

# Comprehensive Plan Update

Village of Owego

2013



Owego, New York

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## I. Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan is a multi-faceted document that outlines a vision, mission statement policies and projects for future growth and development in the Village of Owego. The Plan includes a series of chapters that describe current conditions within the Village and outlines policies and projects for government and public services, land use and building guidelines, infrastructure, economic development, housing, open space and environmental protection, transportation, historic preservation, natural resource extraction, and future land use. Each policy, program or project outlined in these chapters supports the long-term vision for the Village of Owego. *The Plan should always be referred to when new policies, programs or projects are being introduced to determine their level of consistency for future growth and development. Specifically, the Comprehensive Plan should:*



- Guide future growth and development within the Village
- Protect vital natural resources, such as environmentally sensitive lands, the Owego Creek and the Susquehanna River
- Enhance community character through design policies
- Identify needed public services and revenues based on projected population and employment growth outlined in the Economic Development chapter
- Meet community expectations regarding other important issues, such as sidewalks, streetlights, housing types, and other issues.

### Mission Statement

The Village serves our residents by providing opportunities for our residents to be informed and concerned citizens, active participants in the cultural life of the Village, and enabled to meet the changing needs of business, industry and the professions. To help address broad economic, cultural and political concerns in the Village and beyond, Village leadership will draw together residents from a wide range of ages and backgrounds and seek to provide the programs and support they need to achieve a high quality of life in Owego. The Village will further work with business owners to establish agile programs that meet the needs of employers and emergent workforce development initiatives. The Village of Owego seeks to create an environment which is intellectually and culturally dynamic and encourages all residents to be active, productive residents of the Village and the region.

## Vision Statement

The following vision statement reflects the citizens' overall desires for Owego's future. The vision statement for the 2003 Comprehensive Plan was developed from input received at public workshops and interviews and conversations with residents and business owners, as well as recently completed planning processes. This vision statement summarizes the Village's ideal future - a future that focuses on preserving and enhancing the natural environment and quality of life that makes Owego a "Cool Small Town" where residents feel a sense of pride exemplified through our strength in our diversity. Our Vision Statement simply stated:

"As the Village of Owego moves through time, we seek to plan:

- To provide a village plan where residents and visitors experience the historical charm and are provided with a safe friendly atmosphere where there are pedestrian opportunities with access to walkways to move around the Village in a safe and efficient manner.
- To solve traffic problems such as congestion, exhaust and noise pollution with the safety and health of residents being foremost.
- To provide an environment to promote economic development to attract business, foster and attract skilled labor, reinvestment of funds into strengthening the existing infrastructure such as businesses, affordable housing, parks and trails in order to make the Village an attractive place to live, work and raise a family.
- To promote light industrial growth, economic growth and opportunities and land use policies in which heavy industrial uses, operations or impacts are prohibited so as to preserve the unique historical character, small businesses and the high environmental quality of the Susquehanna river, Owego Creek and the single source Clinton Street ballpark aquifer that preserves the health and wellbeing of village residents, as well as draws tourism."

## Related Planning Documents

A significant amount of time and energy has been invested in the development of the following three plans:

- Village of Owego Master Plan, informally known as the "Foster Plan" (Dietrich and Chatterton, 1994)
- Village of Owego Downtown Strategic Plan (Thoma Development Consultants, May 2002)
- Village of Owego Strategic Plan for Integrated Community Development (Shepstone Management Company & A. Sorenson Associates, July 2002)

Village residents have given valuable input in surveys done both in 2000 and 2002. This Village of Owego Consolidated Master Plan brings highlights of these three plans together, and establishes a set of

prioritized goals with associated specific action strategies. Excerpts from the Tioga County Housing Needs Assessment have also been included in this document's Housing section. The only new material contained in this document is the Design Guidelines section. These guidelines have been researched from other actual planning documents, including the national American Planning Association award-winning Planning and Design Recommendations for the West Side Neighborhood, Saratoga Springs, New York (University at Albany, SUNY Planning Studio, Fall 2001), the Saratoga Springs Zoning Ordinance, and the Columbia Pike Initiative, A Revitalization Plan (Various Arlington County Departments, 2002).

The Foster Plan was completed between 1992-94. There were three basic parts.

1. Background conditions – this was originally assembled in 1992. Residents were surveyed and the information was put together in 1994.
2. Goals, objectives and strategies that identified short-range targets and detailed tasks.
3. Implementation Plan – this included the strategies checklist and was intended to be a guide for village planning.

The Thoma Plan was done through a grant from the Technical Assistance Program of the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities. Thoma Development Consultants was hired to assist in the preparation of the plan. On site inventory of each of the Downtown area buildings was done in the fall of 2001. Building owners, business owners, and downtown customers were surveyed. The conclusions of the plan emphasize the contrasts of the strengths and weaknesses of the village. Our strengths include having a fairly vibrant downtown, efforts for the Riverwalk, completion of the Court Street Bridge, the Historic Owego Marketplace business group, and the Owego Revitalization and Betterment Corporation. It also highlights that the Village government, Chamber of Commerce and Tioga County government are committed to partnering with these grassroots organizations to revitalize the Village and the region. Areas of concern highlighted include renewal of the North Avenue area, and caution about strict preservation efforts limiting a sense of life and vitality that a wide array of architecture brings to a downtown.

The Tioga County Housing Assessment study clearly defines the issues facing the village housing stock. We have a high rate of unoccupied rental units. Only 51% of our housing stock is single owner units. Many of the rental units are in need of revitalization. This assessment and other plans have outlined strategies to revitalize the housing stock and help residents meet their needs for quality housing options.

The Shepstone Plan took the previous studies, surveyed residents and business owners, and yielded initiatives. The emphasis was on code issues, gateway development, streetscape enhancement and façade renovation. Recommendations and strategies were then presented for getting started. Lastly, a number of grant sources were presented.

The Village of Owego Board of Trustees never adopted any of these three useful plans, leaving the Village without any official master plan to guide future development.

## Guide

The Village of Owego Comprehensive Plan will guide the direction and character of development, redevelopment and revitalization within the Village. The Comprehensive Plan is one of the most important documents to the residents and leadership of Owego alike. It is this document that establishes a consistent theme between administrations to move forward with community investments that are tied to related initiatives and will have the greatest impact. All too often political leadership will make changes that are inconsistent with the Village's Comprehensive Plan and resources are wasted, or at a minimum diluted because the investment is not part of a larger strategy. For this reason, the residents and leadership of Owego will review all policies, programs and projects proposed for their consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. It is important to note that this Comprehensive Plan is a guide that is intended to be responsive to changing times. If a proposed policy, program or project is found to be inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, then a compelling reason must be made for implementation. Any recommended changes should be first presented to the Planning Board for action and then to the Village Board for final approval.

## Adoption

The Village Board of Trustees, together with the Village Planning and Zoning Boards, the Owego Historic Preservation Commission and the Owego Revitalization and Betterment Corporation are working in partnership to bring this plan to the Village Board for adoption. Additionally, this same group is committed to maintaining our partnership with the commitment to update the plan every 5 years. This introduces flexibility through time to evaluate changes in expectations, attitudes or conditions that can't be anticipated by the Plan.

## II. Village History and Description

### Community Overview and Description

The Village of Owego is located in the Town of Owego in the southeast corner of Tioga County and has a 2010 Census population of 3,896 persons. Although not officially incorporated until 1827, the Village has served as the County Seat of Tioga County since 1822.

The historic Village of Owego is known for its small town friendliness and vibrant downtown. Named the “Coolest Small Town in America” in 2009, the Village prides itself on its heritage, culture, recreational opportunities, community events and business-friendliness. The pedestrian-friendly downtown attracts residents and visitors from the heart of New York’s Southern Tier. Locally-owned shops, restaurants, businesses and civic facilities are housed in distinctive architectural and historic structures lining the streets of downtown. The post-Civil War constructed Tioga County Courthouse, for example, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and provides a stately welcome to the Village downtown.



The Village is located along the Susquehanna River. The newly completed Riverwalk provides a unique experience to connect with this beautiful natural resource. Similarly, trails and paths along the Owego Creek provide an opportunity to experience waterfront recreation at a smaller scale.

The Village hosts a variety of festivals and cultural activities. The annual Strawberry Festival is perhaps one of the most well-attended of those events, as is the Lights on the River Festival.

Cultural activities such as the Third Friday Art Walk provide an opportunity to view the work of local artists, experience live entertainment, browse downtown shops and enjoy local eateries.

Outside of the downtown, the Village is characterized by well-established residential neighborhoods and is home to many successful commercial and industrial enterprises.

The Evergreen Cemetery represents another unique experience in the Village. Opened in 1851, the cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and provides a bird’s-eye view of the downtown and the Susquehanna River. This cemetery contains several old and interesting graves includes Civil War graves and a tombstone with one of the nation’s longest epitaphs.

## History

The original Native American population consisted of the Cayuga and Onondaga tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy. They called this area AhWaGa, “Where the Valley Widens”, and found the banks of the Susquehanna River fertile ground. This fertile ground also drew the community’s first settlers, James McMaster in 1785 and Amos Draper in 1787. Others soon joined them and the community of Owego grew, nestled between “Beecher Hill” to the north and east and the Susquehanna River and Owego Creek to the south and west. The center of the community developed a short distance east of Owego Creek. The river provided the primary means of access to the settlement until 1808 when the Owego-Ithaca Road was finished and Owego attained a position of prominence among the growing trade villages of the area.



Over the years, the Village continued to develop along the north bank of the Susquehanna River. Industrial concerns, including a saw mill, were located along the River, while commercial activity was centered one block north on Main Street. Ferries provided access across the river until the first bridge was built in 1828. That original bridge has been replaced four times since, the last being in 1933. The most recent bridge was newly constructed in 2003. A large fire in the early 1900’s destroyed many buildings along the waterfront, and much of what is now known as “River Row” on Front Street was constructed after that time.

As aforementioned, Owego has been the County Seat since the early 1800’s. This further bolstered Owego’s prominence as the economic and governmental center of the County and impacted the development of the commercial center of the community. In 1797, James McMaster deeded approximately three acres of land to the “trustees of Owego settlement” for a public ground. This tract of land is now known as Courthouse Park, and stretches from the river to Main Street. It is flanked by Court and Park Streets. In 1823 the first Courthouse was built on this site. It was torn down in 1870 and replaced by the current Courthouse, constructed in 1872. It is the oldest functioning Courthouse in New York State and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park, the Courthouse, other nearby governmental buildings, and historical monuments combine to create a prominent and dignified entrance to the Village and the downtown. Other former and current County buildings are located in nearby areas of the Village.

