



# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Village of Burdett, NY  
Planning Committee  
February 2014



# ***Acknowledgments***

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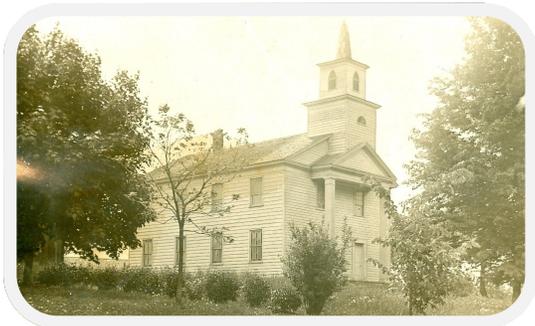


## INTRODUCTION TO BURDETT

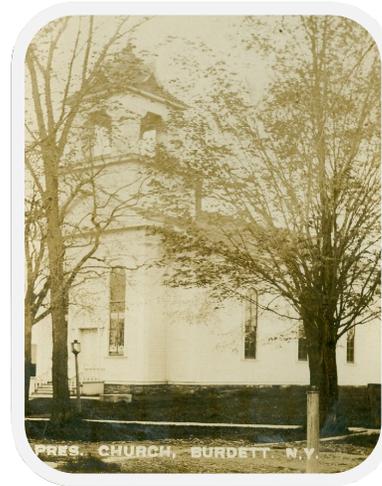
Burdett is a small rural community with a mix of long-time residents and newcomers who have chosen this place for many of the same reasons. Its rural charm, location near visitor attractions such as wineries, gorges, lakes and waterfalls and regionally famous parks and stunning scenery have endeared this village to its residents - young and old.

The Village of Burdett is located in the Finger Lakes region of New York State near the southern end of Seneca Lake, approximately 3.5 miles north of Watkins Glen. It is located in the Town of Hector in Schuyler County. (Appendix A) The region is characterized by forests, waterways, vineyards, open fields, farms and small municipalities. Part of Burdett's charm is that it is "centrally isolated"; although not located along any of New York's main transportation corridors, interstate highways can be accessed within an hour to the north or south of the village. The village is primarily accessed by New York State Route 79 which passes through the center of the village and provides access to State Route 414 and 14 on the east and west sides of Seneca Lake respectively. The cities of Elmira, Corning and Ithaca as well as Watkins Glen State Park, the Finger Lakes National Forest and Watkins Glen International Raceway are all accessed by these roads. These surrounding sites, cities and events establish Burdett as a gateway community.

The first settlers arrived in Burdett in 1795. Hector Falls Creek (originally named Cranberry Creek) meanders through the center of the village. This waterway was the source of water power and led to the establishment of several sawmills and brick-yards. By 1860, Burdett boasted three churches, several mills and factories and a tannery. Twenty years later, the village had added two hotels, three schools\*, five dry goods and grocery stores, a meat market and a variety of blacksmith, cooper and wagon and harness shops. At this point, Burdett was also home to three doctors.



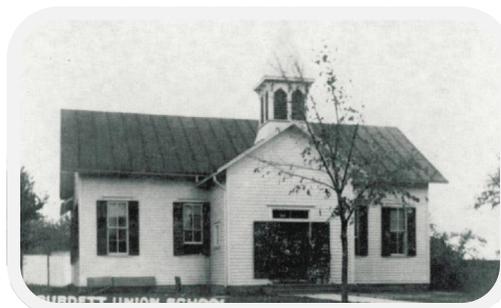
School Baptist Church (now a private home)



Burdett  
Presbyterian  
Church



Burdett United Methodist Church



Burdett Union  
School

The Lehigh Valley railroad arrived in Burdett in early 1890. The village population peaked at around 500 in the early 1920's. Trains no longer visit and the mills and factories closed many years ago.

Today, Burdett is a quiet village, home to approximately 350 residents and more than a dozen businesses. These businesses are predominately privately-owned/family-operated. These businesses include two restaurants, a bar, a stable, a driving range, a farm stand, two u-pick berries patches, a mid-wife, post office, gas station and convenience store, a saw works, a warehouse distributor, a beauty salon, a dog grooming parlor, a bike shop, library & art gallery and a wood pulp business. A number of individuals also offer services from their homes, such as music lessons, antique purchases and sales. The majority of the residents work in the nearby towns of Watkins Glen, Elmira, Corning and Ithaca.



- The three schools referred to on the previous page were located along South Main Street, on the site of the former Burdett Elementary School and near the entrance to the present day baseball field along Lake Avenue.



Village Bell dedicated to former Mayor Howard Duff

## **THE PLAN**

The Village of Burdett Comprehensive Plan (the “Plan”) has been developed to provide a general statement of direction for land use planning in the village. The Plan provides a foundation for decisions and policies that guide and direct the physical, social, and economic development for the village. It is designed to serve as a tool for residents, and elected village officials, and focuses on responding to both the immediate and anticipated long-term needs of the village.

The Plan is long-term in nature. The goals, policies, and strategies of the Plan are intended to provide a steady, predictable direction over the next 20 to 30 years. As needs and issues continue to change in the village, the Plan will need to be revisited and updated to be sure that it continues to reflect the public vision and the plan’s realistic implementation.

The comprehensive plan has been designed to ensure that land use decision-making in the village:

- Is responsive to community goals and objectives.
- Respects the sensitive ecosystems within the village’s jurisdiction.
- Creates and enforces local laws that will protect public values in designated areas.
- Protects the overall public health, safety and welfare of village residents.

### **What is a Comprehensive Plan?**

A comprehensive plan contains the shared vision of what the village should look like in 20-30 years and then creates goals and policies to help achieve that vision. It is used as a strategic tool to help municipalities guide development and investment decisions to achieve a healthy, balanced community. Because conditions change over time, it is important for the village to revisit and update their comprehensive plan periodically as significant changes occur.

### **Authority for the Comprehensive Plan**

The Village of Burdett launched the Comprehensive Planning process in early 2010, giving the village board the authority to appoint village residents to a Burdett Village Planning Board (Appendix).

