



WARREN COUNTY

2040

BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
WORKSHOP

June 10, 2024



PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING

- Overview of the planning process to-date
- Review key issues and opportunities
- Board feedback to help inform plan objectives & priorities

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A County Comprehensive Plan sets out to answer:

- **What are the challenges and opportunities facing us as a County?**
- **What are our shared priorities and goals?**
- **What can the County do to work towards those goals?**

GENERAL PROJECT APPROACH

We are here!



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

**THE FIRST
PHASE OF THE
PLANNING
PROCESS
FOLLOWED
6 ORGANIZING
TOPIC AREAS**



THE PLAN IS BEING LED BY A PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

Dan	Barusch	Town of Lake George
Anna	Bowers	Town of North Creek
Paul	Cummings	Town of Queensbury
Tammy	DeLorenzo	Town of Bolton
Patrick	Dowd	City of Glens Falls
Nathan	Etu	Town of Queensbury
Haley	Gilligan	City of Glens Falls
Ryan	Hutton	Town of Chester
Craig	Leggett	Town of Chester
Molly	McCarthy	Town of North Creek
Scott	Sopczyk	City of Glens Falls
Brady	Stark	Town of Queensbury

WE HAVE HEARD FROM OVER 1,000 STAKEHOLDERS

PAG MEETINGS

- Open To Public – in-person
- Meetings Regularly Scheduled and Announced
- Approx. every 1-3 months

**6 PAG Meetings
Held**

SURVEY

- Issues, Opportunities, & Vision
- Coordinated with Recreation Economy Study

**>900 Survey
Responses**

PUBLIC MEETINGS/ WORKSHOPS

- Project introduction/overview & visioning meeting
- Review of plan recommendations

**>100 Attended
Public Workshop**

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- Partner organizations
- Focused outreach/focus groups organized around theme areas

**22 Stakeholder
Interviews
4 Focus Group Meetings
21 Department
Interviews**

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMY

ARTS & INSTITUTIONS

**DATA ANALYSIS
+ PAST PLAN REVIEW
+ PUBLIC FEEDBACK**



87 ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES, & TRENDS



OVERARCHING ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES



VISION, GOALS, AND PRIORITIES

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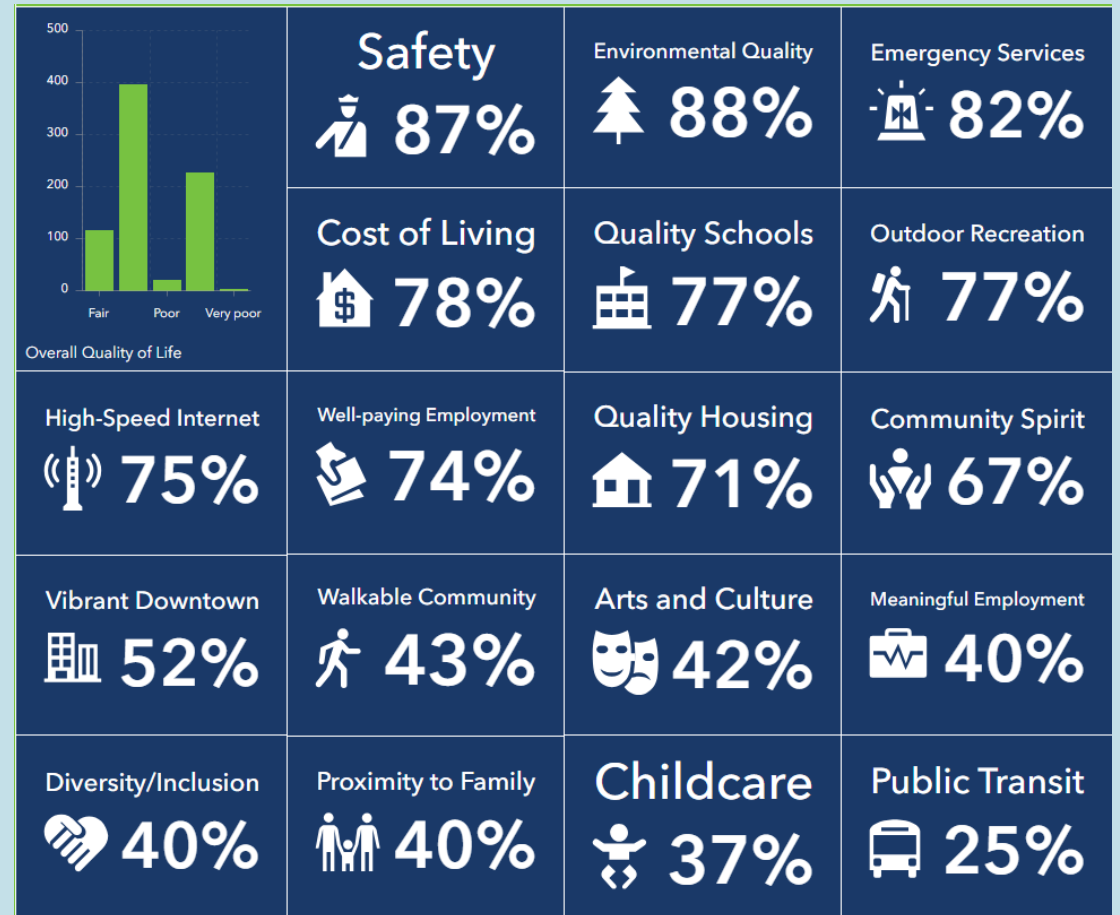
VISION, GOALS, AND PRIORITIES

