



# Chittenango NY Forward Public Meeting #1 Summary

June 11, 2025  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sullivan Free Library  
101 Falls Blvd, Chittenango, NY 13037

## Overview

The first public meeting for the Village of Chittenango NY Forward provided an overview of the NY Forward program and planning process. The Village of Chittenango is the Round 3 winner of a \$4.5 million award funded by the New York State Department of State. The NY Forward program seeks to create vibrant, resilient communities where people want to live, work, and visit.

Held at the Sullivan Free Library starting at 6:00 p.m., the public meeting consisted of a presentation about the NY Forward program and planning process, followed by interactive group discussions.

## Meeting Overview

Mayor Louis Cianfrocco welcomed attendees to the meeting, noting the NY Forward as an exciting opportunity for the Chittenango community. The Mayor emphasized how the Village's NY Forward grant submission successfully built on the investment and hard work of many community members.

During the formal presentation, Phil Schaeffing of Stantec, project manager for the consultant team, overviewed the NY Forward program and planning process, highlighting the purpose and regulations for the NY Forward and forthcoming Open Call for Projects, as well as opportunities for future engagement in the planning process. The full presentation is available on the Village's website at <https://chittenango.gov/ny-forward/>.

Following the presentation, the Consultant Team led the meeting attendees through interactive group activities. The activities included: 1) an individual exercise for participants to review and comment on the draft vision statement on a worksheet, and 2) a small group activity where participants worked together to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the Village and the NY Forward project area.

The interactive group activity concluded with each group sharing their top five priorities for downtown Chittenango with all meeting participants.

## Meeting Attendees

The meeting was attended by a mix of people who live both inside and outside the study area and from various types of organizations, including members of the Chittenango Local Planning Committee (LPC), Planning and Zoning Boards, and Board of Trustees. A total of approximately 80 attendees were present at the meeting.

## NY Forward Consultant Team Attendees

- Lissa D'Aquanni, NYS Department of State
- Phil Schaeffing AICP, Senior Associate and Planner/Urban Designer, Stantec
- Alanna Wittet, Planner, Stantec
- Nora Culhane Friedel, Highland Planning
- Emma Falkenstein, Highland Planning

## What We Heard: Individual Vision Statement and Opportunities and Challenges Activity

Participants were invited to review the draft NY Forward Vision statement from the Village's application and complete individual worksheets where they wrote down their feedback regarding which elements of the vision statement resonated with them, what elements were missing, and their ideas regarding issues and opportunities for the NY Forward to address. The Consultant Team collected a total of 39 individual worksheets. The worksheet responses are summarized below and characterized by theme; the complete results from the activity are included in Appendix A.

### Draft vision:

*"The Village of Chittenango envisions a vibrant and welcoming community that celebrates our unique heritage, embraces sustainability, and fosters innovation. Our downtown will be a dynamic hub where history meets the future, drawing residents and visitors alike to enjoy our rich cultural offerings, active public spaces, and thriving local businesses. Through the Creekwalk Trail system, our downtown area is directly linked to the Empire State Trail, and we will continue to strengthen the connection to attract visitors from all over the world to our downtown. We commit to nurturing a connected, inclusive, and resilient village, where every voice shapes our journey, and every project strengthens our collective identity."*

### Question 1: What resonates with you?

Main themes from the input received include:

#### Community Identity and History

- Mentions of the village's culture and heritage
- Support for the phrases "unique heritage" and "history meets the future"
- Desire to connect the past and present
- Calls to be an inclusive and welcoming community

## **Outdoor Recreation**

- Desire to support parks, trails, and outdoor amenities (such as public bathrooms)
- Support for creating “active public spaces”
- Intentional leveraging of the connections to the Erie Canal and Empire State Trail

## **Vibrant Downtown and Destination/Attraction**

- Interest for the Village to “thrive” and be a “dynamic hub”
- Support for unique and thriving small, local businesses
- Need for active public spaces
- Goal of attracting visitors from around the world to the area

## **Sustainability**

- Need to preserve historic buildings
- Need to sustain natural resources

Overall, feedback for the vision statement was very positive, with attendees particularly highlighting the village’s history, active public spaces, and desire for a vibrant downtown atmosphere.

