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# 2026 Goals

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**Housatonic Improvement Committee**

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Project Planning

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**DRAFT** v1 November 18, 2025

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# Goals

\*In no specific order of priority

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01

Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond

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02

Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations

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03

Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life

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04

Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements

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05

Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design

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06

Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community

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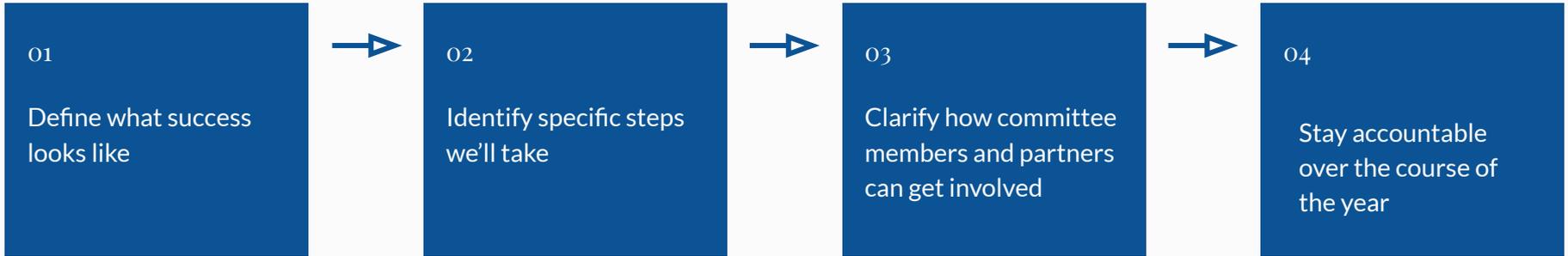
# How we'll measure the success of our goals

To ensure accountability and progress, each of our committee goals will be measured using the SMART framework:

- **Specific**
  - Every goal will clearly define what we're trying to achieve, with a focused and actionable outcome
- **Measurable**
  - We'll identify benchmarks and metrics to track our progress and know when we've succeeded
- **Achievable**
  - Our goals will reflect what can realistically be accomplished within the year, given our capacity, resources, and community support
- **Relevant**
  - Each goal will align with our broader mission as a committee and reflect what matters most to residents and stakeholders
- **Time-bound**
  - We'll attach clear timelines, deadlines, and review points so we can stay on track and adapt as needed

# How we'll get there

To turn our goals into action, we've outlined a set of clear, time-bound targets for each one. These targets help us:



What follows is a breakdown of each goal with its supporting targets, designed to guide our work, track progress, and engage the community at key moments.

