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# DANVILLE TOWN PLAN

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“We can either be victims of change or we can plan for it, shape it, and emerge stronger from it.”

- Ed McMahon, Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities

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**Adopted: September 7, 2017**

**Expires: September 7, 2025**

Original plan adopted December 8, 2005

Previous revision adopted May 5, 2011

**Special thank you to:**

Laural Ruggles  
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Sharon Lakey

George Cahoon for contributing photos.

Danville Conservation Commission

Residents and property owners who provided the feedback and guidance through the surveys and public review meetings.

The volunteers who contributed their time to support the community activities and services essential to our Town.

Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)

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## Amendments

This 2017 version of the Town Plan, while a revision and readoption of the 2011 plan, is a stand-alone document. The Planning Commission has reviewed and updated the information on which the plan is based and considered this information in evaluating the continuing applicability of the plan. It has incorporated updated data, updated implementation strategies, and added new required elements.

If any amendments to this plan are adopted before a new complete update, such as the addition of a new section or a major change to the text, the log below will list them. A written report of the amendment shall also be included as an appendix to this plan.

Date	Changed Item	Notes

In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4387, there should be another comprehensive update, beginning no later than 2024 and concluding by 2025, to revise, readopt, and replace this 2017 version of the plan.

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# I. Introduction

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## Historical Perspective

by Tobias Balivet

Every town has its distinct character. Often, the defining traits are imprinted during its earliest years of development, and the sources subsequently lost to local memory. This is true of Danville.

This area of northern Vermont was under constant settlement pressure from the older British colonies to the south, from the mid-1700s on. War interrupted the in-migration, the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1760, and the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783. In each instance, native Abenaki alliances with a European enemy to the north made frontier life dangerous. At the same time, military service brought an ever-increasing awareness of the potential of the North Country each time peace was restored.

“Danville’s quiet and enduring charm belies the modest role it has played in the state and nation... In recent years a new and promising role for Danville has been emerging... the environment is proving a major asset. People are realizing that the town is a wonderful place to visit and live.” (Susannah Clifford, Village in the Hills)



*North Danville Village, with the old school in the background and Varney house (the large one on right). A flag pole is on the left, located where the new addition of Langmaid barn was built, circa 1900.*

Locally, Peacham, Ryegate, Barnet, and Newbury were all settled before the Revolution. Danville, Cabot, St. Johnsbury, and Waterford were among the towns that came afterward. But preliminary development of Danville began early, with a petition for a New York royal charter under the name of Hillsborough in October 1765 by Elias Bland and associates. Survey work was undertaken between 1770 and 1774. Upon cessation of hostilities, settlement of the town, as Hillsborough, began immediately, in 1783-85.

*Danville Town Plan 2017*

Vermont had been a part of the royal province of New York before the Revolution. But the high-handedness and remote indifference of the New York authorities, and the exorbitance of their chartering fees, allowed a faction led by the Allen brothers from the western side of Vermont to keep alive a set of claims based on illegal chartering activity by the province of New Hampshire between 1749 and 1764. The resolution of the competing New York and New Hampshire claims became the price of Vermont's admission as the 14<sup>th</sup> state. And they were resolved, upon the payment of \$30,000 Spanish dollars by Vermont to New York, extinguishing the New York claims, and validating the New Hampshire claims. The Hillsborough settlers now had to obtain a new Vermont town charter, which they did, under the name of Danville, in 1786.

*“We shall not attain to cities and villages that are beautiful until we learn artistically how to plan them. Transformation may help us greatly, as London and Paris and some examples at home show; but a mended article is never as good as one well made at first.” - Charles Mulford Robison, The Improvement of Towns and Cities, 1907*



*Children sit in front of the Soldiers Monument. The old bandstand and the Elm House can be seen in the background. The Monument was presented to the town in 1917 by James Madison Rollins.*

Before the Revolution, Vermont was divided into four counties, of which northeastern Vermont was designated Gloucester County. The new State of Vermont adopted the same political subdivisions, re-naming Gloucester County as Orange County. By the early 1790s, settlement was so rapid it became apparent to the Legislature the northern part of the State would have to be further subdivided. In 1792, the two northern counties of Orange and Chittenden were broken up, with the addition of Caledonia, Essex, Franklin and Orleans. Caledonia initially extended westerly to include, for example, Montpelier, Marshfield, Cabot, Woodbury, and Calais.

“The image people have of Vermont is not beyond its reality. The descriptions of wild beauty interspersed with the purity of northern New England villages need not be exaggerated. Residents of the state have always been proud of these attributes and are protective of their territory, and for outsiders who visit at any time of year, Vermont is a release from the intensity

and sameness that grip many other parts of America.” - Charles Johnson, *The Nature of Vermont*, 1998.

In 1795, the Legislature appointed a committee to locate a county seat. In 1796, the Legislature determined that the Caledonia county seat would be in Danville, “if the inhabitants ... shall ... within two years ... build and complete a good and sufficient courthouse and goal ... free of expense” to the county. The choice of Danville for county seat, or shire town, held perfect logic. It was geographically dead center in the new county, and had rapidly become the largest town. In the 1791 census, Danville, after no more than seven years of development, had out-stripped the older pre-Revolutionary towns, and, with 574 citizens, held 25% of the entire population of the new county.



*A grist mill sat below the covered bridge at Greenbank's Hollow. It continued to function after the large mill was burned in 1885. Part of the grist mill foundation is still visible from the bridge and is a site on the Nature Trail.*

***“What Vermont has to offer the world is a fabric, human and natural, of astonishing integrity and beauty. Any piecemeal changes can, little by little, rend a fabric, pull its stitches out and destroy it ... if we care about places like the Northeast Kingdom, we must commit to a rate of change that is slow and exercise great care in the changes we accept.”*** - Tom Slayton, Editor, Vermont Life Magazine

While size and location gave Danville the role of county seat, and later consequences flowed from that, this begs the question why it was the town had grown so rapidly to begin with. The answer is not clear. Was it perceived as well-blessed with potential mill sites, on Joes Brook and Sleeper’s River? Was the access easy because of traditional native trails, or proximity to the pre-Revolutionary towns of Peacham and Barnet? Was it the marketing strategy of the particular land jobbers whose speculations drove the settlement of this township, as they drove the settlement of every other uninhabited spot in the new territory? Or were Danville’s earliest settlers taken, as we remain, by the almost uniquely gorgeous view of the White Mountains that frames our lives from sun up to sun down today?

## *Danville Town Plan 2017*

In any event, politics and geography combined to give the town what is today arguably its dominant feature by human hand, U.S. Route 2. Upon the designation of a four-acre green on which to locate the county buildings in 1796, the village of Danville Green sprang up, nearly overnight, shifting development from the previously settled community around Dole Hill. Major new roads radiated outward, a county road from Danville Green to Chelsea, one to Wheelock, to Greensboro, to Montpelier. The road to Chelsea has now atrophied to an idyllic country lane, recommended for fall foliage tours and Sunday drives. But the road to Montpelier has grown into a major east-west artery.

In a geography scraped into north-south ruts by the retreating glaciers, the development of the east-west passage assumes critical importance. Nowhere to the north, and nowhere to the south until the Wells River is there a cut through the ridge of hills defining the edge of the Connecticut basin as suitable as that created at Joes Pond and its outlet. To the west, Route 2 follows the river bottom of the Winooski, forcing river road and village to the bottom of the ravine to the extent that the road dominates the communities through which it passes. But in Danville, Route 2 passes over open hillside, and the relationship is more symbiotic; the traffic slows to acknowledge the community as much as the community acknowledges the highway.

When St. Johnsbury sought and won the role of county seat in 1856, it was based on that town's ascendancy as a manufacturing, and therefore rail transport, center. Danville's primacy had been based on agriculture. Danville in the 19th century, and at times in the 20th, along with several other local townships, was famed for its livestock. And it remains a primarily agrarian society, leavened by an openness to the market, and to change, represented by the east-west highway.



*The depot officially opened for business on August 5, 1871, and served the public well into the 20th century. It was part of the St. J and LC line.*

Danville missed the county seat status, but did not dwell on it. By 1856, an internal motor of self-confidence governed its response to this and other changes. And it was selective about how much it truly gave up. County offices to this day have often been dominated by citizens of Danville, like the Southern officer tradition in the U.S. military corps. In the late 1950s, the federal government considered locating the interchange of I-91 and I-93 in Danville, until a

campaign seeking its benefits shifted the interchange eastward, for better or worse. Had we fought harder at times for political primacy, it would be us, rather than our sister community to the east, who would be debating the merits of “big box” retail centers, and the consequences to the economy and society of hosting a regional correctional center.

Danville is more likely to choose to go forward than back, to grow than retrench. We have chosen to expand our schools, and not tuition away our youth. We have maintained public libraries and community centers, renovated our town hall, and held fundraisers to operate a free public beach at Joes Pond. We gave birth to the Dowers society in the early 1960s, helped it go national, and sent it on its way. We have supported old traditions like Danville Fair, and church suppers, year after year, and created new traditions.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead*

## Visions of the Future

Danville “the village in the hills” is a small rural community defined by several distinct compact historical villages surrounded by farmland, forests and scenic vistas with a strong connection to the land. Its citizens cherish the traditional values of volunteerism, dedication to service, self-sufficiency, independence, education, community pride, family, and neighbor helping neighbor. Citizens overwhelmingly want Danville to maintain its current small-scale rural character and way of life well into the future preserving the attributes that makes living and recreating here so unique and special.

## Importance of Planning

Danville has so far largely avoided the adverse impacts of unplanned growth and development in our rural areas, but development has continued to spread along the U.S. Rte. 2 corridor and will continue along adjacent roads and corridors if left unchecked. We must identify and encourage changes that will result in the overall benefit to the community and conversely, identify what changes will be detrimental to the health and vitality of the town and what should be done to avoid these types of changes. We must plan for future growth patterns while positively addressing both individual concerns and community interests.

A Town Plan should be considered a living document that takes snapshots in time and tries to provide a five to ten year framework of guidance and focused direction that reflects the hopes and wishes of a large majority of its citizens. Legally, town plans need to be readopted every eight years, but in reality need to be revisited periodically to keep in step with the fast pace of change and the new issues that arise that were not even understood or considered only a few years ago. We must set long term objectives and develop plans to address known challenges to our community such as controlling the rising costs

*“The town plan should guide the course and not be overly restrictive.” - 2016 Community Survey response*

of providing education and essential services, degradation of our natural resources and scenic vistas and the long term viability of our agricultural and forest resource industries. At the same time, we must be open to new technologies, plan for environmentally friendly businesses and support economic development that will provide livable wage jobs for our children and the community.

## Public Involvement

The Danville Planning Commission has relied on public involvement and feedback to provide the focus and vision of how the residents and landowners of Danville want their town to be over the next decade. The Danville Planning Commission met with the NVDA Regional Planning Commission for guidance on how to undertake the task and involve the community. Various approaches were used to solicit input for initial drafts and obtaining critical feedback on the draft sections. Written surveys have provided over 200 responses each from the “2003 Danville Landowners Survey”, spot surveys handed out at Town Meeting Day through 2009, and an online 2016 Danville Community Survey.



*Team members work together at the Danville Community Workshop in 2009 to answer questions related to the 10 planning elements*

An effort was made to invite as many of the town’s resident experts to either draft or review sections where their expertise would benefit the process.

Input from the Chamber of Commerce, the Conservation Commission, the Danville Historical Society, NVDA, and members of planning commissions from surrounding towns was essential in providing input to the process.

Additional community engagement methods to capture the local vision and voice should continue to be explored in Danville. Opportunities to engage Danville’s youth in community planning efforts (such as conducting local needs assessments, volunteering on a town board or participating in a community visioning exercise) should also be strongly encouraged and included as an equally important contributing perspective of our Town’s future.

*Danville Town Plan 2017*

Since 2009, with input from focus groups and surveys, the town has adopted new zoning bylaws recognizing historical core villages, historic residential and Route 2 corridor districts. Continued work is planned with residents of North Danville and Joe's Pond updating bylaws to recognize and conserve the assets of those communities.

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## II. Housing & Population

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### Overview

Danville is primarily a rural residential and agricultural community. Our town is home to a wealth of different terrains that support wildlife, promote a sense of well-being, provide the backdrop for our quaint villages and contribute to the pastoral character which we value. As we continue into the 21st Century we must strive to blend the rural character and tranquility, which we cherish with controlled development to accommodate an increase in population.

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### **Selected Demographic Statistics, Town of Danville**

Census Population, 2010	2,196
Census Population, 2000	2,211
Population Density (Persons per Sq. Mi.), 2010	36.07
Absolute Population Change, 2000-2010	-15
Percent Population Change, 2000-2010	-0.68%
Number of Families, 2010	639
Average Family Size, 2010	2.78
Average Household Size, 2010	2.37
Total Group Quarters Population (Non-Inst. and Inst.), 2010	0
Total Households, 2010	928
Total Housing Units, 2010	1,268
Owner-Occupied Housing Units, 2010	784
Renter-Occupied Housing Units, 2010	144
Seasonal Housing Units, 2010	270

*US Census Bureau, 2010 Census*

As of 2015, an estimated 28% of Danville's residents were age 62 or over; this is up 2% from the 2010 estimate, and this percentage may continue to increase. Provisions must be made to assure that the senior members of our community have access to affordable housing and easy access to services. A variety of housing types and situations should be considered. Danville, like the rest of

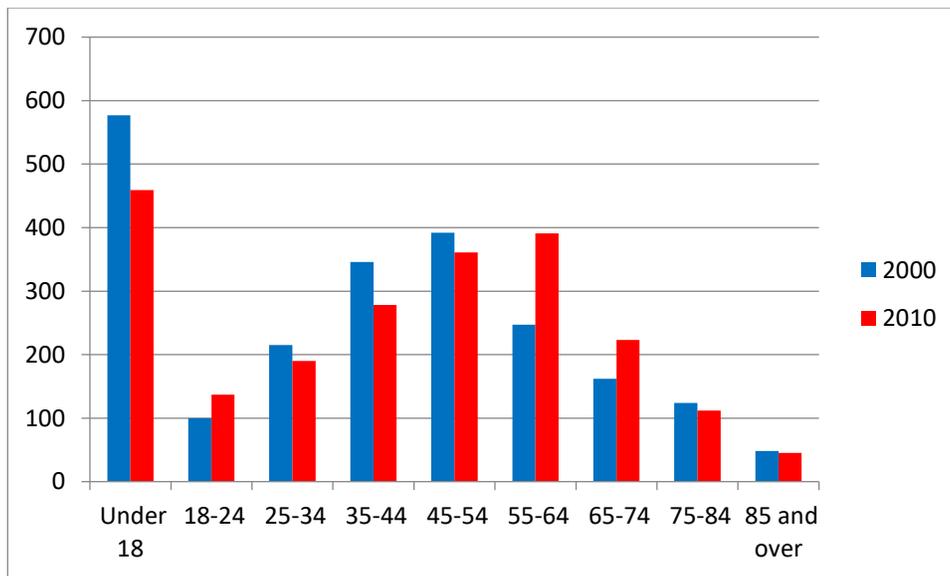
the Northeast Kingdom, has seen a shift from family households to non-family households. Although Danville still maintains a higher share of family households than county-wide (75% in Danville vs. 62% in Caledonia), there is a pronounced increase in the share of non-family households from the 2000 Census.