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS**

The comprehensive planning process began in 2010. The Village Board of Trustees asked that village residents interested in participating in the comprehensive planning process volunteer to create a Comprehensive Planning Board. Seven villagers volunteered and the first meeting was held in February 2010. A public meeting to gather community input was held in September of 2010 (Appendix) and later that year a survey was distributed through the bi-monthly water bills to village residents. Fifty-one surveys were returned, representing more than a third of the households (Appendix). The overall results of these informational gatherings showed that residents of Burdett cherish the rural charm and sense of community the village offers. Villagers overall support the need for planned development that will respect and preserve the natural environment. Once a draft of the comprehensive plan was completed two more village meetings were held to gather additional public input (Appendix).

## The Comprehensive Plan Creation Process

The Comprehensive Planning Committee believes the Plan's long-range success is dependent on how well it reflects the attitudes and preferences of village residents and their vision for the future. Consistent with that vision, the process of creating the Plan included the following components:

**Sampling Survey** – A survey was distributed to village residents to give the members of the planning committee a better understanding of village residents' values and priorities. 153 surveys were distributed. 51 completed surveys were returned.

**Analysis of Existing Conditions** - The comprehensive planning committee reviewed existing conditions in the village, Schuyler County Comprehensive Plan and comprehensive plans from other municipalities.

**Community Meetings** – Four community meetings were held to give residents another opportunity to share their likes, dislikes and vision for the Village of Burdett. One, hosted by the comprehensive plan committee, was held in the fall of 2010 at the firehouse and two others, sponsored by SCOPED and focusing on commercial district re-development, were held in 2011. Ongoing public participation was encouraged by including notices of the committee's monthly meetings in the water bills mailed to all village property owners. The draft comprehensive plan was then presented to the village board for consideration and approval.

**Elected Officials Input** – During the process of creating the plan, input was sought from village trustees. Their ideas, concerns and suggestions were discussed by the Planning Committee, and where appropriate, were incorporated into the final draft of the comprehensive plan.

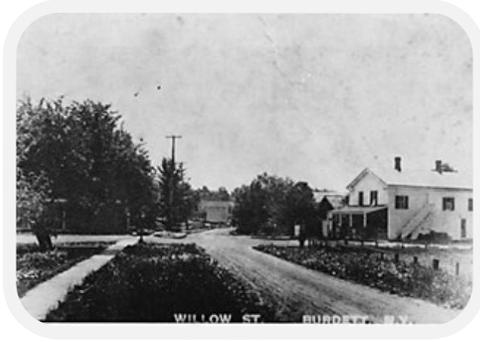
**Comprehensive Plan Website and Online Surveys** – A comprehensive plan website was created for this

project. The site provided access to plan documents, maps, calendar and a place for submitting comments.

**Public Hearings** – A public hearing was held in March, 2014, to take input on the final draft Plan before the final draft plan was presented to the Burdett Village Board for review.



## KEY ISSUES



The following is a list of the key issues confronting the Village of Burdett today:

**Housing Inventory** – Housing consists of single-family and duplex or triplex units. The majority of homes in the Village of Burdett are older. Some are in need of improvement. They represent a mixture of architectural styles.

**Loss of Agricultural Lands and Rural Character** – If land uses in the Town of Hector convert agricultural property to residential development, the loss of green space and rural character would impact the appeal of the Village of Burdett.

**Cost of Growth** – The Village of Burdett government is set up to serve the needs of a rural village. The village is not currently set up to provide a wide range of services to residential and commercial areas. And yet, there could be significant development within the village. Additional development, whether residential or commercial, could place significant additional burdens on maintenance of roads designed for rural traffic, public safety, municipal water systems etc.

**Incompatible Land Uses** – A lack of regulation allows for the potential of incompatible land uses on adjacent sites.

**Environmental Impacts** – The Village of Burdett includes a variety of sensitive ecosystems, including riparian and wetlands resources, wildlife habitat and visual corridors. There is a desire to ensure future development balances the need for economic development with policies to ensure minimum impact on sensitive environments.



**Regional Coordination** - Many of the issues confronting the village such as transportation, affordable housing, environmental protection and economic development stretch beyond Burdett's village boundaries. These issues require cooperation between affected municipalities. Burdett village officials should adopt a pro-active role in addressing these issues within the comprehensive planning process.

**Private Property Rights** – The Village of Burdett recognizes property owners have an inherent right to develop property as long as that development is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the village and does not adversely affect adjacent property owners' rights. The development of land should be consistent with the general land use goals and policies of the village's comprehensive plan and minimize nuisances to the greatest extent possible.

**Changing Population Center** – As urban areas like Ithaca, Elmira and Corning continue to grow, there will be increased pressure for residential housing in the Village of Burdett. The village growth potential is limited by geographical constraints.



## FUTURE LAND USE

### Overall Vision

**The Village of Burdett is dedicated to managing growth cost-effectively, in order to create a thriving community while promoting a diverse, sustainable and healthy economy, protecting wildlife, maintaining or improving the quality of our natural environment, and preserving the village's rural heritage.**

**Major Plan Direction and Themes** - The Village of Burdett, through this comprehensive plan, is recommending how to accommodate future growth in the community: in housing, agricultural and commercial development. At the same time, the Plan addresses transportation and mobility, open lands, infrastructure, and other future needs of the village through policies that will guide that growth. The aim of the Plan is to preserve the livability of the village in the future. A "livable" village means different things to different people. For some, it means retaining open space; for others, planning for a range of development densities; for still others, it means allowing flexibility to accommodate economic development in the county. This Plan seeks to achieve a broad range of "livability" in a balanced manner. Common sense and experience dictate most new growth should occur in areas that have, or can easily be served by, municipal services. The village supports and encourages orderly development.

## Plan Elements

Each of the following sections describes an element of the comprehensive plan (housing, transportation, etc.). Each section contains the following four components:

**Vision** – The vision statement is a broad description of the desired future condition. While the vision statement is the backbone of the comprehensive plan, it is only able to be realized through a well thought out set of goals, objectives and actions that provide a clear blueprint for where the village would like to go and how it will get there.

**Issues** – Each section outlines the primary issues that have been identified throughout the process. These issues have helped shape the goals and associated policies within the Plan.

**Goals** – Comprehensive plan goals provide concise statements of what the community aims to accomplish within the next 20-30 years. The goals add specificity and more detail to the vision. Goals are instrumental in evaluating future land use decisions—i.e. “which village goals will this decision help achieve?” The goals are further implemented by the objectives and strategies/actions that follow.

