

## 6.0 CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Walden's unique sense of place is defined, in large part, by its cultural and historic resources. This Chapter provides a brief description of those resources along with recommendations for enhancing and protecting these resources in the future.

### 6.1 Cultural Resources

The Josephine-Louise Public Library is an important cultural resource within the Walden community. The library is centrally located and within walking distance of two local schools and most residents. It services a population of over 5,000 students from eight area schools.

The library is open to the public from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Friday; and from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday. The library is closed on Sundays.

In 1994, the library was restored to its original Georgian style with spacious open area with high palladium windows, a circular balcony and homey fireplace. Three former meeting rooms of the fire department were also incorporated into the library providing additional space for the library. The total net area of the library is 4,420 square feet.

Presently, the library occupies the first and second floor of the east wing of the Municipal Building and has its own separate entrance facing Scofield Street. The first floor accommodates new bestsellers, adult

and young adult fiction, books-on-tape and videos. A spiral staircase leads to the second floor library.

The balcony displays magazines and newspapers and provides reading area. The second floor accommodates the Children's, Non-Fiction, Reference sections and the Director's Office. In 1991, the Marie E. Crist Local History Section was established to house local materials and rare history books.

The library includes a permanent collection of contemporary and classic books. Its permanent collection is supplemented by the Library's participation in the Ramapo-Catskill Library System, which allows residents to borrow books from 47 libraries in Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties. The library also provides public access to computers with Internet access along with video and audio books. The library is a free WiFi hotspot, which enables residents to gain Internet access free of charge.

Throughout the year, the library hosts cultural events including story time for children, afternoon at the movies, continuing education programs, concerts and group book discussions. The Josephine-Louise Public Library is in many ways the cultural center of the Village of Walden.



**Above:** The Josephine-Louise Public Library was originally opened March 1, 1901 and was subsequently incorporated in 1910. The library has been housed at its present location since 1916.

The Library Board’s three-year plan includes the following goals, which are supported by reference in this Comprehensive Plan:

- Continue to provide state-of-the-art technological resources;
- Continue to replace outdated reference materials;
- Continue to support local artists through cultural events and art displays;
- Enrich Children’s Reading Programs;
- Provide literacy training and implement ongoing tutoring program in literacy;
- Acquire additional computers; and
- Obtain additional space for literacy tutoring and computer services.

There are a variety of other cultural resources within Walden. The New York School of Music is a full-service music school with classrooms for private lessons along with studio rehearsal rooms. Established in 1988, the Hudson Valley Conservatory of Fine Arts is an arts education group where children and adults can receive professional training in theatre arts, voice, music and dance.

In 2017, world-renowned fine arts foundry Polich Tallix moved its facilities to a 32-acre site on Edmunds Lane in Walden. In addition to fabrication, the facility offers services in restoration, design, enlarging, mold-making and installation as well as the sale of unique, architectural metalworks materials. It most notably manufactures the Oscar statuettes given out at the annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and

Sciences Awards. In addition to these cultural institutions, the Village of Walden and the Walden Community Council routinely host a variety of community events, which enhance the quality of life for local residents, while also drawing visitors to the community. Some examples include the concerts in the park, Walden Harvest Fest, Halloween festivities, Christmas Celebration and many other events held throughout the calendar year.

The Walden Board of Trustees recognizes the importance that cultural establishments can have on the community’s social and economic vitality. To this end, the Village of Walden has proactively embarked on developing cultural as well as economic opportunities to transform and make Walden an entertainment venue.

There is already a Sketch Plan for the proposed placement of a 750-seat amphitheater at Bradley Park (see also Section 7.1.2 and Appendix A). The proposed amphitheater is intended to create a multi-purpose (music and performance arts) venue, which could draw a regional audience. This Plan strongly supports efforts to expand cultural and entertainment venues in Walden in order to enhance the social and economic vitality of the community. The Village Board should work with individuals and agencies to identify appropriate locations for cultural and performing arts. The Village Board should continue to support events that draw a regional audience, such as Walden Harvest Fest, and explore the creation of other arts and entertainment venues.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of the New York School of Music, on Orchard Street in the heart of Downtown; contributed photo from the Hudson Valley Conservatory of Fine Arts showing dance school; and photo from Polich Tallix website of their famous Oscar statuette. Each of these cultural institutions adds to the cultural and social vitality of the Walden community.

## 6.2 Historic Resources

The Village of Walden has a variety of 19th and 20th century architectural styles, which help to define its unique sense of place. There is a renewed interest and commitment to historic preservation within the community as its civic leaders and residents have come to realize the social and economic value of preservation efforts. The structures and public spaces that define Walden today reflect the values of its past. The preservation of these historic resources will help to shape the community's values in the future.

The interest in preserving historic structures reflects the value that Walden has a unique sense of place that is worthy of preserving. This Comprehensive Plan recognizes the importance historic preservation plays in civic pride and in stimulating the local economy and encourages efforts to list individual properties and create historic districts, where feasible to do so.

The National Register of Historic Places is the United States government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. Today, some historic buildings within the Village are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many, however, are not. There are no National or State Register Historic Districts in Walden. However, there are many individual buildings and areas in the Village, which are eligible for National Register listing.

A Walden Historic Survey and Report (1982) recommended three historic districts as follows: 1) Church Street, 2) Ulster Avenue and 3) West Main Street. A subsequent Historic Survey was conducted in 2006, which also supported the creation of these historic districts.

The Church Street Historic District would be centered on the First Reformed Church circa 1830. The reports noted “the quality of the homes and the early date of development give this district both architectural and settlement significance for the Village.” Architectural styles in this vicinity include: Second Empire and Greek Revival architecture. These structures remain largely intact and are without question worthy of preservation.

The proposed West Main Street district includes Italianate, Victorian and Queen Ann styling of architecture. The recommended Ulster Avenue district is comprised of architectural styles reflecting the early years of the industrial revolution, including Greek Revival, Italianate detail, Victorian, Federal, Dutch Colonial, Colonial, Eastlake, and Eastern Stick.

The 19th Century Rider-Ericsson Company Building and the Wooster Manufacturing Company Buildings near Railroad Avenue should also be considered for historic building designation. Each of these buildings are significant to the history of Walden and would be eligible for individual listing on the State or National Register of Historic buildings.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of the First Reformed Church at the corner of Church Street and Scofield Street (1839); *Second Empire* style residence on Church Street with white quoins and window hoods, which contrast the red brick (mid-1800's); brick residence with gable roof, decorative dental strip and front porch.

The Village of Walden Board of Trustees adopted a set of Design Guidelines for the Downtown, which provides standards to following in the renovation of historic building facades within the business district along with guidelines for the design and placement of new buildings. The Village has also adopted Design Guidelines entitled “A New Traditional Neighborhood at Railroad Place,” which also provides general criteria to follow in the renovation of historic building in the vicinity of Railroad Avenue along with standards for the design and placement of new buildings.

Presently, the Village does not have land use regulations that address exterior alterations to historic structures outside of Downtown or the Mixed Use Zoning District surrounding Railroad Avenue. Although the Village of Walden has several residential neighborhoods, which are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, there is nothing in the way of standards to guide exterior alterations to historic residential properties. If the Village is to retain its unique sense of place in the future, some consideration of protecting the integrity of its historic properties through guidelines or historic district designation should be considered.

This Plan recommends the Village Board initially develop a set of voluntary Historic Preservation Guidelines to guide the homeowner decisions with respect to exterior alteration to their homes and to help building owners better understand historic preservation techniques.

The guidelines would outline the principles of design and preservation that homeowners and **Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan**

business owners could use when they are evaluating proposed changes to historic buildings. The guidelines would describe the types of renovations which are appropriate and specify the appropriate types of building materials to be used in building renovations. It would also describe the architectural elements to be preserved (see illustration on Page 47).

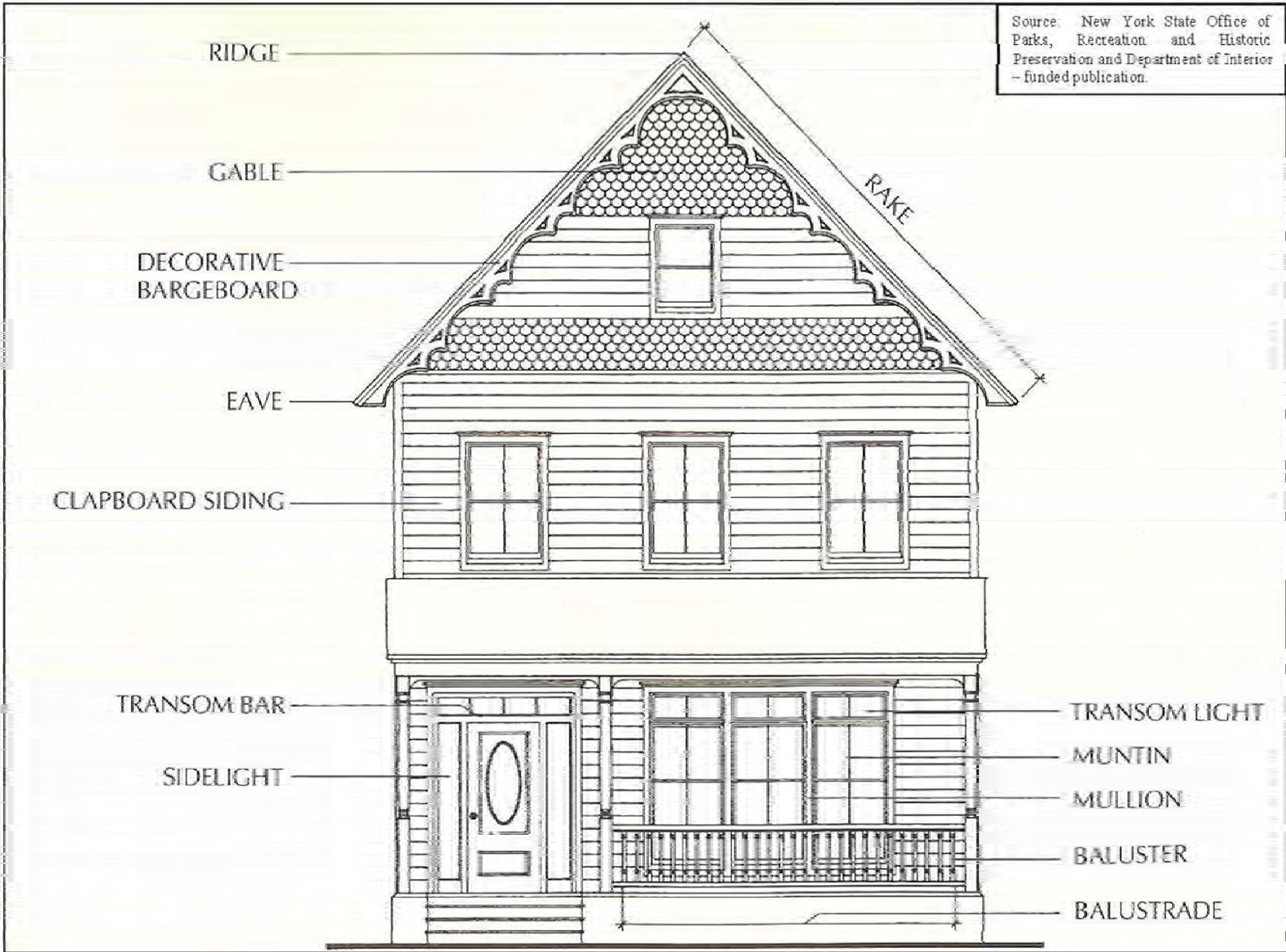
Guidelines will help to take the ambiguity out of the decision-making and ensure consistent quality of historic property renovations within the Village of Walden. Over time, these efforts will help to preserve the integrity of the historic buildings and enhance property values as buildings are renovated and the historic integrity of neighborhoods and business areas are enhanced. The creation of a set of Historic Preservation Guidelines is but one measure the Village Board can employ to protect the integrity of historic houses and commercial buildings within the community.

