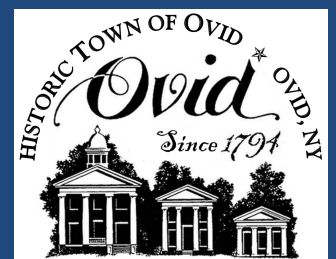


TOWN OF OVID, NY Comprehensive Plan

Prepared by: **MRB Group** 145 *Culver Road, Rochester NY*
in association with
Environmental Design & Research, D.P.C.
217 Montgomery Street, Syracuse NY

ADOPTED:

JANUARY 9, 2019





A message from the Town Board:

In the Town of Ovid, we have a reputation for being the quieter *county seat*, a small and peaceful community at the south end of Seneca County. Without much fanfare, we enjoy not one – but two lakefronts, along with natural beauty and agricultural resources that other communities envy.

Ovid is a hidden treasure.

Many of us have spent most, if not all, of our lives here. We appreciate the wonders of where we live. We also recognize that our lack of development and agricultural atmosphere is an important part of our character – and is exactly what makes Ovid unique.

Our Town Board wanted to engage in a planning process that would help us better understand our community's character, and what we need to do to preserve the Town we know and love.

This document is the result of that effort, and reflects 22 months of hard work by ten volunteers who were appointed by the Board to lead the process. Guided and assisted by a professional team, these individuals interviewed community members extensively, researched information about Ovid, and analyzed the results. They came to a consensus, sometimes with great difficulty, over tough issues.

We thank the Committee for their efforts on behalf of the Town of Ovid:

Pam Armitage
Joe Borst
Jean Currie
William Dalrymple
Paul Engineri

Toby Hertzler
John Hubbard, Chairman/Former Councilman
Carrie Smalser
Carrie Wheeler-Carmenatty
Rod Winkleblack

Thanks to these individuals, and a supportive Town Board, we have a Comprehensive Plan that has helped us define who we are, and gives us a sense of direction. While nothing is “written in stone,” and its recommendations are still subject to discussion and due process, future community leaders will be able to use this resource to make better decisions about our Town, and the kind of growth that will help us remain unique.

Sincerely,

Walt Prouty
Supervisor

Joseph Borst
Councilman

Mark Beardsley

Erik Holmberg
Councilman

Carrie Wheeler-Carmenatty
Councilwoman

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of the plan.....	1
1.2	Planning process	1
2.0	Planning context	5
2.1	Related Plans Within the Region	5
2.2	Existing local regulations	8
3.0	Community profile.....	10
3.1	Residents.....	10
3.2	Households.....	14
3.3	Housing.....	16
4.0	Vision statement.....	18
5.0	Existing conditions and recommendations	18
5.1	Municipal Fiscal Profile	18
5.2	Town Existing Unique Areas and Land use	23
5.3	Infrastructure assessment	32
5.4	Other community facilities and services.....	36
5.5	Natural resources	41
6.0	Recommended strategies.....	45
6.1	Funding opportunities	45
6.2	Strategy-action matrix.....	48
6.3	Reporting progress	49
7.0	Appendices	50
7.1	Appendix A: Full focus group summaries	51
7.2	Appendix B: Detailed survey results	60
7.3	Appendix C: Progress report template.....	67
7.4	Appendix D: Public workshop materials.....	69
7.5	Appendix E: Map figures.....	70

“Either you passively watch as things change around you, or you can participate in planning for what you want.”

- Karen Morean, Ovid Community Member

“The Town of Ovid, nestled between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, strives to maintain its small-town character; a safe, friendly, and quiet community; attractive and healthy environment; and a place where people want to live, work and play. We encourage all citizens to be active in all aspects of community life.”

- Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement



1.0 INTRODUCTION

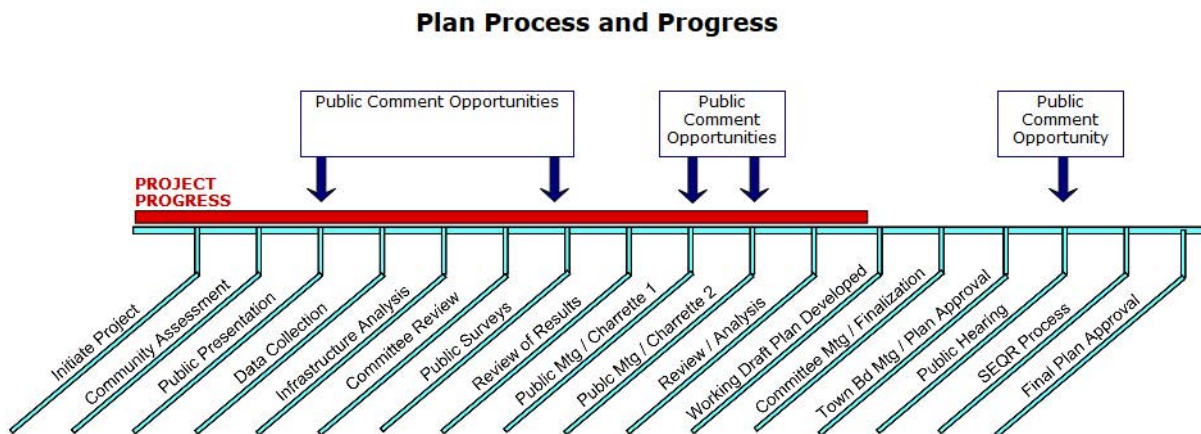
1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Town of **Ovid's** comprehensive planning initiative is to create a decision-making framework for the residents and businesses of the town. The Town of Ovid recognizes the value of this comprehensive plan as tool to assess current conditions of the town, share a community-wide vision and develop action steps to achieve that vision. Developing this comprehensive plan provides opportunities for the Town of Ovid to leverage funding, increase eligibility for grants and loans, **increases “project readiness” and provides more predictability and transparency around** community supported economic growth. Additionally, this plan provides a basis for town-wide policies that aim to increase sustainable economic growth and development, preserve open space, protect agricultural land, create capital improvements, create local land use laws, and facilitate mixed use development.

Although the rural nature of the Town of Ovid and its beautiful location between two Finger Lakes has provided a high quality of life for many of its residents throughout the years, many things have changed throughout the Town of Ovid. New businesses have moved in and former businesses have moved out, the size and composition of the local population has changed, and the political and economic context of the area has evolved. Key questions have arisen over recent years throughout the community. What investments would further improve this quality of life? What additional amenities would be fiscally sustainable? How should the community strengthen its identity to increase investment? What would enhance rather than **challenge the community's character**? Considering the many changes and questions that the community has experienced and in anticipation of those to come, the Town of Ovid has pursued the adoption of a new comprehensive plan that reflects the goals and desires of our community.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

The Town Board held its first discussions related to the development of a comprehensive plan in 2013. The Town Board appointed a Steering Committee to lead the planning initiative and selected a consulting team of MRB Group and Environmental Design & Research, D.P.C. (EDR) in 2015 to assist. Staff from MRB Group and EDR worked closely with town staff and the volunteer members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to produce the plan and represent the initiative through a series of public meetings. In preparing the comprehensive plan, the town provided a number of opportunities for public involvement and input, including focus group discussions, town-wide surveys, and public meetings.





1.2.1 Focus group discussions

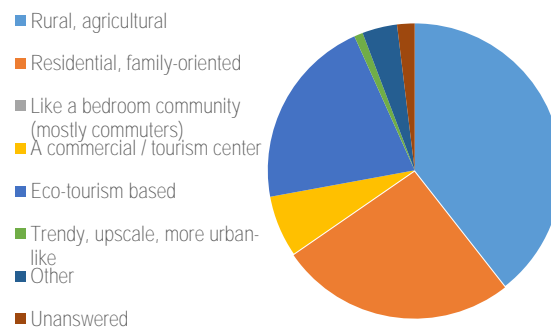
A series of focus group discussions were held early in the planning process to gain the perspective of individuals and organized interests within the town and surrounding areas. Six meetings were held in November 2016 and January 2017 with organized groups of stakeholders, including inter-jurisdictional group (i.e. representatives from neighboring municipalities, Seneca County, etc.), a business group, a senior group, lake residents group, a youth group, and a group consisting of agricultural/environmental/Amish representatives. Focus group participants provided valuable input throughout the planning process with regard to opportunities and constraints within the town. These discussions proved fertile ground for the development of ideas in support of the community vision. A complete summary of focus group discussions is provided in Appendix A.

1.2.2 Survey

The planning process was also informed by a survey mailed out to residents (both town and village) and businesses throughout the town in May 2017. Survey respondents were asked a series of 11 questions, covering topics including but not limited to community character and development, tools for encouraging or influencing development, and municipal service delivery. Several key findings from the survey are noted below, and a full sample survey and detailed results of the survey process is included in Appendix B.

- When asked which term they would choose to describe the Town of Ovid as they would like to see it in 20 years, 40% of respondents indicated a preference for rural agricultural community, and 27% of respondents chose “Eco-tourism-based community (example: environment, natural resources, serenity)”.
- 51% of respondents noted a preference for increased growth and development within the town over the next 20 years.
- Those that would prefer increased development also indicated a preference for five specific types of development that they would like to see occur within the town: single family residential development, family farms, tourism businesses, small retail and wineries, breweries, and distilleries.
- A majority of those who did not prefer growth (61%) preferred the existing character of the community. 22% of those who did not prefer growth were concerned about land-use conflicts.
- Most respondents believed that it was very important that local government (village, town, or county) to focus primarily on keeping taxes lower (18%) and maintaining roads (14%). These were followed by restricting uncontrolled development (8%) and attracting new businesses (8%).
- Marketing and promotion of business, tax incentives for business attraction, housing tax incentives, use of ordinances to conserve open space, fund/assist/support conservation easements, and tax abatements for public use of land were among the top roles that local government should pursue, according to survey respondents. Of these roles, respondents believed that marketing and business promotion and tax abatements for public use of private property were the top two local government roles that should be supported by local tax dollars.

In 2037, the Ovid Community Should Be More...



For a complete summary of survey results, see Appendix B.



- Respondents reported that their highest preference for increased shared services was in emergency response services, roadway maintenance and senior/youth/parks programming. The highest preference for no change in shared services was municipal website, sewer infrastructure/service, and water infrastructure/service. The highest preference for decreasing shared services was in code enforcement.

1.2.3 Public meetings

The Town of Ovid held two public meetings at the Ovid Firehouse on Brown Street throughout the development of the comprehensive plan. The first, held on the morning of Saturday, October 7, 2017, featured an introductory discussion regarding the purpose of the planning initiative, and the project timeline, and both a town-hall style discussion and open house style gathering between community members, the Steering Committee, and the project consultants. This meeting featured background information regarding state guidance for local comprehensive plans and its relation to zoning, as well as a more detailed look at several issues central to the planning process: demographics and economics; development opportunities and constraints; and community character. Three workshop stations featuring maps of the town, US Census data, survey results, and a “conversation map” were presented to collect feedback on zoning issues from members of the community. Public feedback provided at these stations is described in Appendix D.

The second public meeting, held on the evening of Tuesday, December 12th, was designed to shape a vision statement and goals for the comprehensive planning initiative. The format of this meeting featured a series of “stations”, where residents were asked to provide input regarding local priorities, and their vision and goals for the future. Public responses during this workshop helped to guide the Steering Committee and project consultants as they designed and considered several recommendations for the future of the town. Public feedback provided during this workshop is reflected in the Vision Statement enumerated in Section 3.



Images from the community workshop held on October 7th, 2017



1.2.4 Project website

In June 2016 the Town of Ovid launched a website to keep the public informed about the ongoing planning effort. The official website of the Ovid Comprehensive Plan (www.townofovidcomprehensiveplan.org) provided information regarding the Steering Committee, the planning process, and opportunities for public input. The home page allowed residents and business owners to take the survey online (see Section 1.2.2), and an updated Status Report featured meeting minutes and regional planning resources. Draft and final planning documents were also posted for public review on the website.

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan
The official project website, provided by the MRB Group / EDR Project Team

Home | Committee Members | Plan Process / Status | Contact the Committee

Welcome to the Official Site of the Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan
Supervisor Walt Prouty and the Town Board have initiated a public-participation process to create a new comprehensive plan for the Town of Ovid. Check here often for updates and key information about the planning process. The site also provides a convenient way to contact the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Steering Committee Launches Community-Wide Survey
The Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has launched a community-wide survey, asking for residents of the Town to provide their thoughts on a number of issues. The committee was appointed by the Town Board to create a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Ovid, and are working with MRB Group and EDR, a team of consultants who specialize in community planning.

Status Report

Take the Survey
Click Here To Begin

Next Steering Committee Meeting:
Rescheduled for June 28, 2017, 6:00, at the Fire House

"It's now time for community members to weigh in on the things that matter most to them," said John Hubbard, Committee Chairman. Members of the committee have been hearing from smaller focus groups, and have utilized that information to help shape questions.

Contact the Committee

Your Input is Valued
Please use this form to submit your comments and suggestions to the committee.
Any comments or questions received will be shared with the Committee at a subsequent meeting.
In addition, the Committee will invite public comment at several public events to be held as the plan progresses.

Alternative Methods
To contact the committee using mail or telephone, [click here](#) for contact information.

First Name:
Last Name:
E-mail Address:
Comments:

Reset Submit

Send the committee a note

Images from the Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan website



2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 RELATED PLANS WITHIN THE REGION

Several recent planning initiatives at the county and regional levels will bear on the future of the Town of Ovid and its neighboring municipalities. While these plans do not necessarily recommend specific land uses or policies within the town, they will nonetheless shape the types of economic and community development opportunities available to municipalities in Seneca County. Brief summaries of seven related plans are provided below.

2.1.1 *Finger Lakes Forward: United for Success*

The 2015 Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's **Upstate Revitalization** Initiative Plan sets about a shared vision for the nine-county region, which includes Seneca, Yates, Ontario, Livingston, Wyoming, Wayne, Rochester, Monroe, Orleans, and Genesee Counties. As a foundation for sustainable economic development, the plan identifies optimal targets for investment, including three industry cluster and three economic enablers. Industry clusters that uniquely strengthen the region include Optics, Photonics, and Imaging, 2) Agriculture and Food Production, and 3) Next Generation Manufacturing and Technology. Three mechanisms that enable the long-term development of these industry cluster and the region more broadly includes 1) Workforce Development and Poverty Reduction, 2) Entrepreneurship and Development, and 3) Higher Education and research.

This plan builds on the 2011 FLREDC Strategic Plan and its yearly progress reports. The REDC Strategic Plan directed funding locally for broadband expansion (e.g., Connect NY, a program that provided high-speed Internet access to rural and underserved communities including 110 customers living in previously unserved areas of the towns of Ovid and Romulus in 2013). This project also offered discounts on subscription fees, free trainings, and email addresses. The Finger Lakes REDC itself is a critical ally for the town in terms of securing funding for potential development projects. To the extent that the comprehensive plan aligns with key regional priorities (e.g. job creation and improving regional quality of life), such an alignment improves the likelihood of state funding through the annual Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process.

2.1.2 *Regional Engagement: Seneca County Revitalization Opportunity Report*

Prepared by the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council with funds provided through the NYS Brownfield Opportunity Area program, the Seneca County Revitalization Opportunity Report was finalized in November 2016 as part of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Engagement initiative to advance economic development, community development and planning within the nine-county region. The plan assesses issues, needs revitalization opportunities, and goals throughout the County and builds upon other Finger Lakes Regional Plan, including the Upstate Revitalization Initiative Plan (*Finger Lakes Forward: United for Success*) and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Strategic Plan (*Accelerating our Transformation*). Due to its high poverty rate (18.5%) and high decline in population (16.2%), the Town of Ovid was listed as a focus area for economic distress, along with the Village of Lodi and the Village of Ovid. A critical economic goal listed in the plan included the elimination of economic distress within these areas, along with the improvement and expansion of infrastructure, support to existing businesses, improvement of connections between education and workforce development, redevelopment of the Seneca Army Depot and leveraging property surrounding the recently-developed casino in the Town of Tyre. Interrelated to this economic goal and its objectives, the plan also lists goals related to downtown revitalization, tourism and recreation, waterfronts, environmental/water/natural resources, energy, buildings and housing, infrastructure, and cultural preservation.

2.1.3 *Seneca County Comprehensive Plan Update*

The Seneca County Department of Planning and Community Development recently updated the Seneca County Comprehensive Plan in adopted in June 2014. The plan features a broad examination of the county's **regional**



advantages and guides **the County's decision**-making in four key areas: Agriculture, Housing, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation. Throughout each of these key areas, the plan anticipates and manages various forms of change within the County by identifying several principles, goals, and recommended actions. While there are no recommendations specific to the town, the following goals may be generally applicable to the Town of Ovid. They are categorized based on each of the four key areas:

Applicable Economic Development Goals

- Encourage greater collaboration with state, municipalities, economic development organizations, and private and nonprofit partners to advance the goals and strategies of this plan.
- Seek and support local and nonlocal businesses that strengthen and diversify the economic base, expand, and enhance the tax base, improve wage and salary levels, and utilize the resident workforce, without diminishing the quality of natural, historical, or cultural resources
- Enhance tourism as a vital aspect of the economy and quality of life
- Minimize land use conflicts

Applicable Environmental Conservation Goals

- Protect and enhance the integrity and economic viability of natural resources for current and future residents
- Ensure the long-term preservation of surface and groundwater resources
- Promote sustainable waste management
- Continue to identify and promote the preservation of cultural, historic, and scenic resources that celebrate local heritage.

Applicable Agricultural Goals

- Enhance the economic climate for agriculture
- Increase the awareness of economic and social importance of agriculture
- Provide an ongoing community education program for the non-farm public
- Acknowledge and enhance the environmental stewardship of agricultural businesses
- Preserve prime agricultural land

Applicable Housing Goals

- Develop plans to meet the housing needs of segments of the population that require supportive services, including seniors, independent (or at-risk) youth, and those at risk of homelessness, or who are homeless
- Develop plans and programs to meet the housing needs of people interested in higher end homes and rental units.
- Develop local and/or countywide income eligible housing rehabilitation needs assessments
- Develop local and/or countywide energy efficiency needs assessments
- Encourage county and regional housing coalitions to promote collaboration by all community, municipal, private business, and private non-profit actors on housing issues
- Investigate the use of Three Bears buildings in the Village of Ovid for potential use as local non-profit organization satellite office and community coalition meeting space

2.1.4 *Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan*

Approximately a third of the Town of Ovid is within the Seneca Lake Watershed, and the Village of Ovid obtains their public drinking water from the middle section of the Lake. Finalized in 2014, the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan was updated for the first time since 1999 by a partnership between the City of Geneva, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, the Finger Lakes Institute and Hobart and William Smith College. The plan highlights the recent formation of an intermunicipal watershed organization formed through Memorandum of Understanding between the five counties and 40 municipalities that fall within the Seneca Lake Watershed. The Town of Ovid, one of these members, **features Seneca Lake's** subwatersheds



of Sixteen Falls Creek and Simpson Creek. While these areas feature tremendous natural assets, such as the Willard Wildlife Management Area and recreational use, challenges also exist and include pollution from salt and other deicing materials, environmental health risks from septic systems and drinking wells, and streambank erosion. Recommended strategies for watershed management within the town include education efforts for municipal highway departments on ditch and culvert design and other best practices to prevent erosion and deicing pollution; adoption of a watershed-wide uniform sanitary law; public education on sewer districts, septic systems and other wastewater treatment facilities, wetland and streambank restoration; and creation of local laws and performance standards related to green infrastructure, stormwater management and erosion control for new development.

2.1.5 Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan

Originally created in the late 1990s, this plan was recently updated in 2017 for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IPO) by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. The 860-square mile Cayuga Lake watershed consists of 45 municipalities, three counties and numerous regional, state, and federal agencies. The focus of the plan is to identify priority issues and solutions across the Cayuga Lake Watershed that can be supported by local governments and organizations, who can then work together and **access funding to implement the plan's** recommendations. Since the last draft of the plan in the early 2000s, new challenges have arisen that negatively impact water quality, quantity and the sustainability and health of the watershed. With climate change and extreme weather, farmers and other producers have had to adapt, wildlife, birds and tree species have shifted patterns. New hazards have emerged, such as invasive species, Harmful Algae Blooms, drought, and emerging contaminants. This in turn impacts human use, and enjoyment of the water, including its uses for drinking water, farming, wine-making, beers, liquors, industrial and wastewater treatment, home, and business uses, and outdoor recreation. Fortunately, however, this plan presents several recommendations for building a sustainable, healthy watershed. These recommendations have been separated according to multiple aspects relating to watershed protection, including public participation, agricultural practices, and the management of stormwater, wastewater, hazardous waste, forestry, wetlands and riparian areas, regulations, and water quality monitoring. Recommendations relevant to the Town of Ovid's comprehensive plan include municipal farmland protection measures, support for county-wide septic system inspection programs, and the enactment of local regulations that protect riparian buffers (i.e. stream setback laws).

2.1.6 Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan

Finalized in December 2013, the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan describes existing conditions, gaps and proposed locations, concepts, and marketing strategies for non-motorized paddler access points along Cayuga Lake, with the overall goal to **create a water trail (i.e. "Blueway") to facilitate water-based recreation and transportation**. The plan was overseen by the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail Plan Committee, which consisted of the Department of State and the counties of Cayuga, Seneca, and Tompkins. The plan refers to **Ovid's hamlet of Sheldrake as "one of the most important and scenic destinations along the lake since the steamboat era in the early 19th century."** This area features a mix of cropland and private homes and cottages, with a public access point at the town park at Sheldrake Point. Docking facilities are also available at Sheldrake Winery and Kidders Landing, but they are not suited for paddle craft. Other notable points include Sheldrake Creek, Sheldrake Point Park and Weyers Point. The plan recommends short term strategies to create restrooms and a paddle craft ramp at Sheldrake Point Park, as well as long-term strategies to provide overnight tent camping sites and paddle craft storage for paddlers. It also recommends the installation of Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail signage throughout all Ovid waterfront destinations, including the Driftwood Inn B&B, Sheldrake Point Park, and the Sheldrake Point Winery.

2.1.7 Transportation and Food Systems in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region

Completed in March 2016 by the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC), the Transportation and Food Systems in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region is a project that seeks to promote local and regional food systems by conducting a baseline assessment of land use and transportation barriers and developing



recommendations for actions. Through interviews with a diverse sampling of stakeholders involved in food production, processing, wholesale, retail and waste management in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region, the project identified a variety of challenges facing the region. These include high transportation costs for small producers, weight restricted infrastructure, limitations on truck size, and a lack of siting and design standards for organic waste hauling. While there are local food opportunities for Ovid (community garden in the village and seasonal farmers market stands), limited overall food access is a regional challenge, including a lack of full service grocery stores, health food options, farmer markets, and community gardens. The project recommends addressing these issues through partnerships, planning, assessment, marketing, regulations/design standards, and pilot/demonstration projects.

2.1.8 Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions (STEPS) Ovid Mainstreet Re-visioning Project 2014

The Downtown Main Street Re-visioning project facilitated Ovid residents to re-envision existing village areas and prioritize projects that would support community health and livability, particularly along its Main Street corridor after a fire destroyed buildings in the Spring of 2014. This process, consisting of a series of community and stakeholder meetings, was moderated by Cornell team of planning, architecture, and engineering students in partnership with the STEPS program. Based upon input from community members, business leaders and municipal officials, the plan presented conceptual designs supporting the preservation of the **village's unique** historic downtown character combined with open parkland. These conceptual diagrams accommodated the changes that participants desired, including the restoration of building facades and vacant buildings and the creation of social gathering spaces, such as a coffeehouse, community garden, youth-friendly areas, and outdoor dining areas. Participants also mapped areas of the village needing improvement, such as sidewalk repairs, the development of park space/recreation center, streetscape amenities, and placemaking signage.

2.1.9 Recommendations for the Town of Ovid, NY: A Report Summarizing Findings from the Ovid Strategic Visioning Sessions, 2010

In 2009, upon the request from leaders of the town of Ovid, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council conducted a series of focus groups to guide Ovid stakeholders through a strategic visioning process. A primary result from this report included the recommendation to create a town-wide Comprehensive Plan utilizing a third-party **consultant. This document was submitted as final to the Town board in February of 2010 and is located on the Town's** webpage.

2.2 EXISTING LOCAL REGULATIONS

The context for planning within the Town of Ovid also includes local land use regulations. These regulations have been the guide to planning and development within the town. A brief summary of **Ovid's land use tools** is provided below, with additional detail provided in Section 5.2.

For a period in Ovid's recent past, a local law (Town of Ovid, Local Law No. 1, 2004) did establish minimum lot sizes and some dimensional regulations, such as side yard setbacks, and the Town Clerk in the capacity as Land Use Officer issued and reviewed building permit applications in accordance with these regulations. Since 2015, when that local law was declared invalid, there has been no zoning or any other land use regulation in Ovid. For more information, see Section 5.2.

2.2.1 Other ordinances

In addition to those described above, the Town of Ovid has adopted other local laws that can influence community character, as described:



- *Right to Farm Law*
Local Law N. 1 of 2009 establishes a right to farm for all farmland (as currently defined in subdivision 4, section 301, Art. 25AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law) within the boundaries of the Town of Ovid. This law declares that it shall be the policy of the town to encourage agriculture and foster understanding by all residents of the necessary day-to-day operations involved in farming so as to encourage cooperation with these practices. It is the general purpose and intent of this law to maintain and preserve the rural traditions and character of the town, to permit the continuation of agricultural practices, to protect the existence and operation of farms, to encourage the initiation and expansion of farms and agri-businesses, and to promote new ways to resolve disputes concerning agricultural practices and farm operations. In addition to this declaration, the town requires that land holders and/or their agents to comply with section 310 of Art. 25AA of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law and to provide notice to prospective purchasers and occupants that the property they are about acquire lies partially or wholly within an agricultural district and that farming activities occur within the district. Finally, the town requires that any dispute arising related to any agricultural operations which cannot be settled by direct negotiation may submit the matter to a town Agricultural and Farmland Dispute Resolution Committee.
- *Noise ordinance*
Adopted in 1974, Ovid's noise ordinance establishes standards for noise nuisances. Part I provides definitions and penalty measures. Part II specifically defines dog noise nuisances and penalties for violations.



Photo 1. Ovid has a robust agricultural community that shapes the surrounding character of the community. Photo by William Dalrymple.



3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

3.1 RESIDENTS

The Town of Ovid, like many towns in rural New York State, has experienced significant population shifts over the past several decades due to changing employers and industry transformations. Although many rural communities in the area remain larger than their pre-Baby Boom populations, the Town and Village of Ovid have declined from their peak population. Figures 1 and 2, below, show population growth and decline for Seneca County, the Town and Village of Ovid, and the neighboring towns of Lodi, Covert and Romulus, respectively. Note that the town statistics shown here represent aggregations of town and village residents (who also pay town property taxes in addition to village property taxes). Village statistics are also presented separately for the purposes of analyzing the entities separately. Since 2000, town-outside-of-village statistics indicate that the number of residents has remained about the same with 1,269 residents in 2000, 1,827 residents in 2010, and 1,601 residents in 2015.

Figure 1, Population 1940-2015

	Population, 1940-2015								
	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Seneca Co.	25,732	29,253	31,984	35,083	33,733	33,683	33,342	35,251	35,144
Town of Ovid (Town + Village)	3,200	3,442	3,097	3,107	2,530	2,306	2,757	2,311	2,166
Village of Ovid	789	779	789	779	666	660	612	602	602
Town of Lodi	1,051	1,118	1,267	1,287	1,184	1,429	1,476	1,550	1,636
Town of Covert	1,633	1,843	1,965	2,097	2,188	2,246	2,227	2,154	2,328
Town of Romulus	2,865	4,263	3,509	4,284	2,464	2,532	2,036	4,316	4,359

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

Figure 2, Population change 1940-2015

	Population change (%), 1940-2015								
	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2015	1940-2015
Seneca Co.	13.7%	9.3%	9.7%	-3.8%	-0.1%	-1.0%	5.7%	-0.3%	36.6%
Town of Ovid (Town + Village)	7.6%	-10.0%	0.3%	-18.6%	-8.9%	19.6%	-16.2%	-6.3%	-32.3%
Village of Ovid	-1.3%	1.3%	-1.3%	-14.5%	-0.9%	-7.3%	-1.6%	0.0%	-23.7%
Town of Lodi	6.4%	13.3%	1.6%	-8.0%	20.7%	3.3%	5.0%	5.5%	55.7%
Town of Covert	12.9%	6.6%	6.7%	4.3%	2.7%	-0.8%	-3.3%	8.1%	42.6%
Town of Romulus	48.8%	-17.7%	22.1%	-42.5%	2.8%	-19.6%	112.0%	1.0%	52.1%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

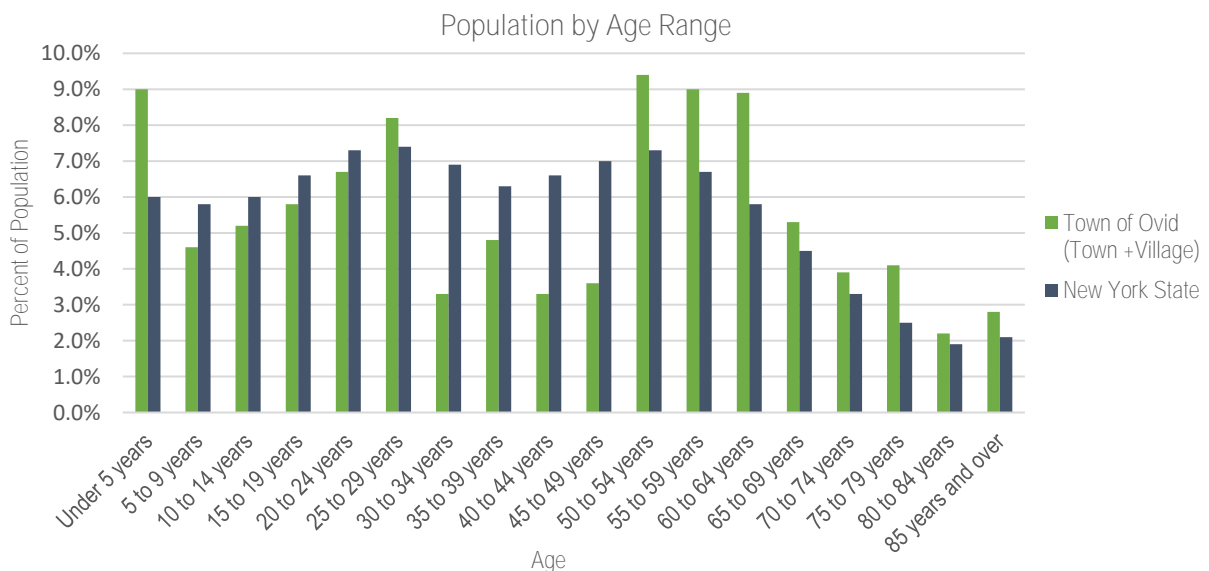
The population trends between the surrounding municipalities are mixed. The population of the Town of Ovid (including the village) peaked late in the post-World War II “Baby Boom” and has been slightly declining overall. However, there was a noticeable population spike in the 1990s, which corresponds with the establishment of the nearby Willard Drug Treatment Center, a 900-bed drug treatment center that is located in both the Town of Ovid and the Town of Romulus and the establishment in 2000 of the maximum security Five Points Correctional Facility, a 1,500-inmate maximum



security prison in Romulus. Meanwhile, over the same period, the area also endured closures of major employers, with the closure of the Willard State Hospital and the closure of the Seneca Army Depot (Romulus) both occurring in 1995. During these complex economic transitions in the 1990s, the population of Ovid climbed while the population of Romulus declined. In the following decade, the **Town of Ovid's population** resumed its declining trend. The adjacent towns of Covert and Lodi to the south of Ovid have been slightly increasing throughout that same period, presumably due to their relative proximity to Ithaca, a major employment center in the area.

The regional increases in population following World War II, followed by a steady increase in out-migration and decreases in household size and in-migration, have also resulted in a population that is steadily aging. The age distribution shown in Figure 3 reflects these trends, with a large cohort from the later years of the Baby Boom generation followed by smaller cohorts from subsequent generations. Figure 3 also shows a lower-than-statewide number of Ovid populations for people belonging to "Generation X" (i.e. current ages of 30-49 years).

Figure 3, Population age distribution



Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

As shown in Figure 3, mean population age within the Town of Ovid is slightly higher than statewide averages. The Town of Ovid features an increase in older populations, peaking at the ages of 50-54 years, which composes just over 9% of the population. This slightly older population (at 43.6 years, **Ovid's average age is** higher than the statewide median age of 38.1) **corresponds with a slightly higher "dependency ratio"** within the town as compared to statewide averages. The dependency ratio measures the proportion of working age populations (18-65) relative to non-working age populations (under 18 and above 65), where a ratio of 100 would indicate that there is only one working age resident for every non-working age resident; higher ratios point to an imbalance between working populations and those that may require support or services. Figure 4 describes median age and dependency ratios for the Town of Ovid and its neighboring jurisdictions, as compared to the statewide values for each.



Figure 4, Median age, and age dependency ratios

	New York State	Seneca County	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus
Median age (years)	38.1	42.3	43.6	35.2	44.6	47.2	35.8
Age dependency ratio (1-100)	56.1	59.1	68.8	65.4	61.0	72.3	27.2

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents

The presence of large Baby Boom populations has both positive and negative impacts for the town. The large size of older cohorts leads to a high rate of homeownership (80%) and a high proportion of homeowner-occupied homes (76%), both of which promote stability of the tax base. Conversely, the small size of younger generations suggests that the expense of providing municipal services will be borne by fewer taxpayers in the coming years, barring an influx of new residents. The lack of sizeable younger cohorts and the aging of large older cohorts will likely put pressure on in-migration to either maintain the stability of the tax base or drive any preferred growth and development.

Other socioeconomic indicators show that the Town of Ovid is relatively aligned with county or statewide averages in terms of the education and poverty levels of its residents. First, Figure 5 shows the educational attainment levels of the Town of Ovid and other jurisdictions. As noted, although the proportion of residents with at least a high school (or equivalent) degree is consistent with statewide and county averages, it is slightly less than that of both Lodi and Covert to the south, and significantly higher than Romulus to the north. **The proportion of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is significantly lower than the statewide average, though it is on par with that of Seneca County as a whole.**

Figure 5, Educational attainment

	New York State	Seneca County	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus
High school degree (or equivalent) or higher	85.6%	85.3%	86.3%	82.7%	88.6%	90.8%	65.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	34.2%	20.2%	23.5%	17.3%	21.7%	30.6%	9.4%

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents

Figure 6 shows the proportion of residents within the town and its neighboring jurisdictions that had experienced poverty in 2015. As shown in the table, town residents younger than 65 years of age experienced approximately the same incidence of poverty as the neighboring towns, Seneca County, and New York State. The youth poverty rate (below 18 years) was notably lower within both the Town of Lodi and Village of Ovid than that of the neighboring jurisdictions and New York State.

Figure 6, Percent of children, adults, and seniors in poverty

	New York State	Seneca County	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus
Below 18 years	22.2%	15.9%	19.5%	1.4%	9.2%	16.6%	7.6%
18-64 years	14.4%	13.2%	15.3%	13.7%	10.9%	9.4%	10.3%
65 years and over	11.5%	7.1%	12.4%	20.9%	5.0%	4.0%	5.8%

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents.



Finally, Figure 7 links the two previous tables to show the median incomes of residents according to educational attainment. Unsurprisingly, higher levels of educational attainment are associated with higher levels of income in all jurisdictions. The Town of Ovid is on par with income levels across education levels in the surrounding municipalities in the region, with the region as a whole facing significantly lower than statewide median income levels.

Figure 7, Median income by educational attainment

	New York State	Seneca County	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid*	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert*	Town of Romulus*
All population 25+ years with earnings	\$40,524	\$31,624	\$26,896	\$26,944	\$37,578	\$33,292	\$20,100
Less than high school graduate	\$20,205	\$18,232	\$25,847	\$17,500	\$20,208	\$8,438	\$8,021
High school graduate (or equivalent)	\$30,084	\$29,864	\$19,018	\$18,571	\$25,787	\$30,000	\$12,750
Some college or associate degree	\$36,866	\$31,774	\$16,250	\$29,375	\$30,481	\$34,038	\$21,893
Bachelor's degree	\$54,214	\$35,380	\$26,371	\$48,500	\$43,125	\$44,167	\$35,536
Graduate or professional degree	\$71,413	\$53,589	\$63,750	\$60,568	\$58,664	\$48,906	\$80,833

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

*Values shown in this table are 2012-2016 estimates from the ACS. 2011-2015 ACS estimates were not released for these geographic areas.

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents.



3.2 HOUSEHOLDS

In household composition of the Town of Ovid also has some notable similarities and dissimilarities to its neighboring municipalities and the county as a whole. As shown in Figure 8, both the Town and Village of Ovid have a slightly lower proportion of family to non-family households than the surrounding municipalities and county.

Figure 8, Households

	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus	Seneca County
Total households	921	267	705	987	826	13,561
Family households	58%	47%	71%	65%	65%	62%
Married-couple family	81%	67%	81%	79%	85%	76%
Other family:	19%	33%	19%	19%	15%	24%
Male householder, no wife present	9%	20%	6%	11%	5%	8%
Female householder, no husband present	10%	13%	13%	10%	10%	16%
Nonfamily households	42%	53%	29%	35%	35%	38%
Householder living alone	34%	36%	24%	27%	30%	30%

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

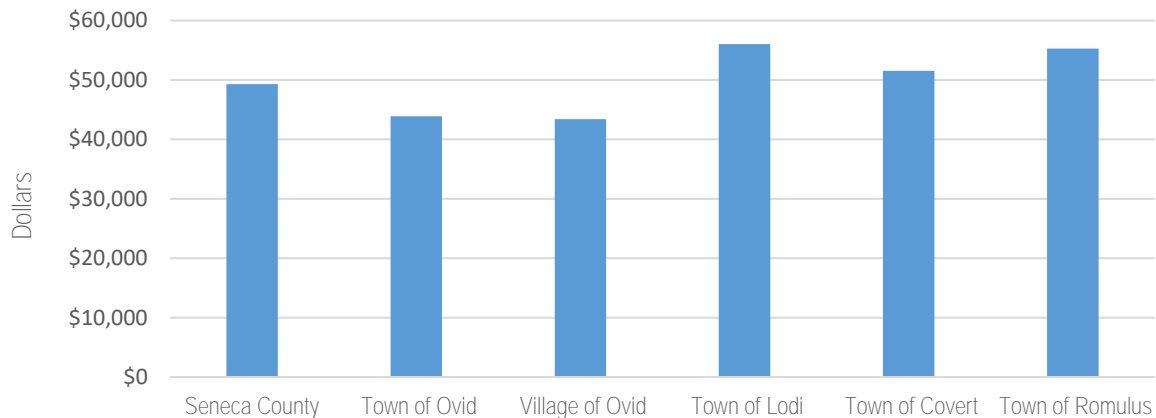
Note: The Town of Ovid figure presented here includes town residents plus village residents.

