

Executive Summary

In the fall of 2002, the Village of Victory initiated a planning process to prepare a Comprehensive Plan Update for the Village. A planning team was appointed to represent significant sectors of the community -- business owners, home owners, community service representatives, seniors and youth. The planning team met once a month from July to November to determine key issues, develop goals, and recommend an action plan to achieve those goals. The committee conducted an inventory and analysis of Village resources as a basis for developing Village goals.

Public input was solicited through a mail-in residential survey and a public meeting. The return on the residential survey was 48 questionnaires out of 188, giving a 25.5% return rate. There were approximately 20 participants at the public meeting, where residents worked in three groups to identify strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats to the future development of the Village of Victory. Stakeholders in the community, such as department heads and Village trustees, were also interviewed to solicit their views and opinions about issues and opportunities in the Village.

Key issues that were identified through public input and stakeholder interviews were:

- the closing of the mill and loss of job opportunities and tax base,
- the poor general appearance of the Village,
- the poor condition of some of the buildings
- lack of small commercial businesses,
- need for additional park space and recreational programs

Strengths that were identified included the historic context of the community including the Saratoga Battlefield Monument and Victory Woods (a wooded property currently owned by the National Park Service). The water and sewer systems and a good school system were viewed as important Village assets.

Eighty eight percent (88%) of the respondents to the mail-in residential survey felt that the Village was a good-to-fair place to live. The respondents favored a variety of types of

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future development, although single-family homes comprised the largest preferred category. When asked if they would support the creation of a zoning code to address land use issues, 54% of respondents were in favor, 22% were opposed, while 24% did not know about the issue. The majority of respondents felt that Village services were excellent, that more youth recreational activities should be offered, that programs should be created to attract tourists, that small businesses and home based offices were desirable and that more trails and greenways should be developed in the Village.

Based on the input from the community and the results of the inventory and analysis of Village resources, the Planning Advisory Committee developed goals to address the identified key issues. These are:

1. Foster Community Pride,
2. Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods,
3. Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities,
4. Encourage home ownership,
5. Develop a business-friendly environment,
6. Develop a marketing plan for the Village,
7. Increase park and recreational areas,
8. Develop commercial recreational and tourism amenities,
9. Develop commercial and industrial uses along Route 32
10. Develop a Zoning Ordinance,
11. Protect Fish Creek from pollution,
12. Provide public access to Fish Creek,
13. Explore options for repair or relocation of the Fire House,
14. Facilitate improved response to emergencies,
15. Develop additional park space,
16. Develop recreational indoor programs,
17. Improve the appearance and conditions of Village streets and sidewalks.

An action plan and action matrix were developed to present a concise table of goals, recommended activities, identified responsible parties, time frames, and possible sources of funding.

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After an appropriate time period for public comment on the proposed Village of Victory Comprehensive Plan, the Village Board adopted the plan in April, 2003.