

5. PUBLIC OPINION

A primary foundation for this Plan is the feedback gained from two-community outreach efforts.

5.1 C2000 Visioning Sessions

The original basis and support for completing a plan come from the community visioning work of Communities 2000 (C2000). Beginning in December 1997, C2000 was organized as a group of citizen volunteers working together with other regional interests. As part of their goal of assessing needs and defining goals for the community, C2000 issued an October 1999 report titled "Visioning Report: Prepared for the Communities of the West Central Adirondacks". Here hundreds of ideas were documented from the series of brainstorming sessions, interview, and organizational presentations facilitated by C2000 volunteers.

Leading recommendations from the C2000 report are grouped in a series of categories as follows:

- To Town Boards
Commission and fund town comprehensive plans.
Encourage community groups to take action to improve our region.

- Economic Development
Establish and fund a town "economic development council"
Endorse the development of a regional "alliance for economic development".

- Tourism
Maintain current tourism base. Plan for increased tourism.
Expand tourism base and services.

- Architecture
Create guidelines to enhance appearance of village and hamlets.
Maintain natural beauty of area.
Establish a regional beautification committee - Woodgate to Raquette Lake.
Encourage main street owners to preserve and restore buildings.
Recommend changes to zoning regulations.

- Quality of Life
Protect our lakes and natural resources
Strive to keep the area friendly and neighborly.
Maintain and expand emergency health care facilities.
Improve availability of indoor recreation facilities.
- Infrastructure
Improve and maintain highways. Expand sewer and water districts.
Develop needed tourism infrastructure. Create affordable housing for needed workforce.
Improve *high-speed* Internet service
and wireless communication.

5.2 SUNY-ESF COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Public outreach also included workshops organized and facilitated by landscape architecture faculty from the State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry. The purpose of these workshops was to help residents identify the leading values they had about the landscape, appearance and design of their community. Working with MPAC groups from Webb, Forestport and Inlet, the public was invited to any of a series of three evening workshops held at different locations in the region. Nearly two hundred people attended one of the three sessions.

The themes addressed in the workshops were “Special Places,” “Opportunities,” and “Route 28 / Main Street Wish List”. See Appendix for a full report on these workshops supporting the recommendations found in Chapter 6.