



DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Truncated Version 10/28/25

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vision Statement	Page 2
Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 3
Housing Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 5
Built Environment Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 8
Economic Development Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 13
Environment and Natural Resources Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 17
Climate Change and Resiliency Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 20
Transportation Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 23
Community Well-Being Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 25
Capital Facilities and Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies	Page 28

Please Note: This version contains ONLY the drafts of the vision statement, goals, objectives, and policies of the Comp Plan. Please see the full draft copy of the 2025-2045 Comp Plan for information on what a comp plan is, data, background reports, contextual language, and maps.

LINK TO FULL DOCUMENT AT:

<https://www.townofulyssesny.gov/calendar/?cmd=view&event=4101&category=1498>

or



Vision Statement

Ulysses is a welcoming and engaged rural community in the Finger Lakes region.

We care about our environment, quality of life, and the well-being of our residents. Our commitment to sustainable and regenerative practices reflects our desire to safeguard our natural resources, agricultural land, and beautiful lakeshore for future generations. We value our farmers and agricultural assets. We prioritize connecting our residents to each other and our community. We support creating welcoming community spaces where people of all ages and abilities can come together and feel a sense of belonging. We are committed to sustainable development that encourages growth yet protects our cherished small-town character and natural resources. We recognize the need for diverse housing options so that everyone can find a place to call home and remain a part of our community for years to come. We are dedicated to fostering economic development initiatives that uplift local businesses, expand services, and create job opportunities that equitably meet the needs of our community. We are proactive in climate change preparedness and take pride in being a resilient community that encourages sustainable practices to protect the environment.

Land Use Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal LR-G-1

Facilitate and encourage land use within the Town that furthers the Town's goals as established in this Comprehensive Plan.

Objective LR-O-1.1

Identify and pursue tools to encourage appropriate land uses.

Policies

LR-P-1.1.1 Revise the Town's Zoning and Development Ordinances and Zoning Map to align with the Comprehensive Plan's land use and development recommendations.

LR-P-1.1.2 Create a Town Placemaking Plan, townwide or pursued by individual region of the Town, to provide more specific planning and direction for the development of the Town's neighborhoods.

LR-P-1.1.3 Pursue and create a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program through the NYS Department of State.

LR-P-1.1.4 The Town should increase its resources dedicated to park amenities, design, development, and maintenance.

LR-P-1.1.5 Perform a periodic update to the Agricultural Protection Plan and increase resources to assist farm owners and operations in finding relief from development pressures.

LR-P-1.1.6 Develop a Housing Action Plan and provide resources to encourage increased housing options including missing middle housing.

LR-P-1.1.7 Create design standards for commercial and housing developments on Route 96.

Goal LR-G-2

Preserve farmland now and for future generations.

Objective LR-O-2.1

Assist farmers in protecting farmland and keeping it active through financial programs.

Policies:

LR-P-2.1.1 Work with interested landowners in participating in the purchase of development program that protects farmland and sensitive natural resources. Coordination with the County, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY State, and local land trusts is key.

LR-P-2.1.2 Create a transfer of development rights feasibility study to determine if there is a market for development, landowner and community interest, and assess land use regulations.

LR-P-2.1.3 Identify loan and grant programs for young people interested in buying farm property.

LR-P-2.1.4 Inform farmers of the financial benefits of Agricultural Assessment and Agricultural Exemptions.

Objective LR-O-2.2

Provide resources to farmers that keep farmland active and productive.

Policies

LR-P-2.2.1 Connect farmers interested in soil and water best management practices with the Tompkins County Soil and Water District.

LR-P-2.2.2 Provide information regarding the Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional navigator program available for farmers who want to keep their land in production and farmers seeking land.

LR-P-2.2.3 Connect farmers interested in succession planning to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County.

Objective LR-O-2.3

Actively support farmland through land use planning, education, and advocacy.

Policies

LR-P-2.3.1 Identify locations where additional right to farm signs would be appropriate.

LR-P-2.3.2 Create a public information campaign educating residents on what right to farming is.

LR-P-2.3.3 Reactivate the Ag Committee to address local land-use concerns, offer policy recommendations to the Town Board, and create public agriculture education for the Town.

LR-P-2.3.4 Allow conservation subdivision land use regulations that preserve farmland and reduce sprawl on parcels that plan to be subdivided.

Goal LR-G-3

The Ulysses community will be a responsible steward of rural land.

Objective LR-O-3.1

The Town will make clear its desires for open space and how it is used.

Policy

LR-P-3.1.1 Create an open space plan that will define open space, rural and suburban land and make clear how the Town can preserve and enhance existing open space now and in the future.

Housing Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Housing Goal

Provide sufficient, sustainable housing opportunities to meet the needs of present and future residents of Ulysses for housing that is safe, environmentally friendly, accessible, attractive, and affordable.

Objective H.1

Meet current and projected regional housing needs of all economic and demographic groups by increasing Ulysses' housing supply.

Policies

H.1.1 Create a new Housing Advisory Committee to conduct research and make recommendations to the Town Board on ways to help implement the objectives of the Housing Element to ensure the housing goal(s) is/are achieved.

H.1.2 Commission reports on national best practices and new strategies to increase housing affordability in Ulysses. See the American Planning Association and National League of City's "Housing Supply Accelerator" document.

H.1.3 Perform a zoning audit to identify zoning related issues to the construction of new units of diverse types and revise the zoning code as needed.

H.1.4 Provide density bonuses to developers seeking to construct income restricted affordable housing.

H.1.5. Proactively advertise to regional, responsible developers, engineers, and financial institutions that the Town is open for housing growth within the proposed growth areas.

Objective H.2

Provide fair and equal access to housing for all people in Ulysses.

Policies

H.2.1 Create an education program for new Town staff, including all Boards, about their legal responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and similar State and Local requirements.

H.2.2 Designate a staff member as a Fair Housing Assistant who will act as a liaison to the community about the Town's goals for equal housing access, responsibilities for each party, educating residents about their rights, landlords of their responsibilities, and assisting with enforcement actions.

