

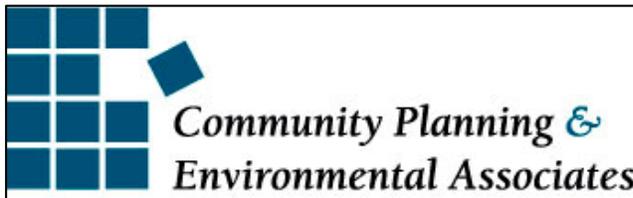
September 2014

Town of Elizabethtown
Updated Comprehensive Plan
Version 8
September 2014

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Executive Summary

The Town of Elizabethtown undertook updating a 1970's era comprehensive plan in October 2012. A new plan was desired to reflect the issues, trends and needs of the current community. This Plan is based on the data, analysis, and public input organized by the Town of Elizabethtown Planning Board and adopted by the Town Board. It is considered a collective community vision and outlines a roadmap to guide future projects, programs and decision making. Implementation of this Plan will help the Town attain its community vision, support future grant requests that may be made, and support programs and projects that benefit the community.

This Plan answers three basic questions: What is going on in Elizabethtown now; Where does Elizabethtown want to be in the future; and How can that future state be reached? The Appendix associated with this Plan has all the background information that answers the question about current conditions. The vision and goal statements speak of the future desires of the Town, and the strategies and actions steps outline the ideas that could be implemented over time to help Elizabethtown attain those goals.

Community input was very important to development of this plan. Public input was collected from a town-wide survey, a community workshop, open meetings, focus groups with area businesses, and public hearings. A series of maps were made to help the community visualize its many resources, and census data was evaluated to help understand trends that are affecting the Town. A significant part of this Plan is the concept design for the hamlet of Elizabethtown. That establishes a set of designs and potential streetscape changes that can be made to improve the character and appearance of Court Street.

The plan includes a variety of recommendations, and outlines the steps the Town Board could take to implement them. The Town Board is the entity with full authority to appoint committees or otherwise begin implementation on any of the recommended projects. They, through adoption resolutions, can choose when and how to implement the projects. The Action Plan that is included can be a checklist the Town Board can use to organize, prioritize and implement potential projects.

The recommended projects address:

- Economic and Business Development
- Hamlet Revitalization and Visual Character
- The Environment
- Recreation
- Land Use and Housing
- Community and Cultural Character
- Community Infrastructure and Transportation

Introduction

General Location

The Town of Elizabethtown is located in central-eastern Essex County, in Upstate New York. Wholly within the Adirondack Park's Blue Line, it lies along the eastern flank of Giant Mountain, the twelfth-highest peak in the Adirondacks. Farther to the east, lies Lake Champlain. The Town encompasses a total area of 83.11 square miles, 1.48 of which is water area. Two rivers flow through Town: The Boquet River flows northeasterly across the center of the town whereas the Black River forms a part of its eastern boundary. The Branch is a major tributary to the Boquet that also flows through Town.

To the north, Elizabethtown is bordered by the Towns of Lewis and Jay; to the east, by the Town of Westport; to the south, by the Towns of North Hudson and Moriah; and to the west, by the Town of Keene. Principal transportation routes are the Adirondack Northway (Interstate 87), NY Route 9N, and US Route 9. More densely settled areas include the former Village of Elizabethtown, the hamlet of New Russia, and, to a lesser degree, the Lincoln Pond area. The population density in Town in 2010 was 44.9 persons per square mile; in the Hamlet, with land area of 3.31 square miles, population density was higher, at 227.8 persons per square mile.

Historical Overview¹

The Town of Elizabethtown was created by the Clinton County Government on February 12, 1798, having been first settled by Revolutionary War veterans in 1792. Before that date it was a part of Crown Point. For much of the preceding human history, the area was frequented by Native Americans, including members of the Mohawk and Huron tribes. The Town's boundaries were changed in 1808 when Moriah and Keene were created, and again in 1815 when Westport was created. The town received its nickname "Pleasant Valley" from earlier settlers from Panton, Vermont.

The Town's topography is such that it forms a natural "crossroads" where roads and trails to Lewis, Wadhams, Westport, and Keene converged. The Champlain Canal opened in 1823, and this facilitated trade outside the region. Ferry service on Lake Champlain between New York and Vermont allowed agricultural products and lumber from the Adirondacks to reach markets farther afield. A plank road was installed between Elizabethtown and Westport in 1850.

¹ Adapted from "Elizabethtown, New York," Adirondack History Center Museum. <http://www.adkhistorycenter.org/esco/tow/elizabethtown.html>

The Kelloggs were among the first settlers of the town and their descendants were prominent in Town, State and national governments until the 1900's. Early settlement began near what is now New Russia and then moved closer to the current center of town where there was a gristmill and farms. Extensive deposits of iron ore existed in the Town. David Brainard built a forge on Black Creek in 1817 and Joshua Daniels built a second one the same year. Iron ore mining in Essex County peaked in 1880, when the iron output of the County was ranked second nationally. Mining had largely subsided in Elizabethtown by 1885.

Elizabethtown was named the County Seat in 1807 and remains so to this date. The first two wooden county buildings burned, and later the complex was re-built using bricks. The population in 1850 was 1,635 people. The Village was incorporated in 1876, in part, to make it more difficult to move the County Seat. In late 1980, the Village government was dissolved and its functions consolidated with the Town.

For many of the early years, harvesting and processing lumber was the chief industry of the area, even exceeding agriculture in employment. As many as 20,000 cords of poplar were shipped in one year to paper mills from Elizabethtown. Maple sugar was an important early industry as well. Early shopkeepers provided many goods and services including a general store, a harness shop, a tannery and manufacturing of shoes. The Essex County fairgrounds were originally located in Elizabethtown before they moved to the Town of Westport in 1865. Iron ore mining and guiding services were also large industries in the area.

In 1885, the Town was famous for its lawyers. Augustus C. Hand, Robert S. Hale and Orlando Kellogg, all were pre-eminent attorneys. The Hand House on River Street stands as a monument to the stature of the lawyers who made their way to the county seat. Although doctors were present as early as 1808, the medical profession never attained the prominence of the legal profession in Elizabethtown.

Aided in part by the advent of rail service to Westport in the late 1800s, Elizabethtown became a resort community during the nineteenth century. Large hotels graced the center of town where tourists from the city would stay for the summer months. There was tennis, golf, horseback riding, walking and plenty of evening entertainment.

In 1965, the construction of the Adirondack Northway through Essex County reshaped travel patterns in the region, and reduced Elizabethtown's importance as a crossroads and a tourist destination.

Today, county government and its services dominate most of the economy of Elizabethtown. Healthcare is also important: A regional

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hospital and a large nursing home are both located in Town. The large hotels are gone, but motels and bed and breakfasts have taken their place. The school system and churches established in the earliest days remain. The first county newspaper was published in Elizabethtown, and the community still supports a newspaper. Light industry and lumbering are still present in the town.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Facing Elizabethtown

Summary and Trends

Among the key trends and findings identified from the Elizabethtown profile and inventory are:

- During its history, the Town was both a crossroads community and a destination resort and was also oriented around mining and forestry. It has transitioned to a low density residential and tourism oriented town having a Hamlet that serves as a center of government and social services.
- The Village of Elizabethtown, incorporated in 1876, was dissolved in late 1980 and is now referred to as the Hamlet, but remains the chief population, employment, cultural, business and service center in the Town.
- The Town's population was 1,163 in 2010 but it has declined by 152 persons, or nearly 12%, between 2000 and 2010. Elizabethtown's population has decreased at the same time that in Essex County and New York State overall has increased. While the Town overall lost population, the population of the former Village has grown. The Hamlet population is about 754 people, or 65% of the total Town population.
- Elizabethtown's population is aging and there is a loss of school aged children. The median age of residents of Elizabethtown, now 52, is over 17% higher than in Essex County.
- Decreasing household sizes, changing household characteristics, and an increasing number of elderly are other trends that will influence the future housing needs of the population.
- Most homes are single-family residences and the total number of housing units has not increased significantly over the past decade. Seasonal homes account for about 28% of all housing units. A majority of housing in Town was built before 1940.
- There are differences in housing between the Hamlet and the Town. The Hamlet has over 80% of all the rental housing available in the town, which is nearly 60% of all owner-occupied units, and just over 50% of all housing units. About 85% of all seasonal units are outside the Hamlet area.
- According to several measures, housing has become less affordable in Elizabethtown, both for renters and owners. However, the Hamlet is somewhat more affordable than in the rest of the Town.
- Median income has increased substantially over the years and remains higher than that found in the rest of Essex County. Still,

approximately 13% of all people have incomes below the poverty level.

