

Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan

Adopted July 9, 2019



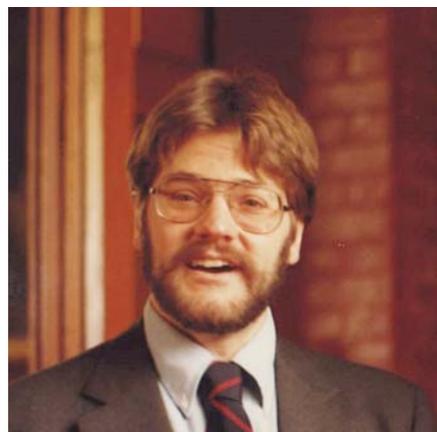
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THE 2019 TOWN OF ESOPUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS DEDICATED TO MILES L. "MYLES" PUTMAN, AICP.



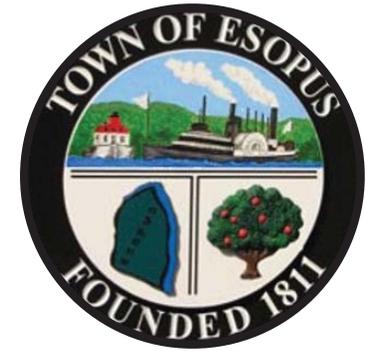
During the preparation of the 2019 Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan, Town Planner Myles Putman, AICP passed away unexpectedly. The Town of Esopus and so many other Hudson River communities are grateful to have known and worked with Myles. His passing is a huge loss to the planning profession and the communities he served.

Myles was the Town of Esopus' Planning Consultant for several years and was integral in guiding the Town forward. He reviewed project proposals, provided guidance to the Planning and Zoning Boards, conducted numerous analyses and evaluations and was instrumental in the Town's previous comprehensive plans.

As a professional planner, Myles held an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College and graduate degrees from the University of New Mexico and the State University of New York. Myles had a passion for maps – he drew them, read them, and collected them. Research and roads were specialties of Myles. He knew the history of every major road and many secondary and tertiary roads in Ulster County and seemed to know the history of almost every parcel in the Town of Esopus. Myles also gave fascinating lectures on this history and was an officer of the Saugerties Historical Society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Comprehensive Plan is the result of significant efforts by the Comprehensive Planning Committee, consisting of residents and business owners, along with Town officials, planners, and committee members. These individuals worked collaboratively and through their leadership, commitment, energy and enthusiasm made this Comprehensive Plan possible.



COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC)

Jared Geuss – CPC Chairman and Councilman

Shannon Harris, Town Supervisor

Janet Bellusci, Waterfront Advisory Board

John Cutrone, Economic Development Committee

Alex Dean, Community Outreach Coordinator

Darin DeKoskie, Planning Board

Mark Ellison, Environmental Board

Melanie Marino, Former Community Development and Outreach

Sal Morello, III, Building Inspector

Laura Petit, County Legislature

Miles Putman, AICP, Former Town Planner

Kathie Quick, Councilwoman

Robert Wells, Recreation Commission

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CONSULTING TEAM



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(Under separate cover -- see www.esopus.com)

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APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC OUTREACH RESULTS

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BROADWAY PORT EWEN CIRCA 1930 (CREDIT: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

“Our duty is to preserve what the past has had to say for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future.”

John Ruskin, “Modern Painters: pt 4. Of many things” (1850), p.94



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INTRODUCTION AND PLAN OVERVIEW

A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

A comprehensive plan, sometimes referred to as a master plan, is a collection of information and materials designed to guide future development and provide communities with a firm foundation for policies and legislation to foster a more certain future. While comprehensive plans help guide policy, they are not law. Rather, they provide a framework and context within which to make decisions relating to future land use and development. Plans are subject to change and revision with the passage of time and events, and its adequacy and appropriateness should always be considered when contemplating future community changes.

The Town of Esopus' last comprehensive plan was adopted in 1994. In order to understand current conditions and to identify and prepare for future growth and development, Town of Esopus officials recognized the need to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan. The Town has successfully accomplished this endeavor and is proud to provide the Town of Esopus 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan establishes the community's Vision, identifies specific development and revitalization goals and associated recommendations, and sets forth clear steps to implement those recommendations necessary to achieve the Town's Vision.

The Planning process has been used to understand changing economic conditions and identify local attitudes toward community characteristics and needs. In addition, the process has identified development opportunities along with potential regulatory and land use adjustments for the purposes of protecting public health, safety, and general welfare. This well-developed Comprehensive Plan should be considered the community's sustainable "Blueprint for Action."

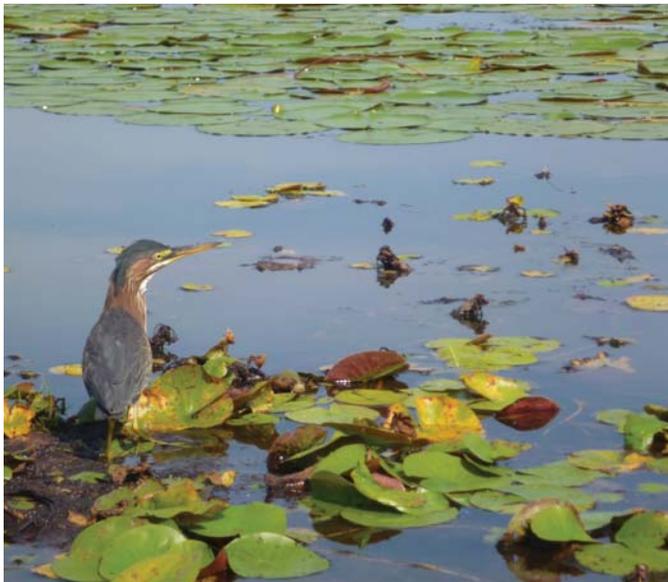
New York State Town Law gives towns the power to create a comprehensive plan, should they so desire. Town Law describes the legal requirements for approval and what elements may be included within a comprehensive plan, but does not firmly require every comprehensive plan include each element. Therefore, comprehensive plans vary from community to community and many focus upon the most important elements and issues to the local population at the time of creation and adoption. Each comprehensive plan in New York State is unique and tailored to their individual community. This is no different for the Town of Esopus, and this document shall prove instrumental for the Town moving forward.

**A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK
AND CONTEXT WITHIN
WHICH TO MAKE
DECISIONS RELATING
TO FUTURE LAND USE
AND DEVELOPMENT.**



ESOPUS TOWN HALL

**IT IS NOW TIME FOR
THE TOWN TO UNDERSTAND
ITS STRENGTHS,
DETERMINE ITS
WEAKNESSES, AND EXPLORE
OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL
GUIDE GROWTH
AND POLICY FOR THE
NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS.**



HIGH BANKS PRESERVE ESOPUS LAKE (CREDIT: SCENIC HUDSON)

WHY IS THIS PLAN NECESSARY?

The Town has been involved in numerous planning efforts over the past several decades, all of which have identified environmental, economic, and revitalization principles and objectives that are key to the Town's success. These strategies, while relevant today, need to be considered together in one Comprehensive Plan to connect residents, businesses, other stakeholders, and community resources by focusing efforts into a single all-inclusive document.

Ulster County and the mid-Hudson Valley have, and continue to face, increasing development pressures with positive growth in recent decades. This growth is projected to continue into the next decade and the Town of Esopus' growth rate is expected to outpace that of the County's going forward. It is now time for the Town to understand its strengths, determine its weaknesses, and explore opportunities which will guide growth and policy for the next five to ten years.

With the recent redevelopment of the Kingston Rondout neighborhood across the Rondout Creek from the Hamlets of Sleightsburgh, Port Ewen and Connelly, the Town recognizes the market demand being generated there directly affects Esopus. With this area serving as a regional catalyst for new development and revitalization, the Town wishes to capitalize on this resource through partnerships and integration of attractions to draw in more visitors.

The quality of life in Esopus is a major factor driving local economic growth. Therefore, the Town would like to build on its many assets to revitalize its core hamlet areas, increase and improve the local commercial and industrial tax base, and provide for and promote the idyllic natural settings which offer many recreational attractions and quality of life opportunities for residents, visitors, and ultimately all in the mid-Hudson Valley and New York State.

The Town has determined that updating its 1994 Comprehensive Plan was the appropriate strategy to guide its way forward and to be inclusive of the Town's desires. Developing an up-to-date Comprehensive Plan is fundamental to creating a vibrant and sustainable community. Once adopted, the policies of the Comprehensive Plan will guide the Town's boards and committees in decision making, and will assist with securing future funding to implement key priorities.

TOWN OF ESOPUS PLANNING PROCESS

Development of this Plan was led by a 12 member **Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC)** consisting of residents, business owners, representatives from the Town Board, Planning and Zoning Boards, and other Town stakeholders. These individuals volunteered many hours in order to create the optimal Comprehensive Plan, each bringing their unique background to the process and ultimately to this final plan as written. Committee members were selected based on their individual skills, knowledge, and experiences in the community.

The CPC met frequently throughout the planning process and conducted a bus tour with the Town's consultants to provide an introduction to the community and to begin evaluating areas of interest. Multiple follow-up site visits were then conducted by the consulting team to key areas of interest to document and photograph existing conditions as well as evaluate needs and future opportunities.

Building upon the 1994 Comprehensive Plan, existing Town of Esopus committees and boards and the dedicated involvement of Town residents, business owners and other stakeholders, a **Comprehensive Public Outreach Process** was conducted to craft the Plan's foundation. During this process, the Town utilized an extensive and broad community outreach process to inform the public about the Plan and to begin soliciting their concerns, issues and recommendations.

The Town sought to inform residents, business owners, and other stakeholders about the planning process and to invite them to public workshops through direct mailings, fliers posted around Town, newspaper articles, social media, and the Town's website. In addition to gathering key information important to the public, the outreach process worked to build consensus on key issues and assisted in the development of recommendations for improving the Town's quality of life.



OPEN HOUSE



CPC BUS TOUR

FOUR METHODS WERE USED TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING PROCESS:

1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE (CPC) MEETINGS;
2. FOCUS GROUP ROUNDTABLE/STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS;
3. ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS; AND
4. MULTIPLE PUBLIC VISIONING AND GOAL SETTING WORKSHOPS.



PUBLIC DESIGN WORKSHOP

A Community Profile was prepared that summarizes and evaluates the Town's existing conditions, including, but not limited to, land uses, infrastructure, environmental resources, recreation and the waterfront, local and regional economic conditions, and the Town's socio-demographics. The Key Observations of the Community Profile along with the summary of previous relevant plans are provided in [Community Profile Key Observations](#) and the entire analysis is found in [Appendix 1](#).

The public outreach program, combined with the work of the CPC, the Community Profile and site visits all contributed to establishing a foundation for developing the [Vision Statement, Key Objectives, and the Goals and Recommendations](#).

The formulation of objectives and goals are key outcomes of the planning process. In addition to giving direction to the Plan and articulating the community's vision for its future, objectives and goals help define priorities and provide common ground between diverse groups, creating a solid framework for the Plan to move forward using the guidance provided by the detailed Recommendations.

HOW WILL THE PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

The adoption of this Plan by the Town Board is the first step towards fulfilling the Town's Vision. The objectives, goals and recommendations included in this Plan will not produce the intended results unless Town officials, residents, and business owners support the directions provided within through local policies, regulations, and public investments. In addition, the formation of partnerships between the Town, agencies, organizations, authorities and other stakeholders is critically important.

The Town of Esopus has the great responsibility and opportunity to enhance the quality of the community as a whole. This will be achieved by strengthening the economic benefits and opportunities for local businesses, and increasing the recreational and cultural resources for all to enjoy. To properly take advantage of these opportunities, the Town must prioritize the recommendations that have been produced by this Comprehensive Plan and be prepared to adjust these priorities based upon the availability of funding sources.

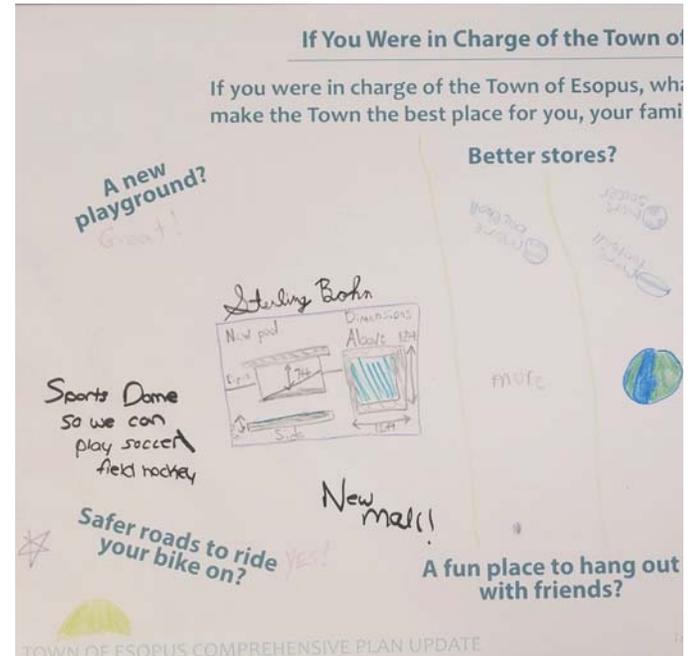
Many communities use varied land use tools and regulations to prevent unwanted development and related undesirable side effects. New York State Town Law states

that zoning and subdivision regulations “shall be in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan.” Zoning, site plan review and subdivision regulations are the three primary regulatory methods for implementing land use recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan by controlling future land use. Other land use tools include, but are not limited to, overlay districts, architectural design guidelines, sign control, and incentive zoning. With an updated plan in place, the Town will have a better idea of how to use land use regulations, budgeting, capital improvement programming, and other functions to achieve its desired goals and allow the area to grow and change in positive ways.

Looking ahead, it is important to periodically reexamine this Comprehensive Plan in accordance with current conditions and changes within the Town of Esopus. That said, this Plan should not only continue to build on the foundation achieved in former plans, but should clearly visualize a new future that examines the needs of Esopus’ residents today. It is recommended that the Town Board designate and establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to review the Plan goals and recommendations and ensure they are relevant to the changing conditions within the Town. The Plan should be updated or re-written at least once every five to ten years, or earlier if necessity dictates.

The Comprehensive Plan sets forth an established program highlighting improvements, development projects and activities to be undertaken by the Town during the next 5 to 10 years. In many ways, the comprehensive planning process has just begun. Completion of the updated Comprehensive Plan is only the first step towards achieving the Town’s Vision and Goals.

The Implementation Plan highlights a number of “next steps” that should be undertaken to begin the process of plan implementation and fulfillment, including General Implementation Strategies followed by the detailed Implementation Matrix for the Plans, Goals, and Strategies.



KIDS' OPEN HOUSE INPUT



PORT EWEN REVITALIZATION DISCUSSION



PORT EWEN-KINGSTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE CIRCA 1920
(CREDIT: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Based upon input and dialogue throughout the comprehensive planning process, the following general actions have been identified which should be undertaken by the Town:

- ▶ Adopt and use the Plan on a day-to-day basis;
- ▶ Establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC);
- ▶ Develop and utilize a Capital Improvements Plan;
- ▶ Continually promote cooperation and participation;
- ▶ Annually, prepare a 5-year action plan;
- ▶ Continually explore additional potential funding sources and implementation techniques; and
- ▶ Update the Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Plan's Implementation Matrix identifies potential initial funding sources and possible partners for implementing each Strategy. The Strategies are assigned a recommended timeline for implementation as follows:

- ▶ Short-term: Year 0-1
- ▶ Medium-term: Years 2-5
- ▶ Long-term: 6+ Years
- ▶ Ongoing: Continuously Implement

This Implementation Plan should be amended and updated annually by the CPIC as new actions are introduced, and strategies are implemented in concert with preparing the annual budget and capital improvement program.



SECTION II: PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS AND SUMMARY

“There is not one person that is smarter than all of the people in this room.”

Mary Barratta-Lawton, *Math Their Way* (1995)

PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS AND SUMMARY

The following Stakeholders were interviewed:

- *Town of Esopus Economic Development Committee*
- *Town of Esopus Environmental Board*
- *Town of Esopus Planning and Zoning Boards*
- *Town of Esopus Recreation Commission*
- *Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board*
- *Esopus Business Alliance and other Local Business Owners*
- *Fire Departments and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad*
- *Boy Scouts*
- *Community Churches and Religious Organizations*
- *Hudson River Maritime Museum*
- *John Burroughs Association*
- *Port Ewen Athletic Association*
- *Scenic Hudson*
- *Town of Esopus Seniors*
- *Town of Esopus Building Department*
- *Town of Esopus Highway Department*
- *Town of Esopus Water and Sewer*
- *Town of Esopus Residents*

PUBLIC OUTREACH METHODS

The Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan included multiple opportunities for public engagement, including surveys, stakeholder interviews, an Open House, a Design workshop, and a Goals and Strategy Review Workshop. The Draft Plan was also subject to the CPC Public Hearing. Subsequent to the CPC Public Hearing, the hamlets of Rifton and Esopus requested additional informational meetings to highlight their concerns, needs and requests. The following is an overview of the outreach techniques followed by a summary of the public input results.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING – THE FUTURE OF ESOPUS

The CPC released the Draft Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan 2019 on February 6. The Draft Plan was available for review on the Town of Esopus website, at Town Hall and the Esopus Public Library. The CPC conducted their public hearing on March 6 at the Esopus Town Hall. A presentation was given that provided an overview of the Draft Comprehensive Plan followed by a question and answer period. Public comments and suggested edits to the Draft Plan were collected during the public hearing. A 30-day public comment period was also provided.

The CPC received extensive comments, both in writing and during the public hearing. The Draft Plan was also provided to the Ulster County Planning Board for their review pursuant to §239-m of the General Municipal Law. The County provided initial comments dated April 3, 2019. All comments received were reviewed by the CPC and the Town’s planning consultant. Based on these reviews and related discussions, the Draft Plan was revised to reflect agreed-upon changes.

2017 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Town released an initial community survey in the spring of 2017 to begin understanding the major issues that could be addressed in the plan update. The survey asked respondents to answer questions about Community Atmosphere, Community Services, Transportation, Housing, Recreation, Growth and Development; what type of development should be encouraged, and general demographic questions in order to correlate data and check for trends. This survey garnered over 600 responses and was

instrumental in the Town's initial understanding of residents and business owner needs in relation to creating the framework for the Comprehensive Planning process. The survey results were generally in line with input received during future public meetings and stakeholder interviews.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The Town's community engagement process began with roundtable interviews of key stakeholders by the CPC and planning and design consultant. Similar to the composition of the CPC, the selected stakeholders brought a diverse understanding of local and regional issues to the table. These individuals shared their in-depth knowledge of the Town and their estimation of its challenges and opportunities and how they affect residents day-to-day. Stakeholders were interviewed in a variety of settings and locations.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The CPC facilitated a public Open House on Saturday May 5th, 2018, from 9am to 3pm. This event was attended by over 150 residents who represented a diverse cross section of the community. The event was inclusive for all, with adults and youth providing their ideas, recommendations, concerns and opinions through multiple methods.

At the Open House, residents, business owners and other stakeholders were presented with varied maps and interactive boards seeking focused information. The boards asked participants to identify what they "like" and "dislike" about the Town, and to describe "what works" and "what doesn't work." Participants were also asked to describe the desired mix of uses, open spaces, housing, waterfront development, economic development, hamlet revitalization, and services for the Town. Participants left notes on the boards and maps to illustrate how they might like to see areas evolve in the future and described ideal locations for entertainment, restaurants, retail and commercial uses, and other mixed uses, as well as highlighting concerns and needs. At the end of the workshop, findings were tallied and the results were reported to the CPC for guidance towards creating the plan.



EMERGENCY SERVICES MEETING



OPEN HOUSE EVENT

DESIGN WORKSHOP

Building off the initial survey results, stakeholder meetings, and the May Open House, the CPC determined that *hamlet revitalization*, *reconnecting to the waterfront*, and *recreation and commercial development* were key priorities to focus on in the Plan. To dig deeper into these issues, the Town conducted the May 24th Design workshop, between 4pm and 8pm. Residents were provided aerial imagery of each Hamlet and key waterfront areas and asked to draw and note their ideas and recommendations.

This event attracted more than 80 residents and input has been critical to the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Once everyone had a



DESIGN WORKSHOP

chance to provide their input, the Town's planning and design consultant provided a brief presentation outlining the public outreach done to that point, reviewed the May 5th open house findings, summarized key community demographics, and discussed the elements of vibrant places.

DRAFT GOALS AND STRATEGIES REVIEW WORKSHOP AND SURVEY

On June 21st, 2018 from 5pm to 7pm, the public was invited to attend a Draft Goals and Strategies Review Workshop. Prior to the creation of the draft plan, the public was given the opportunity to review the draft goals and strategies, ensure the CPC is on the right track, and address the Committee with any questions and concerns. This workshop was also very well attended with over 120 individuals. A presentation was given by the CPC Chair, Town Supervisor and Laberge Group regarding the Planning process, Draft Goals and Recommendations across eight topic areas:

- 1) Economic Development and Tourism
- 2) The Waterfront
- 3) Parks and Recreation
- 4) Natural Resources and the Environment
- 5) Housing and Neighborhood Stability
- 6) Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
- 7) Community Services and Infrastructure
- 8) Future Land Use and Regulatory Authority

Poster boards of all the Draft Goals and Recommendations were located throughout Town Hall. At the completion of the presentation, the public was asked to review and identify which of the goals and recommendations they support and to provide additional comments and recommendations.

The CPC decided to supplement the public input on the draft Goals and Recommendations received at the June 21 meeting through a second online survey. The survey was developed to seek resident and business owner input by asking respondents to rank the importance of each Recommendation: Not Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important, and I Don't Know. Results were reviewed by the CPC and Laberge Group and the Goals and Recommendations were modified accordingly.

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HAMLET OF RIFTON PUBLIC MEETING

The CPC conducted a meeting in the Hamlet of Rifton on April 8, 2019. The meeting, attended by over 30 individuals, was held in the former Rifton Fire Station on Maple Avenue. After a brief presentation by Supervisor Shannon Harris, Councilman Jared Geuss, and Laberge Group on the key recommendations of the Plan related to the Hamlet, an open discussion ensued. Residents of the Hamlet discussed many issues and identified the need for a local park, traffic and pedestrian safety issues along NY Rt. 213, interest in repurposing the Ana Devine School in partnership with the Kingston School District, and a desire to obtain public access to Sturgeon Pool. These concerns and recommendations were incorporated in the revised Comprehensive Plan.

HAMLET OF ESOPUS PUBLIC MEETING

The CPC next conducted an informational meeting in the Hamlet of Esopus. This meeting, attended by over 70 individuals, was held in the Esopus Fire Station on US Rt. 9W. The meeting was dominated by local concerns over the recent approval of a new Dollar General store next to the fire Station along US Rt. 9W. Concerns about the lack of information provided to surrounding neighbors and the general public was raised, along with strong concerns for safety along US Rt. 9W and the community character and small business impacts related to the new store.

Based on these discussions, the Comprehensive Plan was revised to include recommendations to reevaluate the Town's current public notice process for land use applications, included a specific request for the Town Board to recommend a corridor-wide safety study of US Rt. 9W by NYSDOT, called for increased scrutiny of potential traffic impacts for certain projects proposed along US Rt. 9W during local reviews, and consideration of the Hamlet of Esopus' future commercial uses in relation to community character impacts during the pending zoning regulation update.

PUBLIC INPUT HIGHLIGHTS

The Town's robust public outreach process resulted in the collection of a significant amount of feedback that helped contribute to and build the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The following is a summary of key input received.

SUMMARY OF TOWN OF ESOPUS PUBLIC OUTREACH RESULTS

- The Town should pursue opportunities to increase public waterfront access.
- There should be a focus on waterfront development in Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.
- Hold more outdoor festivals and events throughout the Town.
- Improve recreational opportunities and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town and establish mountain biking trails.
- There were several requests for an indoor recreational facility.
- All Town Parks need to be enhanced and the Hamlet of Rifton should have a community park.
- Promote locally-owned, small-businesses, including, but not limited to, restaurants, coffee shops, smaller grocer, and lodging opportunities.
- The top economic development priorities identified by the public are:
 - Agricultural-related tourism industries (wineries, distilleries, apples and u-pick operations, farmers' markets, bed and breakfasts, hands on education, and related attractions, events, and entertainment);
 - Outdoor recreation and cultural education/interpretation;
 - Light Industry/Light Manufacturing; and
 - Waterfront Commercial, Entertainment and Tourism.
- The public identified the following types of housing as needed in the Town: mixed residential/commercial, apartments, single family on small lots, duplex/two family, senior housing, single family on large lots, and townhouses.
- There is insufficient housing opportunities for recent graduates, young families, and seniors.
- There is support for home improvement programs that provide funding for home repairs.
- The appearance of commercial and residential areas need to be enhanced.
- Ensure the Town's Natural & Environmental Resources are protected.
- Hamlet character concerns.



