



# RESULTS FROM THE LOWVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Quantitative and Qualitative Content Analyses

### Overview

In January 2021, the Lowville Town and Village Comprehensive Planning Committee unveiled a community survey for the Town and Village residents. 2013 postcards were sent to homeowners in Lowville with information about the community survey, including the link to the comprehensive plan website and who to contact to request a paper copy of the survey. 194 survey responses were recorded online through the Google Form survey. More villagers (n=139) filled out the survey than did town residents (n=42), and a few people who do not live in Lowville also filled out the survey (n=13). Of those who responded to the survey, half have lived in Lowville for 20 years or more, followed by 18% of the respondents living in Lowville for five years or less. 15% of respondents have lived in Lowville between 11 and 20 years and 12% for six to ten years. Three quarters of respondents own their home and the remainder rent (21%) or occupy without payment of rent (4%).

Participants were asked about their community characteristics (i.e., services, growth, and development) and their current employment. 36 respondents identified as business owners and were able to complete a business owner survey. Lastly, the respondents were able to give additional information to inform the comprehensive planning process.

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Household Demographic Information .....	5
Community Characteristics, Services, Growth, and Development .....	6
Employment Information.....	41
Business Owner Survey.....	45
Additional Comments .....	49

## Executive Summary

194 respondents to the 2021 Lowville Comprehensive Plan Community Survey were asked about their community characteristics and their current employment. 36 of these respondents identified as business owners and were able to complete a business owner survey, as well. The top four reasons identified by the respondents for living in Lowville were the same as the 1998 community survey that informed the 2008 comprehensive plan: family and friends, rural atmosphere, quality of life, and good schools. The fifth reason in 1998 was the low crime rate, which came in a close 6<sup>th</sup> position behind a sense of community in this community survey. The reasons for living in Lowville that ranked the lowest by respondents were the air quality, good government, and the tax rate. The biggest concerns identified by the respondents were the lack of employment opportunities, the lack of retail businesses, and the deteriorating conditions of the downtown core. A lack of cultural opportunities and recreational facilities were also major concerns that correlate to families feeling less connected to others. These and other findings are highlighted in this executive summary and throughout the report.

### **Economic Development**

Schools and medical facilities are ranked above average for community services and are considered primary employment industries in the town and village of Lowville. 35% of respondents reported that they work in educational, health, and/or social services, which was higher than any other industry and reflects the percentages estimated by the 2018 American Community Survey. Supermarkets were considered average while restaurants, night life, and retail properties were considered below average, on the whole, by respondents.

Respondents agree that any commercial, retail, or industrial growth or development must protect environmental quality, first and foremost. Another highly rated objective is attracting new business and commercial development while protecting historical structures. Any economic or community development objectives that support village and town beautification and placemaking are encouraged by the respondents. There was slightly less support for manufacturing and industrial development than business and commercial development, but most respondents still agreed that it would make for a good objective. There is little appetite by respondents for local government controlling the rate of development or for requiring on-site parking for new businesses.

Generally, job growth in all industries is strongly supported by respondents, including home businesses. Those respondents who telework stated that broadband was the number one barrier to successfully completing work tasks. Several business owners stated that they would like more reliable internet for their businesses as well as advertisement and marketing support. If respondents did not work in Lowville, they state that their reason was better career opportunities outside of Lowville.

### **Historic Resources and Natural Resources**

Respondents would like to see historical structures protected and revitalized—including downtown buildings and older homes—such as cleaning up the facades of these historical structures. Furthermore, respondents would like to see more appropriate uses for existing historical spaces. Lastly, it was recommended that unique ways to highlight Lowville’s history—like Stash’s repainting the old log—be encouraged.

## **Housing**

Residential properties in Lowville were ranked slightly below average, on the whole, by respondents. However, rental properties were the second lowest rated community service. As for housing growth and development objectives, respondents support more low- and moderate-income housing options followed by increased residential construction. The least popular objectives were controlling the rate of housing development, discouraging urban sprawl, and providing more lawn area in residential districts, though more respondents for these three options were undecided than were either in agreement or disagreement. It is important to note that assisted living facilities and retirement communities were one reason several respondents moved to Lowville.

Generally, property taxes were consistently identified as an issue for residents. Comments show that people believe they do not get the “bang for their buck” and that discourages people from moving to or staying in Lowville. With regard to community beautification, people would like to see grant opportunities to for making exterior improvements to deteriorating residences and less junk in yards.

## **Natural Resources**

Some respondents believe that air quality could be improved, especially considering the odors from local agricultural activities. Furthermore, many respondents believe that any economic or community development—especially commercial, retail, and industrial development—should protect environment quality. Similarly, green initiatives should be encouraged and prioritized. It was recommended that new businesses that support and utilize local timber and wood products should be encouraged.

## **Agriculture**

Some respondents recommended that new businesses that support and utilize local products, such as dairy and maple products, should be encouraged. It was also recommended that the town and village code for agribusiness development in local zoning laws so that farms can sell products on site. Similarly, farmer’s markets should continue to be supported. Though not a significant problem, there could be efforts made to control noise and odor from industries and farms.

## **Transportation and Mobility**

Lowville’s streets and roads were rated average, on the whole. Most respondents want to improve traffic flow in the village of Lowville. Street repair, including drainage repair, in both the village and the town was popular amongst respondents, as well. There was little support for new traffic-directing projects (e.g., turning lanes and roundabouts) or structures and installations that slow down traffic, such as narrower streets or chicanes. However, a route that bypasses downtown Lowville, which came up in the 1998 community survey, was recommended by several respondents.

When asked what improvements respondents would like to see to parking in Lowville, most respondents answered that they would like to see more walking opportunities with little to no change to current parking. There was a desire to improve traffic congestion caused by parking issues around the post office, Jreck Subs, the school, and several other key areas within Lowville. Changes that were suggesting to parking were repaving, repainting, and/or redesigning existing parking lots. The four corners parking lot was praised as a good example of a parking improvement.

Sidewalk beautification was mentioned throughout the survey, including sidewalk repair, new sidewalk construction, and plantings between streets and sidewalks. Sidewalk widening for comfort of walking, for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and for general pedestrian safety was supported by many respondents. Several respondents believe the responsibility falls on the town and the village.

## **Recreation**

The most popular recreational growth and development objective is converting old rail lines to walkable and bikeable trails. The objectives of protecting environmental quality and historical structures were ranked second and third. Regulating green buffers around parking lots, increasing access to the Black River for non-motorized recreation, and maintaining or improving open space were the least popular objectives—mainly considering that most respondents were either undecided or did not know whether they would be positive recreational growth objectives. Generally, any recreational objectives should look into indoor and outdoor multigenerational opportunities that are both seasonal and available year-round. There was support amongst respondents for new trails for walking, biking, and other non-motorized activities.

## **Infrastructure and Public Utilities**

Public works services/infrastructure and utilities were rated average, on the whole, by respondents. Renewable energy development, both solar and wind energy, has the broad support of most respondents. Some respondents would like to see water services expanded to more households.

## **Community Facilities and Services**

Fire protection, ambulance services, and schools and educational facilities were rated highest over any other community service or facility on a scale of very poor to excellent. Medical facilities and police protection were also rated high. The lowest ranking community facilities and services are childcare and building and zoning code enforcement. Community facilities and centers as well as broadband were also rated below average. Cellular coverage was ranked below average, as well, but was closer to average than broadband services.

Respondents would like to see Lowville become a more welcoming community by creating more social, cultural, and recreational opportunities, such as new community centers for children, youth, and adults; a community pool; and more restaurants and breweries. A welcoming committee, family mentor program, and more organized community events were recommended by several respondents, as well. Any projects that encourage young people to move to or local youth to stay in Lowville should be a priority since outmigration was an issue identified by several respondents. Respondents believe that any new or existing opportunities should be communicated more effectively to the general public.

Substance abuse was also a concern to respondents, including the local market for drugs and exposure to youth. Drunk driving was also identified as a concern. Mental health resources were recommended as a means for addressing the issue of substance abuse.

Many respondents would like to see local governance improve. For instance, respondents stated that general notice, outreach, and other communications need to be expanded and improved. The meeting time is inconvenient for some respondents who prefer a meeting time later in the evening. Virtual meetings could allow for greater attendance. Generally, respondents recommend that the town and

village look for opportunities to engage the community in public business in a meaningful way that gives them access, standing, and influence. Surveys were a favored means of engaging the public.

With regard to zoning, respondents believe that the renovation of existing structures as well as proper property maintenance should be encouraged and enforced. Many respondents were unfamiliar with the zoning laws while others thought there were inconsistencies in the enforcement of those laws. Some respondents thought that the zoning was out-of-date and that new regulations should take their place. Fewer respondents thought that the laws were too restrictive, but there were concerns stated in several responses.

### **How to Follow the Report**

This report is broken down by question on the 2021 Lowville Comprehensive Plan Community Survey. The quantitative questions that provide numerical responses include the raw number of responses and the percentage of total responses. Questions that used a Likert scale, such as from disagree strongly to agree strongly, also include an average response value and the standard deviation of the responses. The average values were of the total responses, including those who replied “undecided” or “don’t know”, so the mean scores run lower than expected. Any quantitative question is sorted from the most popular response to the least popular response. The open-ended, or qualitative, questions were categorized using grounded theory and content analysis. You will see responses to questions grouped into categories, which highlight themes. These categories were sorted by frequency of response. The open-ended responses are included in this report, and any names or personal information has been removed from this report to protect anonymity.

If you have any questions or concerns about this report, please reach out to Alaina Mallette ([alaina@tughill.org](mailto:alaina@tughill.org)), Planner at the Tug Hill Commission.

## Household Demographic Information

I am a resident/we are residents of:

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
The village of Lowville	139	71.6%
The town of Lowville	42	21.6%
I do not live in Lowville	13	6.7%
TOTAL	194	99.9%

If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Lowville?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
0-5 years	34	17.7%
6-10 years	23	12%
11-20 years	29	15.1%
Over 20 years	95	49.5%
I am not a resident of Lowville	11	5.7%
TOTAL	192	100%

Do you own or rent your residence?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Own	143	75.7%
Rent	39	20.6%
Occupy without the payment of rent	7	3.7%
TOTAL	189	100%

How many persons of each age group reside in your household?

Response	Number of people	Percentage of total population
0-4 years	16	3.76%
5-17 years	68	16%
18-25 years	27	6.35%
26-35 years	34	8%
36-50 years	81	19.06%
51-65 years	103	24.24%
Over 65 years	96	22.59%
TOTAL	425	100%

## Community Characteristics, Services, Growth, and Development

What were your reasons for choosing to live in the Lowville area? Select all that apply.

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Family and friends	117	61.9%
Rural atmosphere	95	50.3%
Quality of life	92	48.7%
Good schools	80	42.3%
Sense of community	77	40.7%
Low crime rate	71	37.6%
Job opportunities	55	29.1%
Cost of living	44	23.3%
Recreation opportunities	34	18%
Air quality	31	16.4%
Good government	15	7.9%
Tax rate	6	3.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>N/A – Checkbox</b>

Additional, write-in responses:

- Brookside, Brookside Senior Community, living community – Brookside, Retirement or senior living facility/community, adult living, needed help living, Retirement community, Retirement housing - Need Assisted Living Housing; I grew up here and we moved back after retirement (11)
- Born in Lowville; Born & raised here, never left; Raised in the area; Grew up in Lowville; Birthplace; Where I grew up; I grew up here and we moved back after retirement (8)
- Job; Spouse's Job (2)
- Family in area; Married (2)
- Fantastic night sky in some areas; Love the winters! (2)
- Good school
- Hospital
- Church community
- Moved in Lowville
- Assigned

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### 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Participants were asked “What were your reasons for choosing to live in the Lowville area?” and the top five responses were:

1. family and friends here;
2. rural atmosphere;
3. quality of life;
4. quality of schools; and
5. low crime rate.



What are some of the problems that you have noticed in the Lowville area? Check all that apply.

