

The Project

Kirkland Ventures facilitates the creation, implementation and updating of a Community Development Plan for the Kirkland community, which includes the Town of Kirkland, the Village of Clinton, the Clinton Central School District, Hamilton College and the hamlets of Clark Mills, Franklin Springs and Kirkland.

Goals

1. Institutionalize community planning and action that improve the quality of life and economic condition for all stakeholders in the Kirkland Community.
2. Craft a prioritized list of goals, strategies, action items and costs.
3. Publish a Community Development Plan by December 31, 2008.
4. Increase Kirkland Ventures membership to 1,000.
5. Create and empower Focus Teams and Citizen Action Committees.
6. Hold frequent and effective Community Forums.
7. Identify sources of funds for continuing planning and implementation efforts in 2009 and beyond.

Elements

- **Focus Areas** are “buckets” to capture and categorize goals and strategies.
- **Focus Teams** will outline goals and strategies in **Focus Areas** and prioritize action with community input.
- **Community Forums** will gather input and build consensus in **Focus Areas**.
- **Citizen Action Teams (CAT’s)** will implement specific action plans in **Focus Areas**.

Focus Areas

Economic Development

- Increase top-line revenue through a careful and controlled expansion of tax base
- CAT's: Master Plan Update; Infrastructure Assessment; Financial Resources

Quality of Life

- Enhance the social fabric, upgrade recreational facilities and expand cultural assets
- CAT's: Entertainment; Recreation; Culture; Sidewalks, Hiking Trails; Town/Gown Relations

Good Government

- Reduce overlap, share services and assets, and increase efficiency in local government and with other regional governments
- CAT's: Local Efficiency; Regional Opportunities

Financial Management

- Extend budget and financial planning horizons, create transparent accounting and consolidated reporting
- CAT's: Reporting; Long-Term Financial Planning; Maxwell Modeling

Stakeholder Communication

- Improve intra-community communication and collaboration through a central community web kiosk, newsletters and continuous Town Hall meetings
- CAT's: Newsletters; Community Web Kiosk; Community Forums

Education

- Develop a vision and plan for the future of CCS and other educational institutions in the Kirkland community
- CAT's: Budget Advisory Committee

External Marketing, Branding & PR

- Create a market brand and take it to the world
- CAT's: Community Brand; External Marketing

Grant Writing and New Sources of Revenue

- Build a grant machine, identify projects and funding sources and develop alternatives to property-based taxation
- CAT's: Grant Machine; New Revenue