H.2.2 Work to promote fair housing choices and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination through actions, such as affirmative marketing and fair housing education and enforcement.

H.2.3 Coordinate with other jurisdictions in the region, to identify and remove potential barriers to stable housing for individuals and families, such as illegal housing screening practices.

H.2.4 Work to decrease disparities in homeownership.

H.2.5 Encourage development of dense, mixed-use areas along the Route 96 transit stops and where social and community service providers (non-profits, government offices, day cares, etc.) are permitted.

H.2.6 Promulgate incentive zoning regulations to provide flexibility to developers that propose

amenities regarding equal access, among other opportunities, to the Town.

H.2.7 Connect neighborhoods to parks and other amenities and services with sidewalks and safe infrastructure to ensure that families, those with disabilities, and older adults can access them.

Objective H.3

Achieve a mix of housing types that provide opportunity and choice in Ulysses for people of various ages, races, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds and for a variety of household sizes, types, and incomes.

Policies

H.3.1 Annually monitor and consider changes to the Future Land Use Map designations and Policies of the Land Use Element as needed to provide for a wide range of housing types in the town including, but not limited to: single detached dwelling units, housing to provide an alternative to home ownership, and moderate and high density multi-unit dwellings in order to accommodate the projected population and household income levels for the town.

H.3.2 Promote housing alternatives to large lot single detached dwelling units.

H.3.3 Revise the zoning code to include permissions for Courtyard Housing and reduce the regulatory burden for other housing typologies including lot size restrictions, areas where permitted, and other elements.

H.3.4 Adopt a local law establishing diverse housing types below a certain threshold or within certain areas as Type 2 Actions under SEQR in recognition of their conformance with local planning and zoning rules and minimal or positive environmental impact.

H.3.5 Advocate for state level changes to the building code that allow point access block design for multifamily buildings and that place smaller, under 5 unit buildings within the residential building code.

H.3.6 Encourage the creation of senior housing by:

- Revising zoning to allow different types of senior housing development such as supportive and assisted living facilities.
- Identifying available sites that would be ideal for senior housing and sharing them with potential developers. Include information about how to overcome any potential zoning or permitting issues.

Objective H.4

Achieve healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable housing that is adaptable to changing demographic conditions.

Policies

H.4.1 Adopt template house plans that meet the Town's sustainability goals.

H.4.2 Identify environmentally sensitive areas such as land subject to flooding currently and in the future, streams and riparian corridors, unbroken habitat areas, and other important features and restrict housing development within those areas.

H.4.3 Encourage the construction of prefabricated housing such as modular and manufactured homes, yurts, container houses, and tiny homes.

H.4.4 Extend services such as water and sewer to neighborhoods where housing growth is desired, but not to areas where land is intended to be protected. Allow dedication of privately constructed sewers if within cluster subdivisions.

Objective H.5

Ensure it's possible for households of all income levels to live affordably in Ulysses, and reduce over time the unmet housing needs of lower-income households in town.

Policies

H.5.1 Support the development and preservation of affordable housing through tools and actions such as land banking, public or non-profit acquisition of affordable buildings, housing co-ops, and new affordable and mixed income development.

H.5.2 Advocate to Congressional representatives to reduce international trade barriers (e.g. tariffs) on building supplies, particularly for prominent construction materials such as soft-wood lumber, concrete, etc.

H.5.3 Explore the potential of a Land Value Taxation system to more equitably distribute tax burdens.

H.5.4 Provide streamlined zoning and building approvals for development that attains designated levels of affordability.

H.5.5 Ensure the zoning code does not unduly restrict manufactured and prefabricated homes as a source of affordable housing recognizing that NYS Executive Law provides limited ability of localities to restrict manufactured homes.

H.5.6 Identify for sale, or acquire, land and market it to developers with restrictions on developing options that are affordable for mixed-income households, to include low- and moderate-income families, seniors, etc.

Built Environment Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Collaborate with local and regional partners to implement historic preservation efforts.

Objective 4.1

Establish and strengthen connections with local and regional partners and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Policies

4.1.1 Actively communicate with the Village of Trumansburg, Tompkins County, and cultural organizations about collaboration opportunities for events and programming together.

4.1.2 Continue to work with the OPRHP to promote and market Taughannock Falls State Park and its amenities as a desirable destination for residents and visitors.

4.1.3 Work with County and State entities to create an inventory of historic resources. Continue to work with the State on registering eligible properties to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

4.1.4 Collaborate with members of the Gayogohó:nqʔ Learning Project to implement Gayogohó:nqʔ-led priorities and creating inclusive culturally responsive spaces.

4.1.5 Work with the Trumansburg Central School District and local institutions to create opportunities for community members to learn about Historic Preservation. Collaborate with the Ulysses Historical Society to create volunteer opportunities for students interested in that field.

Goal

Promote Cultural and Historic Resources within the Town.

Objective 4.2

Enhance, preserve and promote the historic character and historic communities of Ulysses.

Policies

4.2.1 Continue to develop and implement the Jacksonville Special Area Plan and incorporate design guidelines that protect and enhance the historic character of the hamlet.

4.2.2 Identify funding opportunities to support the efforts of the Ulysses Historical Society, Ulysses Philomathic Library, and the Cayuga Nature Center as valuable cultural resources.

4.2.3 Explore establishing historic districts, developing design criteria, and other appropriate methods to protect and enhance the historic fabric of Ulysses.

4.2.4 Collaborate with local farmers and the Ulysses Historical Society to develop a volunteer group to lead scheduled agricultural tours of farms in the town. Invite farmers to participate by opening their farms to tour groups. Tours could be coordinated with local schools.

4.2.5 Institute a new Historic Preservation and Built Environment Committee/Commission (HPBEC) to broadly serve as a recommendatory body to the Town Board and Planning Board as applicable on matters of historic preservation and building and site design.

4.2.6 Develop a volunteer group with the HPBEC to lead scheduled tours of significant natural areas in the town. Invite landowners to participate by welcoming tour groups on their land, where necessary.

