



**DRAFT**

# **Watervliet Comprehensive Plan - 2022 Amendment**

*December 2022*



## Acknowledgments

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**Christopher Daus** - City Council

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*Prepared By:*



## Comprehensive Plan - 2022 Amendment

The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2011. The purpose of this amendment is to re-focus to goals and action items of the existing comprehensive plan to create a clear objectives and priorities for the next three to five years. After that time, a new Comprehensive Plan will be developed that will again take a broad look at existing conditions, demographics, zoning, opportunities and challenges to develop a new vision, goals, and action items for the following years.

### Vision

The vision developed in the 2011 Comprehensive Plan was reviewed in context of the current environment in Watervliet and public survey responses. The vision statement developed a decade ago still holds true and has been retained for this amendment.

*In the coming decades, the City of Watervliet will be a destination of choice. The Vision of our future will include the following:*

- People will be attracted to Watervliet due to its ideal location, easily accessible shops, restaurants, affordable and inviting housing, beautiful parks and recreational areas.*
- Watervliet's well maintained, safe and clean streets will be easily navigable by pedestrians while efficiently accommodating cars, buses and bicycles.*
- Watervliet is a community that honors diversity and will continue to provide for a diversity of jobs, population and services.*
- The schools will be competitive to attract families with children and provide educational opportunities that contribute to an enhanced level of community pride and involvement, resulting in a strong sense of place with respect to Watervliet and its citizens.*
- New comprehensive zoning will enhance quality growth for residents and business owners of the City and ensure neighborhood stability.*
- Through planned revitalization of neighborhoods and commercial areas, the City will foster a safe urban community, encouraging economic development while preserving its historic past and industrial heritage.*

## Goals

There were ten goals included in the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, each with associated action items. Some action items have been completed, such as the completion of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, improvements to parks, developing a plan to separate storm and sanitary sewers, and adoption of the new zoning map. Others have not been completed because they are still in progress, funding could not be obtained, or objectives or priorities have shifted.

With this Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, the goals have been consolidated into four, listed below. These goals, and the action items associated with each, were developed based on a review of demographic changes, plans created, and infrastructure improved or developed since 2011 and current initiatives.



**1. Improve housing opportunities**



**2. Encourage business development and new businesses**



**3. Continue maintaining and improving City infrastructure in a sustainable manner**



**4. Create and promote a sense of place**

## Changes Since 2011 Comprehensive Plan

The following is a summary of demographic changes, City improvements, and plans created since the adoption of the 2011 Comprehensive Plan.

A more detailed summary of existing conditions can be found on page 15.

### Demographic Changes

- Population has remained at just over 10,000
- Minority population is increasing
- The average age of City residents is increasing 1 to 2 years per decade, but is still below the New York State average
- The number of households has grown (~6%)
- There has been a decline in owner occupied households (~20%)
- There's been an increase in non-family households (~30%)
- Median income is increasing, but at a slower than Albany County and New York State
- Approximately 200 firms are located in Watervliet, as are ~1,800 jobs, based on 2017 LEHD data

### Transportation Improvements

- Improved paving plan
- Shared use path on Broadway
- Rt 32 improvements
- New CDTA BusPlus route and transit stops
- EV charging stations
- Redirecting truck traffic off of 25th Street

### Housing Improvements

- CDBG grants
- Improved planning process
- Improvements to code enforcement process

### Park Improvements

- New playground equipment in several parks
- New splash pad constructed at the City pool
- Formation of the tree committee, designation as a "Tree City", and creation of the memorial tree program

### Plans Completed and Adopted Since 2011

- Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan, 2013
- I-787/Hudson Waterfront Corridor Study, 2018
- Congress Street Bridge Study, 2021
- Hudson Shores Park Master Plan, 2022
- Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) planning and application, 2021 and updated in 2022



*Splash pad installed at City pool.*

## Action Items

This section outlines the action items for the Watervliet Comprehensive Plan Update. The action items are organized by the four goals. Each action item includes the following information:

**Implementation:** This item identifies the party responsible for implementing the strategy.

**Timeframe:** This item recommends a timeframe for strategy implementation. Timeframes noted with an asterisk are currently in progress. The categories include:

- **Short-Term:** To be completed within 1 year.
- **Medium-Term:** To be completed within 2 to 3 years. Work on the strategy may begin sooner, but full implementation of the strategy may take time due to funding availability, complexities of scope, or other similar challenges.
- **Long-Term:** To be completed within 3 to 5 years. Work on the action item may begin

This number identifies the goal the action item is associated with

This number identifies the number of the action item within the goal

### Action X.X

This is where the strategy text is located

This text describes the strategy

sooner, but full implementation of the strategy may take time due to funding availability, complexities of scope, or other similar challenges.