**Objectives**– Statements of quantifiable and intermediate-term achievements that help accomplish specified goals.

**Strategies and Actions** – provide suggested specific actions and programs that can be taken to implement the Plan. The Plan’s appendices contain material the village may use to implement various strategies. Because priorities and budgets will change from year to year, village officials should consider the potential actions and draw up an implementation plan, or specific tasks and assignments on an as-needed basis.





# Section I

## RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

### VISION

The Village will be a family-friendly community home to many small, locally-owned businesses. The residents and business owners will take pride in their community.

### ISSUES

- Development, whether residential, commercial or agri-business, should not place unwarranted fiscal burdens or responsibilities on village residents.
- The village lacks a strong community vision.

### GOALS

- Increase coordination, communication and shared services between the village, the Town of Hector and Schuyler County.
- Encourage future development to be located in areas where municipal services are available.
- Ensure village land use policies and development approvals are compatible with the future zoning and land use objectives of the village and in compliance with all state and county laws.
- Create a favorable environment for small business that will contribute to the local community.
- Continue to preserve Burdett's "small town charm" while allowing for growth.
- Maintain the current mix of commercial and residential buildings.
- Promote the village as a destination.
- Make the village inviting to young families.
- Residents have expressed a desire to keep Burdett small so future development must be compatible with the desire to maintain scale and character of existing buildings.

### OBJECTIVES

- The village will support a small group of citizens, business owners and community leaders who work together to welcome new residents and businesses.
- Encourage business to sponsor community gatherings to help develop a community spirit and pride in the village.
- Encourage small-scale business in the core (along St. Rt. 79) of the village.
- Discourage large-scale commercial uses within the village.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Work with local agencies, such as the Chamber of Commerce and SCOPED to bring new small businesses into the village.
- The village board will appoint a group of people to be a welcome committee.
- Begin a campaign to advertise the village (ex. at county events)
- Determine the need for land use recommendations



# Section 2

## HOUSING



### VISION

The Village of Burdett will have a full range of housing options for a variety of income levels. Property owners will maintain their property in a safe and inviting manner that fosters a sense of community.

### ISSUES

- There is a small inventory of undeveloped lots and neglected properties in the Village of Burdett.
- Housing affordability is a regional issue.

### GOALS

- There is a need to improve rundown properties in the village.
- Increase the number of housing units in the village.
- The Village of Burdett will continue to support a range of housing types, costs and tenancy options that ensure current and future residents affordable housing opportunities in safe residential structures.
- The village wants to ensure property owners provide for the proper upkeep and maintenance of their residential and commercial properties.

### OBJECTIVES

- The village will seek grants or other financial support to assist residents in home and property maintenance and improvements.
- The village will develop an inventory of the current housing resources.
- Improve housing and outbuilding stock in the form of rehabilitation, revitalization or new development within 5 years.

### STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Develop a housing plan that realistically provides for a full range of housing options for all Burdett residents.
- Coordinate efforts with municipalities to foster regional housing goals.
- Include housing brochure in newsletters.
- Discuss with county planner and Catholic Charities about ways to work with housing resources.
- Incrementally tax improved properties (tax breaks).
- Capitalize on the unique aesthetic design of the village.

# Section 3

## TRANSPORTATION



### VISION

The Village of Burdett seeks a safe, efficient, well-maintained, balanced transportation network that accommodates multi-modal uses and effectively links communities throughout the Finger Lakes Region and beyond.

### ISSUES

- Transportation is needed from Burdett to the surrounding areas: Ithaca, Corning, Geneva, Elmira and Watkins Glen thus allowing residents to commute easily.
- There is limited public transportation for residents to surrounding areas.
- Most Burdett residents work outside the village, making accessible transportation a concern.
- The growing number of visitors coming to area wineries and visitor attractions can mean traffic delays, especially on heavily-attended race weekends at Watkins Glen International and during other special events.
- Future development in the village and surrounding area will place increased demands on current roadways.
- Heavy truck traffic causes the streets to deteriorate much faster than normal.
- A growing number of bicyclists travel through the village of Burdett, raising concerns for the safety of the bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Schuyler County transit provides a limited weekday public transportation schedule and routes.

### GOALS

- Improvement to intersections to alleviate traffic congestion and accommodate for the future development in the area.
- Ensure village streets are constructed and maintained and monitored on a safe and sustainable basis.
- Support expansion of the public transit services to surrounding areas allowing residents and tourists to visit surrounding cities, towns and villages.
- Improve signage and directions within the village.
- Provide a safe environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists; provide dedicated bike lane where feasible.

### OBJECTIVES

- Develop a transportation enhancement program grant within 2 years.
- Install way-finding signs within 3 years.
- All new roads must be built to village standards.
- Install parking signage where needed.
- The village will complete a comprehensive road inventory within 2 years.
- The village will review policies for sidewalk repair and maintenance.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS:

- Burdett should focus infrastructure improvements (and road maintenance) in a cost effective pattern, in areas where growth is appropriate based on vehicle usage.
- The village should work with transit entities to address Burdett's transit needs and how to connect with neighboring public and private transit systems.
- The village should explore mechanisms to address increased traffic and parking needs.
- The village should work with law enforcement to increase enforcement of existing vehicle and traffic laws.
- The village should appoint a committee to inventory village roads.
- The village should establish and enforce vehicle weight limits on village roads.
- The village should develop road construction standards.
- The village should work with SCOPED to apply to federal/state funds for intersection improvements.
- The village should negotiate off-hour parking agreements with post office and businesses.
- The village should install more sidewalks along Rt. 79 to improve pedestrian safety.
- A dedicated bike lane should be considered where feasible.



# Section 4

## ECONOMICS & TOURISM



### VISION

Burdett's Main Street will have thriving businesses. There will be different types of shops with unique items for sale. People will be able to sit at tables under colorful umbrellas for lunch on front patios of several businesses. Outdoor dining options will encourage people to stop, shop and visit.

### ISSUES

- The Village of Burdett has vacant and under-developed space suitable for small business development, as well as store fronts that need upgrading and revitalizing.
- The Village of Burdett is located in a region experiencing tourism growth that it needs to capitalize on.
- The Village is concerned about the potential negative impact of large scale development.

### GOALS

- Burdett will retain and expand modest, viable commercial uses.
- Encourage a strong and diverse economic base that fosters small commercial development and increases tourism.
- Promote local businesses to local and regional areas.
- Develop a program that encourages in-home businesses.