**THERE IS A LOT
THAT IS GOING
RIGHT**

PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY HAPPY WITH LIFE IN WARREN COUNTY

> **81%**

of survey respondents ranked quality of life in the County as good or very good.



THE COUNTY OFFERS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

“What do you value
most about living in
Warren County?”

People love... the **small community feel**,
access to recreation, **nature**, and outdoor
activities, its beauty and its **proximity to
amenities and other communities**.



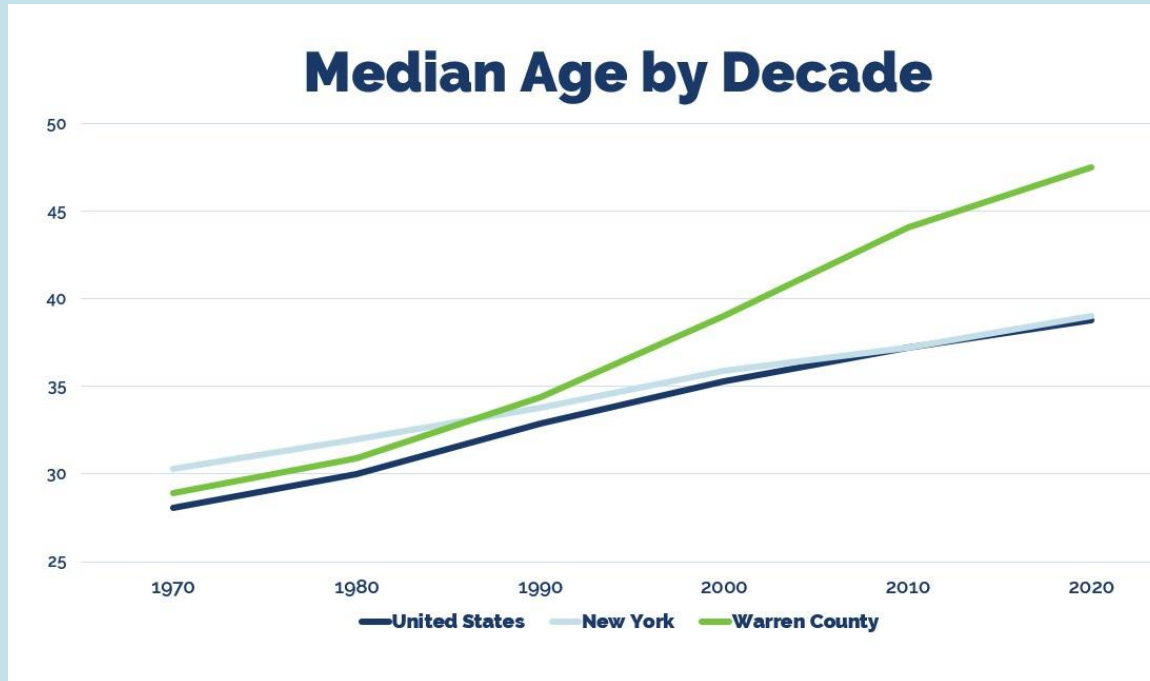
WE HAVE CAPABLE PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT & ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