As restoration efforts within the Village of Walden take hold, the Village Board should consider the creation of a separate Architectural and Historic Review Board (AHRB) that would be charged with the review of proposed exterior renovations of structures within designated historic districts. One advantage of having an AHRB is that its sole purpose would be to review proposed renovations and/or new construction within historic districts.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of Rider- Ericsson Company (aka Package Lighting Building) circa late 1800’s; view of workers housing along Railroad Avenue and view of Wooster Manufacturing Company (aka Nelco Building) circa 1876.

Source: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Department of Interior - funded publication.



The creation of an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) would require the adoption of a Local Law by the Village Board. An AHRB would help to ensure the design of new buildings complemented the historic character of the Village rather than detract from it. Whether or not an AHRB is established, it is recommended that the scope of design review be expanded to include the review of exterior renovations or new construction in all business districts.

Long-term, the Village Board could work with property owners to seek the creation of a National Register-designated Historic District. The National Register listing symbolizes the importance of these areas and property owners in the districts are eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the “certified rehabilitation of income producing certified historic structures.”

### 6.2.1 General Historic Preservation Guidelines

In general, the original architectural elements of a building (including type of materials used) are what give the building its historic significance. The following guidelines should be followed:

#### *Respect Original Architecture of the Building.*

- Determine which elements are essential to its character and preserve these; and
- Avoid masking over original materials.

*Avoid removing or altering any historic material or significant architectural features or adding materials, elements or details that were not part of the original building.*

- Rehabilitation work should preserve and retain original wall and siding materials; and
- Details such as decorative millwork or shingles should not be added to buildings if they were not an original feature of that structure.

#### *Maintain existing architectural elements of the historic building.*

- The best preservation technique is to maintain historic features from the outset so that intervention is not required. Use treatments such as caulking, limited paint removal and reapplication of paint and rust removal;
- Repair only those architectural features that are deteriorated;
- Only replace those features that are beyond repair or missing; and
- Patch, piece-in, splice, consolidate or otherwise upgrade the existing material, using National Trust Preservation Standards.

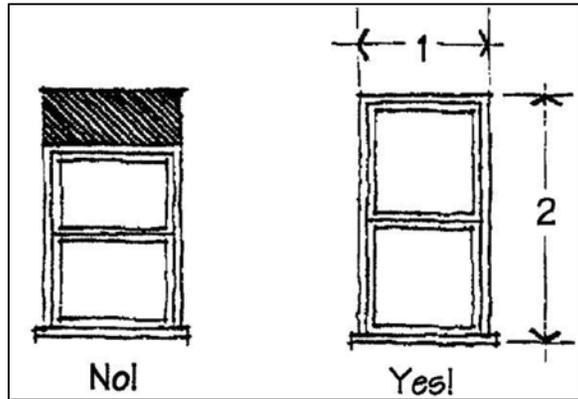
#### *The original window openings, muntin and mullions should be preserved where feasible.*

- Do not block down the original window openings to accommodate a stock window that does not fit the building;
- Where windows have previously been blocked down, allow replacement windows that will fit the original window opening.



**Above** (top to bottom): Walden House, circa late 1700’s; Octagon House between Maple and Orchard Street; and nicely preserved workers row houses along Center Street. The Walden House is on the National Register of Historic buildings and the other buildings are eligible for listing on the National Register.

- Retain original window style when replacement is necessary.



*Original building materials should be preserved and should not be covered with synthetic materials.*

- Avoid removing siding that is good condition or that can be repaired;
- If portions of the wood siding must be replaced, be sure to match style and lap dimensions of the original;
- New building permit applications to install vinyl or aluminum siding should be prohibited; and
- Deteriorated architectural features should be repaired rather than replaced, whenever possible.

### 6.2.2 Preservation Policies Adjacent Areas

Presently, the Planning Board is only authorized to review exterior alterations to historic properties that lie within the Downtown or the Mixed Use MX-District. It does not have the authority to review extensive changes in the exterior design or

appearance of any existing structure or new construction in or adjacent to these designated districts.

The Planning Board should also be authorized to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations or new construction in all zoning districts with particular attention to those properties which are within line-of-sight of Downtown, MX-District and/or individually listed National Register properties to prevent inappropriate changes, which would diminish the integrity of any property listed on the State or National Register of historic places.

The Village Board should also encourage property owners to voluntarily employ generally accepted historic preservation techniques when performing exterior renovations on their properties.

Information can be provided on the Village’s website and links to other helpful resources and qualified contractors to help residents better understand measures they can voluntarily employ to retain the historic character of their homes. The Village Board of Trustees should also explore opportunities to secure grants to encourage property owners to do renovations in a manner that will protect the integrity of their homes. It should also raise awareness of the Historic Tax Credit program.



### 6.2.3 Other Preservation Policies

The Village can strengthen its preservation goals by becoming a state-designated Certified Local Government (CLG). The CLG program supports and strengthens local preservation activities by encouraging communities to develop an action plan in order to achieve their preservation goals. In New York State, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation administer the CLG program.

The Village can be a CLG, once the SHPO determines that it meets state and federal standards, which include having enacted appropriate preservation legislation and appointed a qualified preservation review commission. Approvals are forwarded to the National Park Service for certification. All certified CLGs are eligible to receive a variety of services from the SHPO, including:

- Grant money designated exclusively for CLG projects. SHPO makes grant awards through the CLG program;
- Membership in a national CLG network;
- Technical preservation assistance and legal advice;
- Direct involvement in SHPO programs, such as identifying properties that may be eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places;
- Training opportunities that will enable communities to protect their historic resources and integrate them into short and long-term planning initiatives; and

- Ongoing support from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The CLG program could further the Village's preservation efforts by bringing needed dollars and technical expertise. It is recommended that the Village give further consideration to pursuing Certified Local Government designation.

The Village has a number of significant historic resources and has taken important steps to preserve these resources. It is recommended that the Village strengthen these efforts by implementing the policies, which are outlined above. Doing so will help to protect the Village's historic resources for future generations and also enhance the integrity of its existing historic properties.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of homes which appear to be eligible to be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places and could also be part of a designated district with neighboring properties.

### 6.3 Summary of Recommendations

Continue to support the Josephine-Louise Public Library and keep this cultural institution in its present location in the heart of the Downtown. The library is an important cultural institution and anchor for the Downtown Business District.

Work with local cultural institutions to help them grow within the community. Support institutions as they seek foundation support and work with local chambers and business organizations to promote these institutions to residents.

Expand cultural and entertainment venues in Walden in order to enhance the social and economic vitality of the community. The Village Board should work with individuals and agencies to identify appropriate locations for cultural and arts venues.

Continue to support events that draw a regional audience such as Walden Harvest Fest, Halloween Christmas Celebration and Winter Carnival. The Village Board should continue to work with local organizations to support such events.

The Village Board of Trustees and Recreation and Parks Department should coordinate with State agencies and local not-for-profit entities to secure funding for the construction and operation of new arts and entertainment venues.

Develop a set of voluntary Historic Preservation Guidelines for local residents.

These would guide homeowner decisions with respect to exterior alteration to their homes and help them better understand historic preservation

techniques. Restoration techniques, appropriate window treatments and a list of pre-certified contractors and vendors that are trained in historic preservation work could also be provided.

Pursue National Register Historic District Designation of Districts Identified in 1982 and 2006 Historic Surveys. Reach out to gain building-owner support for such efforts.

Grant the Planning Board with the authority to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations or new construction on properties within line-of-sight of the individually listed National Register properties.

Support grant applications for funding through the NYS Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation. Provide support letters to landowners who are seeking State or federal grants for historic preservation purposes.

Support the individual listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places. Provide letters of support to homeowners who are seeking State or National Register listing of the properties.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of Downtown mixed use buildings on Main Street; view of recently renovated Millspaugh Furniture on Main Street with new upper cornice and large display windows; and view of renovations which respect the character of the existing structure.

## 6.4 Funding Sources

There are a variety of funding sources that are available to help fund these efforts. A summary of some of the more likely sources of funding is provided below.

### *New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA)*

NYSCA makes over 2500 grants each year to arts organizations in every arts discipline throughout the state. NYSCA's goal is to bring high-quality artistic programs to the citizens by supporting the activities of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

[www.nysca.org](http://www.nysca.org)

### *Federal Investment Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties*

Owners of income producing real properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places may be eligible for a 20% federal income tax credit for the substantial rehabilitation of historic properties. The final dollar amount is based on the cost of the rehabilitation; in effect, 20% of the rehab costs will be borne by the federal government. The work performed (both interior and exterior) must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and be approved by the NPS.

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/tax-credit-programs.gov>

### *NYS Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit*

Rehabilitation work on historic residential structures may qualify for a tax incentive. The credit will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of structures, up to a credit value of \$25,000. Houses must be an owner-occupied residential

structure and be individually listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places, or a contributing building in a historic district that is listed on the state or National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the house needs to be located in a "distressed" census tract, defined as "targeted areas" under Section 143 (J) of the Internal Revenue Code. The project must spend at least 5% of the total on the exterior work and be approved by OPRHP prior to start of construction.

## 7.0 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

The Village of Walden is unique in its very distinct edge between the “village” and “town.” This distinctive edge is defined, in part, by the dense development pattern within the Village, which stands in contrast to the rural development on its edge. Walden’s parks, public lands, institutions and open space, which is situated on the edge of the community, also help to define this distinctive edge. As you approach Walden, there’s a clear sense of arrival. This distinctive edge helps to provide an exceptional sense of place and is worthy of preserving. A primary goal of this Plan is to maintain the distinct edge of the Village of Walden.

Another goal of this Plan is to encourage the preservation, protection and enhancement of Walden’s open space, parks, and recreational facilities. Numerous studies have shown the presence of abundant and publicly accessible open space and parklands increases community property values while contributing to economic growth by attracting new residents.

The Village of Walden manages seven public parks and offers a variety of recreation programs. In total, nearly 145 acres of land is designated as public parkland. This represents 11.25% of the Village land area of two square miles. A list of the Village’s parks follows along with the amount of parkland in each.

Walden is unique in that many of its public parks are linked to its densely developed residential areas by an extensive sidewalk system.

Table 7-1: Walden’s Public Parks	
Park	Acres
Mary Jean “Midge” Norman Park	0.23
Bradley Park	34.20
James W. Olley Community Park	98.90
Marcus Millspaugh Riverfront Park and Boat Launch	1.20
Martin Besdesky Playground	0.44
Veteran’s Memorial Park	0.7
Wooster Memorial Grove Park	9.40
McKinley Monument	0.02
Fireman’s Triangle	0.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144.57</b>

The recent addition of the Walden-Walkill Rail Trail and other walking trails have improved the linkage to the existing park system, while increasing the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities available to residents and visitors.

There are several types of open space and recreational resources, which need to be protected to preserve Walden’s sense of place. These include the preservation of natural feature open space such as riparian zones along stream corridors, wetlands and wildlife habitat (see Chapter 4.0). These also include the protection and expansion of Walden’s park and trail system. The following is a brief description of Walden’s parks along with policies to preserve open space and expand recreational opportunities.



**Above** (top to bottom): Handicap accessible entrance to Walden-Walkill Rail Trail leading up to Woodruff Street; Children’s Playground in Wooster Grove Park; and view of baseball field at Bradley Park.



## 7.1 Walden's Park System

The Village of Walden Recreation and Parks Department provides parks, facilities, and recreational programs to meet the needs of the Village residents. The Department operates and maintains seven (7) public parks, which offer a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities for local residents (see Map 7-1).

The Village Board, in conjunction with the Department, is presently planning improvements to its park system. What follows is a brief description of each park, along with a discussion of proposed improvements.

### 7.1.1 Mary Jean "Midge" Norman Park

Midge Park, located on Alfred Place, is comprised of 0.23 acres of land. Though small, this park is important to the community in that it is the only active recreation park situated on the west side of the Wallkill River. The park contains a children's playground and half basketball court. Proposed improvements call for the construction of full outdoor basketball court at this park.

### 7.1.2 Bradley Park

Bradley Park consists of 34.2 acres and is situated in the northern portion of the Village. Bradley Park contains five baseball/softball fields, two tennis courts, a children's playground, skate park and picnic tables. Soccer and tennis programs are offered at this park.

