



Broome County Comprehensive Plan

Building Our Future

Introduction

The history of Broome County is tied to the ideas and achievements of our residents and the distinctive character of our neighborhoods and pastoral landscapes. A strong work ethic, scenic beauty, and pride in our communities have provided the springboard for successful, home-grown industries and the establishment of close-knit, inviting neighborhoods. However, Broome County has also faced significant challenges as the economy painfully restructured and we endured record breaking floods.

To address these challenges, it is important that we reflect and build upon our rich history and identify new opportunities, such as a vibrant and growing arts and culture community, distinctive urban centers and rural villages, expanding recreational opportunities, and an innovative work force. By leveraging these resources, Broome County can achieve its vision.

A powerful tool in this effort is a comprehensive plan. By preparing a new comprehensive plan, our community has laid out its shared vision and built consensus for public investment and regulatory policies. The plan can be used to protect resources, give validity to local land use decisions, guide infrastructure investments, support grant writing, and foster economic development.

The Steering Committee for this planning process included representatives of higher education, economic development, agriculture, the rural villages and urban centers, and county government. Over the course of the past year, the Steering Committee established a set of principles to guide development of the plan and reviewed all the information that was generated. The Planning Department and our economic development consultants, EM Pemrick, prepared an inventory of current assets, threats, and opportunities. Residents weighed in on this inventory and helped formulate a vision for the community. Finally we prepared an action plan with specific steps to move ourselves from our current state to the proposed vision.

Community involvement was essential during all stages of the process. We listened to residents, business owners and stakeholders about how they view Broome County today. We met with numerous stake holder groups including:

*Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce
Local planning and zoning boards
Binghamton University Graduate Students
Broome County Bar Association Municipal
Attorneys Working Group
Broome County Board of Realtors
Broome County Environmental Management
Council
Citizen U.*

*Preservation Association of the Southern Tier
Southern Tier Homebuilders and Remodelers
Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission
Broome County Farm Bureau
Aging Futures Partnership
Livable Communities Alliance
Western Broome Economic Roundtable
Broome County Council on the Arts*

