

VILLAGE OF WALDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

VILLAGE OF WALDEN, NEW YORK



CHAPTERS 1-5

PREPARED BY THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
WITH PLANIT MAIN STREET, INC.

FEBRUARY 26, 2013



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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAPPING

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps were prepared by the Orange County Planning Department.

VISION STATEMENT

This *Comprehensive Plan* for the Village of Walden looks to define the attributes that give Walden its unique sense of place, including its place within the region, and to provide a clear vision for guiding future growth and development in a manner that respects the Village's character, so that its unique sense of place within the region is enhanced, its historic, cultural, and natural resources protected, and its social and economic vitality ensured for years to come.¹

¹ For the purposes of the Walden Comprehensive Plan, the following definitions are provided to further clarify the Vision Statement:

Community Character - Those attributes of the Village of Walden that make it unique in terms of its natural resources, built environment and its population. *Unique Sense of Place* – Locally special attributes, which differentiate the Village of Walden from other communities as expressed in its historic structures, public squares, civic and cultural resources and natural environment. *Quality of Life* – A statement that summarizes perceptions about physical, social, health, economic and environmental features of life. It is a composite measure that integrates many considerations about life, and is usually qualitative, not quantitative. Quality of Life is therefore a contextual concept, having no independent or absolute value. It is a statement about the relative well-being of an individual or group – in this case the Village of Walden.

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PREFACE

The Village of Walden’s Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2005. Nearly **eight** years have passed since the 2005 Plan was adopted and a number of issues discussed have either come to pass or are no longer relevant to the challenges facing the Village today. For these reasons, and others, the Village Board formed a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee in December 2010 to lead the effort to update the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. In 2011-2012, the committee met monthly to work on the update.

The new Comprehensive Plan forms the basis for future land use regulations and subsequent zoning or subdivision revisions that may be necessary to implement the recommendations contained within this Plan. It is also intended to help guide other Village policies related to recreation, open space preservation, housing, historic preservation and business development. It is also intended to respond to challenges facing the Village today and during the next ten years.

Details of the public participation process and findings were included in Chapter 2.0 – Public Perceptions of the 2005 Plan. Through public outreach and discussion, the Comprehensive Plan Committee developed a “Vision Statement” for the Village’s Comprehensive Plan that follows. Public participation into the creation of the 2013 Plan was encouraged through informational meetings and two public hearings, which were held at Village Hall.

VISION STATEMENT

This *Comprehensive Plan* for the Village of Walden looks to define the attributes that give Walden its unique sense of place, including its place within the region, and to provide a clear vision for guiding future growth and development in a manner that respects the Village’s character, so that its unique sense of place within the region is enhanced, its historic, cultural, and natural resources protected, and its social and economic vitality ensured for years to come.

Comprehensive Plan Committee

The Comprehensive Plan Review Committee recommended updates to the Comprehensive Plan, which are reflected in future land use policies intended to achieve the broad goal of preserving the character of the Village including its traditional neighborhoods, central business district, historic buildings and overall quality of life. These policies are discussed in the context of specific goals and objectives, which are discussed in greater detail below. Specific policies or actions, which are intended to help implement this Plan is provided in Chapter 10 – Plan Implementation.



Above (top to bottom): The Walker Building on Main Street within the Central Business District; single-family residence on Orchard Street; and view of High Falls and electric power generating plant on Wallkill River. Its historic buildings, residential neighborhoods and the natural beauty in which the community is situated define the unique character of the Village of Walden.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Village of Walden’s Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2005. The Plan recognized that community planning is an ongoing process and recommended additional action plans and detailed studies to pursue recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. The 2005 Plan also recommended periodic updating of the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate results of subsequent plans and studies and to reflect any unanticipated events or new issues.

In December 2010, the Village Board appointed Comprehensive Plan Committee to lead the effort in updating the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. This 2013 update of the Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan is not a new departure. Rather it incorporates and builds upon goals, recommendations and policies set forth in the 2005 Plan. Therefore, it should not be viewed as a change of direction but, rather, as a refinement of a course already established.

This 2013 Comprehensive Plan was prepared in accordance with New York State Village Law, §7-722(2)(a) that states that the plan will “identify the goals and objectives, principals, guidelines, policies, standards, devices, and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development.” The creation of a Comprehensive Plan is not required under NYS Village Law, §7-722(2)(a), but once adopted, all subsequent land use regulations must be in accordance with a community’s adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Village of Walden, New York

Three distinct phases were involved in the development of the Village of Walden’s updated Comprehensive Plan: 1) preparation of baseline data including population, housing, natural resources, community facilities, open space, and infrastructure, etc., 2) identification of issues facing the Village based upon baseline data, a review of existing land use regulations, monthly Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings, along with public input, and 3) the creation of broad goals, objectives and policies.

An analysis of baseline conditions along with public input was used to identify a list of challenges facing the Village. These include:

- Protecting the Village’s wells through wellhead protection measures w/ Town;
- Zoning for commercial and industrial uses to enhance the tax base;
- Need for designated truck routes;
- Providing more off-street parking in the Central Business District” through improvements to existing municipal parking lots or the creation of new lots;
- Sustaining a vibrant business community within Downtown Business District;
- Maintaining the pedestrian-friendly feel and expanding the sidewalk network;
- Providing community services to serve growing community needs;
- Natural resource protection and open space preservation; and
- Providing housing opportunities for a range of household incomes.



Above (top to bottom): View of Millspaugh Furniture Store on Main Street; view of Sohn’s Appliances at the corner of East Main Street and Orchard Street; and view of New York School of Music store and Quarter Note Cafe on the corner of Scofield and Orchard Street on the Village Square. The above-cited businesses are important anchors in the Central Business District or “Downtown.”

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

This Comprehensive Plan is meant to build upon the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and is intended to guide the Village’s growth for the next 5 to 10 years. The Comprehensive Plan serves as the Village’s official policy document, providing a general set of planning principals relating to land use; natural, and historic resources; housing, parks & recreation, downtown revitalization and other related issues. The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to realize the community’s vision for the future and to guide growth in a manner that fosters orderly, coordinated and beneficial development. It should also be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure that it continues to reflect the long-range goals of the community.

1.2 Implementation

In order for this Comprehensive Plan to be effective, the Village of Walden must actively apply the policies that are contained within this Plan. Furthermore, its Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals must use the Plan as a framework to guide their decisions with respect to the review of development proposals. Certain recommendations contained herein will require the subsequent action of the Village Board in order to enact recommended revisions to the Zoning Code and other land use regulations such as the Village’s sign regulations or subdivision regulations and/or the creation of design guidelines for commercial development.

Other actions such as the preservation of historic resources, transportation improvements, or the development of park facilities or bicycle travel lanes will require the collaboration between the Village, Town, County, State and not-for-profit entities. These actions are outlined in Chapter 10 – Plan Implementation of this Plan along with the party responsible for taking a leadership role in the implementation of the policy or program.

Each member of the Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals should have a copy of this Comprehensive Plan. The Village Board may want to appoint a Comprehensive Plan subcommittee to spend time each month reviewing progress on the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan and coordinating efforts with other entities where necessary.

The Village of Walden has a long-established tradition of respecting its history and protecting its historic resources. Its rich sense of history is defined by its residents, neighborhoods, institutions, parklands, business community, and community events such as Walden Harvest Fest that define its unique sense of place today.

If order to properly plan for the future, it is important to have an understanding and appreciation for the past. In Chapter 2 – Historic & Regional Context a brief summary of the Village’s history and its relationship to the surrounding region is provided to help set the stage for the future of the Village of Walden.

VISION STATEMENT

This *Comprehensive Plan* for the Village of Walden looks to define the attributes that give Walden its unique sense of place, including its place within the region, and to provide a clear vision for guiding future growth and development in a manner that respects the Village’s character, so that its unique sense of place within the region is enhanced, its historic, cultural, and natural resources protected, and its social and economic vitality ensured for years to come.

Comp Plan Committee

CHAPTER 2.0 - HISTORIC & REGIONAL CONTEXT

Native Americans were the first inhabitants along the banks of the Wallkill or Paltz River in the vicinity of present day Walden. These inhabitants followed the receding glaciers into the Wallkill River Valley, which was a transportation and trading route for early inhabitants as well as a place of settlement.

Europeans began to arrive within the Wallkill River Valley as early as the 1650's. By the early 1700's, Europeans began to establish homesteads and permanent settlements along the Wallkill. "On the east bank of the Wallkill, the first settlement was established in and around the high falls of the Wallkill. Henry Wileman received a grant of 3,000 acres of land upon which Wileman Town was built after 1713."²

Most of the early settlers were farmers, craftsmen, or traders. By the mid 18th century, the Wallkill River in the vicinity of the high falls was being harnessed for her waterpower. In 1813, Jacob Treadwell Walden, a New York City entrepreneur began purchasing land on both sides of the Wallkill to develop a manufacturing settlement that would harness the water power of the high falls of the Wallkill River.

Thereafter, maps were prepared, for a *planned community* of industrial, business and residential sites called the Village of Walden. "By the 1820's, Jacob T. Walden's mill was creating cotton and woolen cloth for New York consumers through the power of the mighty Wallkill."³ By the 1840's Walden was a major woolen manufacturing center in Orange County. The focus of production shifted from textiles to cutlery when in 1856 the New York Knife Company moved to the idle cotton factory. Walden would see the establishment of two more knife factories with the Walden Knife Company in the 1870's and Schrade Cutlery in 1904.

Soon thereafter, Walden would earn its title as the "Little Sheffield" as it became the cutlery capital of the United States. Cutlery remained a major industry until the 1950's when Schrade Cutlery was relocated to Ellenville. Vestiges of the knife industry remain, from the dam at high falls to the McKinley Statue. The Village and historical society are hoping to create a *Village Museum* to preserve Walden's rich history and its contributions to the Nation. In the 1930's and 1950's Walden was also a center for the garment industry with sewing facilities on the upper floors of the Walker Building, the Wooster Building and other sites. Women comprised 90% of the garment workforce with workspace on upper floors of buildings.



Above (top to bottom): Post Card showing Walden Train Station in its original location (relocated to Wooster's Grove); view of President McKinley Statue and the historic Walden House circa early 1700's. The Village of Walden has a rich history, which is reflected in its people, civic buildings and historic structures.

² Source: Marc Newman: Images of America Walden & Maybrook, Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

³ Source: Marc Newman: Images of America Walden & Maybrook, Arcadia Publishing 2002.

Walden is located within the Town of Montgomery, in Orange County, New York. In 1855, Walden was incorporated as a Village. During the 1870's, rail service also came to Walden, providing both passenger service for residents and freight access to markets for its manufacturing industries. By the early 1900's, Walden came into its own as a center for manufacturing, commerce, banking and retailing.

The early 1900's were a period of prosperity for the Village. During this time, the dense residential development pattern of single-family homes on small lots, coupled with residences above-the-store within the Downtown was established. Public buildings such as Municipal Hall were constructed during this period along with the Soldier's, Firemen's & McKinley monument's and the Volunteer Memorial. These architectural and cultural resources contribute to the vitality of Walden to the present day.

Throughout the 1940's, Walden continued on its path as a center for industry and commerce, serving not only the surrounding agricultural areas, but the greater region and national markets. By the 1950's, Walden's dominance as an industrial center began to decline as a result of competition from other markets. By the 1950's, the Village's last cutlery producer, Schrade Cutlery, moved its facility to Ellenville, New York. Even with these changes, the Village remains a center for manufacturing with such companies as Truffa Seed Co., AMPAC and Interstate Packaging Corporation.

These industries rely upon Walden's skilled workforce and access to markets using the Norfolk Southern freight rail line and proximity to major transportation corridors such as NYS Routes 52 and Route 208. The ease of mobility wrought by the rise of the automobile and the construction of the New York State Thruway and more recently I-84 meant that the Village had to compete with new and emerging automobile oriented retail centers in the region. During the 1980's and 1990's, the Village saw an increase in the vacancy rate in the Central Business District (CBD) or and a loss of market share.

During the 2000's, the business community adapted to regional shifts in consumer spending patterns. Significant streetscape enhancements and incentives for business owners through the New York Main Street program helped business owners to retain, expand or create business enterprises in the CBD. Walden Savings Bank and Hometown Bank of the Hudson Valley – along with retailers like Sohn's Appliances and Millspaugh Furniture – continue to anchor the CBD by serving local and regional demands.

Certain areas in Walden – such as its CBD, turn-of-century mill buildings along Elm Street and older neighborhoods nestled along the Wallkill River – look much like they did 100 years ago. Even though new development has grown around its historic core over time, Walden has sustained its unique sense of place. This Plan is intended to help retain its community character while preparing for future growth.



Above (top to bottom): Fireman's Square with Library and Municipal Hall in the background; former mill building on Elm Street, which was home to Nelco Industries; and single-family homes on Railroad Avenue in the vicinity of industrial buildings, which use to be major employers with the Village. The Village's rich history is reflected in its historic buildings.

2.1 Regional and County Plans

The Village of Walden is located within the metropolitan New York and Hudson Valley Regions. Regional agencies have developed long-range plans for these regions, which are advisory in nature.

In developing the Walden Comprehensive Plan, these plans were reviewed to provide insight into how the Village could best fit into this regional framework while preserving its unique character. A brief overview of the Regional Plan Association’s (RPA) third plan, Hudson River Valley Greenway and Orange County Comp Plan are provided below:

2.1.1 RPA Regional Plan

The Regional Plan Association prepared its third plan for the metropolitan region including parts of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey in 1996. Orange County is part of the 31-county, tri state region and is located in the northern edge of the region.

The Village of Walden and Town of Montgomery are located within an area where the plan recommends the preservation of farmland and open space, limiting suburban sprawl, and focusing growth in existing centers as a means of reducing transportation congestion on regional roadways. This Plan supports land use policies, which preserve open space and encouraging growth within the Village.

Village of Walden, New York

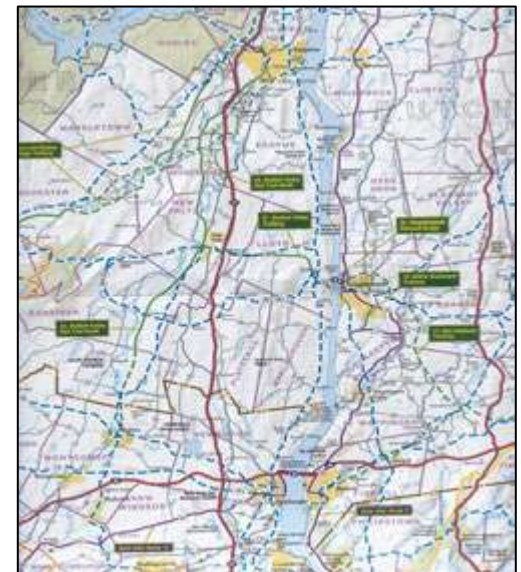
2.1.2 Hudson River Valley Greenway

In 1991, the Hudson River Valley Greenway was established through the passage of The Hudson River Valley Greenway Act. The Greenway covers the areas of Bronx and New York counties, the counties of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Columbia, Greene, Albany, Rensselaer and in Saratoga county the town and village of Waterford, but excluding any area of Greene and Ulster counties within the Catskill park.

In 2001, the Village of Walden voluntarily joined the Greenway’s Community Council and officially became a Greenway Community. There are five (5) principles that Greenway Communities subscribe. What follows is a brief summary of Walden’s plans for incorporating these principles into its Comprehensive Plan.

Natural and Cultural Resource Protection- Through the Comprehensive Plan update, the Village will inventory its existing Natural and Cultural Resources and develop goals and objectives for preserving these resources.

Regional Planning – The Village of Walden, Town of Montgomery and Town of Shawangunk recently worked together to complete the *Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail*, which opened on May 2, 2009. This Plan supports on-going coordination with the Town of Montgomery to create a wellhead protection plan for the Village’s wells, which lie within the Town.



Above (top to bottom): Regional Plan Association’s Greenward Map showing areas within the metropolitan New York Region where growth is recommended and where a greensward of lower density development is recommended; and New York State Department of Transportation’s *Hudson Valley Bikeways and Trailways System Map*, which includes bikeways within Walden.

Economic Development - The Village of Walden’s recognizes that the preservation and marketing of its natural, historic, civic and cultural resources could be the catalyst for tourism and economic development.

Resources include: the Wallkill River with upper and lower falls, three municipal squares, statues, historic Downtown; private, parochial and public schools; religious centers, quaint neighborhoods and an outstanding public park and library system. Walden is also at the crossroads of two State Highways, Route 52 and Route 208.

Public Access - Opportunities to enhance public access to the HRVG Trail System are being implemented. The *Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail* has made Walden the southern terminus of the *Wallkill Valley Rail Trail South* providing a direct link to two of the HVRG *Countryside Corridors* and the Hudson River via Kingston.

The Village of Walden is also pursuing efforts to create new public access points along the Wallkill River in the vicinity of Bradley Park and in other locations along this river. This Comprehensive Plan supports continuing efforts to enhance public access.

Heritage and Environmental Education - The policies noted above will help to preserve the history of Walden and create opportunities to market the Village to those interested in heritage tourism and natural resources such as the Wallkill River.

2.1.3 *NYS DOT Regional Trail Plan*

NYS DOT Region 8's proposed *Hudson Valley Bikeways and Trailways System* includes major bikeways and rail-trails in the Village of Walden. These include bikeways along NYS Route 52 and 208. This Plan supports the creation of such bikeways provided measures are put in place by NYS DOT to ensure bicyclist and motorist safety.

2.1.4 *Orange County Open Space Plan*

The Orange County Open Space Plan was adopted in June of 2004. The recommendations for open space preservation, trail development, and parkland development contained within the County Open Space Plan are supported through the recommendations contained within this Plan.

2.1.5 *Orange County Comprehensive Plan*

Orange County updated its 2003 Comprehensive Plan in October of 2010. “The County Plan emphasizes the concentration of development in and around “centers” – built up areas such as cities, villages, hamlets, and certain crossroads and interchanges – in order to maintain the County’s rural countryside.” This Plan supports a pattern of *sustainable development at a scale and density, which complements Walden’s built environment*; that ensures infrastructure capacity is sufficient to accommodate new development; while assuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs for such public services.



Above (top to bottom): Handicap Accessible access to the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail from Woodruff Street; view of Wallkill River looking northwest from Westwood Drive; and view of public beach at James Olley Park off of Sherman Avenue, which leads to Wandering Park Drive. Walden has an extensive public park system, which enriches its residents’ quality of life.

2.2 Conclusions

The Village of Walden’s rich history, place as a regional employment center, proximity to other employment centers, and ease of access to the regional transportation network including: the Thruway, I-84, rail, and Stewart Airport all combine to make Walden a very attractive place to live. The greatest evidence of this is the steady population increase, new housing growth and the establishment of new religious buildings such as the Buddhist Temple on Edmonds Lane.

Additionally, Walden is experiencing continued reinvestment in its CBD. Many downtown business owners have participated in the *New York Main Street* grant program. They have recently completed façade and interior building renovations, which have enhanced the vitality of the Central Business District. The *New York School of Music* has moved into the former Gridley Furniture Store on Municipal Square providing an important cultural anchor within the downtown. The *Walden Farmer’s Market* and other special events continue to draw residents and visitors to the Central Business District.

This new investment reflects the desirability of Walden as a place to live and do business. As Walden plans for growth and redevelopment, this Plan supports a pattern of *sustainable development* at a scale and density, which complements Walden’s built environment. Such measures will ensure the unique desirability of Walden is maintained for years to come.

This Column Reserved.



Above (top to bottom): The recently constructed Sechen Kunchab Ling, Temple of All-Encompassing Great Compassion on Edmonds Lane; scene from Tsechen Kunchab Ling's annual prayer flag raising festival; and view of Secret Garden Flower Market, which is located in the Walker Building on Main Street. These new investments are part of a pattern of sustainable development, which is encouraged by this Plan.

CHAPTER 3.0 POPULATION & HOUSING

3.1 Population Characteristics

Between 1960 and 2010, the Village’s population increased from 4,851 to 6,978 persons – a forty percent increase. This was lower than the two-fold population increase of Orange County during this period of time, but was still a significant increase. Between 1990 and 2000, the Village population increased 5.6%, half the Orange County rate of increase of 11.0%. The 2010 Census data shows the Village’s population grew by 13.2% between 2000 and 2010, faster than the County rate of 9.2%. This represents the first time the Village growth rate has outpaced the County’s.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Village was the fastest growing municipality in the Town of Montgomery with a growth rate of 13.2%. During this time, the Town’s population grew by 10.6%, the Village of Montgomery by 4.8% while the Village of Maybrook saw a population decrease of -4.0% (see Table 3-3). Walden’s population by age group is comparable to that of Orange County (see Table 3-2). Roughly 27% of the Village’s population is 50 years of age or older. As this population ages, services to meet the needs of its senior population will grow. In 2010, 27% of the population was under 18 years of age suggesting the existing need for services for children and young adults.

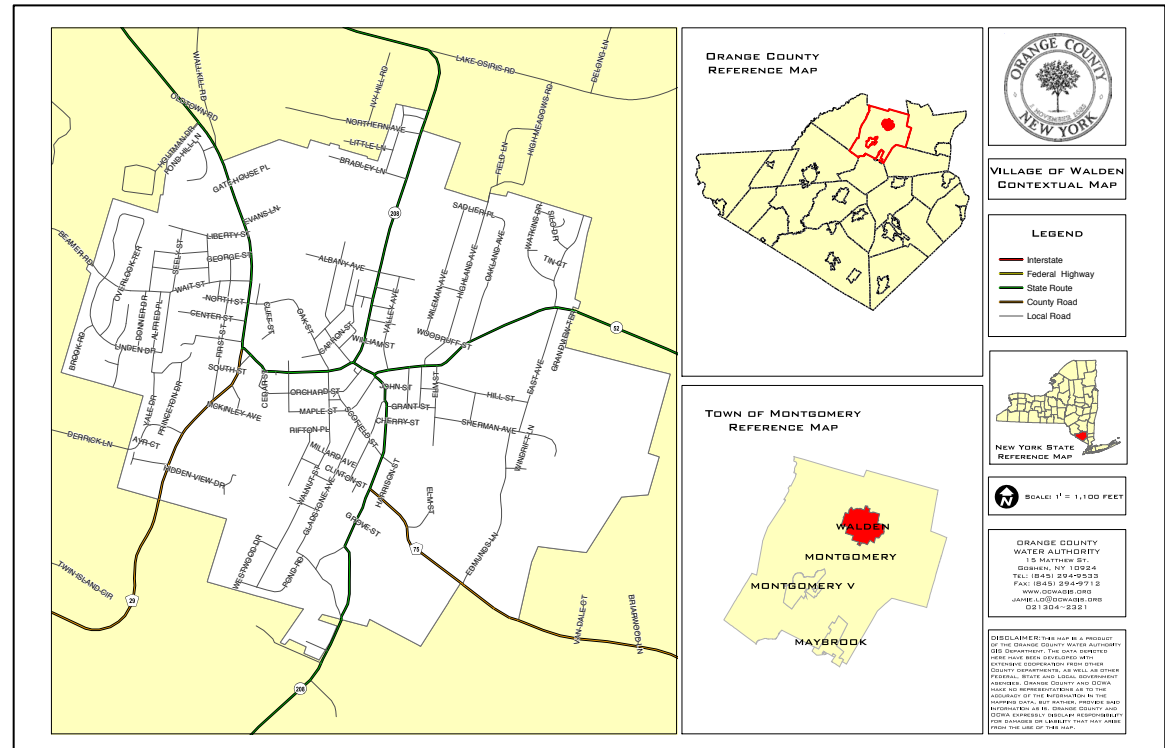


Table 3-1 Population Trends

Year	Village of Walden		Orange County	
	Population	Change	Population	Change
1960	4,851		183,734	
1970	5,659	8.8%	221,657	20.6%
1980	5,536	7.2%	259,603	17.1%
1990	5,836	3.1%	307,647	18.5%
2000	6,164	5.6%	341,367	11.0%
2010	6,978	13.2%	372,813	9.2%

Looking ahead, the Village of Walden is likely to continue to experience population growth during the next decade due the quality of life that it offers its residents. Walden has an excellent public park system and the recently completed *Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail* are the type of facilities, which have and will continue to attract new residents. Walden’s access to the metropolitan New York region, coupled with its historic charm and quaint neighborhoods make it an attractive place to reside.

However, it will be increasingly important to focus on the design of new development as the few remaining vacant sites are built upon. How these properties are designed will affect the future character of the Village and whether it remains an attractive destination for new residents. Ensuring new buildings complement historic properties will help to preserve Walden’s charm. Further discussion regarding design is provided in the Chapter on Land Use & Zoning.

Table 3-2 Population by Age, 2010 Village of Walden vs Orange County				
	Village of		Orange	
Years	Walden	%	County	%
<i>Under 18</i>	1,891	27%	101,529	27.2%
<i>18 -19</i>	199	2.9%	11,420	3.1%
<i>20-24</i>	471	6.7%	24,724	6.6%
<i>25-34</i>	927	13.4%	41,671	11.2%
<i>35-49</i>	1,619	23.2%	82,526	22.1%
<i>50-64</i>	1,244	17.9%	69,958	18.8%
<i>65 & over</i>	627	8.9%	40,985	11%
Total	6,978	100.0%	372,813	100.0%

Note: Source U.S. Bureau of the Census 2010

“IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THE DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AS THE FEW REMAINING VACANT SITES IN THE VILLAGE ARE BUILT UPON. HOW THESE PROPERTIES ARE DESIGNED WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE CHARACTER OF THE VILLAGE AND WHETHER IT REMAINS AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR NEW RESIDENTS.”

Table 3-3 Population Change 1960-2010												
			%Chg.		%Chg.		%Chg.		%Chg.		%Chg.	Persons per
	1960	1970	'60-70	1980	'70-80	1990	'80-90	2000	'90-00	2010	'00-10	Sq. Mi.
New York State	16,782,30	18,236,967	8.7%	17,558,165	-3.7%	17,990,778	2.5%	18,976,457	5.5%		%	402
Orange County	183,734	221,657	20.6%	259,603	17.1%	307,647	18.5%	341,367	11.0%		%	418
Village of Maybrook	1,330	1,536	15.5%	2,007	30.7%	2,802	39.6%	3,084	10.1%	2,958	-4.0%	2,306
Village of Montgomery	1,312	1,533	16.8%	2,316	51.1%	2,696	16.4%	3,636	34.9%	3,814	4.8%	2,616
Village of Walden	4,851	5,277	8.8%	5,659	7.2%	5,836	3.1%	6,164	5.6%	6,978	13.2%	3,129
Town of Montgomery*	11,672	13,995	19.9%	16,576	18.4%	18,501	11.6%	20,891	12.9%	22,606	8.2%	414
Town of Montgomery**	4,179	5,649	35.2%	6,594	16.7%	7,167	8.7%	8,007	11.7%	8,856	10.6%	190

Source: U.S. Census *Town Population Count Includes Villages **Reflects Town of Montgomery Population less the Village Population.

The Village of Walden is becoming more diverse with respect to Race & Hispanic Origin. According to the 2000 Census; 90.1% of the Village’s population was white. The 2010 Census revealed that 79% of the Village’s population is white, 11% black, 0.2% American Indian, 1.4% Asian, 4.7% some other race and 3.7% two or more races. This mirrored the County’s population. According to the 2010 Census, 18.5% of the Village’s population is of Hispanic Origin. This mirrors statistics for the County where 18.0% were of Hispanic Origin in 2010. This growing diversity is a strength, which enriches the fabric of the Village.

Table 3-4 Village of Walden, New York Population by Age 2000 & 2010				
Age Cohort	2000		2010	
	Population	%	Population	%
Under 18			1,891	27%
18 -19*	2,011	32.6%	199	2.9%
20-24	350	5.7%	471	6.7%
25-34	849	13.8%	927	13.4%
35-44/35-49*	1,090	17.7%	1,619	23.2%
45-64/50-64*	1,236	20%	1,244	17.9%
65 & over	628	10.2%	627	8.9%
Total	6,164	100.00	6,978	100.0%
Median Age				35

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 & 2010
*Age cohorts recorded varied between 2000 & 2010

“THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN IS BECOMING MORE DIVERSE WITH RESPECT TO RACE & HISPANIC ORIGIN. THIS GROWING DIVERSITY IS A STRENGTH, WHICH ENRICHES THE FABRIC OF THE VILLAGE.”

