

# VILLAGE OF SCHUYLERVILLE 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

## March 2025 Draft

For Saratoga County General Municipal Law Section 239 Review



"Schuylerville, Americas Most Historic Village"



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## **Executive Summary**

### **Project Description**

This project represents an update of the 2005 Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan. This planning effort will advance strategies to address new priorities in Local Economy and Tourism; Land Use and Zoning; Housing; Community Services; Infrastructure; Recreation, Parks and Trails; Historic and Cultural Resources; Natural Resources; Community Sustainability and Resilience. Funds for this update were partially granted through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program. The plan will also provide the foundation and support for potential future revisions to the zoning code and local regulations.

The primary goal of this comprehensive plan is to seek a balance between the need to guide future growth with the need to preserve the characteristics that make a community unique and special for its residents. It provides a vision for the future and a roadmap for how to achieve the vision. It provides guidance to the Village Boards for making decisions about future plans, projects and improvements.

#### The 2025 Vision

The Vision Statement describes the desired future state of the Village of Schuylerville and provides a picture of what the community is working towards. The statement is a combination of existing conditions that the community wants to protect and aspirational elements that the community has not yet achieved but wishes to see manifested in its desired future state. The following narrative describes Schuylerville's future vision for the community and serves as the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan's goals and recommendations.

#### **Vision Statement:**

The Village of Schuylerville strives to be a community recognized for its resilience, with a focus on environmental responsibility, historic preservation, and walkability. The Village will strive to foster efforts to develop a vibrant community for visitors and residents through family-based outdoor recreation and business entrepreneurship. The Village will support the renovation of downtown properties with a concentration on bringing affordable housing opportunities to enable more people, workers, families, artists, and entrepreneurs to live, work, play and prosper in Schuylerville. Economic development will center on marketing the Village as a vibrant historic village that showcases itself as a year-round destination for heritage and recreational tourism along the Empire State Trail, the Old Champlain Canal Trail, and the Hudson River.

### **List of Recommendations by Priority**

#### **DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER**

Develop a community center and waterfront pavilion in Fort Hardy Park.

Implementation Strategy:

Seek funding through the NY Forward program.

Estimated Cost: \$3.9 million

#### VILLAGE HISTORIC AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PLAN

Support the development of a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan. Design and implement consistent welcome signage at all entrances to the village, and interpretive signage that identifies historic resources, creates a distinctive historic identity for the Village of Schuylerville and ties into the regional story.

Implementation Strategy: Utilize NY Forward grant funds

Estimated Cost: \$325,000

#### RECONNECT THE OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL UNDER FERRY STREET

Construct a clear span bridge or box culvert over the Champlain Canal to carry two lanes of traffic (Route 29) and a pedestrian and bike path. This improvement would create a new water trail by allowing small watercraft to travel between the Olde Champlain Canal and Turning Basin as well as a much greater flow of fresh water, helping to reduce algae.

Implementation Strategy: NY Forward program has committed \$1.05 million

Estimated Cost: \$1.65 million

#### LEADERSHIP ROLE IN 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Promote an active role for the Village in the celebration in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence in 2026.

Implementation Strategy: Apply for funds through NYS

Estimated Cost: \$35,000

#### VILLAGE MARKETING PLAN

Develop a marketing plan that will blend Schuylerville's assets into a distinctive brand that will attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. Hire a professional marketing company to develop a marketing roadmap that blends Schuylerville's arts, culture, entertainment, and outdoor resources into a distinctive brand that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors. **Implementation Strategy:** Apply for a Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant and the annual Saratoga County Economic Development Grant.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$20,000

#### **UPDATE ZONING CODE AND SITE PLAN REVIEW REGULATIONS**

Update the Village Zoning Code and official zoning map as needed. Review, identify, evaluate, and correct barriers to commercial growth, strengthen site plan review procedures, enforce measures for stormwater management and erosion control requirements, and enforce measures to the existing Village signage regulations and update as needed.

#### Implementation Strategy:

Establish a committee and file a grant application through the NYSDOS Smart Growth Grant Program or the Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant Program.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

#### COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Conduct a housing market study that assesses housing needs and inventories existing underutilized properties and areas that are suitable for residential development.

Implementation Strategy: Hire a consultant that specializes in housing to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and a Windshield Survey to assess the condition of the existing housing stock and generate a potential list for housing rehabilitation grants. Incentivize the development of affordable housing with a PILOT program. Seek funding from NY Forward or NY Main Street programs that are designed to encourage property owners to renovate commercial and mixed-use buildings.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000

#### **OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL CLEANUP PLAN**

Develop a management plan with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Canal Corporation to manage environmental risks, control flooding and protect the natural environment in the Old Champlain Canal, Turning Basin and Hudson River.

**Implementation Strategy:** Continue to work with the Canal Corporation and other partners to define the scope of work, expected results, and future uses.

Estimated Cost: Unknown at this time

## **Chapter 1** Introduction

#### 1.1 Plan Overview

A comprehensive plan is a document prepared by a community to provide direction in making land use, development, and other long-range planning decisions. The primary goal of a comprehensive plan is to provide balance between the need to guide future growth with the need to preserve the characteristics that make a community unique and special for its residents. A comprehensive plan is both a vision for the future and a roadmap for how to achieve the vision. It provides guidance to the Village Board of Trustees, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals for making decisions about future plans, projects and improvements.

This project represents an update of the 2005 Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan. This planning effort will advance strategies to address new priorities in Local Economy and Tourism; Land Use and Zoning; Housing; Community Services; Infrastructure; Recreation, Parks and Trails; Historic and Cultural Resources; Natural Resources; Community Sustainability and Resilience. Funds for this update were partially granted through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program. The plan will also provide the foundation and support for potential future revisions to the zoning code and local regulations.

The comprehensive plan update complements the ongoing work of the NY Forward Committee. The difference between these two planning efforts is that the boundary for the *Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan* 2025 *Update* includes the entire Village whereas the NY Forward program has a boundary that concentrates only on the Village's downtown area.



#### 1.2 Contents of the Plan

Comprehensive plans typically contain maps, graphics, studies, reports and other descriptive material identifying key issues, goals and objectives, strategies and action items designed to guide future growth and development. The first part of the Village of Schuylerville's comprehensive plan is organized by topic, with individual chapters focusing on each of the following topics:

- Local Economy and Tourism
- Land Use and Zoning
- Housing
- Community Services
- Infrastructure
- Recreation, Parks and Trails

- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources, Community Sustainability and Resilience

Each chapter includes a brief discussion of existing conditions, followed by a summary of specific issues and opportunities related to that topic. That baseline information is used to develop a list of goals and objectives addressing the issues identified. Goals are the broad statements of what the Village would like to achieve over a 5 to 20-year horizon, while actions are more concise statements that help to articulate the community's vision for the future. Each section has a general implementation approach which should ensure that all actions move forward on some level.

The final chapter of the plan is presented in tabular format and discusses the details of implementation: the who, what and when of addressing each of the issues identified in the plan. However, not all issues have specific implementation actions identified. The plan has been written in part to be a set of policies that can be flexibly and creatively applied to a wide range of issues to achieve the Village's goals.

#### 1.3 Previous Planning Efforts

The Village has initiated a number of planning efforts designed to understand the issues in the community. Taken together, these three plans provide the Village with a significant head start toward identifying actions that can be taken with funds provided by a NY Forward grant. In each case, there was broad public engagement in the planning process with residents and business owners identifying projects and providing input, which resulted in broad based support for implementation of these actions. Below is the list of planning efforts already undertaken by the Village of Schuylerville that have helped to create shovel-ready opportunities.

#### Fort Hardy Park Master Plan

The Village of Schuylerville received funding through the New York State Department of State (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and developed a Master Plan for Fort Hardy Park in 2002. The Master Plan provides a roadmap for the gradual implementation of improvements that strive to maintain a balance between the natural, recreational, and historic elements while providing enhanced recreation spaces, new trail opportunities, and universal access to the waterfront.

#### Old Champlain Canal Environmental Review

In August of 2022, GE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation completed the final review of a 250- page consultant report that identifies what contaminants remain in the Olde Champlain Canal or former towpath that runs 1.5 miles along the Empire State Trail from the Hudson Crossing Park to Fort Hardy Park and across Ferry Street.

#### **Downtown Building Analysis**

In 2018, the Village hired the Chazen Companies to complete a Downtown Building Analysis, which was designed to assist in efforts to improve upon the Village's architectural heritage. As

part of this review, they confirmed the Village's zoning ordinances include no restrictions that would prevent building, facade and sidewalk improvements. The study area mirrors the NY Forward project area along Broad Street and assesses the building owners' goals, possible improvements, and a rough order of magnitude opinion of probable costs of these actions.

#### NY Forward Strategic Investment Plan

The NY Forward process, led by the New York Department of State, has awarded the Village \$4.5M to develop a Strategic Investment Plan and implement key catalytic projects that advance the community's vision for revitalization. The hope is that these transformational projects will be completed before 2027, when hundreds of thousands of visitors will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Turning Point of the American Revolution in Schuylerville.

#### 1.4 Public Participation

Public outreach was extensive and included a public informational meeting held on March 9, 2024, at the Schuylerville American Legion. Approximately 35 people attended the public meeting. All were invited to review the poster session and provide comments on the questions:

- What makes Schuylerville a special place to live?
- How do you feel about the future of Schuylerville over the coming years?
- What changes would you like to see in Schuylerville in the next 5-10 years?
- What are the issues or challenges limiting the Village?
- What opportunities, initiatives or projects would you suggest?

Mayor Carpenter opened the meeting and introduced the committee. He explained the need for the Plan Update and that funds for this update were granted through the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant Program. He also said the comprehensive plan update will complement and provide the foundation for the NY Forward grant that is expected to start in the next few months. The comprehensive plan boundary includes the entire Village whereas the NY Forward program will concentrate on the downtown area.

Background for the project was reviewed along with the land use, zoning and resources maps, and a history of the population of the Village. Following the presentation a good exchange with the public took place.

Outreach efforts have continued throughout the planning process including on the Village Webpage, a dedicated Facebook page, Newsletters, Public Meetings, and a Community Survey. The Community Survey was distributed in May 2024 through a newsletter in resident's water bills, the Village website, and shared email blasts through Village organizations. A total of 140 responses were received.

A second public meeting was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Saratoga Town Hall. A total of 16 people attended the public meeting designed to review the recommendations in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update. Mayor Carpenter introduced the Advisory Committee and thanked them for their work.

## **Chapter 2** The Community Profile

#### 2.1 Introduction

The community profile is a summary of baseline conditions in the Village of Schuylerville (Schuylerville). It outlines the setting and regional framework, describes a summary of the local history, provides notable characteristics of the population, and identifies the strategic vision for the future of the Village.

#### 2.2 Geography and Setting

Schuylerville is part of Saratoga County, one of the top five counties in New York for population growth during the last decade. The Village is comprised of 0.5 square miles and approximately half a mile of shoreline on the Hudson River/Champlain Canal. The eastern village boundary is the Hudson River which is bordered by Washington County on the east side. The Village is bordered in the north by the Town of Northumberland, in the west by the Town of Saratoga, and in the south by the Village of Victory. It is about 10 miles east of the City of Saratoga Springs and the Adirondack Northway. U.S. Route 4 is the primary north-south transportation route and NYS Route 29 connects the Village to the City of Saratoga to the west and the Town of Greenwich to the east.



Figure 2-1 1889 Lithograph of Schuylerville

#### 2.3 Regional Framework

Schuylerville is the centerpiece of an extraordinary network of federal, state, and regional organizations that promote preservation and community revitalization. This very special corridor is the Lakes to Locks National Scenic Byway. It embraces an interconnected waterway that

consists of four sub-regions: Champlain Canal/Upper Hudson River, Lake George, and Lake Champlain in New York and the Richelieu Valley in Quebec. The bi-national quality of the corridor fully integrates the shared heritage and resources and strengthens the appeal of the byway as a national and international destination for travelers.

None of the agencies and organizations associated with the Byway have regulatory authority over the Village, but do provide technical assistance, programs and funding that support their regional goals and bring local projects to fruition. Schuylerville is inside the boundaries of two overlapping national heritage areas (NHA) — the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Other partners include the Lakes to Locks Passage State and Federal Byway, New York State Canal Corporation, Hudson River Valley Greenway, Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership, Hudson Crossing Park, and Saratoga County. A description of these organizations and programs is outlined below.

#### Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (ECNHC) spans 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York and includes 34 national historic landmarks and 234 local municipalities. ECNHC is administered by the New York State Canal Corporation and stretches from Buffalo to Albany and north along the Hudson River and Champlain Canal to Whitehall. In partnership with the National Park Service and numerous local, state, and federal partners, ECNHC works to preserve and share our extraordinary heritage, to promote the Corridor as a world-class tourism destination, and to foster vibrant communities connected by the waterway.

#### Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership

The Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) is a federal, state, and local initiative to restore and protect Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed for future generations. CVNHP is managed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program who works in partnership with government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Quebec.

#### Lakes to Locks Passage State and Federal Byway

Schuylerville is also part of Lakes to Locks Passage, a New York State and Federal Byway, which promotes tourism in what's known as "The Great Northeast Journey", part of the interconnected waterway that runs from the Village of Waterford to the Canadian border.

Lakes to Locks Passage provides access to 234 miles of historic and recreational sites along the waterway. It includes U.S. Route 4, one of only 37 highways to be designated as an "All-American Road" by the Federal Highway Administration. Bike Route 9 extends 340 miles from New York City to Montreal and traverses the Champlain Canal corridor. Within the Champlain Canal corridor, Bike Route 9 follows US Route 4 and parts of State Routes 32 and 22.