## **Question 2: What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?**

Main themes from the input received include:

### **More Connection to Chittenango’s History and Heritage:**

- Significance of the Erie Canal in the history of the village
- Birthplace of L. Frank Baum and the connection to Oz

### **More Detail about Community Amenities & Recreation**

- Provide connection to the Canal Museum, Oz Museum
- Existing community events such as Tuesday in the Park
- More direct mention of parks and outdoor spaces

### **More Description of the Village’s Inviting Environment**

- Small town feel
- Walkability/bikability of the Village
- Accessibility to the broader region
- Desire to encourage an active and involved community

### **More Detail about Downtown Chittenango**

- Create and sustain a broader diversity of business
- Develop an environment where people will stop and shop downtown

Feedback on what was missing from the vision statement concentrated around highlighting the village's connections to the Erie Canal, Oz Museum and L. Frank Baum, the need for greater diversity of businesses, and improved walkability and accessibility of the village.

### **Question 3: What are downtown Chittenango's strengths?**

Main themes from the input received include:

#### **Waterfront, Trails, and Recreational Amenities**

- Parks and trails systems including the Creekwalk, Empire State Trail, Dr West Park, and village walking paths
- Access to the Erie Canal
- Walkable and bikeable environment

#### **Historical Connections**

- Role of the Erie Canal in the development of the village and the Boat Museum
- Ties to L. Frank Baum and Oz Museum

#### **Active Community**

- A variety of community events such as Tuesdays at the Park, Ozstraveganza, and Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Friendly, welcoming, and safe community

#### **Community Amenities**

- Resources such as the Canal Museum, Oz Museum, and Sullivan Free Library
- Public safety facilities such as the Fire House
- Strong local businesses

#### **Historic Downtown & Development Pattern**

- Historic Main Street with old, beautiful buildings and attractive landscaping
- Opportunity to activate vacant lots and storefronts with potential for housing and businesses

#### **Location & Accessibility**

- Proximity to major transportation routes
- Walkable, compact downtown

## **Question 4: What challenges should NY Forward address?**

Main themes from the input received include:

### **Downtown Vibrancy and Beautification**

- Need for Main Street beautification, fix the “rundown” look, and complete upgrades to downtown storefronts and buildings
- Attract and sustain a greater variety of downtown businesses
- Ensure the downtown is clean and safe
- Desire to draw people downtown (both out-of-town visitors and residents on the outskirts of the village)
- Support for public art

### **Community Amenities**

- Attract a grocery store to provide better food access in the village
- Desire for more outdoor seating for downtown restaurants and public spaces
- Public space enhancements such as public bathrooms, a community garden
- Parking enhancements such as parking spot markings, better signage, and greater number of spots
- Desire for library updates

### **Recreation & Accessibility**

- Enhancements to Dr West park (such as bathrooms)
- Improve creek access and connections to the Empire State Trail
- Desire for restoration of the fishing pier

### **Transportation, Signage & Wayfinding**

- Better and more signage for wayfinding to amenities and trails
- More signage to optimize parking availability
- Streetscape improvements to enhance walkability and create safer intersections
- Identify opportunities to encourage people to stop in the village, not just use shortcuts to circumvent the downtown

### **Need to Embrace Change**

- Essential to embrace change and acknowledge that places adapt over time

### **Lodging & Hospitality**

- Need for a hotel or some type of lodging for visitors to stay

### **Diversity of Housing Options**

- Need for greater diversity of housing types to meet a variety of community needs

## **Sustainability**

- Address flooding in the downtown

## **Question 5: What opportunities exist for NY Forward to build upon?**

Main themes from the input received include:

### **Recreation Improvements**

- Complete park improvements to Dr West Park, such as a playground, bathrooms, and a splashpad
- Finish the Creekwalk Trail system and expand the connections to the Empire State Trail

### **Community Activities and Amenities**

- Sustain and enhance existing community amenities such as the Oz Museum, Canal Museum, The Wild Animal Park
- Develop historical walking tours
- Create a greater diversity of activities and places to hang out to be a community for all ages (family-friendly and children-oriented activities, young adult activities, etc.)
- Cultivate invested and enthusiastic residents
- Create new community amenities and events such as a community garden and a market
- Support the creation of spaces for younger people to hang out
- Cultivate advertisement and tourism opportunities

### **Local History**

- Enhance connections to the history of the Erie Canal and L. Frank Baum

### **Downtown Streetscaping**

- Support downtown streetscaping to improve walkability, bikability, and address traffic

### **Land Use**

- Develop underutilized land, such as the railway bed behind the Village Hall and vacant lots on Genesee St
- Support mixed-use development in the downtown

### **Downtown Vibrancy & Aesthetics**

- Improve the appearance of downtown through building renovations, façade improvements, storefront enhancements, and property investment
- Improve nightlife in the village with a variety of businesses
- Support property owners with building improvements
- Create gateways to enhance the entrances to the village
- Rehabilitate and fill vacant storefronts and downtown buildings
- Desire to make the downtown a “destination”



### **Signage & Wayfinding**

- Enhance signage to improve wayfinding through the village, particularly for directions to recreational amenities and businesses
- Create banners and flags to add visual appeal to the downtown

### **Housing**

- Support a variety of housing types in the village

### **Lodging & Hospitality**

- Creating lodging for visitors to stay in the village

### **Transportation & Traffic**

- Slow traffic down

## **What We Heard: Downtown Priorities & Projects Group Activity**

Following the individual visioning activity, the NY Forward Consultant Team facilitated a group activity with meeting attendees. Participants were divided into 10 groups, and each group had a poster map of the NY Forward area that identified potential projects listed in Chittenango's grant application as examples. The groups were instructed to discuss four questions (outlined below) and write the answers on the group poster. The group discussion questions encouraged meeting participants to brainstorm issues and opportunities impacting downtown Chittenango and potential projects for the NY Forward. The group activity results are summarized below; complete results of the group activity are listed in Appendix B.

### **Question 1: What features draw people to this area today?**

- Community events such as Ozstravaganza and Tuesdays in the Park
- Good school district
- Access to the Erie Canal for fly fishing, recreation, and biking
- Parks and recreation amenities such as Dr West Park, Erie Canal Park, Sullivan Park, and The Wild Animal Park
- Proximity to Chittenango Falls
- Diversity of restaurants
- Community museums such as the All Things Oz and Canal Boat Museums
- Trails such as the Creekwalk Trail and the Empire State Trail
- Small downtown feel
- Proximity to Route 5
- Casino
- Affordable housing
- Community and canal history



**Question 2: What are potential projects that would have a significant positive impact? Think big!**

- Improve the railroad bed behind the Village Hall
- Improve Rouse Street
- Develop better signage to promote businesses and community amenities
- Build a local theater and/or auditorium
- Support historic preservation and historic building signage
- Develop a grocery store
- Extend the decorative downtown street lighting
- Enhance the Oz theme throughout the village with art, events, historical markers, landscaping, and expand the yellow brick sidewalk
- Improve diversity of housing, especially senior housing and affordable housing
- Create a place for visitors to stay
- Park and recreation improvements such as a pool/splash pad, sports complex, skate park, and indoor recreation space
- Greater diversity of businesses to bring people downtown
- Explore opportunities to attract and retain younger families
- Slow traffic down and improve road safety
- Enhance walkability and accessibility
- Support property improvements and investment
- Improve parking downtown
- Enhance creek and trail access
- Improve the Fire House

