

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan



REVISED DRAFT AUGUST 15, 2024

Acknowledgements

Comprehensive Plan Committee Members

Barre Town Board

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Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

Public agencies, private organizations and individuals in Barre continuously make decisions and take actions that affect land use and development, public services and facilities and the well-being of the community. The purpose of this Comprehensive Plan is to identify those activities and decisions that have the greatest effect on the community, and to decide whether significant changes are needed to adjust the course that the community is on.

This Plan document includes:

- An evaluation of existing laws, plans and programs that influence community development and planning in the Town of Barre;
- An inventory of existing conditions, an evaluation of past trends and a projection of future Town needs;
- Analysis of the desirable characteristics, the potential opportunities and the significant problems or constraints that exist in the Town;
- A statement of the Town’s policies;
- A new land use plan that presents a vision of the Town’s desired development patterns over the next twenty years;
- A program of actions that would implement the goals and policies and the land use plan; and
- A strategy for maintaining the Plan over the next fifteen to twenty years.

A. PLANNING PROCESS

The Town of Barre Planning Board to the best of our ability were directed to encourage broad public participation, incorporate public input and to formulate a plan of action containing sound planning principles to guide the Town of Barre in the twenty-first century.

When adopted by the Town of Barre, the Comprehensive Plan will serve as the basis for consistent decision making and will provide documentation for the public to refer to when concerns arise about the accountability of such decisions.

In the Fall of 2023, the Barre Town Board appointed members to a Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) to guide the process of updating the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and retained a planning consultant, LaBella Associates, to facilitate the planning process and produce the plan document. The Town’s previous Comprehensive Plan had been updated in 2017 following a process led by the Town Planning Board.

The following residents served on the Comprehensive Plan Committee:

George McKenna (Chair)	Town Board
Scott Burnside	Resident
John Depatie	Planning Board

Kelly Dudley	Zoning Board of Appeals
Larry Gaylard	Zoning Board of Appeals (alternate)
Kathy Klein	Resident
Wes Miller	Planning Board (alternate)
Gary Palmer	Resident
Kerri Richardson	Resident
Stephanie Underhill	Town Assessor
Cyndy Van Lieshout	Business/ Resident

The CPC met ___ times between October 2023 and ___ 2024.

During the Spring and Summer of 2024, the CPC conducted a survey of Town residents to better understand residents’ issues and priorities. The findings from the survey inform the policies and recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan. The survey results are in Appendix A.

The CPC hosted a public open house on April 29, 2024 to share the results of the Community Survey and encourage feedback on the issues and priorities to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.

The CPC public hearing and open house were held on ____. Incorporating input from the public hearing, the CPC finalized the draft Comprehensive Plan in ____ and forwarded the draft to the Town Board for adoption.

The Town Board held a public hearing on ___ and adopted the Plan by resolution on _____.

B. LEGAL BASIS AND SEQR COMPLIANCE

Under New York State Town Law (Section 272), the Barre Town Board is responsible for adopting and maintaining the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan serves as a basis for land use regulations, accountability of decisions by the various boards and agencies, and for directing public improvements to help achieve a desired pattern of land use as well as efficiency of public investment.

The adoption of a municipality’s comprehensive plan is considered a Type I action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) regulations. Appendix C contains the environmental review record, including the Full Environmental Assessment Form and the Determination of Significance.

C. MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAN

As conditions and community priorities change over time, it is extremely important that the Town of Barre take steps to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is maintained and kept up to date. The Town should periodically:

- Re-examine community conditions, as well as the actions that were proposed and those that were actually undertaken;
- Reconsider the long-term vision for the community, the policies, and actions recommended to implement the policies and achieve the vision, and evaluate the expected consequences of those actions; and based on these efforts,
- Modify or amend the Plan or establish a new Plan to guide subsequent actions.

It is the intent of the Barre Town Board to periodically review and update the Comprehensive Plan in order to ensure its continued relevance.

Chapter 2 OVERVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, LAWS AND PROGRAMS

This chapter describes and evaluates existing plans, laws, regulations and programs which influence land use, conservation and community development in the Town of Barre. It will also evaluate the extent to which plans of other public and private agencies impact land use and development.

A. AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT PROGRAM

The New York State Agricultural District Program was created by State legislation in 1971. The program encourages owners of productive agricultural land to form districts within the County. Districts should consist of predominantly “viable farmland”. The Districts in Orleans County are reviewed, and may be renewed, in 8-year cycles. Inclusion in the Agricultural District denotes a commitment on the part of the county to retain the use of such land for agriculture.

Benefits to owners of land in Agricultural Districts include property tax assessments that are based on the value of the land for agricultural purposes, rather than its value for development. The Town of Barre established that we are a Right to Farm community in April of 2006.

In addition, qualifying farmlands within agricultural districts are protected from government actions that might seek to acquire farmland through “eminent domain”. Local governments are prohibited from passing laws or regulations that would unnecessarily restrict normal farming operations within Agricultural Districts. Before a local or county government may undertake a project that affects land within an Agricultural District, it must submit an Agricultural Data Statement to the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board and the State Department of Agriculture and Markets for consideration of the impacts on agriculture. A person who buys property within an Agricultural District must be notified about the possible presence of noise or odors associated with farm practices.

B. TOWN OF BARRE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. Town of Barre Code

In 2009, the Town of Barre codified all of its laws, ordinances and certain resolutions into a consolidated Code, as authorized by NYS Municipal Home Rule. General Code Publishers maintains the Town’s code under contract with the Town. The Town’s local laws are accessible online through the [e-Code 360](#) service and through a link at the Town website, www.townofbarre.com.

2. Town of Barre Zoning

The Town of Barre’s current zoning regulations (Chapter 350 of the Barre Town Code) were initially adopted on December 20, 1982 with significant revisions occurring in 1997, 2002 and in 2009 with the adoption of the Code. D Regulations governing wind energy systems (Barre Code Article XI) were initially adopted in 2008 and amended in 2021. Regulations for solar energy systems (Barre Code Article XII) were added in 2019 and amended in 2021. Regulations for battery storage systems (Barre Code Article XIII) were also added in 2021.

The Zoning code establishes six zoning districts and one overlay district:

- The AR Agricultural Residential (AR) district is intended to protect agricultural lands and uses. One- and two-family dwellings on lots with a minimum of 40,000 sq. ft. Business, civic and other uses allowed with a special permit include home occupations, animal hospitals, campgrounds, farm markets and manufactured home parks.
- The R-1 Residential District permits agriculture as well as one- and two family dwellings on lots with a minimum area of 30,000 sq. ft.
- The General Business District (B) permits agriculture, one- and two-family dwellings, retail and service businesses, offices, agricultural packing and storage, recreational facilities, restaurants and other businesses. Uses allowed with a special use permit include manufactured home parks, multi-family dwellings, motels, gas stations, mining, and drive-in businesses.
- The Light Industrial District (LI) permits agriculture, manufacturing, agricultural product processing, warehousing and distribution and other uses. Uses allowed with a special permit include junkyards, telecommunications facilities, and adult entertainment uses.
- The Planned Industrial/ Commercial Development District (PD) allows all industrial and commercial uses permitted in the B and LI district, as well as residences constructed before 1997.

Map 5 depicts the existing zoning districts in the Town of Barre.

3. Other Local Laws

The following Town Code provisions affect land use, conservation and development in the Town of Barre:

- §141 Cannabis prohibits cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption facilities within the Town.
- §144 Construction Codes, Uniform provides for the administration and enforcement of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and Energy Conservation Code in the Town.
- §168 Farming states that sound agricultural practices shall not constitute a public nuisance, requires notice to parties purchasing land in a NYS-certified Agricultural District that farming activities may cause noise, dust or odors, and refers disputes to the Orleans County Farmland Protection board.
- §168 Flood Damage Prevention regulates activities within flood hazard areas mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- §232 Outdoor Heating Devices requires a permit to install an outdoor heating device, requires compliance with manufacturer's instructions, and specifies the types of fuel that may be burned in these devices.
- §232 Records, Public Access to establishes procedures for providing public access to records.
- §232 Solid Waste requires source separation of recyclables and regulates the establishment of waste management facilities.

C. ROLES OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Table 1 lists the State, regional, County, and local agencies and organizations that may that affect people, businesses and lands within the Town of Barre. The following narrative summarizes some of the organizations and programs that most directly affect the planning process in the Town of Barre.

1. Albion Central School

The Albion Central School District, like districts throughout Upstate New York, has faced declining student enrollment in recent years. K-12 enrollment in 2022-23 was 1,656¹, which is 22% lower than the 2011 – 2012 K-12 enrollment of 2,119 students. The district continues its work to ensure that students receive a high-quality comprehensive education in the most cost-efficient manner possible. The district anticipates no facilities expansions – but will continue to provide preventive care to the community’s investment to ensure that they are available to serve district residents’ needs for many years.

2. Genesee Transportation Council

The Town of Barre is within the nine-county region served by the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC). GTC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which is responsible for implementing policies and allocating federal funding for the movement of people and goods throughout the region.

GTC’s Long Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2045 (LRTP 2045), adopted in June 2021, establishes transportation priorities and provides a strategic direction for transportation policy, planning, and investment decision making. It is intended to serve as a guide for local, County, State and Federal governments regarding the transportation system over the next 25 years.

The LRTP includes recommendations within the following five categories:

- Health and Safety
- Access and Equity
- System Management and Operations
- Sustainability and Resilience
- Economic Development

More information is available on the website www.gtcmppo.org.

3. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) administers environmental regulatory and natural resource management programs relating to water quality, wetlands, waste management, forestry, and other resources. The Region 8 office, which serves Orleans County, is located in Avon, Livingston County. See dec.ny.gov.

¹ SOURCE: NYS Education, data.nysed.gov

4. Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Orleans County Soil & Water's mission is to "use the delivery of science-based, locally-directed, technical and educational assistance to protect and enhance the health, safety and general welfare of the Orleans County residents through the conservation of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources." The District stresses whole farm planning, which looks at the viability, management, and conservation practices of individual farms and how these inter-relate with the community and the environment. In addition, land being developed in wet areas complicates an already poor drainage system.

Some of the District's programs that relate to a Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- a) Continue to promote surface and tile drainage on agriculture land. Work with land owners to cooperate to find proper outlets.
- b) Continue promotion of conservation education through Conservation Field Days, Envirothon, Orleans County 4-H Fair, and other education programs.
- c) Promote water quality activities, concentrating on watershed information, including promotion of Non-Point Source Pollution Grants, watershed signs, annual shoreline cleanup, used tire collection, and education programs.
- d) Work with County and Town highway departments on highway drainage problems.
- e) Promote and carry out spring tree and shrub program to improve wildlife habitat, control soil erosion, and promote revitalizing marginal soils and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.
- f) Promote and assist land owners in whole farm planning, using biodiversity and other criteria.
- g) Promote conservation through work with Cooperative Extension, County Health Department, County Planning, County Highway, Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCA), Rural Economic and Community Development, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Oak Orchard Watershed Protection Alliance, County Water Quality Coordination Committee, and all other cooperating agencies.
- h) Assist in promotion of the Erie Barge Canal for use in irrigation and recreation.
- i) Work with Sportsman's Clubs to promote the improvement of wildlife habitats.
- j) Promote the Pond Fish Stocking Program.

5. Orleans County

[Orleans County](#) is responsible for aspects of public health, economic development, public safety, emergency management sheriff, tourism promotion, job training, real property, motor vehicles and a variety of social services.

6. New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)

NYS Executive Law 94-c created the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) and gave this agency authority to approve renewable energy projects 25 MW or larger. The intent of the law was to streamline and expedite permitting of large-scale renewable energy projects to help New York State achieve its goal of 70% renewably sourced electricity by 2030 and a zero-emission electric grid by 2040.

The siting criteria include consideration of environmental and community impacts. ORES considers local law provisions but has final approval authority over these projects.

7. Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

The Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (GFL-RPC) serves a nine-county region that includes Orleans, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties. [Service areas](#) include economic development, clean energy, watershed planning, and local government assistance and training.

8. Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council

The [Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council \(REDC\)](#) is the strategic economic advisory board for the nine-county region that includes Orleans County. It prepares regional strategic plans and has a role in allocating state grant funding.

Table 1. Agencies & Organizations

Orleans County Agencies

Orleans County Economic Development Agency
Orleans County Department of Planning and Development
Orleans County Highway Department
Orleans County Historian
Orleans County Legislature
Orleans County Planning Board
Orleans County Sheriff
Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans County

Regional Agencies

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
Genesee Transportation Council
Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority/ Regional Transit Service
Genesee-Livingston-Orleans-Wyoming (GLOW) Solid Waste Management Committee
Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council

New York State Agencies

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 8
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
NYS Canals (Buffalo Division)
NYS Canals (Albany Division)

Local or Regional Organizations

Albion Central School District
Community Action of Orleans and Genesee
Genesee Community College,
Orleans County Farm Bureau
Barre Betterment Committee

Neighboring Towns and County

Town of Clarendon
Town of Shelby
Town of Elba
Town of Oakfield
Town of Albion
Genesee County

Chapter 3 INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

1. Location

The Town of Barre is located in Orleans County, midway between Buffalo and Rochester. New York State Route 98 is a major north-south route/arterial, while the NYS Route 31A arterial runs east-west. Map 1 depicts the location of Barre within the region.

2. History²

Native Americans of the Iroquois Confederacy occupied most of the land in New York State west of the Hudson River until after the Revolutionary War. In 1798 the Holland Land Company bought the 6 million acres of land (excluding Indian reservations) west of the Genesee River and had it surveyed. Settlements clustered at river mouths, crossroads, and mill sites.

In 1803 the Oak Orchard Road (now Route 98) was constructed, following an old Indian trail. The Hamlet of Gaines, at the intersection of Ridge Road and Oak Orchard Road, became the largest hamlet north of Batavia. Lee Road (now Route 31A) opened in 1817.

In 1821 the route of the Erie Canal west of the Genesee River was established. The Village of Newport, which was later renamed Albion, was laid out along Oak Orchard Road at the proposed crossing of the Erie Canal. Newport was selected over Gaines as the Orleans County Seat in 1825. The name was changed to Albion in 1826, and the Village was incorporated in 1827.

Barre was named for the Town of Barre, Massachusetts, by Judge John Lee, a native of that community. The first European settlers arrived in 1816 after the Holland Land Company built Oak Orchard Road. In 1818 the township separated from the Town of Gaines. Oak Orchard Road was planked between Barre and Albion, and a toll was collected between the two towns. Voting for the area took place in Barre, much to the chagrin of Albion citizens. In 1875 the Town of Albion separated from the Town of Barre.

Barre's first organized church, a Congregational Society, was erected in 1834 on 100 acres of land deeded to them from the Holland Land Company. It later reorganized as Barre Center Presbyterian Church. In 1850 the West Barre Methodist Church was built. Several small schools educated local children until they merged with the Albion Central School District in the 1950's.

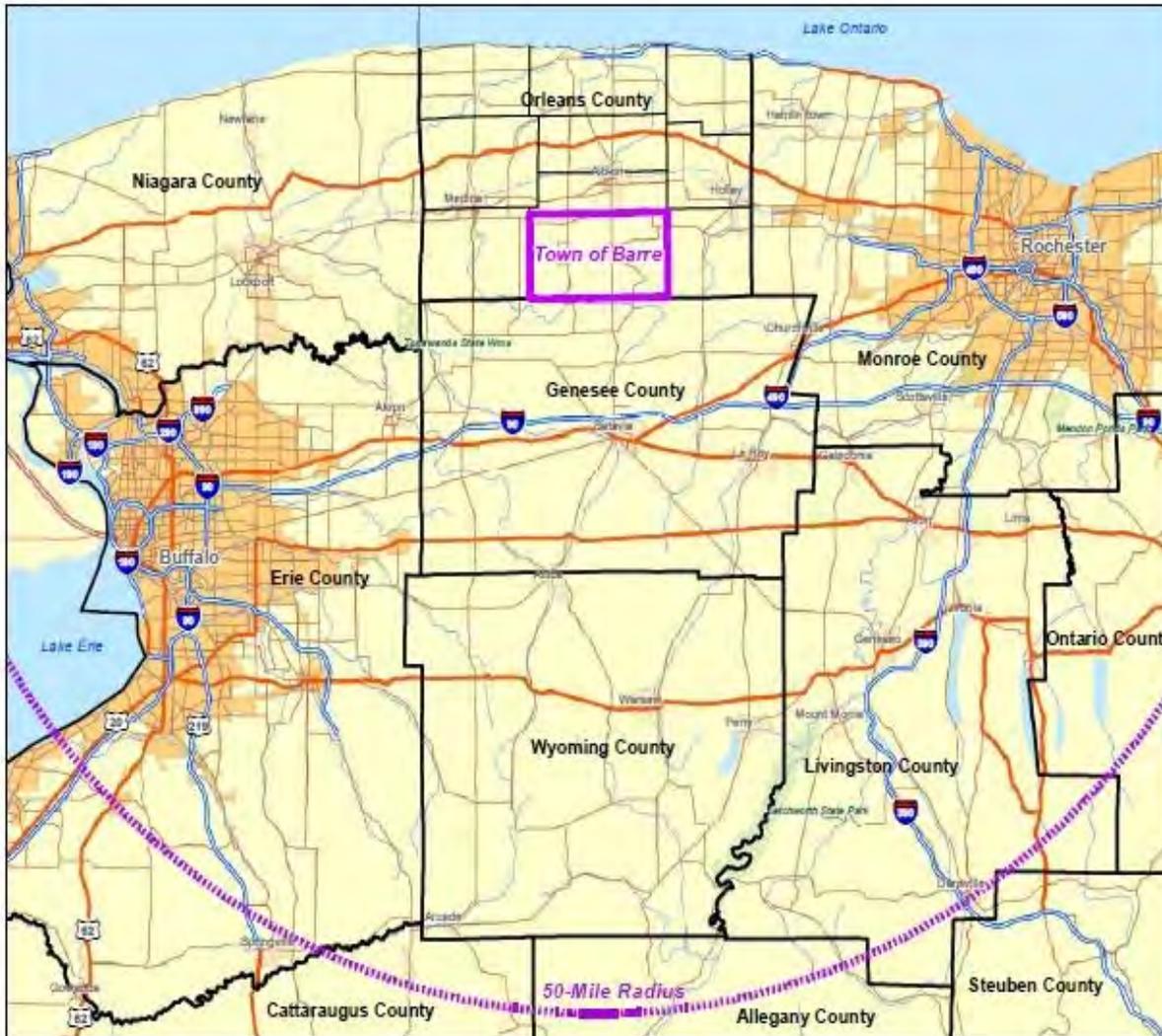
The clay loam, sand, and mucklands soils supported the cultivation of fruit, vegetables and grains. Agriculture continues to be the primary industry in Barre.

In Barre, abundant lime rocks were crushed and heated in kilns to extract lime. This lime was needed in the mortar used to construct stone walls and chimneys. Ruins of a kiln on East Lee Road, which ceased operation in 1905, still exist, as well as remnants of a kiln on Lime Kiln Road.

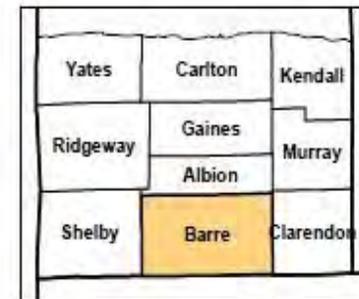
The locations of historic markers, ruins, and notable buildings in the Town of Barre are shown in Map 2.

