Plan Ithaca
A Vision for Our Future
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

THE CORE LOGO

SAMPLE SPREAD

Plan Ithaca - city of Ithaca Planning & Development Division

COLOR PALETTE

Primary Color
- Plan: Ithaca
  - 60, 4, 106, 0

Secondary Colors
- Natural & Cultural Resources: 0, 20, 92, 5
- Sustainability: 2, 81, 98, 0
- Economic Vitality: 37, 13, 100, 1
- Land Use: 19, 79, 189, 7

Tertiary Colors
- History & Value: 66, 9, 7, 0
- Community Livability: 66, 42, 6, 0
- Mobility & Transportation: 66, 28, 36, 2
- Public Investment & Social Capital: 66, 28, 36, 4

TYPOGRAPHY

TISA SANS PRO
Ithaca is frequently highlighted as an outstanding community for residents and visitors.

ARCHER
Ithaca is frequently highlighted as an outstanding community for residents and visitors.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Plan Ithaca - CITY OF ITHACA PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Public Participation & Communication

1. All members of the community have opportunities to be aware of and involved in governing and decision-making processes of interest to them.

2. The City’s active outreach to the community supports high-quality public participation.

3. All members of the community feel confident that their voices will be taken seriously and given respect in City decision-making processes that are important to them.

4. Public information is easily accessible to members of the public.

5. All members of the community know how to access information about decisions being made and what information is informing those decisions.
A Vision for Our Future

Land Use

1. The city’s role as the economic, social, and cultural center of Tompkins County has been strengthened by attracting and retaining a larger proportion of the County population, reversing a half-century trend of population loss to the County.

2. Additional housing provides opportunities for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities to live in the city.

3. Neighborhood character is preserved and enhanced.

4. Green space surrounding the city is preserved to minimize sprawl.

5. Transportation and housing options reduce commuter traffic.

6. Housing is located so that jobs and services are easily accessible.

7. An increased tax base reduces the tax burden for residents.

8. Permitted land uses promote business expansion and job growth within the city.

9. The community is economically vibrant and offers a high quality of life.

10. New development is consistent with the City’s land use goals and map and is of high-quality design.

11. Land use planning decisions and investments are coordinated with the goals of the Mobility & Transportation chapter.
Economic Vitality

FISCAL HEALTH

1. The City maintains a strong financial position through sound fiscal stewardship.

2. The City balances available resources with reasonable spending to provide services that meet the needs of the community.

3. City services are delivered to the community in the most efficient way possible.

4. The local property tax base is expanded, in coordination with the goals of the Land Use chapter.

5. The City shares services with surrounding municipalities where appropriate.

6. City services and infrastructure are financed by diverse and innovative sources.

7. Costs for City services and infrastructure are equitably shared between the City, local educational institutions, tax-exempt organizations, and surrounding municipalities.
ECONOMIC VITALITY

1. The City attracts and retains firms valued by the community, including low-environmental-impact manufacturing, green businesses, locally-owned businesses, and businesses owned by under-represented groups.

2. The economic environment retains, nurtures, and grows new and existing businesses within the city.

3. The creation and expansion of local employment, particularly well-paying jobs, provide opportunities for all income levels and age groups.

4. A variety of businesses diversifies the economy and reduces economic dependence on a single sector.

5. Business start-ups and expansions have adequate access to capital.

6. Tourism is a vital component of the city and regional economy.

7. The educational sector is recognized and supported as a driving force of the local economy.

8. There are no structural barriers that prevent people from overcoming poverty.

9. Brownfield sites are remediated and redeveloped.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & JOB TRAINING

1. There is a strong and diverse local workforce whose skills and training align with the needs of local employers.

2. There is access to job readiness and skill development programs, particularly for low-income residents and young adults.

3. Barriers to employment, such as lack of child care and insufficient transportation, have been eliminated.
Community Livability

**Goals**

**HOUSING**

1. Ithaca has an adequate supply of safe, accessible, and affordable housing available to all residents, regardless of their life circumstances or special needs.

