

Wampsville, NY Comprehensive Plan DRAFT

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Executive summary

To be written once the final draft is completed.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

A Comprehensive Plan for the 21st Century

A comprehensive plan is a vision for the future. The plan reflects the current state of the community, its present challenges, and offers a blueprint forward through strategic policies and action items. The plan assesses the interconnections and interdependence of the people and places that shape Wampsville.

Once adopted, the plan becomes a fundamental part of the various village boards and their decision-making processes for years to come. To put the plan into action, the Village of Wampsville invites all residents to participate in and with the Village boards now and in the coming years.

This plan is a living document. As goals are achieved, new challenges arise. Priorities shift. As a result, the Village should reflect on the plan regularly in the future and assess the changes that inevitably occur due to both successes and struggles. Further, the COVID-19 Pandemic is an excellent example of the need to update comprehensive plans more regularly due to the unique challenges that it brought.

Created by the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the 2022 Comprehensive Plan presented in the following pages is the first of its kind for the Village of Wampsville.

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Chapter 2: Who we are today

History

History is an essential part of any municipality. It records the past and, most importantly, allows residents to better understand how the past shaped the present built environment. The history of Wampsville is unique due to its Native American and European influence and its presence as the county seat.

Long before the arrival of Europeans, the Oneida Indian Nation, part of the Iroquois Indigenous Confederacy, lived on the lands in Wampsville and Madison County. Broadly, the Oneida Nation occupied six million acres of land that stretched from the St. Lawrence River to the Susquehanna River.

In the late 15th century, Protestant Missionaries were the first white religious settlers to reside in Wampsville. They traveled on the Genesee Trail, also known as Route 5 today, to spread their religious beliefs to the Oneida tribe. Due to conflict between the two groups, the missionary building burned to the ground, absolving their religion's presence.

By the 1700s, the Nation began to have more frequent interactions with European settlers in Madison County, which ultimately changed their geographical territory and presence. In 1788, New York State Governor George Clinton signed a treaty with the Nation. Clinton bought a significant portion of the central and southern parts of Madison County and called it the Chenango Twenty Towns. As a result, the treaty reserved all the land north of the Chenango Twenty Towns, including Wampsville, for the Nation. However, from 1795 to 1846, New York State imposed treaties that left the Nation with only a few hundred acres of land. As a result, European settlement and the loss of land caused the Nation to retreat from Wampsville and the surrounding area to Wisconsin.

During the 1780s, many new white settlers used the Genesee Trail to get to Wampsville and establish their lives. The Genesee Trail was the first major gravel trail in the County that brought travelers from the eastern to the western portion of the region. Consequentially, business owners established services along the trail to comfort travelers. In 1784, Myndert Wemple, whom the Village is named after, arrived and founded the first stores, including a blacksmith shop and tavern. Around the same time, Angel DeFerriere, a former army officer under King Louis XVI of France, fled France due to the risk of being killed as a supporter of the King. Once he arrived in New York via ship, he met Col. John Lincklaen and followed him to Cazenovia, NY. Ferrier then bought 3,000 acres of land in and around Wampsville and established a grist mill, tannery, brewery, and tavern.

Although the northern portion of the County had the bustling Genesee Trail, most settlers in the County resided near major water sources such as Cazenovia Lake and the Unadilla River. As a result, the original county courthouse was built in Cazenovia and later moved to Morrisville in 1817. However, a lack of transportation made it difficult for residents to get to the new courthouse located in the center of the County.

Once new infrastructure such as the Erie Canal and railroad system became well established in the 1800s, the county population shifted to the north. In November 1907, the County created a referendum to move its seat to another municipality. As a result, almost all of the counties' municipalities, including Wampsville, wanted to move the seat to their respective location.

R.A. McConnell and John W. Coe were critical players in establishing Wampsville as the County seat. To become the seat, the president of Wampsville, R.A. McConnell, needed to make Wampsville an

incorporated village. A unanimous 24 votes casted yes, and in 1907, Wampsville officially became a village. Coe was a wealthy businessman and associate of President Garfield who lived behind the current county office complex. He offered the County the land occupying the present courthouse and respective buildings for one dollar, making Wampsville an ideal seat location. The courthouse opened in 1909.

As time went on, ten railroad lines passed through or near Wampsville to connect residents to the courthouse and New York State. Railroad lines included the New York Central Railroad, the New York West Shore Railway, the Buffalo Railway, and the Oneida Railway Company. At the peak of railroad usage, many railroad lines transected the area where the County Road Patrol Building presently stands. However, due to the automobile's popularity in the early 1900s, the railroad became less attractive, and by the 1950s, its buildings and lines near the County complex were abolished.

Since becoming the county seat, Wampsville's land use has transformed vibrantly. Until the 1930s, much of the land remained vacant aside from the local businesses along Route 5, the county offices, and early housing. Over time, Wampsville became an attractive village for residents due to various forces like the automobile and the creation of the NY State Thruway in the 1950s, which attracted new residents and housing developments. Presently, Wampsville is a community that has a mix of housing, businesses, some open space, and some farm land. Its former industrial past is remembered by the Oneida and Lenox Rail Trails, and the Old Erie Canal State Park.

Geographic Properties

Wampsville's geographical characteristics, such as its location, geology, soil, and hydrological features, are essential to consider because they represent important assets to the community now and in the future. Specifically, Wampsville's soil and water characteristics are invaluable and should be strongly considered by residents when facilitating actions related to development. Further, a geographical context provides citizens a better understanding of how these particular features shaped the current built environment.

