



TOWN OF Otsego

2026

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

PREPARED FOR TOWN BOARD

PREPARED BY PLANNING BOARD, STEERING COMMITTEE &
MOHAWK VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT INC.

<https://townofotsego.com/>

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Description of Town

The Town of Otsego was founded in 1788, making it the oldest town in Otsego County. Its rich cultural history includes the Village of Cooperstown, located along the town's eastern edge. Judge Cooper and his son, author James Fenimore Cooper, were early residents. *The Leatherstocking Tales* describe the historic setting of Cooperstown and the Town of Otsego, with much of the landscape remaining the same as it was two hundred years ago. Fenimore Cooper's novels have even inspired the names of area businesses, including Natty Bumpo, Leatherstocking, and Glimmerglass. The National Baseball Hall of Fame, established 90 years ago in the Village, attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists annually. The town's arts, culture, and natural resources make the community vibrant and dynamic.

Despite the increase in manufacturing jobs and new companies throughout Otsego County since 1960, the Town of Otsego has been successful in preserving its small town and rural charm. The town has fostered sustainable community development, and protected its natural resources, including lakes, wetlands, forests, fens, and farmlands.

The Town of Otsego is well known for its historic character, natural beauty, and abundant community assets. Home to Bassett Hospital, two popular lakes (Otsego and Canadarago), and a vibrant arts and culture scene, it is a place residents are proud to call home, and visitors return to year after year. The town's many attractions and natural resources make it an attractive, livable community that is friendly to business and supportive of economic development. It is essential that future growth be guided by smart-growth principles so that new development enhances, rather than erodes, the town's historic setting, small-town way of life, and environmental quality.



Executive Summary

The 2026 Comprehensive Plan serves as an update for the policy roadmap of Town of Otsego, bridging the original 2008 Comprehensive Plan with present day needs of the towns changing landscape. As the oldest town in the county, Otsego prioritizes the preservation of rural character, historic assets, and natural beauty. The preservation of the Otsego and Canadarago Lake Watersheds are top of mind as the town grows to attract more businesses, better housing, and a more resilient local economy. This plan serves as a unified roadmap, transitioning from the goals of the 2008 document to a system of actionable, data-driven strategies designed to balance modernization with the preservation of our cherished rural landscape.

Since the adoption of the 2008 plan, the community has faced challenges typical to smaller rural communities in New York State. There is a shortage of diverse housing options, specifically for seniors and young families. There are gaps in broadband infrastructure and access throughout the town. As the town grows, new vulnerabilities like possibly more frequent flooding and storm events with shifting weather patterns pose risks to the town's infrastructure and agricultural systems.

This plan focused on land use policies aligned with Smart Growth principles. These are strategies aimed at directing development towards existing hamlets, municipal centers, main streets and residential areas to prevent unchecked growth and development, also known as sprawl. Key policy shifts of this plan include:

- **Housing Diversity:** Facilitating the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and adopting a "Heritage Barn Law" to allow for the adaptive reuse of historic agricultural structures.
- **Environmental Resilience:** Establishing a dedicated Lake Protection Zone and pursuing CSC certification to improve energy efficiency and resource conservation.
- **Infrastructure Modernization:** Collaborating on county-wide broadband expansion and increasing equitable access to EV charging stations.

The goals outlined in this plan are heavily inspired by the community feedback gathered during the community participation plan of this planning process. The 2025 town wide survey, visioning workshops, and public monthly meetings gathered public opinions and

feedback. Unlike the 2008 plan, this version includes a structured implementation schedule assigning responsible parties, tasks and timelines to the outlined goals. To make sure this plan is carried on as a living document, the planning board, steering committee and town board commit to biennial reviews to assess progress, adjust policies, and pursue grant opportunities. This proactive framework will help maintain a vibrant, sustainable, and community oriented Town of Otsego for future generations.

1.0 Goals and Implementation Strategies

1.1 Local Economy and Agriculture

Create shared local events calendar: Centralize all arts, culture, parks, and tourism/agritourism events into one page on the town's website. This action will help the community to be better informed about events in the town, which should increase support for arts and cultural events and businesses in the area.

Suggested timeline: 3 months, Responsible Party: Planning Board

Create and increase signage for businesses, historic and cultural sites: The town seeks to find funding to put up visually aesthetic signage for culturally significant sites and businesses to help tourists and visitors support these assets. Specifically, the signage will add to the rural aesthetic and sense of place of the town. They will also encourage more interaction with the town's historic and cultural assets.

Suggested timeline: 1 year, Responsible Party: Town Board

Find funding for agritourism opportunities: Agriculture is a dominant land use, and there is rising concern about farm succession in the town. Who will inherit farms, and how will agricultural businesses run well? To protect the economic development of farms and agricultural products, the town specifically wants to find and initiative creative solutions for agritourism. We would like to establish another farmers' market aimed at agritourism, specifically during heavy tourist seasons like summer and spring.

Suggested timeline: 1 year, Responsible Party: Town Board

1.2 Revitalization and Infrastructure

Provide high quality Emergency Services: The town will review impacts to emergency services anticipated during subdivision and site plan reviews for all future construction.

Suggested timeline: Ongoing, Responsible Party: Town Board

Climate Smart Communities Task Force: Assemble task force committee, in partnership with MVEDD Climate Smart Communities team, to help the town achieve CSC certification. Actions taken towards points in this plan include protecting drinking water, incorporating smart growth elements, promoting a safe and healthy community, assessing energy infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions, foster equity in housing affordability, support alternative modes of transportation and conserve natural areas (lakes, view sheds, and landscapes). Suggested timeline: 1 year, Responsible Party: Town Board and Task Force Committee.

1.3 Transportation

Promote alternative modes of transportation: Find funding for local EV charging stations, to support transition to electric vehicles in the town. Specifically, the Town Board and CSC Task Force will find opportunities to fund installation of EV charging stations in areas outside of Cooperstown, where they are currently concentrated, to increase equitable access to EV charging. Increasing the public's awareness of public transportation opportunities via updated links on the town's website and connecting community members to the Oneonta Public Transit and Otsego Express bus schedules are two priorities. Additionally, the town seeks to compile rideshare programs and free transportation information to seniors and residents with limited means to travel. This will help increase access to healthcare, services, and shopping for essential needs. Suggested timeline: 2 years, Responsible Party: Town Board.

Provide high quality, efficient public services and infrastructure: The goal of the Infrastructure & Revitalization and Transportation subcommittee was to ensure and promote public safety in transportation. Goals are explained in greater detail below.

Highway maintenance: Review town road construction standards and make necessary revisions to meet rural roads. Ensure highway maintenance is ecologically responsible in materials and plantings used on roadways. Review speed limits and take public requests into account for reducing speeds on certain roads. Responsible Party: Highway Department,

County and Town municipalities

Roadway safety: Collaborate with Otsego County and NYS Department of Transportation to find funding for speed deterrents. Responsible Party: Highway Department, County and Town municipalities

Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS):

Set up annual meeting with NYS Senate and Assembly Transportation committees to advocate for more CHIPS reimbursement funding to match increasing costs of equipment, fuel, and construction materials. Responsible Party: Town Board, Highway Department

1.4 Broadband

Increase Broadband Access to Underserved Areas: Collaborate with MVEDD and other community and industry partners to assess current tools and programs for assessing and solving broadband coverage issues. Residents and community members participated in a county wide broadband survey in 2025 and collaborated alongside the Otsego County Planning Department and Vernonburg Group to assess best options and strategy to adopt better broadband access throughout the County. Suggested timeline: 1 year, Responsible Party: Town Board

1.5 Recreation and Natural Resources

Protect Drinking Water: Otsego Lake is located at the headwaters of the Susquehanna River, and the drinking water for the Village of Cooperstown. The Otsego Lake Protection Plan is a municipal plan that the town seeks to support in this plan update. The town will work alongside the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee to ensure that town salt activities in winter, septic regulations, construction activities, and roads maintenance do not interfere with drinking water quality of the lake. Suggested timeline: Ongoing, Responsible Party: Town Board

Increase Lake Protections: The original plan needed more granularity on lake protections. This plan update seeks to clarify zoning districts, establish a Lake Protection Zen, which will be in addition to the Otsego Lake Protection Plan, worked on by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. This goal will connect stakeholders collaborating on lake protections within the town and the broader Otsego County watershed. Suggested timeline: 1 year, Responsible Party: Town Board.

1.6 Housing Diversity and Land Use

The Town of Otsego desires to support the development of housing suitable for year-round residents, working families, and our aging population. We hope to expand and improve the quality and affordability of our housing stock without disrupting the integrity of our cherished landscape and watershed. With those goals in mind, we aim to grow our existing neighborhoods, avoid sprawl, facilitate multi-family and accessible housing, and allow existing residents to increase the usefulness of their lots through accessory dwellings and adaptive reuse. To this end, we desire the town government to adopt the following changes in short order:

Owner Occupancy: Pass an ordinance, like that in place in the Village of Cooperstown, requiring owner-occupancy of short-term rental units. This ordinance may include an exemption for existing businesses.

Suggested Timeline: 1-year, Responsible Party: Town Board

Accessory Dwelling Units: Update Town of Otsego Land Use Laws addressing primary dwellings to facilitate the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Specifically, establish a definition of an Accessory Dwelling Unit in the Town of Otsego, and define a permit or special permit for developing such units.

Suggested Timeline: 1-year, Responsible Party: Zoning Board

Hamlet Development: Update Town of Otsego Land Use Laws, which currently stipulate minimum lot sizes in hamlets, to facilitate greater housing density. Changes include, but

need not be limited to, the following.

In recognition that New York State already imposes minimum spacing requirements between wells and septic systems, consider eliminating minimum lot sizes within the designated Hamlets. Remove existing restrictions on the number of allowable conjoined units and revise laws to support multi-family housing, including duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and small apartment buildings. Review and consider revising surface parking requirements for housing projects proposed within 1000' of a public transit location.

Suggested Timeline: 1-year, Responsible Party: Zoning Board

AG Zone Density: We wish to update the AG Zones with a mind to preserving open space, respecting historical patterns of development and habitation, and enabling low-footprint housing growth in our hinterland. To that effect, we wish to enact the following changes.

Updated Zoning: Update Town of Otsego Land Use Laws regarding subdivisions to stipulate that no 40 acres or larger can be divided into more than three (3) lots.

Suggested Timeline: 1-year, Responsible Party: Zoning Board

Density and Clustering: Review and revise land use laws to remove limitations on density and clustering. We prefer community to sprawl. To that end, while we wish to restrict the subdivision of large lots, we wish to encourage development that minimizes both footprint on the landscape and infrastructure maintenance that might burden the Town.

This requires:

Supporting the development of conjoined housing (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, condominiums). Incentivizing denser housing clusters over sprawl, especially when reviewing developments of larger scope or visual significance. Review, remove, or add greater specificity to the “Density Bonus” section of the existing Land Use Law. A bonus should provide a material incentive to perform

beneficial clustering and must be paired with a material disincentive to sprawl.

Increasing the minimum lot size allowable in AG Zones for subdivisions that do not fall under the above-described restrictions (that is, proposed divisions of lots smaller than 40 acres), potentially to 5, 8, or 10 acres.

Suggested Timeline: 1-year, Responsible Party: Zoning Board

Heritage Barn Law: Review, revise, and assume a Heritage Barn Law intended to facilitate adaptive reuse of the Town of Otsego's historic barns in a manner respectful of their architectural vernacular. Specifically, create a regular path to review and permit adaptive conversions of heritage agricultural buildings to single- and multi-family housing, exempt from existing restrictions on lot size, occupancy, or primary dwelling up to ten units.

Suggested Timeline: 2 years, Responsible Party: Town Board

Sewers and Water Infrastructure for Future Development: Initiate review of feasibility, need, and available resources to support a sewer system or systems within the Town of Otsego. This smart growth goal will support more sustainable development.

Suggested Timeline: 3 years, Responsible Party: Town Board

1.7 Assessing Goal Achievement and Plan Feasibility

Since adopting the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Otsego has made meaningful progress toward several key goals. This plan update builds on this success by introducing a detailed implementation schedule for housing affordability and diversity goals, with clear timelines for each recommended action. This structured approach replaces broad aspirations with concrete accountability, ensuring steady, measurable progress toward the community's long-term vision. This emphasis on timelines draws directly from best practices from the Town of Middleburgh Plan and New York State Department of State Smart Growth plan guidance

documents.

To keep local laws aligned with this evolving vision, the town commits to regular reviews either annually or every two years. Representatives from the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) will meet with the Town Board to assess alignment, recommend needed changes, search for grant funding, propose budget adjustments, and maintain open communication across all implementing bodies.

2. Vision Statement

Nestled between the lakes and framed by our historic hamlet and village and the natural beauty of the northern Appalachian plateau, our community is defined by a rich diversity of assets that we must carefully manage. This is our vision, the touchstone for our shared future.

We, the citizens of the Town of Otsego, cherish and wish to protect our rural and natural landscape and are committed to its protection. We foresee a place of safety for our families and ourselves. We want plentiful, accessible open spaces for future generations. Agriculture remains central to our heritage and identity; we see it as a defining part of life in our town. We respect our traditions and history and seek to preserve our historic architecture and the distinct sense of place it creates. We wish to encourage new development to honor the ways our hamlets looked through their long histories. We promote careful design and placement of new buildings to complement and harmonize with those structures in place. We, the Town of Otsego citizens, are committed to involvement in its future and are proud of our strong community identity.

We envision a future in which the Town of Otsego continues to offer a clean environment, a beautiful landscape, and a preserved rural setting. We therefore want to carefully manage growth and development, while maintaining access to natural areas.

We desire to support the development of housing suitable for year-round residents, working families, and our aging population. We hope to expand and improve the quality and affordability of our housing stock without disrupting the integrity of our cherished landscape and watershed. With those housing goals in mind, we aim to grow our existing neighborhoods, avoid sprawl, facilitate multi-family and accessible and affordable housing, and allow existing residents to increase the usefulness of their lots through accessory dwellings and adaptive reuse.

We hope to promote increased year-round recreational and cultural opportunities, including biking, hiking, and walking trails, and ample access to Otsego and Canadarago Lakes. We foresee residents and visitors enjoying even more access to the arts and cultural events. We imagine accessibility as a key component of our recreational and cultural opportunities.

We want well-built roads that are maintained and reflective of our natural and historic heritage. We want traffic volume and speed control to harmonize and accommodate essential residential and business transportation.

We foresee high-quality schools for our children and the town government that work to provide both public services and reasonable taxes. We envision the Town working even more collaboratively with neighboring towns and villages across the Leatherstocking Region, promoting one another's local businesses, services, attractions, and community assets.

3. Comprehensive Planning Process

3.1 Introduction

The Town of Otsego begins this update of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update with a shared commitment to guiding thoughtful growth for current residents and future generations. Across our hamlets and town center, residents shared a clear vision for sustainable, well-managed growth through public meetings, visioning workshops, and a community survey. Funded in part by a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities (NYSDEC CSC) grant, this plan outlines the town's priorities and strategies to achieve the three "Es" of sustainability: Environment, economy, and equity. Comprehensive plans are intended to move municipalities toward sustainable growth. However, it is also important for these plans to consider adapting to increasing flooding events, tornadoes, and overall changes in weather patterns. This plan also is designed to focus on smart growth principles, an approach to development that limits growth to existing municipal centers with infrastructure rather than spreading out unchecked into farmland and natural areas. It invests in public spaces, diverse housing for every life stage, and mixed-use places that bring daily activities closer together. This plan seeks to define what the town is like today, the vision for what it can become, and the roadmap of actions and goals to get there.

A baseline assessment completed in 2025 documented existing conditions in housing, land

use, economic development, natural and cultural assets, energy infrastructure, transportation, and climate vulnerabilities, informing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis and community profile later in this document. Housing Diversity and Affordability was a major priority goal for this plan, with the Housing Subcommittee creating a detailed action plan and timeline with responsible parties to improve the town over the next three years.

Building on the strong foundation of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, this 2026 update integrates survey data and data driven baseline assessments of key topic areas to improve the vision and goals of the town. The town seeks to remain anchored in its uniquely agricultural, historic, arts and culture assets in Cooperstown and nearby hamlets. As the town addresses shifting environmental landscapes, tackles housing equity, promotes smart growth, and finds creative ways to protect natural resources, there are opportunities to implement best practices for a more sustainable and accessible future.

3.2 Why a Comprehensive Plan?

Comprehensive Plans are policy frameworks that ask big questions. They identify potential problems, from economic to environmental, and determine an equitable and analytical path forward. When threats and problems face a community, this plan focuses on systems and actionable strategies. This plan serves as the policy framework for leaders, municipalities, and partners of the town to use. Its intended goal is to build systems that provide harmony between economic growth and the natural environment, as well as other key priorities outlined by the community. The answer to why we have a Comprehensive Plan is simple: It is to ensure that the Town of Otsego remains aligned with community goals and visions.

3.3 Planning Process Timeline

The Town of Otsego began this project through a strategic partnership with the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) and the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD). Funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as part of the Climate Smart Communities initiative, this project was designed to modernize our local planning framework. This funding allowed the Town Board

to hire expert consultants to lead meetings and engage stakeholders and facilitate the writing and revision of their 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

The project originally began in 2024 but underwent a planned one year pause while several town officials transitioned in and out of office. Since restarting the comprehensive planning process, the town has worked diligently to build upon the original plan. While the 2008 plan included a build out analysis that remains a relevant reference for our land use laws, this 2026 update focuses on establishing new goals and zoning policies to protect and grow the town sustainably. Other examples of this shift in priorities to align with community vision represent the needs for continued attention and adjustment, forming a path forward.

To lead in this effort, Town Board established a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. This committee was organized into three distinct subcommittees to address the specific needs of our community. One group focused on “Housing and Economic Development” while another addressed “Arts and Culture and Parks and Farmland.” A third group was dedicated to “Infrastructure and Revitalization.” These committees collaborated with consultants to analyze where the town is now, where we want to grow, and how we will get there. The committees represent the key community priorities and shared goals. The town followed a structured timeline to ensure community values were integrated throughout the planning processes:

- July 2025: Held public visioning workshops and distributed a community survey to gather input and data on the planning process.
- August 2025: Hosted an open house to refine goals and review survey findings.
- Fall 2025: Subcommittees evaluated zoning modifications and developed implementation strategies for housing, infrastructure, and the arts on a recurring basis.
- November 2025: Continued public meetings and ongoing steering committee workshops to receive feedback on the plan.
- December 2025: Completed the first full draft of the plan.
- Early 2026: Town Board and Planning Board conducted final reviews of the drafted plan, offering individual feedback.
- March 2026: Held a public hearing regarding the plan.

This Comprehensive Plan update aligns with New York State Town Law Section 272-a and

integrates modern sustainability elements such as smart growth, alternative forms of transportation, and resource conservation. In developing this update, the Town Board and consultants studied comprehensive plans from neighboring communities, specifically the Town of Middlefield and the Village of Richfield Springs, to adopt best practices. A new community profile and public outreach plan were established to ensure the public remained informed and included throughout the process.

A thorough baseline assessment was conducted in 2025 to analyze existing conditions in land use and infrastructure and natural resources. As a Climate Smart Community, the town also analyzed energy resources and climate vulnerabilities. The final plan underwent a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process before adoption. This structured approach ensured that our plan reflects community values and meets state standards while positioning the Town of Otsego for Climate Smart Communities certification and future infrastructure funding.

The plan is designed to welcome and encourage continued community participation. Ongoing involvement helps the Town of Otsego remain a wonderful place to live. We invite residents to reach out to members of the Town Board to join future subcommittees or steering committees. This plan is a result of a multi-year collaborative effort and provides a clear roadmap for a resilient and sustainable future.

3.4 Community Participation Plan

Community participation is crucial for a plan to be successful, and all the values gathered in our survey are reflected throughout the vision and goals and implementation strategies of this document. This plan was developed to ensure that the community had a seat at the table through the entire process, and we believe the plan is strong because of this consistent involvement. The Steering Committee prioritized a list of stakeholders who have influence within the community consisting of members and employees of non-profit organizations, farmers, leaders, business owners, and municipal officials.

The planning process invited many of these stakeholders onto the Steering Committee, other subcommittees, and visioning workshops. The dedicated volunteer efforts of numerous community members and the diligent work of the committees and Planning Board and Town Board helped the town's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. As the lead consultant, MVEDD guided the public engagement process and developed accessible resources

on Climate Smart Communities and comprehensive planning to support the community in defining its long-term vision.

Upon receiving feedback from the Steering Committee, MVEDD distributed a community survey to gather relevant opinions on three core topics: Who we are, who do we want to be, and where are we going. The results of the survey were used to define what the town means to its residents and what their vision for the future looks like. The Steering Committee and subcommittees met consistently each month throughout 2025, and the public was encouraged to attend every session. All public and stakeholder input along with consultant recommendations were included in the SWOT analysis. Our visioning workshops included a detailed review of the 2008 plan vision and goals and consultant recommendations from the survey results and the baseline assessment of the town. This participation plan also supported strategies that create harmony between our rural character and our desire to grow sustainably and remain safe while protecting our natural and economic assets.

The results of the survey and public meetings and SWOT analysis were compiled into a list of opportunities and goals that the Steering Committee prioritized for actionable implementation. Transparency is a core value of the town for all its engagement efforts, and all meeting notes and materials are available on the Town of Otsego website for convenient knowledge sharing. Detailed notes for all public meetings are included in the appendices. This community participation plan was vital for gathering resident input to improve equity and knowledge sharing and we believe this process has ensured a true reflection of community values for the town.

3.5 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis is a cornerstone of this planning process, and it provides a clear picture of where the Town of Otsego stands today. By analyzing our internal strengths and weaknesses alongside external opportunities and threats, we have created a foundation for goals that we believe are both realistic and ambitious. This analysis was informed by the extensive data collected through our community survey and the specialized work of our three subcommittees.

Our strengths are deeply rooted in the natural beauty and historic character of our region. Residents consistently identified Otsego Lake, Canadarago Lake, natural resources, our rolling

agricultural landscapes, Cooperstown, and Fly Creek as the most valuable assets we possess. There is a profound sense of community pride and a strong spirit of volunteerism that fuels our local organizations and our municipal boards. Our proximity to world-class cultural institutions, including The Fenimore Museum, The Farmer's Museum, The Baseball Hall of Fame, and The Glimmerglass Festival, provides a unique economic and social engine. These assets form the core of what we wish to protect, and they serve as the primary draw for the families and visitors who choose to call this place home.

However, there are weaknesses that must be addressed to ensure a resilient future. The community survey highlighted a critical lack of housing diversity and a specific need for senior housing and affordable options for young families. Many residents expressed concern over the rising cost of living and the difficulty of maintaining infrastructure with limited resources. There are also gaps in our current zoning laws that leave our natural resources vulnerable to sprawl and unchecked development. Our Infrastructure and Revitalization subcommittee noted that without strategic investment in our water and sewer systems we will continually struggle to support the growth that our community would like to see happen.

The opportunities before us are significant. This Department of State grant funding allows us to modernize certain land use policies and position the town for future infrastructure and energy efficiency investments. We have the chance to expand our agritourism and arts and culture sectors to create a more diverse yet stable local economy. By implementing smart growth principles, we can hope to direct sustainable development in the existing hamlet and preserve our vital farmland and open spaces. There is also a great opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with Otsego County, the Village of Cooperstown, and our neighboring towns to address shared challenges in transportation and housing equity. In addition, the town is involved in the Climate Smart Communities program.

Finally, we must be mindful of the threats that could impact on our quality of life and our economic stability. Environmental risks such as increased flooding and changing weather patterns pose a direct threat to our roads and our water quality and our agricultural productivity. Unchecked large-scale subdivisions and overdevelopment could erode the roads and rural charm that defines our town, putting undue pressure on our natural resources. The potential for pollution in the Otsego and Canadarago Lake watersheds remains a primary concern for

residents, many of whom rely on them as a source of drinking water, recreation, and economic viability. By identifying these threats now, we can create actionable strategies to mitigate their impact and ensure that Otsego remains a safe and healthy community for generations to come.

Natural Resources and Environmental Resilience

Our town is defined by its strengths in natural beauty. Our natural beauty is found in scenic ridgelines, the irreplaceable Otsego and Canadarago Lakes, and working farms. We have demonstrated sustainability leadership by forming a Climate Smart Communities Task Force and committing to smart growth. We recognize our current weaknesses in land protections where we lack stream corridor regulations and have insufficient protection for our drinking water sources. These factors present a major opportunity to work with local conservation partners (Otsego 2000, Otsego County Conservation Association, and Otsego Land Trust) to acquire floodplains and recreation parcels for hiking and birding trails. By taking this action, we can improve our flood resilience and public access to nature. We must act quickly. The town faces threats from development, which could impact prime farmland, rural character, and our vital watersheds. Unchecked ridgeline development is not in line with our town's vision for the future, which we may mitigate with stronger zoning.

Economic Vitality and Agriculture

The Town of Otsego benefits from a robust tourism economy and a rich cultural heritage centered around our historic districts, museums, and lake recreation. We have strong agricultural potential with quality soil and a community that deeply supports its farmers. Our primary weakness remains a heavy dependence on seasonal tourism which leads to limited year-round economic activity and a lack of specific zoning for lake-oriented businesses and housing (like marinas). We see an opportunity to diversify our economy by supporting agritourism, niche crops, and value-added products. In addition, we may expand our farmers' market and consider creating a strategic plan for farm succession to help stabilize our agricultural base. Lastly, we must address the following threats: high property taxes and an aging agricultural workforce.

These factors could force the conversion of farmland into non-agricultural uses.

Housing and Infrastructure

Our strengths include quality housing stock and preserving historic homes, most built before 1938. Our communities have well maintained neighborhoods. Our communities feature well-maintained neighborhoods that are clean, welcoming, and safe. Thanks to ongoing volunteer efforts, these spaces continue to thrive and remain a source of pride for everyone who lives here. However, there are housing and infrastructure weaknesses. The town faces a gap in senior and affordable housing. This threat is addressed with action items in the goals and implementation strategies section of this plan. The town also faces an affordability crisis because the affordability index is 4.84, twice as high as the rest of Otsego County, identifying the gap in house price and average annual income of families. With an aging housing stock, and homes that are pricier than the rest of Otsego County, young families struggle to move to the town and increase the population overall. The town has a steady population, with a pattern of residents not exceeding 4,000. However, this plan hopes to plan for future population increases and housing needs and is outlined in the Community Profile.

3.6 Community Survey Results

3.6.1 Survey Design

This survey was structured to gather opinions from the community about their identity, needs, and vision for the town. The questions were open-ended and thought-provoking, inviting residents to tell their full stories. Each question was carefully selected to satisfy the baseline evaluation which was a requirement of this grant award funded plan. There were fifteen questions total, with six dedicated to learning about the community vision and what they believe are assets of the town. There were six questions focused on collecting opinions about demographics and housing equity data. The remaining three

questions focused on gauging the likelihood of community participation with the planning process, volunteering, or joining a subcommittee to provide feedback. To build a plan that truly reflects our people, the town gathered extensive data on our local economy and housing needs and social equity and our unique sense of place. This process helped residents understand the vital role of a comprehensive plan in guiding our growth and protecting the things we value most. This survey serves as a successful framework for addressing the economic and environmental and equity challenges we face and ensures our shared vision is rooted in the actual needs of our neighbors.

3.6.2 Key Themes of Survey Responses

The priorities were ranked according to the frequency of mentions in survey responses. Goals mentioned more often were considered higher in importance and given a higher ranking for inclusion in the plan. The final survey and results are in Appendix B.

It should be noted that during the process of the Comprehensive Plan update, a proposal of a major subdivision of 1,500 acres of farmland, forest, and wetlands on the west side of Otsego Lake was presented to both the Town of Otsego and the Town of Springfield. Citizens of both Townships attended these presentations, and subsequent objections were expressed in the local media. Key themes from the survey responses included:

- Environmental Protection
- Housing Equity and Accessibility
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Social Connectivity

What We Heard

Top Actionable Priorities

- Affordable housing (including senior options)
- Protection for Otsego Lake, Canadarago Lake, and natural resources
- Improved infrastructure needs roads, bridges, etc.)

Top Community Values and Assets:

- Rural Character
- Scenic beauty
- Preservation of agricultural lands
- Cultural assets, such as our historic hamlet and lakes

Key Concerns:

- Overdevelopment
- Water quality of natural resources
- Loss of small-town identity
- Desiring thoughtful growth and stronger zoning enforcement

Suggested and Desired Improvements:

- Expanded recreational opportunities (parks, trails)
- Preservation of Open Spaces
- Better zoning and code enforcement
- More diverse local businesses

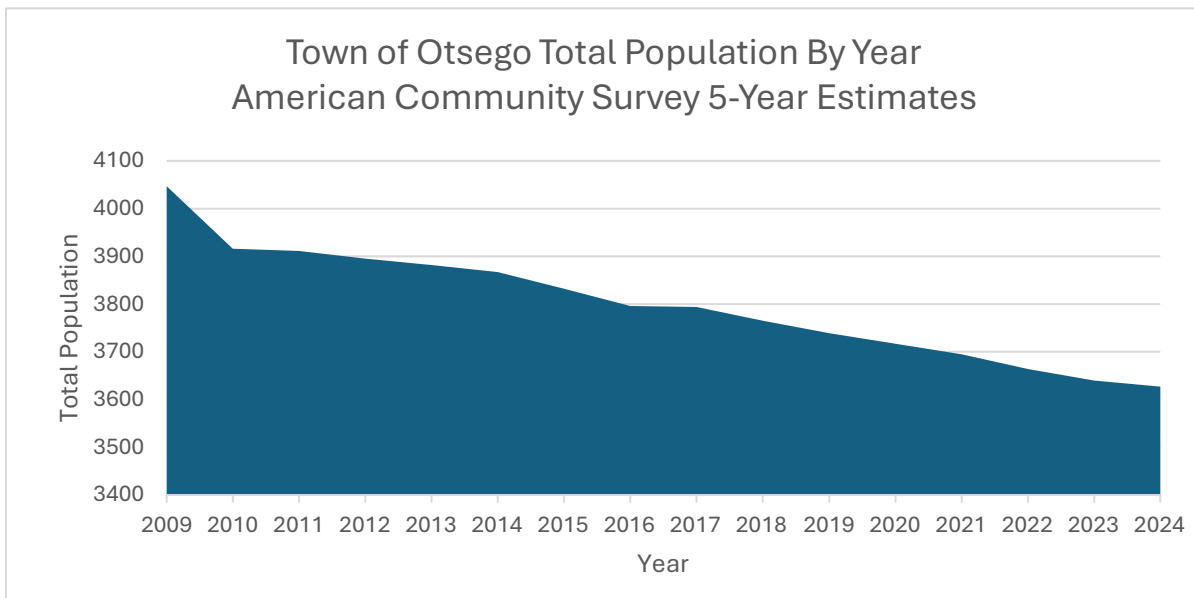
The results of the survey clearly show residents' desire for growth, while pointing to gaps in senior housing, dedication to the protection of natural resources, and preference for smart growth principles. Town residents cherish the landscape, the historic places, and small businesses. Supporting infrastructure improvements for better EMS service emerged as a priority topic. Possible future housing developments and alignment with zoning, preservation of town character, and smart growth principles was a recurring topic. Residents unanimously noted that health of our lakes is what makes the town irreplaceable. As a result, residents spoke up about the strong desire to mandate protections for both lakes, water quality and drinking water quality. Protecting drinking water is a priority of this plan and the community.

4. Community Profile

4.1 Population Trends

In 2009, the Town of Otsego had a total population of 4,047 residents. By 2024, this number had declined to 3,627, indicating a gradual population decrease over time. According to the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, the Town’s Land Use Law and Subdivision Regulations allow for the potential construction of 7,374 new homes. Based on typical household sizes, this suggests a theoretical capacity for up to approximately 16,960 additional residents. This gap between current population trends and full buildout capacity underscores the need for careful, sustainable growth management in future land use and housing decisions.

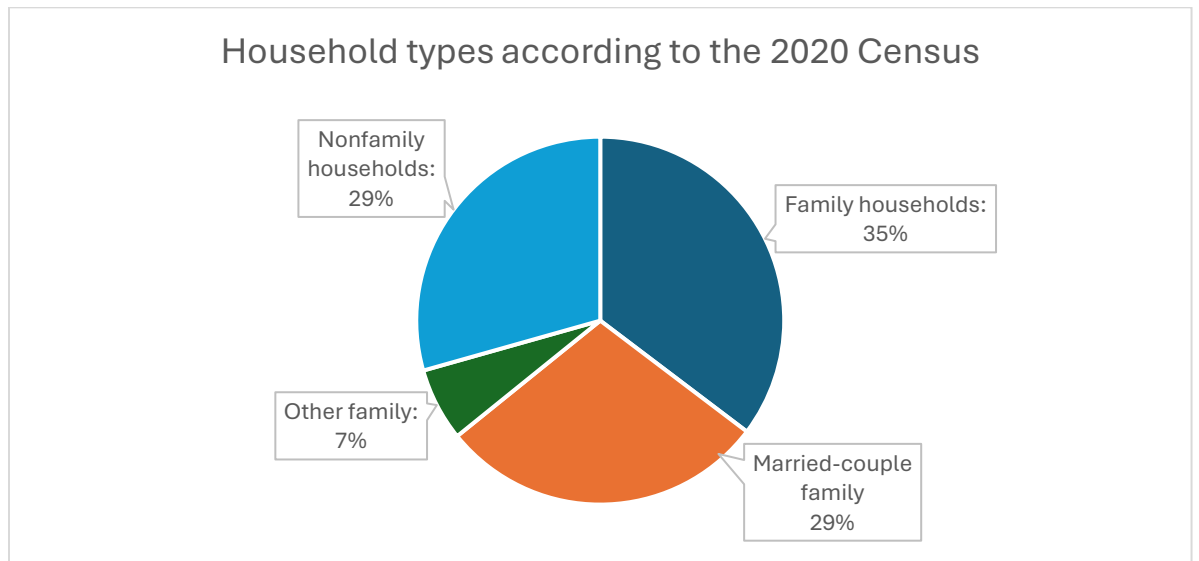
Current data does not show increased demand for housing or new jobs driven by population growth. Instead, there is an opportunity for the town to focus on providing fair and accessible housing options for families and seniors. The median home value has increased from \$221,800 in 2009 to \$352,600 in 2024, and up to \$546,000 in 2026, significantly affecting housing affordability. Potential responses to this challenge are outlined in greater detail in the Housing Goals section of this plan.