- Although there is a higher than average rate of high school graduates, there are slightly fewer people holding bachelor's degrees compared to New York State.
- Elizabethtown has seen an increase in the number of employees having jobs in Town, but the number of businesses has slowly declined since 2004. Principal employers are in health care; information, finance and insurance businesses; and professional and other services. Even though the Town has many trails, camping, and outdoor recreation opportunities, the number of retail and tourist accommodation businesses (hotels and restaurants) have decreased over the years. County government, the school and the nursing home remain significant employers.
- The Adirondack Mountains are a defining environmental feature in Town. Topography across much of the Town is dramatic. Soils are shallow and not very fertile and present challenging conditions for development. The Town's environment is also highly influenced by the Black River, Boquet River and The Branch. Several significant surface water bodies are in the Town, including Lincoln Pond. While most are generally of good water quality, there are several water bodies and stream sections in Town that may be affected by common problems in the Lake Champlain Basin, including erosion, invasive species, septic system failures, and atmospheric deposition. This is especially prevalent along the Boquet River, north and northeast of the Hamlet.
- Land uses are dominated by the State forest preserve. Beyond that, land use is predominantly residential and private forest. The Hamlet of Elizabethtown and the hamlet of New Russia are the two principle areas of settlement. Commercial development is somewhat limited, and slow growing: There have been three approved commercial building permits since 2008.
- Land use regulation in Elizabethtown is multi-layered. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) maintains a comprehensive land classification and regulatory system for private and state lands in the Town and regulates land outside the Hamlet of Elizabethtown (formerly the Village). When the Village was dissolved, the Town maintained a zoning law with three zoning districts for the former village area. There is no town-level zoning outside the Hamlet, but there is a subdivision law that regulates creation of new lots and the Town desires to restrict land use local law and regulations to within this current hamlet.
- The water distribution systems serving the Hamlet of Elizabethtown and hamlet of New Russia were recently upgraded; elsewhere in Town, private on-site wells are used. Septic systems treat all wastewater effluent, although plans are underway for the construction of a wastewater treatment facility to serve the Hamlet.

- Cellular and broadband coverage is incomplete and leaves some portions of the less densely settled areas without these services.
- The Town enjoys a substantial number of recreational, cultural, and historic amenities. There are a number of places dedicated for recreational use in the Town, particularly in the Hamlet. Elsewhere, the area’s many mountains, streams, and ponds present significant outdoor recreation. There is one historic district in the Town – the Hand-Hale Historic District.
- Streets and sidewalks in the Hamlet were recently inventoried as part of a “Complete Streets “planning effort. There are good opportunities for walking in the Hamlet. Bicycling facilities are less complete, although there are marked routes on State roads and unmarked regional bikeways that are available. Outside the Hamlet, numerous hiking trails exist.
- State and County roads make up over 40% of the Town’s road network. All State and County roads are paved; about 35% of Town roads are unpaved. Traffic counts indicate that there have not been dramatic changes in vehicular traffic volume over the years. In some locations, traffic volume has decreased slightly. There is a high level of seasonal variation in traffic.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many residents are supportive of economic development, especially in the Hamlet area • There is very high support for natural resource protection • There is a close fit between how people describe the current community character and what they desire its future community character to be • Friendly, quiet, safe, rural, small-town atmosphere; sense of community • Unique Adirondack charm and beauty • Adirondack mountains are a defining environmental feature • Proximity to regional amenities and destinations • Historic structures and properties • County government, nursing home, and healthcare institutions stabilize the town’s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents’ needs may not be met by existing mix of businesses • Housing options are limited, especially for seniors, low-income individuals, and renters and inadequate to attract individuals presently commuting to Elizabethtown • Aging of the town’s population and loss of young people and school-age children • The level of maintenance on some properties is low and visually unappealing • Lack of wide variety employment opportunities • Parking in the Hamlet during peak hours is limited and has a negative impact on current business and may deter business expansion • Lack of architectural continuity throughout the Hamlet with the rural character of our town • Enforcement of zoning and other local laws is Inconsistent

<p>economy and make the Hamlet a regional destination and center of employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved water distribution system • Many outdoor recreation opportunities and other attractions, such as the farmers market • Walkability of Hamlet • Proximity to major highways • Opportunities for new development on vacant or underutilized lots in the Hamlet. • Paved shoulders along roads in Hamlet provide opportunities for bicycles • Good mix of businesses in town • Demonstrated desirability as a location for businesses • Important water features in town, such as the Boquet and Branch rivers and Lincoln Pond • Participation in regional planning and economic development initiatives • Fire department and emergency services • Multitude of trails, including a local trail network, within a short distance • Not overly commercialized • Comparative affordability of housing • Elizabethtown has a number of self-employed individuals • Public fishing access easements • Public transportation provided by county • Good mix of cultural and educational institutions such as the central school, museum and churches. • Many outdoor recreational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage patterns in the Hamlet create a sense of visual clutter • Visual connections between the town and water features have been lost • Broadband and cellular service across the town is uneven; the number of carriers, limited • A lack of infrastructure—for sewage treatment, in particular—may limit growth potential in town • Large proportion of property in town is tax exempt • Levels of communication among residents, town leadership, and the business community could be improved • Limited building sites and spaces to support business expansion or attraction • Lack of coordinated marketing and/or promotion efforts • Regulatory environment perceived as burdensome by business community • Floodplain regulations are out-of-date • Decline in numbers of retail and tourism-oriented businesses • Visitors have few venues to spend money • Court Street can be dangerous due to traffic • Environmental conditions limit development potential • Lincoln Pond and portions of the Boquet River are currently on state priority water bodies lists for water quality issues • Elizabethtown has two identities – one oriented to the Adirondack Mountains and another towards Lake Champlain. This is a strength to be built upon but at the same time is a weakness because there may be a lack of coherence
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<p>such as golfing, fishing, hiking and hunting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabethtown can build upon its association with both the Adirondack Mountains and the Lake Champlain region. 	
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Adirondack region attracts significant tourist traffic, creating the potential to capture some of this activity • Significant amount of non-tourist traffic travels to Elizabethtown each day • There are a number of regional planning, economic development, and other intergovernmental initiatives creating the opportunity to secure funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of employment opportunities region-wide; loss of private-sector employment opportunities, in particular • Limited regional transportation options • Loss of individuals between ages 20 and 35 due to lack of employment opportunities

A Vision for the Future

Elizabethtown is a sustainable community that is thriving in our unique Adirondack environment. Our Hamlet is the hub of activity and the center for new development. It is an increasingly vibrant, attractive, well-maintained, and visually distinctive destination that also provides a variety of services to meet local needs.

Our peaceful beauty promotes a quaint, friendly and small town feel. Elizabethtown's historic character; safe, quiet atmosphere; our location nestled in the Adirondack mountains with its clean and unique environment; and our sense of community define Elizabethtown's character and make it a distinctive place to live, work and recreate. Because of these features, our residents enjoy a high quality of life and in the future, these features are maintained and bolstered.

By strengthening business activity in the hamlet, Elizabethtown has created a strong, diverse, year-round economy. We have accomplished this by capitalizing on our status as the County seat, and as a regional employment and service center, and by diversifying the reasons for people to visit and live here. We have taken advantage of our central location, our proximity to a major North/South corridor and our local school. Increasing numbers of visitors enjoy the many natural and cultural amenities found here. We understand that our unique character nestled between the High Peaks and Lake Champlain and environment is the cornerstone of our economic health. As such, we have added new cultural, recreational, housing, employment, and tourist opportunities in a manner that reflects the scale and character of the Town.

A variety of housing options attract and meet the diverse needs of Elizabethtown residents, and the transportation system provides safe, healthy mobility alternatives that promote livability.

Recommended Actions and Strategies

Economic and Business Development

1. Capitalize upon Elizabethtown's status as a government center and service hub for surrounding communities. Establishments, services, and activities are promoted and marketed to potential residents, visitors, and those employed in Elizabethtown.
2. Promote Elizabethtown as an Adirondack destination.
3. Retain existing establishments and attract new small-scale businesses that offer additional goods and services to both residents and visitors.
4. Attract new small-scale light industry and commercial enterprises that can be integrated into the fabric of the built environment and our environment.
5. Attract and retain residents, especially young adults and young families.
6. Improve communication and cooperation among local businesses to help foster a strong business environment.
7. Promote a parking strategy which enhances business development, pedestrian safety and improvement in visual character.

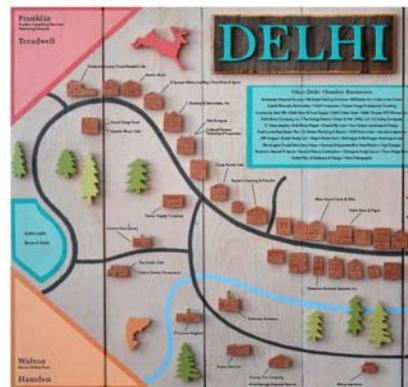
Strategies

1. Continue to encourage citizen volunteers wherever possible to assist with town projects. Projects that could be evaluated and considered for implementing include:
 - a. Gather data and analyze current and future demand for parking in the Hamlet. Plan and develop strategies to increase the effectiveness of existing parking including finding alternative parking sites, evaluating shared parking lots, cross-easements to allow cars to go from one lot to the next, and appropriate parking lot design standards. Look for additional on-street parking opportunities, especially along Hand Ave, Williams St. and Park St. Consider allowing off-premise parking for more intensive uses in the Hamlet Service district. There are some parcels that are under-developed, and disconnected from other uses (on side streets) that might be able to accommodate additional parking.