The Walden Recreation and Parks Department has developed plans for the enhancement of the recreational facilities and other public amenities at Bradley Park. The proposed improvements include:

construction of new restroom facility, off-street parking lot, possible creation of new outdoor community theater with seating for up to 750 persons; along with a series of scenic walkways, which will provide views and access to the Wallkill River. The proposed improvements are intended to transform this park into a multi-purpose recreational and cultural destination with an integrated system of natural, passive, active and linear recreation areas; along with cultural amenities, to serve a broader range of community interest and needs. Public access to the Wallkill River for fishing, boating and kayaking should also be considered at this park.

### 7.1.3 James W. Olley Community Park

James Olley Community Park is Walden's largest public park with a land area of 98.90 acres. Presently, the park contains a lakeside beach for boating, fishing and swimming, paddle boats, a waterslide, two children's playgrounds, a playfield, sledding hill, nature trails, a pavilion, two gazebos and picnic tables and grills. The Village's Summer Recreation Program and Summer Playground Program, which run from July through August, occur here. There is room to accommodate more facilities in this park.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of Midge Norman Park from Harvard Drive showing children's playground and basketball court; view of one of Bradley Park baseball fields; and view of Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School, which abuts Bradley Park along Bradley Lane.

The Walden Recreation and Parks Department has a Master Plan for the enhancement of the recreational facilities at James Olley Community Park. The Plan calls for the a new community and senior center, comfort station, expansion of trail system within the passive portion of the park on the east side of the lake and the construction of exercise stations along the trail and expanded off-street parking.

#### *7.1.4 Marcus “Mickey” Millspaugh Riverfront Park and Boat Launch*

The Village of Walden owns a 1.2-acre parcel of land on the eastern shore of the Wallkill River with access from Maple Street. There is a parking lot that can accommodate 20 vehicles along with a boat ramp at this location, which allows residents to obtain access to the Wallkill River, where they can boat, canoe, fish or kayak. The Village recently approved a plan to update this area with a sitting area, small, non-motorized boat launch/take-in and new signage which is to be implemented in the near future with grant money obtained from the State.

#### *7.1.5 Martin Besdesky Playground*

Martin Besdesky Park consists of 0.44 acres and contains an existing children’s playground. The park is situated in the southernmost portion of Walden off of Pond Road. Only playground improvements are planned for this park.

#### *7.1.6 Veterans Memorial Park*

This 0.70-acre pocket park is situated on the western bank of the Wallkill River just north of Cliff Street. The park contains a flagpole, benches, commemorative brick pavers provided by local residents and a scenic overlook with views of the Wallkill River upper and lower falls. This is a passive public park with little area to add recreational amenities.

#### *7.1.7 Wooster Memorial Grove Park*

This 9.4-acre park is in the east central portion of Walden, just south of NYS Route 52. While modest in size, Wooster Grove contains the greatest variety of recreational facilities of any park. These include the John H. Howland Youth Center, basketball courts, ice skating rink, picnic tables, barbeque grills, shuffleboard court, and Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail Welcome Center.

Many recreational facilities in the park were completed through volunteer efforts of local residents and organizations. These include the Walden Rotary’s Bandstand and the Community Playground, which was completed by the Local Development Corporation and local volunteers.

Programs available at the park include adult gymnasium, after school programs, basketball league, exercise classes, indoor soccer, mom & tot playgroup, outdoor summer concerts and a teen center. The recreational programs offered at this park serve an important community need.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of Veteran’s Memorial Park, which is situated on the west bank of the Wallkill River; view of beach and water slide at Olley Park; and view of bandstand at Wooster Memorial Grove Park with youth center and Walden Train Station Building in the background.

Wooster Memorial Grove Park sustained considerable flood damage during the arrival of Hurricane Irene in the late summer of 2011. Many of the park buildings and recreational amenities were under water. The new Youth Center was inundated - with floodwaters rising to a level of four feet inside the building.

Most of the parks in Walden lie outside the 100-year floodplain. However, Wooster Grove Park is situated entirely within the 100-year flood of the Tin Brook and the recent severity in flooding point to the need to reassess where certain prominent recreational buildings should be situated within the Village's park system.

This Plan supports continued use of the existing recreation buildings and facilities at Wooster Grove Park. However, these facilities should not be replaced at this location should future flooding require their removal. If this occurs, these facilities should be relocated to either James Olley Park or Bradley Park, where they can be safely placed outside of the floodplain.

## 7.2 Recreational Needs

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) established standards and development guidelines for community parks and recreational needs. These are based upon population size and are used to help communities plan for future needs. Walden meets NRPA standards for many recreational facilities listed in Table 7-2, but not all and there is still a growing need for parks.

Table 7-2: Recreational Demand in the Village of Walden			
Facility Type	Standard per 1000 persons	Need (ac)	Provided
Neighborhood Park	1 acre	7	10.07 acres Midge Norman Martin Besdesky Wooster Grove Park
District Park with restrooms, playfields, tot lots, winter activities.	2 acres	14	131.1 acres Bradley Park and Olley Park
Field Games	3 acres	21	34.2
Tennis Courts	½ court	3.5	2
Basketball Courts	½ court	3.5	2.5
Baseball	1 per 5000	1.5	5
Soccer	1 per 10,000	1	1
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	<1	0
Trails	1 per region	1	Rail Trail

Walden meets the minimum NRPA standards for baseball fields and utilizes a multi-purpose grass field at Bradley Park to accommodate additional field sports including flag football and soccer for which the Village offers summer programs. As this field is located between the baseball diamonds, it can only be used when baseball is not in season. The Village should continue to pursue a more permanent solution for the provision of grass field space.

It is also noted that while the Village doesn't have a swimming pool, it has a beach and swimming area at James W. Olley Park. Based on the standards, the Village has demand for additional hard surface courts for basketball and tennis. Other needs that have been expressed through the public participation process have been a designated dog park and community garden which could also be accommodated at Olley Park. The Village should seek input from the Valley



**Above** (top to bottom): Children ice skating at Wooster Grove Park; view of James W. Olley Park pond; and view of Walden Community Playground at Wooster Memorial Grove Park. Walden offers recreational opportunities for all ages and for all seasons.

Central School District to assess recreation needs of its students.

Between 2000 and 2010, the population in Walden increased from 6,164 persons to 6,978 persons, a 13.2% increase. In one decade, the Village needed to provide recreational services for an additional 814 residents. It was able to do so, in part, because of an existing policy requiring developers to contribute a *Payment-in-Lieu-of-Parkland* (PILOP) fee to mitigate impacts associated with an increase in the demand for recreational services.

The PILOP fee is based on the number of units within a proposed development and may include reductions where a developer provides certain open space or recreational amenities on-site.

The payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee is then set aside in a special reserve fund to be used solely for parkland improvements or acquisition of additional parkland. Without the payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee, it is unlikely to the Village of Walden would have been able to provide the recreational facilities needed to serve its growing population. This Plan strongly supports the requirement that developers contribute a payment-in-lieu-of parkland fee to help the community to meet its growing recreational needs.

As the few large tracts of land in Walden are developed, the Planning Board should encourage development that affords the opportunity to preserve some open space. By this we mean, the provision of open space should be viewed as part of the overall development process.

<b>Table 7-3: Recreational Facilities in the Village of Walden</b>	
<b>Park</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
Mary Jean “Midge” Norman Park	Basketball Court (1/2) Children’s Playground
Bradley Park	Baseball/softball fields (5) Multi-sport grass field (1) Tennis Courts (2) Skateboard bowl (1) Children’s Playground Picnic Tables (3)
James W. Olley Park	Children’s Playground Pavilion/Gazebo Picnic tables (10) grills (3) Beach with swimming Fishing pond Volley Ball Court Nature Trail
Marcus “Mickey” Millspaugh Riverfront Park and Boat Launch	Parking Lot and Boat Launch
Martin Besdesky Playground	Playground
Veteran’s Memorial Park	Flagpole, benches and scenic overlook
Wooster Memorial Grove Park	Recreation Building/Office Basketball Courts (2) Picnic Tables (10) Shuffleboard Court (1) Ice Skating Rink (60’x40’) New Youth Center w/ - Interior Basketball Court - P/T Youth Activity Director Children’s Playground Teen Center Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail Welcome Center
Fireman’s Triangle	Fireman’s monument Armed Forces Tribute Memorial Garden

In recent years, the Planning Board has approved single-family and multi-family developments that includes the provision of conservation lands. Looking ahead, opportunities to provide new open space or to expand existing open spaces should be encouraged through the development review process.

### 7.3 Summary of Recommendations

This Plan recognizes the need to encourage quality development, but also understands that such development must be balanced with protection of open space and the provision of recreational resources to meet the growing needs within the community. The following policies are proposed to protect and enhance the Village's open space and recreational resources.

#### 7.3.1 Open Space Protection

Promote the preservation of open spaces near the municipal boundary to help maintain the distinctive edge of the Village of Walden. Through the development review process, encourage the preservation of open space near the municipal boundary line. With respect to the Village's parks, maintain open space buffers along the municipal boundary, where parks abut the boundary line.

Utilize parks and other open lands, institutions, the Walden-Walkill Rail Trail and the preservation of natural features to form a well-defined edge around the Village. Several of the Village's parks are situated on the municipal boundary as are institutions such as the Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School, which abuts Bradley Park along Bradley Lane. The riparian zones along the Wallkill River and Tin Brook also help to define the unique

edge of the Village. Where feasible to do so, these features should be preserved.

Promote development which contributes to the protection or expansion of open space. Through the development review process, the Planning Board should look for opportunities to refine development plans in a manner that provides for some open space. This can be in the way of common areas, buffer zones or the dedication of land for parkland.

Support efforts to conserve agricultural lands on the edge of the Village through the purchase-of-development- rights (PDR) program. The New York State Agriculture and Markets PDR program has already been successfully utilized to purchase development rights from farmers in the Town of Montgomery. A number of these farms are near the municipal boundary and their preservation helps to maintain the unique edge of the Village of Walden.

#### 7.3.2 Recreational Resources

Continue with timely implementation of the Village of Walden Recreation and Parks Department's recommendations for parkland improvements as reflected in the Master Plan for the Village's Parks. As cited in Section 7.2, the Walden Recreation and Parks Department has prepared Master Plans, which illustrate proposed capital improvements to Walden's public parks. These improvements are in response to growing community needs and should continue to be a priority for systematic implementation by the Village Board. The Master Plans for each park are provided in Appendix A.



Above (top to bottom): View of Fireman's Triangle Park, view of northern gateway to the rail-trail in the Hamlet of Wallkill during the grand opening; and view of kayakers on the Wallkill River in Walden.

Require developers to contribute a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help the community to meet its growing recreational needs. Walden has existing legislation, which requires a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help mitigate the potentially significant adverse impacts a development would have on the community's park system. The Planning Board, through the environmental review process, should document the potential adverse impacts and cite appropriate mitigation measures.

Pursue inter-municipal agreements and/or public/private partnerships to meet growing recreational needs of the community. For example, the Village Board could reach out to the Most Precious Blood Regional Catholic Elementary School to develop a public private partnership to develop athletic fields on the school site, which abuts Bradley Park. The Village Board, could also work the County or its neighboring communities (as it did on the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail project) to further develop a regional trail system. Expand waterfront access to the Wallkill River to provide for additional boating, fishing and hiking opportunities. Continue to implement proposed improvements at the Marcus Millspaugh Riverfront Park including the provision of a pier for fishing, trails and picnic facilities. The Village should also look for opportunities to expand access to the Wallkill River in the vicinity of Bradley Park to provide additional boating, fishing and kayaking opportunities.

Develop a system of active and passive recreational areas and facilities, which are diverse and well-utilized due to their appropriate location and design. Build upon the existing park system and

systematically upgrade the facilities in these parks to meet community needs.

Provide linkages between existing open space and recreational areas. For example, utilize bikeways, trails and the protection of natural resources to tie together a system of open space.

