

SECTION 3.0

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section presents the goals and objectives that were developed for the three-community study area with the assistance of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. The goals and objectives have been designed for each community utilizing the communities' original rationale for preparing the comprehensive plan, data from the inventory and analysis, and input gathered from residents at public meetings, from written comments, and through a public opinion survey.

The goals and objectives focus on the major issues and concerns of the residents in the three communities. They are aimed at helping to guide future growth and development in the Towns and Village. The recommendations that follow in Section 5 include more specific actions that each community can implement to achieve the intent of these goals and objectives.

3.1 Public Input

The three communities involved in the Oakfield Alabama Comprehensive Plan were committed to the idea that a critical element of the planning process is effective public participation. From its inception, the Oakfield Alabama Comprehensive Plan was prepared with extensive public input. A variety of avenues were utilized to solicit input, including two public information meetings, comment forms for the submittal of written comments, a public opinion survey, individual meetings with government officials, an internet website, and press releases. In addition, the entire process was closely overseen by the Advisory Committee, which was comprised of representatives from each of the participating communities. This committee met on a regular basis to provide guidance and insight into the planning process and to ensure that the concerns of each community were being effectively addressed.

- **Public Information Meetings**

At the outset of the project, public information meetings were held in the Town of Alabama and the Town of Oakfield. These meetings were held on July 22nd and August 6th of 2002 to introduce the public to the project consultants, the Advisory Committee and the project. A brief overview of the project, the reasoning behind it and an understanding of how the plan would be developed was provided. This was followed by an open discussion of important issues and opportunities designed to generate public comments. An important goal of these meetings was to gather as much public input as possible regarding what features residents liked about their communities, where they had concerns, and what they saw as key opportunities for improving their quality of life. Brainstorming encouraged attendees to articulate their "vision" for their communities. Based on this input, a preliminary list of issues was prepared for use in developing the goals and objectives.

- **Public Opinion Survey**

This project included a public opinion survey. The survey was sent out in the fall of 2002. The survey was tailored slightly for each municipality, with the Town of Oakfield survey including questions relating to the Village of Oakfield and visa versa. The surveys provided additional input, insight and clarification

into the issues facing each community. The results of these surveys, which are provided in the Appendix, were utilized to further define the goals and objectives.

- **Additional Sources of Input**

As noted above, a internet website was established for this plan. The website was used as a forum for providing the public with information about the progress of the plan. For example, data summaries, maps and survey results were posted, as were the goals and objectives and preliminary recommendations. The schedule of public meetings was also posted, as a supplement to the press releases and other methods used to advertise the meetings.

Following the drafting of the recommendations and implementation strategy, meetings were held with public officials (Town Boards and Planning Boards) in each of the three communities to go over the report, and ensure that it was consistent with their vision for their communities. These public representatives will be responsible to adopt and implement the plan, and this step of public input is very important to help ensure the success of the project. Their comments were incorporated into the final draft of the report.

- **Advisory Committee**

Finally, the Advisory Committee was a very important source of input and guidance for the plan. These community volunteers reviewed the report and directed its progress at each stage of the process. They also helped to advertise and facilitate the public meetings, and were instrumental in developing and distributing the public opinion survey. They served as important liaisons between their respective communities and the project consultants, and provided useful comments, feedback and revisions to the plan.

The Appendix to this report, referred to above, provides examples of materials used to solicit public input, public opinion survey results, and additional information on the public input process for the Oakfield Alabama Comprehensive Plan.

3.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives listed in this section are large-scale visionary ideas that can be utilized to evaluate actions in each community. To help facilitate the development of recommendations and implementation steps and set forth the “vision” for each area, the following goals and objectives are presented separately for each community.

3.2.1 Town of Alabama

1. Protect, promote and preserve Agriculture

Agriculture is an important aspect of the Town of Alabama; it helps define the character of the area, provides jobs, preserves open space and is an integral part of the community.

- Promote the protection and preservation of farms and farming-related activities that are economically viable.
- Protect and promote farming activity as a priority to preserve open space and scenic vistas that help shape and maintain the rural character of the Town.
- Maintain farming and agriculture activities to provide jobs and economic activity for a large portion of residents in the Town.
- Encourage and allow farm-related business as a secondary interest and support service to farming.

2. Maintain and enhance community character in the Town of Alabama

- Maintain and enhance a strong sense of community in the Town.
- Maintain the unique rural character and small-town atmosphere in the Town of Alabama through proper planning and development.
- Manage growth in the Town to ensure that development occurs at an appropriate scale and pace, and in locations suitable for the type of development that is proposed.
- Promote the positive image of the Town as a desirable community in which to live and work.
- Preserve viewsheds, mature vegetation, open space and other natural resources that contribute to the rural character of the Town.
- Promote the distinct heritage and historic identity of the Town.
- Encourage architectural development styles that are consistent with the historic and rural character of existing development in and around the Town.

