

Supplemental Information
to the
Town and Village of Lowville
Comprehensive Plan 2022

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RESULTS FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Overview. In January 2021, the Lowville Town and Village Comprehensive Planning Committee unveiled a community survey for the Town and Village residents. Two thousand and thirteen (2,013) 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. One hundred and ninety-four (194) survey responses were recorded online through the Google Form survey. More villagers (139) filled out the survey than did town residents (42). A few people who do not live in Lowville (13) also filled out the survey. Of those who responded to the survey, 50% have lived in Lowville for 20 years or more, 15% have lived in Lowville between 11 and 20 years, 12% for six to ten years, and 18% for five years or less. Three quarters of respondents own their home, 21 % rent, and 4% occupy without payment of rent.

Participants were asked about their community characteristics (e.g., services, growth, and development) and their current employment. Thirty-six (36) respondents identified as business owners and completed a business owner survey. Respondents also gave additional information to inform the comprehensive planning process.

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. Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents reported they work in educational, health, and/or social services, which was higher than any other industry. Supermarkets were considered average while restaurants, night life, and retail properties were considered below average, on the whole, by respondents.

Respondents agreed that any commercial, retail, or industrial growth or development must protect environmental quality, first and foremost. Another highly rated objective was attracting new business and commercial development while protecting historical structures. Any economic or community development objectives supporting village and town beautification and placemaking were encouraged by the respondents. Manufacturing and industrial development was supported slightly less than business and commercial development. Respondents had little appetite for local government controlling the rate of development or for requiring on-site parking for new businesses.

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

Historic Resources. Respondents would like to see historical structures (including downtown buildings and older homes) protected and. Furthermore, respondents would like to see more appropriate uses for existing historical spaces. Lastly, highlighting Lowville's history should 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 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 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 for making exterior improvements to deteriorating residences and less junk in yards.

Natural Resources. Some respondents believe air quality could be improved, especially considering odors from local agricultural activities. Furthermore, many respondents believe any economic or community development, especially commercial, retail, and industrial development, should protect environment quality. Similarly, green initiatives should be encouraged and prioritized. Respondents recommended new businesses supporting and utilizing local timber and wood products should be encouraged.

Agriculture. Some respondents recommended new businesses supporting and utilizing local products, such as dairy and maple products, should be encouraged. Respondents recommended the town and village code for agribusiness development and local zoning laws allow farms to sell products on site. Similarly, farmer’s markets should continue to be supported. Though not a significant problem, efforts could be 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. New traffic-directing projects (e.g., turning lanes and roundabouts) or structures and installations to slow down traffic, such as narrowing streets, had little support. However, a route bypassing downtown Lowville, which came up in the 1998 community survey, was recommended by several respondents.

Regarding parking in Lowville, most respondents answered 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, the school, the corner of State Street, Dayan Street, and Shady Avenue (hereinafter referred to as the four corners), and several other key areas within Lowville. Suggested changes to parking included 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 and includes 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 believed the responsibility falls on the town and the village.

Recreation. The most popular recreational growth and development objective was converting old rail lines to walkable and bikeable trails. The objectives of protecting environmental quality and historical structures were ranked second and third. Most respondents were either undecided or did not know whether the following objectives would be positive: regulating green buffers around parking lots, increasing access to the Black River for non-motorized recreation, and maintaining or improving open space. Recreational objectives should look into indoor and outdoor multigenerational opportunities that are both seasonal and available year-round. Respondents support 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 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. Any project encouraging 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 believed 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 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 believed renovation of existing structures as well as proper property maintenance should be encouraged and enforced. Many respondents were unfamiliar with zoning laws while others thought there were inconsistencies in the enforcement of those laws. Some respondents thought zoning was out-of-date and new regulations should take their place. Fewer respondents thought the laws were too restrictive, but concerns were stated in several responses.

Highlighted Results

Only the top results are highlighted. The comments on qualitative questions are limited to three comments per topic.

What were your reasons for choosing to live in the Lowville area?

<i>Reasons for choosing to live in the Lowville area</i>	Village of Lowville		Town of Lowville	
	Number of responses	Percentage of responses	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Family and friends	80	58.4%	27	69.2%
Good schools	65	47.4%	10	25.6%
Rural atmosphere	63	46%	22	56.4%
Quality of life	63	46%	19	48.7%
Sense of community	54	39.4%	17	43.6%
Low crime rate	52	38%	12	30.8%
Job opportunities	45	32.8%	12	30.8%
Cost of living	32	23.4%	8	20.5%
Air quality	24	17.5%	5	12.8%
Recreation opportunities	20	14.6%	7	17.9%
Good government	11	8%	2	5.1%
Adult/Senior living	7	5.1%	3	7.7%
Tax rate	5	3.6%	1	2.6%
TOTAL RESPONDENTS	137		39	

What are some of the problems you have noticed in the Lowville area?

<i>Problems you have noticed in the Lowville area</i>	Village of Lowville		Town of Lowville	
Response	Number of responses	Percentage of responses	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Lack of employment opportunity	76	58.5%	15	40.5%
Deteriorating conditions of downtown core (e.g., dirty appearance, unpainted buildings, poor retail hours, etc.)	65	50	12	32.4%
Lack of retail business	64	49.2%	16	43.2%
Lack of cultural opportunities	59	45.4%	13	35.1%
Lack of recreational facilities (e.g., indoor gym, pool, skating rink)	47	36.2%	15	40.5%
Parking issues downtown	33	25.4%	8	21.6%
Noise and odor from industries and farms	33	25.4%	8	21.6%
Historic properties deteriorating or in danger of demolition	33	25.4%	8	21.6%
Inefficiencies and duplication of services (e.g., police departments, first response, recycling, and trash)	31	23.8%	2	5.4%
Insufficient transportation options	23	17.7%	5	31.5%
Lack of opportunities to socialize with neighbors and community at large	21	16.2%	7	18.9%
Lack of curbing and storm drainage problems in the village	20	15.4%	1	2.7%
New families in the area do not feel welcome	18	13.8%	4	10.8%
Traffic problems downtown	17	13.1%	4	10.8%
Hospital issues	17	13.1%	4	10.8%
High energy prices	16	12.3%	3	8.1%
Lack of handicapped accessibility (e.g., sidewalks, into buildings, parking)	14	10.8%	2	5.4%
Lack of volunteers or volunteer opportunities	11	8.5%	3	8.1%
Poor drinking water quality	8	6.2%	9	24.3%
Encroachment of commercial uses into residential areas	7	5.4%	3	8.1%
Parking issues in areas other than downtown	7	5.4%	3	8.1%
TOTAL RESPONDENTS	130		37	

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

Category	Comments
Cultural and social opportunities (28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities to get out and meet people culturally • More community-based activities • 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)
Recreation and tourism (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More recreational facilities • Walking trail, Biking and cross-country skiing trail • Walking/Bike Pathways/Ski-Snowshoe trails
Community centers (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A community center for my kids • Community center - (now in the works - needs funding) • Community/fitness center

If you do not attend town or village board meetings, please let us know why.

Why don't you attend town or village board meetings	
Category	Comments
Notice, outreach, communication, uninformed (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short notice • I believe most people aren't aware of what is taking place within our Town or Village Board meetings • No idea where or when they are
Meeting time (15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work schedule prohibits I normally work during those hours • There is a complaint that young community members don't take part, we can't when you hold the meeting during the day
Personal reasons (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't hear very well - do not want to participate • I've simply never done this. I am interested in getting more involved. It's a matter of habit and attention • No Transportation

How would you like to participate in your local government?

