

Village of Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan Update



July 2016



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I. Acknowledgements and Funding

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Community Input

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II. Executive Summary

Charting Our Future

The Village of Kinderhook is one of the most historically significant places in the Hudson Valley. Settled as early as 1614 by the Dutch, Kinderhook has long been a prosperous and prominent place. The Village's history from its earliest beginnings through development as a major stagecoach stop on the route connecting Albany with New York City, through its contributions to the American Revolution, and later, through manufacturing and commerce, the Village of Kinderhook has developed a revered and unique character.

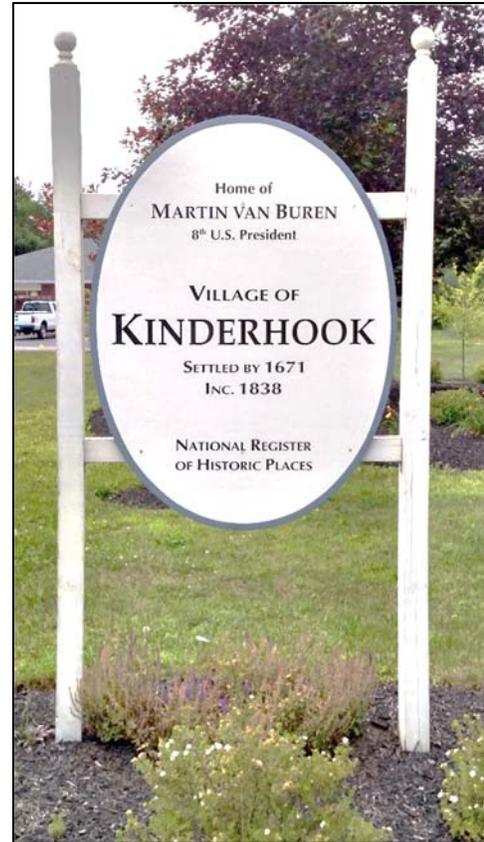
This character extends beyond the many fine examples of a historic village with Dutch, Greek Revival, Georgian, Carpenter Gothic, and Italianate architecture, and encompasses extraordinary physical beauty, a strong sense of community, a small village atmosphere with friendly neighborhoods, and residents committed to civic involvement. The Village takes great pride in itself and over the years, has established plans and policies designed to preserve that character while at the same time, allowing for new growth and prosperity so it can reinvent itself for the 21st Century.

Village officials and residents have been committed to long-term planning for decades. Its comprehensive plan remains an important document that helps us actively shape our future, rather than leaving it to chance. Long-term goals, policies and practices established in the 1999 Comprehensive Plan have been re-evaluated and updated in 2009 and again in 2016 to ensure preservation of Village character and heritage while spurring economic development.

In 2015, the Village of Kinderhook Planning Board was tasked by the Village Trustees to update the Plan. This Comprehensive Plan Update (2016) reflects present conditions in our village, includes honest appraisal of topics that residents feel need to be addressed, and offers the best tools to tackle critical issues that impact our shared future.

This Updated Plan is based upon nearly two years of community input and:

- 1 Represents our community's best thinking about how we can preserve what we love about Kinderhook while moving toward the future residents would like to see;
- 2 Articulates Kinderhook's critical long-term challenges and opportunities;
- 3 Provides a set of achievable goals; and
- 4 Invites Kinderhook's citizens, organizations, and government to work together to improve the quality of life for current residents and for the next generation.



This Plan is Kinderhook’s opportunity to envision our desired future, to prepare for change, to recommend the best possible steps we can take, and ultimately to shape the future we want.”

— 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

The updated Plan articulates a host of goals and recommended actions organized around capital improvements, regulatory updates and programs. The updated Plan outlines six core initiatives for invigorating and enhancing our town’s public spaces, economy, and opportunities:

- Economic Development
- Community Character
- Historic Resources
- Environment and Open Spaces
- Municipal Resources, Community Services, Infrastructure and Transportation
- Cultural and Recreational Resources

Some of the high priority initiatives recommended in the update include the following:

- Improve streetscapes and economic potential in the Central Business District through participation in the NY Main Street program;
- Continue sidewalk extensions, develop multi-use trails, connect to the heritage trail at Lindenwald, and create a Complete Streets Plan to ensure Kinderhook remains a pedestrian-friendly community;
- Construct a boat launch at Kinderhook Creek and enhance other recreational facilities there;
- Develop funding sources for projects and programs;
- Continue to fund and support the Economic Development Director to implement a business expansion and retention program and promote appropriate tourism in the Village; and
- Develop a truck traffic mitigation plan with NYS DOT.

Success in meeting these objectives will require both public- and private-sector actions.

All residents are encouraged to review the full Plan (available on the village website at www.villageofkinderhook.org).



III. Introduction

The name Kinderhook appeared on Dutch maps as early as 1614 making it one of the oldest names in the State. In the early days, Kinderhook (Dutch meaning children's corner) embraced all of Stuyvesant, parts of Chatham, Stockport, and Ghent. The Village of Kinderhook is located in Columbia County, New York.

In 1999, the Village adopted its first Comprehensive Plan. In 2006, the Village reviewed and updated this plan to include more specific goals and action plans. In 2015, in accordance with the 2006 Plan, the Village Board tasked the Planning Board to undertake another review of the vision, policies, and recommendations contained within the original and the first update to the plan, assess progress and perform the requisite analyses to support further implementation activity.

The Village Board and Planning Board considers the 1999 and 2006 updated plans as remaining very relevant and viable. Although those plans contain many very good recommendations and ideas, the Board desires more action-oriented details in order to facilitate implementation. The goal for this update is to produce more discrete planning details, action steps, budgetary needs and revenue creation schemes to support future implementation. A further goal is to reconnect with the citizens and business owners - to report to them on our accomplishments to date and the status of new initiatives. Finally, this plan update includes changes to our maps reflecting changes that have occurred since our last update to better serve our community planning activity.

Population

- Between 2000 and 2010, the Village continued to lose population at a rate of 5%;
- By comparison, the village of Valatie grew by 6.25%;
- The number of households in the Village decreased by about 1.5%.

Educational Attainment and Employment

- In 2010, 74.5% of the village population had received some level of college education;
- The Village of Kinderhook had a higher percentage of workers in executive, management and professional occupations than the Town, Village of Valatie, Columbia County, New York State, or the United States as a whole;
- In 2000 the unemployment rate was 4% and in 2010 it was 3.2%;
- There is a continuing increase in the number of people in the labor force – 28 more than in 2000, and 108 more than 1990;
- In 2010, there was a continuing trend of more village residents working within Columbia County. Slightly fewer were working out of the county in 2010 than in 2000, and fewer were working out of state.

Income Levels

- The number of people and families living below the poverty level continued to trend lower in the Village between with 1.4% of the population considered living in poverty at the time of the 2010 census;
- This is the lowest poverty level in the region and is lower than the County, State, or United States;
- During the past decade, the per capita income level, family median income and household income all increased substantially.

Housing Characteristics

- The number of housing units increased by about 22% (128 units) during the 2000s;
- Eighty-three percent of all dwelling units were owner-occupied;
- The Village of Kinderhook had a higher median value of housing than the Town, Valatie, Columbia County and the United States, but was not higher than the median value for New York State;
- Figures over the past 20 years indicate that while conditions have improved slightly, housing affordability continues to be an issue in the Village of Kinderhook.

Accomplishments

Before enumerating what is next and what the future holds for the Village of Kinderhook, the Village of Kinderhook Planning Board would like to acknowledge the village's accomplishments over the last few years. The following accomplishments have been successfully made to implement recommendations from the 2008 Plan Update:

- Connect sidewalks between Kinderhook and Valatie;
- Work to increase communication and sharing of information and the ongoing review of projects;
- Study the feasibility of a sewer system and implement a solution and installed the sewer system to serve the Village Square area;
- Continue to monitor the quality of our water and maintain and improve protection programs;
- Initiate a public/private program for street planting and maintenance;
- Provide new signs that are consistent in design at the village entrances;
- Maintain a rating system for street conditions and prioritize resurfacing and other street maintenance work;
- Develop and implement an equipment maintenance program;
- Fund maintenance and improvements to village property and buildings;
- Work with the Kinderhook business community to develop economic plans to improve business attraction, generate growth, and coordinate event planning through hiring an economic development executive director;
- Continue investing in the Fire Department and support public safety initiatives;
- Continue to explore shared service opportunities to reduce operational costs where feasible;
- Maintain current recreational programs, including the village's summer recreational program;
- Adopt regulations to control outdoor furnaces;
- Update sign regulations;

In addition to these accomplishments cited above, the Village of Kinderhook has made partial progress on many more recommendations contained within previous plans. Where recommendations were not completed, the committee sought to update action plans and prioritize the next set of objectives in accordance with the predominant views of the public.



An Updated Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Kinderhook

Comprehensive plans are an important tool a municipality can use to set a course for its future. It does this by helping the community understand and address its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. A comprehensive plan establishes a long-term vision and multiple goals to address and offers a series of actions to be implemented.

The original Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Kinderhook was completed and adopted in 1999. The plan included a very detailed profile and inventory of community resources, maps, and information on streets, business activities, community facilities, public utilities, and land development. This document formed the basis for zoning changes and other actions put into place by the Village Board over the next few years. As per the 1999 Plan, the Village has pledged to ensure the Plan remains a vital document for guiding Kinderhook's future and they updated it in 2008.

With continued support from the Hudson River Greenway, the Village began efforts to revise the 2008 plan in April 2015. This update, like the last one, is designed to ensure that the Village understands and addresses community needs.

This Updated Comprehensive Plan builds on both the 1999 and 2009 versions. Both have information that will be useful to refer to as new actions identified in this Update are implemented. Generally, this update provides the Village with:

- Information to help Kinderhook understand their natural and man-made resources;
- A public record of community assets, opportunities, and needs;
- A vision for the future for the community that is shared across a variety of community perspectives, including neighborhoods, businesses, institutions, and governmental interests;
- Goals and specific actions needed to achieve that shared vision;
- A blueprint for action that the community can follow to work together on plan implementation.

The 2016 Planning Process

The update process began in April 2015. The Village Board assigned the Planning Board to facilitate the planning process along with volunteers from the community and a planning consultant. Like the 1999 and 2009 Plans, this Update is designed to answer three questions about the Village of Kinderhook:

1. What are the current activities, needs, issues, and characteristics of Kinderhook;
 2. What does the community want the Village of Kinderhook to be like in 5 to 10 years; and
 3. What does Kinderhook have to do in order to attain that future vision?
- To answer these questions, the Village undertook a planning process designed to:
 - Update and analyze the demographic information about the Village;
 - Update and analyze the maps about the Village;
 - Understand the vision, goals, issues, and needs from the perspective of community residents and businesses; and
 - Identify a clear set of actions to be taken in the next five years that will help the Village of Kinderhook reach its established vision and goals.

The 2015-2016 Planning Process included:

- Demographic data update using 2010 US Census and 2014 American Community Survey demographic estimates;
- Design, implement and analyze a community-wide survey;
- Conduct a focus group in June 2015 to gain the perspective of Planning Board, Village Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and other local government volunteers about the Village;
- Update the Geographic Information System data and create new, up-to-date maps to help the Village understand its physical characteristics;
- Conduct a Public Visioning Workshop in July 2015 to hear the community perspective on Kinderhook's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and to establish a shared vision;
- Collate all public information gained to articulate a clear list of community strengths, weaknesses and opportunities;
- Update the 2009 vision and goals to reflect community needs and desires;
- Identify achievements accomplished from the 1999 and 2009 plans;
- Identify those actions that have not been implemented yet, or that are partially implemented and determine whether they were still valid strategies and aligned with the 2016 vision and goals;
- Develop an updated set of strategies and actions to be implemented;
- Prioritize those actions into a specific blueprint for the Village Board to implement over the next 5 years;
- Create a new document that includes the results from the above steps; and
- Write an executive summary that can be used with economic development efforts in the Village.



Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

An important exercise in the comprehensive planning process is the identification of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) facing the town. Strengths are positive and valuable assets that should be preserved in the future. Weaknesses are drawbacks or short-term negative challenges that need to be addressed so that they do not cause long-term problems. Opportunities are the long-term positive paths that we might take advantage of in the future. Threats are long-term weaknesses and fears that can undermine the quality of life in town.

The SWOT analysis was developed from data derived from public opinion (the resident survey, community conversations, topic-oriented focus groups, and other public meetings) as well as interpretation of other resource inventory and profile information. The SWOT analysis is the basis for the development of goals and strategies, and will be used to help identify a set of realistic, tangible, and affordable actions for the village to pursue.

The following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats have been identified from the public input and analysis of data:

Strengths

- Architectural character, Samascott's orchard, open land in Village¹
- Beauty and character of Village, aesthetically pleasing place, unique character not found elsewhere, visual beauty
- Charm of the Village
- Churches contribute to Village
- Citizen-based government, participation in the community, volunteerism
- Community is central core of character
- Diversity in the community
- Events and activities, especially in the Village square
- Farmers market
- Friendliness of Village, people care for one another, a true community
- Gardens, landscaping at houses, well-maintained yards
- Handicapped accessible
- Historic architecture and character of village
- Historic character of village
- Kinderhook Creek – the park, important resources
- Landscape - Quality of landscape – yard scale, what you see from the road
- Library
- Location in Capital District and Hudson Valley
- Lots of activities and events
- Love the people in the village – good place to live
- Neighbors and residential feeling – very neighborly, children-friendly
- Not known as a bedroom community
- Off the beaten path, not accidental
- Opening of Art Gallery at Martin Van Buren School

¹ Items highlighted were those that were identified as priorities at the public workshop held Summer 2015

- Preservation of historic past while looking forward
- Protected, undeveloped areas
- Quaint small village atmosphere
- Quality of life, simplicity, easy
- Quiet, historic core, mix of residential and commercial
- Runners club
- Rural ambience – scale of the village
- Safe community
- School – new presence, weekend visitors
- Sense of community
- Sense of history – insight from buildings
- Sidewalk link with Valatie a great asset
- Strong volunteer base
- Tree-lined streets
- Village green
- Village Hall
- Village has made good progress to be business friendly (like the sewer system)
- Village is starting to grow again, sees resurgence in the economy
- Village square character
- Walkability and bikeability, safety for pedestrians

Weaknesses and Threats

- Activities and events don't capture people to stay or return enough
- Additional water lines need attention
- Amount of traffic on Route 9, commercial and truck traffic on Albany Ave
- Boards do not communicate with each other
- Boards need to be more sensitive to the time needed for approvals in the planning process
- Citizen apathy and need more involvement
- Clean up needed at Trombleys and signs.
- Closing of Martin Van Buren School
- Condition of sidewalks on Albany Avenue
- Cost of living too high here
- Designate 9H for the trucks
- Development projects languish in an untimely fashion
- Difficulty funding infrastructure
- Drainage (or lack of it) is creeping back in as an issue – such as flooding along Albany Ave after a rain storm
- Electric wires and poles are visual issue
- Empty storefronts, lack of businesses, vacancy in the Village, lack of commercial base, lack of economic development, lack of business planning, lack of sustainable business
- Some facades need improvement
- Failure to explore shared services
- Farm traffic too fast

- High rents may be an issue that prevents businesses from coming to the Village
- Historic district not accurate on map
- Historic preservation laws restrictive
- Indifference on the part of the general population
- Lack of affordable living in Village
- Lack of cohesive and unified marketing between recreational and cultural organizations – needs more collaboration
- Lack of consistent and strict historic and zoning compliance enforcement
- Lack of enforcement for tractor trailers on Route 9 in Village
- Lack of funding
- Lack of long term maintenance plan for village buildings
- Lack of open mindedness in government structure
- Lack of parking, soon to be a bigger problem
- Lack of promotion of fishing or creek related activities
- Lack of public transportation – local medical for disabled
- Lack of recreational opportunities
- Lack of responsible pet walking
- Lack of sewer beyond business district
- Lack of something appealing here for young people
- Lack of tree maintenance and replacement program
- Lack of yard waste collection
- Lighting – street is ugly
- Modern infusions diminish village character
- Monopoly ownership – need board action and need varied vision of business types
- More sidewalks are needed and existing ones need improvement
- Motorcycles and their noise
- Need restaurants and activities
- Oversized lots in historic district are sub-dividable
- Poor traffic control
- Print media in Hudson not covering Village like they used to.
- School enrollment is down
- Sidewalks in winter, and in summer filled with brush, lack of enforcement
- Sign regulations need fine tuning, for HPB purposes
- Street widening at Hudson and Williams encouraged traffic, lack of sidewalks
- There may be a disconnect between the Village being successful as a destination and what people who live here want
- Traffic in village center, traffic noise, creates a safety and traffic issue. Vibrations cause damage to historic buildings.
- Undervalues heritage tourism
- Vacant buildings give bad impression
- Vacant properties
- Village Hall needs restoration
- Village is still missing its previous vibrancy
- Village needs more value-added businesses

- Village needs to be perceived more as a destination.
- Village needs to do more to be business friendly and progressive towards economic growth

Opportunities

- Be more business friendly in all aspects of the Village and ensure that zoning does not place undue challenges to opening a business in the Village
- Better enforcement of codes/laws
- Better capacity for economic development – create an economic development board
- Bring back historic lighting – appropriate historic lighting
- Build on heritage tourism – develop plaques for buildings that tell the story of Kinderhook
- Build on the concert series to build the Village as a destination and attract new businesses that can grow off that opportunity
- Bury electric lines to improve aesthetics, contact PSC about burying lines
- Contact DOT about limiting truck traffic
- Continue walking, biking and the people aspects – connect to other people
- Create opportunities for tourism at the same time that the character of the Village is not adversely impacted.
- Develop a park at Creek, with promoting fishing
- Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program as well as gardening/landscaping.
- Develop biking and walking trails – Village has become a destination for walkers and joggers. Build off this. Use the old railroad trail for biking and pedestrians and hook this to Mills Park
- Develop a streetscape improvement plan
- Economic development consultant to take advantage of store fronts and concentrate on those businesses that will garner support among the village residents
- Encourage schools to send students to apprentice with mentors for public services
- Enhance entrance to Town and Village, especially from the north
- Enhance use of the upstairs of the Village Hall with improvements that increase community use and that make the building accessible to all.
- Enhance recreation programs and focus on recreation activities at and access to the Kinderhook Creek.
- Events that encourage social interaction and benefit village
- Exploit historic sites in proximity to village
- Explore shared services to reduce costs and help make living in Village more affordable
- Extend sewer system especially for residents in historic district
- Focus economic development on our charm
- Grant writer and grant committee to find funding
- Improve charm of village with enhanced decorative street lighting or perhaps street signs with a theme
- Improve media/marketing about village.
- Improve sidewalks along with improved signage and street crossings
- Leverage proprietors' knowledgeable and input
- Look at plans from other communities

- Look for specific businesses that can work now, not what was in the past. Direct right businesses to the right location.
- Maintaining views – trees, salt causes problems for trees
- Market Kinderhook as destination for events
- Market and promotion – find and use funds for this
- More civic expansions such as via the library programs
- Music events and entertainment
- Neck down or remark roads to make it safer for bike lanes and pedestrians
- Need business expansion and retention programs. For example, establish a revolving loan program or other incentives to attract businesses here, aid in business planning. Possible use of tax incentives if program is carefully crafted and with adequate oversight and control. The Village should explore use of incentives.
- Need to build on the sidewalk link and wastewater projects
- New visual preference survey
- Open new businesses
- Partner with town to plan/building community center
- Proactively interface with other communities and organizations
- Programs to improve building facades
- Program to improve street lighting
- Promote collaboration between village, recreational and cultural organizations who provide programs and events. Develop a coordinated marketing package – there are great things here, but the promotion is not unified or cohesive.
- Promote more value-added businesses
- Restaurants – business mix unique to the village
- Samascott – take precautions to maintain the land
- Seek an anchor establishment and attract new business
- Seek grants for Creekside development
- Support the library
- Take advantage of existing art and antique businesses to drive further economic growth
- Take advantage of and be aggressive about finding grant funding for more infrastructure improvement projects
- Waterfront, greenspace at mills park
- Work regionally to address truck traffic on Route 9 with DOT, work to enforce posted speed limits. Ideas to address this included a traffic study, and work regionally to solve truck traffic problems

IV. Comprehensive Plan Vision

What is the purpose of a vision statement?

A vision statement describes the community's values and aspirations and a shared image of what they want their community to become over the next 10 to 20 years in the future. Statements address all aspects that make up a community and should be forward thinking and written in a positive, affirmative and inspirational style. The vision statement functions like a captain steers a ship to stay the course as changes occur. Topics that are usually discussed in a vision statement are common values, qualities or resources that describe its identity, attributes people like and want to keep or want to change, historic context, preferred future for each subject area, and description of the commercial and residential areas.

Overall Vision for the Village of Kinderhook's Future:

The Village of Kinderhook will be an attractive, vibrant, and inviting place to live, work and visit. The Village has unique historic character and exceptional aesthetic beauty that are key to our future community character, economy, and quality of life. Residents and visitors alike will value and enjoy our preserved history, our healthy environment, our secure and well-maintained neighborhoods and parks, and the friendly, small town feel of our community. Our Village economy will be strong and diverse, with a Village center that serves as the focal point of a robust local economy and a hub of recreational and cultural activity. Municipal services and infrastructure will be effective, efficient, and well-maintained. For all these reasons, and more, our Village will be a desirable and sought after place to live, to raise a family, to do business, and to visit.