² SOURCE: "Town of Barre Septucentennial 1818 - 1993" and Town Historian Adrienne Daniels

Map 1. Regional Setting

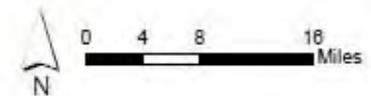


Town of Barre
Comprehensive Plan Update
Regional Setting



Location within Orleans County

June 2015



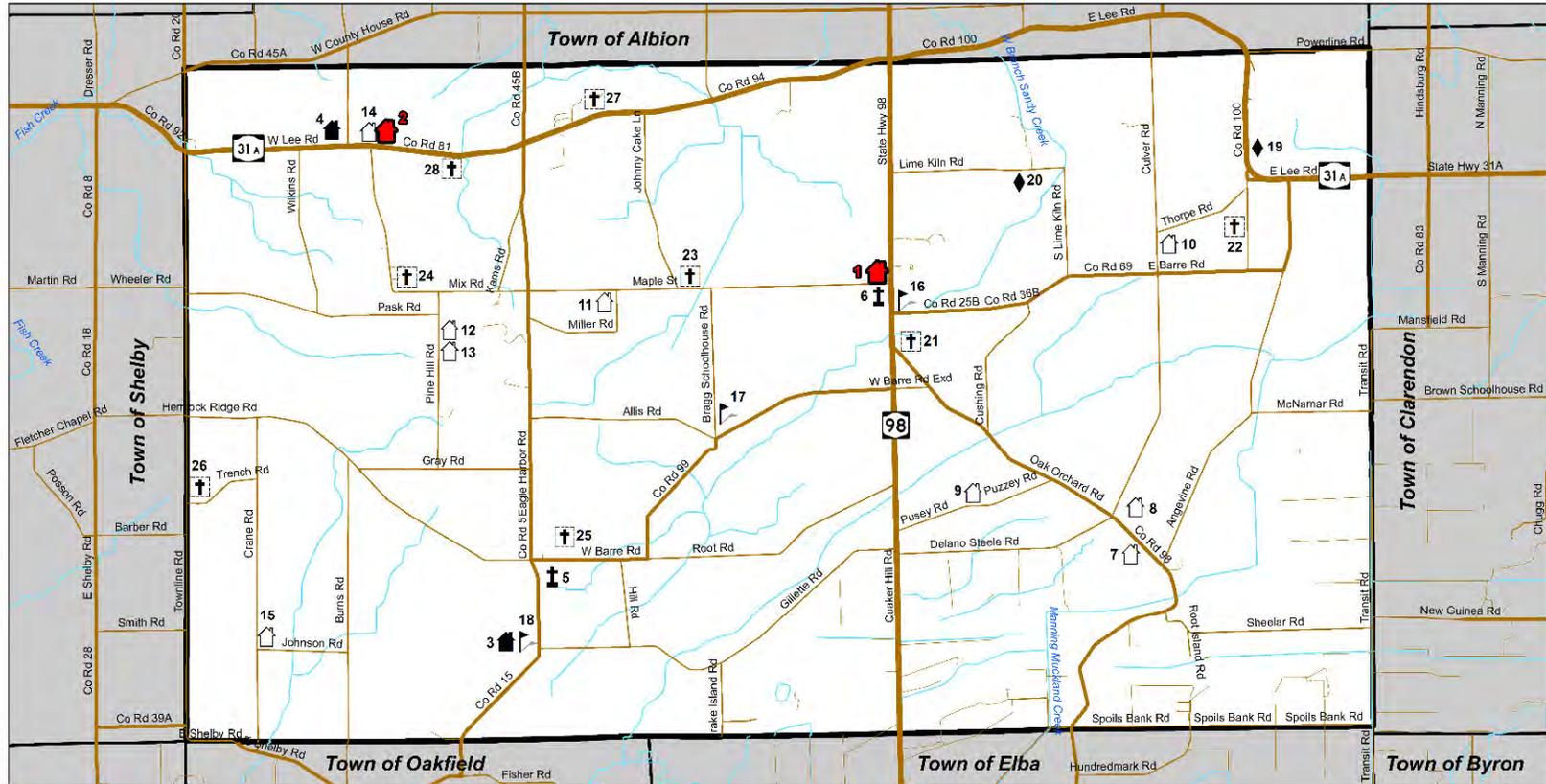
LABELLA
Associates, D.P.C.

Map 2. Historic Sites

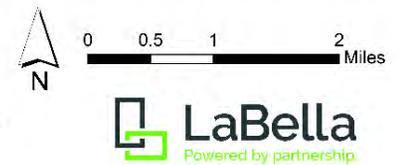
Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update

Historic Sites

September 2023

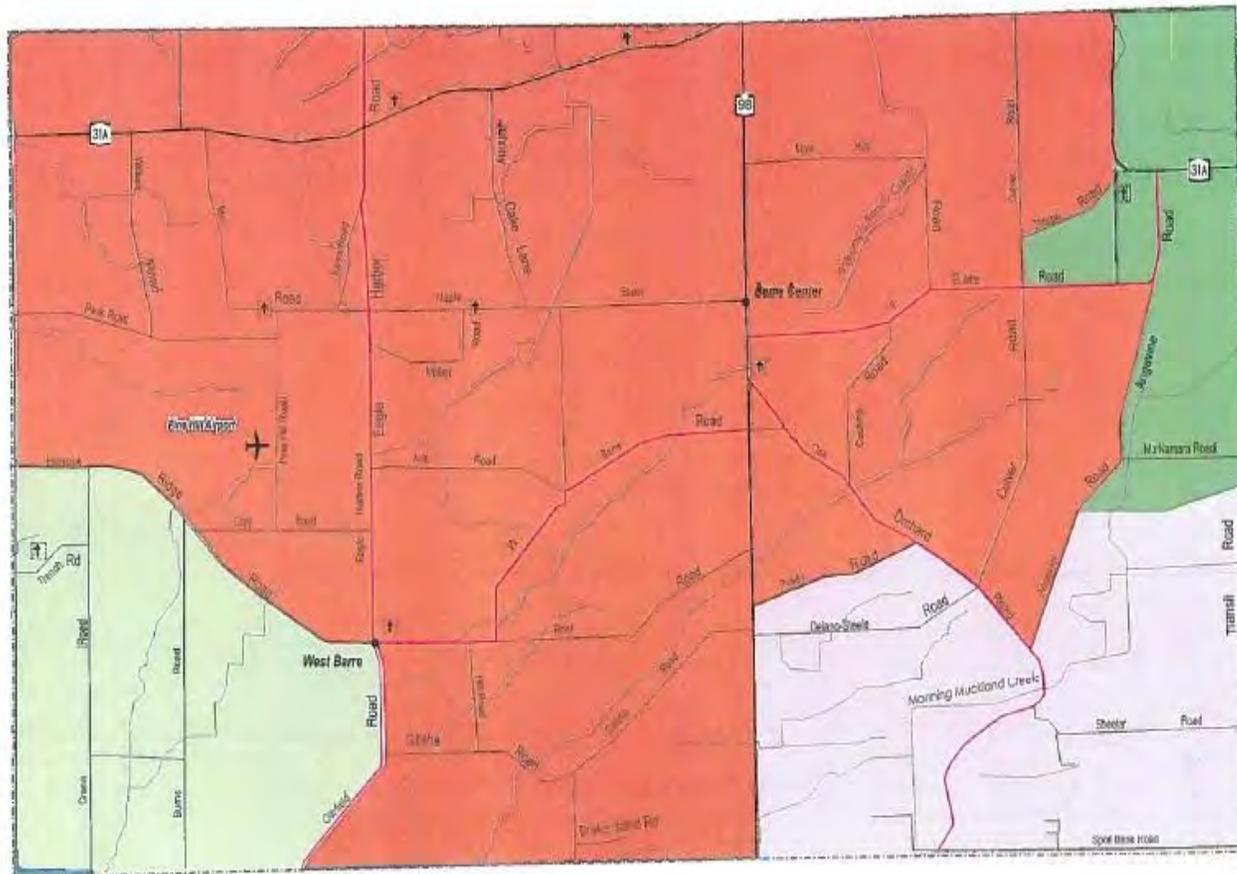


- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Register Building 1 Skinner-Tinkham House 2 Gates, Benjamin Franklin, House Historic House or Structure 3 Elisha Wright House 4 Old School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Churches 5 West Barre United Methodist Church 6 Barre Center Presbyterian Church Cobblestone Buildings 7 The Batchellor House 8 Barre District #9 School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Robert Pinney Residence 10 Danny Shuler House 11 Gaylord-Crosset Home 12 Ernst Home 13 Pine Hill School House 14 Hartway House 15 House | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Markers 16 Indian Trail 17 Braggs Corners 18 Elisha Wright Lime Kiln Ruin 19 Lime Kiln Ruin 20 Lime Kiln Ruin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Cemeteries 21 Barre Center Cemetery 22 Love or East Barre Cemetery 23 Snyder Cemetery 24 Pine Hill Cemetery 25 West Barre Cemetery 26 East Shelby or Dow Cemetery 27 Myrtle Hill Cemetery 28 Green Family Cemetery |
|--|--|---|--|---|



Map 3. Zip Codes

ZIP CODES: BARRE, NY



LEGEND

- Albion - 14411
- Elba - 14058
- Holley - 14470
- Medina - 14103
- Oakfield - 14125

- Town Boundary
- County Highway
- Highway
- Town Roads
- Streams
- Cemetery



3. Land Use

The predominant land use in the Town of Barre is agriculture. The southeast portion of Barre contains highly productive mucklands soils.

Approximately 486 parcels and 23,885 acres (69% of the Town’s total land in parcels) are in agricultural use, including 69 parcels that also have a residence. The 692 residential parcels include 523 single family dwellings, 70 manufactured homes and seven 2-family dwellings. Parcels used for public or community services include the include the Town Park (62 acres), Barre Town Hall and Highway Garage, water storage tank, churches, cemeteries, animal welfare shelter, and sportsmen clubs.

Table 2 and Map 4 identify the amount of land in parcels by various use categories. Note that the land use classification is assigned for assessment purposes to each parcel and may not reflect all uses on the parcel.

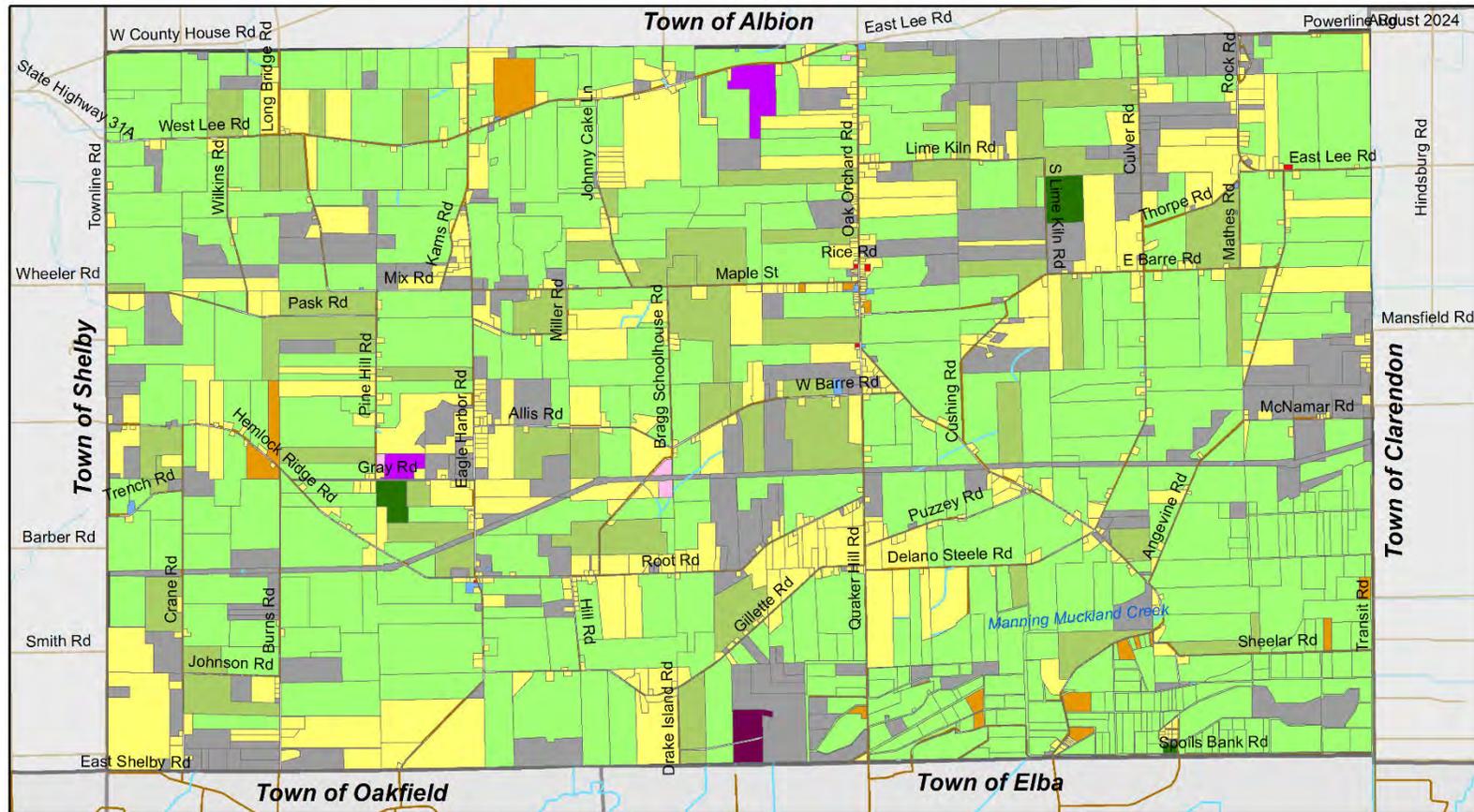
Table 2. Existing Land Use by Tax Parcel Classification - 2023

Assessor's Property Classification	Approximate Area (Acres)	Number of Parcels	Percent of Total Land Area
Agricultural	19,501.4	417	56.4%
Agricultural with Residence	4,387.1	69	12.7%
Residential	5441.2	692	15.7%
Vacant	4,636.3	241	13.4%
Commercial/ Storage & Distribution	255.5	21	0.7%
Mining	114.7	2	0.3%
Public and Community Services	111.2	19	0.3%
Conservation	116.4	3	0.3%
TOTAL:	34,563.8	1,464	100.0%

Source: Real Property Tax Parcel records

Map 4. Existing Land Use by Tax Parcel

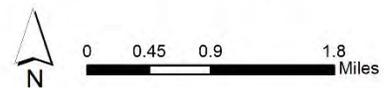
Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update
Existing Land Use by Tax Parcel



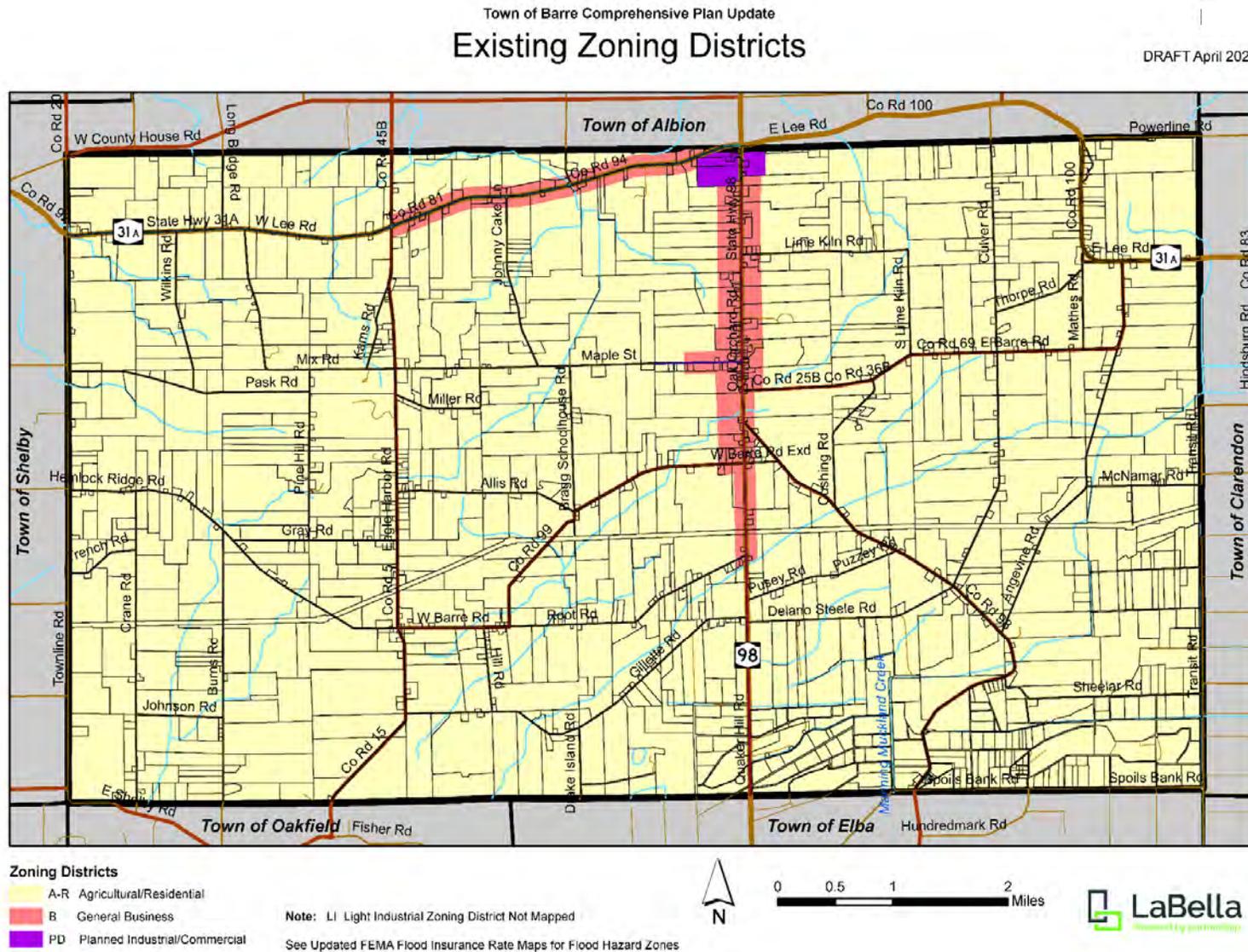
Tax Parcels by Assessor Classification Code

■ Agricultural	■ Commercial	■ Mining
■ Agriculture with Residence	■ Storage/ Distribution	■ Utilities/ Transportation
■ Residential	■ Camp	■ Conservation
■ Vacant	■ Public/ Community Service	

NOTE: Land use classification codes are assigned by the assessor for each parcel and may not reflect all uses or current uses on the parcel.



Map 5. Existing Zoning Districts



B. NATURAL FEATURES AND AGRICULTURAL LAND

1. Topography

The topography in Barre is generally level to gently rolling. Pine Hill is the highest natural point in Orleans County at 742 feet above sea level. In most areas of the Town, topography is not a limiting factor to potential development. The topographic map is reproduced as Map 6.

2. Wetlands

Wetlands, such as swamps, marshes, or wet meadows where the ground water level is near or above the surface, provide several ecological and hydrological benefits. They can store, like a sponge, large quantities of storm water runoff, and provide unique habitats for a variety of plants and animals.

Both State and Federal laws and regulations are in effect to protect and preserve wetlands. New York State's Freshwater Wetlands Act directed the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to map significant wetlands and prepare regulations restricting activities that would destroy or disturb the wetlands. The State only mapped wetlands with an area of 12.4 acres (5 hectares) or larger, plus smaller wetlands of unusual importance. State-regulated wetlands located in Barre are shown in Map 7.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issues permits for activities in those wetlands subject to regulations under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These wetlands must be identified based on their hydraulic, soil, and vegetative characteristics. A map prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for the National Wetlands Inventory, serves as a preliminary identification of Federally regulated wetlands. Federal and State wetlands do not necessarily coincide.

3. Streams and Watersheds

The southern part of the Town of Barre drains into Oak Orchard Creek, which eventually flows into Lake Ontario. The northern portion drains into Lake Ontario via Fish Creek, Otter Creek and the West Branch of Sandy Creek. Map 8 depicts the watersheds and subwatersheds in the Town of Barre.

Water quality reports published by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation indicate that segments of Upper Oak Orchard Creek and its tributaries are impaired by nutrients that are suspected to come from agricultural runoff, municipal discharges and/or disruption of natural habitats. Fish Creek and Otter Creek are suspected to be moderately impaired by nutrients (phosphorus) from agricultural runoff. In Sandy Creek, aquatic life is known to be impaired from nutrients that are suspected to come from with agricultural runoff.

