

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Background

The Village of Lake Placid and the Town of North Elba, while perhaps viewed as rather static from an outsider's standpoint, are changing. Trends indicate that the population is aging, transportation needs have increased, affordable housing is becoming less prevalent, and the number of second homes is on the rise. Less visible and more subtle changes include an aging infrastructure, an eroding of basic services and the demand for new and improved technology to meet these changes.

These changes require the Village and Town to constantly reevaluate their approaches and vision directed toward these changes. Thus, the Comprehensive Plan.

In viewing those significant community facilities and services, an effort was made to evaluate past and present goals and objectives, establish their relevancy, describe present and future needs and offer approaches to meeting those needs. This vision helps provide some direction for the leadership of the Village and the Town.



Vision for Community Facilities & Services

By the year 2020, the Village of Lake Placid / Town of North Elba will further develop its Community Facilities and Services for people of all ages and abilities by:

- (a) Developing adequate and affordable utility services to position the community for present and future development in keeping with its regional and community character;
- (b) Providing adequate public safety services to protect residents and visitors;
- (c) Enhancing transportation services for those residing in or visiting the Community;
- (d) Offering intergenerational recreational, cultural, and artistic opportunities;

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- (e) Having an integrated system of health and community services to help people stay well, active, and civically engaged in the community throughout their lifespan;
- (f) Having available at all times a full complement of basic health care services and access to advanced care;
- (g) Offering excellence in its public education system and serving as home to a number of private educational and nonprofit institutions; and,
- (h) Promoting the concept and feasibility of a zero waste community through recycling, composting and reuse of building materials.

Goals, Objectives and Implementation Measures

Goal #1: Continue to ensure the efficient high quality operation and maintenance of the public water and sewer system.

Objective 1: Upgrade distribution systems.

Implementation Measures

- Replace trunk lines under Mill Pond.
- Upgrade the sewer lines under Main Street/Mirror Lake.

Objective 2: Develop a Preventative Maintenance Plan of Water and Sewer System.

Implementation Measures

- Explore funding possibilities for GIS mapping of water/sewer with a record of upgrades and priority projects.
- Continue to develop biodigester capabilities.

Objective 3: Continue to improve diversion and infiltration of storm water.

Implementation Measures

- Establish a system to monitor run off during rainy and melt run off times of the year.
- Main Street and Mirror Lake Drive should receive special attention due to proximity to and effect on Mirror Lake.

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- Promote emerging green infrastructure technology to absorb stormwater at the source

Objective 4: Continue to explore alternative uses for wastewater effluent.

Implementation Measures

- Establish an appropriate group to examine how Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) venues, Horseshow Grounds, North Elba athletic fields, golf courses can make use of wastewater effluent.

Goal #2: Continue steady, cost efficient municipal electric for commercial and residential and anticipate future needs.

Objective 1: Develop Preventative Maintenance Plan of utility lines and components.

Implementation Measures

- Research and secure funding to map utility lines, including record of upgrades and priority projects, using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

Goal #3: Continue to improve visual impacts of utility lines and other components.

Objective 1: Require utility lines associated with new construction/development and/or located in sensitive view sheds to be buried as well as screening all electric meters.

Implementation Measures

- Monitor effectiveness of zoning changes that require burying utility lines and screening electric meters.
- Amend building permits to include these requirements.
- Assess present conditions of utility lines and electric meters and urge compliance by property owners.
- Offer partial subsidies to private property owners to offset some of the expenses.
- Explore grant funding for these expenses.
- Investigate use of right of way on Mirror Lake Drive to bury utility lines.

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Goal #4: To provide quality and reliable protective services to area residents and visitors while ensuring the safety and security of those providing the services.

Objective 1: Upgrade the Village Police Department facility to accommodate staff and storage needs.

Implementation Measures

- Explore feasibility of consolidating the facilities of Village of Lake Placid Police Department with the Town of North Elba Fire Department.
- Explore options to relocate or expand the Police Department facility within the Village Center.

Objective 2: Support the requirements of the Lake Placid Fire Department in providing necessary services to the village and town.

Implementation Measures

- Compare requirements and services of other similar sized towns and villages in the North Country, especially those with considerable visitor populations.
- Establish a “best case” requirements as an objective and work toward meeting these requirements.

Goal #5: Lake Placid’s recreational facilities and sports venues will be of the quality, quantity and design to serve residents and visitors of all ages throughout the year and support a healthy, vigorous lifestyle in the community.

Objective 1: Sustain Lake Placid recreational facilities and services for residents and visitors of all ages.

Implementation Measures

- Coordinate the efforts of local, state and federal entities to fund the upkeep, improvement and promotion of recreational areas and venues.

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- Investigate the establishment of a *Recreation Committee* comprised of volunteers to serve in an advisory capacity to the North Elba Park and Playground District Director.
- Continue to support and strengthen partnerships with the parks and service organizations within the Park District for the sponsorship and improvement of neighborhood parks.
- Hire or appoint a Recreation Program Specialist to coordinate programs for people of all ages and develop health and wellness programming.
- Support alternative non-sport recreation opportunities in the community – art, music, continued learning services, etc.
- Enhance waterfront access and water-based recreational opportunities.



Objective 2: Expand use and offerings at ORDA and North Elba town venues to include festivals, concerts, educational, sporting, artistic and other programs that engage large groups of residents and visitors.