The vast majority of non-family households are householders who live alone, and an increasing share of those householders are over the age of 65. These householders may have changing housing needs if they wish to age in place, such as smaller homes that are easier to maintain and closer to services and amenities. Successful aging in place requires "livable communities," ones that are characterized by safe, appropriate, accessible, and affordable housing located in walkable neighborhoods with convenient access to goods and services.

*"Housing is an issue for those who want to age-in-place"* - 2016 Community Survey Response

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**Age Distribution, Danville 2000 and 2010**

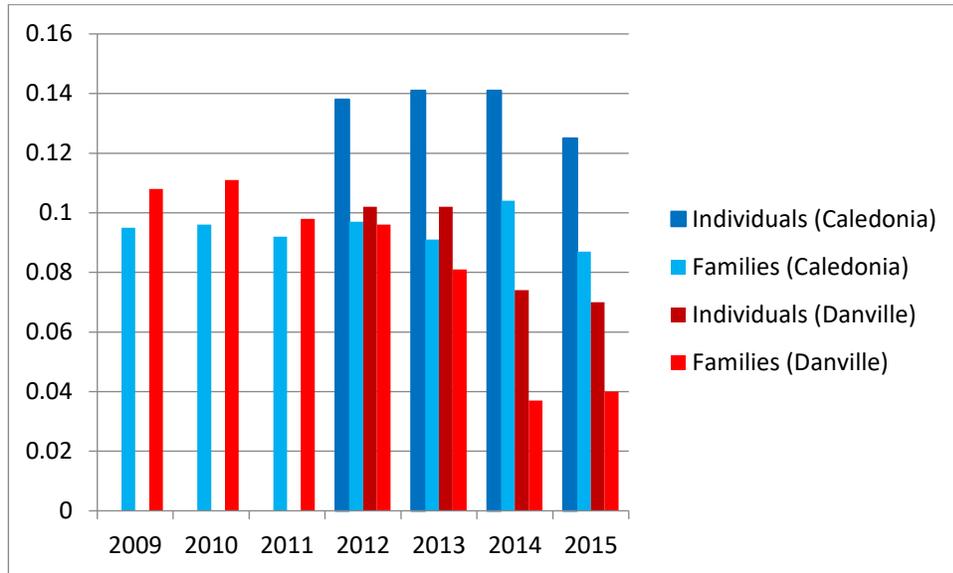


US Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

A diverse citizenry is paramount to the vitality of our community. Diversity lends dimension and new perspectives to the discourse that will take Danville into this new century. Assuring affordable housing for a broad cross-section of people who wish to share in our quality of life will foster socio-economic diversity.

Our community acknowledges its civic responsibility to assure that affordable housing is available to all. Affordable housing means that residents earning 80% of the county median income should pay no more than 30% of their income in total housing costs. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimate, the Caledonia County median household income is \$45,323, so affordable housing would cost no more than \$10,878 for households earning \$36,258 a year.

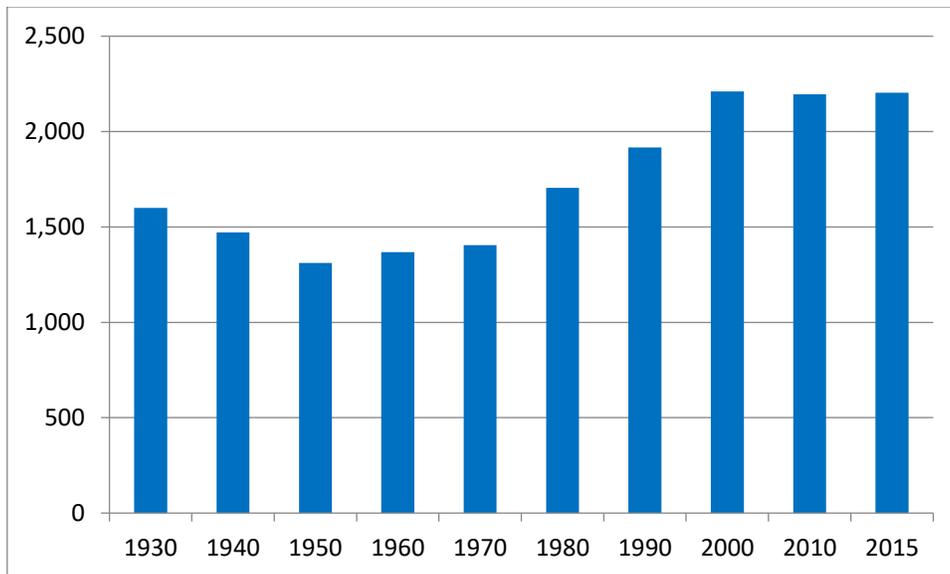
**Poverty Rate, Danville and Caledonia County 2009-2015**



*American Community Surveys, 2005-2015 5-year Estimates*

The citizens of Danville wish to preserve those aspects of the town which kept us here or brought us here - those features of our community that will most certainly attract others. Therefore, we must plan for growth while doing our best to maintain the beauty of our landscape and the charm of our villages.

**Historic Population Trend, Danville 1930-2014**



*US Census and 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate*

## Goal

Support initiatives to provide safe, affordable housing and to simultaneously preserve the rural character of our community.

## Objectives

1. Foster socioeconomic diversity by encouraging a variety of affordable housing including accessory dwelling units.
2. Assure that safe, affordable housing is available for the elderly. A range of living situations including but not limited to independent and assisted living should be considered.
3. Encourage mixed use residential development in villages that is in keeping with the village character.
4. Encourage open space zoning as a means of providing attractive, quality housing while minimizing sprawl in order to preserve the rural landscape.
5. Stipulate that development be rural in character such that structures integrate with their natural environment. Homes should be designed to fit the site rather than the site altered to fit the home.
6. Promote the establishment of small-scale lodging facilities such as B&B's, inns, youth hostels and farm-stays (agritourism) to provide short-term accommodations for tourists.
7. Encourage the use of local renewable energy resources for powering residential electricity needs and balance against the town's strong desire to maintain its rural character.

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Require that 25% of all new developer-built dwelling units be VHFA eligible. Development, by definition, entails a subdivision of multiple lots with construction, by a single building firm, which occurs concurrently or consecutively over time.
2. Assess data for families living below the poverty line to direct planning of low-income housing.
3. Support owners of multi-unit dwellings to comply with HUD Section 8 housing requirements, based on town/regional statistics.
4. Promote construction of affordable housing for seniors through HUD section 202.
5. Establish a definitive zoning bylaw which delineates standards for new construction and exterior renovation for specific districts. These standards must assure that the structure be in context with surrounding structures and/or blend with natural land formations. Points to consider might include design controls, location in an historic site or district, scale, placement on parcel, etc.

6. Include in zoning bylaws a provision that favors planned development as a means of accommodating population growth.
7. Establish a zoning bylaw that clearly outlines minimum lot sizes and requirements associated with common space in areas with open space zoning.
8. Require homes and outbuildings be located on the most appropriate sites in order to minimize impact on habitat preservation, public safety, view sheds (outside village areas), etc.
9. Set a maximum number of dwellings for areas based on the district objectives.
10. Do not encumber rural home sites with typical urban/suburban appointments such as curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, and blend in with the landscape.
11. Restrict new residential construction within 100 vertical feet of mapped ridgelines.
12. Homes and outbuildings constructed on high elevations and throughout the town should have non-polluting lights and naturalistic landscaping should be promoted.
13. Require homes and outbuildings constructed at high elevations be finished in subdued colors/tones that are derived from the local, natural environment.
14. Create “slope criteria” which prohibits grading of slopes over 35% to site new residences or outbuildings. On existing lots with no potential building sites having less than a 35% slope, earth berm construction should be promoted as the primary option.
15. Recommend and support initiatives that houses be constructed to maximum energy efficiency as outlined by Efficiency Vermont.
16. Promote education on new energy technologies that harness local renewable energy sources for residential electric use.
17. Investigate and pursue mechanisms to give incentives to residents and businesses to use local renewable energy sources for residential electric and heating use.
18. Provide information regarding low-emission building materials and encourage “Healthy Home” construction.

*"We need to be attracting families who can afford starter homes and can add to the value of our area"* - 2016 Community Survey response

## Responsibility for Implementation

Zoning administrator, Development Review Board, Planning Commission, Selectboard.

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## III. Jobs & Economic Development

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### Overview

Danville was chartered in 1786. In the early years, Danville experienced rapid growth of industry along its brooks and rivers and was the most populous town in the area. By the 1840s, Danville's industrial edge in water power gave way to towns along rivers that offered better transportation of goods, but Danville continued to possess a mixed economy of light industry, farming and trade.

The arrival of the railroad and advances in machinery allowed farmers to see better profits, and the town experienced an influx of tourists escaping from summer heat. The town survived the depressions of the 1890s and 1930s as well as two world wars. In the last part of the 20th century, it was transformed into more of a suburban community, though it still retains working farms.

In recent years, a new role for Danville has emerged. The rural environment featuring scenic vistas of mountains and rolling fields, historical village settings, commercial businesses, and community spirit is proving an asset to those who live here, visit, or start a business.



*Barrel to Bottle, established 2017*

Danville values community, our unique character, and our town's history. The Town continues to identify and invest in municipal projects that will preserve historical landmarks, contribute to environmental integrity, and create a sense of place. The restoration of the railroad depot station

in Danville village is a project that has the potential to serve in all of these capacities. A refurbished multi-use building aligns directly with larger municipal and regional economic development and transportation planning initiatives. Its location along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail provides a conspicuous stopping point for trail users. As an envisioned depot for depot touring throughout the region, it is ideally situated to promote local goods and services as well as other noteworthy destinations along the Rail Trail.



*"The Rail Trail has been an excellent addition and is used regularly by both Danville residents and visitors from outside Danville."* - 2016 Community Survey response

Danville needs to be pro-active in balancing economic growth with quality of life. A comprehensive economic development plan and the regulatory framework to implement it foster a sense of community. Such a plan curtails random development that can negatively affect property values and municipal resources and permanently detract from the rural character of the Town.

Like other rural communities in Vermont, Danville strives to balance growth and development with the best possible economic, social, environmental, and public health outcomes; to retain farmland and natural landscapes, small town traditions, and rural character while still benefiting from economic development.

**Selected Economic Characteristics, Town of Danville**

Economic Characteristic	2000	2015
Population 16 years and over	1,700	1,853
% In labor force <sup>1</sup>	66.6%	62.2%
% Employed <sup>1</sup>	65.1%	59.2%
% Unemployed <sup>1</sup>	1.5%	2.6%
% Armed Forces <sup>1</sup>	0%	0.3%
<b>% Not in labor force<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>37.8%</b>
% Drive alone to work <sup>2</sup>	78%	75.2%
% Carpool to work <sup>2</sup>	11.3%	8.6%
% Took public transportation to work <sup>2</sup>	0%	0.5%
% Walked to work <sup>2</sup>	2.9%	1.2%
% Work at home <sup>2</sup>	7.9%	14%
<b>% Mean travel time to work, minutes<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting, Mining <sup>2</sup>	7%	4.9%
% Construction <sup>2</sup>	6.8%	9.3%
% Manufacturing <sup>2</sup>	13.2%	8.1%
% Wholesale trade <sup>2</sup>	2%	1.2%
% Retail trade <sup>2</sup>	10.6%	12.4%
% Transportation and warehousing, and utilities <sup>2</sup>	2.6%	5.6%
% Information <sup>2</sup>	3.7%	3.3%
% Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing <sup>2</sup>	5.3%	5.3%
% Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services <sup>2</sup>	5.7%	11.3%
<b>% Educational services, and health care and social assistance<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>
% Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services <sup>2</sup>	5.2%	2.9%
% Other services, except public administration <sup>2</sup>	3.8%	4.6%
% Public administration <sup>2</sup>	7.9%	4.4%

American Community Survey and US Census Data

<sup>1</sup>Population 16 yrs and over

<sup>2</sup>Civilian Workers 16 yrs and over

Most Danville residents work outside of the town. Job creation relies heavily on regional, state and federal initiatives or the entrepreneurial spirit and investments of individuals with little or no local support. An economic plan and regulatory framework is necessary to make Danville an attractive location for businesses.

Today, the major employers in town are the school, the Town, small retail and service companies - many focused on hospitality and tourism - and many small entrepreneurial and home based businesses. There is a local need to promote the benefits of Danville as a place to locate or expand business and provide quality jobs for its residents.

Current zoning bylaws (adopted 2009) outline eight districts within the town: Village Core, Historical Neighborhoods, Village Residential, Route 2, Medium Density Residential (MDR) I, MDR II, Low Density Residential, and Conservation. Permitted uses, conditional uses, and area and dimensional requirements, parking requirements, loading and service areas are specifically defined for each district. The bylaws stipulate that no land development may commence without a zoning permit issued by the Administrative officer.

Danville received designation as a “Village Center”. Vermont law defines a village center as “the core of a traditional settlement, typically comprised of a cohesive mix of residential, civic, religious, commercial, and mixed use buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets that are within walking distance for residents who live within and surrounding the core.” Village Center designation supports local revitalization and comes with several opportunities for tax credits and priority status for grants. The designation is intended to promote a vibrant mix of uses in the heart of Danville Village(s).

## Goal

To promote a diverse economic climate that encourages job growth while having a low impact on the Town's infrastructure and rural character.

*"We need more growth within the community and surrounding areas for employment." - 2016 Community Survey response*

## Objectives

1. Attract and encourage small to mid-size businesses, while supporting existing businesses, which are compatible with the rural character of the Town.
2. Designate economic and commercial development of tourism, recreational, and agri-tourism businesses that utilize the local labor market and enhance the economic potential of agriculture and renewable natural resources, while remaining compatible with the rural setting of Danville and preserving farmland.
3. Ensure that new business development is compatible with existing land use planning.

*"if the taxes keep rising it [will] drive folks out of the town" - 2016 Community Survey response*

4. Facilitate the development of high-speed broadband and cellular access as necessary for low-impact small to mid-size and home based businesses.
5. Support agricultural enterprises and businesses, including new food retailers and local food producers and distributors.
6. Capitalize on existing recreational resources e.g. the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Joe's Pond, by supporting businesses providing services to local and tourist users.
7. Work with regional, state and federal agencies to promote agricultural, forestry and tourism related commerce.
8. Limit commercial development at the gateways to the village area to manage traffic.
9. Follow Smart Growth Principles in economic development:
  - a. *Support the rural landscape* by creating an economic climate that enhances the viability of working lands and conserves natural lands;
  - b. *Help existing places thrive* by taking care of assets and investments such as existing infrastructure, and places that the community values; and
  - c. *Create great new places* by building vibrant, enduring neighborhoods and communities that people, especially young people, don't want to leave



*Great Vermont Corn Maze, circa 2014*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Continue to review and revise zoning bylaws that apply to the village centers, including identifying areas of the Town most suited to business development that do not adversely impact residential neighborhoods, sensitive areas and the rural character of the Town.
2. Assess fully the ability of the Town's infrastructure to accommodate businesses. This includes such services as water, sewer access and fire protection. Continue to refine a plan to upgrade infrastructure for commercial and residential growth needs. Establish a capital budget to facilitate funding of infrastructure improvements.
3. Encourage the preservation and continued use of agricultural and forestry land through zoning, economic incentives and tax relief.
4. Maintain the Village Center designation as a tax incentive to revitalize the village area.
5. Limit the size of the impervious surface footprint of new and established commercial enterprises slated for expansion. Industrial and commercial enterprises of this magnitude must be located in a commercial area to be determined.
6. Update landscaping and signage controls as needed. Businesses and residents must use non-polluting lights and signage of reasonable scale throughout the town. Internally lit plastic, marquee-type signs will not be permitted.
7. Educate local entrepreneurs about the availability of small businesses development services and funds.