### OBJECTIVES

- The Village recognizes that tourism is an important part of the regional economy and the village recognizes that the tourism industry is enhanced by (1) open space and scenic vistas (2) public trails and other recreational opportunities (3) public access to public lands (4) green belts and open area between communities (5) clean air and water (6) local foods and local produce.
- Establish or expand one in-home business within 3 years.
- Fill vacant store fronts within 5 years.
- Attract one new business within 5 years.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS:

- Encourage store front owners to make their stores warm and welcoming.
- Buy a banner to advertise Burdett (“stop off to eat...”, “go to the park...”).
- Encourage the purchases of vacant buildings for unique businesses by individuals.
- Provide incentives for new businesses.
- Obtain revitalization grants for Main Street.
- Help village businesses work with the Chamber of Commerce to promote Burdett as a gateway/ commercial corridor.
- Help to market our main street shops and in home shops to visitors coming into the area.
- Put up signage for tourists to easily locate the shops that are off the main street.
- Ensure that adequate land is reserved for the type, size and scope of commercial development consistent with long term economic development objectives.
- Ensure that commercial and tourism developments are compatible with adjacent land uses and preserve the visual quality of the village.
- Develop a strategy to promote historical buildings and points of interest.





## Section 5

# RECREATION & GREEN SPACES

### VISION

The Village of Burdett will maintain, enhance, increase and promote its recreational and green spaces as gathering places for village residents and visitors. There will also be places for quiet reflection in a natural setting.

### ISSUES

- Regional trails already exists in the Finger Lakes region and could be accessed from the Village of Burdett with improved signage.
- The Village of Burdett has parks and green spaces that require ongoing maintenance and upkeep.
- There is presently a lack of public access to Hector Falls Creek.
- Any action regarding trails and Hector Creek must respect the property rights of landowners in the village.

### GOALS

- Improve signage for all recreational areas and trails in and around the Village of Burdett.
- Provide ongoing improvements and upkeep to parks and green spaces in the village.
- The village will take a more active role in both trails and green space.
- Improve access to Hector Falls Creek via village-owned property.
- Provide opportunities for the tourism industry to utilize recreational resources as well as to preserve recreation resources for local access.
- Educate residents and visitors to the importance of maintaining the cleanliness and natural beauty of Hector Falls Creek.

## OBJECTIVES

- Develop a plan to maintain parks and green spaces within three years.
- Apply for grants to improve parks, green spaces, and trails within five years.
- Develop a capital improvement plan for parks and green spaces within one year of the adoption of the parks and green spaces plan.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Work with municipalities and other organizations collaboratively to develop a county-wide trail and preservation plan.
- The village of Burdett will seek resources to assist in the design and maintenance needs of village parks and green spaces.
- Identify and mark with signage public spaces in the village.
- The Village of Burdett will investigate providing safe and inviting access to Hector Falls Creek via public lands for recreation use (i.e. fishing, creek walking)
- The Village of Burdett will promote its green and recreational area with improved signage and parking. This includes signage that would designate between public and private lands to protect landowners' rights.
- Install trail signage within 2 years.
- Organize a clean-up of public spaces within the village.



## Section 6



# AGRICULTURE

## VISION

The Village of Burdett will become recognized and sought out for its unique blend of agricultural experiences and vistas.

## ISSUES

- Agriculture is strongly associated with the rural heritage and image of the village of Burdett.
- Residential subdivisions often cause conflicts with agricultural practices which can eventually discourage farming.
- As rural areas continue to develop, the need to ensure compatibility between these uses and active agricultural lands will intensify.
- Agricultural land provides habitat for area wildlife.
- With the increasing costs of transportation, and the desire to preserve agricultural lands, there is a growing awareness of the benefits of having a local food supply.
- Potential for negative impact of agricultural practices on quality of life in the village.

## GOALS

- Promote the continuation of agricultural uses.
- Preserve the significant rural character in the village.
- Encourage use of accepted agricultural management practices
- Preserve the scenic and visual corridors in the village.
- Encourage development in areas that are compatible with agriculture.

## OBJECTIVES

- Develop signage to raise awareness of importance of farming in the area.
- Work with area farm neighbors to raise awareness of potential impacts of agriculture on village residents.
- Work with local organizations and adjoining municipalities to preserve farmland and natural resources.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

- Create village regulations as appropriate to increase their effectiveness for land conservation and agricultural protection.
- Research and present for public consideration options appropriate to Burdett regarding agricultural protection (examples: Right to farm Laws, inclusion in Agricultural districting)
- Work with local agencies, such as SCOPED, Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau to promote agri-tourism and local food sources.



# Section 7

## Water & Waste Water Services



### VISION

All village residents will have water and sewer at a reasonable cost.

### ISSUES

- Water is essential to all life in the Seneca Lake watershed. Potential threats to water supply include, but are not limited to, climate change and drought cycles, oil shale production, urban development pressures, pollution, littering and agricultural practices.
- The proliferation of Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) if not carefully monitored and maintained, has the potential to pollute surface and ground water.
- There are inadequate sewer systems in Burdett.

### GOALS

- Ensure the provision of legal, adequate, dependable, cost-effective and environmentally sound water and wastewater services for new development and existing properties.
- Village will continue to have high quality municipal water service, via Town of Hector water district..

### OBJECTIVES

- Develop dependable and environmentally sound water/wastewater disposal facility within 15 years.
- Require improvements to existing properties and new development to mitigate impacts on existing water/wastewater systems.
- Promote increased awareness of potential septic system issues.
- Work with watershed inspector to disseminate information to homeowners about septic system care.
- Increase the capacity to treat wastewater.

### STRATEGIES & ACTIONS:

- Work with Schuyler County to find ways to collaborate with county policies, plans, and new wastewater treatment facilities.
- The village should participate in discussions with county and the Village of Watkins Glen about a central waste water treatment plant.
- The village should explore long-term solutions to address inadequate wastewater systems in the village.
- The village should seek grants and funding sources to address waste water issues.
- Work with county watershed department to develop handout on potential septic issues.

# Section 8

## NATURAL RESOURCES



### VISION

The Village of Burdett will preserve its natural, scenic, and ecological resources for the enjoyment of its residents and future generations to come.

### ISSUES

- Natural resources could be impaired by activities in and around the Village of Burdett.
- Many of the natural resources found in the Village of Burdett are under the jurisdiction of other agencies and extend beyond village boundaries. Therefore, a cooperative approach is required.