4.2.7 Create wayfinding signage for historic features throughout Ulysses.

4.2.8 Explore the initiation of a local Ulysses register of historic places to officially register compiled buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts identified by the committee/commission as having historic significance worthy of recognition by the town and encouragement of efforts by owners to maintain, rehabilitate and preserve properties.

4.2.9 Develop a Town Historic Preservation Plan to be incorporated as a sub-plan to the Comp Plan.

4.2.10 Encourage adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

4.2.11 Encourage additions to historic buildings to be designed in a manner sensitive and complementary to the original building design, context and landscaping.

4.2.12 Encourage new development that is next to a designated historic building to reflect a sensitivity to the height, mass, proportion, and design characteristics of the older structure.

4.2.13 Create special incentives for developers to rehabilitate historic structures and encourage use of existing incentives such as tax credits and special valuation.

4.2.14 Commemorate historic buildings, sites and events with attractive, interpretive signs.

Goal

Incorporate hazard mitigation and climate resiliency methods into historic preservation and built environment improvement efforts.

Objective 4.3

Explore opportunities for incorporating landscaping green infrastructure techniques into historic preservation and built environment initiatives.

Policies

4.3.1 Encourage green infrastructure such as permeable pavement, rain gardens, and vegetated swales on historic sites to reduce stormwater discharge and lower pollutant loads.

4.3.2 Consider providing incentives for incorporating green infrastructure techniques in rehabilitation projects and new construction projects.

4.3.3 Develop a hazard mitigation plan that takes in consideration historic properties, lakefront structures, and preserving the historic character of Ulysses

4.3.4 Partner with local higher education institutions to have students assist with developing recommendations and visuals for green infrastructure techniques that the Town can utilize for preservation efforts.

4.3.5 Preserve major stands of trees, riparian corridors, and vegetated ravines with new development because they are a significant part of Ulysses' image.

4.3.6 Encourage designs for buildings and public spaces that maximize use of natural light and provide protection from inclement weather.

4.3.7 Promote sustainable landscaping techniques and a design approach to typically under-designed sites such as surface parking lots, rooftops, and roadside edges with new development.

Goal

Explore funding opportunities for rehabilitation and preservation efforts.

Objective 4.4

Assist residential and commercial property owners seek grant funding for rehabilitation Projects.

Policies

4.4.1 Create a community resource advisor role to assist residential and commercial property owners with applying for local, State, and Federal grant programs. Assist property owners with determining their eligibility and scope of work.

4.4.2 Host an annual Historic Tax Credit workshop to educate residential and commercial homeowners about State and Federal tax credits they may be eligible for when completing substantial rehabilitation projects.

4.4.3 Actively communicate with property owners to learn about property maintenance needs and challenges impacting rehabilitation efforts.

Goal

Maintain and enhance Ulysses' unique character and sense of place, including its natural setting, history, human-scaled development, and community identity, as the town grows.

Objective 4.5

Create a positive, pleasant impression for residents and visitors with attractive entryways, focal points and dramatic viewpoints.

Policies

4.5.1 Provide major entrance points into Ulysses with attractive, welcoming signage and landscaping to create a visually dramatic and attractive gateway effect.

4.5.2 Provide a comprehensive system of way-finding signs to direct residents and visitors from major arterials to amenities in the town including the village and hamlets, parks, lakefront, scenic viewpoints, institutions, historic districts when created, and other points of interest.

4.5.3 Protect public views of key designated vistas whenever feasible as new development is proposed.

Objective 4.6

Ensure that development, particularly commercial and multiple family development, has a high quality of design with respect to elements such as public spaces, pedestrian amenities, landscaping, building forms, and materials.

Policies

4.6.1 Develop and adopt a new land use code that is primarily a transect form-based code that is user friendly.

4.6.2 Use zoning tools and natural features to ease the transitions from the building intensities of larger developments near the village, hamlets, and commercial arterials to lower-density developments of surrounding areas.

- 4.6.3** Enhance the quality of development throughout the town over time by developing and implementing design guidelines/standards and design review.
- 4.6.4** Encourage the mixing of commercial uses with higher density housing in key designated areas when larger redevelopment occurs.
- 4.6.5** Encourage transit-oriented development in key designated areas when larger redevelopment occurs.
- 4.6.6** Ensure that building and site designs for new development encourages trips by walking, bicycling, transit, and other non-motorized modes.

Goal

Enhance the physical character and distinctive qualities of neighborhood communities throughout the town.

Objective 4.7

Focus on placemaking as an integral and essential part of economic and community development activities near the Village and arterial corridors planned for higher densities.

Policies

- 4.7.1** Establish a neighborhood community map that includes all areas of the town.
- 4.7.2** Establish neighborhood groups made of community members to represent their communities and to elect a member to be on the Council of Neighborhood Associations.
- 4.7.3** Establish a new Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) made of community members throughout the town.
- 4.7.4** Work with newly established neighborhood groups and CONA to determine improvements and programs that would enhance their community's livability, including the possibility of developing and adopting specific subarea plans for their communities.
- 4.7.5** Establish a new Historic Preservation and Built Environment Committee made of community members with expertise in historic preservation, building design, landscape design and related fields.
- 4.7.6** Utilize a Capital Improvement Plan to help implement community projects within neighborhoods.
- 4.7.7** Encourage cooperative public/private projects.

Objective 4.8

Create better pedestrian, bicycle, and transit linkages between non-residential development and nearby residential areas.

Policies

- 4.8.1** Require new development and re-development provide pedestrian walkways and shared vehicular access between adjacent properties to reduce curb cuts on roads.
- 4.8.2** Work with the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation on improving connectivity between nearby neighborhoods and local State resources such as the Black Diamond Trail and Taughannock Falls State Park. Identify ways to make access easier and identify where opportunities exist for incorporating multi-modal travel options (i.e. bike lanes, pedestrian trails, etc.)

Objective 4.9

Promote infill development in established areas of the town that will continue to maintain the character of those areas.

Policies

4.9.1 Require major development projects within each neighborhood to contribute positively to the character of their surroundings, including appropriate trees and landscaping with continual maintenance.

