

Oxford Vision Planning Process

Village and Town of Oxford, New York

Final Community Workshop

August, 2012



Let's review:
What is a Vision Plan?

- Composed of:
 - Vision Statement
 - Goals
 - Action Strategies
 - Planning and design studies that illustrate how the vision can be achieved

Where are we in the process?

1ST Stage

- Understand community values:
 - Strengths
 - Concerns
 - Resources
 - Opportunities
- Develop draft vision
- Inventory and analysis

2ND Stage

- Explore alternatives ways of achieving the vision
- Prepare design studies and action strategies

Final Stage

- Finalize vision, goals and action strategies
- Develop implementation plan
- Distribute vision plan broadly

Primary stages in the vision planning process

We organize our vision planning into three stages.

We are in the second stage and moving into the third.

Tonight we will present the final draft vision, and goals, and prioritize action strategies.

Development of an implementation plan and distribution of the vision will be a community task

Today's agenda

- Second stage results and progress
 - Quick review of process to date
 - Draft vision, goals and action strategies
 - Activity – Prioritize action strategies
- Second stage results and process
 - Presentation of planning diagrams and design studies
 - Activity – review and comment on studies
- Wrap up and next steps

Engaging the Oxford Community

- Outreach committee meeting and Community tour
- June 5 workshops and focus groups
- Project team visit to downtown and interviews
- Surveys – on line and hard copy
- Document review
- July 10 workshops

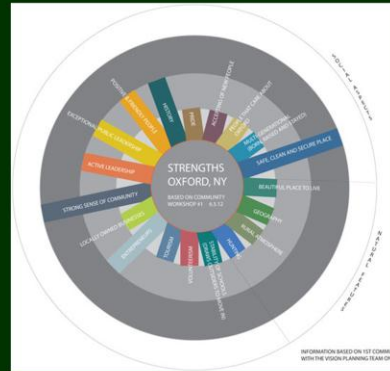


- 60 different people participated in the two workshops
- 55 additional people filled in the survey

- Have engaged community members in several ways over the last two months month.
- Had many more responses to the survey and are now up to 55
- Have a lot to go through tonight so can not go back over first stage findings in any depth. Documented on the posters.

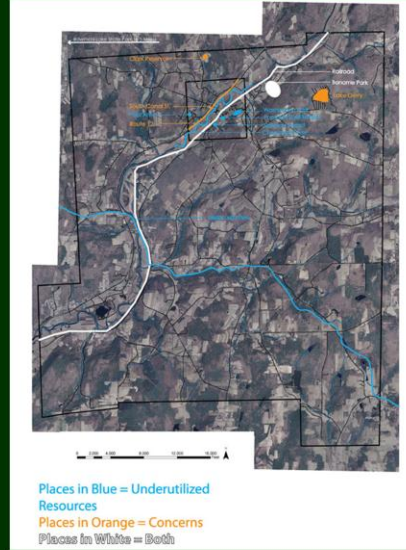
First workshop and survey

- Focus on understanding community values
 - Strengths
 - Sacred Places



First Workshop and Survey

- Focus on understanding community values
 - Concerns
 - Underutilized resources



First Workshop and Survey

- Patterns of Use
- Desired Uses

- Grocery - Desire to have food items in Oxford
 - Fresh local products
 - Deli, meat, vegetables
 - Bakery
- Nightly entertainment, additional restaurants
- Keep money in Oxford
- Better pedestrian connections



Focus groups

- Fewer family farms
- Fewer people to buy locally
- More competition from big box retail
- Flooding a major issue downtown
- Fewer people volunteering and competition for time
- Agriculture can still be an economic drive
- Attract business that complement existing
- Find ways to better communicate and collaborate



Business owners



Organizations



Farmers

- Much came out of the focus group meetings and that is better described in first workshop results presentation and also in project notebook.
- Information on existing conditions and influences – how things have changed in the past 25 years
- Fewer family farms, fewer people to buy locally, more competition from big box retail
- Flooding a major issue downtown
- Fewer people volunteering and competition for time
- Also ideas for how to make positive changes in the future
 - Agriculture can still be economic driver
 - Attract business that complement those already here
 - Find ways to better communicate and collaborate

Second Workshop – Exploring alternatives

- Addressing concerns and exploring utilization of underutilized resources.
 - Route 12 corridor
 - Chenango River
 - Village core
 - Care and maintenance
- Brainstorming action strategies
- Markup vision and goals



- From the synthesis we selected several areas of concern and opportunity to explore in more depth.
- We will be reporting back on Rt 12, the river and the village core activities in the second half of tonight's workshop
- Right now do a quick summary of the care and maintenance activity and then get into the vision, goal and action strategies

Care and maintenance results

- Basic Signs of Care?
 - Painted homes and buildings
 - Mowed lawns
 - Maintained gardens, flowers, and plantings
 - Structurally sound homes, porches, garages, and other buildings
 - Little to no debris in front yards and places seen from roads
- Signs of Lapsed Care?
 - Absentee Landlords
 - Negligent Landlords
 - Economic depression
 - Poverty
 - Lack of code enforcement
 - Lack of education and resources
- Why Does This Happen?
 - Absentee Landlords
 - Negligent Landlords
 - Economic depression
 - Poverty
 - Lack of code enforcement
 - Lack of education and resources

Care and Maintenance activity in the 2nd workshop

Focused on 3 areas

1. Downtown
2. Village Residential
3. Rural

We asked 4 Questions

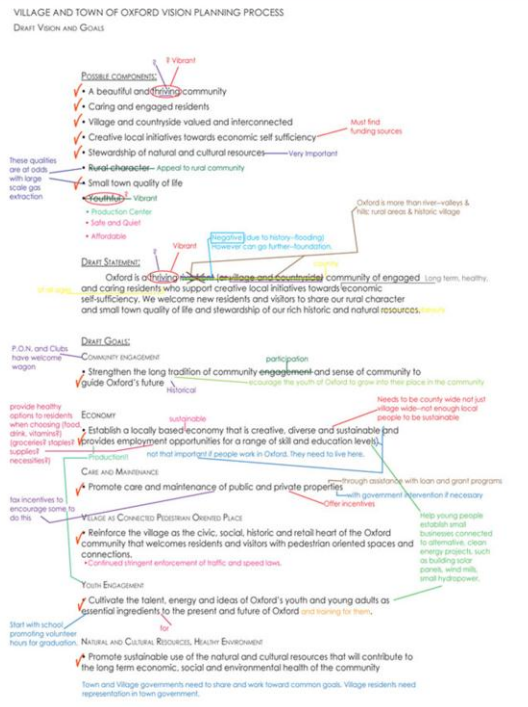
1. Basic signs of care?
2. Signs of lapsed care?
3. Why does this happen?
4. How can these be addressed?

Care and maintenance results

- How to Address These Issues?
 - Incentivize Cleanup through community cleanup days, contests, and amnesty days at the dump
 - Reassess occupancy limits and zoning
 - Improve code enforcement
 - Find grants
 - Repurpose vacant lots and buildings
 - Provide education on tenant rights, home maintenance, and town/village expectations of homeowners and landlords

Ideas here were taken into account when generating action strategies

Revising the Vision and Goals



At the second workshop we proposed a draft vision statement and goals. Made some revisions based on comments received from participants.

At the second workshop we asked community members to make comments And revisions on the vision's Goals.

Here's the markup:

Each color= different person

No major changes were made.

Many of the comments were actually action strategies so we referenced them When we generated strategies.

Revised Draft Vision

Oxford is a thriving community of engaged and caring residents that support creative local initiatives towards economic self-sufficiency. We welcome new residents, businesses and visitors to share our rural character and small town quality of life and stewardship of our rich historic and natural resources.

Major change was in removing the words “riverfront”, and “countryside”.

Draft Goals

1. Strengthen the long tradition of **community engagement** and **sense of community** to guide Oxford's future.
2. Establish a **locally based economy** that is creative, diverse and sustainable and provides employment opportunities for a range of skill and education levels

Draft Goals

3. Promote **care and maintenance** of public and private property
4. Reinforce the **village as the civic, social, historic and retail heart** of the Oxford community that welcomes residents and visitors with pedestrian oriented spaces and connections

Draft Goals

5. Cultivate the talent, energy and ideas of **youth and young adults** as essential to Oxford's present and future
6. Promote **sustainable use of the natural and cultural resources** that will contribute to the long term economic, social and environmental health of the community

Goals to Strategies to Action Steps



- It is also important to document strategies that will help accomplish these goals.
- Participants developed action strategies in the last workshop through a matrix activity.
- The participant suggestions for action strategies and ideas in different places in the community are documented on the poster.
- We analyzed the that information and came up with a couple of different categories
 - One type of suggestion was for specific improvements or programming in the places and areas – for example, _____.
 - Another type of suggestion were for actions to make things happen. Those are what you will see documented as action strategies.

Goals to Strategies to Action Steps

- **Goal:** *Strengthen the long tradition of community participation and sense of community to guide Oxford's future*
 - **Strategy:** *Publicize and distribute the Vision Plan broadly throughout the Community*
 - **Action Plan and Steps**
 - *Tasks*
 - *Techniques*
 - *Resources*
 - *People*
 - *Time Frame*

- Shown on this slide is an example of one of the strategies under the community participation goal.
- As the community takes on each strategy, an action plan and series of steps will need to be developed.

Several broad categories of action strategy projects emerge from a Vision Plan

- Projects may occur simultaneously
- Short term and long range projects



- There are a variety of projects and types of projects that can come directly from a Vision Plan or become evident or necessary as a community proceeds with implementation.
 - It is good to have a mix of projects types, scale and time frames.
 - Short range, immediate actions that can be implemented with locally available resources provide encouragement and proof of progress that are visible to the community. Long periods of time between actions related to downtown revitalization can result in lost interest.
 - Longer term, more complex projects may require extensive planning, research and coordination to bring together all of the necessary people and funding resources.
- We'll review the broad categories of projects that are associated with your Vision Plan
- Each project should have an Action Plan to guide and focus implementation.