#### **New York State Canal Corporation**

The NYS Canal Corporation serves to maintain, operate, and promote the historic 524-mile Canal System that links the Hudson River with Lake Champlain. The Canal Corporation's mission is to transform the Canal System into a "world class recreationway."

#### Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership

The Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership, a public entity established through an act of legislation in 2006, was established to comprehensively support local efforts and resources through an innovative and voluntary framework of public and private groups, and municipalities. Through the tradition of municipal home rule, the Partnership fosters collaborative projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage. The Partnership provides administrative and other critical support for the Champlain Region Gateway Visitor Center.

#### **Hudson River Valley Greenway**

New York State's Hudson River Valley Greenway boundary extends throughout the entire Champlain Canalway Trail corridor. The major goal of The Greenway is to assist communities in establishing a system of land trails along both sides of the Hudson River from New York City to the Erie Canal and then a single trail north along the Hudson River/Champlain Canal Corridor. The Greenway has also provided the Hudson River Greenway Water Trail to assist paddlers and boaters in locating access and services along the Hudson River/Champlain Canal.

#### Empire State Trail

The Empire State Trail initiative means to develop a continuous 750-mile trail route spanning the state from New York City to Canada and Buffalo to Albany, creating the longest multi-use state trail in the nation. In the Champlain Canalway corridor, the new Empire State Trail follows the Champlain Canalway Trail for the majority of the route. The part of the trail that passes through Schuylerville has been largely implemented through the vision of the *Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group*, a volunteer partnership that includes local and regional canal and trail groups, public agencies, and park and preservation organizations. This land and water trail forms a major spine for recreation through the region.

#### **Hudson Crossing Park**

Hudson Crossing Park is a unique recreational and educational destination centered on Lock C5 Island on the Champlain Canal and Hudson River just north of Schuylerville. The park includes more than two miles of trails with panoramic Hudson River and Champlain Canal vistas.

Countless supporters, promoters, and volunteers invested their time, talent, and expertise to develop Hudson Crossing as a bi-county park for residents of Saratoga and Washington Counties, and a destination for visitors to the Champlain Corridor.

#### Saratoga County

Saratoga County Planning Department assists the county's 19 towns, 2 cities, and 9 villages in the administration of their land-use ordinances. One of its primary roles is to provide technical assistance in the area of planning and zoning to local legislative boards, planning and zoning boards of appeals and building inspectors, attorneys and planners involved in the land development process. Under General Municipal Law Section 239, the county planning board has jurisdictional review of subdivisions and zoning actions that are located within 500 feet of state or county right-of-way, municipal boundary, or located in an agricultural district.

#### 2.4 Local History

Schuylerville is the centerpiece for heritage tourism for the region. It is part of a corridor containing an outstanding collection of historical and cultural sites. Fort Hardy Park and the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center is located in Schuylerville, the Saratoga National Historical Park is five miles away, the General Schuyler House, Victory Woods, and the Saratoga Monument are all federal sites operated by the National Park Service.

Archaeological investigations reveal that Mohawk Indians inhabited the Schuylerville area over 1200 years ago. It was an excellent hunting and fishing area and provided the Indians with a natural water highway network that could take them to the north or south via the Hudson River, to the west via Fish Creek, and to the east via the Battenkill. In the Indian tongue, the area was called "Sa-ragh-to-ga" meaning "hillside country of the great river." All through the early years there were numerous fights between the French, Indians, Dutch, and English settlers. The peace of 1763 between France and England removed most of the fear of trouble from the Indians and left the area open for settlement. More homes and mills were built. In 1767, General Phillip Schuyler erected a flax mill, the first in the American Colonies. The Old Saratoga reformed Church was organized in 1770 and was used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War.

On September 10th, 1777, General John Burgoyne's army was one of the mightiest in the world, crossed the Hudson River just North of Schuylerville and halted for a time on the actual site of Schuylerville. General Burgoyne's Army then traveled south and was defeated in the two battles at Saratoga which occurred on September 19th and October 7th just to the south of the village near Bemis Heights. General Burgoyne retreated and surrendered to general Horatio Gates on October 17th, 1777. Fort Hardy Park is the Field of Grounded Arms, the place where Burgoyne's weapons were surrendered. General Burgoyne's surrender marked the turning point of the American Revolutionary War.

In the years following the Revolutionary War the village grew and prospered. Flour, Linen, paper, and saw mills were built. Schools, churches, and business establishments were common. The completion of the Champlain Canal in 1822 was a great impetus for the growth of Schuylerville. A large basin (terminal) and dry dock (a place where boats were repaired) were built. Schuylerville became a major shipping terminal on the canal. Boat loads of potatoes, grain, lumber, hay, and paper would originate in Schuylerville. Numerous warehouses as well as hotels, blacksmith shops, and businesses were established.

On April 16th, 1831. under a special act of the state legislature, the Village of Schuylerville was incorporated. The name change from Saratoga to Schuylerville was done to honor the early and long continued residence of the Schuyler family.

#### 2.5 Demographic Profile

#### **Population**

The 2020 census reports a population of 1,370 people for the Village of Schuylerville. This represents a slight ten-year decrease of 16 residents. In the last 40 years, the Village experienced significant growth between the decades of 1980 and 1990, and 2000 to 2010. Significant declines

in population occurred between 1990 and 2000. The most recent census (2010-2020) indicates an essentially stable population with nearly the same number of people counted in 1850, 1950, 1990, and 2010. Table 1 shows the astonishing fact that the population in 2020 is nearly identical to the count reported 170 years earlier in 1850.

Table 2-1 Village of Schuylerville Population 1850-2020							
1850	1900	1950	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
1,348	1,601	1,314	1,256	1,364	1,197	1,386	1,370

Source: U.S. Census, CDRPC.

As shown in Figure 1, the communities with direct access to the Northway continue to grow at a higher rate than Schuylerville and other Hudson River corridor municipalities. Between 2010 and 2020, census statistics show that growth in Wilton stood at 7.3%, Moreau at 10.0%, Northumberland at 3.0%, and Saratoga at 2.4%. The average growth rate for all of Saratoga County was 7.2% (See Table 2).

Table 2-2 Population Change Comparison with Neighboring Towns and Saratoga County								
	19	990	2000		2010		2020	
	Pop	Change	Pop	Change	Pop	Change	Pop	Change
		%		%		%		%
Schuylerville (V)	1,364	-	1,197	-167	1,386	189	1,370	-16
				-12.2%		13.6%		-1.2%
Victory Mills (V)	581	-	544	-37	605	61	666	61
				-6.4%		10%		9.2%
Northumberland	3,645	-	4,603	958	5,087	484	5,242	155
				26%		10.5%		3.0%
Moreau	13,022	-	13,826	804	14,728	902	16,202	1,474
				6.2%		6.5%		10.0%
Wilton	10,626	-	12,511	1,885	16,173	3,662	17,361	1,188
				17.7%		29.3%		7.3%
Saratoga	5,069	-	5,141	72	5,674	533	5,808	134
				1.4%		10.4%		2.4%
Saratoga County	181,276	-	200,635	19,359	219,607	18,972	235,509	15,902
				10.7%		9.5%		7.2%

Source: U.S. Census and Office of the State Comptroller

Table 3 provides a comparison snapshot of census statistics for the Village of Schuylerville and Saratoga County for 2010 and 2020. Some of the statistics that stand out are that Schuylerville has a significantly lower median age than the county or state average. The number of adults over the age of 65 is less and the number of youths under the age of 18 is more than either the county or the state.

According to the 2020 Census, the median age of Schuylerville's population is 34.9, nearly 2 years younger than 37.1 years in 2010. This compares to 43 for Saratoga County, 47 for Warren County, and 38 for the state median age.

The median income for a household rose 33.6% from \$44,460 in 2010 to \$66,953 in 2020. This is significantly lower than the Saratoga County median.

Table 2-3 2020 Demographic Summary Comparison:					
Village of Schuylerville, Saratoga County, and New York State					
	Schuylerville	Saratoga	New York State		
		County			
Population	1,370	235,509	19,571,216		
Median Age	34.9	43	40.2		
Adults 18+ over	76.1%	81.1%	79.8%		
Youths under 18	23.9%	18.9%	20.2%		
% over 65	12.7%	20.9%	18.6%		
Persons per household	2.34	2.36	2.43		
Median household income	\$66,953	\$94,330	\$82,095		
Median value of owner-occupied	\$182,000	\$348,800	\$147,600		
housing					
Median Gross Rent	\$982	\$1,362	\$1,561		
Race: White only	98.7%	86.3%	55.2%		
Employment level	68.3%	62.5%	59.7%		
Educational level: bachelor's degree or	28.5%	44.2%	40.6%		
higher					

Source: US Census Bureau; Capital District Regional Planning Commission, 2023 American Housing Survey

Table 4 illustrates the basic housing characteristics for the Village.

Table 2-4 2020 Housing Characteristics				
Total Households	695			
Total Housing Units	665			
-Owner Occupied	60.7%			
-Renter Occupied	39.3%			
-Single Family-detached	418			
-Single Family-attached	7			
-Two Family	63			
-Three-Four Family	70			
-Five + Family	114			
-Mobile Homes & Other	23			
Vacant Housing Units	55			

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 5 indicates how workers are employed in the Village by class of work. Just over 19% are employed in government work and 8.4% work for not-for-profit organizations. 7.1% are self-employed.

Table 2-5 Class of Worker			
Employed	65.3%		
Self-Employed (incorporated)	2.7%		
Self-Employed	4.4%		
Not For Profit	8.4%		
Government	19.2%		

Table 2-6 Workers by Class 16 Years and Over			
Employees of Private Companies	69.57%		
Self-Employed in Own Incorporated	3.41%		
Businesses			
Private Not-for-Profit Wage and Salary	9.72%		
Workers			
Local, State, and Federal Government	14.39%		
Workers			
Self-Employed in Own Not Incorporated	2.90%		
Businesses and Unpaid Family Workers			
TOTALS			

Source: CDRPC, 2012-2016 American Community Survey; 2022 American Community Survey

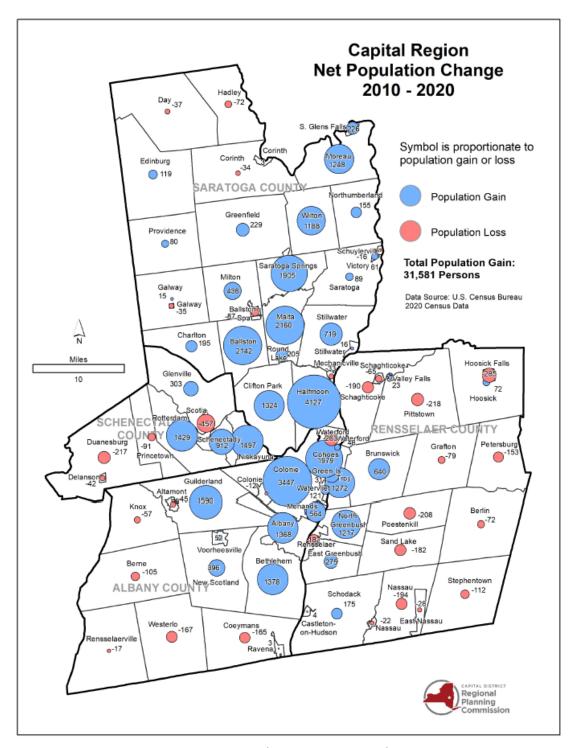
#### Schuylerville Central School District

Schuylerville residents are served by the Schuylerville Central School District which was established in 1946. The first schools in Schuylerville date back to the late 1700's and were generally located in a church. The first one room school house in Schuylerville was located just east of Broadway on what is now Spring Street extension. The Schuylerville high school at the corner of Spring Street and Broadway was opened in 1926. It was built during 1925-26 with additions built in 1938 and 1947. The Schuylerville Central Jr-Sr High School was completed in 1955, the new elementary school was built in 1965, and additions to the high school and elementary schools were completed in 1991.

Enrollment trends show that after experiencing a 20-year increase of 371 students between 1990 and 2010, enrollment in the Schuylerville district began to decline. Between 2010 and 2022, enrollment dropped by approximately 397 students or by 22%. Current enrollment appears to be stabilizing. It stands at nearly the same level as it was 30 years ago.

Table 2-7 School District Enrollment Trends				
Year	Schuylerville Central School District			
1990-1991	1,426			
2000-2001	1,619 (+193)			
2010-2011	1,797 (+178)			
2020-2021	1,400 (-397)			
2022-2023	1,369 (-31)			

Source: NYSED



**Figure 2-2 Capital Region Net Population** 

## **Chapter 3** Vision, Goals and Recommendations

#### 3.1 Schuylerville's Vision for the Future

The Vision Statement describes the desired future state of the Village of Schuylerville and provides a picture of what the community is working towards. The statement is a combination of existing conditions that the community wants to protect and aspirational elements that the community has not yet achieved but wishes to see manifested in its desired future state. The following narrative describes Schuylerville's future vision for the community and serves as the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan's goals and recommendations.

#### **Vision Statement:**

The Village of Schuylerville strives to be a community recognized for its resilience, with a focus on environmental responsibility, historic preservation, and walkability. The Village will strive to foster efforts to develop a vibrant community for visitors and residents through family-based outdoor recreation and business entrepreneurship. The Village will support the renovation of downtown properties with a concentration on bringing affordable housing opportunities to enable more people, workers, families, artists, and entrepreneurs to live, work, play and prosper in Schuylerville. Economic development will center on marketing the Village as a vibrant historic village that showcases itself as a year-round destination for heritage and recreational tourism along the Empire State Trail, the Old Champlain Canal Trail, and the Hudson River.

