

Recommendation – Create Jobs

Bringing new jobs to North Collins will make it an employment destination. New commercial and retail businesses, and new residents, will follow.



Identify business niches to complement existing employers.

Meet with local employers to determine businesses that would be complementary to their operations and target these with the help of Erie County and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA).

*Responsible entity – Village
Partnering entities – ECIDA, Erie County*

Develop a portfolio of development-ready sites.

The Village should work with regional economic development agencies to market existing vacant buildings and to present vacant industrial land as “shovel ready”.

*Responsible entities – Land and building owners
Partnering entities – Village, ECIDA, real estate professionals*

Commission an economic development study focused on the Route 62 corridor.

Route 62 through North Collins is generally low density, poorly organized and underutilized. The study should look at potential future land uses and zoning including open land and buildings, design standards, businesses to attract and should also consider residential development and impacts.

Responsible entity – Village

Participate in regional efforts to increase tourism.

North Collins’ potential tourism attractions include the compact downtown, nearby recreational resources and historic architecture. Revived interest in commuter and excursion rail also hold potential for North Collins to build its visitor economy.

*Responsible entities – Village, tourism orgs, rail enthusiasts, NYS
Partnering entities –
Complementary destinations*

Recommendation – Engage the Community

Foster an environment of civic engagement and shared community responsibility to encourage North Collins' sustainability as a vibrant and vital small town.



Become Citizen Planners and Champions for Change.

The UB Regional Institute offers its Citizens Planning School and Champions for Change programs to help citizens learn to be leaders and turn their ideas into action for more vibrant, sustainable and livable communities.

Responsible entities – Citizens who want to help improve the community they love

Partnering entities – UB Regional Institute

Just start talking to one another and working together.

Channel frustration about nothing ever changing into community change. Start community conversations at easily accessible times and places. Go do something to improve the community with a friend. Invite others to join in! Identify and implement projects and reward effort and outcome.

Responsible entities – Mayor, Trustees, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Connect, virtually and in person.

Recruit volunteers to administer Facebook and Neighbors Next Door pages to connect people and fulfill needs and wants. Establish a community bulletin board at the Village Office, Save-A-Lot or other popular destination.

Responsible entities – Volunteers

Party on!

Festivals and events celebrate what is unique about the community, aid in economic development and revitalize downtowns; they are fun, bring people here and benefit worthy causes. North Collins was known for its canning factories. Does anyone else have a Canned Foods Festival or Canning Competition?

Responsible entities – Local clubs and organizations, scouts, churches, etc.

Recommendation – Revitalize the Neighborhoods

To continue to attract new families and households, the Village should be more attractive and consider ways to acquire land for redevelopment and open space.



Assist homeowners with funds for housing rehab.

The Village of North Collins is part of the Erie County CDBG and HOME Consortium. Eligible homeowners can apply to the County to receive federal funds from loan and grant programs for housing rehab.

Responsible entities – Homeowners, Erie County

Show off beautiful gardens.

Western New York has many wonderful garden walk and open garden programs. Consult with other community associations about how to get started with garden tours. Invite vendors and entertainers to make a day of it.

*Responsible entity – Inspired gardeners
Partnering entities – Cornell Cooperative Extension*

Create a database of potentially available land.

North Collins needs land for housing as well as for park and open space if it is to continue to grow. The Village should assemble a database of all land the Village owns and may not need, vacant land and foreclosure-ready properties to determine priorities for acquisition and land assembly.

*Responsible entity – Village
Partnering entities – Real estate professionals, BENLIC*

Engage volunteers to help clean up and maintain properties.

Volunteers such as scouts and school-based service groups should target neighborhoods to assist homeowners with exterior home and yard maintenance and assist the Village with maintenance of public open spaces.

*Responsible entities – Homeowners
Partnering entities – Scout troops, school district, Village*

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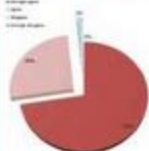
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Partnering entities – Complementary destinations*

Overview of Public Input

Community Survey Highlights

Agree
Disagree
No Answer

Revitalize Main Street



Value for Taxes



Fire Protection



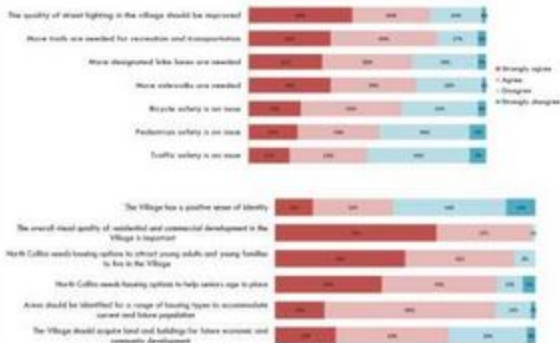
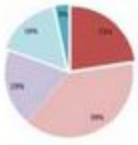
Police Protection



Code Enforcement



EMS/Ambulance



Public Meeting Highlights



Strengths:

- Schools
- Quiet place
- Historical locations like Schoolhouse 8 and the museum
- Trails in close proximity
- Village offers water, sewer and garbage pick-up
- Location is central – close to Buffalo and the lake but still a small-town atmosphere
- Affordable housing
- Responsive Village government

Weaknesses:

- Walking experience along the Village's downtown
- Village looks "unfinished"
- Need to give more attention to downtown (curbs, definition)
- Sidewalks needed on both sides of the street throughout the Village
- Should host more events and successfully get the word out for them
- General lack of interest by residents

Opportunities:

- Enhancing the Well Community Center
- Involve young people – mentoring and tutoring
- Events like Strawberry Festival that brought people here in the past could be revived
- Help market home-based businesses in the Village
- Promote North Collins through events like festivals and use as a platform to involve people in planning for the future, display boards of how the Village could look

Threats:

- Lack of internet connectivity; Time Warner only choice for broadband
- Lack of transportation choices
- Isolation

What's the best thing about living in North Collins?



Members of the Steering Committee on a Main Street "walkabout" in June