Action Strategies are projects that should contribute to achieving the Vision Plan

- Planning Studies
- Guidelines, Standards and Regulations
- Design and Construction Projects
- Community Initiatives

• When communities complete a Vision Plan, the last thing most people want to do is become engaged in another planning study. However, it may be necessary to have additional information and research to determine appropriate actions and costs to implement certain recommendations. And since this is a vision plan for both the Town and the Village there several additional studies that have been recommended in the action strategies. For example you may need to conduct a:

- Flood management study
- Feasibility study to modify Rt 12 to slow traffic and highlight downtown district– is it possible, what will it cost
- Parks and trails master plan.....
- Guidelines and standards are documents that describe and illustrate the type and appearance of development that is appropriate. These are becoming a common strategy as community members realize that there are better options for new development or reconstruction than what has been typical in the last several decades. For example you might develop:
 - Guidelines for village core business district
 - Maintenance guidelines
 - Revised Zoning regulations
- Design and construction projects– New construction, renovation or redevelopment may be the most visible type of project that occurs as a result of a vision plan, such as:
 - Boname Park
 - Façade and building renovations
- Community initiatives and programs– these may be ongoing or regularly occurring, or one time events that serve as outreach or promote information and interest in a project or may be an improvement project or initiative in its own right, such as.....
 - more community events
 - youth mentoring program

First activity – Prioritize action strategies

- Purpose: to get a general sense of participants priorities for short and long term actions
- Process:
 - Review the goals and action strategies on the handout
 - Select what you think are the top 6 long term strategies and the top 6 short term strategies
 - Mark those on the posters with your dots:
 - **Short Term – Green**
 - **Long Term - Yellow**

**Take about 15 minutes to review and
prioritize the action strategies**

- **Short Term – Green**
- **Long Term - Yellow**

**Planning and design studies:
Some key places of interface between the Town
and Village**

- Route 12 corridor
- Chenango River corridor
- The village core

- ESF team was asked to do a vision plan for the Town and Village
- Big task for a limited amount of resources – but think we have accomplished a lot.
- Know that there is more to be done and the prioritized list of action strategies will help you develop an implementation plan
- Our planning and design analysis and studies focus on some key places or systems of interface between the Town and Village
- Students will be presenting the results of

Design Principles at the interfaces between the Village and the Town

- Entry and arrival sequences along Rt 12 that highlight the views and rural landscape and then encourages drivers to slow down and stop in the village core.
- A pedestrian oriented village core that reflects the scale and detail of a traditional “main street” and downtown business district.
- A stronger and positive visual and physical relationship with the Chenango River while acknowledging the challenges of flooding.

- In addition to Vision, Goals, and Strategies – which cover many aspects of the community’s future– community organization and relationships, care and maintenance practices, economic development and the youth – there are several key design principles that emerged from our analysis that should guide decisions related to physical design and development at the interface between the Village and the Town – or the denser village settlement and the rural countryside
 - We see these as central when considering physical improvements and construction projects.

What makes a great Main Street or Village downtown?

- What attracts residents and visitors to stop, linger, shop and return again?
 - Supportive, attractive physical environment
 - Mix of uses and activities
 - Signs of caring
 - Communication and promotion

Answers to these questions were in part provided by participants at the last meeting.

Part is about physical design characteristics. Many proposed actions were about façade improvements, streetscape

Part is about uses and mix of uses. A number of suggestions for new businesses

Part is about signs of caring. Not many comments about this but know from first workshop that maintenance and care are a concern. It goes even beyond this.

Part is about communication and promotion. Number of comments about letting people know what's on Main Street and in area through signage.

Would like to review some specific characteristics, then through today's activities we'll think about how these might apply to downtown Savannah.

Physical Characteristics

- Comfort and Support
 - Seating
 - Vegetation
 - Wide Sidewalks
 - Shade
- Safety
 - Wide Sidewalks
 - Crosswalks
 - Lighting
 - Signage



People need to feel comfortable and safe along Main Street.

Places to sit in sun and shade

Appreciate planting, especially trees where appropriate, but can also do richer planting in places that might not have big crowds.

Safety

Not so much related to crime but well maintained sidewalks, crossing streets, lighting to see where you are going, and signage that aids in knowing where you are going.

Physical Characteristics

- Facades
 - Historical Appeal
 - Variety and Diversity
 - Visual Interest
 - Preserve Character
 - Large Storefront Windows
 - Slow pace down
 - Window shopping



There has been a lot of mention about facades and condition and appearance. In many communities people favor renovation of historic buildings, appreciate diversity of different facades and styles
Unique character of buildings and place
Large storefront windows – transparency, ability to see in and out

Physical characteristics

- Continuous street frontage –
 - buildings should meet the sidewalk
 - With no parking lots in front



Detail



- People walking at 3 to 4 mph have different perspective than someone traveling 30 mph in a car.
- People in cars:
 - Narrow cone of vision, less detail, shorter messages, bigger signs

- Detail**
- People walking
 - Wider cone of vision
 - More detail and interest
 - Smaller signs
 - Work to keep interest at slow speed



Discrete parking

- Parking is always a problem - either have too much or too little
- Comprehensive approach to parking
 - On street parking
 - Mid block lots
 - Shared parking resources



- Keys to discrete parking
 - Make it a pleasure to walk
 - Let people know where parking is located
 - Provide stop and go parking



- Avoid large lots on Main Street
 - If present, maintain building line and buffer



Mix of Uses

- Permanent uses: Civic, retail, office, restaurant, residential, service
- Helps ensure activity and people present
- Retail requires visibility



Mix of land uses is important - Symbiotic and supportive

Niche and specialty related to the place – outdoor recreation, local crafts and hand made items, wildlife and birds

Scale – need to understand space requirements of possible uses and whether they are appropriate to the size, scale and character of community

may need market study unless someone in the know recognizes the potential of this location and market

Mix of Uses

- Seasonal activities and events



Seasonal uses also important

Obvious is summer and fall activities – farmers markets, festivals, outdoor activities

Winter needs to take advantage of snow and cold weather of upstate NY

Signs of caring

- Well Maintained
 - Maintained Buildings
 - Trash Receptacles
 - Maintained Sidewalk
 - Maintained Vegetation
- Window Displays
- Seasonal Decorations
- Seasonal Planting



This has to do with physical signs that the community has pride in itself – its resources and welcomes others to enjoy them

Can occur at a variety of levels – most basic is basic maintenance – cleaning the sidewalks, taking in trash cans, mowing the grass, washing windows, maintained buildings – painting, cleaning, trim

Can move up to other practices and signs that require more effort, sometimes more resources, but typically an investment of time – on Main street can include well dressed window displays, changed on a regular or seasonal basis, seasonal decorations, flower pots and baskets in warmer months

Communication and promotion

- Wayfinding
 - Features along the way
 - Signage
- Promotion and marketing



can occur in a variety of ways

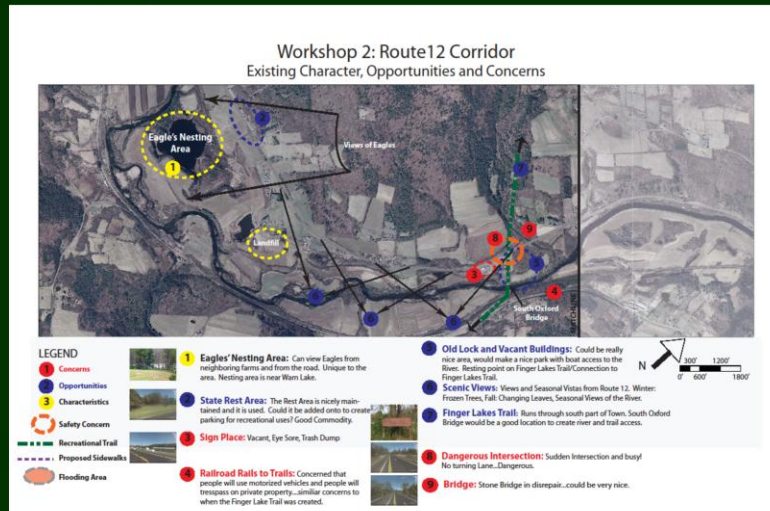
Wayfinding – physical signs and routes that make it easy for people to find downtown Savannah

Promotion and marketing – being strategic about reaching the market, people that will be attracted to what your community has to offer.

Route 12

Route 12 Corridor

Mapping: Character, Opportunities, Concerns



In the 2nd workshop we worked on identifying the characteristics, Concerns and opportunities of the Route 12 corridor.

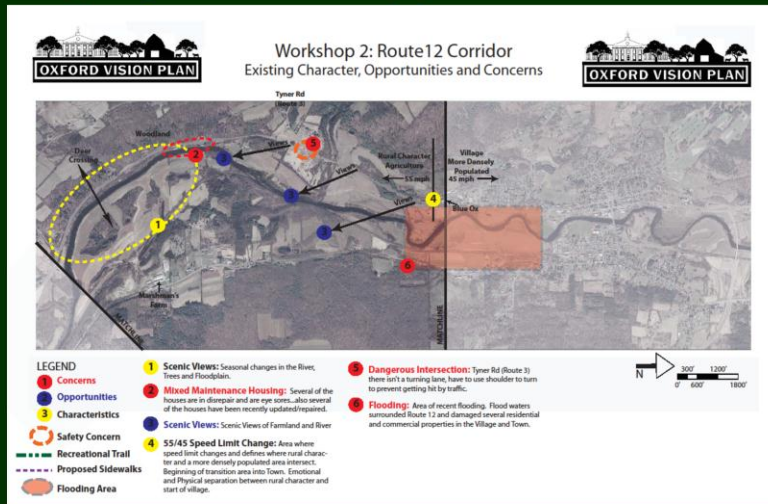
It was very important to define the character of the Route 12 Corridor and how it changes along the corridor.

As you will see on the next 3 slides, the 2 groups gave us a lot of useful data that helped to identify 3 sections of the corridor.

The section on this slide is the southernmost portion of Oxford. This section has rural character with wildlife settings and scenic Views. Some of the concerns included dangerous intersections And vacancy of buildings and maintenance of the small bridge.

Route 12 Corridor

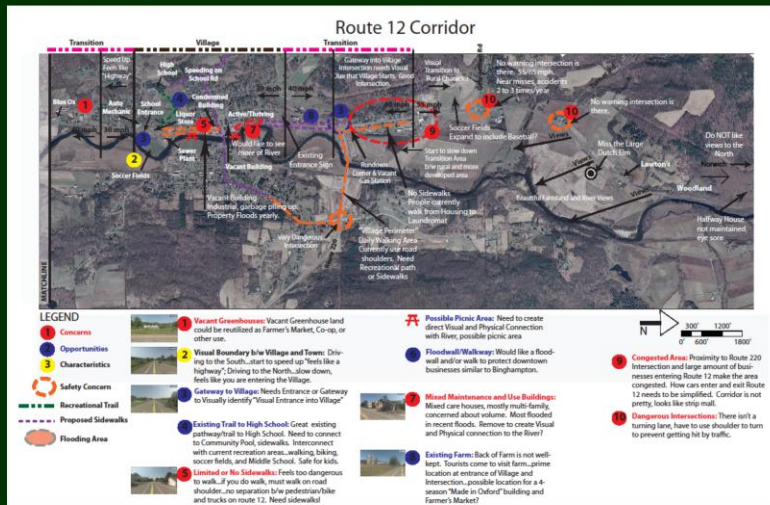
Mapping: Character, Opportunities, Concerns



This second section includes Marshman’s farm (toward Greene) to the left
And the Village to the right.

This section was also defined as having a rural character, wildlife sighting
And scenic views. Some concerns included poor maintenance on buildings,
Dangerous intersections and flooding.

Route 12 Corridor Mapping: Character, Opportunities, Concerns



Several different characteristics were defined in this section. Areas that were rural but had some village influence. Areas that felt like the village but still had some rural Characteristics and the central area that was definitely "The Village". The Community located where they felt they "entered" the village. These areas did not always line up with where the official village line is located.

Route 12: Concerns

- 1) Poor Pedestrian/Recreational Access
- 2) Lack of Village Identity and Entrance
- 3) Safety on Route 12 for Vehicles and Pedestrians
- 4) How to attract Visitors/Businesses to Village?