To name just a few....

- Adirondack Cycling Advocates
- Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council
- Adirondack Park Agency
- Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Adirondack Roots
- Capital District Transportation Authority
- Capital Region Economic Development Council
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Glens Falls Arts District
- Glens Falls Housing Authority
- Glens Falls Hospital
- Hudson Headwaters Health Network
- Jefferson Project
- Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board
- Lake George Association
- Lake George Land Conservancy
- Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council
- North Country Arts
- Northern Border Regional Commission
- Northern Forest Center
- Pride of Ticonderoga
- Rural Housing Coalition of NY
- Saratoga Warren Washington Workforce Development Board
- SUNY Adirondack
- Warren County EDC
- Warren County LDC
- Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Warren-Washington IDA

**T H E R E A R E A L S O
C O N C E R N I N G
T R E N D S
I M P A C T I N G
Q U A L I T Y O F L I F E**

OUR POPULATION IS OLD & GETTING OLDER



Why does it matter?

- It impacts our housing: mismatch in housing type and household size
- It impacts our workforce: retiring staff
- It impacts our community and social services: declining volunteerism, increased medical and senior service needs, declining school population

41% of survey respondents cited the **aging population** as the greatest challenge facing Warren County today

WE ARE IN A HOUSING CRISIS

- Our housing supply is **not diverse and not reflective** of our household makeup.
- Our housing market is **impacted by tourism**, in terms of both seasonal homes and short-term rentals.
- While average household spending on housing is generally considered affordable, **current home prices are unattainable** for the local market.
- **Demand has increased substantially** in recent years, but the housing inventory is not keeping up.
- **APA restrictions** and **local resistance** to change have been hurdles to housing development.
- Housing vacancy rates show a **housing shortage**.

