



FORESTPORT FORWARD



TOWN OF FORESTPORT **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 2025

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FORESTPORT FORWARD

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TOWN OF FORESTPORT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

TJ Entwistle, Town Supervisor
Robert Whitehead
Erin Burns
Dave Ultsch
Steve Addison

PROJECT TEAM



Jennifer Hartsig, J. Piper Consulting - Grant Administrator
Daniel Lapin, AICP, NYSDOS - Revitalization Specialist

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FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS

For clarity and ease of reference, this section provides an alphabetical list of all acronyms used in this Comprehensive Plan along with their corresponding definitions.

Acronym	Definition
ACS	American Community Survey
ACSD	Adirondack Central School District
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADK	Adirondack
ADU	Accessory or Additional Dwelling Unit
AICP	American Institute of Certified Planners
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
APLUDP	Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan
ATV	All-terrain vehicle
CHIPS	Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
CPC	Comprehensive Plan Committee
CSC	Climate Smart Community
ESD	Empire State Development
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FF	Forestport Forward
FLUP	Future Land-Use Plan
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
MAP	Mapping, Assessment and Planning
MVEDGE	Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises Corporation
NEVI	National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Acronym	Definition
NY	New York
NY BRICKS	Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids and Seniors
NYS	New York State
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOS	New York State Department of State
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSEFC	New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research & Development Authority
NYSFOLA	New York State Federation of Lake Associations
NYSHCR	New York State Homes and Community Renewal
OPRHP	Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
RCSD	Remsen Central School District
REDC	Regional Economic Development Council
Restore NY CDBG	Restore New York Community Development Block Grant
SS4A	Safe Streets and Roads for All
STaR	Steuben, Trenton and Remsen
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
STR	Short-term Rental
TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program
TWUFSD	Town of Webb Union Free School District

WHAT IS FORESTPORT FORWARD?

Forestport Forward (FF) is a Town-wide planning document that outlines the community's vision for the future. It begins with the community's history and existing conditions, then describes the future of the community and the steps to get there. FF provides thoughtful direction for Town leaders on land use, transportation, emergency services, housing, parks and recreation, and natural resources—all of which are underpinned by a set of community-based planning principles rooted in Smart Growth.

Smart Growth is a contemporary approach to land use planning and development that integrates equity, economy, the environment, and energy and climate.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is a planning document that sets out the vision, goals, and objectives for a community, as well as a set of recommendations and action steps to support achieving its

future aspirations. As the name implies, Comprehensive Plans are holistic as they contemplate broad subjects and interconnected themes including: land use, parks and recreation, natural resources, housing, economic development, agriculture and municipal services.

A Comprehensive Plan should articulate the community's vision, set goals that align with that vision, and outline specific actions or recommendations to pursue over a ten-year period. To stay responsive to the community's changing needs and priorities, these plans must remain active and relevant—not simply stored and forgotten. Regular updates, typically every decade, are essential to ensure the plan continues to guide interim decisions and implementation efforts effectively.

Communities are enabled by New York State through Section 272-a of NYS Town Law to, "undertake town comprehensive planning and to regulate land use for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens." Comprehensive planning can take many different shapes

and forms and communities have flexibility in how they produce their plans. To be considered a Comprehensive Plan, however, there are requirements.

Section 272-a of NYS Town Law defines a Town Comprehensive Plan as, "the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the town located outside the limits of any incorporated village or city." ForestportForward is the Town of Forestport's realization of a Comprehensive Plan. FF includes detailed maps, policies, recommendations, tools that prepare the community for its future as a revitalized small-town with thriving local businesses, expansive outdoor recreation opportunities, and housing options suitable for all lifestyles and stages.

HOW WAS THE PLAN DEVELOPED?

A successful Comprehensive Plan is built from input from the community that it serves. This section describes the Comprehensive Planning Process and public engagement activities.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

A Comprehensive Plan Committee was appointed by the Town to guide the development of the Plan. It provides oversight throughout the planning process, ensures diverse community interests are represented, and fosters transparency and public engagement. A central function of the committee is consensus building—bringing together stakeholders with varying perspectives to collaboratively shape goals, policies, and priorities. By reviewing drafts, offering feedback, and facilitating dialogue, the committee helps ensure the final Plan reflects a shared vision that is both inclusive and actionable. Committee members are residents, stakeholders, and appointed Town officials. Throughout the Plan's development, a dozen Committee meetings were held.

FOCUS GROUPS

As part of the Plan's community engagement, three focus group meetings were held in November 2024.

Over the course of one day, targeted discussions were had with volunteer firefighters, young Forestport residents, and the general public. The purpose of these meetings was to understand specific issues pertinent to these stakeholder groups. Takeaways from these meetings included:

- The volunteer base for firefighters and first responders is shrinking. Current volunteers are aging and uptake for new volunteers is low.
- Hamlet populations are aging, and younger people are not participating in events or volunteering.
- Short-term rentals are increasing in popularity and some form of regulation is required to address life-safety concerns.

- There are no health care providers in the Town and residents must travel for services.
- Forestport has a strong community spirit and offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- There is a need for affordable senior housing.
- Lack of high-speed internet limits remote job opportunities and cell phone connectivity.
- The community relies heavily on Facebook for communication.
- The Town needs to attract more families and young children to the area.
- Forestport prides itself on its small-town and rural character.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

To support in understanding the existing conditions of the community, gain insight into the opportunities, challenges, and makeup of Forestport, a survey was prepared with help from the CPC. The survey was open from March 2024 to January 2025 and received 602 responses. Survey results are attached to the Plan as Appendix A. Highlights include:

- The majority of respondents rated the quality of life as good (~62 percent). Only ~2 percent reported it as poor.
- Rural atmosphere, quality of life and family/friends are the top three reasons for living in the Town. Employment and schools tied for the least popular reason.
- Of those employed, approximately 32 percent live in Town but work elsewhere. Approximately 10 percent of respondents live and work in Town.
- ~64 percent respondents reported the traffic speed is acceptable, ~23 percent feel it is too fast, while ~12 percent are of no opinion. Less than one percent felt it was too slow.
- The desire for consistent zoning, simplified building rules, and preserving community character through single-family lakefront development was a common sentiment.
- Priorities include cleaning up vacant properties, redeveloping old buildings, and improving property maintenance.
- Economic growth is supported by funding for businesses, markets, and recreation.
- Infrastructure upgrades—like better internet and snow plowing—are essential, along with protecting natural resources and honoring local history.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

Two open houses were held during the planning process. Town Board members and Comprehensive Plan Committee members were in attendance at both events.

1. The first open house was held on April 16, 2024 at Forestport Town Hall. Over 25 people attended. Its purpose was to increase project awareness, share preliminary Community Survey results and collect feedback and comments from the public on work undertaken. The survey remained opened following this event and attendees were encouraged to complete the survey if they had not already.
2. The second open house was held on May 21, 2025 at Forestport Town Hall. The draft vision, goals, and recommendations were presented to the community for comment and prioritization. Boards detailing each recommendation and its corresponding theme were shown and attendees were encouraged to vote on the recommendations most important to them using sticky notes. The Vision Statement and Future Land Use Plan were printed and featured in the meeting room for review and comment by attendees. Approximately 36 people attended.

How to Use this Plan

This section provides a brief description of FF's components, how they were formed, and when and how to use them.

FORESTPAST & FORESTPRESENT

To plan for the future, we must look at the past and present. Forestpast and Forestpresent began as the Plan's Community Profile; a detailed analysis of the existing conditions of the municipality that includes historical, and current, data pertaining to demographics and population, labor and workforce, land uses, housing and income, municipal services, natural resources, and other community-defining characteristics. The Community Profile also includes maps detailing parks and trails, land uses, natural resources and traffic counts.

Forestpast and Forestpresent are comprised of key takeaways and trends discovered during the development of the Community Profile. These findings, along with community feedback and CPC input, inform FF's directions.

FORESTPORT FORWARD DIRECTIONS

In response to the conclusions from Forestpast and Forestpresent, Forestport Forward puts forward a comprehensive set of proactive and community-driven Directions that will guide decision-making, community development and land use planning in Forestport.

A key step in developing FF was adapting Smart Growth principles to fit the community. Forestport is not experiencing urban development, nor does it have a large population—two characteristics that can be associated with the Smart Growth planning framework. To apply Smart Growth, the CPC took stock of what the community has—expansive natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities, a largely older population, a dedicated and tight-knit community, and the common goal of seeing Forestport succeed—as well as what the community needs—affordable housing, increased emergency services, land use guidance, and housing options other than single-family dwellings.



FORESTPAST

FORESTPAST

Forestport's heritage is rooted in forestry, milling, and canal-based transportation. The construction of the Black River Canal and its feeder in 1848 spurred economic growth, enabling the movement of timber and goods while fostering the development of mills, schools, churches and other institutions. A notable chapter in the town's history includes the "Forestport Breaks"—a series of deliberate breaches in the canal during the late 19th century, leading to a major investigation and trials.

Earlier, the region served as a strategic site during the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812, delaying permanent settlement until the late 1700s. Pioneers cleared forests for agriculture, favoring livestock and cheese production due to the short growing season. The area's hemlock forests supported a tanning industry, while rivers powered mills.

Industrial growth peaked in the 19th century, but as logging declined, Forestport transitioned toward recreation and tourism. Notable historical sites include the Forestport Feeder Canal and Dam, and Camp S-122, a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp later used during WWII.

Founded in 1869, Forestport is the youngest town in Oneida County. Situated in the northeastern corner of the county, it encompasses the hamlets of Otter Lake and Woodgate, the White Lake community, and the central area of Forestport. The Black River and Kayuta Lake define the town's boundaries to the west, while Herkimer County is to the east, and Lewis County is to the north. The Town is approximately 78.9 square miles.