4.9.2 Focus on bringing vacant residential and/or tax abandoned parcels back to productive use to expand housing inventory within the town.

4.9.3 Partner with agencies/non-profits to revitalize vacant and abandoned properties.

Objective 4.10

Encourage redevelopment throughout Ulysses to incorporate a mix of uses, support pedestrian activity and transit, and exhibit a distinctive design character. Redevelopment should support appropriately scaled economic activity in various locations throughout town.

Policies

4.10.1 Preserve and encourage small scale, mixed-use development in certain locations to serve as the focus for neighborhoods; offer opportunities for locally owned shops and services; and provide for the daily needs of nearby residents.

4.10.2 Encourage locally-oriented shops and services in neighborhoods for the convenience of residents and visitors.

Objective 4.11

Enhance the visual appearance of all new development and for the town as a whole.

Policies

4.11.1 Require design civic and institutional facilities as community focal points, incorporating such elements as unique and dramatic architecture, usable outdoor space, specimen plantings, artwork, water features, and views.

4.11.2 Establish design overlay districts, with individualized guidelines.

4.11.3 Require quality planting design incorporating native species when possible and continued maintenance to help soften development.

Economic Development Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1

The town will promote economic diversity in order to enhance the economic health of the community.

Objective 1.1

Identify opportunities for economic growth and diversification based on local and regional opportunities.

Policies

1.1.1 Consider conducting a target industry analysis to identify new target industries based on data and stakeholders for the Town to pursue. Potential industries to consider could include light manufacturing, semi-conductor suppliers, local agriculture, agricultural supply, and more.

1.1.2 Identify educational opportunities locally and/or in the region that align with target industries to ensure that future business opportunities can be connected to the local workforce.

1.1.3 Create an inventory of current assets for target industries to understand what amenities the Town currently has to offer to new target industries, as well as opportunities to provide more assets.

1.1.4 Build on the region's strengths in semi-conductor and electronics manufacturing by attracting small suppliers or related businesses to the Town, possibly along Route 96.

1.1.5 Consider crafting new incentive policies that target businesses that align with the Town's target industries and preferred business types. Provide financial support for new businesses that create jobs in the Town that would support a resident, such as providing above average wages, benefits, and opportunities for career advancement.

1.1.6 Encourage and support small businesses of all types, including home-based, mobile, and online businesses, by ensuring zoning, permitting, utilities and support services are inclusive and flexible.

Objective 1.2

Create opportunities for diversification within existing industries and promote business retention and expansion.

Policies

1.2.1 Reinststate an agricultural committee in the Town to provide direct input from local farmers and industry about how to expand and support local agriculture, specifically opportunities to grow existing businesses and attract new businesses.

1.2.2 Engage current business owners and leaders in the Town to better understand the local business environment. Find ways to enhance current assets and address challenges.

1.2.3 Provide support for new, local businesses of all kinds — including retail, services, creative industries, and professional trades — that appeal to both tourists and year-round residents to access funding such as grants or financing.

1.2.4 Promote housing and population growth in the Town, ensuring that existing industries like education, healthcare, government, and retail have access to customers and workers.

Goal 2

The Town will encourage redevelopment and improvements to promote economic development and improve the quality and character of its neighborhoods.

Objective 2.1

Encourage new development and redevelopment to create more opportunities for business and economic growth.

Policies

2.1.1 Identify and market existing areas for development, targeting new industry that will provide good jobs and sustained economic activity for the community.

2.1.1 Consider local zoning codes and restrictions and identify if changes need to be made to promote new development and redevelopment for businesses.

2.1.3 Develop building and preservation codes for home remodels to ensure historic buildings are preserved, which preserves the character of the community.

2.1.4 Ensure future building and infrastructure improvements protect the Town's natural environment and promote sustainable development.

2.1.5 Consider identifying a potential industrial area or investing in an industrial park, so Ulysses can pursue new economic opportunities in ways that do not detract from its natural beauty and landscape.

Objective 2.2

Maintain and enhance neighborhoods through infrastructure and building improvements, historic preservation, and the creation of new housing and amenities.

Policies

2.2.1 Promote the construction of diverse and affordable housing, in a way that aligns with community character and aesthetics. Consider multi-family and senior housing.

2.2.2 Consider adopting policies that would require landlords to maintain properties and providing support to do so, such as training, connecting them to affordable financing, and creating stronger connections with landlord associations. These actions will ensure that the existing housing stock does not deteriorate and further limit housing opportunities.

2.2.3 Fill the Ulysses Town Historian position to preserve the community's history, identify opportunities for historic events and information sessions, and contribute to preservation and tourism efforts.

2.2.4 Make targeted infrastructure improvements for pedestrian and cyclist connectivity throughout the Town, like fixing sidewalks, widening and protecting bike lanes, installing lights, and making improvements as needed to enhance neighborhoods.

2.2.5 Gather resident input regarding future commercial and residential land development, ensuring that the community has the opportunity to provide input on future development and that their input is considered.

Goal 3

Encourage employers to make use of the local workforce and increase opportunities for citizens to have access to local employment.

Objective 3.1

Create more opportunities for employers in the Town of Ulysses to engage the local workforce.

Policies

3.1.1 Engage employers to understand what skills, certifications, and other needs they have in their workforce. Find opportunities to teach in-demand skills in Ulysses.

3.1.2 Coordinate with municipalities and employers to host a job fair, enabling the local workforce to find new job opportunities and connect with local employers.

3.1.3 Help create more opportunities for employers to be engaged with educational institutions and career training, enabling them to demonstrate what jobs in key industries look like, engage students and the local workforce, and teach necessary skills. Examples of engagement could be participating in a career day or hosting a tour of their facilities for students.

3.1.4 Market employment opportunities in Ulysses in the larger region, attracting more workers to the Town.

3.1.5 Create an online job board specific to Ulysses where employers can post available jobs. Market the job board within the Town to increase engagement.

Objective 3.2

Create more opportunities for workers within the Town of Ulysses to gain the skills necessary to make them attractive to local employers.

