

Draft Gorham Community Vision, Strategies & Progress Measures

The Town of Gorham is a scenic, prosperous, rural community of viable farms and other small businesses and diverse, vibrant waterfront and upland neighborhoods all contributing to the continued health of Canandaigua Lake.

Strategies	Progress Measures
<p>A. Strategies to Maintain Scenic, Rural Agricultural Character & Protect Natural Features</p> <p>The ecosystem services provided by woodlots, wetlands, floodplains, and hedgerows are key to protecting lake water quality. Woodlots on hillsides and in and adjacent to gullies are especially important to maintain. The scenic character of agricultural fields is important to local residents and the tourism economy; appropriately locating and buffering development is important to maintaining the viability of agricultural land and the agricultural economy.</p> <p><i>See 2005 Farmland, Open Space, and Historic Resource Conservation Plan and 2015 Design Guidelines for Ridgelines and Residential Development in Farmland Preferred District.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Land Use Plan should identify priority lands for preservation that contribute to multiple community objectives such as protecting lake water quality, maintaining the economic viability of agricultural and tourism sectors, preserving the scenic rural character valued by Gorham residents, and enabling an efficient network of roads, water lines, and wastewater collection lines. 2. The Land Use Plan and zoning map should locate, and zoning regulations should continue to shape, development to minimize impacts to agricultural viability and community character and maximize preservation of natural features and efficiency of public infrastructure. 3. Develop measures to protect gully and hillside vegetation from invasive species and the threat of increased erosion and sedimentation. 4. Digitize and post historic resource inventory on the Town web site and continue to support preservation and revitalization of historic resources. This includes encouraging property owners to list properties on the State and National Registry of Historic Places. 5. Work with other Canandaigua Lake municipalities to update the Uniform Docks and Moorings Law. <p>See also E. Infrastructures Strategies.</p>	<p>Acres in production, preserved & function(i.e. ag,scenic, water quality)</p> <p># of new listings on Historic Register</p>