Table 3-5 Race and Hispanic Origin Year 2010						
	Village of Walden		Town of Montgomery		Orange County	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Total	6,978	100.00	22,606	100.00	372,813	100.00
White	5,509	79.0	19,133	84.7	287,802	77.2
Black	767	11.0	1,620	7.2	37,946	10.1
Asian	96	1.4	322	1.4	8,895	2.4
American Indian	15	0.2	44	0.2	1,748	0.5
Native Hawaiian or PI	1	0.0	3	0.0	125	0.0
Some Other Race	327	4.7	842	3.7	24,615	6.6
Two or more	263	3.7	642	2.8	11,682	3.1
Hispanic**	1,288	18.5	3,167	14.0	67,185	18.0
Average Household Size	2.81		2.78		2.86	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau *Town Population Including Village **Description of ethnicity not race. A person may consider themselves white/Hispanic, black/Hispanic, or other combination thereof. The percentages of all racial categories will add up to 100%.

Between 1990 and 2000, the Village of Walden saw significant increases in the level of *educational attainment* of Village residents. In 1990, nearly 30% of Village residents had less than 12 years of education. By 2000, this number had decreased to 22%, slightly higher than the County average of 18.1%.

The percent of persons with 2+ Years of College in the Village increased to 8.4%, higher than the County average of 8.2%. The Village also saw increases in the percentage of persons with four or more years of college, which increased from 9.5% in 1990 to 13.2% in 2000. In Orange County, the percentage of those with four or more years of education was 22.5%. The Village will likely continue to see increased in educational attainment during this decade and increased demand for related library services.

The most dramatic trend in educational attainment related to the percentage of persons possessing an associate’s degree in the Village. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons in the Village with an associate’s degree increased from 187 to 315, a 68.4% increase. The number of residents with a bachelor’s degree increased by 52.2% between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 6.2% to 9.1% of persons 25 years and over.

There are two factors influencing educational attainment within the Village. The first factor is residents who may have pursued higher education between 1990 and 2000. The second factor is the educational attainment of new residents who have moved into the Village between 1990 and 2000. Both factors have contributed to a more educated population.

“PERCENT OF RESIDENTS WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE – 9.1%.

PERCENT OF VILLAGE RESIDENT’S WITH A GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE 4.1% - WITH A PERCENT INCREASE OF 28.1% BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000.”

Table 3-6 Trends in Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Village of Walden, New York Trends from 1990-2000				Orange County Trends from 1990-2000				Percent Change	Percent Change
	1990		2000		1990		2000		VILLAGE	COUNTY
		%		%		%		%		
Total Persons 25 Years and over	3,633	100.0%	3,746	100.0%	189,949	100.0%	212,816	100.0%	3.1%	12.0%
Less Than 9th Grade	355	9.8%	212	5.7%	15,656	8.2%	11,942	5.6%	-40.3%	-23.7%
9th-12th, no diploma	722	19.9%	609	16.3%	27,695	14.6%	26,687	12.5%	-15.6%	-3.6%
High school graduate	1,372	37.8%	1,369	36.5%	61,134	32.2%	66,119	31.1%	-0.2%	8.2%
Some college, no degree	652	17.9%	745	19.9%	34,913	18.4%	42,767	20.1%	14.3%	22.5%
Associate’s degree	187	5.1%	315	8.4%	13,498	7.1%	17,348	8.2%	68.4%	28.5%
Bachelor’s degree	224	6.2%	341	9.1%	21,900	11.5%	28,169	13.2%	52.2%	28.6%
Graduate or professional	121	3.3%	155	4.1%	15,162	7.9%	19,784	9.3%	28.1%	30.2%
Percent high school graduate or higher		70.3%		78.1%		77.2%		81.9%		
Percent Bachelors Degree or higher		9.5 %		13.2%		19.5%		22.5%		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau STF3 Data

3.1.1 Employment by Industry

In 2000, the largest industry in the Village of Walden was in Educational & Health Services, representing 19.4% of all employment in the Village. This was slightly lower than the County where 23.83% of all workers were employed in this industry. The second largest industry in the Village in 2000 was in Retail Trade - comprising

18.4% of the local economy. The number of jobs in the Construction Industry declined from a 226 in 1990 to 124 in 2000, representing a 45.13% decrease. The sectors with the largest percentage growth were in Arts & Entertainment, Education & Health Services, and Wholesale Trade - increasing by 391.1%, 44.3%, and 34.91% respectively. Fourteen (14) jobs in agriculture were reported in 2000.

“BETWEEN 1990 AND 2000, THE VILLAGE SAW A 391% INCREASE IN THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.”

Table 3-7 Labor Force & Employment by Industry

Employment Characteristics (Age 16 and over)	Village of Walden, New York Trends from 1990-2000				Orange County Trends from 1990-2000				Percent Change VILLAGE	Percent Change COUNTY
	1990	%	2000	%	1990	%	2000	%		
Total										
Persons 16 Years and Over	4,331	100.00%	4,410	100.00%	231,001	100%	252,668	100.00%	1.82%	9.38%
In Labor Force	2,950	68.1%	3,014	68.3%	156,346	67.65%	164,858	65.20%	2.16%	5.44%
Civilian Labor Force	2,950	68.1%	3,009	68.2%	150,001	64.91%	159,946	63.30%	2.00%	6.63%
<i>Employed</i>	2,816	65.0%	2,876	65.2%	141,415	61.19%	151,744	60.10%		
<i>Not Employed</i>	134	3.1%	133	3.0%	8,586	3.72%	8,202	3.20%		
Not In Labor Force	1,381	31.8%	1,396	31.7%	74,655	32.30%	87,810	34.80%		
Industry										
Educational & Health Services	386	13.7%	557	19.4%	27,740	19.62%	36,167	23.83%	44.30%	30.38%
Retail Trade	608	21.6%	530	18.4%	23,769	16.81%	20,399	13.44%	-12.83%	-14.18%
Manufacturing	468	16.6%	399	13.9%	21,343	15.09%	15,404	10.15%	-14.74%	-27.83%
Public administration	196	6.7%	247	8.6%	8,603	6.08%	11,457	7.55%	26.02%	33.17%
Professional services	204	7.3%	216	7.5%	8,979	6.35%	11,579	7.63%	5.88%	28.96%
Transportation, warehousing & utilities	255	9.2%	215	7.5%	7,322	5.18%	9,081	5.98%	-15.69%	24.02%
<i>Arts, Entertainment & Recreation</i>	34	1.2%	167	5.8%	1,650	1.17%	8,379	5.52%	391.18%	407.82%
Wholesale Trade	106	3.8%	143	5.0%	6,708	4.74%	6,146	4.05%	34.91%	-8.38%
Other Services (except public admin).	116	4.2%	127	4.4%	9,132	6.46%	6,332	4.17%	9.48%	-30.66%
Construction	226	8.1%	124	4.3%	9,977	7.06%	10,297	6.79%	-45.13%	3.21%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	125	4.4%	81	2.8%	8,307	5.87%	9,702	6.39%	-35.20%	16.79%
Communications and Information	92	3.2%	56	1.9%	4,889	3.46%	5,255	3.46%	-39.13%	7.49%
Agriculture, forestry and mining	0	0%	14	0.05%	2,996	2.12%	1,546	1.02%	NA	-48.40%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau STF3 Data

Within the Village, sixty-nine (69) jobs were lost in the Manufacturing Industry during the 1990’s, representing a 14.74% decrease. While this decrease was significant, it was only half the rate of the County decrease of 27.8%. Between 1990 and 2000, there was also a decline in the Transportation, warehousing & utilities industry – showing a decrease of nearly 15.7%. Retail Trade experienced a loss of 78 jobs between 1990 and 2000 – a 12.8% decrease. The decline in Retail Trade was likely influenced by growing competition from big-box retailers that were developed along Route 208 and Route 17K outside of the Village of Walden.

The Village has still been able to retain a vibrant Central Business District (CBD) in the face of growing competition. Millspaugh Furniture’s recent expansion and that of the New York School of Music within former Gridley Building speak to the attractiveness of Walden as a place to do business. However, if the CBD is to remain competitive, public/private efforts to promote and market downtown to customers and businesses alike must be sustained in the future.

Between 1990 and 2000, there were a number of industries that increased their employment numbers in the Village. Employment in Public Administration grew from 196 jobs in 1990 to 247 in 2000 – a 51-job or 26.02% increase. Jobs in the Other Services grew from 116 jobs in 1990 to 127 jobs in 2000 – an 11-job increase. Growth in these industries helped to offset the loss in employment in the other industries.

In 1990, the top three industries in the Village comprised 51.9% of all employment. In 2000, the top three industries provided 51.7% of employment opportunities in the Village. These trends show little in the way of a diversification of the local economy as it relates to the top three industries. However, in 2000 there was a more even distribution in the remaining industries than in 1990 suggesting more diversification among smaller employers.

While many residents’ work within the Village, a significant number commute to work each day. The mean travel time to work for local residents is 24.8 minutes, significantly lower than the average for Orange County, which was 32.5 minutes according to the 2000 Census.

3.1.2 Occupation

Table 3-9 provides a breakdown of the Village of Walden’s workforce (persons 16 years of age and over) by occupation. Twenty-three percent of Village resident’s are employed in Management or Professional occupations. This reflects the educational attainment of the community as reported in Table 3-6.

A total of 19.0% of residents were employed in Services and another 28.6% in Sales and Office jobs. A total of 10.4% of residents worked in Construction with another 18.6% employed in Production and Transportation. Less than one percent of Village residents were employed in the Farming, Fishing or Forestry industry.

Table 3-8
Mean Travel Time to Work 2000

	Village	County
Mean Travel Time - Minutes	24.8	32.5

Table 3-9
Village of Walden
Occupation 2000

	#	%
Management, professional	662	23.0
Service	546	19.0
Sales and office	822	28.6
Farming, fishing & forestry	14	0.5
Construction, extraction	298	10.4
Production, transportation	534	18.6
Total	2,876	100

3.2 Housing Characteristics

In 2000, the Village of Walden had a total of 2,359 housing units. The majority of these housing units, 53.9%, are single-family detached dwelling units (see Table 3-10). In 2010, there were 2,686 dwelling units, an 18.6% increase from 1990. In 2010, 92.1% of dwelling units were occupied and 7.9% were vacant. The Village vacancy rate was slightly lower than the County’s rate of 8.1%. The higher rate for the County is, in part, due to the higher percentage of second homes and seasonal dwelling units in the County that are counted as vacant when the Census is taken in April. The Village has a relatively small second home population.

The 2010 Census also showed a slight shift in owner versus renter occupied housing units within the Village. In 2000, 63.3% of all *occupied* housing units were *owner occupied*. By 2010, this number increased to 65.4%. The County owner occupancy rate in the Year 2010 was of 68.9% (see Table 3-11 and Table 3-12).

Table 3-10

Housing Units In Structure 1990 - 2000	Village of Walden, New York				Orange County 2000		
	Year Round	1990 Units	%	2000 Units	%	2000 Units	%
1-unit detached		1,221	53.9	1,359	58.9	76,454	62.3
1-unit attached		70	3.1	103	4.4	8,012	6.5
2-4 units		593	26.2	612	26.0	19,763	16.1
5-9 units		160	7.1	114	4.8	7,244	5.9
10 or more units		148	6.5	97	4.1	7,624	6.2
Mobile Home		72	3.2	43	1.8	3,608	2.9
Boat, RV, Van, Etc.		0	0	0	0.0	49	0.0
Total		2,264		2,359		122,754	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau STF 3. There is some variation between STF1 and SFT3 data.

Table 3-11

Year Round	Village of Walden, New York Tenure by Occupied Units 2000 - 2010				Orange County, New York Tenure by Occupied Units 2000 - 2010			
	2000		2010		2000		2010	
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%
Owner Occupied	1,388	63.2%	1,617	65.4%	76,959	67.5%	86,756	68.9%
Renter Occupied	809	36.8%	856	34.6%	37,829	32.5%	39,169	31.1%
Total	2,197	100%	2,473	100%	101,506	100%	114,788	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau SFT1 Data

Table 3-12

Housing Characteristics	Village of Walden, New York Trends from 2000-2010				Orange County, New York Trends from 2000-2010				Percent	Percent
	2000		2010		2000		2010		Change	Change
	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	Units	%	TOWN	COUNTY
Total	2,352	100%	2,686	100%	122,754	100%	137,025	100%	14.2%	11.6%
Occupied	2,197	93.4%	2,473	92.1%	114,788	93.4%	125,925	91.9%		
<i>Owner Occupied</i>	1,388	59.0%	1,617	60.2%	76,959	62.7%	86,756	63.3%		
<i>Renter Occupied</i>	809	34.4%	856	31.9%	37,829	30.8%	39,169	28.6%		
Vacant	155	6.6%	213	7.9%	7,966	6.5%	11,100	8.1%		
<i>Seasonal</i>			4	0.1%	2,215	1.8%	2,427	1.8%		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau * Seasonal units are part of the vacant unit count.

Summary

As the Village's population continues to grow, so too will the demand for community services such as fire, police, ambulance, water, and sewer services. New residential construction will likely increase the demand for public education that may necessitate capital improvements in the Valley Central School District. Continued competition from regional retailers will require ongoing cooperation between the Village and the local business community in order to maintain a vibrant Central Business District.

As the community's population grows so too will the demand for parks & recreational services. It is important that the increase in demand for such services are anticipated and carefully analyzed during the environmental review process for development projects. The Village can use the environmental review process to assess such impacts and to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate potential adverse impacts to the community.

As is the case in most communities, the most suitable sites for development in the Village of Walden were the first to be developed. These sites are becoming increasingly scarce - leaving less desirable sites (i.e. those with environmental or other site constraints) for development. Development on such sites will require careful review to protect natural resources such as steep slopes, wetlands, and water resources. In some cases remediation may be necessary.

Care must also be taken to protect important vistas that help to define Walden's small-town character. Infill development on vacant parcels within the CBD must be carefully reviewed in order to protect the integrity of historic business district. New infill buildings should respect the mass & scale of the traditional building stock in the Central Business District and align to the edge of the sidewalk to maintain a building line along the street.

The desirability of the Village (demonstrated by its strong population growth) will also continue to put pressure on the housing market. Looking ahead, policies to ensure that housing opportunities are made available to meet the needs of a variety of household incomes in the community (including volunteer fire department & ambulance corps members, teachers, and its growing workforce) may be necessary.

The Village has many assets and with careful planning it is well positioned to grow in a manner that will strengthen the community's economic and social vitality for years to come. The following chapters provide a broader discussion of natural resources, transportation, cultural and historic resources, parks and recreation, community facilities and downtown revitalization. Each of these chapters will frame the challenges facing Walden in the years ahead as well as policies that it can put in place to help the Village of Walden to meet these challenges.



Above (Top to Bottom): Recently developed single-family home at the corner of Galloway Lane and South Montgomery Street, which is in the southwest quadrant of the Village; newer single-family residence off of Gate House Place in the northwest quadrant of the Village; and view of Winding Brook condominium development, which is also situated in the northwest quadrant of the Village of Walden.

CHAPTER 4.0 – NATURAL RESOURCES

The Village of Walden has a rich and diverse natural environment that offers its residents an abundance of open space and recreational opportunities. The physical characteristics of land are some of the most important factors, which will influence land development. Physical characteristics such as topography, drainage, or soil conditions will control or limit both the rate and intensity of growth.

It is for these reasons that the Village of Walden's natural resources need special consideration in helping to determine the manner in which development should be controlled or limited in various areas of the Village. One of the key goals of this Comprehensive Plan shall be to avoid disturbance of environmentally sensitive lands, to preserve important vistas and other natural resources and to guide growth in areas that are best suited for development.

This chapter provides a brief overview of the Village's many natural resources and those areas with environmental constraints. It also includes a variety of policy recommendations to guide land use decisions in order to conserve these natural resources while allowing for growth. The terrain and rivers within the Village of Walden provide a dramatic backdrop to the built environment. The natural resource discussion begins with an overview of elevation and terrain.

4.1 Elevation and Terrain

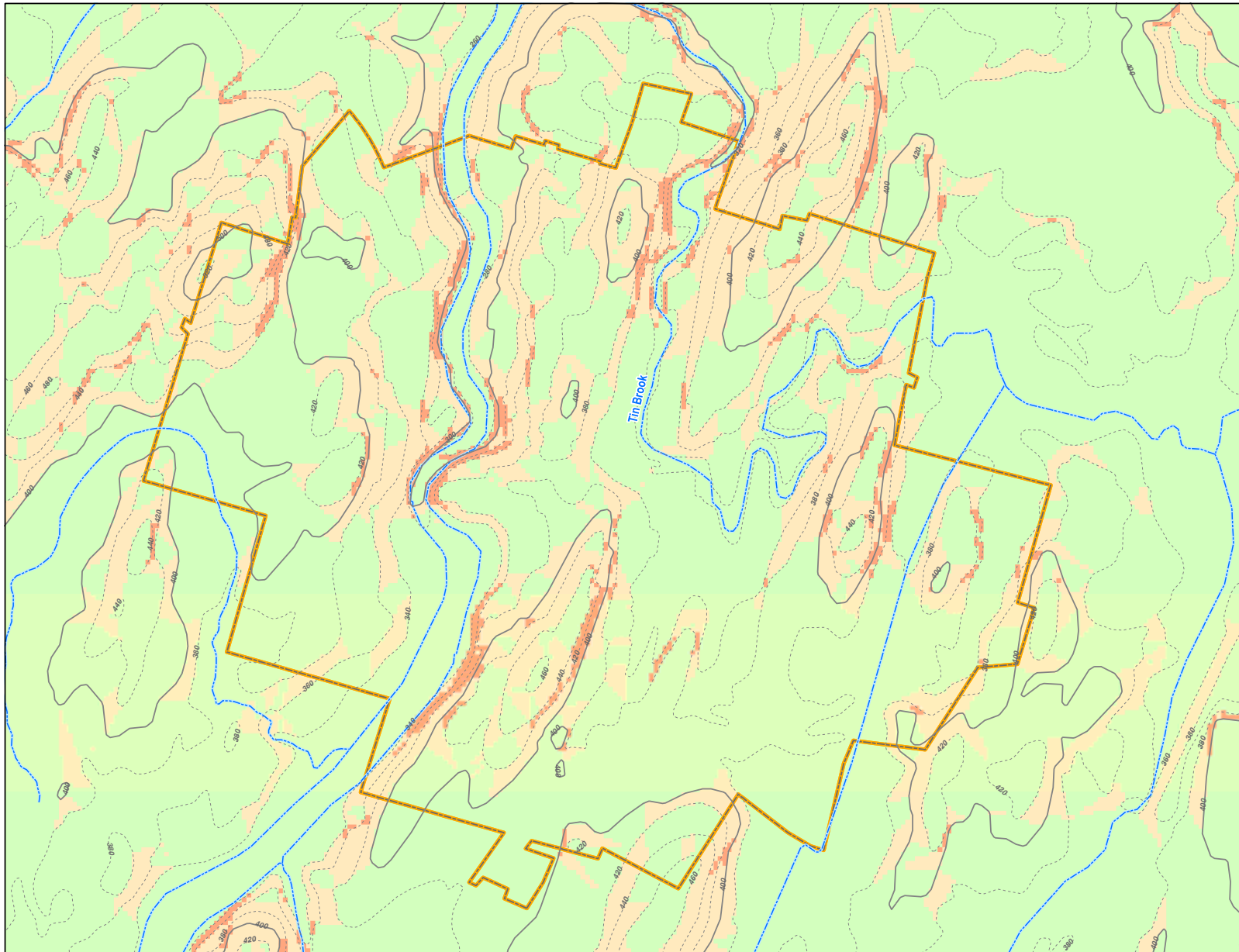
Topography is defined as the relief of land surface describing terrain, elevation and slope. An important measure of topography is range of elevation. In the Village of Walden, the range of elevation is 260 feet. The lowest point is 260 feet above mean sea level (msl) in the vicinity of Bradley Park along the Wallkill River. The highest point is 520 feet above *msl* in the vicinity of Overlook Terrace. In recent years, low-lying areas along the Wallkill River and Tin Brook have been more susceptible to periodic flooding than previously realized. Care must be taken with respect to any development, which is proposed in these low-lying flood-prone areas.

4.2 Steep Slopes

Comprehensive slope information is an essential element in the planning process. Relating land use to topography can help to minimize damage to the environment and to avoid extensive site alterations that can cause destabilization of banks and erosion. Development on slight slopes usually presents the fewest limitations allowing land to be developed with few engineering problems or harm to the environment. In contrast, development on steep slopes can mean higher construction costs, unstable soils and sewage disposal problems. Development on steep slopes should be avoided to mitigate the potential for erosion and impacts on water quality due to erosion and sediment runoff. This is particularly true within riparian zones.

“A RIVER IS MORE THAN AN AMENITY. IT IS A TREASURE. IT IS A NECESSITY OF LIFE THAT MUST BE RATIONED AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE POWER OVER IT.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes



**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
SLOPE MAP**

LEGEND

- 100' Interval
- 20' Interval
- Streams
- Municipal Boundary

**Slope
(In Degrees)**

- 0 - 5
- 5.00000001 - 15
- > 15.00000001

**TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
REFERENCE MAP**

SCALE:
1" = 1,000 FEET

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Slope indicates the percentage of incline of the land. Those areas with a slope of greater than 8.5° or 15% are generally considered to be too steep for development purposes.

Within the Village of Walden, there are many areas with slopes that are greater than 15%. These are found along the Wallkill River, Tin Brook and in the vicinity of Overlook Drive. There are also steep slopes to the west of NYS Route 208. The steep slopes are shown in orange on the Slope Map on the preceding page. Those areas with slopes greater than 35% are found along the Wallkill River. Disturbance of such areas, including existing vegetation, should be avoided. Three of the most common difficulties associated with disturbance of steep slopes are:

- 1) Sewage disposal – soils on steep slopes are shallow, making it impractical to install subsurface disposal systems;
- 2) Drainage – the removal of trees, grading, and erection of buildings will destabilize the bank while increasing runoff. These factors contribute to erosion and sediment control problems; and
- 3) Driveway and street layout – as a general rule, the slope of driveways and roadways should not exceed 6.8° or 12%. Development on steep slopes makes alignments and safe intersections very difficult. They also may result in rapid runoff onto adjoining roads causing erosion and icing problems in the winter.

4.3 Water Resources

The Wallkill River is the primary surface water body in Walden and it flows from south to north through the center of the Village. The Wallkill is classified as a “Class B” stream, meaning it is suitable for swimming and other forms of primary contact. The Tin Brook is a major tributary to the Wallkill and meanders through the northeast quadrant of Walden. There is also another unnamed tributary to the Wallkill, which traverses the Village’s southwest quadrant and enters the Wallkill just south the Village.

The Village obtains its potable water supply from wells, which are situated in the Town of Montgomery. Additional steps must be taken to protect its potable water supply by limiting certain land uses within close proximity to its wells and/or developing additional standards for land uses within its aquifer recharge areas.

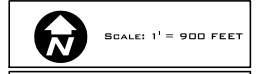
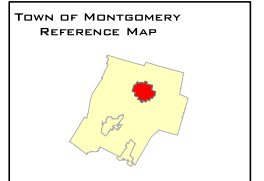
This Plan supports efforts by the Village Board to work with the Town of Montgomery to create wellhead protection and aquifer protection overlay districts in the vicinity of its wells. Land uses around the wells must be carefully regulated in order to avoid contaminants from being unintentionally introduced into the groundwater. It is also important to protect wetlands in the vicinity of the wells. Wetlands serve as a point of absorption for ground water reserves and aquifers on which many public and private water supplies depend. A more detailed discussion on wetlands follows in Section 4.3.1.

“THIS PLAN SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY THE VILLAGE BOARD TO WORK WITH THE TOWN OF MONTGOMERY TO CREATE WELLHEAD PROTECTION AND AQUIFER PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE VILLAGE’S WELLS.”



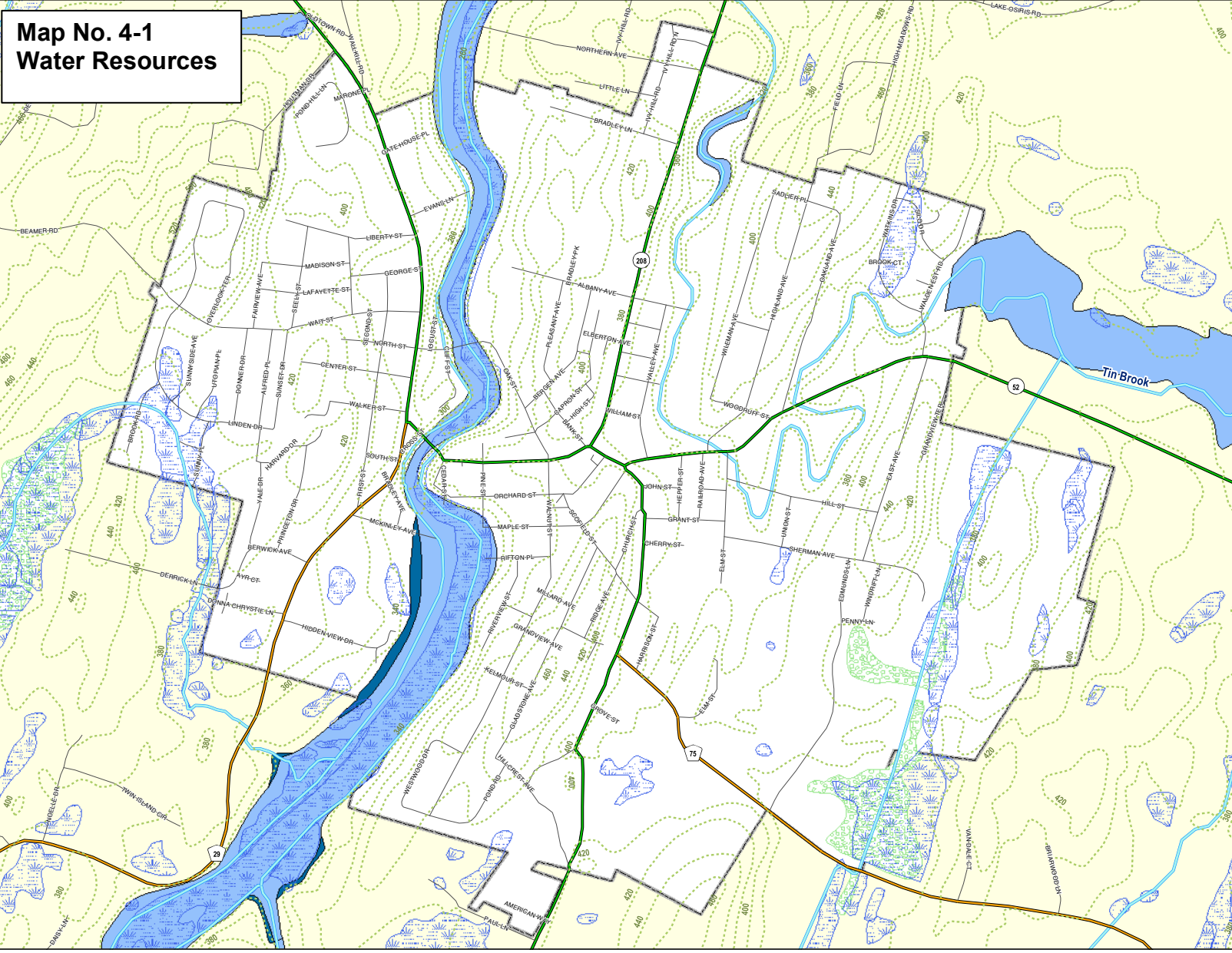
**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
WATER RESOURCES
MAP**

- LEGEND**
- Topography
 - Streams
 - Lakes & Ponds
 - Federal Wetlands
 - DEC Wetlands
 - 100 Yr
 - 500 Yr
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Interstate
 - Federal Highway
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Local Road



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**Map No. 4-1
Water Resources**

4.3.1 Wetlands

Wetlands are perhaps the most critical of all water resource considerations due to their extreme sensitivity to development. These areas are subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and are commonly referred to as bogs or marshes. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has mapped these resources and regulates these water resources. In addition to NYSDEC wetlands, there are also Federal wetlands that are protected under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These are regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and are shown on the National Wetland Inventory maps.

In Walden, there are several NYSDEC regulated wetlands as well as a number of federally regulated wetlands. These wetlands are located along the banks of the Wallkill, Tin Brook, and other tributary rivers to the Wallkill and along the eastern edge of the Village, particularly in the vicinity of James Olley Park (see Map No. 4-1 Water Resources).