CONNELLY, NY

“There is no sin punished more implacably by nature than the sin of resistance to change.”

Anne Morrow Lindberg, “The Wave of the Future: a Confession of Faith” (1940)

COMMUNITY PROFILE KEY OBSERVATIONS



HAMLET OF PORT EWEN

A Community Profile was prepared to update the Town's understanding of a variety of elements including, land use, zoning, transportation and infrastructure, environmental resources, recreation and open space, socio-demographics and the state of local economic conditions. The full Community Profile can be found in Appendix 1. The following is a summary of key results from the Community Profile.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND GROWTH TRENDS ANALYSIS

- ▶ The Town of Esopus population is estimated to increase by 2.1% to approximately 9,589 by 2022.
- ▶ The projected population change between 2017 and 2022 will include an increase in the 25-44 year cohort, which includes young families, recent graduates, and working adults. Growth in this age range indicates the potential need for more diverse housing options.
- ▶ The population cohort of 45-65 (currently making up 30% of the Town's population base) is projected to decrease by approximately 18%. This decline reflects a natural shift in population cohorts, is in line with County and national trends, and is not necessarily related to economic conditions of the Town or region.
- ▶ There is an expected increase in the 65+ age cohort, which may contribute to the need for senior housing and related services.
- ▶ The number of school-age children is expected to remain stable, with less than a 1% increase by 2022.

HOUSING AND MARKET TRENDS

- ▶ Median housing value for the Town of Esopus is \$211,000 compared to \$245,000 in Lloyd and \$219,800 for the County of Ulster as a whole.
- ▶ 65% of housing units in the Town of Esopus are owner-occupied, with 25% being renter-occupied (the remaining units are vacant).

- ▶ Single-family homes account for 91% of all housing units.
- ▶ The high percentage of owner-occupied and single-family homes may signal a healthy and stable housing market, but may also contribute to a lack of rental units and higher rent prices.
- ▶ The Town had a 2016 homeowner vacancy rate of 2% and a rental vacancy rate of 5.4% (which may be lower due to Census data collection methods and data from the 2017 Ulster County Rental Housing Survey), possibly indicating a tight housing market.
- ▶ 59% of renters and 24% of homeowners in the Town of Esopus are cost-burdened, paying at least 30% of their household income toward housing with 57% of renters in the Town paying over \$1,000 per month in rent costs.
- ▶ With the rental vacancy rate and a high percentage of cost-burdened renters, rental housing costs may be pricing some out of the market and existing renters may find it difficult to cover all necessary expenses.



HOME IN SLEIGHTSBURGH

EDUCATION

- ▶ The Town is served by three school districts including the Highland and New Paltz School Districts, with the City of Kingston Consolidated School District serving the majority of Town residents.
- ▶ A high percentage of Town residents graduated from high school or have a high school equivalent diploma as compared to residents in the City of Kingston. This percentage is similar to the Town of Lloyd and Ulster County.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND ARTS AND CULTURE

- ▶ The Town of Esopus has significant historical and cultural resources, both public and private.



ESOPUS LIBRARY



PORT EWEN FIRE STATION

- ▶ The Town of Esopus Library is an integral part of the community, serving not only as a center for educational enlightenment, but as a community gathering space for residents of varied ages, interests, and abilities.
- ▶ The Town's historic and cultural resources are under-utilized as possible tourism attractions and could be better organized and integrated into the Town's tourism opportunities.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ▶ Some of the Town's fire departments are experiencing fiscal limitations, decreasing membership, and building deficiencies, including the need for major repairs to address deferred maintenance, the need for a new fire station in Port Ewen and St. Remy, and the need for upgrades to current safety requirements at most other stations.
- ▶ There is a need for in-water rescue boats south of Port Ewen.
- ▶ Pedestrian and bicycle safety is a major concern in Town. Vehicle speeds and the lack of sidewalks, bike lanes and sufficient shoulders have been identified by the public. Increases in safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities along major roads has been requested by the public.
- ▶ CSX trains continue to block grade crossings which present a major health and safety issue for first responders and is a significant inconvenience for local residents and business owners.
- ▶ The Town's municipal water quality remains a concern and the future flooding risk at the water treatment plant will need to be addressed.
- ▶ A long-term water and sewer infrastructure plan is needed to adequately plan for and finance future improvements.
- ▶ A majority of the Town's geography lacks municipal sewer and water, and while many locations are not likely to ever be connected to the municipal systems, there are some locations where alternatives to on-site sewage treatment may be necessary for water quality protection and health and safety concerns, including the Hamlet of Rifton.

- ▶ Sea level is expected to rise which will require the Town to consider enhancements to waterfront parks, infrastructure and other improvements and possible modifications to land use controls.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- ▶ The Town has 24 miles of waterfront and limited access.
- ▶ The waterfront is unmatched in the region, but is underutilized for recreation and tourism purposes.
- ▶ The Town has the recreational resources to be a primary destination for outdoor recreation.
- ▶ Town park facilities are in need of both minor and major repairs and each facility should have a long-term maintenance and improvement plan prepared.
- ▶ Sleightsburgh Park provides the only public boat launch in the Town that accomodates trailered boats.
- ▶ The Town lacks a swimming beach.
- ▶ Additional boat launches, primarily for canoes and kayaks, are needed throughout the Town.
- ▶ The Town has a significant amount of recreational opportunities along with agri-tourism and cultural and entertainment attractions clustered along the US Rt. 9W corridor between the Hamlets of West Park and Esopus. These significant tourism resources need a coordinated marketing program and steps should be taken to link each site via safe pedestrian and bicycle connections.
- ▶ The marinas should be encouraged to provide additional amenities for visitors and tourists including waterside dining and other attractions that will attract and keep people in the Town of Esopus.



FREER PARK BEACH



RED MAPLE VINEYARDS (CREDIT: MARK ELLISON)



BLACK EEL MONITORING (CREDIT: MARK ELLISON)

ECONOMIC VITALITY

- ▶ There are limited commercial uses along the Town's 24 miles of waterfront with the exception of three marinas and Feeney Shipbuilders located in Connelly along the Rondout Creek.
- ▶ A small percentage (5%) of Esopus residents work in the Town with a majority (86%) commuting out of Town to work, indicating the Town lacks major local employers.
- ▶ The Town of Esopus has an opportunity to capitalize on its agricultural, recreational and historic/cultural amenities, particularly along the US Rt. 9W eco/agritourism corridor between West Park and Ulster Park.
- ▶ The Town's emerging agritourism industries include wine, cider, distilleries, apples, and related entertainment opportunities.
- ▶ There is an opportunity to take advantage of tourism and visitor spillover from the Kingston Rondout.
- ▶ There is a major lack of overnight accommodations in the Town of Esopus.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

- ▶ There are many invasive species found in the Town of Esopus, with invasive aquatic species having the potential to become a detriment to the recreational capacity of the Town's waterways.
- ▶ The deepwater habitat located along the northern area of the Town's Hudson River shoreline is important to Atlantic Sturgeon and Striped Bass for spawning, and therefore also critically important to commercial and recreational fishing in the Town of Esopus.
- ▶ The Town of Esopus is in the process of becoming a Climate Smart Community.
- ▶ The Town of Esopus is part of the 'Hudson 7' which includes the Towns of Lloyd, Hyde Park, the Town and City of Poughkeepsie, and the Town and Village of Rhinebeck. These seven communities have signed a formal agreement to form

the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council in partnership with Riverkeeper. The Council's focus will be the long term protection of the Hudson River as a drinking water source.

- ▶ The Town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan should be updated.

LAND USE, ZONING AND FUTURE GROWTH

- ▶ Residential and Vacant lands make up the Town's top two land use categories by acreage.
- ▶ The Town is ranked second (out of 21 communities in Ulster County) in the percentage of wholly tax exempt parcels and has the third highest amount of assessed value being wholly exempt from property taxes at \$211,388,675, equaling almost 20% of total property value in the Town.
- ▶ The next round of regulatory updates by the Town should include regulations for renewable energy sources, signage, enhanced property maintenance, noise impacts, and adjustments to lot coverage and setbacks for commercial property within Port Ewen, among additional recommendations.
- ▶ The Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen are the primary locations to reconnect with the waterfront for commercial, recreation, and tourism opportunities.
- ▶ Future land uses for large estates in West Park that may become available for private development in the future needs to be considered, with possible land use guidance being hotels, recreation, and tourism focused development.
- ▶ Existing industrial-zoned lands should continue to accommodate all uses allowed within their respective zoning districts.
- ▶ The Hamlets of Port Ewen, Connelly and Sleightsburgh as well as northern sections of Ulster Park should remain the primary areas for future dense development with access to municipal water and sewer services.
- ▶ Future development within the Town's hamlets must be considerate of the surrounding existing character.



OSCAR AMES STORE - ESOPUS, CIRCA 1885
(CREDIT: KLYNE-ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)



AVAILABLE LAND ALONG RONDOUT CREEK

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HUDSON RIVER VIEW FROM SLEIGHTSBURGH PARK

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed and to have my senses put in tune once more.”

John Burroughs, "The Gospel of Nature", *Time and Change* (1923)

VISION STATEMENT, KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

VISION FOR ESOPUS' FUTURE

With over 24 miles of shoreline along the Hudson River, Rondout Creek and the Wallkill River, the Town of Esopus is well-positioned for significant recreation, tourism, and related economic development opportunities that take advantage of the Town's unmatched shoreline setting and associated environmental resources. The community's setting and resources are also a major attraction for residents and visitors. However, the Town continues to face several challenges, with limited public waterfront access opportunities, the near absence of economically beneficial commercial/tourism-related uses along the shoreline, and a lack of large-scale employers. This situation is due to a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, regional and national economic trends, existing land ownership, natural resources, land use and settlement patterns, and geographic and ecological challenges.

Recognizing this challenging situation, the Town embarked on this update to their 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Now is the time to forge ahead and create a Comprehensive Plan that ensures a predictable future, maintains a strong community inclusive and applicable to all residents and business owners, and honors local culture and traditions. The Town recognizes the need to preserve the good, fix the undesirable, and adequately plan for a sustainable future that will maintain and promote a high quality of life.



BROADWAY IN PORT EWEN



SALEM ST., PORT EWEN DATE: UNKNOWN
(CREDIT: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

To help guide the Town in these efforts, the *Vision for Esopus' Future* has been established. The Town's Vision is perhaps the single most important guiding principle used throughout the planning process.



VISION FOR ESOPUS' FUTURE

The Town of Esopus will grow to become a more vibrant, attractive and connected community in the future. New waterfront recreational opportunities will be established with an eye towards planning for climate change and maintaining environmental quality. New businesses and appropriate industrial and manufacturing opportunities will be cultivated in ways that are compatible with the Town's rural and historic character. The Town's Hamlets will be revitalized to reflect their individual histories and culture. Key roads within and surrounding the Town's many Hamlets will be improved for safety and to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Hamlet neighborhoods will continue to improve as residents, businesses and the Town all work together to enhance the Town's image and economic appeal within the Mid-Hudson Valley region.



HAMLET OF ST. REMY

KEY OBJECTIVES

Through a lens of creating an effective and sustainable Plan, the Vision led to a series of Key Objectives that guided the development of the Town's Goals and Recommendations. Objectives are statements identifying Esopus' position on a certain issue and a definitive course of action.

Town of Esopus Key Objectives

1. Increase economic development and tourism which celebrate our natural and historic resources.
2. Encourage smart environmental practices in the community and the Town that reduce our carbon footprint and protect our unique and diverse environmental landscape and habitats.
3. Preserve and maintain important and sensitive open space, natural habitats and vegetation through conservation, partnerships, mitigation and acquisition of resources, where appropriate.
4. Improve and create accessible waterfronts.
5. Provide exemplary park and recreation opportunities.
6. Maintain quality housing and ensure neighborhood stability.
7. Make necessary pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
8. Ensure adequate infrastructure for growth and development.
9. Determine appropriate future development and land use patterns to minimize the impact on the natural environs.

TOWN OF ESOPUS GOALS

The Plan's Goals developed in support of the Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan were guided by the efforts of the Town appointed Comprehensive Planning Committee working closely with the Town's planning consultant and the public. With consideration of all feedback generated, Goals were finalized and tailored to reflect the Town's desired vision of the future as supported through community input. The following Goals were developed:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- GOAL 1:** Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.
- GOAL 2:** Improve the condition and appearance of commercial areas in Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors, and businesses.
- GOAL 3:** Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.
- GOAL 4:** Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.

THE WATERFRONT: REVITALIZATION, RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

- GOAL 1:** Enhance the Town's waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town's waterfront ecology and environment.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- GOAL 1:** Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels.



CONNELLY POST OFFICE CIRCA 1890
(CREDIT: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)



HIGH BANKS PRESERVE
(CREDIT: SCENIC HUDSON)



BLACK CREEK APARTMENTS (CREDIT: MARK ELLISON)



TRANSFER STATION (CREDIT: MARK ELLISON)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- GOAL 1: Inventory and monitor significant habitats, landscape features and land use patterns.
- GOAL 2: Conserve and promote sustainable aquatic and inland water natural resources.
- GOAL 3: Conserve and promote natural habitat connections across the landscape to help maintain healthy populations of native plants and animals, and their ability to move across the landscape as needed.
- GOAL 4: Conserve and promote healthy forests and wildlife.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILITY

- GOAL 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.
- GOAL 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY

- GOAL 1: Provide an efficient, safe and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities. This system should also be economical, responsive to existing adjacent land uses and coordinated with existing and future growth needs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

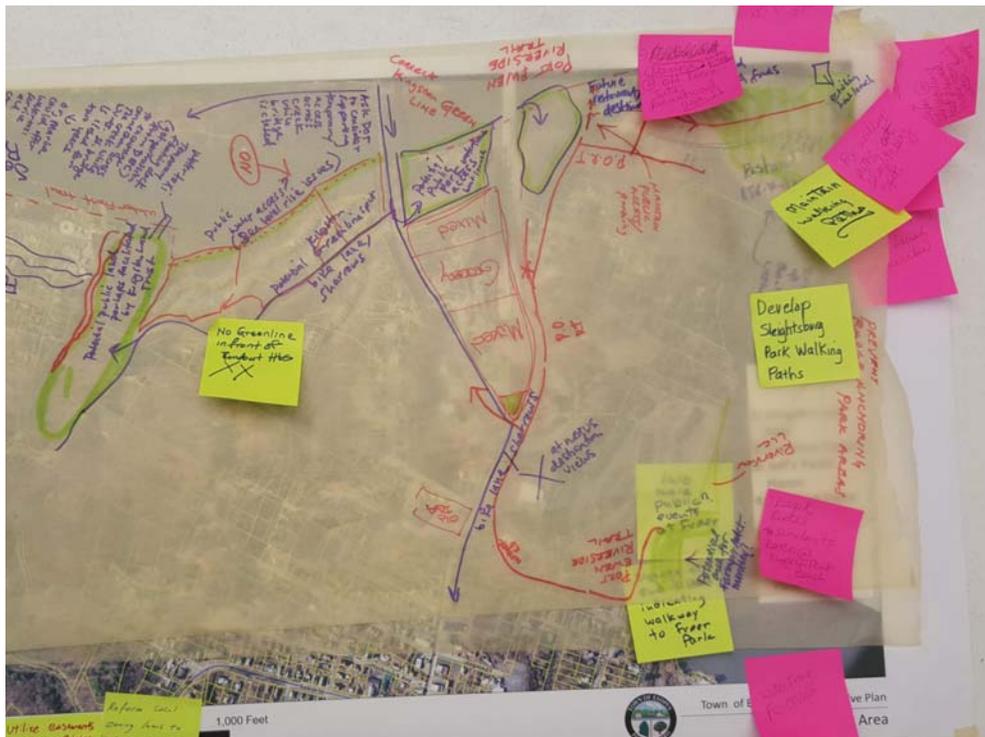
- GOAL 1: Provide, continually enhance, and properly maintain high quality, efficient, and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure, and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.
- GOAL 2: Protect the natural infrastructure of the Town of Esopus, to ensure that surface waters and groundwater are maintained or improved to provide

humans and wildlife safe and adequate supplies of freshwater, now and into the future.

FUTURE LAND USE AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

GOAL 1: Maintain a well-balanced land use pattern and associated regulations and policies that use land efficiently, support urban and rural environments, encourage active living, and sustain the Town's residential neighborhoods, business community, and environment while meeting current and future needs of citizens.

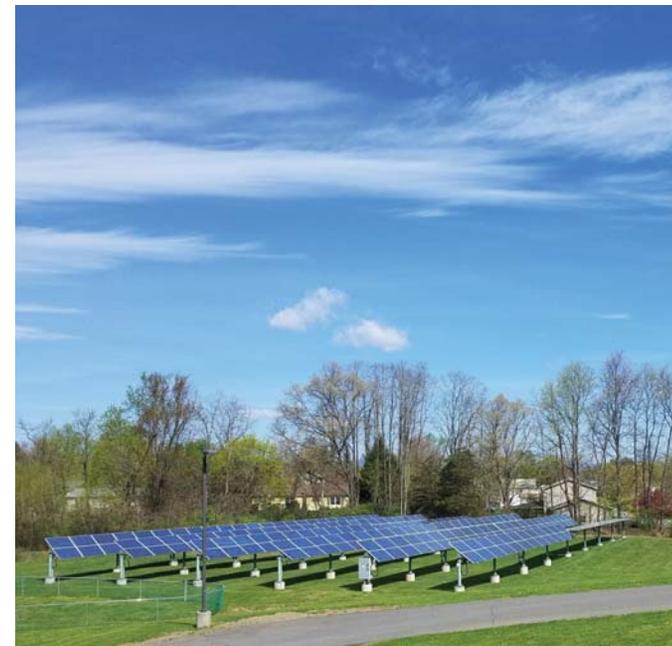
The resulting recommendations (see **Section V: Goals and Recommendations**) provide governmental bodies, businesses, and citizens guidance on future decision making, will positively impact the local economy and development patterns, and are inclusive of all residents, business owners, and stakeholders.



DESIGN WORKSHOP INPUT



GAS STATION AND TEA ROOM CIRCA 1930
(SOURCE: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)



TOWN HALL SOLAR PANELS

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HILTEBRANDT SHIPYARD CIRCA 1925
(CREDIT: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

“For peace is not mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character.”

Baruch Spinoza, *Tractus Politicus* (1677)

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Maintaining and improving economic growth should always be a top priority for communities. Positive economic development can contribute to a more stable tax base, opportunities for new businesses in Town and the expansion of goods and services available to residents. Economic development also promotes job growth through attracting and retaining employers to the area, both supporting the community's tax base and contributing to a sustainable live-work experience.

During Comprehensive Plan public input sessions, many community members voiced support for more small scale professional or home-based businesses, thereby keeping more money within the community and filling potential industry niches. Other residents felt large facilities such as sports centers and large chain grocers would be key in turning around the often ebbing tide of economic development in the Town. Still, others felt tourism was key and new restaurants, hotels, and unique facilities and other related attractions would be most beneficial. A combination of the above is likely to result in more measurable results.

In addition to focused types of new development, the Town is now recognizing the potential benefits of an eco/agritourism based economy. This makes sense in a community like Esopus as these types of businesses can take advantage of the Town's many natural resources and ideal mid-Hudson Valley location, a short distance from the greater New York metropolitan area. Currently, many eco/agritourism businesses are seasonal in nature and more popular on weekends in late spring, summer, and early fall. Tourists need places to eat, places to stay, and stores to shop in. Focusing on a well-organized eco/agritourism economy is likely to result in positive impacts for the Town's overall economy moving forward.

Goal 1: Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.

- ED-1 Compile an inventory of suitable sites for business development. Market available commercial and industrial property on the Town's website and through a realtor network. Target specific businesses who may be interested in expanding, relocating, or opening satellite operations in the Town of Esopus.
- ED-2 Work with the Ulster Economic Development Alliance and the Office of the Ulster County Executive to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified businesses to develop marketing tools to increase awareness of the Town of Esopus Small Business Loan Fund. Continue to seek future grant funding for economic development projects through other grant sources.
- ED-3 Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands based on resident feedback and encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands, where practical.
- ED-4 Develop a plan to identify prospective businesses that align well with what Esopus has to offer. Target and recruit new businesses that can provide goods and services for current and future residents.
- ED-5 Streamline the planning process by creating a pre-approved project compliance checklist, developing a corresponding "pocket" zoning map, and prepare and market online a sector-specific (eco/agribusiness and waterfront development) "Guide to Business Opportunities and Development in Esopus" based on the checklist and zoning map.
- ED-6 Support the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial sites and buildings as an alternative to the development of greenfields.

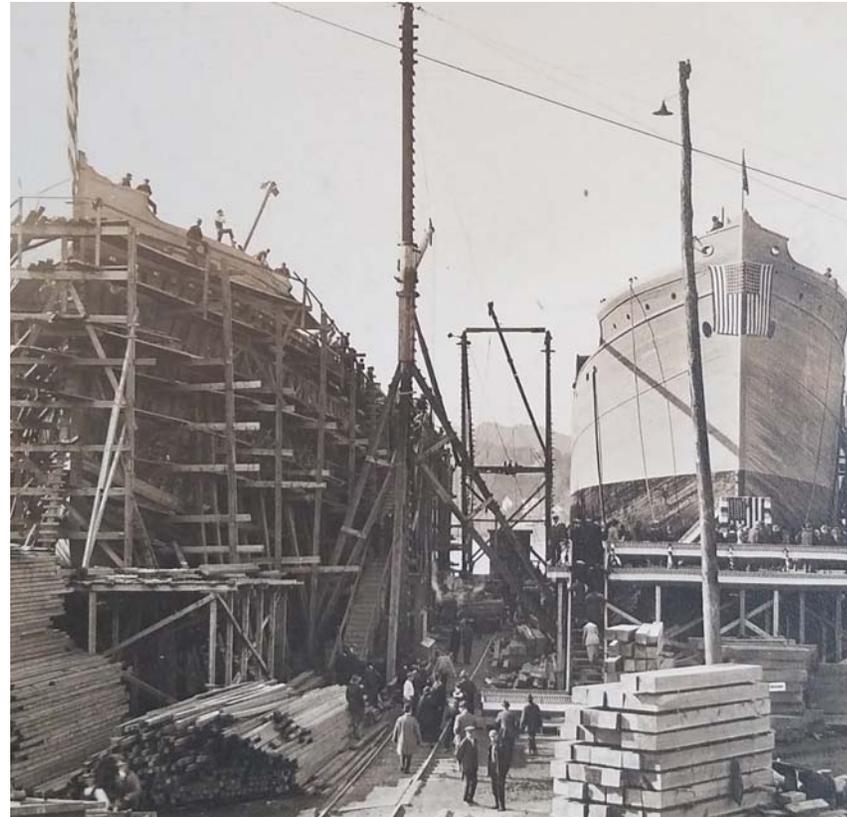
- ED-7** Strongly advocate for full remediation of contaminated sites, and properties adversely affected by contaminated sites, including, but not limited to the former Kosco Oil site, a suspected brown-field and State Superfund sites such as the Hercules Powder Co./ Dyno Nobel inactive hazardous waste site, to levels that would permit all uses allowed within their respective Zoning Districts pursuant to the Town of Esopus Zoning Regulations (Town Code Chapter 123) to ensure that such sites remain economically productive rather than abandoned former commercial properties.
- ED-8** Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to further identify opportunities for business attraction, retention, and

expansion based on an assessment of local resources and evaluation of future niche industries. The Strategy should be revisited and revised on a regular basis.

- ED-9** The Town of Esopus should consider and help facilitate the establishment of a local/community development corporation or similar entity to assist with and promote economic development with a focus on community revitalization. The authority of this proposed entity may include, but would not necessarily be limited to the following: acquiring property for redevelopment, establishing shovel-ready sites, issuance of loans for new or expanding businesses, marketing/attracting new economic de-



PORT EWEN BUSINESS DISTRICT



HILTEBRANDT SHIPYARD CIRCA 1942
(PHOTO: KLYNE ESOPUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

velopment opportunities, providing workforce training, and assisting with regional economic development coordination, all in accordance with applicable laws.

Goal 2: Improve the condition and appearance of commercial areas in Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors, and businesses.

ED-10 Review hamlet business district and waterfront commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted/compatible businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.

ED-11 At appropriate intervals, potential demand/need for future additional off-street public parking areas should be evaluated. If demand for public parking increases, additional municipal parking options should be established with adequate signage and pedestrian connections. In addition, the Town could consider an incentive-based zoning approach to promote shared usage of private parking facilities. Review design guidelines for parking lots (including lighting, locations, and landscaping) in the hamlets to ensure compatibility with character.