The most notable outliers are found in the homeowner and rental vacancy rates. The Town (consisting of both town and village residents) and the Village of Ovid independently have higher rates of home occupancy (80% and 85%, respectively) as compared to its neighboring municipalities (74% occupancy for Romulus and 68% occupancy for Lodi). All municipalities throughout the region have a lower occupancy than statewide average (89%). It should be noted, however, that it is common for tourism communities to have higher than normal vacant house counts. Many homes categorized as vacant are vacation homes, which are seasonal and not regularly occupied. The portion of renter-occupied homes in the Town of Ovid (town + village) is similar to the rental rates in adjacent areas. Within the Village of Ovid, however, 36% of the occupied homes are rented, compared to 24% within the Town of Ovid. When separating the town outside of the village, that percentage drops slightly to 22%.

Household income within the Town of Ovid (including both the town and village residents) is relatively similar to that of the county as a whole, with important differences in terms of income distribution. At \$43,884 in 2015, the median household income within the town was lower than Seneca County's \$49,292, as shown in Figure 9. Both are significantly lower than the statewide median of \$59,269.



Figure 9, Median household income

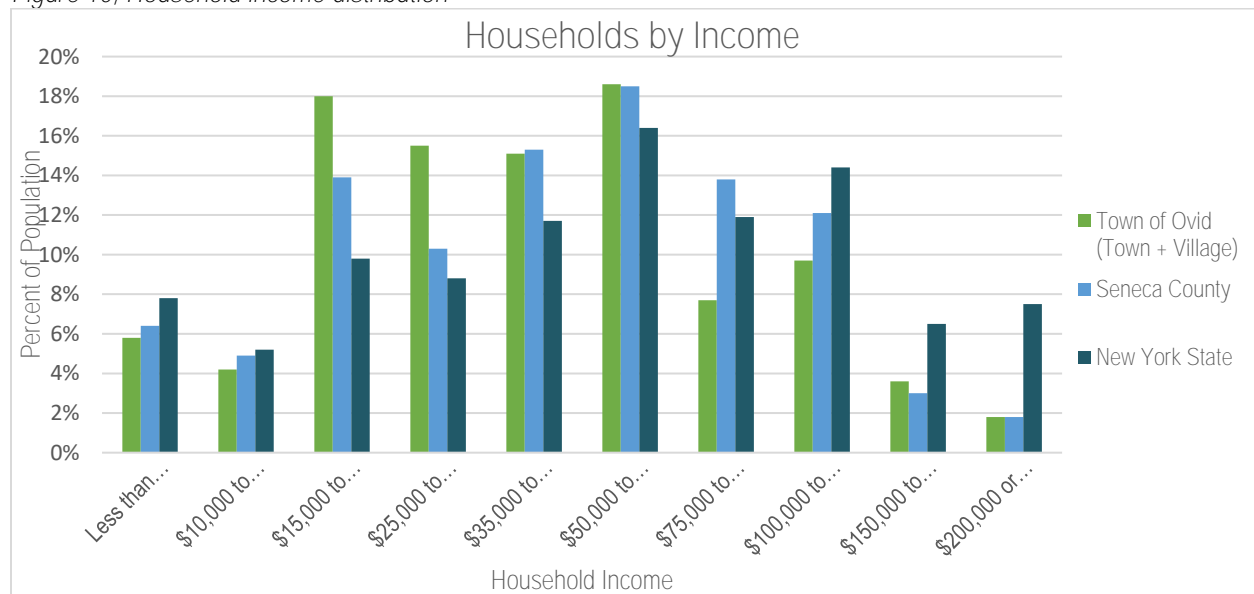


Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figure presented here includes town residents plus village residents.

Figure 10, shows household income distributions for the Town of Ovid and Seneca County by income range, in comparison to New York State. It is noted that on the whole, both the town and county have a greater proportion of low-income households, and a lesser proportion of high-income households, than those of the state.

Figure 10, Household income distribution



Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents.



3.3 HOUSING

Figure 10 shows the number and age of housing units, as well as the homeowner and rental vacancy rates for the Town of Ovid (including both town and village residences) and its neighboring communities. As demonstrated by the table, while the Town of Ovid has a moderate homeowner vacancy rate as compared with other surrounding municipalities, it has a relatively high rental vacancy rate.

Figure 10, Housing units, vacancy rates, and age of structure

	Seneca County	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus
Total housing units	16,166	1,158	313	1,030	1,273	1,117
Homeowner vacancy rate	1.4%	1.1%	4.5%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Rental vacancy rate	7.5%	11.2%	16.4%	3.1%	13.0%	2.1%
Year structure built (% of total)						
Built 2010 or later	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	2%
Built 2000 to 2009	8%	7%	2%	17%	5%	12%
Built 1990 to 1999	8%	12%	3%	13%	6%	8%
Built 1980 to 1989	11%	11%	4%	10%	9%	15%
Built 1970 to 1979	12%	8%	6%	8%	16%	7%
Built 1960 to 1969	9%	11%	3%	6%	8%	11%
Built 1950 to 1959	10%	7%	7%	9%	6%	8%
Built 1940 to 1949	5%	7%	6%	3%	5%	10%
Built 1939 or earlier	36%	37%	70%	32%	44%	27%

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note: The Town of Ovid figures presented here includes town residents plus village residents.

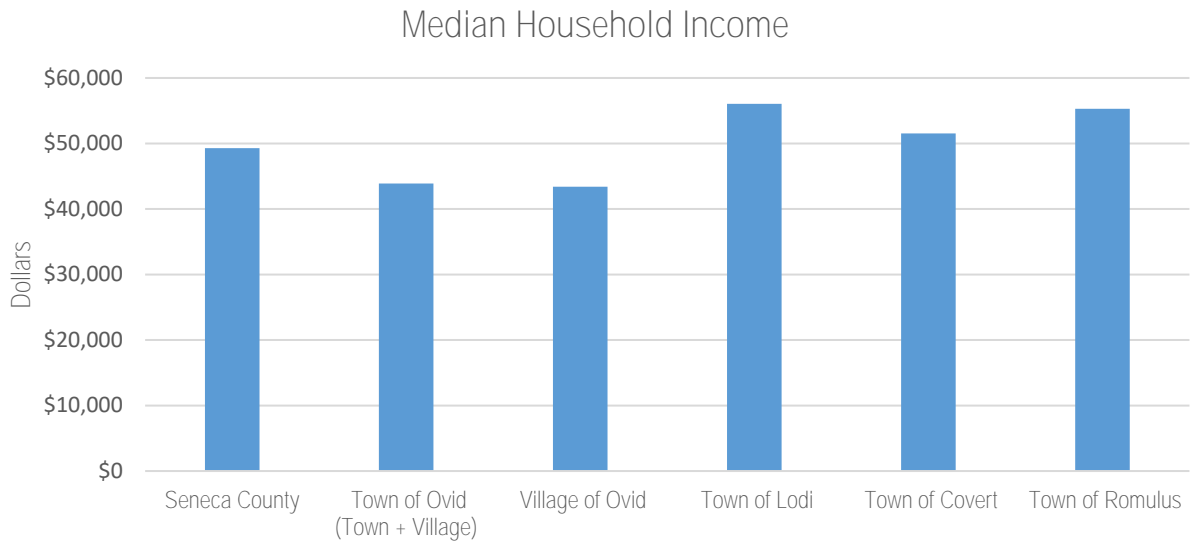
The Town of Ovid is similar to its neighboring communities in terms of the age of its structures. The Village of Ovid however, is a substantially older community than the surrounding municipalities in terms of the age of its housing units, with significant majorities having been built prior to 1939. The Town of Ovid shows a period of increased development in the mid-20th century that has since tapered off. This distinction is not inconsequential; it speaks to the variety of housing choices available within these communities. The housing stock within the Town of Ovid is diverse, and the age of housing structures is similar to its neighboring communities and Seneca County as a whole.

As shown in Figure 11, median housing value in the Town of Ovid in 2015 was \$100,800 – above that of the Town of Lodi, Village of Ovid, and Seneca County as a whole, but below the Town of Covert and Town of Romulus. The affordability of housing is one of the characteristics of the community that many stakeholders noted throughout the planning process; it is an important consideration not only for those that already live here, but also for those who may move into the area.

The majority of housing stock within the Town of Ovid is single-family detached units. Other housing units that may be more attractive to young families, empty-nesters, “snowbirds”, or other smaller household types are limited or non-existent within the town. These include, but are not limited to: patio homes, condominiums or townhomes, co-housing units, and mixed-use units (i.e., residential above retail or commercial). Changes in the marketplace, from demographic shifts to changing family patterns and increasing workforce decentralization, have supported these types of development in other communities and may do so in the Town of Ovid in the coming years.



Figure 11, Median housing value



Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Photo 2. Stone house at the corner of McCarriger Road and Gilbert Road in west Ovid. Photo by Carrie Smalser.



4.0 VISION STATEMENT

The Town of Ovid has developed the following vision statement to guide both the development of the comprehensive plan and the implementation of its recommendations:

The Town of Ovid, nestled between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, strives to maintain its small-town character; a safe, friendly, and quiet community; attractive and healthy environment; and a place where people want to live, work and play. We encourage all citizens to be active in all aspects of community life.

5.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section describes the existing conditions for the Town of Ovid, along with recommendations related to each existing condition. Existing conditions are categorized according to the following aspects that impact the quality of community life: municipal fiscal profile, land use, infrastructure, community facilities, and natural resources. Further discussion of the overall strategy and funding opportunities recommended to achieve these recommendations is found in Section 6.0. Locations referenced in this section can be found in Map 1 (See Appendix E).

5.1 MUNICIPAL FISCAL PROFILE

5.1.1 Budgeting process

Operating in the new era of the state's 2015 tax-freeze legislation, the Town of Ovid provides municipal services to its 1,601 residents residing outside of the village within an annual budget of approximately \$1.2 million. The town operates on a fiscal calendar which coincides with the calendar year, closing on December 31. Like any other town in the State of New York, the Budget Officer and Board must follow statutory requirements for the budget preparation process, including public disclosure and comment, and adoption proceedings.

In addition to anticipated expenditures associated with operational and administrative responsibilities in the current budget year, the Town Board also plans for future expenses. Reserve accounts are utilized to establish savings for equipment and other expenses reasonably anticipated. Use of a small contingency account establishes a safety net without unnecessarily taxing residents.

5.1.2 Summary of revenues and expenditures

Revenues for the town are generated through receipt of a small amount of State Aid, nominal fees and permits, and where applicable, a distribution of county sales tax. The remaining need is calculated and levied upon residents in the form of property taxes (see ***“How Tax Rates are Calculated”***, page 22).

The amount of revenue generated must equal or surpass the anticipated expenditures for a fiscal year, which are determined by debt, capital reserves, and operating expenses associated with provision of services to community residents. Indicators of general fiscal health include (but are not limited to), the following:

- **Ratio of revenues to expenditures:** For the 2016 fiscal year (the most recent year completed), the ratio according to the State Comptroller's figures for the Town of Ovid was 1.13.
- **Size of the unreserved, unassigned fund balance:** Unreserved, unassigned represents the residual classification for the government's general fund and could report a surplus or deficit. In 2012, the unassigned



fund balance for the Town of Ovid was \$128,378. In 2016, that balance was \$246,244. The years in between show increases in the balance, suggesting overall stability in municipal finances.

- *Size of reserve funds:* There are two primary reserves in Ovid: capital reserves and reserves for repairs. Reserves have grown each year between 2012-2016, apart from 2015, when funds were used for expenditures related to highway equipment, facilities, and infrastructure. The 2016 reserves were \$479,944.
- *Municipal indebtedness:* At the close of the 2016 budget year, the Town of Ovid carried no debt.

The Town of Ovid follows general accounting practices advised by the Office of the State Comptroller, and in 2010, established a policy of utilizing reserve funds to plan for future expenditures related to capital projects and equipment purchases. Long-term fiscal planning keeps municipal budgets consistent and reduces the likelihood of erratic and unanticipated tax increases. This provides a more stable environment for Town residents and potential investors alike.

In addition to maintaining reserve funds earmarked for specific future expenditures, the Town also maintains an unreserved, unrestricted fund balance. **At the close of the 2016 fiscal year, the Comptroller's office reported that Ovid's unrestricted fund balance held \$246,244.00, reducing the risk of being forced to borrow funds in unforeseen circumstance.** There is no current standard establishing an optimal amount that towns should hold in such a fund, and **the State of New York only advises that a "reasonable" amount may be carried forward from budget year to budget year.**

New York State's Property Tax Cap creates an obvious and powerful disincentive to raise property taxes. The Town of Ovid, like so many municipalities, is forced to prioritize needs and to choose how limited resources are utilized. Figure 12 shows the town's **fiscal summary reports for budget years** 2012 through 2016, detailing municipal revenues, expenditures, and the town property tax rate.

Figure 12, Town of Ovid annual fiscal reporting

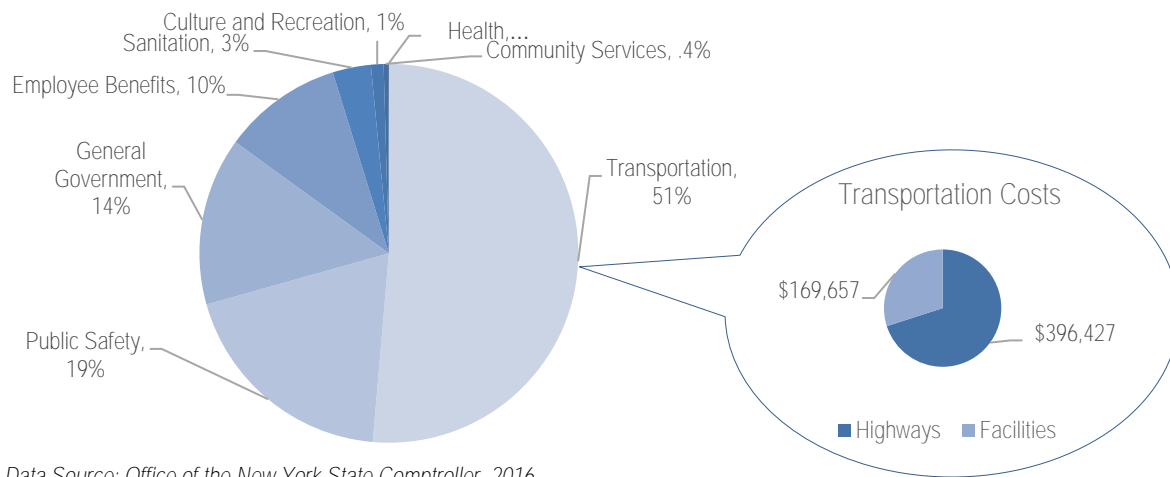
Annual report ending:	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total revenues	\$1,080,555	\$1,213,638	\$1,232,515	\$1,213,944	\$1,244,766
Total expenditures	\$933,194	\$1,000,725	\$1,034,251	\$1,331,138	\$1,102,266
Property tax rate per \$1000 Full Value	\$5.12	\$5.78	\$5.88	\$5.95	\$5.99

Data Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller (2016) and Town of Ovid budget records

Municipal expenditures and revenues by category for 2016 are depicted in Figures 13 through 16. The largest amounts expended are for transportation and public safety. Transportation expenses include general repairs, equipment, and salary expenditures. Transportation, which totals \$566,085 is further described in terms of highway and facilities costs (Figure 12). Public safety expenses include contractual services for fire protection and emergency response services. The largest expense for public safety is the contractual services for fire protection. The Town of Ovid must pay annual negotiated contract fees for three shared fire districts (Ovid-Lodi, Ovid-Romulus, and Ovid-Interlaken). General government administration expenditures include court administration, tax collection, Board and Supervisor personal services (salaries), and all other support functions for local government operations, such as clerical, legal, and financial management services.



Figure 13, Allocation of town municipal expenditures



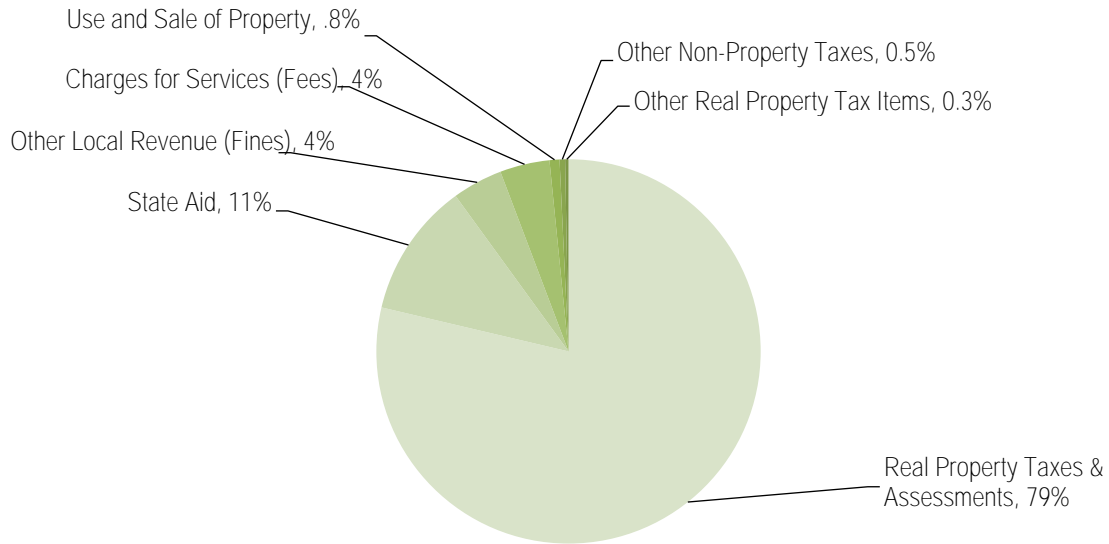
Data Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller, 2016

Figure 14, Expenditure totals

2016 Expenditures		
Transportation	\$566,085	51.4%
Public Safety	\$212,569	19.3%
General Government	\$158,046	14.3%
Employee Benefits	\$112,797	10.2%
Sanitation	\$36,017	3.3%
Culture and Recreation	\$11,897	1.1%
Community Services	\$4,080	0.4%
Health	\$777	0.1%
Debt Service, Economic Development, Education, Social Services, or Utilities	\$0	0.0%
Total	\$1,102,267	100.0%

Data Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller, 2016

Figure 15, Sources of town municipal revenues



Data Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller, 2016

Figure 16, Revenue totals

2016 Revenues		
Real Property Taxes & Assessments	\$979,356	78.7%
State Aid	\$140,935	11.3%
Other Local Revenue (fines)	\$52,715	4.2%
Charges for Services (fees)	\$52,061	4.2%
Use and Sale of Property	\$10,444	0.8%
Other Non-Property Taxes	\$5,759	0.5%
Other Real Property Tax Items	\$3,496	0.3%
Charges to Other Governments, Federal Aid, Proceeds of Debt, Sales and Use Tax	0	0%
Total	\$1,244,766	100.0%

Data Source: Office of the New York State Comptroller, 2016



5.1.3 *Property tax levy and rates*

The Town of Ovid's tax rate is similar in comparison to neighboring municipalities. The total levy collected from town residents for 2015 equaled \$968,587, which resulted in a calculated tax rate of 6.24 or \$6.24 per thousand. When discussing tax rates, it is also important to consider the Town of Ovid's equalization rate, which is a measure of a municipality's level of assessment (total assessed value divided by total market value). In 2015, the equalization rate for the Town of Ovid was 89.00, meaning that the overall property in the Town of Ovid is assessed less than the market value (the price for which property could be sold).

Services provided by the town consist of a number of administrative responsibilities, mostly focused on maintaining public assets (buildings and equipment), operating a shared Justice Court with the Village of Lodi providing home and community services (refuse and garbage collection, cemetery maintenance, dog control), supporting cultural and recreation programs (youth programs and libraries), and providing road maintenance, an annual operation with a budget that depends significantly upon weather conditions.

How Tax Rates Are Calculated

Expenses = Total of anticipated operational costs, debt service, reserve fund contributions, etc.

Non-Tax Revenue = Total of anticipated State Aid, County Sales Tax, permit fees, fines, etc.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Expenses} \\
 - \text{Non-Tax Revenue} \\
 = \text{Necessary Tax Levy}
 \end{array}$$

Levy Total divided by Total Taxable Valuation = Tax Rate (x1000 to make it a per thousand rate)

5.1.4 *Recommendations*

The town's financial outlook is healthy, given its future planning, capital and equipment reserve accounts, unreserved fund balance, and lack of debt. The encouragement of growth that creates long-term value (i.e. that which generates sufficient revenue to justify the maintenance and replacement of municipal infrastructure) will help to ensure that the fiscal condition of the town remains on solid footing in the years to come.

- *Explore external funding sources*
 Several of the recommendations resulting from the comprehensive planning process and its visioning exercises may require a commitment of financial resources in order to be implemented. There are many resources available from the state and federal governments and other sources to assist municipalities seeking financial assistance in implementing their plans. These resources include (but are not limited to) grants, low-interest loans, and technical assistance.
- *Pursue development that increases tax base*
 Comments collected through the planning process suggest that increased development in commercial and light industry could be potential avenues for supporting increasing municipal costs without increasing the tax burden on residents. This development should be carefully planned so as to not place additional infrastructure burdens on the town.
- *Consider additional shared service agreements*
 Shared service agreements are one way to promote efficiency and cost effectiveness in municipal service provision. The Town of Ovid already engages in such arrangements for fire protection and other services. Other municipal services may benefit from similar agreements with neighboring municipalities or overlapping jurisdictions (e.g. Seneca County).



5.2 TOWN EXISTING UNIQUE AREAS AND LAND USE

The distribution and type of land uses throughout the Town of Ovid is consistent with the surrounding regional land **uses and the town's agricultural and waterfront contexts**. The predominant land use within the Town of Ovid and surrounding region is agricultural mixed with commercial, residential, and institutional. Residential development is concentrated along the Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake shorelines and within the Village of Ovid, as well as scattered along the roads that transect the town. Most commercial development is situated along State Route 414 in the Village of Ovid, with the exception of distilleries, breweries and vineyards, which are dispersed throughout the town. Each land use area is intersected with beautiful streams, gorges, or wetlands which add to the rural qualities of the community.

As noted by survey respondents and public meeting participants, the rural agricultural community characteristics are warmly embraced by residents, where predominantly agricultural uses are balanced with residential, commercial, and **eco-tourism destinations**. **Throughout the comprehensive planning process, it was made quite clear that the town's rural agrarian traits are preferred by the Ovid community, as reflected in its vision statement**

The Town of Ovid, nestled between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, strives to maintain its small-town character; a safe, friendly, and quiet community; attractive and healthy environment; and a place where people want to live, work and play. We encourage all citizens to be active in all aspects of community life.

5.2.1 Summary land use statistics

An analysis of the land use and assessed value of the town (outside the village) was conducted to gain insight on current land use statistics as represented by the 2017 parcel data. The Town of Ovid, in comparison to the Village of Ovid, is a largely rural residential community, with a mix of moderately-sized residential parcels, agricultural, commercial, public, and vacant properties. By parcel count, according to the New York State Office of Real Property Services, the town (outside the village) features mostly residential, agricultural, and vacant properties, as shown in Figure 17. It is necessary to note that property uses are ever-evolving, while property land use classifications are much more of a snapshot in time. However, the representations of parcels by land use classification are informative for providing an overview of relative parcel variation by **land use types**. **For example, the town's agricultural parcels take up 68% of the overall acreage, contributing to an agricultural atmosphere throughout much of the town, particularly its interior portion.** This existing unique agrarian area is distinguishable from a higher density of smaller residential parcels that cluster near the Village of Ovid and in the lakefront areas, as depicted on the Existing Land Use Map in Map 2 of the Appendix.



Figure 17, Parcel distribution

Land use classification	Parcels		Acres		Assessed Value	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	\$	% of Total
Residential	709	59.6%	3,756	18.8%	\$97,936,300	65.0%
Agricultural	210	17.6%	13,482	67.6%	\$27,953,880	18.6%
Vacant	189	15.9%	825	4.1%	\$5,240,900	3.5%
Unclassified	32	2.7%	623	3.1%	\$0	0.0%
Community Service	22	1.8%	703	3.5%	\$5,996,900	4.0%
Commercial	17	1.4%	32	0.2%	\$3,867,800	2.6%
Public Service	6	0.5%	70	0.4%	\$6,401,537	4.3%
Recreation and Entertainment	3	0.3%	299	1.5%	\$2,247,600	1.5%
Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks	2	0.2%	151	0.8%	\$922,300	0.6%
Total	1190	100.0%	19,941	100.0%	\$150,567,217	100.0%

Source: 2017 Town of Ovid Parcels (Excluding Village), Seneca County Real Property Tax Office

Additional details relative to the agricultural properties within the town are shown in Figures 18-20. Most (39.7%) of agricultural land in the town is vacant productive land, which indicates that it is part of an operating farm without any living accommodations within the parcel (see Figure 18). This type of farmland usually is classified as such when contiguous parcels of a single operating farm cannot be classified by the other agricultural categories. Field crops are the second-largest component of agricultural land (38.8% of total acreage). Field crops consist of potatoes, wheat, hay, dry beans, corn, oats, or other field crops. The acreage of these two agricultural classifications clearly reveals the high level of agricultural operations throughout Ovid.

Figure 18, Agricultural land uses

Land use classification	Parcels		Acres		Assessed Value	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	\$	% of Total
Agricultural vacant land (productive)	116	55.2%	5351	39.7%	\$7,701,700	27.6%
Field crops	62	29.5%	5229	38.8%	\$10,681,080	38.2%
Dairy products: milk, butter & cheese	26	12.4%	2404	17.8%	\$7,046,600	25.2%
Vineyards	4	1.9%	488	3.6%	\$2,423,700	8.7%
Cattle, calves, hogs	1	0.5%	5	0.0%	\$16,900	0.1%
Other fruits	1	0.5%	6	0.0%	\$83,900	0.3%
Total	210	100.0%	13,483	100.0%	\$27,953,880	100.0%

Source: 2017 Town of Ovid Parcels (Excluding Village), Seneca County Real Property Tax Office

With regard to residential land uses, the vast majority by count are single-family year-round residences, although a substantial portion of the town by acreage is comprised of rural residential properties with 10+ acres of land which may or may not be actively used for agriculture (see Figure 19). Figure 19 describes only the residential land use classifications that currently exist within the town. Seasonal residences and multi-purpose or multi-structure residences also are a significant component of residential properties, sizeable in both the total number of parcels and the assessed values of the properties. Multi-purpose/multi-structure residences may include parcels with more than one residential dwelling or residences with an incidental commercial use (e.g., residence with a small office in the basement).



Figure 19, Residential land uses

Land use classification	Parcels		Acres		Assessed Value	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	\$	% of Total
One-family year-round residence	492	64.7%	1176	31.3%	\$64,478,700	65.8%
Mobile home	88	14.9%	287	7.6%	\$3,629,700	3.7%
Rural residence with acreage (≥10ac.)	49	7.4%	1871	49.8%	\$11,723,500	12.0%
Seasonal residence	48	7.8%	75	2.0%	\$10,907,300	11.1%
Multi-purpose/multi-structure residence	19	3.3%	240	6.4%	\$4,950,100	5.1%
Two family year-round residence	7	1.0%	6	0.2%	\$1,337,000	1.4%
Three-family year-round residence	3	0.4%	4	0.1%	\$175,500	0.2%
Multiple mobile homes	1	0.2%	5	0.1%	\$37,700	0.0%
Primarily residential, also used for agriculture	1	0.2%	85	2.3%	\$96,800	0.1%
Estate	1	0.2%	8	0.2%	\$600,000	0.6%
Total	709	100.0%	3,757	100.0%	\$97,936,300	100.0%

Source: 2017 Town of Ovid Parcels (Excluding Village), Seneca County Real Property Tax Office

In comparison to agricultural and residential uses, commercial parcels cover much less area throughout the town; however, they represent a much larger proportion of overall assessed value relative to their size. Although they account for only 0.2% of the total acreage of the town, commercial uses account for approximately 3% of the taxable assessed property value.

Figure 20, Commercial land uses

Land use classification	Parcels		Acres		Assessed Value	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	\$	% of Total
Restaurants	4	23.5%	7	21.2%	\$963,500	24.9%
Apartments	3	17.6%	9	28.1%	\$938,800	24.3%
Service and Gas Stations	2	11.8%	2	6.3%	\$387,000	10.0%
Auto Body, Tire Shops, Other Related Auto Sales	1	5.9%	3	9.4%	\$206,000	5.3%
Converted Residence	1	5.9%	3	9.8%	\$78,000	2.0%
Inns, Lodges, Boarding Houses or Tourist Homes	1	5.9%	1	4.2%	\$726,000	18.8%
Other Storage, Warehouse and Distribution Facilities	1	5.9%	1	1.6%	\$62,000	1.6%
One Story Small Structure	1	5.9%	3	9.4%	\$73,000	1.9%
Camps, Cottages, Bungalows	1	5.9%	0	0.5%	\$240,500	6.2%
Mobile Home Parks	1	5.9%	3	8.0%	\$147,000	3.8%
Diners and Luncheonettes	1	5.9%	0	1.4%	\$46,000	1.2%
Total	17	100.0%	32	100.0%	\$3,867,800	100.0%

Source: 2017 Town of Ovid Parcels (Excluding Village), Seneca County Real Property Tax Office



Properties utilized for community services are also an important component of Ovid's overall land use. New York State owns a significant area of land in the northwestern corner of Ovid, which is part of the former Willard Psychiatric Center campus. With portions of its original campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, there are other components of its campus being used for a NYS Department of Corrections drug rehabilitation facility, as well as a water treatment plant. Adjacent land is also owned by New York State Department of Conservation and is used as both a forested open space area. The New York State owned Willard Wildlife Management Area and Bonavista Golf Course, along with the Babcock-Hovey Boy Scout Camp, are also located near these properties.

The assessed value of agricultural, residential and commercial properties is not the sole measure of their overall benefit to the Town of Ovid, nor does it account for the actual cost of providing services to various parcels throughout town. **It does, however, demonstrate the importance of “balance” in light of residents’ stated preferences for increasing municipal services (e.g. sewer and water) and single family residential development while maintaining a rural unique existing agricultural area and low property taxes; in order to both grow and maintain a low property tax burden, the town will have to accommodate a greater degree of tax-productive land uses, i.e. those that generate more tax revenue than what they require in municipal service expenditures on a per-acre basis.**

5.2.2 Identification of Existing Unique Areas

Considerable public feedback received during the planning process in preparing this document noted the importance **of maintaining the current “agrarian” character of the community. Also noted was a strong perception that current land uses and residents’ perceived “freedoms” in choosing land uses are a strong contributing factor to the community’s** character. In a variety of formats and methods, residents were asked to describe their opinions about the most valued characteristics of Ovid, as well as present and future challenges that might threaten the community. While there was near unity in supporting the agrarian character of the Town, responses showed disparity in the perception of potential threats to existing land uses, or whether the Town should trust that future land uses will remain consistent with past and present uses.

One of the benefits of a planning tool such as a Comprehensive Plan is to provide a guide for future land use decisions based on a strong community consensus. Due to the disparity in perceptions and suggestions concerning the future, **no clear “community response” was received that would clearly define a path towards defined land uses. Furthermore,** a balance of responses emerged between residents who perceive a threat to current and uses, and those who define their most valued characteristic of the town as **“freedom” from regulations (other than health and safety standards currently imposed by the County, State, and Federal Regulatory Agencies).**

A clear consensus was achieved concerning one of the most significant challenges Ovid does face: how to encourage sustainable growth and development while preserving the rural agrarian area the community so loves. Based on differing perceptions and feedback, participants in the planning process began to identify unique areas by defining geographical and land use characteristics that differ from the rest of the town. Defining existing unique areas that represent the town is helpful when experiencing development and growth while seeking to protect valued **characteristics, such as the Town of Ovid’s rural character.**

During this comprehensive planning process, the following four major existing unique areas were identified as those **that primarily contribute to Ovid’s existing unique profile (see Ovid Existing Unique Area Map, Map 3, in Appendix E).** It is noted that although the Village of Ovid falls within the town’s municipal boundaries, its own local governing body consisting of a Mayor and Board of Trustees independently presides over Village matters. Therefore, land uses in the Village are not within the jurisdiction of the Town of Ovid. The Village, however, does significantly contribute to the



social and cultural fabric of the community and as such is included as a defining element for the Town of Ovid. The existing unique areas that best describe Ovid include:

- 1) Agricultural: The Existing Unique Agricultural Area covers most land in Ovid. This area is characterized primarily by rolling open space used primarily for agriculture and rural residences and small commercial providers along the roadways. What is notable in this area are the agricultural fields that contribute to the openness of the area.
- 2) Lakefront: The Lakefront Existing Unique Areas are defined by the lake shoreline and gently rolling to very steep slopes on the landside. The edges of Cayuga Lake and along the southern portion of **the Town's Seneca Lake shoreline are characterized by residential land uses that include seasonal and year-round homes, with small pockets of residential style hospitality bed and breakfast places, and commercial development which is primarily directed towards tourists and residents (e.g., wineries, convenience stores, kayak rentals, etc.).** Public access is limited to a few strategic locations. What is notable in this area are the stunning views of the Finger Lakes.
- 3) Institutional: The Existing Institutional Unique Area is defined by large swaths of New York State-owned land in the northern reaches of Ovid's Seneca Lake shoreline. **This area features an array of land uses ranging from a NYS Department of Corrections Drug Treatment Campus and former campus of the Willard Psychiatric Center, a golf course operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and a wildlife management area operated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.** What is notable in this area are the natural resources in the Wildlife Management Area.
- 4) Village: The Village of Ovid is unique in relation to the remaining areas of the town, noted for its historic architecture and community amenities ranging from the historic Seneca County Courthouse **Complex (the "Three Bears"), South Seneca Middle and High School, to the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library.** In addition, the village includes several commercial venues and relatively densely-spaced residences. It is notable that the village currently hosts the majority of water and sewer infrastructure in the area, and as such, most new development occurs in this area.

A map of these proposed Existing Unique Areas was presented at the December 2017 Community Workshop, and workshop participants had the opportunity to provide feedback. Participants verified the generalized boundaries and commented on the challenges faced within the various areas. An overview of these comments can be found in Appendix D: Public Meeting Materials. The proposed Existing Unique Area Map is illustrated in Map 3 of Appendix E. During the comprehensive planning process and as reflected in their vision statement, the community wants to grow in a manner that complements **the town's current natural and cultural characteristics.** With this goal, the community decision makers should reference the Ovid Existing Unique Area Map as a guide in distinguishing between areas in the context of land uses or when discussing or reviewing future growth and development for Ovid. The community is interested in supporting the type of economic growth that will provide jobs, strengthen the tax base, and fit in with the current small town rural landscape.



Photo 3. The above images display the gradient of land uses in Ovid, ranging from clusters of residential development to wide open agricultural areas. Top photo by Carrie Smalser, bottom photo by William Dalrymple.

Ovid currently does not utilize town-wide zoning regulations or site development standards to guide or control land uses or site development on properties in the town. New York is a Home Rule State, and as such, affords a municipality **the choice as to whether or not to adopt zoning or other land use regulations.** For a period in Ovid's recent past, a local law (Town of Ovid, Local Law No. 1, 2004) did establish minimum lot sizes and some dimensional regulations, such as side yard setbacks, and the Town Clerk reviewed building permit applications in accordance with these regulations.



Since 2015, when that local law was declared invalid, there has been no zoning or any other land use regulation in Ovid. The town did enact a Right-to-Farm local law, which protects the local farmers' right to engage in farm related activities as necessary for agricultural operations. In summary, the town does not utilize zoning regulations to govern land uses nor does it require site plan approval for any type of development. Additionally, all building permits are issued by the Seneca County Department of Building and Fire Code Enforcement. The County Code Enforcement Office is responsible for issuing building permits along with periodic building inspection in accordance with NYS Division of Building Standards and Codes (BSC) statewide Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code ("Uniform Code") and State Energy Conservation Construction Code ("Energy Code") for most commercial and industrial development activities and some residential activities. The County Code Enforcement Office reviews all applications for building permits under the standards set forth in New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Act (Executive Article 18 (370-383)).

In summary, since 2015 the Town of Ovid has relied on the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office to review all new development within Ovid from the perspective of issuing a NYS Building Permit. The standards by which building permit applications are reviewed by the County are limited to those set forth in the Uniform Code, which do not speak to type of land use or site development conditions (natural and man-made) that are specific to Ovid, such as the shoreline characteristics along Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Because the Seneca County Code Office issues all local building permits, and because the town does not have a local law that addresses land uses or site development standards, the town essentially relies on Seneca County to make all land use and site development decisions for properties within the town. Furthermore, to date the town has followed this approach without adopting a Comprehensive Plan that communicates (to the County) its vision and goals for development within its community.

Although the land use and development patterns in the Agricultural Existing Unique Areas have for the most part remained similar, over the last twenty years the land development patterns along the shorelines of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes have changed significantly. What used to be primarily seasonal cottages have changed to more year-round residential homes with associated impacts, such as stormwater runoff, steep slope development, nutrient pollution, heavier and more consistent use of local roadways, and an increase in density along the shorelines. Most of the concerns over development in the Lakefront Existing Unique Area relate to site conditions, rather than land use type, and have been addressed by the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office. However, future development impacts could affect current enjoyment of private properties and future development in these areas. Currently, none of these issues are required to be addressed by Seneca County Code Office during its review of building permit applications for sites in Ovid. Although the town's traditional approach of relying on the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office has, for the most part, worked, the question has emerged whether the town should be aware of proposed development within the town before it is approved by the County.