These wetlands provide natural wildlife habitat for a variety of birds, waterfowl, and other plant and animal species. The enforcement of the Village’s land use regulations and concurrent SEQR review must be the primary tools used to protect these resources. Allowing clustered development on sites to avoid disturbance of these sensitive areas is one measure, which could be encouraged to mitigate impacts on wetlands.

Wetlands serve an important function cleansing water. They also serve a vital function in retaining large amounts of runoff during the spring thaw or major storm events. In this respect, wetlands help to reduce peak flood flows and decrease flood damage. All proposed development within the vicinity of NYSDEC and federal wetlands must comply with the regulation of the respective authority. Within the Village, both types of wetlands are found. The Planning Board must ensure that applicants adhere to these standards when reviewing site plans or subdivision proposals that are in the vicinity of regulated wetlands.

4.3.2 Flood Hazard Areas

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has identified potential flood hazard areas in the Village of Walden. Areas in the Village that are subject to flooding include those lands adjoining the Wallkill River and Tin Brook where flooding results from snow melt, heavy rains or other weather conditions. By identifying these areas, it is possible to restrict development to open space uses, including passive recreation, which don’t obstruct water flow and are tolerant of flooding.

It is important to do this in order to mitigate both financial loss and the potential loss of life that might occur as the result of periodic flooding. FEMA defines the likelihood of flooding into two broad categories: 1) lands within the 100-year floodplain; and 2) those within the 500-year floodplain.



Above (top to bottom): Wetlands within and along the Wallkill River just above the High Falls, view of Tin Brook as it meanders through Wooster’s Grove Park which was flooded during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and view of wetland along Tin Brook east of Edmunds Lane.

Lands within the 100-year floodplain have a 1% probability of a flood exceeding a certain depth in any given year. Where the threat exists, the construction of houses and other buildings, including civic buildings, should be avoided.

It is recommended that the Village Planning Board factor in the presence of floodplains when they review site plans and subdivision applications. The Planning Board must insist on appropriate mitigation measures for any development within floodplains.

4.3.3 Stormwater Management

Stormwater is water that accumulates on land as a result of storms or melting snow. The porous and varied terrain of natural landscapes like forests, wetlands, and grasslands trap rainwater and snowmelt and allow it to slowly filter into the ground. Runoff tends to reach receiving waters gradually. In contrast, nonporous landscapes like roads, bridges, parking lots, and buildings don't let runoff slowly percolate into the ground. Water remains above the surface, accumulates and runs off in large amounts.

The Village’s stormwater management system includes its storm sewers and ditches that are designed to quickly channel runoff from roads and other impervious surfaces. These devices are important to control high flows that may be a threat to public safety. Unfortunately, there are adverse environmental impacts associated with traditional stormwater management.

Runoff gathers speed once it enters the storm sewer system and when it leaves the sewer system and empties into the Wallkill River. During storm events, large volumes of high velocity runoff can erode streambanks, damage streamside vegetation and widen stream channels. In turn, this will result in lower water depths during non-storm periods, higher than normal water levels during wet weather periods, increased sediment loads and higher water temperatures. It is thus important to control stormwater runoff associated with development.

In New York State, any construction operation that will disturb or expose one or more acres of soil requires a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit for Stormwater Management Discharges from Construction Activity. Soil disturbance includes clearing vegetation, grubbing, filling, grading, excavation, demolition and any current or proposed construction activity. If the proposed action is anything other than a single-family home it will also require the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

A SWPPP addresses both construction and post-construction activities. During construction activities, erosion & sediment control devices such as silt fences are used to prevent silts from soils from be carried off the site during storm events. Detention and retention basins are used to ensure that post-development runoff rates from a site do not exceed pre-development rates. Bioretention basins are becoming more common.

“A STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NYSDEC REGULATIONS, IS REQUIRED FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OPERATION THAT WILL DISTURB ONE OR MORE ACRES IF CONSTRUCTING SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE.”

Detention basins are dry basins that fill with water during a storm event. They work by delaying the storm water so that it is released at a rate that mimics predevelopment flow. Retention basins hold water in a pool and release water through an overflow spillway during storm events. These basins provide for the release of runoff at controlled rates to protect the quality of surface waters and to prevent flooding during storm events.

These basins are important stormwater treatment systems, which allow particulates in stormwater to settle to the bottom thereby reducing pollution in runoff prior to discharge into receiving waters. A *bioretention basin* is one variation of these systems, with plantings intended to also absorb nutrients. Within off-street parking areas, catch basins are used to retain and filter contaminants before they leave the site. Infiltration trenches also treat runoff through a soil medium and pea gravel filter layer before it is discharged.

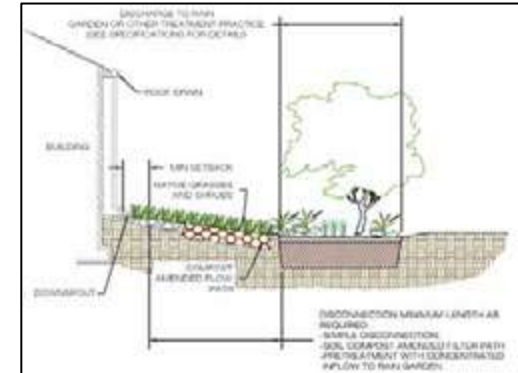
This Plan also encourages the use of *Low Impact Design (LID)* alternatives, such as curb-less parking areas, open grass drainage swales, permeable pavement and dry wells to decrease potential stormwater runoff, flooding, surface water pollution and groundwater pollution related to future development. As the Planning Board reviews development applications it must ensure that appropriate stormwater management measures are put in place. Such measures will help to protect water quality and mitigate potential damage during major storm events.

4.4 Soils

Proper siting of development must include an analysis of soil types within a community. Soils differ according to variations in composition, particle-size gradation, and compaction; factors which control permeability, porosity and strength. Each of these factors and depth to bedrock is important in determining how much and what kind of development the land is capable of supporting.

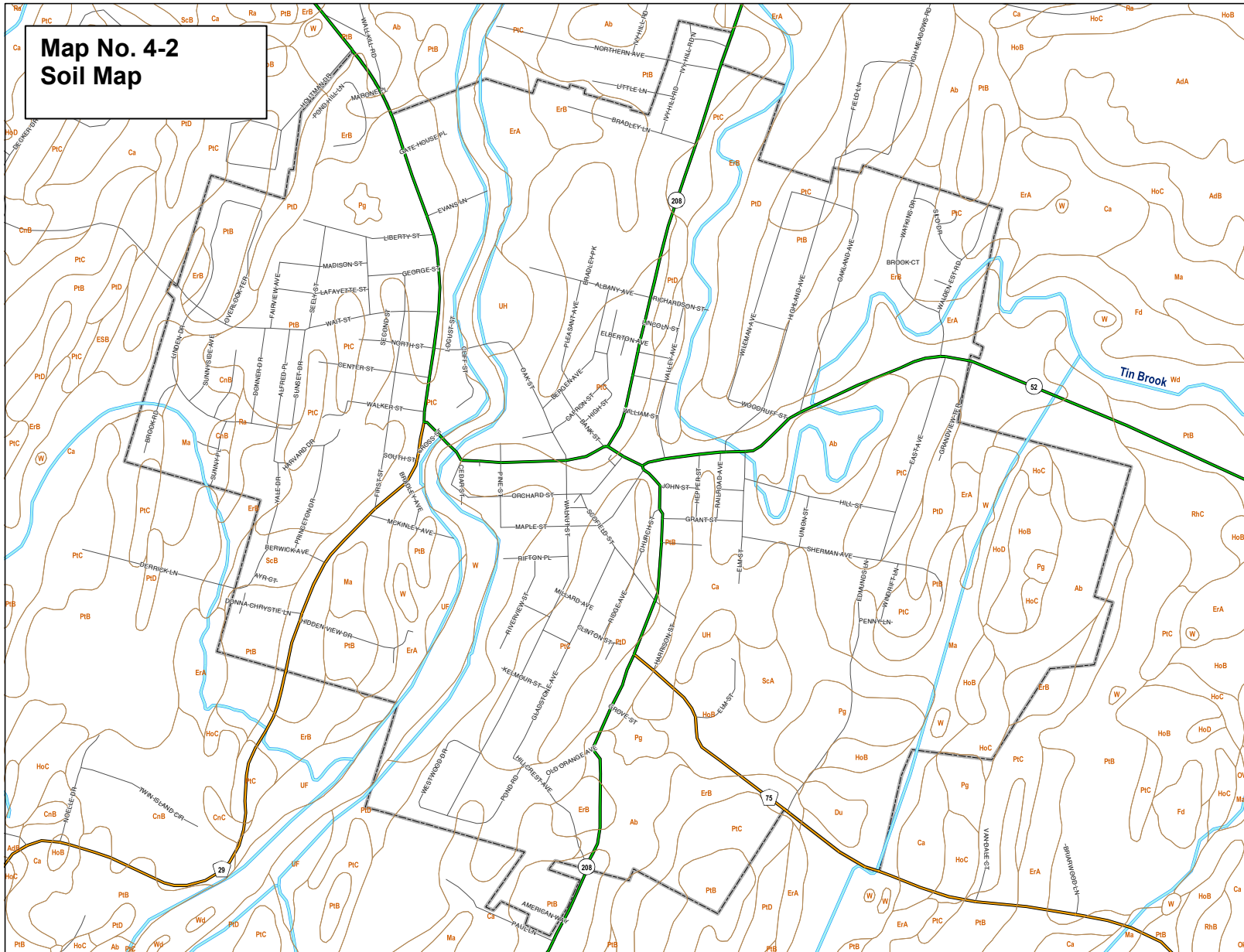
Soil porosity and permeability is a major consideration in determining development capability. Hydric soils have poor potential for building development since wetness and frequent ponding are severe problems that are difficult and costly to overcome. Soils associated with steep slopes are also not well-suited to development as they are prone to erosion.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources Conservation Service has mapped and classified soil types (see Map 4-2 and Map 4-3). However, these soil classifications are not site specific. It is useful to consider the specific soil conditions in a community in directing growth to areas that can support development without high construction costs. Therefore, any classification system needs to allow for detailed on-site soils testing by engineers for purposes of finding pockets of more suitable soils for development. A detailed description of the soil groups within the Village of Walden is available in the USDA Orange County Soil Survey.



Above (top to bottom): Illustration showing residential rooftop bioretention system; view of bioretention system with plantings, which are intended to absorb nutrients from runoff and a typical bioretention system. This Plan supports the use of bioretention and other Best Management Practices approved by the NYSDEC.

Source: Illustration from Virginia Department Conservation & Recreation. **22**



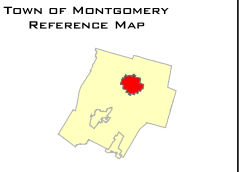
Map No. 4-2
Soil Map



VILLAGE OF WALDEN
SOIL MAP

LEGEND

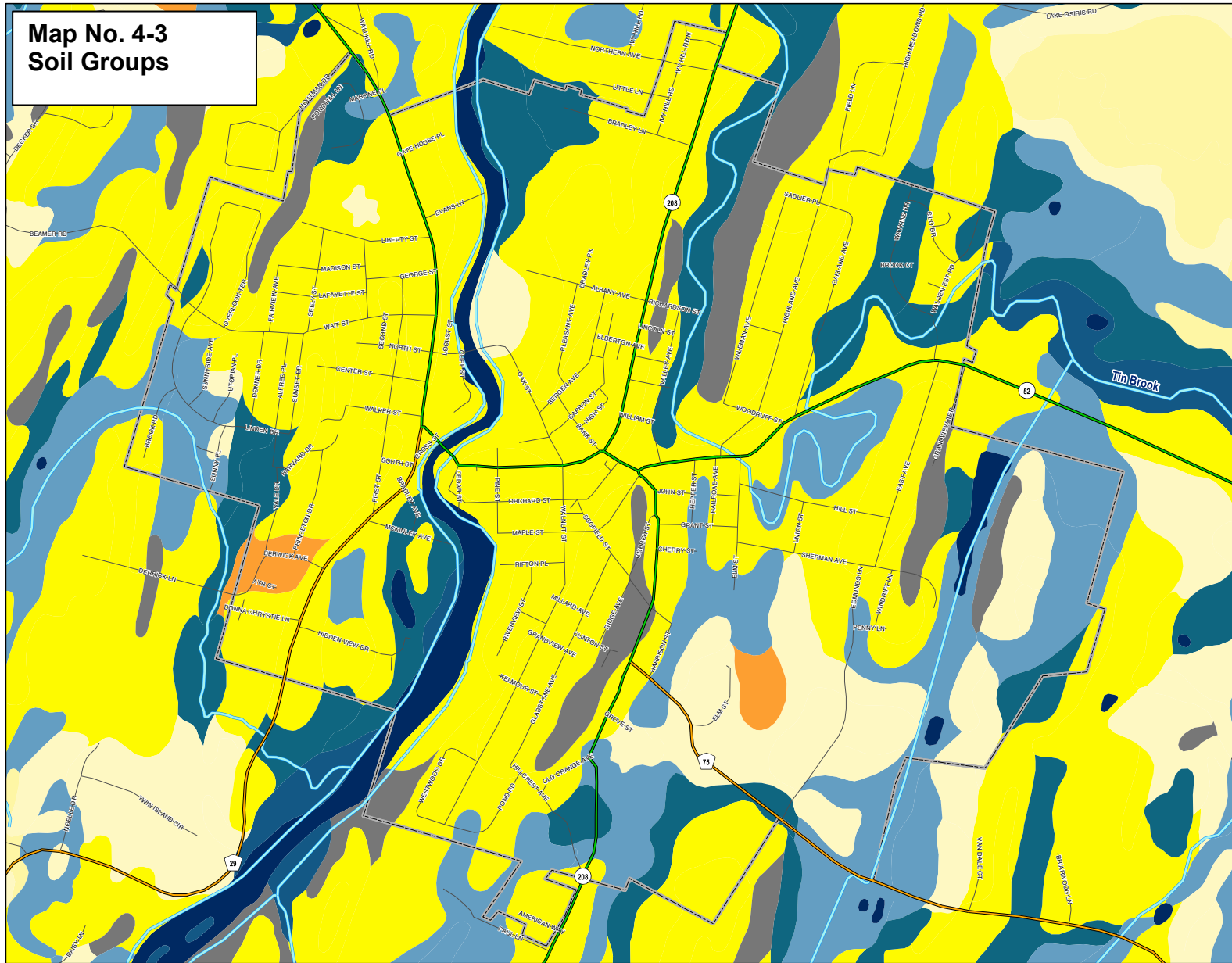
- Interstate
- Federal Highway
- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road
- Soils
- Streams
- Municipal Boundary
- Lakes & Ponds



SCALE: 1" = 900 FEET

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**Map No. 4-3
Soil Groups**



**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
SOIL MAP**

LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Federal Highway
- State Road
- County Road
- Local Road
- Stream
- 1. Well-drained wet soil with sand and gravel, nearly level through sloping
- 2. Well drained, very fine sand and silt, nearly level to gently sloping
- 3. Coarse silt and sand with a fine layer of silt, nearly level through sloping
- 4. Coarse silt and sand with a fine layer of silt, nearly level through sloping
- 5. Heavy silt and clay, nearly level to gently sloping
- 6. Medium silt and clay with black and carbonaceous, nearly level to through sloping
- 7. Silt, clay and clay with black and carbonaceous, nearly level to through sloping
- 8. Silt, clay and clay with black and carbonaceous, nearly level to sloping
- 9. Silt, clay and clay with black and carbonaceous, nearly level to sloping
- 10. Heavy silt and clay, nearly level to through sloping
- 11. Heavy silt and clay, nearly level to through sloping
- 12. Silt and clay that are influenced by steep slopes, moderately steep to steep (over 15 percent)
- 13. Silt and clay that are influenced by steep slopes, moderately steep to steep (over 15 percent)
- 14. Coarse silt and clay, nearly level to through sloping
- 15. Substrata and material, public

**TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
REFERENCE MAP**



SCALE: 1" = 900 FEET

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4.5 Riparian Zones

A riparian zone is the border between land and a flowing surface water body that is densely populated with plant species. There is a well-defined riparian zone along the Wallkill River and Tin Brook within the Village of Walden.

Perhaps one of the most important qualities of the riparian buffer zone is its ability to control erosion, and thus, to prevent sediment pollution. In a stream surrounded by a riparian zone, sediment pollution is controlled. Riparian zones are densely populated with plant species and thus have intricate root systems that prevent erosion and undercutting of banks. In addition, the woody stems and grasses help to physically trap sediment by slowing down the water runoff from the surrounding area, allowing the sediment to settle out.

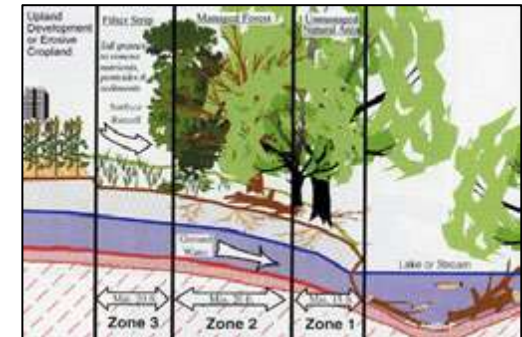
The branches, stems and leaves of these plants absorb the impact of raindrops. Decaying leaves and low-growing vegetation form a ground cover that further lessens the erosive force of raindrop impact. This groundcover slows runoff, increasing the amount of water absorbed into the soil and then released slowly into the stream, groundwater, or atmosphere. The water that is absorbed may contain nutrients, pesticides, and other pollutants that will eventually be taken up by plants or broken down over time. By slowing runoff, trapping sediments, and increasing absorption, these plants act as a living filter to protect water quality.

The riparian zones along the Wallkill River and Tin Brook thus play a vital function in helping to protect the water quality in these streams. The riparian zones also play a very important role in helping to prevent excessive erosion of the stream banks during periodic flooding. With the onset of Hurricane Irene in 2011, the Tin Brook experienced severe flooding and the riparian zone helped to reduce erosion along the stream.

Waterfront vegetation also enhances habitat for wildlife and increases opportunities for wildlife viewing. Plants along waterways provide food and shelter for a variety of insects, amphibians, reptiles, songbirds, mammals and fish.

Maintaining or developing an attractive riparian zone can:

- Increase property values;
- Reduce property loss from excessive erosion;
- Protect water quality by filtering sediments and other contaminants;
- Discourage geese congregation;
- Enhance wildlife habitat by providing shade that reduces water temperature;
- Contribute to the natural beauty of the land;
- Dissipate noise from traffic, roads, and nearby properties;
- Reduce maintenance time and related costs;
- Provide privacy;
- Screen unsightly views; and
- Enhance scenic views.



Above (top to bottom): Illustration showing unmanaged natural zone, managed forest zone and filter strip (i.e. Zone 1, 2 and 3) and aerial views of riparian zone along the Wallkill & Tin Brook. Riparian zones help to prevent excessive erosion of stream banks.

Source: Illustration from Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Research shows riparian zones are instrumental in water quality improvement for both surface runoff and water flowing into streams through subsurface or groundwater flow; particularly the attenuation of nitrate or denitrification of the nitrates from fertilizer. Riparian zones can play a role in lowering nitrate contamination in surface runoff from athletic fields, which runoff would otherwise damage ecosystems and human health by potentially infiltrating groundwater.

It is important to maintain the riparian zone along the Wallkill River and the Tin Brook in order to protect the quality of these streams.

4.6 Tree Preservation & Conservation

Trees, shrubs and other plant materials add four-season living color, texture and visual interest to the landscape of the Village of Walden. Street trees, landscaped lawns, shrubs and other plantings throughout the community help to define the Village's small town charm and make it an attractive community in which to live and visit. It is thus important that the Village Board play an active role in conserving this natural resource and encouraging new tree plantings.

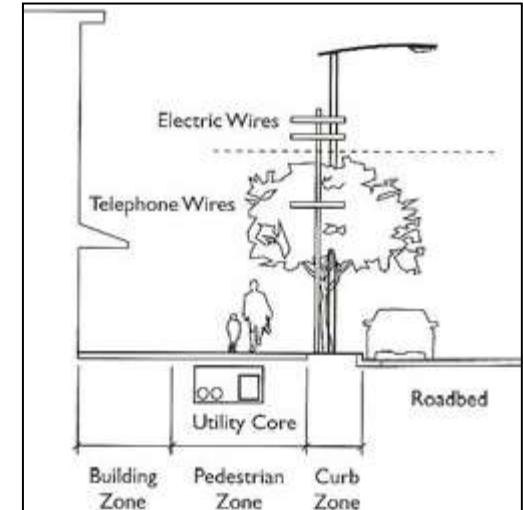
Throughout the Village, mature street trees are the most prominent form of plantings along the street. Street trees help to soften the hard surfaces of sidewalks, off-street parking areas and streets and help to define the pedestrian right-of-way by providing a buffer between the street and the sidewalk.

Over time the Village has lost a number of street trees due to age, disease and excessive pruning of branches away from overhead utilities. Trees were also lost with recent sidewalk improvements, but new street trees were planted with the new streetscape improvements.

This Plan recommends that the Village pursue conservation measures to conserve its existing inventory of street trees and that it also continue its ongoing street tree replacement program for both residential streets and the commercial streets within the Central Business District.

Within the Central Business District, the Village has planted street trees that, while still young, are beginning to provide an effective shade canopy in the summer, and visual interest during the stark winter months. These trees are appropriately sized for the Central Business District taking into consideration overhead wire and underground utilities. Street tree planting within the Downtown should continue as well as efforts to plant street trees in residential neighborhoods within the Village.

On residential streets, street trees should be planted within a planting strip between the sidewalk and the curb. When selecting a tree species, consideration must be given to the size of the mature canopy and root system, so that trees will not compete for light or nutrients. Species must also be selected that are hardy and tolerant of road salts deposited during the winter months.



Above: Trees should be selected such that mature tree height is less than the height of any wires, or trees should be pruned below wires. Do not plant over underground utilities.

Source: Illustration from Planning & Urban Design Standards.

Within the Central Business District, the existing buildings are in close proximity to the sidewalks and/or planting strips. It is important the shape of the mature crown of the street tree is taken into consideration to avoid the tree canopy from growing into the building wall and requiring severe pruning over time.

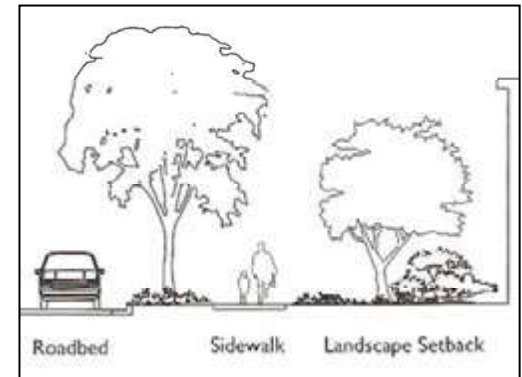
Street trees provide many community benefits. There are studies that show that drivers tend to drive slower on streets that are lined with street trees. The trees provide a canopy that encloses the street that creates a calming effect. Street trees also help to protect air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide from automobiles and releasing oxygen. A large mature canopy of leafy deciduous trees also helps to absorb noise generated from traffic that in turn reduces ambient noise levels within the Village. Trees also add to the natural beauty of the Village.

Street trees also provide a physical and psychological buffer between the sidewalk and the street that makes pedestrians feel safer which encourages walking.

In summary, street trees provide these benefits:

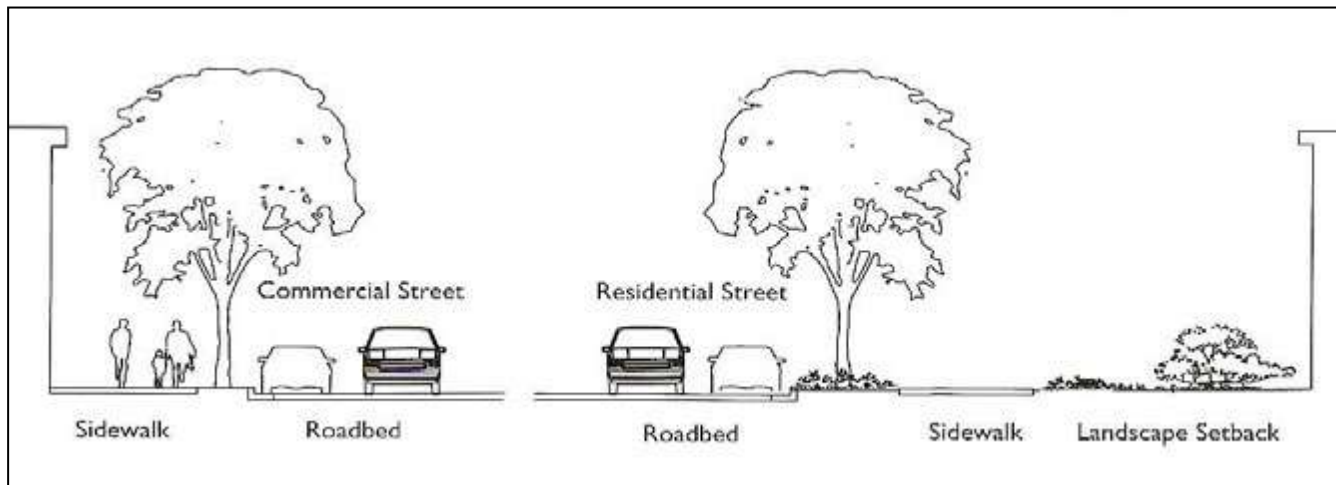
- Calm traffic;
- Protect air;
- Encourage walking;
- Contribute to Village’s natural beauty;
- Reduce noise; and
- The International Society of Arboriculture estimates the improvement in curb appeal due to street trees increases real estate values by 20%.

Specific recommendations for conserving trees and encouraging new plantings are included in the summary of this chapter.



Above: The upper photo shows NYS Route 208 that is lined with street trees and the bottom photo a section Overlook Terrace without street trees. Street trees on residential streets are typically located in a planting strip between the sidewalk and the curb.

Source: Planning & Urban Design Standards.



4.7 Energy Conservation

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), representing all segments of the building industry, developed LEED. LEED standards have been developed for the following:

- New commercial construction and major renovation projects;
- Existing building operations; and
- Commercial interior projects.

LEED defines quantifiable measures for rating development projects based upon the number of points achieved by a project, out of a 69 possible. The scale is as follows:

LEED certified: 26 to 32 points;
Silver level: 33 to 38 points;
Gold level: 39 to 51 points; and
Platinum level: 52 plus points.

Within the rating system six (6) general LEED categories: Sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design. Each of these categories impacts the overall LEED score. The following is a brief summary of each category, which determine the LEED level assigned to a project.

Sustainable sites. Credits are given for infill development, development near existing infrastructure and redevelopment of brownfield sites. Development on prime farmland, lands less than five feet above the floodplain, or closer than 100 feet from a wetland or stream are not considered sustainable.

Water efficiency. Points are given for water-efficient fixtures and landscaping that reduces the need for irrigation.

Energy and atmosphere. Emphasis is on energy savings through insulation, efficient mechanical systems, alternative energy sources and renewable energy.

Materials and resources. Focuses on the environmentally preferable materials.

Indoor environmental quality. Focus is on low or no volatile organic compounds materials.

Innovation in design. Given to performance above the five other categories.

The Village should encourage the use of LEED technologies in the design of new buildings. The Planning Board when reviewing developments should ask applicants to consider the placement of new buildings in a manner that maximizes energy efficiency and sustainability. The Village should provide education and outreach regarding LEED techniques in order to raise community awareness of its benefits.

“THIS PLAN ENCOURAGES LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED) WITHIN NEW DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH ARE PLANNED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS ALTERATIONS TO ITS EXISTING BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO CONSERVE ENERGY.”

4.8 Night Sky

A number of residents have spoken of the *night sky* as a natural resource that must be protected. Residents were concerned with *light pollution* and the need to keep lighting from trespassing onto adjoining properties and into the night sky within the Village of Walden.

The Planning Board can do its part to preserve night sky by ensuring that lighting is sufficient for the proposed land use but not excessive. To this end, it is recommended that lighting be limited to 2.0 foot-candles within off-street parking areas and that lighting be designed in a manner that keeps the light entirely on the subject site, away from adjoining properties, and out of the night sky.

To accomplish this goal, the Planning Board should require developers to install lighting fixtures with a horizontal cutoff lens so that light is directed to the ground and not into the night sky. The Village should also encourage its residents and businesses to employ night sky-friendly lighting techniques such as adding hoods to area floodlights, replacing existing yard lights with those fixtures that include an opaque reflector and using downlit lighting for signage.

