



Public Workshop

Town of York Comprehensive Plan Update

January 31, 2024

York Smart Growth Plan Update



The Town of York worked with Livingston County Planning to secure a grant from the NYSDOS Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan program. A steering committee was established led by Scott Hulburt.

CC Environment teamed with Labella were selected to work with the Town to develop the plan. **Here we are!**



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Agenda

6:30 PM Presentation

- Workshop Purpose: Your input!
- Why Plan?: Value, Purpose, Process
- What is Smart Growth?
- Town of York - Highlights

6:45 PM Interactive Session

- Breakout Activity: Upside, Downside, Inside, Out
- First Prize Drawing, Break, Refreshments
- Poster Session

8:00 PM End of Workshop

8:30 PM Doors Close





Why Plan?

- Develop a vision for the future
- Fairness and efficiency
- Understand issues and priorities
- Prevent or address conflicts
- Develop community capacity
- **Because everything is connected**
- **Because everything changes...**

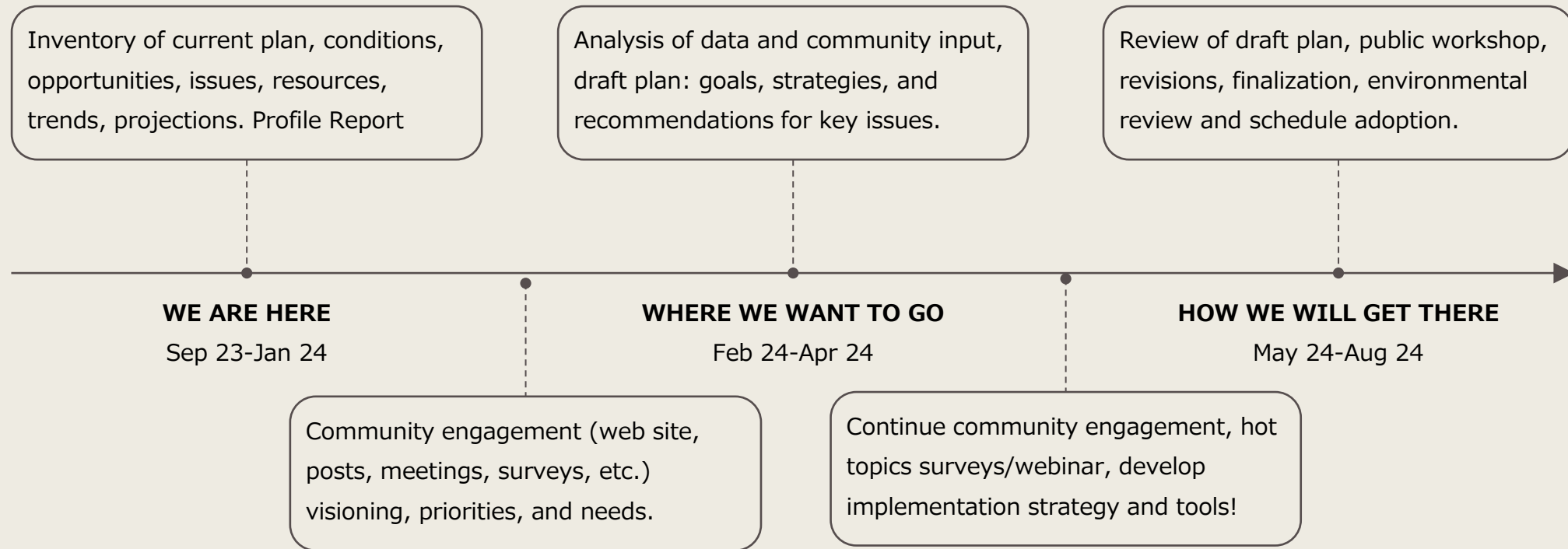
Benefits of a Comp Plan (update)

1. The process itself
2. Clarity about issues/opportunities
3. Community participation
4. Vision and a plan of action
5. Proactive adaptation to change
6. Support for municipal leaders
7. Facilitates effective regulations
8. Charts a course for the future!





Process / Timeline



What is Smart Growth?

An approach to community planning & development that integrates Economy, Equity, Environment, and Energy.



Smart Growth Planning Principles include:

- Open space protection
- Mixed/sustainable land use
- Range of housing opportunities
- Distinct communities with a strong sense of place
- Variety of transportation options
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Development of existing community centers
- Equity/environmental justice
- Green infrastructure
- Historic preservation
- Safe, accessible, public spaces
- Community involvement

Community Engagement

Inform, Invite, Involve

1. Steering committee meetings
2. Public workshops
3. Surveys
4. Fun Facts/Webinar/Roundtables
5. Website/Plan Forum

www.yorkcomprehensiveplan.com

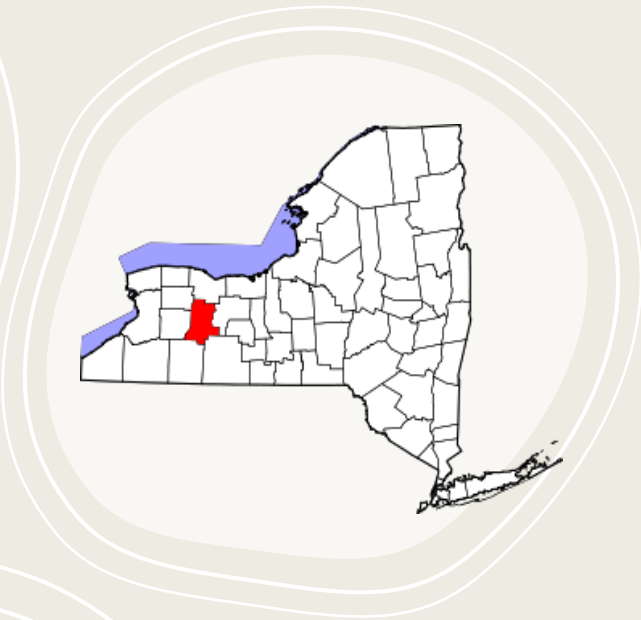




Planning for Action

The information we are collecting along with an analysis of current issues and opportunities will be combined with a community vision to create a plan for the next 10+ years. Please continue this journey with us over the next several months. Your ideas and input will make all the difference!





York Highlights!

Established:
1819

Size: Approx.
49 square miles

Population:
Approx. 3,200

Existing Comp
Plan: 2006

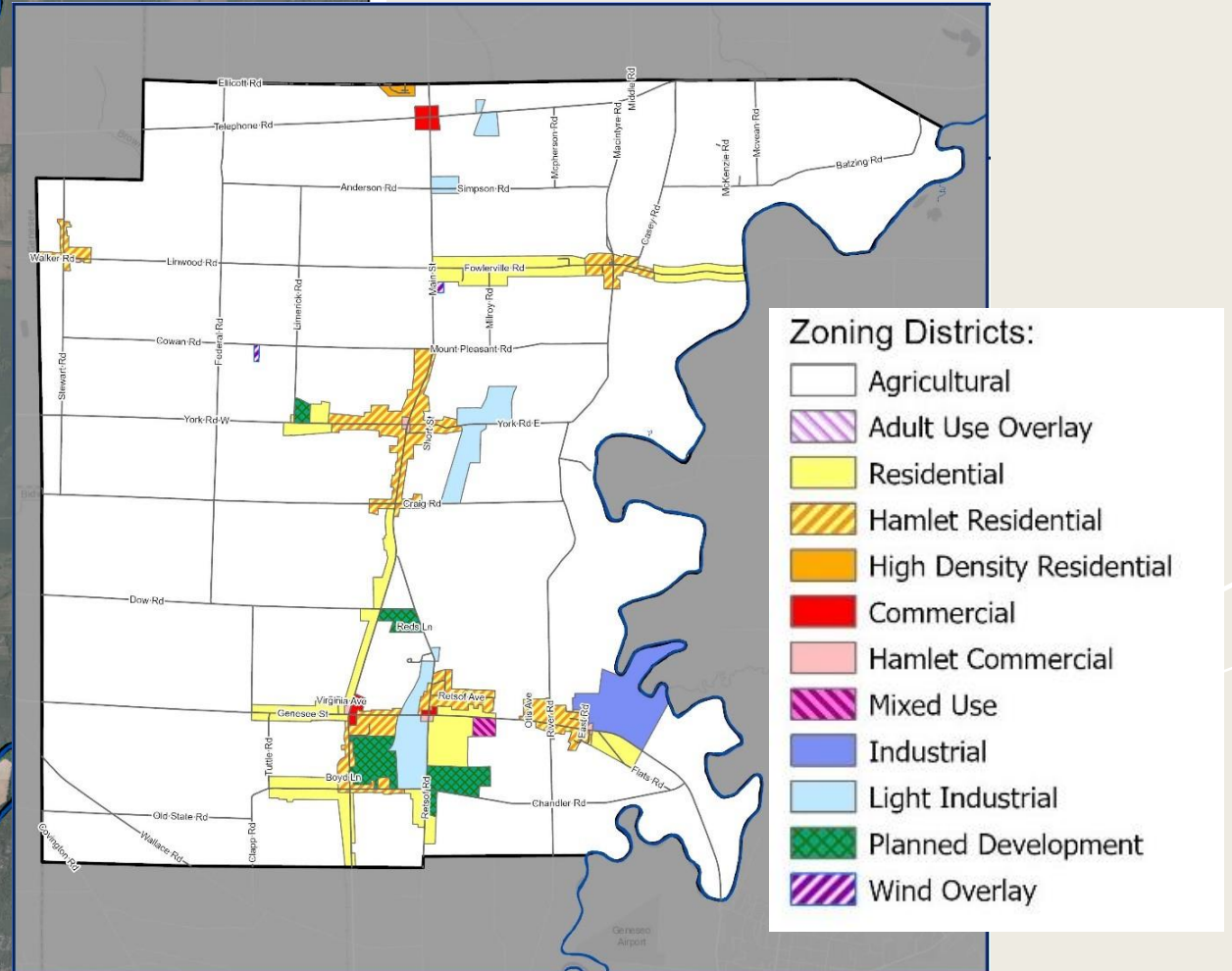
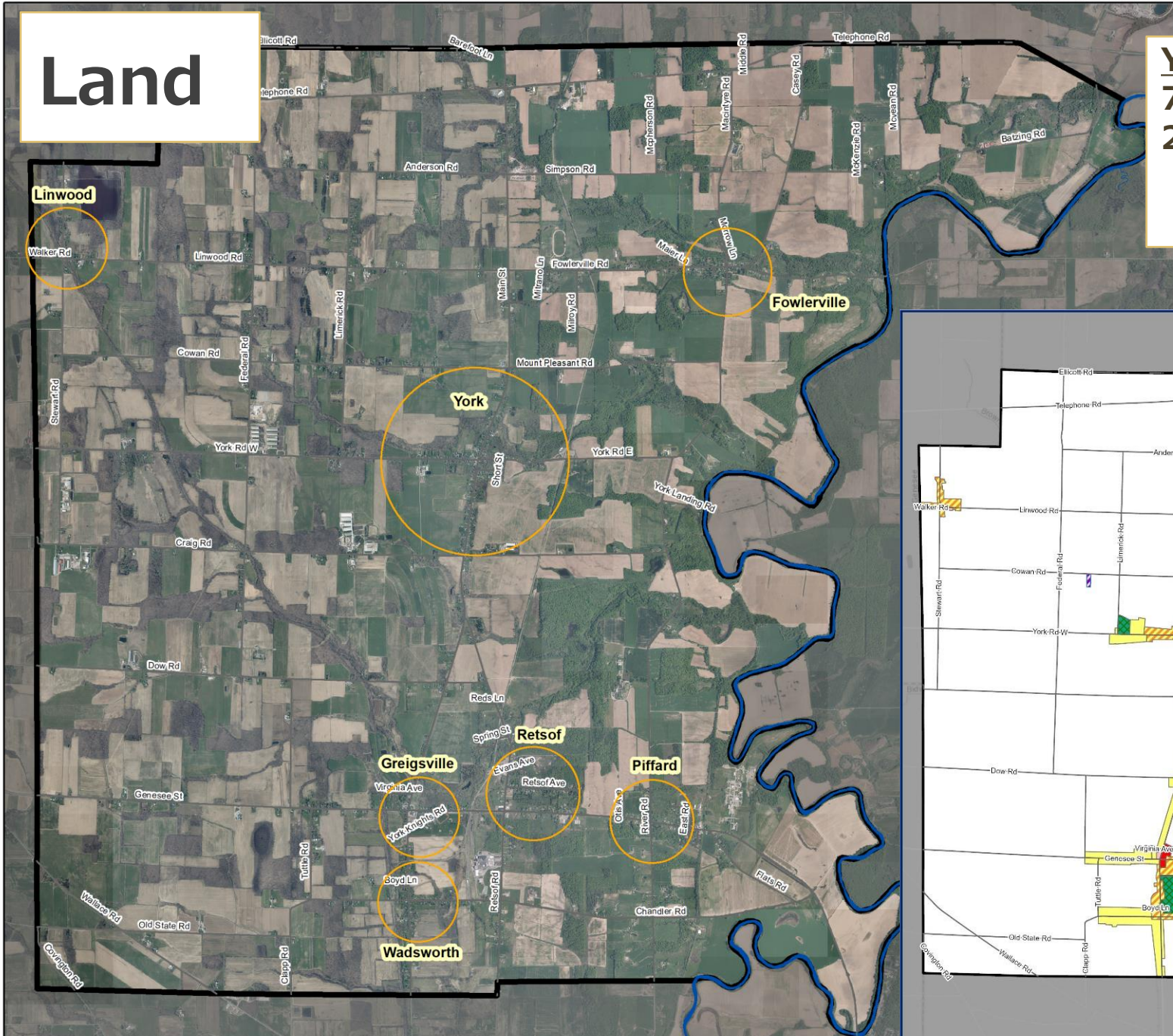
Zoning Map
Update: 2022