Defining the Village, and Historic Character

How to Define Kinderhook's Character? A Statement can be developed by looking at the 1999 Plan along with new information from the recent survey as described below:

A. From the 1999 Plan, the Village conducted a visual preference survey and the results can be used to describe the character of Kinderhook:

- There is a traditional relationship of a building to the street.
- Streets have on-street parking, sidewalks, shade trees and traditional signage.
- Green spaces and landscaping are abundant.
- A variety of buildings and uses are in close proximity.



Village of Kinderhook

Comprehensive Plan Update, 2016

- Buildings have peaked roofs, inviting entrances, human scale design rather than designed for the automobile.
- People used the following words about what they liked about the Village: Small town size, historic character, the people, walkability, convenience to businesses, community spirit, tree lined streets, well-maintained homes, public services, safety.
- The 1999 Plan further described the Village as: attractive and historic atmosphere, lovely, well-kept homes; quaint; nice streets and trees; rural and beautiful open space and farms.”

B. From the most recent public survey: Participants identified the best features of Kinderhook. The illustration below is a graphic showing the words used to define the best features of the Village based on the 2016 survey results. The larger the word, the more people used that same word. This graphic can be used to help define Kinderhook’s character.



C. From Observation of the Village: There are other features of the Village that can be used to define its character in addition to those stated above, in A and B. The Village:

- Is compact,
- Is built at a human scale instead of an automobile scale,
- Is characterized with an easily accessible central core of commercial and community services centered around the Village square,
- Has recognizable natural and built landmarks,
- Has mixed uses,
- Has a network of streets,
- Is surrounded by a low density development or open space,
- Has streets that promote walking,
- Has buildings having a variety of footprints, heights, scale, range of sizes and styles,
- Has large and small lot sizes mixed together,
- Has a majority of smaller lots located near the core with larger lots at the periphery,

- Has a distinctive street and building design vocabulary defined by historic building styles and materials.

Definitions

Throughout this document, ‘character’, and ‘traditional neighborhood’ are frequently used. The following definitions are offered to help frame those terms in context of what they mean in the Village of Kinderhook.

Historic Character or Traditional Character: Describes the qualities and attributes of Kinderhook’s physical and visual landscape that embody the events, traditions and personalities of its past. Historic character describes the unique architectural variety, style and scale of our community, including color, proportion, form, and architectural detail. However, the physical layout of the Village, its landscape patterns, the connected network of roads, and other elements also contribute to historic character. Among these elements are the active agricultural operations occurring within the Village surrounded with neighborhoods having roads lined with old mature trees. Kinderhook’s historic character is strengthened by the presence of historic churches, houses, barns and out-buildings from the periods of its settlement by residents in the 1700’s and early 1800s. Historic character is also boosted by the presence of sites related to NY State and Federal Historic Register listed properties and districts. The community is walkable with sidewalk connections to most locations in the Village. Character-defining features such as the qualities of the landscape conveyed by its materials, features, spaces and finishes—are the means through which historic character is expressed.

Rural Character: Describes the features and qualities of the Village of Kinderhook’s physical and natural landscape that were shaped by current and past economic activities such as agriculture whereby the Village has been a distinct concentration of development surrounded by woodland and farms. Taken in context with surrounding lands in the Town of Kinderhook and the Town of Stuyvesant, our Village neighborhoods typically have a fairly well defined border and buffer of undeveloped open spaces and agricultural lands, and are located near important civic structures such as places of worship, schools, a central business district and adjacent to historically important natural features like the Kinderhook Creek. Our neighborhoods have a diverse mix of lot size and architectural styles. However, a majority of the houses in the Village center are historic structures from various periods in the community’s life. Farm activities within and outside the Village are a daily part of rural life in the Village.

Traditional Neighborhood Design: A development pattern that reflects the characteristics of small, older communities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is a village-style development, includes a variety of housing types, a mixture of land uses, an active center, a walkable design and often a transit option within a compact neighborhood scale area. New neighborhoods built as a traditional neighborhood should include a range of housing types, a network of well-connected streets and blocks and a variety of public spaces, and should have amenities such as stores, schools and places of worship within walking distance of residences.



V. Goals and Recommended Strategies

A. Economic Development

Vision

The Village Square will be a destination for both residents and visitors, and a sought-after business location. The Village's vibrant, walk-able commercial areas will boast a diverse array of small and unique retail shops, restaurants and professional offices that contributes positively to the economic well-being of the community. Agricultural and home-based businesses will remain crucial segments of the economy. The economy will be supported by collaborative public/private partnerships that serve to benefit the community, and encourage small business growth, recreational and culturally enriching activities, and sustainable operations consistent with the character of the Village, its history, location, and aesthetic beauty.

Goals

- Continue public/private efforts and partnerships to promote and accelerate economic development.
- Promote more economic and cultural diversity in the Village Square.
- Accelerate efforts to retain and support existing businesses and attract new entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Establish economic development initiatives that build on the Village's unique design and historic characteristics.
- Provide for sustainable Village Square facilities and infrastructure to support businesses.
- Explore incentives and other economic development programs that may benefit the community, so long as those benefits outweigh costs and community objectives are met.

Strategies

- Economic development programs should be oriented to build on the assets of the Village (which are outlined in this Plan) and not create something the Village is not. This centers on heritage, culture, recreation, agriculture and character.
- Continue to support the Economic Development Director position in the Village to implement the programs established in this Plan. The Director should work with volunteers and local businesses as needed.
- Initiate a Main Street Program for the Village Square area. The Economic Development Director has assessed interest in the Main Street Program and the Village has applied for a grant for Main Street funding. This includes funding for ongoing streetscape improvements as part of this program, such as trees, benches, bike racks and signs.
- The Village Economic Development Director should continue to work with the Kinderhook Business and Professional Association and Columbia County economic development officials to maintain and improve business in the village.
- Develop incentives such as low interest loans to help in façade improvement, updating signage, property acquisition or business start-ups. The Village Board should evaluate proposals on a

case by case basis. Develop and offer financial incentives for commercial development in the form of zero interest loans, economic development revolving loan funds, matching grants (from CDBG funds), and rent subsidy programs. Ensure Village Board evaluation and approval.

- Continue to work with Columbia County Tourism Department to promote Kinderhook as a tourist destination. Continue to build strong working relationships with the Columbia County Tourism Department and the Columbia Hudson Partnership.
- Continue the efforts of the Economic Development Direction to coordinate Business Development & Events. Organize additional events to complement the Village's historic attractions and increase activity in the Village. Encourage local businesses to participate in Village sponsored events by selling their product or service, helping to promote the event or extending their business hours.
- Plan to fill vacant space with desired businesses by compiling a database of lease terms in the B-1 and B-2 business districts and initiating discussions with property owners when a lease is up for renewal.
- Identify regional retail shops and restaurants and target those owners in business attraction efforts.
- Develop a Business Retention Program that establishes formal and regular communication between the Village and business owners to identify and address economic challenges.
- Provide a means for local businesses to purchase advertising, such as ads in local and regional papers and signage.
- Review and update the sign review and approval process so that the Planning Board has the authority to approve signs with input from the Historic Review Commission. Streamline the signage approval process by clearly describing preferred signage design in objective terms in the zoning code and guaranteeing that the approval process will be completed in a timely manner. Create a sign review flow chart to help promote the sign approval process.
- Seek economic development related grants. Hire a grant writer to assist and/or seek community volunteers for assistance.
- Market the Village to recruit new businesses by promoting Kinderhook through use of a strong web presence and development of business recruiting materials. Use a Village-oriented 'brand' and logo or tagline to assist with this effort.
- Update zoning to allow for pop-up stores (small retail stores that are start-ups, seasonal or temporary). These stores have incubated in Kinderhook before and this should continue.

Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) activities include developing and maintaining a business database; engaging in ongoing communications – through e-newsletters, websites, mailings, surveys, face-to-face meetings, roundtable discussions, etc. – to inform businesses about potential resources and learn about their needs; and working with a proactive team of professionals that can develop and/or make referrals to resources to support business growth and address issues, such as financial planning, business planning, tax planning, and cash flow projections.

What is a Pop-Up Shop?

Merchants both small and large are flocking to set-up their own pop-up stores and are embracing the trend, from brands that sell exclusively online to big brands like Nike.

A “pop-up shop” is a short-term, temporary retail event that is “here today, gone tomorrow”. Pop-up retail is the temporary use of physical space to create a long term, lasting impression with potential customers. A pop-up shop allows a business to use a unique and engaging physical environment while creating an immersive shopping experience. From www.shopify.com



-
- Update zoning to allow for abbreviated or minor site plan review for small projects that can be expedited without a lot of review.
 - Work with the County to implement strategies from the Columbia County Economic Development Plan.
 - Consider promotion of alternative business models such as community-owned stores.

***Community-owned businesses** differ from traditional businesses in that they are motivated by a purpose. They usually arise to fill a void where the marketplace is too slow to act on its own, or the risks appear too high. Founders of community-owned businesses don't just see an opportunity that the market failed to see, but in times when capital for funding new ideas is scarce, they can give life to new business ideas. In many ways, a community-owned business is the same as any other mercantile endeavor: it must satisfy a market need and it must offer the potential to generate a profit.*

When a need isn't recognized by traditional investors or entrepreneurs, or is seen as having too much risk, the community-owned model presents an alternative path to business development. And, in disinvested commercial districts, a community-owned business can prove to the market that a good idea can be profitable.

Community-owned businesses fall into four broad categories: Cooperatives, Community-owned corporations, small ownership group, or a community-based investment fund that invests debt or equity in local business ventures. From www.preservationnation.org

B. Community Character

Vision

The Village of Kinderhook will be a thriving community with its own distinctive identity. It will be a unique and special place, which its residents are determined to preserve. At the same time, Village residents also take creative and proactive steps to promote and enable a bustling business district and local economy, establish and maintain pedestrian-friendly Village streets, support an array of community services, and provide for numerous and diverse recreational and cultural activities. We recognize that each of these elements is a vital part of our community character and sense of place. We welcome new development consistent with our historic, architectural and small village character.

Goals

- Conserve and enhance sites and structures of architectural and/or historic significance.
- Preserve and enhance the many scenic resources within the Village including natural and agricultural areas, parks and landscaped public areas, and scenic views.
- Establish economic development initiatives which support, retain, and encourage a mix of businesses compatible with the character of the community.
- Encourage variety in arrangement, design, and types of development compatible with traditional Village neighborhoods.
- Retain the purposes of current zoning and other land use regulations to provide for orderly growth within the Village that is compatible with the aesthetic character of the Village.
- Preserve the rural atmosphere of the Village by conserving open space and protecting agricultural lands.
- Enhance the visual character of Village streets, the Route 9 corridor, and Village entryways.
- Encourage new residential development for diverse family patterns while maintaining the character and integrity of existing residential neighborhoods.
- Encourage events in the Village Square and playground that bring the community and those outside the community into the Village.

Strategies

- Continue to pursue, when deemed affordable, burying existing or back-lotting utility lines when road work permits it. This has been done with new subdivisions since the 1970's.
- Provide new signs on village property that are consistent in design that complement the historic character of the village. Install historic lighting and historic-themed street signs. The Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission are currently supporting the replacement of entrance signs and are now contemplating upgrades to signs within the center of the Village.
- The Planning Board should review and propose outdoor lighting design standards and recommend updates to code for the Village Square once an analysis is conducted. The Planning Board should review and propose to amend site plan review and special use permit regulations to require review of all exterior lighting in accordance with established standards.
- The Planning Board should review and propose amendments to zoning and subdivision regulations to clarify definitions, ensure that the uses allowed by Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review allow for desired businesses, and streamline permitting process.

- Continue to work with Columbia County to review procedures and agreements related to NYS Law 239-m.
- The Planning Board should periodically review and propose updates if needed to the density, development and commercial design standards in the zoning regulations to ensure they remain relevant and consistent with the character of the Village
- The Planning Board should review and propose design standards for commercial and large residential developments to ensure design is consistent with community character and the traditional neighborhoods in the Village. Update the architectural review section of zoning from requiring consistency with the NY Planning Federation Guidelines to offer village-specific design and development guidelines for Kinderhook.
- Continue to enforce the existing code that addresses property maintenance, demolition, and restoration.
- Continue to enforce regulations to prevent top soil removal from building sites.
- Update street specifications to comply with current road standards.
- Seek grant funding for programs that promote adaptive reuse of buildings and façade improvement (Such as the NY Main Street program).
- Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program. Consider joining the Tree City USA program. Tree City USA is a national recognition program that began in 1976 and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. By meeting four fundamental standards, an incorporated municipality of any size can qualify. These four standards are to have a tree committee to implement the project, a tree care ordinance, an arbor day proclamation and observance, and a budget to care and plant for trees of \$2/capita.
- Develop a streetscape improvement plan. Such a plan is designed to improve the streetscape of The Central Business District in Kinderhook and to determine how best to create a safe, connected, interesting and vibrant public realm through improvements such as street furniture, sidewalks, lighting, signage, curbs, etc. to broaden the customer base for local businesses and encourage additional economic development.
- The KBPA, Economic Development Director, and Recreation Commission should continue their efforts to stage various community events.

C. Historic Resources

Vision

Historic resources including buildings, streets, and neighborhoods continue to play a vital role in our village. These resources contribute to our community character and sense of place and are among our most valuable assets. We protect these resources by encouraging restoration, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse, and ensure that new construction and additions in the Village are compatible with existing historic character, architecture, scale, and layout.

Goals

- Continue to encourage protection and restoration of existing structures to maintain the historic character of the Village.
- Continue to ensure that new construction and additions in the Village historic district are compatible with the existing architecture and layout.
- Continue to ensure that modern materials in new construction are compatible with traditional, historic features.
- Continue to participate in programs which promote historic preservation such as the Certified Local Government program.
- Continue use of the Village Code Chapter 75 that establishes purposes of historic preservation and functions of the Historic Preservation Commission.



Strategies

- Take full advantage of training, funding and technical assistance of Certified Local Government status.
- Participate with County and State DOT with road and bridge planning to ensure road and bridge improvements fit the historic character of the area. The Historic Preservation Commission should work with the Village Board and Planning Board to provide input to the County and State as they design road and bridge improvements. As per New York State Village Law 7-722, "all plans for capital projects of another governmental agency on land including in the Village comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to (7-722) shall take such plan into consideration."
- Maintain original and historic luminaires in local historic district. The Historic Preservation Commission should review and make recommendations to the Village Board. Work to maintain lighting fixtures that are energy efficient, aesthetically pleasing, and historically appropriate. The Historic Preservation Commission should assist in recommending design of fixtures.
- Work with the Village Board to establish incentives for historic preservation. The Historic Preservation Commission should investigate and propose possible incentives that may work in the Village.

- The Historic Preservation Commission should continue to educate landowners about historic property incentives, loans, resources, and regulations that pertain to the local historic district.
- Continue to seek ways to encourage adaptive reuse of historic buildings. These could include grants, loans, other incentives, and ensuring zoning does not prevent such reuse. The Historic Preservation Commission should ensure that any planned adaptive reuse of any building in the historic district is carried out in a way that ensures preservation of the historic fabric and character of the building.
- The Historic Preservation Commission should review and revise as needed, Historic District design guidelines and illustrations and update as necessary.
- Support the Historic Preservation Commissions efforts to update the survey and inventory of historic buildings in the Village.
- Explore options for future historic preservation projects in view of climate change and the possible affects it may have on historic structures resulting from excess moisture and conditions that promote carpenter ants, termites, and other insects.

D. Environment and Open Spaces

Vision

Our community respects and protects the natural environment and the sensitive lands of the Village and recognizes that these features contribute to the high quality of life the Village is known for. Our Village promotes environmental sustainability and sees environmental stewardship as essential to preserving our unique Village character and maintaining our vibrant local economy. The Kinderhook Creek continues to be an important environmental and recreational resource in the Village which residents and visitors regularly access and enjoy. The Village boasts ample open space such as parks, and greenways, which are well maintained. The agricultural use of lands in the Village remains an essential element of our identity, and the Village actively supports and protects farming activities within its boundaries.

Goals

- Conserve and enhance the natural environment and sensitive lands of the Village of Kinderhook by placing a high priority on environmental protection, health and safety, landscaping, and green space when reviewing development permits and proposals.
- Encourage site design that protects the existing terrain, preserves significant vegetation and scenic views, manages stormwater and drainage, and incorporates native trees and shrubbery into landscape plans.
- Manage and protect sensitive environmental areas in order to prevent development which would endanger the environment or the development itself.
- Ensure that the Village serves as a model for environmental sustainability. Implement climate-smart techniques to improve the sustainability of the Village².
- Inventory and conserve those areas in the Village that warrant protection as open space.
- Link open space planning to recreational needs through the use of greenways and “recreationways.”
- Seek funding for open space protection programs.

Strategies

- Coordinate open space planning that outlines feasible methods of open space. Coordinate with Valatie, the towns of Kinderhook and Stuyvesant as well as the Columbia Land Conservancy to ensure public participation in planning. This coordination should include work with the Hudson Valley Greenway, the Columbia Land Conservancy, Scenic Hudson and adjacent municipalities.
- Support private and public efforts to protect open space by open space lands through purchases from donations, or leasing of conservation easements and explore all tools to protect and

² See Appendix D for more information about the NYS DEC Climate Smart Community program.

enhance open space and agriculture including amending zoning and subdivision regulations. Work with the Columbia Land Conservancy to implement this.

- Support public and private efforts, including those from the Columbia Land Conservancy.
- The Planning Board should coordinate review of projects with adjacent towns and villages. Further, the Village should continue the cooperation achieved with adjacent municipalities through the sewer project and shared services initiatives.
- Work cooperatively with adjacent municipalities to initiate water quality protection programs for village wells and water sources outside of the Village. Consider a well head protection program to enhance and maintain water quality.
- The Planning Board should review and consider amending zoning to establish best management practices for stormwater removal and addressing areas with high groundwater levels.
- The Village is now a Climate Smart Community and should continue to work towards implementing more energy efficient strategies. The Climate Smart Taskforce should work with NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) to explore ways village buildings can be improved for energy efficiency. Seek grant funding to cover costs associated with implementing these programs.
- Reference LEEDS and NYS Green Building Standards in zoning and building codes.
- Consider joining the FEMA Community Rating System program to reduce flood insurance rates and increase flood resiliency.
- Update zoning to encourage and allow use of permeable paving for parking lots.
- Review and update overlay district rules to ensure there are adequate buffers along water bodies and between farmland and new uses as practical.
- Implement policies that are consistent with the NYS Smart Growth Law.
- Use NYS DOT Green LITES program to inform new road building in an environmental sustainable manner. To recognize transportation project designs, operations and maintenance practices that incorporate a high level of environmental sustainability, NYSDOT has implemented a “greenlites logo (Green Leadership In Transportation Environmental Sustainability),” a transportation environmental sustainability rating program. It is a self-certification program that distinguishes transportation projects and operations based on the extent to which they incorporate sustainable choices³.
- Create a local Type I list of uses for SEQRA that identifies land uses that are more likely to have significant adverse impacts in the Village.

The Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance standards. Depending upon the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%. Besides the benefit of reduced insurance rates, CRS floodplain management activities enhance public safety, reduce damages to property and public infrastructure, avoid economic disruption and losses, reduce human suffering, and protect the environment. Implementing some CRS activities can help projects qualify for certain other Federal assistance programs. From www.fema.gov/community-rating-system

³ See Appendix D for more information about the Green LITES program and the Climate Smart Community program.

- Ensure that the floodplain regulations and map in the Zoning are up-to-date and consistent with DEC and FEMA requirements.
- Address solar and wind mills in zoning. Planning and Zoning Boards should work collaboratively to study the municipal considerations related to solar energy installations.
- Consider use of Low Impact Development Standards as proposed by NYS DEC and EPA to assist in controlling stormwater runoff.

E. Municipal Resources, Community Services, Infrastructure and Transportation

Vision

Our community enjoys effective and efficient municipal and community services. Village officials communicate effectively with residents, business owners and other municipalities. Tax revenues will be used efficiently and invested wisely to provide safe, well-maintained streets and sidewalks, a healthy and sufficient water supply, dependable refuse removal, effective emergency services, and well-maintained and accessible municipal buildings. Village infrastructure and services will enhance the quality of life for all residents and support economic stability for businesses and property owners. Periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan will be an important tool for maintaining our quality of life.

Goals

- Strengthen the liaisons that foster communication and coordination among residents, the business community, the Town of Kinderhook, the Village of Valatie, and other governmental entities in Columbia County.
- Ensure that the various appointed boards and personnel that administer local laws are trained and supported.
- Encourage types and patterns of development that minimize the need for services and infrastructure.
- Coordinate Village and Town planning efforts to the greatest extent possible.
- Ensure transportation improvement plans are compatible with our residential community.
- Provide effective emergency services.
- Maintain and improve Village buildings and ensure that the Village Hall upstairs remains accessible and usable to all residents.
- Maintain the level and quality of refuse disposal services.
- Provide sewage disposal to protect water supplies and the environment from contamination and to support economic development.
- Ensure that the Village maintains a safe and sufficient water supply and cost-effective distribution system.
- Provide adequate, energy-efficient, street lighting that complements the aesthetics of the Village.
- Maintain and enhance services provided by the Department of Public Works.
- Maintain and enhance sidewalks and pedestrian pathways.
- Promote parking policies that provide for adequate parking in a manner that doesn't discourage business development.

- Minimize adverse impacts of truck traffic in the Village.