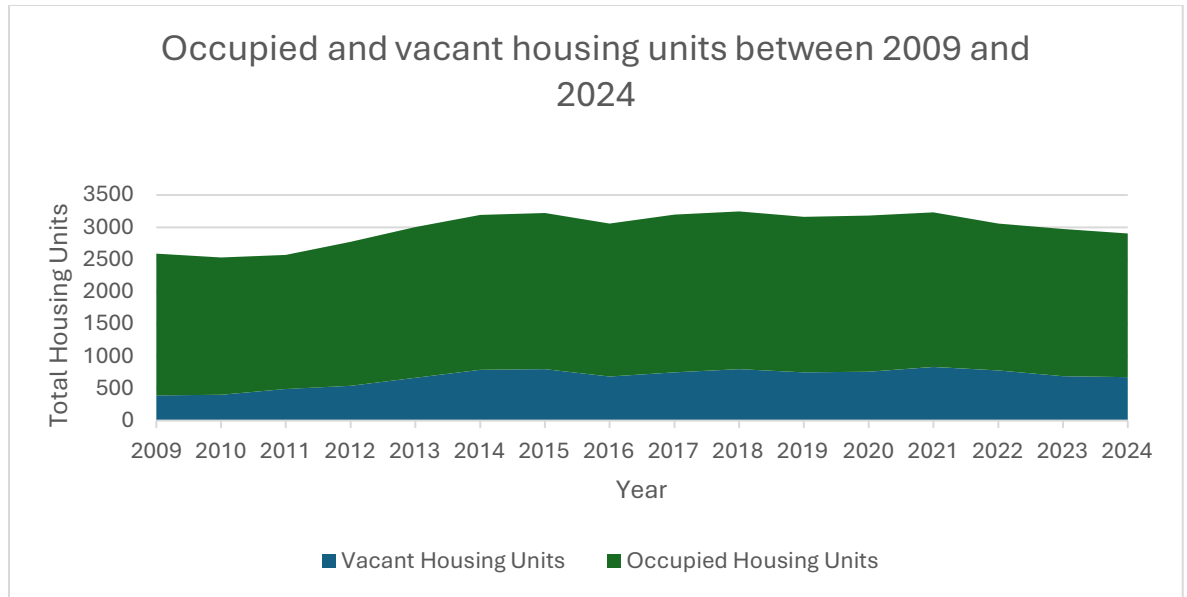
Source: American Community 2024 Survey 5-Year Estimates

4.2 Housing

Household types and household vacancy stats are available for review, compiled from ACS 5-year survey estimates. The 2020 Census shows that the highest percentage of household types for the town were “family households” at 35%, with “nonfamily households” at 29%. The number of occupied household units far exceeded the number of unoccupied—or “vacant”—household units in the town. Graphs on the next page show the full statistics on household type and occupancy based on the US Census Bureau data.



Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2009-2024



Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2009-2024

In 2020 the town completed a housing stock analysis included in the Appendix G. The analysis found six key findings that informed the housing and revitalization goals of this plan. Many homes built before 1938 are in the Village of Cooperstown, identifying it as a historically preserved community. According to the US Census, compared to the rest of New York State, the Village has far better historic home preservation than other areas.

In the 1970’s, around a quarter of all homes built in the area were constructed. Since 2010, there has been very little home construction development in the Town of Otsego. Among other factors, this lack of construction may showcase the success of the 2008 plan. A main goal in this 2008 Comprehensive Plan was to limit unchecked development and growth within the Town of Otsego, the hamlet of Fly Creek, and the portion of the Village of Cooperstown within town limits.

Most homes are detached single-family, adding to the overall rural charm of this place. In the non-agricultural areas of the town, there are greater mixes of housing types. See the table below to compare housing structures over the years throughout the town.

Housing Unit	2009	2017	2024
1 Unit:	1,524	1,777	1,593

1, Detached	1,468	1,760	1,564
1, Attached	56	17	29
2	130	254	155
3 or 4	254	199	189
5 to 9	99	133	97
10 to 19	4	5	30
20 to 49	8	13	15
Mobile Home	180	64	89
Boat, RV, Van	0	0	59

Source: US Census Reporter tool

4.3 Economic Development

Economic data for Otsego County is available, including ACS 2024 five-year estimates with employer and economic details by county subdivision. The Town of Otsego is a county subdivision. The hamlet of Fly Creek and Village of Cooperstown are identified as places within the Town of Otsego.

The town’s Master Plan describes the Village of Cooperstown as the Town of Otsego’s largest cultural hub. The Village’s facilities and services include schools, healthcare, retail, banks, professional services, and businesses. Tourists visit the Town of Otsego because of its proximity to Cooperstown. This proximity and these statistics indicate a need for this plan to improve support for diverse business development in the town, while also keeping a close eye on effective land use ordinances to address growth appropriately.

Industry, Occupation and Employment Sector Trends from 2009-2024:

- Per capita income has risen 69.1% from \$32,006 to \$54,120.
- With a decreasing population, 49.0% of female residents of the town work in the private sector, which is a 20.4% increase since 2009.
- With a decreasing population, 53.5% of the male population work in the private sector, which is a 29.1% increase since 2009.
- Top 3 industries for females are professional occupations, office and administration, sales, and retail.
- Top 3 industries for males are professional occupations, management/business/finance,

sales/retail tied with construction/maintenance/extraction.

- Fewer residents have worked in the following sectors since 2009: Public and private non-profit.
- Self-employment income has decreased by 39.4% for all households since 2009.
- The number of households earning between \$100,000 to \$124,999 has gone up 166% since 2009.
- The number of households earning between \$200,000 or more has gone up 179.8% since 2009.
- Average family income has increased 87% since 2009 from \$90,447 to \$169,152.

Source: Social Explorer, Us Census Bureau. Data: ACS 5-year estimates for 2009 and 2024.

4.4 Transportation

Commuters

An assessment of transportation in the town found that 22.9% of residents walk to their place of employment. Few residents use public transportation due to lack of available routes and inadequate scheduling. Lastly, 51% of residents, the majority, drive to work. The population of work from home residents is close to 20% of the population. On any given day, roads need to be safe, maintained, and ready for residents to get to work. The Oneonta Public Bus Transit line and rideshare programs are low to free cost services that are available to the community.

Biking Trails

For many residents in Fly Creek, Cooperstown, and Otsego, roads are not biker friendly. The town may want to look at road and shoulder improvements for safer bike travel. This emphasis on biker safety could impact resident and visitor ability to get groceries, go on errands, or partake in recreational activity. Many residents expressed a desire for more recreational opportunities in the community.

Hiking and biking trails with better connectivity between the communities were a recurring response from residents.

Highway Department

The Town oversees 75 miles of roads. Town roads are maintained to ensure safe winter driving, with road margins regularly cleared of debris and obstacles. Drainage networks are routinely cleaned and improved to promote proper water flow, and all road signs are kept in good condition for clear identification and traffic safety, although incidents of sign theft have increased. Crews also respond after storms to manage cleanup, conduct roadside mowing, and perform necessary bridge and guardrail maintenance. The rise in new housing along older roadways continues to create added challenges for an already understaffed highway crew. Read more about this department's services here: [Highway Department](#). The Roads Map is located in Appendix A.

4.5 Cultural and Historic Resources

The Village of Cooperstown is the Town of Otsego's most significant cultural asset. With its own zoning ordinances, the village works intentionally to preserve its rural charm, small-town character, and sustainable growth. Cooperstown serves as a vibrant cultural hub, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to attractions such as outdoor recreation on Otsego Lake, the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and the village's many museums.

The Town of Otsego is proud to preserve and protect its historic district and historic sites, and the role they play in shaping the town's identity. Local zoning laws attempt to ensure that future development does not undermine the character or the feel of these historic resources. Historic resources provide a sense of place, community gathering, and culture that should be protected by comprehensive plans.

Cataloguing the town's cultural and historic assets in this profile will identify important identity shaping places, structures, and landscapes to help make informed decisions on preservation priorities for any future development of the town. Historic resources provide a sense of place where generations come together and continue local traditions and culture. This inventory ensures these assets aren't overlooked

during future policy development and planning efforts.

The cultural and historic assets listed below play an active role in strengthening the Town of Otsego’s sense of place, connecting residents and visitors to the community’s longstanding heritage.

Historic Districts

- Fly Creek Historic District: Historically, composed of three separate hamlets, this community developed around an agricultural landscape, with water-powered mills serving as its primary industry.
- Glimmerglass Historic District: Between the 1700s and 1900s this settlement was rural with mostly agricultural land use. Starting in the 1900s it progressed into a cultural hot spot with a burgeoning resort and tourism culture around Otsego Lake.
- Learn more here: [Historic Districts in Otsego County — OTSEGO 2000](#)

Historic Sites Map



Recreation, Arts and Entertainment

Visitors to the village can choose from other wonderful recreation areas. We have compiled some of the most popular assets, attractions, and events in the Town of Otsego:

- Cooperstown Village Library
- National Baseball Hall of Fame
- Cooperstown Art Association
- Cooper Grounds
- Cooperstown Lakefront Park
- Smithy-Pioneer Gallery
- Cooperstown Farmers' Market
- Fenimore Art Museum
- Fenimore Farm and Country Village
- Fly Creek Cider Mill
- Abner Doubleday Field
- Cooperstown Distillery
- Leatherstocking Golf Course
- Three Mile Point Park
- Parslow Road Conservation Area
- Samye Hermitage

Currently, the town uses popular websites such as Facebook Events and TripAdvisor to help community members and visitors find local attractions, events, and places to enjoy. The goal for the Town of Otsego is to encourage year-round, sustainable tourism, to increase business participation, support local businesses and vendors, and to create more opportunities for people to live in and enjoy the town.

4.6 Natural Resources

4.6.1 Agriculture

The predominant agricultural land uses are field cropping, dairy farming, residential agriculture, and livestock farming. Many of these agricultural parcels are privately owned farms. A little over half of all farms is cropland, meaning they grow corn, hay, small grains, and soybeans. Some residential agricultural parcels are part-time, hobby farms, often used for small-scale commercial purposes. Since farmers are a large enough presence in the town, it is important to assess what resources they need to stay in operation, diversify, and remain sustainable overall.

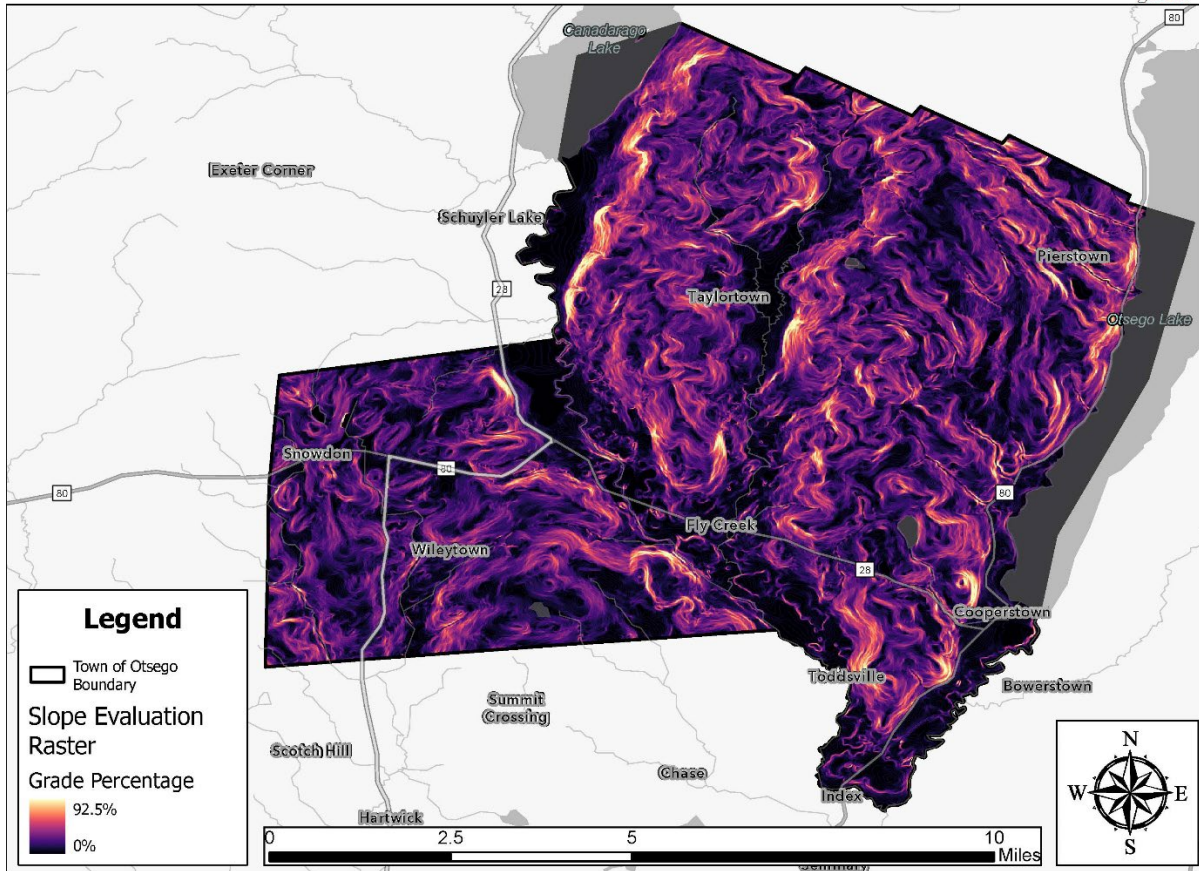
Idle or underused farmland typically lacks successors, but the increased efforts of the Otsego Land Trust have made significant strides in helping preserve open land tracts. It is important for this plan to consider working on ways to protect, repurpose, and maintain farmland to preserve the rural and unique cultural identity of the town, as well as its economic development and resource conservation goals. If succession plans are not put into place, it is likely that prime farmland and residential farmland will be converted into other land uses, which will affect the rural character of the town that this plan is working hard to protect. This is a concern for many in the town.

4.6.2 Soils

Soil erosion is a major concern for development in areas with steep slopes. Lake water quality, water quality, and air quality are all impacted by sediment erosion, therefore land use in this comprehensive plan must carefully look at development in areas with specific slopes. The map shows that most of the town's slopes are not very steep, however steep portions of soil by both lakes require site plans, erosion control plans, and collaboration with the planning board to ensure all Soil and Water Conservation District standards are evaluated within development proposals.

Otsego Municipality NRI - Slope Raster Data

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department



4.6.3 Eco Region

The Town is classified as the Glaciated Low Allegheny Plateau region. This is an area with a humid continental climate, experiencing 35-50 inches of annual precipitation, even snowfall distribution, and growing seasons off 100-160 days. This region type supports farming, woodlots, development, and agriculture. This ecoregion consists of wide valleys and rolling hills, and peak elevations of 1,800 feet. Soils are acidic in the town. Recommended agricultural practices are hay production, cover cropping, and cattle grazing. This aligns with the towns' existing hay, dairy, and livestock agricultural activities, which remains a priority for the community.

4.6.4 Critical Habitat

According to the Natural Resource Inventory Tool from the Otsego County Planning Department, there are no designated Critical Habitat Areas for the Town of

Otsego. According to the NYSDEC designated critical environmental areas (CEAs), there are no CEA lands in the town. The town could consider designating critical habitat areas in the future.

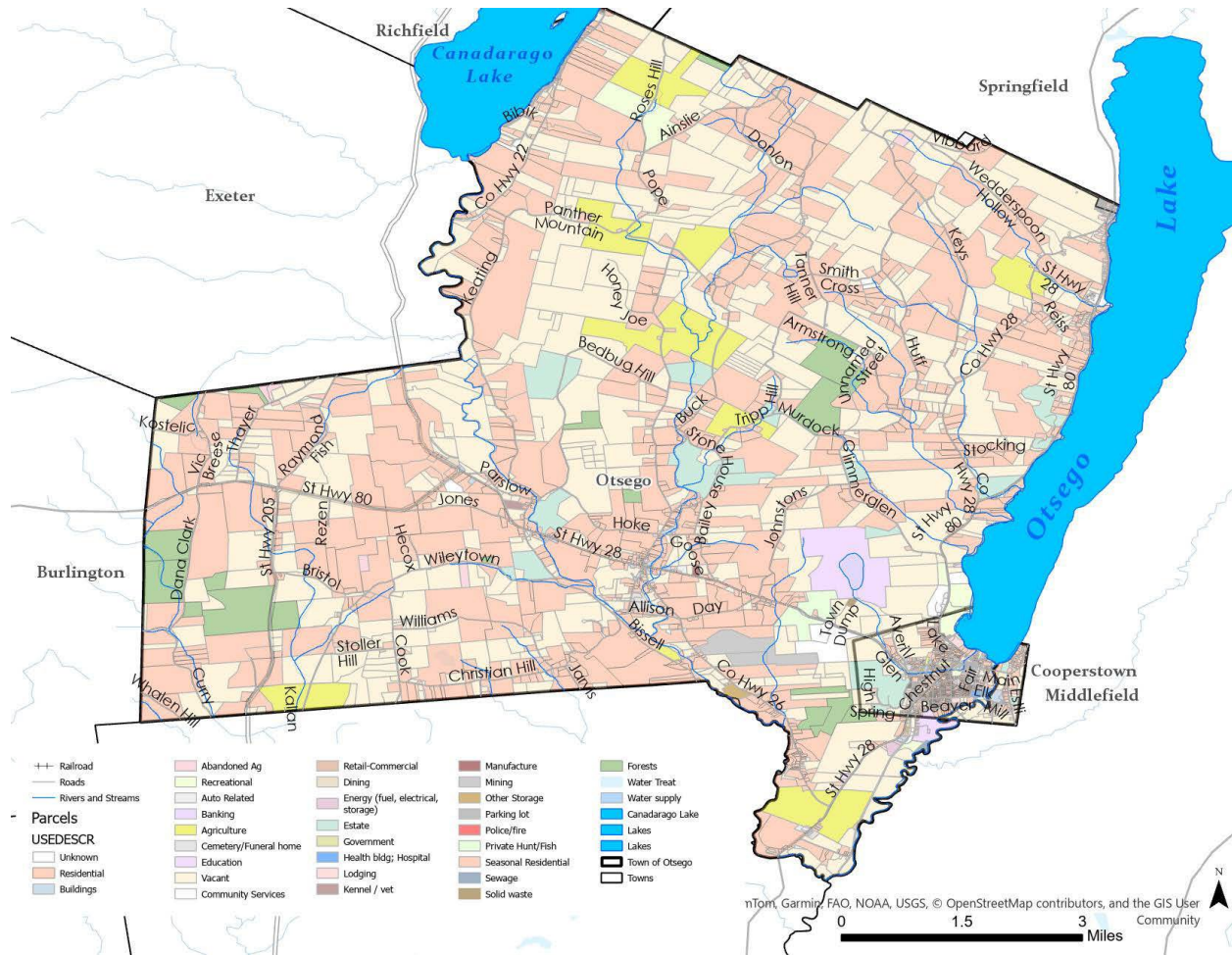
4.6.5 Culturally Significant Environmental Assets

- Otsego and Canadarago Lakes and tributaries require protection from pollution, erosion, and development. The efforts of the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee have helped greatly in this regard.
- Steep slopes and farmland west of Otsego Lake, where development is proposed, are areas of high concern about developments effects on water quality, historic assets, and rural character.
- Natural Resource maps are in Appendix A.

4.7 Land Use Trends

Land use regulations in hamlets, rural and agricultural areas, the town center, and suburban regions play a crucial role in preserving the integrity of the town's natural resources. According to the map made by the Otsego County Planning Department the top two land uses for the town are Seasonal Residential and Vacant Lots. Agricultural and forest land use are small percentages of the land use. The predominant land use on the shorelines of Canadarago and Otsego Lakes are Seasonal Residential.

It is not a law, but State statutes require that all land use laws in a municipality be consistent with a comprehensive plan. The Town of Otsego is authorized to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan by New York State Law Section 272-a. This comprehensive plan is integral to sustainable land use trends in the town as it guides current and future land use policy for this community.



Key Implication for Planning:

- All government agencies proposing planning or capital projects within the town must consider this plan, giving the town greater influence over external project proposals.
- The shared vision, goals, and strategies provide a foundation for building community consensus and support.
- The town may adopt new programs and regulations to implement the plan, protecting resources while encouraging appropriate development and growth.
- The plan strengthens grant applications to fund its recommended actions.

4.8 Community Facilities

The town benefits from volunteer fire protection through three districts, supplemented by the Cooperstown Fire Department contract service. Emergency Management Services (EMS) coverage combines local fire volunteer squads. The County Sheriff and the NYS Police provide primary law enforcement. Most neighborhoods in the town are considered to be safe, in particular those located near the schools. Education and civic involvement are a large part of the town's identity, as are healthcare facilities.

Fire Protection

The town is serviced by three fire districts:

- Schuyler Lake Fire District
 - Volunteer run.
 - Serves northern/northwest areas of the town
- Fly Creek Fire District
 - Volunteer run.
 - Serves Fly Creek hamlet and surrounding areas.
- Otsego Fire Protection District
 - Contract with Cooperstown Fire Department service.
 - Serves near Cooperstown Village.

Police

- There is no town police department.
- The Otsego County Sheriff's Office and New York State troopers serve the town.
- Village of Cooperstown police serve the village only.

EMS Coverage

- Volunteer EMS services provided through fire districts.
- Otsego County EMS provides 24/7 advanced life support backup.

Healthcare

- Bassett Medical Center provides comprehensive healthcare services to the town and is the main healthcare provider.

- Since 2020 there have been multiple expansions to the Bassett facility, increasing staffing counts.

Education

- The town is rural, allowing small classroom sizes in K-12 classroom sizes.
- There is a declining enrollment in students as the population ages, which may indicate pressures for future funding and enrollment levels.
- According to the 2020 census, the Cooperstown Central School District enrollment dropped by about 2%, with an expected continued decrease.

Key Implication for Planning:

- Certain roads lack adequate emergency vehicle access and cellular service coverage, making EMS response a challenge.
- An aging population might increase EMS demand.
- Tourism seasons strain summer EMS and Fire response capacities.
- With increasing staff at Bassett there will need to be available and affordable housing located in the town.

4.9 Zoning Overview

Land use districts each have a purpose, permitted use, lot size, require special permits, and are important to the comprehensive planning vision and goals process and strategies. In this plan alone, proposed changes to land use regulations were encouraged for smart growth and equitable housing goals.

General Business 1

Purpose: Larger scale commercial uses than hamlet districts. Located along route 28.

Permitted Use: None by right.

Lot Size: 10,000-20,000 sq feet depending on utilities.

Special Permits: Wide range of commercial uses including retail, offices, car wash, storage, convenience stores, restaurants, vehicle sales/repair, shopping centers, dwellings, food trucks

General Business 2

Purpose: Commercial areas suited for moderate-scale development.

Permitted Use: None by right.

Lot Size: 1 acre (or 20,000 sq ft with utilities)

Special Permits: Minimum building sizes, with max footprint of 5,000 sq. feet.

Hamlet-Business

Purpose: Small scale commercial centers serving local hamlet's need

Permitted Use: Public offices, utilities, home occupations, and residential uses.

Lot Size: 1 acre minimum

Special Permits: Retail, personal services, offices, banks, motels (8 units), B&Bs, mixed use buildings, small repair shops, day cares, outdoor retail, service stations, multifamily dwellings, restaurants, food trucks, light assembly, most buildings limited to a 2,000 sq ft footprint.

Hamlet- Residential

Purpose: Existing small hamlets with mixed but primarily residential character
Permitted Use: Home occupations, accessory uses, and one and two family homes.

Lot Size: 1 acre minimum

Special Permits: Small churches, private offices, B&Bs, multi-family dwellings

Residential-Agricultural 1 (RA-1)

Purpose: Low density rural residential and agricultural areas, mostly east of route 26 and north of route 80

Permitted Use: One and two family homes, agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, parks and home occupations.

Lot Size: 3 acres minimum

Special Permits: Educational institutions, small healthcare facilities, public utilities, churches, cemeteries, B&Bs, campgrounds, recreational facilities, adult housing, service trades, day care

Residential-Agricultural 2

Purpose: Like RA-1 but located west of route 26 and south of route 80/28

Permitted Use: One and two family homes, agriculture, forestry, wildlife management, parks and home occupations.

Lot Size: 3 acres minimum

Special Permits: Same as RA-1 but also includes animal hospitals, mineral extraction (with restrictions), motels (8 units), kennels, multifamily dwellings, and food trucks.

Residential-Educational

Purpose: Support museums, educational institutions, recreational facilities north of Cooperstown

Permitted Use: Country clubs, golf clubs, museums, educational institutions, accessory uses.

Lot Size: 10 acres minimum

Special Permits: Buildings over 1,500 sq. feet require site review.

Lake Protection District “Overlay” Areas

Our town includes portions of two lakes – Otsego on the east and Canadarago on the west. Although not currently shown or listed on our zoning map, these “Lake Protection” areas are functional overlay zones specifically described in “Article IV: Land Use Regulations Pertaining To Geologic Features” of our land use law. The Otsego Lake Protection zone is “laid over” two zones that abut Otsego Lake: RA-1 (Residential Agricultural) and the Recreational/Educational District (R/E) Zone. The Canadarago Lake Protection Zone is “laid over” that portion of the RA-2 (Residential Agricultural) zone that abuts and includes the west shore of Canadarago Lake. Section 4.04 of Article IV, titled “Otsego and Canadarago Lake Protection Area” prohibits, for example, any

point of source discharge into Otsego or Canadarago Lakes or into any waterway flowing into Otsego or Canadarago Lakes as well as placing limits on the removal of trees and other vegetation. Limitations on water run-off, development, new construction, and reconstruction within 500 feet of the lake shore become increasingly restrictive as the proposed work gets closer to the shorelines. Site plan review is required for all work. Repairs or replacements of existing buildings are limited to their existing footprints and dimensions.

The Recreational/Residential/Educational District.

The R/E District was established to provide for and to tie together several parcels of land north of the Village of Cooperstown. These parcels provide educational and recreational opportunities for people. Minimum lot sizes are 10 Acres. Permitted uses include country clubs, golf clubs, museums, educational institutions, and accessory uses necessary to operate permitted uses. Any use in this district over 1500 square feet of building requires site plan review and approval. See Zoning Map in Appendix A.

4.10 Stakeholders, Key Organizations, and Strategic Partners

Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection

Otsego 2000

New York State Historical Association

Village of Cooperstown Historic Preservation Commission

Otsego County Conservation Association

Otsego Land Trust

Biological Field Station

Canadarago Lake Improvement Association

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Soil and Water Conservation District

Economic Development

Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce

Fly Creek Area Historical Society
Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.
Otsego County Industrial Development Agency (IDA)
Otsego Now

Organizations

Highway Department
Otsego County Planning Department
Bassett Healthcare Network
Climate Smart Communities Task Force
Otsego County Planning Department: Tammie Harris, Levi Anderson

4.11 Steering Committee Members

Jim Brophy
Tom Craig
Debbie Creedon
Greg Crowell
Deb Dalton
Jim Dalton
Walter Dusenbery
Carina Franck
Ed Hobbie
Bill Hribar
Jeff Katz
Pat Kennedy
Chris Kjolhede
Adrian Kuzminski
May Leinhart

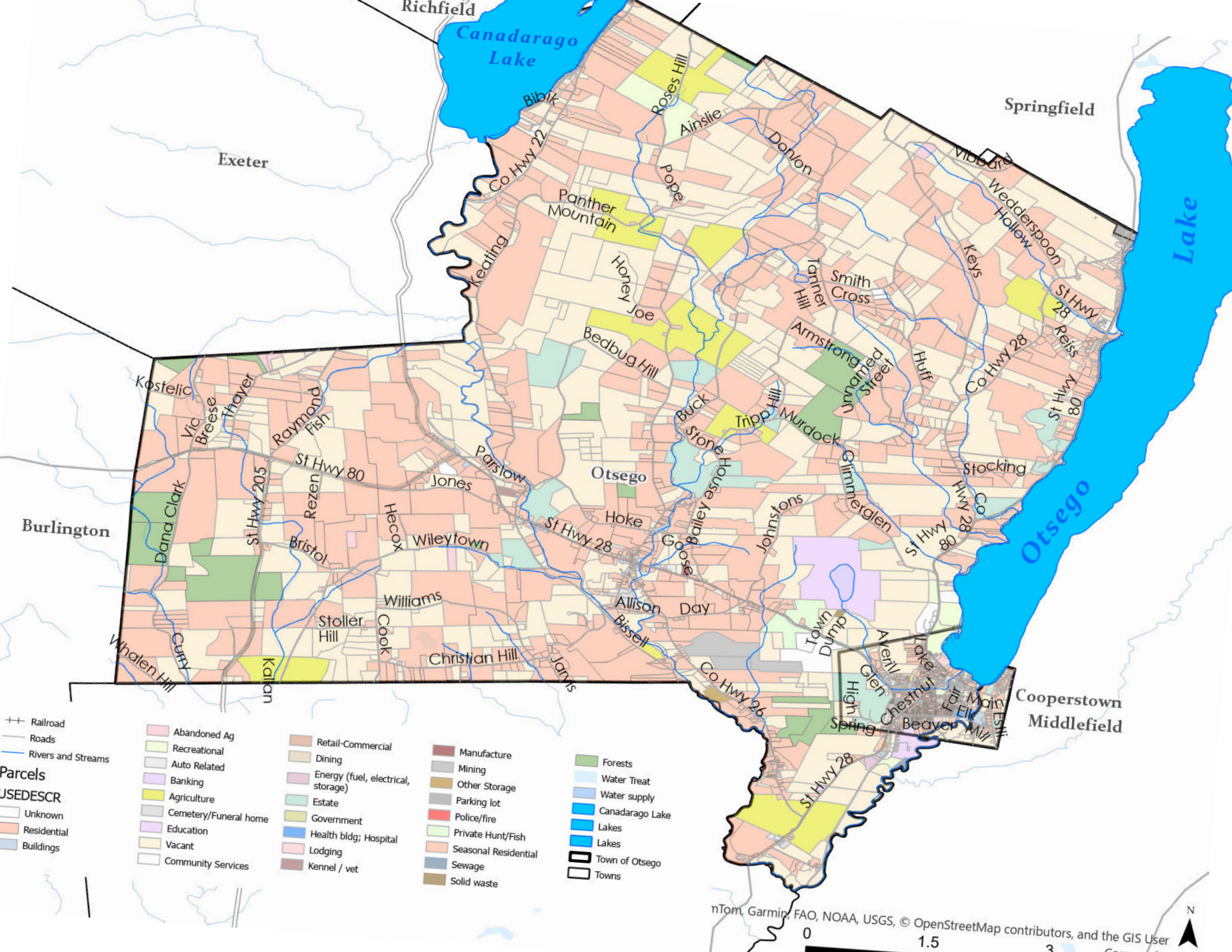
Alex Nirenberg

John Phillips

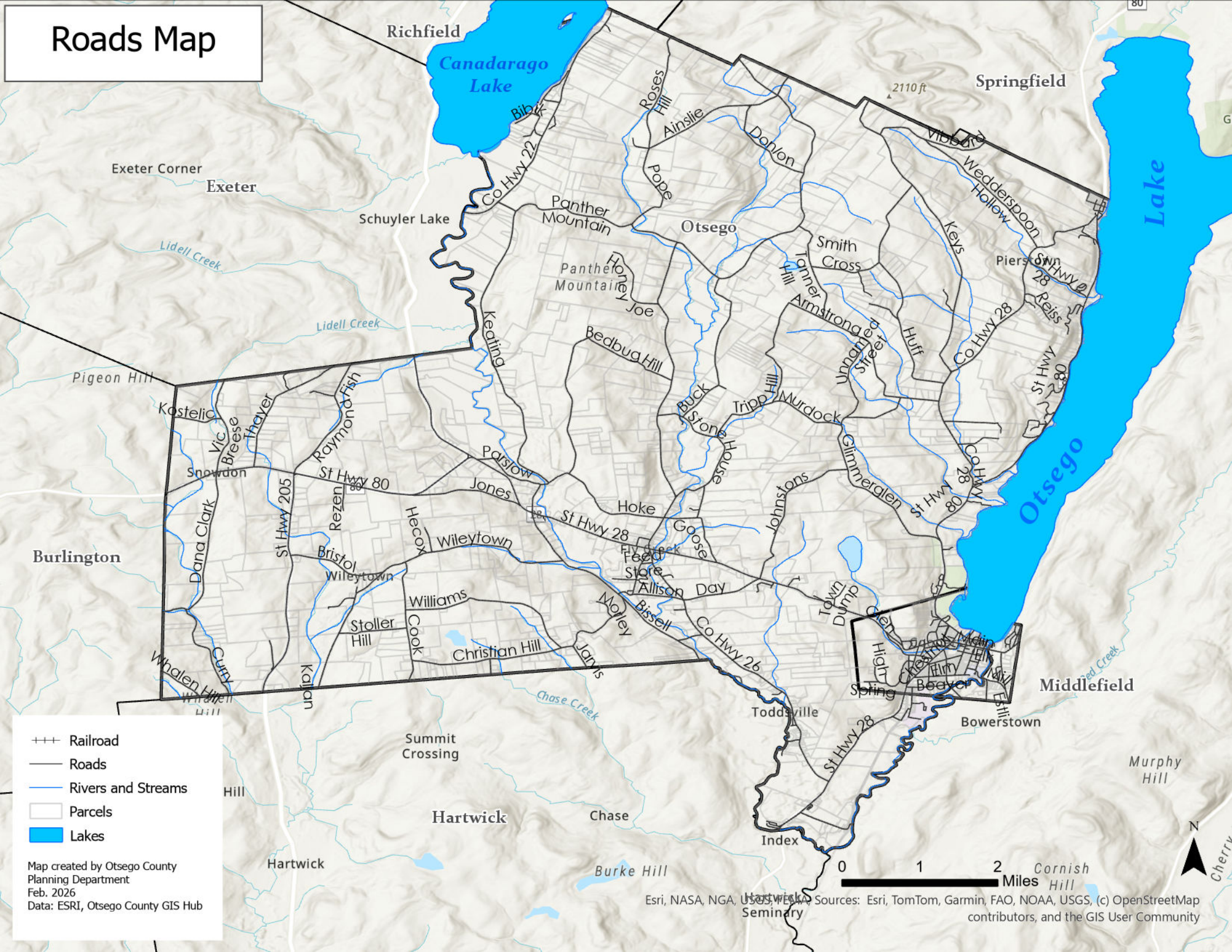
Steve Purcell

Dan Sullivan

APPENDIX A: Maps



Roads Map

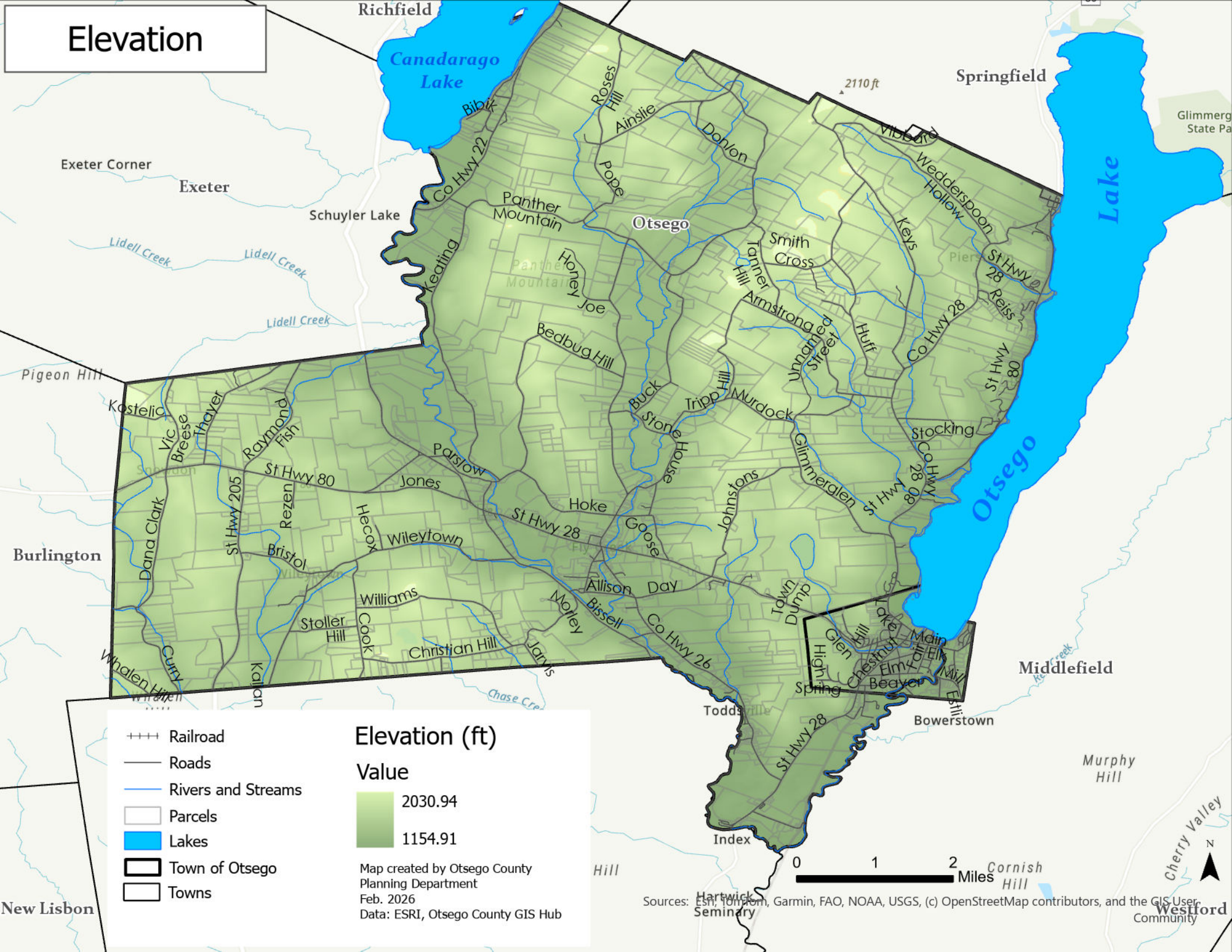


- +++ Railroad
- Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- ▭ Parcels
- Lakes