Assess the feasibility of expanding recreational opportunities on other village-owned properties. The Village owns land on the west side of the Wallkill River at the end of McKinley Avenue. This property should be considered as a future access point to the Wallkill River. Additionally, the Village of Walden owns a large tract of land north of Valley Avenue, which contains a sewer pump station. This site abuts the Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail and may lend itself to trails and other passive recreation uses.

Ensure new recreational buildings are situated outside of floodplain. Relocate existing facilities to higher ground when they are replaced.

“Promote the preservation of open spaces near the municipal boundary to help maintain the distinctive edge of the Village.”

~Comprehensive Plan Committee

## 8.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Village of Walden provides a variety of community services to meet the needs of its residents including police, fire and ambulance protection and public works. An elected Mayor and Board of Trustees govern the Village of Walden. The Village Manager oversees the Village’s day-to-day operations while the Mayor and Board of Trustees, adopt the budget, authorize payments and establish policies.

The term “community facility” includes the physical improvements owned and maintained by a municipality on behalf of its residents. These include buildings, equipment, parkland, roads, water and sewer infrastructure and interest in other lands (such as easements). The purpose of this Chapter is to discuss the adequacy of the existing community services and facilities and to propose policies to ensure the needs of residents are provided for in the future.

### 8.1 Police Protection

The Walden Police Department provides police protection for the entire Village of Walden. The Police Department headquarters are located in Village Hall, occupying 1,600 sq. ft. on the first floor. The Department’s Dispatch and Control Center has local and 911 receiving and sending capabilities along with a 1930's era holding cell to detain prisoners on a short-term basis.

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy and is also based upon the public’s perception of security and their satisfaction with the response time of existing law enforcement entities.

The Village of Walden presently supports a 24/7 Police Department with a full-time Chief, three full-time Sergeants, nine full-time Patrol Officers and fifteen part-time Patrol Officers. The Village is patrolled with six marked patrol vehicles, two Raleigh F500 and two Cannondale Police bicycles. There is a seasonal foot-patrol and bike-patrol that covers the Downtown from 6:00PM until Midnight. There are three full-time and eight part-time Dispatchers that operate the Police Department’s 24 hour a day Dispatch Center. On average, the Walden PD responds to 469 calls for service each month and averages 81 arrests per month. Trends in Police Department activity are provided in Table 8-1 below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>Arrests</b>
2011	6737	493
2012	11,705	326
2013	12,750	480
2014	10,122	431
2015	11,268	394
2016	11,998	274
2017	10,156	284



As the Village's population continues to grow, the demand for Police Department services will likely increase. Identifying the needs of the PD will help to ensure the long-term quality-of-service for all Village residents. The following policies are recommended to ensure sufficient police services in the future.

- As part of the Village's Capital Improvement Program, assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities.
- Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so that existing resources can be utilized in the most effective manner.
- Ongoing coordination with State and County law enforcement agencies to respond to community needs, while reducing the cost to provide services locally.

## 8.2 Fire & Ambulance Protection

There are several Fire and Ambulance companies that operate within the Village limits. The Walden Fire District covers the entire Village as well as portions of the Town of Montgomery. The Walden Fire District provides fire protection to the residents out of two stations; the main station is located at 230 Old Orange Avenue and a sub-station located at the intersection of North Montgomery and Wait Streets. Its largest fire company is located on Old Orange Avenue and has five (5) bays.

There are four fire companies within the Village limits as follows: 1) Colonel Bradley Hose Company, 2) Enterprise Steamer Company, 3) Fearless Hook & Ladder Company, and 4) Orange Hose Company.

Within the Village of Walden, there are over 200 volunteers among the ranks of its four fire companies.

The Village of Walden has a well-trained volunteer fire department as well as modern fire-fighting equipment. The District uses three (3) engines, one (1) ladder truck, one (1) tanker, one (1) rescue, one (1) ATV kubota and one (1) brush truck to accomplish fire and rescue applications. The Walden Fire District participates in the County Mutual Aid Plan with seven fire companies in the Town of Montgomery. This arrangement allows the Village fire company to summon the assistance of the other seven fire districts, if it were needed in an emergency. This Comprehensive Plan recommends that calls for the Walden Fire District be monitored to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the Village's growing population base.

The Walden Ambulance Corp d.b.a. Town of Montgomery Ambulance provides basic life support services to residents in the Village of Walden. They are located at 22 South Montgomery Street on property that is owned by the American Legion. Calls for ambulance services should be monitored to determine future facility and equipment needs. Doing so will help to ensure the needs of the community are met.



Above (top to bottom): View of Orange Hose Co. No. 1; view of Colonel Bradley Hose Company No. 2 Building on NYS Route 52 on the west side of the Village; and picture of Engine 238 from the Orange Hose Co. No. 2.

### 8.3 Schools Facilities

Walden lies within the Valley Central School District, which provides a high quality education to its students with a 93% graduation rate in 2017- well over the New York State average of 80%. The following enrollment figures include all students from Walden, Town of Montgomery, Town of Crawford, Town of Wallkill, Town of Hamptonburgh and Town of Newburgh from the New York State Education Department. In recent years, enrollment in the Valley Central School District is decreasing. In 2016-2017, total school enrollment was 4,239 students in K-12 which is down from 5,082 in the 2007-2008 school year which represents a nearly 20% decrease.

Table 8-2: Valley Central School District Enrollment		
	Enrollment 2010	Enrollment 2017
Elementary (4 Schools, Grades K-5)	2,205	1,762
Valley Central Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1,145	1,040
Valley Central High School (Grades 9-12)	1,572	1,437
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,922</b>	<b>4,239</b>

Source: NYS Education Department

The Walden Elementary School is part of the Valley Central School District. This elementary school is located in the heart of the Village on Orchard Street. The Village is also home to the Most Precious Blood Catholic Magnet School, which is located on Bradley Lane in the north central portion of the Village to the west of New York State Route 208 (aka Ulster Avenue).

Table 8-3: Most Precious Blood School	
Grade	Enrollment
Pre-kindergarten	33
Grades K-8	114

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics

Without question, the location of these schools in the heart of the Village - where most students can walk to school - enhances the quality of life in a community. The location of elementary school in the central business district also helps local commerce through the presence of teachers and other school employees who purchase goods and services in the Downtown.

This Comprehensive Plan strongly supports efforts to keep these educational institutions viable and to keep these facilities within the Village of Walden. The Village Board should play an active role in maintaining the viability of these institutions by regularly communicating with school boards to ensure their needs for community services continue to be met.

Also important with schools in the Village's downtown are sidewalks and crosswalks to ensure safe travel for children to and from schools. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federal, state and local



**Above** (top to bottom): Walden Elementary School on Orchard Street, Most Precious Blood School and Valley Central High School, in the Town of Montgomery. It is critically important that Walden retain an elementary school within the Village limits.

effort to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school and to make walking and bicycling to school safe and appealing. In New York, as in other parts of this country, travel to school by walking and bicycling has declined dramatically over the past several decades. The adverse impacts of this trend include both increased traffic congestion and adverse impacts on children's health. Funding for the Safe Route to School Program are available through the NYS DOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. This plan recommends the Village pursue funding for targeted projects that improve pedestrian safety conditions in the vicinity of the Village's schools.

## 8.4 Public Works

The Village's Public Works Department (DPW) primary responsibility is to deliver facilities and infrastructure required to meet the needs of the community and comply with all applicable engineering standards. The Village's DPW has thirteen (13) full-time employees who collectively maintain the community's water, sewer and street systems.

The Department fulfills its responsibilities through planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Village's capital projects and infrastructure, and also through plan review and permit processes to regulate and facilitate private development. The new expanded Department garage is located on Bradley Lane within Bradley Park. The proposed building was constructed in the same location as the existing facility which was demolished. The project constructed a new 13,000

square foot two story pre-engineered metal building to include eight bays drive thru bays, a mechanical drive thru bay, water department drive thru bay and office space for the DPW, Water Department and DPW Mechanic. The proposed building also included new water and sewer services, electrical services, mechanical systems and HVAC systems. The construction of the new facility enabled the Village to triple the available building space from 4,000 square feet to 13,000 square feet for the DPW vehicle storage, provide for office space, and associated ancillary facilities for operations and allowed for the sale of two other properties to return them to the tax roll.

### 8.4.1 Public Water

Walden presently uses five (5) production wells that draw from an underlying sand and gravel aquifer to serve its potable water needs. Today, the five (5) production wells have a combined permitted capacity of 2.1 million gallons per day. The average daily water demand for the Village in 2017 was 492,000 gpd. The Village maintains twenty four (24) miles of water line, which are part of its water supply system.

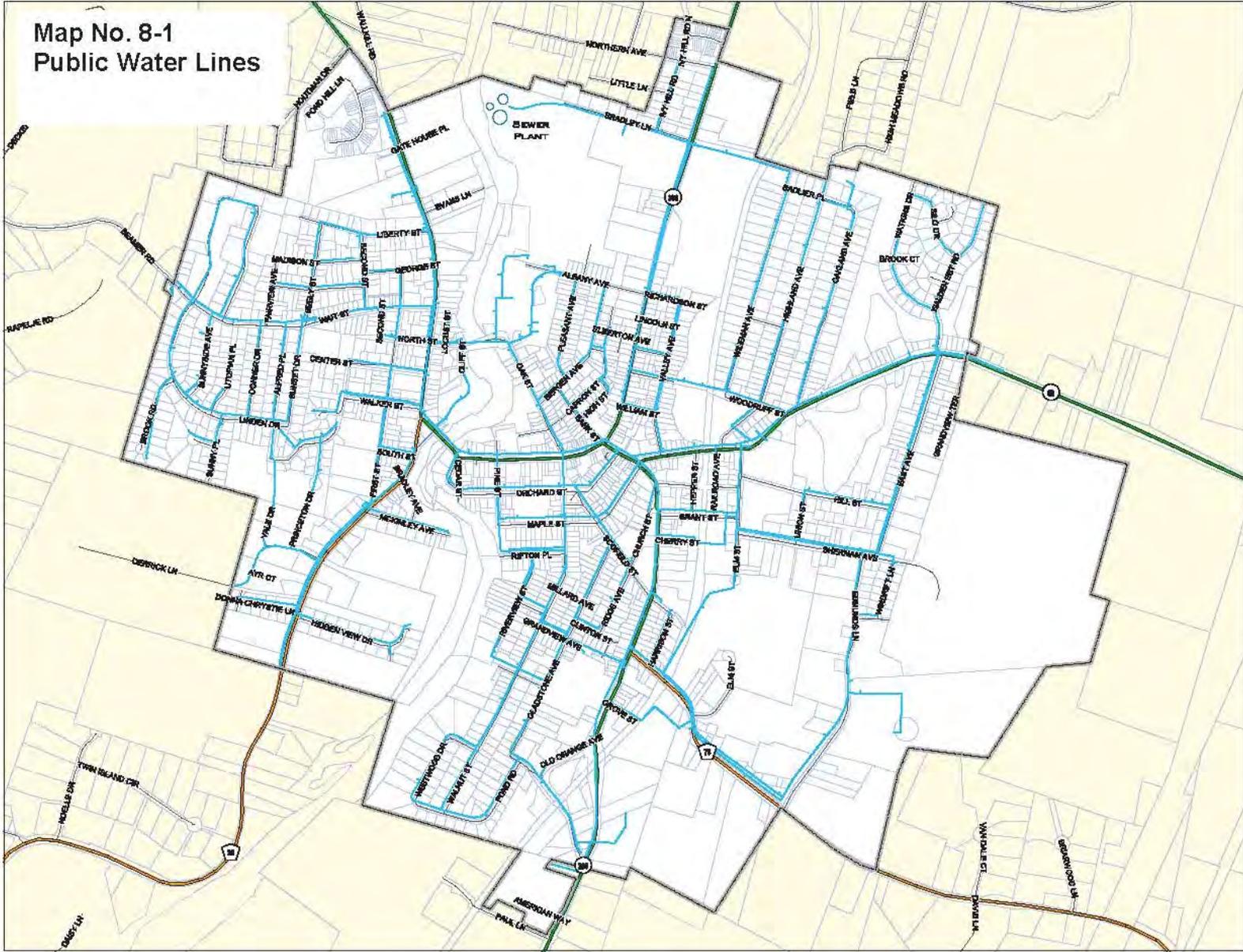
The Village Board of Trustees has a well-established policy of supporting efforts to continually restore and upgrade the potable wells and distribution system to meet the growing needs of the community. In recent years, these efforts have included:

- Restoring and cleaning all five production wells and replacement of all well pumps to ensure continual water production for the Village;
- Painting of the water storage tanks at Gladstone and Wait Street at a cost of \$350,000.00;
- Construction of building extension and installation of generator for Well 4 and water control building at a cost of \$100,000.00,
- Upgrade of the well 4,5 and 6 control and treatment building with installation of new telemetry system at a cost of \$190,000.00;
- Water meter replacement program at the cost of \$650,000.