Category	Comments
Notice, outreach, and communication (16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online communication • 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 • Send out newsletters and postcards with monthly information, provide transcripts of meetings online (on Facebook or website) and by email
Virtual (13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome the availability of on-line access to such meeting • The Zoom meeting option has been nice. Please continue to do this post-pandemic • In person or virtual
Surveys (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online surveys • I think participating in something like this survey is a better way for my voice to be heard than at a board meeting • Public surveying awareness

Rate the following community services/infrastructure conditions on a scale of very poor to excellent.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE								
VILLAGE	Very poor (1)	Below Average (2)	Average (3)	Above Average (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A Don't Know	TOTAL	Mean
Fire protection	0	0	20	41	70	4	135	4.25
Ambulance service	0	1	19	41	60	14	135	3.87
Schools / educational facilities	1	1	8	57	52	12	131	3.93
Medical facilities and centers	7	11	44	45	25	2	134	3.48
Police protection	5	8	42	35	30	14	134	3.26
Postal service	7	18	52	29	26	1	133	3.35
Library service	1	7	46	33	30	16	133	3.27
Parks / open space	1	21	54	35	15	5	131	3.21
Houses of worship	1	0	33	44	29	27	134	3.14
Utilities	2	11	74	28	16	4	135	3.24
Markets / Grocery stores	11	19	71	28	5	1	135	2.96
Streets or roads	5	29	69	26	5	1	135	2.96
Public works	3	18	57	29	12	12	131	2.95
Residential properties	4	18	68	27	4	9	130	2.86
Cellular coverage	6	30	54	17	17	11	135	2.82
Restaurants / Nightlife	10	47	53	12	7	4	133	2.6
Community sponsored programs	2	23	63	17	7	20	132	2.58
Retail properties	4	40	59	14	4	12	133	2.53
Broadband (i.e., internet services)	8	39	49	15	10	12	133	2.58.
Community facilities and centers	17	42	41	15	4	11	130	2.34
Zoning code enforcement	3	17	54	12	5	40	131	2.08
Building code enforcement	3	18	51	12	7	39	130	2.12
Rental properties	15	49	38	7	2	20	131	2.02
Childcare	11	23	23	8	5	62	132	1.39

Rate the following community services/infrastructure conditions on a scale of very poor to excellent.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE								
TOWN	Very poor (1)	Below Average (2)	Average (3)	Above Average (4)	Excellent (5)	N/A Don't Know	TOTAL	Mean
Fire protection	0	1	9	7	19	3	39	3.9
Ambulance service	0	0	8	8	21	2	39	4.13
Schools / educational facilities	0	0	9	5	16	6	36	3.53
Medical facilities and centers	0	5	17	9	6	1	38	3.34
Police protection	1	2	11	10	12	3	39	3.54
Postal service	4	6	14	5	8	2	39	3.03
Library service	0	1	12	12	7	6	38	3.18
Parks / open space	1	5	9	11	7	3	36	3.25
Houses of worship	0	0	10	14	7	7	38	3.18
Utilities	0	4	21	5	3	5	38	2.79
Markets / Grocery stores	1	5	22	7	0	2	37	2.84
Streets or roads	1	7	22	6	3	0	39	3.08
Public works	0	4	16	6	4	6	36	2.78
Residential properties	0	5	21	5	1	5	37	2.65
Cellular coverage	3	12	8	9	2	3	37	2.62
Restaurants / Nightlife	3	6	17	4	2	4	36	2.56
Community sponsored programs	0	7	17	5	2	6	37	2.57
Retail properties	1	6	18	5	0	7	37	2.35
Broadband (i.e., internet services)	10	9	7	5	2	5	38	2.08
Community facilities and centers	1	12	10	4	4	5	36	2.53
Zoning code enforcement	2	2	18	3	2	11	38	2.16
Building code enforcement	1	3	15	4	1	13	37	1.97
Rental properties	2	9	17	0	0	8	36	1.97
Childcare	2	6	10	1	0	18	37	1.3

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

STATEMENTS ABOUT ZONING REGULATIONS							
VILLAGE	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
The current zoning regulations should encourage the renovation of existing structures	2	2	55	49	25	133	1.9
The current zoning regulations are too restrictive	5	27	81	16	4	133	0.92
The current zoning regulations improve the quality of the village	4	21	81	25	1	132	0.95
TOWN	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
The current zoning regulations should encourage the renovation of existing structures	0	1	15	11	10	37	2.03
The current zoning regulations are too restrictive	1	7	22	6	1	37	1
The current zoning regulations improve the quality of the town	0	5	22	9	1	37	1.11

Please explain why you agree or disagree with the previous statements on the current zoning regulations.

Category	Comments
Unfamiliar, no experience with zoning, simplify zoning, contractors (22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never had to deal with zoning • I do not own a business or a home, so I do not have to deal with this at this time • I have never looked into the zoning regulations so I cannot answer
Inconsistencies in enforcement; Poor enforcement; Poor Leadership (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 & accessible. Rules are inconsistently applied. • Zoning Board is a huge problem. Zero creativity • Stronger code enforcement would encourage owners to keep properties in good repair
Out-of-date regulations, need for new regulations (15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Improvements need to be made to keep things current • 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

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

RECREATIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES							
VILLAGE	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Convert old rail lines to walkable and bikeable trails	6	4	10	44	68	132	3.17
Protect environmental quality	1	4	11	68	49	133	3.08
Protect historical structures	2	8	13	66	43	132	2.94
Support increased recreational opportunities	2	5	14	68	44	133	2.95
Encourage tourism	3	6	11	71	41	132	2.97
Maintain and improve open space	1	4	20	65	43	133	2.83
Increase access to the Black River for swimming, kayaking/canoeing, etc.	3	10	17	66	37	133	2.77
Require green buffers around parking lots	4	17	47	42	22	132	1.91

TOWN	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Convert old rail lines to walkable and bikeable trails	0	1	4	15	19	39	3.15
Protect environmental quality	0	1	3	15	20	39	3.26
Protect historical structures	0	0	7	19	12	38	2.76
Support increased recreational opportunities	0	1	6	19	12	38	2.82
Encourage tourism	0	2	8	16	12	38	2.63
Maintain and improve open space	0	0	6	21	11	38	2.82
Increase access to the Black River for swimming, kayaking/canoeing, etc.	0	3	13	12	11	39	2.21
Require green buffers around parking lots	1	3	14	13	7	38	1.95

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

HOUSING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES							
VILLAGE	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided /Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Provide low/moderate income housing	11	17	27	70	9	134	2.17
Support increased residential construction	2	17	39	57	18	133	2.1
Provide more lawn area in residential districts	4	19	52	51	8	134	1.69
Discourage urban sprawl (e.g., through mixed housing and clustered development)	10	19	53	39	13	134	1.62
Control the rate of housing development	8	32	53	37	4	134	1.49

TOWN	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided /Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Provide low/moderate income housing	1	4	10	17	4	36	2.11
Support increased residential construction	0	5	15	16	1	37	1.68
Provide more lawn area in residential districts	1	4	17	13	3	38	1.58
Discourage urban sprawl (e.g., through mixed housing and clustered development)	0	4	21	10	3	38	1.32
Control the rate of housing development	0	6	15	15	2	38	1.71

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

COMMERCIAL, RETAIL, AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES							
VILLAGE	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Protect environmental quality	1	4	11	60	56	132	3.13
Attract new business and commercial development	3	3	10	73	44	133	3.04
Protect historical structures	4	6	16	61	45	132	2.87
Encourage manufacturing and industrial development	3	10	13	73	34	133	2.84
Require on-site parking for new businesses	10	25	42	36	18	131	1.83
Control the rate of commercial and retail development	14	47	27	38	5	131	1.85
Control the rate of manufacturing and industrial development	14	40	32	40	6	132	1.8