Strategies

- Create a truck traffic mitigation plan to minimize adverse impacts of truck traffic in the Village. Continue current ad hoc committee to assess traffic, road maintenance and address speeding. This work should include:
 - Seeking ways to abate speed and guide traffic to 9H.
 - Enforcement of speed limits
 - Monitoring traffic speeds with automatic radar speed signs
 - Reduce traffic speeds
 - Institute traffic calming measures to make traffic operation more compatible with residential uses and pedestrians.

Traffic calming is a system of design and management strategies that aim to balance traffic on streets with other uses. It is founded on the idea that streets should help create and preserve a sense of place, that their purpose is for people to walk, stroll, look, gaze, meet, play, shop and even work alongside cars – but not dominated by them. The tools of traffic calming take a different approach from treating the street only as a conduit for vehicles passing through at the greatest possible speed. They include techniques designed to lessen the impact of motor vehicle traffic by slowing it down, or literally “calming” it. This helps build human-scale places and an environment friendly to people on foot.

Traffic calming can be flexible and inexpensive and can be employed by painting lines, colors and patterns; using planters, bollards and other removable barriers; eliminating or adding parking; or installing sidewalk extensions or similar structures with temporary materials. Traffic calming tools include diagonal parking, widening sidewalks, narrowing streets, use of bulbs or neckdowns or chicanes, raised medians, speed tables and cushions. (From Project for Public Spaces at 222.pps.org)

- Explore with NYS DOT the feasibility of establishing Route 9H as a truck route. The Village should request that DOT review the requests to address truck traffic and work collaboratively on possible mitigation plans. Consider facilitating a petition among the village residents to support this effort.
- Continue to develop a five and ten-year capital improvement plan for streets, village structures, and other capital projects and include budget and funding sources. This plan should include the planning and allocation of funds to:
 - Maintain a regular servicing program for all village equipment.
 - Develop and implement an equipment replacement policy for the Department of Public Works.
 - Plan for and fund street repair and maintenance
 - Plan for and fund water and sewer infrastructure
 - Plan for and fund other capital needs for buildings, village owned lands, etc.
- Maintain a rating system for street conditions and prioritize resurfacing and other street maintenance work.

- Lobby for additional NYS and Federal funding to support infrastructure improvements within the Village of Kinderhook.
- Continue sidewalk extension projects. Connect sidewalks on Rt. 9 south to the Village line, and on Albany Avenue to James Lane.
- Although not currently a critical issue, the Village should continue to assess parking needs in the Village Square area and institute new parking strategies to alleviate the problems as needed.
- Work with the Town of Kinderhook and Village of Valatie and seek ways to provide transportation to local destinations. A senior citizen bus that loops through the county may be a feasible improvement.
- Develop an official street map showing existing and future streets and all rights-of-way.
- Consider code amendments for access management requirements such as interconnections of parking lots in B2 to decrease traffic on Route 9 and other locations
- Work to increase communication, sharing of information, and on-going review of projects with the Town of Kinderhook and Village of Valatie. Consider an inter-municipal agreement to formalize it.
- Mandate assignment of E911 addresses prior to issuance of a building permit.
- Continue to follow state mandates for training of all Planning Board and Zoning Board members.
- Continue refuse services as a shared program with the Village of Valatie. Add or change refuse disposal as required by population growth.
- Continue monitoring of the quality of water in the public system and allocate funds for maintenance.
- Allocate funds to maintain and upgrade existing water physical plant. Funds should build up in Reserve to pay for future maintenance. Prioritize water supply needs and develop a five or ten-year capital improvement plan. The Village Board should seek input from the Planning Board for the development of this plan.
- The Planning Board should consider impacts to municipal water supplies of proposed major subdivisions or commercial developments when they are proposed.
- Develop and implement a Complete Streets Plan for the village to enhance streets and pedestrian facilities in the Village. As part of this, seek to slow traffic on Rothermel Lane to improve safety of pedestrians traveling between Rothermel Lane Park and the Rt. 9/Village Square area⁴.
- Update the Village Code to expand and enhance code enforcement sections to ensure that the CEO/ZEO has the process and authority needed for code enforcement.
- Continue to analyze methods to improve and protect the quality of our water supply via filtration and access to alternative sources such as a back-up well.
- The Planning and Zoning Boards should, on a regular basis, review the code and offer proposed changes to ensure the local laws remain consistent with this Plan and address issues they encounter through use of the code. This review should be done with the assistance of the Code Enforcement Officer.

⁴ See Appendix D for more information on Complete Streets.

F. Cultural and Recreational Resources

Vision

Our Village continues to be a culturally rich community offering residents, businesses, and visitors many opportunities to experience the arts, history and nature. We continue to foster these cultural and recreational pursuits through support of related events and activities. Citizens of all ages take advantage of passive and active recreational activities within the Village. Kinderhook continues to be a walkable community for residents and visitors. The Village provides for accessibility to parks, playgrounds and natural areas.

Goals

- Enhance advertising and promotion of art and cultural opportunities in the Village.
- Continue to support cultural and recreational events and activities in the Village.
- Seek ways to capitalize on these opportunities for economic growth.
- Improve recreational opportunities for all citizens through public and private efforts.
- Enhance the Village's environment as a "walking village."
- Improve access to and opportunities for passive recreational use of natural areas such as the Kinderhook Creek.

Strategy

- Continue the KBPA and Economic Development Director's efforts to coordinate promotion of events and activities throughout the Town and Villages.
- Continue the Economic Development Director's efforts to promote local art and cultural opportunities.
- Work with local and regional trail development organizations and agencies to participate in and support development of a trail along the utility right-of-way.
- Work with Hudson River Valley Greenway to designate and develop local trails in the Village. Continue to work with the Town of Kinderhook Trail Committee to implement the trail system proposed in the SUNY Trail System plan prepared for the region. Use the old railroad trail for biking and pedestrians and link this through the Village to Mills Park and other destinations. Seek funds to implement this.
- Participate in and support development of heritage trail from the Village to Lindenwald.
- Improve Creek access. Work cooperatively with the upstream and downstream communities and Lindenwald to develop this access. Consider seeking Hudson River Estuary grants for funding this effort. Conduct liaisons with NYS legislators to identify Kinderhook Creek as a Hudson River Estuary.
- Develop boat access to the Kinderhook Creek. Work cooperatively with Lindenwald as they are considering a similar project.
- Evaluate and provide as needed additional active recreational facilities at the playground.
- Acquire areas, by easements or purchase, along the Kinderhook Creek to provide passive recreation.
- Consider placing bike racks in Village Square, promote pedestrian and bike safety programs and make street and sidewalk improvements where necessary to promote continuation of Kinderhook being a bike-friendly location.

- Coordinate recreational planning with the Town and Village of Valatie to enhance funding and implementation of programs.
- Maintain current recreational programs including the Village's summer recreation program.
- Partner with the Town of Kinderhook and Village of Valatie to plan for and build a community center building from community assets at the former Martin Glynn School in Valatie and Town Park on State Farm Road.
- The Economic Development Director should continue to facilitate communication and ongoing collaboration among the various groups and organizations that provide recreational and cultural services and events for the prime purpose of coordinating schedules and events and effective marketing.
- Continue to support the Kinderhook Memorial Library and Columbia County Historical Society.



VI. Action Plan

Priorities

This section presents the actions that have been recommended in the Comprehensive Plan Update as well as those action items from the 1999 and 2006 Plans that have yet to be implemented or completed by the Village. The actions are listed in a table showing the type of action, board or body responsible for the action, the time frame for implementation, and the current status of implementation.

Policy actions require the Village to state a specific policy. Administrative actions refer to those that require administrative procedures to be implemented. Program actions are specific programs, activities or tasks to be accomplished. Legal amendments are those actions that require legislative action such as amendments to the zoning, subdivision, highway, or other local laws.

Key to Action Plan

CEO – Code Enforcement Officer

CLC – Columbia Land Conservancy

Ec. Dev. Dir. – Economic Development Director

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FHWA – Federal Highway Administration

FoKT – Friends of Kinderhook Trails

HPC – Historic Preservation Commission

HVG – Hudson Valley Greenway

KBPA – Kinderhook Business & Professional Association

NS OPRHP – New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

NYS – New York State

NYS DOT – New York State Department of Transportation

PB – Planning Board

SH – Scenic Hudson

ToK – Town of Kinderhook

VB – Village Board

ZBA – Zoning Board of Appeals

Implementation Plan Matrix

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Capital Improvements								
Bury or backlot utilities	Community Character	VB	National Grid TW Fair Point	Utility Users Village (Lighting)			✓	
Install new, historic themed signs on Village property	Community Character, Historic Resources	VB	Ec. Dev. Dir. PB HPC	Village				
Improve streetscapes in Central Business District with a Streetscape Improvement Plan <i>(A 2016 Consolidated Funding Application to the NY Main Street program is being submitted for business development and streetscape improvement)</i>	Community Character, Historic Resources, Economic Development	Ec. Dev. Dir VB	HPC PB NY Homes & Community Renewal	Village NY Main Street Program	✓		✓	
Plant and maintain street trees	Community Character, Environment and Open Space	VB Tree Committee		Village Tree Fund	✓		✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Maintain original light fixtures in Historic district (Village has been awarded funding from CLG to study street lighting in the Historic District)	Historic Resources, Community character	VB	National Grid NYS OPRHP	Utility users NYS OPRHP Village	✓		✓	
Plan for and fund capital improvements and infrastructure enhances with a Capital Improvement Plan	All Topic Areas	VB					✓	
Continue sidewalk extensions	Municipal Resources	VB	NYS FHWA	Village State Federal	✓			
Develop a Complete Streets Plan (See Appendix A)	Municipal Resources	VB			✓		✓	
Develop multi-use trail(s)	Cultural and Recreation	VB, Town of Kinderhook Trails Comm.	National Grid HVG FoKT	Village, Town, HVG	✓		✓	
Construct a boat launch on Kinderhook Creek	Cultural and Recreation	VB, NYS Legislature ⁵	Valatie, ToK	State Village	✓			

⁵ NYS Legislature to get the Kinderhook Creek designated for state funding.

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
			Town of Stuyvesant Lindenwald					
Enhance recreational facilities at playground	Cultural and Recreation	Village		Village	✓		✓	
Acquire areas along Kinderhook Creek for passive recreation	Cultural and Recreation	Village	Possibly NYS	Possibly NYS			✓	
Place bike racks in the Village Square	Cultural and Recreation	Village	NYS Home & Community Renewal	Main Street Grant	✓			
Make street and sidewalk safety improvements where needed.	Cultural and Recreation	Village		Village			✓	
Work with the Town to build a community center focusing on assets at the former Martin Glynn School in Valatie and at Town Park on State Farm Road	Cultural and Recreation	Village	Valatie			✓		
Program Initiatives								
Work with Columbia County to continue the 239-m review requirements	Municipal Resources	PB	County Planning				✓	
Enforce local codes	Municipal Resources	VB CEO	PB HPC				✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	0	
			ZBA					
Develop funding sources. Consider hiring a grant writer or use of volunteers to obtain funds for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street Program • Streetscape Improvements • Development of Capital Improvement Plan • Infrastructure Enhancements • Recreational Enhancements • Signage and Lighting • Economic Development Programs 	All Topic Areas	VB	NYS DOT HVG State NYS OPRHP <i>Hire organizers on project by project basis</i>	Village State	✓		✓	
Join the Tree City USA program	Community Character, Environment and Open Spaces	VB Tree Committee			✓		✓	
Fund and support the Economic Development Director to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives for economic development • Coordinate with KBPA, businesses, the county and other organizations • Promote tourism 	Economic Development	Depending on Action: VB KBPA	KBPA	Village KBPA			✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	0	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate economic development events • Develop and maintain database of vacant spaces in CBD • Develop a business expansion and retention program that includes marketing of the Village to new businesses • Develop a marketing and business recruitment program • Work with Columbia County to implement the County Economic Development Plan 								
Support and provide for open space planning through coordination with Valatie, the Towns of Kinderhook and Stuyvesant, Columbia Land Conservancy, Greenway, and Scenic Hudson	Environment and Open Spaces	VB	CLC SH				✓	
Work cooperatively with adjacent municipalities to develop mechanisms for water quality protection	Environment and Open Spaces	VB					✓	
Institute energy efficiency programs and implement the Climate Smart Community initiatives (See Appendix D)	Environment and Open Spaces	Climate Smart Task Force VB	NYS DEC Valatie ToK	Village			✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	0	
Consider joining the FEMA Community Rating System to reduce flood insurance rates	Environment and Open Spaces	VB	County Emergency Mgt					
Take advantage of the Certified Local Government Programs for the Historic District	Historic Resources	VB HPC	NYS OPRHP	Village State			✓	
Provide incentives for historic preservation and adaptive reuses initiatives	Historic Resources	VB HPC	NYS OPRHP	Village State			✓	
Support the Historic Preservation Commissions efforts to update the survey and inventory of historic buildings in the Village.	Historic Resources	HPC	VB	State	✓			
Explore options for future historic preservation projects in view of climate change.	Historic Resources	HPC	VB	Village		✓		
Develop a truck traffic mitigation plan	Municipal Resources	VB	NYS DOT				✓	
Lobby state and federal governments for more funding support for infrastructure	Municipal Resources	VB					✓	
Review parking needs as more businesses come to the Village	Municipal Resources	VB PB					✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Increase transportation options, especially for senior citizens	Municipal Resources	VB	Columbia County	Columbia County			✓	
Promote intermunicipal cooperation and communication	Municipal Resources	VB PB					✓	
Support emergency services	Municipal Resources	VB Fire Dept	Valatie Rescue Squad, Columbia Co.				✓	
Continue to train the ZBA and Planning Board	Municipal Resources	VB		Village			✓	
Continue sharing refuse services with Valatie	Municipal Resources	VB	Valatie	Village			✓	
Work with Lindenwald in support of development of a heritage trail	Cultural and Recreation	VB, Trails Cmt. FoKT	Lindenwald	Village, Town, State	✓		✓	
Continue to coordinate recreational programs with the Town and Valatie	Cultural and Recreation	VB Rec Cmt.					✓	
Support the library	Cultural and Recreation	VB					✓	
Stress pedestrian and bike safety	Cultural and Recreation	Village		Village			✓	

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Regulatory Updates to Meet Plan Goals								
Clarify definitions	All Topic Areas	VB					✓	
Streamline permitting where possible	Economic Development	VB PB HPC					✓	
Review zoning to ensure that the uses allowed by Special Use Permit and Site Plan Review allow for desired businesses	Economic Development	VB PB					✓	
Develop outdoor lighting standards	Community Character	VB PB					✓	
Review density, development and commercial design standards to ensure they remain relevant and consistent with the character of the Village	Community Character	VB PB					✓	
Update street specifications and include NYS DOT GreenLites Standards (See Appendix D)	Municipal Resources	VB						
Allow for temporary and popup uses for businesses	Economic Development							

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Allow for a minor site plan review process for small projects	Economic Development							
Include wellhead protection standards	Environment and Open Space	VB PB						
Add in Best Management Practices for stormwater	Environment and Open Space	VB						
Reference LEED and NYS Green Building Standards	Environment and Open Space	VB CEO						
Encourage use of permeable pavement where appropriate	Environment and Open Space	VB PB						
Review and update overlay district rules to ensure there are adequate buffers along water bodies and between farmland and new uses as practical.	Environment and Open Space	VB PB						
Create a local Type I list for SEQR purposes	Environment and Open Space	VB						

Strategy	Topic Area in Plan	Action Leaders	Other Involved Agencies	Potential Funding Source	Implement in Years			Date Completed
					1-3	4-8	O	
Update the floodplain regulations and maps	Environment and Open Space	VB	FEMA NYS DEC					
Add in regulations for solar and wind facilities	Environment and Open Space	VB PB						
Consider adding in low impact development standards to promote water quality and reduce stormwater runoff	Environment and Open Space	VP PB	NYS DEC for information	Village		✓		
Review Historic District design guidelines and update as recommended by the HPC	Historic Resources	VB HPC		Village			✓	
Develop an official map showing all existing and future streets, parks, and public infrastructure	Municipal Resources	VB					✓	
Address access management options and tools in zoning	All Topic Areas	VB PB		Village		✓		
Ensure that the administrative and enforcement section of land use regulations are complete and updated to give the CEO the right tools to enforce local codes.	All Topic Areas	VB PB HPC					✓	

Appendix A: Maps

Map Data Sources

The maps in this section were produced using the following data sources.

The Village of Kinderhook municipal boundary - was researched, surveyed, digitized, updated, and adopted during a lengthy review process in 2007.

Property Boundaries - Tax parcel boundaries and ownership information was supplied by the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service. The following map layers were also derived from this source:

National Grid ROW, Village Parks, Property Class

Roads - were obtained from the NYS GIS Program Office through the NYS GIS Clearinghouse website at:

<http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=932>

Some minor editing was performed to better align the road centerlines with the tax parcel layer.

Water - was obtained from the NYS GIS Program Office through the NYS GIS Clearinghouse website at:

<http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/details.cfm?DSID=928>

Extensive editing was done to ensure completeness, and to ensure proper alignment of the stream banks, through the use of aerial photographs

Wellhead Protection Areas and the Local Law Protection Area - was supplied by the village through work done by the New York Rural Water Association.

Sidewalks - were digitized by Don Meltz using local knowledge and aerial photographs.

Traffic Counts - were obtained through Jim Dunham, NYS DOT, and the NYS Traffic Data Viewer at:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/tdv>

National Register Historic District - was obtained from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation through an email to Christina Croll, Christina.Croll@its.ny.gov.

Some minor editing was performed to better align the historic district to parcel boundaries.

Zoning Districts - were digitized and adopted by the village in 2007, at the same time as the village boundary update.

Historic Preservation Overlay District - was digitized and adopted by the village in 2007, at the same time as the village boundary update.

500 Year Flood Plain Overlay District - was digitized and adopted by the village in 2007, at the same time as the village boundary update. This overlay was derived from the Q3 Flood Zone Data, which is a digitized version of the paper FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), effective on 12/1/1982.

Agricultural Districts (#2 and #10) - were obtained from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets through the Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository (CUGIR) at:

<http://cugir.mannlib.cornell.edu/datatheme.jsp?id=2>

Farmland Soils - were derived from Columbia County Soil Survey, digitized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. This Soil Survey Spatial and Tabular Data (SSURGO 2.2) was downloaded from the USDA NRCS Geospatial Data Gateway at:

<https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Percent Slope - was derived from the National Elevation Dataset (NED) obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), EROS Data Center. This elevation data was downloaded from the USDA NRCS Geospatial Data Gateway at: <https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Wetlands – DEC - The NYS regulated wetlands layer was obtained from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through the NYS GIS Clearinghouse website at:

<http://gis.ny.gov/gisdata/inventories/member.cfm?organizationID=529>

Flood Hazards - were extracted from the Q3 Flood Zone Data, which is a digitized version of the paper FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), effective on 12/1/1982.

Sewer District, Lines, and Pump Station - were digitized by Don Meltz with consultation from Jim Dunham.

Regional Trails - were digitized by Don Meltz and UAlbany students for a feasibility study developed by the Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Intermunicipal Trails Committee.

Public Lands and Private Conservation Easements (Protected Parcels) - were extracted from data maintained and provided by Columbia Land Conservancy.

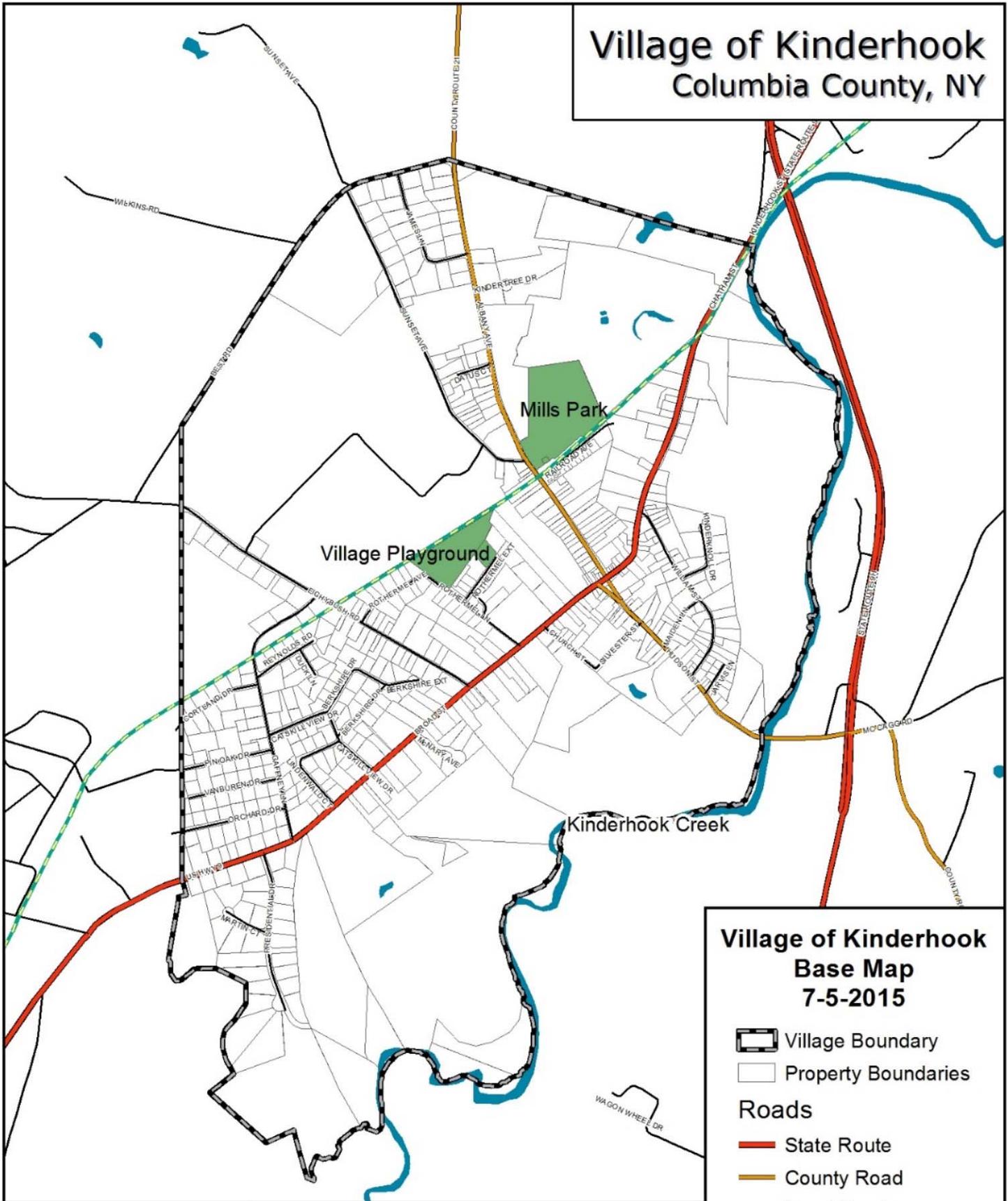
National Historic Landmarks - were digitized from the list of NHLs found on the National Historic Landmarks Program website at:

<https://www.nps.gov/nhl/find/statelists/ny.htm>

Other Points of Interest - were digitized through local knowledge and input by local officials and village residents.