Wampsville has a land area of 1 square mile and is one of two incorporated villages located within the Town of Lenox. Wampsville borders the City Oneida to the east and the Village of Canastota to the west.

Due to the geological past, the Village's landscape is predominately flat with a mosaic of open space, small pockets of woodland, and farmland rich in high-quality agricultural soils. The overall flat characteristic is a result of a shallow seabed that once covered the region, which later retreated, and was replaced by glaciers. Although predominately flat, the most dramatic rise of elevation occurs within a short distance in the Village's southwestern portion, ranging from 500 to 700 feet. Due to the region's geological history, an overwhelming majority of Wampsville's soils are well-drained and classified as prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance.

Wampsville lies in close proximity to significant natural and man-made water features. The Village is a part of the Cowaselon Creek watershed, with the physical creek flowing south to north at the Village's eastern border. A 41 acre New York State Department of Environmental Conservation identified wetland is in the west-central portion of the Village, with a small slice that extends into the Town of Lenox. Lastly, a small pond is located in the industrial park. The man-made Old Erie Canal spans the Village's northern tip, stretching west to east.

Population and Age

Population and age demographics are essential to understanding present and future trends. But, most importantly, this information provides critical insights into the social and economic goals and objectives needed for Wampsville.

Wampsville's population as of the 2020 Decennial Census is 573, and since 2010 has increased by 30 people. Every ten years since the 1980s, its population waxes and wanes between 500 to 580 people (Figure 1). These past trends indicate that new housing developments are not necessarily needed and that the Village should potentially focus on economic development. Most importantly, Wampsville will need to identify strategies to retain a steady population and prevent out-migration of residents and, consequentially, vacant housing.

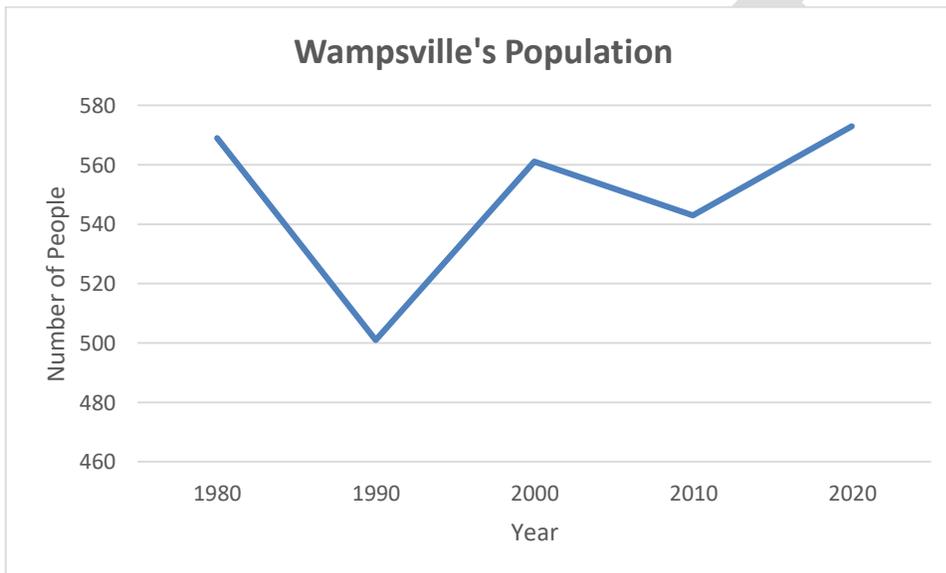


Figure 1: Wampsville population trend (Data Source:1980-2020 Decennial Census).

Data shows the population of Wampsville is aging. Comparing data estimates from 2010 and 2019 reveals that the Village's youngest age cohorts have decreased slightly, while its oldest cohorts have increased substantially (Figure 2). The most significant change observed since 2010 occurred within the "45 to 64" age cohort. Specifically, there are 95 more residents in this age cohort in 2019 than in 2010. This demographic shift creates a unique situation for Wampsville. The Village will need to think of housing and economic strategies to accommodate an aging population, while also striving to attract and retain younger residents.

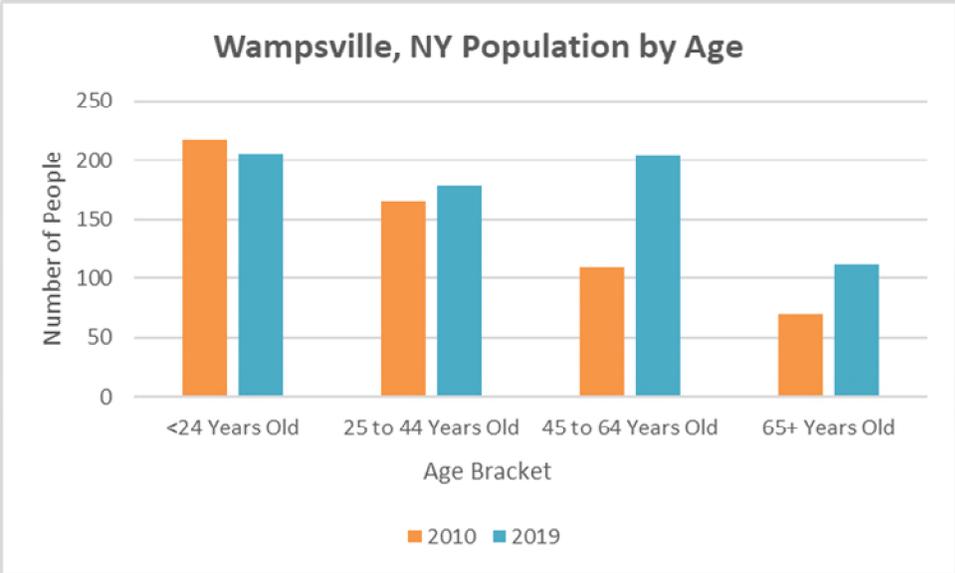


Figure 2: Age cohorts in Wampsville (Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census and 2019 American Community Survey).