- b. Identify priority needs for economic development, including tourism and eco-tourism opportunities in Elizabethtown that are transformational and that meet the Northern New Country Regional Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan's criteria for funding. Work with County and Regional Council to prepare Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA) for those projects.
- c. Evaluate whether use of a tool such as a Business Improvement District for businesses on Court Street in the Hamlet is viable.
- d. Provide high speed/broadband internet and cellular service for the entire town.
- e. Implement a Main Street Program to promote revitalization and economic development in the Hamlet. The Main Street Approach is based upon four points: design (improving the area's image by enhancing its physical appearance), organization (building consensus and cooperation among groups and individuals that play roles in the community), promotion (marketing), and economic restructuring (strengthening and diversifying the economic base.)
- f. Conduct a market analysis for Elizabethtown to understand the potential for and then attract, new businesses.
- g. Develop a brand, or coordinate with existing regional brands, and market the Hamlet for both small business development and to convey the high quality of life in Town to bring more residents to the area. Emphasize the walkability of the Hamlet and its relationship to healthy lifestyle choices.
- h. Develop and access funding to support economic development initiatives. Consider using a professional grant writer to maximize the Town's opportunities to obtain funding.
- i. Promote local food programs such as the workplace Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program from Adirondack Harvest. Large employers such as the school and hospital could be excellent worksite CSA's hosts that could sustain local farms and provide healthy, locally grown foods.
- j. Find ways to involve and promote forestry and the forest products industry. The Town of Elizabethtown owns a number of parcels of forestland located in the Town and in neighboring towns. If the Town Board chooses to harvest forest products from these parcels, they should do so by first creating a forest management plan with the assistance of a professional forester. The harvesting of timber or other forest products will be conducted in a manner that promotes healthy reforestation and protects the environment for future residents of Elizabethtown.

- k. Identify a location that could serve as a retreat/conference and recreation center.
 - l. Explore feasibility of providing a virtual office in Elizabethtown to encourage new business. A virtual office is a location that provides services for the road warrior, entrepreneur, corporation, start-up business, home based business, or out of town business seeking a physical mailing address and access to conference room space for the occasional meeting. They usually include a physical mailing address, private mail box, parking, use of a social meeting room, small conference room, and sometimes, optional mail forwarding.
2. Support and find additional ways to implement niche agricultural operations in Elizabethtown, including possible expansion of the Farmers Market. Support the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program. (There are currently eight CSA farms in Essex County. Expand the community garden program.)
 3. Continue planning for and construct the proposed sewer project in the Hamlet; ensure it is expandable.
 4. Update the Hamlet's Land Use Local Law to ensure it is responsive to both business needs as well as to the need to promote high quality development that enhances community character. The Land Use Local Law update could include the following, which would be restricted to within the current Hamlet:
 - a. Allow for home occupations in additional areas along with updated standards to ensure these uses fit into the neighborhood. The definition of "Home Occupation", which is allowed in the Hamlet Residential and Hamlet Protectorate districts, is restrictive. More intensive uses, with more employees could be allowed if appropriate on/off-street parking can be accommodated. Also, ensure there is continuity of sidewalk access, and appropriate signage directing potential customers from Court St./US9 to these uses.
 - b. New signage standards for smaller but effectively-designed signs.
 - c. Parking lot size, location, lighting, and landscape standards.
 - d. New commercial building design and landscape standards. It may be useful to either restrict size of commercial buildings in certain areas or require façade breaks. Explore alterations/improvements that can be made to existing buildings to increase their compatibility with the overall visual character of the Town.

- e. Allow for biotech, tourism and eco-tourism related businesses, agricultural storage and distribution, biomass, microhydro, and other uses that are consistent with the regional economic development strategies.
 - f. The existing Land Use Law defines a parking space as being “off-street”. On-street parking should be taken into consideration when reviewing new or expanded commercial uses.
 - g. Make adjustments to the Hamlet zoning district boundaries to reflect current land uses, and the river and floodplain boundaries.
 - h. Mixed uses in the Hamlet Service District, which allow both commercial and residential uses should be encouraged as a way to provide additional density and affordable housing in that location.
 - i. Ensure that any additional identified and desired economic activities are allowed in the Hamlet Service and/or Hamlet Residential districts.
5. Work with businesses, landowners, DOT, and others to evaluate the cost and feasibility of placing a sign near exits 30 and 31 to promote lodging, dining, gas, and other activities in Elizabethtown.
6. Work with businesses, landowners, DOT, and local government officials to identify locations, and construct trails and a small parking area that allows access to the river from the Hamlet. See Elizabethtown Active Living Strategy map.
7. Enhance the information center at the golf course that conveys information about businesses and attractions in the Hamlet and rest of the Town.



Hamlet Revitalization and Visual Character

1. Ensure that commercial development is in harmony with the character and pedestrian-scale fabric of the Hamlet.
2. Reconnect strategic portions of the Hamlet visually and physically with the Boquet and the Branch Rivers.
3. Ensure that the Hamlet is clearly identifiable from all points of entry as a center of activity and as an Adirondack hamlet.
4. Enhance the Hamlet's walkable neighborhoods.
5. Enhance streetscapes in the Hamlet to provide an attractive physical environment for residents and visitors.
6. Incorporate design standards in the land use law for activities with potential impact on visual character, such as facades, lighting, and signs.

Strategies:

1. Develop and brand Court Street as a "Green Spine". Take advantage of the existing extensive "green" in front of the County Offices and re-develop the existing Town Green. There is an opportunity to create a significant linear band of "green" in the heart of Court Street that would serve to improve the Hamlet's visual character and promote revitalization. See Appendix F for the illustrations of this green spine. Components of this strategy include:
 - a. Enhance the streetscape and the "Green Spine" by the installation of street trees on the south side of Court Street.
 - b. Aesthetically enhance the existing power poles and bring the scale of the poles to a more pedestrian level. These improvements include:
 - i. Replacing the cobra head lighting with a decorative light arm.
 - ii. Adding banners on the street side of the pole; and
 - iii. Hanging flower baskets on the sidewalk side of the pole.
 - c. Long-term, work to underground the wires during any future major road reconstruction project. This would enable the opportunity for

decorative pole lighting and street trees on both sides of Court Street.

- d. On the west of the School, reduce the underutilized shoulder/on-street parking area and creating a treed lawn to visually buffer the car dealership and Family Dollar Store and act as a more fitting transition into the heart of Court Street.
- e. Take advantage of the future re-design of the Golf Course to add to the new linear green for both passive and moderately active recreational uses. Together with the County Office Green, this area would create 1800 linear feet of “usable” green along Court Street. This valuable green space should be treated as an asset and celebrated as something unique to Elizabethtown. It can be utilized to create spin-off economics such as holding community events to bring the community and regional visitors to the center of Town.
- f. Long-term, and after the golf course redesign, create a visitor center at that location with:
 - i. Trail head parking to utilize golf course trails during winter for cross country skiing, and snow shoeing;
 - ii. Possible future relocation of the town ice skating rink, which would give this community asset a much more centralized and accessible location;
 - iii. The Visitor Center itself could house public rest rooms and potentially have a small area for refreshments and warming, and provide information on local eateries, shops, lodging, and recreational opportunities.
- g. When redesigning the Town Green, make it more usable by:
 - i. Better organizing the spaces within the Green through creation of a simple and effective circulation system within the park. The Green makes a strong connection to the County Green and to the sidewalk system along Court Street.
 - ii. Creating a central Monument Plaza that organizes many of the existing elements of the current Town Green in a unified central location. The planned circular plaza is anchored by the relocation of the existing fountain, which would be elevated on a pedestal in the middle of a raised planting bed. The plaza paving is recommended to be constructed of dedicated brick pavers. Space for dedicated park benches surrounding the plaza should be provided

for. In addition, the many monuments that are randomly displayed within the existing green should be formally positioned in the planting area surrounding the plaza, which will make the monuments accessible and readable for visitors of all ages and abilities. One of the larger existing stone monuments and flag pole is shown remaining in their existing location but would become the anchor of the plaza's new entry.