TOWN	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided / Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Protect environmental quality	0	0	2	18	18	38	3.32
Attract new business and commercial development	0	0	6	21	10	37	2.78
Protect historical structures	0	1	5	18	13	37	2.92
Encourage manufacturing and industrial development	0	3	9	16	10	38	2.47
Require on-site parking for new businesses	2	5	7	18	7	39	2.41
Control the rate of commercial and retail development	2	10	10	13	2	37	1.86
Control the rate of manufacturing and industrial development	2	8	10	14	3	37	1.95

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

MISCELLANEOUS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES							
VILLAGE	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided/ Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Encourage job growth in all industries	1	7	6	72	44	130	3.13
Encourage solar energy development	3	8	15	56	49	131	2.92
Encourage wind energy development	4	8	21	51	46	130	2.75
Encourage home businesses	3	9	24	62	31	129	2.57
Improve traffic flow in the village	3	18	25	59	23	128	2.41
Control the rate of development, generally	10	37	40	39	4	130	1.67

TOWN	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided/ Don't Know	Agree (3)	Strongly Agree (4)	TOTAL	Mean
Encourage job growth in all industries	0	0	5	18	15	38	3
Encourage solar energy development	1	4	6	15	12	38	2.68
Encourage wind energy development	3	6	6	11	13	39	2.56
Encourage home businesses	0	0	9	14	14	37	2.65
Improve traffic flow in the village	1	5	10	17	3	36	2.06
Control the rate of development, generally	2	9	8	17	1	37	2.03

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.

Category	Comments
No change; Encourage walking (19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are enough parking areas in general to allow growth without requiring additional costs of required on-site parking • At this point there seems to be enough parking downtown. More may be needed if there is an increase in downtown business • 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.
Improve traffic congestion, parking in key areas (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Office (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The only place I think that parking is really difficult is the Post Office, so I walk there whenever I can. ○ Post Office, downtown businesses ○ Post office parking is a nightmare • Four Corners (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I would recommend addressing the Shady and State Street intersection. Trucks pull over causing a traffic congestion at times. ○ Additional parking lot etc., always really packed, and busy at that end of street, lots of businesses no parking • School (2)
Repave, repaint, redesign existing lots (11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repave parking lots • Tops Plaza (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ○ Designate driving lanes at Tops Plaza ○ Place some directional markings in the Tops parking lot • Make the current parking area behind the movie theater nicer and create a well-lit walkway to Shady Avenue

Which of the following street-related issues do you think are most important in the village?

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%
TOTAL RESPONSES	182	N/A – Checkbox

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

Category	Comments
Economic (and community) development (41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification and placemaking (16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Downtown beautification projects (2) ○ Beautification with art ○ Blight Removal and Placemaking • Economic development, generally (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage downtown development and business growth (2) ○ Less of a focus on controlling growth and development. ○ Economic Development • Retail (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improved retail locations and infrastructure to assist retail development ○ To encourage retail, other businesses and industry into the area so that there are jobs for people. ○ Retail development • Support small, local business development and growth (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help small business startups by tax help or helping to speedup red tape slowed because we don't want new changes ○ Encourage rather than discourage business startup and expansion ○ Downtown small businesses/restaurants to encourage visitors
Transportation and mobility (38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks (12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walkable community, pedestrian friendly sidewalks, and alleys to access local business, restaurants, and shops. ○ 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. ○ Safer sidewalks/walking/running spaces • Streets (12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Village Department of Public Works (DPW) is currently doing many streets with refilling and would like to see curbing on village streets. ○ Bring back 4 lanes of traffic on State Street. Add turning lane on Shady Avenue ○ Divert through traffic from downtown and make the core area more walkable • Snow removal (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Snow removal problem, icy turns for driver ○ Dumb in the north. The DPW have a hard-enough time plowing now!!! ○ I think it would lead to congestion and would be an issue for snow removal
Recreation (and tourism) (27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation, generally (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With so much of the year being cold and snowy, an indoor walking track would be great and increase good health outcomes ○ increased recreational opportunities ○ Walking paths and community recreation both indoor and out • Rails to trails (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of abandoned rails to convert to walking, biking, skiing, or snow mobile trails ○ Establish the rail trail at least in the village and town--long overdue! ○ 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

<p><i>Recreation (and tourism) (27)</i> (cont.)</p>	<p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails, generally (5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walking and biking trails to highlight the beauty of the area ○ Recreational trails for walking/biking ○ 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
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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?

Category	Comments
<p>Local government (18)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make consistent incremental changes • too little contact between elected officials and people who elected them • Encourage code officers to find ways to say yes rather than no. • 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. • Comments made previously on zoning and planning board. This is one of the most significant issues we have
<p>Economic development (17)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Revitalizing/repurpose derelict businesses throughout the village • Need an affordable grocery store (e.g., Aldi’s), currently drive to Carthage • Clean up facades and tidy up public frontages • Some private and commercial property owners take great pride, others don’t, with seemingly no consequences.
<p>Housing (10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I’m quite satisfied with Lowville, except that my village taxes are high compared to the services they provide. • 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. • Some private property owners take great pride, others don’t, with seemingly no consequences.

Additional comments:

Category	Comments
<p>Participation, public engagement, and communication (8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would be interested in meeting to discuss these proposals [name omitted] • 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 https://lowville.racog.org/ before this survey. • Participants should visit other communities outside of the North Country to get a feel for what is possible.
<p>Youth, outmigration (5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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.
<p>Economic development, community development, and community facilities (3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • I've always enjoyed living here, but I miss the concerts and museums in cities and college towns.

RESULTS FROM THE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND BUSINESS SURVEY

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	-
TOTAL	194	100%

What best describes your job?

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	-

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%
TOTAL	141	100%

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.

Category	Comments
Better career opportunities outside Lowville, but enjoy living in Lowville (30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Existing job when I moved here • 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 job opportunities. In order to be with my family, I must endure a long commute. • Because that is where the job opportunity was. I would gladly work closer to home if there was a job available in my field. • Forced to my employer
Career requires a lot of travel (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialty municipal maintenance in the eastern states, I go where needed • You go where the business is at craft shows • My job requires me to travel to different locations in Lewis County • It is required of my job
Retired (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired • I wrote retired • retired

How do you, typically, get to work?

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

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?

Category	Comments
Broadband (16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet slows down during times of increased usage • High speed internet access • Bad internet and cell phone coverage • Slow internet • Lack of suitable internet bandwidth and broadband architecture
No barriers (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No barriers; Lowville is a great place to work from home (2) • I need internet access to do my contracting work and usually it is dependable in the town of Lowville

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	-
TOTAL	36	83.34%

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

Category	Comments
Close to home/Home occupation (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My business is here because I live here • Work from home. Good internet is key • Home based business
Location and clientele (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center of business district in close proximity to PO, Courthouse, other offices • traffic count and access • The village of Lowville is the center of Lewis County; we want to be centrally located in a historic downtown core that is accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including pedestrian
Origin of materials and services (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building infrastructure originates outside of the village • our bush is Watson/ new Bremen, carpentry is done where hired • It is where the structures are
Land requirements (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farm • Dairy Farming • Need land

Does your business have an online component?

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

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

Category	Comments
Broadband (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiber optic internet; fast reliable internet for all; Increased broadband accessibility throughout the County
Advertisement and marketing (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertisement; Solid brand of our community helps with all our credibility; Website development
Electricity (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More reliable electrical service. The number of power outages is considerably more than anywhere else I have lived
Nothing, do not know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None; Not sure

RESULTS FROM THE STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS/BARRIERS WORKSHOPS

Overview. The town and village of Lowville's comprehensive planning committee hosted two one-hour community visioning workshops (January 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. and February 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.). In these workshops, the Tug Hill Commission facilitated discussions around strengths and weaknesses of the communities, opportunities to improve the communities, and barriers to those opportunities. Note the themes are in no particular order.