York Central
School District

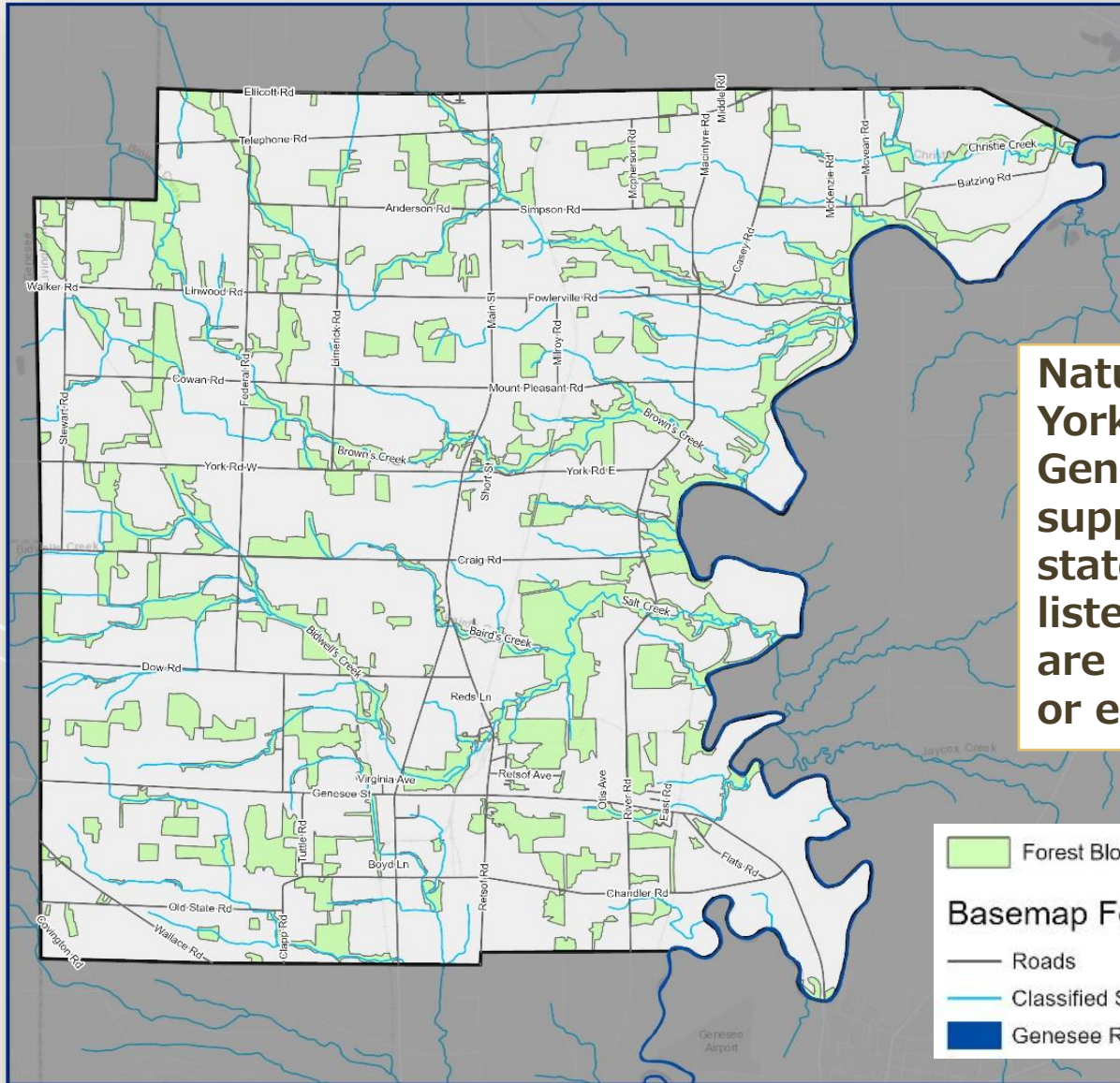


Land

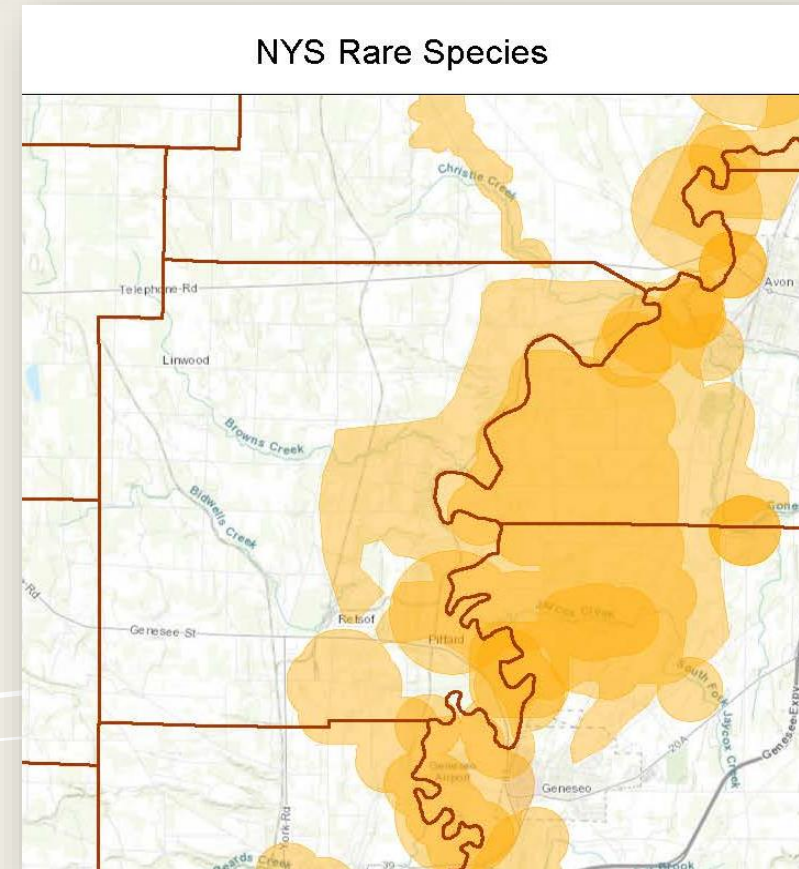
York is a rural community!
74% of land is used for agriculture
20% of land forest, wetland, streams
6% developed (low intensity)



