

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Elbridge, NY and Villages of Elbridge & Jordan

May 2024



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board



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GIS DATA Disclaimer

The original source(s) of each dataset is identified on the maps. Due to the different sources and scales of projection, key features such as roads, parcel boundaries and streams may not overlap accurately when comparing several data layers on the same map. Acreage calculations for various parameters in this report were generated through the use of ArcGIS and are an approximation of the actual size. For more precise measurements, contact the Onondaga County Department of Planning.

Acknowledgements and Executive Summary

The development of this smart growth comprehensive plan was made possible through funding from the NYS Department of State Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program, and donations of time, knowledge, and input from local residents, elected officials, municipal staff, business owners, and other stakeholders. In particular, the Town and Villages extends thanks to the following individuals for their generous contributions to the 2023 Comprehensive Plan:

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Before beginning, plan carefully.

— *Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman statesman and orator (106-43 BC).*

Executive Summary

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan have had zoning codes in effect for many years, and Comprehensive Plans. The Town had a need to update its “2020 Plan” developed in 2010, and it was determined that a comprehensive plan to articulate an overarching vision, goals, and strategies for future growth, development, or preservation of the closely related communities would be the best approach.

Onondaga County, working with the CNY RPDB on the County Empire State Trail Economic Development Plan offered funding assistance to the Town of Elbridge for the development of a Joint Comprehensive Plan. Through NYS Department of State’s Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant Program, the funding was awarded in January of 2023 kicking off efforts to engage community members in developing a comprehensive plan reflective of priorities set by residents, rather than developers.

Using several outreach techniques, including listening sessions, surveys and workshops, which were open to the public, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee gathered input from all parts of the Town and Villages. The most important considerations for the future expressed by the community were walkable villages, preserving the rural character of the town, and the availability of local products and services. Protection of open space, forested lands and the historic canal area included a desire to protect the quality of wildlife habitat, surface water quality; and recreational opportunities. Traffic safety along Route 5 in Elbridge is a top issue for the community. Housing to meet senior and younger generational needs, and light industrial development is desired with careful locational consideration that retains historic village patterns and the town’s rural character. seven goals were identified:

Goal 1: Grow Housing Supply through Community Revitalization

Goal 2: Foster Economic Strength & Sustainable Development

Goal 3: Support Community Health & Connectivity

Goal 4: Establish Natural Resource Protections

Goal 5: Grow Recreational Opportunity

Goal 6: Maintain the Strong Agricultural Economy

Goal 7: Prepare for Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

The Comprehensive Plan is organized in four sections. The first part is an introduction to “Smart Growth”. The second part, a community analysis, describes current conditions using census and other data sources to outline current land uses and the demographics of the people in the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. The third section of the report considers regional influences to planning in the Town and Villages. The final section is focused on the Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Implementation Items to be considered by the Town and Villages over the next ten years to achieve these goals, and a preferred future for the Town and Villages. This includes not only potential land uses, but also design preferences for site layout and architectural styles.

Rather than presenting a single, fixed course of action, this Comprehensive Plan is intended to establish the general framework necessary to achieve the community’s future vision. The Plan’s recommendations are best pursued in an opportunistic manner based on the urgency, cost, and available resources. A Comprehensive Plan is meant to be a living document with edits and modifications made in the future in response to the evolving needs of the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. The Local Planning Committee is committed to meet and reflect on this Plan at least annually, with the purpose of identifying which recommendations are completed, ongoing, or not yet addressed, and if modifications are needed, addendums to this plan should identify which recommendations are the highest priority.

BACKGROUND

As the home of two unique rural Villages located between the Cities of Syracuse and Auburn, the Town of Elbridge is a significant rural settlement with a deep history that contributes a variety of amenities and resources to the local and surrounding population. Over the past decades, the Town and Villages have undertaken specific regulatory and community planning initiatives including zoning laws and corridor studies - to leverage assets and guide future development within the community.

The Town and Village’s existing conditions, and the community’s vision for the future initiated this effort to develop this update to the Town of Elbridge’s Comprehensive Plan, the Village of Elbridge Main Street Corridor Comprehensive Plan, and Village of Jordan Comprehensive Plan. The ultimate goal of this joint planning initiative was to identify commu-

“Town comprehensive plan’ means the materials, written and/or graphic, including but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material 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.”

*- NYS Town Law
§272-a*

nity-wide goals and a framework to guide future investments in the Town and Villages.

In the Spring of 2023, a local Planning Committee made up of residents, business owners, and government officials was formed to guide the development of this Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. The Committee included a wide diversity of individuals, with members residing in all areas of the Town and affiliated with several local departments, organizations, and agencies. This Committee organized and facilitated public outreach efforts, reviewed draft documents, and informed the contents of the Plan by offering their local knowledge throughout the planning process. Overall, this Committee ensured that the Comprehensive Plan was built upon significant public input, incorporated the recommendations of other recent planning initiatives, and responded to the key issues and opportunities within the Elbridge community.

PURPOSE

The Comprehensive Plan is one of a community's most important documents. It inventories regional and local data and trends impacting the community. It identifies the community's future vision, and recommends goals and implementation actions to achieve the vision. The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to provide a framework that directs investments within the community, guides decisions by government officials and investments by local residents and business owners that ultimately shape the community's physical character and social and economic wellbeing.

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge & Jordan Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan was developed to guide elected and appointed officials in the town and villages in making future decisions affecting land use, environmental resources, economic development, transportation, utilities, tourism, recreation, community services, and quality of life. It is a statement of policy and a guide to the continuing physical development of the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge & Jordan. It is essential that local stakeholders have a guide that identifies the types of programs and developments that are desired by the community. This Plan should remain accessible to local stakeholders to reference to better understand which types of projects the Town and Villages are likely to support.

Both public and private investment decisions should reflect the vision in

this plan, and be consistent with goals identified in this Plan. This Comprehensive Plan functions as a long-range plan for the future growth of the community. It provides a general, broad overview of the physical development of the community and reviews past development patterns that have led directly to present conditions. The plan also provides a forward-looking view of how the communities should develop or redevelop by examining past trends and enlisting various planning techniques to determine desired future scenarios. Simply stated, this comprehensive plan depicts where the communities have been, where they are presently, where they want to go, and how they plan to get there, smartly.

Comprehensive Planning and Legislative Authority

In the State of New York, village and town governments are granted authority to adopt a comprehensive plan pursuant to Village Law §7-722 or Town Law §272-a. The comprehensive plan, a set of policy and analytic documents and maps, strategies and tools for the guidance of community well-being, land use, and development, is also intended to provide the foundation for local zoning laws. Once adopted, all land use policy decisions in the Village and Town must be in accordance with the comprehensive plan. The review of future projects no longer occurs on an independent project-by-project basis, but rather in consideration of the comprehensive plan and the community vision. This Plan provides guidance as to where and how future development should occur in the Village and Town. In addition, all other governmental agencies must consider this plan when directing or funding capital projects that occur within the Village or the Town.

This plan must meet the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act prior to final adoption of the Plan by Town Councilors and the Village Trustees. Adoption of a comprehensive plan is a discretionary decision and is considered a Type I action pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations Part 617.4(b)(1). The benefits of adopting this plan far outweigh any potential adverse impacts that may be generated from the adoption and administration of this plan. The purpose of adopting a comprehensive plan is the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the community. This plan should be reviewed and updated on a periodic basis. It is recommended that the plan undergo a review and necessary update every seven to ten years from the date of its adoption.

Conservation Advisory Councils

An additional tool available to the local legislative body of any city, town or village is described in Article 12-F Section 239-X of the NYS General Municipal Law enabling the establishment of a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to advise in the development, management and protection of its natural resources. CACs are strictly advisory bodies that can be established by municipal resolution, the creation of an ordinance or local law. CACs work to provide land research including open space, wetlands and natural resource inventories and maps; advise, cooperate and work with other unofficial and official municipal agencies involved in similar activities; publish informational and educational literature; and may prepare an annual report.

In 1971, New York State amended the legislation concerning conservation councils to include Section 239-y. This section enables a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to become a Conservation Board (CB). Although still an advisory board, this status denotes the support and acceptance of the CB as a valid agency of municipal government with the opportunity to review any proposed land use application affecting any open areas listed on an officially approved Open Space Inventory (OSI) and Map. The Town and Villages may want to consider consolidating the existing municipal environmental commissions into a Conservation Board (CB).

Chapter 1: An Introduction to Smart Growth

Local Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Committee

The Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNY RPDB) sought funding for the development of the Joint Town and Village of Elbridge Comprehensive Plan and was awarded a NYS Department of State Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Grant in January of 2023 in addition to a Onondaga County Comprehensive Planning grant made to the Town of Elbridge in support of the effort that year. The CNY RPDB reached out to town and village leaders to assemble the local planning committee to conduct the project and, as a result of early discussions, also reached out to the Village of Jordan as the second Village located within the Town of Elbridge for inclusion in the joint planning process. A Local planning committee was formed, representative of the town and the two villages in June of 2023, and the first committee meeting was held on the 22nd of August, 2023.

The 10 Principles of Smart Growth

“Smart growth is development that serves the economy, community, and the environment. It provides a framework for communities to make informed decisions about how and where they grow. Smart growth makes it possible for communities to grow in ways that support economic development and jobs; create strong neighborhoods with a range of housing, commercial, and transportation options; and achieve healthy communities that provide families with a clean environment. In so doing, smart growth provides a solution to the concerns facing many communities about the impacts of the highly dispersed development patterns characteristic of the past 50 years. Though supportive of growth, communities are questioning the economic costs of abandoning infrastructure in the city and rebuilding it farther out. They are questioning the necessity of spending increasing time in cars locked in traffic and traveling miles to the nearest store. They are questioning the practice of abandoning brownfields in older communities while developing open space and prime agricultural land and thereby damaging our environment at the suburban fringe. As these quality-of-life issues become increasingly important for American communities, local and state policymakers, planners, developers, and others are turning to smart growth as one solution to these challenges.”¹

In the early 1990s, numerous national private sector, public sector and nongovernmental partner organizations also recognized the problems

¹ Source: Smart Growth Network in Getting to Smart Growth, at <http://www.smartgrowth.org>, and from New York State’s Smart Growth Task Force at <http://smartgrowthny.org/hPlanning/index.asp?i=pln>

*“Smart growth
...provides a
framework for
communities to
make informed
decisions about
how and where
they grow.”*

facing communities, and in 1996, they came together to form the Smart Growth Network, a broad coalition of 32 organizations that support smart growth. As a first step, the network examined the breadth of characteristics of successful communities and from that process, developed ten guiding principles for smart growth. They illustrate the characteristics associated with healthy, vibrant, and diverse communities that offer their residents choices of how and where to live, and are a first step in articulating the goals of smart growth. The ten principles of Smart Growth are illustrated through examples on the following pages.

1) MIX LAND USES

“Mixing land uses means building homes, offices, schools, parks, shops, restaurants, and other types of development near one another—on the same block or even within the same building. Mixed land uses bring more people to a neighborhood at a variety of times of day, which can support businesses, improve safety, and enhance the vitality of an area. Mixing land uses also makes it possible for people to live closer to where they work or run errands, and means they don’t need to drive a car to get there. Mixed-use neighborhoods are in-demand, meaning this approach can boost property values and keep them stable, protecting the investment of homeowners as well as tax revenues for municipalities.”²

2) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COMPACT DESIGN

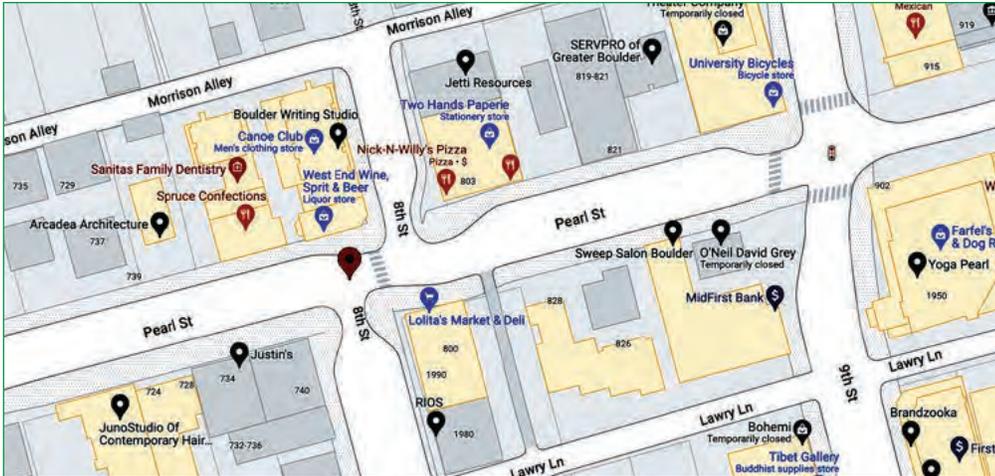
“Compact design means making more efficient use of land that has already been developed. Encouraging development to grow up, rather than

This development at Eighth and Pearl in Boulder, CO shows how mixed-use projects can succeed on small parcels of land. Between the pre-World War II Main Street district and adjacent historic residential buildings, the project supports stores, second-story offices, and five town homes on the roughly half-acre site of a former gas station.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/smart-growth/smart-growth-illustrated>



² <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>



A Google map view of the Eighth and Pearl development block in Boulder, CO shows how the project optimized the available space of the street right-of-way by introducing “bump-outs” at the intersection, which facilitated both on-street parking and available outdoor seating space.

out, is one way to do this. Infill development—building on empty or underutilized lots—is another. Building within an existing neighborhood can attract more people to the jobs, homes, and businesses already there while also making the most of public investments in things like water and sewer lines, roads, and emergency services.”³

Rehabilitation of the abandoned Belmont Dairy, in Portland OR created a vibrant development that sparked the revitalization of a neighborhood shopping district. Garages are hidden inside the clusters so pedestrians see front porches, balconies, and bay windows rather than a wall of garage doors. Some residents have taken advantage of the area’s business zoning by incorporating offices on the first floor of their homes.



The Belmont Dairy row houses, Portland, OR, were designed to transition between the apartments and nearby single-family homes.

3 <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>

3) CREATE A RANGE OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES

“Building quality housing for families of all life stages and income levels is an integral part of a smart growth approach. Housing constitutes a significant share of new construction and development in any city, but its economic importance is sometimes overlooked. Adding housing in commercial districts can breathe new life into these neighborhoods in evenings and on weekends. And more importantly, the housing options available in a community will influence families’ economic opportunities, costs of living, and how much time they spend commuting each day. Diversifying housing options within existing neighborhoods can give everyone more choices about where to live.”⁴

In Aspen Colorado, with the average home price over \$1.75 million, there was a need for housing for residents earning approximately \$17,000 - \$38,000 per year. Benedict Commons, a green, affordable housing option, a multifamily building was designed to look like a collection of individual dwellings reflecting Aspen’s style and each unit has a private entrance, roof deck, garden space, or small entry deck. The apartments are built above a parking garage and around a central, sunlit courtyard with mountain views. At Benedict Commons, bicycle racks and downtown location near workplaces encourage biking and walking. The compact design allowed a density of 78.4 units per acre on a small infill site. The units are highly insulated and use recycled building materials.

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>

Benedict Commons, multifamily, affordable housing, Aspen, CO





A central courtyard above a parking garage provides a safe place for children to play at Hismen Hin-Nu Terrace, a 1.5 acre, mixed-use development in Oakland, CA's San Antonio district. An abandoned grocery store site in a distressed area was redeveloped to revitalize the neighborhood with 92 affordable rental homes, a community center, courtyards, and commercial space.

4) CREATE WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

“Walkable neighborhoods are in high demand across the country and it’s hardly a mystery why. Walking is a convenient, affordable, and healthy way to get around that never goes out of style—so long as people can do it safely and conveniently. Walkable places are created in part by mixing land uses and taking advantage of compact design, but are activated by smart street design that makes walking not only practical but safe and convenient to enjoy.”⁵ Like many of the most economically successful communities in New York, the Village of Cazenovia has retained its walkability by preserving the historic detail of the block buildings and generous, comfortable sidewalks.

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>



In the Village of Cazenovia, the historic block buildings and other historic buildings fronting on the wide sidewalks, edged with street trees, benches and flowers create a sheltered vibrant pedestrian space that visitors and the community enjoy every day. With residential spaces above and commercial space at the ground level, the diverse collection of uses support each other well.

Source: <https://www.cazenovia.edu/admissions/visit-cazenovia/about-village-cazenovia>

5) FOSTER DISTINCTIVE, ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES WITH A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

“Unique, interesting places that reflect the diverse values, culture, and heritage of the people who live there have the greatest staying power. Projects and neighborhoods that incorporate natural features, historic structures, public art, and placemaking can help distinguish a place from its neighbors to attract new residents and visitors, and support a vibrant community for the people who already live there.”⁶ Tivoli is a rural New York example.

6 <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>



The tiny Village of Tivoli, NY (population 1,012), in the Hudson Valley creates a sense of place by preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings with new uses at its historic center. Housing in the surrounding village is in walking distance of the mix of commercial shops and professional offices. Using on-street parking, street trees and mid-street crosswalks helps to calm traffic through scenic New York villages like Tivoli where wide sidewalks and front porches accommodate street-side dining, and a local signage control ordinance adds to the aesthetics that attract business..



6) PRESERVE OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, NATURAL BEAUTY, AND CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

Preserving open spaces like prairie, wetlands, parks, and farms is both an environmental issue and economic issue. Preserving open spaces can also make communities more resilient, protecting them from natural disasters, combating air pollution, controlling wind, providing erosion [and flood] control, moderating temperatures, protecting water quality, and protecting animal and plant habitats.⁷

'Ringfield,' in Chadds Ford, PA, set homes among woodlands, open meadows, and ponds. Approximately 56 acres (74 percent) of the 76-acre site have been preserved with an informal network of woodland trails that link the various neighborhood areas and three ponds.

⁷ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>



'Ringfield' (here and above right), a Planned Residential Development without lot size, width, or street frontage minimums allowed flexibility to design for six condominium units, six attached townhouses, and 26 detached homes.

The township's Planned Residential District allowed the developer to achieve full density (38 dwellings, at the two-acre standard) and wisely did not impose any restrictions on lot size, width, or street frontage. This flexibility permitted the site designer latitude to fit six condominium units, six attached townhouses, and 26 detached homes set in a landscape, rich with wildlife habitat and scenic views.



The resulting stunning rural landscape provides diverse housing options and preserved open space. The same effect can be achieved more consistently throughout a municipality by adopting a local Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) law.

Source: Google Earth

“The public viewshed [of the Ringfield development, as seen from Ring Road, has been carefully preserved, and enhanced with a small pond alongside the entry drive (left). Streets within Ringfield are bordered by meadows, hedgerows, or woodlands... (Photo courtesy of Holly Harper).”

Source: Center for Watershed protection, <https://owl.cwp.org/?m-docs-file=9157>



“Preserving open spaces can...make communities more resilient, protecting them from natural disasters...providing erosion [and flood] control.”

7) DIRECT DEVELOPMENT TOWARD EXISTING COMMUNITIES

“Developing within existing communities—rather than building on previously undeveloped land—makes the most of the investments we’ve already made in roads, bridges, water pipes, and other infrastructure, while strengthening local tax bases and protecting open space. Regulations, zoning, and other public policies sometimes make this approach unnecessarily difficult for developers, however. Local leaders can and should change policy to encourage development within existing neighborhoods.”⁸

The nine-block stretch of Broadway between Van Dam and East Congress Street in Saratoga Springs was once home to several vacant storefronts. Today, this formerly blighted area of the upstate city features an active collection of municipal, institutional, commercial, cultural and residential uses.

The renewal in the city came through efforts of the community and the formation of a Design Review Commission, then called the Aesthetic Zoning Board to progress and monitor Broadway changes. Thanks to the efforts of city leaders, business owners and residents, Saratoga Springs has been recognized by ‘Great Places in America’ as a place of “unique and authentic characteristics that have evolved from years of thoughtful and deliberate planning by residents, community leaders and planners,” according to the report from the ADA.⁹

⁸ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>

⁹ <https://bonacio.com/spa-citys-broadway-named-one-10-great-streets-america-american-planning-association/>



Thoughtful redevelopment in Saratoga Springs, NY, managed by a Design Review Commission to be compatible with the existing Broadway district, transformed a formerly blighted sector of downtown. In 2012, the district was noted as one of the 10 great streets in America by the American Planning Association for its unique style, historic presence, and mix of uses.

Source: Google Street View, August, 2017

8) PROVIDE A VARIETY OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

“Providing a variety of transportation choices—high-quality public transportation, safe and convenient biking and walking infrastructure, and well-maintained roads and bridges—helps communities to attract talent, to compete on a global scale, and to improve the day-to-day lives of their residents. To make this happen, elected leaders and transportation agencies must change how they prioritize, select, invest in, build, and measure transportation projects at the local, regional, and nationwide level.”¹⁰

In the small rural towns and villages of Central New York, gentle topography, scenic views of farmlands, forested hills and valleys combine with clusters of historic buildings nestled along vibrant waterways, making for an attractive destination for cyclo-tourism. Cyclists have mapped much of the region for day rides and consider the conditions to be some of the best to be found for cycling, if the roadways are made safer for cyclists. New York State has some of the most significant biking and recreational trail systems in the U.S. with the 750 mile-long Empire State Trail (EST) and Erie Canalway Trail (ECT) crossing the State. A regionally-planned bike touring corridor, the “CNY Peace Trail” extends from the recreational “spine” of the statewide trails into the rural Hamlets, Villages and Cities of Central New York, with potential to attract visitors, business and residents to these communities. Facilities for safe biking have been mapped for the CNY Peace Trail which will link the region’s historic and outdoor recreation resources, waterfronts, scenic areas, agritourism, festivals, and events. Local segments of the CNY Peace Trail, although route-planned, need to be designed and implemented by road owners and municipalities. Bike facilities implemented for the CNY Peace Trail will provide opportunities for alternative transportation, access to jobs, recreation, and improved health.

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), with significant investment, can provide a high capacity transit option to speed up workforce transportation, reduce congestion, and build the transportation backbone of a vibrant regional economy. BRT systems can be employed along busy commuter corridors where the reduction of the use of single-driver vehicles results in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. When easy access is provided to BRT stops, with commuter park & ride areas and safe bike facilities, along with amenities like comfortable seating, ease of use, and wifi connectivity, BRT can be an attractive and reliable way for regional populations to avoid highway traffic delays.

CNY Peace Trail Wayfinding Plan concept for the “Caughdnoy - Bridgeport Bike Toring Corridor #16” showing the planned bike facilities for Bridge Street/Route 33. crossing the Oneida River at the Hamlet of Caughdenoy, NY.



Richmond, VA Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Concept

Source: <https://rvanews.com/news/wheels-turning-for-rvas-bus-rapid-transit/116796>



9) MAKE DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS PREDICTABLE, FAIR & COST EFFECTIVE

“Developers play a crucial role in how towns and cities are built. Many developers who want to build walkable, urban places... are thwarted by restrictive regulations or complicated approval processes. Municipalities interested in encouraging smart growth development can and should examine their regulations and streamline the project permitting and approval process so that development decisions are more timely, cost-effective, and predictable for developers. By creating a supportive environment for development of innovative, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use projects, government can provide smart growth leadership for the private sector.”¹¹

There are ways local governments can help to facilitate smart growth that serves the economy, the community, and the environment, supporting economic development and jobs, creating strong neighborhoods with a range of housing, commercial, and transportation options, and ensuring a healthy, clean environment. As one example, the “Green Tape” review process used in Montgomery County, MD, reduces Red Tape for Affordable Housing Development in the County. “Time is an important component of the development process, and reducing red tape can save time—and money. Projects eligible for “Green Tape” review include any residential or mixed-use development that designates at least 20 percent of the total number of housing units to persons or families with incomes at or below the income level for moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) as provided in the Montgomery County Code. Projects are not automatically green taped. Instead, the developer of the eligible project must include the request for such a review as part of the application package.

Interagency changes necessary for a successful “Green Tape” process are:

- An expedited review process for applications
- Improved communications between the reviewing agencies
- Creation of a geographic information system map overlay of green tape applications for easy identification of these projects
- Expedited construction permits and utilities permits processing”¹²

“Municipalities interested in encouraging smart growth ...should examine their regulations and streamline the... process so that development decisions are more timely, cost-effective, and predictable”

¹¹ <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-illustrated>

¹² http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/housing/frequently_asked_questions.shtml

10) ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS

“Every community has different needs, and meeting those needs requires a different approach from place to place. Communities suffering from disinvestment may need to focus on encouraging development downtown; communities with robust economic growth may need to focus on addressing social equity. The common thread is that the needs of every community and the strategies to address them are best defined by the people who live and work there.

Smart growth is not possible without the perspective of everyone with a vested interest in a town, city, or neighborhood. Smart growth is about building a future for a community that everyone can participate in, and

Well organized community meetings bring together stakeholders including residents, business owners and others invested in the well-being of the community to review initial planning and project ideas and to offer their comments and suggestions.



gathering the ideas, feedback, and support of everyone in a community is the only way to do that. This process is not only inclusive and equitable, it also will give projects built-in support and staying power.”¹³

13 <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/what-is-smart-growth/>

Chapter 2: Community Analysis

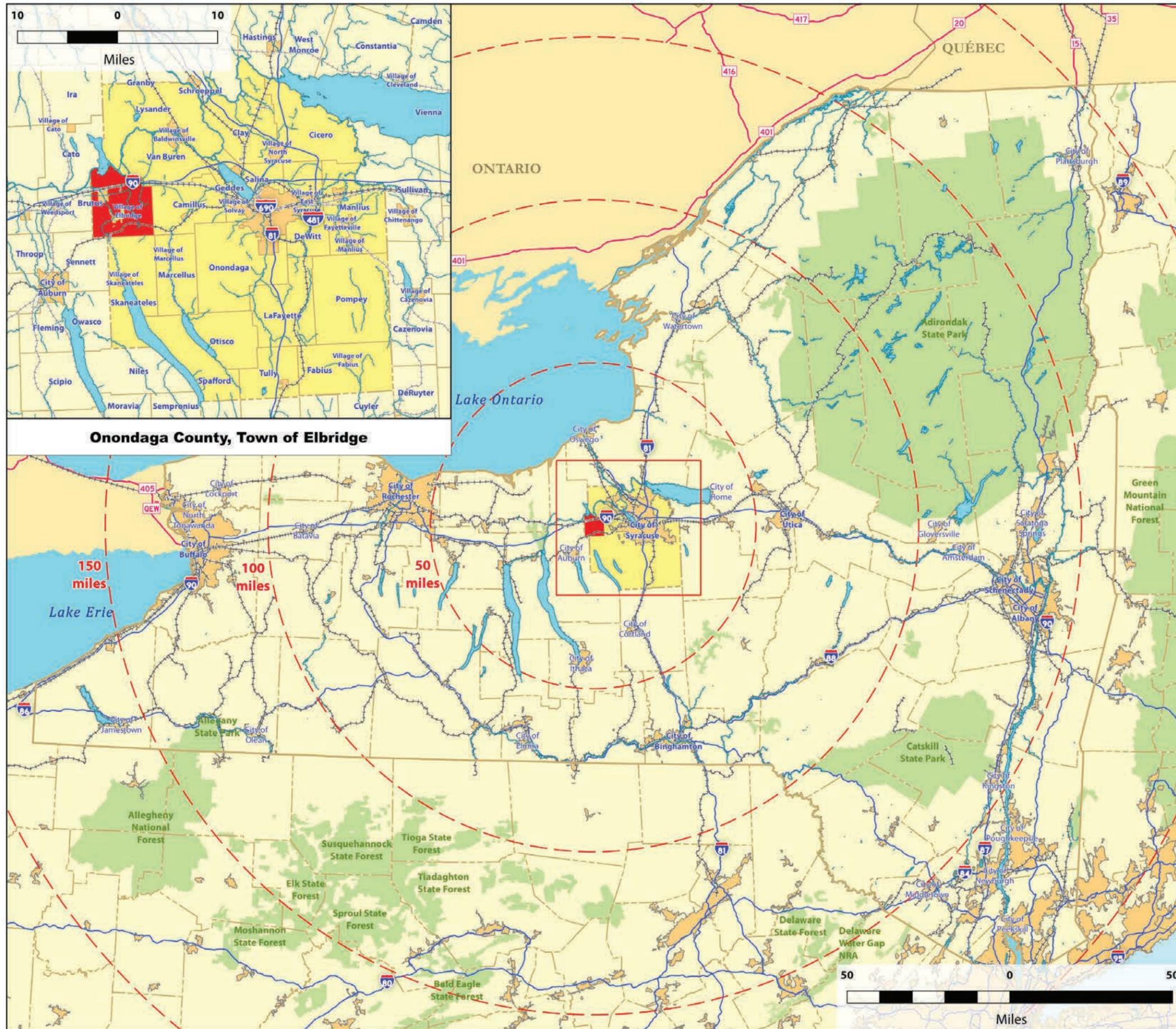
This section of the comprehensive plan describes the existing conditions of various components of the town and villages including socio-demographic trends, cultural and natural resources, environmental features, land use composition and regulation, and infrastructure. A Town of Elbridge Comprehensive Plan was adopted in January of 1992. This 2023 Comprehensive Plan serves as the Town's new Comprehensive Plan. A "Main Street Corridor Comprehensive Plan Update" was developed for the Village of Elbridge in 2015. The Village of Jordan completed and adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2016. This plan serves as an update to the two village plans.

Location

The Town of Elbridge is located centrally in New York State approximately 16 miles west of Syracuse on the western edge of Onondaga County. The town covers 38.30 square miles (99.18 square kilometers), including 0.76 square miles (1.96 square kilometers) of water. The historic Villages of Jordan and Elbridge are located here, connected by New York State Route 317. The Village of Jordan, the larger of the two villages, is northwest relative to the Village of Elbridge. The New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) passes through the north part of town, while New York State Route 5 passes across the southern part through the Village of Elbridge.

Elbridge is located in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, popular for its many vineyards, scenic drives through farmlands, and recreational access to the glacially formed lakes. The Town is situated among glacially formed hills and drumlins, in a water rich region, with Cross Lake and the Seneca River at the northern border and the Finger Lakes to the south. Because the Town is located near the Great Lakes in a snowbelt, Elbridge experiences heavy amounts of snow in the winter, which can often create challenging traveling conditions.

Located just outside of the Syracuse metropolitan area, the Town of Elbridge is primarily a rural area with many forested or agricultural areas. With few industrial jobs in Elbridge itself, many residents commute to nearby Skaneateles Falls or urban areas like Syracuse or Auburn for work, where there are many opportunities for work in manufacturing, medical care, business, and trades.



Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

**Map 1:
Regional Location**

Legend

- Interstate Highways
- Railroads
- 50-Mile Buffer
- Parks
- States
- Counties
- Onondaga County
- Urban Areas 2020
- Cities/Villages (inset)
- Towns
- Town of Elbridge



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, Transport Canada, and Esri. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023





1938



1966



2024

Long a productive agricultural community, lands outside of the consolidated development in the villages has changed little over nearly a century as can be seen in historic aerial imagery of the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. Far left, 1938, Top right, 1966, and bottom right, 2024 (Google Earth).

Cornell University Library Digital Collections, <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/aerialny>

History of the Community

Established on March 26, 1829, the Town of Elbridge is rich in history and natural resources.¹⁴ Prior to colonial settlement, the Onondaga of the Haudenosaunee Nation (Iroquois Confederacy) had fortified communities here, one of which was on the Seneca River in an area now known today as Jack's Reef. Some legends claim that Cross Lake was once home to the historical figure Hiawatha, who was a co-founder of the Haudenosaunee Nation.

The first English settler in this area was a surveyor named Josiah Buck in 1791.¹⁵ A soldier of the American Revolution, Captain William Stevens, soon joined him. The two had followed a trail used by Indigenous people for centuries, a trail which is now NYS Route 5. During the American Revolution, Congress incentivized soldiers like Stevens to enlist by offering land in Ohio and Central New York to soldiers who remained in service for the entirety of the war or until discharged. The division of indigenous lands into military tracts in the region displaced many indigenous groups in places [across the Central New York region], where many veterans settled after the revolution.¹⁶

Captain Stevens named the Town after his friend Elbridge Gerry, a fellow member of the Boston Tea Party, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the Vice President of the United States from 1813 until his death in 1814. In this area, they found water power in the Skaneateles Lake outlet, which they would use for grist and saw mills as people settled the land. Stevens' journal reads:

“We at last descended and came to a cedar swamp, the road causewayed through it. Then came to a beautiful stream of water (Carpenter's brook), the bottom covered with white pebbles of the nature of lime, and centered on a pretty flat tract of land with a handsome gradual ascent to the south. The timber much as before, with the addition of fine white pine, suitable for either boards or shingles, extending to a great height. The soil good, and came to the outlet of Skaneateles Lake, about five or six miles from the lake—a very convenient situation for mills and other water works. The land very good, and plenty of white pine timber for building. Two and one-half miles further down the stream is the falls, below which will admit boats to come up to the foot of the falls. This situation struck

¹⁴ From Town of Elbridge: Office of Public Historians (<https://townofelbridge.com/history#:~:text=The%20Town%20of%20Elbridge%20was,United%20States%20from%201813%2D1814>, accessed June 5, 2023)

¹⁵ Sue Goodfellow (<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nyononda/ELBRIDGE/BEAUHIST.HTM>, accessed June 5, 2023)

¹⁶ <https://www.cayugagenealogy.org/land/mtracths.html>

my fancy for a seat more than any part of the country that I had been in yet, and if I should be lucky enough to purchase it would induce one to move into this part of the country.”

The Town of Elbridge separated from the Town of Camillus in 1829 and the Village was incorporated in 1848 when a need arose for raising money through taxation to fund sidewalks. Many of the buildings along Main Street today date from the early 1800’s to the 1890’s.

In 1793, Stevens opened the first saw mill and store in town, and Buck was joined by his family and opened the first tavern. The first church group—The First Congregational Society of the Town of Camillus—was organized in 1800 and the first school was built in 1801.

Due to the location of Skaneateles Creek as it cuts through the Town from south to north, two separate settlements developed on the creek. The Village of Elbridge had as many as 360 workers in its factories and mills during the late 1800s. The first colonial settlers near Jordan arrived in 1797 and a saw mill was established in 1800. The Village of Jordan began to flourish when Lock 51 of the Erie Canal was built through Jordan and opened in 1825. Small communities formed along the canal where the mule-drawn packet boats would stop between trips. The boats on the canal carried travelers, crops, raw materials, and manufactured goods from the Hudson River to Lake Erie.¹⁷ Major transportation, industrial, and commercial centers developed out of these communities. By the mid-1830s, Jordan had three gristmills, three sawmills, a distillery, five taverns, a sash factory, a clothing shop, five grocery stores, and two drug stores.



The Elbridge Village Historic District, located in the Town of Elbridge, is a 60 acre district on the US National Register of Historic Places. The white church pictured here is the Elbridge Community Church. Though the church wasn’t built until 1824, this was the meeting place for the First Congregational Society of the Town of Camillus which was organized in 1800.

Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elbridge.jpg>

¹⁷<https://eriecanalway.org/learn/history-culture>

In response to this economic prosperity, the Town of Elbridge was formed from the Town of Camillus in 1829, and Jordan was incorporated into the Town on May 2, 1835. Elbridge was incorporated April 1, 1848. The economy of Jordan was strengthened when the Jordan Feeder Canal was made wider and deeper to direct more water into the main canal from Skaneateles Creek. This effect on the economy was even greater when the main line of the New York State Central Railroad was built through Jordan.

The local private banks Westfall & Co. and Rodger & Co had both failed in the late 1800s, so when there was a need for capital expansion, no banks were nearby to support the growth.

Industry in the villages instead began moving into Syracuse by the early 1900s. The Jordan Feeder Canal was drained in 1917 and re-routed north to the new Barge Canal, which utilized rivers like the Seneca and Oswego Rivers and caused the canal route to bypass communities like Jordan. Although a rail line from Jordan to Syracuse was maintained in the early 20th century, the popularity of the railroad for shipping decreased during the 1950s. Moving goods by truck was made possible when the new NYS Thruway was developed, but there was no exit for the town of Elbridge. As a result of these circumstances, industry in the Town and Villages slowed down dramatically.

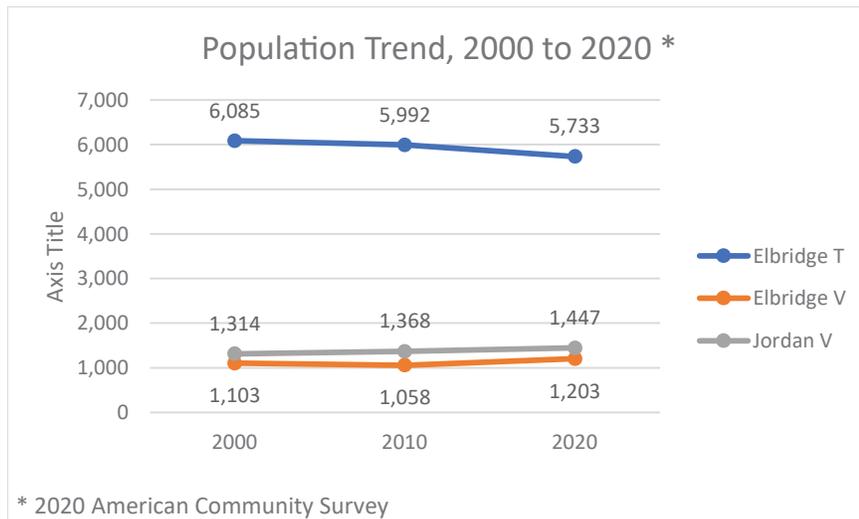
Some industries remain in the Town, like OWI Wire Mill, Northeastern Electronics, Bennet Bolt Works, and Tessy Plastics Corporation. The town also has several family farms, retail businesses, services, and two historic districts, the Jordan Village and Elbridge Village Historical Districts. The Elbridge Village Historic District included 66 contributing buildings and 26 contributing objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix A). Many architectural elements from the Erie Canal era are intact, including a former gristmill with its original equipment and a hotel from 1820 once used by canal travelers. See Appendix B for detailed historical timeline.

The “John Munro Cobblestone House” was built in the 1850s. The Munro family moved to Elbridge in 1799, one of the first family settlers, later building one of 3 known Gothic revival cobblestone homes designed by architect Thomas Atkinson. The only one located in Onondaga county, located at Route 5 and Hamilton Road in the Town of Elbridge.



Population & Demographics

As indicated in the graph below, the 2020 population of the Town of Elbridge was 5,733, which decreased about 5.8% since 2000. For the Village of Elbridge, the population was 1,203, which increased about 8.3%. The population was 1,447 in the Village of Jordan, which increased about 9.1% in twenty years.



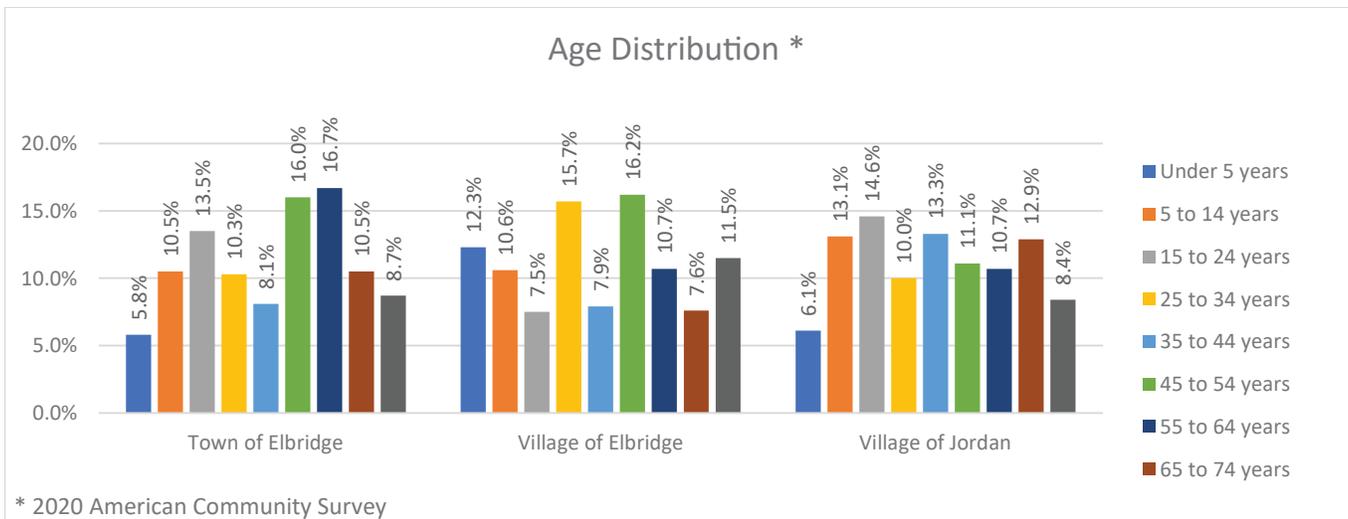
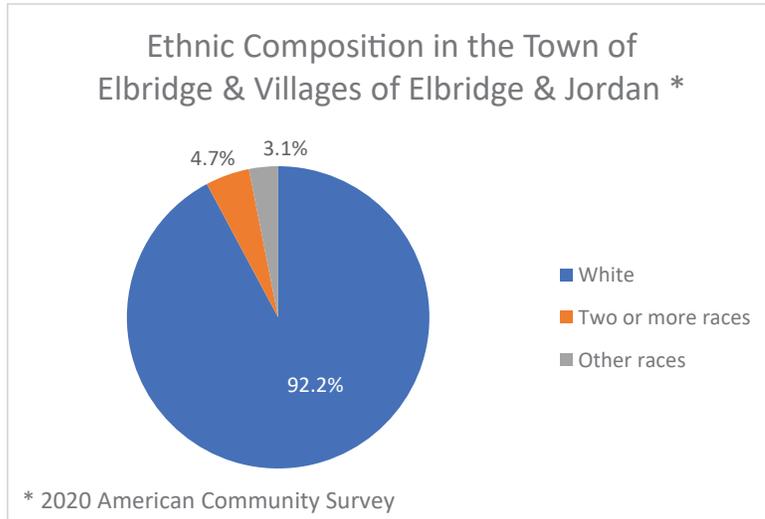
Based on this data, it is clear that the population in rural areas outside of the two villages has decreased, while the village populations have both increased slightly. However, 3,083 people still live outside the villages in the Town of Elbridge, which is more than the current populations of the villages combined.

The population of Onondaga County overall has fluctuated throughout the decades. In 1990, the population was 468,973, then decreased by 2.3% to 458,336 in 2000. The population then increased by 1.2% to 463,704 by 2010. The population was 474,621 in 2020, which was a 2.3% increase in that decade.

According to the 2020 American Community Survey, the population of Town of Elbridge is 92.2% non-Hispanic White residents, 4.7% residents of two or more races, and 3.1% residents of other races and ethnicities. Within the sub-groups “Two or more” and “Other races” were individuals who were Hispanic/Latino, White, Black, Indigenous, and/or Asian.

As indicated in the age distribution chart below, age is variable between the Town as a whole and the two villages. The Elbridge community has healthy age diversity with more residents under 5 years old (12.3%) and residents 25 to 34 years old (15.7%) in the Village of Elbridge compared to Jordan and the Town as a whole. The Village of Elbridge also has no-

tably fewer residents between 65 to 74 years old (7.6%) and the Village of Jordan has significantly fewer residents 45 to 54 years old (11.1%) compared to the rest of Elbridge.



Economic Base & Fiscal Resources

Like most in Onondaga County, many residents of Elbridge make their livings in Syracuse. The Town of Elbridge is also one of the many communities that contributes agriculturally to the CNY economy in terms of dairy production, livestock raising, and field crops.

The Villages of Elbridge and Jordan have been challenged by an ongoing decline of commercial and retail establishments. The Village of Elbridge saw improvement in the business environment since their adoption of the Main Street Corridor Comprehensive Plan in 2003. Since then, both residents and businesses have invested in maintenance and renovations

of buildings, and new businesses and residents have been welcomed into the community.

Jordan has recently put forth efforts to restore historic structures on Main Street using funds from the New York State Main Street grant program. This program grants funding to eligible local governments, business improvement districts, and other non-profit organizations seeking to revitalizing historic downtowns, mixed-use neighborhoods, and Village centers. In 2014, the Onondaga County Office of Community Development received a grant of \$200,000 for this purpose in Jordan. The project involved restoring the historical character of five commercial storefronts, adding four residential units, and installing a street clock. Prior to this grant, earlier projects involved the restoration of four historical properties and portions of the Erie Canal as it runs through Jordan.

The Village of Elbridge also offers a look into the past with its own collection of historic structures and a historic district on Main Street.



The Erie Canal was opened in Jordan in 1819, and the local aquaduct was built in 1841 when the canal was enlarged to accommodate more traffic and cargo. The Jordan section of the canal was abandoned in 1917. The Village built a Canal Park in this location in 1932.

Source: <https://www.eriecanal.org/JordanAquaduct.html>



(Above) Historic structures on Water Street, Main Street, and Lock 51 in the Village of Jordan.

ECONOMIC BASE

Across the United States, the Covid-19 pandemic had profound effects on both the health and economics of the American public, influencing unemployment, income, size of labor force, job availability, and travel times

with businesses affected by interrupted supply chains, declines in demand, shortages, and government mandated closures.¹⁸ These impacts to the Town were negligible, and probably affected the Villages more where small businesses were impacted by the weakened consumer environment. Even so, the Villages fared pretty well through the pandemic due in part to their small size, and familiarity and comfort with travel to obtain necessities.

Where local industry and employment is concerned, by far the largest sector in the Town of Elbridge is educational services, healthcare, and social services at 28.9%. The next largest sectors are arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services at 13.1% and retail trade at 12.1%. Also substantial sectors are construction (9%) and manufacturing (8.4%). Other employment sectors in Elbridge include: other services (5.2%); transportation, warehousing, and utilities (5.2%); public administration (4.8%); professional, scientific, administrative, and waste management (4.5%); finance, insurance, real estate, and rentals (4.4%); information (1.8%); agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (1.5%); and wholesale trade (1%).

Among the retailers in Elbridge are Elbridge Ace Hardware, Anthony Demarco and Sons Nursery LLC, Elbridge Food Market Inc., and Van Buren Food Market LLC. Manufacturers in Elbridge include Outdoor Unlimited of CNY Inc., Garden Trellises Inc., Illumination Technologies Inc., and Duck Flats Pharma. Construction companies in Elbridge include Champion Homes Inc., Enzo Remodeling, RJ Contracting Company, and Calkins Drywall Inc.

Some examples of agricultural operations in Elbridge are the Hourigan and Gemini Dairy Farms LLC, Blume Again Dairy, and Hill Villa Farms. Agriculture is an important component to the local economy, with farmers in the County producing goods, mainly cash crops and dairy, with the market value of \$152 million in 2012. That year, there were 681 farms averaging 221 acres per farm that contributed to this output. Some of the challenges farmers face economically are low profitability, high taxes, high costs of land and machinery, biosecurity, unstable prices, and suburban sprawl. Small-scale, local farms are particularly vulnerable to these issues.

FISCAL RESOURCES

The main source of income for the Town is property taxes, with some funding coming from Cell Tower fees. The Town currently has permits for eight homes to be built in 2024 and Townhouse apartments are currently being built. Additionally, a developer has more apartments planned for the future in the Town.

¹⁸<https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2021/impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic-on-businesses-and-employees-by-industry/home.htm>

Main Sources of Funding in the Village of Elbridge is Real Property Taxes including Refuse and Garbage Charges, Fire Services (other government support), State Aid (State Revenue sharing and CHIPS), Grants, Metered Water Sales, and LT2 water sales. Secondary sources of funding include Gross Receipts (franchise fees), Other fees (Zoning, Planning Board, Treasurer, room rental, real property rental, etc.), and Interest earnings.

Economic development at the Village level in Elbridge has been fairly stagnant in recent years, with minimal buildable land available and a small retail area with limited growth options as a majority of the Village is zoned residential and/or agricultural. This is compounded by an aging population and a high percentage of home ownership, at roughly 80% of residents owning their homes. The Village also lacks viable industry to sustain jobs, meaning a majority of residents travel to local cities for employment.

In Onondaga County employment sectors, the highest proportion of workers are in health services (17.3%), retail/wholesale (14.9%), and education services (13.6%), the largest proportion of these are in the City of Syracuse where many workers from Elbridge commute to.

By far the biggest employer in Onondaga County is the Upstate University Health System, with over 9,500 employees. Other major employers in the county are Syracuse University, St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Wegmans, and Crouse Hospital.¹⁹

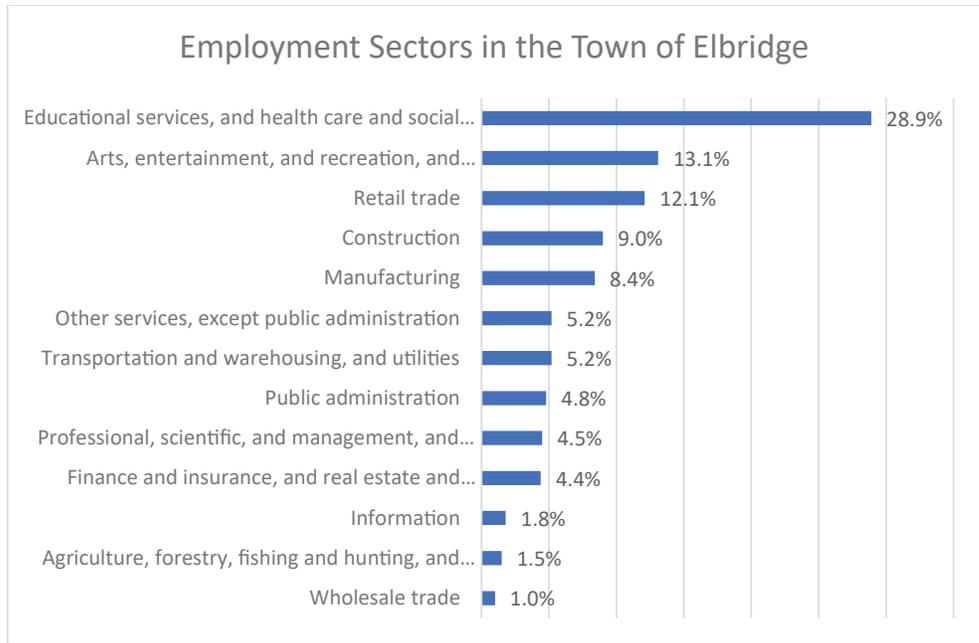
In Cayuga County, Auburn is another urban center where Elbridge residents commute to for work. Major employers in Auburn include the Auburn Community Hospital, Department of Corrections, the County of Cayuga, and Auburn Enlarged City School District.²⁰

Auburn is also the site for Tessa Medical Products, a subsidiary of Tessa Plastics, with a facility on Rt. 5 west of the Village of Elbridge, the home base for Tessa Plastics and where the company originated. Tessa has another location in Skaneateles Falls, about four miles south of Elbridge. In total, Tessa Plastics employs 1,900 people. In this same area of Skaneateles Falls on Jordan Road, there is also Looten Distributing, a family owned and operated distribution service, and Habermass Corporation, a toy manufacturer, and Baxter-Hillrom, a growing medical technology company at the former site of Welch Allen.

Commerce located within the Town of Elbridge is concentrated on the historic East Main Street (NYS Route 5) and in the historic center of the Village of Jordan at the intersection of Clinton Street and North Main Street.

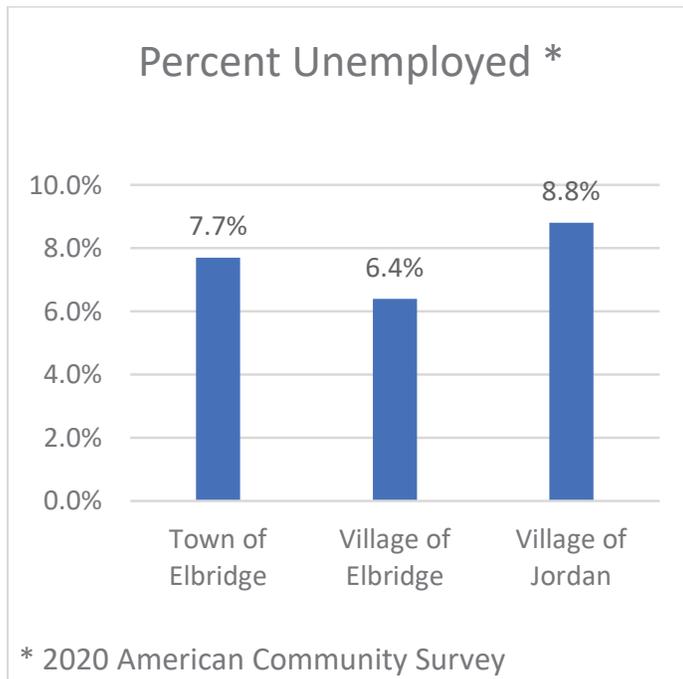
¹⁹<http://www.ongov.net/about/majorEmployers.html>

²⁰<https://cayugaeda.org/for-corporate-executives/major-employers/>



UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

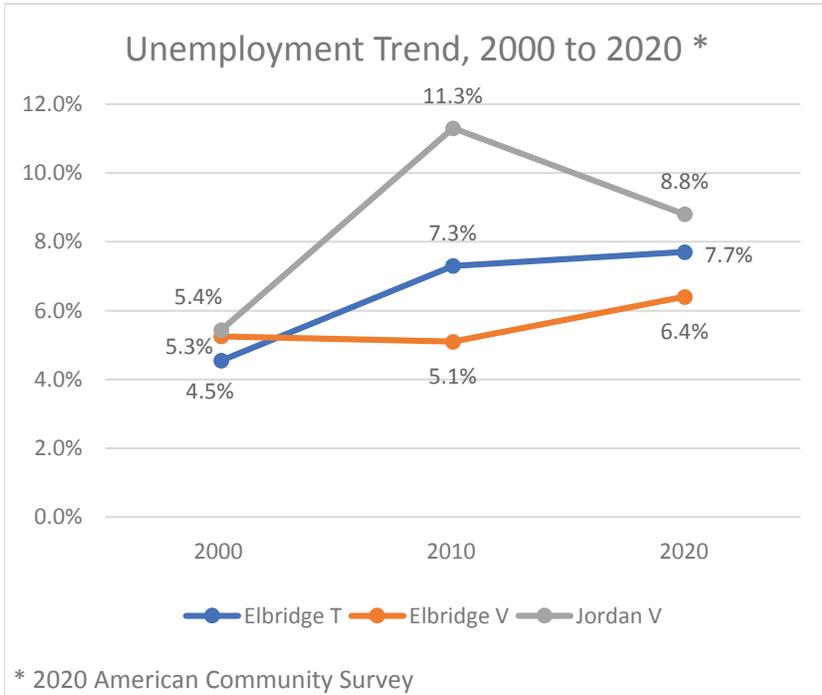
Unemployment in the Town of Elbridge has increased by 3.2% from 4.5% in 2000 to 7.7% in 2020.



In the Village of Jordan, the unemployment rate increased overall by 3.4% from 5.4 in 2000 to 8.8% in 2020, but the unemployment rate spiked in Jordan in 2010 at 11.3%, so from 2010 to 2020, the unemployment rate decreased by 2.5%. The unemployment trends in Jordan resemble trends

across the U.S. during these years, with a national rate of 4% in 2000, 9.6% in 2010, and 8.1% in 2020.²¹ The trends across the whole Town are relatively similar.

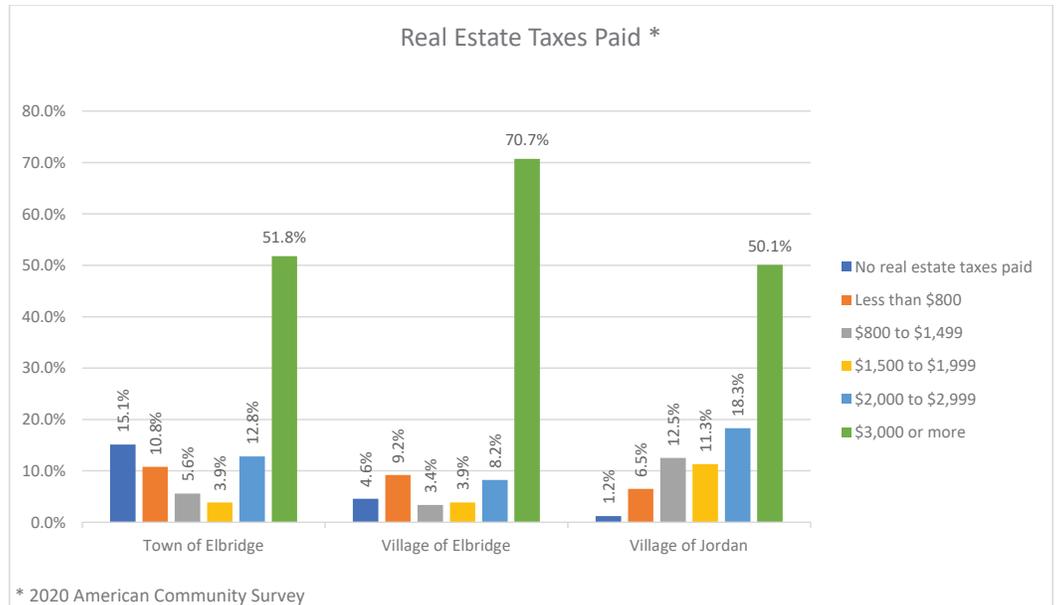
In the Village of Elbridge, the rate of unemployment in 2010 was less than half of Jordan’s and far less than the national rate. Here, unemployment increased by 1.1% (5.3 to 6.4%) from 2000 to 2020, but unlike the rest of the Town in the years 2000 to 2010, there was a decrease in Village unemployment by 0.2%.



PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are high in the Town, with at least half of the Town residents paying \$3000 or more annually. In the Village of Elbridge, as many as 70.7% pay this high property tax. The percent of residents in the Villages who do not pay real estate taxes are 4.6% in Elbridge and 1.2% in Jordan. 15.1% of residents in the Town do not pay real estate taxes. There are 393 veterans living in the Town (6.9% of the population), who have property tax exemptions in New York State.

²¹<https://www.statista.com/statistics/193290/unemployment-rate-in-the-usa-since-1990/>



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The distribution of household income for the Town of Elbridge has shifted to higher income brackets since 2000, but the highest percentage holds strong between \$50,000 and \$74,999. Although incomes averages have increased in the last twenty years, adjustments for inflation show that incomes have not kept up with increasing prices. The statistics below are adjusted to the prices of the applicable year, not adjusted to current prices.

Also, Elbridge middle incomes are lower than average and median incomes nation- and statewide. The New York State average household income was \$80,374 in 2010 and \$105,304 in 2020. In the United States, the average was \$70,883 in 2010 and \$91,547 in 2020.²² In the Town of Elbridge, the average income was \$67,855 in 2010 and \$70,962 in 2020.

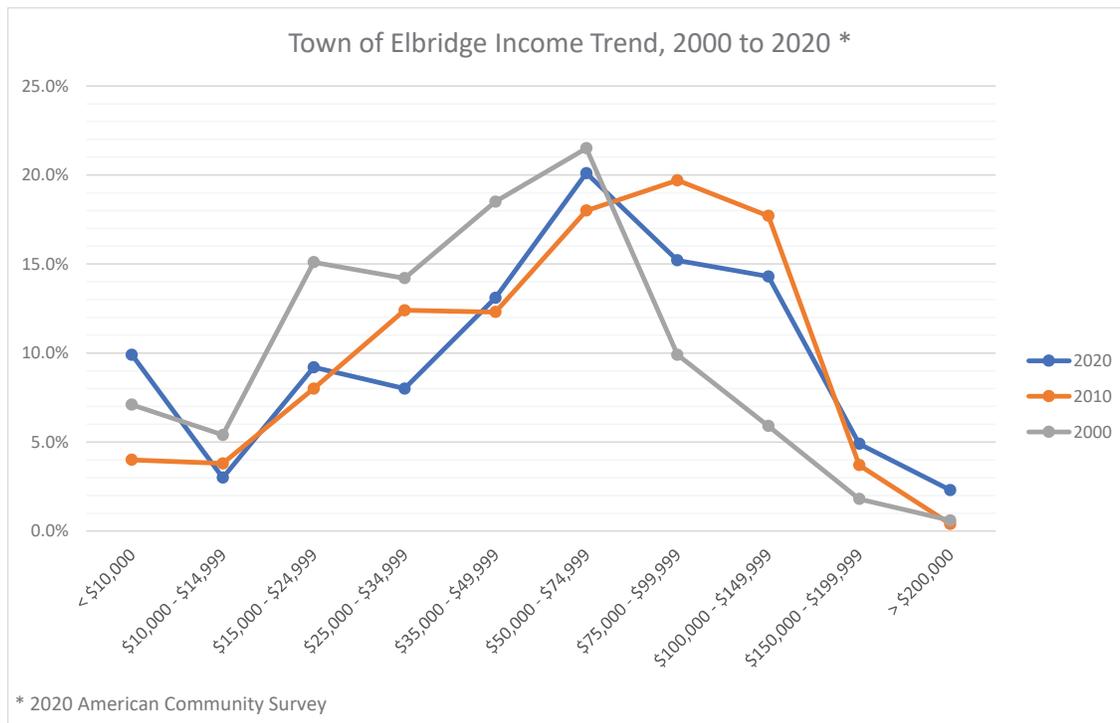
The proportion of households making \$25,000–34,999 decreased by 6.2% from 2000 to 2020. The proportion of households making \$100,000–\$149,999 increased by 8.4%, making this income bracket the one that experienced the most change between 2000 and 2020. The proportions of households making \$50,000–74,999 and over \$200,000 stayed relatively stable in the last twenty years. Overall, the distribution of household incomes in the Town shifted to higher income brackets.

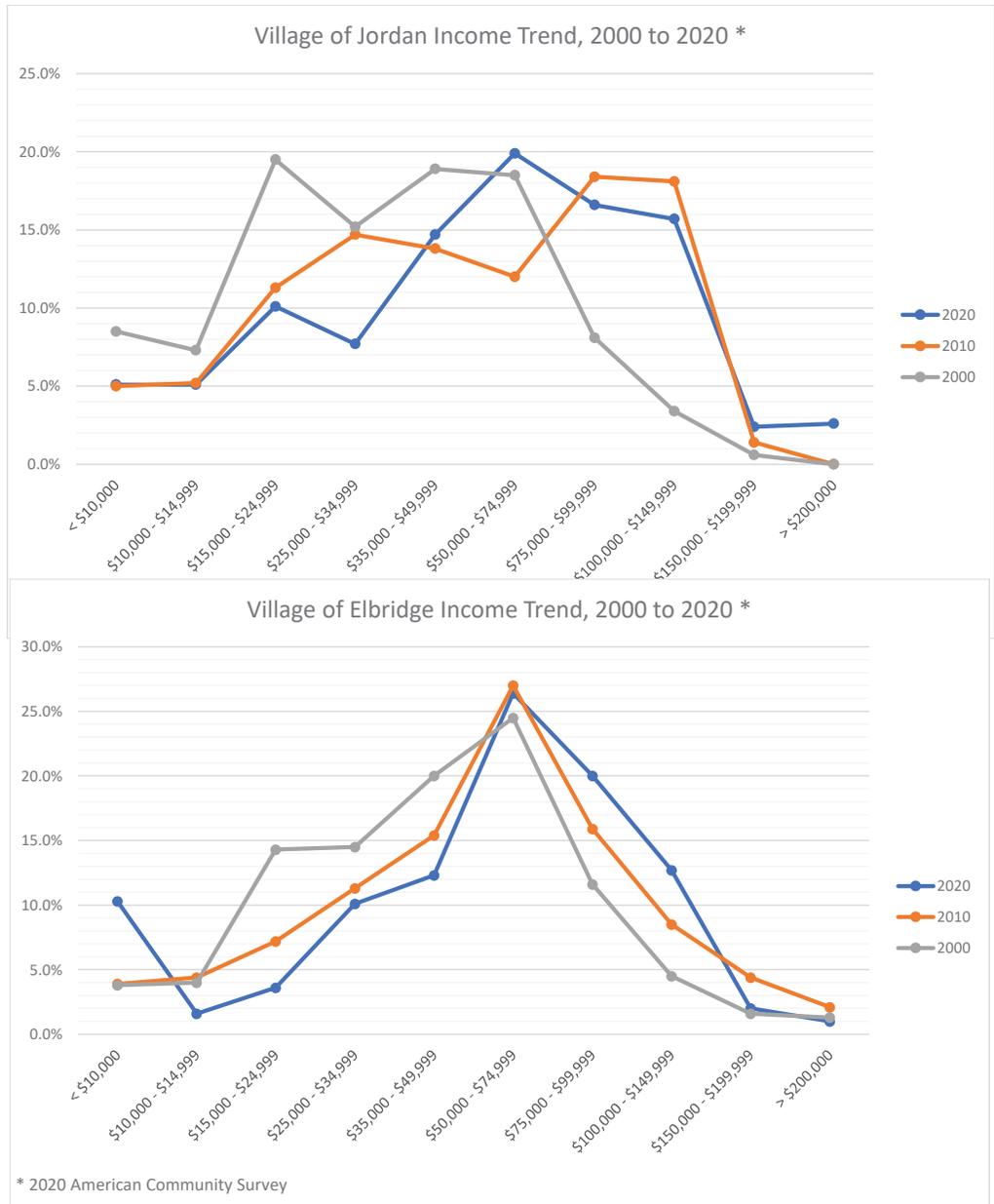
In the Village of Elbridge, the average household income was \$67,520 in 2010 and \$68,529 in 2020. While the average income experienced little change over this twenty year period, the proportion of households making \$15,000–24,999 decreased by 10.7% and the proportion of households

²⁰https://data.census.gov/table?g=060XX00US3606723800_160XX00US-3623789,3638825&tid=ACST5Y2020.S1901

making \$75,000–99,999 increased by 8.4%. Similarly to the rest of the Town, the proportion of households making \$50,000–74,999 and over \$200,000 remained relatively stable. The overall distribution of income in the Village of Elbridge shifted to higher income brackets but remained mostly stable.