- iii. The existing Gazebo/Band shell should be more integrated into the overall park design. It should become the focal point of the western entry to the Green. This layout creates a more useable space for holding events and performances because the central green will become oriented toward the Gazebo/Band shell and the scenic vista beyond it to the west. The large central open space would now be much more flexible for a variety of uses.
 - iv. Relocate the existing vegetation in the current Town Green to help define the usable spaces. Currently, the existing trees appear to be randomly placed throughout the park. The new Green would use the tree plantings to provide shade in seating and gathering areas and to define the larger open space.
 - h. The commercial zones on the south side of Court Street across from the Green also have an opportunity to be improved with landscaping, especially where the pharmacy and grocery store are located. The plan calls for a landscape buffer to be created along the existing sidewalk. This new area can be used for additional tree plantings and shrub plantings to help screen the large open parking lots. These planting buffers will also establish a sense of quality and bring cohesion to the streetscape treatment.
2. Improve the Court Street/ River Street Intersection Area. These enhancements should be:
- a. Placement of a Gateway Sign, "Welcome to Elizabethtown", on the South-western quadrant of the intersection. This should be made of either native Adirondack river stone or brick to match several of the civic buildings along Court Street.
 - b. Enhance the bridge crossing at the intersection. The bridge could be architecturally enhanced to bring attention to the river crossing and to become part of the streetscape transition that tells visitors that they are entering someplace special. The idea is that they cross the bridge and come to the intersection and see "Welcome to Elizabethtown".

- c. Utilize the large concrete retaining wall as another opportunity to improve community quality and identity. The wall should be veneered with either native stone or brick. A sign panel could be incorporated into the wall.
 - d. Enhance the large grass slope area adjacent to the wall through a themed planting such as a large “E” of flowers or a clipped hedge. Again, the idea is to take advantage of what is already in the Hamlet and literally create identity.
3. Strategically place several shade trees at the ends of the existing parking rows in front of the drug store and grocery store to help mask the large blank block walls on the box architecture of those buildings.
 4. Create design and landscape guidelines for the central business district and incorporate into the Hamlet’s Land Use Local Law so that in the future, large barren parking areas can be avoided and new buildings contribute to the fabric of the community.
 5. Change the Land Use Local Law in the Hamlet to ensure that new buildings are consistent in scale, layout and design with Hamlet. Ensure new building and redevelopment reflects a main street style, with buildings close to the street for easy pedestrian access, and parking in the rear or on-street. Other design standards should include shorter setbacks, new parking lot design requirements, new landscape requirements.
 6. Consider redefining the Hamlet Protectorate district as an overlay district. Relying on a 1-acre minimum lot size in a hamlet area does not retain hamlet-style appearance. It may be more appropriate to allow for smaller lot sizes, but require that buildings and impervious surfaces be appropriately placed on the parcel to preserve open areas and important hamlet or environmental features.
 7. Incorporate the Active Living Strategy recommendations for placement of pole mounted banners, directional signs, and information kiosks.
 8. Encourage parking behind commercial buildings instead of in front of buildings.
 9. Create view tunnels/corridors through the trees and vegetation from the street to the river so that pedestrians and travelers on roadways can see this important resource.

Environment

1. Preserve and, where possible, improve the quality of Elizabethtown's air, land, and water.
2. Support development and implementation of water quality improvement efforts, particularly those focused on the Boquet River, the Branch, and on Lincoln Pond.
3. State water quality initiatives, such as storm water and erosion and sedimentation guidelines are integrated into local codes.
4. Encourage trail connections between the Hamlet and the broader landscape.
5. Enhance public understanding of the environment and the important role it plays in Town.
6. Improve protection of floodplains that balances the needs for protection and safety with the desire for moderate growth in the Hamlet.

Strategies

1. Review the Floodway Special District for consistency with changes in floodplain mapping. Review and evaluate the regulations associated with this District.² Any review could be coordinated with the NYSDEC Regional Floodplain Coordinator. Work with the County, as part of its ongoing hazard mitigation planning efforts, as well as relevant State and Federal entities to update these regulations and train a local Floodplain Administrator. At the least, update the Land Use Local Law so that it references floodplain and shoreline rules and regulations consistent with APA regulations.
2. Encourage use of sustainable development practices like LEED (for energy efficiency) and Low Impact Development (LID for stormwater runoff control) for new development in the Hamlet. Use of these practices may allow for some additional development within the HP district.
3. Consider stormwater retrofit programs in the Hamlet to address stormwater and runoff. New development must already meet NYS DEC requirements for stormwater which can include use of swales, rain barrels, or even simple methods such as ensuring rain gutters do not run into streets and parking lots (called rooftop disconnect). A

² These are generally found at Section 9.03 of the Land Use Local Law and Regulations, last revised 2008.

retrofit over time of other areas using these same methods could be beneficial.

4. Work with the Lincoln Pond Association in a collaborative way to enhance shoreline development and management. Support their ongoing citizen monitoring, outreach, and advocacy efforts.
5. Supporting BRASS stream restoration assessment and their goal (BRASS) of “Improvement of invertebrate and fish habitat to sustain natural reproduction of native and re-introduced fish species and maintenance of minimum water quality standards to meet the NYS DEC requirements of the “Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers” act designation.”
6. Support science-based stream management methods for the Boquet and other streams in the area to maintain the A and C(t) classifications of streams in the area (See Stream Classification map.)
7. Encourage additional stormwater and erosion tools to protect steep slope areas (>25%) during development. Development should be located such that sensitive environmental areas, including steep slopes, are avoided.
8. Update the Land Use Local Law within the Hamlet to integrate DEC stormwater requirements. Reference the most current standards including DEC official guides and specifications for stormwater management, including DEC’s guidelines for green development.
10. NYS General Municipal law allows municipalities to appoint a volunteer Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). This advisory-only group can help the Town inventory natural resources, support the planning board with environmental information, and conduct public education programs about the areas resources. Consider appointing a CAC with the primary role of developing public education efforts related to the environment in Elizabethtown.
11. Fully implement the sewer project if appropriate funding is obtained.
12. Evaluate and consider making changes to the Hamlet Protectorate district. The HP district should provide adequate protection of natural resources, and protection from flooding. However, there may be opportunities to increase development intensity, or allow additional uses with proper site plan evaluation. See the graphic below, which shows the water, wetland, and flood hazard areas within the existing HP district.

Recreation

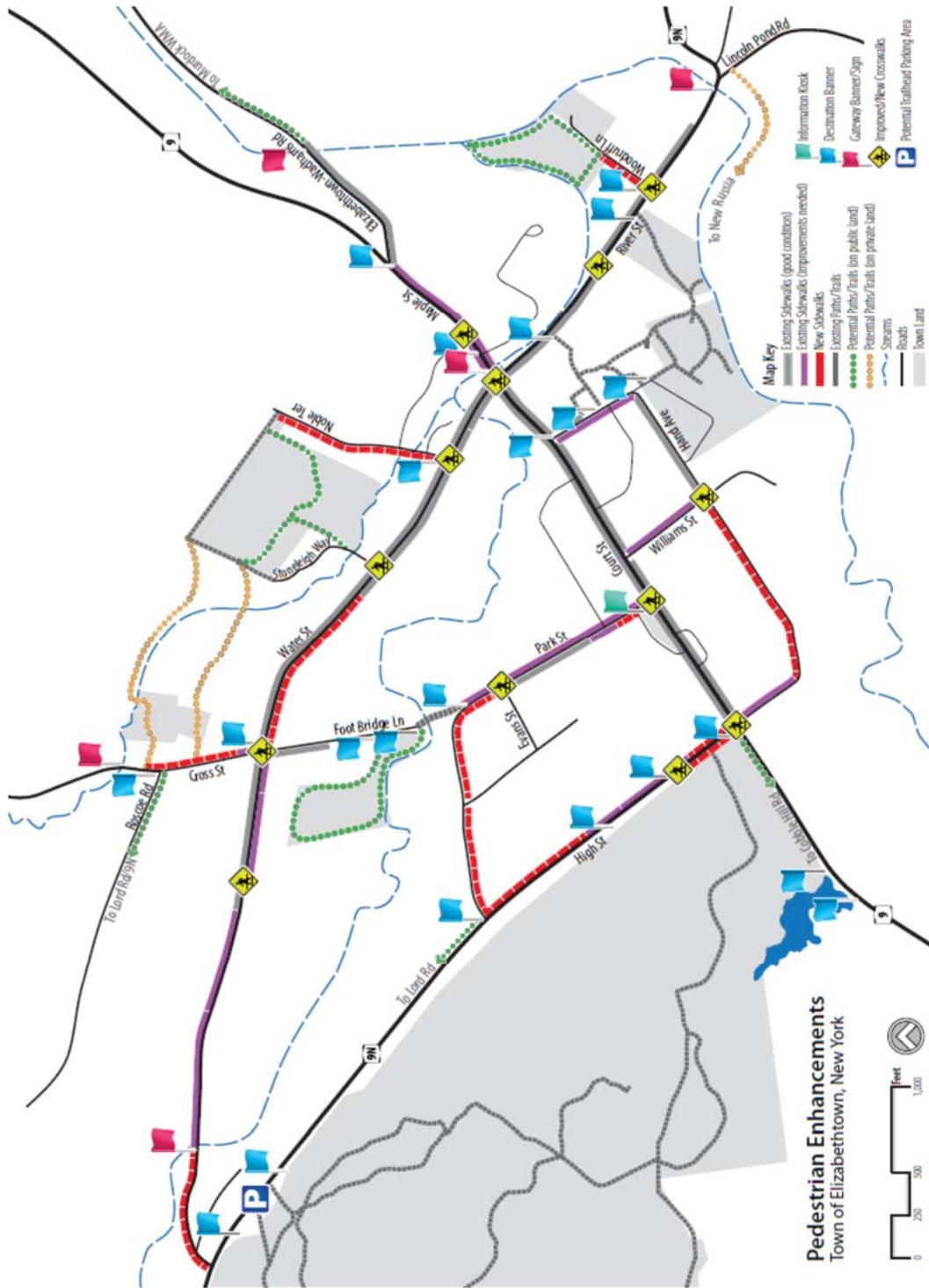
1. Maintain existing outdoor recreation opportunities and, where appropriate expand them to be consistent with desires and designs expressed in this plan.
2. Promote recognition of State-owned lands as unique, significant local assets.
3. Restore and expand public access to water-based recreational activities.