Based on the Results from the Workshop, the concerns can be narrowed down into four major areas of concern:

- 1) Poor Pedestrian/Recreational Access
- 2) Lack of Village Identity and Entrance
- 3) Safety on Route 12 for Vehicles and Pedestrians
- 4) How to Attract Visitors to Village

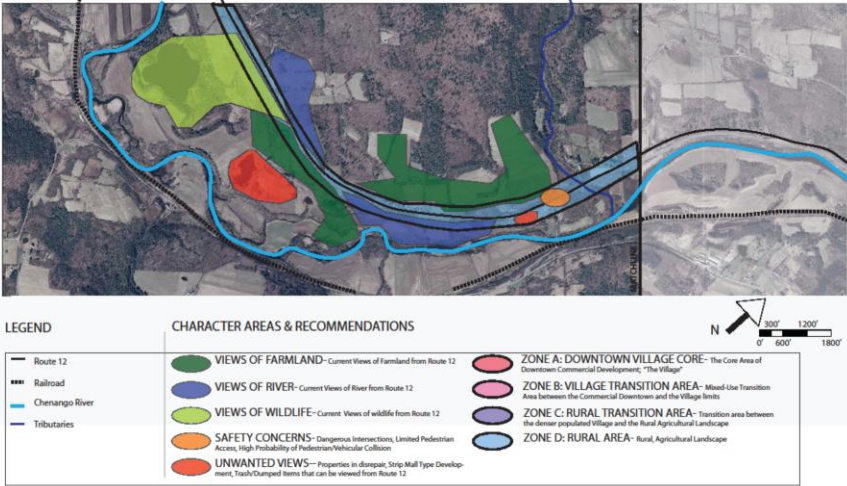
Route 12: Opportunities

- 1) Create Village Identity and Entrance
- 2) Reuse Existing Buildings for New Purposes
- 3) Create a Pedestrian Oriented Village
- 4) Attract Visitors to the Village

Based on the Results from the Workshop, the opportunities can be narrowed down into four major areas:

- 1) Create Village Identity and Entrance
 - Visual Transition Zones into Village
 - Create an Interesting Streetscape
 - Create Safe Intersections in the Town and Village
- 2) Reuse Existing Buildings for New Purposes
 - Bring new Businesses into Downtown
 - If not reusable or able to renovate, tear down
- 3) Create a Pedestrian Oriented Village
 - Connect Recreational Areas to Sidewalks
 - Create Sidewalks and Recreational Pathways
 - Bring the Village back to a Pedestrian Oriented Scale
- 4) Attract Visitors to the Village
 - Develop Historic Trails and Tours
 - Slow Traffic Down to Entice Passersby to Stop
 - Highlight Recreational Options and Natural Beauty

Route 12: Analysis



Once the characteristics, concerns and opportunities were identified we were able to analyze the data and locate important views, major Concerns, define the different transition zones into and out of the Village.

Route 12: Analysis

Workshop 2: Route12 Corridor
Analysis and Recommendations



LEGEND	CHARACTER AREAS & RECOMMENDATIONS	
— Route 12	● VIEWS OF FARMLAND - Current Views of Farmland from Route 12	● ZONE A: DOWNTOWN VILLAGE CORE - The Core Area of Downtown Commercial Development, "The Village"
◆◆◆ Railroad	● VIEWS OF RIVER - Current Views of River from Route 12	● ZONE B: VILLAGE TRANSITION AREA - Mixed-Use Transition Area between the Commercial Downtown and the Village limits
— Chenango River	● VIEWS OF WILDLIFE - Current Views of wildlife from Route 12	● ZONE C: RURAL TRANSITION AREA - Transition area between the denser populated Village and the Rural Agricultural Landscape
— Tributaries	● SAFETY CONCERNS - Dangerous Intersections, Limited Pedestrian Access, High Probability of Pedestrian/Vehicular Collision	● ZONE D: RURAL AREA - Rural, Agricultural Landscape
	● UNWANTED VIEWS - Properties in disrepair, Strip Mall Type Development, Trash/Dumped Items that can be viewed from Route 12	

Along this portion of the East of Route 12 there are views of farmland, the Chenango river and wildlife areas.

There is a safety concern with the intersection labeled in orange and unwanted views of properties in disrepair in red.

Route 12: Analysis

Workshop 2: Route 12 Corridor
Analysis and Recommendations



LEGEND	CHARACTER AREAS & RECOMMENDATIONS	
— Route 12	VIEWS OF FARMLAND— Current Views of Farmland from Route 12	ZONE A: DOWNTOWN VILLAGE CORE— The Core Area of Downtown Commercial Development, "The Village"
— Railroad	VIEWS OF RIVER— Current Views of River from Route 12	ZONE B: VILLAGE TRANSITION AREA— Mixed Use Transition Area between the Commercial Downtown and the Village Limits
— Chenango River	VIEWS OF WILDLIFE— Current Views of wildlife from Route 12	ZONE C: RURAL TRANSITION AREA— Transition area between the dense populated Village and the Rural Agricultural Landscape
— Tributaries	SAFETY CONCERNS— Dangerous Intersections, Limited Pedestrian Access, High Probability of Pedestrian/Vehicular Collision	ZONE D: RURAL AREA— Rural, Agricultural Landscape
	UNWANTED VIEWS— Properties in disrepair, Strip Mall Type Development, trash/Dumped items that can be viewed from Route 12	




The current conditions:
conventional design of Route 12 favors the vehicle.
How do you see the landscape from the vehicle?
How does this change if you're walking?

We want a visitor friendly environment
that invites people to stop and park their vehicles,
get out and walk around the village with ease,
and comfort.

Zone D: Rural Area

- Enhance Views
- Create Safe Intersections
- Prevent Subdivision Development
- Prevent Strip Mall Development
- Protect Farmland
- Vegetate River Corridor



The aerial map at the bottom of the slide shows the Chenango River flowing through a rural landscape. The river is highlighted in blue. A red shaded area follows the river's course, representing the vegetated river corridor. Purple shaded areas are located on either side of the red area, representing the vegetated buffer. The map is divided into sections labeled A, B, C, and D, which correspond to the photographs above. Section A shows a farmstead with silos, B shows a river with people, C shows a field, and D shows a rolling mountain landscape.

We want to keep the rural character that will enhance the views of the Farmlands, the Chenango River and the rolling mountain side views from The Route 12 corridor. We would also like to protect the water quality of The Chenango River by providing a vegetated buffer between the farmland and the river.

Zone C: Rural Transition Area



This is an important Transitional area as your entering the village.
There should be visual cues to let vehicles know that your entering
Into the village of Oxford.

This is the first area in the sequence of entering into the village
From both the North and the South on Route 12.

Zone C: Rural Transition Area



This is an example showing Conventional Development vs. Rural Development. The main difference between the two is that the rural character is preserved in the rural development by designing the parking behind the buildings, providing vegetated buffers in front of the buildings.

Zone B: Village Transition Area



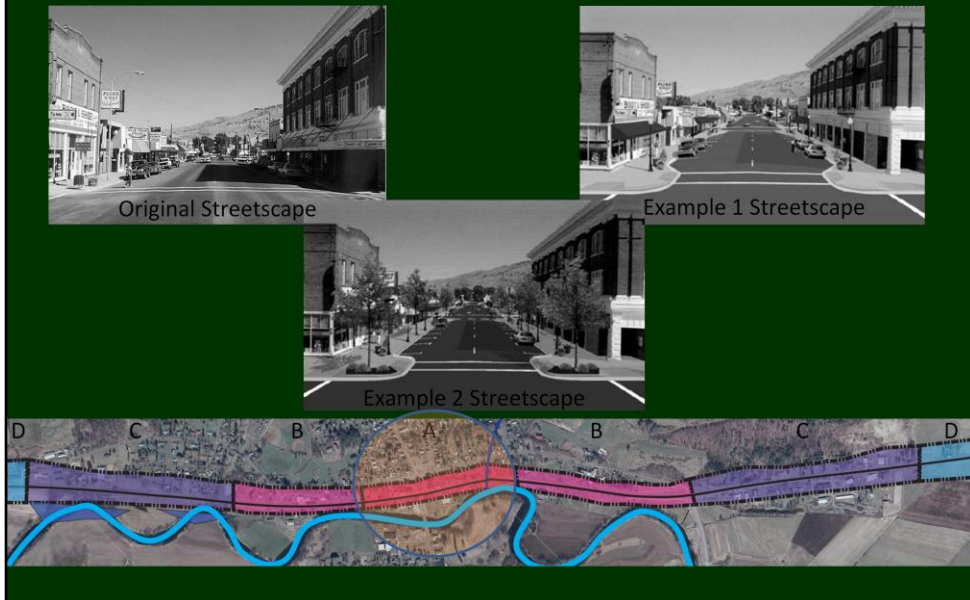
In Zone B: Village Transition Area there is opportunity in these highlighted areas To provide a defining entrance or gateway into the Village of Oxford. An identity Gateway if you will.

Zone A: Downtown Village Core



In the Village Core there needs to be sidewalks and pedestrian scale lighting On Route 12. This could be one of the first action steps taken to developing An attractive, accessible village to welcome more visitors to stop and spend Time in Oxford.

Zone A: Downtown Village Core

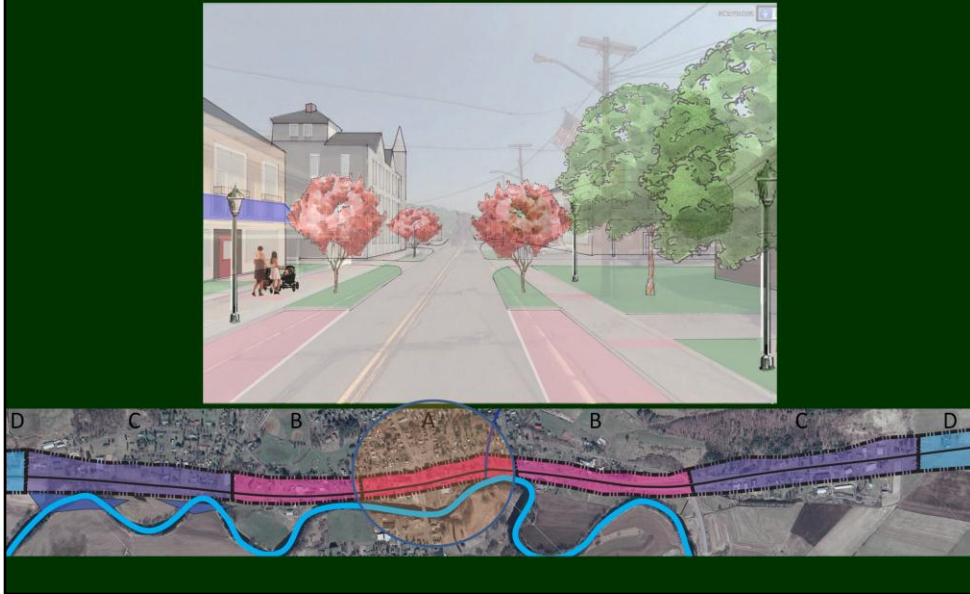


Example 1: The use of hanging baskets provides color and softens the urban street without obscuring the views of the historic buildings.

The street planters, trash receptacles, and benches are simply detailed. They are not permanent features and have little impact on the historic character of the street. Awnings have been added to illustrate how they can enhance the pedestrian experience.