# How to use this document

## What this document is

A clear starting point for planning and accountability

A way to clarify roles, timing, and resource needs

A scaffold to help us say yes to what matters

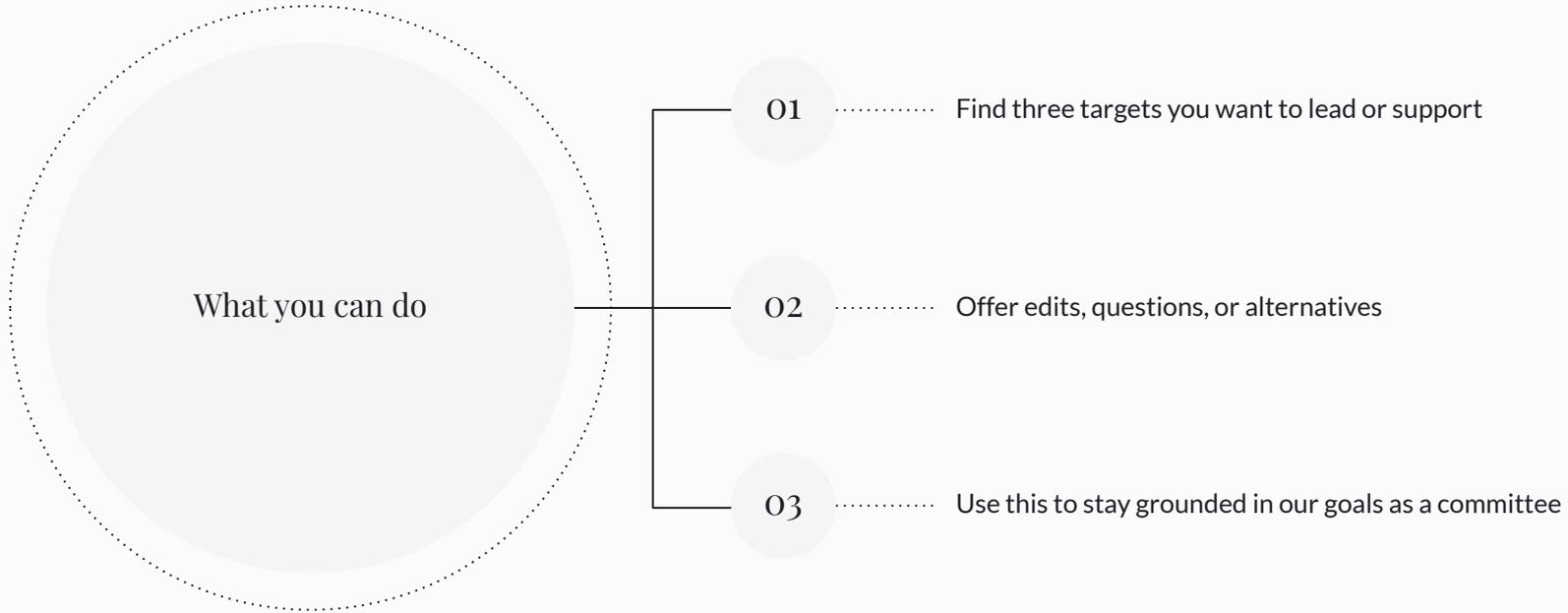
## What this document isn't

A rigid plan: everything here is adjustable

A solo job: each tactic only works with shared leadership

A forever document: it's designed to evolve as we learn

# How to use this document



# Goal Targets

# Goal Targets

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01

Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond

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## Target 01

Recurring Ramsdell Building Committee updates at all HiC meetings at least through May 2026

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## Target 02

Create and distribute at least one educational resource (print or digital) summarizing renovation progress and community impact by May 2026

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## Target 03

Host two public events with community library stakeholders (including Board of Library Trustees, Ramsdell Building Committee, Friends of the Library, and Library Trust) to discuss and disseminate information about the Ramsdell Renovation process to the broader Housatonic community before May 2026

# Goal Targets

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02

Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations

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## Target 01

Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support Housatonic the Beautiful Fund with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)

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## Target 02

Pilot at least one new community gathering format, such as a potluck, speaker series (“Housy Talkin”), PorchFest, or concert at the Commons, by October 2026

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## Target 03

Engage at least 10 local volunteer or partner groups (e.g., schools, businesses, or nonprofits) across all 2026 events

# Goal Targets

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03

Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life

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## Target 01

Develop an actionable plan for connecting the Flag Rock Trail to the village core by December 2026, including feasibility steps and partnership outreach

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## Target 02

Plant at least 20 new trees in coordination with local partners (e.g., Great Barrington Tree Committee, Housatonic the Beautiful Fund, Great Barrington DPW)

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## Target 03

Launch a community tree sponsorship program to fund ongoing planting and support community maintenance

# Goal Targets

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## Target 01

Host at least one public forum or listening session to gather community priorities for outdoor and public space improvements (e.g., Old Maid's, Rising Pond, sidewalks, pocket parks). Could be in conjunction with Great Barrington Planning Board's Open Space and Recreation Plan process

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## Target 02

Submit at least two letters of support or formal recommendations to relevant town boards or committees (e.g., Parks Commission, Selectboard, Planning Board) regarding outdoor space improvements or land use related to Housatonic

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## Target 03

Collaborate with Housatonic the Beautiful Fund and Great Barrington DPW to identify and implement at least three "quick-win" beautification projects (such as trash/recycling bins, dog waste stations, or sidewalk weeding) by October 2026

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## Target 04

Develop an inventory and visual map of potential public improvement sites (parks, open parcels, sidewalks, vacant lots) and present it publicly by September 2026 to support funding and planning discussions

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04

Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements

# Goal Targets

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## Target 01

Design and install wayfinding signs for key local points of interest by October 2026

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## Target 02

Begin design conversations with local artists for a public mural on the train trestle by August 2026

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## Target 03

Develop and share a public map of Housatonic highlighting cultural, historic, and natural assets by September 2026