Strategies

1. Implement existing Town park, and new Town park improvements as outlined in the Active Living Strategy.
2. Form a Town Recreation and Trails Committee to identify, coordinate and seek funding for recreation programs in Elizabethtown. The actions this Committee could explore and implement include:
 - a. Implement trail awareness and wayfinding programs as outlined in the Active Living Strategy. Consider developing a walking trail with maps indicating routes, mileage, distance, time etc. This could be added as a public walking trail to online programs such as “Map My Walk” or similar online programs to involve the larger community.
 - b. Implement the new trailhead parking recommendations as outlined in the Active Living Strategy.
 - c. Develop new trails as recommended in the Active Living Strategy as follows:
 - i. Footbridge Park
 - ii. Noble Terrace Park
 - iii. Trail on the south side of Boquet River from Lincoln Pond Road towards New Russia
 - iv. Trail from Noble Terrace Park to Cross Street
 - v. Trail on Town Property on Woodruff Lane. Consider creating a pocket park at the end of Woodruff Lane as well to create river access.

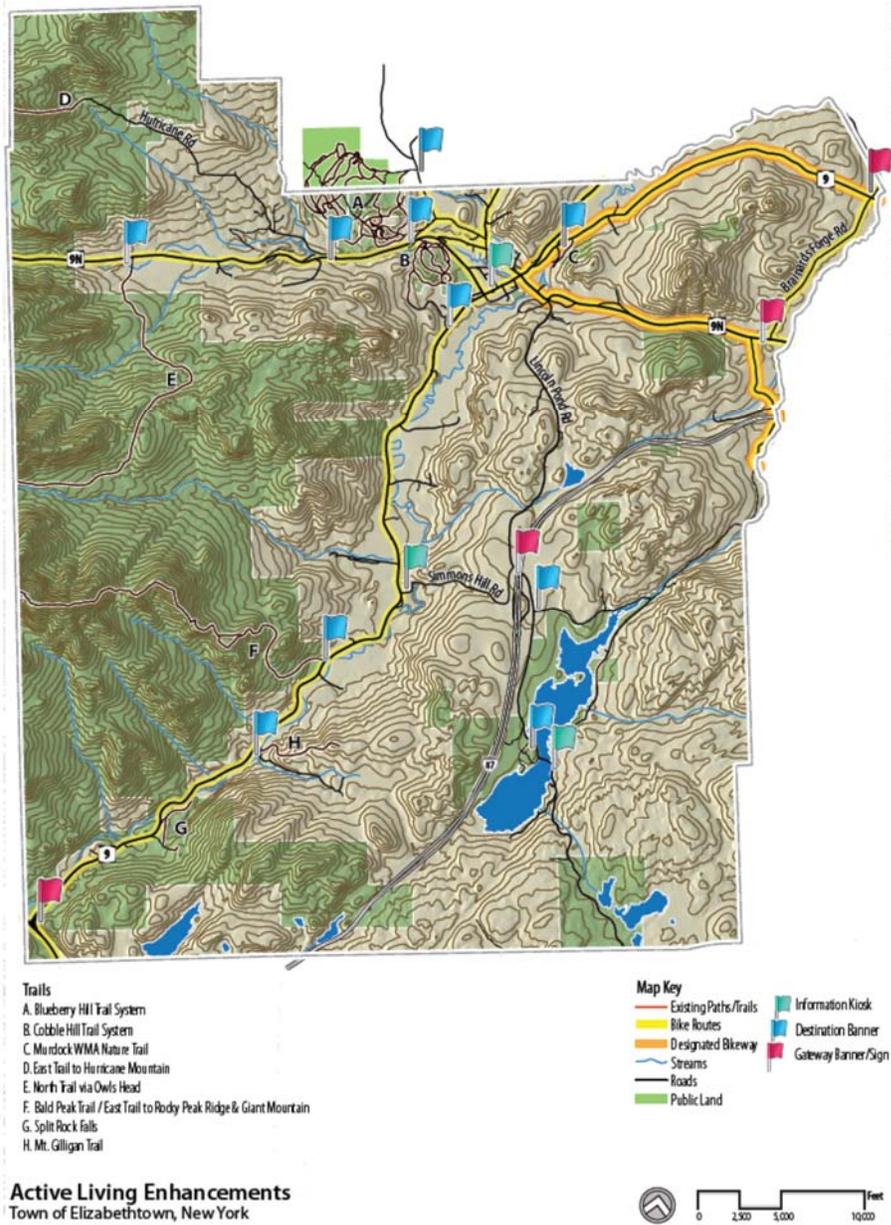
- vi. Implement river walk in Hamlet and connect that trail to sidewalks. –. Further, BRASS has also identified a trail planned along the Boquet River that could be explored and incorporated into the trail system.
 - vii. Map new trail connections and link Hamlet to Blueberry Hill, Cobble Hill Golf Course and river trail in Hamlet
- d. Identify locations where benches may add an important component to active use of sidewalks.
 - e. See ways to connect trails in Elizabethtown to those in adjacent towns to create a regional network for hiking between hamlets.
 - f. Evaluate the feasibility of re-doing the swimming hole on the Boquet River.
 - g. Enhance recreational opportunities at existing or new facilities that are inclusive to all.
 - h. Try to achieve a private/public partnership to create soccer fields that can be used by the ELCS as well as youth in the community. This sort of project between the community, the town, and the school have has multiple benefits and can use limited funds as well as volunteer labor.

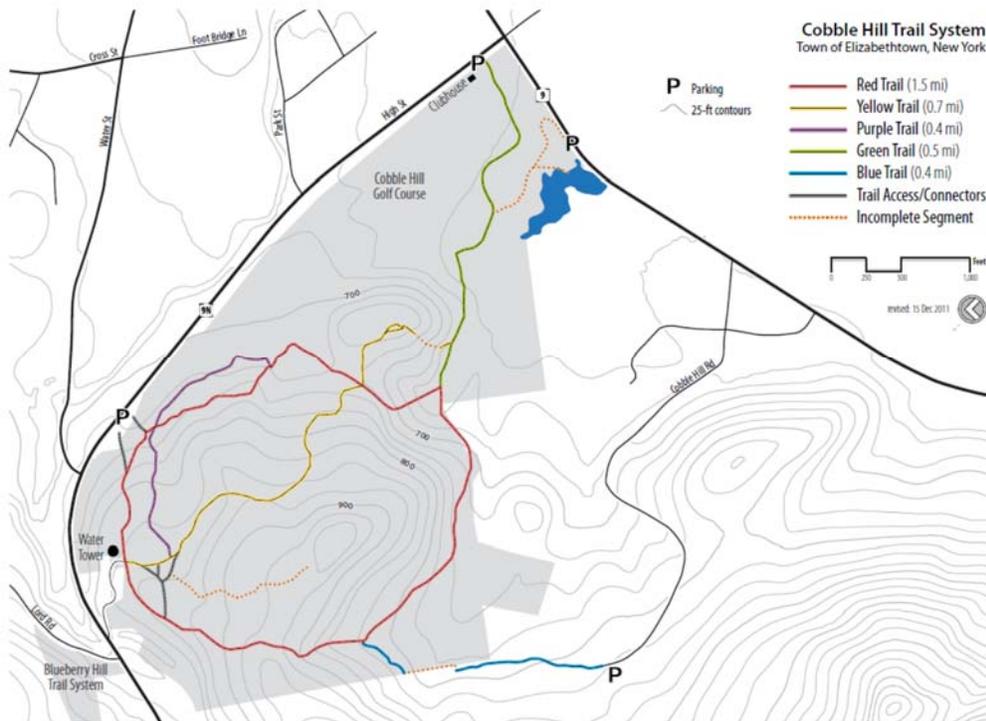
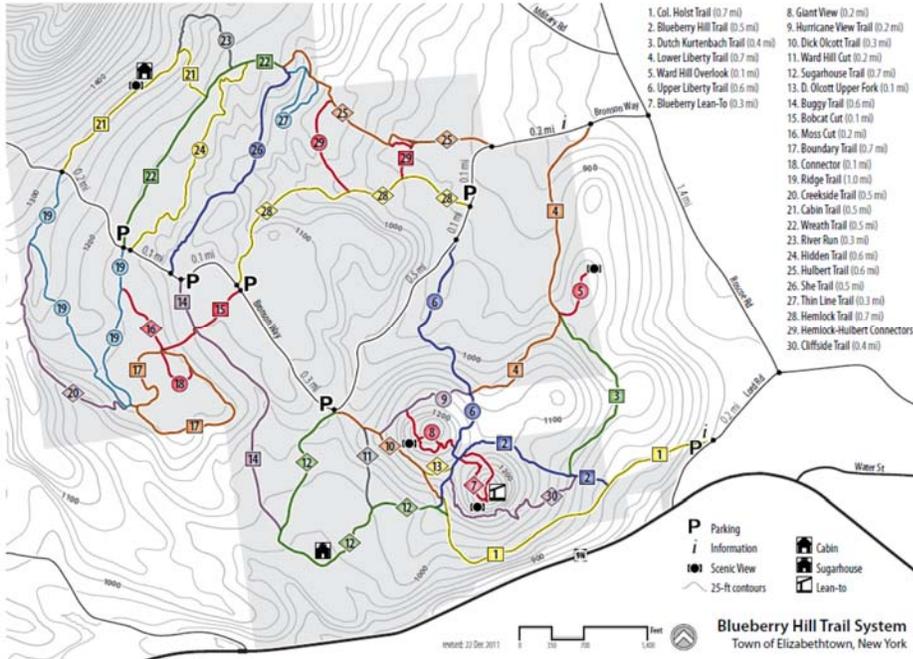
elizabethtown active living strategy