Manufacturing and industry grew and the community continued to thrive through the 19th and 20th centuries. The Village’s downtown commercial center grew in response to this economic prosperity and large ornate multi-story commercial buildings of varying architectural styles were constructed along Front, Lake, and Main Street and the first block of North Avenue. In the 1950’s, IBM constructed a new federal systems plant in the Town of Owego just east of the border of the Village. This bolstered the existing job base, spawned other employment opportunities, and made a tremendous positive

impact on local development and quality of life in and around the Village of Owego. However, the IBM plant, and numerous area sub-contractors were highly dependent on federal Department of Defense contracts. The end of the 1980's and early 1990's brought dramatic changes to this once stable economy as the number of Defense contracts decreased. Two thousand five hundred (2,500) jobs were lost due to reductions in the workforce at IBM Federal Systems and the related closing of SCI systems, both local defense contractors. As can be expected, the effect of so many Village residents losing well-paying jobs reverberated throughout the local economy. Many small, local businesses closed, unemployment and social services caseloads jumped, and the tax base declined. The population also began to decline as well-trained workers fled the area in search of jobs. While the County is recovering from this economic retrenchment, as demonstrated below, the Village of Owego seems to still be reeling from its effects.

### **Downtown Overview**

The Village of Owego is primarily located along the northern shore of the Susquehanna River, a large level area that is the terminus of the long valley through which the Owego Creek flows southward to the Susquehanna River. The traditional downtown commercial area is located a short distance east of the mouth of the Owego Creek on the north bank of the Susquehanna River, and extends several blocks northward from the River. Due to its close proximity to the River, nearly all of the downtown area is located within the 100-year flood zone. The Owego Revitalization and Betterment Corporation has defined "downtown" as bounded by the Susquehanna River to the south, the railroad to the north, Central Ave and Park Street to the west and Church Street to the east. This business district is rather large for a community the size of Owego and reflects the community's previous prominence as a center of trade in the region.

The majority of the downtown's commercial activity is located on four Village streets: Front Street is located closest to the River and runs parallel to it. It has a significant number of well-preserved historic commercial blocks, and several newer structures. The line of buildings on the south side of Front Street, adjacent to the River, is known as River Row. Main Street runs parallel to Front Street one block north. It has a collection of commercial and governmental structures of varying ages and conditions. Lake Street is one-way and connects Main and Front Streets. Similar to Front Street, it is primarily flanked with 19th and early 20th Century commercial blocks. North Avenue extends northward from Main Street and is lined by 19th and early 20th Century commercial blocks, many of which are in poor condition. The Village Fire Department, an imposing and well-maintained structure, anchors the northern end of this block. As North Avenue proceeds north, the historic commercial areas give way to less dense commercial development intermixed with churches, vacant land, and residential development. Later 20th century sprawl development north of the business district creates an undefined edge to the commercial center. The aforementioned Courthouse Park stretches between Front Street and Main Street and is flanked by Park and Court Streets, creating the feeling of a New England Village square. The tree-lined park is dominated by the historic Tioga County Courthouse and includes a number of monuments and memorials as well as a large bandstand. Other current and former government buildings and new commercial development surround the Park. The Park's prominent location at the north end of the Court Street Bridge creates a gracious entry into the

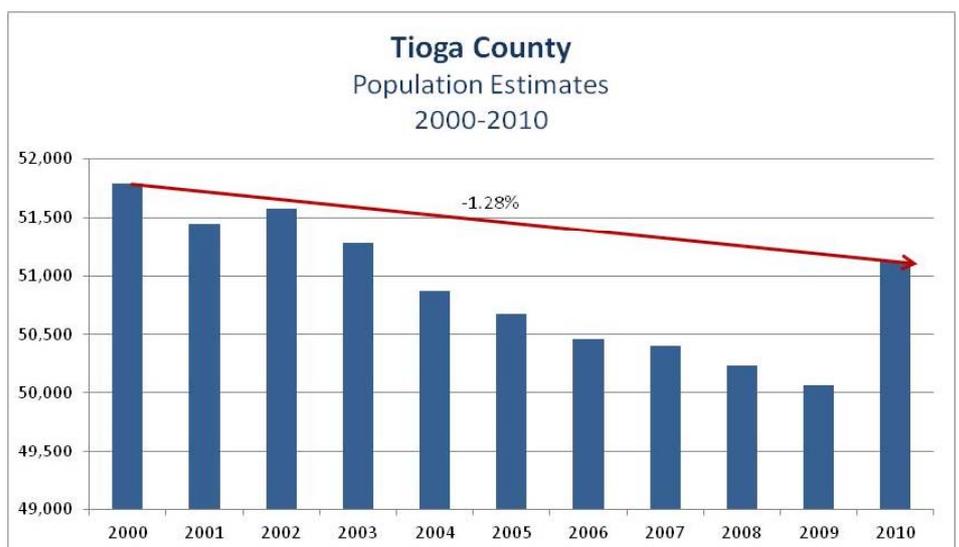
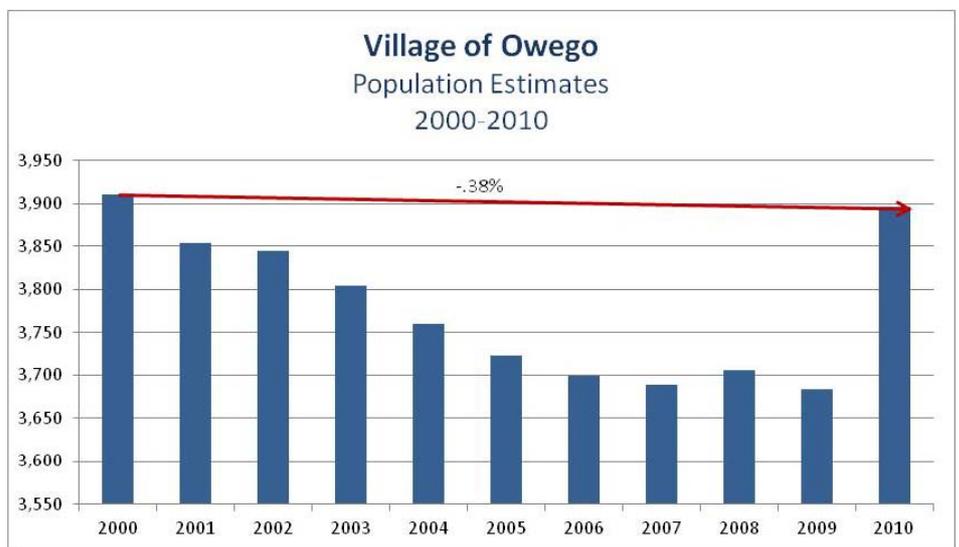
community. Commercial development gives way to residential neighborhoods to the east and west of the downtown.

Three major highways traverse the downtown. New York State Route 17C runs on Front Street to Courthouse Park, and then northward one block to Main Street before continuing west on Main Street. New York Routes 38 and 96 overlap as they cross the Court Street Bridge into the downtown area and continue northward on North Avenue. These highways separate north of the Village, with Route 96 connecting to the City of Ithaca and Route 38 continuing towards Cortland. These through-routes are both a problem and an opportunity for the community. Significant traffic congestion exists as traffic winds its way through the downtown and larger trucks negotiate sharp corners. One-way and offset streets around Courthouse Park further complicate traffic patterns.

### Demographics

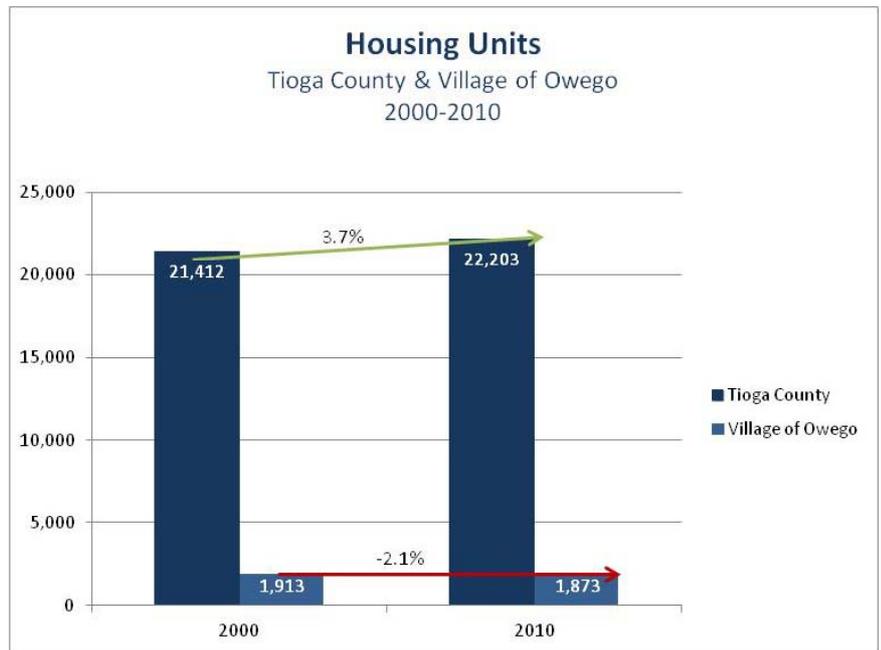
In order to provide a Village profile to aid in prioritizing downtown needs, demographic and economic statistics were compiled. This information can be used as the basis for further studies and also to guide potential new and expanding businesses in determining potential markets. Information from the 2010 and 2000 Census was used. Highlights of information gathered are included following.

According to the 2010 Census, the Village's population dropped only 0.38% to 3,896 between 2000 and 2010. This is in comparison to the County population that dropped less than 2% and the Town of Owego population that dropped less than 3%.



Note: Years 2001-2009 are population estimates. 2000 and 2010 are actual US Census Bureau statistics.

Between 2000 and 2010 the Village experienced a 2.1% decline in total housing units, while the County saw a nearly 4% increase in housing units. The Village's rate of homeownership is 49.6%, which is significantly lower than the County rate of 77.7% and the Town of Owego rate of 79.5%. While it is not uncommon for urbanized areas to have a larger proportion of renters than the region, it is important to maintain a balance closer to 60% owners and 40% renters. Owners have a greater tendency to be vested in the quality and care of neighborhoods while renters tend to have a more transient perspective with less vested in the neighborhood. Having said this,



Source: Census 2010 Summary File 1

a new national opinion survey from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation found that attitudes about home ownership have changed a great deal in the wake of the housing crisis. A vast majority of survey respondents deemed housing to have “major positive impacts” on the safety and economic security of communities and neighborhoods. The study also found that at least three in five respondents believe that unstable housing situations can have “major negative impacts” on mental health, physical health, educational outcomes, and parental relationships within a family unit.

Village of Owego Owner-Occupied Housing Composition 2010		
Owner Occupied	832	49.6%
Renter Occupied	846	50.4%

\* Source: Census 2010 Summary File 1

16% of the Village's population is over 65, while 15.6% of the population in the County and 16.6% of the population in the Town are over that age. It is important to note that while the percentage of older residents in the Village has slightly decreased, the raw number of elderly residents has remained relatively unchanged since 1990. Therefore the Village's significant population drop is concentrated among the community's younger residents.