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## Target 04

Create a village logo and one-page story capturing Housatonic's past, present, and future, written in accessible language for the broader community, by December 2026

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05

Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design

# Goal Targets

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## Target 01

Develop and adopt a formal communication plan (including meeting summaries, event promotion, and outreach methods) by May 2026

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## Target 02

Publish quarterly community updates highlighting HiC activities and upcoming opportunities for involvement

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## Target 03

Establish at least one shared communication channel (newsletter, social media page, or bulletin board) by June 2026 to improve accessibility of information

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06

Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community

# Goals

\*In no specific order of priority

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01

Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond

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02

Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations

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03

Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life

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04

Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements

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05

Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design

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06

Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community

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# Project Plans

# Project Plan 01

*January - May 2026 (5 months)*

Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond

- 01  
Recurring Ramsdell Building Committee updates at all HiC meetings at least through May 2026
- 02  
Create and distribute at least one educational resource (print or digital) summarizing renovation progress and community impact by May 2026

- 03  
Host two public events with community library stakeholders (including Board of Library Trustees, Ramsdell Building Committee, Friends of the Library, and Library Trust) to discuss and disseminate information about the Ramsdell Renovation process to the broader Housatonic community before May 2026

# Project Approach 01

January - May 2026 (5 months)

## Our approach

### Target 01

Recurring Ramsdell Building Committee updates at all HiC meetings at least through May '26

### Target 02

Create and distribute at least one educational resource (print or digital) summarizing renovation progress and community impact by May '26

### Target 03

Host two public events to discuss and disseminate information about the Ramsdell Renovation process to the broader Housatonic community before May '26

## Objective

Keep committee (and therefore community) informed on renovation status and upcoming milestones

Build public understanding and support through clear, accessible materials

Offer face-to-face engagement and trust-building between stakeholders and residents

## Activities

- Add "Ramsdell Renovation" as recurring agenda item
- Identify and invite a point person from the RBC to each HiC meeting
- Maintain ongoing notes and summary updates

- Outline key questions or concerns from the community
- Interview stakeholders involved in the renovation
- Draft, design, and distribute a one-pager or short slide presentation
- Translate or adapt for print/digital

- Determine event timing and locations (e.g., Ramsdell, UUMSB, Housy Dome)
- Coordinate with library stakeholders
- Develop agenda, promotional materials & facilitation plan
- Collect & summarize community input at events

## Deliverables

- 8-10 summary updates shared at HiC meetings
- Brief updates archived in repository for reference & future use

- Educational one-pager or digital brief
- Slides for stakeholder reuse
- FAQ-style summary for community members

- Two public event summaries with attendance and feedback
- Slides or visuals presented
- Stakeholder list and contact summary
- Optional: Documented Q&A

# Timeline 01 // Target 01

January - May 2026 (5 months)

**Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond // Recurring Ramsdell Building Committee updates at all HiC meetings at least through May 2026**

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	Finalize by:
Add "Ramsdell Renovation" as a recurring agenda item	November 2025
Identify and invite a point person from Ramsdell Building Committee to each HiC meeting	November 2025
Maintain ongoing notes and summary updates	November 2025

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# Timeline 01 // Target 02

January - May 2026 (5 months)

**Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond // Create and distribute at least one educational resource (print or digital) summarizing renovation progress and community impact by May 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Outline key questions or concerns from the community	January 2026	January - February 2026
Interview stakeholders involved in the renovation	February 2026	February - March 2026
Draft, design, and distribute a one-pager or short slide presentation	March 2026	March - April 2026
Translate or adapt resource for print / digital	March 2026	April 2026
Create an FAQ-style summary for community members	April 2026	April 2026

# Timeline 01 // Target 03

January - May 2026 (5 months)

**Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond // Host two public events with community library stakeholders (including Board of Library Trustees, Ramsdell Building Committee, Friends of the Library, and Library Trust) to discuss and disseminate information about the Ramsdell Renovation process to the broader Housatonic community before May 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Determine event timing & locations	January 2026	January 2026
Coordinate with library stakeholders	February 2026	Early March 2026
Develop agenda, promotional materials, & facilitation plan	March 2026	Early April 2026
Collect & summarize community input at events	March & April 2026	End of April 2026
Document Q&A	Mid-April 2026	End of April 2026