3. Provide potable water to appropriate areas of the Town

Public water is a quality of life issue and water services should be extended to appropriate areas of the Town to address needs.

- Work with Genesee County to further outline and identify what areas of the Town should receive public water.
- Provide public water in areas of dense development (hamlets) where groundwater sources are inadequate, of poor quality or polluted, to address such problems and encourage growth.
- Provide public water to areas where the quality or quantity of potable water resources threatens public health.
- Provide public water to areas targeted for industrial and commercial growth.
- Protect groundwater and surface water resources from contamination from failing septic systems and other sources of pollution.
- Promote the provision of assistance for improving farming practices to protect the quality of groundwater and the environment.

4. Protect the environmental features and resources of the Town of Alabama

The Town contains a variety of environmental features and is home to over 1,000 acres of wildlife conservation areas.

- Protect and preserve the abundant natural resources of the Town.
- Protect groundwater sources as a high priority to maintain the viability of private wells that are susceptible to pollution.
- Promote public education with regard to septic system maintenance to protect groundwater quality.
- Promote sound farming techniques that limit non-point source pollution.
- Promote the protection of natural stream corridors and watersheds.

5. Provide for economic development in the Town of Alabama

The expansion of industrial and commercial growth, and other economic development activities, helps provide jobs and a stronger tax base for the community.

- Target areas for new commercial and industrial growth and support the extension of necessary infrastructure to these areas.
- Protect and support the existing economic base of the Town and the expansion of existing businesses in an appropriate manner.
- Promote the establishment and growth of new business enterprises in the Town, particularly in and around the hamlet areas and in other areas designated for economic growth.
- Identify areas in need of redevelopment and encourage the re-use of existing structures and utilization of vacant properties in these areas.
- Promote new growth and the expansion of existing businesses to provide job opportunities for youth to help them remain in the area.

- Encourage the development of tourism-related businesses and services that support activities associated with the wildlife conservation areas.
- Ensure the development of compatible land uses to avoid use conflicts.

6. Maintain and promote efficiency of government

The Town of Alabama should strive to offer the highest quality and most cost-effective services possible.

- Promote the sharing of services, equipment, and personnel, to the highest level possible, with the Town and Village of Oakfield (or other neighboring municipalities) to cut costs and maintain a high degree of service.
- Maintain and enhance the strong collaboration between the community and the Oakfield-Alabama School District.
- Advocate effective zoning, land use, and development regulations and enforcement.
- Manage long-term growth and development in the Town through a comprehensive planning process.
- Plan for and foster a balance and diversity of uses in the Town to control the cost of, and the need for, public services and future service upgrades.

7. Encourage a diversity of housing types

As the population of the Town changes over time, and the economic conditions vary, the housing stock should be made diverse to accommodate the changing needs of the community.

- Maintain the quality of the existing housing stock.
- Encourage the provision of a greater variety of housing styles and types to accommodate a wider range of housing preferences, income levels and household types
- Maintain and protect residential property values.
- Encourage the development of housing in a manner that discourages sprawl and enables residents to use existing services and infrastructure efficiently.

3.2.2 Town of Oakfield

1. Promote the expansion public water to appropriate areas in the Town of Oakfield

Public water is a quality of life issue and water services should be extended to appropriate areas of the Town.

- Work with Genesee County to further outline and identify what areas of the Town should receive public water.
- Provide public water in areas of relatively dense development (hamlets) where groundwater sources are inadequate, of poor quality or polluted, to address such problems and encourage growth.
- Provide public water to areas where the quality or quantity of potable water resources threatens public health.
- Provide public water to areas targeted for industrial and commercial growth.
- Protect groundwater and surface water resources from contamination from failing septic systems and other sources of pollution.
- Promote the provision of assistance for improving farming practices to protect the quality of groundwater and the environment.

2. Provide for economic development in the Town of Oakfield

The expansion of industrial and commercial growth, and other economic development activities, helps provide jobs and a stronger tax base for the community.

- Target areas for new commercial and industrial growth and support the extension of necessary infrastructure to these areas.
- Promote the establishment and growth of new business enterprises in the Town, particularly in the area situated northwest of the Village of Oakfield, which has emerged as an industrial growth area.
- Encourage new commercial growth, particularly in the hamlet and around the Village of Oakfield.
- Identify areas in need of redevelopment and encourage the re-use of existing structures and utilization of vacant properties in these areas.
- Protect and support the existing economic base of the Town and the expansion of existing businesses.
- Promote new growth and expansion of existing businesses to provide job opportunities for youth to help them remain the area.
- Encourage the development of tourism-related businesses and services that support activities associated with the wildlife conservation areas.
- Ensure the development of compatible land uses to avoid use conflicts.

3. Protect and preserve agriculture in the Town of Oakfield

Agriculture is an important aspect of the Town of Oakfield; it helps define the character of the area, provides jobs, preserves open space and is an integral part of the community.