While there is sufficient capacity to serve the community today, it is important to protect the wells from potential sources of contamination so future potable water supply needs can continue to be met. Walden's wells are located in the Town of Montgomery where the Village does not have direct control over land use decisions, which could adversely affect its wells. In 2009, the Village completed a Wellhead Protection Report, which was sent to the Town for review.

Coordination with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village's 2009 Wellhead Protection Report is a priority of this Plan. It is imperative that measures are put in place today to prevent contamination of the groundwater aquifer, which feed Walden's wells. Doing so will enable the Village to provide for its potable water needs today and into the foreseeable future. It will also allow for sustainable residential and nonresidential growth in the Village of Walden.

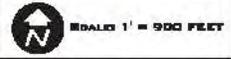
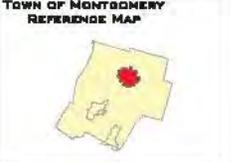
Capital improvements that are proposed for the Village's water supply system include on-going efforts to identify locations for wells on the Village's west side.



**VILLAGE OF WALDEN  
WATER & SEWER  
INFRASTRUCTURE MAP**

**LEGEND**

- Municipal Boundary
- Water Pipe Lines
- Parcel
- Interstate
- Federal Highway
- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road



**ORANGE COUNTY  
WATER AUTHORITY**  
 15 MATTHEW ST.  
 BOBEN, NY 10924  
 TEL: (845) 394-9533  
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 WWW.OCWA.BUS.ORG  
 JAMIE.LC@OCWA.BUS.ORG  
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**DISCLAIMER:** THIS MAP IS A PRODUCT OF THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (OCWA) DEPARTMENT. THE DATA DEPICTED HERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED WITH EXTENSIVE COOPERATION FROM OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. ORANGE COUNTY AND OCWA MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION IN THE MAPPING DATA, BUT RATHER, PROVIDE AND INFORMATION AS IS. ORANGE COUNTY AND OCWA EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES OR LIABILITY THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE USE OF THIS MAP.

#### 8.4.2 Public Sewer

The Village of Walden operates a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve all residential and commercial properties in the Village. Walden has a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to operate this plant. The DEC has listed the capacity of the plant at 1.2 million gallons per day (mgd). The WWTP daily average use is 800,000 gallons per day which would suggest an excess capacity of 400,000 gallons per day. There were periods over the past several years where the average daily flow from the WWTP exceeded 3 million gallons. The surge in flow was attributed to infiltration & inflow into the sewer system. . The Village is actively working to address infiltration & inflow through a variety of initiatives. By addressing the infiltration & inflow problem and ensuring proper operation & maintenance of the sewer system, the Village will be able to provide maximum service to residents and businesses alike while increasing the cost effectiveness of operating the WWTP.

The DPW recently replaced a major trunk line in the vicinity of the Thruway Shopping Plaza, which links the west side of the Village to the east side. It was believed that a large part of the infiltration & inflow was occurring in this area where the trunk line crosses the Wallkill River. The DPW also recently replaced sewer lines along NYS Route 208 (Orange Avenue) to address like issues. This Plan recommends ongoing monitoring of infiltration & inflow issues to maximize capacity of existing sewer infrastructure

and avoid the need for future expansion of the WWTP.

By addressing the infiltration & inflow problem and ensuring proper operation & maintenance of the sewer system, the Village will be able to provide maximum service to residents and businesses alike while increasing the cost effectiveness of operating the WWTP.

Capital improvements recently completed for the sewer system include:

- Sewermain lining along Valley Avenue and the Tin Brook trunkline, at a cost of \$200,000;
- Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements at a cost of \$1.8 million;
- Sewermain replacement along Maple Street at a cost of \$250,000; and
- Entire Sewage Collection System flushing, cleaning and CCTV at a cost of \$100,000.

#### 8.4.3 Street System

The DPW maintains approximately twenty four (24) miles of streets along with sidewalks, storm drains, street trees, and municipal signage. Most of the Village's streets provide designated rights-of-way for motorists and pedestrians. This Plan recommends a "Complete Street" policy through which streets are designed and operated to enable safe, attractive and convenient access and mobility by users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclist, persons with disabilities, motorists and public transportation riders. Each community's definition of what a Complete Street will look like will differ



**Above** (top to bottom): Aerial of Walden's WWTP, Walden's new DPW Garage and workers replacing sidewalks along Wait Street in the Village.

depending upon a community's needs and wants. However, Complete Street roadway design typically include sidewalks, lane striping, bicycle lanes, paved shoulders suitable for use by bicyclists, signage, crosswalks, pedestrian control signals, bus pull-outs, curb cuts, raised crosswalks, ramps and traffic calming measures. New York State adopted a policy of Complete Streets with the stated purpose of contributing to a "cleaner, greener transportation system" and for "more citizens to achieve the health benefits associated with active forms of transportation while traffic congestion and auto related air pollution are reduced." While certain Complete Streets aspects are required to be implemented for all NYSDOT projects and for all projects which receive state or Federal funding, the Village should look to incorporate aspects of Complete Streets wherever possible. Orange County has also adopted a Complete Streets policy and can offer assistance with implementation.



## 8.5 Summary of Recommendations

This Plan recognizes the need to provide community services to meet the growing needs of residents and businesses in a cost-effective manner. The following policies are proposed to help ensure the Village of Walden can continue to provide these services to its residents in a timely and cost-effective manner.

### 8.5.1 Police Services

- As part of the Village's Capital Improvement Program, assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities;

- Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so that existing resources can be utilized in the most effective manner;
- Ongoing coordination with State and County law enforcement agencies to respond to community needs, while reducing the cost to provide services locally.

### 8.5.2 Fire and Ambulance Services

- Monitor calls for the Walden Fire District to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base;
- Monitor calls for the Walden Ambulance to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base.

### 8.5.3 School Policies

While the site location and planning of new public school facilities is within the jurisdiction of the Valley Central School District (VCSD), it is important for the Village to consider these plans and operations within its Comprehensive Plan. The following policies are recommended as a basis for discussion with the School Board:

- Encourage use of schools as multi-purpose community facilities with adult education classes encouraged;
- Maintain viability of the Walden Elementary School through on-going modernization of facilities to meet the demands of the VCSD;
- The Village will seek the cooperation of the VCSD in identifying future school sites and facility needs to ensure a continued presence of an elementary school within the Village;
- School sites should be located in the heart of the Village or adjacent to the edge in order to provide safe and convenient access to all students;
- All schools should be linked to neighborhoods by sidewalks and the village should seek funding where available to improve these linkages;
- The Village will look for opportunities to jointly develop athletic fields within the Village to serve the needs of the VCSD; and
- Outdoor recreational facilities located at public school sites should be designed in a manner that makes them available for public use after school hours and on weekends.

### 8.5.4 Public Works

It is recommended the Village Board pursue the following strategies to diversify its sources of water and also to increase water capacity.

- Coordination with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village's 2009 Wellhead Protection Report is a priority of this Plan
- Identify locations for new wells, including sites on the Village west side.
- Explore opportunities for new production wells on all properties when considered for annexation into the Village of Walden.

The following policies are recommended to help ensure the Village is able to provide needed community services into the future.

- The Village should establish performance standards for new users to ensure an undue strain is not placed upon the Village water & sewer infrastructure.
- New users shall meet regional standards and capacity levels of the Village water and sewer systems. Where additional capacity is needed, developers shall contribute to the upgrade of existing facilities to ensure sufficient service is available to meet other Village needs.
- The Village's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should continue to factor in the projected growth within the community;
- A Capital Improvement Plan should be completed and updated every five (5) years.
- Continue to identify and reduce infiltration and inflow issues in the public sewer system.
- Work with the Town of Montgomery and Orange County Water Authority to identify aquifer protection areas.
- Work with Town to require stormwater pollution prevention plans for developments that could impact Village wellheads.
- Upgrade existing water & sewer infrastructure; and
- Identify and secure State and federal grants to help offset the cost of maintaining the Village's water & Sewer infrastructure.

Support a "Complete Street" policy through which streets are designed and operated to enable safe attractive and comfortable access and travel to all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport. As improvements are proposed for streets, consideration should be given to better accommodating pedestrian and bicyclist needs. Streets within new developments should also incorporate Complete Street concepts.

## 9.0 LAND USE REGULATIONS

The Village of Walden has a land area of 2.05 square miles, of which 1.97 square miles consist of land and 0.08 square miles of water. The first step in planning for Walden’s future involves an analysis of its current land use patterns. The second step of the analysis involves exploring how the community could grow under its present land use regulations (e.g. zoning, subdivision and site plan review regulations) through future development on vacant sites or redevelopment of developed properties within the Village.

### 9.1 Land Use

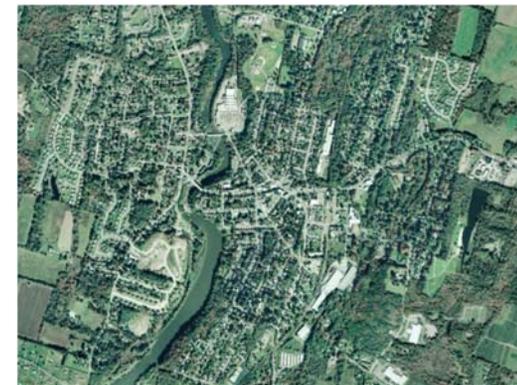
For the purpose of illustrating the Village’s existing pattern of development and planning for future development, properties have been broken down by land use category. In Walden, the most predominant land use type is single-family residential. Neighborhoods that lie both east and west of the Wallkill River are primarily comprised of single-family homes on modest lots, which are 1/4 acre or even less in size. The small lot size, coupled with sidewalks, provides for a pedestrian friendly environment and makes it relatively easy to walk from any neighborhood in the Village to Downtown. Existing Land Use, Figure 9-1 has been developed to illustrate the land use patterns within the Village (see page 70).

