

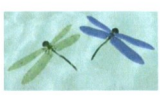
Comprehensive Plan Update

Adopted January 9, 2019 (Town of Evans)
Adopted January 14, 2019 (Village of Angola)

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The development of this plan was funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

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I: Introduction

Plan Intent and Purpose

"Among the most important powers and duties granted by the legislature to a town government is the authority and responsibility 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."

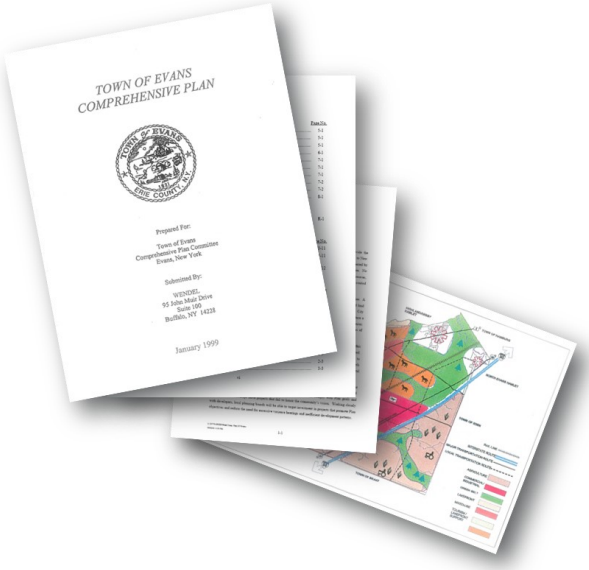
- NYS Town Law

New York State recognizes that long-range planning is a significant benefit to not only government operations and finances, but also to community at large, providing residents an opportunity to have a direct stake into the future of Evans-Angola.

Proactive planning keeps the Town and Village "ahead of the game" rather than being reactive to issues that come up. Typically, plans are updated every 10-15 years to keep them relevant with changing times, but can be less than that depending on the level of implementation and action of a community.

The Town of Evans' last Comprehensive Plan was completed in 1999; the Village of Angola's in 2003. In the 14-18 years since those plans were completed, much has changed in both communities, including demographics (i.e. population and age groups), shifting economic and market dynamics, and other social factors that can change the future vision for the community. An update gives the Town and Village an opportunity to revisit the Plan with a fresh set of eyes to determine if the community vision for the next 10+ years still applies and weeds out the action items that were completed, out-of-date, or are simply irrelevant to current times.

In addition, given the age of the planning documents for the Town and Village and the shared assets that are available from both a physical and economic perspective (e.g. roads, parks, water, land), both communities realize that a coordinated effort will provide the needed guidance for a unified vision for the future.





Benefit of Long-Range Planning

As noted previously, a Comprehensive Plan is a proactive document, providing the community with a blueprint for the future. While it is not a regulatory document, it is a tool that is used by local leaders and boards to implement policies and regulations and act upon development applications that are in the best interest of the Town/Village.

In addition to local land use regulation, a comprehensive plan provides other benefits, including:

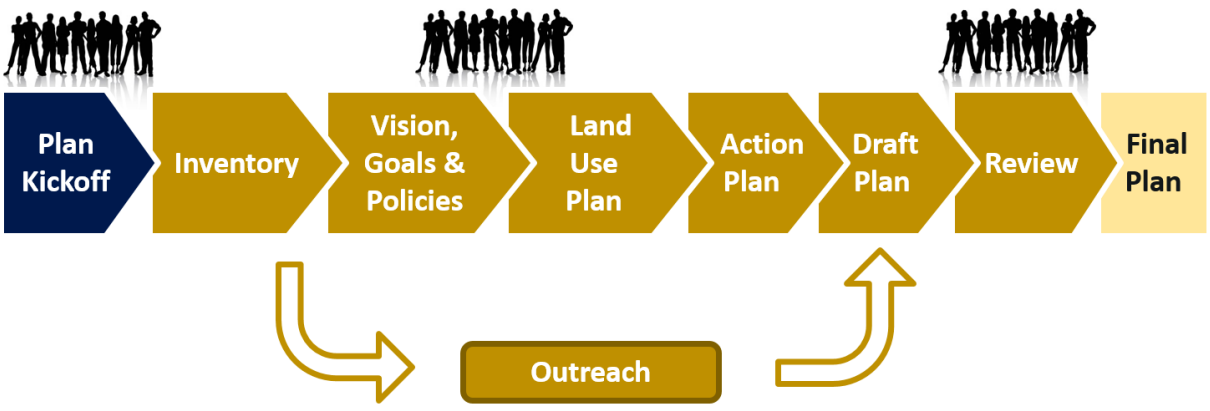
- **Guidance** for local boards and special committees
- **Collaborative** efforts for the community to work together and to build inter-municipal partnerships
- **Marketing** for the Town, outlining assets and opportunities for development and preservation
- **Capital improvement** tool for identifying programs, initiatives, and projects that are prioritized by the community
- **Funding support** for grant opportunities, outlining a collective vision and strategy for plans and projects