STRENGTHS

- 1. Safe place to live:** Safe community to live in; Can leave car/house unlocked; Low crime rate; Can walk or run under streetlights; Generally, walkable; Family friendly
- 2. Farmer's market:** Access to fresh and local products, though cooperation is needed; Coordination and collaboration to allow this is a strength
- 3. Sense of community:** Close connections within the community; Community feel/vibe; Good neighbors; Networking opportunities, such as connections with people, developing ideas, promoting, good community involvement and different programs in which to get involved; Lots of volunteers; Community support like helping each other; good neighbors, and charm and diversity in the area
- 4. Clean and beautiful environment:** Access to fresh air and clean water, i.e., No pollution; Scenic area; Spring cleanup
- 5. Good elementary and high schools:** Fantastic school; Great school district; Small town that is welcoming kids to the school and transitioning new kids into the school
- 6. Hospital:** Fantastic hospital; Hospital located right in the community
- 7. Shared governmental services:** Municipalities are sharing services at all levels, including state, county, town and village
- 8. Recreational opportunities:** Snowmobile trail in backyard; Bowling alley, ski area, movie theater, race track, sliding hill, and a lot more that the Lowville area has to offer: Lots of things to do, especially with a small population; Hockey rink; Recreational opportunities (for many groups) including
 - a. Fairgrounds

- b. Physical activity
 - c. Walkability is key, such as being able to walk to a movie theater
 - d. Kayaking and hiking opportunities close to town
 - e. Playgrounds are a one-stop shop for parents offering many outdoor opportunities and can be found at the local schools and Veteran's Memorial Park, and include picnic tables, tennis courts, free parking, basketball courts, etc.
9. **Community centers and gathering places:** Fairgrounds (though, underutilized) is a great space for the community, and it has an "open-door policy"; Don't have to travel far to gather; Fitness and Community Center's opportunities; Cornell Cooperative Extension's 4-H program; Access to the following venues for gathering
 - a. Historical society
 - b. Via the Chamber of Commerce
 10. **Economic strengths:** Village with retail shops; Large manufacturing facilities; Employment in schools and hospital; Many businesses are providing opportunities; Retail opportunities
 11. **"Feels" like home:** "It's comfortable and it's home"; Kids go away for schooling, but come back when they have kids to live; It's some people's hometown, so they grew up here
 12. **Community resources and utilities:** Infrastructure; Services, such as water, sewer, brush pickup; Drop spots and transfer stations to get rid of rubbish
 13. **Small town atmosphere:** Town with agricultural and forested areas; "Country"/rural setting
 14. **Low cost of housing**
 15. **Access to organizations:** Pratt Northam, etc.; New access to Jefferson Community College
 16. **Ideal location:** Proximity to hospital, jobs, schools, restaurants, Fitness and Community Center; Scenic area; Don't have to travel far to get the things you need; NYS Routes 12, 26, 177, and 12 are important regional crossroads where there could be an opportunity to bring in travelers
 - a. "Gateway" community both a crossroads of major highways, but also "the middle of nowhere"
 17. **Transportation options:** New transportation options to Watertown and Utica; Village loop for public transportation
 18. **Good quality of life and cost of living**
 19. **Social life and community events:** Outdoor dining opportunities, such as food truck Fridays; Different events scheduled, like Cream Cheese Festival

WEAKNESSES

1. **Downtown revitalization needed:** Downtown businesses don't work together, communicate, or coordinate enough, like a downtown business district theoretically would; Would like to see more done in the downtown area that makes people want to visit; Community blight, such as the Old McDonalds building; Lack of free parking (i.e., there could be more free parking and signage to direct people)
2. **Poor zoning:** Zoning and codes are not strong enough and must improve the look of downtown; Incentive needed for building owners follow zoning

- a. Lake Placid as a case study of a design standard
- 3. **Poor streetscape and walkability:** Sidewalks are in poor condition and lack consistency, for instance in some places there are no sidewalks; Streetlights don't go all the way to Walmart making it hard to walk there with no lighting or sidewalks; Sidewalks are too narrow; Not a walkable community (i.e., sidewalks need improvements)
- 4. **Poor coordination and communication of services:** Poor countywide or North Country-wide communication between villages and towns (Are the websites up to date? Information and contact information are difficult to find. Better communication is needed. No Facebook page); Need to be able to pay taxes online as this is an expectation these days, and bills should be emailed to residents; Unclear leadership for public safety
 - a. Who is in charge of what? Who addresses problems, i.e., Village Police vs Sheriff?
 - b. Residents must call too many different places to get answers
- 5. **Poor housing quality and availability:** Availability of rental housing, affordable housing, and good quality housing, especially for couples or individuals without children; Housing options could be improved
 - a. How to find a place to live if you're moving in? This can be difficult, and information is not centralized.
- 6. **Lack of community connectedness:** New families do not feel welcome; Hard to assimilate if you don't have family and/or friends in the area, and some people don't feel like they belong; Remote working has allowed more people to live here, but people need to find ways to help newcomers feel more welcome and connected to the community
- 7. **Economic hardships and poverty:** Poor economy and lack of jobs right now, especially for young adults up to age 25; Hard to find jobs in the area if you don't know someone or have connections; Poverty rate is high; Lack of private sector jobs; Not business friendly (i.e., site plan reviews discourage new business development); Food insecurity and food shortage linked to poverty
- 8. **Need more recreational opportunities:** Rails to trails never materialized, and should be developed; Need for rails to trail, walking trails, and biking trails; Parks need to attract people without kids and families with kids within the village, including adding:
 - a. Dog parks;
 - b. Walking trails;
 - c. Public space to showcase artists; and
 - d. Self-guided walks around town using smartphone applications
- 9. **Lack of higher education opportunities other than Jefferson Community College**
- 10. **Limited broadband accessibility**
- 11. **Need more places to socialize and host social activities,** such as
 - a. Evening cafes or something similar that stays open past 8 pm;
 - b. Places that consider people with kids, 30-somethings, and not just people with families;
 - c. Concerts for all age groups;
 - d. Activities tied to school or fairgrounds, which has been limited during the pandemic; and

- e. Senior-friendly spaces (e.g., indoor walking opportunities)

12. Need more public transportation

OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Community organizing and events:** Veteran’s Memorial Park should be utilized more; Fairgrounds should be utilized more; More community events, such as movie night in the park, that bring the community together (Food truck Fridays should strive to highlight “local” vendors); More family-friendly opportunities are needed besides bowling and movies; Snow Ridge has new ownership and could host new events; Resources could be shared between organizations; Local leaders should reach out to local organizations (i.e., Lions Club, Elks, etc.); Potential for more arts opportunities; Maple Ridge has more potential and should be utilized more
2. **Promote public transportation:** Public transportation system should be promoted as this is an opportunity to get people out of their homes
3. **Improve downtown:** Downtown revitalization can make buildings look nicer and be more utilized; Downtown green space could be improved; Signage for parking for visitors could help; Better parking downtown; Downtown revitalization opportunities through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Program should be capitalized
4. **Housing beautification:** City of Oswego incentivizes homeowners to improve their homes/exteriors, which could be good for the Lowville community to implement
5. **Community connectedness:** Have a welcoming packet for new families and maybe a mentoring program for new families; Help people with their utilities, list of people to call; Develop a Facebook page or group for welcoming new families; A countywide or North Country Facebook page and/or social media accounts; The village should give folks the opportunity to lead these efforts, e.g., develop a community steering committee; Encourage “neighborhoodness” through
 - a. Holiday lights; and
 - b. Things that cause people to celebrate where they live
6. **Recreation:** Snowshoe opportunities; Kayaking opportunities; Mountain Bike trails and walking trails could be developed; Rails to trails projects
7. **Tourism:** Build on cream cheese festival for tourism; Agritourism opportunities; Need more places for people to stay, such as hotels and Airbnb--especially for younger crowds
8. **Streetscape:** Need to identify walking and running routes and how to incorporate them into road upgrades; Potential for road biking; Signage for parking for visitors could help; Extend sidewalks so that businesses can spill into the open space, i.e., “streateries” (move parking off the street fronts), including
 - a. Patios as an option; and
 - b. Welcoming spaces where people can gather
9. **Food security:** Take advantage of locally grown produce so people can eat fresh; Expand on food truck Fridays; Develop rail area by food pantry (i.e., community center and/or hub for community activities); More cooperation for the Farmer’s Market; “Bridges Out of Poverty” is helping and should continue to assist the communities
10. **Location:** Fort Drum should be leveraged to create an economic boost; Lowville as a “gateway” community at the crossroads of four major state highways; Capture the people driving through to stop, shop, eat, and/or stay; Need public parking signs