The Village of Jordan had an average household income of \$59,801 in 2010 and \$70,409 in 2020. The household income brackets of \$10,000–14,999 and \$150,000–199,999 were relatively stable from 2000 to 2020. The household income bracket that experienced the most change was \$100,000–149,999, increasing 12.3% from 2000 to 2020. The proportion for the bracket of \$15,000–24,999 decreased by 9.4% in those years. Incomes in the Village of Jordan has generally increased since 2000.





Housing Characteristics

A housing unit is defined as a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible.

HOUSING VALUES

The median value of owner-occupied housing, according to estimates from 2020, was \$123,300 in the Town of Elbridge, \$134,000 in the Village of Elbridge, and \$109,600 in the Village of Jordan. The median housing value in Onondaga County that year was \$148,100. Median housing values for home-owners across New York State and the United States were considerably higher in 2020, in NYS it was \$325,000 and in the US was \$229,800.²³

The median rent prices from 2020 were similarly comparable between the Town, Villages, Onondaga County, NYS and the U.S.. In the Town of Elbridge, median rent was \$727, while it was \$841 in the Village of Elbridge and \$731 in Jordan. The same year, the median rent in Onondaga County was \$926. The median rent was \$1,390 in NYS, and \$1,163 across the US.²⁴

HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND VACANCY

Like many communities in Upstate New York, the Town of Elbridge has faced a decline in industry, driving many residents to leave the area and find homes and/or jobs elsewhere. Housing vacancy rates can help communities understand the best way to encourage residency in Elbridge, whether it be through expanding utilities or converting housing.

The number of estimated housing units in Elbridge has increased over the last decade, despite the 5.8% decrease in population. The number of housing units in Town was 2,370 in 2010 and 2,634 in 2020. This trend is consistent with trends across Onondaga County, where housing units increased from 201,871 in 2010 to 209,608 in 2020. If the the Town were to continue to experience a decline in population, the trend of increased housing development may not be sustainable. However, with the anticipated growth in housing demand as a result of the coming Micron development in Central New York, it is unlikely that the Elbridge population will continue to decline as workers relocate to the area.

The populations of both Villages in Elbridge are increasing, so there is already a need for housing in these areas. In the Village of Jordan, new development in recent years has included Locktenders Landing in the southeast section of Jordan, and additional units to “Old Erie Apartments”. In the town, Cobblestone housing development is still underway, and a new housing development was completed on Vinegar Hill Rd. There are several opportunities in the Villages for converting and/or rehabilitating buildings for multi-unit and mixed-use housing.

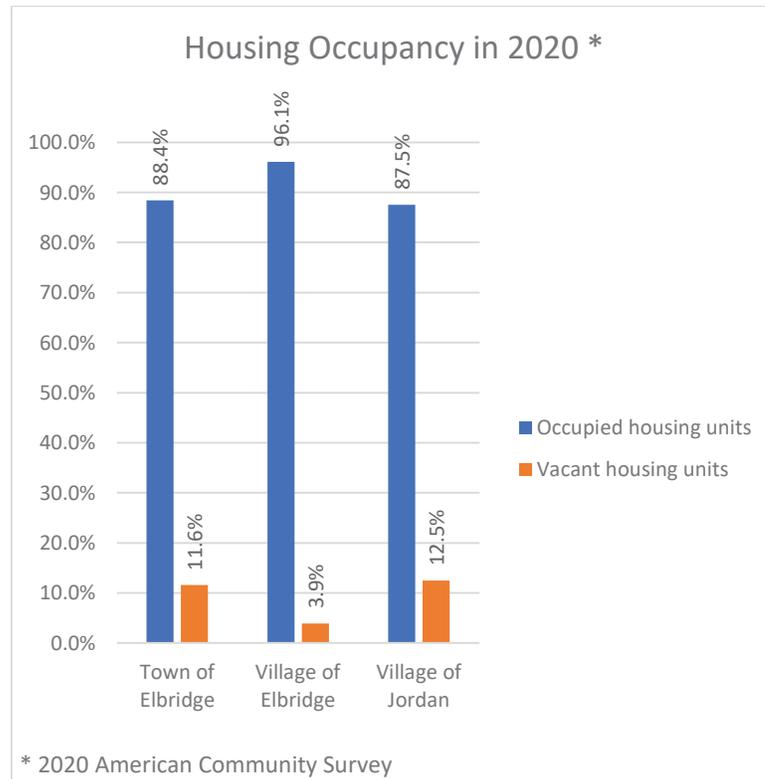
²³https://data.census.gov/table?q=Housing+Value+and+Purchase+Price&g=060XX-00US3606723800_160XX00US3623789&tid=ACSDT5Y2020.B25077

²⁴https://data.census.gov/table?q=rent&g=010XX00US_040XX00US36_050XX00US36067_060XX-00US3606723800_160XX00US3623789,3638825&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP04

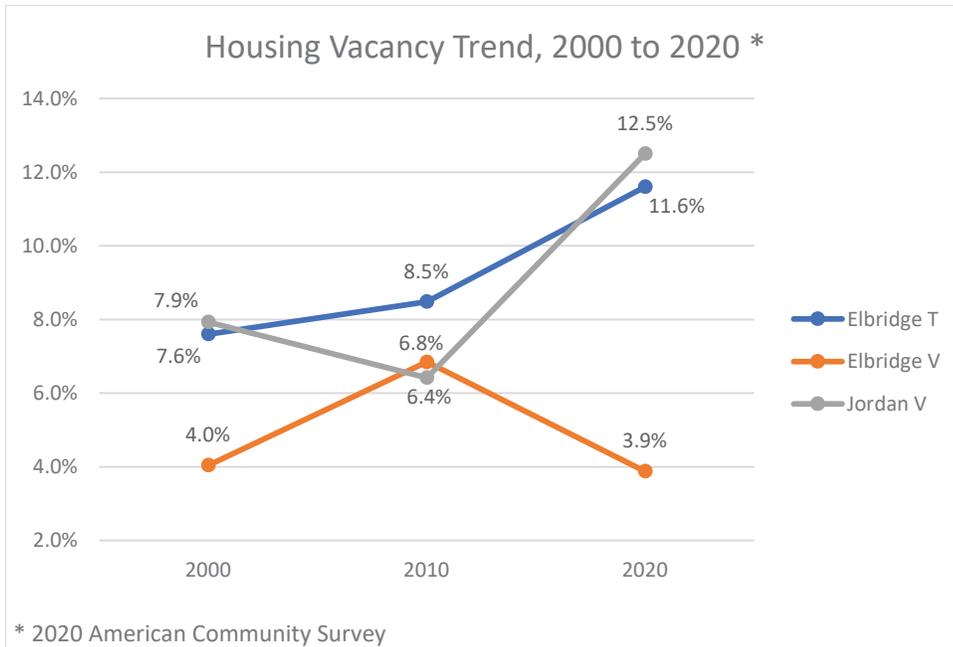
In 2020, the Town of Elbridge had 2,634 housing units total, of which 2,328 were occupied and 306 were vacant. Over 10% of housing units in the Town of Elbridge and Village of Jordan were vacant in 2020. The average household size among these units was 2.46 occupants. Of these households, 85.7% were owner-occupied and 14.3% were renter-occupied.

In the Village of Elbridge, there were 516 housing units, 496 occupied and 20 unoccupied. The average household size was 2.43, distributed among 496 households. 83.3% of households were owner-occupied and 16.7% were renter-occupied.

In Jordan, there were 654 housing units, with 572 occupied and 82 vacant. The average household size was 2.52 and among 572 households. These households were 72.6% owner-occupied and 27.4% renter-occupied.²⁵



²⁵https://data.census.gov/table?g=060XX00US3606723800_160XX00US-3623789,3638825&tid=ACST5Y2021.S1101

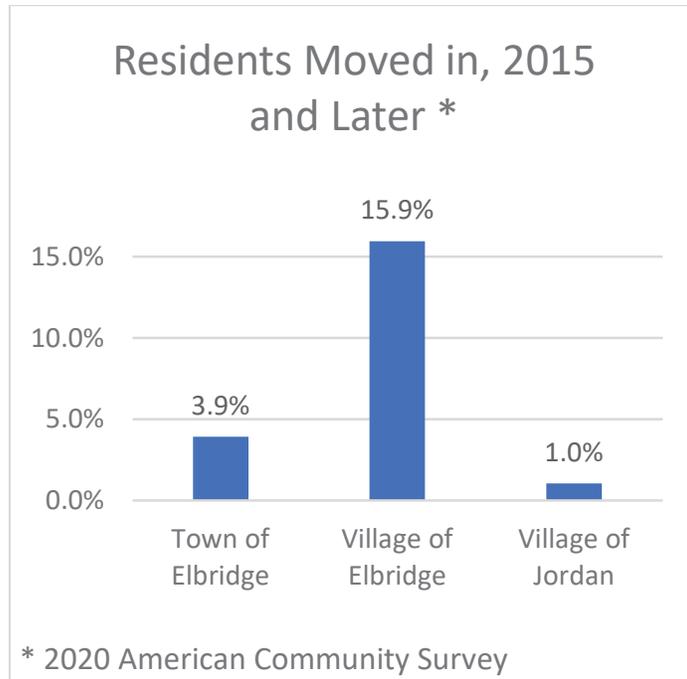


The Village of Jordan has a higher rate of renting compared to the Town as a whole and the Village of Elbridge.

Housing vacancy in the Town of Elbridge increased by 4% from 2000 (7.7%) to 2020 (11.6%). Housing vacancy in Jordan decreased by 1.5% from 2000 (7.9%) to 2010 (6.4%), then increased by 6.1% by 2020, for a net increase of 4.6% over twenty years. In the Village of Elbridge, housing vacancy increased by 2.8% from 2000 (4%) to 2010 (6.8%), then decreased by 2.9% by 2020 (3.9%), for a net decrease of 0.1% over twenty years.

In comparison, Onondaga County's vacancy rate was 10.4% in 2020 and New York State's was 11.3%. Across the US, the vacancy rate was 11.6%. The rates in the Town of Elbridge were much lower than these local and national vacancy rates.

According to surveys from 2020, 3.9% of the Town of Elbridge population had moved into the town in 2015 or later. In the Village of Elbridge, a much higher proportion of 15.9% had moved in during these years. In the Village of Jordan, the proportion was 1%.



HOUSING UNIT CONDITION

The majority of housing units in Elbridge are detached single units, with few options for multiple-family housing. The villages in particular are in need of diverse housing opportunities that can accommodate seniors, professionals, young families, as well as businesses.

In 2020, 67.9% of housing units in Town were detached single units, 2.4% were attached single units, and 18.5% of units were mobile homes. The rest of housing was multi-units at 11.2%.

In the Village of Jordan, 69% of housing units were detached single units and 1.7% were attached single units. 0.9% of units were mobile homes and 28.5% were multi-units.

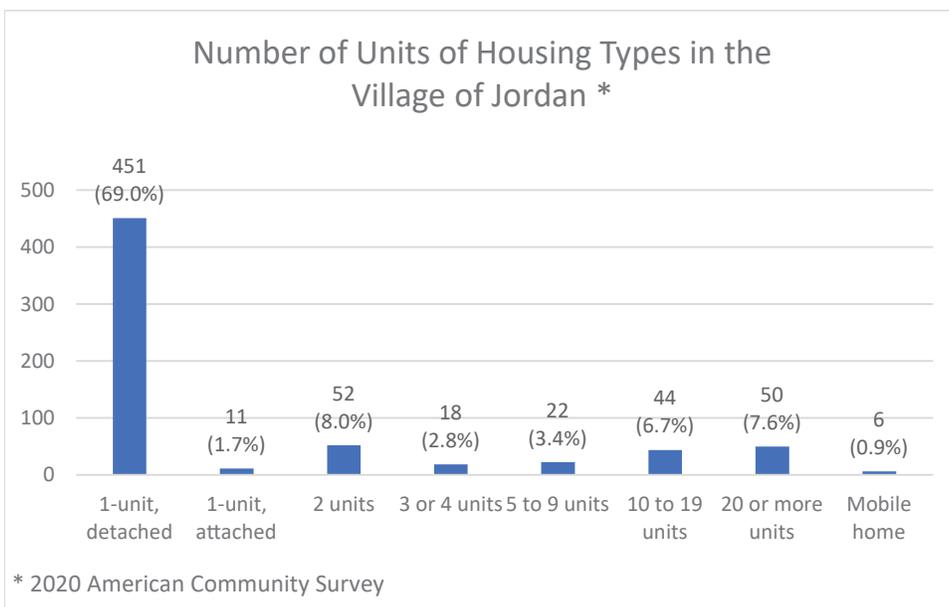
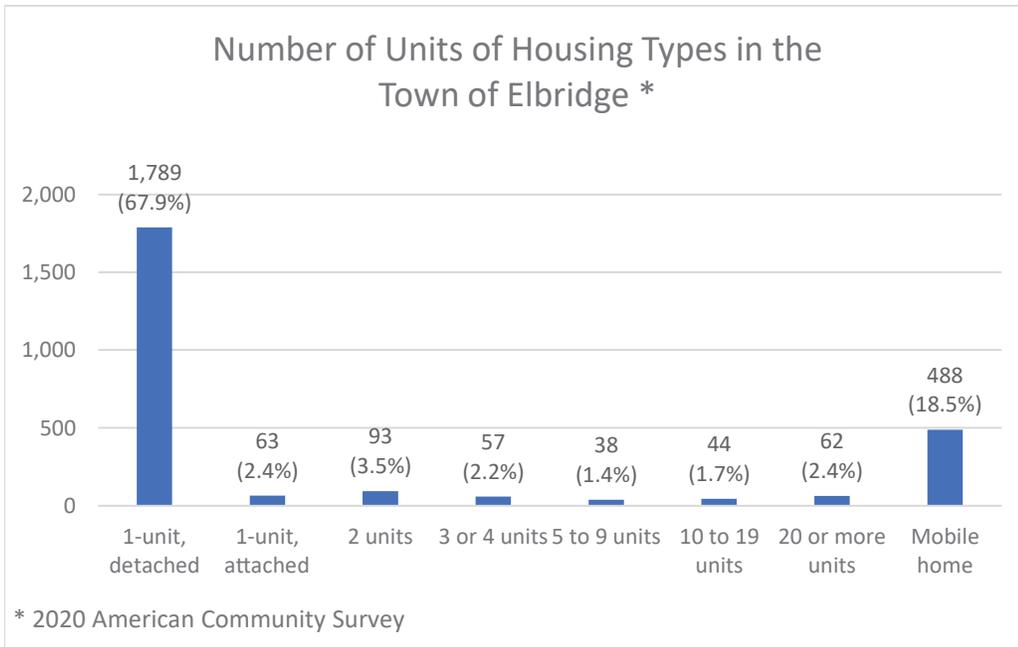
In the Village of Elbridge, 82.9% of housing units were detached single units, 2.5% were attached single units, 0.8% were mobile homes, and the rest were multi-units at 13.7%.

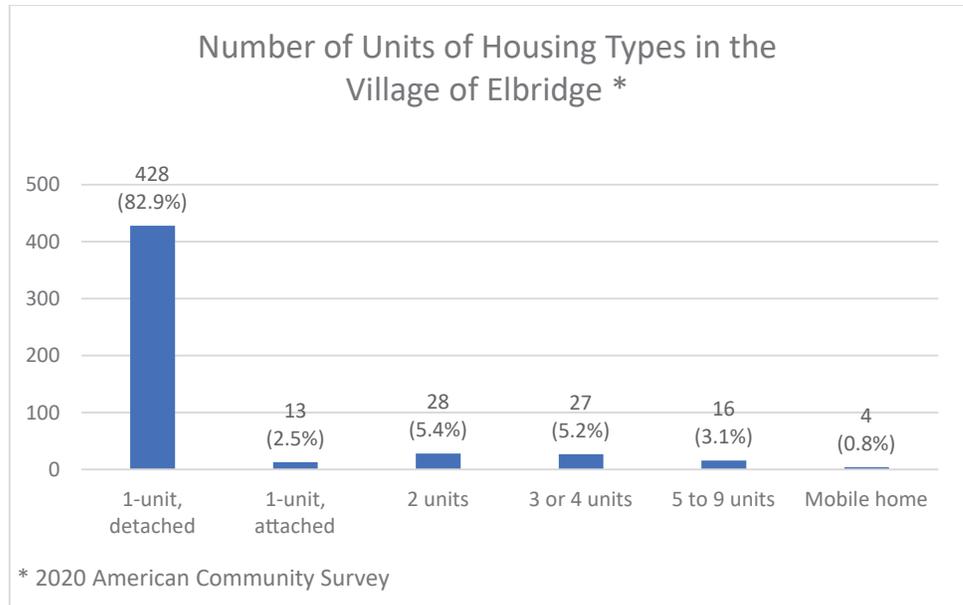
While the Town and Jordan had housing with over twenty units, the Village of Elbridge had no housing with over nine units.

According to the 2020 American Community Survey, 41.9% of housing units in the Town of Elbridge were 31 to 60 years old as of 2020. 33.8% were 81 years or older, 16.4% were new to 30 years old, and 7.9% were 60 to 80 years old.

The age of housing in 2020 in the Village of Elbridge similarly had the largest proportion of housing aged 31 to 60 years at 53.9%. Housing which was 81 years or older made up 35.1%, 60 to 80 years at 9.5%, and new to 30 years old at 1.65%.

The age of housing units in the Village of Jordan tended to be older, with 58.3% of houses built 81 or more years ago. 26.8% of housing was between 31 and 60 years old, 10.1% of housing was new to 30 years old, and 4.9% of housing was between 60 to 80 years old.





In 2020, the surveys about the condition of housing reported that some units lacked complete plumbing facilities, complete kitchen facilities, and telephone landline service. Complete plumbing facilities means (a) hot and cold piped water, (b) a bathtub or shower, and (c) a flush toilet. Across the Town of Elbridge, 4% lacked complete plumbing and 2.1% lacked complete kitchen facilities. 2.2% had no telephone landline service.

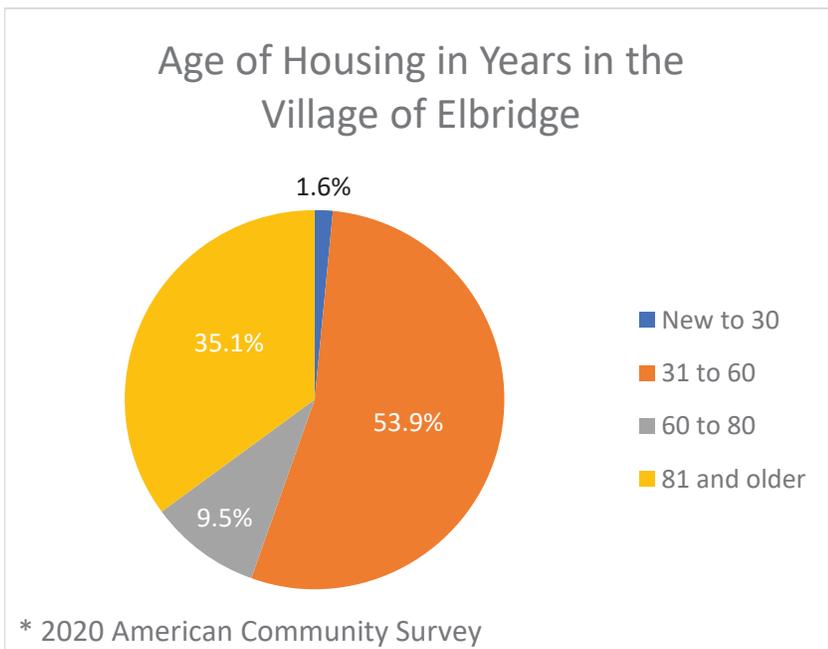
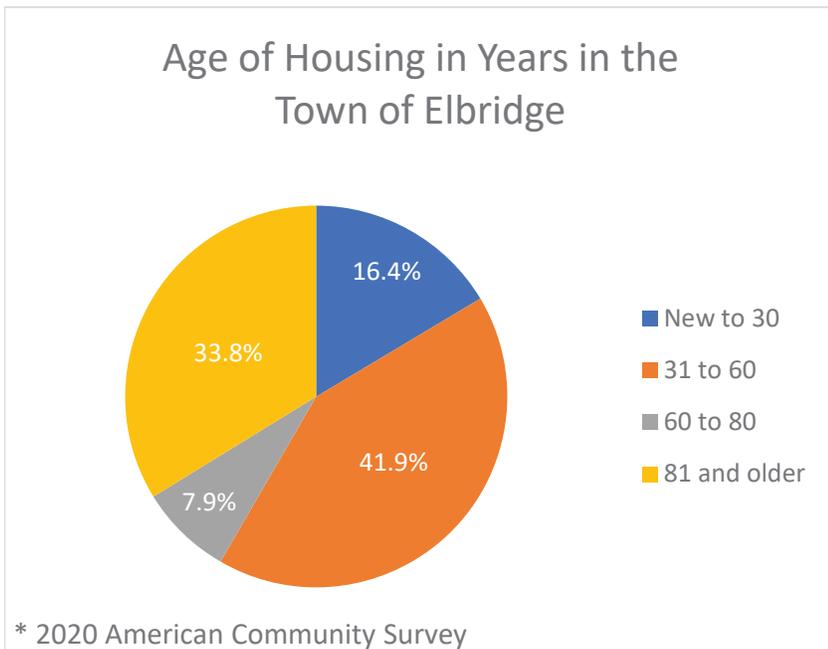
In the Village of Elbridge, all units had complete kitchen facilities, but 2% lacked complete plumbing facilities and 3.8% had no telephone landline services. In the Village of Jordan, 6.5% lacked complete plumbing facilities, 0.3% lacked complete kitchen facilities, and 2.3% had no telephone landline service.

The state of housing in the Town presents challenges to the community. The Town of Elbridge and the Villages within it have few multi-unit housing options, which can present a challenge to individuals and families seeking more affordable units. Old Erie Apartments in the Village of Jordan is one example of low-income housing in this area, where units are mostly occupied by seniors. There is a need for additional housing for the elderly in the Villages. Currently, many elderly in the community have no choice but to move away from Elbridge to seek assisted living or retirement homes elsewhere.

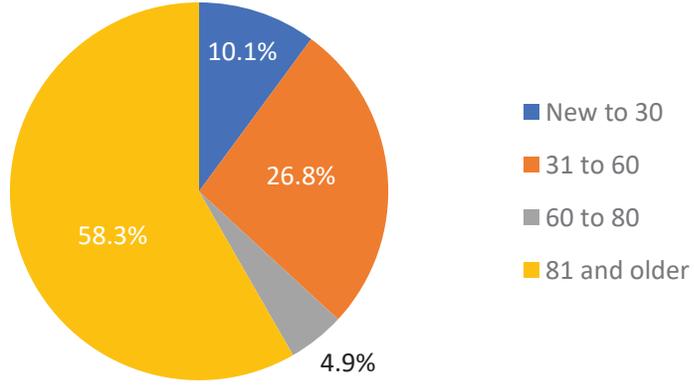
The age of housing is also an issue, especially in Jordan. Over 60% of the housing in Jordan is over 60 years old and many housing units have outdated or incomplete facilities and services. Some of the older housing stock in Jordan has been updated for modernity and energy-efficiency, but

many older housing units are not updated or up to current standards. Incomplete plumbing facilities presents a particular problem in some areas.

Maintaining current housing facilities, updating old ones, and expanding housing services would help entice new residents to move into the Town of Elbridge. However, the historic character of the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan is important to preserve while undergoing these efforts.

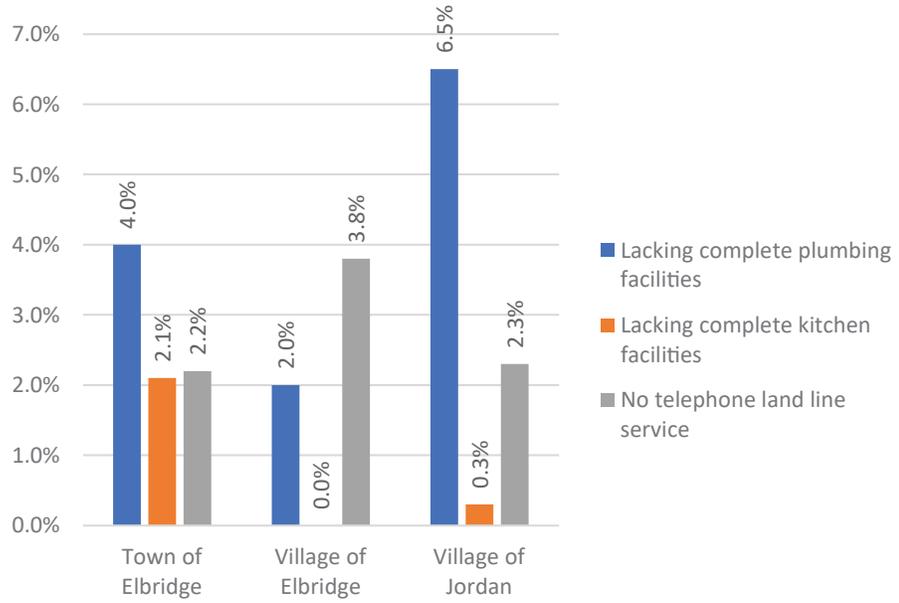


Age of Housing in Years in the Village of Jordan



* 2020 American Community Survey

Condition of Housing in the Town of Elbridge *



* 2020 American Community Survey

Land Use

Information about land use is essential for planning and policy development, as well as for monitoring environmental change. The New York State Office of Real Property Services classifies land use this way:

Agricultural (100) Community Services (600)
Residential (200) Industrial (700)
Vacant Land (300) Public Services (800)
Commercial (400) Wild, Forested, Conservation
Recreation and Entertainment (500) Lands, and Public Parks (900)

Map 2 indicates the areas where these current land uses take place in the Town of Elbridge, including the two Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. Although this is a helpful guide to the use of land in this community, it's important to note that property can have more than one use, such as residential, forested, and agricultural land.

Agricultural Use

Agricultural land use takes place in the Town and in both Villages. The Village of Elbridge has three parcels of farmland and Jordan has twelve. Much of the rest of the Town is comprised of farmland, making it important to the community in terms of identity, economics, food security, storm-water mitigation, and scenic resources. Through the New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT), over 1,200 acres of agricultural land in the Town, just south of the Village of Elbridge, is protected as forever farmland.²⁶ A total of 18,400 acres of land is categorized under agricultural use, which accounts for 2.6% of the land in Elbridge, and 26% of Onondaga County Ag District 3 lands (12,692 acres) are located in the Town of Elbridge.

Commercial Use

Commercial land use mostly takes place within or close to the Villages, as well as along I-90 and in southwest corner of the Town. In total, the Town has 38,400 acres categorized under commercial use, which is 5.4% of its acreage. The majority of these commercial properties can be accessed from main roads such as Route 5, Route 60, and I-90.

Recreational & Entertainment Use

Recreation and Entertainment land use takes place in the southwest corner of Jordan, in the southwest of the Town, and on the east side of the Town. 2,500 acres of land in Elbridge are categorized for recreation and entertainment, accounting for 0.3% of the acreage. This may be the smallest proportion of all land uses in Elbridge, but it should be noted that public parks, also used for recreation, are not included in this category.

²⁶https://www.nyalt.org/project_category/elbridge-ny/

Community Service Use

Community Services take place in both Villages and just outside of them, located at the local churches, cemeteries, and Jordan-Elbridge schools. These properties make up 3.9% of acreage use for a total of 27,600 acres of land.

Industrial Use

Industrial land use takes place within the Village of Jordan and west of the Village of Elbridge. This category makes up 11,200 acres, or 1.6% of the Town acreage, with industries such as Tessy Plastics and Northeastern Electronics.

Public Service Use

Public Services take place east and south of Jordan and in the north side of Jordan. Additional public services are located just south of the Town of Lysander and the Seneca River and east of the Town of Elbridge. This land use covers 36,800 acres, which is 5.2% of the acreage in Town.

Wild, Forested, Conservation Land & Public Park Use

Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands and Public Parks include an area along Skaneateles Creek and the northeastern part of the Village of Elbridge, and areas along the old Erie Canal in the Village of Jordan. These green spaces, such as Carpenters Brook Meadow and Seymour Lofft Park, contribute to the quality of life and environment in Elbridge. They span 22,500 acres in total, which is about 3.2% of land use acreage in Elbridge.

Residential Use

As the categories with the largest proportion, residential land use is widely dispersed throughout Town, making up about 54.6% of land use acreage with a total of 385,400 acres.

Vacant

Vacant land can include non-productive agricultural land, undeveloped residential land, unused public utility land, or habitat for non-commercial species. Vacant land in Elbridge covers 23.1% of the acres in Town, with a total of 163,200 acres.

PUBLIC LANDS

Publicly-owned land in Elbridge is divided between the state, county, town, two villages, and public schools.



New York State

Within Elbridge, NYS owns most of the shoreline of Cross Lake, the Seneca River, and the old Erie Canalway corridor. The State also owns and maintains I-90 and the land it crosses over. There is also a small State-owned property on Whistle Stop Lane.

Onondaga County

The County owns the abandoned New York Central Railroad and maintains local Route 60 and two county-owned parks, Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery on Route 321 and Erie Canal Lock 51 Park, a historic landmark featuring the dry remains of an 1847 double chamber lock, accessible from Route 31 approximately a mile west of the Village of Jordan.

Town of Elbridge

The Town owns two properties in the Village of Jordan which include the Jordan Elbridge Gathering Enclosure, the Elbridge Town Justice Office, and St. Patrick's Cemetery. There are also Town properties to the north, east, and west of Jordan.

Village of Elbridge

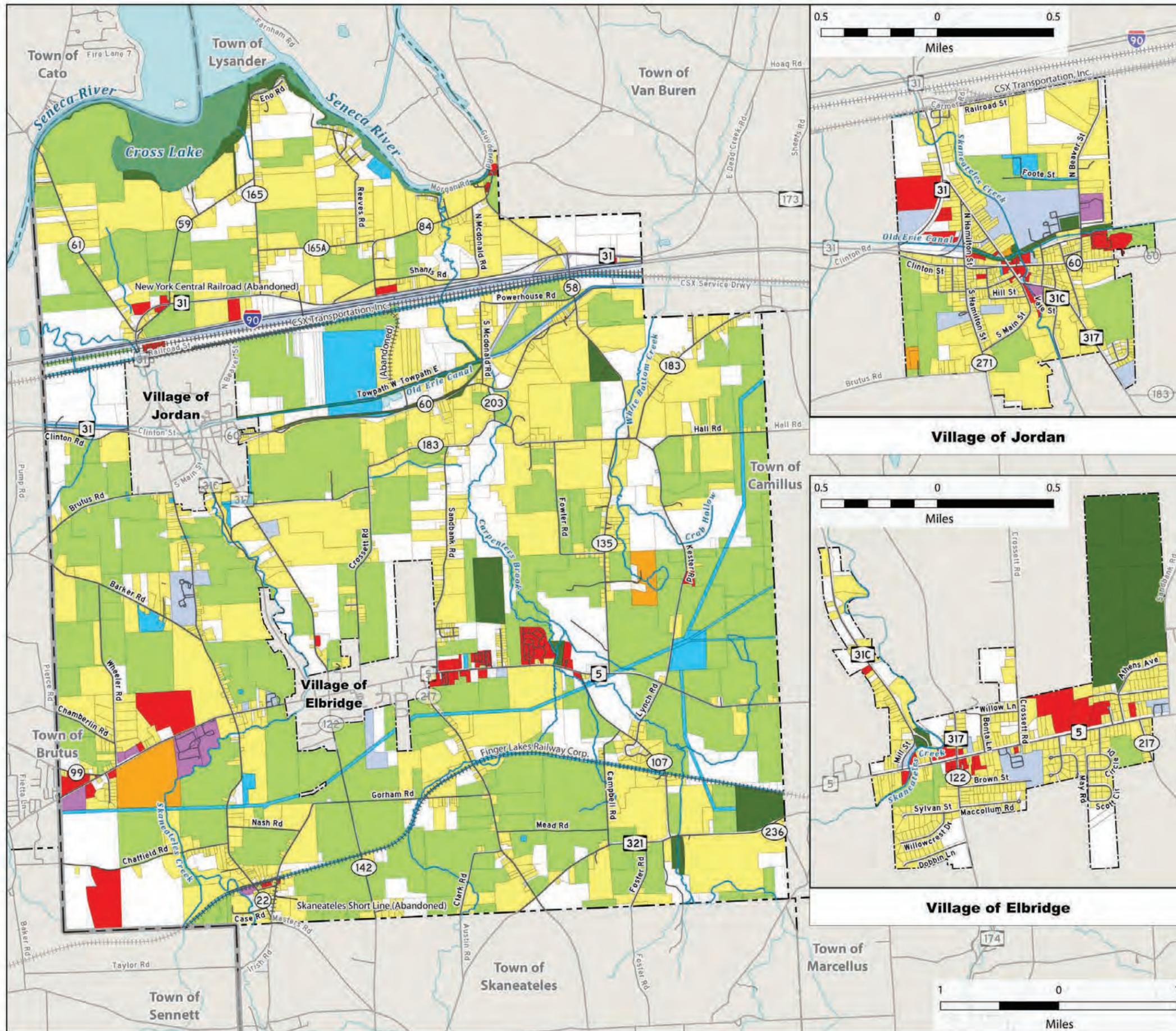
The Village of Elbridge owns the land on which Seymour Lofft Park and Elbridge Fire Station are located, as well as the land at the bend of Skaneateles Creek near Valley Drive and a property on the southeast corner of Meadow Road and East Main Street.

Village of Jordan

Jordan owns Jordan Canal Park and a section of the Empire State Trail along the old Erie Canal. The Village also owns the Jordan Village Treatment Plant property on Foote Street and the Jordan Memorial Pool on Brutus Road.

Education

Public schools occupy land in both Villages as well as outside them. The Elbridge Elementary School and Jordan-Elbridge Central School are located in the Village of Elbridge. Jordan-Elbridge High School is located in Town between the two Villages. Jordan-Elbridge Middle School is located in the Village of Jordan.



Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 2:
Existing Land Use in the
Town of Elbridge

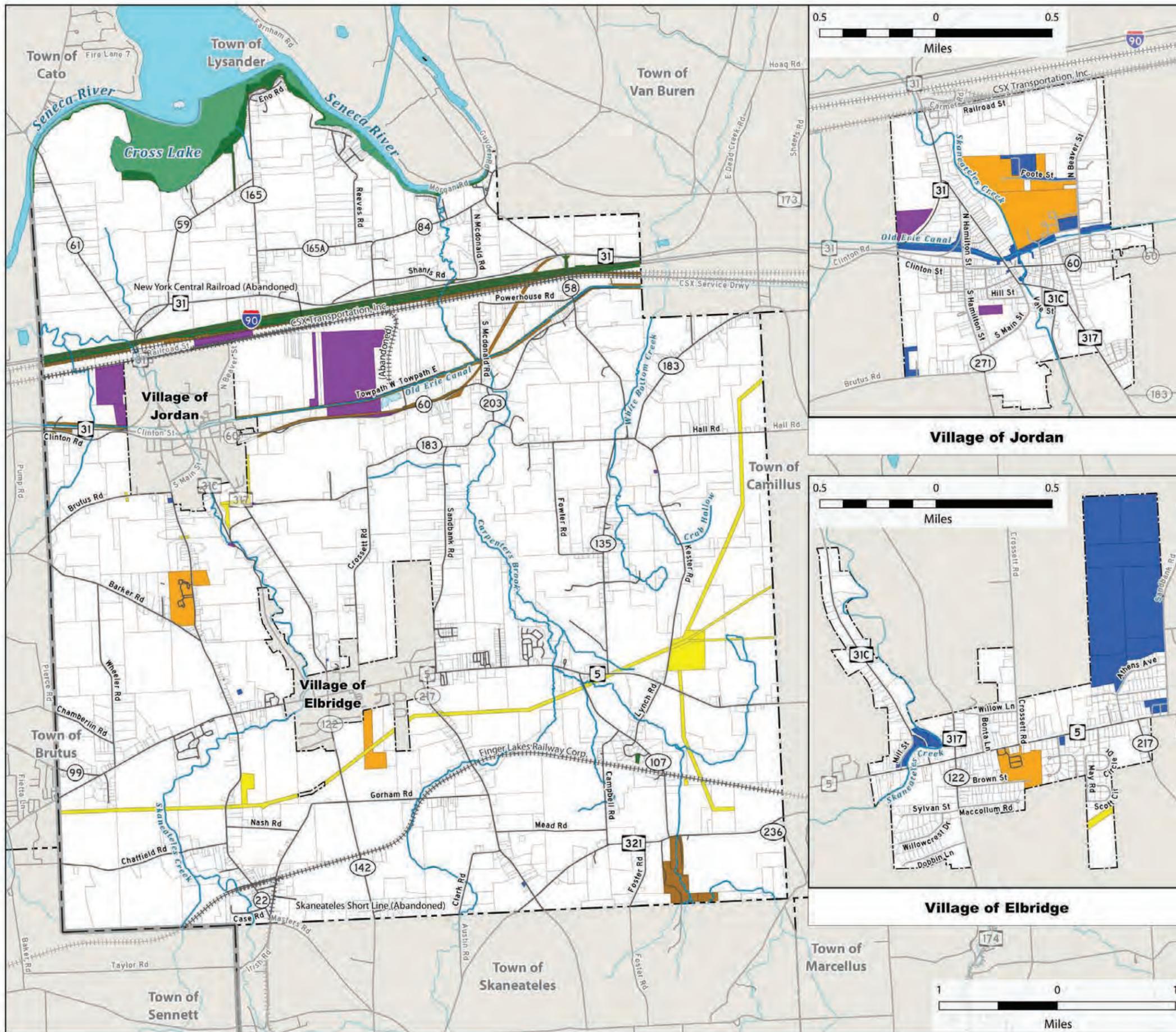
- Legend**
- Roads
 - +++++ Railroad
 - ▭ Counties
 - ▭ Towns
 - ▭ Villages
 - ▭ Parcels
 - Agricultural (100)
 - Commercial (400)
 - Community Services (600)
 - Industrial (700)
 - Public Services (800)
 - Recreation and Entertainment (500)
 - Residential (200)
 - Vacant Land (300)
 - Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands and Public Parks (900)



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023





Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 3:
Public Lands in the Town
of Elbridge

Legend

	Roads		State
	Railroad		County
	Counties		Town
	Towns		Village
	Villages		Education
	Parcels		Public Utility
			Other/Private



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023



ZONING IN THE TOWN OF ELBRIDGE

Although the adoption of a comprehensive plan such as this one is voluntary, once a plan is adopted, New York State requires that all zoning laws are in accordance with it. This requirement is based on constitutional guidelines and ensures that zoning laws are adopted or amended based on careful consideration of the needs and interests of the community they apply to.

The Town of Elbridge’s current zoning legislation, titled “Zoning law of the Town of Elbridge, New York,” was updated as recently as April 2022. The legislation provides a statement of intent and which land uses are permitted for each district type. Map 4 shows where each zoning district is located in the Town. The inventory of allowed uses by subarea are as follows:

Agricultural Zoning District

Agricultural zoning districts are meant to accommodate agricultural operations, preserve agricultural land, and allow low density development. Permitted uses for this land include: single-family dwelling, agriculture, private boarding of farm livestock, and commercial animal boarding. Special use permits may be granted for public service and utilities, outdoor recreation, and home occupation. The vast majority of the Town is in this zoning district.

Rural Residential Zoning District

Rural residential districts are meant for low density, single-family residential use in areas where utilities will not be available. Permitted uses of this land are agriculture and single-family dwelling (on 1-acre minimum lots). With specialized permits, this land can also be used for home occupation, bed-and-breakfast, private boarding of farm livestock, religious institutions, public service and utilities, outdoor wood boiler, commercial animal boarding, and noncommercial wind energy conversion. After agricultural districts, rural residential districts make up the most districting area.

Residential (R-1) Zoning District

R-1 districts are meant for medium density, residential use located where utilities may be available. Single-family dwellings are permitted here (on 30,000 s.f. minimum lots). With special use permits, the following may be allowed: two-family-dwelling, adult housing facility, public service and utilities, religious institutions, crop farming, bed-and-breakfast, home occupation for service businesses.

Service Zoning District

Service districts are intended to provide a transition between residential and commercial use. Permitted uses include: single-family dwelling, two-family dwelling, multiple-family dwelling, personal and professional service, adult housing facility, commercial indoor lodging, and indoor institutional. With special use permits, these districts can also be used for public and service utilities, fuel stations and car washes, restaurants and taverns, and indoor sales.

Business (B-1) Zoning District

B-1 districts are intended for suitable and appropriate areas for retail stores and personal service establishments. The following uses are permitted: indoor sales, personal and professional services, restaurants and taverns, indoor institutional, and indoor commercial entertainment. With special permits, outdoor sales and public service and utilities are also permitted.

Business (B-2) Zoning District

B-2 districts are intended for suitable and appropriate areas for retail stores, personal service establishments, as well as uses oriented toward vehicle sales, operations, fuel, maintenance, and service. The following uses are permitted: outdoor sales, motor vehicle maintenance and service, fuel stations, and car washes.

Business (B-3) Zoning District

B-3 districts are intended for suitable and appropriate areas for motor vehicle sales with maintenance, service, and outdoor display. The following uses are permitted: motor vehicle sale, maintenance, and service.

Industrial Zoning District

Industrial districts are intended for light industrial uses and certain commercial uses which are inappropriate for other nonresidential districts. The following uses are permitted: light industrial, vehicle maintenance and service, contractor services, secondhand material and parts facility, outdoor sales, fuel distribution, storage and warehousing, fuel station/car washes, outdoor recreation, public service and utilities, and trucking. With a special permit, an outdoor wood boiler is also permitted.

Municipal Zoning District

Municipal districts are intended for areas owned by a public school, public library, emergency service organization, public benefit land trust, and a governmental entity or agency. The land parcel must be exempt from property taxes to qualify for this district.

ZONING IN THE VILLAGE OF ELBRIDGE (1987)²⁷

One-Family Residential (R-1) Districts

R-1 districts are intended for one-family detached dwellings on large lots in an effort to preserve the character, aesthetics, and historical values of the existing prime residential neighborhoods. Permitted uses in these districts are: one-family detached dwelling (one per lot); non-business accessory uses and structures; and schools, parks, and recreation areas subject to noise level limitations. With special permits, the following uses are also allowed: churches, parish houses, libraries, and community centers; home occupations, and television dishes.

Minor Multiple-Family Residential (R-2) Districts

R-2 districts are intended to be distinct from large multi-family buildings by maintaining the quality of environment characterized by large one- to four-family dwelling areas. Permitted uses in these districts are: one-, two-, three-, or four-family dwellings; non-business accessory uses and structure; and schools, parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas subject to noise level limitations. With special permits the following uses are also allowed: nursery school buildings, day-care center buildings, churches, parish houses, libraries, community centers, home occupations, and television dishes.

Multiple-Family Residential (R-3) Districts

R-3 districts are intended for dwellings with more than four units, with the goal of providing an atmosphere of spaciousness and privacy with compatible architecture. The following uses are permitted in these districts: apartment buildings, townhouses, and condominiums; non-business accessory uses and structures; and schools, parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas subject to noise level limitations. With special permits, the following uses are also allowed: nursery school buildings, day-care center buildings, churches, parish houses, libraries, resident doctor/physician offices, community centers, television dishes, beauty shops, and amateur radio transmission towers.

Retail Business (B-1) Districts

B-1 districts are intended for aesthetically pleasing office facilities and permitted accessory uses in nonresidential areas. The following uses are allowed: professional and business offices, beauty parlors, barbershops, banks, and retail stores. With special permits, these uses are also allowed: sit-down restaurants; drive-in facilities; motor vehicle sales, service, and repair; public garages; gas stations; motels; car washes; dry-cleaning and laundromats; and other uses with similar characterization as interpreted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

²⁷<http://www.villageofelbridge.com/uploads/5/5/1/3/55132059/el0930-137.pdf>

General Business and Industrial (B-2) Districts

B-2 districts are intended to accommodate heavier commercial and industrial uses in remote areas where noise levels and processes will not disrupt residential life. Permitted uses include: wholesale establishments; warehousing facilities; light manufacturing and processing; utility facilities; commercial and industrial equipment sales and services; lumberyards, building supply, and construction equipment; drive-in facilities; motor vehicle sales, service, and rental; truck terminals; public garage; private indoor and outdoor recreation facilities; dry-cleaning and laundromats; and other uses with similar characterization as interpreted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Shopping Center (S-1) Districts

S-1 districts are intended for both local and large shopping centers with large off-street parking and compatibility with adjoining land uses. All other uses are prohibited.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) Districts

PUD districts are intended to incorporate into a single unit a variety of residential, business, commercial, limited-agricultural-type activities (greenhouses), and general community facilities and property. Where deemed appropriate, the PUD designation supersedes other district specifications in the given area. PUD districts allow the Village to develop underutilized areas to achieve goals identified in the Comprehensive Plan of the Village of Elbridge.

ZONING IN THE VILLAGE OF JORDAN

One Family Residential (R-A) Districts

One & Two Family Residential (R-B) Districts

One, Two, & Multiple Family Residential (R-C) Districts

Village Center (VC)

Highway Commercial (HC) Districts

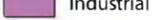
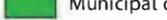
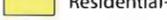
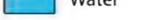
Industrial (IND) Districts

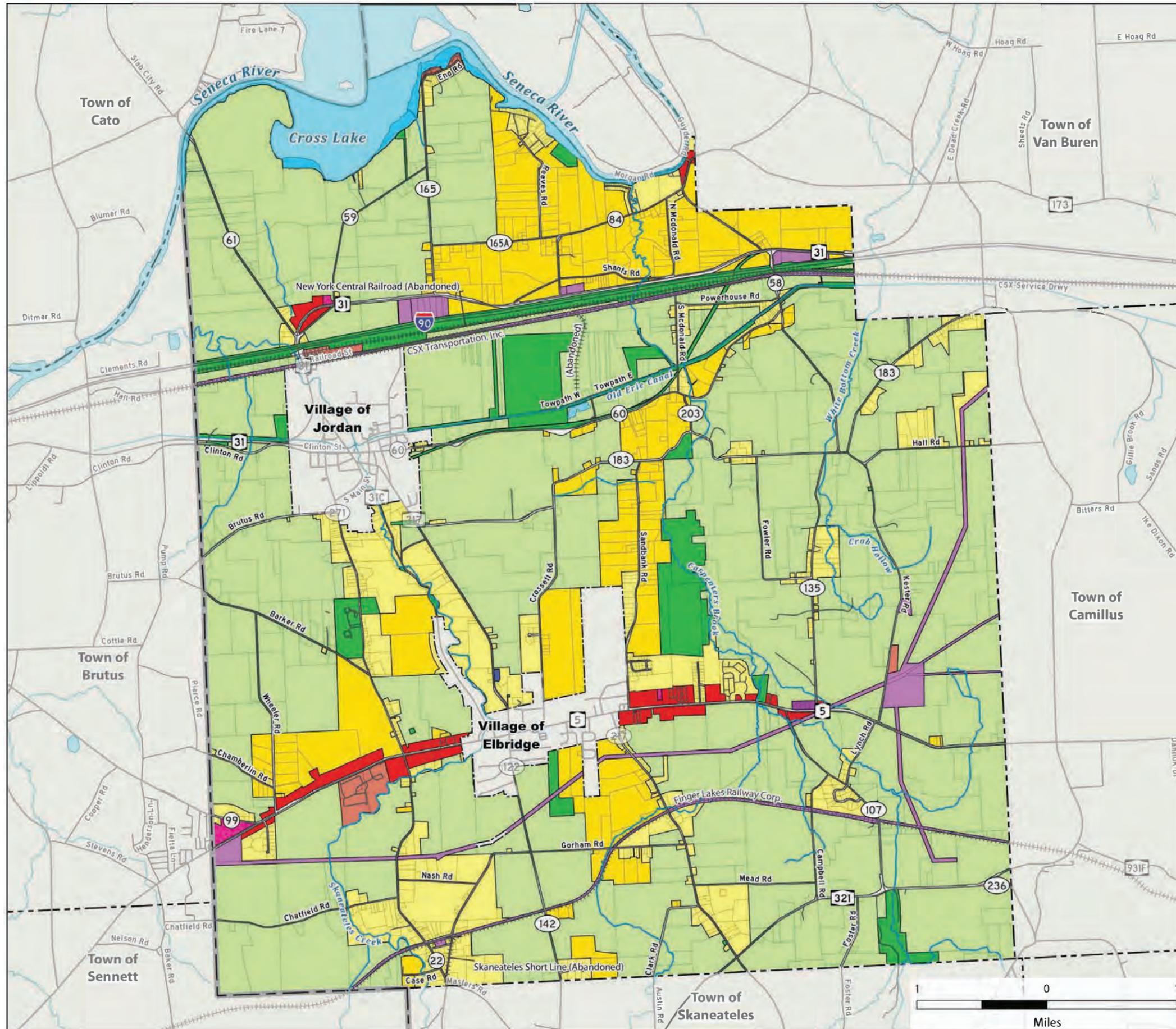
Planned Development District (PDD)

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 4:
Zoning Map for the Town
of Elbridge

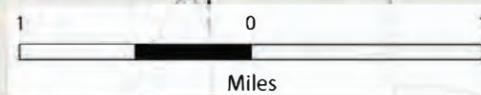
Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  Agricultural
-  Business-1
-  Business-2
-  Business-3
-  Industrial
-  Municipal or State
-  Planned District
-  Residential-1
-  Rural Residential
-  Service
-  Water



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and the Onondaga County Planning Agency. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023

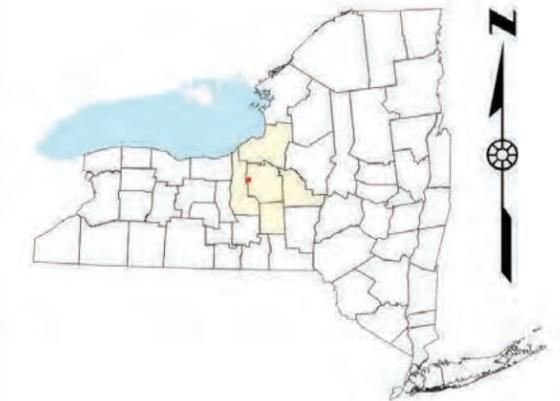


Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

**Map 5:
Zoning Map for the Village
of Elbridge**

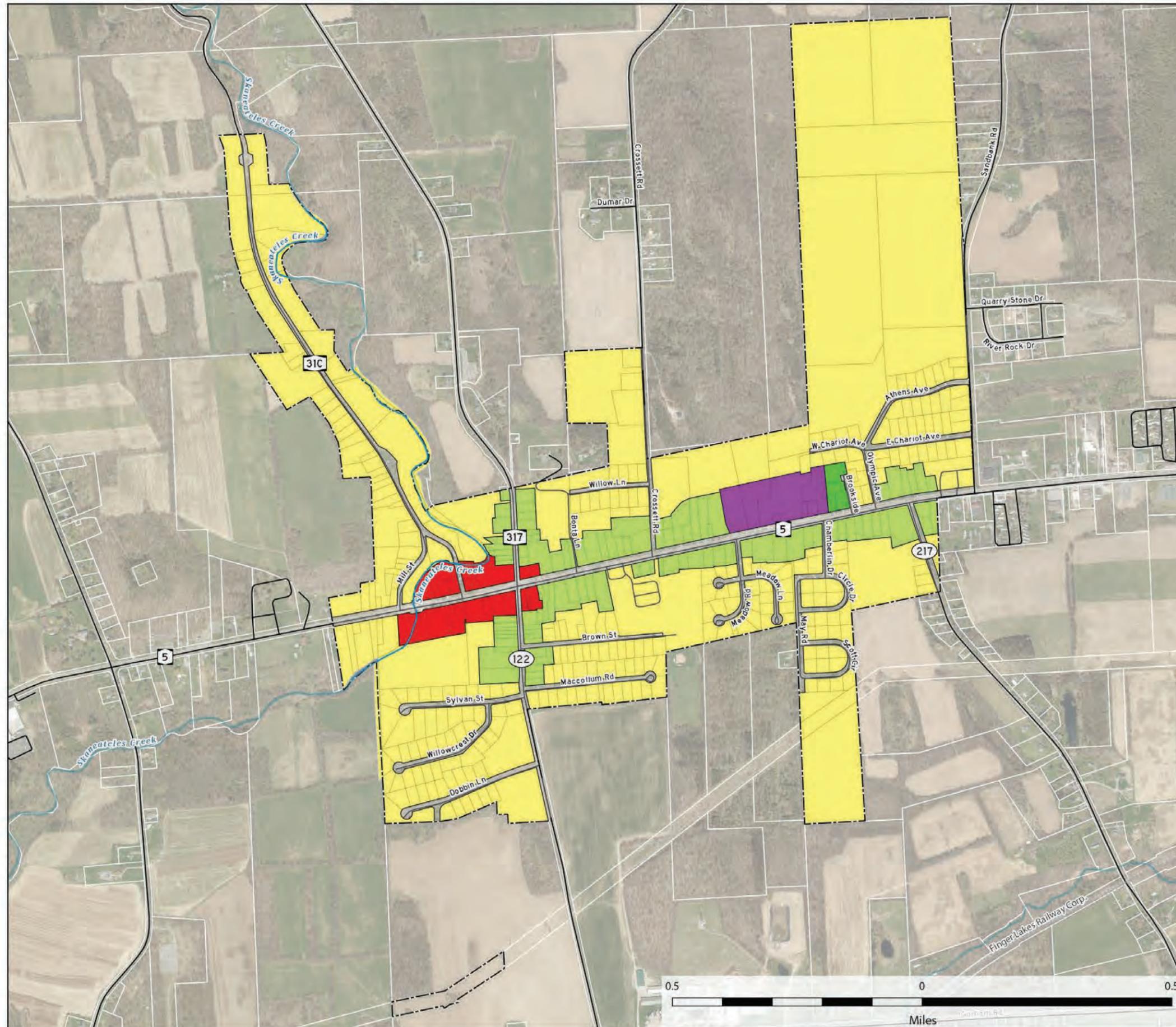
Legend

-  Roads
-  Village
-  Parcels
-  Single Family Residential
-  Minor Multiple Family Residential
-  Multiple Family Residential
-  Retail Business
-  Shopping Center



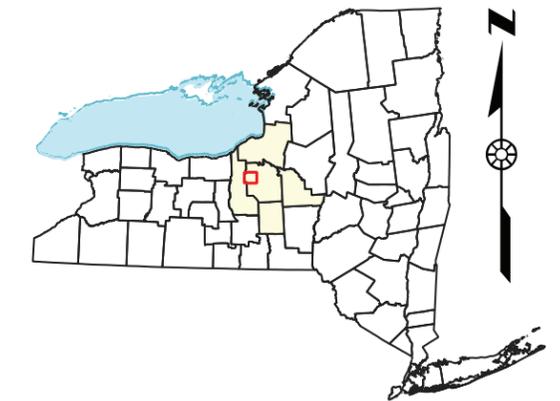
Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and the Village of Elbridge. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

February 2024



Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 6:
Zoning for the Village of
Jordan



Zoning map obtained from the Village of Jordan.

September 2023



Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 7:
Village of Jordan Sewer
System

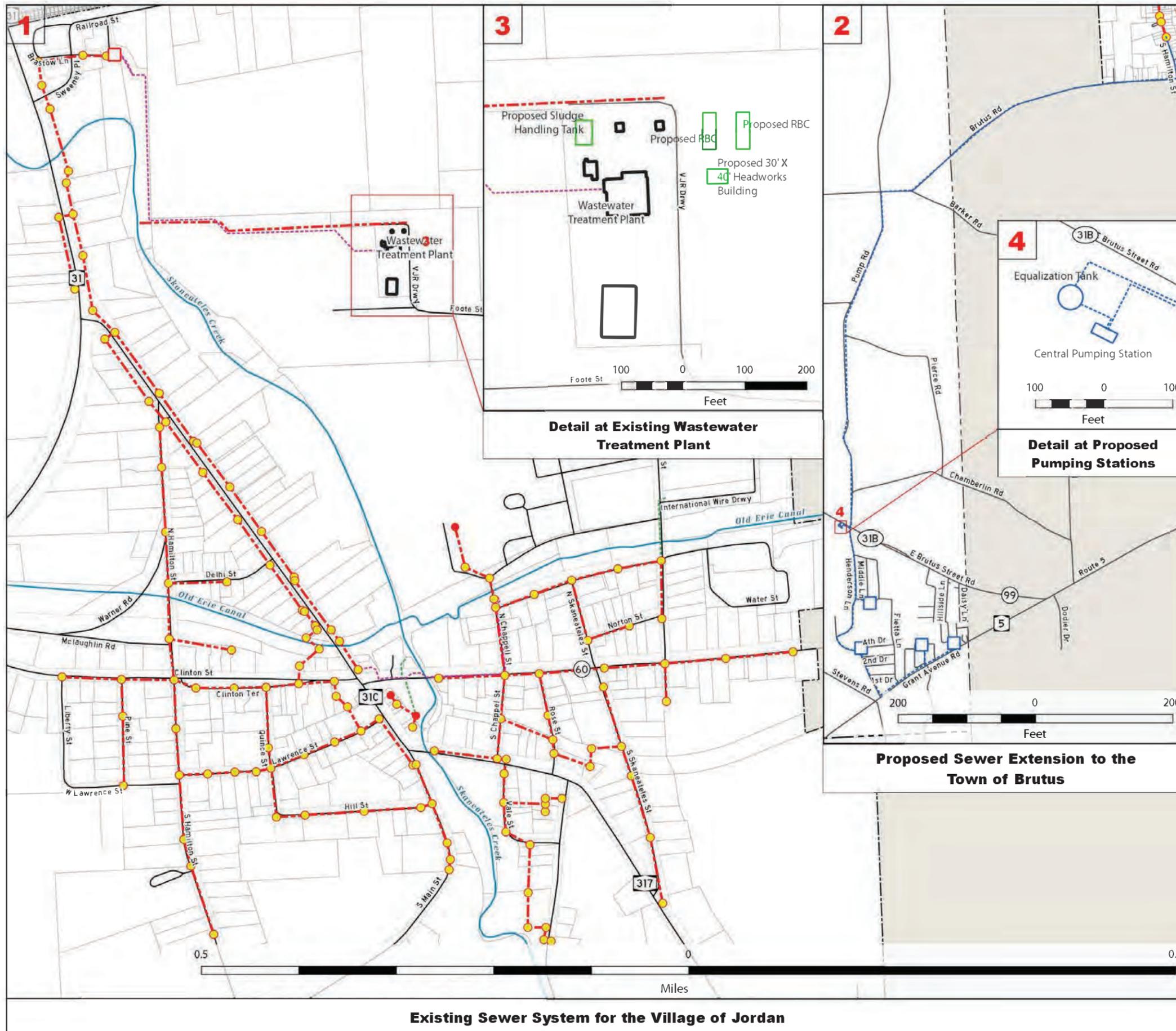
Legend

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| — Roads | Existing Sewer System |
| ▭ Town | ● Manhole |
| ▭ Village | ● (Not Identified) |
| ▭ Parcels | □ Pumping Station |
| Proposed Sewer Extension | — Pressure Service Main |
| --- Force Main | --- Force Main |
| --- Force Main | --- Gravity Sewer |
| □ Pumping Station | |



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, the Village of Jordan, and Barton & Loguidice Engineers. Village of Jordan Existing Sewer System digitized by CNY RPDB. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

March 2024



Municipal Infrastructure and Public Utilities

The Town of Elbridge and the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge provide the community with drinking water, road maintenance, garbage collection, recycling, fair and equitable government, and education for the community's youth. The following sections provide more detail on a number of these municipal services and public utilities available in the Town and Villages.

SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Jordan Village Treatment Plant on Foote Road serves the Village of Jordan community with wastewater treatment. Although the Jordan sewer district is delineated by the Village border, 71 homes in the Village have individual septic systems. They are located on Railroad Street, South Hamilton Street, Brutus Road, South Hamilton Street, South Main Street, Elbridge Street, Liberty Street, Clinton Street, North Beaver Street, and one residence on Canal Street. 943 people, including the school population, are served by the nitrification wastewater treatment process at the Treatment Plant (Map 7).

In January of 2022, The Village of Jordan advanced a SEQRA Negative Declaration for the installation of a sewer force main collection system to convey wastewater from the three mobile home parks to the Village of Jordan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) through the Town of Elbridge. A new sewer district was proposed but has not been funded or formed in the Town of Brutus to serve the three mobile home parks and a new sewer main will be installed within the mobile home parks, and existing pump stations within the mobile home parks will be upgraded to convey sanitary wastewater to a new sewer force main on NYS Route 5.

A centralized pump station and equalization tank is proposed near the intersection of State Route 5 and Hamilton Road. A new sewer district will be formed in the Town of Elbridge to serve properties along the NYS Route 5 and Hamilton Road corridor along the proposed force main alignment and adjoining side roads, including East Brutus Street, Dodier Drive, Wheeler Road, Chamberlin Road, and Brutus Road.

New users in the Village of Jordan will be added to the proposed collection system as service extensions along Brutus Road and South Hamilton Street. The force main will connect to the Village of Jordan's existing sanitary sewer collection system on South Hamilton Street, and all waste from the expanded service areas will be conveyed to the Village of Jordan WWTP. The Brastow Road pump station in the Village of Jordan will be rehabilitated as part of the project, as this pump station conveys all

sanitary flows to the WWTP. Multiple upgrades are also proposed at the existing WWTP, including a new headworks building, a new sludge holding tank, two rotating biological contactor (RBC) units, various improvements to existing buildings and equipment on site, and a new generator. The Village of Jordan will operate and maintain the new collection system in each municipality, as well as the upgraded WWTP. The project is located in the Village of Jordan and Town of Elbridge in Onondaga County, New York and Town of Brutus in Cayuga County, New York.

The Village of Elbridge and the rest of the Town do not have public sewer lines, so these homes rely on individual septic systems. The Town of Elbridge initiated a feasibility study in 2015 to evaluate options to extend the sewer lines beyond the Village border. Barton & Loguidice, an engineering firm, are working with Jordan and the Town on the project.

PUBLIC WATER FACILITIES



The the Kingston Rd Water Treatment Facility where the Village's water supply undergoes ultraviolet treatment, chlorination for disinfection, and fluoridation to prevent tooth decay.

The Villages of Elbridge and Jordan receive water supply through the City of Syracuse's water distribution system. The water is drawn from Skaneateles Lake and enters the Elbridge system, where, at the Kingston Rd. Water Treatment Facility, it then undergoes ultraviolet treatment, chlorination for disinfection, and fluoridation to prevent tooth decay. The water is first distributed in the Village of Elbridge through 660 service connections and then transmitted to the Village of Jordan, where it is distributed through 550 service connections. The system experiences low pressure and flow when there is high demand for water during warm summer months. Map 8 indicates the location and diameter of the local water mains, with waterways indicated in light blue.

