

Implementation Plan

A comprehensive plan is only as good as the action it produces. The key to implementation success is building momentum one-step at a time. Already, the comprehensive planning effort represents major progress by focusing attention on community-wide issues and by challenging participants to develop a community vision for the future. The next steps involve implementing pieces of that vision.

The Village and Town of Catskill Joint Comprehensive Plan describes about 70 recommendations. The comprehensive plan committee prioritized these recommendations by time frame and indicated who might be responsible for each one. Priorities were set through the careful consideration of urgency, the need to establish a good foundation for further action, and the desire to see early results on achievable tasks. The plan relies on the cooperation and independent action of elected officials, civil servants, town and village staff, and Catskill residents. The benefit of these efforts will be reflected in the quality of life for all who enjoy, work, and live in Catskill.

The recommendations are prioritized into four categories:

- > Foundational
- > Short-term (Initiate within 0 to six months.)
- > Intermediate (Initiate within seven to 24 months.)
- > Long range (Initiate after 24 months.)

The Committee made three foundational recommendations that would create the capacity to carry out the plan's implementation. These involve the creation of three citizen committees to coordinate particular action items in the plan. The Committee urges that these three recommendations be implemented immediately.

The timeframes for the other priorities indicate when items should *start* after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Completion of tasks is contingent on budget cycles, public process, and time necessary to implement each task. The recommendations are presented in order of priority.

The Implementation Plan identifies recommendations in Foundational, Short-term and Intermediate categories. Recommendations not listed here are classified Long Range and should be reviewed from time to time for implementation by the appropriate committees or staff, as well as the Town and Village Boards.

Foundational Recommendations

These recommendations should be acted on immediately, as they will provide the Village and Town with the capacity to carry out many of the subsequent recommendations.

Rec. Number	Recommendation	Implementation Leaders	Initial steps
1.1	Activate a joint Village / Town Conservation Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Interested Comprehensive Plan Committee Members > Town Board > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Recruit five to nine people from the village and town to serve as committee members > Town and Village Boards appoint members and co-chairs > Members meet to organize themselves and choose the priorities from the comprehensive plan.
2.3	Create a Downtown Working Group to coordinate revitalization efforts. Institutionalize the broader Main Street Approach to downtown revitalization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Interested Comprehensive Plan Committee Members > Village Board > Heart of Catskill Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Recruit members for a Downtown Working Group. > Village Board appoints members and chairs > Members meet to organize themselves and review priorities in the comprehensive plan. > Working group reaches out to County, merchants, and local Main Street programs and crafts a plan
3.6	Establish working groups of citizens and public officials in hamlets to develop a revitalization plan for the hamlet's Main Street.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Interested Comprehensive Plan Committee Members > Town Board > Heart of Catskill Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Start with Palenville, where the community expressed a desire for this kind of plan. > Recruit members for a Palenville Working Group. > Town Board appoints members and chairs > Committee meets to organize themselves and review priorities in the comprehensive plan. > Committee creates / implements hamlet action plan

Short-term (Initiate within 0 to six months)

These recommendations either address very near term needs or provide baseline information to carry out subsequent recommendations. They should begin within six months of adopting the plan, although it is likely that it would take longer for most to be completed.

Rec. Number	Recommendation	Implementation Leaders	Possible action items
7.1	Conduct a joint build-out analysis and cost of services study. Adopt it as an amendment to the comprehensive plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conservation Advisory Committee > Town Board > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town and village boards allocate funding for analysis > Contract for studies and analysis under supervision of Conservation Advisory Committee > Town and village board vote to amend Comprehensive Plan to include build out analysis.
10.3	Locate, secure and organize the Town’s and Village’s documentation of historic places and other historic documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town historian > Village historian > Town and Village Boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town and village boards provide resources for the historians or an appointed history committee to locate and catalog Catskill’s historic documents.
6.1	Revise zoning and land use regulations and procedures to create an efficient development process that achieves the community’s goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Village board appoints a committee to oversee redrafting. > Village board will need to budget funds for redrafting. > Committee and village board oversee the RFP process to hire a planning consultant to undertake the work.
8.3	Update rules to make enforcement easier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Village Board > Town Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Investigate ways to clarify rules and procedures to make them easier to enforce
6.3	Develop land use rules and economic development policies to focus industrial development in an around the proposed Empire Zone. Make sure all land within the Empire Zone is zoned Industrial.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Greene County > Town Board > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review current zoning for compatibility with Industrial Zone. > Create design standards so that the community’s goals are promoted in the industrial park.