### GOALS

- Ensure that natural, scenic and ecological resources are protected and enhanced, and/or impacts mitigated.
- Protect watersheds within the Village of Burdett.
- Expand recycling options and programs available to Village of Burdett residents, including curbside pick-up.
- Encourage resource conservation.
- Implement a village-wide cleanup day.

### OBJECTIVES

- Protect critical habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species by identifying where these habitats are, and educating affected landowners about habitat preservation concepts.
- Encourage the protection of watersheds, flood plains, and riparian areas through educational programs for local landowners.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS:

- Complete an inventory of important natural resources in the village and make that inventory available to village, town, and county officials.
- Explore resources, organizations, and funding sources to help Promote vegetative buffers and cover crops to protect natural resources and watersheds by disseminating information through Cooperative Extension and County seminars and programs.
- Explore the possibility of creating a water quality monitoring program for riparian areas.
- Establish a curbside recycling program.
- Evaluate and develop a plan for storm water drainage.



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# Section 9

## Energy

### VISION

Burdett village residents will have access to affordable, clean energy while preserving the rural character of the village.

### ISSUES

- Schuyler County may have significant energy resources that could have considerable benefits to the economic health of the Village of Burdett and the region, but, these benefits must be weighed against potentially negative environmental and economic impacts.
- Energy operations could have significant visual impacts on the scenery of the village.
- Primary regulatory control of energy operations rests with New York State agencies.
- Currently, natural gas service is not available in the Village of Burdett.

### GOALS

- Ensure energy operations are regulated appropriately to promote responsible development and provide benefit to the general public.
- Ensure energy operations mitigate their effects on the natural environment, including air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and important visual resources.
- In working with energy projects, the village will protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, while preserving and protecting the village's scenic, rural character.
- To explore the feasibility of natural gas service for Village of Burdett residents.

### OBJECTIVES

- Preserve and protect the rural identity of Burdett by providing residents with the training they need to make informed decisions about their surface and mineral owner's rights and privileges including the right to extract these minerals and develop these interests in a responsible manner.
- Promote the use of traditional and emerging energy technologies for residents of Burdett by educating land-owners about these technologies, and opportunities for utilizing them in a responsible manner.

## STRATEGIES & ACTIONS:

- Ensure that developers of energy projects contribute proportionately to the construction and operation of any public improvement and infrastructures which are, or will be, required or impacted by their projects.
- Study the impacts that traditional and emerging technologies have had on communities similar in size and character to the Village of Burdett.
- Share all findings with village residents and provide residents with a public forum for education, input, and planning.
- Pursue the feasibility of making natural gas service available to village residents by exploring county and Village of Watkins Glen plans for expanding gas service to Burdett.
- Work cooperatively with other governmental agencies and the private sector on all energy- related issues
- Continue to monitor large scale energy development so that the village will be able to stay on top of any and all new information presented.



# Section 10

## COMMUNITY & CULTURE

### VISION

Residents of the Village of Burdett have a long standing history of fellowship and compassion. These traits will continue as village residents work together to support community members of all ages in fellowship and look to the future with a respect for the past.



### ISSUES

- The Village Hall/Firehouse is aging and need of repair or replacement.
- The Village lacks a centralized, accessible site for its historical artifacts and information.
- Communication among village residents, village organizations, and village government is limited.
- The village population is aging and declining.

### GOALS

- Construct a new firehouse on the outskirts of the village.
- Explore development of a community center facility in the heart of the village as a repository for historical artifacts and information.
- Improve community communications.
- Make the village more inviting to new families.

### OBJECTIVES

- Support village historian with office and storage space for historical records, artifacts and documents.
- Articulate the importance of historical assets in village planning.
- Encourage further development of Barnum Street Park and the ball field.
- Within 2 years, develop a timeline for construction of a new fire house.

### STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

- Establish a committee to develop the timeline for building a new fire house.
- Develop plans for landscaping village-owned green spaces
- Construct a pavilion at Barnum Street Park.



# APPENDIX

## MAPS

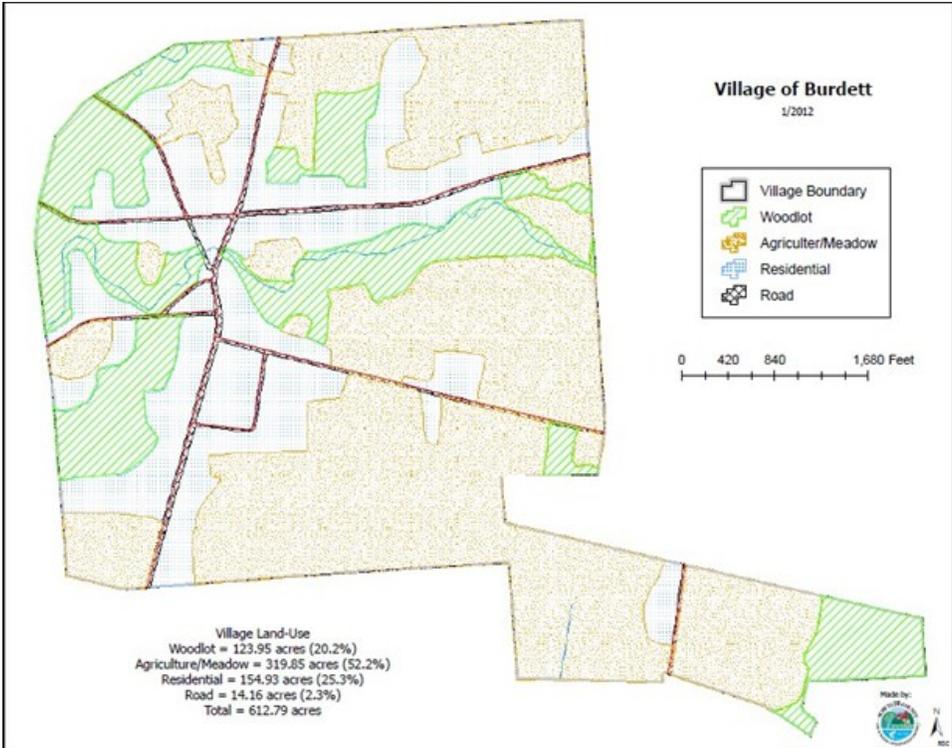
### Finger Lakes Region of New York State