8. Collaborate with interested parties to identify existing access and future opportunities to increase access to local foods while promoting local food business e.g. EBT access at the Danville Farmers’ Market.
9. Identify funding sources to facilitate the development of high-speed broadband and cellular e.g. USDA Rural Development, Northern Border Regional Commission grants.
10. Maintain and promote the Danville Green as a location for commerce (Farmers’ Market, Danville Fair, Autumn on the Green) as allowed under the bylaws. Investigate options for increasing parking along the Green.
11. Seek funding opportunities to assist in renovating and refurbishing railroad station.
12. Other as identified by the Selectboard & Chamber of Commerce

## Responsibility for Implementation

The Planning Commission and the Development Review Board shall be responsible for all recommendations related to zoning, re-zoning and identification of development and preservation areas. All recommendations shall be submitted to the Selectboard.

### **Economics, Town of Danville**

INCOME	2010	2015
Median Family Income	\$52,468	\$76,324
Mean Family Income	\$85,250	\$83,150
Median Household Income	\$50,148	\$62,019
Mean Household Income	\$74,171	\$72,488
OCCUPATION		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	1,220	1,097
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	535	379
Service occupations	163	201
Sales and office occupations	342	218
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	129	197
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	51	102

*US Census Bureau, Census 2000, and American Community Survey 2015*

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## IV. Community Resources

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### A. Facilities & Services

#### Overview

The town of Danville requires and depends on a variety of public, volunteer and private services for safety, utilities, access (roads), town management, etc. The citizens of Danville have a responsibility and an interest in assuring that the required services and facilities are available as needed and will continue to be available. Additionally, the citizens of Danville have a responsibility and an interest that future needs in the area of services and facilities will be met.



*Quilting classes and Autumn on the Green are just a few of the activities offered in the Town.*



*Historic Photo of the Village Green*

## Inventory

### **Municipal Buildings:**

Danville School  
Town Hall  
House, 60 Route 2 West  
Sewer Plant  
North Danville School  
Railroad Station (Recycle Center)  
Fire Station  
Town Garage and Sheds (Davis Lot)  
New Town Garage  
Town Farm  
North Danville Fire Station  
North Danville Tool Shed



*Danville Town Hall and Offices*

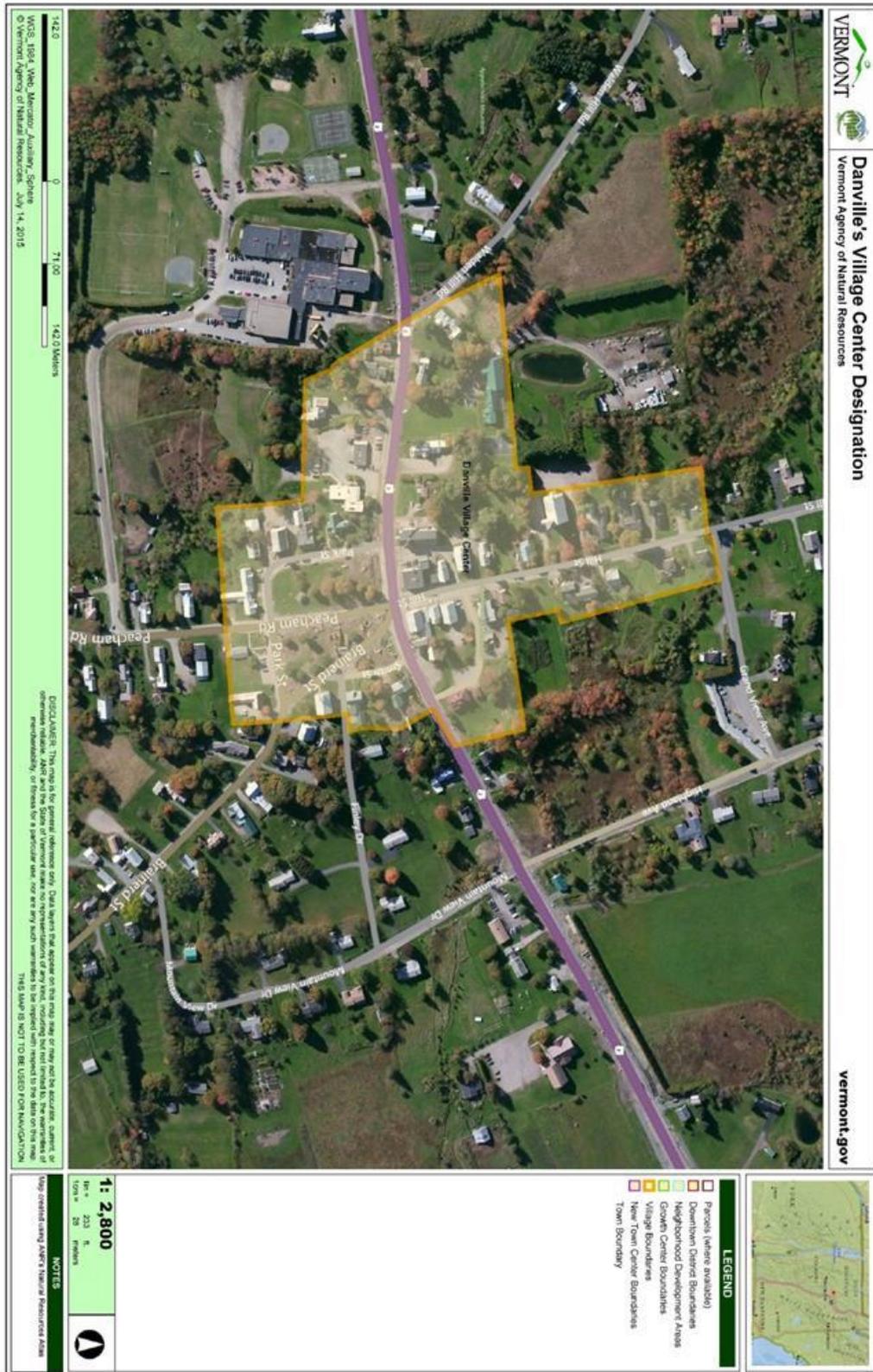
### **Land:**

Merton Rodger Lot  
Town Pound Lot  
Land for roadway – North Danville  
Danville Cemeteries and associated land  
Town Forests  
Village Green  
Greenbanks Hollow  
Hill Street Park  
Joes Pond Beach  
Lamoille Valley Rail Trail  
Fire District Water System  
Otis Bricket Park – West Danville  
Doris Silver Property – West Danville  
The Covered Bridge



*Village Green & Gazebo*

# Graphic: Village Center Designation



## Goal

To provide, maintain and improve adequate public safety, services and facilities for the community.

## Objectives

1. Assure that services provided by the town of Danville are well managed and town facilities are properly maintained and continue to be available to the citizens.
2. Assure that services and utilities provided by groups and organizations other than the Town are properly maintained and continue to be available to the citizens.
3. Support the volunteer organizations that provide essential services that are vital to the life and safety of the community.

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Ensure adequate police protection concurrent with town growth including the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the contracted hours from the Sheriff's Department.
2. Maintain a capital budget and program for purchasing/replacing the Town's fire and road maintenance equipment and other capital budget needs.
3. Develop a long-term plan for funding, use and maintenance of Town owned buildings. Increase their viability and the community's involvement in the care of the buildings.
4. Develop a long-range plan to maximize the public use of Town buildings such as the Town Hall, Schools and Railroad Station. Utilize a Town building to distribute commercial and tourist information.
5. Create a volunteer organization to help the EMS and Fire Department with non-core activities such as fund raising, administration and education.
6. Support volunteer organizations, such as the fire and rescue squads, to work with businesses and the community to recruit volunteers and to develop a plan to increase coverage that will allow workers to leave during work hours on a limited basis where appropriate.
7. Ensure public facilities, services and infrastructure are functional, safe and in working order. Review emergency shelter locations for essential service requirements such as electrical generators, water supply, heating, medical supplies, and radio communication. Apply for grants through Homeland Security Program.
8. Review parking requirements at the Town Hall, Town recreation fields, Village area and other public buildings and increase as required.

## Responsibility for Implementation

The Selectboard shall be responsible for ensuring that all services provided by either the Town or independent organizations considered essential to the citizens of Danville are sufficient to meet current and future needs. This includes the necessary support for volunteer organizations that may include funding where appropriate.



*Town Garage and Shed*

## B. Emergency Services

### Overview

Emergency services are made up of 3 parts: Law, Fire, and Rescue. The Vermont State Police in St. Johnsbury serve as law enforcement for all residents in Danville. The town contracts for limited traffic enforcement with the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department (CCSD). Danville is served by a volunteer fire department that has been in place for more than 100 years. The fire department is located at 296 Peacham Road and has a total of 4 fire trucks, one stationed in North Danville, one rescue vehicle, and one UTV Remote Rescue Vehicle. Danville Rescue Squad, Inc. is a nonprofit rescue organization that had its first year of service in 1968. It is a volunteer organization. Danville Rescue has its own building located at 379 Brainerd Street and has 4 rescue vehicles in its fleet including an amphibious unit. Danville Rescue is associated with the CALEX Ambulance Service, based in St. Johnsbury.

## Goal

Provide the best possible service in safety, fire, and rescue.

## Objectives

1. Provide timely response to all emergencies.
2. Have all roads clearly marked.
3. Buildings should have locatable addresses that are clearly displayed.
4. Follow and enforce Vermont Enhanced 911 standards.
5. Training and emergency contingency plans should be up to date.
6. Town should ensure sufficient support and funding for emergency services.



*Danville Rescue*



*Danville Fire Station*



*Danville Medical Center*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Town will ensure all roads continue to be posted with standard road signs.
2. Road naming issues will be resolved in a timely manner by the Selectboard.
3. Town should ensure funding for Fire and Rescue to have up to date training on all required courses.
4. Education regarding volunteer services provided by Danville Rescue and Fire departments should be supported financially by the residents.
5. Establish plan for maintenance of all emergency service equipment.
6. Maintain alternate route plans created in the case of main routes being blocked.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard and Fire Department

## C. Education

### Overview

The Danville School District belongs to the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union. Children in grades Pre K-12 attend the Danville School, which offers elementary, middle, and high school instruction to all students

*To Thaddeus Stevens “education was the best means afforded to humanity to obtain equal opportunity in life.” - Thomas F. Woodley*

within the regular classroom setting. The Danville community places a high value on education, and has high expectations for school programs and student achievement. This is evidenced by the Town's annual support of school budgets, and by a high level of parent involvement in the school. During the 2008-2009 school year, the Danville School served 349 students. In addition to Pre K-12, approximately 30 students are enrolled in pre-school. A strategic plan is developed every 5 years by the school and each year when they draft the budget they have to match the plan. The challenge, as always, is how to provide a high-quality educational experience that remains affordable to the taxpayers.

The Danville School also provides community uses, such as town meeting day and supervised community recreational events. The school is welcoming to the community and is lucky to have an active parent-teacher organization, alumni and boosters group. In 2010-2011, school will be participating in a grant to become a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.

Educational issues and concerns are not limited to the Pre K-12 years. For example, access to affordable, high-quality day care for young children is a continuing concern for both single- and two-parent families. Given the need for childcare in today's society, the Town shall ensure that its policies and bylaws encourage, rather than impede, provision of these services. It is important that these facilities are integrated appropriately into residential neighborhoods, especially with regard to traffic, parking, noise, and other potential impacts.

*"I would like my children to live here with a decent job."* - Danville resident.  
Town of Danville 2003  
Landowners Survey

The Danville school can establish a partnership between the public and private sectors to identify residents' needs, and explore opportunities for new programming and utilizing interactive resources of the school. An example of where other towns have developed such partnerships is through the continuing education program called the Academy for Lifelong Learning.



*Danville School*

**Education levels, by percentage of population over age 25**

Less than 9th Grade	4.0
9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	4.0
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	35.3
Some college, no degree	14.3
Associate's Degree	9.8
Bachelor's Degree	19.6
Graduate or Professional Degree	13.1

2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimate

Goal

To provide high quality, broad-based educational services for the people of the community through the public school system and promotion of other public and private educational programs.

Objectives

1. To maintain a quality school system for both present and future residents that is essential to the quality of life, and provides the Town with a community focus and sense of pride.
2. To keep quality education affordable requiring a continued balance between expenditures and what the tax base can support.
3. Continue the shared use of school to maximize use by community members providing the community with a sense of ownership and appreciation of this resource.
4. Encourage participation in the governance and support of the school and facilities by the community.
5. Support use of town lands for broad based educational experiences.
6. Provide adequate funding, using all available sources, to achieve the highest possible standards.
7. Ensure rapid development will not inflict undue impacts and hardships upon the ability of the town to provide quality educational services.
8. Broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities.
9. Town shall support the establishment of child care (after school) facilities integrated appropriately into surrounding neighborhoods.

*“In New England free schools plant the seeds and the desire of knowledge in every mind, without regard to wealth of the parent, or the texture of the pupil’s garment.” - Thaddeus Stevens (Vermonter born in Danville)*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Continue soliciting support from the business, government and academic communities to enrich educational and other programs.
2. Stimulate an exchange of information and viewpoints among the School Board, the Selectboard and the townspeople.
3. Broaden access to a diverse range of course offerings at the High School level.
4. Aid the school in obtaining the materials necessary to train students for the technological diversity of our current and future economy.
5. Ensure that both motorized and pedestrian access is safe and convenient in the vicinity of the school.
6. Plan land use near the school that ensures options to adequately adapt its facilities to changes in enrollment, population and community needs.
7. Seek to obtain outside sources of program-specific funding.
8. Support the promotion of fundraising activities to sponsor programs within the school.
9. Address basic community needs, to the extent possible, through curricular and extracurricular enrichment programs.
10. Costs associated with increased use of the school facilities for community use should be monitored to ensure they do not overburden the school.
11. Develop a budget that is fiscally responsible and affordable by the taxpayers.
12. Review the communication process between the school, school board and the community and identify opportunities to improve the budget information, review and proposal process.

## Responsibility for Implementation

School Board, Selectboard, Townspeople and Community Organizations.

## D. Health, Recreation, and Wellness

### Overview

Health is an important consideration that must not be overlooked during the planning process. Policies that guide future development decisions must be cognizant of the link that community design plays in the health of the people, the land and the environment. Planning for health requires an intentional and deliberate shift in thinking to one that promotes active living and healthy eating, sense of place, interaction among neighbors and connection to nature. This can be achieved by planning for public gathering places such as parks and community gardens, building infrastructure that allows for safe walking and biking and increasing access to healthy foods by

providing support to our local farmers and producers. This includes helping them to connect to new markets such as schools, businesses and hospitals. The role that Town Plans play in promoting health is only one piece of the health puzzle, but an important one. Healthy community design can over time positively impact our residents' health and well-being by facilitating healthy behavior patterns that help to prevent many of the leading chronic diseases and health challenges facing our population today. Local agriculture and outdoor recreation are defining characteristics of Northern Vermont living that are valued by Danville residents and together they contribute to our overall health. To keep in this tradition, the Town should continue to facilitate the creation and maintenance of recreational possibilities as well as foster the connection to local farms and food as part of an effort to keep and enhance the quality of life in Danville. A strong recreation and local foods base can also be an opportunity for local commerce as tourism is a key business in Northern Vermont.