Streams and tributaries within the Otter Creek subwatershed are classified "A", which indicates that they are suitable for public drinking water, as these waters flow into the Albion Water Supply Reservoir No. 2. They are also suitable for swimming, general recreation, and support of aquatic life. All other streams in the Town are DEC classified "C", which is suitable for fishing.

For more information, see the Priority Waterbody List Fact Sheets available through the NYS DEC online [Environmental Resource Mapper](#).

4. Flood Hazard Areas

Land areas within the 100-year floodplain (defined as having a 1% chance of flooding each year) have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The “100 year flood” is estimated to be a flood with a 1% chance of occurring during any one year.

The Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the Town of Barre and all of Orleans County were updated in 2023-2024 based on an updated Flood Insurance Study completed by FEMA in 2023. The revised flood zone mapping is generally more accurate than the previous mapping published in 2015.

All of the Special Flood Hazard Areas delineated in the updated mapping are designated Zone A, which have a 1% chance of flooding annually and for which no base flood elevations derived from hydraulic analyses are specified. Areas designated as Zone X have a 0.2% annual chance of flooding, or 1% chance of flooding to an average depth, or drainage areas less than one square mile.

Much of the southeastern portion of Barre, including the land known as “mucklands,” is subject to flooding.

5. Woodlands

Wooded areas in the Town of Barre (see Map 1: Aerial View) provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals. These areas also provide opportunities for recreational hunting, nature observation and other activities. Existing stands of trees are a benefit to air quality, shade and the aesthetic quality of Barre. Existing wooded areas are located primarily along streams, and often coincide with wetland boundaries.

6. Rare Plants or Animals

Several locations in the Town may be habitats for animals listed as Endangered or Threatened by the NYS DEC. Land in the southwestern part of the Town is in the vicinity of a Significant Raptor Winter Concentration Area, according to the NYS DEC Environmental Resource Mapper.

7. Unique Geological Features

The Burma Woods Esker, a Unique Geological Feature designated by the NYS DEC, is located at the Eagle Harbor Sand & Gravel quarry. An esker is a long, winding ridge of stratified sand and gravel that was formed by stream deposits within and under glaciers.

8. Agricultural Land

Farming in Barre includes dairy farms, beef cattle and other livestock operations, field crops and vegetables. Some fruit is grown in the Pine Hill area and on West Lee Road. The mucklands yield mostly onions and potatoes.

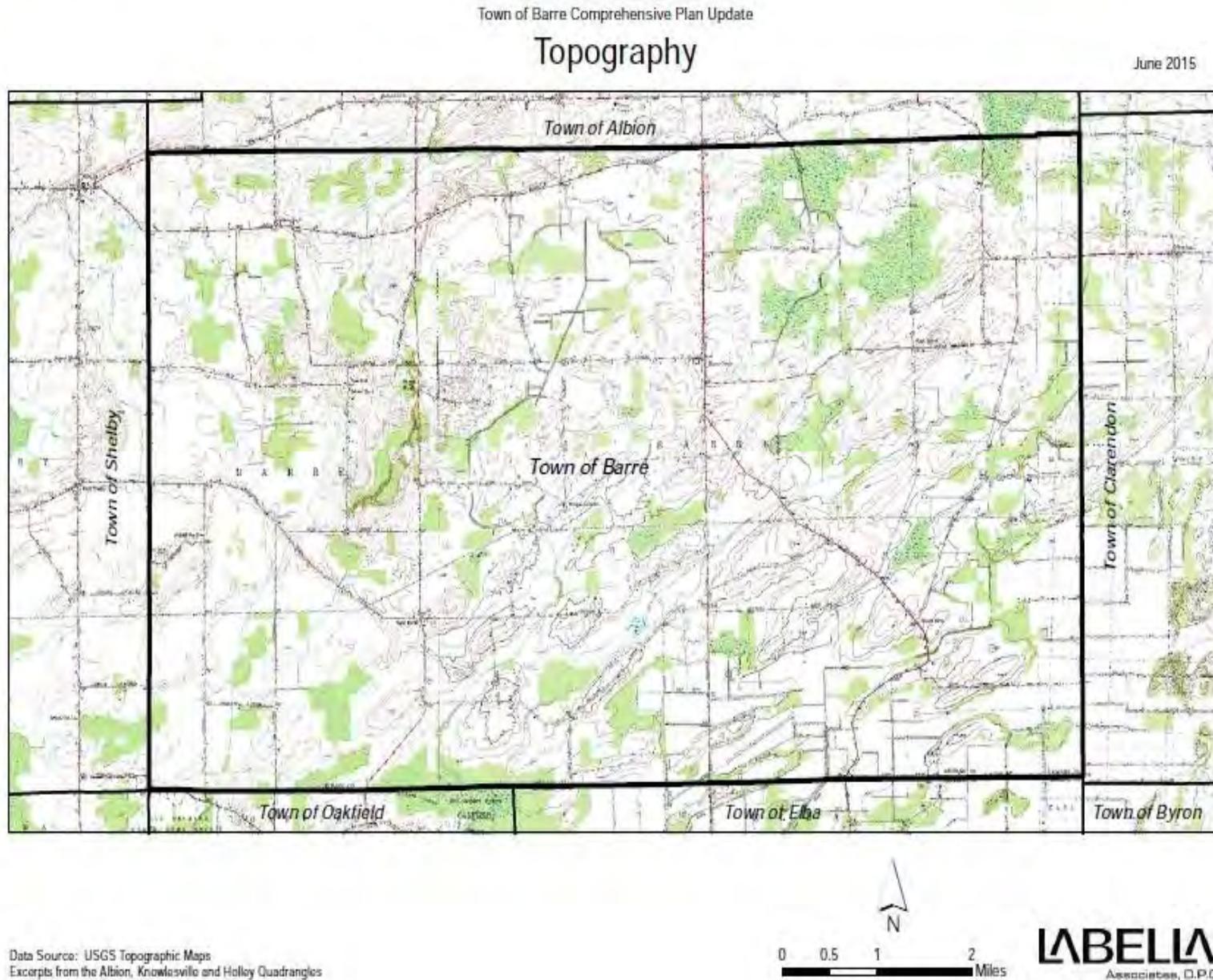
Map 9 depicts the Prime and Important Farmlands in the Town of Barre. Map 10 depicts USDA Soil Classifications in Barre.

Inventory and Analysis of Existing Conditions

The Agricultural Districts were first created at the request of local landowners. The purpose of the program is to recognize the importance of viable farmland, offer favorable property tax assessments (based on agricultural value rather than value for potential development) and to provide for consideration of the effects on agriculture from proposed public improvement projects of local laws and regulations. Map 11 depicts land in Agricultural Districts.

The Oak Orchard Small Watershed project, first established in 1982, drains the muck land in southeastern Barre as well as land in Genesee County. This is a Federally funded program that benefits agriculture in this area.

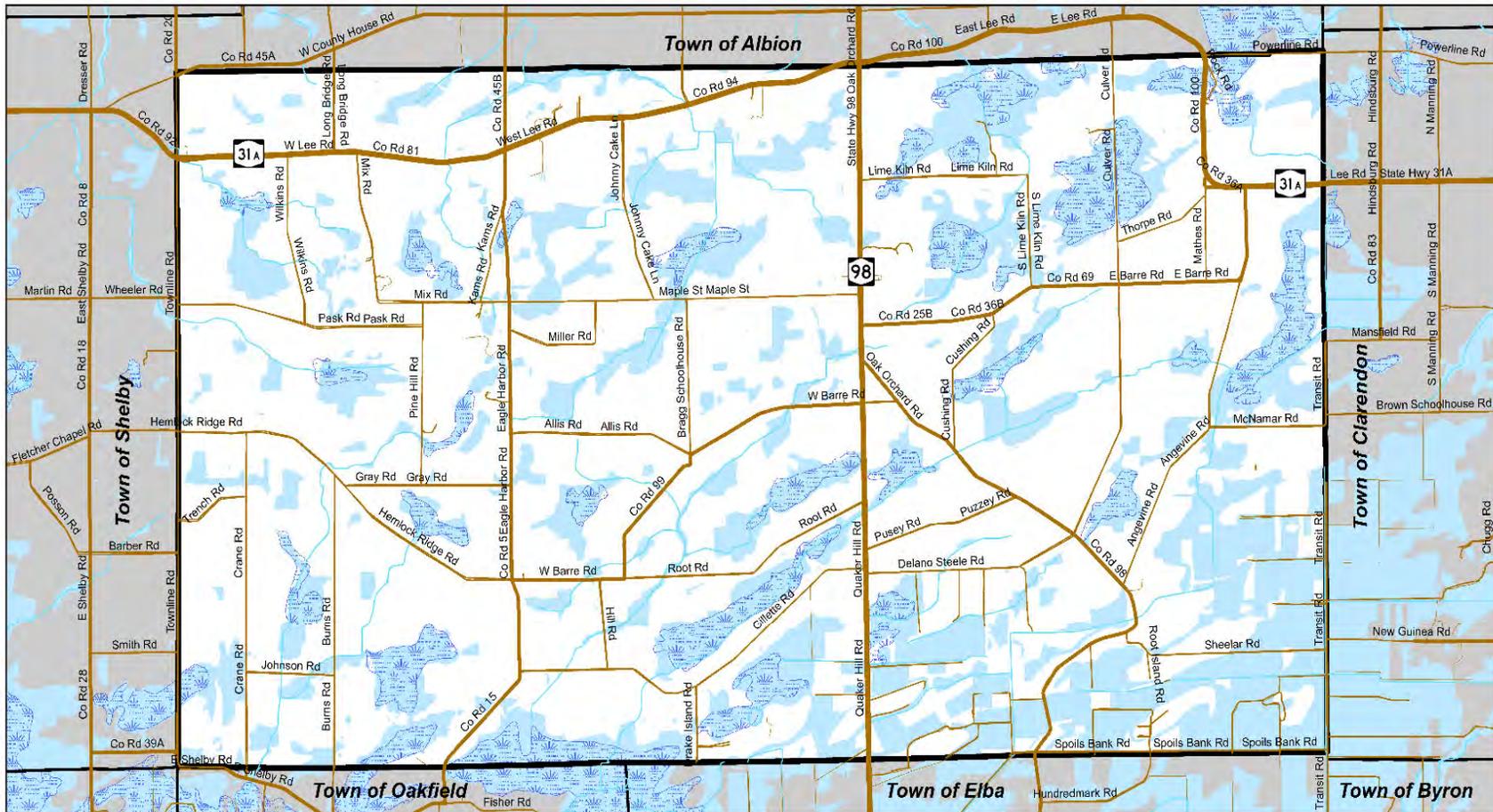
Map 6. Topography



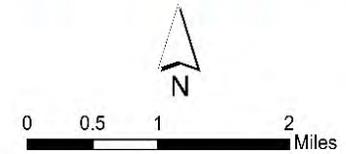
Map 7. NYS and Federal Freshwater Wetlands

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update NYS and Federal Freshwater Wetlands

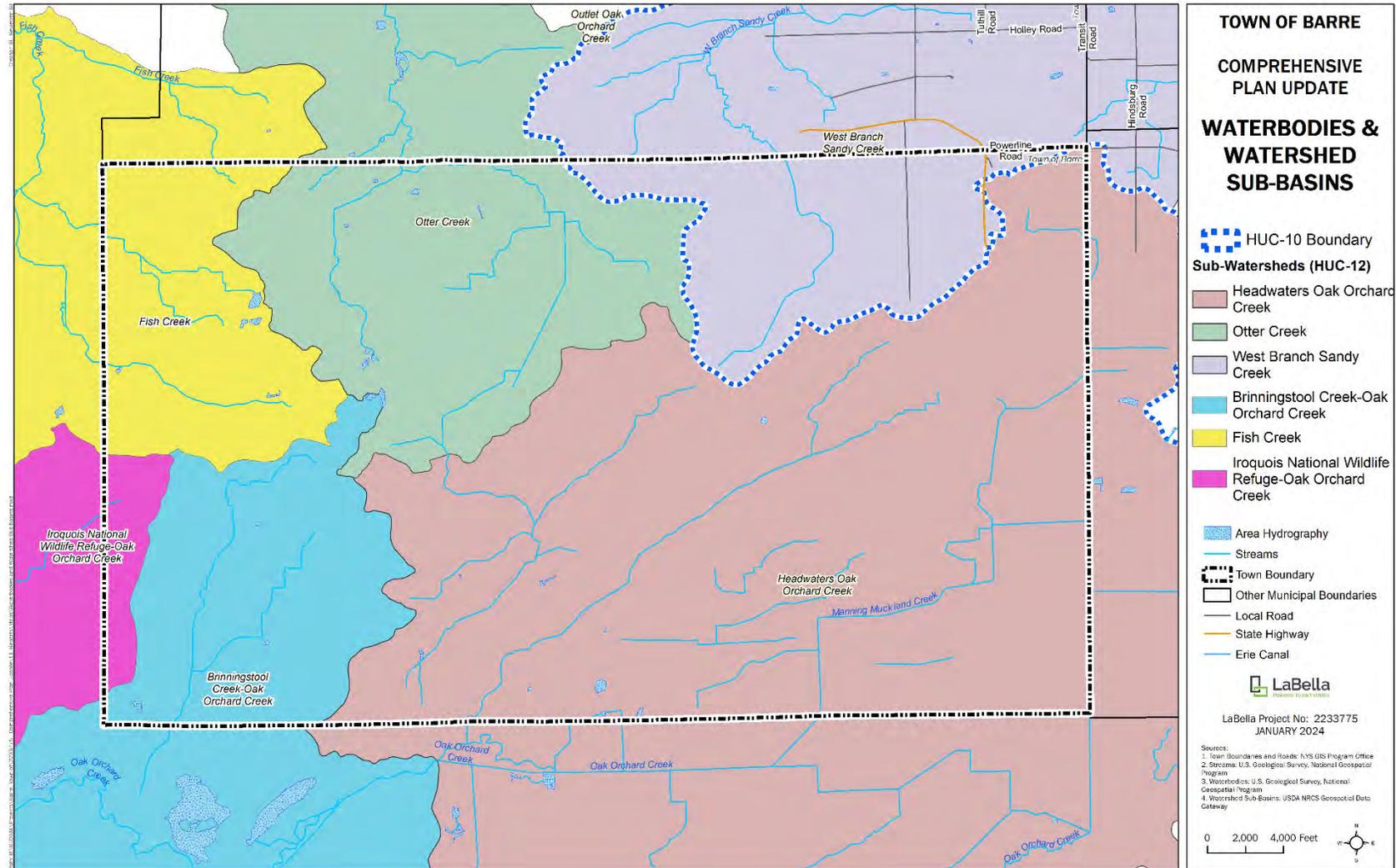
September 2023



-  Streams
-  NYS DEC Wetlands
-  Federal Wetlands



Map 8. Waterbodies & Watershed Sub-basins

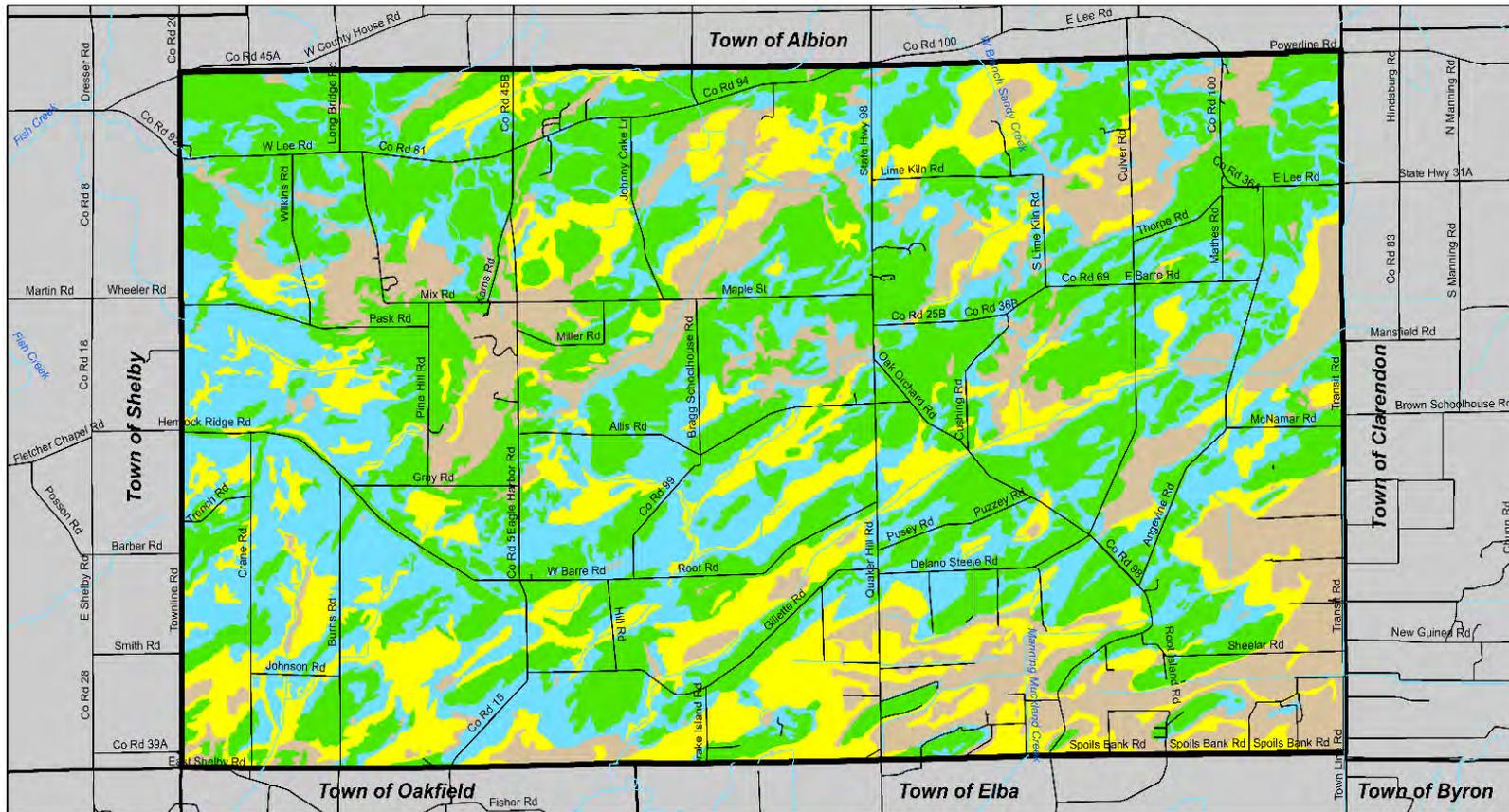


Map 9. Important Farmlands

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update

Important Farmlands

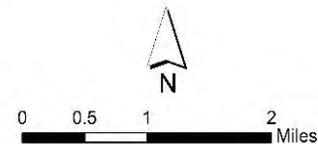
September 2023



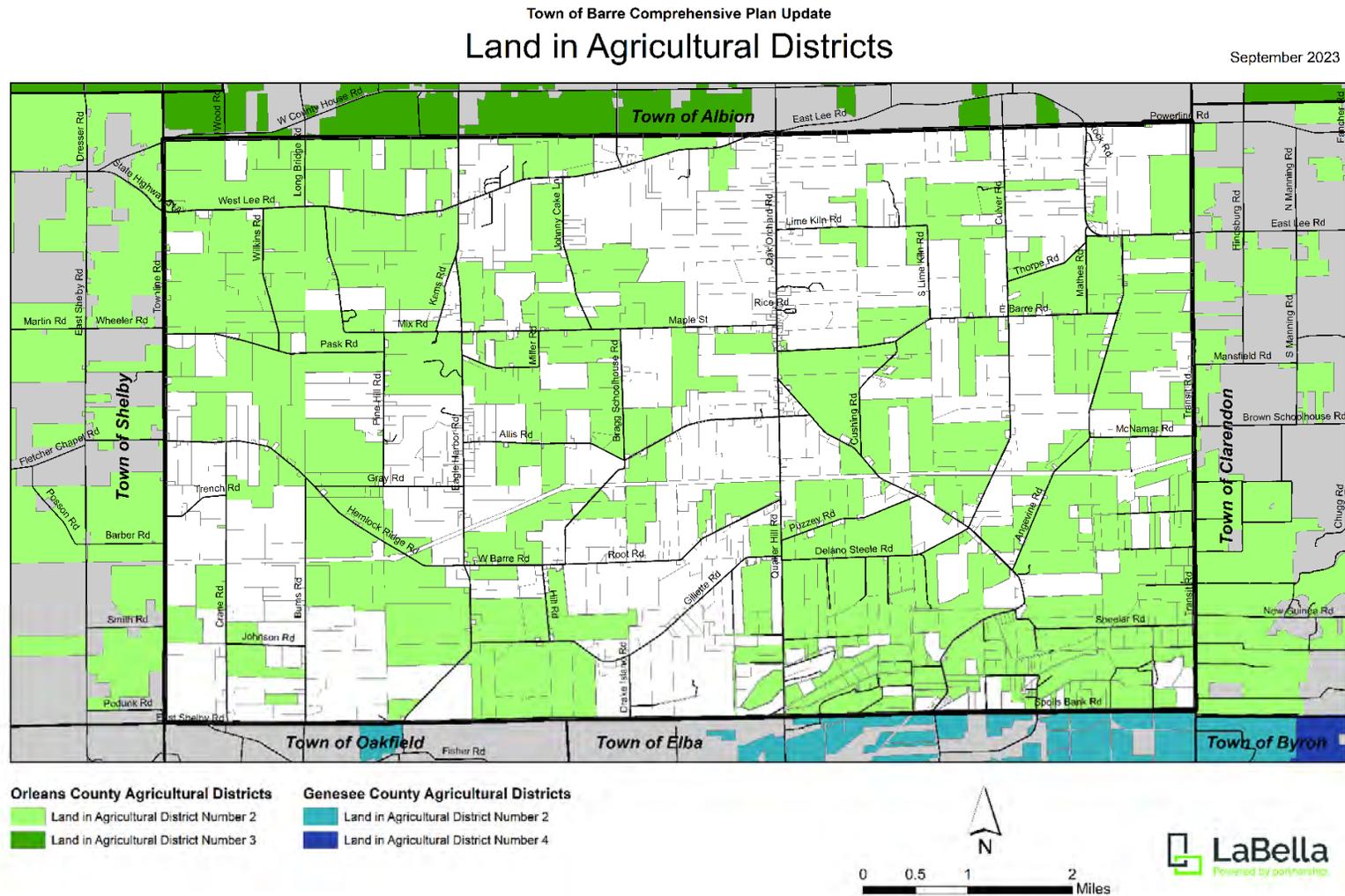
Agricultural Soil Suitability

- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Prime farmland if drained
- Other soils