In Example 2, a few non-historic features have been added to the streetscape. Curb extensions have been introduced at the intersections, altering the spatial relationship of the street to the sidewalk and buildings. Trees planted between the sidewalk and the road have been added, visually emphasizing the corners.

Zone A: Downtown Village Core



Current Conditions of Route 12 is designed for vehicles:

- Wide lanes
- Wide Shoulders
- Highway lighting
- Buildings away from street edge

Proposed Pedestrian Scale environment:

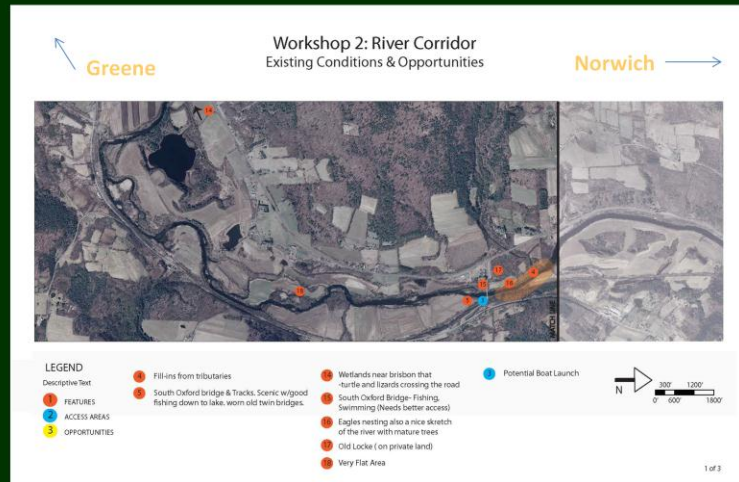
- Invite vehicles from Route 12 to stop into Oxford
- Pedestrian friendly for residents and visitors to walk in the village
- Sidewalks along Route 12
- Tree lawn buffer between the sidewalk and the Road
- Pedestrian scale lighting
- Continuous building fronts that respect the historic character of Oxford

Chenango River

Chenango River Corridor

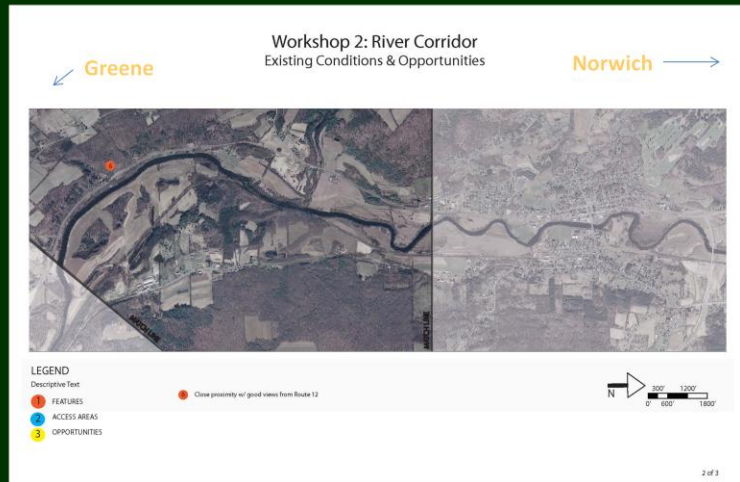


2nd Workshop Results- Existing Conditions & Opportunities



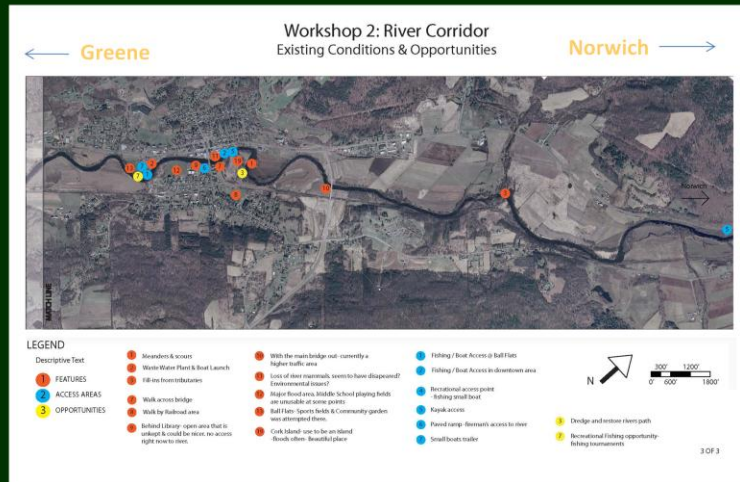
Map 1: The first map in a series of three maps that connect together, shows where community members identified several existing conditions of the river

2nd Workshop Results- Existing Conditions & Opportunities



Map 2: Moving Northward closer to the village, the Community identified clearly where the River is in close proximity to Route 12. This is an area of opportunity to showcase the Chenango river Corridor to passerby's along Route 12.

2nd Workshop Results- Existing Conditions & Opportunities



Map 3: The community identified several existing conditions
And opportunities in the Village core that include:
Access areas, flood areas, recreational areas and
Tributaries that flow into the Chenango



3 Major Concerns:

1. Flooding

2. Pollution

3. Lack of recreational access to the river

From the Data gathered from the 2nd workshop

The three major concerns for the Chenango river are:

1. The Flooding, 2. Pollution in the river and
2. 3. The Lack of recreational access to the river

Opportunities

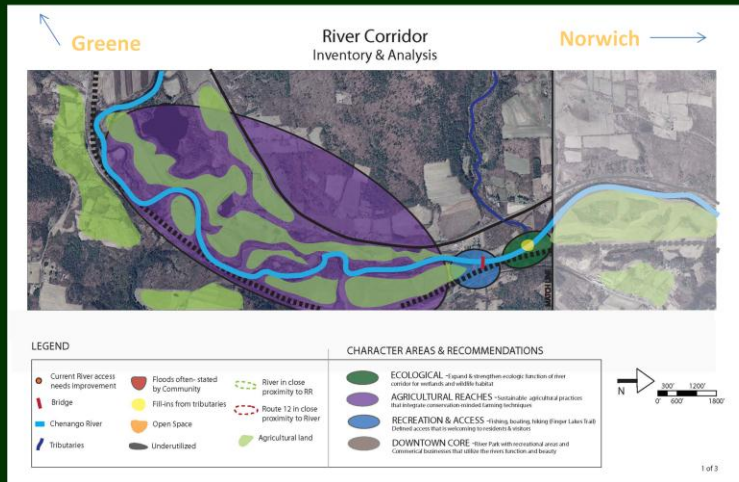
1. Better Recreational access to the River
2. River walk with Large Riverside Park in close proximity to the downtown
3. Clean the River of pollutants

The opportunities that the community identified had some overlap with The concerns such as cleaning the river of pollutants and developing better Recreational access to the river corridor that will welcome visitors into Oxford

4 Main Character Areas & Recommendations

4 Main Character Areas & Recommendations

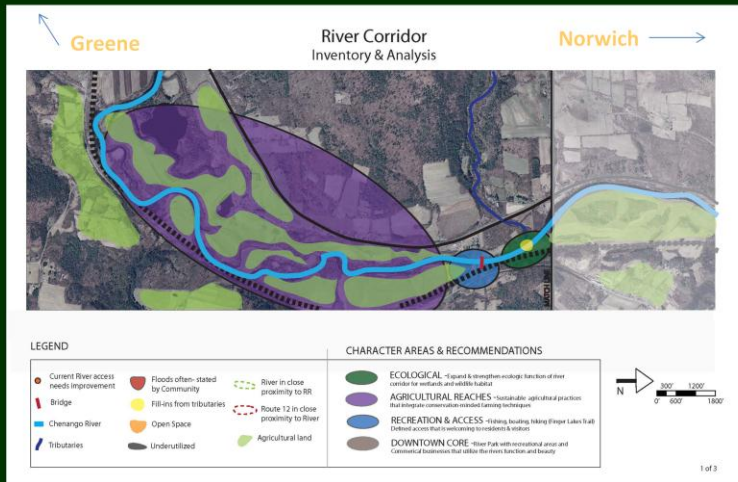
1. Recreation & Access –Defined access that is welcoming to residents and visitors



On Map 1 the dominant character area is the Agricultural reaches that the corridor meander it's way through farmland alongside the non-Operational Railroad line.

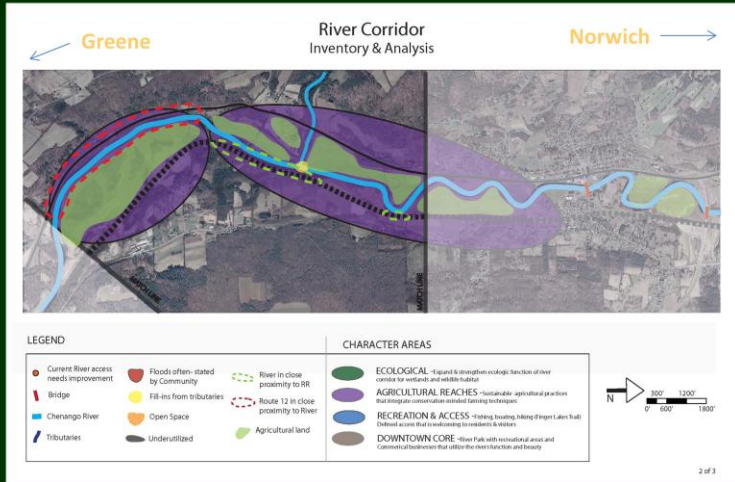
4 Main Character Areas

2. Ecological –Expand and strengthen ecological function of the river corridor for wetlands and wildlife habitat



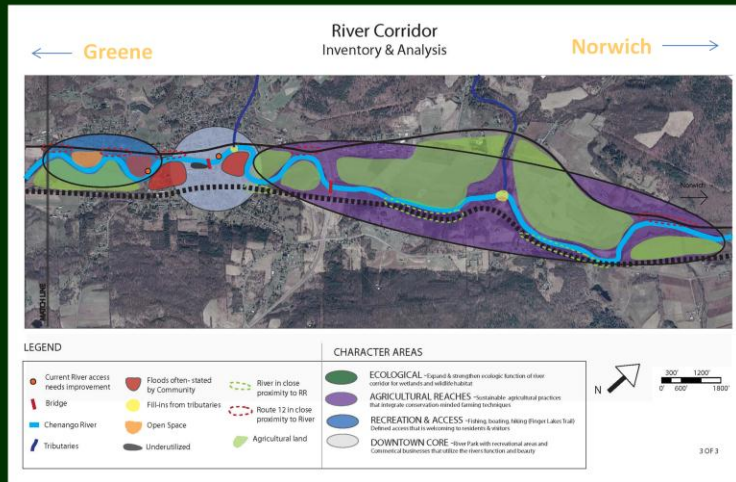
4 Main Character Areas

3. Agricultural Reaches – Sustainable practices w/ integrate conservation minded farming techniques



4 Main Character Areas

4. Downtown Core- Riverside park that utilizes the river with recreational areas



Map 3: Shows the relationship between the village core, its surrounding agricultural reaches and the areas that often flood, which are highlighted in red.

Oxford's Downtown Core & The Chenango River



Planning Diagram base on the analysis of community data , physical relationships, assets, underutilized spaces and the needs of the community

We recommend a visual gateway on Route 12 south of the Village core that has a relationship with

The river corridor through the open recreational field and the Recreational access area to the river in the left side of

The map.