FORESTPRESENT

A key step in the Comprehensive Planning Process, the preparation of a Community Profile assists in establishing and understanding the existing conditions of the Town. To support decision-making, have meaningful public engagement, and develop a proactive planning framework for Forestport, data pertaining to various Town characteristics was compiled, including demographics, education, economic characteristics, housing, land use and zoning, infrastructure and community facilities, transportation, parks and recreation, cultural and historical assets, natural resources, and considerations related to climate change. This data was analyzed through a Smart Growth lens to determine how any one component (like land use or housing) of the Town can be supported to better align with the Smart Growth framework, with the goal being a set of actions that can aid Forestport in becoming a resilient, equitable, responsible, and community-centered Town.

Forestpresent offers a summary of the principal findings from the Community Profile with the entire Community Profile included as Appendix B.

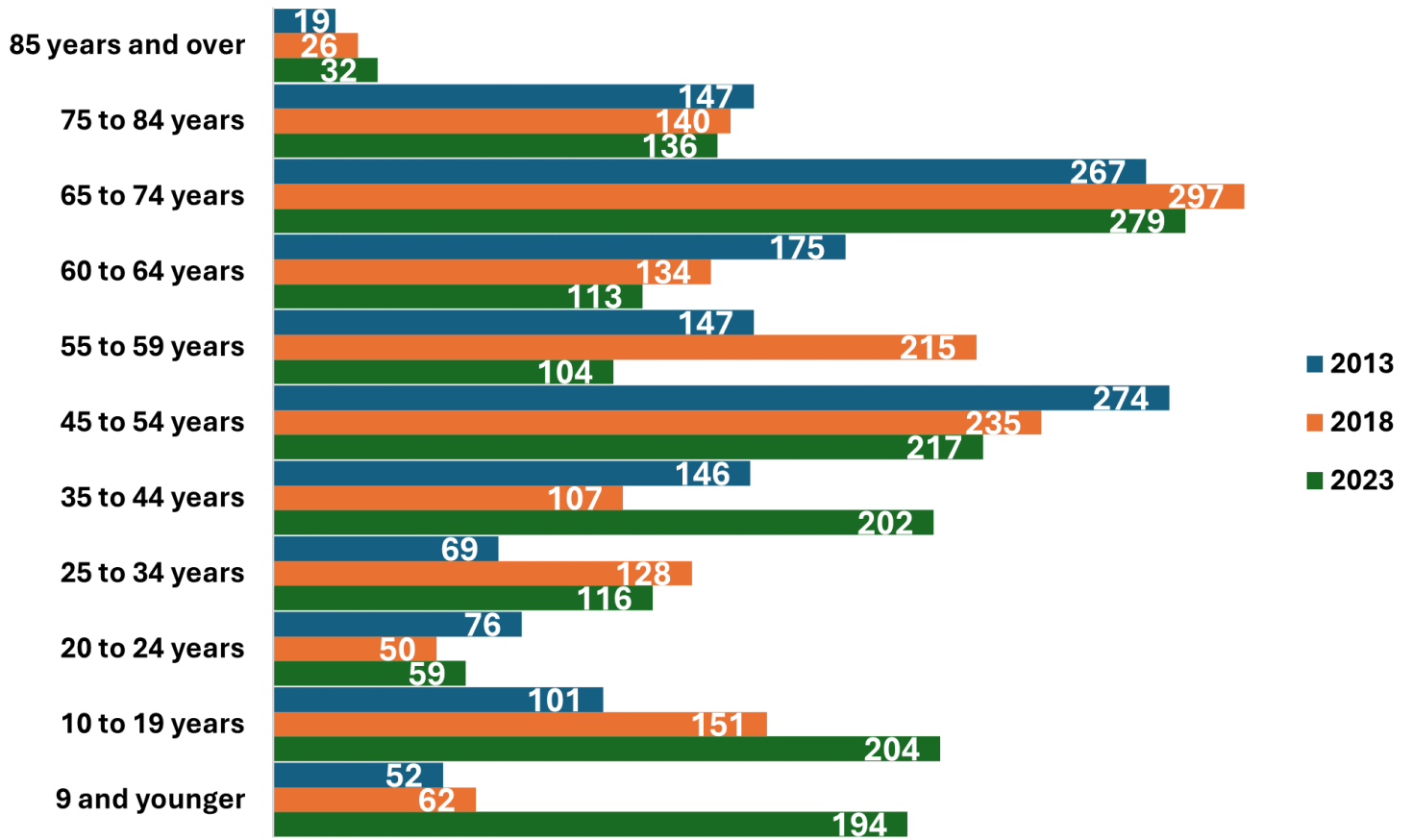
POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated a population of 1,656 in the Town of Forestport—an increase of approximately 179 from 2020. Historically, like many other Towns and Villages in Oneida County, Forestport's population peaked in 2000 after decades of gradual increases since 1970. Then, between 2000 and 2020, populations decreased. However, the ACS estimated an increase in 2023.

The median age of the Town has remained around 55 years since 2013. However, the ACS estimates that it lowered to 49 in 2023. The County's median age is historically more than 10 years younger than Forestport's and has remained stable since 2013.

The Town has a predominantly older population with the median age has averaging around 55 years old since 2013. Compared to Oneida County as a whole, Forestport has a greater percentage of those 55 to 75 years old.

Town of Forestport Population by Age



In 2023, the ACS estimated a growth in the household size of the Town and a decrease in the County. Family size has been dynamic in both the Town and County from 2013 to 2023 and appears to have been shifting in opposite directions. While Family size decreased between 2013 and 2018 in Forestport, it increased in the County. From 2018 to 2023, Family size increased in Forestport but decreased in the County.

In 2013, the racial and ethnic composition of Forestport was predominantly white with approximately 97 percent of the population estimated to be white with three percent of the population comprised of American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Asian residents. Further, 99.3 percent identified as a single race while less than one percent identifies as two or more races.

In 2023, with a population increase, the proportion of both white residents, and those identifying as one race, declined slightly while those identifying as two or more races, black, American Indian, and Asian, increased.

Forestport experienced an increase in population between 2020 and 2023, seeing an addition of 179 residents.

LAND USE

Integral to understanding a community's existing conditions, land use data describes the types of land uses within a community, land use distribution and the amount of land associated with each use. This information helps Forestport guide future development in a sustainable and efficient way. It informs zoning decisions, infrastructure planning, and environmental protection efforts, ensuring that growth aligns with community goals and available resources. By understanding its land use patterns, Forestport can promote smart growth, preserve open space, and achieve a balanced, livable community.

Land uses, in this section, are determined using 2024 Tax Assessment data. The Town of Forestport contains the following land uses:

LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Single-family residential uses in the Town. These are predominantly single-detached dwellings occupied year-round

MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Includes two- and three-family residential uses and dwelling units that are self-contained and occupied by one household but in the form of a duplex or triplex.

PUBLIC SERVICES

These parcels contain public utilities or infrastructure that serve the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

These premises generally contain public or non-profit entities that provide support services to the community. Community services can be situated outdoor, like a cemetery, or indoor like a school.

INDUSTRIAL

Industrial premises have a processing, manufacturing or warehousing component as a primary use.

COMMERCIAL

Commercial lands are premises used for the sale of goods and services.

RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

These are properties used by groups for recreational purposes and/or entertainment. Uses can be scheduled and active (e.g., baseball field or soccer pitch), or passive (e.g., public park).

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

These are lands classified as parks and open spaces.

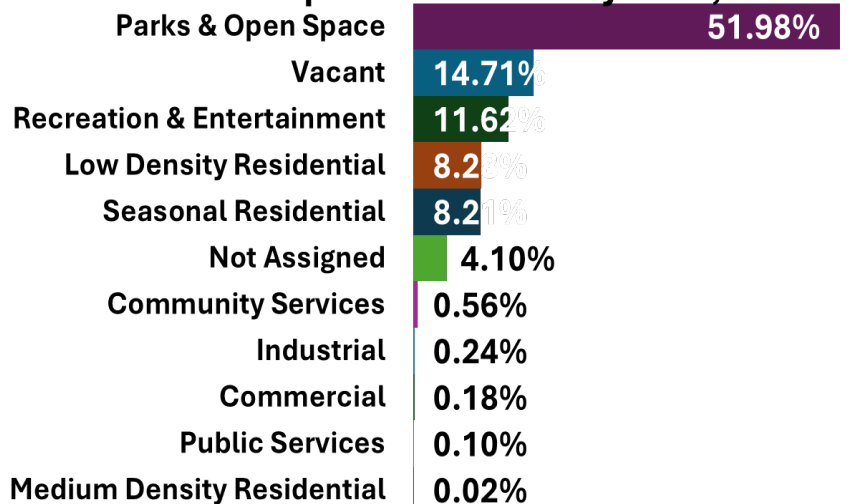
VACANT LAND

Vacant lands can be rural or have minor improvements but generally lack a primary use. This includes residential vacant land, land containing a garage (but is otherwise vacant), and vacant land located in commercial areas.

SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL

According to NYS property tax classification code information, seasonal residential properties are housing units typically intended for seasonal use and not designed for year-round living due to insufficient insulation, heating, and other necessary features.