Data Source: USDA Soil Conservation Services



Map 11. Land in Agricultural Districts



C. POPULATION AND HOUSING

1. Household & Family Type

Approximately 1,944 people live in 705 households in the Town of Barre. Approximately 27% of the population is under age 20 and 20% is age 65 or older. Between 2000 and 2021, the population decreased by 4%

Table 3 shows the composition of households and families in Barre.

2. Housing

Based on the 2021 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 83% of housing units in Barre are single family detached dwellings, 3.4% are in two-family dwellings, and 11% are mobile homes. For comparison, 73.6% of housing units in Orleans County are single-family detached housing, 6% are in 2-unit structures, and 9.7% are mobile homes. These percentages are largely unchanged since 2017. The proportion of housing units in Barre that are in one- and two-family structures are largely unchanged since 2017; however, the proportion of housing units that are mobile homes dropped from 15% in 2017 to 11% in 2021.

Between 2017 and 2021, the proportion of housing units that are rented increased from 9% to 14.3%. The median value of owner-occupied dwellings is \$109,900, and the median monthly rent is \$817. Both categories show an increase from 2017 figures, where the median value of owner-occupied dwellings was \$90,100, and median monthly rent was \$693.

Table 3. Population & Housing Trends, 1990-2021

	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
	#	% Change	#	% Change
Total Population				
1990	2,093		41,846	
2000	2,124	1.5	44,173	5.6
2010	2,025	-4.7	42,883	-2.9
2021	1,944	-4.0	40,588	-5.4%
Total Households				
1990	702		14,416	
2000	739	5.3	15,363	6.6
2010	774	4.7	16,119	4.9
2021	705	-8.9%	16,203	1

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 and ACS 2016-2021

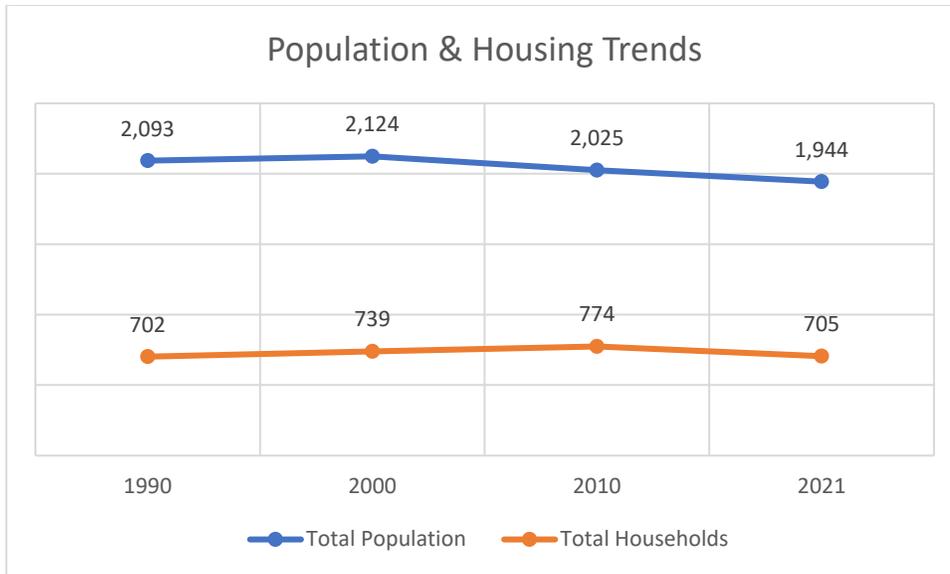


Table 4. Population by Age Group, 2021

	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
	#	%	#	%
Under 5 years	99	5.1	1,988	4.9
5 to 19 years	419	21.5	6,725	16.6
20 to 24 years	73	3.8	2,165	5.3
25 to 34 years	208	10.7	5,456	13.5
35 to 44 years	162	8.3	4,649	11.4
45 to 54 years	239	12.3	5,764	14.2
55 to 59 years	155	8.0	3,573	8.8
60 to 64 years	200	10.3	3,015	7.4
65 + years	389	20.0	7,253	17.9
Total Population	1,944		40,588	

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 ACS

3. Labor Force

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, 60% of residents in the Town of Barre were in the labor force, and 1.6% were unemployed. 54.8% of Orleans County is in the labor force, with 3.5% being unemployed. In the Town of Barre, 64% of females aged 16 years or older were in the labor force. Of these 743 women, 126 have children under the age of 6, and 324 have children ages 6 to 17 years. Selected from this population of working women, all parents in 50.8% of families with children under age 6 work. For families with children ages 6 to 17, 31.2% have all parents employed.

Of the 1,520 Barre residents in the labor force, 85.8% drove to work alone, 7% carpooled, 1% worked at home, 1.3% walked, and 4.8% took other means. The mean travel time for Town of Barre commuters is 21 minutes. 76.7% of commuters across Orleans County drove to work alone, 10.4%

carpooled, 6.4% worked from home, 3.4% walked, and 2.9% took other means. The average commute for the County is 25 minutes. (See Table 7.)

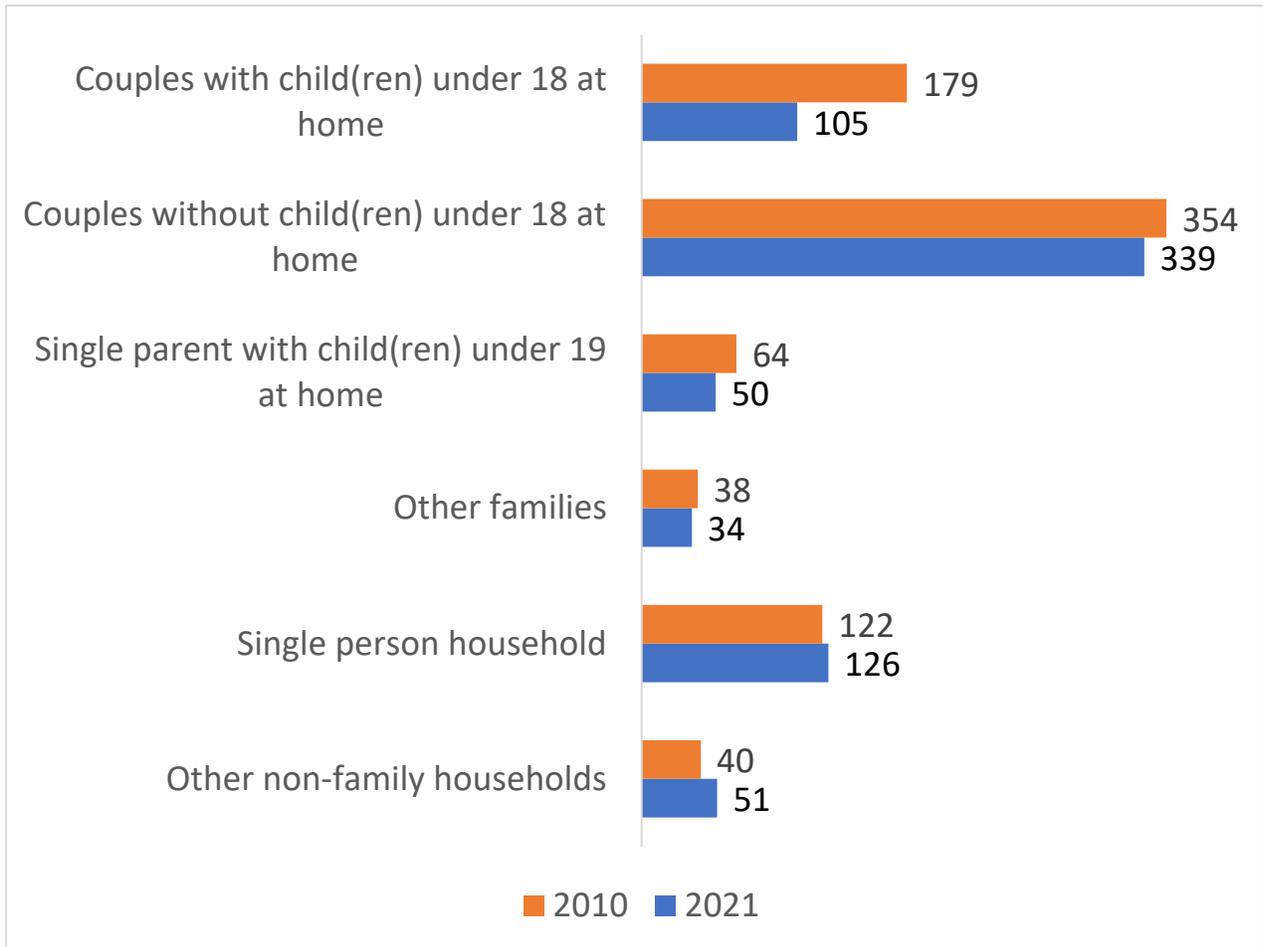
Table 8 displays employment by occupation and industry. The Town of Barre and Orleans County show similar percentages in service, sales and office, and production, transportation, and material moving occupations. The Town of Barre has significantly less workers in management, business, science, and arts occupations, at 23.7% compared to the County's 28.8%. The Town of Barre has significantly more workers in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations at 21.1%, while the county percentage is 15.4%.

Table 5. Household & Family Type, 2021

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		Town of Barre		Orleans County	
		#	%	#	%
Total households		705		16,203	
Family Households		528	75%	10,690	66%
	With own children under 18 years	155	22%	4,103	25%
Married couple family		444	63%	7,737	48%
	With own children under 18 years	105	15%	2,229	14%
Male householder, no wife present		27	4%	939	6%
	With own children under 18 years	8	1%	627	4%
Female householder, no husband present		57	8%	2,014	12%
	With own children under 18 years	42	6%	1,247	8%
Nonfamily households		177	25%	5,513	34%
Householder living alone		126	18%	4,574	28%
	Male	68	10%	2,373	15%
	65 years and over	17	2%	932	6%
	Female	58	8%	2,201	14%
	65 years and over	48	7%	1,292	8%
Households with individuals under 18 years		176	25%	4,459	28%
Households with individuals 65 years and over		269	38%	5,173	32%
Average household size		2.76	(x)	2.33	(x)

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 ACS, DP02

Chart 1. Household & Family Type, 2021



4. Income

The median household income in the Town of Barre in 2021 was \$71,157, which is significantly higher than the County median of \$54,882. (See Table 9.)

Table 6. Housing Characteristics

HOUSING UNITS	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
	#	%	#	%
Occupied housing units	705	94.8%	16,203	88.8%
Vacant housing units	39	5.2%	2,034	11.2%
For rent	0	0.0%	183	9.0%
Rented, not occupied	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
For sale only	0	0.0%	31	0.2%
Sold, not occupied	0	0.0%	160	1.0%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	10	25.6%	663	4.1%
For migrant workers	0	0.0%	29	0.2%
Other vacant	29	74.4%	968	6.0%
Homeowner vacancy rate	0	(x)	0	(x)
Rental vacancy rate	0	(x)	4	(x)
UNITS IN STRUCTURE				
Total housing units	744		18,237	
1-unit, detached	622	83.6%	13,423	73.6%
1 unit attached	14	1.9%	257	1.4%
2 units	25	3.4%	1,125	6.2%
Mobile home	83	11.2%	1,778	9.7%
HOUSING TENURE				
Occupied housing units	705		16,203	
Owner-occupied	604	85.7%	12,065	74.5%
Renter-occupied	101	14.3%	4,138	25.5%
VALUE				
Owner-occupied units	604		12,065	
Less than \$50,000	68	11.3%	1,541	12.8%
\$50,000 to \$99,000	201	33.3%	3,909	32.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	119	19.7%	2,951	24.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	94	15.6%	1,520	12.6%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	89	14.7%	1,494	12.4%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	13	2.2%	401	3.3%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	4	0.7%	136	1.1%
\$1,000,000 or more	16	2.6%	113	0.9%
Median (dollars)	109,900	(X)	107,700	(X)
OCCUPIED UNITS PAYING RENT	67	100.0%	3,812	100.0%
Less than \$500	0	0.0%	404	10.6%
\$500 to \$999	46	68.7%	2,458	64.5%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	21	31.3%	789	20.7%
Median (dollars)	817	(X)	802	
No rent paid	34	(X)	326	

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2021

Table 7. Labor Force & Community, 2021

	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
Labor Force Status	#	%	#	%
Persons 16 years and over	1,520		33,760	
In civilian labor force	910	59.9%	18,506	54.8%
Employed	886	58.3%	17,328	51.3%
Unemployed	24	1.6%	1,178	3.5%
Armed Forces	0	0.0%	18	0.1%
Not in Labor Force	610	40.1%	15,236	45.1%
Females 16 years and over	743		16,920	
In labor force	414	55.7%	8,544	50.5%
Employed	408	54.9%	8,201	48.5%
With own children under 6 years	126		2,395	
All parents in family in labor force	64	50.8%	1,581	66.0%
Own children 6 to 17 years	324		5,026	
All parents in family in labor force	101	31.2%	3,661	72.8%
Commuting to Work				
Employed Residents Age 16+	873		17,089	
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	749	85.8%	13,103	76.7%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled	61	7.0%	1,778	10.4%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	0	0.0%	35	0.2%
Walked	11	1.3%	584	3.4%
Other means	42	4.8%	493	2.9%
Worked at home	10	1.1%	1,096	6.4%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21	(X)	25	(X)

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2021

Table 8. Employment by Occupation & Industry, 2021

OCCUPATION	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
	#	%	#	%
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	886		17,328	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	210	23.7%	4,988	28.8%
Service occupations	161	18.2%	2,985	17.2%
Sales and office occupations	158	17.8%	3,626	20.9%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	187	21.1%	2,677	15.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	170	19.2%	3,052	17.6%
INDUSTRY				
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	886		17,328	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	72	8.1%	717	4.1%
Construction	64	7.2%	1,161	6.7%
Manufacturing	108	12.2%	2,781	16.0%
Wholesale trade	12	1.4%	383	2.2%
Retail trade	62	7.0%	2,136	12.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	35	4.0%	716	4.1%
Information	2	0.2%	248	1.4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	92	10.4%	961	5.5%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	73	8.2%	1,136	6.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	176	19.9%	4,050	23.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	48	5.4%	1,186	6.8%
Other services, except public administration	61	6.9%	774	4.5%
Public administration	81	9.1%	1,079	6.2%
CLASS OF WORKER				
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	886		17,328	
Private wage and salary workers	650	73.4%	13,299	76.7%
Government workers	195	22.0%	3,016	17.4%
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers	35	4.0%	982	5.7%
Unpaid family workers	6	0.7%	31	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 ACS.

Table 9. Household & Family Income, 2021

INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2011 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)	Town of Barre		Orleans County	
	#	%	#	%
Total households	705		16,203	
Less than \$10,000	36	5.1%	986	6.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	56	7.9%	846	5.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	30	4.3%	1,296	8.0%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	48	6.8%	1,738	10.7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	73	10.4%	2,419	14.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	132	18.7%	3,064	18.9%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	158	22.4%	2,078	12.8%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	122	17.3%	2,327	14.4%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	37	5.2%	1,034	6.4%
\$200,000 or more	13	1.8%	415	2.6%
Median household income (dollars)	71,157	(X)	54,882	(X)
Families	528		10,690	
Less than \$10,000	35	6.6%	563	5.3%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	14	2.7%	291	2.7%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	13	2.5%	611	5.7%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	49	9.3%	954	8.9%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	47	8.9%	1,568	14.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	91	17.2%	1,821	17.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	134	25.4%	1,590	14.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	108	20.5%	1,981	18.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	24	4.5%	935	8.7%
\$200,000 or more	13	2.5%	376	3.5%
Median family income (dollars)	76,974	(X)	67,654	(X)
Nonfamily households	177		5,513	
Median nonfamily income (dollars)	39,792	(X)	34,867	(X)
Per capita income (dollars)	27,182	(X)	29,085	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 ACS.

D. MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

1. Businesses in Barre

Agriculture is a major industry in the Town. Types of farms include dairy, livestock, vegetables, and field crops.

Businesses to support agriculture include packing, processing, and trucking. Other businesses in the Town include construction contractors, trades and home-based businesses.

Several excavation companies operate sand and gravel mines in the Town of Barre, which supply are municipalities and contractors. Barre Stone Products, a subsidiary of Keeler Construction Co., operates a pit on West Lee Road, and Shelby Stone from a facility on Eagle Harbor Road. A number of private pits are also being mined.

2. Jobs and Employment

Based on 2021 U.S. Census data reported in the [On the Map tool](#), a total of 201 people work in the Town of Barre. Of these, 36 (18%) are Barre residents, and 165 commute to Barre from another municipality.

Nearly all Barre residents (96%) work outside the Town of Barre. Of these, approximately 35% work elsewhere in Orleans County, 23% in Monroe County, 15% in Genesee County, and 12% in Erie County.

3. Commercial renewable energy projects

Two large-scale commercial renewable energy projects are proposed in the Town. As of August 2024, both projects had received siting permits from the NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) which is authorized to approve renewable energy projects 25 MW or larger. ORES considers local law provisions but has final approval authority over these projects.