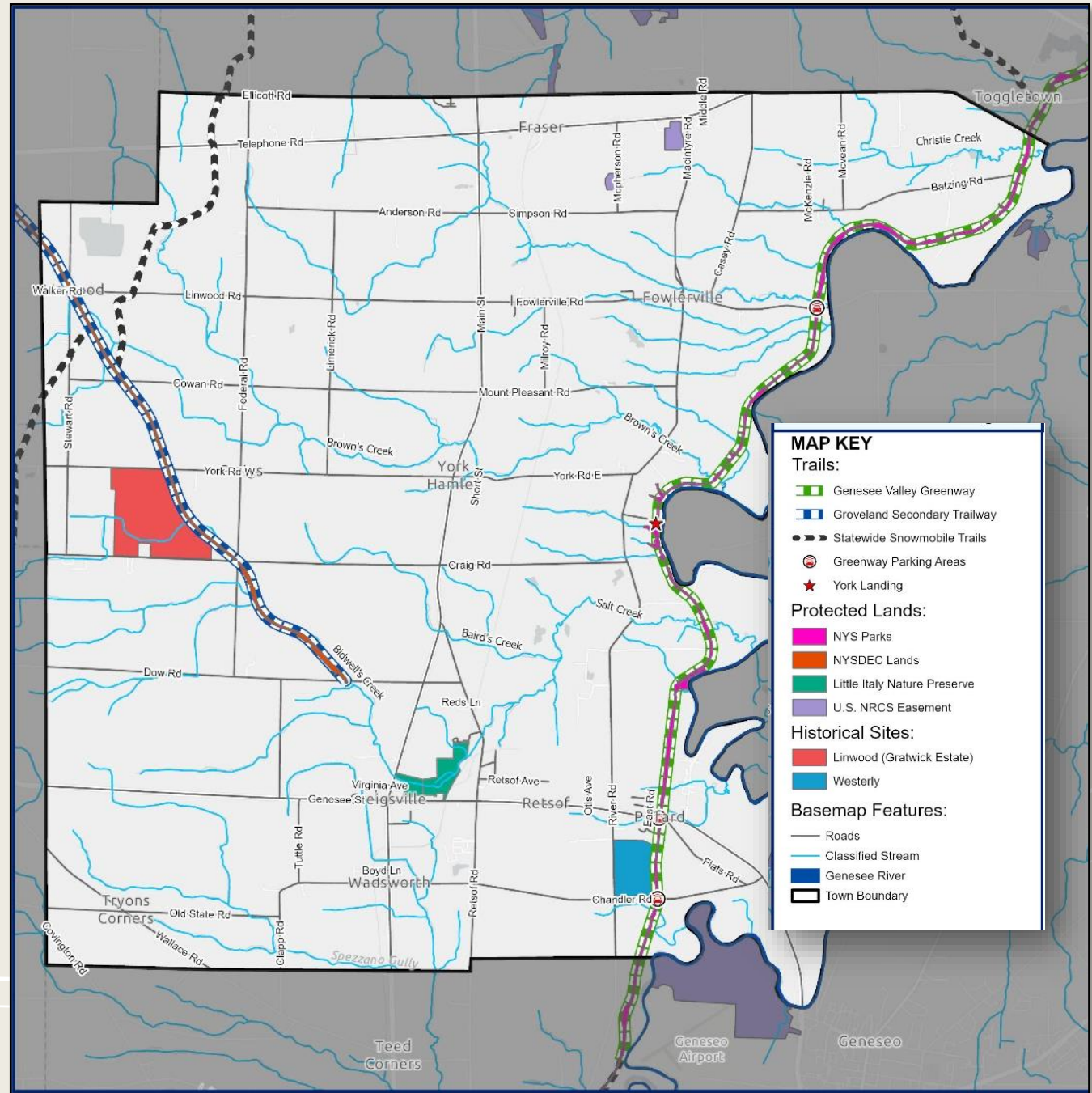
Natural Resources



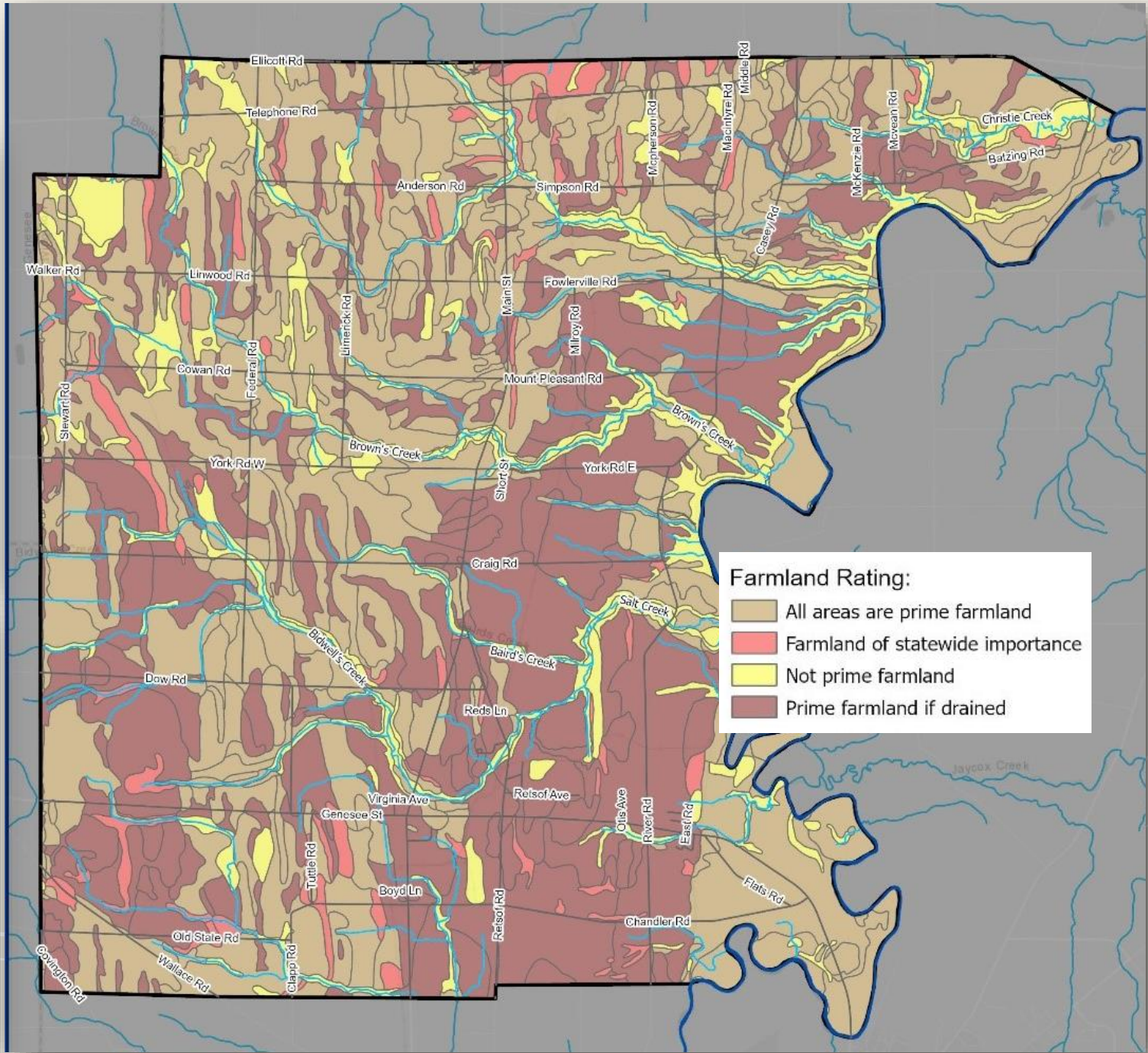
Natural areas in York including the Genesee River support several state and federal listed species that are rare, threatened or endangered.