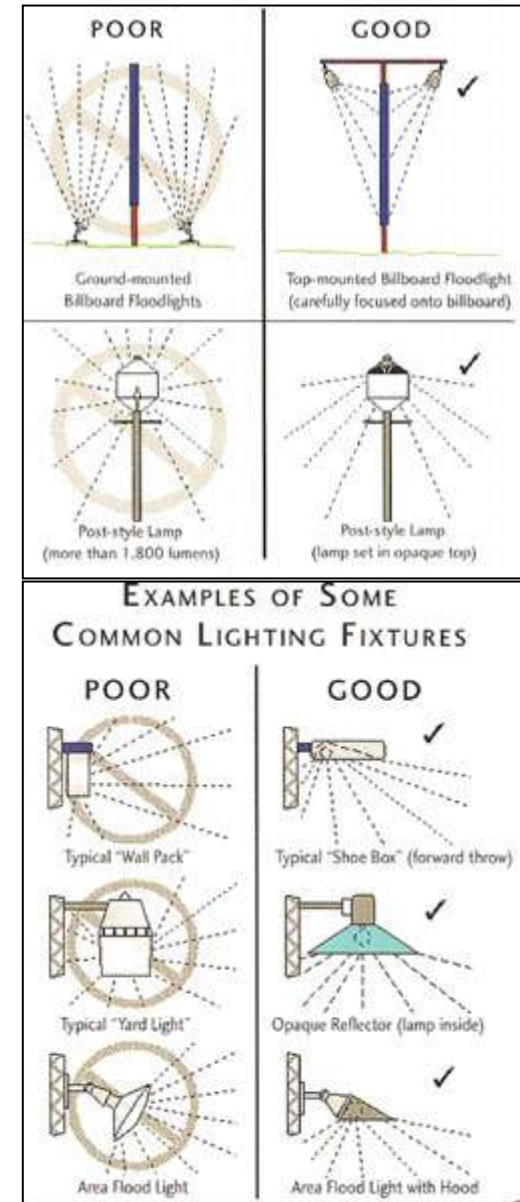
The *Otsego County Conservation Association* has developed a pamphlet that addresses light pollution called “Starry Nights in Otsego County.” The Planning Board is encouraged to use the illustration from this pamphlet as a guide.

4.9 Invasive Plants & Animals

It is a policy of this Plan to support invasive plant and animal eradication efforts. Invasive species are non-native species that can cause harm to natural ecosystems resulting in a wide range of environmental, recreational and economic impacts. The NYSDEC has identified invasive species as a significant threat to the State’s biodiversity - second only to habitat loss.

The Village’s economy is dependent on the health of its ponds and streams that provide boating, fishing and swimming opportunities. Once introduced into water bodies, aquatic invasive plants spread rapidly, congest waterways and disrupt native fish populations. Invasive animals could decimate local fish populations. Once infested, ponds and rivers can become unusable and this could adversely affect the local economy as the quality of these natural resources is diminished.

It is recommended that the Village Board work with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to identify threats related to invasive species. Examples include Japanese Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife and other invasive plants. When identified, the Village Board should reach out to partner with the NYSDEC to secure funding through their *Invasive Species Eradication* grants to help eradicate invasive species. State funds can be used to pay for up to one half of the total costs of a selected eradication project.



Above: Examples of “Poor” and “Good” lighting fixtures.

Source: Otsego County Conservation Association “Starry Nights in Otsego County”

4.10 Recommendations

There are a variety of land use policies that the Village can employ to protect its natural resources including the following:

4.10.1 Steep Slopes

Identify steep slopes (over 15%) as part of a site assessment prior to developing the building site and road design in order to acknowledge and maintain the hillside character and natural features of the site. This approach can help to minimize site grading and retain the natural and topographic character of the site.

4.10.2 Water Resources

Create wellhead protection and aquifer protection overlay districts. The Village obtains its water supplies from wells that are situated within the Town of Montgomery. The Village must take additional steps to protect its potable water supply by limiting certain land uses within close proximity to its wells and/or developing additional standards for land uses within its aquifer recharge areas. This will require cooperation with the Town of Montgomery.

Follow NYSDEC requirements to maintain a 100-foot setback between development and adjacent wetlands. During the site plan and special permit review process, applicants must be required to show existing wetlands and required setbacks on site plans.

Restrict the development of buildings and impervious surfaces within the 100-year floodplain. Carefully review applications for development in the 100-year floodplain. Participate in FEMA programs to help prevent future loss of property and life due to flooding.

Require Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) in accordance with the NYSDEC State SPDES general permit for commercial developments or major subdivision applications. SWPPP’s helps to ensure that post-development runoff rates from a site do not exceed pre-development rates. Such plans provide for treatment of runoff and release of runoff at controlled rates to protect the quality of surface waters and prevent flooding from storm events.

Encourage the use of stormwater basins and Low Impact Design alternatives to manage and treat stormwater runoff. Detention and bio-retention basins should be used to ensure that post-development runoff from sites is not increased and nutrients absorbed from runoff.

4.10.3 Soils

Where proposed development involves grading of the site or cutting and filling operations require a Sediment & Erosion Control Plan. Generally, development on sites should work with the topography of the site and avoid excessive grading of the site. Where grading is proposed, a sediment & erosion control plan should be provided.

“REQUIRE STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLANS (SWPPP) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NYSDEC STATE POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (SPDES) GENERAL PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS OR MAJOR SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS.”

4.10.4 Riparian Zones

Restrict the cutting of trees along the banks of the Wallkill River. The clearing of trees on the banks of the Wallkill River should be prohibited.

Create a public information brochure regarding the importance of retaining the riparian zone along the Wallkill River and Tin Brook. The Village should take proactive measures to educate the public about the importance of retaining mature trees within the riparian zones.

4.10.5 Tree Preservation & Conservation

Enlist the services of an arborist to develop a coherent long-term plan for street tree conservation. Such a plan would identify existing trees with diseases, areas where trees are needed, tree pruning techniques, the desirable species of trees and tree planting schedule.

Enforce landscaping and street tree standards for new developments. Developers should provide a landscaping and street tree plan for the development and redevelopment of properties.

Strictly enforce tree survey and tree clearing permit laws. Require developers to provide a tree survey showing all trees with a caliper of over eight (8) inches when seeking site plan or subdivision approval. Use this tool to conserve as many mature trees on site as possible and should take the additional step of developing standards for the planting of street trees associated with all new development.

4.10.6 Encourage Leadership in Energy Conservation and Design (LEED). The Village should encourage the use of LEED technologies in the design of new buildings.

The Planning Board when reviewing developments should ask applicants to consider the placement of new buildings in a manner that maximizes energy efficiency and sustainability. The Village should provide education and outreach regarding LEED techniques in order to raise community awareness of its benefits.

4.10.7 Night Sky

Require developers to install lighting fixtures with horizontal cutoff lenses. This will protect night sky by directing light to the ground and avoid the spillover of light onto adjoining properties or into the night sky.

4.10.8 Invasive Plants & Animals

Support local efforts to eradicate invasive plants and animals. Invasive species can adversely affect the natural ecosystem if left unchecked. When identified it is recommended that these species be eradicated before they spread and cause greater harm to the local ecosystem.

There are a variety of grant opportunities through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to assist communities with the eradication of invasive species.



“GIVEN A LIMITED BUDGET, THE MOST EFFECTIVE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO IMPROVE A STREET WOULD PROBABLY BE ON TREES. MOREOVER, FOR MANY PEOPLE TREES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE CHARACTERISTIC OF A GOOD STREET.”

Allan B. Jacobs

CHAPTER 5.0 TRANSPORTATION

The Village of Walden’s transportation system is comprised of its highways, streets, freight rail line, sidewalks, and recreational trails. The existing transportation system is highly effective in moving goods, vehicles and people within and through the community. Together, these transportation systems have helped to shape the character of the Village and will continue to influence its development into the future.

The components of the Village’s transportation system often share the public realm across the entire public right-of-way resulting in the frequent interaction between pedestrians and drivers [e.g. streets and sidewalks]. It is thus important that all components of the transportation system be considered in relation to one another to ensure a safe and efficient transportation system.

We begin the transportation discussion with a focus on highways and streets. Each and every highway and street plays an important role in moving goods and people within and through the Village. The regional highways that traverse the Village (e.g. NYS Route 52 and NYS Route 208) are designed to carry traffic through the entire region. Its local streets are intended to channel traffic from local residences to collector streets. The function of each of the Village’s highways and streets is discussed in Section 5.1.

5.1 Roadway & Highway Classifications

Highways are generally described by their functional classifications. The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has created a functional classification system for roadways that is described below.

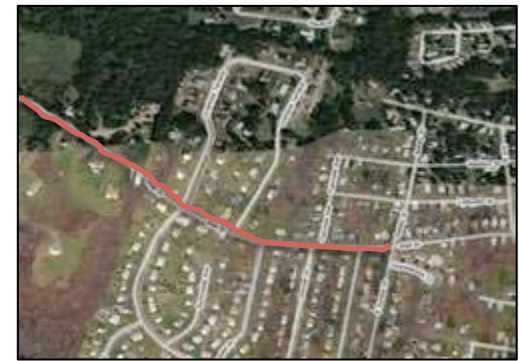
Interstate and Limited-Access Highways: This type of highway moves large volumes of traffic at relatively high speeds to and from locations outside the region. Such highways have limited access via designated exits with no at-grade intersections. Examples include Interstate 84 and the New York State Thruway.

Arterial: The function of an arterial is to carry medium-to-heavy volumes of traffic at moderate to high speeds and provide access to major traffic generators. Examples include NYS Route 52 and NYS Route 208.

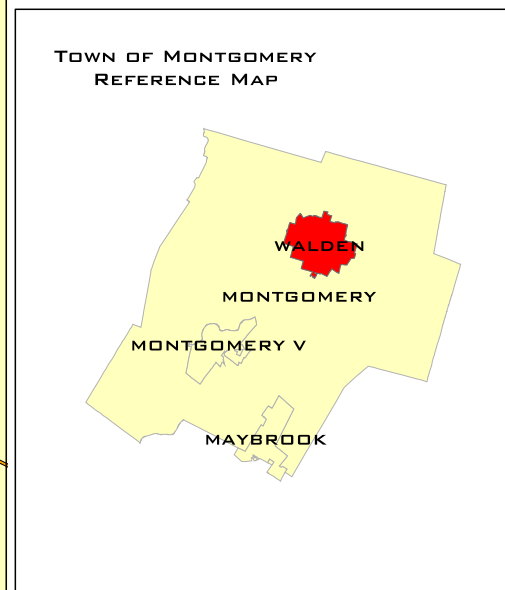
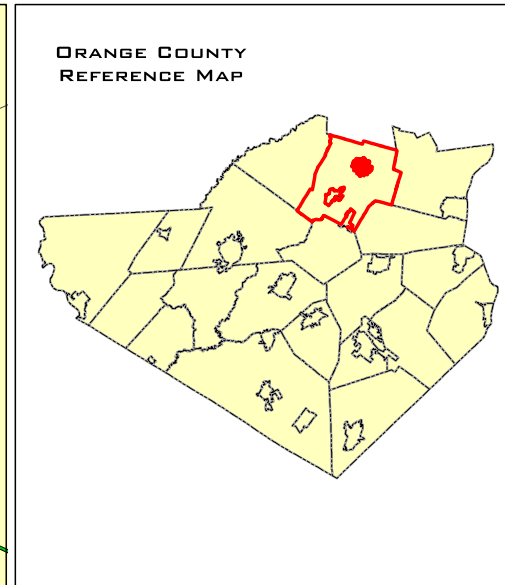
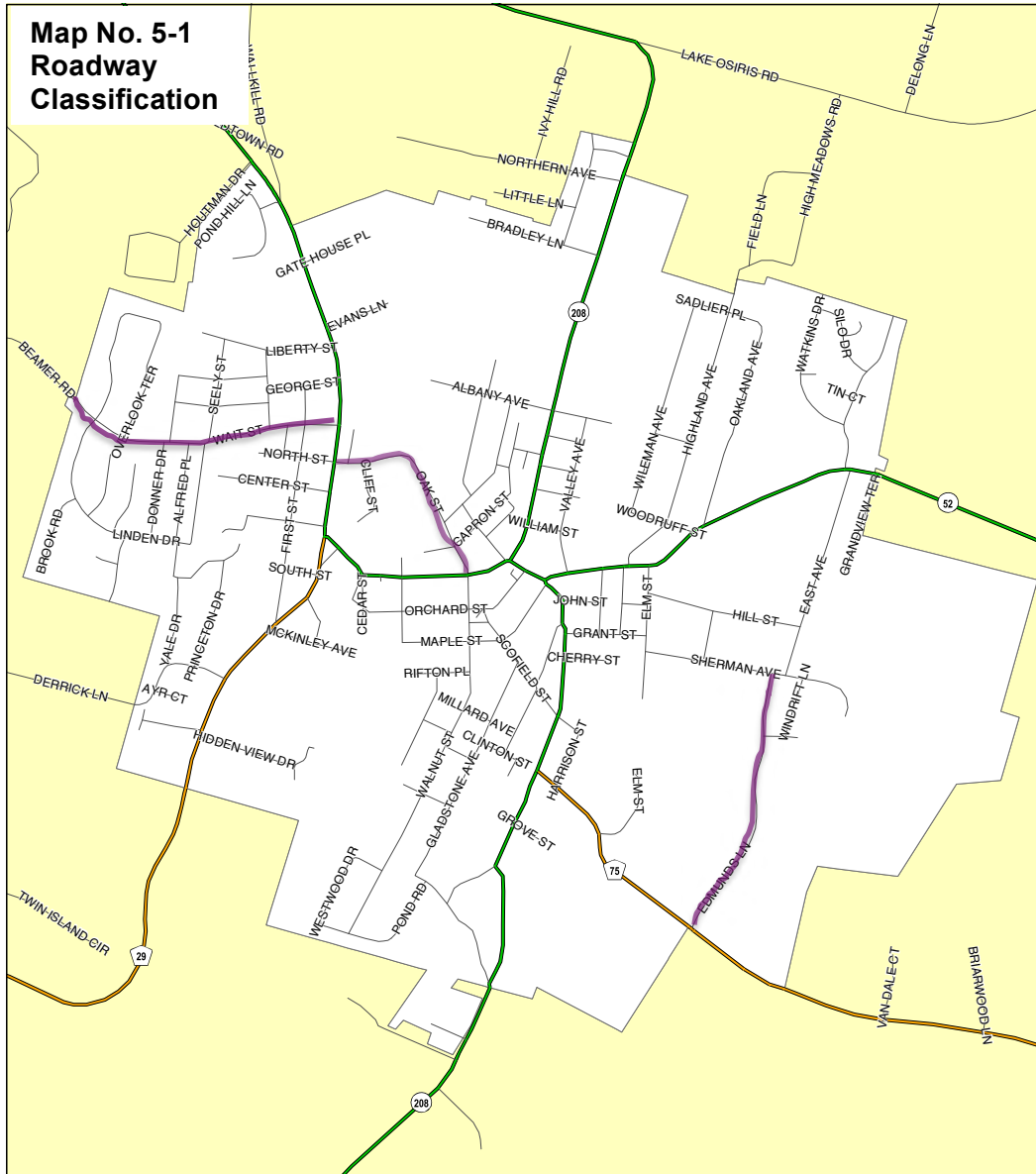
Major Collector: Provide connections between arterials and local roads at relatively higher speeds (e.g. Coldenham Road).

Minor Collector: These roads provide connections between arterials and local roads at comparatively slower speeds and carry moderate volumes of traffic. Edmunds Lane, Oak Street and Wait Street are examples.

Local: This type of road provides direct access to abutting properties and channels local traffic to collector roads (e.g. residential streets).



Above (top to bottom): Aerial view of NYS Route 52 and Route 208 intersection in vicinity of McKinley Statue; view of Wait Street and an aerial view of Village of Walden’s well-defined grid street system, which plays an important role in moving people and goods and defining community character.



**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
CONTEXTUAL MAP**

LEGEND

- Interstate
- Federal Highway
- Arterial
- Major Collector
- Local Road
- Minor Collector



SCALE: 1" = 1,100 FEET

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Understanding the Village’s roadways in the context of the ITE system is helpful when analyzing transportation needs. For the purpose of this Comprehensive Plan, we have analyzed the major roadways from the perspective of the Village’s existing land use regulations in order to ascertain whether zoning amendments and/or revisions to subdivision regulations are warranted. The goal is to ensure that specific land uses are directed to roadways that best serve their transportation needs.

5.2 Level of Service

The ITE Highway Capacity Manual provides a description of how well traffic flows along highways and roadways that is referred to as Level-of-Service (LOS). The LOS on roadways is described in accordance with a six-step scale from A-F. The LOS A represents the free flow of traffic and a LOS F represents traffic congestion on an area roadway.

LOS A: Free traffic flow, with low traffic volumes and speeds at the posted speed limit.

LOS B: Is in the zone a stable traffic flow, with operating speeds beginning to be restricted somewhat by traffic conditions, however, drivers still have reasonable freedom to select their speed and lane of operation.

LOS C: Is in the zone a stable traffic flow, but speeds and maneuverability are more closely controlled by higher traffic volumes.

LOS D: Approaches unstable flow, with tolerable operating speeds being maintained though considerably affected by changes in operating conditions due to traffic volumes.

LOS E: Level of Service E cannot be described by speed alone, but represents operations at even lower speeds than Level D, with volumes at or near the capacity of the highway. Flow of traffic is frequently interrupted with stop & go motion.

LOS F: Describes forced flow operation at low speeds, frequent stop and go motion, with high traffic volumes at capacity of the roadway. The number of travel lanes alone does not dictate traffic flow.

In 2011, a Traffic Impact Analysis was conducted for the Overlook at Kidd Farm Townhouse Development. Data from the study reveals the level-of-service (LOS) at several intersections is generally satisfactory (see Table 5-1). However, two intersections will experience diminished LOS under No-Build conditions due to projected growth in traffic volumes.

In 2009, the NYS Route 208 and NYS Route 52 *unsignalized* intersection was operating at a LOS “D” during morning peak hours and a LOS “D” during evening peak hours. The LOS of this intersection is projected to diminish to a LOS “F” during morning peak hours and a LOS “F” during evening peak hours by 2014. The anticipated decline in the LOS is related to projected traffic volume increases on these roads.

“THE NYS ROUTE 208 AND NYS ROUTE 52 *UNSIGNALIZED* INTERSECTION IS OPERATING AT A LOS “D” DURING MORNING PEAK HOURS AND A LOS “D” DURING EVENING PEAK HOURS. THE LOS OF THIS INTERSECTION IS PROJECTED TO DIMINISH TO A LOS “F” DURING MORNING PEAK HOURS AND A LOS “F” DURING EVENING PEAK HOURS BY 2014.”

<p>MORNING PEAK HOURS:</p> <p>6:45 AM – 9:30 AM</p> <p>EVENING PEAK HOURS:</p> <p>3:30 PM – 6:15 PM</p>

Village of Walden, New York Table 5-1 Level of Service Summary Key Intersections						
Intersection	Control	AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour		
		2009 Existing	2014 Build	2009 Existing	2014 Build	
NYS Route 208/Coldenham Road* **	TW					
AM peak period PM peak period		D D	D D	D D	D D	
NYS Route 208/Old Orange Avenue	TW					
AM peak period PM peak period		C C	C C	C C	C C	
Coldenham Road and Edmunds Lane	TW					
AM peak period PM peak period		B B	B B	B B	B B	
NYS Route 208 and Route 52	S					
AM peak period PM peak period		C C	D D	C C	D D	
NYS Route 208 and Route 52**	AW					
AM peak period PM peak period		D D	F F	D D	F F	
NYS Route 52 and East Avenue	TW					
AM peak period PM peak period		C C	D D	C C	D D	
AM peak period PM peak period						

* With a traffic signal, this intersection would operate at a level of service "C."
 **Intersection should be monitored to determine if signal warranted.

KEY: NB, SB, WB, EB = Northbound, Southbound, Westbound, Eastbound intersection approaches
 TW, AW, S = Two-way stop controlled intersection, All-way stop controlled intersection, Signal controlled intersection.

Source: John Collins, Engineering, P.C. – Overlook at Kidd Farm DEIS Traffic Study 2011.

The poor level-of-service at this intersection is also influenced by poor roadway geometry. Presently, there isn't a dedicated truck route to enable westbound truck traffic on NYS Route 52 to turn south on NYS Route 208 without having to go through the "Y" intersection near the McKinley monument. The result is traffic delays and periodic damage to McKinley Square, as trucks try to maneuver through the turn and end up riding over the curbing to make the turn. A dedicated truck route to avoid this intersection is recommended. This intersection should be also be monitored in the future to determine if signalization would be warranted.

The NYS Route 208 and Coldenham Road intersection is another part of the transportation system, where future improvements may be necessary to maintain an acceptable LOS. Coldenham Road intersects with NYS Route 208 at a "stop" sign controlled "T" intersection and all approaches consist of one lane. Presently, the intersection operates at a LOS "D" during AM and PM peak periods. The LOS here is anticipated to continue to operate at a LOS "D" based upon the 2014 No-Build traffic volumes.

The 2011 Traffic Study by John Collins, Engineering, P.C. analyzed how this intersection would perform with signalization and it was determined it would operate at a LOS "C" or better with a signal. This Plan recommends ongoing coordination between the Village and NYSDOT to monitor these intersections for measures to improve traffic flow in the future.

5.3 Traffic Impact Analyses

The State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act process should be utilized to effectively evaluate potential traffic impacts associated with development along with the appropriate mitigation measures. The Planning Board should require *traffic impact analyses* by an independent engineer for any application involving an activity likely to generate a significant traffic volume.

The Planning Board should approve the scope of the traffic study in advance with the final product incorporated into the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act submission. The Planning Board should also identify key intersections, which are more likely to be adversely affected by a development based upon their local knowledge of the community and understanding of traffic flow. The traffic impact analysis should then analyze the LOS at these key intersections under existing, no-build and build conditions. The guidelines set forth for such studies by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) should be followed in each case.

In addition to assessing existing and future LOS, the traffic impact analyses should also identify factors contributing to diminished LOS such as roadway geometry or the need for signalization. Recommended measures to mitigate potential traffic-related impacts should be provided within the traffic impact analysis. Such measure might include roadway or signalization improvements, which the developer would help to fund.



Above (top to bottom): Views of Route 52-Route 208 unsignalized intersection showing wear on curbing caused by tractor-trailer turning movements; view of pick-up truck stopped within the "Y" intersection preparing to turn left onto Main Street; view from McKinley Square looking west toward Route 52-208 signalized intersection. The Route 52-Route 208 unsignalized intersections should continue to be monitored to determine if signalization is warranted.

5.4 Traffic Calming & Access Management

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) defines traffic calming as the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use and improve the conditions for non-motorized street users. Traffic calming includes the “three Es” – education, enforcement and engineering.

Education involves public outreach programs that are intended to raise public awareness of traffic calming measures being employed within a community and why such measures are needed. Traffic calming policies – such as yielding to pedestrians - are enforced by the Village’s Police Department. Engineering measures include a variety of traffic calming devices that can be built into developments proposals or public improvements. Such measures are used to reduce traffic speed and volume. The engineering aspects of traffic calming are also intended to control driver habits.

Other traffic calming measures include raised crosswalks or textured surfaces that are used to alert drivers when they are approaching a pedestrian crossing. Raised crosswalks are speed humps with flat tops marked for pedestrian crossings. They are designed to slow traffic down as they approach a crosswalk. Textured surfaces are installed flush with the roadway surface and are used to accent the pedestrian crosswalk. These are usually used in conjunction with electronic crossing signals.

Access management is a tool, which is used to improve the flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic within a community. For example, if you provide an opportunity for drivers to travel between adjacent sites you can effectively reduce traffic volume on area roadways and simultaneous reduce the number of vehicle conflicts on roads.

One of the most effective means of affecting access between adjacent sites is through the provision of *cross access easements*. Cross access easements provide a mechanism to link adjacent parking lots to one another via a shared driveway, which allows traffic to flow between sites without having going back out onto the public right-of-way. Other access management techniques include consolidation of existing driveways, prohibition of left turn out driveways and dedicated turning lanes into sites.

The Planning Board should identify opportunities where traffic calming and access management measures could be employed within a proposed commercial or residential development. Such measures will help to ensure that new development does not significantly reduce traffic safety and traffic carrying capacity along the arterial roadways.

This Plan recommends the painted crosswalks in the Downtown be upgraded with textured surface crosswalks to both improve pedestrian safety and to enhance aesthetics. Traffic calming measures should also be included in the redesign of Municipal Square to improve pedestrian safety.



Above (top to bottom): Illustration showing *mini round about*, which could be utilized to calm traffic entering the Village from arterials; image showing *textured surface crosswalk* to alert drivers when they are approaching a pedestrian crossing and view of a *midblock median island* with textured surface crosswalk to provide safe crossing for pedestrians. These types of traffic calming measures are recommended for the Village of Walden.

5.5 Pedestrian Policy

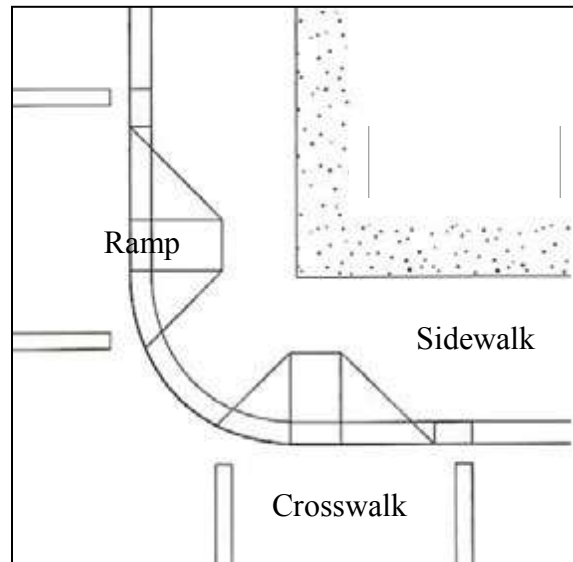
The Village of Walden is a very pedestrian-oriented community. This can be attributed, in part, to its higher density of development in which most neighborhoods are only a short walking distance from the Downtown and/or to local institutions or parks. It can also be attributed to an extensive sidewalk system that provides a comfortable and safe environment for pedestrians to travel. Village residents also enjoy an extensive trail system (including the Walden-Walkill Rail Trail), which provides opportunities for walking, biking, strolling or hiking. The sidewalks and trails provide a safe and comforting environment for the pedestrian.

It is important that pedestrians are able to move safely throughout the Village and one of the best ways to ensure safe movement of pedestrians is through a well-maintained and comprehensive system of sidewalks. Sidewalks share the public right-of-way with the street and the walkability of the street relies on the pedestrian’s comfort.

There are a number of measures that can be employed to enhance pedestrian comfort. For example, street trees can be planted in a median between the street and the sidewalk to provide a buffer between the pedestrian and motor vehicles. Planter boxes can also be placed along the edge of the sidewalks to help distinguish the pedestrian and vehicular environments. Each of these measures will increase the pedestrian comfort and sense of security.

Village of Walden, New York

It is also important that the Village’s sidewalk system be accessible to persons with disabilities. To this end, curbing at intersections should be ramped to provide access to wheelchairs as is shown in the illustration below.



Most of the sidewalks within the Downtown have ADA compliant ramps and crosswalks. However, there are many areas within the residential neighborhoods where ADA compliant ramps are needed. An inventory should be conducted of those intersections where ADA compliant ramps are needed so they can be upgraded over time.

Wherever feasible, new developments should include new sidewalks. As development occurs, these sidewalks should be integrated into the Village’s existing sidewalk system. Doing so will ensure that the Village retains a pedestrian-friendly environment in the future.



Above (top to bottom): Residential street with sidewalk system in good condition; ADA compliant ramp at corner of NYS Route 52 and Elm Street; and view of bluestone sidewalks, which need to be re reset, repaired or replace due to tree uprooting sidewalk segments.

Streets and sidewalks that are accommodating to pedestrians enhance the liveliness of the street, encourage people to walk and enhance the sense of community. Sidewalks also provide a space for public gathering and social interaction.