Columbia County Priority Farmland - was produced for the Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan in 2013

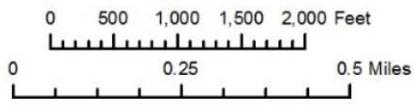
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



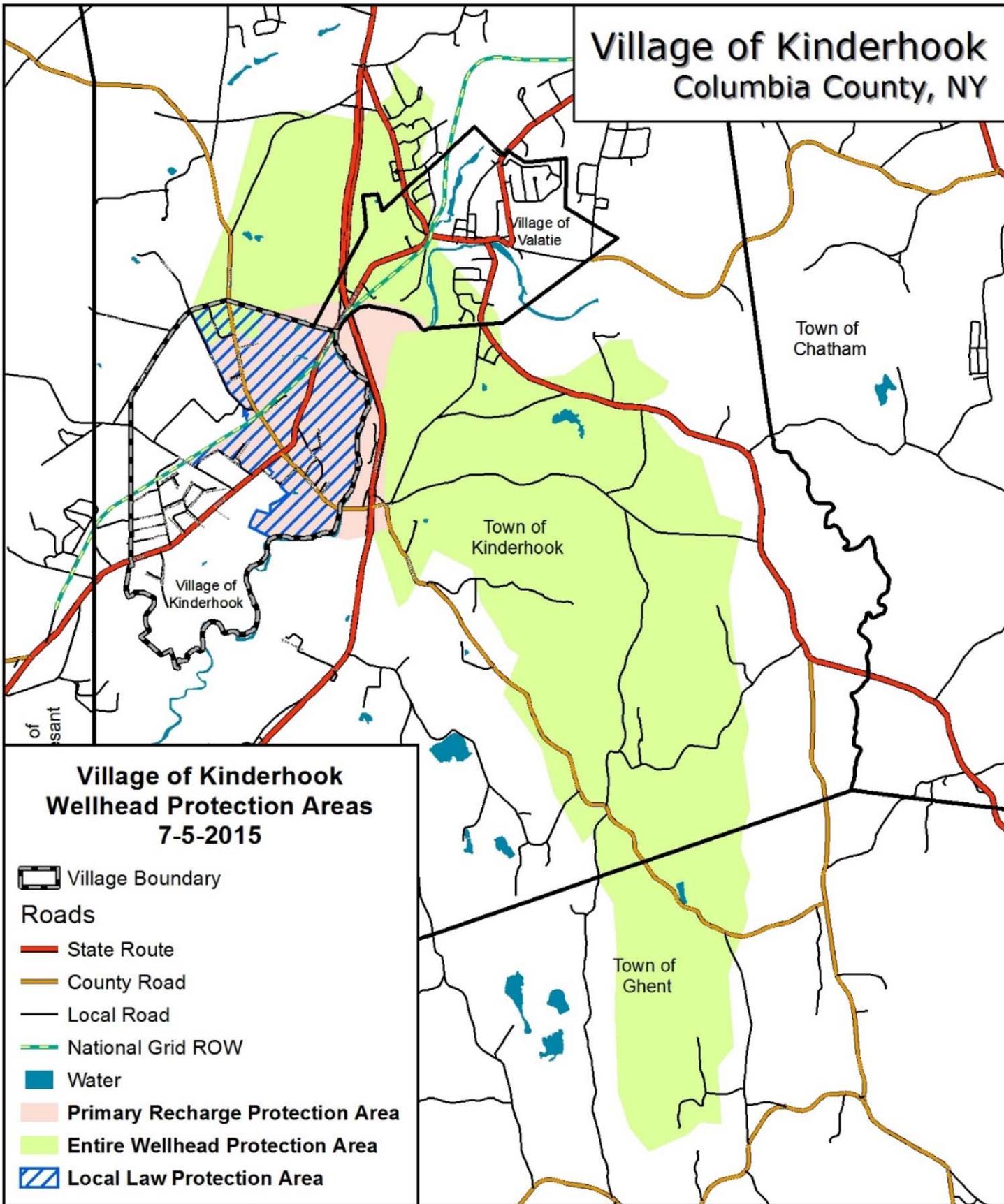
Village of Kinderhook Base Map 7-5-2015

-  Village Boundary
-  Property Boundaries
- Roads**
-  State Route
-  County Road
-  Local Road
-  National Grid ROW
-  Water
-  Village Parks

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Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



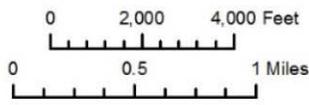
Village of Kinderhook Wellhead Protection Areas 7-5-2015

-  Village Boundary
- Roads**
-  State Route
-  County Road
-  Local Road
-  National Grid ROW
-  Water
-  Primary Recharge Protection Area
-  Entire Wellhead Protection Area
-  Local Law Protection Area

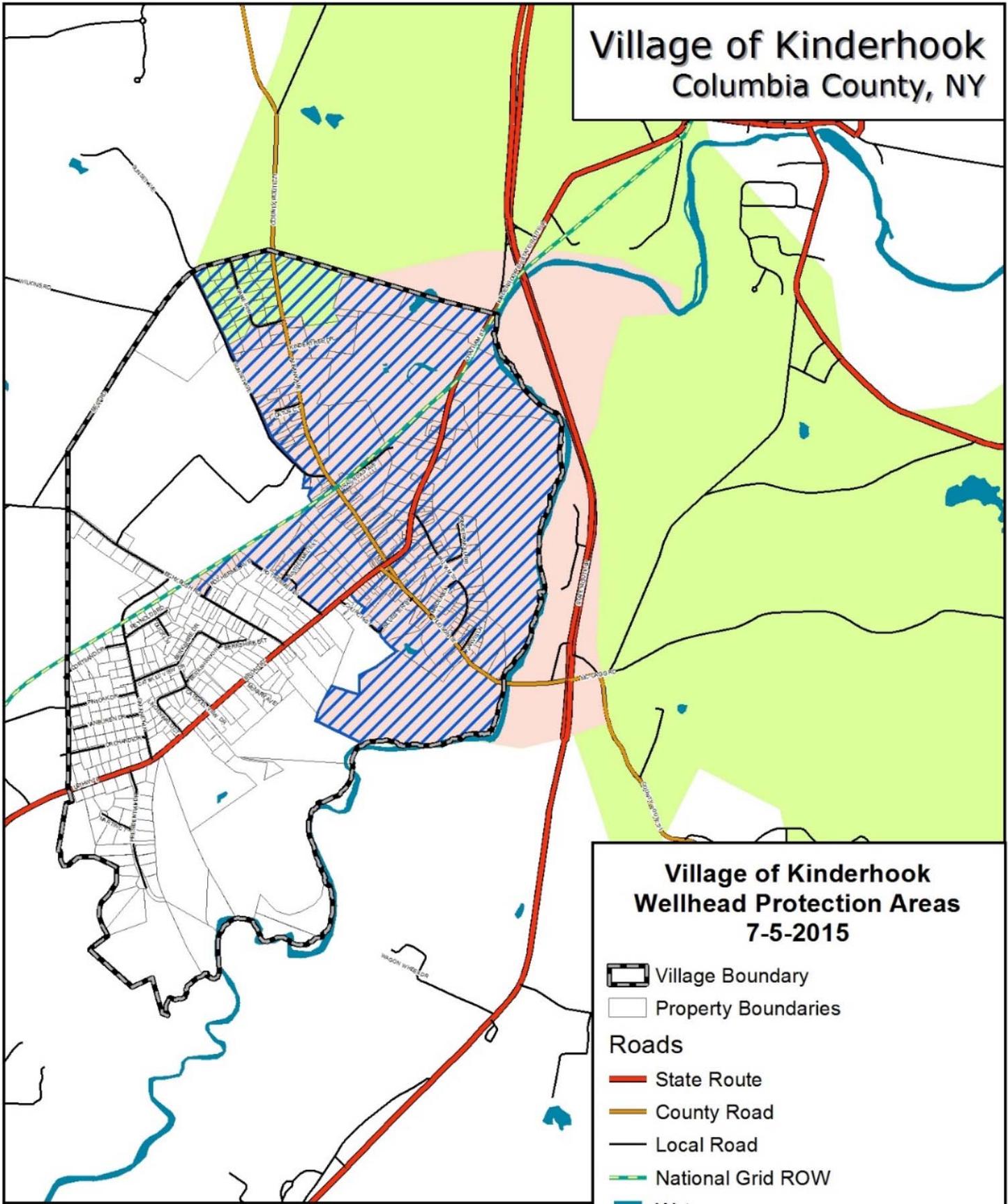


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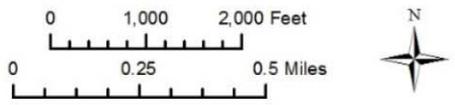
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



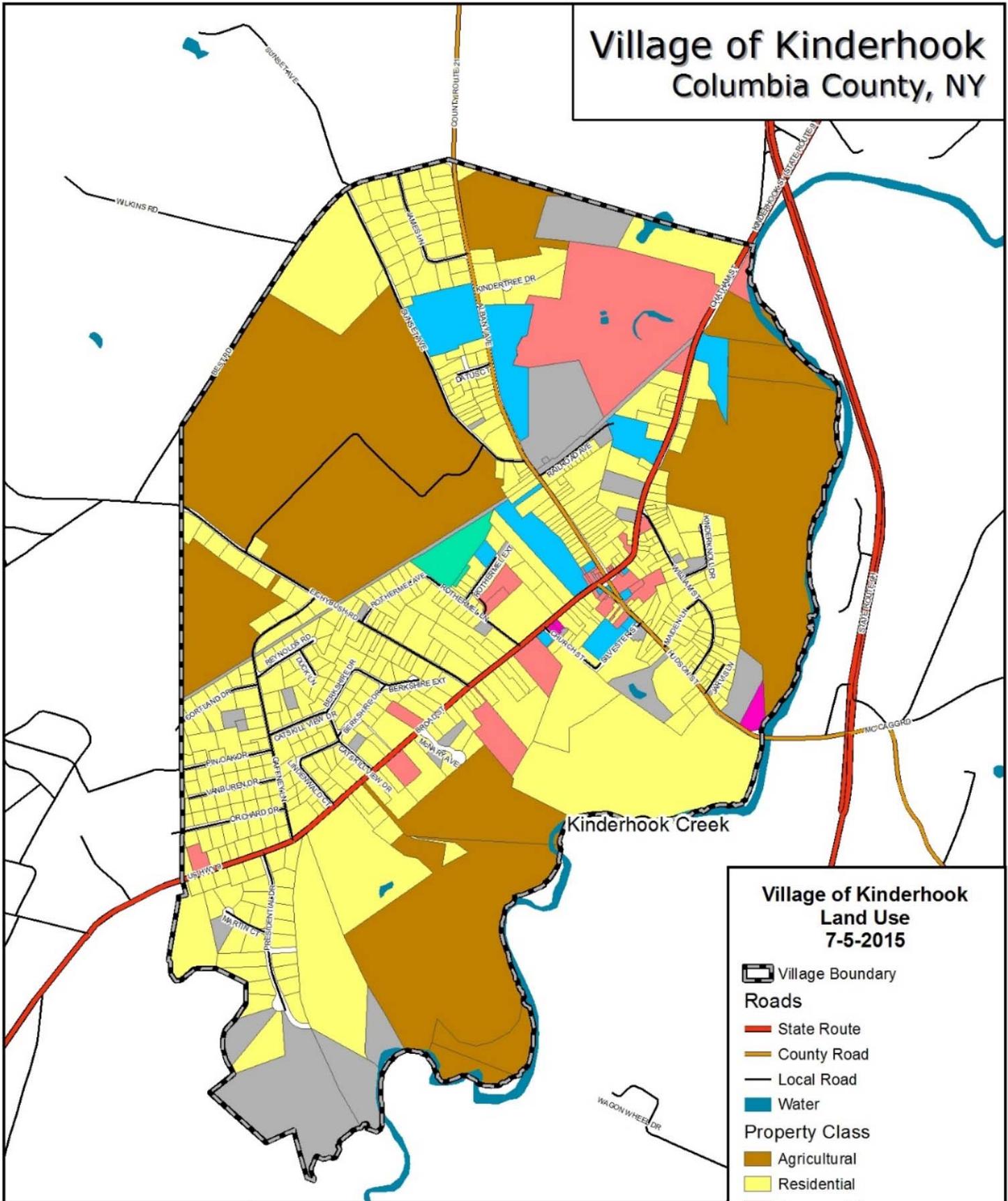
Village of Kinderhook Wellhead Protection Areas 7-5-2015

-  Village Boundary
-  Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 -  State Route
 -  County Road
 -  Local Road
 -  National Grid ROW
 -  Water
 -  Primary Recharge Protection Area
 -  Entire Wellhead Protection Area
 -  Local Law Protection Area

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Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



Village of Kinderhook Land Use 7-5-2015

Village Boundary

Roads

- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road
- Water

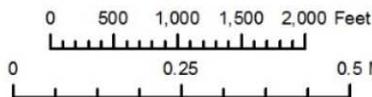
Property Class

- Agricultural
- Residential
- Commercial
- Community Services
- Public Services
- Recreation and Entertainment
- Vacant Land



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Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY

Route 21 AADT
2005 - 1,364
2010 - 1,291
2012 - 1,154

Route 9H AADT
(Above Route 9 intersection)
1978 - 3,350
1998 - 6,900
1999 - 8,323
2000 - 8,450
2009 - 9,752
2012 - 9,938

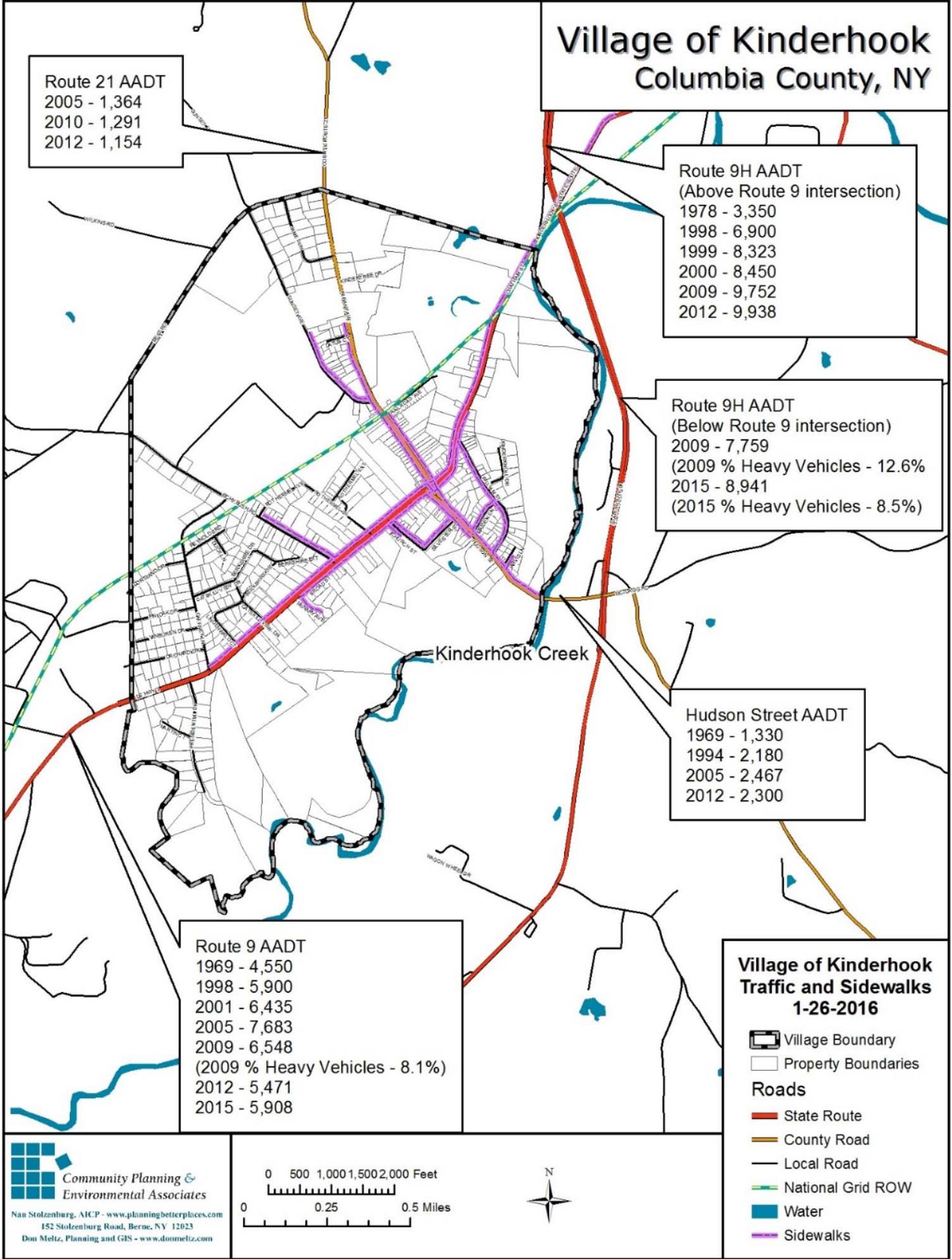
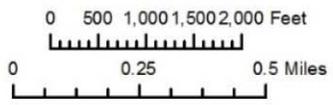
Route 9H AADT
(Below Route 9 intersection)
2009 - 7,759
(2009 % Heavy Vehicles - 12.6%)
2015 - 8,941
(2015 % Heavy Vehicles - 8.5%)

Hudson Street AADT
1969 - 1,330
1994 - 2,180
2005 - 2,467
2012 - 2,300

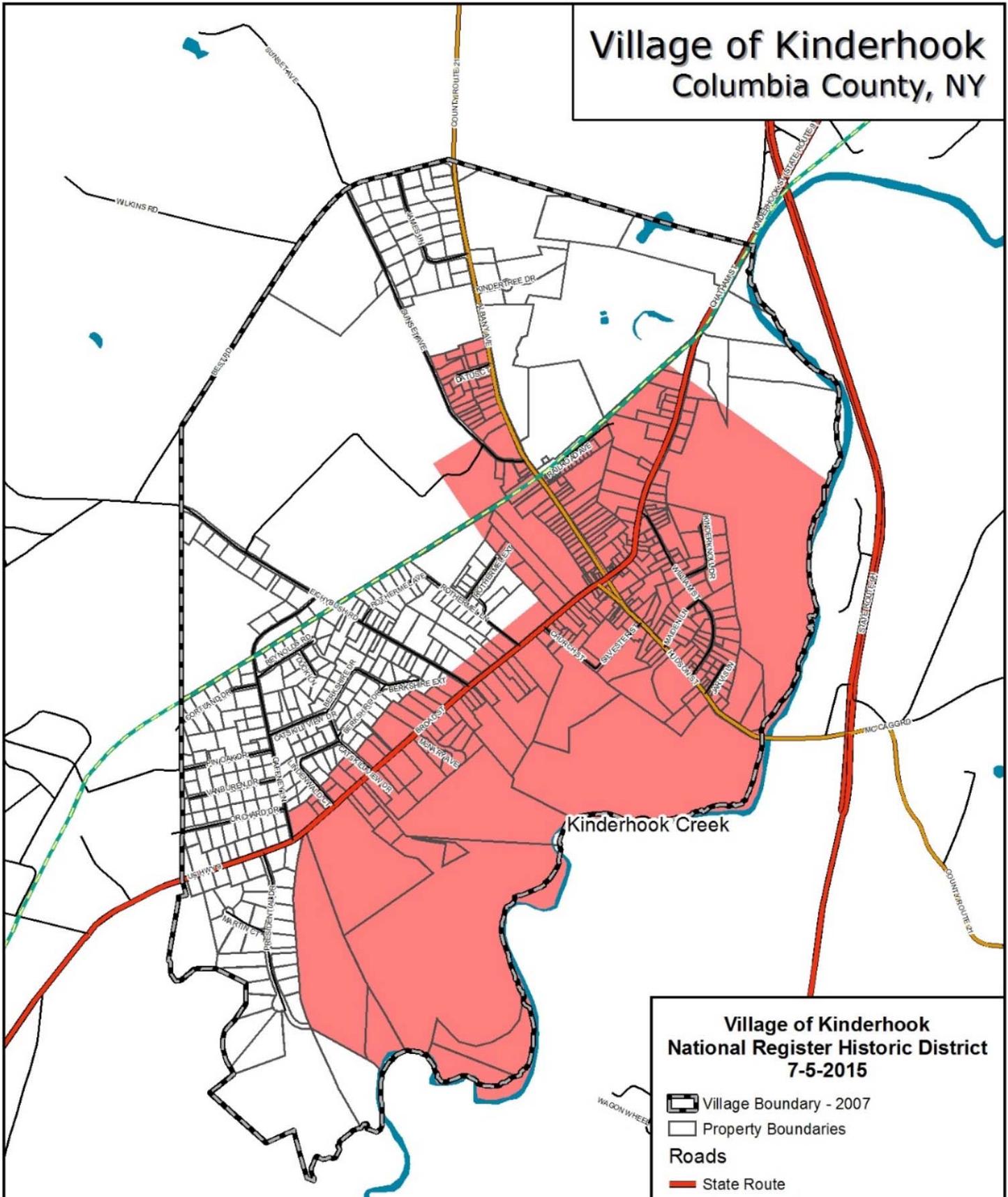
Route 9 AADT
1969 - 4,550
1998 - 5,900
2001 - 6,435
2005 - 7,683
2009 - 6,548
(2009 % Heavy Vehicles - 8.1%)
2012 - 5,471
2015 - 5,908