# Project Plan 02

*January - December 2026 (12 months)*

Foster social, intergenerational,  
and creative community life  
through regular gatherings and  
public celebrations

01

Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support Housatonic the Beautiful Fund with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)

02

Pilot at least one new community gathering format, such as a potluck, speaker series (“Housy Talkin’”), PorchFest, or concert at the Commons, by October 2026

03

Engage at least 10 local volunteer or partner groups (e.g., schools, businesses, or nonprofits) across all 2026 events

# Project Approach 02

January - December 2026 (12 months)

## Our approach

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### Target 01

*Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support HTBF with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)*

### Target 02

*Pilot at least one new community gathering format, such as a potluck, speaker series ("Housy Talkin"), PorchFest, or concert at the Commons, by Oct '26*

### Target 03

*Engage at least 10 local volunteer or partner groups (e.g., schools, businesses, or nonprofits) across all 2026 events*

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## Objective

Build a rhythm of free, seasonal events that give neighbors a reason to show up, participate, and reconnect

Test fresh, lower-barrier event formats that feel informal and welcoming, encouraging new participation

Strengthen collaboration between stakeholders and residents through visible partnership and shared ownership

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## Activities

- Lock in dates for Halloween, Winter Lights, Party in the Park, and Earth Day
- Secure permits, insurance, budget
- Confirm HiC co-hosting role with HTBF & other orgs
- Identify point people for each event
- Coordinate vendors, performers, and logistics
- Promote events across platforms

- Hold one brainstorming session to test new ideas
- Vote or survey to determine community interest
- Identify lead partner org or HiC lead
- Plan event logistics (venue, timing, program)
- Gather feedback post-event to determine replicability

- Map existing stakeholder groups by category (youth orgs, businesses, artists, schools, etc)
  - Conduct outreach and invitations to participate
  - Create shared promotional and onboarding materials
  - Document and highlight stakeholder involvement in each event
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## Deliverables

- Event schedule and partner list
- Co-hosted event plans with timelines
- Promotion materials for each event
- Wrap-up summary from each event (attendance, photos, lessons)

- One pilot event delivered
- Documentation of process (planning, promotion, feedback)
- Public-facing summary or case study for learning

- Stakeholder roster with contact info and roles
  - Volunteer onboarding guide or toolkit
  - Social media or newsletter highlights showing partner participation
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# Timeline 02 // Target 01 (Part 1)

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations // Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support Housatonic the Beautiful Fund with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Lock in dates for Halloween, Winter Lights, Party in the Park, and Earth Day	January 2026	January 2026
Secure permits and budget	February 2026	March 2026
Confirm HiC co-hosting role with HTBF & other orgs	February 2026	April 2026
Identify point people for each event	March 2026	May 2026
Coordinate supporting infrastructure for Earth Day with HTBF (April)	March 2026	Mid-April 2026
Promotion and outreach for Earth Day event	March 2026	Mid-April 2026
Coordinate supporting infrastructure for Party in the Park with HTBF (June)	April 2026	June 2026
Earth Day event wrap-up: attendance, photos, lessons	Late April 2026	May 2026
Promotion and outreach for Party in the Park	May 2026	June 2026

# Timeline 02 // Target 01 (Part 2)

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations // Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support Housatonic the Beautiful Fund with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Party in the Park wrap-up: attendance, photos, lessons	Late June 2026	July 2026
Begin planning Halloween & Winter Lights (budget, design, co-hosts)	July 2026	August 2026
Secure vendors and permits for Halloween	August 2026	Early October 2026
Begin Winter Lights prep: design, partners, schedule	August 2026	Early October 2026
Promotion and outreach for Halloween + dog parade	April 2026	June 2026
Halloween wrap-up: attendance, photos, lessons	Early November 2026	Mid-November 2026
Promotion and logistics for Winter Lights	November 2026	Early December 2026
Winter Lights wrap-up and final summary report	Mid-February 2027	End of February 2027

# Timeline 02 // Target 02

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations // Pilot at least one new community gathering format, such as a potluck, speaker series (“Housy Talkin”), PorchFest, or concert at the Commons, by October 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Hold one brainstorming session to test new ideas	February 2026	March 2026
Vote or survey to determine community interest	March 2026	April 2026
Identify lead partner org or HiC lead	March 2026	April 2026
Plan event logistics (venue, timing, program)	April 2026	June 2026
Pilot event happens	–	Late August - September 2026
Gather feedback post-event to determine replicability	September 2026	October 2026
Public-facing summary or case study for learning	October 2026	November 2026