Parks, Trails, History

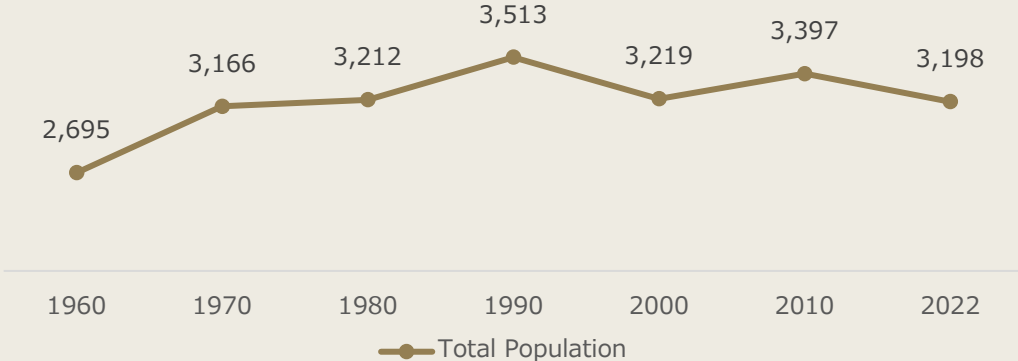


Farmland/Ag

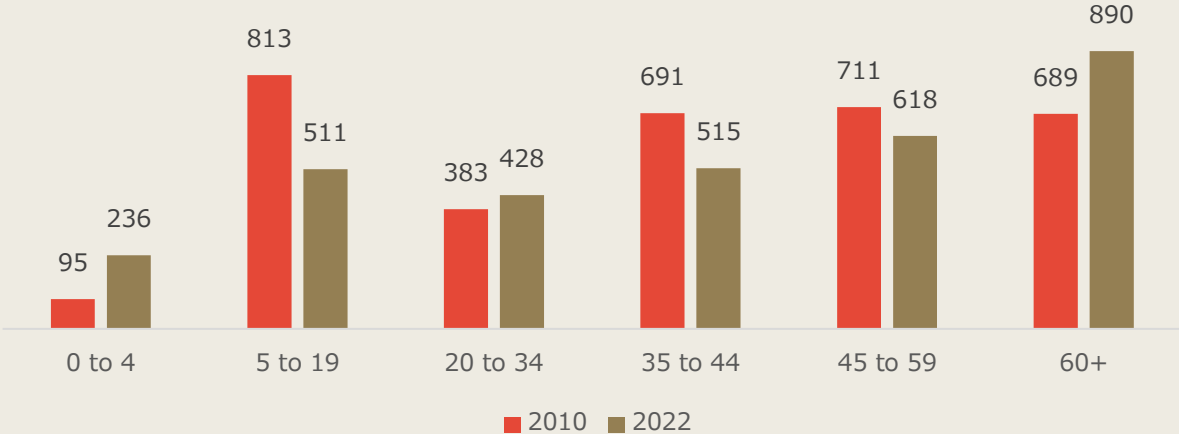


People

Total Population
1960 - 2022

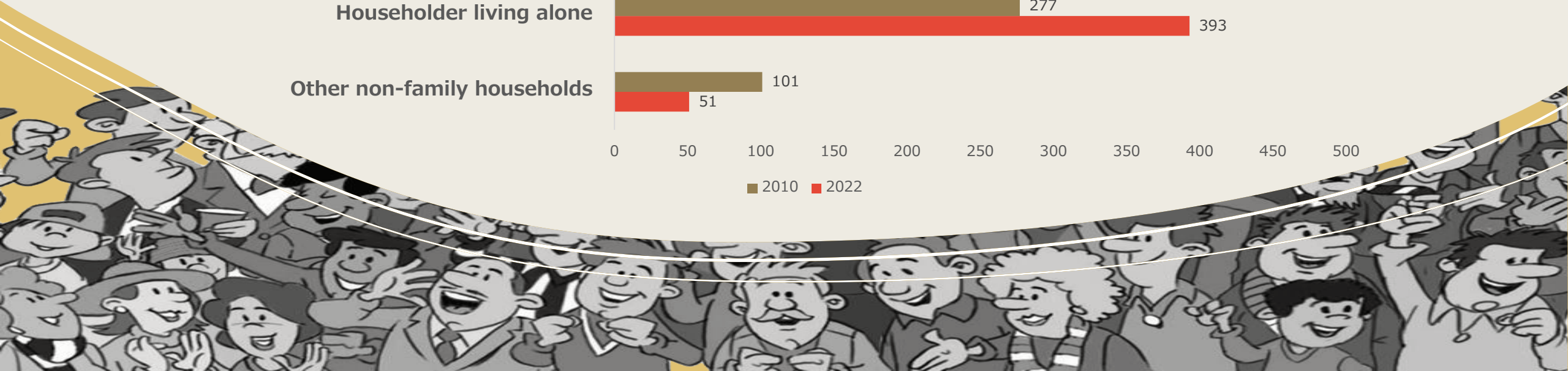
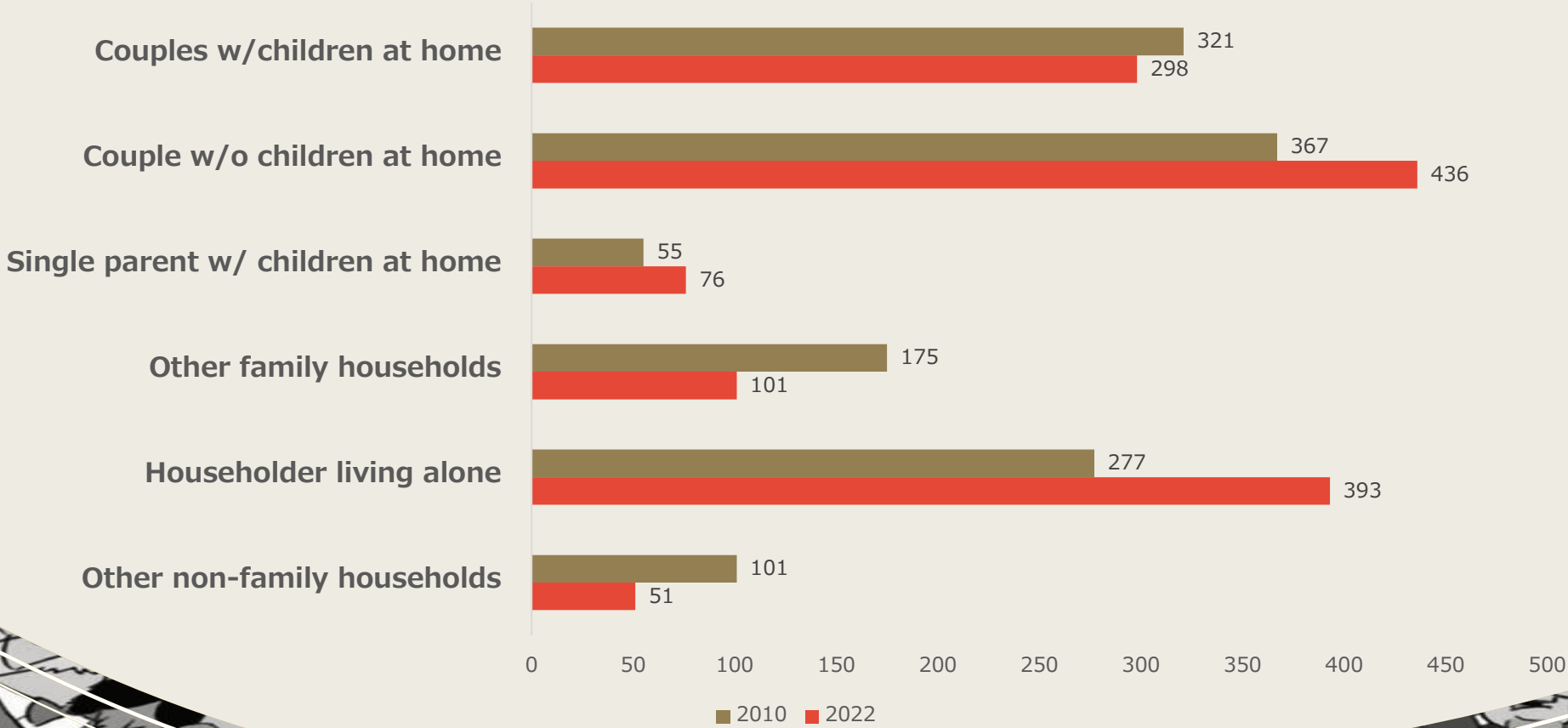


Population by Age, 2010 - 2021

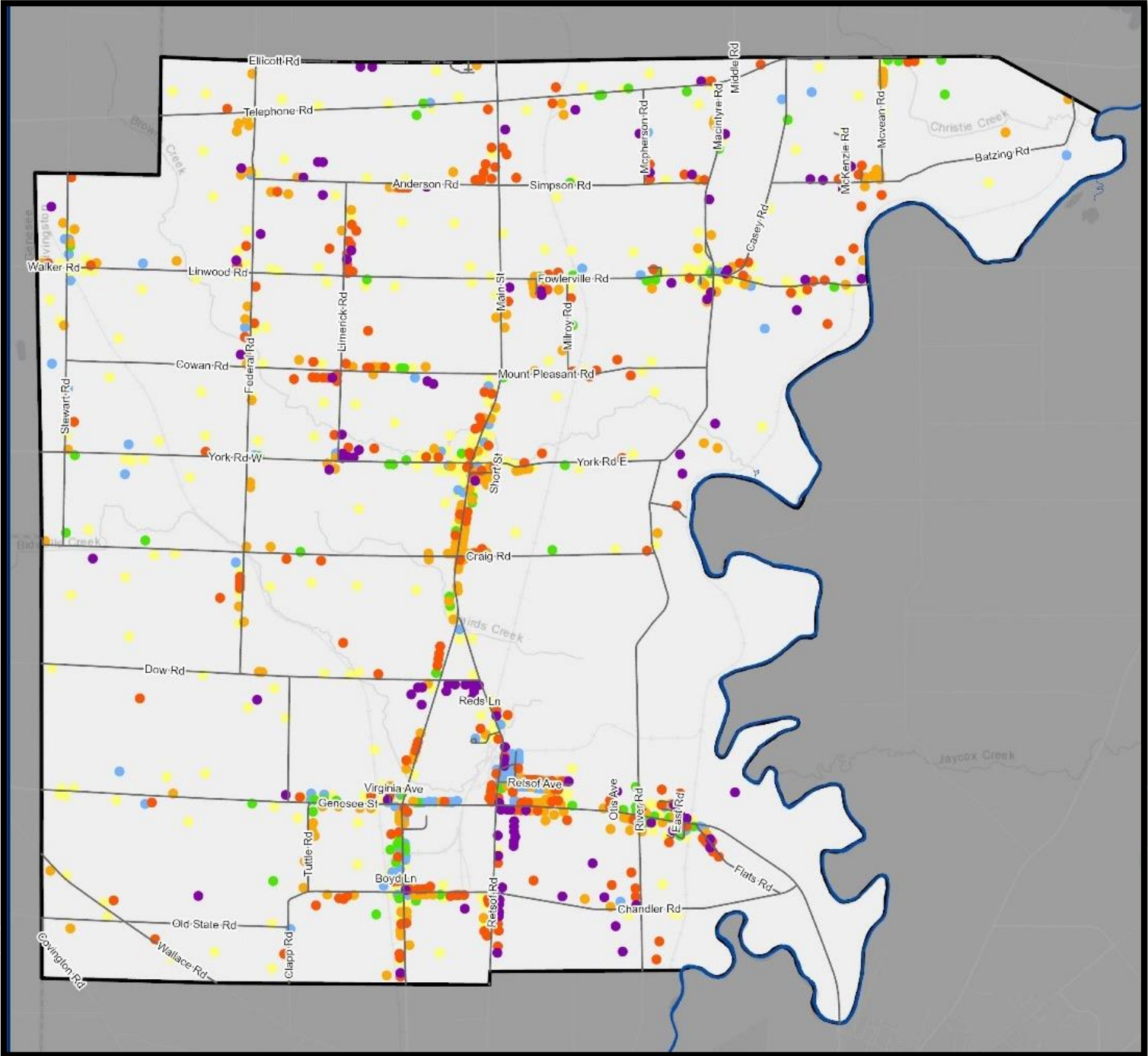


People

Household Type



Housing

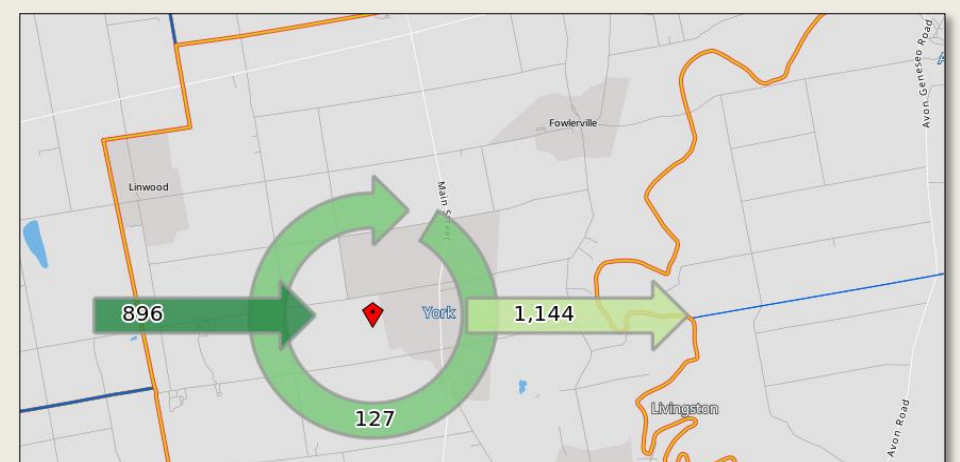


Economy and Employment

Types of employment

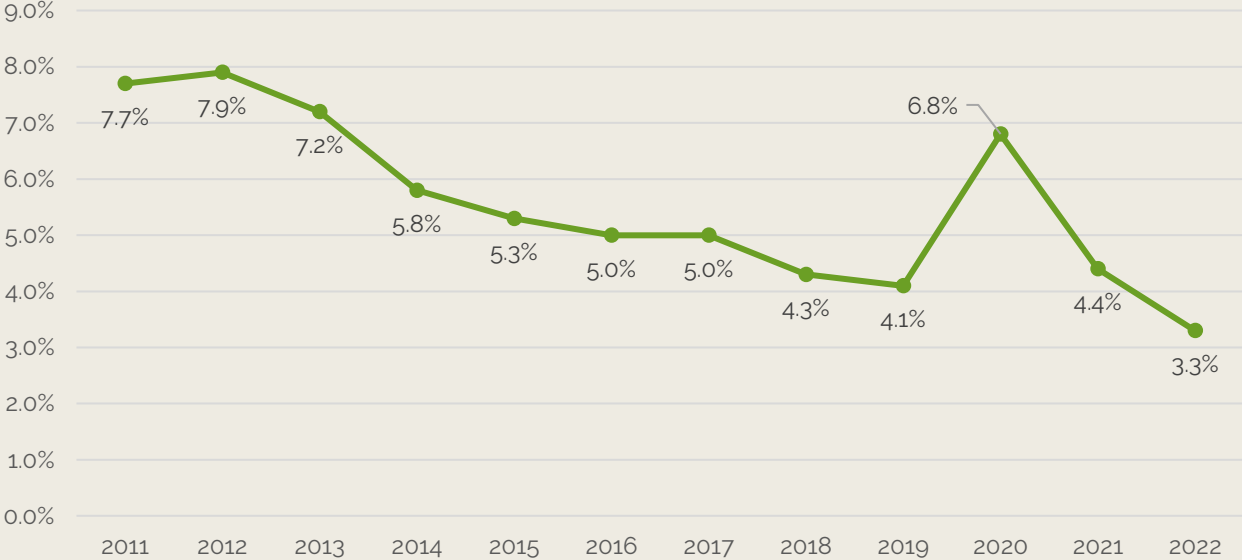


1,199 residents live in York but work elsewhere
119 residents live and work in York
724 workers work in York but live elsewhere



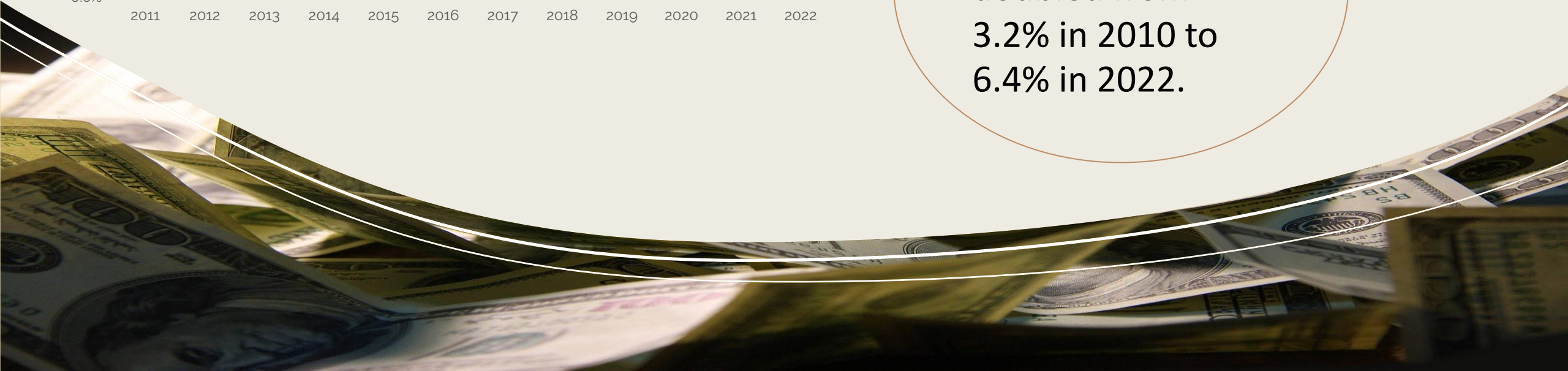
Economy and Employment

Livingston County Unemployment Rate: 2011 - 2022



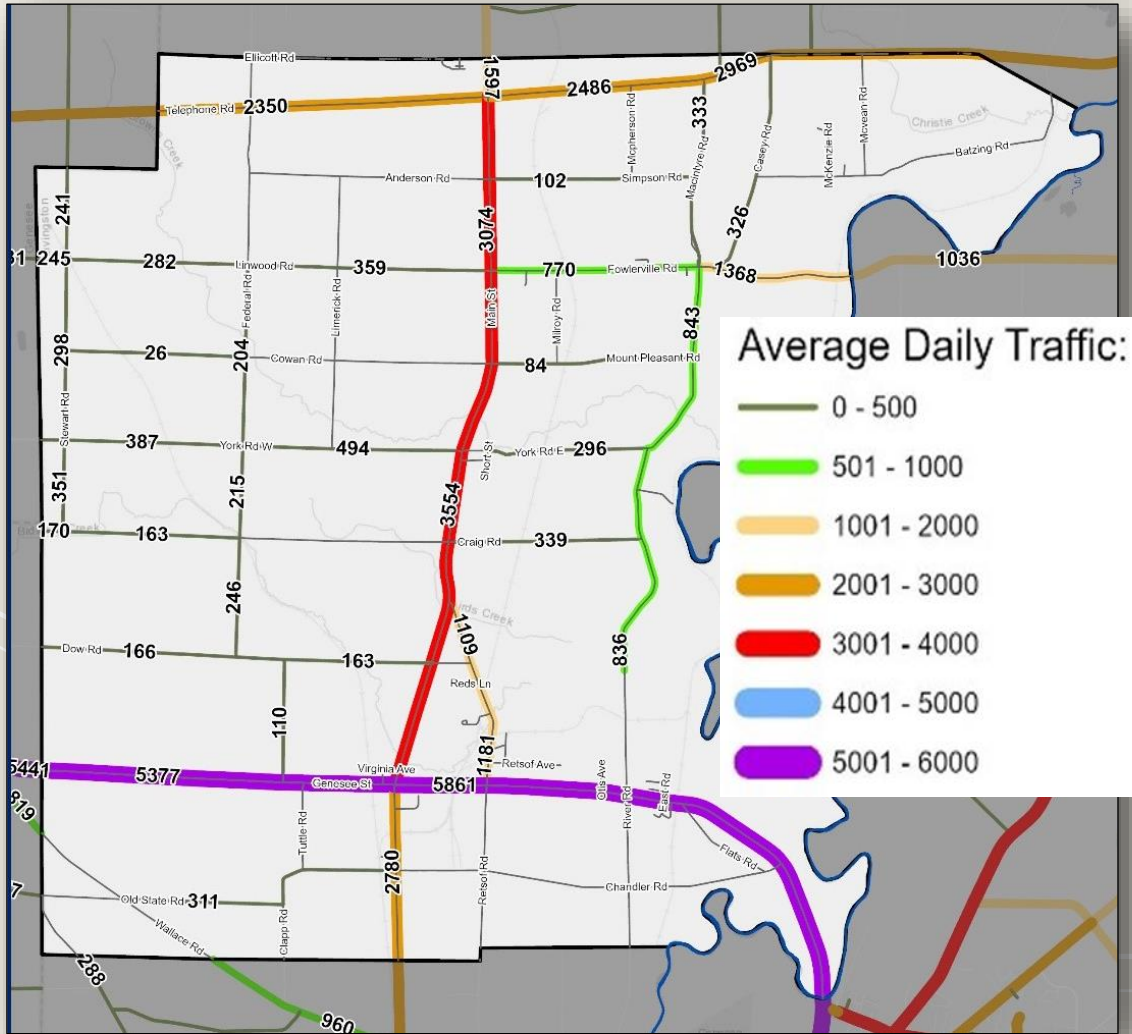
The Town of York's median income increased ~22% from \$60,000 to \$77,000 from 2010 to 2022.

The Town of York's rate of poverty doubled from 3.2% in 2010 to 6.4% in 2022.

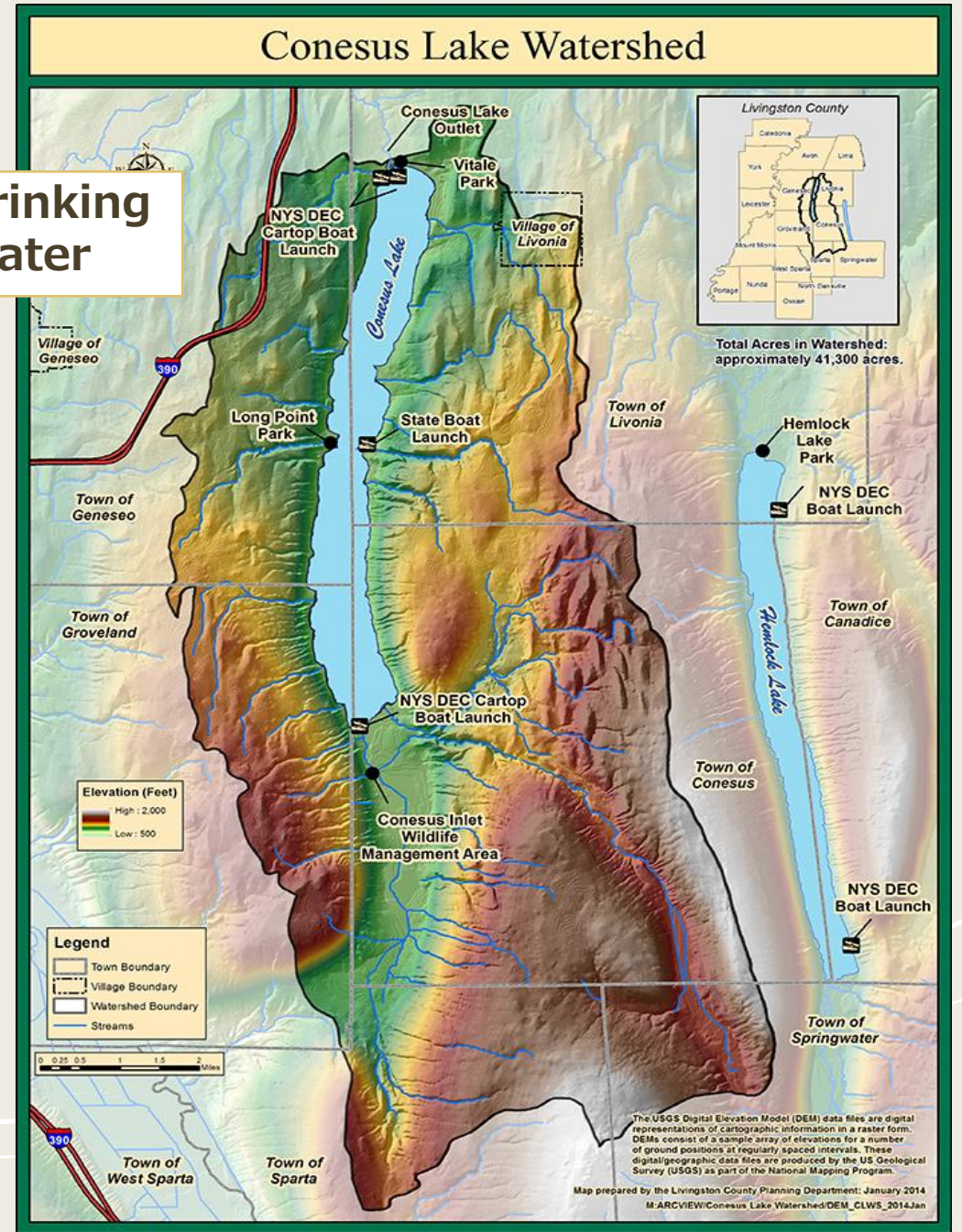


Transportation and Utilities

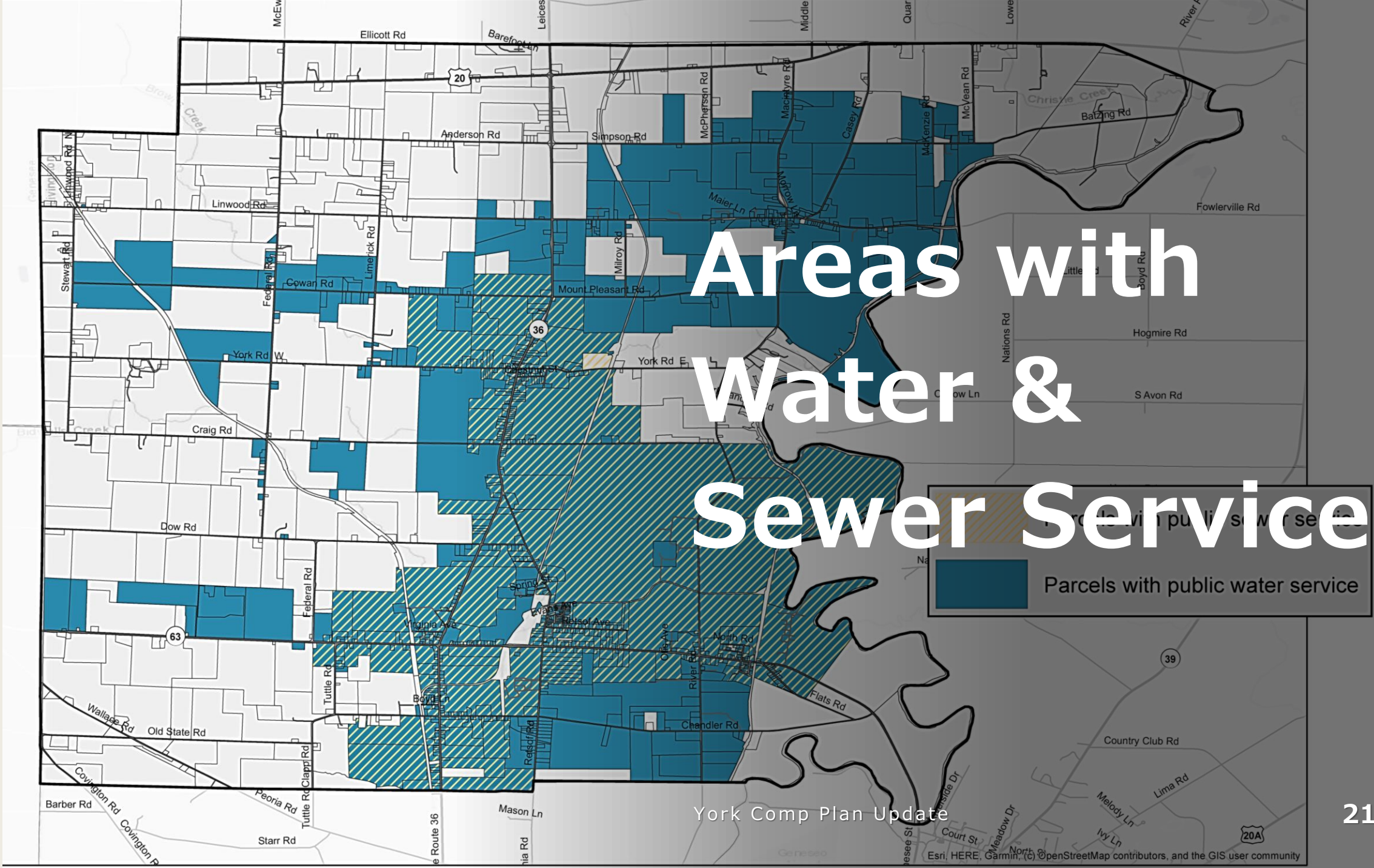
Traffic



Drinking Water



Areas with Water & Sewer Service



Parcels with public sewer service

Parcels with public water service



**The way to get started
is to quit talking and
begin doing.**

Walt Disney



Thank You

Contact: Sheila Hess

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Project Website:

www.yorkcomprehensiveplan.com

Evening Workshop Interactive Session



Q/A



Vision Exercise



Posters



Open Discussion

Upside, Downside, Inside, Out

Identify a timekeeper and a notetaker. Using just one word or a very short phrase, provide answers to the questions below. Timekeeper: Ten minutes per question. Notetaker: Record shared answers to each question and keep listing answers until time is up, prompt answers with the theme card. Note: For "INSIDE", participants record their own answers first! Participants can also use their comment sheet to write answer they did not have time to share. Be bold, creative, and have fun!

UPSIDE

What is unique, special, wonderful, strong, important, valuable, and possible about the Town of York? What are the Town's assets. What are you proud of? How might you convince someone to live here, work here, or visit?

DOWNSIDE

What is difficult, unfortunate, vulnerable, unbearable, dangerous, worrisome, annoying, or possibly looms ahead for the Town of York? What do you wish was different about living here, working here, visiting here?

INSIDE

Pause. Take a few quiet moments to visualize the most incredible, wonderful version of York in 10+ years. What do you see? Where can you go, what can you do, who is there with you? Write down (use chat) the first 3 images/ words that come to mind. Share!

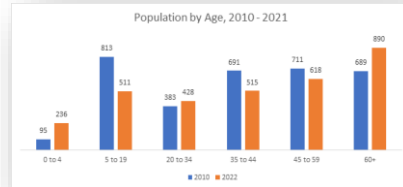
OUT

What could be? What is out there that we want to bring here? What do we have that we can build upon. What is achievable? What do we need to improve our quality of life, to meet challenges, grow, flourish, protect, sustain, adapt and to meet that vision you had a few moments ago?

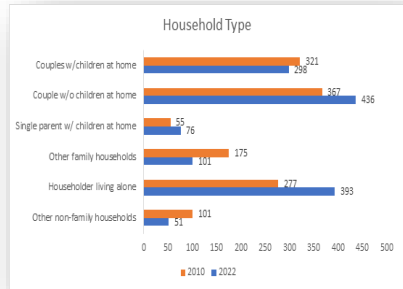
People & Housing

Current Conditions

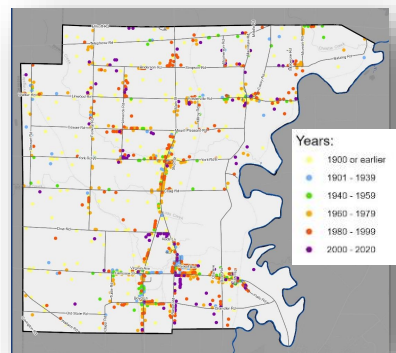
Population Trends



Household Types



Year Housing Unit Built



Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities

Smart Growth Principles:

- Provide a diversity of housing types with access to jobs, resources and amenities.
- Create walkable communities that allow diverse populations to interact more regularly, easily and safely.
- Create distinctive and attractive communities with a strong sense of place.



Issues & Opportunities:

1. Encourage additional housing that is affordable to the average resident of York. Consider accessory dwelling units and potentially apartments in commercial structures
2. Improve hamlets to make walking safer and more convenient.
3. Maintain the historic character of hamlets with a mix of business and residential uses in close proximity.
4. Improve the condition and appearance of housing and properties.