**Question 3: What challenges should be addressed?**

- **Downtown Appeal & Access**
  - Need to slow traffic down to get people to stop and visit the village
  - Limited parking and/or lack of parking signage
  - Outdated facades and rundown buildings
  - Need for clearer business signage
  - Improved walkability and ADA accessibility
  - Enhance placemaking and aesthetics
  - Improved road and sidewalk safety
- **Economic Development**
  - Need for greater diversity of the local businesses
  - Support for developing and sustaining small businesses
- **Housing & Accessibility**
  - Insufficient diversity of housing opportunities, specifically senior and affordable housing that is quality

- **Recreation & Community Life**
  - Need for a greater variety of activities for visitors and families
  - Limited entertainment and nightlife
  - Under-activated public spaces
  - Improve creek and trail access
  - Enhance public space amenities such as public bathrooms downtown
- **Marketing & Visibility**
  - Need for more promotion and coordination of events and businesses in the village,
  - Better signage for wayfinding to trails and community amenities

**Question 4: What are the group's Top 5 priorities?**

- **Diversify businesses & become a destination**
  - Need a mix of restaurants, retail, entertainment, etc.
  - Find a way to get drivers to stop and shop downtown
- **Housing Diversity**
  - Need for senior, affordable, and high-end housing options
- **Community Events & Family-Friendly Activities**
  - Support and expand community activities for people of all ages and interests
- **Village History & Tourism**
  - Leverage connections to the Erie Canal and L. Frank Baum
  - Support the Oz and Canal museums
  - Develop lodging for visitors
- **Downtown Aesthetic & Building Improvements**
  - Develop a unique and updated look for the downtown, including façade improvements, support building rehabilitation and revitalization of existing structures
  - Expand beautification and lighting improvements
  - Improve parking
  - Enhance signage and wayfinding
  - Create public art
  - Enhance the use and visual appeal of Genesee and Rouse Streets
  - Add public space amenities such as bike racks, trash cans
- **Recreation & Community Amenities**
  - Expand access to the canal, the Creekwalk, and the Empire State Trail

- Complete enhancements to Dr West Park (playground, bathrooms, paved ADA-compliant area, etc.)
- Build a community art center
- Develop a sports/community center (year-round activities)
- Update the skate park
- Create micro-parks/naturalized green spaces
- Improvements to the Library and Fire House

## Next Steps

Feedback from the individual visioning worksheets and group discussions will be considered as the Local Planning Committee (LPC) revises the NY Forward vision statement and works with the consultant team to develop draft goals and strategies that reflect the interests and needs of the community. The revised vision and goals will be included in the Open Call for Projects to inform potential project sponsors about the community's interests.

A second public meeting will be held in September to present the potential projects submitted during the Open Call for Projects for public review and comment. Feedback will be shared with the LPC prior to their vote in late October to recommend a slate of projects for NY Forward funding consideration.