Hemlock Ridge Solar

In September 2022, ORES approved the Hemlock Ridge Solar Project, a 200-MW solar energy project located on 2,094 acres in the Towns of Barre and Shelby, of which approximately 1,268 acres will be occupied by facility infrastructure. The project includes: photovoltaic (PV) modules and their rack/ support systems; collection lines and communications cables connecting the modules to inverters; buried AC medium voltage collection lines; security fencing and gates around each array of PV modules; approximately 100 feet of transmission voltage line; and a switching station to be owned by National Grid. A host community agreement, currently (2024) being negotiated will provide revenue to the Town while the facility is operating. Details of the project and permit requirements are available for review at the ORES website (case #21-00748) and the Hemlock Ridge project website.

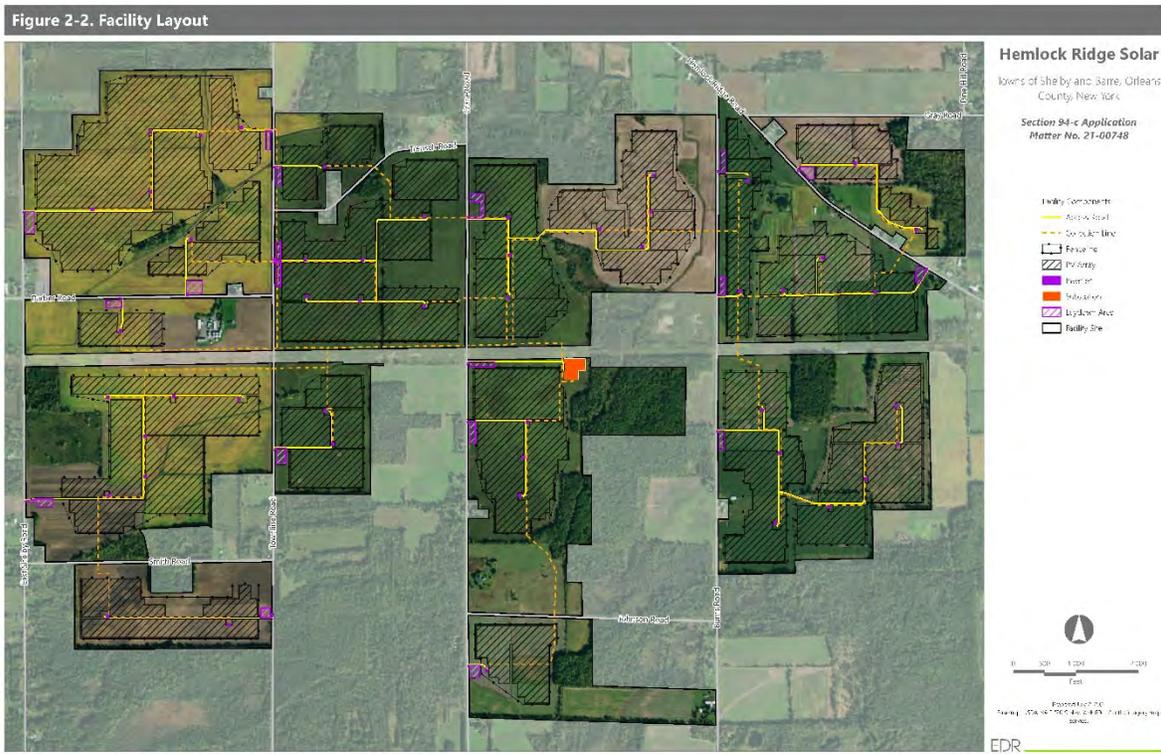


Figure 2. Hemlock Ridge Solar, Facility Layout July 2021

TRANSPORTATION

1. Streets and Roads

This section presents an inventory of transportation resources in the Town of Barre and analyzes their significance with regards to future development.

Highways, streets and roads in the Town of Barre may be categorized by function (arterial, collector or local) and by jurisdictional control (State, County, or Town).

Principal arterial roads are usually divided roadways for each direction with controlled access points. Nearby examples include the NYS Thruway (I-90) and NYS Route 531. Currently there are no principal arterial highways within Barre.

Minor arterial roads connect major traffic generators and form the principal network of traffic flow. All of the State highways are in this category:

- Oak Orchard Road (NYS Route 98) is a major north-south arterial
- NYS Route 31A runs east-west through the northern part of the Town of Barre.

Collector roads collect traffic from Local Streets and channel it to arterials and provide direct access to neighborhood traffic generators. Collectors usually carry lower volumes of traffic than arterial roads. Many of the County highways are in this category. County highways which are located, in whole or part, within the Town of Barre are shown in Map 12.

With few exceptions, the road and street system in the Town of Barre are functioning well with regards to traffic circulation. The condition of streets and roads in the Town of Barre vary. Town, County and State agencies are responsible for maintaining the streets, roads and highways in their respective jurisdictions. Table 10 lists the County Highway sections located in the Town.

Table 10. Sections of County Highways Located in the Town of Barre

County Route #	Road Name	Location
C.R. 5	Eagle Harbor Road	Between West Barre Road and Maple Street
C.R. 15	Oakfield Road	Between Gillette Road and southern Town boundary
C.R. 25	Oakfield Road	Between Gillette Road and West Barre
C.R. 25B	East Barre Road	Between NYS Route 98 and Cushing Road (western portion)
C.R. 36B	East Barre Road	Between NYS Route 98 and Cushing Road (eastern portion)
C.R. 69	East Barre Road	Between Cushing Road and NYS Route 31A
C.R. 98	Oak Orchard Road	Between Route 98 and southern Town boundary
C.R. 99	West Barre Road	Between West Barre Road and NYS Route 98
C.R. 458	Eagle Harbor Road	Between Maple Street and County House Road

2. Public Transit

Orleans Transit Service, a public bus service, is available in Orleans County. On Mondays and Thursdays, service is available along Route 98 to Albion and Batavia. Residents may call ahead to be picked up at a point within ¾ miles of the route.

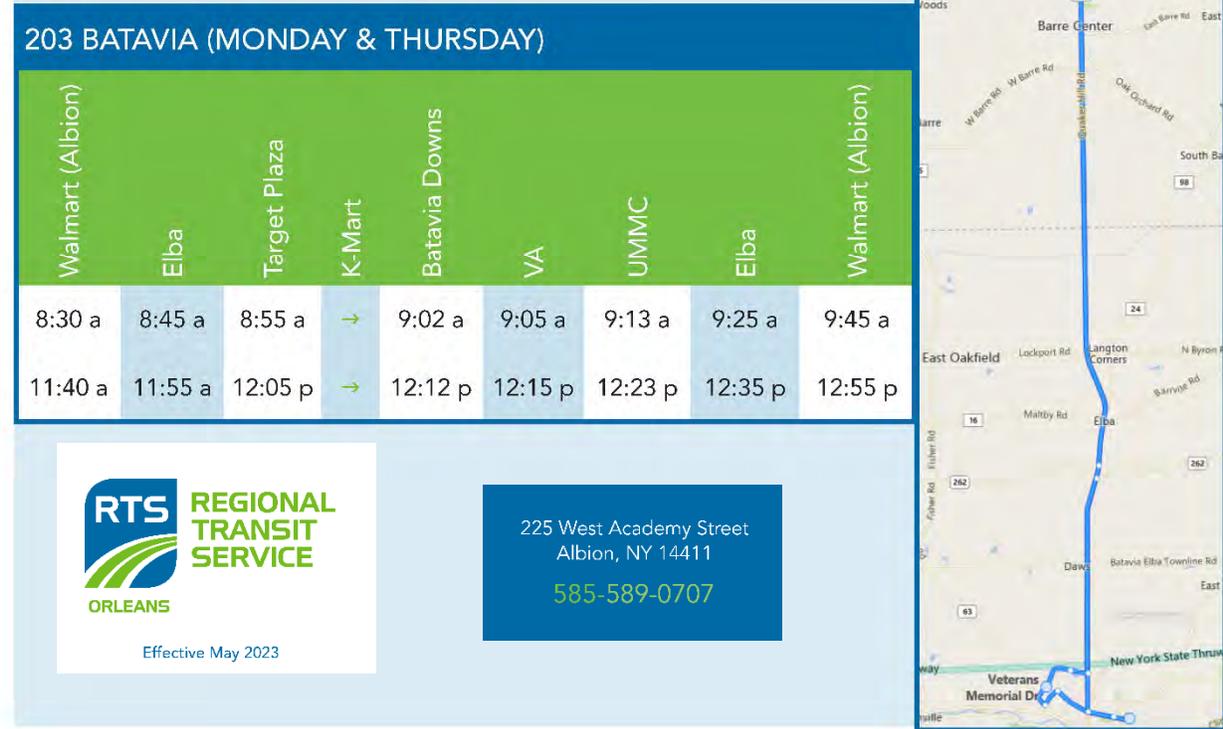


Figure 3. RTS Orleans Route 203 (Source: <https://www.myrts.com/orleans/schedules>)

Private taxi companies, Lyft and Uber may provide service to residents who do not drive.

3. Pine Hill Airport

Pine Hill Airport is a privately owned airport, open to the public, located at 4960 Pine Hill Road. The airport asphalt runway is 2,650 long and 36 feet wide. The weight limit is 12,000 lbs.

Organizations based at the airport include WNYSkydiving, the Pine Hill Raiders RC club, and the Vintage Aircraft Group.

As Pine Hill is an airport with a runway length of less than 3,200 feet and at least one FAA-approved instrument approach procedure (RNAV), FAA requires notification for any construction that extends outward and upward at a slope greater than 50 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 10,000 feet from the runway.



Photo 1. Pine Hill Airport (Photo credit: Kelly Dudson)

E. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTILITIES

This section describes the public and private utilities in Barre and evaluates their significance with regards to future development

1. Water

a. Description of System

The Town of Barre has created nine Water Districts which supply public water to residents and businesses throughout most of the Town. (See Map 13.) The Town is currently (2024) working to obtain grant funding to support the establishment of Water District No. 10 which would serve properties along portions of Angevine, McNamara and Transit Roads.

All of the water districts in the Town of Barre purchase water from the Village of Albion water system. The major water source for the Village of Albion water system is Lake Ontario. A 24-inch intake pipe which extends 1,800 feet into Lake Ontario carries raw water to the Water Treatment Plant located on Wilson Road, near Lakeside Beach State Park, in the Town of Carlton to be filtered, chlorinated, and fluoridated. The Treatment Plant, originally constructed in 1962, consists of rapid mixing, settling basins, rapid sand filtration, and a 100,000-gallon clearwell. The Plant has a capacity of 2.4 million gallons per day (mgd). In 2023 the plant produced 576,137,000 gallons for an average daily production of 1,578,458 gallons per day.³ The Village of Albion is currently (2024) upgrading the Water Treatment Plant with replacement of the three high service pumps and upgrades to electrical system and instrumentation. Additional planned improvements to the WTP include the construction of new sedimentation basins, filtration system and clearwell, fencing and security upgrades and improvements to the solids handling system.

A sixteen (16) inch transmission main carries treated water to a 1.0 million gallon ground storage tank on Route 98 in the Town of Gaines, near the intersection with Route 279. Booster Pump Station #1, located adjacent to the storage tank, delivers water to the Village of Albion distribution system. Excess water is directed to the 3.0 million gallon prestressed concrete storage tank, located near the intersection of NYS Routes 98 and 31A.

Water from the Village's 3.0 million gallon storage tank is pumped through the Town of Barre Booster Pump Station #1, located adjacent to the 3.0 million gallon storage tank at the southwest corner of Routes 31A and 98 in the Town of Barre, and to the Town of Barre's 150,000 gallon storage tank located in Barre Center behind the Fire Hall. From there, water is distributed throughout the Town of Albion Water District #3 and the Town of Barre Water Districts # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The Towns of Albion and Barre share the costs of operating and maintaining the Town of Barre Booster Pump Station #1 and the Town of Barre Water Storage Tank. The cost sharing is based on the amount of water used by each municipality. The Town of Albion Water District #3 has a master meter, located at the intersection of Routes 98 and 31A, to measure the flow of water

³ Source: Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023 Village of Albion Water System

into that District. A master meter located inside the Town of Barre Booster Pump Station #1 measures the flow of water into the Town of Barre Water Districts. During 2023, Town of Barre water districts received 21,371,350 gallons from the Village of Albion Water System.

Individual residences are charged for the cost of water based upon their individual meter readings. During 2024, the Town of Barre charged \$6.00/1,000 gallons and a \$27.00 quarter maintenance fee. The average yearly cost to a typical household is approximately \$468.⁴

b. Evaluation of System

The Water Treatment Plant has a capacity of 2.4 million gallons per day, and produced approximately 1.578 million gallons per day in 2023 per the 2023 AWQR. The two storage tanks (3.0 million gallons and 1.0 million gallons) are properly sized to meet the current and future requirements of the distribution system.

The Village of Albion is currently (2024) constructing a new sedimentation and filtration building to increase capacity, safety and efficiency. The total cost of the upgrades is more than \$16 million, which will be offset by approximately \$6 million in grant funding.

The Town of Barre Water Districts are relatively new and are in excellent condition. However, a problem associated with these water districts is maintaining acceptable chlorine residual levels in several long sections of dead-end mains. Solutions to this problem would require increasing flow through the water mains by expanding the service area, and/or installing loops between dead end sections.

2. Telephone

Four cellular telephone towers are located in the town of Barre. The first one was erected in 1986 and is owned by Crown Castle and is leased to Verizon. The next one, put up in 2001, is a radio tower owned by Jimmy Swaggert Ministries and leased to Sprint. Both of these are located on the Mathes Farm on East Barre Road.

In 1992, a tower was erected on the northwest corner of Barre on Hu-Lane Farm, owned by American tower and leased to AT&T.

In 2005, a Singular Wireless tower was erected on the Carr farm, located on Hemlock Ridge Road. It is owned by Verizon.

3. Cable/ Broadband

Orleans County has supported initiatives to provide countywide broadband. Ambient Broadband offers wireless broadband internet service in many areas of Orleans County. Through a program coordinated by United Way, low- and moderate-income residents qualify for free connection to the Ambient Broadband service. The installation of the countywide service was funded through Federal grants to support rural broadband.⁵ Verizon 5G wireless is also available to some residents.

⁴ Based on average household water usage of 60,000 gallons of water per year

⁵ Source: https://buffalonews.com/news/local/federal-funds-bring-broadband-service-to-niagara-orleans-counties/article_c73eb740-f547-11eb-af15-b7e6350081fe.html

4. Gas

The Town of Barre is within the service area of NYSEG for natural gas. Natural gas service is available in the Town of Barre on Rt. 98 Oak Orchard Road) to West Barre Road Extension and around the triangle back to Oak Orchard Road. The most recent extension of natural gas service was along 31A to Barre Stone.

5. Electricity

Electricity service in the Town of Barre is provided by National Grid.

As depicted in the figure below, 3-phase power is available only along NYS Route 98 south to ____, and along portions of Rt. 31 A (West Lee Road), Eagle Harbor Road, and Oak Orchard Road. Additional information is available through the [National Grid New York System Data Portal](#).

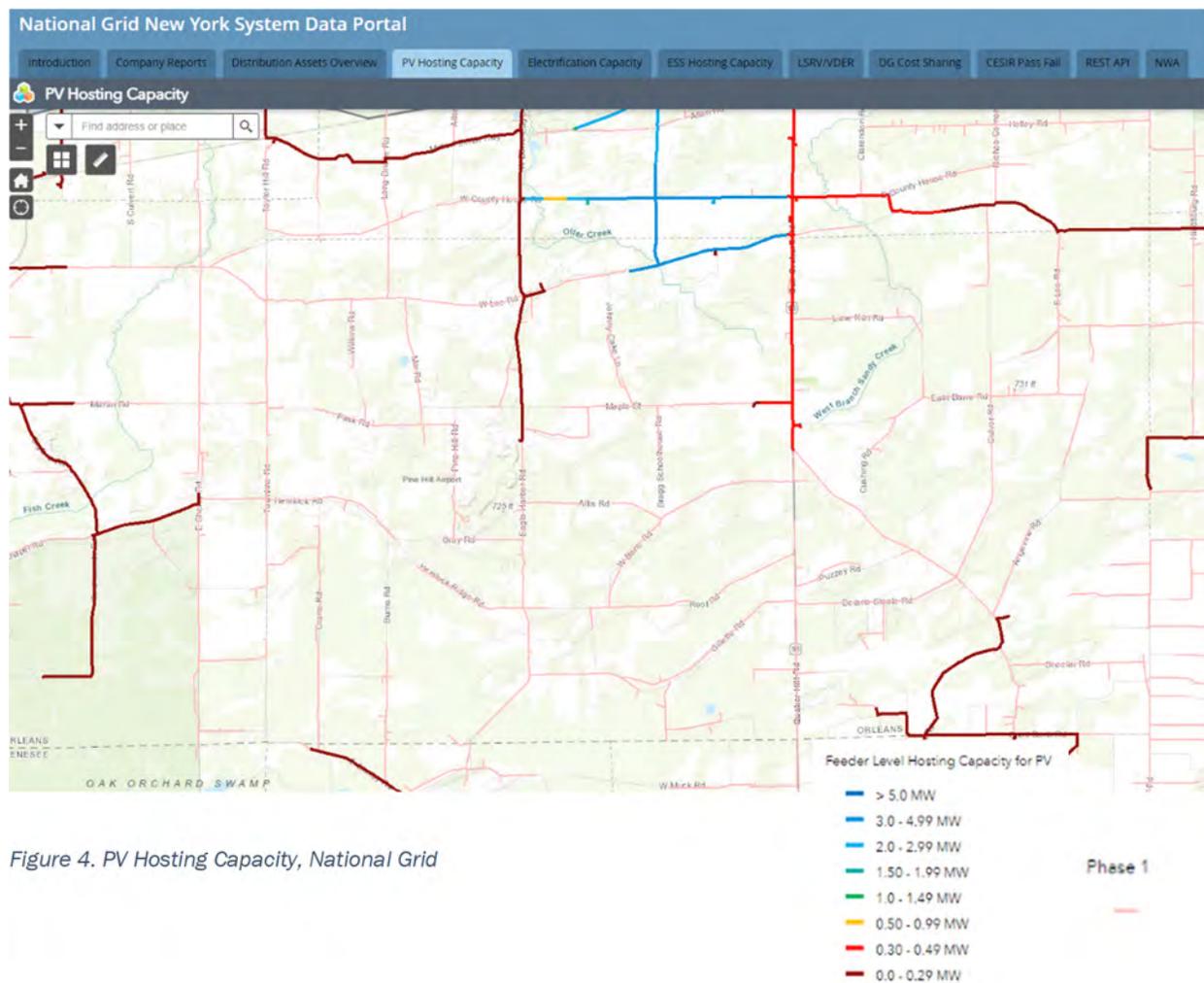
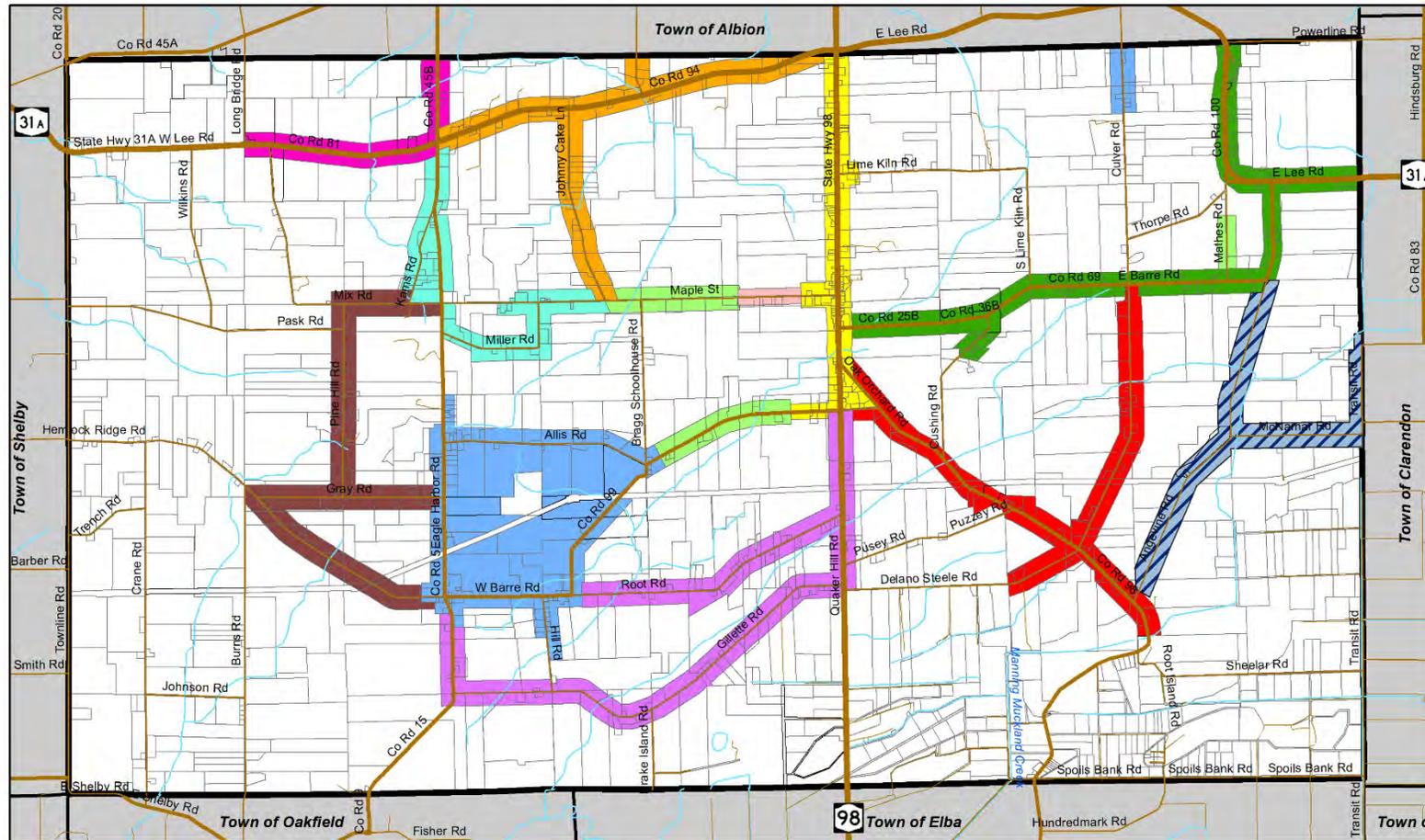