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5.6	Revise Town highway standards to protect the rural character of the roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conservation Advisory Committee > Town Highway Department > Town Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Research ways that protect the character of rural roads, promote safety, and achieve transportation goals. > Update standards and policies to achieve comprehensive plan goals > Educate staff and residents to ensure operational success > Consider professional outside consultations for the research and design of the program program.
9.4	Identify youth recreation needs and improve parks and facilities for enjoyment by Catskill’s youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town and Village Recreation Commission > Town and village boards > School district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Commission works with town and village boards and school district to identify gaps in recreation facilities.
4.1	Enact “Right-to-Farm” laws at the town level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conservation Advisory Committee > Town lawyer > Town board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Committee with guidance of Town lawyer, researches and drafts a Right to Farm ordinance > Town Board reviews, holds public hearings, and adopts.
4.4	Find ways to lower the property tax burden on farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Cons. Advisory Committee > Town Board > Assessor’s office > Greene County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Research ways within New York that communities have reduced the tax burden on farms. Create options for Catskill. > Draft and enact policy changes > Include education component as needed
9.7	Improve the quality of life for residents of Smith’s Landing by reducing odors from solid waste railroad haulage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town board > NYSDOT > Federal Railroad Admin. > CSX Corporation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town board arranges meetings to discuss the issue and work with all interested parties to find a solution to the situation.

Intermediate Range (Initiate within six months to two years)

Rec. Number	Recommendation	Implementation Leaders	Possible action items
1.10	Require a Habitat Assessment Report as part of the site plan review process for subdivisions and other large developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Conservation Advisory Committee > Town Board > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Research existing Habitat Assessment requirements and strategies in other communities. > Revise local ordinances to require the assessment as part of the site plan review process. > Develop and compile a Village and Town-wide environmental resources map.
2.1	Create a streetscape infrastructure plan that enhances downtown vibrancy by promoting walkability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Downtown Working Group > Village Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Village Board and Downtown Working Group review comprehensive plan and compile priorities for downtown. > Village Board allocates funds for streetscape design. > Village Board and Downtown Working Group implement program and physical improvements.
3.3	Create streetscape infrastructure improvement plans for the hamlets that promote walkability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Hamlet Working Groups > Town Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In select hamlets, the working group establishes local priorities. > Town board should work with the hamlet working group and a consultant to draft a plan that would push the project forward.
2.6	Develop a sidewalk standards and maintenance program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DPW > Village board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Research other community policies and rules for sidewalk maintenance. > Review and revise DPW policies to set maintenance standards for residents. > Create an educational campaign that annually reminds residents and landowners of their responsibilities.

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6.4	Rebuild the railroad overpasses on Route 9W in Smith's Landing to allow commercial truck clearance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town Board > NYSDOT > Greene County > Catskill DPW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town board reaches out to necessary parties and starts the process to upgrade these structures.
6.5	Evaluate the extension of sewer lines to all industrial zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town Board > Village Board > DPW > Greene County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town and village boards allocate funding for an investigation into the costs and benefits of extending pipes to the industrial zones.
5.1	Finish the LWRP process with New York State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town and Village Boards > Municipal attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Consult with Department of State to determine what steps are needed to conclude the LWRP approval process– and then do it.
6.2	Designate certain industrial sites, especially within the new Empire Zone, as 'shovel-ready.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Town Board > Greene County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Work with New York State to achieve 'Shovel-Ready' status for selected industrial sites.