

Town of Schroon Comprehensive Plan Update



2024

Welcome to the Town of Schroon Comprehensive Plan Update!

In September 2023, the Town of Schroon initiated the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. A Project Advisory Committee was appointed by the Town Board to guide the development of a new Town Comprehensive Plan. The new Comprehensive Plan will provide a framework for achieving a community vision that is reflective of the current community conditions and builds on the progress that has been made to date. A broad range of topics are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, including but not limited to economic development, tourism, housing, climate change, infrastructure, land use, natural resources, recreation, and community services.

We are roughly halfway through the planning process and much has happened! Accomplishments include:

- Held four Committee (PAC) Meetings
- Summarized Past Planning Initiatives
- Completed a Public Survey and Results Summary
- Subcommittees Met and Summarized Needs and Opportunities by Topic
- Held a Public Informational Meeting & Visioning Workshop
- Drafted a Profile of the Community
- Held Interviews with Stakeholder Groups

Next Public Meeting to be Announced

A second Public Workshop will be held in spring or summer (TBD). The Committee and Consultants will present the recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan and request feedback from residents.

The Town has a project webpage under the Bulletin Board: <https://schroon.net/comprehensive-plan-2024/>.

Please explore this page to stay informed about the most recent updates and public involvement initiatives concerning the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update.

We Heard You!

Public engagement is an essential component of the planning process and forms the foundation for the plan's recommendations. Outreach for the Plan is comprised of three main elements: Online public survey; the public workshops; and Stakeholder Interviews.

The flagship event was the Public Workshop held on January 11th, 2024, at Schroon Lake Central School. More than 65 people attended an open forum during which residents could browse through a series of poster boards depicting maps, community profile information, and interactive boards aimed at identifying resident's opinions about the Town.

A presentation gave an overview of the comprehensive plan update process, projected timelines, progress made to date, and a summary of next steps.

General Summary of your Recommendations for Initiatives & Projects

Recreation:

1. Develop Master Plan for Town Park
2. Develop Master Plan for Schroon Lake Golf Course
3. Establish cross-country ski center and driving range at golf course
4. A "comprehensive" community center with activities for kids, educational opportunities/classes, programming and services for a variety of ages.
5. Expand biking, walking, and snowmobiling trail opportunities
6. Expand activities/uses at existing recreation facilities (e.g. add bike or XC ski trails at existing facilities, including the ski tow)
7. Establish relationships with Mountainside and The Lodges for indoor off-season recreation access to gym, pickleball, and indoor track
8. Establish formal kayak launch with Mobi-Mat surface
9. Improve kayak and tubing access at Rt 74 Schroon River Fishing Access and Launch

Business, Economy & Development:

1. Diversify employment base by attracting more light industry and small industry
2. Develop co-op/co-working spaces
3. Attract and incentivize remote workers
4. Create a small business incubator that offers opportunities for advancement and growth
5. Improve "first impressions" at south and north ends of hamlet
6. Expand methods to capitalize on marketing four season tourism
7. Coordinate marketing with The Lodge
8. Set up a local development corporation
9. Increase stores open in winter in a variety of types
10. Develop half-day, 1 day, 2 day off season itineraries
11. Seek outdoor rental, visual arts, art store, pop up opportunities, local crafters coop, bakery, florist, tour boat, soft ice cream businesses
12. Expand food trucks with support from local restaurants
13. Update downtown zoning and site plan review standards, architectural standards, and signage regulations
14. Explore training opportunities for youth through apprenticeships, civics classes in high school, BOCES classes, Path to Work, and hospitality training programs

Infrastructure & Transportation:

1. Lower the cost of sewer services
2. Increase handicap accessibility to parks, sidewalks, and roads
3. Improve internet access and overall reliability
4. Complete a Capital Improvement Plan for all infrastructure
5. Add storm water regulations to the zoning code

Natural Resources & Waterways:

1. Develop a unified approach to protecting the Lake and water quality
2. Consider forming tax district like Loon Lake Tax District to generate funds for invasive plant management
3. Expand coverage of the boat inspection programs
4. Maintain control and remediation of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species
5. Continue public education through public meetings, newly developed flyers, and on-going social media campaigns
6. Continue monitoring lake health through the CSLAP program and develop easily understood graphical models showing long-term trends
7. Extend partnerships with local groups, such as ESSLA, Schroon Steering Committee, and the local town boards encompassing the lake region
8. Extend Park wide partnerships with regional groups, including Adirondack Lakes Alliance, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, and Adirondack Watershed Institute
9. Assist and manage the staffing of the Town Dock boat launch stewards and Route 74 Boat Wash Station beyond AWI supported hours
10. Work with the Town of Schroon to implement road salt reduction plans in conjunction with the New York State Road Salt Task Force report of 2023.
11. Educate paddlers in the watershed on Clean.Drain.Dry through the Schroon Paddle Challenge
12. Participate in a new project (SCALE - Survey of Climate Change on Adirondack Lake Ecosystems) to monitor and track significant climate events and impacts
13. Petition the Town Board to support and eliminate the use of phosphorous based fertilizers
14. Support the Town of Schroon Park Commission's study of water flow and lake and river levels
15. Study and implement increased shoreline absorption through the use of riverbank erosion controls
16. Find appropriate partners and methods to mitigate the severe silting deposition at the mouth of Schroon River into the north basin of Schroon Lake
17. Promote implementation of septic system inspection program requiring inspections at time of sale
18. Address carrying capacity standards for Paradox Lake

Housing:

1. Expand affordable long-term rentals
2. Evaluate the long-term impacts of short-term rental including noise, competition with other types of overnight accommodations, and impacts on the local housing stock
3. Continue to study ways of addressing the lack of affordable housing especially for retirees, seniors, summer employees, young professionals, and new families

Based on Public Outreach Efforts so far, These are Our Most Outstanding Resources:

Town Beach & Town Park

Boathouse Theater

Schroon Lake Bandstand

Schroon Lake & Paradox Lake

Schroon Lake Public Library

Schroon Lake Chamber of Commerce



Clothier Planning & Consulting



This document was prepared with funding provided by the NYS Department of State Environmental Protection Fund.

For Comments & Questions:
schrooncomprehensiveplan@gmail.com

Jamie Konkoski, AICP
Senior Planner
LaBella Associates

 **LaBella**
Powered by partnership