Village of Kinderhook Traffic and Sidewalks 1-26-2016

-  Village Boundary
-  Property Boundaries
- Roads**
-  State Route
-  County Road
-  Local Road
-  National Grid ROW
-  Water
-  Sidewalks



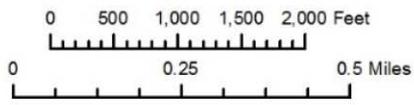
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



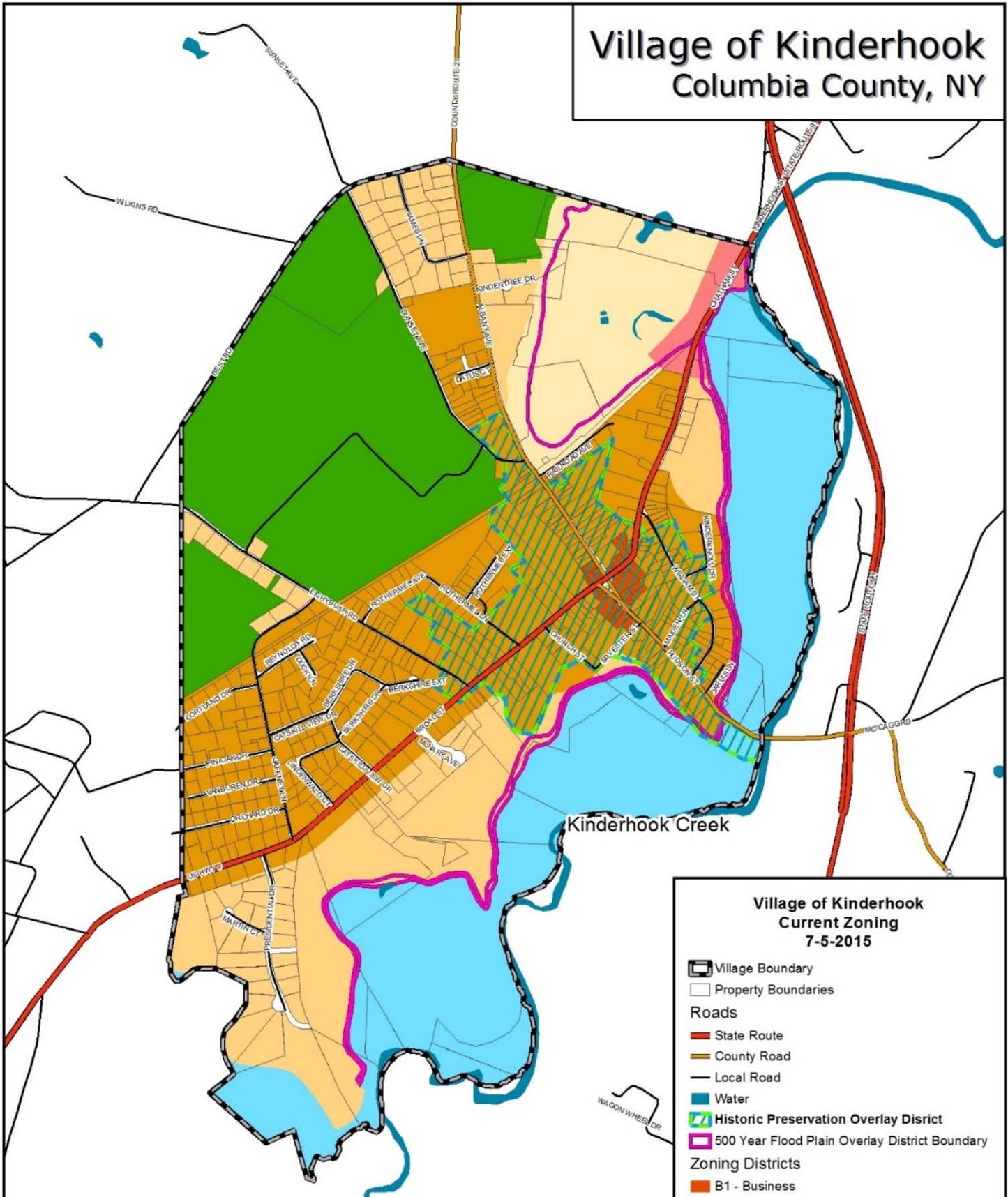
Village of Kinderhook National Register Historic District 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary - 2007
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road
- National Grid ROW
- Water
- National Register-Village Historic District

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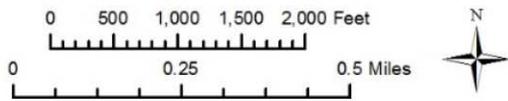
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



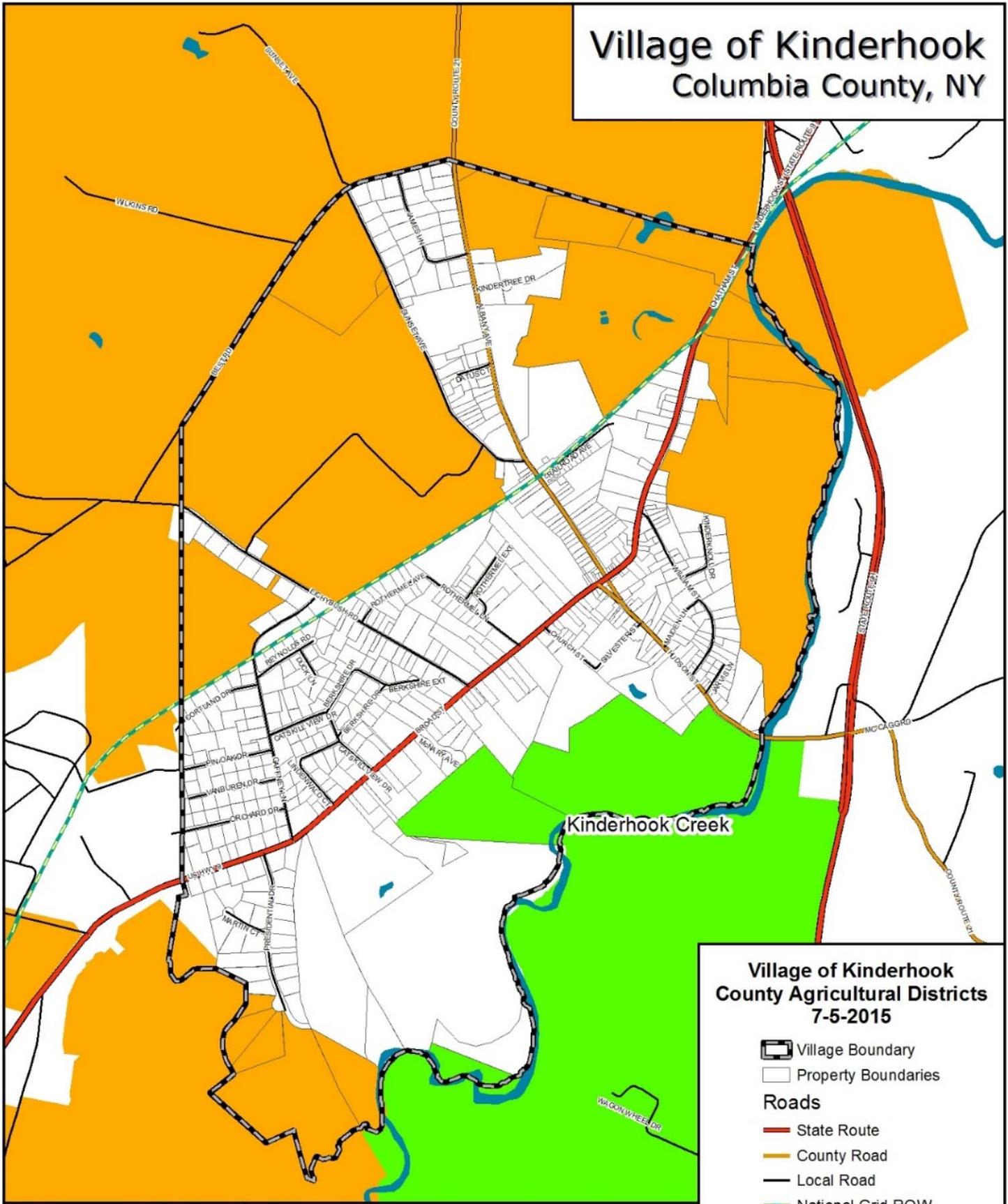
**Village of Kinderhook
Current Zoning
7-5-2015**

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Local Road
- Water
- Historic Preservation Overlay District
- 500 Year Flood Plain Overlay District Boundary
- Zoning Districts**
 - B1 - Business
 - B2 - Business
 - R - Residential (1 family/20,000 SF)
 - R1-Residential (1 family/40,000 SF)
 - A - Residential (1 family/120,000 SF)
 - AR - Residential (1 family/120,000 SF)
 - F1 - 100 yr Flood Plain

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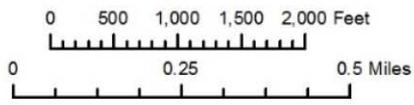
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



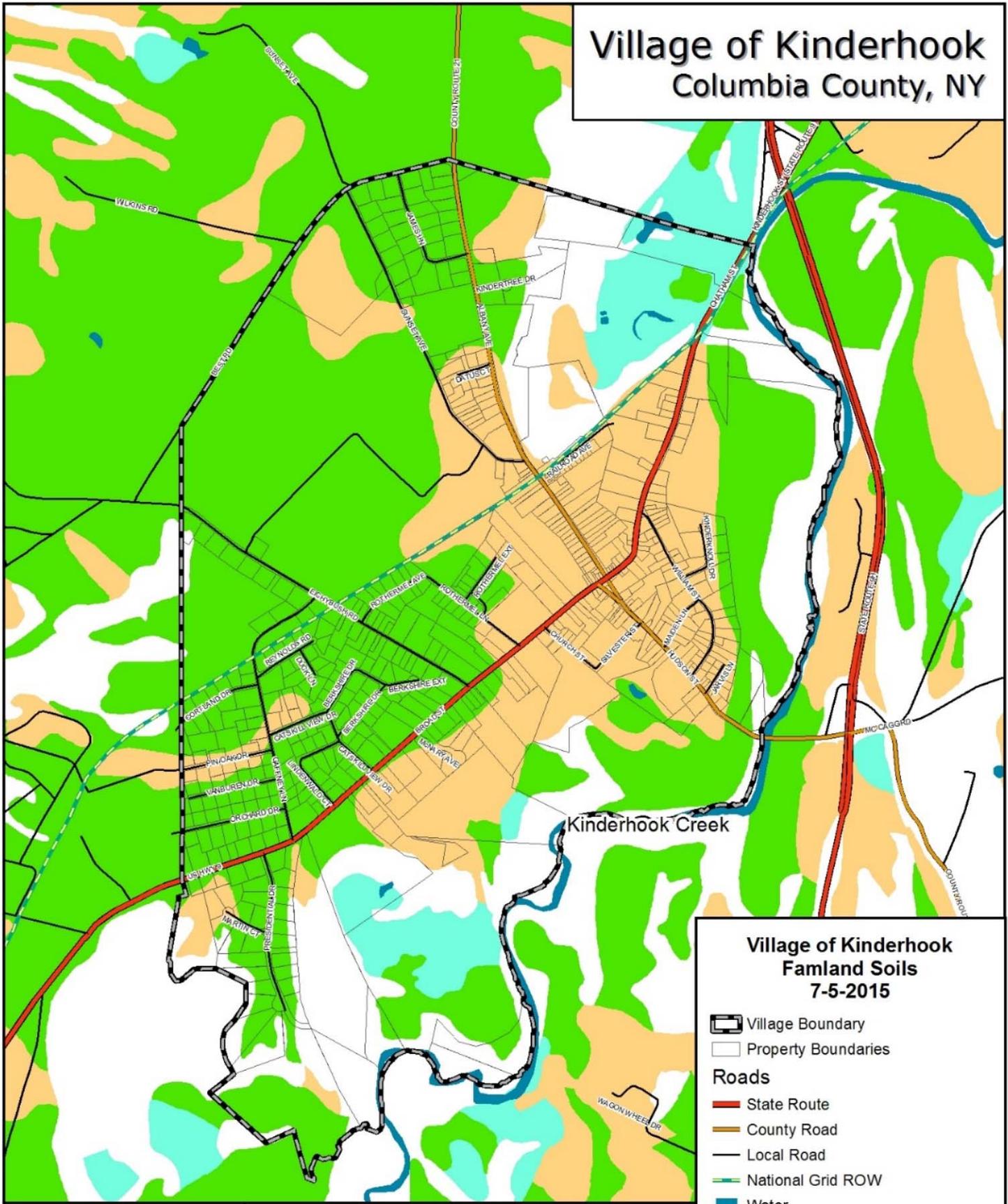
Village of Kinderhook County Agricultural Districts 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
- State Route
- County Road
- Local Road
- National Grid ROW
- Water
- Agricultural Districts**
- Ag District #2
- Ag District #10

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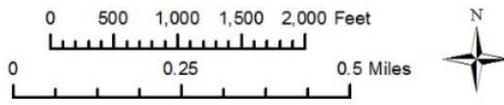
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



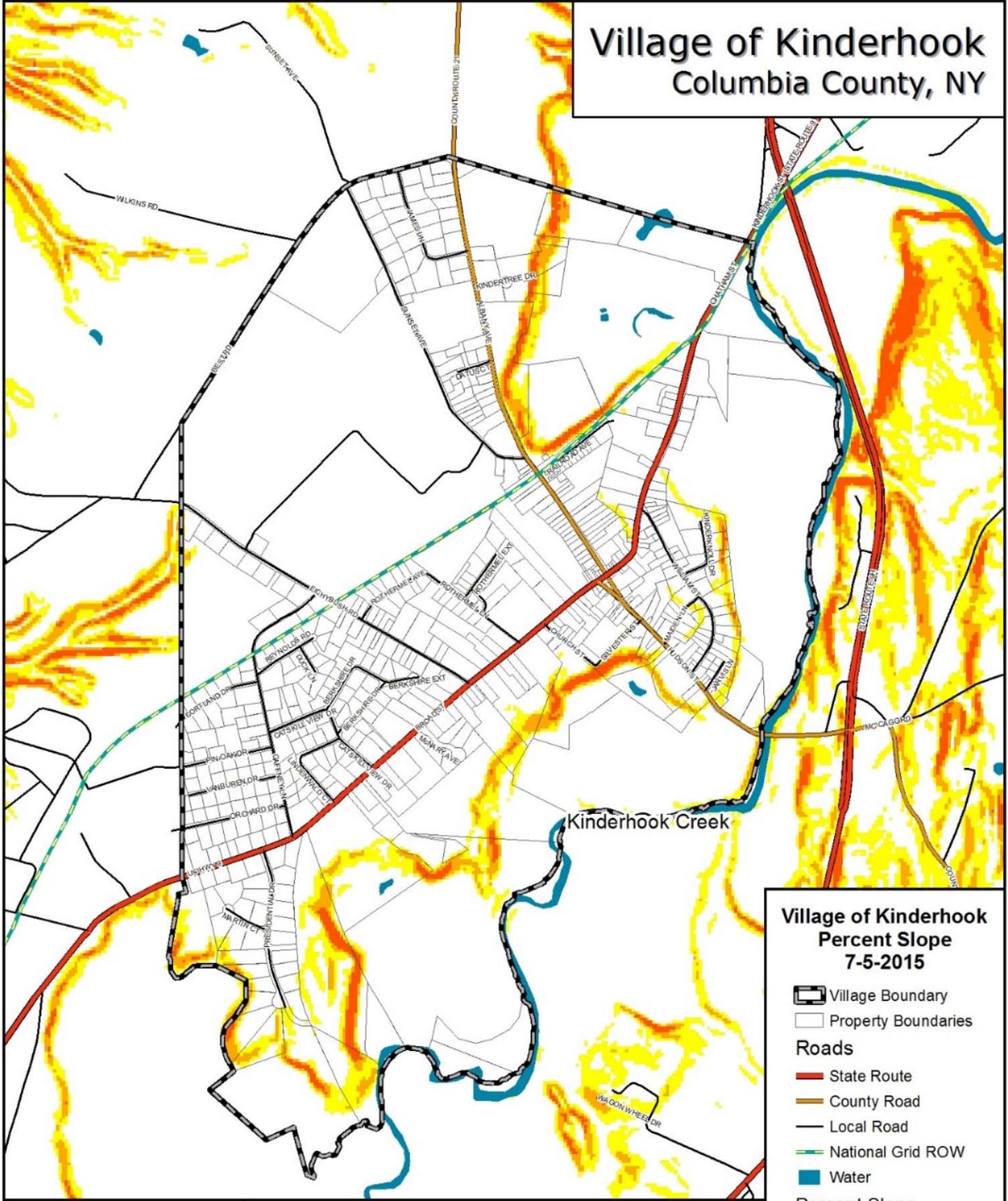
Village of Kinderhook Farmland Soils 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Local Road
 - National Grid ROW
 - Water
- Farmland Soils**
 - Prime Farmland
 - Prime Farmland if drained
 - Farmland of Statewide Importance

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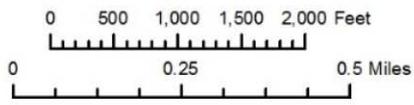
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



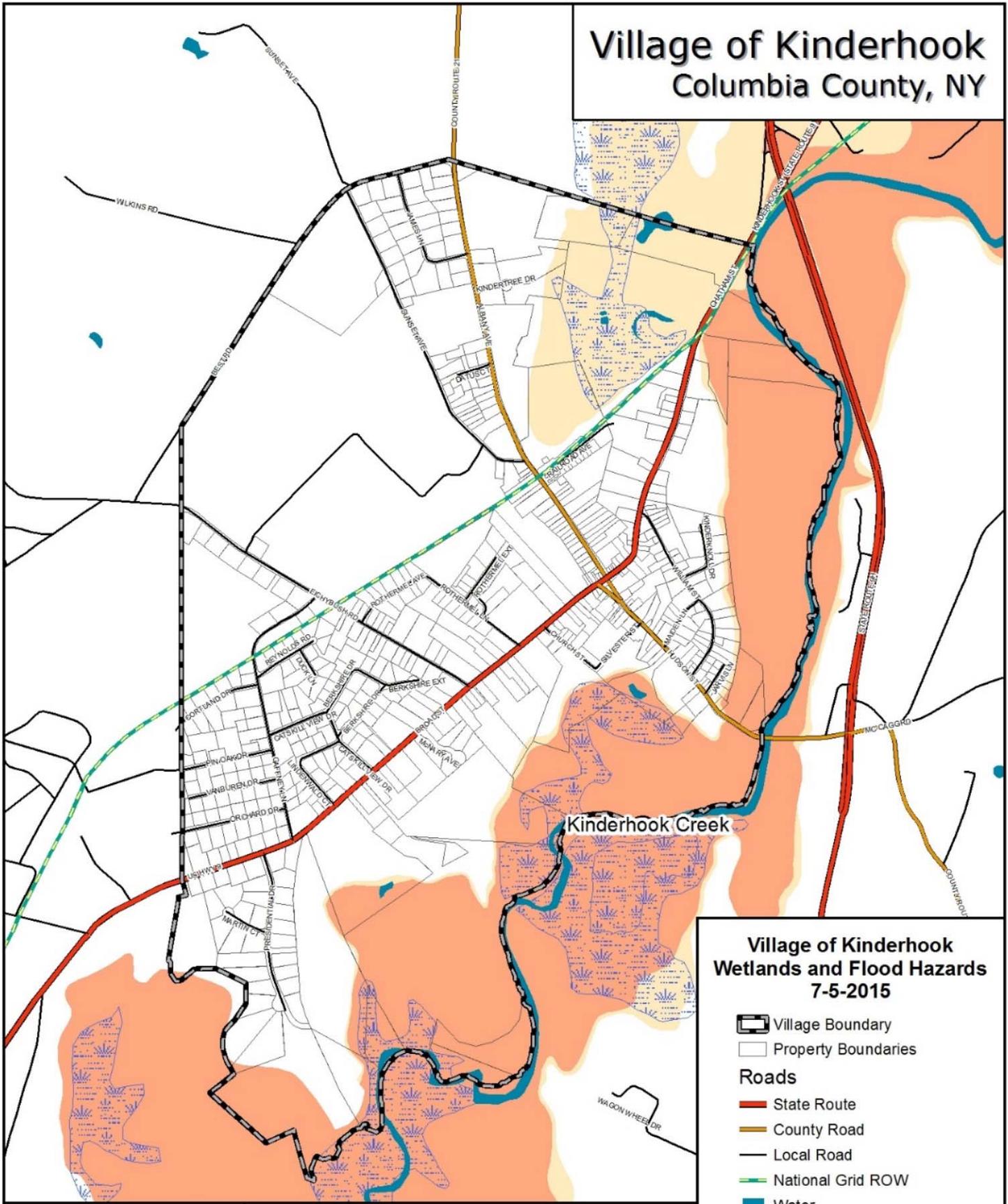
Village of Kinderhook Percent Slope 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Local Road
 - National Grid ROW
 - Water
- Percent Slope**
 - Less Than 5%
 - 5 - 15%
 - 15 - 25%
 - Over 25%

