

Town of Guilderland Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Guilderland is both a suburban and rural community whose development issues are a function of its proximity to the City of Albany, excellent access to interstate highways, and its residential qualities. Recognizing the need to balance land conservation and development, the Guilderland Town Board appointed a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board and charged them with the task of updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. In the Fall of 1999, the Town of Guilderland's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board, retained a professional planning consultant team to assist them in their task. The comprehensive plan is currently, being reviewed for adoption by the Town Board.



The conversion of residential structures on small lots to office/retail use is clearly evident along transportation corridors leading into Guilderland.

The basic vision and guiding principal for the Town's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board was to create a community-based plan that would provide the public with the greatest opportunity to assist in the plan's preparation. This was accomplished through a Community Outreach Program designed by the planning team with **Behan Planning Associates** acting as team member in charge of public outreach.

The Community Outreach Program was designed to provide a variety of opportunities for public input and participation. This program included a written survey sent to 12,000 homes (approximately 3,000 returned), a phone survey (sample group of 100 people), Focus Group Workshops, Neighborhood Meetings, Community Work Sessions, Advisory Board Meetings, Fact-Finding Outreach, and Study Circles (a unique grass roots public participation component).



Agriculture is an important component of the landscape and economy of Guilderland.

Other components of the plan included:

- ▶ Inventory and Analysis of the Town's Resources
- ▶ A Vision Statement
- ▶ Goals and Objectives
- ▶ Plan Recommendations
- ▶ Alternative Land Use Scenarios
- ▶ Implementation Action Plan