Pedestrian Enhancements
Town of Elizabethtown, New York

3. Consider conducting a Street Tree inventory, using a tool such as the United States Department of Agriculture's iTree Streets (<http://www.itreetools.org/>), a public domain software suite. This tool will support an analysis of structure, function, and value of street trees in Elizabethtown. Of especial importance is the need to maintain the trees in the floodplain within the Hamlet.





Land Use and Housing

1. Expand housing options for senior citizens, including affordable housing and assisted living communities. At the same time, enhance the ability of seniors to age-in-place in their homes.
2. Increase affordable, attractive, age-appropriate housing opportunities for younger residents and those with young families.
3. Attract and retain professionals, such as those in the medical field and those working in government administration, with housing options targeted toward this demographic.
4. Maintain the Hamlet of Elizabethtown as the primary location for new development.
5. Carefully and sensitively plan for the expansion of major institutions located in Elizabethtown in a manner that maintains the character of the Hamlet.
6. Encourage appropriately scaled growth consistent with the area's rural character, natural landscape, and existing settlement patterns.
7. Consider underutilized sites and structures within the Hamlet for potential infill and redevelopment, and strategically promote them as assets to catalyze future growth.
8. Ensure that land use regulations in the Hamlet continue to fulfill community desires for natural resource conservation and maintenance of the Hamlet's landscape. Increase enforcement of current land use laws.

Strategies

1. Work with existing institutions, such as the hospital, School and County, to proactively ensure that their activities and expansion plans are in harmony with the goals of this Plan. Strengthen or otherwise develop these important partnerships.
2. Update the Hamlet's Land Use Local Law to allow for senior housing. This includes adding definitions, changing the section on multi-family housing to allow such uses at a higher density, and adding development standards to ensure this kind of housing is consistent with the other goals of the Hamlet.
3. The Hamlet's Local Land Use Law includes references to open space and clustering. While there are limited opportunities for clustering of

residential development within the Hamlet, the law still needs further definition of what these are and what procedures or standards will be used to guide that type of development should it occur. Consider including in the Hamlet's land use law provision for use of a conservation subdivision for large subdivisions. A conservation subdivision is where open space is planned for and preserved within the subdivision. Although this may not need to be applied now, should there be a major subdivision proposed for the Hamlet in the future, a conservation subdivision could serve to promote the Town's goals.

4. The Town of Elizabethtown does not desire to have additional land use laws outside the Hamlet. Restrict zoning regulations to be applied within the current Hamlet area.
6. Work with the County to institute 'Aging in Place' strategies for seniors as an alternative to help seniors stay in their own homes throughout their life. Aging in place is a term used to describe a senior living in the residence of their choice as they age, while being able to have any services (or other support) they might need over time as their needs change, for as long as they are able.
7. Work with the County to use regional, state and federal housing rehabilitation programs to improve housing stock and provide employment at the same time for local contractors.
8. Complete a housing study to identify critical housing needs in terms of affordability and housing options and develop a long-term strategy with the County housing programs to meet those needs.

Community and Cultural Character

1. Preserve or enhance our unique qualities and a strong sense of place. This includes our rural character, small town feel, quiet environment, friendly atmosphere, natural landscapes, and the Hamlet's historic identity as an Adirondack hamlet and Gateway to the Adirondacks.
2. Strengthen and increase communication and cooperation among the residents, businesses, institutions, and municipal government in Elizabethtown.
3. Increase the number of and amount of opportunities for participation in community events. Strengthen or build upon the important contribution of existing events, such as the farmers market and E'town Day.
4. Sustain, enhance, and appropriately grow Elizabethtown's commercial sector.
5. Consider multi-jurisdictional and regional initiatives, including planning and economic development.
6. Promote and enhance the school in Elizabethtown as an important resource.
7. Support existing cultural institutions and grow cultural opportunities

Strategies

1. Develop a welcome packet for new residents.
2. Continue Town government transparency, communication and participation by continuing the regular, expanded newspaper, website, email and newsletter coverage of Town policies, programs, laws, and activities.
3. Reinforce and expand existing community initiatives to identify, catalogue and preserve the Town's history and historic places and seek funding through historic preservation grants from private, state and national sources.
4. Foster, support and build on, ongoing cultural activities that enhance the community such as: The history Center museum, town concerts, theater productions, and other artistic endeavors.

Community Infrastructure and Transportation

1. Provide support for alternative, innovative waste solutions available to residents, such as recycling and composting.
2. Continue to maintain the road network and provide safe, congestion-free mobility.
3. Increase the Town's resiliency with respect to intense weather events.
4. Implement the Active Living Strategy as part of ongoing capital improvement efforts and planning activities. Alternative modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling, will be safely accommodated, particularly in the Hamlet.
5. Provide adequate parking in the Hamlet to support local businesses.
6. Create new opportunities for infrastructure needed to support growth, including broadband technology, cellular service, and wastewater treatment.
7. Increase the role of local food systems, of which the farmers market is a significant part, and expand local agriculture to meet the nutritional needs of residents and to provide new economic opportunities.
8. Ensure that the land use laws of Elizabethtown are effective, responsive, and up-to-date.
9. Seek opportunities to increase local production of energy and decrease energy consumption in order to promote sustainability.
10. Increase public transportation to bring people to Elizabethtown from surrounding areas to shop and access services, and bring people from Elizabethtown to regional and local destinations.

Strategies

1. Work with NYS DOT to create shared roadways along Routes 9 and 9N/shoulder improvements for biking
2. Establish biking routes along roadside paths for improved pedestrian and bicyclist access as suggested in the Active Living Strategy.
3. Place bike racks in the Hamlet and at trail head access points.

4. Work with DOT to develop new crosswalks in the hamlet, sidewalk bulb-outs, etc. Priority intersections should be those identified in the Active Living Strategy.
5. As recommended in the Elizabethtown Active Living Strategy, consider:
 - a. Sidewalk repair, replacement and maintenance projects.
 - b. Study possible improvements to sidewalks, crosswalks and intersections.
 - c. New crosswalks and repair and maintenance of existing ones.



6. Develop a Five Year Town Capital Improvement Plan, and update it annually. Identify the financial requirements to fund the Capital Improvement Plan, and possible funding sources. The Five Year Capital Improvement Plan should cover buildings, roads, equipment and other Town and Fire District capital expenditures, including planning for future highway department needs.
7. As per Town Law 272-a, ensure all government agencies consider and respect this Comprehensive Plan when implementing capital projects in Elizabethtown.
8. Pursuant to NY State initiatives to minimize costs and taxes, establish a task force to evaluate, on an ongoing basis, further sharing or consolidating all municipal services (such as highway department functions, fire, assessment, building Inspection, etc) with neighboring communities and the County.