# Timeline 02 // Target 03

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations // Engage at least 10 local volunteer or partner groups (e.g., schools, businesses, or nonprofits) across all 2026 events**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Map existing stakeholder groups by category	January 2026	February 2026
Conduct outreach and invitations to participate	February 2026	April 2026
Create shared promotional and onboarding materials	March 2026	May 2026
Document and highlight stakeholder involvement in each event	May 2026	November 2026

# Project Plan 03

January - December 2026 (12 months)

Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life

01

Develop an actionable plan for connecting the Flag Rock Trail to the village core by December 2026, including feasibility steps and partnership outreach

02

Plant at least 20 new trees in coordination with local partners (e.g., Great Barrington Tree Committee, Housatonic the Beautiful Fund, Great Barrington DPW)

03

Launch a community tree sponsorship program to fund ongoing planting and support community maintenance

# Project Approach 03

January - December 2026 (12 months)

## Our approach

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### Target 01

*Develop an actionable plan for connecting the Flag Rock Trail to the village core by Dec '26, including feasibility steps and partnership outreach*

### Target 02

*Plant at least 20 new trees in coordination with local partners (e.g., Great Barrington Tree Committee, Housatonic the Beautiful Fund, Great Barrington DPW)*

### Target 03

*Launch a community tree sponsorship program to fund ongoing planting and support community maintenance*

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## Objective

Strengthen trail connectivity and public access to natural spaces through a clear implementation roadmap

Improve the local climate and public realm through visible investment in green infrastructure

Foster stewardship and shared ownership of public spaces through community-funded greening efforts

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## Activities

- Identify access points, right-of-way, or easement issues
- Meet with local landowners and trail groups (The Trustees)
- Coordinate with Planning Board and Parks & Recreation Commission
- Draft plan and implementation phases

- Coordinate with DPW, Tree Committee, and nonprofits to select sites
- Develop planting plan with seasonal timing
- Recruit volunteers or school groups for planting days

- Design the sponsorship program (tiers, benefits)
  - Develop marketing materials
  - Host a community info session or launch event
  - Set up tracking and recognition system (plaques, newsletters, etc)
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## Deliverables

- Feasibility study or trail connectivity report
- Map with proposed access route
- Partnership commitment letters or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

- List of tree species and planting sites
- Tree-planting day calendar
- Before/after photo documentation

- Sponsorship program materials
  - Participation tracker
  - Outreach and event collateral (flyer, social post, press release)
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# Timeline 03 // Target 01

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life // Develop an actionable plan for connecting the Flag Rock Trail to the village core by December 2026, including feasibility steps and partnership outreach**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Identify access points, right-of-way, or easement issues	January 2026	March 2026
Meet with local landowners and trail groups (The Trustees)	February 2026	April 2026
Coordinate with Planning Board and Parks & Recreation Commission	March 2026	May 2026
Draft plan and implementation phases	April 2026	July 2026
Feasibility study or trail connectivity report	May 2026	August 2026
Map with proposed access route	August 2026	October 2026
Partnership commitment letters or MOUs	September 2026	December 2026

# Timeline 03 // Target 02

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life // Plant at least 20 new trees in coordination with local partners (e.g., Great Barrington Tree Committee, Housatonic the Beautiful Fund, Great Barrington DPW)**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Coordinate with DPW, Tree Committee, and nonprofits to select sites	September 2025	January 2026
Develop planting plan with seasonal timing	April 2026	November 2026
Recruit volunteers or school groups for planting days	October 2025	April 2026
List of tree species and planting sites	September 2025	November 2025

# Timeline 03 // Target 03

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic's tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life // Launch a community tree sponsorship program to fund ongoing planting and support community maintenance**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Design the sponsorship program (tiers, benefits)	October 2025	February 2026
Develop marketing materials	October 2025	March 2026
Host a community info session or launch event	April 2026	May 2026
Set up tracking and recognition system	April 2026	June 2026

# Project Plan 04

January - September 2026 (9 months)

Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements

01

Host at least one public forum or listening session to gather community priorities for outdoor and public space improvements (e.g., Old Maid's, Rising Pond, sidewalks, pocket parks). Could be in conjunction with Great Barrington Planning Board's Open Space and Recreation Plan process

02

Submit at least two letters of support or formal recommendations to relevant town boards or committees (e.g., Parks Commission, Selectboard, Planning Board) regarding outdoor space improvements or land use related to Housatonic

03

Collaborate with Housatonic the Beautiful Fund and Great Barrington DPW to identify and implement at least three "quick-win" beautification projects (such as trash/recycling bins, dog waste stations, or sidewalk weeding) by October 2026

04

Develop an inventory and visual map of potential public improvement sites (parks, open parcels, sidewalks, vacant lots) and present it publicly by September 2026 to support funding and planning discussions

# Project Approach 04

January - September 2026 (9 months)

	Target 01	Target 02	Target 03	Target 04
<b>Our approach</b>	<i>Host at least one public forum or listening session to gather community priorities for outdoor and public space improvements</i>	<i>Submit at least two letters of support or formal recommendations regarding outdoor space improvements related to Housatonic</i>	<i>Collaborate with HTBF and DPW to identify and implement at least three “quick-win” beautification projects by Oct '26</i>	<i>Develop an inventory &amp; visual map of potential public improvement sites and present it publicly by Sept '26</i>
<b>Objective</b>	Gather community input on priorities for outdoor and public space improvements	Elevate community voices and advocate for outdoor space investments through formal channels	Highlight local assets through creative beautification efforts with visible, near-term impact	Celebrate Housatonic’s identity with tools that help residents and visitors navigate and connect
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Choose forum date, time, and location</li><li>- Design agenda and outreach materials</li><li>- Promote event through flyers, partners, and social media</li><li>- Facilitate conversation and collect input</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify key improvement areas based on community input</li><li>- Draft and revise letters of support</li><li>- Secure endorsements or co-signers from community leaders</li><li>- Submit to town departments or Planning Board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Meet with HTB and DPW to identify “quick-win” projects</li><li>- Prioritize projects with high visibility and low cost</li><li>- Coordinate volunteers or contractors</li><li>- Document progress with before/after photos</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Compile initial list of public improvement sites</li><li>- Conduct brief site assessments (photos, notes)</li><li>- Collaborate with local creatives on visual layout</li><li>- Draft and revise one-page narrative for community release</li></ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Event summary and notes</li><li>- Community input highlights or themes</li><li>- Public feedback repository</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Two or more formal letters or memos</li><li>- List of submission recipients</li><li>- Optional signatures or endorsements.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Beautification implementation tracker</li><li>- Before/after documentation</li><li>- Short summary report or photo essay</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Visual map (print or digital)</li><li>- One page “Housatonic Highlights” story</li><li>- Press or social post announcing release</li></ul>

# Timeline 04 // Target 01

January - September 2026 (9 months)

**Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements // Host at least one public forum or listening session to gather community priorities for outdoor and public space improvements (e.g., Old Maid's, Rising Pond, sidewalks, pocket parks). Could be in conjunction with Great Barrington Planning Board's Open Space and Recreation Plan process**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Choose forum date, time, and location	February 2026	March 2026
Design agenda and outreach materials	March 2026	April 2026
Promote event through flyers, partners, and social media	May 2026	July 2026
Facilitate conversation and collect input	August 2026	September 2026

# Timeline 04 // Target 02

January - September 2026 (9 months)

**Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements // Submit at least two letters of support or formal recommendations to relevant town boards or committees (e.g., Parks Commission, Selectboard, Planning Board) regarding outdoor space improvements or land use related to Housatonic**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Identify key improvement areas based on community input	August 2026	September 2026
Draft and revise letters of support	September 2026	October 2026
Secure endorsements or co-signers from community leaders	September 2026	October 2026
Submit to town departments or Planning Board	—	October 2026

# Timeline 04 // Target 03

January - September 2026 (9 months)

