

**2015 Canton Community Action Plan  
For the Five Years 2016-2021**

**Vision**

Canton is a small college community, with a vibrant social and cultural life, a rich historic district, affordable living, the seat of county government, and beautiful recreational and natural resources. Our vision is a Canton that preserves these distinctive qualities while achieving a more robust economy with more jobs, more residents, and more visitors.

**Canton Community Action Plan (CCAP)**

The current plan is the legacy of a process started fifteen years ago. Five Pillars focus the energies of every entity in the Village and Town; municipal government, schools and colleges, businesses, health care providers, service organizations, as well as individual residents and visitors. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidelines and priorities for the community. The Pillars of the plan are:

**Pillar 1. Ensure Canton is an Attractive, Safe, Convenient, Healthy Place to Live, Learn, Work, and Play**

**Pillar 2. Support and Expand Local Business and Increase Available Jobs**

**Pillar 3. Enhance Local Government Efficiency and Encourage Civic Engagement**

**Pillar 4. Support and Promote Community Resiliency and Smart Growth Practices**

**Pillar 5. Support and Promote Tourism**

**Implementation**

In addition to the activities of the Offices of Economic and Community Development of the Village and Town, the Economic Development Consortium and the Economic Development Steering Committee the implementation of this plan will rely on the activities of all the entities involved – The Stakeholders. A list of the Stakeholders is attached.

All Stakeholder will be asked to submit their plans to be incorporated into a matrix showing the implementation plans for each Pillar and Objective. That matrix is a vital part of the plan and is a “living document”. As Stakeholders’ plans change, the matrix will be changed to reflect the latest activities in our community.

**Monitoring**

Oversight will be accomplished through the Economic Development Consortium and Economic Development Steering Committee.

Each member of the Steering Committee will be responsible for interacting with the Stakeholders to ensure the matrix reflects current activity related to the CCAP.

## **Canton Community Action Plan**

### **Pillar 1. Ensure Canton is an Attractive, Safe, Convenient, Healthy Place to Live, Learn, Work, and Play by continuing to:**

- a. Enhance housing options and promote sustainable housing options for all
- b. Update community recreational resources for all groups and all seasons
- c. Enhance wellness, healthcare, and emergency services
- d. Support local school system and community educational assets
- e. Support the implementation of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
- f. Promote the enhancement and safety of all modes of transportation including highways, railroad, pedestrian, and bicycling, including the development of a Complete Streets policy for the Village and Town
- g. Develop and execute an internal marketing plan to heighten community awareness of local opportunity and accomplishments

### **Pillar 2. Support and Expand Local Business and Increase Available Jobs by continuing to:**

- a. Cultivate opportunities for business creation and expansion
- b. Provide coordinated ways to welcome and engage new and current students, residents, and businesses
- c. Address infrastructure needs for business creation and expansion in a sustainable manner
- d. Develop alternative financial options for businesses
- e. Encourage and support ongoing community beautification efforts
- f. Develop and maintain an external marketing plan aimed at attracting new talent, businesses, and residents
- g. Support the Implementation of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
- h. Support and encourage entrepreneurship

### **Pillar 3. Enhance Local Government Efficiency and Encourage Civic Engagement by Continuing to:**

- a. Initiate and engage in local and regional planning and partnership
- b. Review and update zoning and planning codes and regulations
- c. Develop and maintain a Comprehensive Plan that incorporates objectives from all five Pillars
- d. Explore shared services
- e. Encourage community service

**Pillar 4. Support and Promote Community Resiliency and Smart Growth Practices by Continuing to:**

- a. Develop, maintain, and implement a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) addressing food, energy, housing, transportation, waste, climate change, and natural resources
- b. Implement the Local Food, Local Places project to support local food production, distribution, and access to local healthy food for all
- c. Explore and implement resource conservation including alternative energy sources

**Pillar 5. Support and Promote Tourism**

- a. Expand tourism-related infrastructure, including lodging, dining, and facilities
- b. Promote and develop Canton-based events and community resources, including arts, culture, sports and recreation
- c. Preserve and increase appreciation and utilization of natural resources within the community
- d. Develop and maximize impact of Grasse River waterfront
- e. Enhance marketing and promotion of Canton as a tourist destination
- f. Incorporate the entire region, including our Canadian neighbors and the Adirondack North Country, in the tourism plans

## **Stakeholders to Develop Action Plans**

- Village and Town Departments
- Village and Town Committees
- Municipal Advisory Committees
  - Tree Committee
  - Sustainability Committee
  - Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Village, Town and County Planning Boards
- Canton Bicycle Club
- Canton Canoe Weekend
- Canton Central School District
- Canton Chamber of Commerce
- Canton Day Care Center
- Canton Farmers' Market
- Canton Free Library
- Canton Merchants Association
- Church and Community Program
- Churches
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County
- Deep Root Center for Self-Directed Learning
- Friends of Canton Trails Committee
- Garden Club
- Grasse River Heritage Development Cooperation
- Little River School
- Local Living Venture
- Local Businesses
- Local Realtors
- Remington Arts Festival
- Service Organizations
- SLC Chamber of Commerce
- SLC Historical Association
- SLC Housing Council
- SLC Industrial Development Agency
- SLC Office of the Aging
- Sparx
- St. Lawrence Health System/Canton Potsdam Hospital
- St. Lawrence Land Trust
- St. Lawrence University
- St. Mary's School
- STOMP Festival
- SUNY Canton
- Traditional Arts of Upstate New York (TAUNY)
- United Helpers