(arrows) to direct people into the community and to points of interest; Branding and marketing of “best kept secrets”

- a. Being in the middle of nowhere is a strength
 - b. Way of working is different now
 - c. As an example, rails to trails can highlight cycling opportunities
 - d. Internet in the village allows folks to live and work here, locally or remotely
11. **Housing:** Housing is not necessarily affordable for single people (especially, apartments for 18- to 39-year-olds); Create a tiny house or micro house community; Niches are assets and can add layers to the housing stock; Conduct a housing needs assessment with Lewis County Planning Department; Encourage and promote mixed housing (by type, size, affordability, etc.); Create design standards and alternatives for new and existing buildings to be “greener”, such as:
- a. Solar energy systems; and
 - b. High energy efficiency
12. **Existing transportation system can be built upon:** Collect feedback on potential additional routes and destinations; Lewis County is open to suggestions and needs
13. **Business development:** Promote and encourage women in business; Establish or promote Grub Hub and grocery delivery; Town “land” resources could be an asset to the village for the expansion of village businesses to the town; Growing entrepreneurship
- a. What role can the village/town play in this, using policy, partnerships, support, and/or tax incentives?
14. **Environment:** Black River and Mill Creek
15. **Public safety:** Need better coordination of services and maybe a more succinct website to direct people

THREATS/BARRIERS

1. **Outmigration:** At the state-level, many people are leaving the state, which doesn’t help small individual communities; Need to lay out a community vision and implement policies, especially since people are leaving
2. **Funding:** No grant writer who would work toward common goals between organizations; Lack of funding sources for would-be incentive programs (i.e., how to fund programs?); Town and village need to think creatively about their community investments that
 - a. Go beyond infrastructure and vehicles;
 - b. Include green space, weekly concerts, unique events that bring the community together;
 - c. Improve the sense of community connectedness; and
 - d. Provide liquor permits for the fair and waive open container for concerts under the right conditions
3. **Policy implementation:** What are the differences between the town and village? Is there overspending? Duplication of services? Appears to be a lack of coordination between the two; Personalities are getting better, but can complicate well-intentioned efforts; Need to have the right people involved for implementation
 - a. Plans seem to sit on a shelf, nothing comes of them

- b. Effective communication needed for implementation, change, and getting things done
- 4. **Zoning:** Zoning could be a barrier in the future if businesses don't know how to navigate the local laws; Communication with developers needs to improve. How do they get assistance?
- 5. **Economic issues can be barriers:** So many things cost money; Loss of manufacturing or hospital would significantly impact the local economy; NYS taxes are high (consider upstate and downstate issues); Poverty, which impacts food security
- 6. **Food insecurity:** Need food program for kids (i.e., during summer); Stigmas on kids that receive food
- 7. **Volunteerism and civic engagement:** Lack of volunteers and participants in events; How do you appeal to young people and get them involved? How do you cultivate and keep good leaders? Can paying more keep good leaders? Young people don't have opportunities to see "what's out there"
- 8. **Sociocultural and political limitations:** Traditions can be hard to overcome, and change isn't always easy; Drug problem, especially meth and opioids; Incompatible and divisive politics
- 9. **Broadband availability**
- 10. **Unforeseen emergencies and emergency preparedness, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Lack of communication in the community and perceived barriers in

communication: Younger people communicate differently than others; Instagram vs Facebook, the benefits and drawbacks of each; Share webpage for town and village for sharing news; Simplify access and make it easier to find; Getting people to believe they have a say in their own lives or be interested in their own lives (i.e., they don't necessarily look for news or opportunities to engage); It's a very small group that looks for opportunities to engage.

What would you like to be said about the community in 5 to 10 years?

1. Lowville becomes entrepreneurial hub of NYS
2. Downtown revitalization a success in downtown Lowville
3. Lowville becomes recreation hub of Lewis County
4. Lowville sees brain gain after decades of brain drain
5. Lowville in Top 10 best small towns to raise a family in NYS
6. Downtown Lowville sees rejuvenation
7. Lowville is the best kept secret
8. Lewis County is the healthiest county in NYS
9. Access to recreation is the best in the country
10. Mural/community art featured
11. Lewis County is your home away from home
12. Space for the old and the new
13. 10 best rural places to live (be at the top of the list)

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Demographics

The town and village of Lowville have diversity within their populations in terms of age, household income, non-English speaking households, and race. The Decennial Censuses and the five-year average estimates from the American Community Survey provide a snapshot in time of the Lowville community. These data show how the community has changed over time and estimates current demographics.

Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the town outside the village population saw an overall increase between 1990 and 2010 while the village's population decreased. The 2018 estimate for the population in the town outside the village grew while the village and county populations decreased from their 2010 levels.

Figure 1. Population and Population Change: by Town, Village, County, and State; 1990-2010 and 2018 Estimate

	1990	2000	2010	1990-2010 % Change	2018 estimate
Town including village	4,849	4,548	4,982	+2.7	4,901
Town outside village	1,217	1,072	1,512	+24.2	1,676
Village	3,632	3,476	3,470	-4.5	3,225
Lewis County	26,796	26,944	27,087	+1.1	26,719
New York State	17,990,455	18,976,457	19,378,102	+7.7	19,618,453

Source: 1990, 2000, and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Age

A comparison of median age reveals the population of the town, county, and state aged between 2000 and 2010 and are estimated to have aged between 2010 and 2018. Meanwhile, the median age of the village population has remained relatively unchanged.

Figure 2. Median Age: by Town, Village, County, and State; 2000, 2010, and 2018 Estimate

	2000	2010	2018 estimate
Town including village	39.6	40.8	41.8
Village	39.6	39.7	39.6
Lewis County	36.8	40.2	42
New York State	35.9	38	38.7

Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

The Census Bureau reported the population of children under the age of five remained relatively the same from 2000 to 2010 in the town (including village) and village alone and are estimated to have remained the same between 2010 to 2018. The population of

children ages five to 17 in the town (including village) and village alone has been steadily dropping since 2000. In 2000 the Census Bureau reported that 73% of the town (including village) residents were 18 years old or older in 2000; 75% in 2010; and an estimated 88% in 2018. It also reported in 2000 that 73% of the village residents were 18 years old or older; 75% in 2010; and an estimated 90% in 2018. Lastly, the population age 65 and above increased in the town (including village) and remained relatively the same in the village.

Figure 3. Age Distribution: Town and Village; 2000, 2010, and 2018 Estimate

	Town (including village)			Village		
	2000	2010	2018 estimate	2000	2010	2018 estimate
4 years and under	252	327	356	200	219	219
5 to 17	927	905	171	694	642	73
18 to 64	2,376	2,749	2,964	1,790	2,005	2,087
Over 65	786	1,001	879	596	604	496

Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Lewis County has slowly been gaining population since 1990, at about 1% gain between 1990 and 2010. Between 2000 and 2010, populations aged 18 to 64 and 65 and above grew by 649 people and 543 people, respectively, while the population aged five to 17 dropped by 907 people. In 2018, it is estimated the combined population under 64 years old dropped while the population over 65 years old potentially grew.