**Level of Effort:** This item identifies the level of effort necessary to progress the strategy. The categories include:

- **Low:** The strategy can easily be incorporated into an existing program or process.
- **Medium:** The strategy will need time development and implementation. It may need broad reach across City departments or coordination with external partners which requires additional effort.
- **High:** The strategy will need significant time for implementation. For example, a consultant needs to be hired or a contract for services needs to be established.

**Cost:** This item identifies the funding needed to progress the strategy. The categories include:

- **\$:** Staff time. No outside funding is anticipated.
- **\$\$:** Some funding is needed but costs are likely less than \$100,000.
- **\$\$\$:** Significant funding would be required, in excess of \$100,000.

The graphic below provides an overview of how the information is displayed for each action item on the following pages.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

This table is used to display the department responsible for Implementation, the Timeframe, the Level of Effort, and the Cost estimated to implement the action item



## Goal 1 | Improve housing opportunities

### Action 1.1

Expedite code violations process by adding a fine system to the code (similar to parking tickets) for less severe violations.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Code Enforcement	Medium	Medium	\$

### Action 1.2

Include sidewalks and curbs in code enforcement efforts.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Code Enforcement	*Short	Low	\$

### Action 1.3

Develop a homeowner's educational brochure on City code requirements (to be included in a "Welcome to Watervliet" pamphlet for new residents).

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Code Enforcement, Planning	Medium	Low	\$

### Action 1.4

Develop a separate educational brochure on code requirements specific to renters. To lower costs, this could also be offered as a digital brochure.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Code Enforcement, Planning	Medium	Low	\$

## Action 1.5

Incorporate elements that will create higher accountability from landlords into the City’s code (such as requiring a property manager if the landlord lives more than 50 miles from the property).

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
City Council, General Manager, Code Enforcement	Medium	Medium	\$

## Action 1.6

Continue to explore the possibility of entering into a cooperative agreement with surrounding cities for shared code enforcement services.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Code Enforcement	Medium	Low	\$

## Action 1.7

Reinstate first time homebuyers program; Consider opening it up to first time Watervliet homeownership or homeownership for those already working in Watervliet rather than first time homebuyers.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Planning, City Clerk	Long	Medium	\$\$\$

## Action 1.8

Reevaluate the residential tax structure.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
City Council, General Manager, City Clerk	Long	Medium	\$\$

## Action 1.9

Develop an educational brochure on homeowner grant opportunities, such as NYSERDA, Dept of the Aging, Dept of Disability Services, etc.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Medium	Medium	\$

## Action 1.10

Develop a home improvement grant or loan program similar to the first time homebuyers program.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Clerk	Long	Medium	\$\$\$

## Action 1.11

Reevaluate zoning code to allow for smaller homes.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Planning, Code Enforcement	Short	Low	\$



## Goal 2 | Encourage business development and new businesses

### Action 2.1

Revisit parking minimums for development.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$

### Action 2.2

Revisit minimum lot sizes for redevelopment.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$

### Action 2.3

Develop inventory of potential business locations.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$

### Action 2.4

Develop inventory of potential redevelopment locations.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$

## Action 2.5

Develop small business loan/grant program.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Planning	Long	Medium	\$\$\$



Gentleman's Corner Barber Shop on 19th Street.



Uptown Wine and Spirits on 19th Street.



## Goal 3

Continue maintaining and improving City infrastructure in a sustainable manner

### Action 3.1

Complete Park’s Master Plan that includes diversification of park space and amenities and connections to and between the parks.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	*Medium	Medium	\$\$

### Action 3.2

Develop a sidewalk improvement program. This would be offered to residents as a low interest loan or added to taxes over a period of time.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	*Short	Medium	\$\$

### Action 3.3

Develop street tree program. This would be implemented under the same structure as the sidewalk improvement program.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	Medium	Low	\$\$

### Action 3.4

Develop an improvement plan for the alley system, that would include street cleaning.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Medium	Medium	\$\$

### Action 3.5

Improve street lighting.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	Medium	Medium	\$\$\$

### Action 3.6

Continue to improve paving program (include curb ramps, etc.).