Policies

3.2.1 Explore options to introduce more career and technical education in target industries or key skills for students at the high school level, enabling them to graduate with a certificate and/or real-world job experience in fields relevant to the Town's economy, such as agriculture.

3.2.2 Partner with TST BOCES to provide adult education within the Town of Ulysses, enabling adults to expand their skill set in target industries.

3.2.3 As applicable, explore apprenticeship and internship opportunities at businesses within the Town of Ulysses, engaging regional high school and college student populations and promoting real-world job experience.

3.2.4 Engage partners like the Tompkins County Workforce Development Board and TST BOCES to provide services within the Town of Ulysses, like offering job seeker and/or training services from the Trumansburg Library once a week or holding workshops.

Goal 4

The Town will strive to meet the land use needs, utility, and transportation requirements to encourage businesses to locate and grow in Ulysses.

Objective 4.1

Make the necessary utility and infrastructure improvements to ensure the Town can grow its population and business community sustainably.

Policies

4.1.1 Explore the creation, expansion, and repair of water infrastructure in order to protect the Town's water sources and ensure the Town has safe drinking water.

4.1.2 Review current development and land use codes to ensure they align with the future land use needs of the community, such as more commercial space for businesses and opportunities for denser housing.

4.1.3 Make necessary roadway improvements to ensure that traveling along major roads in the Town, especially Route 96 and access points to the Black Diamond Trail, is safe for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.

4.1.4 Align with local and regional initiatives to protect local natural resources, especially water.

4.1.5 Work with TCAT to increase the frequency of bus service within the Town, specifically on the weekends and after 5 pm on weekdays.

4.1.6 Invest in sustainable energy and utilities that align with local and regional sustainability efforts.

Environment & Natural Resources Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Continue to proactively preserve and protect the natural and environmental resources in Ulysses.

Objective 6.1

Work with local and regional entities to protect natural and environmental resources.

Policies

6.1.1 Actively communicate with the Village of Trumansburg, Tompkins County, institutions, and State/Federal Agencies about collaboration opportunities for conservation efforts and mitigating adverse impacts in Ulysses.

6.1.2 Continue to periodically update the Town of Ulysses Natural Resources Inventory as a guide for conservation efforts. Utilize natural resources protection techniques defined such as regulatory tools, non-regulatory tools, and educational programs

6.1.3 Actively engage and support the efforts of the Conservation and Sustainability Advisory Council (CSAC) in researching and recommending policies, procedures, and practices to enable the Town to manage and protect its natural resources, and promote environmental sustainability.

6.1.4 Continue to advocate for public access and investment to outdoor recreation resources and opportunities, including Taughannock State Park, the Black Diamond Trail, the former Camp Barton, the Jacksonville Community Park, and Town-owned parks."

6.1.5 Identify opportunities for implementing initiatives that protect Unique Natural Areas defined in the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council's Unique Natural Areas Inventory. Consider creating Critical Environmental Areas for increased protection of specific habitats or species.

6.1.6 Explore ways that the Town could assist with preservation of prime agricultural land and access to it for those wanting to continue farming into the future..

6.1.7 Encourage and assist interested landowners in participating in a conservation easement program to protect unique and sensitive environmental features/resources on their property and explore other incentive opportunities that provide for long-term protection of important resources on private land.

Goal

Protect Water Resources in the Town of Ulysses.

Objective 6.2

Develop strategies and engage in planning efforts to protect water resources and improve water quality.

Policies

6.2.1 Protect streams and their watersheds to maintain water quality, manage stormwater and flooding, and enhance ecological diversity. Develop a town-wide hydrology study as a tool to inform future actions.

6.2.2 Ensure that future development and planning efforts are in compliance with new NYSDEC wetland regulations enacted as of January 2025 to protect existing wetlands and wetland habitats.

Comprehensively re-evaluate streams and wetlands and amend regulations that pertain to and protect them using NYSDEC and USACE standards.

6.2.3 Conduct and adopt a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program that incorporates watershed studies and plans. Focus on including permitted uses along the lake shore and waterward, review/permitting processes for proposed work in these areas, and include as part of that a shoreline access plan for new/re-development for all non-residential projects.

6.2.4 Encourage proper disposal of hazardous wastes to mitigate contamination into water sources.

6.2.5 Identify opportunities for watershed management initiatives, especially to address streambank erosion control as prioritized by the Cayuga Lake LWRP. Collaborate with appropriate partners and agencies for implementation as necessary.

6.2.6 Continue to promote best management practices for agriculture, including nutrient management to protect water quality.

6.2.7 Explore the feasibility of public water systems in an effort to reduce use of groundwater and reduce environmental impacts.

Goal

Promote Natural Resources within the Town of Ulysses.

Objective 6.3

Promote and support educational opportunities to connect the public with natural resources within Ulysses.

Policies

6.3.1 Support opportunities to expand ecotourism in Ulysses. Collaborate with local institutions and committees to identify opportunities.

6.3.2 Work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to learn about threatened and endangered candidate species. Share resources and measures that can be taken to protect these species with future development as set forth by USFWS.

6.3.3 Promote Cayuga Nature Center's Paleontological Research Institution resources to educate the public on biodiversity, local habitats, HABs, and the impact of climate change on natural resources. Encourage in-person visits to the Cayuga Nature Center to connect with the natural environment. Encourage residents to visit Smith Woods to engage more with forestlands.

6.3.4 Share resources such as Cornell's Forest Connect to educate the public on ecological functions and sustainable production practices of private woodlands.

6.3.5 Continue to promote use of the Black Diamond Trail, Cayuga Nature Center, Jacksonville Park, Salo Habitat Preserve and Taughannock State Park to connect with the natural environment and identify opportunities to educate the public on the natural resources they are comprised of.

6.3.6 Maintain and enhance natural areas throughout the Town of Ulysses. Explore funding resources to implement enhancements as time and resources allow.

6.3.7 Develop a master plan for Salo Habitat Preserve to guide long-term care.

6.3.8 Identify opportunities to incorporate biodiversity and native species as appropriate on town-owned recreation properties.