## Appendix A: Individual Worksheet Activity Results

What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
Heritage; history meeting future	Birthplace of Baum; tourism - attract visitors; where is the cultural offering?	Small town; community; near to canal/Empire State Trail/Creekwalk; library; museums; paths	People are stubborn and don't want to embrace change and strengths; no lodging; lack of affordable housing	Dr West Park - expand (add splash pad and playground); Oz & Wild for tourism
The focus on making the outdoor areas a draw for the village; The connection of history and future	The diversity of business, the museums (Oz and Canal Boat); the library; an abundance of parks and outdoor space	Development of small businesses; beautification of buildings		
Oz and L. Frank Baum - building on his writings and taking us back to how the canal was part of his life	The town needs more Oz in it; More Canal connection and should welcome the two interest groups to show how they are connected	History - the area is wealthy in not only canal life but also the fact that it is the birthplace of L. Frank Baum; with the recent release of Wicked and the upcoming release of Wicked - For Good, people are flocking to the museum for more information	Space - we need to use the spaces that are vacant to lift the town and give the storefronts welcoming signs; use the yellow brick road to lead tourists to all the attractions.	Funding should help tourism; lodging (need places for tourists to stay); restaurants; things to do (enhancements for establishments already around including highlighting the canal and the rich history of the town. The All Things Oz Museum is easily a highlight of the town)
Vibrant; sustainable; innovative	Question - why is the Creekwalk trail system specifically mentioned?	Restaurants; stores; parks	Main Street beautification and modernization (Public Project idea #3)	Public Project idea #3
We need to "thrive"! Folks don't come to our area as we don't have a lot of places to shop or visit. The statement "...attract visitors from all over the world to our downtown" - folks traveling through seem to target "one event"	More shops - housing is taking over the business area!		Traffic doesn't stop - drive through; ways to encourage parking to see what we do offer; fix up some of the "rundown" looking stores	Improve vision of downtown; nothing really draws traffic; develop old railway bed behind Rouse Street; develop vacant lots on Genesee Street; better signage to identify events
			Painted lines for parking on Route 5; more grocery store options in Village (expand what there is); outdoor seating for eating; full-service bathroom at Dr West; playground equipment at Stooks	

What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
Small unique shops like we had in the past like: lambs ear, Waldman's - shops fun to walk and browse; permanent restroom at Dr West Park; fire department needs to be improved to be able to house a new fire truck - not tall or long enough	Partnering with casino or offer a discount at local businesses; showing casino card - new people in the area; Stooks Park fields - restroom?; miniature golf where Empire Sports building was (for sale now)	Small community with a lot of nice storefronts available; we do have some nice, successful businesses that would be better with more business	Creating a safe, walkable community to shop and dine; parking - on street lines to simplify; outdoor restaurant seating; getting people to stop instead of drive through	Old railroad tracks behind the village hall (tie into our history); nightlife - almost non-existent; getting the rotary club more involved again and move meetings back to the village so more business owners attend - could even cater @ parks and rec department if necessary
No much - the vision statement seems to be limited to the trails	With the number of cars that pass through, most do not stop and shop; the vision statement should address how to encourage others to stop			
Thriving local businesses; attracting visitors; drawing residents	Is the Creekwalk trail directly linked to the Empire State Trail?	Tuesdays in the park; Ozstraveganza; Tree Lighting Ceremony; Mexican restaurant; Demario's; Shannon's Place	Affordable; more housing	
Local businesses; dynamic hub -history meets the future	Trail systems - visitors from around the world?; unique aspects?; more detail	Slow pace, outdoors, small feel	Where will visitors stay?	Housing; storefronts; downtown look
Unique; inclusive	Do we need to say "dynamic"?; the Village will always change, no matter what we do; could do without - "where history meets the future"; don't understand - "Where every voice shapes our journey".	Friendly; outgoing people; walkable	Could be more bikeable - transportation in general; does everyone have a way to get where they want to go at a reasonable cost?	Creekwalk - finish it; Empire State Trail - stay connected & services for users; Chittenango Landing - great space, open, canal
Attracting visitors to new businesses	Need for "active public space"	Friendly; safe community with great potential for growth	Lack of active public spaces that support local businesses long term; Lack of street traffic that brings people into local businesses to allow them to thrive	Help grow and support local property owners as they upgrade spaces along Genesee Street
Parking - painted parked spaces along both sides of Route 5				