In annual drinking water quality reports, the NYS Department of Health assesses the water systems in the Villages under the Source Water Assess-

ment Program (SWAP). In the years 2021–2023, the reports made the following statement for both Villages, “The assessment found a moderate susceptibility to contamination for the Skaneateles Lake source of drinking water. The amount of pasture in the assessment area results in a high potential for protozoa contamination. No permitted discharges are found in the assessment area. There are no likely contamination threats associated with the other discrete contaminant sources, even though some facilities were found in low densities.” The City of Syracuse regularly monitors and treats the water to ensure all applicable standards are upheld for the health of consumers. Although some contaminants were detected, neither Village system had any violations because they were below the State-allowed levels.^{28 29}

On April 6–7 2023, Skaneateles Lake experienced rain and high winds that caused turbidity (cloudiness) levels above the maximum level allowed. Although this did not pose a direct health concern, residents were notified because high levels of turbidity interfere with disinfection and violate drinking water standards. As always, the water was treated with UV light to provide secondary disinfection against harmful microbes. Each time a violation is detected, both the Village of Elbridge and Jordan inform the public via their websites and flyers delivered to households.^{30 31}

In 2022, each municipality in Elbridge received financial assistance for a joint water system improvement project. The Town of Elbridge received short-term financing, with one interest free portion and one market rate portion. Both Villages each received short-term, interest free financing and grants for the project. The plans will involve installing 51,000 feet of water main, new storage tanks and pump stations, and a new chlorine booster station, as well as replacing and relocating an existing confined space pump station and consolidating the Champions Mobile Home Park public water system.³² Map 8 indicates the areas where the proposed water mains are expected to be installed. Based on plans from 2021, the project is projected to finish in October 2023.³³

28http://www.ongov.net/health/env/documents/2021_Elbridge-CCR.pdf

29http://www.ongov.net/health/env/documents/2021_Jordan-CCR.pdf

30<http://www.villageofelbridge.com/uploads/5/5/1/3/55132059/turbidity.pdf>

31https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/0a5d8446-0a58-4124-ac62-c7df7a16ccea/downloads/Water%20Turbidity_March%2025th_April%206th%20and%207th%2C%20.pdf?ver=1686650915783

32<https://www.waterworld.com/drinking-water/infrastructure-funding/press-release/14235587/ny-announces-725m-for-water-infrastructure>

33[https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/0a5d8446-0a58-4124-ac62-c7df7a16ccea/downloads/\(V\)Jordan%20PIM%20Presentation%20061421%20\(ID%202335122\).pdf?ver=1624317220484](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/0a5d8446-0a58-4124-ac62-c7df7a16ccea/downloads/(V)Jordan%20PIM%20Presentation%20061421%20(ID%202335122).pdf?ver=1624317220484)

NATURAL GAS, ELECTRIC, AND TELECOM FACILITIES

NYSEG provides electric and natural gas services to the Town with some of those services also provided by National Grid. The natural gas mains are mostly located within the Villages themselves along major residential and commercial streets. Outside the Villages, there's a gas line connecting the Village facilities, a few lines extending into peripheral neighborhoods, and two short lines in the southwest part of Town.

Telephone & Data Systems (TDS) provides high speed broadband services, but the service is not reliable. Spectrum and Verizon are the primary providers of internet service. The Elbridge Free Library and Jordan Bramley Library both have internet service available for free to patrons.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Because it so heavily relies on fossil fuels, electrical generation is the largest source of air pollution in the United States. It accounts for two-thirds of sulfur oxides, two-fifths of carbon dioxide, and one-third of mercury emissions. Switching from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy is an important goal in New York State, so as to reduce the contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, local emissions that cause acid rain and smog, and mercury contamination of lakes and streams.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Renewable_Energy_on_the_Grid.jpg

Just one megawatt of wind or solar power can displace 1,800 tons of carbon dioxide each year. New York State is a leader in the development of renewables such as wind, solar, and biomass, with Central New York's local governments putting forth efforts to advance policies for the reliability, sustainability, and affordability of the state's renewable energy supply. Through the "Home Rule" authority of NYS municipalities, local governments have the opportunity to play a role in promoting efficient resource use, renewable energy market development, and location efficiency in the built and natural environment.

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

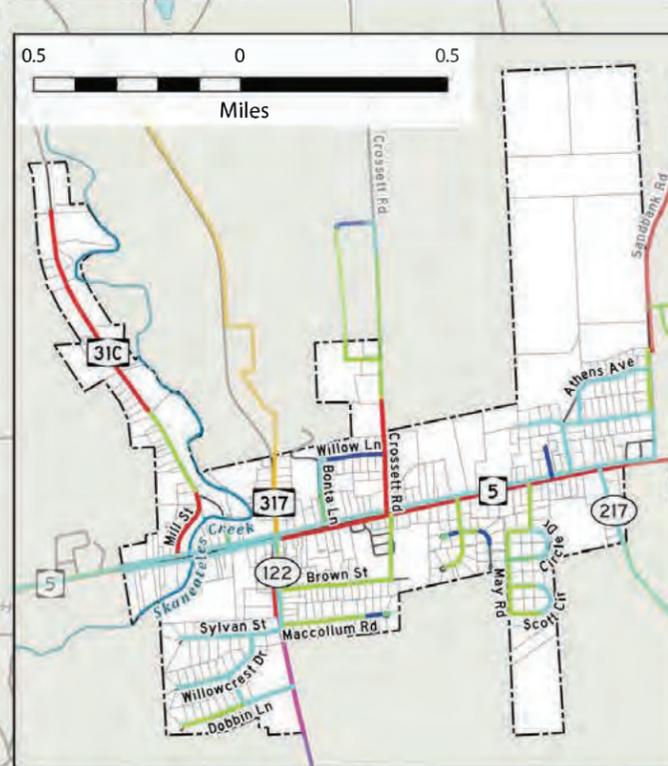
Map 8:
Water Districts

Legend

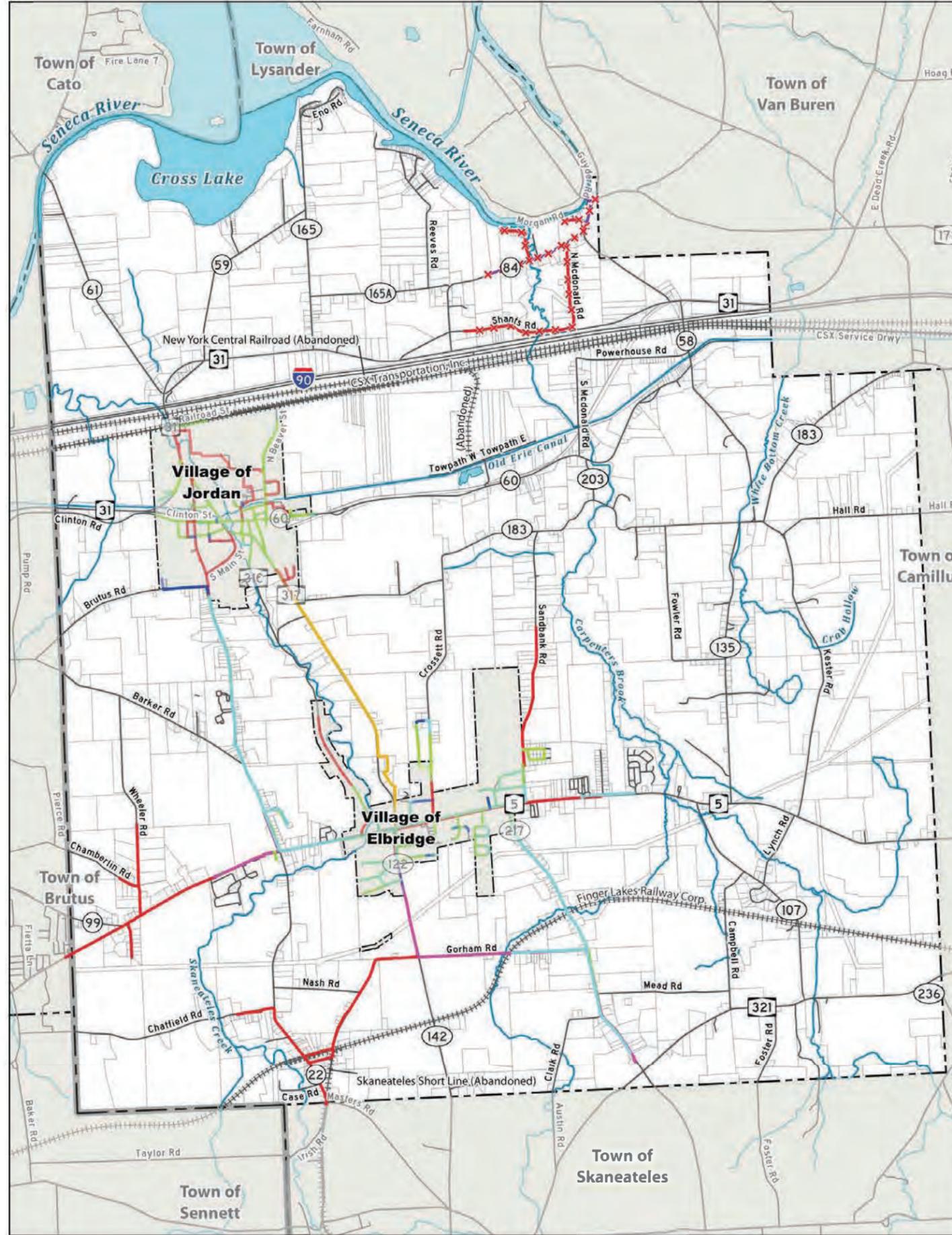
-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  OCWA Water Mains
Diameter, Inches
-  12
-  Watermains, Existing
and Proposed (Proposed
locations are approximate)
-  4
-  6
-  8
-  10
-  12
-  16
-  Hydrants



Village of Jordan



Village of Elbridge



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. Water mains obtained from Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

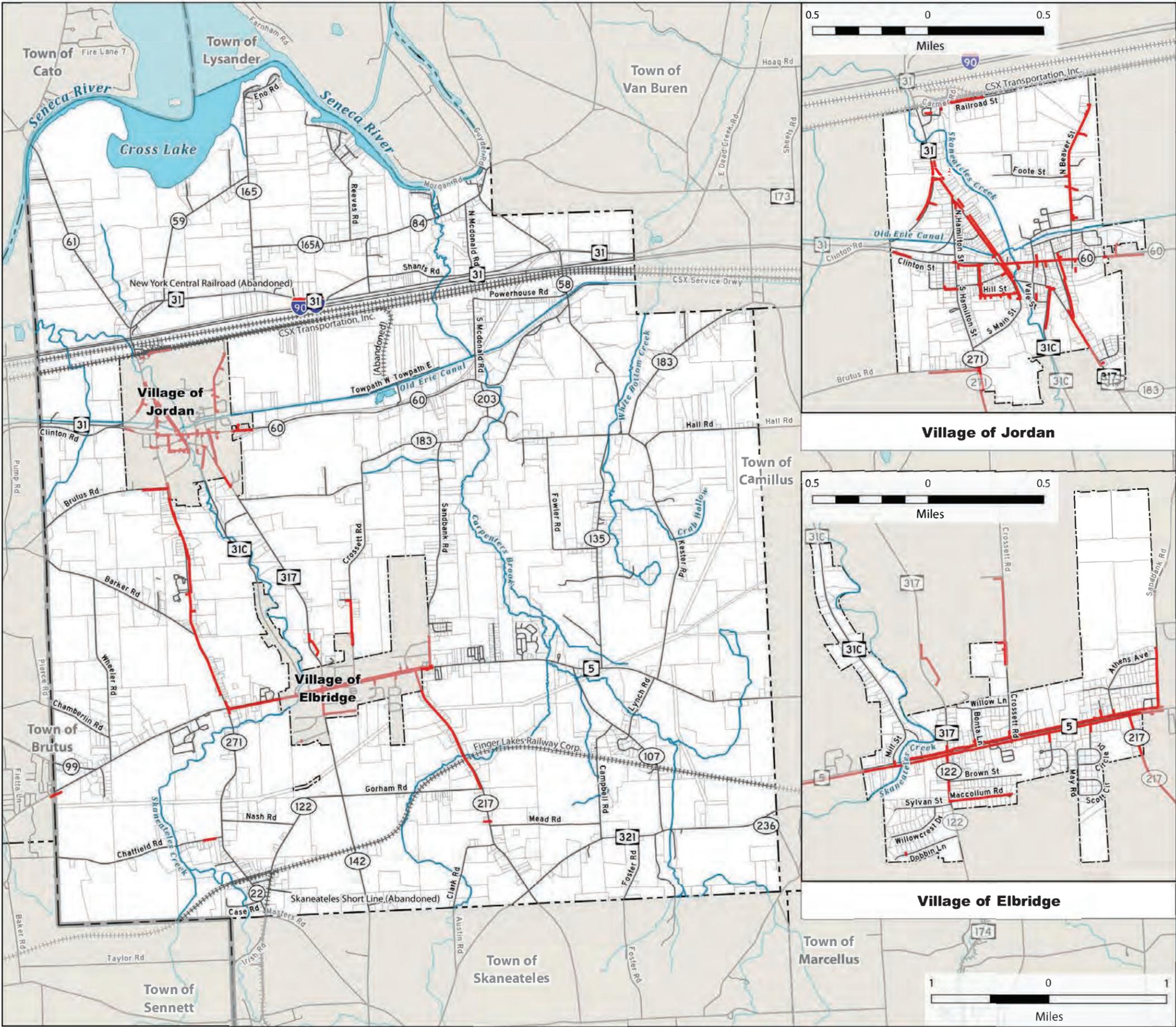
October 2023



Map 9: Natural Gas Facilities

Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  Gas Mains - Locations determined by site surveys and do not reflect the entire built system.



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. Natural Gas mains obtained from Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

March 2024



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board



Many municipalities are already participating, a testament to the strong public support of environmental initiatives, the need for stable prices and reliable energy, and concerns about quality of life. Affordable and dependable energy is particularly important in New York State because high energy costs are a leading factor for why businesses are leaving the state.

There are currently no power plants in the Town of Elbridge, but the community is connected through power transmission lines with up to 345 kilowatts of capacity. Nearby power plants are located in Auburn and the Towns of Onondaga, Geddes, and Lysander.

Solar Energy

A town such as Elbridge with somewhat cloudy conditions requires more expensive solar arrays, but installing photovoltaic (PV) systems can reduce municipal energy costs and save residents money over time. Luckily, the PV panels are only about 30% of the installation cost, and other components of the system are not any more expensive, so a solar system in a cloudy region is not significantly more expensive than in a sunny region. Under certain conditions, PV systems can even be cost-effective in a place like Syracuse, where solar radiation averages 3.65 kWh per day.

The state incentivizes the installation of solar systems through tax credits and NYSERDA in order to reduce costs for municipal and private solar energy investments. Municipalities can also use a property assessment model known as PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing to encourage this investment. In this model, property owners can borrow money for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, water conservation, and/or seismic retrofits and pay for the upgrades over time through a special annual tax on the property tax bill. By tying repayments to property taxes, property owners don't need to worry about large up-front costs of owning the property long enough to see a return on investments in the form of reduced energy costs. Both the solar system and tax obligation stay with the property when the property is transferred or sold, so the risk associated with a large investment is eliminated.

A NYS Unified Solar Permit was developed by NYSERDA, New York Power Authority, (NYPA), and City University of New York (CUNY) to streamline solar permitting processes, reduce the cost of solar projects, and support the growth of clean energy jobs. This permit process is part of the NY-Sun initiative to create a more flexible power grid, lower the state's carbon footprint, and promote clean energy. A standardized permit allows municipalities and installers to save time and money, whereas different permitting processes throughout the State's 1,550 municipalities increased delays and costs.

Municipalities and residents can subscribe to local community solar arrays and receive credits on their electric bills by participating. Residents can also choose to install solar panels at their homes.

Since 2000, thirteen solar projects have been completed in the Town of Elbridge, three in National Grids network and the remaining nine in New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG's). As of May 2023, Onondaga County has 1,516 complete solar projects, with a total of 101.4 megawatts in capacity. Of these projects, 1,279 of them are for residential use, and the rest are for industrial or commercial use.³⁴ A 2.5 MW array has been developed on farmland in the Town and another 5MW array being considered on a second farm in the Town.

Currently there is one commercial solar development in operation in the Town of Elbridge, located on Town landfill where a 3.5 MW solar array was installed for community use. The array produces enough energy to power about 500 homes, saving the Town about \$65,000 and local subscribers about \$1.9 million over 25 years.



Another project under development and consideration in 2023 was a “behind-the-meter system” at the Village of Jordan wastewater treatment plant. With approximately 30% of the annual production, the Village could offset all of its municipal electricity usage and save about \$2,500 per year (\$270,000 over 30 years). The remaining electricity produced could be available to local subscribers, with \$379,000 of projected savings over 30 years. Each year, the array would produce about 973,440 kilowatt-hours of electricity, displacing almost 421 tons of CO2 emissions annually.

There are currently three other projects in preliminary planning stages, two

³⁴<https://data.ny.gov/Energy-Environment/Statewide-Solar-Projects-Beginning-2000/wgsj-jt5f>

located on private land and one in the Village of Jordan. Combined MW of these proposed facilities are about 8-9 MW. These existing and proposed commercial facilities are relatively small in size and appropriately placed to avoid prime agricultural soils.

A 500-acre facility under consideration in the Town currently would convert hundreds of tillable acres of prime and state wide important soils to non-agricultural use. It must be considered, that non-community solar replacing important agricultural operations can eliminate jobs and economic returns associated with that farm without economic benefits to the community.

Hydropower

In 2015, the Village of Jordan worked with Cazenovia Equipment to explore the possibility of hydropower on Skaneateles Creek. They determined that this was not viable on this body of water. Although hydropower is a reliable source of renewable energy, the dams required have a serious environmental impact, causing lower dissolved oxygen levels, damage to nearby vegetation, flooding, and barriers for fish migration.

Wind Energy

Wind turbines convert wind energy directly into electricity without burning fossil fuels or emitting greenhouse gasses. Wind turbines are a great investment for areas like Central New York, where sun exposure is limited during the winter. Just one small wind turbine in the right location can generate enough electricity for local energy needs, and a wind farm, a collection of several large turbines, can be a powerful asset.

Local wind speeds, atmospheric effects, tree coverage, and building proximity affect the energy productivity for wind farms. Map 19 (page 132) depicts the annual average wind speeds in Onondaga County. Small wind turbines work best in areas where this annual average is at least 9 miles per hour, and utility-scale turbines work best with an annual average of 13 miles per hour. Smooth, rounded hills such as the drumlins of New York make for good wind farm sites. Wind speed also varies hourly and seasonally, as does energy use, so more detailed data on a particular site is important for the planning process.

Meeting the renewable energy goals for NY will involve further development of wind farms. The Town of Elbridge has average annual wind speeds of 5.65 to 6.89 miles per hour, which is below the optimal wind speed levels, but there are many drumlins throughout the rural landscape that could provide suitable sites. Landowners in agricultural districts of Elbridge can apply for special permits to construct wind turbines, referred to as a wind energy conversion system (WECS) in the Town zoning ordinance.

Public Safety Facilities

The Jordan Volunteer Fire Department and Elbridge Fire Station provide fire suppression, rescue, and EMT first-response services to the Town of Elbridge which also contracts with the Mottville Fire Department. These departments participate in a mutual aid system with nearby departments in Weedsport, Skaneateles, Memphis, Mottville, and Cato. Through this system, each provides support to other areas in response to fires and other incidents. The Fire Departments are funded through taxes, fundraising, and occasional donations.

The Jordan Ambulance, supplied by Old Erie Emergency Services, operates in the entire Town of Elbridge, including both villages. Because it serves the whole Town, all areas in the ambulance district pay the same to partially fund operations.

Educational Facilities



Jordan-Elbridge Elementar

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ramsdell_Elementary.JPG

A number of schools and daycare centers provide education and care for children in Elbridge:

- Jordan-Elbridge Head Start: 25 North Main Street, Jordan
- Jordan-Elbridge High School: 5271 Hamilton Rd., Jordan
- Jordan-Elbridge Middle School: Chappell Street, Jordan
- Elbridge Elementary School: East Main Street, Elbridge

Public education is provided to the entire Town of Elbridge by the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District. The district includes Elbridge Elementary, with about 560 students grades pre-K–4, Jordan-Elbridge Middle School, with about 430 students grades 5–8 , and Jordan-Elbridge High

School, with about 430 students grades 9–12. The elementary school is located in the Village of Elbridge, the middle school is in Jordan, and the high school is outside of the villages in the Town of Elbridge. The Jordan-Elbridge Head Start Program offers pre-k and bus pick up and drop off services for 3 and 4 year olds at no cost to families in the school district who meet the federal income guidelines.

As indicated on Map 10, the Jordan-Elbridge School District also extends slightly beyond Town lines into the Towns of Camillus, Van Buren, Ly-sander, Cato, Brutus, Sennett, and Skaneateles. The neighboring school districts are the Baldwinsville, Cato-Meridian, Marcellus, Skaneateles, Weedsport, and West Genesee Central School Districts.

There are two public libraries in the Town, both with internet service for patrons. The Elbridge Free Library is located on East Main Street, and the Jordan Bramley Library is located on 15 Mechanic Street. Each library provides a range of library services and community resources. The Jordan Library also has a community room, a bookstore, and a museum known as the Historical Association and Museum.

Healthcare Facilities

There are two family medical facilities in the Town of Elbridge. One is located on Route 5 just west of the Village of Elbridge, and the other is on Route 317 just north of the Village of Elbridge. NeuroSciences Group offers services and treatments related to pain management and mental health, as well as primary care walk-in service for conditions such as cold, fever, and minor injuries. Additionally, the Auburn Memorial Hospital is a 14 minute drive from the Village of Elbridge, less than 10 miles away and at Township 5 and in Skaneateles there are urgent care and other medical services. There are also hospitals such as Crouse and St. Joseph's in the Syracuse metropolitan area, which is a 28 minute drive, about 22 miles.

Transportation

When the railroad and canal were active in the nineteenth century, Jordan was a vibrant transportation center where businesses and industry flourished. The introduction of automobiles, and NYS Route 5 construction through the Village of Elbridge, a major east-west transportation route created yet another connection to industrial centers like Syracuse. However, the regional transportation changed once again during the 1950s when the Interstate-90 was constructed, replacing Route 5 as the main east-west route through the region. With no direct exit into Elbridge, industries began to leave for larger metropolitan areas with more direct access to highways.

Although the New York Central Railroad is now abandoned, CSX Transportation still operates on a rail running parallel to the old tracks and I-90. CSX trains transport commodities such as food, building materials, minerals, and coal.³⁵ The Finger Lake Railway transports similar materials and also runs east-west. These tracks cross through Elbridge south of Route 5 and north of Route 321. Map 10 indicates the location of the tracks in the Town of Elbridge, and the map on page 78 shows the web of railroad routes across New York State.

Though the Villages are not directly connected to I-90, the Village of Jordan is indirectly connected by way of NYS Route 31. Jordan is also connected to Route 60. The Village of Elbridge is located at the juncture of NYS Routes 317, 31C, and 5, as well as Routes 142 and 217. Additional NYS Routes which cross through other parts of the Town of Elbridge are NYS Routes 317 and local Route 321.

Located north of Jordan, I-90 leads west to Buffalo and east to Albany. State Route 5 leads east to Syracuse and southwest to Auburn. Local Route 321, in the southeast of the Town near Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery, leads south to Skaneateles.

Though the Thruway is now the major east-west highway in the region, NYS Route 5 remains an important route for many municipalities, including the Village of Elbridge. Within the Village, the route is known as Main Street and serves as a collector route for Village streets.

In Elbridge, Main Street is mostly a two-way, two-lane, east-west highway, with center turning lanes in central sections to manage traffic flow. Traffic lanes measure to be about 12 feet wide with 8-foot wide paved shoulders.

Today, a significant number of commuting workers along the Route 5 corridor travel to nearby cities such as Auburn and Syracuse through the Village of Elbridge, although many also work locally at productive businesses and industries within and in close proximity to Elbridge.

Because many commuters use Main Street to travel to and from work, many vehicles tend to exceed the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. The safety of pedestrians and vehicles entering Main Street is a considerable concern, especially at intersections with no traffic signals.

Likely due to budget constraints, the state has not recently provided substantial improvements for managing traffic speeds along Main Street in recent years. Because this road is under the NYSDOT's jurisdiction, the Village, Town and County have little power in managing traffic on this

³⁵<https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/customers/>

Map 10: School Districts

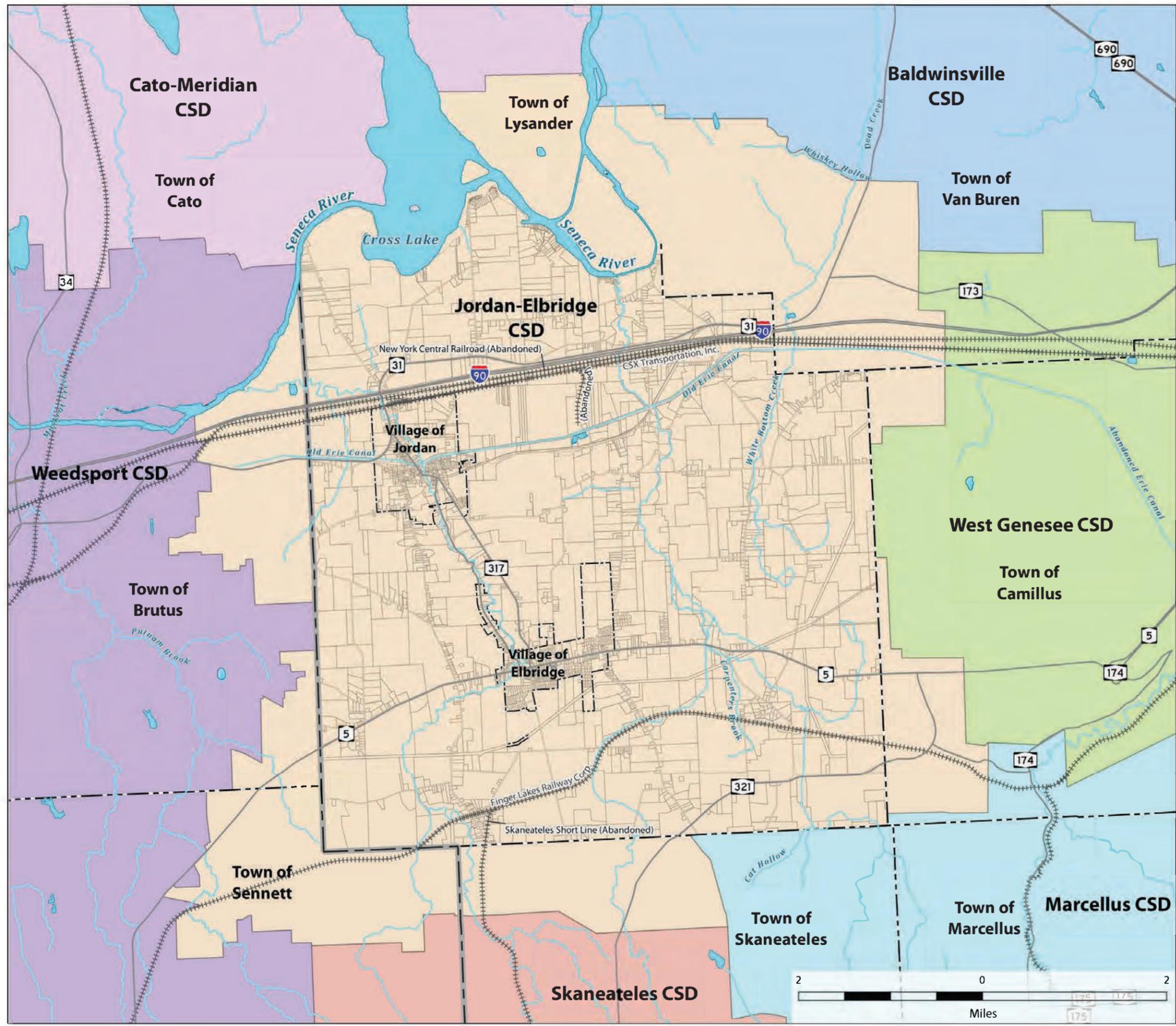
Legend

- Roads
- +++++ Railroad
- ▭ Counties
- - - - Towns
- · - · Villages
- ▭ Parcels
- ▭ Baldwinsville CSD
- ▭ Cato-Meridian CSD
- ▭ Jordan-Elbridge CSD
- ▭ Marcellus CSD
- ▭ Skaneateles CSD
- ▭ Weedsport CSD
- ▭ West Genesee CSD



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

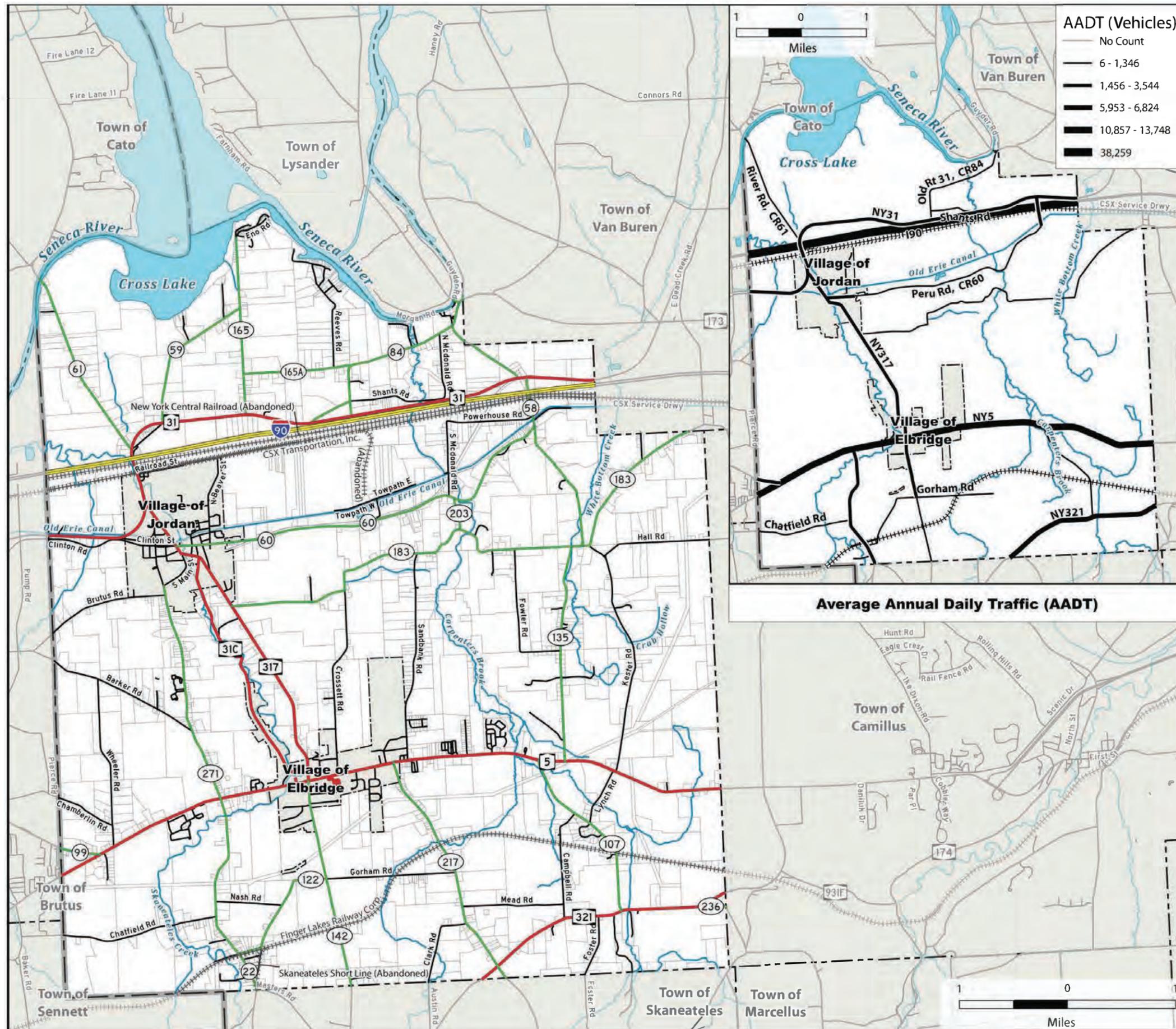
February 2024



Map 11: Transportation Infrastructure

Legend

-  Railroad
-  Thruway
-  Counties
-  State Routes
-  Towns
-  County Routes
-  Villages
-  Local Roads
-  Parcels



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and NYSDOT. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023



street. The Village has requested the potential addition of traffic lights near the Elbridge shopping plaza and Sandbank Road where there are several traffic conflicts, including at the Village of Elbridge Fire House, Kinne Drugs and Tops Grocery Store, where accidents have occurred.

In 2001, the NYSDOT recorded the traffic volume of Main Street, finding that on average about 600 eastbound vehicles and 750 westbound vehicles commuted on Main Street at peak hours. About 14,800 vehicles were the average daily traffic that year, using data collected in the easternmost part of the Main Street corridor at Sandbank Road.

In response to several serious accidents, the NYSDOT recorded traffic counts along NYS Route 5 in 2010, with a focus on intersections without signals. The traffic count data indicated that there were 7,369 eastbound vehicles and 7,344 westbound vehicles per day on average, with a total average of 14,713 vehicles per day. This data was collected at Mainstreet and Crosset Road.

Without traffic lights, there is uninterrupted traffic flow on Main Street during rush hours. Motorists entering from side streets have difficulties entering Main Street, particularly when crossing over a lane for a left hand turn. Additionally, a number of driveways in this commercial area require backing into the flow of traffic, creating more potential for accidents for vehicles and pedestrians.

Traffic issues appear to be more pronounced on East Main Street compared to West Main Street, where the intersection at North and South Street has traffic signals and there is less need for turning movements into businesses. East Main Street would likely benefit from traffic signals to break up traffic and/or a center turn lane to allow easier access to driveways, side streets, and parking lots.

While there is some on-street and off-street parking in the Village Center, this commercial area does not have enough parking to accommodate peak use. Traffic and parking issues were reduced at the departure of the auto dealership, but losing businesses is not a desirable solution. Redevelopment of commercial areas should take into account traffic and parking concerns.

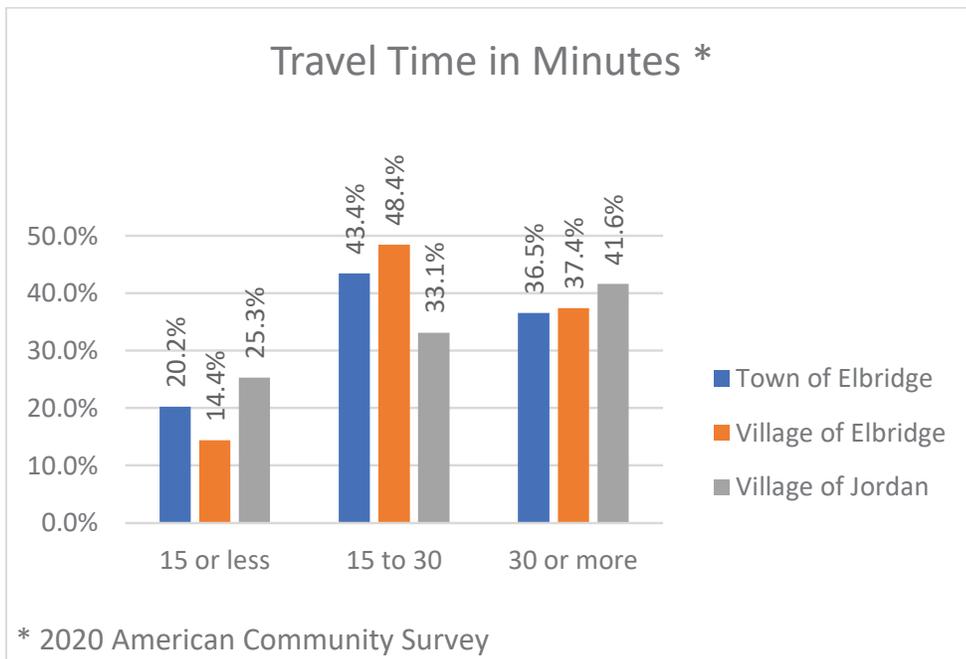
The Village Center is the only section of the corridor with curbing installed along the roadside, providing on-street parking. Although streetside parking still occurs without curbs, curbing the street edge can create more room for parallel parking. However, business retention and redevelopment may require additional parking.

Sidewalks on both sides of Main Street are generally in good condition,

but some sections, such as in business areas, would benefit from maintenance and widening. A lawn planting strip between the road and sidewalk enhances pedestrian safety using sufficient distance and buffer from traffic. On the other hand, pedestrian crossing on Main Street is dangerous during rush hours due to a lack of vehicle speed control, and a lack of traffic signals. This is a particular concern at Elbridge Elementary, Elbridge Plaza, and Elbridge Fire House.

In addition to concerns about traffic, there are also road risks associated with flooding during heavy rain, including locations where water collects near the elementary school.

According to the 2020 American Community Survey, workers in Elbridge tend to travel at least 15 minutes to work locations. Across the Town, 20.2% of workers traveled 15 minutes or less to work. 43.4% traveled between 15 and 30 minutes, and 36.5% traveled at least 30 minutes. In the Village of Elbridge, 14.4% of workers could drive to work in under 15 minutes. 48.4% had a 15 to 30 minute commute, and 37.4% traveled 30 minutes or more. In the Village of Jordan, 25.3% of workers commuted for less than 15 minutes to work. 33.1% traveled between 15 and 30 minutes, and 41.6% had to commute for over 30 minutes.



On Route 5, CENTRO provides public bus service on its Syracuse to Auburn route. A CENTRO park-and-ride parking lot can be found west of the Village of Elbridge offices along Mill Street and Main Street, however, there is only one bus in the morning and one in the evening that stops

in each of the Villages. The State Fair Bus, that was in high demand for local visitors to the annual NY State Fair no longer provides service from Elbridge. Because a large proportion of the population commutes for work, often to nearby cities, improved bus routes, carpooling, and other transportation options are recommended. Investment in these forms of transportation promotes sustainability, community, and connectivity.

The Jordan-Elbridge Transportation Program (The JET) provides free transportation to senior and disabled residents of the Town of Elbridge to medical appointments, other healthcare services, community events, shopping, and other activities as requested by the resident in need. This volunteer-based service is reserved for seniors and disabled residents, so there's a need for more transportation options.

The respective Highway Departments in the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge are responsible for plowing and repairing of Village-owned roads. The State provides and the County contracts with the town to provide plowing and repairing county roads in and out of the Villages. Each Village is responsible for maintaining their own sidewalks.

Each Village is responsible for repairing roads, typically using the oil and chip method. Several, such as Clinton Street and Route 31, are in disrepair in the Village of Jordan, but maintenance costs are high. Both Villages report issues with speeding, especially on the East and South Main Streets where much of community commerce takes place. There is also a need for more sidewalks, street lighting, and stormwater management to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. Increased off-street parking is limited, so renters sometimes park on Main Street and prevent shoppers from parking near commercial areas.

Although Route 5 is not under its jurisdiction, the Village should be clear on its needs for parking and traffic control so that the NYSDOT considers local interests during future construction of Route 5. Improvements should involve curbs and drainage to prevent flooding, pedestrian-scale lighting, paved and signaled crosswalks, traffic signals, wider sidewalks, and driveway consolidation in commercial areas. The Village should also make the NYSDOT aware of the National Historical Register District boundaries so that all changes are consistent with guidelines and requirements for historical resources.

Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resources

The Town of Elbridge is rich in its historic and scenic resources. The landscape setting in the hilly, varied landscape creates interesting rural views with a variety of open spaces including agricultural and forested lands. Between the Village of Elbridge and Skaneateles Falls, a cluster of 19th century buildings remain at Skaneateles Junction, a former railroad stop.



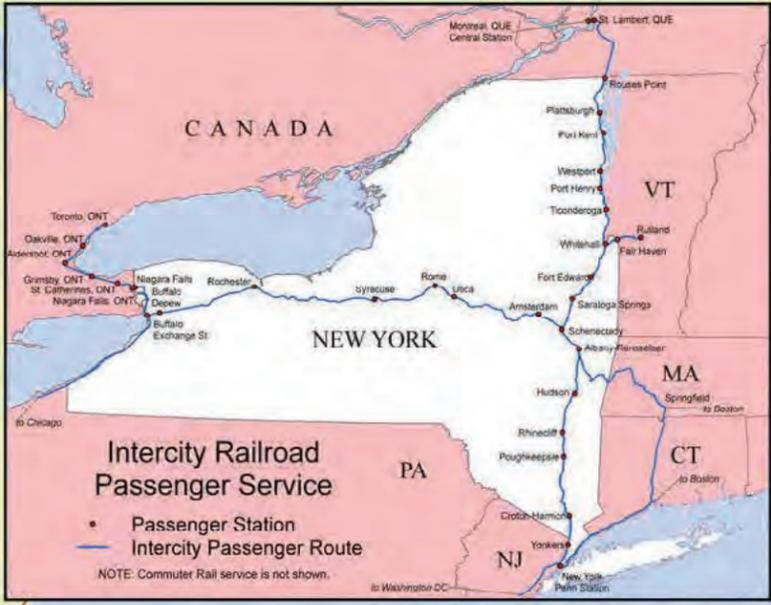
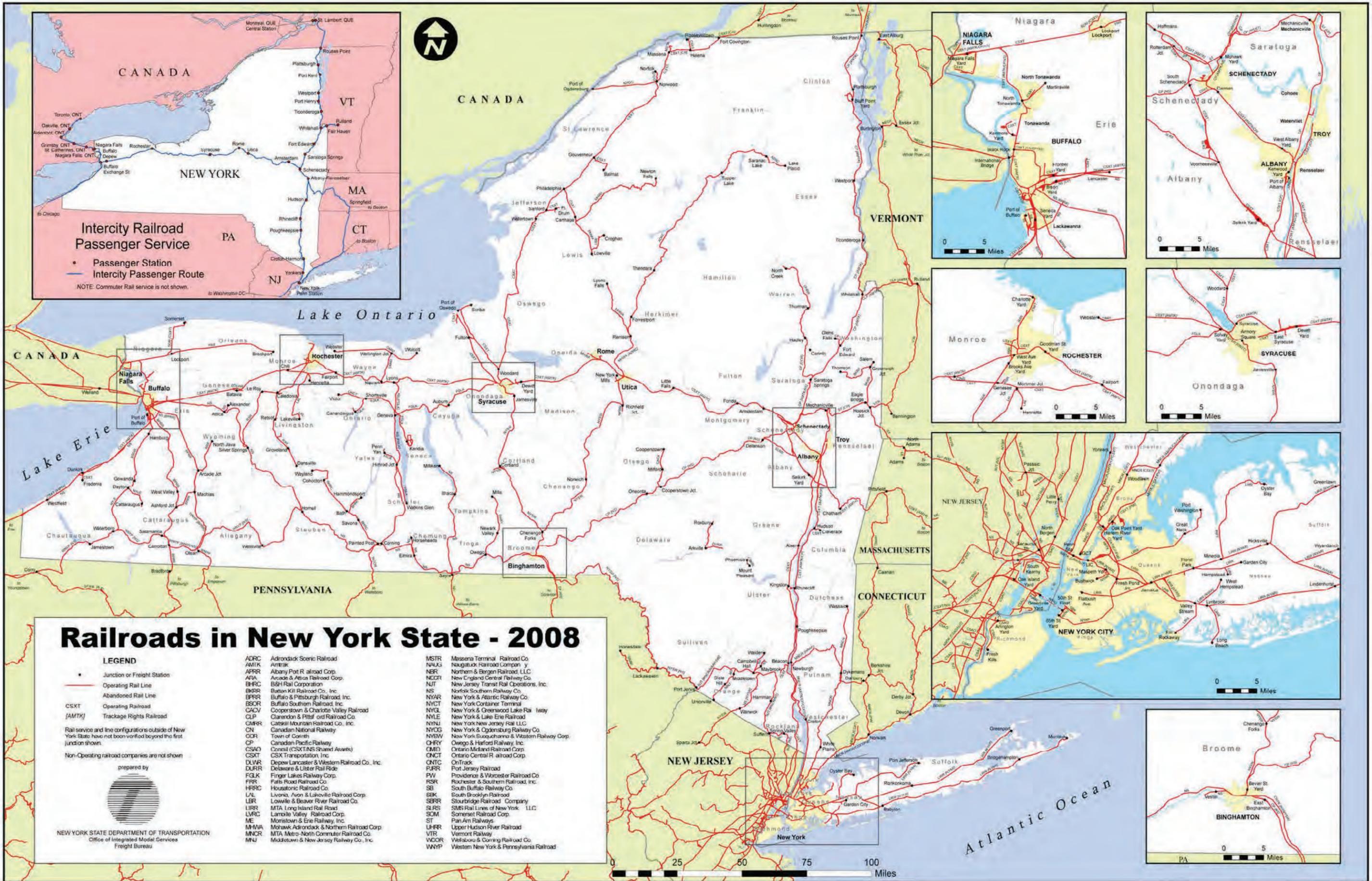
A former bean factory shipping facility recently repurposed as Hartlot Happening, is a wedding venue with a commercial kitchen, event space and rental work space.



The Villages each have signage indicating the historical significance of sites throughout the communities. The rich local history, as well as events like the Fall Festival and Memorial Day parades, contribute to a sense of community.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Particularly within the Villages, Elbridge and Jordan have maintained much of their local historic resources. Because many industries left after the decline of the Erie Canal and the railroad, much of the modern development that occurred elsewhere, did not happen here, but the communities have been fortunate to retain their historic character.



Railroads in New York State - 2008

- LEGEND**
- Junction or Freight Station
 - Operating Rail Line
 - - - Abandoned Rail Line
 - CSXT Operating Railroad
 - [AMTK] Trackage Rights Railroad

Rail service and line configurations outside of New York State have not been verified beyond the first junction shown.

Non-Operating railroad companies are not shown



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of Integrated Modal Services
Freight Bureau

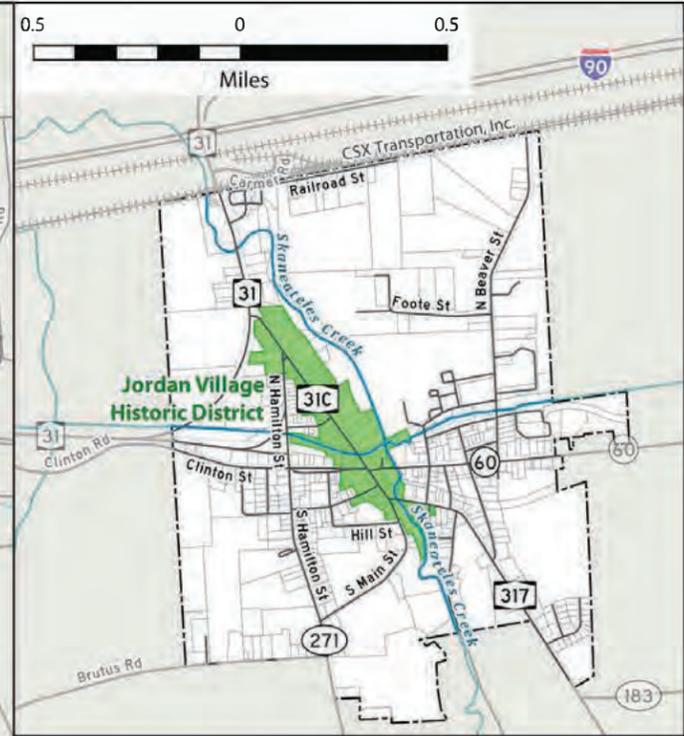
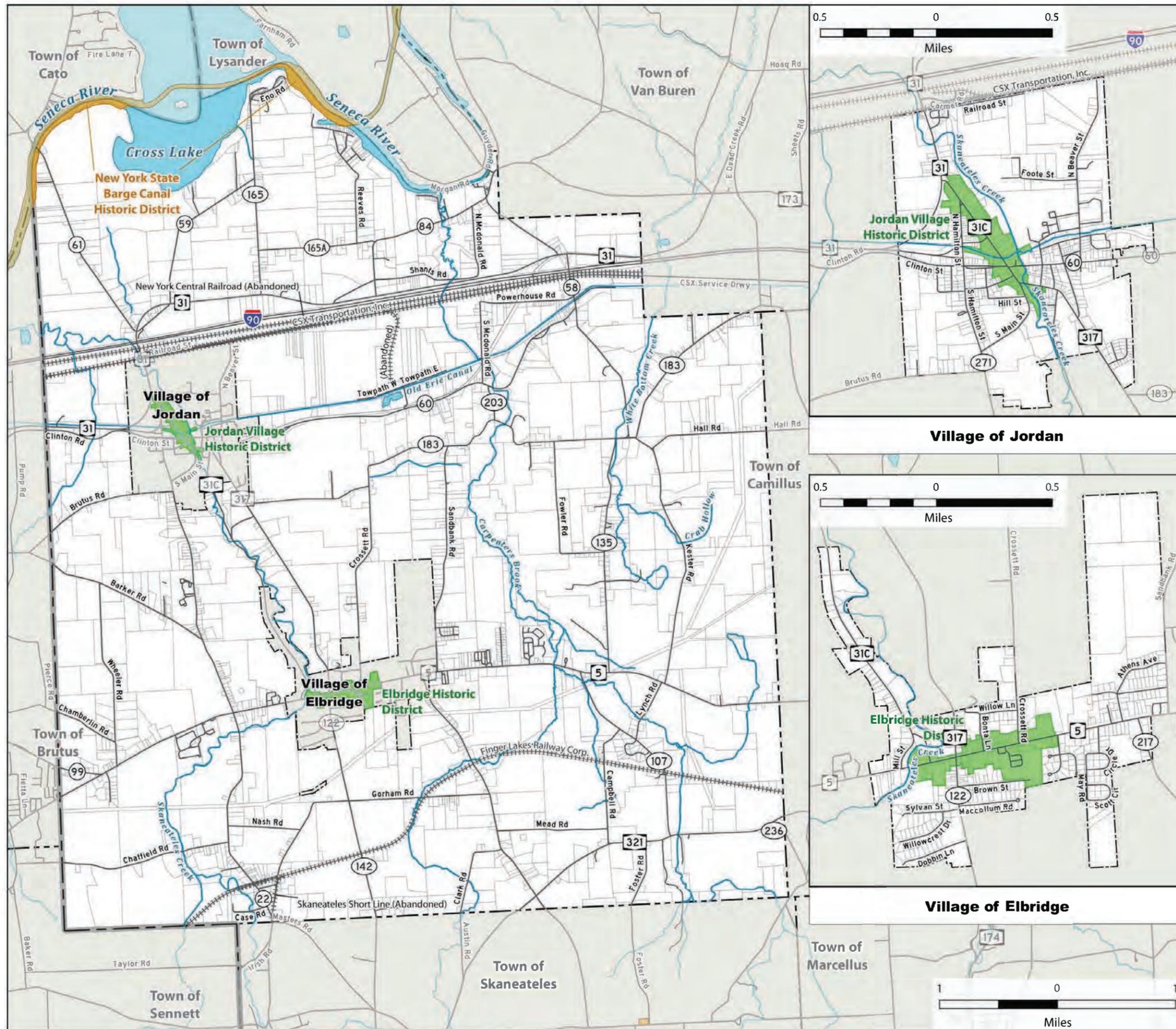
- | | |
|--|---|
| ADRC Adirondack Scenic Railroad | MSTR Messaria Terminal Railroad Co. |
| AMTK Amtrak | NAUKS Naugatuck Railroad Company |
| AFRR Albany Port R. Railroad Corp. | NER Northern & Bergen Railroad, LLC |
| ARA Arcade & Atica Railroad Corp. | NECR New England Central Railway Co. |
| BHRC B&H Rail Corporation | NJT New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc. |
| BKRR Batten Kill Railroad Co., Inc. | NS Norfolk Southern Railway Co. |
| BPFR Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc. | NVAR New York & Atlantic Railway Co. |
| BSCR Buffalo Southern Railroad, Inc. | NYCT New York Container Terminal |
| CACV Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad | NYGL New York & Greenwood Lake Railway |
| CLP Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad Co. | NYLE New York & Lake Erie Railroad |
| CMFR Catskill Mountain Railroad Co., Inc. | NYNJ New York New Jersey Rail LLC |
| CN Canadian National Railway | NYOG New York & Ogdensburg Railway Co. |
| OCR Town of Corinth | NYSV New York Susquehanna & Western Railway Corp. |
| CP Canadian Pacific Railway | OHRY Owego & Harford Railway, Inc. |
| CSAO Conrail (CSXT/NS Shovel Assets) | OMID Ontario Midland Railroad Corp. |
| CSXT CSX Transportation, Inc. | ONCT Ontario Central R. Railroad Corp. |
| DVWR Delaware & Western Railroad Co., Inc. | ONTRK OnTrack |
| DURR Delaware & Ulster Rail Ride | PJRR Port Jersey Railroad |
| FLKR Finger Lakes Railway Corp. | PW Providence & Worcester Railroad Co. |
| FRR Falls Road Railroad Co. | RSR Rochester & Southern Railroad, Inc. |
| HRRC Housatonic Railroad Co. | SB South Buffalo Railway Co. |
| LAL Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corp. | SBK South Brooklyn Railroad |
| LBR Lowville & Beaver River Railroad Co. | SBRR Stourbridge Railroad Company |
| LIRR MTA Long Island Rail Road | SLS SMS Rail Lines of New York, LLC |
| LVRC Lamotte Valley Railroad Corp. | SOM Somerset Railroad Corp. |
| ME Monticello & Erie Railway, Inc. | ST Pan Am Railways |
| MHWA Mohawk Adirondack & Northern Railroad Corp. | UHR Upper Hudson River Railroad |
| MNCR Middletown & New Jersey Railway Co., Inc. | VTR Vermont Railway |
| MNU | WCOR Wellsboro & Corning Railroad Co. |
| | WNYP Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad |



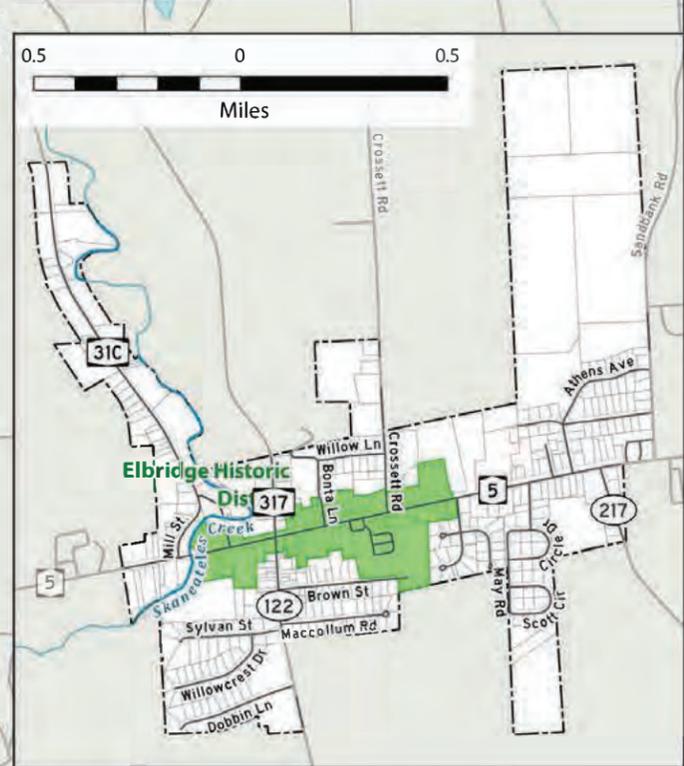
Map 12: National Register & NYS Historic Districts

Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  State Historic District
-  National Register of Historic Places



Village of Jordan



Village of Elbridge



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023



There are three historic districts in the Town of Elbridge listed on the National Register of Historic Districts, which is the National Park Service’s official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. The districts in Elbridge are the New York State Barge Canal Historic District, the Jordan Village Historic District, and the Elbridge Historic District.

The New York State Barge Canal Historic District crosses the northern border of the Town of Elbridge and spans 450 miles across the state of New York. This district includes the four branches of the NY canal system—the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca canals—and 552 contributing structures and buildings.³⁶

The Jordan Village Historic District is made up of 34 acres with 70 buildings, one site, and two structures dating as far back as 1810. This district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its architecture reflects the prosperous era when the Erie Canal was in operation. Nineteenth and early twentieth century styles are represented, yet these well-crafted buildings are similar in scale and materials, making the district cohesive as well as interesting.

As the only mill left from early development in Jordan, the White Mill is still used as a grain store and retains its Greek Revival detailing and some original equipment.

The towpath arches of the Jordan Aqueduct in the Village of Jordan. The aqueduct was built in 1841 when the canal was enlarged. Although the aqueduct was abandoned in 1917, a garden park was created at the site in 1932.

Source: <https://www.eriecanal.org/JordanAqueduct.html>



The Jordan Aqueduct was built in 1841 during the canal enlargement. When the bed of the Erie Canal in Jordan was converted to Canal Park during the 1930s, the aqueduct was the centerpiece as a historical record of past transportation methods and development.

³⁶<https://www.canals.ny.gov/national-historic-places.pdf>

Lock 51 and the Locktender's House are both considered important sites for preservation. The lock was built in 1847 and once busy with barge traffic on the Erie Canal. The Locktender's House was built in 1889 at Lock 51, serving as the office for the Supervisor of the Locks until it closed in 1922. The building was restored and relocated from Lock 51 to the center of the Village by the Jordan Historical Society in the 1980s. Lock 51 can still be visited at its original site on the Canalway Trail.



The Locktender's House was built in 1889 at Lock 51 on the Erie Canal. It served as the office for the Supervisor of Locks until 1922. The Jordan Historical Society restored and relocated the structure to the center of the Village of Jordan, near the Jordan-Elbridge Middle School, in 1988.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Erie_Canal_Lock_51.JPG



The Locktender's House (undated photo)

Source: <https://villageofjordan.org/history-of-jordan>

The Village of Elbridge also retained many early to mid-nineteenth century structures, with 66 buildings and 26 other historic features across 60 acres. The Elbridge Village Historic District is located along Main Street, extending west from Meadow Road past Valley Drive. Found here are two

subdistricts: the Elbridge Hydraulic Industry Archaeological District and the Main Street Historic District. The Archaeological District, which is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, emphasizes the importance of Skaneateles Creek during the growth of the Village during the nineteenth century. The Main Street Historic District, where 80% of the structures have historical and/or architectural importance, is located along Main Street.



Historic photo looking east on Main Street in the Village of Elbridge. Source: <https://villageofjordan.org/history-of-jordan>

The Village districts include several historic architectural styles of houses, as well as an elementary school, churches, and multipurpose buildings. In some areas of the corridor, barns, carriage houses, carriage steps, and hitching posts remain. Main Street serves as the charming community and economic center of the rural Village of Elbridge. Plans to develop the Villages should bear in mind the importance of the historic sites to the character and pride of the community.

One of the concerns in the Village communities is the loss of historic buildings due to “demolition by neglect,” meaning the property owners allow properties to decline in use and value, often beyond the point of restoration. This is of particular concern in Jordan, where about 30% of the original buildings are in disrepair or have been demolished. Despite preservation efforts and historic designation, property owners may still choose to neglect or abandon properties due to the high cost of repairs and maintenance or in the hopes of redeveloping the property once restoration is no longer possible. Efforts to assist historic property owners to

maintain these structures and landscapes will be important to preserving them into the future.

The Historic Streetscape

Investing in the beauty and functionality of the streetscape is another way the community can help to promote local business. Increased pedestrian traffic means more patronage at storefronts and more businesses interested in investing in the community. Aesthetic attributes also promote tourism visitation, increased local spending, and the quality of life for residents.

The factors that contribute to the visual and functional quality of streetscapes include the conditions and scale of streetlights, street trees, landscape equipment, utility pole location, street edge treatments, paving, curbing and drainage, and signage. Street trees are of particular significance because they serve this aesthetic role, but they also protect pedestrians from exposure to high temperatures and UV light, making for a comfortably walkable community. It's important that the Town and Villages recognize that loss of the street trees due to natural hazards would degrade the pedestrian and resident experience of neighborhoods. Policies for encouraging the NYSDOT and private property owners to maintain existing trees and replace damaged trees with suitable species can help promote the health and attractiveness of street corridors when the Town or Villages can't directly interfere.

The Village of Jordan

Although there have been concerns about historic property neglect, the streetscape in the Village of Jordan is generally attractive and well-maintained. The sidewalks on North and South Main Street as well as on Mechanic Street were redone as recently as 2017, enhancing pedestrian safety and experience through raised curbs and/or trees and stretches of lawn separating the road from the walkway.

The streetscape could be improved with more visible, and thus safe crosswalks. There are currently some painted crosswalks in Jordan, but at least one of them is faded. Crosswalks should at least be repainted to be more visible to pedestrians and vehicles like bold "European Style" crosswalks, or they could potentially be converted to alternative styles like brick crosswalks to further increase visibility and compatibility with the brick facades of historic buildings. Pedestrians would also benefit from more human-scaled, pedestrian-level lighting.

The Village of Elbridge

The visual quality of the Main Street corridor is generally high because the Village of Elbridge and property owners maintain a well-kept public right-of-way. The large, mature deciduous trees and interesting architecture contribute to the beauty of the Main Street neighborhood.

In contrast, are the many wooden utility poles which are less visually appealing and can detract from the lush treescape. Additional trees planted closer to the road may help obscure these utility poles as well as enhance pedestrian experience. The Village also lacks in design features such as pedestrian-scale lighting along sidewalks and bold or textured crosswalks, which help to slow speeding through traffic, support pedestrian comfort, and for these reasons are often found in a historic village such as Elbridge.

At some commercial sites, the use of the entire street frontage for off-street parking erases the contrast between the public streetscape and pedestrian pathway, and private parking areas. A more defined street edge with additional landscaping would upgrade the appearance of these areas.

Outside the Elbridge Village Center, there's a lack of curbing that allows vehicles to park in lawn areas, often killing the grass by the roadside. Some property owners have made makeshift curbs using stones, lumber, or plant materials to prevent parking in these locations, but makeshift curbing is not a desirable solution and should be discouraged in favor of the installation of curbing.

There are signs along the corridor explaining the historic significance of various structures and sites. The Village and property owners have worked together in recent years to improve the condition of these signs. The Village has installed new signs at both gateways into the Village along Main Street and at other locations including Seymour Lofft Park and in front of Village Hall. Wooden signs with recessed gold lettering show a level of consistency in design at Village-owned locations.

Many small businesses have signs on the building fronts or small signs at the roadside. Some signs are more oriented to the passing motorist rather than pedestrian. Some signage tends to be old and/or lacking in quality workmanship or materials. Sign replacement should be encouraged because it improves the general visual character of Main Street.

Recreational Facilities & Resources

Recreational Resources

Throughout the Town of Elbridge, there's a variety of parks and recreational activities. As pictured on Map 13, there are recreation areas located in both Villages, on the shore of Cross Lake and the Seneca River.



Lowlands along the Seneca River at Cross Lake.

Skaneateles Creek, Carpenter's Brook, the Seneca River, and Cross Lake offer a number of recreational fishing access points.

Important to note is the “no-kill” section of Skaneateles Creek, where anglers are required to use artificial lures and release fish soon after the catch. This is considered one of the best places for recreational fishing in the Syracuse area. Anglers can expect stocked and wild rainbow trout and wild brown trout. After a harsh winter with heavy snowfall, it may be best to wait for optimal water levels in the third or fourth week of April. If winter leaves the region early though, the creek could offer success from the start of fishing season. Early-season catches can vary from year to year because Skaneateles Creek is the outlet for Skaneateles Lake, which is 315 feet deep with nearly 9,000 surface acres.

Public fishing is available on Carpenter's Brook at several access points indicated by signs. The Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery stocks almost 2,000 brown trout to the brook each spring, making the brook a great place for trout fishing. The Hatchery itself also offers recreational activities like participating in fishing education programs, feeding the hatchery fish, picnicking, and playing on the fish-themed playground.

The Seneca River is a popular spot for bass and carp tournament anglers, with a number of gamefish and panfish found here, including walleye, tiger musky, northern pike, yellow perch, bluegill, and brown bullhead.

Because the Seneca River flows through it, Cross Lake has many of the same species. The river also carries high nutrient and sediment loads, often

resulting in high turbidity and contributing to low dissolved oxygen levels at lower depths during the summer.

The Jordan Level Trail is a four mile stone dust section of the Erie Canalway Trail and can be accessed from the Jordan Village Park. There are also a number of locations along the trail with canal fishing access. Since leashed dogs are allowed on the trail, hikers can expect to encounter owners walking their canines.

