

CHAPTER 3: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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We have also included potential recommendations that have been raised over the first few months of the project.

CHAPTER 3: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This chapter of the Comprehensive Plan update presents the goals and objectives that were updated for the Town of Concord under the guidance of the Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) and the community. This update sought to build upon and where necessary, amend, the goals and objectives outlined in the Town of Concord and Village of Springville 1999 Joint Comprehensive Plan, as they pertained to the Town of Concord.

In addition, this update was designed to expand upon the 1999 goals and objectives, ensuring consistency with both the recently (2015) completed *Village of Springville Comprehensive Plan* and regional planning documents including, but not limited to: *One Region Forward: A New Way to Plan for Buffalo Niagara* (2014), the *Framework for Regional Growth: Erie & Niagara Counties, New York* (2006), the *Western New York Regional Sustainability Plan* (2012), the *Regional Economic Development Council: A Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York* (2011), and the *Erie County Broadband Feasibility Study* (2017).

With the goals and objectives from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan in place, additional goals and objectives were created and, in some instances, the goals and objectives from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan were updated or removed altogether. For example, there were some goals and objectives from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan that did not pertain to the Town of Concord as they were geared specifically towards particular issues in the Village of Springville. It should also be noted that the Town's Goals and Objectives and the Village's new Goals and Objectives are very similar and support each other.

The goals and objectives focus on the major issues and concerns of the Town's residents and are aimed at helping to guide future growth and development in the Town of Concord. The recommendations that follow (in *Chapter 5: Recommendations*) include specific actions that the Town can implement to achieve the intent of these goals and objectives.

3.1 Overview – What are Goals and Objectives?

The goals of a Comprehensive Plan establish what is most important to a community. They represent local values and priorities and provide insight into what the community will focus on for its future. The objectives listed below each goal help to clarify that overarching goal by providing more detail to what the community is trying to accomplish. As such, goals and objectives are used to help guide future decisions about growth, development, budgets, etc. in the Town so that individual decisions are made with an understanding about how they relate to the community's preferred future. The goals and objectives also provide guidance for decision makers at the County and State levels. The goals and objectives are general in nature, so they can remain relevant over the long-term. These goals and objectives also form the foundation for the specific actions – the recommendations of the Plan – which the Town will undertake to achieve its vision. In general, goals and objectives are developed with a horizon of approximately **10-years**.

3.2 Public Input

The Town of Concord Comprehensive Plan update was designed from the ground up with extensive public input. Public participation is the critical element of the planning process, as such, a variety of avenues were utilized to solicit public input.

There were three (3) public information meetings with participatory features such as photo boards where attendees could leave comments and questions, traditional comment sheets, and formal and informal question and answer sessions. Additional public input was solicited through CPC meetings (the CPC was formed entirely by members of the community), electronic submission of comments via e-mail, press releases, etc. Within the Appendix of this Comprehensive Plan update there are examples of the materials that were utilized to solicit public input.

The goals and objectives updated and newly developed as part of this Comprehensive Plan update were, thus, born from the input received from members of the general public, committee members, and elected officials. Nothing was decided on or created in a vacuum or behind closed doors. To do so would have been to jeopardize the integrity of the Comprehensive Plan itself. It is a planning document that is born from and dependent upon public input and feedback.

3.3 Goals and Objectives

Protect the Environment

- Obj. #1 Preserve, protect and enhance sensitive environmental conditions, including woodlands, steep slopes, waterways, habitat areas, and scenic resources.
- Obj. #2 Encourage the preservation of prime and active farmland, and support existing agricultural and farming operations.
- Obj. #3 Encourage retention of open space.
- Obj. #4 In conjunction with Erie and Cattaraugus Counties, advocate for environmental protection and enhancement of the Zoar Valley and the Town's other stream and creek valleys.
- Obj. #5 Integrate watershed protection strategies into Town plan and site development activities.
- Obj. #6 Require responsible control of gravel mining practices, including reclamation and restricting mining in areas more suited to development or conservation. The Town can zone where mining is allowed and not allowed. Once a property is zoned to allow mining, the NYSDEC and their regulations will be the controlling factors and rules for the approval of the mine (the NYSDEC will also be Lead Agency under SEQR).

