

Reading Massachusetts

*A Community
of Excellence*

Town of Reading Mission

The Town of Reading strives for excellence in all its services – from education to government – and seeks to enhance and enrich the social, intellectual, and leisure life of the community.

Municipal Government

In support of the Town of Reading Mission, Reading Municipal Government will:

- help residents identify with their community by supporting volunteerism and civic engagement,
- create opportunities for public discourse about community issues and encourage citizen participation in planning and decision-making
- commit itself to community-responsive services that incorporate best practices and a strong orientation to customer service
- support open and transparent government with convenient avenues for communication and access
- enhance the integrity and livability of its many fine neighborhoods by supporting community initiatives for preservation and improvements
- uphold the character of Reading by actively encouraging efforts to document and preserve the history of the community, its historic buildings and areas, and prized open spaces.
- embrace diversity by striving to provide varied housing choices and diversifying the municipal workforce by recruiting, hiring, and promoting persons of all backgrounds and races
- enhance the social, civic, and intellectual life of residents by offering a broad range of services and programs

Values

The municipal government of the Town of Reading will be guided by the following values:

Integrity and Transparency

- Reading municipal government and its employees and officials will be guided by the highest standards of ethics and integrity.
- Municipal business will be conducted in an open manner with opportunities for public discussion and input into decisions.
- The community will be kept informed with open communication.
- All official business will be conducted in a civil, professional, and mutually respectful manner.

Excellence

- Excellence will be the standard for all municipal services, with continuous review and evaluation of best practices, incorporating new methods and technologies, striving for efficiency and cost effectiveness.
- Reading municipal government will make decisions based on careful planning consistent with town-wide goals.

Diversity

- Municipal government will encourage diversity and respect for differences in the conduct of its business and in recruiting and hiring personnel and in providing enrichment opportunities for the community.

Community

The following are values that the community holds in high regards:

- Social, Environmental, and Financial Sustainability
- Tolerance, Civility and Cultural Diversity
- Volunteerism and Civic Engagement
- Historic Preservation and Open Space
- Recreational, Cultural, and Educational Opportunities