Resources and Partners: Town zoning regs, NYS Uniform Code for property regs, Livingston County Needs Assessment & Market Analysis, Housing rehabilitation grants (Genesee Valley Rural Preservation Council, NYSEDA, USDA, Community Dev Block Grant (CDBG) funds).

Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

Couldn't have said it better

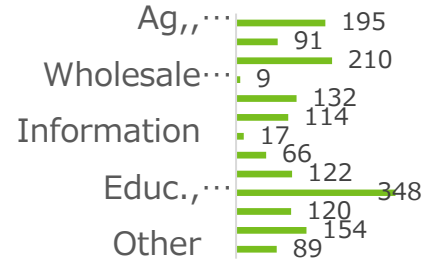
- Affordable housing for low income people
- Affordable housing that does not depreciate current housing
- Low income housing with access to services
- Apartment complex/mixed use housing for low income and seniors
- Would like to see Brock Subdivision on Retsof Rd come to a conclusion, bring up to town specs and water on line
- Need community center
- Some lower income housing/senior housing
- Consider and plan for possibility of climate migration
- Bicycle lanes/paths between hamlets and school

There is a lot of pride in each hamlet, build on that identity and pride.

Economic Vitality

Current Conditions

Industry of Employed Residents

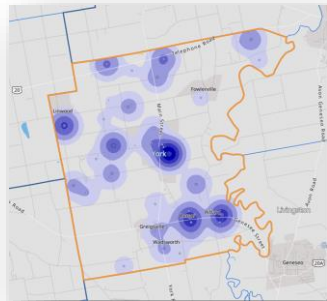


Where workers live



Locations of Jobs

1,199 residents live in York but work elsewhere
 119 residents live and work in York
 724 workers work in York but live elsewhere



Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities

Smart Growth Principles: Infill development and revitalization of municipal centers (hamlets)



Issues & Opportunities:

1. Agriculture and related businesses contribute to the Town's economy and character.
2. Growing craft beverage and other food sector businesses attract visitors and benefits local farms.
3. Sites for small businesses may be developed in the Town's historic hamlets
4. Existing businesses, including farms, craft beverages, manufacturing, mining and small retail/ service businesses, offer jobs, tax revenue and services to residents.

Resources & Partners: Town Zoning Regs.



Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

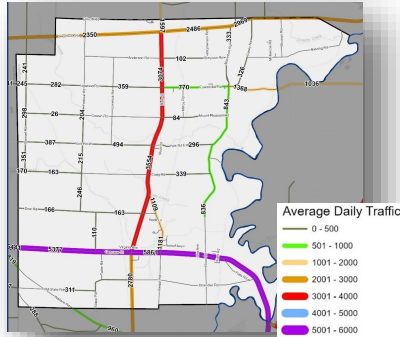
COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- Please no big box stores or fast food chains
- I second the comment above
- Sensible infill that respects historical buildings and sites and character.
- Truck stop next to school is not smart growth
- Solar – include in plan
- Invest in local businesses – no chains!
- Need more commercial zoned property
- Maker's space w health board approved kitchen
- The Town needs an intentional solar policy

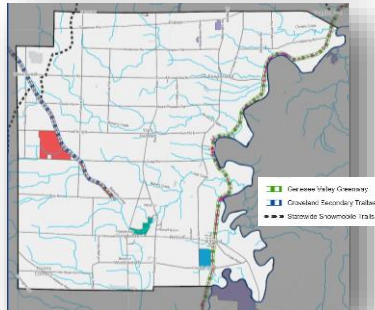
Transportation & Mobility

Current Conditions

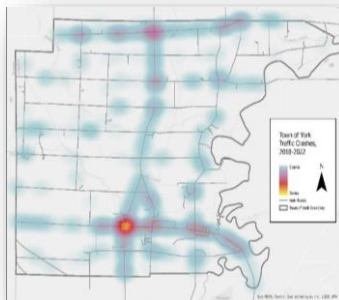
Road Traffic Volumes



Trails



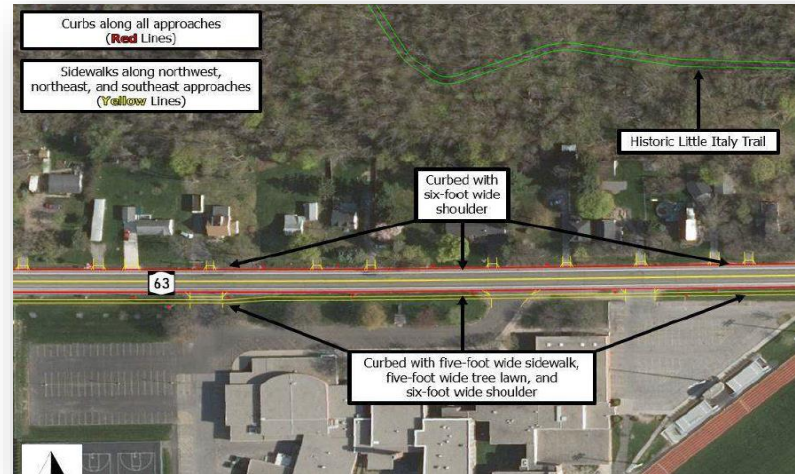
Crashes



Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities

Smart Growth Principles:

- Provide efficient/ varied mobility choices: walking, biking and public transit.
- Coordinate with other agencies to align local and regional priorities.



Issues & Opportunities:

1. Maintain roads and bridges
2. Calm traffic and improve pedestrian safety in hamlets
3. Adopt and implement "complete streets" policies.
4. Improve mobility options for bicyclists and pedestrians.
5. Improve connections with trails

Resources & Partners: Town of York Highway Dept., Greigsville Transportation Plan,



Livingston
County
Highway
Department

Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

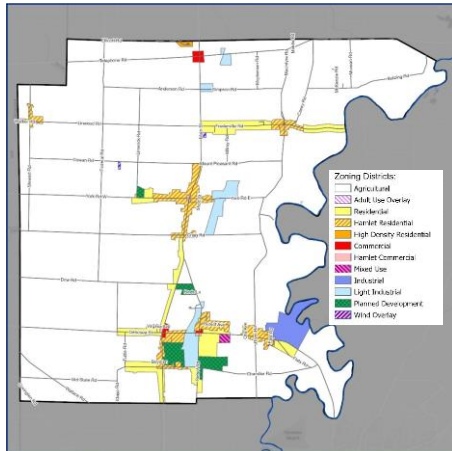
COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- YES! Connectivity and trail user services, accommodations, experiences
- Law enforcement for trucks running red lights on Rt 63
- Secondary road conditions
- Crosswalks @ school
- Follow DOT recommendations on 63/36 junction
- More sidewalks
- Bike lanes
- Make Little Italy more accessible, crosswalk and bridge across creek
- Fix Retsof Rd RR crossing NE of 63 very bumpy
- Crosswalk @ Greenway in Piffard
- Paint parking lines in York Center so visitors know you can park on street.

Zoning and Land Use

Current Conditions

A comprehensive plan/land use plan is the foundation for strong zoning regulations. Zoning consists of two parts: a map (see below) and text. The map shows how York is divided into different use districts or zones.

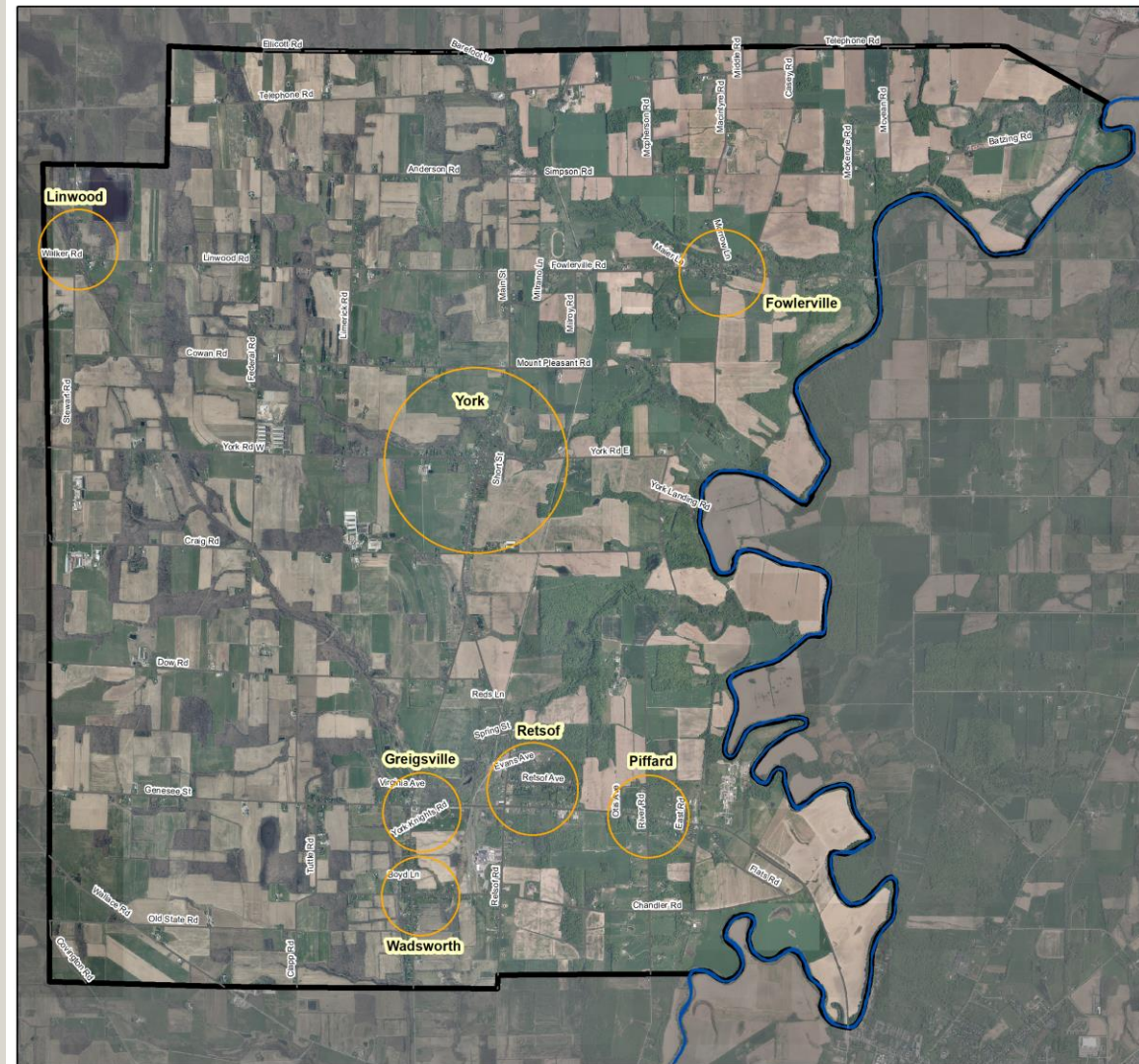


Zoning text explains the zoning rules that apply to each district including a list of land uses permitted and building standards.