- Obj. #7 Support the continued remediation and mitigation at the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- Obj. #8 Promote the myriad of recreational opportunities in the Town to help facilitate economic generating recreational tourism to the area.

Promote Economic Development: Commerce and Industry

- Obj. #1 In accordance with this Plan, build upon the economic development potential of the community's existing economic base, including its status as a regional gateway, its role as the businesses, medical, retail, service, and educational center of its nine-town region, and its growing attractiveness as an exurban bedroom community for residents of the Buffalo metropolitan area.
- Obj. #2 Acknowledge and help to strengthen downtown Springville as a center for specialty retail, restaurants, professional offices, medical services, and cultural and civic uses.
- Obj. #3 Concentrate larger, auto-oriented (drive to access) commercial establishments in appropriate areas of the Town.
- Obj. #4 Take advantage of business development of U.S. Highway 219.
- Obj. #5 Support existing industry, encouraging businesses to remain in the community.
- Obj. #6 Promote community assets, including low electric rates, good transportation access, excellent public schools, and small town quality of life, to attract new business to the area
- Obj. #7 Partner with adjacent communities to work on economic development, tourism, and transportation projects.
- Obj. #8 Promote and encourage expansion of high speed internet in all areas of the Town.
- Obj. #9 Encourage and promote opportunities for startup home-based businesses.

Ensure Proper Residential Development in Appropriate Areas

- Obj. #1 Ensure good housing conditions, and endeavor to upgrade those housing conditions which require it.
- Obj. #2 Maximize existing investment in utility infrastructure by developing new housing in areas already served by water and sewer.

- Obj. #3 Help to concentrate new single-family residential development in the appropriate areas of the Village of Springville and creatively in the Town's traditional hamlets and appropriate areas around the Village.
- Obj. #4 Encourage and Support additional multi-family residential areas in the Village of Springville, particularly for senior citizens. Establish programs that provide incentives for senior citizens who choose age in place.
- Obj. #5 Encourage Rural Cluster Development design and small scale planned unit developments, utilizing these techniques to preserve steep slopes, stream valleys, wooded areas, farmland, scenic views, and other sensitive environmental conditions.
- Obj. #6 Endeavor to provide housing affordable to all income and age groups.

Support, Maintain, Improve and Expand Parks and Recreational Opportunities in the Region

- Obj. #1 Continue to maintain existing parks, improve and update lighting facilities at athletic fields, and encourage other recreation facilities and improvements as needed and available.
- Obj. #2 Advocate for the use of Erie County Park at the Scoby Hill Dam, including preservation of historic, nature, and scenic resources, and improved access to Cattaraugus Creek for fishing and recreational use and encourage and develop economic activity from that visitor base.
- Obj. #3 Continue to explore the potential for additional trails in the Town, including use of the former B&P rail line, snowmobile trails, and other trails connecting stream valleys and natural and man-made points of interest.

Provide Quality and Cost Effective Community Services

- Obj. #1 Continue to locate major civic and cultural institutions in the Village of Springville.
- Obj. #2 Provide for increased sharing of facilities and services between the Village and the Town, and with other levels of government.

Provide, Encourage and Advocate for Quality Transportation

- Obj. #1 Investigate potential for re-routing truck traffic from Main Street in downtown Springville.
- Obj. #2 Increase the Town's multi-modal transportation network.

Maintain and Provide for appropriate Infrastructure in Targeted Areas

- Obj. #1 Utilize the Village's water, sewer, and electric services to further economic development goals, including extension of facilities outside of the present Village limits, where appropriate to accomplish needed development.
- Obj. #2 Explore the possibility of extending the service area of existing water and sewer districts.
- Obj. #3 Explore the possibility of providing nature gas service to more areas.

Promote Quality Urban Design and Historic Preservation

- Obj. #1 Encourage and support preservation and sensitive rehabilitation of the historic sites and structures in the Town and Village.