# AERIAL MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF BURDETT



# LAND MAP OF VILLAGE OF BURDETT



# Notes from the Public Meeting and Community Input Sept. 10, 2010

## **LIKES:**

Small

Rural

Quaint

Low crime rate

Safe, family-friendly environment

Green spaces (parks & ball field)

Open spaces

Sense of community

“knew where the kids were”

“Great place to raise kids”

Residential areas (want to remain residential)

Good neighbors

Access to larger stores near-by

Burdett as a bedroom community

Small, family-owned businesses

Centrally located

Good parking

Low taxes

Churches

Visually pleasing (scenic vistas, trees)

## **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

Better signage to get to Burdett

New speed limit signs

Better enforcement of existing traffic laws, sidewalk, animal control & building maintenance ordinances

More locally-own and operated businesses

Zoning

Need "good neighbor" policy (noise, animals, curfew, sidewalks, care of public spaces)

Better stewardship of land, land uses and resources

Agricultural concerns (air quality, health and water concerns, pesticide & chemical use)

If improve playground, more kids and families, more noise and problems

Need sewer

Drainage issues on Willow St.

No need for new affordable housing, enough on the market now

Improved village communication (water bill, website, firehall billboard)

Bus stops and shelters

*These were comments offered by the 25-30 people who attended the September 2010 input gathering session.*

# Community Input

Tabulated Community Survey Responses Village Survey – Quantitative Information

<b>Q6. Think about your community, how satisfied are you with the following:</b>					
	Very	Somewhat	Rarely	Never	Unsure
General appearance of buildings and grounds	4	36	7	0	0
Safety of your neighborhood	27	17	2	0	1
Affordable housing for rent	14	14	4	0	14
Overall sense of community	7	34	3	0	2

<b>Think about Burdett, how important is it to improve the following:</b>					
<b>Q7. Housing</b>					
	Very	Somewhat	Rarely	Never	Unsure
Affordable housing for sale	12	22	4	1	5
Affordable housing for rent	11	19	7	1	7
Disability accessible housing	12	20	5	1	7
Rehabilitate rundown housing	32	10	5	0	0
<b>Q8. Community Facilities</b>					
Parks & recreational facilities	25	17	2	2	2
Community centers for youth and seniors	23	13	3	4	4
Parks and green spaces/ open spaces	31	12	2	2	1
Historic buildings	24	19	2	1	1
<b>Q9. Infrastructure Systems</b>					
Storm drainage system	23	15	6	1	1
Water system	26	15	7	1	0
Streets	17	23	7	0	1
Street lighting	20	19	8	1	1
Signage	20	17	9	0	1
Sidewalks & pedestrian paths	23	16	9	0	1
Bicycle paths & racks	16	18	5	5	4
Create municipal sewer system	27	10	5	6	1

<b>Q10. How satisfied are you with each of the following village services?</b>					
	Very	Somewhat	Rarely	Never	Unsure
Fire department	43	4	0	0	1
Waste & recycling services	7	18	9	10	4
Building code enforcement	14	12	11	5	7
Enforcement of speed limit	9	13	15	9	2
Enforcement of leash law	12	10	9	8	9

**Q11. How satisfied are you with the following in Burdett?**

	Very	Somewhat	Rarely	Never	Unsure
Everyday shopping needs	8	16	12	10	4
Retail shopping opportunities	5	8	16	14	4
Number of restaurants	13	14	15	3	4
Variety of restaurants	8	16	17	4	4
Entertainment options	4	10	14	14	5
Work commute	21	14	2	3	6

**Q12. What kind of future development would you be most comfortable seeing in Burdett? (check all that apply)**

renovation of current buildings	43
new single family housing	24
new multi-family housing	11
locally-owned businesses	41
chain stores	6
agriculture	22
industrial	9

**Q13. Land use planning sometimes puts restrictions on use of private property in a specifically zoned area in order to protect the rights, values and character that a community has established for that area. How do you feel about this? (check one)**

Laws should be created and enforced that will protect public values in designated areas	27
Public values should be protected, but without the use of specific laws (explain__)	4
No opinion	6
The right of an individual to do whatever he/she wants with private property is more important than protecting public values	9