Objective 6.4

Continue to Protect Open Space and Agricultural Land Resources.

Policies

6.4.1 Expand on the 2018 NRI analyses to develop and implement an open space plan, and scenic resources inventory .

6.4.2 Identify potential areas that can be designated as a Critical Environment Area, especially to protect areas of concern.

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Climate Change & Resiliency Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Collaborate with local and regional partners to implement climate change preparedness and adaptation efforts.

Objective 7.1

Establish and strengthen connections with local and regional partners and discuss opportunities for collaboration for addressing climate change challenges and resiliency initiatives.

Policies

7.1.1 Actively communicate with the Village of Trumansburg, Tompkins County, institutions, and organizations about collaboration opportunities for addressing GHG and energy use reduction challenges.

7.1.2 Collaborate with Tompkins County to assess how Ulysses can contribute to addressing regional challenges and implementing policies outlined in the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier Regional Sustainability Plan.

7.1.3 Identify and promote opportunities to increase the use of local and regional renewable energy sources and technologies.

7.1.4 Connect local farmers with Cornell's Climate Smart Farming Program to learn about climate smart farming tools to assist them with decision making for agricultural operations.

7.1.5 Work with the Trumansburg Central School District, Ithaca Central School District, nearby institutions, and engage citizens to create opportunities to learn about Climate Change and Resiliency. Collaborate with the institutions to create volunteer opportunities for students interested in that field.

7.1.6 Work with Tompkins County on strengthening recycling and reuse options and opportunities both in the County and the Town of Ulysses.

Goal

Increase Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Preparedness Efforts and Public Awareness.

Objective 7.2

Actively communicate with the public on climate change preparedness initiatives that the Town is pursuing at the local and regional scale.

Policies

7.2.1 Assist with and advocate for public education on climate change, sustainability, and hazard mitigation.

7.2.2 Research the feasibility of incorporating renewable resources throughout the town.

7.2.3 Continue to communicate with the public about the benefits of being a Climate Smart Community and a Clean Energy Community, and how the public can contribute.

7.2.4 Gather feedback from the public on climate change impacts they are facing and how it's affecting their quality of life.

7.2.5 Share the work being completed by CSAC, WSPPC, HNPAC, BFCC. Encourage the public to participate in meetings and future initiatives led by these committees. Share and regularly update the actions the Town has taken or is working on to increase climate change preparedness, adaptation, and mitigation.

7.2.6 Develop a volunteer group with the HPBAC and BFCC to lead scheduled tours of significant natural areas in the town. Invite landowners to participate by welcoming tour groups on their land, where necessary.

7.2.7 Work with the Village of Trumansburg on developing an emergency preparedness plan that incorporates hazard mitigation efforts.

7.2.8 Improve hazard preparedness of Ulysses by proactively sharing information and best practices with property owners and encourage property owners to take preventive actions in areas that are especially susceptible to hazards. Apply for funding to develop a Hazard Mitigation plan that will be a sub-plan to the Comprehensive Plan. Ensure the Hazard Mitigation Plan is in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan, County Planning goals, and State goals pertaining to hazard mitigation.

7.2.9 Collaborate with necessary agencies to educate the public on specific, individual and household preparedness and recovery activities to natural disasters.

Goal

Reduce Adverse impacts to natural resources and ecosystems caused by climate variability.

Objective 7.3

Identify opportunities to mitigate adverse impacts to the natural environment.

Policies

7.3.1 Identify opportunities to improve carbon sequestration and storage in forests, wetlands, and soils.

7.3.2 Identify opportunities to enhance the enforcement of ordinances, regulations and other mechanisms that can facilitate resilient and sustainable construction standards.

Objective 7.4

Explore opportunities for incorporating sustainable development practices, recycling, reuse strategies to improve community resiliency.

Policies

7.4.1 Consider providing incentives for incorporating green infrastructure techniques in rehabilitation projects and new construction projects.

7.4.2 Identify ways to Incorporate hazard mitigation into land-use planning and natural resource management.

7.4.3 Expand composting and recycling opportunities throughout Ulysses. Encourage and educate the public on the benefits on composting, recycling, and reuse practices.

7.4.4 Promote resilient and sustainable land use practices to increase overall natural resilience.

Objective 7.5

Protect water quality and reduce impacts of flooding throughout Ulysses.

Policies

7.5.1 Share resources from FEMA and other agencies that provide mitigation strategies for homeowners to reduce the impacts of flooding.

7.5.2 Complete a Town-wide hydrology study to assess climate change impacts on Cayuga lake, tributaries, and water resources.

7.5.3 Promote awareness and facilitating public information on HABs occurrence and contributing factors, in collaboration with local and regional NGO's, watershed organizations, and NYSDEC.

7.5.4 Continue to engage municipal staff in training on stormwater management regulations and techniques.

Goal

Identify vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change and extreme weather and ways to reduce adverse impacts.

Objective 7.6

Inventory and assess vulnerabilities and other impacts related to climate change and extreme weather. Develop adaptation strategies and work with partners on implementation.

Policies

7.6.1 Conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment based on current and future climate hazards. Work to identify those individuals and groups most physically and socially vulnerable to local hazard risk. Prioritize vulnerabilities to identify appropriate adaptation strategies. Consider working with the Climate Smart Communities program for funding assistance to implement the study.

7.6.2 Communicate with regional entities and institutions about local vulnerabilities to see if there's opportunities for collaboration on implementing adaptation and hazard mitigation strategies.

7.6.3 Assess potential impacts of climate change hazards on infrastructure. Consider incorporating Climate Protection Levels (CPLs) into building codes and/or future design standards. CPLs are measures aimed at enhancing building resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change.

7.6.4 Develop a climate action plan that is in alignment with the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan and other regional initiatives/plans. Partner with institutions and partners as it is developed.

7.6.5 Support County Emergency Management's efforts related to community preparedness requirements and response. Advocate for preparedness needs specific to Ulysses, especially for planning for vulnerable populations.

7.6.6 Minimize losses of human life and structures from flooding and erosion hazards by implementing management measures outlined in the Cayuga Lake LWRP.

