



Appendix E

Review of Past Planning Initiatives

**East
Greenbush**

Our Vision. Our Community.





PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

The Town of East Greenbush has completed and is working on a series of planning efforts that support revitalization and community growth. A summary of each relevant plan follows below.

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE (1993)

The primary purpose of the Town of East Greenbush Comprehensive Development Plan Update is to establish the general goals and policies to be used in guiding future development in the Town over the next 10 to 15 years. The update relied on much of the information contained within the 1970 Comprehensive Development Plan.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Identify, protect, preserve, and enhance those places, sites, and buildings which are of unique character or of special interest to the Town of East Greenbush.
- Foster harmonious orderly and compatible physical development within the Town of East Greenbush.
- Establish the west entry on Routes 9 and 20 as the gateway to the Town of East Greenbush and re-establish eastern entrance or gateway to the Town.
- Preserve the environmentally sensitive areas along the Hudson River.

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2002)

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designated to develop a future use and expansion of the town parks and recreation system. The plan observes current conditions of the parks and recreation areas and defines short to long-term goals. With achievable goals that coincide with the town's visions the plan gives some generalized recommendations.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Continue to maintain the current parks and recreation areas.
- Use the parks as areas that preserve the environment.
- Create a safe network that would connect the parks for easy access by pedestrians.

NYS ROUTE 151 CORRIDOR STUDY (2004)

The study was conducted in 2003 and came out in 2004 with assistance from the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC). The purpose of the study was to determine key actions that provide safety to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular mobility. The focus on reducing vehicular congestion on Route 151 during rush hour. With further attention to pedestrian safety between Columbia High School, Public Library, and YMCA facility.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Pedestrian Access Improvements
- Bicycle Access Improvements
- Vehicular Access and Safety Improvements



TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH LAND USE PLAN UPDATE AND ZONING STUDY (2006)

This land use plan update and zoning study is focused on land use resources and produces a useful culmination of town-wide and specific area land use and zoning recommendations. It provides a summary of the existing conditions and issues pertaining to the town-wide land-use vision, as checked with the 1993 Town of East Greenbush Comprehensive Plan. This study offers a refined land use element of the comprehensive plan, as well as provides practical planning and zoning recommendations at the town-wide level and for specific focus areas.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Protect/conservate landscape views and rural character along scenic roadways.
- Develop rural design/conservation design guidelines for development in the rural areas of town to be protective of the rural character during site layout and design.
- Reutilize and ramp-up the marketing of previously developed areas and opportunities on Route 9 & 20.
- Conduct site-specific cooperative planning with landowners to redevelop key parcels on 9/20 that can act as catalysts for future redevelopment.

ROUTE 4 CORRIDOR STUDY (2006)

Route 4 corridor has seen multiple changes in past and with rising commercial space in the northern section, and residential areas in the south the increased traffic is a concern. The adverse effects of the developments are not only a concern for East Greenbush but for surrounding areas. The study was funded by CDTC's Community and Transportation Linkage Planning Program and closely linked to Land Use Plan and Zoning Study. The study looked at current conditions and traffic and future development and land use in the route 4 corridor.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Improve Route 4 over time to ensure it provides safe and efficient access for pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicles.
- Create a walkable corridor along Route 4 to develop a strong network of walkable corridors connecting surrounding neighborhoods to major destinations.

WESTERN EAST GREENBUSH FINAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (2009)

The primary purpose of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is to evaluate the cumulative impacts of growth on the Town of East Greenbush and provide suitable mitigation to minimize the affect of development. Once established, the mitigation process provides guidance to the Town during the project review process and clearly defines responsibility for developers. The resulting mitigation fees help to provide an equitable means of distributing the cost of the improvements identified in the GEIS. Developers are able to contribute to their fair share of the development impact, without carrying an unnecessary burden often associated with capital improvement costs.



ALBANY-HUDSON ELECTRIC TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY (2011)

The study was conducted by East Greenbush and neighboring towns including Schodack, Nassau and the Village of Nassau. The purpose of the study was to see the possibility of connecting the different municipalities with a multi-use recreational trail. The trail is expected to follow a historic electric trolley line owned by National Grid. The trail when finished, would extend from Rensselaer through East Greenbush to Hudson approximately 35 miles in length. Since 2011 multiple updates have come out from Albany-Hudson Electric Trail with the latest stating construction will begin in Spring 2019 and be completed in 2020.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Construction of the trail should be done in segments to get funding and support as the process advances.
- From the study no major historical or environmental obstacles impede the completion of the trail.
- It is recommended to advance Segment 2 from US route 4 to the Schodack town line as the first section of trial.