Currently there is no official mechanism that guarantees notification to the Town Planning Board of pending applications for building permits for development of any type (commercial, industrial, or residential). Therefore, the Town often is not aware of new development until after approval of the building permit. Once approvals are granted, it is difficult to influence development patterns.

When reviewing the question of whether to enact town land use laws that would require the Town Planning Board review of all proposed commercial development in the town, the community noted several issues of concern. First, the town has not experienced market pressure for development over the last decade, and due to several factors (e.g., somewhat remote geographic location and limited municipal infrastructure) it does not anticipate any change in this regard. As such, the town does not need to "get ahead of" such pressures, which explains why its current approach of relying on the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office works. However, it is important for the town to remain vigilant in its efforts to ensure current and future development projects are aligned with its future vision. There may come a



time, due to changes at the county level or local market pressures, when the town's approach to local land use control would be better handled directly by the town and not solely by the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office. Until then, however, zoning regulations and/or site plan review requirements are not preferred by the community. Furthermore, Ovid currently does not have the staff necessary to enforce local town land use regulations. From past experiences, the town recognizes the importance of ensuring that it has capacity to follow through with properly enforcing its local laws. The cost of establishing professional capacity to enforce local land use laws should be considered and acted upon before enacting new regulations.

Relying on Seneca County Code Enforcement Office in its review of all building permit applications has worked relatively successfully and thus, remains as a viable option for the immediate near term for Ovid as long as this approach effectively supports the town in its effort to achieve its vision for sustainable growth. Clearly the town is interested in encouraging sustainable development that is tax productive but is not convinced that local zoning regulations are necessary at this time to encourage such development. With that, Ovid should nevertheless take some steps to be more proactive and directly involved in overseeing potential commercial and/or industrial development within the town by strengthening its working relationship with the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office and seek to obtain notice of development activity prior to final approval.

Should land uses and the town's use of potential tools to influence land uses be considered in the future, the Comprehensive Plan and the input from residents throughout the planning process provide a baseline and should be regarded as a foundational tool. The emergent characterizations of Existing Unique Areas and recognition of their differing qualities serve to document the community's perceptions about valued characteristics, as well as its strong consensus that preserving and protecting Ovid's agricultural land use is a high priority. Also noted in community feedback are differing perceptions of potential threats to other Existing Unique Areas in terms of future land use. By distinguishing between Existing Unique Areas in this plan, the Town will be better informed about the community's preferences for each. A tool recommended in one area may not be acceptable in another. Most significantly, the community consensus to refrain from pursuit of land use regulations in the Existing Unique Agricultural Area is well noted and should be a consideration in any future discussions.

5.2.3 Land use recommendations

The following land use recommendations support the town in achieving its vision for future sustainable growth.

1. *Recognition of Existing Unique Areas:* In the event of future development, it is recommended that the town reference the Existing Unique Area Map as well as existing water and sewer infrastructure (see Map 3 in Appendix E) to act as a guide for sustainable growth and development within Ovid. This would inform all future **developers as well as Seneca County Code Enforcement Office of the town's preferences regarding future growth.** The Comprehensive Plan communicates quite clearly that the town prefers its agrarian character to **remain unchanged, therefore the noted existing unique areas identify the community's current emphasis on** larger agricultural land uses, residential uses along its shorelines, and commercial development along the primary roadways. The Existing Unique Area Map illustrates how the town could consider nonagricultural development, such as renewable energy projects, that complement and/or function alongside the agricultural land uses while maintaining the rural agrarian existing unique.
2. *Notice of Building Permit Applications:* It is recommended the Town of Ovid adopt a local law creating a mechanism notifying local officials of proposed new development occurring within the Town requiring a building permit. The review process should be completed within a limited timeframe to not create an unnecessary delay. It is recommended that all applicants who request a building permit from Seneca County involving any property in the Town of Ovid be required to submit a copy of the application to the Town Clerk. The Clerk should then pass it to the Town Board and Town Planning Board for the purposes of receiving



notification and reviewing proposed development activity in a reasonable amount of time. Upon receiving and reviewing such notice and if deemed helpful, the Town Board can inform the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office of their findings and recommendations, if any. Such a local law would keep municipal officials better informed of all future development within the town that requires a building permit from the County. It will also provide an opportunity for town officials to raise potential concerns regarding such development, bringing them to the attention of the County Code Enforcement Office. Since Town residents expressed a desire to maintain the current character of the community, it would be beneficial to create awareness of proposed development that would reduce open space, affect density, or impact other valued characteristics of the community.

It is recommended that the Planning Board, having received notification from the Town Clerk of applications submitted to the County Code Enforcement Office, should maintain a database of all permit applications and report any concerning land use trends to the Town Board. The Town could then use that data and consider the following criteria:

- 1) Does proposed development activity align with the Town of Ovid's Comprehensive Plan? and
- 2) Are there any site conditions that warrant a close review such as steep slopes, wetlands, prime soils, unique views, and potential impacts on adjacent properties or neighboring roadways?

If a concern exists based on these considerations, the Town Board could then communicate that concern accordingly to the County.

With this level of adjustment to the current review process, the Planning Board and Town Board would get an opportunity to review applications and submit their comments to ensure future development proposals are **aligned with the town's Comprehensive Plan. Although the Town Board's recommendations would not be binding, they would have a chance at protecting the town's rural life style without incurring additional expenses** for site plan review. If a proposed project is contrary to the Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board may provide a review and make recommendations to the Seneca County Code Enforcement Office.

3. **Periodically Review the Town's Comprehensive Plan:** Due to a dynamic economic market, the town should revisit the Comprehensive Plan on a periodic frequency (ideally every 10 years). The question to be answered is whether the current goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan for sustainable growth and development still reflect the values of the community. Of equal importance is whether there have been significant changes in demographics, economic influences, or challenges and opportunities present that may **affect the community's ability to plan effectively. Additionally, data on existing conditions should be refreshed**, along with a thorough analysis on the trends and future needs and opportunities. Furthermore, the Town should review, on an annual basis, any progress made toward each recommendation contained in the current Comprehensive Plan, utilizing feedback and input from designated community members. By providing a verbal or written status report as part of an annual review process, the Town Board could revisit objectives of the plan, review long-term goals, and identify tasks related to the Comprehensive Plan it intends to undertake in the coming year. The Town Board should be thinking ahead to address current issues in light of the future direction envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan.
4. **Protect Natural Resources:** The natural resources in Ovid play a significant role in defining Ovid's beloved rural environment. Edged by two gorgeous Finger Lakes, Ovid boasts beautiful vistas and landscapes along both Seneca and Cayuga Lake, contributing to the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. The largest of the Finger Lakes, they are accessible resources for fishing, boating, and other forms of water recreation drawing tourists and visitors to the region. The lakes are also resources for drinking water for a number of communities. Yet, as is common in many other waterbodies throughout the region, these Finger Lakes face



threats from invasive species (e.g., hydrilla) and nonpoint source pollution. Protecting the quality and quantity of these resources should be a priority when reviewing all future development opportunities. To promote and enhance protection of these natural resources, the town should place a focus on creating awareness of their critical contribution to the health and well-being of residents. The Town should consider developing stronger partnerships with other municipal entities, educational institutions and other resources that may exist to foster increased awareness. The Town should also develop mechanisms to utilize existing resources that provide environmental protection and enforcement, such as State and federal agencies focused on water quality and environmental protection, or protection of other natural resources.



Photo 4. Scenic vistas overlooking agricultural landscapes of Ovid with Seneca and Cayuga Lakes on the horizon. Photo by William Dalrymple.

5.3 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

5.3.1 Transportation

The Town of Ovid contains a range of local, county, and state roadways. State roadways, including Route 89, Route 96, and Route 414 serve as the primary gateways into and through the town. County roads, including Route 129, Route 131, Route 132 (Main Street and Gilbert Road), Route 136 (Lodi Point Road), Route 138, Route 139 (West Seneca and East Seneca Street), Route 141, Route 150, and Route 153. The Town of Ovid owns and maintains approximately 55 centerline miles of roadway generally consisting of low-volume side roads off of and between state and county routes. Private roads also exist within the town, particularly on the west and east sides adjacent to the lake.

Traffic safety was a concern expressed throughout the planning process, both within focus groups and survey responses. Community members were most concerned about dangerous traffic conditions due to speeding and lack of careful attention on behalf of both drivers and pedestrians. Other notable hazards of community concern included impaired drivers impacted by the local wineries and shared use of existing roads between motorized vehicles, cyclists, horse-and-buggies, and pedestrians. County Road 153 along Cayuga Lake and State Route 414 within the village were noted for hazardous interactions between pedestrians and vehicular traffic; however, community members in their survey responses stated that there is a perceived increase in traffic safety risks throughout the town due to an increase



in bike and pedestrian activity. The lack of sidewalks/recreational trails and adequate traffic signage near key intersections also contribute to these safety concerns.



Photo 5. Roads in Ovid host an array of transportation modes, including horse and buggy. Photo by Carrie Smalser.

Throughout the planning process, community members also expressed general concerns about bridge repairs, loud traffic-related noises, heavy truck traffic, and the lack of public transportation. There are currently no commercial bus routes that service the town. There are, however, options for reservation-based public transportation options such as the South County Transportation Corps available through the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency and the Dial-A-Ride program available through the Regional Transit Service.

The 2017 New York State Department of Transportation Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Region 3 includes plans to paint and repair bridges throughout Seneca County to extend service lives. Within Seneca County, the towns of Ovid, Fayette, Covert, and Lodi are scheduled to receive such repairs in the fiscal year of 2018, totaling \$1.1 million from mostly federal funds (approximately 80%) but also from non-federal funds.

5.3.2 Water supply

The supply of water throughout the Town of Ovid is provided primarily by private wells (see Map 4 in Appendix E for wells dug since 2000), but there are a relatively small number of metered service connections serviced by inputs from both Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake (see Map 4). For residents of the Village of Ovid and surrounding areas, water is derived from Seneca Lake. The **village's water line** intake point is off the shoreline at the Babcock-Hovey Boy Scout **Camp, extending along the camp's entry road and then Gilbert Road until it reaches the village**. Near the intersection of County Road 131 and Gilbert Road, the water passes through a treatment plant where it is both filtered and



chemically treated. Eventually the water is stored in a storage tank near the southeastern corner of the village. The hamlet of Willard is also serviced by intake from Seneca Lake within the Town of Romulus and a filtration plant within the Town of Ovid. This water supply services the remaining offices and operational buildings located on the site of the former Willard State Hospital.

Due to the direct connection with Seneca Lake, filtration and water quality is a local concern, notably harmful algae blooms, which have occurred in both Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake. This is linked to nutrient runoff from both lawn fertilizers and manure runoff. Other local water quality concerns include salt runoff from local roadways.

5.3.3 Sewer utilities

Most of Ovid residents are on septic systems; however, there are wastewater treatment services provided by the Willard Wastewater Treatment Plant for town residents residing along State Route 414 south of the village and State Route 96A at the northwestern corner of the village. Seneca County operates the Willard Waste Water Treatment Plant near Willard, which treats all sewer systems within the town and Village of Ovid. Due to variations in topography, there are two separate sewer pump stations; one occurring within the hamlet of Willard (under County jurisdiction) and the other located in the Village of Ovid (under village jurisdiction). Along State Route 414 at Combs Road, the sewer line becomes a force main, controlled by a pump station located south of Ovid. This creates barriers for development, as additional infrastructure is required to develop along force mains (see Map 4).

5.3.4 Broadband internet

As with many rural communities, a significant digital divide exists within the Town of Ovid as compared to more urban areas. Many households within Ovid lack advanced broadband internet access, resulting in slower and unpredictable internet availability. Currently 32% percent of consumers have one or fewer options to provide internet service and the average speed of downloads in Ovid is approximately 11 megabits per second (Mbps), which is 243% slower than the statewide average and 196% slower than the national average (Broadband Now, 2018). According to the Federal Communications Commission, the most recent national benchmarks for broadband are 25 Mbps for downloads and 3 Mbps for uploads.

Currently, the National Telecommunications Information Administration State Broadband Data Development Program reports that three types of internet exist throughout the Town of Ovid: Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), Cable Modem DOCSIS 3.0 and Optical Carrier/Fiber. While ADSL is available throughout all the town, there are areas of the town without access to Cable Modem and Optical Carrier Fiber lines. Optical Carrier Fiber, the fastest of broadband connections, is unavailable in several areas throughout the town, including the areas in the northwestern corner and in small pockets along County Road 129, State Route 96, and County Road 153. See Map 5 for areas of broadband availability.

Two wired providers mainly serve Ovid: the Ontario & Trumansburg Telephone Companies and Charter Spectrum. Additionally, two fixed wireless companies provide internet access in Ovid, which may be used as an alternative to traditional wired access. Public access to internet is offered at one primary location, the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library.

In 2013, through the Connect NY program and the Trumansburg Telephone Company, the towns of Ovid and Romulus were awarded funds to broadband service to 110 customers that had been previously unserved by any type of highspeed internet. However, based upon public community workshop comments, access to high speed broadband is still lacking for several residents, and further infrastructure development is warranted.

5.3.5 Renewable energy



The Town of Ovid features a wealth of solar and wind energy resources. Commercial renewable energy facilities (e.g., solar or wind farms) can provide a steady stream of local revenues in the form of payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) and host community agreements for municipalities and land leases or good neighbor agreements for private landowners. Compared to other nearby locations, particularly to the east, Ovid has a high annual average daily total of sunlight. Within Seneca County and the surrounding area, Ovid has one of the highest and most-widespread average wind speeds, which are concentrated primarily to the town's **central portion** (see December 2017 Community Workshop Boards, Appendix D). Generally, the rural agricultural land uses are compatible with wind and solar energy facilities, however careful planning should be used.

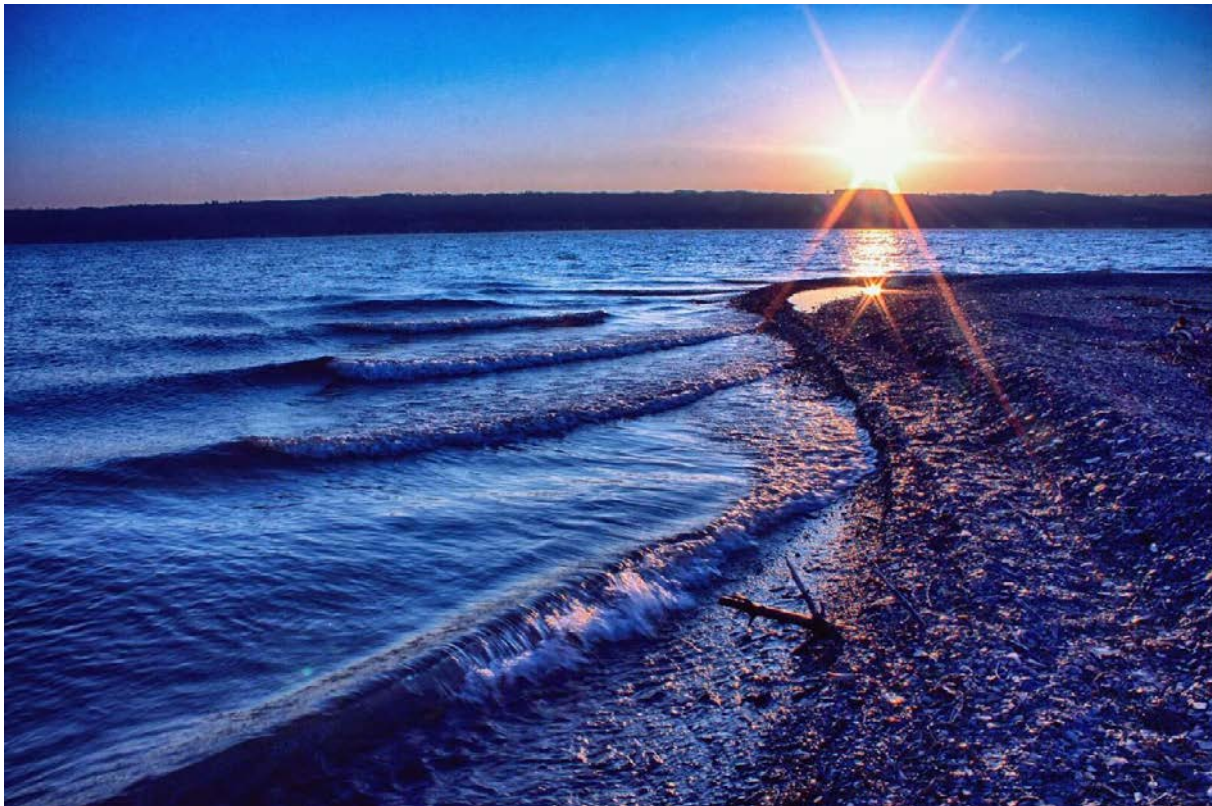


Photo 6. Sunrise at Sheldrake Point along Cayuga Lake. Photo by Carrie Smalser.

5.3.6 Recommendations

The following recommendations would help to ensure the quality and affordability of infrastructure within the Town of Ovid:

- ***Work with county and state agencies to improve each jurisdiction's road projects***
As noted, some of the more heavily traveled roadways within the Town of Ovid are owned and maintained by other jurisdictions (e.g., state or county). When improvement projects are being considered and designed along those facilities, the Town of Ovid must be an effective advocate for both the safety and preferred character of its residents. To the extent possible, the town should work with these jurisdictions to ensure that the design and operation of the facility is compatible with the shared vision for land use and development as described in this comprehensive plan.
- ***Create new pedestrian opportunities for off-road recreational trails***



Off-road recreational trails provide both regional tourism opportunities, as well as healthy recreational opportunities for residents. Within Ovid, there are former railways along County Road 131 and State Route 96. Parcel data indicates the corridor along State Route 96 is under the ownership of NYSEG, while most of the former railroad bed along County Road 131 is under ownership of multiple private individuals. To the extent possible, collaboration with conservation groups, such as the Finger Lakes Land Trust or the Rails to Trails program, could facilitate the process for the acquisition of conservation easements or trail infrastructure.

- *Develop solar and wind energy facility development standards*
Effective wind and solar local standards can address several objectives at once: addressing public safety, identifying, and minimizing on- and off-site impacts, promoting good land use practices, expressing local preferences, informing, and involving the public, and providing legal defensibility. By providing predictable and clear standards, along with a reasonable timeframe for review, local wind/solar laws can provide a fair and streamlined process for towns, developers, and the public alike. The town should consider wind and/or solar energy model local laws and develop and adopt the laws based upon the local needs and conditions. Seneca County Planning may also be a useful resource.
- *Establish a cost-benefit threshold for infrastructure extensions*
Depending on existing capacity, most areas served by water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure are appropriate for residential scaled development. Any extension or expansion of existing systems should be **carefully considered in light of residents' stated preferences for both the rural/small town character of their community and low taxes (and fees)**. Context-sensitive development that generates a high rate of tax revenue per acre may justify such expansions; conversely, that which generates a low rate of revenue per acre will shift the burden of expansion costs on to other ratepayers and taxpayers. Costs associated with the continued maintenance and eventual replacement of such infrastructure must also be considered. Priority areas for sewer expansion, as suggested by participants of the planning process (focus groups and survey), include developable areas near existing water and/or sewer, which include areas in close proximity to the village, along State Route 96A (between the Village of Ovid and Hamlet of Willard) and along State Route 414 (near the Village of Ovid).

5.4 OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

5.4.1 *Municipal services*

Currently, the Town of Ovid does not have an independent town hall. Town staff are dispersed throughout various locales, including the Ovid Village Offices located in the Ovid Firehouse, the municipal highway barn, in neighboring municipalities and in private homes. Town meetings and other functions take place at the Ovid Firehouse located at 2136 Brown Street in the village of Ovid. The town **assessor's office** is located in an office at 7186 Main Street in the Village of Ovid. In addition to these offices, the firehouse is operational for the Ovid Fire Department and features both office space for village staff, as well as a large main room which serves as a meeting room for both formal and informal community groups (i.e. Town Council, Planning Board, etc.). The highway superintendent is located at the Ovid highway municipal building at 7488 County Road 129 in the central portion of the Town of Ovid. The town justice and town court system rents space at the Village **of Lodi's Courthouse**. The town clerk works out of a private residence.

While there are NYS Department of Transportation wayfinding signs located near the town boundaries, there are no branded, placemaking signs intended to welcome and to lead residents and visitors to town destinations, such as Sheldrake Point Park, the Village of Ovid, School House Hollow, or other tourist destinations. The town logo, which **features the "Three Bears" historic buildings and the year of the town's founding (1860)** could help to highlight the **town's historic** setting and establish an attractive look for municipal signage; however, the logo itself is not applied consistently across multiple signs or in important gateway locations. The opportunity exists to utilize branded signage



more effectively, and to provide a greater amount of visitor information for those that are directed toward town destinations (as the town does not otherwise have a central visitor center).

5.4.2 Public safety services

As noted in Section 4.1, the Town of Ovid does not provide public safety services independently, but rather through shared service agreements with three fire districts: the Ovid Lodi Fire District, the Ovid-Romulus Fire District, Ovid-Interlaken Fire District, and through a contractual agreement with the South Seneca Ambulance Corporation for emergency response services. Seneca County Sheriff provides policing services. Stakeholders throughout the comprehensive planning process noted their support and satisfaction with local public safety services; the respective fire districts were noted for their contribution to the community and its sense of identity. At present, there are no pending capital projects or administrative changes that would impact the cost or provision of these services in the near future].

5.4.3 Recreational amenities

The Town of **Ovid's** only municipally-owned recreational amenity is the Sheldrake Point Park, which provides a public lake access point located at the end of Sheldrake Point Road along Cayuga Lake. The small park includes a few parking spots, a picnic table, a dock, and boat launch for small motorized boats as well as paddle craft (canoe, kayak). Focus group participants suggested that the park should be improved to allow for more parking, better playground equipment, and management to address traffic congestion caused by limited parking and the accumulation of boat trailers.

There are no other public park facilities owned, operated, or funded by the town. There are, however, major recreational/tourist destinations are both in town and nearby (See Map 6 for existing parks and open space), as well as the Four Towns Community Center, an initiative to provide recreational opportunities to families from Lodi, Covert, Romulus and Ovid. This community center is located at South Seneca High School in Ovid.



Photo 7. South Seneca Central School. Photo by William Dalrymple.



Extending west of Country Road 131 to Seneca Lake, the Willard Wildlife Management Area is managed and owned by the New York State Department of Conservation. Consisting of 135 acres of cropland and 23 acres of woodland which borders on Seneca Lake, this area provides public hunting, fishing, and recreational access. Originally a part of the Willard State Hospital farming operations, the land was transferred to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1963. Because of its past agricultural history, the cropland is still rented to local farmers and income from rentals has been used to develop roads, trails, and parking areas. Other improvements to make this area more productive for fish and wildlife resources are planned. **The NYSDEC website states that, “multiple use of the Willard area for agriculture and recreation has been very successful and will be continued.”**

In proximity to Simpson Creek along County Road 132, the state-owned Bonavista State Golf Course is nestled above the shore overlooking Seneca Lake. This nine-hole golf course is open from April to November and can be played twice from various tees for an 18-hole round. The golf course also features a driving range, practice putting greens, a beautiful clubhouse/restaurant, picnic areas and pro shop. Archery is permitted during the appropriate season in certain zones of the property (when the golf course is closed).

These areas feature a mix of waterfront access, hiking trails and other outdoor recreational amenities. Located between the Bonavista State Golf Course and the Willard Wildlife Management Area, the Seneca Waterways Boy Scout Council provides a rentable facility at Camp Babcock-Hovey for non-Boy Scout groups as well as ATV rider courses and trail access during the off-season. Regionally, the town is also connected to a wide array of recreational areas, trail ways and boat launches along Seneca Lake, including Lodi Point State Park and the community-owned Smith Park in Hector to the south and Sampson State Park and its Lakeshore Trail to the north. In the interior areas commencing in the Town of Interlaken is the Interlaken Trail. Approximately 20 miles to the south along Cayuga Lake, Taughannock Falls State Park is a major tourist destination that draws people internationally.

Several stakeholders throughout the planning process noted an interest in more public access points along the lakes and improvements to existing recreational amenities, including improvements to Sheldrake Point Park. Suggestions also consisted of the development of new trail systems in the interior natural areas of the town, such as old railway beds that run through the town north to south. Additionally, focus group and survey respondents requested additional indoor recreational areas accessible to youth, such as a movie theatre, bowling alley, basketball courts or other areas to socialize. Suggestions collected throughout the process included the development of a gym or community center. Additionally, lakefront residents requested that recreational development minimize the negative impacts of increased traffic, pollutants, and noise.



Photo 8. Sunset over Town-owned Shel Drake Point Park. Photo by William Dalrymple.

5.4.4 Economic development

The Town of Ovid currently does not provide economic development incentives to attract new developments or facilitate the expansion of existing businesses. It does, however, enjoy a strong relationship between local business owners and residents; one survey respondent described Ovid residents as “**raised with an attitude to keep it local**”. Furthermore, there is a local interest in exploring a more proactive approach to economic development in the future; several stakeholders throughout the survey and focus group responses noted their support for property tax abatement, marketing assistance, financial assistance with site improvements (e.g., building façade improvements, sidewalk assistance, or incentives for other types of beautification projects), seeking financial resources for innovation or start-ups, or other tools to increase the **economic strength of Ovid’s business community**.

As pointed out by survey and focus group respondents, agriculture is the economic base of the community (See Map 7 for active agricultural land); **however, that doesn’t preclude the opportunities for other forms** of economic development, particularly those which can be used to service the agricultural resources of the area. For example, survey respondents commented on a lack of nearby businesses that supply unique farming and vineyard equipment or repair parts, as well as the potential to develop partnerships between local food producers and local food venues that can provide visitors and residents alike the ability to access local food. Another suggestion was the utilization of training programs for young people to increase their career opportunities and career readiness, for example, developing Future Farmers of America programming to be made available to residents.

Tourism, specifically privately-owned wineries, and distilleries, is also an important source of economic development for the town (see Map 8 for Local Distilleries, Breweries and Wineries). To further enhance **tourists’ experiences in the** area, survey respondents suggested that beautification campaigns address blighted areas that could be transformed into scenic resources and that existing resources (e.g. Three Bears buildings and surrounding green area or lakefront commercial areas) be considered and enhanced as tourist destinations.



Photo 9. Ovid Three Bears is owned by Seneca County, cared for by Friends of Three Bears, and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Photo by Carrie Smalser.

A final yet noteworthy potential direction for economic development initiatives, as suggested by stakeholders, is light industry, which would be both a local job creator and provide necessary tax revenues to sustain municipal functions. This would likely be developed in areas in relative proximity to existing water and sewer lines and would benefit from careful planning.

5.4.5 Community health resources

Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions (STEPS) was formed in 2013 under the auspices of the S2AY Rural Health Network consortium of eight public health departments in the Finger Lakes region and funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation. STEPS serves the Towns of Covert, Lodi, Ovid, and Romulus. The guiding philosophy of STEPS is that health is affected by a region's social determinants: economy, education, employment/income, transportation and environment/housing conditions. Its grassroots efforts empower residents to improve these factors for the good of the full community. Under the auspices of STEPS, there have been more than 50 health promotion projects by residents; many community projects such as painting, trash pickup, playground improvements, community art installations, and book boxes with free books; cultural and exercise offerings; and community gardens. STEPS has an Economic Development Specialist, has offered a Sustainability Forum with follow up activities, and has established the South County Transportation Corps, providing hundreds of rides to medical appointments.



5.4.6 Recommendations

The following recommendations would help to ensure adequate and equitable access to community facilities and services for residents and business owners throughout town:

- *Develop new town hall*
Developing a new town hall, centrally located within the town, **would create an opportunity for a central visitors' information center** that does not currently exist within the town. Such a service could help to market local businesses and attract visitors to local and regional attractions (e.g., Three Bears and Sheldrake Point Park as local attractions; nearby state parks as regional attractions). It would also ensure residents efficient access to all municipal services as well as create a community-centered gathering place for all to enjoy.
- *Improve opportunities for water-dependent and water-related recreation*
Improving opportunities for residents and visitors alike to connect with the Town of Ovid's most significant **natural resources will create greater awareness of the town's** assets and help create a broader base of support for property maintenance. Actions taken to enhance recreational access, such as Willard Wildlife Management Area and Sheldrake Point Park, will require coordination with other jurisdictional entities (e.g., NYSDEC). There also may be additional placemaking or signage opportunities to bring about more attention to the regional identity of the area and destinations within the town.
- *Examine opportunities for economic development services*
The Town of Ovid should also consider proactive economic development incentives to attract and retain business that will employ residents. These may include but are not limited to tax abatement, marketing assistance, and financial assistance for site improvements. Site improvements may include beautification projects, while marketing strategies may include events that providing economic opportunities for local businesses (e.g., farmers markets).
- *Continue to support public safety service providers*
The town should continue to support its public safety providers through cooperative services.

5.5 NATURAL RESOURCES

5.5.1 Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake Shorelines

The **town's** location between Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake is one of the most significant natural assets, and a primary contributor to local character. However, the character of this resource changes dramatically between the eastern and western portions of the town. To the west, the steep hillside bordering Seneca Lake creates dramatic views but limits public access to the water. Topography and open space combine along the eastern shoreline of Ovid along Cayuga Lake to create vast scenic views of the lake from the roadway and lakefront properties (See Map 9 for Ovid's topography).



Photo 10. The dynamic beauty of the surrounding Finger Lakes is on display by this sunset over Seneca Lake. Photo by Carrie Smalser.

The Town of Ovid maintains public access to Cayuga Lake at Sheldrake Point Park, which offers a public boat launch, fishing, picnicking and a beautiful view. The remaining area of the Cayuga Lake shoreline is occupied primarily by private houses and cottages. Docking facilities at Sheldrake Point Winery and at Kidders Landing are available for customers. These docks have not been adapted to serve paddle craft. Public access is available to Seneca Lake at the Willard Wildlife Management Area, which is maintained by New York State, however this area does not have a formal boat launch.

Natural resources along the shorelines consist of a mixture of natural forest hardwood and conifer stands, particularly on the steep slopes of the western Seneca Lake shoreline. On the eastern Cayuga Lake shoreline, mown areas provide more open visual access to the water, with wooded buffers occurring primarily next to the small streams that flow into Cayuga Lake. Wildlife in the area is typical of Northern woodland areas: deer, wild turkey, raccoon, woodpeckers, owls, foxes, coyotes, and grey squirrels. In old fields, shrubby fields or grasslands, unique birds utilize the open area, including woodcock, vesper sparrows, meadow voles, northern harriers, and short-eared owls. Wetlands are also a productive wildlife habitat, and are home to many species of reptiles, amphibians, shore birds, waterfowl, aquatic mammals, fish, and invertebrates.

Despite a wealth of natural resources, the town features environmental challenges, a key one being invasive species. Originating in foreign environments and introduced by humans, invasive species lack natural predators and consequently can proliferate rapidly. This allows them to exploit their new environment at the expense of native species and natural ecological functions. For example, the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect, has decimated up to 80% of hemlock trees across the country, including in Central New York. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are especially



problematic, as they are often hidden from view beneath waterbodies. AIS have been reported and verified in in both Seneca and Cayuga Lake (invasive). These include Mud Bithynia, Fishhook Waterflea, Common Carp, Quagga mussel, Zebra Mussel, Scud, Curly Leafed Pondweed in Cayuga Lakes and Quagga Mussel, Zebra Mussel, Scud, Bloody-Red Shrimp, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Curly Leafed Pondweed in Seneca Lake. Hydrilla is an additional recently-discovered invasive underwater plant species that has the ability to overrun the ecosystem. Recently, a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been awarded to the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobert and Williams Smith College develop an early detection program in efforts to remove the population from the Finger Lakes, particularly in Cayuga Lake.

An additional environmental issue facing the Finger Lakes in general, including Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, are harmful algae blooms (HABs). These HABs occur when colonies of algae grow out of control while producing toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and birds. Beyond the harmful physical impacts that these toxins can create, HABs also increase water treatment expenses for local municipalities and decrease economic benefits to tourism and water-based industries. While HABs can naturally occur, more often nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) can make the problem worse by increasing the frequency and duration of the toxic blooms.

5.5.2 Streams, wetlands, and floodplains

The Town of Ovid features a number of streams that offer both environmental and scenic value to the town. Several Creeks that flow into Seneca Lake (Simpson Creek, Sixteen Falls Creek, a small unnamed creek to the north of Sixteen Falls Creek and Tommy Creek) are NYS Protected Waters Class C(TS)¹, which is considered trout spawning habitat that also supports fisheries and is suitable for non-contact activities (e.g., fishing, boating). All other creeks throughout the town, including those flowing into Cayuga Lake, are Class C waters (not considered trout spawning habitat but supporting fisheries and suitable for non-contact activities). Both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes are NYS Protected Waters Class AA(T), an assignment for waters used as a source of drinking water that may also support a trout population.

Wetlands within the town are shown in Map 10. The two largest of these, both forested/shrub wetlands in the south-central portion of town, are regulated by the NYSDEC and drain into Sixteen Falls Creek. Other small wetlands are located in various locations throughout town and are federally recognized through the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), though it is noted that neither the NYSDEC list nor the NWI list is necessarily complete, as others may be located as part of various permitting processes.

Maps 11 and 12 show the approximate extents of 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas, per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These maps are maintained to describe the annual likelihood of flood damage to properties adjacent to waterways. Properties located within a 100-year floodplain have a 1% (1 in 100) chance of being flooded in a given year; likewise, properties in the 500-year floodplain have a 0.2% chance (1 in 500) chance. Within the Town of Ovid, the flood hazard areas with the greatest potential for property and environmental damage are located at the low elevation areas where **Ovid's** creeks flow into Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Each of these areas have been determined to be within a 100-year floodplain. These areas include the mouths of Simpson Creek, Sixteen Falls Creek and Tommy Creek as they flow into Seneca Lake and Groves Creek and Powell Creek (at Weyers Point), Sheldrake Creek (Sheldrake Point) as they flow into Cayuga Lake.

It is noted that the floodplains shown in Maps 11 and 12 are not the only flood hazards within the Town of Ovid. Flood conditions may occur in any location where a natural *or constructed* waterway becomes inundated. This can be

¹ Streams and small water bodies located in the course of a stream with a classification of AA, A, or B, or with a classification of C with a standard of (T) or (TS) are collectively referred to as "protected streams," and are subject to the stream protection provisions of the Protection of Waters regulations.



exacerbated in areas outside a recognized FEMA flood hazard area in cases of obstructed culverts, collapsed banks, compromised subsurface drainage infrastructure, or other conditions. Much of the stormwater drainage throughout the town relies on surface drainage and green infrastructure (i.e., ditches, swales, detention ponds). Excessive erosion can compromise such systems and lead to flood conditions, which in turn exacerbate further erosion through streambank scour and other means. See Figure 21 for images from a recent flash flooding event due to stormwater flooding.



Figure 21, *Images from the July 7, 2017 storm that created flash flooding in Covert, Lodi, and Interlaken.*
Source: *FingerLakes1.com*

5.5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations would help to maintain or improve the quality of the town's significant natural resources:

- *Consider tools for the protection of water and soil resources*
Many communities throughout the region have adopted other tools to maintain or improve environmental conditions relative to wetlands and waterbodies. Various tools are available that would help the Town of Ovid to reduce the incidence of nonpoint source pollution and improve the quality of its waterways. These include, but are not limited to, local laws related to stormwater management, erosion and sedimentation control, wetland, and watercourse protection as well as incentive programs for private landowners through state and national funding sources.



6.0 RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

6.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

New York State provides a Consolidated Funding Application process to enable municipalities to apply for a number of resources from multiple state agencies through a single portal each year. The advantage of a consolidated process is the ease with which a local government can learn about funding resources. It presents, however, a challenge in **preparing multiple applications, since all are due in a single “round” at one time.**

This may be a strategic effort, at the State level, to encourage municipal leaders to “choose wisely” and apply for fewer grants, giving each application more focus and compelling justification.

An important feature of the process is the new emphasis on coordination of strategic initiatives, requiring applicants to answer questions about regional planning efforts and compatibility of their program objectives with already published plans.

As a result, the State’s investments are regarded as “smarter”, in theory, by virtue of their coordination. The Town of Ovid’s initiative to complete this Comprehensive Plan was, in part, inspired by the CFA process and the State’s coordination of funding awards. Future applications submitted by the town will be strengthened if they are supported by – and support – the objectives documented in the Comprehensive Plan, giving the Town a competitive edge in vying for State funding of local projects.

The following section suggests a number of currently available competitive funding resources identified in the planning process which are compatible with **town’s** vision and recommendations. They are recommendations of the Committee for future consideration by the town.

- Department of State: Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (NYS DOS LWRP)
This program provides a 75%/25% matching grant to eligible municipalities located along coasts or inland waterways. Competitive requests must demonstrate a plan to revitalize waterfronts or waterfront communities and must reference an approved LWRP (plan). With the submittal of the draft LWRP to the Department of State, the Town of Ovid would be eligible for funding under the program. The town should consider this grant program as a way to fund the construction of small community-based projects that promote water-dependent/water-enhanced recreation.
- Department of State: Local Government Efficiency Program (NYS DOS LGE)
This program provides two grants for local governments who are developing projects that will achieve savings and improve efficiency through shared services, cooperative agreements, and other intermunicipal arrangements. Grants should not exceed \$200,000 per municipality involved in the application up to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Projects may apply to general government, government reorganization, educational outreach, municipal utilities, public safety and transportation, and funds may be applied toward plan development and/or implementation. The Town of Ovid should consider this program when planning shared service agreements or other activities that increase the efficiency of municipal services.
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority: Clean Energy Communities Grants (NYSERDA) – This program provides implementation funds for clean energy programs for local governments. To apply, communities must complete at least four of the ten actions that support or incentivize the use of renewable energy at a municipal level and/or a household level. As participants in the program, the Town of



Ovid would be eligible to receive energy planning support, guidance resources and funding and technical assistance opportunities.