Map created by Otsego County
Planning Department
Feb. 2026
Data: ESRI, Otsego County GIS Hub

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Elevation



- ++++ Railroad
- Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- Parcels
- Lakes
- ▭ Town of Otsego
- ▭ Towns

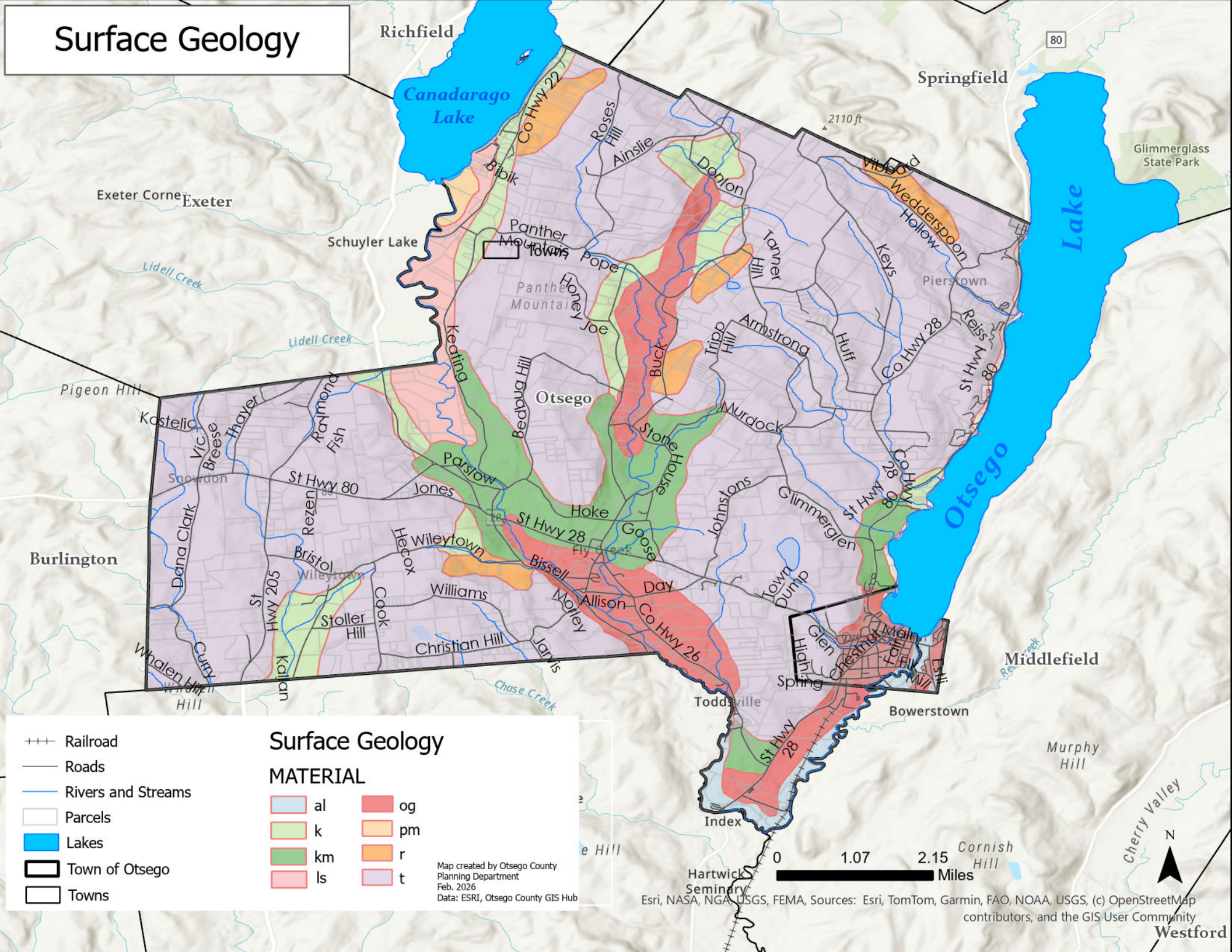
Elevation (ft)
Value

- 2030.94
- 1154.91

0 1 2 Miles



Surface Geology



- +++ Railroad
- Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- ▭ Parcels
- ▭ Lakes
- ▭ Town of Otsego
- ▭ Towns

Surface Geology MATERIAL

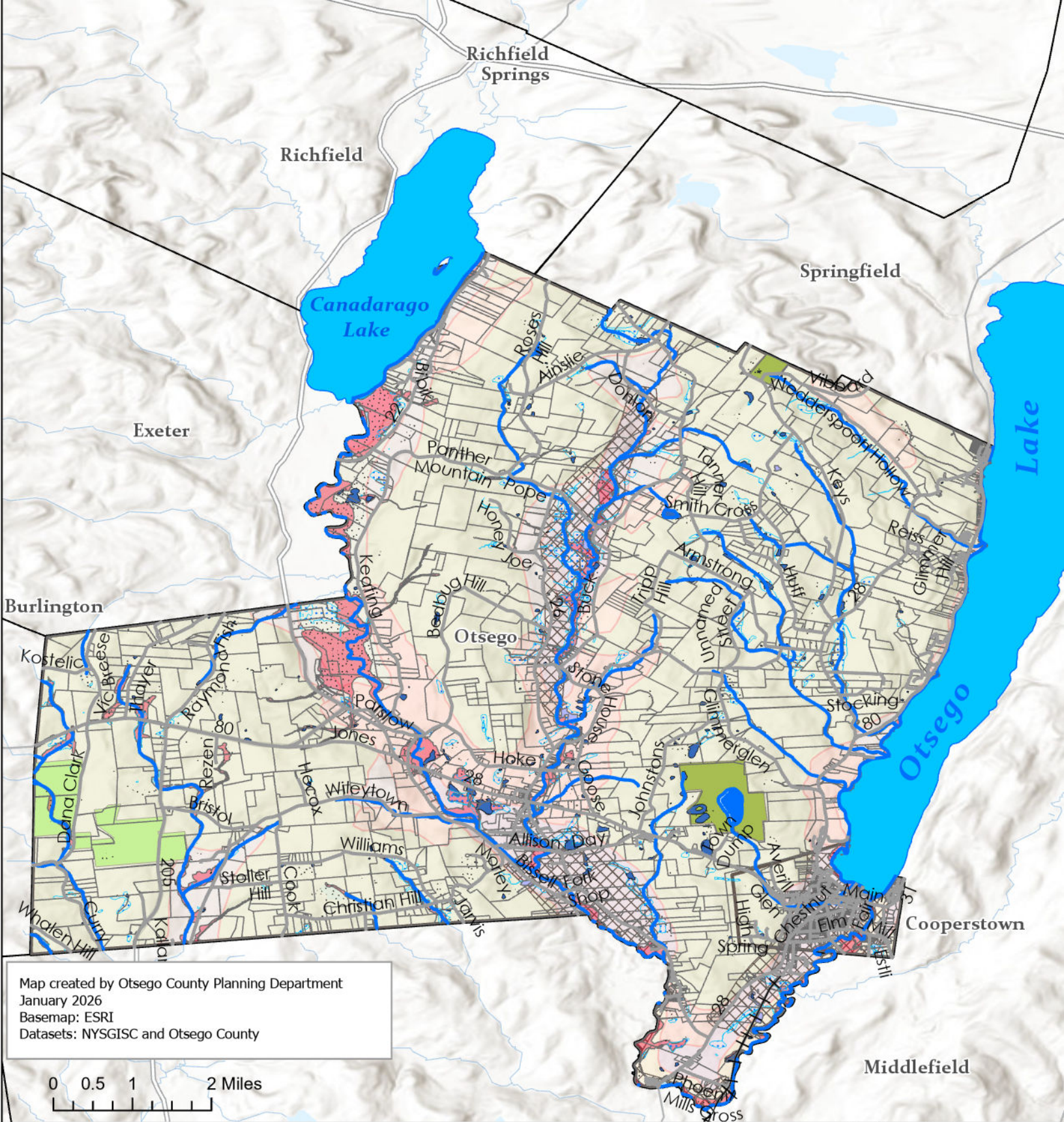
 al	 og
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Map created by Otsego County Planning Department
 Feb. 2026
 Data: ESRI, Otsego County GIS Hub

0 1.07 2.15 Miles
 Hartwick Seminary
 Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Westford



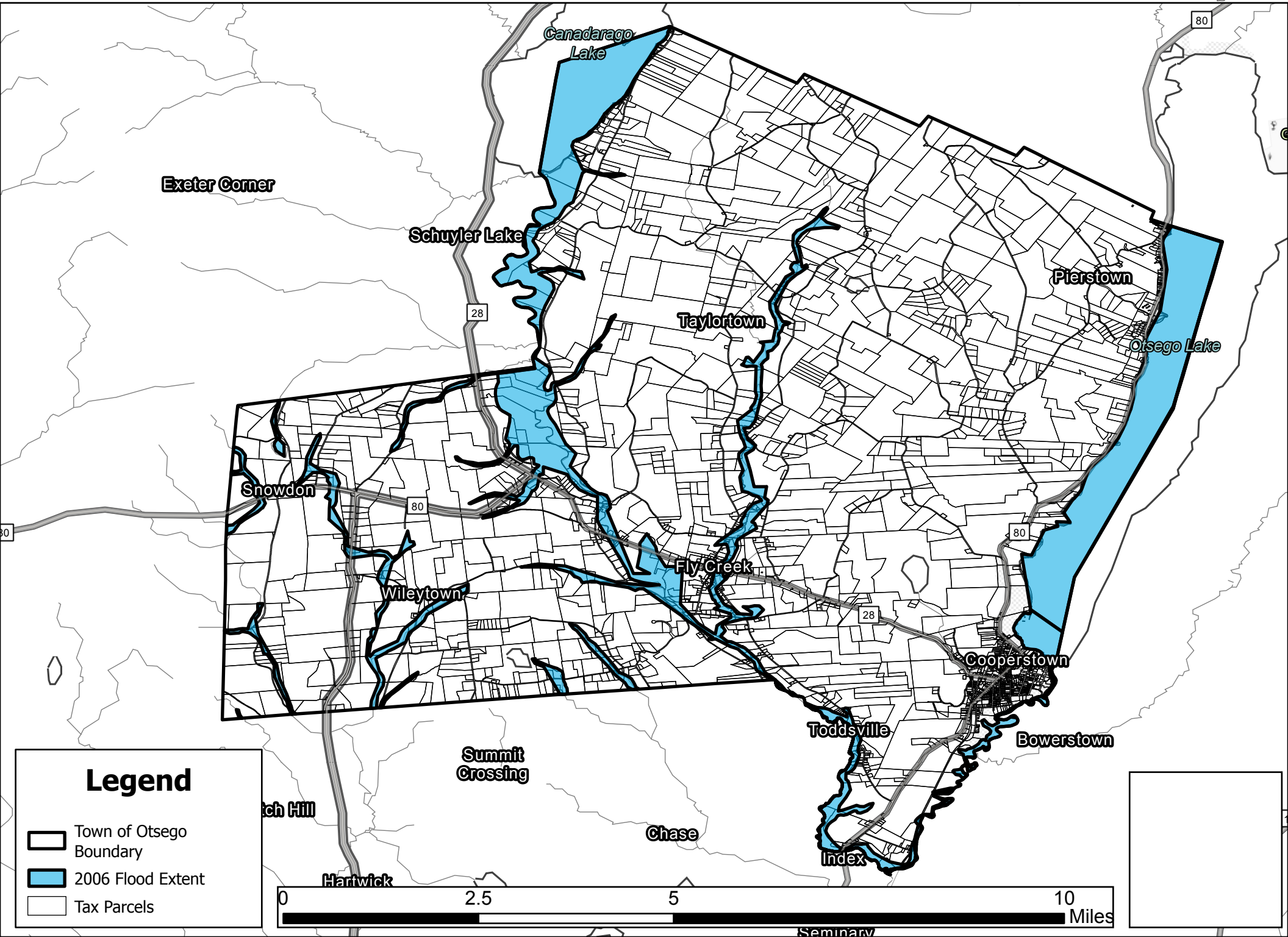
Map created by Otsego County Planning Department
 January 2026
 Basemap: ESRI
 Datasets: NYSGISC and Otsego County



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dams Tourism Sites Celltowers Public School Airport Railroad Streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers and Streams Parcels Canadarago Lake Lakes <p>Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Emergent Wetland Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Pond Lake Other Riverine Lakes <p>FEMA Flood Hazard ZONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Zone Principle Aquifers State Owned Areas State Recreation Area Town of Otsego Towns 	<p>Surface Geology Material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> km ls og pm r t al k
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Otsego Municipality NRI - 2006 Flood Extent

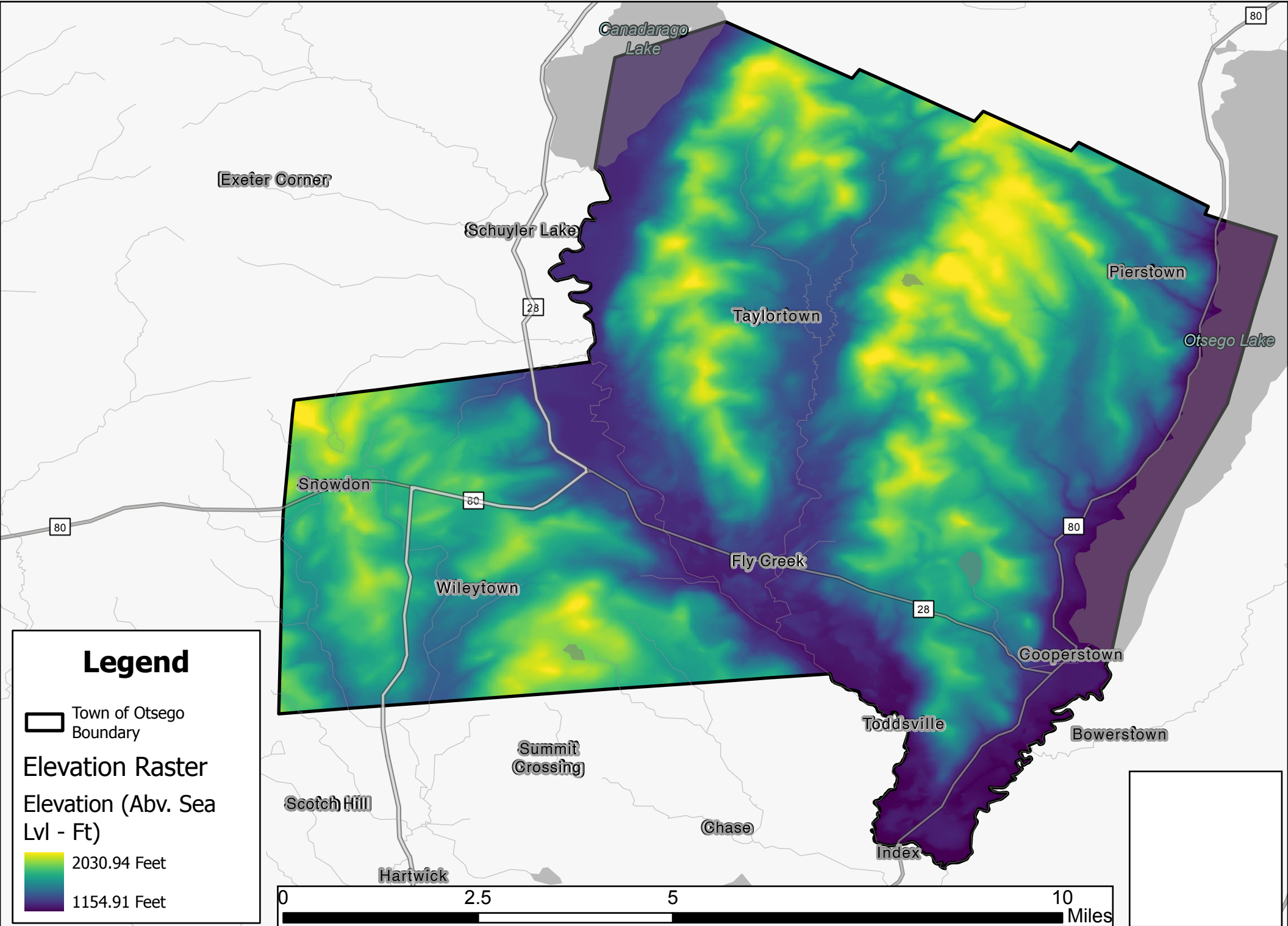


Legend


- Town of Otsego Boundary
- 2006 Flood Extent
- Tax Parcels

0 2.5 5 10 Miles


Otsego Municipality NRI - DEM Raster Data



Legend

 Town of Otsego Boundary

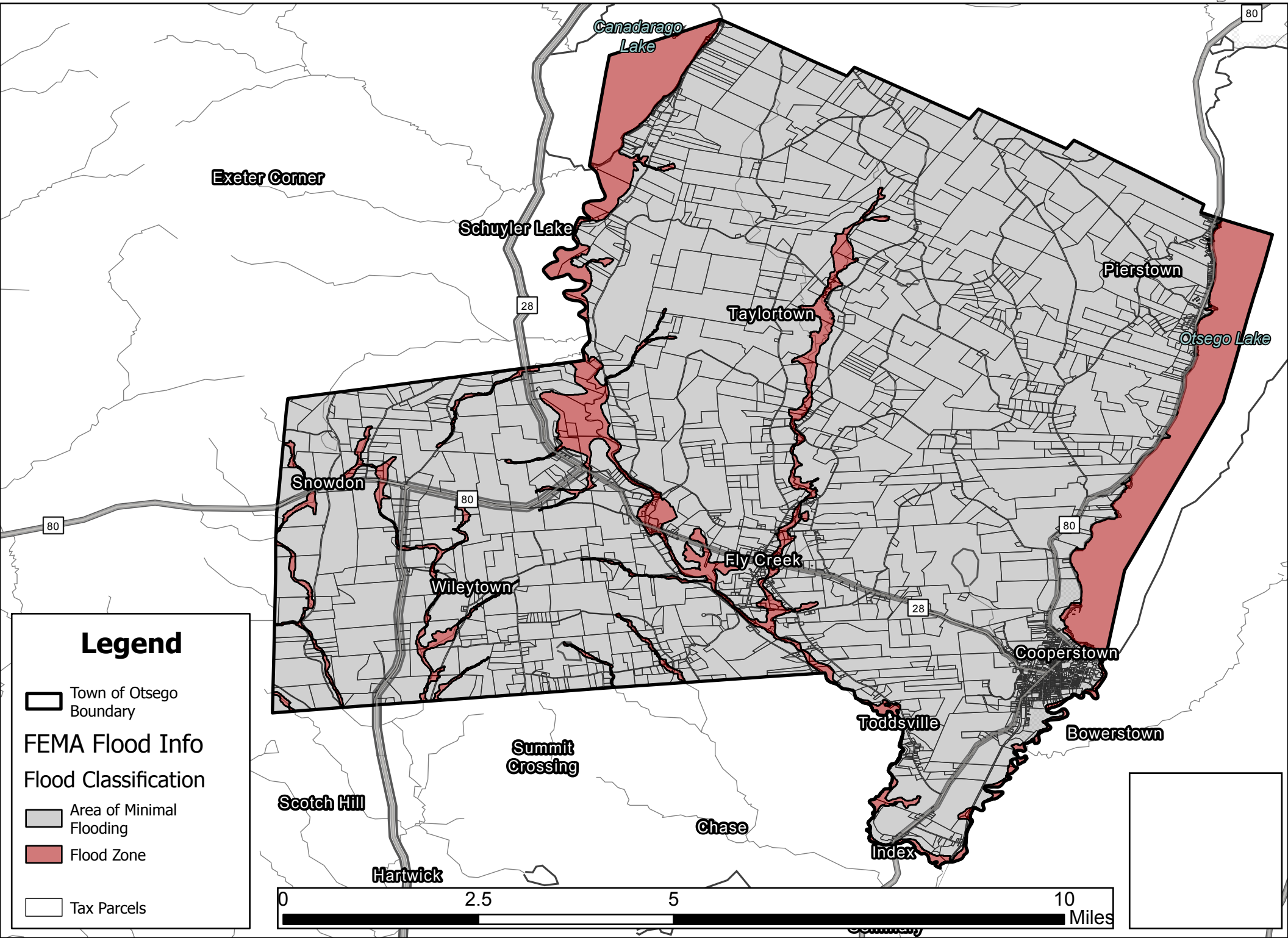
Elevation Raster
Elevation (Abv. Sea Lvl - Ft)

 2030.94 Feet
1154.91 Feet

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Otsego Municipality NRI - FEMA Flood Classification

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department



Legend

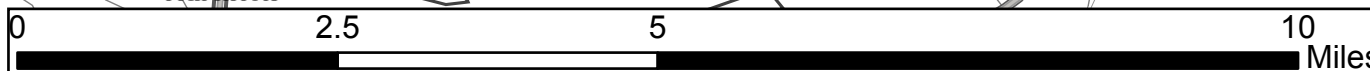
Town of Otsego Boundary

FEMA Flood Info Flood Classification

Area of Minimal Flooding

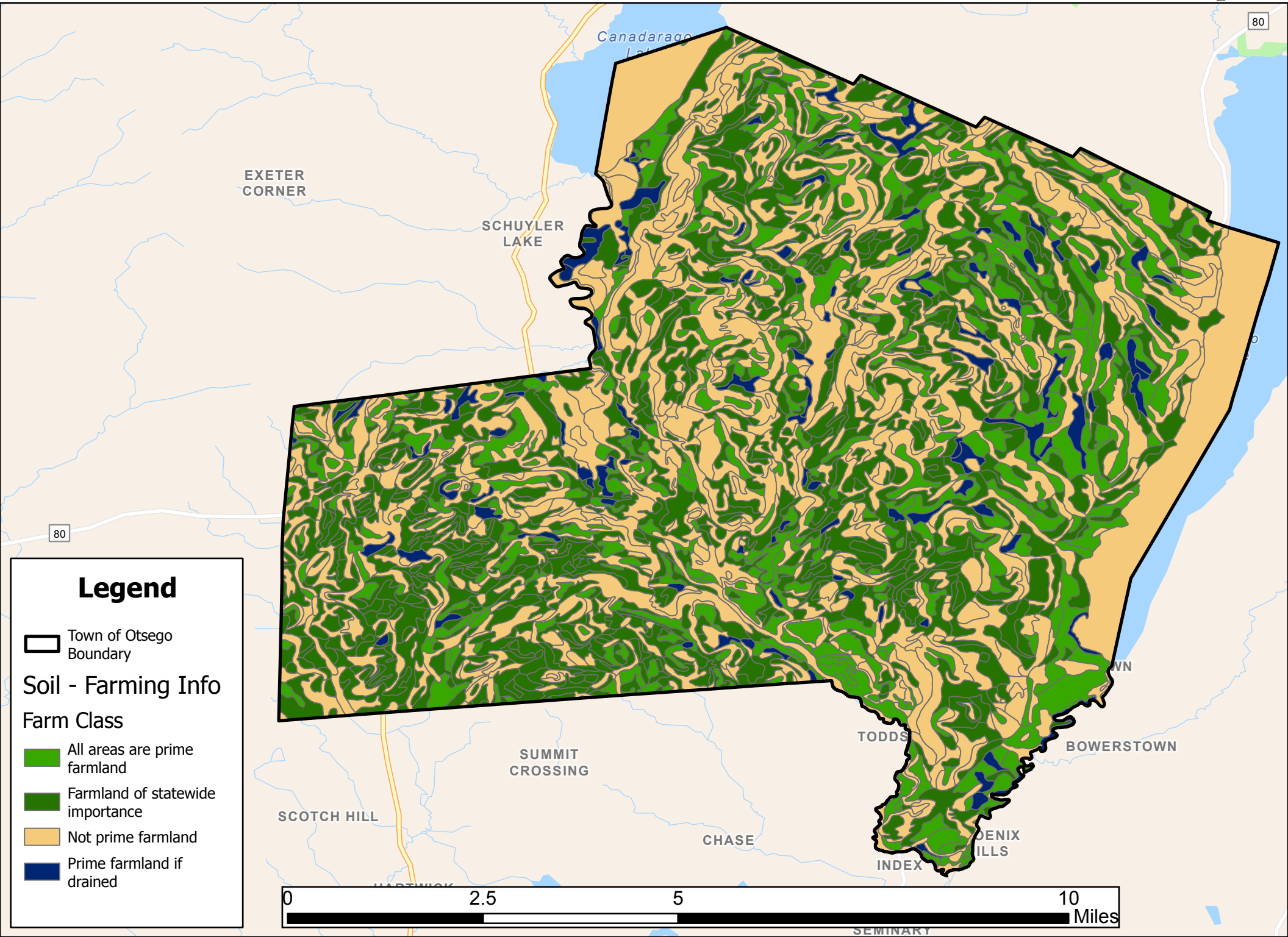
Flood Zone

Tax Parcels




Otsego Municipality NRI - Soil Farming Info

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department







Legend

 Town of Otsego Boundary

Soil - Farming Info

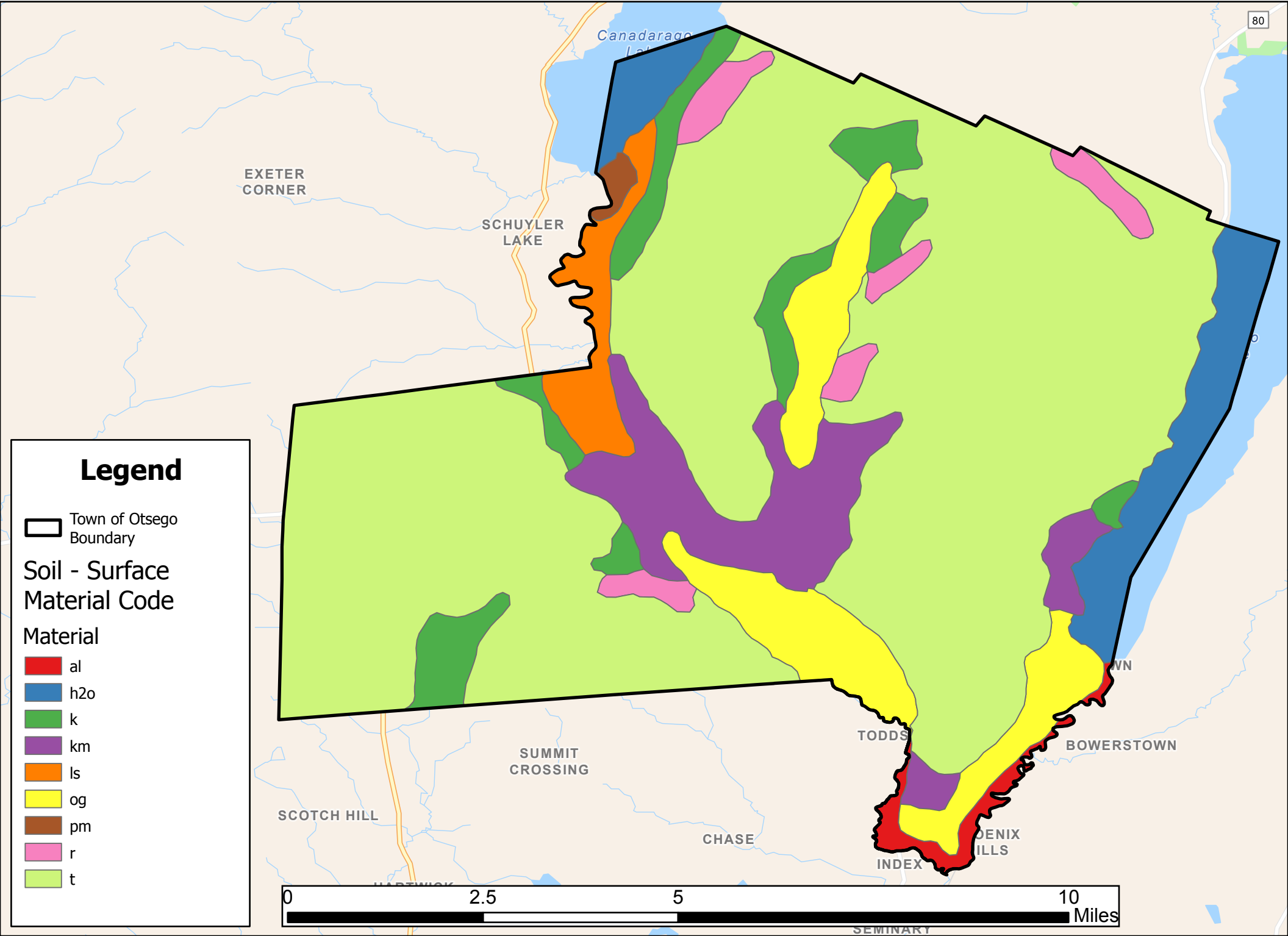
Farm Class

-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Not prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained