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Medium	Medium	\$\$

### Action 3.7

Continue to seek funding for the tunnel under I-787.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$



Photosim of the proposed tunnel under I-787 to connect to Hudson Shores Park.

### Action 3.8

Advocate for NYSDOT to replace fencing along I-787 and move guide rail.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$

### Action 3.9

Water service improvements.

- Study increasing the size and/or water level of the reservoir.
- Assess water transmission line for upgrades and repairs (18 miles).

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	Medium	Medium	\$\$

### Action 3.10

Increase quantity of public trash cans in parks and commercial corridors.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	Medium	Low	\$\$

### Action 3.11

Publish commonly requested information on the website and push out notices through social media, such as a map of trash pick up days.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Short	Low	\$



## Goal 4 | Create and promote a sense of place

### Action 4.1

Increase community access to the Arsenal.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager	Short-Medium	Medium	\$

### Action 4.2

Develop artist district that includes a zoning overlay, consider an artist tax rate, art focused streetscape improvements.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
City Council, General Manager, Planning	Medium	Medium	\$\$

### Action 4.3

Add public art, such as murals, sculptures, sidewalk stencils, creative crosswalks or bump outs, throughout the City.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
General Manager, Planning	Medium-Long	High	\$\$

## Action 4.4

Add more community events and programming, such as mural walks - once implemented.

- Include more programming or events specific to youth and seniors.
- Continue to work towards hiring an events coordinator.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Medium	Medium	\$\$

## Action 4.5

Develop an element or collection of elements that can be used throughout the City to create uniformity and promote sense of place. This can be as simple as street signs, trash cans, lighting, pavement markings, or wayfinding signage.

Implementation	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Cost
Planning	Long	High	\$\$\$



*Several bell gateway features have been implemented throughout the City.*

## Long Term Visions

The following are long term items identified through planning studies and public outreach. While these are not specific action items in the Comprehensive Plan, they are noted here to clarify the City's position and vision. This also includes plans developed in the last 10 years that include specific recommendations.

- Study the future of the Arsenal and possibilities if the base were to close.
- Support de-designation of I-787 as an interstate and any efforts to boulevard the highway by NYSDOT or other municipalities.
- Create a riverfront trail on the east side of I-787 to access more of Watervliet's waterfront.
- Complete the LWRP update to develop a new set of recommendations and action items for the waterfront.

## Adopted Plans

- Watervliet Bicycle Master Plan
- Congress Street Bridge Study
- Hudson Shores Park Master Plan
- Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Application