2010 Census data shows a poverty rate of 11.7%. According to data provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 1990, 45.2% of all Village residents had low-to-moderate incomes, (incomes below 80% of the median income for the Broome County Metropolitan Statistical Area). Two Census Block Numbering Areas (BNA's) in the Village have significantly higher low/mod percentages of 58.8% and 60.46%. These BNA's are located north of the Susquehanna River surrounding the downtown

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area. In comparison, another BNA located south of the River has a low/mod rate of only 3.85%. This clearly shows that the community's lower income populations are concentrated in the older, northern areas of the Village. Both the Village and the County have performed relatively well in terms of median household income and per capita income between 2000 and 2010. When year 2000 dollars are adjusted for inflation in year 2010, the CPI inflation calculator suggests that Village and County incomes are higher than inflation for the same period. For instance, in 2000 the Village's median household income was \$31,742. Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator, this same \$31,742 has the buying power of \$40,194 in 2010. However, the Village recorded a median household income of \$53,093, which is almost \$13,000 a year more than inflationary expectations.

In terms of education, the Village of Owego is a relatively well-educated population. While over 25% of the population has at least a bachelor's degree a total of 89% are at least high school graduates. Education is often viewed as an essential element in economic competition. It is further taken as a force for improving the economic standing of disadvantaged populations and future incomes of individuals are related to their past investment. Based on the above findings regarding income levels, the Village might consider targeting particular academic programs to the areas north of the Susquehanna River surrounding the downtown area.

Tioga County	Median HH	
	Income	Per Capita
2000*	\$ 40,266	\$ 18,673
2010**	\$ 53,789	\$ 25,719

Village of Owego	Median HH	
	Income	Per Capita
2000*	\$ 31,742	\$ 17,068
2010**	\$ 53,093	\$ 23,819
CPI Inflation Calculator for 2000 buying power in 2010***	\$ 40,194	\$ 21,613

Source:

\*[http://esd.ny.gov/NYSDataCenter/Data/Census2010/Profiles/NY\\_050\\_2010\\_PROFILE.pdf](http://esd.ny.gov/NYSDataCenter/Data/Census2010/Profiles/NY_050_2010_PROFILE.pdf)

\*\*US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

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Village of Owego Educational Attainment		
Population 25 years and over	2,477	
Less than 9th grade	74	3.0%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	198	8.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	933	37.7%
Some college, no degree	367	14.8%
Associate's degree	267	10.8%
Bachelor's degree	318	12.8%
Graduate or professional degree	320	12.9%
Percent high school graduate or higher	(X)	89.00%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	(X)	25.80%

\*\*US Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

### III. Government and Public Services

Basic government services allow people to be productive members of society. With that, the provision of fundamentals like roads, parks, and trails and sidewalks are essential for advancing the Village of Owego. For citizens that face adversity, the provision of social protection, such as fire and police, is particularly important. Government services in the fields of economic development and culture are also deemed to be ‘public goods’ that bring benefits to individuals and the Village as a whole. Village government must equitably and efficiently allocate the services and resources needed for the community. The structure and responsiveness of local government impacts how these services are allocated.



The Village of Owego faces problems similar to those of many other small villages throughout New York State, particularly in these difficult economic times. Federal and State spending has been drastically reduced over the past decade, forcing local governments to face the problem of providing the best level of service with greatly reduced revenues.

The ability of Village government to solve these problems is related to how well it responds to changing needs and conditions. The structure and responsiveness of local government can have important implications for how well it serves its citizens. If the basic processes of decision-making are without direction, larger and long-term consequences can occur. Ideally, local government should be accessible to the public with a clear, well-defined, articulated direction.

A strong governmental structure depends in part on the effectiveness of communication between the governing and regulatory bodies. Effective communication becomes especially important in the absence of professional planning staff. The formation of an infra-governmental communication mechanism, such as a liaison committee, would assist the Village Board in integrating goals in the areas of housing, economic development, historic preservation, open space and environmental protection, infrastructure and transportation. Many of the objectives and strategies listed below are reiterated under the topic: Historic Preservation.

#### Government Strategies

The primary responsibility of the Village of Owego government is to provide needed services that keep the Village fiscally sound with a high quality of life. This includes responsibility for parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, municipal courts, transportation services

(including public transportation), and public works (streets, sewers, snow removal, signage, and so forth). In many communities a local planning department facilitates the coordination among these various services across several departments. However, the Village of Owego does not have a staffed planning department and must, therefore, develop innovative techniques to facilitate coordination and communication among the Village's various departments and services.

**Goal:**

Ensure that an excellent level of public services and facilities are available to meet the needs of the community, while exercising fiscal responsibility.

**Strategies:**

- GS-1 Continue to participate in the Council of Local Governments to create more definitive and stronger lines of communication between Village, Town, County, State and Federal Governments.
- GS-2 Clarify inter- and intra-relationships of all the Village departments and services and review and revise Village of Owego Governmental Organizational Chart as necessary.
- GS-3 Develop a cooperative management system for all departments to work in a coordinated manner to meet the Village's mission and goals in a fiscally responsible manner.
- GS-4 Coordinate projects through a Capital Improvements Program process.

## Public Service Strategies

As noted above, public services are an integral component of a healthy community structure. They support existing and future development and contribute to the health, safety, education, and welfare of citizens and businesses in the community. This section includes a series of strategies to maintain Owego's high quality life.

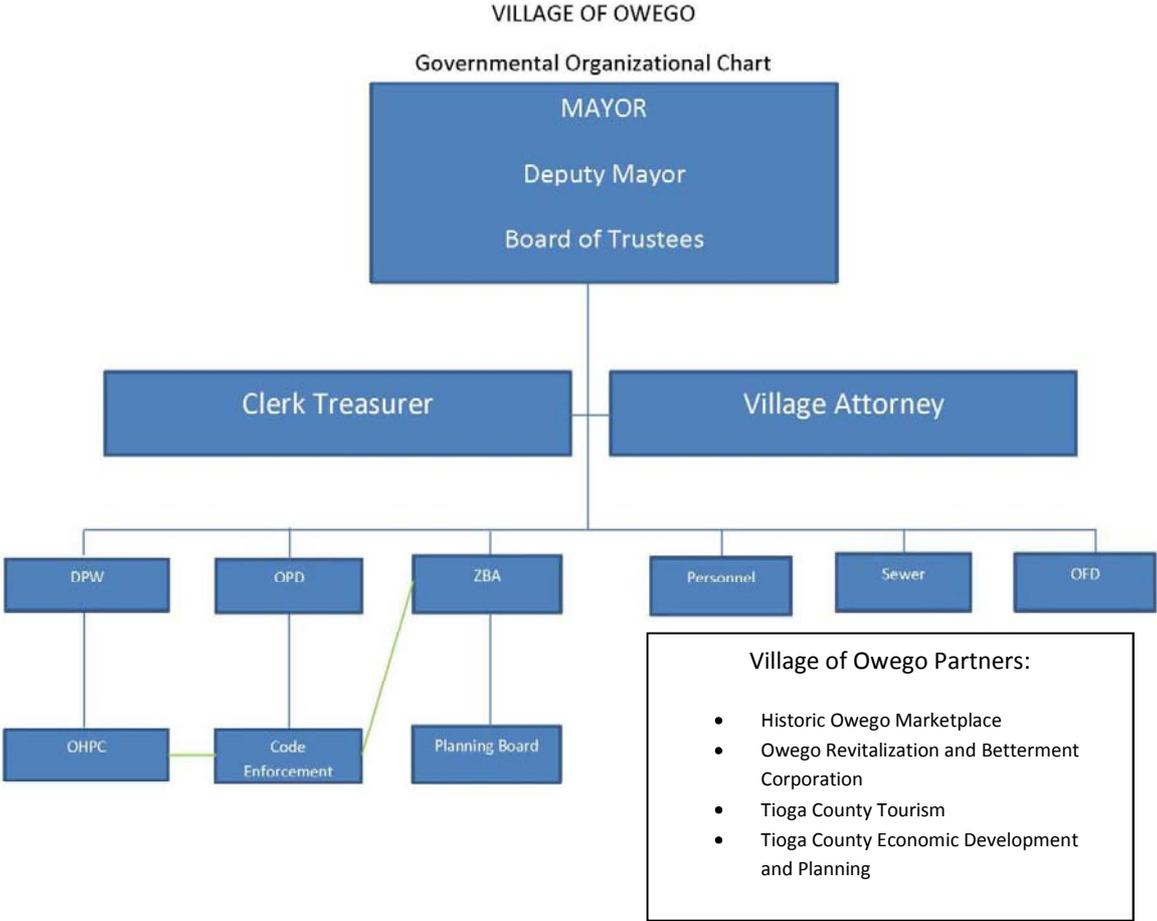
**Goal:**

Ensure the accessibility and equitable distribution of facilities and services provided throughout the Village.

**Strategies:**

- PS-1 Encourage high quality and affordable day care services and facilities for children and the elderly.
- PS-2 Prepare a tri-fold brochure outlining available municipal services (County, Town and Village) and make it available at the Village Hall and other locations throughout the Village, as well as a PDF available for download on the Village website.

PS-3 Conduct scheduled reviews of Village service offerings to determine if they continue to meet the changing needs of resident and non-resident customers.



## IV. Land Use and Building Guidelines

Development standards and guidelines are created to protect and promote the general health, safety and welfare of the residents of the community. These guidelines and standards are developed to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The stipulations help to guide new growth and redevelopment within the Village in a manner that implements the goals and recommendations made in this document. Further, these provisions encourage the most efficient use of land through site sensitive design and aim to reduce potential hazards to the public that may result from incompatible land uses or from the development of environmentally hazardous or sensitive lands. Finally, these provisions promote economic stability within the Village while protecting and enhancing the Village's natural, cultural, historical and scenic resources.



Development standards and guidelines have been instituted into several zoning code updates since the original code was adopted in 1978. The Village would benefit from updating the zoning code to conform to various state and historic standards, while working to establish guidelines that encourage development that spurs economic growth while preserving the Village's historic and environmental resources.

### **Goal:**

Update the Village zoning ordinance and design guidelines to align with New York State's building and property maintenance code, and to encourage the advancement of high-density residential and mixed-use developments that spur revitalization and economic development, and enhance the historic character of the Village.

### **Strategies:**

- LU-1 Planning Board and/or Owego Historic Preservation Committee (OHPC) to review, update and implement design guidelines.
- LU-2 Examine and update the Zoning Ordinance to allow for high-density residential, mixed-use development in strategically located areas of the Village.

- LU-3 Encourage commercial areas in locations and at a scale that meets present and future neighborhood needs.
- LU-4 Village should closely review New York State's building and property maintenance code to identify opportunities for local customization and then ensure that sufficient resources are available to effectively enforce code.
- LU-5 Continue to work with Tioga County Department of Economic Development and Planning to seek Governor's Office of Small Cities and other pertinent funding to undertake commercial revitalization.
- LU-6 Site Plan Review Regulations should be reviewed and updated as necessary in accordance with established design guidelines, to assure provision of small-scale mixed-use and commercial areas that have adequate pedestrian and vehicular access, are well landscaped, and designed to maintain and enhance the historic character of the neighborhoods.
- LU-7 Work with property owners to create conceptual architectural designs within the Village to guide future building facade improvements.