2. The city is home to a range of housing options, including different levels of affordability and housing types, in each neighborhood.

3. New residential units are compatible with the essential character of established neighborhoods, in coordination with the goals of the Land Use chapter.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

1. The community understands the importance of historic preservation and takes pride in the collective history represented in the built environment.

2. All historic resources worthy of preservation are protected, whether formally designated or not.

3. Improvements to designated structures conform with the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

4. Existing historic buildings are rehabilitated or adaptively reused rather than demolished.

5. New construction within or adjacent to historic districts or individually listed landmarks is compatible with the existing built environment.

6. Historic preservation is recognized as an economic development tool.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

1. The city is a safe and secure environment for all members of the community.

2. The City provides a timely and appropriate response to emergencies.

3. All segments of the community have strong relationships with first responders that encourage collaboration, communication, trust, and understanding.

4. The community is well-educated on personal safety and emergency preparedness.

5. Members of the public have a way to communicate with neighbors or first responders in an emergency situation.
Community Livability

Goals

**PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. City infrastructure and private utilities are regularly maintained and upgraded to ensure continued operation and service to the community.

2. Physical infrastructure is designed to be compatible with the built environment.

3. Investment in infrastructure is prioritized based on existing condition and level of use as well as impacts on commercial activity and quality of life.

4. Construction activity by City departments, New York State, Tompkins County, the Town of Ithaca, utility companies, and private developers is well-coordinated.

**HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SUPPORT**

1. The community’s use of active modes of transportation improves individual health and wellness, as well as environmental sustainability.

2. All residents and visitors have access to parks, trails, recreational facilities, and community activities that support social interaction and physical activity.

3. Recreational opportunities are provided for youth throughout the city.

4. Preventative, on-going, and emergency health care is accessible and available to all.

5. There are no physical, economic, and social barriers to health and wellness.

6. Public spaces are welcoming to all residents and visitors.

7. The built environment is accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

8. Public and private properties are free from contamination.
INCREASING TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

1. Ithaca provides an interconnected transportation network that makes it convenient, routine, and feasible for all residents and visitors to walk, bike, and use transit.

2. Ithaca’s transportation infrastructure has been designed to increase multi-modal connectivity, creating an interwoven network that extends to adjacent municipalities.

3. To reduce auto dependency, transportation modes are prioritized in the following order: pedestrian, bicycle, transit, private cars and goods movement.

4. Every City street is a complete street that accommodates multiple modes of transportation, including active transportation modes.

5. Pedestrian travel is supported on all City streets through well-maintained and enhanced facilities that meet, at a minimum, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

6. Attractive new pathways run along natural features – such as creeks and gorges - and connect to the street system, enhancing neighborhoods and serving as active transportation corridors.

7. Convenient, well-designed and well-maintained bike facilities encourage increased bicycling on City streets.

8. Frequent transit service, along with improved stops and shelters, throughout a broad service area offer increased comfort and accessibility, particularly in areas serving low-income and elderly people.

9. The public parking supply is managed to enhance vitality in the Urban Mixed Use areas, support programs that provide alternatives to private car use, and be cost-neutral to the City.

10. Innovative ways to improve the delivery of goods and services are in place.

11. Pedestrian, bike, and transit improvements are spread equitably throughout the City so people of all income levels and abilities will benefit from them.

12. Shared transportation services, such as bike and carsharing programs, ridesharing and vanpooling, are actively supported.

13. Coordinated regional transportation improvements - ranging from better pedestrian, bicycle and street connections with adjacent municipalities to better bus, rail and airline connections with other states and cities - help ensure convenient regional mobility.
Mobility & Transportation

1. CONNECTING LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION
   Transportation planning decisions, management strategies, and investments are coordinated with the goals of the Land Use chapter, helping to foster compact, connected, and walkable neighborhoods and mixed-use areas.