**Age** average | 52.3 |

**Gender** | Male | 19 | Female | 23 |

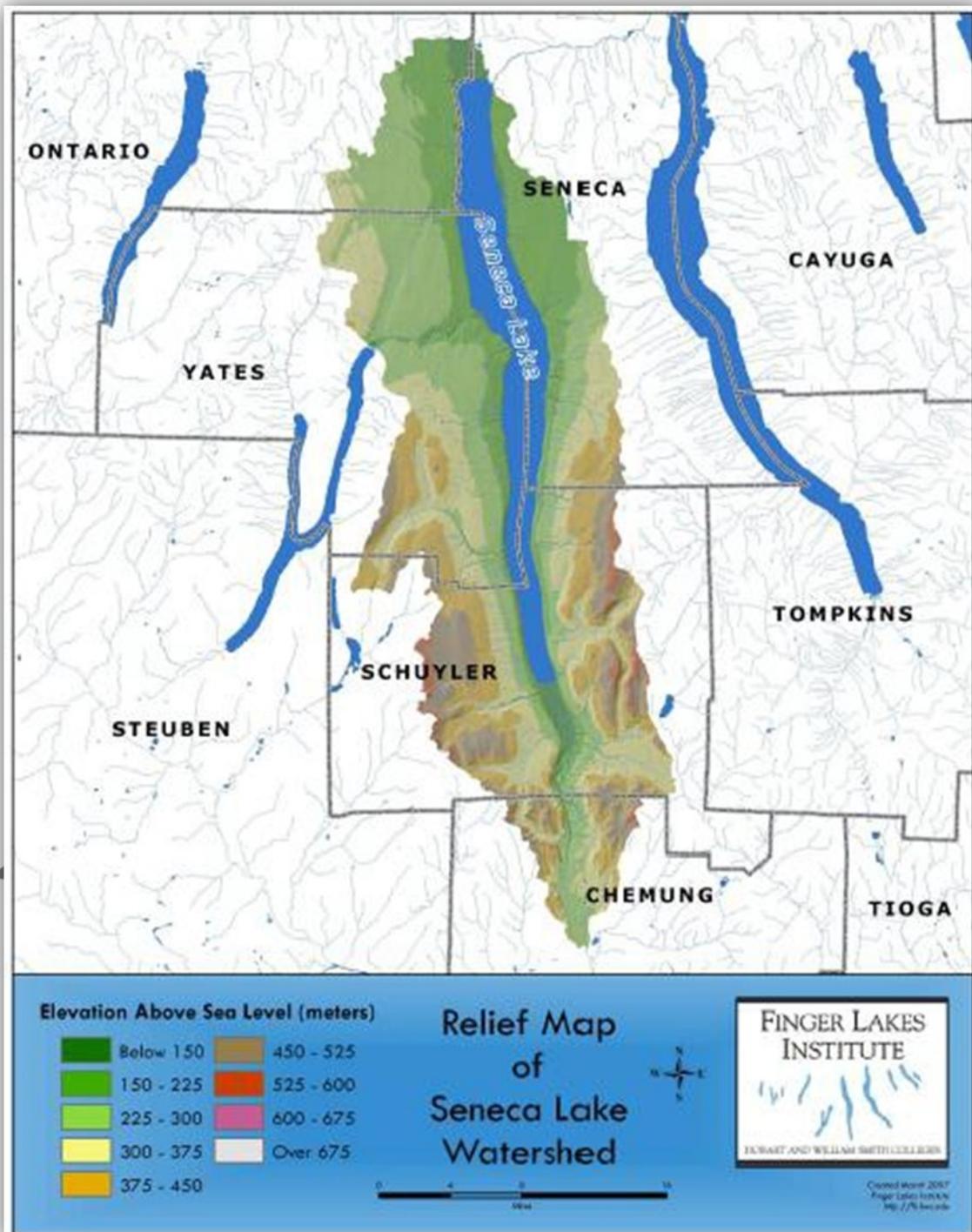
**How long have you lived in Burdett?**

< 5 yrs	8
5-10 yrs	3
10-20 yrs	7
21-30 yrs	8
30+ yrs	21

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

<b>U.S. CENSUS</b>		
<b>Profile of General Population &amp; Housing Characteristics</b>		
<b>VILLAGE OF BURDETT, NEW YORK</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
<b>Male</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Race</b>		
<b>White</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Black or African American</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Native American</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Relationship</b>		
<b>Families</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Average Family Size</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>2.92</b>
<b>Housing</b>		
<b>Housing Units</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Occupied Housing</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Vacant Housing</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Renter-occupied Housing</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Average Owner-occupied Housing</b>	<b>2.46</b>	<b>2.53</b>
<b>Average Renter-occupied Housing</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>2.04</b>

# WATERSHED AND WETLANDS



# NYS Law

## § 7-718 Planning board; creation, appointment.

1. Authorization. The village board of trustees of each village is hereby authorized by local law to create a planning board consisting of five or seven members. Members and the chairperson of such planning board shall be appointed by the mayor subject to the approval of the board of trustees. In the absence of a chairperson the planning board may designate a member to serve as chairperson. The village board of trustees may, as part of the local law creating said planning board, provide for the compensation of planning board members.

2. Appropriation for planning board. The village board of trustees is hereby authorized and empowered to make such appropriation as it may see fit for planning board expenses. The planning board shall have the power and authority to employ experts, clerks and a secretary and to pay for their services, and to provide for such other expenses as may be necessary and proper, not exceeding in all the appropriation that may be made therefor by the village board of trustees for such planning board.

3. Village board of trustees ineligible. No person who is a member of the village board of trustees shall be eligible for membership on such planning board.

4. Terms of members first appointed. The terms of members of the planning board first appointed shall be so fixed that the term of one member shall expire at the end of the village official year in which such members were initially appointed. The terms of the remaining members first appointed shall be so fixed that one term shall expire at the end of each official year thereafter. At the expiration of the term of each member first appointed, his or her successor shall be appointed or a term which shall be equal in years to the number of members of the board.

5. Terms of members now in office. Members now holding office for terms which do not expire at the end of the village official year shall, upon the expiration of their term, hold office until the end of the village official year and their successors shall then be appointed for terms which shall be equal in years to the number of members of the board.

6. Increasing membership. Any village board of trustees may, by local law, increase a five member planning board to seven members. Additional members shall be first appointed for single terms in order that the terms of members shall expire in each of seven successive years and their successors shall thereafter be appointed for full terms of seven years. No such additional member shall take part in the consideration of any matter for which an application was on file with the planning board at the time of his or her appointment.

7. Decreasing membership. A village board of trustees which has seven members on the planning board may, by local law, decrease the membership to five, to take effect upon the next two expirations of terms. However, no incumbent shall be removed from office except upon the expiration on his or her term, except as hereinafter provided.

### 7-a. Training and attendance requirements.

a. Each member of the planning board shall complete, at a minimum, four hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties. Training received by a member in excess of four hours in any one year may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision. Such training shall be approved by the board of trustees and may include, but not be limited to, training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.

b. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall have completed the training promoted by the village pursuant to this subdivision.

c. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified by resolution of the board of trustees when, in the judgment of the board of trustees, it is in the best interest of the village to do so.

d. No decision of a planning board shall be voided or declared invalid because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

8. Vacancy in office. If a vacancy shall occur otherwise than by expiration of term, the mayor shall appoint the new member for the unexpired term.

9. Removal of members. The mayor shall have the power to remove, after public hearing, any member of the planning board for cause. Any planning board member may be removed for non-compliance with minimum requirements relating to meeting attendance and training as established by the village board of trustees by local law.

10. Chairperson duties. All meetings of the planning board shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as such board may determine. Such chairperson, or in his or her absence, the acting chairperson, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.

11. Appointment of agricultural member. Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter or any general, special or local law, the mayor may, if an agricultural district created pursuant to section three hundred three of article twenty-five-AA of the agriculture and markets law exists wholly or partly within the boundaries of such village, include on the planning board one or more members each of whom derives ten thousand dollars or more annual gross income from agricultural pursuits in said village. As used in this subdivision, the term "agricultural pursuits" means the production of crops, livestock and livestock products, aquacultural products, and woodland products as defined in section three hundred one of the agriculture and markets law.

12. Service on other planning boards. No person shall be disqualified from serving as a member of the village planning board by reason of serving as a member of the town or county planning board.

13. Rules and regulations. The planning board may recommend to the village board of trustees regulations relating to any subject matter over which the planning board has jurisdiction under this article or any other statute, or under any local law of the village. Adoption of any such recommendations by the village board of trustees shall be by local law.