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Chapter 3: A vision statement of where we want to be

The vision statement summarizes and paints a picture of what the Village aspires to be through the shared desires of community members. The statement can act as a compass that guides the village government towards the right direction during times of change or conflict.

The Village of Wampsville is a charming, safe, and welcoming place to live and work. It is a small community centrally located near major transportation corridors providing access to Syracuse, Rome, and Utica, making it an ideal location to acquire various essential services. The Village envisions preserving these unique characteristics and welcomes the opportunity for economic growth by establishing new businesses and services that entice families to live in Wampsville, while catering to the unique daily influx of visitors. In addition, we strive to make our community a more walkable connected space that provides strong social cohesion and easy and safe access to our shops, parks, and recreational services.

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Chapter 4: The Planning Process

The idea for a Comprehensive Plan was established after realizing that streamlined, updated zoning would be of interest in the Village. Interested individuals quickly recognized that a broader assessment of the Village's status, concerns, and needs would be highly beneficial in guiding future zoning revisions and community development efforts. As a result, a Comprehensive Plan Committee was assembled, with work beginning on the plan in the winter of 2020. After several initial meetings, the project was put on hold by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Meetings resumed in July of 2021, and since then, the Committee has been meeting monthly.

Both the Madison County Planning Department and the Committee took on critical roles in creating the plan. The Madison County Planning Department, led by Planner Jessica Geary, worked with the Committee throughout the process, gathering statistical information on the Village and compiling and prioritizing issues. Because of the particularly small size of Wampsville, the Committee took on an outsized role in the development of the plan, leading the way in crafting a narrative, outlining and identifying critical goals, and writing a draft for the public to review.

a. Survey

As part of the Comprehensive Plan development, the Committee created and distributed a short survey intended for Village residents and visitors. It was available both online and in hard copy in numerous locations such as the county office complex, the Village Hall and Village website. For various reasons, chiefly the small size of the Village, the survey struggled to get meaningful engagement and was abandoned, having only received three responses.

b. Public Meeting

The Committee's first public meeting is on April 6th. Discussion is to follow on its outcome.

Chapter 5: Shaping Wampsville’s Future through Goals and Objectives

Civic Engagement, Community Engagement, and Communication

Civic engagement is crucial for the successful advancement of the goals outlined in this plan. Most importantly, this type of engagement puts more power in the community than government officials alone, resulting in a robust municipal democracy. Unfortunately, active civic engagement and public participation have been limited during past public meetings. This is magnified in a small community like Wampsville.

Civic engagement is not possible without a municipality deepening its relationship and trust with the public through active community engagement. To create strong community engagement, citizens must engage in Village created activities, and the Village must also create these events. In 2021, officials invested in updating the Village Hall to become a welcoming space for all residents. Currently, the Village hosts Rita’s Coffee Hour at the Hall. The event allows community members to socialize and connect weekly. In the future, the Village wants to ensure that residents engage with each other and build a strong community. In order to do so, the Village plans to continue the coffee hour and create new events.

Comparatively, successful governance not only depends on civic engagement but also relies on municipal employees actively communicating with community members on important issues. Active communication creates trust between a municipality and its residents. Utilizing different communication mediums to ensure that all residents receive the message is the most effective method of communication. It also means that communication platforms, like the Village website and the new electronic Village sign, are modern and effectively articulate important documents and resources to assist residents.

As a result of the lack of comprehensive plan survey responses and a small turnout during related meetings, the Village understands the need to improve civic and community engagement, and it’s communication with residents.

Goal 1: Ensure a diverse representation of community members are present on various Village boards to guarantee that everyone’s voices are heard within the community.

Goal 2: All community members will be aware of opportunities to participate in governance and decision-making.

Goal 3: Establish stronger community engagement between residents and the Village

Objective 1: Create and promote various community and social gatherings throughout the year like educational presentations, movie nights on the Fireman’s Field, concerts, car shows, and other festivals to connect residents to one another, village boards, and officials.

Objective 2: Launch in-person computer training classes for elderly citizens to connect readily to the internet and the Village website.

Objective 3: Continue to use the Wampsville Town Hall as a public space to keep residents engaged with one another and foster a sense of place.

Goal 4: Promote the Village website and attract community members to it as the go-to source for resources and information.

Objective 1: Advertise and post blogs on the Village website relating to *future* social events, Village meetings/agendas, and other civic information.

Objective 2: Reflect on *past* events and government meetings through short blog posts on the website.

Objective 3: Embed zoning and comprehensive plan documentation on the website.

Objective 4: Redesign and create a visually modern website.

Goal 5: Establish communication strategies for the LED Sign and Website.

Objective 1: Create a content creation calendar at the start of every quarter based on events, board meetings, and other events to ensure that content is relevant, posted routinely, and on time.

Objective 2: Consider creating a communication plan that outlines communication strategies and goals, message development and distribution, and performance and accountability.

Objective 3: Designate an official to maintain the electronic sign to guarantee it is properly functioning.

Objective 4: Use the new Village electron sign to advertise events and use relevant imagery to diversify what is visually displayed.

Goal 6: Continue to utilize newspapers, newsletters, flyers, and postal mail to reach community members.