## V. Flood Recovery

On September 7, 2011 Tropical Storm Lee stalled over the Southern Tier and dropped over 11" of rain on Tioga County during a 24-hour period. The torrential rains, coupled with a swollen Susquehanna River and saturated grounds leftover from Hurricane Irene, led to record high water levels. The Susquehanna River crested at a record high 39.62 feet on September 8, 2011 in Owego. The previous record was 35.90 feet in June of 2006. The rising waters caused severe flash flooding, destroying homes, businesses and infrastructure. Reports estimate that 90% of the buildings in the Village of Owego were flooded as a result of the storm.

In 2012, the State of New York Department of State (DOS) provided funding to the Village of Owego to create the Long Term Community Recovery Strategy (LTCRS). The Strategy identified flood mitigation and prevention measures that the Village can adopt to reduce future flood damage, as well as community revitalization, economic development and regional recovery strategies.



### **Goal:**

To rebuild the Village of Owego in a way that strengthens the vitality of the community, reduces risk to life and property and is sustainable over time.

### **Strategies:**

- FR-1 Support the recovery projects identified in the Village of Owego Long Term Community Recovery Strategy (LTCRS).
- FR-2 Support the Village of Owego Annex Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- FR-3 Support the Tioga Communities NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan.
- FR-4 Amend site plan review and zoning law to refer to flood damage prevention local law.

## VI. Infrastructure

Development is generally dependent upon the availability of public infrastructure. Well-planned and maintained infrastructure also plays a role in retaining the existing economic base and in attracting new business and industry. Owego's physical infrastructure presents a challenge as the Village plans for its future. The challenge lies in the fact that the system is aging, and the financial resources needed to manage and maintain it are greater than before. As the maintenance costs have increased, the overall population has decreased since 1990. The needs are great because the Village, like most urban centers, has struggled for decades to sustain the systems they



own and manage, deferring maintenance, replacement and necessary upgrades. Accessibility via roads and rail, as well as the availability of water and sewer facilities are vital aspects of daily life for Village residents and businesses. Careful planning of the Village's infrastructure needs will help assure that the community's goals are met. Since infrastructure expenses are a large portion of the Village's budget, public projects should be well planned and consistently maintained.

### **Goal:**

Develop a comprehensive system of commissions, plans, and action items that work in concert to maintain and improve the existing infrastructure systems, while considering future development plans for infrastructure needs throughout the Village of Owego.

### **Strategies:**

- I-1 Prepare a 5-year Capital Improvement Program to plan and implement major investments in the Village, including infrastructure and equipment investments.
- I-2 Coordinate road repair with NYSEG, NYS DOT and United Water Owego when possible.
- I-3 Seek funding to commission a feasibility study to explore potential costs and benefits of the Village buying out United Water Owego.
- I-4 Establish relationships with community contacts at United Water Owego, NYSEG, Time Warner Cable and Verizon to become educated on each of the services and their future plans, and obtain updates at an interval to be determined.
- I-5 Establish a capital fund line for construction and operation of a compost facility for solid waste.

- I-6 Conduct a broadband feasibility study.
- I-7 Explore alternative energy sources including solar panels and biomass furnaces where appropriate.
- I-8 Bury utility lines at target state highways within the Village.

## VII. Economic Development

Economic development is an activity that creates employment and a tax base for a community. While industrial activity is the most visible form of economic development, it also encompasses commercial, professional services and recreational development. Development must sustain the Village's employment base and be prepared to respond to new opportunities.

Between 2000-2010, the Village population declined by a modest .4%, or just 15 residents. While the Village population base was relatively stable over the past decade, the Village has been challenged in attracting new business and industry. This has resulted in eroding tax base, flat real estate values, and dilapidated, vacant buildings that detract from the village's historic aesthetics and appeal. These conditions further complicate the Village's ability to effectively stimulate economic investment.



The economy of the Village has been based upon industrial, agricultural and manufacturing activities. As the national economy has undergone profound changes, so too has the economy of the Village. Owego can expect to see continuing sectoral shifts in the years ahead. To meet these challenges and those outlined above, it is critical that the Village plan now for the future.

A problem shared by many industrial sectors is finding qualified skilled development. Much of the area's economy depends on a skilled labor force. Greater attention to skill development and technical training is needed to further strengthen the Village's preeminence in the region. If the Village can help to address these training needs, new business and industry may become attracted to the available workforce. Fostering a skilled workforce to attract industry not only benefits the stability of the economy, but also creates the opportunity to retain our youth as members of our community.

While nurturing a skilled workforce is an important component of economic development, it is necessary to compliment these efforts by maintaining and enhancing the character of Owego that makes it a good place to live and work, while remaining open to outside innovation and ideas. It is clear that environmental concerns and the historic character of the Village are affected by economic activities. What may be less clear is that economic development decisions present opportunities to protect and strengthen the natural environment and historic character. The strategies outlined below in

the *Open Space and Environmental Protection* and *Historic Preservation* chapters have been developed, in part, to enhance and strengthen Owego's economy.

### Marketing Strategies

Marketing the Village of Owego is about building interest in the community from the outside world as well as increasing local resident's trust in government and creating goodwill. And especially in these tough economic times, it is more important than ever to build trust and goodwill. To gain the support of the community, it is important to demonstrate the value of local government. Marketing, branding, and communications are your tools to improve government transparency, increase citizen involvement, build interest in the community and get people emotionally connected to Owego so they feel proud to be here. The residents and business owners of Owego are our greatest resource and best advocates for attracting new business and industry to the community.



#### Goal:

Focus marketing and advertising efforts to support the Owego Brand, to attract quality new businesses that meet the community's vision, and to ensure the success of existing businesses.

#### Strategies:

- MS-1 Update the Owego Downtown Strategic Plan.
- MS-2 Establish an Economic Development Advisory Committee to implement the updated Owego Downtown Strategic Plan.
- MS-3 Create self-promotion campaigns with brand name or image and marketing theme to build customer traffic and attract new businesses.
- MS-4 The Village should promote its competitive advantages to prospective businesses by sharing market data.
- MS-5 Integrate historic/cultural character of the Village in community events and promotions.
- MS-6 Establish a marketing campaign to promote local agricultural products.
- MS-7 Promote the benefits of the arts, cultural and creative economies.

## Workforce Development

Our most valuable assets are the skills and intellectual capital of our people. Improvement in basic skills, career preparation, occupational skill enhancement and real-time access to strategic labor market information is critical in order for Owego to be regionally and globally competitive.

### *Goal:*

Through collaborative partnerships, build and prepare a skilled and competitive workforce for Owego business and industry to be competitive in the regional and global economy.

### *Strategies:*

- WD-1 Develop an inventory of job skills of unemployed and underemployed residents.
- WD-2 Work with BOCES and other organizations, such as ACHIEVE, to identify strategies to increase employment opportunities for unemployed or underemployed residents.
- WD-3 Develop the skills of the Village workforce to match present and future needs of high-paying employers in the growth industries.
- WD-4 Focus on development efforts to attract new firms that will utilize local skills.

## Business Retention and Attraction

Retention of existing businesses is the highest priority for the Village of Owego. We recognize that the success of our existing businesses is fundamental to growing resident employment opportunities. The success of our existing businesses will, in turn, attract new business and industry. With this, the Village will develop a multifaceted approach that has been designed to preserve and enhance the Village's business environment.

### *Goal:*

Develop an enhanced partnership with the business community to retain and attract businesses to Owego by providing support, economic incentives, and development opportunities.

### *Strategies:*

- BA-1 Reexamine and implement the small business incubator feasibility study.
- BA-2 Provide technical assistance to existing businesses.
- BA-3 Develop directory of local products and services and encourage local businesses and the Village government to purchase goods and services from local vendors whenever possible.

- BA-4 Update existing retail analysis and conduct industrial analysis to identify targets for business attraction.
- BA-5 Economic Development Advisory Committee to facilitate a work session that utilizes the retail/industrial analysis to identify unfilled market niches.
- BA-6 Strive to attract smaller regionally-based businesses that require what the Village has to offer.
- BA-7 Create and maintain an available inventory list of properties and their quality to better assess their best and most productive uses.
- BA-8 Utilize access to existing rail to maximize business opportunities.

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- BA-8 Utilize access to existing rail to maximize business opportunities.

## VIII. Housing

The housing needs of a community are a central element in planning for the future. The historic Village of Owego is known for its small town friendliness and vibrant downtown. Named the “Coolest Small Town in America” in 2009, the Village prides itself on its heritage, culture, recreational opportunities, community events and business-friendliness. The pedestrian scaled downtown attracts residents and visitors from the heart of New York’s Southern Tier. Outside of the downtown, the Village is characterized by well-established residential neighborhoods and is home to many



successful commercial and industrial enterprises. Over the decade between 2000 and 2010, demographic changes in Owego reflected a slight change in the Village’s general housing market; the population decreased minimally and the housing units increased by 12.5%. This mismatch can be attributed to trends throughout the U.S., with smaller households emerging as family compositions have changed combined with aging populations and single, independent living increases. While this creates some new demand for housing, the demand is modest; as much of the Village’s housing stock is historic, it wishes to better match current housing supply with modern demand. The Village feels that improving the conditions of the housing stock, increasing the overall housing values, and establishing mixed-income housing developments will advance the housing stock, making the Village more appealing to a diverse array of visitors, potential residents, and current residents.

### Improve Conditions of Housing Stock

Owego is known for its inventory of meticulously-maintained historic homes. However, as with many communities, there is also an opportunity to improve the condition of some existing housing stock. Improving the condition of the Village’s housing stock can have many positive effects, including increased home values, higher rates of occupancy, and improved aesthetic impressions made on Village visitors and residents.

#### **Goal:**

Develop a comprehensive system of campaigns, renovations, restorations, and new construction that work in concert to improve the condition of housing throughout the Village of Owego.

**Strategies:**

- H-1 Encourage construction of new and rehabilitated housing at higher densities in targeted areas of the Village, following the guidance of the future land use map.
- H-2 Explore adaptive reuses of older and abandoned historic properties.
- H-3 Review and potentially revise mixed-use zoning district overlay boundaries.
- H-4 Develop effective campaigns to promote available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) housing rehabilitation funding.
- H-5 Encourage the rehabilitation of downtown buildings to allow for upper-floor residential uses.

### **Increase Housing Values**

Increasing housing values in the Village of Owego can increase the median home value as well, and be a source of additional tax revenues for the Village. For some visitors and potential residents, higher housing values are an attractive aspect of an area.

**Goal:**

Work with Village officials to encourage new housing development, and to ensure that new housing development is offered at the market rate.

**Strategies:**

- HV-1 Encourage the development of universally-accessible, market-rate homes to encourage aging in place.
- HV-2 Continue to develop market rate housing opportunities.
- HV-3 Extend water, sewer, and natural gas on Southside along Route 434 to allow for high-end housing and mixed-use development.