**Support the revitalization of Housatonic’s shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements // Collaborate with Housatonic the Beautiful Fund and Great Barrington DPW to identify and implement at least three “quick-win” beautification projects (such as trash/recycling bins, dog waste stations, or sidewalk weeding) by October 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Meet with HTBF and DPW to identify “quick-win” projects	January 2026	Mid-February 2026
Prioritize projects with high visibility and low cost	Mid-February 2026	End of March 2026
Coordinate volunteers or contractors	April 2026	End of May 2026
Document progress with before/after photos	Rolling, starting June 2026	End of September 2026

# Timeline 04 // Target 04

January - September 2026 (9 months)

**Support the revitalization of Housatonic's shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements // Develop an inventory and visual map of potential public improvement sites (parks, open parcels, sidewalks, vacant lots) and present it publicly by September 2026 to support funding and planning discussions**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Compile initial list of public improvement sites	January 2026	End of February 2026
Conduct brief site assessments (photos, notes)	March 2026	End of April 2026
Visual map (print or digital): Collaborate with local creatives on visual layout	May 2026	End of July 2026
Draft and revise one-page narrative for community release	June 2026	End of August 2026

# Project Plan 05

January - December 2026 (12 months)

Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design

01

Design and install wayfinding signs for key local points of interest by October 2026

02

Begin design conversations with local artists for a public mural on the train trestle by August 2026

03

Develop and share a public map of Housatonic highlighting cultural, historic, and natural assets by September 2026

04

Create a village logo and one-page story capturing Housatonic's past, present, and future, written in accessible language for the broader community, by December 2026

# Project Approach 05

January - December 2026 (12 months)

## Our approach

### Target 01

*Design and install wayfinding signs for key local points of interest by Oct '26*

### Target 02

*Begin design conversations with local artists for a public mural on the train trestle by Aug '26*

### Target 03

*Develop and share a public map of Housatonic by Sept '26*

### Target 04

*Create a village logo and one-page story by Dec '26*

## Objective

Improve navigation and visibility of local landmarks through clear, inclusive signage

Engage local artists and beautify a prominent structure through public art

Build shared understanding of what makes Housatonic special

Tell Housatonic's story in a way that reflects community identity and pride

## Activities

- Identify top 6-10 points of interest to include on signage
- Coordinate with town staff and design professionals
- Explore signage materials, accessibility, and maintenance needs
- Seek input at public events or through quick survey

- Identify and contact mural artists or artist collectives
- Host community design brainstorm session
- Review examples from nearby towns for inspiration
- Work with DPW, train track owners, or MassDOT on any approvals needed

- Collect community nominations for what should be on the map
- Research or source historical and cultural details
- Work with a designer or GIS lead to develop a print + digital version
- Share drafts for feedback

- Draft short narrative history in accessible language
- Engage 1-2 community members in review for tone and accuracy
- Work with a graphic designer on logo and layout
- Launch logo + story at public event or online reveal

## Deliverables

- Final list of wayfinding locations
- Installed signage or mockups
- Optional: public-facing map layer

- Mural concept sketch
- Artist agreement (if formal)
- Community co-created design direction

- Print or digital map with legend
- Outreach toolkit (e.g., flyer, social media graphic)
- Optional: youth version or scavenger hunt layer

- Village logo file set (print and web)
- One-pager in accessible PDF format
- Short presentation or printed version for public display

# Timeline 05 // Target 01

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design // Design and install wayfinding signs for key local points of interest by October 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Identify top 6-10 points of interest to include on signage	January 2026	March 2026
Coordinate with town staff and design professionals	March 2026	June 2026
Explore signage materials, accessibility, and maintenance needs	April 2026	July 2026
Seek input at public events or through quick survey	April 2026	August 2026
Fabricate and install wayfinding signs	July 2026	October 2026

# Timeline 05 // Target 02

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design // Begin design conversations with local artists for a public mural on the train trestle by August 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Identify and contact mural artists or artist collectives	January 2026	February 2026
Host community design brainstorm session	March 2026	April 2026
Review examples from nearby towns for inspiration	January 2026	March 2026
Work with DPW, train track owners, or MassDOT on any approvals needed	March 2026	June 2026
Mural concept sketch	June 2026	August 2026

# Timeline 05 // Target 03

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design // Develop and share a public map of Housatonic highlighting cultural, historic, and natural assets by September 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Collect community nominations for what should be on the map	March 2026	May 2026
Research or source historical and cultural details	March 2026	June 2026
Work with a designer or GIS lead to develop a print + digital version	June 2026	August 2026
Print or digital map with legend	August 2026	September 2026
Share drafts for feedback	July 2026	August 2026
Outreach toolkit (e.g., flyer, social media graphic)	August 2026	September 2026