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Lack of employment opportunity	96	53.3%
Lack of retail business	87	48.3%
Deteriorating conditions of downtown core (e.g., dirty appearance, unpainted buildings, poor retail hours, etc.)	81	45%
Lack of cultural opportunities	77	42.8%
Lack of recreational facilities (e.g., indoor gym, pool, skating rink)	66	36.7%
Parking issues downtown	45	25%
Noise and odor from industries and farms	44	24.4%
Historic properties deteriorating or in danger of demolition	44	24.4%
Inefficiencies and duplication of services (e.g., police departments, first response, recycling, and trash)	34	18.9%
Lack of opportunities to socialize with neighbors and community at large	29	16.1%
Insufficient transportation options	29	16.1%
New families in the area do not feel welcome	22	12.2%
High energy prices	22	12.2%
Traffic problems downtown	21	11.7%
Hospital issues	21	11.7%
Lack of curbing and storm drainage problems in the village	20	11.1%
Poor drinking water quality	17	9.4%
Lack of handicapped accessibility (e.g., sidewalks, into buildings, parking)	17	9.4%
Lack of volunteers or volunteer opportunities	15	8.3%
Encroachment of commercial uses into residential areas	12	6.7%
Parking issues in areas other than downtown	11	6.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>N/A – Checkbox</b>

Additional, write-in responses:

- Recreation, tourism, and points of interest (9)
  - A park that includes nature trails, recreational activities for all ages
  - Lack of recreational trails in/around the village for walking/running
  - Lack of Winter Fair/Festival
  - Lack of walking/bicycling area in a park
  - Need a community pool like all surrounding smaller villages have
  - Lack of outdoor recreation opportunities
  - Limited accommodations for visitors
  - More dining options
  - We need cab or uber services
  - Our winters are long; we need to have an indoor arena for walking, running, socializing, etc. Or, walking trails for our summer and fall months would be a great start. Bike trails would also be great.
- Sidewalks (7)
  - Lack of sidewalks on E. State St from Trinity to Bostwick and Bostwick to Fairgrounds

- Safe Walking path, sidewalks are not safe
- Simple walking access around village
- Lack of adequate sidewalks on lower East State Street/ Maple Street
- Sidewalks not shoveled
- There are insufficient sidewalks
- Pedestrian unfriendly streets
- Streets and traffic (7)
  - Loud truck jack braking, stinky trucks and noisy manhole covers
  - Lack of curbing and poor street conditions on side streets
  - Deteriorating street condition of Sunset Dr. and Hillcrest Cir.
  - Tractor trailer traffic that should be routed around Lowville
  - Traffic flow through the Village
  - Bicycle unfriendly streets
  - Lack of Curb and drainage problems on the South side of Clinton St./Easton Street area
- Community deterioration (7)
  - Remove the house by Stash's. Turn it into a park.
  - Deterioration of many residences in the village, partly due to people moving to Brookside or the housing north of the village
  - Village not picking up yard waste
  - Deteriorating, unmaintained residential housing with junk and old cars in yard
  - Seeming abandonment of downtown core for suitable commercial space
  - Beautification - tree replacement/planting
  - Junkyards, unregistered vehicles
- Substance abuse (4)
  - Drunk Driving; Nobody doing anything about drunk driving (2)
  - Low income people pushing drugs
  - Lack of safe schools-concerns with staff abusing alcohol
- Broadband (3)
  - Lack of dependable high-speed internet outside the village
  - Extremely poor internet options in many areas
  - Lack of high-tech infrastructure and broadband services
- None (3)
- Tax rates on newly sold homes skyrocketing; Property assessments are unfair toward new home ownership vs. long term homeowners, new residents assessed at 100% and previous owners and neighbors are far below 100% (2)
- Miscellaneous
  - State taxes and regulations
  - Domestic Disturbances
  - Town and village at least could be combined if not the county highway dept
  - Industrial wind/solar
  - Need of transfer to Utica or Syracuse for hospital
  - Need for Double Play Community Center Building.
  - Having no connections in the area hinders employment opportunities, also it can be hard if you did not grow up here finding employment, because some employers go out of their way to hire based upon if the person grew up in the area

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## 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Participants were asked “What aspects discourage you from staying in the Lowville area?” and the top five responses were:

1. lack of job opportunities;
2. no aspects discourage me from staying;
3. cost of living;
4. lack of recreation opportunities for adults; and
5. lack of recreation opportunities for youth.

Participants were also asked to list specific problems they perceive in the Lowville area. Noteworthy comments included the following:

- lack of employment opportunities;
- noise / odor from industries and farms;
- poor drinking water quality;
- encroachment of commercial uses into residential areas;
- lack of retail businesses;
- deteriorating conditions in downtown core (dirty appearance, unpainted buildings, poor retail hours);
- parking problems downtown;
- pedestrian problems downtown (sidewalks and crosswalks);
- traffic problems downtown (truck traffic);
- lack of curbing/storm drainage problems in Village;
- lack of handicapped accessibility (sidewalks, post office);
- lack of cultural opportunities;
- lack of recreational facilities (no indoor gym, pool, skating rink);
- lack of public transportation;
- hospital issues;
- high energy prices;
- historic properties deteriorating or in danger of demolition; and
- inefficiencies and duplication of services (especially police departments).

What services or opportunities would help you and/or your family feel more welcome and more connected with others in Lowville?

(94 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Cultural and social opportunities (28)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More opportunities to get out and meet people culturally</li> <li>• More community-based activities</li> <li>• More holiday activities for families (tree lighting, summer picnics in community park open to all, Halloween parades for the school children, carriage rides for village tour</li> <li>• More community-oriented activities at the park such as additional music or other entertainment ideas.</li> <li>• More organized events within the community. I really enjoyed the picnic area that was set up during COVID when restaurants were take-out only.</li> <li>• More community events and both cultural and social.</li> <li>• Trivia hosted at local restaurants (once the pandemic is behind us)</li> <li>• More community events - outdoor concerts, etc.</li> <li>• More cultural opportunities</li> <li>• Cultural activities</li> <li>• More community events like food truck Fridays</li> <li>• More places to just hang out</li> <li>• I'd like to see more cultures celebrated, like they do in Watertown (i.e. we have a large Polish population). Perhaps some barbecue competitions, etc.</li> <li>• One of the things I love about the area is the effort to maintain quaint traditions like concerts in the park, farmer's markets, county fairs, cream cheese festival, parades, etc. Definitely keep those things going and continue to build community synergy around them. I'd love to see the cream cheese fest turn into a 2-day event. It seems like an insane amount of effort for what turns out to be an event of only a few hours.</li> <li>• More entertainment options for single adults aside from bars.</li> <li>• More community activities. However, we recently moved so the responses to the coronavirus clearly has impacted community activities.</li> <li>• Outdoor community events i.e. Christmas Market</li> <li>• There needs to be more for the youth and young adults to do!!!</li> <li>• Cultural opportunities</li> <li>• I wish the coffee shops were open later or that a more upscale bar was available. I would love a place like Cafe Z to be open later, maybe bigger, for younger folks to be able to meet, and not just to drink alcohol. There aren't appealing spots to spend time (and money) for younger folks (teenagers to even as old as millennials) to just relax and socialize. Consequentially, everyone hangs out at home all the time.</li> <li>• I am in my 30s and I love my job, but there isn't enough culture</li> <li>• More social events</li> <li>• I'm very excited that the Town Hall Theatre has added the stage space for some more culture. I hope they do an open mic night for music, spoken word poetry, and storytelling.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star gazing and viewing events, Community garden, Mini golf</li> <li>• While we have the fair and Cream Cheese Festival we are missing out on other opportunities. Bring in people to do open air concerts in the summer and indoor during the winter.</li> <li>• More events for senior citizens</li> <li>• Hang out spots open in the evening and weekends that aren't just dive bars or organization-oriented spaces. Right now, evening spots are really not our scene: Bakers, Crossroads, Stash's, Elks Club, VFW, etc. In my opinion, these kinds of places really cater to locals, but almost to a fault. This makes them feel similar in terms of atmosphere, fare served, and what clientele frequent and/or are welcomed. There is little diversity that encourages new and different clientele. Tony Harper's and Skewed Brewing are great additions. The loss of BarkEater was a real shame. It was a little more unique compared to the other bars around.</li> <li>• More outdoor facilities/outdoor dining opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation and tourism (23)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More outdoor activities geared toward families</li> <li>• Outdoor run and walking path.</li> <li>• More walking trails, better use of Black River for recreation</li> <li>• An outdoor walking trail...and or an outdoor track oval for community use</li> <li>• Groomed cross-country ski trail, running path</li> <li>• More outdoor festivals</li> <li>• A cross country ski trail on the unused railroad tracks between Lowville and Beaver Falls</li> <li>• Walking &amp; Bike Path</li> <li>• More opportunities to be physically active.</li> <li>• I would like to see rails to trails bike paths using the existing infrastructure to create more recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• More recreational opportunities.</li> <li>• Improved walking and biking opportunities</li> <li>• Dedicated non-motorized walking/biking/cross country ski trails/paths in and out of the village, possibly linking other Lewis County villages</li> <li>• Recreational trail in/around the village</li> <li>• A public park, such as the one in Boonville. The small parks in the Village/Town are poor and have nothing going on in them.</li> <li>• Airbnb or similar properties to rent when visiting</li> <li>• Walking trails, indoor walking track, more places to bike or walk.</li> <li>• Better opportunities and promotion of non-motorized outdoor activities (hiking, canoeing)</li> <li>• More recreational facilities</li> <li>• Promote walking and biking.</li> <li>• Walking trail, Biking and cross-country skiing trail</li> <li>• Fix up the tennis courts</li> <li>• Walking/Bike Pathways/Ski-Snowshoe trails</li> </ul>
<b>Community centers (10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Double Play efforts!</li> <li>• Another gymnasium for all</li> <li>• Double Play Community Center should be supported.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community center for my kids</li> <li>• Community center - (now in the works - needs funding)</li> <li>• Community/fitness center</li> <li>• Community Center facility for all residents we lack this here</li> <li>• rec center</li> <li>• I'd also love to see the development of a community center</li> <li>• A community center for a free (or low cost), place for classes, clubs, organizations to use. For example, beginning quilting classes, learning how to play a specific game, parenting support groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach and communication (9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better advertisement of opportunities</li> <li>• Better communication.</li> <li>• The village website is consistently out-of-date, therefore making it an unreliable resource for new families. People are nice, but always surprised when we're confused by how things are done here. There's definitely an attitude of "this is how we've always done it. How did you not know? Prime example: the village fall pickup of leaves. We were never told when it would begin or end. Also, communication during the 5 Streets construction project was non-existent. There was no apparent sense of when different roads were being worked on.</li> <li>• notices of town meetings, mailings for community events</li> <li>• Attending more county and municipal meetings</li> <li>• Reach out to your residents that rent! Some of us are not military and might stick around!</li> <li>• Inform public with a newsletter in our weekly newspaper about what is going on in the Village on a timely fashion. Journal Republican</li> <li>• I moved to Brookside three years ago. Brookside takes good care of me and I don't know much about Lowville.</li> <li>• If Lowville Academy courts are open to the public, advertise that. Advertise for the track too if that is open.</li> </ul>
<b>Community pool (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community pool,</li> <li>• I'd also love to see the development of a community pool</li> <li>• Public Pool for the summer?</li> <li>• Public pool</li> <li>• Splash park/pool</li> <li>• Community Swimming pool</li> <li>• indoor pool</li> <li>• Swimming area locally</li> </ul>
<b>Restaurants and breweries (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• Better fast-food restaurants</li> <li>• More restaurants (get rid of the old McDonald's)</li> <li>• More restaurants</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> <li>• I would like to see a craft brewery open back up in Lowville</li> <li>• More and better restaurants</li> <li>• Restaurants</li> </ul>
<b>No change (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are pleased with our community!</li> <li>• Nothing</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• I stay to myself</li> <li>• I am well taken care of here at Brookside.</li> <li>• None</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Support local businesses, Main Street (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive activities that highlight OUR small businesses. The cream cheese festival is NOT about our local business as more and more are handled by outside contracts.</li> <li>• Retail</li> <li>• Art gallery, antique stores, an Aldi</li> <li>• More retail businesses for clothing</li> <li>• More variety of clothing and shoe stores.</li> <li>• It would be nice if the surrounding businesses were closer together and promoted shopping and walking. For example, a person could go get a haircut, then walk over to Entwined Treasures or Marguerite's to get a gift, then swing over to Jeb's for lunch: essentially a better Main Street feel.</li> <li>• MUST invest in downtown in order to survive.</li> </ul>
<b>Welcoming community and social cohesion (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My mother has lived in Lowville for almost 50 years- people still say to her- "you're not a local"- it's horrible to be considered an outsider after raising her family here, working here and contributing to the community for half a century!</li> <li>• More organized events within the community. I really enjoyed the picnic area that was set up during COVID when restaurants were take-out only.</li> <li>• A yearly community picnic that would focus on those who are new to the area or who may not have been originally from the area, which would help to connect with other people. Maybe a committee to help with outreach to those who are new to the area. Maybe even a family mentor program.</li> <li>• Offerings to welcome new or returning members to our community</li> <li>• SNAP has helped my family, but I can't voice that. People here hate the idea of anyone needing the system. If our community understood the myths, that would help.</li> <li>• A community outreach group, that focuses on new people in the area, where they can get together with others that are in the same boat. Kind of like a support group.</li> </ul>
<b>Programming and space for children; child care (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Luke's building for program (day care &amp; preschool) like Oswego has</li> <li>• More activities for preschool age children. Indoor active play for children.</li> <li>• More children activities such as children's museum, splash park/pool, etc.</li> <li>• More things for kids to do, bigger better playground</li> <li>• It would help if there were more spots in Head Start.</li> <li>• More opportunities for preschool/day care (long waiting list at HIH), inclusive program for preschoolers with special needs</li> </ul>
<b>Complete streets (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple, safe, well maintained sidewalks on ALL village streets including East State Street and the Ross Rd.</li> <li>• Walking trails and bicycle paths to help connect downtown area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>walkable/reduced traffic downtown, more in town green areas and parks with local art featured instead of just flat green areas</li> <li>walkable downtown to include outdoor dining spaces and outdoor retail events.</li> <li>Better lighting on Village streets - sidewalks that are in good condition - streets with WORKING drains and less potholes! - sidewalk by and under Water Street bridge is unusable in winter who's responsible?</li> <li>MORE parking by post office - much better previously before change</li> </ul>
<b>Clean and beautify community (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Garbage pickup would be nice also I believe more homeowners would keep their properties up if they weren't penalized for doing so in property tax increases.</li> <li>Community wide trash pickup, excess garbage pickup day</li> <li>Restoring some of the old murals on the buildings in town would go a long way to improving the atmosphere.</li> </ul>
<b>Medical (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For healthy people, or those that don't need to go to the doctor often, it's ok in Lowville, but when I first moved here, I couldn't even find an available PCP for 5 months, and I lucked out because Dr. Shambo happened to have just moved back to Lewis County. Same with a dentist. Thank goodness Dr. Dibble has a practice here! I was able to become a patient with both these providers, but it was not easy.</li> <li>With a family member who is immunocompromised, needing a medical specialist requires travel to Utica, Syracuse, or Watertown for routine appointments. The health network here (for us) simply isn't adequate. For now, our options are going to the ER, or wait days to weeks to travel to see a specialist if they have any symptoms beyond those for common illnesses.</li> <li>We don't have enough doctors</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>affordable housing, available housing/studio apartments/single room apartments, more community events with food and drink (winter festival, fall festival, etc.), employee protection services, union representation</li> <li>There is horrible selection for the entry housing market</li> <li>Young couples don't need 2000+ sq ft Victorian houses and often can't afford them. I probably could afford one, and don't want or need one. Where are the starter homes?</li> </ul>
<b>Police (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less police duplication</li> <li>Three layers of policing feels a little ridiculous for a place with so little crime.</li> <li>I live on a dead-end street. No Police Patrols</li> </ul>
<b>Community support and leadership (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community support programs are convoluted and redundant. There needs to be a clear directory of resources. When community organizations receive grants for programs, they implement them regardless of whether or not there are already programs in place</li> <li>Community committees to work on specific projects. Hands on, short term results oriented.</li> </ul>
<b>Broadband (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliable internet</li> <li>Improved broadband and technology infrastructure, and increased attention to historic preservation and local history.</li> </ul>