- Promote the protection and preservation of economically and ecologically sound farming practices so as to maintain farming without affecting the quality of life for citizens within the community.
- Protect and promote farming activity as a priority to preserve open space and scenic vistas that help shape and maintain the rural character of the Town.
- Maintain farming and agriculture practices to provide jobs and economic activity for a large portion of residents in the Town.
- Encourage and allow farm-related business as a secondary interest and support service to farming.

4. Maintain and enhance community character in the Town of Oakfield

- Maintain and enhance a strong sense of community in the Town.
- Maintain the unique rural character and small-town atmosphere in the Town of Oakfield through proper planning and development.
- Manage growth in the Town to ensure that development occurs at an appropriate scale and pace, and in locations suitable for the type of development that is proposed.
- Promote the positive image of the Town as a desirable community in which to live and work.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation, such as picnicking.
- Preserve viewsheds, mature vegetation, open space and other natural resources that contribute to the rural character of the Town.
- Promote the distinct heritage and historic identity of the Town.
- Encourage architectural development styles that are consistent with the historic and rural character of existing development in and around the Town.

5. Protect the environmental features and resources of the community

The study area contains numerous environmental features and is home to a large wildlife conservation area.

- Protect and preserve the abundant natural resources of the community.
- Protect groundwater resources as a high priority to maintain the viability of private wells that are easily susceptible to pollution.
- Promote public education with regard to septic tank maintenance to protect groundwater quality.
- Promote sound farming techniques that limit non-point source pollution.
- Promote the protection of natural stream corridors and watersheds.

6. Encourage a diversity of housing types in the Town

As the population of the Town changes over time, and the economic conditions vary, the housing stock should be made diverse to accommodate the changing needs of the community.

- Maintain the quality of the existing housing stock.
- Encourage the provision of a greater variety of housing styles and types to accommodate a wider range of housing preferences, income levels and household types.
- Maintain and protect residential property values.
- Encourage the development of housing in a manner that discourages sprawl and enables residents to use existing services and infrastructure efficiently.

7. Maintain and promote efficiency of government

The three communities within the study area should work together to offer the highest quality and most cost effective services possible.

- Promote the sharing of services, equipment, and personnel, to the highest level possible, with the Village of Oakfield and the Town of Alabama (or other neighboring municipalities) to cut costs and maintain a high degree of service.
- Maintain and enhance the strong collaboration between the community and the Oakfield-Alabama School District.
- Advocate effective zoning, land use, and development regulations and enforcement.
- Manage long-term growth and development in the Town through a comprehensive planning process.
- Plan for and foster a balance and diversity of uses in the Town to control the cost of, and the need for, public services and future service upgrades.

3.2.3 Village of Oakfield

1. Promote and encourage investment and economic development in the Village

The Village of Oakfield serves as the commercial center for the Towns and outlying areas. Efforts should be made to protect, enhance, and promote the Village.

- Provide opportunities for existing enterprises to expand within the Village.
- Encourage a diversity of retail and commercial uses in the Village business district.
- Promote and market the Village business district to enhance its vitality.
- Promote the re-use of existing structures and vacant facilities for new and expanding retail, commercial and light manufacturing establishments.
- Enhance the visual quality of older structures of local significance in the downtown area of the Village.
- Encourage multi-use of existing structures to enhance activity in the business district.
- Provide adequate, safe parking in and around the business district.
- Encourage the development of tourism-related businesses and services that support activities associated with the wildlife conservation areas.

2. Preserve the traditional neighborhood character of the Village

- Recognize the unique character of the Village as an important asset to the area, which should be supported and preserved.
- Maintain and enhance the high quality of life within the Village.
- Promote streetscape and roadway improvements to further enhance the aesthetics and pedestrian-oriented character of the Village.
- Maintain and preserve the architectural integrity of buildings within the downtown area.
- Ensure that development and redevelopment in the Village is compatible with the existing character in terms of architectural design, style and scale, and is integrated into the surrounding area to promote community interaction.
- Encourage the development of multi-family housing and other such housing alternatives to accommodate a range of incomes and age groups.
- Improve linkages between the business district and the outlying Town.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation, such as picnicking.
- Encourage the provision of a greater variety of housing styles and types to accommodate a wider range of housing preferences, income levels and household types.

3. Maintain and Promote efficiency of government

The three communities within the study area should work together to offer the highest quality and most cost effective services possible.

- Promote the sharing of services, equipment, and personnel, to the highest level possible, with the Towns of Oakfield and Alabama, to cut costs and maintain a high degree of service.
- Maintain and enhance the strong collaboration between the community and the Oakfield-Alabama School District.
- Advocate effective zoning, land use, and development regulations and enforcement.
- Manage long-term growth and development in the Village through a comprehensive planning process.
- Plan for and foster a balance and diversity of uses in the Village to control the cost of and need for public services and future service upgrades.