Swimming is available in the Veteran’s Memorial Pool in Jordan, and Seymour Lofft Park in the Village of Elbridge offers a playground, a pavilion, and greenspace.

Jordan Community Council

An important resource for the Jordan - Elbridge community is the Jordan Community Council. The purpose of the organization, is to initiate and coordinate the efforts of the community to produce a recreational and educational twelve-month program for the welfare of all of the people of the Village of Jordan and the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District.

This organization with four volunteer board members works to support the many community events and programs including the Jordan Fall Festival, Memorial Day Parade, Jordan Pool programs, senior and and programs at the Jordan-Elbridge Community Center, all tremendously important to the community.



Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities in the Town of Elbridge include public access to Cross Lake, the Veteran’s Memorial Pool, Canalway Park, Seymour Lofft Park, and Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery.

Elbridge shares Cross Lake with the Towns of Lysander and Cato, and many of the properties around Cross Lake are privately owned. Although much of the waterfront in Elbridge is owned by the NYS, very little is not surrounded by either privately owned or Eno Point Campers Association land that is not accessible to the public. For a fee, the public can launch boats from Quimby’s Marina on the Seneca River, or in Cato from the Cross Lake Campground or the Cross Lake Marina and Inn.



A DEC boat launch is located on the Seneca River in the Town. Public access to this public boat launch from Plainville Rd and Rt. 31 was closed off by NYS DOT and it is now only accessible from a private driveway crossing Jack's Reef Restaurant.



The Veteran's Memorial Pool in Jordan is available for recreational swimming for all ages, with water aerobics and swim lessons for children and adults.

The Erie Canalway Park is a gravel trail with relatively flat terrain suitable for hikers, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers. Because the trail runs parallel to the Erie Canal, there is also public fishing access. The section of the park that passes through the Village of Jordan is a four mile trail called the Jordan Level Trail, which can accommodate two lanes of bike traffic. It can be freely accessed in Jordan from the Village Park across from Jordan-Elbridge Middle School. At the entrance, there's a pavilion with picnic tables. The park has moderate foot and bike traffic throughout the week, with the highest volume averages on Mondays.



Community Facilities

The Town of Elbridge has a community center and two pavilions, which can each be reserved for private events for rental fees. The Jordan-Elbridge Community Center, on Route 31, has two available rooms, a kitchen, and an outdoor pavilion.

The Town community building is a multi-use center that hosts a wide variety of community programs including senior lunches every Tuesday and

Friday, celebrations, outdoor barbecues, catered events, and activities. The center is supported by local taxes of the Town and Village of Elbridge.

The Large Community Room has a capacity of 99 people, and the Lion's Den can fit 50 people. Jordan-Elbridge non-profit organizations with a certificate of insurance may use the Community Center for weekly or monthly meetings at no cost.

Seymour Lofft Park

Also supported by the local tax base in the Town and Village of Elbridge, are the park on Sandbank Road, a cooperative effort of the Town that maintains, and the Village that owns the park. The town in cooperation with the school district maintain the ball fields. A rentable pavilion is located in Seymour Lofft Park. Also located in this park is a playground, a concessions and maintenance buildings, a large expanse of open lawn and opportunity for future nature trail development.



Jordan Festival Grounds - Jordan Fall Festival

The Annual Jordan Fall Festival, a beloved community event, is held annually at Festival Grounds in the Village of Jordan and is attended by hundreds of visitors who enjoy the arts & crafts, entertainment, foods, and amusement park rides. The fair is supported by volunteer efforts and raises money for the Community Council, bringing direct benefits to the surrounding community in the form of improved community facilities and programs. The Jordan Fall Festival was in its 77th year in 2023.

Onondaga County Parks

There are two county-owned parks in the Town of Elbridge, Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery, located on Route 321 in the southeast of the town, which offers multiple recreational activities. While the main purpose of the facility is to raise fish for stocking local waterways, it also has seasonal fishing education programs, fish food for feeding the hatchery fish, public picnic areas, and a small fish-themed playground. The other county-owned park is Erie Canal Lock 51 Park, a historic landmark featuring the dry remains of an 1847 double chamber lock, accessible from Route 31 approximately a mile west of the Village of Jordan.

Natural Resources and Climate

Located in the western hills of Onondaga County, Jordan and Elbridge are rural villages amidst agricultural fields, woodlands, and gorgeous views. These rural communities are situated in the Oswego River watershed and the Erie Ontario Lowlands—also known as the Lake Plain region. Flowing north from Skaneateles Lake, winding through the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan is Skaneateles Creek.

The weather in Elbridge is characteristic of the northeastern US Cyclonic systems. In the summer, temperatures tend to be between 76°F and 81°F. In the winter, temperatures typically range from 14°F to upper 30s°F. Annual average wind speeds in Elbridge range from 5.65–6.89 miles per hour, as indicated on Map 19.

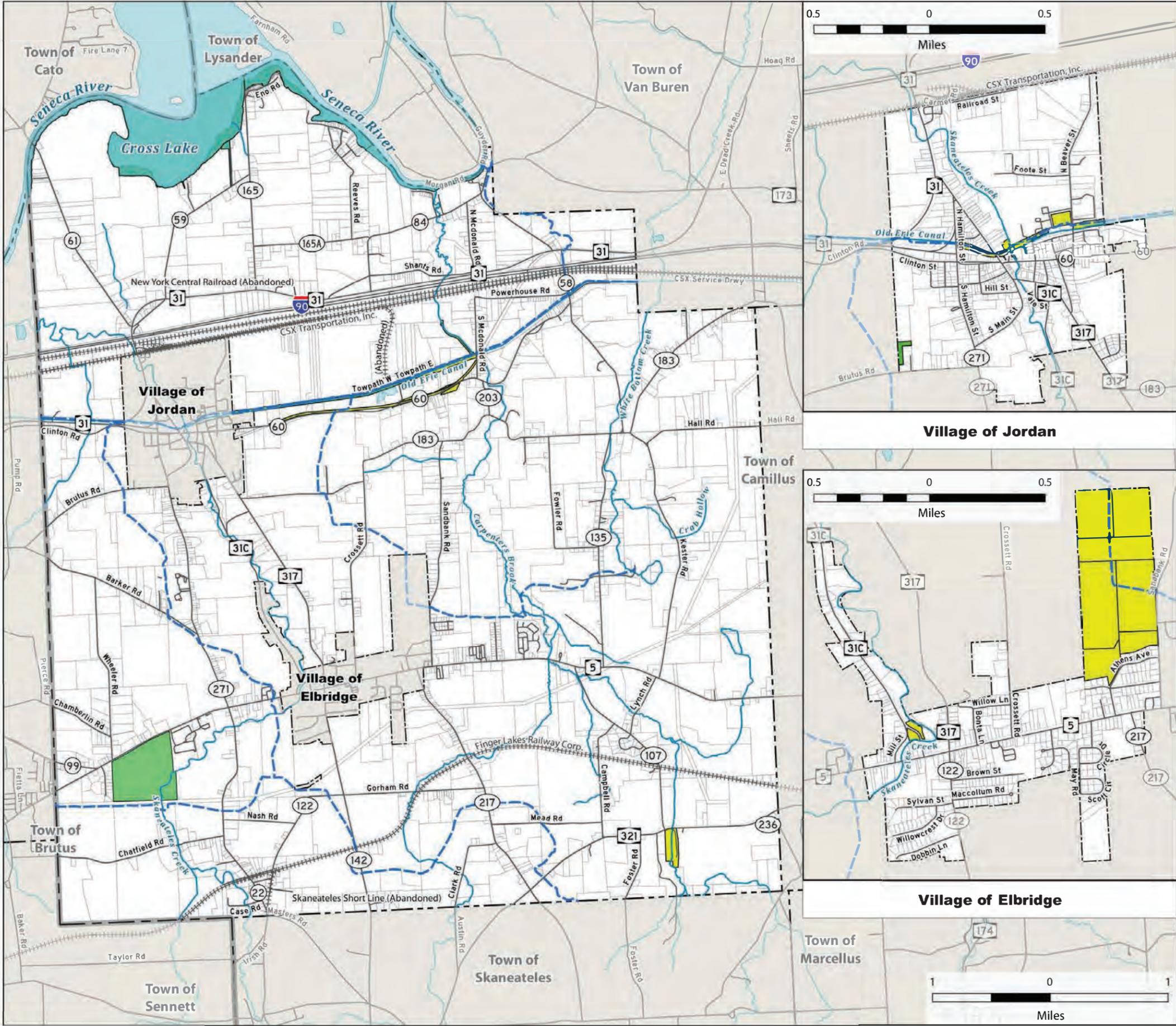
Historically, the area receives 121 inches of snowfall per year on average. The nearby Syracuse metropolitan area has the largest snowfall of any large American city with a population over 200,000. This is because of its proximity to Lake Ontario, which causes lake-effect precipitation. Although the Town of Elbridge often experiences this heavy snowfall, it has an extended growing season due to the warmer microclimates in the Finger Lakes Region.

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 13:
Recreational Facilities

Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  Snowmobile Trails
-  State-Owned Parkland
-  County-Owned Parkland
-  Golf course
-  Village-Owned Playground
-  Village-Owned Park



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

February 2024

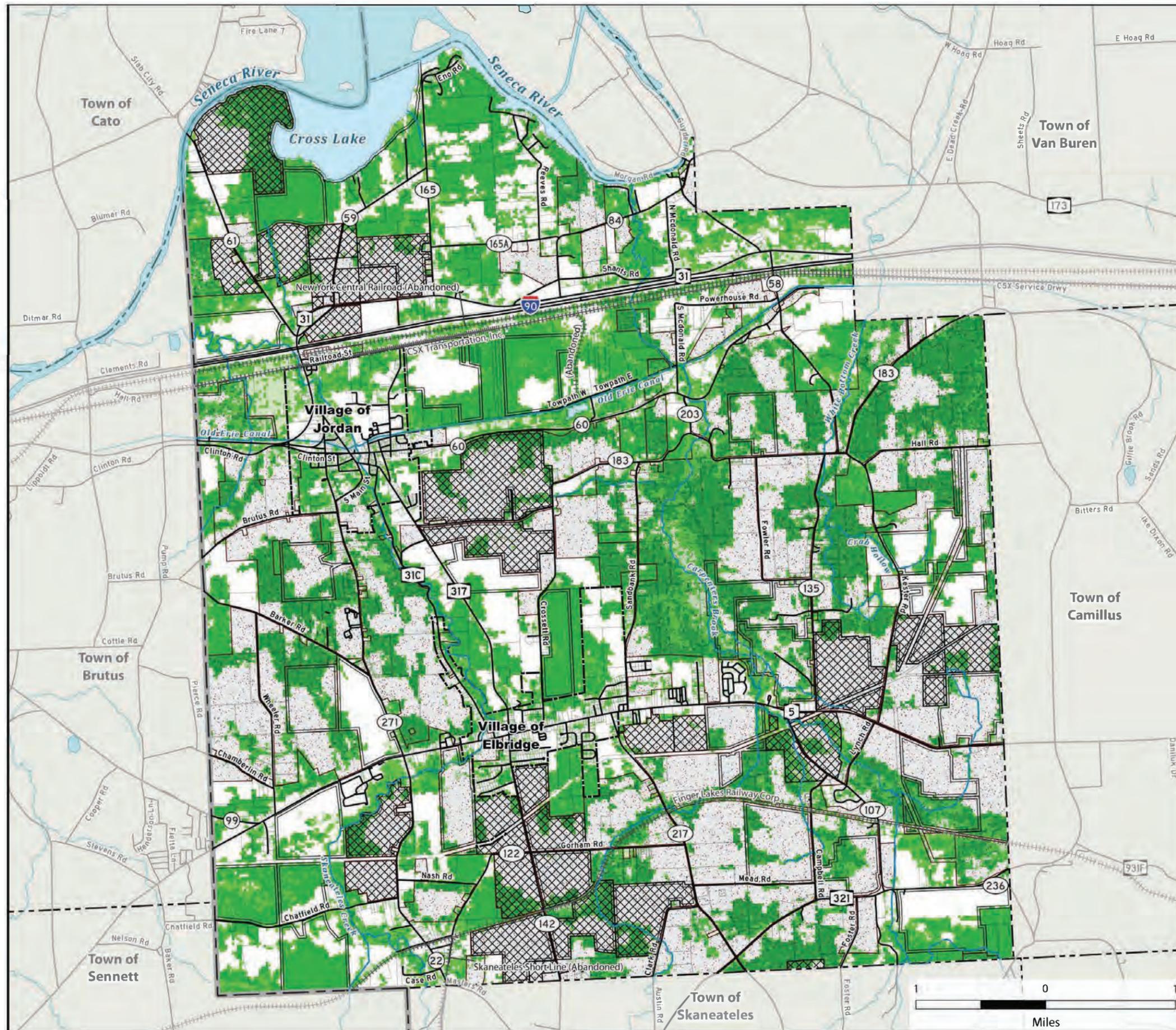


Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 14:
Agriculture & Forested
Lands

Legend

- Roads
- +++++ Railroad
- ▭ Counties
- - - - Towns
- ▭ Villages
- ▭ Parcels
- ▭ 100 Acres or More
- ▨ PDR Farmland
- ▨ Agricultural Districts
- Forest Cover, %
 - ▭ ≤ 25
 - ▭ 25 - 50
 - ▭ 50 - 75
 - ▭ > 75



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, Cornell/CUGIR, and USGS. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

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Climate change presents threats to the characteristic snowfall as well as the generally predictable and stable patterns of weather known to the community over generations. As global temperatures rise, the region is vulnerable to hotter temperatures, heavier precipitation events, and flooding. Longer periods of heat and flash flooding can damage infrastructure, homes, and ecosystems. Reducing the use of fossil fuels, investing in cleaner energy sources, protecting important natural habitats, and investing in hazard mitigation strategies can prepare communities for changing climates.

Agriculture



<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83993.html>

The importance of the agricultural industry within the Town of Elbridge cannot be overstated, with over 3,000 acres of protected farmland, agriculture is here to stay. Businesses like McLaughlin Tire, CNY feeds and countless other small businesses (mechanics, welders, etc.) located in Town support the Town's agricultural businesses. Agriculture in the town including farm employees, and employees of these support businesses represent a significant number of agriculture-related jobs.

The Town of Elbridge includes expanses of productive farmland with a growing season of about 171 days, typically from late April to mid-October. 26% of Onondaga County Ag District 3, comprised of 47,325 acres, is located in the Town of Elbridge with 12,692 acres (662 parcels) of enrolled farmland. These prime farmland soils are made up of high lime glacial tills and deep lacustrine (lake laid) deposits. The area experiences approximately 45 inches of annual precipitation in the form of rain and snow.

The farms of Elbridge produce high quality and consistent agricultural products that contribute to the food supply, provide employment, maintain open space, and protect wildlife habitat. The expanses of agricultural fields in the Town and Villages contribute to the rural character of Central New York.

The geography and climate of CNY are favorable for agriculture, but there are also management challenges for local farmers. With the many drumlins in the region, soil on steep slopes is subject to erosion, especially with increasing heavy rain events, farmers may find it difficult to spread manure on perennially wet or snow covered areas. Regulatory requirements and a host of best practices largely prevent manure contributions to runoff into nearby water sources during heavy rainfall or snowmelt. Erosion, runoff, and leaching from residential applications of lawn fertilizers and failing septic fields, known as nonpoint source pollution, can be more impactful in a negative way to the quality of water and ecology of natural waterways.

Although challenged by these environmental factors, the farmers of Onondaga County continuously work to protect the environment through programs like the New York State Agricultural Management (AEM) Program. AEM is a voluntary program with incentives for farmers seeking to both meet farm goals and conserve natural resources. One of the goals of this stewardship program addresses nonpoint source pollution and climate resiliency.³⁷

Waterways

Surface waters in or near the Town of Elbridge include the Seneca River, Cross Lake, Skaneateles Creek, and Carpenter's Brook. Although much work has been done implementing best practices to prevent agricultural runoff to waterways in the town, and they are generally rated satisfactory to good, issues that affect the surface water quality include nonpoint sources of nutrients, sediment, and pollutants from land uses like inadequate residential wastewater treatment from small community or on-site septic systems; lawn chemical additives, and issues related to flooding along waterways.

Skaneateles Creek

This creek flows north from Skaneateles Lake through the Town of Elbridge and both the Village of Elbridge and Jordan. It runs parallel to Jordan Road, crosses under Road 5, then winds within sight of Route 31C. After flowing north for 14 miles, this cold water drains into the Seneca River.

³⁷<https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/agricultural-environmental-management>

When the Elbridge section of Erie Canal was constructed in 1819, the Jordan Feeder was used to feed the canal using water from Skaneateles Creek. In order to regulate this flow, several dams were built along the creek.

During the mid-1990s, state sampling crews found marginally high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), suspected to cause cancer, in the flesh of trout from Skaneateles Creek. A state health advisory was declared and a 10.2-mile “no-kill” section of the creek was established between Old Seneca Turnpike and the Jordan Road bridge crossing. Although fishing is still permitted here, anglers are required to use only artificial lures and release fish back into the creek soon after catching them. The “no-kill” zone was controversial at first, and catch and release regulations are still in effect, but the creek is considered one of the best areas for recreational (non-edible) fishing in the Syracuse area. Skaneateles Creek flows from Skaneateles Lake, which has an “AA” rating from the NYDEC. If not for the health advisory due to the discovery of PCB’s in a 10-mile section of the creek, the water would be exceptionally clean. The lake is reported to be oligotrophic, meaning it has high water clarity, low algae levels, and low phosphorus levels. Skaneateles Creek is fed this water as it flows north to the Seneca River and Cross Lake.

Carpenter’s Brook

Carpenter’s Brook travels north from the Town of Skaneateles, meandering through Elbridge before draining into the Seneca River, which soon connects to Cross Lake. Though the lower sections of the creek experience siltation issues, many fish enjoy the year-round cool temperatures of the upper stream and migrate here from the Seneca River.

The Onondaga County Parks Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery is located by the brook, and stocks into it 2,000 brown trout and Rainbow Trout each spring. Multiple public fishing access points are indicated by signs, where anglers can catch brook trout and brown trout. Wild trout thrive in the cool waters and good bank coverage.

Seneca River

The Seneca River flows eastward out of Seneca Lake, traveling 61 miles to Three-Rivers in Onondaga County and combining with the Oneida and Oswego Rivers before emptying into Lake Ontario. Anglers can catch fish such as carp, bass, and walleye pike. Three canal systems are part of this river: the Barge Canal, Erie Canal, and Cayuga-Seneca Canal.³⁸

³⁸<https://www.fishonondagacounty.com/about-the-fishing/bodies-of-water/seneca-river/>

Cross Lake

Cross Lake is located between the Villages of Jordan and Meridian, on the border of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties. Cross Lake is essentially part of the Seneca River, as the river flows through the southern third part of the lake. Anglers can catch fish such as walleye, pike, bass, and tiger musky.

³⁹

This lake encounters issues with high nutrient and sediment loading from the Seneca River, with high turbidity and low dissolved oxygen levels during warm summer months. The water quality in Cross Lake was rated as “B” in a 2012 NYDEC report.⁴⁰ B waterways are defined as “waters that, if subjected to approved treatment equal to coagulation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection, with additional treatment if necessary to reduce naturally present impurities, meet or will meet New York State Department of Health drinking water standards and are or will be considered safe and satisfactory for drinking water purposes.”⁴¹

Based on monthly DEC sampling, Cross Lake was determined to be eutrophic, based on low water clarity, high algae levels, and high nutrient levels. Cross Lake has extremely hard, alkaline water with low water color and moderately high nitrogen levels. Unfortunately, the Seneca River and Cross Lake have both recently been impacted by invasive water chestnut, likely travelling eastward from Cayuga Lake.

³⁹<https://www.fishonondagacounty.com/about-the-fishing/bodies-of-water/cross-lake/>

⁴⁰https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/lci12rptcrossl.pdf

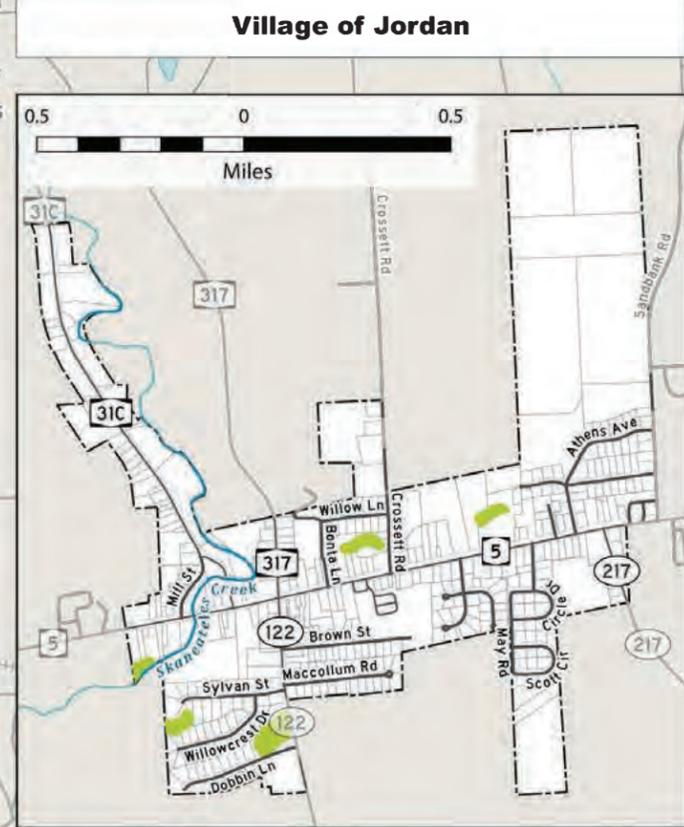
⁴¹[https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/14ed819bbcd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/nycrr/Document/14ed819bbcd1711dda432a117e6e0f345?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 15:
Wetlands & Surface Waters

Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  Lakes, Ponds and Rivers
-  Streams
-  State Wetland
-  Federal Wetland
-  Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

February 2024



Map 16: Floodplains

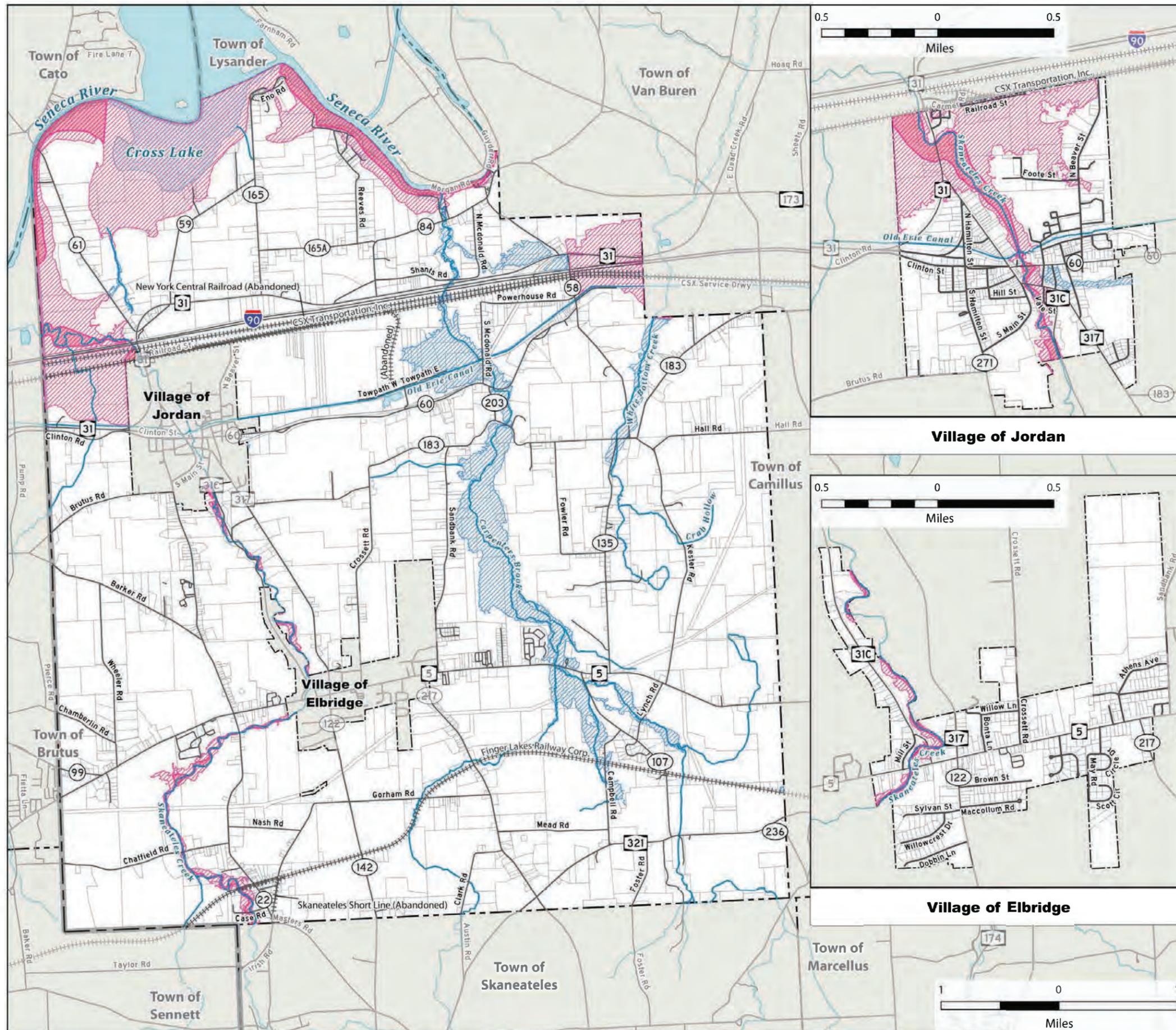
Legend

-  Roads
-  Railroad
-  Counties
-  Towns
-  Villages
-  Parcels
-  100 Year Flood Plain
-  A: Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.
-  AE: As above, where base flood elevations are provided.
-  AE Floodway: The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and FEMA. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023





Wetlands

Much of the land in the Town of Elbridge is classified as wetlands by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW). Wetlands are defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as areas where water is present at the surface of the soil throughout the year or during varying periods of time, including the growing season.⁴²

Wetlands regulated by New York State are typically mapped using aerial photography, elevation data, soil surveys, wetland inventories, and field verification. State regulated wetlands are regulated under the freshwater wetlands act by the DEC or by counties, towns, cities, or villages. The DEC classifies and maps wetlands regardless of the agency enforcing the act in a given locality.

The wetland classification system ranks them based on their ability to fulfill the functions and benefits of wetlands. Class I constitutes the highest rank, with the other classes descending through Class II, III, and IV. In Central New York, 76.6% of wetlands are listed as Class I.

Inland wetlands are favorable habitats for herbaceous plants, shrubs, deciduous trees, and many species of fish, reptiles, and birds. Hydrology of the soil helps define soil development and what kinds of terrestrial and aquatic species live in the habitat.

⁴²<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/what-wetland>

Wetlands are extremely valuable for their ability to help control flooding, pollution, erosion, and nutrient balance. Because flooding is a concern in the Village of Jordan, wetland preservation is an important element in environmental protection and flood hazard mitigation.

Wetland resources in CNY are currently threatened by the draining and rerouting of contributing water sources, land development and use, pollution from runoff and wastewater discharge, and discharge of dredged material to these wetlands.

Wetlands in Elbridge are located primarily south of Cross Lake, between Route 60 and I-90, along White Bottom Creek, and along Carpenter's Brook and its tributaries. The location of wetlands in the Town are indicated on Map 15. There are many freshwater ponds throughout the Town, sometimes associated with surrounding wetlands. The shore of the Seneca River is riparian, where river water meets the land and influences the soil hydrology.



The Seneca River flows east through the Finger Lakes region in NYS. It crosses into Onondaga County below Cross Lake, in the Village of Jordan. Part of the Erie Canal was formed by channeling this river.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Seneca_River_in_Jordan_NY.jpg

In the Village of Jordan, there are wetlands in the northern half of the community and at least one freshwater pond on the southern end. The Village of Elbridge specifically has five small freshwater forested/shrub wetland areas scattered throughout the community. These are valuable habitat resource areas that can also provide natural flood mitigation services if they are preserved.

FLOODPLAINS

Based on projections for the next 100 years, chances of flooding in Elbridge are higher on the shores of the Seneca River, Skaneateles Creek, Carpenter's Brook, and White Bottom Creek.

Although it runs through both Villages, Skaneateles Creek flooding is of more concern in Jordan. One flood zone encompasses much of the northern portion of the Village. The Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan categorizes floods, severe storms, and severe winter storms as

“high hazards” with a high probability of frequent occurrence. For this reason, avoidance of development in floodplains is an important objective to maintain, even as these areas increase in extent due to increased precipitation events that will occur as a result of climate change.

In 1955, a flood damage project in Jordan was initiated along Skaneateles Creek to reduce occasional flooding caused by ice and debris jams during and after high flow periods. Volunteers removed snags, rerouted a section of creek channel to connect an oxbow wetland, and cleared the flow between the New York State Railroad tracks to the Village line. The channel was also deepened in several places to direct water and reduce the formation of ice.

When the Department of the Army investigated the condition of the site in 2008, it reported, “In accordance with Headquarters, USACE guidance, this project is rated ‘Minimally Acceptable’ (M). The presence of one or more deficient conditions that lessen the degree of project reliability was the determining factor for the project rating.” The presence of hanging or downed trees along the creek bank were the cause of this rating. A Village volunteer helped reduce the potential for flooding by removing log-jams and snags on an annual basis.

SLOPE

Landscape topography has implications for land use planning and development including economic development, agriculture, emergency management and disaster preparedness, and preservation of scenic rural character.

As indicated on Map 17, the geography of the Town of Elbridge is characterized by varied slopes from glacially formed hills and drumlins. This area is part of the Ontario Lowlands region, and though the region is known as a “lowland,” the terrain varies throughout the area, with many glacial features such as drumlins, kettles, kames, and open glacial lake plains.

The drumlins within the Town of Elbridge have an inconsistent pattern, but tend to stretch from north to south. The lowest elevation in the Town is 364 feet at the edge of the Seneca River, and the highest elevation is 824 feet on the southern Town border.

I-90 and the old Erie Canal cut west through the flat area on which Jordan’s northern community rests. With slopes less than 8%, this area is more vulnerable to flooding. The southern half of the Village is more hilly with slopes ranging from less than 3% to more than 25%, resulting in some roadways through the town crossing steep terrain.

State Route 5 cuts through the hills that surround the Village of Elbridge. The Village section of Route 5 is known as East Main Street, where the community is centered. The slope here ranges from less than 3% to 8%, while the slopes in the outskirts of the Village can be over 15%. The steepest slopes, over 25%, in this Village can be found at the northeastern end in Seymour Lofft Park.

The slopes near Carpenter's Brook and I-90 exhibit the largest expanses of slopes with less than 3%. The rest of the Town's topography varies often, and there are many pockets of glacially formed hills between the two Villages. The largest expanse of steep slopes over 25% is located to the east of Carpenter's Brook, between the old canal and railroad.

Areas with slopes less than 12% are best suited for development. Much of the landscape slope in Elbridge varies from less than 3% to more than 25%. With much of the town's lower slopes in farmland, large expanses well-suited for development are limited. Many of these limited areas with slopes less than 3% are located near bodies of water, including Carpenter's Brook, where there are risks of flooding, and potential for encroachment on important ecosystems. Future development will need to take both flooding potential and slope stability into consideration.

AQUIFERS

An aquifer is a body of permeable rock that contains groundwater. The aquifer present in Onondaga County, just east of the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge, spans Cross Lake, Onondaga Lake, Beaver Lake, the Seneca River, and Carpenter's Brook. This aquifer is categorized as a stratified-drift aquifer.⁴³ This type of aquifer mostly consists of layered sand and gravel deposits from meltwater streams flowing from glaciers. Because the sand and gravel deposits are porous and water-saturated, millions of gallons of water can be drawn per day and wells can be constructed for this purpose. This easily accessible groundwater, a critical resource, is at risk of contamination from nearby agricultural and industrial discharge.

SOIL TYPE

The soils of Elbridge are mostly categorized as loam, which is a type of soil made up of sand, silt, and clay. Loam is well-suited for agriculture compared to soils dominated by just one particle type. Sand doesn't hold water well, silt doesn't hold nutrients well, and clay has poor drainage. A loamy mixture provides better drainage, water retention, and nutrient balance for plants to grow.

The dominant subcategories of soils in Elbridge are loam, silt loam, and

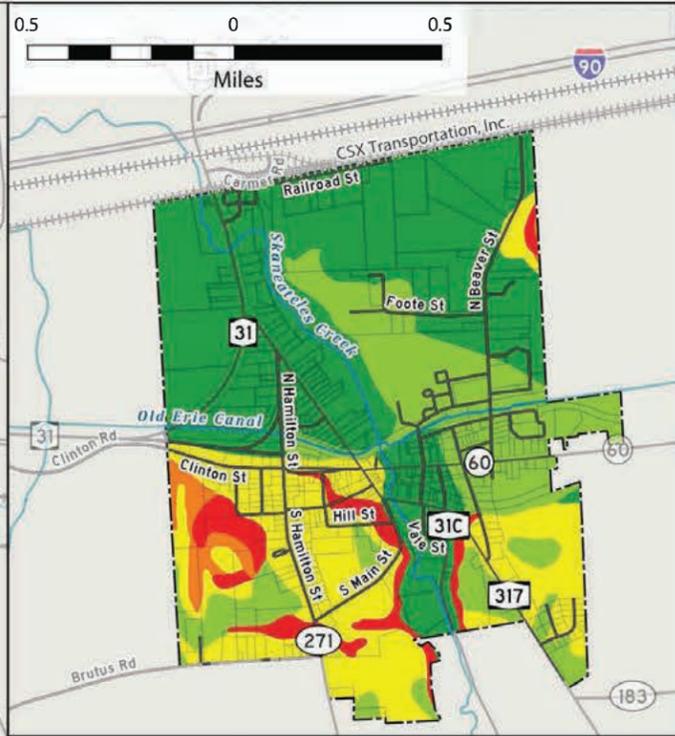
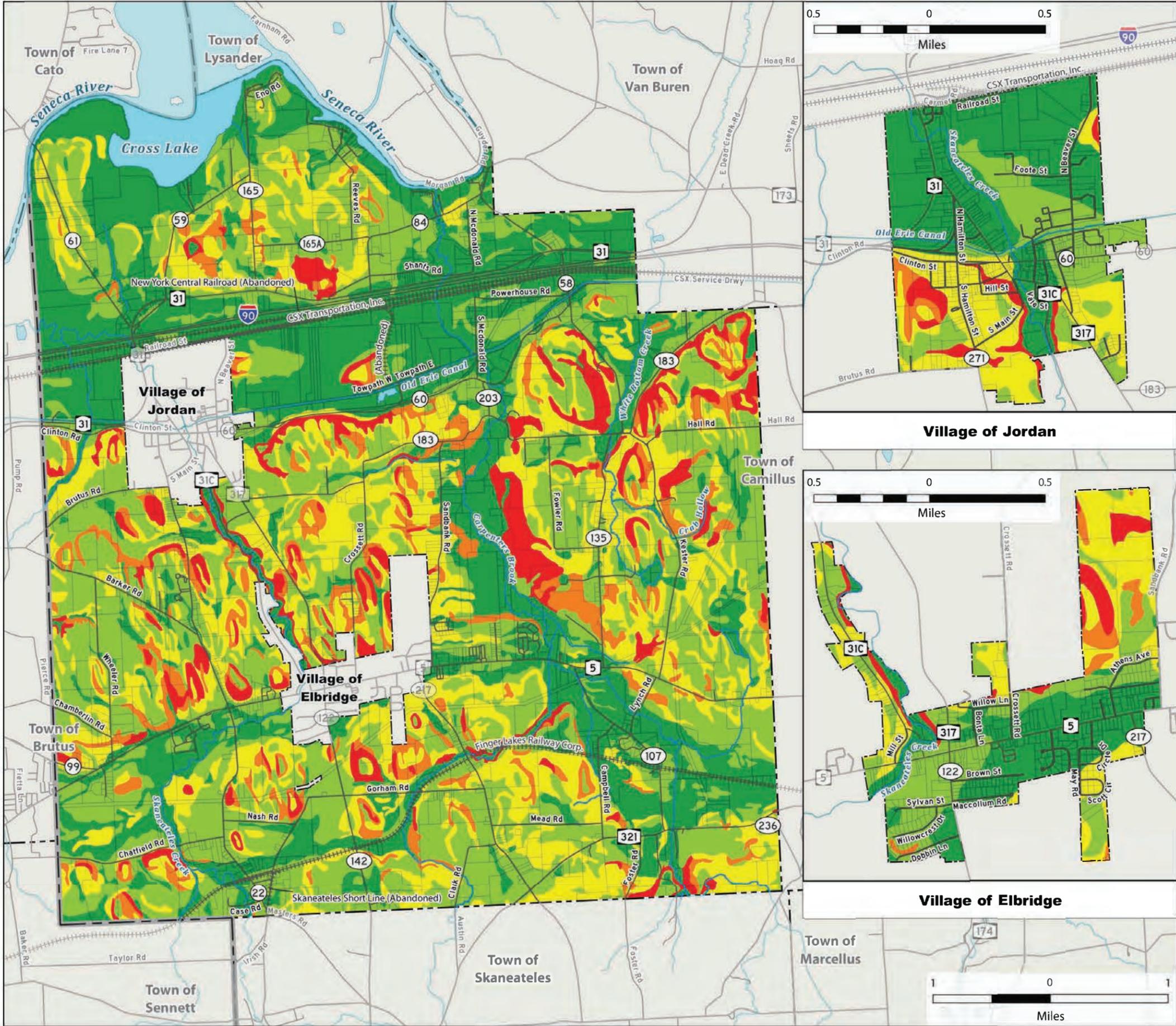
⁴³<https://ny.water.usgs.gov/maps/aquifer/>

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

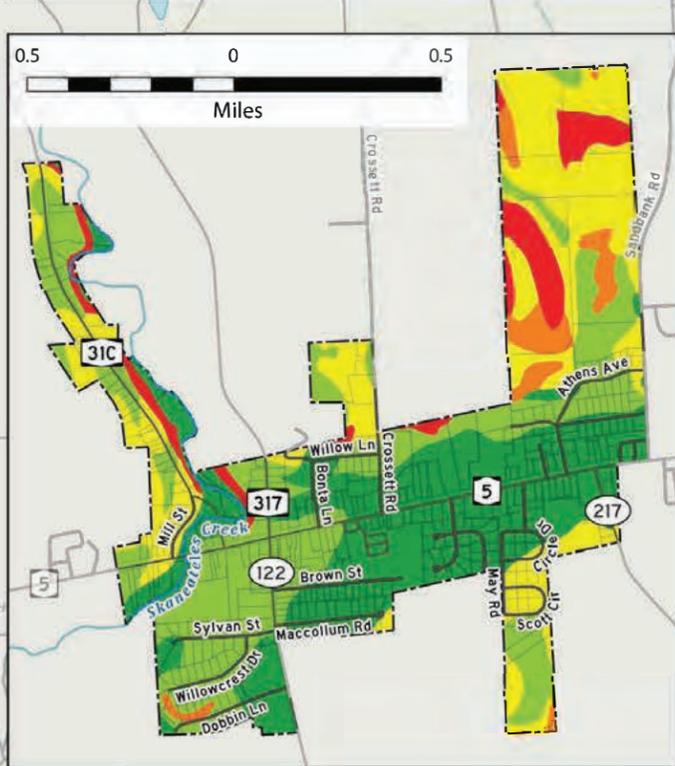
Map 17:
Slope

Legend

-  Roads
 -  Railroad
 -  Counties
 -  Towns
 -  Villages
 -  Parcels
-  ≤ 3%
 -  3% - 8%
 -  8% - 15%
 -  15% - 25%
 -  ≥ 25%



Village of Jordan



Village of Elbridge



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and USDA NRCS. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

October 2023



fine sandy loam. Soil type here varies slightly but often, with additional subtypes such as gravelly loam, loamy fine sand, and silty clay loam. Along Carpenter’s Brook and some sections of the Cross Lake shore the soil is categorized as muck, which is naturally waterlogged and contains well-decomposed organic matter.

These variations influence flood risks and farming practices related to nutrient and water retention. Clay-dominated soils are limited in Elbridge, so water infiltration rates are good. Because silty and sandy soils are at a higher risk of erosion, shorelines and banks may need rip-rap or more nature-based reinforcement approaches where property or infrastructure is at risk.⁴⁴

AIR QUALITY

The air quality in Elbridge typically ranges from 1–75 AQI, making it good to moderate air quality. This typical AQI was recorded in Elbridge October 2022 through May 2023, before air quality worsened in June and July due to winds carrying wildfire smoke from Canada. June 5–7, June 27–30, and July 16–17 had unhealthy air quality that affected all populations. Wildfires burning for several months in 2023 increased in intensity during the summer and winds brought changes in the normally good air quality of the northeast. Elbridge may continue experiencing periods of poor air quality as climate change-related drought conditions in surrounding regions brings ash and particulates on the wind. A practice of monitoring the local AQI will help the community to prepare to stay indoors during these periods to protect vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and pets.

Beyond wildfire smoke, other factors influencing air quality are sunlight, humidity, temperature, wind, and air pressure. Winds can carry smoke, dust, and sulfur dioxide, and in low-pressure systems, storms often wash pollutants out of the air and deposit them in their current location. High pressure systems can create stagnant air, and in urban areas, this can cause smog to form as vehicle and factory exhaust concentrate in some areas.

Air temperature affects how air moves through convection, the process of warm air rising and cool air sinking in the atmosphere. In cold weather, people tend to burn more wood and idle their cars for warmth, creating more air pollution. In sunny, hot weather, wildfires and ground-level ozone are produced more efficiently, especially during droughts.⁴⁵

⁴⁴[http://cartweb.geography.ua.edu/lizardtech/iserv/calcrn?cat=Special%20Topics&item=Soil%20Surveys/New%20York/New%20York%20Onondaga%20County%201934.sid&wid=500&hei=400&props=item\(Name,Description\),cat\(Name,Description\)&style=default/view.xsl&plugin=true](http://cartweb.geography.ua.edu/lizardtech/iserv/calcrn?cat=Special%20Topics&item=Soil%20Surveys/New%20York/New%20York%20Onondaga%20County%201934.sid&wid=500&hei=400&props=item(Name,Description),cat(Name,Description)&style=default/view.xsl&plugin=true)
⁴⁵<https://scied.ucar.edu/learning-zone/air-quality/how-weather-affects-air-quality>

Since the Elbridge air quality was good with relative consistency in October and November and then decreased in quality in the winter, this is likely explained by the mild weather. Compared to the subsequent winter months, the autumn weather likely had low levels of ozone pollution, more rain, and fewer idling vehicles and wood burned.⁴⁶

TREE COVER

Town of Elbridge has a good amount of rich forest cover dispersed throughout. Land areas with forest cover in the town tend to have at least 75% tree coverage. Many areas with less than 25% tree coverage in the town are either PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) Farmlands, which protects them from being developed for nonagricultural purposes, or agricultural districts. Because forest cover serves a different function in the environment than open space, it's important that both agricultural and nonagricultural development considers the importance of trees for local habitat health, air quality, and heat control.

Many neighborhoods within each Village have 25–50% tree coverage, and residents benefit from the protection trees offer from sun and wind. Communities with more trees are more walkable in the heat than communities without trees, and properties with trees are also considered more valuable and desirable.

THREATENED SPECIES

The following species populations are threatened in New York State by factors such as human development, habitat fragmentation, and pollution. Town and Village development, as well as any environmental modifications, in each of their habitats should take these species into consideration, particularly in the northwest near Cross Lake and south of I-90 on Carpenter's Brook.



<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/355833641>

Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias is a protected species in the state of New York, meaning this large bird may not be hunted or taken at any time. It is also federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. An adult Great Blue Heron is gray with a large yellow-orange beak, black plumes on the head, and long legs.⁴⁷ Their wetland hab-

⁴⁶<https://aqicn.org/station/@357850/#/z/12>

⁴⁷<https://ebird.org/species/grbher3>

itats are threatened by human development, invasive species, and nutrient enrichment.⁴⁸

Kentucky Warbler



https://search.macaulaylibrary.org/catalog?taxonCode=kenwar®ionCode=US-NY&sort=rating_rank_desc

Geothlypis formosa is a protected songbird in New York State and may not be hunted or taken at any time. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act also protects this species federally. This bird has a bright yellow underbelly and olive back. Male birds have black crowns and markings around the eyes, while female birds have olive or gray crowns with darker markings around the eyes.⁴⁹ Fragmentation of forest habitat poses a threat to this warbler, as well as parasitism from Brown-headed Cowbirds and over-browsing of vegetation by White-tailed Deer.⁵⁰

Blackchin Shiner

Notropis heterodon is a small minnow with a black mid-lateral stripe which runs from the base of the tail to the snout. This fish has an additional yellowish stripe above the black stripe, while the rest of the body is brown-olive with dark speckles. Males become golden yellow during breeding season. Although this species is not listed under state or federal protection, its populations have declined severely in New York State watersheds. The presence of these fish is a good indicator for the health of freshwater quality because they're sensitive to salt and silt levels.⁵¹

Northern Wild Comfrey

Andersonglossum boreale is a plant species listed as Endangered in New York State, meaning the removal or damage of the plant without consent of the landowner is prohibited. This plant is a perennial wildflower that grows 1–2 feet high with 4–8 inch long oval-shaped leaves. In the early 1900s, there were at least 22 species of Wild Comfrey recorded, but populations have since declined to only three known species today. Little is known about the reason this species has declined, but it may be related to global warming because its population range has moved northward.⁵²

⁴⁸<https://guides.nynhp.org/great-blue-heron/>

⁴⁹<https://ebird.org/species/kenwar/>

⁵⁰<https://guides.nynhp.org/kentucky-warbler/>

⁵¹<https://guides.nynhp.org/blackchin-shiner/>

⁵²<https://guides.nynhp.org/northern-wild-comfrey/>

Sartwell's Sedge

Carex sartwellii is an endangered plant species, and by New York State law may not be damaged or removed without the consent of the property owner. This species is a tall grass-like perennial with 30–120 cm stems and sometimes flower clusters. They grow in large patches in habitats such as fens, marshes, and ponds. Their populations are threatened by human development, mining, herbicides, and changes in hydrology.⁵³

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are defined as non-native plants and animals that can damage the environment, economy, and/or human health. Many invasives in CNY were originally from Europe or Asia and generally have few or no predators outside of their native habitat, causing their populations to go unchecked and local ecosystems to degrade as a result. Below is a list of concerning invasives present in the Town of Elbridge.^{54 55 56}

Within the Town of Elbridge, a significant invasion of *Trapa natans* European Water Chestnut has taken hold in Cross Lake and the Seneca River. An invader of freshwater habitats, the dense, thick mats can damage freshwater ecology by reducing oxygen content, restricting light availability, and displacing native floating vegetation. They can also restrict recreational activities, and produce seeds that can remain viable for as long as 12 years. Residents suspect that as the plant is harvested in Cayuga Lake, escaped plant pieces travel up the Seneca River and establish new colonies there and in Cross Lake.

Armyworm

Spodoptera frugiperda are typically pests of corn, grains, and grasses, but under hunger stress, they will also consume legumes and other plants. Armyworm moth migrations are difficult to predict due to their sporadic nature. Their larvae can now be found in New York.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

Anoplophora glabripennis is a wood-boring beetle that damages hardwood trees such as maples. Originally from Asia, the first breeding populations in New York were found in 1996.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Halyomorpha halys is a household and agricultural pest, consuming crops such as apples, pears, peaches, figs, mulberries, citrus, persimmon, and soybeans. They're known to produce a chemical with an unpleasant odor,

⁵³<https://guides.nynhp.org/sartwells-sedge/>

⁵⁴<https://imapinvasives.natureserve.org/imap/services/page/map>

⁵⁵<https://www.invasive.org/index.cfm>

⁵⁶<http://cceonondaga.org/environment/invasive-nuisance-species>

to which some humans may be allergic. Originally from Eastern Asia, they were first identified in Pennsylvania in 2001.

Common Reed

Phragmites australis is an invasive reed which forms dense strands of stems and crowds out native vegetation in wetland areas. This species can out-compete other plants, change local topography, decrease salinity in brackish water, increase fire potential, and change marsh hydrology. These effects also threaten the animals that live in these habitats. This species has been spotted along Interstate-90 and in Erie Canalway Park.

Deer/Black-legged Tick

Ixodes scapularis is a common parasite of the white-tailed deer known to transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis. Ticks acquire Lyme disease bacteria by feeding on infected mice or other small rodents. The range of this tick species has grown to include most of the Eastern U.S., stretching into Texas and North Dakota.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Agrilus planipennis is a wood boring beetle from Asia that feeds on and kills Ash trees. These beetles were first documented in North America in 2002 near Detroit. Since then, they've killed hundreds of millions of trees and invaded 13 states and five Canadian provinces. EAB has been found in several counties in New York, including in Elbridge on Shants Road and Clements Road.⁵⁷

European Water Chestnut



Harvesting European Water Chestnut from Cross Lake in the Town of Elbridge, September 2023.

Trapa natans is a rooted, floating plant that invades freshwater habitats and forms dense, thick mats. They produce a strange, nut-like fruit with sharp spines. The seeds inside can

remain viable for as long as 12 years. Their dense mats can damage freshwater ecology by reducing oxygen content, restricting light availability, and displacing native floating vegetation. They can also restrict recreational activities.

⁵⁷<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

This plant is native to Europe and Asia and spread to Massachusetts in the late 1800s. Within the Town of Elbridge, water chestnut has been found in Cross Lake and the Seneca River.

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata is an invasive herb mostly found in disturbed woodlots and forest edges, though sometimes also in pristine areas. Considered one of the worst invaders of forests in the American Northeast and Midwest, this plant has become the dominant plant in many forest undergrowths, crowding out native species and reducing biodiversity. This species has been spotted in Elbridge on Valley Drive.

Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum is an herbaceous perennial that can grow as tall as 20 feet tall. The stem and leaf stalks produce postulate bristles, and the stem can be 2–4 inches wide. This plant can outcompete with species for habitat space and may increase soil erosion. The sap can cause blistering and severe burns by making skin sensitive to UV radiation, so this plant is on the federal noxious weed list. This plant has been found in Erie Canalway Park.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

Adelges tsugae is an insect from Asia that targets Eastern and Carolina Hemlock trees. It was first identified in Virginia in the 1950s and reached New York in the 1980s. HWA spreads by the wind, birds, humans, and other animals. This particular species is all female in the U.S., asexually reproducing two generations each year. By being active during the winter, HWA avoids predators and takes advantage of the hemlock's increased intake of energy during the winter.

Jumping Worm

Amyntas agrestis is an invasive worm that alters the structure and chemistry of local soils, leaving grainy soil and worm castings behind. Landscapes, lawns, and forest understory habitats can be damaged in the process. They reproduce asexually and mature in 60 days.

Originally from Asia, this species can be spread when people unknowingly use them for bait or transport worms or egg cocoons via shoes, wheels, mulch, or transplanted plants. Within Elbridge, this worm has been found on Valley Drive.

Pale Swallow-Wort

Cynanchum rossicum is a vine that forms dense mats, spreading quickly and crowding out native plants. As a relative of milkweed, they also have seeds

with white fluff, which allows them to be carried away to new areas in the wind. Areas where they dominate coincide with decreased populations of native birds. This species has been found in Elbridge on Foster Road and Kingston Road.

Pale Yellow Iris

Iris pseudacorus is an herbaceous perennial that can grow to 4 feet tall. The white/cream flowers bloom from April to June. The threat they pose is displacement of native species due to forming large clonal colonies. Their root system can survive drought and their seeds can be carried downstream to spread the plant. It is toxic to grazing animals and can cause skin irritation. This species has been found in Erie Canalway Park.

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria is an herbaceous flowering plant that invades many types of wetlands and forms dense strands that dominate the area. They spread rapidly by producing millions of seeds per year and can hybridize with native loosestrife species, depleting the native gene pool.

Native to Europe and Asia, this species was introduced to North America in the early 1800s. Within the Town of Elbridge, this plant can be found along Interstate-90 and in Erie Canalway Park.

Round Goby

Neogobius melanostomus is a highly invasive fish that breeds prolifically, aggressively defends nesting sites, predated native fish and eggs, and competes for food, causing declines in native fish populations. Many recreational anglers find their efforts frustrated by the goby's aggressive removal of bait and competition with popular game fish.

This species has invaded all of the Great Lakes and many related tributaries, often with high population densities. It has also been found in the Seneca River.

Zebra Mussel

Dreissena polymorpha is a bivalve species that filters a vast amount of plankton, putting itself in aggressive competition with other aquatic species for food and causing a lack of clarity in the water.

In the 1980s, the mussels were transported to the Great Lakes through freshwater ballast discharged from freighters from the Black and Caspian Sea region. The species has since spread to the Seneca River in Elbridge.

Resiliency

Community resilience is more important than ever with economic, social, and environmental strains and instabilities having more impact on families, businesses and local government resources. Resiliency is the sustained ability of a community to use available resources (energy, communication, transportation, food, etc.) to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. Many types of adversities can impact communities, from extreme weather events, flooding, erosion hazards, to economic collapse to global catastrophic risks. Planning for resiliency before disaster strikes allows for the successful adaptation and growth of the community. Communities that are resilient are able to minimize a disaster, making the return to normal life as effortless as possible. By implementing community resilience planning, the Elbridge community can come together and overcome disasters, while rebuilding physically and economically.

Onondaga County's hazard mitigation plans for the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan focus on risks associated with flooding and severe storms, which are the most likely and frequent hazards in the community.

Based on the availability of funding, efforts to retrofit, or relocate structures in hazard-prone areas can prevent repetitive losses. Public outreach and education of residents is essential for reducing the risks associated with natural hazards, especially to vulnerable property owners. Hazard mitigation grant funds are available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with local fund matching, and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), managed by FEMA is critically important. Because the Jordan Fire Department participates in a mutual aid program, the Town of Elbridge shares this emergency resource with other nearby communities for all hazards, including flooding, extreme weather, and fire.

The Jordan community is more vulnerable to flooding compared to the Village of Elbridge, but removal of debris and log jams in all flood vulnerable areas of the Skaneateles Creek is important to prevent extreme flooding. Some of the banks along the creek may also be at risk of erosion, which is particularly a concern near properties on streets like Valley Drive. The county recommends installing rip-raps in erosion-prone areas to prevent further loss of stream banks.

In 2019, Onondaga County updated its Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was originally prepared in response to the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Town of Elbridge and the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan are eligible for pre-disaster mitigation funding as participants in the process and adopt the County's Plan. Disaster planning

helps communities proactively reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters. Municipal land use policies such as zoning regulations, subdivision, and site plan review should consider the risks of natural hazards and how they might be mitigated according. The complete county hazard plan is available on the Onondaga County's website.⁵⁸

Planning in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge & Jordan

In 2023, The Town of Elbridge celebrated its 175th anniversary. Land use planning in the Town of Elbridge and the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan has evolved and changed to meet the needs of a growing and diverse community over the past many years, however, zoning laws in the Village of Elbridge were developed over 35 years ago and should be updated to modern best practices.

ZONING LOCAL LAW OF THE VILLAGE OF ELBRIDGE, 1987

In 1987, the Village of Elbridge's Board of Trustees adopted the original version of these zoning laws as chapter 137 in its local code and has since regularly updated them as needed. There are five zoning districts defined in this document: one-family residential (R-1), minor multiple family residential (R-2), multiple-family residential (R-3), retail business (B-1), general business and industrial (B-2), and shopping center (S-1) districts. The purpose of this Village zoning document is to define the zoning districts, establish restrictions and requirements, and set goals for Village districting.

A major goal for the Village of Elbridge is to preserve the older mansions, homes, and business establishments that lend themselves to the historic character of the community. The Board of Trustees determined that ultra-modern and contemporary building styles are incompatible in the vicinity of the existing structures to be preserved. Zoning laws are also meant to preserve a quality of life for residents. Therefore, the administration and enforcement of this chapter, land uses and structures permitted and their design, planning, and location must be performed with these objectives in mind.

MAIN STREET CORRIDOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2015 UPDATE

The Main Street Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted by the Village of Elbridge in 2003 as an assessment of conditions along Main Street, the center of Village heritage.

The most recent update for the Main Street Corridor Comprehensive Plan

⁵⁸<http://www.ongov.net/planning/haz/2019UpdateDraftPlan.html>

for the Village of Elbridge was adopted in 2016. Like the Village zoning laws, one of the purposes of the plan is to preserve the historic quality of Main Street, as well as planning for compatible development that will enhance the overall aesthetics and economics of the Village. The document also contains an analysis of existing land uses, economic trends, pedestrian and vehicle circulation, streetscape design and aesthetics, local land use practices, and regulations in the Village. As conditions change, sound planning practices necessitate updates to the Main Street plan, including a sixth goal not previously included.

The Village goals set by this document are as follows:

1. Preserve local heritage, historic community character, and improve the physical appearance and aesthetic qualities (visual and noise environment) of the Main Street area by retaining and maintaining traditional, historic, and viable structures to the greatest extent possible.
2. Accommodate new development and provide for redevelopment opportunities for new and existing businesses consistent with maintaining the existing historic character and traditional village-style appeal of Main Street.
3. Enhance vehicular and pedestrian movement and circulation through the corridor, by encouraging “walkability” and improving pedestrian safety, vehicular access and traffic management along Main Street.
4. Provide for services and amenities to residents of all ages and their diverse needs by improving the function and appeal of the “public realm” and creating desirable public spaces through new public and private development and redevelopment opportunities.
5. Protect natural resources and amenities including stream and surface waters, especially Skaneateles Creek, floodplains, wetlands, special habitats, and open spaces that contribute to rural character and a desirable quality of life in the Village.
6. Encourage continued investment by existing residential and business property owners and attract new investment into the community by facilitating and encouraging desirable forms of redevelopment of underutilized and vacant properties to their most appropriate and best use.

Appendix A: Hazard Mitigation Plan Point of Contact

This document, included in the appendix of the Main Street Comprehensive Plan, describes how the Village of Elbridge should proceed in the event of an environmental hazard. The plan details six types of mitigation:

1. **Prevention:** Government, administrative, or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. These actions also include public activities to reduce hazard losses. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and stormwater regulations.
2. **Property Protection:** Actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area, including: acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.
3. **Public Education and Awareness:** Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and school-age and adult education programs.
4. **Natural Resource Protection:** Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
5. **Emergency Services:** Actions that protect people and property, during and immediately following, a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities.
6. **Structural Projects:** Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, set-back levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.

Appendix B: Model Village Center Ordinance

This model document helps local municipality boards in the process of creating a Village Center Overlay District. This district is zoned with the intentions of gradual or piecemeal revitalization of the existing center with little to no walkability or mixed use for customers and residents. Most redevelopment is presumed to occur on smaller lots of different ownership, but opportunities for larger scale redevelopment may become available. The model document for the overlay district includes description and details for its purpose, establishment, definitions, authority, use provisions, dimensional requirements, parking requirements, design standards, special permit, and severability.

Appendix C: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Historic Resource Standards

This document outlines the ten standards for rehabilitation according to the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential

form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

VILLAGE OF JORDAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2016

The Village of Jordan Comprehensive Plan was prepared by members of the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board and adopted by Jordan in 2016. This Plan documents existing land use, economic, services, and demographics in order to analyze how the Village can best plan for the future. It looks to the past to support efforts to preserve historic resources, and looks to the future for long-range planning and development. The Comprehensive Plan defines a list of goals and recommendations, with a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan for guidance regarding the environment. The goals are as follows:

- Promote investment, housing occupancy, and the creation of local jobs.
- Provide a diversity of economic levels, age groups, and household types. Enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Preserve and revitalize historic resources.
- Ensure effective and efficient governance.
- Improve transportation, infrastructure, parking, and traffic flow.
- Provide effective wastewater treatment, solid waste collection services, and delivery of high quality drinking water.
- Provide secure and cost-effective fire protection and emergency medical services.
- Protect the environment and water quality in Skaneateles Creek.
- Reduce carbon emissions from Village operations and the Jordan communities.

Appendix A: National Register Listings

Appendix B: Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The Village of Jordan has adopted the Climate Smart Communities Pledge as a commitment to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and climate change mitigation. The Climate Smart Communities Program represents a partnership between New York State and local governments to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. Major steps involved in the program include:

1. Adopting the Climate Smart pledge
2. Compiling a GHG inventory
3. Developing a plan to reduce emissions (Climate Action Plan)

4. Carrying out sustainable development projects

The purpose of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory:

A Greenhouse Gas Inventory provides a detailed record of how a community's emissions are related to climate change, which then enables municipalities to target areas for reducing GHG emissions locally. Local governments exercise direct control over their own operations and can lead by example by reducing energy usage in municipal facilities, using alternative fuels for their fleets, and investing in renewable energy sources. Local governments can also influence community-wide activities that contribute to climate change by improving building codes and standards, providing cleaner transportation options, and educating members of the community about their choices as consumers. Each local government is unique with its own set of opportunities, challenges, and solutions, and therefore climate action needs to be tailored to each community at the local level. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory is the first step in tailoring these actions.

Appendix C: Climate Action Plan

A Climate Action Plan is meant to serve as a blueprint for the future of a community's role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The CAP identifies to which extent local actions support New York State's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% (below the levels emitted in 1990) by 2050. Representatives from municipalities throughout the State have compiled local CAPs to help reach this goal.

The Village of Jordan CAP provides local goals for reducing energy use from community and municipal activities, with special recommendations in areas such as transportation, solid waste disposal, and building energy efficiency. The overall objectives of the CAP are to:

1. Provide municipal elected officials, community leaders, and residents with information and support to advance sustainability programs throughout the community
2. Identify opportunities for emission reduction programs and initiatives
3. Engage and encourage local participation in greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies

In 2016, a Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee made up of community leaders and municipal representatives met to discuss emission reduction goals and strategies. This committee agreed on a goal to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 48.0% and community emissions by 12.4% from the GHG inventory baseline year of 2014 by 2030.

The report is meant to help public officials, community leaders, and residents decide how the community can best act in the face of climate change. Although the CAP is not intended to provide precise information about potential emission reductions or replace thorough project planning, it is intended as a flexible framework for climate protection that can help the community understand which actions may be feasible.

Town of Elbridge, Village of Elbridge, and Village of Jordan Hazard Mitigation Plans

As a part of the Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan project to protect the health, safety, property, environment and economy of the communities within Onondaga County, and to increase resilience by partnering to identify and reduce our future vulnerability to natural hazards in a proactive and efficient manner, individual HMP's were developed for the Town and the two Villages in 2019. Goals of the plans were to: Protect Life and Safety Increase Understanding and Awareness of Natural Hazard Risk Promote Resiliency Throughout the County Protect the Environment and Natural Resources Promote and Support Partnerships Enhance Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

County, State, Federal and Regional Planning Initiatives

In addition to the existing land use regulations, the Comprehensive Plans and other plans of the Villages; County, State, Federal and regional planning initiatives also contributed to this plan.

COUNTY & REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

“Plan ONondaga”, the **Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan** provides a regional context and the opportunity to coordinate Town and Village goals with Onondaga County goals. The guiding principles of the County Plan are quality of life, economic development, and community based planning. Under these principles, the themes of the Plan focus on housing and neighborhoods, community mobility, strong centers, greenways and blueways, and agriculture. Strong centers are defined as “walkable, people oriented places with a mix of jobs, housing, shopping, dining, culture, public spaces, entertainment, transportation, and services.” The chapter on strong centers lays out a vision for strengthening local communities to reach that goal. Both the Village of Jordan and the Village of Elbridge were identified as traditional centers with a mix of uses, walkability, and quality of life amenities, but that will require ongoing investments in infrastructure to maintain their vibrancy and character. Both villages and nearby vacant parcels were identified in the county plan as potential locations for future residential development.

The **Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan** provided the basis for the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan Hazard Mitigation Plans to be created. The Multi-Jurisdictional County Plan, originally adopted in 2013 and updated in 2019, identified natural disasters of concern in the region, assessed the specific vulnerabilities to them, and identified projects and measures to reduce damage and danger in the future.⁵⁹

Elbridge's Comprehensive Plan was also influenced by the **Central New York Regional Sustainability Plan**, also known as **VisionCNY**. This plan was prepared under the CNY Energy Challenge Program by the CNY RPDB in 2013. Its purpose was to help develop plans coordinated across municipalities for more sustainable communities using the input of regional stakeholders and public participants.⁶⁰

Planning Along the CNY Peace Trail Corridor

In the last few decades, many communities across New York State have recognized the limitations of traditional planning at the local level and have formed partnerships with neighboring municipalities. These partnerships can foster complementary and mutually-supportive policies throughout the region to create recreational opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources like wetlands, watersheds, aquifers, open space, and historic landmarks.