What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
			Fire Department elevator	Self-guided walking tour with historical way-points; after-school programming for pre-teens (grade school ages)
			Permanent bathrooms downtown; paved parking by Fire House; community garden; childcare - possibly incorporated with a sports complex	
Our community heritage	Mention Oz connection	Dense buildings	Property beautification and encourage mixed-use multistory properties	Wizard of Oz Museum/parade tourism
It is perfect			Dealing with codes applied to a business/residential district	Enthusiastic residents
The vision statement was good, wouldn't change a thing				More things for children
Thriving local businesses - how do property owners find the money to update?	Address the Route 5 traffic that bypasses downtown via Tuscarora; Two studies have addressed and recommended changes; If we beautify, will people see it?	Walkable; low-traffic; historic buildings; friendly people	With a large percentage of the Route 5 traffic using Tuscarora Rd as a "short cut"; how will people from surrounding areas see the changes in the village?	Creek walk; Oz Museum; Canal Museum
		Creekwalk, rich history - needs protection	Varied types of businesses; condition of downtown housing; art creation; bring traffic through town; need a hotel; sports center	Park enhancement (pool or splash area for children)
Sustainability - improvements done to buildings need to be completed with durable materials that will not deteriorate over time (brick, concrete, etc.); drawing residents - there is a need for more businesses that will draw a crowd, such as restaurants that are appealing to the younger generations (20-30)	Small town - quiet; appealing to young families; everything is in walking distance	Vacant properties; quality of tenants		

What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
		Good parking; safe walking; attractive trees and flowers; easy crossing the street; Oz Museum	Bathroom at Dr West Park; Lack of a draw other than restaurants; creek access, sports	Lots of traffic; lots of trucks; a chain restaurant; senior citizen protection
Active public spaces; Creekwalk tie to Empire State Trail	Accessibility - foot traffic; bike traffic		Increase foot traffic and get people to stay and spend time downtown; improve housing options and reduce low-income housing near downtown core	
		All of our town's signature iconography; walkable; nice to chill there; our town's economic center; good opportunities for out-of-towners to stop and stimulate our economy		
Dr West Park; Tuesdays in the Park is popular – expand; rec buildings - line dancing, tai chi, cardo, trivia nights, bunco, dominoes, shuffleboard, pickleball, exercise, outdoor movie nights, meeting place, beaches; senior housing (55+); restaurants along canal or creek				
Connecting the past and the present; leveraging the connection to the Erie Canal/NYF trailway	Seems comprehensive	people care; easy access	Lots of tired-looking buildings	Creekwalk; Dr West Park; access to the Erie Canal Trail
A vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community; Respects history and welcomes innovation at the same time; new voices shaping the journey; implied support of all local businesses to help them thrive				



What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
Sustainability	Our main history involves the Erie Canal; I think that connects to our village more than the Creekwalk or Empire State Trail (I've lived here 27 years and have no idea where either are)	Walkability - easily walk between businesses; housing availability above businesses	Majority of housing downtown needs major facelift before any other improvements take place	Upscale apartments
That the trails will connect; continuing convenience for residents/tourists		Accessibility/ walkable; canal is a huge attraction	Buildings/houses could use a facelift (paint/siding)	Vacant properties that could be businesses
Our rich cultural offerings - Erie Canal, Wizard of oz, Oneida Nation; thriving local businesses - we definitely need more small businesses that can stay afloat		Charming buildings, some nice restaurants/shops; unique character (yellow brick sidewalks); it's also very central/not out of the way (accessible)	Walkability; small businesses; vacant buildings; fresh coat of paint on lots of things; make the main intersection look better (Genesee/Tuscarora); make what's already here look better; so much unused parking lots; Chittenango pottery building revamp	Revamp village sign; community garden; semi-permanent market; Chittenango flags to line the streets; community center (somewhere for younger people to go)
Need another restaurant - not a pizza place; clean up façade of some buildings; streetlight across Tuscarora; attract retail/artisans	Address how to deal with vacant properties on Genesee Street; they are walkable; Signage/bike trails attract people to the canal and visit the downtown			
I would like to see funding for established businesses to help improve inside and out; bring the businesses better looking or up to date.				
			Cleaning up the village; signage - at canal and at YBR; Rouse Street -clean up and address flooding; sports facilities; replace fishing pier; public restrooms; library columns and facelift; business/housing combos; better parking delineation	