The following recommendations have been thoughtfully planned to serve a variety of uses which will provide the greatest benefit for the community to be able to enjoy the river's wildlife corridor, recreational uses, natural beauty and it's ability to attract new residents and visitors into the Village.



“This is about a vision” the following recommendations may be made on private land in order to better utilize physical spaces.

1. Riverwalk

- Will attract new residents and visitors



The River walk will provide an economic stimulus that will attract new residents
And visitors into Oxford.

1. Riverwalk

- Serve as a Catalyst for economic revitalization



1. Riverwalk

- Opportunities include walking and jogging, bicycling and rollerblading.



It will allow a safe place for youth and adults to walk and enjoy the river corridor.

1. Riverwalk

- Prevent erosion & protect community assets such as the fire station & the Middle School



In the 2nd workshop the issue of erosion along the Banks of the river was a major concern especially Near the fire station and the Blue Ox.

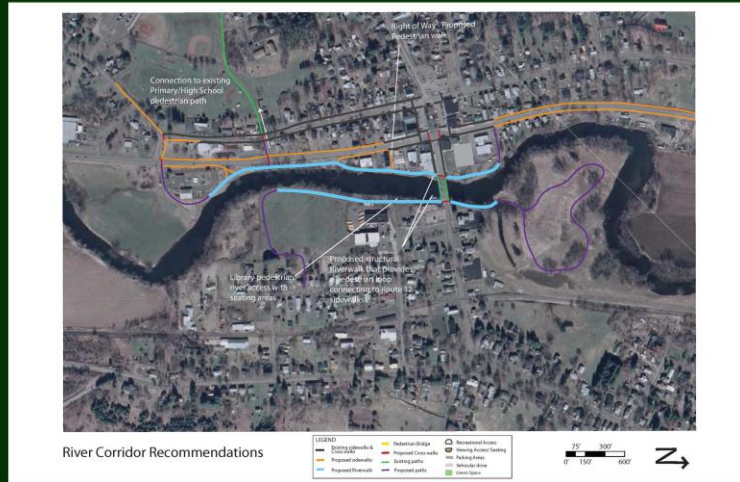
Riverwalk Precedent

- Owego, NY



Owego's River walk is an example of a structural riverwalk
That withstands flooding that connects back to the main
Street so that you're able to walk in a loop.

2. Pedestrian Connections



Making pedestrian connections to existing infrastructure is important to residents.

2. Pedestrian Connections

- Walking Loop: Connects the River walk to proposed Route 12 sidewalks



Several people in the community currently have made their own Walking loops within the village and town, yet these routes are Not ideal due to lack of safety.

2. Pedestrian Connections

- Improving the quality of life of residents



The community has expressed they would benefit from safer walking routes within the Village.

2. Pedestrian Connections

- Provides safe pedestrian friendly routes for children to walk to school



Providing safe routes to school would enhance Oxford's Way of life and sense of pride in their public schools.

3. Truss Bridge

- Ideal location for a safe pedestrian connection between East and West Side Neighborhoods



The bridge would act as an identity piece for Oxford.

A historical homage to Theodore Burr's Truss Bridge design

That would become a destination spot for visitors.

3. Truss Bridge

- Link's the Middle school to the Primary / High school to existing path & sport fields



An important link between the Eastside and Westside Neighborhoods
That would also link the Middle school to the Primary/ High school.

3. Truss Bridge

- Provides close range views from route 12 in both directions that will attract visitors



The location of the bridge was also chosen due to the close proximity to Route 12, which provides optimal views of the bridge through the tree canopy.

4. Expand Parks and Recreational Facilities

- Provide Visual Cues with vegetation to welcome & attract visitors to Oxford's recreational Areas



Providing visual cues from Route 12 that also have a relationship To the river corridor by slowing down the visitor and inviting them Into the riverside parks that have recreational access, picnicking Areas and recreational facilities.

4. Expand Parks and Recreational Facilities

- Add parking areas at the multipurpose park: sports & events field and Boat launch



Well defined parking areas will invite visitors and residents
 To use the facility and recreational field and community
 Event space more often for programmed events.

4. Expand Parks and Recreational Facilities

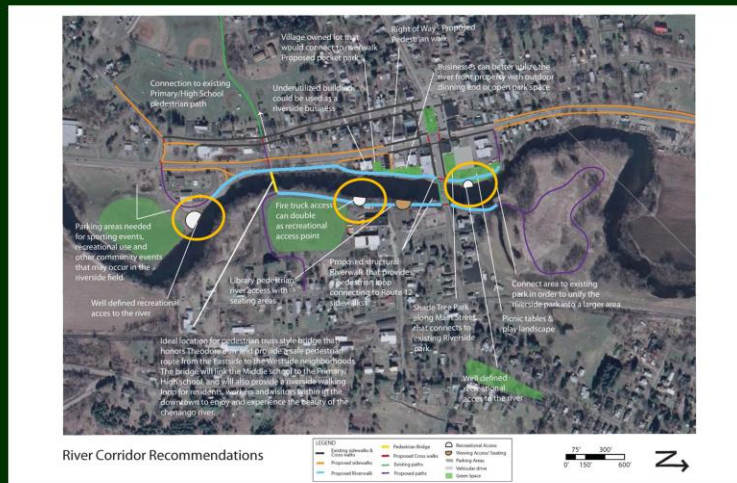
- Maximize open spaces by connecting adjacent lots to existing riverside park.



Expanding the riverside park into adjacent land will allow The commercial district to redefine itself and Utilized the riverfront property for it's benefit.

5. Recreational access points

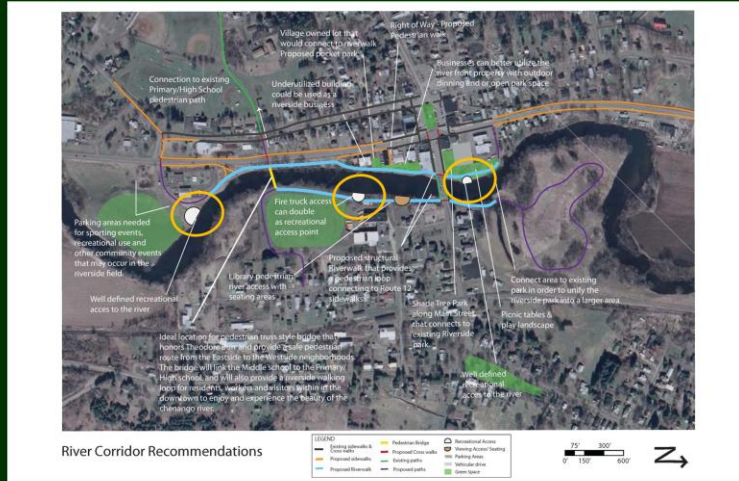
- provide safe access to the river



Providing safe access to the river will attract different users groups to Oxford.

5. Recreational access points

- Need appropriate signage that will define access points for residents and visitors



Appropriate signage that clearly defines these access points is needed.

6. Better Utilize Riverside Commercial District

- Restaurants - outdoor dining terraces



Commercial riverside district will better utilize the Chenango River and view it as an asset to their business once the River walk is established, and the flooding and pollution issues have been mitigated.

6. Better Utilize Riverside Commercial

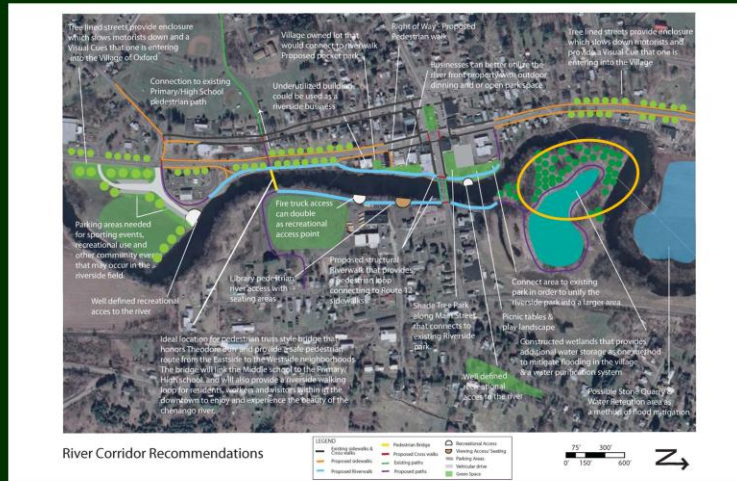
- Small Boat & Bike rental facility



Here is an example of what new kinds of businesses may Be appropriate.

7. Flood Mitigation Strategies

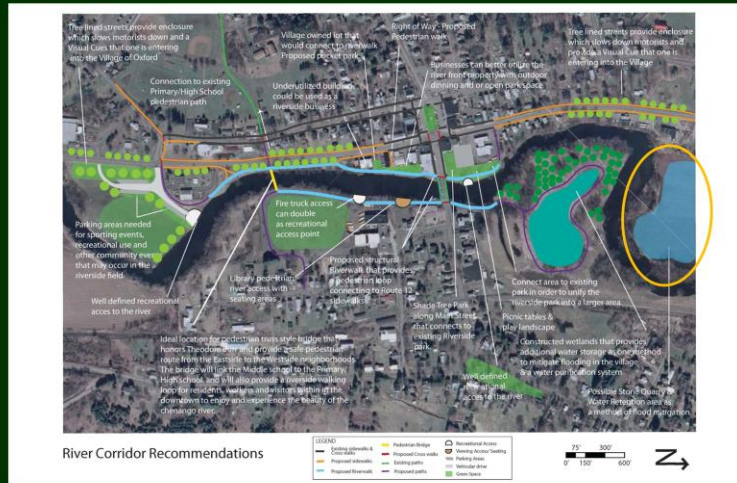
- Provide a Tree Buffer of a minimum of 25' to line and stabilize the river's edge



There are several strategies that will need to occur in order to mitigate flooding within the river corridor. Each of these strategies will help to mitigate flooding yet we have not determined as to what extent. Further study is needed.

7. Flood Mitigation Strategies

- Detention Pond – water storage area that would alleviate flooding in the Village



The detention pond would serve as a temporary storage area for the flood waters To be withheld until the river water has dropped and then be slowly released back Into the river. This strategy would need further study to provide the optimal location And its effectiveness.

7. Flood Mitigation Strategies

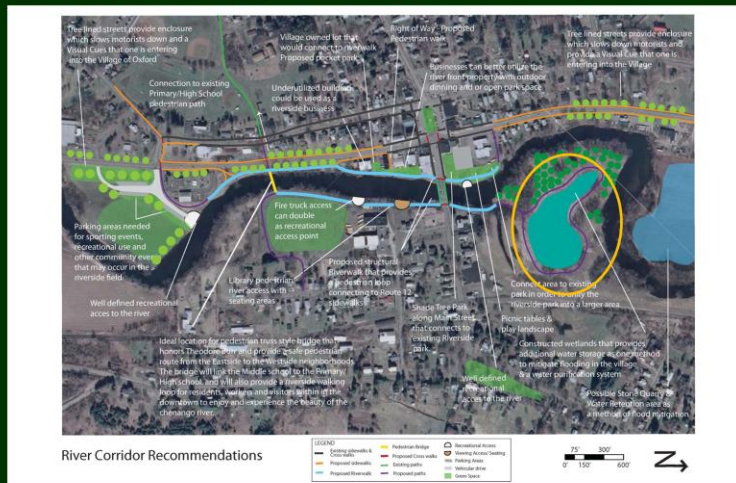
- Constructed Wetlands: slows water down & clean pollutants



The constructed wetlands would serve as a small overflow storage area, Provide wildlife habitat, nature walking path with in the village and Purify pollutants from the Chenango river water.