ED-12 Evaluate period façade and architecture for hamlets and share these findings with business owners and residents. Undertake streetscape improvements and beautification efforts with the goal of a unifying appearance, particularly along the US Rt. 9W corridor. For example, build a budget for landscaping, flowers and shrubs and lighting to enhance the US Rt. 9W commercial corridor, ensure landscaping does not block customer drive by visibility, support undergrounding of overhead power and telecommunications lines in hamlets to avoid storm outages and improve appearances in the densest residential locations should state or federal funding arise. Local civic organizations along with businesses and other volunteers could assist with beautification efforts.

ED-13 Consider a campaign to offer small grants and loans (e.g., \$5,000 to \$30,000) to facilitate commercial building renovations, façade improvements, equipment purchases and other investments necessary to help start and grow local businesses.

ED-14 Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment for visitors in the Port Ewen business district.



HOUSING IN NEED OF FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS

ED-15 Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in business areas and streets in adjoining developments and ensure adequate emergency vehicle access is maintained.

Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

ED-16 Prepare a tourism action plan and establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for Ecotourism, Agritourism (including seasonal), Heritage tourism, Waterfront and Recreation. This plan should also include a marketing and branding plan (potentially with the tag line, "From Ridge to River") to build awareness of local attractions and businesses among residents and visitors.

ED-17 Create an up-to-date, user-friendly, attractive PDF map of the Town to show locations of hiking trails, boat launches, nature preserves, local business, historic and cultural resources, overnight accommodations, and other attractions for posting on the Town's website and placement in local businesses and visitor kiosks. The Town of Esopus website currently includes the Discover Esopus places of interest flyer that identifies key points of interest in the community. This document could be updated or incorporated into a series of maps with clickable links to additional information.

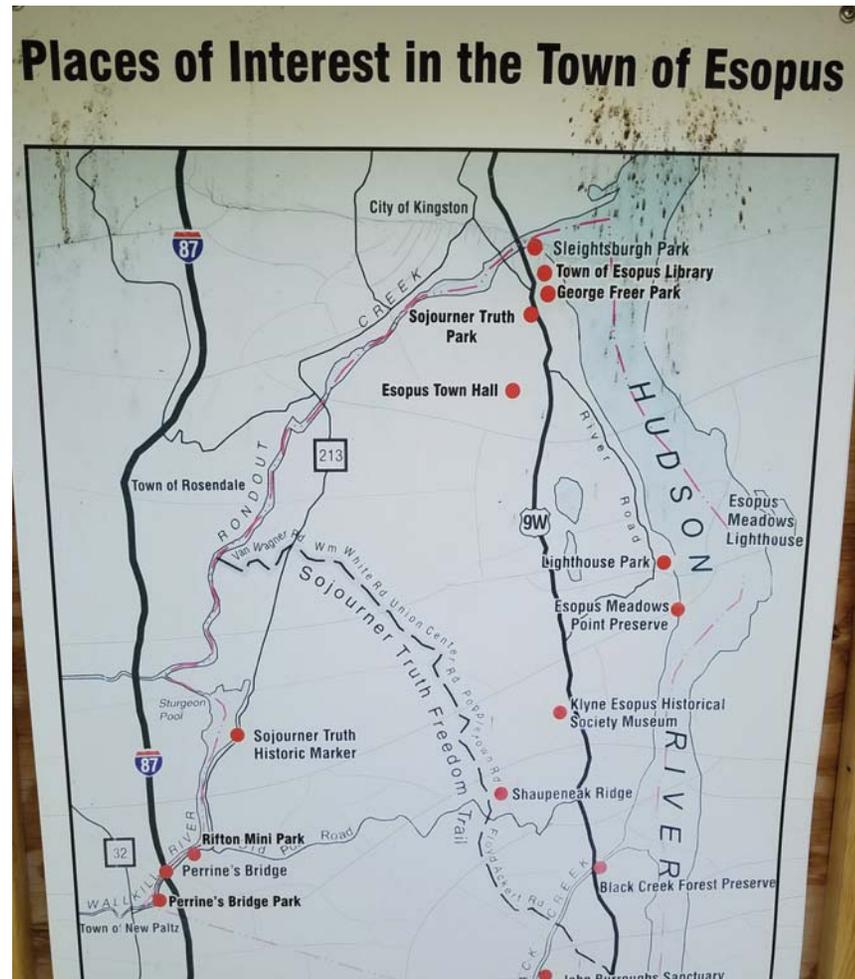
ED-18 Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investment into the community to develop properties in appropriate business areas.

ED-19 Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process and overcoming barriers.

ED-20 Strengthen annual events and consider organizing one or two additional events showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.

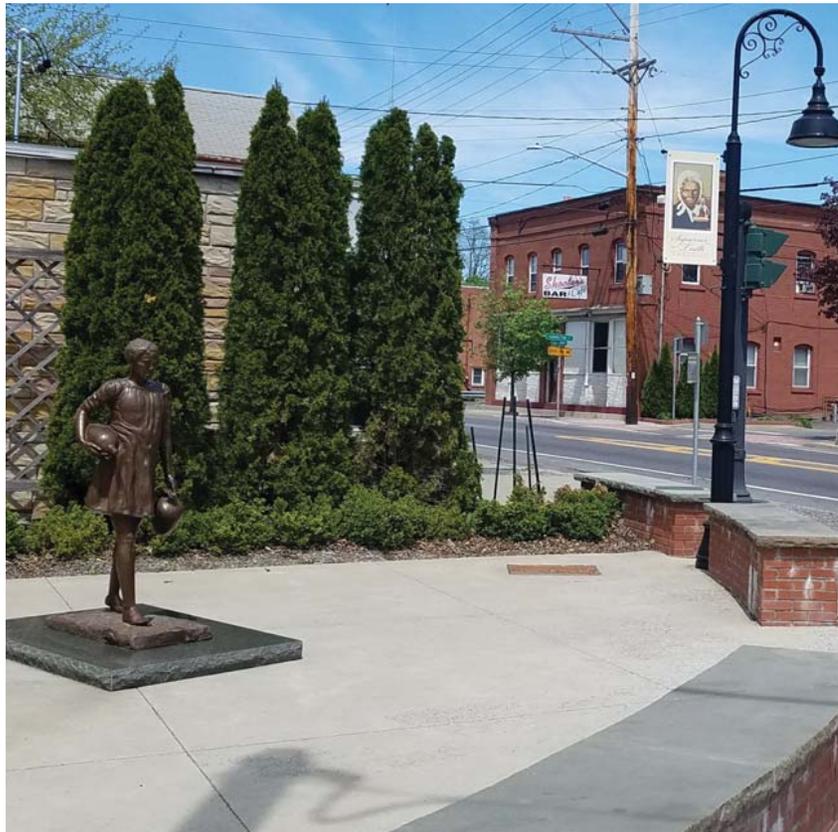
ED-21 Consider potential trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect recreational users with local shops and restaurants.

ED-22 Encourage infill along secondary streets to Broadway and re-adaptation of buildings of historic character.



ESOPUS POINTS OF INTEREST MAP AT FREER PARK -- REPLACEMENT NEEDED

- ED-23 Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions, including trails, natural areas, and historic sites open to the public, are included in printed materials and on the Ulster County Tourism website.
- ED-24 Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.
- ED-25 Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on US Route 9W at gateways into the Town and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.



SOJOURNER TRUTH PARK

- ED-26 Consider establishing a visitor center at the Town's key gateways along US Rt. 9W that provide information about lodging choices, trailhead information, and retail, recreation and dining opportunities. Establish kiosks in Freer, Ross, and Cas Landi parks and forge partnership with Scenic Hudson to enhance trailhead kiosks by providing broader information about the Town.
- ED-27 Undertake a review of signs, both directional and placemaking, throughout the Town. Review local sign ordinances and develop design guidance. Remove duplicates and identify old signs for replacement. Ensure guidelines provide appropriate guidance, aesthetic specificity, and lighting recommendations so that the character of the hamlets is not compromised.
- ED-28 Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy that encompasses the following elements: maintaining an inventory of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.
- ED-29 Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston Waterfront Coalition, Scenic Hudson, and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly for maritime heritage, and John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/John Burroughs Black Creek Trail for ecotourism.
- ED-30 Increase the Town's recognition of Sojourner Truth, through various means, including, but not limited to establishing a Sojourner Truth museum near her statue in Port Ewen, mapping of her journey through Esopus and link related destinations along the trail that are accessible via bicycle, automobile, and on foot.
- ED-31 Work with and support the John Burroughs Association in establishing the John Burroughs interpretive center.
- ED-32 Complete the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to the Empire

State Trail to the south, Port Ewen to the north and contributes to the Town's economic vitality.

ED-33 Explore the feasibility of establishing a ship building museum in Connelly.

Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.

ED-34 Target business development, expansion of existing or relocation of new craft beverage businesses to the Town of Esopus.

ED-35 Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, share findings regarding the agriculture focus for the Town, offer loans to improve their products, buildings, and diversification, as well as help them seek additional funding through grants for improvements and resiliency.

ED-36 Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities such as "u-pick" operations, fruit and vegetable stands, farmstays, and wineries to be located wherever agricultural uses are allowed.

ED-37 Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.

ED-38 Formally establish and market an Agritourism Corridor between West Park and Ulster Park that focuses the areas farms, wineries, and related attractions and integrate marketing with the corridors eco/recreational amenities.



EL PASO WINERY

THE WATERFRONT: REVITALIZATION, RECREATION, AND PRESERVATION

From a recreation and tourism perspective, the Town of Esopus is extremely fortunate to be surrounded by water on three sides. Despite these natural resource benefits, there is a surprising lack of business/tourism-related development along the shoreline and limited public access for boating or swimming. The majority of shoreline with easy access to the Hudson River, Rondout Creek, Wallkill River and Sturgeon Pool are privately owned, or in the case of Sturgeon Pool – utility-owned, all of which has contributed to limited public access. The Town does have existing waterfront parks and there are several areas of the Hudson River and Black Creek shorelines that are permanently protected from development. Focusing first on these existing areas to increase access is important.

The public overwhelmingly supports increased public waterfront access for recreation, day use, and sightseeing purposes from every Hamlet. Specifically, the public is seeking the creation of new access points and improvements at existing waterfront parks including canoe/kayak launching sites and storage, designated fishing areas, enhanced management of water chestnut, renovations of existing park amenities, new pavilions, increased community events such as farmers' markets, and the construction of a swimming beach, among other ideas.

The Town's waterfronts should be recognized as economic development engines offering a multitude of tourism and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, including high quality fishing and boating. In addition to recreation and economic development, the Town's waterfronts are well positioned to function as an environmental education and social sciences destination to maximize the benefits of this public resource to residents, visitors, and students from throughout the region.

Finally, the Town should take steps to prepare for anticipated sea level rise along with expected increases in 100-year flood occurrences, participation events, and severity of storms. These factors will all have signif-

icant impacts on existing and future land uses, not only along the Hudson River, but also the Rondout Creek and other waterbodies. Long-term planning must take these expected issues into consideration to protect existing private development, public infrastructure, recreational and tourism amenities, and ecological health through shoreline stabilization and other efforts to ensure future growth does not exacerbate these issues.

Goal 1: Enhance the Town's waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town's waterfront ecology and environment.

- W-1 Encourage compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive, and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh, Port Ewen, and West Park.
- W-2 Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in the Town of Esopus with existing tourism and educational resources on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River, including, but not limited to, the Hudson River Maritime Museum.
- W-3 Enhance Freer Beach Park as the Town's primary destination for waterfront recreation. Refer to the [FREER BEACH PARK PRELIMINARY IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPT PLAN](#) depicting the following recommended improvements:
 - W-3A Repair or replace the existing bulkhead or consider designing and constructing a nature-based, natural shoreline to reduce erosion and the occurrences and severity of existing and future flooding, thereby creating a resilient and more adaptable shoreline. Improvements to Freer Beach Park could serve as a NYSDEC Sustainable Shorelines demonstration project.
 - W-3B Construct a permeable/ADA Compliant riverfront path with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting (if adequate



BLACK CREEK MEETING THE HUDSON RIVER



protection against flooding and sea-level rise can be accomplished through a nature-based, natural shoreline or similar approach that will result in a more flood and sea level rise resilient shoreline).

W-3C Canoe/kayak storage and launch site.

W-3D Designated fishing area.

W-3E Improved parking lot.

W-3F New combined pavilion and/or enclosed event space.

W-3G Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets.

W-4 Improve Sleightsburgh Park to enhance safety and security and provide expanded boat launching and recreational opportunities:

W-4A Evaluate options for enlarging the parking area and/or altering the existing parking patterns to allow for increased use and safer parking while minimizing impacts on environmental resources.

W-4B Upgrade and expand launching facilities.

W-4C Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting the park including widening the access road, providing pull off locations to allow vehicles to pass, or installing a traffic light system.

W-4D Evaluate the existing trail system to determine if the trails should be repaired/expanded in key areas to provide access for fishing and sightseeing opportunities, or officially close the trails due to safety concerns.

W-4E Consider and implement measures to improve the Park's security, including, but not limited to installing security cameras, strictly enforcing the Park's hours of operation and maintain ongoing communications with the Ulster County Sheriff's De-



ACCESSIBLE CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH



SLEIGHTSBURGH BOAT LAUNCH PARKING

partment to ensure they are aware of the Park's rules and their enforcement obligations.

- W-5 Identify opportunities for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets of Ulster Park, Esopus and West Park and a car-top boat launch facility at the Black Creek Preserve (including Scenic Hudson's recent acquisition, Winding Brook Acres) and Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Preserves.
- W-6 Evaluate potential opportunities and implement feasible options to enhance public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and establish new access opportunities in Connelly including, but not limited to, a new waterside park and designated areas for restaurant dining and recreation. Primary focus areas along the Rondout Creek could include, but should not be limited to Certified Marina and Town-owned lands in Connelly along with Town-owned lands, roads and buffer areas around Sleightsburgh Park within the Hamlet of Sleightsburgh.
- W-7 Encourage and facilitate repurposing of one or more marinas in Connelly and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dining, entertainment opportunities, and residential development in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities
- W-8 Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town's water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to con-

nect into the City of Kingston water supply (see Infrastructure Goals and Recommendations).

- W-9 Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.
- W-10 Improve the Town of Esopus Perrine's Bridge Park, including mitigation of flooding, improvements to the parking area and pedestrian crossing of NYS Rt. 213 with proper signage and designated canoe and kayak launch facilities. Connect with the County's Perrine Bridge area to the north with additional improvements to enhance visitor experiences and safety.
- W-11 Ensure existing and future development along shorelines adequately address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices, shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.
- W-12 Prepare an update to the Town's 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to establish a revised long-term plan for the protection and enhancement of water resources, address sea level rise and increase resiliency, and to properly plan for economic revitalization and recreational opportunities along the shoreline and in the Town's key waterfront Hamlets. In addition, the LWRP update should consider expanding the scope of the shoreline areas not previously included in the first LWRP, aligning and comparing LWRP land use policies with



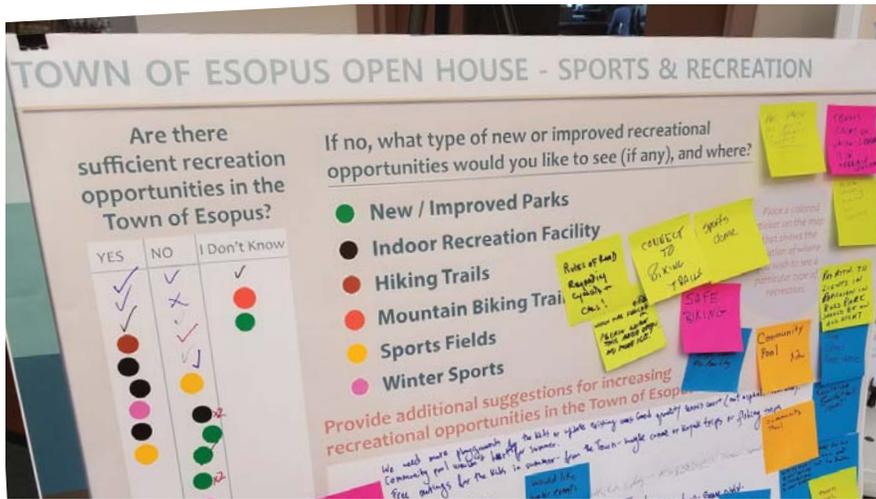
SLEIGHTSBURGH PARK – BLOCKED TRAIL



ESOPUS MEADOWS PARK SHORELINE



TOWN OF ESOPUS PERRINE'S BRIDGE PARK



OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK

actual land use of the properties along the waterfront, and defining the Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board’s (WAB) authority/ zoning jurisdiction for areas that are zoned “Waterfront,” among additional components and analyses.

W-13 As the Town seeks to enhance public access and use of the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, there will be an increasing need to provide adequate responses for in-water emergencies. Therefore, in coordination with local and regional emergency services departments, the Town should explore funding and designated access points for one or more water rescue boats.

W-14 The Town should remain committed to monitoring invasive species with the help of state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and volunteers. When practical, the Town will confront invasive species head on as to ensure control, and if necessary and where feasible, complete eradication.



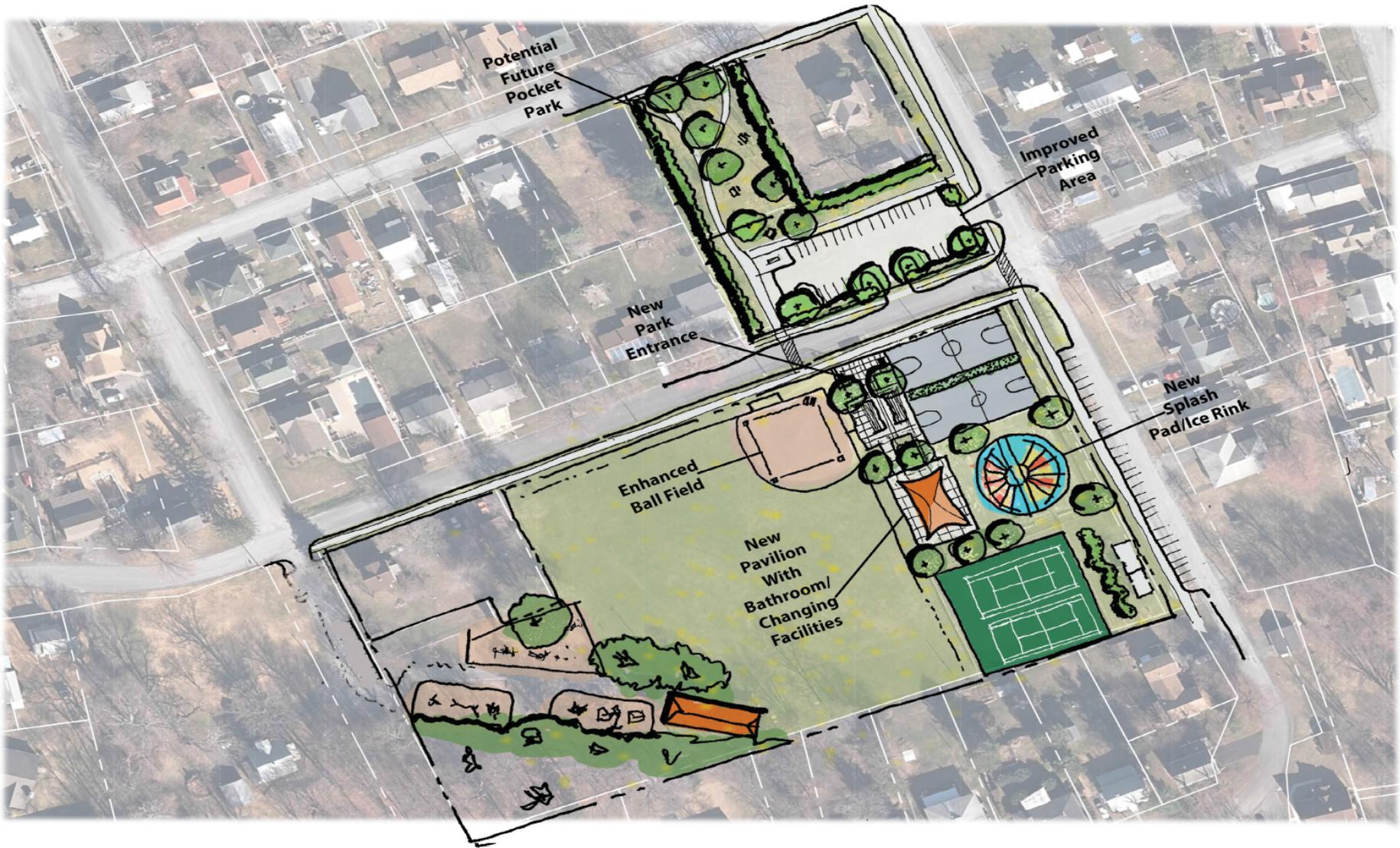
HIGH BANKS PRESERVE AT ESOPUS LAKE (CREDIT: SCENIC HUDSON)

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and other recreation areas are known to provide communities with direct and indirect benefits, including opportunities for improved health, economic development and tourism, neighborhood safety, and education opportunities, among others. In New York State, parks have consistently been shown to have a positive economic impact and data shows that, state-wide, for every one dollar of investment, nine dollars of sales related to a park facility are raised. This has a greater impact at the community level where park patrons utilize nearby stores, restaurants, and other businesses. The Town of Esopus, due to its natural setting, amenities, and ideal location within the Hudson Valley, is able to offer unmatched opportunities for outdoor recreational pursuits, including hiking, fishing, biking, and canoeing/kayaking to name only a few.

Goal 1: Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels and accessible to the greatest extent possible.

- PR-1 Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance, adequacy of amenities meeting current and future community needs, and ensuring each park is accessible and provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- PR-2 Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town parks, to complement existing features and create a greater attraction to park locations.
- PR-3 Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks, with existing tourism and educational resources.
- PR-4 Continue to maintain, through established maintenance planning, all Town parks and associated facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.
- PR-5 Seek to make direct connections from the Hamlet of Port Ewen to the Empire State Trail in the City of Kingston via US Rt. 9W, and construct new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to ensure safe and efficient connections by all ability and skill levels.
- PR-6 Collaborate with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association and additional relevant stakeholders to complete the implementation of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Plan and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to other park/preserve lands, roads and trails, including the Sojourner Truth Trail, the Empire State Trail to the south, and Port Ewen and the Empire State Trail in Kingston to the north in order to contribute to the Town's economic vitality through tourism.
- PR-7 Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new indoor/outdoor Town multipurpose recreational facility that meets the needs of residents and athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside the Town of Esopus. Potential locations include the area behind Town Hall and the vacant former ball fields on Mountain View Road.
- PR-8 Consider the feasibility of constructing a Town pool facility in a current park or other site. The pool could be combined with a future recreational facility. Alternatives to a municipal pool include seeking cooperative agreements/partnerships with private condominium/residential developments or other private developments to use their pool and/or the development of a 'river pool' that would be more cost effective and movable.
- PR-9 Consider the establishment of a community park in Rifton, with the site of the former Rifton Fire Station on Maple St. as one possible location.
- PR-10 Ross Park Improvements: Properly plan for and enhance Ross Park as depicted on the [ROSS PARK PRELIMINARY IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPT PLAN](#) (located at the end of these Recommendations) including, but not limited to the following:





PAVILION AT CAS LANDI PARK



HUDSON RIVER SWIMMING POOL (EXAMPLE)



ROSS PARK

- PR-10A Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage rate of the current pavilion.
- PR-10B Build a Splash-Pad area that could be converted into an ice rink in the winter months.
- PR-10C Improve aesthetics in the park through planned landscaping.
- PR-10D Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard Street.
- PR-10E Make improvements to the current parking lot area on the corner of W. Stout Avenue and Browne Street.
- PR-10F Improve basketball, baseball, and tennis court facilities.
- PR-10G Add parking stall lines for the parking area on W. Stout Street along the southern border of the park, ensure new parking configuration is inclusive of handicapped parking spaces.
- PR-10H Correct the drainage issue and instances of standing water at the base of the hill, in the western portion of the Park.
- PR-10I Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.
- PR-11 Cas Landi Park Improvements: Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:
 - PR-11A Create an accessible walking trail or track.
 - PR-11B Add permanent bathroom facilities.
 - PR-11C Repair deficiencies and revitalize tennis and basketball courts as needed.
 - PR-11D Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.
- PR-12 Enhance Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park with the following improvements:
 - PR-12A Add restroom facilities.
 - PR-12B Extend chain-link fence along the entirety of Park Lane.
 - PR-12C Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.
- PR-13 Enhance James Rieker Park with the following improvements:
 - PR-13A Relocate basketball court to a more visible location and to provide an additional hoop.