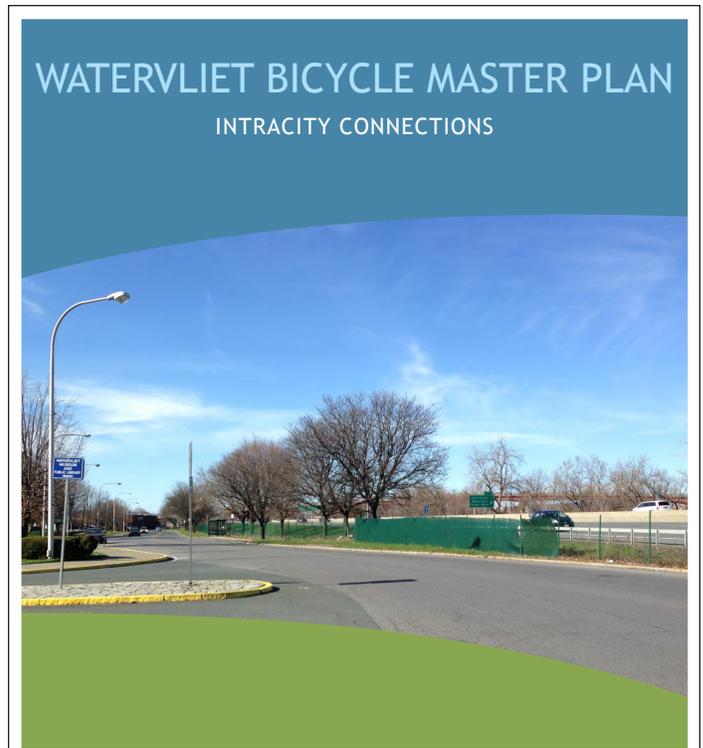


**Congress Street Bridge Study**  
City of Watervliet and City of Troy

APRIL 2021

PREPARED BY: **alta**

EDR FoitAlbert THE CHASEN COMPANIES

**WATERVLIET BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**  
INTRACITY CONNECTIONS



December 2013



**2022 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE**



**Opportunities for Transformation**



*Ring in the future of Watervliet*

REDC Region: Capital Region  
Municipality Name: City of Watervliet  
Downtown Name: 19th Street Corridor  
County Name: Albany County  
Applicant Contact: Mayor Charles Patricelli  
Applicant Contact Email: cpatricelli@watervliet.com

## Existing Conditions

### Transportation

#### Bike Paths

Since adopting the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, the City of Watervliet has worked to expand its bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Route 32 Linkage Study was completed in 2011, which recommended significant improvements to the City's pedestrian network, including crosswalks at each intersection, pedestrian scale lighting, streetscaping, and ADA curb ramps. The City also implemented shared lanes with signage along 2nd Ave (Route 32) between 13th and 21st street.

In 2021, the City constructed a two-way cycle track for bicycle and pedestrian use along Broadway between the 4th street entrance of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the 23rd street entrance of the Hudson Shores Park. This dedicated facility is part of a larger Empire State Trail network, connecting Watervliet to other major cities in the region and state. The pathway is separated from adjacent automobile traffic for portions of its length, making it an important asset to the City's active transportation network.

The City of Watervliet is seeking funding in an ongoing effort to continue to develop the active transportation network by adding a tunnel under I-787 at the eastern end of 16th Street. When implemented, this tunnel will enable people walking and biking to more easily and safely access Hudson Shores Park, avoiding the I-787 on-ramps at 23rd Street.

#### CDTA

The Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) offers accessible public transportation services throughout the Capital Region. Service Routes through Watervliet include the 22, 923, 370, and 815 bus lines.

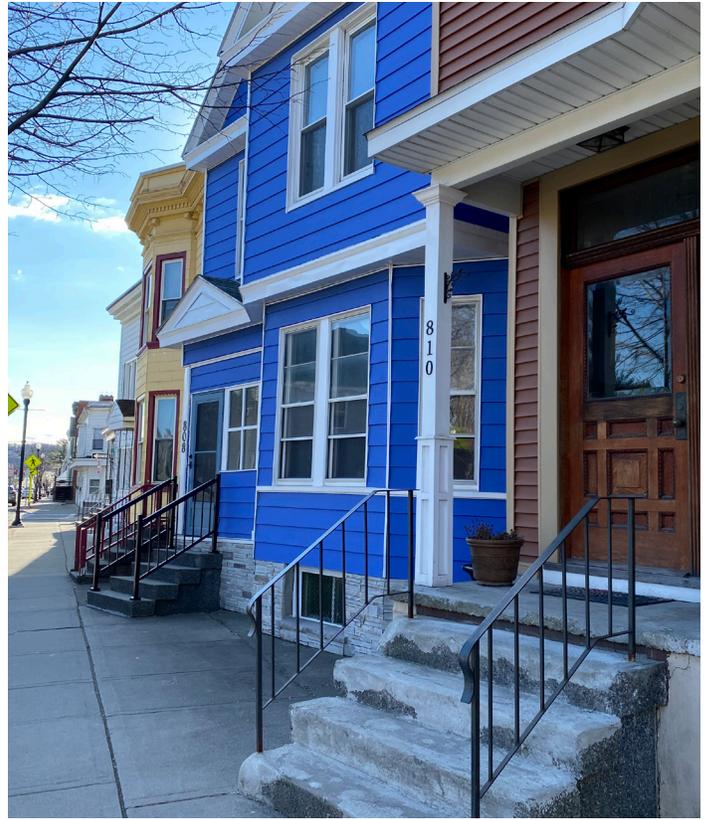
- **Route 923** is a bus rapid transit (BRT) route that offers express service with limited stops along Route 32 and Route 2 between Albany and Troy. This BRT route and its improved transit stops and amenities is a new addition to the City since the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Route 22** bus service links Watervliet to the neighboring Cities of Albany and Troy via Route 32 and Route 2.
- **Route 370** service connects the Cities of Troy and Schenectady through Watervliet along 19th Street (Route 2) to the Village of Latham.
- **Route 815** is the Troy Shopping Shuttle which offers limited service on Wednesdays between Watervliet and Troy. This shuttle service is primarily designed for senior citizens and stops at various senior housing facilities.