Town of Forestport Land Uses by Area, 2024

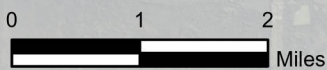
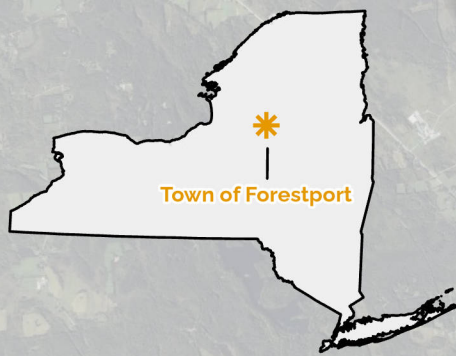
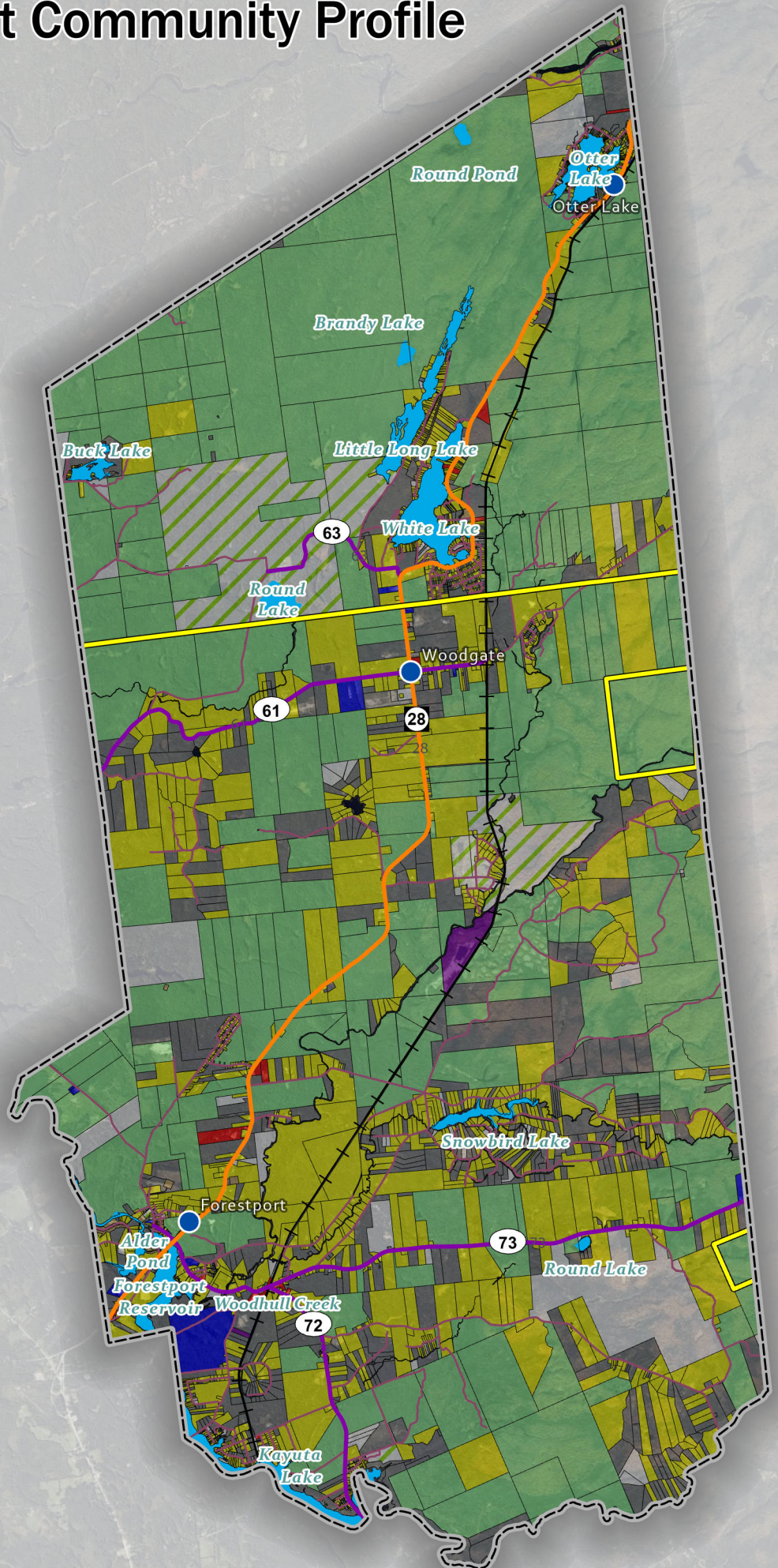


Town of Forestport Community Profile

Land Use

Map Key

-  Town of Forestport
-  Hamlets
-  State Route
-  County Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Tax Parcels
-  APA Border
-  Residential
-  Vacant Land
-  Commercial
-  Recreation & entertainment
-  Community services
-  Industrial
-  Public services
-  Public Lands
-  No Class Assigned



ADIRONDACK PARK LAND USE

Approximately 32 percent (16,318 acres) of the Town is within the Adirondack Park. All development on these lands is subject to the requirements of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and may require permits.

The APA was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature to develop future land use plans for public and private lands within the Park's boundary, aka, the "Blue Line." As stewards of Adirondack Park, a primary objective of the APA is to foster well-planned and thoughtful development that conserves natural resources through administration of State legislation including, the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act. The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan (APLUDP) is the framework in which the APA makes land use planning decisions. It classifies all private lands within the Blue Line into six categories:

1. **Hamlet**
 - The Park's hamlets are designated growth and service centers where development is encouraged, with minimal permit requirements set by the Agency.
2. **Moderate Intensity Use**
 - Most uses need a permit; clustered residential development is preferred.
3. **Low Intensity Use**
 - Most uses need a permit; development is at a lower density than hamlet and moderate intensity.
4. **Rural Use**
 - Most uses need a permit; lowest density of development that preserves rural character.
5. **Resource Management**
 - Most uses need a permit; Acceptable uses include housing, farming, and forestry, with a strong emphasis on preserving the natural open space character of the area.
6. **Industrial Use**
 - Areas with existing or past industrial use, and potential for future industrial development; industrial and commercial uses are also permitted in other zones.

Through the permitting review process, the APA ensures that development aligns with the land use categories, environmental conservation efforts, and applicable legislation (e.g., the Freshwater Wetlands Act and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act).

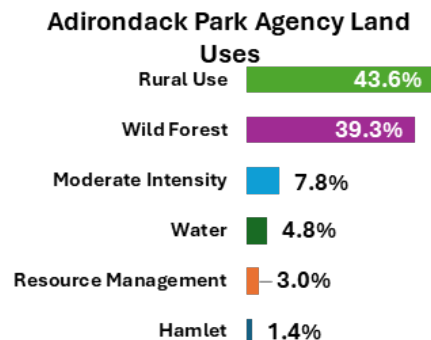
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FORESTPORT'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The APA and the APLUDP predate and operate separately from this Comprehensive Plan, however, conscious efforts were made to ensure FF's Guiding Principles complement APA policy directions. This includes prioritizing the efficient and thoughtful use of infrastructure, directing new development to existing hamlet areas, and the conservation and enhancement of natural resources.

FF goals and recommendations, which are underpinned by the Guiding Principles, contain specific actions that mirror key APA permitting considerations. This includes a future land use map that designates hamlets as Grow and the centers for new growth and development, and a Conserve designation that protects natural areas and shorelines.

All land use activities within the Adirondack Park are subject to review and regulation by the APA. This ensures that development aligns with environmental conservation goals and the APA's land use regulations. APA lands within Forestport fall within the following APA land use categories:

1. **Rural Use - 7,121 acres**
2. **Resource Management - 492 acres**
3. **Moderate Intensity - 1275 acres**
4. **Hamlet - 234 acres**
5. **Wild Forest (State Land Map, 2018) - 6,419 acres**
6. **Water - 777 acres**



Town of Forestport Community Profile

Adirondack Park Agency Land Uses

Map Key

Town of Forestport

Hamlets

State Route

County Road

Minor Road

Railroad

Tax Parcels

APA Border

Private Land Classification

Hamlet

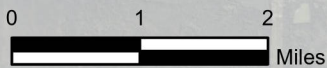
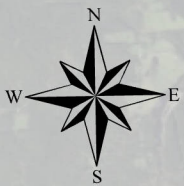
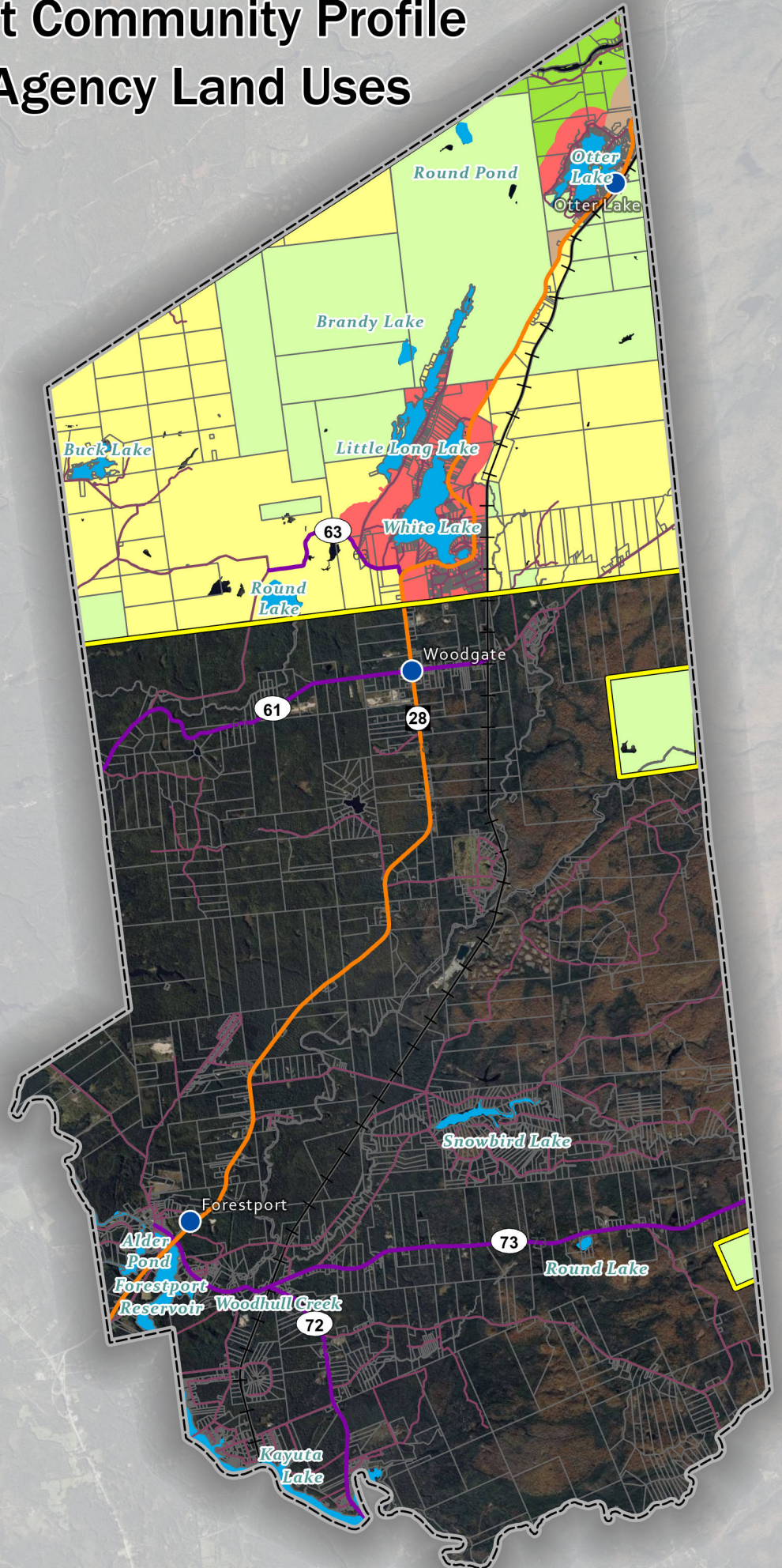
Moderate Intensity