### **Establish Mixed-Income Housing Developments**

While the Village of Owego has a stock of historic homes, as well as a goal to increase housing values, it is still necessary for the Village to attract individuals and families of all income levels and housing needs. Providing housing for all income levels supports plans for economic development and encourages lower-income residents to live near jobs in the Village. Establishing mixed-income housing developments encourages the diversity that will make visitors and residents of all ages, abilities, and incomes feel welcome in the Village.

**Goal:**

Work with Village government to attract quality market rate mixed-income developments that promote stable, economically healthy neighborhoods.

**Strategies:**

MI-1 The Village of Owego should partner with various agencies to provide a variety of housing options for residents.

MI-2 Court developers for the high-density residential/mixed-use targeted area just west of downtown.

## IX. Open Space and Environmental Protection

The Village of Owego currently has a valuable asset in its parks and open space network, including Marvin Park and a number of smaller, neighborhood parks. Owego is proud of its history and cultural resources, while also embracing changes necessary to maintain its status as one of the preferred addresses in the Southern Tier region. Village leaders recognize that good planning is essential to maintaining a high quality of life and attracting high quality development. With that, maintaining open space and preserving environmental assets are necessary considerations for the Village, and represent important opportunities to protect existing assets for future generations of Village residents and visitors.

The sections below, *Parks and Recreation* and *Brownfields and the Built Environment*, each include provisions for the continued consideration of open space protection and environmental restoration.



### Parks and Recreation – Improve and Buffer Existing Parks

There are several existing parks in the Village of Owego. However, Village residents and committee members recognize the opportunity for both improvement and expansion of the existing parks and recreation system.

#### Goal:

Develop a comprehensive system of committees, plans, and action items that work in concert to maintain and improve existing parks and open space, while considering future development plans for parks and open space throughout the Village of Owego.

#### Strategies:

- P-1 Develop a Comprehensive Recreation/Open Space Plan and secure funding to implement improvements and expansions of all existing parks and open space (i.e. Marvin Park, Draper Park, Mayor’s Park, Riverwalk, Brick



- Pond, Owego Creek Nature Trail, Evergreen Cemetery, Village Square, ball parks).
- P-2 Continue to implement proposed enhancements to Marvin Park to make this facility a more aesthetically pleasing site that is used as an event venue on a more frequent basis than current activity levels.
- P-3 Encourage the maintenance and development of community parks and green space for neighborhood use.
- P-4 Establish a Community Advisory Group to maintain trees and plantings in parks and cemeteries.

### Brownfields and the Built Environment

Brownfields is a term used to describe land that is abandoned, vacant or underutilized because redevelopment of the property is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. These properties may be contaminated by low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution and have the potential to be redeveloped once they are cleaned up. The Village of Owego has a number of brownfield areas; it is extremely important to mitigate potentially contaminated areas in order to protect those environmental areas into the future. Recognizing the



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potential of remediated brownfields, the Village of Owego has already participated in New York State's Department of State Brownfield Opportunities Area (BOA) program. The BOA Program provides communities with financial and technical expertise to revitalize areas affected by brownfields, abandoned or vacant properties and economic distress. The BOA Program is funded in three program steps; the Village of Owego has already completed *Step 1: Pre-Nomination Studies*. Essentially, the brownfields in the Village have already been inventoried. It is recommended that the Village continue participation in the BOA Program by completing *Step 2: Nominations*, and *Step 3: Implementation Strategies*.

#### Goal:

Remediate brownfields in the Village to enable future development opportunities, including an improved built environment, the protection of the environment, and the possibility of increased open space areas.

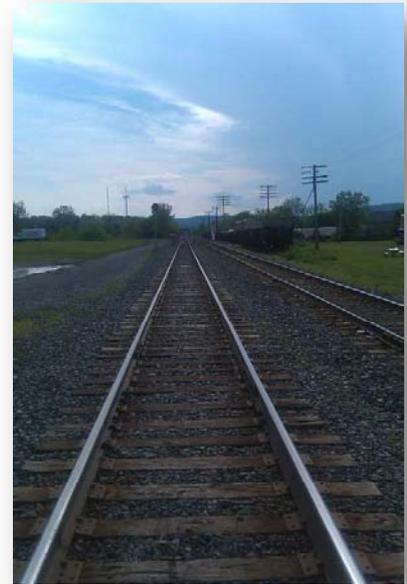
#### Strategies:

- BR-1 Continue participation in the NYS DOS Brownfield Opportunities Area (BOA) program.

## X. Transportation

Transportation systems allow for the efficient movement of people, goods, and services. Land use and transportation are inextricably linked to the way in which a community functions. Accessibility to and from an area via road, rail and air facilities is critical to business retention, expansion and attraction activities; a functioning transportation system is vital to the economic development efforts of a locality.

Some of the transportation related issues identified by the community include truck and through traffic within the Village, parking demand and availability, and pedestrian/bicyclist safety.



### Commercial and Industrial Transport Corridors

There are several major state routes that travel through the Village of Owego. State Route 17C (Main Street) is a primary east-west transportation corridor with direct access to State Route 17 via the Susquehanna River Bridge. State Route 17 extends 397 miles through 11 counties in the Southern Tier. In 1998 State Route 17 was designated as “Future I-86”. The corridor is being upgraded a section at a time to Interstate Highway standards. Another important economic asset is the Norfolk Southern rail line running in an east-west direction through the village, providing an efficient industrial and manufacturing link to cities across the Northeast. Additionally, the Owego & Harford Railway, provides shortline service connecting the Village of Owego to Harford Mills in Cortland County.

#### **Goal:**

Retain and improve transportation routes (rail and vehicular) leading to and from Owego.

#### **Strategies:**

- CI-1 Retain rail lines that currently provide freight service to local industries.
- CI-2 Improve existing highways, stressing upgrading highways that serve the needs of economic development programs. Support the upgrading of NYS Route 17 to Interstate 86.
- CI-3 Consider passenger rail connections to nearby cities.

## Decrease Impact of Truck Traffic

Currently the historic center of the Village bears the brunt of truck traffic as it exits and enters Interstate 86. Coming into Owego, all truck traffic crosses northbound on the Court Street Bridge and follows Court Street north to Main Street turning west to access industrial activity near the Tioga County Fairgrounds or east then left on North Avenue to access points north including the Finger Lakes Region. The high level of truck traffic has a negative effect on the quaint and historic nature of the Village bringing with it diesel exhaust pollution, high level of noise due to truck compression brakes, and congestion. It also negatively impacts the pedestrian environment by disrupting pedestrian movement throughout the downtown area and to the riverfront walkway.

### **Goal:**

Eliminate the disruption caused by truck traffic in the historic center of the community.

### **Strategies:**

- T-1 Partner with NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and the railroad to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential for creating a designated truck route that eliminates the need to pass through the historic center of the community.
- T-2 Consider the western portion of the Village including a new bridge from I-86 in the vicinity of the Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant north to Water Street, east on Main Street (NYS Rt. 17C), northeast on McMaster, cross over the railroad tracks and connect to NYS Rt. 96.
- T-3 Evaluate any other bypasses or strategies to reduce heavy truck traffic.
- T-4 Install signage to limit the use of compression brakes in the Village (except for emergency purposes).

## Local Road Network

Local roads are typically of a smaller scale and are important for the movement of residents efficiently between residential areas, businesses, downtown, and other destinations. Local roads, with posted speed limits usually between 20 and 45 mi/h, are the majority of roads in the Village. The majority of the local roads contain sidewalks and mature trees making for a pleasing environment.

### **Goal:**

Monitor traffic circulation throughout the Village to improve traffic safety, minimize delays at traffic lights, maintain the quality of Village roads, and protect historic resources.

**Strategies:**

- L-1 Continue to maintain a Capital Improvement Program to schedule annual upgrades to selected Village roads depending on need and condition.
- L-2 Ensure that traffic efficiently and safely circulates through the Village. Consider traffic calming in neighborhoods where traffic is moving too quickly.

## Commercial and Residential Parking

One of the primary concerns identified by Village residents is the perceived lack of downtown parking. It has been noted that the number of governmental buildings in the downtown area creates a significant parking strain. Downtown patrons can usually find on-street parking, longer term parking for employees and residents is viewed as limited. The downtown does have several municipal parking lots, although they are not well identified. Parking issues have been studied previously, but little or no action has been taken.

**Goal:**

Maximize the use of existing curbside spaces and public parking lots and increase the number of parking spaces within and adjacent to the Downtown.

**Strategies:**

- CR-1 The Village should conduct a Parking Study and Demand Analysis to assess existing conditions and future demand to determine strategic location of future parking lots.
- CR-2 Explore adding a public transit route that would make hourly loops within the Village and connect seasonally to Hickories Park.

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

The Village of Owego, with its mix of residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, compact grid street network, flat geography, waterfront views, and regional transit connections, is in a unique position to decrease auto use and promote walking and bicycling as preferred modes of transportation within the Village. In order for residents and visitors to consider nonmotorized transportation as a safe and convenient option for traveling through the Village, improved bicycle and pedestrians accommodations must be provided throughout the Village.

**Goal:**

Increase pedestrian and cyclist safety in the downtown.

**Strategies:**

- PB-1 Adopt Complete Streets resolution to integrate infrastructure and design features into street design and construction to create safe and inviting environments for all users to walk, bicycle, and use public transportation.
- PB-2 Work with the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to install or repair pedestrian crosswalks and crossing signals.
- PB-3 Modify zoning and building codes to allow zero-foot or lot line building setbacks to encourage pedestrian traffic.

**Gateway Improvements**

Gateways play an important role in forming first impressions and welcoming visitors and residents alike. Both the form and the character of a gateway can influence the overall experience of a particular area. Owego's gateways do not establish a clear expression of community pride. The Village should work toward improving the western gateway into the community. A gateway is the first impression of a community and serves to welcome visitors, residents and potential investors. This gateway could be enhanced to more accurately reflect the forward momentum currently underway in the Village and the study area.

**Goal:**

Renew and create signature gateways that express community pride and give a sense of arrival into Owego.

**Strategies:**

- GI-1 Investigate ownership of the North Avenue underpass bridge, retaining walls, stairways and railings to resolve and repair issues.
- GI-2 Establish an "Adopt-a-Gateway" program for participation by volunteers, businesses and civic organizations to make aesthetic improvements to Village gateways including flowers, landscaping and "Welcome to Owego" signs.
- GI-3 Continue streetscape enhancements including sidewalks, banners, curbing, and pedestrian scale street lamps along gateway streets and critical visual areas.
- GI-4 Plant new street trees as needed throughout the Village.
- GI-5 Replace median between sidewalks and curbing with brick pavers or grass along gateway corridors.

## XI. Historic Preservation

One of the Village of Owego's greatest strengths is its historic charm. The Village's tree-lined streets are accented by numerous 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic and architecturally significant buildings that distinctly reflect a rich local heritage. The Village has established a strong historic preservation program which includes National Register and local historic districts, Certified Local Government (CLG) status, and an active Historic Preservation Commission. The unique identity created by Owego's historic resources contributes to a sense of overall stability and pride within the Village, and serves as an important attraction for visitors, potential residents and businesses. Continued preservation efforts are vital to continued growth and success.