WARREN COUNTY'S THREE BIGGEST CHALLENGES TODAY



THERE IS A WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

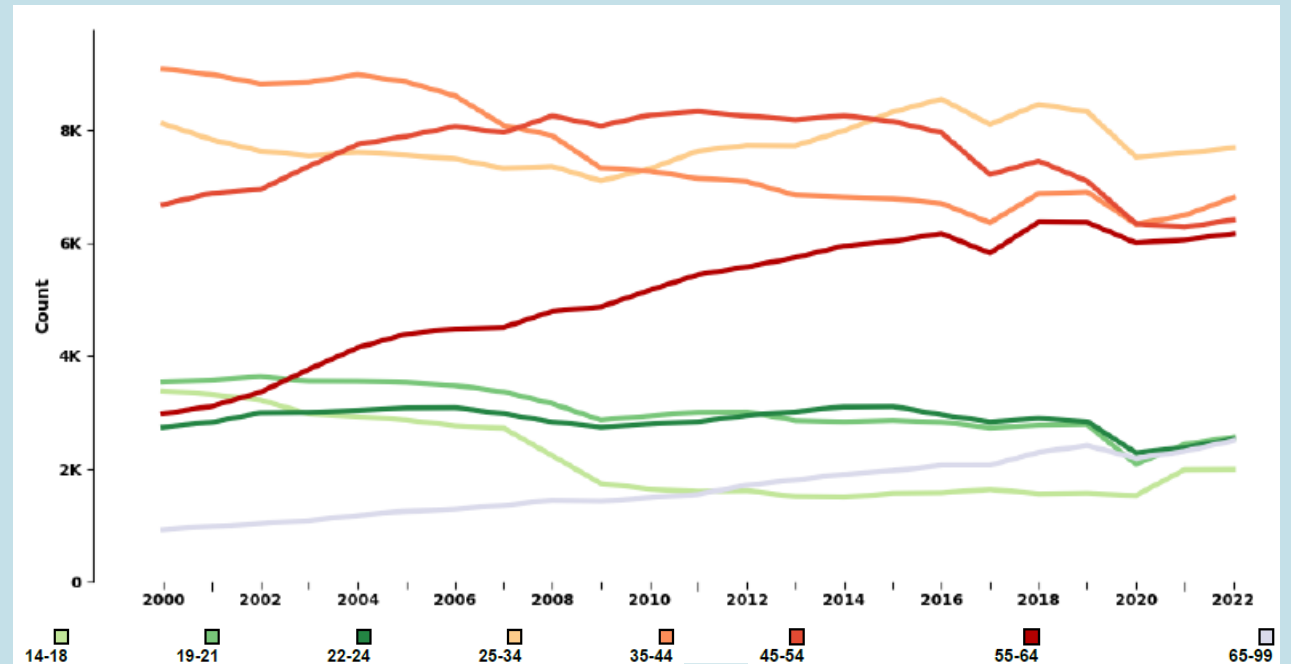
“Essentially anyone who wants a job is working”

2.5%

County-wide
unemployment rate
(2022)

5-years prior: 3.0%
10-years prior: 4.6%

Warren County Workers: Counts by Age



WE HAVE AGING INFRASTRUCTURE & GAPS IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

There are infrastructure service gaps

~54%

of parcels are not served
by public water

~73%

of parcels are not located
within a sewer district

>5%

of residents do not have
access to reliable broadband

...and there are infrastructure upgrade needs

59

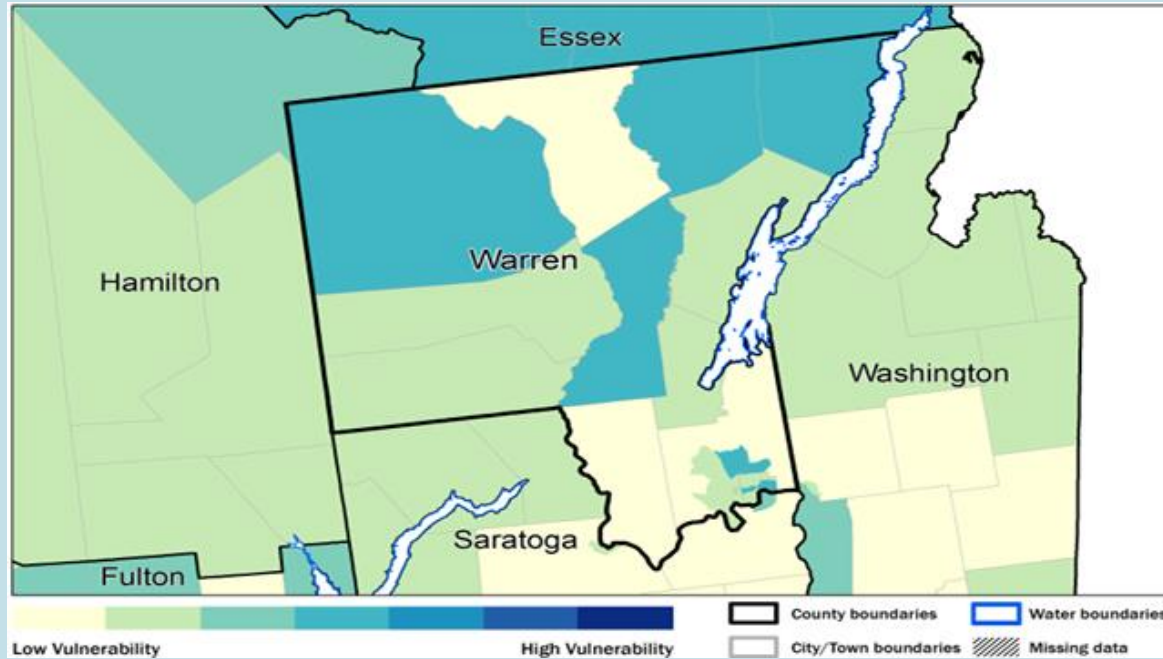
stormwater & sewer
improvement projects
(\$44.2M)