Rural Use

Resource Management

State Land Classification

Wild Forest



EDUCATION

With the closure of the Forestport Elementary School in June 2019, there are no schools in the Town. Students are served by three neighboring school districts:

- 1. Town of Webb Union Free School District (TWUFSD)**
 Located in Old Forge, enrollment of the TWUFSD is currently approximately 242 students across kindergarten to grade 12. The TWUFSD buses students from the intersection of Route 28 and Bear Creek Road.
- 2. Renssen Central School District (RCSD)**
 RCSD has an elementary school and shared junior-senior high school with approximately 385 students from kindergarten to grade 12. These schools are located on the same property in Renssen.
 RCSD transports students from the southeastern part of the Town.
- 3. Adirondack Central School District (ACSD)**
 Two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school comprise the ACS. Except for one elementary school in West Leyden, all schools are located in Boonville. Enrollment is approximately 1,100 students. The ACSD transports students from across Forestport.



WORKFORCE CHARACTERIZATION

According to 2023 estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Town reported an exceptionally low unemployment rate of 0.4 percent, based on a labor force comprising approximately 698 individuals, or 53 percent of residents aged 16 and older. The majority of employed residents (84 percent) commuted to work by private vehicle, while 15 percent worked remotely, and fewer than one percent utilized alternative modes of transportation. The average commute duration for Forestport residents was 31.6 minutes, notably exceeding the Oneida County average of 20 minutes. Since 2013, the proportion of residents engaged in remote work has shown a consistent upward trend, reflecting broader national patterns influenced by technological advancements, evolving organizational structures, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These developments have increasingly enabled individuals to reside and work in more remote, non-urban communities, independent of their employers' physical locations.

The primary employment sectors for Forestport residents include Education, Healthcare, and Social Assistance (22.5 percent), which represents the largest share of the workforce due to the presence of schools, medical facilities, and social services. This is followed by Manufacturing (15.5 percent), likely composed of small-scale operations serving local or regional markets, and Retail Trade (13.5 percent), which supports both residents and visitors through various shops, restaurants, and service providers. The Construction sector (10.5 percent) also plays a significant role, supporting residential development, infrastructure, and seasonal home maintenance. As of 2023, the most common occupations among residents are in Management, Business, Science, and the Arts (39 percent), followed by Sales and Office occupations (20 percent).

SHORT-TERM RENTALS (STR)

Short-term rentals (STRs) have become a significant part of Forestport's housing landscape, reflecting broader trends across the Adirondack Park. Platforms like Airbnb and Adirondack By Owner have made it easier for visitors to find accommodations. However, this growth has also strained the housing market for full-time residents. With 62.6 percent of housing units vacant due to seasonal use, the expansion of STRs further limits year-round rental availability.

According to AirDNA, a vacation rental analytics platform, Forestport's STR market has grown by 22 percent over the past three years, reaching 112 active listings in 2024. Occupancy rates average 46 percent annually, peaking at 66 percent in July and dipping to 33 percent in April. The average stay is three days, with longer visits during summer months.

Three-bedroom homes dominate the market (30 percent), followed by two-bedroom (27 percent) and one-bedroom units (21 percent). Larger homes with four or more bedrooms make up 22 percent of listings. The average annual revenue per listing is \$42,400, with entire homes earning slightly more. Luxury rentals command high nightly rates (\$548.40), though professionally managed properties have seen a 14 percent rate decline due to rising competition. The average

HOUSING

In 2023, the Town of Forestport had approximately 719 housing units (ACS, 2023) which is an increase from the 2013 report of 705 (ACS, 2013). While Forestport has fewer housing units than the neighboring municipalities of Russia and Boonville, it has experienced an increase whereas Russia and Remsen have both experienced decreases.

The 2023 ACS estimates that more than half (53.78 percent) of housing stock is single-family. Less than one percent of both two- and three-family dwellings make up Town's residential units.

According to the 2023 ACS, approximately 92.4 percent of dwellings are owner-occupied. This is up by approximately eight percent since 2013. Conversely, the number of renter-occupied units has decreased from 15.6 percent in 2013 to 7.60 percent in 2023. Russia has experienced the same trend between 2013 and 2023. Overall, in 2023, Forestport reported the highest percentage of owner-occupied dwellings and the lowest percentage of renter-occupied dwellings.

SEASONAL AND VACANT RESIDENCES

Like many Adirondack communities, Forestport has a significant seasonal population. Seasonal residences are difficult to count as census data does not have specific line items for residences that are only inhabited for part of the year in Forestport. Dwellings that would typically be considered seasonal, like those occupied for part of a year, may be considered vacant in the census. New York State Tax Assessment Property Codes consider seasonal dwellings as, "dwelling units generally used for seasonal occupancy; not constructed for year-round occupancy (inadequate insulation, heating, etc.)." The ACS and Decennial census do not consider building construction.

Regarding vacancy, ACS and Decennial census data may deem a property as vacant if not occupied at the time of reporting, whereas NYS Tax Assessment Property Codes have 17 different vacancy codes.

To establish a general understanding for the purposes of this Plan, 2025 tax assessment records were reviewed. Out of a total of 3,535 parcels, 747 were assessed as seasonal residences and 1,141 as vacant properties.

1. 3,535 total parcels.
2. 747 seasonal residences
 - This includes 317 waterfront properties.
3. 1,141 vacant properties
 - This includes 196 waterfront properties.

FORESTPORT FORWARD DIRECTIONS

Forestport Forward Directions has four elements:

1. Guiding Principles

- The Guiding Principles underpin the vision, goals, and recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan. They serve as the threads that tie the Plan together and are rooted in Smart Growth.

2. Recommendations

- These are community-driven actions that will support the Town in reaching its goals and objectives. Each recommendation is underpinned by a Guiding Principle and aligns with the Smart Growth framework.

3. Implementation Strategy

- This serves as the roadmap for implementing each recommendation. The Strategy identifies funding opportunities, potential partners and collaborations, and priority.

4. Future Land-Use Plan

- As an extension of the recommendations, this land use plan provides high-level guidance on how land uses should be planned throughout the Town.



VISION

Forestport residents, year-round and seasonal, enjoy a high quality of life sustained by diverse local businesses, amenities and services that allow residents to spend more time in their community and less time commuting.

A range of housing is available that accommodates a diverse range of income levels and families. New developments are connected to hamlets and make efficient use of existing infrastructure while fostering walkability.

Forestport offers rich outdoor recreation opportunities by leveraging its expansive rivers, lakes, and forests with its proximity to the Adirondacks. Safe and well-maintained trails and multi-use pathways connect parks and amenities and support active transportation throughout the town. Both indoor and outdoor Town-owned recreational facilities are built for all ages and abilities.

The Town leverages the camaraderie of the north country and has built mutually beneficial relationships with neighboring municipalities to achieve the visions, goals, and objectives of all.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following Guiding Principles underpin the vision, goals, and recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan. They are rooted in Smart Growth and serve as the threads that tie the Plan together.

RESPONSIBILITY

As a long-term guide for the community, FF has a responsibility to residents to support decision-making in an efficient way that is fiscally and environmentally sustainable to the Town. As part of FF, a Future Land-Use Plan has been created that will help guide land use planning decisions to ensure that efficiency, sustainability and community character are prioritized. The Future Land Use Map, described on page 15, outlines a series of land use designations that lay the groundwork for responsible planning decisions.

Related Smart Growth Principles:

1. *Develop plans and land use regulations that maximize use of existing infrastructure while being compatible with the character of the existing community.*
2. *Prioritize infill and redevelopment of existing vacant or underutilized properties to revitalize hamlets.*

RESILIENCY

In Forestport, resiliency means more than climate adaptation and sustainability. It also describes the perseverance of the community. Following years of population decline, loss of services, and, most recently in 2024, significant snowfall that resulted in over a dozen building collapses, Forestport continues to secure funding for projects that will benefit its residents.