Providing more benches and street trees throughout the Downtown can enhance the streetscape. Street furniture such as benches increases pedestrian comfort by providing opportunities for pedestrians to rest and to sit and interact with other people. Street trees provide shade. The Village should also coordinate with NYSDOT to install textured surfaces for its crosswalks on NYS Route 52 and 208. The contrast in texture and color, which are a different color from the road surface will draw attention to the crosswalks.

The illustration to the right shows the ideal streetscape where the pedestrian and vehicular environments are well-defined, street trees provide shade and street furniture is provided to give pedestrians a place to rest and congregate. In this illustration, adequate space is reserved within the sidewalk width for the pedestrian as well as persons with disabilities. The use of an awning also helps to enhance pedestrian comfort by providing shade and shelter during inclement weather. As improvements in business areas are made, careful attention should be paid to incorporate these principles into the design of street improvements. Doing so will enhance the pedestrian environment and vitality of the Downtown Business District.

5.6 Bikeway, Blueway and Trailway Policy

The Village of Walden, Town of Montgomery and Town of Wallkill recently collaborated to fund and construct the *Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail*, which opened on May 2, 2009. The rail-trail is widely utilized by residents and visitors since its completion. This Plan encourages the expansion of bikeways, blueways and trailways through cooperation with state and local governments.

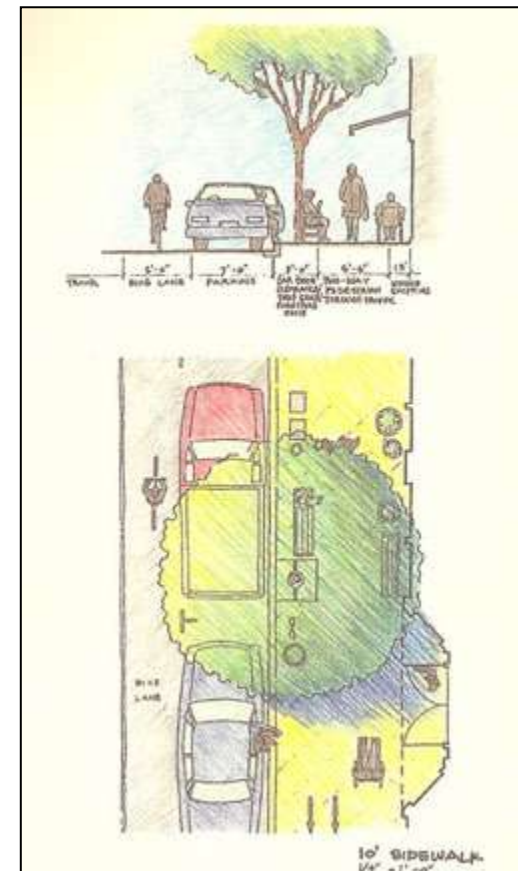
The NYSDOT has proposed designated bikeways along NYS Routes 52 and 208, which would be accommodated by widening the road shoulders. The provisions of well-defined bikeways will enhance bicyclist safety. This Plan supports bikeways along NYS Routes 52 and 208.

There are opportunities within James Olley Park and Bradley Park to create extensive trail systems. This Plan support the expansion of trails within the Village, which could then be linked to trails within neighboring communities in order to create a regional trail network. This Plan specifically supports cooperation with neighboring towns to integrate the *Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail* with the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail so one day this rail trail connects Walden to the City of Kingston.

This Plan supports the creation of a blueway – or water trail developed with launch points and points of interest for canoeists, paddle boarders and kayakers – along the Wallkill River. Intermunicipal agreements with adjoining towns should be pursued to create the Wallkill Blueway.

“STREETS AND THEIR SIDEWALKS, THE MAIN PLACES OF A CITY, ARE ITS MOST VITAL ORGANS.”

Jane Jacobs



Source: *Creating Livable Streets – Metro 2002, Portland Oregon*

5.7 Public Transportation

Presently, public transportation within the Village is very limited and the frequency of service makes it inconvenient for most people to use it. There is a Dial-A-Bus service that is primarily used by senior residents. Short Line (Coach USA) also provides bus service that allows residents to travel to nearby Scotts Corners, Crystal Run Galleria and the City of Middletown. However, the frequency of service is very limited making it impractical for commuting or shopping needs. The Short Line Company provides a George Washington Bridge Express. The express route provides weekly commuter service to New York City, Paramus and Ridgewood with stops at Scotts Corners and the Villages of Maybrook and Montgomery.

Enhancing the provision of public transit would benefit its residents. As the Village’s population grows and its population ages so too will the need for public transit. The expansion of service to Orange County and regional destinations is needed. It is recommended the Village Board coordinate with Orange County Transportation Council (OCTA) and Short Line to identify opportunities to expand public transportation service to serve commuters and senior residents.

A bus shuttle service to nearby train stations, such as Beacon or Campbell Hall, should also be pursued with OCTC and MTA. The Village should also explore grant opportunities to expand these bus services.

5.8 Rail Service

Norfolk Southern presently provides freight rail service to Walden along the former New York Central rail line. The freight line operates from Campbell Hall and terminates in Walden just to the south of NYS Route 52. As was described in previous chapters, Walden has a number of long-established and presently operating industrial and manufacturing companies including: Truffa Seed Co., AMPAC and Interstate Packaging Corporation. Presently, freight service along this line is provided three days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The freight rail line to Walden provides a competitive advantage for certain industries that other communities do not have. It is thus important that the Village work with Norfolk Southern to maintain this vital industrial link to ensure the future viability of its few remaining manufacturing industries.

The Orange County Transportation Council and MTA-Metro North funded a *Passenger Rail Feasibility Study* to assess the feasibility of re-establishing passenger service on the Wallkill Valley Branch Line runs from Campbell Hall to the Village of Walden. If passenger service were to be re-established, significant improvements would be required to bring the tracks and signals up to modern standards. Additionally, a new train station platform would have to be created as well as an area for off-street parking. This Plan supports efforts to re-establish passenger service.



Above (top to bottom): View of Norfolk Southern freight line looking south from Grant Street; view of rail yard looking south from John Street; and view of rail yard looking north from Grant Street. This Plan supports continued use and upgrade of freight service to the Village and supports efforts to re-establish passenger rail service to Walden.

5.9 Recommendations

The primary goal of the following transportation policies is to facilitate smooth traffic flow, ensure pedestrian safety and ample parking.

5.9.1 Transportation Improvements

Monitor L-O-S at key intersections to determine if signalization or dedicated turn lanes are warranted. The NYS Route 208 and Coldenham Road intersection should be monitored to determine if signalization is warranted. Similarly, the NYS Route 52 and 208 intersections should also be monitored.

Create Designated Truck Route. Improve traffic circulation by establishing a truck route system that avoids the intersection of Route 52/208.

Support creation of Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail Pedestrian Bridge. As Phase II of Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail, apply for NYSDOT or other State and federal funding to create a pedestrian bridge from the rail-trail across NYS Route 52 in order to link the rail-trail to Railroad Avenue.

Expand off-street parking opportunities. Identify opportunities and financing to expand *municipal* off-street parking within Downtown.

Develop pedestrian & vehicular improvement plan for Central Business District. These must enhance the pedestrian and vehicular realms.

5.9.2 Traffic Impact Assessment

Require a traffic impact analysis for uses with high-trip generation rates. Where such uses are likely to affect the LOS on a roadway, a traffic impact analysis should be provided.

Use the SEQRA Process to Mitigate Potential Traffic Impacts. When a proposed development poses significant adverse impacts to the transportation system, require developer to contribute to improvements to mitigate impacts.

5.9.3 Traffic Calming

Create cross access easements. Where feasible, the Village Planning Board should require cross access agreements between adjacent commercial properties in order to reduce the number of curb cuts onto area roadways.

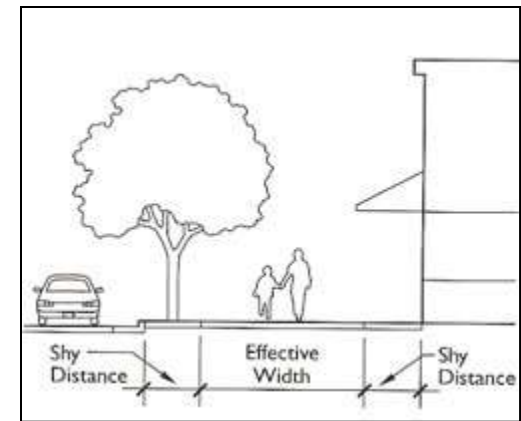
Use textured surfaces for crosswalks to draw motorist’s attention to the crosswalk. When used in conjunction with electronic crossing signals, textured surfaces can enhance pedestrian safety as well as the aesthetics of the streetscape.

5.9.4 Pedestrian Policy

Create sidewalk improvement program. Conduct and inventory and assess the conditions of all sidewalks in the Village. Rate the condition of sidewalk segments in order to establish a long-term sidewalk improvement program based and established upgrade and replacement schedule.

“GREAT STREETS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN. OVERWHELMINGLY, THE BEST STREETS DERIVE FROM A CONSCIOUS ACT OF CONCEPTION AND CREATION OF THE STREET AS A WHOLE. THE HANDS OF DECISION MAKERS ARE VISIBLE.”

Allan B. Jacobs



Wherever feasible, require new residential and commercial developments to construct sidewalks with ADA ramps. A 5-foot width for residential sidewalks and 6-8 feet within the Downtown.

Provide for a sidewalk along South Montgomery Street. These improvements would provide a safe pedestrian environment for local residents and schoolchildren. Safe Routes to Schools grants could be sought for this purpose.

Improve sidewalks and curbs from Highland Avenue to Hess Station along NYS Route 52. These improvements would provide a safe pedestrian environment for local residents.

5.9.5 Bikeway, Blueway and Trail Policy

Integrate bicycle paths and walkways into a multi-modal trail system. A multi-modal pedestrian-bicycle system will reduce the dependence on driving while encouraging a healthy lifestyle of its residents.

Work with Orange County, neighboring towns, and the NYSDOT to create, expand or integrate bikeways, blueways and trailways into the Village trail system. Expand regional trail system through intermunicipal cooperation agreements.

Coordinate with Region 8 of NYSDOT to advance the plans for the NYS Route 52 and Route 208 bike routes. The Village could show its support for these efforts by reaching out to NYSDOT to help bring these projects to fruition.

Place bicycle racks in key locations within the Downtown and near community and institutional uses. Placement of bicycle racks will help to promote bicycle use.

5.9.6 Public Transportation

Coordinate with the OCTC and Short Line (Coach USA) to provide public transit, which meets the needs of residents and businesses. The Village Board needs to play an active role in ensuring regional agencies provide necessary services to meet resident needs.

Coordinate with OCTC and MTA-Metro North to establish bus shuttle service to nearby train stations, such as Beacon or Campbell Hall. This will serve commuter needs short-term while efforts to re-establish rail service is pursued.

5.9.7 Rail Service

Recognize the importance of freight service to the economic viability of manufacturers and support efforts to upgrade service. Support efforts by Norfolk Southern to secure funds to upgrade the freight rail line.

Coordinate with OCTC, MTA-Metro North and Norfolk Southern Railroad to bring passenger rail service to Walden along the Wallkill Valley Line. Pursue funding for Phase II Passenger Rail Feasibility Study for service along the New York Central R-O-W with Norfolk Southern and Metro North. This could be a catalyst for reinvestment.



Above (top to bottom): View of Walden's "Little Lombard Street," which is the ADA compliant trailhead to the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail at Woodruff Street; view of family enjoying a stroll along the rail trail; view of trailhead in Walden with benches for pedestrian comfort. This Plan supports continued efforts to expand bikeways and trails within the Village and the region.

CHAPTER 6.0 CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Walden's unique sense of place is defined, in large part, by its cultural and historic resources. This Chapter provides a brief description of those resources along with recommendations for enhancing and protecting these resources in the future.

6.1 Cultural Resources

The Josephine-Louise Public Library is an important cultural resource within the Walden community. The library is centrally located and within walking distance of two local schools and most residents. It services a population of over 5,000 students from eight area schools.

The library is open to the public from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Wednesday and Friday; and from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday. The library is closed on Sundays.

In 1994, the library was restored to its original Georgian style with spacious open area with high palladium windows, a circular balcony and homey fireplace. Three former meeting rooms of the fire department were also incorporated into the library providing additional space for the library. The total net area of the library is 4,420 square feet.

Presently, the library occupies the first and second floor of the east wing of the Municipal Building and has its own separate entrance facing Schofield Street. The first floor accommodates new bestsellers, adult and young adult fiction, books-on-tape and videos. A spiral staircase leads to the second floor library.

The balcony displays magazines and newspapers and provides reading area. The second floor accommodates the Children's, Non-Fiction, Reference sections and the Director's Office. In 1991, the *Marie E. Crist Local History Section* was established to house local materials and rare history books.

The library includes a permanent collection of contemporary and classic books. Its permanent collection is supplemented by the Library's participation in the Ramapo-Catskill Library System, which allows residents to borrow books from 47 libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties. The library also provides public access to computers with Internet access along with video and audio books. The library is a free *WiFi* hotspot, which enables residents to gain Internet access free of charge.

Throughout the year, the library host cultural events including story time for children, afternoon at the movies, continuing education programs on gardening and group book discussions. *The Josephine-Louise Public Library is in many ways the cultural center of the Village of Walden.*



Above (top to bottom): The Josephine-Louise Public Library was originally established as a circulating library club in 1896 and was Chartered by the NYS Regents Department in 1900. The Public Library opened March 1, 1901 and was subsequently incorporated in 1910. The library has been housed at its present location since 1916.

The Library Board's three-year plan includes the following goals, which are supported by reference in this Comprehensive Plan:

- Continue to provide state-of-the-art technological resources;
- Continue to replace outdated reference materials;
- Continue to support local artists through cultural events and art displays;
- Enrich Children's Reading Programs;
- Provide literacy training and implement on-going tutoring program in literacy;
- Acquire additional computers; and
- Obtain additional space for literacy tutoring and computer services.

There are a variety of other cultural resources within Walden. The *New York School of Music* is a full-service music school with classrooms for private lessons along with studio rehearsal rooms. Established in 1988, the *Hudson Valley Conservatory of Fine Arts* is an arts education group where children and adults can receive professional training in theatre arts, voice, music and dance.

The *Big Apple Circus* has its headquarters in Walden. The Big Apple Circus provides entertainment of a classical circus, but also has dedicated outreach programs in healthcare facilities and the community. Each year, the Circus provides a community performance in the Village of Walden. Each of these institutions contribute to the cultural vitality of the community and the quality of life.

Village of Walden, New York

In addition to these cultural institutions, the Village of Walden and the Walden Community Council routinely host a variety of community events, which enhance the quality of life for local residents, while also drawing visitors to the community. Some examples include the concerts in the park, Walden Harvest Fest, Halloween festivities, Christmas Celebration and many other events held throughout the calendar year.

The Walden Board of Trustees recognizes the importance that cultural establishments can have on the community's social and economic vitality. To this end, the Village of Walden has proactively embarked on developing cultural as well as economic opportunities to transform and make Walden an entertainment venue.

There is already a Sketch Plan for the proposed placement of a 750-seat amphitheater at Bradley Park (see also Section 7.1.2 and Appendix A). The proposed amphitheater is intended to create a multi-purpose (music and performance arts) venue, which could draw a regional audience.

This Plan strongly supports efforts to expand cultural and entertainment venues in Walden in order to enhance the social and economic vitality of the community. The Village Board should work with individuals and agencies to identify appropriate locations for cultural and performing arts. The Village Board should continue to support events that draw a regional audience, such as Walden Harvest Fest, and explore the creation of other arts and entertainment venues.



Above (top to bottom): View of the New York School of Music, which is situated on Orchard Street in the heart of Downtown; contributed photo from the Hudson Valley Conservatory of Fine Arts showing dance school; and photo from the Big Apple Circus webpage showing one of their live performances. Each of these cultural institutions adds to the cultural and social vitality of the Walden community through their educational programs, performances and staff members who live and work in the Village of Walden.

6.2 Historic Resources

The Village of Walden has a variety of 19th and 20th century architectural styles, which help to define its unique sense of place. There is a renewed interest and commitment to historic preservation within the community as its civic leaders and residents have come to realize to realize the social and economic value of preservation efforts. The structures and public spaces that define Walden today reflect the values of its past. The preservation of these historic resources will help to shape the community’s values in the future.

The interest in preserving historic structures reflects the value that Walden has a unique sense of place that is worthy of preserving. *This Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance historic preservation plays in civic pride and in stimulating the local economy and encourages efforts to list individual properties and create historic districts, where feasible to do so.*

The *National Register of Historic Places* is the United States government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Today, some historic buildings within the Village are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹ Many, however, are not. There are no National or State Register *Historic Districts* in Walden. However, there are many individual buildings and areas in the Village, which are eligible for National Register listing.

A Walden Historic Survey and Report (1982) recommended three historic districts as follows: 1) Church Street, 2) Ulster Avenue and 3) West Main Street. A subsequent Historic Survey was conducted in 2006, which also supported the creation of these historic districts.

The *Church Street Historic District* would be centered on the *First Reformed Church* circa 1830. The reports noted “the quality of the homes and the early date of development give this district both architectural and settlement significance for the Village.” Architectural styles in this vicinity include: Second Empire and Greek Revival architecture. These structures remain largely intact and are without question worthy of preservation.

The proposed *West Main Street* district includes Italianate, Victorian and Queen Ann styling of architecture. The recommended *Ulster Avenue* district is comprised of architectural styles reflecting the early years of the industrial revolution, including Greek Revival, Italianate detail, Victorian, Federal, Dutch Colonial, Colonial, Eastlake, and Eastern Stick.

The 19th Century *Rider-Ericsson Company Building* and the *Wooster Manufacturing Company Buildings* near Railroad Avenue should also be considered for historic building designation. Each of these buildings are significant to the history of Walden and would be eligible for individual listing on the State or National Register of Historic buildings.



Above (top to bottom): View of the First Reformed Church at the corner of Church Street and Schofield Street circa 1830; *Second Empire style* residence on Church Street with white quoins and window hoods, which contrast the red brick, circa mid-1800’s; brick residence with gable roof, decorative front porch. The integrity of the historic buildings is very high and Church Street would be eligible for National Register listing.

The Village of Walden Board of Trustees adopted a set of *Design Guidelines* for the Downtown, which provides standards to following in the renovation of historic building facades within the business district along with guidelines for the design and placement of new buildings. The Village has also adopted Design Guidelines entitled “*A New Traditional Neighborhood at Railroad Place,*” which also provides general criteria to follow in the renovation of historic building in the vicinity of Railroad Avenue along with standards for the design and placement of new buildings.

Presently, the Village does not have land use regulations that address exterior alterations to historic structures outside of Downtown or the Mixed Use Zoning District surrounding Railroad Avenue. Although the Village of Walden has several residential neighborhoods, which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, there is nothing in the way of standards to guide exterior alterations to historic residential properties. If the Village is to retain its unique sense of place in the future, some consideration of protecting the integrity of its historic properties through guidelines or historic district designation should be considered.

This Plan recommends the Village Board initially develop a set of voluntary *Historic Preservation Guidelines* to guide the homeowner decisions with respect to exterior alteration to their homes and to help building owners better understand historic preservation techniques.

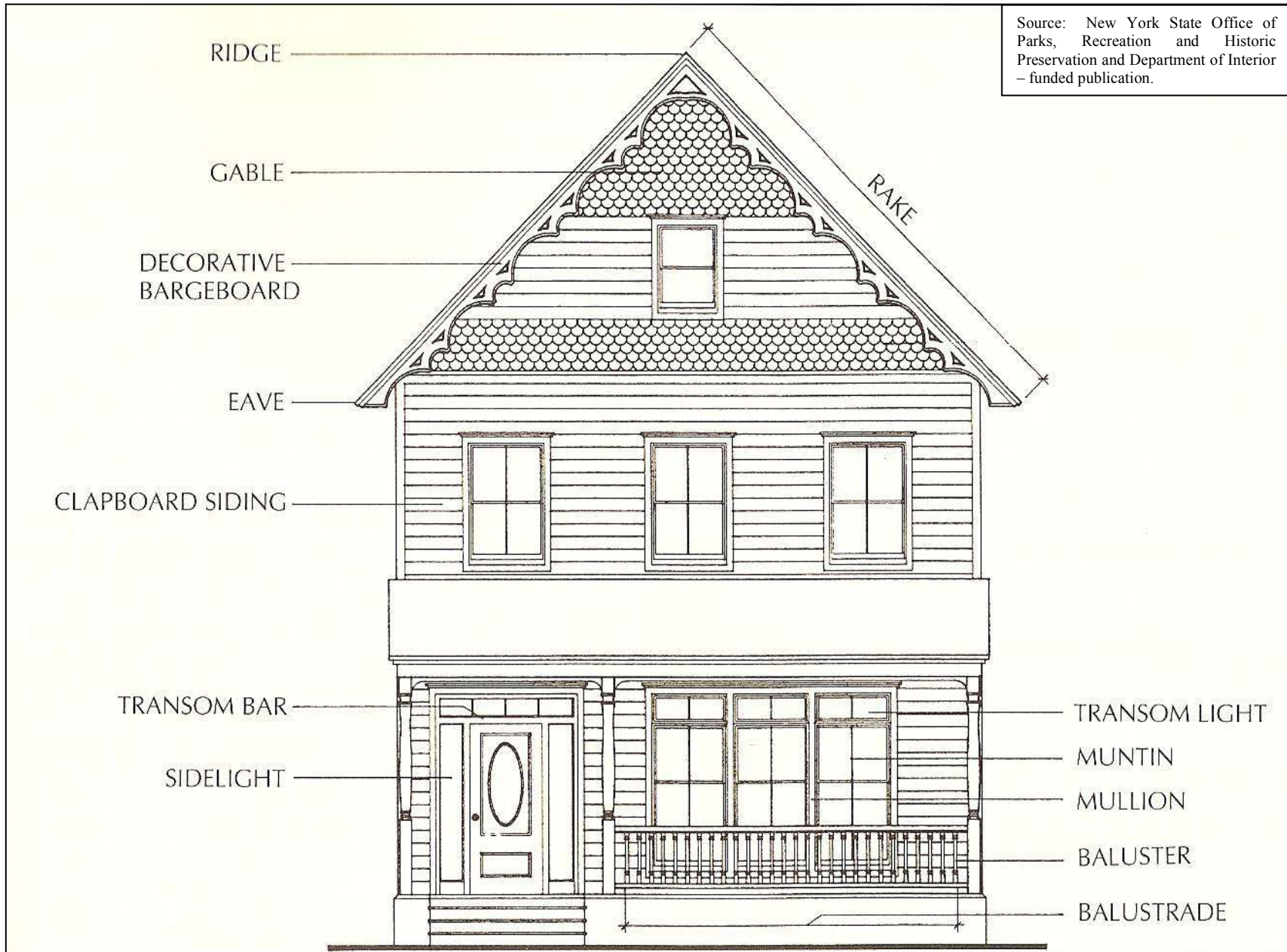
The guidelines would outline the principles of design and preservation, homeowners and business owners could use when they are evaluating proposed changes to historic buildings. The guidelines would describe the types of renovations, which are appropriate and specify the appropriate types of building materials to be used in building renovations. It would also describe the architectural elements to be preserved (see illustration on Page 47).

Guidelines will help to take the ambiguity out of the decision-making and ensure consistent quality of historic property renovations within the Village of Walden. Over time, these efforts will help to preserve the integrity of the historic buildings and enhance property values as buildings are renovated and the historic integrity of neighborhoods and business areas are enhanced. The creation of a set of *Historic Preservation Guidelines* is but one measure the Village Board can employ to protect the integrity of historic houses and commercial buildings within the community.

As restoration efforts within the Village of Walden take hold, the Village Board should consider the creation of a separate Architectural and Historic Review Board (AHRB) that would be charged with the review of proposed exterior renovations of structures within designated historic districts. One advantage of having an AHRB is that its sole purpose would be to review proposed renovations and/or new construction within historic districts.



Above (top to bottom): View of Rider-Ericsson Company (aka Package Lighting Building) circa late 1800’s, looking south from Grant Street; view of workers housing along Railroad Avenue and view of Wooster Manufacturing Company (aka Nelco Building) circa 1876. Each of these buildings appears to be eligible for listing on the State or National Register of historic buildings and perhaps district designation.



The creation of an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) would require the adoption of a Local Law by the Village Board. An AHRB would help to ensure the design of new buildings complemented the historic character of the Village rather than detract from it. *Whether or not an AHRB is established, it is recommended that the scope of design review be expanded to include the review of exterior renovations or new construction in all business districts.*

Long-term, the Village Board could work with property owners to seek the creation of a National Register-designated Historic District.ⁱⁱ The National Register listing symbolizes the importance of these areas and property owners in the districts are eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the “certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures.”

6.2.1 General Historic Preservation Guidelines

In general, the original architectural elements of a building (including type of materials used) are what give the building its historic significance.

The following guidelines should be followed:

Respect Original Architecture of the Building.

- Determine which elements are essential to its character and preserve these; and
- Avoid masking over original materials.

Avoid removing or altering any historic material or significant architectural features or adding materials, elements or details that were not part of the original building.

- Rehabilitation work should preserve and retain original wall and siding materials; and
- Details such as decorative millwork or shingles should not be added to buildings if they were not an original feature of that structure.

Maintain existing architectural elements of the historic building.

- The best preservation technique is to maintain historic features from the outset so that intervention is not required. Use treatments such as caulking, limited paint removal and reapplication of paint and rust removal;
- Repair only those architectural features that are deteriorated;
- Only replace those features that are beyond repair or missing; and
- Patch, piece-in, splice, consolidate or otherwise upgrade the existing material, using National Trust Preservation Standards.

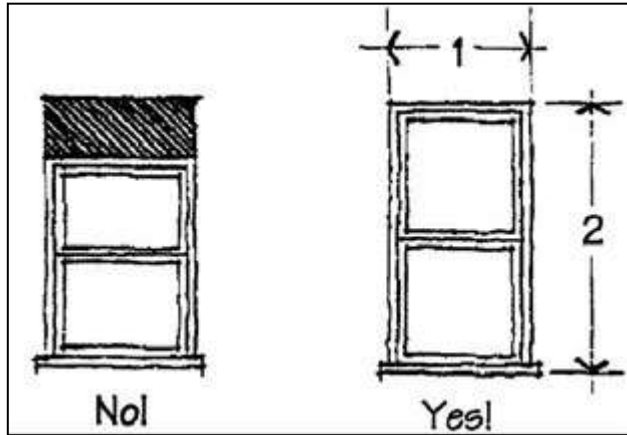
The original window openings, muntin and mullions should be preserved where feasible.

- Do not block down the original window openings to accommodate a stock window that does not fit the building;



Above (top to bottom): Walden House, circa early 1700’s, which was built upon 1,000-acre Gatehouse Patent purchased by Jacob T. Walden; Octagon House between Maple and Orchard Street; and nicely preserved workers row houses along Walker Street. The Walden House is on the National Register of Historic buildings and the other buildings are eligible for listing on the National Register.

- Where windows have previously been blocked down, allow replacement windows that will fit the original opening.
- Retain original window style when replacement is necessary.



Original building materials should be preserved and should not be covered with synthetic materials.

- Avoid removing siding that is good condition or that can be repaired;
- If portions of the wood siding must be replaced, be sure to match style and lap dimensions of the original;
- New building permit applications to install vinyl or aluminum siding should be prohibited; and
- Deteriorated architectural features should be repaired rather than replaced, whenever possible.

6.2.2 *Preservation Policies Adjacent Areas*

Presently, the Planning Board is only authorized to review exterior alterations to historic properties that lie within the Downtown or the Mixed Use MX-District. It does not have the authority to review extensive changes in the exterior design or appearance of any existing structure or new construction in or adjacent to these designated districts.

The Planning Board should also be authorized to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations or new construction that is within *line-of-sight* of Downtown, MX-District and/or individually listed National Register properties to prevent inappropriate changes, which would diminish the integrity of any property listed on the State or National Register of historic places.

The Village Board should also encourage property owners to voluntarily employ generally accepted historic preservation techniques when performing exterior renovations on their properties.

To this end, a pamphlet should be created to help residents better understand measures they can voluntarily employ to retain the historic character of their homes. The Village Board of Trustees should also explore opportunities to secure grants to encourage property owners to do renovations in a manner that will protect the integrity of their homes. It should also raise awareness of the Historic Tax Credit program.