New York State appears to be steadily losing its young population (ages 17 and below), while gaining or maintaining population 18 and above. In 2000 nearly 24.7% of the state population was age 17 or younger. In 2010 the percentage dropped slightly to 22.3% and is estimated to have dropped to a little over 21.1% in 2018. The state population age 18 to 64 grew slightly between 2000 and 2010 and is estimated to have dropped slightly between 2010 and 2018. The population 65 and above continues to grow.

Figure 4. Age Distribution: Lewis County and New York State; 2000, 2010, and 2018 Estimate

	Lewis County			New York State		
	2000	2010	2018 estimate	2000	2010	2018 estimate
4 years and under	1,654	1,776	1,661	1,239,417	1,155,822	1,163,606
5 to 17	5,834	4,927	1,076	3,450,690	3,169,107	2,978,027
18 to 64	15,659	16,308	15,907	11,837,998	12,435,230	12,408,131
Over 65	3,533	4,076	4,602	2,448,352	2,617,943	3,068,689

Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Households

A household includes all the people who occupy a single housing unit. The number of households in Lowville (town and village) rose between 2000 and 2010 and is estimated to have slightly decreased from 2000 to 2018. Lewis County has followed a similar trend.

Figure 5. Number of Households: Town and Village; 2000, 2010, and 2018 Estimate

	2000	2010	2018 estimate
Town including village	1796	1968	1762
Village	1402	1485	1338

Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Household size continues to shrink in Lowville, Lewis County and New York State. Mean household size decreased 14.3% in the town as a whole and 8.0% in the village between 1980 and 2000. Household sizes in the town (including the village) and in the village were slightly smaller than the 2010 Lewis County average. Household size in the town outside the village was the same as the county in 2010 and in the 2018 estimate.

Figure 6. Average Household Size for the Town, Village, County, and State; 1980-2018 Estimate

	1980	1990	2000	2010	1980-2010 % Change	2018 estimate
Town including village	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.4	-14.3	2.6
Town outside village	4.1	3.6	2.7	No data	No data	No data
Village	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	-8.0	2.4
Lewis County	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.6	-16.1	2.6
New York State	No data	No data	2.6	2.6	No data	2.6

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 Decennial Census; 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Income and Poverty

Figure 7 shows changes in median household income between 1990 and 2000, as well as the 2010 and 2018 estimates, for the town (including the village) and the village compared to Lewis County and New York State. The 1990, 2000, and 2010 figures in black text are adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index. The original, unadjusted values recorded by the Census Bureau, are in light grey text within parentheses.

The median household income has seen a net decline for decades. Between 1990 and 2010, the median household income of the town as a whole decreased by 27.4% while the median household income of the village decreased slower at 18.2%. The current working-aged people are earning relatively less by household than previous generations. It is estimated that between 2010 and 2018 the town (including the village) and the county saw some positive growth in median household income while the village and the state both continued to see a decline.

Figure 7. Median Household Income: Town, Village, County, and State (in 2018 dollars); 1990-2018

	1990	2000	2010 estimate	2018 estimate	1990-2010 % change	1990-2018e % change	2010-2018e % change
Town including village	(34,203) 65,745	(32,396) 47,264	(41,453) 47,759	51,048	-27.4	-22.4	+6.9
Village	(29,950) 57,570	(32,841) 47,913	(40,872) 47,090	44,500	-18.2	-22.7	-5.5
Lewis County	(34,393) 66,110	(34,361) 50,131	(42,846) 49,364	52,380	-25.3	-20.8	+6.1
New York State	(44,290) 85,134	(43,393) 63,308	(64,062) 73,808	65,323	-13.3	-23.3	-11.5

All values in grey are original, unadjusted values recorded by the Census Bureau

Source: 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census; 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau).

Between 1990 and 2000, the town (including the village) had 13.3-13.4% of the population living below the poverty level. For the same time period, the village population living below the poverty level fell by 0.9%, Lewis County remained unchanged at 13%, and New York State increased by 2.2%.

According to the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, an estimated 19.4% of people in the town (including the village) live in poverty while median household income is estimated to have grown at a rate of nearly 7% between 2010 to 2018. In 2018, the village had a lower percentage of its population estimated to be in poverty at 15.5%. From 1990 through the 2018 estimates, the percentage of people living below the poverty level in Lewis County stayed between 13% and 14% while the state remained between 12% and 15%.

Figure 8. Persons Below the Poverty Level (1990 and 2000) and Population for whom poverty status is determined (2012 and 2018 Estimates) by Town, Village, County, and State

	1990		2000		2012e		2018e	
Town including village	644	13.3%	610	13.4%	758	16%	910	19.4%
Town outside village	97	8.0%	117	10.9%	No data	No data	No data	No data
Village	547	15.1%	493	14.2%	732	19.4%	491	15.5%
Lewis County	3,495	13.0%	3,507	13.0%	3,603	13.5%	3,712	14.1%
New York State	2,277,296	12.0%	2,692,202	14.2%	2,814,409	14.9%	2,797,985	14.6%

Source: 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census; 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Languages Spoken at Home, Race, and Ethnicity

According to the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 98% of households in the Town and Village of Lowville speak English while approximately 1% may speak Spanish, and another 1% may speak another language, including an Asian or Indo-European language.

According to the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates with regards to race distribution, the Lowville population predominantly identifies as White. The non-White Lowville population identifies as Black and African American, Native American, Hispanic or Latin, or identify with two or more races.

Housing

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a housing unit is a house, an apartment, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. The town of Lowville saw a net increase of 100 housing units, or 5% more housing, between 2000 and 2010 while the village added 25 new housing units for a 2% increase. It is estimated fewer housing units were added between 2010 and 2018 in both the town and village. Most of the housing in Lowville was built before 1939. In the 1940s and 1950s, an additional 120 new housing units per decade were constructed.

Figure 9. Housing Units: 2000, 2010, and 2018 Estimate by State, County, Town, and Village

	2000	2010	2018e	2000-2010 % change	2010-2018 % change
Town outside village	445	520	438	+ 16.9	- 15.8
Village	1,588	1,613	1,507	+ 1.57	- 6.57
Lewis County	15,134	15,112	15,605	- 0.15	+ 3.26
New York State	7,679,307	8,108,103	8,287,087	+ 5.58	+ 2.21

Source: 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

According to Lewis County tax parcel data, in 2020, 84% (n=1,156) of all residential parcels in the town (including the village) were one-family, year-round residences. Two-family dwellings (n=112) and primarily residential with agricultural production (n=25) made up the second and third largest percentage of residential parcels at 8% and 2%, respectively. Another 2% were mobile homes. The remaining 4% of residential parcels included three-family dwellings (n=19), rural residences with acreage (n=14), and residences with incidental commercial use (n=6).

A measure of housing affordability is obtained by multiplying the median household income by 28% (a recommended ratio of income spent on a mortgage). That value is then multiplied by another 30% (an estimate of taxes and insurance on the mortgage payment). When the second value is subtracted from the first value, the result is the maximum principal and interest payment that should be allowed. Lastly, that value is multiplied by a value within a factor table subject to different loan terms, such as length of loan and rates, to get the affordable mortgage amount (see the example below used to calculate the maximum recommended loan amount based on household income). If

the maximum affordability value calculated from the median household income is greater than the median value for all owner-occupied units, then the housing market can be assumed to be affordable. If not, then housing values can be assumed to be greater than the population's ability to afford them.