The Central New York Peace Trail is one such project coordinated by the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB). This network of bike touring corridors is proposed to span across five counties, creating a set of linked bicycle touring routes between CNY's hamlets, villages, and cities connecting the region's many historic and recreational resources. The Erie Canalway Trail makes up the "spine" of the regional trail network, while most of the connecting CNY Peace Trail touring routes will be on-road.

State and Federal Planning Initiatives

Every five years, the NYS Division for Historic Preservation, which includes the State Historic Preservation Office, prepares a statewide preservation plan which notes preservation progress, needs, and opportunities throughout the entire state. The 2009-2013 **NTS Historic Preservation Plan** sets seven goals for historic preservation, including: catalyze New York's state and local economies using historic preservation, heritage development, and tourism; expand incentives, technical assistance programs, and policies to stimulate rehabilitation and reuse in older and historic

⁵⁹<http://www.ongov.net/planning/haz.html>

⁶⁰[https://www.cnyenergychallenge.org/regional-sustainability-plan#:~:text=The%20Central%20New%20York%20Regional,CGC\)%20Regional%20Sustainability%20Planning%20Program.](https://www.cnyenergychallenge.org/regional-sustainability-plan#:~:text=The%20Central%20New%20York%20Regional,CGC)%20Regional%20Sustainability%20Planning%20Program.)

residential and commercial areas and to encourage the preservation and interpretation of archaeological sites; integrate historic preservation into smart growth policies, local and regional planning, and decision-making to enhance economic competitiveness, community sustainability, and quality of life; strengthen collaboration and partnerships among preservation and related organizations; expand and strengthen education, outreach, and capacity building efforts; integrate historic and cultural resource preservation into New York's sustainability and green building efforts; and increase awareness, identification, interpretation, preservation, protection, and stewardship of both prehistoric and historic sites and artifacts located on private and state-owned lands.

The 2015-2020 NYS Historic Preservation Plan sets similar goals, including: expanding preservation efforts across the state by strengthening the practice of preservation, enhancing collaboration to advance preservation, training New Yorkers in preservation trades, skills, and crafts, and showcasing preservation contributions; promoting preservation at the local and regional level by integrating preservation into local and regional decision making and building support for preservation among local officials and developers; and cultivating pride of place by expanding and diversifying participation in preservation, engaging New Yorkers in historic sites and museums, and capitalizing on heritage tourism opportunities. These state-wide goals were kept in mind while creating this CP and drafting the goals and recommendations for the Town of Elbridge.

The **New York State Open Space Conservation Plan** (2016) serves as the blueprint for the State's land conservation efforts, which is required by law to be revised every three years. The Environmental Protection Fund provides the funds for the acquisition, stewardship, and management of priority open space conservation projects in New York State. Priority status is given to lands which can be effectively managed and protected that have significant ecological value. The Town of Elbridge lies within the coastal watershed boundary, just south of a priority area.

Issues in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan of particular importance to the Town of Elbridge include the rich agricultural lands in the Finger Lakes Region and the Erie Canal Corridor. The Plan makes note of the Erie Canal Greenway as part of a long-term effort to create an interconnecting greenway system across New York that will strengthen local and regional ties and protect and enhance natural and cultural resources. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is considered a significant historic, cultural, recreational, educational, and scenic resource to be preserved for future generations.

The **New York State Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP)** is prepared periodically by the New York State Office of Park, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. The updated SCORP serves as a status report and as an overall guidance document for the recreation resource preservation, planning, and development through 2025. The document is also used to guide the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The document provides guidance for the allocation of municipal and not-for-profit funds to local areas and facilities with the greatest needs.⁶¹

The New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared periodically by the New York State Office of Park, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. The updated SCORP refers to the Finger Lakes as a major water recreational resource. The document serves as a status report and for overall guidance in recreation resource preservation, planning, and development from 2014 through 2019. The document is also used to guide the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects as well as for the allocation of municipal and not-for-profit funds to local areas and facilities with the greatest needs.

The **Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI)** is part of the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) initiative, which created region-specific plans for increasing jobs, stimulating regional wealth, leveraging private investment, and reducing poverty. The **Central New York Rising** plan is part of this initiative, focusing on six investment areas: the Global Center for Unmanned Systems and Cross-Connected Platforms; the New York-Grown & Certified program; the Global Manufacturing and Logistics Hub; the National Veterans Resource Complex; the Consensus Commission on Government Modernization; and the Alliance for Economic Inclusion. Investment in the New York-Grown & Certified program is especially important for the rural Elbridge community because it promotes the agricultural goods of local farmers and it assures consumers that their food is produced at a high standard.

The **Finger Lakes Forward** plan is another part of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI) that will likely impact the Town of Elbridge. The key industry clusters identified in the Finger Lakes region in the coming years are: optics, photonics, and imaging; agriculture and food production; and

⁶¹<https://parks.ny.gov/documents/inside-our-agency/20202025StatewideComprehensiveOutdoorRecreationPlan.pdf>

manufacturing and technology. The economic initiatives in this region could potentially increase job opportunities for commuting workers living in Elbridge.

Chapter 3: Regional Influences

Regional influences are important for long-term planning in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. Relevant influences to planning for Elbridge include regional economic growth and activity, infrastructural development, environmental impact, and resource use in nearby communities that can have profound effects on Elbridge, even if they may not be direct neighbors. The process of discovering and reaching the goals of Elbridge depends on consideration of relevant regional conditions and trends.

Central New York Region

Elbridge is in NY's 22th Congressional District which is served by Representative Brandon William (R), Senator Charles Schumer (D), and Senator Kirston Gillibrand (D). The Town is located in Central New York's Finger Lakes region, internationally regarded as a beautiful tourist destination. Covering 3,120 square miles, Central New York (CNY) is made up of five counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego.

CNY's abundant supply of cultural, historic, economic and natural resources enhance the quality of life in the region with its glacially-formed drumlins and lakes and four season climate. The city of Syracuse is a center of economic activity interdependent with Onondaga County commerce. Other centers of economic activity can be found in the smaller Cities of Auburn in Cayuga County, Cortland in Cortland County, Oneida in Madison County, and Fulton and Oswego in Oswego County. These small cities each have nearby suburban areas, surrounding rural towns and villages, and agricultural communities.

As the center of New York State, the Central New York Region (CNY) is in close proximity to Rochester, Buffalo, Albany, and Binghamton. With a network of transportation including Syracuse Hancock International Airport, the CSX intermodal rail center, the deep water Port of Oswego, and Interstate Routes 81 and 90, there are multiple travel corridors and routes to nearby major cities like New York, Boston, and Toronto.

The region is served by multiple private utility companies including National Grid, New York State Electric and Gas, and Rochester Gas and

Electric. Major service providers Spectrum, Verizon, and AT&T serve the area with telecommunications systems, although many outlying areas lack broadband access. The region also has an extensive network of public sewer and water facilities, with a wealth of water resources to draw upon.

CNY's labor force is currently made up of about 397,600 workers in economic sectors including healthcare, manufacturing, education, professional business services, distribution, wholesale and retail trade, construction, transportation, utilities, and government services.

Several important occupational clusters form the foundation of CNY, including electronics, biosciences, precision metalworking, packaging, environmental systems, engineering, medical services, information management, and logistics. Over 40,000 workers are employed by the 670 establishments in these fields, making up almost 10% of CNY's employment base.

Much of the economic activity in CNY is made up of manufacturing, wholesale, agriculture, finance, insurance, and real estate sectors. Manufacturing employment has declined over the last two decades, but it remains a critical part of the local economy, providing employment with relatively high wages. The wholesale sector in CNY is concentrated in the Syracuse area, the major center of economic activity.

Since the 1960s, a large amount of employment growth in CNY can be attributed to the service sector, made up of finance, insurance, and real estate. This trend shows how the region has transformed in the postindustrial economy, shifting to a new service economy as financial and insurance companies moved into CNY.

Although agriculture has been declining in terms of direct employment, number of farms, and land area, farming and agribusiness are still the primary base of economic activity in the rural communities of CNY, especially in Cayuga, Cortland, and Madison Counties. Cornell University has estimated that grain crops such as corn, soybeans and small grains are grown on over 40,000 acres in a seven county CNY area each year in addition to dairy, beef and other animal agricultural production.

Micron

Communities in CNY are preparing for the upcoming plans of the international technology company Micron to build a new computer chip manufacturing campus in the Town of Clay, north of Syracuse. Micron plans to invest \$100 billion into the construction of the 7.2 million square foot complex over the course of twenty years. As many as 9,000 jobs will

be created by Micron and up to 50,000 could be brought into the region over the course of twenty years as related suppliers and service companies locate here. To accommodate the influx of workers in the years to come, developers are seeking out nearby areas to build new housing. The Micron project is currently considered one of the biggest economic developments in the nation, with businesses and residents across New York State expecting to feel the effects.⁶²

The Canalway Trail & Recreationway

The Erie Canalway Trail is a 365-mile long trail that passes through the center of Jordan as a part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor from Buffalo through Rochester, Syracuse, Rome, Utica, Schenectady, and Albany. Beginning in the 1960s, communities along the Erie Canal undertook the development of the hiking and biking trail system. With relatively flat terrain, hikers, bikers, and cross-country skiers of all experience levels are welcome on the trail enjoying outdoor recreation, connecting with neighboring communities, and keeping New York State's history alive.

Parallel to the Canalway Trail is the NYS Canal System, made up of four historic canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals. In partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation and Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Parks and Trails New York is working to complete a 524-mile continuous trail along these canals by connecting and extending the current trails. The completion of the project would create a robust statewide tourist destination for bicyclists, outdoor enthusiasts, and history buffs.

The NYS Canal Corporation is also involved in plans to develop the Canal System waterway into a major recreationway system. The New York State Canal Corporation operates, maintains, and promotes the NYS Canal System and owns and manages approximately one-third of the Erie Canalway Trail. The Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the NYS Thruway Authority. The Corporation's advisory board, the Canal Recreationway Commission, created a document called the Canal Recreationway Plan with the purpose of providing strategies for key projects: Canal Harbors, Canal Service Port and Lock Projects, Canalway Trail, and Canal System Marketing Plan. A total of 96 individual projects were developed with the aim of improving canal frontage at locks and municipalities along the Canal System. Almost half of the sites have undergone improvements and restoration since the adoption of the Canal Recreationway Plan in 1995. Nearly 230 miles of completed Canalway Trail are now available for recreational use. When the 524-mile continuous trail is complete, it will be the

⁶²<https://www.wfxrtv.com/science-technology/leaders-promise-45000-jobs-from-microns-100b-computer-chip-campus-in-clay/>

longest trail in the country and serve as an eco-tourism destination, generating increased recreational opportunities that can boost local economies, tourism, and quality of life.

Canalway Trails Association New York (CTANY) is an all-volunteer organization that works both statewide and locally with citizens, state agencies, and municipalities to develop the Canalway Trail System as a world-class multi-use recreational trail and international bicycle tourism destination. In partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation and others, CTANY encourages the proper maintenance of the trail by coordinating the Adopt-a-Trail Program, a way to reinforce local connections to the trail.

Parks and Trails New York (PTNY) works statewide to expand, protect, and promote a network of parks, trails, and open space for the use and enjoyment of all. It advocates for the completion of the Canalway Trail System and promotes the trail through events such as its annual Cycling the Erie Canal bike tour, the annual Canal Clean Sweep, and Bicyclists Bring Business community roundtables and publications such as Canalway Trail Times; Cycling the Erie Canal: A guide to 400 miles of adventure and history along the Erie Canalway Trail; and Bicyclists Bring Business: A Guide for Attracting Bicyclists to New York's Canal Communities. In addition, it supports the Canalway trails Association New York in managing the Adopt-a-Trail Program.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) manages and protects the state's system of state parks and historic sites and also is charged with coordinating and developing a statewide trails plan. OPRHP owns approximately one-third of the Erie Canalway Trail corridor, including Old Erie Canal State Park in the central portion of the route. In some cases, the agency contracts with counties to maintain the trail. Local governments play an important role in completing and maintaining the trail in the more than 200 municipalities and 14 counties through which the Erie Canalway trail passes. About one-third of the Canalway Trail is owned by local governments.

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Onondaga County is traversed by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, a 524 mile-long scenic navigable waterway constructed in 1825 connecting the Great Lakes of New York with the Atlantic Ocean at New York City via the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Hudson River. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, a Federally-designated heritage area, brings collaboration with communities and organizations to preserve and interpret the nationally significant heritage of New York's canal system, in-

terpreting and inviting visitors to explore what makes the Corridor unique, and working toward a vibrant future for the 3.7 million people who call the Corridor home. Extends across the expanse of Upstate New York, the National Heritage Corridor includes the present day canal system along with its historic alignments. Celebrated for its rich history, the corridor includes the birthplace of the American women's rights movement, transportation, early settlement and industrial history, historic architecture, wine country, and world-class cultural and recreational attractions. Cultural events and festivals along the historic corridor continue to take root as well as a multi-use historic trail currently in development that will stretch 360 miles when completed, becoming the longest such trail in the nation. Currently, there are over 280 miles of completed trail that are open to the public. As the Canalway Trail continues development, it will become a significant recreational and economic asset promoted and open to hikers, joggers, bicyclists, cross country skiers, and visitors to the region, connecting and benefitting hamlets, villages, and cities across New York State.

Onondaga County

Onondaga County includes an area of 499,200 acres (780 square miles). Most of the people in the county and the surrounding counties make their living in Syracuse. The northern portion of the County is within the Lake Plain region, while the southern portion is part of the Appalachian Upland region. In general, agriculture and forestry are the largest land uses in the county and dairying is the principal type of farming. Commercial forestry occurs in small, scattered woodlots across the county, but forests in the southern portion of the county are mostly county or state owned natural and reforested areas. The northern portion of Onondaga County is more populous and developed than the largely rural farm and forest lands and small villages to the south.

The City of Syracuse

The City of Syracuse, located in Onondaga County in the geographic center of New York State and just over 20 miles from the Town of Elbridge, is a major northeast metropolitan center. With an estimated population of 146,781 and a labor force of 66,288, Syracuse is home to several major employers.⁶³ Featuring much distinctive architecture from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Syracuse is also a major cultural center in Upstate New York. The city offers dozens of parks, nature centers, golf courses, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park, the Everson Museum of Art (designed by I.M. Pei), Syracuse Opera, the Carrier Dome, the Museum of Science and Technology with New York State's only IMAX-Dome theater,

⁶³<https://data.census.gov/table?q=Population+Total&t=Class+of+Worker&g=060XX-00US3606773000&tid=ACSDP5YSPT2010.DP03>

and Destiny USA, a retail, entertainment, and recreation complex as well as a “green” building project powered by renewable resources. There are also numerous festivals including Jazz Fest, NYS Blues Fest and Empire Brewing Musical Festival, Ethnic festivals including the Polish festival, Jewish Music & Cultural Festival, Bavarian Festival, Latino-American Festival, Irish Festival, La Festa Italiana, and Oktoberfest.

New York State Fair

One of the most celebrated and time-honored tourist attractions for the region is the New York State Fair. First opening in 1841, the 11-day New York State Fair is the oldest fair in the United States and currently draws over 900,000 people each year. This summer fair includes over 30,000 displays, exhibits, demonstrations, and competitions, which encompass almost every aspect of life in Central New York. During the remainder of the year, the State Fairgrounds are the site of numerous events including livestock competitions; art exhibits; and show featuring arts and crafts, garden accouterments, antiques, boats and cars, and outdoor recreation equipment. The NYS Fair also hosts the annual Winter Farm Show in 6 of the fairgrounds buildings.

The Town & Village of Skaneateles

Located on the northern end of Skaneateles Lake, the Town of Skaneateles is characterized by robust economic activity centered in the Village. In this downtown area of the village, shops, restaurants, and boutiques, as well as a park with a dock and swimming area attract tourists who frequent the Village for the beautiful lakeside experience and for community events such as the Fall Fest, Witches Walk, Curbstone Festival, Skaneateles Antique & Classic Boat Show, and Dickens Christmas.⁶⁴

The Finger Lakes Region

The Town of Elbridge is located in the Finger Lakes Region of CNY. This region encompasses 14 counties with 11 lakes ranging from 11 to 40 miles in length and over 650 miles of shoreline. Located in the area formed by the cities of Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton, and the Corning/Elmira area, the region is bordered by Pennsylvania to the south and Lake Ontario in the north. Lakes in the region include Canandaigua, Cayuga, Owasco, Keuka, Seneca, Skaneateles, Canadice, Conesus, Hemlock, Honeoye, and Otisco. The names of these lakes reflect the region’s rich indigenous heritage. The region draws visitors from all over the world to experience Finger Lakes Region Wines, stunning rural scenery, historic villages, beautiful waterfalls, and recreational opportunities that abound throughout the area during all four seasons of the year.

⁶⁴<https://www.skaneateles.com/>

Cayuga County

Cayuga County, west of Onondaga County, extends from the southern shore of Lake Ontario into the Finger Lakes Region bordering on Cayuga Lake on its west, and Cross Lake and the southern half of Skaneateles Lake on its east.

The City of Auburn

Located in the heart of Cayuga County, the city of Auburn is about 13 miles away from Elbridge. It is known for its rich history and historic sites, including the Seward House Museum, the Harriet Tubman National Historic Park, and traditional downtown architecture. There's also a thriving arts scene, with the Auburn Public Theater and Schweinfurth Art Center. Many residents of CNY commute to Auburn for work, as it offers many manufacturing and service jobs.⁶⁵

The City of Rochester

Located on the south side of Lake Ontario in Monroe County, the City of Rochester has one of the highest population volumes of all New York State municipalities. It's known for its excellent universities, including the Rochester Institute of Technology and University of Rochester, and for its history of photography, manufacturing, and research. With plenty of cultural and recreational facilities like museums, galleries, theaters, and cafes, this is an exciting hub of tourism and innovation. Although Rochester is about 70 miles away, as an employment and cultural center, it does have influence on the Town of Elbridge.⁶⁶

Colleges & Universities

Central New York includes over 44 institutions of higher education with a combined enrollment of more than 215,000 students. Many of these institutions are part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, the nation's largest comprehensive system of public higher education. The SUNY system provides educational opportunities through short-term vocational/technical courses, certificate programs, associate degree programs, baccalaureate degree programs, graduate degrees, and postdoctoral studies. Through SUNY, there are over 7,670 degrees possible in just about every professional and academic field. With 64 campuses dispersed throughout the state, virtually all NYS communities are in commuting distance to at least one SUNY location. There are plenty of private colleges and universities in the region as well.

⁶⁵<https://www.auburnny.gov/about-auburn#:~:text=The%20City%20of%20Auburn%20is,and%20the%20Seward%20House%20Museum.>

⁶⁶<https://www.visitrochester.com/>

As indicated on Map 18, there are 33 colleges and universities in close proximity to the Town of Elbridge. In Onondaga County alone, there are twelve, including Bryant & Stratton College, Le Moyne College, and Onondaga Community College. In the Syracuse Metropolitan area, there's SUNY Upstate Medical University, St. Joseph's College of Nursing, Crouse Hospital College of Nursing, SUNY ESF, and Syracuse University.

Other notable colleges and universities are Cornell University and Ithaca College in Tompkins County, Colgate University in Madison County, Wells College in Cayuga County, SUNY Oswego in Oswego County, and SUNY Cortland in Cortland County.

Industrial Parks

Industrial parks are areas zoned and planned for heavy industry, distinct from business or office parks, which are meant for light industry. These districts are often used by the government to attract investment and ultimately achieve growth and development. Industrial parks are planned with infrastructure specifically designed for heavy industrial use.

When properly planned, industrial parks have many benefits. They help attract investment into the company itself as well as the surrounding communities. These districts are especially valuable to communities with raw materials that can be processed in the park, adding economic value in economies that depend heavily on unprocessed resources. This often turns the area into a center of growth, as jobs are created, housing and commercial areas are built nearby, and new residents move in.⁶⁷

Though the Town of Elbridge does not have its own, there are a number of industrial parks in the Central New York area that influence Elbridge residents. The Towpath Machine Corporation in Auburn produces machinery and provides jobs to many nearby communities. In Oswego County, there are three industrial parks known as the Oswego County Industrial Park, the Lake Ontario Industrial Park, and the Airport Industrial Park.⁶⁸

White Pine Commerce Park, an industrial park in Clay, New York, has been selected as the site of a new Micron semiconductor factory. In 2022, Micron announced its plan to invest up to \$100 billion over the next 20-plus years into a new facility in Clay. Micron is an American information technology company that manufactures memory and storage systems for uses such as automotive, mobile, and data center servers, and the new facility will be the largest semiconductor fabrication facility in U.S. history,

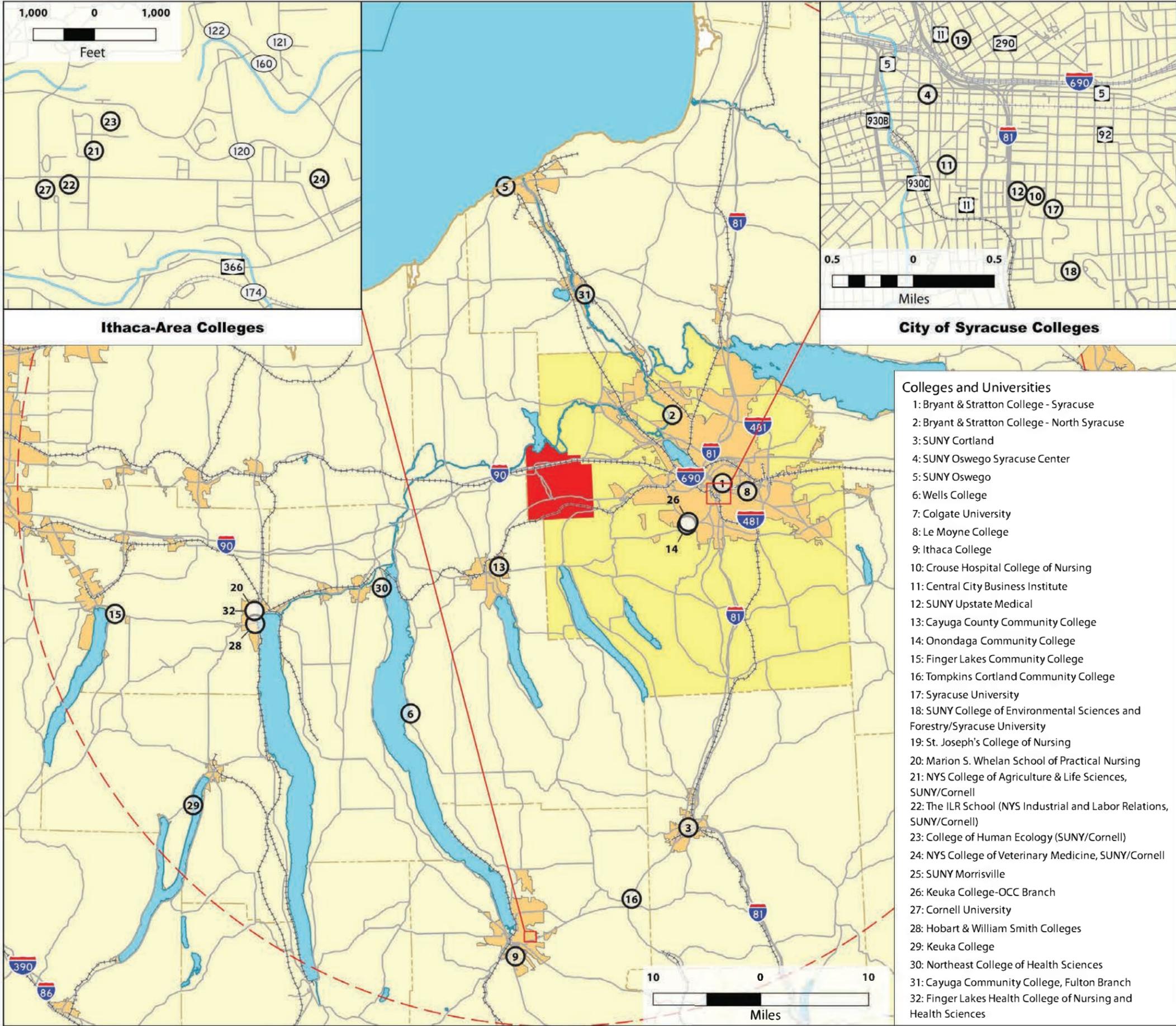
⁶⁷<https://sipp.unido.org/industrial-parks-overview#:~:text=Industrial%20parks%20are%20an%20important,and%20proximity%20to%20strategic%20markets>.

⁶⁸<https://www.oswegocounty.org/industrialparks.php>

Map 18: Universities

Legend

- Roads
- Railroads
- Counties
- Onondaga County
- Town of Elbridge
- 2020 Urban Areas
- College/University



- Colleges and Universities**
- 1: Bryant & Stratton College - Syracuse
 - 2: Bryant & Stratton College - North Syracuse
 - 3: SUNY Cortland
 - 4: SUNY Oswego Syracuse Center
 - 5: SUNY Oswego
 - 6: Wells College
 - 7: Colgate University
 - 8: Le Moyne College
 - 9: Ithaca College
 - 10: Crouse Hospital College of Nursing
 - 11: Central City Business Institute
 - 12: SUNY Upstate Medical
 - 13: Cayuga County Community College
 - 14: Onondaga Community College
 - 15: Finger Lakes Community College
 - 16: Tompkins Cortland Community College
 - 17: Syracuse University
 - 18: SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry/Syracuse University
 - 19: St. Joseph's College of Nursing
 - 20: Marion S. Whelan School of Practical Nursing
 - 21: NYS College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, SUNY/Cornell
 - 22: The ILR School (NYS Industrial and Labor Relations, SUNY/Cornell)
 - 23: College of Human Ecology (SUNY/Cornell)
 - 24: NYS College of Veterinary Medicine, SUNY/Cornell
 - 25: SUNY Morrisville
 - 26: Keuka College-OCC Branch
 - 27: Cornell University
 - 28: Hobart & William Smith Colleges
 - 29: Keuka College
 - 30: Northeast College of Health Sciences
 - 31: Cayuga Community College, Fulton Branch
 - 32: Finger Lakes Health College of Nursing and Health Sciences

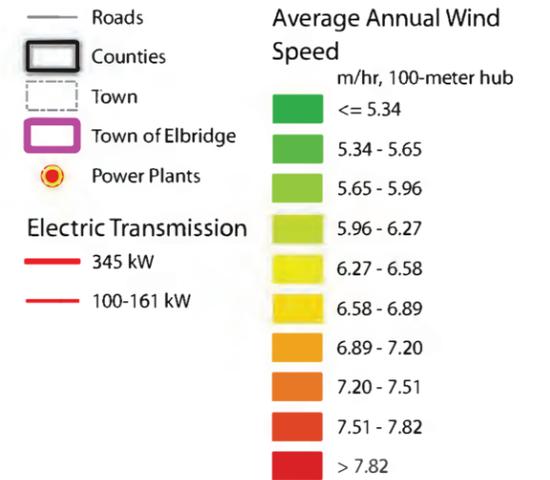
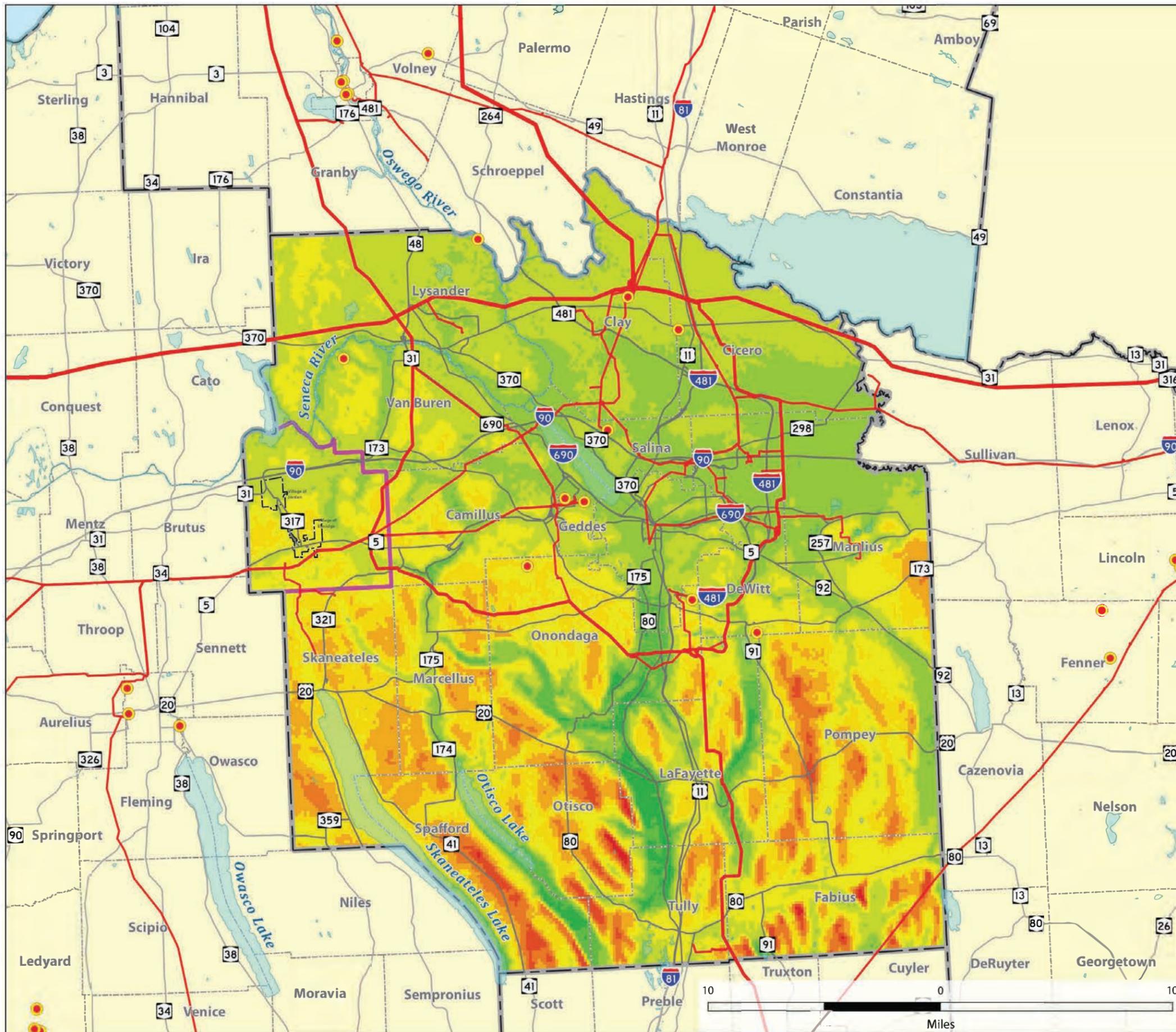
Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

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Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 19: Energy Facilities



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, AWS Truewind, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

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creating thousands of local jobs, an increase domestic supply of micro-chips, and an enhanced local and regional economy.

With Micron’s announcement, other investors are looking into the Central New York region for housing development and business opportunities.⁶⁹ The population of the region is expected to grow by some 125,000 people over the next 20 years, so there will be opportunities to redevelop the regions vacant or underused properties for housing, or all kinds of other supportive facilities.

Hancock Airpark is located in Cicero, New York, and is currently occupied by tenants such as Dunn Tire, Syracuse Label, Air Innovations, and Gaylord Brothers. The park was once the site of a World War II bomber base, military communications center, and military housing complex, but has since been converted into an industrial district.⁷⁰

Renewable Energy in Central New York

Electricity generation, with its heavy reliance on fossil fuels, is the nation’s largest industrial source of air pollution, accounting for two-thirds of sulfur oxides, one-quarter of nitrogen oxides, two-fifths of carbon dioxide, and one-third of mercury emissions. Renewable energy development can provide non-polluting sources of energy that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions that cause smog and acid rain. A single megawatt of wind or solar power can displace 1,800 tons of carbon dioxide each year. With no particulate emissions, renewable energy does not contribute to mercury contamination of lakes and streams, a particular concern in New York State.

New York State has become a leader in renewable energy development due to its robust renewable portfolio standard and consumer incentives. Central New York’s local governments can play a critical role in advancing the state’s policies for the reliability, affordability, and environmental sustainability of its renewable energy supply. The regulatory and institutional landscape of federal and state energy policy, as well as the “Home Rule” authority of New York State municipalities, makes local governments critical partners in promoting efficient resource use, renewable energy market development, and location efficiency within the built environment. Local governments have strong reasons to promote sustainable energy planning practices, and a number of local governments throughout New York are already doing so. Among the main energy-related concerns driving local

⁶⁹<https://investors.micron.com/news-releases/news-release-details/micron-announces-historic-investment-100-billion-build-megafab>

⁷⁰<https://www.syracuse.com/business/2022/01/new-tenant-coming-to-onondaga-countys-hancock-air-park-to-create-11-new-jobs.html>

action are: the need for price stability; the public health and safety consequences of energy unreliability; strong public support for environmental initiatives; and quality of life considerations. Another key reason why Central New York communities are increasingly interested in renewable energy is the importance of affordable and reliable energy to economic development as evidence suggests that high energy costs are a leading cause behind the exodus of businesses from the state.

Agriculture, Farming & Forested Lands

Historically, Central New York has been recognized as farm country, with expansive and scenic rolling fields of corn, grain, orchards, and pasture lands dotted with old farmhouses and red barns. Over the last several decades, changing agriculture markets and practices have resulted in land use changes affecting farmland, farm buildings, and farm families throughout the region. These trends toward much larger and less diverse agribusiness operations have also resulted in decreases in the demand for farm labor. Many smaller, family farms have consolidated into larger-scale agribusiness operations. Smaller scale parcels of farmland, since providing less opportunity to be competitive with the large agribusiness operations, have in many cases transitioned to residential development. Over the last forty years, farms across the state have in general become much larger, with fewer product offerings and many fewer people employed.

Although the shape and character of successful agricultural activity has been changing in central New York as elsewhere, farming remains an important regional practice. Production volumes fluctuate significantly from year to year based on changing market and climate factors. However, the agricultural sector was among the most resilient industries during the Covid-19 pandemic, losing just 1% of jobs in 2020. In 2021, employment and wages grew to new highs in the farming sector.

Although New York has lost hundreds of farms in the last twenty years, there are still over 33,000 farms in the State, with nearly 23% of the total land area in agricultural use. New York is among the nation's top producers for dairy products, apples, maple syrup, wine, and grapes.⁷¹

New York state is home to a large number of Amish communities with around 30 settlements where traditional, smaller-scale farming is practiced. New York ranks as the state with the sixth largest Amish population and has attracted a large number of out-of-state 'immigrant Amish,' more than any other state since 2002. Migration of Amish farmers to Central New York is influenced by the Amish desire to avoid suburban congestion, high land prices, tourism and other intrusive outside influences. Amish settlement is characterized by the horse and buggies they use instead of automobiles and smaller scale threshing practices that are evident in Amish farm fields. Factors that attract Amish families to Central New York include fertile farmland at reasonable prices, non-farm work

⁷¹<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/pdf/nys-agricultural-industry-2022.pdf>

in specialized occupations, and rural isolation that supports a traditional, family based lifestyle. Amish farms have grown more specialized in recent decades, with dairy cows and, in some cases, chickens or hogs. Specialized farms tend to be more mechanized, but still less so than neighboring non-Amish farms. A growing trend toward small specialty operations that produce vegetables, herbs, and flowers has emerged in some settlements, and some use organic methods to target specific urban markets.

In 2021, New York State crop and animal production provided \$970.2 million in wages. Local farms are also valued for contributing to food security in New York communities. In recognition of these important roles, the State recently added new programs supporting farmers. These programs include: increasing the farmer's investment tax credit; doubling the farm workforce retention tax credit; and a gradual phase-in starting in 2024 which will reduce the threshold for overtime pay. Central New York farm produce is offered year-round, both for wholesale and retail markets at the Central New York Regional Market in Syracuse, NY.

Economic Development Initiatives

The Biden-Harris administration signed the CHIPS and Science Act (Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act) into law in August 2022. The act provides \$52.7 billion for domestic semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing, enticing many companies to contribute their own investments.⁷² Following the launch of the CHIPS Act in 2022, Micron Corporation announced its plan to invest up to \$100 billion over the next 20-plus years into a new facility in the White Pine Industrial Park in the Town of Clay, Onondaga County New York. Micron is an American information technology company that manufactures memory and storage systems for uses such as automotive, mobile, and data center servers. The new facility will be the largest semiconductor fabrication facility in U.S. history, and will create thousands of local jobs, increase domestic supply of microchips, and enhance U.S. economic and national security.

In light of Micron's announcement, many other investors are looking into the Central New York region for housing development and business opportunities.⁷³ One related project in Clay is the plan to redevelop the empty Great Northern Mall. Hart-Lyman Companies, LLC and Conifer Realty partnered in the \$9 million purchase of the site and plan to turn it into a walkable center with housing, medical offices, and entertainment facilities. The project will help address the housing demand as Micron attracts new workers to CNY.⁷⁴

Over in Dewitt, a similar project is taking place. OHB Redevelopment LLC has a contract for \$8 million to redevelop the former ShoppingTown Mall into a site that will be known as District East. The property will be converted into residen-

⁷²<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/09/fact-sheet-chips-and-science-act-will-lower-costs-create-jobs-strengthen-supply-chains-and-counter-china/>

⁷³<https://investors.micron.com/news-releases/news-release-details/micron-announces-historic-investment-100-billion-build-megafab>

⁷⁴<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2023/07/31/great-northern-mall-in-clay-purchased-for-redevelopment->

tial housing, entertainment, restaurants, retail, and office spaces, providing an expected 1,500 on-site jobs.⁷⁵

Near the Syracuse Inner Harbor, there are plans to build an \$85 million aquarium. Onondaga County approved funding in 2022, with hopes of creating jobs and attracting business activity to the neighborhood.⁷⁶ An operating company has reportedly been chosen, but hasn't yet been announced by the County. A local controversy related to the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, which reserved sacred land near Onondaga Lake for the Haudenosaunee has accompanied the aquarium project which is set to be built in on part of these sacred lands.⁷⁷

In 2022, Governor Hochul announced the creation of the New York State Office of Strategic Workforce Development. The role of the new office will be to improve New York's workforce development programs and practices by better aligning them with employer needs and training the workforce accordingly. With many industries changing and developing, New Yorkers need to learn new skills that will help them find jobs.⁷⁸ Another development located in Syracuse is the expansion of CenterState CEO's Tech Garden. The \$32 million project involves a two-floor addition, renovations in the existing space, and updates to its security and mechanical systems. Once complete, the facility will feature a new facade and provide 180 private offices, a roof terrace for drone testing, and a 3,000-square-foot meeting room. This investment is made possible through CNY Rising.

Planning in the nearby Hamlets of Mottville & Skaneateles Falls

Biggest strengths and threats to the nearby hamlets, and transformational projects were identified in a 2022 community survey for the "Northern Hamlets Master Plan." The plan is intended to establish a vision for the hamlets, a framework for growth, conservation and land protection efforts, and recommend regulatory updates of local zoning, subdivision regulations and design standards. The survey found:

Biggest strengths:

Small town/rural feel/character, Strong sense of community, Safety, Affordable, and Access to both greenspace and commercial areas

Biggest threats:

Increased cost of living, Loss of character via development, Vacant buildings, Increased traffic, and Fear of "outsiders"

Transformational projects:

Adaptive reuse (e.g., Stauffer Chemical Plant), Enhanced mobility, Possible extension of nature trail, Traffic calming (i.e., speed control on Jordan Rd), Hous-

⁷⁵<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/business/2023/04/13/mcmahon--formal-contract-in-place-for-shoppingtown-mall-redevelopment>

⁷⁶<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/news/2022/08/03/at-syracuse-inner-harbor--big-hopes-for-the-aquarium>

⁷⁷<https://dailyorange.com/2022/09/county-aquarium-onondaga-lake-shore-ignores-1794-treaty/>

⁷⁸<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-creation-new-york-state-office-strategic-workforce-development>

ing affordability, Preservation of existing character, Support for local businesses, Recreational access (e.g., fishing on north end of nature trail), and Replacement of pipes

Chapter 4: Goals and Recommendations

Summary Analysis

Housing

The present state of housing across the community presents challenges, with few multi-unit housing options for individuals and families seeking more affordable units. There is a need for additional housing for the elderly in the Villages where services are conveniently located. Many elderly in the community currently face no choice but to move away from Elbridge to seek assisted living or retirement-friendly homes elsewhere.

The age of housing across the community is also an issue, but this is especially true in the Village of Jordan. Over 60% of the housing in Jordan is over 60 years old and many housing units have outdated or incomplete facilities. Some of the older housing stock in Jordan has been updated for modernity and energy-efficiency, but many older housing units are not updated or up to current standards. Incomplete plumbing facilities presents a particular problem in some areas.

Over 10% of housing units in the Town of Elbridge and Village of Jordan were vacant in 2020. Across the Town of Elbridge, 4% lacked complete plumbing (hot and cold piped water, a bathtub or shower, or a flush toilet) and 2.1% lacked complete kitchen facilities. 2.2% had no telephone landline service. In the Village of Elbridge, all units had complete kitchen facilities, but 2% lacked complete plumbing facilities and 3.8% had no telephone landline services. In the Village of Jordan, 6.5% lacked complete plumbing facilities, 0.3% lacked complete kitchen facilities, and 2.3% had no telephone landline service.

The Elbridge Economy

Compact, small business districts exist in both villages where a variety of retail establishments enjoy the patronage of residents in nearby neighborhoods, and that of visitors on the Erie Canalway Trail in Jordan, and along Main Street (Route 5) in Elbridge. However, vacancies in the available commercial space in the villages has been a stubborn problem that needs to be addressed. Building rehabilitation projects have taken place in Jordan, but more of this work is needed. The community also needs an active local business development committee.

The challenge ahead for Elbridge will be to retain a diverse business community compatible with the traditional, historic character of Elbridge and its Villages. Local policy that supports consolidated commercial and mixed-use growth areas in, and in proximity to the villages or other existing commercial areas needs to be defined. Land use policy that supports a mix of small businesses, major employers and light industry will contribute to the local tax base, generation of fiscal resources, and jobs, but without that policy in place, additional business growth may not compliment or be compatible with existing businesses, services and historic residential areas.

Land Use in Elbridge

Largely a well-kept and organized community, Elbridge has retained much of its rural character, open spaces and agricultural lands while welcoming new development in compact patterns, with vibrant and walkable historic centers. Because the town is dominated by areas of steep (15%+) slopes, prime farmland soils, and wetlands, available lands that are suitable for development are limited. Over 75% of the Town and almost 70% of Village lands are constrained with conditions that are not best suited to development (see Map 21). Therefore, suitable lands for development should be identified and assigned with appropriate zoning to allow for needed growth in development in a form that is compatible with the goals of this plan. The challenge ahead for Elbridge will be to prevent the loss of the town's existing rural character and open space through misplaced or sprawling development that is not well organized or compact in form.

Commercial Land Use

Existing commercial uses largely take place in a strip of development along Route 5 in the Village and town of Elbridge, in the Village of Jordan, and along Route 31, and I-90 in the Town. The existing commercial district in the Town of Elbridge, along route 5 lacks a consolidated pattern in clusters for future development that would avoid the loss of the remaining open space and familiar rural views, and also retain the Village's historic development pattern that provides walkable neighborhoods connected to services and daily needs.

In the Village of Elbridge, Commercial Zoning includes a shopping center at the east and a small commercial area at the west end of the Village, both are easily walkable from surrounding residential areas. Making the most of these existing commercial areas rather than developing new commercial areas in greenfields will help preserve the rural character of the town.

Industrial Land Use

Industrial land in the town use includes industries such as Tessa Plastics

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 20:
Suitability Analysis Map for
Tax Parcels, Town of
Elbridge

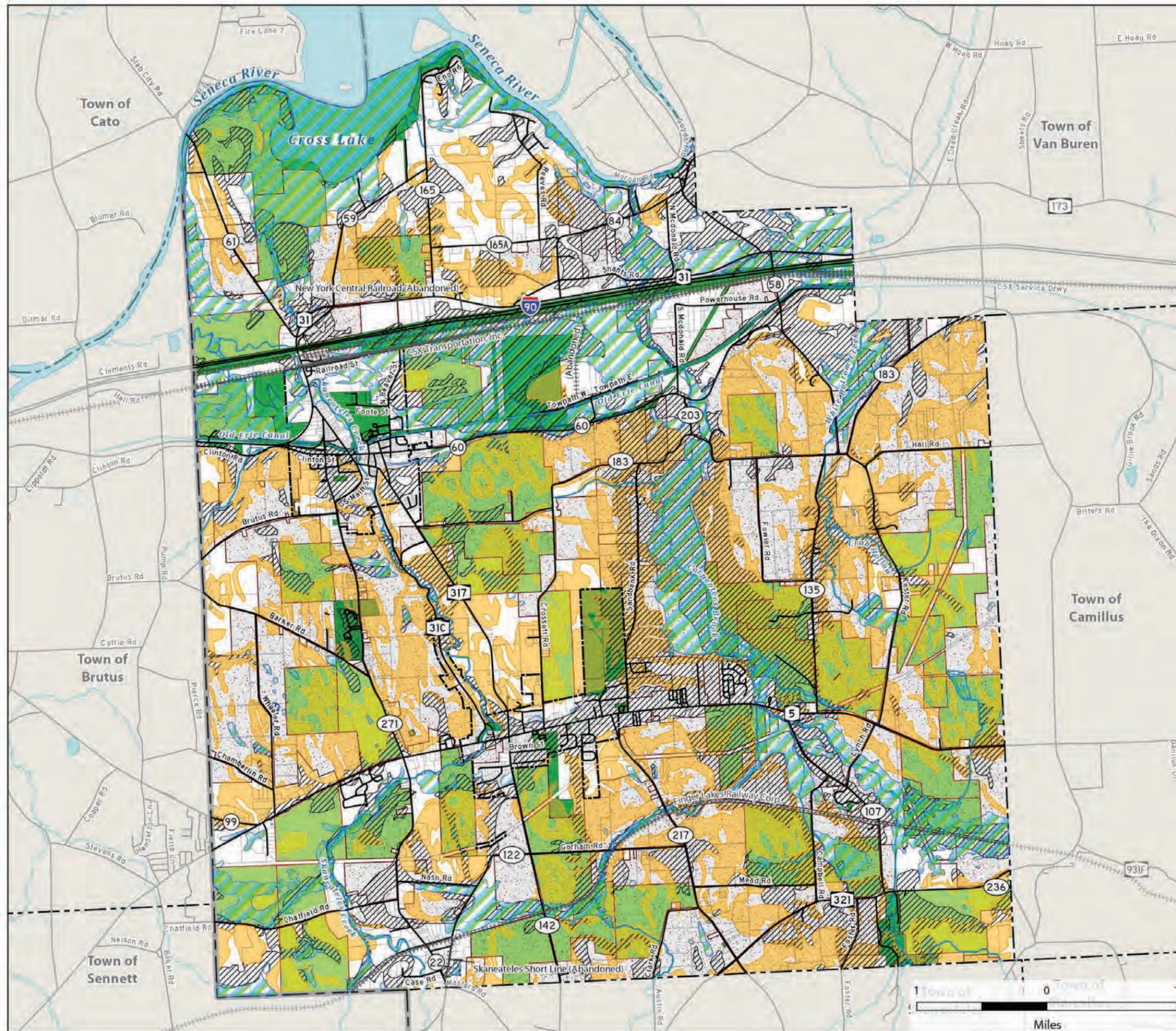
Legend

- Roads
- +++++ Railroad
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ Towns
- ▭ Villages
- ▭ Parcels
- ▨ Wetlands, State and Federal
- ▨ Public Lands
- ▨ 100 acres or more
- ▨ Agricultural Districts
- ▨ Highly Permeable and Impermiable Soils
- ▨ Slope > 12%



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, Cornell/CUGIR and ESRI/USDA NRCS. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNYRPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

January 2024



Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Map 21:
Lands with Development
Constraints

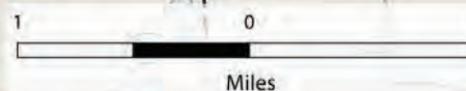
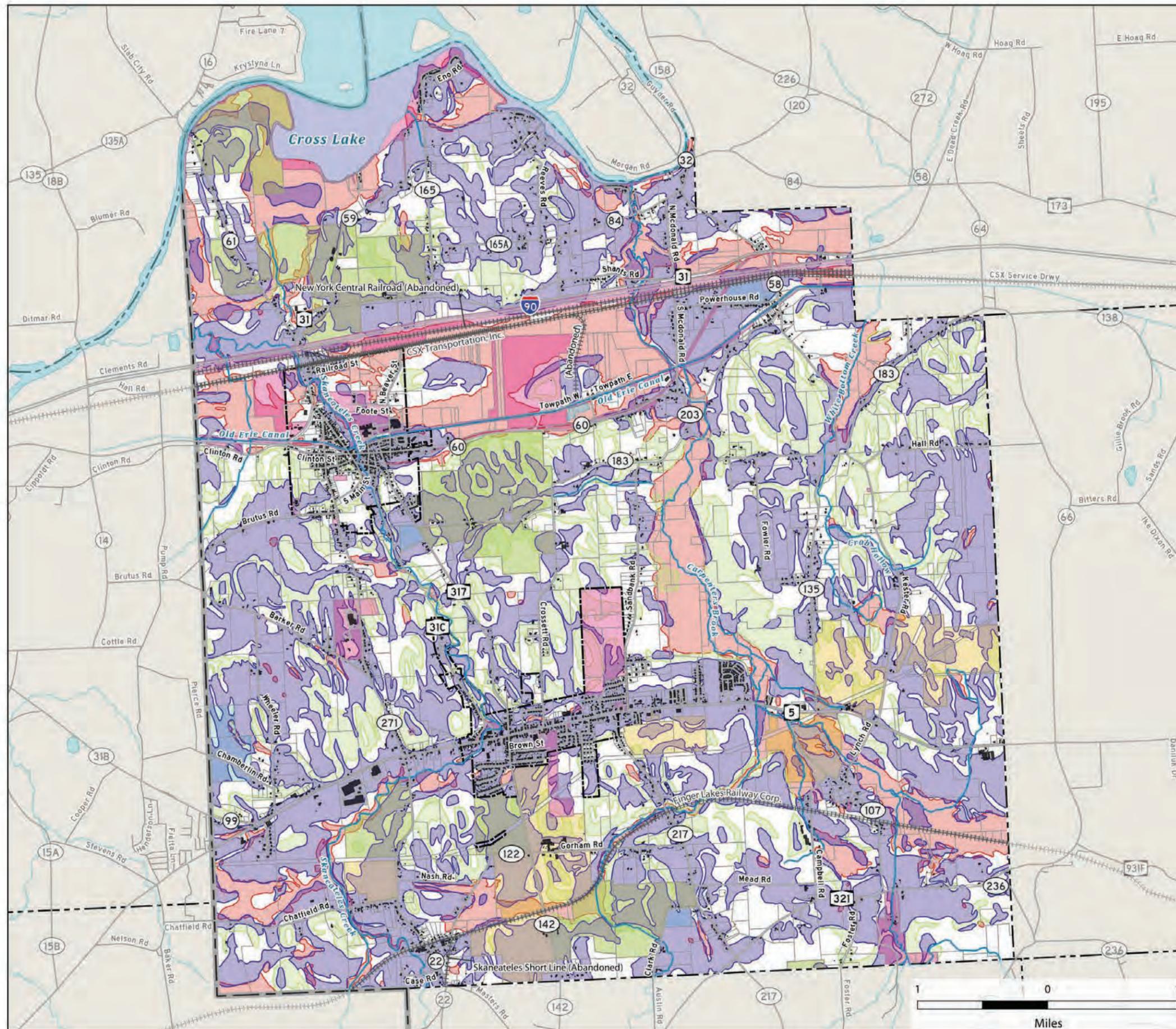
Legend

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| — Roads | Constrained Land |
| +++++ Railroad | 15%+ Slopes |
| ▭ Counties | Prime Farmland |
| ▭ Towns | NYPAD Easement |
| ▭ Villages | PDR Farmland |
| ▭ Parcels | Public Parcels |
| | Wetlands, State & Federal |
| | NYPAD and PDR Overlap |



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services, Cornell/CUGIR, Onondaga County, and NYPAD. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

March 2024



and Northeastern Electronics. The majority of industrially zoned parcels, with the exception of the utility corridors and railroad crossing the Town, are along Interstate 90, with a few parcels located on the west and east edges of the Village of Jordan. Use conflicts between residential or commercial and industrial parcels can become problematic, and this is something to consider in locating future industrial development.

Residential Land Use

Residential land use in the Town and Villages is largely in clusters in and around the Village of Elbridge and the Village of Jordan, in the Hamlet of Skaneateles Junction, along Jordan and Hamilton Rd., and off of Stevens Rd, and Reeves Rd. to the north of I90 near the Seneca River. The river-front residential uses are remote to the community's commercial services, not supported with public sewer, and are vulnerable to repeated flooding.

There are significant collections of historic residential buildings in both villages in both good and poor condition. These units represent an opportunity for residential growth through community revitalization.

Wild, Forested, Conservation Land & Public Park Land Use

The Town and Villages have a wealth of these lands along Skaneateles Creek, the northeastern part of the Village of Elbridge, and areas along the old Erie Canal in the Village of Jordan, including Carpenters Brook Meadow and Seymour Lofft Park.

Currently there is no conservation tool in the town's land use regulatory structures that will help the community protect valued wild and forested lands that are not already under conservation easement. These lands represent environmental health and the rural "quality of life" environment that Elbridge residents value immensely. Open space areas consisting of forested and wild lands can be preserved from development to the maximum extent possible by requiring conservation as a component of allowed development in these areas. The use of Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) can be a valuable tool for major subdivisions, a process which allows a more compact development pattern if 50% of the total parcel is conserved in a conservation easement.

Transportation

When the railroad and canal were active in the nineteenth century, Jordan was a vibrant transportation center where businesses and industry flourished. Today, the railroads and canal right of ways represent new opportunities for recreational use and alternative transportation routes east, west, north and south across the Town of Elbridge. For convenient access to public transit and a "Complete Streets" network with accessible

and connected sidewalks, crosswalks, bike facilities, recreational trails, and roadways are maintained in good condition with effective control devices, and comfort amenities that support community safety and connectivity to community resources and jobs.

Route 5 is not under Town or Village jurisdiction, and at present there continue to be parking access safety and traffic control issues that should be addressed by NYSDOT considering local interests along Route 5. Where vehicles tend to exceed the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour along Route 5 in the Village of Elbridge, the safety of pedestrians and vehicles entering Main Street is a considerable concern, especially at intersections with no traffic signals at Elbridge Elementary and Elbridge Plaza. The Village has requested addition of a traffic light near the Elbridge shopping plaza and Sandbank Road where there are several traffic conflicts, including at the Village of Elbridge Fire House, Kinney Drugs and Tops Grocery Store, where accidents have occurred. Without a traffic light in this location, uninterrupted traffic flow on Main Street during rush hours impedes motorists entering from side streets or driveways in this commercial area, requiring backing into the flow of traffic and creating more potential for accidents for vehicles and pedestrians. There are also road risks associated with flooding during heavy rain, including locations where water collects near the elementary school and a need for more sidewalks, street lighting, and stormwater management to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Both Villages report issues with speeding, especially on the East and South Main Streets in the Villages where much of community commerce takes place. Where rental units exist, additional off-street parking accommodations are needed for renters that often occupy the available parking on Main Street where commercial uses need parking to be available. Development in commercial areas should take into account traffic and parking needs.

Improvements still needed along Route 5 in the Village of Elbridge include signaled crosswalks, traffic signals, and wider sidewalks. Driveway consolidation in existing and future commercial areas will be important on Route 5. The Village National Historical Register District boundaries include the Route 5 corridor, meaning all changes should be consistent with guidelines and requirements for the historic district.

CENTRO used to provide public bus service on its Syracuse to Auburn route, with a park-and-ride parking lot west of the Village of Elbridge offices with one bus in the morning and one in the evening that stopped in each of the Villages. Since the CoVid 19 pandemic, and the labor short-

age that came with it, the Elbridge service no longer runs. Because a large proportion of the population commutes for work, often to nearby cities, improved bus routes, carpooling, and other transportation options would help in the reduction of traffic and generation of Greenhouse Gases. Investment in these forms of transportation promotes sustainability, resiliency, community, and connectivity.

Municipal Infrastructure

Water, sewer, solid waste, communications, utilities and stormwater systems must be well-maintained, with the capacity to support the needs of the Elbridge community. The extent, capacity, age, and maintenance of public utilities (i.e., drinking water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal, stormwater management and green infrastructure, communications, gas and electricity) must be considered in future planning and development decisions.

Service extensions along Brutus Road and South Hamilton Street and a force main on South Hamilton Street connecting the existing sanitary sewer collection system on South Hamilton Street with all waste from the expanded service areas conveyed to the Jordan WWTP. The Barstow Road pump station in the Village of Jordan will be rehabilitated as part of the project and multiple needed upgrades are planned for the WWTP.

The Village of Elbridge and the rest of the Town do not have public sewer lines with development relying on individual septic systems. The Town of Elbridge feasibility study in 2015 evaluated options to extend the sewer lines beyond the Village border. Barton & Loguidice engineering firm is currently working with Jordan and the Town on the project.

The Elbridge water system experiences low pressure and flow when there is high demand for water during warm summer months and has incidents of turbidity (cloudiness) levels above the maximum level allowed. Although this has not posed a direct health concern, residents are notified when high levels of turbidity interfere with disinfection and violate drinking water standards. Maintaining treatment with UV light to provide secondary disinfection against harmful microbes and informing the public via their websites and flyers delivered to households should be continued.

A joint water system improvement project planned for both Villages involving installing 51,000 feet of water main, new storage tanks and pump stations will benefit the community in those areas for years to come.

The current Telephone & Data Systems (TDS) high speed broadband services, is not reliable and Spectrum and Verizon are the primary pro-

viders of internet service. The Elbridge Free Library and Jordan Bramley Library both have internet service available for free to patrons, but broadband service for every resident and business across the town's rural areas is important to establish.

Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resources

Preservation of historic structures, scenic landscapes, parks, public resources and spaces, and a full range of passive and active recreation facilities that are well-maintained, with the capacity to support the needs of the Elbridge community are important components of the quality of life in the Elbridge community.

The Town and historic Villages of Jordan and Elbridge are set amidst agricultural fields and woodlands with charming streets and gorgeous views. Maintaining this richness in historic and scenic resources will require land use regulatory tools to assure that these assets are not unnecessarily lost through development that is not compatible or well placed. Skaneateles Junction, a former railroad stop, and the three historic districts in the Town of Elbridge listed on the National Register of Historic Districts include several historic architectural styles of houses, churches, and multi-purpose buildings that give Elbridge its unique historic rural character.

“Demolition by neglect” (meaning the property owners allow properties to decline in maintenance integrity, often beyond the point of restoration) is of particular concern in Jordan, where about 30% of the original buildings are in disrepair or have been demolished. Neglect or abandonment of properties due to the high cost of repairs and maintenance can lead to restoration no longer being possible.

The visual quality of the Main Street corridor in the Village of Elbridge public right-of-way features large, mature deciduous trees and interesting architecture that contributing to the beauty of the neighborhood, but there are few pedestrian amenities such as benches and trash receptacles to support comfort and walkability in the Village.

Natural Resources and Environment

Local air quality, water bodies, wetlands, floodplains, aquifers, forests and tree cover, steep slopes, soils, and rare plant and animal habitats of high quality in the town and villages offer ecosystem services including protections from erosion, flooding, excessive heat, disease and food insecurity. The expanses of open space, wooded lands, wetlands, and agricultural fields in the town and villages also contribute to the rural character of the town and the region, but more importantly, they each have an important role to play in sustaining clean air, water, wildlife, food systems, tempera-

ture moderation, health, environmental and cultural stability. They are worth conserving.

Surface waters in or near the Town of Elbridge including the Seneca River, Cross Lake, Skaneateles Creek, and Carpenter's Brook are generally rated satisfactory to good in terms of water quality. Based on monthly DEC sampling, Cross Lake was determined to be eutrophic, with low water clarity, high algae levels, and high nutrient levels. Cross Lake has extremely hard, alkaline water with moderately high nitrogen levels. Unfortunately, the Seneca River and Cross Lake have both recently been significantly impacted by invasive water chestnut, likely travelling eastward on the Seneca River from Cayuga Lake.

Issues that affect the surface water quality in the town include nonpoint sources of nutrients, sediment, and pollutants from land uses including residential lawns and water courses lacking vegetated buffers; inadequate wastewater treatment from small community or on-site septic systems; and issues related to flooding along waterways.

The shore (riparian) area of the Seneca River, is where river water influences the soil hydrology impacting its ability to provide the effectiveness needed for septic systems. Flooding projections for the next 100 years in Elbridge are higher on the shores of the Seneca River, Skaneateles Creek, Carpenter's Brook, and White Bottom Creek where wetlands exist, with one flood zone encompassing much of the northern portion of the Village of Jordan. The Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan categorizes floods, severe storms, and severe winter storms as "high hazards" with a high probability of frequent occurrence. For this reason, avoidance of development in floodplains is an important objective to maintain, even as these areas increase in extent due to increased precipitation events that will occur as a result of climate change.

The presence of hanging or downed trees along the steep banks of Skaneateles Creek have led to severe flooding and erosion events in the past where log-jams and snags collect.

Much of the landscape slope in Elbridge varies from less than 3% to more than 25% slope, with much of the lower slopes in farmland. Large expanses under 12% slope that are well-suited for development are limited. Many areas with slopes less than 3% are located near bodies of water, including Carpenter's Brook, where there are risks of flooding, and potential for encroachment on important ecosystems. leaving limited room for future development of lands in the town.

Clay-dominated soils are limited in Elbridge, so water infiltration rates are good. Because silty and sandy soils are at a higher risk of erosion, shorelines and banks may need rip-rap or more nature-based reinforcement approaches where property or infrastructure is at risk.

Land areas with forest cover in the town tend to have at least 75% tree coverage with many Village neighborhoods having 25-50%. Because forest cover serves a different function in the environment than open space, it's important that both agricultural and nonagricultural development considers the importance of trees for local habitat health, air quality, and heat control. Communities with more trees are more walkable in the heat than communities without trees, and properties with trees are also considered more valuable and desirable.

The aquifer present in Onondaga County, just east of the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge, spans Cross Lake, Onondaga Lake, Beaver Lake, the Seneca River, and Carpenter's Brook. This aquifer is categorized as a stratified-drift aquifer of sand and gravel deposits that are porous and water-saturated, providing millions of gallons of water that can be drawn per day. This highly permeable and critical groundwater resource can be subject to contamination from nearby agricultural and industrial discharges.

There are four species populations in Elbridge that are Threatened or Endangered in New York State by factors such as human development, habitat fragmentation, and pollution. They include Great Blue Heron, Kentucky Warbler, Northern Wild Comfrey, and Sartwell's Sedge. Their habitats are important to conserve, particularly in the northwest near Cross Lake and south of I-90 on Carpenter's Brook.

A significant invasion of European Water Chestnut has taken hold in Cross Lake and the Seneca River. An invader of freshwater habitats, the dense, thick mats can damage freshwater ecology. Other potential invasive impacts to human and environmental health are possible with Asian Longhorned Beetle, Black-legged Tick, Round Goby, Zebra Mussel, Giant Hogweed, Hemlock Woody Adelgid, and Emerald Ash Borer. The disturbances they cause can have far reaching impacts as ecosystems decline.

The value of healthy ecosystems to the successful lives and life cycles of human societies, including at the town and village scale, can be expressed as the products of "ecosystem services." As described by the National Wildlife Federation, there are four categories of "services" healthy ecosystems provide that we benefit from, provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

-Provisioning Services, including fruits, vegetables, trees, fish, and livestock available to us as direct products of ecosystems. Other types of provisioning services include drinking water, timber, wood fuel, natural gas, oils, plants that can be made into clothes and other materials, and medicinal benefits.

-Regulating Services sustain ecosystems making them clean, sustainable, functional, productive, and resilient to change by moderating natural phenomena. They include pollination, decomposition, water purification, erosion, flood control, carbon storage and climate regulation.

-Cultural Services are non-material benefits that contribute to the development and cultural advancement of people, including how ecosystems play a role in local, national, and global cultures contributing to knowledge, ideas, and creativity born from interactions with nature including through music, art, architecture, and recreation as we interact with and alter the natural world.