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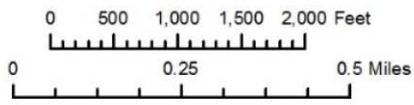
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



Village of Kinderhook Wetlands and Flood Hazards 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 - State Route
 - County Road
 - Local Road
 - National Grid ROW
 - Water
 - Wetlands - DEC Regulated
- Flood Hazards**
 - 100 Year
 - 500 Year

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Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY

Valatie

Valatie Sewage Treatment Plant

Kinderhook Creek

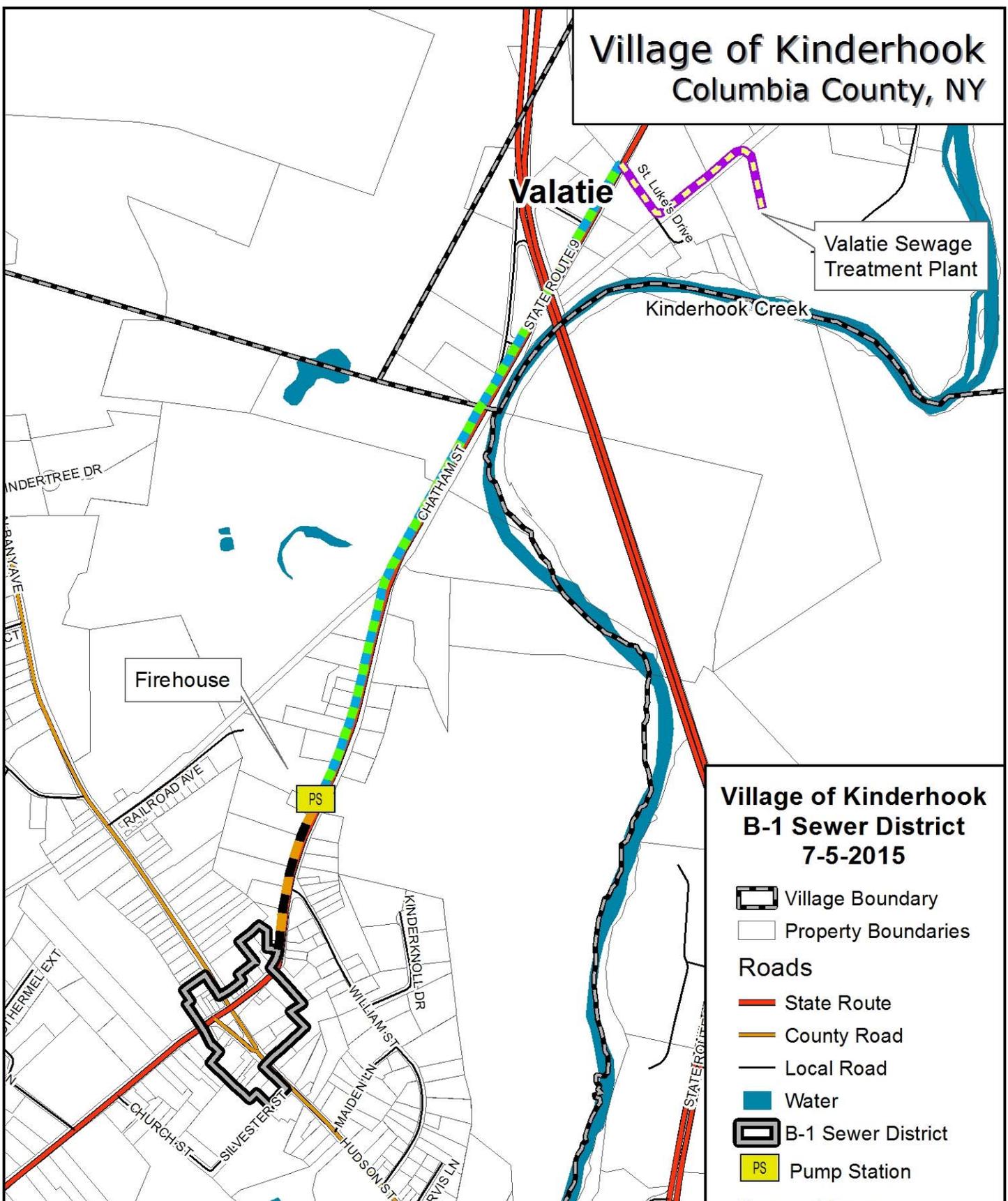
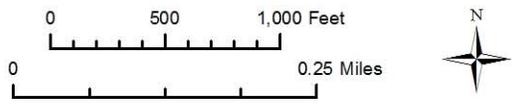
Firehouse

PS

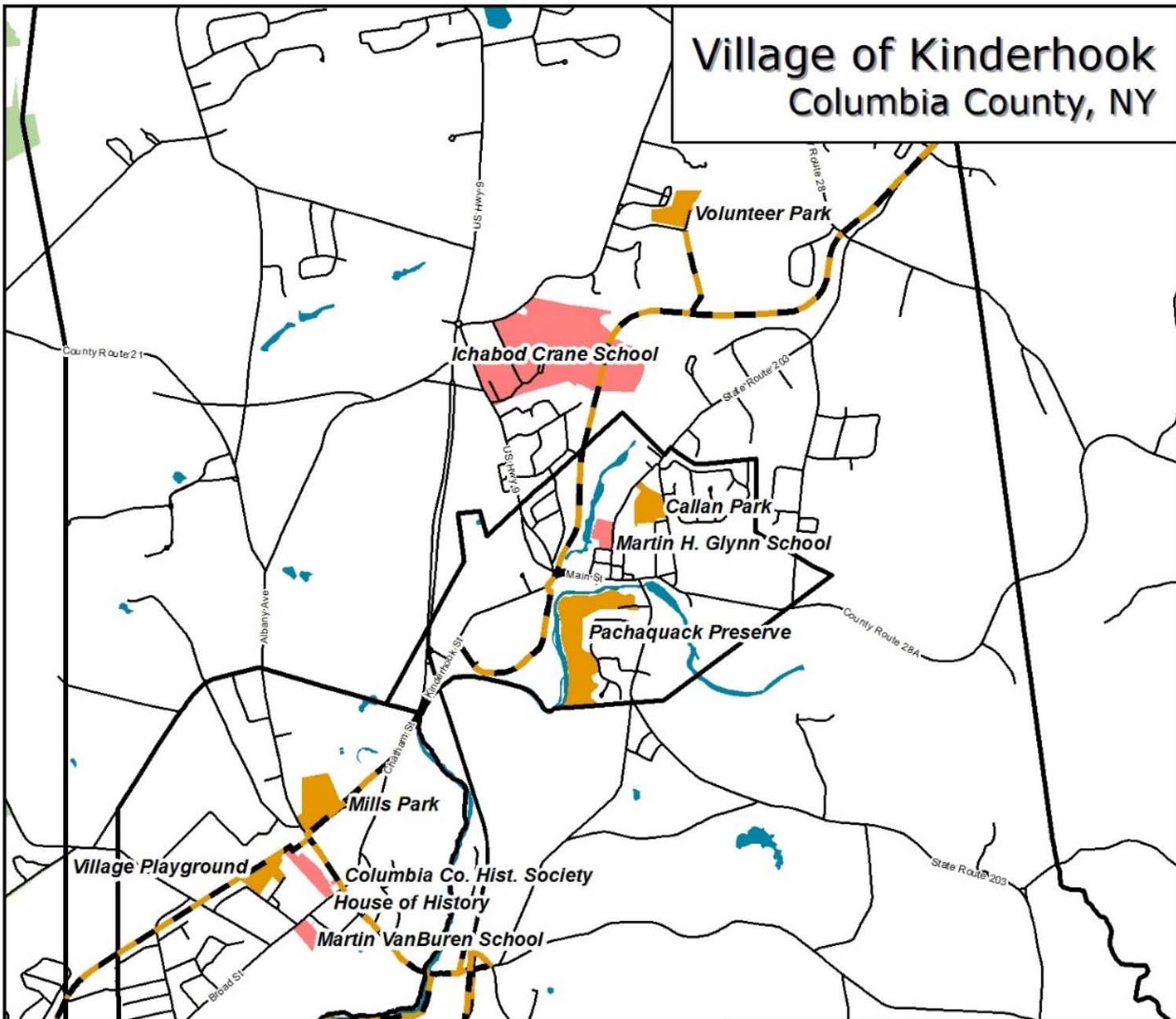
Village of Kinderhook B-1 Sewer District 7-5-2015

-  Village Boundary
-  Property Boundaries
- Roads**
 -  State Route
 -  County Road
 -  Local Road
-  Water
-  B-1 Sewer District
-  PS Pump Station
- Sewer Lines**
 -  8" Gravity Main
 -  4" Force Main
 -  Valatie Main

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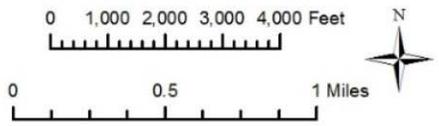
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



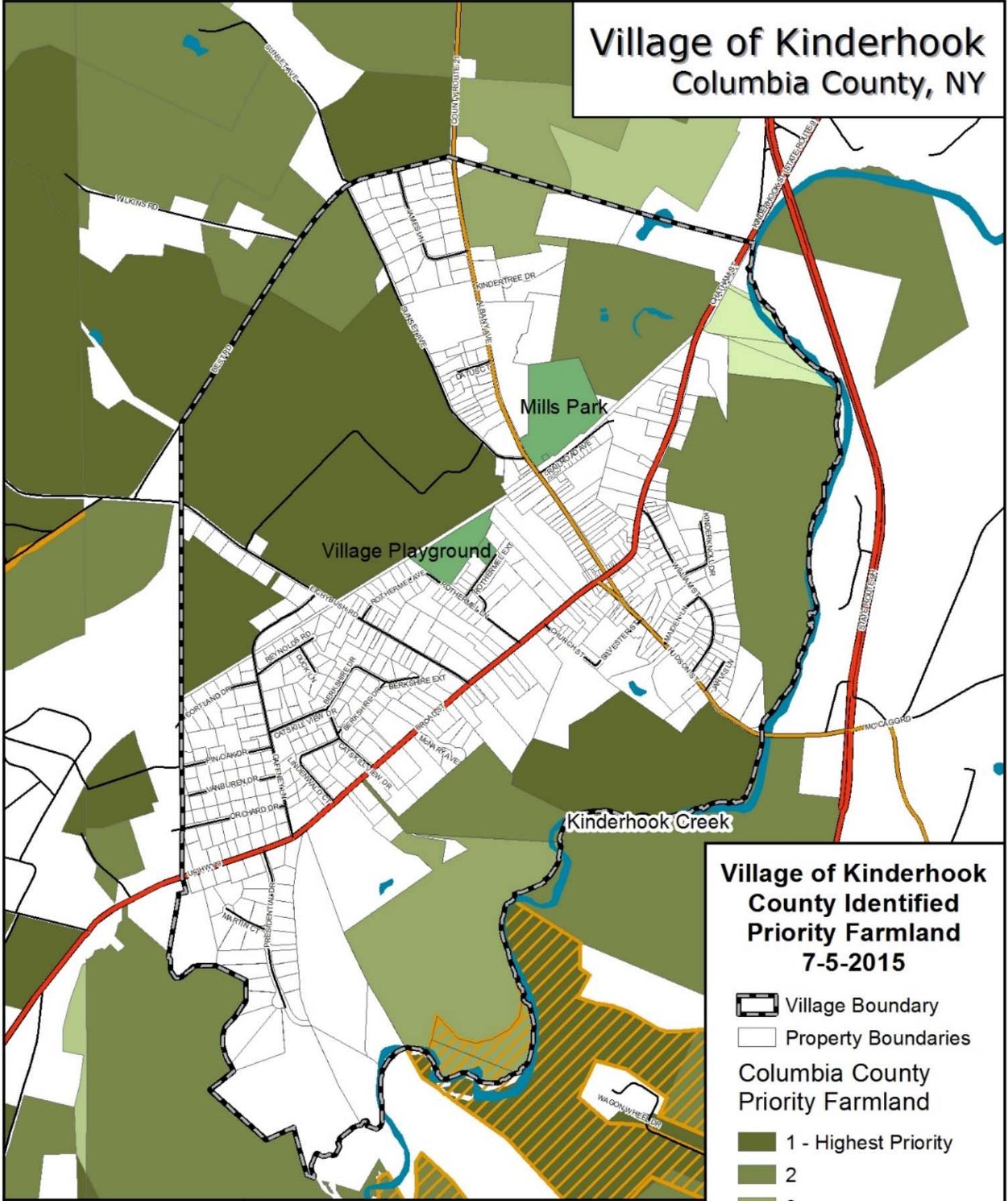
Village of Kinderhook Conceptual Regional Trail System 7-5-2015

- Village and Town Boundaries
- Roads
- Water
- Trails - Completed
- Trails - Proposed and Conceptual
- Public Lands
- National Historic Landmarks
- Other Points Of Interest
- Private Conservation Easements

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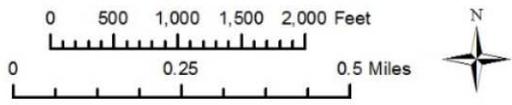
Village of Kinderhook Columbia County, NY



Village of Kinderhook County Identified Priority Farmland 7-5-2015

- Village Boundary
- Property Boundaries
- Columbia County
Priority Farmland**
- 1 - Highest Priority
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- Protected Parcels

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Appendix B: Demographic Information

Population. There have been some changes in the demographic character of the Village of Kinderhook since the 2000 United States Census and as accounted for in the 2006 Plan. Between 2000 and 2010, the Village continued to lose population as it has since 1980. The rate of loss was 5%, which is close to 6.5% loss during the 1980-1990 time period. By comparison, the village of Valatie grew 6.25% between 2000 and 2010. The number of households decreased at a slower rate, by about 1.5%. When coupled with an increase in the number of housing units, this indicates that fewer people are dwelling in more houses. This is a common trend in many New York communities.

Educational Attainment and Employment. According to the 2010 Census data, the Village continued to have a well-educated population. In 2010, 74.5% had received some level of college education, a slight increase over the previous decade. The Village of Kinderhook had a higher percentage of workers in executive, management and professional occupations than the Town, Village of Valatie, Columbia County, New York State, or the United States as a whole. Other occupations of Village residents were similar to other nearby places except fewer people were employed in the service industry relative to the other areas.

In 2000 the unemployment rate was 4% and in 2010 it was 3.2%. There is a continuing increase in the number of people in the labor force – 28 more than in 2000, and 108 more than 1990. In 2010, there was a continuing trend of more village residents working within Columbia County. Slightly fewer were working out of the county in 2010 than in 2000, and fewer were working out of state.

Income Levels. The number of both people and families living below the poverty level continued to trend lower in the Village between 2000 and 2010 with 1.4% of the population considered living in poverty at the time of the 2010 census. This is the lowest poverty level in the region and is lower than the County, State, or United States. During the past decade, the per capita income level, family median income and household income all increased substantially.

Housing Characteristics. The number of housing units increased by about 22% (128 units) during the 2000s. (Note: This is ACS data, and the margin of error might be large. Should check this with other sources.) Eighty-three percent of all dwelling units were owner-occupied. This figure is similar to that of the Town, but higher when compared to other places. In 2010, 11.7% of all units were vacant. This rate decreases to 6.1% when seasonal housing units are taken into account. The Village had a similar vacancy rate of housing units compared to other places. The 2000-2014 ACS data shows a significant increase in the number of one-unit housing units – 128 more than 2000. The number of multi-unit dwellings appears to be relatively stable over the past few decades.

The Village of Kinderhook had a higher median value of housing than the Town, Valatie, Columbia County and the United States, but was not higher than the median value for New York State.

The median home value was 2.6 times the median household income in 2010, compared to 3.2 in 1990 and 4.1 in 2000. Housing is considered affordable when a household does not spend more than two times its annual income on a house. Figures over the past 20 years indicate that while conditions have improved slightly, housing affordability continues to be an issue in the Village of Kinderhook.

Note on the American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey is a replacement for the census long-form. One major difference between the census long-form and the ACS data is that ACS data are released on an annual basis rather than once every 10 years. This means users get fresh socioeconomic data every year, including for small

geographies like census tracts. However, the data for geographic units of less than 65,000 are based on multi-year estimates.

Although the questions used in the ACS are very similar to those included on the long form used in the 2000 decennial census, there are some differences between the two surveys.

There are some data quality issues with the ACS data. Because ACS data are collected continuously, they are not always comparable to data collected from the decennial census. For example, in the case of employment statistics, both surveys ask about employment status during the week prior to the survey. However, data from the decennial census are typically collected between March and August, whereas data from the ACS are collected each month and reflect employment throughout the year. Differences in these responses may in turn affect data on commuting, occupation, and industry. The smaller sample size of the ACS also results in larger margins of error than found in the previous decennial census long form.

Table 1: Population Changes from 1980 to 2000

Area	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000 – 2010 % Change
United States	226,546,000	248,710,000	281,421,906	308,745,538	9.7%
New York State	17,558,165	17,990,455	18,976,457	19,378,102	2.1%
Valatie Village	1,492	1,487	1,712	1,819	6.25%
Kinderhook Village	1,377	1,293	1,275	1,211	-5.0%
Town of Kinderhook Outside Villages	4,767	5,340	5,309	5,266	-0.8%

Source: United States Census Bureau, Decennial Census

Table 2: Comparison of Population Data for Village of Kinderhook

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010
Total Population	1,377	1,293	1,275	1,211
No. of Households	307	496	546	538

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010
Total No. of Families	217	372	362	340
No. Married-Couple Families	357	297	308	290
No. Female Head of Households	20	52	37	39

Source: United States Census Bureau, Decennial Census

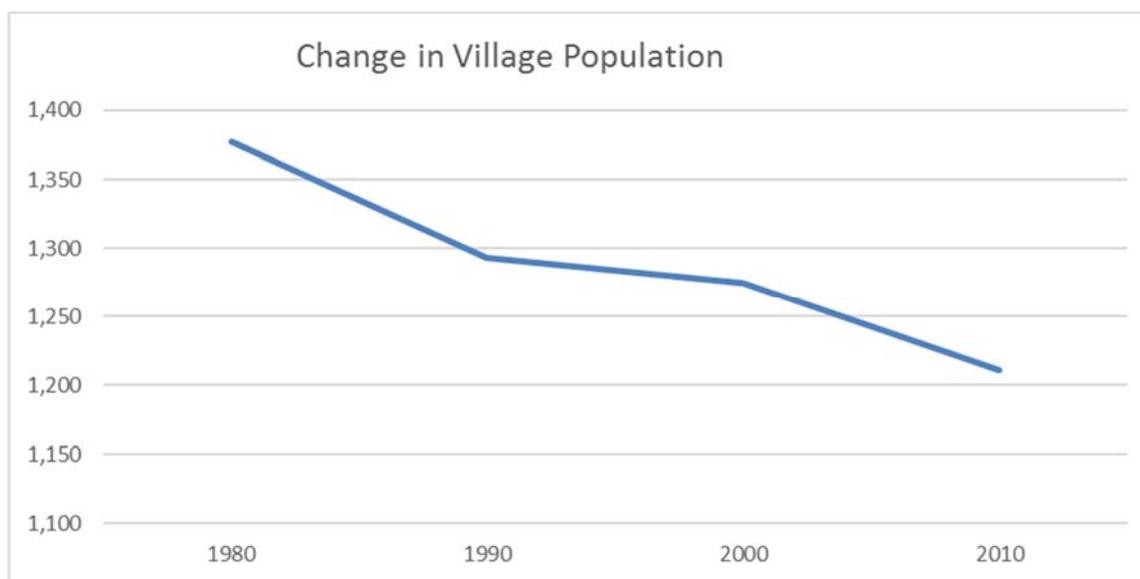


Table 3: Comparison of Educational Attainment for those 25 Years and Older for Village of Kinderhook

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010-2014 ACS
Less than High School Diploma	137 (15.6%)	119 (13%)	53 (5.8%)	25 (2.4%)
High School Diploma Only	291 (33.1%)	212 (23.5%)	213 (23.5%)	246 (23.1%)
College 1-3 years	195 (22.2%)	241 (26.7%)	215 (23.6%)	321 (30.2%)

Bachelor's Degree or Higher	256 (29.2%)	339 (37.2%)	427 (47%)	471 (44.3%)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 4: Comparison of Income Data for Village of Kinderhook

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010-2014 ACS
Family Median Income	\$24,327	\$48,889	\$69,115	\$103,250
Per Capita Income	\$8,137	\$19,507	\$29,047	\$43,220
Families Below Poverty Level	19 (5%)	11 (3%)	1	6 (1.5%)
Female Householders Below Poverty Level	4 (14%)	7 (5%)	1	NA 12%
Median Social Security Income	\$4,902	\$9,727	\$11,965	\$20,172 (mean SS income)
Total No. People Below Poverty Level	81	45	29 (2.3%)	NA (1.4%)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 5: Comparison of Housing Units for Village of Kinderhook

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010-2014 ACS
Total Number of Units	518	530	576	704
Owner Occupied Units	409	401	443	508

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010-2014 ACS
Renter Occupied Units	75	95	103	103
Vacant Units	34	34	30	93
# 1-unit dwellings	455	470	497	646
# 2-unit dwellings	11	13	27	16
# 3+ unit dwellings	52	34	41	39
# Mobile Homes	0	0	8	3
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates				

Table 6: Occupations by Percent of Employed Persons 16 Years or older, 2010 Data

Description	New York State	Columbia County	Town of Kinderhook	Village of Kinderhook	Village of Valatie
Executive, Manager, Professional, Technical	39%	11,051 (37%)	1,917 (46.5%)	357 (49%)	239 (35.7%)
Sales and Other Office	24%	6,848 (23%)	1,002 (24.3%)	187 (26%)	209 (31.3%)
Service	20.2%	5,610 (18.8%)	576 (14%)	51 (7%)	143 (21.4%)
Farming and Forestry	0.25%	360 (1.2%)	33 (0.8%)	10 (1.4%)	0 (0%)
Construction, Extraction and Maintenance	4.6%	1,832 (6%)	204 (5%)	37 (5%)	48 (7.2%)

Description	New York State	Columbia County	Town of Kinderhook	Village of Kinderhook	Village of Valatie
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.5%	930 (3%)	76 (1.8%)	19 (2.6%)	10 (1.5%)
Production, Transportation and Material Moving	9.5%	3,178 (11%)	312 (7.6%)	68 (9%)	19 (2.8%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 7: Comparison of Employment Data for Village of Kinderhook (People 16 Years and Older).