“THE PLANNING BOARD SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION THAT IS WITHIN *LINE-OF-SIGHT* OF INDIVIDUALLY LISTED NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC PROPERTIES SINCE INAPPROPRIATE CHANGES THAT CAN BE SEEN FROM THESE BUILDINGS CAN ALSO DIMINISH THEIR INTEGRITY.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

6.2.3 Other Preservation Policies

The Village can strengthen its preservation goals by becoming a state-designated *Certified Local Government* (CLG). The CLG program supports and strengthens local preservation activities by encouraging communities to develop an action plan in order to achieve their preservation goals. In New York State, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation administer the CLG program.

The Village can be a CLG, once the SHPO determines that it meets state and federal standards, which include having enacted appropriate preservation legislation and appointed a qualified preservation review commission. Approvals are forwarded to the National Park Service for certification. All certified CLGs are eligible to receive a variety of services from the SHPO, including:

- Grant money designated exclusively for CLG projects. SHPO makes grant awards through the CLG program;
- Membership in a national CLG network;
- Technical preservation assistance and legal advice;
- Direct involvement in SHPO programs, such as identifying properties that may be eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places;
-

- Training opportunities that will enable communities to protect their historic resources and integrate them into short and long-term planning initiatives; and
- Ongoing support from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The CLG program could further the Village’s preservation efforts by bringing needed dollars and technical expertise. It is recommended that the Village give further consideration to pursuing Certified Local Government designation.

The Village has a number of significant historic resources and has taken important steps to preserve these resources. It is recommended that the Village strengthen these efforts by implementing the policies, which are outlined above. Doing so will help to protect the Village’s historic resources for future generations and also enhance the integrity of its existing historic properties.



Above (top to bottom): View of home on along northern portion of NYS Route 208; view of stately home with wrap-around porch as seen from Ridge Avenue and nice brick home on Maple Street. Each of these homes appear to be eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places and could also be part of a designated district with neighboring properties.

6.3 Summary of Recommendations

Continue to support the Josephine-Louise Public Library and keep this cultural institution in its presently location in the heart of the Downtown. The library is an important cultural institution and anchor for the Downtown Business District.

Work with local cultural institutions to help them grow within the community. Support institutions as they seek foundation support and work with local chambers and business organizations to promote these institutions to residents.

Expand cultural and entertainment venues in Walden in order to enhance the social and economic vitality of the community. The Village Board should work with individuals and agencies to identify appropriate locations for cultural and arts venues.

Continue to support events that draw a regional audience such as Walden Harvest Fest, Farmer’s Market, Soap Box Derby, Halloween Christmas Celebration and Winter Carnival. The Village Board should continue to work with local organizations to support such events.

The Village Board of Trustees and Recreation and Parks Department should coordinate with State agencies and local not-for-profit entities to secure funding for the construction and operation of new arts and entertainment venues.

Develop a set of voluntary Historic Preservation Guidelines for local residents. These would guide homeowner decisions with respect to exterior alteration to their homes and them better understand historic preservation techniques. Restoration techniques, appropriate window treatments and a list of pre-certified contractors and vendors that are trained in historic preservation work could also be provided.

Pursue National Register Historic District Designation of Districts Identified in 1982 and 2006 Historic Surveys. Reach out to gain building-owner support for such efforts.

Grant the Planning Board with the authority to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations or new construction on properties within line-of-sight of the individually listed National Register properties. Inappropriate changes to existing buildings or the construction of new buildings that can be seen from the historic district or National Register buildings can diminish their integrity.

Support grant applications for funding through the NYS Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation. Provide support letters to landowners who are seeking State or federal grants for historic preservation purposes.

Support the individual listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Provide letters of support to homeowners who are seeking State or National Register listing of the properties.



Above (top to bottom): View of Downtown mixed use buildings on Main Street; view of recently renovated Millspaugh Furniture store on Main Street with new upper cornice and large display windows; and view of renovation in progress for a new business to be called “Sweet Sensations By Sue”. Each of these appears to be eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. These photos illustrate renovations, which respect the original architecture of each building.

6.4 Funding Sources

There are a variety of funding sources that are available to help fund these efforts. A summary of some of the more likely sources of funding is provided below.

New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA)

NYSCA makes over 2500 grants each year to arts organizations in every arts discipline throughout the state. NYSCA's goal is to bring high-quality artistic programs to the citizens by supporting the activities of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. www.nysca.org

Federal Investment Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties

Owners of income producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of historic properties. The final dollar amount is based on the cost of the rehabilitation; in effect, 20% of the rehab costs will be borne by the federal government. The work performed (both interior and exterior) must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and be approved by the NPS. <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/tax-credit-programs.gov>

NYS Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Rehabilitation work on historic residential structures may qualify for a tax incentive. The credit will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of structures, up to a credit value of \$25,000. Houses must be an owner-occupied residential structure and be individually listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places, or a contributing building in a historic district that is listed on the state or National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the house needs to be located in a "distressed" census tract, defined as "targeted areas" under Section 143 (J) of the Internal Revenue Code. The project must spend at least 5% of the total on the exterior work and be approved by OPRHP prior to start of construction.

CHAPTER 7.0 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

The Village of Walden is unique in its very distinct edge between the “village” and “town.” This distinctive edge is defined, in part, by the dense development pattern within the Village, which stands in contrast to the rural development on its edge. Walden’s parks, public lands, institutions and open space, which is situated on the edge of the community, also help to define this distinctive edge. As you approach Walden, there’s a clear sense of arrival. This distinctive edge helps to provide an exceptional sense of place and is worthy of preserving. *A primary goal of this Plan is to maintain the distinct edge of the Village of Walden.*

Another goal of this Plan is to encourage the preservation, protection and enhancement of Walden’s open space, parks, and recreational facilities. Numerous studies have shown the presence of abundant and publicly accessible open space and parklands increases community property values while contributing to economic growth by attracting new residents.

The Village of Walden manages seven public parks and offers a variety of recreation programs. In total, nearly 145 acres of land is designated as public parkland. This represents 11.25% of the Village land area of two square miles. A list of the Village’s parks follows along with the amount of parkland in each.

Village of Walden, New York

Table 7-1 Walden’s Public Parks	
Park	Acres
Alfred Place	0.23
Bradley Park	34.20
James Olley Park	98.90
Maple Street Boat Launch	1.20
Martin Besdesky Playground	0.44
Veterans Memorial Park	0.70
Wooster’s Grove Park	9.40
Total	144.44

Walden is unique in that many of its public parks are linked to its densely developed residential areas by an extensive sidewalk system. The recent addition of the *Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail* and other walking trails have improved the linkage to the existing park system, while increasing the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors.

There are several types of open space and recreational resources, which need to be protected to preserve Walden’s sense of place. These include the preservation of *natural feature* open space such as riparian zones along stream corridors, wetlands and wildlife habitat (see Chapter 4.0). These also include the protection and expansion of Walden’s park and trail system. The following is a brief description of Walden’s parks along with policies to preserve open space and expand recreational opportunities.



Above (top to bottom): Handicap accessible entrance to Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail leading up to Woodruff Street; Children’s Playground in Wooster’s Grove Park, which was completed through volunteer grassroots effort led by the Walden LDC; and view of baseball field at Bradley Park. The Village of Walden has an extensive public park system, but still has a need to expand recreational facilities to meet its growing population.



7.1 Walden’s Park System

The Village of Walden Recreation and Parks Department provides parks, facilities, and recreational programs to meet the needs of the Village residents. The Department operates and maintains seven (7) public parks, which offer a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities for local residents (see Map 7-1). The Village Board, in conjunction with the Department, is presently planning improvements to its park system. What follows is a brief description of each park, along with a discussion of proposed improvements.

7.1.1 Alfred Place Park

Alfred Place Park is the smallest of the Walden’s parks and is comprised of 0.23 acres of land. Though small, this park is important to the community in that it is the only active recreation park situated on the west side of the Wallkill River. Alfred Place Park contains a children’s playground and half basketball court. Proposed improvements call for the construction of full outdoor basketball court at this park.

7.1.2 Bradley Park

Bradley Park consists of 34.2 acres and is situated in the northern portion of the Village. Bradley Park contains five baseball/softball fields, two tennis courts, a children’s playground, skate park and picnic tables. Soccer and tennis programs are offered at this park.

The Walden Recreation and Parks Department has developed plans for the enhancement of the recreational facilities and other public amenities at Bradley Park. The proposed improvements include: replacement of a tire playground with new children’s playground; construction of new restroom facility, creation a new off-street parking lot, creation of new *outdoor community theater* with seating for up to 750 persons; along with a series of scenic walkways, which will provide views and access to the Wallkill River.

The proposed improvements are intended to transform this park into a multi-purpose recreational and cultural destination with an integrated system of natural, passive, active and linear recreation areas; along with cultural amenities, to serve a broader range of community interest and needs. Public access to the Wallkill River for fishing, boating and kayaking should also be considered at this park.

7.1.3 James Olley Community Park

James Olley Community Park is Walden’s largest public park with a land area of 98.90 acres. Presently, the park contains a lakeside beach for boating, fishing and swimming, paddle boats, a waterslide, two children’s playgrounds, a playfield, sledding hill, nature trails, a pavilion, two gazebos and picnic tables and grills. The Village’s Summer Recreation Program and Summer Playground Program, which run from July through August, occur here. There is room to accommodate more facilities in this park.



Above (top to bottom): View of Alfred Place Park from Harvard Drive showing children’s playground and basketball court; view of one of Bradley Park baseball fields; and view of Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School, which abuts Bradley Park along Bradley Lane. The Village’s parks and institutional open space help to define a distinctive edge to the Village of Walden, which gives it a unique sense of place.

The Walden Recreation and Parks Department has a Master Plan for the enhancement of the recreational facilities at James Olley Community Park. The Plan calls for the a new community and senior center, comfort station, expansion of trail system within the passive portion of the park on the east side of the lake and provision of additional off-street parking areas.

7.1.4 Maple Street Boat Launch

The Village of Walden owns a 1.2-acre parcel of land on the eastern shore of the Wallkill River with access from Maple Street. There is a parking lot that can accommodate 20 vehicles along with a boat ramp at this location, which allows residents to obtain access to the Wallkill River, where they can boat, canoe, fish or kayak.

There is sufficient land area at this location to accommodate additional passive recreational amenities such as floating docks, picnic areas or scenic overlooks. However, much of the land within the park lies within the riparian zone of the Wallkill River, which must be taken into consideration in the planning of future improvements to this public park.

7.1.5 Martin Bedesky Playground

Martin Bedesky Park consists of 0.44 acres and contains an existing children’s playground. The park is situated in the southernmost portion of Walden off of Pond Lane. Only playground improvements are planned for this park.

7.1.6 Veterans Memorial Park

This 0.70-acre pocket park is situated on the southern banks of the Wallkill River just north of Cliff Street. The park contains a flagpole, benches, commemorative brick pavers provided by local residents and a scenic overlook with views of the Wallkill River upper and lower falls. This is a passive public park with little area to add recreational amenities.

7.1.7 Wooster’s Grove Park

This 9.4-acre park is in the east central portion of Walden, just south of NYS Route 52. While modest in size, Wooster’s Grove contains the greatest variety of recreational facilities of any park. These include the *John H. Howland Youth Center*, basketball courts, ice skating rink, picnic tables, barbeque grills, shuffleboard court, and Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail Welcome Center.

Many recreational facilities in the park were completed through volunteer efforts of local residents and organizations. These include the Walden Rotary’s *Bandstand* and the *Community Playground*, which was completed by the Local Development Corporation and local volunteers.

Programs available at the park include adult gymnasium, after school programs, basketball league, exercise classes, indoor soccer, mom & tot playgroup, outdoor summer concerts and a teen center. The recreational programs offered at this park serve an important community need.



Above (top to bottom): View of Veteran’s Memorial Park, which is situated on the west bank of the Wallkill River; view of beach and water slide at James Olley Park; and view of bandstand at Wooster’s Grove Park with youth center and Walden Train Station Building in the background.

Wooster’s Grove Park sustained considerable flood damage during the arrival of Hurricane Irene in the late summer of 2011. Many of the park buildings and recreational amenities were under water. The new Youth Center was inundated - with floodwaters rising to a level of four feet inside the building.

Most of the parks in Walden lie outside the 100-year floodplain. However, Wooster’s Grove Park is situated entirely within the 100-year flood of the Tin Brook and the recent severity in flooding point to the need to reassess where certain prominent recreational buildings should be situated within the Village’s park system.

This Plan supports continued use of the existing recreation buildings and facilities at Wooster’s Grove Park. However, these facilities should not be replaced at this location should future flooding require their removal. If this occurs, these facilities should be relocated to either James Olley Park or Bradley Park, where they can be safely placed outside of the floodplain.

7.2 Recreational Needs

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) established standards and development guidelines for community parks and recreational needs. These are based upon population size and are used to help communities plan for future needs. Walden meets NRPA standards for many recreational facilities listed in Table 7-3, but not all and there is still a growing need for parks.

Table 7-2 Recreational Demand - Village of Walden			
Facility Type	Standard per 1000 persons	Need (acres)	Provided
Neighborhood Park	1 acre	7	10.07 acres Alfred Place Martin Bedesky Wooster’s Grove Park
District Park With restrooms, playfields, tot lots, winter activities.	2 acres	14	133.1 acres Bradley James Olley
Field Games	3 acres	21	34.2 acres
Tennis Courts	½ court	3.5	2 courts
Basketball Courts	½ court	3.5	2.5
Baseball	1 per 5000	1.5	5 fields
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1.0	0
Swimming pool	1 per 20,000	< 1	0
Trail	1 per region	1	Rail Trail

Walden meets the minimum NRPA standards for baseball fields but it does not presently have a soccer field. It is recommended the Master Plans for Bradley Park and James Olley Community Park incorporate the provision for a *multi-purpose field*, which could accommodate soccer, field hockey, track and football. While the demand for such facilities might not be there today, this could change in the future as these sports gain in popularity. The Village should also seek input from the Valley Central School District to assess recreation needs of its students.



Above (top to bottom): Children ice skating at Wooster’s Grove Park; view of James Olley Park pond, which offers passive recreational opportunities; and view of Walden Community Playground at Wooster’s Grove Park. Walden offers recreational opportunities for all ages and for all seasons.

Photos: These photos provided by Recreation and Parks Department.

Between 2000 and 2010, the population in Walden increased from 6,164 persons to 6,978 persons, a 13.2% increase. In one decade, the Village needed to provide recreational services for an additional 814 residents. It was able to do so, in part, because of an existing policy requiring developers to contribute a *payment-in-lieu-of-parkland* fee to mitigate impacts associated with an increase in the demand for recreational services.

The *payment-in-lieu-of-parkland* fee is based on the number of units within a proposed development and may include off-sets in instances where the developer provides certain open space or recreational amenities on-site. The *payment-in-lieu-of-parkland* fee is then set-aside in a special reserve fund to be used solely for parkland improvements.

Without the *payment-in-lieu-of-parkland* fee, it is unlikely to the Village of Walden would have been able to provide the recreational facilities needed to serve its growing population. *This Plan strongly supports the requirement that developers contribute a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help the community to meet its growing recreational needs.*

As the few large tracts of land in Walden are developed, the Planning Board should encourage development that affords the opportunity to preserve some open space. By this we mean, the provision of open space should be viewed as part of the overall development process.

In recent years, the Planning Board has approved single-family and multi-family developments that include the provision of conservation lands. Looking ahead, opportunities to provide new open space or expand existing open spaces should be encouraged through the development review process.

Table 7-3 Recreational Facilities - Village of Walden	
Park	Facilities
Alfred Place	Basketball Court (1/2) Children's Playground
Bradley	Baseball/softball fields (5) Tennis Courts (2) Skateboard bowl (1) Children's Playground Picnic Tables (3)
James Olley Community	Children's Playground Pavilion/Gazebo Picnic tables (10) grills (3) Fishing pond Volley Ball Court Nature Trail Beach with swimming
Maple Street	Parking Lot and Boat Launch
Martin Besdesky	Children's Playground
Veterans Memorial	Flagpole, benches and scenic overlook
Woosters Grove	Recreation Building/Office Basketball Courts (2) Picnic Tables (10) Shuffleboard Court (1) Ice Skating Rink (60'x40') New Youth Center w/ - Interior Basketball Court - P/T Youth Activity Director Children's Playground Teen Center Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail Welcome Center

“THIS PLAN STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE REQUIREMENT THAT DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTE A *PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-PARKLAND FEE TO HELP THE COMMUNITY MEET ITS GROWING RECREATIONAL NEEDS.*”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

7.3 Summary of Recommendations

This Plan recognizes the need to encourage quality development, but also understands that such development must be balanced with protection of open space and the provision of recreational resources to meet the growing needs within the community. The following policies are proposed protect and enhance the Village’s open space and recreational resources.

7.3.1 Open Space Protection

Promote the preservation of open spaces near the municipal boundary to help maintain the distinctive edge of the Village of Walden. Through the development review process, encourage the preservation of open space near the municipal boundary line. With respect to the Village’s parks, maintain open space buffers along the municipal boundary, where parks abut the boundary line.

Utilize parks and other open lands, institutions, the Walden-Walkill Rail Trail and the preservation of natural features to form a well-defined edge around the Village. Several of the Village’s parks are situated on the municipal boundary as are institutions such as the Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School, which abuts Bradley Park along Bradley Lane. The riparian zones along the Walkill River and Tin Brook also help to define the unique edge of the Village. Where feasible to do so, these features should be preserved.

Promote development, which contributes to the protection or expansion of open space. Through the development review process, the Planning Board should look for opportunities to refine development plans in a manner that provides for some open space. This can be in the way of common areas, buffer zones or the dedication of land for parkland.

Support efforts to conserve agricultural lands on the edge of the Village through the purchase-of-development-rights (PDR) program. The New York State Agriculture and Markets PDR program has already been successfully utilized to purchase development rights from farmers in the Town of Montgomery. A number of these farms are near the municipal boundary and their preservation helps to maintain the unique edge of the Village of Walden.

7.3.2 Recreational Resources

Continue with timely implementation of the Village of Walden Recreation and Parks Department’s recommendations for parkland improvements as reflected in the Master Plan for the Village’s Parks. As cited in Section 7.2, the Walden Recreation and Parks Department has prepared Master Plans, which illustrate proposed capital improvements to Walden’s public parks. These improvements are in response to growing community needs and should continue to be a priority for systematic implementation by the Village Board. The Master Plans for each park are provided in Appendix A.

“PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACES NEAR THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY TO HELP MAINTAIN THE DISTINCTIVE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Require developers to contribute a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help the community to meet its growing recreational needs. Walden has existing legislation, which requires a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help mitigate the potentially significant adverse impacts a development would have on the communities park system. The Planning Board, through the environmental review process, should document the potential adverse impacts and cite appropriate mitigation measures.

Pursue intermunicipal agreements and/or public/private partnerships to meet growing recreational needs of the community. For example, the Village Board could reach out to the Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School to development a public private partnership to development athletic fields on the school site, which abuts Bradley Park. The Village Board, could also work with its neighboring communities (as it did on the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail project) to further develop a regional trail system.

Expand waterfront access to the Wallkill River to provide for additional boating, fishing and hiking opportunities. Continue to implement proposed improvements at the Village’s Maple Street Boat site including the provision of a floating dock, trails and picnic facilities. The Village should also look for opportunities to expand access to the Wallkill River in the vicinity of Bradley Park to provide additional boating, fishing and kayaking opportunities.

Develop a system of active and passive recreational areas and facilities, which are diverse and well-utilized due to their appropriate location and design. Build upon the existing park system and systematically upgrade the facilities in these parks to meet community needs.

Provide linkages between existing open space and recreational areas. For example, utilize bikeways, trails and the protection of natural resources to tie together a system of open space.

Assess the feasibility of expanding recreational opportunities on other village-owned properties. The Village owns land on the west side of the Wallkill River at the end of McKinley Avenue. This property should be considered as a future access point to the Wallkill River. Additionally, the Village of Walden owns a large tract of land north of Valley Avenue, which contains a sewer pump station. This site abuts the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail and may lend itself to trails and other passive creation uses.

Pursue funding for a Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail pedestrian bridge over NYS Route 52. The Village has previously applied for funding for a pedestrian bridge over NYS Route 52 to link the Walden-Wallkill Rail-Trail to Railroad Avenue. Reapply for funding to bring this project to fruition when grants are available.

Ensure new recreational buildings are situated outside of floodplain. Relocate existing facilities to higher ground when they are replaced.



Above (top to bottom): View of entrance to the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail from Woodruff Avenue in the Village of Walden; view of rail-trail from Lake Osiris Road in the Town of Montgomery; and view of northern gateway to the rail-trail in the hamlet of Wallkill during the grand opening. The Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail involved intermunicipal cooperation. This Plan strongly supports such partnerships.

CHAPTER 8.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Village of Walden provides a variety of community services to meet the needs of its residents including police, fire and ambulance protection and public works. An elected Mayor and Board of Trustees govern the Village of Walden. The Village Manager oversees the Village’s day-to-day operations while the Mayor and Board of Trustees, adopt the budget, authorize payments and establish policies.

The term “community facility” includes the physical improvements owned and maintained by a municipality on behalf of its residents. These include buildings, equipment, parkland, roads, water and sewer infrastructure and interest in other lands (such as easements). The purpose of this Chapter is to discuss the adequacy of the existing community services and facilities and to propose policies to ensure the needs of residents are provided for in the future.

8.1 Police Protection

The Walden Police Department provides police protection for the entire Village of Walden. The Police Department headquarters are located in Village Hall, occupying 1,600 sq. ft. on the first floor. The Department’s Dispatch and Control Center has local and 911 receiving and sending capabilities along with a 1930's era holding cell to detain prisoners on a short-term basis.

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy and is also based upon the public’s perception of security and their satisfaction with the response time of existing law enforcement entities.

The Walden Village presently supports a 24/7 Police Department with a full-time Chief, three full-time Sergeants, ten full-time Patrol Officers and fifteen part-time Patrol Officers. The Village is patrolled with six marked patrol vehicles, two Raleigh F500 and two Cannondale Police bicycles. There is a foot-patrol and bike-patrol that covers the Downtown from 6:00PM until Midnight. There are three full-time and eight part-time Dispatchers that operate the Police Department’s 24 hour a day Dispatch Center. On average, the Walden PD responds to 469 calls for service each month and averages 81 arrests per month. Trends in Police Department activity are provided in Table 8-1 below.

Table 8-1 Police Activity		
Year	Calls For Service	Arrest
2004	4,220	869
2005	4,748	1,075
2006	4,721	1,111
2007	4,673	977
2008	4,342	NA
2009	5,918	NA
2010	5,618	NA



Above (top to bottom): Village Hall as seen from the Municipal Square; view of 1930's era holding cell within the Police Department on the first floor of Village Hall; Village Police Officers. As the Village’s population has increased, so too has the calls for service to the Police Department. This Plan support efforts to monitor trends in police activity in order to determine future needs for service. Photos: From Village Website.

As the Village’s population continues to grow, the demand for Police Department services will likely increase. Identifying the needs of the PD will help to ensure the long-term quality-of-service for all Village residents. The following policies are recommended to ensure sufficient police services in the future.

- As part of the Village’s Capital Improvement Program, assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities.
- Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so that existing resources can be utilized in the most effective manner.
- Ongoing coordination with State and County law enforcement agencies to respond to community needs, while reducing the cost to provide services locally.

8.2 Fire & Ambulance Protection

There are several Fire and Ambulance companies that operate within the Village limits. The Walden Fire District covers the entire Village as well as portions of the Town of Montgomery. The Walden Fire District provides fire protection to the residents out of two stations; the main station is located at 230 Old Orange Avenue and a sub-station located at the intersection of North Montgomery and Wait Streets. Its largest fire company is located on Old Orange Avenue and has five (5) bays.

There are four fire companies within the Village limits as follows: 1) Colonel Bradley Hose Company, 2) Enterprise Steamer Company, 3) Fearless Hook & Ladder Company, and 4) Orange Hose Company. Within the Village of Walden, there are over 200 volunteers among the ranks of its four fire companies.

The Village of Walden has a well-trained volunteer fire department as well as modern fire fighting equipment. The District uses four (4) engines, one (1) ladder truck, one (1) tanker, one (1) rescue, one (1) pump truck and one (1) brush truck to accomplish fire and rescue applications. The Walden Fire District participates in the County Mutual Aid Plan with seven fire companies in the Town of Montgomery. This arrangement allows the Village fire company to summon the assistance of the other seven fire districts, if it were needed in an emergency. *This Comprehensive Plan recommends that calls for the Walden Fire District be monitored to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the Village’s growing population base.*

The Walden Ambulance Corp d.b.a. Town of Montgomery Ambulance provides basic life support services to residents in the Village of Walden. They are located at 22 South Montgomery Street on property that is owned by the American Legion. Calls for ambulance services should be monitored to determine future facility and equipment needs. Doing so will help to ensure the needs of the community are met.



Above (top to bottom): View of Orange Hose Co. No. 1; view of Colonel Bradley Hose Company No. 2 Building on NYS Route 52 on the west side of the Village; and picture of Engine 236 from the Colonel Bradley Hose Co. No. 2. Calls for fire and ambulance services should be monitored to determine what equipment and facility upgrades are needed to meet the needs of the Village in the future.

8.3 Schools Facilities

Walden lies within the Valley Central School District, which provides a high quality education to 5,082 students. The following enrollment figures include all students from Walden, Town of Montgomery, Town of Crawford, Town of Wallkill, Town of Hamptonburgh and Town of Newburgh. In recent years, enrollment in the Valley Central School District is decreasing. In 2007-08, total school enrollment was 5,082 students in K-12. In 2009-10, the K-12 enrollment had decreased to 4,853 - a 229 or 4.5% decrease.

Table 8-2 Valley Central School District Enrollment		
Secondary Enrollment	Enrollment 2007-08	Enrollment 2009-10
Elementary	2,211	2,205
MS Grade 6	392	372
MS Grade 7	396	395
MS Grade 8	393	378
HS Grade 9	463	443
HS Grade 10	414	378
HS Grade 11	401	387
HS Grade 12	392	364
Total	5,082	4,853

The *Walden Elementary School* is part of the Valley Central School District. This elementary school is located in the heart of the Village on Orchard Street. The Village is also home to the *Most Precious Blood Catholic Elementary School*, which is located on Bradley Lane in the north central portion of the Village to the west of New York State Route 208 (aka Ulster Avenue).

Table 8-2 Most Precious Blood School	
Secondary Enrollment	September Enrollment 2010
K-8	140
Total	140
The school has capacity for 300 students.	

Without question, the location of these schools in the heart of the Village - where most students can walk to school - enhances the quality of life in a community. The location of elementary school in the central business district also helps local commerce through the presence of teachers and other school employees who purchase goods and services in the Downtown.

This Comprehensive Plan strongly supports efforts to keep these educational institutions viable and to keep these facilities within the Village of Walden. The Village Board should play an active role in maintaining the viability of these institutions by regularly communicating with school boards to ensure their needs for community services continue to be met.



Above (top to bottom): Walden Elementary School on Orchard Street, Montgomery Elementary School on Union Street in the Village of Montgomery and Valley Central High School, in the Town of Montgomery. It is critically important that Walden retain an elementary school within the Village limits. This Plan supports efforts to do so.

8.4 Public Works

The Village’s Public Works Department (DPW) primary responsibility is to deliver facilities and infrastructure required to meet the needs of the community and comply with all applicable engineering standards. The Village’s DPW has twelve (12) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee who collectively maintain the community’s water, sewer and street systems.

The Department fulfills its responsibilities through planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Village’s capital projects and infrastructure, and also through plan review and permit processes to regulate and facilitate private development. The Department garage is located on Bradley Lane within Bradley Park.

Presently, the DPW has outgrown its facility on Bradley Lane. This Plan supports alternative locations for the DPW garage and its relocation out of the Bradley Park. What follows is a brief description of the Village’s water supply system.

8.4.1 Public Water

Walden presently uses five (5) production wells that draw from an underlying sand and gravel aquifer to serve its potable water needs. Today, the five (5) production wells have a capacity of 1.9 million gallons per day. The average daily water demand for the Village is 662,000 gpd. The Village maintains twenty (20) miles of water line, which are part of its water supply system.

The Village Board of Trustees has a well-established policy of supporting efforts to bring new wells on-line to meet the growing needs of the community. In recent years, these efforts have increased the capacity of the water supply system from 916,000 gpd to 1.9 million gpd.

