset mapping process and informed the draft economic development plan.

1. The Danforth service center, its essential services, and the major employers that make a livable community possible must be sustained. This includes East Grand School, East Grand Health Center, Machias Savings Bank, the US Post Office, Danforth Habilitation Center, the natural resources businesses that employ over 100 people, and the businesses that provide food, fuel and other retail services.
2. Independent business owners, sole proprietors, and lodge/camp owners need public and private support to stay in business and reposition their business models during an economy in significant transition.
3. Youth and young adults require resources, encouragement and mentoring to be able to build on their career interests and believe that there is a sustainable future for them in their community.
4. The opportunity may emerge to be a community destination for people who decide to leave urban areas and go “rural” because of the pandemic, or because of climate change events.
5. To attract new residents – families, young adults, recent retirees - investment properties, housing, health care, education and high-speed internet services are required.
6. To attract new seasonal visitors, the region requires a reinforcement of its “destination identity” and a coordinated promotion plan that highlights the beauty, remoteness, and amenities expected by an urban market.
7. Demonstrated coordination and collaboration across organizations and communities in the region will build confidence and continuity, and in turn, demonstrate to residents, investors and funders that the Greater East Grand Region has a path forward to sustainability and growth.