The Town also began its journey to become a NYS-certified Climate Smart Community (CSC). The CSC certification program offers local governments a comprehensive framework to support their climate initiatives and honors top-performing communities for their leadership in climate action. The recommendations in this plan promote not only climate resiliency, but specifically call-out the ongoing participation in the CSC program as funding for projects is available.

Through the Conserve and Sustain designations of FF's Future Land-Use Plan, Forestport is encouraged to develop land use regulations that preserve natural resources and manage the effects of a changing climate, further enhancing its resiliency.

Related Smart Growth Principles:

3. *Preserve open space, agricultural resources, and natural resources.*
4. *Promote climate resiliency and adaptation.*

EQUITY & WELLNESS

Equity means ensuring that all community members, regardless of age, gender, disability, income, etc., have access to the resources and services that they require to live prosperously. The American Planning Association's Planning for Equity Policy Guide describes critical policies that support achieving an equitable community, including housing, climate change and resilience, and public spaces, that intersect many of this Plan's principles. Such policies include:

- Build trust through community outreach.
- Partner with communities to exchange information about community risks.
- Promote diverse housing stock.
- Encourage creation of new public space.

Much like FF, wellness is the sum of its parts and requires a connected and integrated approach to be realized. Community wellness prioritizes access to opportunities for all residents that allow them to feel safe, empowered and healthy.

Related Smart Growth Principles:

5. *Prioritize public health and access to emergency services in decision making for community development.*
6. *Provide authentic, equitable, and*

accessible public spaces.

7. *Enable a diverse mix of housing types to provide opportunities for all to live in the Town regardless of age or socioeconomic status.*
8. *Increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling throughout the Town for both recreation and day-to-day trips.*
9. *Support local food production and agriculture, and increase options for access to fresh and local food.*

COMMUNITY

As a Guiding Principle, community reinforces the critical role that the Forestport community played in the development of this Plan and exemplifies how community input has guided, and will continue to guide, FF's vision, goals and recommendations. Community as a guiding principle also highlights FF as a responsible Plan as it supports the betterment of Forestport and all of its residents. The Community Survey showed strong interest in youth programs and community events. To build a connected community, FF's goals should prioritize these needs.

Related Smart Growth Principles:

10. *Engage in an inclusive, collaborative public planning process that considers the needs and character of the community.*
11. *Emphasize and build on Forestport's historical, cultural and recreational assets to create a attractive and welcoming places with a strong sense of identity.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations within Forestport Forward have been developed using the Community Profile, input from Focus Groups, the Community Survey, Public Open Houses, and the Committee. Goals and recommendations are the roadmap for reaching the community's vision and have been categorized into the following:

- **Land Use & Growth Management**
- **Housing**
- **Economic Development**
- **Community & Culture**
- **Public Services & Infrastructure**
- **Sustainability & Climate Resilience**

LAND USE & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

At 76.98 square miles, Forestport is the largest town, by area, in Oneida County.

The Town does not currently have a land use plan or zoning ordinance. Many responses to the Community Survey expressed support for a framework that directs/guides land uses in a consistent, organized and enforceable manner. Organizing land uses and applying a forward-thinking planning framework would enable the Town to be proactive in its approach to growth management. While it is understood that Forestport's growth is not as high/substantial as that of neighboring municipalities, having a plan provides assurances and guardrails for current and future residents by confirming a future land use plan that was informed by community input and adopted by the Town Board.

At the same time, balancing protection of the Town's vast natural resources with enabling single-family residential development was also identified as a priority. As reported in the Community Survey, the forests and lakes (natural and open space) within the Town are of utmost importance to its community character. Achieving these goals while also encouraging infill development and reuse of underutilized or vacant properties aligns with the Guiding Principles of this Plan.

GOALS

1. Develop a land use plan that prioritizes growth in areas within existing hamlets and adequate infrastructure services.
2. Encourage infill development and reuse of underutilized or vacant properties.
3. Protect natural resources from intrusive development(s).
4. Emphasize the hamlets as centers for new development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Update the Town's Site Review Law for consistency with the vision, goals, and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan until a zoning code is developed.
2. Apply for grant opportunities to fund the development of a land use code that implements the land use directions of the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Identify Town-owned and privately-owned underutilized and vacant sites as candidates for future redevelopment. Data on these sites including, but not limited to, acreage, zoning, past and present land uses, should be recorded and made easily accessible for prospective buyers/developers.
4. Promote incentives to encourage private sector investment in, and development of, identified underutilized and vacant sites, such as, targeted housing programs, adaptive reuse initiatives, and tax incentives.
5. Develop flood prevention criteria to avoid or mitigate potential flood damage. This should be consistent with FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities Under the Risk MAP Program. The criteria should be consistent with FEMA floodplain mapping in the Town and outline administrative procedures for reviewing projects and enforcing regulations.

HOUSING

As with many other communities across New York State, there is a need for additional housing in Forestport. Single family rural residential, senior living communities and affordable housing units have been identified by the community as the most needed. Guiding additional housing to existing hamlets is encouraged. Generally, hamlets will contain services and amenities often sought by residents. Certain types of housing, i.e., seniors housing, should be directed to the Town's hamlets where amenities are more easily accessible.

Providing a range of housing options allows all residents to remain in their community. Empty nesters seeking a smaller residence, young and growing families, and individuals should be able to reside in the community in a suitable housing form that is compatible with the desired character of the community.

Successful housing developments require adequate infrastructure and relationships. The Comprehensive Plan guides new housing developments to serviced areas and supports the Town as it seeks partnerships with local and regional agencies/housing providers to develop affordable housing in the community.

GOALS

1. Increase the supply and diversity of housing options for all households.
2. Encourage the upkeep and maintenance of existing residences.
3. Consider impacts of Short-Term Rentals in the Town.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Partner with local housing organizations to provide home repair, mobile home replacement, and rehabilitation programs to prevent homes from falling into major disrepair. Ensure that rental housing stock is well-maintained and in compliance with state building codes.
2. Evaluate the spectrum of options for regulating short-term rentals to determine the best model for the community.
3. Obtain Pro-Housing Community certification from NYS Homes and Community Renewal.
4. Determine suitable areas in the Town to enable ADUs. Suitability criteria shall include, but not be limited to, available servicing and infrastructure.
5. Develop a strategy to assist seniors with maintaining safe households that support independent living.
6. Hire a consultant to conduct a short-term rental (STR) study for the Town of Forestport that is comprised of establishing a baseline of the number of STRs available for rent, number of units, location, and availability. The baseline should also include a scan of the STR regulations of similar municipalities (i.e., northern New York communities near/within the APA). The study should include an overview of Town and County laws/regulations that have implications for STRs and identify gaps between existing regulations and the goals and objectives of the Town with regards to STRs. The extent of what can lawfully be regulated by the Town should also be explained, as well as the pros and cons to implementing STR-related regulations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Forestport's proximity to the Adirondacks positions it well for economic development opportunities that can serve year-round residents as well as visitors and tourists. The first step in preparing the Town for success is preparing an economic development strategy that reinforces the community's desire to revitalize its hamlets and prioritize vacant and underutilized properties. The community is open to new businesses, concepts and uses that will support its visitors and residents.

A successful economic development strategy can be used to attract both businesses, institutions and residents. New businesses and institutions would introduce new uses to the community.

GOALS

1. Develop an economic development strategy to meet local needs, capture travelers, maintain existing commerce and attract new business.
2. Promote Forestport as a visitor destination while balancing the needs of residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish a visual identity for the Town that represents its residents and communicates its history and vision for the future in an attractive and engaging manner.
2. Create a comprehensive trail map for the Town that delineates snowmobiling, hiking, navigable waterways, multi-use, and ATV trails.
3. Explore funding sources and staffing options to host signature all-season community events.
4. Explore funding options for local businesses to improve building facades.
5. Develop and implement a wayfinding strategy throughout the Town that provides direction to key destinations like hamlets, boat launch, parks, and trailheads.
6. Support the establishment of business networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for local entrepreneurs and prospective businesses interested in establishing in the Town.
7. Leverage relationships with local and regional organizations to promote and market the Town of Forestport as "open for business."

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Quality of life for residents is of utmost importance to the Town. Contributing to this is parks, recreation, and community cohesion. Town residents and the Comprehensive Plan Committee have identified a series of recommendations that will strengthen the community and its quality of life. These recommendations support in achieving accessible park and recreational facilities as well as emphasizing the historical significance of the area. Additionally, at the intersection of economic development and community cohesion is the action of placemaking, where business owners and residents come together to enhance a public space and improve the quality of the subject area as well as the experiences of those that use the area.



GOALS

1. Improve the quality, accessibility, and availability of parks, trails, and recreational opportunities to enhance community well-being and maintain the Town of Forestport as a sought-after recreational destination.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct a feasibility study for additional Town-owned parks and recreation facilities.
2. Evaluate existing Town-owned recreation facilities for ADA compliance and identify areas of improvement.
3. Explore placemaking opportunities with local businesses and property owners that highlight popular establishments in the hamlets and rural areas.
4. Partner with DEC to enhance the boat launch located at the Forestport Reservoir.
5. Create a collection of historic interpretation features, including signage, kiosks, walking tours, building markers, and murals, to showcase the community's rich history and culture.
6. No more than 10 years following its adoption by the Town Board, the success and progress of the goals and recommendations of Forestport Forward shall be evaluated. The review may be undertaken by indication of the status of each of the Plan's recommendations.
7. Conduct a feasibility assessment to evaluate the Town's Community Center and its capacity for retrofitting, new equipment, additional programming, and expansion.