*Joe's Pond Beach*

## Goal

To plan for and build a community with health and wellness at its core maintaining and increasing access to outdoor recreational opportunities and healthy local foods.

***A town plan is important for the good of all. Only thinking ahead can preserve the best of what we have.*** - Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

## Objectives

1. Maintain, enhance and expand, where appropriate, existing public recreational facilities.
2. Encourage low impact outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, skiing, snowshoeing and hiking on both private and public lands/waters.

3. Encourage development of private, low impact recreational enterprises, and recreation opportunities on private lands.
4. Support a recreation committee officially charged with bringing together existing activities and the development and support of municipal recreation facilities on behalf of the community.
5. Protect Joes Pond town beach access and water quality.
6. Increase access to healthy, local foods.

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Ensure access to Danville School and other town public properties and facilities to maximize public use.
2. Appoint a Recreation Committee that is responsible to the Selectboard. The primary focus of the Recreation Committee should be the development of new recreation activities and facilities as well as to manage existing activities and facilities.
3. Expansion of town recreational facilities should be self-supporting through assessment of user-fees.
4. The Lamoille Valley Trail and the development of adjacent trailheads should be supported and promoted as an important recreational and economic development asset in Town.
5. Support the North Danville Community Club maintenance of North Danville School and playground.
6. Support the maintenance and enhancement of Joe's Pond Beach.
7. Promote usage of Fish and Wildlife access areas.
8. Recognize and support other forms of recreation such as gardening, landscaping and beautification projects on both public and private property representing recreational activities important to residents.
9. Expand recreational usage of public lands including Steam Mill Brook WMA, town forests, Fire District watershed and Danville Green through development of a recreation plan appropriate and compatible with desirable uses.
10. Retain all Town Roads as shown on the official Vermont Highway Map of the Town Of Danville. Add any roads that are found not to be on this map, and retain any unused or ancient roads as public trails.
11. Develop a comprehensive map delineating local food and recreational opportunities throughout the town. Include trails, local farms, farmers' market, fam stand locations, suitability for types of activity, parks and playgrounds, public access areas and any private commercial recreational enterprises. Make available for public distribution.
12. Encourage access to private lands for appropriate recreational usage and promote awareness of public liability protection. Inform residents of the impact and consequences of posting land.
13. Consider adoption of local ordinance creating hunting safety zones around the village areas. Consider other measures designed to encourage landowner/recreational user cooperation and understanding.
14. Periodically review existing snowmobile and ATV Town Ordinances.

15. Encourage development of low impact commercial recreational development through the zoning by-laws.
16. Identify public vacant properties that could be used for community-supported agriculture, community gardens, farmers' markets and public parks.
17. Rehabilitation of existing or development of new recreation facilities should be made accessible to all users (seniors and youth) and be in ADA compliance.
18. Increase access to healthy local foods by connecting local farmers and producers to new markets through support for programs such as Farm to School and other Farm to Institution initiatives.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Selectboard

## E. Solid Waste

### Overview

In 1991 Danville joined the Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District that serves its member towns by providing the planning, hazardous waste collection, education, State compliance reporting, facility certification application, grant application, recycling material possessing, and other activities which would otherwise have to be carried out by each individual town.

The Town of Danville, for its part, operates a recycling center (now a paid position) in the former train station, and operates at least two bulky and categorical waste days each year. During summer months the Town operates a stump dump for yard waste limited to Danville residents. Danville School and one business also participate in the community recycling effort and food waste composting effort.

### Goal

To minimize the impact of solid waste on the citizens and businesses of Danville and to conserve the natural resources of the planet.

## Objectives

1. To encourage the citizens and businesses of Danville to minimize the production of municipal solid waste, hazardous and other wastes.
2. To make available for reuse unwanted or unneeded items; and through recycling and composting to further reduce the disposal of wastes.



*Danville Recycling Center*



*Sorting Recyclables at the Center*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Remain an active member of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District and support their adopted plan.
2. Continuously work to educate all residents and businesses on the vital importance of conservation, reduction, reuse, and recycling.
3. Continue to operate, maintain, and improve the recycling / reusable operation at the old train station. Auxiliary sites should also be considered if the need is demonstrated.
4. Promote a system of organized composting for yard wastes generated in the town.
5. Support the implementation of Act 148 to ensure that farm and food wastes are recycled into compost and energy that will be used as production inputs. Continue to promote a local or regionalized system for composting commercial, private and school food wastes generated in the town.
6. Promote and facilitate proper hazardous waste and universal waste disposal through the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District.
7. Continue to rely on independent waste haulers supplemented by special collection events.
8. Encourage the citizens and businesses to comply with state burning laws, and with the proper recycling or disposal of waste durable goods such as junk cars and appliances, particularly where these goods are stored outside and where they contain hazardous or universal wastes. Develop a town ordinance to limit the number of unlicensed non-agricultural vehicles stored on a property.
9. Institute recycling programs in commercial businesses and municipal operations such as paper recycling at Danville School, and town offices, waste oil at the town garage, and composting of food waste from Danville School.

10. Encourage the utilization of recycled materials in private, commercial, town or school operations such as procuring paper products produced from recycled paper.
11. Review current sewage sludge disposal contracts and develop long-term agreements.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Waste District Town Supervisor, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, Conservation Commission.

## F. Sewage Disposal

### Overview

The Town of Danville undertook a major project for the collection and treatment of sewerage in Danville Village. The old “Creamery Sewer System” was totally replaced and additional residents with failed private septic systems were also connected to this new system. A double aerated lagoon was constructed next to Water Andric, to which the treated effluent is discharged. Recent improvements in the treatment system have helped retain the high quality of the effluent. However due to the small watershed of the Water Andric above the discharge point, the amount of the treated effluent which may be discharged is particularly limited at times of low flow.

The Agency of Natural Resources, has established the maximum capacity for the waste water treatment plant. They continually monitor the discharge flow and treatment level of the effluent to ensure proper operation of the plant. Based on the flow and capacity of the plant they have established an unused capacity that limits the future connections to the system.

### Goal

To provide and maintain a sanitary solution to sewage disposal, not only in the village area but in all areas of the town.

## Objectives

1. To maintain the waste treatment plant, pumping station and sewer system in good operating condition, to retain a high level of treatment of all waste
2. To provide for potential expansion of this system to support growth of the village area.
3. To ensure all private septic systems meet state standards and are fully operational

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Continue a current maintenance plan for the sewage treatment plant that is adequately funded to make improvements and upgrades to maintain a very high quality effluent.
2. Educate users of the importance of excluding heavy metals, pesticides and other inappropriate substances from their waste stream.
3. To accommodate future growth, continually monitor new technology and implement improvements to increase the efficiency of the plant to allow the ANR to increase the allowable capacity of the plant.
4. Ensure acceptable sewerage disposal is operational prior to occupancy permit for all new construction and rental properties prior to occupancy under local zoning bylaw.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Planning Commission

## G. Water Systems

### Overview

In 1898 Danville Fire District No. 1 was formed with the purchase of a watershed and construction of a spring and open reservoir supply system with a pipeline to Danville Village to supply water and fire protection to its residents. In 1999, a high yield rock well, enclosed reservoir, and a new pipeline to the village service area was constructed. In 2010, the water lines and hydrants north of route 2 were replaced. In 2011-2012, in conjunction with the Route 2 project, new lines and fire hydrants were installed around the park and the along entire length of the Route 2 project, extending the system to Marty's First Stop. These 3 projects have significantly improved the quantity, quality, and reliability of the water supply and provide capacity for future growth.

The Prudential Committee of the Fire District has set a goal of replacing the distribution lines and hydrants on the Peacham Road and Brainerd Street. An engineering firm is currently under contract to design this project and we plan to complete the construction if and when funds become available.

## Goal

To provide sufficient and reliable high quality water supply for drinking and sufficient water for fighting fires.

## Objectives

1. Maintain the new portions of the water system and upgrade the remainder of the system.
2. Continue to work on a high quality backup supply.
3. Identify potential funding from federal, state, and local sources to assist in carrying out needed improvements.

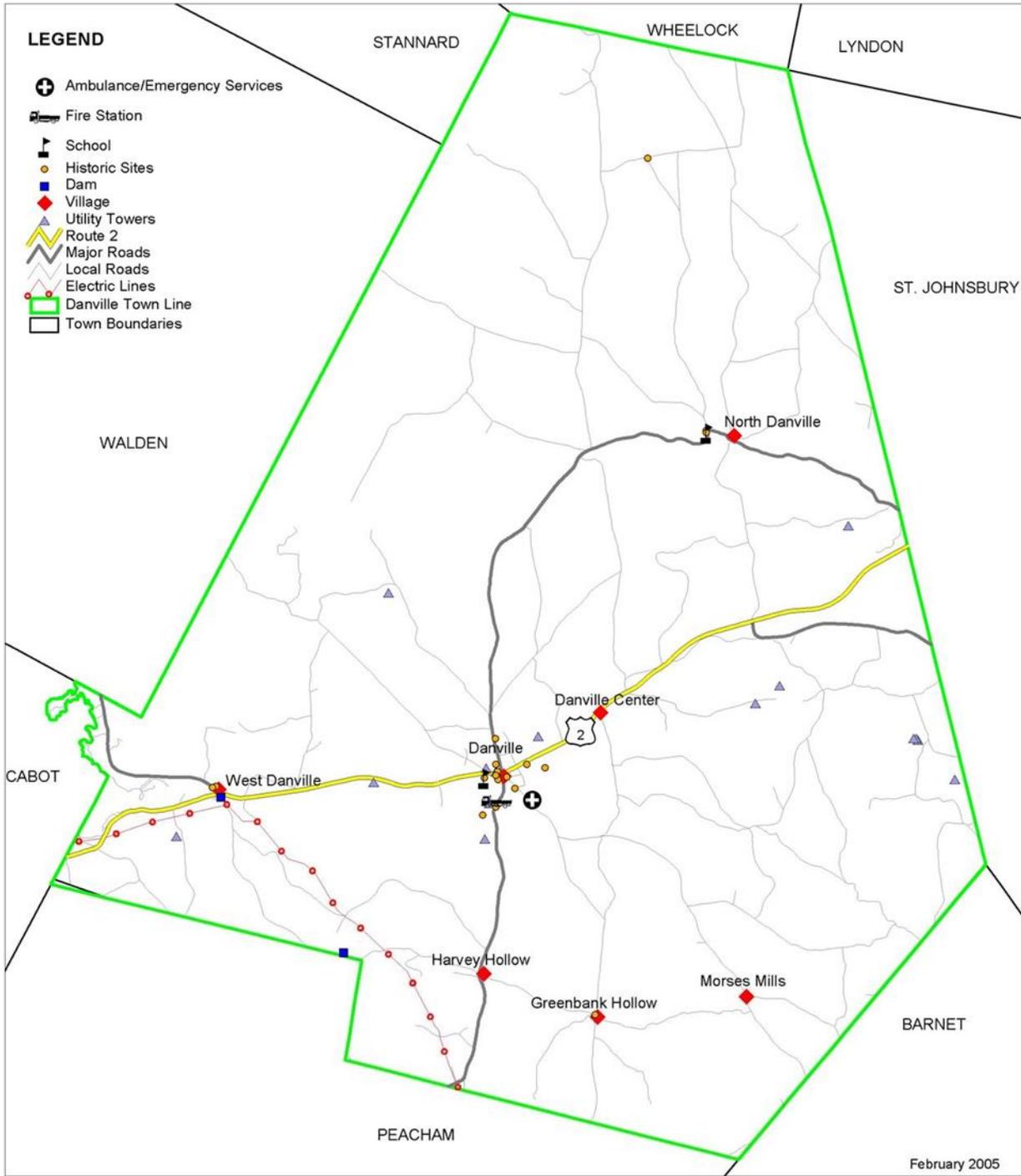
## Recommended Actions (Programs, Tasks, & Policies)

1. Follow state recommendations for water testing of all public drinking water sources.
2. Protect the town water system, particularly the well and the reservoir, from contamination or other threats.
3. Develop an inspection and maintenance program for all critical fire hydrants, and replace as necessary.
4. Develop funding scenarios for system upgrades using local, state and federal funds as they become available.
5. Ensure there is sufficient income from users for the day to day operation of the water system.
6. Identify the current boundaries of the town water system and develop an expansion plan to increase capacity of the system in preparation for growth in Danville village.
7. Consider a long range plan for the village water system that might include the town assuming ownership and management of the system.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Prudential Committee, Planning Commission

# Map: Utilities and Facilities



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Utilities and Facilities

**DRAFT**



Basemap data from VCGI and NVDA. All locations are approximate. Data is only as accurate as the original source. LandWorks does not guarantee the accuracy of this data.



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## V. Land Use & Development

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### Overview

Danville is located in the geographic region known as the Piedmont that encompasses rolling hills and valleys between the Green Mountain and White Mountain ranges. The topography was conducive to agriculture and as a result, Danville evolved into a rural community reliant on a working landscape that featured farming, forestry and other rural related industries. Today, many of the original farms have gone out of business and a significant amount of land has either reverted back to forest or has been sold off and subdivided for residential and second home development.



*Danville cherishes its rural landscape and pastoral views*

If we truly wish to preserve our rural village centers, slow down developmental sprawl and subsequent carving up of our contiguous forests and agricultural lands, then we need to reflect back and understand what shaped the Town of Danville that we cherish and want to preserve. As townspeople and landowners, we must be willing to subordinate unfettered freedom to do what we want with our ownerships and instead envision methods to steer land use towards what is beneficial to this greater vision. This is all the more important as development right easement sales are rare in Danville, especially relative to what exists in the state as a whole. There is currently only one commercial farm in town that is conserved. We must pursue zoning options that do not reflect the typical post World War II concepts of symmetrical lots and generous set back requirements reflected in our neighborhoods along Highland Avenue and Mountain View Drive.



*Webster Century Farm*



*Langmaid Century Farm*

Danville is fortunate to have magnificent pastoral scenery with long-range vistas and unspoiled ridgelines; however, this is also the Town's challenge as more people migrate to the area creating a demand for land development.

Results from the "2003 Danville Landowners Survey" overwhelmingly reflected the desire and support to preserve the Town's rural character and limit developmental sprawl. A major concern is the commercial development of US Route 2 and the continued subdivision of larger tracts of land.