Process & Plan Outline

Overall, the planning process involves several key steps beginning with an inventory of information on the physical resources of the community as well as the demographic and social aspects, all of which provide the background for ***what we have to work with***. Input and feedback from residents, business owners, and other local stakeholders are also included not only at the beginning stages, but throughout the planning process to give additional background information.

From there, a future community vision is developed, providing the overall direction of ***where we want to be***. Individual goals/policies are then identified, providing a much more narrowed scope dealing with certain issues, opportunities, and weakness in the community.

An action plan is the capstone of the process, building upon the vision and goals with specific actions to be undertaken to achieve the vision - ***how do we get there***. Implementation is a key part of this portion of the plan to identify priorities, partnerships, and strategies moving forward. Also included in this section is a future land use plan which provides a graphic



representation for areas of the community to be developed or conserved, physical changes, and investment. It also provides the framework for any potential future zoning changes.

Community Outreach

A critical component of any planning process is community engagement. Obtaining feedback from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders is the only way to determine what the community wants, values, and sees in the future of the Evans-Angola area.

All public meetings were advertised through a variety of avenues in order to reach as many residents as possible, including use of the Town website, digital information boards, school newsletters/announcements, newspaper advertisements, and even a Star Wars-themed "trailer" at one of the summer movie in the park events!





Outreach was achieved through various means in a number of venues including:

- **Steering committee meetings**: Monthly meetings were held throughout the process to provide direct interaction with community representatives (see details on the following page). These meetings were open to the public and regularly advertised.



Steering committee meetings involved both discussion and interactive exercises to get feedback.

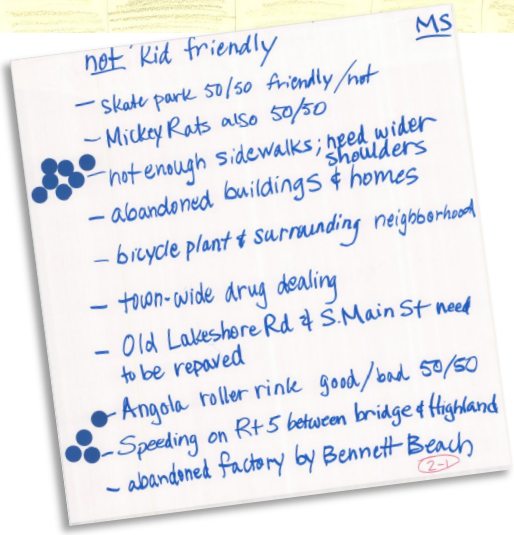
- **Public Kickoff**: A public meeting was held on August 29, 2017 to introduce the community to the project, educate them on the process, share preliminary information, and, most importantly, gather initial feedback. Approximately 40 people attended this meeting, which included a brainstorming exercise to identify core past, present, and future values of both the Town and Village.
- **Online community survey**: Following the public kickoff meeting, an online survey was prepared and distributed. The questions explored the information gathered during the public meeting in greater detail and included