Land Use and Zoning

Land use and zoning are two powerful tools commonly used by planners that guide appropriate changes in a municipality. Identifying the different land uses of a municipality can serve as a guide that gives a direction to the form and use of specific neighborhoods. Most importantly, land use guides zoning decisions. Zoning, on the other hand, entails a defined set of regulations that identify the types of uses that are allowed on specific properties. Specifically, zoning identifies specific form regulations like height and setback requirements and ensures appropriate and compatible development. Land use has implications on everything from a community's environmental impact, to social interactions, to traffic safety.

Wampsville's predominant land use pattern has been the development of low-density single-family housing spread throughout the municipality. Residents are vehicle dependent and commonly drive to their destinations due to the lack of sidewalks and limited essential services within the Village.

As a result, one of Wampsville's greatest challenges is to find ways to promote economic development and attract new residents in an environment with little centrally available real estate while preserving agricultural land. Limited lots are available for residential expansion, and there are little to none identified specifically for commercial or industrial development. Further, land that is not presently developed has agricultural value and should be preserved. Due to this unique situation, accommodating growth will require creativity and reimagining the built-out environment.

Another major challenge is that Wampsville made zoning decisions in the past without the insight of a comprehensive plan. Comprehensive plans are vital since they allow for public input, and most importantly, they assist government officials in making the right zoning decisions based on the community's vision. On December 7th, 1981, Wampsville formally adopted its zoning.

Given zoning was adopted before the comprehensive plan, the Committee plans on revisiting the zoning code in light of this plan. Therefore, the plan recommends areas of focus, listed below. It also should be stressed that the zoning goals and objectives listed are not formally adopted and are suggestions. They also do not cover all zoning topics. However, the proceeding sections of this plan does address all other relevant topics relating to zoning, including housing, environmental sustainability, and agriculture.

Lastly, Wampsville's zoning and land use regulations should adapt to social, economic, and environmental trends. Some trends in Wampsville include an aging population, the need and interest for improved walkability, renewable energy demands, and climate change impacts.

Land Use Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Establish design standards and policies that require sustainable practices in new buildings.

Goal 2: Determine the best use of vacant open space and prioritize areas for preservation and development.

Goal 3: Create sidewalk connectivity throughout the Village.

Goal 4: Protect agriculturally viable lands.

Zoning Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Update and revise existing land use and zoning laws.

Objective 1: Adopt mixed-use development zoning and design standards.

Objective 2: Consider adopting a planned unit development zone.

Objective 3: Reevaluate the current placement of the multifamily overlay zone and potentially change it to light industrial zoning instead.

Objective 4: Create flexibility in zoning and land use to allow commercial businesses in homes along North Court Street and portions of Route 5 that are outside the neighborhood commercial zoning district.

Goal 2: Modernize and thoroughly reevaluate Village zoning by-laws.

Objective 1: Review the existing zoning code to ensure definitions are relevant, they are not missing any pertinent information, there are no missing definitions, and no extraneous definitions.

Objective 2: Make appropriate changes to respective zoning laws to ensure that it is relevant, modern, and matches the community's current characteristics and comprehensive plan vision.

Objective 3: Ensure the zoning reflects the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Goal 3: Modernize the accessibility of the zoning code through technological means.

Objective 1: Explore obtaining a subscription to "eCode 360" and upload the zoning code to this website.

Objective 2: Upload the zoning code to the Village website if "eCode 360" is not an option for viewing.

Objective 3: Update "eCode 360" or the village website when new zoning amendments are adopted.

Goal 4: Establish design guidelines for commercial-related building signs.

Goal 5: Create a frequently asked permitting and zoning regulations question and answer sheet and post on the Village website and at the Village Hall.

Economic Development

One recurring issue for Wampsville residents is a lack of immediate access to commercial activity, most obviously retail, daily necessities, and diverse prepared food. While there is only so much that can be done to foster such establishments in Wampsville, the Village should remove any barriers to appropriate commercial activity. Likewise, it should pursue reasonable methods to encourage and allow for the types of services most needed.

While the Village is small and competing with nearby Canastota and Oneida for business, there are still some important attractions for would-be businesses. Route 5 comes right through the Village, and Monday through Friday, hundreds of employees arrive to work at the Madison County office buildings. An opportunity to expand the light industrial area in the northwestern portion of the Village may also be available as well.

Goal 1: Conduct a market research study to understand the specific types of businesses residents and county employees would like that do not exist.

Goal 2: Continue to utilize Route 5, North Court Street, and Donald Hicks Dew Drive as an economic corridor.

Goal 3: Establish essential services without sacrificing all available vacant open space.

Objective 1: Determine the best viable location for the potential development of businesses on available land.

Objective 2: Economically diversify the Village by expanding the neighborhood commercial district through rezoning to allow appropriate commercial and mixed-use developments in key areas, like Route 5 and North Court Street.

Objective 3: If adopted through zoning, research ways to strategically attract small businesses to the expanded neighborhood commercial district.

Goal 4: Provide current and potential future businesses with resources from organizations like the Onondaga Small Business Development Center and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.

Goal 5: Diversify take-out and on-site food options.

Objective 1: Work with the Madison County offices to find food trucks that serve lunch and dinner once a month and are stationed outside the office buildings.

Objective 2: Host a Farmers' Market on the Fireman's Field or other large accessible areas of the Village on weekends.

Goal 6: Use the Village website and future community events to promote Wampsville's small businesses, history, tourism attractions, and events to boost economic and social prosperity.

Goal 7: Ensure that new businesses are easily accessible and provide services to allow aging in place.

