

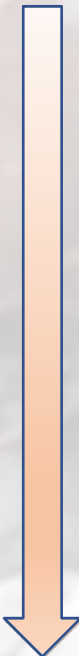


# Comprehensive Plan 2023



# Comprehensive Planning in Niskayuna

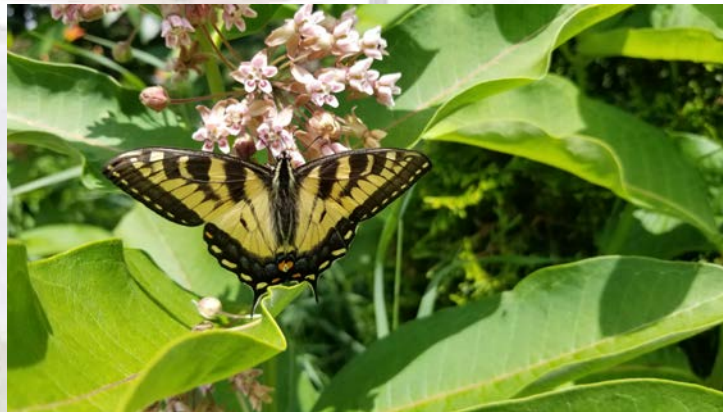
*The Comprehensive Plan represents a snapshot of the Town at a particular time and should not be viewed as a static, but rather as a dynamic, policy instrument to be modified as needed to reflect changing conditions.*

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- 1929** – First zoning ordinance adopted. Limited to sections of the Town subject to development pressures. Remained in effect, with revisions, for over thirty years.
  - 1960** – Preparation of first comprehensive plan. Lead to the adoption of a new zoning ordinance (1964) and subdivision regulations (1963). The plan was quickly rendered obsolete by development pressures of the late 1960s.
  - 1971** – Preparation of a second comprehensive plan. Lead to the adoption of a third zoning ordinance (1972) and new subdivision regulations (1973) and official map (1972).
  - 1983, 1993, 2003** – Comprehensive Plan updates to reflect ongoing town development.
  - 2013** - Preparations of Sixth Comprehensive plan – substantial rewrite of previous plan – 2003. Neighborhood focus, Expanded section on Recreation and Open space, Added section on Historic and Cultural Preservation, Recognized that transportation should support Vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle



# What is the Comprehensive Plan?

*Provides a roadmap that sets out broad goals and objectives for the immediate and future preservation of valued community characteristics, while allowing for the enhancement of smart and sustainable growth.*





# High Level Objectives of 2013 Comprehensive Plan

- Encourage housing development of various types, sizes, and costs to meet the needs of people at various stages of the life cycle, income, age levels, and household compositions. New development should not compromise the **integrity of the surrounding neighborhoods**, insure that the viability of Niskayuna's traditional neighborhoods is maintained.
- Ensure an **open space and recreation system** composed of publicly accessible active and passive opportunities is established, and that it accommodates the future needs of Niskayuna residents. Build on its existing system by positioning the Town to take advantage of open space opportunities as they arise; thereby, enabling the Town to realize the long term goals and objectives of an open space and recreation plan
- Ensure that Niskayuna's current transportation system provides convenient circulation around the Town. **Transportation improvements** should provide a balance of connectivity options that reflect the increasing importance of pedestrian and bike transportation modes.
- Preserve and maintain the valuable **historic, cultural, architectural, and archaeological heritage** of Niskayuna for the benefit of present and future residents.
- Maintain and strengthen Niskayuna's existing **diverse commercial and retail** economic area's such that they complement one another and maintain Niskayuna's fiscal base.
- Encourage the Town to promote **Climate Smart** development strategies

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# Major Accomplishments from 2013 Plan

## Transportation

- **4-lane Rexford Bridge**, protected multi-us path and roundabout
- **Nott Street / Balltown Road / Co-op** safety improvements
- Roundabout at River & Rosendale
- Traffic light timing improvements – Traffic light added to Providence
- **Sidewalks**: Rosendale Rd section, Upper Union Section
- Multiuse path extended from **Windsor Dr to Blatnick Park**
- **Form Complete Streets Committee** – Adopt a Complete Streets Policy
- Flower Hill and Zenner Soccer Field **Bike Path Connections**
- **Bike Rodeos and Traffic Calming** Demonstration Projects
- Balltown Road Corridor Study (JCC/ Craig vicinity)





# Major Accomplishments from 2013 Plan

## Recreation /Open Space

- Started **Natural Resource Inventory**
- Connected Lisha Kill Nature Preserve to Route 7
- Improved **Aqueduct Park** (Bathrooms, kayak access, trails and plantings)
- Obtained forest adjacent to Senior Center from Schenectady County
- Improved Softball Fields at **River Road Park**
- Improved **Blatnick Park** (added dog park / new bathrooms, EV stations)
- Re-established Tree Council – Tree City Certified



## Historic & Cultural Preservation

- Established **Architectural Review Board**
- Established Historic Preservation Code and **Historic Preservation Committee**
- Outlined Historic Designation - Plaque Program
- Added a **land acknowledgement** statement to public meetings