How well our zoning matches up with what is actually happening on the landscape is a good indicator how well our vision, plan, and code are aligned!

The 2006 Comp Plan goal is to direct growth to hamlet areas and/or avoid impacts to natural resources and farmland. That is a key principle of Smart Growth!

Bird's Eye View



Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

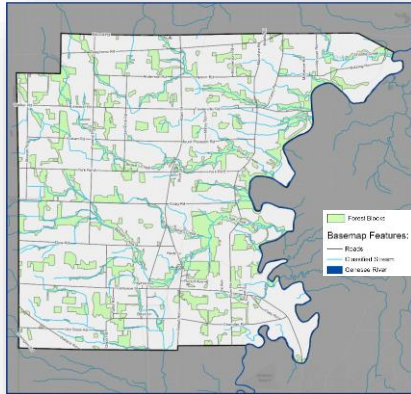
COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- *Clamp down on junkyards in town, illegal dumping (e.g. 3628 Fowlerville Rd construction dump)*
- *Preserve "viewsheds"*
- *Yes! Viewsheds!*
- *Solar policy must be well-defined and intentional*
- *Clustering commercial/industrial development is super important to avoid sprawl and create vibrant economic areas while preserving rural character*

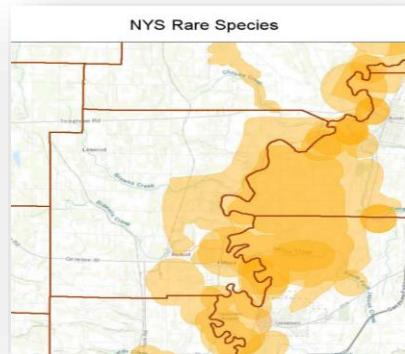
Natural Resources

Current Conditions

Forests, wetlands, and streams protect water quality, retain floodwater, prevent erosion and loss of farmland soils, and provide recreation and scenic value.



A connected network of natural cover supports diverse wildlife populations including rare species (see map below and photos to the right) along streams and the Genesee River.



Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities/ Resources

Smart Growth Principles:

Green infrastructure (connected network of forests, wetlands, streams, etc.), nature-based stormwater management, environmental



Short-eared owl (top, endangered),

Bald eagle, red-headed woodpecker, Freshwater mussels (several)

Northern harrier (bottom, threatened) species rare and declining)

monarch butterfly and northern long-eared bat

Issues & Opportunities:

1. Fragmentation of natural landscapes, erosion, and runoff of pollutants destroy habitats and impair ecosystem function, increase invasive species, and impact wildlife, recreation, and scenic resources.
2. Increase the community's awareness and appreciation of York's natural resources and how they benefit.
3. Help landowners protect forest blocks, vegetated stream buffers, and wildlife corridors along streams and the Genesee through education, information, and incentive programs.
4. Support natural resource protection and best management practices through site design guidelines, policies, zoning, and a strong site plan review process.
5. Support sustaina



Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

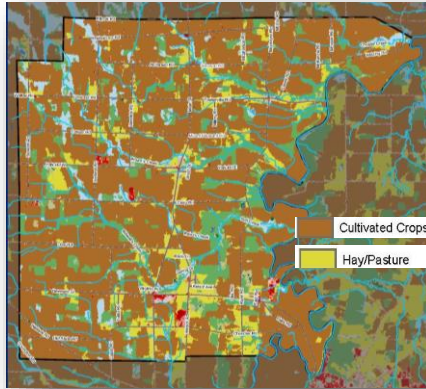
COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- More nature preserves in Town
- Conservation easements
- Support bat communities to balance wetland mosquitoes
- Put up bat houses near swampy wetlands and higher populations, towns, hamlets
- Provide incentives to farmers to increase buffers, involvement in lo or no till practices and other ecologically thoughtful agriculture
- Use solar money to protect natural resources
- Actively support our natural resources.
- Hedgerows are important, leave them up. Don't cut trees close to the river.
- Education programs could include guided walks and outings by volunteers or even local outdoor outfitters.

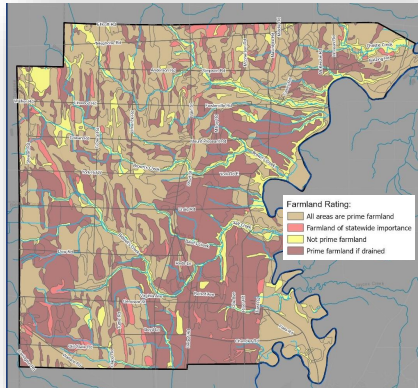
Agriculture & Farmland

Current Conditions

Most of the Town's land area is in agricultural use



Most of the soils are prime farmland or prime if drained



Farms, food and beverage manufacturing and agri-tourism are major economic drivers for Town and County

Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities

Smart Growth Principle: Retain farmland and direct development to designated centers.



Donnan Farms (source: donnanfarms.com Facebook)



River Ridge Farm (Source: River Ridge)

Issues & Opportunities:

1. Encourage farmland owners to consider long-term preservation of farmland through conservation easements or purchase of development rights.
2. Support agricultural businesses through farm-friendly zoning and infrastructure policies.
3. Increase public understanding and appreciation of agriculture.
4. Encourage use of best management practices on farms to protect water quality and the environment.
5. Support value-added food and beverage manufacturing as well as agri-tourism enterprises on farms.

Resources & Partners:



Ag & Farmland Protection Board
Soil & Water Conservation District



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

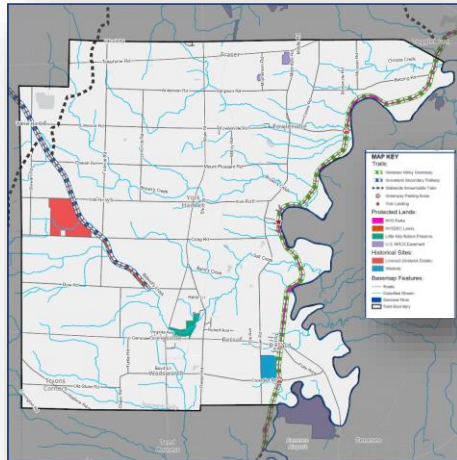
COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- Town should put up strong, data-based opinions about solar development on the record
- More sustainable, environmentally conscious farming
- Agree with the above statement to have more sustainable, environmentally conscious farming
- Control erosion and runoff
- Low till/no till farming practices
- Intentional solar policy that creates cleaner energy but protects our resources
- More fruit and vegetable production
- Are we using aqua-culture, water-grown crops?
- Agriculture is the backbone of our community, we need to support it!
- Yes! To the above statement
- Encourage no till using cover crops
- Manure management and ????
- Encourage farmland protection programs (e.g. Genesee Valley Conservancy)
- Genesee Valley Conservancy development rights
- Encourage farmers to grow different crops
- Plant trees!

Parks, Trails, and Historic Resources

Current Conditions

The Town of York has unique and valuable resources that support outdoor recreation and community culture. These are important to a community's sense of place, culture, health, resiliency, and overall quality of life.



York has over 15 miles of trail for hiking, biking, and snowmobiling. These include the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail (part of a 117-mile open space park managed by NYS Parks and the Groveland Secondary Trailway connecting York and Alexander. There are also trails at the Little Italy Nature Preserve.

Two nationally listed historic properties in the Town include The Linwood (Gratwick Estate) and the Westerly in Piffard.

Smart Growth Principles/ Issues & Opportunities/ Resources

Smart Growth Principles:

Protection of open space, distinct communities/sense of place, variety of transportation options; safe, accessible public spaces, historic preservation.



York Landing – Genesee Valley Greenway State Park
Source: <https://geneseeriverwatch.org/blog-2/page/2/>



Historic photo of the Summerhouse -1950s at Linwood
Source: www.linwoodgardens.org/history

Issues & Opportunities:

Correction, there is only one.

1. Currently there are no municipal-owned parks, protected lands, or community centers.
2. Develop additional trailheads, access points, and connections for existing trails. Active project: connection to Little Italy area.
3. Create additional bicycle and footpaths linking community, residential, institutional, and business districts (2006 Comp Plan).
4. Develop parks (in hamlets, at trailheads) and community resources such as pavilions, playgrounds, picnic and gathering spaces.
5. Support outdoor recreation through protection of natural areas and open space. Develop a connectivity and open space plan.
6. Link outdoor and historic resources with amenities to encourage tourism (eco and agritourism) and support York's local economy and small businesses.

Resources & Partners:



Your Thoughts!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and concerns here!

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN GREEN

- Adding G&W abandoned ROW to current trails
- Town historian needs a real office
- Building on existing trails and increasing connectivity
- Connecting trails, bike paths
- Pop up ice cream and light refreshments at York/Piffard Greenway
- Connect Greenway user services, experiences, amenities, water bottle fill stations, hospitality.
- Link the trails we have
- There is one municipal park – WHERE IS IT?

Noon Agenda

12:00 PM Presentation

- Workshop Purpose: Your input!
- Why Plan?: Value, Purpose, Process
- What is Smart Growth?
- Town of York - Highlights

12:15 PM Interactive Session

- Upside, Downside, Inside, Out

12:45 PM Discussion

1:00 PM End of Recorded Workshop



Noon Workshop Interactive Session



Q/A



Vision Exercise



Discussion



Adjourn