#### 3.2 Goals and Recommendations

#### 3.2.1 Local Economy and Tourism

- Continue to revitalize the downtown area and support local businesses through programs such as NY Forward.
- Build a sustainable heritage and recreational tourism strategy by promoting local trails and waterways.
- Strengthen the Village's identity as a historically significant community by reviving the Village's byline "Americas Most Historic Village".
- Work with local partners such as the Schuylerville Community Council to address parking and other downtown issues.
- Encourage infill redevelopment of vacant and underutilized buildings and lots.
- Make visitors aware of important connections to adjacent and nearby venues available by land and/or by water.
- Coordinate with regional organizations and adjacent communities to focus on regional heritage and recreational tourism initiatives in the Hudson River corridor.

#### **Priority Recommendation: VILLAGE MARKETING PLAN**

Develop a marketing plan that will blend Schuylerville's assets into a distinctive brand that will attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. Hire a professional marketing company to develop a marketing roadmap that blends Schuylerville's arts, culture, entertainment, and outdoor resources into a distinctive brand that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors.

**Implementation Strategy:** Apply for a Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant and the annual Saratoga County Economic Development Grant.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$20,000

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. **EVENT COORDINATOR**: Explore the feasibility of hiring a local event coordinator through a partnership with the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, Town of Saratoga, and Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center.
- 2. **SIGNATURE EVENTS:** Promote key signature events that are well organized and have a high impact on the local economy.
- 3. **ITINERARIES:** Collaborate with local and regional partners to develop a distinctive set of itineraries for recreational, cultural, and entertainment visitor experiences.
- 4. **TRAIL CHALLENGE PROGRAM:** Collaborate and coordinate with organizations and businesses to develop a new visitor trail challenge program, expand the existing regional geocaching program, and identify special driving experiences.
- 5. **ENHANCE STREET CHARACTER:** Recreate the life size Revolutionary War cutout figures and place them in strategic locations throughout the community.
- 6. **REVITALIZE UNDERUTILIZED PLACES:** Identify and support improvements in underutilized or vacant buildings and spaces. Focus efforts on redeveloping the area between the east side of Broad Street and the Turning Basin.

#### 3.2.2 Land Use and Zoning

- Provide for consistency in all Village land use and zoning documents.
- Review, identify, evaluate, and correct zoning inconsistencies and code barriers to mixed uses and commercial growth.
- Support vigorous enforcement of the Zoning Code and Sign Regulations.

#### Priority Project: UPDATE ZONING CODE AND SITE PLAN REVIEW REGULATIONS

Update the Village Zoning Code and official zoning map as needed. Review, identify, evaluate, and correct barriers to commercial growth, strengthen site plan review procedures, enforce measures for stormwater management and erosion control requirements, and enforce measures to the existing Village signage regulations and update as needed.

#### Implementation Strategy:

Establish a committee and file a grant application through the NYSDOS Smart Growth Grant Program or the Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant Program.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$10,000 - \$50,000

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. **BOARD TRAINING:** Allocate the funding and continue to encourage NYS training for all members of the Board of Trustees, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.
- 2. **EXTEND PLANNING:** Apply for funds to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).
- 3. **BUILDING FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS:** Create a project fund for building renovations to improve facades and activate upper stories for housing.
- 4. **STREET LIGHTING:** Ensure lighting requirements in the Zoning Code are consistent with *International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines*.
- 5. **FLOOD PREVENTION:** Incorporate flood prevention criteria into the zoning code that is consistent with *FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities.*

#### 3.2.3 Housing

- Address the current and future housing needs in the community.
- Increase the supply and diversity of all housing types.
- Identify opportunities for the development of additional residential and mixed-use rental units.

### **Priority Project: COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Conduct a housing market study that assesses housing needs and inventories existing underutilized properties and areas that are suitable for residential development.

Implementation Strategy: Hire a consultant that specializes in housing to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and a Windshield Survey to assess the condition of the existing housing stock and generate a potential list for housing rehabilitation grants. Incentivize the development of affordable housing with a PILOT program. Seek funding from NY Forward or NY Main Street programs that are designed to encourage property owners to renovate commercial and mixed-use buildings.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$35,000

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. **ESTABLISH HOUSING TASK FORCE:** Establish a housing task force and partner with regional housing organizations to guide the implementation of housing recommendations.
- 2. SHORT TERM RENTALS: Develop and adopt a local law addressing the management of short-term rentals. Create short-term rental policies that balance tourism and other economic considerations with the need to provide opportunities for workforce housing. A variety of regulatory options should be considered as part of a community discussion aimed at limiting the negative impacts of short-term rentals on residents and neighborhoods while encouraging opportunities for local income.
- 3. **HOUSING REHABILITATION:** Investigate funding to support local housing improvement and development efforts. Preserve existing housing stock. Partner with local housing organizations to provide home repair, mobile home replacement, and rehabilitation programs to prevent homes from falling into major disrepair. Ensure that rental housing stock is well-maintained and in compliance with state building codes. Apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to establish a Housing Rehabilitation Program. Pair the CDBG program with Affordable Housing Corporation or HOME funds if an assessment identifies sufficient need.
- 4. **PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITY PROGRAM:** Investigate the value and feasibility of Schuylerville becoming certified through the "Pro-Housing Community Program" through NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

#### 3.2.4 Community Services

- Sustain Schuylerville's high quality of life.
- Strive to keep taxes affordable to retain and grow the population.
- Preserve Schuylerville's historic village atmosphere and protecting the assets that characterize the community.
- Strive to convey that Schuylerville is a warm and welcoming community.
- Support municipal, business and residential projects in the community.
- Increase communication between all sectors of the community.

Provide greater awareness of government and community-based services and activities.

#### Priority Project: VILLAGE HISTORIC AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PLAN

Support the development of a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan. Design and implement consistent welcome signage at all entrances to the village, and interpretive signage that identifies historic resources, creates a distinctive historic identity for the Village of Schuylerville and ties into the regional story.

Implementation Strategy: Utilize NY Forward grant funds

Estimated Cost: \$325,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$225,000

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Conduct a comprehensive facilities assessment and plan for the use of existing Village facilities to provide recreational, social and community-based services for families, youth, and senior citizens. Utilize technical assistance to assist Village staff. Develop a long-range grant strategy that supports improvement projects.
- 2. **INCREASE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** Increase the diversity and number of activities for all community residents and improve access to those activities.
- 3. **PROMOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS:** Continue to establish and promote community-wide events that celebrate the Village's historic and natural resources.
- 4. **IMPROVE COMMUNICIATIONS:** Identify and implement a cohesive communication plan to promote community functions and events.
- 5. **REGIONAL COLLABORATION:** Collaborate on mutually beneficial projects with local organizations, the Town of Saratoga, and Saratoga County.

#### 3.2.5 Infrastructure

#### Goals

- Continue to identify infrastructure that needs improvement throughout the Village.
- Identify opportunities to expand water services to outside users.
- Work with federal and state partners and other organizations to restore the Old Champlain Canalway and connection to the Turning Basin.

Priority Project: RECONNECT THE OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL UNDER FERRY STREET

Construct a clear span bridge or box culvert over the Champlain Canal to carry two lanes of traffic (Route 29) and a pedestrian and bike path. This improvement would create a new

water trail by allowing small watercraft to travel between the Olde Champlain Canal and Turning Basin as well as a much greater flow of fresh water, helping to reduce algae.

Implementation Strategy: NY Forward program has committed \$1.05 million

Estimated Cost: \$1.65 million

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. **DPW FACILITY REPLACEMENT:** Develop a replacement plan for the existing Department of Public Works (DPW) building and materials yard. Partner with DOT to lease the NYS DPW yard. Utilize Village staff and engineering consultant.
- 2. **RESTORE OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL:** Support the restoration of the Old Champlain Canalway and opening the canalway to the Turning Basin.
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Create a capital improvement and funding strategy to upgrade all infrastructure facilities to include sewer, water, wastewater management, transportation, power and other systems.
- 4. **STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS:** Develop a Complete Streets Plan for Broadway that includes adding benches, bike racks, green space and other amenities.
- 5. **IMPROVE PARKING INFRASTUCTURE AND PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENT:** Continue to improve the condition of sidewalks and address public parking needs.
- DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM: Consider the value of the Village applying for the NYSDEC Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) which provides free technical assistance for municipalities to protect their public drinking water sources.
- 7. **IMPROVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PARTNERS:** Address and formulate a plan to improve communications and interactions with the Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management.
- 8. **EXPAND UTILITIES:** Consider the value and feasibility of expanding sewer and water utilities to accommodate new housing development and commercial development.
- 9. **HISTORIC STREET LIGHTING:** Investigate the feasibility and cost of installing historic street lighting throughout the business district.

# 3.2.6 Recreation, Parks and Trails Goals

- Meet the present and future recreational needs of the community by developing new recreational resources that encourage the growth of young families.
- Improve, connect and promote trails throughout the village.
- Improve the safety and overall experience for pedestrians and bicyclists.

**Priority Project: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER** 

Develop a community center and waterfront pavilion in Fort Hardy Park.

Implementation Strategy:

Seek funding through the NY Forward program.

**Estimated Cost:** \$3.9 million **Potential Grant Amount:** \$1.8 million

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. **FORT HARDY PARK IMPROVEMENTS:** Continue to implement the recommendations of the Fort Hardy Master Plan. Develop a design, cost estimate, and funding plan for the new destination playground with the Friends of Fort Hardy Park. Continue to progress improvements for the new dog park and pedestrian trail network.
- 2. **ASSESSMENT OF BUILDING CONDITIONS**: Assess the condition of all buildings in Fort Hardy Park and develop a long-term plan for their use and maintenance.
- 3. **VILLAGE TRAIL SYSTEM:** Establish a continuous, safe bike and pedestrian trail designed for different user groups with a range of abilities. Utilize historic towpaths, trails, on-street bicycle routes with links to local destinations, nearby parks and recreational destinations, community attractions, and the downtown business district. Continue to support the implementation of the Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan and the Empire State Trail.
- 4. **BUSINESS DIRECTORY:** Develop a business directory for the Champlain Canalway Trail and Empire State Trail. With mapping identify bicycle shops, restrooms, water fountains, bike racks, and public parking.
- 5. **NEW WATERFRONT OPPORTUNITIES:** Pursue opportunities for new recreational opportunities on the Old Champlain Canal and Hudson River waterfront.

#### 3.2.7 Historic and Cultural Resources

#### Goals

- Preserve Schuylerville's historic and cultural attributes and accentuate these unique features as opportunities for economic stability and growth.
- Encourage the preservation of existing buildings that have their historical detail intact.
- Assist in the rehabilitation of buildings with historic value that are important to the community.

Priority Project: LEADERSHIP ROLE IN 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

Promote an active role for the Village in the celebration in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence in 2026.

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:** Apply for funds through NYS

Estimated Cost: \$35,000

#### OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. **SUPPORT GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER:** Continue to actively play a supportive role in regional and local events at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center.
- HISTORIC BUILDING DESIGN GUIDELINES: Adhere to the Design Guidelines for the HM-S
  Historic Main Street District that recognizes and supports the preservation of historically
  significant buildings.

#### 3.2.8 Natural Resources and Community Resilience

#### Goals

- Conserve and protect natural resources.
- Prepare for the present and future impacts of climate change.
- Assess and address vulnerable, stressed or impacted lands and facilities.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions as feasible.
- Increase the number of trees throughout the Village.

#### **Priority Project: OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL CLEANUP PLAN**

Develop a management plan with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Canal Corporation to manage environmental risks, control flooding and protect the natural environment in the Old Champlain Canal, Turning Basin and Hudson River.

**Implementation Strategy:** Continue to work with the Canal Corporation and other partners to define the scope of work, expected results, and future uses.

Estimated Cost: Unknown

#### **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

- FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT: Conduct an assessment that identifies community vulnerabilities
  to buildings, infrastructure and natural areas that are prone to flooding after large storm
  events. Assess the need for and cost of culvert and other stormwater infrastructure
  improvements.
- 2. **BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT:** Evaluate the Village's public buildings and public infrastructure for energy efficiency. Explore the benefits of participating in NYSERDA's Clean Energy Community Program to bring energy savings to the community.
- 3. **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PLAN:** Develop a management plan that identifies and provides recommendations to manage the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- 4. **URBAN FORESTRY PLAN**: increase the number of street trees throughout the Village.

- 5. **CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION:** Provide community resources and educational sessions on sustainability and resiliency on individual properties and the community.
- 6. **PROMOTE BUILDING CODE CONSERVATION:** Develop a strategy to integrate required energy conservation requirements for new development. Explore tax credits through the NYStretch Code.
- 7. **ALLOCATE BUDGET FUNDS:** Identify a long-range funding strategy for implementing improvements.
- 8. **ACTIVATE CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** Continue to take advantage of the benefits of being a registered NYS "Climate Smart Community" which offers grants and technical assistance.

## **Chapter 4** The Action Plan

#### 4.1 Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan is comprised of two components. The first involves the will and commitment of the community to provide momentum and human and financial resources to kick off the implementation process. The second is the active pursuit of appropriate grants and other resources to supplement local resources. A recommended approach to funding is to develop a thoughtful and layered strategy that focuses on one or two feasible projects to complete in the first few years. These are typically projects described as "low hanging fruit" where there is little controversy, strong support within the community, and reliable funding sources. As the community successfully completes an initial project, momentum will build and generate additional excitement from residents and support from new and future partners.