While there is sufficient capacity to serve the community today, it is important to protect the wells from potential sources of contamination so future potable water supply needs can continue to be met. Walden’s wells are located in the Town of Montgomery where the Village does not have direct control over land use decisions, which could adversely affect its wells. In 2009, the Village completed a Wellhead Protection Report, which was sent to the Town for review.

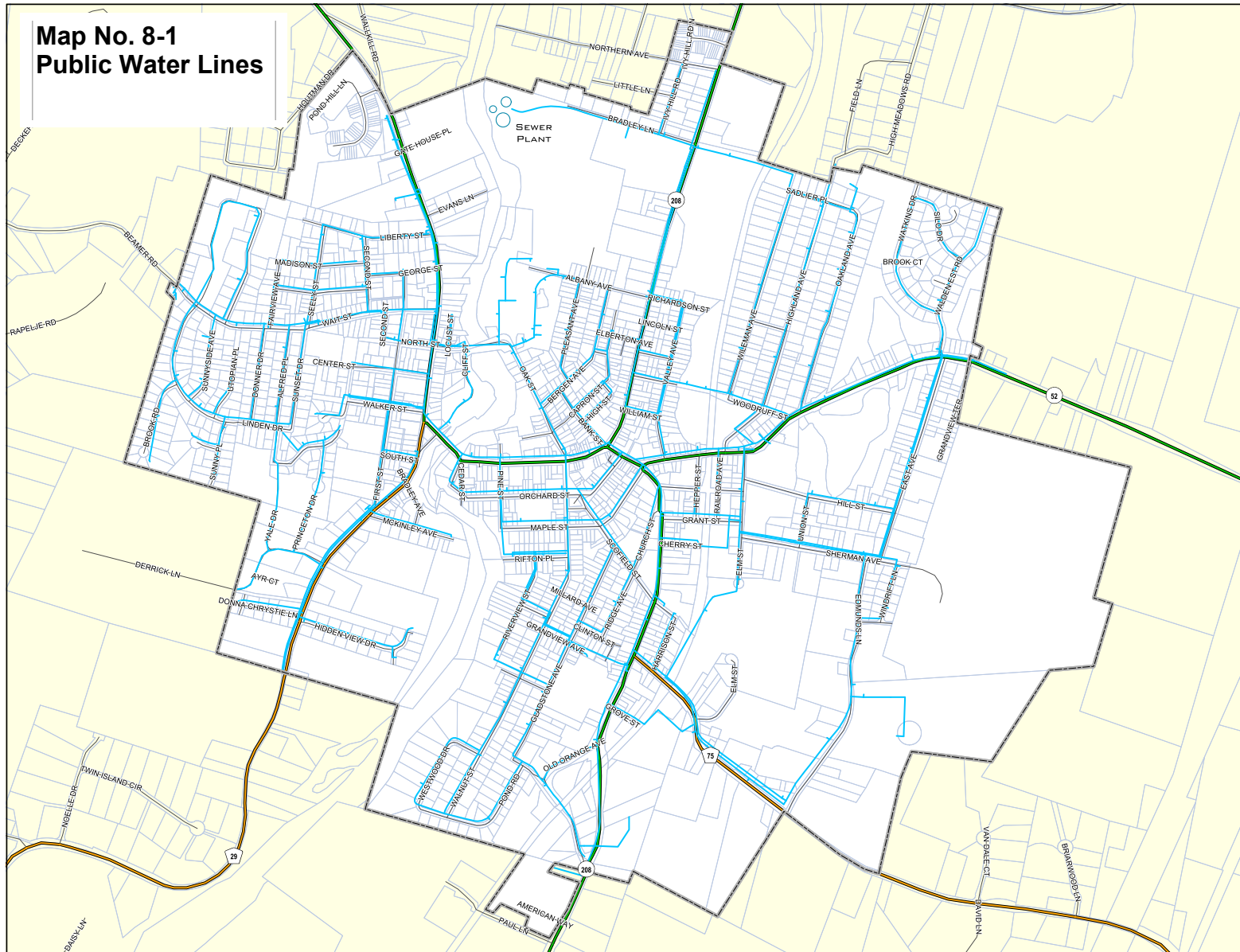
Coordination with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village’s 2009 Wellhead Protection Report is a priority of this Plan. It is imperative that measures are put in place today to prevent contamination of the groundwater aquifer, which feed Walden’s wells. Doing so will enable the Village to provide for its potable water needs today and into the foreseeable future. It will also allow for sustainable residential and non-residential growth in the Village of Walden.

Capital improvements that are proposed for the Village’s water supply system include:

- On-going efforts to identify locations for wells on the Village’s west side.

“COORDINATION WITH THE TOWN OF MONTGOMERY TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE VILLAGE’S 2009 WELLHEAD PROTECTION REPORT IS A PRIORITY OF THIS PLAN.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE



**Map No. 8-1
Public Water Lines**



**VILLAGE OF WALDEN
WATER & SEWER
INFRASTRUCTURE MAP**

LEGEND

- Municipal Boundary
- Water Pipe Lines
- Parcel
- Interstate
- Federal Highway
- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road

**TOWN OF MONTGOMERY
REFERENCE MAP**



SCALE: 1" = 900 FEET

**ORANGE COUNTY
WATER AUTHORITY**
15 MATTHEW ST.
GOSHEN, NY 10924
TEL: (845) 294-9533
FAX: (845) 294-9712
WWW.DCWAGIS.ORG
JAME.LD@DCWAGIS.ORG
021304~2321

DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS A PRODUCT OF THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY GIS DEPARTMENT. THE DATA DEPICTED HERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH EXTENSIVE COOPERATION FROM OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. ORANGE COUNTY AND DCWA MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION IN THE MAPPING DATA, BUT RATHER, PROVIDE SAID INFORMATION AS IS. ORANGE COUNTY AND DCWA EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES OR LIABILITY THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE USE OF THIS MAP.

8.4.2 Public Sewer

The Village of Walden operates a Waster Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve all residential and commercial properties in the Village. Walden has a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to operate this plant. DEC has listed the capacity of the plant at 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd). While the 800,000 gallons per day average daily use of the plant would suggest an excess capacity of 400,000 gallons per day, the reality is quite different.

In 2003, there were periods were the average daily flow from the WWTP exceeded 1.4 million gallons. The surge in flow was attributed to infiltration & inflow into the sewer system through its drainage systems. The Village is actively working to address infiltration & inflow through a variety of initiatives.

The DPW recently replaced a major trunk line in the vicinity of the Thruway Market, which links the west side of the Village to the east side. It was believed that a large part of the infiltration & inflow was occurring in this area where the trunk line crosses the Wallkill River. The DPW also recently replaced sewer lines along NYS Route 208 (Orange Avenue) to address like issues. This Plan recommends on-going monitoring of infiltration & inflow issues to maximize capacity of existing sewer infrastructure and avoid the need for future expansion of the WWTP.

By addressing the infiltration & inflow problem and ensuring proper operation & maintenance of the sewer system, the Village will be able to provide maximum service to residents and businesses alike while increasing the cost-effectiveness of operating the WWTP.

Capital improvements recently completed for the sewer system include:

- Wastewater Collector Line near the Thruway Market at a cost of \$290,000;
- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) improvements at a cost of \$1.2 million;
- Sewer line replacement along Maple Street, Rifton Place and Pleasant Avenue at a cost of \$450,000;
- Replacement of Tin Brook Pump Station at a cost of \$175,000; and
- Wastewater Collector Line along Orange Avenue (NYS Route 208) at a cost of \$215,000.

8.4.3 Street System

The DPW maintains approximately twenty (20) miles of streets along with sidewalks, storm drains, street trees, and signs. Most of the Village’s streets provide designated rights-of-way for motorists and pedestrians. *This Plan recommends a “Complete Street” policy through which streets are designed and operated to enable safe attractive and comfortable access and travel to all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport.*



Above (top to bottom): Village’s WWTP on Bradley Lane, DPW Garage on Bradley Lane and view of street system near Elementary School. “Complete Streets” designed and operated to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access and travel for all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport is supported by this Plan.

8.5 Summary of Recommendations.

This Plan recognizes the need to provide community services to meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in a cost-effective manner. The following policies are proposed to help ensure the Village of Walden can continue to provide these services to its residents in a timely and cost-effective manner.

8.5.1 Police Services

- As part of the Village’s Capital Improvement Program, assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities.
- Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so that existing resources can be utilized in the most effective manner.
- Ongoing coordination with State and County law enforcement agencies to respond to community needs, while reducing the cost to provide services locally.

8.5.2 Fire and Ambulance Services

- Monitor calls for the Walden Fire District to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base.
- Monitor calls for the Walden Ambulance to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base.
-

8.5.3 School Policies

While the site location and planning of new public school facilities is within the jurisdiction of the *Valley Central School District (VCSD)*, it is important for the Village to consider these plans and operations within its Comprehensive Plan. The following policies are recommended as a basis for discussion with the School Board:

- Encourage use of schools as multi-purpose community facilities with adult education classes encouraged.
- Maintain viability of the Walden Elementary School through on-going modernization of facilities to meet the demands of the VCSD.
- The Village will seek the cooperation of the VCSD in identifying future school sites and facility needs to ensure a continued presence of an elementary school within the Village.
- School sites should be located in the heart of the Village or adjacent to the edge in order to provide safe and convenient access to all students.
- All schools should be linked to neighborhoods by sidewalks.
- The Village will look for opportunities to jointly develop athletic fields within the Village to serve the needs of the VCSD.
- Outdoor recreational facilities located at public school sites should be designed in a manner that makes them available for public use after school hours and on weekends.

“THE VILLAGE WILL SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE VCSD IN IDENTIFYING FUTURE SCHOOL SITES AND FACILITY NEEDS TO ENSURE A CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITHIN THE VILLAGE.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

8.5.4 Public Works

It is recommended the Village Board pursue the following strategies to diversify its sources of water and also to increase water capacity.

- Coordination with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village’s 2009 Wellhead Protection Report is a priority of this Plan.
- Identify locations for new wells, including sites on the Village west side.
- Explore opportunities for new production wells on all properties when considered for annexation into the Village of Walden.

The following policies are recommended to help ensure the Village is able to provide needed community services into the future.

- The Village should establish performance standards for new users to ensure an undue strain is not placed upon the Village water & sewer infrastructure.
- New users shall meet regional standards and capacity levels of the Village water and sewer systems. Where additional capacity is needed, developers shall contribute to the upgrade of existing facilities to ensure sufficient service is available to meet other Village needs.

- The Village’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should continue to factor in the projected growth within the community.
- A Capital Improvement Plan should be completed and updated every five (5) years.
- Continue to identify and reduce *infiltration and inflow* issues in the public sewer system.
- Work with the Town of Montgomery and Orange County Water Authority to identify aquifer protection areas.
- Work with Town to require storm water pollution prevention plans for developments that could impact Village wellheads.
- Upgrade existing water & sewer infrastructure.
- Identify and secure State and federal grants to help offset the cost of maintaining the Village’s water & Sewer infrastructure.

Support a “Complete Street” policy through which streets are designed and operated to enable safe attractive and comfortable access and travel to all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport. As improvements are proposed for streets, consideration should be given to better accommodating pedestrian and bicyclist needs. Streets within new developments should also incorporate Complete Street concepts.

“THE VILLAGE SHOULD DEVELOP PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW USERS TO ENSURE AN UNDUE STRAIN IS NOT PLACED UPON THE VILLAGE WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 9.0 LAND USE REGULATIONS

The Village of Walden has a land area of 2.05 square miles, of which 1.97 square miles consist of land and 0.08 square miles of water. The first step in planning for Walden’s future involves an analysis of its current land use patterns. The second step of the analysis involves exploring how the community could grow under its present *land use regulations (e.g. zoning, subdivision and site plan review regulations)* through future development on vacant sites or redevelopment of developed properties within the Village.

9.1 Land Use

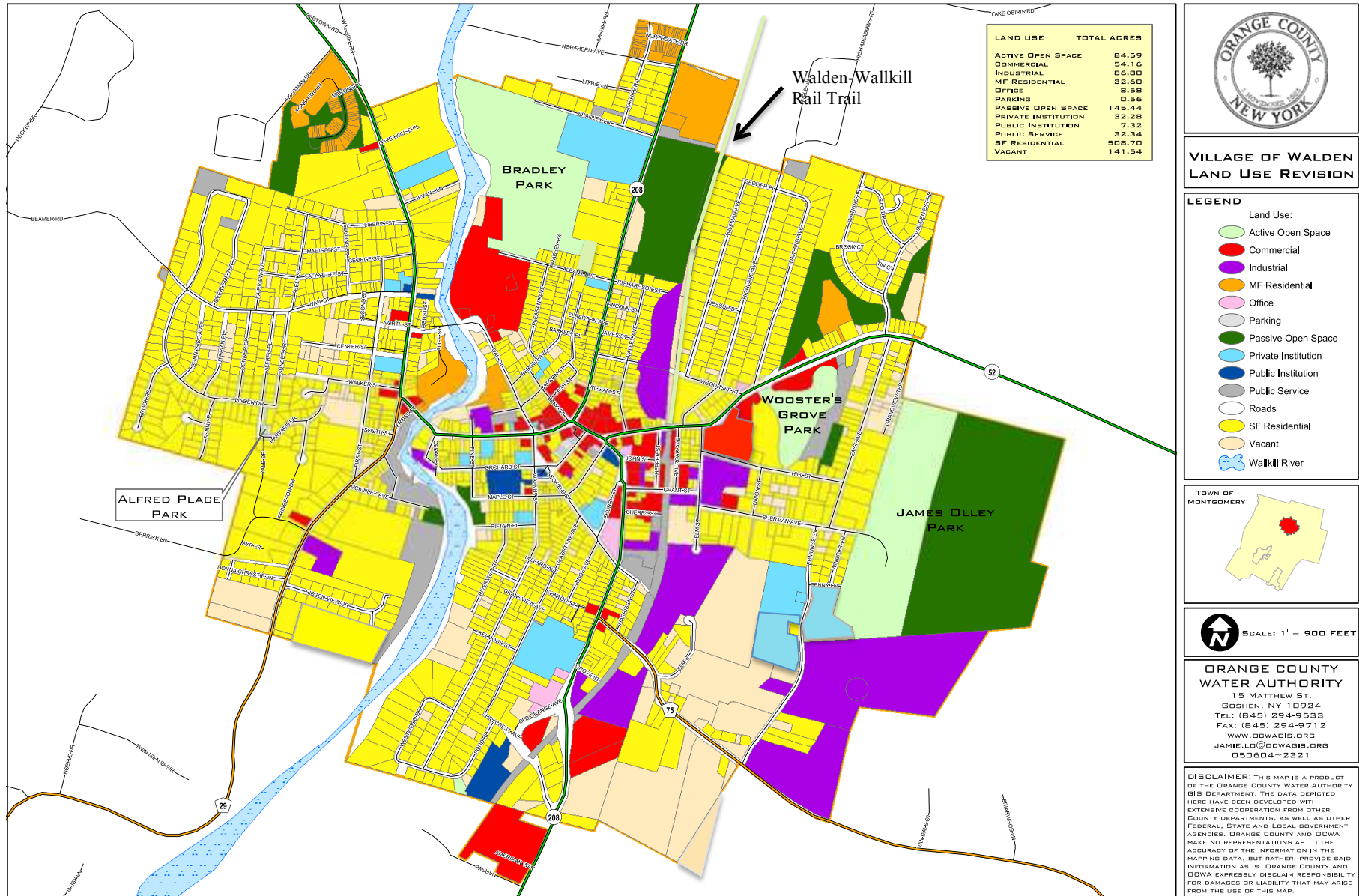
For the purpose of analysis, land uses have been broken down into the following categories: single-family and multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, private institution, public institution, passive open space, active open space, public service, and vacant land. In Walden, the most predominant land use type is single-family residential. Neighborhoods that lie both east and west of the Wallkill River are primarily comprised of single-family homes on modest lots, which are 1/4 acre or even less in size. The small lot size, coupled with sidewalks, provides for a pedestrian friendly environment and makes it relatively easy to walk from any neighborhood in the Village to Downtown. Land Use Map 9-1 was developed to illustrate the land use patterns within the Village (see page 69).

Residential land use is shown in shades of yellow with single-family in pale yellow and multi-family closer to orange. *Commercial land uses* are shown in red. *Professional offices* are shown in pink. *Industrial uses* are shown in purple. *Public institutions* include Village Hall, public schools, fire and police stations, etc. These are shown in dark blue. *Private institutions* include churches, synagogues, parochial schools, and other private organizations; these are shown in light blue. Parkland is broken down into two categories: 1) *active parkland* [i.e. lands with ball fields, playgrounds, etc.], and 2) *passive parkland* [i.e. undeveloped parkland]. Active parkland is shown in light green, passive parkland in dark green. *Public service* uses including utilities, electric sub stations, etc., are shown in light grey.

Land Use	Total	Percent
Single-Family Residential	508.70	39.74
Passive Open Space	145.44	11.36
Vacant	141.54	11.06
Industrial	86.80	6.79
Active Open Space	84.59	6.61
Commercial	54.16	4.24
Multi-Family Residential	32.60	2.54
Public Service	32.34	2.53
Private Institution	32.28	2.52
Office	8.58	.67
Public Institution	7.32	.57
Roads, Wallkill R., & Misc.	145.65	11.37
Total Acres 2 Square Miles	1,280.00	100.00



Above (top to bottom): Aerial view of upper and lower falls on the Wallkill River looking north; aerial view of Bradley Park and Wallkill River looking southward; and aerial view of Village of Walden showing well-defined edge.



9.2 Zoning

The Village of Walden has fifteen (15) different Zoning Districts. Eight (8) districts are residential; four (4) business districts intended for retail commercial and office; one (1) office light industry district; one (1) industrial district and one (1) mixed use zone that allows retail, office and residential uses (see Map 9-2 Zoning). The following is a brief description of each of the existing zoning districts within the Village.

R-2 Residential 1 & 2 Family

This zoning district encompasses James Olley Park in its entirety and does not exist elsewhere within the Village. It is unlikely that this zoning district will be applied elsewhere in the Village. Parks are a permitted use within the R-2 district.

R-3 Residential One-Family

This district is the predominant residential district in the Village. Single-family detached houses on lots with a minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. are permitted without water & sewer. Water & sewer services are available throughout the Village. With water & sewer, the minimum lot size is reduced to 12,000 square feet. Home occupation and home professional offices are allowed in residential districts as accessory uses. Special exception uses include: senior group residences, church or similar place of worship, golf course, nursery school, public buildings, schools and a variety of community facilities.

R-4 One-Family

This district is similar to the R-3 district, allowing by right the same uses but on smaller lot sizes of 8,000 sq. ft. for single-family residences. R-4 zones are located in the north, south, east and western corners of the Village.

R-5 One-Family

The R-5 districts are located in close proximity to Downtown. The R-5 zones reflect the older residential areas of the Village. As one might expect, the lot sizes in the R-5 district are smaller than the outlying areas with a permitted lot size of 5,000 sq. ft.. The R-5 district allows the same Special Exception (SE) uses as the R-3 and R-4 districts with the exception of planned residential developments and golf courses.

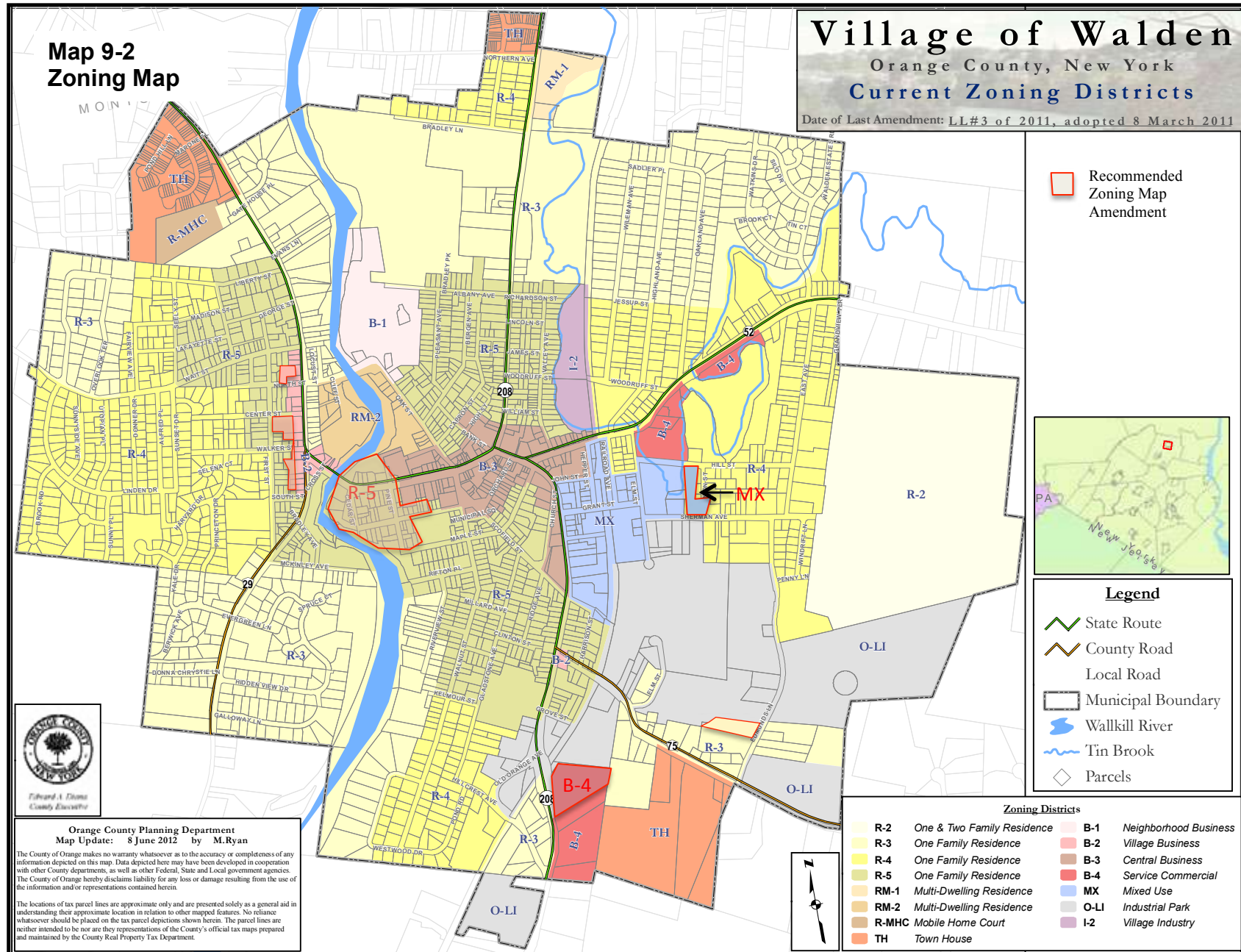
RM-1 Multi-Family

There is one area zoned RM-1, which is along Northern Avenue. The Winding Brook condominiums and Northgate Townhouses were previously zoned RM-1, but recently rezoned by the Village Board to TH-Townhouse.

The minimum lot area per dwelling unit in the RM-1 zone is 4,000 sq. ft. Uses permitted as-of-right include single-family, two-family, and multi-family dwellings. Special exception uses include: senior group residences, place of worship, nursery school, public buildings, schools and a variety of community facilities.



Above (top to bottom): View of single-family homes along Main Street, which are presently zoned RM-2, single-family homes on the west side of Oak Street; and single-family home on Orchard Street, which lies within the B-3 district. The dense pattern of residential development and extensive sidewalk system makes Walden a walkable community.



RM-2 Multi-family

The RM-2 district encompasses areas between the upper and lower falls along the east and west side of the Wallkill River. The RM-2 district allows multi-family housing on lots with a minimum area of 7,500 sq. ft. with 1,500 sq. ft. minimum square feet per dwelling unit. The RM-2 district is largely built-out with multi-family apartments along Oak Street and Cliff Street. *However, the RM-2 district along Cedar Street, Orchard Street and Pine Street consists of single-family homes, which would be better placed in the R-5 District (see Map 9-2).*

R-MHC Mobile Home Court

There is one R-MHC district located on the west side of the Village to the west of NYS Route 52. The R-MHC district allows by right single-family detached dwellings and by Special Exception licensed mobile home courts. There is an existing mobile home court in this district. The R-MHC district also includes a variety of SE uses including: churches, senior group residences, schools, libraries, etc. Professional office is a SE use. The minimum lot size per unit is 12,000 sq. ft.

TH - Townhouse

There are three (3) TH-Townhouse districts. One encompasses lands in the southeast quadrant of Walden off of Coldenham Road. The other two are situated in the northwest quadrant of Walden

The TH district allows attached, single-family dwellings and single-family (townhouses), and parks as a permitted use and senior citizen housing developments, houses of worship, libraries and schools as SE uses. *Winding Brook and Northgate Drive were recently rezoned and are now situated within the Townhouse district.*

B-1 Neighborhood Business

The B-1 district encompasses the *Thruway Shopping Center*. The minimum lot area is 10,000 square feet with the maximum lot coverage of 30%. Uses permitted as of right include banks, offices, personal service shops, funeral homes, restaurants, retail stores, taverns, radio and television broadcasting, etc. Some Special Exception (SE) uses include: motor vehicle sales, filling stations, drive-in eating establishments, and automobile laundries. Residences are not permitted in the B-1 district.

B-2 Village Business

The B-2 districts are located on the east side of the Village and at the corner of Route 208 and Coldenham Road. There is no minimum lot area; however, there is a minimum lot per dwelling of 2,500 sq. ft. Dwellings are permitted as a SE use in the B-2 zone over the first floor on non-commercial units. Permitted business uses mirror that of the B-1 zone, but also include vocational schools, home occupations and home professional offices. The maximum lot coverage of 80% is permitted.



Above (top to bottom): View of Winding Brook condominiums entrance on the west side of NYS Route 52, view of condominiums along Marone Place looking north and view of townhouses from end of cul-de-sac Winding Brook was situated within the R-3 and R-4 Zoning Districts, but the site was recently rezoned to TH-Townhouse.

B-3 Central Business

The B-3 district encompasses the historic central business district of the Village or Downtown. Uses permitted as of right include a similar mix as the B-1 and B-2 district such as retail, office and personal services. Special Exception uses are similar to the B-2 district, but also include senior group residences. Dwellings on the first floor are prohibited but are allowed above stores. The minimum lot size per dwelling is 1,500 sf. and maximum lot coverage is 80%.

B-4 Service Commercial

The B-4 districts are located on the east side of the Village along NYS Route 52 on either side of the entrance to Wooster’s Grove Park. The minimum lot size is 10,000 sq. ft. and maximum lot coverage 50%. Permitted uses include banks, bowling alleys, funeral homes, offices, taverns, restaurants, repair shops, and printing plants. Special Exception uses also include: building contractor storage and equipment yards, public utility buildings and storage yards among others.

O-LI Industrial Park

The OLI districts are located throughout the southeast quadrant of the Village. Minimum lot size is 40,000 sq. ft. and maximum lot coverage is 30%. Permitted business uses include: agriculture, banks, offices, radio & television broadcasting, repair shops, vocational schools and wholesale stores.

Village of Walden, New York

Permitted industrial uses include: *circus training facility*, flex space office, limited non-nuisance industries, nuisance industry, printing and publishing plants and wearing apparel and accessory manufacture. Special permit business uses include: hotels, parking garage, restaurant, schools, and temporary circus quarters. Special permit industrial uses include: dry cleaning plants, laundry plants, liquid petroleum gas storage, machinery repair or service plant, public utility buildings, research laboratory, self-storage facilities, truck station, railroad yard, warehouse and wholesale businesses.

I-2 Village Industry

The I-2 Village Industry districts are located along the Norfolk Southern railroad R-O-W. The I-2 district is a heavy industry zone. Permitted uses include: Dry cleaning plants of more than 4,000 sq. ft., printing and publishing plants, and warehouses. Special permit uses include: *liquid petroleum gas storage* and transfer stations. Active industries within the I-2 district include: AMPAC, Interstate Packaging Corp. and Truffa Seed Company, which have access to freight rail service.

The minimum lot area in the I-2 district is 5,000 sq. ft. and the maximum lot coverage of 40%. Some of the uses permitted no longer reflect desirable uses as the Village has evolved over time. *This Plan supports a reassessment of permitted uses in the I-2 district with the aim of removing harmful uses from the table.*



Above (top to bottom): View of one of the Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP Law Office buildings on NYS Route 208 with its award-winning contemporary design; Thruway Shopping Center Plaza at base of Oak Street, Sweeney’s Tavern on NYS Route 208. Walden has a wide variety of business establishments that serve local residents and the surrounding region.