-Supporting Services are the underlying natural processes of these systems, including photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, the creation of soils, and the water cycle, the basic biological processes that allow the Earth to sustain life forms that comprise ecosystems and including people. Without supporting services, provisional, regulating, and cultural services would not exist.

Issues of Community Significance

Agriculture

The agricultural industry in the Town, with over 3,000 acres of protected farmland is of primary importance to the town. Land use planning and zoning regulations have impacts on production agriculture and on farming areas comprised of prime and soils of state-wide significance.

There are many supporting small businesses in the town that are critical for agricultural producers to survive including suppliers, services, mechanics, welders, etc. These small businesses are another component of the jobs the town's agriculture sector is responsible for.

Agricultural lands in the town also comprise much of the town's scenic rural-agrarian character, one of the most important assets to protect identified by residents in the community survey.

Communications

A reliable means for communications with community residents in the Town

and Villages has been challenged by the lack of a local newspaper or regular mailing that can inform them of important issues, events or happenings.

Housing Supply

Maintaining or improving the condition of housing facilities and expanding housing choice and availability is important going forward to entice new residents to move into the Town of Elbridge as well as help the younger and older residents stay. The Town and Villages need a variety of types of housing structures that meet the needs for varying income levels, are in good condition and available to meet the demand for housing opportunities and choice.

There is a need for “Empty Nester” housing for older adults no longer needing larger, multi-bedroom homes. In addition, there is a need for young generation housing that supports active lifestyles, work from home accommodation, and easy, walkable or bikeable access to local goods and services. These needs have been identified in the Town and Village of Elbridge. Growth in residential uses is best located in “smart growth” focus areas in close proximity to existing residential areas, especially where community services and commercial uses are easily accessible. Walkable residential neighborhoods will help conserve agricultural lands and uses, forests, rural and historic character as existing historic residential buildings are rehabilitated to accommodate residential needs. Mixed-use clusters along Route 5 including residential development would also help support commercial development needs in the community.

Building Rehabilitations & Reuse to Address Business District Vacancies

Vacancies in the available commercial space in the villages has been a stubborn problem that needs to be addressed through zoning updates that include mixed use zones in the villages. In addition, funding for building rehabilitations will be key and this can be helped with the establishment of an active local business development committee. Planning for consolidated commercial and mixed-use growth areas will be important in, and in proximity to the villages or other existing commercial areas.

Commercial Zoning in the Town of Elbridge in the narrow strip along NYS Route 5 may allow for additional development, but new development along Route 5 should be organized in clusters with shared parking and shared access drives that leaves open space frontage and maintains rural views through the community. Mixed-use clusters along Route 5 with adjacent residential development would also help support the additional housing needs of the community.

Micron and its Impacts on Regional Population Growth

Currently in the works, a large-scale development of multiple Micron Chip Fabrication plants in the Town of Clay, less than 15 miles to the east, will bring increased demands for housing and other services in the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan as a part of regional population growth over time. Micron-related development is expected to bring up to 50,000 direct and indirect jobs to the Central New York region over the next 20 years and with it, the Onondaga County population is expected to grow by 125,000 people or more. This anticipated growth in development demand can have positive or negative impacts on the Elbridge community depending on municipal preparedness to meet the challenges ahead with appropriate and effective guiding land use policies.

To be prepared for expected increases in development demand, local land use strategies in the Town and Villages need to review and update policy in support of potential increased demand for housing and services in the long-term. The time to implement policies that support the pattern and character of development the community has expressed it desires is before that development demand arrives at the local planning boards.

Consideration of new areas for residential, mixed-use, commercial, and light industrial development, as well as areas for conservation will be more important than ever to protect the community's assets and address existing and potential issues. The principles of smart growth, described in the first chapter of this Comprehensive Plan should be used to help to guide development patterns that have contributed to the Town's rural agricultural identity, and to ensure that desired development patterns are maintained in the face of changing regional conditions.

An incremental approach to land use regulatory review, assessment and updates will help the Town identify and implement appropriate land use and development strategies as the anticipated regional impacts of the Micron project become a reality. Future quality of life and well-being in the community is dependent on continued community engagement to further define desired development patterns for a balance of protected community character and welcomed economically and socially beneficial development.

Targeting Light Industrial Uses

Identifying appropriate locations for attracting light industry in the town will also benefit the local economy. These may be best located in proximity to utility services and transportation corridors including I90 and Route 5 through the town. Industrial uses are best located with some separation from residential and commercial uses. Updates to zoning to separate industrial use areas from residential and commercial use areas will help to avoid potential conflicts in these uses.

Sewer Infrastructure

The availability of sewer service (and, in some cases, water service as well) may limit opportunities for desired larger scale light industrial development within the Town. For example, although parcels along Route 31 (which is conveniently located near Interstate Rt. 90) are zoned industrial, there is only limited water service and no sewer service to this area that would make many kinds of industrial development feasible. The same conflict exists for the commercially zoned parts of Route 5/Main Street in Elbridge. As demand for residential development increases, having sewer service available where it is desired can help to facilitate more compact patterns of development, making room for growth, while conserving open space.

Constrained Lands

More than 75% of the undeveloped lands in the Town of Elbridge and over 60% in the Villages are largely constrained by the presence of steep slopes, highly permeable or impermeable soils, and prime farmland soils. With growth in development demand expected as a result of the Micron Chip Fabrication complex, it is important that the municipalites address local policy needs and capacities related to future development proposals. Future large-scale development will need to either avoid these constrained lands or use innovative site design techniques to ensure the protection of them.

Need to Boost Recreation & Agritourism

There is a desire in the community for more local recreational opportunities including the development of more agritourism sites and activities, i.e. recreation that is in keeping with Elbridge's agricultural identity.

School Taxes are High

This is an issue that impacts residents, and although the population has grown slightly in the villages over the last 20 years, it remains a strain on families.

Light Industry is Desired

The community would welcome additional light industry development and one example of the need for this space is a medical company w/clean

room technology that wants to double their size and needs a location to do so in the town.

Flooding along the Seneca River and Cross Lake

Housing development along the shores of the Seneca River and Cross Lake has experienced repeated flooding events. These issues will only increase in future years as climate changes bring more frequent and more intense precipitation events. The Seneca River widens near the border of Cayuga and Onondaga counties forming Cross Lake between the Villages of Jordan and Meridian as the river flows through the lower third of the lake providing fishing and boating opportunities. A study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1999 concluded that the repeated flooding of homes and businesses could be minimized if changes are made to the floodgates between Cayuga Lake and Ontario, especially at Baldwinsville where the current floodgate is too small to accept the high volume of water released from the controlled levels of Cayuga Lake after heavy rainfall.

Transportation

Route 5 is not under Town or Village jurisdiction, and at present there continue to be parking access safety and traffic control issues that should be addressed by NYSDOT considering local interests along Route 5. A traffic light near the Elbridge shopping plaza and Sandbank Road where there are several traffic conflicts, including at the Village of Elbridge Fire House, Kinney Drugs and Tops Grocery Store, and where accidents have occurred, is needed.

Stormwater management to prevent flooding during heavy rain where water collects near the elementary school should be addressed as well as a need for more sidewalks, and street lighting to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Speeding vehicles in both Villages, especially on the East and South Main Streets in business areas need to be addressed with the assistance of NYS DOT.

Additional off-street parking accommodations are needed for renters that often occupy the available parking on Main Street in the Village of Jordan where commercial uses need parking to be available. Parking needs should be considered in future development in commercial areas.

Signaled crosswalks, traffic signals, wider sidewalks and driveway consolidation in existing and future commercial areas will be important to implementation on Route 5.

The Elbridge Village National Historical Register District boundaries

include the Route 5 corridor, meaning all changes should be consistent with guidelines and requirements for the Village historic district.

Improved bus schedules from CENTRO are needed, as well as carpooling, and other transportation options to promote sustainability, resiliency, community, and connectivity.

Historic and Scenic Resources Protection

Plans to rehabilitate or develop in the Villages should be supported by implementation of municipal land use regulatory tools that support the preservation of the historic rural character of Skaneateles Junction, and the three historic districts in the Town of Elbridge listed on the National Register of Historic Districts

Efforts to assist historic property owners to maintain historic structures, and prevent “Demolition by neglect” are needed, including implementing Main Street Revitalization programs as funding becomes available.

The addition of pedestrian amenities such as benches and trash receptacles along the sidewalks in both Villages, and a program encouraging maintenance of mature street trees is needed.

Conservation of open space and scenic landscape views will be important to preserving them into the future.

Opportunities

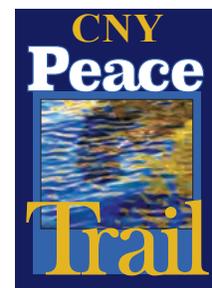
Historic Erie Canal Trail & CNY Peace Trail Bike Touring Corridors

The Village of Jordan lies directly on the path of the Historic Erie Canalway and Trail and the regionally-planned CNY Peace Trail. The Erie Canal Trail is part of the Empire State Trail, a multi-use trail in New York State completed in December 2020 that trail runs from Manhattan north to the Canada–United States border in Rouses Point near the northern tip of Lake Champlain, and also from Buffalo to Albany. Parks & Trails NY estimates that the state-wide trail receives over three million visits every year and generates an economic impact of over \$253 million.

The CNY Peace Trail, a regionally planned network of bike touring corridors linking the historic resources, natural and cultural resources, hamlets, villages, and cities across five counties in Central New York is planned to link from the Erie Canal Trail in the Village of Jordan to the Village of Skaneateles and beyond. The CNY Peace Trail will intersect with the Empire State Trail (Erie Canalway Trail) in six locations across the region, allowing the flow of thousands of visitors that travel the statewide trail every year to gain access to the many unique and interesting places in the region,



(Above) Wayfinding signage design for on-road routes of the CNY Peace Trail. (Below) CNY Peace Trail identity and signage design for off-road sections of the bike touring routes. A consistent identity for the regional trail is important for user experience. (Production-ready sign files can be requested from CNY RPDB).



"CNY Peace Trail"

Touring Corridor Sections

Cayuga County:

1. Summerhill – Aurora Bike Corridor
2. Skaneateles – Homer Bike Corridor
3. Aurora – Weedsport Bike Corridor
4. Cayuga – Auburn – Owasco Bike Corridor
5. Auburn – Sterling Bike Corridor
6. Fair Haven – Nine Mile Creek Bike Corridor

Oswego County:

7. Cayuga County – Oswego Bike Corridor
8. Oswego – Jefferson County Bike Corridor
9. Sandy Creek – Lacona Bike Corridor
10. Lacona – South Bay Bike Corridor
11. Selkirk – Williamstown Bike Corridor
12. Mexico – Cleveland Bike Corridor
13. Mexico – Caughdenoy Bike Corridor
14. Oswego – Onondaga County Bike Corridor

Onondaga County:

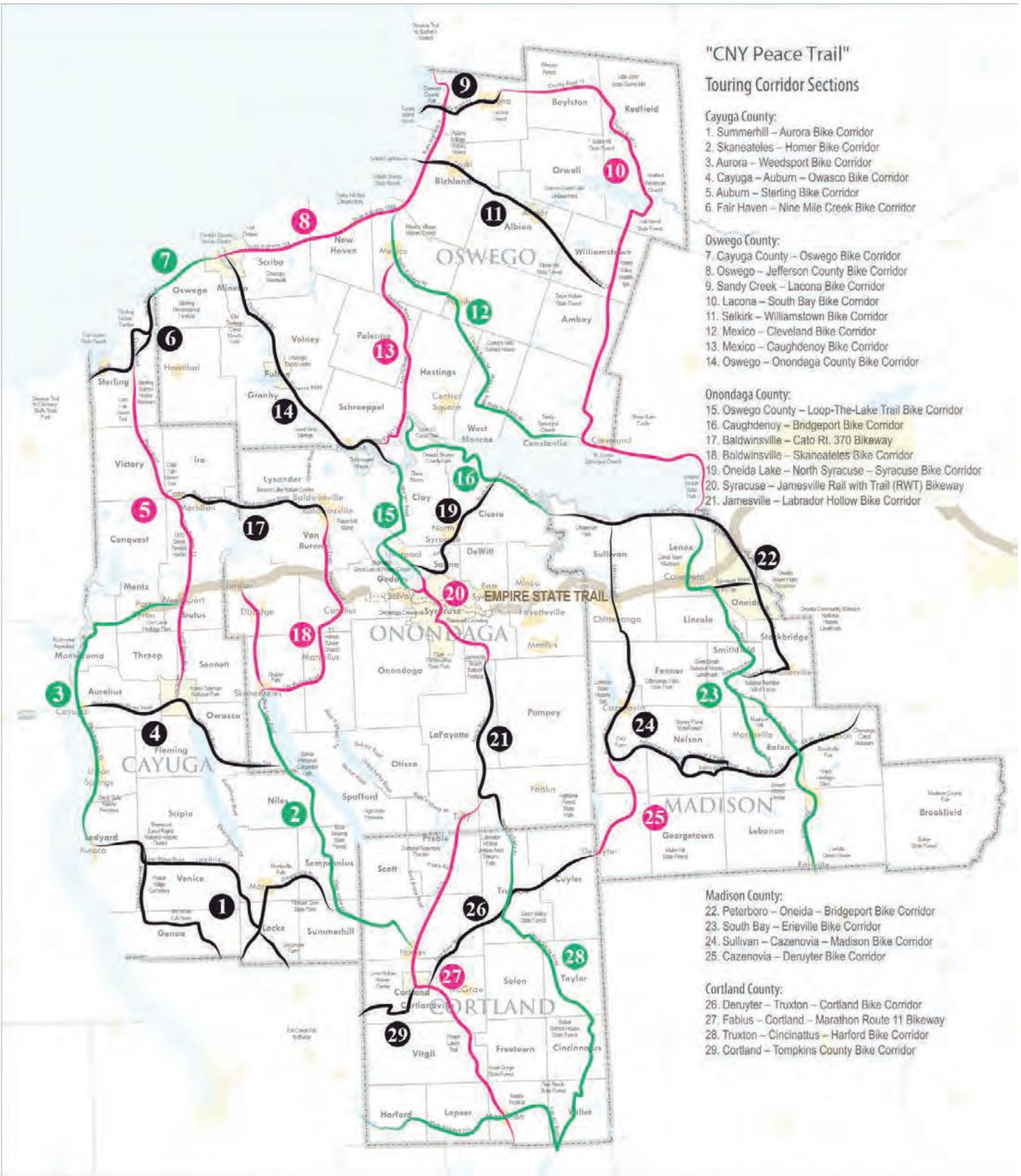
15. Oswego County – Loop-The-Lake Trail Bike Corridor
16. Caughdenoy – Bridgeport Bike Corridor
17. Baldwinsville – Cato Rte. 370 Bikeway
18. Baldwinsville – Skaneateles Bike Corridor
19. Oneida Lake – North Syracuse – Syracuse Bike Corridor
20. Syracuse – Jamesville Rail with Trail (RWT) Bikeway
21. Jamesville – Labrador Hollow Bike Corridor

Madison County:

22. Peterboro – Oneida – Bridgeport Bike Corridor
23. South Bay – Erieville Bike Corridor
24. Sullivan – Cazenovia – Madison Bike Corridor
25. Cazenovia – Deruyter Bike Corridor

Cortland County:

26. Deruyter – Truxton – Cortland Bike Corridor
27. Fabius – Cortland – Marathon Route 11 Bikeway
28. Truxton – Cincinnatus – Harford Bike Corridor
29. Cortland – Tompkins County Bike Corridor



Central New York Regional Recreation and Heritage Plan Linking Resources With Cycling Touring Corridors



This map was prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds awarded under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Data sources: SDCPA, NYSDEC, NYSDEC, NYSDEC, USFWS provided by CNY RPOB @ NYSDEC (01/2021).

This map is for informational purposes only. The CNY RPOB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.



like the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge, and many others not directly on the statewide trail. The CNY Peace Trail plan links the region's lakes and waterways, Fair Haven State Park, Harriet Tubman Historical Park, Labrador Hollow Unique Area, Cortland Reperatory Theater, Chittenango Falls, the Historic Oneida Mansion House, and hundreds of other important visitor sites across central New York. The mission of the planned regional bike touring corridor network is to bring visitation out into the region's communities, increasing demand for overnight stays, eateries, events, and services that are compatible with bicycle tourism.

CNY Peace Trail corridors will be implemented locally by the municipal and road owner jurisdictions they pass through. To date, segments of the bike network in all five counties (approximately 38 miles) have been locally planned and are ready for implementation funding. The direct connection of the CNY Peace Trail to the Erie Canal Trail in the Village of Jordan will link to the Village of Elbridge, just 2 1/2 miles south by way of Valley Drive along Skaneateles Creek, a connection planned as part of the CNY Peace Trail's Baldwinsville - Skaneateles Bike Touring Corridor #18. The route links the Town and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan to Baldwinsville and Skaneateles, and could provide a launching point from the Villages to visitor destinations across the county, central New York, and New York State.

Corridor #18 of the CNY Peace Trail follows from Baldwinsville south on Downer St. and Canton St. to the historic Hamlet of Warners on Newport Rd. to the Erie Canal Trail (ECT), and then west on the ECT to the Village of Jordan. From Jordan the CNY Peace Trail route follows S. Main St. to Valley Drive to the Village of Elbridge and continues from the Elbridge Historic District south on Jordan Rd. to the Hamlet of Mottville, and via the Charlie Major Trail to the Village of Skaneateles. These bikeable linkages present a myriad of economic development opportunities for the two



Visualization of potential spin-off economic development opportunities on the route of the CNY Peace Trail Bike Touring Corridor on Route 5 through the Village of Elbridge, New York.

There is a clear opportunity, through implementation of the CNY Peace Trail road markings and wayfinding signage, for new economic benefits that are compatible with the historic villages, which are linked to the Erie Canal Trail and to other communities like Skaneateles, Marcellus and Camillus also along the CNY Peace Trail (see planning concept pages 174-177).

Sustainable Development

Undeveloped land in the Town of Elbridge is largely constrained by the presence of steep slopes, highly permeable and impermeable soils, and Agricultural District lands. Because much of the otherwise unconstrained undeveloped land in the Town of Elbridge is in an Agricultural District, it will be important to identify which of those lands are best suited to sustainable development so that desired growth can occur with the least impact on natural resources, open space and farmland preservation in the town. Lands in close proximity to the villages are most practical for use in allowing growth in residential or mixed use development that is sustainable and could support the community's need for additional senior and/or young professional housing in a walkable location.

Lots & Buildings Siting

There are good potential locations for new mixed use residential and commercial development in the town within, and in close proximity to the villages (see Priority Areas for Sustainable Development, page 158). A mix of residential building types creates neighborhoods which allow a diversity of ages and incomes, and permit residents to move up or downsize their homes without having to move away. Multi-generational neighborhoods create strong social networks, avoid concentrations of poverty or wealth, and lead to safer communities.

Community design that considers how people interact with space increase access for all community members, providing equity through the way buildings relate to public spaces and pedestrian networks. To ensure that all community members benefit from future development, communities can consider connecting pedestrian-oriented design with affordable housing, which creates opportunities for people with lower incomes to benefit from accessible destinations. Pedestrian-oriented design can create opportunities for social engagement with fellow community members and can reflect local character in public spaces through building facade improvements and added planting strips.

Communities can create spaces that are welcoming for people with varying mobility needs, such as adults with strollers, people who use wheelchairs,

and children by encourage universal design features, including wide walkways, and destination access points, to increase accessibility for people with different mobility levels.



Pedestrian Design Photo
(source: <https://www.planning.org/blog/9227407/connecting-destinations-through-pedestrian-oriented-design/>)

Mixed use and residential building and site planning types that are compatible in form and scale with the existing historic built fabric of the villages are important to retaining the rural character of the villages even as they grow. A village like Elbridge or Jordan, in a rural setting surrounded by farmlands and forests, will benefit most from development on a “transect” along which development densities and building forms and setbacks change from downtown centers to the outer edges of the village. As you move outward from the center of downtown, the character of the development can move toward less density, but to preserve the rural lands surrounding the village, it is important to retain density in the heart of the village. Appropriate siting, scale, facade articulation, pedestrian amenities, streetscaping and parking access along a prescribed transect can be specified as permitted in the recommended development areas. A range of examples of suggested building and site planning forms that can comprise a rural village transect plan are described below and through illustrations



(Above) A District Center Transect Zone provides for a walkable mixed-use neighborhood and places priority on optimizing the physical characteristics of the built environment for increased walkability permitting the highest intensity and mix of uses with buildings located close to the sidewalk. Plentiful shade is provided for pedestrians, and parking lots are screened from public view. Building heights are permitted to be the tallest here to create landmark defining features that can terminate important views.



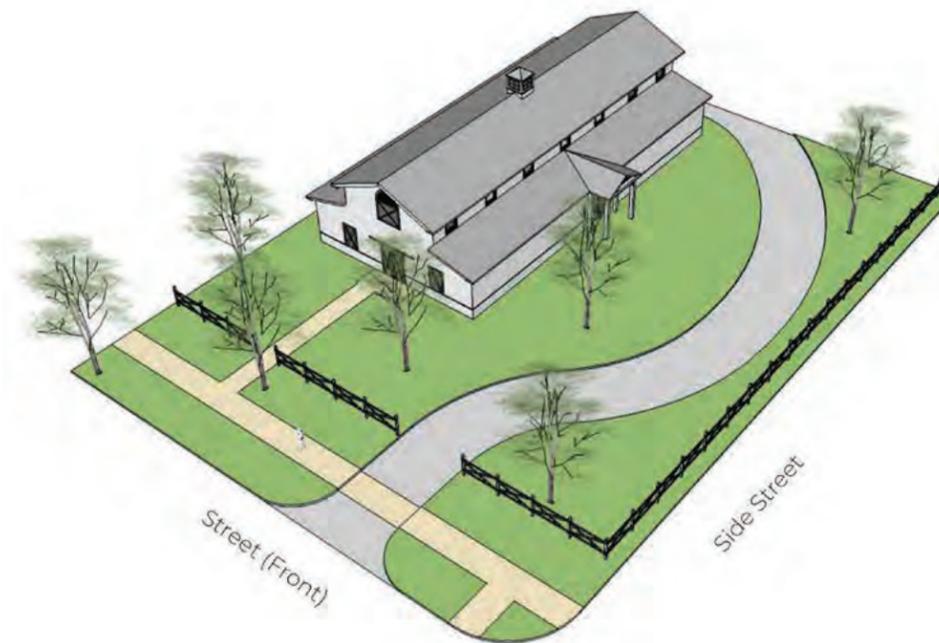
(Above) A Neighborhood General Transect Zone can require buildings to be street-oriented in the area of the neighborhood with the greatest diversity of building types. Buildings may be attached or detached with front façades located close to the sidewalk. Limited increments of non-residential uses can be permitted, such as home occupation, small mixed-use buildings, and live-work units.



(Above) In the Neighborhood Edge Transect Zone, buildings can be required to be street-oriented, and typically detached to facilitate a transition between the Traditional Neighborhood Development areas and lower intensity development in surrounding single family neighborhoods and agricultural lands. Buildings in this zone are predominantly residential, and are set further back from the Street on larger lots.



(Left) In this example Traditional Neighborhood Development Transect, the same form and building characteristics as the Neighborhood Edge Zone, but the uses are restricted to residential and Home Occupations.

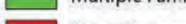
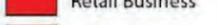
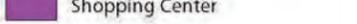


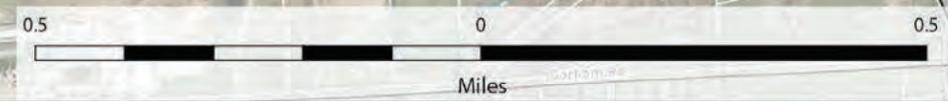
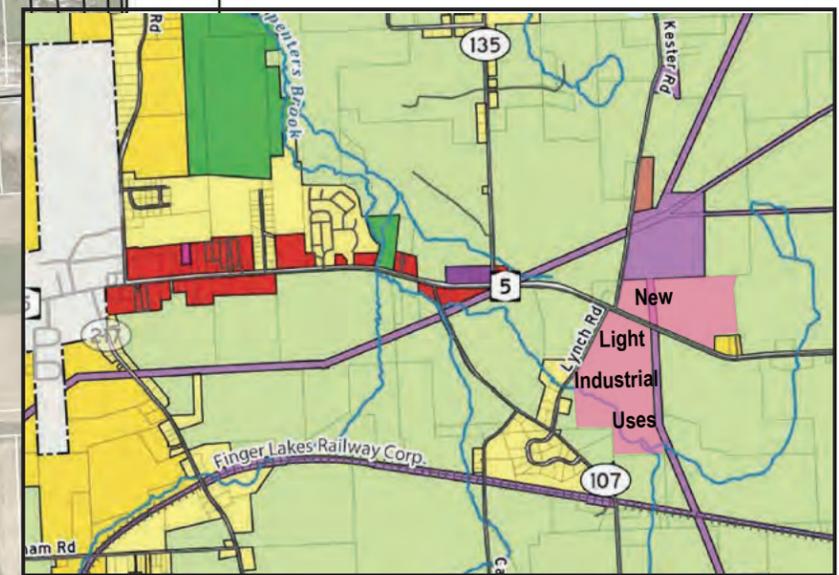
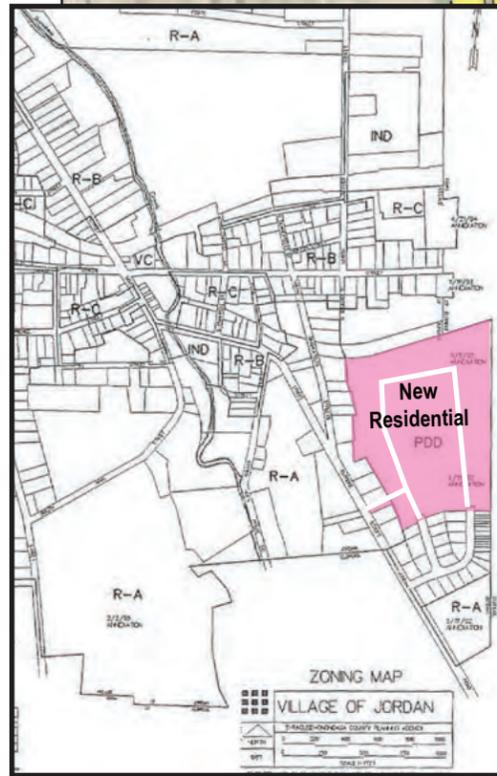
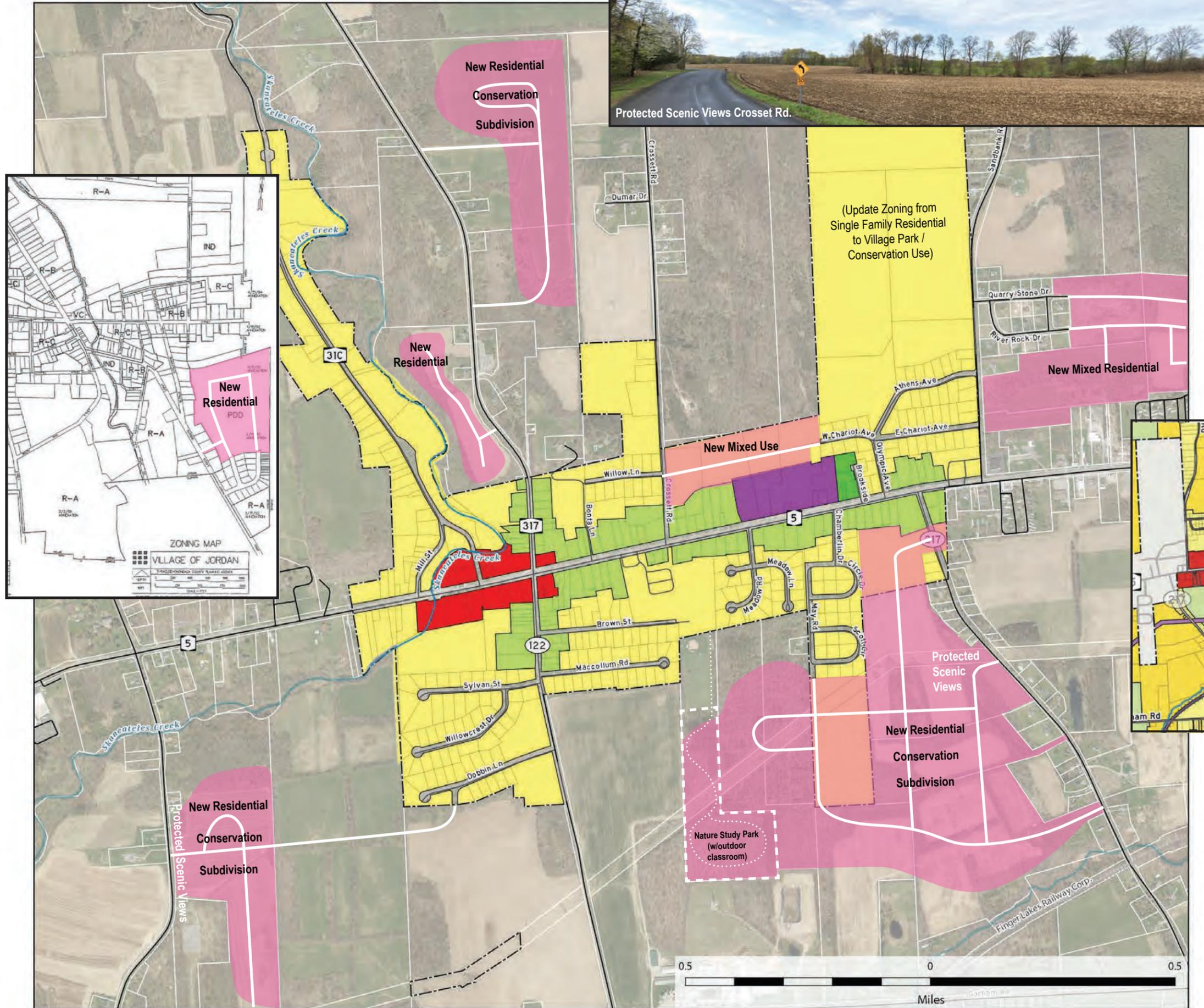
(Left) The Rural Transect Zone includes a mix of uses such as recreation, farming, equestrian facilities, and Open Space, and is less formal than the other Transect Zones, allowing more flexibility in building placement.

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan
Town of Elbridge and Villages of
Elbridge & Jordan

Priority Areas for
Sustainable Development

Legend

-  Roads
-  Village
-  Parcels
-  Single Family Residential
-  Minor Multiple Family Residential
-  Multiple Family Residential
-  Retail Business
-  Shopping Center
-  Sustainable Development Areas



Data obtained from the NYS Office of Information Technology Services and the Village of Elbridge. This map was created for planning purposes only; the CNY RPDB does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

February 2024



on the following pages. Locations of these transect types, from District Center to Rural Transect can be mapped and specified in design guidelines.

In the Village of Elbridge, new mixed use residential and commercial development is possible through infill on village parcels that currently do not attain their highest and best use potential. Locations best suited to this new development include behind the shopping center on the north side of Route 5, and behind the existing business district to the east of Sandbank Rd. where there are three 24, 28 and 35 acre parcels of vacant land. These areas are appropriate for mixed uses with a variety of residential units that could provide needed housing in forms that are compatible with the traditional, walkable village pattern.

Within a mile of the Village of Elbridge, on North/Jordan Rd. there are three large vacant land parcels (approximately 136 acres), that could support residential development in a sustainable development pattern. With development of “country drives” from North/Jordan Rd. and using Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) process to ensure conservation of 50% of the existing open space and rural character, this area could serve to host needed residential development in close proximity to the village.

South of Route 5, in close proximity to the Village of Elbridge, from the west side of Kingston Rd. (north of the utility corridor) a new residential development area could be opened up in the area west of May Rd., north and south of the utility corridor, to the school district parcel. Such a project could potentially also include open space preservation for a new “nature learning park” accessible from the south school lands that could benefit the neighborhood as well as the school district.

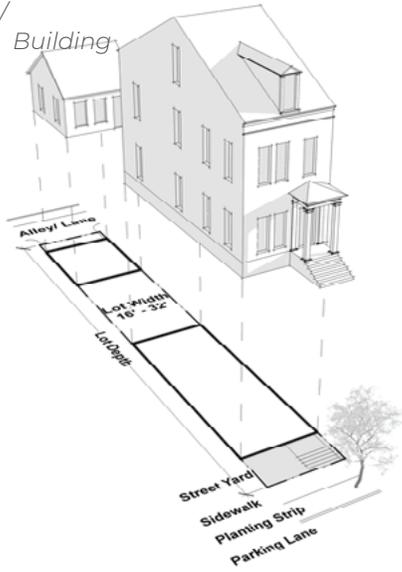
Although the area is in agricultural use currently, it may be possible to allow for new development at the village edge south of Route 5 within the quadrant from the ROW on Dobbin Lane, westward to Rt. 271. The scenic views from Route 271 looking east here are an important feature of the rural village landscape, and should be protected through careful location of any new development and conservation easement. The use of Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) process can ensure this happens.



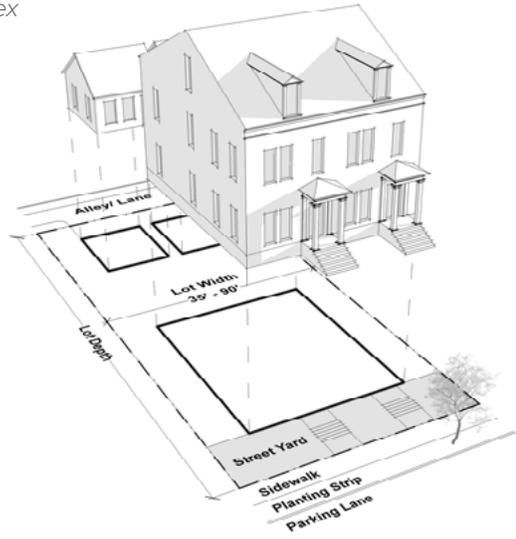
Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD), as a required process for scenic areas like this (view looking east from Route 271) can help to preserve the community's beloved rural character.

Because the Village of Jordan is at the confluence of the Old Erie Canal and Skaneateles Creek, the Village extends outward in four quadrants with little undeveloped space left open for new development. There are many historically built structures in the Village with much potential but in need of rehabilitation and reuse along with flood protection measures to be the focus for revitalization of the historic Village of Jordan.

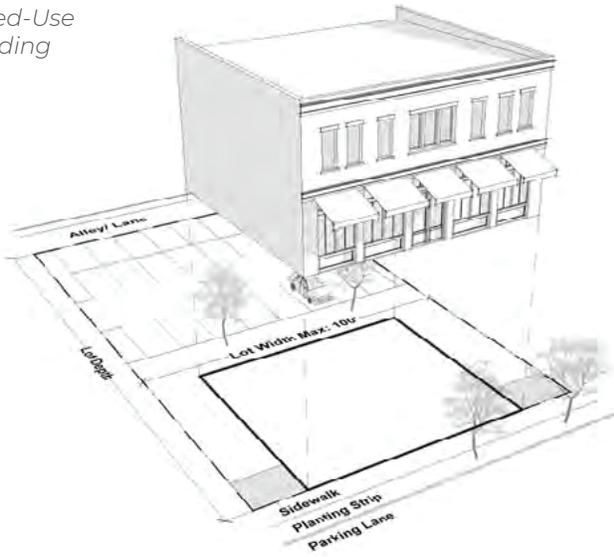
Row House/
Townhouse Building



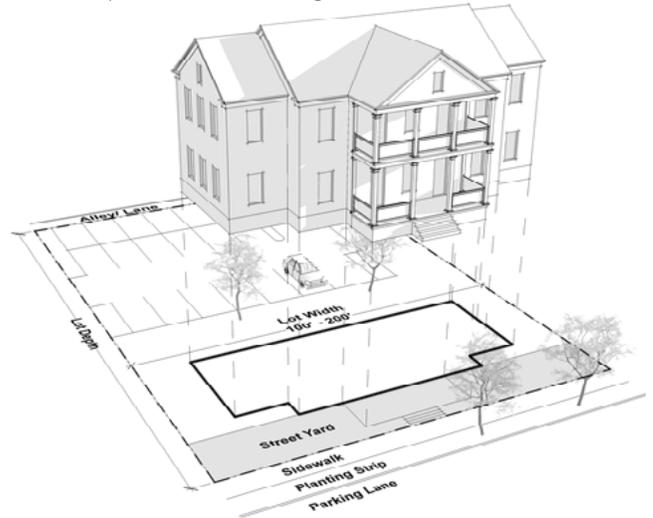
Duplex



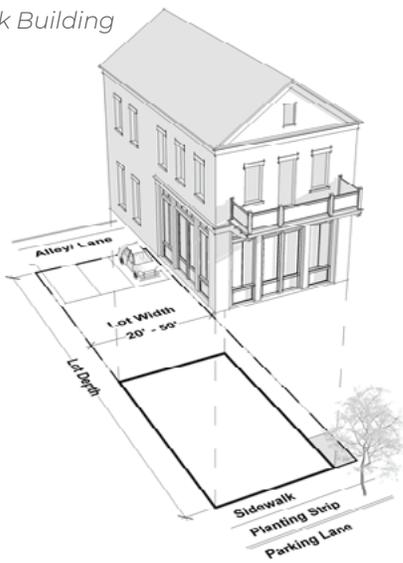
Mixed-Use
Building



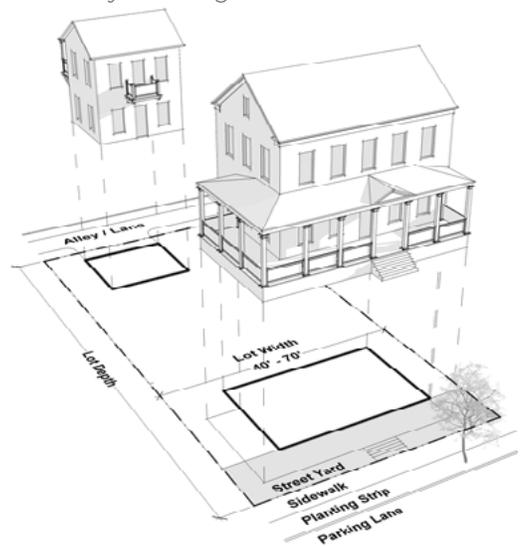
Mansion Apartment Building



Live/Work Building

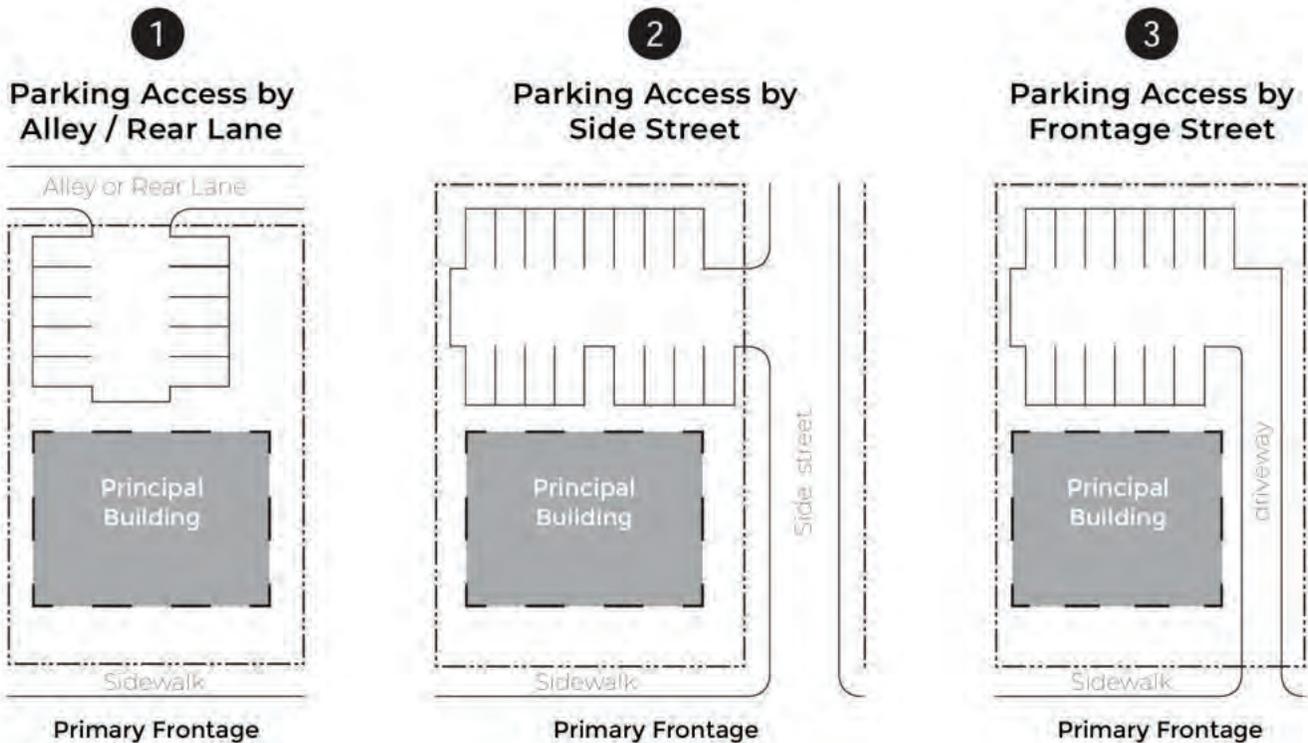


House & Accessory Dwelling Unit



Example standards for lots and buildings for a variety of building types compatible with a traditional rural village.

Source: Missoula County & City of Missoula Mullan Area Traditional Neighborhood Development FBC, December 10, 2020



Drawing Source: Missoula County & City of Missoula Mullan Area Traditional Neighborhood Development FBC, December 10, 2020

Parking access is a critical consideration for village mixed use and commercial use areas. Parking specifications should provide the primary source of access to off-street parking, but also minimize disruptions to pedestrian flow and traffic safety issues. This is possible through setting maximum entry drive widths and consolidating points of access and egress wherever possible.

Rear alleys or lanes, as illustrated in drawing #1 above, can provide the primary source of access to off-street parking where available. Where no rear access exists, access to parking can be provided from the side street (drawing #2). Where no alley or side street exists, it can be encouraged to seek access from neighboring properties, and when access to rear parking must be directly from the Primary Frontage, driveways can be located along the sides of the property lines and designed such that pedestrians crossing on sidewalks always have the right of way (drawing #3). The maximum width of vehicular driveways should be provided in the Transect Zone Standards.

A variety of building types compatible with a traditional rural village is desirable and standards for lots and buildings can be set so that a consistent development pattern, similar to the traditional historic village pattern

is maintained as new development comes to a growing village. A variety of forms are consistent with historical building types and can include: mixed use block buildings with shops on the ground floor and residential or office space above; multiple-unit apartment buildings; several unit mansion apartment buildings; live/work unit buildings where the residential use is secondary or accessory to the primary place of work occupied by the business owner; and townhouse or rowhouse buildings with single family attached units that may feature a private yard or patio between the main structure and the rear out-building.



Village of Jordan Main Street Transect Zone Area Targets



Village of Elbridge Main Street Transect Zone Area Targets

Community Vision Statement

Based on community responses to the 2023 survey, and in an effort to envision what the community would like to achieve through planning and policy making, the Comprehensive Plan Committee established the below “Vision” statement to express how the community collectively sees itself in the future. This Vision Statement set the context for and guided development of the following goals.

“The rural farmland setting defines the Town of Elbridge, along with the historic character of the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan, where a variety of local goods and services abound. Attractive and well-kept, the traditional village scale, built history, and wildlife habitat are preserved. A sense of community is valued by families and friends, and seniors as well as young people enjoy a quality of life with safe streets, shared services, and a variety of recreational and economic opportunities.”

In support of the above Community Vision Statement, the following five goals with supporting recommendations are set forth in the next chapter:

- Goal 1: Grow Housing Supply through Community Revitalization
- Goal 2: Foster Economic Strength & Sustainable Development
- Goal 3: Support Community Health & Connectivity
- Goal 4: Establish Natural Resource Protections
- Goal 5: Grow Recreational Opportunity
- Goal 6: Maintain the Strong Agricultural Economy
- Goal 7: Prepare for Climate Adaptation & Resiliency

Town of Elbridge & Villages of Elbridge & Jordan Goals

The goals on the following pages comprise a framework for specific recommended actions the municipalities can take to ensure quality planning and design solutions as local Board decisions are made. Success will require the community to embrace change and through local leaders and volunteers that will work to implement the specific recommendations listed under each goal, including acquiring state or federal grant funds where possible. On-going collaborations with County and Regional Planning can help bring new resources to the effort and advance the goals of this plan.

GOAL 1: GROW HOUSING SUPPLY THROUGH COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

This goal depends on the rehabilitation and reuse of existing housing stock, historic structures, and commercial areas and is a priority particularly for the Jordan Historic District and the Elbridge Main Street Historic District. Any new developments should be compatible with the traditional scale and form of the built character of the Town and Villages. This includes housing opportunities with resilient and reliable infrastructure that meets the needs of all economic groups and is located in proximity to mixed-use, walkable neighborhoods with public transportation, all key to revitalization in the Elbridge community.

Keeping the community's senior citizens, and the young adult generation, here is important for the growth and development of the Elbridge community. Any new development for housing should be carefully planned so that the community's existing historic and rural character is preserved. The best approach to ensuring this is through revitalization of both Village centers, Elbridge and Jordan, with redevelopment of underutilized areas, and new housing development carefully located in close proximity to the Villages. This, along with open space conservation policy, will help reduce residential development pressure on prime farmland in the Town of Elbridge.

Preserve Historic & Cultural Resources

1. Support preservation of historic and cultural resources, community character, and the improved physical appearance and aesthetic qualities (visual noise environment) of the village main street areas by retaining and maintaining in good condition traditional, historic, and viable structures to the greatest extent possible.
2. Support the rehabilitation of existing underutilized structures as the basis for multi-family housing to provide options for all residents, including seniors and younger generations in a range of incomes within the Town and Villages by applying for funding through programs like NYHCR's NY Main Street Grant Program and ESD's Restore NY Program.
3. Implement residential policy that encourages building rehabilitations and village infill development by streamlining development review. This helps to foster "getting better" over "expansion" with new greenfield development that consumes open space in the town.
4. Accommodate new development in small lots, and redevelopment opportunities for new and existing businesses in or adjacent to the Villages that are compatible with the existing historic scale, form, and character of the traditional main streets and the rural roads in the Town.

5. Encourage continued investment by existing residential and business property owners to attract new community investment by supporting desirable forms of development, especially redevelopment of underutilized and vacant properties to their most appropriate and best use.
6. Pursue revitalization funding assistance and implement policy for village design guidelines that support long-term stewardship of community resources, to ensure that present actions don't erode the basis for future prosperity.

Update Land Use Regulatory Policies to Support Needed Housing & Revitalization in the Villages

1. Establish Mixed Density Residential Districts within walkable distance to the Villages
2. Establish Mixed-Use Districts in the Villages
3. Establish Commercial/Non-Residential Design Guidelines for Villages
4. Establish Design Guidelines for Sign Regulations
5. Allow Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) development
6. Include Impermeable Surface Limits
7. Include Home Occupation Regulations
8. Update Mobile Home Regulations
9. Reduce parking requirements and allow shared parking where possible
10. Reduce minimum residential parcel size requirements for adjacent village areas
11. Require minimal setbacks that are consistent with historic village neighborhood patterns
12. Address equity in land use by encouraging a mix of building and home types that meet housing needs for different ages and incomes.
13. Permit apartment homes throughout much of the plan area
14. Change zoning of the Village of Elbridge lands north of Athens Ave. from residential single family to public park use.
15. Increase building code outreach to reduce violations, and prevent abandoned and dilapidated buildings, absentee landlord issues, unsightly trash and junk accumulation.

16. Regulate the size, location, and lighting of signs in the villages to be compatible with the historic district character.

Improve Community Infrastructure

1. Establish a community newsletter or some means of supporting community-wide communications on a regular basis. This can be approached as a volunteer project or budgeted as a service to the community.
2. Meet the community's need for resilient and reliable infrastructure with sewer line extension between the Villages.
3. Complete water system improvements using acquired funds from NYS and implement the planned sewer system extension to support residential and commercial growth opportunities in and adjacent to the Village of Elbridge.
4. Pursue more reliable broadband service for the community.
5. Improve the function and appeal of public spaces with amenities supportive of residents of all ages and their diverse needs as a component of public and private development opportunities.

GOAL 2: FOSTER ECONOMIC STRENGTH & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic development should aim to encourage investment, business occupancy, and the creation of local jobs. Mixed-use neighborhoods with a mix of residential, small commercial, retail and professional services suit historic villages like Jordan and Elbridge and can be accommodated in combinations of second or third floor residential units. Special focus should be on the needs of the community, small businesses and farmers while also attracting compatible investment that is compatible with the historic character of the Villages. Larger commercial establishments as well as light industrial development is more appropriately located outside of the villages. With the market access available along Route 5 in the town, this area can serve to add to growth in local economic development in combination with new mixed use neighborhoods, fostering both a strengthened economy and community walkability.

1. Encourage small business investment that serves the community and visitors to the communities in the Villages.
2. Support the redevelopment of existing structures for mixed-use, including commercial/retail and business/professional uses in

- combination with second or third floor residential units.
3. Promote the sale of local goods and services, including local farm goods.
 4. Identify new light industrial development areas in environmentally sound and appropriate locations separated from residential and commercial areas.
 5. Share more Village and Town services including the community center, community transportation services, Department of Highway and highway equipment, and Fire and Rescue services. These savings put money back into the local economy just as well as if it had been earned through new industry — but it avoids many growth-related problems and costs.
 6. Foster establishment of a local business district in both villages.
 7. Support existing businesses, the wealth-creating power of the community’s own entrepreneurs. Locally owned businesses tend to be more responsive to local needs and values, and more likely to stand by the community through thick and thin. Supporting them keeps more dollars circulating in the local economy.
 8. Encourage new local enterprise that will contribute more to the local economy if they’re locally owned.
 9. Recruit new commercial and service uses that are compatible with community values and needs.

GOAL 3: SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH & CONNECTIVITY

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the importance of supporting community health could not be more clear. Beyond potential impacts to public health from disease, there are also potential threats from natural disasters, and chronic illness that can be mitigated through implementation of good planning practices. Understanding and preparing for potential impacts to health from climate change, such as extreme heat events is as important as creating a public realm environment that is conducive to a healthy routine of physical activity, social stimulation, and accessibility to goods and services. Services and infrastructure that connect the community to healthy foods, medical services and supplies, as well as safe walking and bike riding opportunities linking these resources are key to supporting community health.

1. Protect, enhance, and seek new opportunities for public access to natural resources with low impact amenities that support nature viewing and passive recreation in the Villages along the Skaneateles Creek corridor.
2. Enhance vehicular and pedestrian movement and circulation through the

Route 5 corridor, by improving pedestrian infrastructure including sidewalk connectivity and lighting, vehicular access safety, and traffic management along Main Street in Elbridge to support “walkability” in the village.

3. Continue advocating to the NYSDOT for needed traffic management with a traffic signal at Sandbank Road to support safe access and egress, and more visible crosswalks on Main Street, and better curbing.
4. Advocate for additional CENTRO bus stops and an expanded JET program to meet the needs of the community for more available public transportation options.
5. Establish a local community service corps that meets on a regular basis to assist in backing up the demands that tend to weigh heavily on the few responsible people in any kind of emergency mitigation event.
6. Promote local active living and encourage community design and development that supports active, socially engaging lifestyles.
7. Encourage development of additional recreational facilities for youth and adults, more healthcare services, and new childcare facilities capable of meeting the demands for these services locally.
8. Improve pedestrian safety with a 4-way stop at Mechanic & Chappel, and additional sidewalks on Jordan Rd. (Elbridge St.) especially between Jordan Methodist Church and the Village of Jordan.
9. Address sidewalks in Jordan that need improvement for uneven and unsafe conditions.
10. Encourage use of shared access drives that serve clusters of commercial businesses or mixed use developments on Route 5.
11. Engage and connect community members of all ages.
12. Work with road owners and the CNY Regional Planning & Development Board to implement the CNY Peace Trail bike touring corridor as planned from the Erie Canal Trail in Jordan to Skaneateles.

GOAL 4: ESTABLISH NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

The quality of life in Elbridge relies a great deal on the preservation of the community’s natural resources. These resources, roughly identified on Map 20 are important to consider planning future development that is in accordance with the goal of natural resource protection. Priorities for pro-

tection include agricultural land, scenic open space, waterways, wetlands, and threatened species. In pursuit of this goal, invasive species should also be managed, and their spread prevented to the best of the community's ability in partnership with County, State and Federal assistance. Renewable energy, as an important contributor to environmental sustainability, should also be supported where possible.

Development in the Town is significantly constrained by the presence of slopes over 15%, floodplains, and highly permeable and impermeable soils not good for septic development (see Maps 20 and 21). The vast majority of the Town, with prime agricultural soils, is in the Agricultural Zoning District meant to accommodate agricultural operations and preserve agricultural land. To prevent the loss of the town's existing rural character and open space through misplaced or sprawling development that is not well organized or compact in form, appropriate zoning updates should allow for needed growth in development, but ensure that development is in a form that is compatible with the goals of this plan. Open space residential design models that require conservation as a part of "major subdivision" can help development proceed to meet desired demands while preserving rural character without the cost of acquiring open space or development rights. Conservation can also enhance home values through their proximity to open space amenities.

1. Protect the quality of wildlife habitat, diversity and abundance of wildlife populations; opportunities for fishing and hunting; opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature walks; air quality, and especially water quality in the community's lakes, streams and rivers.
2. Develop an Open Space Plan to maintain the community's rural character, preserve forested lands, preserve the historic canal area character, preserve remaining productive agricultural lands, protect wetlands and sensitive areas, protect scenic vistas, and to manage development along the waterways.
3. Establish a Conservation Overlay District that can ensure development avoids important natural habitats, key scenic areas, important agricultural and forested lands.
4. Document and protect views of open space that surround the Villages and contribute to the rural character and desirable quality of life in the community
5. Establish a requirement for use of Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) process for all "major subdivisions." A CSD Overlay District would

identify where opportunities exist for conservation subdivisions that allow for needed residential growth in the Town while also conserving farmland, open space, and rural character as a part of the major subdivision process.

6. Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension to educate the community about the importance of managing stormwater runoff to prevent nutrient loading that reaches waterways from residential and industrial areas as well as agricultural fields.

7. Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension to educate the community on how to prevent the spread of key invasive species, and how to protect threatened or endangered species.

8. Consider consolidating the three existing municipal environmental commissions into a Conservation Board (CB). A Conservation Board (CB), although still an advisory board, can act as a valid agency of municipal government with the opportunity to review any proposed land use application affecting any open areas listed on an officially approved Open Space Inventory (OSI) which is mapped and provides the basis for local environmental review.

GOAL 5: GROW RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Elbridge community values the recreational opportunities the town and villages have to offer. They make use of the public parks and community centers for educational, recreational, and cultural events. There is a strong desire in the community to expand on these opportunities for adults and children. A diversity of recreational activities is important for the quality of life of residents and can also help attract visitors to the area.

1. Plan, seek funding, and develop a multi-functional recreation building with kitchen, gymnasium, sports programs and historian space on the available town lands behind the Town Hall.

2. Protect and preserve the rural scenic beauty of Elbridge that provides the foundation, setting and backdrop of many outdoor recreational opportunities.

3. Promote the village historical and cultural assets as visitor-friendly districts with interpretation of the heritage resources, special celebratory events, and compatible visitor amenities such as park seating, shops and restaurants.

4. Consider creating a Jordan Village Heritage Park Area with local district designation and design guidelines and planning for revitalization, interpretation, and compatible infill.

5. Promote public and private partnerships and coalitions to spur heritage tourism, ecotourism, and other recreational development opportunities in the villages such as Creekside and woodland trails.
6. Continue to support, advertise, and grow the annual Jordan Fall Festival.
7. Continue working with public and private organizations to sponsor recreational and community development activities.
8. Expand accessibility to community recreation facilities and services such as the Jordan Pool, parks and other events and historic locations like the Erie Canalway Trail.
9. Make use of public parks and community centers for additional educational, recreational, and cultural events
10. Work with NYS to consider establishing public access improvements to the State-owned parcel 023.-02-20 at Lambert Path, off of Grimes Rd, where 4.45 acres of waterfront land on Cross Lake is classified as a State-owned Public Park. This park could provide low impact recreational opportunities for the community, for nature observation and interpretation.

GOAL 6: MAINTAIN THE STRONG AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Agricultural lands in the town provide the community with much of its rural character and open space with great views not characteristic of more urban towns. The Elbridge community has expressed strong support for preserving the rural landscape, and that means keeping the agricultural economy viable and farms in business. Subsidies and conservation easements help in this regard, but thoughtful planning that accommodates the special needs of farm production and marketing are also important.

1. Assist farmers in working with food stores to create community markets that give area farmers an outlet for organic and local produce without having to meet the requirements of large supermarkets without having to meet the usual criteria.
2. Develop linkages between two or more sectors of the food system and between the for-profit and non-profit food sectors.
3. Support the development of entrepreneurial farm projects.
4. Establish a local Farm Market in a highly visible location along Route 5.
5. Support farmer access to professional assistance in creating logos, brochures, labels, and other promotional materials that enhance a local farm’s image or help it

access new markets.

6. Consider new programs and amendments to the zoning ordinance to facilitate the sale of farm products and agriculture-related products including farm tourism, rural conference centers, and similar low intensity, rural farmland uses.

7. Allow a range of on-farm uses by right (i.e., allowed under a zoning district classification without the need for a special permit), subject to performance standards, to provide additional sources of income, such as farm product sales and services related to agriculture and home-based businesses that are compatible with the rural landscape.

8. Consider allowing the expansion of rural hospitality businesses, such as bed and breakfasts and country inns, that preserve the rural character while offering services that support rural tourism.

9. Encourage horse facilities, for both commercial and recreational use, by promoting land development practices that preserve large tracts of land appropriate for grazing, growing hay, and riding horses and including the equine industry in certain property tax incentives, and supporting the establishment of easements to create an equestrian trail network.

10. Maintain agricultural jobs viability in the town by ensuring land use planning and zoning up-dates support small businesses and infrastructure that are critical for agricultural producers to survive (supplies, services, mechanics, welders, etc.).

11. Ensure that any large solar development does not occupy more than 50% of a parcels Prime farm soil.

**GOAL 7: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY
(See Appendix A)**

Implementation and Priority Actions List

Implementation of this Comprehensive Plan is where the planning, goals and recommendations meet the real world. The most important actions that need to be taken are identified, organized, and prioritized, and then with specific actions, the community moves through the process from the written plan to implementation. Implementation flows from the Plan. It is not a separate process, but a work plan for specific people at specific times

in a specific way, i.e. municipal boards, staff, consultants, and potentially a special task force. When and how will it get done? Will it require funding, grants, people, space, equipment, or some other decisions or actions? Although the community may want to address all of the ideas in the Plan, it may be best to do a few things well than have a long list that gets done poorly or not at all. This Plan will provide a simple 10-point Priority Actions List that will draw from the goals and recommendations in the Plan and lay the groundwork for further important actions.

Priority Actions List:

1. The Town Planning Board should work with the County or the CNY Regional Planning & Development Board to inventory and map priority open space lands and public scenic viewsheds in the town and to define a potential Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) process overlay district that would be applicable to all Major Subdivisions in the overlay.
2. The Town and Village Boards should Establish Zoning Commissions to begin review, identification and draft updates needed in support of the land use regulatory recommendations in the goals of this Plan, including “transect zones” and design guidelines.
3. The Town and Village Boards should identify and establish a joint community infrastructure working group to identify, define, track and provide project status updates to community members, the Town and Village Boards, and consultants.
4. Establish a collaborative working framework for Village Economic Development Business Districts to work on strategies and address opportunities to enlist resources to support defined revitalization focus areas of the villages, and to support existing and recruit new businesses in the villages.
5. Town and Village Boards should collaborate to work with CNY Regional Planning & Development Board to implement the CNY Peace Trail bus planned from the Erie Canal Trail in Jordan to Skaneateles.
6. Work with the County, State and CENTRO to initiate work on expanding accessibility of bus service, traffic conflict issues, sidewalk repairs and connectivity, and pedestrian amenities in the villages.
7. Establish a farm viability committee to work on Goal 6 to maintain a strong agricultural economy in the town.
8. Engage and support the town and village historians to initiate efforts to establish a Heritage Park Area in the Village of Jordan, and to advance historic preservation efforts needed in the villages including applying for

grant funding from the Preservation League of NYS and the NYS Office of Historic Preservation.

9. A joint committee of the town and villages should establish a local “Community Resiliency Service Corps” of volunteers that meets on a regular basis to plan and implement emergency mitigation response strategies as needed in support of existing departments that can quickly become overwhelmed in an emergency.

10. Work with the County and NYS to initiate consideration of establishment of public access improvements to the State-owned parcel 023.-02-20 at Lambert Path, off of Grimes Rd. for the 4.45 acres of waterfront land on Cross Lake (a State-owned Public Park) that could provide low impact recreational opportunities for the community, for nature observation and interpretation.

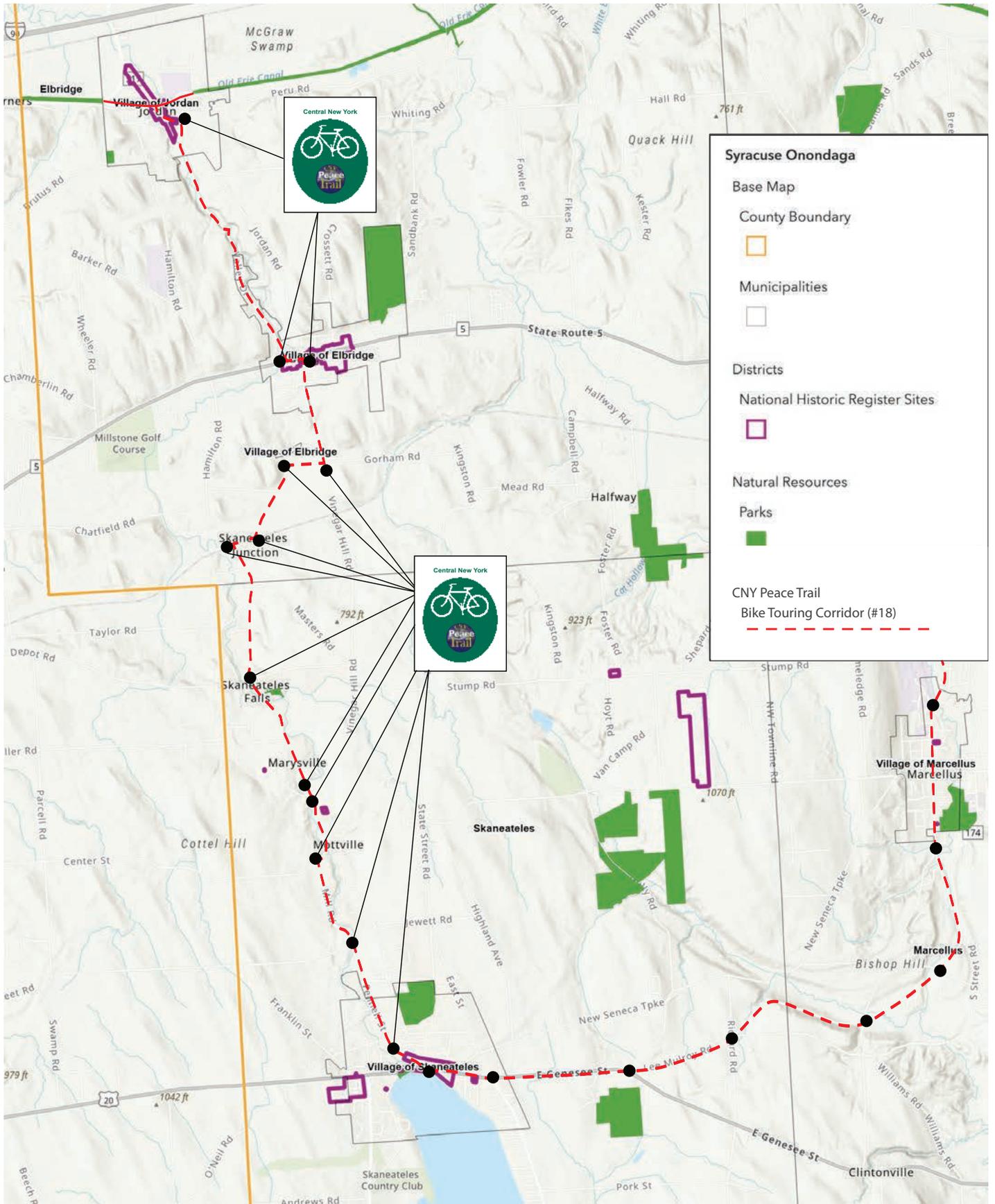
The above list of Priority Actions is just the beginning. Establishment of working committees to address the initial 10 items can be a good way to set up community human resources to continue shepherding the recommendations of this plan through the necessary processes to fruition. Once the effort is begun, it will be important to keep it alive by addressing the progress, accomplishments and stumbling blocks along the way. This should be done on a regular basis as a part of local Board meetings to assure the implementation work continues.