Housing

Given Wampsville’s waxing and waning population coupled with an aging demographic, the Village must carefully look at various topics, such as housing quality, variety, stock, homeownership rates, and home value. Various concerns were addressed in meetings and highlighted in census data in relation to these topics. Concerns included a lack of housing variety, an aging housing stock, an almost built-out environment zoned for single-family housing, and potential development on prime farmland. Addressing these concerns by quantitatively assessing these particular subjects gives the Village government and the public key insights into its housing strengths and weaknesses. Most importantly, it provides insight into how the Village can improve so that all residents have adequate housing, and most importantly, can age in place.

The Committee noted a lack of housing stock variety. 84.9% (220) of housing units in Wampsville are one-unit detached structures. Single-family homes dominate the landscape, while only a handful are multifamily (two-family). Specifically, the style of single-family housing is mixed between one and two-story ranches, raised ranches, and split levels.

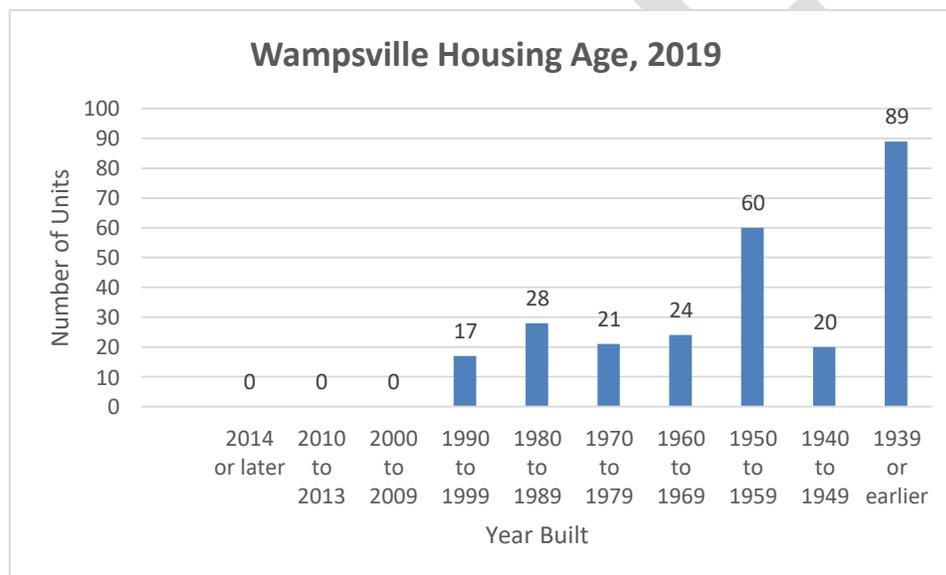


Figure 1: Housing Age

The Village recognizes the importance of accommodating an aging population and the disabled, and the need and cost to retrofit older homes due to the inability to build new ones. 74.6% of the housing stock was built before 1969, while 34.4% was built in 1939 or earlier (Figure 2). One-story ranches are present throughout the community and are ideal for the elderly and disabled. There is a need to retrofit existing homes due to the limited vacant lots present for new housing. However, the Village also recognizes that home improvements come at a cost that not all may be able to afford. Therefore, the plan provides strategies for all residents to begin to think about home improvements so that everyone can age in place in a sustainable home.

The Village also found it essential to assess homeownership, home value, and vacancy rates, which are critical insights for potential homebuyers and residents. These topics give homebuyers and residents an

idea of the community’s housing market and health. Most of Wampsville’s housing stock is owner-occupied (92%), resulting in little to no renters, and are worth less than \$200,000.00. Wampsville has a median home value of \$124,500.00, which is the second highest home value municipality in Madison County. In addition, 5% of housing units are vacant and have remained relatively the same since 2010 (Table 2). Except for the Town of Lincoln, Wampsville’s vacancy rate is lower than Madison County and the surrounding municipalities.

Ultimately, the Committee’s discussions on various housing topics and the five-year American Community Survey estimates provided critical insights into the need to improve overall housing. The goals and objectives are a result of data collection and Committee discussions.

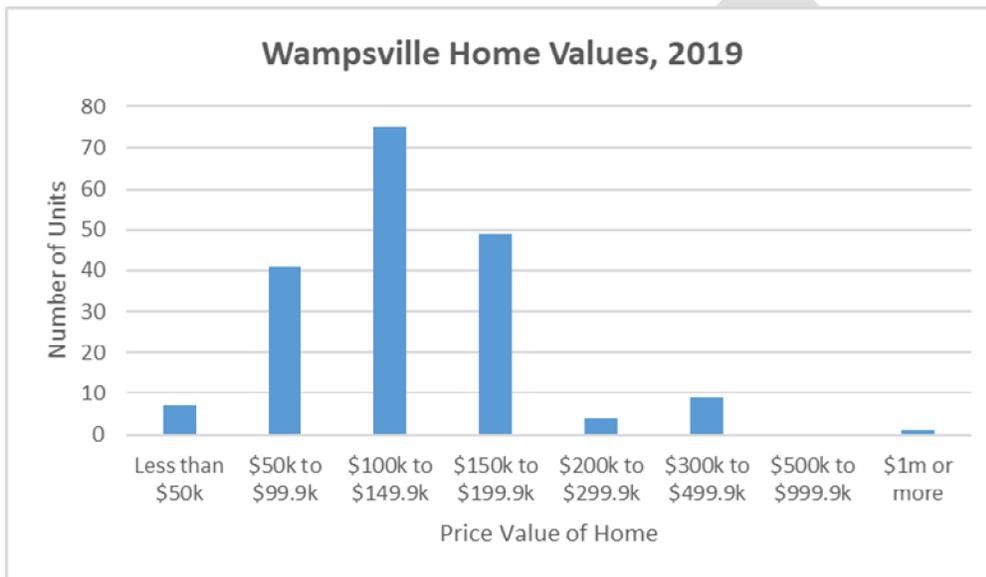


Figure 2: Home Values

	2019 ACS Median Home Value	2020 Decennial Census Vacancy Rate
Wampsville	\$124,500	5%
Lenox	\$124,100	10%
Oneida	\$114,600	9%
Canastota	\$128,000	8%
Lincoln	\$116,000	5%
Madison County	\$136,800	13%

Table 2: Municipal Housing Comparisons.