# Major Accomplishments from 2013 Plan

## Land Use



- River Corridor Zoning Changed from Industrial to Residential (**Rivers Ledge**)
- Maintained residential nature of **Route 7**
- Added a Mixed-Use Zone to Zoning Code (OD Heck)
- New Construction in R-P Zone on **Upper Union** (Dentist Office / Albany med Building)
- Increased **diversity of housing units** : Iroquois Village, Ridge Manor Court, Notts Landing West, Kelts Farm Duplexes, Fieldstone Estates Townhomes, Lois Lane Condominiums
- Achieved Clean Energy Designation and implemented **Climate Smart Programs**

## Economic Development



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# Major Accomplishments from 2013 Plan

## Public Facilities



- Upgrades **Waste Water Treatment Plant** to greater capacity and net zero GHG capability
- Upgraded **Balltown Road Pump Station**
- Sewer line replacement and Improvements to Windsor Drive/River Road sewer line
- **Inflow and Infiltration Reduction** in Sewer Lines
- Replaced ~3 miles of large diameter **transmission water main** on Mohawk Road, Pearse Road, Lisha Kill Road, Hillside Avenue
- **Redeveloped drinking water wells**, modernizing water treatment plant equipment and controls
- **Drainage improvements** to Lexington Parkway neighborhood
- Extended public sewer and connected water lines along **Aqueduct Road**
- Installed solar panels at **WWTP and Highway** garage to offset GHG emissions



# Continuing Neighborhood Focus

The Committee has completed an initial survey to the Neighborhoods

- 1: Balltown-Aqueduct
- 2: Mohawk Trails
- 3: Edison Woods
- 4: Rosendale Estates
- 5: Country Club
- 6: Monica Heights
- 7: Mohawk River Neighborhood
- 8: IR-R&D Neighborhood
- 9: Middle Street
- 10: Avon Crest
- 11: Hexam Gardens
- 12: Schaefer
- 13: Pearse Road
- 14: Avon Crest North
- 15: Red Oak
- 16: Fieldstone
- 17: Stanford Heights
- 18: Birchwood
- 19: The Grange
- 20: Old Niskayuna





# Comprehensive Planning Process



- **Identify past accomplishments** – *What has been accomplished since 2013?*
- **Identify issues** – Identify and address contemporary issues of concern to residents, workers, property owners, and business people, and emerging issues that will be important in the future. Review existing plan.
- **State goals** – Establish goals and community visions. They establish priorities for communities and help community leaders make future decisions
- **Collect data** - Involve various **stakeholders**. Examine and analyze data about the environment, traffic conditions, economic conditions, social conditions (such as population and income), public services and utilities, and land use conditions (such as housing, zoning, open space). Review existing plan.
- **Preparing the plan** - Based on background of the current and future conditions, community goals are crafted. Finally plans used to implement those goals into the community are identified. Niskayuna's previous plans included separate sections on different plan aspects.
- **Creating implementation plans** – Develop **specific action items** that will facilitate community goals and plans.
- **Evaluating alternatives** – Examine any relevant alternatives where appropriate
- **Town adopts the plan** – Committee works with town leaders throughout the process



# Comprehensive Planning Process



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The Comprehensive Plan Committee Wants to Hear from **YOU**



# Comprehensive Planning Process



- Collecting data

*Its important to have a diversity of ideas, opinions, visions*

Townwide Survey to be sent out.

Open Houses – Feedback Sessions – *like tonight*

- *Open Houses will be held throughout the process*
- *We are planning to hold them at different town locations*

You can always come to our meetings either in person or Skype and address the committee or email the town.



# Comprehensive Plan Committee

## *Update*

- **Established a Google work space environment for commenting and sharing ideas as well as uploading pictures**
- **Examined best practices for updating Comprehensive Plans**
- **Reviewed surrounding communities Comprehensive Plans**
- **Worked to find consensus on vision statement components to share with the community for their input**
- **Drafted an outreach survey to share with residents**
- **Drafted a list of topics and sections that need to be added to the plan**
- **Started revising the Neighborhood Narratives sections**



# ***Tonight's Agenda***

- > Presentation about the process – Just Completed**
- > *We have setup a series of stations around the room each is on will be facilitated by a committee member.***
- > Committee members have name tags seek them out and ask questions**

*Please visit each station we want your ideas and feedback.*



# Give Us Your Feedback

## Visit Each Station !

1. What do you love about Niskayuna and what would you like to stay the same?
2. What are some challenges faced by Niskayuna?
3. What is your big idea for Niskayuna in the next 10 to 20 years?
4. Questions and other comments

*At each station talk with the Committee Member and fill out sticky notes with your comments*

## At the map

- Place a green dot in areas that you feel are “strong” (What makes Niskayuna a Great Place to Live)
- Place a red dot in areas they identified as “challenged.”

If you would like to leave a comment use a sticky note



# Comprehensive Plan Committee

## **Chair:**

Dart Strayer

## **Members:**

Ashok Ramasubramanian

Denis Brennan

Jocelyn McKinney

Joseph Drescher

Leslie Gold

Rita Ogburn-McCall

Erin Cassady – Dorion

Clark Henry, Assistant Planner

Laura Robertson, Town Planner

- **Meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Schaefer Room, 6pm**
- **Agendas posted**
- **Meetings open to the public**