## Housing

Since 2011 the city of Watervliet has been awarded several CDBG grants. These grants are awarded to qualified applicants that aim to improve the health and safety of homeowners and occupants through improvements to a community's housing stock.

In 2022, the City was awarded \$500,000 for housing improvements. In order to receive up to \$25,000 for home improvement projects, resident applicants must be homeowners as well as meet income requirements.

According to the 2020 US Census, 28.6% of the housing stock in Watervliet is occupied by the homeowner while 71.4% is occupied by people renting homes. This is a decline in since the 2010 data in which 39.1% housing units were owner-occupied. Table 1 displays some of Watervliet's primary housing characteristics.



Watervliet housing.

**Table 1: Watervliet Housing Units and Occupancy**

Source: 2010 and 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics (Table DP04)

	2010	2020	% Change
Total Housing Units	5,169	5,682	+9.9%
Occupied Housing Units	4,777 (92.4%)	5,070 (89.2%)	+6.1%
Vacant Housing Units	392 (7.6%)	612 (10.8%)	+56.1%
Single Family Units	1,285 (24.9%)	1,497 (26.3%)	+16.5%
Units in Multi-Family Housing Structures	3,884 (75.1%)	4,185 (73.7%)	+7.7%
Owner-Occupied*	1,819 (39.1%)	1,451 (28.6%)	-20.2%
Renter-Occupied*	2,958 (61.9%)	3,619 (71.4%)	+22.3%

\* Percent of occupied units

## Parks and Recreation

### Hudson Shores Park

Developing the Hudson Shores Park area continues to be a significant priority for the City of Watervliet. The City received \$548K from an LWRP Implementation grant from NYS DOS to support ongoing improvements to Hudson Shores Park. This grant will be used to reconstruct the riverfront path as a proper 10-foot wide shared use path with playground elements and additional benches and landscaping.

Additional planned improvements included in the Master Plan include:

- Relocating the boat house toward I-787 and add additional space. The boat house is currently rented to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and Emma Willard crew teams.
- Construct a new building to be developed and leased as a seasonal or year round restaurant.
- Improve the docks and contract with a tour boat company.
- Stabilize the shoreline using natural methods and a small bulkhead in the area of the pavilion.

- Relocate parking away from the shore and towards I-787.

In 2022 the City was awarded additional funding through the Canal Way Grant Program to improve canoe and kayak access at the Park.

### Congress Street Bridge Study

In late 2020, the City engaged in the development of the Congress Street Bridge (CSB) Study. The study identified a series of priority projects focused on improving mobility and connection between the City of Troy and Watervliet. The projects focus on placemaking, improving non-motorized travel, and connectivity to the waterfront. Four priority projects were identified:

- Congress Streets Bridge Shared Use Path
- 19th Streets/2nd Avenue Intersection reconfiguration
- Southern connection (tunnel to Hudson Shores Park)
- 23rd Street traffic calming improvements



Hudson Shores Park Master Plan.

## **Public Investment**

Watervliet has proactively worked to implement the goals, recommendations, and action items identified in their planning efforts. As a result of sound planning and public support, the City has been successful in securing State and Federal funding to implement public improvements. Completed projects include both physical improvements (such as streetscape improvements and building rehabilitation) and programs (such as the City's microenterprise program). Key public investments are discussed below.

### **Public Facilities**

The City has invested over \$2.6 million in municipal building upgrades, construction, and rehabilitation including additions and general building upgrades to the Robert A. Fahr Watervliet Public Library and Watervliet Senior Center and repairs to the former North Reformed Dutch Church, which now houses the Watervliet Historical Society and Museum.

### **Infrastructure**

The City has invested approximately \$7.4 million in infrastructure improvement in the last five years, addressing streetscapes, water/sewer, and other local needs. This includes the recently constructed shared use path along Route 32, creating an off-road trail from the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail through the City.

### **Housing**

Watervliet has been proactive in its housing rehabilitation programs; over \$1.9 million of CDBG housing rehabilitation grants and HUD's HOME program funding has been invested in residential buildings throughout the City. Along and adjacent to 19th Street, five homeowners have received housing rehabilitation funding in the past six years, totaling over \$81,000.

