



Town of Colonie Comprehensive Plan

Draft Vision Statement and Goals
(As revised) December 2, 2004

Vision Statement:

In the Year 2020... The Town of Colonie is among the oldest, largest, and most well established suburban communities in the Capital District. Conveniently located at the heart of the region, it is home to a broad spectrum of residents, businesses, and institutions. It has succeeded in stabilizing and enhancing existing neighborhoods, regenerating and reinventing its historic commercial corridors and industrial areas, conserving a network of significant open spaces, and maintaining its exceptional quality of life. As a result, Colonie is among the most affordable and desirable places to live, learn, and do business in the region.

Goals:

To achieve its vision, the Town of Colonie has established a set of goals to guide decision-making. The recommendations in the comprehensive plan attempt to direct short-term and long-term actions toward achieving these goals.

- **Provide opportunities and incentives for the development and redevelopment of a variety of housing options in the Town to meet the needs of its increasingly diverse population.**

In particular, the trend toward smaller household sizes, the aging population, and the increasing need for affordable workforce housing means that Colonie must provide for the development of a range of housing types and sizes so that existing and future residents can continue to live in the community.

- **Maintain the integrity of residential and mixed-use neighborhoods throughout the Town.**

Neighborhoods are the basic building block of community. Work with neighborhood groups to identify and address quality of life concerns.

- **Improve mobility throughout the Town.**

This includes strategic investments in needed highway infrastructure, improved access to public transportation, and significant enhancements to the safety and attractiveness of non-motorized modes of travel such as walking and bicycling.

- **Encourage the reuse or redevelopment of existing sites and buildings.**

Provide meaningful incentives and create opportunities for increasing the value of underutilized commercial areas by focusing higher density mixed-use development/redevelopment, and emphasizing pedestrian friendly, high quality design, in these areas. Encourage the redevelopment of existing areas of industrial activity for future industrial and light industrial use.

- **Promote commercial and industrial growth in specifically designated areas, taking advantage of the Town’s infrastructure, location, and critical regional assets.**
- **Improve the development approval process by establishing land use regulations that guide development in a manner that is consistent with the vision, goals, and recommendations contained in this plan.**

The regulations must result in a process that is clear, predictable, efficient, and fair.

- **Provide a business-friendly environment that is supportive of local businesses, that encourages entrepreneurship, and that helps assure the provision of quality employment and a diverse economic base in the community.**

Expand partnerships between the Town, the business community, local school districts, and area colleges and universities.

- **Protect the Town’s important natural resources such as stream corridors, steep slopes, floodplains, wetland systems, and unique ecosystems.**
- **Enhance the Town’s Mohawk River waterfront.**

Protect important natural features, improve public access, and take advantage of appropriate economic opportunities that are consistent with this special resource.

- **Encourage the conservation of viable farmland and significant open spaces throughout the Town.**
- **Develop a network of open lands to provide wildlife habitat and potential recreational trail corridors.**
- **Expand active and passive recreational resources available in the Town to meet the growing and changing demand for these amenities.**
- **Maintain the Town’s high level of public safety services; community services for youth, seniors, and the public at large; and public utility infrastructure and services.**
- **Protect and promote the Town’s significant cultural and historic resources.**
- **Establish an identity for the Town of Colonie that transcends the Town’s size and diversity while maintaining the integrity and distinctiveness of individual neighborhoods.**
- **Expand opportunities for sharing information and for encouraging community involvement. Promote volunteerism and community service.**
- **Cooperate with the Villages of Colonie and Menands, and other neighboring and regional municipalities, agencies, and organizations on issues of mutual concern.**