
IV. Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

A. Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives provide direction and focus to the Village of Herkimer *Community Development Strategic Plan*.

1. Housing

Goals

1. To preserve the character of existing, well-established residential neighborhoods.
2. To encourage and facilitate the rehabilitation of the Village's older and deteriorated housing stock.
3. To provide additional affordable housing opportunities for the elderly.
4. To continue to promote and facilitate homeownership, to increase incentives for housing maintenance and improvement, and to reduce rental housing in the Village.

Objectives

1. Pursue and utilize available Federal and State assistance programs to implement housing rehabilitation programs.
2. Provide programs which create opportunities for homeownership.
3. Encourage the development of additional affordable housing for senior citizens.

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4. Vigorously enforce local building codes and strengthen these codes as they relate to property maintenance.
 5. Encourage and facilitate the improvement and continued modernization of the Mid-Town Apartments, Eastern Gardens, and Creekside Court public housing projects.

2. Neighborhood Revitalization

Goals

1. To stabilize and revitalize older neighborhoods in the eastern and southern portions of the Village.
2. To coordinate housing and public improvements to the extent feasible to maximize their respective impacts on overall neighborhood conditions.
3. To offer new opportunities to first time homebuyers, and increase the percentage of owner occupied housing in distressed Village neighborhoods.
4. To increase open space and the availability of recreation facilities.
5. To eliminate blighting influences and improve environmental conditions.

Objectives

1. Pursue and utilize available Federal and State assistance programs that will address neighborhood revitalization needs in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
2. Protect existing neighborhoods from incompatible development.
3. Increase the percentage of owner occupied housing in the Village.
4. Encourage private investment in Village neighborhoods.
5. Improve the overall quality of life in Village neighborhoods.

3. Economic Development

Goals

1. To provide for the economic revitalization of the Village's business district areas.
2. To retain existing and attract new businesses.
3. To expand benefits from tourism in general and heritage tourism in particular in the Village.
4. To develop a diversified economy to maintain full employment.
5. To reduce the tax burden on residential uses by encouraging additional development that generates significant tax benefits.

Objectives

1. Make businesses aware of public sector business programs and financial incentives.
2. Assist local business in completing business expansion and/or improvement projects.
3. Maximize the Erie Canal waterfront as an asset for economic and tourist development.
4. Undertake improvements to the Village's Central Business District in support of local business projects.
5. Encourage and support projects and programs, including historic preservation, that build on the region's tourist industry.
6. Encourage and support projects that improve and/or adaptively reuse older industrial buildings.
7. Encourage and facilitate neighborhood and housing programs that support economic development and quality-of-life.
8. Support HCCC and others in job training and skills programs to meet employment needs of the Village and Mohawk Valley region.

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9. Support the formation and efforts of business improvement districts and/or local business groups that coordinate and implement business support programs.

4. Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Goals

1. To maintain existing capital facilities and replace aging/antiquated capital facilities that are no longer effective.
2. To provide new infrastructure systems where necessary.
3. To meet the community service and recreation needs of Village residents.

Objectives

1. Upgrade sanitary sewer and water lines throughout the Village.
2. Construct drainage facilities (storm sewer lines) to alleviate local flooding problems.
3. Upgrade deteriorated bridge conditions.
4. Improve parks and recreation facilities.
5. Develop a “multipurpose” Community Center.
6. Upgrade library facilities and services.
7. Upgrade sidewalks and street conditions.

B. Priorities

The Village of Herkimer has significant community development needs that need to be addressed on a systematic basis over time. For purposes of this *Community Development Strategic Plan*, priorities should reflect the degree a need represents a threat to health and safety, the impact addressing a need would have on other needs, and the feasibility of timely implementation. The broad priorities outlined below are further refined and detailed in the Implementation Plan, which phases proposed projects and programs.

1. Highest Priority Needs

- Revitalization of the Herkimer Central Business District.
- Neighborhood revitalization.
- Development of a Community Center.

2. High Priority Needs

- Development of affordable housing for senior citizens.
- Expand homeownership opportunities.
- Upgrade of water and sewer lines and elimination of drainage problems.
- Upgrade deteriorated bridge conditions.
- Remove blight.

3. Longer Term Priority Needs

- Increase open space and expand recreation opportunities.
- Expand heritage tourism and facilitate industrial growth.
- Upgrade library facilities and services.
- Improve sidewalks and street conditions.
- Improve public housing conditions at Mid-Town Apartments, Eastern Gardens, and Creekside Court.