Description	1980	1990	2000	2010-2014 ACS
In Labor Force	663	659	739	767
Unemployed	32	20	30	37
Not in Labor Force	358	358	283	387
Place of Work				
In County	309	306	358	431 (59.9%)
Out of County	256	309	310	277 (38.5%)
Out of State	14	12	29	11 (1.5%)
Mean Travel Time to Work	23.8 minutes	27 minutes	*	25 minutes

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*2000 data NA as mean; 16% of workers traveled 5 to 9 minutes to work and 20% of workers traveled 30 to 34 minutes to work. 75% of all workers traveled 34 minutes or less to work.

Table 8: Comparison of Demographics of Region and United States (2010-2014 ACS data)

Demographics	United States	New York State	Town of Kinderhook	Village of Kinderhook	Village of Valatie	Columbia County
% Married Couple Families	48.4%	43.6%	56.2%	53.9%	51.1%	47.7%
% Female Householder Families	13.1%	14.9%	8.8%	7.2%	11.0%	10.6%
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.6%	284 (4.2%)	37 (3.2%)	74 (5.3%)	2,545 (4.9%)
Median Family Income	\$65,443	\$71,419	\$91,761	103,250\$	\$71,250	\$72,333
% of all persons below Poverty Level	15.6%	15.6%	3.7%	1.4%	11.6%	%10.4
% of all Families below Poverty Level	11.5%	12.0%	1.7%	1.5%	3.5%	%6.7
Median Value of Housing Unit	\$175,700	\$283,700	\$237,400	\$266,800	\$209,500	\$222,800
% Owner Occupied Units	65.1%	53.8%	78.8%	83.3%	65.6%	71.6%
Vacant Housing Units - total	11.4%	9.7%	387 (10.4%)	71 (11.7%)	47 (7.1%)	6,869 (21%)
Vacant non-seasonal	7.9%	6.1%	4.5%	6.1%	6.2%	7.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Additional tables from the Town of Kinderhook Comprehensive Plan Addendum

Housing Characteristics				
	Town of Kinderhook	Town Outside Villages	Village of Kinderhook	Village of Valatie
# 2000 Housing Units	3,434	2,139	530	509
# 2010 Housing Units	3,720	2,453	609	658
% Housing Unit Change 2000-2010	8.3%	14.7%	14.9%	29.3%
% Owner Occupied in 2010	78.8%	81.3%	83.3%	65.6%
% Renter Occupied in 2010	21.2%	18.7%	16.7%	34.4%
% For Sale Vacancy Rate in 2010	1.2%	1.2%	2.0%	0.5%
% Rental Vacancy Rate in 2010	7.7%	6.6%	12.6%	7.5%
% <i>Estimated</i> Housing in Single Family Units- 2010	85.9%	88.6%	94.7%	66.1%
% <i>Estimated</i> Housing Units in Multi Family (2+ units)	11.7%	7.9%	4.8%	33.9%
% <i>Estimated</i> Housing Units in Mobile Homes – 2010	2.4%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Estimated</i> Median Value Owner Occupied Housing Units (2010)	\$240,900	\$246,141	\$285,400	\$211,700

Source: Census Bureau and 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Estimate.

Income and Employment				
2010 Estimates	Town of Kinderhook	Town Outside Villages	Village of Kinderhook	Village of Valatie
<i>Estimated</i> Median Household Income	\$69,155	\$64,187	\$75,769	\$60,365
% of <i>Estimated</i> Individuals Living Below the Poverty Line	4.7%	N/A	7.4%	8.7%
% <i>Estimated</i> Residents Age 25+ with High School Diploma	92.3%	88.8%	97.3%	80.7%
% <i>Estimated</i> Residents Age 25+ with Bachelor Degree or Higher	36.1%	37.2%	56.2%	19.8%
% <i>Estimated</i> Population in Civilian Workforce	65.1%	71.8%	69.7%	44.1%
% <i>Estimated</i> Population Drive Alone /Carpooled /Walked to Work	94.3%	95.1%	94.0%	91.4%

Source: 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Estimate.

Appendix C: Public Input Results

1. Workshop

Results of Village of Kinderhook Public Planning Workshop Held July 23, 2015. ~40 people in attendance

Strengths	Priority Stickers
Walking through the village	1
Walkability and interaction between people	
Walkability and safety	1
walkability	
Walking in the village	
Walkability and bikeability	1
Runners club	
Human element is enhanced by the walkability not so much emphasis on the car	
Safety	
Safety	
Walking maps – improved promotion of historic village	
Quiet	
Quiet, historic core	2
Historical, quiet place seeing all the people who come here to talk, run and visit, like the peacefulness	
Quiet mix of residential/commercial	
Neighborly	
People are friendly and courteous	
Charm and friendliness	
Friendliness	
Neighbors and residential feeling – very neighborly	
Physical	
Physical structure – this is a true community	
Gardens, landscaping at houses	1
Quality of landscape – yard scale, what you see from the road	1

Strengths	Priority Stickers
Lots of trees, good size yards, spacing	
Village square character	1
Central square or triangle, meeting place for people and activities	1
Special events in square	1
Love the green space and the village farm and village square	
Village square potential – economic vibrancy	
Village green	
Enthusiasm and hunger for village events and activities	
Great deal for young people in village	
Off the beaten path, not accidental	
Sense of community	
People care for one another	
Love the people in the village – good place to live	1
Community is central core of character	
Geometry of New England – cluster central focus	
Unique character not found elsewhere	
Rural ambience – scale of the village	1
Visual landscape	2
Uniqueness of visual landscape – NE village	
Aesthetics have not changed	
Nice presentation – well maintained	2
Quaint small village atmosphere	2
Farmers market	
Farmers market	
Farmers market	1
Library	
Library is unusual in ??? program	1
library	
2 churches contribute to Village	
Protected, undeveloped areas	

Strengths	Priority Stickers
Quality of life, simplicity, easy	1
Close to metro areas	
Convenience of location – NYS/Berkshires/Albany	
Sense of history – insight from buildings	
History	
Historic architecture	2
Architectural character	2
Historic character of village	3
Preservation of historic past while looking forward	1
House of history lawn	
Samascott's orchard	1
Agricultural base, undeveloped land	
Historical society	
Strong volunteer base	
Citizen based government, participation	1
Children friendly community	
Diversity in the community	1
Not known as a bedroom community	
Handicapped accessible	
People take good care of homes	
Confined business district	
The School – new presence, weekend visitors	

Weaknesses and Threats	Priority Stickers
Street widening at Hudson and Williams encouraged traffic, lack of sidewalks	1
Poor traffic control	
Traffic, speeding, Albany Ave, Best, Sunset	
Lack of enforcement for tractor trailers on Route 9 in Village	
Truck traffic, impact on historic buildings	2

Weaknesses and Threats	Priority Stickers
Truck traffic	
Traffic in village center	
Amount of traffic on Route 9	
Commercial and big trucks on Albany Ave	
Motorcycles and their noise	1
Designate 9H for the trucks	3
Truck traffic noise – village square	
Truck traffic vibration on Broad Street	
Lack of sewer beyond business district	1
Farm traffic too fast	
Traffic speed	
Modern infusions diminish village character	
Lack of business	2
Lack of commercial base	2
Vacant buildings give bad impression	1
Excessive vacancy in village	
Lack of business in center of village	3
Lack of sustainable business/community life	1
Unmet economic development potential in the village core	3
Development projects languish in an untimely fashion	
Empty storefronts, lack of patronable businesses	3
Monopoly ownership – need board action and need varied vision of business types	1
Condition of sidewalks on Albany Avenue	1
Sidewalks snow cover in winter, lack of enforcement	
Sidewalks in winter, and in summer filled with brush	
Electric wires and poles	
Get rid of overhead wires	
Utility lines not buried	1
Lighting – street is ugly	
Failure to explore shared services	

Weaknesses and Threats	Priority Stickers
Lack of parking, soon to be a bigger problem	1
Boards do not communicate with each other	1
Lack of long term maintenance plan for village buildings	
Lack of consistent and strict historic and zoning compliance enforcement	1
Get our share of funding and attention to problems	
Difficulty funding infrastructure	
Citizen apathy and need more involvement	
Historic district not accurate on map	
Sign regulations need fine tuning, for HPB purposes	
Oversized lots in historic district are sub-dividable	
Lack of public transportation – local medical for disabled	
Lack of yard waste collection	
Lack of responsible pet walking	
Historic preservation laws restrictive	
Lack of open mindedness in government structure	1

Opportunities
Events that encourage social interaction and benefit village
Market Kinderhook as destination for events
Open new businesses
Restaurants – business mix unique to the village
Library
Music events and entertainment
Support
Grant writer and grant committee to find funding
Better enforcement of codes/laws
New visual preference survey
Maintaining views – trees, salt causes problems for trees
Support Samascott – take precautions to maintain the land
Help Samascott to guarantee preservation of land conservation

Proactively interface with other communities and organizations
Look at plans from other communities
Continue walking, biking and the people aspects – connect to other people
Bring back historic lighting – appropriate historic lighting
Seek grants for Creekside development
Seek an anchor establishment and attract new business
Exploit historic sites in proximity to village
Encourage schools to send students to apprentice with mentors for public services
Partner with town to plan/building community center
Contact PSC about burying utility lines
Contact DOT about limiting truck traffic
Extend sewer system especially for residents in historic district
Take advantage of existing art and antique businesses to drive further economic growth
Leverage proprietors’ knowledgeable and input
Economic development consultant to take advantage of store fronts
Board under village board for economic development
Waterfront, greenspace at mills park

Comments on Desired Vision and Goal Statements
Peaceful, welcoming
Embrace regional involvement
Retain village character, but enrich social aspects
Economic sustainability
Village buildings not well suited to modern business
Protection of agricultural land
Including municipal property
More aggressive pursuit to solve truck traffic
Best Road traffic/speed – lack of enforcement
Intermunicipal communication to address traffic issue
More permanent businesses in village center
Village needs to better understand needs of business owners

Bury the wires and use federal funding for it
Maintain vitality of the village aesthetic qualities
Take trucks out of village
Need bike laws
Route 9 is blocked off
Walkable/ridable village
Stringent architectural controls
Village and national historic district boundaries are the same
Has a diverse population – culturally, ethnically diverse
Has a wide array of restaurant and dining establishments to serve the community and attract visitors
Is a vibrant village
Provides recreational opportunities through a trail system and Creekside development
Has a community center with a pool
Has a visible public transportation system
Add safety to existing vision statement – it is accurate though
History is actively embraced and community well versed in the rich history of the village
Overall, it is fairly good as is

2. Survey

More than 200 residents participated in the survey. The results are summarized below. These survey results will be combined with other more detailed information from the survey, public input from the public workshops and the information collected during the Village-leadership focus group to help us to update vision, goals, and new strategies contained within an Updated Comprehensive Plan.

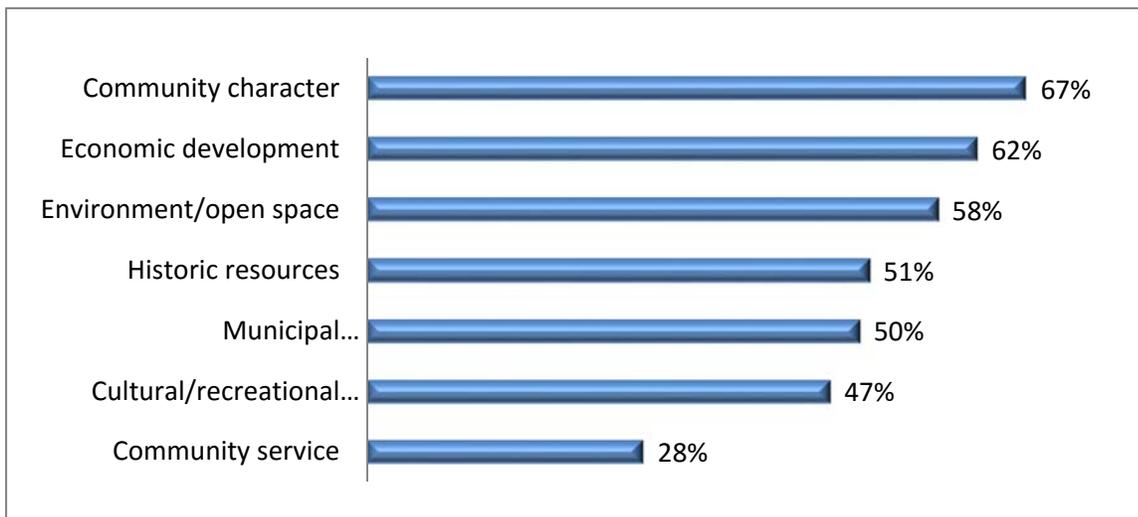
What we learned about Topics of Importance to Residents: As in the past, community character remains the most important topic that residents want addressed by the Village leadership. Economic development, the environment/open space, historic resources, and municipal resources (in order of importance) were the other topics people want the Village leadership to pay attention to.

This Means: The Plan should continue to address and offer strategies to maintain the Village’s character as a significant feature. The environment, open spaces, historic resources and municipal resources are all part of community character. In comparison to past plans, this update needs to place more emphasis on economic development. However, economic development needs to be consistent with community character.

In terms of importance, ***Community Character (67%)*** and ***Economic Development (62%)*** are most often deemed “very important” in terms of aspects of the 2009 Village Comprehensive Plan that should be preserved or enhanced.

At least half of respondents consider these areas highly important: ***Environment and Open Space (58%)***, ***Historic Resources and Municipal Resources (51%)***, ***Infrastructure and Transportation (50%)***, followed by ***Cultural and Recreational Resources (47%)***.

Q1. The items below were identified in the 2009 Village Comprehensive Plan as features that should be preserved or enhanced. Please rate the importance of the following topics as found in the 2009 Comprehensive



What we learned about what the Village should support: The majority of participants want the Village leadership to support local libraries, cultural events, and to enhance recreational opportunities.

Specifically, expansion of biking, walking, jogging, running, and hiking as well as improving access and recreational use of the Kinderhook Creek were deemed as very important. Another action that was important to the majority of respondents, but especially to those residents over 60 years old; was to build on the public/private program of street tree planting and gardening.

This Means: The updated plan should offer action steps and policies to continue support for the library, and for cultural and recreational opportunities. Specific actions can be outlined in the plan to enhance pedestrian resources and to improve Kinderhook Creek access.

What we learned about businesses people will support: Specialty foods (butcher, bakery, fish market, produce), restaurants, and gift shops were the three highest scoring businesses that people were likely to support in the Village.

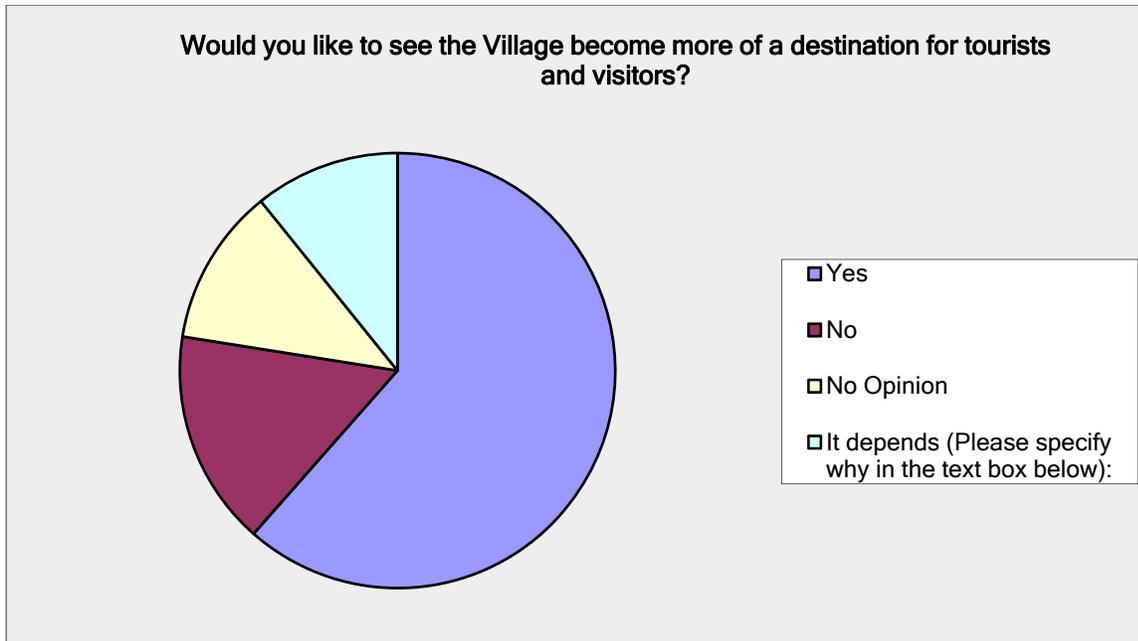
This Means: Economic development programs should pay particular attention to attracting the kinds of businesses that will garner support among village residents.

What types of businesses are you likely to support if they were to come to the Village? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Restaurants	83.6%	178
Retail Clothing	33.8%	72
Gift Shops	58.2%	124
Specialty Foods (Butcher, Bakery, Fish Market, Produce)	86.4%	184
Entertainment	38.5%	82
None of the above	1.9%	4
Other (Please specify what in the text box below):	16.9%	36

What we learned about Kinderhook as a tourist destination: 61.5% of participants said they would like to see the Village become more of a destination for tourists and visitors.

This Means: Economic development programs supported in the plan should encourage projects and programs that further develop tourism, but that the Village needs to ensure that the character of the Village is not adversely impacted at the same time.



What we learned about use of tax incentives for economic development: When asked if tax incentives should be made available to encourage additional or expanded business development, 40% said yes, and 29% said no. The remainder said ‘it depends’ upon the type of business, whether the business is in harmony with the character of the Village, and how long the support would last. So there is a level of cautious support for tax incentives.

This Means: There is moderate support for tax incentives, and the plan can suggest that the Village further explore types of tax incentives that could be compatible with Village goals, cost and benefits. Tax incentives could be part, but not the whole thrust of an enhanced economic development initiative.

What we learned about use of tax incentives if it results in a moderate property tax increase: Over all participants, there is also some, but not a majority level of support for a moderate property tax increase to support those tax incentives. For those who support the use of tax incentives, a substantial majority (67%) is willing to support this action through moderate increases in their local property taxes.