<p>B. Strategies to Maintain or Improve Water Quality</p> <p>Seventy thousand (70,000) regional residents rely on Canandaigua Lake as a source for drinking water. Lake water quality is also key to the Ontario County agricultural and tourism economy. Extreme weather events and other changes have brought water quality challenges to all the Finger Lakes, even those protected from the impact of human development, use, and agriculture.</p> <p>See <i>2015 Lakefront Residential Design Guidelines</i>.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue community education; use of best management practices in new development, road maintenance, and agricultural operations; and construction of regional stormwater management facilities in upland areas. 2. Continue policy of not extending public water or sewer south along CR 11 to minimize development pressure in steep slope/shale bank areas. See also A3 above. 3. Continue to require development projects to retain undisturbed vegetated areas to contribute to stormwater management as well as character and scenic goals. 4. Limit newly created slopes steeper than 12% to minimize velocity of run-off and potential for erosion and maximize opportunities for infiltration and natural not engineered landforms. 5. Expand and encourage non-motorized lake access and use. 6. Continue to work with landowners, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Manager and others to identify funding and opportunities to improve water quality and reduce risk of flooding by reconnecting streams and drainageways to natural and built floodplain and wetland areas and to incorporate water quality management practices at field edges. 	<p># of educational programs; Ac/ft of treated water</p> <p>Acres of undisturbed vegetation on development sites</p> <p>Acres of drainage treated</p>
<p>C. Strategies to Provide Diverse Housing Options</p> <p>The Gorham housing stock is diverse in size and location and perceived as more affordable than some other similarly situated areas of Ontario County. However, Gorham’s housing stock includes few rental opportunities and few housing units geared to older adults.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage development on suitable sites in the Hamlet Residential, R-1/Single Family, and Planned Development zoning districts to include more diverse housing options including long-term rental, attached and multi-family housing. 2. Market forces support development of housing for those with the most resources. Gorham aspires to continue to be a diverse community providing a range of market rate and below market/affordable housing options. All residential developments should be expected to contribute to this goal. 	<p>Acres of land w/ MF as allowed use & # units built</p> <p>Affordable units built/ affordable housing reserve \$ collected</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Town actions including planning, zoning, and investments should support future development in established development nodes including hamlets of Gorham and Crystal Beach and Planned Development zoning district. 4. The Land Use Plan and zoning regulations should continue to maintain the scale and character of historic hamlet residential neighborhoods. 	% of new units w/public water&sewer
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<p>D. Strategies to Promote Economic Development and Enhance Sustainability</p> <p>Agriculture and tourism are important sectors of the local and regional economy. Many of the strategies directed to maintain the economic viability of these sectors, also maintain the qualities valued by Gorham residents. Sustainability means different things to different people and can refer to maintaining a balance, a rate of change, and to balancing current and future needs. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability refers to balancing consideration of the needs of people, the environment, and economic vitality over the long run.</p> <p><i>See 2015 Hamlet Commercial, Hamlet Residential, and Residential Development in Priority Farmland District Design Guidelines</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimize land use conflicts between agricultural and residential land uses. At a minimum this requires maintaining or planting vegetative buffers. 2. Encourage agricultural land best management practices such as cover crops, buffer strips, and maintaining hedgerows and woodlots that keep carbon in the ground. 3. Seek full occupancy of existing industrial buildings and hamlet commercial buildings to maintain the vitality of the community. 4. Ensure public and private investments are made based on balanced consideration of people, planet and profit. This includes consideration of cost-effective ways to reduce solid waste and food waste, water and energy use, and reliance on fossil fuels. 5. Pursue funding to install an electric vehicle charging station and hamlet/town-wide business directory somewhere in the hamlet of Gorham. <p>See also E. Infrastructure Strategies E3 regarding contribution of infrastructure investments to overall system efficiencies, E4 regarding investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, E5 expanding Lake access, and B5 expand non-motorized Lake access and use.</p>	Municipal per capita/user water & energy use & landfill wastes
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<p>E. Strategies to Ensure Infrastructure Investments Support the Overall Community Vision and Other Strategies</p> <p>Investments in water and wastewater systems, transportation, and parks can significantly impact community character and contribute to or detract from farmland protection, water quality, housing, economic development, infrastructure and collaboration strategies.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritize replacing older existing water lines, addressing new treatment standards, and improving system operations. 	LF of water line replaced; # of new residential water services in Ag district;
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Extend water lines in conjunction with priority projects when such extensions contribute to financial viability or system operations without increasing development pressure in priority farmland areas. 3. Expect new development to contribute to the efficiency of public infrastructure including road network, water system, wastewater collection systems, and recreation facilities. 4. Enhance the walkability/bikeability of areas with compact development. 5. Pursue opportunities to expand public Lake access. 	<p>Inflation adjusted capital distribution charge/user;</p> <p>LF new trails or sidewalk/miles bike or shared lane</p>
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<p>F. Strategies for Community Engagement and Regional and Intermunicipal Cooperation</p> <p>Lake water quality, the economy, broadband, and the transportation system in Gorham are some of the areas impacted by the decisions of other public and private entities. To achieve its vision, Gorham must collaborate with others.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to collaborate with Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association and others on water quality education and enhancing watershed restoration and resiliency practices of homeowners, farmers, and municipal operations. 2. Continue to collaborate with NYS Department of Transportation and Ontario County Department of Public Works to enhance the walkability and bikeability of streets and roads and to manage access and ensure an interconnected road network. 3. Continue to work with property owners, developers, Ontario County Department of Public Works, and NYS Department of Transportation to implement the roadway connections of the Access Management Plan. 4. Provide a balance of written and digital communications to cost effectively keep all residents informed of town matters. 5. Work with NYS ConnectAll and local operators to expand access to broadband service 	<p># of educational program Ac/ft of treated water</p> <p>LF New sidewalk/miles of bike or shared lane</p> <p># of mailings & # of digital newsletter opens; # of page views</p>
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