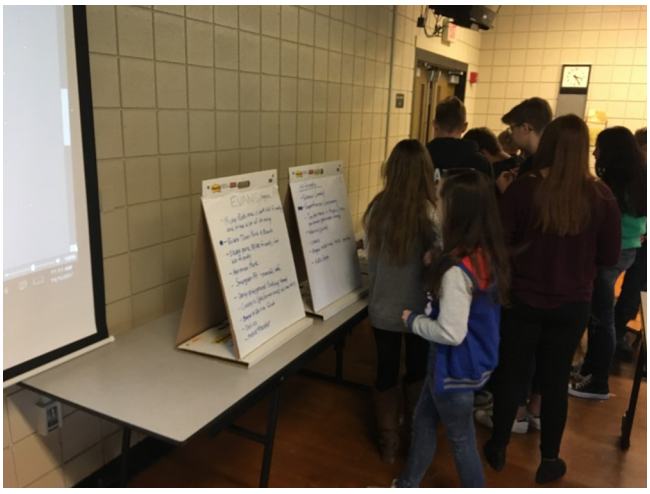
questions on shopping patterns, transportation/commuting, design, local economy, housing, and the waterfront. Over 800 residents took part in the survey, identifying other opportunities and issues in the community.

- **Joint Town/Village workshop**: In October 2017, a joint meeting was held with the Evans Town Board and Angola Board of Trustees to provide a summary of the Comprehensive Plan process as well as what the previous plans accomplished and the need for an update to the respective plans. Although representatives from each municipality are on the Steering Committee, the workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the plan directly with the full Boards to ensure a full understanding of the Plan. This also gave all members a chance to express their own thoughts on the future of Evans and Angola.

- **Youth/student Outreach**: The youth of the community are typically underrepresented not only in planning projects such as this, but also in local government processes in general. Their input is equally as important as they are the proverbially future of the Town/Village. Additionally, the amenities and needs that they have are the same as those that families with children are seeking when looking to relocate - if we plan with kids in mind, we attract families and the community can see sustainable growth. Presentations on planning and the Evans-Angola Plan specifically were given at the Elementary,





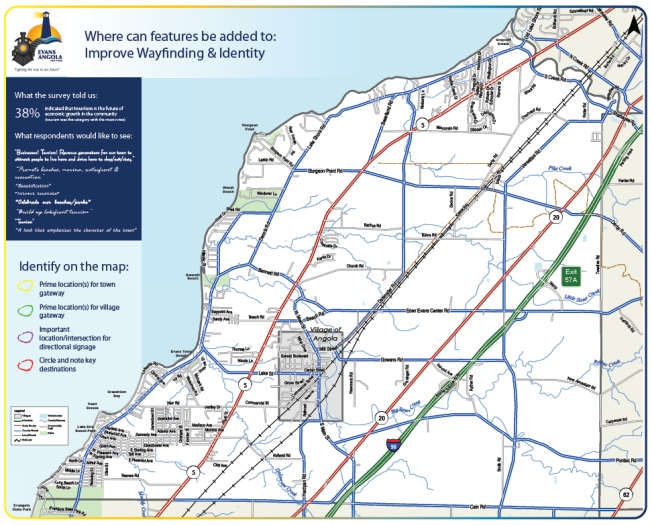


Outreach with students at the local schools provided insight from a different perspective compared with the older age groups typical at most meetings. Ideas generated from Lakeshore Elementary School included drawings (top image) and youth-centered input (Middle School, second image).