7. Flood Mitigation Strategies

- Wetlands Provide: wildlife habitat & educational opportunities



Provides a learning landscape that students can interact with on a daily basis on their own or through a guided class Curriculum that incorporates lessons and or labs that can Study the wildlife habitat, soils, water quality etc...

Constructed Wetlands: Precedents



- Mize Lake Wetlands—City of Lenexa, KS
The city of Lenexa currently has two constructed wetlands in place that provide water quality treatment.



- Constructed Wetland- beijing



Here are some wetland areas that provide water quality treatment
And nature trails that allow users to experience the Flora and fauna.

7. Flood Mitigation Strategies

- Flood mitigation Strategies would need a much further in depth study in order verify appropriate methods, sizes and locations in the landscape.

**If you have questions please write them down
and I will be happy to answer them later.**

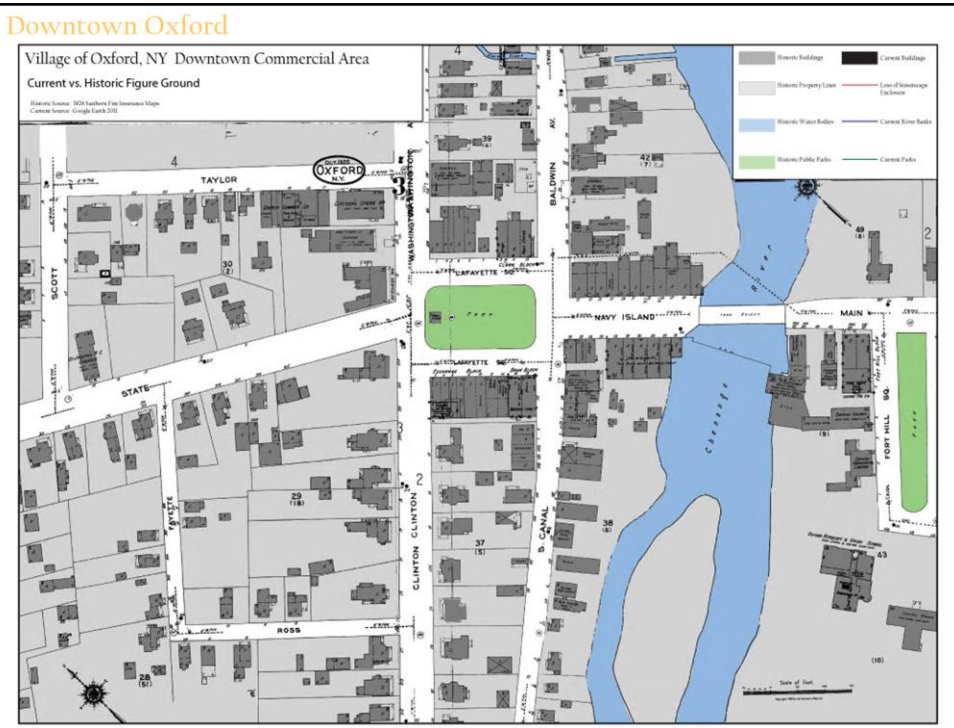
Downtown Oxford

- Introduce self
- Focus on the downtown area of the village

Downtown Oxford

- Analysis
 - Historical
 - Zoning and Use
 - Underutilized and Vacant land and buildings
 - Flooding
 - Pedestrian environment and connections
 - Community Input

- Our analysis has brought together a lot of information gathered from previous workshops as well as our own research and observations
- Here we will share some of our analyses with you
- Listed are the parts of the analysis of current conditions that I will show you
 - Historical
 - Zoning and Use
 - Underutilized and Vacant land and buildings
 - Flooding
 - Pedestrian environment and connections
 - Community Input

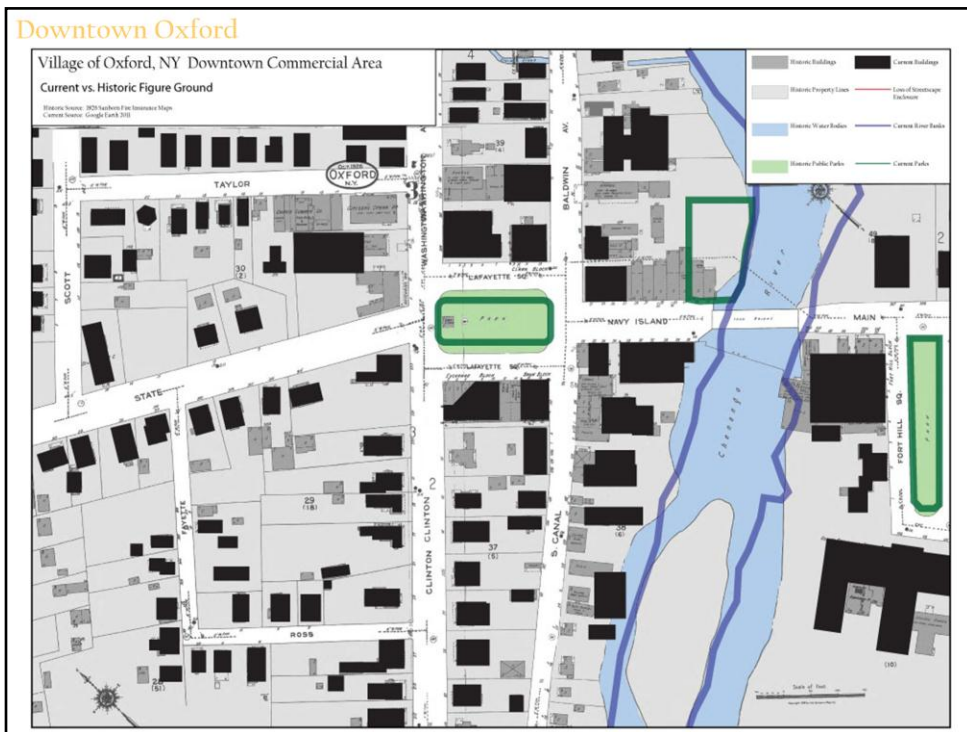


- This is a historic map from 1926, chosen because it was after the removal of the canal but also at a time when the downtown was more pedestrian oriented
- The historic building footprints are shown in the darker gray
- (point out lafayette park and river)

Downtown Oxford

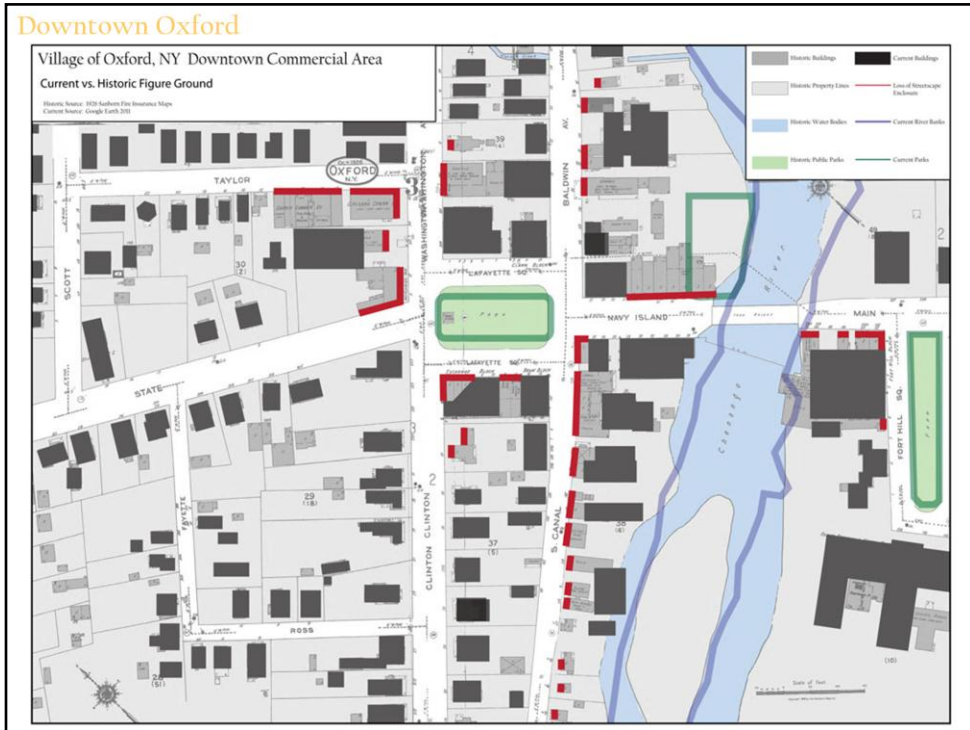


- Some historic photos of what the village downtown looked like in the past



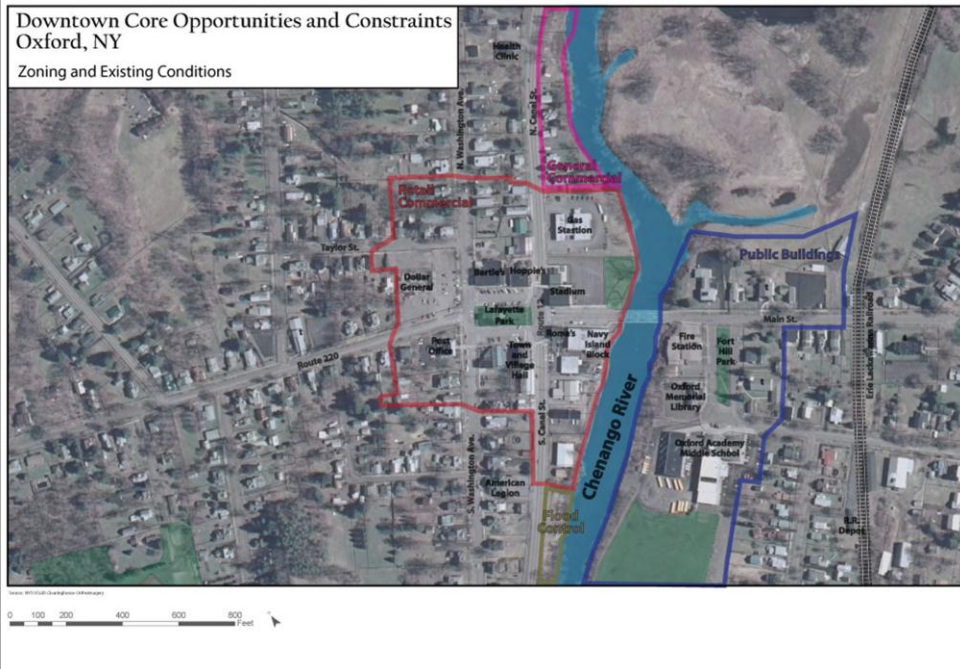
- This is the same map with an overlay of present day conditions
- Existing structures are shown in black
- The present day riverbanks are in blue – you can see how the river has been changed in width and in course and how the island is no longer in existence
- Present day parks are outlined in green, as you can see Lafayette Park has less green space today then it once did

