

# Town of LeRay Comprehensive Plan

## *Summary of Input from 4/23/08 Public Workshop*

Following a presentation, workshop participants broke into groups to answer the following questions:

- 1. What do you like about the ideas presented this evening? Why?**
- 2. Which ideas do you think will make a positive contribution to the future of LeRay?**

*These are ideas and concepts that were presented by the comprehensive plan committee and consultants that were viewed favorably by those in attendance at the workshop:*

### Proactive Community Planning

Working together as a town to think about the future

Protection of Ag and Farm Lands, but some concern about financing a Farmland Protection Program

Recognizes farming and agriculture as working landscapes

Improving the existing agri-zoning to make it more difficult for developers to cut out small lots that will disrupt farming

While maps and concepts are close, some minor tweaking of potential conceptual access points within the NYS 342/US 11 Focus Area may be desirable

Providing Connections Between the residential, commercial, and proposed park lands (mentioned several times)

Sidewalks, paths, and trails (mentioned several times)

Improves both vehicle and pedestrian connectivity

The idea of concentrating growth in the vicinity of Fort Drum and in and near villages and hamlets (mentioned several times), leaving the remainder of LeRay as ag lands and open space, in part to reduce traffic and provide connectivity options for travel along Route 11.

How to make hamlets and villages more attractive to investment and desirable as places to live and work.

Providing mixed use options for residents

Providing settings that will encourage interaction

Neighborhoods

Parks

Community Facilities

Providing a balance of housing types for residents, regardless of age or income

Provision for frontage and access roads along Route 11 (mentioned several times)

"Green" concepts

Recreation Options (mentioned several times)

Active recreational options such as leagues

Passive recreation

Close to neighborhoods

How should the town organize this, since this is not currently a town function?

Places for younger residents to go and have fun

Provision for green spaces "Provide as much as possible"

Greenbelt areas

Protection of the Indiana Bat

Fosters land conservation

Small ways to make buildings attractive (Design Guidelines)

Retention of existing forest land and more trees in some places to mitigate the "heat island" effect

The possibility of a Farmers Market located in LeRay

Outreach and understanding of the current and future Amish population

Agritourism, including mazes, wineries, honey production, cheese production, farm tours, petting zoo, etc

Working with Fort Drum to minimize light pollution into LeRay

Increase outreach, communications, and connections between LeRay and Fort Drum and vice-versa

Work to obtain grants to mitigate some costs of this vision

Realization that the region is a vacation area (pools and places to encourage year-round use)

### **3) Any concerns about the ideas presented this evening?**

*These are issue areas that residents felt some measure of concern about during the group discussions:*

Parks and recreation – concern about addressing possible liability issues for developers and landowners, especially smaller scale landowners, who may be asked to provide public access for recreational purposes.

Recognize Local Businesses - make it possible for them to succeed – question of fairness. Some of this is perceived as unfriendly to local business, since plans may inhibit their right to develop in some fashion.

Homebuilders

Self-Storage businesses

Car Dealerships

How does the existing moratorium for self-storage units play into this?

How to make this happen, is there the financial and political will to make this vision real, since the devil is in the details

Taxes, since growth raises demands for services which raises taxes -

Can other funding sources make this work, whether it be Fort Drum, NYS, Federal funding, working to get YMCA in LeRay, etc?

Who will pay for these projects, including farmland protection?

Heavy vehicles (large trucks) should be restricted to major roads - this is an issue on some county roads that are primarily residential. As traffic grows on major roads (Route 11), trucks look for shortcuts.

How can the town tell a farmer that they can't sell their property to a developer?

Will this require zoning changes?

Will new roads be designed in a way not to serve as shortcuts?

Costs and financing for new facilities for town residents

Need to work with local and state governments to regulate speed limits, since the growth has come, but speed limits are same as when roads were very rural in nature

How to introduce ped/bike access along the Route 11 corridor

Are provisions for Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV's), Segways', Golf carts, or other small electric vehicle, similar to Celebration or in The Villages (both in Florida) reasonable?

How can villages/hamlets position themselves to benefit from potential growth?

Limitations to existing sewer/water systems in village areas

Look to future extensions of both sewer and water

City of Watertown

Town of LeRay/Fort Drum

What are the trigger points for capacity improvements along local roads, including NYS Route 342?

#### **4. Issues we missed**

*These were issues that were not discussed earlier in the evening that residents felt should be addressed in the creation of the Comprehensive Plan:*

Property Maintenance

Are there any plans for addressing transit in this process, both internally, and as part of a county-wide system, whether it be park and ride, paratransit, commuter buses to Watertown, or ridesharing systems (vans or otherwise)