



WHAT IS ALBANY 2030: YOUR CITY, YOUR FUTURE?

After almost 400 years, the City of Albany has completed its first ever comprehensive plan, **Albany 2030**. This plan took over two years to make, officially beginning in 2009, a truly collaborative effort between the City of Albany, the Comprehensive Plan Board, and a nationally-renowned collection of consultants.

More importantly, **Albany 2030** is the community's plan. Through numerous methods of public outreach the Albany 2030 team listened to input from the community to develop a plan that encompasses your collective vision of the ideal Albany by the year 2030. The plan includes goals, strategies, and guidelines that describe how to achieve that vision over the next 20 years.

Creating **Albany 2030** was a consensus-building process that reached out to all of Albany's neighborhoods using innovative approaches to design a plan that guides (re)development and (re)investment that meets the needs of residents and businesses while maintaining the desired character, quality of life, and environmental and fiscal health of the City.

More than 1,000 stakeholders were actively involved. **Albany 2030** incorporated this input with existing neighborhood plans, redevelopment programs, economic development strategies, housing initiatives, and recreation and greenway plans to build a cohesive, sustainable and achievable vision for the future for the entire City.

Visit www.albany2030.org for more information and updates, or visit our facebook & twitter pages.



THE PROCESS

The process of preparing the first comprehensive plan began in September 2009. Prior to initiation of the process, a Comprehensive Plan Board consisting of citizens, City department heads, business owners and stakeholders was appointed by the City Common Council to provide direction for development of the plan and to make recommendations regarding its adoption.

1. Stage One – Community Assessment and Visioning: In this stage key issues and trends related to Albany's population, economy and environment were identified through data collection and analysis, review of existing plans and studies, and interviews with a broad range of community stakeholders. (These issues and trends are documented in the Comprehensive Plan Data Book and the Sustainability Scan.)

Stage One also involved extensive community outreach to engage thousands of citizens in articulating a vision for Albany's future. This outreach included two series of community forums (three meetings each in different parts of the City); an interactive Albany 2030 website; house parties (at which residents gathered with their friends and neighbors to generate ideas about Albany's future); "stoop" surveys (engaging residents in their own neighborhoods to discuss issues and complete written surveys), and other means of soliciting input. The results provided the basis for preparing an overarching Vision Statement for Albany and an initial set of policy directions to set the plan framework.

2. Stage Two – The Comprehensive Plan: The full Albany 2030 Plan established the specific steps to be taken to "change course" by influencing current conditions and trends to achieve the future, as envisioned by Albany citizens. **Stage Two** began with a third community forum series, during which citizens reviewed the Vision Statement and policy directions developed in *Stage One* and identified community priorities for action. The team translated this community input into:

- **Strategies and Actions** for each of (8) Plan "Systems"
- **Projects** synthesized from the system strategies and actions into a short, intermediate, and long-term goals for implementation action
- **A Plan Monitoring** process to measure progress over time.

Thank you, to all of the many people who provided necessary input and participated in developing the Comprehensive Plan. Your creation and review of this document has not gone unnoticed. Thanks to you, Albany is YOUR CITY, YOUR FUTURE.

Albany 2030 was adopted by the City Common Council on April 2, 2012. You can read the final plan and see how this document is providing direction for citywide initiatives at www.Albany2030.org. Your job isn't finished... stay tuned in, attend neighborhood meetings, public hearings and engage in public activities to learn about upcoming projects and how they relate to Albany 2030.