A few key recommendations to make sure the implementation strategy is carried out include:

- a. The Village Board assigns a small group to serve as the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. Assign a project manager that can organize a dedicated group of volunteers to steer the project's implementation, request material contributions, manage the grants, and keep the Village Board informed of potential grant opportunities.
- b. The Village Board establishes the 2025 Comprehensive Plan as an agenda item. On a regular basis the leader of the Implementation Committee provides progress reports.
- c. The Village Board develops a special line item in the budget to meet needed cash match requirements for grants.

#### 4.2 Village Funding Strategy

With limited time and resources, it's critical that you take a step back and develop a proper grant-seeking strategy. Here are five reasons why a funding strategy will work and avoid the Comprehensive Plan "sitting on a shelf":

- It helps you plan. When you have a bird's eye view of your grants you can better allocate your resources and maximize your time.
- It helps you prioritize. A grant strategy will ensure you stay on track throughout the year.
- It helps you identify gaps in funding. When you see gaps in your grant strategy, you can identify new funding opportunities that can fill the gap.
- It helps you anticipate programming. You will have a clear idea of what you can accomplish and the grants you need to make it a reality.
- It helps you be more efficient. You can be strategic about what opportunities to pursue given the resource constraints. You'll be able to allocate your resources more wisely with a clear strategy.

#### 4.3 Priority Project Recommendations and Funding Strategy

**Priority Project: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER**Develop a community center and waterfront pavilion in Fort Hardy Park. **Implementation Strategy:** Seek funding through the NY Forward program.

**Estimated Cost:** \$3.9 million **Potential Grant Amount:** \$1.8 million

#### Priority Project: VILLAGE HISTORIC AND WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PLAN

Support the development of a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan. Design and implement consistent welcome signage at all entrances to the village, and interpretive signage that identifies historic resources, creates a distinctive historic identity for the Village of Schuylerville and ties into the regional story.

Implementation Strategy: Utilize NY Forward grant funds; NYS Canal Corporation Infrastructure

Grant

Estimated Cost: \$155,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$155,000

### Priority Project: RECONNECT THE OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL UNDER FERRY STREET

Construct a clear span bridge or box culvert over the Champlain Canal to carry two lanes of traffic (Route 29) and a pedestrian and bike path. This improvement would create a new water trail by allowing small watercraft to travel between the Olde Champlain Canal and Turning Basin as well as a much greater flow of fresh water, helping to reduce algae.

Implementation Strategy: NY Forward program

**Estimated Cost:** \$1.65 million **Potential Grant Amount:** \$105million

**Priority Project: LEADERSHIP ROLE IN 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE** Promote an active role for the Village in the celebration in the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence in 2026.

Implementation Strategy: Apply for funds through NYS

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$35,000

#### **Priority Project: VILLAGE MARKETING PLAN**

Develop a marketing plan that will blend Schuylerville's assets into a distinctive brand that will attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. Hire a professional marketing company to develop a marketing roadmap that blends Schuylerville's arts, culture, entertainment, and outdoor resources into a distinctive brand that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors. **Implementation Strategy:** Apply for a Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Grant and the annual Saratoga County Economic Development Grant.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$20,000

#### Priority Project: UPDATE ZONING CODE AND SITE PLAN REVIEW REGULATIONS

Update the Village Zoning Code and official zoning map as needed. Review, identify, evaluate, and correct barriers to commercial growth, strengthen site plan review procedures, enforce measures for stormwater management and erosion control requirements, and enforce measures to the existing Village signage regulations and update as needed.

**Implementation Strategy:** Establish a committee and file a grant application through the NYSDOS Smart Growth Grant Program or the Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant Program.

**Estimated Cost:** \$50,000 **Potential Grant Amount:** \$10,000 - \$50,000

#### **Priority Project: COMMUNITY HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Conduct a housing market study that assesses housing needs and inventories existing underutilized properties and areas that are suitable for residential development.

#### **Implementation Strategy:**

Hire a consultant that specializes in housing to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and a Windshield Survey to assess the condition of the existing housing stock and generate a potential list for housing rehabilitation grants. Incentivize the development of affordable housing with a PILOT program. Seek funding from NY Forward or NY Main Street programs that are designed to encourage property owners to renovate commercial and mixed-use buildings.

Estimated Cost: \$35,000 Potential Grant Amount: \$35,000

#### **Priority Project: OLD CHAMPLAIN CANAL CLEANUP PLAN**

Develop a management plan with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Canal Corporation to manage environmental risks, control flooding and protect the natural environment in the Old Champlain Canal, Turning Basin and Hudson River.

**Implementation Strategy:** Continue to work with the Canal Corporation and other partners to define the scope of work, expected results, and future uses.

Estimated Cost: Unknown at this time

#### 4.4 Funding Opportunities

Table 4-1 provides a listing of the grant programs that would support the implementation of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Most grants must be applied for through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) typically due annually on the last Friday in July.

#### **Hudson River Valley Greenway Community Grant Program**

Provides matching grants to develop plans or projects consistent with the five Greenway criteria: natural and cultural resource protection, economic development, public access, regional planning, and heritage and environmental education. Higher amounts are awarded for intermunicipal projects.

Due Dates: 2 rounds annually- May 2, 2025; awards Jun 11; Oct 31, 2025 with awards Dec 10 Amounts: Capped at \$20,000. Awards for projects with multiple municipal applicants capped at \$30,000.

#### **Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy Trail Grant Program**

Funds recreational trail projects. The application emphasizes connections to the Empire State Trail. Eligible project categories include trail construction, planning and design, trail rehabilitation or improvement, trail education or interpretation, and disaster recovery and reconstruction on trails.

Due Dates: Applications open Jun 30, due Sep 5, awarded Oct 8

Amounts:

Trail Construction: Up to \$250,000
Trail Design or Planning: Up to \$75,000

Trail Rehabilitation or Improvement: Up to \$100,000 Trail Education or Interpretation: Up to \$25,000

Natural Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction: Up to \$250,000

Trail Maintenance: Up to \$25,000

### **Non-Governmental Grants for Playgrounds**

There are many grant opportunities that will provide supplemental funds for small projects for signage, playground equipment, etc. These resources can be explored as the need arises. There are also many programs and sources of grant funds available specifically for playground and physical fitness equipment with most grants in the range of \$3,000-\$15,000. Playcore's Play and Recreation Funding Guide is a great resource for these small grant opportunities, and can be found online at:

https://www.playandpark.com/uploads/pdf-files/PlayCore 2017 FUNDING GUIDE-Q3.pdf

#### **Elected Official Grants**

# CREST - Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program Program (originally SAM grant program)

Funding assistance through from elected legislative officials administered through the Dormitory Authority (DASNY).

#### **Community Project Grants (Federal Earmark Program)**

Infrastructure and other high impact grants available annually from Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand. Applications are open on the individual websites in February with recommendations made to the various Congress Committees at the end of April.

#### **Regional, State and Federal Grants**

#### **Capital District Transportation Council**

Annual Work Program

#### **Empire State Development**

Economic Development Purposes Grant Program — Funds for economic development initiatives and projects that create or retain jobs, generate increased economic activity, and improve the economic and social viability and vitality of local communities.

Excelsior Jobs Tax Credit Program — Provides job creation and investment incentives to firms in such targeted industries such as biotechnology, pharmaceutical, high-tech, clean-technology, green technology, financial services, agriculture, and manufacturing. Firms in these industries

that create and maintain new jobs or make significant financial investment are eligible to apply for up to four new tax credits. The benefit-cost threshold is at least \$10 of investment and new wages for every \$1 of tax credit.

Market NY – Supports regionally themed marketing projects that promote tourism destinations, attractions, and special events, as well as tourism facility capital improvement projects. Additionally, eligible projects include the hosting, coordination, and execution of special events new to New York State, and the promotion of agritourism and craft beverage tourism.

Regional Council Capital Fund Program – Funds for capital-based economic development projects intended to create or retain jobs; prevent, reduce, or eliminate unemployment and underemployment; and/or increase business or economic activity in a community or region.

Start-Up NY Program – Offers new and expanding businesses the opportunity to operate tax-free for 10 years on or near eligible university or college campuses in New York State.

Strategic Planning and Feasibility Study Project Grants – Funds for strategic development plans for a city, county, or municipality or a significant part thereof and feasibility studies for site(s) or facility assessment and planning. Projects should focus on economic development purposes, and preference shall be given to projects located in highly distressed communities.

#### NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

Architecture, Planning, and Design Program — Grants for the advancement of the arts in 15 discipline-based funding areas. Within each of the 15 discipline-based funding categories NYSCA provides the ability to request funds in a range of varying subcategories, including but not limited to General Operating Support, Project Support and Regrants and Partnerships.

*Preserve NY Program* – Grants for historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys.

#### NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Environmental Restoration Grant Program — Rolling grants that are meant for environment improvement and protection. The grants specifically focus on areas that include water protection, environmental justice, and solid waste.

Water Quality Improvement Project Program (WQIP) — Reimbursement grant program for implementation projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. Eligible projects are identified by priority level and scoring rubric. Funding amounts are dependent on project type.

Climate Smart Communities Program - Provides 50/50 matching grants for eligible climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Funds are available for two broad project categories - implementation and certification. The first project category supports implementation projects related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions outside the power sector (transportation, methane, and refrigerants) and climate change adaptation (e.g., reducing flood-risk, increasing

natural resiliency, extreme-event preparation, relocation or retrofit of critical infrastructure, and improving emergency preparedness).

#### NYS Department of State (DOS)

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) — Matching funds for local governments to participate in the State's Coastal Management Program (CMP) by preparing and adopting a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). A Local Waterfront Revitalization Program consists of a planning document prepared by a community, and the program established to implement the plan. A LWRP may be comprehensive and address all issues that affect a community's entire waterfront, or it may focus on a critical component. After completing the report, the grantee is eligible to receive funding to implement the entire LWRP or a component.

Applications must be made through the CFA. There is no minimum or maximum for this grant and the match requirement is 25%.

State Smart Growth Grant Program - The Department of State (DOS) administers a portion of the State Smart Growth grant program, which is funded annually through the Environmental Protection Fund. DOS and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) designate Smart Growth funding for a variety of purposes. DEC applies funds exclusively to Smart Growth planning and projects in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks; DOS uses funds for a variety of purposes related to community planning and development.

#### **NYS Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Transportation Enhancement Projects Program (TEP) – Funding for transportation projects of cultural, aesthetic, historic and environmental significance. Eligible projects must fall into one or more categories established by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and must have a total project cost of at least \$200,000.

Safe Routes to School - SRTS is a national evidence-based program that promotes walking and biking to school as a means of promoting more physical activity among school children. Among other things, SRTS aims to make walking/biking to school safer through improvements to the physical infrastructure around the school and in the community (e.g., more sidewalks, remodeling unsafe intersections, traffic calming measures, etc.). The funding is \$250,000 minimum to \$5 million. There is a 20% local match requirement (\$62,500 to \$1.25 million)\*

#### NYS Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA)

Clean Energy Communities Program – Grants offered for clean energy projects after completing four of the ten NYSERDA high-impact actions designed to save money, create jobs, and improve the environment. Also provides tools, resources, and technical assistance.

#### NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC)

Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) – Competitive grants to projects that improve water quality and demonstrate green stormwater infrastructure. Selected projects maximize opportunities to leverage the multiple benefits of green infrastructure, spur innovation in the

field of stormwater management, build capacity to construct and maintain green infrastructure, and/or facilitate the transfer of new technologies and practices to other areas across the state.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Interest-free or low-interest rate short-term and long-term financing for wastewater and water quality improvement projects. Eligible projects include any traditional, "non-traditional", point source, or land acquisition projects clearly related to the preservation, improvement, or protection of water quality.

#### NYS Office of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – A federal program funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administered in the State of New York through Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). The program provides financial assistance to eligible cities, towns, and villages with populations under 50,000 and counties with an area population under 200,000. Eligible communities can apply through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for any three programs: "Microenterprise"; "Public Facilities & Public Infrastructure"; and "Community Planning". Funding for "Economic Development" and "Small Business" grants are available in open round applications. Projects that benefit low- and moderate-income families and are supported by the relevant regional economic development council (REDC) will be given priority.

NY Main Street Program — A comprehensive grant program that provides funds and technical assistance for façade renovations, interior renovations, and streetscape enhancements for properties located in established mixed-use (commercial, civic, and residential) "Main Street" or downtown retail districts that are pedestrian-oriented and comprised of traditional mixed-use buildings. Funds cannot be used for demolition or new construction. The program has four components:

- 1. Downtown Anchor Funds to support a standalone, single site, "shovel ready" renovation project.
- 2. Target Area Building Renovations Matching grants for exterior facade and storefront renovations or interior renovations for commercial or residential units.
- Streetscape Enhancement Funds to complement a Target Area Building Renovation.
  May be used for activities such as: planting trees; installing street furniture and trash
  receptacles; providing appropriate signs; and performing other activities to enhance the
  Target Area.
- 4. Technical Assistance Funds to assist projects that will directly improve a community's capacity or readiness to administer a future New York Main Street building renovation program.

#### NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program — Grants to construct, renovate, and maintain either publicly or privately-owned boating infrastructure with public access. May apply funds to grant administration, preliminary costs, and information and education materials as well.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Funds for training for municipal officials; public education programs, surveys and designations undertaken as part of a comprehensive plan; correction of deficiencies in CLG performance; and demonstration projects on critical issues, such as compliance with state building and fire codes.