# Timeline 05 // Target 04

January - December 2026 (12 months)

**Celebrate Housatonic's heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design // Create a village logo and one-page story capturing Housatonic's past, present, and future, written in accessible language for the broader community, by December 2026**

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Draft short narrative history in accessible language	March 2026	May 2026
Engage 1-2 community members in review for tone and accuracy	May 2026	June 2026
Work with a graphic designer on logo and layout	June 2026	August 2026
Launch logo + story at public event or online reveal	October 2026	November 2026
One-pager in accessible PDF format	October 2026	November 2026
Short presentation or printed version for public display	November 2026	December 2026

# Project Plan 06

*January - June 2026 (6 months)*

Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community

01

Develop and adopt a formal communication plan (including meeting summaries, event promotion, and outreach methods) by May 2026

02

Publish quarterly community updates highlighting HiC activities and upcoming opportunities for involvement

03

Establish at least one shared communication channel (newsletter, social media page, or bulletin board) by June 2026 to improve accessibility of information

# Project Approach 06

January - June 2026 (6 months)

## Our approach

### Target 01

*Develop and adopt a formal communication plan (including meeting summaries, event promotion, and outreach methods) by May '26*

### Target 02

*Publish quarterly community updates highlighting HiC activities and upcoming opportunities for involvement*

### Target 03

*Establish at least one shared communication channel (newsletter, social media page, or bulletin board) by June '26 to improve accessibility of information*

## Objective

Create a consistent and clear framework for HiC communications

Keep residents informed and engaged in real time

Expand access to committee updates and resources

## Activities

- Draft core components: messaging, format, frequency, platforms
- Review and revise based on committee feedback
- Appoint a communications lead
- Finalize and adopt a shared communication plan

- Determine content themes and cadence
- Assign point person for drafting and distribution
- Include event recap, decisions, and calls to action

- Survey community to assess preferred channel(s)
- Set up platform (e.g., Flodesk/MailChimp, Instagram, bulletin board)
- Ensure accessibility (e.g., language, visibility)

## Deliverables

- Final communication plan doc
- Summary slide or one-pager for reference
- List of adopted tools and timelines

- Four quarterly update examples
- Content calendar for 2026
- Repository of past updates

- Live channel with at least one active post
- Promotion materials (flyer, social post, email)
- Initial analytics or engagement tracker

# Timeline 06 // Target 01

January - June 2026 (6 months)

**Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community**  
*// Develop and adopt a formal communication plan (including meeting summaries, event promotion, and outreach methods) by May '26*

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Draft core components: messaging, format, frequency, platforms	January 2026	February 2026
Review and revise based on committee feedback	February 2026	March 2026
Appoint a communications lead	February 2026	March 2026
Finalize and adopt a shared communication plan	March 2026	May 2026

# Timeline 06 // Target 02

January - June 2026 (6 months)

**Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community**  
*// Publish quarterly community updates highlighting HiC activities and upcoming opportunities for involvement*

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Determine content themes and cadence	January 2026	—
Assign point person for drafting and distribution	January 2026	—
Maintain ongoing notes and summary updates	January 2026	—

# Timeline 06 // Target 03

January - June 2026 (6 months)

**Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community**  
*// Establish at least one shared communication channel (newsletter, social media page, or bulletin board) by June 2026 to improve accessibility of information*

	Launch by:	Finalize by:
Survey community to assess preferred channel(s)	January 2026	February 2026
Set up platform (e.g., Flodesk/MailChimp, Instagram, bulletin boards)	February 2026	March 2026
Ensure accessibility (e.g., language, visibility)	March 2026	April 2026
Promotional materials (flyer, social post, email)	March 2026	May 2026
Initial analytics or engagement tracker	May 2026	June 2026

# Next Steps

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**We're here!**

Nov 18,  
2025

Confirm alignment on project plans  
& appoint project leads

Finalize 2026 timelines + assign point people

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Jan 27,  
2026

Project kick-offs & updates

Hold first check-ins + confirm progress tracking

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October  
2026

Begin planning for 2027

Reflect on wins + ID next priorities

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