<b>Expand transportation options (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation (i.e. Uber)</li> <li>• Call-A-Ride</li> </ul>
<b>Outmigration (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population loss is a REAL threat</li> <li>• Anything that draws and keeps young people in the county</li> </ul>
<b>Substance abuse (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do more to get the meth heads and drug users out of here. Make it more of a hometown instead of letting it turn into a ghetto more and more each year. With the drugs and everything taking over families are getting affected by it that never would have before.</li> </ul>
<b>Tax assessments (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair tax assessments throughout the village and not just on new buyers and garbage removal</li> </ul>
<b>Roads (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing Town/Village use of salt on roadways, increasing sand use.</li> <li>• MUST invest in downtown in order to survive.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency planning (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No COVID pandemic would be a start... until we have more restrictions it will continue to spread... close down bars and restaurants for a while.</li> </ul>
<b>Schools (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer schools</li> </ul>

If you do not attend town or village board meetings, please let us know why and how would you like to participate in your local government?

(98 responses)

<b>WHY DON'T YOU ATTEND TOWN OR VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS?</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Notice, outreach, communication, uninformed (17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short notice</li> <li>• I believe most people aren't aware of what is taking place within our Town or Village Board meetings</li> <li>• no idea where or when they are</li> <li>• Not aware of when and where they are</li> <li>• Not aware of them</li> <li>• I don't know what the issues are, so I have no idea if I would be interested in them/coming to the meetings</li> <li>• I am not aware of the times and places of the meetings</li> <li>• I never know when they are. I guess my apartment complex never gets the same notices other village residents do. I found out about this survey from Facebook.</li> <li>• I do not know anything about them but would be very interested in learning more</li> <li>• Agenda's not always published prior to meeting</li> <li>• Don't know when they happen, and most subjects discussed I have no particular knowledge about.</li> <li>• Do not know when they are</li> <li>• never hear about the meetings and would love to participate in local government</li> <li>• no transparency about meeting upcoming issues through website not updated or put out in social media like county does it.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of notice. I can sometimes catch it on LinkingLewisCounty.com but that is hit or miss, and we do not get the newspaper anymore. I would love to be more involved!</li> <li>• I would like to go to a village board meeting however I have no information when they are conducted</li> <li>• not aware of when they are</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting time (15)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't know when the boards meet.</li> <li>• Meeting times are not convenient to general public.</li> <li>• Time change from 5pm to 7pm</li> <li>• Can't attend due to time of day</li> <li>• Times held and lack of time</li> <li>• When working, time set for meetings was an issue.</li> <li>• forget when they are held - don't know when</li> <li>• Unable to attend due to work schedule</li> <li>• Schedule/meeting times</li> <li>• Time of day. Both town and village meetings are scheduled at a time that is inconvenient for the typical full-time worker.</li> <li>• Work schedule prohibits</li> <li>• I normally work during those hours</li> <li>• There is a complaint that young community members don't take part, we can't when you hold the meeting during the day.</li> <li>• meeting is held too early at 4 o'clock for working people to attend</li> <li>• inconvenient times</li> </ul>
<b>Personal reasons (11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm a town resident and need to make a greater effort to attend town meetings</li> <li>• I can't because I have to get up early for work. I'm also helping to care for my mother.</li> <li>• Do not enjoy attending meetings</li> <li>• No excuse.</li> <li>• Can't hear talking very well - do not want to participate</li> <li>• I've simply never done this. I am interested in getting more involved. It's a matter of habit and attention.</li> <li>• I have been very active in the past and am taking a break currently!</li> <li>• little tolerance for meetings</li> <li>• I attend when I have an issue to discuss.</li> <li>• No Transportation</li> <li>• I work more than full time, but I am grateful to those who serve locally</li> </ul>
<b>Not necessary, not interested, or disconnected (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not think every citizen needs to attend the meetings.</li> <li>• No one wants to sit through continuations of overarching village projects that individuals don't or can't contribute to on a day to day basis: road construction, WWTP business, Kraft surcharges for example.</li> <li>• I rent, so I don't pay property taxes. I don't feel connected enough to Lowville to want or need to go to a meeting</li> <li>• I have never met the mayor. I don't know what he looks like. The Village Board feels very clique-y...it is full of men who have probably lived here their whole lives and focus mostly on people who have lived here their</li> </ul>

	<p>whole lives. This is fine, but just like the rest of Lowville, there is little diversity, and therefore little thinking outside of the box or innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not feel the need to attend.</li> <li>• No interest</li> <li>• I don't feel the need to attend.</li> </ul>
<b>Not enough time in the day (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough time</li> <li>• I personally do not have the time.</li> <li>• life</li> <li>• too busy</li> <li>• not enough time</li> <li>• No time to do so</li> <li>• Don't have the time.</li> </ul>
<b>Participation, opportunities to engage, prejudice, and procedure (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't believe my voice would be heard</li> <li>• Need additional Board members to expand thinking.</li> <li>• I do attend, but I understand why others don't. The procedures are vented, but there is no place that the big issues are explained and debated.</li> <li>• I have attended, but they don't seem to care what you have to say, they make you wait through the whole meeting before you can speak.</li> <li>• I feel they are too focused on "look at what I want", not a lot of teamwork.</li> <li>• It is my perception that by expressing views that are not in line with the majority, one only calls undue negative attention to oneself. Having lived many other places, I can say that one thing I don't love about living in Lowville is the lack of openness to varied points of view. If you don't agree with Carpinelli, you might as well keep your mouth shut.</li> <li>• public comment held last of meeting instead of beginning of meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Generational difference, age (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too old</li> <li>• Board Meetings consist of the same 60-year men and women that have been in power forever and do not want any change</li> <li>• Too old hard to hear &amp; see</li> <li>• Senior citizen at Brookside</li> <li>• I am 76 just moved back after 50 years</li> <li>• I am 83 yrs. old I do not have enough energy to be involved.</li> <li>• 80 years old</li> </ul>
<b>Pandemic (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a pandemic, and I am unsure where to find the agenda</li> <li>• Being careful to keep social distance</li> <li>• Plan to get involved in the future when coronavirus risks are controlled.</li> </ul>

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?	
Category	Comments
Notice, outreach, and communication (16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would be unable to attend but appreciate being informed via TV or newspaper</li> <li>• If a problem arises between a resident and Board member please talk over the issue face to face. "NOT SEND A NASTY LETTER TO THE RESIDENT."</li> <li>• More notification (maybe online?) of topics to be discussed at any given meeting with meeting agenda made available. Maybe an online signup option for automated email/text messages regarding meeting agendas and/or topics to be covered. If people had an option to sign up for an email or text message advising them of upcoming meeting agendas and/or topics being discussed/considered then there would be more public involvement.</li> <li>• Monthly newsletter for awareness</li> <li>• I have called the mayor when needed - I could attend meetings if I felt it was necessary</li> <li>• A bi-weekly newsletter - even if it's just published on the village website - would be huge. It would be easy to read that and immediately reach out with questions or concerns. This immediate feedback would help bring some sort of awareness of what residents are concerned about.</li> <li>• Facebook</li> <li>• Village board members should do more outreach outside of their normal social circles</li> <li>• Local government participation: Like it or not, social media is huge these days. Better start using it more effectively.</li> <li>• Greater awareness of meetings</li> <li>• online communication</li> <li>• a more inviting and friendly format advertising these meetings might get more of a cross section of our population, to include younger school age participants, this might change the flavor of the meetings</li> <li>• publicize information and celebrate successes with the community at large</li> <li>• Please publish your agenda ahead of time and be more transparent about issues. You need a social media page like Facebook.</li> <li>• send out newsletters and postcards with monthly information, provide transcripts of meetings online (on Facebook or website) and by email</li> <li>• I would like to find minutes promptly in the Journal and Republican. Also, the link to find the minutes listed in the paper</li> </ul>
Virtual (13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual</li> <li>• Have live meetings online...</li> <li>• Video meetings in the future are a good idea</li> <li>• I have participated when they are available online.</li> <li>• Option made available to participate/view meetings via video feed.</li> <li>• Online</li> <li>• Welcome the availability of on-line access to such meeting</li> <li>• The Zoom meeting option has been nice. Please continue to do this post-pandemic.</li> <li>• In person or virtual</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• like that it is virtual</li> <li>• I have been enjoying the board of legislature meetings being zoomed.</li> <li>• Prefer to watch online</li> <li>• Provide an online way of participating</li> </ul>
<b>Surveys (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Online surveys</li> <li>• I think that participating in something like this survey is a better way for my voice to be heard than at a board meeting</li> <li>• Maybe have more surveys?</li> <li>• Opportunities like this survey would allow for more voices to be heard.</li> <li>• Community polling</li> <li>• Would love participating in more surveys</li> <li>• public surveying awareness</li> </ul>
<b>Change time (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings held in the evenings when working people can attend</li> <li>• Time change from 5pm to 7pm</li> <li>• I would like to attend meetings but can't unless they are in the evening.</li> <li>• Please move the meeting to after 5pm so working people can attend.</li> </ul>
<b>No change (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfied</li> <li>• n/a</li> <li>• Trusted representatives handle the administration of government services.</li> <li>• No</li> </ul>
<b>Transitional design and recruitment (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring/Electing young, educated, and local residents to positions of power to displace aging and single-minded legislators, and board members should be a priority.</li> <li>• Become elected official</li> <li>• I would serve on a specific project committee or volunteer to help with a specific project that interests me</li> </ul>
<b>Unsure (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsure (2)</li> <li>• I'm not sure!</li> </ul>

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## 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Participants were asked to rate a variety of community services and infrastructure conditions. Areas that 33% or more of the participants rated inadequate were:

- recreation facilities for adults and youth;
- road and street maintenance; and
- availability of parking.

Rate the following community services and infrastructure conditions on a scale of very poor to excellent. If you are unsure of how to respond, then select "not applicable/don't know."