PUBLIC SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the most important services of a Town are its public services and infrastructure. This includes, but is not limited to, water, sewer, stormwater, roadways and sidewalks. These are critical resources and needed by Forestport residents. The maintenance, monitoring, and repairing/replacing/installation (where necessary) of infrastructure is the Town's primary responsibility. As the project team heard in the Community Survey, the Town is generally doing a good job and plans to continue doing so.

In 2013, the Office of the NYS Comptroller completed a Financial Management Report for the Town. A key takeaway from this report was the need to prepare a Capital Improvement Plan to estimate the future costs of ongoing services and capital needs. To continue to provide sufficient levels of service, and plan for future needs and upgrades, thereby maintaining the quality of life for residents, it is critical that the Town complete a CIP.

The private automobile is the primary method of transportation in the Town. As such, road infrastructure should be monitored and maintained. To increase options for alternative methods of transportation, the Town shall also explore a complete streets policy that enables, where suitable, automobiles sharing the road with cyclists or pedestrians.

Emergency services in the Town are highly constrained, or, non-existent. This is a critical gap in the community that concerns public safety and the health and well-being of residents and visitors. Generally, the goal of an ambulance service is to transport patients to the nearest trauma center within 30 minutes. The expansive service area of STaR is resulting in consistent stress on the provider and patients are often being transported well beyond the 30-minute goal. The Comprehensive Plan Committee and residents have also indicated that Fire Department volunteers are becoming increasingly difficult to find due to an aging population and lack of volunteer capacity in the community.

The Town is faced with the challenge of being able to respond timely to emergency service calls with limited personnel and resources, across a large service area. Leveraging existing relationships with neighboring municipalities and sharing emergency service responders is reasonable in the short-term, but a longer-term strategy is necessary. It is important to note that other communities in this geography are also stretched thin to provide emergency services. In order to have sustainable, responsive and sufficient emergency services, a multi-jurisdictional approach should be undertaken.

GOALS

1. Continue promoting the Comprehensive Plan within the community and monitor its success.
2. Ensure that Town water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure can accommodate all new development.
3. Increase the volunteer base for emergency services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a Capital Improvement Plan with funding strategies to ensure that infrastructure systems—such as roads, utilities, and public facilities—are effectively designed, well-maintained, and capable of meeting the community's needs. The Plan can be structured to incorporate all infrastructure-related recommendations.
2. Review procedures for enforcement of site review law, subdivision regulations, property maintenance and building codes to ensure clarity and ease of understanding.
3. Incorporate the Comprehensive Plan into annual budget discussions and meetings to inform fiscal planning for project implementation, routine updates to Comprehensive Plan, and asset management.
4. Work with local and regional partners to continue to expand and enhance access to high-speed broadband internet and cell service.
5. Conduct a sidewalk audit to evaluate sidewalk conditions, identify areas requiring repair or replacement, and establish a sidewalk inventory.
6. Actively seek funding to implement highway facility improvements.
7. Host an information session on the importance of emergency services in North Country communities to encourage volunteers.

SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

According to the 2022 Oneida County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Forestport, along with Boonville, experiences more extreme cold fronts than the rest of the County due to their northern geographies.

There are 19 dams in and around the Town with the potential to affect residents. Dams along the Black River, specifically, have been reported as concerns for residents. During the development of the HMP, residents indicated that dam failure, along with a disease epidemic, flood, severe storm, and a severe winter storm, would be of high impact to the community:

- Dam failure – A "dam" is an artificial barrier that can impound water, wastewater, or any liquid-borne material for the purpose of storage or control of water.
- Disease epidemic – An epidemic or pandemic is when disease spreads far beyond normal levels. Before COVID-19, New York State and Oneida County hadn't faced such a severe outbreak. While dense areas may see faster spread, outbreaks can happen anywhere. Federal and state authorities typically lead the response.
- Flood – Flooding is a natural, recurring event, but it poses a serious threat across all Oneida County municipalities. Its severity depends on storm intensity and flood type (e.g., 100-year floods). Increasing storm frequency and intensity have worsened impacts. Mitigation efforts aim to reduce repeated damage. FEMA defines floods as temporary inundations of normally dry land from overflow or rapid runoff.
- Severe storm – Severe storms in Oneida County include high winds, heavy snow, thunderstorms, and ice storms, often bringing hazards like tornadoes, hail, lightning, and flooding. These events can occur anywhere in the county with equal likelihood.
- Severe winter storm - Oneida County faces winter hazards like ice storms, snowstorms, and ice jams. Ice storms cause dangerous ice buildup, snowstorms bring heavy snow and cold, and ice jams block rivers, leading to localized flooding—especially near bridges and narrow waterways like the Black River. These events mostly affect northern and southern valleys but can impact the whole region.

As expressed in the Community Survey, Town residents are concerned about the impacts of climate change on the community. While flooding and increased participation were highlighted in the survey, the 2024-2025 winter season brought unanticipated snowfalls resulting in over a dozen collapsed buildings in the Town. The recommendations in this plan are intended to prepare and enable funding opportunities that will result in a safer and more resilient community.

White Lake, located just north of the APA border, is a spring-fed 240-acre lake that is managed by the Adirondack White Lake Association. Since 1981, this non-profit community group promotes and establishes policies to protect, conserve, monitor and safely regulate the use and enjoyment of White Lake. This includes, but is not limited to, lake level, dam and water outlet monitoring, annual fish restocking, and water quality testing.

The Adirondack White Lake Association also promotes studies and initiatives conducted by the agencies in the Adirondacks, like the Adirondack Research Vessel's Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Survey and the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program facilitated by Protect the Adirondacks and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. Both of these studies are integral to the ongoing management and enjoyment of White Lake.

The Lake Association has a long-standing history of promoting sustainability and environmentally-conscious initiatives and have identified as a strong partner to support in the implementation of FF's Sustainability & Climate Resilience recommendations.

GOALS

1. Prevent development from harming the ecological functions of the Town's natural resources.
2. Be prepared for the increasing effects of a changing climate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Enable community gardens through development regulations.
2. Review and update emergency response plans while developing a Town wide disaster response strategy for extreme weather and other emergencies.
3. Explore partnerships with County and State authorities to develop emergency response plans and strategies.
4. Identify locations for EV charging stations in the hamlets and apply for funding to support installation.
5. Assess the conditions and lifespans of dams along the Black River and complete maintenance and upgrades necessary to ensure safe operation.
6. Create an inventory of existing storm water infrastructure.
7. Obtain grant funding and work with regional partners to develop or update lake management plans for White Lake, Kayuta Lake, Otter Lake and Little Long Lake.
8. Collaborate with neighboring Counties and Towns, Oneida County, regional planning authorities, the Adirondack Park Agency and the State to prepare a regional Climate Action Plan.
9. Continue to restrict development of single-family homes and critical facilities in the Special Hazard Flood Area.
10. Conduct a comprehensive inventory of the Town's roadways to identify areas with high landslide susceptibility. Prioritize these areas based on severity and develop engineered stabilization strategies accordingly.
11. Develop a tree-trimming program that will identify and remove/trim trees that may destroy or interrupt services or property during a snowfall or windstorm.

FUTURE LAND-USE PLAN

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

A key component of a Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan, a Future Land-Use Plan is a tool used to show how, and where, a community will grow into the future. It will often be accompanied by policies that explain the purpose, intent, and general application of a specific land use designation. As with the rest of a Comprehensive Plan, community consensus is sought to ensure that the direction of the Future Land-Use Plan aligns with the community's vision.

Land use designations, their intents, general areas, and preferred uses are as follows.

Grow

The Grow designation represents areas of Forestport where new development should be directed—the hamlets. By permitting a mix of residential, commercial and employment uses where water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure already exists, efficient and sustainable development patterns are achieved.

Through enabling a mix of land uses, like residential, commercial and office, Grow supports new uses that foster a complete community as well as acknowledges existing uses which minimizes non-conformities. Uses may include Residential uses, commercial uses, light industrial, public uses, offices, mixed-uses.

Sustain

The Sustain designation will support the low-density residential and agricultural uses of the areas outside of the hamlets. Staying true to the predominantly residential character of the rural areas while also allowing some flexibility for alternative housing options, accessory dwelling unit provisions will be enabled. ADUs may be subject to APA review.

Underpinned by the Resiliency and Responsibility Guiding Principles, the Sustain designation will apply to lands with frontage on natural features like water courses and waterbodies. Should Forestport wish to implement specific regulations like on-site wastewater treatment system setbacks, or require technical submissions to support a development, like a stormwater assessment, the Sustain designation provides the framework to do so.

Conserve

Conserve prioritizes the protection and enhancement of the Town's highly regarded lakes, rivers, and forests. It implements a fundamental Smart Growth Objective—preserving natural open spaces for limited recreation and flood mitigation—in a very direct manner.

Uses supported in the Conserve designation may include existing uses, conservation uses, and outdoor industries.

Enjoy














The intent of Enjoy is to promote outdoor recreation, community development, and environmental stewardship through specially designated lands that will foster a strong sense of place.