Example: Calculate Maximum Recommended Loan Amount Based on Household Income	
Median household income	\$44,500 per year
Total gross monthly income	$\$44,500/12 = \$3,708.33$
Total gross monthly income multiplied by the standard affordable housing ratio of 28%	$\$3,708.33 * 0.28 = \$1,038.33$
Multiply gross affordable housing income by estimated housing taxes and insurance (30% standard)	$\$1,038.33 * 0.3 = \311.50
Subtract estimate taxes and insurance from affordable gross affordable housing income	$\$1,038.33 - \$311.50 = \$726.83$
Divide the affordable housing income by a sample factor of \$4.77, representing the value of each mortgage dollar for a 30-year loan with a 4% mortgage rate	$\$726.83/\$4.77 = \$152.38$
Multiply the affordable housing income adjusted for loan terms by \$1,000 to get the maximum mortgage loan amount recommended	$\$152.38 * \$1,000 = \$152,380$

In 2010 and 2018, it is estimated housing was affordable in the town, village, and county. With median household income estimated to be lower in the village than in the town or county in both 2010 and 2018, the maximum housing affordability is lower, as well. Though the median household income for the state is higher than the town and the village, the housing values are also substantially greater, which may make other regions less affordable when compared to Lowville and Lewis County.

Figure 10. Housing Affordability: 2010 Estimate and 2018 Estimate; State, County, Town, Village

	2010e Median Value for All Owner-Occupied Units	2010e Median Household Income*	2010e Maximum Affordability based on MHI	2018e Median Value for All Owner-Occupied Units	2018e Median Household Income	2018e Maximum Affordability based on MHI
Town including village	115,700	41,453	141,942	148,200	51,048	174,797
Village	112,600	40,872	139,953	136,400	44,500	152,376
Lewis County	100,700	42,846	174,955	120,000	52,380	179,358
New York State	350,134	64,062	261,588	302,200	65,323	223,678

Source: 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau), and Tug Hill Commission calculations (all data in 2018 dollars)

Educational Attainment

Figure 11 illustrates the levels of educational attainment of Lowville residents 25 years and older compared to Lewis County and the state. In general, higher educational attainment may result in higher paying jobs, which could have a beneficial impact on the economic health of the area. There is also a high need for tradespeople and skilled labor. The percentage of people 25 years and older with a high school diploma has steadily been increasing in Lowville, the county, and the state while the percentage of people with a bachelor's degree or higher is estimated to have dropped between 2000 and 2010, but has since risen again in 2018.

Figure 11. Educational Attainment of People 25 years and older: By Town, County, and State; 2000, 2010 Estimates, and 2018 Estimates

	High school diploma or higher			Bachelor's degree or higher		
	2000	2010e	2018e	2000	2010e	2018e
Town including village	64.5%	73.7%	90.8%	17.6	7.6%	24.3%
Lewis County	69.3%	74.3%	89.8%	11.7	10.2%	16.3%
New York State	79.1%	73.8%	86.5%	27.4	21.4%	35.9%

Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

In 2000, Lowville had a larger percentage of its population 25 years old and above with a high school diploma compared to the state, but less than the county. The percentage with a bachelor's degree or higher was greater in the state than in Lowville. The county had the lowest percentage with a bachelor's degree or higher when compared to Lowville and the state.

In 2010, it is estimated that Lowville, the county, and the state each had about 74% of their populations 25 years and older with a high school diploma or higher. The percentage of people in the same age group with a bachelor's degree or higher was estimated to be lower in 2010 than in 2000 for Lowville, the county and the state according to the Census Bureau five-year estimates.

In 2018, it is estimated that about 87% or more of the population 25 years and older were educated with at least a high school diploma in Lowville, the county and the state. Nearly a quarter of this population in Lowville is estimated to have had a university degree in 2018, followed by 16% in Lewis County.

Employment

Figure 17 illustrates the employment of town and village residents based on the industry in which they worked in 2000, and the estimates for 2010 and 2018. The figure also shows the percent change in raw number of employees in each industry between 2010 and 2018. The top five industries in 2000 were: 1) education, 2) manufacturing, 3) retail, 4) public administration, and 5) arts and entertainment.

The top four industries are estimated to have remained the same in 2010, followed by the professional industry category, which includes scientific, management, administrative, and waste management professionals. In 2018, it is estimated that the top five industries changed slightly. Education is estimated to still be the top industry among Lowville residents. However, the professional industry may still be on the rise, and is estimated to be the second largest industry in 2018. Retail trade remains the third largest industry. Construction and manufacturing are estimated to have joined the top five industries in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

When looking at the percent change in raw numbers of people employed per industry based on the 2010 and 2018 estimates, the industry growing the most is agriculture and forestry (including fishing, hunting, and mining) with 4.5 times more people employed in 2018 than in 2010. Construction has two times more employees, and transportation, warehousing, utilities have one and a half times more. On the reverse side, the industries losing employment based on the estimates are public administration, other services, the information sector, and manufacturing.

Figure 12. Employment by Industry: 2000, 2010 Estimates, and 2018 Estimates for the Residents in the Town including Village

Industry	2000	2010e		2018e		% Change 2010e-2018e
Educational, health, social services	27.3%	743	37.1%	737	34.6%	-0.8%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management	4.7%	127	6.3%	281	13.2%	+121.3%
Retail trade	10.5%	261	13.0%	244	11.5%	-6.5%
Construction	3.3%	60	3.0%	185	8.7%	+208.3%
Manufacturing	12.6%	266	13.3%	170	8.0%	-36.1%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, mining	7.3%	29	1.4%	159	7.5%	+448.3%
Public administration	8.6%	245	12.2%	98	4.6%	-60%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	4.4%	67	3.3%	69	3.2%	+3.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food services	8.0%	54	2.7%	67	3.1%	+24.1%
Transportation, warehousing, utilities	4.2%	20	1.0%	51	2.4%	+155%
Other services	4.5%	87	4.3%	41	1.9%	-52.9%
Information	1.3%	31	1.5%	16	0.8%	-48.4%
Wholesale trade	3.4%	11	0.5%	10	0.5%	-9.1%
TOTAL		2001		2128		

Source: 2000 Decennial Census; 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Transportation to Work

In 2010, it was estimated that 60% of the working population in the town including village lived within 15 miles from their place of work compared to 58% in the village. In 2018, it is estimated 57% of working-aged people in the town were within 15 minutes from work while 43% of the village working population were 15 minutes from work.

Between 2010 and 2018, there appears to be a shift overall in more people travelling 45 minutes or more to work. However, the town had more people estimated to be traveling less than 5 minutes to work in 2018 than in 2010 while the village had an estimated drop in the number. More people in the town and village are travelling 10 to 14 minutes and 20 to 24 minutes to work than in 2010, but less people in the town and village are travelling 30 to 39 minutes than in 2010.

Figure 13. Number of Workers* by Travel Time to Work: 2010 Estimates and 2018 Estimates by Town and Village

Travel Time to Work	Town of Lowville (including village)			Village of Lowville		
	2010e	2018e	% Change	2010e	2018e	% Change
Less than 5 minutes	377	500	+32.6%	353	304	-13.9%
5 to 9 minutes	540	414	-23.3%	409	240	-41.3%
10 to 14 minutes	200	226	+13.0%	85	150	+76.5%
15 to 19 minutes	188	200	+6.4%	155	119	-23.2%
20 to 24 minutes	69	135	+95.7%	69	114	+65.2%
25 to 29 minutes	60	43	-28.3%	35	38	+8.6%
30 to 34 minutes	126	31	-75.4%	68	18	-73.5%
35 to 39 minutes	113	88	-22.1%	113	82	-27.4%
40 to 44 minutes	52	87	+67.3%	52	48	-7.7%
45 to 59 minutes	85	173	+103.5 %	85	133	+56.5%
60 to 89 minutes	28	47	+67.9%	15	34	+126.7 %
90 or more minutes	13	50	+284.6 %	13	30	+130.8 %

*Workers 16 years and over in households

Source: 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

According to the 2010 American Community Survey census data estimates, just under 80% of both town (including village) residents and village residents drove to work alone in a passenger vehicle. The number and percentage of people driving alone to work is estimated to have shifted slightly downward with more people carpooling to work. The number and percentage of people walking, using public transportation, and other means are estimated to have remained relatively unchanged. According to recent estimates for the town (including village) residents, in 2018, approximately 17.6% carpoolled to work, 8.8% walked to work, and 4.1% worked at home, and less than 10 individuals took a taxi, bike, motorcycle, or public transportation to work.

