

## Information in the Plan

The 2015 Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan contains information about the County in the text, in tables, and in maps throughout the plan. These have all been reviewed and, while there have been changes in conditions as noted below, none are significant enough to materially affect the recommendations of the plan.

### Introduction

This chapter includes a table showing the date of local comprehensive plans. Since that list was published, several of those local plans have been updated or are currently being worked on. These include the Villages of Lansing and Trumansburg, the Towns of Caroline, Enfield, and Lansing, and the City of Ithaca.

County demographics, as described in the text, have seen some relatively minor changes based on American Community Survey (ACS) data. The proportion of the population enrolled in college or graduate school has decreased slightly in Tompkins County as a whole as well as in the City of Ithaca. The proportion of the population that is at least 65 years old has increased somewhat to approximately one in eight residents.

### The Economy

Most of the data presented in this chapter has not been updated since the Comprehensive Plan was written in 2014. There is updated data on some of the data in the Selected Income and Employment Characteristics table on page 24. Most of the local changes reflect trends seen on the national and state level. There are a couple of exceptions. While the population in poverty and families in poverty have decreased nationwide, both increased in Tompkins and surrounding counties. Also, while median family income increased, the rate of increase in Tompkins County (3.2%) was lower than that of surrounding counties, New York State, and the country as a whole (each approximately 10%). ***These trends should be tracked closely.***

### Housing

A review of the U.S. Census data included in the Housing Statistics for Tompkins County and Surrounding Counties showed some changes in Tompkins County. While the homeownership rate has held steady, the proportion of households with monthly owner costs exceeding 30% of their household income decreased significantly, from 28.9% to 20.6%. However, there was an uptick in the proportion of renters paying more than 30% of their household income for rent, from 57% to 60%. This probably reflects the increase in median rent from \$925 to \$1,055 per month.

### Transportation

A review of the commuting data presented in the Comprehensive Plan showed some changes, but these all fell within the reported margin of error.

### Natural Resources

In reviewing and updating the table on Dedicated Open Space in Tompkins County, we discovered that some land areas were inadvertently double-counted when the Comprehensive Plan was written in 2014. The most up-to-date information follows:

### Dedicated Open Space in Tompkins County

Open Space Owner/Type	2013 Land Area (ac.) <i>As erroneously reported in 2015 Comprehensive Plan</i>	2019 Land Area (ac.)	2019 % of Land in Agricultural Resource Focus Areas (ARFAs)	2019 % of Land in Natural Features Focus Areas (NFFAs)
New York State	28,461	28,588	0.8%	97.5%
Cornell University	7,258	7,844	4.1%	92.1%
Finger Lakes Land Trust	4,770	6,847	14.1%	59.7%
City of Ithaca	1,158	1,159	0.0%	96.5%
Tompkins County	660	660	14.2%	80.4%
Private/Other	553	837	9.0%	64.6%
Other Municipal Land	752	972	1.4%	39.1%
The Nature Conservancy	394	394	77.9%	77.8%
Ithaca College	284	286	0.0%	80.1%
Agricultural Easements	2,221	2,259	89.2%	18.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,511</b>	<b>49,848</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>85.7%</b>

### Water Resources

There have been some relatively minor expansions of the areas in the County served by municipal water and sewer systems. The extent of these changes will be documented in the update to the Countywide Inter-Municipal Water and Sewer Feasibility Study for Tompkins County to be completed by the end of 2020.

The Comprehensive Plan includes a table showing the acres of wetlands, by municipality, based on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Since the adoption of the plan, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), with support from Tompkins County and others completed the Wetland Mapping for Tompkins County, New York report and maps in January 2016. CLWN's effort used more accurate and detailed data and imaging than was available when the NWI was completed. The results are shown below.

### Wetlands, by Municipality (acres)

Municipality	National Wetlands Inventory	Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
Town of Caroline	1,021	1,367
Town of Danby	1,187	1,420
Town of Dryden	3,763	5,708
Town of Enfield	695	972
Town of Groton	1,549	2,197
Town of Ithaca	447	573
Town of Lansing	1,160	1,502
Town of Newfield	527	741
Town of Ulysses	606	812
City of Ithaca	127	106
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,082</b>	<b>15,398</b>

## Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Since adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, Tompkins County has prepared the *2014 Tompkins County Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Energy Use Inventory*. A few highlights from that inventory are summarized here:

- The community has reduced GHG emissions 21% from 2008 levels by 2014. This is six years ahead of the target goal of a 20% reduction by 2020. While positive news, 11% of this reduction was achieved through a major shift from coal to natural gas to power the grid.
- Emissions associated with fracked shale gas are calculated extremely differently depending on whether the currently accepted GHG accounting is used or if the findings of evolving climate science on methane are applied. If the new science is applied, the community has not seen a 21% reduction in emissions, but instead seen a 67% increase in total GHG Emissions.
- The commercial sector saw a significant reduction in emissions, largely due to Cornell's decision to stop using coal and begin using natural gas to produce its heat and electricity.
- There was substantial growth in the development of local renewable energy generation between 2008 and 2014 — an increase of 136% overall.

## Adaptation

The data presented in this chapter (largely from the ClimAID Report) has not been updated since the Comprehensive Plan was written in 2014.

## Healthy Communities

There have been several major additions to the trail network depicted in the Comprehensive Plan. These include the opening of the Black Diamond Trail, the completion of the trail between the Villages of Dryden and Freeville, and the addition of hiking trails in several locations throughout the County. An up-to-date map is here:



## **Development Patterns**

None of the data or maps presented in this chapter have been updated since the Comprehensive Plan was written in 2014. There are some indications that new residential and non-residential development is being located in the Development Focus Areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan at a greater rate than in past years. However, the available data is of limited duration and, therefore, should continue to be tracked.