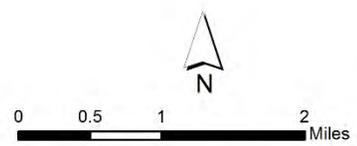
Figure 4. PV Hosting Capacity, National Grid

Map 13. Public Water Service Areas

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update
Water Supply Systems and Service Areas



- Water District #1 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #2 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #3 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #3 Extension Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #4 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #4 Extension Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #5 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #6 Service Area (Approximate)
- Water District #7 Service Area (Approximate)
- Proposed Water District #10



F. PARKS AND RECREATION

1. Town of Barre Park

The 40-acre Barre Town Park is located on NYS Route 98. (See Map 14 and the figure below.)

Figure 5. Barre Town Park - Aerial View



Photo 2. Square Dance in the Park



The park includes the following facilities:

- Playground equipment (installed 2024)
- 20' x 30' pavilion
- Little League Baseball field with 40' x 60' or 50' x 70' capabilities
- Hardball Baseball field
- Girls softball field
- Two soccer fields

The Town's Director of Parks & Recreation administers applications for use of park facilities. A new walking trail is proposed to be installed.

2. Snowmobile Trails

Map 14 shows the location of snowmobile trails in the Town, based on information provided in 2015. Figure 3 below is from the New York State Snowmobile Webmap and shows where trails have been closed and trails that have been re-routed.

Orleans County Snowdrifters maintains 145 miles of marked and groomed trails within Orleans County that connect with trails in Monroe and Genesee Counties.

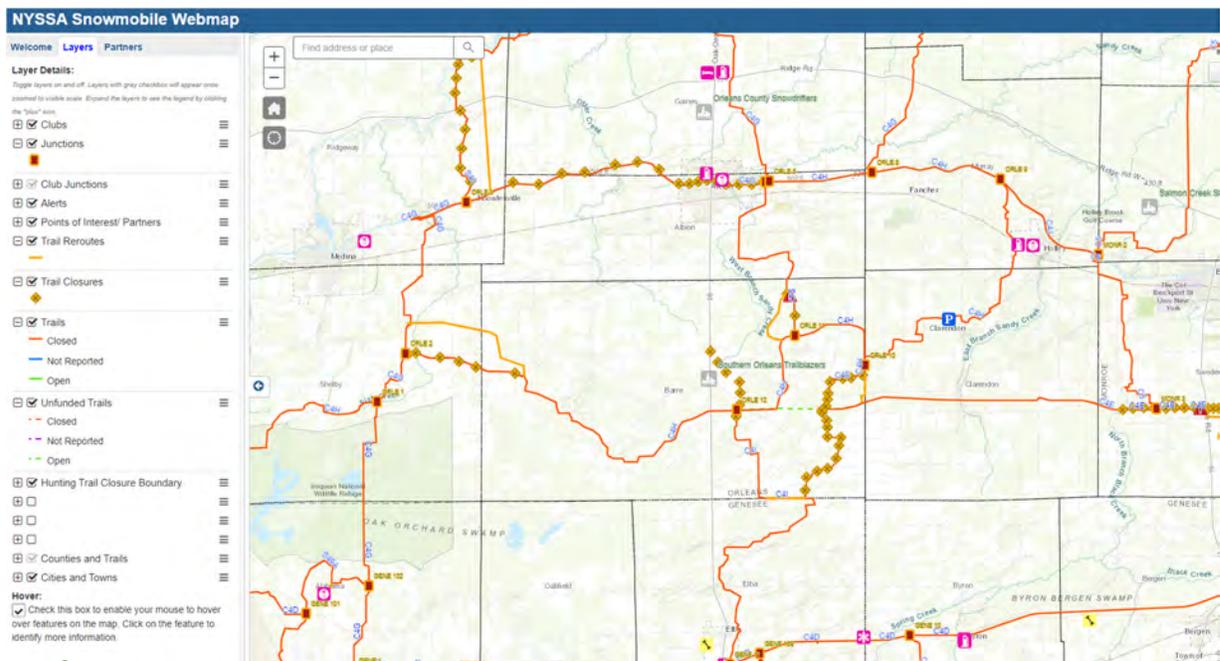


Figure 6. NYSSA Snowmobile Webmap

Resources

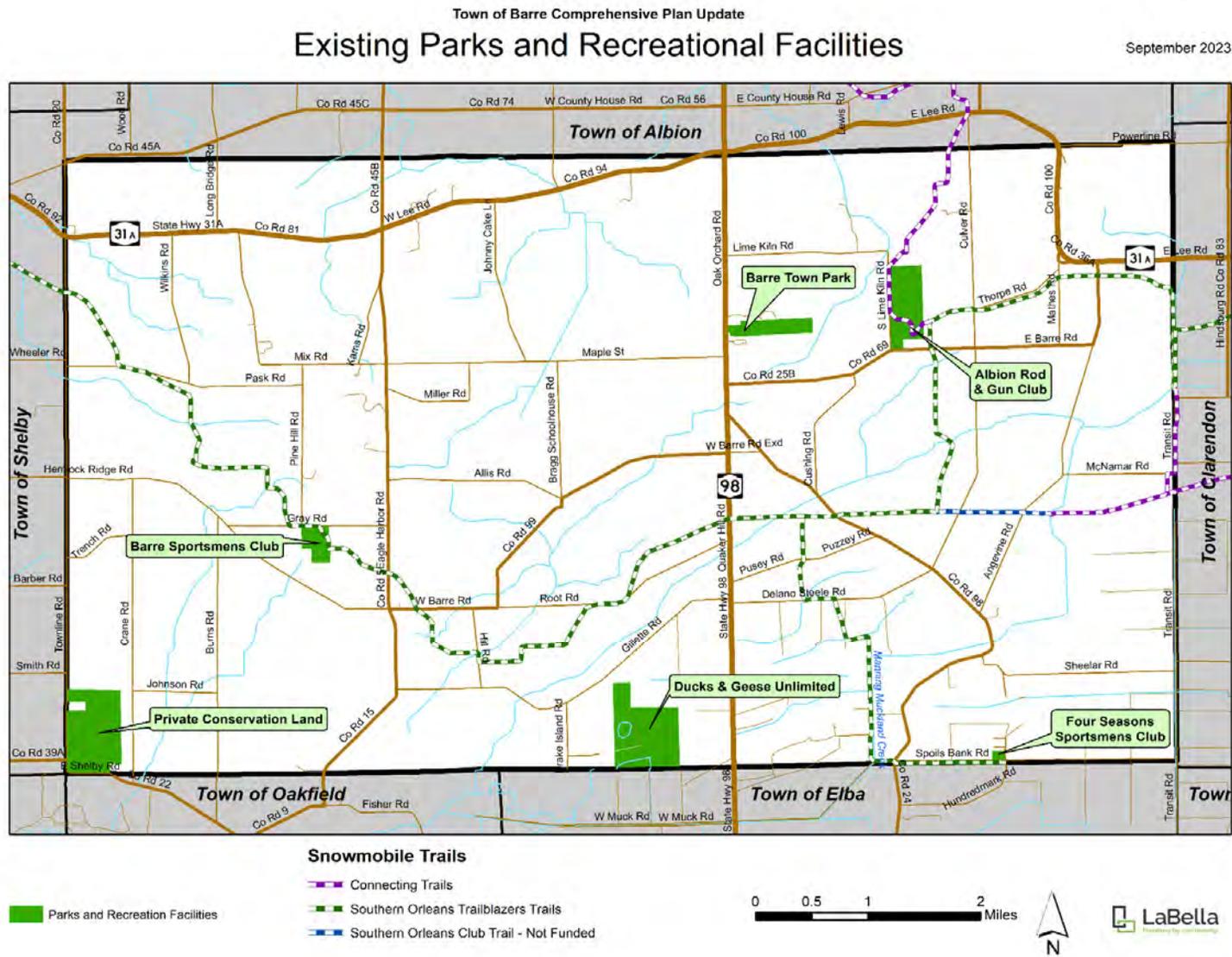
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) administers [grants](#) for trail maintenance and improvements.

3. Regional Resources

Specialized recreation available to residents al Barre include boating and fishing on Lake Ontario, and hunting at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and on private lands. Orleans County operates a Marine Park along Oak Orchard River at the Lake Ontario State Parkway (Route 18) in the Town of Kent, where visitors may rent boats. Lakeside State Park in the Town of Carlton offers swimming, camping and picnic facilities.

Waterways in the region are used for canoeing and kayaking. Forests and other natural areas throughout the region are used for hiking, nature observation, hunting and fishing.

Map 14. Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities



G. GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATIONAL, COMMUNITY SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

This section identifies the government, educational, public safety and emergency services and facilities located in The Town of Barre. The locations of these facilities are shown in Map 15.

1. Government Administration Facilities

The Barre Town Hall and Highway Department are located on West Barre Road, just west of NYS Route 98 (Quaker Hill Road).

County Offices are located in downtown Albion (Courthouse, County Clerk) and in a campus west of the Village of Albion on Route 31.

2. Educational Facilities

Nearly all of the Town of Barre residents are within the Albion School District. (See Map 16.) Some of Barre's K – 12 students attend at Holley, Medina, or Oakfield – Alabama Central Schools.

The ***Albion Central School*** operates three facilities within the Village of Albion on a campus on the south side of East Main Street: Charles D'Amico High School, Carol Burgeson Middle School and Ronald Sodoma Elementary School.

K-12 enrollment in 2022-23 was 1,656⁶, which is 22% lower than the 2,119 students enrolled in 2011-2012.

Genesee Community College operates a satellite campus located in the Town of Shelby

3. Public Safety and Health

The Barre Fire District and the Barre Fire Company were formed in 1961. The Fire Hall is located in Barre Center. They are considering a possible upgrade in the future.

They participate in a regional “mutual aid” network, through which neighboring companies provide backup support. All fire alarms and “911” calls are routed through the Orleans County central dispatch service.

In 2023, the Barre Town Board extended the contract for Monroe Ambulance to serve as the primary ambulance provider for the Town. In previous years, emergency medical service was provided by Central Orleans Volunteer Ambulance, Inc. (COVA), a combination Volunteer/Paid nonprofit organization that has been serving the Central Orleans Community with Emergency Medical Service since 1979.

4. Cemeteries

⁶ Source: NYS Education Department: data.nysed.gov

Eight small cemeteries are located within the Town of Barre, as summarized in the following table.

- West Barre Cemetery
- East Shelby (Dow) Cemetery
- Barre Center Cemetery
- Pine Hill Cemetery
- Snyder Cemetery
- East Barre (Love) Cemetery
- Green Family Cemetery
- Myrtle Hill Cemetery

5. Health Care Facilities and Services

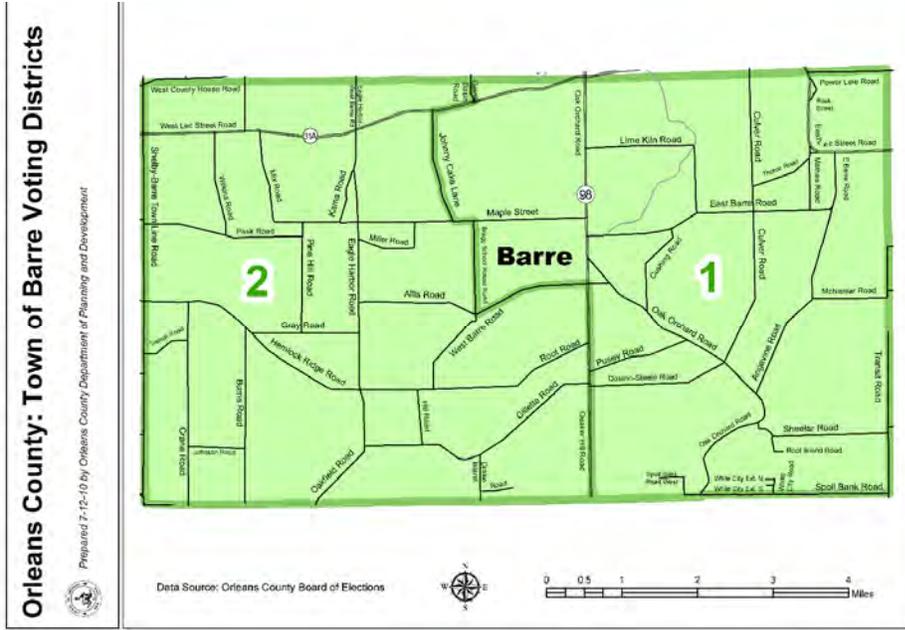
There are no hospital facilities in Barre. The Arnold Gregory Memorial Complex, houses medical offices. The Oak Orchard Community Health Center is located on West Avenue. The Medina Memorial Hospital located Medina, and United Memorial in Batavia provides comprehensive medical care to the region’s residents. An Urgent Care facility is located on Butts Road in Albion. There is also an Urgent Care facility run by United Memorial on Bank Street in Batavia. Strong West, an Emergency Care facility through Strong Memorial Hospital is located at the former Lakeside Hospital in Brockport. Strong also has an Urgent Care facility on the corner of Rt. 19 and 31 in Brockport.

6. Voting Districts

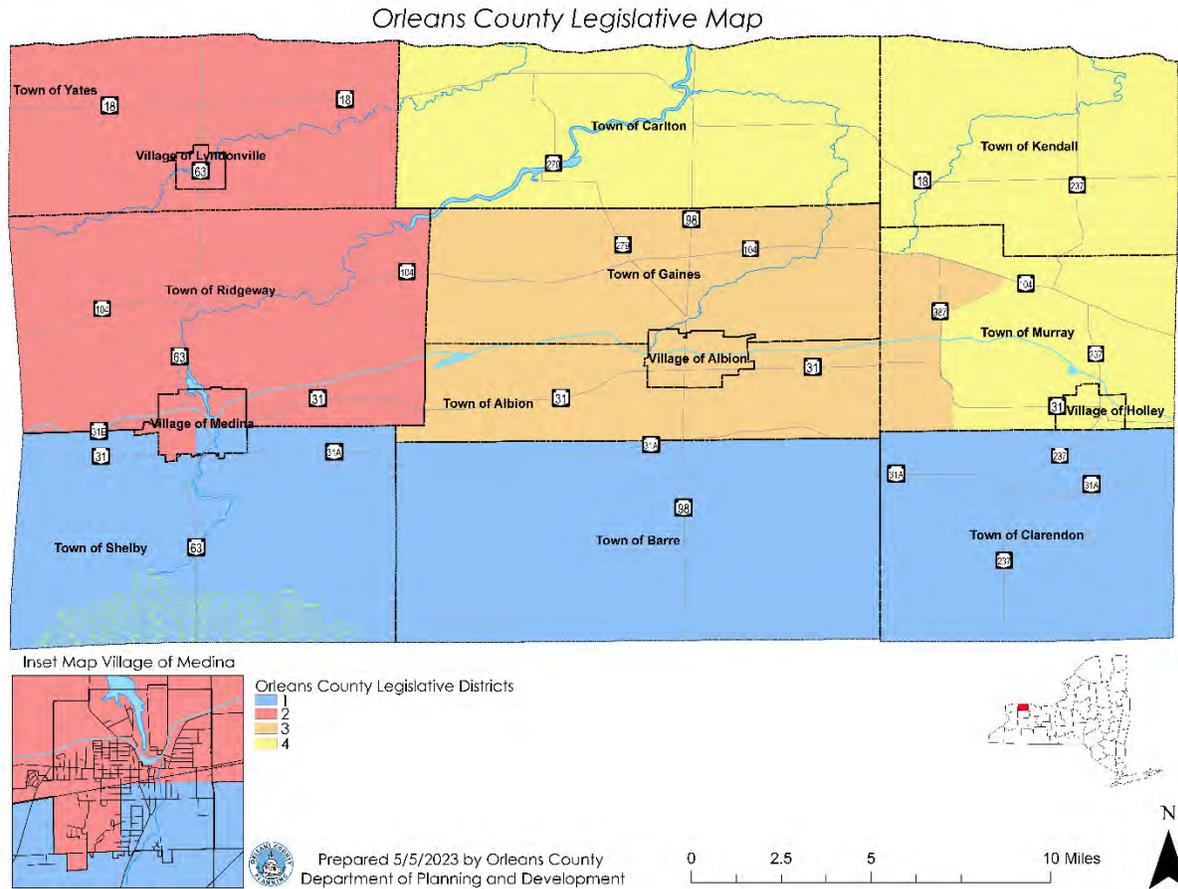
The Orleans County Board of Elections designates two Voting Districts in the Town of Barre. (See figure below.)

7. Religious Facilities

Two churches are located in the Town of Barre. The West Barre United Methodist Church is located at 5377 Eagle Harbor Road. The Barre Center Presbyterian Church is located at 4706 Oak Orchard Road.