Figure 14. Means of Transportation to Work by Vehicles Available: 2010 Estimates and 2018 Estimates by Town including Village and Village

Means of Travel to Work	2010e Town (including village) Residents*		2018e Town (including village) Residents*		2010e Village Residents*		2018e Village Residents*	
	Drove Alone	1,533	78.1%	1439	69.2%	1,194	76.3%	985
Carpooled	195	9.9%	367	17.6%	148	9.5%	227	16.3%
Walked	123	6.3%	182	8.8%	110	7.0%	92	6.6%
Worked at Home	112	5.7%	86	4.1%	112	7.2%	86	6.2%
Taxi, Motorcycle, Bicycle, or Other Means	0	0.0%	6	0.3%	0	0.0%	6	0.4%
Public Transportation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

*Workers 16 years and over in households

Source: 2006-2010 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)

Finance

Town of Lowville

According to the NYS Comptroller's Office, the total revenues in 2010 were \$1,594,434 (in 2010 dollars); \$1,645,708 in 2015 (in 2015 dollars); and \$1,716,036 in 2019 (in 2019 dollars). The following revenues grew, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: other local revenues (e.g., compensation for loss, fines, and other miscellaneous revenues), state aid, and use and sale of property. The following revenue streams declined, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: charges to other governments and other real property tax items (e.g., payments in lieu of taxes). The following revenues stayed about the same, percentagewise: charges for services, federal aid, and real property taxes and assessments.

Figure 15. Town of Lowville's Revenues and Proceeds of Debt* by Type and Year

TOWN	2010	2010	2015	2015	2019	2019
Charges for services	\$187,129	12%	\$186,652	11%	\$209,366	12%
Charges to other governments	\$61,312	4%	\$54,481	3%	\$42,661	2%
Federal aid	\$0	0%	\$12,431	1%	\$0	0%
Other local revenues	\$22,112	1%	\$28,705	2%	\$54,128	3%
Other non-property taxes	\$5,331	0%	\$5,714	0%	\$6,399	0%
Other real property tax items	\$244,077	15%	\$204,338	12%	\$188,070	11%
Proceeds of debt	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Real property taxes and assessments	\$923,482	58%	\$959,543	58%	\$976,569	57%
Sales and use tax	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
State aid	\$147,048	9%	\$179,068	11%	\$205,159	12%
Use and sale of property	\$3,943	0%	\$14,776	1%	\$33,684	2%

*As a percentage of the total expenditure

Source: NYS Comptroller's Office Open Book New York (2010, 2015, and 2019)

According to the NYS Comptroller's Office, the total expenditures in 2010 were \$1,442,332 (in 2010 dollars); \$1,399,235 in 2015 (in 2015 dollars); and \$1,675,080 in 2019 (in 2019 dollars). Utilities expenditures grew, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019 while the following expenditures declined, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: general government, sanitation, and transportation. Employee benefits grew between 2010 and 2015 but dropped back to a similar percentage in 2019.

Figure 16. Town of Lowville's Expenditures* by Type and Year

TOWN	2010	2010	2015	2015	2019	2019
Community services	\$2,774	0%	\$7,235	1%	\$5,423	0%
Culture and recreation	\$16,756	1%	\$15,615	1%	\$22,433	1%
Debt service	\$33,845	2%	\$35,372	3%	\$37,549	2%
Economic development	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Education	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Employee benefits	\$239,730	17%	\$296,158	21%	\$269,281	16%
General government	\$306,086	21%	\$268,006	19%	\$310,465	19%
Health	\$4,300	0%	\$4,236	0%	\$5,716	0%
Public safety	\$62,430	4%	\$64,033	5%	\$70,384	4%
Sanitation	\$42,620	3%	\$35,079	3%	\$36,927	2%
Social services	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Transportation	\$627,474	44%	\$524,521	37%	\$698,107	42%
Utilities	\$106,317	7%	\$148,980	11%	\$218,795	13%

*As a percentage of the total expenditure

Source: NYS Comptroller's Office Open Book New York (2010, 2015, and 2019)

Village of Lowville

According to the NYS Comptroller's Office, the total revenues in 2010 were \$3,462,666 (in 2010 dollars); \$3,529,081 in 2015 (in 2015 dollars); and \$5,812,999 in 2019 (in 2019 dollars). The following revenues grew, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: sales/use tax and state aid. The following revenues grew, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2015, but dropped between 2015 and 2019: real property taxes and assessments, charges to other governments, and other local revenues (e.g., compensation for loss and fines). The following revenue streams declined, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: charges for services and other real property tax items (e.g., payments in lieu of taxes). Lastly, the use and sale of property remained about the same, percentagewise.

Figure 17. Village of Lowville's Revenues and Proceeds of Debt* by Type and Year

VILLAGE	2010	2010	2015	2015	2019	2019
Charges for services	\$1,805,912	52%	\$1,672,403	47%	\$2,474,058	43%
Charges to other governments	\$51,326	1%	\$56,222	2%	\$46,770	1%
Federal aid	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Other local revenues	\$68,933	2%	\$90,451	3%	\$76,655	1%
Other non-property taxes	\$51,727	1%	\$53,314	2%	\$58,774	1%
Other real property tax items	\$79,755	2%	\$35,156	1%	\$20,764	0%
Proceeds of debt	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Real property taxes and assessments	\$1,213,577	35%	\$1,410,257	40%	\$1,573,676	27%
Sales and use tax	\$0	0%	\$49,168	1%	\$44,789	1%
State aid	\$144,073	4%	\$117,454	3%	\$1,460,838	25%
Use and sale of property	\$47,363	1%	\$44,656	1%	\$56,675	1%

*As a percentage of the total expenditure

Source: NYS Comptroller's Office Open Book New York (2010, 2015, and 2019)

According to the NYS Comptroller's Office, the total expenditures in 2010 were \$4,186,311 (in 2010 dollars); \$3,220,982 in 2015 (in 2015 dollars); and \$7,982,200 in 2019 (in 2019 dollars). Sanitation and utilities expenditures grew, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019 while the following expenditures declined, percentagewise, between 2010 and 2019: community services, culture and recreation, debt service, economic development, general government, and transportation. Public safety and employee benefits grew between 2010 and 2015 but dropped again in 2019.

Figure 18. Village of Lowville's Expenditures* by Type and Year

VILLAGE	2010	2010	2015	2015	2019	2019
Community services	\$33,954	1%	\$44,935	1%	\$27,242	0%
Culture and recreation	\$124,499	3%	\$86,737	3%	\$63,514	1%
Debt service	\$550,227	13%	\$457,342	14%	\$316,715	4%
Economic development	\$283,274	7%	\$3,000	0%	\$0	0%
Education	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Employee benefits	\$419,472	10%	\$596,933	19%	\$679,030	9%
General government	\$674,516	16%	\$459,472	14%	\$467,718	6%
Health	\$1,690	0%	\$550	0%	\$550	0%
Public safety	\$442,897	11%	\$495,509	15%	\$542,032	7%
Sanitation	\$460,645	11%	\$392,440	12%	\$2,865,508	36%
Social services	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Transportation	\$638,028	15%	\$365,557	11%	\$333,140	4%
Utilities	\$557,109	13%	\$318,507	10%	\$2,686,751	34%

*As a percentage of the total expenditure

Source: NYS Comptroller's Office Open Book New York (2010, 2015, and 2019)