- **New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal: Community Development Block Grant Program (NYSHCR CDBG)**
The CDBG program has several funding streams that may apply to the Town of **Ovid's** implementation actions. As a municipality with a total population of under 50,000, the Town of Ovid is eligible to apply for CDBG funds distributed through the New York State CDBG Program, administered by the Office of Community renewal. The CDBG Public Infrastructure funding stream provides resources for the improvements to broadband infrastructure or water-related mitigation activities that support suitable living environments in areas with disadvantaged populations. The CDBG program also includes funding streams for community and economic development planning, public facilities improvements, public infrastructure projects, and assistance for microenterprise development and small business assistance.
- **New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal: NY Main Street Program (NYSHCR NYMS)**
This program provides funding for projects that stimulate economic reinvestment by providing economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial district. Local governments can apply these funds, along with match funds, to reimburse building owners for renovations to downtown mixed-use buildings. Streetscape enhancement funds are also available for activities that enhance renovation projects on a corridor such as planting trees, installing street furniture or trash cans; however, a streetscape enhancement grant can only be awarded as an activity ancillary to a building renovation project and cannot be applied for on its own.
- **New York State Empire State Development: Strategic Planning & Feasibility Studies (NYSESD)**
This funding program promotes economic development opportunities to stimulate business growth, including feasibility studies that focus on highly distressed communities or areas. Providing up to \$100,000 at a 50% match to recipients, the funding may assist the town in creating a strategic plan for development of priority areas as economic development centers within the town.
- **New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation: Green Infrastructure Grant Program (NYSEFC GIGP)**
This program supports projects that utilize innovative designs and green technologies for stormwater capture, conveyance, and infiltration. Projects should be highly visible, protect/improve water quality, and promote innovation, construction, and maintenance of green infrastructure systems. Specifically, funding is directed toward permeable pavement, bioretention, green roofs, street trees and urban forestry programs, restoration and construction of riparian buffers, floodplains and wetlands, downspout disconnection, stream daylighting, and stormwater harvesting and reuse. The GIGP could be utilized to fund initiatives associated with the natural resources goals advanced within the comprehensive plan, particularly where those efforts may involve stormwater runoff reduction. GIGP funding could also be applied to the revision of parking requirements, assuming that such revisions were to advance reductions in impervious surfaces for purposes of flood reduction or mitigation.
- **Department of Transportation: Transportation Alternatives Program (NYSDOT TAP)**
This program is an 80% federal share grant administered by the State DOT for non-motorized transportation needs of cultural, aesthetic, historic and environmental significance. Projects funded by TAP can include streetscape improvements, preservation/conversion of abandoned railway corridors, new curbs or reconstructed sidewalks, road shoulder widening, curb ramps, bike lane striping, off-road non-motorized trails,



bike parking, and bike/pedestrian bridges. Projects must have a minimum local match of \$62,500, which is at least 20% of the project costs. The maximum federal share available is \$5 million. All recommended implementation actions regarding transportation safety for pedestrians and those that include recreational trails could be eligible for funding through this program.

- Department of Environmental Conservation: Water Quality Improvement Project program (NYSDEC WQIP)

This competitive reimbursement grant program directs funds to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality, and restore habitat in New York's waterbodies. Municipalities can use them to fund up to 85% of the cost for Wastewater Treatment Improvement projects or up to 75% of the cost for Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control, Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. This resource could be applied to planning and implementation efforts relative to updating coastal management regulations, erosion and flood damage prevention regulations, and other relevant tools for the protection of water and soil resources.

- Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation: Park Acquisition, Development, and Planning grants (NYSOPRHP)

This program funds the acquisition, development and planning of parks and recreational facilities to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structure for preservation, conservation, or recreation purposes. These monies can go towards structural assessments and/or planning for indoor or outdoor projects and must reflect the priorities established in the NY Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Town of Ovid may be eligible for funding for implementation actions relative to the consideration of new recreational amenities and programming.

- Environmental Protection Agency: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Guided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan, this funding source targets the best combination of programs, projects, and activities to achieve GLRI goals. These goals fit within the following focus areas: toxic substances and areas of concern, invasive species, nonpoint source pollution impacts on nearshore health, habitat and species and foundations for future restoration actions. Typically, \$300 million is available for interagency agreements, fund transfers, competitive grants, and capacity-building grants. However, in 2018 the program was cut to \$3.7 million. Due to its location in the Great Lakes Basin, the Town of Ovid is an eligible entity. 2018 funding will be directed towards runoff reduction through the use of green infrastructure, enhancement of wetland filtration, and the mitigation of impacts from Emerald Ash Borer impacts.



6.2 STRATEGY-ACTION MATRIX

Plan Recommendation	Estimated timeline for completion	Budgetary needs	Potential partners	Potential funding resources
Municipal finance (Refer to Section 5.1)				
Explore external funding sources	Continuous	Low		N/A
Pursue development that increases tax base	Continuous	Low		NYSHCR CDBG
Consider additional shared service agreements	Continuous	Low	Neighboring jurisdictions, Seneca Co.	NYSDOS LGE
Land use (Refer to Section 5.2)				
Identification of Existing Unique Areas	Continuous	Low		
Notice of building permit applications	Continuous	Low	Seneca Co.	
Periodically review the town's comprehensive plan	Continuous	Low		
Protect natural resources	Continuous	Low		
Infrastructure (Refer to section 5.3)				
Work with county and state agencies to improve each jurisdiction's road projects	Continuous	Low	Seneca Co.; NYSDOT	
Create new pedestrian opportunities for off-road recreational trails	Near term	Moderate	Finger Lakes Land Trust, NYSEG	Rails to Trails Conservancy, NYSDOT TAP
Develop solar and wind energy facility development standards	Near term	Low	Seneca Co.	
Establish a cost-benefit threshold for infrastructure extensions	Continuous	Low		NYSESD; NYSHCR CDBG
Other community facilities and services (Refer to Section 5.4)				



Plan Recommendation	Estimated timeline for completion	Budgetary needs	Potential partners	Potential funding resources
Develop new town hall	Long term	High		NYSDOS LWRP; NYSERDA CGC
Improve opportunities for water-dependent and water-related recreation	Near term	Moderate		NYSDOS LWRP
Examine opportunities for recreational services	Long term	Low	Neighboring jurisdictions, Seneca Co.	NYSOPRHP
Examine opportunities for economic development services	Continuous	Low	Seneca Co. IDA	NYSESD; NYSHCR CDBG
Continue to support public safety service providers	Continuous	Low		
Natural resources (Refer to Section 5.5)				
Consider other tools for the protection of water and soil resources	Long term	Low	Seneca Co. SWCD	NYSDEC WQIP

6.3 REPORTING PROGRESS

The recommendations included in this plan are not exhaustive but should provide the town with the foundation it needs to carry the principal goals forward. In doing so, the town will coordinate its efforts as necessary and appropriate with stakeholders, public agencies, and public officials throughout the region and at every level of government. As shown in the recommendation matrix, a series of proposed partnerships is suggested to assist the town in achieving the various recommended goals. These partnerships will necessarily be influenced by available budgets, staff time, and interest. Where such arrangements are feasible, they may provide the basis for productive collaboration.

In the end, however, much of the oversight required to follow through with implementation is the responsibility of elected leaders and board members. In an effort to monitor its success in plan implementation, it is recommended that boards and committees engage in a formal strategic planning process, whereby action items are prioritized, further actions are proposed, and implementation is officially evaluated.

Such a process may require semi-annual meetings of all involved parties. Simple quarterly progress reports should be distributed to all parties and should be reviewed at semi-annual meetings; a progress report template is provided herein (see Appendix C).



7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Full focus group summaries

Appendix B: Detailed survey results

Appendix C: Progress report template

Appendix D: Public workshop materials

Appendix E: Map figures



7.1 APPENDIX A: FULL FOCUS GROUP SUMMARIES

November 2nd in the Ovid Firehouse Training Room: Lake Residents

Value most in community:

- Small town-rural nature of community
- Diversity of community
- Value the Lake
- Not a lot of regulations/stipulations- we can do what we want with our rentals
- Enjoy the isolated east side of Seneca Lake
- Wineries
- Love knowing people around me
- Love Seneca Lake
- Isolation/beauty
- Forever wild
- Great friends
- Great organizations in Ovid that give back to the community, i.e., Fire Department, Federated Church, food bank, thrift shop, Lions Club
- Value tourism and what it can do for the economy
- The good neighbors and pristine lake environment, the farm winery/brewery/fresh product offerings, the egalitarian community, the bicycle-friendly country roads, and the relative lack of governmental interference in our lives;
- Socially, the many friends along CR 153.
- Environmentally: Minimal, appropriate, and considerate (of residents) commercial businesses (e.g., Busy Bee, B&Bs, winery, (relatively) little traffic, no electrical lights at night, quiet, peaceful almost all the time, including evening/night.
- Lake, and clean water (our source of drinking water); and for swimming, kayaking, rowing
- Wildlife on lake and in fields
- Activities: People walking, cycling, roller blading on CR 153 safely; watersports such as kayaking, canoeing, paddle boards.

Concerns/challenges:

- Worried about situations that would lower property values
- **Only way to insure "live-free" is to buy property around you**
- With no regulations – possibility of junkyards
- Quality of the lake- if deteriorated, would harm recreational opportunities for the future
- Too many regulations versus not enough – worried about quality of life
- Too much density – docks too close-neighbors too close-congested parking if development occurred
- Extension of utilities could encourage unwanted development
- Encroachment on properties
- Land use ordinance not being enforced
- Infrastructure not being maintained due to fiscal constraints
- Village and town have different needs and concerns
- Diversified community – economically as well as personal preferences
- Route 153 is going to change in the future and happening now



- Concern over lack of county code enforcement
- Local politicians are not focused enough on the community well-being
- Not enough concern for local beauty and needed restrictions
- Consultants should not **have been hired to write a plan that the leadership won't implement**
- the good neighbors and pristine lake environment, the farm winery/brewery/fresh product offerings, the egalitarian community, the bicycle-friendly country roads, and the relative lack of governmental interference in our lives;
- the downstate-driven dumps and related tractor trailer traffic, and the unanticipated impact on local residents of the nearby casino;
- Essentially, the loss or diminishment of any of the above liked features. High among those are traffic speed (too high, rarely enforced), esp. with increased cycle and foot traffic over the past several years. Agricultural runoff from large dairy farm.

Considerations/Opportunities for the future:

- Sheldrake Point Park should be developed better: more parking; better playground equipment; better recreational activities; boat launch area needs a plan to improve while dealing with the overflow of traffic congestion caused by limited parking and boat trailers
- Look for more opportunities for boat launch privileges without infringing on properties
- Research possibility on regional approach with other communities to work together on realistic guides for code development
- Promote tourism –Mama Bear – Visitor Center
- Create more opportunities for seasonal visitors and renters
- Research resources to extend utilities down Route 153-natural gas, sewer
- Broadband expansion
- Use of volunteers to beautify park
- Offer more opportunities for youth in Ovid to keep families staying (graduation rate high)
- Look at possibility for village consolidation into the town
- Walkability not an expectation of lake residents
- Take action to prevent pollution of our lakes
- Develop regulations that promote the economy of our area
- Village and town should be under one government-save money, less government jobs to pay for
- **Education/employment must be improved to help with “brain-drain”**
- low density, sustainable communities with lots of wineries, craft breweries and distilleries, cheeseries and small farms, and some high-tech industries; we live in an area of virtually unlimited fresh water, moderate climate and an educated population that is reasonably accessible to major metropolitan communities in both the USA and Canada;
- Continued quiet, peaceful, low traffic and minimal commercial activity in a rural atmosphere; safe agricultural practices.

Actions to help realize that vision:

- Agriculture needs to be protected – Amish families have assisted significantly in building up the area but more needed to protect the land while enforcing environmental laws to protect the lake
- Need laws to create zoning and building codes and enforce them
- More interest by the leadership that need to create them
- we ought to be an active and vibrant supplier of food, drink, and consumables to those markets;



- Appropriate land use and zoning. Minimally maintain setbacks as were until about a year ago; if anything, increase these. Restrict commercial activity to compatible recreational uses with lake for swimming and boating; water source (e.g., clean water, regulate and control ag runoff, including from dairy farms), peaceful and quiet (noise ordinance), low traffic businesses; reduce and enforce speed limit.
- education and training, protection of the environment, protection of small farms, regional promotion of local producers, lower taxes, development of rails-to-trail and similar recreational opportunities, and public transportation;

Things that should NOT change in the future:

- Our natural resources /we must be caretakers
- Preserve the beauty
- the rural, small town character of the area;
- Essentially, see above comments. We have lived here for twenty-three years. With winery, traffic has increased, but is still reasonable; Busy Bee market an enormous community asset. Such businesses (e.g., market, restaurants, bike, and kayak rentals, B&Bs) are fine. I would NOT like to have businesses such as motorboat and jet ski rentals that generate noise and pollution. I would not want more or even further expanded agricultural businesses (dairy farms) that generate toxic waste, or large condominium or hotels/convention centers (that generate traffic, noise, etc.) without any benefit to the residential nature of the community

Possible obstacles to the vision for the future:

- **If the community doesn't work together to make things happen**
- Leadership needs to improve
- lack of vision and political will, and money.
- Uninformed fears about zoning; i.e., that it will eliminate all businesses, all agricultural activities, all opportunities about what you do on your property (which it does not and should not do). Absence of a facilitated conversation about what zoning can do, cannot do, and how the rights and values of the overall Ovid community can be protected and enhanced in an approach to zoning that respects different values and diversity.
- I know that this smacks of dreams and idealistic drivel. But, given our extraordinary resources, we ought to think outside the box to find ways to make this happen. Allow the progressive libertarian streak in this town to make the systemic adjustments necessary to achieve these goals. At core, I do not believe that there is much of a difference on these issues among all town residents.
- Past meetings and decisions about whether and how OVID should evolve (typically around zoning) have often quickly disintegrated into hardened positions that are angrily defended and minimally informed by civil conversation and engagement. I, personally, welcome some forms of agricultural activity (and understand that it can come with the sound of tractors and the smell of fertilizer; or not, as in the case of the Sheldrake Point Winery). But toxic waste must be vigorously managed and monitored). Ag activity can be considerate and respectful of non-agricultural uses, as the Sheldrake Point Winery has demonstrated so well over the past twenty years. Business such as the Busy Bee have enlivened the community and provided a social hub as well as food and café resource. B&Bs such as Driftwood and Silver Strand are completely compatible and appropriate commercial businesses. We are extraordinarily fortunate to live in such a beautiful area, and



simply should strive to make sure that quality of life and experience is maintained and, better yet, enhanced. I believe that requires some form of zoning and land use ordinance.

Inter-Jurisdictional/Municipal Services Focus Group: November 3rd in the Ovid Firehouse Training Room

Feedback:

Value most in community:

- Small town-rural nature of community
- quiet
- Distance from a large city-safer
- Nice to spend a day here working
- People work together
- Good communication skills
- Good community support for school system/parents work well with school
- Feeling of being safe
- Strong relationships
- Many small businesses
- **Ovid's beauty**-lots of green, lakes, open spaces

Concerns/challenges:

- Many cultural differences
- Horses of Amish community are hard on the infrastructure
- Youth and drugs
- Transients seeking affordable housing
- Infrastructure needs repairs-bridges a big concern –tremendous costs

Considerations/opportunities for the future

- Look for more opportunities to support younger farmers and new technology
- Broadband expansion would help the entire area for new technology businesses and existing ones
- Assure protection of open spaces
- Goals to protect pollution from reaching the lakes/salt/algae/phosphorous
- Goals should also protect farmland and wineries
- Promote area for an expansion of wineries and existing wineries
- Finger Lakes Technology Group should be asked to work together on broadband opportunities
- Expand utilities (water and sewer) into the town from the village- new districts
- Promote a wider and more diverse public transportation system
- Protect wineries from any stipulations that would hurt expansion or deter new ones
- Promote renewable energy opportunities-solar/windmill
- Research opportunities for a new community center

Possible obstacles to the vision for the future

- **South end of the county doesn't get the credence that the north end does because of the weighted voting system**
- Not enough public transportation



- Broadband will be an issue for any development

Business Focus Group: November 10th in the Ovid Firehouse Training Room

Feedback:

Value most in the community:

- Small-quaint-know your neighbors
- Small town values
- Schools are small/friendly-sense of family
- Do business locally
- Beauty of the area/clean air/no traffic
- You can count on your neighbors
- Love the upstate culture/incredibly unique/diversity -financially/level of education
- I value the family structure as a primary focus in my community.
- I value education for our youth.
- I value the communities, input, support, and volunteerism concerning new businesses cropping up in the Four Towns.
- Love the Lake –big value-makes Ovid different
- No zoning
- No deed restrictions

Concerns/challenges:

- **Lack of zoning creates a feeling of “hoarders welcome”;** Lack of security with no zoning;
- Hurts real estate: junkyards hurt business/vineyards
- Lack of pride in home ownership hurts the area—condemned, burned, empty abandoned property
- Town desperately needs facelift/looks depressed
- **Don't think zoning is the complete** answer-code enforcement needs to be part of the answer
- I am concerned the business community or towns themselves do not seem to have a very strong voice in Seneca County.
- I would like to see more collaboration between local residents, business owners and non-profit organizations. This would include several events which could take place in the Four Town region throughout the calendar year.
- Worried about what the town should be—new people want changes-all professionals
- **Local people don't have access to the lake**
- Inconsistency with county codes and what is required

Considerations/opportunities for the future:

- More property development
- More upscale restaurants, gas station, tourist attractions, upscale B&B

Actions to help realize that vision:

- Properties on the lake – friary
- This vision could receive more help through surveys and town hall meetings.
- More available hotels



Things that should NOT change in the future:

- Preserve the no-zoning
- Small town feeling
- Lake preservation

Possible obstacles to vision for the future:

- Nothing in Ovid – no manufacturing
- Anti-business
- Possibility of prohibiting business development on the lake
- Concerns and requests would not be well received by certain groups, i.e., (Town Board Council).
- Ovid looks depressed

Senior Focus Groups: Various Locations throughout Fall, 2016

Feedback:

Value most in community:

- Friendliness
- Have everything I need
- Safe
- Neighbors good-help each other out
- Pleasant surroundings

Concerns/challenges

- Too many new people – mansions
- Not enough comradery
- Concerned about schools – taxes too high –should stick to basics
- Junk everywhere
- EPA should check on local practices to see if they are in violation

Considerations/Opportunities for the future:

- Continue small business creation
- Wineries
- Protect agriculture
- Police should monitor the park

Actions to help realize vision:

- Ovid Historical Society should have more emphasis/few people attend activities
- Museum should be open more often
- Highlight Three Bears and its history

Things that should NOT change in the future:

- No more breweries than there are presently
 - Protect the farms
-



- Importance of the library and its services

Possible obstacles to visions for future:

- Threats for lake pollution
- Differences in lake quality

Youth Focus Group: January 3, 2017 at the South Seneca High School

Feedback:

Strengths in the community:

- Local small shops
- Family businesses/breakfast places
- Library
- Good mix –new age and old historic places-three bears, library
- Ovid has the needed necessities – **bank, Fast Track, McDonald's**- easy walking and driving distance
- Ovid is good looking community-not raggedy
- Lots of people come her for everything – **it is the “burb” for south end of county**
- Comparison to Trumansburg – much better. T-burg residents are not considerate to cars or pedestrians/too congested /commuter driving to Ithaca make the streets too busy
- In Ovid you feel safe
- Location is good-makes it easy to work in Ithaca and live in Ovid
- Great school with new track and field coming/best in the area

Challenges/weaknesses in the community:

- Lack of jobs –not really many career options/not long term/not solid income options
- People move out of Ovid when they get out of school/no opportunity
- Limits option of coming back to Ovid to live after college
- Not enough for young people to do in Ovid
- Lack of industry

Parts of Ovid that people cherish and never want to see changed:

- Finger Lakes is one of the best places to live if you can find a job (profession).
- **Some professions just can't live here** – too limited
- Depends on what you want to do- IT jobs are mainly out of state. Could work at hospitals but majority of jobs –not here
- Local economy – where you live depends ability to make money and vice versa.
- **A “face list: of Ovid would help greatly.**
- Grew up believing in accountability – willingness to work hard for what you want.
- Ovid is peaceful, and the lake is awesome – make sure there are no changes to hurt the lake. Could add more docks, accessibility but any changes need to be environmentally sound
- Great school/teachers are great

Write the future of Ovid (not science fiction):



- Need a gym/fitness center/some type of activity center
- No courts for basketball or tournaments
- Need a movie theater/possibly a bowling alley
- Ovid would have more activities for friends
- More businesses to entice kids to stay
- No big box (Walmart) should come here
- Small businesses have pretty much all of the community needs – such as Big M
- People here are raised to keep it local which makes a negative attitude toward Big box as flashy and impersonal.
- Some type of industry that is environmentally safe.
- Need to give people a reason to stay and live here
- Need opportunities for people to create things
- Wine trails bring people here. The way they mainly work is they stick to the lakes-need a reason to come into the heart of the community/need some type of draw
- Ovid needs some places for people to stay-**hotels/B&B's**
- Schedule more events at the schools with the improved facilities to draw people here to stay more than one day/sectionals, tournaments, festivals, events
- Would like to see Ovid get bigger but preserve the beauty
- Start developing towards Romulus to expand outward
- Make Sheldrake nicer-launch only used by locals/give more recreational opportunities
- Activities that get kids out of the house – now mainly house parties because there is nothing to do
- Transportation to and from the lake for residents and tourists – bring them into town for activities and eating

Question asked about the possibility of using the school as a community center – youth participant opinion was that school is closed to public except for sporting events – **otherwise shut down. Didn't feel it was a good choice for community center** – needs to be somewhere else.

Concern raised about the big investment in the school – needs to have follow up to be sure utilized. Decisions such as tennis courts in the past bad decision since very few people played tennis.

Agricultural/Environmental/Amish Community Focus Group: January, 2017 at the Ovid Firehouse

Feedback:

Most unique characteristics of Ovid community:

- Lakes
- Small community where everyone works together
- Tradition – farmers farm same way that did for many years
- Freedom to farm the way they want
- People help each other
- Smaller farms
- Independence
- Weather is influence by lakes/insulate Ovid
- Lakes also a curse such as during the drought
- Residents communicate well



- **Residents don't always abide by the laws**
- Soil differences/produce reacts differently to the variations

Do you want to see more farming in the Town of Ovid in the future/vision?

- Yes, if they are small and a variety of farms – **“boutique”** – not large farms
- Amish community farmers- **“magic in their hands” as it pertains to crafts, flowers, and produce** – large draw for **farmer's markets, auctions, etc.**
- Small farms and produce would be a help in drawing people to the community and much needed amenities **such as hotels, restaurants, B&B's, small businesses**

Obstacles for this vision:

- Infrastructure – mainly water
- Firefighting is hindered by lack of water
- Community needs better broadband for businesses to survive and even to come to Ovid
- Need more amenities – **restaurants, diners, B&B's**
- Taxes – property and school
- Water – need a way to provide the infrastructure affordably to places – the village has water but the 414 corridor does not
- Need businesses that supply unique farming and vineyard repair parts and other supplies to support local businesses
- **Need more tourism that see Ovid as a “destination”**
- No parking available in the Village of Ovid for tourists or visitors to stop even if they had an incentive to stop
- Ovid needs a facelift-businesses need to have incentives to beautify their facades

Should local government be involved

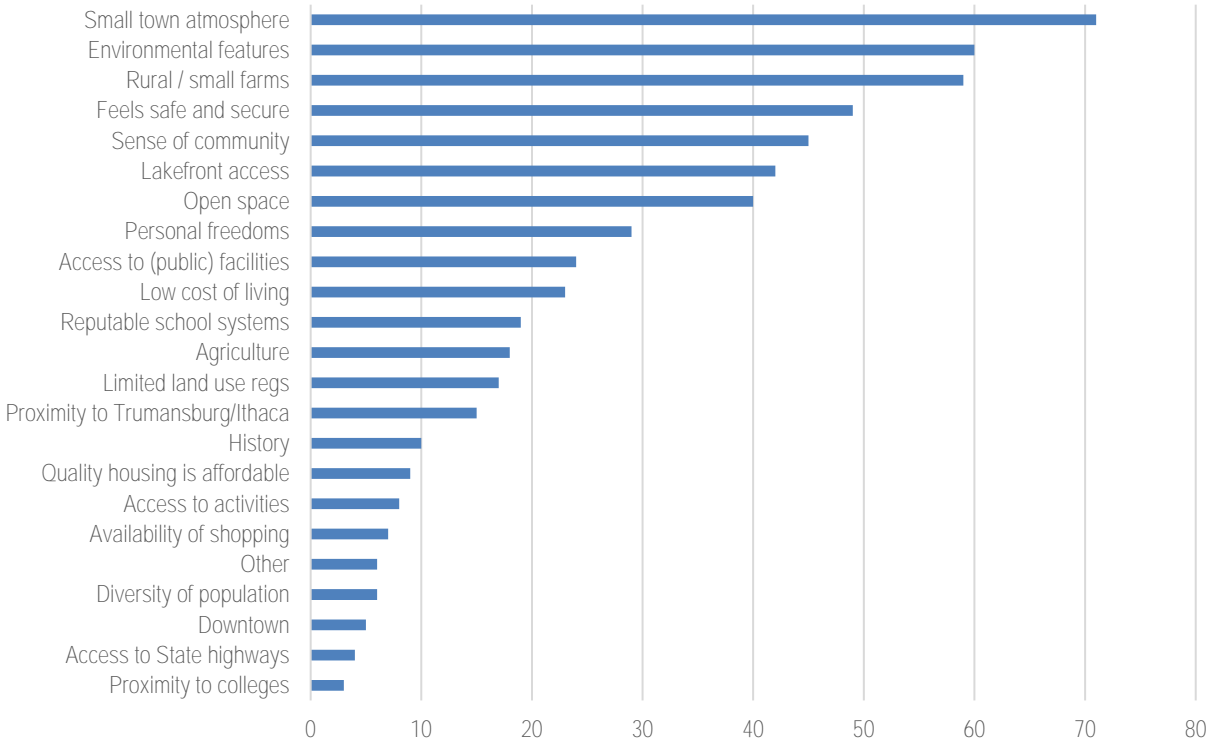
- Absolutely – **Village needs to participate in the vision and “facelift”**
- Enforcement of the laws
- Government needs to care for their historic places – Three Bears etc. Bring them back to life
- Need village and town to get involved to cooperate
- Possibly incentives for beautification projects around the community



7.2 APPENDIX B: DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

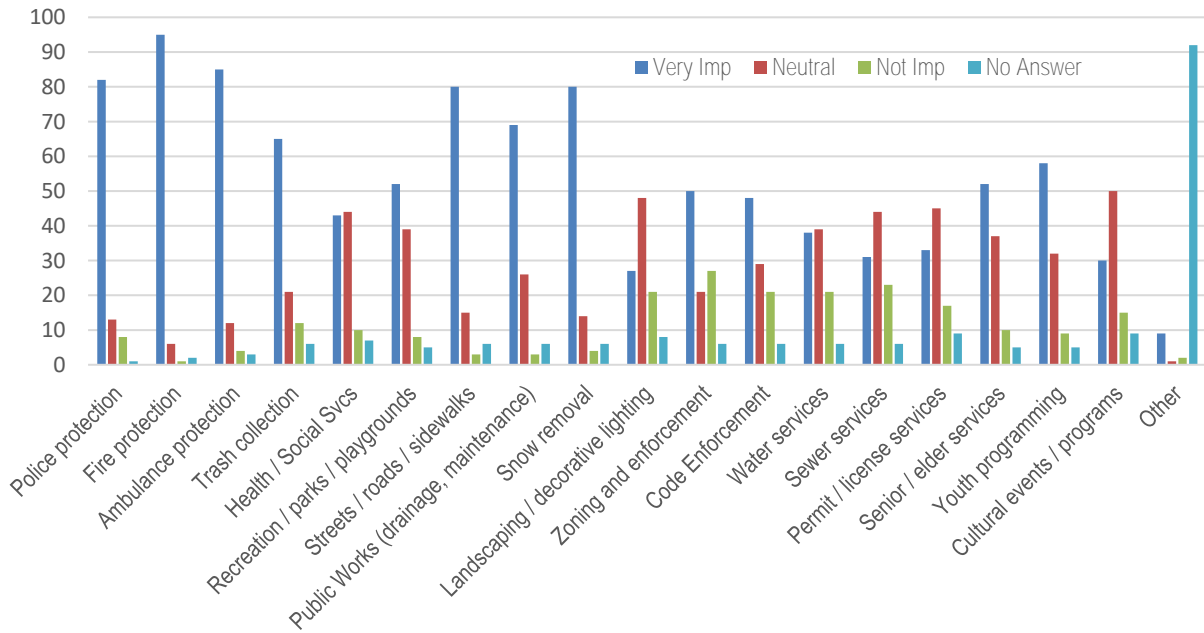
The following pages summarize feedback collected through a town wide survey. Additional written comments are on file at [confirm repository location].

Most Important Characteristics of Ovid

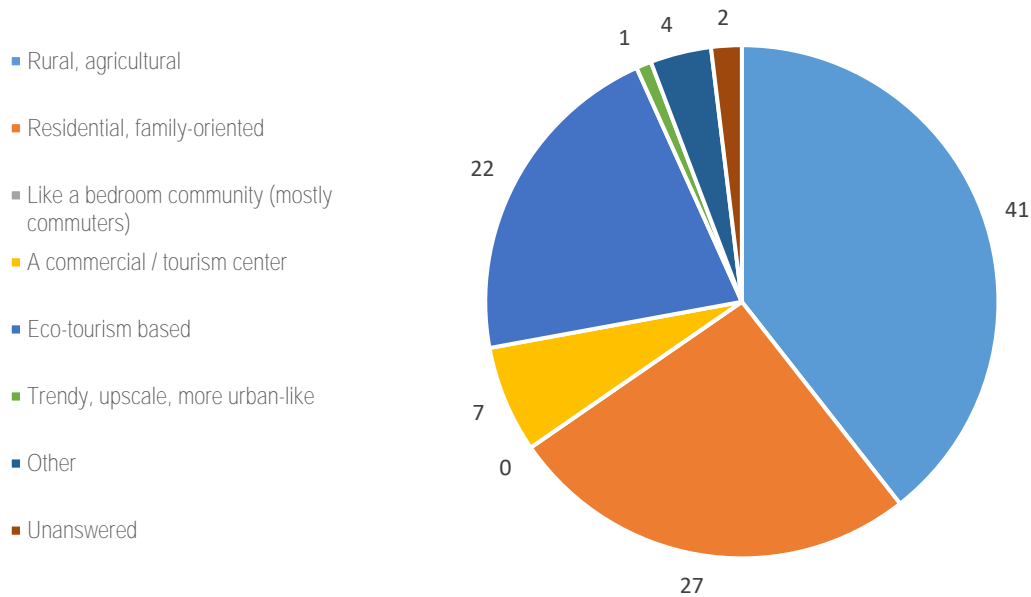




Importance of Shared Services Provided by the Village, Town or County

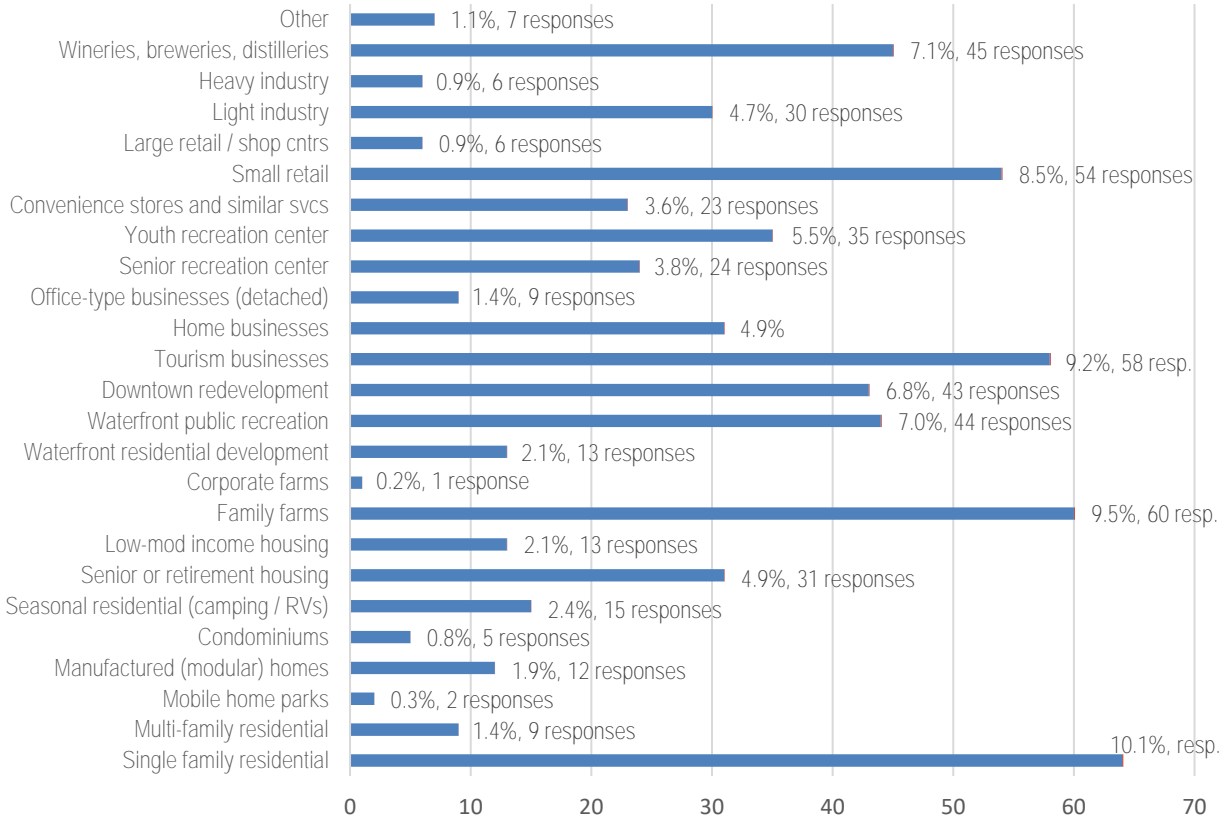


In 2037, the Ovid Community Should Be More...

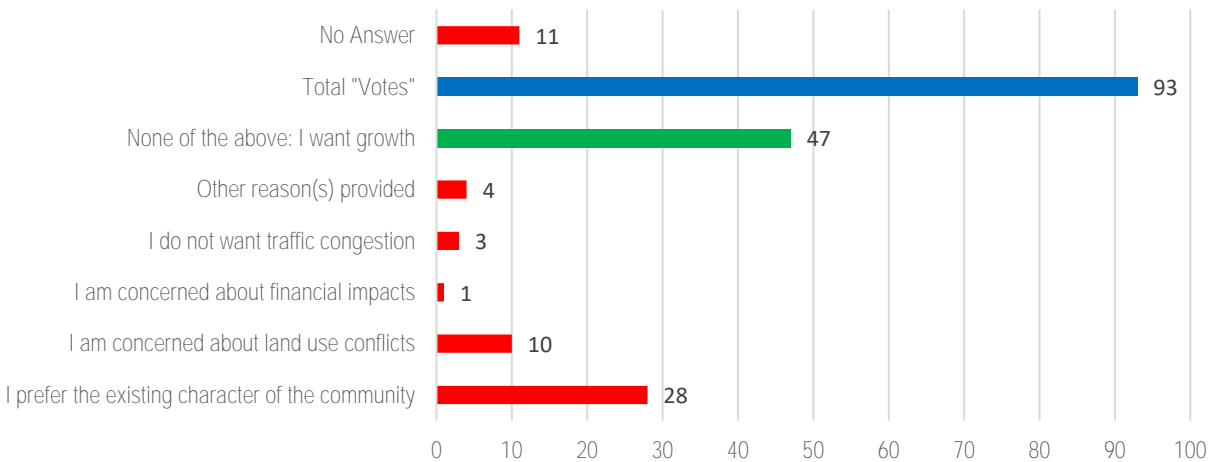




Preferences For Growth /Development - Out of (total) "Votes"

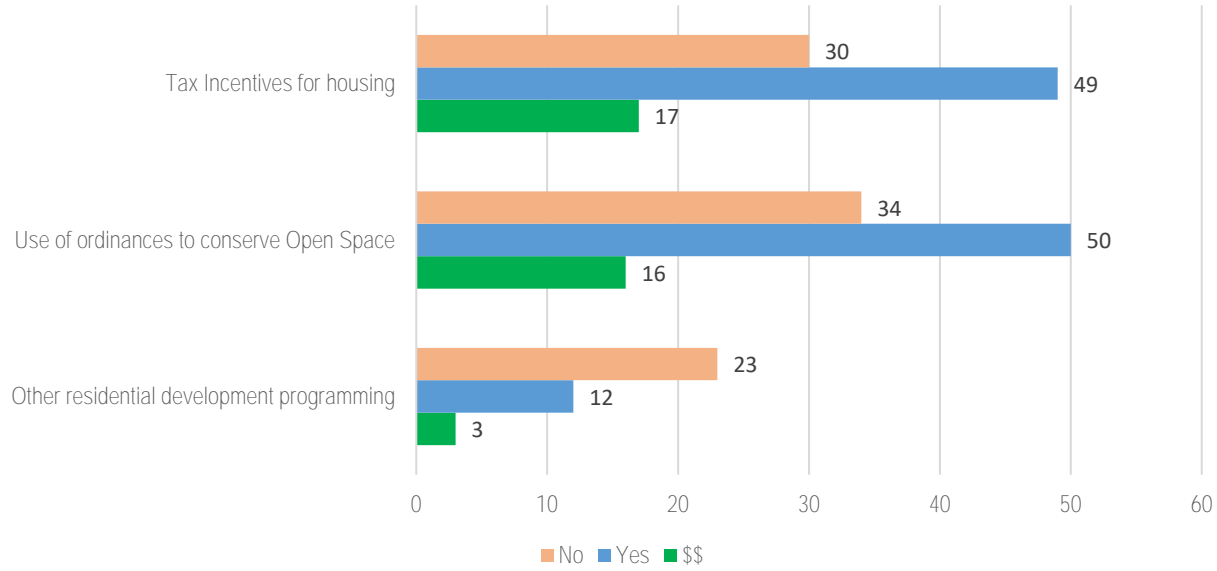


For Those NOT Supporting Growth, It's Because...