MX Mixed Use

There is one MX - Mixed Use district in the Village in the vicinity of Railroad Avenue, Grant Street and Elm Street. There is a set of Design Guidelines for this MX district, which is referred to as a *Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place*.

The MX district requires a minimum lot area of 1,500 sq. ft. per dwelling unit and a maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 2.0 for non-residential or mixed uses. Dwelling units over the first floor and artist lofts and live-work spaces are permitted as of right. SE uses include: senior group residences, multiple dwellings, planned residential development and senior citizen housing development. Community facilities allowed as SE uses include churches, parks, libraries, etc.

The Village of Walden completed a *Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place Study* in December of 2010 as a follow-up to its 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The study evaluated the consistency of the existing MX district regulations with the Design Guidelines for a Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place, which resulted in a number of recommended amendments to the Zoning Law or Design Guidelines as follows:

Section 305-52 (C)(410)(a) of the Zoning Law should be amended by addition of the following:

- In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and those of the Design Guidelines for the Railroad Place Design District, the provisions of the Design Guidelines shall prevail.
- The Planning Board, during site plan review, shall be authorized to consider and approve waivers to the provisions of the Design Guidelines, as applied to existing buildings, at the request of the applicant. The Planning Board’s decision shall be based on the specific circumstances of the subject building and the impact of the waiver on the design objectives of the MX district.

Since the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, there is a realization that the conversion of some of the former industrial buildings to mixed-use development may take longer than initially envisioned. While this Plan still supports mixed use development within the MX district and the application of the Design Guidelines for new infill buildings, it also recommends the list of permitted uses be expanded to allow for a variety of non-nuisance industries.

Such use would include bakeries, galleries, performing arts centers, warehouses and other transitional uses that will enable building owners to derive income from their properties without having an adverse impact on mixed-use developments within this portion of the Village. Such uses should be allowed subject to a Special Exception permit.



Above (top to bottom): View of Walor Auto Body shop on Railroad Avenue, single-family residence on corner of Railroad Avenue and John Street across street from Walor Auto Body and view of former Package Lighting Building on Grant Avenue. The MX district encompasses an eclectic mix of buildings and land uses and flexibility in the reuse of buildings is encouraged.

9.2.1 Recommended Zoning Map Revisions

There are several Zoning Map and Zoning Text amendments, which are recommended to facilitate the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan. The recommended Zoning Map amendments are illustrated on Map 9-2 Zoning and include the following revisions:

- Amend zoning district boundaries to follow property boundaries so that parcels are not split between two zoning districts;
- Change the RM-1 district on Edmunds Lane to R-4;
- Apply new TH-Townhouse district to the Winding Brook, Northgate Drive and Ivy Hill Road developments;
- Change RM-2 district Pine Street to the Wallkill River and from West Main Street and Pine to Maple Street change to R-5;
- Amend Zoning Map to include the Methodist Church on Main Street in the B-3 district;
- Adjust MX district boundary to the east between Hill Street and Sherman Avenue so district includes entire parcels; and
- Rezone two parcels on east side of NYS Route 208 at Village edge from O-LI to B-4.

9.2.2 Recommended Zoning Text Amendments

- Remove SE use for filling stations and car washes within the B-1, B-2 & B-3 districts;
- Allow gas stations in OLI district as SE use;
- Remove dry-cleaning and laundry plants from the Table of Permitted Uses; and
- Assess the height limitations within the B-3 and MX district to determine if higher building heights should be accommodated to encourage infill development.

9.3 Site Plan Review

Section 305-60 of the Village Code grants the planning Board with the authority to review and approve site plans. The provisions for site plan approval apply to all land uses that are listed as special exception uses in all zoning districts. It also applies to all permitted uses in the Village’s business, mixed use and industrial districts.

Site plan review is a powerful planning tool that the Planning Board can use to shape the character of new development. Through this process, the Planning Board can shape the character of new developments through its review of building placement, landscaping, signs, lighting, and off-street loading and parking. The Village’s Site Plan regulations lay out applicability; procedures and requirements for site plan review. It also provides some basic review standards to help guide the Planning Board’s decisions.



Above (top to bottom): A single-family homes at the northeast corner of Railroad Avenue and John Street; single-family homes along the western side of Elm Street and north of John Street; view of single-family homes looking from railroad tracks. New infill buildings and uses should be compatible with the existing residential uses in this area of the Village.

Additional standards to help guide the Planning Board’s decision is recommended in certain areas such as landscaping and building design.

Landscaping standards would establish minimum requirements for the landscape areas, the caliper of trees, percentage of landscaping within off-street parking areas, standards for landscaped buffers between residential and non-residential land uses, requirements for maintaining landscaping and other applicable standards.

The Village must strictly enforce its site plan review, landscaping and sign regulations to ensure that new development complements rather than detracts from the community’s character.

9.4 Design Review

Presently, Walden has Design Guidelines for the Downtown Business District and the MX-Mixed Use zoning district also referred to *Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place*. The Village could enhance the effectiveness of its *site plan review* laws through the adoption of additional design review guidelines for all commercial and residential zoning districts.

Design guidelines will help to guide the Planning Board’s decisions while giving developers a clear understanding of design requirements. Design standards would vary for different areas with the Village of Walden.

Village of Walden, New York

Most municipalities in New York State base their authority to establish design guidelines on General Municipal Law Section 96-a, which allows communities to place restrictions in order to protect or enhance “sites, buildings, or other objects having special character or aesthetic interest or value.”

Long-term, the Village Board could work with property owners to seek the creation of a National Register-designated Historic District. If the Board of Trustees moves forward to establish a National Register-designated Historic District, a Local Law should be adopted to establish an Architectural Historic Review Board.

This Plan recommends that the newly established Architectural Historic Review Board would have the authority to review projects within the historic districts. However, this Plan also recommends the Planning Board would retain the authority to review design issues in conjunction with its *site plan review* powers for projects outside of the historic districts.

The creation of an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) would require the adoption of a Local Law. An AHRB would help to ensure the integrity of the exterior of historic buildings is preserved helping Walden to retain its unique sense of place. *Whether or not an AHRB is established, it is recommended the scope of design review be expanded to include the review of exterior renovations of existing buildings or review of new construction in business districts.*



Above (top to bottom): Rite Aid – Lake Placid, NY. Lake Placid is community with design guidelines; Rite Aid – Ellenville, NY a community without design guidelines; and Hurley Ridge Market in West Hurley, New York located within a community with design guideline requirements.

9.5 Downtown Revitalization

Successful Main Streets are not only places where people shop, but they also are places where many civic and cultural activities occur where the public can gather at community events. *The Village Board should keep its civic buildings Downtown and support private and not-for-profit sector efforts to establish cultural and entertainment anchors.*

The Village Board must also work with local civic organizations and the business community to promote the CBD. Promotion means selling the image and promise of Downtown to all prospects. This involves marketing the unique characteristics of the business district to shoppers, investors, prospective businesses and visitors. It also involves the creation of a strategy to promote a positive image of the entire business district through advertising, special events and marketing events carried out by the business community along with the support of civic and cultural institutions.

One of the challenges facing Walden in creating an effective promotional strategy is getting business owners to think of the business district as a whole rather than the sum of its parts. Business owners must work together to ensure the highest quality shopping experience for their customers. For example, it is important for the business community to coordinate their *hours of operation* so that businesses are open when customers are available to shop.

The business community should also work together to create seasonal and holiday marketing campaigns and other special events designed to draw customers to the CBD.

It is also recommended the business community reach out to prospective entrepreneurs to open complementary businesses within the CBD. *Business attraction efforts* are needed to fill vacant storefronts and are also needed to create a mix of retail, restaurants, professional services and cultural attractions that appeal to visitors and residents alike. The focus of business attraction efforts must be to create a vibrant CBD with a variety of goods & services, quality merchandise and appealing restaurant settings.

This Plan supports Walden’s Downtown Revitalization Strategy and the on-going downtown revitalization policies contained therein including:

- Retaining vital services Downtown, such as banks, post office, and library.
- Sponsoring and promoting the *Farmer’s Market* and special events.
- Strictly adhering to Downtown Design Guidelines for façade renovations.
- Further developing incentives to encourage new investment through the New York Main Street Program and the Village’s low interest revolving loan fund.



Above (top to bottom): Village Hall on Municipal Square, Farmer’s Market at Firemen’s Square, and annual Soap Box Derby with participants gathered on Municipal Square. Keeping vital services Downtown, such as banks, library, post office and Village Offices helps to support local businesses by attracting people Downtown. The Farmer’s Market serves a similar purpose.

9.6 Annexation Policy²

Request for an annexation should only be considered if it is in the “over-all public interest.” That is, the request will not place an undue strain on Village resources or place an increased cost to all residents [e.g. neutral cost/benefit analysis]. The following basic principles should be considered before an annexation is approved:

- Can the annexation be accommodated using the existing capacity of the Village’s infrastructure?
 - The terrain of the area should allow for expansion of utilities without prohibitive costs.
 - New development on annexed land must be compatible in design with existing and likely future development in the adjoining neighborhood.
 - The assessed valuation of the area and any proposed improvements should be sufficient to allow the area to pay its fair share of the cost of providing services.
 - The area should contribute to the logical growth pattern of the municipality and should encourage orderly growth.
- Irregular boundaries should be avoided.
 - The annexed area should put no more demand on services beyond which the Village can provide unless the developer pays for the necessary capital improvements.
 - The cumulative effects of other annexations should be evaluated for long-term impacts on infrastructure.
 - Sites that include historic properties should consider and encourage provisions for preserving historic structures on the site.
 - The proposed use of lands to be annexed into the Village shall be resolved concurrently with the annexation agreement.

“THE ANNEXED AREA SHOULD PUT NO MORE DEMAND ON SERVICES BEYOND WHICH THE VILLAGE CAN PROVIDE UNLESS THE DEVELOPER PAYS FOR THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.”

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

²The following recommendations have been adapted from Village of Warwick guidelines.

9.7 Summary & Recommendations

The Village of Walden’s buildings and pattern of development define its community character. It is important that new development occurs in a manner, which compliments the existing pattern of development within the Village of Walden. To this end, the following land use and zoning policies are recommended to help manage new growth in manner that enhances the character of the Village of Walden.

9.7.1 Land Use

Update the Table of Use Regulations for the Business, Mixed Use and Industrial Zoning Districts. Expand the list of permitted uses in the MX-district to allow for a variety of non-nuisance industries. Such use would include bakeries, galleries, performing arts facilities, warehouse and other transitional uses that will enable building owners to derive income from their properties without having an adverse impact on mixed-use developments.

Reassessment of permitted uses in the I-2 district with the aim of removing harmful uses from the table. Presently the I-2 district allows laundry plants of more than 4,000 square feet as a use permitted-by-right subject to site plan review approval by the Planning Board. For example, fuel oil storage depots are allowed as Special Exception uses within the I-2 district and have the potential to adversely affect Village aquifers.

9.7.2 Zoning

Adopted recommended Zoning Map and Zoning Text Amendments as cited in Section 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 above.

9.7.3 Site Plan Review

Adopted more detailed landscaping standards as part the Site Plan Review regulations. Establish minimum standards for landscaping of commercial properties including tree planting, percentage of landscaping within off-street parking areas and landscape buffers between residential and commercial properties.

9.7.4 Design Review

Create an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) through the adoption of a Local Law. If historic districts are established, an AHRB would help to ensure the integrity of the exterior of historic buildings is preserved.

9.7.5 Downtown Revitalization

Adhere and follow policies of Village’s Downtown Revitalization Strategy and policies cited in Section 9.5 above.

9.7.6 Annexation

Follow annexation policy outlined in Section 9.6 above to ensure annexations do not strain services within the Village.

“WE SHAPE OUR BUILDINGS AND AFTERWARD OUR BUILDINGS SHAPE US.”

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

**Map 9-3
Precise Plans**

Village of Walden
Orange County, New York
Current Zoning Districts
Date of Last Amendment: LL#3 of 2011, adopted 8 March 2011

Actions: Create Waterfront Plan to improve public access, protect riparian zones and ensure new development does not adversely affect the Walkkill River.

Actions: Secure funding for new pedestrian bridge over NYS Route 52 to connect MX District to the Walden-Walkkill Rail-Trail.

Actions: Enhance Maple Street boat launch. Implement Japanese Knot Weed eradication program.

The Village Board may consider rezoning for residential development upon receipt of a Sketch Plan by a developer, which is consistent with adjacent residential zones.



Orange County Planning Department
Map Update: 8 June 2012 by M.Ryan
The County of Orange makes no warranty whatsoever as to the accuracy or completeness of any information depicted on this map. Data depicted here may have been developed in cooperation with other County departments, as well as other Federal, State and Local government agencies. The County of Orange hereby disclaims liability for any loss or damage resulting from the use of the information and/or representations contained herein.
The locations of tax parcel lines are approximate only and are presented solely as a general aid in understanding their approximate location in relation to other mapped features. No reliance whatsoever should be placed on the tax parcel depictions shown herein. The parcel lines are neither intended to be nor are they representations of the County's official tax maps prepared and maintained by the County Real Property Tax Department.



Legend

- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road
- Municipal Boundary
- Walkkill River
- Tin Brook
- Parcels

Zoning Districts

R-2 One & Two Family Residence	B-1 Neighborhood Business
R-3 One Family Residence	B-2 Village Business
R-4 One Family Residence	B-3 Central Business
R-5 One Family Residence	B-4 Service Commercial
RM-1 Multi-Dwelling Residence	MX Mixed Use
RM-2 Multi-Dwelling Residence	O-LI Industrial Park
R-MHC Mobile Home Court	I-2 Village Industry
TH Town House	

Action Plans:

- Zoning Map Amendments
- New Traditional Neighborhood
 - Encourage mixed use
 - Design Guidelines
 - Adaptive Reuse of former mill buildings
 - Infill development
 - Passenger Rail
 - Freight Rail
- Recommended Historic District
 - Church Street
- Pedestrian Bridge Walden-Walkkill Rail-Trail
- Zoning Map Amendment Subject to Conditions Cited Herein.

CHAPTER 10 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this Comprehensive Plan to be effective, the Village of Walden must actively apply the policies that are contained within the Plan. Furthermore, its Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals must use the Plan as a framework to guide their decisions with respect to the review of development proposals.

Certain recommendations contained herein will require the subsequent action of the Village Board of Trustees in order to enact recommended revisions to the Village Code and other land use regulations. Other actions such as the preservation of natural resources, transportation improvements, or the development of programs to support historic preservation will require the collaboration between the Village, County, State and not-for-profit entities. These actions are outlined in implementation tables provided in this Chapter along with the party responsible for taking a leadership role in the implementation of the policy or program.

Each member of the Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals should have a copy of this Comprehensive Plan. The Village Board should appoint a Comprehensive Plan subcommittee to spend time each month reviewing progress on the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan and coordinating efforts with other entities where necessary.

The following pages provide a summary of the major recommendations that are part of this Plan. The recommendations are organized under the broad topic areas as follows: Natural Resource Protection, Transportation, Cultural & Historic Resources, Open Space & Recreation, Community Services and Land Use Regulations.

For each subject there is a list of specific recommendations, along with an indication of when the recommendation should be implemented and the party responsible for ensuring that the recommendation is followed. The Implementation Plan table is useful in helping the Village Board to set priorities for the subsequent actions that will be necessary to implement this Comprehensive Plan.

Some recommendations should be implemented immediately including the recommended revisions to the Village Code. Other measures will be implemented in the “*short-term*” within two (2) years of adopting this Comprehensive Plan.

There are other recommendations that are “*long-term*” in nature - meaning they are anticipated to be completed over a 2-5 year timeframe. It is not reasonable to assume that all the recommendations contained herein will be implemented immediately. The implementation of the Plan is meant to be a process that will occur over a period of years. Setting priorities ensures the process will get underway.

“IN ORDER FOR THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO BE EFFECTIVE, THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ITS PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MUST ACTIVELY APPLY THE POLICIES THAT ARE CONTAINED WITHIN THE PLAN.”

Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan				
No.	Recommendations	Action	Priority	Responsibility
Natural Resource Protection				
1	Identify slopes (over 15%) as part of site assessment prior to developing the building site and road design [Sections 4.2 & 4.10.1].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
2	Enforce NYSDEC requirements to maintain a 100-foot setback between development and adjacent wetlands [Sections 4.3.1 and 4.10.2].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
3	Restrict the development of buildings and impervious surfaces with the 100-year floodplain [Sections 4.3.2 and 4.10.2].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
4	Require <i>Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans</i> (SWPPP) in accordance with NYSDEC Regulations [Sections 4.3.3 and 4.10.2].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
5	Encourage use of <i>stormwater basins</i> and <i>Low Impact Design</i> alternatives to manage and treat stormwater runoff [Sections 4.3.3 & 4.10.2].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
6	Require <i>sediment & erosion control plans</i> when proposed development involves grading of the site or cut and fill operations [Section 4.10.3].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
7	Restrict the cutting trees along the Walkill River in order to protect the <i>riparian zone</i> along the river [Sections 4.5 and 4.10.4].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
8	Encourage <i>Leadership in Energy Conservation and Design</i> (LEED) in the design of new buildings [Sections 4.7 and 4.10.6].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
9	Require developers to install lighting, which are <i>International Dark Sky Association</i> (IDA) compliant [Sections 4.8 and 4.10.7].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
10	Support the Town / County efforts to obtain funding of the <i>Purchase of Development Rights</i> (PDR) for farms.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
11	Enlist the services of an arborist to develop a coherent long-term plan for <i>street tree conservation</i> in the Village [Sections 4.6 and 4.10.5].	Tree Plan	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board
12	Create <i>wellhead protection</i> and <i>aquifer protection Overlay Districts</i> [Sections 4.3 and 4.10.2].	Local Law	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board
13	Enforce landscaping and street trees standards for new developments and require developers to provide landscaping plans [Sections 4.6 and 4.10.5].	Local Law	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board
14	Implement invasive plant and animal eradication efforts to protect natural ecosystems [Sections 4.9 and 4.10.8].	Program	Short-term	Village Board DPW & Parks
Immediate = 1 Year		Short-Term = 1-2 Years		Long-Term = 2-5 years

Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan							
No.	Recommendations	Type	Priority	Responsibility			
Transportation							
29	<i>Expand municipal off-street parking</i> opportunities within the Central Business District [Section 5.9.4].	Capital Improvement	Long-term	Village Board DPW			
30	Construct new pedestrian bridge over NYS Route 52 to connect Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail to MX district [Section 5.9.1].	Capital Improvements	Long-term	Village Board NYSDOT			
Cultural & Historic Resources							
31	Continue to support the <i>Josephine-Louise Public Library</i> and keep this cultural institution in the heart of the Downtown [Sections 6.1 & 6.3].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Library Board			
32	Work with <i>cultural institutions</i> to help them grow in order to enhance social & economic vitality of the community [Section 6.3].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board WLDC			
33	The Village Board should support <i>grant applications</i> through the NYS OPRHP for local preservation efforts [Sections 6.3 & 6.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Village Historian			
34	<i>Support the individual listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places</i> [Section 6.1 and 6.3].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Village Historian			
35	Encourage homeowners to follow <i>voluntary guidelines</i> for exterior renovations to homes that may be eligible for historic listing [6.2.1].	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Code Enforcement			
36	Continue to support events that draw a regional audience such as <i>Walden Harvest Fest, Farmer’s Market, Soap Box Derby, Halloween Christmas Celebration</i> and <i>Winter Carnival</i> [Section 6.3].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board			
37	Develop a set of voluntary <i>Historic Preservation Guidelines</i> to guide homeowner renovations [Section 6.1 and 6.3].	Renovation Guidelines	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board			
38	Grant the Planning Board with the authority to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations within line-of-sight of the individually listed National Register properties [Section 6.3].	Local Law Design Guidelines	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board Village Historian			
39	Coordinate with State agencies and local not-for-profit entities to secure funding for the construction and operation of new arts and entertainment venues [Section 6.3].	Capital Improvements	Long-term	Village Board Recreation & Parks			
40	Pursue <i>Certified Local Government (CLG)</i> designation through the New York State OPRHP [Section 6.2.3].	Historic District	Long-term	Village Board VH & SHPO			
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Immediate = 1 Year</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Short-Term = 1-2 Years</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Long-Term = 2-5 years</td> </tr> </table>					Immediate = 1 Year	Short-Term = 1-2 Years	Long-Term = 2-5 years
Immediate = 1 Year	Short-Term = 1-2 Years	Long-Term = 2-5 years					

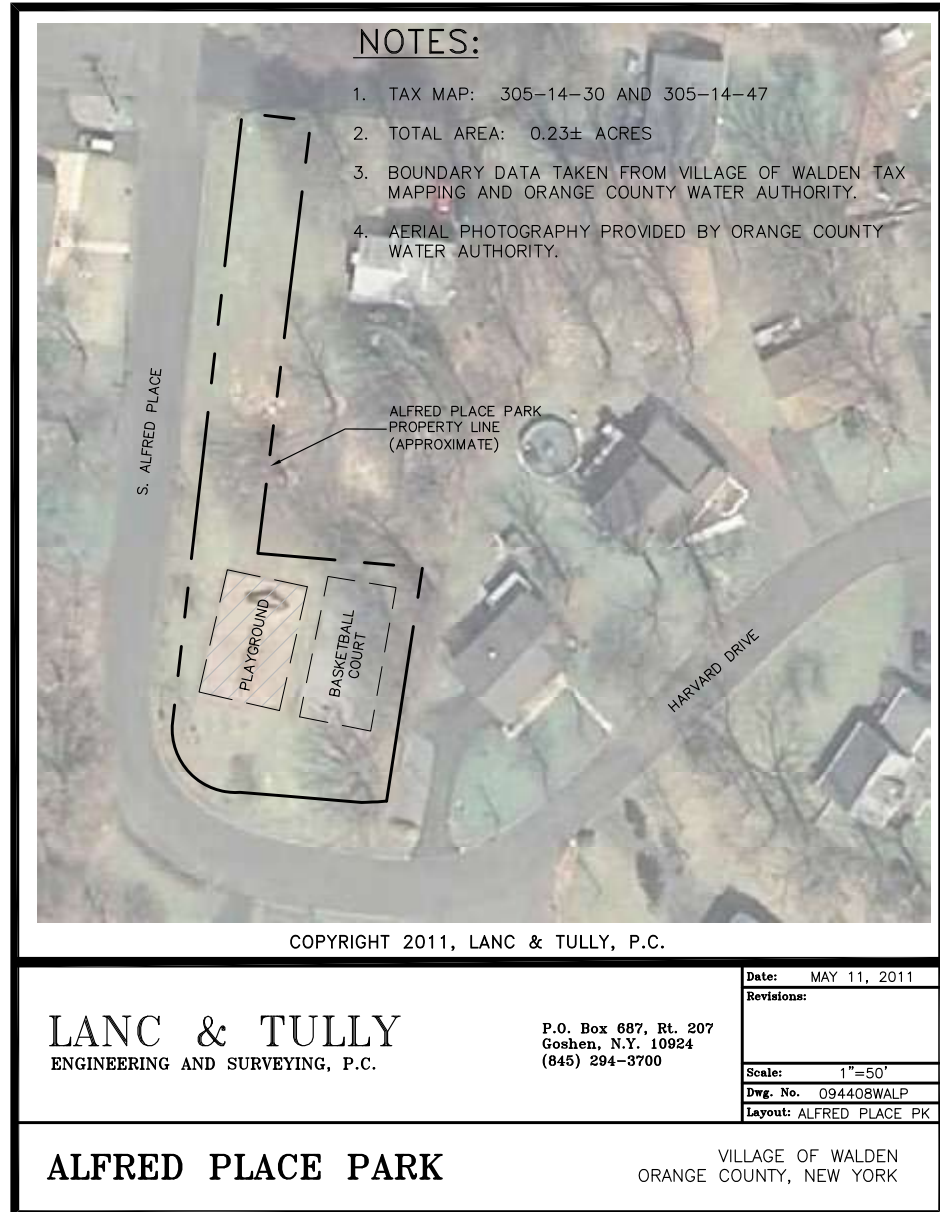
Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan				
No.	Recommendations	Type	Priority	Responsibility
Community Services				
54	As part of the Village’s <i>Capital Improvement Program</i> , assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities [Sections 8.1 and 8.5.1].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Police Department
55	Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so resources can be utilized in the most effective manner [Section 8.5.1].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Police Dept.
56	Monitor calls for the Walden Fire District to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base [Section 8.5.2].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Fire District
57	Supports efforts to keep educational institutions viable and to keep these facilities within the Village of Walden [Section 8.3].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board VCSD
58	Continue to address the infiltration & inflow problem and ensuring proper operation & maintenance of the sewer system [Section 8.4.2]	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
59	Explore opportunities for new production wells on all properties when considered for annexation into the Village of Walden [Section 8.5.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
60	Support “ <i>Complete Street</i> ” policy to enable safe, attractive and comfortable travel to all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport [Section 8.4.3 and 8.5.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
61	Use performance standards to assess the request by industrial users to tie into the Village’s water and sewer infrastructure [Section 8.5.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
62	Identify and secure State and federal grants to help offset the cost of maintaining the Village’s water & Sewer infrastructure [Section 8.5.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
63	Where additional capacity is needed, developers shall contribute to the upgrade of existing facilities to ensure sufficient service is available to meet other Village needs [Section 8.5.4].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board DPW
64	Update Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for community facilities, which should assess the useful life of all capital facilities maintenance needs and replacement schedules [Section 8.5.4].	Capital Improvement Plan	Short-term	Village Board DPW Village Engineer
65	Coordinate with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village’s 2009 <i>Wellhead Protection Report</i> is a priority of this Plan [Section 8.4.1].	Wellhead Protection Law	Short-term	Village Board Town Board DPW
Immediate = 1 Year		Short-Term = 1-2 Years		Long-Term = 2-5 years

Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan				
No.	Recommendations		Priority	Responsibility
Land Use Regulations:				
66	The Village Board will work with civic organizations and business community to promote the Central Business District [Section 9.5].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
67	The Village Board will encourage business organizations to apply for grants to assist business retention and attraction efforts [Section 9.5].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
68	Ensure streetscape, especially streetlights, within the Central Business District are well maintained at all times [Section 9.5]	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
69	Request for an <i>annexation</i> should only be considered if it is in the “over-all public interest” [Section 9.6].	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
70	Implement recommended Zoning Map Amendments as illustrated in Map 9-2 and Map 9-3 of this Plan [Section 9.2.1].	Zoning Amendment	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
71	Further develop incentives to encourage new investment with low interest loans and grants for facade improvements [Section 9.5].	Incentive Program	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
72	Provide façade grants and secure façade easements on unsightly buildings in the Central Business District [Section 9.5].	Zoning Amendment	Long-term	Planning Board Village Board
73	Expand the scope of design review powers of the Planning Board to include exterior renovations in all business districts [Section 9.4].	Zoning Amendment	Short-term	Planning Board Village Board
74	As funds become available retain professional services to design streetscape improvements for Central Business District [Section 9.5].	Streetscape Enhancements	Short-term	Village Board Planning Board
75	Create National Register Historic Districts working with local homeowners and institutions [Section 6.2].	Local Law	Long-term	Village Board Village Historian
76	Create an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) through the adoption of a Local Law if historic districts established [Section 9.4].	Local Law	Long-term	Village Board Village Historian
Other Recommendations:				
77	Secure easements from Town of Montgomery and Norfolk Southern for <i>Rail Trail</i> pedestrian bridge over NYS Route 52 [Section 7.3].	Easements	Immediate	Village Board Recreation & Parks
78	Explore feasibility of establishing a <i>Municipal Power Authority</i> in order to provide the delivery of low cost, safe and reliable public energy services to the inhabitants of the Village of Walden (see City of Auburn).	Local Law	Long-term	Village Board
Immediate = 1 Year		Short-Term = 1-2 Years		Long-Term = 2-5 years

APPENDIX A

Park Master Plans

Alfred Place Park



Wooster Grove Park



Endnotes

ⁱ The *National Register of Historic Places* is the United States government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. The National Register was established in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Out of the over one million properties on the National Register, 80,000 are listed individually, the others are contributing members within historic districts.

ⁱⁱ The AHRB uses the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for historic preservation for guidance; however, it is recommended that Village of Montgomery-specific standards be developed.

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of acres in each category was taken from the County's GIS calculations. Roads and the Walkkill River were excluded from this calculation and are estimated by deducting all the other categories from the known total land area of the Village.