EIGHT ALBANY 2030 PLAN SYSTEMS

The Vision Statement designed by the community was expanded into (8) thematic systems. These systems all work together to produce our daily experiences in the City. The community has identified goals (abridged here) within each of these systems as well as 148 strategies and +/- 500 actions to help achieve these goals. Read all the strategies and actions online at www.Albany2030.org

Community Form

- Promote development of a balanced land use pattern
- Promote walkable streets, compact, mixed use development, public spaces, & context sensitivity to historic design & development
- Capitalize on architectural & neighborhood-specific character
- Preserve & restore underutilized buildings while allowing for new development & architecture

Social

- Elevate the quality of Albany's educational system to a high standard based on targets
- Improve community health through access to recreation, fresh food & healthcare
- Improve & maintain public safety in all parts of the City
- Promote & enhance arts & culture
- Improve social well-being of Albany citizens in need

Economy

- Increase employment opportunities at all education/skill levels, & raise local incomes.
- Encourage investment & reinvestment throughout Albany that supports economic development & placemaking
- Create economic resilience through diversity

Transportation

- Increase options to move people w/in Albany, & beyond
- Provide for safe pedestrian mobility
- Provide for safe bicycle mobility
- Increase transit options & use
- Improve vehicular connections to and within Albany
- Improve the Port of Albany & freight resilience to climate
- Maintain Airport as regional hub

Natural Resources

- Preserve & protect the City's waterways
- Preserve & protect the urban forest
- Protect, Enhance, restore & expand the natural habitat
- Maintain & improve air quality
- Protect steep slopes & soils
- Protect & enhance the open space network

Utilities & Infrastructure

- Promote energy conservation, efficiency, & renewable tech.
- Maintain quality of wastewater management, conserve & protect water supply
- Use stormwater management to reduce impacts on water quality
- Increase recycling & reduce the solid waste stream
- Provide equitable Communication opportunities

Housing & Neighborhoods

- Provide a range of quality, affordability, density, ownership opportunity, & price range
- Maintain supply of quality affordable housing & encourage mixed-income neighborhoods.
- Maintain distinct, safe, quality neighborhoods that enhance natural beauty, architectural character, & cultural diversity
- Provide access to basic neighborhood services

Institutions

- Foster relationships & create new partnerships among institutions to focus on cooperative planning for growth & development
- Work together to ensure that government & institutional facilities & projects promote mutual benefits
- Address the potential impacts of expansion on the tax base

ALBANY 2030 RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

The Albany 2030 team developed 27 distinct projects from the Vision Statement, interrelationships among Plan Systems strategies, and the effectiveness they have within the community. These projects cut across systems and are designed to produce strategic change throughout all aspects of the City of Albany.

Short Term

(initiated 1-2 years)

1. Create a Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
2. Develop the Harriman Campus as a mixed use, transit-oriented community.
3. Establish baseline Citywide Community Assessments.
4. Create a Strategic Arts Welcoming Program
5. Develop a Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan.
6. Hire a marketing consultant to develop a city-wide marketing strategy.
7. Develop a system for inter-departmental and community data sharing to improve government efficiency.
8. Create an "Albany Local" buy local/use local program.
9. Create an Access to Healthy Foods program.
10. Create a PILOT task force and implement a fair and consistent PILOT program.

Intermediate Term

(initiated 2-5 years)

1. Prepare a comprehensive update to the city's zoning ordinance.
2. Create a comprehensive waterfront development strategy for the Hudson River waterfront.
3. Grow and strengthen the local Small Business Development Community.
4. Develop a commercial/office space reuse plan and program.
5. Develop a complete streets plan, policy, and design guidelines.
6. Develop a green infrastructure system.
7. Develop a city-wide parking management strategy.
8. Expand the current street-tree management plan into a comprehensive urban forestry program.

Long Term

(initiated 5-10 years)

1. Develop intermodal transit centers.
2. Develop a model urban rehabilitation building code.
3. Develop context appropriate design guidelines, manuals, and pattern books.

Ongoing

(throughout full implementation)

1. Establish formal lobbying presence at State and Federal levels.
2. Develop a regional Economic Development task force.
3. Implement the initiatives of the Mayor's Office of Energy and Sustainability.
4. Reconvene an Education task force to develop a new Urban Education Agenda.
5. Implement the Bicycle Master Plan.
6. Complete & implement the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategic Plan.
7. Implement a brownfield redevelopment strategy, starting with a Step Two BOA Nomination Study