FREER BEACH PARK

- PR-13B Provide an improved playground surface.
- PR-13C Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.
- PR-14 Enhance Perrine’s Bridge Park with the following improvements:
 - PR-14A Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.
 - PR-14B Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town’s park to the County’s covered bridge to the north.
 - PR-14C Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Walkill River.
 - PR-14D Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Development in the Town of Esopus is largely influenced by its surrounding natural features and environmental resources. These features and resources, combined with well-balanced ecosystems contribute greatly to the Town’s quality of life, economic vitality, and public health, and also influences the quality of surrounding communities. Town residents have traditionally supported conservation and preservation measures aimed at protecting the rich array of environmental resources found in the community, including the protection of water quality and supply sources, habitat and open space protection, scenic views, shorelines, and steep slopes. The responsibility for environmental quality should continue to be shared by all those whose actions affect the environment.

Goal 1: Inventory and monitor significant habitats, landscape features and land use patterns. Goal 1: Inventory and monitor significant habitats, landscape features and land use patterns.



JAMES RIEKER PARK



CANOE/KAYAK CROSSING EXAMPLE

NR-1 Consider developing a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) with NYSDEC and other stakeholders to understand the full extent of natural habitats within the Town of Esopus, assist with identifying and assessing impacts from potential land use development, and to identify recommendations to better inform land use planning decisions.

NR-2 In coordination with the preparation of the NRI, the Town should consider preparing an Open Space Plan towards understanding locations of and opportunities for preserving and connecting open spaces with natural habitats and habitat corridors, recreational areas and scenic views.

NR-3 Consider providing the Environmental Board with the authority to review and assess development plans in accordance with any adopted goals, policies and regulations, derived from the NRI and Open Space Plan.

Goal 2: Conserve and promote sustainable aquatic and inland water natural resources.

NR-4 Use Scenic Hudson's 'Protecting the Pathways' interactive map to assess those habitats and shorelines under threat of inundation and erosion by sea level rise (SLR), wave action and storm surge and to assess the possible zones for tidal wetland preservation and migration in the face of SLR in the Hudson River (www.scenic-hudson.org/slr/mapper).

NR-5 Evaluate the benefits for and if practical, pursue designation of Black Creek as a Wild River, a state designation that might enhance its appeal as a tourist destination, while helping to preserve its quality and natural character.

NR-6 Prevent dumping in streams to promote community pride, natural beauty, environmental quality and tourism potential.

NR-7 Protect steep slopes from erosion that can degrade water quality and increase flooding risk.

Goal 3: Conserve and promote natural habitat connections across the landscape to help maintain healthy populations of native plants and animals, and their ability to move across the landscape as needed.

NR-8 Protect large, contiguous tracts of natural habitat.



BLACK CREEK PRESERVE



EROSION AT FREER BEACH PARK

- NR-9 Preserve connections between natural habitats on adjacent properties.
- NR-10 Consider restoring and maintaining appropriate buffer zones of natural vegetation along streams, shores of water bodies and wetlands, and at the perimeter of other sensitive habitats.
- NR-11 Where practical, preserve natural disturbance process such as floods, tidal flushing, seasonal drawdowns, landslides, and wind exposures wherever possible – processes are vital to maintaining habitats that support healthy plant, fish, and wildlife populations.
- NR-12 Restore degraded habitats wherever feasible.
- NR-13 Promote redevelopment of brownfields, post-industrial sites, and other previously-altered areas instead of modifying existing habitats in undeveloped areas.

Goal 4: Conserve and promote healthy forests and wildlife.

- NR-14 Prevent clearcutting within intact, high-quality and mature forests to preserve existing forest habitats.
- NR-15 In partnership with NYSDEC, applicable landowners and the general public, consider implementing a Deer Management Program to ensure healthy populations of deer that support recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing, hunting, and photography, among others while avoiding negative impacts to forest growth and gardens.
- NR-16 Assess invasive upland plant and forest pest issues in Town, including impacts to forests and other habitats. The Town’s approach to invasive species should be prioritized to species that most negatively impact forest health and recreational opportunities.
- NR-17 Gain an understanding of which rare or threatened species are present in Town, and how to preserve them and their habitats effectively with minimal impacts to economic development and opportunity.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD STABILITY

Promoting quality housing types meeting a diverse cross-section of resident characteristics, including age, ability, family size, and income levels are all necessary to respond to changing demographics in the community and ensure sufficient options are available to attract new families, maintain growing families, and allow residents to age in place. Housing has the ability to account for a significant share of new construction and development in the Town and as such, can make a significant economic impact.

In addition to supporting diverse housing options, the Town must make concerted efforts to properly maintain the character of existing hamlets and neighborhoods. Public education, adjustments to regulations, offering town-wide clean up assistance and enhanced enforcement of existing regulations will be key to stabilizing and growing the Town’s housing market.

Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.

- H-1 Support the provision of housing in the Town to meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs, where appropriate.
- H-2 Continue to focus future dense residential growth within Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly and northern sections of Ulster Park, where existing water and sewer infrastructure are provided.
- H-3 Conduct regular evaluations of the Town’s land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing opportunities are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals for including mixed-uses and market-rate multi-family dwellings.
- H-4 Promote and encourage additional attractive and affordable senior living facilities for local residents which will help free up

existing housing for new residents, young families and others seeking to own their own home.

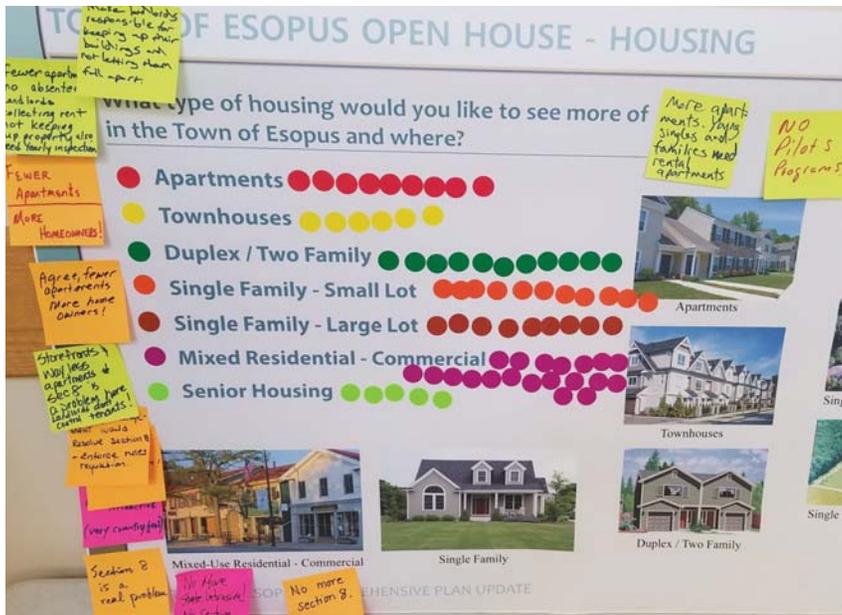
- H-5 Continue to allow and encourage appropriately constructed accessory dwellings while making sure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts on neighborhoods are avoided.
- H-6 Identify and collaborate with state, local and/or regional community based housing organizations to leverage their expertise and resources.

Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

- H-7 Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation programs in the Town of Esopus (i.e., Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)).
- H-8 Conduct targeted income surveys beginning in the Hamlets of Connelly and Port Ewen to support the Town’s efforts of securing applicable grants for housing improvements and community

revitalization projects including sidewalks, water, and sewer improvements.

- H-9 Continue to enforce existing property maintenance-related regulations and consider preparing and adopting a Town property maintenance law that clearly identifies what is prohibited and includes sufficient processes to remedy violations.
- H-10 Consider educational outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings as an additional effort to encourage increased property maintenance and enhancements to overall community character.
- H-11 Implement an annual cleanup day allowing residents to bring junk and other debris to the Town’s transfer station at no cost. In addition, the Town could arrange to pick up junk and other debris from residents who are not able to reach the transfer station.
- H-12 Conduct a detailed inventory of key neighborhoods with dilapidated structures, property maintenance, and other code issues. The purpose of this effort will be to obtain a baseline inventory of



OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC INPUT



MIXED USE RESTORATION IN PORT EWEN

properties with existing code violations as well as existing conditions of structures, including those that are vacant, abandoned, or dilapidated and in need of corrective actions. Property maintenance issues, unlicensed vehicles and other issues that may be adversely impacting community and neighborhood character and overall quality of life will also be inventoried.

- H-13 Consider adopting a rental property/landlord registry that would allow the Town to more efficiently contact landlords when there are building code violations, complaints and other concerns that require contact with building owners. The registry will be another tool to improve community character, building conditions, and quality of life for residents and business owners.
- H-14 Support and encourage the development of neighborhood organizations that promote civic activities and empower residents to maintain their properties and patrol neighborhoods (i.e., National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, etc.).
- H-15 Support and help connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents obtain suitable housing, make home repairs (i.e.,

Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, RUPCO), and secure provision of other services such as shoveling and yardwork that could be accomplished by local volunteer groups.

- H-16 The potential for town-wide and personal economic benefits of residential short-term rentals through online platforms and other means must be balanced with the protection of community character and public safety. Therefore, the Town should continue evaluating reasonable options for allowing short-term rentals while ensuring neighborhood impacts are avoided and emergency services personnel are aware of which structures are rentals and the approximate number of tenants in each. In addition, the consideration of short-term rental regulations should include stakeholders that would be directly impacted by the new requirements.
- H-17 Acknowledging the growing popularity of the small house movement, the Town should evaluate regulatory options for allowing smaller-sized homes in an effort to increase access to housing for all income levels and needs.



DILAPIDATED HOME IN CONNELLY



WELL-MAINTAINED HOMES PORT EWEN

H-18 Seek the removal of existing bus shelters that are not in sight of the main transit corridors and those that are now located in standing water.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY

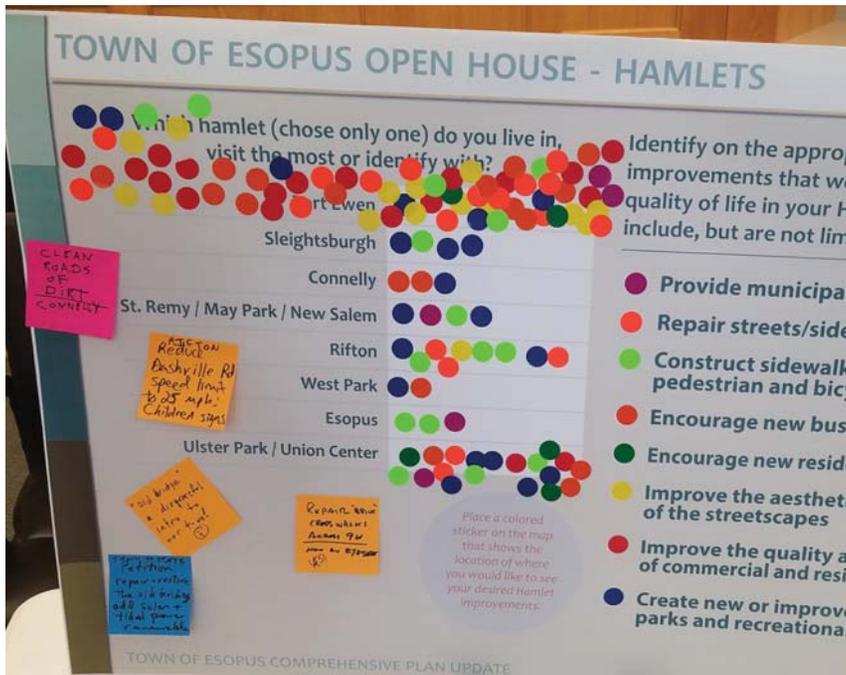
Alternative transportation modes continue to grow in popularity. With more pedestrians and cyclists on poorly designed roadways, the probability of accidents are increased. A lack of sufficient bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure will mean increased dependence on automobiles and the associated traffic and related adverse impacts that could result.

Town of Esopus residents expressed pedestrian and bicycle concerns in all areas of the community including suburban-scaled neighborhoods, densely populated hamlets, and rural highways. Residents identified high vehicle speeds, limited or no room on shoulders, poor shoulder maintenance, little to no opportunity for off-road or designated paths/lanes for bicycling, and driver inattention, among several other issues.

Establishing a network of safe bike lanes and trails along with sidewalks and paths that connect hamlets, the waterfront, recreation areas and business centers will be a key aspect to fulfilling the Town's goal of marketing local recreation and eco/agritourism resources, not to mention the health and well-being of residents, business owners, and visitors.

Goal 1: Provide an efficient, safe, accessible, and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs. This system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.

PS-1 Conduct a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and complete streets analysis. A critical component to fully understanding walking and bicycling conditions in the Town of Esopus is to first understand the existing environment and provision of accommodations for non-motorized users of all ages and abili-



OPEN HOUSE HAMLET FEEDBACK



WURTS STREET BRIDGE

ties. The study would include a comprehensive inventory of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related safety issues within and between each Hamlet and other key destinations. The purpose should be to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to meet the Comprehensive Plan's goals of efficient and safe access for all.

- PS-2 Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the shoulders of NYS Rt. 213 for safer bicycle use and designating the route as a formal State Bike Route from Rifton with an eventual connection to Port Ewen.
- PS-3 Explore with NYSDOT, Kingston Land trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge into Port Ewen and over to Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.
- PS-4 Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from adjacent property owners to the Town of Esopus.



AQUATIC INSPIRED BIKE RACK

- PS-5 Prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan in Port Ewen to allow the Town to adequately budget for needed improvements. The goal of the plan will be to expand the quality and continuity of the pedestrian network by identifying sidewalks in poor condition, establishing a scheduled repair program, identifying and prioritizing gaps in sidewalks, and enhancing the number and quality of pedestrian crossings. Where feasible, the construction of new sidewalks and the repair of existing sidewalks could incorporate the burying of overhead utility lines.
- PS-6 Encourage placement of bicycle racks at key locations in Town, including in front of local businesses and public facilities as appropriate and feasible.
- PS-7 Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and/or a separated pedestrian trail/bicycle lane along the US Rt. 9W arterial connecting Port Ewen and the rest of the Town of Esopus to Kingston and the Greenline Trail/future Empire Trail.

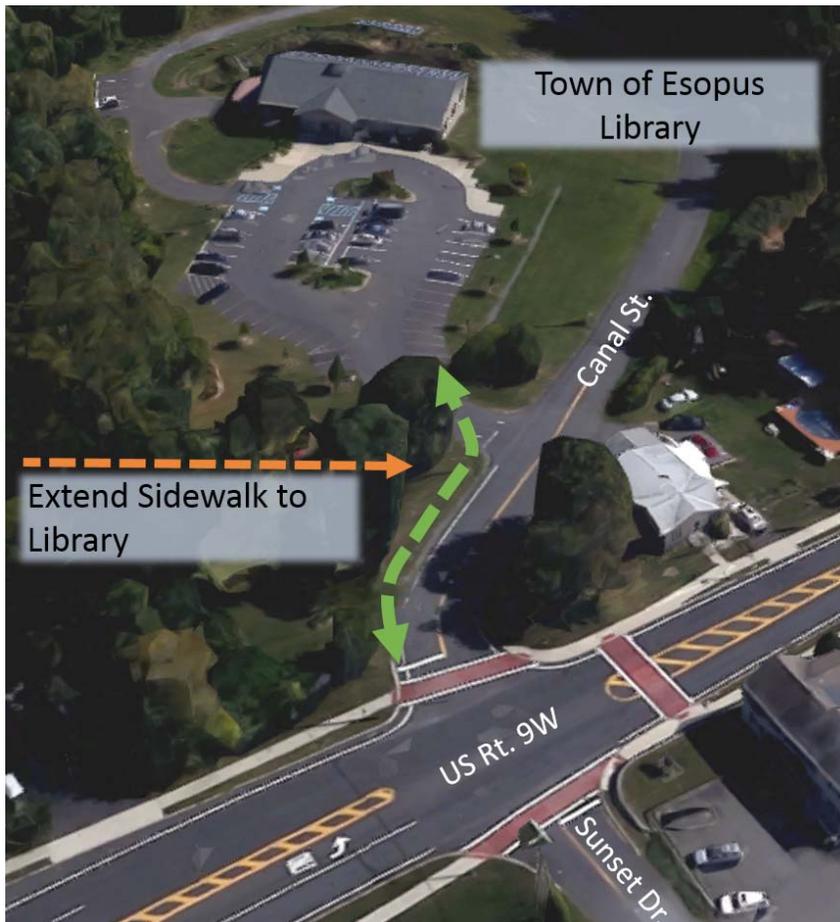


US RT. 9W LOOKING NORTH FROM PORT EWEN – LACK OF SIDEWALKS

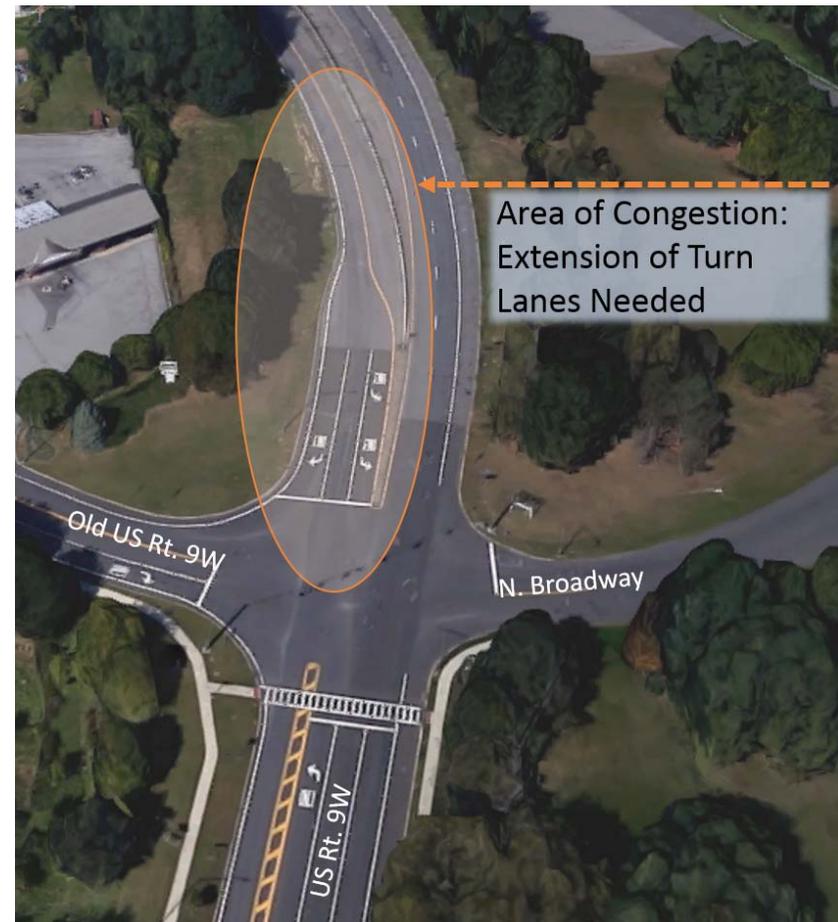
- PS-8 Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and establish a formal State Bike Route along US Rt. 9W that would connect the Town's numerous hamlets, parks and recreational amenities and other attractions with the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, the Walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park, the Empire State Trail and potential future bike loop of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail.
- PS-9 Work with the Town of Lloyd, Ulster County, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association, and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail partners to identify, establish, sign and promote bicycle connections along Floyd Ackert Road and Swartekill Road

with the goal of creating a bicycle loop connecting the Empire State Trail/Hudson Valley Rail Trail with the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/Slabsides and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail destinations as well as the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.

- PS-10 Consider constructing designated pedestrian connections to Freer Park Beach from Minturn and Tilden Streets.
- PS-11 Coordinate with NYSDOT to begin the process of seeking speed limit reductions on portions of US Rt. 9W and NY Rt. 213.



NEEDED PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO LIBRARY



US RT. 9W LOOKING NORTH FROM PORT EWEN – LACK OF SIDEWALKS

- PS-12 Routinely coordinate with the Ulster County Sheriff and NYS Police for updates on incidents of speeding and traffic accidents, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists to begin identifying and confirming key areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety. In addition, this will help establish a working relationship with each police agency with respect to speed enforcement and traffic safety, a key issue identified by the public.
- PS-13 Prepare and adopt a “complete streets” policy for new projects. A complete streets policy requires that new applicable development projects plan for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit as well as private vehicles.
- PS-14 Continue working closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions, especially those that directly affect the Town of Esopus.

- PS-15 Encourage the Planning Board to recommend and/or require new developments to include sidewalks, pedestrian paths, bike lanes, trails, and connections to surrounding destinations which will assist the Town in establishing a truly connected community.
- PS-16 Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of US Rt. 9W, North Broadway, and Old US Rt. 9W, with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right/left-hand turn lanes.
- PS-17 Encourage Ulster County to evaluate options for increased access to public transportation throughout the Town, with a focus on US Rt. 9W.
- PS-18 Strongly encourage NYSDOT to conduct a safety analysis of the Rt. 9W corridor through Town, with a focus on key intersections and in the Hamlets along the corridor.
- PS-19 Request that NYSDOT replace the deteriorating crosswalks in Port Ewen with highly visible, low maintenance crosswalks.



ESOPUS TOWN HALL

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Community services and adequate infrastructure directly impact all residents, visitors, property owners, and business operators in the community, along with natural resources the Town depends on. Quality, sustainable infrastructure and services are key to ensuring needs are met, taxes remain reasonable, critical natural resources are protected, and current facilities and capabilities can be maintained. This can be achieved in a number of ways and is directly related to economic growth, environmental quality, and residential satisfaction.

Goal 1: Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality, efficient, accessible, and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure, and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.

- CS-1 Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long term capital maintenance needs for Town buildings and facilities including, but not limited to, Highway Department facilities and equipment, Town Hall, and transfer station.
- CS-2 Prepare and implement a long-term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan, including the consideration of future costs and opportunities for funding.
- CS-3 Evaluate the feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston municipal water system.
- CS-4 Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions for existing development in areas with challenging geographic and soil conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal, including, but not limited to the Hamlet of Rifton. The extension of water and sewer infrastructure should also be considered, to accommodate desired and compatible future growth.

- CS-5 Inventory and map all roads and signage in the Town of Esopus using a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping platform and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of water/sewer mains and piping as feasible.
- CS-6 Advocate for repaving the entire US Rt. 9W corridor through Port Ewen, the undergrounding of all utility lines, and the enhancement of all crosswalks including converting them to low maintenance paint at that time.
- CS-7 Review the Town's current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing, and plowing/clearing of all sidewalks.
- CS-8 Continue close coordination with and support of the Town's Fire Departments and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad with respect to seeking volunteers, identifying opportunities for sharing services and utility costs, repairing and replacing existing facilities, and cooperatively pursuing grant funding for equipment, vehicles, facilities, training, and other needs.
- CS-9 Support the St. Remy Fire Department's need to construct a new fire station to better serve the residents and businesses of the Hamlet.
- CS-10 The Town will continue coordination with the U.S. Postal Service to find a permanent home for a new Post Office in Port Ewen.
- CS-11 The Town will continue to advocate for and provide information to residents and business on how to request curbside mail delivery.
- CS-12 The Town should continue to explore opportunities for shared services with the City of Kingston, Town of Lloyd, Town of Saugerties and other nearby communities where feasible and beneficial for all involved.
- CS-13 Explore opportunities to enhance and expand the reach of Esopus Community TV 23 in partnership with surrounding communities.

- CS-14 Evaluate opportunities for improving the Town’s transfer station to meet the needs of residents and consider options for enhancing and expanding recycling in the Town of Esopus.
- CS-15 Continual evaluate opportunities to enhance accessibility and ensure ADA compliance of all Town properties and buildings.
- CS-16 Approach the Kingston Consolidated Central School District to discuss options for a joint project to better utilize the Ana Devine School and surrounding property

Goal 2: Protect the natural infrastructure of the Town of Esopus, to ensure that surface waters and groundwater are maintained or improved to provide humans and wildlife safe and adequate supplies of freshwater, now and into the future.

- CS-17 Continue to support the Town of Esopus Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary. Upon completion of the analysis and prioritization of needed improvements, the

Town should pursue necessary funding and begin implementing required improvement and restoration projects.

- CS-18 Continue implementing the Town’s MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews to ensure full compliance.
- CS-19 Conduct a vulnerability assessment of the Town’s infrastructure and waterfront parks to evaluate risks associated with anticipated sea level rise, storm surge and tributary flooding along both the Hudson and Rondout waterfronts, and identify appropriate options and strategies to protect these resources. This assessment should be part of the recommended facilities management plan (CS-1).
- CS-20 Promote the protection and improvement of Hudson River water quality through intermunicipal Drinking Water Source Protection efforts in collaboration with government agencies at all levels.
- CS-21 Protect small wetlands (not subject to NYSDEC and/or US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction), which prevent flooding by acting as natural sponges to absorb stormwater, and reduce pollution by absorbing and filtering certain contaminants.



ST. REMY FIRE STATION



STORMWATER DRAIN -- FREER BEACH PARK

- CS-22 Continue to participate in intermunicipal coalitions to comply with stormwater regulations, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques.
- CS-23 Where practical, seek to achieve zero increase in runoff from new developments and re-developments, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques.
- CS-24 Ensure catch-basins and other stormwater infrastructure is maintained to prevent unnecessary stormwater-associated pollution and to reduce the risk of flooding.
- CS-25 Evaluate options to update engineering design standards to incorporate increasing precipitation intensities anticipated as extreme weather events occur with greater frequency.
- CS-26 Encourage volunteers to set up and implement water quality sampling and monitoring programs to fill gaps and augment existing programs while providing metrics for measuring implementation of water resource protection goals.

- CS-27 When and where feasible, restore eroded stream banks, reconnect tributary streams, and restore or enhance floodplains to restore water quality and prevent downstream flooding along the Plantasie Kill.
- CS-28 When and where feasible, enhance water quality and prevent erosion by seeding grasses in drainage ditches (vegetated swales) along roadways that lack them.
- CS-29 The Town should continually evaluate their road salting methods and take into consideration the Cary Institutes' report – ***“Road Salt: The Problem, The Solution, and How to Get There,”*** as a means of protecting drinking water quality, stream habitat, and saving taxpayer dollars.

www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/public/downloads/report_road_salt.pdf
- CS-30 In partnership with the Town's Building Department, the Town Assessor will conduct ongoing, long-term evaluations of housing conditions and will maintain a database of housing values and assist in coordinating targeted income surveys for the purposes of applying for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).



EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE PARK



BLACK CREEK GLASS EEL MONITORING STATION

FUTURE LAND USE AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Planning for the Town's future growth and adjusting zoning and related land use regulations shall be explored through the following goals and recommendations. This is done to ensure any future growth is beneficial, does not negatively impact community character, environment, public health and safety, and overall quality of life in the Town of Esopus. NYS Town Law requires that land use regulations shall be in accordance with any adopted Comprehensive Plan, and as such, the Town should proceed with necessary updates upon adoption of this Plan. In addition, to help guide the regulatory update, the Town shall consider how future land use should occur going forward. The following goals and recommendations will assist the Town in that effort. Refer to the [FUTURE LAND USE AND PROJECTS MAP](#) and the [PORT EWEN PRELIMINARY IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPT](#) for additional information related to the following recommendations.

Goal 1: Maintain a well-balanced land use pattern and associated regulations and policies that use land efficiently, support urban and rural environments, encourage active living and sustain the Town's residential neighborhoods, business community, and the environment while meeting the current and future needs of citizens.

- LU-1 Continue to promote compatible medium to high density development in established hamlet areas served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure including the Hamlets of Connelly, Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and the northern sections of Ulster Park, and continue to encourage reuse of vacant lands and appropriate infill development.
- LU-2 Evaluate applicable regulations of the Waterfront (W), Waterfront Recreation (WR), and Residential (R40) Zoning Districts in Port

Ewen and Connelly to determine if changes are necessary to facilitate additional compatible tourism and commercial related development along the Rondout Creek.

- LU-3 Re-evaluate setback requirements in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Broadway Commercial (BC), and General Commercial (GC) Zoning Districts, ensuring conformity with adjacent structures and/or uses.
- LU-4 Consider instituting maximum set-backs or build-to lines, as well as lot coverages in key commercial and mixed-use areas of Port Ewen and Connelly to maintain hamlet-oriented streetscape character.
- LU-5 Re-evaluate maximum lot coverages in core hamlet areas of Port Ewen and Connelly with water and sewer, ensuring consistency with current community character and allowing for a more efficient use of lands, maximizing the developable area on lots.
- LU-6 Consider the expansion of the BC in Port Ewen north of Horton Street or an alternative approach to replace the current GC Zone in an attempt to extend hamlet-scaled development, patterns closer to the Rondout Creek, prohibit suburban-style development and increase the efficiency of new development.
- LU-7 Ensure parking requirements are appropriate and do not overburden businesses trying to locate in the community. Consider waiving parking requirements if adequate on-street or other public parking is available in the Hamlets, with a specific focus on Port Ewen. A document recommending adjustments for parking requirements along US Rt. 9W in Port Ewen titled "On-Street Parking in the Broadway Commercial Zoning District – Developing a Connection to the Zoning Local Law" was provided to the Comprehensive Plan Committee by Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, on November 29, 2017. This document

should be taken into consideration during the future update process.

LU-8 Promote the reuse of vacant/underutilized structures as space for startup businesses, part time business offices, or artists located in the Hamlets of Port Ewen and Connelly where parking and infrastructure are more readily available. Additional areas outside of these two hamlets should also be identified for compatible businesses. Relevant land use regulations should be evaluated to ensure new compatible businesses are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals.

LU-9 Continue to promote compatible commercial, light/heavy industrial, manufacturing, research and development, and related uses in existing Heavy Industrial (HI) and Light Industrial (LI) Districts. Strongly advocate for full remediation of State Superfund sites, including the Hercules Powder Co./Dyno Nobel property, and any other contaminated sites that are found in the future, to levels that would permit all uses allowed within the HI and LI Zoning Districts pursuant to the Town of Esopus Zoning Regula-

tions (Town Code Chapter 123) to ensure they remain productive aspects of the Town's economy while also protecting the environment and the public's health, safety and welfare.

LU-10 Consider adopting a property maintenance law that brings together the current requirements for lawn maintenance (Chapter 96) and prohibition on storing or depositing junk and related debris (Chapter 85), and clarify the proper maintenance of structures to provide more protection for community character and to facilitate continued cleanup of stressed properties. In addition, the lawn maintenance requirements should be extended to occupied structures (they currently only apply to vacant properties). Any new regulations must also include clear and predictable processes allowing the Town to remedy violations when responsible parties do not.

LU-11 Consider modifying Chapter 113, Vehicles, Abandoned; to require adequate screening of applicable vehicles from adjacent private properties and/or public rights-of-way.



VACANT BUILDING IN PORT EWEN BUSINESS DISTRICT



INCOMPATIBLE FAÇADE AND BUILDING SETBACK

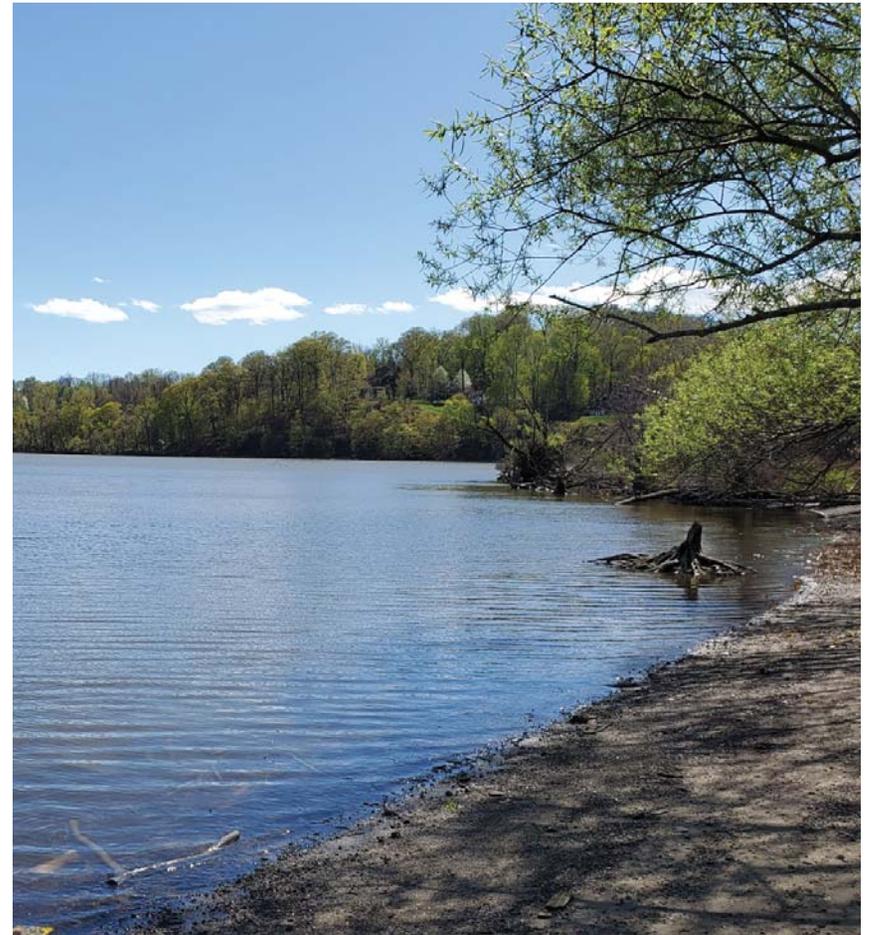
- LU-12 Evaluate options for and establish a standalone noise ordinance, including achievable means of enforcement to ensure the continued health, safety, and welfare of Town residents.
- LU-13 Evaluate existing regulations for protecting the Town’s scenic resources to determine if new or enhanced protections are necessary. Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, provided draft recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan Committee on August 31, 2017 regarding visual assessments, titled: “Possible Zoning Amendment – Visual Assessment Review Standards Brief Overview.” This document should be used as a starting point in the discussion.
- LU-14 Consider the development of architectural and site design guidelines/standards to establish a consistent “look and feel” in the Town’s hamlets and major highway corridors. These standards/guidelines should be guided by an inventory of the Town’s various architectural styles and design characteristics rather than requiring strict adherence to a single architecture style or period. The preparation of design guidelines/standards should address protections for hamlet gateways.
- LU-15 Evaluate opportunities for, and institute solutions to, protect against incompatible development within the Town’s many gateways, particularly the northern gateway into Port Ewen. This effort could be combined with the preparation of hamlet design guidelines and standards. Recommendations for a gateway overlay district were presented to the Comprehensive Plan Committee by Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, dated March 28, 2018 and titled: “[GATEWAY OVERLAY ZONING CONCEPTS: A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE AND SAMPLE REGULATIONS.](#)” This document should be used as a starting point in the consideration of gateway protections.
- LU-16 The Town should assess staffing needs relating to code enforcement duties and determine if current staffing levels are appropriate, or if additional staff is needed to meet the current workload.
- LU-17 Consider a formal Town policy to require future pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure to connect with adjacent and nearby infrastructure at the time of approval when and where feasible, including, but not limited to, regional and town trail systems, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Connections to future planned pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure identified during connectivity studies should also be taken into consideration during applicable project reviews.
- LU-18 In an effort to discourage unnecessary curb-cuts along major corridors, the Town should consider requiring the establishment of cross access and cross parking easements between adjacent properties to decrease automobile dependency and encourage more walking between businesses.
- LU-19 Public and private parking lots should be laid out with both pedestrian and vehicular circulation in mind and be inclusive of sidewalks and crosswalks where applicable.
- LU-20 In the absence of comprehensive sign regulations, the Town should prepare standalone sign regulations to protect community character and facilitate a more consistent theme of signage town-wide.
- LU-21 Billboards should continue to be prohibited and the definition of “Billboard” needs to be revised to cover all such signs, regardless of size.
- LU-22 The Town should evaluate the potential benefits of establishing Purchase of Developments Rights or Transfer of Development Rights programs, to be used to increase density and development opportunities in appropriate areas while preserving sensitive environmental and ecological areas.
- LU-23 Evaluate current regulations to ensure they are not prohibiting or limiting opportunities for desired housing types and density necessary to meet the needs of current and future residents while maintaining the Town’s distinctive community character.

- LU-24 The Town should consider establishing a constitutionally sound definition of “Family” and address residential care facilities in the zoning law update.
- LU-25 The Town should maintain the current allowance for accessory dwellings, while considering increased protections for community character. Specifically, reviews of proposed accessory dwelling units should take into consideration sufficient space for off-street parking and space for garbage/recyclable containers.
- LU-26 Consider preparing and adopting land use regulations related to both small and utility-scaled solar and wind energy collection systems. A memo from Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, titled “First Draft, Solar Regulations” and dated January 22, 2018 was provided to the Comprehensive Plan Committee outlining recommendations for solar regulations. This memo included a draft solar law for the Town’s consideration. These two documents should be taken into consideration during the future zoning update process.
- LU-27 The regulation of additional renewable forms of energy production should be considered, including, but not limited to, geothermal, biomass, and small-scale hydro facilities.
- LU-28 The Town’s land use regulations related to renewable energy should be reviewed periodically to keep pace with advances in technology.
- LU-29 Examine existing land use regulations to ensure compatible commercial and tourism-related businesses are not prohibited or restricted (e.g., hotels, inns, restaurants), especially in the southern portion of Town and areas and along US Route 9W. This evaluation should include the examination of density, bulk, and parking requirements and if those are conducive to currently desired development goals.
- LU-30 A full review of land use regulations in the Town Code should be conducted to ensure there are no conflicting regulations and that they are in full compliance of NYS General Municipal Law and NYS Town Law.
- LU-31 The US Route 9W Overlay District should be re-evaluated to ensure clarity and consistency with current Town development goals.
- LU-32 The Town should consider instituting a bi-monthly status meeting between the Planning and Zoning Board Chairs/Vice-Chairs and the Town Supervisor to review current case load, identify issues that need to be addressed, and opportunities to increase efficiency and performance of each Board.
- LU-33 The Town should revise the current pre-existing, non-conforming requirements to ensure this regulation is not inadvertently prohibiting the reuse of property by allowed uses that would enhance the community and local economic development efforts.
- LU-34 Consider streamlining the project approval process where appropriate and through various options, including, but not limited to establishing a pre-approved project compliance checklist and developing a corresponding “pocket” zoning map.
- LU-35 The Town should encourage the placement of vehicle charging stations at commercial and public locations.
- LU-36 Work closely with residents and business owners within the Hamlet of Esopus during the Town’s zoning update process to reevaluate current land use regulations to ensure any future commercial uses are consistent with the Hamlet’s desired community character and traffic concerns along Rt. 9W are taken into consideration.
- LU-37 Support new compatible development in the Town’s hamlet centers, provided such development is restricted to infill and limited peripheral development in keeping with the scale of the hamlet. Where new development and infill occurs, new structures should be comparable in size and style with existing structures.

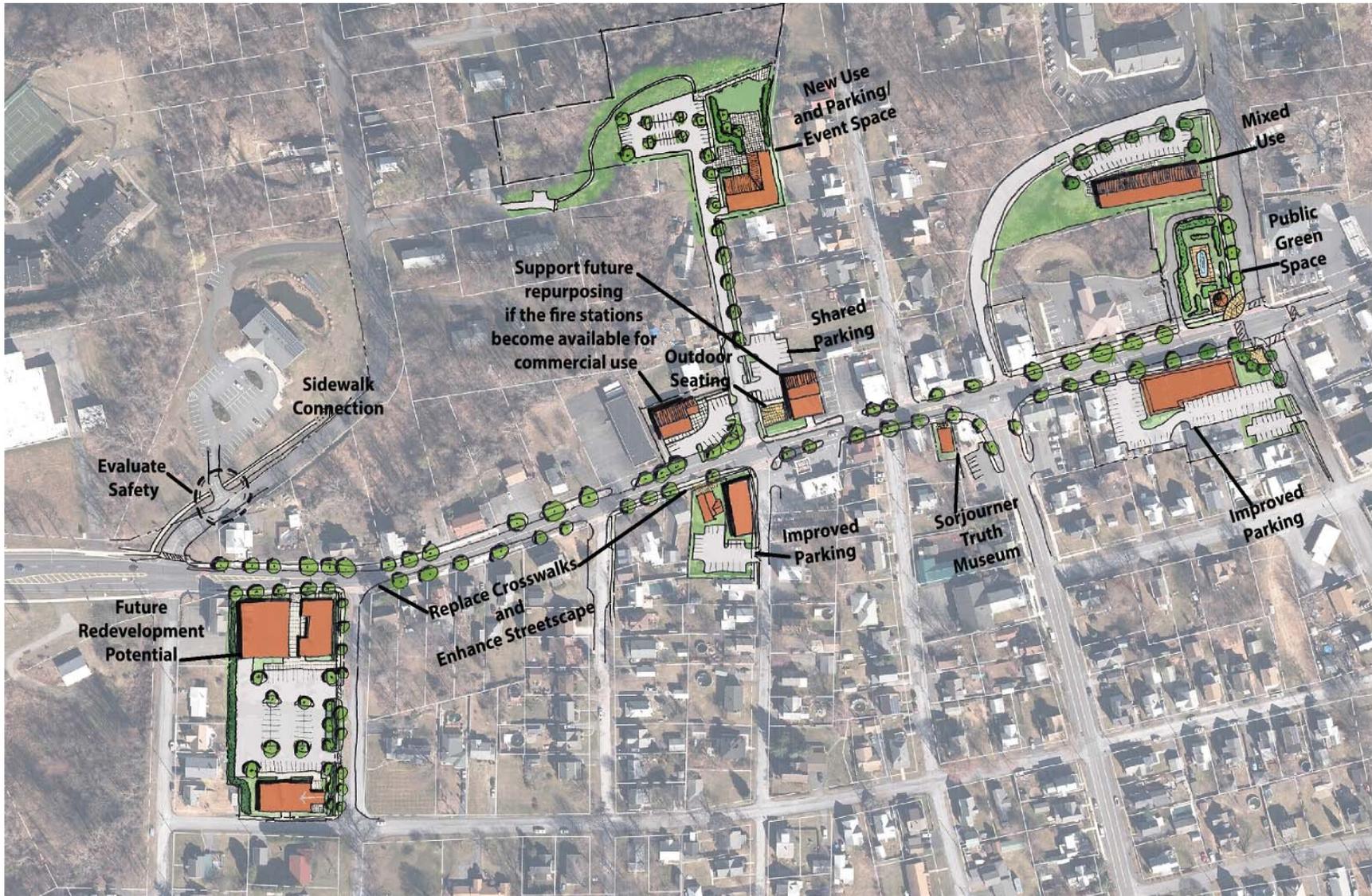
- LU-38 Consider incentive zoning techniques such as density bonuses during subdivisions, to promote water resource protection.
- LU-39 Prevent clear-cutting and protect high-quality intact forests through implementation of best management practices for timber harvesting.
- LU-40 Ensure safe and adequate drinking water resources by protecting aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, and well heads through use of overlay districts.
- LU-41 Protect forested and natural areas along streams and wetlands (“riparian buffers”) as a natural filter and form of protection, and consider watershed overlay zones to protect water resources.
- LU-42 Consider defining, identifying, inventorying, mapping, and designating significant historic, cultural and scenic resources, including, but not limited to landmarks, historic districts, important scenic byways and public viewshed zones. Once identified, historic districts or specified areas within hamlets may be more clearly defined and can shape future regulations within these areas which could be established with recommendations for review standards pursuant to Myles Putman’s August 31, 2017 memo on scenic protections (previously mentioned).
- LU-43 Ensure public notices related to applications before the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards include adequate descriptions of the proposed projects.
- LU-44 Evaluate current surrounding property notification requirements for all projects before the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards to ensure they sufficiently inform property owners that may be affected.
- LU-45 Closely evaluate all allowed commercial/industrial land uses in accordance with the Town’s Zoning regulations (Chapter 123) to determine which uses may no longer be compatible with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, desired community character and future economic development vision, or which may no longer be appropriate in certain Zoning Districts or Town-wide with a focus on low-

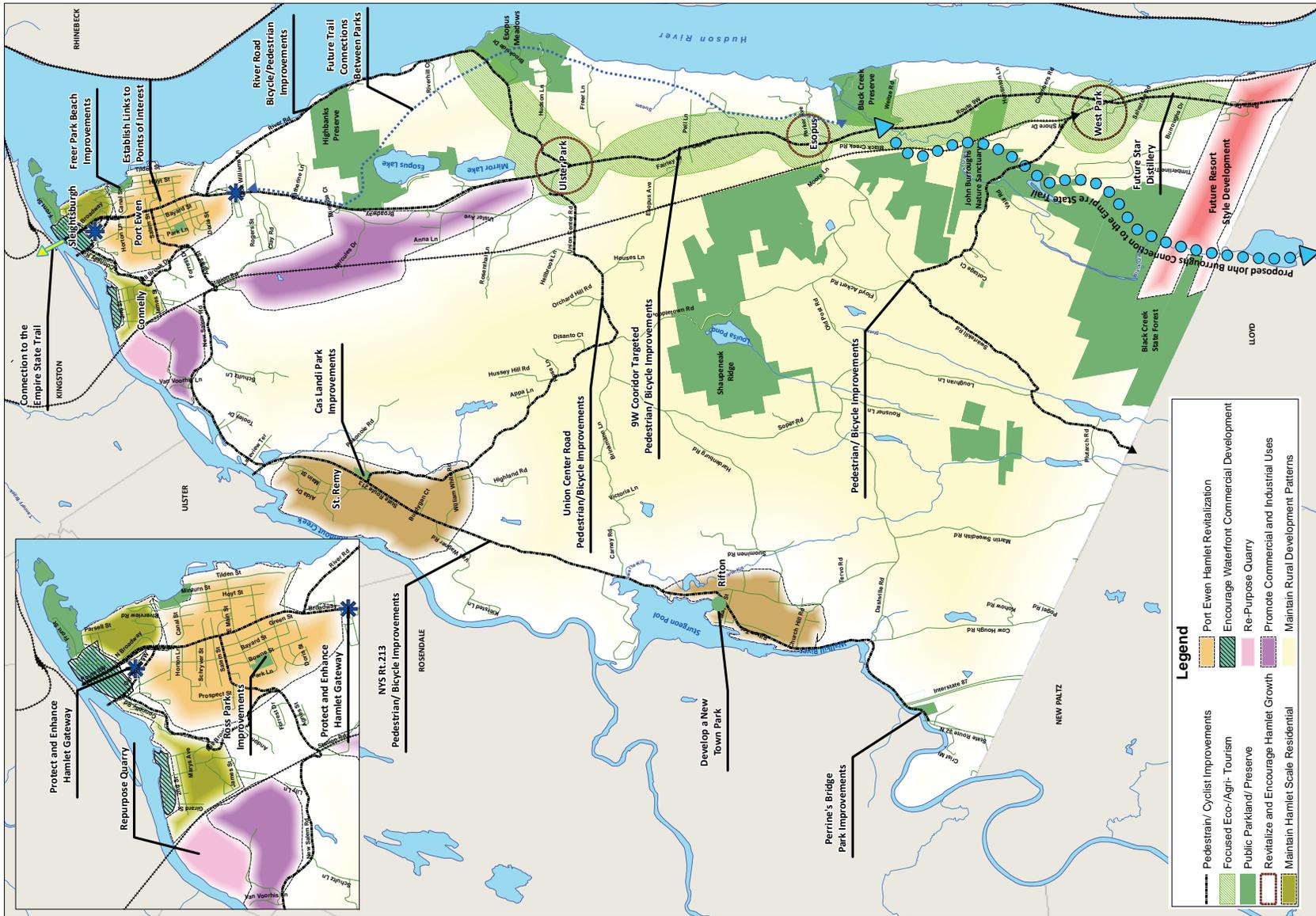
job generating land uses, including, but not limited to, self-storage units, gasoline stations/convenient stores and other similar low-value uses.

- LU-46 Encourage wedding, event, banquet hosting and related businesses in the Town of Esopus and update the Town’s Zoning regulations (Chapter 123) to ensure these uses are allowed in appropriate locations and with appropriate safeguards.



SLEIGHTSBURGH PARK -- SOUTHERN SHORELINE





Town of Esopus
Future Land Use and Projects

0 1 2 Miles

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“I wanted another name... and the Lord gave me Truth, because I was to declare the truth to the people.”

Sojourner Truth (1863)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan sets forth an established program highlighting improvements, development projects, and activities to be undertaken by the Town during the next 5 to 10 years. It is the product of a comprehensive planning process designed to involve Town officials, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders for the purposes of identifying community issues, opportunities, and a vision for the future.

In many ways, the comprehensive planning process has just begun. Completion of the updated Comprehensive Plan is only the first step towards achieving the Town's goals. This section briefly highlights a number of "next steps" that should be undertaken to begin the process of plan implementation and fulfillment, including General Implementation Strategies followed by the detailed Implementation Matrix for the Plans Goals and Recommendations.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Based upon input and dialogue throughout the comprehensive planning process, the following general actions have been identified which should be undertaken by the Town:

- ▶ Adopt and use the Plan on a day-to-day basis;
- ▶ Establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee;
- ▶ Make adjustments to existing Volunteer Boards/Committees;
- ▶ Develop and utilize a Capital Improvements Plan;
- ▶ Continually promote cooperation and participation;
- ▶ Annually prepare a 5-year action plan;
- ▶ Continually explore additional potential funding sources and implementation techniques; and
- ▶ Update the Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis.