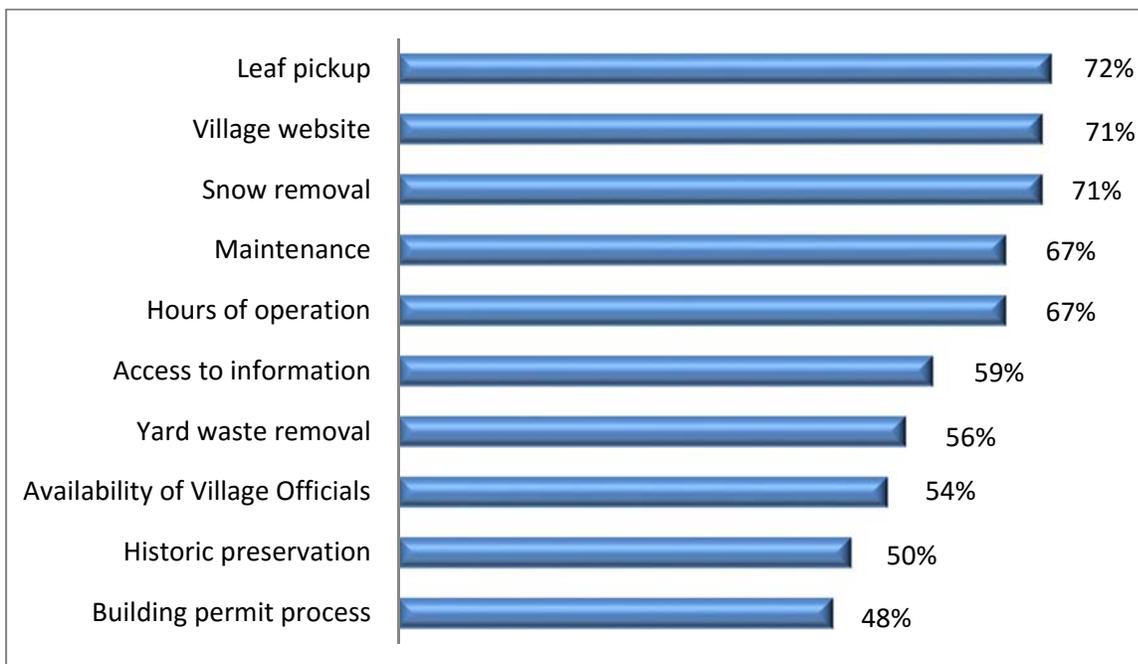
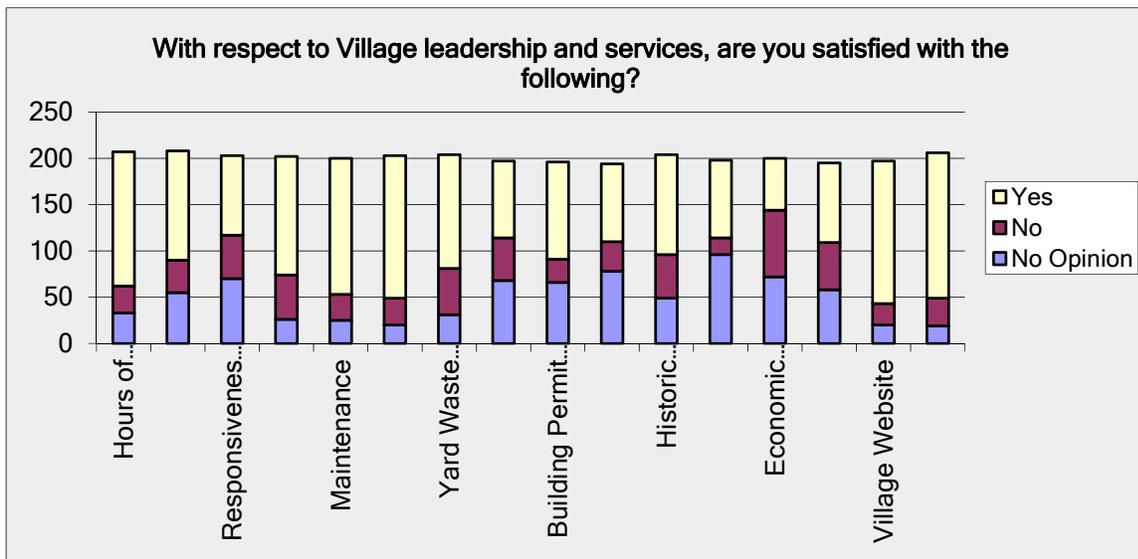
This Means: As part of the feasibility of offering tax incentives, the Plan can suggest that the Village identify the real costs and benefits to program actions and create a dialogue with village residents about it.

What we learned about desired actions to support economic development: If additional funding were available for economic development programs, about half of the participants said they would support use of those funds to encourage landlords to improve building facades and improve lighting. Slightly less than half (48%) said they would want to see funds used to develop streetscape concept plans to establish an aesthetic vision for the Village.

This Means: The Plan should include actions that would promote building façade and lighting improvement programs. It could also suggest that if funds were available, there would be support for a streetscape improvement plan.

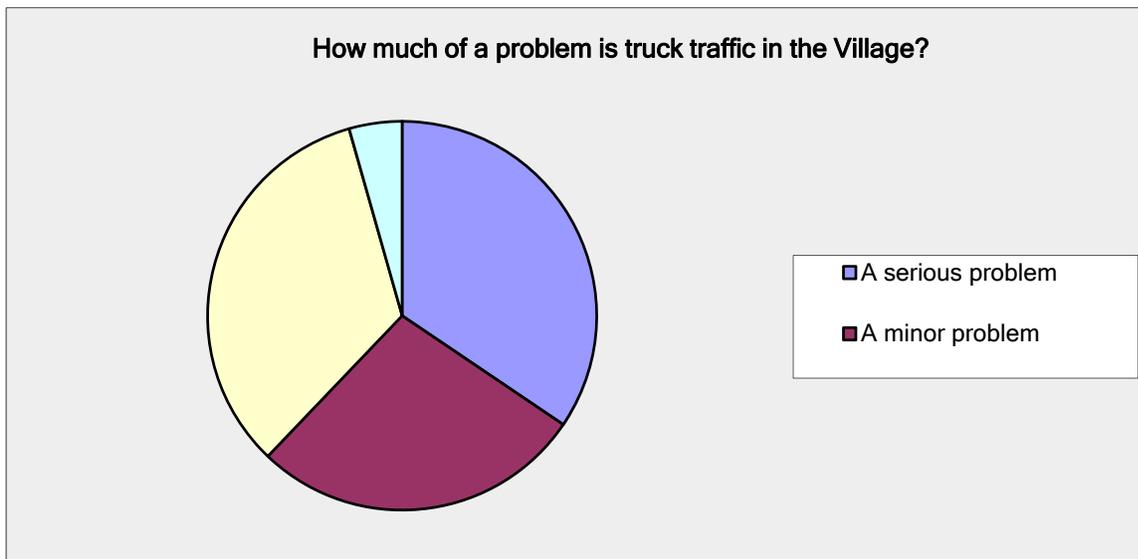
What we learned about satisfaction with Village services: Overall, participants were satisfied or very satisfied with village leadership and services. The highest scoring services were leaf pickup, village website, snow removal, maintenance, and hours of operation of the Village. The only item that more people were not satisfied with was the economic development in the Village.

This Means: More emphasis should be placed on economic development, but the Plan should include maintenance of other existing services and programs.



What we learned about truck traffic: There are mixed opinions as to whether truck traffic is a problem in the Village. 34.5% said it's a serious problem, 27.7% a minor problem, and 33.5% not a problem.

This Means: Truck traffic is a problem to be addressed, but it is not a priority. Because it is more important to those living on or near Route 9 and that are directly affected, the Plan could recommend actions to enhance enforcement of speeding, and work with DOT to find other solutions.



What we learned about funding infrastructure improvements: The survey asked about the level of agreement with several actions to assist the Village with allocating funding and prioritization of infrastructure improvements. A vast majority (89.4%) agreed that the Village should solicit additional funding from State/Federal Government or from other sources. The majority however disagreed that the Village should stretch out or phase projects and delay upgrades, expansion and maintenance.

This Means: The Plan could include a recommendation that the Village be aggressive about finding grant funding for needed infrastructure improvements. Further, the Plan can continue the recommended action to develop a capital improvement plan that would help the Village figure out costs, time frames, and planning for these improvements.

What we learned about parking: Parking was not considered a major problem in the Village. Almost 49% said parking is never a problem. 17% said it is occasionally a problem with 4% saying it is often a problem.

This Means: Addressing parking is not a high priority to be addressed in the Plan.

What we learned about use of the Village Hall upstairs: There was a lot of support (62%) for the Village to make improvements to the upstairs space of the Village Hall in order to broaden and enhance the use of the building for the community. Some people wanted to be sure the Village considered cost, and whatever is done is handicapped/disabled accessible, keeps historic character, and remains open to community events.

This Means: The Plan could recommend strategies to help the Village enhance the upstairs of the Village Hall provided the cost can be accommodated, and that the improvements ensure accessibility preserves the historic character of the building and the facility is open to community use.

What we learned about the best features of the Village: The best features of the village concentrated on Kinderhook's beauty and aesthetics, its walkability, its historic character, its small town feel, and the people of the community. Other common positive features mentioned include the Village's architecture, its amenities (library, farmers market, and events), and the location of the Village, its friendliness, and its charm, sense of community, safety, and well-maintained nature.

This Means: The Plan's vision and goal statements should be amended to ensure that these highly valued features are preserved and that they form the underlying values of the community.

What we learned about challenges in the Village: By far the area that needs the most improvement related to lack of businesses. The number one response to what needs improvement is lack of business and empty storefronts. The need to fix or add to sidewalks were other common responses. Better access to the Kinderhook Creek, term limits for board members, parking and handicapped access, road repairs, truck traffic, speeding, drainage issues and need for improved signage and street crossings were also mentioned as a need to be addressed. Most of the responses revolved around the lack of business development within the village.

This Means: The Plan should include more economic development initiatives as a primary focus.

What we learned about how to address challenges in the Village: The survey asked what actions the Village leadership could take to address the challenges and features that need improvement. 129 written answers were submitted (almost half of the survey participants). A wide variety of comments were received. The majority related to economic development – many asked for the Village to attract new businesses, be more business-friendly, more open and welcoming to new businesses, and ensure that zoning does not place barriers to businesses that are in harmony with the other goals and character of Kinderhook.

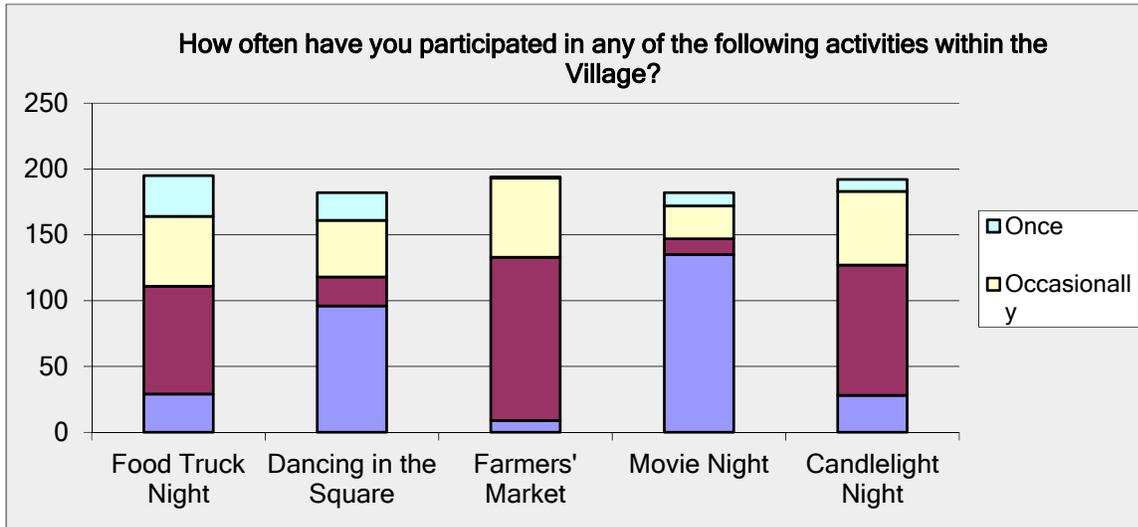
This Means: As part of the economic development actions included in the Plan update, business attraction, review of zoning to ensure it does not place undue challenges to opening a business in Kinderhook, and developing business-friendly programs should be important actions for the Village to undertake.

What we learned about future vision for the Village: Many common themes were conveyed in these comments about what the Village of Kinderhook residents want for their community in the future. Having a thriving, bustling, and vibrant business environment relates to the desired economic health of Kinderhook and are common elements of the vision. This is coupled with maintaining a beautiful, charming, quaint historic character. People's vision for the Village also include having sidewalks for walking, being a civil and friendly place, having cultural diversity, a peaceful and safe environment, and plenty of activities for all ages to make Kinderhook a great place to live.

This Means: These themes should become part of the Village's vision and goal statements in the Plan.

What we learned about participation in various Village events: The farmers market and Candlelight Night were the events that were most frequented by survey participants. The least frequently attended events are Movie Night and Dancing in the Square.

This Means: Organizers of the events that do not get as much participation may be able to identify ways to improve participation among village residents. The farmers market and Candlelight Night are events that should be continued.

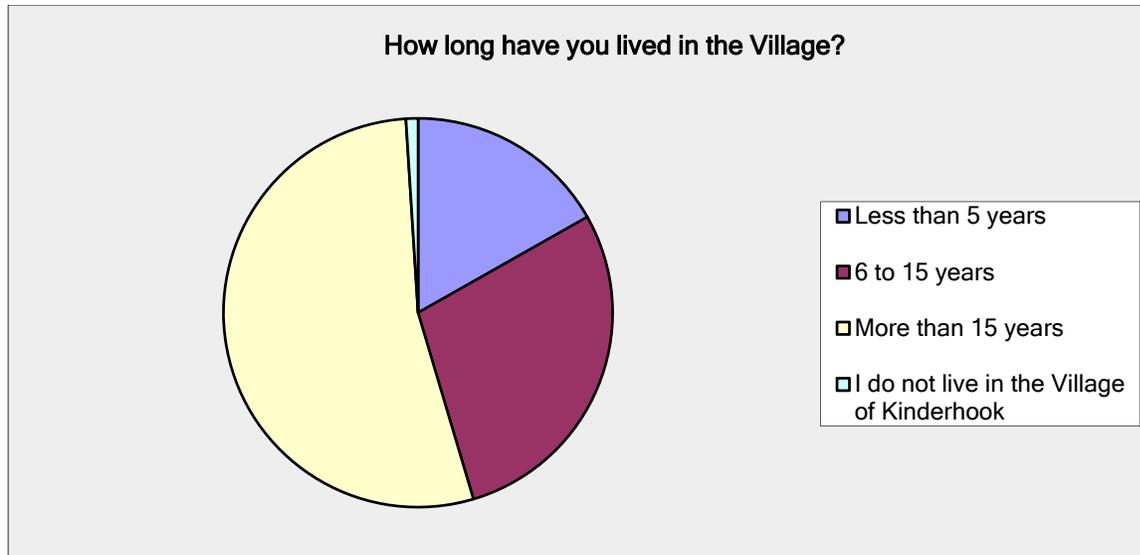


What we learned about volunteering in the Village: When asked about whether they would be interested in volunteering in the Village, the most interest was in economic development programming (20%) and with the Planning/Zoning Board (20%). 43 people left their names and contact information and were willing to volunteer. Many other people however, were not able to volunteer at this time, primarily due to lack of time.

This Means: The Village has a list of people interested in becoming involved in the community and they should take advantage of that to contact these residents and invite them to volunteer. Given this high level of willingness to participate, the Plan can suggest actions to increase dialogue and participation by members of the community.

What we learned about people who filled out the survey: The survey asked several demographic questions to identify the characteristics of people who filled out the survey. These were:

- Median age 58
- Mean Household Size 2.5



3. Focus Group

The Planning Board convened a focus group made up of Planning Board, Zoning Board, Village Board members and representatives of various organizations and activities in Kinderhook. The purpose was to elicit information from the local government perspective about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the Village. The following are the results of that focus group.

Summary of June 4, 2015 Focus Group

Organized from notes taken by Nan Stolzenburg

Strengths

- Concert series has positive impact on quality of life and on economy
- Church - has the highest capacity for concerts outside of Hudson
- Opening of Art Gallery at Martin Van Buren School
- Village has made good progress to be business friendly (like the sewer system)
- Village is starting to grow again, sees resurgence in the economy
- Library is able to expand
- Beauty and character of Village
- Village Hall
- Sidewalk link with Valatie a great asset
- Tree-lined streets
- Creek front park is awesome
- Charm of the Village
- Lots of activities and events
- Quaintness
- Tree lined streets
- Walkability
- Safe
- Aesthetically pleasing

Weaknesses/Issues

- Village needs to be perceived more as a destination.
- Lack of economic development
- Lack of help for business planning
- Need restaurants and activities
- Closing of Martin Van Buren School
- Cost of living too high here
- Vacant properties
- The Village undervalues heritage tourism
- Village needs to do more to be business friendly and progressive towards economic growth
- Boards need to be more sensitive to the time needed for approvals in the planning process
- School enrollment is down
- Village needs more value-added businesses
- Unsightly electric lines
- Village is still missing its previous vibrancy
- Lack of recreational opportunities
- Lack of promotion of fishing or creek related activities
- Lack of biking trails and hiking/walking trails.
- Village Hall needs restoration
- Truck traffic on Route 9 creates a safety and traffic issue. It also creates vibrations that are damaging to historic buildings. DOT needs a regional approach before they will address truck traffic
- Additional water lines need attention
- More sidewalks are needed and existing ones need improvement
- Drainage (or lack of it) is creeping back in as an issue – such as flooding along Albany Ave after a rain storm
- Clean up needed at Trombleys and signs.
- Lack of affordable living in Village
- Lack of cohesive and unified marketing between recreational and cultural organizations – needs more collaboration
- High rents may be an issue that prevents businesses from coming to the Village
- Lack of funding
- Some facades need improvement
- Lack of tree maintenance and replacement program
- Activities and events don't capture people to stay or return enough
- Indifference on the part of the general population
- There may be a disconnect between the Village being successful as a destination and what people who live here want
- Lack of something appealing here for young people
- Print media in Hudson not covering Village like they used to.

Opportunities

- Build on the concert series to build the Village as a destination and attract new businesses that can grow off that opportunity
- Build on heritage tourism – develop plaques for buildings that tell the story of Kinderhook

- More civic expansion such as via the library programs
- Promote more value-added businesses
- Focus economic development on our charm
- Enhance entrance to Town and Village, especially from the north
- Improve charm of village with enhanced decorative street lighting or perhaps street signs with a theme
- Bury electric lines to improve aesthetics
- Need to build on the sidewalk link and wastewater projects
- Enhance recreation programs and focus on recreation activities at the Creek.
- Develop a park at Creek, with promoting fishing
- Develop biking and walking trails – Village has become a destination for walkers and joggers. Build off this. Use the old railroad trail for biking and pedestrians and hook this to Mills Park
- Look for specific businesses that can work now, not what was in the past. Direct right businesses to the right location.
- Work regionally to address truck traffic on Route 9 with DOT
- Explore shared services to reduce costs and help make living in Village more affordable
- Promote collaboration between village, recreational and cultural organizations who provide programs and events. Develop a coordinated marketing package – there are great things here, but the promotion is not unified or cohesive.
- Need business expansion and retention programs. For example, establish a revolving loan program or other incentives to attract businesses here, aid in business planning.
- Neck down or remark roads to make it safer for bike lanes and pedestrians
- Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program.
- Improve media/marketing about village.

Barriers to Accomplishing Opportunities

- Funding
- Need to expand the people who get involved in projects
- Lack of community involvement and spirit, although that is getting better
- Lack of looking at economic conditions and character of entire village and area
- Lack of shared services
- Disconnect between what is needed economically and what people who live here want
- Lack of appeal for young people to come to village

Comments on Vision Statement

- Preservation is important, but wants to see the statement written to be more action oriented. Wants to see vibrancy included in vision statement as this is as important as historic and charming character of the Village.
- Every building in the village is filled
- More interaction with people in the Village
- Current vision statement doesn't get to the idea of 'community'. It doesn't express that we want to create a place for people who live here. Statement must convey that sense of community better.
- Address 'spirit' of community and instill this in each person in the village
- Add in thought that we want more people around more often – not just at certain events. We want sustained daily activity and infrastructure that is constant (not always event oriented)

Appendix D: Additional Information

GreenLITES

In order to help minimize impacts to the environment, including the depletion of irreplaceable resources, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is implementing GreenLITES - a transportation environmental sustainability rating program. GreenLITES stands for Green Leadership In Transportation Environmental Sustainability. It is a self-certification program that recognizes transportation projects and operations that incorporate sustainable choices. GreenLITES is primarily an internal management program for NYSDOT to measure its performance, recognize good practices, and identify where improvements can be made.

More information, and a handout describing the program, can be found on the DOT website at:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/greenlites>.

Climate Smart Communities

The Climate Smart Communities Certification (CSC) program provides a framework for local governments to guide their climate action progress, and enables high-performing communities to achieve recognition for their leadership. The certification program is designed around ten pledge elements and recognizes communities for their accomplishments through a rating system leading to four levels of award: Certified, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The ten pledge elements are:

- Pledge to be a Climate Smart Community.
- Set goals, inventory emissions, and plan for climate action.
- Decrease community energy use.
- Increase community use of renewable energy.
- Realize benefits of recycling and other climate-smart solid waste management practices.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through use of climate-smart land-use tools.
- Enhance community resilience and prepare for the effects of climate change.
- Support development of a green innovation economy.
- Inform and inspire the public.
- Commit to an evolving process of climate action.

More information can be found on the Climate Smart Communities web page at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html>

Complete Street

Complete Streets is a nationwide movement launched by the National Complete Streets Coalition in 2004. The Coalition promotes the development and implementation of policies and professional practices that ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments. Complete Streets

integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of transportation networks.

A Complete Streets policy is a commitment that all future transportation projects will take into account the needs of everyone using the road. The day-to-day decisions a transportation agency and community leaders make in funding, planning, design, maintenance, and operations should be aligned to the goals of that adopted policy document. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

More information can be found on the Complete Streets website at:

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets>