

SECTION 5 - COMMUNITY VISION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The vision for the Town of Italy is to preserve and protect its present rural character, natural resources, and quality of life. To that end, the following recommendations, based on extensive citizen input through the public meetings and survey, are suggested.

5.1 Recreation and Natural Resources

Recreation

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 1: The town support actions to attract sportsmen and women and support the protection of greenspaces for sustainable future outdoor recreational pursuits. Related small business opportunities could include bed and breakfasts, hostels, horseback riding, gunsmithing, guiding, shuttle service, campgrounds, and retail stores catering to an outdoor sports market.

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 2: The town sponsor, to the ability it is able, full enjoyment of the town's resources by its residents. Examples of this might include summer youth programming with an outdoor focus, guided hikes, or municipal sports leagues. It is further recommended that the Town of Italy disseminate information about available public land and its recreational opportunities through an information kiosk.

Agriculture and Forestry

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 3: The town foster sustainable forestry practices in keeping with local and state forestry codes.

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 4: In keeping with the high value residents of the Town of Italy place on agriculture, the residents strong desire to preserve agricultural areas, and in the greater interest of securing safe, local food production, the town support the following agricultural activities in whatever manner is appropriate:

- *Pasture based* livestock businesses, such as cattle, sheep, horses, goats, etc.
- Sustainable farm practices, including organic methods.
- Small scale poultry production.
- Maple sugar production

Water

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 5: The water resources in the Town are very important for its continued vitality. All residents depend on wells for their drinking water, and the amenities of West River, Naples Creek, and Canandaigua Lake are valuable amenities for residents and are crucial components of the increasing tourism economy of the entire region. Therefore, the Town should actively work with relevant organizations to protect water quality, including the consideration of appropriate new ordinances to help achieve this objective.

Other Natural Resources

Recreation and Natural Resources Recommendation 6: These resources should be explored and used in such a way as to not adversely affect or endanger the soils, water, air, forests, or views. It is further recommended that other natural resources, such as wind energy, be explored with the same considerations.

July 2005 Amendment: *From the time of the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan in 2004 to July 2005, the Zoning Commission explored the issue of wind energy as a possibility for the Town of Italy. A great amount of information was collected and studied, including reviews of:*

- *existing and proposed wind farms*
- *turbine manufacturers' specifications*
- *governmental agency and non-governmental organization research on wind farms*

This was conducted in order to assess the advantages and disadvantages that might occur with an industrial project of this type. At the completion of this extensive research, it was determined that an industrial wind farm would not be compatible with the goals or visions of the residents as documented in this Comprehensive Plan.

5.2 Land Use

Land Use Recommendation 1: Establish Zoning. The Town will work, through the Italy Zoning Commission and with assistance from Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, on developing and adopting a zoning ordinance that takes into consideration the need to allow for appropriate development, identify inappropriate land uses, reinforce the existing character of the town, and protect natural land and water resources.

July 2005 Amendment: Land Use Recommendation 2: *Adopt a Scenic Protection Overlay District. The Zoning Commission will incorporate unique scenic viewsheds and scenic areas as listed in the Yates County Looking Ahead document, prepared in 1990 under the auspices of the Yates County Land Use Review Board. Protecting the viewsheds and scenic areas as identified will help protect sensitive environmental areas within the Town. See the Scenic Viewshed and Scenic District Map in the Appendix to this Comprehensive Plan, Page A12.*

5.3 Population and Housing

Population and Housing Recommendation 1: Future housing proposals should be considered and reviewed with an eye toward preserving the natural landscape and rural character of the Town of Italy.

Population and Housing Recommendation 2: Codes should be fairly and effectively enforced to address unkempt properties, identified as a need in the survey.

5.4 Services

Services Recommendation 1: The Town should continue to work with relevant organizations and agencies to monitor existing on-site waste water treatment (septic) systems and enforce the proper regulations for new systems. This is especially critical in sensitive or higher-density residential areas such as the Canandaigua Lake shoreline area (Sunnyside) and Italy Valley (the hamlet).

Services Recommendation 2: The Town should inventory and identify all first responder/emergency service providers with a goal of developing coordinated, comprehensive fire, emergency medical, and law enforcement services.

Services Recommendation 3: The Town, through its Highway Department should inventory all roads and parcels (Town Hall grounds, cemeteries, etc.) that it is responsible for. The current state of this infrastructure should be noted and an operation and management plan developed. Particular attention should be paid to issues of un-paved roads, private roads, and emergency access issues, so that the Town can address these issues in a knowledgeable and orderly fashion.

5.5 Community Organizations, Institutions, and Government

Community Organizations, Institutions, and Government Recommendation 1: The 2004 Survey results indicate a strong desire on the part of residents to preserve historic structures and sites. Consequently, the town should support the preservation of these structures and sites.

5.6 Economy

Economy Recommendation 1: Economic development efforts should be in the concert with the rural character of the Town of Italy. The town should to the extent that it is able, support the small-scale, home-based, businesses as reflected in the 2004 Town Survey.

Recommendations for Implementation

It is recommended that the Italy Town Board appoint, at its discretion, regular or special purpose (ad hoc) committees to review and develop specific actions to be undertaken by the Town to encourage the implementation of the Town's vision as laid out in this Comprehensive Plan document.