Review & Maintenance of the Plan

This Plan should be reviewed as a matter of course in all municipal board decisionmaking and on the table for discussion as issues or opportunities arise. The Plan is the community’s guiding resource document and should be updated as conditions in the communities change over time. At least every 5 years a thorough update should be considered.

CNY Peace Trail Bike Touring Corridor Concept & Wayfinding Plan

The regionally planned CNY Peace Trail is a network of 29 bike touring corridors that link the historic sites and outdoor recreation resources of five counties in Central New York. Corridor #18 links the Erie Canalway Trail in the Village of Jordan to the Village of Elbridge, the Village of Skaneateles, the Village of Marcellus, and the Village of Camillus. The network of planned bike corridors will bring visitors from the Erie Canalway Trail out into the CNY Region’s communities where they will generate economic growth with accommodations, eateries and related services.



Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge & Jordan Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan - 2024



The Jordan to Elbridge "CNY Peace Trail" beginning at the Erie Canalway Trail in the historic Village of Jordan.



The "CNY Peace Trail" shoulder bike lanes head south on Main Street in the historic Village of Jordan.



Continuing to Valley Drive with sharrows and signage marking the way through the historic Village of Jordan.



Valley Drive, sharrows and signage link the CNY Peace Trail to Route 5 and the historic Village of Elbridge.



(Above) Existing and a Concept for a Bike Café on Route 5 in the historic Village of Elbridge.

APPENDIX A

A Brief History of the Town of Elbridge

700-1390 Native American sites of summer hunting-fishing camps and settlements, sites show the gradual evolution of culture from the Owasco to the Haudenosaunee.

The topography of the land, with the Seneca River to the north and the Skaneateles Creek and Carpenter's Brook waterways bisecting the east-west hilly ridgeline that bisects the town in the middle made settlement attractive with the oldest sites near Jack's Reef.

1400 – 1777 Part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's territory, either for the Onondaga or Cayuga Nation.

1777 Clinton and Sullivan Campaign – a campaign to break the might of the Haudenosaunee (allies to the British and enemies to the Patriots) resulting in many of the Haudenosaunee fleeing to what would become Canada and New York claiming the land.

1789 New York establishes the Central New York Military Land Tract, dividing the land up into plots and organizing them into towns as a way to pay Revolutionary War soldiers.

1791 Josiah Buck, a member of the Survey Corp tasked with this task plotted out what would become the Town of Elbridge, then a part of the town of Camillus (Township #5). Captain William Stevens would visit and Buck would show him the remains of Native settlements which would later become known as the Chamberlain and Whitman archaeological sites.

1793 Josiah Buck and then Captain William Stevens would arrive to start the settlement of Elbridge near Skaneateles Creek, naming it after Elbridge Gerry (Signer of the Declaration of Independence and 5th Vice President), whom Stevens had been with at the Boston Tea Party.

1794 Onondaga County is officially formed from Herkimer County.

1797 People start arriving at a spot to the north of Elbridge also along Skaneateles Creek and name it Jordan.

1800-1829 Both the communities of Elbridge and Jordan experience population growth and development as more people arrive to develop and farm the land. Institutions and roads are established: The Seneca Turnpike

Northern 1800-1829 Extension (which would become Route 5), Post-of-

fices, mills, schools, and churches as examples. Businesses were established, such as the Rockwell and Sperry wheelbarrow factory (whose wheelbarrows would be used in the construction of the Erie Canal), and many farms were built due to the fertile land, establishing a strong agriculture tradition as the backbone of the Town throughout its history. Hill Farm (located east of the Village of Elbridge on Rte. 5) has been in the Hill family for over 200 years.

The communities of Jack's Reef (originally Jack's Rifts), California, Peru, Halfway, and others are established throughout what would become the Town of Elbridge.

1806 The Seneca Turnpike Company, which owned and operated the Seneca Turnpike, part of the Great Genesee Road, was authorized to create the Northern Seneca Turnpike Extension. This would connect the settlement of Elbridge with Auburn. NYS Route 5 now runs where the Extension once was.

1825 The Erie Canal is opened, which went through the middle of Jordan. General Lafayette toured the settlement on his return trip from the Ohio valley as he was touring the entire county as the invitation of Congress.

This brought significant wealth and trade to Jordan, and by extension Elbridge, with the Teasle industry from Skaneateles being one example.

1829 The Town of Elbridge is formed from the Town of Camillus after a meeting at the H. Dodge House (3 Clinton St. Jordan NY) where Timothy Brown was chosen as the first town supervisor, James McClure the first Town Clerk, and Jenkins & Canfield as the first Town Treasurers.

1830-1900 Businesses and Industry continue to thrive. Elbridge Electrical, Jordan Salt-Glazed Pottery, National Chair Manufacturing Company, Taylor & Peck Boiler Works, etc...

1835 The Village of Jordan is officially incorporated.

Nathan Munro founds the Munro Collegiate Institute in Elbridge, a higher learning facility.

1839 The Auburn and Syracuse Railroad is opened, with the location of Hart Lot/Skaneateles Junction being established south of the Village of Elbridge as a stop on the line. The Train station building still stands next to the rail tracks, which are still in use.

1840-1850 The Erie Canal is widened and straightened as part of the

State-wide efforts to increase the canal's capacity. Lock 51 is established, and the 1840-1850 visible remains of the canal are what are still present and visible in the village of Jordan and Town today.

1848 The Village of Elbridge is officially incorporated.

1850s-1930s Jordan and Elbridge has a significant African-American community, as well as strong abolitionist attitudes, with major events and organizations occurring over the years. One example is the Jordan Emancipation Celebration held on August 2nd 1898.

1853 The Rochester and Syracuse Direct Railway was finished and opened, resulting in the railroad line passing along the northern boundary of the village of Jordan. This is still a major railway owned by CSX Rochester Subdivision mainline and used to this day for both cargo and passenger trains.

1854 The Munro Collegiate Institute would relocate to a new site, which is now where the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District's elementary school is located.

1865 As Abraham Lincoln's Funeral train passed through Elbridge, members of the NY 3rd Artillery Company fired a cannonball in Jordan in honor of him. The cannonball hit an elm tree on the farmland property of Issac Otis.

1900s The growing city of Syracuse, needing more water for its populace, created a pipe-system to divert water from the head of Skaneateles Creek at Skaneateles Lake, this resulted in the water level of Skaneateles Creek decreasing significantly. This resulted in less power coming from the waterwheels of the various factories and industries along the creek in both villages. Combined with Syracuse becoming a major transportation hub with the railroads, the Erie Canal's decline in economic business, and the easier availability of raw goods in Syracuse, many companies and manufacturers moved to the city.

1901 Munro Collegiate Institute closed, eventually the Elbridge Central School would be built in its place.

1910 The Rochester, Syracuse, and Eastern Electric Railroad would open, with its tracks going through the middle of Jordan, providing service for local areas.

1912 Erie Canal closed, the new Barge Canal was established, bypassing Jordan to the North. This would cause greater contraction of Jordan and

Elbridge into a predominantly rural farming communities.

1929-1930 The Jordan Academy/High-school would burn down, resulting in “the year without a school”. The Jordan Central School District would purchase the farmland that was once part of Issac Otis’s plot and build Ramsdell, (now known as JEDIS (Jordan-Elbridge Dynamic Intermediate School)).

1931 The Rochester, Syracuse, and Eastern Electric Railroad, unable to keep-up with trucks and cars as well as charges of mismanagement, closes.

1935 The old Elm on, now, school grounds in Jordan was cut down and the cannonball fired in 1865 is discovered to have still been inside the tree. The cannonball would be dubbed the “Lincoln Cannonball” and is currently on display in the Jordan Historical Society’s main museum.

1946 The Village of Jordan decides to have an autumn auction, and adds some festive activities to help draw attention to the auction, and holds it at the car-garage/dealership on Mechanic Street. This would be the first Jordan Fall Festival. Each subsequent year the auction would become a smaller and smaller part of the event, and eventually be phased out completely.

1950s By now the Town of Elbridge and its two villages are small rural communities, with many who live here either working locally, or commuting to work to the neighboring cities of Auburn and Syracuse (and their suburbs).

1961 The Elbridge Central and Jordan Central School Districts merged into the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District.

1970s NYS Route 31 was realigned to the modern path it follows now. This resulted in a number of properties owned by people living in the Village of Jordan to have sections claimed by eminent domain and the remaining land divided by the new right-of-way.

The Jordan-Elbridge High School is built and opens.

1973 Tessy Plastics is founded by Henry Beck, Al Bauerschmidt, and Dieter Frick. The factory is one that specializes in injection molding. Their original facility is built along Rte. 5 in Elbridge, near Hamilton St., west of the village of Elbridge.

1978 Bennett Bolt Works is established and begins operations in the old Rockwell & Sperry Wheelbarrow factory building on Elbridge St. in Jordan.

1982 The Elbridge Hydraulic Industry Archaeological District is established and registered as part of the National Register of Historic Places.

1983 The Jordan Village Historic District is established and registered as part of the National Register of Historic Places.

late 1990s-2000 The Jordan-Elbridge Middle School is built and opens.

2002 The Elbridge Village Historic District is established and registered as part of the National Register of Historic Places.

2020-2022 The Covid-19 Pandemic caused major changes to how the communities operated, with many Town and Village services increasing their capacities to meet demands (such as providing Senior Meals to people who are now very isolated due to the quarantine protocols). The School District and most businesses were shutdown during the height of the Pandemic. Tessy Plastics is involved in the production of Covid-19 test kits and other medical equipment production.

Businesses adapt, with new measures put in place to help protect and minimize exposure, as well as vaccination rollout efforts with the Town hosting several immunization clinics for the community.

By 2022, life had mostly returned to normal operations.

Historical Entities Within the Town and Villages:

New York State Public Historians

- Town of Elbridge and Village of Elbridge Public Historians and Archives located at 241 E. Main St. Elbridge NY, along Rte. 5.
- Village of Jordan Public Historian located at Village Hall in Jordan at 7 Mechanic St.

Jordan Historical Society

- Private organization formed to preserve and display the history of Jordan, run and operate their museum space in the Bramley Library at 15 Mechanic St. in Jordan.

Developed Historical Areas of Note Within the Town and Villages:

- The Erie Canal Park and Trail
- Located in the middle of the Village of Jordan, running east-west.

- Crosses the Skaneateles Creek with the Jordan Aquaduct.
- Lock 51 located west of the Village, along Rte. 31.
- Signs detailing the history and significance of the Lock and Erie Canal located along the trail.
- One of only two surviving, and only to-date restored, Locktender house which is owned and maintained by the Jordan Historical Society.
- The Elbridge Village Historic District and Jordan Village Historic District.
- established to preserve and protect the architecture and history of the villages.
- many iconic historic buildings in both villages.
- a list of some of them:
 - Rockwell & Sperry building (Bennett Boltworks in Jordan)
 - Old Jordan Post Office
 - “Flat Iron Building” or “Munro Block” (in Jordan)
 - Clinton Hotel (Towpath Pizza in Jordan)
 - Jordan Village Hall
 - Col. Stevens House (in Elbridge)
 - Munro House (Wayside Inn in Elbridge)
 - Munro Cobblestone House (located at corner of Hamilton and Rte 5.)
 - The Hill Farmstead (Rte 5)
 - The Otis House (20 N. Main in Jordan)
 - The Red & White Shop (110 E. Main in Elbridge)
- this includes historic church buildings, as well as documentation by the previous historian Jack Horner.
- Jack Horner had published several books detailing the architecture located along the main streets of both Villages.
- Other historical buildings/locations
 - Jack’s Reef Hotel

- located at 1161 Old Rte. 31 in Jack's Reef.
- currently houses a restaurant named "The Reef".
- building is currently privately owned.
- The Kester Homestead
- located at 5606 Kester Road, near Rte. 5
- historic home and farm turned into Wedding and Event Venue
- Private business and property.
- Original Rochester, Syracuse, & Eastern Electric Railroad Train Station
- currently used as an car garage, with expansions added on.
- J&T Car Care currently owns and occupies the building.
- Original Train Station for Skaneateles Junction
- currently housing the local chapter of the Central New York Model Train Club & Historical Society.
- Saint Vincent's Orphanage
- located on Grimes Rd. in the Town, north of Jordan.
- once owned by the Catholic Church and used as a summer-home for the orphanage which was located in Syracuse.
- building is currently privately owned.
- The War Veterans Memorial
- plaques located in Jordan in the Erie Canal Park.
- lists most of the veterans who served in military conflicts over the years.
- Historical Markers
- The Town and Villages have 21 Historical Markers and 3 Historical Highway signs.
- Most are located in and around the Village of Jordan and Village of Elbridge/Rte. 5 Corridor.
- Currently, with the help of two volunteers, the Town is undertaking a project to refurbish worn and weathered signs. Begun in the Summer of 2023, three signs have been restored, with more planned for next year.

- QR scan codes in the Village of Jordan.
- a program set-up around the village of Jordan as part of a self-guided tour.
- unsure if still active or defunct.
- Historic Cemeteries
- Seven cemeteries with historic figures interred within.
- Three are the responsibility of, and maintained by, the Town.
- Jordan Cemetery, located in the middle of the village of Jordan.
- has had several cleaning and restoration projects in the past.
- most recent was headstone cleaning in the Spring of 2023.
- needs more work, especially with headstone restoration.
- Redman Cemetery
- received recent headstone restoration in the Fall of 2022.
- Whiting Road Cemetery, located along Whiting Road, right outside the Village of Jordan's southern border.
- many headstones have fallen over and need restoration.
- Rev. War vet. Samuel Sands buried here.
- Three are run by private organizations and fall under NYS's jurisdiction
- Elbridge Rural Cemetery
- old cemetery with 22 identified Rev. War veterans. One of the two major cemeteries used by the Village of Elbridge.
- has received headstone restoration, reconstruction, and cleaning from Barnett Memorial, a professional Cemetery headstone manufacturing and restoring company.
- Has a vault with a grass roof. The vault is in need of restoration and repairs.
- Mt. Pleasant (originally Mt. Hope) Cemetery
- old cemetery with Rev. War Veterans, such as Capt. William Stevens, second settler of Elbridge.

- one of the two major cemeteries used by the Village of Elbridge.
- old section headstones could use some restoration, but most of the old stones are in fair condition.
- some of the old section received cleaning in the Spring of 2023.
- Maple Grove Cemetery
- the major cemetery used by the Village of Jordan, as the other is no longer accepting new burials (Jordan Cemetery)
- Has historic figures interred.
- One is run and maintained by the Catholic Church.
- Saint Patrick's Cemetery
- Property of the Catholic Church, originally had the Jordan Catholic Church located in the middle of it, making it an actual graveyard.
- The Catholic Church was relocated onto Main St. in Jordan with a new building.

Historical Development Plans and Projects:

Town of Elbridge

- Nation's 250th Celebrations: The 250th Celebrations of both the Nation and NYS are arriving soon. The Town of Elbridge was designated a Bicentennial Community in 1976, and needs to take steps to prepare and plan for the upcoming 8 years of celebrations.
- A committee is starting to form.
- The committee is needed for applications for grants from NYS and the Federal Government for programming and celebrations.
- Able to draw on what was done previously for the Bicentennial.
- Significant Upcoming Dates:
 - 2025 – Start of Nation's 250th Celebration
 - 2025 – Erie Canal's 200th Celebration
 - 2026 – 250th of Declaration of Independence
 - 2027 – 250th Acknowledgement of the Clinton-Sullivan Campaign

2029 – Town’s 200th Celebration

2033 – End of Nation’s 250th Celebration

2035 – Village of Jordan’s 200th Celebration

2048 – Village of Elbridge’s 200th Celebration

- New Building which will host the Offices of Public Historian and Elbridge Archives
- proposed building will be across from current Town Hall, putting it near other Town facilities and departments.
- Increased space allows display area for artifacts and history for the public as well as Archival space for proper storage of artifacts and documents, and office space for historians and public to work in.
- Building would also have connected, yet separate facilities for other areas which need space, such as the JET (Jordan Elbridge Transportation) program.
- Initial conceptual design done, currently in the phase of finding funding/grants.
- Space if –badly– needed for the Elbridge Archives which can be established with proper Archival needs in mind.
- Historical Signs on Native American Archaeological Sites (700 C.E. – 1390 C.E.)
- Currently an ongoing work in progress, images of artifacts and site layouts mostly secured.
- Details on the seven known archaeological sites.
- Shows the evolution of culture from Owasco into Haudenosaunee
- Longhouse development in Chamberlain and Kelso sites.
- Sites spread across Town, while locations are known, sites location must be kept semi-obscure to protect from looters.
- The NYS museum, Rochester museum, and NY dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation are adamant on this.
- Outreach needed to bring attention to the significance of this history as well as raise awareness about archaeological artifacts and the need for context where they are found.

- One site (one of the Jack's Reef sites c. 700-1000 C.E.) is under the care of a Historic Archaeology Organization, with ownership of the land for the purpose of protecting it from development and preserving it.
- The Jack's Reef Pentagonal Point – found through Northeast U.S. and heavily documented/researched.
- Signs would be large and displayed outdoors, similar to the Erie Canal History signs at Lock 51 and along Erie Canal Trail in Jordan.
- All sign information should be reviewed with the Haudenosaunee before publication.
- Proposed location is Seymour Loft Park, in village of Elbridge.
- A “centralized” location in relation to the town's size.
- Public property, no need for right-of-ways with private properties.
- No additional historical markers or signs there
- Hart Lot/Skaneateles Junction Railroad Historical Marker (Pomeroy's Transportation Series)
- Noting the role that the Auburn Extension of the rail line had on that community.
- Train station Building still existing, currently maintained and housing the Skaneateles Junction chapter of the Central New York Model Train Club & Historical Society.
- Whiting Rd. Cemetery Headstone Restoration
- First would be work to re-erect the many fallen headstones there.
- Second would be to get preservation work on Samuel Sand's headstone, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The headstone is “brownstone” a sedimentary rock, and is delaminating due to water freeze expansion.
- Bishop Grimes (first Catholic Bishop of Syracuse) Summer Home and the St. Vincent's Orphanage summer retreat featuring.
- Located on Grimes Rd. near Cross Lake.
- Some of the St. Vincent's Orphanage buildings still exist.
- Photographs of the children being at the location are in Archives.
- Bishop Grimes was a prominent member of the Syracuse Community

- Rochester, Syracuse, & Eastern Electric Railroad ticket kiosk located on Rte. 5
- See Village of Jordan section on the R. S. & E.'s significance.
- In private ownership, woman bought it to preserve and save it from destruction.
- Originally Weedsport's train kiosk, and was probably in what is now known at "Trolley Park" there.
- Possible restoration, however private ownership may be a non-starter due to limitations on what the Town can and cannot do.

-Lock 51 Restoration and Revitalization

- Restoration and repair work to stone-works. Due to historical designation, site must be done with Archaeological precision and reconstruction instead of "just repairing".
- Possible relocation of Locktender's House (located near J-E Schools in Jordan) to original location.
- Jordan Historical Society has expressed their interest in that.
- Would require working with Onondaga County as the county has current jurisdiction over the Lock 51 area after the Erie Canal Trail project.
- More regular park maintenance (mowing, weed-cutting, etc..) currently County is responsible.

Erie Canal Waste Weir Restoration and Revitalization

- Located west of the Village of Jordan, it is where water would leave the Erie Canal, while in the Village of Jordan is where a feeder canal added water from Skaneateles Creek.
- Currently overgrown and surrounded by private property.

Village of Elbridge

- Manufacturing Area of Valley Dr. + Mill St. turned into a park/establishment of a Valley Drive Trail.
- Default "Park" area from general neglect could be turned into a more maintained park area.
- Skaneateles Creek was prime source of power for mills and manufacturing

Historical Businesses Located there:

- Elbridge Electrical/Dyneto Co.
- housed in the original wood building of the first built church in the Village of Elbridge which was moved from where Bush Funeral Home was.
- Pioneered many electrical innovations, such as the dynamo making it so people no longer had to crank the engines of their cars to start them.
- Patented the “Elbridge System”
- Found by 2 of the three Doman Brothers, responsible for wiring the first electrical system for a house in Onondaga County
- Provided early electrical power to the village of Elbridge.
- Amphion
- Founded by one of the Doman Brothers
- Made Maestro, a box that could turn any keyboard instrument into a “player piano”, worked on piano’s organs, etc...
- In 1909 moved to Syracuse and built warehouse where the Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant now resides.
- National Chair Manufacturing Company
- one of two companies in Elbridge that made carpet backed chairs.
- found all over U.S.
- Elbridge Chair Company
- located where Village hall is now located
- one of two companies in Elbridge that made carpet backed chairs.
- The Town has looked into and expressed an interest in possibly establishing a new history trail along what was the full length of Valley Drive and connecting it to the Erie Canal Trail.
- Signs showing images/links to images/information of how locations used to look or what was there. Can be in conjunction/complimentary to Historical Markers
- Munro Collegiate Institute, where Elbridge Elementary is located.
- Original first Wooden Church built in the area where Bush Funeral Home

is now on Rte. 5.

Village of Jordan

- Erie Canal Park Stone wall restoration and repair
- Similar to the Lock 51 restoration and repair, due to historic designation special care and steps must be taken.
- Area jurisdiction of the Village of Jordan.
- Erie Canal Trail signs showing the canal during operation and local historical locations
- American Hotel along north side of Canal, where the current Masonic temple is.
- Once a hotel location, eventually only the “grange hall” remained before it needed to be replaced with the current building.
- Jordan Erie Canal Shipbuilding Yard
- located where the Post Office, Dollar Store, Jordan Bramley Library, and Jordan Historical Society are currently.
- Area where new ships were put into the Canal still existent.
- Rochester, Syracuse, & Eastern Electric Railroad (a.k.a “the Trolley”) development.
- Historical Marker (Pomeroy Transportation Series)
- Operational from 1910 – 1931.
- Dual train tracks passed through Jordan from the east, crossing Rose and Chappell Streets, going to the corner of Mechanic and Main Streets, with the Jordan Train Station (shifted to the corner in 1933, and still existing as a car garage, currently J&T).
- Provided rail service to many neighboring communities (Weedsport, Memphis, Syracuse, Port Byron, Rochester, etc...)
- Price sign of destinations on display in Jordan Historical Society
- Extensive photographs of station and rail-lines in Archives.
- Tracks originally crossed the Main streets of Jordan and continue west down Clinton, with the tracks becoming visible from the asphalt for many years due to wear-and-tear on the road.

- Possible model of original rail station layout proposed (would have to be housed somewhere like the libraries or Jordan Historical Society).
- African-American History in Jordan.
- Probable Underground Railroad activity or support.
- Jack Horner, the previous town historian, was working on this. However with his passing in 2020, a lot of his research was lost.
- Beginning to reconstruct what he was working on based on details that were left.
- Around 1840-1930 there was an extensive African-American community as part of Jordan.
- Ribbon artifact in Archives worn by a delegate from the “Afro-American Republican Club” of Auburn who attended the Jordan Emancipation Celebration event on Aug. 2nd, 1898
- So far the only known evidence that the Town and the City of Auburn, has on such a group existing and event occurring.
- Jacob Baker & Alice Louise Baker.
- Jacob came to Jordan in 1855 when he was 3 years old with his mother Emily Baker.
- Was a widower before he married Alice Louise Baker.
- He was a one of the managers of the “Colored People of Jordan N.Y.” that hosted a masquerade ball at the Munroe House (now Wayside Inn) between 1870-1927 in the village of Elbridge (we have an original flyer of the event).
- Jacob and Alice Louise adopted two daughters
- Lillian Williams Baker, who later had a son named Joseph Williams “Baker” (born c. 1903).
- Lillian worked for the family that owned/lived at what is now 52 N. Main St. in Jordan.
- The Archives has two photographs of the grandson, Joseph Williams “Baker”, both as a child: one in the Lafayette Carriage photo circa 1910, and later with him and other local Jordan boys eating watermelon. Joseph would die around age 16 due to disease.

- Charlotte “Lottie” McDurfey Baker Cooper.
- Lottie would marry into the Cooper family (not to be confused with the white cooper family also living in the area), and have a daughter named Alice Louise Cooper (born c. 1920s).
- Newspaper Article in Archives shows that in 1924, Lottie would die at the Onondaga Sanitorium due to illness (Tuberculosis) and the 4 year old Alice Louise Cooper would live with her grandparents, Jacob & Alice Louise Baker.
- Jacob would die in 1927.
- Levine Baynard & Adelia Baynard
- Currently working on Historical Marker for them (need permission from property owner).
- Levine was a Civil War Navy veteran who served on the U.S.S. Arletta, a two-masted mortar schooner, from 1864-1865.
- Married Adelia (who was originally from Dutchess County) and they both moved to Jordan in 1868.
- Both bought the property that is now 7. Hill St. and lived there, raising their children until their deaths (Adelia 1897, Levine 1898).
- Levine was denied his Civil War Veterans pension one year before his death, deemed to be (paraphrasing) “not disabled enough to need it”.
- Not included in Veterans list at the Veterans memorial in Jordan.
- Buried in Maple Grove originally with no headstone, unsure where Adelia is buried, perhaps next to Levine and still missing headstone, perhaps not.
- Joseph Beulah and his family
- Originally Freedom Seekers who were all enslaved in the south, fled enslavers, traveling north through New Jersey to stop in Albany.
- While in Albany Joseph worked with Abolitionist to speak against slavery.
- Traveled to Jordan in sometime between 1940-1850.
- Was seen as an important figure of the community, respected, member of the Jordan Methodist Church. Licensed Exhorter (now known as a “Lay Speaker”, someone who is certified to lead prayers, hold meetings, and evangelize who is not ordained.)

- Fled with family to Canada from Jordan in October of 1851 due to the Brown rescue in Syracuse (which occurred on Oct. 1st, 1851).
- Was scared that Freedom Seeker Hunters could find him and his family and force local law to help do so (due to Fugitive Slave Act of 1850)
- In abolitionist newspaper, there's an article claiming that the Jordan community was so incensed at the idea, they pledged to defend Beulah and his family.
- Returned around 1854, where he bought a house just north of the main train tracks that go north of Jordan (house torn down in 1990s due to being unsafe.) Now where the grain depot and silos are located.
- Known for wearing his top-hat and suit while selling items from a basket he carried. Photograph of him exists.
- His son became a barber and owned a shop in Jordan.
- Many other people not yet researched.

This document was compiled by Jason Parkman, the Town of Elbridge Public Historian upon request from the Town Board for use in the updating of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. For any questions he can be contacted by email at townofelbridgehistorian@gmail.com

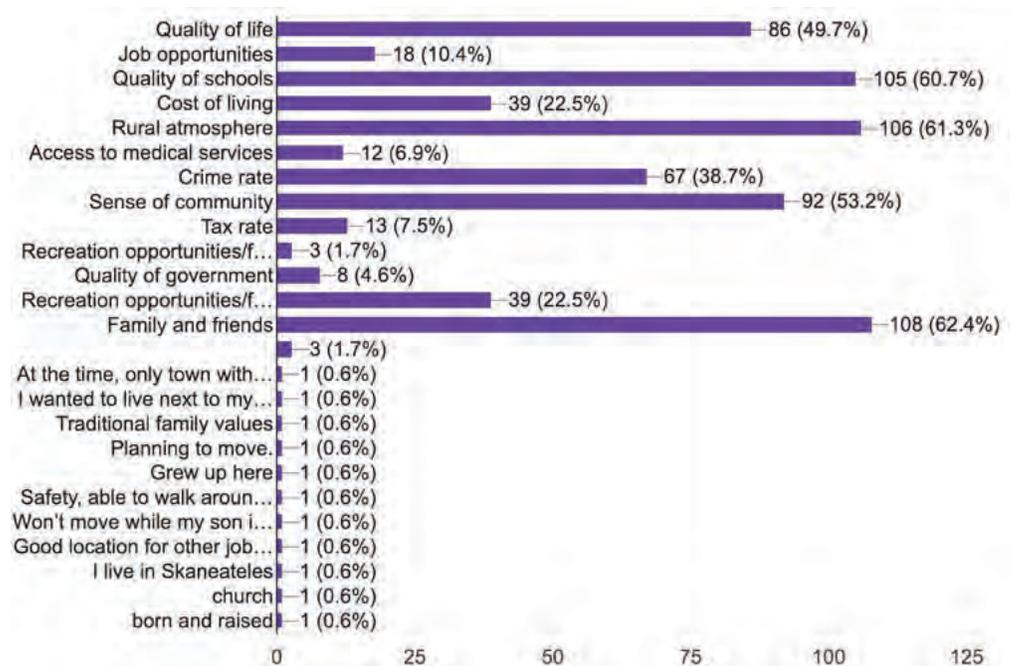
APPENDIX B

2023 Community Survey - Results

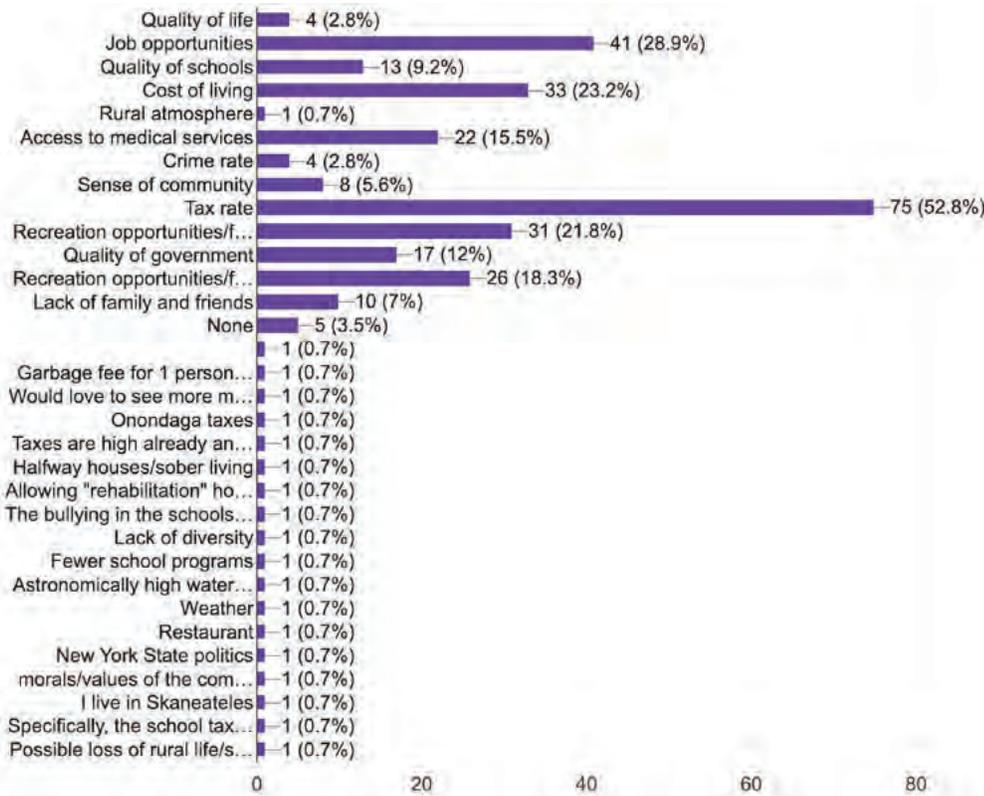
In late 2023, a community survey was conducted to gain insight from community members on several questions related to Comprehensive Planning and future growth and development in the Town and Villages. 172 people responded to the survey, just 2% of the total population. It may be that since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, public comment and survey response rates have been a bit lower. Elbridge and Jordan are particularly challenged without a local source of news or fully accessible means of widely communicating community events and initiatives. Efforts were made to publicize the community survey availability through the school district and municipal websites and in addition to the on-line survey, paper copies were made available at the community center and municipal offices. Below are the results of the 34 question survey. 66% of the respondents said they have been residents of the area for over ten years. 4% were home owners and 7% were renters. 15% work in the City of Syracuse and 13% were retired.

Key Findings:

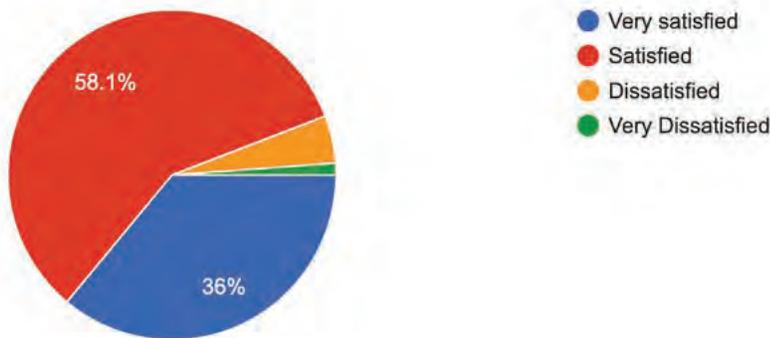
Most people surveyed live in the Elbridge area for family and friends, the rural atmosphere, or the quality of the schools. Sense of community and quality of life were other strong responses.



Things that most discourage respondents from staying in the Elbridge Area were the tax rate, the cost of living, and a lack of job and recreational opportunities.



87% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of life in the Elbridge area.



The most important things to respondents for the future of the Town were walkable villages, rural character of the town, and availability of local products and services.

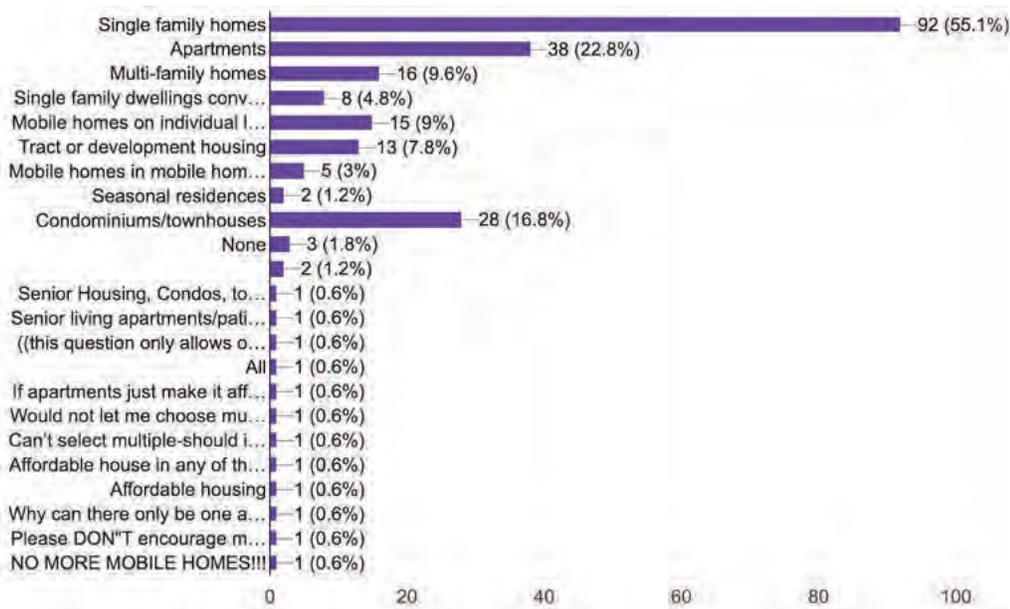
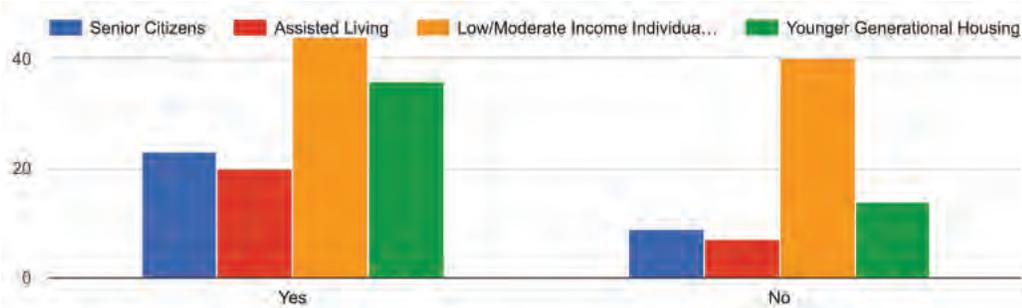
Survey respondents were most satisfied with the quality or availability of

Library services, building code enforcement, zoning code enforcement and street/road maintenance, with snow removal and police protection being close behind. Services least satisfied with included recreational facilities for adults, healthcare, childcare.

Areas where respondents indicated that the town and villages could share services were transportation and community center services. Other suggestions included: the need for a 4 way stop at Mechanic and Chappell which is very dangerous for drivers, walkers, children with speeding cars ignoring the crosswalk; highway equipment and 3 DPW's; fire and rescue services; more sidewalks on Jordan Rd (Elbridge St.) especially between Jordan Methodist Church and Jordan Village were also mentioned.

Respondents expressed mixed opinions on the need for and effectiveness of zoning regulations in the Town of Elbridge and the Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. Comments mentioned concern about two smoke shops in the village of Elbridge; ATVs in area (Valley Dr.) that says no motorized vehicles; more businesses like a restaurant or coffee shop; better regulation governing boarding houses and halfway houses; Zoning can be restrictive to smaller property owners and farmers, however if used correctly it can be helpful in a rural farming community; Building a structure that has to be 25 ft from the property line is excessive; Conversions of garages to living spaces with no permit; Lack of enforcement of zoning regulations (porch propped up by 2 by 4's for over 4 years); Visit www.strongtowns.org - seeks to replace America's post-war pattern of development with a pattern of development that is financially strong and resilient; Need regulations for AirBNBs; Do not want route 5 to become another Cicero in appearance with business that promote unhealthy lifestyles/habits; Need stricter zoning for businesses that would not allow CDB on a corner where kids walk to school; Do not need additional commercial zoning on Route 5.

More respondents than not indicated that there is a shortage of Senior Citizen and Assisted Living housing, and especially Low/Moderate Income Individual and Younger Generational Housing in the Elbridge Area. However, nearly as many respondents indicated there is no shortage of Low/Moderate Income Housing.

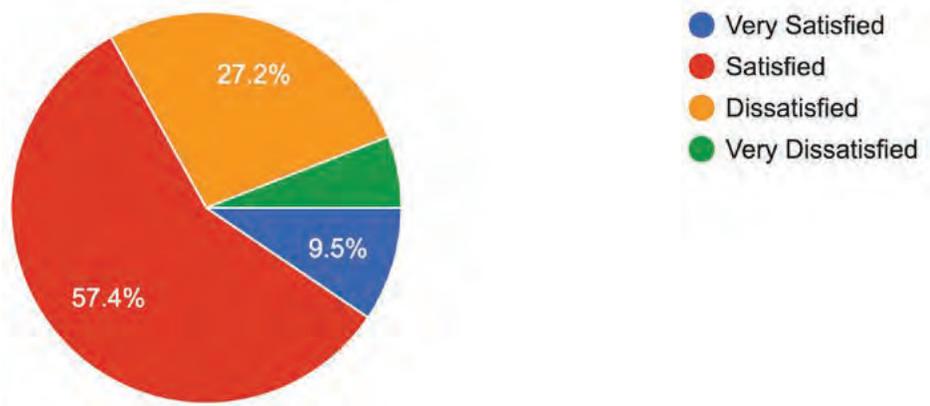


Most respondents indicated that residential development should be encouraged in and around the villages in small lots in order to maintain the village character, with large lot subdivisions and clustered where possible also suggested. 84% agreed that outside the villages, new residential development should respect and retain the towns rural character.

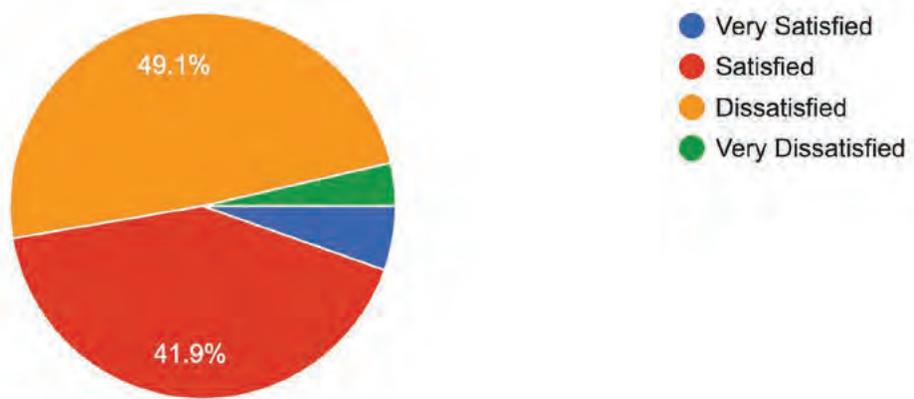
The kinds of commercial development respondent would most like to see the Elbridge area attract were restaurants other than fast food; hardware and lumber; and personal services.

To manage commercial development and traffic conditions along the NYS Route 5 Corridor, respondents selected: Advocate for additional traffic signal control in high use areas; Regulate the size, location, and lighting of signs; and Encourage use of shared access roads to businesses.

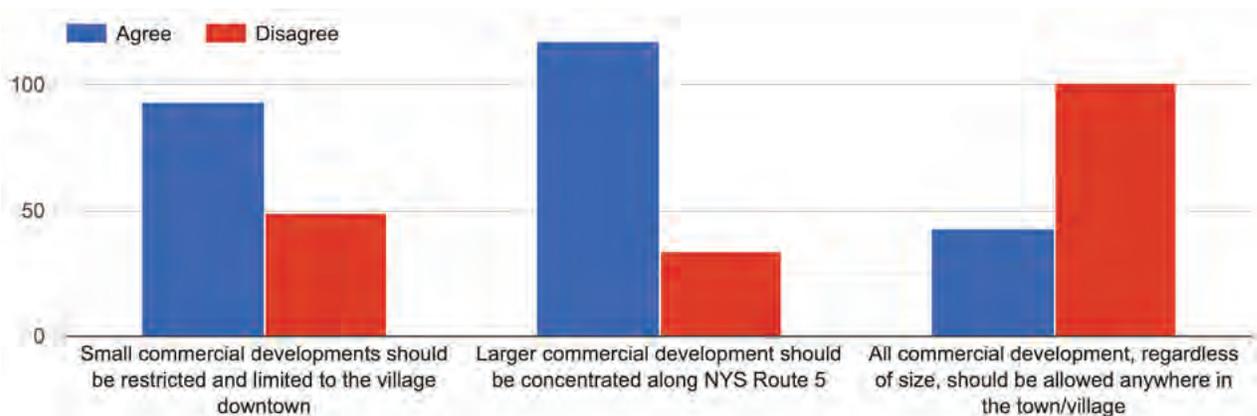
Varying degrees of quality of existing commercial/retail services in the Elbridge area were assessed by respondents below.



A significant portion (49.1%) of respondents were dissatisfied with the RANGE of existing commercial/retail services in the Elbridge area, however about the same number were either satisfied or very satisfied.



As far as where smaller and larger commercial developments should be located in the Town, respondents were clear that smaller commercial developments belong in the village downtowns with the larger ones concentrated along Route 5.



Most respondents reported that at least some new light industrial development should be encouraged, providing any of industrial development is environmentally sound and carefully located in the Elbridge area is shown in the chart below. Only 7.7% of respondents felt that Elbridge needs as much new industrial development of any kind as can be attained, and almost 1/3 of respondents felt little or no increased industrial development is needed.



Respondents indicated the top kind of industries to be encouraged to locate in the Elbridge area are Agribusiness, Research & development, and Business/financial, with light manufacturing and tourism visitation following.

Respondents strongly indicated that Elbridge should protect the Quality of wildlife habitat, Diversity and abundance of wildlife populations, Opportunities for fishing and hunting, Opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature walks, Air quality, and especially Water quality in the community's lakes, streams and rivers. Over 85% said Elbridge be concerned about protecting open space. When it came to why respondents think open space should be protected, the number one reason was to help maintain rural character, followed by both to preserve forested lands and to preserve the historic canal area character. Other reasons included to preserve remaining productive agricultural lands, to protect wetlands and sensitive area, to protect scenic vistas, and to manage development along the waterways.

Respondents strongly agreed that over the next five years, recreational opportunities should be increased. They largely either strongly agreed or agreed or along with residential construction, attracting new agricultural business or services, and controlling the RATE of development. Attracting new businesses or commercial development was supported by the majority of respondents with significant support and strong support, but not as strongly as the other types of development.

When asked if the Town/Village of Elbridge should enact and/or be more aggressive in enforcing existing laws, respondents said yes to laws that pertain to: Abandoned and dilapidated buildings, Absentee Landlord Properties, Unsightly trash and junk accumulation, Landfills, dumps, and disposal sites and Junk car and Machinery storage, and Regulation of signs.

Most respondents said no to more aggressive enforcement of existing laws pertaining to Regulation of wood burning furnaces, but this may have been a confusing question because it does not distinguish woodstove from outdoor wood boilers. According to Cornell Cooperative Extension “Outdoor wood boilers (OWBs), which have so far avoided Federal regulation, release four to 12 times more emissions than wood stoves and 10 to 20 times more emissions than EPA-certified wood stoves. An outdoor wood boiler is any furnace, stove or boiler designed to burn wood, where the unit is not located within a building intended for habitation by humans or domestic animals. They are also known as water stoves and wood-fired hydronic heaters and typically look like small utility buildings with a smokestack. The significant environmental and health impacts of OWBs result from excess smoke caused by frequent on-off cycling, oxygen-deprived burning conditions, and low smokestacks...because of their large fireboxes and the fact that they are situated outside, they are prone to abuse, with users commonly burning wet wood and leaves and even garbage, animal carcasses, old asphalt roofing tiles, and other extremely harmful materials. The New York State Department of Health website has information related to OWBs, including for residents considering buying these units, and for anyone affected by a neighbors OWB smoke.”⁷⁹ This is something to consider the need Elbridge may have for regulatory language or enforcement.

Most respondents also said no more aggressive enforcement of existing laws pertaining to Operation of home businesses, and Snowmobiles and ATV usage.

A majority of survey respondents strongly indicated that the Route 5 Corridor in the town and village should be planned in a manner that will Promote safer traffic conditions in the Village of Elbridge, Preserve the town’s Rural Character, and Meet the needs of local pedestrian and vehicular traffic. They also indicated that the Route 5 Corridor in the town and village should be planned in a manner that will attract new residents (44%) and tourism (28%).

79 <https://warren.cce.cornell.edu/natural-resources/heating-with-wood/health-and-emissions>

Respondents expressed satisfaction with the many recreational facilities and events in the Elbridge area, including The Community Center, The Pavillion at Town Hall, Lock 51 Park & Erie, Canal Trail, Jordan Memorial Pool, and Seymore Loft Park & Sports Fields. Issues that ranked as most important to respondents related to the recreational needs of the Elbridge area included Pedestrian pathways in and around the villages, Bicycle pathways in and around the villages, Year-round multi use community building in the Village of Elbridge, Non-motorized recreational trails, and Bolder pedestrian crosswalks on Route 5.

Individual comments made on the community survey included: “No mention of noise issues or limits. This needs to be addressed & dealt with.”

“No mention of dog issues..... and there ARE ongoing roaming dog issues.”

“Development needs to be strongly monitored. We don’t need more apartments, condos, or trailer parks. We have too many already. They put a bigger tax burden on the individual property owner.”

“Trash fees to high. Was told to help road repair at town meeting. Don’t see a corolation???”

“I think it’s great that the village and town are interested in hearing from the residents. Elbridge is a nice village but just needs a bit work (mostly commercial wise) Honestly, just improving the Tops plaza and the corner of south and 5 would be huge for the town. Just nicer looking buildings and businesses. Pricechopper does nice looking plazas in small towns.”

“Cottage businesses. Get that dotted line solid from Elbridge west to Hamilton. Maintain the charm of the villages and please have sign regulations for shops. The smoke shops look tacky.”

“Please keep the small town feel. We do not need to add additional businesses along route 5”

“I think Jordan Elbridge School and the educators are the best. They truly care about education. We moved here specifically for this reason and have never been disappointed. We live in a very well connected community. I am proud to live here.”

“Need crosswalks with lighted warnings for Rt. 5 in the Village of Elbridge. Better enforcement of School speed zones”

“The Elbridge & Jordan Rod & Gun Club need to be updated and a Scholastic Team should be created through the high school!”

“I love this area and my neighbors. I would like to see more shops like a Skaneateles away from Skaneateles. I love driving home from city to see farming fields. In general I think you all are doing amazing jobs as our village and town boards.”

“Why was youngholm lane paved and then a month later tar and stoned. Makes no sense. Also the speed limit coming out of Jordan on 31 should be extended past the Jordan Mini Mart. People are easily hitting 60+ by the mini mart and there are young kids and animals in the area”

“Widen brown st and McCollum rd, add speed bumps or better way to regulate traffic for non resident usage”

“Cost of living and employment opportunities are very important to our family. We would like the cost of living to referent the median wage in the area”

“Multiple people drugged out recovering addicts roam the streets of Jordan that are from Helio health that the landowner needs to be held responsible for amount of drugs coming in”

“Vet property owners who are bringing in renters who cause a disrupt to the neighborhood/community. Over the past few years, the number of drugged out mentally ill people are wandering the streets of Jordan. They trace back to a few homes.”

“The sidewalks in Elbridge are not an issue. The sidewalks in Jordan need a lot of improvement and are very uneven and unsafe. Jordan should get rid of using garbage stickers like Elbridge did. The sewer bill being more than 3 times the amount of the water bill is very high, people I know living in other areas with sewer are not paying anything close to that. Given all these issues it leaves me concerned with how our tax money is being used in the village of Jordan and that is the one thing that makes me want to leave this village. I would rather live in Elbridge due to this.”

“I believe our taxes especially the school taxes are out of control. We are one of the highest in Onondaga County. We need to bring in more businesses and more affordable housing to generate more money coming into our community that will help lesson the burden on the current residents. Elbridge (Rt 5) is a perfect opportunity for our community to gain so much (financially). Thousands of people commute that route on a daily basis. Let’s not do another mistake like Jordan did by denying the thruway exit to be here. We could be a more thriving community like Weedsport but no - let’s keep our rustic charm and by doing that the middle aged

middle income residents are struggling to pay these ridiculous tax bills. These people will retire leave the village, town even state and who will be here to keep this village afloat? I have no idea because our high school graduates are going off to college and are not returning here to call this place home.”

“Our community is in desperate need of a daycare facility, so our kids have a safe place to grow with other community members.”

“Love the community here. Lived in few countries and few states.”

“Historical preservation and visual aesthetics are very important. Recreational space is important. Apartments are a terrible idea.”

“If I didn’t have such a good paying job it would be difficult to afford the taxes.”

“I believe that invigorating or reconfiguring the two fairly empty plazas off of Main Street in the Village of Elbridge should be one of the highest priorities.”

“Less trailer parks and clean up Jordan... too much crime / drugs in Jordan”

“I love the rural character of this area, but it has become too busy, too expensive, and too liberal to live here. I don’t know how to encourage businesses without being judgmental on who may come.”

“I have lived here for 56 years and worked here for 33+. I love it here and encourage people to stay here and outsiders to visit because of our “rural-ish” qualities, but if we continue to encourage urban sprawl, we’re going to lose all of those qualities that so many of us love so much. And even worse, we won’t have any green space for our children and their children in the future.”

“The town on a whole would benefit with the addition of recreational facilities of some sort for adults, ie bowling alley, or recreation/fitness hall. There is nothing to do here. Also, the village of Elbridge is starting to look very unwell kept. It used to be so charming. Mostly everyone I speak too is displeased about two smoke shops in the village - WHY was this allowed? We especially do not need two convenience stores. We were told it was going to be a sandwich shop, which would have been very welcomed. The corner of main and north/south streets now looks very unpleasant and definitely bringing down the aesthetic of our village. Something needs to be done. We have a very untapped potential. We should have grown and

encourage businesses like bread & breakfasts, farmers markets, and/ or antiques. Something that would attract businesses but allow us to retain the quaintness of our small & historic community. When i told people i lived in the village of elbridge their eyes would light up and say - oh in one of those beautiful historic homes? We need to look at the community without our rose colored glasses and say - would i live here?"

"Keep the village streets and sidewalks safe for the kids"

"There is a lot of walking traffic on Kingston Rd, which has crumbling shoulders and speeding cars. Sidewalks from at least part of Kingston Rd into the village would be a huge improvement."

"The government that governs best is the government that governs least. Lowering taxes and creative ways to cut spending and allow citizens to keep much more of their hard earned money should be a priority."

"People are tapped out, especially now. Government and the school need to start tightening their belts and doing away unnecessary expenditures, just like people who manage their homes. If there isnt money for something then you either need to cut spending, save up, or do without, not increase taxes on property owners."

"I have much more to say on this and would love to share ideas, but anything that is going to increase the burden on your taxpaying base should absolutely not happen. People are struggling now, and it seems many of those in authority dont seem to understand that and see the only solution to things is raise taxes to create more revenue."

"Need to maintain a compatible relationship between agriculture and development while maintaining a rural township. This takes strategic planning and cooperation. This Town is unique with three layers of government. There is a need to share more services including emergency (Fire and EMS) whenever possible. A good example of this is the Jordan -Elbridge School District. Getting everyone to work together as a team rather than worrying about their own turf is important."

Joint Town of Elbridge, Villages of Elbridge and Jordan Comprehensive Plan: Climate Resiliency Appendix

2024



Climate Smart
Communities



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

Credits & Acknowledgements

Town of Elbridge Government Officials

- Vern J. Richardson – Town Supervisor
- Douglas Blumer – Town Councilor
- Floyd Duger - Town Councilor
- Mike Caron – Town Councilor
- Todd Platten – Town Councilor

Village of Elbridge Government Officials

- Christopher A. DeCola – Village Mayor
- Anthony W. DeMarco – Village Trustee
- Stephanie A. Harris – Village Trustee
- Gary Ellingworth – Village Trustee
- Patrick V. Ely – Village Trustee

Village of Jordan Government Officials

- Casey Brim – Village Mayor
- Mark Gustafson – Deputy Mayor
- Joshua Bates – Village Trustee
- Karen Simko – Village Trustee
- Timothy Stapleton – Village Trustee

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

- Chris Carrick – Program Manager, Energy Management
- Jean Gleisner – Program Manager Community Development and Comprehensive Planning
- Michael Boccuzzi – Planner (**Principal Author**)

The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) is a public agency that was established in 1966 by Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties under the provisions of Article 12B of the New York State General Municipal Law. The CNY RPDB provides a comprehensive range of services associated with the growth and development of communities in Central New York with a focus on the following program areas: Energy Management, Community Development, Economic Development, Environmental Management, Information and Research Services, Intergovernmental Coordination, and Transportation Planning.

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Introduction

Climate Change & Future Risk

Climate change refers to long-term changes in global temperatures and weather patterns, and the subsequent effects of these changes. Throughout Earth's history these global changes have been caused by natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions and variations in the solar cycle. Since industrialization however, global climate change has been influenced by the combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas. Anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, driven largely by economic and population growth, have led to atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide that are unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years.¹

Ever increasing GHG emissions are having a significant impact on global temperatures through a process known as the greenhouse effect. Under normal circumstances, the greenhouse effect is what allows the Earth to be warm enough to be habitable for humans and other species. Because of emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels and other anthropogenic sources, the greenhouse effect is contributing to a significant and rapid increase in global temperatures.² Since the 1970s, temperatures have risen between 0.32-0.55F each decade. 9 out of the top 10 warmest years on record for the contiguous 48 States have occurred since 1998.³ There is a rising concern in the consequences of increasing global temperatures, which can include (but is not limited to) more intense and frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, floods, drought, reduction in biodiversity, and increased risk of disease and epidemics. Governments in partnership with the private sector, should seek to reduce GHG emitting activities, and encourage any remaining operations to mitigate negative consequences.

New York State has been a leader in taking action to reduce emissions. In 2019, the State Legislature adopted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (also known as the Climate Act) which sets ambitious emissions reduction targets, including a goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Despite current and future efforts to reduce GHG emissions, some of the effects of climate change will be inevitable, due to the elevated level of GHGs currently in the atmosphere. Therefore, it is crucial that climate change mitigation is paired with adaptation

¹ IPCC. (2014). Fifth Assessment Report. Retrieved from <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>.

² IPCC. (2007). Fourth Assessment Report.

³ EPA. (2023). Climate Change Indicators: U.S. and Global Temperature. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-us-and-global-temperature>

measures that help build the capacity for economic, social, and environmental resilience in our communities.

What is Climate Change Adaptation & Resiliency?

Climate change adaptation and resiliency refers to the ability of a community to adjust to current or anticipated future climate conditions. A resilient community is one that can quickly bounce back after major climate events or disruptions. This appendix to the joint Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge comprehensive plan serves as a strategy document that analyzes current and future climate hazards, identifies vulnerabilities and policy gaps, and co-creates a vision for community climate adaptation and resilience strategies. It is important to note that the strategies and goals outlined in this document are not binding, and the Town and two Villages do not have to commit to the implementation of any of the recommendations.

This climate change adaptation and resiliency appendix was created in part thanks to the Town of Elbridge's participation in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. The CSC program is a partnership between New York State and local governments to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while adapting to a changing climate and fostering a green economy. Participating communities adopt a ten element Climate Smart Communities Pledge. These elements are:

1. Build a climate-smart community.
2. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
3. Decrease energy use.
4. Shift to clean, renewable energy.
5. Use Climate-Smart materials management.
6. Implement climate-smart land use.
7. Enhance community resilience to climate change.
8. Support a green innovation economy.
9. Inform and inspire the public.
10. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

Climate Change Risks

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge must prepare for the unpredictability of a planet impacted by climate change. When discussing climate change, the focus often tends to be on the mitigation and reduction of emissions. Although mitigation efforts are key to reaching positive outcomes when dealing with climate change, there is a need to prepare for existing and future potential impacts of a changing climate. It's important to remember these three points when thinking about climate change mitigation and adaptation:

1. Fossil fuel emissions adversely affect the environment, and if not reduced immediately, the impacts of these emissions will continue to get worse, and adaptation will become exponentially more difficult to implement.
2. Despite best efforts to reduce GHG emissions, some climate change impacts will be inevitable.
3. Therefore, it is crucial that climate mitigation actions are paired with adaptation and community resiliency, so that communities are better suited to respond when faced with the impacts of this ecological crisis.

It is important to note that climate change does not impact everyone equally. Certain populations are more vulnerable to climate change than others. For example, children and the elderly are at a higher risk of heat stroke during an extreme heat event compared to other segments of the populations.⁴ Low to moderate income residents may not necessarily have the means to repair their homes after a major flood event, and unhoused individuals may be at significant physical risk during winter storm events if

WHAT IS A DAC?

The New York State Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Criteria is a set of indicators developed by the New York Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) used to identify disadvantaged communities in New York State. The CJWG, comprised of representatives from state agencies and environmental justice groups across the state, was formed to identify DACs and ensure these communities directly benefit from the State's transition to cleaner, greener sources of energy, reduced pollution and cleaner air, and economic opportunities. The CJWG used 45 indicators to identify 35% of New York as DACs. The percentile ranks of the indicators for each census tract are combined to produce a value that measures a census tract's relative level of "Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks," as well as "Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities" relative to other tracts.

⁴ USGCRP. (2018). Fourth National Climate Assessment Volume II: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States.

they lack adequate shelter with heat. The Town of Elbridge, including the Villages of Jordan and Elbridge is defined as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) under the New York State Climate Justice Working Group DAC criteria. This means that the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge are more vulnerable to climate events compared to non-disadvantaged communities across the state. The reason for this is because DACs are often located in geographies that render them more susceptible to climate change risks while also potentially lacking the resources to adapt and mitigate those risks. The demographics of a community help contextualize climate change risks and vulnerabilities. For this reason, readers are encouraged to refer to the “Chapter 2: Community Analysis” portion of the Joint Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan to understand the history of the community and key community demographic information.

Extreme Weather Events in the Community

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan have been impacted by extreme weather and climate events in the past. Below, is a list of major events identified by the Town and both Villages during the 2019 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Table 1. Hazard Event History: Town of Elbridge

April-May 2011	Severe Storms, Flooding – No damages reported.
July 1, 2015	Flash Flood – No damages reported.
July 1, 2017	Flash Flood – Mudslides on Kester Road. Cleanup and shoulder repair.
Spring 2018	Seneca River Flooding – Debris and damage to private properties.

Table 2. Hazard Event History: Village of Elbridge

April-May 2011	Severe Storms, Flooding – Required overtime by DPW.
July 1, 2015	Flash Flood – Required overtime by DPW.
July 1, 2017	Flash Flood – Required overtime by DPW.

Table 3. Hazard Event History: Village of Jordan

April – May 2011	Severe Storms, Flooding – Village was impacted, but no records of damages.
July 1, 2015	Flash Flood – Village was impacted, but no records of damages.
July 1, 2017	Flash Flood – Village was impacted, but no records of damages.
Spring 2018	Flooding – Seneca River flooding caused debris and required cleanup.

Critical Assets and Risk

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan contain several local and regional assets that include both the built and natural environments. These assets represent critical infrastructure or natural areas that are vital to the function and wellbeing of the community. The maps on the following pages from the 2019 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies key facilities in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan and their relation to floodplains, unstable soils, and steep slopes.