9. Update the Hamlet's Land Use Local Law to enhance enforcement capability. The law should include an enforcement section that articulates full enforcement procedures, time frames, and roles of the building inspector/code enforcement officer, along with fees and violations as per New York State Law.
10. Work to improve energy efficiency and self-sufficiency. This includes using alternative renewable energy such as solar, microhydro, and biomass.
 - a. Work with the forest product industry to evaluate feasibility for use of biomass.
 - b. Consider the New York State DEC Climate Smart Community program. Climate Smart Communities is a state-local partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save taxpayer dollars and advance community goals for health and safety, economic vitality, energy independence and quality of life.
 - c. Evaluate building codes to ensure that they meet what is required by law for energy efficiency measures.
11. Work with County and regional agencies and businesses to implement more comprehensive cell service and broadband infrastructure.
12. Evaluate the feasibility of providing bus service in the summer from the Hamlet to Lincoln Pond.
13. Enhance our recycling program.
14. Work with the Nature Conservancy, NYSDOT, FHA, BRASS, and other groups engaged in culvert evaluation for aquatic species and flood hazards. Incorporate these recommendations into ongoing capital improvement planning and construction activities.

Hamlet Design Plan

During October, 2012, Ian Law, LA, a landscape architect visited Elizabethtown to assist in developing a visual concept plan for the Hamlet. The results of that effort include the Hamlet Illustrations and the following recommendations:

- Court Street Area
 - Court Street should be branded as a “Green Spine to, take advantage of the extensive “green” in front of the County buildings and a redesigned Memorial Park. Together these “greens” create a significant linear band of useable public space.
 - The “Green Spine” could then be further embodied by the installation of trees on the south side of Court Street.
 - The trees along the south side will focus the eye to the strong mountain views to the west and east and act as an effective buffer to the commercial establishments. The trees will help balance the strength of the “greens” on the north side of the street and create a sense of continuity.
 - The existing power poles should be aesthetically enhanced. These improvements include:
 - Replacing the cobra head lighting with a decorative light arm
 - Adding banners on the street side of the pole; and
 - Hanging flower baskets on the sidewalk side of the pole
 - Long-term enhancements should look for opportunities to underground the wires during the next major road reconstruction project, which would create the opportunity for decorative pole lighting and street trees on both sides of Court Street.
 - West of the High School, reduce the underutilized shoulder/on-street parking area and create a tree lawn. The landscape buffer would go a long way to visually buffer the car dealership and Family Dollar Store and act as a more fitting transition into the heart of Court Street.
 - This treatment to the West end of Court Street would work in concert with the re-design of the golf hole running along Court Street, which is planned to eliminate golf on that specific hole due to errant golf balls. This provides an opportunity to utilize this extended linear “green” for both passive and moderately active recreational uses. The plan calls for the possible future location of a visitor center with:

- Trail head parking to utilize golf course trails during winter for cross country skiing, and snow shoeing
 - Possible future relocation of the town ice skating rink, which would give this community asset a much more centralized and accessible location
 - The Visitor Center itself could house public rest rooms and potentially have a small area for refreshments and warming, and provide information on local eateries, shops, lodging, and recreational opportunities
 - In general, this extended linear green again ties into the theme of the green spine. Combined with the Town Green and the County Office Green, there is 1800 linear feet of “usable” green along Court Street or “Main Street”. This must be looked at as an asset as it is what they have. I think there is a local perception that the County Office Green is not theirs and therefore does not exist. This is a perception that needs to be changed. This valuable green space needs to be taken advantage of and celebrated as something that is unique to Elizabethtown. What other community has almost 2000 linear feet of park. It cannot just be left over unused space. This extended green needs to be utilized to create spin-off economics. Community Events should be held in the greens to bring the community and regional visitors to the center of Town, which in turn will lead to economic opportunity as the community members will then be in position to eat at local restaurants or shop at local businesses.
- The redesign of the Town Green plays upon the connectivity of the Count Office Green. The layout of pathways looks at this larger picture and provides the opportunity for improved connectivity. The primary goal of the Town Green redesign is to make it more usable by:
 - Organizing the spaces within the Green by creating a simple and effective circulation system within the park. The closing of the “access drive” that ran parallel to Court Street enables the park to expand by nearly a third and provide a green buffer between adjacent vehicular use areas at Stewarts and the County Planning parking lot. This expansion also provides the space to create a perimeter walk that defines the northern border of the Green and makes a strong connection to the County Green and to the sidewalk system along Court Street.
 - Creating a central Monument Plaza, as this organizes many of the existing elements of the current Town Green in a unified central location. The circular plaza is anchored by the relocation of the existing fountain, which would be elevated on a pedestal in the middle of a raised planting bed. The plaza paving could be constructed of dedicated

brick pavers and also provide space for dedicated park benching surrounding the plaza. In addition, the many monuments that were randomly displayed within the existing green will now be formally positioned in the planting area surrounding the plaza, which will make the monuments accessible and readable for visitors of all ages and abilities. One of the larger existing stone monuments and flag pole will remain in their existing location but become the anchor of the new entry plaza.

- The existing Gazebo/Band shell also is intended to be more integrated into the park design as it becomes the focal point of the western entry to the Green. The layout of the park then becomes more usable for holding events and even performances as the central green is oriented toward the Gazebo/Band shell and the scenic vista beyond to the west.
- The existing vegetation in the current Town Green can be easily relocated within the Green to help define the usable spaces. Currently, the existing trees appear to be randomly placed throughout the park. The new Green would use the tree plantings to provide shade in seating and gathering areas and to define the larger open space.
- The large central open space would now be much more flexible for a variety of uses, from passive picnicking, to throwing a ball or a Frisbee, or to hold community events or festivals as there would be plenty of space for gathering and tents.
- Along the lines of utilizing the Town Green and the County Green as one larger Green System the possibilities are endless:
 - Car shows
 - Art festivals
 - Music festivals
 - Winter festivals (imagine if that long linear green had those Xmas light scenes, that could be observed by strolling or by the passing cars on Court Street)
 - Harvest festivals
- The point is that this Green or Greens can be taken advantage of and become a key part of the community's identity. These areas are not going anywhere, so Elizabethtown should make the best of them.
- The commercial zones on the south side of Court Street across from the Green also have an opportunity to be improved, especially where the pharmacy and Grocery store are located.

- The plans call for a landscape buffer along the existing sidewalk. This area can be used for additional tree plantings and potentially a linear shrub planting to help screen the large open parking lots.
 - These planting buffers will also establish a sense of quality and bring cohesion to the streetscape treatment.
 - In the future it would also be beneficial to create Landscape Guidelines for the central business district so that the large barren parking areas can be avoided. This is also important because the architectural quality of those particular building do not contribute to the fabric of the community. A few strategically places shade trees at the ends of the parking rows would help mask the large blank block walls on the box architecture.
- Court Street/ River Street Intersection Area
 - The intersection offers both challenges and opportunities. The intersection is flanked by the gas station and the river on the southern quadrant, and vacant lots on the two north quadrant corners. The plan calls for several enhancements at this intersection area and they are as follows:
 - A Gateway Sign, “Welcome to Elizabethtown” on the North-western quadrant. This should be made of either native Adirondack river stone or brick to match several of the civic buildings along Court Street.
 - It is my understanding that the land owner of this parcel is very open and currently allows the Town to use this parcel for the Town Christmas Tree.
 - To the east of the intersection there is a typical bridge crossing. The bridge could be architecturally enhanced to bring attention to the river crossing and to become part of the streetscape transition that tells visitors that they are entering someplace special. The idea is that they cross the nice bridge and come to the intersection and see “Welcome to Elizabethtown”.
 - Moving west, the plan recommends utilizing the large concrete retaining wall as another opportunity to improve community quality and identity. The wall should be veneered again with either native stone or brick. A sign panel could be incorporated into the wall.
 - There is also a large grass slope area in adjacent to the wall that could be enhanced through a themed planting such as a large “E” of flowers or a clipped hedge. Again, the idea is to take advantage of what is already there.

See Appendix F for Illustrations of Hamlet Design.

Action Plan

Implementing the Comprehensive Plan will require a series of Town Board policy decisions, program initiatives, and coordination with local, county, regional and state organizations and agencies. Some actions recommended in the Plan will also require funding.

Success will be based on setting the right priorities and allocating scarce resources – people and funding – to the most important priorities. Each strategy suggested in this Plan represents a specific type of action that the Town can take. These types of actions range from

- **Capital Improvements**—any action that results in an investment and improvement in property, structures, equipment, staff or other similar items;
- **Administrative Actions**—any action that results in enhanced administration of Town functions; and
- **Establishment of programs and policies** —any action that results in establishment of a plan, activity, committee, proposal, or action.

Priority Actions for Town Board

A. Coordinate Implementation

The Town Board will approve by resolution all aspects of implementation of the Plan and will direct work to be done in the future.

1. However, other groups and agencies should be called upon to assist the Board when needed. Other boards, organizations, or individuals that can assist the Town Board in implementation include:
 - i. The Planning Board
 - ii. Town Highway Department
 - iii. Essex County
 - iv. Other local organizations
 - v. New committees to be formed by the Town Board

- vi. Professional advisors such as attorney, engineer, or planner, and other organizations and agencies such as SWCD, NRCS, and APA
2. Coordinate town plans with those of the county and other municipal jurisdictions so that project benefits are enhanced and cost savings more likely.