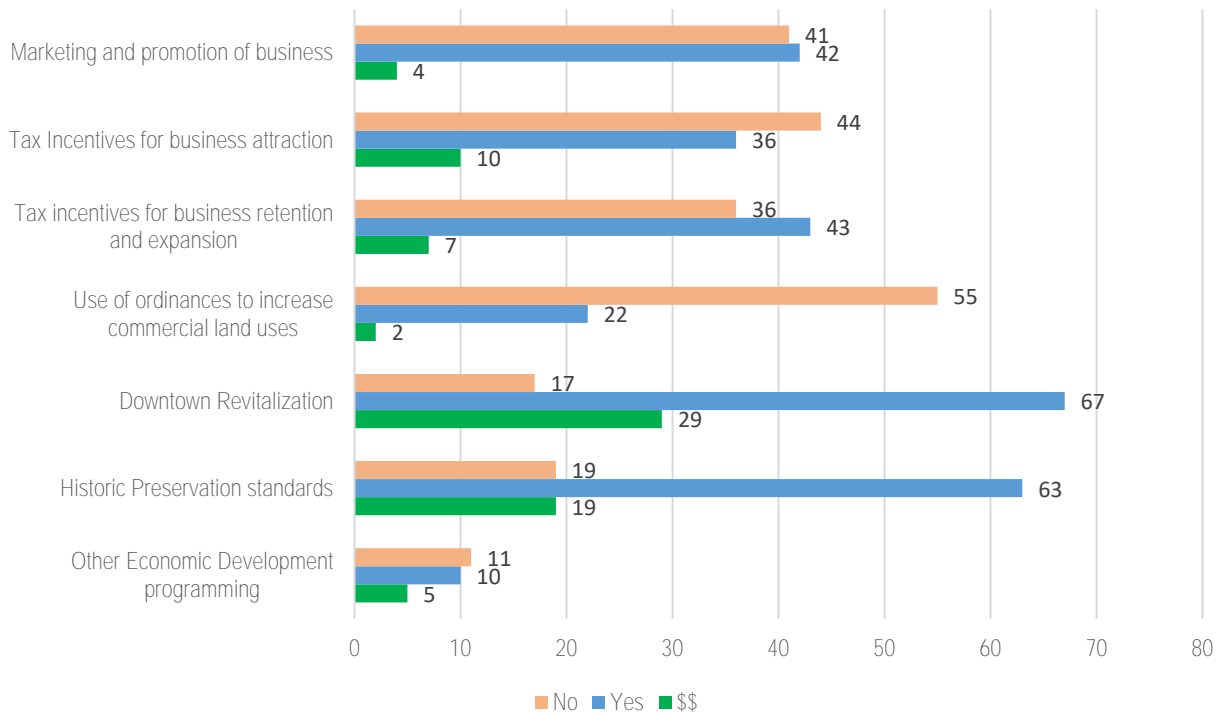




Should Town Government Play a Role in Residential Development?

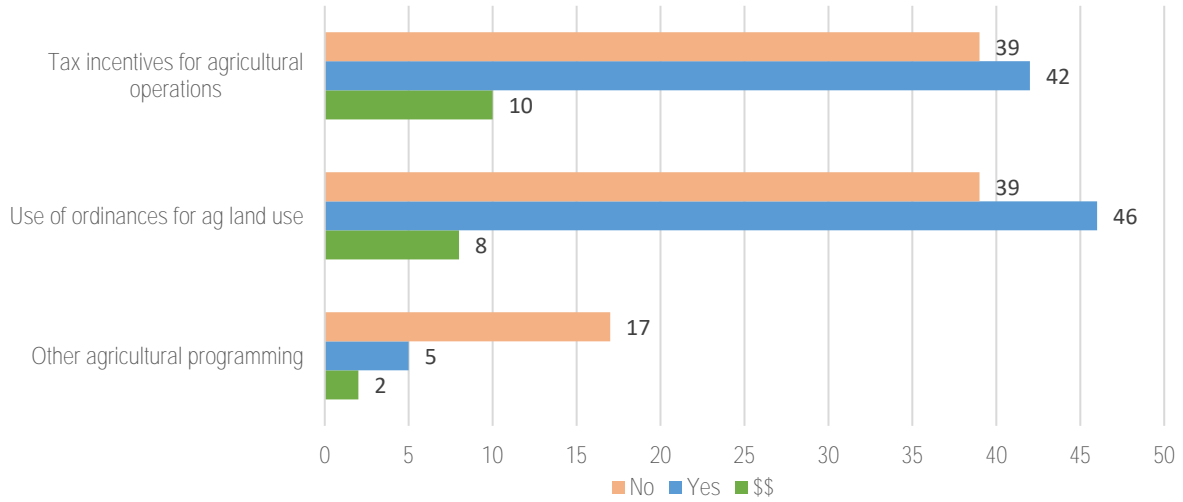


Should Town Government Play a Role in Economic Development?

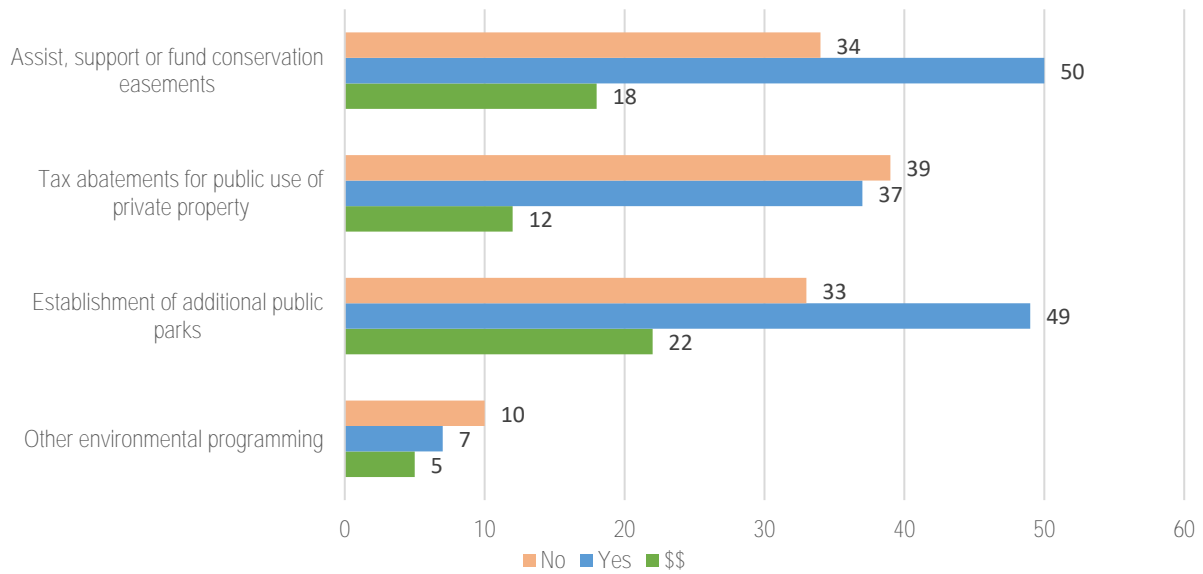




Should Town Government Play a Role in Agricultural Development?

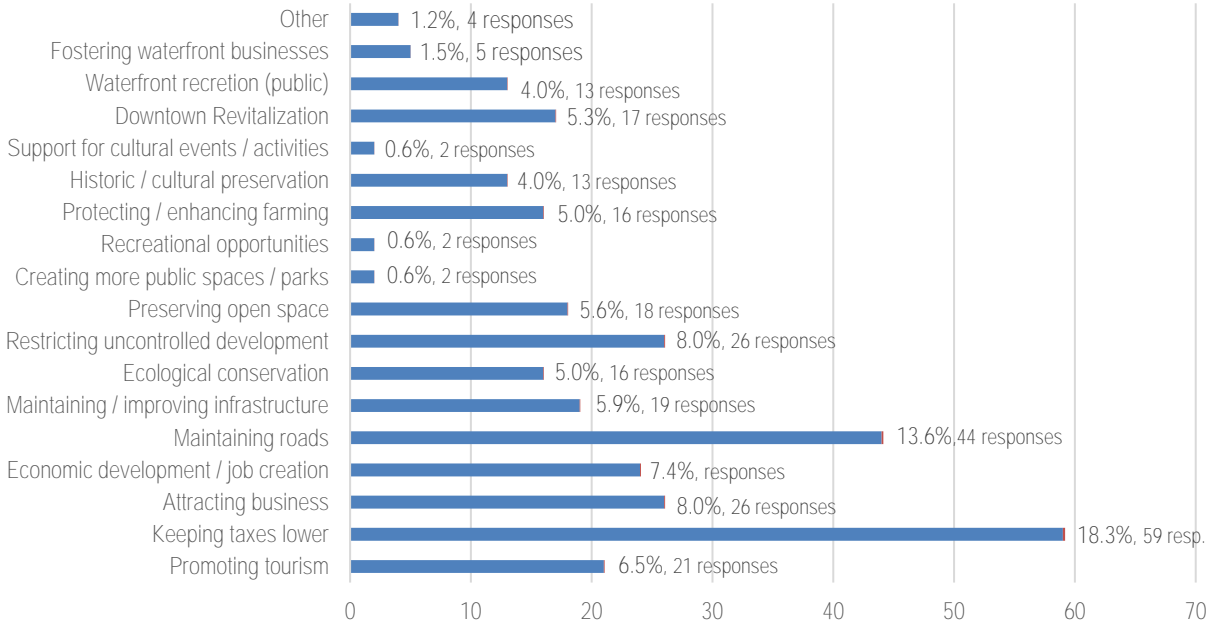


Should Town Government Play a Role in Environmental Conservation?

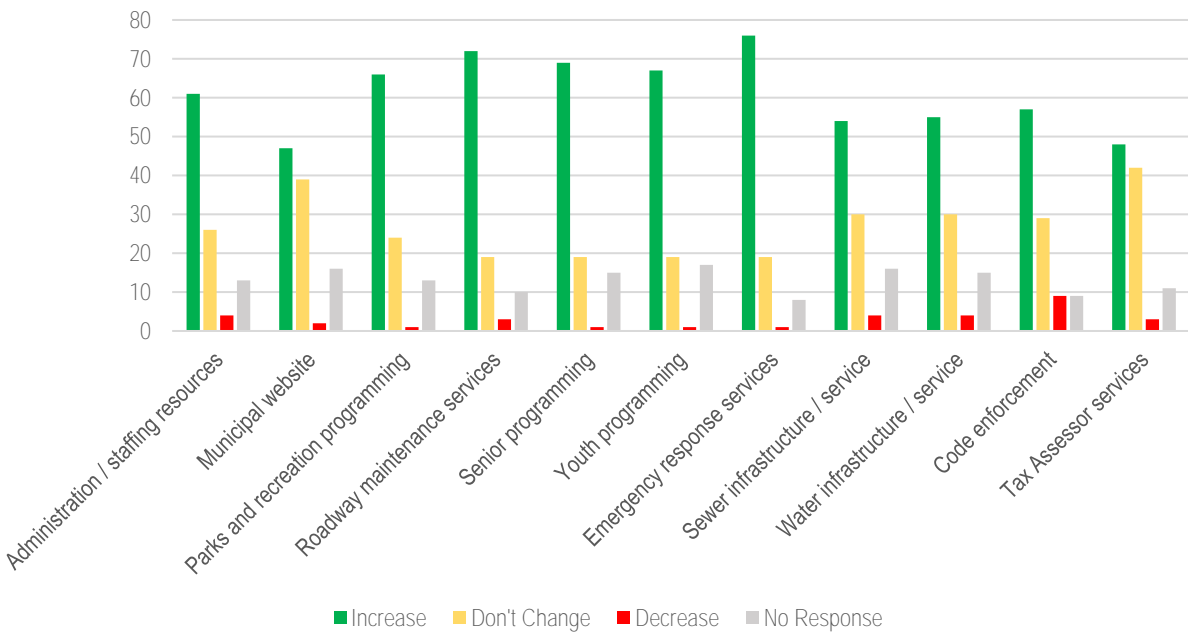




Local Government Should Focus Primarily On...

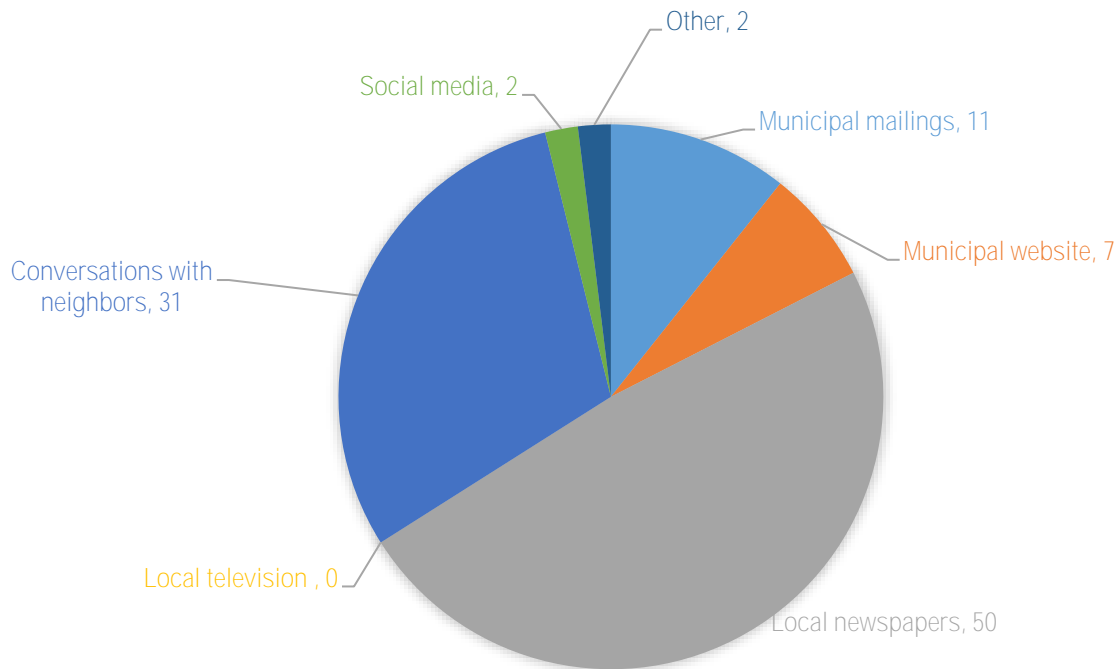


Level of Shared Services

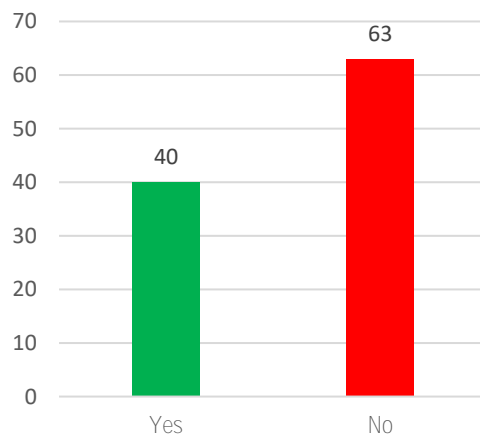




SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Attendance at Local Government Meetings





7.3 APPENDIX C: PROGRESS REPORT TEMPLATE

The intent of this Progress Report is to provide a template for the consistent evaluation of the various recommendations found within the 2018 Comprehensive Plan [confirm date]. It is expected that the board or committees tasked with implementation objectives will provide a thorough review of progress toward their respective responsibilities. These reports will be reviewed at quarterly and/or semi-annual meetings throughout a strategic planning process.

Board/Committee oversight:

Date of progress report:

- Recommendation category:
- Municipal finances
 - Land use
 - Infrastructure
 - Other community facilities and services
 - Natural resources

Goal:

Action step:

Will this action lead to the amendment of an existing local ordinance, or the adoption of a new local ordinance?
If so, briefly identify the ordinance being proposed or amended:

Is this action undertaken in collaboration with other boards, committee, or organizations?
If so, briefly identify the entities involved:

Estimated percent complete:

- 0 – 25%
- 26 – 50%
- 51 – 75%
- 76 – 99%
- 100%



Estimated completion date:

Describe the progress to date:

Identify the next task in the completion of this action step:

Identify the next Action Step to be addressed by this board/committee toward the achievement of the Goal:



7.4 APPENDIX D: PUBLIC WORKSHOP MATERIALS

The following pages feature materials used at public workshops held throughout the planning process. Where possible, written feedback has been transcribed for clarity.

Community Workshop #1

Boards and Comments

Saturday, October 7, 2017. 10am-12pm

Ovid Firehouse

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A voluntary set of written and graphic materials that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the town located outside the limits of any incorporated village or city.

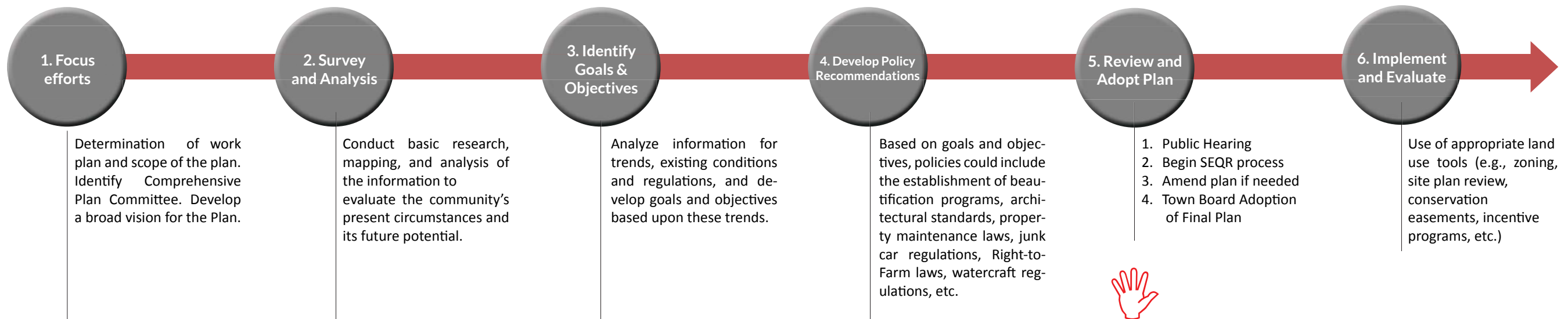
It includes a thorough analysis and inventory of current data showing land development trends and issues, community resources, and public needs for transportation, recreation and housing.


- New York State Division of Local Government Services


Relationship between Comprehensive Planning and Zoning

- *Zoning is only one tool to implement Comprehensive Plans. Other tools include development of design guidelines, budgeting for capital improvements, or applying for Federal, State or Privately Funded Programs.*
- *Adoption of a Comprehensive Plan does not require the adoption of zoning. However, if challenged in court, zoning must be proven to be based off of a “planning process.”*
- *In 2008, 71% of Towns had Comprehensive Plans. In that same year, 71% of the Towns had Zoning. However, there were many Towns that had only Comprehensive Plans or only had Zoning.*


Process and Actions to Develop a Comprehensive Plan



 Feedback gathered from Oct. 7th Public Meeting #1

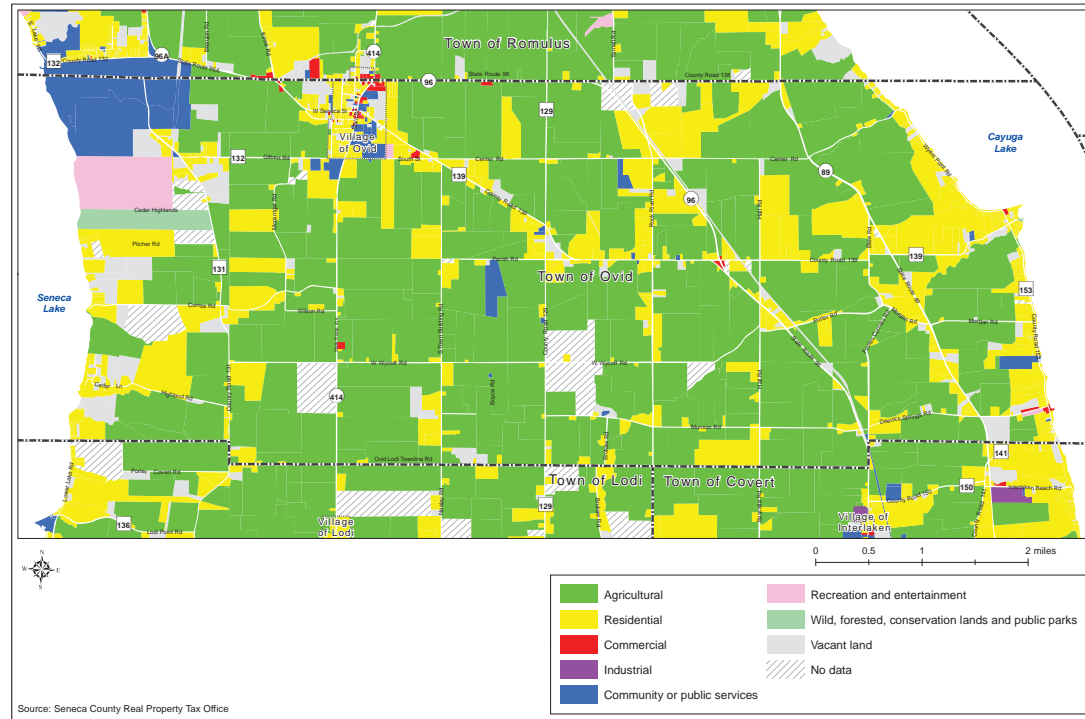
 Feedback gathered from Public Meeting #2 (Date TBD)



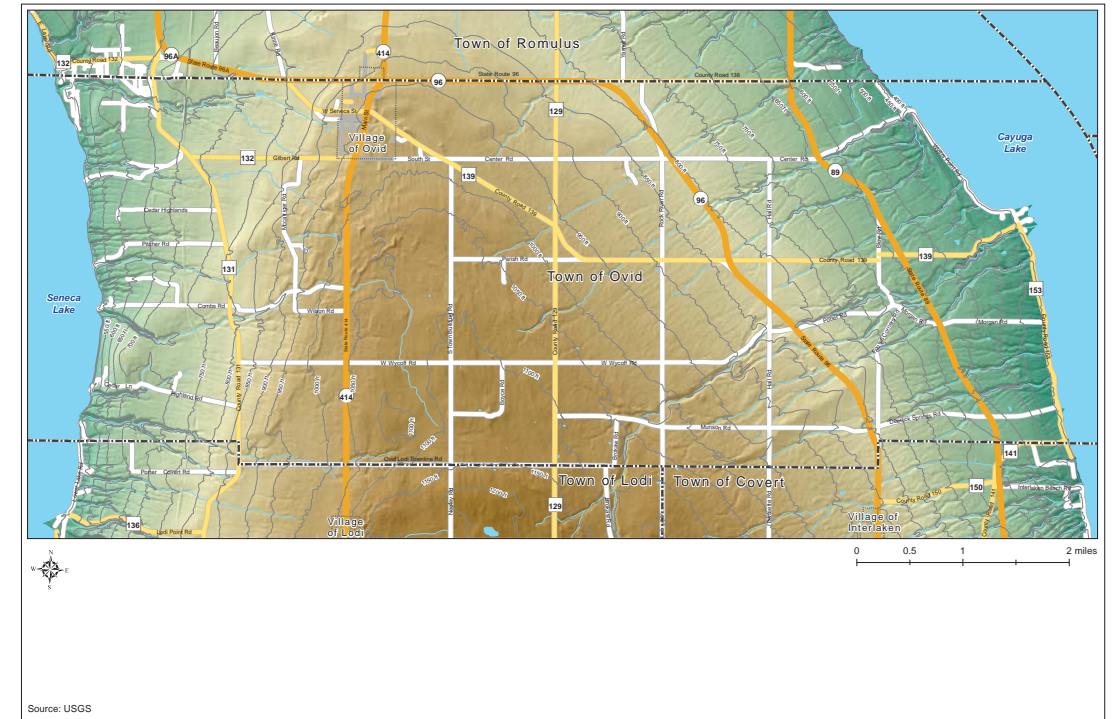
 = Opportunity for Public Participation

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Geographic Overview

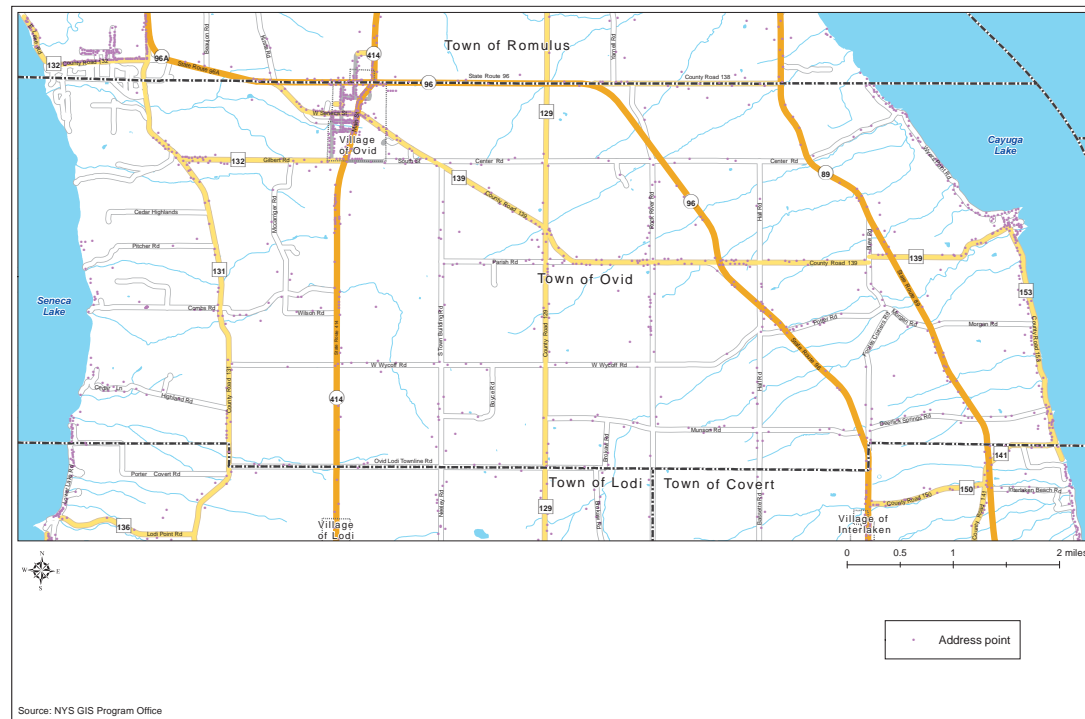
Land Use



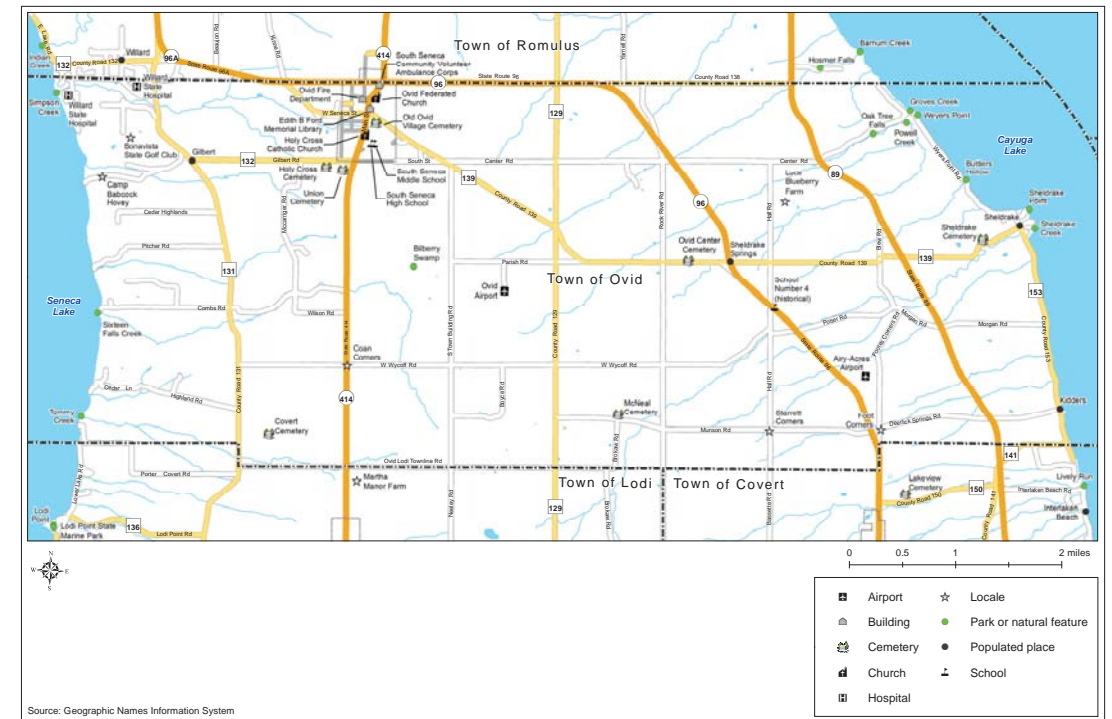
Elevation



Address Points (2017)



Selected Places



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Census Profile

Population Changes

Over the past 75 years, the Town of Ovid has experienced an overall population decline of -32%, while nearby municipalities and Seneca County have grown.

	Population change (%), 1940-2015								
	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2015	1940-2015
Town of Ovid	7.6%	-10.0%	0.3%	-18.6%	-8.9%	19.6%	-16.2%	-6.3%	-32.3%
Village of Ovid	-1.3%	1.3%	-1.3%	-14.5%	-0.9%	-7.3%	-1.6%	0.0%	-23.7%
Town of Lodi	6.4%	13.3%	1.6%	-8.0%	20.7%	3.3%	5.0%	5.5%	55.7%
Town of Covert	12.9%	6.6%	6.7%	4.3%	2.7%	-0.8%	-3.3%	8.1%	42.6%
Town of Romulus	48.8%	-17.7%	22.1%	-42.5%	2.8%	-19.6%	112.0%	1.0%	52.1%
Seneca County	13.7%	9.3%	9.7%	-3.8%	-0.1%	-1.0%	5.7%	-0.3%	36.6%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1940-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing Types

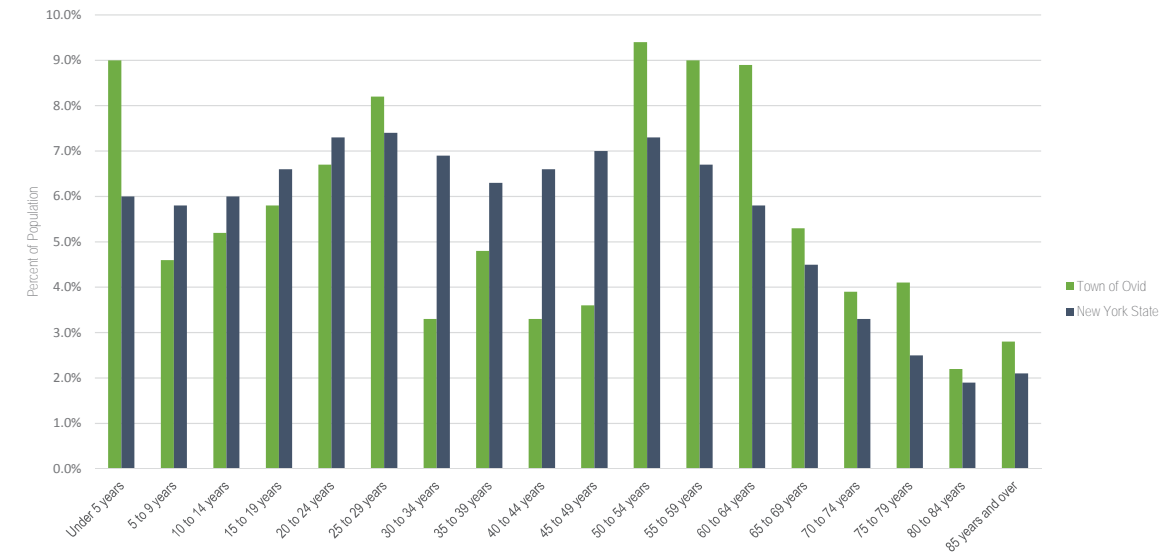
The Town of Ovid has a vacancy rate slightly lower than surrounding municipalities, but higher than the Village of Ovid, which has an exceptionally historic array of buildings.

	Town of Ovid	Village of Ovid	Town of Lodi	Town of Covert	Town of Romulus	Seneca County
Total housing units	1,158	313	1,030	1,273	1,117	16,166
Vacancy rate	21%	15%	32%	23%	26%	16%
Year structure built (% of total)						
Built 2014 or later	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Built 2010 to 2013	2%	0%	3%	1%	2%	1%
Built 2000 to 2009	7%	2%	17%	5%	12%	8%
Built 1990 to 1999	12%	3%	13%	6%	8%	8%
Built 1980 to 1989	11%	4%	10%	9%	15%	11%
Built 1970 to 1979	8%	6%	8%	16%	7%	12%
Built 1960 to 1969	11%	3%	6%	8%	11%	9%
Built 1950 to 1959	7%	7%	9%	6%	8%	10%
Built 1940 to 1949	7%	6%	3%	5%	10%	5%
Built 1939 or earlier	37%	70%	32%	44%	27%	36%

Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Age

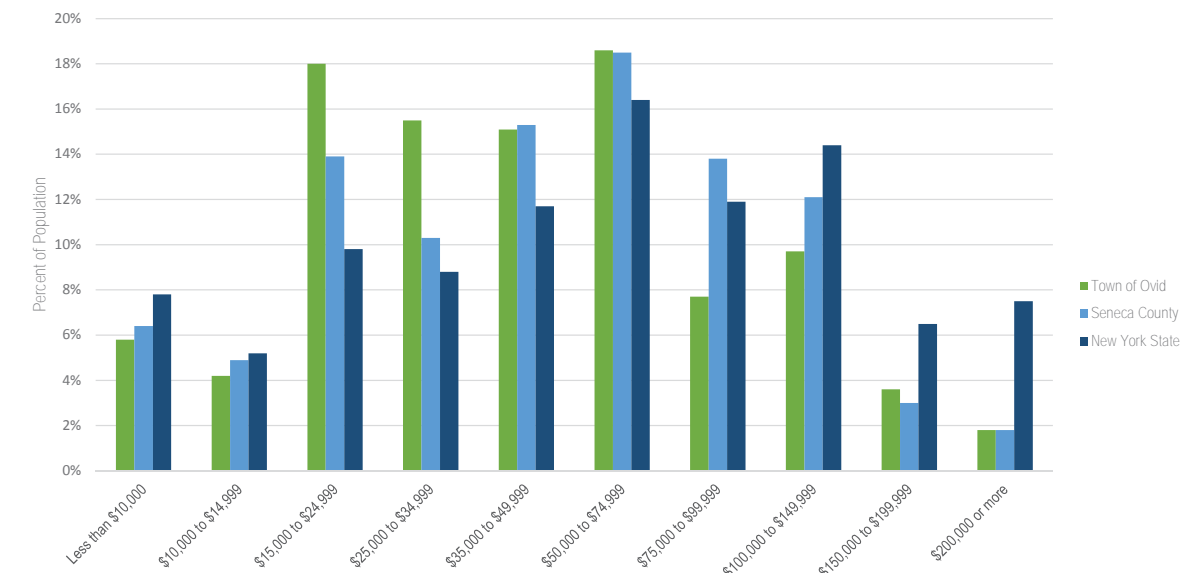
Compared to statewide averages, the Town of Ovid has an older than average population, as well as more children below the age of 5 compared to statewide averages.



Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Income

A greater percentage of residents in the Town of Ovid come from low income households between \$15,000 and \$35,000, when compared with Seneca County and New York State.



Data Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Survey Responses

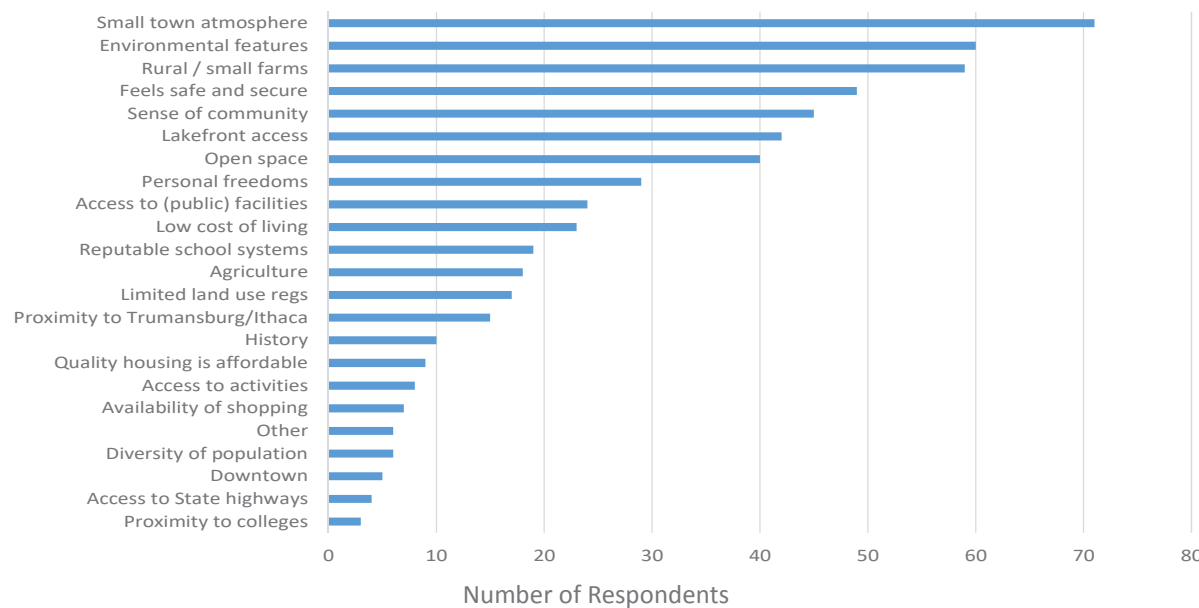
In May 2017, the community participated in a survey to gather public opinion related to tough issues related to land use and future decision-making. Surveys were mailed to all Town households with a postage-paid return envelope, and residents had the additional option to complete the survey online. Surveys featured 11 questions and took an estimate 10-15 minutes to complete.