Otsego Municipality NRI - Soil Surface Material Code

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department



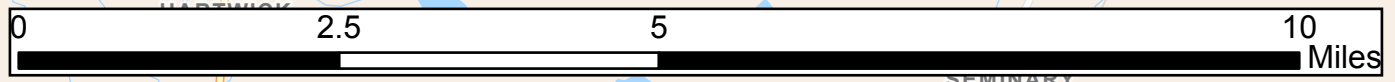
Legend

□ Town of Otsego Boundary

Soil - Surface Material Code

Material

- al
- h2o
- k
- km
- ls
- og
- pm
- r
- t



Otsego Municipality NRI - Soil Species Type



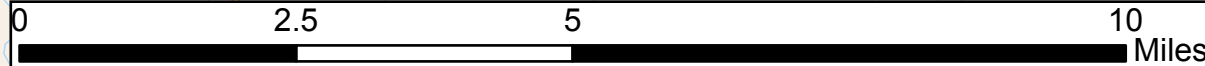
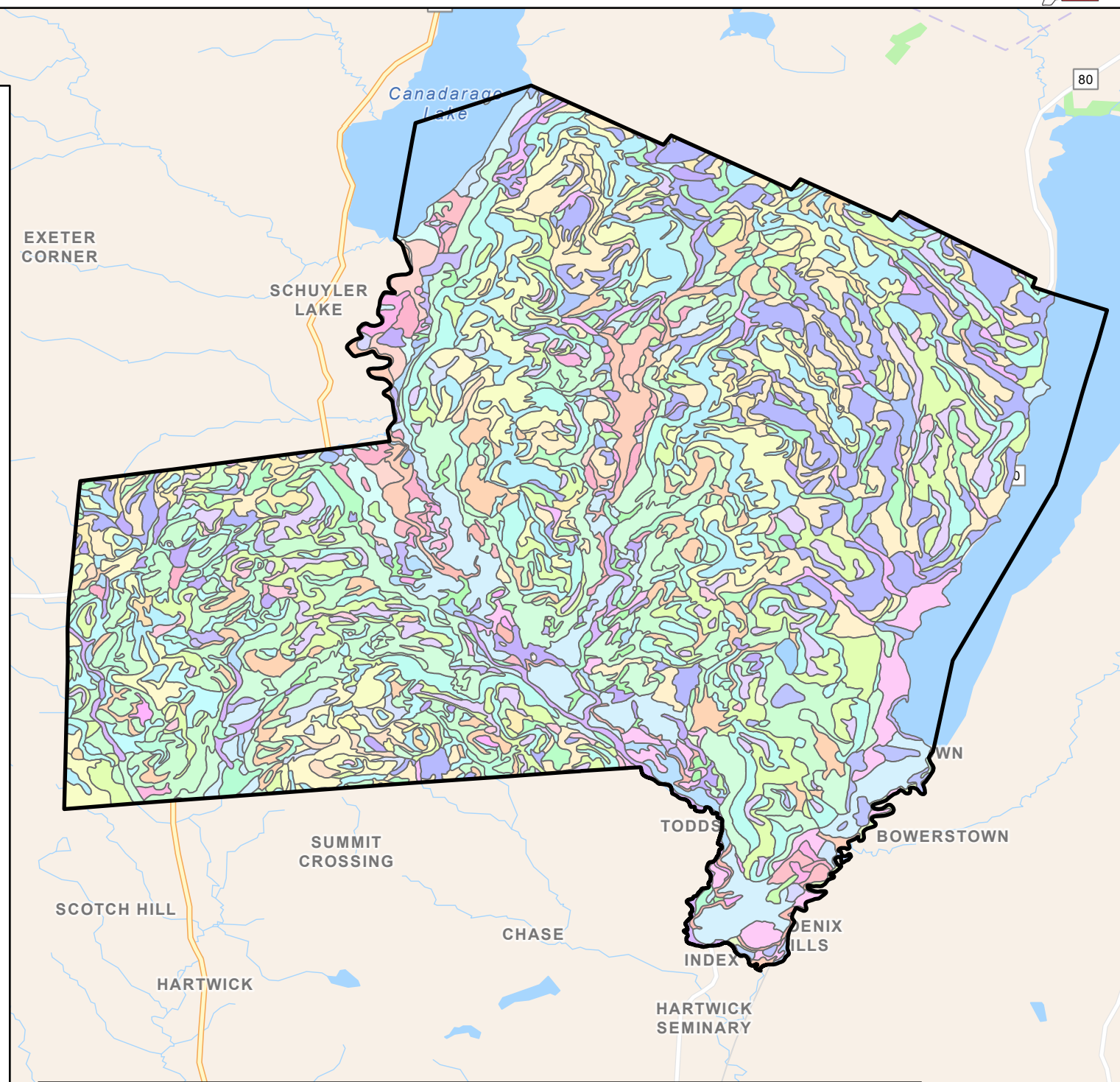
Legend

Town of Otsego Boundary

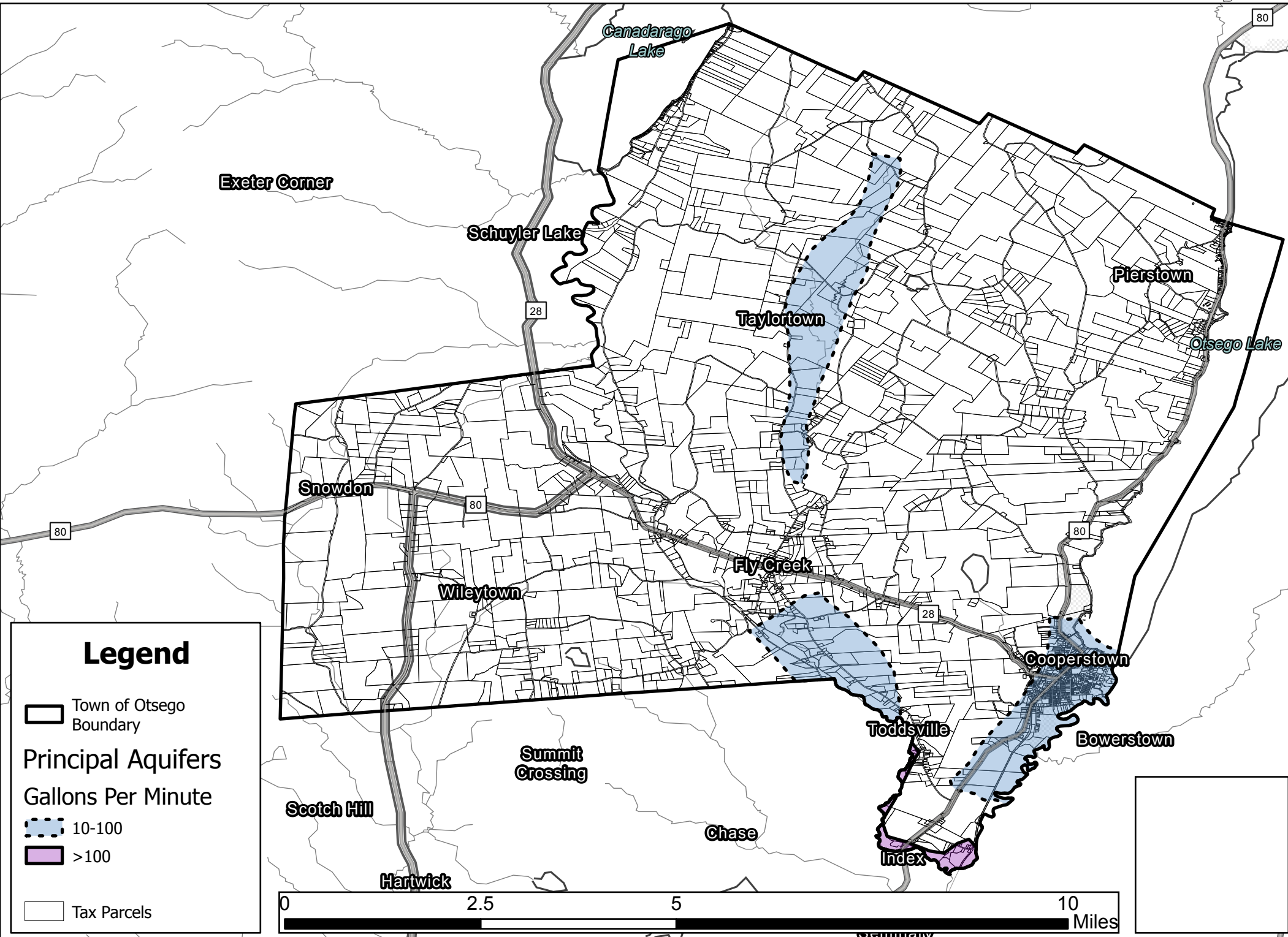
Soil - Species ID

Species Name


- Alden mucky silt loam
- Atherton silt loam
- Bath channery silt loam
- Canandaigua mucky silt loam
- Canandaigua silt loam
- Carbondale mucky peat
- Carlisle muck
- Castile channery silt loam
- Chenango channery loam
- Chenango gravelly silt loam
- Chenango, Howard, and Tunkhannock soils
- Chippewa and Norwich soils
- Conesus silt loam
- Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complex, frequently flooded
- Fonda mucky silt loam
- Greene-Tuller complex
- Hawksnest silt loam
- Herkimer gravelly silt loam
- Honeoye and Lansing soils
- Howard gravelly silt loam
- Lansing silt loam
- Lewbath channery silt loam
- Lordstown, Chadakoin, and Manlius soils
- Lordstown-Arnot complex
- Lordstown-Chadakoin complex
- Lyons soils
- Manheim silt loam
- Manlius channery silt loam
- Mongaup-Franklinville complex
- Mongaup-Hawksnest complex
- Morris and Volusia soils
- Norchip channery silt loam
- Ontusia channery silt loam
- Otego silt loam
- Palms muck
- Pits, Gravel, and Sand
- Pits, quarry
- Raynham silt loam
- Red Hook silt loam
- Rhinebeck silty clay loam
- Riverhead sandy loam, loamy substratum
- Sapristis and Aquents
- Scio fine sandy loam
- Scio silt loam
- Torull-Gretor complex
- Towerville silt loam
- Trestle-Deposit complex
- Udorthents, refuse substratum
- Unadilla silt loam
- Valois fine gravelly silt loam
- Valois gravelly loam
- Volusia silt loam
- Wakeville silt loam
- Wayland soils complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded
- Wellsboro and Mardin soils
- Willdin channery silt loam



Otsego Municipality NRI - Principal Aquifers





Legend


 Town of Otsego Boundary

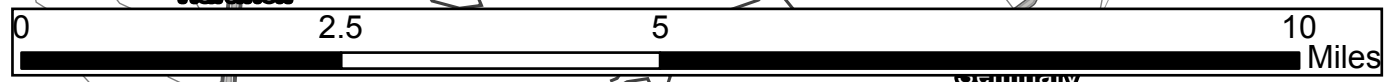
Principal Aquifers

Gallons Per Minute

 10-100

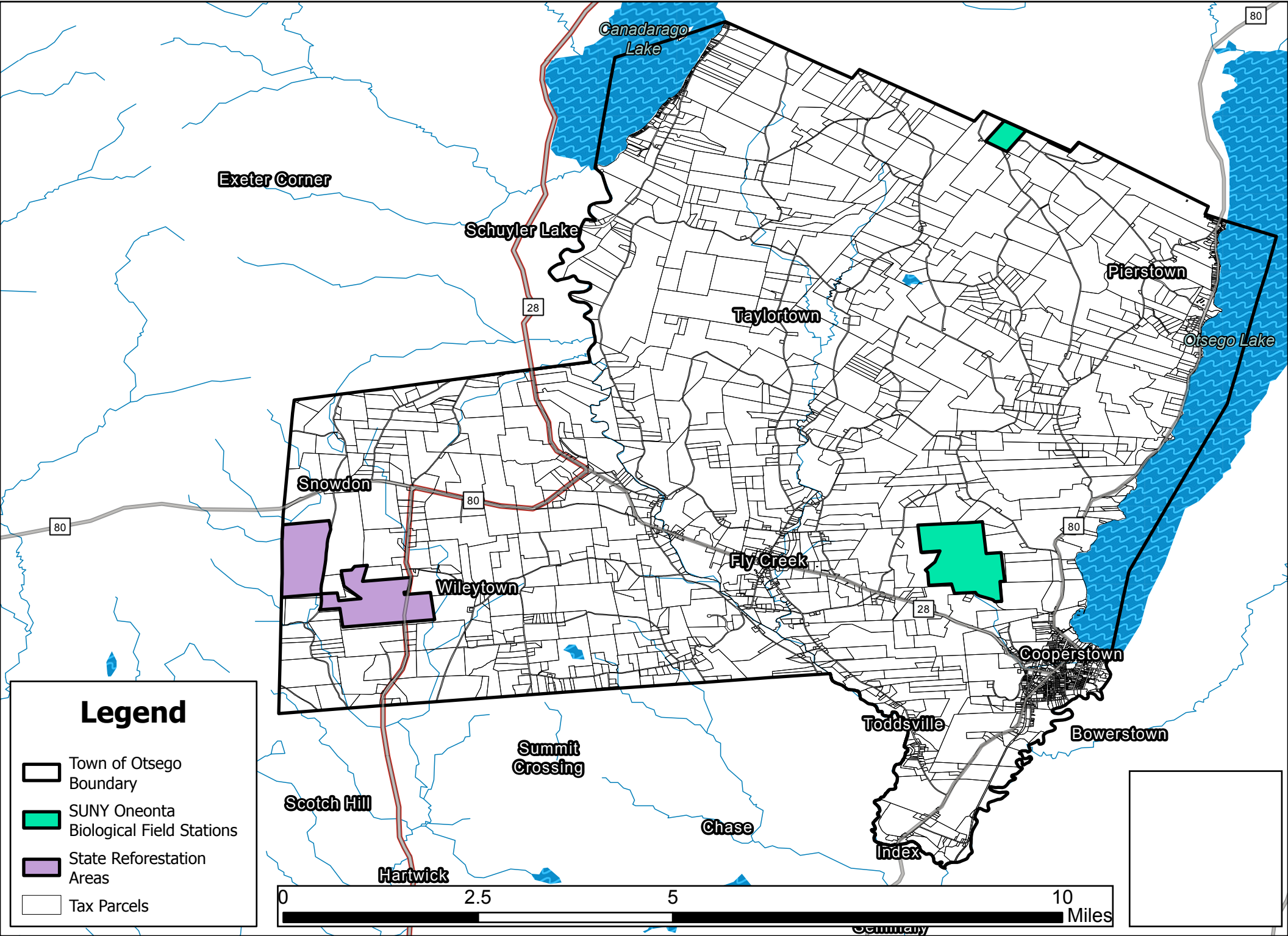
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 Tax Parcels



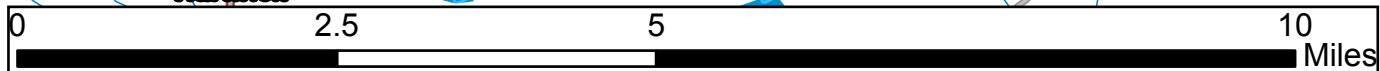
Otsego Municipality NRI - State Preserved Lands

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department



Legend

- Town of Otsego Boundary
- SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Stations
- State Reforestation Areas
- Tax Parcels



Otsego Municipality NRI - Wetland Information

02/23/2026 - Levi N Anderson
Otsego County Planning Department

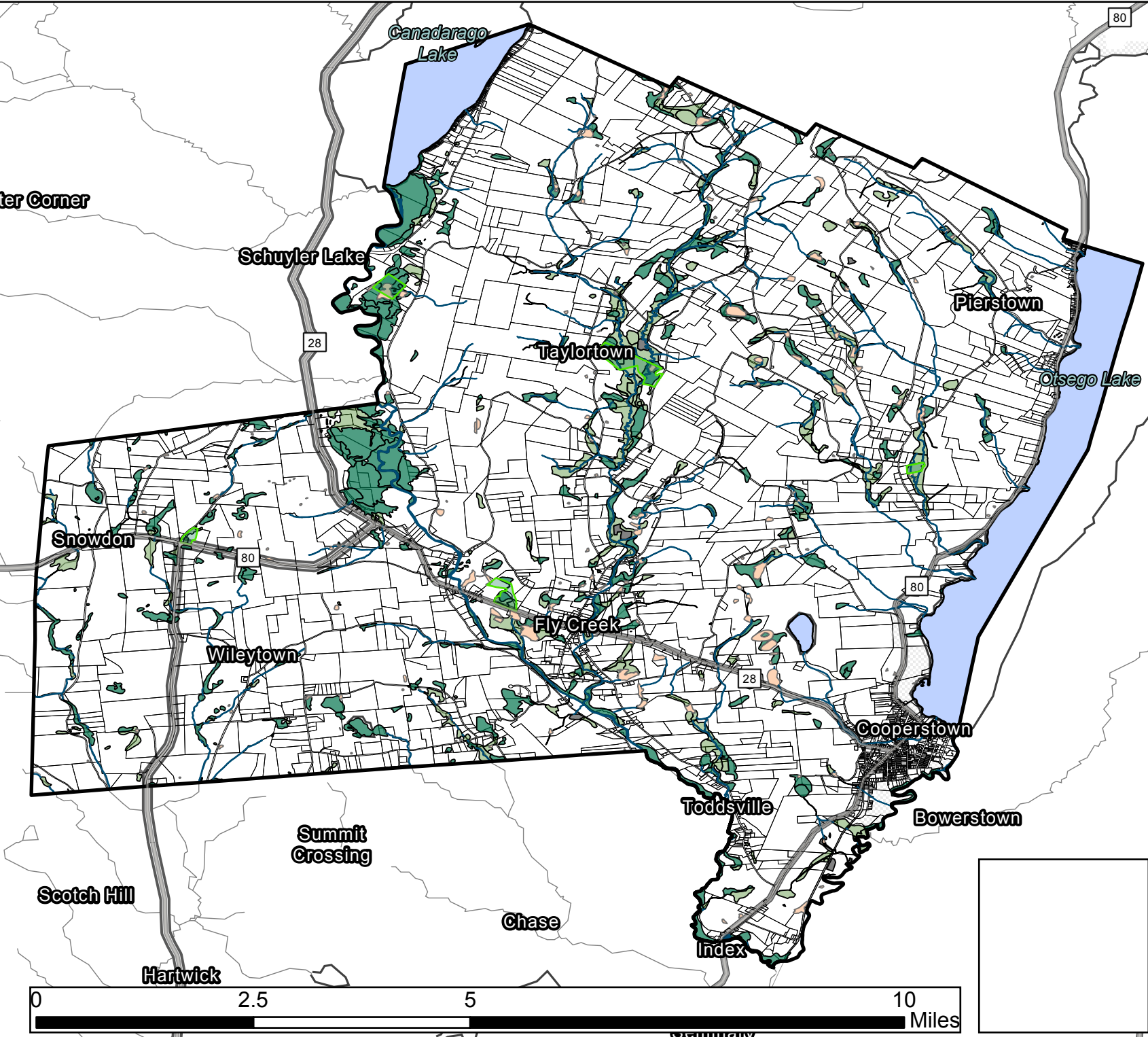


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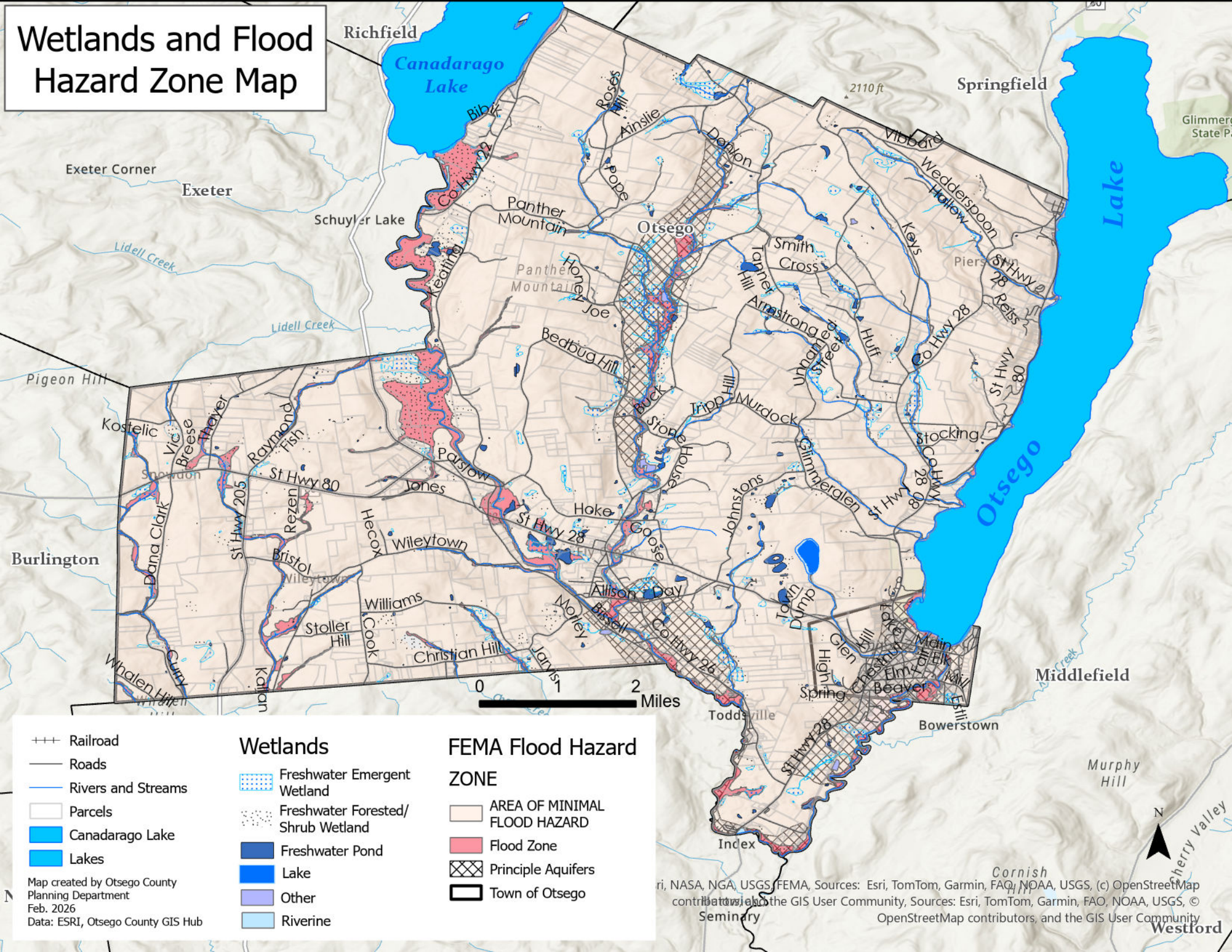
- Town of Otsego Boundary
- Wetlands Reserve Program

Wetland Info

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- Tax Parcels



Wetlands and Flood Hazard Zone Map



Richfield
Springfield
Exeter Corner
Exeter
Schuyler Lake
Lidell Creek
Pigeon Hill

Kostelic
Vic
Breese
Hoyer
Raymond
Fish
St Hwy 80
St Hwy 205

Burlington
Dana Clark
Snowdon
Rezen
Bristol
Wileytown
St Hwy 28

Whalen Hill
Curtis
Kalion
Stoller Hill
Williams
Cook
Christian Hill
Moley
Jarvis
St Hwy 26

Canadarago Lake
Bibb
Roses Mill
Ainslie
Denison
Vibbard

Panther Mountain
Honey Joe
Bedbug Hill
Buck
Tanner Hill
Smith Cross
Unhanged
Sires
Huff
Wedderspoon
Hollow
Keys
Piers
St Hwy 28
Reiss
St Hwy 80

St Hwy 28
St Hwy 80
Stocking
Co Hwy 28
Co Hwy 08

Johnstons
Glimmerglenn
St Hwy 28
St Hwy 08

Wileytown
Hecox
Wileytown
Hoke
Goose
Allison
Day
Bissell
Co Hwy 26

Toddsville
Index
Spring
Glen Hill
Chastain
Emery
Elk
Beaver
Bowerstown

Murphy Hill
Cherry Valley
Westford

2110 ft
Cornish
Seminary

- +++ Railroad
 - Roads
 - Rivers and Streams
 - ▭ Parcels
 - Canadarago Lake
 - Lakes
- Map created by Otsego County Planning Department
Feb. 2026
Data: ESRI, Otsego County GIS Hub

- ### Wetlands
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
 - Freshwater Forested/ Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond
 - Lake
 - Other
 - Riverine

- ### FEMA Flood Hazard ZONE
- AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD
 - Flood Zone
 - Principle Aquifers
 - Town of Otsego

Map data sources: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

APPENDIX B: Community Survey

Town of Otsego FUTURE OF OTSEGO Open House

Join us for a chance to give **your** input to the Town of Otsego regarding the future of the community!

Join us with your ideas

Thursday, August 28th

5PM - 8PM

Town Hall

Can't make it?
Fill out the
survey **online!**



Stop by anytime to check out what the Town of Otsego is working on for the Comprehensive Plan update and give your feedback!

Topics will include: Comprehensive Plan Overview, Housing, Tourism & Economic Development, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation, Infrastructure & Safety, among others!



Light refreshments will be served.



Please respond to the prompts as thoroughly as possible. Return completed survey in person at Town of Otsego (811 County Highway 26), by mail at PO Box 183, Fly Creek, NY 13327, or emailing a photo to ddalton@townofotsego.com
Complete by 09/25/25 for your voice to be heard.

I/My family moved to/live in the Town of Otsego because:

The Town of Otsego is the best place to...

I wish the Town of Otsego had:

What about the Town of Otsego is special, irreplaceable, or worthy of protecting:

Is there anything that could make you move from Otsego? If so, what?

What's the one thing the Town of Otsego needs more than anything else today?

Note: Turnpage over for additional questions and space.

Are you interested in serving on a subcommittee? Please choose one of the proposed focus areas:

Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development



Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture



Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service



Contact and demographic information (optional):

Name:

Telephone: ()

Email:

Road, address or location:

Resident: Year-round Part-time

Property: Owner Renter Other

Additional Space:

I/My family moved to/live in the Town of Otsego because:

- Wanted to live in a small community and raise our kids there.
- We love the Cooperstown area -- especially the lake and rural area.
- Employment
- In 1970, we arrived as my father was employed at C.C.S. and my mother had already worked at NYSHA at the Fenimore House Library for seven years.
- of the beauty of Otsego lake
- We moved to the area because of a job, and chose to live in the Town of Otsego because of the walkability and community.
- Bassett hospital employment
- I grew up in Otsego county.
- We moved here many years ago to be in a farming community with like minded families.
- Climate
- Work
- Of a conjunction of natural beauty, available services (health, schools, internet), economic anchor institutions, and culture.
- We had life long friends here. Wanted to get off Long Island to raise our young family .We moved here in 1984. We were impressed that people of all walks of life and economic backgrounds seemed to get along so well.
- The Cooperstown Graduate Program
- I came here for graduate school and my husband is from here. He returned for a career opportunity
- Originally, for graduate school, in 1971. After seven years away, returned for work at Fenimore House and The Farmers' Museum. After a job in Rhode Island, 1999-2018, returned in retirement because of: many good friends still here; healthcare facilities; safer weather than other regions.
- I got fired
- I enjoy the quiet natural environment and its historic character.
- Otsego offered clean air, peace, quiet, and nature. Also, affordable space.
- Cooperstown schools and rural life.
- The natural beauty and access to cultural institutions combined. Multi generational community
- December 18, 1981. We purchased our farm to dairy and poultry, now beef cattle
- Family (spouse) moved here for job/career opportunity at Bassett (1991). I moved here in 2008 when I married my husband.

- Family (spouse) moved here for job/career opportunity at Bassett (1991).
- Grew up in Fly Creek
- To start a business (Snowdon Hill Farms) in a rural setting.
- Rural & Agricultural area. Summer, fall residents on Otsego lake.
- I started to work at Bassett, but the reason the job was attractive was because I had done my residency at Bassett and was impressed with the friendliness and relaxed, beautiful environment.
- Good schools, access to healthcare, jobs in healthcare & construction, Otsego Lake.
- Rural nature, good schools, local healthcare, little crime, open spaces.
- I had family ties in Otsego County. I had admired the Fenimore farm & country village as a child and wanted to be a part of it.
- We want our children to go to Cooperstown Central School, walk to the gym, enjoy nature & being part of a community that cares about nature.
- We owned land & built our retirement home as we love this part of NY State, and also the benefit of having Bassett Medical Center
- We inherited property on lake Otsego on which we had always wanted to retire.
- Choice & job was available
- Nature
- We were familiar with area and had graduate schooling scheduled here... brought professional and military experience to the community.
- Fly Creek! We love the open space, green fields and lots of running water. It's calm, serene and just a beautiful space!
- We have known the area for decades, and wanted to live in the village of Cooperstown.
- We wanted to live in the Village of Cooperstown.

The Town of Otsego is the best place to...

- Live comfortably, with a good enough amount of things to do.
- I don't have an answer for this.
- Avoid malls, traffic, exercise, make and keep close friends
- raise a young family while pursuing a variety of career roles in a well educated rural community with outstanding medical care easily accessible.
- sit at waters' edge and reflect what beauty there is in Otsego county. It is also a quick jaunt to Cooperstown and the surrounding areas. The town of Otsego is the best place to be close to nature.
- Enjoy nature and also shops, restaurants, and community events.
- raise a family
- Experience all four seasons of the year.
- Humm.
- Spend the summer
- Grow or family or retire
- "Enjoy the beauty of central New York."
- Live, as it is family friendly, good schools, fantastic Sports Center. Rural setting! Amazing Lake.
- Live because it is rural, cultural, ecologically minded, and beautiful
- Relax, raise a family
- Raise a family.
- Die
- Live a private productive life without urban friction.
- Enjoy a quiet and private life with a deep sense of history.
- Wake up and go to sleep each morning.
- Access nature, on the water or in the woods.
- See nature in its beauty; go hiking; explore the Arts; raise a family.
- raise a family
- Decompress. Enjoy the outdoors. Get involved in the community - lots of volunteer options.
- Enjoy the continuing education that nature provides.
- Raise a family
- take in nature, the beautiful lake, majestic mountains. It is also a wonderful place to make friends.
- Living in the Town of Otsego is the best place to have a more rural life style and still have amenities close at hand.

- Relax.
- raise a family ... and hike...
- Live, vacation, work, recreate.
- Many things including enjoying the outdoors, small community, slower pace, rich cultural resources and THE LAKE!!
- enjoy a nice comfortable safe place to live in the country with other residents that appreciate the valuable assets that no other towns have.
- Enjoy the lake and environs. Cooperstown within Otsego has a lot of cultural things to offer
- "Swim
- Hike/walk
- Bike
- Access excellent community center"
- Xc ski, hike, kayak and attend cultural events.
- Be outside; hike; fish; get to know fun and creative people; support each other in a variety of ways, such as the Community Foundation, the Land Trust and others.
- live/work/raise kids in a quiet rural setting with healthy air, water, and soils -- and an active and engaged community.
- Has a rural environment. We visit California every year and it is always good to return as it's peaceful, no traffic, minimal ambient light so I can see the stars, and I have room for a nice garden. Plus we have our lake!
- Enjoy beautiful natural scenery
- For me, the bucolic setting and overall less concentration of people/traffic as compared to our previous town.
- Have a good life with a high quality of meaningful attributes.
- Enjoy the remote, untouched beauty of central New York
- Relax, enjoy nature, enjoy recreational options and to raise a family in a safe, environmentally conscientious community of neighbors.
- enjoy the natural beauty of the lake and surrounding mountains throughout the year, live in peace and freedom and raise a family.
- see nature at her finest
- Enjoy the outdoors, raise children
- raise a family.
- Retired
- Raise a family. Congregate with friends. Star gaze.
- Live, work, play, make life long friends with the common interests.
- Savor small town living and enjoy unspoiled nature.

- Raise a family.
- live because of excellent small town stewardship exhibited by the local community.
- Enjoy a quiet peaceful lake view, the beautiful historic village of Cooperstown, great golfing, boating, swimming, music and restaurants.
- Enjoy my passion for the outdoors and daily hikes with my dog.
- The Town of Otsego is the best place to...
- Swim, fish, hike nature trails, visit museum and an opera ALL IN ONE DAY and finish with a fine dinner.
- Breathe. Drink water. See gorgeous skies, clouds during the day, stunning skies at night. Appreciate nature, beauty, forests, fields, streams/lakes, farms, animals.
- Breathe. Drink water. See gorgeous skies, clouds during the day, stunning skies at night. Appreciate nature, beauty, forests, fields, streams/lakes, farms, animals.
- To live, visit
- Live a quiet life.
- Enjoy the rural countryside.
- Live in a relaxed, beautiful environment.
- Raise a family.
- Raise a family.
- Enjoy the beauty of nature and the companionship of good people regardless of their professions.
- Slow down and enjoy life
- Enjoy a rural life with the beauty of Otsego Lake as a major part of its environment.
- Enjoy peace & quiet
- Live and raise a well-balanced family to continue growth and learning and continue to participate in community efforts.
- Enjoy nature, a kind, accepting environment for all people to go boating and hiking.
- Live as a retired couple, but also a lovely place to raise a family. Upstate NY is beautiful.
- Best place for upper income professionals. Also for part time residents and second homes.

I wish the Town of Otsego had:

- More people (of all kinds), more housing (of all kinds), more businesses.
- More Otsego and Canadarago lake access for those who don't own property on the lakes. A plan to reduce/prevent further housing growth and enlargement along the lakes. A zoning plan that focuses on, supports and defines rural affordable housing and small town business and housing. Sufficient funds and legal methods to enforce laws that protect small town, rural values. A more attractive ADA compliant, audience-friendly town hall complex. More money to improve the 75+ miles of roads the town has to protect and maintain. Climate smart buildings. Staff enough to apply for and administer grants. More diversity of all kinds -- especially places to eat.
- Rails to Trails bike path. Graduated assisted care facility for senior citizens - from independent living to nursing home levels.
- More accessible low and middle income housing available twelve months a year to hopefully attract young families with children to populate CCS once again as student enrollment has dropped by I estimate 40 % since 2000.
- limits on land development and road expansion
- More families with school age children. Cooperstown Central School needs more students. The school is the heart of the community.
- More investment in parks and recreation for families
- More developed nature trails and a dog wash.
- Less baseball on Cooperstown's main street and more options for everyday practical needs. A well managed farm store like the old Agway use to be. Not tractor Supply.
- Much better code enforcement
- Better shopping, at least nearby and neither Oneonta or Utica are adequate either
- Playgrounds, protected land, accommodation for small areas of density and mixed use.
- Safer bike lanes. Wider road around the lake. Public playground, as the Cooperstown school is not open to the public during school hours.
- Extensive senior housing opportunities; better access to the lake from the parks.
- more single family housing, better grocery stores, indoor turf
- Good nursing home/elder care. Small shopping center, other than Cooperstown.
- A viable economy
- Better sidewalks in the hamlet and code enforcement of its building laws.
- LESS BASEBALL. I did not move here to live in a baseball theme park.

- Parks. The Village of Cooperstown has parks. We should have our own parks.
- "Zoning laws that protect open spaces
- Increased focus on density and rehabilitating older structures in the village
- A better variety of retail outlets and quality eateries / healthy food in the village
- A plan for addressing future development
- it's own library and ice skating rink
- "Affordable smaller housing for seniors and for the average working class resident and for new families. Kids can't afford to stay. Seniors don't need big houses.
- More hospital parking; more town parking.
- Eco tourism-instead of just baseball and leaf peepers. Plenty to do and, seemingly, opportunity for program development. Bike trails or wider roads on the main numbered streets (80, 26, etc) to have a bike lane.
- Small business development and assistance plan.
- More understanding of nature based learning and its importance, in established protocols for healthy child and family development.
- the ability to stay unchanged
- a good General Store, ride service so people could drink responsibly and not worry about driving, a walking path around the lake.
- We need to put a moratorium on building in place quickly!
- I'll happy since Keys Rd was paved.
- a Wegman's
- Better land use laws to limit development and protect, preserve and encourage wise stewardship of our community's shared bounty - the forest, agriculture, soils, wildlands, wildlife, waters (wetlands, streams, lakes, rivers), historic, and cultural resources of the area.
- Stricter land use laws.
- a more comprehensive master plan that would be able to address this major subdivision that is being proposed that will protect the town's envelope.
- Some regulation to prevent degradation of the natural environment. Also worry about indiscriminate building to service short term baseball camp needs
- "More music venues that are free or reduced in cost
- More year round work
- Public transportation
- A growth plan that clearly supports affordable housing and development in already settled areas, while seeking to protect the health of the lake and the watershed by putting undeveloped land into conservation- while also making that land available

for everyone to enjoy- a hiking trail network; cross country skiing and snow shoeing network of trails; mountain biking.