Goal 1: Improve existing housing, housing stock, and homeownership.

Objective 1: Survey residents and find resources to help homeowners remain in their homes.

Objective 2: Identify and advertise homeowner housing grant and loan programs through the USDA Rural Development Office and the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation that supports older housing stock renovations.

Goal 2: Attract Madison County employees to live in the Village.

Goal 3: Create a welcome packet for new homeowners that provides housing assistance and Village orientation information.

Goal 4: Complete a housing study to understand the community's needs.

Goal 5: Reevaluate housing related zoning regulations.

Objective 1: Develop design guidelines and standards to promote a cohesive and compatible housing environment.

Objective 2: Consider conservation subdivision ordinances to prevent new future developments from consuming an unnecessarily large amount of land and potentially prime farmland soils.

Objective 3: Assess human health compatibility and aesthetic quality of locating a multifamily housing zone near Diemolding.

Goal 6: Support aging in place and those with disabilities.

Objective 1: Implement diverse housing types to attract people from different life stages to move to Wampsville.

Objective 2: Research ways to reduce property taxes for tax burdened elderly and the disabled.

Objective 3: Create design standards for new housing that accommodate the disabled and elderly through universal design principles.

Objective 4: Encourage homeowners to retrofit their existing homes through universal design principles such as wider door frames, structural accommodations, and other compatible designs.

Goal 7: Support housing for senior citizens and those with disabilities.

Objective 1: Facilitate a market study to determine if senior appropriate housing is economically feasible.

Objective 2: Consider developing new senior appropriate housing or a pocket neighborhood to support an aging population.

Objective 3: Consider utilizing a group of already existing one-floor ranch homes and create a senior-appropriate housing community.

Parks and Recreation

Within the last three years, Wampsville, the City of Oneida, the Town of Lenox, and the Madison County Planning Department made immense strides in providing new recreational facilities and trails in the Village. In 2018, the Village built a small community park on North Court Street. The respective municipalities also collaborated in creating the Oneida and Lenox Rail Trails in 2019 and 2020, which intersect with the Village.

Uniquely, Wampsville is the only community where three trail systems converge within a half-mile of each other in the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park, allowing visitors to connect to surrounding communities easily. These three trail systems are the Old Erie Canal Historic Park, the Lenox Rail Trail, and the Oneida Rail Trail. When combined these trail systems provide visitors the opportunity to make recreational cycling and walking loops. For example, riders in Wampsville can visit the Town of Lenox via the Lenox Rail Trail and travel back to the Village by the Old Erie Canal Historic Park.

Aside from creating loops, the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park allows residents of Wampsville to discover nearby counties. The historic park intersects with towns in Madison County, Onondaga County, Oneida County, and beyond, allowing for even broader connectivity for residents and visitors.

These three trails represent new opportunities for residents and visitors to explore Wampsville's government and economic services. However, until trail presence and connectivity are improved within, Wampsville cannot fully recognize the economic opportunities and benefits from them.

Goal 1: Continue to improve the Wampsville Community Park by incorporating exercise equipment.

Goal 2: Promote the Rail Trails to attract visitors to the Village center business area.

Objective 1: Advertise and promote the Oneida and Lenox Rail Trails on the Village website and encourage community based trail ride events.

Objective 2: Connect with the Old Erie Canal Working Group to assist in creating Village based trail ride events for the Lenox and Oneida Rail Trails.

Goal 3: Connect residents to local parks and recreation services by establishing better sidewalk connectivity.

Goal 4: Update trail maps and improve trail presence.

Objective 1: Approach the Madison County Planning Department on creating a map of the trails that intersect with the Village and display it on the Village website and in print for community access.

Objective 2: Work with the Town of Lenox to add the Lenox Rail Trail to Google Maps.

Objective 3: Use appropriate roadway signage where needed on main and artery roads to improve the presence and visibility of the Oneida and Lenox Rail Trails and the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park.

Goal 5: Work with the local fire department to allow outdoor events, entertainment, and gatherings on the Fireman's Field.

Goal 6: Work with the Madison County Planning Department and volunteer organizations to assist in projects related to the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park.

Goal 7: Adopt the Village’s Old Erie Canal Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning document.

Goal 8: Implement over time the projects and suggestions created by the Old Erie Canal Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Program listed below:

Objective 1: Improve the roadway connection along North Court Street to better link the Old Erie Canal to Wampsville.

Objective 2: Create wayfinding signage at key trail convergence points that allow riders to understand the possibilities of traveling between the Old Erie Canal and the Lenox and Oneida Rail Trails.

Objective 3: Create supplemental wayfinding signage to directly guide visitors from the Canal over the North Court Street bridge and into Wampsville to access the Village and surrounding businesses.

Objective 4: Clear up downed trees through volunteer groups on the Canal to allow kayakers to pass through the Wampsville section.