Parks Grant Program – Matching grant for the acquisition, development and planning of parks and recreational facilities to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation, or conservation purposes and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects.

Recreational Trails Grant Program – Grants for the maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails, purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new recreational trails, acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors, and assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance.

Historic Preservation Grant Program – Grant to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate, restore, or acquire properties listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places and for structural assessments and/or planning for such projects.

#### **Northern Border Regional Commission**

State Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment Program (SEID) - The maximum grant amount for 2022 was \$1,000,000 for construction in support of "infrastructure" as it relates directly to job creation and economic development. Congress requires NBRC to award 40% of all funds to public infrastructure projects. For all other non-infrastructure applications such as business and workforce development; basic health care; resource conservation, tourism, and recreation, the maximum amount is \$350,000.

#### **USDA Rural Development**

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program – grants and low interest direct loans to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses. Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements
- Community support services such as childcare centers, community centers, fairgrounds, or transitional housing
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Educational services such as museums, libraries, or private schools
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A Existing Conditions, Findings and Opportunities

Appendix B Village of Schuylerville Community Survey

# Appendix A Existing Conditions, Findings and Opportunities

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#### 1 Introduction

The community profile is a summary of baseline conditions and trends in the Village of Schuylerville (Village). It provides an overview and assesses the findings and opportunities for Schuylerville's economy, land use, zoning, housing, community services, infrastructure, recreation, historic and cultural resources, and natural resources. Ultimately, the profile in the Comprehensive Plan Update establishes the foundation for assessing potential impacts and for future decision-making.

### 2. Local Economy and Business Development

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

Overview

The Village is currently engaged in a concentration of revitalization endeavors. In recent years millions of dollars in private and public investments have been made in streetscape and road improvements, and the construction of the Empire State Trail and Champlain Canal Regional Gateway Visitor Center. In 2018 a Downtown Building Analysis was completed designed to assist in efforts to improve upon the Village's architectural heritage.

The Village has recently become a certified AARP/WHO "age-friendly" community and a NYS Climate Smart Community with an active task force composed of residents and elected officials. In 2020, Village business owners and residents formed the *Schuylerville Community Council*, where people gather every month with the Mayor, to serve as a quasi-official downtown management entity. In 2022, the Schuylerville Chamber of Commerce became an affiliate of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce which is now also providing professional support to

advance initiatives like the DOT's modernization of the Ferry and Broad street intersection, to staff the Visitor Center, and to provide insurance for events like the Turning Point Parade and the annual Cardboard Boat Races.

Other improvements include expanded outdoor dining, docks and specialty cargo containers retrofitted to accommodate overnight guests at the Schuylerville Marina. On Ferry and Broad Streets, there are new restaurants, coffee shops, a brewery, art gallery and retail shops all within walking distance of each other. Every summer, the community gathers on Broad Street for the Turning Point Parade, and in the fall the Schuylerville Community Council has created a new Scarecrow Stroll to encourage families to walk all over the Village. During the winter, there is snowshoeing and cross-country skiing along the Empire State Trail and the Olde Champlain Canalway, which connects Hudson Crossing Park with Fort Hardy Park, and in the spring the Village distributes a self-guided Lilac Walking Tour map that promotes the 77 locations where lilacs grow. These celebrations and investments have come to fruition because the Village and its elected officials, business owners, community leaders, and residents demonstrated a resilience not often seen in Upstate New York. In 2023 the Village completed an outstanding and competitive application made to the NY Forward grant program and was awarded \$4.5 million to revitalize its downtown. The grant will aid in funding some large transformational projects to be substantially completed before 2027, when hundreds of thousands of visitors will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Turning Point of the American Revolution in Schuylerville. Taken together these improvements will hopefully provide a "Turning Point" for the Village.

### Employment for Village Residents

The Village's largest employer is the Schuylerville School District, followed by a range of businesses including Curtis Lumber, Stewart's Shops, Basin Grill, Amigo's, Byron's Market, Arrow Bank, Kickstart Cafe, and Bound by Fate Brewing. The following prior public and private investments total nearly \$13 million and have advanced the Village's vision while demonstrating a substantial commitment to both future planning and action:

- New Stewart's Shops \$2.5 million
- Schuylerville Marina & Basin Grill \$2.5 million
- DOT Modernization of Broad & Ferry Street Intersection \$250,000
- Construction of Empire State Trail within project area \$140,000
- Gateway Visitor Center \$1 million
- Village Sidewalk Improvements \$200,000
- Village Tree Planting Program \$9,000
- Construction of Sword Surrender Site \$800,000
- Improvements to the General Schuyler House \$100,000
- Dix Bridge and Hudson Crossing Park \$4.7 million
- New and expanding business fit-up investments \$800,000

Schuylerville benefits in its close location from GlobalFoundries, which created more than 3,000 jobs since 2010, and which we hope will soon construct a second Fab estimated to

employ an additional 1,000 people once completed. Schuylerville is less than 12 miles from Saratoga Springs, which provides a major source of employment for residents. Some of these include Saratoga Hospital, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Ball Container, Saratoga Eagle, Logistics One, Leonard Bus, Saratoga Race Course and Harness Track, Empire State College, Skidmore College, and Saratoga Performance Arts Center.

#### **Findings and Opportunities**

The most common employment sectors for those who live in Schuylerville are healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, and manufacturing. Within Saratoga County, these three sectors are growing, as is employment overall. In July of 2023, there were more people employed in Saratoga County than any July ever before, and the unemployment rate was the lowest in years. The biggest challenge to the local economy is the significant shortage of labor local employers now face.

# 3 Land Use and Zoning Description of Existing Conditions

Land Use

Map A-1, "Land Use", shows the mix of residential, commercial and governmental properties in the Village. The business district of the village is located on Broad Street (Route 32), Spring Street (Route 29) and Ferry Street (Route 29). Through the NY Forward initiative this area is experiencing renewed interest in revitalization.

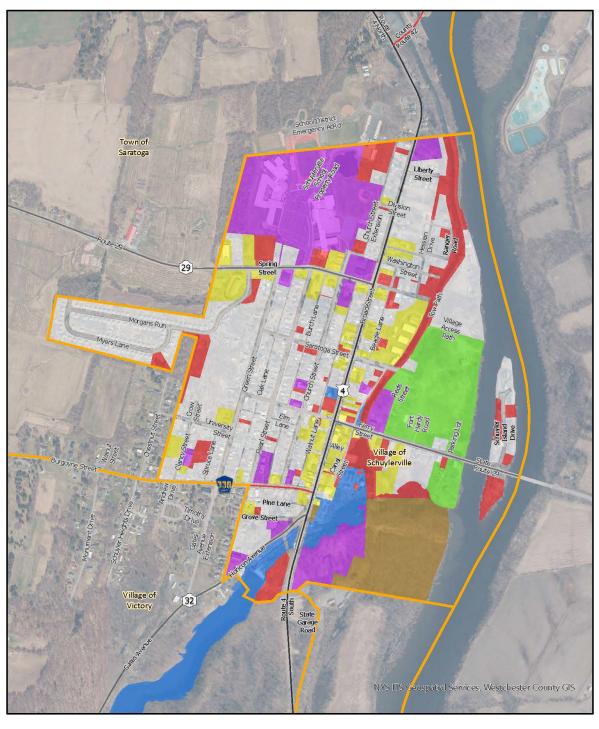
Table A-1 shows the distribution of land use by parcel and size. The land use pattern is classic in that the main street (Broad Street)is primarily commercial with some residential on lands just north of the business district. The Village is anchored by the School to the north and the Schuyler House (Saratoga National Historical Park) to the south. The center of the Village is dominated by Fort Hardy Park which is sandwiched between the Old Champlain Canal and the Hudson River. The Village is primarily comprised of residential land uses Commercial parcels make up 10% of all parcels. There are 71 parcels that are categorized as vacant. These can be seen as red parcels on the Land Use Map.

Table A-1 Land Use Summary							
Land Use Type	Property	Number	Percentage				
	Class	of Parcels	of Parcels				
Agricultural	100	0	0				
Residential	200	442	72				
Vacant Land	300	71	12				
Commercial	400	64	10				
Recreation & Entertainment	500	2	<1				
Community Services	600	16	3				
Industrial	700	0	0				
Public Services	800	19	3				
Public Parks	900	3	<1				

Totals 617 100%
-----------------

Source: Saratoga County Planning GIS Department

Commercial uses are limited and make up only 10 percent of the total parcels. There uses include: 1 commercial; 10 apartments; 1 motel; 2 restaurants; 2 gas stations; 1 autobody shop; 1 self-carwash; 1 lumber yard; 1 large retail; 1 supermarket; 2mini-marts; 2 small-medium retail; 1 branch bank; 2 office buildings; 1 kennel; 12 attached row buildings; 13 detached row buildings; 3 converted residents; 6 small single-use buildings; and 1 parking lot.





#### Zoning

Land use in the Village is regulated by the Village of Schuylerville Zoning Code adopted in 2021. In addition to identifying zoning districts with specific permitted uses and regulatory controls, the Code contains Supplementary Regulations that cover Parking, Signs, Design Guidelines for the HM-S Historic Main Street District, Accessory Uses and Structures, Demolition, Wireless Telecommunication Facilities, Unlicensed Vehicles, Travel Trailers, Motor Homes & Other RV's, and Dumpsters. Provisions for Flood Damage Protection and the process and requirements for applying for Site Plan Review and Special Permits are also covered.

The Zoning Code dictates that the Village of Schuylerville is divided into different districts of residential, commercial and open space which are shown on the Zoning Map. These 8 districts are delineated so as to recognize the existing character and quality of land uses and natural features throughout the Village and to be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan.

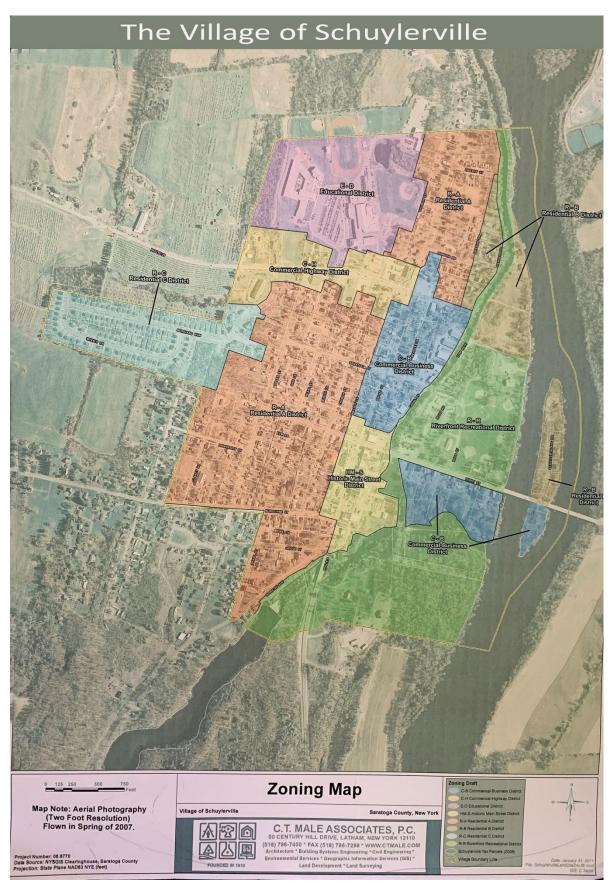
The current districts include the following:

- C-B Commercial-Business District (Commercial B)
- C-H Commercial-Highway District
- E-D Educational District
- HM-S Historic Main Street District
- R-A Residential A District
- R-B Residential B District
- R-C Residential C District
- R-R Riverfront Recreational District

Map A-2 illustrates the distribution of zoning districts. The largest zoning district is the R-A Residential District. R-C Morgans Run subdivision, and R-A which is residential along the Hudson River and Old Champlain Canal on the north end of the Village.

# **Findings and Opportunities**

The Village completed their Zoning Code in 2021. The Advisory Committee did not find the need to make any revisions to the Code, therefore, at this time, there are no direct recommendations to revise any districts or the Schuylerville Zoning Code. There are approximately 70 parcels in the Village that are classified as vacant. These lots should be closely evaluated for the potential of improving the availability of housing in the community. In addition, the provisions outlined in the Zoning Code for accessory apartments and accessory units should be assessed as to how these sections can be improved to permit flexibility in adding "in-law" apartments or units to parcels used for single family residences.



## 4 Housing

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

A detailed view of the types residential parcels is shown in Table A-2. Single family houses make up the great majority of housing. There are 67 multi-family units and a total of 10 apartments in the Village. A total of 24 units are listed as vacant which represents a drop of 11% since 2018.

Table A-2 Types of Residential Parcels				
Land Use Type	Property	Number		
	Class	of Parcels		
One-Family	210	361		
Two-Family	220	56		
Three-Family	230	11		
Manufactured Housing	270	7		
Multiple Mobile Homes	271	1		
Multiple Residences	281	4		
Residential with Incidental Commercial Use	283	2		
Total Parcels	-	442		

Source: Saratoga County Planning GIS Department

Homeownership is high in Schuylerville. About 66% of residents own homes while the state rate is 54%. Homeowners that are 65 years old or older occupy 77% (110 units) of all single-family homes. For renters, the median gross rent is \$1,045, approximately \$500 less than the state median.