### OHPC District Design Guidelines

The Owego Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC) serves to coordinate the protection of the historic assets of the Village. The OHPC will spearhead the strategies listed below, intended to continue to elevate the importance of preservation in the Village of Owego.

#### **Goal:**

Ensure that the OHPC elevates historic preservation within the Village's agenda by remaining at the forefront of Village decision collaboration, and updating the Historic District Design Guidelines.



#### **Strategies:**

- DG-1 Include consideration of historic preservation objectives in all comprehensive and strategic planning activities as well as in economic development, tourism and revitalization efforts.
- DG-2 Continue communication between standing Village boards, committees and code enforcement to coordinate the work of the Owego Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC).
- DG-3 Village Board of Trustees, code enforcement, and the Owego Historic District Preservation Commission (OHPC) should work in partnership to review and update Historic District Design Guidelines.

DG-4 Encourage appropriate infill development at 202-204 Front Street.

## Historic District Evaluation

While maintaining the historic District is a local necessity to preserving the Village of Owego's historic resources, it is also beneficial to maintain historic areas to state and national levels of significance. This further ensures that additional levels of awareness and protection are applied to the Village's historic assets.



### *Goal:*

Maintain the Village's historic resources to the level of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreations, and Historic Preservation, and the National Register of Historic Places.

### *Strategies:*

- HD-1 Ensure protection of all historic and architecturally significant resources that meet criteria for National register listing or local designation.
- HD-2 Bring all existing NYS OPRHP Historic Resource Inventory Forms up to current standards, and provide for periodic evaluation and updates.

## Historic Preservation Promotion

While ensuring historic preservation of the Village's resources through local, state, and national channels is necessary, the Village should also safeguard historic assets into the future. Promoting historic resources to residents and visitors shows the value of preservation, and would act to inspire future generations to continue protecting Village resources.

### *Goal:*

Develop and implement a historic preservation awareness program that focuses on education and promotion of the historic and cultural assets throughout the Village of Owego.

### *Strategies:*

- HP-1 Develop programs for public education and awareness of the value and treatment of local historic resources.

- HP-2 Continue participation in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.
- HP-3 Continue to develop and promote historic/cultural programs.

## XII. Natural Resource Extraction

High-volume hydraulic fracturing, which is often used in conjunction with horizontal drilling and multi-well pad development, is an approach that has been used to extract natural gas from shale formations such as the Marcellus Shale in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. This same formation exists in the Southern Tier of New York including Tioga County and the Village of Owego. As of September 2013, a moratorium exists in New York State prohibiting the use of high volume hydraulic fracturing. Should the moratorium be lifted and the use of this technology is permitted in New York



State, the Village of Owego is concerned with the potentially significant, adverse impacts that may result from high-volume hydraulic fracturing and other extractions techniques and the ancillary uses and needs such as compressor stations and water withdrawals.

The Village of Owego takes pride in its unique, historic character; residents and stakeholders wish to preserve that atmosphere into the future. The Village of Owego feels that the byproducts of natural resource extraction, such as visual changes, noise, vibrations, light, and dust, threaten the unique, historic character of their community. Plus, as the Village is located on both the Susquehanna River and the Owego Creek, and relies on the Clinton Street Ballpark Aquifer System, the health and economic welfare of the Village of Owego could be compromised if water resources are not protected from potential spills or over-withdrawals potentially associated with natural resource extraction.

Thus, the Village of Owego seeks to prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing as defined by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC SGEIS: “The stimulation of a well using 300,000 gallons or more of water as the base fluid in fracturing fluid.” ([http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials\\_minerals\\_pdf/rdsgeisgb0911.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/rdsgeisgb0911.pdf))). The Village will also seek to ban exploration and drilling for the extraction of natural resources.

Given the Village’s proximity to communities in Pennsylvania that currently allow high-volume hydraulic fracturing, and to communities in New York State that may allow natural resource extraction in the future, the Village is working to allow certain support activities to support the Village economy. Examples include allowing material storage that cannot be moved off-site, by water or wind or readily absorbed, transported or disbursed and certain light industrial uses as long as there are no impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods.

**Goals:**

1. Prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing as defined by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS).
2. Ban exploration and drilling for extraction of natural resources.
3. Allow certain natural resource extraction support activities.

**Strategies:**

NR-1 Because the NYSGEIS sets forth a variety of proposed regulations it is suggested that the Village review this document to define what changes are necessary in the local code to protect certain local resources and assets.

NR-2 Amend the zoning ordinance to prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing as defined by the NYSDEC SGEIS.

NR-3 Amend the zoning ordinance to allow specific natural resource extraction support activities.

NR-3A: Identify what support activities are allowed in the use table, include a definition, and define in what districts the use will be allowed. Consider creating a light industrial district, as well as a rail-related light industrial district to allow light industry, warehousing, and storage yards.

NR-3B: Identify prohibited activities in the use table, include a definition, and define in what districts the use is prohibited. It is suggested that prohibited activities include the storage of materials or equipment that can be moved off-site, by water or wind or readily absorbed and any heavy industrial use and mining.

NR-3C: Review all definitions and add/change various definitions, being careful not to prohibit activities that are similar to, but not categorized as, high-volume hydraulic fracturing.

NR-4 Amend the site plan review section and the special use section of the zoning ordinance.

- a. Determine the type of projects that require site plan review.
  - i. Require all projects in light-industrial and rail-related light industrial zoned areas to undergo site plan review and special use permit review.
  - ii. Amend the site plan review process to concur with NYS DEC site plan review requirements.
  - iii. Utilize the site plan review process as a tool to discuss setbacks, lighting, trees, noise, dust, etc. as they relate to the effects of allowed natural resource extraction support activities on adjacent housing and the Village community.
- b. Amend the Special Use Permit section to ensure a thorough review of allowable uses.

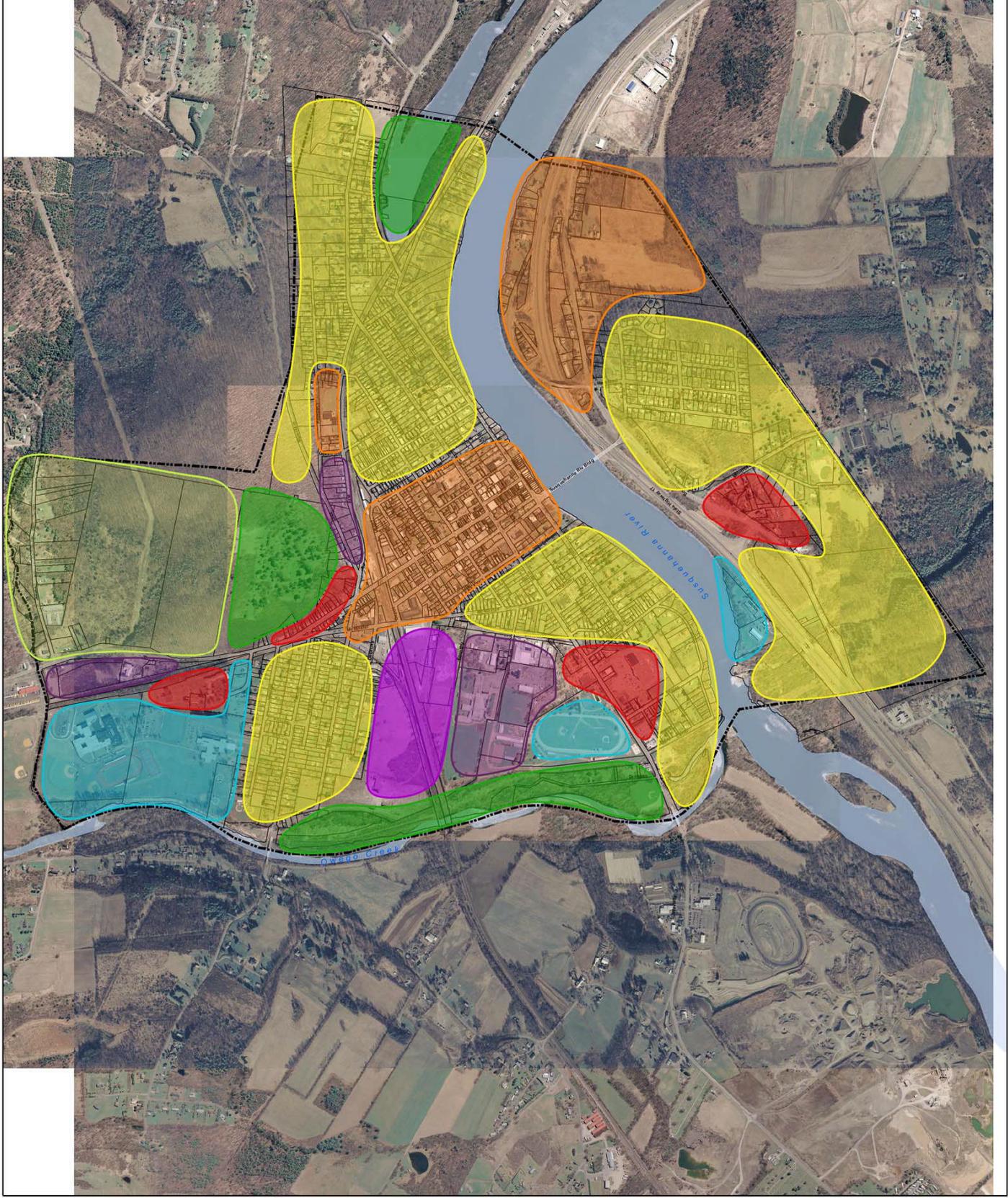
- NR-5 Consider adding new Supplemental Regulations, such as light and noise standards, which will help protect the Village's quality of life.
- NR-6 The Village should amend the zoning to add design guidelines, buffering standards, and increased setbacks for proposed uses adjacent to residential areas or districts.
- NR-7 Consider creating a Wellhead Protection Ordinance to limit certain activities within a certain distance of the public water supply wellhead.
- NR-8 The Village should continue to maintain a dialogue with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission as it relates to natural resource extraction activities.
- NR-9 Consider creating a Road Use Agreement, similar to the Town of Tioga and the Village of Nichols Road Preservation Laws.
- NR-10 As new natural resource extraction techniques are developed, consider updating the Village zoning code.

### **XIII. Future Land Use**

The future land use map establishes the framework for development as a general, conceptual guide. It designates desired development patterns based on the Vision and Goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The future land use map is considered a guide for zoning and future development in the Village, and should be closely adhered to. However, each proposed development should be judged upon its merit, how it is compatible with and complementary of existing and future development, as well as other goals and policies set by this Comprehensive Plan. On the map, edges of “bubbled areas” should be interpreted as somewhat undefined. Further, parcel lines are intentionally not shown to demonstrate the distinction between the comprehensive planning process and its implementation through zoning and neighborhood planning.