<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>Very poor (1)</b>	<b>Below Average (2)</b>	<b>Average (3)</b>	<b>Above Average (4)</b>	<b>Excellent (5)</b>	<b>N/A or Don't Know</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Fire protection</b>	0	1	32	52	95	7	187	4.176	3.81
<b>Ambulance service</b>	0	1	29	54	85	19	188	3.883	3.66
<b>Schools/educational facilities</b>	1	1	20	66	75	18	181	3.878	3.65
<b>Medical facilities and centers</b>	7	18	67	57	33	3	185	3.443	3.10
<b>Police protection</b>	6	10	58	49	47	17	187	3.374	3.18
<b>Postal service</b>	11	28	71	35	37	4	186	3.253	2.97
<b>Library service</b>	1	8	62	49	40	25	185	3.238	3.10
<b>Parks/open space</b>	3	27	72	47	23	9	181	3.182	2.89
<b>Houses of worship</b>	1	1	47	61	39	35	184	3.168	3.12
<b>Utilities</b>	3	16	101	34	22	10	186	3.140	2.83
<b>Supermarkets/Grocery stores/Local markets</b>	12	26	102	36	6	3	185	2.941	2.56
<b>Streets or roads</b>	6	38	98	35	7	4	188	2.931	2.55
<b>Public works services/infrastructure</b>	3	22	79	38	18	21	181	2.906	2.71
<b>Residential properties</b>	4	26	96	34	5	15	180	2.806	2.51
<b>Cellular coverage</b>	12	45	66	27	20	14	184	2.761	2.56
<b>Restaurants/Nightlife</b>	13	59	74	18	10	8	182	2.610	2.32
<b>Community sponsored programs</b>	2	33	83	25	10	29	182	2.566	2.42
<b>Retail properties</b>	5	50	83	21	4	20	183	2.503	2.25
<b>Broadband (i.e., internet services)</b>	21	51	59	21	14	17	183	2.481	2.32
<b>Community facilities and centers</b>	19	56	56	21	8	19	179	2.363	2.19
<b>Zoning code enforcement</b>	5	22	75	19	7	55	183	2.104	2.17
<b>Building code enforcement</b>	5	24	68	17	11	56	181	2.099	2.20
<b>Rental properties</b>	19	62	58	8	2	32	181	1.983	1.83
<b>Childcare</b>	14	33	33	9	5	86	180	1.333	1.62

How much do you agree with the following statements about the current zoning regulations?

STATEMENTS ABOUT ZONING REGULATIONS	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided/ Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean	Std. Dev.
The current zoning regulations should encourage the renovation of existing structures.	2	4	76	64	36	182	1.90	2.13
The current zoning regulations are too restrictive.	6	38	111	22	5	182	0.92	1.21
The current zoning regulations improve the quality of the village or town.	4	28	110	36	3	181	0.99	1.30

Please explain why you agree or disagree with the previous statements on the current zoning regulations. You may also provide suggestions for new regulations or amendments to the existing regulations.

(82 responses)

Category	Comments
Unfamiliar, no experience with zoning, simplify zoning, contractors (22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never had to deal with zoning</li> <li>• I'm not familiar with current zoning regulations</li> <li>• Unsure</li> <li>• I do not own a business or a home, so I do not have to deal with this at this time</li> <li>• I have never looked into the zoning regulations so I cannot answer</li> <li>• Not aware of the regulations</li> <li>• I don't know the current zoning regulations, never needed to know</li> <li>• I am unfamiliar with zoning code and can't find it on public domain</li> <li>• Keep the regulations simple to allow ordinary people to make improvements without interference</li> <li>• Do not know anything about them</li> <li>• I haven't built a home since 2004-5 when we built our home.</li> <li>• I have no idea what the zoning regulations or codes are</li> <li>• Unsure of all</li> <li>• Mostly need more education of contractors. More jobsite visits</li> <li>• I speak from experience - I paid money to a contractor to do work that did not meet code - and the inspector didn't pick up on it. I am redoing it to meet code</li> <li>• What current zoning regulations?</li> <li>• I need to know more about this to comment on it</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown</li> <li>• Have not had an opportunity to use</li> <li>• Doesn't apply</li> <li>• I do not know enough about them.</li> <li>• We don't know what the regulations are - only been here a short time</li> </ul>
<b>Inconsistencies in enforcement; Poor enforcement; Poor Leadership (17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current rules seem to change depending on who it applies to.</li> <li>• The code officers are too quick to say no or make the project more expensive than it needs to be. (Unless you're Kraft). There should be a taxpayer paid public advocate whose job it is to help the resident or small business owner navigate these codes. Too often the code is ambiguous so the person trying to build does not know how to address issues or where to even begin. Code officers will continue to say no until an engineer that is paid a fortune comes in and tells them it's ok to say yes. I think the code officers are too afraid of litigation. Codes are important and if you helped people navigate the codes then everyone would win.</li> <li>• I think zoning needs more enforcement</li> <li>• current regulations not properly enforced by county codes</li> <li>• Lowville must create and strongly enforce guidelines for the upkeep of properties in the town center. Specifically, on South State Street between Stewart's and Lowville Academy. Most businesses are well kept, the real eyesore are the rental houses at 7515-7527 S. State Street. One owner needs to own all six properties then have cooperation and partial public funding to replace with one building.</li> <li>• The zoning laws tell me how far from the front of the yard my house can be but not every street is required to have sidewalks or keep said sidewalks clean &amp; accessible. Rules are inconsistently applied.</li> <li>• The Town of Lowville is notorious for having difficult personalities in zoning that are anti-progress</li> <li>• Zoning Board is a huge problem. Zero creativity.</li> <li>• Stronger code enforcement would encourage owners to keep properties in good repair</li> <li>• Keep up on property and building appearances</li> <li>• You don't need to make ANY new laws; you need to enforce laws/regulations as they are written and stop allowing for exceptions that lead to dangerous parking and intersections</li> <li>• Many of our historic buildings and homes have been mismanaged and allowed to deteriorate</li> <li>• The current zoning restrictions are not enforced. There are several properties in violation throughout the village and no action is taken.</li> <li>• Enforced zoning laws improve the quality and appearances of businesses and neighborhoods</li> <li>• I feel the zoning issues are not fully enforced/ it is too easy to cut corners</li> <li>• I don't believe zoning regulations are always enforced. The residents at 7450 South State St (left side apartment) have had garbage all over the front and back yards and it makes our town look disgusting.</li> <li>• More inconsistent than I believe it should be</li> </ul>



<p><b>Out-of-date regulations, need for new regulations (15)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You have some very bad sidewalks that can use help</li> <li>• Zoning should be updated as changes occur</li> <li>• We should protect the residential areas from business encroachment</li> <li>• Encourage agribusiness, i.e. farms able to sell farm products on site</li> <li>• still working with old regulations which make it hard for new businesses to open or enlarge current ones</li> <li>• This area does not support new business growth and new construction</li> <li>• New building should contain retail/office space at ground level with apartments above and off-street parking. I would be willing to help with this [name and number omitted]</li> <li>• We should bend over backwards to encourage public/private investment</li> <li>• § 250-41 Home occupations. the restrictions on home businesses are outdated, home businesses help not only small businesses but also the local economy, if they are following same or similar codes they should not be prevented from having an outward display or more than one sign, or from changing the homes outward appearance, if you don't want neon flashing lights etc. - say this explicitly; § 250-37 Greenhouses/nurseries. How does visible vegetation impede the appearance of residential areas? Or the visible display thereof? The first clause of this should be amended so that more greenery is allowed to be visible.; § 250-26 Multiple-family dwelling units below grade. Instead of not allowing basement level apartments make amendments that improve basement level unit living and make sure that renters have somewhere to go if those zoning laws are not being followed.; Why does the illuminated sign clause make provisions against changing intensity but not state what the intensity may be? - the sign at the American Legion is intensely bright and flashes and changes frequently.; Allow interior illuminated signs and restrict how bright they may be and what colors they may be, but to disallow them completely is ridiculous.; Add a provision that outside lights pointing to the sign should be downward facing to prevent light pollution or if they are upward facing have a cap to prevent light pollution</li> <li>• Too much emphasis on big box commercial establishments; zoning should encourage reestablishment of downtown core commercial spaces; building exteriors and storefront renovations should be more strictly regulated to be consistent with historic preservation best practices (including avoiding garish color palates. Need to encourage people to make better use of downtown properties and existing buildings, particularly in the historic core of the village</li> <li>• Improvements need to be made to keep things current</li> <li>• noise ordinances (esp., truck jake brakes, vehicle exhaust noise, and prolong noon whistle) would go a long way toward making Lowville a much more inviting place to live, work and shop</li> <li>• The recent addition of certain types of signage by some businesses has created light pollution and they do not fit with the integrity of the village. I believe zoning should be in place and enforced to ensure the Village retains its character and that projects are well thought out and planned to stick within certain guidelines</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other communities allow residency before repairs are completed. There could be limits within which repairs could be completed and still be able to live in the building allowing young adults to get a start and pay as you go.</li> <li>• junk cars and trucks noise</li> </ul>
<b>Encourage the renovation of existing structures and property maintenance (14)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need new housing and renovations to existing structures</li> <li>• Eye sore residences and businesses like the bottle redemption center</li> <li>• Disappointed that trailers have gone up south of the village on route 12.</li> <li>• Deteriorating and sloppy properties are all around county</li> <li>• We need to have less "junk" around properties and have owners of ALL rental properties be accountable for their property.</li> <li>• Some buildings on the main drag could use upkeep, such as the houses by Sunoco, would like to see restoration of some of the old murals on the older buildings</li> <li>• Part of the appeal of Lowville is the older homes and downtown buildings. We should encourage sustainment and renovation of these areas.</li> <li>• I think that we should renovate and reuse building supplies as much as possible while still creating safe and effective buildings for the future. This will encourage innovation as well as diminish the amount of used building materials ending up in the landfill</li> <li>• I agree that zoning regulations should encourage the renovation of existing structures, because it is important to rehab existing structures where you can, instead of always tearing down and building new. You can lose character in your community, by the loss of older buildings</li> <li>• I am in favor of regulations that would help renovate and restore current structures in the village in an effort to revitalize the downtown area.</li> <li>• I'm for anything can help improve the conditions of any structure in Lowville</li> <li>• The preservation of the history of the town is important. Things like the old adverts on State Street buildings give the town a feeling of history and pride in its roots</li> <li>• First impressions are very important. Building upkeep and appearance, especially in the high visibility downtown area, should be a code dept. priority in order to make Lowville as attractive as is possible, to incoming visitors</li> <li>• less action on run down structures than there should be</li> </ul>
<b>Too restrictive (11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do the regulations prevent hanging signs that go over the sidewalk instead of including provisions that these must be safe in all north country weather conditions? These signs improve, not impede, the image of our town.; F. Secondary building signs. Why are we preventing businesses from creating murals and displays of their business that are both artistic and attractive for locals and visitors? We should allow more than their name and logo.; § 250-46 Why are roof signs prohibited if they are safely secured and maintained these should not be an issue; § 250-42 Adult entertainment uses. Nude drawing and a sex toy shop are not even relatively the same why are they in the same zoning clause, nudity in and of itself is not sexual and individuals should have a chance to correctly</li> </ul>

	<p>learn figure drawing and to separate nudity from sexuality, this also prevents any serious art studio from opening up locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning restrictions cannot be too restrictive because several residences and buildings need obvious repair</li> <li>• 40,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size in the Town should be reduced to allow more discretion with the Planning Board without requiring ZBA variance</li> <li>• At times it seems that government may be too restrictive and/or over-regulated in what people may desire to do within their own house/property. Regulations are certainly needed but there is a fine line in how much regulation is appropriate within a private residence/property</li> <li>• The zoning laws are restrictive &amp; do not encourage business development</li> <li>• Siting for business enterprises needs to be loosened</li> <li>• Zoning Board too restrictive and involved</li> <li>• I believe that zoning issues are impeding growth within the village</li> <li>• The regulations and the boards are not business friendly. There are plenty of examples, but a business should be able to open in a commercial zone without significant hurdles, this is not the case. We should have codes and programs to incentivize both commercial and residential development and renovations. And the zoning office and planning board have a mindset to prohibit business growth, not support it</li> <li>• Taxpayers should be able to determine the property use within reason</li> <li>• Zoning regulations are needed to ensure safety, historic integrity, environmental values, and aesthetics. Some additional historic ordinances would be a benefit</li> </ul>
<b>No change, perceived irrelevance to living conditions (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We live at Brookside (2)</li> <li>• Zoning regs are clear and appear to be uniformly enforced. They do maintain residential integrity.</li> <li>• I believe that our zoning is enforced well and that is necessary to be sure that our village does not turn into a run-down looking community!</li> <li>• I do not keep up with any zoning regulations because they do not affect us.</li> <li>• 80 years old</li> </ul>
<b>Useless, don't have intended impact (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nothing seems to be causing change</li> <li>• I don't believe zoning regulations are a major factor. I think tax rates figure in much higher in terms of renovation/restoration and development.</li> <li>• From meeting minutes, we have had a few amendments for zoning that seem like they make sense, but also, I wonder why did we have zoning laws in the first place that made it into an issue? Like Tug Hill Roasters...I can't believe we have a building not on the tax roll for a while with no zoning to encourage development.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve procedure (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The follow-up process needs to happen more frequently/consistently.</li> <li>• Zoning is bogged down. They are an unseen process</li> <li>• There isn't enough foresight and planning. The parking lot shared by PBJ Cafe and Lloyd's is a nightmare. It can't sustain two restaurants' worth of vehicles. We've had to park in the Tops plaza and cross the road with an infant. Changing the building to a cafe with such a tiny parking lot should've never been allowed. Lowville definitely needs more restaurants, but that was a mistake.</li> </ul>

How much do you agree or disagree with the following recreational growth and development objectives for the next 10 years?