Implementation Measures

- Hire or appoint a staff member responsible for soliciting and engaging appropriate individual and group organizations and performers.
- Revive the ORDA Advisory Board.
- Support and market artistic programs, activities and events

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Objective 3: Ensure that every neighborhood and lodging facility is accessible (10-20 minute walk) to a trail.

Implementation Measures

- Identify and promote walking routes both into and out of the Village.
- Design an up-to-date mapping system that outlines routes and access points.
- Put into effect and publicize the existing Chub River Trail plan.
- Actively support the development of the railroad recreation path.
- Acquire funding through grants and legislative appropriations.

Objective 4: Continue to offer year-round recreational services to the local youth that support lifelong healthy recreational options.

Implementation Measures

- Maintain and explore alternative recreational opportunities such as a skateboard park, hockey box, etc.
- Develop partnerships with local organizations offering alternative recreation opportunities (i.e. Lake Placid Outing Club, LPCA Arts Camps, LP Fish & Game Club, NYSEF, LP Ski Club, PeeWee Association, the Skating Club).

Goal #6: Develop Lake Placid as a friendly community for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities across the lifespan.

Objective 1: Develop and promote Lake Placid as a place where residents can age in place successfully.

Implementation Measures

- Encourage new housing development projects to incorporate universal design principles. (See Housing - section 8)
- Explore programs to help seniors to stay in their own homes.

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- Partner with local non-profits and agencies serving the senior population to enhance services through grants and legislative appropriations.

Objective 2: Integrate youth and senior services where appropriate to create intergenerational engagement opportunities.

Implementation Measures

- Identify opportunities for intergenerational engagement (i.e. coordinate community service requirements of schools and judiciary with community needs).

Objective 3: Develop a Community Center to accommodate and engage people of all ages and abilities across the lifespan.

Implementation Measures

- Explore the feasibility of using the Mirror Lake Boat House as a Community Center.

Goal #7: To have available at all times a full complement of basic emergency and health care services and access to advanced care.

Objective 1: Provide emergency care, basic health services, rehabilitation services, nursing care beds and assisted living care in Lake Placid.

Implementation Measures

- Support Adirondack Health in providing the highest quality emergency and health care possible in Lake Placid.

Objective 2: Continue the operation of an ambulance service and access to advanced care.

Implementation Measures

- Support the Lake Placid Volunteer Ambulance Service and North Country Life Country Life Flight Services.

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Goal #8: Maintain excellence in the public education system and serve as home to private educational and nonprofit institutions.

Objective 1: Increase and enhance offerings for continued learning and job opportunities.

Implementation Measures

- Establish continuing education programs during non-school hours offering short courses/experiences of cultural, career, and lifestyle natures.

Goal #9: Lake Placid will strive to be a zero waste community through recycling, composting and reuse of building materials.

Objective 1: Expand recycling opportunities.

Implementation Measures

- Continue to explore the feasibility and methods of composting all food waste from households and commercial establishments (Anaerobic Biodigester).
- Explore the feasibility of a NO SORT system for recyclable glass, plastic, paper and metal materials for residential units, community facilities and special events as a community-wide service in selected locations.
- Determine stable markets for paper, glass, plastics, metals, electronics, etc.

Objective 2: Provide a system for reuse or recycling of used and new building materials.

Implementation Measures

- Establish a local warehouse to accept, store and distribute/sell usable building materials to residents as needed.

Objective 3: Educate, mandate and enforce the practice of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Implementation Measures

- Develop a set of guidelines for residential households and commercial properties and public departments.

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- Require recycling and waste reduction plans for all large events.
- Require recycling and waste reduction plans for all public buildings, facilities and government departments.

Goal #10: Develop a Master Plan for utilizing and sustaining the Landfill and Transfer Station property to its most optimum potential.

Objective 1: Engage a professional assessment of the overall state of the property and plan for the future waste disposal needs of Lake Placid.

Implementation Measure

- Solicit grant funding to provide for assessment and development of a plan.

Goal #11: Provide healthy options by way of Community Gardens in residential neighborhoods.

Objective 1: Establish community gardens in residential neighborhoods to provide healthy food and lifestyle recreation opportunities for residents.

Implementation Measures

- Identify potential garden locations in residential neighborhoods.
- Explore funding possibilities for GIS mapping of potential locations and establishment of community gardens in residential neighborhoods on village/town lands.
- Develop a local model for sustainable community gardens that combines village land and services with residential needs.

Goal #12: Positively engage local residents.

Objective 1: Advance volunteer efforts in the Lake Placid community.

Implementation Measures

- Create a management plan to incorporate and engage volunteers in the local community.

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- Seek to hire a Volunteer Coordinator to increase volunteer and expert services. The Volunteer Coordinator should work closely with the existing Events Coordinator position.
- Work with volunteers to identify potential projects, coordinate logistics, promote and market events to the media.
- Coordinate with existing volunteer organizations including the Rotary Club and the Key Club.
- Establish a program to officially recognize volunteer efforts.
- Continually monitor volunteer efforts for efficiency and effectiveness.

Objective 2: Promote a positive, welcoming community atmosphere

- Create a "Welcome Wagon" program that greets new residents
- Create campaigns that encourages a welcoming and friendly attitude among visitors and residents