Downtown Oxford

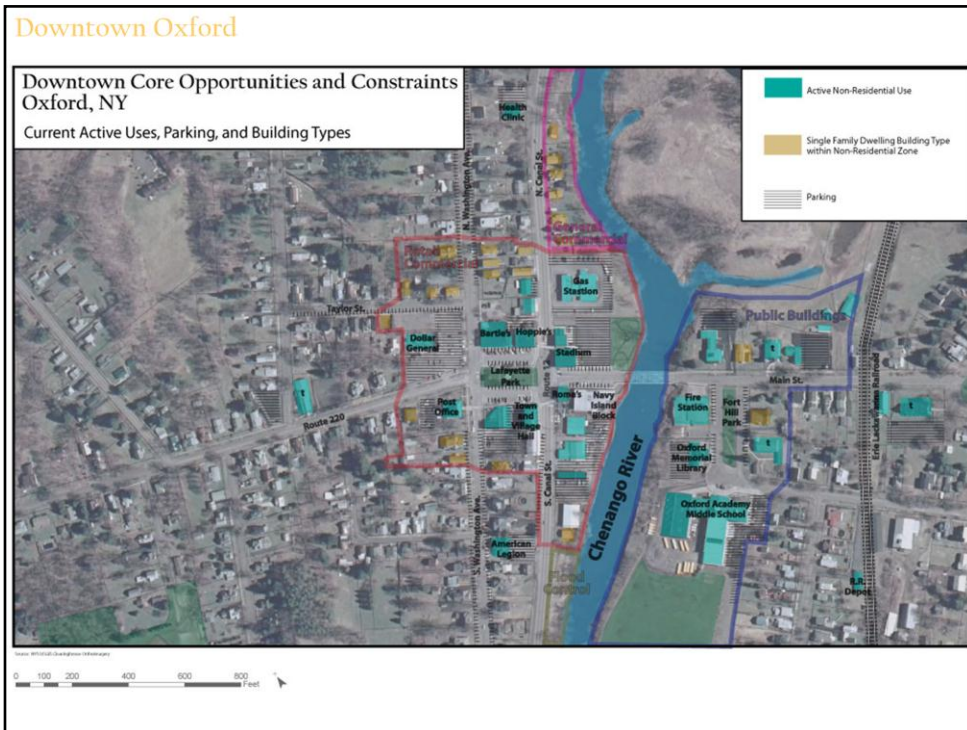


- These red lines identify the places where building facades along the street have either receded or disappeared entirely
- The pedestrian environment and the visual character have been greatly affected
- The result of these changes over time is a loss of continuity along the street
- Along the southern portion of Route 12 you can see how the building setbacks and massing have increased greatly

Downtown Oxford

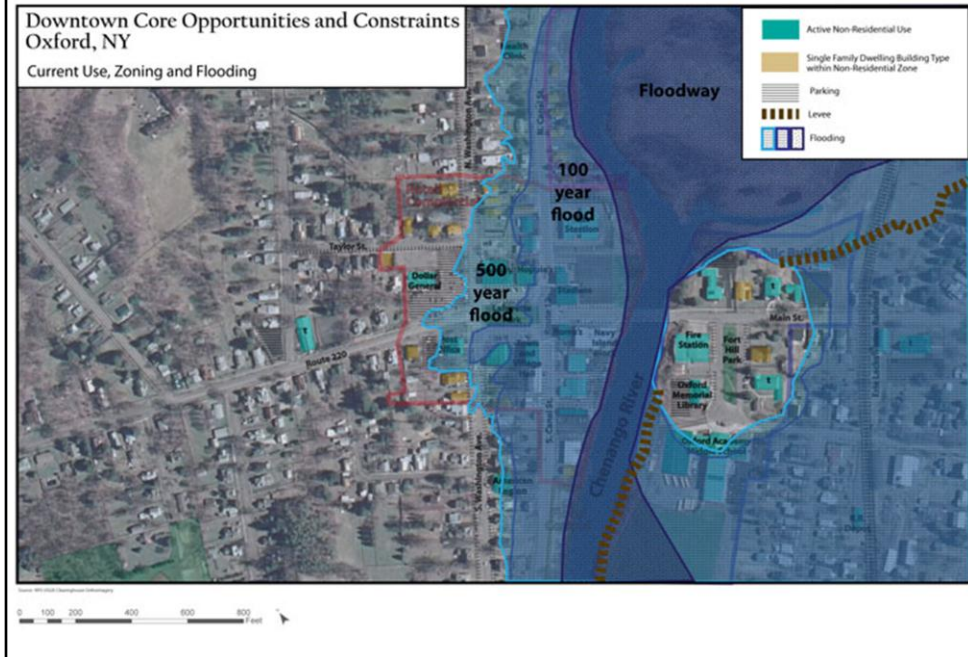


- Now we will take a look at the current conditions of the downtown area
- This map simply shows the zoning designations
- (Business District, other commercial, public buildings, and flood control

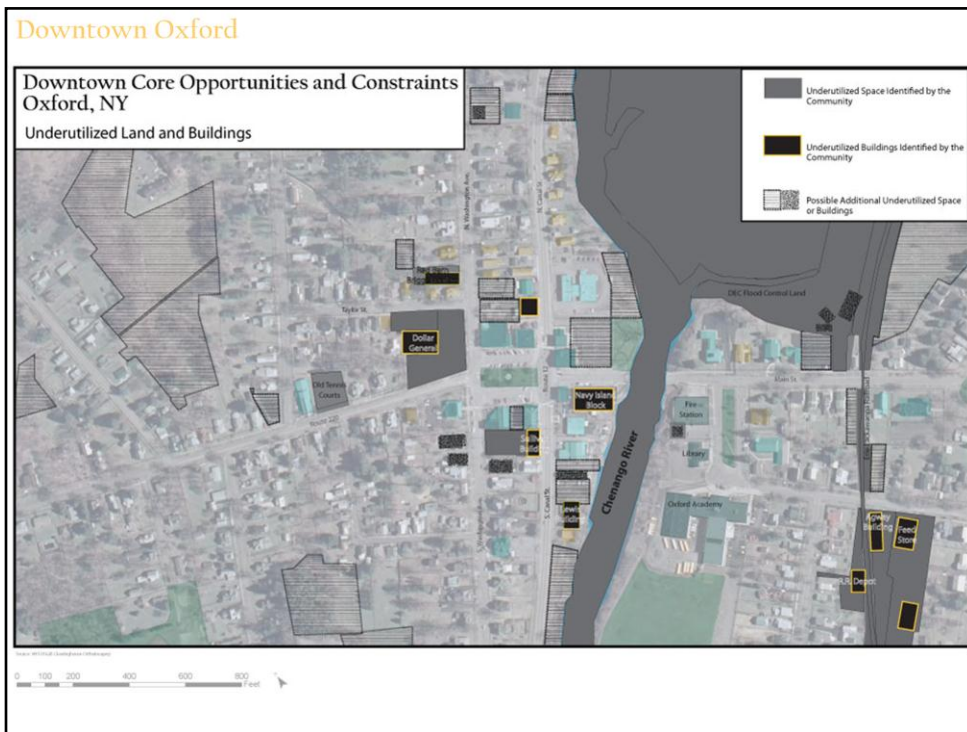


- Here is the same map
- However, this also shows the active non-residential uses which are highlighted in the aqua color
- In yellow are the single family dwelling types which are within the non-residential zones
- Space designated for parking is also shown here

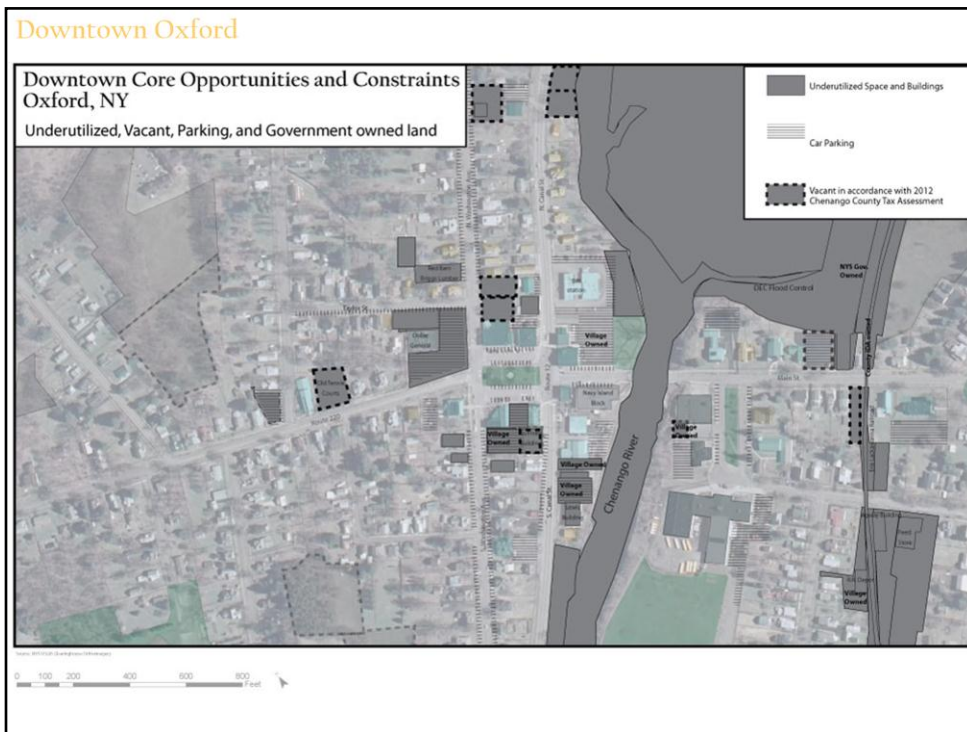
Downtown Oxford



- This is the same as the previous map but the flood zones designated by FEMA are overlaid in this version
- (Point out 100yr and 500yr)
- As you are already aware, there have been several severe floods within recent years, and FEMA is in the process of updating these maps, so the actual flooding may be different than what is shown here
- As you already know, flooding is a major issue for Oxford and it affect the majority of the downtown business district, as well as a great part of the rest of the village especially on the East side of the river