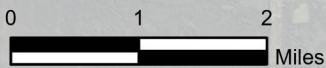
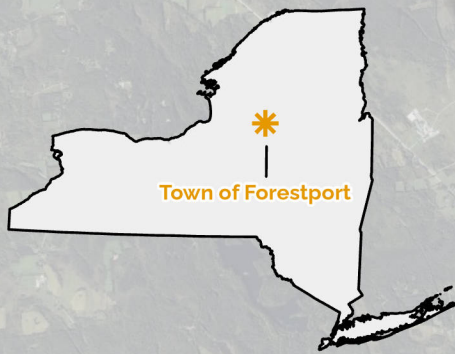
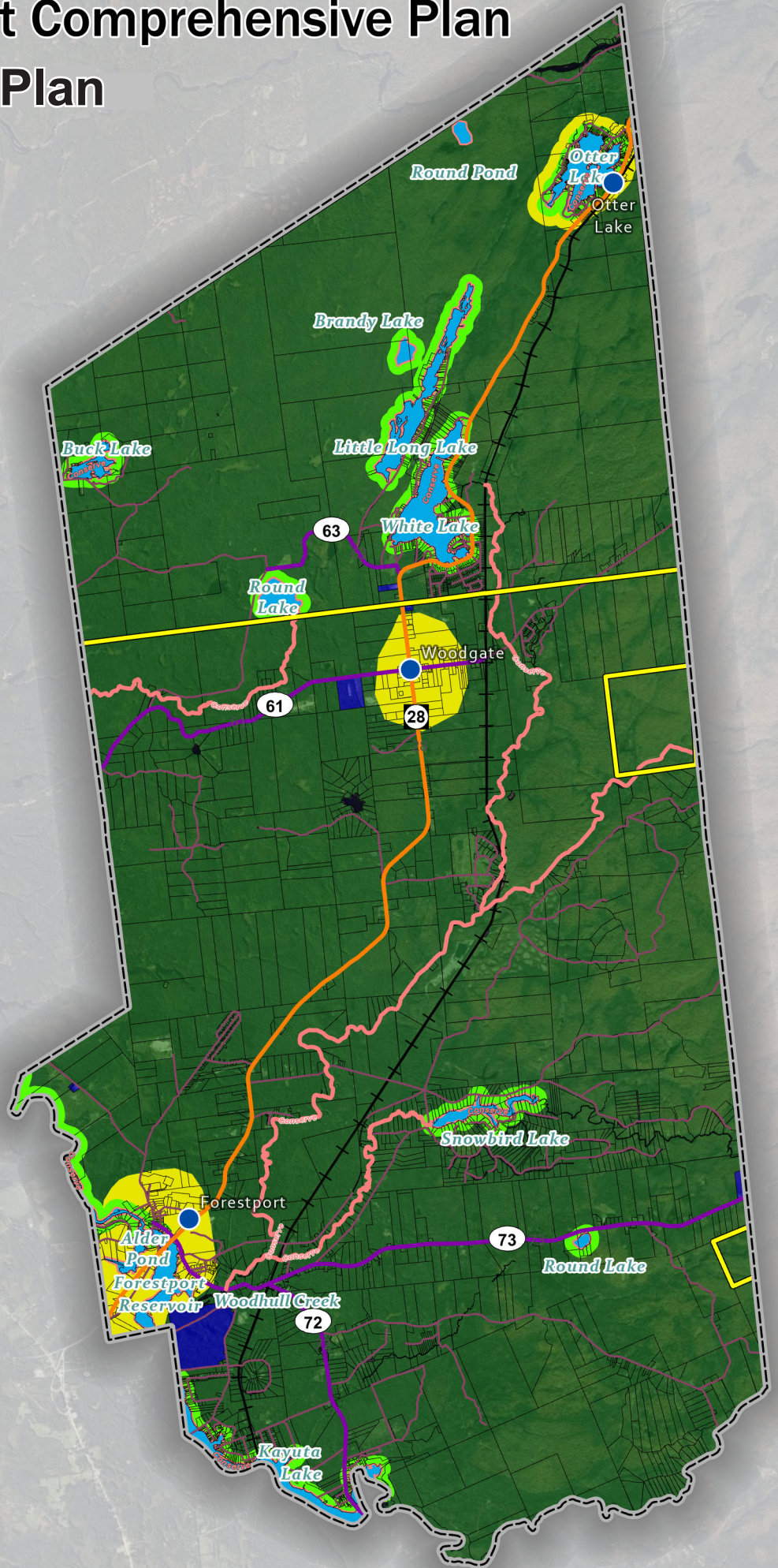
Supported uses include publicly owned parks, community facilities and gathering places.

Town of Forestport Comprehensive Plan

Future Land-Use Plan

Map Key

-  Town of Forestport
-  Hamlets
-  State Route
-  County Road
-  Minor Road
-  Railroad
-  Tax Parcels
-  APA Border
-  Conserve
-  Sustain - Lakes
-  Grow
-  Sustain - Rural
-  Enjoy



IMPLEMENTATION

The Implementation Strategy consists of two key components:

1. The community's dedication and commitment to drive the process forward. This is necessary to providing both the energy and resources needed to initiate, and follow through with, implementation.
2. Actively seeking grants and other funding sources to complement local investments.

A strategic funding approach should be deliberate and layered, prioritizing one or two achievable projects within the first few years. Successfully completing an initial project will help build momentum, fostering greater enthusiasm among residents and attracting support from potential partners.

For a successful implementation strategy, it is highly recommended that:

1. A Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee be established. Comprehensive Plan Committee members are encouraged to participate in the implementation as they offer valuable insight into the process and rationale for recommendation development.
2. Comprehensive Plan Implementation be a standing item on the Town Board Agenda. Regularly discussing implementation will maintain its significance and show the community that its efforts are important to the Town Board. Accountability and transparency is also demonstrated by doing so.
3. A budget line item be established and dedicated to Comprehensive Plan Implementation.

While every project outlined in this plan has been carefully considered, each will require additional planning to determine necessary steps, materials, and associated costs. Further evaluation will be required to refine project details and scopes to confirm feasibility and alignment with community goals.

If a grant application is part of the funding strategy, the project's scope may need to be reassessed to meet eligibility requirements and maximize potential funding. This reassessment could involve adjusting project timelines, modifying design elements, or incorporating additional components to align with grant stipulations.

Beyond direct construction costs, a comprehensive scope of services must be developed to account for essential soft costs. These often include expenses related to communication, project design, architectural and engineering services, regulatory permitting fees, and specialized analyses such as archaeological or geotechnical studies. Additional requirements, such as updated surveys or construction administration and inspection, should also be factored in. Typically, soft costs constitute approximately 15-18 percent of total construction expenses. Properly accounting for these costs from the outset helps avoid budget shortfalls, ensures compliance with regulatory standards, and facilitates a smoother project execution process.

Securing funding for improvements will be a critical in implementing the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Various federal, state, regional, and local funding sources are available annually to support these efforts. Many grant opportunities require a local match, which can be provided through direct funding or in-kind contributions, such as donated materials or volunteer time.

The following recommendations have been identified as top priority by the community. At the May 21, 2025, Open House held at Town Hall, attendees were asked to vote on the recommendations most important to them using sticky dots. The purpose of this exercise was to determine high-, medium, and low-priority recommendations that, based on priority, would have a one-to-five-year, five-to-10-year, or 10-to-15-year horizon. Results were tallied and, for ease of reference, priority recommendations have been inserted below along with the number of votes.

Legend

- High Priority - Within one to five years
- Medium Priority - Within five to ten years
- Low Priority - Within ten to fifteen years

Thematic Area	Count	Recommendation	Number
Housing	10	Partner with local housing organizations to provide home repair, mobile home replacement, and rehabilitation programs to prevent homes from falling into major disrepair. Ensure that rental housing stock is well-maintained and in compliance with state building codes.	Ho1
Housing	9	Evaluate the spectrum of options for regulating short-term rentals to determine the best model for the community.	Ho2
Public Services & Infrastructure	8	Develop a Capital Improvement Plan with funding strategies to ensure that infrastructure systems—such as roads, utilities, and public facilities—are effectively designed, well-maintained, and capable of meeting the community's needs. The Plan can be structured to incorporate all infrastructure-related recommendations.	PS01
Community & Culture	8	Partner with DEC to enhance the boat launch located at the Forestport Reservoir.	CC04
Public Services & Infrastructure	7	Work with local and regional partners to continue expanded and enhanced access to high-speed internet infrastructure.	PS04
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	7	Review and update emergency response plans while developing a Town wide disaster notification and response strategy for extreme weather and other emergencies	SR04
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	6	Promote farmers markets and community gardens town-wide that support the needs of all residents.	SR02
Community & Culture	5	Conduct a feasibility study for additional Town-owned parks and recreation facilities.	CC01
Economic Development	4	Create a comprehensive trail map for the Town that delineates snowmobiling, hiking, navigable waterways, multi-use, and ATV trails.	ED02
Economic Development	4	Establish a visual identity for the Town that represents its residents and communicates its history and vision for the future in an attractive and engaging manner.	ED01
Economic Development	4	Develop an economic development plan to meet local needs, capture travelers, maintain existing commerce and locate new business.	ED03
Economic Development	4	Explore funding options for local businesses to improve building facades.	ED05
Public Services & Infrastructure	4	Actively seek funding to implement highway facility improvements through DOT.	PS07
Public Services & Infrastructure	4	Review and update emergency response plans while developing a Town wide disaster notification and response strategy for extreme weather and other emergencies.	SR03
Land Use & Growth Management	3	Develop flood prevention criteria to avoid or mitigate potential food damage. This should be consistent with FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities Under the Risk MAP Program. The criteria should be consistent with FEMA flood plain mapping in the Town and outline administrative procedures for reviewing projects and enforcing regulations.	LU05

Legend

- High Priority - Within one to five years
- Medium Priority - Within five to ten years
- Low Priority - Within ten to fifteen years