ADOPT AND USE THE PLAN ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS

The Comprehensive Plan should become the Town of Esopus' official policy guide for future development and conservation. The Plan provides guidance for coordinating new growth and development, enhancing the local economy, reconnecting to the waterfront, improving recreational opportunities, promoting various housing opportunities, preserving and protecting important existing natural and culture resources, and establishing a strong, positive community identity.

To achieve the goals set-forth, it is essential that the Plan be adopted by the Town of Esopus Town Board and used on a regular basis by Town officials, staff, all Town departments, boards, and committees to guide policy making, budgeting, decision making, and to review, evaluate, and enhance future growth and development proposals within the community in the years ahead. The Comprehensive Plan should also be used as a marketing tool to promote the Town's unique assets and attract new businesses and residents.

ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Without a specific entity or committee charged with overseeing the implementation of a new comprehensive plan, the responsibility generally falls to the governing board and a patchwork of boards and committees with no central direction or person or persons officially responsible for measuring progress. Therefore, it is recommended that the Town establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC). The CPIC can include members of the existing Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) and should continually be enhanced with additional members to ensure an on-going, healthy cross-section of the Town's demographics, business owners, stakeholders, and resident needs and views. Alternatively, the CPIC can be composed of between three and four members, some of which could include chairs of the Town's other committees/boards that are discussed in more detail below under "***Adjustments to Existing Town of Esopus Boards and Committees.***" A

decision on the formal makeup of the CPIC should be made immediately upon the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

While the ultimate charge and responsibilities of the CPIC can be established by the Town Board, the CPIC should be responsible for providing overall guidance and coordination for implementing the recommendations in the Plan, particularly when they involve multiple boards, committees, and departments. In addition, the CPIC should be charged with the following:

- ▶ Develop timetables for various projects and activities recommended by the Plan, taking into account the recommended priorities set-forth in the Implementation Matrix.
- ▶ Provide support to and act as the liaison between the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards, along with Departments and Committees involved in the actual work to implement the strategies, thereby helping Town officials with their roles and responsibilities in the process as needed.
- ▶ Periodically evaluate the continued relevance of the Plan’s major recommendations, advising whether the Town should consider revising them due to economic, demographic, or other changing conditions and circumstances over time.
- ▶ Provide bi-annual status reports to the Town Board (along with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Town’s numerous committees) with respect to progress in implementing the Plan strategies, and the effectiveness of actions undertaken to determine if adjustments to subsequent follow-up recommendations would be appropriate going forward.
- ▶ The CPIC will be the conduit through which any and all amendments to the Plan will be vetted, and shall have the responsibility for making formal recommendations to the Town Board.
- ▶ Beginning in 2025, the CPIC will conduct a formal review and recommend an approach and work plan to update the

Comprehensive Plan.

- ▶ The CPIC will meet internally and communicate with all active boards and committees with sufficient frequency to ensure the Comprehensive Plan remains a “living document.”

ADJUSTMENTS TO TOWN OF ESOPUS BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

In addition to the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards, the Town of Esopus has several volunteer Boards/Committees, each playing integral roles in making the Town a successful community. These Boards/Committees include the following:

- ▶ Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC)
- ▶ Economic Development Committee
- ▶ Environmental Board
- ▶ Recreation Commission
- ▶ Waterfront Advisory Board
- ▶ Water and Sewer Board

In addition to fulfilling their original responsibilities, each of these Boards/Committees will have roles in the Comprehensive Plan implementation process. Therefore, it will be important to ensure each is optimally organized to implement the Plan and carry out their designated duties. The following is an overview of possible adjustments to certain Boards/Committees and a clarification of their role(s) for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC): Upon adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the CPC will take on the responsibility of reviewing and updating the Town’s land use regulations pursuant to the guidance provided within the Comprehensive Plan. As necessary, new CPC members could be identified to assist with land use law updates.

Economic Development Committee (EDC): The Town of Esopus EDC is a volunteer committee that assists existing and prospective businesses in the Town of Esopus. The EDC also works closely with the Ulster County Office of Economic Development which offers an array of business resources, including the administration of a revolving loan fund intended to provide financial assistance to grow existing and help start new businesses in the Town of Esopus.

In reality, this committee is limited in its ability to provide support to existing and potential new businesses due to time constraints as volunteers and the lack of a concrete mission statement, goals and official duties. In addition, the Town lacks a dedicated economic development specialist or similarly-skilled person that could work with the Committee on implementing desired tasks for growing new and existing businesses.

Looking ahead, the Town envisions the EDC becoming more directly involved in business development, including tourism and community beautification, all of which are complimentary elements to economic development. In addition, the EDC will be directly and indirectly responsible for implementing the economic development-related recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan in partnership with other Boards/Committees and stakeholders including the Esopus Business Alliance. Therefore, some adjustments to the EDC will be necessary to ensure they are able to fulfill their various responsibilities.

The first step will be to agree upon a mission statement, goals and responsibilities. A draft mission statement and set of strategic goals are provided here for discussion purposes.

Draft EDC Mission Statement: The Economic Development Committee will facilitate the successful growth and revitalization of existing businesses while attracting new commerce and cultural opportunities that complement the local economic spirit and character, resulting in long-term employment possibilities and a diversified economic base that will further benefit the quality of life enjoyed by all who live and visit the Town of Esopus.

Draft EDC Strategic Goals:

1. Promote growth in property valuation that generates tax revenue exceeding municipal costs, in order to reduce the tax burden on residents and businesses.
2. Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for businesses and tourism and establish and nurture supportive relationships with proposed and existing businesses.
3. Encourage community outreach and support, offer educational opportunities and coordinate/sponsor events to communicate the benefits of economic growth.
4. Improve the Town's quality of life.
5. Engage in ongoing communication with residents to establish desired types of businesses.
6. Promote interaction with local, regional and state agencies.

To better serve the Town of Esopus and implement the Comprehensive Plan, the EDC should consider establishing two subcommittees:

- ▶ **Tourism and Beautification Taskforce:** This taskforce will be responsible for three key items: (1) Enhancing and promoting Town of Esopus tourism through external coordination and marketing; (2) Landscaping/beautification of Town gateways and (3) External marketing of Town events and festivals, in partnership with the Recreation Commission (Parks and Recreation Commission). Tourism marketing-related activities may include, but would not be limited to coordinating the design, preparation and updates of related maps, brochures and related tourism and marketing information. The taskforce will also work with local and regional tourism-related groups and organizations.
- ▶ **Business Development Taskforce:** This taskforce will be responsible for promoting the Town as a destination for businesses, assisting existing and new businesses to succeed including coordination of financial assistance and direct technical

assistance, along with local, regional and state economic development-related agency/organization coordination.

Environmental Board: The Environmental Board's primary responsibility for educating residents and businesses and providing up-to-date information on ways they can save energy, recycle, compost, manage stormwater issues, and utilize the Town of Esopus transfer station.

To enhance the Board's abilities to implement key Comprehensive Plan recommendations and full-fill its mission, the Environmental Board is recommended to establish two subcommittees:

- ▶ **Climate Smart Taskforce:** This group will be responsible for guiding the Town's Climate Smart Community (CSC) certification process and ongoing implementation of CSC initiatives towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing climate at the local level.
- ▶ **Stormwater Taskforce:** This group will be responsible for guiding the preparation of the Town's Stormwater Infrastructure Assessment and Drainage Capital Improvement Plan, guide the plans implementation and identify other opportunities to utilize green infrastructure and other techniques to address stormwater issues.

Recreation Commission: The Recreation Commission is proposed to be renamed the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to better represent their mission, which is to advise the Town Board for the purposes of identification, coordination and systemization of all the Town's recreation needs, including, but not limited to playgrounds, parks, neighborhood recreation centers, events and festivals. The PRC's authority is provided pursuant to Article 13 of the General Municipal Law. The PRC will be responsible for implementing many of the parks and recreation-related recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan in coordination with the Esopus Town Board and other Boards/Committees and Stakeholders and continue to coordinate events and festivals in partnership with the EDC Tourism and Beautification Taskforce.

Waterfront Advisory Board: The Waterfront Advisory Board (WAB) was originally established to advise and assist in the implementation of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), its policies and projects, including physical, legislative, regulatory, administrative and other actions included in the program. The Town will be moving forward with preparing an update to the existing 1987 LWRP and the WAB will serve as the core committee to guide the plan's update. In addition, the WAB will also be responsible for preparing the Town of Esopus Riverfront: Access and Connections Study. The Town received a grant through the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary program to prepare this study which is expected to begin in early 2019.

Water/Sewer Board: The Town of Esopus Water/Sewer Board is comprised of a Board of Water Commissioners who meet on a regular basis and who are held responsible to the Town Board for the general operation of the Port Ewen Water District and to prepare its annual budget and monthly reports. The Board will continue in this capacity and will also be responsible for coordinating the preparation of the Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and other associated special projects.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTS

In addition to the Boards and Committees discussed above, the Town Highway Department, Building Department, Clerk and Assessor will also be involved and have certain responsibilities for implementing relevant Comprehensive Plan recommendations as identified in the Implementation Matrix. Additional specific responsibilities for the Town Clerk and Assessor are as follows:

The Town Clerk will also be working towards improving public services including, but not limited to establishing an E-Payment/Online Payment system along with enhancements to the Town's record management and digitization process.

The Town Assessor will be tasked with long-term evaluations of housing conditions in partnership with the Town Building Department, will main-

tain a database on housing values and assist in coordinating targeted income surveys for the purposes of applying for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).

The Town Supervisor's Office, which includes the Community Development and Outreach Director will be responsible for tracking the status of all awarded grants, ensuring compliance with grant requirements and submitting necessary status reports to applicable grant agencies. This Office will also be responsible for identifying future grant opportunities in coordination with other Town of Esopus Boards, Committees and Departments.

The Supervisor's Office and the Town Board will be the primary responsible entities for guiding the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and ensuring recommendations and projects are moving forward at the agreed upon schedule and relevant resources are provided for successful implementation.

REVIEW AND UPDATE TOWN OF ESOPUS TOWN CODE CHAPTER 123, ZONING AND RELATED LAND USE REGULATIONS

Zoning and related land use controls are important tools in implementing planning policy. It establishes the types of uses to be allowed on specific properties, and prescribes the overall character and intensity of development to be permitted.

Adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan should be followed by a review and update of the Town's various development controls including zoning, subdivision regulations, and other related codes and ordinances. It is essential that all development controls be in accordance with and compliment the new Comprehensive Plan. The CPC will be responsible for guiding updates to the land use regulations.

The Comprehensive Plan sets forth policies and recommendations regarding the use of land within the Town and establishes general guidance for the quality, character, and intensity of new development to be promoted in years ahead. Specific zoning and related land use recommendations have also been provided to guide the Town's land use regulatory update. The

Plan's recommendations should greatly assist the Town in formulating new zoning and development code regulations that can better reflect the unique needs and aspirations of the Esopus community.

DEVELOP AND UTILIZE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP)

The Town should follow the Comprehensive Plan with the preparation of a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) which identifies public improvements and projects that will be carried out over the next five years. The main vehicle for implementing the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations will be the Town's annual budget. As part of the budget planning process, the CIP should be managed within available budget resources.

The CIP typically schedules the implementation of a range of specific projects related to the Comprehensive Plan, particularly the restoration and upgrading of existing utilities and infrastructure facilities, including the water system, sanitary sewers, storms water facilities, the street and sidewalk system and related streetscape enhancements. Improvements to Town parks and recreational facilities should also be taken into consideration in the CIP as well as Town Highway Department trucks, equipment, etc.

PROMOTE COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION

For any plan or program in a community to be successful, there must be strong community support. The Comprehensive Plan incorporates many of the goals and desires identified by Town officials, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders, and is indicative of community support. However, a sense of stewardship must be fostered to ensure the Plan's long-term success and realization. The Town of Esopus should assume the leadership role in implementing the Comprehensive Plan and building support for the Plan among various agencies, organizations, community groups and individuals.

To ensure the Plan is successful, it must be based on support and participation between the Town, other public agencies, various groups and organizations, the local business community and the private sector. The

Town should be the leader in promoting cooperation and collaboration needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan. At a minimum, the Town's partners and supporters should include:

- ▶ Governmental entities and other agencies, such as school districts, private schools, colleges, fire departments, the Sheriff Department and NYS Police, the Esopus library, Ulster County, utility companies, CSX Transportation, and NYSDOT;
- ▶ Regional and local institutions including the Esopus Business Alliance, Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association, and local religious organizations;
- ▶ Local and regional banks and financial institutions which can provide assistance in upgrading existing properties, facilitating desirable new development, and packaging assistance programs for residents and businesses;
- ▶ Builders and developers who should be encouraged to undertake improvements and new construction that conforms to the Plan and enhances overall quality and character of the community; and
- ▶ The Town of Esopus Community – as all residents, business owners, and local organizations should be encouraged to participate in the on-going process, and all should be given the opportunity to voice their opinions on improvement and development decisions within the community.

PREPARE A 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Using the Implementation Matrix provided in this Plan as a starting point, the Town, and more specifically the CPIC, should prepare and annually update an implementation “action agenda” to prioritize objectives, list accomplishments of proceeding years, and highlight improvement and development projects and activities to be undertaken during the next five years. For example, the “action agenda” might consist of:

- ▶ A detailed description of the projects and activities to be undertaken;

- ▶ The priority of each project or activity, including a suggested date of completion (revised annually);
- ▶ An indication of the public and private sector responsibilities for initiating and participating in each activity;
- ▶ Identification of additional possible funding sources and assistance programs that might potentially be available for implementing each project or activity; and
- ▶ In order to remain current, the “action agenda” must be updated annually.

CONTINUALLY EXPLORE POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION TECHNIQUES

While some strategies called for in the Comprehensive Plan can be implemented through administrative and policy decisions, or can be funded through existing budget allocations, other recommendations will require special technical and/or financial assistance.

While the Implementation Matrix below outlines potential funding sources, they should not be considered a full account of opportunities. Funding may be available through partnerships with businesses, other organizations, and non-profit organizations in addition to the normal state and federal sources. In addition, many funding sources vary from year-to-year, with new opportunities arising and existing sources discontinued.

The process by which state and federal funds are distributed varies from year to year and continues to be a competitive environment. As funding becomes available, the Town of Esopus and local partners, including businesses, should be prepared to submit applications. Each year the Town of Esopus should be prepared to apply for annual grants and those that are released periodically throughout the year. Therefore, the Town should continue to explore and consider a wide range of local, county, state, and federal resources and programs that may be available to assist in the implementation of the Plan's strategies.

UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON A REGULAR BASIS

- ▶ It is important to emphasize that the Comprehensive Plan is not a static document. If community attitudes change or new issues arise which are beyond the scope of the current Plan, the Plan should be revised and updated accordingly. Copies of the Plan should be made available to the public through the Town website, library, and other locations where feasible;
- ▶ Provide assistance to the public in explaining the Plan and its relationship to private and public development projects and other proposals, as appropriate;
- ▶ Assist the Town Board in the day-to-day administration, interpretation and application of the Plan; and
- ▶ Maintain a list of current possible amendments, issues, or needs which may be a subject of change, addition, or deletion from the Comprehensive Plan.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Plan's Implementation Matrix identifies initial potential funding sources and possible partners for implementing each Strategy. As several abbreviations are used in the Matrix, please refer to the Abbreviations Key on the following pages.

The Strategies are assigned a recommended timeline for implementation as follows:

- ▶ Short-term: Year 0-2
- ▶ Medium-term: Years 2-5
- ▶ Long-term: 6+ Years
- ▶ Ongoing: Continuously Implement

This implementation plan should be amended and updated annually – in concert with the preparation of the annual budget and CIP – as new actions and strategies are introduced and implemented.



ESOPUS MEADOWS

ABBREVIATIONS

BOLD = Indicates Lead Board/Agency to undertake implementation.

- ▶ Access: Accessibility/ADA Stakeholders
- ▶ CDBG: Community Development Block Grant
- ▶ CH: Central Hudson
- ▶ County: Ulster County
- ▶ CPC: Comprehensive Planning Committee
- ▶ CPC/Z: Comprehensive Planning Committee/Zoning
- ▶ DHS: Department of Homeland Security
- ▶ DOT: NYS Department of Transportation
 - ▶ CHIPS: Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program
 - ▶ TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program
 - ▶ TIP: Transportation Improvement Program
 - ▶ PSAP: Pedestrian Safety Action Plan funding
 - ▶ PaveNY: Pave New York Program
- ▶ DOS: NYS Department of State
 - ▶ BOA: Brownfield Opportunity Act
 - ▶ LGE: Local Government Efficiency
- ▶ EA: Town of Esopus Assessor
- ▶ EB: Town of Esopus Environmental Board
 - ▶ CST: Climate Smart Taskforce
 - ▶ ST: Stormwater Taskforce
- ▶ EDC: Town of Esopus Economic Development Committee
 - ▶ TBT: Tourism and Beautification Taskforce
 - ▶ BDT: Business Development Taskforce
- ▶ EFC: Environmental Facilities Corp.
 - ▶ EPG: Engineering Planning Grant
 - ▶ GIGP: Green Innovation Grant Program
 - ▶ IMG: Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grants Program
 - ▶ WIIA: Water Infrastructure Improvement Act
- ▶ ESD: Empire State Development
 - ▶ GF: ESD Grant Funding
 - ▶ EJP: Excelsior Job Program
 - ▶ MarketNY: Market New York Program
 - ▶ PFS: Planning and Feasibility Study
 - ▶ RestoreNY: Restore New York Program
- ▶ ETB: Town of Esopus Town Board
- ▶ FD: Town Fire Departments/Districts
- ▶ HRVG: Hudson River Valley Greenway
- ▶ HUD: US Housing and Urban Development
- ▶ IDA: Ulster County Industrial Development Authority
- ▶ LWRP: Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
- ▶ NYA&M: New York Agriculture and Markets
- ▶ NYSCA: New York State Council on the Arts
 - ▶ ACI: Arts and Culture Initiatives
 - ▶ ACF: Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program
- ▶ NYSDOT: New York State Department of Transportation
- ▶ NYSERDA: NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
- ▶ NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- ▶ BOA: Brownfield Opportunity Area Program
- ▶ CSC: Climate Smart Community
- ▶ Estuary: Hudson River Estuary program
- ▶ Invasives: Invasives Species Program
- ▶ NANS: Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant
- ▶ VFA: Volunteer Firefighters Assistance
- ▶ WIIA: Water Infrastructure Improvement Act
- ▶ WQIP: Water Quality Improvement Program
- ▶ NYSHCR: New York State Homes and Community Renewal
 - ▶ NSP: Neighborhood Stabilization Program
 - ▶ RARP: Rural Assistance Revitalization Program
- ▶ NYSP: New York State Police
- ▶ OPRHP: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- ▶ EPF: Environmental Protection Fund
- ▶ RT: Recreational Trails program
- ▶ PB: Town of Esopus Planning Board
- ▶ PPP: Public Private Partnerships
- ▶ PRB: Esopus Parks and Recreation Board
- ▶ PTNY: Parks and Trails New York
- ▶ SH: Scenic Hudson
- ▶ UCAT: Ulster County Area Transit
- ▶ UCHP: Ulster County Homeownership Program
- ▶ UCED: Ulster County Economic Development
- ▶ USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
- ▶ WAB: Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board
- ▶ ZBA: Town of Esopus Zoning Board of Appeals