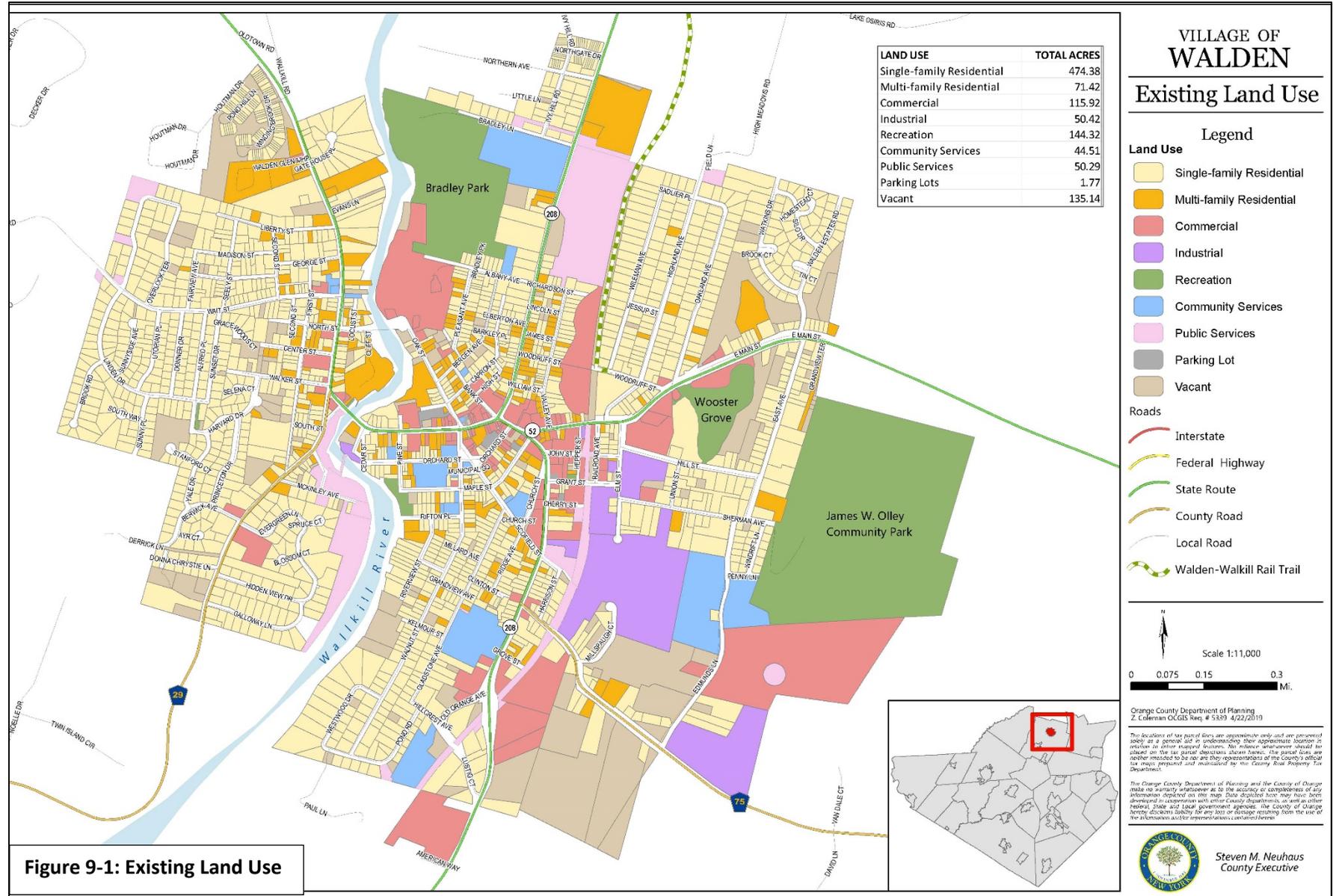
Residential land use is shown in shades of yellow with single-family in pale yellow and multi-family closer to orange. Commercial land uses are shown in red. Professional offices are shown in pink. Industrial uses are shown in purple. Public

institutions include Village Hall, public schools, fire and police stations, etc. These are shown in dark blue. Private institutions include churches, synagogues, parochial schools, and other private organizations; these are shown in light blue. Parkland is broken down into two categories: 1) active parkland [i.e. lands with ball fields, playgrounds, etc.], and 2) passive parkland [i.e. undeveloped parkland]. Active parkland is shown in light green, passive parkland in dark green. Public service uses including utilities, electric sub stations, etc., are shown in light grey.

Table 9-1: Village Land Use		
Land Use	Total Acres	Percent of Village
Single Family Residential	474.38	43.6%
Vacant	135.14	12.4%
Industrial	50.42	4.6%
Recreation	144.32	13.3%
Commercial	115.92	10.7%
Multi-family Residential	71.42	6.6%
Public Service	50.29	4.6%
Community Services	44.51	4.1%
Parking lots	1.77	0.16%
<b>Total Acres*</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>100</b>

\*this total does not include rivers or public roads





**Figure 9-1: Existing Land Use**

## 9.2 Zoning

The Village of Walden has fifteen (15) different Zoning Districts. Eight (8) districts are residential; four (4) business districts intended for retail commercial and office; one (1) office light industry district; one (1) industrial district and one (1) Mixed Use Zone that allows retail, office and residential uses (see Map 9-2: Zoning). The following is a brief description of each of the existing zoning districts within the Village.

### *R-2 Residential 1 & 2 Family*

This zoning district encompasses James Olley Park in its entirety and does not exist elsewhere within the Village. It is unlikely that this zoning district will be applied elsewhere in the Village. It is a recommendation of this plan that this zoning district be changed to a designated Public Parks and Recreation Zoning District.

### *R-3 Residential One-Family*

This district is the predominant residential district in the Village. Single-family detached houses on lots with a minimum lot size of 20,000 sq. ft. are permitted without water & sewer. Water & sewer services are available throughout the Village. With water & sewer, the minimum lot size is reduced to 12,000 square feet. Home occupation and home professional offices are allowed in residential districts as accessory uses. Special Exception uses include: senior group residences, places of worship, golf course, nursery school, public buildings, schools and a variety of community facilities.

### *R-4 One-Family*

This district is similar to the R-3 district, allowing by right the same uses but on smaller lot sizes of 8,000 sq. ft. for single-family residences. R-4 zones are located in the north, south, east and western corners of the Village.

### *R-5 One-Family*

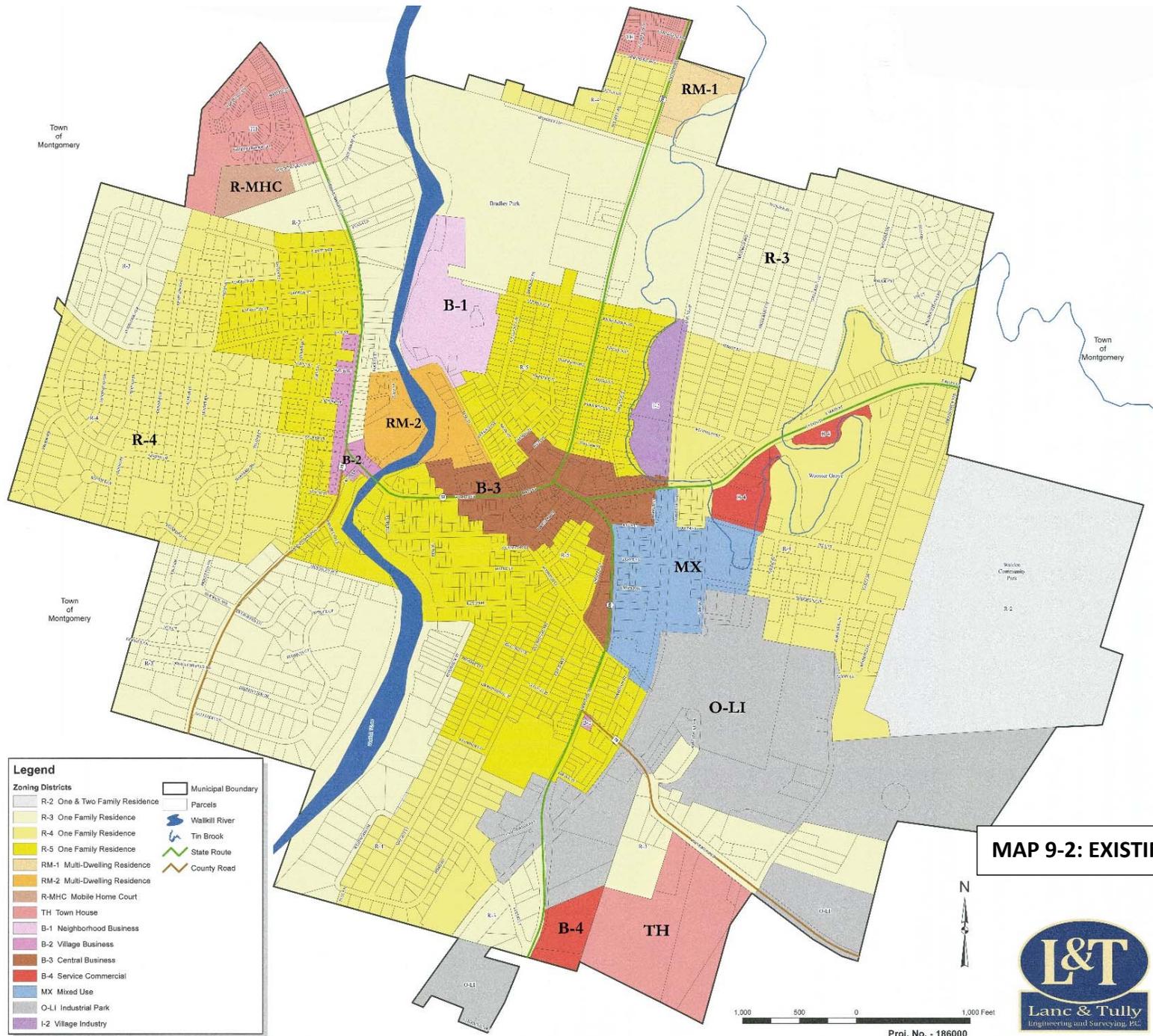
The R-5 districts are located in close proximity to Downtown. The R-5 zones reflect the older residential areas of the Village. As one might expect, the lot sizes in the R-5 district are smaller than the outlying areas with a permitted lot size of 5,000 sq. ft.. The R-5 district allows the same Special Exception (SE) uses as the R-3 and R-4 districts with the exception of planned residential developments and golf courses.

### *RM-1 Multi-Family*

There is one area which remains zoned RM-1, consisting of the Squire Village Apartment Complex off Ulster Avenue in the northernmost section of the Village. Several areas previously zoned RM-1 were rezoned consistent with recommendations in the previous Comprehensive Plan. The minimum lot area per dwelling unit in the RM-1 zone is 4,000 sq. ft. Uses permitted as-of-right include single-family, two-family, multi-family dwellings and parks. Special Exception uses include: senior group residences, place of worship, nursery schools, day care centers, public buildings, schools and a variety of community facilities.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of single-family homes along Main Street, which are presently zoned R-5, single-family homes on the west side of Oak Street; and single-family home on Orchard Street, which lies within the B-3 district.



### *RM-2 Multi-family*

The RM-2 district encompasses areas between the upper and lower falls along the east and west side of the Wallkill River. The RM-2 district allows multi-family housing on lots with a minimum area of 7,500 sq. ft. with 1,500 sq. ft. minimum square feet per dwelling unit. The RM-2 district is largely built-out with multifamily apartments along Oak Street and Cliff Street.

### *R-MHC Mobile Home Court*

There is one R-MHC district located on the west side of the Village to the west of NYS Route 52. The R-MHC district allows by right single family detached dwellings and by Special Exception licensed mobile home courts. There is an existing mobile home court in this district. The R-MHC district also includes a variety of other Special Exception uses including: places of worship, senior group residences, schools, libraries, and Professional Offices. The minimum lot size per unit is 12,000 square feet.

### *TH - Townhouse*

There are three (3) TH-Townhouse districts. One encompasses lands in the southeast quadrant of Walden off of Coldenham Road. The other two are situated in the northwest quadrant of Walden.

The TH district allows attached, single-family dwellings and single-family (townhouses), and parks as a permitted use and senior citizen housing developments, houses of worship, libraries and schools as SE uses. Winding Brook and Northgate Drive were recently rezoned and are now situated within the Townhouse District.

### *B-1 Neighborhood Business*

The B-1 district encompasses the Thruway Shopping Center. The minimum lot area is 10,000 square feet with the maximum lot coverage of 30%. Uses permitted as of right include banks, offices, personal service shops, funeral homes, restaurants, retail stores, taverns, radio and television broadcasting, etc. Some Special Exception uses include: motor vehicle sales, drive-in eating establishments, and veterinarian offices. Residences are not permitted in the B-1 district.

### *B-2 Village Business*

The B-2 districts are located on the east side of the Village and at the corner of Route 208 and Coldenham Road. There is no minimum lot area; however, there is a minimum lot per dwelling of 2,500 sq. ft. Dwellings are permitted as a Special Exception use in the B-2 zone over the first floor on non-commercial units. Permitted business uses mirror that of the B-1 zone, but also include vocational schools, home occupations and home professional offices. The maximum lot coverage of 80% is permitted.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of Winding Brook condominiums entrance on the west side of NYS Route 52, view of condominiums along Marone Place looking north and view of townhouses from end of cul-de-sac Winding Brook was situated within the R-3 and R-4 Zoning Districts, but the site was recently rezoned to TH-Townhouse.