36

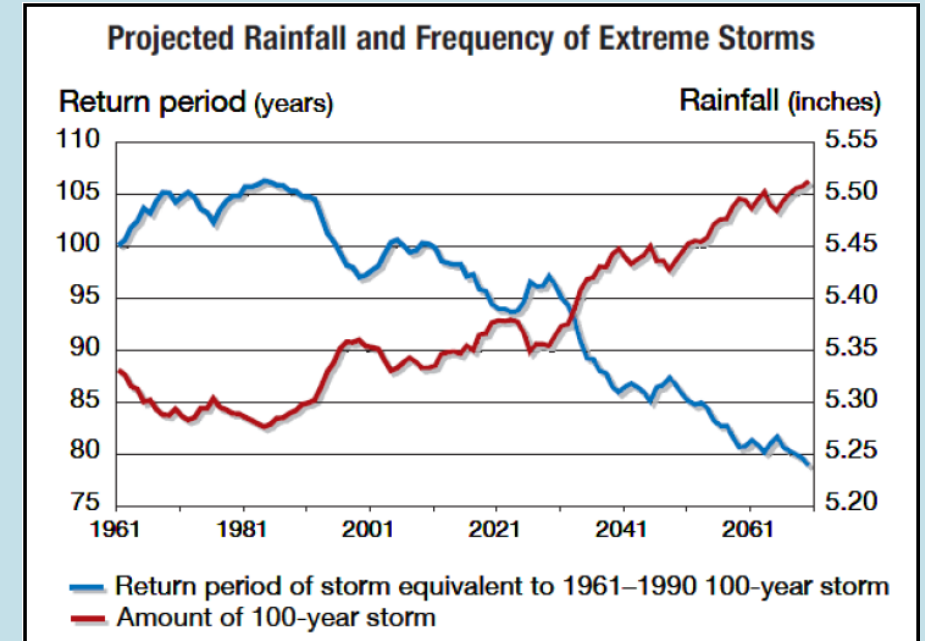
drinking water
improvement projects
(\$53.2M)

Future capacity
concerns at local
WWTPs

CLIMATE CHANGE IS IMPACTING OUR NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Source: NYSDOH Health-Health Profile