14. Report on referred matters; general reports.

a. The village board of trustees may by resolution provide for the reference of any matter or class of matters, other than those referred to in subdivision ten of this section, to the planning board before final action is taken thereon by the village board of trustees or other office or officer of said village having final authority over said matter. The village board of trustees may further stipulate that final action thereon shall not be taken until the planning board has submitted its report thereon, or has had a reasonable time, to be fixed by the village board of trustees in said resolution, to submit the report.

b. The planning board may review and make recommendations on a proposed village comprehensive plan or amendment thereto. In addition, the planning board shall have the full power and authority to make investigations, maps, reports, and recommendations in connection therewith relating to the planning and development of the village as it seems desirable, providing the total expenditures of said board shall not exceed the appropriation provided therefor.

15. Planning commission. In any village in which there is a planning commission created under article twelve-A of the general municipal law, the board of trustees, instead of authorizing the appointment of a planning board under this article, may provide that the existing commission shall continue, the members thereof thereafter to be appointed in accordance with the provisions of such article twelve-A, and to have the powers and duties as specified for a planning board appointed under this article, provided, however, that in such village section two hundred thirty-eight of the general municipal law shall not be in force.

16. Alternate members.

a. A village board of trustees may, by local law or as a part of the local law creating the planning board, establish alternate planning board member positions for purposes of substituting for a member in the event such member is unable to participate because of a conflict of interest. Alternate members of the planning board shall be appointed by the mayor, subject to the approval of the board of trustees, for terms established by the village board of trustees.

b. The chairperson of the planning board may designate an alternate member to substitute for a member when such member is unable to participate because of a conflict of interest on an application or matter before the board. When so designated, the alternate member shall possess all the powers and responsibilities of such member of the board. Such designation shall be entered into the minutes of the initial planning board meeting at which the substitution is made.

c. All provisions of this section relating to planning board member training and continuing education, attendance, conflict of interest, compensation, eligibility, vacancy in office, removal, and service on other boards, shall also apply to alternate members.

17. Voting requirements. Every motion or resolution of a planning board shall require for its adoption the affirmative vote of a majority of all the members of the planning board. Where an action is the subject of a referral to the county planning agency or regional planning council the voting provisions of sections two hundred thirty-nine-m and two hundred thirty-nine-n of the general municipal law shall apply.

SOURCE: [http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?QUERYTYPE=LAW+&QUERYDATA=\\$\\$VIL7-718\\$\\$@TXVIL07-718+&LIST=LAW+&BROWSER=BROWSER+&TOKEN=54085607+&TARGET=VIEW](http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?QUERYTYPE=LAW+&QUERYDATA=$$VIL7-718$$@TXVIL07-718+&LIST=LAW+&BROWSER=BROWSER+&TOKEN=54085607+&TARGET=VIEW)

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Dwelling unit** - A building or portion of a building that is designed for residential occupancy by a single family (i.e. kitchen, bathroom(s), individual entry from exterior or a common hallway).

**Floodplain** - Any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source.

**Infrastructure** - Those manmade structures which serve the common needs of the population. Structures typically include roads, water lines, sewer lines, electric and gas lines.

**Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS)** - An absorption system of any size or flow or a system or facility for collecting, storing, treating, neutralizing, stabilizing, or disposing of sewage that is not a part of or connected to a sewage treatment works. There are many types of ISDS's, the most common of which is a septic system.

**Light pollution** - Light emitted from an artificial source that falls on a separate property from the source, or illuminates the night sky decreasing the visibility of stars and other natural sky phenomena.

**Local community** - The residents and property owners within an area that share a perception of inter-connection and interdependence, and shared responsibility. Practically, this can be defined as a municipality, an unincorporated community, a subdivision, or merely the residents and property owners within a geographic area (a drainage basin).

**Municipality** - An incorporated city or town.

**Riparian** - Related to, living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse or lake. Riparian areas include groups of plants, animals and aquatic communities whose presence is either directly or indirectly attributed to water-influenced or water-related factors. Areas exempt from this definition are manmade agricultural structures and devices including irrigation ditches, sprinklers and artificial ponds.

**Rural character** - In general, following characteristics describe rural character:

- Natural, open landscapes, grazing and cultivated land predominate over the built environment;

- Compatible with the use of the land by wildlife (wildlife habitat and/or migration routes);

- Generally does not require the extension of urban governmental services; and

- Consistent with the protection of fish habitat, natural surface water flows and ground water, and surface water recharge and discharge areas.

Rural areas have overall a low density of development, as well as forests, mining areas, outdoor recreation and other open space activities. Commercial uses are small in scale and will provide convenience services to the rural neighborhood. Industrial uses are generally those that are related to and dependent on natural resources such as agriculture, timber or minerals.

**Watershed** - The area of land where all of the water that is under it or "sheds" or drains from it into the same place (creek, stream, river, lake, etc.).

**S.C.O.P.E.D.** - Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development. The agency assists in identifying the financial and professional resources needed for business creation and expansion in the upstate New York region.

**Mitigated** - to cause to become less harsh or hostile.

**Vegetative buffer** - a transitional vegetated area located between upland and aquatic habitats. (Fischer et al. 2000) Typically they are long strips of natural or managed vegetation adjacent watercourses, ponds, lake and other aquatic systems, e.g. inland wetlands.

**Multi-modal transportation** - having or involving several modes of locomotion, i.e. cars, buses and trucks.

**Agri-business** - an industry engaged in the producing operations of a farm, the manufacture and distribution of farm equipment and supplies, and the processing, storage, and distribution of farm commodities.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS (cont'd.)**

**Business incubators** – a facility established to nurture young (startup) firms during their early months or years. It usually provides affordable space, shared offices and services, hand-on management training, marketing support and, often, access to some form of financing.

**Seneca Lake Watershed** - Seneca Lake is the largest of the eleven Finger Lakes that make up a complex system of lakes and rivers in central New York State known as Oswego River Basin. The lake's surface area is 66.3 square miles, and the watershed is approximately 457 square miles. The Seneca Lake watershed encompasses 40 municipalities and five counties, including parts of Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, and Yates Counties.

# REFERENCES

- Village of Burdett Commercial District Action Plan (designed by Peter J. Smith & Co. Inc.)
- History of Burdett (written and published by the Wednesday Afternoon Club of Burdett)



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