### *B-3 Central Business*

The B-3 district encompasses the historic central business district of the Village or Downtown. Uses permitted as of right include a similar mix as the B-1 and B-2 district such as retail, office and personal services. Special Exception uses are similar to the B-2 district, but also include senior group residences. Dwellings on the first floor are prohibited but are allowed above stores. The minimum lot size per dwelling is 1,500 sf. and maximum lot coverage is 80%.

### *B-4 Service Commercial*

The B-4 districts are located on the east side of the Village along NYS Route 52 on either side of the entrance to Wooster's Grove Park and on the south end of the Village off 208. The minimum lot size is 10,000 sq. ft. and maximum lot coverage 50%. Permitted uses include banks, bowling alleys, funeral homes, offices, taverns, restaurants, repair shops, and printing plants. Special Exception uses also include: building contractor storage and equipment yards, public utility buildings and storage yards among others.

### *O-LI Industrial Park*

The O-LI districts are located throughout the southeast quadrant of the Village. Minimum lot size is 40,000 sq. ft. and maximum lot coverage is 30%. Permitted business uses include: agriculture, banks, offices, radio & television broadcasting, repair shops, vocational schools and wholesale stores.

Permitted industrial uses include: circus training facility, limited non-nuisance industries, printing and publishing plants and wearing apparel and accessory manufacturing. Special Exception uses include: hospitals, hotels, gas stations, parking garage, restaurants, schools, and temporary circus quarters, dry cleaning plants, laundry plants, liquid petroleum gas storage, machinery repair or service plant, public utility buildings, contractor storage, research laboratory, self-storage facilities, warehouse and wholesale businesses.

### *I-2 Village Industry*

The I-2 Village Industry districts are located off Woodruff Street along the Rail Trail. The I-2 District is a heavy industry zone. Permitted uses include: bakeries, offices, broadcasting facilities, repair garages and shops, vocational school, wholesale store, printing and publishing plants, and warehouses. Special permit uses include: car wash, contractor storage yard, fuel oil and liquid petroleum gas storage and transfer stations, research laboratory and truck stations. Active industries within the I-2 district include: AMPAC, Interstate Packaging Corp. and Truffa Seed Company, which have access to freight rail service. The minimum lot area in the I-2 district is 5,000 sq. ft. and the maximum lot coverage of 40%. Some of the uses permitted no longer reflect desirable uses as the Village has evolved over time. This Plan supports a reassessment of permitted uses in the I-2 district with the aim of removing harmful uses from the table.



**Above** (top to bottom): View of one of the Jacobowitz and Gubits, LLP Law Office buildings on NYS Route 208; Thruway Shopping Center Plaza on Oak Street, and Sweeney's Tavern on NYS Route 208.

*MX Mixed Use*

There is one MX - Mixed Use district in the Village in the vicinity of Railroad Avenue, Grant Street and Elm Street. There is a set of Design Guidelines for this MX district, which is referred to as a Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place.

The MX district requires a minimum lot area of 1,500 sq. ft. per dwelling unit and a maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 2.0 for nonresidential or mixed uses. Dwelling units over the first floor and artist lofts and live-work spaces are permitted as of right. SE uses include: senior group residences, multiple dwellings, planned residential development and senior citizen housing development. Community facilities allowed as SE uses include places of worship, parks, libraries, etc.

The Village of Walden completed a Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place Study in December of 2010 as a follow-up to its 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The study evaluated the consistency of the existing MX district regulations with the Design Guidelines for a Traditional Neighborhood Development at Railroad Place, which resulted in a number of recommended amendments to the Zoning Law or Design Guidelines as follows: Section 305-52 (C)(410)(a) of the Zoning Law should be amended by addition of the following:

- In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and those of the Design Guidelines for the Railroad Place Design District, the provisions of the Design Guidelines shall prevail.
- The Planning Board, during site plan review, shall be authorized to consider and approve waivers to the provisions of the Design Guidelines, as applied to existing buildings, at the request of the applicant. The Planning Board’s decision shall be based on the specific circumstances of the subject building and the impact of the waiver on the design objectives of the MX district.

Since the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, there is a realization that the conversion of some of the former industrial buildings to mixed-use development may take longer than initially envisioned. While this Plan still supports mixed use development within the MX District and the application of the Design Guidelines for new infill buildings, it also recommends the list of permitted uses be expanded to allow for a variety of additional uses.

Such use would include bakeries, breweries, galleries, performing arts centers, yoga studios, warehouses and other transitional uses that will enable building owners to derive income from their properties without having an adverse impact on mixed-use developments within



**Above** (top to bottom): View of one various older buildings within the Village’s Mixed Use Zoning District. This plan encourages the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of this area and many of its buildings.

this portion of the Village. Such uses should be allowed subject to a Special Exception permit. Auto-related uses such as fuel stations or drive-thru windows should be avoided in the MX district.

### 9.2.1 Recommended Zoning Text Amendments

- Expand School uses to allow for colleges, college extension classrooms and other adult education opportunities;
- Expand Public Recreation uses to include private recreation and indoor as well as outdoor activities;
- Expand music, art and dance schools to allow additional teaching studios such as martial arts, yoga or other similar uses;
- Allow breweries and wineries as-of-right in the B-2, I-2 and MX zones;
- Allow roof-top solar panels as an accessory use in the B-4, O-LI and I-2 districts except on historic buildings. Ensure an appropriate structural analysis is provided to the Building Inspector prior to installation and emergency power shut-off locations are coordinated with local fire departments.
- Allow Repair Shops and Printing Plants as Special Exception Uses in the B-4;
- Increase the allowable lot coverage in the O-LI District and I-2 Districts;
- Remove temporary circus quarters and training facilities and dry cleaning and laundry plants from the O-LI District;

- Expand Theaters to include all types of performing arts venues and art galleries.
- Review zoning definitions to ensure clarity and appropriateness.
- Limit gas pumps as an accessory use to only the B-4 and O-LI Districts.
- Review both permitted and Special Exception Uses in the I-2. Remove heavy industrial uses such as liquid petroleum gas storage and transfer from this zone.

### 9.2.2 Recommended Zoning Map Amendments

- Land along Montgomery Street from Route 52 to directly across from George Street should be rezoned to R-5;
- The Village should evaluate the creation of a park zone for the large parks.

## 9.3 Site Plan Review

Section 305-60 of the Village Code grants the Planning Board with the authority to review and approve site plans. The provisions for site plan approval apply to all land uses that are listed as special exception uses in all zoning districts. It also applies to all permitted uses in the Village’s business, mixed use and industrial districts.

Site plan review is a powerful planning tool that the Planning Board can use to shape the character of new development. Through this process, the Planning Board can shape the character of new developments through its review of building placement, stormwater



**Above** (top to bottom): Rite Aid built with design guidelines versus a Rite Aid built in a community without design guidelines; and a commercial plaza built with design guidelines which break up the mass of the structure and creates an inviting space.

management, landscaping, signs, lighting, circulation, and off-street loading and parking. The Village's Site Plan regulations lay out applicability; procedures and requirements for site plan review. It also provides some basic review standards to help guide the Planning Board's decisions.

Additional standards to help guide the Planning Board's decision is recommended in certain areas such as landscaping and building design. Landscaping standards would establish minimum requirements for the landscape areas, the caliper of trees, percentage of landscaping within off-street parking areas, standards for landscaped buffers between residential and non-residential land uses, requirements for maintaining landscaping and other applicable standards. Currently specific regulations apply mostly to subdivision only and should be expanded to apply to commercial site plans as well. The Village must strictly enforce its site plan review, landscaping and sign regulations to ensure that new development complements rather than detracts from the community's character.

#### 9.4 Design Review

Presently, Walden has Design Guidelines for the Downtown Business District and the MX-Mixed Use zoning district titled "Design Guidelines: A New Traditional Neighborhood at Railroad Place". The Village could enhance the effectiveness of its site plan review laws through the adoption of

additional design review guidelines for all commercial and residential zoning districts.

Design guidelines are intended to help guide the Planning Board's decisions while giving developers a clear understanding of design requirements. Design standards would vary for different areas with the Village of Walden.

Most municipalities in New York State base their authority to establish design guidelines on General Municipal Law Section 96-a, which allows communities to place restrictions in order to protect or enhance "sites, buildings, or other objects having special character or aesthetic interest or value." Long-term, the Village Board could work with property owners to seek the creation of a National Register-designated Historic District. If the Board of Trustees moves forward to establish a National Register-designated Historic District, a Local Law should be adopted to establish an Architectural Historic Review Board. This Plan recommends that the newly established Architectural Historic Review Board would have the authority to review projects within the historic districts. However, this Plan also recommends the Planning Board would retain the authority to review design issues in conjunction with its site plan review powers for projects outside of the historic districts. The creation of an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) would require the adoption of a Local Law. An AHRB would help to ensure the integrity of the exterior of historic buildings is



**Above:** Village Hall on Municipal Square, Concerts at the Grove and Harvest Fest.

preserved helping Walden to retain its unique sense of place. Whether or not an AHRB is established, it is recommended the scope of design review be expanded to include the review of exterior renovations of existing buildings or review of new construction in business districts.

## **9.5 Downtown Revitalization**

Successful Main Streets are not only places where people shop, but they also are places where many civic and cultural activities occur where the public can gather at community events. The Village Board should keep its civic buildings Downtown and support private and not-for-profit sector efforts to establish cultural and entertainment anchors. The Village Board must also work with local civic organizations and the business community to promote the CBD. Promotion means selling the image and promise of Downtown to all prospects. This involves marketing the unique characteristics of the business district to shoppers, investors, prospective businesses and visitors. It also involves the creation of a strategy to promote a positive image of the entire business district through advertising, special events and marketing events carried out by the business community along with the support of civic and cultural institutions. One of the challenges facing Walden in creating an effective promotional strategy is getting business owners to think of the business district as a whole rather than the sum of its parts. Business owners must work together to ensure the highest quality shopping experience for their customers. For

example, it is important for the business community to coordinate their hours of operation so that businesses are open when customers are available to shop.

The business community should also work together to create seasonal and holiday marketing campaigns and other special events designed to draw customers to the CBD. It is also recommended the business community reach out to prospective entrepreneurs to open complementary businesses within the CBD.

Business attraction efforts are needed to fill vacant storefronts and are also needed to create a mix of retail, restaurants, professional services and cultural attractions that appeal to visitors and residents alike. The focus of business attraction efforts must be to create a vibrant CBD with a variety of goods & services, quality merchandise and appealing restaurant settings. This Plan supports Walden's Downtown Revitalization Strategy and the on-going downtown revitalization policies contained therein including:

- Retaining vital services Downtown, such as banks, schools, post office, and library;
- Sponsoring and promoting special events;
- Strictly adhering to Downtown Design Guidelines for façade renovations; and
- Further developing incentives to encourage new investment through various grant programs and the Village's low interest revolving loan fund.

## 9.6 Annexation Policy

Request for an annexation should only be considered if it is in the “over-all public interest.” That is, that the request will not place an undue strain on Village resources or place an increased cost onto existing residents [e.g. neutral cost/benefit analysis]. The following basic principles should be considered before an annexation is approved:

- Can the annexation be accommodated using the existing capacity of the Village’s infrastructure?
- Any extension of Village utilities must be funded by the developer and appropriate studies should be done to ensure existing infrastructure will not be negatively impacted;
- New development on annexed land must be compatible in design with existing and likely future development in the surrounding neighborhood.
- The assessed valuation of the area and any proposed improvements should be sufficient to allow the area to pay its fair share of the cost of providing services.
- The area should contribute to the logical growth pattern of the Village and should encourage orderly growth.
- Irregular boundaries should be avoided.

- An assessment of community service needs (including police, fire, ambulance and parks) should be undertaken to confirm the Village can provide adequate services unless the developer pays for the necessary capital improvements.
- The cumulative effects of other annexations should be evaluated for long-term impacts on utility and transportation infrastructure.
- Sites that include historic properties should consider and encourage provisions for preserving historic structures on the site.
- The proposed use of lands to be annexed into the Village shall be resolved concurrently with the annexation agreement.