- a safer 'downtown' four corners where small retail/restaurant/services could thrive from foot traffic and local residents. Alas, Rte 28 at Cty Rte 26 makes that really hard. But Fly Creek is a gem and needs to see more business activity.
- "Will move cautiously with any quick changes that will affect our current life here. An example is the dreams park which completely changes our area for several months every year, and in my opinion, not for the better"
- More affordable housing
- More diversity in its population.
- Within the last two years or so, especially during the tourist season, traffic has become more of a concern. The increase of vehicles that do not follow posted speed limits is certainly a safety concern. I also feel the speed limit within the hamlet of Fly Creek needs to be lowered.
- Unlimited ability to protect and preserve the health and beauty of Lake Otsego
- More retail store options, however the character of the town as is has been the reason why I call this my home.
- a revitalized downtown with every retail space thriving.
- more protected lands from being developed
- More human diversity, more benefits from the county (planning for example)
- A dedicated bike path -- the old train tracks between Cooperstown and Milford would be ideal because they start/end in two small villages that could benefit from the business.
- More public places
- "Town parks. Communal open space/trails. Stricter zoning regulations."
- More access to winter sports. Examples: downhill skiing (not possible), Nordic ski trails (attached to Otsego?), indoor tennis, hockey. I also wish we had a better quality grocery store. Wegmans would be ideal. I wish Cooperstown specifically had more variety on Main Street as far as shops, food offerings etc.
- Better protections to preserve the environment, affordable housing.
- A plan to attract more businesses and employment opportunities.
- more access to the lake.
- Better control to avoid the historic district "quaint camps" properties being replaced with large ugly modern buildings with rental income motives. Stricter adherence to zoning and preserving the neighborhoods against short term rentals. Possibility limiting rental to monthly?
- A more diverse population.

- More picnic sites, more farms
- A movie theater, more primary care general medicine providers, more year round housing for low to medium income families; nice, affordable apartments, senior friendly housing (one levels near hamlet and village); housing for seniors at all care levels. Hiking, biking, horseback riding trails connected throughout the town.
- A movie theater, more primary care general medicine providers, more year round housing for low to medium income families; nice, affordable apartments, senior friendly housing (one levels near hamlet and village); housing for seniors at all care levels. Hiking, biking, horseback riding trails connected throughout the town.
- Homeless shelters, more social services, drug rehabilitation
- Hiking-biking trail
- Better road maintenance, especially ditching and beaver control.
-
- Stricter laws that were enforced regarding the lake & development around the lake. Section 4.1 Land Use Laws, none of the boards enforce these regulations.
- More diversity in the population, though it is improving.
- Safe bike paths, public transportation, more young people.
- Hiking trails/bike trails.
- Fewer deer.
- More variety of food choices
- Better road maintenance, it's embarrassing owning a business & having poorly maintained roads & long grass on sides (not mowed)
- Lower taxes
- Lower taxes! The school tax is out of control!
- More affordable housing for older citizens. The school system and medical provisions have been very fine.
- A calmer summer that wasn't overrun with tourists, I understand the importance of it, and the benefits, but it can be crazy!
- More senior housing, but also more affordable housing and jobs to attract young people.
- More affordable housing. A better working relationship with the Village of Cooperstown. About half the town's residents live in the village.

What about the Town of Otsego is special, irreplaceable, or worthy of protecting:

- The sense of community is most important and, in changing times, stays consistent. That is the most important thing to protect.
- Otsego and Canadarago lake. Fly creek hamlet. The Fenimore Art museum and Farm. The cider mill. The general store. The FCAHS grange. The amazing views from our rural roads. The hard work of our town employees. The generosity of our neighbors.
- Undeveloped land, gorgeous countryside.
- Our scenic and rural landscape, our Bassett Medical Center, our Clark Sportscenter, our Otsego Land Trust, our Otsego Lake, our Baseball Hall of Fame, our Fenimore Farm and Art Museum, our Clark Scholarship program, our support from the Clark Foundation family, to name just a few things....
- Lake Otsego and all the land on bothsides of the lake, the surrounding trails, wildlife, aquatic life, the beauty of the countryside
- Otsego Lake, community and cultural events
- The Lake, cultural institutions, community
- Small farms
- The many acres of farm land, forests and quiet waterways, Rural America. These need to be maintained and restored before all is lost.
- Both the built and natural environment
- Otsego Lake
- Once compromised its beauty will be forever lost. The character, taste, and respect for the place are worthy and special.
- Lake Otsego and the landscape surrounding it.
- The lake; the historic district; the sense of history that permeates the entire area
- The lake, the peacefulness
- Water resources. Natural landscape. Outstanding village life in Cooperstown. Clark Sports Center. Countless contributions by The Clark Foundation. Cultural programs and organizations. Important volunteer organizations.
- History
- Its historic houses and the deep rooted connections to country's founding.
- The library, the hospital, and all the historic houses.
- The viewsheds within it.
- Our lake and our forests
- Otsego Lake; the small town atmosphere, the countryside , the beauty of the untouched land

- "The beauty of the area with open farmland and natural
- habitats. "
- Lake. Agriculture. Outdoor recreation. Quaint downtowns and living areas. I love small town life.
- Otsego Lake, with its surrounding areas of wetlands and creeks, on which the lakes health is dependent, and thereby, also the health of our human species.
- Otsego Lake
- Otsego Lake is integral to the Town. Green mountains enhance the beauty of our Town. Lots of open spaces to walk and explore.
- Lake Otsego is our gem.
- Character.
- the view sheds, the lake, the areas around the lake, the open land, the lack of development
- The unique natural, agricultural, historical, and cultural resources of the area.
- All of our natural resources, historical resources and the rural nature of the town.
- our caring residents, Lake Otsego, eco system, water supply and slow growth that we can easily digest.
- The lake and the forests/natural environment
- "Natural environment
- Land which is offered for recreation by Jane Clark. We must protect this and not trash/ abuse this incredible resource!"
- Rural areas, the lake, the forests, the beautiful views, clean water, hiking trails
- The incredible natural beauty. The healthy and amazing lake. The creative pursuits. The people and the general sense of welcome.
- Its agricultural setting and natural resources. Its historic hamlets, architecture, barns and businesses.
- See my answer to number two above.
- The lake and the land surrounding it
- Everything. We've only lived here for 4+years and I've barely touched the surface of all the town/area has to offer.
- Our beautiful environment is like no other! Protecting our natural resources, our environment, our open spaces with insightful planning now and for the future.
- It's natural beauty, and most beautiful lake Otsego
- The nature that surrounds us from the pristine Otsego Lake to the hills, mountains and beautiful vistas. The rural agricultural nature of this Town must be preserved.

- The natural beauty of the lake and surrounding land must be preserved. Additionally, the small town, rural farm community is what makes Cooperstown a special place and this must be preserved.
- beautiful vistas that are undisturbed, the lakes and rivers, a plentiful watershed
- Rural character, lake, history
- The lake and surrounding nature.
- The lake
- Scenic beauty/open spaces. Natural resources: forest, streams, meadows, wildlife.
- Our Lake and hiking areas. Unique and irreplaceable. I love rowing and swimming and just walking along lake at pioneer park . I am very grateful that the plan for an viewing deck was aborted. I think we need to preserve the lake but not intrude on it. It's incredible how our town sits beside it without disrupting it and we should work to preserve that unique arrangement and not compromise the lake or the serenity of the village that abuts it for the sake of enhancing the view for tourists.
- The countryside, lake and all that is unspoiled by overdevelopment.
- The sense of community.
- Otsego Lake water quality and purity. The lake has been the focal point of making Cooperstown a world renowned tourist destination.
- Protect and improve the health of the lake. Protect the quaint historic district and our neighborhood culture.
- The environment such as the forest, the lake and rural setting. The slower pace is particularly a pleasure.
- It's beauty and natural settings, hills, farms, forest, lakes, streams, etc.
- Clean, abundant water. Clean air. Agricultural lands, forests, streams, wetlands, lakes. Rural character (no suburbs). It's lack of big box stores, ugly & haphazard jumbled development that is all over the country.
- Clean, abundant water. Clean air. Agricultural lands, forests, streams, wetlands, lakes. Rural character (no suburbs). It's lack of big box stores, ugly & haphazard jumbled development that is all over the country.
- College programs for student & community
- Land & History
- Our rural lifestyle and our countryside.
- Quiet rural lifestyle.
- Our lake district & its surrounding lands
- The stunning, beautiful landscape, clean water and air, and lack of heavy traffic.
- Quality of life.
- Rural nature, great people.

- The lake, the county seat, a good school and reasonable zoning laws. The Clark Foundation! The Fly Creek General Store! The Cider Mill, the Quilt Shop, and friendly road crew!
- The Lake, the forests, Nature
- Streams, lakes, ponds
- A largely unspoiled woodland and lake community, punctuated with farmland
- Open spaces and large plots of land for most homeowners.
- The natural vistas and historical preservation are very important. We are interested in wildlife (birds, mammals, insects, plants, water creatures which I draw and study).
- The open spaces, neighbors not too close, and the wildlife.
- Otsego Lake
- The lake and the historic Village of Cooperstown. Also Fennimore Farm and Fenimore House.

Is there anything that could make you move from the Town of Otsego? If so, what?

- No.
- Although our town taxes continue to be the lowest in the County, housing is increasingly expensive. Supportive housing options for seniors are non-existent in the town. Transportation will be a challenge once I cannot drive -- which is not far ahead.
- Death of all my family and friends.
- If any group or individual were successful in creating a housing development with over 100 building lots to begin to change the historic rural character of our region, I'd seriously begin to explore moving away in anticipation of traffic congestion beyond our highway system network capabilities. If Bassett ever closed, I'd be looking to move as quickly as possible.
- If the lake became polluted or overcrowded with motor boats, if the roads became impassible, if more and more wildlife perished, if air, noise and air pollution became a problem.
- I live in the home my husband and I raised my (now grown) children in, and may want to downsize eventually.
- We need more housing for young people starting out, and for seniors. We will have to move when we age due to lack of senior housing options
- The increase of solar farms and windmills. I don't believe they are cost effective.
- Solar dumps, windmills, housing developments and anything else that destroys the natural beauty of what this area once was
- Over-development
- "Health care access (Bassett is experiencing a loss of capability and Doctorate degree providers)
- NYS estate tax laws.
- Possibly NYS income and other taxes"
- Becoming a suburb.
- Pollution of Lake Otsego.
- Lack of senior housing; winter; lack of public transportation
- Declining population, schools, job opportunities
- Conditions that would prevent aging-in-place.
- A job offer
- Run away tourism that overwhelms the residents needs.
- I do not want the taxes to go up any more than they have done.
- Not moving unless development destroys our rural lifestyle.

- Significant development that endangers our environment would make me think carefully.
- "Further development of tourism attractions;
- Political unrest; further development of residential areas."
- The passing of the Manocherian subdivision. Will destroy the beauty of this area by creating cluster housing with increase burden on the taxpayers for services . This is not affordable housing and will be millionaire's alley.
- Unfettered/unplanned Urban sprawl.
- Contamination of Otsego Lake
- a huge increase in population
- Destruction of our water well, destruction of the trees, constant traffic and congestion, noise pollution, over development, demise of Bassett Medical Center, too many big box stores close to the Village.
- No
- Development. Loss of rural character.
- for us, it would be both kids ending up in the same city, with kids themselves -- that would be hard to resist
- Overdevelopment.
- We have several homes/investment properties in the area (town of OTSEGO, town of Springfield, village of Coop and in NYC), we honestly have it very good. The national political flavor could prompt me to flee the country, but I'm not looking to leave this area anytime unless absolutely necessary.
- Rapid commercialization.
- Degradation of the lake and natural environment. Overwhelming baseball infrastructure
- Lack of affordable housing. As a senior I can't downsize (which I'd like to) as there are no manageable replacements to access
- Suburbs, destroying rural areas, major developments, noise, unnecessary lighting, my friends leaving.
- Unplanned and chaotic development. Sprawl. We need to welcome and support new families to come to our community- and do it in a thoughtful way. The world as a whole needs to build out already developed areas- and preserve open lands, keep waterways and watersheds clean and cared for.
- Big box retail, industrial manufacturing, an increase in businesses and housing solely for the tourists.
- If it starts to change into an overrun, congested area with a polluted lake and air basin

- Yes, a large-scale subdivision
- Nothing at this time. We are quite happy and appreciative of our daughter's generosity in inviting us to live here.
- The deterioration of what is here now. Also, as my husband and I continue on in years, the need for appropriate and available housing if we faced with challenging health issues.
- An overuse of resources, ie water septic, & anything leading to polluted lake Otsego
- Residential building over development. One only needs to look at Saratoga Lake and Lake George to see what over building and congestion has done to once beautiful areas of the Adirondacks. I will move if the focus of our sacred stewardship and responsibilities to preserve the natural beauty and low density of the town was to change.
- I would move away if this wonderful community allowed over-development so that it became like Lake George, which was destroyed by over population.
- developers buying up lands and building expensive housing, endangering our water table and wildlife, destroying our forests lakes and rivers
- Becoming too much like the suburbs we left
- I don't think so!
- Crowds
- Industrial development. Suburban style commercial or residential development. Anything that is a detriment to the spirit of the Town.
- I would like to have stricter enforcement of rental rules in the village. We need to encourage full time occupants and discourage people who want to buy only to rent out space that is not well maintained and keeps cost of housing prohibitive for families. Our school census has been falling precipitously since the Dreams park opened. It has fallen faster than that would be expected with birth rate decline. We need to fight to keep this a real year round community that welcomes families. Larger census in schools allows us to offer more classes and enrichment opportunities, and likewise more attractive offerings makes a more attractive school people will move here for. That is essential to attracting talented physicians and HC professionals to our hospital. We need providers to care for and participate in our community. Building up the school and hospital will make our community stronger. I think we need affordable housing but should be thoughtful about building multiple housing facilities, especially when disrupting nature or neighborhoods, when we could do a better job managing the housing inventory exists and is being exploited by landlords and bought up as Airbnb's because rental rules in the village are not enforced.

- Overdevelopment and pollution.
- The growing sentiment that any/all development is bad 2. The zoning board seems to always say no first, rather than helping residents understand “How” to achieve their plans within existing regulations 3. Continued reduction in population 4. Lack of housing for new families and empty nesters (which are identical in character, size and price)
- nothing.
- Overdevelopment and pollution.
- No.
- Encroachment of housing developments, solar & wind farms, increased traffic on my road which bisects our farm.
- Pollution. Crowded-ness, loss of rural character. Loss of family.
- Pollution. Crowded-ness, loss of rural character. Loss of family.
- Ill health.
- The loss of a natural resource (Lake Otsego) over development, especially around the lake, especially the west side. The Manachurian Project.
- If that landscape and relaxed environment was threatened.
- Inability to drive.
- Higher state and local taxes. Micro management by government.
- Loss of health or income that would necessitate elder care from family in another state.
- Destruction of nature and natural resources
- The closing of Bassett Medicial Center, lack of senior living opportunities and the continuing lack of road maintenance
- Overdevelopment, destruction/stress of the lake environment
- Inability to live independently due to age/health
- Too much development.
- Population density and a reduction of access to everyday needs are increasing yearly (lived here 56 years). Camps and summer tourism absorb goods rapidly.
- Overcrowding
- Loss of family or close friends, problems with Bassett healthcare.
- Lack of services (medical and home care) on a reliable and consistent basis.

What's the one thing the Town of Otsego needs more than anything else today?

- A more open and inclusive mindset (and less NIMBYism).
- Only one. Yikes! An increased spirit of and realistic opportunities for volunteerism - especially among the younger generations.
- More employment opportunities, improved roads, clustered housing options, restaurant in Fly Creek hamlet, housing in or near the Village and Hamlet with public transportation options, good general department store.
- Low and middle income housing for young families so new generations of children could take advantage of our many fine educational programs and grow CCS once again.
- water protection
- Housing and jobs for young people and young families.
- Affordable housing
- I cannot think of one specific thing.
- "Less is more.
- It's easy enough to get to the city for bright lights and loud noise, for concerts and theater. Let's get this area back to nature so the little children can just experience rural life to the fullest."
- Better land use plan and better code enforcement
- An organized and fully functioning government.
- A vision for development that accommodates growth without compromising character.
- A plan is needed to save our rural existence. Summer traffic is already maxed out due to the baseball parks and opera. Having a quieter town for the rest of the year is important to us. Hence, less development geared to seasonal rentals. In our opinion, our community would benefit greatly from more year round residents who could engage in and enrich our community.
- More senior housing options
- year round single family housing
- Affordable housing.
- Jobs, or an economy
- Highspeed internet service at a reasonable price.
- A law to ensure that baseball renter in residential zones are QUIETER!
- Protection for water resources.
- Protection of our natural resources
- "Limit the growth of tourism

- Limit the growth of residential development "
- Following the Comprehensive plan and not passing the Manocherian subdivision.
- Affordable housing.
- "Conservative principles in considering development of lands surrounding the lake, with conservation of natural resources being of utmost importance. We humans have become pretty arrogant in not considering the ecological impact of economics. We destroy ourselves by destroying our environment. Our earth home is a web of intraconnectedness in a web of intrabeing cosmos. Made of stardust we dig in the dirt to grow our food. Our separateness is a delusion.
- More land in trust
- More parking in the summer.
- A few more restaurants and fewer baseball stores. More diversity.
- Strategic planning.
- protection from negative growth
- Wise stewardship of natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- A buyer for the Fly Creek general store so it doesn't go out of business. I'm serious, but maybe above that is the strongest protections for our rural culture and natural resources. It's why we live here. That and the tuna on Boyd's bread.
- A more diversified business district that is open all year round.
- Moratorium to study potential rapid growth due to proposed subdivisions and appropriately regulate to protect the natural environment
- "Affordable housing for residents
- Emphasize residents as people who live and work here"
- Better planning for major developments, instead maybe a tiny house intentional community like Ithaca has and other communities throughout the world.
- Thoughtful planning and leadership.
- year-round affordable housing (please phase out short-term rentals!).
- A through and complete evaluation on all projects that will impact our current quality of life
- Strong rules against major developments invading the rural landscape
- Unity. Locally and globally.
- "Perhaps as many people/residents/citizens being acknowledged/welcomed/encouraged to participate in community events.
- "
- Protect Lake Otsego
- More affordable housing that stays within the character of the town while allowing a location for the macro population to live, thrive and raise a family.

- Affordable housing that fits into the rural character of the town.
- more land trust and zoning laws
- More intergovernmental Cooperstown with county and village
- I'm not sure.... It's such a small community that every change moves the needle quite a bit. In other words, we don't need a ton of any one thing to feel an appreciable change. I would say go thoughtfully, in a measured way, in any direction. And just because the federal or state government is offering grants to do something doesn't mean we need to do it.
- Keep the family farms
- A plan that encourages purposeful development/growth along existing corridors.
- More families who want to live and work here and contribute to the community. Small businesses and people to support them.
- Good paying jobs, housing and environmental protections.
- New people, families, children, etc.
- more parking.
- Stricter zoning rules and enforcement
- An in place, solid plan for protecting the lake, wetlands and forest.
- Opportunities for young families.
- Affordable, energy efficient, year round housing for all income levels, especially low to medium, close to the vilage and the fly creek hamlet.
- Affordable, energy efficient, year round housing for all income levels, especially low to medium, close to the vilage and the fly creek hamlet.
- Government funding
- Roads filled, sides of roads mowed, trim back branches
- Better leadership, which is being worked on.
- Affordable housing for people who work and live in the town. We don't need more housing for wealthy, part time residents. We need housing for people who work in the hospital, County, and small businesses. Sustainable small businesses also need to be encouraged.
- Good jobs & affordable housing to attract young families.
- More elder care, assisted living facility.
- Opportunities for jobs and housing for people in support services. Fewer deer!
- Music store
- Road maintenance and side of roads trimmed & mowed
- A plan to limit development
- Affordable housing for year round residents. Kids in the school system.

- The roads are becoming narrow for trucks and larger cars. The traffic on backroads is dangerous for walkers. Affordable, intelligently planned housing is getting challenging.
- Nothing - that's part of the charm!
- I agree with another responder - a plan that includes consideration of the the Village's needs.
- An updated, well thought out comprehensive plan that is integrated or least compatible with the Village's comprehensive plan.

ID	I/My family moved to/live in the Town of Otsego because:	The Town of Otsego is the best place to...
1	Wanted to live in a small community and raise our kids there.	Live comfortably, with a good enough amount of things to do.
2	We love the Cooperstown area-- especially the lake and rural area.	I don't have an answer for this.
3	Employment	Avoid malls, traffic, exercise, make and keep close friends
4	In 1970, we arrived as my father was employed at C.C.S. and my mother had already worked at NYSHA at the Fenimore House Library for seven years.	raise a young family while pursuing a variety of career roles in a well educated rural community with outstanding medical care easily accessible.
5	of the beauty of Otsego lake	sit at water's edge and reflect what beauty there is in Otsego county. It is also a quick jaunt to Cooperstown and the surrounding areas. The town of Otsego is the best place to be close to nature.
6	We moved to the area because of a job, and chose to live in the Town of Otsego because of the walkability and community.	Enjoy nature and also shops, restaurants, and community events.
7	Bassett hospital employment	raise a family
8	I grew up in Otsego county.	Experience all four seasons of the year.
9	We moved here many years ago to be in a farming community with like minded families.	Humm.
10	Climate	Spend the summer
11	Work	Grow or family or retire
12	Of a conjunction of natural beauty, available services (health, schools, internet), economic anchor institutions, and culture.	Enjoy the beauty of central New York.
13	We had life long friends here. Wanted to get off Long Island to raise our young family. We moved here in 1984. We were impressed that people of all walks of life and economic backgrounds seemed to get along so well.	Live, as it is family friendly, good schools, fantastic Sports Center. Rural setting! Amazing Lake.
14	The Cooperstown Graduate Program	Live because it is rural, cultural, ecologically minded, and beautiful
15	I came here for graduate school and my husband is from here. He returned for a career opportunity	Relax, raise a family
16	Originally, for graduate school, in 1971. After seven years away, returned for work at Fenimore House and The Farmers' Museum. After a job in Rhode Island, 1999-2018, returned in retirement because of: many good friends still here; healthcare facilities; safer weather than other regions.	Raise a family.
17	I got fired	Die
18	I enjoy the quiet natural environment and its historic character.	Live a private productive life without urban friction.
19	Otsego offered clean air, peace, quiet, and nature. Also, affordable space.	Enjoy a quiet and private life with a deep sense of history.
20	Cooperstown schools and rural life.	Wake up and go to sleep each morning.
21	The natural beauty and access to cultural institutions combined. Multi generational community	Access nature, on the water or in the woods.
22	Employment opportunity	See nature in its beauty; go hiking; explore the Arts; raise a family.
23	Rural atmosphere and a better way of life	raise a family
24	My husband is from here. And, we like rural living.	Decompress. Enjoy the outdoors. Get involved in the community - lots of volunteer options.
25	The beauty of Lake Otsego and long ancestral connections to its waterways.	Enjoy the continuing education that nature provides.
26	We love the lake!	Raise a family
27	My husband was interviewing with Bassett Hospital and I fell in love with the beauty of Cooperstown.	take in nature, the beautiful lake, majestic mountains. It is also a wonderful place to make friends.
28	45 years ago. We moved for a job and the quality of life. The school was vibrant at the time.	Living in the Town of Otsego is the best place to have a more rural life style and still have amenities close at hand.
29	Quiet and rural environment. Low population density.	Relax.
30	high quality of life, beautiful area, great community	raise a family ... and hike...
31	I grew up in the Town of Otsego (fly creek and Cooperstown) and am a third generation owner of our family's farm property in upper fly creek valley - on my father's side. On my mother's side, I am a sixth generation resident of the Town of Otsego and also part owner of a sixth-generation family farm property in Index. To me, the Town of Otsego, including Otsego Lake and the Village of Cooperstown, my home, is the most beautiful place on earth.	Live, vacation, work, recreate.

ID	I/My family moved to/live in the Town of Otsego because:	The Town of Otsego is the best place to...
32	I was born here, moved away as an adult and chose to return to raise my son. The lake is the biggest draw for me	Many things including enjoying the outdoors, small community, slower pace, rich cultural resources and THE LAKE!!
33	We have coming to this area since 1987...it always felt like home. In 2018 we purchased our home and decided to retire here in 2023.	enjoy a nice comfortable safe place to live in the country with other residents that appreciate the valuable assets that no other towns have.
34	Work at Bassett-to live in proximity to the hospital. Also a beautiful place to live	Enjoy the lake and environs. Cooperstown within Otsego has a lot of cultural things to offer
35	Good school Close to family	Swim Hike/walk Bike Access excellent community center
36	I'm a native. I moved away as a child, but came back after college for the gym, the lake, and rural living and beauty that is being destroyed everywhere else by urban sprawl and economic development.	Xc ski, hike, kayak and attend cultural events.
37	The natural beauty and the healthy lake and watershed; the variety of outdoor activities; The community is full of smart and interesting people and there is an invested group in the county working together to make the community and the county welcoming and livable for everyone. The incredible arts scene-opera and an amazing museum in a small town.	Be outside; hike; fish; get to know fun and creative people; support each other in a variety of ways, such as the Community Foundation, the Land Trust and others.
38	I grew up spending summers on Johnston Road visiting my grandparents -- our roots in the area go back to at least the early 1800s. When I was looking to leave the DC metro area, it was pretty evident that this was the place I wanted to live -- pristine air and water, agricultural and forested landscapes, no stop lights (well, one), and the chance to be in the woods or in the lake 10 minutes after leaving the office.	live/work/raise kids in a quiet rural setting with healthy air, water, and soils-- and an active and engaged community.
39	Moved from California for a job at Bassett Hospital in 1991	Has a rural environment. We visit California every year and it is always good to return as it's peaceful, no traffic, minimal ambient light so I can see the stars, and I have room for a nice garden. Plus we have our lake!
40	The natural beauty and the peacefulness of the environment	Enjoy beautiful natural scenery
41	My daughter moved here because she accepted a position at Bassett and we relocated to be closer to her.	For me, the bucolic setting and overall less concentration of people/traffic as compared to our previous town.
42	Having been raised in Vermont and having family within a close distance to Cooperstown, we decided to leave our home in California and try living in this rural setting in Upstate NY. In other words, it was a two-year "trial". That was 34 years ago!	Have a good life with a high quality of meaningful attributes.
43	Employment at Bassett Health Network	Enjoy the remote, untouched beauty of central New York
44	The rural beauty of the town, the magnificent hills and mountains and of course Otsego Lake. I also can't forget the small friendly close-knit community.	Relax, enjoy nature, enjoy recreational options and to raise a family in a safe, environmentally conscientious community of neighbors.
45	of the rural character of that "Hallmark movie" downtown, the beautiful lake and the safe and friendly nature of the community.	enjoy the natural beauty of the lake and surrounding mountains throughout the year, live in peace and freedom and raise a family.
46	country nature undeveloped landscapes	see nature at her finest
47	Because that's where Cooperstown is- that was the attraction Quality of life, job, small but cosmopolitan	Enjoy the outdoors, raise children
48	My family moved to the Town of Otsego from Brooklyn because we wanted easy access to protected nature and a close-knit community that is safe enough for our kids to have a great deal of freedom in the real world from a very young age.	raise a family.
49	Charm and beauty	Retired
50	Be close to friends and family. Privacy. Peace and quiet. Scenic, natural beauty.	Raise a family. Congregate with friends. Stargaze.
51	To be close to nature and still be part of a vibrant village/community. We were particularly attracted to the lake and the preserved land surrounding the lake.	Live, work, play, make life long friends with the common interests.
52	Quality of life, good jobs, safe place to raise a family.	Savor small town living and enjoy unspoiled nature.
53	A business opportunity.	Raise a family.
54	of the beautiful clean lake and charm of the small camp on the lake.	live because of excellent small town stewardship exhibited by the local community.
55	We love the beautiful clean lake and the historic rural feel of the old small camps and beautiful historic buildings. We love the availability of water sports, music and museums.	Enjoy a quiet peaceful lake view, the beautiful historic village of Cooperstown, great golfing, boating, swimming, music and restaurants.
56	My wife and I relocated here to live with our daughter.	Enjoy my passion for the outdoors and daily hikes with my dog.

ID	I wish the Town of Otsego had:	What about the Town of Otsego is special, irreplaceable, or worthy of protecting:
1	More people (of all kinds), more housing (of all kinds), more businesses.	The sense of community is most important and, in changing times, stays consistent. That is the most important thing to protect.
2	More Otsego and Canadara go lake access for those who don't own property on the lakes. A plan to reduce/prevent further housing growth and enlargement along the lakes. A zoning plan that focuses on, supports and defines rural affordable housing and small town business and housing. Sufficient funds and legal methods to enforce laws that protect small town, rural values. A more attractive ADA compliant, audience-friendly town hall complex. More money to improve the 75+ miles of roads the town has to protect and maintain. Climate smart buildings. Staff enough to apply for and administer grants. More diversity of all kinds-- especially places to eat.	Otsego and Canadara go lake. Fly creek hamlet. The Fenimore Art museum and Farm. The cider mill. The general store. The FCAHS grange. The amazing views from our rural roads. The hard work of our town employees. The generosity of our neighbors.
3	Rail to Trails bike path. Graduated assisted care facility for senior citizens- from independent living to nursing home levels.	Undeveloped land, gorgeous countryside.
4	More accessible low and middle income housing available twelve months a year to hopefully attract young families with children to populate CC. Since again as student enrollment has dropped by I estimate 40 % since 2000.	Our scenic and rural landscape, our Bassett Medical Center, our Clark Sports center, our Otsego Land Trust, our Otsego Lake, our Baseball Hall of Fame, our Fenimore Farm and Art Museum, our Clark Scholarship program, our support from the Clark Foundation family, to name just a few things....
5	Limit on land development and road expansion	Lake Otsego and all the land on both sides of the lake, the surrounding trails, wildlife, aquatic life, the beauty of the countryside
6	More families with school age children. Cooperstown Central School needs more students. The school is the heart of the community.	Otsego Lake, community and cultural events
7	More investment in parks and recreation for families	The Lake, cultural institutions, community
8	More developed nature trails and a dog wash.	Small farms
9	Less baseball on Cooperstown's main street and more options for everyday practical needs. A well managed farm store like the old Agway used to be. Not tractor supply.	The many acres of farm land, forests and quiet waterways, Rural America. These need to be maintained and restored before all is lost.
10	Much better code enforcement	Both the built and natural environment
11	Better shopping, at least nearby and neither Oneonta or Utica are adequate either	Otsego Lake
12	Playgrounds, protected land, accommodation for small areas of density and mixed use.	Once compromised its beauty will be forever lost. The character, taste, and respect for the place are worthy and special.
13	Safer bike lanes. Wider road around the lake. Public playground, as the Cooperstown school is not open to the public during school hours.	Lake Otsego and the landscape surrounding it.
14	Extensive senior housing opportunities; better access to the lake from the parks.	The lake; the historic district; the sense of history that permeates the entire area
15	more single family housing, better grocery stores, indoor turf	The lake, the peacefulness
16	Good nursing home/elder care. Small shopping center, other than Cooperstown.	Water resources. Natural landscape. Outstanding village life in Cooperstown. Clark Sports Center. Countless contributions by The Clark Foundation. Cultural programs and organizations. Important volunteer organizations.
17	A viable economy	History
18	Better sidewalks in the hamlet and code enforcement of its building laws.	Its historic houses and the deep rooted connection to country's founding.
19	LESS BASEBALL. I did not move here to live in a baseball theme park.	The library, the hospital, and all the historic houses.
20	Parks. The Village of Cooperstown has parks. We should have our own parks.	The viewshed within it.
21	Zoning laws that protect open spaces Increased focus on density and rehabilitating older structures in the village A better variety of retail outlets and quality eateries/ healthy food in the village	Our lake and our forests
22	A plan for addressing future development	Otsego Lake; the small town atmosphere, the countryside, the beauty of the untouched land
23	it's own library and ice skating rink Affordable smaller housing for seniors and for the average working class resident and for new families. Kids can't afford to stay. Seniors don't need big houses. More hospital parking; more town parking.	The beauty of the area with open farmland and natural habitats.
24	Ecotourism- instead of just baseball and leaf peepers. Plenty to do and, seemingly, opportunity for program development. Bike trails or wider roads on the main numbered streets (80, 26, etc) to have a bike lane. Small business development and assistance plan.	Lake. Agriculture. Outdoor recreation. Quaint downtown and living areas. I love small town life.
25	More understanding of nature based learning and its importance, in established protocols for healthy child and family development.	Otsego Lake, with its surrounding areas of wetlands and creeks, on which the lake's health is dependent, and thereby, also the health of our human species.
26	the ability to stay unchanged	Otsego Lake
27	a good General Store, ride service so people could drink responsibly and not worry about driving, a walking path around the lake.	Otsego Lake is integral to the Town. Green mountains enhance the beauty of our Town. Lots of open space to walk and explore.
28	We need to put a moratorium on building in place quickly!	Lake Otsego is our gem.
29	I'll be happy since Keys Rd was paved.	Character.
30	a Wegman's	the view sheds, the lake, the areas around the lake, the open land, the lack of development
31	Better land use laws to limit development and protect, preserve and encourage wise stewardship of our community's shared bounty - the forest, agriculture, soils, wildlands, wildlife, waters (wetlands, streams, lakes, rivers), historic, and cultural resources of the area.	The unique natural, agricultural, historical, and cultural resources of the area.