COLUMBIA TURNPIKE AND TROY ROAD CORRIDOR CONCEPT PLAN AND DESIGN GUIDELINES (2014)

The Columbia Turnpike (Route 9/20) and Troy Road (Route 4) are the Town of East Greenbush's key commercial and transportation corridors. The concept plan and guidelines are designed to be functioning plans for revitalizing the study area. Improvements would make the area a safe place for all the modes to move in conjunction, people could commute and traverse on foot, bike, bus or car.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Pedestrian and ADA compliant elements like sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, accessible pedestrian signals, and longer traffic signals.
- Bicycle elements that make the area more cyclist friendly. Bike lanes, signage, and bike racks and pavement markings would be a great start.
- Streetscape that allows for green space and impervious surfaces along with buffer zones to separate pedestrians and vehicles.
- Traffic calming and access management for improved traffic flow and safety of pedestrians.
- Transit and parking elements that allow park and ride and create a transportation hub for the area.

AN AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN FOR RENSSELAER COUNTY (2015)

Originally adopted in 2001 and updated in 2015, the mission of the plan is to support, preserve, and enhance Rensselaer County's agricultural industry. With funding from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council multiple agencies came together to create the plan update. Groups that provided aid in completion were Rensselaer County



Economic Development & Planning, Rensselaer County Cooperative Extension, Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Farm Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stewardship Association.

Relevant Recommendations:

- Provide tax easements for active farmland to provide incentives to the agriculture community.
- Pursue grant funds for agribusiness development and farmland protection.
- Create a website and use social media to provide information on sales, business development, employment, and opportunities for farmers.
- Give elected officials information of farmers needs and tax base impacts.
- Maintain training regiments for tax assessors to ensure consistent standards are used in assessing farmland and structures.
- Provide information to the public on the dangers of trespassing on farmland.
- Encourage local schools to host gardens for the students to learn how food is grown and harvested.
- Provide farm owners with applicable information on Agricultural Assessment.
- Advertise effectively the importance of farmland and its benefits to the community especially tailored to non-farmers.
- Encourage the area to ensure roads and bridges comply with farm vehicle standards.

THE TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH AMENITIES PLAN (2012-2017)

The Amenities Plan was designed to create an atmosphere in East Greenbush of a healthy, attractive and fun place to live. These factors would bring in both businesses and families. Updated in 2016, with the end goal of having an overall network of parks and recreation. The plan discusses the new commercial and residential development in the town facilitating the adoption of the plan. The key areas discussed in the plan include:

- William Morris Park
- Woodland's Eckman Park
- Hampton Lake Park
- Onderdonk Memorial Park
- Ontario Park
- Prospect Heights Park
- Town Park
- Sidewalks & Bike Lanes
- Multi-Use Trails
- Nature Trails
- Columbia Turnpike
- Hudson River Waterfront
- Water Tower Property

Relevant Recommendations:

- Work in conjunction with future developments and improvements to create a town wide multi use trail system linking neighborhoods, parks and destinations.



- Start the “East Greenbush Parks Day” where park staff and volunteers come together annually to make improvements to one of the chosen town parks.
- With help from grant funding, develop the Albany-Hudson Electric Trolley line. This would be a multi-use trail that would network the town trails.
- Start the planning processes for a pedestrian path around Hampton Lake.
- Link the sections of missing sidewalk to link neighborhoods, schools and parks.
- Create a multi-use path that links the southern end of the Town Park.
- Work with property owners along the Hudson River to develop multi use trails along the river.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2018-2022)

The Town of East Greenbush lies within the four-county Capital District which includes Rensselaer, Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties. The Capital District Regional Planning Commission serves as the Federal Economic Development District for this region. As part of this district, East Greenbush is included in the Capital District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which provides strategic guidance for economic development activities in the region. The Town, therefore, is part of a regional economic context that extends beyond the Town borders.

Relevant Recommendations:

- When making decisions on planning, economic development, and infrastructure investments ensure resiliency is tied in as an important driver.
- Support the local economy to create a diversity of industries in the area.
- Continue to enhance public and private partnerships to foster communication.
- The governance structure should be trusted and transparent while engaging stakeholders including residents.
- Enhance walkability to the Columbia High School, Library, YMCA, and existing commercial buildings and properties, uses of the Fire Station and Rescue Squad.

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY (2019)

The purpose of the NRI is to identify and document naturally occurring resources located within the Town including geology and soils; water resources; habitats and wildlife; sites of cultural, historic, recreational, and scenic importance; existing land use; and climate conditions. The NRI is comprised of a series of 25 maps as well as an accompanying report with narrative descriptions, supporting data tables, and recommendations. By proactively considering the community's land and water resources, the NRI provides a foundation for comprehensive and open space planning, zoning updates, potential conservation overlay districts, identifying critical environmental areas, climate adaptation strategies, and other municipal plans and policies for the Town of East Greenbush. The NRI can also inform land stewardship and conservation in the Town.

Relevant Recommendations:

- NRI provides property owners, developers, and their consultants with information on East Greenbush's natural resources.
- Best suited for municipal scale planning but may be used as a screening tool at the site scale to raise questions or identify the need for additional site assessment.