## 9.7 Summary & Recommendations

The Village of Walden’s buildings and pattern of development define its community character. It is important that new development occurs in a manner, which compliments the existing pattern of development within the Village of Walden. To this end, the following land use and zoning policies are recommended to help manage new growth in manner that enhances the character of the Village of Walden.

### 9.7.1 Land Use

Update the Table of Use Regulations for the Business, Mixed Use and Industrial Zoning Districts. Expand the list of permitted uses in the MX-district to allow for a variety of non-nuisance industries. Such use would include bakeries, breweries, yoga or martial arts studios, galleries, performing arts facilities, warehouse and other transitional uses that will enable building owners to derive income from their properties without having an adverse impact on mixed-use developments.

Reassessment of permitted uses in the I-2 district with the aim of removing harmful uses from the table. Presently the I-2 district allows

“We shape our  
Buildings and  
Afterward Our  
Buildings shape  
us.”

~Sir Winston  
Churchill

laundry plants of more than 4,000 square feet as a use permitted-by-right subject to site plan review approval by the Planning Board. For example, fuel oil storage depots are allowed as Special Exception uses within the I-2 district and have the potential to adversely affect Village aquifers.

#### *9.7.2 Zoning*

Adopted recommended Zoning Map and Zoning Text Amendments as cited in Section 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 above.

#### *9.7.3 Site Plan Review*

Adopted more detailed landscaping standards as part the Site Plan Review regulations. Establish minimum standards for landscaping of commercial properties including tree planting, percentage of landscaping within off-street parking areas and landscape buffers between residential and commercial properties.

#### *9.7.4 Design Review*

Create an Architectural Historic Review Board (AHRB) through the adoption of a Local Law. If historic districts are established, an AHRB would help to ensure the integrity of the exterior of historic buildings is preserved.

#### *9.7.5 Downtown Revitalization*

Adhere and follow policies of Village's Downtown Revitalization Strategy and policies cited in Section 9.5 above.

#### *9.7.6 Annexation*

Follow annexation policy outlined in Section 9.5 above to ensure annexations do not strain existing services within the Village and necessary improvements are paid for by developers not Village tax payers.

## 10.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this Comprehensive Plan to be effective, the Village of Walden must actively apply the policies that are contained within the Plan. Furthermore, its Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals must use the Plan as a framework to guide their decisions with respect to the review of development proposals.

Certain recommendations contained herein will require subsequent action of the Village Board of Trustees in order to enact recommended amendments to the Village Code and other land use regulations. Other actions such as the preservation of natural resources, transportation improvements, or the development of programs to support historic preservation will require the collaboration between the Village, County, State and not-for-profit entities. These actions are outlined in implementation tables provided in this Chapter along with the party responsible for taking a leadership role in the implementation of the policy or program.

Each member of the Village Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals should have a copy of this Comprehensive Plan. The Village Board should appoint a Comprehensive Plan subcommittee to spend time each month reviewing progress on the implementation of this Comprehensive Plan and coordinating efforts with other entities where necessary.

The following pages provide a summary of the major recommendations that are part of this Plan. The recommendations are organized under the broad topic areas as follows: Natural Resource Protection, Transportation, Cultural & Historic Resources, Open Space & Recreation, Community Services and Land Use Regulations.

For each subject there is a list of specific recommendations, along with an indication of when the recommendation should be implemented and the party responsible for ensuring that the recommendation is followed. The Implementation Plan table is useful in helping the Village Board to set priorities for the subsequent actions that will be necessary to implement this Comprehensive Plan.

Some recommendations should be implemented immediately including the recommended revisions to the Village Code. Other measures will be implemented in the “short-term” within two (2) years of adopting this Comprehensive Plan.

There are other recommendations that are “longterm” in nature - meaning they are anticipated to be completed over a 2-5 year timeframe. It is not reasonable to assume that all the recommendations contained herein will be implemented immediately. The implementation of the Plan is meant to be a process that will occur over a period of years. Setting priorities ensures the process will get underway.

**“In order for this Comprehensive Plan to be effective, the Village Board of Trustees and its Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals must actively apply the policies that are contained within the Plan”**

## Village of Walden Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan

No.	Recommendation	Action	Priority	Responsibility
<b>Chapter 4. Natural Resources</b>				
1	Identify slopes (over 15%) as part of site assessment prior to developing the building site and road design.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
2	Create wellhead protection and aquifer protection Overlay Districts	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board
3	Require mapping of wetlands, actively coordinate with permitting agencies and enforce NYSDEC requirements to maintain a 100-foot setback between development and adjacent wetlands	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
4	Restrict the development of buildings and impervious surfaces with the 100-year floodplain	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
5	Require Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) in accordance with NYSDEC Regulations	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
6	Encourage the use of bio-retention basins and other green practices and ensure property long term maintenance is established and agreed to by the developer.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
7	Require sediment & erosion control plans when proposed development involves grading of the site or cut and fill operations.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
8	Restrict the cutting trees along the Wallkill River and other major surface water resources in order to protect the riparian zone along the river.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
9	Take proactive measures to educate the public about the importance of retaining mature vegetation within riparian zones	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
10	Require tree surveys to preserve existing trees and require landscaping and street tree plans as part of the Site and Subdivision review process.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
11	The Village should continue to work towards completing the criteria to become a designated CSC and seek any grants which could offset costs of various programs.	Program	Immediate	Village Board
12	Encourage Leadership in Energy Conservation and Design (LEED) in the design of new buildings.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
13	Require developers to install lighting, which are International Dark Sky Association (IDA) compliant.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
14	Implement invasive plant and animal eradication efforts to protect natural Ecosystems.	Program	Short-term	Village Board DPW & Parks
<b>Chapter 5. Transportation</b>				
15	Continue to monitor Level-of-Service at key intersections with the NYSDOT to determine if signalization or dedicated turn lanes are warranted.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board

				NYSDOT
16	Expand off-street parking opportunities within downtown.	Policy	Short- term	Village Board
17	Develop a pedestrian and vehicular improvement plan for the Central Business District	Plan	Short- term	Village Board
18	Require a traffic impact analysis for uses with high-trip generation rates as part of the SEQR process and require developer to contribute to mitigation of impacts.	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
19	Require cross access agreements between adjacent commercial properties	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
20	Use textured and reflective surfaces for crosswalks to draw motorist's attention to the crosswalk	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board
21	Where feasible, require new residential and commercial developments to construct sidewalks	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
22	Provide or improve sidewalks along South Montgomery Street and from Highland Avenue to the fuel station	Capital Improvement	Short-term	Village Board DPW
23	Work with neighboring towns, counties and the NYSDOT to develop linear trails that tie into Walden trail system.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Parks
24	Coordinate with NYSDOT to advance plans for bike route along Routes 52 and 208.	Policy	Short-term	Village Board NYSDOT
25	Place bicycle racks in key locations within the downtown	Program	Short Term	Village Board DPW
26	Coordinate with the OCTC and Short Line (Coach USA) to provide public transit, which meets the needs of residents and businesses.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Coach USA
27	Coordinate with OCTC and MTA-Metro North to establish bus shuttle service to nearby train stations, such as Beacon or Campbell Hall.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board OCTA- MTA
28	Support efforts to bring upgrade freight rail services and to bring passenger rail service to Walden	Policy	Immediate	Village Board OCTA- MTA
<b>Chapter 6. Cultural and Historic Resources</b>				
29	Continue to support the Josephine-Louise Public Library and keep this cultural institution in the heart of the Downtown	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Library Board
30	Work with cultural institutions to help them grow and identify additional opportunities for expansion in order to enhance social & economic vitality of the community	Policy	Immediate	Village Board
31	Continue to support events that draw a regional audience such as Walden Harvest Fest, Halloween, Christmas Celebration and Winter Carnival	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Code Enforcement
32	Develop voluntary Historic Preservation design guidelines for local home owners.	Plan/ Guidelines	Immediate	Village Board

33	Pursue National Register Historic District Designation of Districts Identified in 1982 and 2006 Historic Surveys	Program	Immediate	Village Board SHPO
34	Grant the Planning Board with the authority to consider the appropriateness of exterior alterations within line-of-sight of the individually listed National Register properties	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board Planning Board
35	Support the individual listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board
36	The Village Board should support grant applications through the NYS OPRHP for local preservation efforts.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Village Historian
37	Pursue Certified Local Government (CLG) designation through the New York State OPRHP	Policy	Short-term	Village Board SHPO
<b>Chapter 7. Open Space and Recreation</b>				
38	Promote the preservation of open spaces near the municipal boundary to help maintain the distinctive edge of the Village	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
39	Utilize parks and other open lands, institutions, the Walden-Walkkill Rail Trail and the preservation of natural features to form a well-defined edge around the Village	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
40	Promote development, which contributes to the protection or expansion of open space	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
41	Support efforts to conserve agricultural lands on the edge of the Village through the (PDR) program	Policy	Immediate	Planning Board Village Board
42	Continue with timely implementation of Walden Recreation & Parks Department's recommended parkland improvements as reflected in the Master Plan for each Village Park	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Parks
43	Require developers to contribute a payment-in-lieu-of-parkland fee to help meet its growing recreational needs	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board
44	Pursue inter-municipal agreements and/or public/private partnerships to meet growing recreational needs of the community	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board Parks
45	Work to develop regional trail systems	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board Parks
46	Expand waterfront access to the Walkkill River including the Maple Street boat launch to provide for new boating, fishing and hiking opportunities	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board Parks
47	Assess the feasibility of expanding recreational opportunities on other village-owned properties	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Parks
48	Provide and strengthen linkages between open space and recreational areas.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Parks
49	Ensure new recreational buildings are situated outside of floodplain	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Parks

50	Look for opportunities to jointly develop athletic fields to serve the needs of the VCSD while allowing fields to be publically available after school hours or on weekends.	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board Parks and VCSD
<b>Chapter 8. Community Services</b>				
51	As part of the Village's Capital Improvement Program, assess the facility needs of the Walden PD and Court-related facilities.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Police Department
52	Continue to keep records and monitor trends in police activity so resources can be utilized in the most effective manner	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board Police Department
53	Monitor calls for the Walden Fire District and Ambulance to ensure the equipment and facilities meet the needs of the growing population base	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board Fire District
54	Support efforts to keep educational institutions viable through modernization and expanding multi-purpose facilities such as adult education	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board
55	Coordinate with the Town of Montgomery to implement the recommendations contained in the Village's 2009 Wellhead Protection Report is a priority of this Plan	Program	Short-Term	Village Board Town Board, DPW
56	Explore opportunities for new production wells both within the Village and on all properties when considered for annexation into the Village of Walden	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
57	Establish performance standards to assess the request by industrial users to tie into the Village's water and sewer infrastructure	Policy	Immediate	Village Board DPW
58	The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for community facilities should be updated every 5 years and continue to factor in community growth.	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board DPW
59	Continue to address the infiltration & inflow problem and ensuring proper operation & maintenance of the sewer system	Program	Ongoing	Village Board DPW
60	Identify and secure State and federal grants to help offset the cost of maintaining the Village's water & Sewer infrastructure	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board
61	Upgrade existing water and sewer infrastructure. Where additional capacity is needed, developers shall contribute to the upgrade of existing facilities to ensure sufficient service is available to meet other Village needs	Policy	Ongoing	Village Board Planning Board DPW
62	Support "Complete Street" policy to enable safe, attractive and comfortable travel to all users including pedestrians, bicyclist, motorists and public transport	Policy	Short-Term	Village Board DPW
<b>Chapter 9. Land Use Regulations</b>				
63	Update the Table of Use Regulations for the Business, Mixed Use and Industrial Zoning Districts. Expand the list of permitted uses to allow for a variety of non-nuisance industries.	Zoning Amendment	Immediate	Village Board
64	Reassess permitted uses in the I-2 district with the aim of removing harmful uses from the table.	Zoning Amendment	Immediate	Village Board
65	Adopt more detailed landscaping regulations as part of the Site Plan review.	Policy	Immediate	Village Board Planning Board

