



Kirkland Ventures

**Community
Development Forum**

Quality of Life

August 13, 2008



Agenda

- Presentation – Quality of Life Issues
- Update: Sidewalks & Trails Committee
- Group Discussion
- Small Group Break-Out Session
- Break-Out Reports
- Wrap-Up and Planning Next Meeting

S.W.O.T.

- Strengths = Assets to Build On
- Weaknesses = Deficiencies to Address
- Opportunities = Projects for the Future
- Threats = Externalities to Defend Against



Strengths = Assets



Hamilton College

Village & Green

Good Schools

Affordable Housing

Sustainable Property Values

Low Crime

Strong Sense of Community

“Nice Place to Live”

Strengths = Assets



- Recreation
 - Hockey Arena
 - Town Park
 - Boynton Pool
 - CCS Athletic Fields
- Culture
 - Kirkland Art Center
 - Town Library
 - CCS Auditorium
 - Hamilton College
- Open Spaces
 - Village Green
 - Oriskany Creek
 - Upland Vistas
 - Canals & Railroads
- Other
 - History

Weaknesses = Problems



Deteriorating Infrastructure

Lack of Funds

Increasing Taxes

Community Indifference/Apathy

No Vision or Plan

Opportunities

- Sidewalks
- Hiking/Biking Trails
- Green Spaces
- Water Access
- Upland Scenic Vistas
- Expanded Events
- Seasonal Festivals
- Hamilton College
- 1,800 “guests”
- 10,000+ Visitors
- Debt/Leverage
- Grant Funds
- Community Involvement
- Citizen Action Teams
- Vision and Plan



Threats = Externalities



Outside Decisions (i.e., NYSDOT)

Rising Taxes (Albany)

Time

1993 Recommendations



Historic Preservation & Design Standards

Open Space/Land Trust Committee

Oriskany Creek Recreation Corridor

Adaptive Reuse of Reservoirs

Improve Gateways

NYSDOT By-Pass Study

Sidewalk Expansion

Rails to Trails Committee

Sidewalks & Trails Committee



- Sidewalks
- Canals & Railroads
 - Existing Trails
 - Projected Trails



**Discussion:
Quality of Life
and
Vision of the Future**

Focus Groups

- **Economic Development** = Generate increased top-line revenue through a careful and controlled expansion of the tax base.
- **Good Government** = Explore opportunities to reduce overlap, share services and assets, and increase efficiency , locally and regionally.
- **Quality of Life** = Enhance the social fabric, upgrade recreational facilities and expand cultural assets.
- **Stakeholder Communication** = Improve intra-community communication and collaboration through a central community web kiosk, newsletters and frequent Town Hall meetings.
- **Marketing & Branding** = Create a market brand and take it to the world!
- **Grant Writing** = Build a grant writing machine, identify projects and funding sources and develop alternatives sources of revenue.
- **Financial Management** = Extend budget and financial planning horizons, create transparent accounting and consolidated reporting, and explore alternative financing opportunities.