Objective 5: Create a kayak boat launch into the North Court Street Spur Parking Area to continue the blueway trail east of Canastota on the Old Erie Canal.

Objective 6: Work with the state to improve the North Court Street Spur parking area through resurfacing, seating, wayfinding, plantings, and interpretive signage.

Objective 7: Enhance and better delineate the on-road portion of the Old Erie Canalway Trail on the North Court Street/Spur Road.

Mobility and Alternative Transportation

Like many rural villages and towns in Madison County and central New York, Wampsville's alternative transportation services, such as its transit, walking, and biking, are weak. In 2010, according to the US Census, less than 5% of total commuting trips within central New York occurred by walking or biking. As a result, most trips are made by vehicle due to incomplete streets and or unsafe walking or biking conditions.

Public transportation such as the Madison Transit System is an important form of alternative transportation and is hardly used by Village Residents. Wampsville residents that took the 2019 American Community Survey indicated that they did not use the bus to get to and from work. In addition, 40% of residents work within the County and drive alone, while 60% work outside of the County and drive alone. Currently, the Madison Transit System operates only within the County, and has a bus stop located at the County office complex. This particular route at the complex takes riders to downtown Oneida in mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

The Village understands that diverse transit service destinations provided in Wampsville and beyond are extremely limited, especially for those driving to and from work. However, with the proper community engagement and partnerships, transportation routes could potentially improve.

Walking and biking are the two most critical methods of mobility to address within village limits. According to "Walkscore," a website that provides walking and biking assessments of villages, towns, and cities from 1 (poor) to 100 (the best), Wampsville's walk score is 25. This score indicates that Village residents are highly car-dependent and are needed to get most errands done. In addition, aside from North Court Street, much of the Village does not have sidewalks, creating a hazard for pedestrians that prefer to walk to their destination. This includes kids trying to access the school and school fields, playground, and recreational trails. In terms of biking, Wampsville has a bike score of 20, indicating that the Village is somewhat bikable but has minimal bike infrastructure. At most, signs indicating that bikers are nearby are present on North Court Street, but can not be the only solution in creating a safe environment for bikers.

Wampsville recognizes the importance of alternative transportation, which minimizes the adverse effects on the environment and public health globally and locally, by reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution. Likewise, with better walking and biking infrastructure in place, more physical activity can occur, resulting in improved mental and physical health. Therefore, the Village must take action to strengthen its alternative transportation.

Goal 1: Reduce transportation sign clutter.

Objective 1: Work with the County and State to alleviate excessive county transportation signage where possible on North Court Street, West Elm Street, and US Highway 5.

Objective 2: Survey and count each road sign type present on respective streets to further address the need to reduce sign pollution.

Goal 2: Continue to foster and maintain a working relationship with the County and State Department of Transportation to create a safe alternative transportation community.

Goal 3: Establish a committee comprising of interested planning and village board members, and residents to address the maintenance and design of transit infrastructure and issues regarding roads and sidewalks.

Goal 4: Make pedestrians and their safety a priority throughout the Village by creating safer routes to the park, school, rail trails, the Erie Canal, and surrounding businesses.

Objective 1: Build sidewalks where lacking, especially along Route 5, to promote connected, safe, and walkable spaces.

Objective 2: Collaborate with the Madison County Highway and Planning Departments and discuss the possibility of traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speed on North Court Street.

Objective 3: Where feasible and appropriate, use traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, speed cushions, raised sidewalks, chockers, trees, and widened sidewalks to slow vehicle speeds.

Objective 4: Work with the County to assess the sidewalk and crosswalk near the bridge on North Court Street.

Goal 5: Encourage alternative modes of transportation.

Objective 1: Where a bike lane may not be feasible, use shared lane markings to signify the sharing of roads between automobiles and cyclists.

Objective 2: Create bike lanes where feasible, like along Donald Hicks Dew Drive, to connect bicyclists to the Lenox Rail Trail.

Goal 6: Improve alternative transportation and safe walkability through the resources and knowledge of the state government, the federal government, and non-profit organizations.

Objective 1: Explore funding opportunities through the Surface Transportation Program, the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program, the Community Change Grant, and others.

Objective 2: Utilize federal, state, and non-profit organizations like the New York State Department of Transportation, the Highway Safety Research Center, and America Walks for research guidance and technical assistance in implementing projects.

Goal 7: Combat traffic concerns that occur at specific times of the day.

Objective 1: Create a transportation survey to understand where and at what times residents and county employees are commuting on weekdays and weekends.

Objective 2: Based on a transportation study, talk to Madison County Transportation and suggest routes that can potentially alleviate traffic and reduce car dependency.

Goal 8: Support Aging in Place.

Objective 1: Create better alternative transportation options and work with Madison County Transit to ensure that all residents, particularly senior citizens, can access essential services and community amenities.

Objective 2: Support active aging by improving and establishing sidewalks that connect to the rail trails, parks, and various neighborhoods.

DRAFT

Environmental Sustainability

Global average temperatures have been increasing for the last century and are becoming an extreme global concern. In the past century, rising greenhouse gas emissions are due to anthropogenic forces such as fossil fuel consumption, limited use of clean energy, changing land-use practices, and other human activity. As a response to these changes, it is crucial that all levels of government take mitigation and adaptation measures to ease negative social and environmental impacts.

Due to increasing concern, the International Panel on Climate Change in 2000 put together three different greenhouse gas emission scenarios ranging from high, medium, and low. Climate scientists widely use these scenarios to understand the possible climatic future of places like Wampsville. These three scenarios continue to be updated, and represent a scientific approach of uncertainty based on technological change, and demographic and socioeconomic development. Depending on the scenario, global temperatures by the end of the century will rise anywhere from 3 to 10 °F.