<b>RECREATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Undecided/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Agree (3)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (4)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Convert old rail lines to walkable and bikeable trails</b>	6	5	13	62	97	183	3.22	2.91
<b>Protect environmental quality</b>	1	5	15	89	74	184	3.12	2.79
<b>Protect historical structures</b>	2	9	21	89	61	182	2.92	2.66
<b>Support increased recreational opportunities</b>	2	6	23	90	62	183	2.91	2.66
<b>Encourage tourism</b>	3	8	21	91	59	182	2.9	2.64
<b>Maintain and improve open space</b>	1	4	28	90	60	183	2.84	2.63
<b>Increase access to the Black River for swimming, kayaking/canoeing, etc.</b>	3	13	30	84	54	184	2.7	2.53
<b>Require green buffers around parking lots</b>	5	23	63	59	32	182	1.96	2.08

How much do you agree or disagree with the following housing growth and development objectives for the next 10 years?

<b>HOUSING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Undecided/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Agree (3)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (4)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Provide low/moderate income housing</b>	12	24	41	89	15	181	2.14	2.05
<b>Support increased residential construction</b>	2	25	58	76	20	181	1.99	2.03
<b>Provide more lawn area in residential districts</b>	5	24	76	66	11	182	1.62	1.78
<b>Discourage urban sprawl (e.g., through mixed housing and clustered development)</b>	10	24	78	53	18	183	1.58	1.78
<b>Control the rate of housing development</b>	8	43	70	56	6	183	1.56	1.64

How much do you agree or disagree with the following commercial, retail, and industrial growth and development objectives for the next 10 years?

<b>COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Undecided/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Agree (3)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (4)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Protect environmental quality</b>	1	4	14	84	79	182	3.17	2.83
<b>Attract new business and commercial development</b>	3	4	16	100	60	183	3.01	2.69
<b>Protect historical structures</b>	4	8	22	84	63	181	2.90	2.66
<b>Encourage manufacturing and industrial development</b>	3	14	23	93	51	184	2.79	2.55
<b>Require on-site parking for new businesses</b>	13	30	51	64	25	183	1.99	2.02
<b>Control the rate of commercial and retail development</b>	16	64	42	51	8	181	1.82	1.71
<b>Control the rate of manufacturing and industrial development</b>	17	55	47	53	10	182	1.79	1.74

How much do you agree or disagree with the following miscellaneous growth and development objectives for the next 10 years?

<b>MISCELLANEOUS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Undecided/ Don't Know</b>	<b>Agree (3)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (4)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Encourage job growth in all industries</b>	1	7	14	96	64	182	3.07	2.73
<b>Encourage solar energy development</b>	5	13	24	76	65	183	2.84	2.63
<b>Encourage wind energy development</b>	8	16	31	65	63	183	2.66	2.54
<b>Encourage home businesses</b>	3	10	37	82	48	180	2.56	2.46
<b>Improve traffic flow in the village</b>	4	26	38	83	27	178	2.32	2.22
<b>Control the rate of development, generally</b>	12	51	51	62	5	181	1.77	1.72

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## 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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Participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a list of growth and development objectives. Objectives that 66% or more of the participants agreed with were:

- encourage job diversity;
- encourage job growth;
- encourage increased commercial development;
- encourage industrial development;
- encourage tourism;
- encourage and attract new retail businesses;
- encourage and attract new agribusinesses;
- encourage home based businesses;
- increase recreational opportunities;
- maintain/improve open space;
- encourage orderly development;
- protect environmental quality;
- protect historic structures; and
- improve traffic flow (in the Village).

With regard to parking and parking lots in the village and around business, let us know if there are any improvements or changes that you would like to see.

(73 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>No change; Encourage walking (19)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None I can think of... parking is a non-issue for us since we live in the village and walk to most places. (3)</li> <li>• I think the parking situation in Lowville is very good (2)</li> <li>• Parking options exist, walking is good exercise</li> <li>• As a resident, I prefer to walk if possible.</li> <li>• People can walk more than 10ft. They will survive</li> <li>• Street parking seems sufficient. There is parking behind the movie theater and by the medical offices. Not sure parking is a huge problem?</li> <li>• I don't see how.</li> <li>• Downtown parking availability is excellent.</li> <li>• The village does not need new parking lots.</li> <li>• They are very well taken care of!</li> <li>• Great that it's free and lots available close by</li> <li>• There are enough parking areas in general to allow growth without requiring additional costs of required on-site parking</li> <li>• At this point there seems to be enough parking downtown. More may be needed if there is an increase in downtown business</li> <li>• Parking ok</li> <li>• Overall, I think parking in the town and village is adequate</li> <li>• With the current layout of the village and the businesses where they are, parking is fine. However, if we want to grow the village, parking will have to change to accommodate new businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve traffic congestion, parking in key areas (14)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Office (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The only place I think that parking is really difficult is the Post Office, so I walk there whenever I can.</li> <li>○ Post Office, downtown businesses</li> <li>○ Post office parking is a nightmare</li> <li>○ Would like to see diagonal parking at the post office again.</li> <li>○ Post office parking is ridiculous, plenty of space for angled parking</li> <li>○ Again, I say, parking by the post office is hard to find</li> <li>○ Post Office</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jreck Subs (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I would recommend addressing the Shady and State street intersection. Trucks pull over right in front of Jrecks causing a traffic congestion at times.</li> <li>○ Additional parking lot near Jreck subs etc., always really packed, and busy at that end of street, lots of businesses no parking</li> </ul> </li> <li>• School (2)</li> <li>• A parking garage or expanded parking at the hospital</li> <li>• Community Bank around d to DG needs upgrading</li> <li>• lack of parking for Court House</li> </ul>

<b>Repave, repaint, redesign existing lots (11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repave parking lots</li> <li>• Tops Plaza (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I would like to see the Tops parking lot striping upgraded with a dedicated driving lane in the lower section with in and out lanes designated.</li> <li>○ Designate driving lanes at Tops Plaza</li> <li>○ Place some directional markings in the Tops parking lot</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Make the current parking area behind the movie theater nicer and create a well-lit walkway to Shady Ave.</li> <li>• The parking area behind the Historical Society needs to be repaved. It's full of potholes</li> <li>• Better upkeep and security</li> <li>• Continue maintenance</li> <li>• More handicapped opportunities for senior citizens</li> <li>• Be aware of handicap / elderly/older spaces near stores</li> <li>• We have a large parking lot in the main area of town that could be improved and better maintained, but generally we have enough parking in the area, perhaps add a sidewalk area to make it safer</li> </ul>
<b>Need more parking, generally (9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I believe they missed an opportunity when doing the Village parking at the four corners, by making part if it a mini park and putting that clock in it, I believe they lost some key extra parking there.</li> <li>• More parking is definitely needed throughout town</li> <li>• Additional parking space wherever possible.</li> <li>• More needed</li> <li>• There needs to be more in the village, but I don't know where. I hate parallel parking</li> <li>• I own two commercial buildings in the downtown area. Parking is a long term, ever present, problem for my tenants. I could only suggest more of same. Acquiring of under used property for development of parking</li> <li>• There is a shortage of parking for events at Veteran's Park.</li> <li>• More parking</li> <li>• more parking on Main Street would encourage business startups</li> </ul>
<b>More green spaces; Enjoy green spaces like Four Corners (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do love the green spaces at the lot on the four corners of our downtown.</li> <li>• The new parking lot on the 4 corners has been wonderful!</li> <li>• I love the lot at the four corners. Visually appealing and makes it easy to park there and walk to local businesses.</li> <li>• More green buffers, add trees within parking areas</li> <li>• The Village should be commended for doing what it can in an old village such as this, with improvements like the four corners park/parking project and parking behind fire dept., among others</li> <li>• people won't die if they have to walk two minutes from the parking lot to where they are going. Green spaces and a more walkable downtown and around businesses should be more of a concern than increased parking and traffic downtown</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement of parking (5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A parking attendant to issue parking tickets for long term parking in village center.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement of our parking areas and blocking driveways</li> <li>• Reinstate parking officer to enforce 2-hour parking rule or put parking meters back in to gain source of revenue for village and help flow of traffic to downtown business</li> <li>• Meters or more parking enforcement</li> <li>• Enforce Trinity Ave. no parking esp. school times. School traffic tie up on Trinity Ave.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve parking regulations and restrictions (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no cars parked on the streets</li> <li>• We need to clean up the areas behind our downtown buildings. There are parking opportunities behind the buildings that can be better utilized. The Village needs to be part of this activity. The area behind Jeb's and sharing the Methodist church parking lot is a great starting point. More parking and access to downtown for snowmobiles, potentially using the area behind Stewarts</li> <li>• Behind the buildings! Not in front. Have a back door.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve signage and lighting (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I believe there is ample parking available, but improved signage is needed. It is difficult for visitors to identify parking opportunities at a glance. You may even consider charging for parking in some more popular areas for some village income (with digital payment or an app to process)</li> <li>• Signage throughout the village to direct people to public parking lots</li> <li>• Improved lighting at the same time being cognitive of light pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Less regulation (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more regulation. Do not tell people what to do with their land. Do not make it harder than it is to grow a business and create jobs by interfering</li> <li>• The Village's obsessive focus on parking is a deterrent to investment. People will visit walkable places regardless of parking availability. If you obsess over parking every new business will look like a dollar general or Walmart. Parking flexibility is critical for promoting downtown development. People complain about parking because they don't understand community development. You have to be strong enough to push back on the parking obsession</li> <li>• I think requiring on-site parking would discourage growth in the central business district.</li> </ul>
<b>EV charging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need increased access to electric charging stations</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business owners should park in the parking lots and leave on street parking for patrons and tourists</li> <li>• build SMOOTH streets</li> <li>• Sidewalks definitely need to be fixed throughout the village</li> <li>• Expanded hours in existing lots</li> <li>• Some spaces in lots with time limits</li> <li>• I prefer off-street parking lots over parallel parking along the road... but that's just my preference, probably due to my driving ability. ;)</li> <li>• Either the school or the courthouse needs to be moved way too congested in the morning</li> </ul>

Which of the following street-related issues do you think are most important in the village of Lowville?  
Please select up to 3 issues.

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Sidewalk beautification (e.g., sidewalk repair, new sidewalk construction, and plantings between street and sidewalk)	130	71.4%
Street repair	119	65.4%
Pedestrian safety (e.g., better signage for pedestrian safety, crosswalks, and crosswalk curb extensions)	84	46.2%
Protecting bicyclists (e.g., better signage for bicycle safety and bike lanes)	77	42.3%
Better traffic directing (e.g., turning lanes and roundabouts)	23	12.6%
Structures or installations that slow down traffic (e.g., chicanes, street narrowing, and speed tables)	13	7.1%
<b>TOTAL RESPONSES</b>	182	N/A – Checkbox

Additional, write-in responses:

- Street and drainage repair (4)
  - Pothole repair
  - Many streets have been done and there are more to do! Great job!
  - Sunset Dr. and Hillcrest Cir. need urgent resurfacing and drainage repair
  - Fix the drainage on Trinity Ave. the new construction didn't do it right!!
- Sidewalks (4)
  - Sidewalks in whole village
  - sidewalk up the east state and ross road hills
  - Sidewalk repair shouldn't be classified as "beautification." They need to be fixed so people can actually get around the village
  - Sidewalk repair is number one issue
- Safety (4)
  - Construction safety- vendors didn't see the hazards from themselves and others during their road work. Training? Enforcement?
  - Getting drunk drivers off streets at all times, especially in broad day light
  - Enforcement of crosswalk law!
- Safer from drivers pulling out of school lot- better monitoring
- Divert traffic (3)
  - Bypass/es (2)
  - Plan to divert commercial traffic around village core
- Winter road clearing considerations (3)
  - I can just see a snowplow negotiating this chicane!!!
  - Repair of residential lawns damaged by snow removal equipment...it happens every year!
  - who is responsible to clean cross walks after plowing - try climbing over banks of snow
- Noise (2)
  - Get big trucks out of the Village!! Enforce no air brakes!!!
  - Eliminate thunderous truck noise on North State St. hill, especially as trucks are heading south
- Speed control (2)
  - Installation of permanent speed monitoring signs displaying vehicle speeds.
  - SPEEDING!
- Bicycling not on streets but in a park

What are some objectives that you would like to see the town and village of Lowville highlight in the comprehensive plan?