Source: NYSERDA 2014

**..AND BIG
OPPORTUNITIES
LOOKING AHEAD**

REGIONAL GROWTH & MIGRATION FACTORS

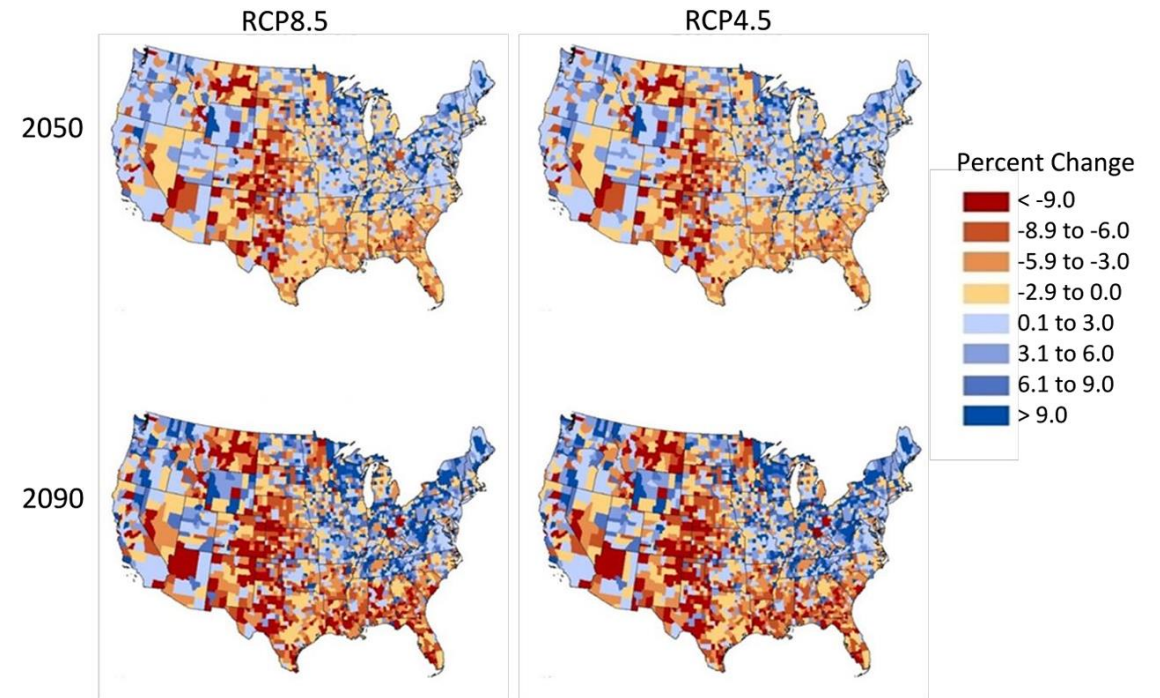


The Capital Region and neighboring Saratoga County are expected to continue to grow

+7.2%

Saratoga Co. projected population increase (2020-2040)

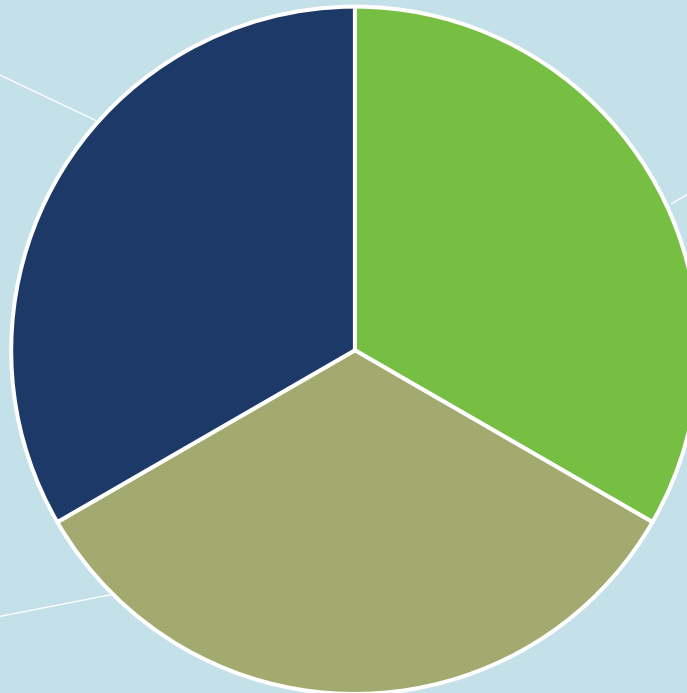
Warren County & the greater region have been identified as “climate havens”



THE CHANGING ECONOMY EXPANDS THE FOCUS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

~ one-third of our County employment is in sales & occupancy tax generating industries

~ one-third of our County employment is in health care, government, & education



The remaining one-third
= an opportunity

Where do we want to grow?

*Current initiatives:
Outdoor recreation
Remote workers*

...

OUR HAMLETS & CITY PROVIDE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES



“Vibrant downtowns” are important to quality of life and offer the potential for Smart Growth development that builds on existing infrastructure.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are here!



Scoping

Existing
Conditions
Review

Issues &
Opportunities

Vision &
Goals

Priority
Actions

Draft & Final
Plan