Surveys were due on May 22nd, and featured a 16% response rate of 354 represented individuals. A summary of respondents is as follows:

- Most (94%) were homeowners
- 90% were above the age of 18
- 39% have attended local government meetings (town, village) in the past two years.
- Most (83%) were Town residents, with 11% Village residents, 1% seasonal residents and 1% business owners living elsewhere

Most Important Characteristics of Ovid

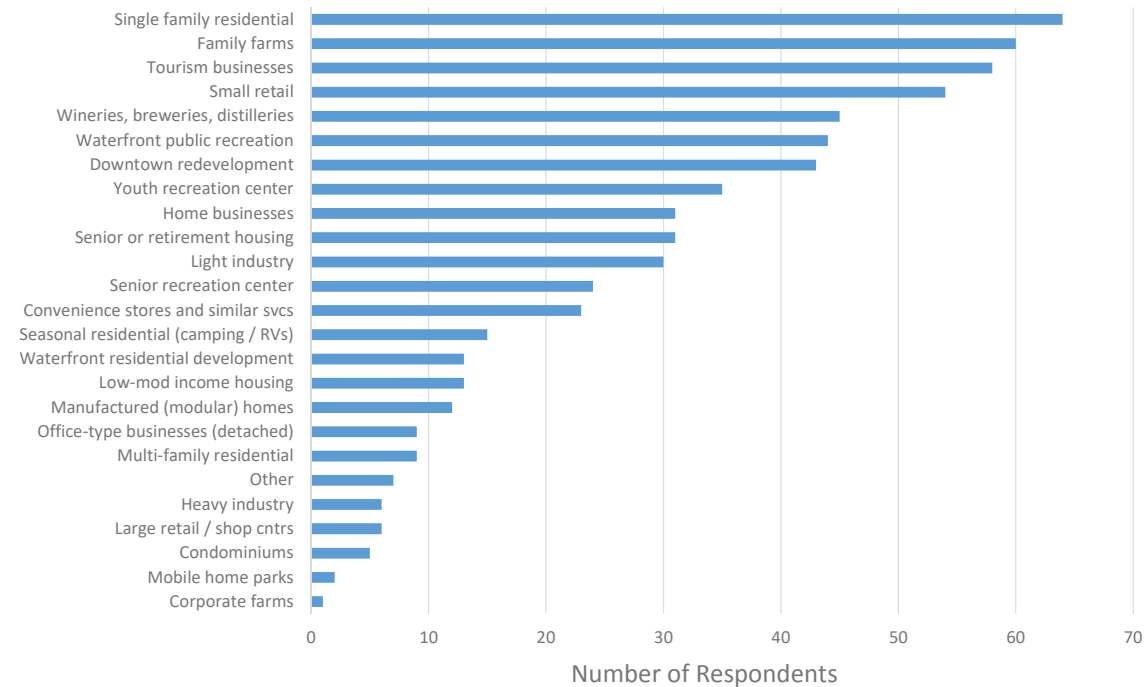
The majority of residents reported that a small town atmosphere is the most important characteristic of the community, followed by environmental features, small farms and feelings of safety and security.



Data Source: Town of Ovid Community Survey Results, June 2017

Preferences For Growth/Development

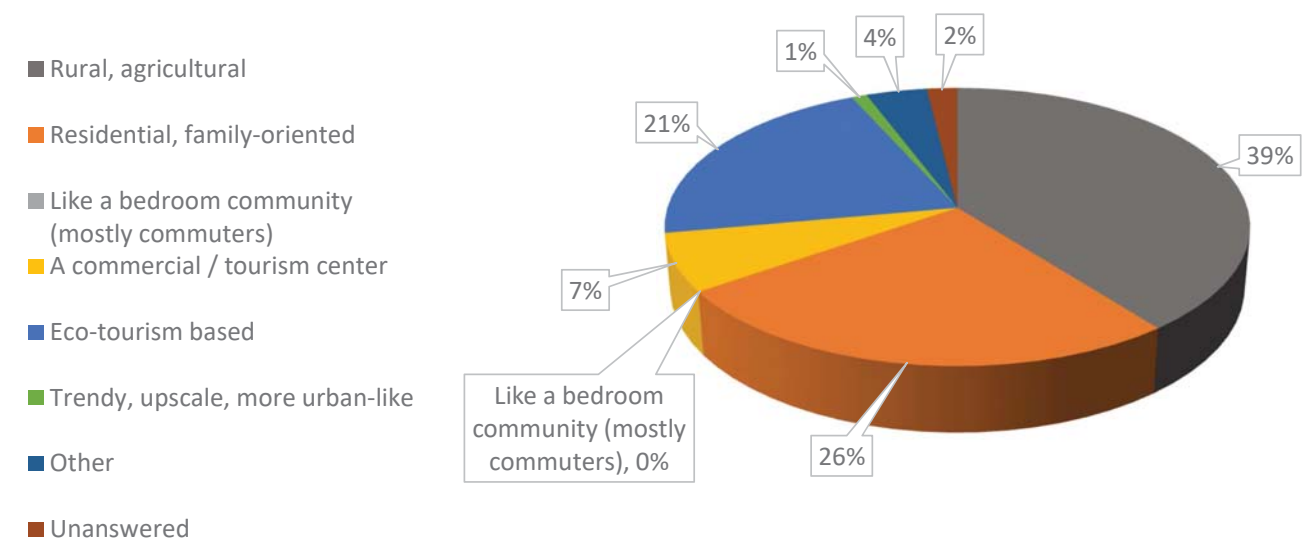
According to the respondents, the preferred growth and development for the Town of Ovid is single-family residential and family farms.



Data Source: Town of Ovid Community Survey Results, June 2017.

In 2037, the Ovid Community Should Be...

The majority of residents reported they would like the community to remain rural agricultural, and/or residential and family oriented.

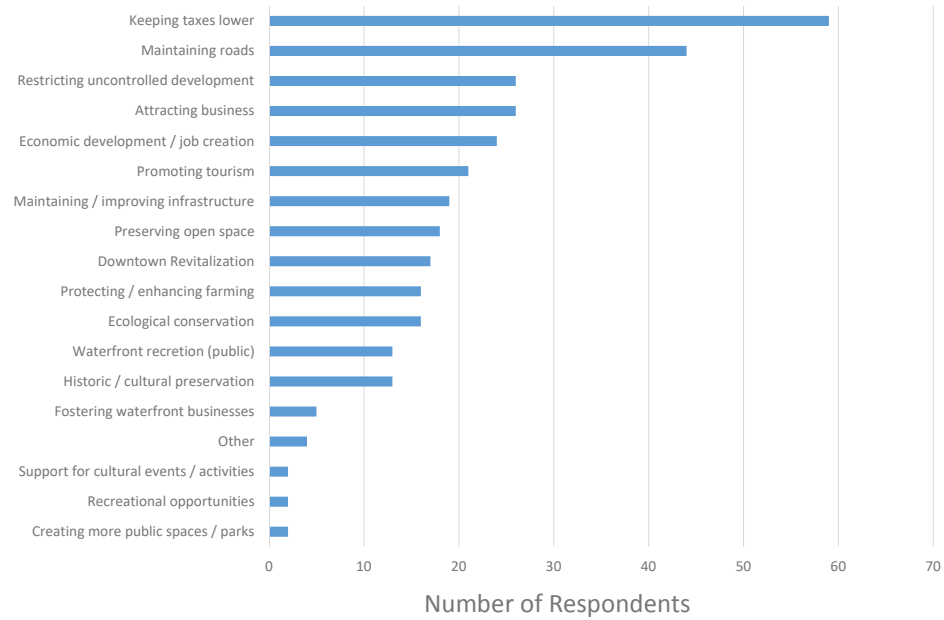


Data Source: Town of Ovid Community Survey Results, June 2017.

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Survey Responses

Local Government Should Focus On...

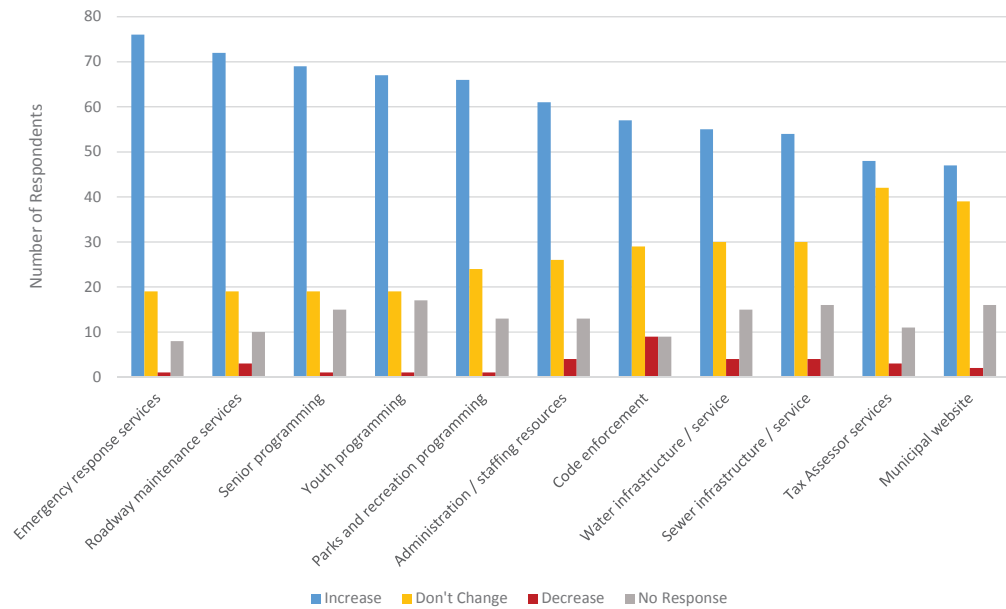
The majority of respondents reported that local government should primarily focus on keeping taxes lower and maintaining roads. These were followed by restricting uncontrolled development and attracting new businesses.



Data Source: Town of Ovid Community Survey Results, June 2017.

Level of Shared Services

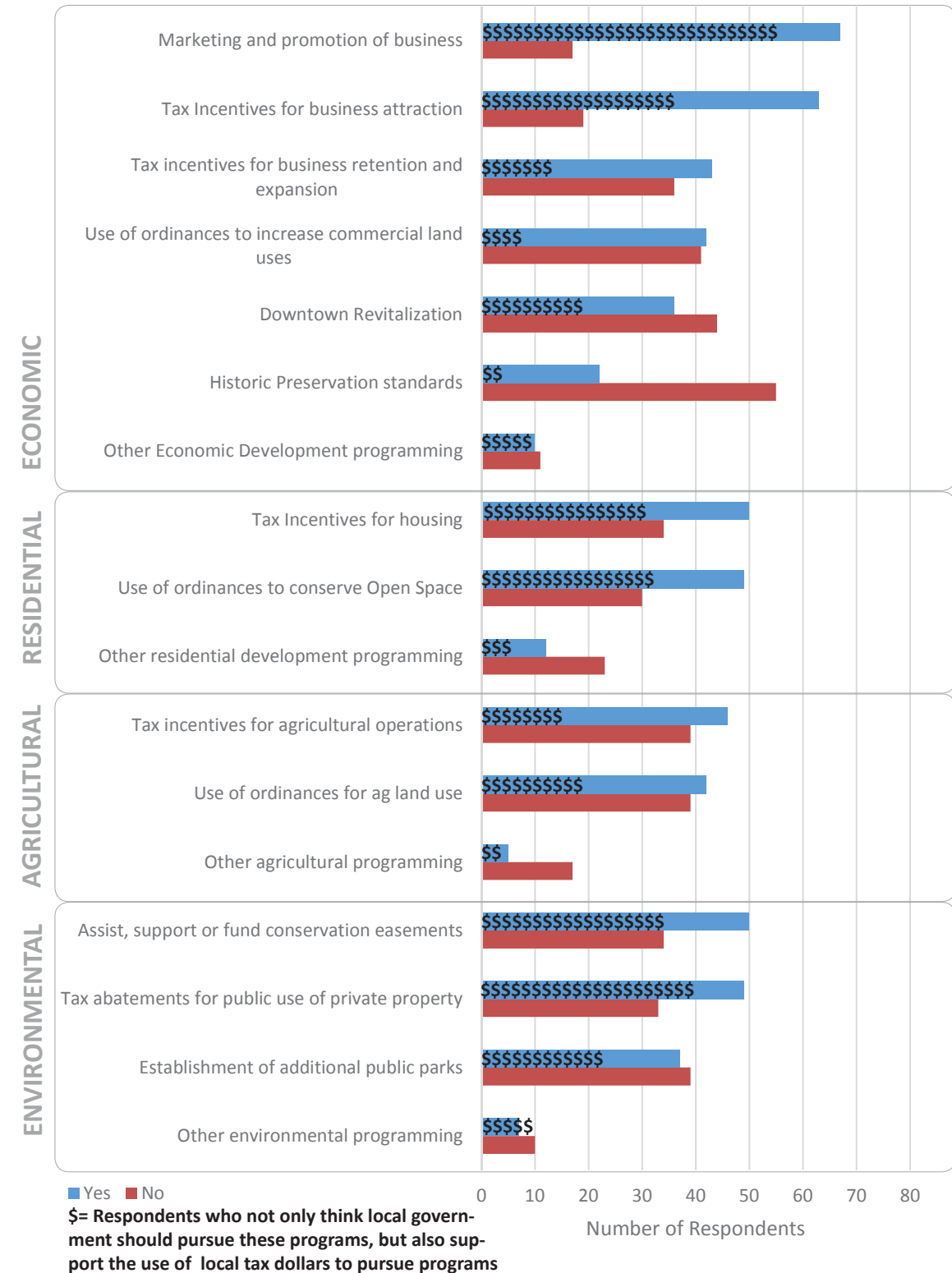
Respondents reported that their highest preference for increased shared services was in emergency response services, roadway maintenance and senior/youth/parks programming.



Data Source: Town of Ovid Community Survey Results, June 2017.

Local Government Should Pursue ...

Marketing, business attraction, housing tax incentives, conservation of open space, support for conservation easements, and tax incentives for public use of land were among the top roles that local government should pursue, according to survey respondents.



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: My Ovid

Share your ideas and thoughts about the present and future of Ovid: record your thoughts on your comment card and then write the number of your comment card on a sticker and place it on the map in the appropriate location. Leave your comment card in the box.



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Visioning Exercise

Strengths

Small town, rural, neighbors know each other

What is one of the area's strengths?
(example: Ovid's rural character)

Diverse: Farms, town, lake, recreation, professional, farmers, business, trades

Village is slowly getting spruced up = renovations + painting

Quiet, green, wildlife, nice neighbors

Weaknesses

What is one of the area's weaknesses or limitations?
(example: lack of local employers)

Proactive Enforcement Regs.

Lack of major employers + commercial infrastructure

Lot of apathy in the town

Lack of financial resources

Lack of Reason for youth to stay

Opportunities

tourism, - yes

Where is there an opportunity to improve?
(example: tourism)

More hospitality for tourists - Things to offer Spring + in seasons apart from fall: to leverage tourism to the max

More destinations (ex.) Arboretum) + awareness

Buffers or other tools for run-off pollution mgmt.

Threats

What is a threat to the area?
(example: closures of nearby employers)

Landfills

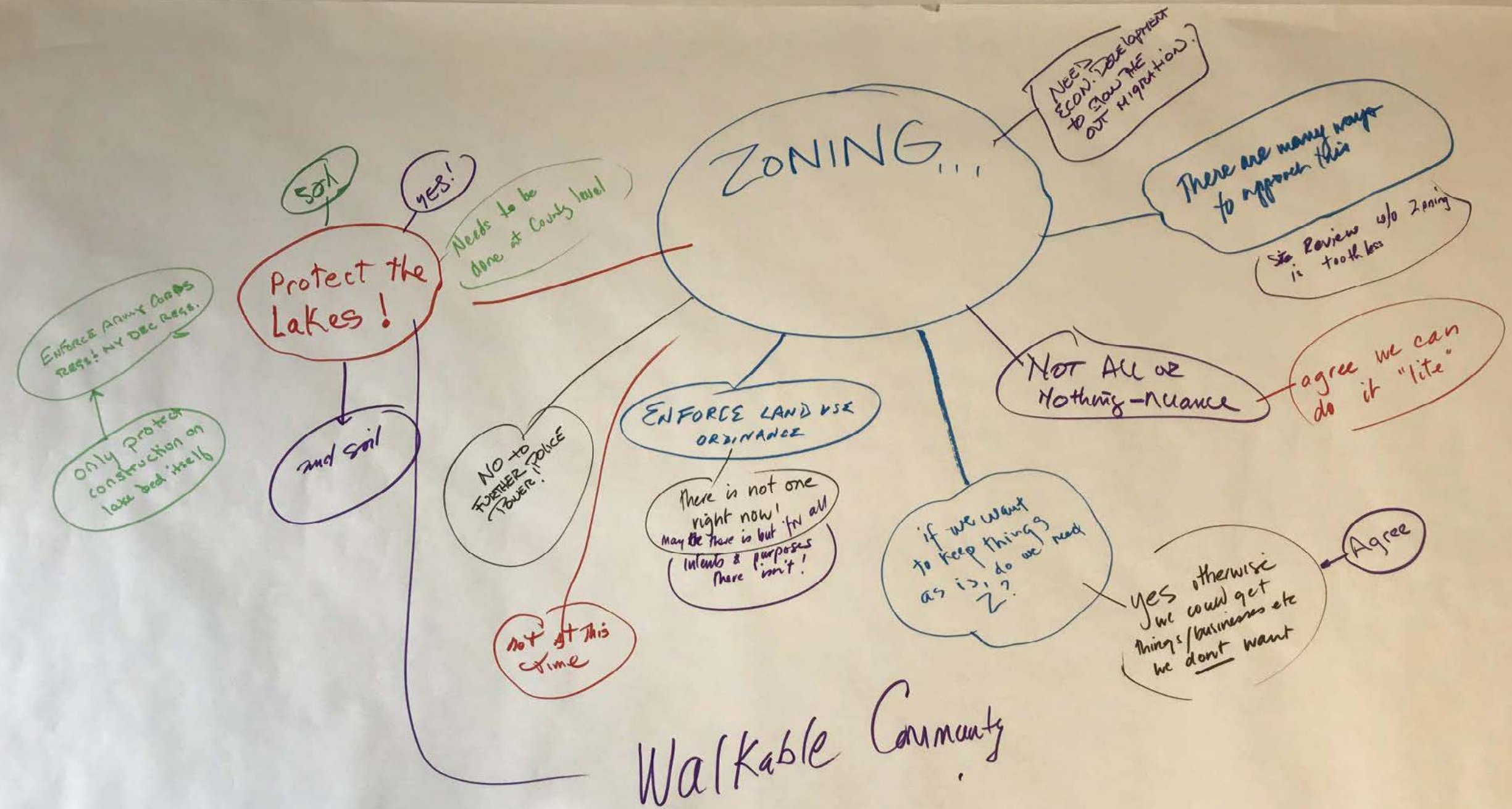
Increased cost to town

Water pollution in lakes

(run off) + toxic algae blooms

Ag Lawn fertilizer

HAB's H2O quality



Station 5: Conversation Map

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan
Public Workshop
10-7-17

CONVERSATION MAP
Responses / comments
(continued threads are nested)

Topic / issue:
Zoning...

Protect the lakes

Yes

Yes

Sand and soil

Needs to be done at County level

Enforce Army Corps regs and NY DEC regs

Only protect construction on lake bed itself

Walkable community

No to further Police power

Not at this time

Enforce Land Use ordinance

There is not one right now! (maybe there is but for all intents and purposes, there isn't!)

If we want to keep things as is, do we need Z?

Yes, otherwise we could get things/businesses we don't want

Agree

Not ALL or NOTHING – nuance

Agree we can do it “lite”

There are many ways to approach this

Site review w/o Zoning is toothless

Need economic development to slow the out migration

Community Workshop #2

Boards and Comments

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 from 6pm-8pm

Ovid Firehouse

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A voluntary set of written and graphic materials that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the town located outside the limits of any incorporated village or city.

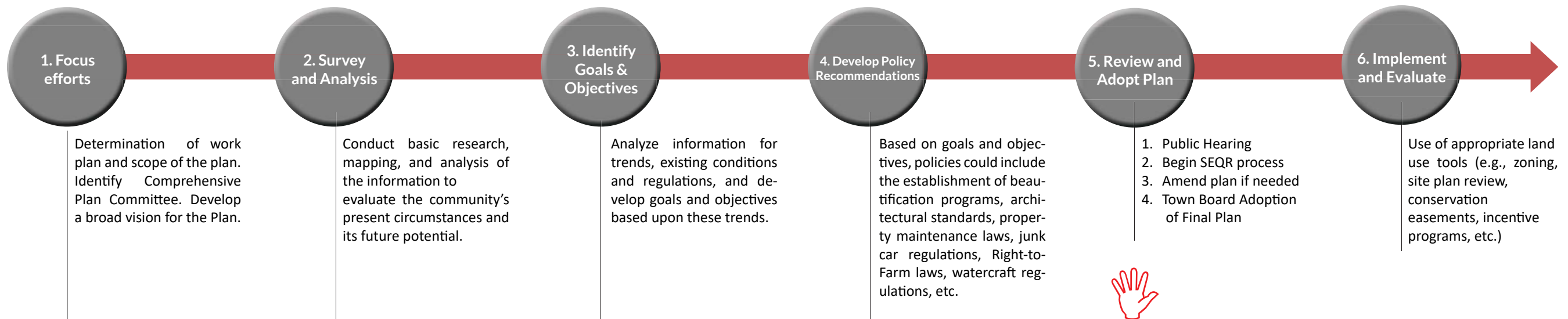
It includes a thorough analysis and inventory of current data showing land development trends and issues, community resources, and public needs for transportation, recreation and housing.


- New York State Division of Local Government Services


Relationship between Comprehensive Planning and Zoning

- *Zoning is only one tool to implement Comprehensive Plans. Other tools include development of design guidelines, budgeting for capital improvements, or applying for Federal, State or Privately Funded Programs.*
- *Adoption of a Comprehensive Plan does not require the adoption of zoning. However, if challenged in court, zoning must be proven to be based off of a “planning process.”*
- *In 2008, 71% of Towns had Comprehensive Plans. In that same year, 71% of the Towns had Zoning. However, there were many Towns that had only Comprehensive Plans or only had Zoning.*


Process and Actions to Develop a Comprehensive Plan



 Feedback gathered from Oct. 7th Public Meeting #1

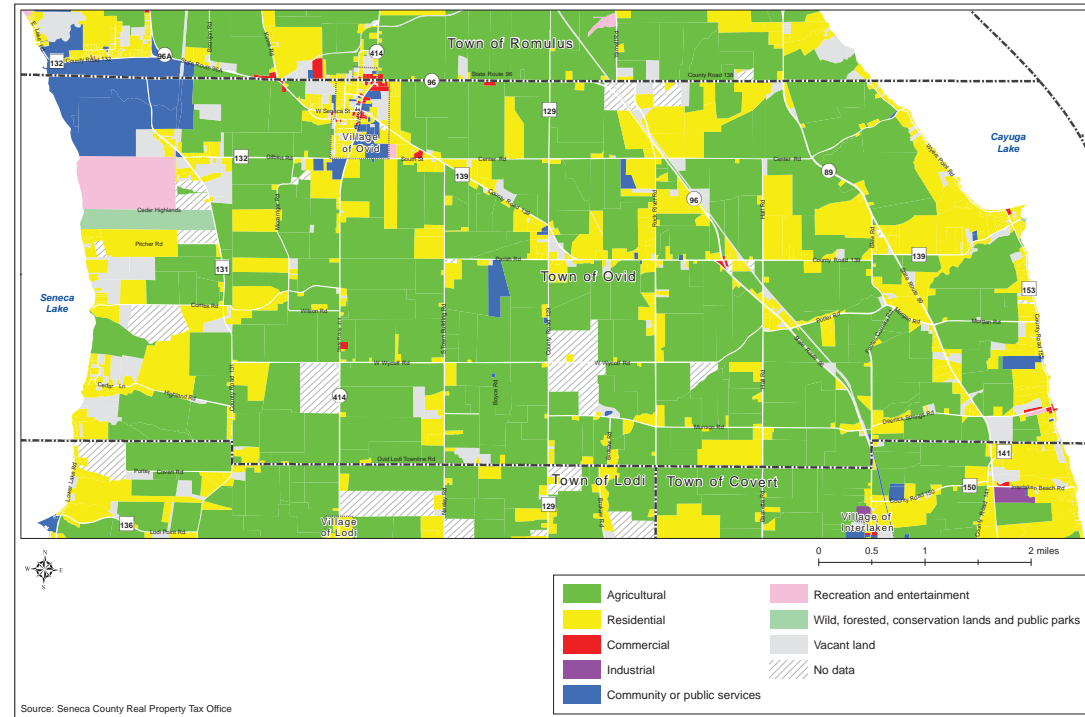
 Feedback gathered from Public Meeting #2 (Date TBD)



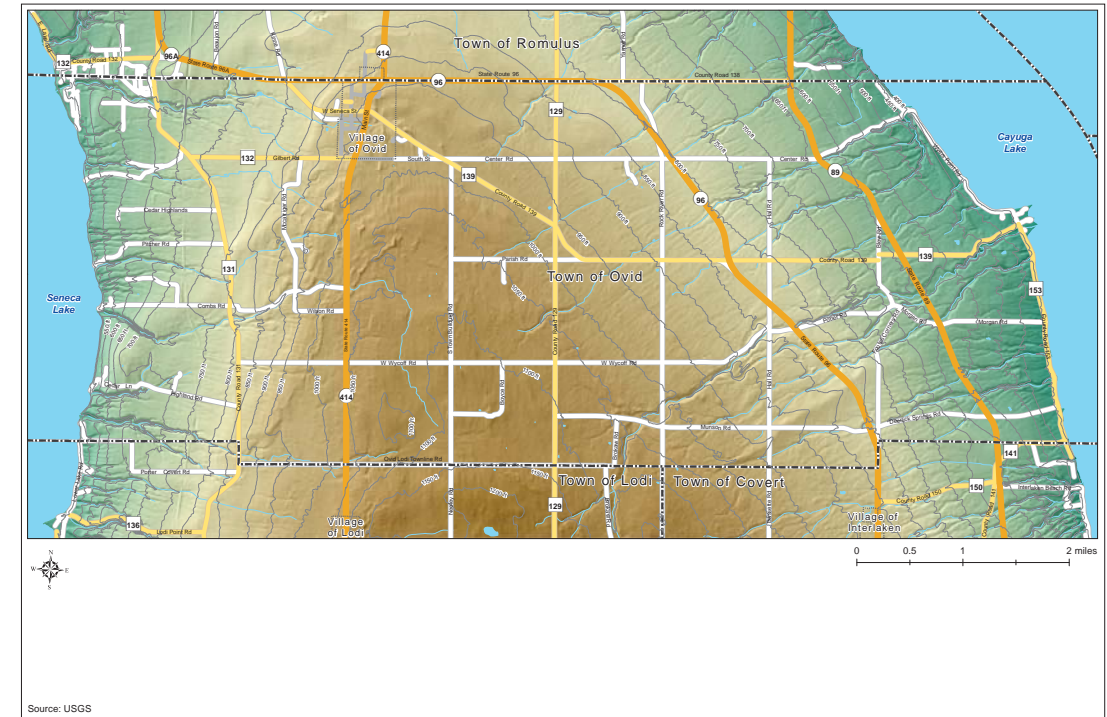
 = Opportunity for Public Participation

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Geographic Overview

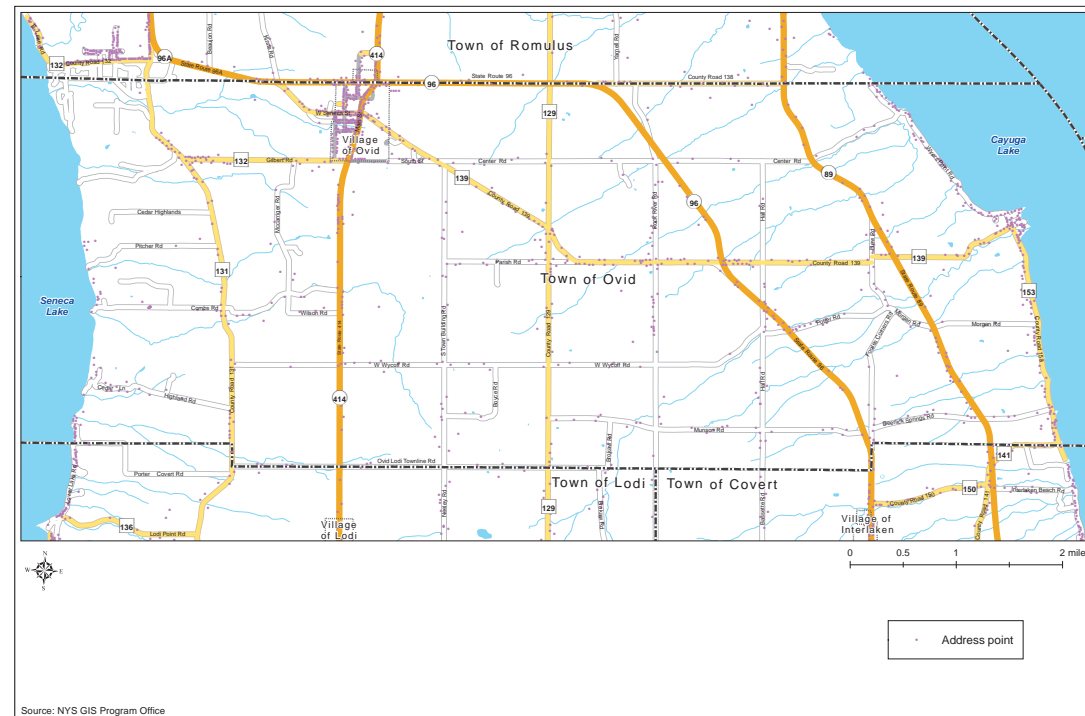
Land Use



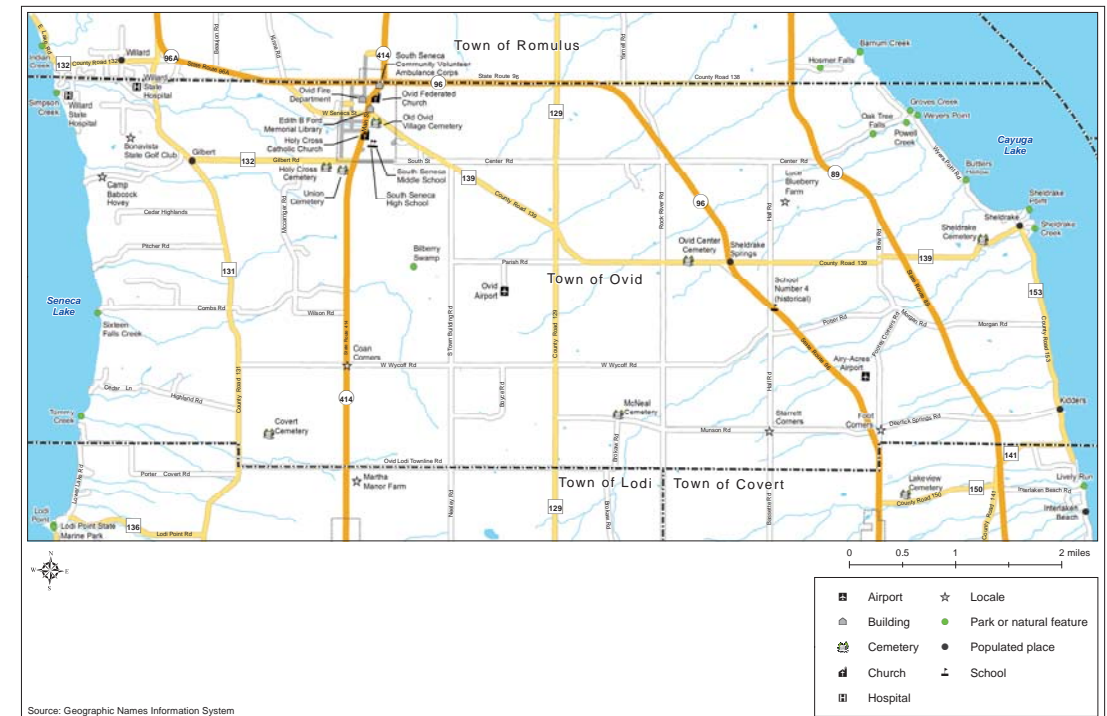
Elevation



Address Points (2017)



Selected Places



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Proposed Vision Statement

The Steering Committee for Town of Ovid has developed the following vision statement to guide both the development of the Comprehensive Plan and the implementation of its recommendations:

The Town of Ovid, nestled between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, strives to maintain its small-town character as a safe, friendly, and quiet community, with an attractive and healthy environment, where people want to live, work and play. We encourage all citizens to be active in all aspects of community life.

Please leave your comments and reactions on the sticky notes provided.

A large rectangular area for sticky notes, containing six yellow sticky notes with handwritten feedback:

- Wet stated
- Fine!
- we are good -
- [Blank]
- [Blank]
- Good!

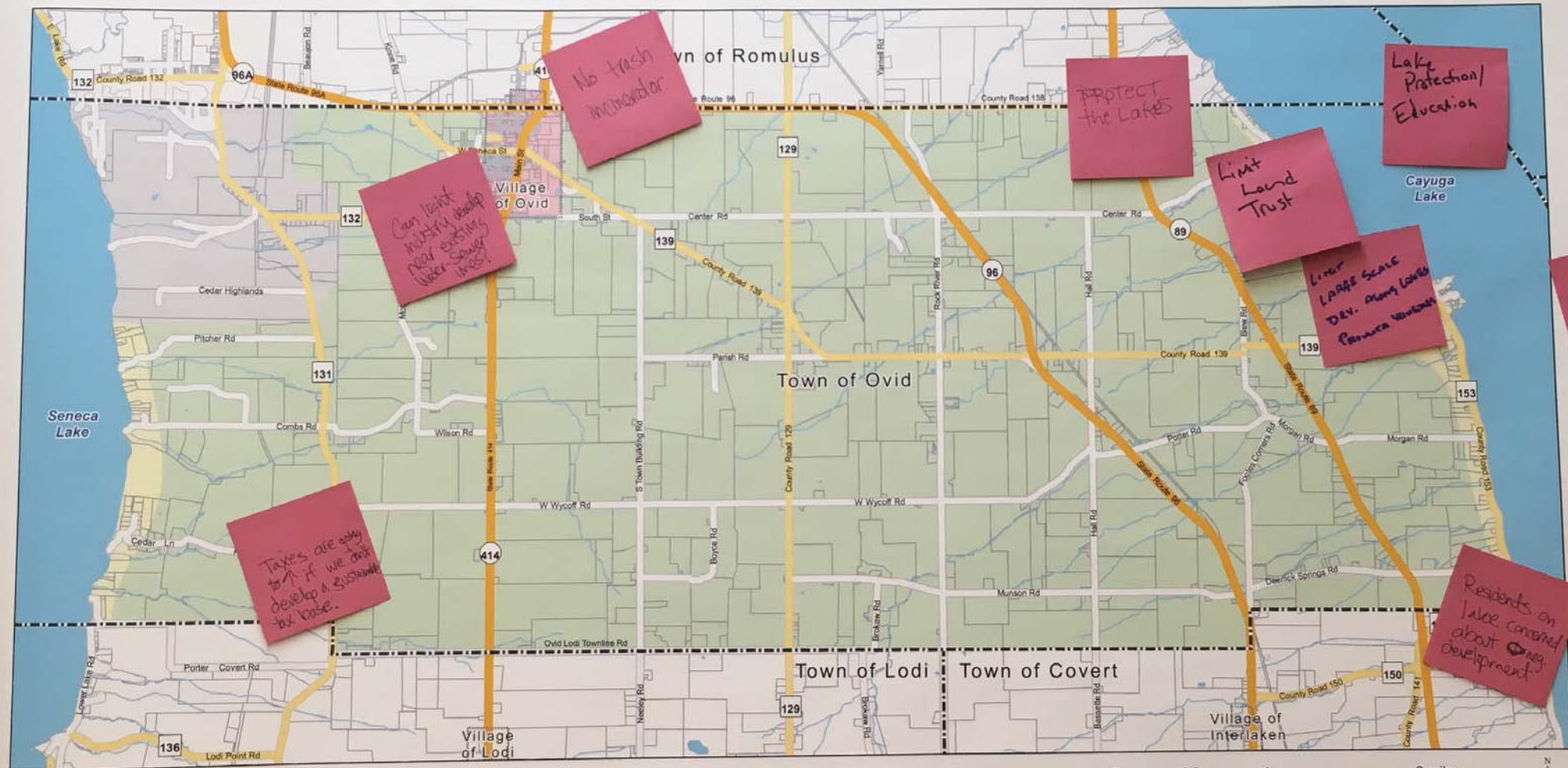
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Review of Three Options

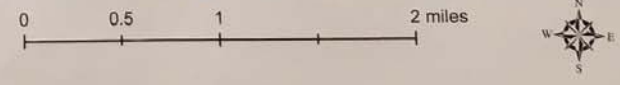
Project Location: Main Street between Clinton Avenue and ...

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Proposed Character Area Map

This character area map illustrates different sections in Ovid. These character areas are informed by natural resources, land uses, and other relevant attributes. Do these character areas represent the different characteristics within the Town of Ovid? What kinds of land use changes do each of these areas face over upcoming years? Please note your comments using the markers and sticky notes provided. Also, please note that this should not be confused with a proposed land use or zoning map.