ID	I wish the Town of Otsego had:		What about the Town of Otsego is special, irreplaceable, or worthy of protecting:
32	Stricter land use laws.		All of our natural resources, historical resources and the rural nature of the town.
33	a more comprehensive master plan that would be able to address this major subdivision that is being proposed that will protect the town's envelope.		our caring residents, Lake Otsego, eco system, water supply and slow growth that we can easily digest.
34	Some regulation to prevent degradation of the natural environment. Also worry about indiscriminate building to service short term baseball camp needs		The lake and the forests/natural environment
35	More music venues that are free or reduced in cost More year round work		Natural environment Land which is offered for recreation by Jane Clark. We must protect this and not trash/abuse this incredible resource!
36	Public transportation		Rural areas, the lake, the forests, the beautiful views, clean water, hiking trails
37	A growth plan that clearly supports affordable housing and development in already settled areas, while seeking to protect the health of the lake and the watershed by putting undeveloped land into conservation- while also making that land available for everyone to enjoy- a hiking trail network; cross country skiing and snow shoeing network of trails; mountain biking.		The incredible natural beauty. The healthy and amazing lake. The creative pursuits. The people and the general sense of welcome.
38	a safer 'downtown' four corners where small retail/restaurant/services could thrive from foot traffic and local residents. Alas, Rte 28 at Cty Rte 26 makes that really hard. But Fly Creek is a gem and needs to see more business activity.		Its agricultural setting and natural resources. Its historic hamlets, architecture, barns and businesses.
39	Will move cautiously with any quick changes that will affect our current life here An example is the dreamspark which completely changes our area for several months every year, and in my opinion, not for the better		Seemly answer to number two above.
40	More affordable housing		The lake and the land surrounding it
41	More diversity in its population.		Everything. We've only lived here for 4+ years and I've barely touched the surface of all the town/area has to offer.
42	Within the last two years or so, especially during the tourist season, traffic has become more of a concern. The increase of vehicles that do not follow posted speed limits is certainly a safety concern. I also feel the speed limit within the hamlet of Fly Creek needs to be lowered.		Our beautiful environment is like no other! Protecting our natural resources, our environment, our open spaces with insightful planning now and for the future.
43	Unlimited ability to protect and preserve the health and beauty of Lake Otsego		Its natural beauty, and most beautiful lake Otsego
44	More retail store options, however it the character of the town as it has been the reason why I call this my home.		The nature that surrounds us from the pristine Otsego Lake to the hills, mountains and beautiful vistas. The rural agricultural nature of this town must be preserved.
45	a revitalized downtown with every retail space thriving.		The natural beauty of the lake and surrounding land must be preserved. Additionally, the small town, rural farm community is what makes Cooperstown a special place and this must be preserved.
46	more protected lands from being developed		beautiful vistas that are undisturbed, the lakes and rivers, a plentiful watershed
47	More human diversity, more benefits from the county (planning for example)		Rural character, lake, history
48	A dedicated bike path -- the old train tracks between Cooperstown and Milford would be ideal because they start/end in two small villages that could benefit from the business.		The lake and surrounding nature.
49	More public places		The lake
50	Town parks. Communal open space/trails. Stricter zoning regulations.		Scenic beauty/open spaces. Natural resources: forest, streams, meadows, wildlife.
51	More access to winter sports. Examples: downhill skiing (not possible), Nordic ski trails (attached to Otesaga?), indoor tennis, hockey. I also wish we had a better quality grocery store. Wegmans would be ideal. I wish Cooperstown specifically had more variety on Main Street as far as shops, food offerings etc.		Our Lake and hiking areas. Unique and irreplaceable. I love rowing and swimming and just walking along lake at Pioneer Park. I am very grateful that the plan for a viewing deck was aborted. I think we need to preserve the lake but not intrude on it. It's incredible how our town sits beside it without disrupting it and we should work to preserve that unique arrangement and not compromise the lake or the serenity of the village that abuts it for the sake of enhancing the view for tourists.
52	Better protection to preserve the environment, affordable housing.		The countryside, lake and all that is unspoiled by overdevelopment.
53	A plan to attract more businesses and employment opportunities.		The sense of community.
54	more access to the lake.		Otsego Lake water quality and purity. The lake has been the focal point of making Cooperstown a world renowned tourist destination.
55	Better control to avoid the historic district "quaint camps" properties being replaced with large ugly modern buildings with rental income motives. Stricter adherence to zoning and preserving the neighborhoods against short term rentals. Possibility limiting rental to monthly?		Protect and improve the health of the lake. Protect the quaint historic district and our neighborhood culture.
56	A more diverse population.		The environment such as the forest, the lake and rural setting. The slower pace is particularly a pleasure.

ID	Is there anything that could make you move from the Town of Otsego? If so, what?	What's the one thing the Town of Otsego needs more than anything else today?
1	No.	A more open and inclusive mindset (and less NIMBYism).
2	Although our town taxes continue to be the lowest in the County, housing is increasingly expensive. Supportive housing options for seniors are non-existent in the town. Transportation will be a challenge once I cannot drive -- which is not far ahead.	Only one. Yikes! An increased spirit of and realistic opportunities for volunteerism - especially among the younger generations.
3	Death of all my family and friends.	More employment opportunities, improved roads, clustered housing options, restaurant in Fly Creek hamlet, housing in or near the Village and Hamlet with public transportation options, good general department store.
4	If any group or individual were successful in creating a housing development with over 100 building lots to begin to change the historic rural character of our region, I'd seriously begin to explore moving away in anticipation of traffic congestion beyond our highway system network capabilities. If Bassett ever closed, I'd be looking to move as quickly as possible.	Low and middle income housing for young families so new generations of children could take advantage of our many fine educational programs and grow CCS once again.
5	If the lake became polluted or overcrowded with motor boats, if the roads became impassible, if more and more wildlife perished, if air, noise and air pollution became a problem.	water protection
6	I live in the home my husband and I raised my (now grown) children in, and may want to downsize eventually.	Housing and jobs for young people and young families.
7	We need more housing for young people starting out, and for seniors. We will have to move when we age due to lack of senior housing options	Affordable housing
8	The increase of solar farms and windmills. I don't believe they are cost effective.	I cannot think of one specific thing.
9	Solar dumps, windmills, housing developments and anything else that destroys the natural beauty of what this area once was	Less is more. It's easy enough to get to the city for bright lights and loud noise, for concerts and theater. Let's get this area back to nature so the little children can just experience rural life to the fullest.
10	Over-development	Better land use plan and better code enforcement
11	Health care access (Bassett is experiencing a loss of capability and Doctorate degree providers) NYS estate tax laws. Possibly NY income and other taxes	An organized and fully functioning government.
12	Becoming a suburb.	A vision for development that accommodates growth without compromising character.
13	Pollution of Lake Otsego.	A plan is needed to save our rural existence. Summer traffic is already maxed out due to the baseball parks and opera. Having a quieter town for the rest of the year is important to us. Hence, less development geared to seasonal rentals. In our opinion, our community would benefit greatly from more year round residents who could engage in and enrich our community.
14	Lack of senior housing; winter; lack of public transportation	More senior housing options
15	Declining population, schools, job opportunities	year round single family housing
16	Condition that would prevent aging-in-place.	Affordable housing.
17	A job offer	Jobs, or an economy
18	Runaway tourism that overwhelms the residents needs.	High speed internet service at a reasonable price.
19	I do not want the taxes to go up any more than they have done.	A law to ensure that baseball renter in residential zones are QUIETER!
20	Not moving unless development destroys our rural lifestyle.	Protection for water resources.
21	Significant development that endangers our environment would make me think carefully.	Protection of our natural resources
22	Further development of tourism attractions; Political unrest; further development of residential areas.	Limit the growth of tourism Limit the growth of residential development
23	The passing of the Manocherian subdivision. Will destroy the beauty of this area by creating cluster housing with increase burden on the taxpayers for services. This is not affordable housing and will be millionaire's salley.	Following the Comprehensive plan and not passing the Manocherian subdivision.
24	Unfettered/unplanned Urban sprawl.	Affordable housing.
25	Contamination of Otsego Lake	Conservative principles in considering development of land surrounding the lake, with conservation of natural resources being of utmost importance. We humans have become pretty arrogant in not considering the ecological impact of economics. We destroy ourselves by destroying our environment. Our earth home is a web of interconnectedness a web of intrabeing cosmos. Made of stardust we dig in the dirt to grow our food. Our separateness is a delusion.
26	a huge increase in population	More land in trust
27	Destruction of our water well, destruction of the trees, constant traffic and congestion, noise pollution, over development, demise of Bassett Medical Center, too many big box stores close to the Village.	More parking in the summer.
28	No	A few more restaurants and fewer baseball stores. More diversity.
29	Development. Loss of rural character.	Strategic planning.
30	for us, it would be both kids sending up in the same city, with kids themselves-- that would be hard to resist	protection from negative growth
31	Overdevelopment.	Wise stewardship of natural, historic, and cultural resources.

ID	Is there anything that could make you move from the Town of Otsego? If so, what?	What's the one thing the Town of Otsego needs more than anything else today?
32	We have several homes/investment properties in the area (town of OTSEGO, town of Springfield, village of Cooper and in NYC), we honestly have it very good. The national political flavor could prompt me to flee the country, but I'm not looking to leave this area anytime unless absolutely necessary.	A buyer for the Fly Creek general store so it doesn't go out of business. I'm serious, but maybe above that is the strongest protection for our rural culture and natural resources. It's why we live here. That and the tuna on Boyd's bread.
33	Rapid commercialization.	A more diversified business district that is open all year round.
34	Degradation of the lake and natural environment. Overwhelming baseball infrastructure	Moratorium to study potential rapid growth due to proposed subdivisions and appropriately regulate to protect the natural environment
35	Lack of affordable housing. As a senior I can't downsize (which I'd like to) as there are no manageable replacements to access	Affordable housing for residents Emphasize residents as people who live and work here
36	Suburbs, destroying rural areas, major developments, noise, unnecessary lighting, my friends leaving.	Better planning for major developments, instead maybe a tiny house intentional community like Ithaca has and other communities throughout the world.
37	Unplanned and chaotic development. Sprawl. We need to welcome and support new families to come to our community- and do it in a thoughtful way. The world as a whole needs to build out already developed areas- and preserve open lands, keep waterways and watersheds clean and cared for.	Thoughtful planning and leadership.
38	Big box retail, industrial manufacturing, an increase in businesses and housing solely for the tourists.	year-round affordable housing (please phase out short-term rentals!).
39	If it starts to change into an overrun, congested area with a polluted lake and air basin	A thorough and complete evaluation on all projects that will impact our current quality of life
40	Yes, a large-scale subdivision	Strong rules against major developments invading the rural landscape
41	Nothing at this time. We are quite happy and appreciative of our daughter's generosity in inviting us to live here.	Unity. Locally and globally.
42	The deterioration of what is here now. Also, as my husband and I continue on in years, the need for appropriate and available housing if we faced with challenging health issues.	Perhaps as many people/residents/citizens being acknowledged/welcomed/encouraged to participate in community events.
43	An overuse of resources, ie water septic, & anything leading to polluted lake Otsego	Protect Lake Otsego
44	Residential building over development. One only needs to look at Saratoga Lake and Lake George to see what over building and congestion has done to once beautiful areas of the Adirondacks. I will move if the focus of our sacred stewardship and responsibilities to preserve the natural beauty and low density of the town waste change.	More affordable housing that stays within the character of the town while allowing a location for the macro population to live, thrive and raise a family.
45	I would move away if this wonderful community allowed over-development so that it became like Lake George, which was destroyed by over population.	Affordable housing that fits into the rural character of the town.
46	Developers buying up land and building expensive housing, endangering out water table and wildlife, destroying our forests, lakes and rivers	more land trust and zoning laws
47	Becoming too much like the suburbs we left	More intergovernmental cooperation with county and village
48	I don't think so!	I'm not sure.... It's such a small community that every change moves the needle quite a bit. In other words, we don't need a ton of any one thing to feel an appreciable change. I would say go thoughtfully, in a measured way, in any direction. And just because the federal or state government is offering grants to do something doesn't mean we need to do it.
49	Crowds	Keep the family farms
50	Industrial development. Suburban style commercial or residential development. Anything that is a detriment to the spirit of the Town.	A plan that encourages purposeful development/growth along existing corridors.
51	I would like to have stricter enforcement of rental rules in the village. We need to encourage full time occupants and discourage people who want to buy only to rent out space that is not well maintained and keeps cost of housing prohibitive for families. Our school census has been falling precipitously since the Dreamspark opened. It has fallen faster than that would be expected with birth rate decline. We need to fight to keep this a real year round community that welcomes families. Larger census in schools allows us to offer more classes and enrichment opportunities, and likewise more attractive offering makes a more attractive school people will move here for. That is essential to attracting talented physicians and HC professionals to our hospital. We need providers to care for and participate in our community. Building up the school and hospital will make our commuting stronger. I think we need affordable housing but should be thoughtful about building multiple housing facilities, especially when disrupting nature or neighborhoods, when we could do a better job managing the housing inventory exists and is being exploited by landlords and bought up as Airbnb's because rental rules in the village are not enforced.	More families who want to live and work here and contribute to the community. Small businesses and people to support them.
52	Overdevelopment and pollution.	Good paying jobs, housing and environmental protections.
53	1. The growing sentiment that any/all development is bad 2. The zoning board seems to always say no first, rather than helping residents understand "How" to achieve their plans within existing regulations 3. Continued reduction in population 4. Lack of housing for new families and empty nesters (which are identical in character, size and price)	New people, families, children, etc.
54	nothing.	more parking.
55	Overdevelopment and pollution.	Stricter zoning rules and enforcement
56	No.	An in place, solid plan for protecting the lake, wetlands and forest.

ID	Are you interested in serving on a subcommittee? Please choose one of the proposed focus areas:	Are you a year-round or part time resident of the Town?	Do you own or rent your residence?	Is there anything else you want the Town to know?
1	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	Yes. In order to build a better future (and to have a future at all), the Town must look forward and encourage growth and building in ways that work for all. Succumbing to the usual negative voices ensures our decline.
2	Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service	Year round	Rent	Thank you to all of you who are working on this. I almost didn't submit this survey when I got the part that asked who I was and asked for contact info. My answer to the earlier Qs were no longer confidential, although many of you might have guessed the author anyway. And, I almost answered "not interested" for subcommittee work -- Not because I am not interested -- I am VERY interested. I just can't work on one more thing right now. Bravo to all of you for this valuable work!
3	Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service	Year round	Own	Involvement of more of our local citizens with local government.
4	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	I'm actively following the application for development of 111 bldg lots & 1517 acres in the Town of Springfield & the Town of Otsego.
5	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Part time	Own	I am against the proposed land development and do not want major change in our landscape.
6	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	We need to provide housing and opportunity for young people to live and work in the community. Bassett is a great draw as an employer, we need to make housing so more people can work and live in the Town of Otsego.
7	Not interested	Year round	Own	
8	Not interested	Year round	Own	I appreciate the winter maintenance of our roads.
9	Not interested	Year round	Own	
10	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Part time	Own	I appreciate what you are doing
11	Not interested	Year round	Own	Do not block development. We will always have NIMBYs. We need all types of housing. The proposed sub-development will still have very low density and will take years to finish out. It definitely will not overwhelm our school system, in fact we could use more students to take advantage of resources available and to expand learning opportunities.
12	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	My wife and I would be happy to participate in one or two subcommittees each.
13	Not interested	Year round	Own	
14	Not interested	Year round	Own	Huge logging trucks should not be permitted to travel on our very fragile rural roads.
15	Not interested	Year round	Own	
16	Not interested	Year round	Own	-0-
17	Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service	Year round	Rent	Phoenix is a disaster, but it is better than Otsego
18	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	
19	Not interested	Year round	Own	
20	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	
21	Not interested	Part time	Own	
22	Not interested	Year round	Own	Create a way to protect the interests of local residents over tourism.
23	Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service	Year round	Own	I'm originally from So. Lake Tahoe, Ca. I loved it there when Hwy 50 was a two lane road through the mountains and our house was in a quiet neighborhood. Then, everyone discovered it. It changed so fast, without real planning. In the late 70s, our neighboring lots filled fast and people, not happy with being told no, petitioned to change the zoning so they could build in the Lake's flood zones (it hadn't flooded in years). Just as the town was ready to approve, the Lake flooded, thank goodness. Because of the fast build up, the town put a moratorium on building while they figured out road, water and sewer issues. They didn't do good prior planning, hadn't foreseen or expected as much growth, and ended up with a mess to clean up. I don't want to see that happen here.
24	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	People move to a place because it calls to them, then they start missing things and want more. So, they want to change what they once loved under the guise of improvement. I think the plan needs to allow for improvement, but it's got to be planned (change is inevitable). Respectfully submitted. P.s. while we are able, we leave in the winter. But, I'd be willing to help out where needed, when we're here.
25	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	All of us are in the process of learning our interdependence on each other.
26	Not interested	Year round	Own	
27	Not interested	Year round	Own	I am very concerned about the 110 homes that could be built in the Towns of Otsego and Springfield. That density will potentially pollute local ground water/wells, pollute Otsego Lake, destroy too many trees, potentially destroy Rt 80 which is the evacuation route for the Village, put stress on resources including, fire/rescue, plowing/sanding, school busing, congestion.
28	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	The board members are doing a great job.
29	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	Listen to your permanent year round residents.
30	Not interested	Year round	Own	
31	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Part time	Own	Please enact a moratorium on development subdivisions of more than 5 lots until a new comprehensive plan can be completed and zoning and land use ordinances amended and adopted to implement the comprehensive plan.

ID	Are you interested in serving on a subcommittee? Please choose one of the proposed focus areas:	Are you a year-round or part time resident of the Town?	Do you own or rent your residence?	Is there anything else you want the Town to know?
32	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	I'd like my comments to remain anonymous but am happy to share my name and email to keep updated.
33	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	A lot of the residents that I spoke after the meetings never heard about it. We need a solid information pipeline for our residents.
34	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	No
35	Not interested	Year round	Own	The natural environment (lake, ponds, forests, etc) is a critical piece of this area. Any major changes need to be examined very carefully and cautiously. Moratoriums for major proposals should be always considered in this time of severe climate change.
36	Not interested	Year round	Own	Stop the Manocherion development and others such as this. Our community is unique because there aren't major developments. It's rural and beautiful, thanks in part to the Clark family. Let's keep it that way and reject the lure of money for a change.
37	Not interested	Year round	Rent	Thank you for this survey. Thank you for your thoughtful approach.
38	Not interested	Year round	Own	Thank you for your hard work in moving the comprehensive plan forward, and for your public service.
39	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Own	
40	Not interested	Year round	Own	
41	Not interested	Year round	Own	When my daughter was considering the purchase of her home on Red House Hill Road the rural setting was paramount in her decision to buy. We all certainly understood the possibility of homes being built in the area. However, the scope of the Manocherian project is profoundly concerning for many reasons of which you are aware. On a personal level, our daily lives will be impacted from day one if this project happens.
42	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	I appreciate and value the time and effort those in the town government positions spend in service.
43	Not interested	Year round	Own	Overuse of resources for private wells and septic for Pierstown housing development plan must be stopped by all means necessary to save and protect the impact on the health of Lake Otsego.
44	Not interested	Year round	Own	The preservation of the rural character of the town and its natural resources must be preserved.
45	Not interested	Year round	Own	This community is a wonderful. The Hall of Fame and other attractions make this community shine in the summer season. However, the fall, winter and spring offer so much as well. The rural nature and small town feel must be maintained or the character of the area will be lost.
46	Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts & Culture	Year round	Rent	I oppose the Manchuran development it is not affordable housing nor is it ecologically sound for our water table and clean air and water quality. It will have a negative impact on our beautiful Otsego Lake.
47	Not interested	Year round	Own	
48	Not interested	Year round	Own	
49	Not interested	Part time	Own	Call for a moratorium.
50	Not interested	Year round	Own	The recently proposed development along the northern edge of the Town is a detriment to the Town and its residents. The negative impact on the environment and pace of life are vast. The benefits of such a project only favor a few, at the expense of us all.
51	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Year round	Own	I'm happy to help! Civic hours conflict with my work schedule but I would like to be involved.
52	Not interested	Year round	Own	Appreciate the mix of farming, local healthcare and tourism to support the economy. It creates an interesting and diverse mix of people. We also appreciate the rich music, film and art scene as well as our local library. We feel grateful to live in this beautiful community.
53	Not interested	Year round	Own	
54	Not interested	Part time	Own	
55	Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development	Part time	Own	There needs to be better coordination between the town and other organizations such as the county, the Otsego Lake watershed supervisory committee, and local resources with pertinent data such as the SUNY Biological Field Station. There needs to be stricter enforcement of construction with inspection throughout a project rather than at the end of building when mistakes are difficult/expensive or impossible to correct.
56	Not interested	Year round	Own	I will support any efforts to keep Otsego on track to remain the beautiful town it is.

APPENDIX C: Public Meeting Materials

Comprehensive Plans with Sustainability Elements

PLANNING BOOK



+ Provided by
+ **Mohawk Valley Economic
+ Development District, Inc.**




Introduction

Comprehensive Plans with Sustainability Elements

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a points-based certification program through New York’s Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSERDA). Under the CSC program, qualifying projects and policies accrue points for participating municipalities. Those meeting certain point thresholds are rewarded with incentives, including official certification as a “Climate Smart Community.”

Participation also provides access to many helpful resources, makes future grant applications more competitive, and can enable additional sources of funding altogether. Above all, it offers a foundation to make your community more resilient, more energy efficient, more comfortable, and more productive.

Climate Smart Communities identifies 13 “priority actions,” of which municipalities seeking certification must complete at least 3, in addition to accruing the required points. One way to earn points is to “create a comprehensive plan with sustainability elements.” This priority action can earn the municipality 21 points (of the 120 required for certification).



Bronze Certification
120 Points
3 Priority Actions



Silver Certification
300 Points
6 Priority Actions

Below is a guide for incorporating “sustainability elements” into your new or updated comprehensive plan to earn points for this action. While not exhaustive, the guide provides a useful framework for meeting NYSDEC’s requirements that takes into account the specific characteristics, assets, and overall vision of your community. It includes questions and prompts to consider for each component that may be included in your comprehensive plan, and specific examples drawn from three Certified Climate Smart Communities – the Town of Hamilton, the Town of Roseboom, and the City of Oneonta- showing how they satisfied the requirements outlined by NYSDEC in their respective plans.

Some aspects of a comprehensive plan can satisfy more than one requirement. The examples below were chosen as “best fit,” but every community is different, and you may be able to meet the criteria for multiple sustainability elements in a single section of your plan.

To successfully complete a comprehensive plan, either funded by the DEC or in pursuance of Climate Smart Certification, you **must include all five required components** outlined in this guide, **as well as at least one optional component**. When your comprehensive plan is submitted to New York State for review, it must include a memo explaining where in the plan these components are included, and meeting minutes showing the plan was adopted by the municipality.

Please reach out to Samantha Francisco of MVEDD for additional guidance with becoming a NYS Climate Smart Certified community: sfrancisco@mvedd.org or (315) 866-4671.

About Climate Smart

To become certified, communities complete Pledge Elements (Actions) to accrue points needed to become a Bronze or Silver Certified communities. Some elements are mandatory, and some are considered “priority” to achieve Bronze or Silver status. The Pledge Element of “Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements” is considered a priority action for both Bronze and Silver certification.

Certification Criteria

	🏆
Mandatory	2
Priority	3
Points	120
Pledge Elements	4

Show requirements for:

BRONZE SILVER

Planned Action Totals
(Planned)

Mandatory	0/2
Priority	0/13
Total Points	0/1222
Pledge Elements	0/12
Total Actions	0/121

Mark actions as planned to determine whether or not your application would meet certification criteria.

DEFINITIONS OF REQUIREMENT CATEGORIES

Point Requirement
Applicants must earn at least the specified number of points for the rating level, along with achieving the other criteria listed in the rows above. Points are earned by completing certification actions and uploading the required documentation via this website.

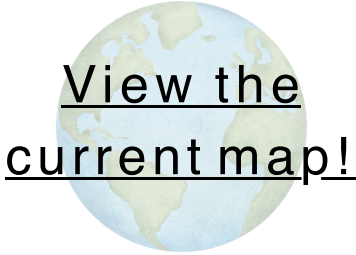
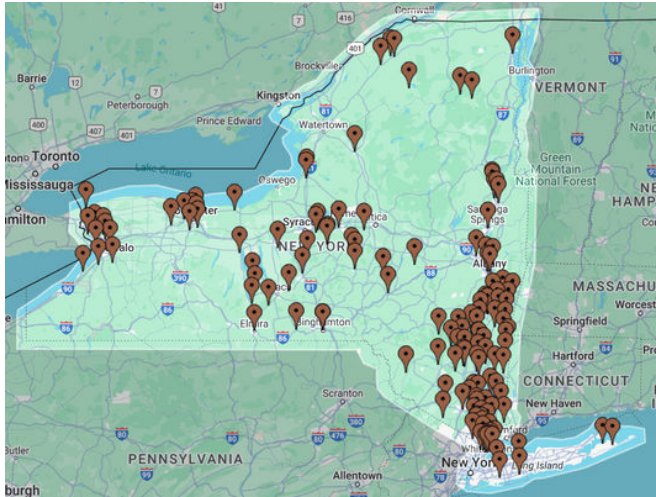
Minimum Pledge Elements
Applicants must complete at least one action under the specified number pledge elements (PEs). Applicants may select which PEs they use to comply with this requirement.

Mandatory Actions
Applicants must complete the mandatory actions for each rating level.

Minimum Priority Actions
Applicants may select which priority actions to complete and must achieve at least the minimum specified for each rating level.

Minimum Performance Points
Applicants must achieve at least the specified number of points under the Performance category of actions.

See the map of Bronze Certified Climate Smart Communities in NYS as of January 2025:



Components

Required Components:

- Support alternative modes of transportation (including strategies for bicycles, pedestrians, public transit, and electric vehicles).
- Promote smart growth principles in land-use policies.
- Conserve natural areas (including strategies to designate open space and protect it from development).
- Promote a healthy and safe community.
- Foster equity (including strategies for housing, schools, transportation, recreation, food, and environmental exposures).

Additional Components (3 points each):

- Foster green economic development.
- Decrease dependence on fossil fuels and support energy efficiency and renewable energy production.
- Foster the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., water conservation).
- Promote the development of (or the conservation of) local food systems.
- Minimize solid waste (including strategies to promote recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion of organic materials).
- Protect drinking water sources from pollution.
- Promote adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement).

Required Components

1

Support alternative modes of transportation (including strategies for bicycles, pedestrians, public transit, and electric vehicles)

Considerations:

Does your community have public transportation? How accessible is it?

Are there trails or bike lanes?

Other modes of transportation (horses, snowmobiles, etc?)

How walkable/connected is your community?

Do you have any electric vehicles, or charging stations?

Has there been any traffic pattern changes, or road work done, to increase pedestrian safety or widen bike lanes?

Are there any trends/concerns with pedestrians in your community (time of day, particular intersections, etc.?)

Examples:

- **Town of Hamilton** met this requirement through the Recreation Section of their comprehensive plan. They included the following initiatives:

Appoint a Recreation Committee to draft plans for multi-use trails (bikes, walking, horses, snowmobiles, etc), especially focusing on trails that would connect major roads and districts. This committee is recommended to also develop an online map showing trails and tourist routes, providing landowners information about liability and state policies, working with NYSDOT to improve safety at trail/road crossings, and developing a plan for parking at recreational spots.

- **The City of Oneonta** included many recommendations in their comprehensive plan to address alternative transportation. For example, they have recommended a prioritization of reducing automobile use and associated parking issues by promoting walking, bicycling, and use of public transit. They recommend implementing strategies to enhance biking conditions and connect major destinations such as schools, commercial areas, main streets and recreation centers, and a bike share program. The city also cited plans to continue with more electric vehicle charging stations in public areas, replacing additional fleet vehicles with electric or hybrid models, creating incentives for city employees to take public transit to work, and to institute a “no-idling” policy for city employees.

Notes:

2 Promote smart growth principles in land-use policies

Considerations:

Has the county completed a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)?

What kind of maps (soil, elevation, flooding zones, forested lands, agricultural maps) does the municipality have access to?

Are there any large businesses or developments coming into the area? Are there zoning laws to guide new development?

Which locations do you have flooding issues in?

Do you have any brownfields?

Do you have an agricultural sector? Does your agricultural zoning need to be updated?

Do you have plans for mixed-use infrastructure projects?

Examples:

- Town of Roseboom satisfied this requirement by adopting the Natural Resource Inventory Law to guide land use and conservation planning. The Natural Resource Inventory was completed by the Otsego County Conservation Association. The NRI provides detailed flood maps, slope and terrain information, soil type, endangered species, state and protected lands, and other environmental considerations to review when pursuing new development. A copy of the NRI can be found on their website: Climate Smart Community. This NRI is to be included in a review process to guide land use and conservation planning.
- Town of Hamilton addressed this in their comprehensive plan via goal 3, "Goal 3. Decrease negative impacts of new development on our residents and the environment." This includes implementing policies consistent with NYSSmart Growth policies, establishing a green rating system for infrastructure improvement projects, updating the Town's Zoning Law to address standards for large scale solar facilities that are not a nuisance to neighbors, and specially designating riparian zones to provide a setback from water sources for new development in areas prone to flooding.
- The City of Oneonta satisfied this requirement by planning to undertake a green infrastructure code audit and implementing green infrastructure codes in City regulations whenever possible. They are also furthering development projects that incorporate mixed use retail and residential development.

Notes:

Conserve natural areas (including strategies to designate open space and protect it from development)

Considerations:

- Are there any protected lands or conservancies, or state forests?
- What natural resources do you have? (rivers, forests, parks, etc)
- Do you have an area you can designate as a green belt?
- Do you have areas particularly vulnerable to development?

Examples:

- Town of Roseboom satisfied this requirement by passing NRI Law that established a review process to guide land use and conservation planning. Also provided information on preservation of forested and vacant lands to provide for active and passive recreational opportunities, maintain open space, and maintain town character in balance with the ecosystem. The town has several tracts of state protected lands and conservancies.

Goal as quoted in Town of Roseboom Comprehensive Plan:

“To effectively plan for and manage future changes in land use that allows development while preventing the loss of natural and cultural resources:

Objective 2.1- Encourage property owners to put abandoned agriculture property into productive use

Objective 2.2- Keep agricultural practices in areas having prime soils and/or natural resources that will ensure productivity and competitiveness
Objective 2.3- Preservation of forested and vacant lands to provide for active and passive recreational opportunities, maintain open space, and contribute to the Town’s aesthetic character and healthy natural ecosystems and wildlife

Recommendations:

Support current legislation prohibiting clear-cutting of more than two acres of woodland.

Support current legislation prohibiting the extraction of natural resources without proper permits.

Encourage use of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric that is consistent to the protection of public health, safety and well-being of the community but is at a scale consistent with the goals and objectives in this plan.”

- The Town of Hamilton addressed this in their comprehensive plan with the following goal:

“Goal 1. Protect water, air, open spaces, wildlife and other natural resources.” This goal encompasses developing design guidelines for reflective/permeable paving materials, adding language to the Zoning Law to require review processes to address floodplain and stream buffer protection, adding protections for conservation areas, protections against fragmenting intact forests, addressing the impacts of industry on land, protecting well water sources, etc. Specifically with housing initiatives, the plan includes updating the subdivision law to include rural development guidelines to minimize clearing vegetation where it acts as a visual buffer or is present around waterways and locate structures at least 100 feet from streams.

- The City of Oneonta met this requirement through plans to leverage and promote their local parks and resources (rivers, forests, parks) to attract tourists. The city also plans to plant native trees alongside Oneonta’s creeks and throughout the watershed.

Notes:

Activity: Sketch Your Community!

Sketch out your community and the placement of community assets, such as rivers, parks, lakes, forested or protected lands, lands vulnerable to development. Are your resources spread out, or concentrated in one area? Does not have to be to scale!



Considerations:

What is the air and water quality in the community?

Are there any industries that produce pollutants, and how is that managed?

Do you have outdoor space for recreation?

Are there traffic/pedestrian issues? Plans for sidewalks, crosswalks, road buffers?

Other health and safety goals?

Are there any potential hazards specific to your community?

Examples:

- Town of Roseboom met this requirement with their vision statement, regarding keeping residents safe from worsened air quality and actively engaged to keep fossil fuel industry waste out of its limits.
- The Town of Hamilton met this requirement in part with their recreation plan, including working with the NYSDOT to minimize road conflicts with cars, cyclists, and walkers, specifically with expanding road shoulders where possible to improve pedestrian safety.

Notes:

Foster equity (including strategies for housing, schools, transportation, recreation, food, and environmental exposures)

Considerations:

Do you have obvious public transportation?

Is there transportation available for elderly or impaired people to access stores, medical facilities, and recreational opportunities?

Are there affordable housing units for families and elderly people?

What condition are the local schools in?

Are local parks accessible?

Examples:

- The Town of Roseboom met this requirement by including in their comprehensive plan a goal to encourage high quality housing that meets the needs of all age and income groups.
- The Town of Hamilton met this requirement through their Governance Section of the comprehensive plan, including expanding the role of the Colgate bus system as free public transport and facilitating volunteer-based transportation for the elderly and infirm. The comprehensive plan also includes housing considerations, such as providing incentives for large developments to create affordable housing units and seeking grants to promote affordable housing for low-moderate income families.
- The City of Oneonta met this requirement through a goal to increase variety and affordability of housing stock, in part by implementing a voluntary inclusionary zoning policy to encourage developers to make a percentage of housing units for low to moderate income residents.

Notes:

Additional Components - 3 points each

Choose at least one of the additional components to earn points in the Climate Smart Program for your comprehensive plan, for a maximum of 7 additional components and a total of 21 points.

a Foster green economic development

Considerations:

Are local products readily available?

Does your county have a Farmland Protection plan or Right to Farm law?

What are the main local products, if any? (produce, honey, maple syrup, dairy, meat, flowers, cloth)

Are there climate related workforce programs in the area?

Are there any climate related industries in the area or looking to come to the area?

Do zoning laws affect local industry?

Do you have any brownfields?

Examples:

- Town of Roseboom met this requirement with their preservation of farmland and supporting farmers. The town adopted the Otsego County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, renewing the Right to Farm Law, and adopting the Natural Resources Inventory Law to reduce impact on prime farmland soils.
- Town of Hamilton addressed farmers support in their comprehensive plan to meet this requirement by establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee composed of local farmers, considering new density for agricultural lots in the zoning plan, increasing visibility and accessibility of local agricultural products to the community, and facilitate direct sale of agricultural products through u-picks, CSAs, farm retail, breweries, farmstands and distilleries, as well as supporting Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs.
- The City of Oneonta met this requirement by seeking funding assistance from the NYS Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) Program, to assess strategies for redevelopment and remediation of local brownfield sites.

