

STATION 3: ECONOMIC GROWTH

Expand opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship by supporting unique local businesses and innovation. Leverage Canton's central location in St. Lawrence County to create a cultural and economic center by providing quality infrastructure and technology, expanding existing businesses, and enhancing housing options to attract active community members and skilled employees.

Activity:

Place a dot next to the recommendations that you feel should be included in the Comprehensive Plan. If you have any comments or additional recommendations to add please place them on the accompanying comments board.

BUSINESS AND TAX BASE	
Promote redevelopment of existing properties and reuse of existing buildings to keep a compact development pattern and support downtown and the hamlets.	
Revitalize and strengthen the local economy by encouraging the development and redevelopment of waterfront properties into an appropriate mix of uses and densities that are compatible with the waterfront and the historic Villages of Canton and Rensselaer Falls.	
Broaden and diversify tax base by creating mixed-use zones in key locations that support a vibrant downtown core.	
Encourage economic development that builds on Canton's strengths including its history, arts and cultural resources as well as outdoor recreational resources.	
Encourage growth of unique restaurants and boutique shops beyond Main Street in the Village of Canton downtown core.	
Provide business and technology training for small business owners.	
Support recommendations of the St. Lawrence County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.	
Create opportunities to retain college graduates and soldiers transitioning out of service at Fort Drum to live and work in Canton.	
Support redevelopment of brownfield properties in the community.	
Build-out the industrial park to increase employment opportunities and attract people to Canton.	
Create opportunities to capture revenue from County employees and others utilizing the many public service agencies based in Canton	

TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

Develop tourism as an economic engine.	
Coordinate with the St. Lawrence Cornell Cooperative Extension and explore potential agri-tourism opportunities in the Canton Community.	
Partner with local chambers and businesses to promote existing recreational opportunities including golf courses, natural resources and cultural institutions as tourist destinations.	
Promote Canton as a destination for Canadian tourists.	
Expand opportunities to connect with college students and visitors by partnering with local universities.	
Highlight the various cultural destinations and events offered in Canton by partnering with organizations such as TAUNY, the County Historical Society and local community historians.	



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AGRICULTURE

Distinguish the differences in land uses of small and large-scale farm operations and update zoning to reflect those differences.	
Partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension to support value added agriculture that meets the needs of today's niche farmers.	
Expand the farmers' market to support more local farmers and increase the availability for fresh local food.	



PARTNERSHIPS

Work with SUNY Canton and St. Lawrence University to find approaches to support local businesses and entrepreneurship.	
Coordinate with the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce to support existing businesses and attract new businesses.	
Support efforts of the Canton Economic Development Office and partners to pursue projects beneficial to Canton's success.	
Establish a mechanism to coordinate regularly with local business owners to address their challenges and needs.	
Partner with the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to attract and retain businesses and industry, particularly in the Industrial Park.	

HOUSING

Inventory current housing stock and develop a comprehensive housing plan to address dilapidated structures and vacant parcels.	
Provide a diversity of quality housing options for young professionals, professors, seniors and families.	
Establish programs to assist homeowners (and potential homeowners) to invest and improve current housing stock.	
Highlight the active, unique quality of life available to Canton residents to draw new residents.	
Develop a strategy to utilize funds previously received from a NYS Department of Housing and Community Renewal HOME grant to improve and upgrade the existing housing stock through window replacement, lead paint removal, etc.	

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Partner with SUNY Canton and its Early Childhood Studies Program to develop childcare opportunities in the Canton Community.	
Explore opportunities to develop a childcare center similar to the SUNY Potsdam Childcare Center, Inc.	
Explore opportunities to partner with healthcare providers across St. Lawrence County to seek consolidation of healthcare services.	



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Provide feedback on recommendations for **business and tax base, tourism and hospitality, agriculture, housing and local partnerships.**

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