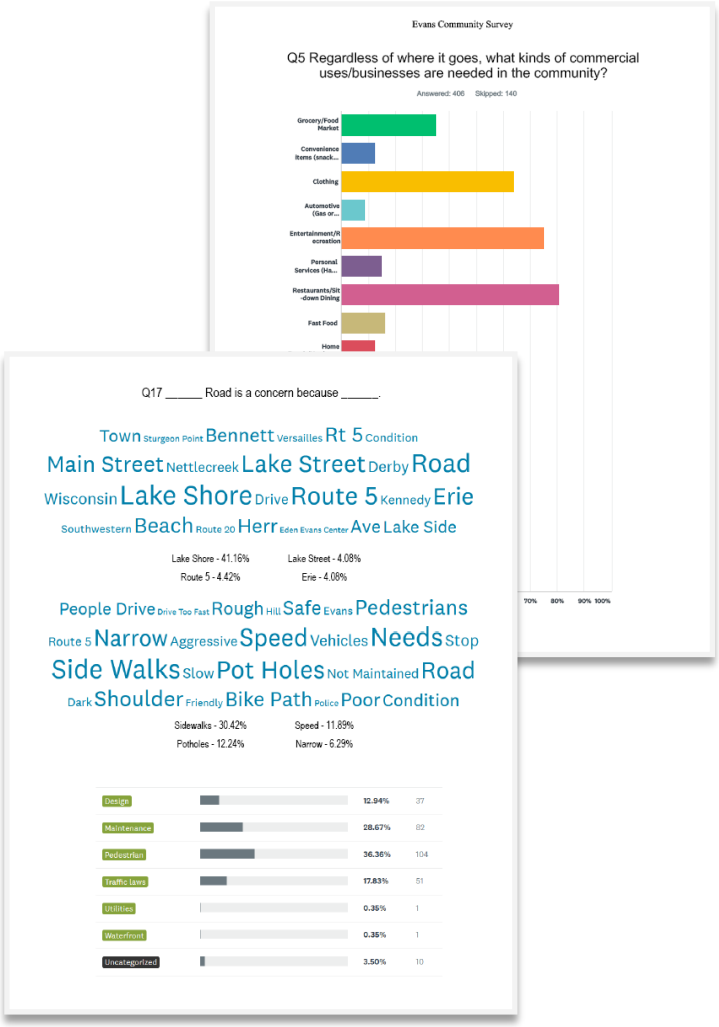
Middle, and High Schools with opportunities for the youth to give their own thoughts on the future of the Town and Village. Follow up, in-class exercises were also done by teachers to further explore ideas from the kids.

- **Public Meeting #2**: A second public meeting was held on December 4, 2017 to review input heard to date to ensure the plan was "on the right track" and incorporate any other pertinent issues that were identified by the community. A small-group exercise with attendees was included that included more detailed discussion on opportunities to improve walking and biking, wayfinding, and land uses in and around the Thruway interchange.
- **Public Meeting #3**: The final public meeting at the Middle School on March 5, 2018 provided residents a glimpse at the goals and objectives that were developed as a result of the community input, common issues heard, and the inventory & analysis (community profile). In addition, the draft Future Land Use map was shared and discussed along with the key projects that were developed (detailed in Section V) as part of the action and implementation plan. This meeting provided the community an opportunity to comment on the plan to "fine tune" it prior to assembling the draft document.

Additional details and a summary of the community input is found in Appendix A.



Brainstorming exercises (top) provided the community a chance to put "pen to paper" while the online survey (excerpt of results below) offered a more expansive range of questions. See Appendix A.



Acknowledgements

As a community-supported document, the Comprehensive Plan update was directed and managed by a volunteer Steering Committee made up of a cross section that included elected officials, Town & Village staff, Board representatives, residents, business owners, youth, the School District, and other committee and local group representatives. The Steering Committee's role is to provide direction and feedback to the Town's planning consultant, who was tasked with developing the plan itself. The Committee met monthly from February 2017 through April 2018.

Members of the Steering Committee include:

Andy Yusick - Evans Zoning Board of Appeals

Anthony Rotella - Rotella Grants

Bernie Rotella - Rotella Grants

Bill Holland - Business owner, Evans; Lk Erie Beach Task Force

Carla Thompson - Lakeshore School Board

Dan Rizzo - Erie Co. Parks, Rec & Forestry, Commissioner

Donald Gallo - Angola Village Engineer

Donald Maglich - Evans Zoning Board of Appeals

Douglas Czora - Chief of Police

Emmett Lonergan - Business owner, Angola

Heather Leitten - Business owner, Angola

Jeanne Macko - Evans Town Board, Councilman

Jennifer Michalec - Lakeshore School Board

John Cappellina - Erie County IDA

John McEvoy - Evans Planning Board

John Wilson - Angola Village Trustee

Keith Young - Evans Historian

Lori Szewczyk - Erie County IDA

Marie Thornton - Erie Co. Dept. of Environment & Planning, CDBG

Mary K. Hosler - Evans Town Supervisor

Paul E. Michalec - Conservation Committee, Evans Is Growing

Roberta Rappoccio - Evans Planning & Comm. Dev.

Sabine Baeckmann - Editor, Evangola Post

Steven Leitten - Business owner, Angola

Ted Catalano - Evans Planning Board, Chairman

Tiger Schmittendorf - Fire Department

William Herold - Angola Planning Board

In addition to these members, the Town would also like to thank the community at large, especially those that attended meetings and other events, who contributed to the plan through their feedback and comments.