(97 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Economic (and community) development (41)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautification and placemaking (16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Downtown beautification projects (2)</li> <li>○ Beautification with art</li> <li>○ Blight Removal and Placemaking</li> <li>○ Focus on public/private partnerships to improve downtown buildings and cultural and business opportunities. Support businesses that promote outdoor recreation and improve the health of our community.</li> <li>○ Village beautification</li> <li>○ Please address the drab, dirty, rundown look of the State Street Business section. It is extremely depressing and not welcoming</li> <li>○ Beautification of the downtown- think lake placid</li> <li>○ Revitalization of downtown area</li> <li>○ Giving tax discounts or rebates to those who improve main street(s) structures</li> <li>○ Village beautification - tree planting, flowers in summer, upkeep of properties particularly main street corridors.</li> <li>○ Beautification is important, healthy, and memorable when residents and visitors drive through</li> <li>○ flower boxes or more green areas that are regularly maintained, but also to install art from local artists, to encourage homes and businesses to paint their homes colorfully and well, to encourage a pedestrian downtown, install downward facing lights or even downward facing red lights (to help bats) and brighten up the downtown while preventing as much light pollution as we can</li> <li>○ Focusing on the Main Street of Lowville, it is the first impression for so many people, residents' businesses; fixing up buildings, filling in empty stores</li> <li>○ Lowville has a nice old district it would be good to make it more green whether with flower boxes or more green areas that are regularly maintained, but also to install art from local artists, to encourage businesses to paint their homes colorfully and well</li> <li>○ Walkable community, pedestrian friendly sidewalks, and alleys to access local business, restaurants, and shops.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Economic development, generally (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage downtown development and business growth (2)</li> <li>○ Less of a focus on controlling growth and development.</li> <li>○ Economic Development</li> <li>○ Encourage and help businesses that are here.</li> <li>○ Encourage growth (residential and industrial), but don't allow for it to go out of control!</li> <li>○ DIVERSIFY BUSINESSES</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved retail locations and infrastructure to assist retail development</li> <li>○ To encourage retail, other businesses and industry into the area so that there are jobs for people.</li> <li>○ Retail development</li> <li>○ Better retail growth so we do not have to travel so far to buy clothing, a Burger King or Taco Bell in the area.</li> <li>○ Encouraging new retail stores and restaurants - Shady Ave could be so much better! We'd love to shop local, but the options are lacking... Better quality of life for residents and tourists. We love Lake Placid and wish Lowville felt more like that.</li> <li>○ Store front unity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support small, local business development and growth (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ help small business startups by tax help or helping to speedup red tape slowed because we don't want new changes</li> <li>○ Encourage rather than discourage business startup and expansion</li> <li>○ Downtown small businesses/restaurants to encourage visitors</li> <li>○ focus on local business/economy that's stable not growth dependent</li> <li>○ Support for new businesses, especially those started by residents</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Job opportunities (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Job opportunities</li> <li>○ Employment opportunities</li> <li>○ Increasing blue collar, factory jobs would benefit this community the most. Focusing on well paying, good benefits jobs that people can work directly out of high school is the most important. Local recruitment in high schools should be encouraged.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New restaurants and breweries (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Encourage more restaurants with outside dining in the downtown area</li> <li>○ Encourage a new craft brewery to come into Lowville</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tourism (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I am frustrated with the focus on recreation and social events to keep young people here. Our kids leave for jobs. They return if they can get a good job here. If it can be successful here, tourism will bring in seasonal, often low wage jobs in the service industry, benefit some small businesses owned by a minority, and encourage larger chains to move in for the foot traffic (again, more low paying jobs). Lowville's culture is the direct result of the factories that stabilized its working class. We need a real replacement.</li> <li>○ Increase ecotourism and provide accommodations for visitors including allowing full house short term rentals for visitors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and mobility (38)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidewalks (12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More sidewalks and more repaired sidewalks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sidewalk improvements</li> <li>○ Keep making the streets and sidewalks better, And better light some of these streets in the Village.</li> <li>○ sidewalks throughout the village of Lowville. You can't even walk to the Town and Village of Lowville offices without walking in the road.</li> <li>○ sidewalk improvements</li> <li>○ I would really like to see the sidewalks repaired. The sidewalks on Highland Ave and Church St are in broken, have massive grass growing in between, are in disrepair and make the town look disgusting. It shouldn't be up to homeowners to contact someone and pay to replace them. The town should put sidewalk repairs into their budget and replace them to help beautify residential areas in Lowville.</li> <li>○ I would love to see improvement on sidewalks in the village that are not up to residents. I live on Park Ave, and while some sidewalks were replaced, not all were. It is impossible for us to walk with our stroller that I cannot imagine if I were in a wheelchair. It would be great if the village could redo all of the sidewalks in the streets in the village that surround the school/businesses.</li> <li>○ Walkable community, pedestrian friendly sidewalks, and alleys to access local business, restaurants, and shops.</li> <li>○ Sidewalk construction and widening of Waters Road where there are walkers, runners, and bikers. Widening streets and better sidewalks in the village. Much could be done to encourage non-motorized travel within and on the outskirts of the village.</li> <li>○ safer sidewalks/walking/running spaces</li> <li>○ Lowville has a nice old district it would be good to make it more green, whether with flower boxes or more green areas that are regularly maintained, but also to install art from local artists to encourage a pedestrian downtown, install downward facing lights or even downward facing red lights (to help bats) and brighten up the downtown while preventing as much light pollution as we can</li> <li>○ pedestrian safety</li> <li>● Streets (12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not forget about streets that have been damaged during the street repairs of other neighboring and parallel streets with the sewage and stream drainage work of the last couple of summers</li> <li>○ Finish streets repair</li> <li>○ A red light is badly needed on E. State and River Street</li> <li>○ street repair</li> <li>○ street repair</li> <li>○ DPW is currently doing many streets with refilling and would like to see curbing on village streets.</li> <li>○ Bring back 4 lanes of traffic on State street. Add turning lane on Shady Ave.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Divert through traffic from downtown and make the core area more walkable</li> <li>○ Keep improving the streets. River Street has hardly any curbs and the pavement are rough</li> <li>○ Street repair, 5 Streets was amazing this season. Needs to be finished in the spring</li> <li>○ more aesthetic streetlamps</li> <li>○ Safe area for bicycles should be priority, we have had many close encounters while driving and biking</li> <li>• Snow removal (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ snow removal problem, icy turns for driver</li> <li>○ No good for plow season</li> <li>○ Dumb in the north. The DPW have a hard-enough time plowing now!!!</li> <li>○ I think it would lead to congestion and would be an issue for snow removal</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drainage (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Getting the proper drainage on Trinity Ave!</li> <li>○ Drain problems - actually we have the drains - some that don't see any water near them other placed where they need to be (like the bottom of the hill) or where they are useless. Water doesn't run uphill well.</li> <li>○ Fix drainage issues on Trinity Ave!!!!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ADA compliance (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ downtown accessibility projects</li> <li>○ Also make the sidewalks easier for people who use walkers and wheelchairs more accessible</li> <li>○ Also, would like to see another push for residents to update/install sidewalks for accessible walking areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bypass (3)</li> <li>• remove the berm of earth between the street and sidewalk. Straighten all signs, posts, railings and etc. (1)</li> <li>• Signage and regulations to reduce noise. Residential and businesses would all appreciate it. (1)</li> <li>• Cost. Not enough traffic to justify it. Maybe Park Avenue, Maybe Cascade Ave (1)</li> <li>• Rotating DPW equipment on a timely fashion. no 15-yr or 20-yr equipment rotate on a maximum of 10 yrs. or less. get some trade value on our equipment not sale at piece of junk, take care of equipment keep clean &amp; "painted" &amp; maintained. (1)</li> <li>• allowing for more connectivity to businesses and residential areas where you don't necessarily need a motorized mean of transportation (1)</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation (and tourism) (27)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation, generally (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With so much of the year being cold and snowy, an indoor walking track would be great and increase good health outcomes</li> <li>○ recreational center</li> <li>○ Recreational opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ increased recreational opportunities</li> <li>○ Walking paths and community recreation both indoor and out</li> <li>○ Take more advantage of recreational activities</li> <li>○ safer sidewalks/walking/running spaces</li> <li>○ a cycling and walking park with trees and flowers</li> <li>• Rails to trails (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rails to trails initiative</li> <li>○ Rails to trail program</li> <li>○ Rails to trails</li> <li>○ Walking path on the old railways</li> <li>○ Use of abandoned rails to convert to walking, biking, skiing, or snow mobile trails</li> <li>○ Establish the rail trail at least in the village and town--long overdue!</li> <li>○ Rails to Trails. I would like to see a rails-to-trails system established in/around the town/village. At a minimum, some sort of connector trail from the fairgrounds to Maple Ridge/JCC to allow for off-road walking/biking/skiing between the two year-round. If possible, a trail north of the village along the rail corridor to Castorland or to Croghan would be awesome! Or possible south too, to somehow connect with the canal trails towards Boonville?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trails, generally (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ walking and biking trails to highlight the beauty of the area</li> <li>○ Trails and Recreation Development</li> <li>○ Better walking trails</li> <li>○ Recreational trails for walking/biking</li> <li>○ create a walking/biking friendly environment, continue with green initiatives, create more non-motorized recreational paths through the village and to other villages in our county</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parks and green spaces (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Utilize the green spaces and encourage outdoor activities for families</li> <li>○ Dog Park/More Green Space</li> <li>○ create a picnic park or park with benches to sit and chill, etc.</li> <li>○ Please for the love of God make a town or village park that has recreational attractions for local youth, and greenery/beatification projects within the park itself.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tourism (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing Tourism into Lewis County/ Town of Lowville is a fool's plan. We will never see sustainable year-round industry, or economic growth from tourism. No one will ever say "you know where I want to visit in all of NYS? Lowville."</li> <li>○ Increase ecotourism and provide accommodations for visitors including allowing full house short term rentals for visitors</li> <li>○ Create an experience for visitors. Make a statement - WELCOME TO LOWVILLE signage and photo opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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<b>Infrastructure and public utilities (12)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting the proper drainage on Trinity Ave! Keep making the streets and sidewalks better, And better light some of these streets in the Village.</li> <li>• To provide water for areas just outside the village especially when the Town of Watson has water and the rest of the Number Four Rd doesn't have it.</li> <li>• a different light company or establish our own power company like Boonville has</li> <li>• Expand water further out of village</li> <li>• Promotion of clean energy</li> <li>• Energy Independence</li> <li>• Correct the issue with our water source. You should not get yellow water from the tap after a heavy rain.</li> <li>• Would like to see increased emphasis on Solar, Wind and Water development</li> <li>• I would like to caution against permitting big wind/solar companies to have free access to our beautiful area. It seems that there is little a town/village can do against the expansion of these energy companies. Do we really want to see hundreds of wind turbines when taking a drive or hike? Do we want our open areas filled up with solar panels? I think these forms of energy may be a great idea, but can they be moved away from population areas? Can we as a community decline/alter the plans suggested by these large entities?</li> <li>• Investment in community facilities and infrastructure. Again, having lived many other places, we pay an INSANE amount of property taxes to have no trash pickup.</li> <li>• Keep up with infrastructure repairs- no infrastructure=no community.</li> <li>• I would like to see industrial wind and industrial solar expansion limited or stopped. I think encouraging residential solar would be better than either industrial renewable energy option. I don't want to lose our fields, forests, and views to these industrial projects!</li> </ul>
<b>Historic resources (9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation old older homes</li> <li>• Stop focusing on historical preservation. How is this helping our community grow and develop? Historical buildings face too many battles when trying to be turned into new uses. Why makes things so hard on business owners?</li> <li>• Preservation of historic structures</li> <li>• Revitalization of old buildings</li> <li>• Historic preservation</li> <li>• historic preservation</li> <li>• The establishment of an historic district or districts in the downtown core or certain residential areas; finding a way to rid buildings generally of boarded up windows, including by finding appropriate uses for existing spaces.</li> <li>• Re-purpose historical structures into something useful. An empty building for aesthetic purposes doesn't help anyone</li> <li>• Finding unique ways to highlight our history like stash's did with repainting the old log</li> </ul>



<b>Housing (9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce property taxes</li> <li>• The local governments spend like there is no tomorrow, lower taxes!</li> <li>• Preservation old older homes</li> <li>• We would very much like to see support (grants, low-cost loans, etc.) for improvement of solid but deteriorating residences, to improve the appearance of the village and to keep people interested in living in Lowville.</li> <li>• assisted living facility</li> <li>• Housing development</li> <li>• Again, having lived many other places, we pay an INSANE amount of property taxes to have no trash pickup.</li> <li>• Clean up the yards, no parking of vehicles in front yard</li> <li>• Increase housing and housing options</li> </ul>
<b>Local government and services (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• less government</li> <li>• Focus on efficiencies with regard to expenses. Labor force, village police (Not sure why we have this department when we have State and Sheriff locally)</li> <li>• Stronger code enforcement for homes and businesses in town, especially the slumlords on South State Street. I'd like higher expectations for maintaining the rental properties.</li> <li>• All tax-paying property owners should have the right to vote on village issues even though they're not village residents. We pay taxes so we should have the right to representation.</li> <li>• More business-friendly practices</li> <li>• Enforce junkyard laws</li> <li>• Increased communication about services, events, construction projects, etc. (not just a last-minute Facebook post from someone who overheard something in the office).</li> <li>• Keep doing what you are doing! Thank you for all that you ALL do to keep our Lowville what it is!</li> </ul>
<b>Community facilities (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community center</li> <li>• a skatepark and swimming pool for youth and families</li> <li>• To provide an Indoor and outdoor swimming pool for the recreation of youth and older people for exercise</li> <li>• Assist with improvements at the fairgrounds. Such as paving</li> <li>• A teen and youth center</li> <li>• community center</li> <li>• Investment in community facilities and infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>Welcoming/Bring in younger people (5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make our community more welcoming to new businesses and families</li> <li>• Encouraging young families to stay or come back here</li> <li>• Focus on attracting the millennial generation to our area. For the first time ever, this generation ranked rural areas as their most desirable area in which to live according a NY Times article earlier this year. In order to do so, we must have excellent schools, healthcare, internet speed, and social/cultural opportunity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybe all new residents could get a welcome packet with government contacts in it if they have questions and organizations in the area, etc...</li> <li>• Make people want to be here, think of long term for families</li> </ul>
<b>Natural resources (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• air quality (Lowville smells like cow manure most days of the year)</li> <li>• protecting the environment</li> <li>• continue with green initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>Broadband (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High speed internet for whole Town of Lowville</li> <li>• To provide better internet for all those in the rural parts of the Town of Lowville</li> <li>• Improve high speed internet in all regions of the Town</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, I think Lowville is great</li> <li>• Childcare options</li> <li>• Substance abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get rid of the people selling drugs</li> <li>○ Safer school for children</li> <li>○ controlling the drug problem on our Main Street</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unsure</li> </ul>

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## 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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participants were asked to suggest objectives for a comprehensive plan.