What resonates with you?	What could be better/what is missing from the vision statement?	What are Downtown Chittenango's strengths?	What challenges should NYF address?	What opportunities exist for NYF to build upon?
			Unify the downtown business facades to be more attractive; better signage for the start of Creekwalk at the parking lot near Freunscht Realty; better connection from village to canal museum and signage	
Creekwalk ties to Empire Trail		Highly walkable; adequate parking (on street/off street)	Limited businesses/empty storefronts; space for a future replacement for Tops Market when Casino expands; housing, conditions of buildings	Areas which are underutilized that could be developed
Active public spaces and thriving local businesses	Advertising to our community for events that exist; businesses	It's attractive; some amenities; Creekwalk, eateries; shops	Two sides of the village a little disjointed; need to cross-merchandise businesses	Try to make it a destination and advertise the village!
	Need more active and public involvement; thriving businesses should be more detailed; we need more shopping to attract people to the area	Community involvement	The amount of space the village covers; there is a large community of people who don't travel to downtown because they work in Syracuse	Community beautification with a better gateway to the village
History meets the future - keep the historic look and feel of the village and implement improvements to the downtown area				

Unique heritage; Creekwalk	<p>Fosters innovation? We need retail local mailers, Facebook events, website. “Chittenango is a place where storybook charm meets bold ambition; rooted in the magic of Oz and the history of the Erie Canal, our Village is charting a new chapter - one that welcomes growth, celebrates community, and embraces creativity. Our downtown will thrive as a walkable, connected hub with vibrant small businesses, public art, and inviting public spaces along the Creekwalk trail. We will leverage our unique culture and local pride to attract visitors, inspire entrepreneurs, and expand housing choices for all. Together, we’re not just revitalizing our village - we’re turning it into a destination.”</p>			
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## Appendix B: Group Activity Results

Top Five Priorities	What features draw people to this area?	What challenges should be addressed?	What are potential projects that would have a significant positive impact? Think Big!
1) Need more retail; 2) Need more housing; 3) Family/kid activities; 4) Figure out a way to connect the canal to the village; 5) Better signage		Community adds cross-advertising	
1) Draw & hold visitors/repeat visits (and keep residents here to recreate, play, eat); 2) Develop a unique and updated "look" to downtown; 3) Rehabilitation of existing structures/facelift (facade improvements along Genesee Street); 4) Family friendly activities; 5) Need for multiple events	Casino; Oz Fest; fly fishing; great schools	Can only go to Oz Fest so many times - and its 1-2 days - need multiple events; lack of active public spaces; lack of street traffic that brings people into businesses; no window shopping; longevity of businesses, restaurants; dated look to downtown; hard to get a new sign or a business	Inside "playground" with toys; food, coffee, tables and chairs, safe
1) Grow businesses and encourage new; 2) Find a way for drivers to stop and shop; 3) Improvements to Fire Station to accommodate new larger vehicles; 4) Permanent public restrooms on Genesee Street near Fire House and Dr West Park (maybe land village purchased); 4) Improvements of additional security; 5) Development of playground, public space area in vacant area on Genesee Street; 6) Painted parking spots on Genesee Street	Shannon's; Erie Canal Park; Frisbee golf at Sullivan Park; School District; Great DPW service; taxes; trails; proximity to Chitt Falls; The Wild; Green Lakes State Park	Folks living on outskirts of village - don't know we exist, they travel to Syracuse area; we don't have a lot of unique businesses to draw them; no night life; Tuscarora Road used as a by-pass; communication of positive things happening in the village; parking for businesses and handicapped; support businesses that are here; encourage grocery store in village; more places for family friendly activities	Improve the old railbed behind Village Hall and Rouse Street; develop better signage to promote businesses; consider a theater, dinner theater - encourage folks to attend on a frequent basis; signage to help identify historical buildings in the village - sharing history; creating a gateway to the village
1) Business support; 2) Fixing façades of downtown buildings; 3) Extend decorative street lights east; 4) Grocery store access; 5) Improve emergency service facility (PD & Fire)	Erie Canal Museum; Chittenango Falls; Creekwalk; restaurants and shops; Oz Museum; The Wild	Old houses vacant – demolish; clean up any building not kept up; improve aesthetics; keep businesses prosperous	The love sports center - move to more visible location; grocery store - better than convenience store; extend decorative street lighting east
1) The Oz Museum and Oz tourism; 2) Housing/lodging; 3) Façade improvements; 4) Creekwalk and YBR completion to connect the village; 5) Community art center	Oz Museum; Canal Boat Museum; The Wild; Chitt Falls; Empire State Trail - bikes, etc.	The Creekwalk completion and parking lot improvements; no affordable housing/decent housing; No short-term lodging; major façade improvements (buildings); diversity of small businesses; our bus parking	More obvious Oz stuff - status, art, scavenger hunt, historical markers, poppies, murals; housing and lodging; Pool/splash area; live theater/sports complex/auditorium; playground improvements; expand yellow brick road