Housing	3	Through review of the Site Review Law, or new development ordinance, enable ADUs throughout the Town subject to adequate servicing and infrastructure.	H03
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	3	Obtain grant funding and work with regional partners to develop or update lake management plans for White Lake, Kayuta Lake, Otter Lake, and Little Long Lake.	SR08
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	3	Enable community gardens through development regulations.	SR01
Community & Culture	3	Create a collection of historic interpretation features including signs, walking tours, building markers, and murals to showcase the community's rich history and culture.	CC05
Community & Culture	3	Evaluate existing Town-owned recreation facilities for ADA compliance and identify areas of improvement.	CC02
Community & Culture	3	Improve the quality, accessibility and availability of parks, trails and recreational opportunities to enhance community wellbeing and maintain the Town of Forestport as a sought-after recreational destination.	CC06
Public Services & Infrastructure	2	Conduct regular reviews of procedures for enforcement of site review law, subdivision regulations, property maintenance and building codes to ensure clarity and ease of understanding.	PS02
Public Services & Infrastructure	2	Conduct a sidewalk audit to evaluate sidewalk conditions, identify areas requiring repair or replacement, and establish a sidewalk inventory.	PS05
Economic Development	1	Develop and implement a wayfinding strategy throughout the town that provides direction to key destinations like hamlets, boat launches, and trailheads.	ED06
Economic Development	1	Leverage relationships with local and regional organizations to promote and market the Town of Forestport as "open for business".	ED07
Economic Development	1	Support the establishment of business networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for local entrepreneurs and prospective businesses interested in establishing in the Town.	ED08
Public Services & Infrastructure	1	Incorporate the Comprehensive Plan into annual budget discussions and meetings to inform fiscal planning for project implementation, routine updates to the Comprehensive Plan, and asset management.	PS03
Sustainability & Climate Resilience	1	Create an inventory of existing storm water infrastructure using GIS.	SR06

Number	Recommendation	Lead	Partners	Resources*
Land Use & Growth Management				
LU01	Update the Town's Site Review Law for consistency with the vision, goals, and recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan until a zoning code is developed.	Town	Planning Board	NYS DOS Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Grant, DEC Adirondack Smart Growth
LU02	Apply for grant opportunities to fund the development of a land use code that implements the land use directions of the Comprehensive Plan.	Town	Planning Board	NYS DOS Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Grant, DEC Adirondack Smart Growth
LU03	Identify Town-owned and privately-owned underutilized and vacant sites as candidates for future redevelopment. Data on these sites including, but not limited to, acreage, zoning, past and present land uses, should be recorded and made easily accessible for prospective buyers/ developers.	Town	Oneida County IDA	Restore NY, ESD Strategic Planning and Feasibility
LU04	Promote incentives to encourage private sector investment in, and development of, identified underutilized and vacant sites, such as, targeted housing programs, adaptive reuse initiatives, and tax incentives.	Town	Oneida County IDA	Restore NY, ESD Strategic Planning and Feasibility
LU05	Develop flood prevention criteria to avoid or mitigate potential flood damage. This should be consistent with FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities Under the Risk MAP Program. The criteria should be consistent with FEMA floodplain mapping in the Town and outline administrative procedures for reviewing projects and enforcing regulations.	Town	-	FEMA
Housing				
H01	Partner with local housing organizations to provide home repair, mobile home replacement, and rehabilitation programs to prevent homes from falling into major disrepair. Ensure that rental housing stock is well-maintained and in compliance with state building codes.	Town	Oneida Housing Authority, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, and LivingADK	NYS HCR Housing Programs (e.g., HOME), Restore NY CDBG Housing
H02	Evaluate the spectrum of options for regulating short-term rentals to determine the best model for the community.	Town	-	-
H03	Through review of the Site Review Law, or new development ordinance, enable ADUs throughout the Town subject to adequate servicing and infrastructure.	Town	-	-
H04	Obtain Pro-Housing Community certification from NYS Homes and Community Renewal.	Town	-	-
H05	Develop a strategy to assist seniors with maintaining safe households that support independent living.	Town	AARP	AARP

Ho6	Hire a consultant to conduct a short-term rental (STR) study for the Town of Forestport that is comprised of establishing a baseline of the number of STRs available for rent, number of units, location, and availability. The baseline should also include a scan of the STR regulations of similar municipalities (i.e., northern New York communities near/within the APA). The study should include an overview of Town and County laws/regulations that have implications for STRs and identify gaps between existing regulations and the goals and objectives of the Town with regards to STRs. The extent of what can lawfully be regulated by the Town should also be explained, as well as the pros and cons to implementing STR-related regulations.	Town	-	-
Economic Development				
ED01	Establish a visual identify for the Town that represents its residents and communicates its history and vision for the future in an attractive and engaging manner.	Town	-	Market NY, DEC Adirondack Smart Growth
ED02	Create a comprehensive trail map for the Town that delineates snowmobiling, navigable waterways, hiking, multi-use, and ATV trails.	Town	-	DEC
ED03	Develop an economic development plan to meet local needs, capture travelers, maintain existing commerce and locate new business.	Town	-	DEC, REDC, Northern Border Regional Commission
ED04	Explore funding sources and staffing options to host signature all-season community events.	Town	-	-
ED05	Explore funding options for local businesses to improve building facades.	Town	-	NY Main Street through Homes and Community Renewal
ED06	Develop and implement a wayfinding strategy throughout the Town that provides direction to key destinations like hamlets, boat launch, parks, and trailheads.	Town	-	Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
ED07	Leverage relationships with local and regional organizations to promote and market the Town of Forestport as "open for business".	Town	-	-
ED08	Support the establishment of business networking and knowledge sharing opportunities for local entrepreneurs and prospective businesses interested in establishing in the Town.	Town	-	-
Community & Culture				
CC01	Assess the feasibility for additional Town-owned parks and recreation facilities.	Town	NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, ESD Strategic Planning and Feasibility	NY BRICKS - Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids and Seniors
CC02	Evaluate existing Town-owned recreation facilities for ADA compliance and identify areas of improvement.	Town	-	-

CC03	Explore placemaking opportunities with local businesses and property owners that highlight popular establishments in the hamlets and rural areas.	Town	-	USDA Regional Placemaking Innovation Challenge (RPIC)
CC04	Partner with DEC to enhance the boat launch located at the Forestport Reservoir.	Town	DEC	-
CC05	Create a collection of historic interpretation features, including signage, kiosks, walking tours, building markers, and murals, to showcase the community's rich history and culture.	Town	-	Historic Preservation Grants
CC06	No more than 10 years following its adoption by the Town Board, the success and progress of the goals and recommendations of Forestport Forward shall be evaluated. The review may be undertaken by the Town and/or a consultant. The evaluation shall yield a clear indication of the status of each of the Plan's recommendations.	CPIC	-	-
CC07	Conduct a feasibility assessment to evaluate the Town's Community Center and its capacity for retrofitting, new equipment, additional programming, and expansion	Town	-	-
Public Services & Infrastructure				
PS01	Develop a Capital Improvement Plan with funding strategies to ensure that infrastructure systems—such as roads, utilities, and public facilities—are effectively designed, well-maintained, and capable of meeting the community's needs. The Plan can be structured to incorporate all infrastructure-related recommendations.	Town	-	DEC Adirondack Smart Growth, CDBG Planning (for water), EPG (for sewer)
PS02	Review procedures for enforcement of site review law, subdivision regulations, property maintenance and building codes to ensure clarity and ease of understanding.	Town	-	-
PS03	Incorporate the Comprehensive Plan into annual budget discussions and meetings to inform fiscal planning for project implementation, routine updates to Comprehensive Plan, and asset management.	Town	-	-
PS04	Work with local and regional partners to continue to expand and enhance access to high-speed broadband internet and cell service.	Town	-	NYS ConnectALL Office
PS05	Conduct a sidewalk audit to evaluate sidewalk conditions, identify areas requiring repair or replacement, and establish a sidewalk inventory.	Town	-	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program
PS06	Enhance accessibility by installing accessible crosswalks and sidewalks throughout the hamlets.	Town	-	Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS)
PS07	Actively seek funding to implement highway facility improvements.	Town	-	NYS DOT TAP, STIP

PS08	Develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town that involves neighboring communities and local agencies and enables funding for emergency service providers	Town	-	
PS09	Host an information session on the importance of emergency services in North Country communities to encourage volunteers	Town	STaR, Fire fighters	
Sustainability & Resilience				
SR01	Enable community gardens through development regulations.	Town	-	DOS Smart Growth Community Planning
SR02	Promote Farmers Markets and community gardens Town-wide that support the local and regional economy.	Town	-	-
SR03	Identify methods to reduce road salt usage within the APA section of the Town in alignment with the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Assessment and Recommendations, 2023.	Town	Adirondack White Lake Association	FEMA
SR04	Explore partnerships with County and State authorities to develop emergency response plans and strategies.	Town	-	-
SR05	Identify locations for EV charging stations and apply for funding to support installation.	Town	-	NYSDOT NEVI, NYSERDA, Charge NY
SR06	Create an inventory of existing storm water infrastructure using GIS.	Town	-	PPG
SR07	Continue to restrict development of single-family homes and critical facilities in the Special Hazard Flood Area.	Town	-	-
SR08	Obtain grant funding and work with regional partners to develop or update lake management plans for White Lake, Kayuta Lake, Otter Lake, and Little Long Lake.	Town, Lake Associations	APA, NYSFOLA	NYSDEC, NYSEFC
SR09	Assess the conditions and lifespans of dams along the Black River and complete maintenance and upgrades necessary to ensure safe operation.	Town	-	DEC CSC
SR10	Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment to identify the most critical climate-related threats and establish a strategic framework for implementing adaptation and mitigation initiatives, with an emphasis on stormwater management and green infrastructure solutions.	Town	-	DEC CSC
SR11	Collaborate with neighboring Counties and Towns, Oneida County, regional planning authorities, the Adirondack Park Agency and the State to prepare a regional Climate Action Plan.	Town	-	DEC CSC
SR12	Conduct a comprehensive inventory of the Town's roadways to identify areas with high landslide susceptibility. Prioritize these areas based on severity and develop engineered stabilization strategies accordingly.	Town	-	-
SR13	Develop a tree-trimming program that will identify and remove/trim trees that may destroy or interrupt services or property during a snowfall or windstorm	Town	-	DEC CSC



FORESTPORT FORWARD



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