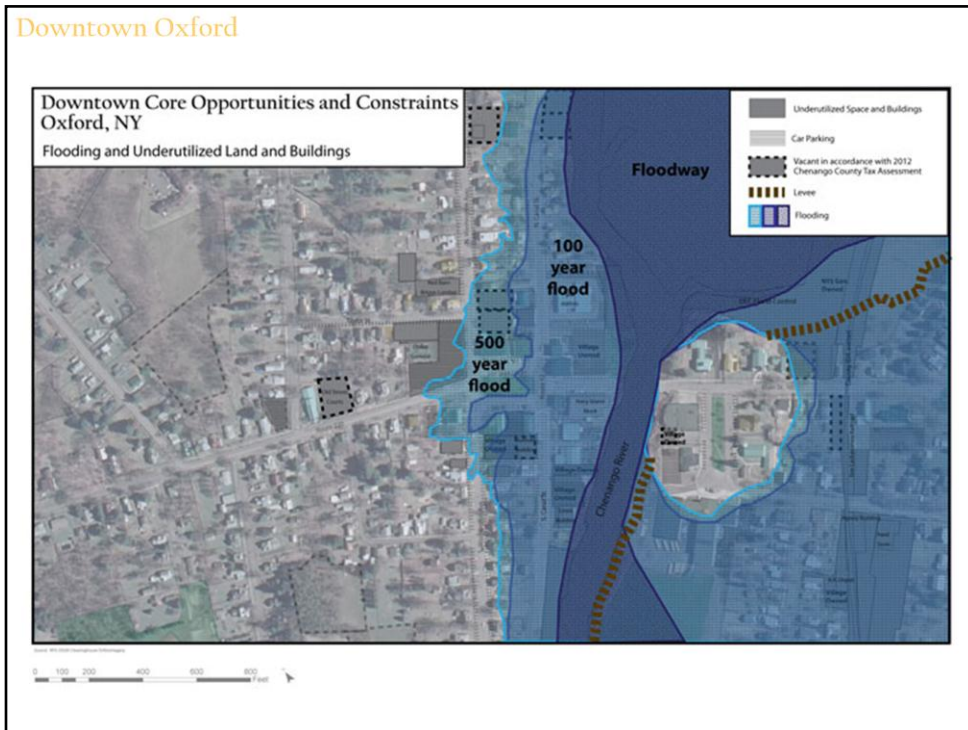


- Moving on to another aspect of the analysis
- This map shows the underutilized resources; whether they are vacant, abandoned, poorly maintained, or underutilized for any number of other reasons
- Those identified by the community are shown – gray for spaces, and black for structures
- Also included here are other possibly underutilized resources that we have identified – shown with patterns

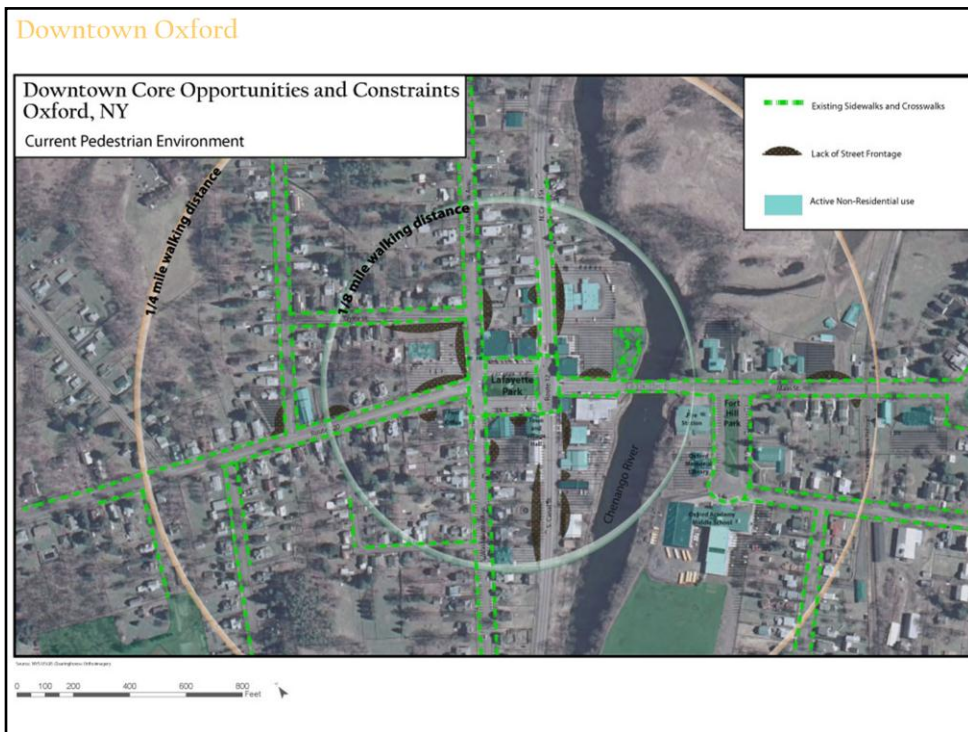


- This is another iteration of the previous map
- Here all of the underutilized resources are shown in grey, those that are village owned are labeled as such
- Additionally space allocated to car parking has also been included
- The dashed outlines signify those that have been identified as vacant by the county this year

Downtown Oxford



- Again, this is overlaid with the FEMA map
- In this way we can begin to examine whether there is a relationship between flooding and underutilized resources



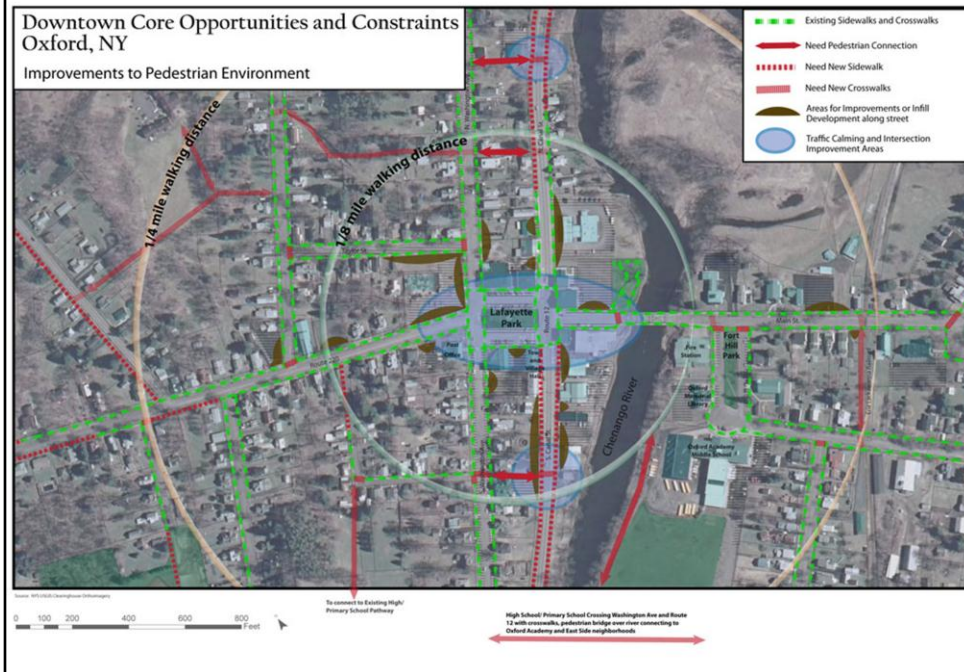
- Now we will take a look at the analysis of the pedestrian environment in the downtown area
- These rings define walking distances, of 1/8 and 1/4 mile, 1/4 mile is considered a very comfortable walking distance, typically about 5 minutes
- Basically the whole downtown area falls within 1/4 mile
- The green lines show where sidewalks and crosswalks currently exist, although we are aware that some of those may be in poor condition
- And also shown are the gaps in continuous street frontage within the downtown core since it is very important in terms of pedestrian experience

Downtown Oxford



Some examples of these gaps in the continuity of the street frontage form the downtown area

Downtown Oxford



- Shown in red are pedestrian connections and infrastructure that is missing, either in the form of sidewalks, crosswalks, or more direct routes through blocks
- Also identified, in blue, are areas where traffic calming measures would improve the pedestrian experience, increase safety, slow down traffic, and encourage drivers to stop in the village

Possible Scenario if Flooding is Mitigated

Major Strategies in achieving a Pedestrian Oriented Downtown:

- Enlarging Lafayette Park
- Creating a continuous street frontage
- Creating a river walk and open space network
- Improving pedestrian connections
- Re-use and Revitalization of underutilized buildings
- Improving quality of life and meeting the needs of the community

- As a result of all of our analyses and information we have gathered from the community we have produced a plan for Oxford's Downtown
- However, this is only one possible solution of what could happen here, it is only an example that is part of the vision process
- There are many ways of designing for and addressing the current conditions
- One other important thing to make clear is that this scenario operates upon the assumption that the current flooding problems can be mitigated or dealt with in some way
- The main purpose of this plan is to transform the downtown into a much more pedestrian oriented environment which also serves other needs of the community in various ways
- Listed are some of the major strategies we are using to achieve these goals
- I will briefly explain the major strategies we are using which are listed here and then you will have a chance after our presentation to find out more about the details of this scenario



- The first strategy is enlarging the green space that constitutes Lafayette Park
- Lafayette Park has been identified as a gathering place that serves multiple purposes and is highly valued by the community
- As shown earlier Lafayette Park has lost some of its green space over time and has become somewhat of an island surrounded by asphalt, which has weakened its relationship with its surroundings has weakened
- We are suggesting that the useable green space be widened and the parking be relocated
- We are also proposing that the space be redesigned in order to create a more functional space that can accommodate greater numbers of users and a wider variety of uses

This would be done by moving the parking along its edges to mid-block parking lots behind the adjacent buildings which can be accessed by way of pedestrian pathways

Downtown Oxford

Creating a continuous street frontage



- The second strategy is to increase the continuity of facades along the streets in the downtown core
- Here you can see where we are proposing new buildings that would make the downtown more pedestrian friendly (in beige)
- We have also identified some areas for future development of structures that would serve this same purpose (brown outlines)
- These developments would greatly improve the character of Oxford's village center
- In some cases this would be achieved by relocating parking that is now along the street to mid-block parking lots OR to on-street parking (point to some)

Downtown Oxford

Creating an open space network and improving pedestrian connections



- The third major strategy which constitutes this plan is the creation of an open space network and improved pedestrian connections
- This includes public open space and trail ways for a variety of uses
- These spaces would serve a wide variety of purposes; transportation, recreational, social, community, play, education, agricultural, economic, protection of and improvement of water quality, habitat creation
- Some of these green spaces would provide multiple benefits. For example the wetlands we are proposing here would serve as a recreational opportunity, it would create wildlife habitat, it would aid in flood control, and it would purify the water
- This is also part of an overall system of connectivity allowing the movement of pedestrians and bicyclists for both transportation and recreational purposes, that would encourage non-motorized movement, making more direct connections, reducing walking distances, and providing more pleasant walking experiences. It would improve quality of life for village residents, as well as increase safety
- These initiatives include a river walk and riverfront park which is part of the overall green network and helps connect these features to the

downtown core and incorporate the river as an important natural feature to be utilized and enjoyed. They would help to increase both visual and physical access to the river and open it up to recreational opportunities.

Downtown Oxford

Re-use and Revitalization of underutilized resources



- The next major strategy is finding opportunities in the downtown through the underutilized structures and space that is or may be available or even through expanding uses of what is currently being used but is not meeting its full potential
- We have made connections between the available resources and those things that the community feels are needed or missing

Downtown Oxford

- Youth Center and outdoor recreation
- Welcome/ Visitors center
- Community Bulletin
- Groceries
- Vendor spaces, community markets, open forum, community space, local goods, artisan works
- Bed & Breakfast
- Local small-scale manufacturing or industry
- Book store and trade
- Assisted Living

- Here is a short list just to give you a few examples of the things we have tried to incorporate into this plan although this is not a comprehensive list
- These are all things that were felt to be needed or missing by the community
- You can take a look at the details of how we have incorporated these into this plan scenario after the presentation