Notes:

Decreased dependence on fossil fuels and support energy efficiency and renewable energy production

Considerations:

- How are you using or encouraging the use of non-fossil fuel sourced energy?
- Have you done any heat pump, wind, solar, or hydropower projects? Do you plan to?
- Are new buildings built with energy efficiency in mind?
- Are you considering revising any codes to make buildings more efficient?
- Do local farms have any digesters?
- Have lights been switched, or are you planning to switch to LED?
- How else can your municipality reduce emissions and improve efficiency?

Examples:

- The Town of Roseboom met this requirement through this objective in their comprehensive plan:
 - “Objective 1.3- The use of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric that is consistent to the protection of public health, safety and well-being of the community and is at a scale consistent with the goals and objectives in this plan.
 - 2024 Update
 - In 2023, we installed an 11KW solar array on the roof of our new salt building. This provides all the electricity needed for our Town Barn.”
- The Town of Hamilton addressed this with Goal 2 in their comprehensive plan,
 - “Goal 2. Increase energy conservation and use of green energy initiatives to decrease energy use and enhance the long-term environmental health of the community.
 - Promote energy conservation as the first method in energy policy.
 - 1. Make all town-owned buildings energy efficient as funds permit.
 - 2. Educate the community on energy efficiency programs.
 - 3. Work with livestock farmers to evaluate, support and implement use of anaerobic digester systems.
 - 4. Use and implement EPA’s AgStart to promote recovery of methane from livestock waste.

Continue work on climate planning and together with the Villages of Hamilton and Earlville, and Colgate University, join the NYSDEC Climate Smart Community...

Promote and allow green energy initiatives in the zoning (conservation, non-industrial wind, micro-hydro, community biodigester, residential solar, geothermal). Review existing zoning for green energy building projects to ensure they are subject to adequate review process.

Work with landowners to promote biomass (willow, switch grass, etc.) growing as an energy source. Support partnerships between Colgate University and/or Morrisville College and local farmers to grow biomass.”
- The City of Oneonta’s comprehensive plan includes implementation strategies to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for transportation, has a goal to conduct a municipal energy audit to identify further greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and working with NYPA and NYSEG on converting all municipal lights to LED.

Notes:

Buildings Check-in!

Take stock of your buildings to see where improvements may have already been implemented or what you are planning to implement.

Considerations:

- LED lighting upgrades
- Insulation and air sealing
- Windows and doors
- Water heater upgrades
- HVAC upgrades
- Renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal)

Considerations:

Do you have stormwater runoff issues?

Can parking lots be built with more green space to reduce runoff?

Are there regulations on developing highly sloped land or land near wetlands/water sources?

Do you have any special districts where development is not allowed?

Does the municipality have a composting program?

What are the conditions of culverts?

Can the municipal code be modified to include sustainable practices or policies?

Examples:

- The Town of Roseboom met this requirement through their land use and growth management section of the comprehensive plan:

“5.1 – GOAL 1:

It is the goal of the town to protect its natural resources in an effort to assure their sustainability and availability, by preventing irreplaceable loss, misuse and/or degradation.

Objective 1.1- The conservation, maintenance, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas including aquatic and terrestrial resources that include, but are not limited to, wetlands, floodplains, surface and groundwater resources, geologic features, prime and unique soils, steep slopes, woodlands, wildlife habitats, air and sound quality, and scenic views; and public and private land.

2024 Update:

In our area of Otsego County, flooding is the main concern from climate change. The Town of Roseboom adopted the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan in August 2021. Town Board members and the Town Highway superintendent attended the relevant pre-requisite workshops. Our highway department is consistently maintaining our Town roads, always enlarging existing culverts whenever they need replacement due to deterioration.”

- The Town of Hamilton met this requirement by addressing the need for developing guidelines that encourage climate friendly paving materials for parking lots, reduce parking lot space requirements to allow for more green space to reduce runoff, requiring special use permits for developments on high slopes to consider effects of erosion or impact on microhabitats, and continuing protection of state lands.
- The City of Oneonta seeks to codify best practices in sustainability and green infrastructure in the city regulations. They also have plans to partner with the NYSDEC to increase awareness of water conservation efforts.

Notes:



Promote the development of (or the conservation of) local food systems

Considerations:

What does your local food system look like?

What kind of products are made in your community? How accessible are these products?

Are local products used at local institutions (such as schools), restaurants, or sold to the public at local events?

What challenges do farmers face?

Is there a county level Agricultural Plan?

Do you have any community fruit or vegetable gardens?

Examples:

- The Town of Roseboom satisfied this requirement through the Agriculture Section of their comprehensive plan, including:

“In 2017, Otsego County updated their Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan (AFPP). It identifies seven recommended actions that will help achieve the vision of sustained agricultural development and farmland conservation. In 2018 the County consolidated all the agricultural districts into one district, District #1. (see map in Appendix) At that time, the Town of Roseboom had approximately 65 parcels, nearly 1,300 acres were used for some type of agricultural activity. Some of the types of agricultural operations that take place within the town include dairy, livestock, horse, and hobby farms. There are also apiaries and maple syrup producers.”

The Town of Hamilton addressed this in their comprehensive plan,

“Goal 3. Promote opportunities for new businesses that are economically viable and environmentally friendly and meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

Ensure that zoning allows for, and the economic development programs promote the following businesses:

1. Value added forestry products
2. Agri-tourism
3. Niche and value added agriculture
4. Food hub and small scale food processing development
5. Local food to local institutions and restaurants – distribution model
6. Ag related businesses – meat processing, slaughterhouses, wineries, distilleries, breweries, cheese and yogurt making, etc.
7. Health tourism...”

- The Town of Hamilton also plans to increase visibility of local brands (dairy, brewing) and promote local businesses, through partnership with the county.
- The City of Oneonta met this requirement through pursuing a relationship with Chobani and potential for an outlet store to be operational in the city and attract more businesses, the promotion and expansion of their Farmers’ Market, working with the City’s Chamber of Commerce office to promote local restaurants to “baseball tourists,” revise city laws prohibiting raising chickens and rabbits, and planting fruit trees in city parks.

Notes:



Minimize solid waste (including strategies to promote recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion of organic materials)

Considerations:

- Do any local farms use anaerobic digestion for biomass recovery?
- Are there any large-scale green waste or food waste composting operations?
- Have you ever hosted a compost bin sale for residents?
- Is there a curbside recycling program?
- Do you recycle in municipal buildings?
- Are there any reuse initiatives?

Any municipality in Oneida or Herkimer Counties can utilize the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Food2Energy Facility. Consider sending large scale producers or homeowners to utilize this anaerobic digestion program to reduce food waste.

Examples:

- The City of Oneonta met this requirement by promoting a city-wide composting program, adopting recycling and waste reduction goals for all municipal buildings, and adopting a community wide waste reduction plan.

Notes:

Considerations:

Have you ever done a groundwater study?

Is most water municipal or well?

Do you do regular culvert replacement or maintenance?

Does the county or other municipality have a Hazard Mitigation Plan to adopt?

Have you done a salt shed, or other effort to protect wetland ecosystems or water quality?

What other goals do you have for preserving or improving water quality?

Have you considered a municipal water system installation, upgrade, expansion or maintenance?

Examples:

- The Town of Roseboom satisfied this requirement by,

“5.1 – GOAL 1:

It is the goal of the town to protect its natural resources in an effort to assure their sustainability and availability, by preventing irreplaceable loss, misuse and/or degradation.

Objective 1.1- The conservation, maintenance, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas including aquatic and terrestrial resources that include, but are not limited to, wetlands, floodplains, surface and groundwater resources, geologic features, prime and unique soils, steep slopes, woodlands, wildlife habitats, air and sound quality, and scenic views; and public and private land.

2024 Update:

In our area of Otsego County, flooding is the main concern from climate change. The Town of Roseboom adopted the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan in August 2021. Town Board members and the Town Highway superintendent attended the relevant pre-requisite workshops. Our highway department is consistently maintaining our Town roads, always enlarging existing culverts whenever they need replacement due to deterioration.”

- The Town of Hamilton satisfied this requirement by Goal 4 in their comprehensive plan, by planning to strengthen local regulations to minimize risks and maximize benefits, including;

“For all development, consider adopting stormwater regulations to review stormwater pollution prevention plans for land disturbances in coordination with NYSDEC requirements.

Because the Town relies solely on well water for residences and farm uses, Hamilton should ensure that zoning regulations address water use and safety. This could include well-head protection rules, watershed protections, and use of setbacks from private wells as methods to ensure protection of these resources (pg. 32)”.

- The City of Oneonta met this requirement by having a 2030 goal to create a watershed stewardship program, create baseline measurements for air, water and habitat quality, and collaborate with local colleges and universities on analyzing stream quality throughout municipality.

Notes:

G Promote adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement)

Considerations:

Do you have, or would you like to create, a Climate Action Plan?

What data do you have available to track air and water quality?

Are there any local programming that would allow for education about stewardship? (local park program, summer program)

Would local groups be willing to host educational workshops about climate topics?

What are your community's biggest climate vulnerabilities (flood, drought, pests, fire)?

Examples:

- The Town of Hamilton fulfilled this requirement throughout their comprehensive plan. Specifically, they have addressed ensuring that the town is an advocate for the Comprehensive Plan and the long-term direction of the plan when considering future industrial development, including wind, solar, gasdrilling or natural gas infrastructure. They also plan to update their Zoning Law to identify existing agricultural and natural resources, with plans to conduct a ground water study. The Zoning Law may be reformed to add additional language for floodplain and stream buffer protection, keeping forests and agricultural lands intact, listing prohibited land uses, and to incorporate broader social and community impacts of energy development.

The Town of Hamilton takes a collaborative approach to climate change related issues, involving business owners, community members, farmers, local colleges, neighboring municipalities, and the county to engage in various initiatives. The town engages the public on energy efficiency programs and relies on the climate task force to continue to facilitate community conversations and support. The town plans to work with farmers and landowners directly to evaluate and support anaerobic digester systems and educate the community to improve awareness of the role local farms play in Hamilton. Hamilton will also work with Madison County to improve recycling and composting initiatives, showing collaboration across multiple levels of government.

- City of Oneonta will develop and implement a Climate Action Plan, is seeking to establish data on air, water and habitat quality, and seek to utilize their youth summer program at a local park to teach children about the environment.

Notes:

Resources

Climate Smart Communities: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/>

Other Resources:

- [NY Rural Waters](#)
- [Mohawk Valley Economic Development Municipal Resource Guide](#)
- [Department of State - Comprehensive Plans](#)
- [County Planning Departments](#)
- [Environmental Facilities Corporation](#)

Plans:

- [City of Oneonta Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Town of Roseboom Comprehensive Plan](#)

Contact:

- **[Samantha Francisco](#)**

Sustainability Coordinator
sfrancisco@mvedd.org
(315) 866-4671



“I love it when a plan comes together.” - Hannibal Smith



MVEDD

Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

Comprehensive Planning

Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc



Subcommittee Workbook

August 2025

Comprehensive Planning

First Steps

1



Assemble Steering Committee

Consider who will comprise the core group overseeing the process. Members should be prepared to attend meetings consistently, and the committee should be as representative as possible. It can include town officials, business owners, and other prominent and trusted community members.

2



Organize Subcommittees

In addition to the steering committee, plans typically rely on several smaller groups focused on specific subject areas (e.g. housing, transportation, infrastructure, etc.) Members should have knowledge relevant to the subcommittee.

3



Survey Logistics

The cost of collecting survey data depends on many factors, including how the survey is designed, distributed, collected, and analyzed. Establishing whether responses will be collected online, by mail, or both, what kinds of questions will be posed, and what information you hope to glean will all save time in the long run.

4



Review Other Local Plans

Plans can range widely in terms of content and complexity. Reviewing plans from nearby communities and keeping a list of topics you hope to cover will provide context as well as ideas for candidate solutions to address issues previously faced by other communities.

5



Training and Resources

Webinars and other training materials are available through NY Department of State at their [website](#), and through other agencies. Please contact us using the information below to learn more about how to support your comprehensive planning work.

Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee Formation

A subcommittee is a small group of people assigned to focus on one particular aspect of the comprehensive plan and its importance to the community and report back findings to the steering committee. The subcommittee typically meets for a relatively shorter time than the steering committee and looks at the comprehensive plan through a smaller lens than the complete plan. The subcommittee does not typically review the draft plan or establish the goals of the overall comprehensive plan.

Who should be on Subcommittees?

The subcommittees should include representatives from a large range of ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds and a diverse range of stakeholders, such as residents, civic leaders, business owners, elected officials, environmental experts, and/ or municipal board members.

- Planning board members
- Community representatives
- Community stakeholders
- Residents
- Community groups
- Business owners
- Elected officials
- Environmental experts
- Historic preservation groups
- Fire and rescue personnel



Roles & Responsibilities

- Focus on Specific Topic
 - The subcommittees focus on specific topics and provide in depth insight and recommendations pertaining to the comprehensive plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement
 - The subcommittees engage with residents, businesses, and other potential stakeholders regarding their topic.
- Research and Analysis
 - The subcommittees consider the current conditions while they identify challenges, potential issues, opportunities, and then develop ideas and recommendations based on findings.
- Connection to Overall Plan
 - The subcommittees provide recommendations that are then included in the overall comprehensive plan.
- Report back to Steering Committee

Comprehensive Planning

Subcommittee Information

Community Considerations:

- Do you have volunteers to participate throughout the duration of the process?
- How do you see volunteers participating in this process?
- Who is the point person for the subcommittee?
- How often will the committee meet?
 - When- Time of day, day of week, etc.
 - Where- Location can be at municipal building, community business, etc.
 - How - In person meetings or virtual options.
- What will each member's role, specialty, or interest be?
- Who are some stakeholders that are or are not represented? Homeowners, community members, youth, seniors, business owners, etc.

- ### Subcommittees
- Housing, Tourism/Business & Economic Development
 - Natural Resources, Agriculture, Historic Preservation, and Parks & Recreation
 - Infrastructure & Safety

Subcommittees

Roles: Point of contact, notetaker, expert, outreach, communication, schedule meetings, etc.

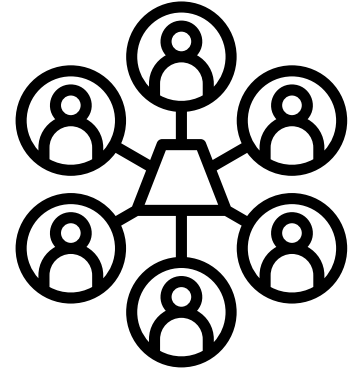
Expertise: This can be your expertise, experience, interest related to your profession, personal experience, family dynamic, past experiences, unique point of view, etc. This can lead to subcommittee creation.

Name	Contact	Availability

Comprehensive Planning Stakeholder Engagement

Community Considerations:

- Who are the relevant and represented stakeholders to your subcommittee?
- Potential Stakeholders
 - Community Members
 - Business Owners
 - Government Departments
 - Families
 - Parents
 - Varying age groups
 - Varying economic groups
- What is the best way to gather their feedback?
- How can you get engagement from stakeholders?



Name	Stakeholder Type	How to Contact

A stakeholder is anyone in the community who might have insight into the subcommittee topic. Brainstorm who your potential stakeholders may be, and how to contact and engage with them.

Comprehensive Planning Research and Analysis

Community Considerations:

- What are the current conditions like in the community?
- What are potential challenges or issues?
- What are some of the available opportunities?
- What are some potential ideas or strategies?
- What type of data or information would you need?
- Are there any places you can ask for help or may have information available?



Brainstorm some initial ideas of what type of information you may be interested in finding, potential challenges, opportunities, and any other information. The next page will go over a SWOT analysis.

Community SWOT Analysis

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats

A SWOT analysis helps you identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that may impact your community, giving you a clear picture of where you stand and where you can improve.

Strengths

- Strengths are mostly internal, the things that you and your community, employees and any other partners bring to the community.
- Strengths can include community members, employees and volunteer groups, your location, natural resources, buildings and equipment, grants, revenue and potential sources of income, and past experiences that will be building blocks for learning and success.
- What makes your community attractive? Location, services, placemaking, etc.
- What do your residents see as your strengths? What do residents like about your community? Ask your residents what they think through a community survey.
- Why do residents and businesses choose to move to or stay in the community?

Weaknesses

- Weaknesses are also internal factors you'll need to address such as lack of revenue, the community not being supportive, community services, etc.
- What could you improve? What is holding you back? What little changes might make big impacts?
- What should you avoid? Have you completed a financial analysis of your community to evaluate opportunities?
- What do other communities do better than you?
- What are things your community lacks? What do residents dislike about your community?

‘The best part about SWOT analysis is that one item can offset another. Strengths can be used to overcome threats, opportunities can be used to overcome weaknesses, etc.’

Opportunities

- Opportunities are considered mostly external. Opportunities will most often relate to future trends in your region, the economy, potential funding sources, changes in your community demographics, age, race, gender or culture, community growth, regional trends, state and federal regulations, and local, national or international events.
- What trends, impacts, or projects are facing your community?
- What is happening in your community that can be advantageous? Are there new job opportunities, community services, housing developments, etc.
- What is the press/media coverage of your community?
- Are there tools and resources that you're not leveraging to full capacity?

Threats

- Threats are also external because they come from outside your community and will directly affect you. Threats are the flip side of opportunities in that they are external and have a potential to impact your community.
- What obstacles do you face?
- What trends, impacts, or projects are facing your community?
- Do changes in technology threaten your community?
- Does your financial position threaten your community?
- Could any particular weakness seriously threaten your community?
- Unforeseen development, dissolution of markets, changing regulatory environment, and adverse weather may also have negative effects on your community.

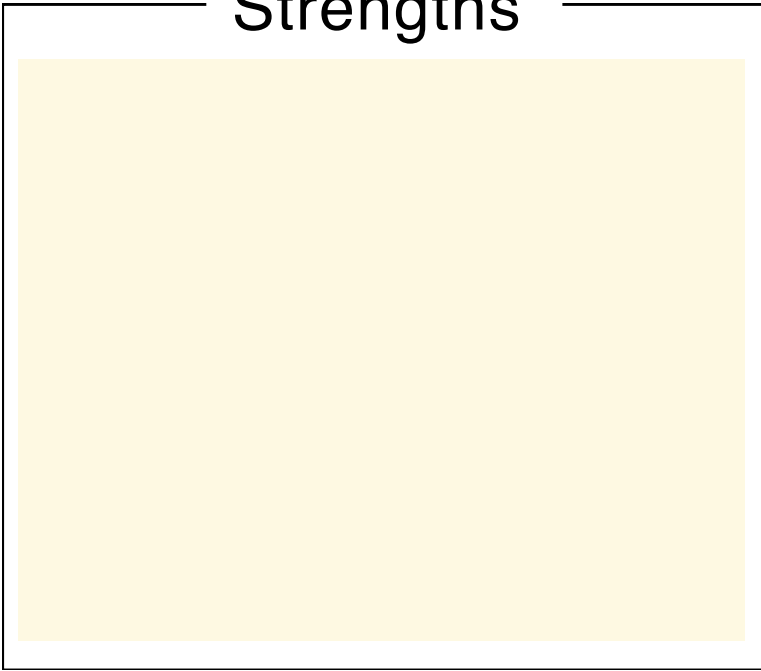
SWOT is a group activity, the people most directly involved with the community should participate in a SWOT analysis. This would include the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC), municipal officials, municipal employees, community members, local business owners, outside advisors, etc.

Community SWOT Analysis

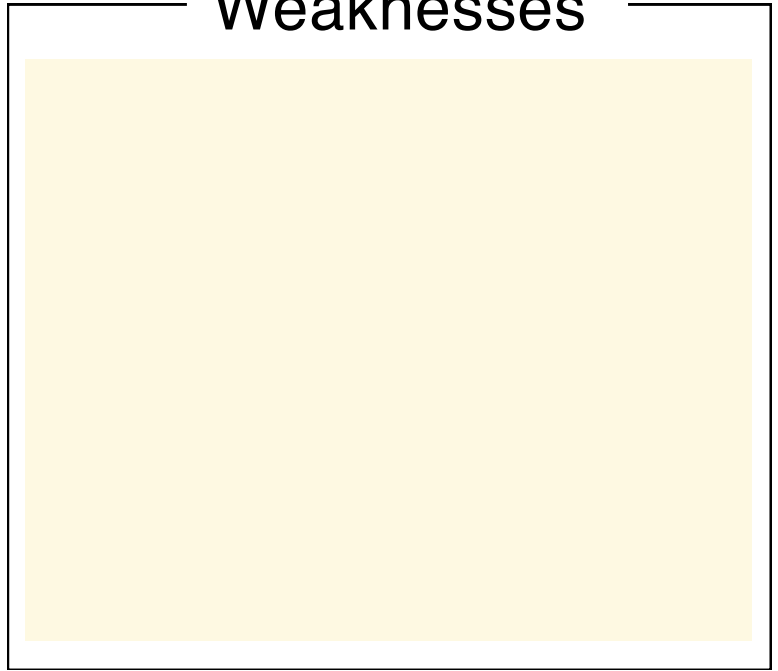
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats

A SWOT analysis helps you identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that may impact your community, giving you a clear picture of where you stand and where you can improve.

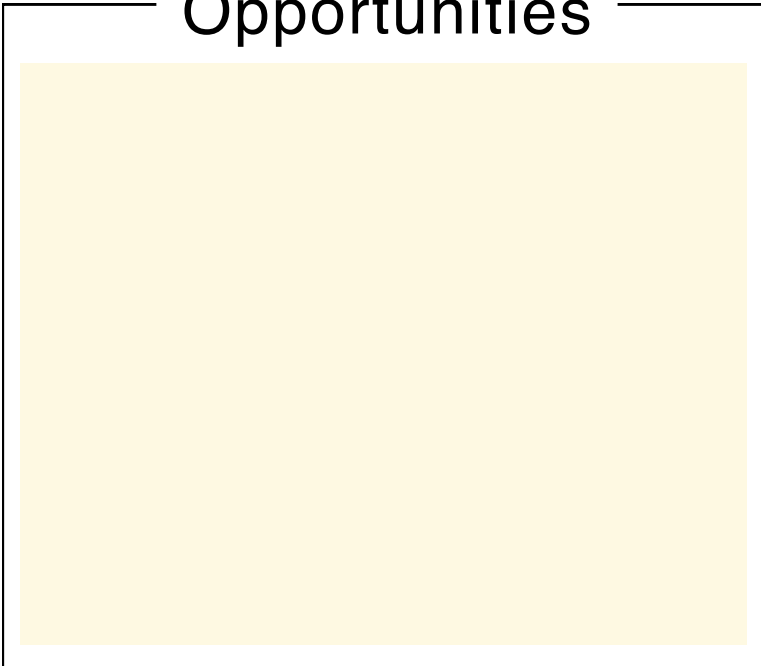
Strengths



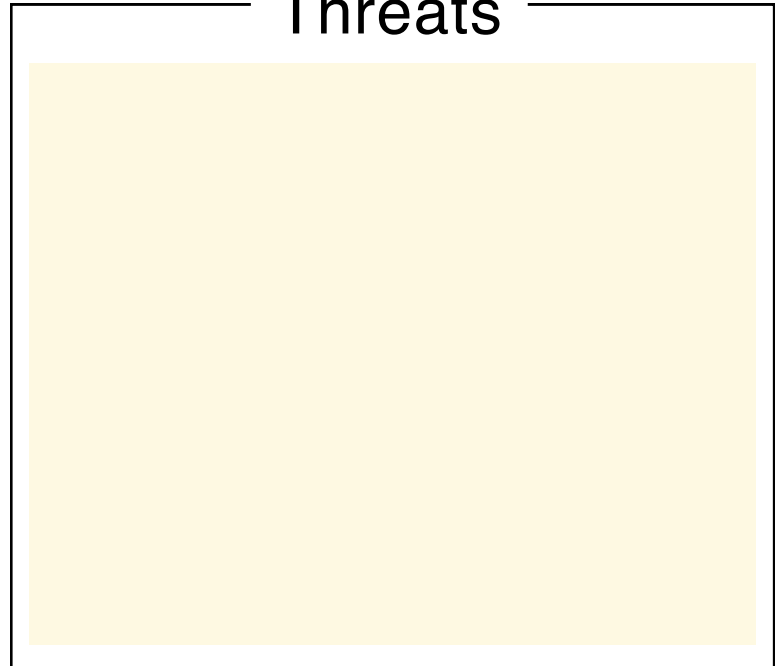
Weaknesses



Opportunities



Threats



Identify Goals

Identify Community Goals

SMART goals—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound—will guide you in seeing realistic, actionable objectives that align with your long-term community plan. Once you define your SMART goal for yourself and your community, you can break it down into smaller objectives and tasks.

Specific

- Who is involved? What do you want to accomplish?
- Create your goal as an instruction whereby you tell yourself what to do.
- Being specific helps incorporate the method in the goal, not just the outcome.
- Start by stating the objective you wish to meet as specifically as possible.
- Set a specific activity-related goal to help define the pathway more clearly.

Measurable

- How will we know that a change has occurred? How much change is expected?
- Adding quantifiable or measurable criteria to your goal will allow you to measure progress as you work towards achieving your goal.
- Being able to strike off the numbers as you progress will feel good, and measuring can help keep you from cheating.

Achievable/ Attainable

- Are the limitations and constraints understood?
- Break larger goals into smaller goals and spell out the process required to achieve your objectives.
- Don't set yourself up for failure by selecting unattainable goals.
- Make sure that the process is also realistic so that you can achieve all the individual steps you need. If you don't have time, supplies, or the right location, adjust your methods and goals.

Relevant/ Realistic

- Does the objective accurately address the scope of the problem?
- Each step of attaining the goal should make sense to you and have some level of importance or relevance.
- Goals should be inspiring enough that it motivates you to succeed.
- Your goal should be meaningful to you and set by you—not set by someone else.

Time-bound/ Timely

- When will you achieve your goal or meet this objective? You need to choose a time that is realistic but not too far off into the future.
- When can short term and long-term outcomes be expected?
- Create a reasonable schedule and foreseeable finish line, you can reevaluate along the way and set a new goal based on progress and interest.



Identify Goals

Identify Community Goals

What would you like your community to look like in 5 years, 10years, 20 years?

What is one aspect of that vision that is possible to accomplish? This is your goal.

What will the goal accomplish?

When will the goal be accomplished by?

What makes this goal achievable?

How will this goal be accomplished? (What will your community do)

How will you measure that the goal has been met? (What is the metric, number, percentage, etc.)

Write one SMART Goal for your community using the worksheet above. Make it as short as possible while creating a Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound goal.

"It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan." - Eleanor Roosevelt



Comprehensive Planning

Example Goals

Goal: Increase employment and business development that builds the [Village/ Town/ City's] tax base, to the extent reasonably practical, by furthering the installation of clean energy systems.

- Objective A: To increase local economic value, incentivize locally generated sources of energy rather than importing nonlocal fossil fuels
- Objective B: Encourage the development of education and training programs for clean energy employment opportunities

Goal: Balance clean energy development and continued agricultural operations.

- Objective A: Minimize the siting of ground-mounted solar arrays on farmland identified by the NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets as Mineral Soil Groups 1-4
- Objective B: Limit the introduction of non-agricultural uses in farming areas that may conflict with continued agricultural use of adjacent property
- Objective C: Allow clean energy projects in agricultural areas only if mitigation for agricultural impacts have been identified and addressed
- Objective D: Encourage solar and other renewable energy production that is compatible with agricultural-related businesses and alternative crop production

Goal: Balance clean energy development with environmental protection and sustainability.

- Objective A: Mitigate the impacts of clean energy systems on environmental resources, such as forests, wildlife, and other protected resources
- Objective B: Establish local policies, plans, and regulations that seek to balance growth and clean energy development with potential loss of open space, habitats, and natural resources

Goal: Encourage a sense of pride in the community by cultivating a culture of environmental awareness, stewardship, and respect.

- Objective A: Support outreach efforts to educate the public on the benefits of clean energy technologies.

Goal: What you hope to achieve.
Objectives: How you plan to achieve it.



“I am prepared for the worst, but hope for the best.” –Benjamin Disraeli

Comprehensive Planning

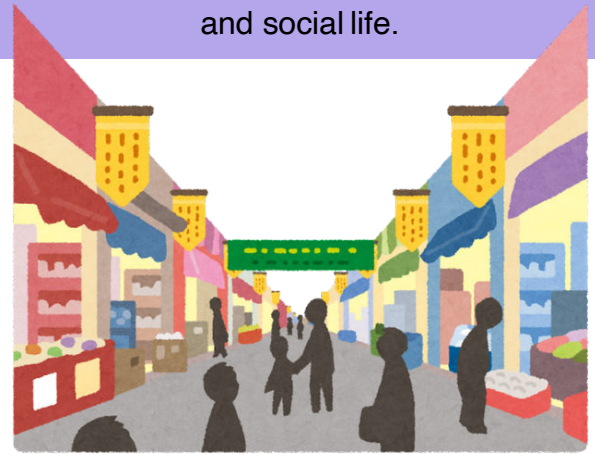
Resources

Senior Housing and Livable Community Resources

- [American Planning Association – Accessory Dwelling Units](#)
- [Homes and Community Renewal – Plus One ADU Program](#)
 - [One ADU program interest form](#)
- [ADU Model State Act and Local Ordinance \(aarp.org\)](#)
- [Ordinances and Built Examples of ADUs \(nahb.org\)](#)
- [Expanding ADU Development and Occupancy](#)
- [ADUs Explained Archives – Shelterforce](#)
- [Model Code for Accessory Dwelling Units | Accessory Dwellings](#)
- [AARP The ABCs of ADUs](#)
- [Livable New York Resource Manual](#)
- [AARPLivable Communities: An Evaluation Guide](#)
- [Westchester County: Livable Communities Initiative](#)
 - [MAP: My Aging Plan](#)
- [The Asset-Based Community Development Institute \(ABCD\)](#)
 - [ABCD Tool Kit](#)
 - [ABCD Training Videos and Resources](#)

AARPLivable Communities

A livable community is one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options, which together facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life.



Additional Planning Resources

- [Planning & Land Use Regulation Resources](#)
 - [NYS DOS Division of Local Government Services](#)
- [Local Laws Search](#)
 - [NYS DOS Division of Local Government Services](#)
- [Training and Assistance](#)
 - [NYS DOS Division of Local Government Services](#)
- [Planning and Zoning Training Series](#)
 - [New York Planning Federation](#)
- [Property Topics and Concepts](#)
 - [American Planning Association](#)
- [Are You Solar Ready?](#)
 - [American Planning Association](#)
- [Planning Implementation Tools: Overlay Zoning](#)
 - [University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point](#)

Renewable Energy & Clean Energy Resources

- [Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [NYSERDA Battery Energy Storage Guidebook](#)
- [NYSERDA Wind Energy Guidebook](#)
- [EV Charging Station Permitting Resources](#)
- [NYSERDA Clean Energy Siting Resources](#)
- [DOS Land Use Moratoria](#)
- [Hosting Capacity Maps](#)

Additional Model Law Resources

- [Tug Hill Commission Resources](#)
- [DOS Basic Land Use Tools for Resiliency](#)
- [DOS Local Law Search](#)
- [Department of Financial Services \(DFS\) Zombie Property Maintenance](#)
- [Department of Agriculture and Markets –](#)
 - [Guidance for Municipalities relative to municipal dog control and shelter services](#)



Vision Exercise

Building a vision together takes a few steps, and we've outlined questions to guide your strategy development.

- What do you love about your town today?
- What should the town look and feel like in 10 years?
- What must change—and what must stay the same?

Examples

RICHFIELD / RICHFIELD SPRINGS VISION STATEMENT

“The Town of Richfield and the Village of Richfield Springs will work collaboratively to create a thriving economy around our rural agricultural heritage, Canadarago Lake, and a vibrant Village, while protecting and preserving our natural and aesthetic resources. With these foundations, we will preserve and develop our significant historical treasures, expand on our diverse cultural backgrounds and continue to invest in our recreational assets. These invaluable resources will be the cornerstone for our community to sustain itself for years to come.”

TOWN OF ROSEBOOM VISION STATEMENT

This vision statement reflects the views of the townspeople through their input at workshops, focus groups, and the updated survey of 2015. This statement will serve as a benchmark for decision-making and actions for the Town. It is meant to set the stage for the Town's future direction; it gives the citizens' views as to what they desire now, and what they envision for the Town in the years to follow. The Town continues to look for growth opportunities and grant funding.

The Town of Roseboom is located on the eastern side of Otsego County within the State of New York. The Town cherishes and desires to protect and preserve the rural character, natural resources and landscapes, scenic vistas and clean and safe land, air and water, with the full enforcement of all Local, State and Federal laws and mandates.

Priorities of the highest order include preservation of and accessibility to open spaces, maintenance of safety and security for residents and future generations, viability of agriculture and the farming community, and safeguarding of the Town's rural character.

The people want to assure continued accessibility to all the Town's plentiful open spaces for their families' recreation and health. It is also important to the economy of Roseboom that we preserve our active agricultural and farming community. We desire safe environmental conditions for future generations to live and grow, while maintaining the town's important national historic character. Our Town is rich with the history of America's earliest colonial beginnings, and we want to keep that in mind while we enter the 21st century infrastructure.

In the coming years, we will responsibly manage and improve new growth while respecting property rights to protect the integrity of our town. We do need well-built and maintained roadways, but we also need traffic volume and speed controlled, to be in harmony with the gentle nature of our Township.

We wish to set quality design standards to ensure that new growth and development will enrich our community aesthetics. We wish to hold together the existing fabric of our Town and its hamlets, while still connecting the people of Roseboom to the rest of the world. As such, this Vision Statement and Comprehensive Plan must be an ever-changing and on-going document.

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD VISSION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENT Background: The 1989 Master Plan of the Township of Middlefield established four general goals as a de facto Vision Statement for the future of the Town:

1. That the senior citizens of the Township may continue to live here in a manner which they find harmonious.
2. That men and women of the current generation who live and work on these lands may prosper in an environment that is both flexible and secure.
3. That, perhaps more importantly, future generations shall inherit these lands in a condition which allows for a healthful, prosperous and independent way of life.
4. That improvement of land be encouraged and fostered in a manner which benefits the community, but that development of land in a manner which threatens the health or well-being of the community as a whole be prevented.

To these four goals, the following additional goals were set out by the Planning Board in an addendum (1989):

1. To sustain the viability of farmlands where possible and to encourage and foster improvement that does not diminish farm lands.
2. To preserve the health of the watershed, including Otsego Lake, the wooded areas harboring game, and the important aesthetic and historic characteristics of the Middlefield Township.