#### **Findings and Opportunities**

There are few lots currently available not built on in the Village. Future housing needs may change based on how the population of the village changes. Morgan's Run provides twenty-four apartment units to income-eligible seniors. This is the only senior housing available in the community. Many residents have voiced that maintaining their homes is challenging and when the time comes that they have to sell, they would have to move out of the Village. That is not an acceptable alternative for many residents. One potential solution is to remove obstacles in the Zoning Code to develop accessory housing units on single family residences.

# 5 Community Services

#### **Description of Existing Conditions**

Healthcare Services

Schuylerville Family Health Center is a primary care facility operating in the center of the Village. The Saratoga Hospital Medical Group - Schuylerville provides services that include preventive service, sick visits, chronic condition management, health screenings, immunizations, community education, and laboratory services. There is also a dentist with offices in the business district.

#### Police Protection

The Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police provide police protection to residents. A State Police Substation is located in the Town Hall, 35 Ferry Street, and it is manned by two troopers. Patrols are caried out around the clock.

### **Emergency Management Services**

Wilton Emergency Squad, Inc., a non-profit local mobile healthcare provider, and General Schuyler Emergency Squad, Inc., a Schuylerville based nonprofit organization, recently merged to combine and operate nonprofit ambulance services in northern Saratoga County. This merger represents an innovative alignment of complementary operations and services to more effectively and efficiently serve the needs of the towns of Wilton, Saratoga and Northumberland and the villages of Schuylerville and Victory Mills. Wilton EMS operates with a combined staff of 60 volunteers and employees responding to more than 3,000 calls annually with a fleet of 5 ambulances and two quick response vehicles from 2 stations.

#### Fire Protection Services

The Schuylerville Fire Department was organized in 1836 with the purpose of providing protection against fire and other disasters to the citizens of Schuylerville and portions of the Towns of Northumberland, Saratoga, Easton and Greenwich. The department also provides protection and assistance as needed under the rules governing the state mutual aid system. Schuyler Hose has approximately forty active members and operates with eight pieces of apparatus out of the fire station located at the corner of Spring and Green Streets. A history of committed leaders, an emphasis on training and safety, prudent use of resources, and most important, the dedication of the volunteer firefighter has resulted in a department that the community views with pride. Nonetheless the Schuyler Hose Company is facing challenges including the need of an infusion of young, energetic volunteers. The factors that led to the development of a strong, aggressive department will help to meet the challenges of the future.

### **Educational Services**

The Schuylerville Central School District is comprised of three schools—the elementary school (grades K-5), the middle school (grades 6-8), and the high school (grades 9-12) on a single campus in Schuylerville. The district is made up of seven towns and covers an area of 100 square miles. The district has a Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program, provided by the Saratoga Regional YMCA and housed at Schuylerville Elementary School. UPK is an early learning program within the district designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of four-year-old children, as well as provide an excellent foundation to their education prior to kindergarten.

Table A-3 explains that over the last twenty years the School District has experienced a steep decline in enrollment, dropping a net of 343 students since 2003. Over the same time frame the per student expenditure nearly doubled. Per student expenditures are roughly \$3,500 less than the state average. The number of economically disadvantaged students increased from 28% in 2013 to 33% in 2023.

Table A-3 Schuylerville School District Trends								
	Total Enrollment	10-Year Change		Economically	District Total			
	K-12			Disadvantaged	Expenditures			
					Per Student			
2023-2024	1,350	-398	-22.8%	445 (33%)	\$23,326			
2013-2014	1,748	+55	+03.2%	486 (28%)	\$17,751			
2003-2004	1,693	-	-	NA	\$12,757			

### **Findings and Opportunities**

Responses from the 2024 Community Survey indicate that families choose to live in Schuylerville because of the quality of the schools. The district is in the center of the community in Saratoga County, one of the fastest-growing counties in New York State. More than 80% of the graduates attend college and student achievement is consistently above the state average. School district declines are occurring throughout New York State. Statewide public-school enrollment peaked in 1970. Since then, every county in New York State has trended downward. Lower fertility rates, high cost of living, and shifting demographic patterns are some of the reasons for the decrease.

#### 6 Infrastructure

## **Description of Existing Conditions**

# Municipal Water

The Schuyler Victory Water Management Board (BOWM) manages the water system for the villages of Schuylerville and Victory. The Fort Hardy Water Treatment Plant (WTP), established in 2006 and located in the Village of Schuylerville, draws from two wells located on the plant site near the Hudson River. The average daily production at Fort Hardy WTP is approximately 190,000 gallons per day. The treatment process at the plant includes two filtration trains, including a 5-micron filter and a 1-micron absolute filter. Bypass water goes through a two-stage filtration.

The BOWM contracted with a consultant to prepare a Water System Master Plan. This involves first evaluating and assessing the current condition of the water network infrastructure in the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, updating the water system mapping to include any new developments since the 1990s, and the prioritization and replacement of critical water lines. This report provides the BOWM with a document that serves as a planning tool for current and future upgrades needed to the water system within the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. The report outlines the recommended system improvements over the next 30 years.

# Municipal Sewer

The Schuylerville Wastewater Plant is located on Canal Street. The Plant has an average daily flow of 395,000 gpd and a treatment capacity of 490,000 gpd. Under a current sewer agreement, the Village of Victory sends its wastewater to the Schuylerville Wastewater Plant.

#### Utilities

National Grid supplies the electric power and natural gas needs for the Village. The hydroelectric dam on Fish Creek is owned and operated by the Consolidated Hydro New York, Inc. Verizon supplies local phone service and Spectrum supplies cable television and internet services throughout the community.

#### Stormwater

The culverts located in the Canal under Route 29 and Saratoga Streets in Schuylerville are not performing the task of moving the water under the roads. This has caused the canal to accumulate sediment to the extent that in some areas of the canal the water is only several inches deep, as opposed to the original design of four feet. During high water events, the canal has overflowed on several occasions and has threatened to reach the wells that provide both Schuylerville and Victory with their drinking water. Replacing the inadequate culverts with effective infrastructure will allow the water to flow under the roads and considerably alleviate the threat to the Villages' drinking water supply.

### **Findings and Opportunities**

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a working blueprint used by the community to coordinate the location, timing and financing of capital improvements and maintenance projects over a period of 5 or more years. A CIP would pull together a comprehensive assessment of all public infrastructure and provide equipment, facility and maintenance needs. It should be considered a working document that is updated annually and reflects changing community needs, priorities, and funding opportunities.

### 7 Recreation, Parks and Trails

### **Description of Existing Conditions**

#### Parks

#### **Fort Hardy Park**

Fort Hardy Park sits at the crossroads of Routes 4 (Broad Street) and 29 (Ferry Street) in the Village of Schuylerville. The Park's land is a blend of ball fields, open lawn, woodland forest, and extensive waterfront. Water surrounds the Park on two of its four sides. The historic Old Champlain Canal prism runs along the Project Area's western limits, while the Hudson River forms the Project's east boundary. Water access to the River is at the Village beach at the Park's southeastern corner, as well as a concrete public boat launch at the northeastern end of the site. The Park's northern edge neighbors a vacant undeveloped parcel consisting of an open field surrounded by woodland forest. Both the Park and the vacant parcel are owned by the Village of Schuylerville.

Fort Hardy Park has a strong set of recreational features for the Schuyler community. The core of the Park is dedicated to youth baseball and softball, with seven Little League fields spreading out over the open green space. The fields include two Majors division baseball fields, two softball fields, two additional baseball fields, and a peewee ball field. Additional active

recreation programming occurs adjacent to the Schuylerville Community Center building at the southwestern quadrant of the Park. Numerous organizations use the facility for youth activities. These include, but are not limited to Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Schuylerville Family Day. This area features full court basketball as well as a modest playground. Youth programming through the Community Center often utilizes the open space in this quadrant for additional recreation. The southeast quadrant of the Park features open space and passive recreation.

Village Beach, located in the southeast corner, includes a rowing club dock and the Fort Hardy Park Kayak Launch. North of the beach and adjacent lawn, a picnic grove features several tables, benches, and grills. A boardwalk stretches along approximately 250 feet of the Parks' waterfront. Village Beach does not permit swimming but is the location for weekly community concerts during the summer months. Sponsored by the Schuylerville Chamber of Commerce, these concerts are free and open to visitors and all members of the community.

The Schuylerville Boat Ramp, owned by the Village, is approximately 20 feet wide and is suitable for launching small to medium-sized boats. This free launch site has parking for 15 cars and trailers and is located at the north end of Fort Hardy Park less than a mile from Champlain Canal Lock 5.

Sections of the Old Champlain Canal (public lands under the jurisdiction of the NYS Canal Corps.), the Hudson River, and street rights-of-way (ROW's) make up the remainder of the Park. Ferry Street abounds the southern limits of the Park's parcel, providing two vehicular entry points into the Park. Saratoga Street provides a connection between the Village Business District to the Park's core, Reds Street, and Tow Path.

### **Champlain Canal Regional Gateway Visitor Center**

The Champlain Canal Regional Gateway Visitor Center (GVC) is located on a separate parcel in Fort Hardy Park owned by the Historic Hudson Hoosic Rivers Partnership (HHHRP). The GVC is the result of a collaborative effort of non-profit and federal, state and local governments to introduce locals and visitors to the region's cultural, natural, historical and recreational destinations and the stories that link these destinations together. The GVC plays a key role for both Fort Hardy Park and the adjacent Old Champlain Canal. As the region approaches the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the GVC will serve as the regional centerpiece for visitors.

#### Multi-use Trails

# **Bike Friendly New York**

The Village of Schuylerville is a certified *Bike Friendly New York* community. This designation enhances Schuylerville as a destination for biking such that supports cyclists with critical information, amenities and services including:

- Adirondack Ultra Cycling provides repairs, parts, and service for all makes of bicycles.
- Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitors Center provides parking, bike rack and repair station, water bottle filling station, and accessible restroom.
- Fort Hardy Park and Schuylerville Boat Launch has parking, bike racks, and seasonal accessible restrooms.
- General Philip Schuyler House offers parking, bike rack, drinking fountain, seasonal accessible restrooms.
- Amigos Cantina offers restrooms, Wi-Fi, and bike racks.



Schuylerville is also a registered "Trail Town". The Trail Town Program® provides guidance on how to promote local trail resources to revitalize rural communities by growing outdoor tourism and small businesses.

# **Empire State Trail and Champlain Canalway Trail**

The Empire Trail and the Champlain Canal Trailways merge at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor's Center on Ferry Street in Schuylerville. A pivotal segment of the Empire State Trail runs north along the Visitor Center's western border, connecting the Park to the nearby Schuyler House and Hudson Crossing Park.

#### Other Parks and Trails

There are a number of trail systems that are adjacent and closely allied with Schuylerville. These include:

- Victory Wood's Trails: Historic trail loop through Old Saratoga Unit of Saratoga National Historical Park.
- The Saratoga Siege Trail: Provides a link along Fish Creek from the Schuyler House to Saw Mill Park in Victory.
- Fort Hardy Park Loop: Planned trail loop linking Gateway Visitor Center to the waterfront.
- Hudson Crossing Park: Two-mile sensory trail loop around Lock 5 Island and linking the Old Champlain Canal to Dix Bridge and Town of Greenwich.

#### **Champlain Canal Lock 5 Canal Park**

The Lock 5 Champlain Canal Park is an active operating lock on the Champlain Canal that has been in operation since 1823. It is also the site of a historic junction lock, which, while no longer in operation, is still a very interesting peek into the history of the Champlain Canal. Just north of the lock on the west side of the channel are floating docks which give access to Hudson Crossing, and long-distance boaters are invited to dock for up to 48 hours and explore the park and the local communities. There is also a site-seeing boat available for hire to take visitors for rides through Lock 5 and along the Hudson River.

#### **Hudson Crossing Park**

Hudson Crossing Park is a unique recreational and educational resource centered on the Champlain Canal Lock 5 Island. With two miles of trails that lead along both the canal and Hudson River, visitors have the opportunity to explore the island, enjoy river access via a kayak launch and floating dock, and learn about the historic and environmental importance of the area through interpretive signage throughout the park. Hudson Crossing Park also features a picnic pavilion with handicapped accessible tables, and a labyrinth in a play garden.

### **Findings and Opportunities**

A Master Plan was developed for Fort Hardy Park which shows many needed improvements on the function and efficiency of its buildings and spaces. These improvements will be implemented as funds are available. The beach is a special place for village residents and there are continuing conversations about how to improve it, increase usage, and make it a more functional place for community use and events. The playground is in fair condition, with bark mulch surfacing held within plastic curbing, however it is inaccessible to wheelchair users.

#### 8 Historic and Cultural Resources

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

The Schuylerville region was settled in 1691 and called Fort Saratoga by Dutch settlers from Albany, New York, notably the Schuyler family. The community that developed near the fort was originally called "Saratoga," but was partly destroyed in 1745. The village was incorporated in 1831 as Schuylerville. Many people and businesses currently refer to the village by the nickname Old Saratoga, also, Olde Saratoga. In 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the British crossed the Hudson here, and marched south about 9 miles to Stillwater. After their defeat, the British retreated back to the village. Fort Hardy Park is an extremely important historical and recreational resource for the community. Also known as the *Field of Grounded Arms*, it is the location that troops under the command of British General John Burgoyne *grounded their arms* on October 17, 1777, as part of the Articles of Convention that ended the Battle of Saratoga, marking the Turning Point of the American Revolution.

Historic places and attractions within the Village of Schuylerville and surrounding areas include: The Schuyler House was rebuilt by General Philip Schuyler in November 1777. The Marshall House lived in by Baroness von Riedesel during the Battle of Saratoga (not open to the public).

