

Goals & Recommendations

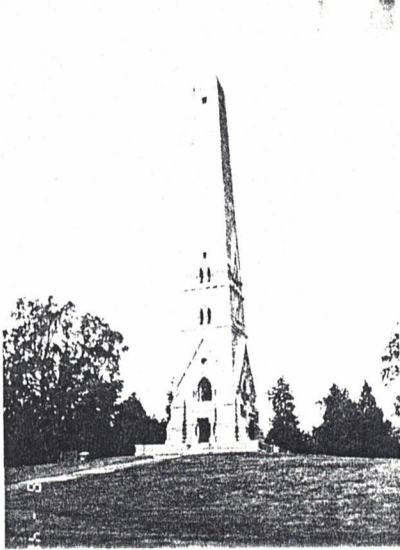
INTRODUCTION

This section of the Comprehensive Plan identifies the issues, goals and recommendations that, when implemented will guide development in the Village. The issues facing the Village were identified through demographic research and analysis, a community resident survey, and public meetings and workshops. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee shaped the goals and recommendations into a form that will guide future land use decisions in the Village. Public comments received from the resident surveys and the results of the S.W.O.T were also considered when developing the goals and recommendations.

The following goals build on the strengths of the Village of Victory, address its weaknesses, to overcome the threats, and capitalize on the many opportunities that have been identified in the planning process. The goals describe the desired condition or state toward which action is directed, while the tasks or actions describe specific things that must be done to achieve those goals.

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee recommends that a Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) be formed to oversee the implementation of the historic and cultural goals of the Plan.

Historical & Cultural Resources



Saratoga Battlefield Monument

The need to foster community spirit is one of the key issues identified by committee members and stakeholders. Preservation and promotion of history and culture can help to reinforce a strong sense of pride and identity within the community. Victory is already well known for its Saratoga Battle Monument and should capitalize on its historic background. Efforts should be made to build community spirit by promoting a knowledge of local history and increase resident involvement in improving the community for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The historic context of the community including the Saratoga Battlefield Monument and the Victory Woods, was selected as the most important Village asset at the community SWOT meeting. Moreover, the residential survey showed that 76% of the respondents thought that preserving the historic nature of the village was important or very important. It is apparent that steps should be made to recognize the past and maintain the unique qualities of the Village for its future.

Goal 1: Foster Community Pride.

Recommended Actions

1. Establish a Community Enhancement Committee that will oversee programs to foster community pride.
2. Work with the Village historian and the Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce to develop a brochure highlighting the history of the Village including the Battle of Saratoga, the founding and operation of the Victory Mill, and the activities along Fish Creek.
3. Develop tourism opportunities by marketing historic resources.
4. Work with the National Parks Service to enhance and promote Victory Woods for tourism and recreational opportunities.
5. Work with the National Parks Service to link the Saratoga Battlefield Monument, Victory Woods and the Phillip

Schuyler house with a system of trails.

6. Enhance knowledge of the significance of history and culture, with a public information program that includes, a Village web site, brochures, and increased publicity on the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and the Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce websites.
7. Create a cultural events program to bring residents together to get to know each other and communicate ideas about common concerns. Plan festivals, block parties or other community activities.
8. Plan community activities such as "Victory Day" or "Spring Cleaning" to actively engage the residents in community cleanup activities, such as park grooming, picking up litter along streets, sweeping sidewalks, planting wildflowers in vacant lots, helping your neighbor (the elderly or infirm) etc.
9. Develop a Village promotional package for residents to inform them about current services, programs and opportunities.
10. Prepare a list of properties that are of historic interest and work with homeowners and others to apply for inclusion on the State and National Historic register.

Housing



Home on Cemetery Ave

Neighborhood appearance was an issue for the committee, stakeholders, and members of the public. Notably, the high vacancy rate of rental properties, and the disrepair of current homes presents a poor image of the Village.

The response from the Village of Victory Residential Survey indicated that the majority of residents felt that the ideal population for the Village should be somewhat greater than it is now. Moreover, the respondents felt that if growth occurred on available land in the Village, the most favored type of development would be single family homes.

The current problems can be addressed in a number of ways, including stricter enforcement of current laws and regulations, the creation of zoning regulations to protect residential property, and the creation of a home ownership program to reduce the number of rental properties, many of which are either vacant or in a rundown condition. Additionally, programs such as "Spring Cleaning" or "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" can be developed to clean-up neighborhoods and residential properties.

Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods in the Village.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop zoning regulations to stipulate standards for residential areas.
2. Enforce current codes regarding noise, trash removal and building conditions.
3. Review current Village Laws, Codes and Regulations and amend if necessary.
4. Develop and implement clean up programs for neighborhoods and residential properties.
5. Develop architectural design standards for new construction.
6. Develop a incentive program for property appearance by

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providing awards for exemplary upkeep.

Goal 2: Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges, which are affordable and accessible for all residents.

Recommended Actions

1. Encourage quality design for new housing units during the site plan review and building permit process. New housing in or near existing residential neighborhoods should blend with the existing neighborhoods.
2. Conduct an inventory to identify properties for residential use.
3. Determine the appropriate location of multi-family housing units in conjunction with the land uses in the surrounding neighborhoods.
4. Discourage the development of residential units in commercial areas that are unsuitable for housing.
5. Allow additional or replacement mobile homes in appropriate areas only if they were manufactured recently.

Goal 3: Encourage home ownership.

Recommended Actions

1. Develop a Village-sponsored home ownership program and explore funding opportunities.
2. Explore revisions to the tax code to levy a higher tax for vacant rental properties.

Economic Development

In 2000 the closing of Victory Specialty Packaging, which occupied the Victory Mill, left an economic and physical void in the Village. The large vacant mill on the main street of the village is a constant visual reminder of a former economic resource that has yet to be replaced. Moreover, there are very few other businesses in the Village to provide jobs or shopping opportunities.

Businesses are important to the well being of the Village. The Village "Main Street" area is important to the community, not only for economic activities and to support the needs of the community, but as a focal point that helps define the character of the Village. The absence of businesses may negatively impact residents, property values, tax base and cultural opportunities. It is important to encourage a mix of businesses, to provide shopping opportunities for residents, and to increase revenue and keep taxes down.

The general goal of encouraging economic development has numerous objectives including expanding the Village's tax base, increasing the vitality of the area, providing residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities, as well as providing a diversity of goods and services for residents.

The following Goals and Recommendations support these objectives.

Goal 1: Develop a business friendly environment to retain and expand the Village's tax base and provide residents with a range of shopping and employment opportunities.

Recommended Actions

1. Create an Economic Development Committee to promote and market business opportunities within the Village.
2. Develop a property list and site book for potential development or redevelopment. Survey available space in the village to obtain information on age, location, condition, size, type, cost, services, and occupancy/availability of existing and potential commercial development areas.