**The City of Watervliet has invested over \$15 million in municipal buildings, infrastructure, housing, parks and recreation, and economic development projects in the last five years.**

### **Parks and Recreation**

The City's investments of approximately \$2 million in parks and recreation improvements have ranged from planting trees to \$1.3 million in investments to facilitate the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail connection and approximately \$650,000 in improvements to several City parks.

### **Economic Development**

Watervliet has invested over \$1 million through Main Street and microenterprise funding to enhance and grow existing businesses and through economic development initiatives to start up new businesses in the City. Along 19th Street, the City has invested over \$82,000 in small businesses through its microenterprise program, including two local salons and a funeral home.

## Private Investments

Spurred, in part, by the City's many recent physical investments and programmatic and regulatory changes, private investment in Watervliet has been increasing in recent years, particularly along 19th Street. Zoning changes have facilitated an influx of new commercial development on both 19th Street and Second Avenue; new businesses have been attracted as a result of the improved streetscape along 19th Street and availability of public funds for small businesses. As the greater Capital District sees a continued uptick in investment, Watervliet's relatively affordable housing market has attracted new owners, as well as owner/investor interest in rehabilitation/construction.

### New Downtown Supermarket

In 2013, Price Chopper began redevelopment of the former St. Patrick's Church site in the center of the 19th Street corridor. The supermarket, which opened in 2015, serves Watervliet and adjacent communities, including Troy residents who traverse the Congress Street Bridge to access the supermarket. Additional commercial pad sites are currently being marketed along 19th Street.

### Influx of Commercial Construction

Several commercial plazas have been developed proximate to the 19th Street & Second Avenue intersection. These include a Stewart's gas station/convenience store and Pioneer Bank at the northeast corner, a Rite Aid Pharmacy at the northwest corner, and a plaza containing multiple retailers, a fast food restaurant, and a medical office facility at the southeast corner. The planned BRT station will complement these recent investments.

### Housing Rehabilitation

Local investors and developers have taken note of the availability of affordable residential housing in Watervliet, and house "flipping" activities are on the rise. In just the past five years, over 240 buildings permits have been issued for housing rehabilitation/alteration projects in the downtown

area. Several two-family residences have been converted to one-family homes, encouraging increased homeownership rates.

### New Businesses

There is renewed interest from commercial tenants to open businesses along the 19th Street corridor. Thirty-nine (39) commercial properties in the 19th St commercial area have been rehabilitated in the past five years, and several new businesses have opened along the corridor, including several facilitated by the City's microenterprise program.

### Future Investments

The City of Watervliet is actively planning for and prioritizing future investments. In the past three years, the City has conducted studies of the City's water system, sewer system, combined sewer overflow (CSO) separation potential, housing improvement needs, and tree inventory and management plan.