# Village of Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Tioga County, NY

## Future Land Use



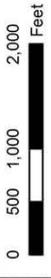
### Legend

- Rural Residential
- Residential
- Mixed Use
- Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Rail Related Light Industrial
- Community Service
- Open Space
- Owego Parcels
- Village Boundary
- Water Bodies



Map Date:  
July 2013

Prepared by:  
**ELAN**  
Planning | Ecology | Landscape Architecture | P.L.L.C.



This map was prepared for the Village of Owego, the NYS Department of State, Division of Coastal Conservation, with state funds provided through the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program.

## XIV. Implementation Matrix

The implementation plan outlined in the table below has been developed to support the Comprehensive Plan. The table organizes strategies by chapter. Each chapter is identified by the bold fill within the cells. Just below each chapter, in a muted fill color, is the goal for each topic area. Below the goal are the strategies identified in each topic area, which are identified in the left hand column. A lead has been assigned to each action and potential partners and funding sources have also been identified. Finally, the plan sets a level of priority for each strategy. These priorities include immediate, short-term, medium-term, long-term and ongoing. This implementation plan will be amended and updated as new actions are introduced and as strategies are implemented. The Village's Capital Improvements Plan will incorporate the priority requirements on an annual basis.



Page # Implementation Leader Potential Partners/Funding

Strategy

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
<b>III. Government and Public Services</b>								
<b>Government Strategies:</b> Ensure that an excellent level of public services and facilities are available to meet the needs of the community, while exercising fiscal responsibility.								
GS-1	12	Village Board	Certified Local Government					H
GS-2	12	Village Board	Mayor, Department Heads					H
GS-3	12	Mayor	Village Board, Department Heads	M				
GS-4	12	Village Board/Designated Trustee	Department of Public Works	M				√
<b>Public Services Strategies:</b> Ensure the accessibility and equitable distribution of facilities and services provided throughout the Village.								
PS-1	12	Public/Private Agencies	Village Board, Senior Center, Tioga County Girls and Boys Club, Tioga Opportunities, Inc.		H			√
PS-2	12	Village Clerk	Village Board, Town Clerk, County Clerk, Office of the Aging, Social Service Agencies, Tourism Agencies, School District		M			

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Page #		Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
PS-3 Conduct scheduled reviews of Village service offerings to determine if they continue to meet the changing needs of resident and non-resident customers.	13	Village Clerk	Village Board, Town Clerk, County Clerk, Office of the Aging, Social Service Agencies, Tourism Agencies, School District				L		✓
<b>IV. Land Use and Building Guidelines</b>									
Update the Village zoning ordinance and design guidelines to align with New York State's building and property maintenance code, and to encourage the advancement of high-density residential and mixed-use developments that spur revitalization and economic development, and enhance the historic character of the Village.									
LU-1 Planning Board and/or Owego Historic Preservation Committee (OHPC) to review, update and implement design guidelines.	14	Planning Board	OHPC, Village Board, Potential Funding: NYSDOS Coastal Resources						H
LU-2 Examine and update the Zoning Ordinance to allow for high-density residential, mixed-use development in strategically located areas of the Village.	14	Planning Board	Village Board, TCEDP, Potential Funding: NYSDOS Coastal Resources	H					
LU-3 Encourage commercial areas in locations and at a scale that meets present and future neighborhood needs.	15	Village Board	TCEDP, PB, OHPC		M				✓
LU-4 Village should closely review New York State's building and property maintenance code to identify opportunities for local customization and then ensure that sufficient resources are available to effectively enforce code.	15	Code Enforcement Officer	Village Board						M
LU-5 Continue to work with Tioga County Department of Economic Development and Planning to seek Governor's Office of Small Cities and other pertinent funding to undertake commercial revitalization.	15	Village Grant Writer	TCEDP, Village Board	H					✓

Strategy	Page #		Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
LU-6 Site Plan Review Regulations should be reviewed and updated as necessary in accordance with established design guidelines, to assure provision of small-scale mixed-use and commercial areas that have adequate pedestrian and vehicular access, are well landscaped, and designed to maintain and enhance the historic character of the neighborhoods.	15		Planning Board	Village Board		M			
LU-7 Work with property owners to create conceptual architectural designs within the Village to guide future building façade improvements.	15		Planning Board	DPW/CEO, TCEDP, OHPC					M

**V. Flood Recovery**

To rebuild the Village of Owego in a way that strengthens the vitality of the community, reduces risk to life and property and is sustainable over time.

FR-1 Support the recovery projects identified in the Village of Owego Long Term Community Recovery Strategy (LTCRS).	16		Village Board	Owego Resiliency Committee	H				
FR-2 Support the Village of Owego Annex Hazard Mitigation Plan.	16		Village Board	Owego Resiliency Committee	H				
FR-3 Support the Tioga Communities NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Plan.	16		Village Board	Owego Resiliency Committee	H				
FR-4 Amend site plan review and zoning law to refer to flood damage prevention local law.	16		Village Board	Owego Resiliency Committee	H				

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Immediate\*  
Short-Term  
Medium  
Long-Term  
Ongoing

Strategy Page # Implementation Leader Potential Partners/Funding

VI. Infrastructure							
Develop a comprehensive system of commissions, plans, and action items that work in concert to maintain and improve the existing infrastructure systems, while considering future development plans for infrastructure needs throughout the Village of Owego.							
Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term
I-1	17	Village Board/Assigned Trustee	Department of Public Works (DPW), Solid Waste Treatment Plant (SWTP)		H		V
I-2	17	Department of Public Works (DPW)	NYSEG, NYSDOT, United Water Owego, Village Board, Planning Board				V
I-3	17	Village Board	DPW, Grant Writer, Potential Funding: NYRCR, USDA Rural Initiative			M	
I-4	17	Village Board	Planning Board, DPW, Village Clerk, United Water Owego, NYSEG, Time Warner, Verizon				M
I-5	17	Village Board	WWTP, Potential Funding: NYRCR, USDA Rural Initiative		M		
I-6	18	Village Board	TCEDP, Potential Funding: NYRCR, USDA Rural Initiative		H		
I-7	18	Planning Board	Village Board, DPW, NYSERDA, NYSEFC, OHPC, Fire Department			M	
I-8	18	Planning Board	Village Board, DPW, NYSDOT, NYSEG			M	

Immediate\*  
Short-Term  
Medium  
Long-Term  
Ongoing

Strategy Page # Implementation Leader Potential Partners/Funding

VII. Economic Development								
Marketing Strategies: Focus marketing and advertising efforts to support the Owego Brand, to attract quality new businesses that meet the community's vision, and to ensure the success of existing businesses.								
Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
MS-1	20	Village Board/Assigned Trustee	OHPC, Planning Board, DPW, NYSDOT, TCEDP, HOM, Businesses, Building Owners		H			
MS-2	20	Village Board/Assigned Trustee	OHPC, Planning Board, DPW, NYSDOT, TCEDP, HOM, Businesses, Building Owners		H			
MS-3	20	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, County Travel and Tourism, HOM, OHPC		M			
MS-4	20	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, County Travel and Tourism, HOM, OHPC		M			
MS-5	20	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, County Travel and Tourism, HOM, OHPC, Tioga County Historical Society					M
MS-6	20	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, Tourism, Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension, 4H Youth Development Organization		M			
MS-7	20	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)						

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Strategy		Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
<b>Workforce Development:</b> Through collaborative partnerships, build and prepare a skilled and competitive workforce for Owego business and industry to be competitive in the regional and global economy.									
WD-1	Develop an inventory of job skills of unemployed and underemployed residents.	21	Tioga County Workforce Development	EDAC, Chamber of Commerce	H				✓
WD-2	Work with BOCES and other organizations such as ACHIEVE to identify strategies to increase employment opportunities for unemployed or underemployed residents.	21	Tioga County Workforce Development	EDAC, Chamber of Commerce, BOCES, ACHIEVE	M				✓
WD-3	Develop the skills of the Village workforce to match present and future needs of high-paying employers in the growth industries.	21	Tioga County Workforce Development	EDAC, Chamber of Commerce, Binghamton University, Cornell, Research Triangle	M				✓
WD-4	Focus on development efforts to attract new firms that will utilize local skills.	21	Tioga County Economic Development and Planning	TCIDA, Chamber of Commerce	M				✓
<b>Business Retention and Attraction:</b> Develop an enhanced partnership with the business community to retain and attract businesses to Owego by providing support, economic incentives, and development opportunities.									
BA-1	Reexamine and implement the small business incubator feasibility study.	21	Tioga County Economic Development and Planning	IDA, Chamber of Commerce, Binghamton University, Cornell, Tioga County LDC	M				✓
BA-2	Provide technical assistance to existing businesses.	21	TCIDA	TCEDP, NYCR Small Business Loans	M				✓
BA-3	Develop directory of local products and services and encourage local businesses and the Village government to purchase goods and services from local vendors whenever possible.	21	Chamber of Commerce	Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, HOM	M				✓

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Timeline			
				Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term
BA-4 Update existing retail analysis and conduct industrial analysis to identify targets for business attraction.	22	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, TCEDP, HOM		M		✓
BA-5 Economic Development Advisory Committee to facilitate a work session that utilizes the retail/industrial analysis to identify unfilled market niches.	22	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, TCEDP, HOM		M		✓
BA-6 Strive to attract smaller regionally-based businesses that require what the Village has to offer.	22	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, TCEDP, HOM		M		✓
BA-7 Create and maintain an available inventory list of properties and their quality to better assess their best and most productive uses.	22	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	Chamber, TCEDP, HOM		M		✓
BA-8 Utilize access to existing rail to maximize business opportunities.	22	TCIDA	EDAC		M		✓

**VII. Housing**

**Improve Conditions of Housing Stock:** Develop a comprehensive system of campaigns, renovations, restorations, and new construction that work in concert to improve the condition of housing throughout the Village of Owego.