Figure 2: Village of Elbridge Hazard Area Extent and Location Map, Source: Onondaga County HMP

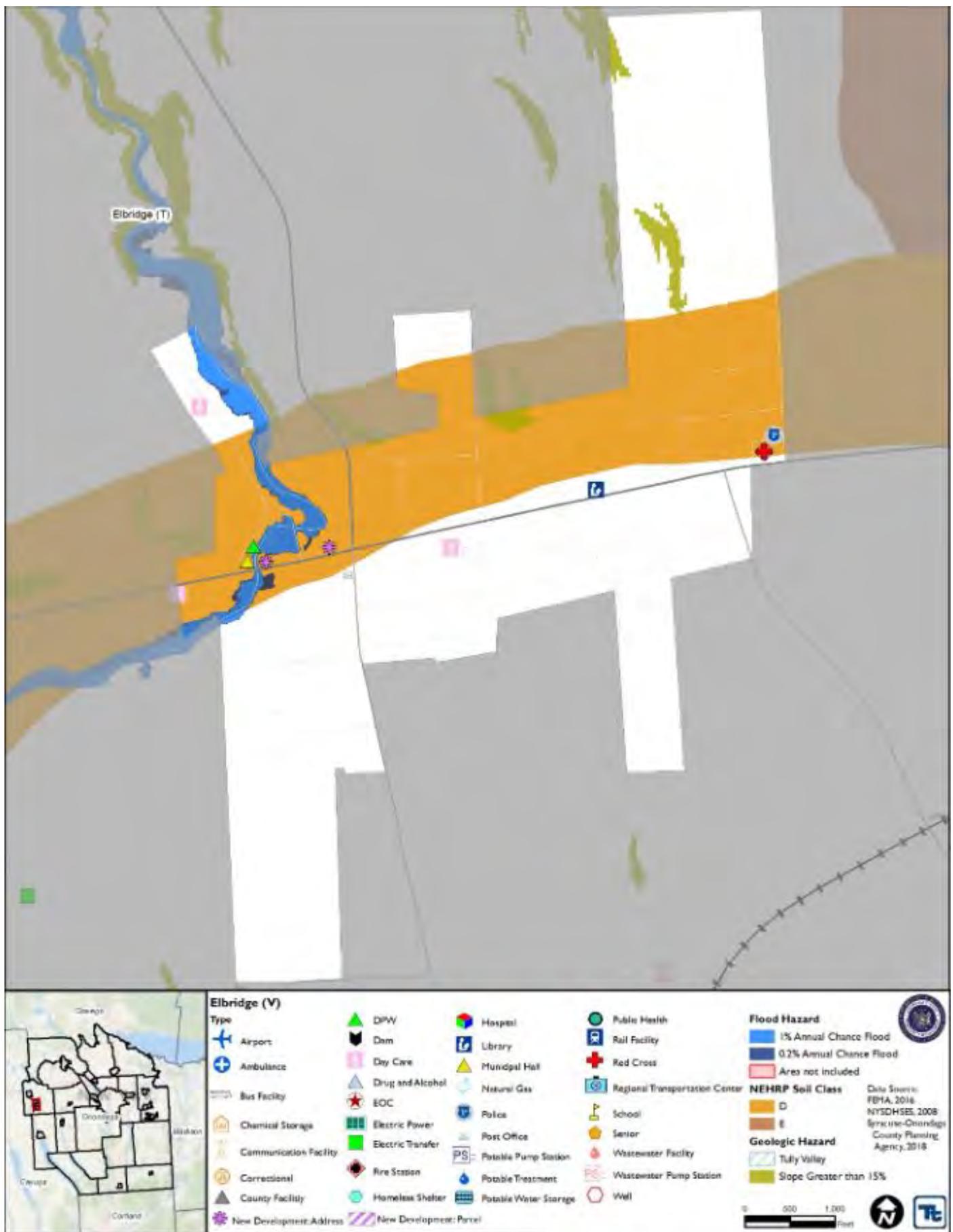
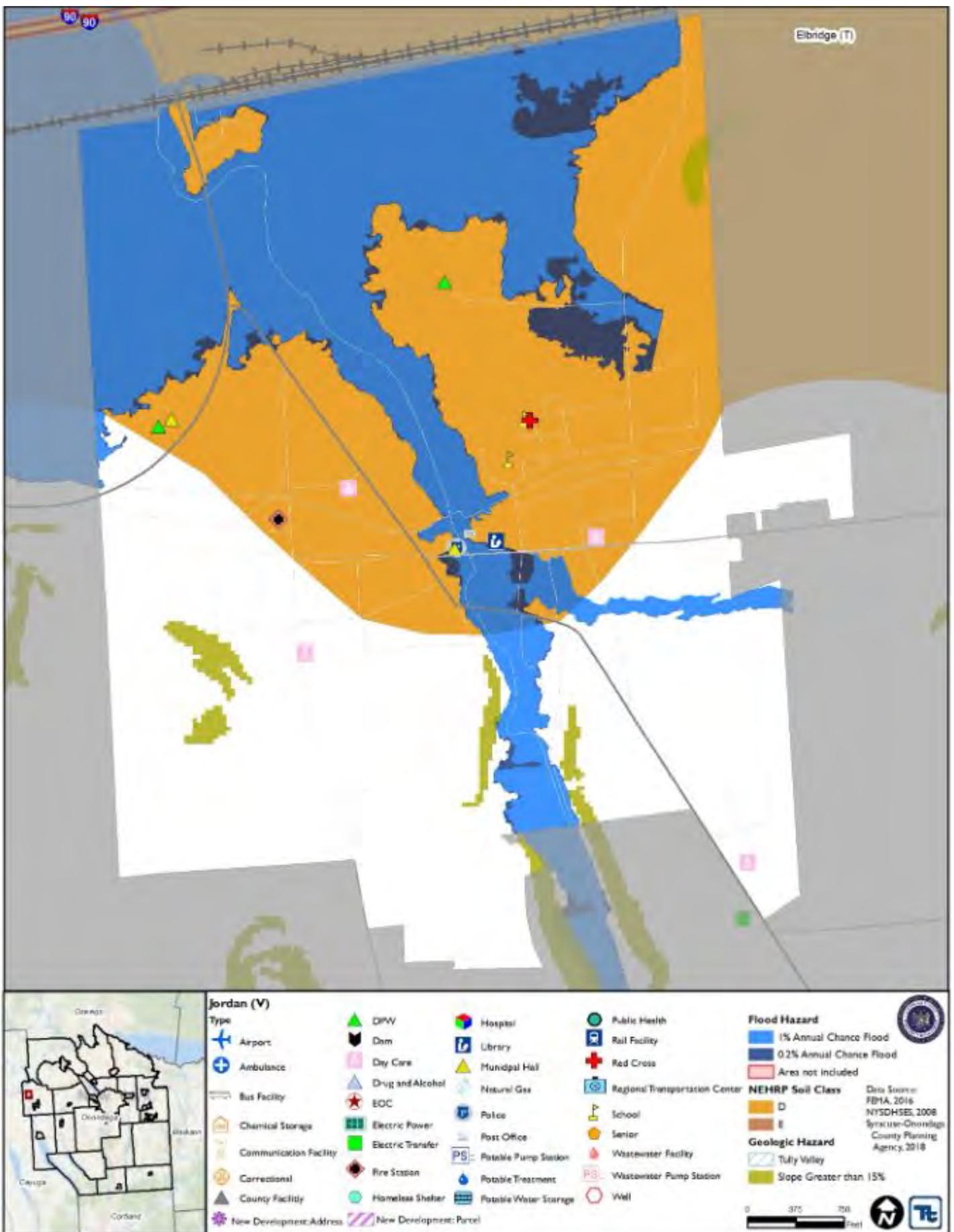


Figure 3. Village of Jordan Hazard Area Extent and Location Map, Source: Onondaga County HMP



The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan contain natural assets that provide environmental benefits to the community. These may include public parks, forested land, and wetlands. Below are a few maps depicting the locations of these natural features.

Figure 4. Wetlands in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan

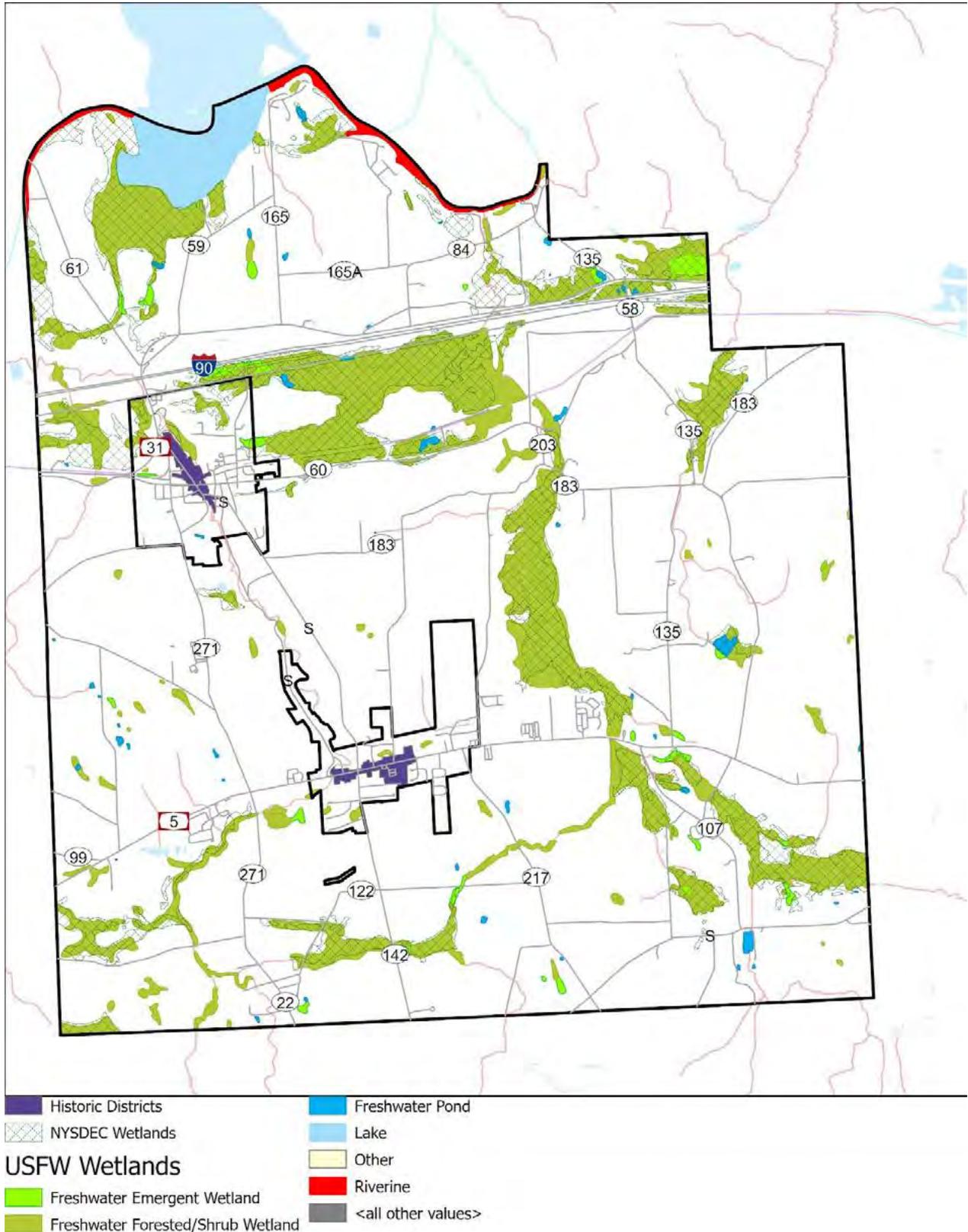
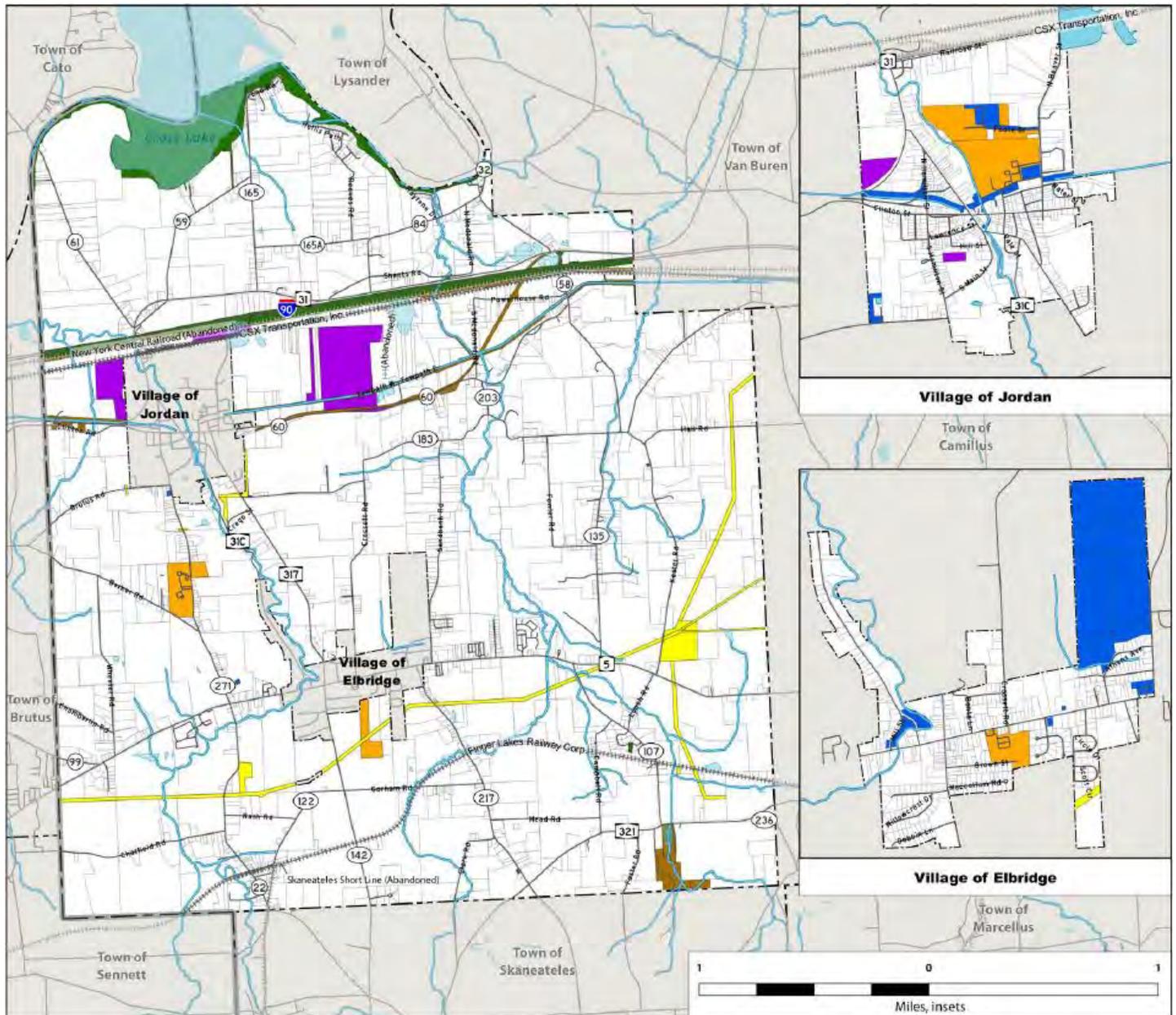


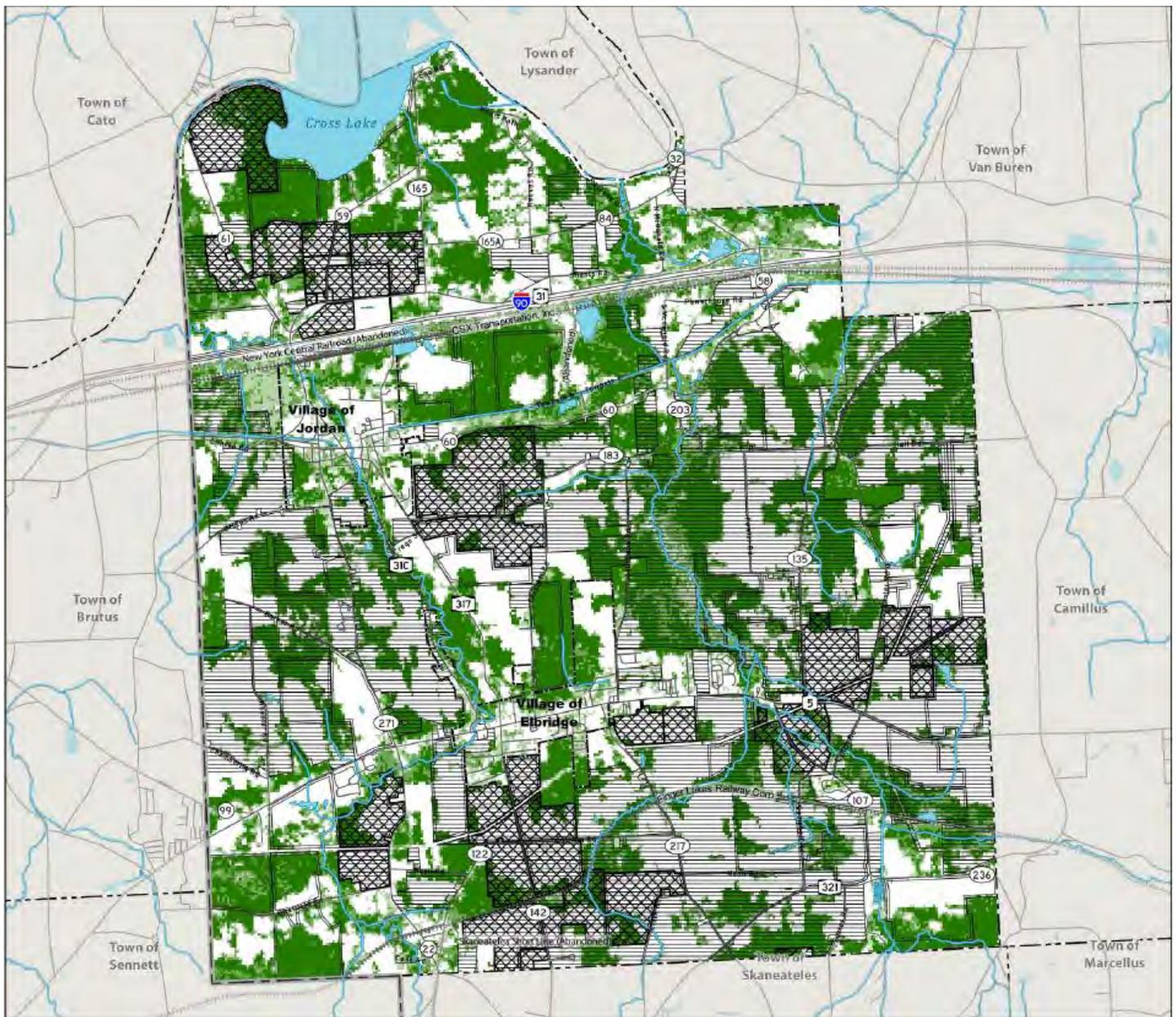
Figure 5. Public Lands in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan



Legend

- Roads
- Railroads
- County
- Town
- Villages
- Tax Parcels
- State
- County
- Town
- Village
- School
- Public Utility

Figure 6. Agriculture & Forested Lands in the Town of Elbridge



Legend

- Roads
- ⋯ Railroads
- ▭ County
- ▭ Town
- ▭ Villages
- ▭ 100 Acres or More
- ▭ PDR Farmland
- Agricultural Districts
- Forest Cover, %
 - ▭ ≤ 25
 - ▭ 25 - 50
 - ▭ 50 - 75
 - ▭ > 75

The 2019 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan ranks the relative risk factor of several hazards in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan. The ranking process involves an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence for each hazard, along with its potential impacts on people, property, and the economy as well as community capability and changing future climate conditions. Please note that although “extreme heat” is not listed as a hazard on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Town and Villages recognize the threat that extreme heat poses to residents. As a result, extreme heat will be covered as a potential future climate hazard in this document.

Table 4. Town of Elbridge Hazard Ranking Input

Flood	Invasive Species	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm
Medium	High	High	High

Table 5. Village of Elbridge Hazard Ranking Input

Flood	Invasive Species	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm
Medium	Low	High	High

Table 6. Village of Jordan Hazard Ranking Input

Flood	Invasive Species	Severe Storm	Severe Winter Storm
Medium	Low	High	High

Extreme Precipitation and Flooding

Vulnerabilities

Extreme precipitation events present a significant flood risk to communities. There are a number of waterways in the Town and Villages that, while being significant natural assets to the community, also present a certain level of flood risk. The Seneca River, Skaneateles Creek, and Carpenter’s Brook run through the Town, with Cross Lake located at the Northwestern end of the Town on the border of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties. An extreme precipitation event may cause flooding along these waterways, especially if a large amount of rain falls in a concentrated area over a short period of time. A number of properties are located within the 100-year floodplains of these waterways. The Village of Jordan in particular is vulnerable to flooding as Skaneateles Creek runs right through the center of it. Homes and businesses (including the Jordan Village Offices) along Elbridge St, Mechanic St, and North Main Street near the center of the Village are within the 100-year floodplain. Properties on the Northern edge of the Village along Route 31 may be at risk as well. There are a number of homes along Cross Lake. The lake

flushes completely once per week and acts as a natural floodplain for the Seneca River. As a result, properties along the lake are prone to flooding. Many of these properties do not have basements and experience primarily nuisance flooding (i.e. flooding on the property or less than 1” of water in their homes). Nonetheless, it is important for residents to be aware of the risks of living near this body of water.

In addition to flooding along bodies of water, other parts of the Town of Elbridge outside of the floodplain present flood hazards to residents. Elbridge has a number of steep slopes throughout the Town. Loss of vegetation, combined with increased precipitation from climate change leads to these slopes acting as sheets for water to flow down into residential and commercial properties. Instances of this type of flooding are difficult to track, as they rely on residents to self-report when flooding occurs. Often, residents outside of the floodplain will not have flood insurance and may be unable to repair their homes after a major storm event. Steep slopes and unstable soils also create a landslide risk, which may block road access to trapped residents. Locations such as Valley Drive are particularly vulnerable to this hazard.

Future Climate Scenarios

Though it is difficult to predict exact outcomes of climate change, we can estimate a range of future climate scenarios. In 2024, New York State released the interim version of the New York State Climate Impacts Assessment: Understanding and Preparing for Our Changing Climate report which explores current and future climate change impacts to New York State communities, ecosystems, and economy. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) assembled more than 250 New York-based, national, and Indigenous climate experts and representatives from diverse communities and industries across the state to contribute to the assessment. The assessment provides a credible, science-based analysis of what to expect from climate change in New York State.⁵

Precipitation is expected to increase in winter and spring across the entire state. Winter precipitation is expected to increase by 6-17% in the 2050s and 14-29% in the 2080s in the region. Projections for the summer and fall are less clear, ranging from increases of up to 5% in the Great Lakes region or decreases of up to 7% by 2080. Increases in the frequency and intensity of heavy precipitation have been observed and are expected to continue well into the

⁵ Stevens, A., & Lamie, C., Eds. (2024). New York State Climate Impacts Assessment: Understanding and preparing for our changing climate. <https://nysclimateimpacts.org>

21st century. Climate change will lead to warmer air, warmer bodies of water, and increased evaporation that will contribute to the formation of more intense storms.

Figure 7. Regional Change in Precipitation

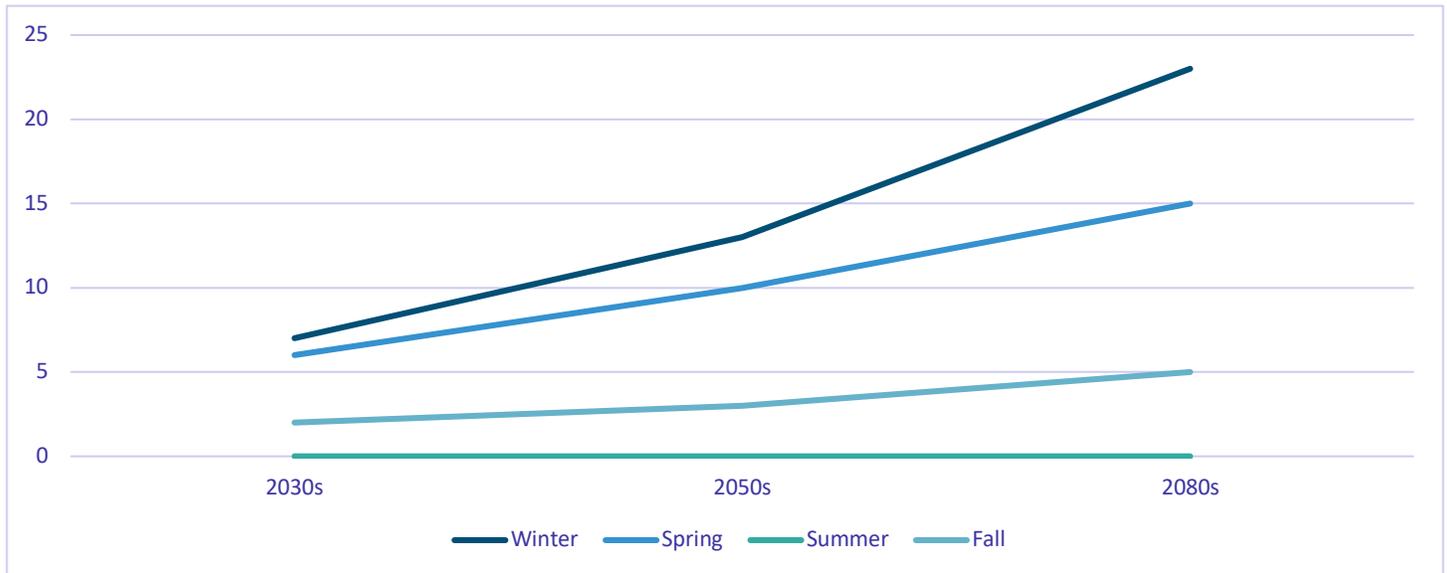
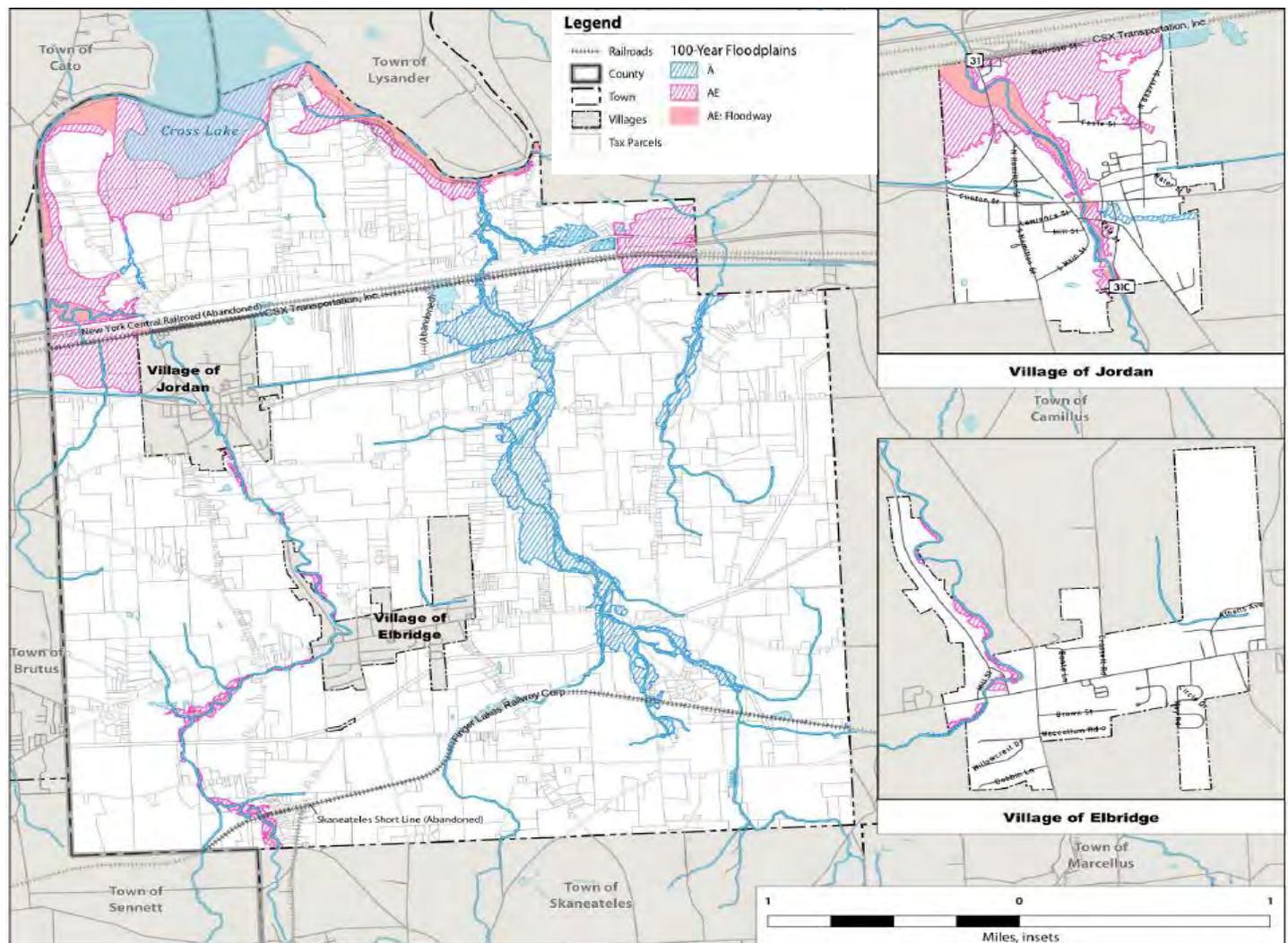


Figure 8. Floodplains in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge



Extreme Heat

Vulnerabilities

Temperatures are increasing in the United States and across the globe. According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, since 1901 the average surface temperature across the contiguous 48 states has risen an average of 0.17°F per decade. Since the late 1970s this rate has increased to 0.32-0.55°F per decade. Nine of the top ten warmest years on record for the contiguous 48 states have occurred since 1998, with 2023 being the warmest year on record. The definition of an extreme heat event varies depending on location and weather conditions, but generally speaking an extreme heat event is a series of unusually hot days. Because of climate change, extreme heat events will become more common, more severe, and last longer. In addition to record high temperatures during the day, hot summer nights have been increasing as well. This is concerning because it prevents recovery from exposure to daytime extreme heat.

Rising temperatures present several health risks, especially in the summertime, when heat waves may become more frequent because of climate change. Extreme heat causes more fatalities than any other weather-related hazard.⁶ According to The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States report by the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), an estimated 65,000 Americans on average visit the emergency room due to some form of heat illness.⁷ According to the CDC, an estimated 1,714 deaths were due to heat-related causes in 2022.

Although anyone can be impacted by extreme heat events, some populations are more vulnerable than others. The CDC states that there are three key factors that put some people at higher risk than others.

1. **Exposure:** Certain individuals and populations are more exposed to heat than others. Those who spend significant amounts of time working outside, people experiencing homelessness, and people who live in buildings without air conditioning are at higher risk.
2. **Sensitivity:** Some people may be less tolerant of heat than others. Older adults, pregnant women, infants, and young children are considered higher risk populations. People with certain health conditions or under a medication that affects the body's ability to regulate temperature

⁶ CDC. (2016). Climate Change and Extreme Heat: What You Can Do to Prepare.

⁷ USGCRP. (2016). The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment

are also at risk. Many individuals with substance-use disorders may be unable to stay hydrated, increasing their chances of heat illness during an extreme heat event.

3. Ability to respond and prepare: Some people are less capable of avoiding heat than others. Those with limited incomes in particular are at risk, as they may not be able to afford cooling solutions such as air conditioning or proper insulation. Individuals with mobility issues or without vehicles may not be able to seek health care or get to a cooling center during a heat wave. Pets or those with outdoor jobs may also contribute to a person's inability to respond and prepare for a heatwave. People who live alone may not have someone who can assist them in the event of a medical emergency due to a heat wave.

Heatwaves can be a threat to energy infrastructure because significant amounts of electricity are needed to power air conditioning units and heat pumps. Extreme heat events tend to be regional in nature, so this additional load is felt not only in Elbridge, but across the entire region. The current capacity of the grid may not be able to handle this load, leading to blackouts which can put even more people in danger. For this reason, all levels of government and utility companies need to assess current grid capacity, identify bottlenecks, and work to improve grid resiliency and capacity so that it can withstand a hazard event such as a heatwave.

In addition to these three factors, location plays a major role in exposure to extreme heat events. Urban and suburban areas with little vegetation and many conventional roofs and pavements (especially asphalt parking lots) absorb a significant amount of thermal energy from the Sun. These areas will reach higher daytime temperatures and have less nighttime cooling compared to other, more vegetated areas. This is known as the urban heat island effect. It is a common misconception that urban heat islands are only located in large cities. Urban heat islands can occur anywhere there is a significant amount of impervious, non-reflective surfaces, including the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge. It is important to understand this concept, as it helps inform strategies and future development practices to reduce the urban heat island.

Future Climate Scenarios

The NYS Climate Impacts Assessment predicts that extreme temperatures, high heat-index days (a combination of heat and humidity), and the frequency of multiday heat waves will increase in all regions of New York State through the 21st century. All regions are expected to warm by 5-11°F from the 1981-2010 baseline to the 2080s.

Figure 8. Days over 90°F

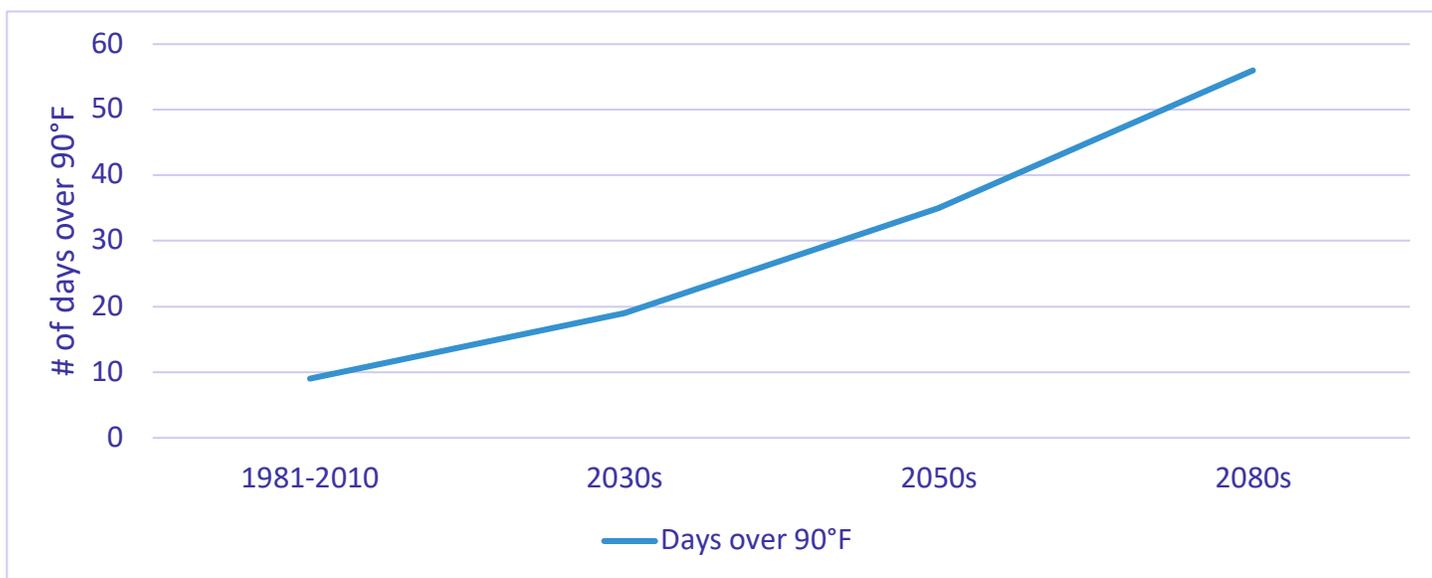
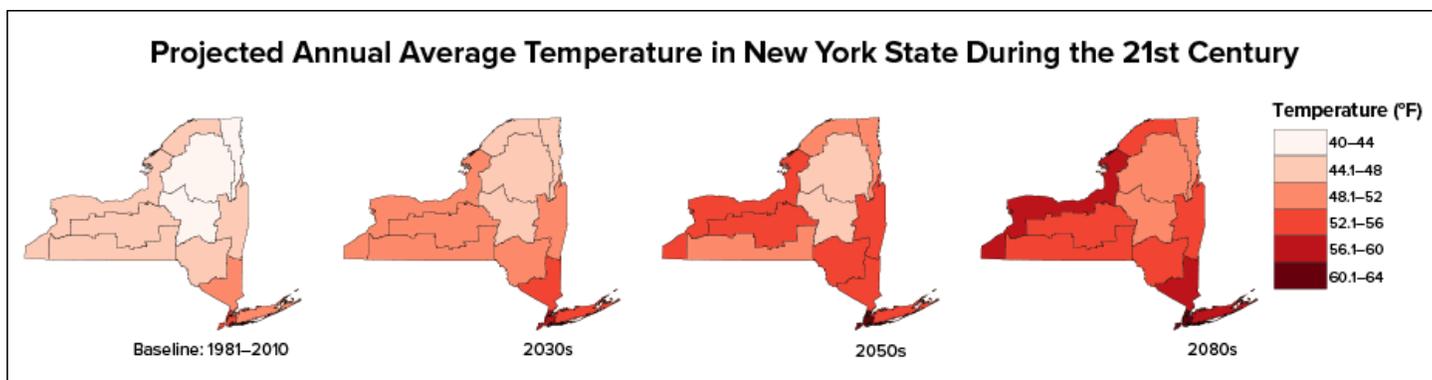


Figure 10. Projected Annual Average Temperature in New York State During the 21st Century, Source: NYS Climate Impacts Assessment



Extreme Cold & Winter Storms

Vulnerabilities

Although climate change is typically associated with a warming planet, it may have an impact on how winters are experienced in Central New York. Across the United States, winters have been getting warmer, with the warming most pronounced in the Great Lakes and Northeast Region.⁸ Despite the warmer winters, cold snaps can still happen, and this warm weather may impact the intensity and severity of these storms.

⁸ Climate Central. (2022). 2022 Winter Package.

Warmer winters allow for more moisture to be held in the atmosphere. Because of climate change, evaporation from large water bodies such as the Atlantic Ocean increases. This, in combination with melting Arctic ice leads to wetter winters. The warmer temperatures will cause this excess precipitation to fall as rain, but when it gets cold enough, it falls as snow. These snowstorms may be more intense than normal,⁹ and put strains on the communities dealing with them. Additionally, there is some evidence to suggest that warming temperatures weaken the natural arctic wind patterns known as the polar vortex, enabling them to spread southward into regions such as Upstate New York.¹⁰ This is what may be the cause of some extreme winter events such as the 2022 Buffalo Winter Storm.

Residents in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan are vulnerable during an extreme winter storm event. Severe snow creates hazardous conditions on roadways making it difficult for residents and emergency crews to navigate. Power outages may be frequent and prolonged due to downed power lines and the inaccessibility of some of this infrastructure during a major winter storm. Elderly residents are at risk if the storm and outages last for a prolonged period. They may not be able to get groceries, essential medications, and other critical care that many elderly and vulnerable residents may need. Residents who lose power may not be able to heat their homes, and could end up relying on dangerous solutions, such as using their gas stovetop for heat or unmaintained fireplace. This is very unsafe and could lead to accidental house fires or carbon monoxide poisoning.

The Jordan-Elbridge Community Center can serve as an emergency shelter if needed, in addition to the Fire Departments located within the Town and two Villages. Unfortunately, the Community Center is not equipped with a backup power source, such as generator, so if the Community Center loses power, it may no longer be a viable shelter. Additionally, when dealing with major winter storms, municipal staff work overtime to ensure that the major roads are plowed and clear of debris or snow throughout the community. This puts a financial strain on the municipalities and may hinder the implementation of other resiliency actions.

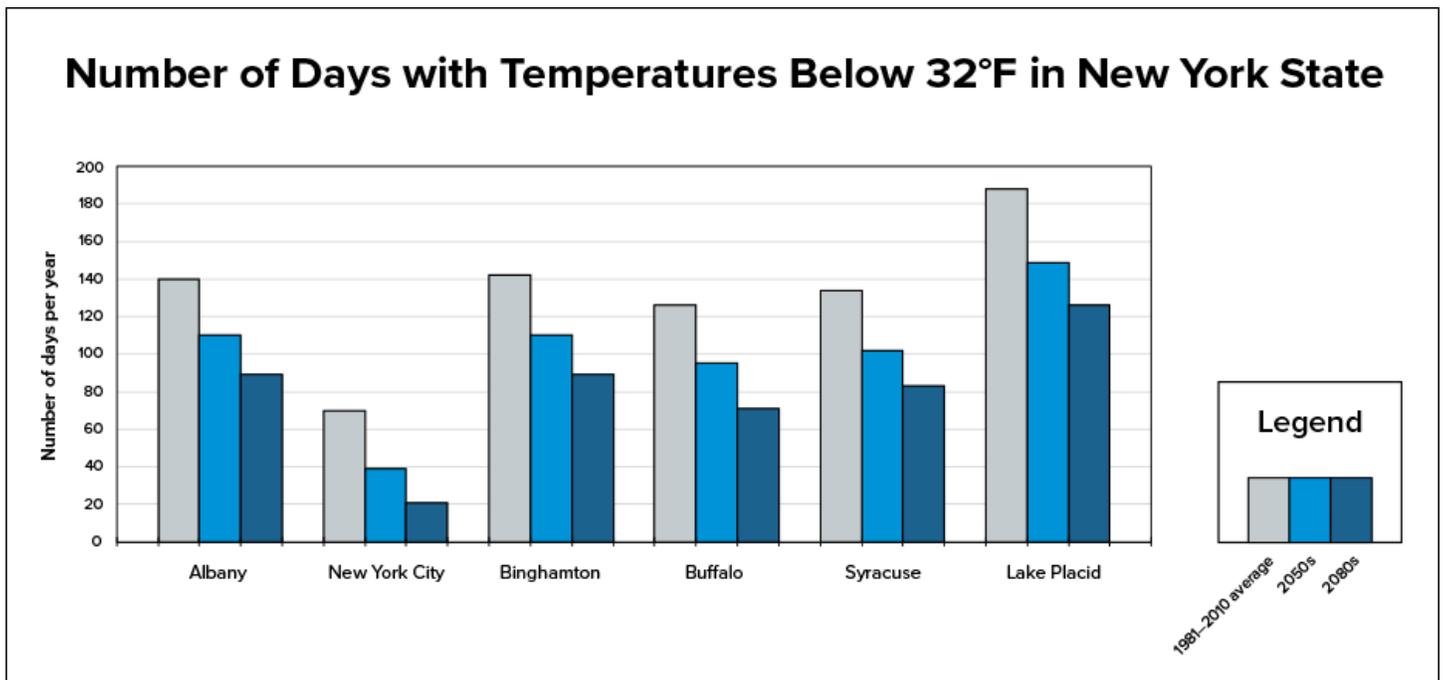
⁹ Cohen J. et al. (2020). Divergent consensus on Arctic amplification influence on midlatitude severe winter weather. *Nature* 10: 20-29

¹⁰ Francis J., Vavrus S. (2012). Evidence linking Arctic amplification to extreme weather in mid-latitudes. *Geophysical Research Letters* 39, no. 6

Future Climate Scenarios

It is difficult to model what future extreme snow events will look like as the planet continues to warm. Generally, models suggest that there will be increased lake-effect snow in the next couple of decades due to increased moisture in the atmosphere from evaporated ice cover.¹¹ By the mid-century onwards, lake-effect snow and extreme snow events will start to decrease as freezing temperatures become less frequent. The annual number of days below freezing is expected to decrease with time. More research is needed to better understand and predict what future snowstorms will look like as the century progresses.

Figure 10. Days below 32°F, Source: NYS Climate Impacts Assessment



Invasive Species

Vulnerabilities

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can outcompete native species, damage the local ecosystem, cause economic disruptions, and harm human health. They have few natural predators and can quickly multiply and spread throughout a region. There are a few species of concern within the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan.

¹¹ NYSERDA. (2014). Climate Change in New York State: Updating the 2011 ClimAID Climate Risk Information

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): EAB is an invasive beetle native to Asia. EAB infests and eventually kills North American ash trees. Despite its small size, EAB has caused a significant amount of ash tree loss throughout New York State. Town officials report that thousands of ash trees have been lost within the community due to EAB. Most ash trees die within 2-4 years of infestation and may become hazardous during this time due to the risk of the weakened tree and its limbs falling over. Unfortunately, it is difficult to effectively treat trees infested with EAB, and often the only solution is to let the insect run its course and replant and monitor trees afterwards.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is a species native to Asia that was introduced in the US in the late 1990s. Residents may often find these insects in their homes, where they hibernate during the winter. When handled or disturbed, they may release a chemical that smells unpleasant to most people. The stink bug presents a nuisance for farmers, as many fruits such as apples, pears, and berries may be impacted by the specimen.

Water Caltrop: The water caltrop, also known as water chestnut (different from the Asian water chestnut many people eat), is an aquatic invasive plant originating from Europe. The plant is rooted into the bottom of the waterbody and grows stems that reach up to the surface. The plant contains hard, wide fruits that grow under water and have sharp spines. The water caltrop forms a dense mat of vegetation over water bodies making it difficult to use these water bodies for fishing and recreation. The water caltrop also presents an ecological threat, by outcompeting the native aquatic vegetation. The caltrops die back at the end of each season, the decomposition of these plants results in reduced levels of dissolved oxygen which may lead to fish kills. The water caltrop is quickly spreading throughout the Finger Lakes region along the Seneca River and has been a problem for residents with waterfront property on Cross Lake as well as boaters. Unfortunately, the caltrop is difficult to remove and requires either hand pulling with a large number of volunteers, or the use of harvesters to remove the plants. Hand pulling caltrops may unintentionally cause harm sometimes if seed pods are accidentally broken, dispersing them throughout the lake. Any management technique for this species will require a sustained effort over a prolonged period to prevent the invasive from returning.

Future Climate Scenarios

Invasives will continue to be a threat as climate change warms the planet. Warmer temperatures and changing growing seasons may expand the range of invasive species and bring new ones into the region. Native species may not be able to adapt to the changing temperatures, which could lead to them being outcompeted by other non-native species that

may not currently be considered invasive. Although it may be difficult to predict what species will impact the community because of a warming planet, it is clear that a sustained, effective management effort will be needed to address future invasives.

Participatory Scenario Planning

What is Scenario Planning?

Developing community future scenarios can help practitioners, policymakers, and the public identify and consider key uncertainties or unknowns and then anticipate and explore potential risks from climate change under various possible and plausible future scenarios. Exploring future scenarios puts communities in a position to better anticipate potential outcomes from uncertain climate hazards and enable them to develop more robust climate adaptation and resilience actions that will remain effective under the various future conditions. Using participatory processes to develop future scenarios, conduct simulations and develop a community vision can also help the community to generate consensus on community risks, adaptation approaches, vision and future direction, and adaptation strategies. Developing future scenarios can serve as the foundation for various pathways of adaptation implementation and inform planning and decision-making processes.

Elected officials and county staff gathered on January 24th, 2024, to roleplay 4 different climate change scenarios in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan that cover each of the hazards analyzed in this plan. This 2-hour workshop began with a short presentation on the adaptation plan, an overview of future climate conditions in Elbridge, and an explanation of the scenario planning process. After, the group went through each of the four hazards covered in this plan. This includes an extreme precipitation/flooding scenario, extreme heat scenario, extreme cold/winter storms scenario, and invasive species scenario.

The purpose of this scenario planning workshop was to get elected officials and decision makers engaged and thinking about what climate change may look like in the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Jordan and Elbridge. Without these discussions, it is difficult to prepare for and adapt to a number of plausible climate outcomes. During this workshop participants assessed current strengths when addressing the four hazards, weaknesses in current operations, opportunities for resiliency and adaptation actions, and threats or barriers to the implementation of those actions. A summary of this workshop can be found at the end of the document.

Current Resiliency and Adaptation Planning Initiatives

Adaptation to climate change often intersects with other challenges and initiatives the Town and Villages may be engaged in. Concerns about community health, infrastructure, land use planning, and economic development can all relate to climate adaptation planning efforts. As a result, there are already ways in which the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan have been building resiliency and adaptive capacity throughout the community. These documents, paired with this Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan will position the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan to implement initiatives that prepare residents and the local government for climate change impacts.

Below is a list of planning documents and procedures that the municipalities are already engaged in:

Planning Capability
Comprehensive Plan
Stormwater Management Plan
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Onondaga County
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan (Except for the Village of Jordan)
Codes, Ordinances, and Regulations
Building Code
Zoning Ordinance
Subdivision Ordinance
NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
Site Plan Review Requirements
Stormwater Management Ordinance
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
Programs and Partnerships
NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program – Town of Elbridge and Village of Jordan Designated Clean Energy Communities
Mutual Aid Agreements with Fire Departments, between Town and two Villages, and the school district
Promotion of activities and outreach through website and social media

Recommendations for Action

Through the participatory scenario planning processes, staff interviews, and CSC Task Force meetings, a list of prioritized recommendations for action was produced. It is recommended that the municipalities pair multiple adaptation strategies together, as often there is no single solution to mitigate these hazards. Also note that several of these actions may overlap across hazard categories (e.g. installing backup power systems).

Key to recommended action charts:

\$ = <\$5,000 \$\$ = \$5,000-\$10,000 \$\$\$ = \$10,000-\$50,000 \$\$\$\$ = >\$50,000

Short = <1 year Medium = 1-5 years Long = >5 years Continuous

Extreme Precipitation and Flooding

Community Education Campaign for Flood Risk	
<p>Overview</p> <p>In certain areas of the Town, it may be impossible to eliminate flood risk. In these locations, such as along Cross Lake, residents should be informed about the risks of living within a floodplain. This campaign should seek to connect with available state and federal incentives to floodproof their property or participate in voluntary buyouts. An example of an incentive for residents to floodproof their homes is the Home Headquarters Resilient Retrofits Program. Residents both in and out of the floodplain should be targeted. Collaborating with partners such as the CNY RPDB, Onondaga Soil and Water Conservation District, and Onondaga County Emergency Management will help alleviate some of the lift from the municipalities.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>\$</p> <p>Implementation Timeline</p> <p>Short</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Municipal Budget, Project Partners</p> <p>Potential Project Partners</p> <p>Onondaga County Emergency Management, CNY RPDB, Onondaga SWCD</p>

Install an Automated Alert System to Notify Participating Residents of Severe Weather

Overview

A text and phone alert system can reach many residents throughout the community quickly during a severe weather event. A text alert system can warn residents about incoming storms, flood risk, shelter locations, and other critical information that residents may need during a hazard event. The municipality should develop a set of procedures and guidelines to ensure that operators know exactly when to send out emergency alerts. Additionally, an emergency alert system can provide notifications outside of just extreme weather events, such as for boil water notices.

Cost

\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant, Municipal Budget

Potential Project Partners

Onondaga County Emergency Management, FEMA, NYS DHSES

Slope Stabilization Along Valley Drive and Other Locations

Overview

To prevent erosion of steep slopes along Valley Drive and other portions of the community, the municipalities should explore efforts to utilize nature-based solutions (e.g. tree plantings and revegetation) to stabilize these slopes. Additional vegetation along these slopes also helps this land act as a sponge during significant rainfall events, preventing sheet flooding that impacts many residents outside of floodplains in the Town and Villages. An engineering study would be needed to determine the specific nature and locations of stabilization projects.

Cost

\$\$\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Medium

Funding

NYS DHSES Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund, FEMA BRIC, CSC Grants CFA

Potential Project Partners

SWCD, FEMA, NYS DHSES, DEC

Green Infrastructure

To reduce the number of impermeable surfaces that can contribute to flooding, the community can consider adopting code and design specifications that encourage green infrastructure, in addition to implementing specific green infrastructure projects. Examples of green infrastructure can include using alternative parking surface materials, reducing minimum parking requirements, installing tree pits, replacing grass lawns with pollinator gardens, and on-site stormwater management.

Cost

\$-\$\$\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Medium

Funding

NYS DEC WQIP, Green Innovation Grant Program, CNY RPDB, Onondaga SWCD

Potential Project Partners

NYS DEC, CNY RPDB, Onondaga SWCD

Extreme Heat Actions

Expand Walking Trails in Forested and Shaded Areas

Overview

Expanding existing walking trails in forested and shaded areas can provide residents with a means to navigate the community in a safer way than walking along unshaded sidewalks. It also increases opportunities for recreation, improves health outcomes, and reduces emissions by encouraging residents to walk instead of driving. The municipalities can partner with environmental clubs in the school district to help maintain these trails.

Cost

\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Medium

Funding

Parks and Trail Partnership Grants, CSC Grants CFA, Historic Preservation Grant Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

Potential Project Partners

NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, NYS DEC, SWCD, CNY RPDB

Establish Cooling Centers in Existing Municipal Buildings

Overview

Establishing a formal cooling center policy can inform residents that they can access municipal buildings such as the JE Community Cent and fire stations as available cooling centers during heatwaves. The Town and Villages could use municipal staff or volunteers to help run the cooling centers. Ideally, the cooling center would be open 24 hours per day since nighttime temperatures may still be at a dangerous level. Residents without A/C at home could sleep at the cooling centers if needed or just pop in to cool off for a few hours. The municipalities could collaborate with County Emergency Management to acquire portable air conditioning units during heatwaves for public buildings without A/C.

Cost

\$

Implementation Timeline

Medium

Funding

CSC Grants CFA

Potential Project Partners

Onondaga County Emergency Management, Local Fire Departments

Conduct a Community Heat Pump Campaign

Overview

Conduct a community heat pump campaign to connect residents with state and federal heat pump incentive programs and installers. The CNY RPDB's Energy Smart CNY program runs community education campaigns and assist with connecting residents to these incentives. Heat pumps are significantly more efficient and reliable than traditional A/C units and can be installed in nearly any home. Low-to-moderate income residents may qualify for assistance to help make the cost of these systems more feasible. The municipality can earn grants through the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program for conducting these campaigns to help implement clean energy actions on municipal property.

Cost

\$

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

NYSERDA CEC Grants, Energy Smart CNY

Potential Project Partners

CNY RPDB, NYSERDA, NYSEG, National Grid

Create a Formal "Buddy System" Through the Senior Citizen Club

Overview

The buddy system is a strategy which assigns each person in the program a "buddy" to check in during a major heatwave. Buddies will contact each other at least once a day during the heat event and inform each other if they need anything or are in distress. Volunteers from the JET program can then be notified and deliver supplies such as medications, ice, or anything else that the resident may need.

Cost

\$

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

Existing senior citizens club budget

Potential Project Partners

Senior Citizen Club

Extreme Cold & Winter Storms

Install Backup Power at the Jordan-Elbridge Community Center

Overview

Currently, the JE Community Center does not have backup power. If a snowstorm hits, the Community Center despite being a potential evacuation site may be at risk of losing power during a storm. Having back up power is essential to having shelters that are resilient to storms. This can take the form of generators or solar panels with backup battery storage units. Solar panels in combination with battery storage require very little maintenance and can work even during a storm event. By having backup power, even if the rest of the community loses power, the Community Center can still serve as a location for residents to charge devices and medical equipment, communicate with loved ones, and stay warm.

Cost

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

CSC Grants CFA, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, IRA Direct Pay Incentives for Energy Storage Systems

Potential Project Partners

CNY RPDB, NYSEDA, NYSEG, FEMA, Onondaga County Emergency Management

Coordinate with the School District to Use Buildings as Emergency Shelters

Overview

The municipalities could work with the school districts to keep school buildings open and accessible as emergency shelters during major storm events. The schools have backup power and ample space to house many residents. The district would have to coordinate with the municipality regarding staffing the buildings and ensuring that roads and sidewalks are clear so residents can reach these shelters. A set of procedures should be established to determine when the schools will be designated as emergency shelters.

Cost

N/A

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

N/A

Potential Project Partners

Jordan-Elbridge School District

Create an Education Campaign Reminding Residents of Best Practices During Storms

Overview

Residents play a role in improving the resiliency of a community during a storm. An educational campaign in the form of flyers/mailers, community events, and e-blasts could serve as a way to inform the community on some best practices during storm events. Some of these best practices include reminding residents to prevent snowbanks when they are using snowblowers or shoveling, making sure fire hydrants are clear during snowstorms, and reminders to not park on highways and emergency routes during snowstorms. By keeping residents aware of these best practices, the municipality can have an easier time responding to major storm events.

Cost

\$

Implementation Timeline

Continuous (Should occur every winter)

Funding

Municipal Budget, Onondaga County
Emergency Management

Potential Project Partners

Onondaga County Emergency Management

Invasive Species

Conduct a Tree Inventory and Develop a Management Plan

Overview

The Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan can conduct a joint tree inventory and management plan to help inform the locations of hazardous trees, EAB infested ash trees, and potential planting/replanting sites. The objective of the inventory and management plan is to develop a strategy maintain the health of existing trees and identify opportunities to expand the tree canopy through plantings and giveaways.

Cost

\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Short

Funding

CNY RPDB Urban Forestry Program, DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program

Potential Project Partners

DEC, CNY RPDB, SWCD

Expand the Existing Tree Giveaway Program

Overview

The Elbridge Environmental Commission in collaboration with the Onondaga SWCD organizes tree giveaways in the community every year. The Town and two Villages can build on this and expand the programs by providing more trees (and options) to residents. This will help to replace dead or dying trees that have been impacted by invasives such as EAB.

Cost

\$\$

Implementation Timeline

Continuous

Funding

CNY RPDB Urban Forestry Program, DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program

Potential Project Partners

DEC, CNY RPDB, SWCD

Coordinate with Finger Lakes PRISM to Develop an Invasives Action Plan

Overview

The Town and two Villages can coordinate with Finger Lakes PRISM to develop an action plan to address aquatic and terrestrial invasives, and develop strategies to prevent emergent invasives from impacting the community. Finger Lakes PRISM can coordinate and share information across the Finger Lakes region and can bring multiple communities and stakeholders together to discuss invasive prevention strategies, as well as assist in identifying sources of funding for sustained invasive species management.

Cost

N/A

Implementation Timeline

Continuous

Funding

N/A

Potential Project Partners

Finger Lakes PRISM, SWCD, neighboring municipalities

What's Next?

Although it may be difficult to predict what exactly our climate will look like decades into the future, local governments can still take steps to prepare for these changes and the challenges that come with them. This is an opportunity to be proactive and prepare for climate hazards, rather than reacting to them. By being proactive, the municipality and community is improving the local quality of life, saving money in the long term, and in some cases, saving lives. With this Climate Resiliency Appendix of the Joint Town of Elbridge, Villages of Elbridge and Jordan Comprehensive Plan, the Jordan-Elbridge community now has a roadmap to implement effective climate resiliency policies, programs, and projects.

Resources

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11. NYSERDA. (2014). Climate Change in New York State: Updating the 2011 ClimAID Climate Risk Information. Retrieved from <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Publications/Energy-Analysis-Reports-and-Studies/Environmental-Research-and-Development-Technical-Reports/Response-to-Climate-Change-in-New-York>

Scenario Planning Workshop Summary

Workshop Scenarios

Below are four different climate change scenarios that may impact the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan at some point in the future. You and your group will conduct a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis for the scenario assigned to you using the easel pad. At the end of the exercise, the groups will reconvene, and we will discuss the outcomes.

Scenario 1: Flooding/Extreme Precipitation

A large storm system concentrated over the Town of Elbridge drops nearly two inches of rain per hour over the course of 3 hours. This leads to significant flash flooding within the Village of Jordan, and several routes in the Town have been washed out, including a portion of Valley Drive, trapping several residents. Many residents in the Village of Jordan and Town of Elbridge are reporting property damage and flooding in their basements. Utility services have been interrupted for most of the Town's residents for at least 5 days. What can the community do to respond? How can the community better prepare for this event?

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The JE Center can be opened up to residents during major storm events to keep warm and charge devices.• The Town and two Villages coordinate with the Fire Departments to ensure residents can use FDs as a shelter.• The Highway Department is very responsive to storm events and has the equipment to keep roads clear of debris when a storm hits.• The Town has a Facebook page to notify residents of storm events and updates regarding road closures and shelter availability.• Residents who cannot get to shelters could call the Town and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The JE Center does not have any backup generators in the event the power goes out.• The County is not as quick to respond as the Town, but may provide necessary support during a major storm event.• There is no way to currently disseminate updates regarding power outages to residents other than social media.• There are a finite number of water pumps and they may not always be able to handle the flood load.• There is no mail communication to residents informing them of available emergency shelters. It is costly to do so. There is limited capacity for municipal staff to write a newsletter.

<p>request that the JET van come pick them up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Citizen Club has a registry of members that can be checked in on through the “buddy system”. • Town officials have a relationship with NYSEG and can call them to get information regarding power outages. • The Highway Department works in conjunction with the school district to coordinate plowing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSEG representatives need to show up prior to clearing downed power lines. They are not always the fastest at responding.
<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize a procedure through the senior citizen club to have volunteers check-in on seniors during storms. • Install an automated alert system to notify residents of a storm event. • Utilize electronic signs the Town owns to notify residents of hazardous conditions and available shelters. • Coordination with first responders (Fire Department, Police) to set up volunteer support services during major storm events (Volunteer Corps). • Create an emergency board that meets regularly to discuss emergency plans during extreme weather events. • Create a prearranged set of responses to hazard events. • Install backup generators at the JE community center. • Install solar panels with battery storage capabilities at the community center. 	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of funding may make it difficult to implement some of these opportunities. • Many impacted homes are outside of the floodplain and may not have flood insurance. • First responders may experience burnout from dealing with multiple extreme weather events.

Scenario 2: Extreme Heat

A heatwave occurs in the middle of July causing temperatures to soar above 95°F for several days straight. There are a number of residents in the Town and Villages that lack air conditioning including several elderly residents. Every day EMTs transport at least one individual to the hospital due to heat-related illness. The Jordan-Elbridge Community Center and the Jordan-Elbridge School District Buildings have air conditioning in them, but a residents with mobility issues and families without vehicles struggle to reach these potential cooling centers. What can the community do to respond? How can the community better prepare for this event?

<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fire Department and JE Center can be designated as cooling centers during a heat wave. • The Town is currently running tree giveaways for residents. 	<p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town has no means to inform residents of heat wave risks and available shelters other than through Facebook and the website.
<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the JET bus/van to transport vulnerable residents such as seniors. • Create a formal buddy system through the senior citizen club to check in on seniors. • Expand tree plantings and giveaways to increase tree canopy cover in the community and decrease the urban heat island effect. • Conserve and protect critical habitat areas and forested areas. • Expand walking trails in forested and shaded areas. • Conduct a community heat pump campaign to connect residents with state and federal heat pump incentive programs and installers. • Support the CNYRPDB’s Energy Smart CNY program which runs 	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grid may not be able to support the increased electric use from new heat pump/air conditioning installations. • Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) or other invasives may reduce tree canopy coverage in the community. • Supply chain problems may make it difficult for some residents to acquire heat pumps quickly or affordably. • The buddy system is limited to the residents that sign up for it. Not everyone may be covered.

<p>community education campaigns to connect residents with installers and to state and federal heat pump incentive programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the schools to use the buildings as cooling centers during heatwaves. 	
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Scenario 3: Extreme Cold/Snowstorms

During an abnormally warm winter, and sudden change in Arctic wind patterns causes a massive polar vortex to move southwards impacting much of Upstate New York including the Town of Elbridge and Villages of Elbridge and Jordan without much warning. Temperatures plunge to well below freezing, wind gusts over 55mph are frequent, and a sustained blizzard lasting for several days blankets much of the region in a few feet of snow. Visibility on roadways is nearly down to zero, and much of the Town and Villages are without power. Local emergency services receive calls from a number of stranded individuals in disabled vehicles. Several residents without fireplaces are complaining that they have to resort to using their gas stove to provide some heating. Disabled residents and their caretakers who need electricity to power medical equipment are concerned that they may run out of charge before the power returns. What can the community do to respond? How can the community better prepare for this event?

<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town and both Villages have modern equipment that can handle snowstorms well. • The Town and Villages coordinate plowing throughout the community. • Resources and equipment are shared between the communities. • The Fire Department has a truck with a plow if needed. • The local snowmobile club has tracked equipment that can access areas normal vehicles cannot get to. They are willing to provide support when it is needed. 	<p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a financial strain on the municipalities to pay for overtime crews. • The County provides some additional funding, but the municipality must pay for the upfront costs.
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<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Threats</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More education in the form of social media posts or mailers to remind residents to not park on highways. Especially emergency routes. • More coordination between the snowmobile club and municipality can occur. • The Town can remind residents to prevent snowbanks when they are using snowblowers or shoveling their driveways. • Mailers/flyers reminding residents to keep fire hydrants clear during snowstorms. • Install a generator or roof mounted solar system with battery energy storage at the JE center. • Coordinate with the school district to allow the buildings to be used as emergency shelters for residents who lose power for an extended period of time. • Create a phone tree through the senior citizen club to check in on seniors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual homes may still be at risk from the snow load on their roofs. • People who lose power and cannot get to shelters may end up resorting to dangerous heating methods such as using their gas stove or fireplace. This increases the risk of fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. • NYSEG may still be slow to respond to power outages. Downed power lines will still be a hazard for residents.

Scenario 4: Invasive Species

During a warm and dry spring and summer many residents are working hard to keep their lawns in perfect condition. This involves using a significant amount of fertilizer and water. Much of the runoff is contaminated with phosphates and nitrates, both of which cause harmful algal blooms (HABs). Cross Lake experiences a severe algal bloom, reducing the population of a number of fish species including Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, and White Perch and impacting the local fishing economy.

In addition to the HABs, warmer temperatures has led to invasive insects such as the Emerald Ash Boer, Southern Pine Beetle, and Spotted Lanternfly becoming more prevalent. Hundreds of public and private trees are affected, with several trees becoming hazardous due to the risk of

falling over. What can the community do to respond? How can the community better prepare for this event?

<p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some work being done already to address water chestnut in cross lake, including the use of harvesters to remove the plant. • Organizations such as the Soil and Water Conservation District, Finger Lakes PRISM, and NYS DEC can support municipal efforts to address invasives. 	<p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some invasives such as emerald ash borer are difficult to address and may need to just run their course. • Certain invasives management activities (such as hand pulling water chestnut) may make things worse by accidentally spreading seeds. • The Town does not have funding to address or manage invasives. • The Town does not have an inventory of public or private trees. There is no clear count on exactly how EAB has impacted the tree canopy cover.
<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and resource sharing with neighboring municipalities along Cross Lake to address invasives. • Coordination across the watershed to create a watershed based action plan to address invasives. • Creating a tree inventory and monitoring replanted trees. • Formalizing a “Cross Lake Association” for residents living along the Lake. • Work with the Environmental Commission and other organizations such as PRISM to organize educational events informing residents of what they can do to help limit the spread of invasive species. Organize volunteer days to help pull out 	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New invasive species may emerge as climate change continues to warm the planet. • A lack of funding from the state or other sources may halt or reverse any progress that is made to manage invasives. The process must be sustained. • Residents may be opposed to some tree plantings. • Warmer water temperatures may make Cross Lake a prime water body for algal blooms.

<p>water chestnut, and replant trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate residents on the impacts overfertilization of their lawns may have on HABs.	
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Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board



Department of State