2. The City’s transportation infrastructure is designed with sensitivity to the surrounding land use contexts to strengthen and enhance the livability of city neighborhoods.

3. All city streets meet transportation needs while knitting together, rather than separating, adjacent city neighborhoods.

4. Streets, trails, intersections, and sidewalks have been designed and maintained as attractive public spaces using sustainable design principles.

5. An official City map clearly depicts planned future multi-modal transportation corridors to facilitate the reservation, acquisition, and construction of these corridors.

6. The environmental review process for development projects employs a balanced multi-modal (rather than auto-centric) analysis of transportation impacts.

7. EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION
   The construction quality and design of transportation infrastructure reflects community goals as expressed throughout Plan Ithaca.

8. Design principles, policies and operational strategies allow the adoption of innovative transportation and communication technologies.

9. The public parking supply is managed using innovative technologies.

10. Transportation infrastructure maintenance is evaluated and prioritized to ensure preservation of the asset (e.g., ongoing maintenance to extend the lifespan of bridges and avoid the need for premature replacement).

11. The transportation system is managed to promote safety, provide fiscal and operational efficiency, and minimize negative environmental impacts.
Mobility & Transportation

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION
Well-supported, on-going programs are in place to promote awareness of:

- Active transportation options;
- Transportation safety;
- Personal and public cost of transportation options;
- Environmental and energy-use impacts of transportation choices; and
- Transportation Demand Management concepts and programs.

Information and communication techniques and technologies are up-to-date, reflecting evolving means of disseminating information.
Natural, Cultural, & Historic Resources

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. The City provides and adequately funds well-maintained and safe parks, trails, and natural areas.

2. Community partnerships support the maintenance, enhancement, and promotion of parks, trails, and natural areas.

3. The City maintains and enhances its existing recreational facilities.

4. Gorges throughout the city are protected to ensure their continuation as critical natural assets for current and future use.

5. Steep slopes are preserved to protect ecologically sensitive areas and to enhance the character and aesthetics of the city.

6. Facilities within City parks are accessible and can be equally enjoyed by all members of the community.

7. City parks, trails, and natural areas form a well-established network of interconnected green space.

8. All members of the community have access to the waterfront.

9. Existing green space in the city is preserved and opportunities for additional green space are strategically considered.

10. Distinctive, noteworthy, and characteristic community viewsheds are protected.

11. City trees and plantings help preserve and enhance local vegetation diversity. Existing tree canopies in City parks and on streets and right-of-ways are maintained, enhanced, and, where appropriate, expanded.
CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

1. The City provides and adequately funds City-sponsored events, programs, and other resources, such as GIAC and Ithaca Youth Bureau programming, the Martin Luther King Jr. Walkway, neighborhood investment programs, and public art.

2. Privately-sponsored events and organizations are supported.

3. The community is aware of events, exhibits, and other programs open to the public.

4. Collaboration with community partners helps preserve and promote cultural and historic resources.

5. Cultural and historic resources are accessible to the entire community.
A Vision for Our Future

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Sustainable Energy, Water, & Food Systems

**ENERGY**
1. Ithaca is a leading model, facilitator, and educator for small-city transitions to higher energy efficiency, energy conservation, and waste reduction.
2. The city’s energy supplies meet the highest standards of security and reliability.

**WATER RESOURCES & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**
1. Cayuga Lake, its tributaries, and the local watershed are protected from pollution, sedimentation, erosion, flooding, invasive species, and other threats to drinking water supplies, wildlife, recreation, and economic development.
2. Community water consumption has been reduced through more efficient water use.
3. Stormwater run-off has been significantly reduced.

**FOOD SYSTEMS**
1. All city residents enjoy food security.
2. Ithaca’s community food network improves food accessibility by connecting food entrepreneurs with policymakers, permitting agencies, and community members.
3. Ithaca is home to local food-production and food-processing enterprises that capitalize on our location at the heart of a thriving agricultural region.