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
Economic Development-Goal 1: Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.				
ED-1	Compile an inventory of suitable sites for business development. Market available commercial and industrial property on the Town's website and through a realtor network. Target specific businesses who may be interested in expanding, relocating, or opening satellite operations in the Town of Esopus.	EDC , IDA, ETB		Ongoing
ED-2	Work with the Ulster Economic Development Alliance and the Office of the Ulster County Executive to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified businesses to develop marketing tools to increase awareness of the Town of Esopus Small Business Loan Fund. Continue to seek future grant funding for economic development projects through other grant sources.	EDC , ETC, County, UCED	ESD-GF, ESD-EJP, ESD-RestoreNY	Ongoing
ED-3	Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands based on resident feedback and encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands, where practical.	EDC , ETB	ESD-GF	Ongoing
ED-4	Develop a plan to identify prospective businesses that align well with what Esopus has to offer. Target and recruit new businesses that can provide goods and services for current and future residents.	EDC , ETB	ESD-PFS	Ongoing
ED-5	Streamline the planning process by creating a pre-approved project compliance checklist, developing a corresponding "pocket" zoning map, and preparing and marketing online a sector-specific (eco/agribusiness and waterfront development) "Guide to Business Opportunities and Development in Esopus" based on the checklist and zoning map.	CPC/Z , EDC, ETB	HRVG	0-2
ED-6	Support the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial sites and buildings as an alternative to the development of greenfields.	CPC/Z , EDC, ETB	ESD-PFS, ESD-RestoreNY, DEC-BOA	Ongoing
ED-7	Strongly advocate for full remediation of contaminated sites, and properties adversely affected by contaminated sites, including, but not limited to the former Kosco Oil site, a suspected brownfield and State Superfund sites such as the Hercules Powder Co./Dyno Nobel inactive hazardous waste site, to levels that would permit all uses allowed within their respective Zoning Districts pursuant to the Town of Esopus Zoning Regulations (Town Code Chapter 123) to ensure that such sites remain economically productive rather than abandoned former commercial properties.	ETB , EDC, , DEC	ESD-GF, ESD-PFS, ESD-RestoreNY, DEC-ERP, DEC-BOA,	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
ED-8	Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to further identify opportunities for business attraction, retention, and expansion based on an assessment of local resources and evaluation of future niche industries. The Strategy should be revisited and revised on a regular basis.	EDC, ETB	ESD-GF, ESD-PFS	0-2
ED-9	The Town of Esopus should consider and help facilitate the establishment of a local/community development corporation or similar entity to assist with and promote economic development with a focus on community revitalization. The authority of this proposed entity may include, but would not necessarily be limited to the following: acquiring property for redevelopment, establishing shovel-ready sites, issuance of loans for new or expanding businesses, marketing/attracting new economic development opportunities, providing workforce training, and assisting with regional economic development coordination, all in accordance with applicable laws.	ETB, EDC,		2-5
Economic Development- Goal 2: Improve the condition and appearance of commercial areas in Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors, and businesses.				
ED-10	Review hamlet business district and waterfront commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted/compatible businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.	CPC/Z, ETB, WAB, PB, ZBA	DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2
ED-11	At appropriate intervals, potential demand/need for future additional off-street public parking areas should be evaluated. If demand for public parking increases, additional municipal parking options should be established with adequate signage and pedestrian connections. In addition, the Town could consider an incentive-based zoning approach to promote shared usage of private parking facilities. Review design guidelines for parking lots (including lighting, locations, and landscaping) in the hamlets to ensure compatibility with character.	ETB, PB, EDC, DOT	ESD-PFS	Ongoing
ED-12	Evaluate period façade and architecture for hamlets and share these findings with business owners and residents. Undertake streetscape improvements and beautification efforts with the goal of a unifying appearance, particularly along the US Rt. 9W corridor. For example, build a budget for landscaping, flowers and shrubs, and lighting to enhance the US Rt. 9W commercial corridor, ensure landscaping does not block customer drive by visibility, support undergrounding of overhead power and telecommunications lines in hamlets	CPC, PB, ZBA, ETB, PPP	NYMS, DOS-LWRP, EFC-GIGP, UCED, PPP	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	to avoid storm outages, and improve appearances in the densest residential locations should state or federal funding arise. Local civic organizations along with businesses and other volunteers could assist with beautification efforts.			
ED-13	Consider a campaign to offer small grants and loans (e.g., \$5,000 to \$30,000) to facilitate commercial building renovations, façade improvements, equipment purchases, and other investments necessary to help start and grow local businesses.	ETB, EDC, ECED	ECED, HUD	Ongoing
ED-14	Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment for visitors in the Port Ewen business district.	EDC, ETP, PPP	PPP	Ongoing
ED-15	Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in business areas and streets in adjoining developments and ensure adequate emergency vehicle access is maintained.	PB, CPC/Z, ETB		Ongoing
Economic Development- Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community’s existing character and quality of life desired by residents.				
ED-16	Prepare a tourism action plan and establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for Ecotourism, Agritourism (including seasonal), Heritage tourism, Waterfront and Recreation. This plan should also include a marketing and branding plan (potentially with the tag line, “From Ridge to River”) to build awareness of local attractions and businesses among residents and visitors.	EDC, ETB, PRC, PPP, SH	DOS-LWRP, ESD-GF, ESD-PFS, NYSCA-ACI, ESD-MarketNY, PPP	2-5/Ongoing
ED-17	Create an up-to-date, user-friendly, attractive PDF map of the Town to show locations of hiking trails, boat launches, nature preserves, local businesses, historic and cultural resources, overnight accommodations, and other features attractions for posting on the Town’s website and placement in local businesses and visitor kiosks. The Town of Esopus website currently includes the Discover Esopus places of interest flyer that identifies key points of interest in the community. This document could be updated or incorporated into a series of maps with clickable links to additional information.	PRC, ETB, EDC, SH, PPP	DOS-LWRP, NYSCA-ACI, ESD-MarketNY, HRVG	2-5/Ongoing
ED-18	Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investment into the community to develop properties in appropriate business areas.	EDC, ETB, UCED, PPP		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
ED-19	Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process and overcoming barriers.	EDC, ETB, UCED		Ongoing
ED-20	Strengthen annual events and consider organizing one or two additional events showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.	PRC, EDC, WAB, ETB, PPP	ESD-MarketNY, NYSCA-ACI	Ongoing
ED-21	Consider potential trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect recreational users with local shops and restaurants.	PRC, PB, ETB, OPRHP, SH	DOS-LWPR, OPRHP-RTP, PTNY, HRVG	2-5
ED-22	Encourage infill along secondary streets to Broadway and re-adaptation of buildings of historic character.	CPC/Z, PB, ETB	ESD-PFS, ESD-RestoreNY, NYMS	Ongoing
ED-23	Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions, including trails, natural areas, and historic sites open to the public, are included in printed materials and on the Town and Ulster County Tourism websites.	EDC, PRC, SH	ESD-MarketNY, DOS-LWRP	Ongoing
ED-24	Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.	BDT, County, ETB, SH		Ongoing
ED-25	Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on US Route 9W at gateways into the Town and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.	TBT, ETB, EDC	DOS-LWRP	2-5
ED-26	Consider establishing a visitor center at the Town's key gateways along US Rt. 9W that provide information about lodging choices, trailhead information, and retail, recreation and dining opportunities. Establish kiosks in Freer, Ross, and Cas Landi parks and forge partnership with Scenic Hudson to enhance trailhead kiosks by providing broader information about the Town.	TBT, WAB, PRC, EDC, SH	ESD-MarketNY, OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP	2-5
ED-27	Undertake a review of signs, both directional and placemaking, throughout the Town. Review local sign ordinances and develop design guidance. Remove duplicates and identify old signs for replacement. Ensure guidelines provide appropriate guidance, aesthetic specificity, and lighting recommendations so that the character of the hamlets are not compromised.	CPC/Z, TBT, ETB, EHD, CPC, PB		Ongoing
ED-28	Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy that encompasses the following elements: maintaining an inventory	ETB, EDC	NYSCA-ACI, ESD-MarketNY	0-2/Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.			
ED-29	Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston Waterfront Coalition, Scenic Hudson, and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly for maritime heritage, and John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/John Burroughs Black Creek Trail for ecotourism.	TBT, BDT, PRC, ETB, WAB, SH, HRMM, JBA	ESD-MarketNY	0-2/Ongoing
ED-30	Increase the Town's recognition of Sojourner Truth through various means, including, but not limited to establishing a Sojourner Truth museum near her statue in Port Ewen, mapping her journey through Esopus and link related destinations along the trail that is accessible via bicycle, automobile and on foot.	TBT, ETB, JBA, PRC	ESD-MarketNY, OPRHP-EPF, NYSCA-ACI	2-5
ED-31	Work with and support the John Burroughs Association in establishing the John Burroughs Interpretive Center.	ETB, TBT, PRC, JBA	OPRHP-EPF, ESD-MarketNY, NYSCA-ACF	0-2
ED-32	Complete the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to the Empire State Trail to the south, Port Ewen to the north and contributes to the Town's economic vitality.	JBA, SH, WAB, PRC, ETB, NYSDEC	OPRHP-RT, OPRHP-EPF, ESD-MarketNY,	0-2
ED-33	Explore the feasibility of establishing a ship building museum in Connelly.	TBT, ETB, PRC	ESD-MarketNY, NYSCA-ACF, ACI	2-5
Economic Development- Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.				
ED-34	Target the development of new, expansion of existing, or relocation of craft beverage businesses to the Town of Esopus.	BDT, ETB, PPP, UCED	ESD-PFS, ESD-MarketNY, ESD-GF, ESD-ESJ	0-2
ED-35	Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, share findings regarding the agriculture focus for the Town, offer loans to improve their products, buildings, and diversification, as well as help them seek additional funding through grants for improvements and resiliency.	BDT, ETB, PPP, UCED	ESD-PFS, HCR-HOME, NYA&M, ESD-GF	0-2
ED-36	Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities such as "u-	CPC/Z, BDT, ETB, PB, NYA&M	HRVG	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	pick” operations, fruit and vegetable stands, farmstays, and wineries to be located wherever agricultural uses are allowed.			
ED-37	Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.	BDT , ETB, UCED, CCE, NYA&M	CCE, ESD-GF, NYA&M	Ongoing
ED-38	Formally establish and market an Agritourism Corridor between West Park and Ulster Park that focuses the areas farms, wineries, and related attractions and integrate marketing with the corridors eco/recreational amenities.	EDC ETB, UECD, NYA&M	ESD-GF, ESD-PFS, ESD-MarketNY	2-5
The Waterfront- Goal: Enhance the Town’s waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town’s waterfront ecology and environment.				
W-1	Encourage compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive, and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh, Port Ewen, and West Park.	CPC/Z , EDC, WAB, EDC, PB, ETB, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, ESD-MarketNY	0-2/Ongoing
W-2	Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in the Town of Esopus with existing tourism and educational resources on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River, including, but not limited to, the Hudson River Maritime Museum.	WAB , BDT, ETB, SH, HRMM	ESD-MarketNY, ESD-GF, ESD-PFS, DOS-LWRP, OPRHP-EPF, HRVG	0-2/Ongoing
W-3	Enhance Freer Beach Park as the Town’s primary destination for waterfront recreation. Refer to the Freer Beach Park Preliminary Improvements Concept Plan depicting the following recommended improvements:	WAB , PRC, ETB, NYSDEC, SH, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, DEC-Estuary, DEC-WQIP, OPRHP-EPF, EFC-GIGP, OPRHP-RT, HRVG	2-5
W-3a	Repair or replace the existing bulkhead or consider designing and constructing a nature-based, natural shoreline to reduce erosion and the occurrences and severity of existing and future flooding, thereby creating a resilient and more adaptable shoreline. Improvements to Freer Beach Park could serve as a NYSDEC Sustainable Shorelines demonstration project.			
W-3b	Construct a permeable/ADA compliant riverfront path with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting (if adequate protection against flooding and sea-level rise can be accomplished through a nature-based, natural shoreline or			

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	similar approach that will result in a more flood and sea level rise resilient shoreline).			
W-3c	Canoe/kayak storage and launch site.			
W-3d	Designated Fishing area.			
W-3e	Improved parking lot.			
W-3f	New combined pavilion and/or enclosed event space.			
W-3g	Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets.			
W-4	Improve Sleightsburgh Park to enhance security and safety, and provide expanded boat launching and recreational opportunities:			
W-4a	Evaluate options for enlarging the parking area and/or altering the existing parking patterns to allow for increased use and safer parking while minimizing impacts on environmental resources.	WAB, PRC, ETB, NYSDEC, SH, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, DEC-Estuary, DEC-WQIP, OPRHP-EPF, EFC-GIGP, OPRHP-RT, HRVG	2-5
W-4b	Upgrade and expand launching facilities.			
W-4c	Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting the park including widening the access road, providing pull off locations to allow vehicles to pass, or installing a traffic light system.			
W-4d	Evaluate the existing trail system to determine if the trails should be repaired/expanded in key areas to provide access for fishing and sightseeing opportunities, or, officially close the trails due to safety concerns.			
W-4e	Consider and implement measures to improve the Park's security, including, but not limited to installing security cameras, strictly enforcing the Park's hours of operation and maintain ongoing communications with the Ulster County Sheriff's Department to ensure they are aware of the Park's rules and their enforcement obligations.	ETB, PRC, UCS	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP	Immediate/Ongoing
W-5	Identify opportunities for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets of Ulster Park, Esopus and West Park and a car-top boat launch facility at the Black Creek Preserve (including Scenic Hudson's recent acquisition, Winding Brook Acres) and Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Preserves.	WAB, PRC, ETB, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, DEC-Estuary, OPRHP-EPF, OPRHP-RT, HRVG	0-2/Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
W-6	Evaluate potential opportunities and implement feasible options to enhance public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and establish new access opportunities in Connelly including, but not limited to, a new waterside park and designated areas for restaurant dining and recreation. Primary focus areas along the Rondout Creek could include, but should not be limited to Certified Marina and Town-owned lands in Connelly along with Town-owned lands, roads and buffer areas around Sleightsburgh Park within the Hamlet of Sleightsburgh.	WAB , PRC, ETB, EDC, PPP, DEC, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, DEC-Estuary, DEC-BOA, OPRHP-EPF, HRVG	0-2
W-7	Encourage and facilitate repurposing of one or more marinas in Connelly and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dining, entertainment opportunities, and residential development in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities.	ETB , WAB, PRC, EDC, PPP, DEC, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, EFC-Estuary, OPRHP-EPF	0-2
W-8	Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town's water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to connect into the City of Kingston water supply (see Infrastructure Goals and Recommendations).	EWSD , WAB, PRC, ETB, EDC, DEC, SH,	EFC-WIIA, EFC-IMG, CDBG, DOS-LGE	2-5
W-9	Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.	PRC , ETB, WAB, CH	OPRHP-EPF, DEC-LWRP, HRVG	0-2
W-10	Improve the Town of Esopus Perrine's Bridge Park, including mitigation of flooding, improvements to the parking area and pedestrian crossing of NYS Rt. 213 with proper signage and designated canoe and kayak launch facilities. Connect with the County's Perrine Bridge area to the north with additional improvements to enhance visitor experiences and safety.	WAB , ETB, PRC, DOT, County	OPRHP-EPF, DEC-LWRP, HRVG	2-5
W-11	Ensure existing and future development along shorelines adequately address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices, shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.	CPC/Z , WAB, ETB, PB, ZBA, SH	DOS-LWRP, DEC-Estuary, CSC, EFC-GIGP,	0-2/Ongoing
W-12	Prepare an update to the Town's 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to establish a revised long-term plan for the protection and enhancement of water resources, address sea level rise and increase resiliency, and to properly plan for economic revitalization and recreational opportunities along the shoreline and in the Town's key waterfront Hamlets. In addition, the LWRP update should consider expanding the scope of the	WAB , ETB, PRC, CPC, SH	DOS-LWRP	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	shoreline areas not previously included in the first LWRP, aligning and comparing LWRP land use policies with actual land use of the properties along the waterfront, and defining the Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board's (WAB) authority/zoning jurisdiction for areas that are zoned "Waterfront," among additional components and analyses.			
W-13	As the Town seeks to enhance public access and use of the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, there will be an increasing need to provide adequate responses for in-water emergencies. Therefore, in coordination with local and regional emergency services departments, the Town should explore funding and designated access points for one or more water rescue boats.	ETB, WAB, PRC, FD, UCS	DHS, DOS-LWRP	2-5
Parks and Recreation: Goal 1: Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels and accessible to the greatest extent possible				
PR-1	Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance, adequacy of amenities meeting current and future community needs and ensuring each park is accessible and provides recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.	PRC, WAB, ETB, EHD	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2/Ongoing
PR-2	Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town parks, to complement existing features and create a greater attraction to park locations.	PRC, WAB, ETB, EHD, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, HRVG,	2-5/Ongoing
PR-3	Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks, with existing tourism and educational resources.	PRC, WAB, ETB, EHD, SH, PPP, JBA	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, ESD-MarketNY, NYSCA, HRVG,	0-2/Ongoing
PR-4	Continue to maintain, through established maintenance planning, all Town parks and associated facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.	PRC, WAB, ETB, EHD, SH	OPRHP-EPF, DOS-LWRP, HRVG,	Ongoing
PR-5	Seek to make direct connections from the Hamlet of Port Ewen to the Empire State Trail in the City of Kingston via US Rt. 9W, and construct new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to ensure safe and efficient connections by all ability and skill levels.	ETB, PRC, DOT, WAB, EHD, Kingston	OPRHP-RT, DOT-TAP, TIP, PTNY, HRVG, HRVG	2-5

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
PR-6	Collaborate with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association and additional relevant stakeholders to complete the implementation of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Plan and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to other park/preserve lands, roads and trails, including the Sojourner Truth Trail, the Empire State Trail to the south, and Port Ewen and the Empire State Trail in Kingston to the north in order to contribute to the Town's economic vitality through tourism.	ETB, PRC, WAB, SH, DEC, JBA	OPRHP-RT, DOT-TAP, HRVG	2-5
PR-7	Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new indoor/outdoor Town multipurpose recreational facility that meets the needs of residents and athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside the Town of Esopus. Potential locations include the area behind Town Hall and the vacant former ball fields on Mountain View Road.	PRC, ETB, EHD, PPP	OPRHP-EPF, HUD, USDA	2-5
PR-8	Consider the feasibility of constructing a Town pool facility in a current park or other site. The pool could be combined with a future recreational facility. Alternatives to a municipal pool include seeking cooperative agreements/partnerships with private condominium/residential developments or other private developments to use their pool and/or the development of a 'river pool' that would be more cost effective and movable.	ETB, PRC, EHD, WAB, PPP	OPRHP-EPF, USDA, HUD	6+
PR-9	Consider the establishment of a community park in Rifton with the site of the former Rifton Fire Station on Maple Street, as a potential location.	PRC, ETB, EHD	OPRHP-EPF, HRVG,	2-5
PR-10	Ross Park Improvements: Properly plan for and enhance Ross Park as depicted on the Ross Park Preliminary Improvements Concept Plan (located at the end of these Recommendations) including, but not limited to the following:	PRC, ETB, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF	0-2
PR-10a	Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage rate of the current pavilion.			
PR-10b	Build a Splash-Pad area that could be converted into an ice rink in the winter months.			
PR-10c	Improve aesthetics in the park through planned landscaping.			
PR-10d	Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard Street.			
PR-10e	Make improvements to the current parking lot area on the corner of W. Stout Avenue and Browne Street.			

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
PR-10f	Improve basketball, baseball, and tennis court facilities.			
PR-10g	Add parking stall lines for the parking area on W. Stout Street along the southern border of the park, ensure new parking configuration is inclusive of accessible parking spaces.			
PR-10h	Correct the drainage issue and instances of standing water at the base of the hill, in the western portion of the Park.			
PR-10i	Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.			
PR-11	Cas Landi Park Improvements: Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:			
PR-11a	Create an accessible walking trail or track.	PRC, ETB, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF	2-5
PR-11b	Add permanent bathroom facilities.			
PR-11c	Repair deficiencies and revitalize tennis and basketball courts as needed.			
PR-11d	Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.			
PR-12	Enhance Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park with the following improvements:			
PR-12a	Add restroom facilities.	PRC, ETB, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF	2-5
PR-12b	Extend chain-link fence along the entirety of Park Lane.			
PR-12c	Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.			
PR-13	Enhance James Rieker Park with the following improvements:			
PR-13a	Relocate basketball court to a more visible location and to provide an additional hoop.	PRC, ETB, EHD,	OPRHP-EPF	2-5
PR-13b	Provide an improved playground surface.			
PR-13c	Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.			
PR-14	Enhance Perrine's Bridge Park with the following improvements:			
PR-14a	Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.	PRC, WAB, ETB, EHD, County	OPRHP-EPF, HVGR, DOS-LWRP	2-5
PR-14b	Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town's park to the County's covered bridge to the north.			
PR-14c	Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Walkkill River.			

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
Natural Resources and Environment – Goal 1: Inventory and monitor significant habitats, landscape features and land use patterns.				
NR-1	Consider developing a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) with NYSDEC and other stakeholders to understand the full extent of natural habitats within the Town of Esopus, assist with identifying and assessing impacts from potential land use development, and to identify recommendations to better inform land use planning decisions.	EB, CPC, WAB, PB, ETB, DEC, SH	HRE-LSP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2
NR-2	In coordination with the preparation of the NRI, the Town should consider preparing an Open Space Plan towards understanding locations of and opportunities for preserving and connecting open spaces with natural habitats and habitat corridors, recreational areas and scenic views.	EB, CPC, WAB, ETB, DEC, SH	HRE-LSP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2
NR-3	Consider providing the Environmental Board with the authority to review and assess development plans in accordance with any adopted goals, policies and regulations, derived from the NRI and Open Space Plan.	ETB, CPC/Z, EB, PB, WAB	HRVG, DOS-LWRP, HRE-LSP	2-5
Natural Resources and Environment – Goal 2: Conserve and promote sustainable aquatic and inland water natural resources.				
NR-4	Use Scenic Hudson’s ‘Protecting the Pathways’ interactive map to assess those habitats and shorelines under threat of inundation and erosion by sea level rise (SLR), wave action and storm surge and to assess the possible zones for tidal wetland preservation and migration in the face of SLR in the Hudson River (www.scenichudson.org/slr/mapper).	WAB, ETB, PRC, EHD, EWSB, Estuary		0-2
NR-5	Evaluate the benefits for and if practical, pursue designation of Black Creek as a Wild River, a state designation that might enhance its appeal as a tourist destination, while helping to preserve its quality and natural character.	WAB, PRC, ETB, CPC, SH, NYSDEC	DOS-LWRP	2-5
NR-6	Prevent dumping in streams to promote community pride, natural beauty, environmental quality and tourism potential.	ETB, EBD, UCS, EHD	N/A	Ongoing
NR-7	Protect steep slopes from erosion that can degrade water quality and increase flooding risk.	PB, CPC/Z, EHD, ETB, WAB, EB	N/A	Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
Natural Resources and Environment – Goal 3: Conserve and promote natural habitat connections across the landscape to help maintain healthy populations of native plants and animals, and their ability to move across the landscape as needed.				
NR-8	Protect large, contiguous tracts of natural habitat.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, PB, DEC	HRE-LSP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2, Ongoing
NR-9	Preserve connections between natural habitats on adjacent properties.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, PB, NYSDEC, SH	HRE-LSP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2, Ongoing
NR-10	Consider restoring and maintaining appropriate buffer zones of natural vegetation along streams, shores of water bodies and wetlands, and at the perimeter of other sensitive habitats.	ETB , CPC/Z, EB, PB, DEC, SH, Estuary	HRE-LSP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	0-2, Ongoing
NR-11	Where practical, preserve natural disturbance process such as fires, floods, tidal flushing, seasonal drawdowns, landslides, and wind exposures wherever possible – processes are vital to maintaining habitats that support healthy plant, fish, and wildlife populations.	ETB , EB, WAB, DEC, Estuary, SH		Ongoing
NR-12	Restore degraded habitats wherever feasible.	ETB , EB, WAB, DEC, Estuary, SH		Ongoing
NR-13	Promote redevelopment of brownfields, post-industrial sites, and other previously-altered areas instead of modifying existing habitats in undeveloped areas.	ETB , CPC, EBD, DEC	NYSDEC-BOA	Ongoing
Natural Resources and Environment – Goal 4: Conserve and promote healthy forests and wildlife.				
NR-14	Prevent clearcutting within intact, high-quality and mature forests to preserve existing forest habitats.	CPC/Z , ETB , EBD, EB, WAB, DEC, SH		Ongoing
NR-15	In partnership with NYSDEC, applicable landowners and the general public, consider implementing a Deer Management Program to ensure healthy populations of deer that support recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing, hunting, and photography, among others while avoiding negative impacts to forest growth and gardens.	ETB , DEC, CPC, EB, SH		2-5

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
NR-16	Assess invasive upland plant and forest pest issues in Town, including impacts to forests and other habitats. The Town's approach to invasive species should be prioritized to species that most negatively impact forest health and recreational opportunities.	EB , ETB, CPC, WAB, PRC, SH, NYSDEC	NYSDEC-IS, HRVG, DOS-LWRP	2-5
NR-17	Gain an understanding of which rare or threatened species are present in Town, and how to preserve them and their habitats effectively with minimal impacts to economic development and opportunity.	EB , WAB, CPC, ETB, NYSDEC, SH	HRVG, DOS-LWRP	2-5
Housing- Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.				
H-1	Support the provision of housing in the Town to meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs, where appropriate.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB	CDBG, HCR-HOME, HCR-RARP, UCHP	Ongoing
H-2	Continue to focus future dense residential growth within Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly and northern sections of Ulster Park, where existing water and sewer infrastructure are provided.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, ZBA		Ongoing
H-3	Conduct regular evaluations of the Town's land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing opportunities are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals for including mixed-uses and market-rate multi-family dwellings.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, ZBA	HRVG	0-2/Ongoing
H-4	Promote and encourage additional attractive and affordable senior living facilities for local residents which will help free up existing housing for new residents, young families and others seeking to own their own home.	CPC/Z , ETB, CPC	CDBG, HCR-HOME, HCR-RARP, HCR-NYMS, UCHP	Ongoing
H-5	Continue to allow and encourage appropriately constructed accessory dwellings while making sure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts on neighborhoods are avoided.	CPC/Z , EBD, ETB, PB, ZBA		Ongoing
H-6	Identify and collaborate with state, local and/or regional community based housing organizations to leverage their expertise and resources.	ETB , UCHP, RUPCO, HCR, HUD		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
Housing-Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.				
H-7	Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation programs in the Town of Esopus (i.e., Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)).	ETB	CDBG, HCR-HOME, HCR-NYMS, HCR-RARP, HCR-NSP, RUPCO	Ongoing
H-8	Conduct targeted income surveys beginning in the Hamlets of Connelly and Port Ewen to support the Town's efforts of securing applicable grants for housing improvements and community revitalization projects including sidewalks, water, and sewer improvements.	ETB, EDC, EHD	CDBG, HCR-HOME, HCR-NYMS	0-2/Ongoing
H-9	Continue to enforce existing property maintenance-related regulations and consider preparing and adopting a Town property maintenance law that clearly identifies what is prohibited and includes sufficient processes to remedy violations.	EBD, CPC, ETB,		Ongoing
H-10	Consider educational outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings as an additional effort to encourage increased property maintenance and enhancements to overall community character.	ETB, EBD, EHD		Ongoing
H-11	Implement an annual cleanup day allowing residents to bring junk and other debris to the Town's transfer station at no cost. In addition, the Town could arrange to pick up junk and other debris from residents who are not able to reach the transfer station.	ETB, EHD, EBD, EDC		Ongoing
H-12	Conduct a detailed inventory of key neighborhoods with dilapidated structures, property maintenance, and other code issues. The purpose of this effort will be to obtain a baseline inventory of properties with existing code violations as well as existing conditions of structures, including those that are vacant, abandoned, or dilapidated and in need of corrective actions. Property maintenance issues, unlicensed vehicles and other issues that may be adversely impacting community and neighborhood character and overall quality of life will also be inventoried.	ETB, EBD	HCR-NYMS, HCR-NSP	2-5/Ongoing
H-13	Consider adopting a rental property/landlord registry that would allow the Town to more efficiently contact landlords when there are building code violations, complaints and other concerns that require contact with building owners. The	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD, FD/TEVAS		0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	registry will be another tool to improve community character, building conditions, and quality of life for residents and business owners.			
H-14	Support and encourage the development of neighborhood organizations that promote civic activities and empower residents to maintain their properties and patrol neighborhood (i.e., National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, etc.)	ETB, County, UCS, NYSP		Ongoing
H-15	Support and help connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents obtain suitable housing, make home repairs (i.e., Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, RUPCO), and secure provision of other services such as shoveling and yardwork that could be accomplished by local volunteer groups.	ETB, Habitat, RUPCO	RUPCO, CDBG, HCR-HOMES, HCR-RARP, UCHP	Ongoing
H-16	The potential for town-wide and personal economic benefits of residential short-term rentals through online platforms and other means must be balanced with the protection of community character and public safety. Therefore, the Town should continue evaluating reasonable options for allowing short-term rentals while ensuring neighborhood impacts are avoided and emergency services personnel are aware of which structures are rentals and the approximate number of tenants in each. In addition, the consideration of short-term rental regulations should include stakeholders that would be directly impacted by new the requirements.	CPC/Z, ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
H-17	Acknowledging the growing popularity of the small house movement, the Town should evaluate regulatory options for allowing smaller-sized homes in an effort to increase access to housing for all income levels and needs.	CPC/Z, ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
H-18	Seek the removal of existing bus shelters that are not in sight of the main transit corridors and those that are now located in standing water.	ETB, EBD, EHD		0-2
Pedestrian Safety and Traffic- Goal 1: Provide an efficient, safe, accessible and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs. This system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.				
PS-1	Conduct a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and complete streets analysis. A critical component to fully understanding walking and bicycling	ETB, PRC, EHD, DOT	HRVG, DOT-PSAP	2-5