H-1 Encourage construction of new and rehabilitated housing at higher densities in targeted areas of the Village, following the guidance of the future land use map.	24	Village Board	Private Sector		M		✓
H-2 Explore adaptive reuses of older and abandoned historic properties.	24	OHPC	Planning Board, Village Board		M		✓
H-3 Review and potentially revise mixed-use zoning district overlay boundaries.	24	Planning Board	Village Board	H			✓

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Timeline*			
				Immediate	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term
H-4 Develop effective campaigns to promote available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) housing rehabilitation funding.	24	Village Board	Code Enforcement Officer	H			✓
H-5 Encourage the rehabilitation of downtown buildings to allow for upper-floor residential uses.	24	Village Board	TCEDP, HOM		H		✓
<b>Increase Housing Values:</b> Work with Village officials to encourage new housing development, and to ensure that new housing development is offered at the market rate.							
HV-1 Encourage the development of universally-accessible, market-rate homes to encourage aging in place.	24	Village Board	Real Estate community, local banks, Tioga Opportunities Office of the Aging		M		✓
HV-2 Continue to develop market rate housing opportunities.	24	Village Board	Real Estate Community, local banks, Tioga Opportunities Office of the Aging		M		✓
HV-3 Extend water, sewer, and natural gas on Southside along Route 434 to allow for high-end housing and mixed-use development.	24	Village Board	IDA, NYSEG, United Water		M		✓
<b>Establish Mixed-Income Housing Developments:</b> Work with Village government to attract quality market rate mixed-income developments that promote stable, economically healthy neighborhoods.							
MI-1 The Village of Owego should partner with various agencies to provide a variety of housing options for residents.	25	Village Board	Tioga Opportunities, Real Estate Community		M		✓
MI-2 Court developers for the high-density residential/mixed-use targeted area just west of downtown.	25	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	IDA, TCEDP, Real Estate Community		M		✓

Immediate\*  
Short-Term  
Medium  
Long-Term  
Ongoing

Strategy Page # Implementation Leader Potential Partners/Funding

VIII. Open Space and Environmental Protection						
<b>Parks and Recreation - Improve and Buffer Existing Parks:</b> Develop a comprehensive system of committees, plans, and action items that work in concert to maintain and improve existing parks and open space, while considering future development plans for parks and open space throughout the Village of Owego.						
P-1	Develop a Comprehensive Recreation/Open Space Plan and secure funding to implement improvements and expansions of all existing parks and open space (i.e. Marvin Park, Draper Park, Mayor's Park, Riverwalk, Brick Pond, Owego Creek Nature Trail, Evergreen Cemetery, Village Square, ball parks).	26	Owego Revitalization and Betterment Corporation (ORBC)	Village Board, Planning Board	M	✓
P-2	Continue to implement proposed enhancements to Marvin Park to make this facility a more aesthetically pleasing site that is used as an event venue on a more frequent basis than current activity levels.	27	ORBC	Village Board, TC Fair Board	M	✓
P-3	Encourage the maintenance and development of community parks and green space for neighborhood use.	27	ORBC	Village Board, Cornell Cooperative Extension	M	✓
P-4	Establish a Community Advisory Group to maintain trees and plantings in parks and cemeteries.	27	Owego Street Tree Commission	Cornell Cooperative Extension, Village Board	M	✓
<b>Brownfields and the Built Environment:</b> Remediate brownfields in the Village to enable future development opportunities, including an improved built environment, the protection of the environment, and the possibility of increased open space areas.						
BR-1	Continue participation in the NYS DOS Brownfield Opportunities Area (BOA) program.	27	Village Board	TCEDP, EDAC, ORBC	H	✓

Strategy		Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
<b>X. Transportation</b>									
<b>Commercial and Industrial Transport Corridors: Retain and improve transportation routes (rail and vehicular) leading to and from Owego.</b>									
CI-1	Retain rail lines that currently provide freight service to local industries.	28	IDA	TCEDP			M		√
CI-2	Improve existing highways, stressing upgrading highways that serve the needs of economic development programs. Support the upgrading of NYS Route 17 to Interstate 86.	28	County Legislature	Village Board, EDAC, NYSDOT, BMTS		M			√
CI-3	Consider passenger rail connections to nearby cities.	28	IDA	STERPB		M			√
<b>Evaluate Designated Truck Route: Eliminate the disruption caused by truck traffic in the historic center of the community.</b>									
T-1	Partner with NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and the railroad to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the potential for creating a designated truck route that eliminates the need to pass through the historic center of the community.	29	Village Board	NYSDOT, EDAC, IDA, HOM		H			
T-2	Consider the western portion of the Village including a new bridge from I-86 in the vicinity of the Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant north to Water Street, east on Main Street (NYS Rt. 17C), northeast on McMaster, cross over the railroad tracks and connect to NYS Rt. 96.	29	Village Board	NYSDOT, EDAC, IDA, HOM		H			
T-3	Evaluate any other bypasses or strategies to reduce heavy truck traffic.	29	Village Board	NYSDOT, EDAC, IDA, HOM		H			
T-4	Install signage to limit the use of compression breaks in the Village (except for emergency purposes).	29	Village Board	NYSDOT		M			

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
<b>Local Road Network:</b> Monitor traffic circulation throughout the Village to improve traffic safety, minimize delays at traffic lights, maintain the quality of Village roads, and protect historic resources.								
L-1	30	Village Board	Village DPW		H			
L-2	30	Village Board	BMTS, Village DPW	M				✓
<b>Commercial and Residential Parking:</b> Maximize the use of existing curbside spaces and public parking lots and increase the number of parking spaces within and adjacent to the Downtown.								
CR-1	30	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	HOM, Chamber of Commerce, Village Board		M			
CR-2	30	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)	HOM, Chamber of Commerce, Village Board		M			
<b>Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety:</b> Increase pedestrian and cyclist safety in the downtown.								
PB-1	31	Village Board	DPW, Planning Board, NYSDOT, TCDPW, BMTS Bike Ped Subcommittee		M			
PB-2	31	Village Board	DPW, Planning Board, NYSDOT, TCDPW, BMTS Bike Ped Subcommittee		M			

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Timeline				
				Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
PB-3 Modify zoning and building codes to allow zero-foot or lot line building setbacks to encourage pedestrian traffic.	31	Village Board	Planning Board, ORBC		M			
<b>Gateway Improvements: Renew and create signature gateways that express community pride and give a sense of arrival into Owego.</b>								
GI-1 Investigate ownership of the North Avenue underpass bridge, retaining walls, stairways and railings to resolve and repair issues.	31	Village Board	NYSDOT, Norfolk Southern, Legal Counsel		M			
GI-2 Establish an "Adopt-a-Gateway" program for participation by volunteers, businesses and civic organizations to make aesthetic improvements to Village gateways including flowers, landscaping and "Welcome to Owego" signs.	31	ORBC	Village Board, Village DPW, Cornell Cooperative Extension		M			
GI-3 Continue streetscape enhancements including sidewalks, banners, curbing, and pedestrian scale street lamps along gateway streets and critical visual areas.	31	Village Board	Village DPW, TC Tourism, HOM, ORBC		M			
GI-4 Plant new street trees as needed throughout the Village.	31	Owego Street Tree Commission	Village DPW, Cornell Cooperative Extension		M			✓
GI-5 Replace median between sidewalks and curbing with brick pavers or grass along gateway corridors.	31	Village Board	Village DPW		M			✓

**XI. Historic Preservation**

<b>OHPC District Design Guidelines:</b> Ensure that the OHPC elevates historic preservation within the Village's agenda by remaining at the forefront of Village decision collaboration, and updating the Historic District Design Guidelines.								
DG-1 Include consideration of historic preservation objectives in all comprehensive and strategic planning activities as well as in economic development, tourism and revitalization efforts.	32	OHPC	Planning Board, Village Board, HOM, ORBC, TCEDP		M			✓

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

		Page #		Implementation Leader		Potential Partners/Funding		Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
DG-2	Continue communication between standing Village boards, committees and code enforcement to coordinate the work of the Owego Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC).	32	Village Board		Planning Board, OHPC, HOM, ORBC, TCEDP							✓
DG-3	Village Board of Trustees, code enforcement, and the Owego Historic District Preservation Commission (OHPC) should work in partnership to review and update Historic District Design Guidelines.	32	OHPC		Planning Board, Village Board, HOM, ORBC, TCEDP		M					
DG-4	Encourage appropriate infill development at 202-204 Front Street.	33	Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)		IDA, HOM, OHPC, Village Board		H					
<b>Historic District Evaluation:</b> Maintain the Village's historic resources to the level of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreations, and Historic Preservation, and the National Register of Historic Places.												
HD-1	Ensure protection of all historic and architecturally significant resources that meet criteria for National register listing or local designation.	33	OHPC		NYSOPRHP, Village Board, HOM							M
HD-2	Bring all existing NYS OPRHP Historic Resource Inventory Forms up to current standards, and provide for periodic evaluation and updates.	33	OHPC		NYSOPRHP, Village Board, HOM		M					✓
<b>Historic Preservation Promotion:</b> Develop and implement a historic preservation awareness program that focuses on education and promotion of the historic and cultural assets throughout the Village of Owego.												
HP-1	Develop programs for public education and awareness of the value and treatment of local historic resources.	33	OHPC		Tioga County Historical Society, HOM, Village and County Historians		M					✓
HP-2	Continue participation in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program.	34	OHPC		Village Board, NYSOPRHP							✓

Strategy	Page #	Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Timeline				
				Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
HP-3 Continue to develop and promote historic/cultural programs.	34	Tioga County Historical Society	OHPC, HOM, Village and County Historians, Tioga County Council on the Arts					✓

**XII. Natural Resource Extraction**

While primary regulatory control of natural resource extraction currently rests with local agencies and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Village of Owego plans to prohibit natural resource extraction, while allowing certain natural resource extraction support activities.

NR-1	Because the NYSGEIS sets forth a variety of proposed regulations it is suggested that the Village review this document to define what changes are necessary in the local code to protect certain local resources and assets.	36	Village Board	Planning Board, Village DPW	H			
NR-2	Amend the zoning ordinance to prohibit high-volume hydraulic fracturing as defined by the NYSDEC SGEIS.	36	Village Board	Planning Board	H			
NR-3	Amend the zoning ordinance to allow specific natural resource extraction support activities.	36	Village Board	Planning Board	H			
NR-3A	Identify what support activities are allowed in the use table, include a definition, and define in what districts the use will be allowed. Consider creating a light industrial district, as well as a rail-related light industrial district to allow light industry, warehousing, and storage yards.	36	Village Board	Planning Board	H			
NR-3B	Identify prohibited activities in the use table, include a definition, and define in what districts the use is prohibited. It is suggested that prohibited activity include the storage of materials or equipment that can be moved off-site, by water or wind or readily absorbed and any heavy industrial use and mining.	36	Village Board	Planning Board	H			

Owego Comprehensive Plan Update Implementation Matrix

Strategy	Page		Implementation Leader	Potential Partners/Funding	Immediate*	Short-Term	Medium	Long-Term	Ongoing
	#								
NR-3C Review all definitions and add/change various definitions, being careful not to prohibit activities that are similar to, but not categorized as, high-volume hydraulic fracturing.	36		Village Board	Planning Board	H				
NR-4 Amend the site plan review section and the special use section of the zoning ordinance.	36		Village Board	Planning Board	H				
NR-5 Consider adding new Supplemental Regulations, such as light and noise standards, which will help protect the Village quality of life.	37		Village Board	Planning Board	H				
NR-6 The Village should amend the zoning to add design guidelines, buffering standards, and increased setbacks for proposed uses adjacent to residential areas or districts.	37		Village Board	Planning Board	H				
NR-7 Consider creating a Wellhead Protection Ordinance to limit certain activities within a certain distance of the public water supply wellhead.	37		Village Board	Planning Board	H				
NR-8 The Village should interact with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission as it relates to natural resource extraction activities.	37		Village Board	Planning Board, SRBC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, NYSDEC	H				
NR-9 Consider creating a Road Use Agreement, similar to the Town of Tioga and the Village of Nichols Road Preservation Laws.	37		Village Board	Planning Board, Village DPW	H				
NR-10 As new natural resource extraction techniques are developed, consider updating the Village zoning code.	37		Village Board	Planning Board					H