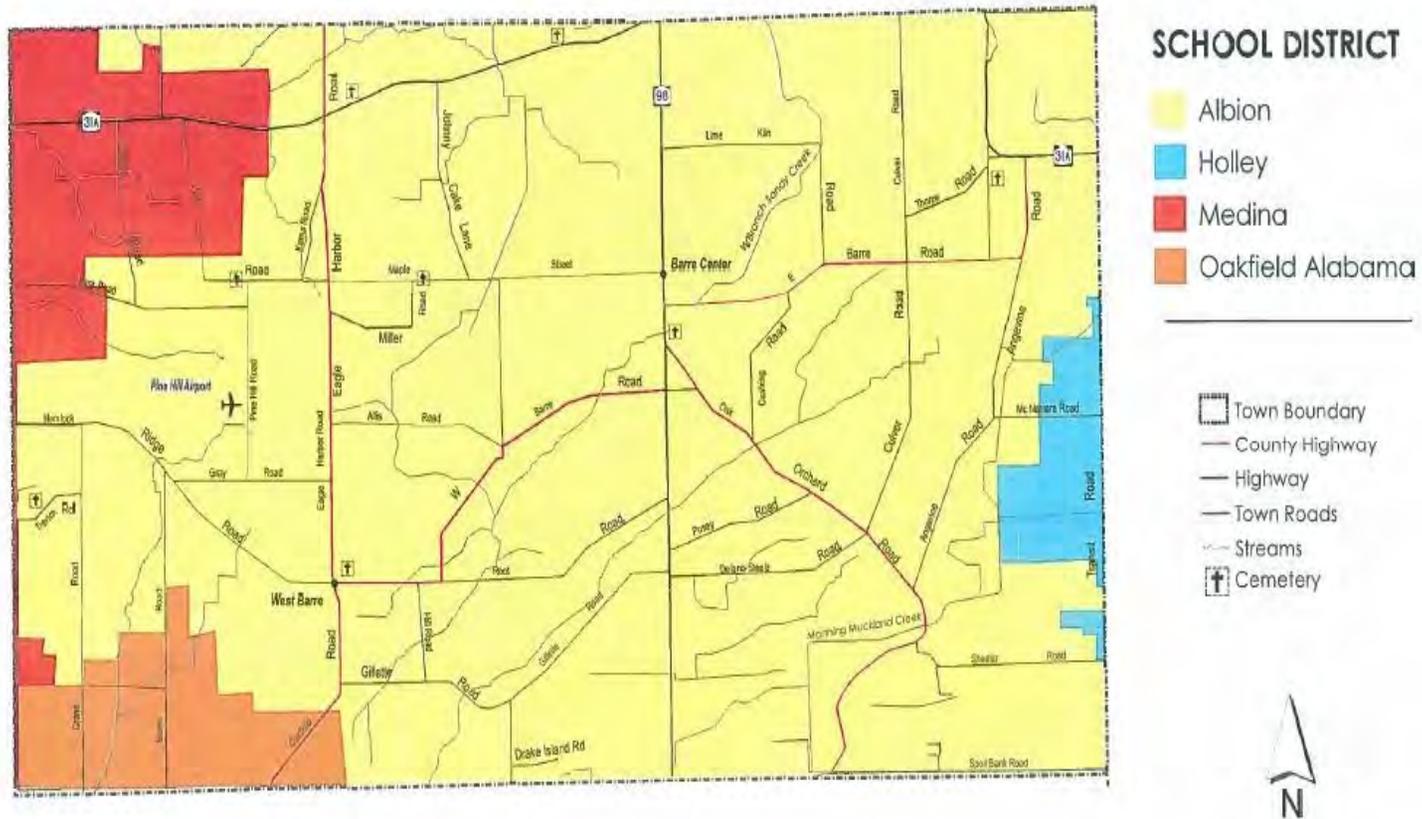


The Town of Barre, along with the Towns of Clarendon and Shelby, comprise Orleans County Legislative District #1. (See Figure below.)



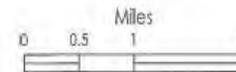
Map 15. School Districts

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: BARRE, NY

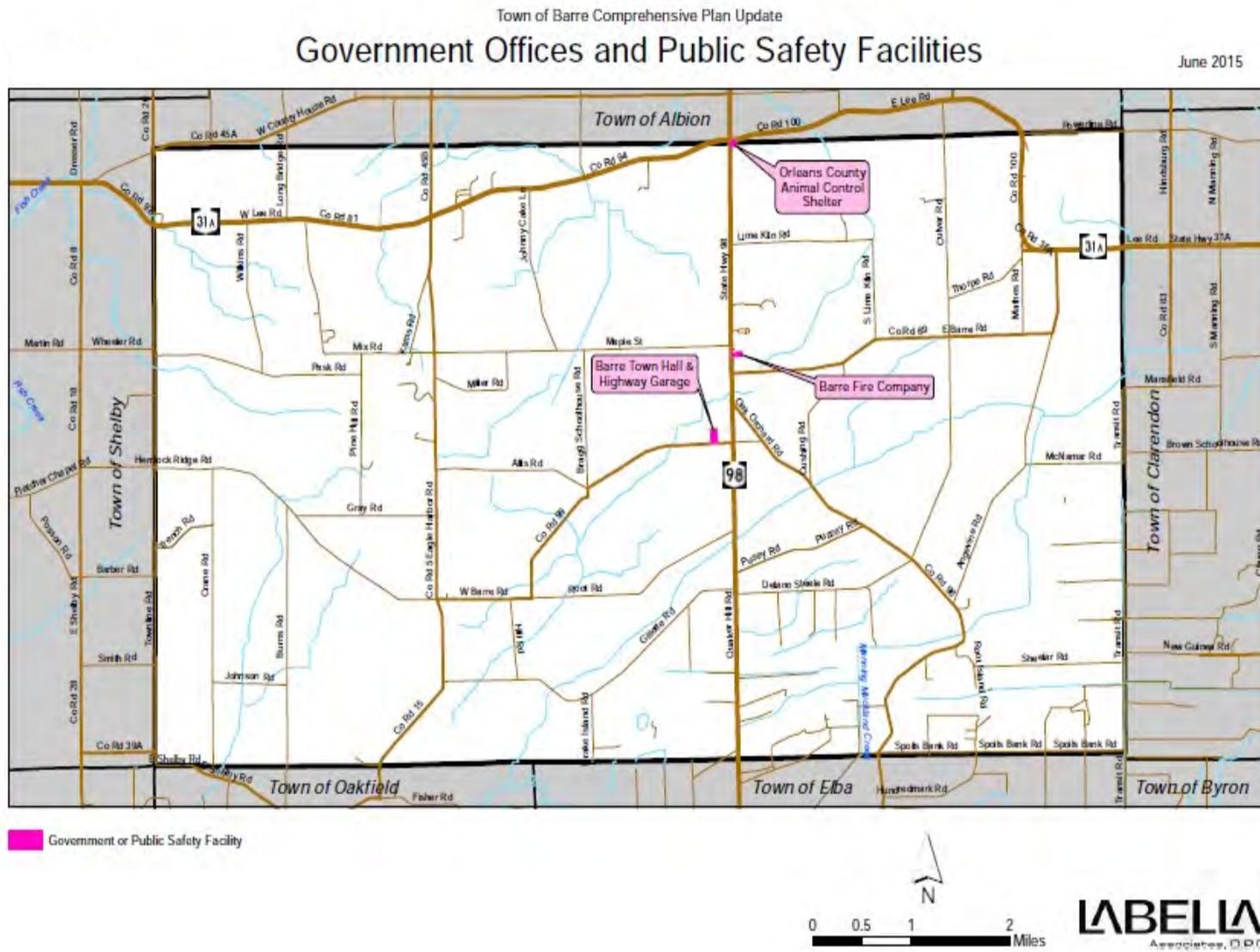


Prepared 03/02/2017 by Orleans County
 Department of Planning and Development

Data Source: United States Census Bureau



Map 16. Government and Public Safety Facilities



Chapter 4 ISSUES and OPPORTUNITIES

This Chapter presents the issues raised and opportunities identified during the planning process and discusses their significance in relation to achieving the Town's goals for future development, conservation, government operations and community character. Issues and opportunities are discussed in the context of the following categories:

- Natural and Cultural Resources;
- Housing and Residential Development;
- Commercial/ Industrial Development;
- Agriculture/Agribusiness;
- Transportation;
- Public Utilities; and
- Parks and Recreation.

The policies and actions recommended to address these issues and opportunities are presented in Chapter 6.

A. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Natural resources conservation

The natural resources within the Town of Barre provide both opportunities and constraints toward the fulfillment of community goals. While wetlands and flood-prone areas are unsuitable for development, they perform valuable functions as they contribute to the ecological well-being of the area.

Survey Results and Public Comments

The Community Survey revealed strong support among Barre residents for the protection of natural resources. A total of 75% of respondents indicated that to "Protect natural areas (streams, woodlands, wetlands, wildlife)" is "Very Important".

2. Agricultural Land

Productive soils have contributed to a strong agricultural industry in the community and agriculture is expected to remain the predominant land use in the Town.

Survey Results and Public Comments

As the Community Survey demonstrated, residents strongly support agriculture., with 75% of respondents indicating that to "Maintain a strong agricultural economy" is "very important."

3. Mining and Excavation

Several sand and gravel mines and a limestone quarry extract the natural resources, primarily for use in road construction. These long-standing businesses in the Town are significant employers.

B. HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS

Residences in the Town of Barre include farmsteads, homes on large lots in the countryside, and houses stretched along roads or clustered in rural hamlets. Barre residents value the easy access to jobs and services that a well-maintained road system provides, and also seek to preserve the open spaces and rural environment of their neighborhoods.

Survey Results and Public Comments

The Community Survey results indicate that the types of housing residents would most like to see in the Town are single family dwellings and more housing that is affordable to the average resident of Barre. Residents would also support reducing the minimum size of a dwelling to all smaller homes to be built.

The lack of an adequate individual water supply affects households who live in the few parts of the Town that do not have access to public water service. The extension of public water service is constrained by the high cost, which must be borne by the homes and businesses that would benefit from the water service. . Extensions of public water service to additional areas in town over the past several years have brought a reliable supply to these residences and have eliminated serious health and safety concerns.

C. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The existing businesses in Barre are farms, agriculture-related services, construction, mining and excavation, and personal and professional services. Several residents also operate businesses out of their homes.

Barre residents have access to retail and services in nearby Albion and Batavia, as well as Monroe and Erie County. The sparse population in the Town of Barre is a constraint to the development of retail or service businesses. However, additional opportunities for commercial development are available along Route 98 and Route 31A.

Industrial development is constrained by the lack of sewer service as well as competition with other sites outside of the region.

Renewable Energy

Two large scale renewable energy projects recently approved by the NYS Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) will affect the character of the Town of Barre while also bringing financial benefits to participating landowners and the Town.

The Heritage Wind project, approved in 2022 and expected to be constructed by 2026, will construct approximately 28 wind towers more than 600 feet tall will be visible from virtually everywhere in the Town. During the application and permitting processes, community members expressed concerns about visual impacts, noise, property values, agricultural resources, and decommissioning. The project will benefit several Barre landowners who agreed to leasing their property for the wind project. A Host Benefit Agreement will bring up to \$20 million in revenue to the Town over 25 years.

A community organization, Clear Skies Above Barre, was formed to organize opposition to the project.

The Hemlock Ridge solar project, approved in 2022, will utilize approximately 1200 acres in the Towns of Barre and Shelby. During the application process, residents expressed concerns about visual impacts and impacts on natural resources. Participating landowners will benefit financially from the project and the Town of Barre will receive revenue to be negotiated through a Host Community Benefit Agreement.

Survey Results and Public Comments

Among respondents to the Community Survey, a majority do not support large-scale renewable energy projects. Among the 318 respondents to the survey: 50% do not support and 43% do support commercial wind energy. 54% do not support 40% do support commercial solar; and 54% do not support and 25% do support commercial battery storage projects.

Some participants at the public open house also expressed concerns about the proposed wind and solar projects in the Town.

D. AGRICULTURE/AGRIBUSINESS

Farming benefits from good agricultural soils, including the unique muckland soils, as well as a strong farming tradition and leadership. The Agricultural District Program provides some protection to farmers from public use of land as well as offering property tax assessments based on agricultural use value. The agricultural industry also benefits from good access to markets and suppliers.

Potential threats to agriculture include housing development that may take farmland out of production or increase the potential for conflicts with non-farming neighbors. The development of large scale renewable energy projects may take farmland out of production.

Survey Results and Public Comments

The community survey demonstrated strong support for farming and agriculture in the Town.

E. TRANSPORTATION

The State highway system provides an effective transportation network which is used in transporting supplies and products for industries as well as agriculture in the community. Barre is reasonably accessible to the New York State Thruway in Batavia via NYS Route 98 and Rt. 531 along with Rt. 490 to the east.

The mobility of the community's senior population, as well as others who do not drive could be improved by Orleans Transit Service, a public bus service in Orleans County along with private taxi companies.

Survey Results and Public Comments

The Community Survey identified concerns with the quality of roadways and the maintenance of culverts, as well as concerns with speeding and safety.

F. PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Village of Albion Water System has the capability of providing additional water to new customers in the Town of Barre Water Districts. As current usage is primarily residential, peak usage is in the early morning and late afternoon. Additional industrial users, which would use the maximum amount during the daytime hours, could be served without a problem.

Barre Water Districts #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 and #9 each have the capability of providing water to additional households. Additional residential development could be accommodated in areas served by public water.

Survey Results and Public Comments

Among respondents to the Community Survey, 20% reported issues with drinking water quality or quantity. Of these, more than half receive Town water and 42% get water from a well.

Additional outreach is needed to identify concerns with public water. The Town is currently working to obtain grant funding to extend public water to areas that currently rely on private wells. The high cost of building new water infrastructure is a significant constraint to serving these households.

G. PARKS & RECREATION

The Town of Barre established a Town Park in 2000. It is used for youth sports as well as for family picnic and gatherings. Town residents benefit from organized recreation programs, and cooperation among several municipalities in financing youth programs. Volunteer-led community organizations such as the Barre Betterment Committee organize events and sponsor improvements and beautification projects at the Town Park.

Limited financial and human resources constrain the provision of recreation to Barre residents.

Chapter 5 LAND USE PLAN

This chapter presents the land use and infrastructure plans for the Town of Barre. These functional plans are intended as guides to future zoning and funding decisions at the local level. They are intended to complement the goals, policies and recommended actions presented in Chapter 3.

A. LAND USE PLAN

The Land Use Plan (see Map 17) is intended as a guide to the Town's zoning regulation and future land development policies.. The Land Use Plan map is designed to be more general than a zoning map and represents an ideal land use pattern. The zoning map and zoning regulations should be consistent with the Land Use Plans

The following identifies and describes the Land Use categories shown on the Land Use Plan for Barre:

In areas designated **Agricultural/ Rural Residential**, agriculture would be the priority use, with low density residential development continuing to occur as well. Most of the land within these areas are with County Agricultural Districts, which denote a commitment to remain in farming for a period of eight years.

Areas within and around Barre Center and West Barre, and along Route 98, are designated **Mixed Residential/ Commercial**. These areas are intended to accommodate both residences and businesses. In Barre Center and in West Barre hamlets, new development should be designed to be consistent with the character of existing hamlets. Along Route 98 north of Barre Center, highway-oriented businesses could be accommodated. Appropriate regulations will be required to ensure that commercial and neighboring residential uses do not conflict. Planned residential development at higher densities, including properly designed mobile home parks, would also be appropriate in these areas.

Planned Industrial/ Commercial, intended to allow a variety of industrial and commercial uses, is recommended for land near the intersection of Route 98 and Route 31A, at the border between the Towns of Albion and Barre. This area is suitable for commercial and industrial development primarily due to its location on two State highways, the availability of public water, and minimal conflict with Agricultural Districts, conservation areas, and existing residences.

Constraints to development at this site are due to bedrock and groundwater found at 23 feet below the ground surface. Standard septic systems would not be feasible, and building footers into the rock for building foundations would be costly. The extension of public sewers from the Village of Albion, as proposed in the Infrastructure Plan, would increase the potential of this area for industrial and commercial development. Development in this area should follow an overall development plan for one or more parcels.

Although not designated in the Land Use Plan, areas where natural rock products, including sand and gravel, are currently approved for mining or excavation are intended to continue as **mining or excavation** use.

Areas designated for **Government or Public Services** include the Town highway garage, Town offices, other County and Town government facilities, cemeteries and facilities for public water supply. These lands are intended to continue in such uses.

Areas designated for **Parks and Recreation** are best suited for open space and natural resource conservation. The Barre Town Park, Sportsmens Clubs, and the area along Drake Island Road, which is currently used as a retreat center, are so designated.

Conservation Overlay areas coincide with the boundaries of the NYS Freshwater Wetlands, which are regulated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the approximate boundaries of Federally-regulated wetlands delineated through the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), and 50-foot buffers on both sides of mapped streams. Although not shown on the Plan, the conservation of wooded areas should also be encouraged.

The **Flood Hazard Overlay** corresponds with the 100-year flood boundaries shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Development should be restricted in order to maintain floodways and prevent property damage due to flooding. Large areas susceptible to flood hazards are located in the southeastern portion of Barre and along several streams. As the FIRM maps for the Town of Barre were recently updated, the boundaries are not shown on the Land Use Plan.

The **Airport – Height Restrictions** overlay designates land where restrictions on development over a certain height may be required by the Federal Aviation Agency due to proximity to the Pine Hill Airport. This area is located along Pine Hill Road.

B. INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

1. Water System Improvements

- a) Expand water districts as needed to eliminate some of the dead-end water mains.
- b) Whenever possible, construct water mains with closed loops to eliminate dead end conditions
- c) Continue to work closely together on the formation of Water Districts that would benefit the community

2. Sewer System Improvements

Investigate the feasibility of creating a Sanitary Sewer District along the following area:

- NYS Route 98 Between Barre Center and NYS Route 31A
- NYS Route 31A between NYS Route 98 and Johnny Cake Lane.

3. Storm water drainage

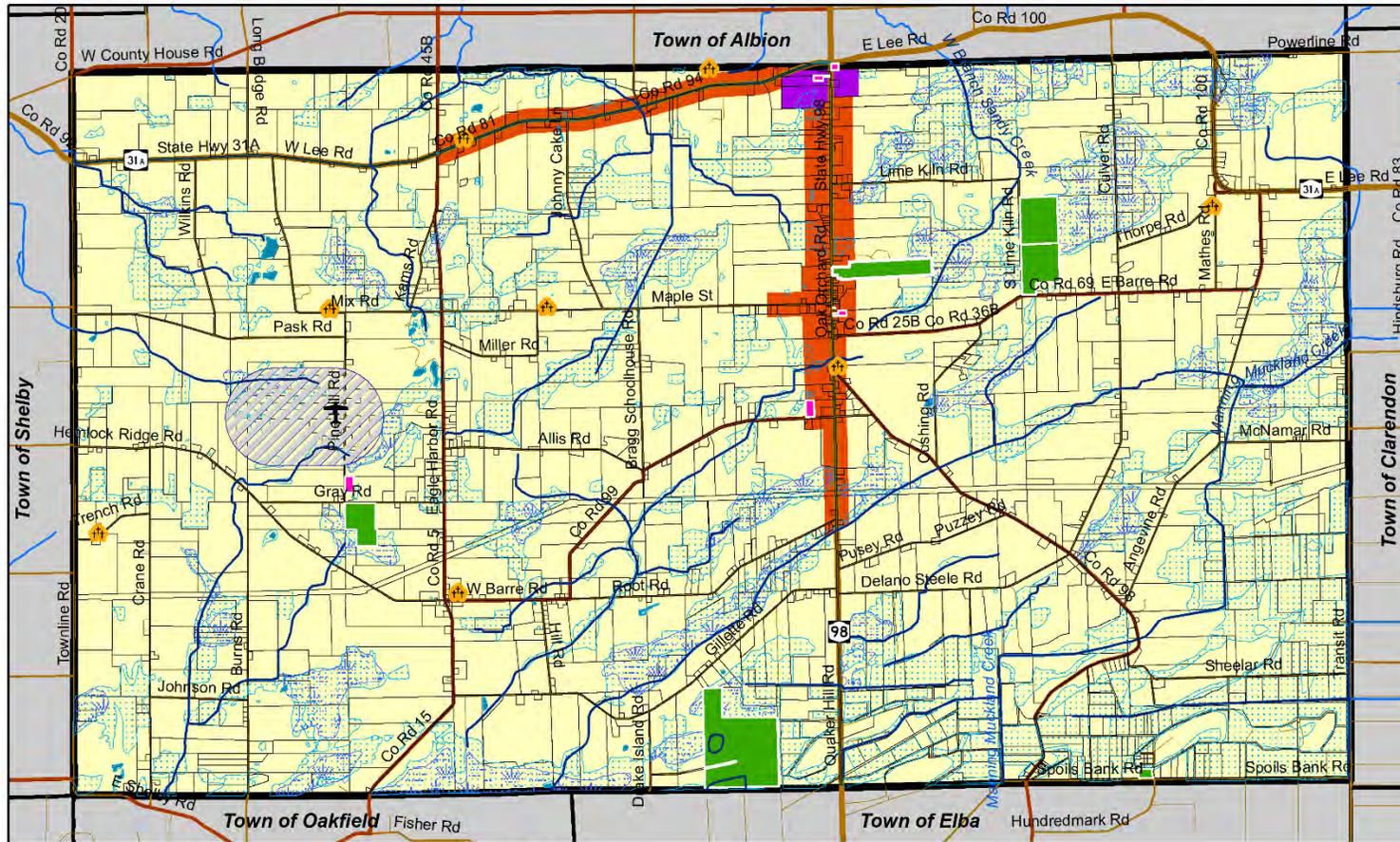
Coordinate drainage improvements along State highways with the NYS Department of Transportation.