***"Don't try to control what people do on their own land. If it doesn't bother immediate neighbors the town should stay out of it."*** - 2016 Community Survey response

On December 3rd, 2009, Project 1 (Village District Updates) was completed and incorporated into the zoning bylaws. The revisions created four new zoning districts for Danville Village and the immediate surrounding area. From the center out, the districts included:

1. A village core district surrounding the Green, where a vibrant mix of homes, businesses, and civic uses are encouraged
2. A historic residential district along Peacham, Hill, and Brainerd streets whose purpose is to promote historically compatible infill close to the village core
3. A commercial district that extends east and west a short distance from the village along Route 2, with the goal of encouraging compact, walkable commercial development A new residential district that surrounds the other districts, providing flexible opportunities for building new neighborhoods that follow the traditional village pattern of smaller lots on an interconnected network of quiet streets



Danville's classic village center



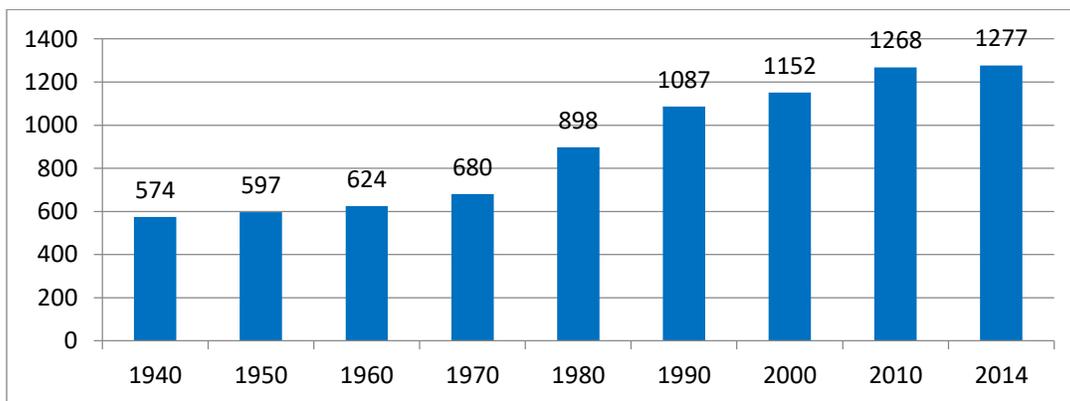
North Danville Village

The way our food is produced and distributed through the food system can have tremendous impacts on the environment, our health and our communities. A collaborative approach to strengthening our regional and local food systems can be found in Vermont's Farm to Plate Initiative which aims to

*"I had the fortune to grow up in a rural farming community and I hope my grandchildren have the same option."* - 2016 Community Survey Response

“strengthen the working landscape, improve the profitability of farms and food enterprises, maintain environmental resilience and increase local food access”. Local land use regulations can emulate these efforts and contribute further to the goals of agricultural viability and sustainability, farmland preservation, improved access to healthy nutritious foods and a strong local economy by fostering the success of diversified on- farm businesses such as classes, tastings and value-added food processing facilities for example. Local policy can also support enhanced access of healthy local foods for our schools and other institutions and promote the use of public land for markets and community gardens. The Northeast Kingdom Food Systems Plan, updated in 2016, provides a comparative analysis of agricultural products in the region as part of a larger assessment of our regional food system; identifying potential markets for local products as well as additional resources and development strategies that include addressing food justice issues, infrastructure investments and increasing local food production.

**Total Housing Units, Danville 1940-2014**



US Census and 2010-2014 ACS 5-year Estimate

## Shoreland Zoning

The zoning of land adjacent to Keiser Pond in Danville is currently Low Density Residential and Conservation, and the zoning along the lakeshore of Joe's Pond is currently Medium Density Residential II.

The zoning adjacent to Joe's Pond, where the shoreland is intensely developed, has been problematic. Existing lot sizes and setbacks on properties along Joe's Pond should be considered in developing a new zoning district for this area. In many cases, pre-existing lots on Joe's Pond are smaller than the required lot size and it is not possible to develop or redevelop many of these lots under the existing setback requirements of the MDR-II district. Additionally, the MDR-II district regulations do not address the relationship of development to the lakefront. A zoning district tailored to the particular issues of lakefront development would help to mitigate future impacts to water quality and shoreland habitat while recognizing existing development patterns.

The "Developed Shoreland District" zoning classification currently proposed for the shoreland of Joes Pond in neighboring Cabot may provide a useful model for Danville. Such a district would establish a minimum shoreline frontage, a maximum building footprint, and maximum building height to address both water quality and scenic impacts of development on the lake.

This district could include provision for a waiver from the dimensional requirements provided certain conditions are met. The Vermont State Statute at 24 V.S.A. section 4414 provides for the following in regard to waivers:

(A) A bylaw may allow a municipality to grant waivers to reduce dimensional requirements, in accordance with specific standards that shall be in conformance with the plan and the goals set forth in section 4302 of this title. These standards may:

- (i) Allow mitigation through design, screening, or other remedy;
- (ii) Allow waivers for structures providing for disability accessibility, fire safety, and other requirements of law; and
- (iii) Provide for energy conservation and renewable energy structures.

(B) If waivers from dimensional requirements are provided, the bylaws shall specify the process by which these waivers may be granted and appealed.

The waiver approach could focus on best management practices to remedy erosion and runoff problems and protect water quality in the lake when properties are being developed or redeveloped. This approach would avoid the need to go through the process of a variance review for minor changes to setbacks (currently a particular problem for the development of properties on Joe's Pond), and give property owners more flexibility to meet the provisions of the State Shoreland Act, which focus on the mitigation of impacts to water quality (see Natural Heritage section for description of provisions of this Act.)

**Natural Resources, Town of Danville**

Area of Land, Sq. Miles, 2000	60.88
Area of Water, Sq. Miles, 2000	0.28
Percentage Developed Land	9.43%
Percentage Open/Agricultural Land	3.76%
Percentage Forested Land	86.4%
Percentage Open Water	0.44%
Percentage Private & Public Conserved Lands, 1999	2.9%
Total Private & Public Conserved Lands, Acres, 2015	1,141
Federal Administered Conserved Lands, Acres, 1999	0
State Administered Conserved Lands, Acres, 2015	298
Change in Forest Land to Developed Land, Acres, 1970-90	170.6
Change in Forest Land to Non-Forested Land, Acres, 1970-1990	114.3
Change in Non-Forested Land to Developed Land, Acres, 1970-1990	13.1

*Various sources including Vermont Indicators Online and NVDA*

**Property Tax and Grand List, Town of Danville, 2010 and 2015**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>
Municipal Tax Rate	0.4457	0.4801
School Tax Rate, Homestead	1.2281	1.4244
Total estimated effective Tax Rate, Homestead	1.6738	1.9045
School Tax Rate, Non-Residential	1.4239	1.4753
Total estimated effective Tax Rate, Non-Residential	1.8696	1.9554
Grand List, Municipal	\$2,813,315.66	\$2,905,105.86
Grand List, Homestead	\$1,580,804.37	\$1,587,015.00
Grand List, Non-Residential	\$1,241,466.44	\$1,329,199.93

*Town of Danville 2015 Town Report*

## Goal

To maintain and enhance the town's rural and agricultural character, beautiful environment, and strong sense of community while providing appropriate locations for residential, commercial and light industrial development.

## Objectives

1. Designate commercial and light industrial development areas that do not impact the rural character of the Town. Establish residential areas with lot sizes and sub-division requirements that meet resident needs while complying with planning criteria that supports the preservation of rural characteristics.
2. Manage the scale of development so as not to exceed town resources and infrastructure. Support traditional village center growth and discourage developmental sprawl.
3. Establish zoning bylaws that support development plans and provide protection against uncontrolled growth and pollution.
4. Establish agricultural districts in commercially farmed areas of town with zoning bylaws designed to help preserve that continued viability.
5. Promote economic and environmental sustainability of local and regional agriculture and food production.
6. Minimize potential conflicts between land uses should the extraction of sand, gravel, or other mineral resources become feasible. Minimize the environmental impacts of earth resources extraction, and assure reclamation or restoration of any such site once work is completed.



*Danville's traditional village center*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Update the rural land use map that delineates primary agricultural soils and lands that should be protected from development. Develop standards that protect these defined areas.
2. Defines current areas of commercial and light industrial development that include minimum lot sizes, building sizes, adequate parking, infrastructure requirements, landscaping, noise and light control.
3. Establish zoning ordinances that define current residential development. Establish development standards that include lot sizes determined by; 1) planned use of the site, 2) density characteristics appropriate to the area, 3) sound sewage, water, and air quality considerations 4) capability to support more than one dwelling on a lot. Define certain residential areas to be zoned free of any commercial uses.
4. Adopt subdivision regulations to shape orderly development consistent with the town's rural small town character.  
Continue to revise setback and lot size requirements to accommodate development in character with traditional village and recreational land uses.
5. Support agri-tourism as an effective light commercial endeavor that promotes successful business with a secondary benefit of maintaining open farmland.
6. Modify conditional use categories that protect residential areas against incompatible commercial development and place the burden of proof on the applicant that such uses will not degrade or adversely affect neighboring properties.
7. Village centers should be reviewed for specific characteristics and protected from incompatible development.
8. Support state and non-governmental agencies to obtain assistance for local farms on improving farming efficiencies and accessing tax abatement programs. Explore land trust and conservation easement options.
9. Put on workshops to advise working landowners on financial benefits of conservation.
10. Maintain and update tax maps as necessary.
11. Establish an agriculture district zoning ordinance with the objective of reducing fragmentation of the resource and retaining the natural size and borders of fields. Make residential and on-farm commercial development conditional uses in this zone. Siting and buffering concerns can then be addressed with the goal of retaining future agricultural viability.
12. Establish a policy with supporting ordinances that addresses visual detractors from the rural character of the Town such as signage, inappropriate structures, transfer stations, etc.
13. Town should consider the plan objectives when setting tax policies.
14. Conduct a community food audit to identify existing access and future opportunities to connect local agriculture to markets such as retailers, restaurants, schools and other institutions.

***“Planning consists of a careful balancing of community protection versus individual freedoms.”***

- Danville Resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

***“We should all remember what we find important may not be important to another but [is] no less important.”*** - 2016 Community Survey response

15. Condition local approval of development within 250 of the mean water level of lakes greater than 10 acres on the issuance of a permit from the State Agency of Natural Resources.
16. Review and amend as necessary the zoning of land adjacent to Joe's Pond to ensure efficient development and protection of water quality.

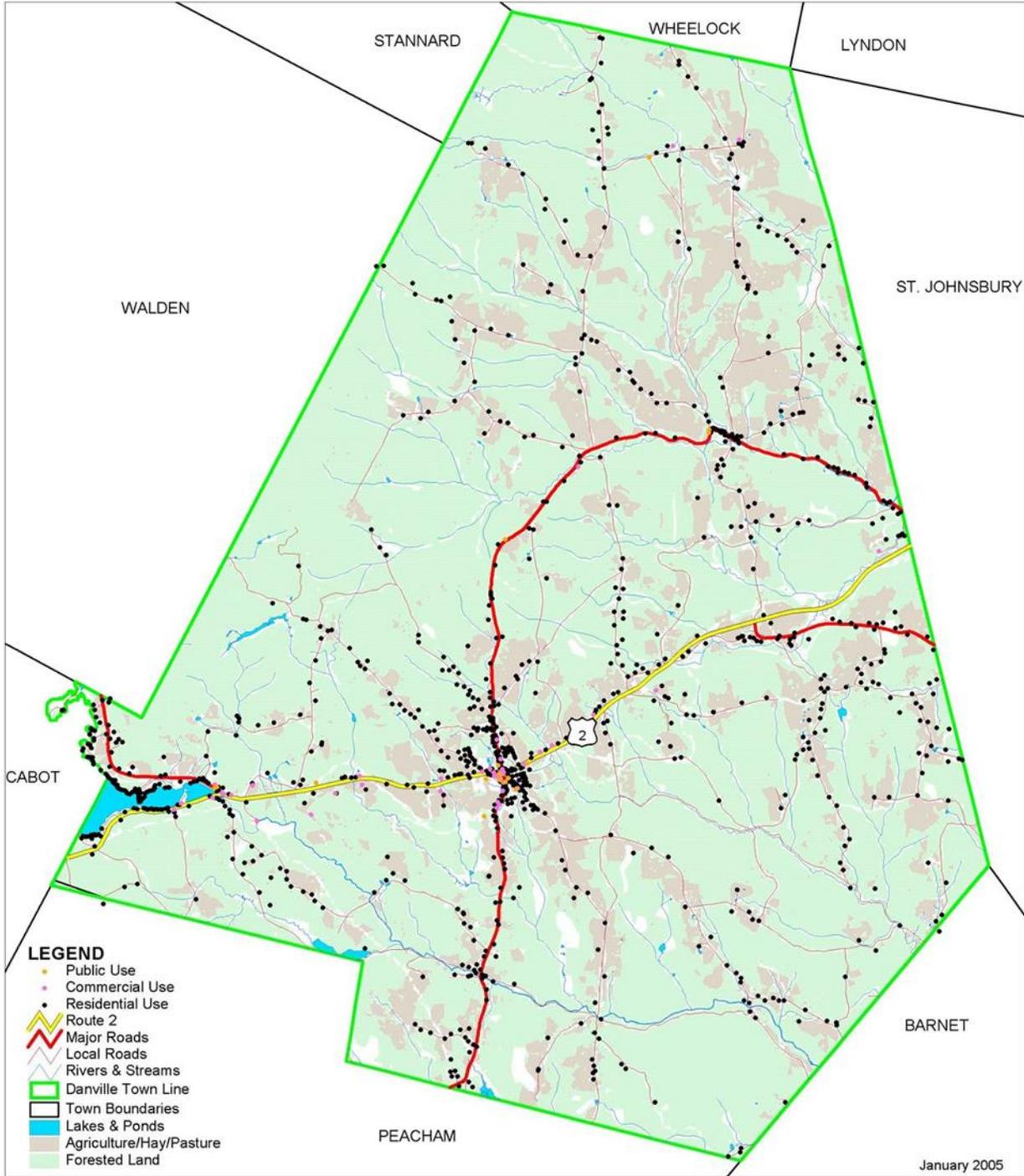


*Commercial and Light Industrial Development - Calkins Excavating and Larrabees Building Supply*

## Responsibility for Implementation

The Planning Commission supported by the Development Review Board must take the responsibility to establish plans and maps and draft the applicable zoning bylaws supporting the planning initiatives. An agricultural sub-committee should be tasked with establishing the agricultural district(s). The Conservation Commission should support and advise the town in executing the action items.

# Map: Land Use



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Land Use

**DRAFT**



Basemap data from VCGI and NVDA. All locations are approximate. Data is only as accurate as the original source. LandWorks does not guarantee the accuracy of this data.



1 0 1 2 Miles

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## VI. Natural Heritage

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### Overview

*"The community of Danville is absolutely special with a wonderful mix of neighbors, farms, shops, and rolling farmland."* - 2016 Community Survey response

Danville, located in the northern Vermont Piedmont, an area of calcium rich soils combined with a cool climate, supports mixed forests, cedar swamps, wetlands and other interesting natural communities. The uplands have fine agricultural soils and a short growing season. Danville has been fortunate to retain its rural character, traditional working landscapes, wildlife and scenic vistas while our population has grown. Wildlife, scenic beauty and the traditional landscapes are highly valued by Danville's residents, vacation homeowners and visiting tourists.