In 2011, The Town of Middlefield Profile and Inventory (February 2011) was included as an addendum in support of this Master Plan. This Profile and Inventory is excerpted from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (accepted by the Town in December 2002). The Profile and Inventory and associated maps highlight important natural resources that the people of the Township desire to be protected.

In planning for the future of the Town, the Vision Statement of the original Master Plan of Middlefield remains relevant and vital to this day. To the stated long-term objectives set out above, the Town of Middlefield 2024 Comprehensive Plan adds the following:

1. To acknowledge, plan for, and respond to impending climate, demographic and economic changes in a way that fosters resilience both in the Town's communities and in its infrastructure and public services.

Vision Statement Evaluation

Informing the 2025 Comprehensive Plan



The purpose of this worksheet is to evaluate the 2008 Vision Statement and inform updates for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Your thoughtful reflections are crucial in shaping the future of Otsego!

Step 1: Review the 2008 Vision Statement

Instructions: Please read the 2008 Vision Statement (provided separately). Consider the following questions as you review it:

- How well does the 2008 Vision Statement reflect the current realities of Otsego?
- What aspects of the vision still resonate today?
- What aspects feel outdated or incomplete?
- Does the vision adequately address the needs and aspirations of all community members?

“We, the Town of Otsego citizens, cherish and protect our rural and natural landscape. We assure that plentiful, accessible open spaces continue to exist. We see agriculture as a continuing important part of the town's economy and character. We respect our traditions and history and so preserve the town's historic architecture and character. We wish to encourage new development to honor the ways our hamlets have looked through their long histories. Hence, we promote careful design and placing of new buildings to complement and harmonize with those already here. We town citizens are committed to involvement in its future and are proud of our strong community identity.

We foresee the future Town of Otsego as continuing to have a clean environment, beautiful landscape, and a rural character. We foresee carefully managed growth and development, maintaining access to our natural areas. We foresee a place of safety for us and our families.

We expect increased year-round recreational and cultural opportunities, including biking, hiking, and walking trails, and ample access to Otsego and Canadarago lakes. We see residents and visitors here enjoying even more access to the arts and cultural events.

We want added economic growth, with more diverse year-round businesses that serve both residents and visitors. We want low-impact, family-owned small businesses to flourish, not only in Cooperstown, but in Fly Creek, the town's secondary center for retail service operations. We want the town of Otsego to develop housing and jobs to draw young families here.

We foresee high quality and diverse housing for all income levels and ages, with special attention given to housing our elderly so that they can continue life right here. We want residential development, concentrated in and around the hamlets, to strengthen our neighborhood, economy,

and sense of community. We foresee hamlet amenities like sidewalks and street trees adding to its desirability as a place to live. Beyond the hamlets, we foresee a mix of current size and some smaller, affordable homes surrounded by open land and farms. We foresee all homes and neighborhoods be safe and well maintained.

We want roads well built, maintained, and reflective of our rural and historic heritage. We want traffic volume and speed control to harmonize with the Town as a place of homes.

We foresee high quality schools for our youngsters and a town government that works to provide both public services and reasonable taxes. We foresee the town working even more cooperatively with the towns and villages in the Leatherstocking region, promoting their good and ours.

This is our vision, the touchstone for our shared future.”

Step 2: Reflect on What’s Been Accomplished

Instructions: What progress has Otsego made toward achieving the 2008 Vision? List specific accomplishments, projects, or initiatives that demonstrate positive change. Consider environmental, economic, social, and cultural achievements.

Step 3: Identify Gaps and Emerging Needs

Instructions: What are the key gaps or emerging needs that the 2025 Comprehensive Plan should address? These might be areas where progress has been limited or new priorities that have emerged since 2008. Consider challenges, opportunities, and unmet needs of the community.

Step 4: Draft Updated Themes

Instructions: Based on your reflections, propose updated themes for the 2025 Vision Statement. These themes should capture the essence of what Otsego aspires to be in the future. Aim for concise, inspiring, and actionable themes.

Step 5: Optional Follow-Up - A Personal Vision

Instructions: Imagine it's 2035. Otsego has successfully implemented the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Write a brief personal vision statement describing what Otsego looks and feels like. What are the defining characteristics of our community? What are you most proud of?

Thank you!

Quick Guide to Comprehensive Planning



"This project has been funded in part by the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation."



MVEDDD
Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.

Comprehensive Planning

First Steps



We're Here!



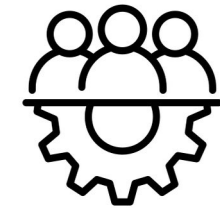
1



Assemble Steering Committee

Consider who will comprise the core group overseeing the process. Members should be prepared to attend meetings consistently, and the committee should be as representative as possible. It can include town officials, business owners, and other prominent and trusted community members.

2



Organize Subcommittees

In addition to the steering committee, plans typically rely on several smaller groups focused on specific subject areas (e.g. housing, transportation, infrastructure, etc.) Members should have knowledge relevant to the subcommittee.

3



Survey Logistics

The cost of collecting survey data depends on many factors, including how the survey is designed, distributed, collected, and analyzed. Establishing whether responses will be collected online, by mail, or both, what kinds of questions will be posed, and what information you hope to glean will all save time in the long run.

4



Review Other Local Plans

Plans can range widely in terms of content and complexity. Reviewing plans from nearby communities and keeping a list of topics you hope to cover will provide context as well as ideas for candidate solutions to address issues previously faced by other communities.

5



Training and Resources

Webinars and other training materials are available through NY Department of State at their [website](#), and through other agencies. Please contact us using the information below to learn more about how to support your comprehensive planning work.



Comprehensive Planning

Committee Formation

Who should be on the Comprehensive Planning Committee and Subcommittees?

The Comprehensive Planning Committee should have at least one member from the planning board and shall include representatives from a large range of ethnic, social, and cultural backgrounds and a diverse range of stakeholders, such as residents, civic leaders, business owners, elected officials, environmental experts, and/or municipal board members.

- Planning board members
- Community representatives
- Community stakeholders
- Residents
- Community groups
- Business owners
- Elected officials
- Environmental experts
- Historic preservation groups
- Fire and rescue personnel

The members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) conduct/oversee the planning process and the development of the Comprehensive Plan, participate in meetings, generate ideas and build consensus, provide relevant information reflective of the community's current condition and needs (including a list of completed and ongoing local planning efforts and initiatives), review drafted materials drafted and provide constructive feedback, support each of the proposed public participation and outreach efforts, and set the stage for cooperation and the plan's implementation.

Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee Formation

Proposed Subcommittees

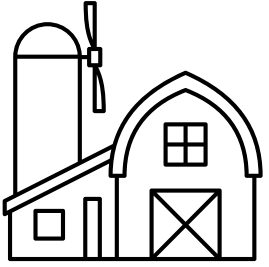
Encourage



Housing, Tourism/Business & Economic
Development



Protect



Natural Resources, Agriculture, Historic
Preservation, and Parks & Recreation

Maintain



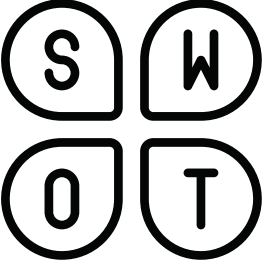
Infrastructure & Safety



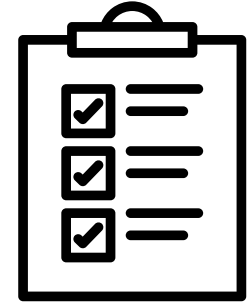
Comprehensive Planning

Step-by-Step

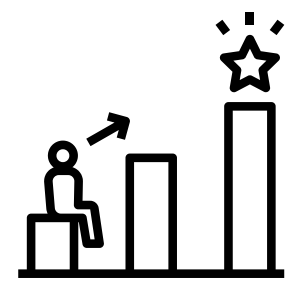
Source: [Department of State \(DOS\) Comprehensive Planning Website](#)
[DOS Comprehensive Planning Webinar \(Step-by-Step at 53:10\)](#)

1  **Identify Issues**
Complete a SWOT Analysis for your Community.


- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

2  **Community Inventory / Survey**
Take a community inventory of assets within the community, not paper survey. Topics can include:


- Agriculture
- Historic/ Cultural/ Archeological
- Park & Recreation
- Environment
- Demographics
- Housing
- Economy
- Public Services
- Transportation

3  **Identify Goals**


- Based on Identified Issues (SWOTs)
- Goals become priorities for future policy development
- Goals are measurable and achievable
- SMART Goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)

4  **Draft Plan**

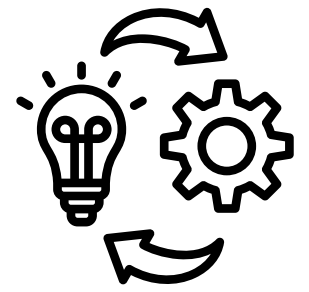
- When do you have enough research to begin writing
 - Primary concerns are addressed
 - Public meetings held (statutorily required and others)
 - All special board meetings are open to the public
 - Planning Committee
 - Public meeting within 90 days of receiving draft plan
- Monitor consultant's progress
 - Review to ensure consistency with community's vision

5  **Evaluate Alternatives**

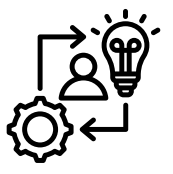
- Are goals achievable financially?
- Are there more attainable/sustainable alternatives?
- What are cost effective ways to achieve goals?

6  **Adopt Plan**

- Governing Board adopts plan by resolution or other local enactment
- Adopted plan must be considered by other governmental agencies when planning for capital projects.

7  **Implement Plan**

- Suggestions to promote concepts outlined in plan
 - Amend land use regulations
 - Develop design guidelines
 - Budget for capital improvements
- Implementation matrix

8  **Evaluate Plan**

- Plan must include maximum intervals for review
- Amend plan as needed

Comprehensive Planning

Basic Plan Outline

1. Introduction and/ or executive summary
2. Existing conditions
3. Trends
4. Environmental framework
5. Development goals & policies
6. Land use constraints & opportunities
7. Land use development plan
8. Fiscal impacts
9. Implementation strategies
10. Maps
11. Appendices

Appendices can include your survey, public meeting notes and summaries, regulations, design guidelines, budgets for capital improvements, grant applications, etc.

Your Community's Comprehensive Plan shouldn't be something that sits on a shelf and collects dust. It should be something that your community uses and reflects on when making decisions and to move your community forward. Make your Comprehensive Plan something that you will use, it can be short and sweet, have pictures and graphs, be aesthetically pleasing, etc.

"I love it when a plan comes together." - Colonel Hannibal Smith

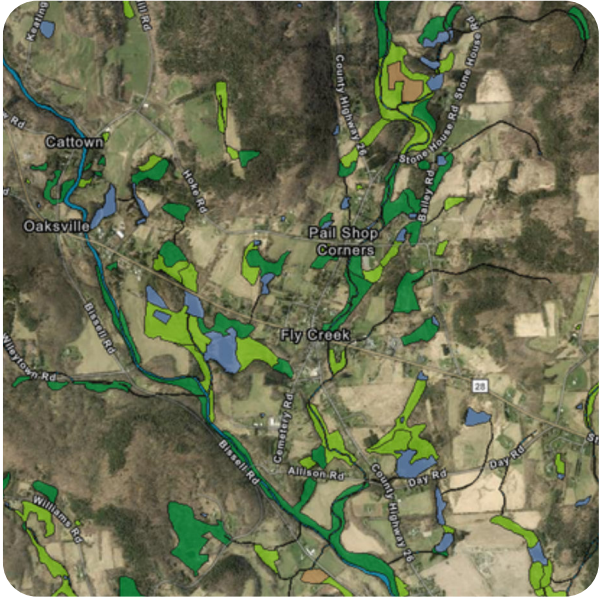
Comprehensive Planning

Community Demographics

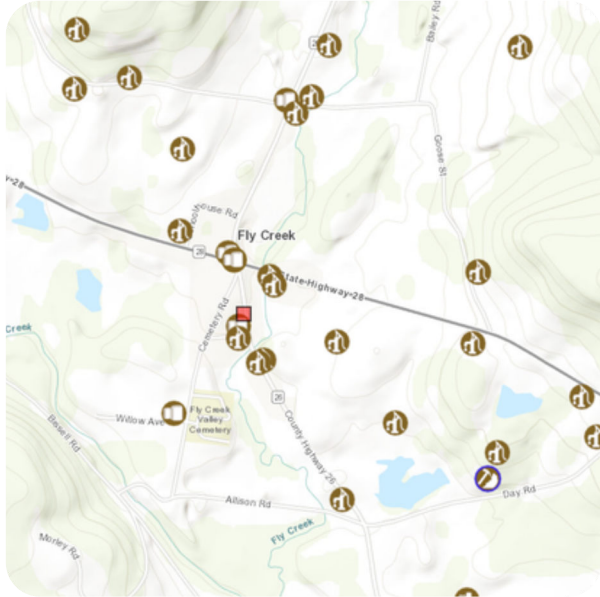
Maps of the Community



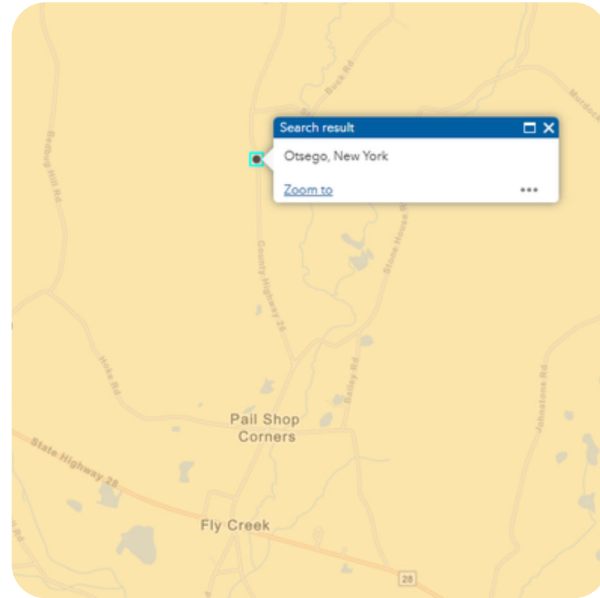
FEMA Flood Map



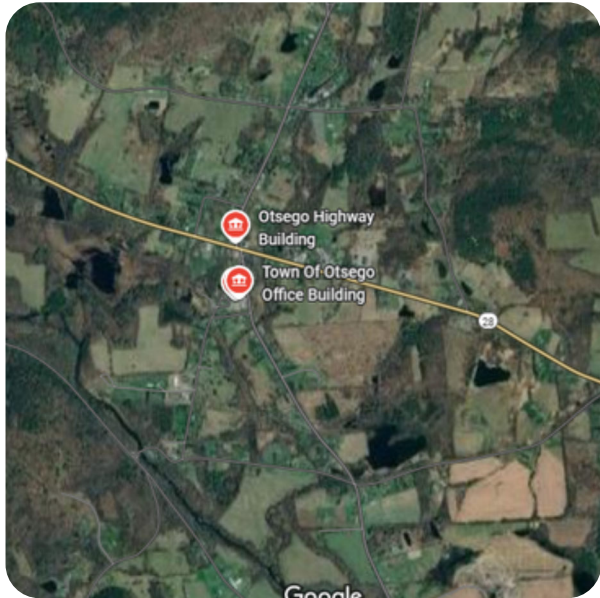
US Fish and Wildlife Wetlands



DEC Info Locator



Economically Distressed Areas (ESD)



Community Map

Map Insight
 The community is considered slightly distressed. There are some flood risk areas in the community. The town is mostly rural with the hamlet being more concentrated.

Community Quick Facts

- Population (2020): 2,756
- Median households Income: \$72,716
- Persons under 18: 16.1%
- Persons 65 and over: 22.8%
- Average travel time to work: 22.8 Minutes
- Homeownership rate: 71.1%
- Households: 1,165
- Disabled population: 15.4%
- Employment Rate: 48.2%
- Percent Poverty: 12.6%
- Work from home: 3.3% (2023 ACS)

Census Data

Comprehensive Planning

Importance of a Comprehensive Plan

- How your community presents itself to the outside world
- Provides clear vision and direction for your community
- Legal basis for projects within your community
- Agencies must refer to your comprehensive plan when completing projects in your community
- Assist with grant funding opportunities
- Provides framework for community development
- Protects community resources and character

Comprehensive Planning

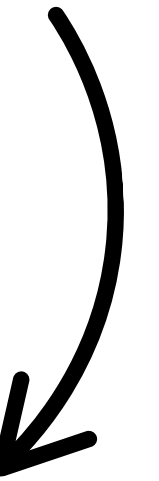
Importance of a Community Input

- Grounds the plan in reality and speaks to what your community wants for the future
- Identifies your community's priorities and needs
- Ensures that the plan is developed with the whole community in mind
- Creates a trusting, transparent, and engaging partnership
- Creates realistic goals and strategies for your community
- Provides input for potential grant funding opportunities
- Creates a more useable and beneficial comprehensive plan

What can you do?

- Complete a survey
- join a subcommittee
- share the survey with your friends, family, and neighbors
- attend community meetings

Link to Survey



Community Vision

From 2008 Comprehensive Plan

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more cooperatively with the Towns and Villages in the Leatherstocking region, promoting their good and ours.

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Town of Otsego Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting Draft Agenda

Monday February 5, 2024 / 6:00PM / Town of Otsego Office

6:00 - 6:05pm - Welcome

6:05 - 6:15pm - Share assetmap, other new materials, contract template

6:15- 6:45pm - Feedback on surveys from other communities

- [Town of Ancram, Columbia County](#)
- [Town of Enfield, Tompkins County](#)
- [Town of Chatham, Columbia County](#)
- [Village of Geneseo, Livingston County](#)
- [Town of Hartwick, Otsego County](#)
- [Town of Lexington, Greene County](#)

6:45- 7:00 pm - Organization of subcommittees

- Intergovernmental cooperation
- Land use
- Demographics
- Environment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economic development
- Education
- Public health
- Arts and culture
- Tourism
- Infrastructure
- Public works

7:00 - 7:10pm - Outreach strategy

7:10- 7:15pm - Next steps

- Schedule next meeting
- Action items for MVEDD & committee members

Town of Otsego Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday January 8, 2023 / 6:00PM / Town of Otsego Office

6:00 - 6:05pm - Introductions

6:05 - 6:10pm - Recapping biggest challenges from 11.9.23 meeting

- Population decline (aging population/young people leaving the area)
- Cost of housing
- Seasonal residents/tourism based economy
- Environmental quality, especially in lakes & waterways
- Threats to viability of healthcare industry
- Rural broadband access
- Childcare

6:10 - 6:25pm - Asset mapping exercise

- Brainstorm physical, cultural, assets in and around Town

6:25 - 6:40 pm - Survey development and logistics

- Review survey examples
- Discuss preference for content, length, complexity
- Discuss preferred delivery methods (online, hard-copies, direct mail)

6:40 - 7:00 pm - Discuss potential subcommittees & membership

7:00 - 7:10pm - Discuss additional stakeholders

- Other people, organizations, businesses, groups etc.

7:10 - 7:15pm - Next steps

- Tentatively schedule next meeting
- Action items for MVEDD & committee members

Town of Otsego
Comprehensive Plan Agenda
07/23/2025

- I. Quick Introductions – Town of Otsego officials, MVEDD Team, Committees, and Dan
- II. Review 2008 Comp Plan
 - a. Goals set in February 2024: Housing, Zoning/Natural Resources/Agriculture, Parks & Recreation, Tourism/Business & Economic Development, Infrastructure & Safety
- III. Timeline to complete comp plan
- IV. Subcommittee goals and expectations
- V. Public Engagement
 - a. Mailed Survey
 - b. In-person public meeting
- VI. Next steps

Dear Town of Otsego Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC)

You are the ears and voice of your fellow Otsego Town residents. With this in mind, please talk up the Comprehensive Plan; what is good, bad, needs changing?

1. Please, look at this link which will bring you to the survey our Town of Otsego residents can fill out online: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/f7aLdnfiKe>
2. You will notice there are three areas of focus listed in question # 7:
 - Housing, Neighborhoods and Economic Development
 - Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts and Culture
 - Revitalization, Infrastructure and Essential Services
3. Please come to the meeting on August 19th with an idea of where you would most like to concentrate your CPSC efforts. The three categories are intentionally broad. Once you have decided on a category, take a look at the existing Town of Otsego Comprehensive Plan. What needs to be updated in the content or wording as it currently exists? Consider looking at the Town of Middlefield's recently created Comprehensive Plan for some ideas:
<https://www.middlefieldny.org/comprehensive-plan.html>.
4. Everyone on the CPSC should assign themselves to one of the three areas above. A Town of Otsego Board Member will be the chairperson.
 - Tom Craig: Housing, etc
 - Chris Kjolhede: Parks, etc
 - Deb Dalton: Revitalization, etc

Please plan to meet with your group as needed to come up with wording to amend the existing Comprehensive Plan and be ready to report back before our September meeting. We do not need to remind you how very important this exercise is for the future of our town.

With many thanks for your sense of civic duty!

Town of Otsego
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Agenda, 08/19/2025 1PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Outstanding items from last meeting – open
- III. Outline details and signup times for open house (08/28/2025 from 5pm-8pm)
- IV. Printed surveys– where are we distributing – 500 copies are here, take some
- V. Homework assignment
 - a. Which area do you want to focus on?
 - b. Is there anything we need to include in an update today?
- VI. Closing– do we set a regular time to meet?

Town of Otsego
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Agenda, 9/16/2025 1PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introduce Sara Bouillon – MVEDD
- III. Review of Open House
- IV. Survey Outreach update
 - Responses/Engagement
 - Subcommittee formation update:
 - A Town of Otsego Board Member will be the chairperson
 - Tom Craig: Housing, etc
 - Chris Kjolhede: Parks, etc
 - Deb Dalton: Revitalization, etc
 - Key observations/suggestions from subcommittees for overall comp plan
- V. Next steps & schedule next meeting

Thank you!

CP Subcommittee Mtg – Revitalization, Infrastructure, Safety etc.

Minutes: Sept 25th 2025

Present: Deb Dalton. Pat Kennedy, Dan Sullivan

Bill Hribar working on roads, John Phillips and Ed Hobbie out of town.

Discussion:

We all agreed that the Middlefield's CP format had many strengths:

- Listing of goals, action plan, parties responsible.
- Continually reviewing (at the least annually) goals and strategies

To add as goals in the CP:

TRANSPORTATION

- Set up annual public meeting where HWY Crew can present their current activities and give public opportunity to ask questions and better understand why and how they prioritize road work.
- Set up annual meetings with NY state Senate and Assembly Transportation committees to lobby for more \$\$ CHIP reimbursement to match increased costs of equipment, fuel, and road work construction materials. Lobbyists do not necessarily need to be TO Board officials.
- Continue to ensure the HWY budget is adequate to meet demands – establish proposed budget to TB in late Spring prior to anticipate Budget creation in Fall.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Revisit methods for protecting our lakes and watershed
- Clarify zoning districts, and in particular establish a Lake Protection Zone – in harmony with Otsego Lake Protection Plan, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and other entities dealing with health of our watershed.

BROADBAND

Otsego County officials are working on ensuring broadband access to ALL Otsego Cty residents.

Respectfully submitted

Deb Dalton 9/26/25

Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Sub-committee on Parks, Farmland, Natural Resources, Arts and Culture

Sept 8, 2025

In attendance: Walter Dusenbery, Carina Franck, Steve Purcell, Alex Nirenberg, Deb Creendon, Chris Kjolhede

Attendees were asked to reflect on the 2008 Comprehensive Land Use Law:

Cemeteries as parks;

Population density, promote bull's eye approach;

Farmland desirable but who will farm? Hay is the major crop that can support livestock-based farms; how can the town support farms: value and assessments to promote farming; zoning and tax benefits; leasing land for benefit;

Preserve the lake (lawn care products get into the lake), algae blooms, developments effect the lake

Bucolic nature of the area; how to wed the 'area' with the economics of being at a distance, eg internet

Competition between baseball camps and families and workers who must live at a distance; rentals

Zoning enforcement; consider technologies for enforcement

Ensure drinking water quality; run-off from lawns, golf courses, agriculture

Invasive species

Comprehensive Plan Town of Otsego

Subcommittee – * Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service

Meeting held Thursday September 4, 2025 1pm at Town Building

Present: Deb Dalton, Ed Hobbie, Pat Kennedy, John Phillips. Bill Hribar had hwy duties so absent but had talked with Deb prior.

Group discussed what the terms * Revitalization, Infrastructure & Essential Service really mean in our Town.

Revitalization encompasses:

*Places for people to live and work

*Encourage reuse of existing properties being sensitive to neighborhood needs, milieu

*Discussed the Heirloom Barn Law which has been used in the past - see **Real Property Tax Law Section 483-B.**

Infrastructure encompasses :

Built environment – roads, bridges

Looked at # 12 on page 7 of the existing CP which states: *Evaluate conditions and plans for development along all seasonable roads and the projected costs for improvement of these roads.*

We propose changing this to read: Continuously reevaluate road conditions consistent with trends in rural road repair. ...

Discussed need to have a 5 year plan to outline how the TO plans to pay for road repair, equipment, and safety for the highway crew.

Essential services and Safety encompasses:

ES = Fire, snow, ambulance, water, sewer, Townwide broadband access,

Safety = Fire, emergency services , road sign safety, appropriate speed limits

Other topics discussed:

Pursue grant writing to pay for some of Town improvements – like NY Forward

Promote home occupied businesses and ease hurdles(permits) to allow this.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Dalton

9/8/25

MeeJngMinutes

Next meeJngis 11.18.25 at 1pm

Subcommittee minutes

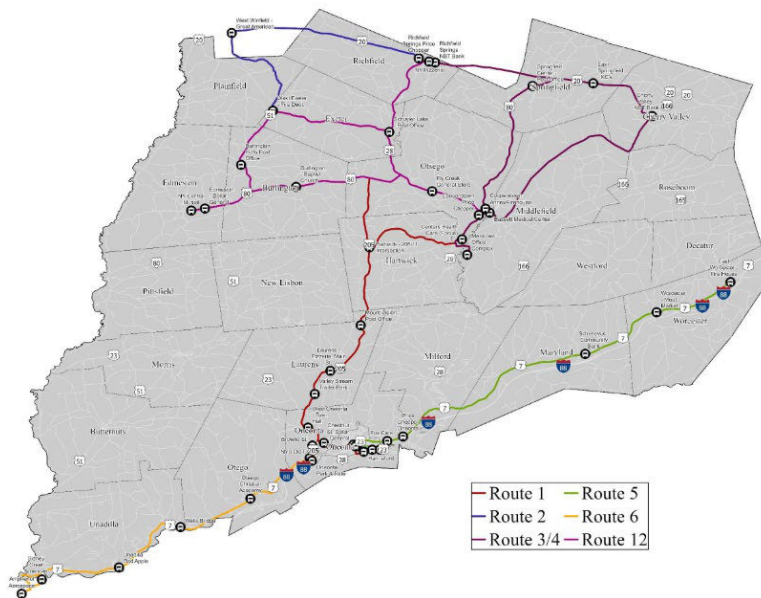
1. Infrastructure and RevitalizaJkon

Goals:

- maintain roads to safe and high quality status.
- Talk to Assemblyman for transportaJkon CHIPS grant funds for roads in Town of Otsego.
- Increase public awareness about road and transportaJkon services on our website. Provide mapping services of current public transportaJkon.

AcJkon items:

- Post to bulleJnboards in local shops, libraries and public buildings. Make Facebook post or create a blog post for Mohawk Valley today ([Mohawk Valley Today](#)), because they have high site traffic.
- Look into feasibility study for water and sewer for Canadaragolake
- Parks: create signagewith QRcode to online resources about the park on our website.



Source: [Otsego County, NY](#)

2. Housing

Goals: Update zoning and land use laws.

Action items: Provide edits to Land Use and Housing writeups of comprehensive plan.

Action Taken during meeting

Vision Statement Evaluation

Notes: The goal of our vision statement is to be future looking, and describe what we want to see. We covered topics of housing, aging in place, resource use, land use, broadband, historic structure preservation, farmers and agriculture, past mistakes and wins. Thank you everyone for participating in the exercise, I think we were able to highlight what fits and what should be added next from the original 2008 vision statement.

Some comments about what did not change since the last vision statement from '08: We did not get the sidewalks, housing, civic engagement or housing tourism we sought to resolve. These issues are still currently going to be addressed in our revised vision statement as of 10.21.25.

Next Steps:

Rewrite vision statement to include that we envision increasing outreach for greater community participation.

Some helpful resources for everyone:

Amanda created a super helpful list based on talking points from the meeting!

- [NYSLTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program | CALS](#)
 - Local roads programs, resources, trainings
- [Lake Zones – Canadarago Lake Improvement Association](#)
 - Example of lake zone
- [Protection of Waters Program - NYSDEC](#)
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- [NYS Archives Grants and Awards Overview | New York State Archives](#)
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- [Welcome to Upstate New York's Mohawk Valley](#)
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- [Barn Preservation – Preservation League of NYS](#)
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 - Can't be used for residences
- [All About Accessory Dwelling Units](#)
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 - [Agricultural Environmental Management | Agriculture and Markets](#)
 - DEC Partners – Stream Erosion
- [Zoning and Codes Enforcement | Town of Webb, NY](#)
 - Short Term Rentals
 - On November 22, 2022, the Town Board adopted a local law creating [Chapter 387 of the Code of the Town of Webb](#) to regulate short-term residential rentals. On May 1, 2023, the Town of Webb began using a new online registration and payment system called GovOS for short-term rental properties. For more information about using GovOS, [click here](#). Contact the Code Enforcement Office at 315-369-3001 for an account number and activation code to register your property in GovOS and to schedule an inspection. Click this [short-term rental criteria](#) link for a list of the typical items to be inspected. After completing the above, go to <https://townofwebb.munirevs.com> to register.
- [Fly Creek Valley Cemetery](#)
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Revised Vision statement:

Edits in orange red

“We, the Town of Otsego citizens, cherish and protect our rural and natural landscape. We town citizens value civic engagement and are taking steps to better share our goals and vision, so that all members of our community may take part in shaping our future. We welcome and respect the voices of our neighbors, stakeholders, and fellow citizens, and will carry their insights forward as we work together to build a more vibrant and sustainable Town of Otsego. We assure that plentiful, accessible open spaces can and do exist. We see agriculture as a continuing important part of the town's economy and character. We respect our traditions and history and so preserve the town's historic architecture and character. We wish to encourage new development to honor the ways our hamlets have looked through their long histories. Hence, we promote careful design and placing of new buildings to complement and harmonize with those already here. We town citizens are committed to involvement in its future and are proud of our strong community identity. We foresee the future Town of Otsego as continuing to have a clean environment, beautiful landscape, and a rural character. We foresee carefully managed growth and development, maintaining access to our natural areas. We foresee a place of safety for us and our families. We expect increased year-round recreational and cultural opportunities, including biking, hiking, and walking trails, and ample access to Otsego and Canada's great lakes. We see residents and visitors here enjoying even more access to the arts and cultural events. We want added economic growth, with more diverse year-round businesses that serve both residents and visitors. We want low-impact, family-owned small businesses to flourish, not only in Cooperstown, but in Fly Creek, the town's secondary center for retail service operations. We want the town of Otsego to develop housing and jobs to draw young families here. We foresee high quality and diverse housing for all income levels and ages, with special attention given to housing our elderly so that they can continue to live right here. We want residential development, concentrated in and around the hamlets, to strengthen our neighborhood, economy, and sense of community. We foresee hamlet amenities like sidewalks and street trees adding to its desirability as a place to live. Beyond the hamlets, we foresee a mix of current size and some smaller, affordable homes surrounded by open land and farms. We foresee all homes and neighborhoods be safe and well maintained. We want roads well built, maintained, and reflective of our rural and historic heritage. We want traffic volume and speed control to harmonize with the Town as a place of homes. We foresee high quality schools for our youngsters and a town government that works to provide both public services and reasonable taxes. We foresee the town working even more cooperatively with the towns and villages in the Leatherstocking region, promoting their good and ours. This is our vision, the touchstone for our shared future.”

Thanks!

Town of Otsego
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Agenda, 10/21/2025 1PM

- Before meeting: Distribute Draft Sections via email – Sara Bouillion, MVEDD
 - Vision Statement, Land Use Constraints and Opportunities, Land Use Development Plan
 - Edits due 11/15/2025

We are not editing together in this meeting. We have a Visions exercise that I'm excited to share! It takes 20-30 minutes

- Subcommittee Updates
 - Housing Subcommittee – Edits complete (Alex)
 - Parks Subcommittee – Meeting scheduled for 10/20 (Chris Kjolhede)
 - Infrastructure and revitalization Subcommittee – Need to reconvene (Deb Dalton)
- Stakeholder Input
 - Has the Steering Committee spoken to any new stakeholders?
- Vision Statement reflection exercise (2008 vs. now) – see worksheet
- Next Steps & Homework Assignments
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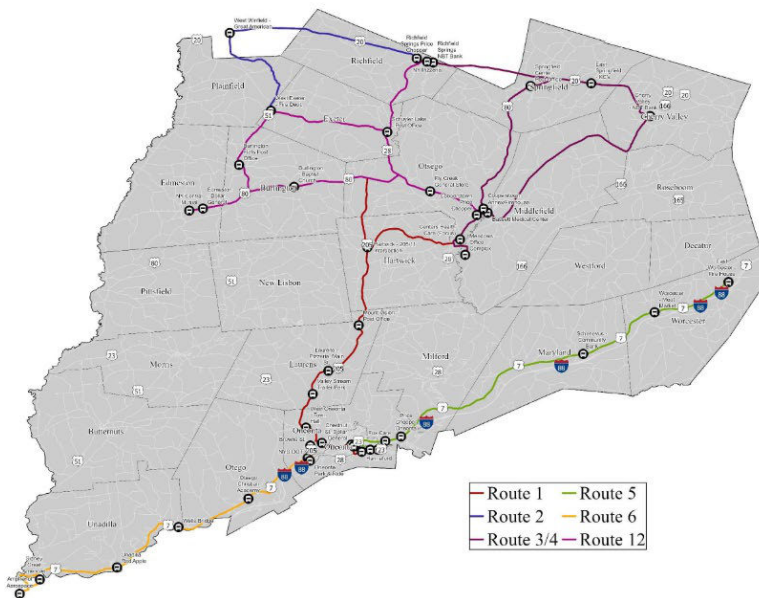
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