Map 17. Land Use Plan

Town of Barre Comprehensive Plan Update

Land Use Plan

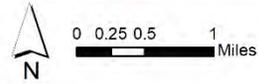
DRAFT July 2024



- Land Use Categories**
- Agriculture/ Rural Residential
 - Mixed Residential/ Commercial
 - Planned Industrial/Commercial
 - Government, Public Safety
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Cemeteries

- Overlays**
- NYS DEC Wetlands
 - 50-foot Stream Buffer
 - Federal Wetlands
 - Airport - Height Restrictions

See Updated FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Flood Hazard Zones
Areas currently used for mining or excavation intended to continue in such use.



Chapter 6 : POLICIES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

This Chapter outlines the official policies of the Town of Barre and lists specific actions intended to be carried out during the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Policy statements developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and were presented and discussed at a Public Informational meeting before submission of the draft plan to the Town Board. The Policies represent broad guidelines for public actions affecting the following issues:

- Overall Land Use
- Neighborhood Preservation and Housing
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
- Community Services and Facilities

Specific Actions recommended in the Plan are intended to be achievable within the planning period covered by the Comprehensive Plan. Priorities are categorized as follows:

Immediate: Should be accomplished within one year from adoption of the Plan.

Short-term: Should be accomplished within two to three years following adoption of the Plan.

Long term: Expected to be accomplished within three to ten years following adoption of the Plan.

On-going: Should be addressed and enacted on a continuing basis. Changes in administrative procedures may be required to begin some of these ongoing actions.

This list of actions has been compiled as a step-by-step guide to achieving the vision presented in the Comprehensive Plan. Periodic reviews should evaluate the suggested priorities and acknowledge recommended actions that have been accomplished.

OVERALL LAND USE

POLICY A: Retain the small town atmosphere and rural character of Barre.

ACTIONS: 1. Maintain zoning regulations and the zoning map to ensure that a large majority of land is zoned for agriculture and low density residential uses, with larger businesses within designated commercial zoning districts.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Town Board (adoption of zoning); Planning Board (guidance)

2. Revise site plan review regulations for commercial, and industrial and energy development to include design standards or guidelines to protect scenic vistas and rural character.

Priority: ***Short-term (1-3 years)***

Responsibility: Town Board (adoption of zoning revisions); Planning Board (guidance)

3. Utilize the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process to assess potential impacts of development on community character and require modifications of development proposals as needed to protect community character.

Priority: ***Ongoing***

Responsibility: Town Board; Planning Board; Zoning Board of Appeals; Code Enforcement Officer

NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION AND HOUSING

4. POLICY A: Encourage property owners to develop and maintain their properties according to accepted standards regarding type of construction, site planning, safety, and maintenance.

ACTIONS: 1. Provide information, including links on the Town's website and brochures in the Town Hall, about sources of financial assistance to help homeowners carry out needed repairs and remedy code violations and Work with PathStone, Orleans County and Orleans Community Action to educate homeowners about programs that provide financial assistance for housing rehabilitation.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Town Board; Town Clerk (provide weblinks on Town website; distribute informational brochures); PathStone, Orleans Community Action, other agencies (publicize programs)

2. Provide information to building owners to encourage energy efficiency improvements in existing homes to assist in lower energy expenses.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Town Board; Town Clerk (distribute informational brochures); PathStone, Orleans Community Action, other agencies (publicize programs)

3. Maintain sufficient funding and oversight to ensure effective enforcement of existing zoning and property maintenance regulations.

Priority: **Ongoing**

Responsibility: Town Board (funding and oversight) Code Enforcement Officer (enforcement)

4. Organize neighborhood clean-up days and encourage volunteer beautification efforts in neighborhoods and public areas.

Priority: **Ongoing**

Responsibility: Town Board; Barre Betterment Committee; other community organizations

5. Revise zoning to allow for the development of a variety of housing types, including those that are affordable to people with average incomes.

Priority: **Short-term**

Responsibility: Town Board (funding and oversight) Code Enforcement Officer (enforcement)

POLICY B: Clarify zoning regulations and monitor enforcement and administration to improve consistency.

- ACTIONS:**
1. Revise zoning regulations and district boundaries, consistent with the Land Use Plan, to accurately reflect community goals and priorities.

Priority: **Short-term (1-3 years)**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

2. Continue to inspect properties operating under special permits periodically to ensure that all conditions are being adhered to.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Planning Board; Zoning Board of Appeals; Code Enforcement Officer

3. Upgrade and modernize record-keeping and establish an electronic system for record-keeping.

Priority: **Short-term (1-3 years)**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board (funding); Town Clerk; Code Enforcement Officer

POLICY C: Maintain the historic and aesthetic character of the Town neighborhoods by recognizing historic architecture and sites.

ACTION: Continue to support a local historian to work with partners to identify and document historic buildings and sites, to educate the public about the Town’s historic resources, and celebrate the Town’s heritage.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Town Historian; Landmark Society of Western New York; Orleans County Historian

ACTION: Work with County tourism officials, local merchants, and other organizations to distribute literature on historic buildings and sites in Barre.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Chamber of Commerce; Barre Town Board; Town Historian; Orleans County Historian; Landmark Society of Western New York

POLICY D: Develop and maintain attractive visual appearance at gateways and along major transportation corridors.

ACTIONS: 1. Construct improvements on public land at entranceways to the community.

Priority: **Short term (1-3 years) and On-going**

Responsibility: Town Board; Barre Betterment Committee; other community organizations

2. Maintain attractive “Welcome” signs at the main entranceways to the Town of Barre.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Town Board; Barre Betterment Committee; other community organizations; NYS Department of Transportation

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

POLICY A: Continue to serve the needs of existing businesses in Barre, encourage their expansion and attract new businesses to appropriate areas.

ACTIONS: 1. Work with appropriate Orleans County agencies to attract new industries to available sites in Barre.

Priority: **Short term** (1-3 years) and **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Barre Planning Board

2. Rezone land, consistent with the Land Use Plan, to allow appropriate commercial and industrial development.

Priority: **Short term** (1-3 years) and **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

3. Work with existing sand, gravel and limestone mines to allow future expansion to extract natural resources with environmentally responsible practices.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

4. Revise zoning regulations to expand the types of businesses that can be operated out of homes without a permit and develop reasonable standards for other home-based businesses.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

AGRICULTURE

POLICY A: Encourage farming as the preferred land use in viable agricultural areas.

ACTIONS: 1. Encourage farmland owners to keep land in agriculture through voluntary conservation easements.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Genesee Land Trust/ Western New York Land Conservancy

2. Consider innovative zoning techniques which would assist in retaining agricultural land. Such methods may include development incentives combined with low density zoning.

Priority: ***Short-term (1-3 years)***

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Planning Board

3. Protect established agricultural areas by encouraging landowners, including those that rent land to farmers, to enroll in County Agricultural Districts. Continue to support provisions of the NYS Agricultural District law.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board; NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

4. Encourage landowners who rent land to farmers to participate in agricultural use assessments and continue to make their land available for agricultural use.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

5. Require Agricultural Data Statements and input from the Orleans County Farmland Protection Board to monitor the impacts of new development and infrastructure improvements on agriculture.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Planning Board; Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

6. Maintain lateral restriction policies for parcels within certified Agricultural Districts.

Priority: ***On-going***

Responsibility: Town Board

7. Adopt subdivision regulations that incorporate provisions that minimize impacts on farmland from new development and avoid creating parcels that do not have road access.

Priority: **Short-term**
Responsibility: Town Board, Planning Board, Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, agricultural organizations

8. Support agriculture and related businesses through farm-friendly zoning and infrastructure policies.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Planning Board, Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, agricultural organizations

9. Prepare and adopt a municipal Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan for the Town of Barre.

Priority: **Short-term**
Responsibility: Town Board, Planning Board, Orleans County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board, agricultural organizations

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

POLICY A: Protect sensitive natural features such as flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes and wooded areas and ensure that proposed developments comply with appropriate regulations.

ACTIONS: 1. Rely on NYS regulations to protect State-designated wetlands.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Planning Board; Barre Town Board; Code Enforcement officer

2. Ensure that proposed developments comply with appropriate State and Federal wetlands regulations.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Planning Board, Barre Town Board, Code Enforcement officer

3. Revise zoning regulations to facilitate the protection of stream corridors (minimum 25-foot vegetated buffer along mapped streams), steep slopes and wooded areas, to apply to new development proposals during site plan review..

Priority: **Short-term**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Planning Board

4. Continue to administer the federal Flood Insurance program and restrict building activities in flood hazard areas.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Planning Board; Code Enforcement officer

5. Apply the State Environmental Review (SEQR) process to evaluate potential impacts of development projects and minimize negative impacts on the Town's natural resources.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Planning Board; Code Enforcement officer; Town Board

6. Encourage farms to plan and implement conservation practices that protect soils and water quality.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Orleans County SWCD; Town Clerk (provide information)

7. Consider revising zoning regulations to include additional protections for natural resources.

Priority:

Long-term

Responsibility:

Barre Town Board; Planning Board

TRANSPORTATION

POLICY A: Provide a safe, efficient road system that meets the needs of all users.

ACTIONS: 1. Adopt a Complete Streets policy that recommends appropriate standards for roads to accommodate all users.

Priority: **Short-term (1-3 years)**
Responsibility: Town Highway Superintendent

2. Maintain a long-term maintenance and improvement plan and provide sufficient funding resources for ongoing maintenance and improvements.

Priority (1-2): **Ongoing**
Responsibility: Town Board (funding) Town Highway Superintendent

3. Work closely with the NYS Department of Transportation and Orleans County in designing improvements to State and County highways and intersections in the Town of Barre.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Highway Superintendent

POLICY B: Improve efficiency and cooperation in road construction and maintenance.

ACTION: Share resources, such as equipment, facilities, and manpower, with neighboring municipalities whenever it would result in lower costs or more efficient service. Cooperate in contracting for engineering studies in order to reduce costs or provide improved service for individual municipalities. Consider use of private vendors and service providers when it would result in lower costs or greater efficiency in delivering services.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Town Highway Superintendent

PARKS AND RECREATION

POLICY A: *Improve the facilities, maintenance and accessibility of the Barre Town Park.*

ACTIONS:

1. Prepare, maintain and implement a Parks Improvement Plan which identifies desired improvements to the Barre Town Park, such as athletic facilities, playground equipment and restrooms, and a five-year implementation strategy. The Plan should address the needs all users and include consideration of capital costs as well as the cost of ongoing maintenance.

Priority: **Short-term (2-3 years)**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Town Highway Superintendent; Town Park Committee; Barre Betterment Committee

2. Maintain the Town Park Committee to advise the Town Board regarding park improvements.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

3. Work with service organizations, volunteer committees and neighborhood groups to assist with park maintenance and improvements.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Barre Betterment Committee and other Community Organizations

5. Explore establishing additional recreational facilities in other areas of the Town.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board; Parks Committee

POLICY B: **Coordinate with State and County agencies and other municipalities to improve existing parks and enhance recreational opportunities for Barre residents.**

ACTION:

1. Work with State and County officials to expand recreational opportunities in the region for County residents using existing parks and facilities.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board, community organizations

2. Continue to work with Orleans County and neighboring municipalities to coordinate programs and maintain facilities that benefit Barre residents.

Priority: ***On-going***
Responsibility: Barre Town Board

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

POLICY A: Extend water service, consistent with the Land Use Plan to areas where it is economically feasible for property owners, and where the potential for conflicts with agriculture uses is minimal.

ACTIONS:

1. Extend public water service to areas that need it where it is financially feasible. Continue to seek grant funding to pay for a portion of public water service extensions.

Priority: **Short term** (1-3 years)

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

2. Work closely with residents of proposed water districts to ensure understanding, of the costs involved in extending water service.

Priority: **On-going**

Responsibility: Barre Town Board

POLICY B: Reduce drainage problems in the Town through physical improvements, land use management, and other means.

ACTIONS:

1. Study the drainage problems in Barre and design appropriate solutions. Consider preparing a Capital Improvement Plan to address drainage problems.

Priority: **Short term** (1-3 years)

Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Highway Superintendent; Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District

2. Identify funding sources to help finance drainage improvements.

Priority: **Short term** (1-3 years)

Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Highway Superintendent; Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District

3. Continue to maintain existing drainage improvements. Implement cost-effective solutions to correct drainage and flooding problems.

Priority: **Long term** (3-10 years) – depending on scope of project and funding

Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Highway Superintendent; Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District

POLICY C: Deliver public services as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Coordinate with other public and private entities whenever it would result in lower costs and/or more efficient services.

ACTION: 1. Study the delivery of ambulance, judicial, and other public services to identify those services that would be improved or provided in a more cost-effective manner by sharing or cooperation. Recommend changes to reduce costs or improve efficiency, while maintaining an appropriate level of service.

Priority: **Short-Term**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Highway Superintendent

2. Provide sufficient space for records storage, reorganize offices as needed. Continue to create electronic records and operations.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

3. Continue to maintain Town offices and facilities as needed.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

POLICY D: Extend natural gas service to additional areas in Barre.

ACTION: Work with the natural gas provider to determine interest among residents in expanded natural gas service.

Priority: Medium
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, community organizations and volunteers

POLICY E: Encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency options that will not significantly alter the natural and cultural resources of the Town.

ACTIONS:

1. Maintain local laws that accommodate renewable energy generation for on-site use and ensure that the development of renewable energy and battery storage projects minimize impacts on the Town’s natural and cultural resources and the character of the community.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

2. Install energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy at Town facilities where feasible and would result in cost savings to Town taxpayers.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

POLICY F: Create a sanitary Sewer District

ACTION: Continue to investigate the possibility of a joint sewer district with the Town and Village of Albion. The goal of the sewer district would be to promote industrial development along Rt. 98

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

POLICY G: Countywide Broadband Internet System

ACTION: Work with Orleans County staff to extend broadband internet service to all Barre residents.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

POLICY H: Elder Care Facility

ACTION: Promote an Elder Care Facility in the town to provide lifelong residents a place to reside.

Priority: **On-going**
Responsibility: Barre Town Board, Town Departments and staff

TABLE 4-1
RESOURCES for HOUSING REHABILITATION

HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANTS

<p><i>NYS Office for Community Renewal CDBG housing rehabilitation funds.</i></p> <p>Towns and Counties may apply to the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR) for grants to rehabilitate low/moderate-income, substandard homes within the Town to a safe, standard living condition. To be eligible for these funds, the Town would need to be certified as a Pro-Housing Community.</p> <p><i>USDA Rural Development Housing and Community Facilities Programs</i></p> <p>This is a very low-income housing repair program that provides loans and grants to very low income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards. Loans of up to \$40,000 and grants of up to \$10,000 are available.</p>

PATHSTONE

PathStone, Inc. offers a variety of programs to assist homeowners, including provides with education and counseling for individuals and families in Orleans County. (As of July 2024, the wait list for home repair grants was closed.)

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE

<p>The Orleans County Community Action (OCAC) administers a Weatherization Assistance Program for eligible homeowners and renters who have low or moderate incomes. Owners of rental property that qualifies for assistance are required to invest a minimum of 25% of the project cost.</p> <p>The program includes a free energy audit, which includes testing the furnace, space heaters, stoves, hot water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances in the residence for efficiency, drafting, and carbon-monoxide problems. Insulation in the attic and sidewalls of the home is a high priority of the program. Other measures include air sealing, weather-strip kits, door sweeps, carbon monoxide alarms and smoke alarms.</p> <p>For more information, contact OCAC at 585-589-5605.</p>

Chapter 7 : IMPLEMENTATION, ADOPTION AND MAINTENANCE

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The actions required to implement the Comprehensive Plan are listed in Chapter 4: Policies and Recommended Actions. Recommendations for future land use and infrastructure improvements are presented in Chapter 5: Land Use Plan. This section presents the recommendations in a summary form. It is intended to assist the agencies responsible for implementing the Plan in monitoring the progress of implementation over the next several years.

Tables 6-1 through 6-5 present the Recommended Action in order of priority: Immediate (within one year), Short-term (to be completed within one to three years), Medium term (3-5 years), Long Term (5-10 years) and On-going.

B. ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Under New York State Town Law (Section 272-a) the Town Board is responsible for adopting and maintaining the Comprehensive Plan. Following a public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board will review comments presented and made revisions to the Plan. The Town Board will take action on the Plan after complying with the State Environmental Review (SEQR) provisions and referring the Plan to the Town and County Planning Boards. Action on the Plan will confirm to the public and Town Board, committees, and staff its status as the official Town Comprehensive Plan.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The adoption of a municipality's comprehensive plan is considered a Type 1 action under New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) regulations. The Town Board will be the lead agency pursuant to SEQR. The lead agency will be responsible for assessing the potential environmental review record, including the Full Environmental Assessment Form and the Determination of Significance. The Town Board must continue to abide by SEQR before adopting any amendments to the Plan.

D. REGULAR REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Plan should be reviewed regularly to ensure its continued relevance. Town Board members should be provided with a copy of the Comprehensive Plan and review it at least annually. Plan review should assess the status of the Plan and its implementation actions such as zoning revisions, capital improvement programming, special projects, and progress on other work plans identified in the Plan, and include recommendations for the upcoming year, including priorities for implementation, financing mechanisms, and any recommendations for modification or revision of the Comprehensive Plan.

Annual review is proposed during the first five years. The Town Board should direct the Planning Board (or a special committee) to conduct this annual review. The review should identify all actions proposed

in the Plan, and note which have and have not taken place. Actions that are still needed should be included in the updated Action Plan. After five years, a more detailed review should be undertaken.

E. REVISING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Circumstances that may warrant revising the Plan include:

- A finding of significant change within the community (e.g, demography, traffic, building activity, the economy, the environment, institutional activity, residents’ opinions) or other substantial unforeseen circumstances.
- A finding of significant public benefit associated with the proposed revision or a need to maintain and protect public investments and resources.
- The need to maintain compliance with new laws, regulations, court actions, or other mandates.

In the course of revising the Plan, The Town Board must also adequately evaluate environmental effects, alternatives, and other possible impacts as identified by SEQR.

In the years ahead, the Town of Barre will make numerous decisions that will affect land use and development, the quality of residential neighborhoods, transportation, and other matters. Consistency in these decisions will provide the public, developers, and others with a degree of predictability about the Town’s actions. The policies in the Plan can only be effective if they are applied consistently over time. An adopted Comprehensive Plan can provide this consistency and accountability.

Although consistent application of the Plan is important, the Comprehensive Plan must not be rigid. The Plan must be reviewed regularly to reflect new information, changing conditions, and the evolving needs of the community. If the Plan or parts of it prove to be unworkable because of new conditions, values, or ideas, it should be revised, not ignored. However, changes to the Comprehensive Plan should be made only after thoughtful consideration of solid information. Careful attention will be required to maintain the Plan’s integrity during the periodic process of review and revision.

F. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Town Board, Planning Board and other Town officials will use this plan as a guide to adopt local laws, make budgeting decisions, and provide services to residents. The Town Board will seek public input from residents and participation from stakeholders in decisions that affect the community through measures such as public meetings, public hearings, and potentially a public referendum for large or significant projects.