*Meadows like this one provide habitat for a variety of species*

Danville's "natural heritage" includes the natural resources that we refer to as forests, clean waters, vibrant fisheries, healthy wildlife populations, rare species, significant natural communities and a working landscape that provides the opportunities to hike, hunt, fish, trap, bird watch and work the land. Natural heritage also includes the concept of biodiversity, which is the variety of life in all forms and all interactions between living things and their environment. To sustain our natural heritage for present and future generations, it is imperative that conservation be one of our highest priorities. This means protecting our fish, wildlife, plants, natural communities and the ecological processes and landscapes that allow them to exist. Natural heritage is degraded by development through loss of diversity, destruction and fragmentation of habitat, disruption of movement and migration patterns, introduction of

invasive species, degradation of water quality and aquatic habitats and the loss of public appreciation for the environment.

Danville has to determine how we can continue to grow as a community while protecting our natural heritage for future generations.

The Passumpsic and Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan released in the summer of 2014 provides information on assessments of streams and surface waters, and provides direction to communities to improve water quality and flood resilience.

The Plan notes that a state-wide assessment of lakes conducted by the Department of Environmental Conservation gave Joes Pond and Keiser Pond generally high scores. On a scale of 1 to 5, Joes

Pond scored 4 for both biological diversity and unusual scenic natural features and ranked in the top 20% of lakes in Vermont. Keiser Pond scored a 4 for water quality and a 5 for biological diversity and is ranked in the top 10% of lakes in Vermont. Water quality improvement recommendations contained in the Basin Plan include the improvement of lakeshore buffer protections in town zoning bylaws.

*"I believe Danville should be a town where the quality of life promotes a healthy well balanced rural community focused on its residents and not outsiders." - 2016 Community Survey response*

Effective July 1, 2014, the Vermont Legislature passed shoreland regulations that apply to activities within 250 feet of a lake's mean water level for all lakes greater than 10 acres in size. The State's Shoreland Protection Act (V.S.A Chapter 49A, §1441 – 1452) defines standards for the creation of buildings, driveways, and cleared areas in shorelands. Areas of impervious coverage is limited to 20% of the regulated area, clearing is limited to 40% , a 100-foot wide vegetated buffer must be maintained along the shoreline, and development on slopes greater than 20% needs to be avoided or mitigated. Pre-existing, legally-created lots are "grandfathered" and the State will scale down the requirements in order to allow development of the lot, but will require that the rules be met to the extent possible. In these cases, best management practices will be utilized to prevent degradation of the shorelands. Best management practices for lake shores can be viewed at the following link: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>.

See the "Land Use" section of this plan for a discussion on approaches to zoning around Joe's Pond.

In March 2014 the Ecosystem Restoration section of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) published the results of a stormwater infrastructure mapping project completed for Danville and other towns in the region. The mapping project provided a preliminary identification of potential sites where stormwater treatment structures could be added where they would be most cost efficient for the removal of sediment and phosphorous or nitrogen before entering the receiving waters. A potential wet pond site to treat runoff before entering the receiving water was identified in a subwatershed encompassing approximately 6 acres adjacent to the Danville School. If the town decides to pursue this project, Ecosystem Restoration Grants are a potential source of funding. The full Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping Project report can be viewed here: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/DEC/SWMapping.aspx>

## Goals

Protect and manage the town's natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

## Objectives

1. Identify and understand the natural heritage elements within the Town and their regional significance to the surrounding landscape.
2. Conserve the natural heritage elements through local conservation planning and land stewardship by establishing strategies and goals.
3. Establish goals and strategies for protecting and conserving the natural heritage elements.
4. Encourage opportunities to raise community awareness and activism through education.
5. Municipal lands, the Town Forests and fire districts should be managed as models of land stewardship.

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Support the Conservation Commission to make recommendations on land conservation, wildlife habitat preservation, natural resource protection, etc. Establish conservation priorities that preserve agricultural and forest land, undeveloped stream and lake frontage including shoreline and riparian buffer zones, critical wildlife and wetlands habitat and scenic vistas and ridgelines consistent with state recommendations.
2. Utilize maps and other data to identify the bedrock, surface geology and topography to understand the makeup of our soils and those areas that are valued for conservation and not suitable for development
3. Utilize maps of surface waters, wetlands, key watersheds and riparian habitats that should be protected or conserved to support habitat for fish, aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates and other organisms important to our natural heritage. Support EPA water standards with respect to contamination from development run-off.
4. Update the map on land use patterns to understand current agricultural areas, contiguous forestland and residential / commercial development that may be used for zoning conservation /development decisions. Use the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) and Forest Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (FLESA) programs.
5. Update the map and provide long term stewardship of known deeryards, bear production areas, natural communities and vernal pools. Work with regional and state agencies and private organizations to support natural heritage protection and conservation of these areas.

6. Support the Conservation Commission for continued management of the Town Forests and other municipal lands according to sustainable forestry practices with guidance and participation by the County Forester.
7. The Town recognizes the value of working lands to the regional forest products economy and will support sustainable forestry practices. To that end, all logging jobs should meet the standards as outlined by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in “Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines for Vermont Landowners” adopted January 15, 2015. These guidelines are not regulations and are not intended to be used to regulate land use or management. The guidelines do, however, incorporate and refer to regulatory provisions that landowners and loggers must comply with as outlined in “Chapter I, Section 1.3 Legal Requirements”.
8. Create a Danville Tree Ordinance to prioritize procedures for tree plantings, removals, and protection on town-owned lands and right-of-ways and to establish procedures for the prevention and control of damage from forest pests and invasive plants. The Tree Ordinance shall be followed by a Management Plan to establish guidelines in the event of a major pest infestation, tree destruction and the ultimate need to dispose of infested material. Recommend that the Town use funds from timber harvest to contribute to a fund for the removal and disposal of diseased and hazardous trees.
9. Conserve and provide stewardship for contiguous and relatively un-fragmented forest habitat by encouraging adjacent landowners to protect aspects of the natural heritage such as deer yards or wildlife corridors. Support and promote those lands that meet any of the following criteria:
  - a. Enrolled in the Vermont Current Use program.
  - b. Owned by persons willing to consider conservation easements being managed in accordance with a forest management plan reviewed and approved by a professional forester.
  - c. Owned by persons willing to consider other non-regulatory mechanisms that promote sustainable forest management or seek to conserve the lands.
10. Encourage and provide education to landowners on best agricultural and forestry practices utilizing Best Management Practices as defined by the USDA and Natural Resource Conservation Service.
11. Encourage the establishment of a Land Conservation Trust and accompanying land conservation plan for the purchase or donation of lands or development rights within the Town when certain important parcels become available. Coordinate with the various state and private conservation groups to concentrate efforts to preserve the more desirable and endangered lands of the town.
12. Work with the Danville School to include natural heritage issues in the academic curriculum.

## Responsibility for Implementation

The Selectboard shall maintain a Planning Commission to draft development plans and maps. The Selectboard shall also maintain a Development Review Board to review permit applications. The Conservation Commission shall continue to assist and advise the Selectboard and Planning Commission on natural heritage issues.

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## VII. Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resources

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### Overview

The Town of Danville is the product of its history, past, and present culture as well as its rural setting and land use patterns. Preserving and understanding the historic past is key to any efforts in managing the inevitable changes to the Town. “Keeping Danville as it is” with unencumbered scenic vistas near and far, historic village settlements, open agricultural land and forested areas is a consistent theme voiced by its residents. Danville culture is rooted in agriculture, forestry and village life and exhibited by the Danville Fair held each year in the scenic and historic village center. It features both a children’s and a Grand Street parade, music, socializing, tents selling food and crafts to support local church and volunteer organizations, horse pulling contests, agricultural exhibits, and the many other activities.



*Danville Fair, circa 1930*

The Danville Green is the hub of the community and radiates outward to connect the rest of the town and the distinct communities of North Danville, West Danville, Harvey’s Hollow, Greenbank’s Hollow and at one time, Morse’s Mill. Preservation of our historic buildings, cultural events and significant scenic areas is essential in preserving the town’s character and guaranteeing the vision of its residents and landowners.

*Danville Town Plan 2017*



*United Methodist Church*



*Masonic Hall*



*Lowell House*



*Caledonia Bank*



*Pope Library*

## Inventory

### **National Register of Historic Places: Whittier-Lowell House**

#### **Designated Historic Sites:**

Danville Town Hall

Danville School

Caledonia National Bank Building

West Danville United Methodist Church

Danville United Church of Christ

Danville United Methodist Church

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Railroad Station

Pope Library

North Danville Baptist Church

Greenbanks Hollow Bridge

Historical Society building

Knights of Pythias Hall

Old North Church

West Danville Covered Footbridge

Masonic Hall



*Danville Town Hall*



*Knights of Pythias Hall*



*Scott and Hugh Langmaid Farm*



*Old North Church*

**Designated Century Farms:**

Catherine Beattie Farm (McDonald Farm)

Joel Currier Farm

David Currier Farm

Ward Family Farm

Scott & Hugh Langmaid Farm

Harold A. Webster Farm

Clifton Langmaid Farm

*"Our town is a gem and we need to protect it from any and all who seek to diminish [its] value for personal gain." - 2016 Community Survey response*



*Catherine Beattie Farm*

**Some Designated Areas of Special Scenic Interest:**

Area at the height of land on the Coles Pond Road above the Scott & Hugh Langmaid farm

Overlook at the Route 2 Diamond Hill scenic pullout looking east

Area behind the Joe Peck farm looking east

Area extending along Brainerd Street onto Greenbanks Hollow Road to Greenbanks Hollow

Various North Danville distant views

Walden Hill Road

Mountain View

Highland Avenue

Sugar Ridge

*"We cannot let the state control how our beautiful land is used. Leading by example does not mean ruin scenic beauty..." - 2016 Community Survey response*

*Danville Town Plan 2017*



*Diamond Hill*



*Greenbanks Hollow*



*Danville School Band, Danville Fair Parade*



*North Danville Church, Danville July 4 Parade*

## Goal

To preserve Danville’s rural character, scenic resources, cultural heritage, historic structures and settlement patterns.

## Objectives

1. Leverage the Historical Society & Conservation Commission to establish town guidelines that would preserve historical, scenic, cultural and other significant properties important to the community.
2. Designate historic districts worthy of preservation and identify other properties important to the community for preservation consideration.
3. Establish a policy that supports the voluntary preservation of significant private properties including forest and agricultural lands.
4. Support community cultural events.

*“Danville is frequently identified as an excellent example of a thriving, attractive New England village. We should do everything to preserve our heritage.”* - Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Maintain current designated Historic District areas and historic districts / sites, Designate additional areas as deemed necessary by the town;
  - a. Danville Green and portions of the major routes that intersect the Green (north end of Brainerd Street, north end of the Peacham Road, Hill Street and Route 2 east and west through the village),
  - b. North Danville village, Greenbanks Hollow, Harvey’s Hollow,
  - c. Town cemeteries.
2. Form a committee to review whether portions of West Danville should be considered for historic designation; Work with the West Danville Historical Subcommittee
3. Survey all town residents and property owners to determine what properties are important to them, which ones they would like to see preserved by priority and what level of preservation restrictions would be acceptable.
4. Establish design standards for the historic districts with clear and enforceable guidelines that would address signage, lighting, acceptable new construction and renovations, and landscaping suitable for those districts.
5. Identify, map and mark all public buildings or sites with historical, scenic or cultural significance.
6. Identify and work with private property owners to gain voluntary support to preserve and protect private properties with significant community importance including participation in the State and National Register.

7. Identify opportunities to fund the town conservation fund that can be used to purchase land or development rights of properties or adjoining properties to existing protected sites considered important to the community.
8. Locate and identify the most scenic views, ridgelines and roads on the town base map and establish development control standards that would address impacts to scenic views, ridgelines and roads.
9. Ensure there is sufficient town support to continue cultural events such as Fair Day, Autumn on the Green, Concerts and other public events that provide community involvement and celebration.
10. Develop a plan to maintain existing cemeteries and plan for future growth requirements.

### Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Design Review Board, Historical Society and volunteer organizations

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## VIII. Energy Conservation & Utility Siting

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### Overview

Energy conservation should be considered in any comprehensive land use planning process. Homes and businesses use a variety of energy sources for heating like fuel oil, gas, wood, electricity, the sun, and coal. With a heating season that generally lasts seven months of the year, it is clear that energy consumption is a significant issue for everyone. Substantial economic savings can be realized through energy conservation. Every dollar not spent on energy is available for local investment or saving, and to meet other basic needs. Reducing energy usage also reduces the adverse environmental impacts of energy production, transport, and use. Energy conservation can be facilitated through effective land use planning, building standards and design, and improved transportation efficiency.

*“As population increases, we will encounter issues like sprawl, demand increases for electricity, town services, etc. Without a town plan, those issues could turn Danville into a poorly planned mess that would ruin its wonderful rural community feel.” - Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey*

Effective land use planning can promote energy conservation. Development densities should be highest toward the center of Town, which is also served by municipal water and sewer, with lower densities in the outlying areas. By directing new development in this manner, we limit the potential for costly and energy-inefficient scattered development. By allowing customary home occupations, the Zoning Ordinance also helps support energy efficiency by reducing the need for some residents to commute to work. Decisions concerning public capital expenditures on roads and other municipal infrastructure should be mindful of energy conservation.

The siting, design, and construction of buildings strongly influences the amount of energy needed for heating and cooling, as well as the amount of electricity needed for lighting. Proper subdivision design, building orientation, construction, and landscaping provide opportunities for energy conservation measures such as less vehicular travel, passive solar space and domestic hot water heating, natural lighting, and photovoltaic electricity production. Additional energy savings can be realized by retrofitting existing buildings with insulation, more efficient doors and windows, weather stripping, compact fluorescent lights, and more efficient appliances.

### Utility Siting

Renewable energy resources offer long-term advantages over non-renewable sources. Solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and wood or wood gasification are becoming more prominent in the Town’s energy mix. The Town should support efforts to research and develop these and other alternative, ecologically sound energy sources provided their impact on the town remain consistent with the Vision Statement in the beginning of this document; *“Citizens*

*overwhelmingly want Danville to maintain its current small-scale rural character and way of life well into the future preserving the attributes that makes living and recreating here so unique and special.”* The key words in this vision statement are *small-scale* and *rural character*.

The Municipality of Danville supports responsibly sited and developed renewable energy projects within its boundaries. It recognizes that to maximize profits, developers’ desire projects to be located in close proximity to electric power lines capable of transmitting the load proposed to be generated and easy access from major transportation networks for construction. However, it desires to maintain the working landscape, historic villages, adopted conservation and habitat protection measures and scenic, rural views important to its tourism economy and rural cultural aesthetic. Not all commercial or community scale utility projects proposed can meet this standard. Projects must meet the following community standards in order to be considered “orderly development” supported by this plan and in order to not unduly impact the aesthetics of the rural countryside and historic villages this plan intends to protect.

