

VILLAGE OF HAMBURG

Comprehensive Plan Update

January 21, 2010



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Agenda

- Introductions
- Village Primer
- Process Overview
- Why is Hamburg Updating Its Plan?
- Current Issues
- Preferred Development Survey
- Next Steps



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Comprehensive Plan

What is a comprehensive plan?

A documented process that synthesizes an analysis of statistical data, trends, and benchmarking with input from the public and key community stakeholders to identify and define a community's immediate & long range goals.

A municipal comprehensive plan reflects community views and is used to inform and prioritize policies, decision making, and capital expenditures.



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What is a comprehensive plan?

Traditional Master Plans

- I. Transportation
- II. Public Infrastructure
- III. Natural Resources
- IV. Land Use
- V. Recreation
- VI. Economic Development

Modern Comprehensive Plans

- I. Education
- II. Community character
- III. Tourism
- IV. Pride
- V. Design
- VI. Historic preservation
- VII. Quality of life



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What is a comprehensive plan?

Comprehensive plans **ARE NOT**:

- Expected to produce immediate changes
- The end result/finish line
- Suited to address single purpose goals
- A substitute for action or strong leadership
- The product of a single person, “expert,” or group



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What is a comprehensive plan?

Comprehensive plans are updated to:

- Better address current conditions and trends
- Ensure the direction of the plan and municipal policies reflect current community views and needs
- Refine recommendations to be more effective (Learn from experience)
- Maintain access to grant funding (an up-to-date comprehensive plan is a prerequisite for many grant funding programs)



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Village Primer

**How does a village
differ from suburbia?**



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Village

Designed
for people



Walkable concentration of buildings, varied activities, and people



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Suburbia

Designed for cars



Planned to efficiently move and store motor vehicles



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Village Characteristics

- Accommodates public events and social gathering
- Organized around a focal point of concentrated activity
- Contains a mixture of uses and activities and provides housing for people of different ages and incomes
- Preserves a sense of history and fosters community pride
- Provides a sense of community
- Village environment enhances quality of life
- Design of the physical environment is important and unique



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Characteristics of Suburbia

- Few locations suitable for public events and social gathering
- Organized around highways and parking
- Isolates different uses and activities and provides housing for people of different ages and incomes in different locations
- No sense of history...cheap “15-year” construction
- Little sense of community
- Area people care about ends at their driveway
- Design of the physical environment is shaped by parking and traffic needs. Little attention is paid to the way things look

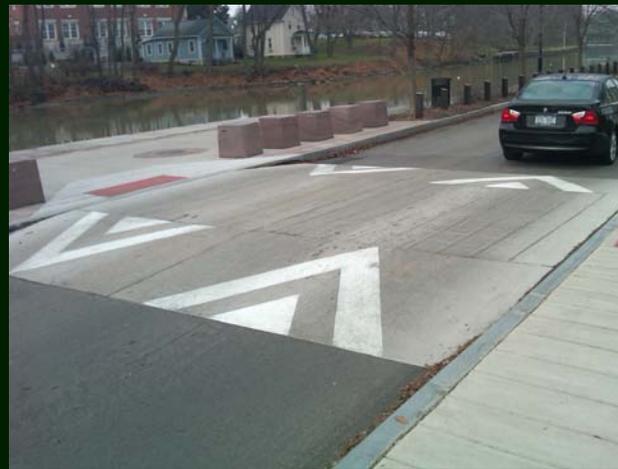


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Village

Streets
designed for
people



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Suburbia

Roads
designed for
cars



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Village

Neighborhoods
designed for
people



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Suburbia

Neighborhoods
designed for
cars



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Village

Buildings
designed for
people



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Suburbia

Buildings
designed for
cars



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A village is like a garden...details matter

The components of a village (neighborhoods, downtown, institutional anchors [library, post office, schools, houses of worship], parks, recreation, public realm, pedestrian network and other infrastructure must be managed and carefully tended together to foster and maintain an attractive environment and sense of community

Successful villages are not “happy accidents” but instead are the product of informed decision makers and an engaged public who persist over many years



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Hamburg's Current Comprehensive Plan

- Adopted in 2003
- Completed during time of stagnant village growth and a shrinking downtown commercial district
- Intended to preserve and enhance residential neighborhoods, commercial districts and industrial areas through six key recommendations:



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Hamburg's Current Comprehensive Plan

1. Improve the village's economy
2. Maintain/repair infrastructure
3. Create a lively village commercial center
4. Improve traffic flow/aesthetics of primary streets
5. Enhance parks and recreation
6. Recognize the village's historic resources



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What's changed in the village since 2003?

The Village has implemented key recommendations from the existing plan, including the adoption of zoning changes and design standards

The NYSDOT reconstruction of Main Street and Buffalo Street provided traffic calming features and streetscape improvements to the center of the village

Successful downtown revitalization, including Main Street Program, has increased private investment and attracted new business to the central business district



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What's changed in the village since 2003?



The Village of Hamburg has recreated an inviting public realm in the central business district



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What's changed in the village since 2003?



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The Village of Hamburg's Current Issues

Why is the Village of Hamburg updating its comprehensive plan now?



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Current Issues

Traditional single-use zoning and planning policies were developed during the 20th century in concert with suburban development and growth

Conventional zoning does not address many critical issues that affect the success and viability of a village

Hamburg's current comprehensive plan took the first steps in transitioning the Village's policies from a suburban approach to a more village suitable direction. The plan update will move forward in this direction.



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Current Issues

- The aesthetics and land use of the Lake Street Corridor
- The boundaries and permitted uses of the Commercial District
- Protecting the character of Main Street between Lake and Center
- The future of the current heavy Industrial zone located on the west side of the village



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Current Issues

- Improving the village's walkability and increasing opportunities for community interaction.
- Providing safe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists along Pleasant Avenue.
- Reevaluate potential of village's remaining undeveloped and/or underutilized properties.
- Improve key gateways to and intersection in the village (e.g. Pierce-Lake-Main Street intersection).



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Current Issues

- Too much commercially zoned property within the village:
 - Deflates real estate values and creates vacancies
 - Weakens the viability of the CBD
 - Erodes the quality of residential neighborhoods
 - Encourages commercial use in buildings and on small lots not suited for it



Current Issues

- Identify potential improvements for Village owned properties (e.g. creekside parcel on Buffalo Street)
- Continue, expand, and improve downtown revitalization efforts and other policy initiatives.



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Current Issues

- Strengthen the identity and character of the village to set it apart as a the social and cultural hub of the community.
 - Continue the Village's program to improve the physical character of its arterial corridors



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Tomorrow starts today