- Character Areas**
- Agricultural/Rural
 - Institutional/Recreational
 - Lakefront
 - Village
- Map Symbols**
- City or town boundary
 - Village
 - Tax parcel
 - Stream
 - Waterbody
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Town Road
 - City/Village Street



No trash incinerator

Can't trust MUSHY board near existing water supply lines!

Protect the Lakes

Lake Protection/ Education

Limit Land Trust

Limit LARGE SCALE DEV. along Lakes Peninsula waterfront

Taxes are only 20% if we don't have base.

Residents on Lake concerned about development

Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Renewable Energy Potential

The Town of Ovid features a wealth of renewable energy resources. Commercial renewable energy facilities (e.g. solar or wind farms) can provide a steady stream of local revenues in the form of PILOT payments, Host Community Agreements and land leases. See maps for how Ovid compares to other areas in New York in wind and solar resources.

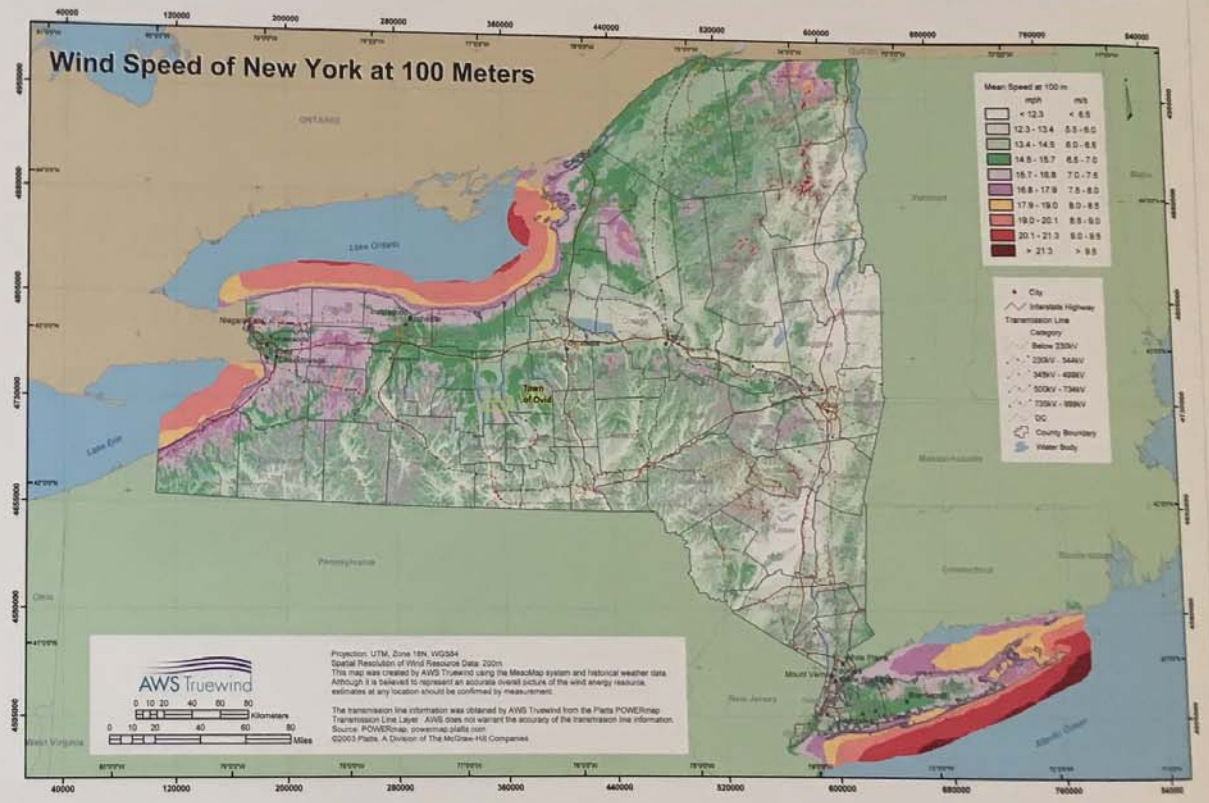
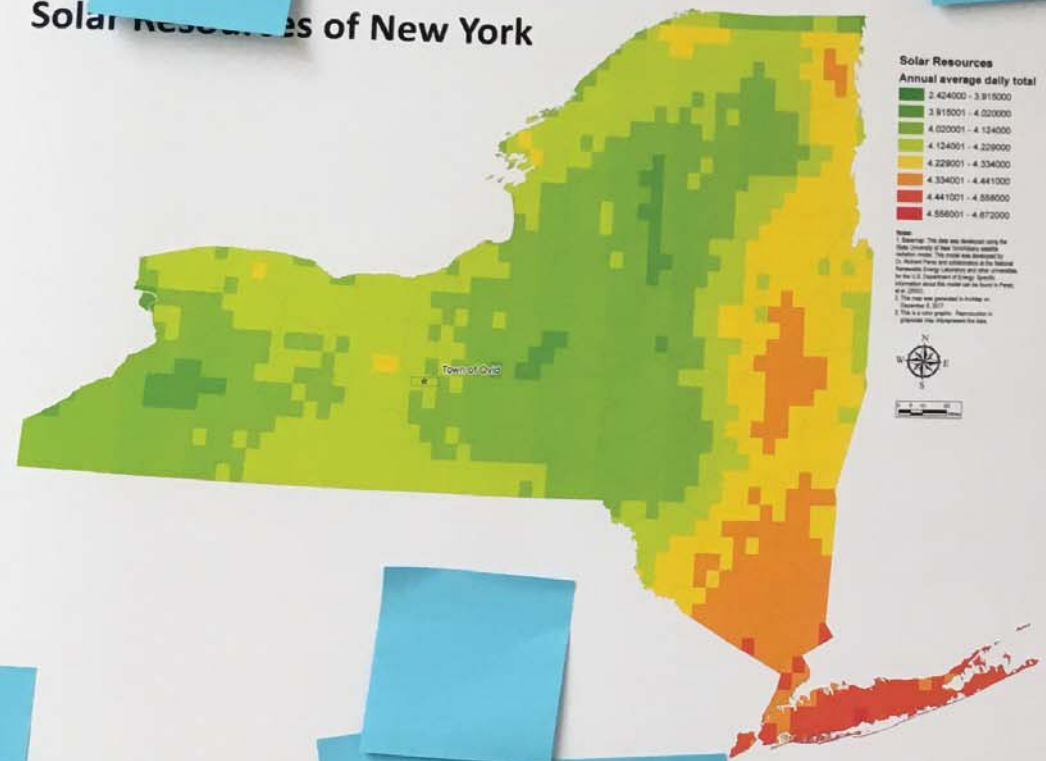
Should Ovid consider renewable energy development, and if so, which concerns should be addressed? Please list your thoughts with sticky notes provided.

Yes - some concern about windmills and solar panels being unattractive

YES WITH ACCESS TO ALL RESIDENTS

YES, with consideration of views

Solar Resources of New York



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Priorities for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians

What are the key challenges faced by cyclists and pedestrians (runners and walkers) within the Town of Ovid?
Which areas are most heavily used?

What would you change, and why? Please note your comments using the markers and sticky notes provided.

Need
Approved routes
Advertised
w/ shoulders
maintained

Co. Rd 53
heavily biked
& walked

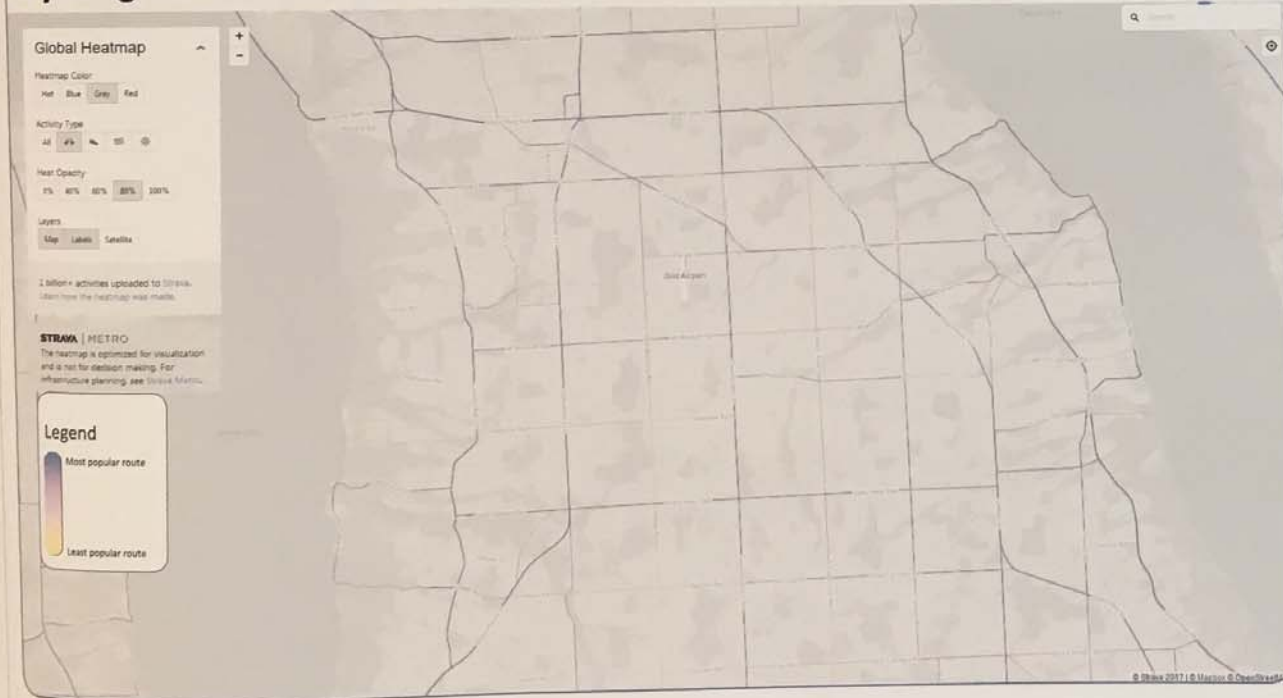
HEAVY
TRAFFIC
ON STATE
HIGHWAYS

LACK OF
SHOULDER

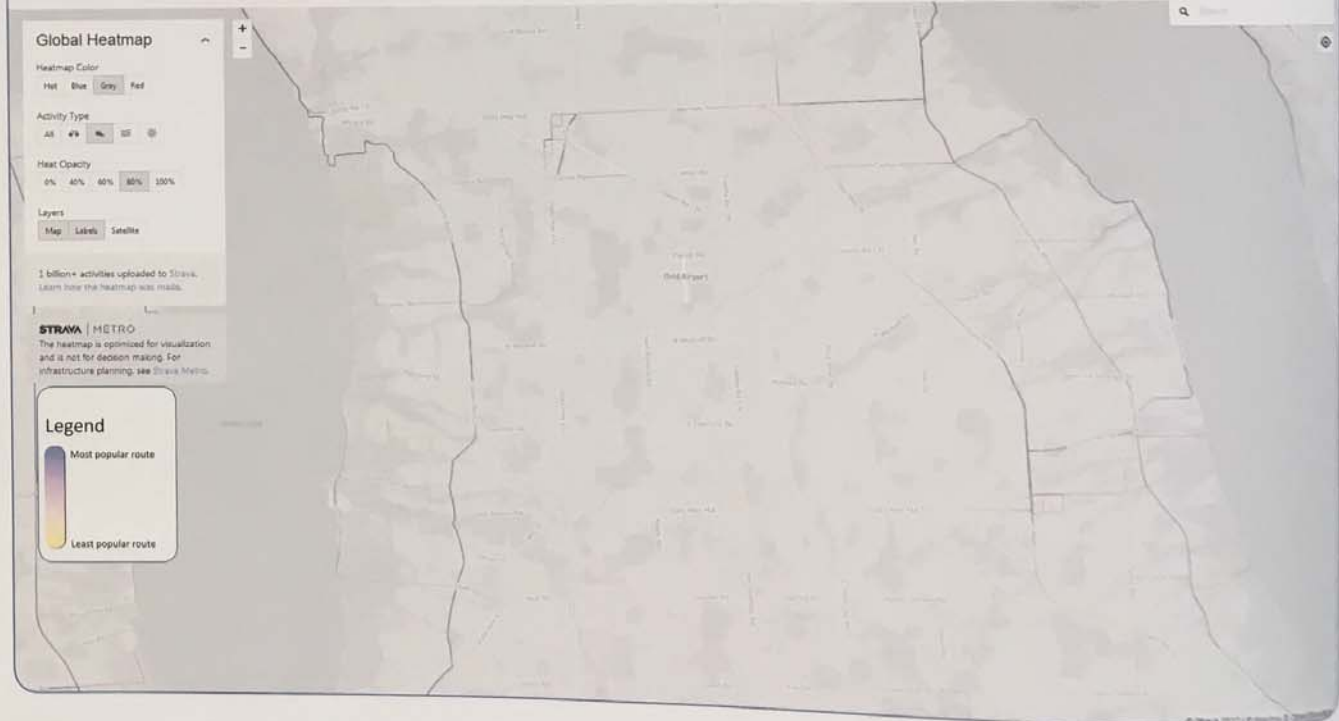
The largest
industry seems
to be tourism.
Expanded pedestrian
or cycling right-of-way
would support this
effect.

Enough trails
around to
provide safe
walking/cycling.
Willow/Sagehen rd
Black Diamond
Area falls trails

Cycling Use Across the Town of Ovid



Pedestrian Use Across the Town of Ovid



Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan: Existing Sewer and Water Infrastructure

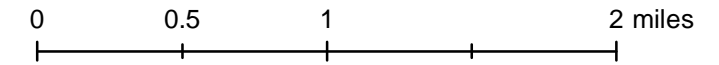
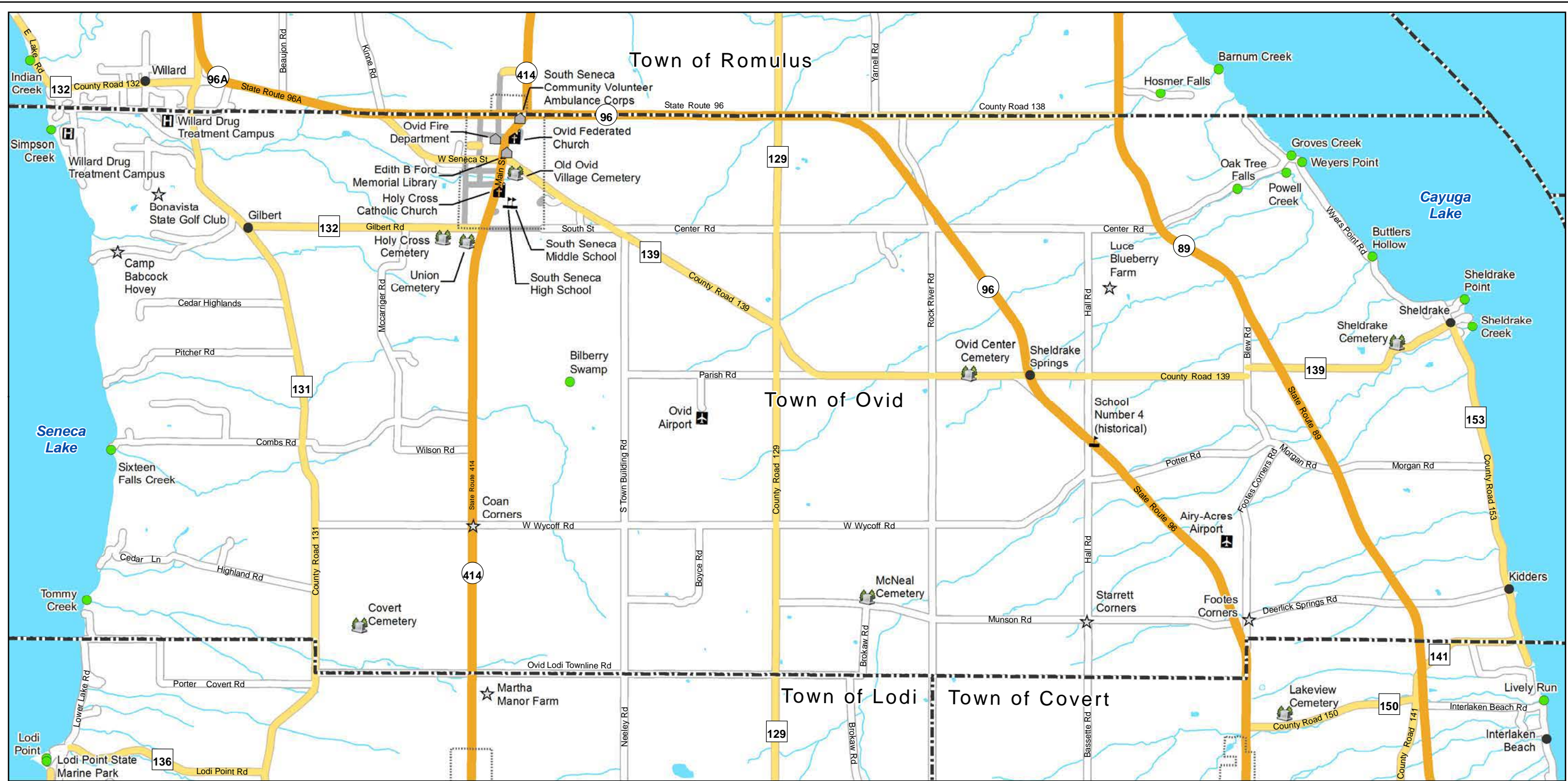
Areas highlighted in green and blue demonstrate 500' proximity to existing water and sewer lines in the Village and Town of Ovid. Should new non-residential development be directed towards these areas as a way to promote sustainable growth in the Town? Which factors should be considered to guide future new development (for example, building height, location, environmental resource protection, traffic, etc.)? Please note your comments using the markers and sticky notes provided.





7.5 APPENDIX E: MAP FIGURES

The following pages feature maps referenced in the plan narrative.

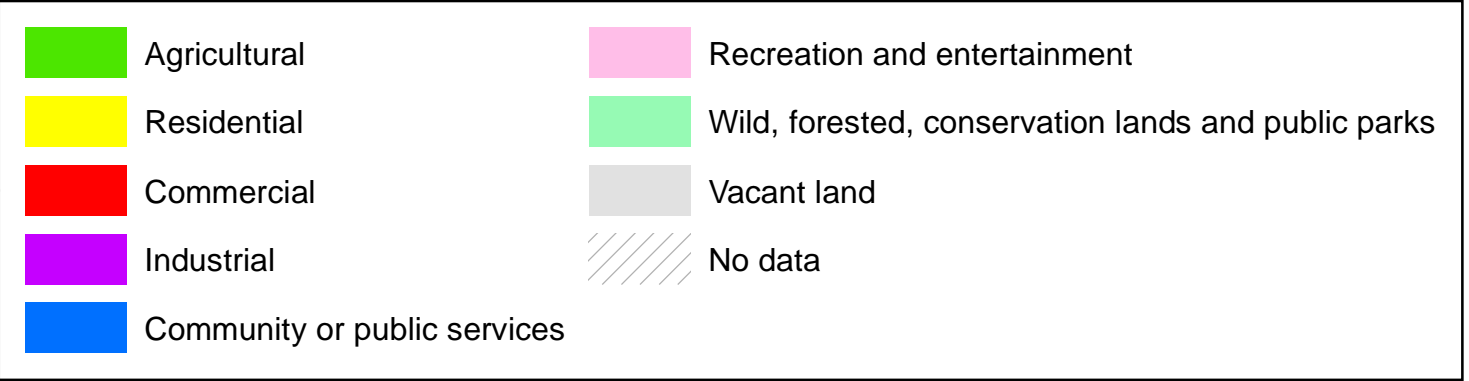
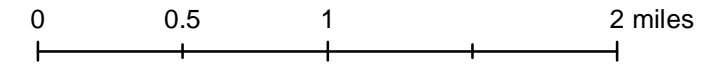
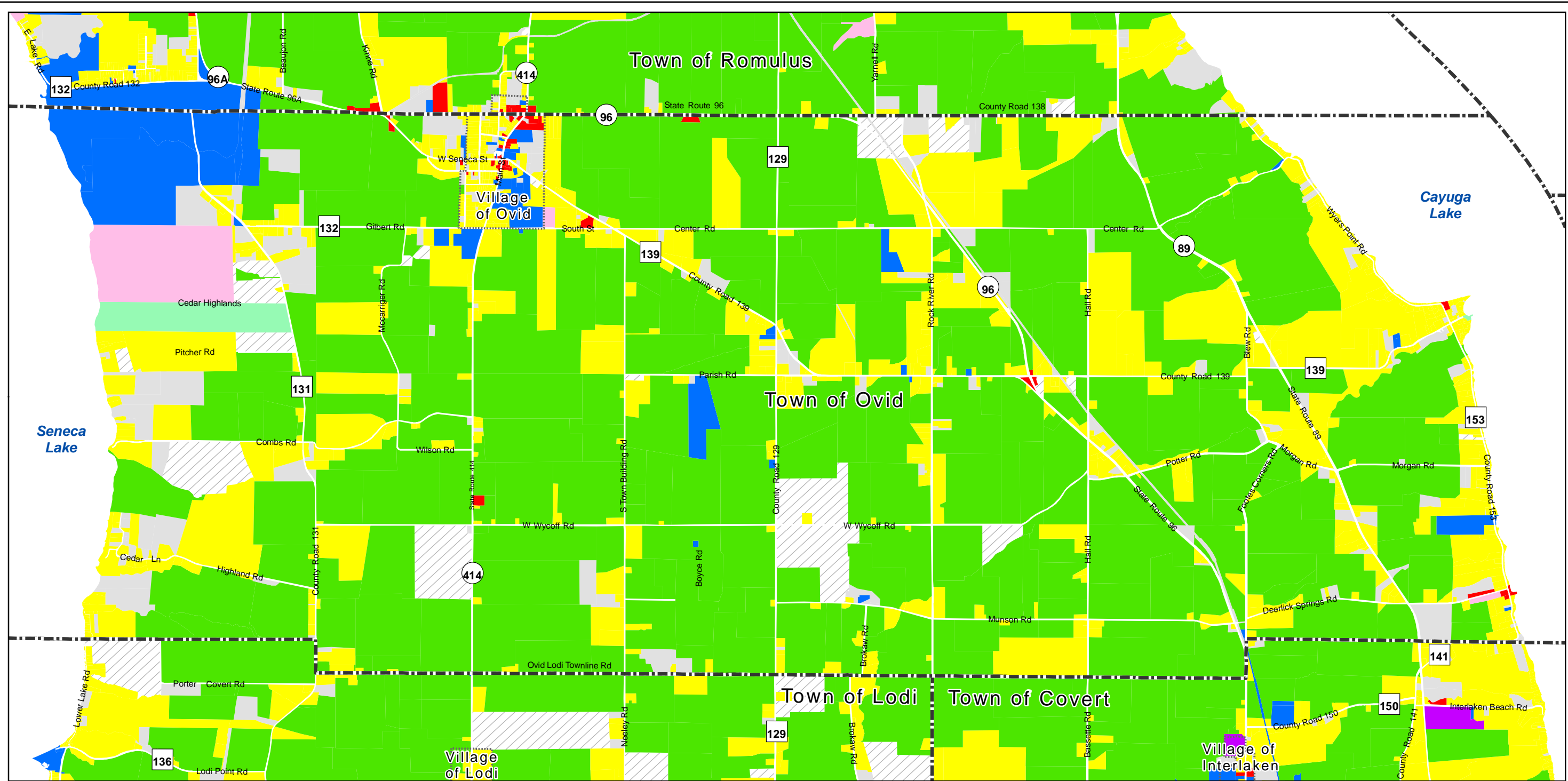


	Airport		Locale
	Building		Park or natural feature
	Cemetery		Populated place
	Church		School
	Hospital		

Source: Geographic Names Information System

Document Path: J:\15098 Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan\Graphics\Report Figures\Map Appendix\01_Places.mxd

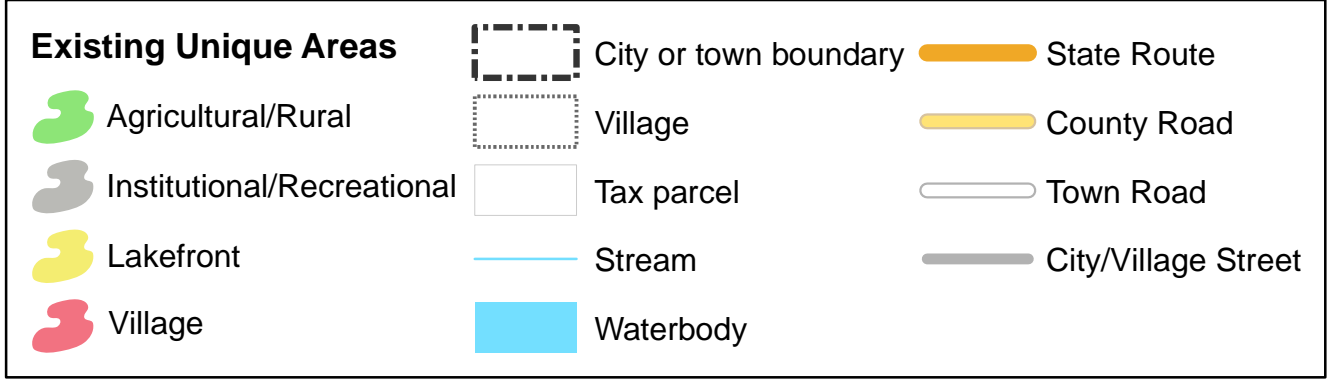
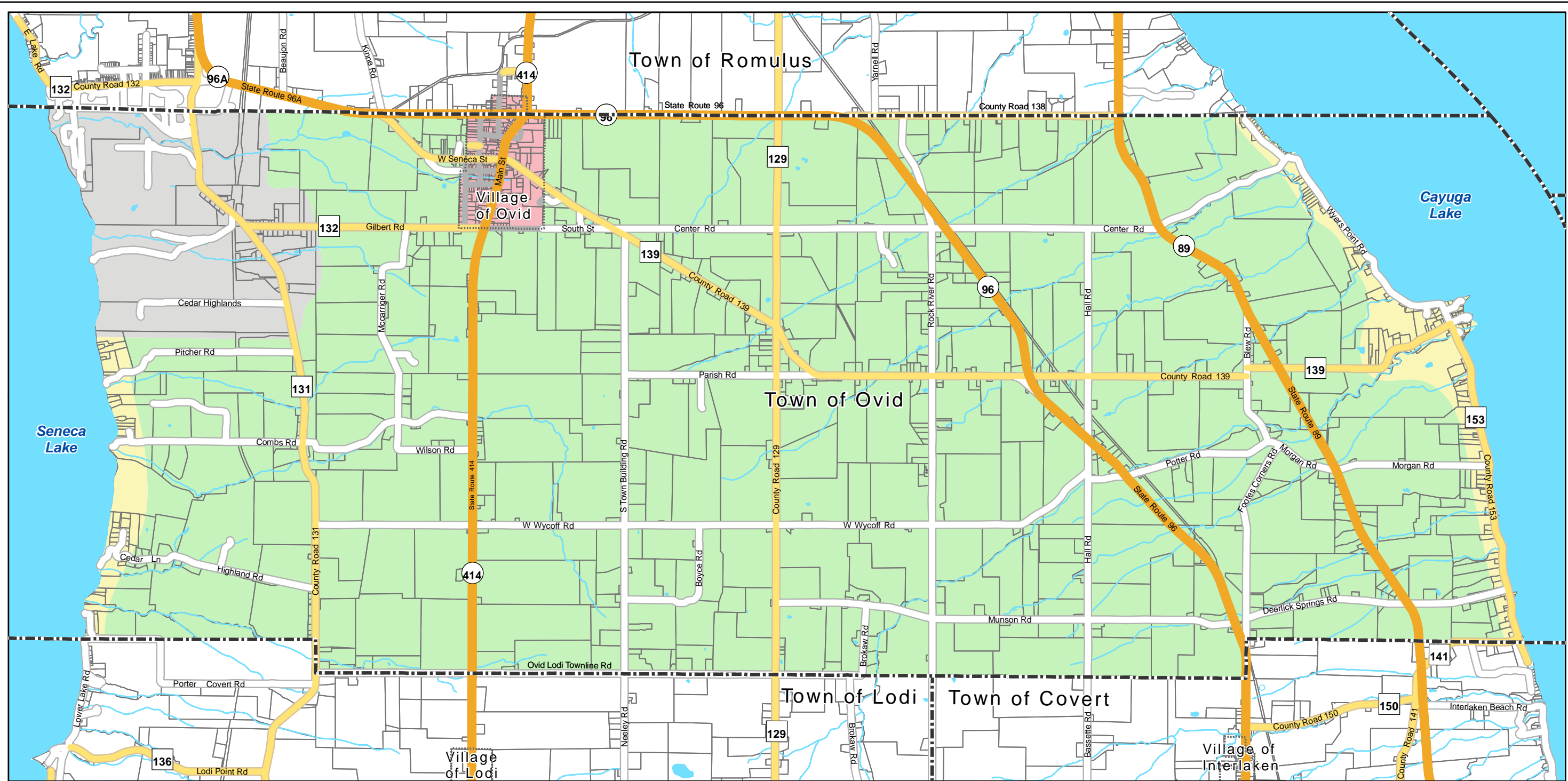
TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN		SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK		SELECTED PLACES	
Drawn By:	SJT	Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11" x 17")	Date:	April 2017
<small>Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.P.C. 145 Culler Road, Suite 102, Ovid, NY 13827-3819-9250 FAX 585-381-1008 2750 Westinghouse Road Suite 11, Horseheads, New York 14845 807-786-8340 FAX 607-796-6600 www.mrbgroup.com</small>					
MAP NO.		1			
PROJECT NO.		1570.15001			



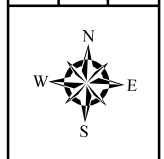
Source: Seneca County Real Property Tax Office

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TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
LAND USE	
Drawn By:	SJT
Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11" x 17")
Date:	April 2017
<small>Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.C. 145 Collier Road, Suite 100, Horseheads, New York 14845 FAX 585-381-1008 2750 Westinghouse Road Suite 1, Horseheads, New York 14845 607-796-9340 FAX 607-796-6000 www.mrbgroup.com</small>	
MAP NO.	2
PROJECT NO.	1570.15001



TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK
EXISTING UNIQUE AREAS



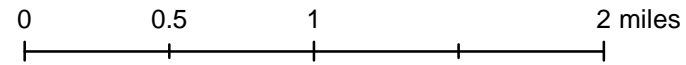
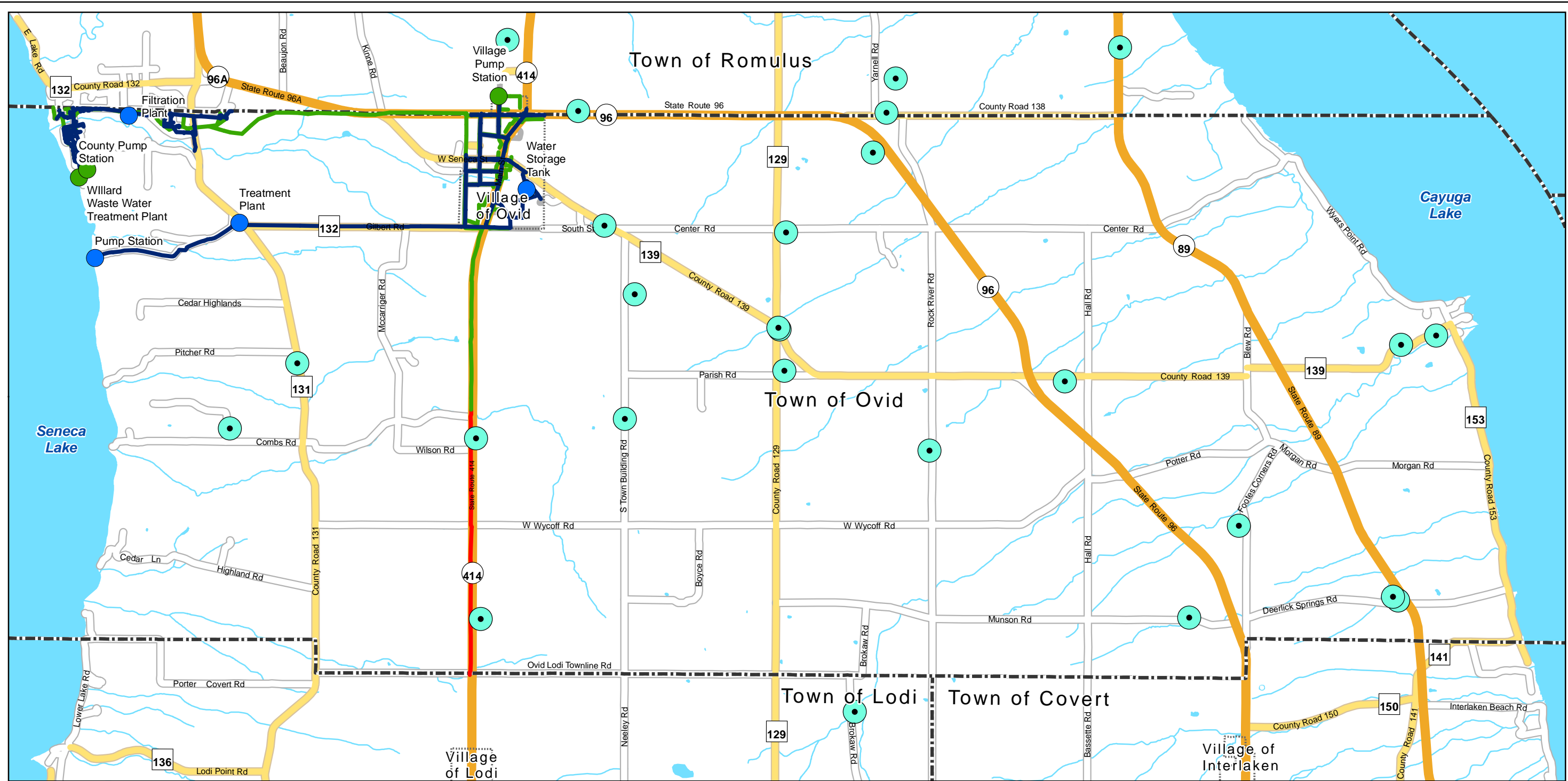
DE, ET
 1" = 3,500'
 (at 11" x 17")
 January 2018

Environmental Design & Research
 Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C.
 217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000, Syracuse, NY 13202
 P. 315.471.0688 • F. 315.471.1061 • www.edrdpc.com

MAP NO.
3

PROJECT NO.
15098

Document Path: J:\15098 Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan\Graphics\Figures\11 x 17 Maps

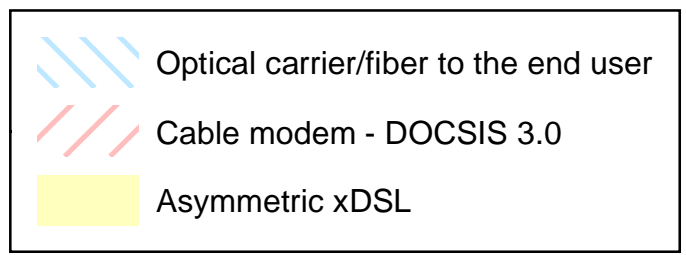
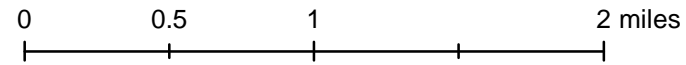
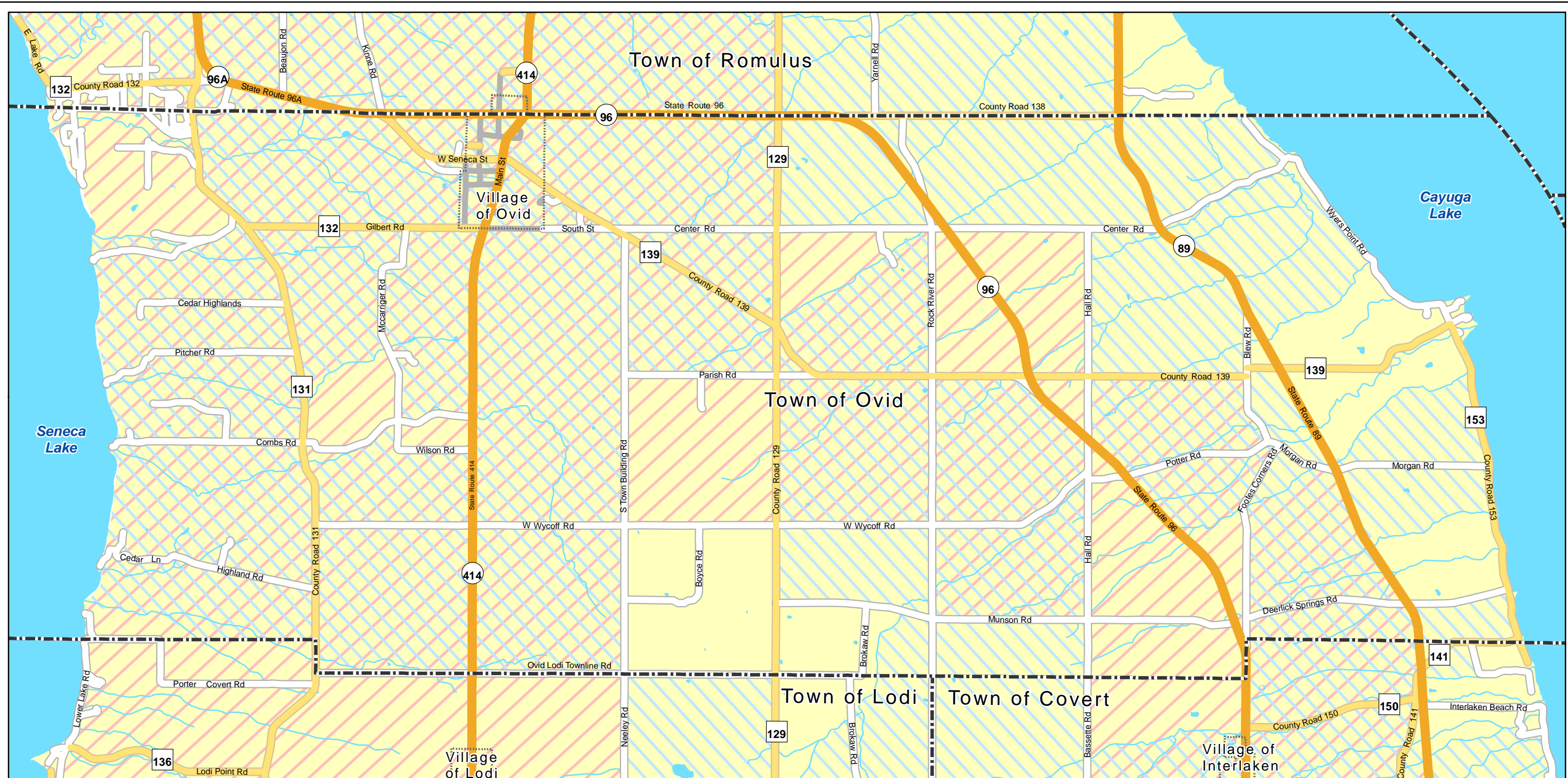


- Water well (constructed since 2000)
- Sewer Facilities
- Water Facilities
- Water Main
- Gravity Sewer Main
- Force Main for Sewer

Source: Water well data from NYSDEC; water and sewer data from Seneca County
 Note: This map should be used for planning purposes only.