*"The town should have a voice in siting any large-scale energy projects." - 2016 Community Survey response*

*"We can support green energy without having it invade our lives and character that makes our town special." - 2016 Community Survey response*

### **1. Community Standards**

1. Siting. Where a project is placed on the landscape constitutes the most critical element in the aesthetic siting of a project. Poor siting cannot be adequately mitigated. Accordingly, all energy projects must evaluate and address the proposed site’s aesthetic impact on the surrounding landscape.
  - a. Good sites have one or more of the following characteristics:
    - Roof-mounted systems;
    - Systems located in close proximity to existing, larger scale, commercial, industrial, or agricultural building;
    - Systems located in zones designated as commercial in municipal zoning regulations;
    - Proximity to existing hedgerows or other topographical features that naturally screen the proposed project from view from at least two sides;
    - Reuse of former brownfields or otherwise impacted property.
  - b. Poor Sites have one or more of the following characteristics:
    - No natural screening;
    - Topography that causes the facility to be visible against the skyline from common vantage points like roads, villages, and neighborhoods;
    - A location in proximity to and interfering with significant viewsheds; these would include the following within the municipality of Danville:
      1. Route 2 corridor approaching the Village of Danville

2. Views from the Village of Danville and adjacent residential zones looking East to the White Mountains of New Hampshire along the roads off of Hill Street and the Danville Peacham Rd.;
3. Viewsheds from, and to designated Design Control Districts
  - The removal of productive agricultural and forestry land from agricultural and forestry uses;
  - Sites that require public investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure in order to function properly.

Projects found to have poor siting characteristics pursuant to the community standards contained in the preceding section, and other poor siting characteristics that a community may define in their plan, violate the municipalities' standards regarding orderly development.

## **2. Average Person**

For the purposes of the this plan, either the municipal legislative body or the planning commission (depending on which body is selected by the legislative body to represent the municipality before the Public Service Board in any Section 248 hearing), shall be deemed to represent the voice of the “average person” with respect to the “Quechee Test” when evaluating the aesthetics of a proposed solar array.

## **3. Mitigation methods**

In addition to properly siting a project, developers must take the following actions to mitigate all project sites:

- a. Locate the structures on the site to keep them from being “skylined” above the horizon from public and private vantage points;
- b. Using design practices and infrastructure to keep the project lower on the landscape;
- c. At a minimum, the project must observe the setback restrictions contained in all Vermont rules and laws governing the project. However, developers are encouraged to increase setbacks to at least those listed in the Municipal Zoning Regulations within the Zoning District in which it lies;
- d. Use the existing topography, development or vegetation on the site to screen and/or break the mass of the project;
- e. In the absence of existing natural vegetation, the development must be screened by native plantings beneficial to wildlife and pollinators that will grow to a sufficient height and depth to provide effective screening within a period of 5 years. Partial screening to break the mass of the site and to protect private views of the project may be appropriate;

- f. Practice a “good neighbor policy.” The siting of the project should be done in such a manner that the project creates no greater burden on neighboring property owners or public infrastructure that it does on the property on which it is sited.
- g. Use black or earth tone materials in the construction of the project (panels, supports, fences) that blend into the landscape instead of metallic or other brighter colors.

#### 4. Decommissioning and Restoration

All projects shall be decommissioned at the end of their useful life and the property shall be restored to its pre-project condition. Developers of all projects 100 kW and greater shall provide the municipality with appropriate assurances to guarantee funding exists to decommission the project. In keeping with the municipality of Danville’s desire to retain our agricultural land base, a project’s useful life shall be deemed to be at the end of the initial contract for services with the power company.

### Goals

To encourage energy conservation and maximize community independence from nonrenewable energy resources while protecting the aesthetics of the historic villages and rural landscapes of Danville.

### Objectives

1. Site and building design, and construction practices that promote energy conservation should become recommended components for all new building construction and for existing building renovations.
2. Encourage and develop in a responsible fashion as described in this plan, renewable energy systems in residential, commercial and municipal applications.
3. Facilitate energy conservation as related to local transportation needs.
4. Raise community awareness of the importance of energy conservation.
5. Promote community self-sufficiency and independence with respect to energy needs and encourage the use of the least environmentally and aesthetically damaging sources of energy.
6. The Town should make an effort to minimize its own energy consumption by using appropriate conservation and efficiency practices.
7. Land use planning should encourage energy efficiency.

*"...Man, who even now finds scarce breathing room on this vast globe, cannot retire from the Old World to some yet undiscovered continent, and wait for the slow action of such causes to replace, by a new creation, the Eden he has wasted" - George Perkins Marsh, 1864*

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Revise zoning by-law to encourage energy conservation.
  - a. Protect access to solar, wind and other renewable energy resources for existing buildings and promote good siting practices as described in this plan.
  - b. Provide materials for applicants when they pick up a permit application that illustrate how to build efficiently, such as those offered by Efficiency Vermont.
  - c. All applications for new building construction and additions and renovations should be accompanied by a plan and statement regarding how energy conservation will be addressed within the proposed project. Examples of energy conservation principles include but are not restricted to insulation, building orientation, landscaping, glazing type and location, earth sheltering, measures to reduce infiltration, and heating and ventilation.
  - d. Discourage the use of electric heat during peak periods.
  - e. The approval of residential developments should be made conditional on meeting standards noted in item 'c' above. Major development proposals should fully and effectively address energy conservation and efficiency concerns.
2. Provide information on and work with local lenders and institutions to offer financing incentives, such as the Energy Efficient Mortgage Program, which will encourage energy conservation in new building construction and building improvements.
3. Modify design control, setback, and aesthetic restrictions to promote aesthetically responsible renewable energy resources such as installation of solar panels on a rooftop in the design control district or the construction of a greenhouse subject to reduced setback requirements.
4. Attract small business(es), which specialize in renewable energy related services to locate in town.
5. Actively manage town forestlands for firewood production for local use and encourage management of private forestlands through the state current use program.
6. Facilitate carpooling by maintaining and creating designated park and ride sites at appropriate locations such as in village areas and on US Route 2. Funded by federal or State Grants
7. Create and maintain a ride sharing bulletin board at a public location such as the town hall and on the town website.
8. Through the zoning by-laws, promote compact village growth, cluster development and encourage settlement patterns that reduce travel requirements for work, services, shopping and recreation. Suggested by-law changes include:
  - a. Reduce minimum lot size and set back minimums within the village area,
  - b. Emphasize or assign priority to service related or municipal projects within the village sewer service area,
  - c. Encourage a diversity of commercial, recreational, health and other services to locate and remain in town,
  - d. Local transportation projects should plan for and encourage alternative modes of transport, which are of greater energy efficiency.
9. Promote use of local raw materials to maximize energy efficiency.

10. Town highway maintenance decisions should consider the energy savings of using gravel in lieu of asphalt road surfaces.
11. Support the creation of a Town Energy Committee with specific responsibilities to address energy conservation goals and to increase public understanding and offer cost saving suggestions for individuals, businesses and the community as a whole.
12. Energy conservation should be made a part of Danville elementary and high school curricula.
13. Energy conservation related information sharing should be facilitated through workshops for local builders and homeowners by dedicating an area of the Pope Memorial Library to energy conservation resources.
14. Planning grants for energy conservation related issues should be actively sought.
15. Investigate the feasibility of running school buses and town trucks off of bio-diesel or another less polluting and more sustainable fuel source.
16. All efforts at energy reduction should be used when constructing, maintaining or retrofitting public facilities.
17. Promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transit opportunities.
18. Encourage installation of highly efficient heating systems and maintain and operate existing heating systems to maximum efficiency possible. For example wood-heating systems should be designed and operated to achieve efficient and thorough combustion to minimize polluting emissions.
19. Residents shall be encouraged to acquire and use high efficiency lighting equipment and modern high efficiency appliances.
20. Heat loss analysis should be performed, where possible, on existing heated structures and recommendations to improve existing conditions should be made.
21. Inventory current energy usage in Town buildings and identify and incorporate energy conservation opportunities.
22. School and other public buildings should consider renewable resources for heating.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Town officers, employees and appointees as well as Public and Private Institutions and interested individuals.

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## IX. Transportation

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### Overview

Danville has a highly developed network of roads including Federal, State, Town and Private roads. The network was originally built to accommodate transportation for farms, mills, schools, churches and access to village centers. This use of transportation infrastructure has evolved over the years and now is required to accommodate greater traffic. This network once included a passenger rail service, which is now the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The diversified interest groups who travel these roads now vary from local commuters, commuters from surrounding towns, freight transport, farm vehicles, tourists, and others.

Traffic is an issue of increasing concern since Danville is bisected by Route 2 and situated near I-91. Travelers entering the area provide a large source of Danville's income but the increased volume in recent years has created bottleneck areas and increased both roadside and noise pollution.



*Route 2 just east of the village*



*Route 2 in the village*

We need to address the issue of traffic growth before development and infrastructure have grown to a point that prevents the town from addressing the issue in a coordinated manner.

The nearby airports, Pudding Hill (Lyndon) and Knapp (Berlin), do not handle regularly scheduled freight or passenger air traffic. Charter service is available from either airport. Burlington International Airport and Lebanon Airport are both located approximately 65 miles from town. Both provide regularly scheduled passenger and freight service.

**Selected Transportation Characteristics, Town of Danville**

Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes), 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	23.3
Vehicle Miles Traveled for (non-Interstate) State Highways, 2000	58,312.7
Lane Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	0
Class 1 Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	0
Class 2 Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	14.74
Class 3 Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	83.78
Class 4 Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	22.24
Legal Trails, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	0.88
State Highway Mileage, 2016 VTrans Town Highway Map	12.81
% Workers which drive alone to work, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	75.2%
% Workers which carpooled to work, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	8.6%
% Workers using public transportation to work, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	0.5%
% Workers walking to work, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	1.2%
% Workers using other means to work, 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate	0.5%

*Various sources as indicated*



*Town Garage*

## Goal

Maintain and improve on the Towns road network systems and resources that meet the need for local and through movement of people and goods.

## Objectives

1. Provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options. Encourage development of paths for pedestrians, bicyclers, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, etc.
2. Create and maintain a detailed inventory in digital format, of all transportation related resources, including: roads, and roads classification, bridges, culverts, high-voltage crossings, water crossings, signage, etc.
3. Regulate usage and access to town roads to protect public interest and safety. Details such as weight limits, ATV use, curb cuts, etc. need to be considered.
4. Be proactive in locating bottleneck and other problem areas such as curb cuts and seasonal road closings.
5. Coordinate residential development with road development to assure new residents access to services while judiciously limiting road development. New roads should be constructed to a minimum Class III at the expense of the builder, and deeded to the town.
6. With cooperation of landowners, establish road-less areas to preserve natural heritage.
7. Avoid development along all roads in the Town that create dangerous intersections and stop and go traffic.
8. Ensure safe pedestrian movement within specific village areas with a strong network of sidewalks, crosswalks and adequate parking.
9. Implement ways to assure that the town has consistent road naming and addressing standards that abide by the State Enhanced 911 rule.
10. Identify alternate emergency transportation routes for inaccessible and congested areas.
11. Proposed business development must include a parking plan for employees to avoid parking on public highways

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

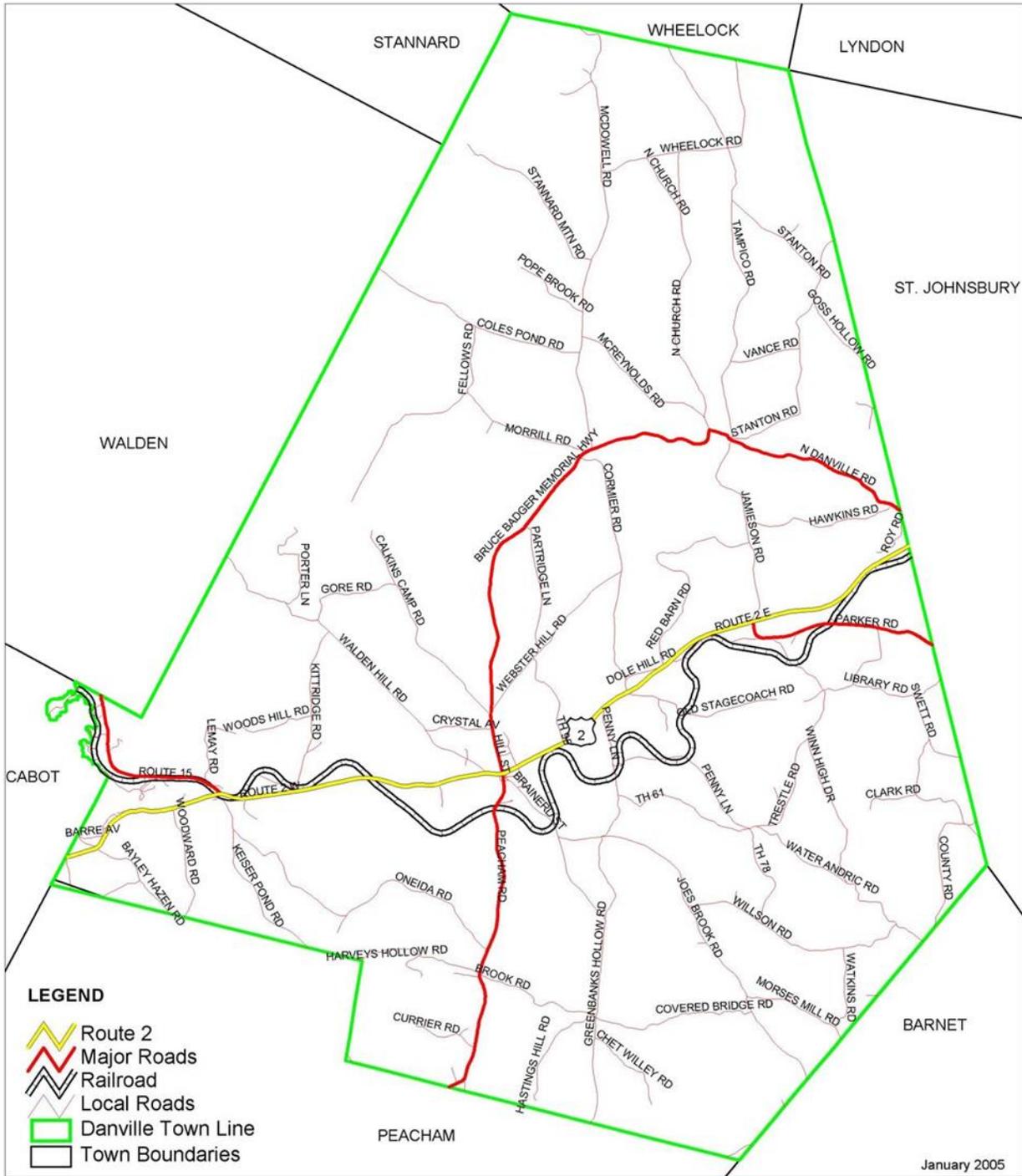
1. Support carpooling incentives.
2. Continue to support public transportation such as Rural Community Transport (RCT).
3. Support and/or encourage energy efficient transportation.
4. Create park and ride areas separate of town parking. Provide funding for development, maintenance and infrastructure that supports a safe while unobtrusive environment, such as lighting in commuter parking areas

5. Provide educational material that detail and encourage environmentally responsible vehicles.
6. Create policies regarding these shared trails for the Town to adopt. Gain local input on desired use of these trails.
7. Preserve all old town roads and public right of ways.
8. All Danville town roads should be presumed to be three rods in width unless originally established or deeded to the town with a width specified.
9. Review classification of town roads and town maintenance responsibilities.
10. Support all other private local trails that provide economical gain and recreational use.
11. Provide funding to purchase and use propriety software to keep an up-to-date inventory of all road networks, road classification, road conditions and maintain a priority list and an inventory that tracks the condition of all roads, bridges, culverts, etc.
12. Look to Vermont Agency of Transportation studies to identify ways to avoid bottleneck areas. If these studies are inadequate, initiate new studies that proactively avoid development in potentially congested areas.
13. Arterial road and parking lot lighting should be non-polluting while creating a safe travel environment for pedestrians and vehicles. Use low light polluting lights, (downward illuminating), for these areas
14. Create policies that enforce the link between land use, natural heritage and transportation, coordinate their planning and development.
15. Create zoning bylaws that provide sufficient setbacks and adequate parking to encourage combined access for multiple businesses in commercially zoned areas.
16. Support the construction of a network of sidewalks and cross walks to enable pedestrians (schoolchildren and shoppers) to walk safely around the village.
17. Enforce the State of Vermont's E911 Road naming and signage conventions.
18. All public road access must be reviewed by the Road Foreman and signed off on by the Selectboard

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Road Foreman, Planning Commission, and Vermont Agency of Transportation

# Map: Transportation System



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Transportation System

**DRAFT**



Basemap data from VCGI and NVDA. All locations are approximate. Data is only as accurate as the original source. LandWorks does not guarantee the accuracy of this data.