- The Saratoga Battle Monument was erected between 1877 and 1883.
- Champlain Canal Lock 5 Park and walking trail to the Schuyler House.
- Stark's Knob scenic overlook, one mile north on Route 4, the site of an unusual geologic formation of volcanic basalt and where General Stark placed his cannon to block Burgoyne's retreat. A Henry Knox monument is located in the Knox Pocket Park to honor Knox's 250-mile trek from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston where General Washington was able to use 59 artillery pieces to intimidate the British into leaving Boston.
- Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Site, seven miles south on Route 4, where the fate of the American Revolution was decided.

- The Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, a memorial and final resting place of the nation's veterans.
- Restored Historic Dix Bridge.
- Saratoga National Historic Park's Old Saratoga Unit, including the Saratoga Surrender Site,
   Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, and Victory Woods.

### **Findings and Opportunities**

Schuylerville has an abundance of extraordinary historic resources. The Champlain Canalway Trail binds Schuylerville with a necklace of communities north and south. The trail picks up stories of these communities and ties them together in a system of interconnected historic landmarks, canal lock parks, visitor centers, waterfront parks, local and regional trail systems, on street bicycle routes, and historic attractions. This provides a unique opportunity for Schuylerville to actively market itself as "America's Most Historic Village".

### 9 Natural Resources, Sustainability and Resilience

# **Description of Existing Conditions**

#### **Water Resources**

#### **Hudson River**

The Upper Hudson River is the northern section of the Hudson River, originating from Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondack Mountains and flowing south through primarily forested areas. It is characterized by a mountainous landscape with significant tributaries like the Sacandaga River and is known for its role in managing water levels through dams like the Conklingville Dam in Hadley to prevent flooding and maintain river flow during droughts. In Schuylerville it serves as an important recreation source for boating and fishing. The Hudson River, between Lock 5 in Stillwater and Lock 5 in Northumberland, provides a 14.5 mile stretch of flat water for boaters and kayakers.

The Hudson River in the Schuylerville region is also the Champlain Canal, the water route that links the St. Lawrence River and Canada to the north and the Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean to the south. Generations of travelers carried their boats and cargo from the southern end of the Lake Champlain at Whitehall to the head of small boat navigation on the Hudson River at Fort Edward. The Champlain Canal, completed in 1823, opened an all-water passage.

#### **Old Champlain Canal**

In August of 2022, GE, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation completed the final review of a 250- page consultant report that identifies what contaminants remain in the Olde Champlain Canal or former towpath that runs 1.5 miles along the Empire State Trail from the Hudson Crossing Park to Fort Hardy Park and across Ferry Street. The completion of this study means that the Village can now take action to restore water flow between the canal and the turning basin and to secure a firm to devise a clean-up plan to remove the small amounts of contamination found there. When these two actions are taken, this will allow residents and visitors to use

this waterway for paddle boarding, kayaking, and canoeing. With the installation of a box culvert under Ferry Street as suggested in the transformative project section, the Village will gain control over water depth to allow it to freeze over in the winter to create a unique, tree lined, meandering location for public skating. The vision document approved by the Village that inspired GE and our federal and state government to complete this study is attached to this application.

# **Schuylerville Turning Basin**

Schuylerville started growing after the opening of the Champlain canal in 1822. Through the influence of Philip Schuyler, a large basin, with ample dockage, was built at this point.

#### **Flooding and Erosion**

Schuylerville is seeking funds for the repair, replacement, clean-up and upgrading of various components of the Old Champlain Canal so the water will flow sufficiently to allow for year-round recreational activities and special events.

### **Climate**

Saratoga County, with all its municipalities, generally experiences seasonable weather patterns characteristic of the northeastern U.S. Warm summers are typically experienced, with occasional high temperatures and humidity. Midsummer temperatures typically range from 60°F to 83°F (Fahrenheit). The winters of Saratoga County are long and cold, with temperatures typically ranging from 12°F to 30°F (Fahrenheit). During the winter, temperatures are cooler than the temperatures in areas located near large bodies of water. Snow accumulates to an average depth of 68.7 inches each year.

# Impacts of the North Hudson Region's Changing Climate

The New York State Climate Impacts Assessment: Understanding and Preparing for Our Changing Climate explores current and future climate change impacts on New York State communities, ecosystems, and economy. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) assembled more than 250 New York—based, national, and Indigenous climate science experts and representatives from diverse communities and industries across the state to contribute to this assessment.

- Average temperatures are projected to increase in all seasons across all regions of New York State. Averaged over the entire year, temperatures in the North Hudson region are projected to increase between 4.5°F and 6.4°F by the 2050s and between 5.9°F and 10.5°F by the 2080s compared with the 1981–2010 average.
- The number of very cold days in the region is expected to decrease, based on projections for Albany and Saratoga Springs (the weather stations in the North Hudson region with the best long-term weather data for this assessment). By the middle of this century it is projected to have only two to five days below 0°F, and by the end of this century it is projected to have only 0.4 to two days below 0°F.
- Saratoga Springs has historically experienced an average of one day per year over 95°F; this
  number is projected to increase to eight to 19 days per year by mid-century and to 15 to 43 days
  per year by the end of the century.

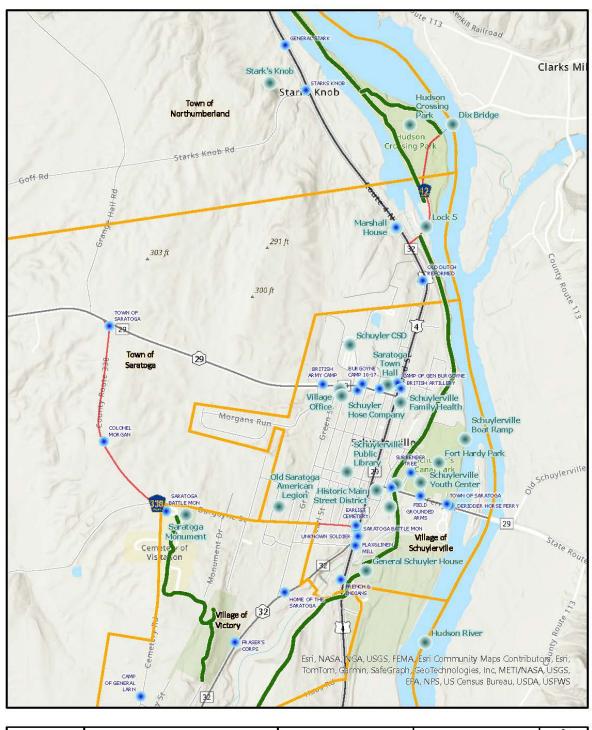
- Warmer temperatures mean less snow and ice. Winter precipitation in the region is projected to increase between 7% and 21% by the 2050s and between 15% and 30% by the 2080s relative to the 1981–2010 average. However, more of this precipitation will fall as rain than snow due to warmer temperatures.
- Total precipitation is projected to increase between 3% and 11% by the 2050s and between 6% and 14% by the 2080s relative to the 1981–2010 average. This precipitation could increasingly come from heavy storms, which can lead to flooding. Extreme precipitation can also contribute to high streamflow.
- The Hudson River in this area is tidal below Troy, so it is vulnerable to flooding from a combination of high streamflow and tidal flooding made worse by sea level rise. With sea level rise, water levels in these tidal sections of the Hudson are projected to increase between 12 and 17 inches by the 2050s relative to a 1995–2014 baseline.
- The North Hudson region is home to numerous apple orchards, particularly in Columbia and Washington Counties. As the climate warms, "false spring" warmups can cause apple blossoms to open too early (a phenomenon known as "early budbreak"). A late spring frost can then damage flowers and cause crop failure. When a late spring frost is predicted, some growers protect trees by using overhead sprinklers to create an ice layer around the buds to keep freezing temperatures from destroying them.
- Apple blossoms can be vulnerable to late spring frosts.
- Dairy farms in the North Hudson region contribute to the state's largest agricultural sector. High temperature and humidity can lead to heat stress in dairy cows. This reduces the amount of milk they produce, and in severe cases, it can harm their health. Warming summer temperatures could make heat stress to cows an increasing concern in the region. Dairy farmers can reduce heat stress by upgrading facilities with better ventilation and cooling mechanisms, including fans and sprinklers.
- Extremely hot days could place a strain on thoroughbred horses, like these in Saratoga Springs. Saratoga Springs is one of the locations in the state expected to have the largest increase in extremely hot days and in the number of heatwaves. This will mean a higher number of hotter racing days, which could add strain on the horses that are racing. Horses are large animals, and this makes it difficult for them to rapidly shed body heat and increases their risk of overheating in high temperatures.
- Though it may seem that the North Hudson region is far away from the ocean and its tides, the Hudson River is in fact tidal all the way to the Federal Dam in Troy. Sea level rise could affect the Hudson River shoreline in the region. Marshlands along the river could be flooded and eroded by rising tidal waters, damaging habitat for species that depend on wetlands for food and shelter. Sea level rise could potentially affect operations at the Port of Albany, which has facilities on both sides of the Hudson, in Albany and in Rensselaer. Rising waters could also create drainage issues, potentially causing stormwater runoff to back up onto streets and highways. Albany's two wastewater treatment facilities near the Hudson River could experience more frequent flooding due to sea level rise. The City of Albany has factored sea level rise into some of its plans for stormwater infrastructure—for example, by incorporating tide gates into its combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall on the Hudson to prevent river water from flowing back into the sewer system during high tides.

# **Findings and Opportunities**

Climate Smart Schuylerville's mission is to help the Village of Schuylerville develop and promote environmentally responsible practices in order to preserve Schuylerville's rich heritage, reduce energy and environmental costs to the Village and taxpayers, and move toward environmental sustainability for present and future generations. 2023 Climate Community Task Force goals are:

- 1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- 2. Prepare for the impact of climate change
- 3. Educate community on best practices
- 4. Save taxpayer money







#### SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

#### **QUALITY OF LIFE**

# 1. Please rate Schuylerville as a community on each of the items listed below (excellent, good, fair, or poor)

- As a place to live: 80% good to excellent
- As a place to raise children: 75% good to excellent
- As a place to educate children: 80% good to excellent
- As a place to retire: 48% good to excellent
- Connection to community: 60% good to excellent
- Connection to history: 85% good to excellent
- Openness and acceptance in the community: 43% good to excellent
- Availability of affordable childcare: 20% good to excellent; 32% poor

# 2. Thinking broadly, how do you feel about the future of the Village in general over the next couple of years?

Optimistic - things are getting better: 60%

Indifferent - things will stay pretty much the same

Pessimistic - things are getting worse

# 3. Please identify the special places in the Village that should be protected or preserved?

- Hudson Crossing Park
- Sidewalk repair! old structures taken down
- The river and parks
- Fort Hardy Park
- Retaining the affordability of Schuylerville. There should be space available for people of all walks in life.
- Schuyler House Canal Trail
- Trails Schuyler house
- Anything historical
- Our school, our youth center, our library, programs for the kids
- The overall care of awareness and education of how to care for drug issue around us.
   Continued proactive attending to the school and all facilities and recreation and all that's needed for families.
- Canal system and trails, Fort Hardy Park
- Downtown buildings, north and south of Ferry St. Green spaces not used for sports, along waterways an elsewhere, (like the apple farm).
- The old canal, the Marshall House and parsonage and similar classic old homes and stores.
- Broad street, canal path, Saratoga Apple land
- Fort Hardy Park Hudson Crossing Park Historic buildings/markers
- Hudson waterfront
- There is a NEED of a Community Center- a space where clubs and meetings can happen.

- Cleaning up and maintaining the old canal
- THE CANAL!!
- Champlain canal
- The Old Champlain Canal, The site of the Horicon Mill
- The river
- Alleys are a mess Sidewalks need maintenance Diversity in shopping and dining
- Fort Hardy Park
- There are two Eagle Scout projects at Fort Hardy! What will happen to the both of them with your community new plan? Also, there is the Nolan remembering tree, for the soldier who died in Veit Nam! These are very important things in the community to me that should always be remembered!
- Hudson Crossing Park, Fort Hardy Park, riverfront, canal front, Monument, Schuyler House, Broad Street businesses
- Downtown
- Hudson's crossing
- The board needs to be replaced
- Canalside areas remove trailer homes and increase affordable housing elsewhere
- Broad and ferry street historic area needs to be preserved and revitalized.
- Water supply
- Side walks
- Downtown needs continued attention and renovation
- Old Barge Canal, Fort Hardy Park, Storefronts, Hudson Crossing Park
- Residents' homes
- youth center, Hudson crossing
- Any historical statue or sight.
- No opinion
- The canal and nature trails/ historical parks.
- The old building on board street need grants to help improve the looks of Main Street.
- The Youth Center. The Labyrinth at Hudson Crossing
- The children need some support, lit areas of play, "late night" safe areas for congregation.
- The walking trails
- Fort Hardy ballfields
- Would love to see the park updated with walking/ bike trails
- Broad Street
- Hudson Crossing and Fort Hardy Park
- The whole town, fort hardy park needs to stay rustic so does the rest of the area
- Ft. Hardy Park, Champlain Trail, historic homes

# 4. If you could change one thing about the Village of Schuylerville, what would it be?

- Maintenance of buildings on Broad Street bad optics for visitors
- Clean up of some properties and abandoned homes. More restaurants to attract other towns,
- Parking!!!!!
- Better directional signage, sidewalks & Detailed in the ability to walk safely down to the river
- I think we need more places for teenagers to hang out. Where they feel welcomed and are allowed to be them. I also think we need more public spaces for the community in general.
- That the real estate market was higher to raise our homes values.
- More community resources
- Better sidewalk and winter maintenance of them
- Stop Engine braking in the village
- Better lighting, parking, sidewalks
- Limit large commercial vehicles over taking neighborhood around Stewart's. Nothing wrong with the Stewart's or the people working there, but it has attracted large commercial vehicles that use our small residential roads with no care. I have witnessed firsthand large trucks driving on front lawns and coming close to homes because the roads are too small for them to make wide turns. I had and event where my fiancé was yelled at and insulted by the driver of a large truck because she parked in front of our own home making it hard for him to turn his truck. It comes off as though the residents come last to the needs of these commercial vehicles
- Change: Keep negativity about people and things to a bare minimum. 2. This would be a new endeavor I believe. As we have talked at our convo gatherings: a resource ctr for all dates and happenings of area businesses, churches, school and all local venues, so as to support and care for each other's events as best we can.
- A large chunk of the commercial real estate being owned by a church and providing 0 tax revenue for the town.
- I'd love for Schuylerville to have more curb appeal, more retail shops, benches to sit, trees for shade, garbage cans. People need to feel it in order to have a reason to drive here, stop, and stay. We have a lot of car traffic, but we also have the Hudson and the canal system where people from Canada and NYC travel -- we need to give them a reason to stop and stay. Have motorized scooters or bikes to rent. The village needs more character.
- Such a simple thing: when pedestrians crossing Broad Street at Broad and Ferry have the walk signal, drivers on Ferry should have a red light. The drivers headed up the hill and making a right from Ferry onto Broad cannot see that there are people in the crosswalk until it's practically too late. It's really scary. It needs to be four way red for pedestrians to cross safely.
- I would love to see a community pool. Not only for the recreation but also the jobs it creates for teens.