B. Establish an Implementation Committee

The Town Board should appoint members to a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to move the actions recommended in this Plan forward. This committee should be composed of a diverse group of representatives of elected and appointed officials, citizens, and landowners to help guide implementation of the plan. All committees are under the auspices of the Town Board, which has the ultimate authority.

C. Review and Update this Plan Every Five Years.

To be effective, this plan needs to stay current with the needs and issues facing Elizabethtown. To this end, the Town Board should review this plan every five years, identify new issues to be addressed, determine if any change in direction or action is needed, and reaffirm the plan as up-to-date, as per New York State Town Law 272-a.

Implementation Checklist

The following check list provides a summary of the next steps the Town should take to implement this plan. Useful information is included in the checklist including the type or action, according the following list:

- Regulatory (R): Any action that results in the development of new or amendment of existing land use related laws in the Hamlet. This typically refers to zoning, site plan review, or subdivision laws.
- Administrative (Ad): Any action that results in enhanced administration of town functions.
- Policy and Program (P): Any action that results in establishment of a plan, activity, committee, proposal, or similar items.
- Capital Improvement (C): Any action that results in an investment and improvement in property, structures, equipment, staff or other similar items.
- Appointment (Ap): Any action that requires the Town Board to form a new committee, outline specific tasks of that committee, and recruit members.

Finally, the table also includes possible lead agencies or entities as well as organizations, which might assist in implementation.

September 2014

Goal	Action Number	Summary Description of Action	Responsible Agency	Action Type	Funding Needed Yes/No or Possibly	Date Completed
Economic & Business Development	1	Encourage citizens to volunteer to help implement town projects	Town Board	Ap	No	
Economic & Business Development	1a	Conduct a parking study in the Hamlet	Planning Board or Ad Hoc Committee	P	Yes	
Economic & Business Development	1g	Develop a brand or expand existing brands for the Town for marketing purposes	Economic Development Committee	P	Possibly	
Economic & Business Development	1l	Establish a virtual office space in Town for new entrepreneurs	Economic Development Committee	P	Possibly	
Economic & Business Development	3 (and for Environment action 12)	Implement the sewer project as funding becomes available	Town Board	C	Yes	
Economic & Business Development	4 a - i (and for Hamlet action 4, 5, 6, 13, Environment action 8 and 15, Land use action 3, 4 and 6, and Infrastructure action 9)	Update the Hamlet Land Use Local Law (restricted to the current Hamlet)	Town Board and Planning Board	R	Yes	
Economic & Business Development	5	Study cost and feasibility of placing signs at Northway exits and other signage as outlined in the Plan	Town Board and Highway Department	P and C	No	
Economic & Business Development	1b	Identify economic development needs, coordinate this with the Regional Economic Development Council Strategy, and seek funding to implement	Economic Development Committee	P	No	
Economic & Business Development	1d (and for Infrastructure action 11)	Provide hi-speed internet to all areas of town	Economic Development Committee	C	Possibly	
Economic &	1e	Implement a Main Street Program to	Economic	P and	Possibly	

Goal	Action Number	Summary Description of Action	Responsible Agency	Action Type	Funding Needed Yes/No or Possibly	Date Completed
Business Development		revitalize the Hamlet	Development Committee	C		
Economic & Business Development	1h	Seek funding for economic development and other community development actions	Economic Development Committee	Ad	Possibly	
Economic & Business Development	2	Promote niche agriculture	Economic Development Committee	P	Possibly	
Economic & Business Development	6 (and for Infrastructure action 5)	Identify locations for ,construct new trails, and implement the Active Living Strategy	Recreation and Trails Committee	P and C	Yes	
Economic & Business Development	7	Enhance information center at golf course to increase awareness of local businesses and attractions	Economic Development Committee	P	Yes	
Economic & Business Development	1c	Explore usefulness of establishing a Business Improvement District within the Hamlet	Economic Development Committee	P and Ad and R	No	
Economic & Business Development	1f	Conduct a market analysis and use results to attract new businesses	Economic Development Committee	P	Yes	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	5	Add pole mounted banners, directional signs and info kiosks	Economic Development Committee	C	Yes	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	7	Create view tunnels or corridors in the trees between the street and river to open up the views of the river	Highway Department	C	No	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	1 a - h	Develop green spine concept plans	Town Board with help from Ad Hoc Committee to be appointed	C	Yes	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	2 a - d	Improve Court St and River St. intersection	Highway Department	C	Yes	

Goal	Action Number	Summary Description of Action	Responsible Agency	Action Type	Funding Needed Yes/No or Possibly	Date Completed
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	3 (and for Recreation action 3)	Plant shade street trees	Highway Department and CAC	C	Yes	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	1c	Underground wires on Court St.	Town Board	C	Yes	
Hamlet Revitalization & Visual Character	1f	Create a visitors center at the golf course	Economic Development Committee	P and C	Possibly	
Environment	1	Review the Floodway Special District and amend its boundaries within the Hamlet so it is consistent with actual map and DEC and APA regulations	Town Board and Planning Board	R	No	
Environment	3	Implement stormwater retrofit ideas in Hamlet	Town Board and CAC to be appointed	P	Possibly	
Environment	11	Appoint a Conservation Advisory Council	Town Board	Ap	No	
Recreation	2	Form a recreation and trails committee	Town Board	Ap	No	
Recreation	2d	Add benches on streets	Recreation and Trails Committee	C	Yes	
Recreation	3	Do a street tree inventory and maintenance	Recreation and Trails Committee	P	Possibly	
Recreation	1	Consider implementing park improvements that are included in the Active Living Strategy	Recreation and Trails Committee	C	Yes	
Recreation	2	Seek funding for recreation and trail programs	Recreation and Trails Committee	Ad	No	
Recreation	2a-c	Implement recreation and trail programs	Recreation and Trails Committee	P and C	Yes	
Recreation	2e	Create network of hiking trails between	Recreation	P and	Yes	

Goal	Action Number	Summary Description of Action	Responsible Agency	Action Type	Funding Needed Yes/No or Possibly	Date Completed
		hamlets	and Trails Committee	C		
Recreation	2f	Evaluate feasibility of re-doing swimming hole on Boquet River	Recreation and Trails Committee	P and C	No	
Recreation	2g	Enhance recreation facilities to be inclusive to all	Recreation and Trails Committee	C	Yes	
Land Use & Housing	1	Work with existing institutions to ensure their plans are consistent with this Town Plan	Planning Board	P	No	
Land Use & Housing	5	Work with County and others to improve the housing stock in Town	Town Board with County Housing	P	Possibly	
Land Use & Housing	6	Complete a housing study to identify housing needs	Town Board with County Housing	P	Possibly	
Land Use & Housing	4	Develop an aging in place program for seniors	Town Board with County	P	Possibly	
Community & Cultural Character	2	Continue newsletter, online postings, newspaper articles, etc for ongoing communication with residents	Town Board	P and Ad	Yes	
Community & Cultural Character	1	Develop welcome packets for new residents	Local business groups	P	Yes	
Community & Cultural Character	3	Expand historical preservation programs and seek funding for those activities	Town Historian	P and Ad	Yes	
Community & Cultural Character	4	Foster and support cultural activities in Town	Recreation and Trails Committee	P	Possibly	
Infrastructure and Transportation	7	Ensure all agencies consider and respect this plan as per Town Law 272-a when other agencies carry out capital improvements	Town Board	P	No	
Infrastructure and Transportation	13	Enhance recycling program	Town Board	P and C	Possibly	
Infrastructure	1	Work with NYS DOT on Routes 9 and 9N to	Town Board	Ad	No	

Goal	Action Number	Summary Description of Action	Responsible Agency	Action Type	Funding Needed Yes/No or Possibly	Date Completed
and Transportation		improve shoulders for bikes	and Highway Department and Recreation and Trails Committee	and C		
Infrastructure and Transportation	2	Establish biking routes alongside roadside paths	Recreation and Trails Committee	P and C	Yes	
Infrastructure and Transportation	3	Place bike racks in Hamlet and at trail head access points	Recreation and Trails Committee	C	Yes	
Infrastructure and Transportation	4	Work with NYS DOT to develop new crosswalks, sidewalks, etc. for pedestrians	Recreation and Trails Committee	P and C	Possibly	
Infrastructure and Transportation	6	Develop a five year capital improvement plan and begin funding planned projects	Town Board	P and Ad	Possibly	
Infrastructure and Transportation	8	Establish a task force to study consolidation of services	Town Board	Ap	No	
Infrastructure and Transportation	14	Evaluate culverts and upgrade where needed	Highway Department	P and C	Possibly	
Infrastructure and Transportation	5 a -c	Implement the Active Living Strategy as funds become available	Town Board with ad hoc committee	P, C and Ap	Yes	
Infrastructure and Transportation	10 a -e	Improve energy efficiency and self-sufficiency	Town Board with ad hoc committee	P	Possibly	

September 2014