1 0 1 2 Miles

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## X. Flood Resilience

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### Overview

Danville is located in the Passumpsic and Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin, and is divided into the subwatersheds of Joes Brook, Passumpsic River Direct, and Sleepers River.

Surface waters in Danville include the southeasterly portion of Joe's Pond, the northern portion of Keiser Pond, and several smaller ponds. Tributaries and subtributaries of the Passumpsic River in Danville include Joes Brook, Sleepers River, Water Andric, Whiteman Brook, Badger Brook, Morrill Brook, North Brook, and Pope Brook.

### ***Mapped Flood Hazard Areas***

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) produced a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) for Danville 1975 which identifies an area adjacent to Whiteman and Roy Brooks in the northeastern part of Town as a "special flood hazard area." There are approximately 5 structures within the FEMA-mapped flood hazard area.

### ***Inundation Areas and River Corridors***

Flood areas identified by FEMA on the Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) are inundation areas, areas that may become flooded by rising water levels. Any mortgages, grants, or loans (including disaster aid) to a structure in the FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area must secure flood insurance.

Land located in close proximity to streams and rivers is particularly exposed to damage not only by flash flooding, but by bank failure and stream channel dynamics. While the FHBM maps identify inundation areas, the River Corridor maps being developed by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation identify the fluvial erosion hazards associated with rivers and streams. The River Corridor includes the area adjacent to a river or stream that provides area in which the stream can move in order to maintain equilibrium conditions over the long term.

Danville's history of flood damage is a result of fluvial erosion hazards, rather than inundation hazards.

### ***Existing Regulations, Programs and Plans***

Danville is in the "Emergency Phase" of the National Flood Insurance Program, because FEMA never issued a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and includes flood hazard area requirements in Section 313 of its Zoning Ordinance. In the Emergency Phase, flood insurance coverage limits are much lower. For example, the coverage limits for residential buildings are \$35,000 for the building and \$10,000 for its contents under the Emergency Program. In the Regular Program, these limits go up to \$250,000 and \$100,000 respectively. According to the FEMA database, only two properties in Town currently have flood insurance.

Danville updates its Local Emergency Operations Plan every May. This plan identifies emergency responders, local contacts and the location of emergency shelters in Town.

Danville's All Hazards Mitigation Plan was prepared in 2005 as an annex to NVDA's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan identifies critical facilities in Town, and areas that are most vulnerable to various types of hazards, including flood hazards. The plan also outlines mitigation measures that can lessen the severity of emergency events. The plan expired in 2010, and will need to be updated to reflect updated data on fluvial erosion hazards and recent flooding events.

The North Danville Plan, prepared in April 2013, addressed land use issues particular to the community of North Danville, the core of which is located at the confluence of Morrill Brook and North Brook. This "village core" contains a number of historic resources, depicted on the map in Appendix 1 of the North Danville Plan. Among the recommendations pertaining to water quality and flood resilience contained in this plan is the establishment of 50-foot and 100-foot riparian buffer zones adjacent to streams, depending on the size of the stream. It also recommends a 50-foot setback from wetlands, and the development of guidelines for stormwater management.

The Watershed Management Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources released the Passumpsic and Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan in the summer of 2014, which provides direction on actions to take to improve water quality and flood resilience.

The Lower Passumpsic River Tributaries River Corridor Plan, released May 1, 2014, presents the results of Phase 2 Stream Geomorphic assessments, and provides a basis for understanding the overall causes of channel instability and habitat degradation along the river corridors in the watershed. The data collected provides the information needed to map River Corridors or River Corridor Protection Areas in Danville. In January 2015, the Agency of Natural Resources published River Corridor maps for all rivers and streams in Danville. River Corridor maps can be viewed at [http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/vt\\_floodready\\_atlas](http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/vt_floodready_atlas). ANR is in the process of refining the River Corridor map with all Phase 2 Stream Geomorphic Assessment data. The Plan also provides a preliminary list of site-specific projects designed to mitigate flood and erosion hazards. The Town of Danville is identified as a key potential partner in a number of these site-specific projects.

### ***Transportation Infrastructure***

A culvert and bridge inventory noting the location, size and condition of all culverts and bridges in Danville was originally completed in 2009 and entered into the Vermont Online Bridge and Culvert Inventory Tool (VOBIT). This database is a good resource for local officials, planners, and state agencies. The Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) can provide assistance with this. However, the compatibility of culverts and bridges with the geomorphic conditions of rivers and streams is also critical information in determining the adequacy of these structures. The severe flooding events of 2011 caused damage to road infrastructure in Danville. Past problem areas include, but are not limited to, sections of North Danville Road, Cormier Road and Bruce Badger Road.

A preliminary inventory of structures undertaken with the assistance of the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District led to identification of a number of problem structures that were at risk of future washout and/or were a fisheries concern.

The 2014 Tactical Basin Plan's recommended actions to improve flood resilience in Danville include the completion of a local capital improvement plan based on bridge and culvert assessment data, as well as work on a dirt road erosion inventory designed to identify and mitigate sedimentation of streams and surface waters. Sediment from roads and driveways can be addressed with improved drainage ditch networks, limiting future driveway lengths in sensitive areas, and other approaches. The Vermont Better Back Roads program provides assistance for towns seeking ways to reduce rural stormwater problems. Since many of the upgrades to culverts and bridges would also correct problems with aquatic organism passage (AOP) additional grant funds may be available for this work.

The 2014 Lower Passumpsic River Tributaries River Corridor Plan assessed bridges and culverts for geomorphic compatibility. This assessment indicated that a majority of the bridges and culverts in Danville have a high degree of vulnerability to flooding and erosion. These structures are identified in Tables 11 and 12, and site specific projects designed to reduce fluvial erosion risks are identified and prioritized on Table 13 (link to this report is found at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/SGA/finalReports.aspx>).

- Project areas in Danville identified as “high” hazard mitigation priority on Table 13 in the plan include:
- Channel stabilization and debris removal along a segment of the Water Andric that is aggravating flooding and erosion along Water Andric Road
- Active restoration along a section of the Water Andric where the VAST trail is immediately adjacent to a channel at a low elevation with potential for a major channel avulsion
- Replacement/retrofit of a perched and undersized culvert at Penny Lane
- Removal of debris, and stabilization of channel to avert flooding of TH78 and Penny Lane
- Channel and floodplain restoration along the Water Andric east of Rt. 2 (segment T2.12B)
- Purchase and demolition of house located in floodplain of Sleepers River (reach T3.08), and establishment of floodplain easement and buffer plantings to restore forested floodplain
- Retrofit/replacement of undersized culvert at Trestle Road which is a major constriction to the channel and flood-prone width of Whiteman Brook.

Culvert replacement and channel restoration/stabilization along a segment of Whiteman Brook where an undersized stone culvert poses a major channel constriction and risk of major damage to VAST trail.

### ***Vegetated Buffer Areas and Coverage Limitations***

The maintenance of vegetated buffer areas adjacent to streams helps prevent potential sedimentation of streams and water bodies. In the 2014 Lower Passumpsic River Tributaries River Corridor Plan, five of the site-specific projects for which the Town of Danville is a key partner involve buffer plantings.

Maintaining natural vegetation and limiting impervious surfaces in areas close to lakes and streams helps reduce stormwater runoff that could contribute to downstream flooding.

### ***Upland and wetland areas***

The management of upland areas plays a role in flood hazard management. As watersheds become more developed stormwater, instead of infiltrating naturally into the soil, quickly runs off of roofs and paved surfaces picking up pollution and carrying it to waterways. Increased flows during storms can destabilize stream channels and adversely affect water quality. Limiting the extent of disturbance and development of impervious surfaces on upland slopes helps to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, and helps to avoid overwhelming existing stormwater infrastructure such as roadside ditches and culverts. Avoiding steep slopes greater than 20% when clearing and developing land, and requiring that stormwater runoff from new development be managed on-site will also help mitigate future flood hazards.

Wetlands provide an important floodwater storage function, storing stormwater runoff and flood waters that overflow riverbanks. As flood waters recede, the water is released slowly from the wetland soils. By holding back some of the flood waters and slowing the rate that water re-enters the stream channel, wetlands can reduce the severity of downstream flooding and erosion.

The State of Vermont regulates activities in and adjacent to wetlands in accordance with the Vermont Wetland Rules. State permits are necessary for activities in or within 100 feet of Class I wetlands, and within 50 feet of Class II wetlands. A permit can only be issued if it is determined that the use will have no undue adverse impact on protected functions, unless such impacts are mitigated.

Protection of steep slopes and wetland areas can also be achieved through securing conservation easements in critical locations and by encouraging enrollment of managed forested areas in the current use program.

### ***ERAF***

The Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) helps Vermont municipalities repair damaged infrastructure after a presidentially-declared disaster. ERAF funding typically covers half the required 25% non-federal match for approved projects. Since 2014 Towns must adopt four flood hazard mitigation measures in order to maintain level state funding in the event of such a disaster: 1) Adopt Flood Hazard Regulations that meet minimum standards for enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program; 2) Adopt the most recent Agency of Transportation Road and Bridge Standards; 3) Adopt a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP); and 4) Update and adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and submit to FEMA for approval. As of the publication of this plan, Danville has only met criteria 1 and 3, and therefore the state would only cover 7.5% of any non-federal match after a disaster instead of 12.5%.

## Goal

Mitigate flood hazards and maintain good water quality by undertaking restoration projects, reducing stormwater runoff from new development, and assuring long-term protection of the River Corridor from incompatible development and uses.

## Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Create a capital improvement plan to address the projects identified for Danville in Table 13 of the Lower Passumpsic River Tributaries River Corridor Plan, beginning with the highest priority projects. Secure grant funds as available to assist with project implementation.
2. Amend the Danville Flood Hazard regulations to meet state recommended standards and to regulate development within the River Corridor areas mapped by DEC, in order to mitigate flood hazard risks and protect investments made in restoration projects.
3. Investigate appropriate impervious coverage limitations to include as part of the town's zoning district standards to limit stormwater runoff that can contribute to flooding and degrade water quality.
4. Hold a flood hazard area education event to inform local residents.
5. Consider adopting the State Road and Bridge Standards and preparing and adopting an updated FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to maintain level state funding in the event of a presidentially-declared disaster.
6. Maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the policies and actions developed in the Tactical Basin Plan.
7. Request a change from the Emergency Phase of the NFIP to the Regular phase to improve flood insurance options for individuals.

## Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Road Foreman, Town Officials.

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## XI. Compatibility with the Region

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Chapter 117 of Title 24, V.S.A.", the State Planning Act, Section 4383(a) requires that a plan for a municipality be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan. Furthermore, it is specified the plan shall contain a statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans for adjacent municipalities and the region.

*"Greed and ignorance are poor managers."* -  
Danville resident, Town of  
Danville 2003 Landowners  
Survey

The Town of Danville is bordered by the towns of Barnet, Cabot, Lyndon, Peacham, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Walden and Wheelock. Of those adjoining towns, Walden and Stannard do not have a current, approved plan.

The following is a brief analysis of how the Danville town plan relates to plans and growth trends of adjacent municipalities and the region.

### SECTION II: Housing & Population

Recommendations to provide VHFA eligible housing and promotion of affordable housing for seniors will provide needed housing opportunities to all residents of the region. Cluster development and promotion of traditional village center growth will support regional initiatives to prevent sprawl. Zoning recommendations to protect higher elevations and ridgelines from development will support the Northeast Kingdom rural character.

### SECTION III: Jobs & Economic Development

Danville's decision to encourage small to mid-size environmentally clean businesses that are compatible with the rural character of the Town will provide local job growth and services for surrounding towns without the impact of large industry or commercial development and major traffic increases associated with large scale development. The encouragement of traditional agricultural and forestry based businesses support existing regional business and development planning goals.

### SECTION IV: Community Resources

Town supported resources provide services and benefits to many residents of the region.

The Danville school system offers educational opportunities to community members of all ages and provides the diversity of choice for towns' without their own school systems.

Recreation opportunities available within the Town of Danville such as Joes Pond Beach, Steam Mill Brook WMA, Keiser Pond, the Town Forest and Lamoille Valley Railroad recreation trail are available for use by all residents of the region. The town plan recommends enhancement of local recreation opportunities including open access to private lands for hunting, hiking, fishing and other types of low impact outdoor recreation thereby helping answer a regional demand.

The plan encourages and supports a regional approach to deal with waste management and continued interaction with other towns of the region through membership in a waste management district.

### SECTION V: Land Use & Development

Village center growth promoted in this section is compatible with the regional plan designation of Danville as a secondary growth center primarily offering residential opportunities with small commercial business activity. Other recommendations of this section would appear to represent little effect on growth trends of adjoining towns.

This plan strongly emphasizes the need to encourage and support the agriculture and forest products industries, basic to the economic vitality of the region.

### SECTION VI: Natural Heritage

The protection of the town's natural heritage and biodiversity provides benefits to all current and future residents of the region. Hunting, fishing, trapping, sightseeing and other natural resource based recreational opportunities are important to the economy of the region and surrounding communities. The values of wildlife resources do not recognize political boundaries. The Danville commitment to preserve critical habitats, wildlife and plant diversity, a scenic landscape and the town's historic legacy will be of benefit to all who travel through the town.

Pollution, whether airborne or waterborne, like wildlife, knows no political boundaries. A commitment to promoting a strong land ethic and to discourage land uses incompatible with the capacity of the land to ecologically support that use will protect the residents of adjoining towns.

### SECTION VII: Historic, Scenic & Cultural Resources

This section recognizes the importance of historic, scenic and cultural resources and their value to the region. The plan seeks to identify and preserve these resources. Scenic resources, like hillsides and ridgelines, are visible from surrounding towns and their development would have an impact on the entire region.

### SECTION VIII: Energy Conservation

Energy conservation practiced diligently benefits the world community and not just a region. The plan encourages the Town to be proactive in looking at new renewable sources of energy, opportunities to better utilize and maximize the benefits of existing energy sources and raise community awareness on the importance of being energy efficient.

### SECTION IX: Transportation

The plan commits Danville to ensuring that all of its public roads and recreational paths both existing and future construction, are utilized and maintained with safety in mind.

### SECTION X: Flood Resilience

Land use issues addressed in this section, new as of 2016, affect towns throughout the Passumpsic and Upper Connecticut River Tactical Basin.