- Inclusivity. Although there is a strong sense of community and welcome, it only goes so far. Many of those most enthused about helping the village, do not live in the village. Also, plan for affordable housing.
- Expand the village lines to include its postal region. At least within the Town of Saratoga but ideally also Bacon Hill.
- More youth programs
- Get as many small businesses and residents into empty buildings as possible by offering affordable housing/business rentals.
- Investment in the Fort Hardy project
- Get a Community Center
- Poor communication -- I was totally unaware of this effort until I heard the story on WAMC today.
- Residents maybe I should say owners because too many properties are rentals taking better care of their properties. Much better.
- Clean up of the canal. You cannot tout the trails and parks while the canal is filled with duckweed, algae and debris - to say nothing of the stench and mosquitoes!
- The boundaries
- Put in water meters
- Coordination between businesses (hours, online presence, events) to make visiting easier
- curb appeal and availability of businesses and homes between Ollie's and Stewart's
- Expand the library and it's amazing programming!
- Install water meters. This will allow lower water and sewer rates.
- add a pharmacy, perhaps at Byron's
- Better sidewalks
- Transparency
- Water is far to expensive to attract young families to the village. The increase in rental properties also takes away from the growth of the village. Renters are typically transient and do not respect property and community like a home owner would.
- Monopoly of building owners charging outrageous rent limiting the ability of small businesses to come in a grow Water & Darking in winter garbage pickup (stickers?? so outdated)
- Village-wide garbage pickup should be included in our village taxes rather than the current additional sticker fee.
- The mayor
- Taxes
- Stopping the speeding and running stop signs and improving sidewalks
- The people in office
- More arts, theatre
- the negativity and separation between community members
- Ground water and drainage.
- Add stop signs to Ferry and Saratoga Streets where they intersect Green Street. No one knows what to do when the traffic coming up the hill doesn't stop. Someone is going to get hurt.

- Expanding the Village boundaries and possibly getting more businesses in to help alleviate the taxes that the residence pay
- More brick and mortar. Schuylerville needs more walkable store fronts on the main strip for people to be able to walk around the village more to appreciate what it has to offer. This would bring more income for the village and help maintain its core areas for the public.
- Water meters
- The water and sewer bi
- 5. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:
  - Remain in Village of Schuylerville for the next five years or more: 76%
  - Move out of Village of Schuylerville in the next 5 years
  - Recommend living in Village of Schuylerville to others
- 6. How would you prefer to receive information about board meetings, community meetings, and events in the Village? (check the top two)
  - Village website, direct mail, email, Social media
- 7. Do you need information about how the individual villages of Schuylerville and Victory and town of Saratoga provide services to Schuylerville? (Yes, No, Do not know)

61% say YES

8. What municipal investment would have the greatest impact on the Village?

Water & Sewer; Ft Hardy Park

9. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of Village Government? 59% Yes

#### **BUSINESS CONDITIONS**

- 10. How often do you visit the Village of Schuylerville to shop, use business services, walk, eat, recreate, etc.? (Choose all that apply: Days-Weekdays, Days-Weekends, Nights-About 55% during the day M-S
- 11. Please identify the kind of businesses you would like to see Village of Schuylerville: (Please select all that apply)
  - Retail (clothier, pharmacy, jewelry, other)
  - Entertainment
- 12. Please review the following aspects of Village of Schuylerville:
  - Attractiveness of downtown streetscape
  - Quality of eateries: 70% good to excellent

Quality of recreation and entertainment: 52% Poor

# 13. Do you feel the downtown area needs improvements? Check all that apply

- Landscaping
- Parking
- Park benches

### 14. At what times is parking an issue in the business district?

Weekdays: DaytimeWeekends: Evenings

# 15. Do you think the number and type of community events are (about right, too many, need more) in:

■ 50% say need more all seasons

# 16. Please identify community events that should be:

- Added (new events)
- Discontinued
- Expanded

# 17. What recreational sites and facilities in the Village of Schuylerville need to be improved?

■ Fort Hardy Park: 69%

### 18. Please rate the parks and recreational opportunities in Schuylerville.

Does not meet expectations- meets expectations- exceeds or meets expectations

- Handicapped Accessibility of public parks
- Maintenance of public parks
- Safety of public parks

# **19.** Do you find Schuylerville to be friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists? 55% say yes but needs improvement

# 20. Have you experienced significant property damage from frequent or intense storms? 15% say yes

### 21. Please identify housing issues in the Village: (check those that apply)

- Condition of housing stock
- Availability of affordable housing to rent , to purchase
- Homes in disrepair

# 22. Are you aware of the Village Zoning Code adopted in 2022? (Yes, No)

58% NO

23. Do you support the existing architectural guidelines in the Zoning Code for buildings in the Historic Main Street District?

30% yes; 10% no

24. Do you believe the Village should develop regulations for short-term rentals, VRBO (Vacation Rentals By Owner), and Airbnb rentals?

53% Yes

25. Thinking about growth in the Village over the next 10-30 years, rank the following issues by level of concern: (not concerned; somewhat concerned; very concerned)

**Property Taxes** 

Water Quality

**Housing Costs** 

#### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

**26.** Are you a current resident of the Village of Schuylerville? (yes or no). If no, where do you live?

62% Schuylerville

- 27. Please indicate how much time you live in the Village of Schuylerville over the entire year. 75% year-round
- 28. How long have you been a resident of Schuylerville?

35% over 20 years; 12% 1-5 years

29. Please indicate your gender

56% female

30. What is your age?

45-54 largest group

31. How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household?

40% have children

32. Where do you work in relation to your residence?

In Village or Work from home: 30%

- 33. Please share any other suggestions or feedback for local officials.
  - I think that our leaders are doing an excellent job.
  - I am concerned about the cost of sewer and water. The aging infrastructure.
  - Mora attention to the Hudson River and Champlain canal.
  - Work from home and as I am a pastor travel to other community and around area

- Bridges over the canal within the park and trail areas, weekly farmer's markets, amphitheater outside of Amigos in the old hotel spot or in FHP that hosts entertainment in the summer/fall (music, local theater, community events)
- Although there is a robust senior's group that meets in the Village, this is not provided by the Village. This is a little misleading under question 9, as in another question it is clearer in that programming is available, but not indicated as provided by the Village. I could see the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, and Greenwich, along with the Village coming together to provide funding and resources for this group. As per sustainability in the broadest sense, be it economical, environmental, or social continuing to enhance walkability along with services and businesses that provide necessities is key. Programs and events that continue to heavily involve Village and Town residents along with tourism are part of the sustainability. As I participate in a few committees or groups I have become aware of how few people are actually from the Village. This survey is great to that end of getting them involved.
- Other communities are watching the momentum Schuylerville is building. Greenwich, for example, is starting to replicate it. Embrace and encourage this by sharing experiences (successes and issues) and promotion across your neighbors. If you "flood" the momentum, all will rise with it.
- There is so much potential here, and we are in the midst of an amazing vibe in the village. I am proud to be even an adjacent part of it
- With Schuylerville being elected a "NYS Trail Town" I would make "The Canal" a top
  priority for visitors to enjoy! Presently it is a disgrace that can be addressed pretty
  easily, by implementing the flow of water through the canal with minimal cost (if any)
  to the "NYS Trail Town".
- NYS has code that applies to property maintenance. PLEASE enforce it. I have no problem giving a break to resident owners who cannot afford repairs. Rental property owners must never be given a pass. The village has a law regarding obstructed sidewalks (trees, shrubs, etc.). Please enforce it. Thank you for the sidewalk improvements so far. Please press forward on this as much as possible. Despite the general negativity of this survey response, I think we have a great mayor and generally a good village board. Lastly, have you considered covering the south side of the firehouse roof with solar panels? Lots of acreage there. I would love to see more solar here. I am hoping to do it on my own house. Thanks.
- We moved to this town for it's great school and quaint downtown that was on the upswing over 25 years ago. The bright future that we envisioned for this community has never truly come to pass. Where are the shops? Where are the sidewalks? The feral cats are still a huge problem, crime and drugs continue to rise. Community information is beyond difficult to connect with. The one place that has flourished while we have lived here is the public library. They continue to grow and develop programs while seeing the need for programming and communication. Their expanse is tasteful and provides the community more of what it needs.
- Need law enforcement and more volunteers
- Replace all boards in both villages and water dept.
- Happy with how much the current mayor has accomplished for Schuylerville.

- Water and sewer authorities need financial structure to make rates feasible. Otherwise, business and housing will not grow.
- Clarity in zoning and building permits. Sidewalks, winter parking towing should be tickets unless it's actually snowing or seriously impending storm.
- Absentee landlords not taking care of their property and renting to bad tenants that have brought crime into our village.
- Continuing to improve youth programs and places for families to gather will benefit the Village and make it a desirable place for new families to move and grow. Youth and families drive local communities and we need to focus on amenities that attract that to our village and town.
- The village needs street signs. So many are missing. If you want to encourage people to come and visit then this is important. Also PLEASE change the stop sign positioning on Green. It makes no sense and is going to cause an accident.
- Love this village. Want to be sure it continues to move forward
- More community events and places for music/entertainment
- The Village should be more welcoming to new businesses and address housing issues like aging in place and affordability.
- The village of Schuylerville in the long run needs a face lift and more walkable storefronts among broad street. Fort Hardy could really use a skatepark and more things to do for kids/young adults along with lights for the baseball fields and an updated basketball court.
- There is more than the fort hardy park I feel that needs work. We need work done on our streets and alleys. We also need to look at ways to lower the water and sewer bill taxes.
- They need to set up Fort hardy Toward the people like concert ,Tennis courts.Pickball things for people to do water park. Anything to draw people to the area
- The school is becoming too political and so is our politicians. It's theor way or the highway. We have no voice or they block us
- Need to plan if Schuylerville will become a tourist destination or not.
- This used to be a thriving village, with diverse business. There was an IGA, Pharmacy, bakery, furniture stores, etc. Further back there was a wallpaper factory. The village does have some nice businesses now but they are mainly speciality stores and only cater to a few. Crime, even though it is minor things has been on the rise and response time for the Sherriffs or State Police takes a very long time. It isn't their fault, they are spread thin. Everytime there is a parade or event downtown there are no bathrooms for the public and most of the time the bathrooms are locked near the monument as well. This town has the potential to be great again, people need to come up with common sense solutions and deal with important issues first, like working water mains and clean water. Childcare and affordable housing will help make our young people want to stay here and help build the future.
- New government
- Need all sidewalks to be completed for the safety of all residents
- can the trinket shops downtown be replaced with real retail stores. Stores that would interest the majority and give people a reason to come into the village

- I do love living in this Village, but I wish its residents wanted to take better care of it.
- Improve main street historically. Make attractive. Used to be street cars....would be tourist attraction if street was wider. No bus transportation available. Youth need free activities.
- No issue with the new smoke shop in town, just don't like their neon lights and visual
  presence. It could be more tastefully done. Would love to see the beachfront at ft hardy
  revitalized to a swimming beach. Bring in food trucks on weekends to serve beach goers.
  A retail/rental shop catering to our opportunities for outdoor recreation (kayaks, hiking
  boots, cross country skis, bicycles, etc)
- The parking lane heading north before the Spring Street/Broad Street intersection should not be used as a drive lane. It is a safety hazard. Grant monies should be used to fix sidewalks on the east side of Broad Street as was done for the west side.
- Thanks for making this thoughtful survey!
- Upgrading Ft. Hardy Park, and making use of the old victory mill (and upgrading related infrastructure) would really go a long way.
- We have a major opportunity with the National Park, it needs to be addressed.
- I would like to thank those who have and are serving in the Village seats. The work put forth is thankless and considered never enough by some. I would ask that the decisions that are made to be unbiased because it is the right thing to do.
- The olde Saratoga Seniors have become quite vibrant and it would be lovely to have a senior center.
- Put up signs to stop engine braking/jake braking in the village
- If there will be more visitors I would like to see a police presence.