Document Path: J:\15098 Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan\Graphics\Report Figures\Map Appendix\04_Water_wells.mxd

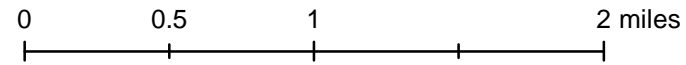
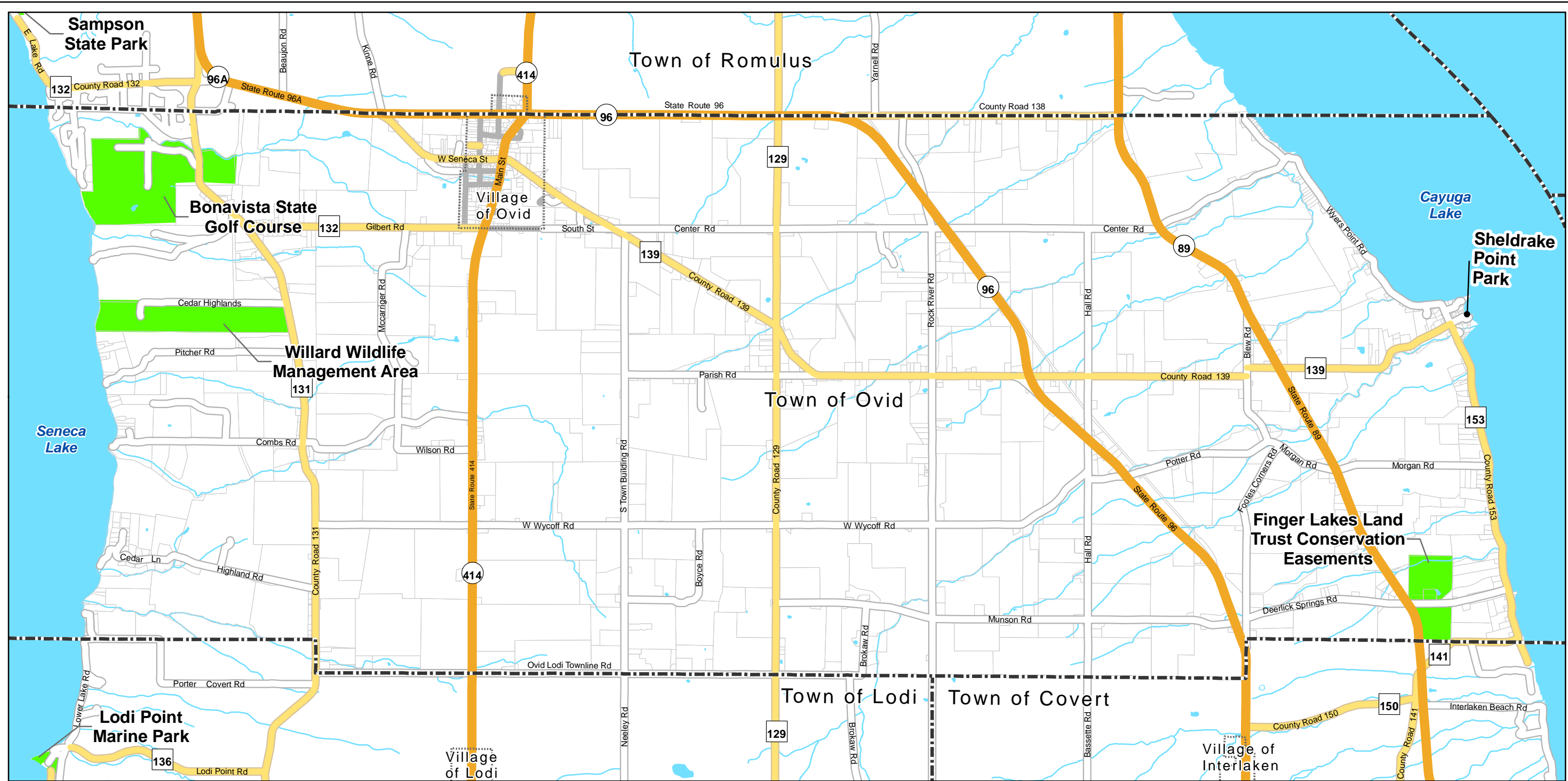
TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
WATER WELLS (CONSTRUCTED SINCE 2000)	
SJT	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Drawn By:	July 2018
Scale:	Date:
<small> Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.P.C. 145 Culler Road, Suite 100 2750 Westinghouse Road, Suite 11, Horseheads, New York 14845 807-786-8340 FAX 807-796-6600 www.mrbgroup.com </small>	
MAP NO.	
4	
PROJECT NO.	
1570.15001	



Source: National Telecommunications Information Administration State Broadband Data Development Program

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TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
BROADBAND AVAILABILITY	
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Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Date:	April 2017
<small>Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.C. 1415 Collier Road, Suite 100, Horseheads, New York 14845 FAX 585-381-1008 2750 Westinghouse Road Suite 1, Horseheads, New York 14845 607-796-9340 FAX 607-796-6000 www.mrbgroup.com</small>	
MAP NO.	5
PROJECT NO.	1570.15001

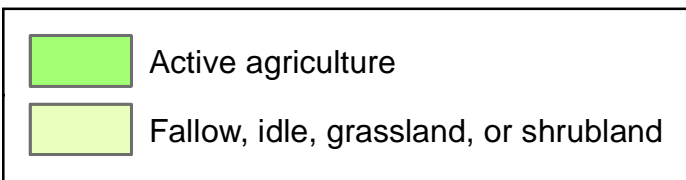
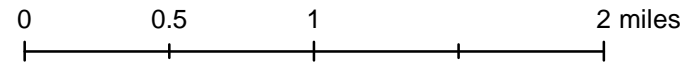
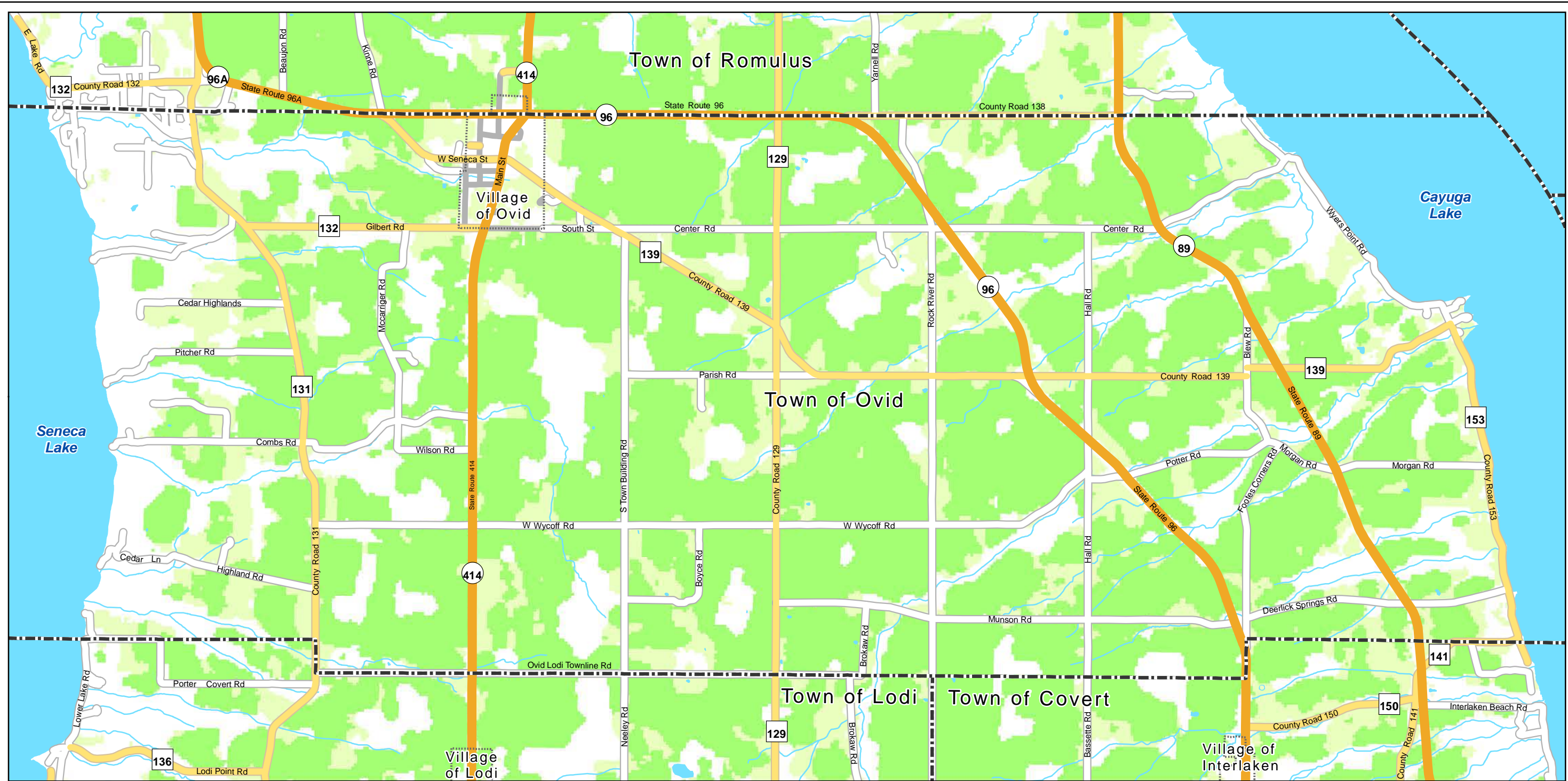


Park, open space, or protected land

Source: USGS Protected Areas Database of the United States

Document Path: J:\15098 Town of Ovid Comprehensive Plan\Graphics\Report Figures\Map Appendix\07_Parks_open_space-ADD_SHELDRAKE.mxd

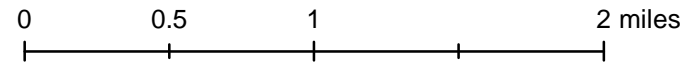
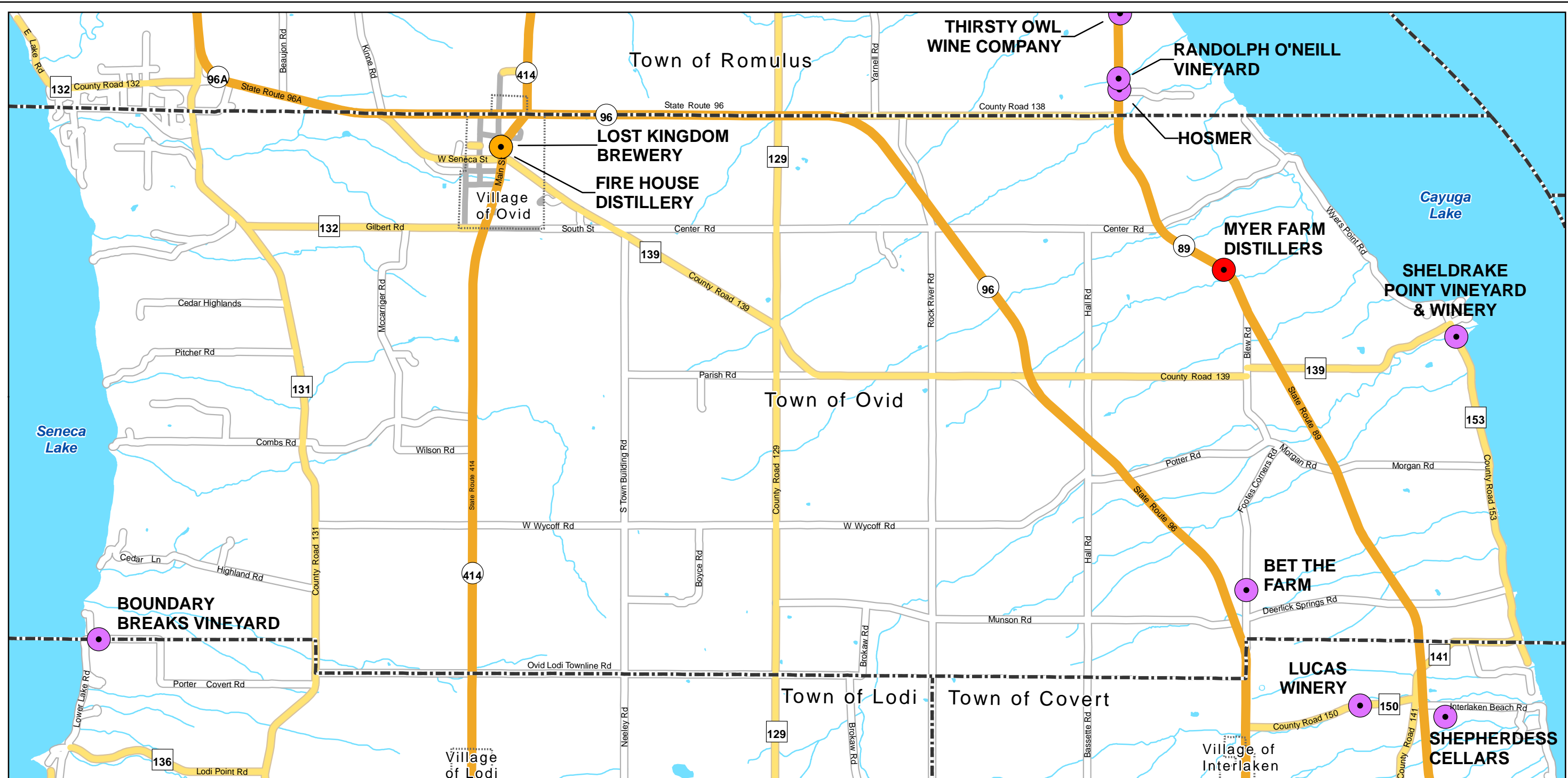
TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND PROTECTED AREAS	
Drawn By:	SJT
Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Date:	April 2017
<small>Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.P.C. 145 Culler Road, Suite 102 Ellettsburgh, NY 14730-3819 2750 Westinghouse Road, Suite 11, Horseheads, New York 14845 807-786-3340 FAX 807-796-6600 www.mrbgroup.com</small>	
MAP NO.	6
PROJECT NO.	1570.15001



Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

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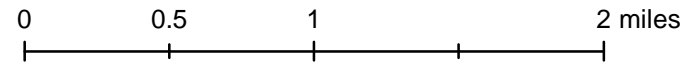
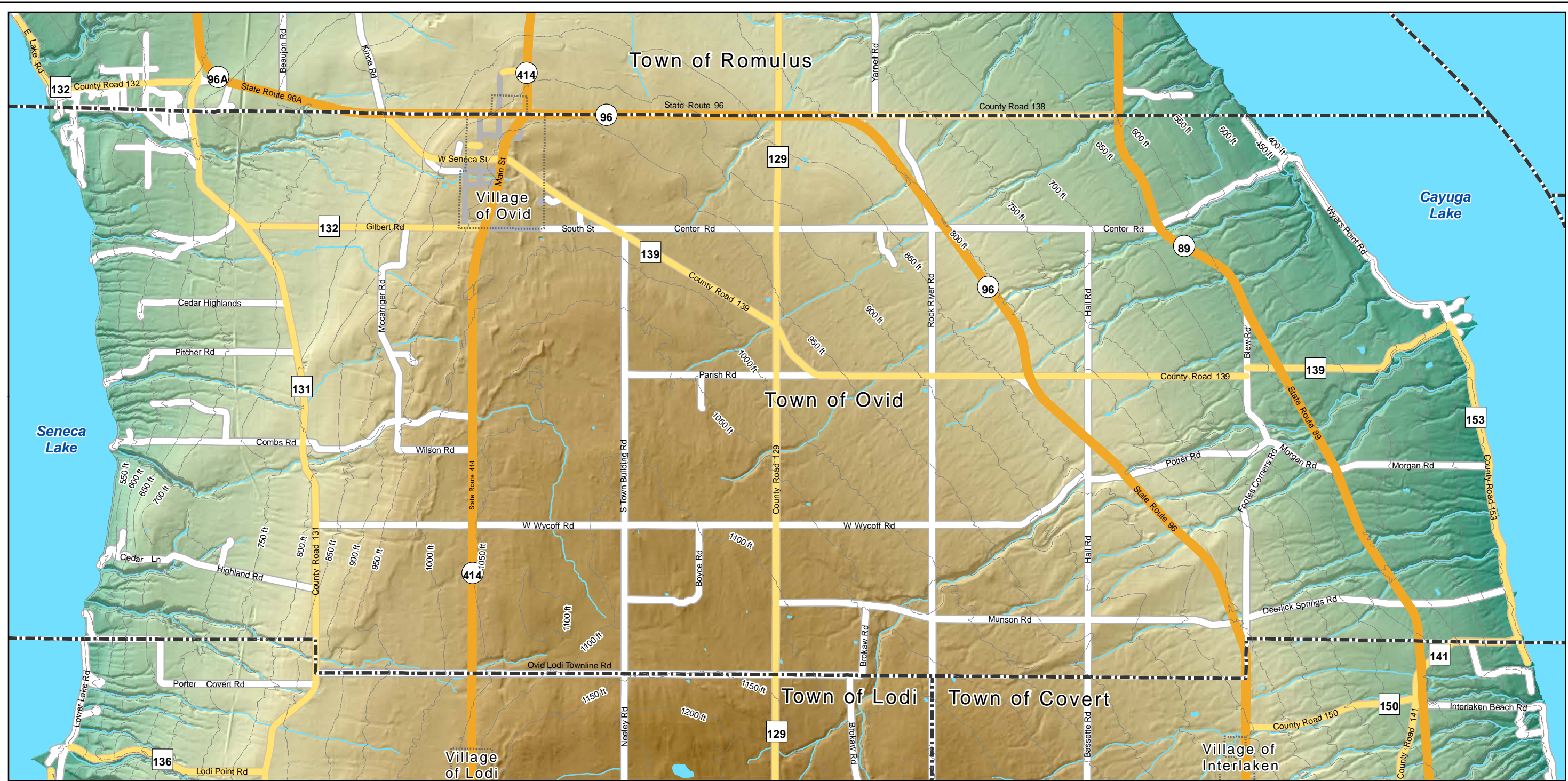
TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (2016)	
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Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Date:	April 2017
Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.C. 1415 Collier Road, Suite 100, Horseheads, New York 14845 2750 Westinghouse Road, Suite 1, Horseheads, New York 14845 607-796-9340 FAX 607-796-6000 www.mrbgroup.com	
MAP NO.	
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PROJECT NO.	
1570.15001	



Source: DATA.NY.GOV

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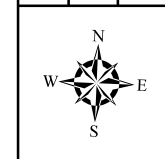
TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
WINERIES, BREWERIES, AND DISTILLERIES	
Drawn By:	SJT
Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Date:	April 2017
<small>Engineering, Architecture, Surveying, D.C. 1415 Collier Road, Suite 100, Interlaken, NY 14845 FAX 585-381-1008 2750 Westinghouse Road Suite 1, Horseheads, New York 14845 607-796-9340 FAX 607-796-6000 www.mrbgroup.com</small>	
MAP NO.	8
PROJECT NO.	1570.15001



Source: USGS

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TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK

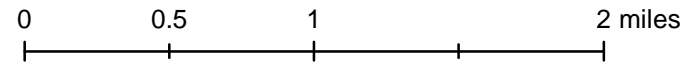
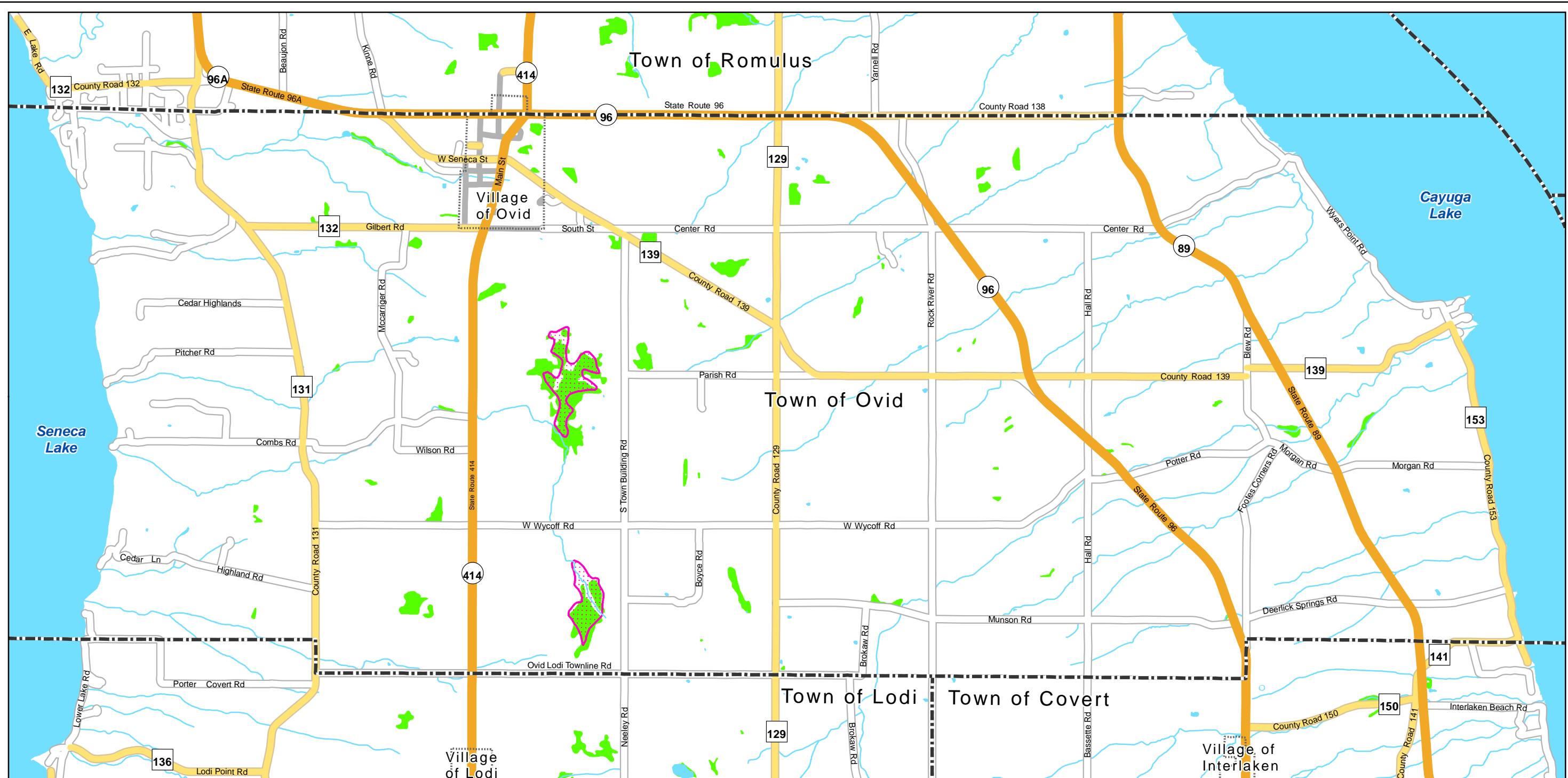




Drawn By: SJT
Scale: 1" = 3,500'
 (at 11"x17")
Date: April 2017

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MAP NO.
 9
PROJECT NO.
 1570.15001


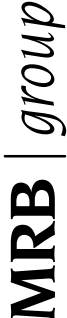
ELEVATION

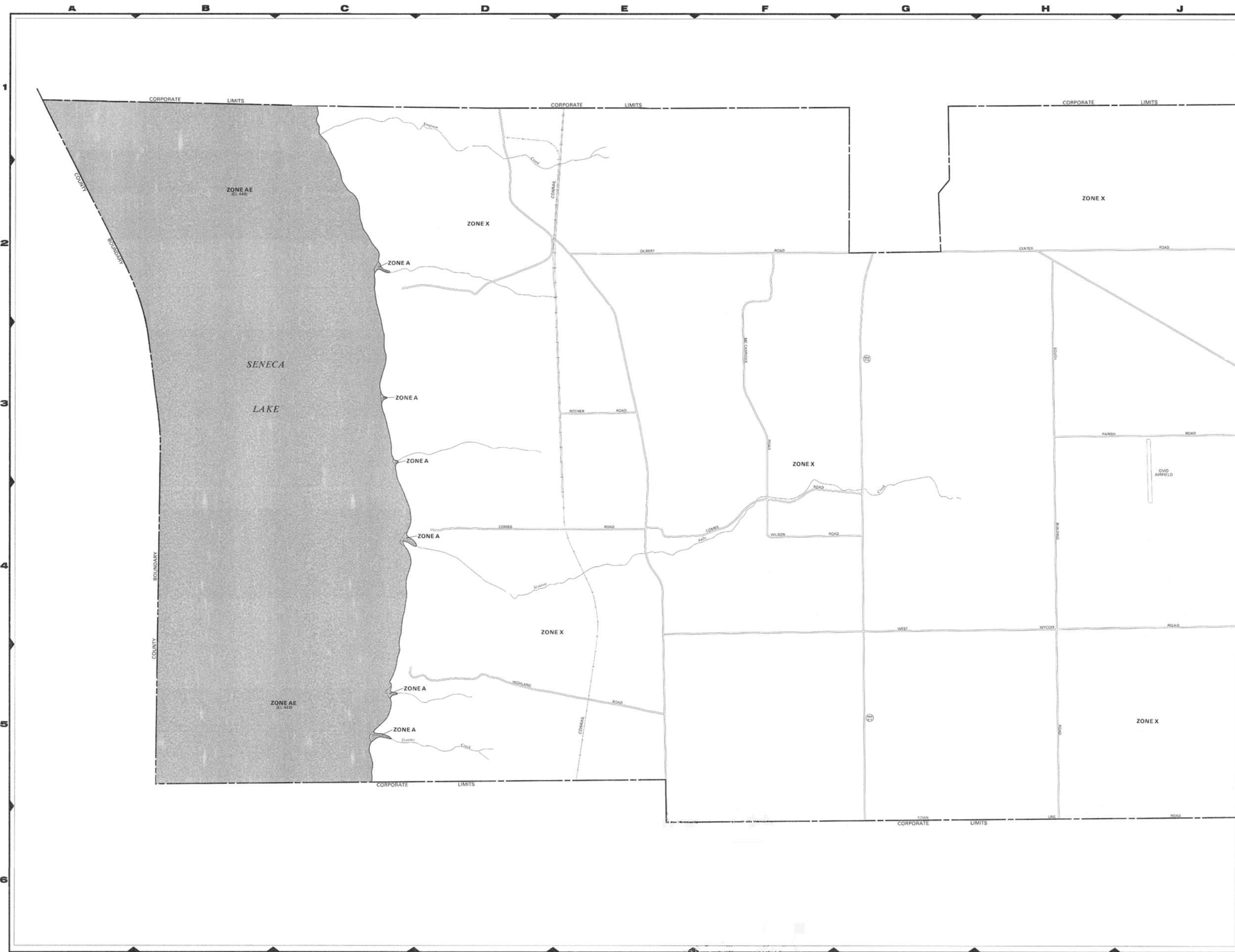


	Wetland (NYSDEC)
	Wetland (NWI)

Source: NYSDEC, National Wetlands Inventory

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TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
WETLANDS	
	
Drawn By:	SJT
Scale:	1" = 3,500' (at 11"x17")
Date:	April 2017
	
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MAP NO.	10
PROJECT NO.	1570.15001



LEGEND

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS INUNDATED BY 100-YEAR FLOOD

ZONE AE No base flood elevations determined.

ZONE A Base flood elevations determined.

ZONE AH Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow or depth limited, average depth determined); base flood elevations determined.

ZONE AD Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow or depth limited, average depth determined); for areas of actual or potential levee protection, base flood elevations determined.

ZONE ADO To be protected from 100-year flood by Federal flood protection system under construction; no base elevations determined.

ZONE V Coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action); no base flood elevations determined.

ZONE VE Coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action); base flood elevations determined.

FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE

OTHER FLOOD AREAS

ZONE X Areas of 500-year flood; areas of 100-year flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 100-year flood.

ZONE D Areas determined to be outside 500-year flood plain.

ZONE D Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined.

OTHER AREAS

ZONE X Areas determined to be outside 500-year flood plain.

ZONE D Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined.

Legend Symbols:

- Flood Boundary
- Floodway Boundary
- Zone D Boundary
- Zone D Boundary
- Boundary Dividing Special Flood Hazard Zones, and Boundary Dividing Areas of Different Coastal Base Flood Elevations within Special Flood Hazard Zones.
- Base Flood Elevation Line: Elevation in Feet*
- Cross Section Line
- Base Flood Elevation in Feet Where Stationed Within Zone*
- Elevation Reference Mark

*Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

NOTES

This map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size, or all potential hazards associated with flood hazard areas. The coastal flooding measures shown may differ significantly from those developed by the National Weather Service for hurricane evacuation planning.

Certain areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures.

Boundaries of the floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated between cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with regard to requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Floodway widths in some areas may be too narrow to show to scale. Floodway widths are provided in the Flood Insurance Study Report. Elevation reference marks are described in the Flood Insurance Study Report.

Coastal base flood elevations apply only to landward of 0.0 NGVD.

Coastal base flood elevations shown on this map include the effect of wave action.

For additional map panels see separately printed Map Index.

MAP REPOSITORY
Town Clerk Home, Cynthia J. Kavan, 7122 Orchard Street, Ovid, NY 14821. Maps available for reference only, not for distribution.

INITIAL IDENTIFICATION:
JULY 26, 1974

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP REVISIONS:
SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP EFFECTIVE:
JANUARY 15, 1988

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP REVISIONS:

Refer to Flood Insurance Rate Map Effective date shown below to determine when actual rates apply to structures in zones where elevations or depths have been established.

To determine if flood insurance is available, contact an insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (800) 638-6620.

APPROXIMATE SCALE
1:50,000

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

TOWN OF OVID, NEW YORK
SENECA COUNTY

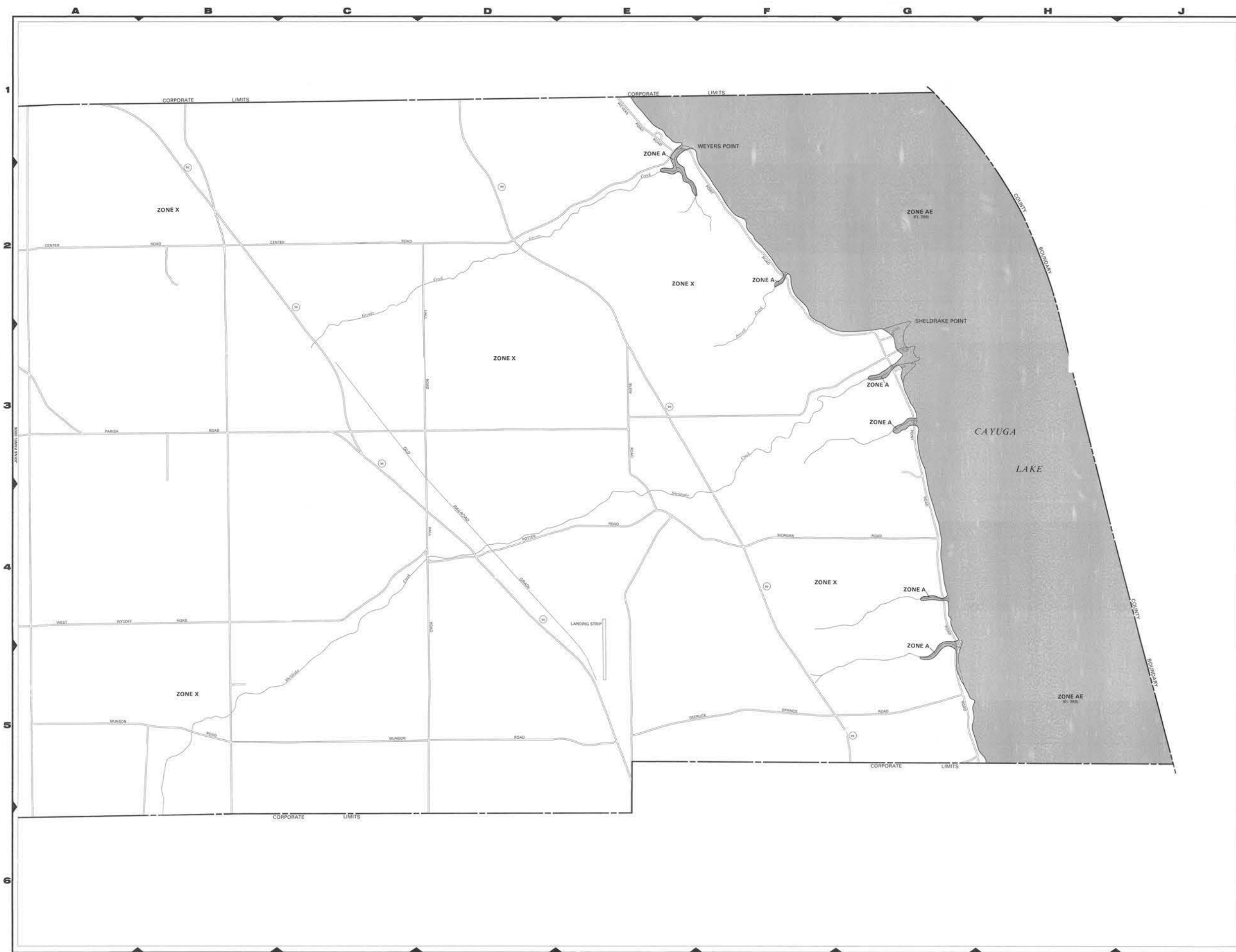
PANEL 5 OF 10
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
360754 0005 B

EFFECTIVE DATE:
JANUARY 15, 1988

Federal Emergency Management Agency

TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK	
TOWN OF OVID WESTERN FLOOD ZONES	
FEMA	Per Plan
Drawn By:	May 2018
Scale:	
Date:	
Environmental Design & Research Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. 217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000, Syracuse, NY 13202 P. 315.471.0668 • F. 315.471.1061 • www.edrdpc.com	
MAP NO.	
11	
PROJECT NO.	
15098	



LEGEND

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS INUNDATE
BY 100-YEAR FLOODS

ZONE A No base flood elevations determined.

ZONE AE Base flood elevations determined.

ZONE AH Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponds); base flood elevations determined.

ZONE AD Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponds); base flood elevations determined. For areas of alluvial fan flooding, no base flood elevations determined.

ZONE A99 To be protected from 100-year flood by Federal flood protection system under construction; no base flood elevations determined.

ZONE V Coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action); no base flood elevations determined.

ZONE VE Coastal flood with velocity hazard (wave action); base flood elevations determined.

FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE

OTHER FLOOD AREAS

ZONE X Areas of 500-year flood; areas of 100-year flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 100-year flood.

OTHER AREAS

ZONE X Areas determined to be outside 100-year flood plain.

ZONE D Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined.

BOUNDARIES

Flood Boundary
 Floodway Boundary
 Zone D Boundary
 Boundary Dividing Special Flood Hazard Zones, and Boundary Dividing Areas of Different Coastal Base Flood Elevations Within Special Flood Hazard Zones.

ST3 Base Flood Elevation Line; Elevation in Feet*
 (E1 987)
 Cross Section Line
 Base Flood Elevation in Feet Where Indicated Within Zone*
 Elevation Reference Mark

*Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

NOTES

This map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage basins of small size, or all developments within unincorporated flood hazard areas. The coastal flooding elevations shown may differ significantly from those developed by the National Weather Service for hurricane evacuation planning.

Certain areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures.

Boundaries of the floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated between cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with regard to requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Floodway widths in some areas may be too narrow to show to scale. Floodway widths are provided in the Flood Insurance Study Report.

Coastal base flood elevations shown on this map include the effects of surge action.

For additional map panels see separately printed Map Index.

MAP REVISIONS

INITIAL IDENTIFICATION: JULY 26, 1974

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP REVISIONS: SEPTEMBER 12, 1975

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 15, 1988

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP REVISIONS:

Refer to Flood Insurance Rate Map Effective date shown below to determine when actuarial rates apply to structures in zones where elevations or depths have been established.

To determine if flood insurance is available, contact an insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (800) 638-6626.

APPROXIMATE SCALE

1000 0 1000 FEET

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

TOWN OF
OVID, NEW YORK
 SENECA COUNTY

PANEL 10 OF 10
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
 360754 0010 B

EFFECTIVE DATE:
 JANUARY 15, 1988

Federal Emergency Management Agency

TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN		
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK		
FEMA	Per Plan	May 2018
Drawn By:	Scale:	Date:
Environmental Design & Research Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. 217 Montgomery Street, Suite 1000, Syracuse, NY 13202 P. 315.471.0668 • F. 315.471.1061 • www.edrdpc.com		
MAP NO.		12
PROJECT NO.		15098