Based on the information provided by the IPCC, current and future predictions of temperature and precipitation as discussed below all reflect a high emission business as usual scenario, where greenhouse gases are not mitigated. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State University collaborated and created the climatic assessment described in the following text.

Temperature

From 1991-2020 the average temperature in the region was 48.9°F. Based on the closest meteorological data from Syracuse, NY, annual average temperatures increased by 2.0 °F from 1951- 2021 (Table 1). In addition, the average seasonal temperature increased, with winter experiencing the highest seasonal change of 2.7 °F followed by summer with 2.1 °F.

Changes in Average Temperature, 1951-2021

	°F
Annual average temperature	2.0
Winter average temperature	2.7
Spring average temperature	1.7
Summer average temperature	2.1
Fall average temperature	1.2

Table 1

In the future, under a high emissions scenario, Syracuse and the surrounding region, such as Wampsville, will experience an increase in annual temperature. Annually, there will be about 60 more days above 90 °F by the end of the century, compared to the historical long-term average of 3 days from 1961 to 1990. The number of days below 32 °F by the end of the century is 12 days compared to the historical average of 51.6 days from 1961 to 1990.

Precipitation

From 1991 to 2020, Syracuse experienced an annual average of 39.8 inches of total precipitation. During this time period, the city experienced three days per year of rain that exceeded 1.25 inches. Annual total precipitation from 1951- 2020 increased by 9.8%, with the fall seasonally experiencing the most significant increase of 20%, followed by summer at 12%.

Changes in Average Precipitation, 1951-2021

	inches
Annual Total Precipitation	4.5
Winter Total Precipitation	-.4
Spring Total Precipitation	.5
Summer Total Precipitation	2.1
Fall Total Precipitation	2.2

Table 2

Under a high emission scenario, it is expected that total precipitation per year will increase by an average of 45 inches compared to the long term average of 40 inches occurring from 1961 to 1990 of 40 inches. Seasonally, winter will experience the most significant precipitation increase, followed by spring, fall, and summer.

Planning for the future

This Comprehensive Plan should serve as the starting point for Wampsville to take action on the climate crisis. The Village recently implemented zoning regulations relating to solar power siting and upgraded it’s street light posts with LED bulbs. However, the Village recognizes that much more work is needed to create a community prepared for the future. Given the facts described above on our changing climate, Wampsville must be energy and climate resilient. This section specifically addresses renewable energy and climate change initiatives that are achievable through zoning, planning, and policies.

Renewable Energy Goals & Objectives:

Goal 1: Reduce fossil fuel usage within current and future public and private buildings and residential housing through renewable energy practices.

Objective 1: Adopt the New York State Unified Solar Permitting Process, which will create a streamlined approval process for installing residential solar less than 25kw and cut municipal costs.

Objective 2: Encourage homeowners or renters that cannot install solar on their homes to participate in the Community Solar Program to save energy and reduce utility bills.

Objective 3: Provide educational materials to inform residents and businesses on green building practices and ways to finance energy efficiency improvements through state and federal incentives.

Climate Change Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Work towards reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner.

Objective 1: Join the Climate Smart Communities initiative and take action steps to reduce carbon emissions and, as a result, access funding sources to create a resilient village.

Objective 2: Create a Climate Action Task Force to pursue climate related projects and the Climate Smart Community designation.

Objective 3: Create a climate action plan based on a vulnerability assessment.

Agriculture

Wampsville takes pride in its open space and agricultural land, and considers its preservation of utmost importance. Roughly 205 of the 2,504 acres within Wampsville are classified as agricultural.

Agricultural land is spread throughout the Village and is set behind residential properties, indicating an immense development of this particular land use type. In total, 163 acres of land are residential. Past development on agricultural land further signifies the importance of preserving respective land and making wise land-use decisions.

The Village consists of traditional farmland and one greenhouse with various soil types and agricultural production. Soils on large traditional farmlands that harvest field crops include prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance. Notably, a portion of the newly developed 60-acre climate-controlled Green Acres Farm lies within the Village and produces various fruits and vegetables. Fruits and vegetables include strawberries, cucumbers, and tomatoes, amongst others. Unfortunately, a portion of Green Acres Farms that is in Wampsville was built on prime farmland soils, resulting in the permanent degradation of the land.

The Village recognizes the importance of supporting farmers and, in particular, protecting farmland, open space, and high-quality soils. Likewise, agricultural land is less infrastructure intensive and provides a high proportion of tax revenue for the Village. To this extent, the Village assessed different strategies to protect agricultural resources.

Goal 1: Preserve remaining farmland and open space.

Objective 1: Establish conservation subdivision regulations in the zoning code to prevent the over-development of land classified as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance.

Objective 2: Incentivize nonagricultural growth and development in areas less suitable for agriculture and where it will have the least impact on this resource.

Objective 3: Work with the Madison County Planning Department and farmers to explore future opportunities relating to conservation easements.

Goal 2: Encourage public engagement in farming practices.

Objective 1: Establish a small community garden that engages residents in farming practices.

Objective 2: Work with the Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program to educate, facilitate residential farm training, and distribute seeds and plants.

Goal 3: Reassess the agricultural district zoning regulations.

Objective 1: Use the Madison County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan as a guiding document to reassess the Agricultural District Zone.

Objective 2: In the zoning, ensure the inclusion of proper agricultural definitions, specific lot details are specified and relevant, and all appropriate agricultural-related uses are allowed.