7.6.7 Educate the public on invasive species, especially those found in Ulysses, and the impacts they can have on residents and the natural environment.

Transportation Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Create a multitude of safe and efficient transportation options throughout the Town for all users, and reduce the environmental impacts of the transportation sector.

Objective 8.1

Support and provide additional opportunities for people to utilize alternative modes of transportation, including public transit, bicycles, and walking.

Policies

8.1.1 Revise the zoning ordinance to permit denser, mixed-use areas around Transit services.

8.1.2 Construct sidewalks and crossings throughout the Hamlet of Jacksonville.

8.1.3 Work with the NYS DOT and Tompkins County to ensure roadways have sufficient shoulders for cyclists to operate.

8.1.4 Identify a person in the Town that will convey to the County and NYSDOT that respective road shoulders need to be widened, especially when there are plans to work on them.

8.1.5 Revise subdivision ordinances to: require sidewalks to be constructed on both sides of every street within a Major Subdivision; require walkable block lengths; require pedestrian permeability; and other improvements.

8.1.6 Create a Hamlet of Jacksonville Master Plan that would detail multimodal improvements and a potential future roadway network to utilize during future subdivision requests or possible Town directed expansions.

8.1.7 Work with employers and carpool/vanpool services to implement programs that address transportation barriers faced by potential employees.

8.1.8 Work with TCAT to explore options for improved service within the Town and how the Town can support their operations.

8.1.9 Collaborate with key stakeholders to research shared funding opportunities and areas of possible collaboration.

8.1.10 Utilize the ITCTC as an asset for securing funding and planning to complete all transportation related goals.

8.1.11 Work with Tompkins County to market their resources and programs with Town residents.

8.1.12 Develop and implement a First Mile/Last Mile Program to connect residents to the nearest bus stop and ensuring they can connect to their desired destinations

8.1.13 Construct an off-road cycle track or wide shoulders along the existing the Two Gorges Bike Route.

8.1.14 Identify additional, possible local bike routes and improve the roadways with off-road cycle tracks or wide shoulders.

8.1.15 Work with Cayuga Medical Center to make the Black Diamond Trail more accessible to get on.

8.1.16 Provide additional trailheads to the Black Diamond Trail on roads that connect to the trail.

8.1.17 Create a local cycling route map for the Town and make easily available to residents and others.

Goal

Reduce negative transportation externalities and environmental impacts.

Objective 8.2

Facilitate shifts in transportation choice to low impact transportation modes and electric vehicles, and facilitate reductions in vehicle miles travelled.

Policies

8.2.1 Identify the appropriate locations for and construct electric vehicle charging stations within the Town.

8.2.2 Convert the Town's fleet of vehicles to electric as they depreciate and are in need of replacement.

8.2.3 Explore alternatives to road salt and/or explore more efficient application methods for road salt.

8.2.4 Limit roadway widenings for travel lane expansions and clearing to minimize impacts to surrounding vegetative areas.

8.2.5 Explore methods for reducing speeds on rural roadways to minimize the severity and number of collisions with wild animals.

8.2.6 Explore the possibility and desirability of regulating drone delivery services within the Town.

8.2.7 Work with Ithaca Carshare to provide location options in Ulysses and Trumansburg.

Goal

Improve transportation safety for road users throughout Ulysses

Objective 8.3

Eliminate severe and fatal collisions in the Town including with vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.

Policies

8.3.1 Develop a Local Road Safety Plan.

8.3.2 Work with NYS DOT to install traffic calming or speed reduction techniques within the Hamlet of Jacksonville, and as population in the Hamlet grows, potentially signalized crossings.

8.3.3 Work with NYS DOT and Tompkins County to identify methods to improve safety and identify potential traffic calming measures along the roads they own and operate.

8.3.4 Work with the Tompkins County Sheriff and NYS Police to explore options to expand speed enforcement along roadways. If possible, utilize camera technology.

8.3.5 Expand communication efforts to the public about their role in transportation safety.

8.3.6 Conduct annual reviews of safety outcomes to measure trends and target zero fatalities or serious injuries.

8.3.7 Create safe roadway connections to the Black Diamond Trail by including crossing markings, signage, and wide shoulders or pathways, among other potential improvements.

8.3.8 Work with local advocacy groups to educate roadway users on safe practices including safety equipment, safe speeds, rules of the road, and operation.

Community Well-Being Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Improve park and recreational facilities for the continued use and enjoyment of residents and visitors of the Town of Ulysses.

Objective 9.1

Identify opportunities to expand parks, recreation facilities, and community spaces.

Policies

9.1.1 Collaborate with the Jacksonville Community Association to identify opportunities to create playing fields and gathering spaces for Town-sponsored recreation programs, and/or special rentals that can generate revenue.

9.1.2 Support the creation of new community spaces throughout Ulysses that can be accessed by all residents.

9.1.3 Support the development of the Black Diamond Trail as a multi-use recreational, health, and open space amenity within the Town of Ulysses.

9.1.4 Identify underutilized buildings and facilities within the Town that could be used for recreational and social programming, like Ulysses Square.

9.1.5 Continue to plan for the former Camp Barton site and collaborate with the communities that are a part of the Three Falls Local Development Corporation and New York State Parks.

Goal

Expand multi-modal transportation options to support safe traveling for all.

Objective 9.2

Support expanded public transportation options and multi-modal traveling options for residents.

Policies

9.2.1 Advocate for expanded TCAT service to address service gaps in rural areas of Ulysses.

9.2.2 Conduct a sidewalk inventory, improve, and expand sidewalks throughout Ulysses where appropriate.

9.2.3 Support the creation of additional trails and bike paths, especially those that can connect Route 96 & Route 89 to the Black Diamond Trail.

9.2.4 Collaborate with local bike organizations and create a map that identifies safe bike routes.

9.2.5 Develop a transportation improvement plan that addresses public transportation, safety, accessibility, and service gaps.

9.2.6 Provide opportunities for residents to share their ideas and concerns related to transportation to aid in decision making.

