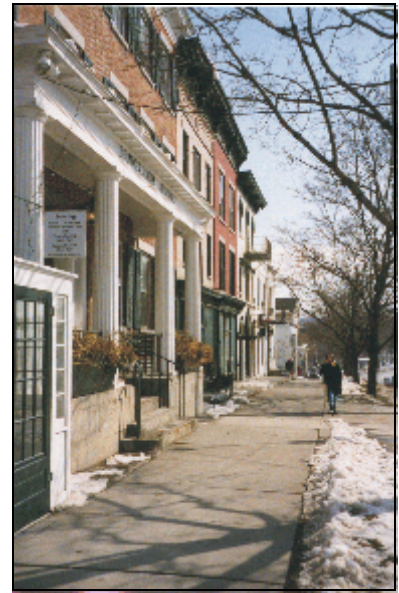


Cazenovia Area Planning Project - A Rural Community Initiative (CAPP)

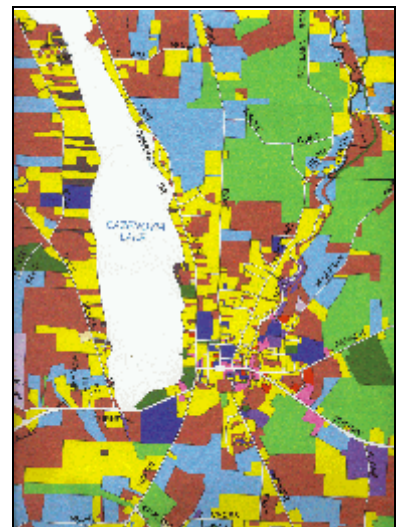
Behan Planning Associates, LLC, has been working on a unique inter-municipal development and conservation strategy with the Cazenovia Area Planning Project (CAPP) task force. Located in Madison County, New York, the CAPP project area is composed of the Towns of Cazenovia, Fenner, Nelson, and the Village of Cazenovia. The towns and village are primarily rural, with a diversifying economic base. Local citizens initiated the project in an effort to create a comprehensive plan that reflects the needs and desires of their community. Using representatives from the public and private sectors of the community the CAPP task force was formed. The planning project serves many functions for the region. It provides an action plan for the future, guides public and private investment in the area, and synthesizes the values, the concerns, and the opportunities for the community-at-large.

Behan Planning Associates, LLC, began by guiding the public participation phase. Coordinating the outreach with the four communities for the public participation process was a challenging endeavor, and the organization and facilitation of the process provided a unique working relationship between Behan Planning Associates, LLC, and the CAPP task force. Through surveys and public forums such as focus group meetings, the community concerns, needs and perceptions were clearly articulated leading to the development of goals and objectives for CAPP. Following the public participation phase, an inventory and analysis was conducted to document the natural and man-made assets and related problems and opportunities of the project area.

Once the goals and objectives were reached and an analysis of the inventory was complete, plan concepts and recommendations of the concept plan were written. Recommendations and plan principals call for protection of natural and cultural resources, enhancement of rural economic development, commercial and industrial development, community development, and appropriate infrastructure expansion, community facilities, needs and services to complement the region. The client/consultant team included a final element of the plan which is a strategic action program based upon three central campaigns or themes.



Historic downtown revitalization

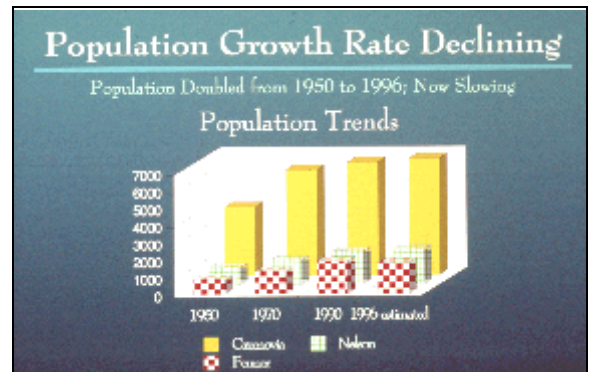


Lake water quality and land use management



A rural landscape in transition

The three campaigns of the strategic plan are a community development campaign, a community resource campaign, and a community education campaign. Each campaign is interconnective, playing a supportive role to the other two, while still maintaining its own agenda. The role of the community development campaign is to direct community action to strengthen the local economy from a regional perspective, whereas the role of the community resource campaign is to promote the stewardship of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the area from a shared regional perspective.



Changing population

The role of the third campaign is to identify critical community development and community resource issues to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among community members, institutions, and organizations. The plan’s principals and strategic action program shows how to organize community action to advance an agenda to improve the quality of life for area residents. Preparation of the strategic action program is targeted for later in this year.



Chittenango Falls natural beauty and power

Additionally, Behan Planning Associates, LLC, prepared a grant application for CAPP, the Towns of Cazenovia, Fenner and Nelson, and the Village of Cazenovia. The project received a grant award from the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources to significantly support the planning effort. The award will be applied to complete the conservation and development strategy and to create a more detailed economic and tourism development and water quality protection plan for the town and village of Cazenovia. The project was highlighted as a model “smart growth” project at the New York State Smart Growth Conference last year.

The vision for the future of the greater Cazenovia area is to remain as a vibrant, rural, “small town” community that recognizes the respective history and uniqueness of the municipalities, the implementation of the plan will serve to support and build upon a common vision for the greater community-at-large.



Agricultural development and conservation