Top Five Priorities	What features draw people to this area?	What challenges should be addressed?	What are potential projects that would have a significant positive impact? Think Big!
1) Walkability; 2) Emphasis on young adults (bigger draw for things to do/hang out); 3) Signage (welcome, bike trails)	Oz; Erie Canal; coffee; small town; good school district; Route 5	Walkability (sidewalks); lack of draw from business side; bigger draw for younger adults; intersection at bank and gas station	Encourage bike trail (place to store bikes; change e-bikes, bike repairs); street lights on the canal
1) Attracting people to downtown; 2) Housing; 3) Lodging/camping; 4) Sports/community center (indoor for winter)	Ozstravaganza; School District; The Wild; casino; canal trail; Chittenango Falls	Affordable housing; get visitors to frequent downtown too	Sports complex that offers activities/space for wintertime (community center); senior housing; lodging (camping area); businesses that routinely bring families to downtown (movie theatre, putt putt golf, etc.); craft brewery
1) Village beautification (public art, facades); 2) Naturalized Green Space (Micro Parks, photo ops); 3) Update skatepark; 4) Signage (local and thruway); 5) Better use for Rouse Street	Oz Fest; The Wild; Canal Museum; All Things Oz Museum	Business owners can't afford to update their properties (up front); keeping people in the Village; restaurants and attractions on Sundays - dead/no crowds; businesses need to be open throughout	Focus on younger families; splash pads; skate park; diverse public art walk/trail; work with the Canal Corps and Madison County to develop canal property east of Lake Port (similar to Canastota vision).
1) Property beautification; 2) Parking improvements; 3) Permanent bathrooms; 4) Creek access along entire creek; 5) Sports facility/splash pad; 6) Thruway exist in North Chittenango; 7) Splash pad at Stooks Park and/or pool; 8) RV/tent campground for canal tourism	Oz Fest; Tuesdays in the Park	Parking; creek access from Russell Street to Tuscarora Road; permanent bathrooms near the fire station or in new fire station	

<p>1) Public improvements to Dr West Park to include year-round public bathroom facilities, and a paved handicap community area; 2) Creekwalk trail arched gateways to highlight the village's trails and park system. Appropriate in multiple locations to welcome and guide visitors; 3) Genesee Street facelift to old buildings, plus more trash bins and bike racks to stimulate greater foot/bike traffic along the village's Main Street; 4) Public library needs a facelift as columns, windows, and doors are in desperate need of repairs and restoration. Also the landscaping could be upgraded to make it a more attractive location in the village; 5) The village needs more public art created by local artisans that complement the Oz theme and history of the village</p>	<p>School system; library; Chittenango Creek; parks; museums; affordable housing; canal and canal history</p>		
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