Goal

Improve access to fresh food throughout Ulysses

Objective 9.3

Identify opportunities to expand access to fresh food for residents.

Policies

9.3.1 Collaborate with local farmers and businesses on expanding the existing farmers market by adding pop-up vendors (like art and handicrafts).

9.3.2 Promote current food banks and human services resources on the Town website. Share new resources as they become available.

9.3.3 Assess barriers to accessing fresh food. Provide ways for residents to provide input on food access issues.

9.3.4 Support new businesses that can provide fresh food and/or dining.

9.3.5 Identify ways to help seniors and residents without transportation who have challenges accessing food.

Goal

Promote a sense of community.

Objective 9.4

Promote a welcoming and inclusive community that residents feel connected to.

Policies

9.4.1 Create a committee that will host and support community events, increase programming, and spread awareness relating to these activities, while also working with residents and stakeholders to develop new events that can keep the community connected.

9.4.2 Engage with families, seniors, and active senior groups to identify ways to improve and expand programs, services, and facilities for youths and seniors.

9.4.3 Collaborate with the Tompkins County Office for Aging to learn how to best support seniors and keep them connected to the community. Especially focus on seniors in rural areas who may be isolated.

9.4.4 Support new youth programs, organizations, daycares, and businesses that can provide services to support current families and attract new families to Ulysses.

9.4.5 Work with the Trumansburg School District to identify ways to collaborate on programming and services for youth. Provide ways for families to share ideas for programming and service needs.

9.4.6 Support the creation of new clubs and committees throughout Ulysses that allow residents to connect with one another on common interests. For example, a new club could be connected to leadership training.

9.4.7 Encourage residents to be part of current Town of Ulysses committee groups.

Goal

Create a healthy, long-living community.

Objective 9.5

Integrate the “Blue Zone Power of 9” principles into Ulysses.

Policies

9.5.1 Based on Town leadership interest, create a working group of leaders and community members that will inform the community on the benefits of the Blue Zone.

9.5.2 Identify community-wide needs and collaborate on policies and projects that can improve community health and well-being.

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Capital Facilities, Services, and Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal

Explore options to make water in the Town more accessible, affordable and safe.

Objective 10.1

Work with Town leadership, key stakeholders, and residents to explore options for expanding water access.

Policies

10.1.1 Continue to convene stakeholders to determine interest and willingness for upgrading the Town's water districts to provide municipal water to more residents

10.1.2 Explore the costs necessary to expand the municipal water district to other areas of the Town.

10.1.3 *(blank)*

10.1.4 Continue hazard mitigation efforts to monitor and reduce the level of THMs in the Town's water district, ensuring they are at acceptable, safe levels. reduce the level of THMs in the town's water district are at acceptable, safe levels.

10.1.5 Work with Tompkins County Whole Health department and the New York State Department of Health to provide free well water testing to residents.

10.1.6 Ensure that permitting processes for wells and septic tanks in the Town remain efficient and affordable.

10.1.7 Adopt the Town of Ulysses Drinking Water Source Protection Plan and proactively implement the strategies identified.

10.1.8 Create a list of alternative drinking water options for residents who are connected to well water.

Objective 10.2

Explore options for expanded sewer and wastewater service in the Town.

Policies

10.2.1 Explore population projections and future land use maps to better understand where expanded services would be most feasible and have the greatest impact.

10.2.2 Explore feasibility of developing small-scale wastewater treatment facilities for septic and sewer in identified areas for future growth.

10.2.3 Work with Tompkins County to share information on how residents can take advantage of New York State's Septic System Replacement Program, which was recently awarded \$30 million in funding for Round 4 of the program.

10.2.4 Work with the Village of Trumansburg, Hamlet of Jacksonville, and Tompkins County to continually educate residents and businesses on how to properly care for well and septic systems, including any funding or resources that are available.

10.2.4 Consider infrastructure and site needs for wastewater and sewer, ensuring the Town has adequate resources to make future improvements as necessary.

10.2.5 Explore possibility of tying into existing Town of Ithaca water and sewer systems to support a high density housing development near the southern Town line (similar to Wolf lane in Town of Ithaca).

Goal

Improve roadways to improve transportation and safety in the Town.

Objective 10.3

Make roadway repairs and improvements to make traveling in the Town safer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Policies

10.3.1 Travel along roadways within the Town's control to create an inventory of necessary repairs.

10.3.2 Address repairs on locally-owned roads in collaboration with the Village of Trumansburg and Hamlet of Jacksonville.

10.3.3 Work with Tompkins County and NYSDOT to make repairs and improvements to County and state-owned roads.

10.3.4 Work with state, regional, and local agencies to determine if there are available funding opportunities or collaborations that could help shoulder the cost of road repairs.

10.3.5 Ensure that public transit stops and routes within the Town are safe and maintained.

Goal

Maintain the Town of Ulysses high quality of life through improved capital facilities, utilities and services.

Objective 10.4

Preserve the Town's treasured characteristics while making investments and improvements to services that will enhance quality of life.

Policies

10.4.1 Continue historic preservation efforts within the Town.

10.4.2 Explore options to more closely connect the Town's recycling services to reliable recycling and reuse centers, making the Town's waste collection and removal efforts more environmentally friendly.

10.4.3 Utilize historic buildings and preservation as a tourism opportunity to bring visitors and investment to the Town.

10.4.4 Explore opportunities to promote renewable and environmentally-friendly energy sources in the Town, in alignment with the New York State Energy Plan.

10.4.5 Support initiatives and encourage best practices for improving energy efficiency in aging residential homes and commercial businesses.

Objective 10.5

Enhance local healthcare, emergency services, and fire department services.

Policies

10.5.1 Explore options for further investment into the Village of Trumansburg's EMS and fire department.

10.5.2 Explore opportunities and advocacy for regional EMS and fire coverage to minimize impact to tax payers.

10.5.3 Continue to support the Village in hiring full-time firefighters and EMTs as necessary within the Town's annual budget request. Review terms of this request to provide additional funding as necessary.

10.5.4 Attract additional healthcare providers to the Town, increasing access for residents.

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