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	conditions in the Town of Esopus is to first understand the existing environment and provision of accommodations for non-motorized users of all ages and abilities. The study would include a comprehensive inventory of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related safety issues within and between each Hamlet and other key destinations. The purpose should be to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to meet the Comprehensive Plan's goals of efficient and safe access for all.			
PS-2	Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the shoulders of NYS Rt. 213 for safer bicycle use and designating the route as a formal State Bike Route from Rifton with an eventual connection to Port Ewen.	ETB , DOT, EHD	DOT-TIP, TAP, PSAP	2-5
PS-3	Explore with NYSDOT, Kingston Land Trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge into Port Ewen and over to Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.	ETB , DOT, EHD, KLT, SH, PRC, WAB	OPRHP-RT, DOT-TIP, TAP, HRVG	0-2
PS-4	Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from adjacent property owners to the Town of Esopus.	ETB , EHD, EBD		2-5
PS-5	Prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan in Port Ewen to allow the Town to adequately budget for needed improvements. The goal of the plan will be to expand the quality and continuity of the pedestrian network by identifying sidewalks in poor condition, establishing a scheduled repair program, identifying and prioritizing gaps in sidewalks, and enhancing the number and quality of pedestrian crossings. Where feasible, the construction of new sidewalks and the repair of existing sidewalks could incorporate the burying of overhead utility lines.	ETB , EHD, EBD	CDBG, DOT-TIP, TAP	2-5
PS-6	Encourage placement of bicycle racks at key locations in Town, including in front of local businesses and public facilities as appropriate and feasible.	TBT , ETB, EDC, PRC, EHD	DOT-TAP	Ongoing
PS-7	Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and/or a separated pedestrian trail/bicycle lane along the US Rt. 9W arterial connecting Port Ewen and the rest of the Town of Esopus to Kingston and the Greenline Trail/future Empire Trail.	ETB , EHD, DOT	CDBG, DOT-TIP, TAP, PSAP, HRVG	2-5

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
PS-8	Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and establish a formal State Bike Route along US Rt. 9W that would connect the Town's numerous hamlets, parks and recreational amenities and other attractions with the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, the Walkway over the Hudson State Historic Park, the Empire State Trail and potential future bike loop of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail.	ETB , PRC, TBT, DOT, EHD	CDBG, DOT-TIP, TAP, HRVG	2-5
PS-9	Work with the Town of Lloyd, Ulster County, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association, and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail partners to identify, establish, sign and promote bicycle connections along Floyd Ackert Road and Swartekill Road with the goal of creating a bicycle loop connecting the Empire State Trail/Hudson Valley Rail Trail with the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/Slabsides and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail destinations as well as the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park.	CPC , PRC, WAB, TBT, ETB, SH, NYSDOT,	HRVG, DOS-LWRP, OPRHP-RTP, DOT-TIP, TAP, PSAP	0-2
PS-10	Consider constructing designated pedestrian connections to Freer Park Beach from Minturn and Tilden Streets.	WAB , ETB, PRC, WAB, EHD	HRVG, DOT-TIP, TAP, PSAP	0-2
PS-11	Coordinate with NYSDOT to begin the process of seeking speed limit reductions on portions of US Rt. 9W and NY Rt. 213.	ETB , DOT, UCS, NYSP		0-2
PS-12	Routinely coordinate with the Ulster County Sheriff and NYS Police for updates on incidents of speeding and traffic accidents, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists to begin identifying and confirming key areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety. In addition, this will help establish a working relationship with each police agency with respect to speed enforcement and traffic safety, a key issue identified by the public.	ETB , UCS, NYSP, EHD, FD, TEVAS		Ongoing
PS-13	Prepare and adopt a "complete streets" policy for new projects. A complete streets policy requires that new applicable development projects plan for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit as well as private vehicles.	CPC , ETB, EHD, PB, EBD		2-5
PS-14	Continue working closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions, especially those that directly affect the Town of Esopus.	ETB , CPC, DOT, UCTC		Ongoing
PS-15	Encourage the Planning Board to recommend and/or require new developments to include sidewalks, pedestrian paths, bike lanes, trails, and	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EHD		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	connections to surrounding destinations which will assist the Town in establishing a truly connected community.			
PS-16	Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of US Rt. 9W, North Broadway, and Old US Rt. 9W, with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right/left-hand turn lanes.	ETB, DOT	DOT-PSAP, TAP, TIP	0-2
PS-17	Encourage Ulster County to evaluate options for increased access to public transportation throughout the Town, with a focus on US Rt. 9W.	ETB, County		Ongoing
PS-18	Strongly encourage NYSDOT to conduct a safety analysis of the Rt. 9W corridor through Town, with a focus on key intersections and in the Hamlets along the corridor.	ETB, DOT, EHD	DOT-PSAP	0-2
PS-19	Request that NYSDOT replace the deteriorating crosswalks in Port Ewen with highly visible, low maintenance crosswalks.	ETB, HD, DOT	DOT-PSAP, SRTS, TAP, DOS-LWRP	0-2
Community Services and Infrastructure- Goal 1: Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality, efficient, accessible, and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure, and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.				
CS-1	Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long term capital maintenance needs for Town buildings and facilities including, but not limited to, Highway Department facilities and equipment, Town Hall, and transfer station.	ETB, EHD, EWSB, EB	DOS-LGE, DEC-CSC, DEC-WQIP, USDA	2-5
CS-2	Prepare and implement a long-term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan, including the consideration of future costs and opportunities for funding.	EWSB, ETB,	DOS-LGE, EFC-EPG	2-5
CS-3	Evaluate the feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston municipal water system.	EWSB, ETB, Kingston	DOS-LGE, EFC-IMG, HUD	2-5
CS-4	Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions for existing development in areas with challenging geographic and soil conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal, including, but not limited to the Hamlet of Rifton. The extension of water and sewer infrastructure should also be considered to accommodate desired future growth.	ETB, EWSB	CDBG	6+

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
CS-5	Inventory and map all roads and signage in the Town of Esopus using a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping platform and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of water/sewer mains and piping as feasible.	ETB, EHD	DOT-CHIPS	Ongoing
CS-6	Advocate for repaving the entire US Rt. 9W corridor through Port Ewen, the undergrounding of all utility lines, and the enhancement of all crosswalks including converting them to low maintenance paint at that time.	ETB, DOT, EHD	DOT-TIP, TAP, PSAP, CH	Ongoing
CS-7	Review the Town's current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing, and plowing/clearing of all sidewalks.	ETB, EHD, EBD		0-2
CS-8	Continue close coordination with and support of the Town's Fire Departments and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad with respect to seeking volunteers, identifying opportunities for sharing services and utility costs, repairing and replacing existing facilities, and cooperatively pursuing grant funding for equipment, vehicles, facilities, training, and other needs.	ETB, FD, TEVAS	DHS, DEC-VFA, DOS-LGE	Ongoing
CS-9	Support the St. Remy Fire Department's need to construct a new fire station to better serve the residents and businesses of the Hamlet.	ETB, FD	DHS, DEC-VFA, DOS-LGE	0-2
CS-10	The Town will continue coordination with the U.S. Postal Service to find a permanent home for a new Post Office in Port Ewen.	ETB, USPS		Ongoing
CS-11	The Town will continue to advocate for and provide information to residents and business on how to request curbside mail delivery.	ETB, USPS		Ongoing
CS-12	The Town should continue to explore opportunities for shared services with the City of Kingston, Town of Lloyd, Town of Saugerties, and other nearby communities where feasible and beneficial for all involved.	ETB, City of Kingston, Town of Lloyd	DOS-LGE	Ongoing
CS-13	Explore opportunities to enhance and expand the reach of Esopus Community TV 23 in partnership with surrounding communities.	ETB, City of Kingston, Surrounding Communities		Ongoing
CS-14	Evaluate opportunities for improving the Town's transfer station to meet the needs of residents and consider options for enhancing and expanding recycling in the Town of Esopus.	EB, EHD, ETB	DEC-CSC	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
CS-15	Continual evaluate opportunities to enhance accessibility and ensure ADA compliance of all Town properties and buildings.	ETB, Access		Ongoing
CS-16	Approach the Kingston Consolidated Central School District to discuss options for a joint project to better utilize the Ana Devine School and surrounding property.	ETB, PRC, EHD	DOS-LGE, OPRHP-EPF	0-2
Community Services and Infrastructure- Goal 2: Protect the natural infrastructure of the Town of Esopus, to ensure that surface waters and groundwater are maintained or improved to provide humans and wildlife safe and adequate supplies of freshwater, now and into the future.				
CS-17	Continue to support the Town of Esopus Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary. Upon completion of the analysis and prioritization of needed improvements, the Town should pursue necessary funding and begin implementing required improvement and restoration projects.	ETB, EHD, SH	DEC-Estuary	0-2
CS-18	Continue implementing the Town's MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews to ensure full compliance.	EBD, ETB, EHD, EB	DEC-WQIP	Ongoing
CS-19	Conduct a vulnerability assessment of the Town's infrastructure and waterfront parks to evaluate risks associated with anticipated sea level rise, storm surge and tributary flooding along both the Hudson and Rondout waterfronts, and identify appropriate options and strategies to protect these resources. This assessment should be part of the recommended facilities management plan (CS-1).	WAB, PRC, EHD, EWSB, ETB	HRVG, DOS-LWRP, EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC	2-5
CS-20	Promote the protection and improvement of Hudson River water quality through intermunicipal Drinking Water Source Protection efforts in collaboration with government agencies at all levels.	ETB, EWSB, EB		Ongoing
CS-21	Protect small wetlands (not subject to NYSDEC and/or US Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction), which prevent flooding by acting as natural sponges to absorb stormwater, and reduce pollution by absorbing and filtering certain contaminants.	CPC/Z, ETB, PB, EBD, WAB, EB		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
CS-22	Continue to participate in intermunicipal coalitions to comply with stormwater regulations, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques.	ETB, EWSB, EHD, WAB, NYSDEC	EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC, WQIP, NANS, DOS-LWRP	Ongoing
CS-23	Where practical, seek to achieve zero increase in runoff from new developments and re-developments, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques.	ETB, PB, CPC/Z, EHD, EBD, WAB, EB	HRVG, DOS-LWRP, EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC	Ongoing
CS-24	Ensure catch-basins and other stormwater infrastructure is maintained to prevent unnecessary stormwater-associated pollution and to reduce the risk of flooding.	EHD, ETB, EBD, EB		Ongoing
CS-25	Evaluate options to update engineering design standards to incorporate increasing precipitation intensities anticipated as extreme weather events occur with greater frequency.	CPC/Z, EBD, ETB, EHD, PB	HRVG, DOS-LWRP, EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC	2-5
CS-26	Encourage volunteers to set up and implement water quality sampling and monitoring programs to fill gaps and augment existing programs while providing metrics for measuring implementation of water resource protection goals.	EB, WAB, NYSDEC, SH, RK	DEC-WAVE, HRVG	Ongoing
CS-27	When and where feasible, restore eroded stream banks, reconnect tributary streams, and restore or enhance floodplains to restore water quality and prevent downstream flooding along the Plantasie Kill.	EHD, EB, WAB, ETB, DEC	DEC-Estuary, EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC, WQIP, DOS-LWRP, HRVG	Ongoing
CS-28	When and where feasible, enhance water quality and prevent erosion by seeding grasses in drainage ditches (vegetated swales) along roadways that lack them.	EHD, EB, WAB, ETB	DEC-Estuary, EFC-GIGP, DEC-CSC	Ongoing
CS-29	The Town should continually evaluate their road salting methods and take into consideration the Cary Institutes' report – "Road Salt: The Problem, The Solution, and How to Get There," as a means of protecting drinking water quality, stream habitat, and saving taxpayer dollars. www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/public/downloads/report_road_salt.pdf	EHD, EB, WAB, ETB		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
CS-30	In partnership with the Town's Building Department, the Town Assessor will conduct ongoing, long-term evaluations of housing conditions and will maintain a database of housing values and assist in coordinating targeted income surveys for the purposes of applying for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).	EA, EBD, ETB	CDBG	2-5
Future Land Use and Regulatory Authority- Goal 1: Maintain a well-balanced land use pattern and associated regulations and policies that use land efficiently, support urban and rural environments, encourage active living and sustain the Town's residential neighborhoods, business community, and the environment while meeting the current and future needs of citizens.				
LU-1	Continue to promote compatible medium to high density development in established hamlet areas served by municipal water and sewer infrastructure including the Hamlets of Connelly, Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and the northern sections of Ulster Park, and continue to encourage reuse of vacant lands and appropriate infill development.	CPC/Z , EBD, ETB, PB		0-2
LU-2	Evaluate applicable regulations of the Waterfront (W), Waterfront Recreation (WR), and Residential (R40) Zoning Districts in Port Ewen and Connelly to determine if changes are necessary to facilitate additional compatible tourism and commercial related development along the Rondout Creek.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, WAB, PB, ZBA	HRVG, DOS-LWRP	0-2
LU-3	Re-evaluate setback requirements in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Broadway Commercial (BC), and General Commercial (GC) Zoning Districts, ensuring conformity with adjacent structures and/or uses.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, ZBA	HRVG	0-2
LU-4	Consider instituting maximum set-backs or build-to lines, as well as lot coverages in key commercial and mixed-use areas of Port Ewen and Connelly to maintain hamlet-oriented streetscape character.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-5	Re-evaluate maximum lot coverages in core hamlet areas of Port Ewen and Connelly with water and sewer, ensuring consistency with current community character and allowing for a more efficient use of lands, maximizing the developable area on lots.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD	HRVG	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
LU-6	Consider the expansion of the BC in Port Ewen north of Horton Street or an alternative approach to replace the current GC Zone in an attempt to extend hamlet-scaled development, patterns closer to the Rondout Creek, prohibit suburban-style development and increase the efficiency of new development.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-7	Ensure parking requirements are appropriate and do not overburden businesses trying to locate in the community. Consider waiving parking requirements if adequate on-street or other public parking is available in the Hamlets, with a specific focus on Port Ewen. A document recommending adjustments for parking requirements along US Rt. 9W in Port Ewen titled “On-Street Parking in the Broadway Commercial Zoning District – Developing a Connecting to the Zoning Local Law” was provided to the Comprehensive Plan Committee by Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, on November 29, 2017. This document should be taken into consideration during the future update process.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD		0-2
LU-8	Promote the reuse of vacant/underutilized structures as space for startup businesses, part time business offices, or artists located in the Hamlets of Port Ewen and Connelly where parking and infrastructure are more readily available. Additional areas outside of these two hamlets should also be identified for compatible businesses. Relevant land use regulations should be evaluated to ensure new compatible businesses are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals for.	CPC/Z , ETB, BDT, EBD	ESD-PFS, NYMS, ESD-GF, ESD-RestoreNY, NYSCA	0-2
LU-9	Continue to promote compatible commercial, light/heavy industrial, manufacturing, research and development, and related uses in existing Heavy Industrial (HI) and Light Industrial (LI) Districts. Strongly advocate for full remediation of State Superfund sites, including the Hercules Powder Co./Dyno Nobel property, and any other contaminated sites that are found in the future, to levels that would permit all uses allowed within the HI and LI Zoning Districts pursuant to the Town of Esopus Zoning Regulations (Town Code Chapter 123) to ensure they remain productive aspects of the Town’s economy while also protecting the environment and the public’s health, safety and welfare.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, DEC, BDT	DEC-BOA	Ongoing
LU-10	Consider adopting a property maintenance law that brings together the current requirements for lawn maintenance (Chapter 96) and prohibition on storing or depositing junk and related debris (Chapter 85), and clarify the proper	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD	HRVG	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	maintenance of structures to provide more protection for community character and to facilitate continued cleanup of stressed properties. In addition, the lawn maintenance requirements should be extended to occupied structures (they currently only apply to vacant properties). Any new regulations must also include clear and predictable processes allowing the Town to remedy violations when responsible parties do not.			
LU-11	Consider modifying Chapter 113, Vehicles, Abandoned; to require adequate screening of applicable vehicles from adjacent private properties and/or public rights-of-way.	CPC/Z, EBT, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-12	Evaluate options for and establish a standalone noise ordinance, including achievable means of enforcement to ensure the continued health, safety, and welfare of Town residents.	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-13	Evaluate existing regulations for protecting the Town's scenic resources to determine if new or enhanced protections are necessary. Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, provided draft recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan Committee on August 31, 2017 regarding visual assessments, titled: "Possible Zoning Amendment – Visual Assessment Review Standards Brief Overview." This document should be used as a starting point in the discussion.	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD, PB	HRVG	0-2
LU-14	Consider the development of architectural and site design guidelines/standards to establish a consistent "look and feel" in the Town's hamlets and major highway corridors. These standards/guidelines should be guided by an inventory of the Town's various architectural styles and design characteristics rather than requiring strict adherence to a single architecture style or period. The preparation of design guidelines/standards should address protections for hamlet gateways.	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD, PB	HRVG	0-2
LU-15	Evaluate opportunities for, and institute solutions to, protect against incompatible development within the Town's many gateways, particularly the northern gateway into Port Ewen. This effort could be combined with the preparation of hamlet design guidelines and standards. Recommendations for a gateway overlay district were presented to the Comprehensive Plan Committee by Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, dated March	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD, PB	HRVG	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	28, 2018 and titled: "Gateway Overlay Zoning Concepts: A Historic Perspective and Sample Regulations." This document should be used as a starting point in the consideration of gateway protections.			
LU-16	The Town should assess staffing needs relating to code enforcement duties and determine if current staffing levels are appropriate, or if additional staff is needed to meet the current workload.	EBD , ETB, CPC, PB, ZBA	DOS-LGE	0-2
LU-17	Consider a formal Town policy to require future pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure to connect with adjacent and nearby infrastructure at the time of approval when and where feasible, including, but not limited to, regional and town trail systems, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Connections to future planned pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure identified during connectivity studies should also be taken into consideration during applicable project reviews.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PRC, PB, ZBA		0-2
LU-18	In an effort to discourage unnecessary curb-cuts along major corridors, the Town should consider requiring the establishment of cross access and cross parking easements between adjacent properties to decrease automobile dependency and encourage more walking between businesses	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, EHD, PB	HRVG	0-2
LU-19	Public and private parking lots should be laid out with both pedestrian and vehicular circulation in mind and be inclusive of sidewalks and crosswalks where applicable.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD		Ongoing
LU-20	In the absence of comprehensive sign regulations, the Town should prepare standalone sign regulations to protect community character and facilitate a more consistent theme of signage town-wide.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-21	Billboards should continue to be prohibited and the definition of "Billboard" needs to be revised to cover all such signs, regardless of size.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-22	The Town should evaluate the potential benefits of establishing Purchase of Developments Rights or Transfer of Development Rights programs, to be used to increase density and development opportunities in appropriate areas while preserving sensitive environmental and ecological areas.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD, EB, WAB, SH	HRVG	2-5
LU-23	Evaluate current regulations to ensure they are not prohibiting or limiting opportunities for desired housing types and density necessary to meet the needs of current and future residents while maintaining the Town's distinctive community character.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2/Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
LU-24	The Town should consider establishing a constitutionally sound definition of “Family and address residential care facilities in the zoning law update.”	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-25	The Town should maintain the current allowance for accessory dwellings, while considering increased protections for community character. Specifically, reviews of proposed accessory dwelling units should take into consideration sufficient space for off-street parking and space for garbage/recyclable containers.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-26	Consider preparing and adopting land use regulations related to both small and utility-scaled solar and wind energy collection systems. A memo from Town Planning Consultant, Myles Putman, AICP, titled “First Draft, Solar Regulations” and dated January 22, 2018 was provided to the Comprehensive Plan Committee outlining recommendations for solar regulations. This memo included a draft solar law for the Town’s consideration. These two documents should be taken into consideration during the future zoning update process.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, EBD, EB, PB	NYSERDA, HRVG	0-2
LU-27	The regulation of additional renewable forms of energy production should be considered, including, but not limited to, geothermal, biomass, and small-scale hydro facilities.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, EBD	NYSERDA, HRVG	0-2
LU-28	The Town’s land use regulations related to renewable energy should be reviewed periodically to keep pace with advances in technology.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, EBD, PB	NYSERDA, HRVG	Ongoing
LU-29	Examine existing land use regulations to ensure compatible commercial and tourism-related businesses are not prohibited or restricted (e.g., hotels, inns, restaurants), especially in the southern portion of Town and areas and along US Route 9W. This evaluation should include the examination of density, bulk, and parking requirements and if those are conducive to currently desired development goals.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, EBD, EDC, PB	HRVG	0-2
LU-30	A full review of land use regulations in the Town Code should be conducted to ensure there are no conflicting regulations and that they are in full compliance of NYS General Municipal Law and NYS Town Law.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, EBD, PB	HRVG	0-2
LU-31	The US Route 9W Overlay District should be re-evaluated to ensure clarity and consistency with current Town development goals.	CPC/Z , ETB, EB, EBD, PB, ZBA	HRVG	0-2
LU-32	The Town should consider instituting a bi-monthly status meeting between the Planning and Zoning Board Chairs/Vice-Chairs and the Town Supervisor to	ETB , PB, ZBA, EBD		Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
	review current case load, identify issues that need to be addressed, and opportunities to increase efficiency and performance of each Board.			
LU-33	The Town should revise the current pre-existing, non-conforming requirements to ensure this regulation is not inadvertently prohibiting the reuse of property by allowed uses that would enhance the community and local economic development efforts.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD	HRVG	Ongoing
LU-34	Consider streamlining the project approval process where appropriate and through various options, including, but not limited to establishing a pre-approved project compliance checklist and developing a corresponding “pocket” zoning map.	CPC/Z , ETB, PB, ZBA, EBD, EDC	HRVG	Ongoing
LU-35	The Town should encourage the placement of vehicle charging stations at commercial and public locations.	ETB , EHD, EBD, EB	CSC	Ongoing
LU-36	Work closely with residents and business owners within the Hamlet of Esopus during the Town’s zoning update process to reevaluate current land use regulations to ensure any future commercial uses are consistent with the Hamlet’s desired community character and traffic concerns along Rt. 9W are taken into consideration.	CPC/Z , ETB, CPC, EBD, BDT	HRVG	0-2
LU-37	Support new compatible development in the Town’s hamlet centers, provided such development is restricted to infill and limited peripheral development in keeping with the scale of the hamlet. Where new development and infill occurs, new structures should be comparable in size and style with existing structures.	CPC/Z , ETB, CPC, EBD, TBT	HRVG	0-2
LU-38	Consider incentive zoning techniques such as density bonuses during subdivisions, to promote water resource protection.	CPC/Z, ETB, EBD, PB, WAB, EB	HRVG	0-2
LU-39	Prevent clear-cutting and protect high-quality intact forests through implementation of best management practices for timber harvesting.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, EB		Ongoing
LU-40	Ensure safe and adequate drinking water resources by protecting aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, and well heads through use of overlay districts.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, EB	HRVG	0-2
LU-41	Protect forested and natural areas along streams and wetlands (“riparian buffers”) as a natural filter and form of protection, and consider watershed overlay zones to protect water resources.	CPC/Z , ETB, EBD, PB, EB	HRVG	0-2

Implementation Matrix

No.	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Parties and Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline (Years)
LU-42	Consider defining, identifying, inventorying, mapping, and designating significant historic, cultural and scenic resources, including, but not limited to landmarks, historic districts, important scenic byways and public viewshed zones. Once identified, historic districts or specified areas within hamlets may be more clearly defined and can shape future regulations within these areas which could be established with recommendations for review standards pursuant to Myles Putman's August 31, 2017 memo on scenic protections (previously mentioned).	BDT, ETB, CPC/Z, PRC, WAB, EB	HRVG, DOS-LWPR	0-2
LU-43	Ensure public notices related to applications before the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards include adequate descriptions of the proposed projects.	PB, ZBA, ETB, EBD	HRVG	Ongoing
LU-44	Evaluate current surrounding property notification requirements for all projects before the Town, Planning and Zoning Boards to ensure they sufficiently inform property owners that may be affected.	PB, ZBA, ETB, EBD	HRVG	0-2
LU-45	Closely evaluate all allowed commercial/industrial land uses in accordance with the Town's Zoning regulations (Chapter 123) to determine which uses may no longer be compatible with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, desired community character and future economic development vision, or which may no longer be appropriate in certain Zoning Districts or Town-wide with a focus on low-job generating land uses, including, but not limited to, self-storage units, gasoline stations/convenient stores and other similar low-value uses.	CPC/Z, EBD, PB, ETB	HRVG	0-2
LU-46	Encourage wedding, event, banquet hosting and related businesses in the Town of Esopus and update the Town's Zoning regulations (Chapter 123) to ensure these uses are allowed in appropriate locations and with appropriate safeguards.	CPC/Z, EBD, PB, BDT, ETB	HRVG	0-2

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