Noteworthy comments included the following:

- expand hours of landfill/transfer station
- attract new retail businesses
- revitalize downtown
- consider a bypass for downtown
- improve street infrastructure (ex. sidewalks, drainage)
- lessen restrictions of home-based businesses / Strengthen restrictions on home-based businesses
- examine inefficient delivery of services, develop intergovernmental partnerships
- encourage “buying locally”
- solve hospital problems
- investigate municipal power

## Employment Information

Do you own a business?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
No, I do not own a business	158	81.4%
Yes, I own a business in the village of Lowville	23	11.9%
Yes, I own a business in the town of Lowville	10	5.2%
Yes, I own a business outside of Lowville	3	1.5%
Yes, I own a business in both the town and village of Lowville	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	194	100%

What best describes your job?

(156 responses)

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Educational, health, social services	55	35.3%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management	13	8.3%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	9	5.8%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	7	4.5%
Public administration	6	3.8%
Retail trade	4	2.6%
Construction	4	2.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services	4	2.6%
Manufacturing	2	1.3%
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	2	1.3%
Information	2	1.3%
Wholesale trade	0	-

Additional, write-in responses:

- Retired (33)
- Commercial and residential landlord; Apartment and office space rentals (2)
- Environmental educator and Habitat for Humanity board member
- Religious (2)
- Law enforcement
- Publishing
- Work from home
- SAHM
- Cultural and educational institution
- Ministry
- Food Mart
- Service
- Homemaker
- 2 jobs: retail and independent contractor
- Disabled

### Where do you physically work?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
within the village of Lowville	59	41.8%
outside the town or village, within 10 to 30 miles from home	18	12.8%
unemployed	19	13.5%
from home	17	12.1%
within the town of Lowville	1	8.5%
outside the town or village, within 10 miles from home	11	7.8%
outside the town or village, over 30 miles away from home	5	3.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100%</b>

If you work or commute outside of the town or village of Lowville, can you explain why you chose to do so? You may skip this question if it does not apply to you.

(41 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Better career opportunities outside Lowville, but enjoy living in Lowville (30)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I am employed by the state of New York, I work as close to home as possible.</li> <li>Have been there 19 years, moved to Lowville to be closer to job and in a village. Minimal career opportunities in village of Lowville in my field.</li> <li>Because of the medical health benefits and my job pays better</li> <li>It was where I secured a job</li> <li>My husband commutes to Utica</li> <li>location of job was in my field</li> <li>More opportunity and better pay</li> <li>Existing job when I moved here</li> <li>I like living in a village and my job is not in a village</li> <li>Where the job is</li> <li>Employment opportunities.</li> <li>Better opportunities to broaden my skill level</li> <li>Moved to Lowville because spouse is from Lowville and wanted to live in Lowville</li> <li>Want to live in country</li> <li>We love the Lowville community, so we choose to commute 17 miles each way to work. The mileage is manageable for us.</li> <li>own and run a sugarbush in Watson/new Bremen</li> <li>Forced to commute by employer for full time job, part time business is in the village though</li> <li>It was where a job was available</li> <li>I make more money by commuting to a better job 30+ miles away.</li> <li>Opportunity</li> <li>I work in Utica, NY, as there are no higher education opportunities in Lewis County. In Jefferson County, there is only one institution with little</li> </ul>

	<p>job opportunities. In order to be with my family, I must endure a long commute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better paying jobs outside the village</li> <li>• I enjoy my job.</li> <li>• There is no organization like the one I work for in the town or village of Lowville</li> <li>• Because that's where the job opportunity was. I would gladly work closer to home if there was a job available in my field.</li> <li>• Forced to my employer</li> <li>• There were no other jobs in my field or industry within the town or village</li> <li>• That's where I got a job. :)</li> <li>• There were no jobs in town and if there was it depends on who you know.</li> <li>• Lack of job opportunities within the town and village, especially for outsiders.</li> </ul>
<b>Career requires a lot of travel (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty municipal maintenance in the eastern states, I go where needed</li> <li>• You go where the business is at craft shows</li> <li>• My job requires me to travel to different locations in Lewis County</li> <li>• It is required of my job</li> </ul>
<b>Retired (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retired</li> <li>• I wrote retired</li> <li>• retired</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I own a farm</li> <li>• no public transportation alternatives</li> </ul>

#### How do you, typically, get to work?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
<b>Drive alone in a car, van, SUV, or truck</b>	88	64.2%
<b>Work at home</b>	17	12.4%
<b>Walk</b>	11	8%
<b>Carpool with someone I know</b>	4	2.9%
<b>Drive alone on a motorcycle</b>	2	1.5%
<b>Public transportation</b>	1	0.7%
<b>Bicycle</b>	0	-
<b>Taxi, Uber, or other ridesharing company</b>	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	137	89.7%

Additional, write-in responses (14, 10.2%):

- Retired (11, 8%)
- N/A (2, 1.5%)
- Drive or walk (1, 0.7%)

If you telework/telecommute (i.e., work arrangement that allows an employee to perform work, during any part of regular, paid hours, at an approved alternative worksite--at home or telework center), what are some barriers to you being able to successfully complete your work tasks? You may skip this question if it does not apply to you.

(23 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Broadband (16)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet slows down during times of increased usage</li> <li>• High speed internet access</li> <li>• High speed broadband has kept us from moving out of the village.</li> <li>• Spotty internet while working from home</li> <li>• Internet access has gotten bit better, so that does help.</li> <li>• Bad internet and cell phone coverage.</li> <li>• Slow internet</li> <li>• I wish we had more options for Internet providers. We're ok for now, but I don't like the lack of a choice.</li> <li>• It was very difficult to find a place with high speed internet that met our housing requirements.</li> <li>• lack of dependable high-speed internet</li> <li>• Internet is always going off and on</li> <li>• Lack of suitable internet bandwidth and broadband architecture</li> <li>• Extremely poor quality rural broadband internet</li> <li>• Volunteer work and student tutoring difficult with lack of reliable internet!</li> <li>• We have 80% remote, would be more but Wi-Fi is lacking</li> <li>• I occasionally telework (due to COVID restrictions). Reliable internet is the biggest barrier - it's not very convenient when I lose internet connection at random throughout the day.</li> </ul>
<b>No barriers (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No barriers</li> <li>• No barriers, Lowville is a great place to work from home</li> <li>• I need internet access to do my contracting work and usually it's dependable in the town of Lowville</li> </ul>
<b>Retired (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retired</li> </ul>

## Business Owner Survey

What type of business do you own?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	8	22.22%
Educational, health, social services	6	16.67%
Retail trade	5	13.89%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	3	8.33%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services	3	8.33%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management	2	5.56%
Construction	2	5.56%
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	1	2.78%
Manufacturing	0	-
Public administration	0	-
Information	0	-
Wholesale trade	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>83.34%</b>

Additional, write-in responses (6, 16.7%):

- Apartment and office space rentals/real estate and rental (2, 5.56%)
- Indexing (1, 2.78%)
- Service (1, 2.78%)
- Landscaping (1, 2.78%)
- Cultural and educational institution (1, 2.78%)

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### 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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In November of 1998, the Lowville Town/Village Planning Board surveyed businesses in the town and village of Lowville. The surveys were sent to 250 businesses of which 72 were returned. The results assisted them in redefining the 2008 comprehensive plan.

Please let us know why your business is or is not in the town or village of Lowville.

(26 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Close to home/Home occupation (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My business is here because I live here.</li> <li>• In village because that is where we live, and our home is our business.</li> <li>• because this is where I live</li> <li>• Been here many years</li> <li>• my business is extra income, I have a regular full-time job. I manage it from home</li> <li>• Work from home. Good internet is key</li> <li>• I live in the Town of Lowville</li> <li>• Home based business</li> </ul>
<b>Location and clientele (6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center of business district in close proximity to PO, Courthouse, and other offices.</li> <li>• traffic count and access</li> <li>• Downtown location was an excellent choice for our office</li> <li>• Convenience regarding location of clients</li> <li>• In village for convenience</li> <li>• The village of Lowville is the center of Lewis County; we want to be centrally located in a historic downtown core that's accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including pedestrian</li> </ul>
<b>Origin of materials and services (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• building infrastructure originates outside of the village</li> <li>• our bush is Watson/ new Bremen, carpentry is done where hired</li> <li>• It's where the structures are.</li> <li>• This is where the buildings are</li> </ul>
<b>Land requirements (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• farm</li> <li>• Dairy Farming</li> <li>• Need land</li> </ul>
<b>Business requires frequent travel (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend craft shows and farmers markets.</li> </ul>
<b>Reason unclear</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• located in village</li> <li>• Non-retail business</li> </ul>

Does your business have an online component?

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
<b>Yes, partially</b>	24	66.7%
<b>No, no online component at all and no plans to go online</b>	12	33.3%
<b>Yes, all my business is done online</b>	0	-
<b>No, but I am planning to bring the business online</b>	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	100%



If your business is partially, completely, or going online, what services would you like to support your efforts?

(13 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Broadband (7)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiber optic internet</li><li>• fast reliable internet for all</li><li>• broad band 5 g free would be great as public service</li><li>• More reliable internet</li><li>• Community wide internet</li><li>• Increased broadband accessibility throughout the County</li><li>• broad band 5 g free would be great as public service</li></ul>
<b>Advertisement and marketing (5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advertisement</li><li>• Solid brand of our community helps with all our credibility</li><li>• Facebook</li><li>• Chamber of Commerce, news advertising outlets, available tech services</li><li>• Website development</li></ul>
<b>Electricity (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More reliable electrical service. The number of power outages is considerably more than anywhere else I have lived</li></ul>
<b>Nothing, do not know</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li><li>• Not sure</li></ul>

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## 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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### Business Characteristics

The majority of the survey respondents is located in downtown Lowville and has owned their businesses for over twenty years. Most were from the retail and service sectors followed by financial/professional, manufacturing, agricultural and health/medical. A wide range of products and services were represented by these businesses. Retail products offered by the area stores include appliances, clothing, computers, fast food, fuel, furniture, groceries, home improvement supplies, jewelry, office supplies and vehicles. Some of the many services that are offered include appliance, computer, home and vehicle repair. Professional services such as employment, financial, hairdressing, health and fitness, janitorial, legal, printing and real estate are also available. Manufacturing enterprises include cabinet manufacturing and machining, and the agricultural industries include cattle sales and a dairy cooperative.

### Markets/Opportunities

The major marketing area for businesses in the Town/Village of Lowville is Lewis County and the North Country. Sales for a few companies extend throughout the country and even worldwide. Owners face a number of challenges in the operation of their businesses. Among the most significant is the availability of parking, traffic congestion, competition, recruiting skilled labor and community support. Managing the direct costs to a business is always of concern as well. The local businesses find that labor and energy are their greatest expense followed by raw product and transportation costs.

### Zoning

Overall, zoning regulations have not made a major impact on the success of a business, and most feel that zoning changes would not aid their business. Parking is more of a concern with downtown merchants than with businesses located elsewhere. There was not sufficient parking according to 21 of the 31 downtown merchants who responded to the parking question. Only 4 of the 19 village respondents reported that they did not have enough parking. There is much agreement regarding the formation of a downtown revitalization effort, and of those, most agreed that a cooperative effort should be organized to handle issues such as parking, signage and pedestrian traffic. Many felt that this effort should include improving the appearance of downtown, increasing services and encouraging people to support the local businesses.

### Government

The majority of the users expressed satisfaction with sewer and water service, but some felt the cost was too high. Other concerns included the quality of water, old piping and sewage backup. It was mentioned that municipal power and the extension of water and sewer lines would be beneficial.

## Additional Comments

Would you be interested in participating more in this comprehensive planning endeavor? If so, please place your name in the comments below.

Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
No	105	60.3%
Maybe	41	23.6%
Yes	28	16.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	174	100%

Do you have any suggestions for the Town and Village of Lowville Comprehensive Planning Committee as they update the town and village's comprehensive plan and zoning regulations?  
(64 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Local government (18)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make consistent incremental changes</li> <li>• too little contact between elected officials and people who elected them</li> <li>• Encourage code officers to find ways to say yes rather than no.</li> <li>• Seek advice from other planning committees outside our area. Include young adults from various walks of life/professions on local committee. Keep community informed of your work in progress.</li> <li>• Comments made previously on zoning and planning board. This is one of the most significant issues we have</li> <li>• Public Forum</li> <li>• Keep me updated</li> <li>• Set up a village ad hoc group to bring voices and ideas to the village.</li> <li>• Plan for the community you want, not the community you have. If the 20-year plan only includes input from 60 and 70-year NIMBYs, you will not attract a new generation of residents. Build a community for the future!</li> <li>• Thanks for asking for input! Keep communicating! We don't understand the difference between the town and village. Or to be completely honest: we don't understand the need for both. We'd love to learn more.</li> <li>• I love the fact that this survey is being conducted to solicit input from an audience broader than those who attend town/village meetings</li> <li>• We are glad to know you are interested in needs - and are planning</li> <li>• I would continue to survey your constituents, as this is an easy way for us to voice our concerns, especially when we do not have the time or other means to do so. It is greatly appreciated!</li> <li>• Keep young people involved. Continue to improve and update good ideas</li> <li>• This survey was a great first step. Follow up with more direct-contact methods like this. Work with Lewis County Emerging Professionals</li> <li>• Not too familiar with existing plan or possible thoughts on new plan.</li> <li>• Ensure policy makers and government officials support green Lewis county</li> <li>• Identify the one thing that makes our community special and then develop 2-3 strategic plans to highlight and improve upon it. "Good to Great" Jim Collins</li> </ul>

<b>Economic development (17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I believe the Village and or the Town should look at cleaning up the plaza, like the old McDonald's building should be torn down and try to develop the end of the plaza</li> <li>• A town or village cannot sustain itself without job growth, no jobs no town. Make a greater effort to bring industry to area.</li> <li>• I would like to see more dining opportunities in and near the village</li> <li>• job opportunities</li> <li>• We need more employment opportunities within walking distance and low income but decent housing. I would really love to be an empty nester, but they can't afford \$900+ rent and make too much for Lowville Heights (which really isn't the best place to live anymore).</li> <li>• we need to focus on planned development for retail/light industry. We do not really need more manufacturing, but we need locations for small business/ light industry</li> <li>• Consider encouraging development of businesses to support and utilize area products: dairy, maple, timber/wood products</li> <li>• encourage businesses</li> <li>• Encourage the big manufacturers and businesses to stay, create jobs by providing work</li> <li>• Need to be realistic about business or industry coming to Lowville. Try not to be overly restrictive with rules and regulations</li> <li>• Foster opportunities for business development</li> <li>• Beautify the downtown area. If it looks inviting maybe more people will stop at the local businesses. Right now, it looks rundown and shabby</li> <li>• In order to attract businesses and customers, the village needs to be more visually appealing. As I mentioned before, I think many of the business owners/rental property owners on South State Street need to be held accountable.</li> <li>• Revitalizing/repurpose derelict businesses throughout the village</li> <li>• Need an affordable grocery store (Aldi's), currently drive to Carthage</li> <li>• Clean up facades and tidy up public frontages</li> <li>• Some private and commercial property owners take great pride, others don't, with seemingly no consequences.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (10)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need everyone to be fairly assessed and this would increase revenue. Tax assessments should not go up 20-40% when house sells, that is against the Good Neighbor Law. The seller should have been assessed higher, all along. Instead the new owner is hit with a shocking new assessment based on the sale. The assessor is unfairly assessing new buyers, and this is hurting the entire village.</li> <li>• Support the upgrade of existing housing in the village</li> <li>• The village taxes are getting out of hand. Not surprised that people are moving out of the village. That third tax is not helping with house values or new construction costs. Real estate taxes should reflect village taxes as an additional hinderance and assessment</li> <li>• Also, we need to focus on planned development for housing. And we need plans for housing growth.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We still have a lot of Victorian and earlier housing. A list of oldest structures and plans to save them would be good. They are mostly in private hands and some are neglected, like the old brewery behind Stewarts.</li> <li>• I'm quite satisfied with Lowville, except that my village taxes are high compared to the services they provide.</li> <li>• Your comprehensive plan should also include plans to base property tax on land mass instead of the value of your home, or to increase the sales tax and decrease the property tax so everyone is paying this tax, home owners and renters alike instead of just those who own property. This would remove punishments to residential owners and business owners for improving the exterior or interior of their building or lot, which would encourage them to do so instead of discouraging them to do so. If everyone is paying increased taxes - spread out over more people with less impact on individuals - this should also provide more funds for community endeavors.</li> <li>• Revitalizing/repurpose derelict homes throughout the village</li> <li>• Clean up facades and tidy up public frontages</li> <li>• Some private property owners take great pride, others don't, with seemingly no consequences.</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation (9)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walking, hiking, biking, etc.</li> <li>• Development of walking trails - maybe using RR tracks</li> <li>• Create a hiking and skiing trail on the unused railroad tracks</li> <li>• Rails to trails</li> <li>• Foster opportunities year-round recreation opportunities</li> <li>• I would recommend focusing on the recreational trails and allowing more access to the river. Looking for ways to attract the Fort Drum population to town events and activities. Everyone I knew from Drum loved Lowville when they were afforded the opportunity to visit and get to know the place.</li> <li>• I would love to see a rails-to-trails use of the now exempt railroad lanes in the area. Safe biking trails would be greatly welcomed!</li> <li>• See my comments earlier on Rails to Trails (create trails!)</li> <li>• Allow village residents to exit and enter the village with snowmobiles to access trail system without having to trailer sleds.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation and mobility (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need a bicycle path</li> <li>• uniform sidewalks, enforce snow removal and maintenance of sidewalks</li> <li>• I am biased .... sand /torrands of water head from the street (Easton St./Clinton St.) straight into my driveway. The DPW provides preferential treatment</li> <li>• Replace all sidewalks in residential areas</li> <li>• better sidewalks - many are in poor repair or not replaced with road construction.</li> <li>• Traffic/noise on main street is a safety concern. This is directly related to speeding issues. Pedestrian walkability throughout the village should be another major concern.</li> <li>• street repair</li> <li>• Become a more pedestrian friendly town and village</li> </ul>

<b>Infrastructure and public utilities and services (5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage removal</li> <li>• Expand water to outside village</li> <li>• It is concerning to me that we have consistently received notices that our water is below standard. We are told to do nothing, but over many years, will there be more health issues than we are being told about at this time.</li> <li>• I have deep ambivalence regarding the need for a village police department as an overlapping service.</li> <li>• limit or stop industrial wind/solar and encourage residential solar instead</li> </ul>
<b>Community facilities (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public swimming pool and a skatepark</li> <li>• outdoor facilities</li> <li>• public garden, dog park</li> <li>• Clean up facades and tidy up public frontages</li> </ul>
<b>Historic resources (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We still have a lot of Victorian and earlier housing. A list of oldest structures and plans to save them would be good. They are mostly in private hands and some are neglected, like the old brewery behind Stewarts.</li> <li>• References to historic preservation and local history in the current plan need to be updated and expanded; there should be increased focus on heritage tourism and its importance to the vibrancy of the village, town and county; and the Lewis County Historical Society should be involved in your planning and zoning efforts</li> <li>• Clean up facades and tidy up public frontages</li> </ul>
<b>Natural resources (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep spaces green and think about the environment</li> <li>• I also have some concerns about unauthorized burning, specifically in the town. It seems that the people who have piles burning in their back yards do not think anyone will enforce the rules, so who cares. I care that my neighbors burn things that should not be burned</li> <li>• Ensure policy makers and government officials support green Lewis county</li> </ul>
<b>Broadband (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to fiber optic internet could very well revolutionize employment opportunities in Lowville. As highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic, our world is becoming increasingly reliant on high speed, reliable internet. With access to high quality, affordable internet, many residents of Lowville could telecommute. Many residents in the village and town face insurmountable barriers to employment, such as disability, lack of transportation, lack of local opportunities, and prohibitively expensive childcare. With access to high quality internet, many of these barriers become more manageable.</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Luck!; Happy to see this being done! Good luck! (2)</li> <li>• create and enforce noise ordinance law, forbid ""honey trucks"" from driving thru downtown.</li> <li>• Leverage the resources of this area</li> <li>• Anything that can help keep our young in the area, cultural enhancements</li> <li>• keep it small</li> <li>• Don't let buildings stay empty while new construction sprawls out into woods and farmland</li> <li>• Thanks for giving your time to plan for Lowville's future!</li> </ul>

Additional comments:  
(55 responses)

Category	Comments
<b>Participation, public engagement, and communication (8)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would be interested in meeting to discuss these proposals [name omitted]</li> <li>• Engage and update residents on new platforms - create a webpage specifically for Lowville, create and maintain social media platforms. Most people of various age groups use social media and the internet regularly, and if you want an engaged community you must first engage with them on the platforms they use most. Create a separate website and promote it, create a Facebook, create an Instagram - hire someone or increase someone's pay or hours to maintain this and keep residents up to date on what is happening. I had never heard of your website <a href="https://lowville.racog.org/">https://lowville.racog.org/</a> before this survey.</li> <li>• Participants should visit other communities outside of the North Country to get a feel for what is possible.</li> <li>• Thank you for seeking the community's input. This is one of the reasons I enjoy living in this community</li> <li>• Thank you for allowing the citizens to be part of the process by eliciting their feedback in this survey.</li> <li>• Thank you for the opportunity to participate.</li> <li>• Thank you</li> <li>• We support any projects that help to making the quality of life in Lewis County better! Thanks for all you are doing!</li> </ul>
<b>Youth, outmigration (5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruiting and retaining young locals should be emphasized at Lowville Academy, with abundant opportunities for well paying, sustainable employment that only requires a high school degree. Rural America is facing unprecedented depopulation, and with a stagnant, or declining population, we face a stagnant or declining tax base which will further exacerbate rural flight. Retaining young locals and investing in the future of Lowville should be a top priority.</li> <li>• Much has been improved since 1983. Keep these young people thinking for all of us.</li> <li>• The reason our children would not stay and live in Lowville is because of the lack of job opportunities and limited activities for people who are not outdoor recreational people. There are so many communities like Lowville that have much more to offer.</li> <li>• The only things that have really kept us here is our extended families, the low crime rate and our jobs in fields that pay much more than the average salary. However, I would not say we are extremely happy with what this area has to offer highly educated people. Also, the ignorance regarding people who are not white is alarming. Much is good but much needs to change if this lovely area wants young people to come back and raise their children.</li> <li>• Get students involved in the comprehensive planning process - they are the upcoming generation; we should be asking them what they want for their village/town in 10 years and what we can do to retain residents.</li> </ul>

<b>Economic development, community development, and community facilities (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be nice if we had more restaurant and shopping options. I think it's more than time to tear down the old McDonald's and put another fast-food restaurant there. Increased transportation would be a nice addition. If Uber was available, it would help decrease drunk driving. People would like to be able to call for a ride. Also, an outdoor pool would be a nice addition for families in the summer.</li> <li>• For my spouse and me, we have lived here all our lives and we were hoping we would see more change, however, there are not many new social activities for the entire community, and we have contemplated leaving.</li> <li>• I've always enjoyed living here, but I miss the concerts and museums in cities and college towns.</li> </ul>
<b>Taxes (3)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxes continue to go up and services continue to go down, if properties are going to be taxed at 100%, money needs to be spent wisely.</li> <li>• The Village police dept should be dissolved. They don't return phone calls and I rarely see patrols in the village. I would prefer your put my tax money to use supporting green space projects.</li> <li>• Village police department costs too much and should be discontinued. No other community in Lewis County has village police. Sheriff and state troopers based in Lowville should handle it. If needed Sheriff can add more deputies at a cost to the whole county, not just village.</li> </ul>
<b>Local laws (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would be somewhat interested in helping with this. I know zoning enforcement and changes can be painful for some. My family and I live outside the village, but we do own rental properties in the village. So, village zoning does affect us.</li> <li>• Paramount: you need to enforce existing laws as they stand and not make new laws that you don't have the manpower or gumption to enforce.</li> </ul>
<b>Enjoy living in Lowville (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I like living here... if I didn't, I would move. I think it's good to keep moving forward with improvements to keep the area nice without encouraging too much growth. Small towns are a great place to raise children.</li> <li>• A great place to live and work!</li> </ul>
<b>Streets (2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get the drainage right on Trinity Ave!!!!</li> <li>• Also, difficult access to Interstate 81 is also a hindrance.</li> </ul>
<b>Broadband (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet is a very important part of everyone's life these days. It is very difficult when you cannot get good internet when you live so close to the village line (one mile) or anywhere in Lewis County.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to tap the real estate boom to integrate and serve new, second-home residents and retirement residents transplanted from metropolitan areas</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowville needs an interactive, environmentally conscious park. One that includes nature /fitness trails, and other recreational opportunities. Something similar Boonville park.</li> </ul>
<b>Mental health support (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also, Lowville needs more resources for mental health awareness, suicide prevention, more doctors for women, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>ADA compliance (1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's hard for handicap people to get into some businesses. ex, "Gary's" with steps</li> </ul>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This survey is well done. It is very important to focus, and act on, the feedback received.</li> </ul>