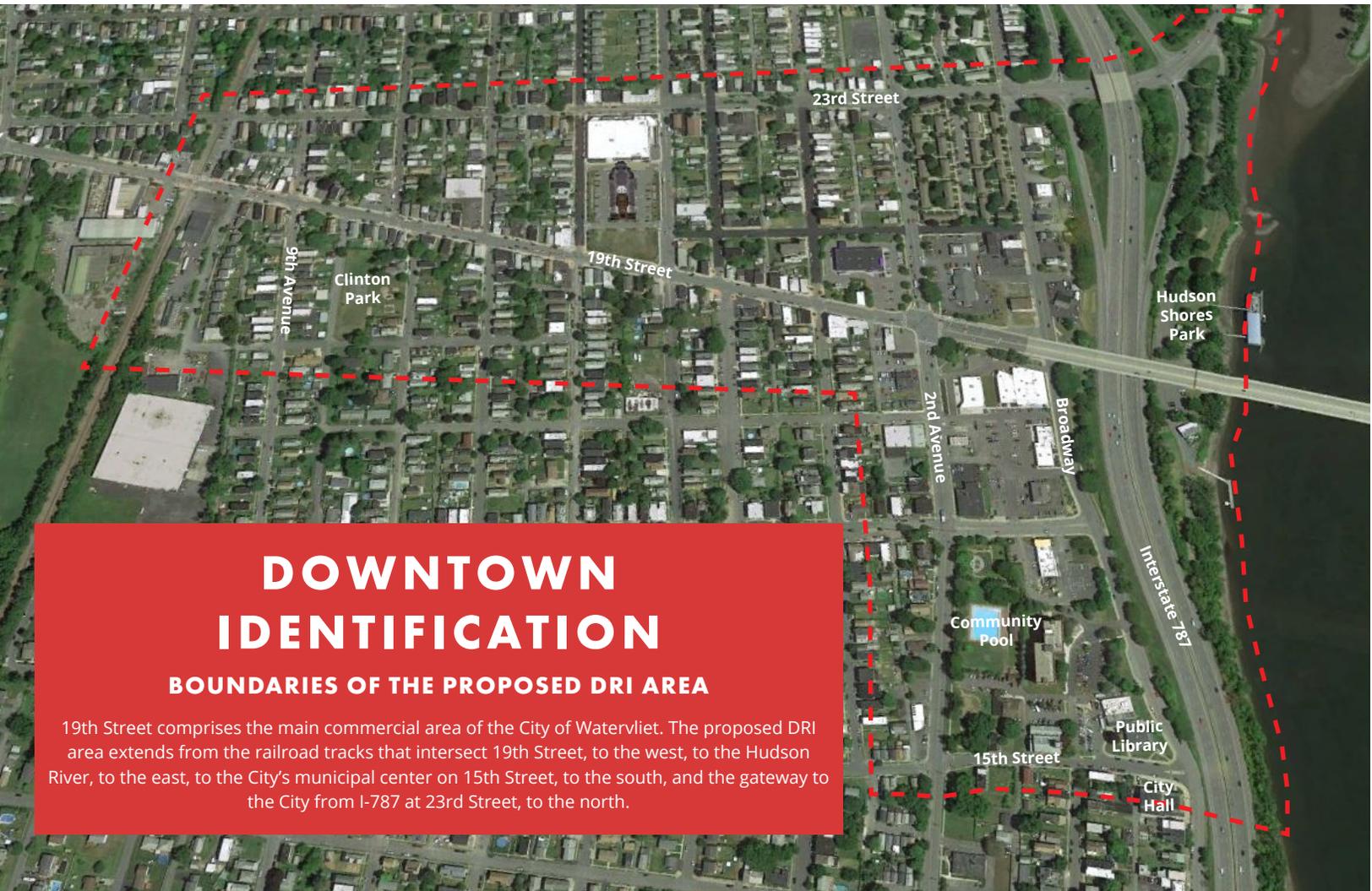
As a result of these planning efforts, the City was recently awarded more than \$6 million in grants, including \$3 million for water treatment plant improvements to improve water quality, approximately \$1.3 million for a CSO separation grant; \$540,000 for a sewer lateral replacement program for homeowners; a waterline replacement on 9th Avenue between 16th and 19th Street; and reconstruction of 25th Street.

Several physical changes are also anticipated. These include completion of the BRT station at 19th Street and Second Avenue and construction of a dog park at Clinton Park. Continued private investment in housing rehabilitation and additional commercial development at the Price Chopper site on 19th Street is also expected to continue. Additionally, there is currently \$2.4 million total investment in two new gas stations/convenience stores along 2nd Avenue.



## DRI Application

In 2021 and 2022, the City of Watervliet applied for a Downtown Revitalization grant through New York State. The planning for the application included public outreach and many strategy meetings. The following images show the defined DRI area and proposed projects and locations.



# DOWNTOWN IDENTIFICATION

## BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED DRI AREA

19th Street comprises the main commercial area of the City of Watervliet. The proposed DRI area extends from the railroad tracks that intersect 19th Street, to the west, to the Hudson River, to the east, to the City's municipal center on 15th Street, to the south, and the gateway to the City from I-787 at 23rd Street, to the north.



THURSDAY PARK

7

Hudson Shores Park

Congress St Bridge

I-787

I-787

WATERLIET

Broadway

5

Broadway

8

Senior Center

Public Library

WATERLIET

City Hall

23rd Street

4

2nd Ave (NYS Route 32)

3

11

10

9

Historical Society

2nd Ave (NYS Route 32)

Price Chopper

2

Clinton Park



SCREEN WALL/URBAN ART

6

WATERLIET

1

Railroad

19th Street (Route 2)

# TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

## Public Engagement

Public engagement strategies for the Comprehensive Plan amendment included:

- Online Survey
- In-Person Public Meeting
- Virtual Public Meeting

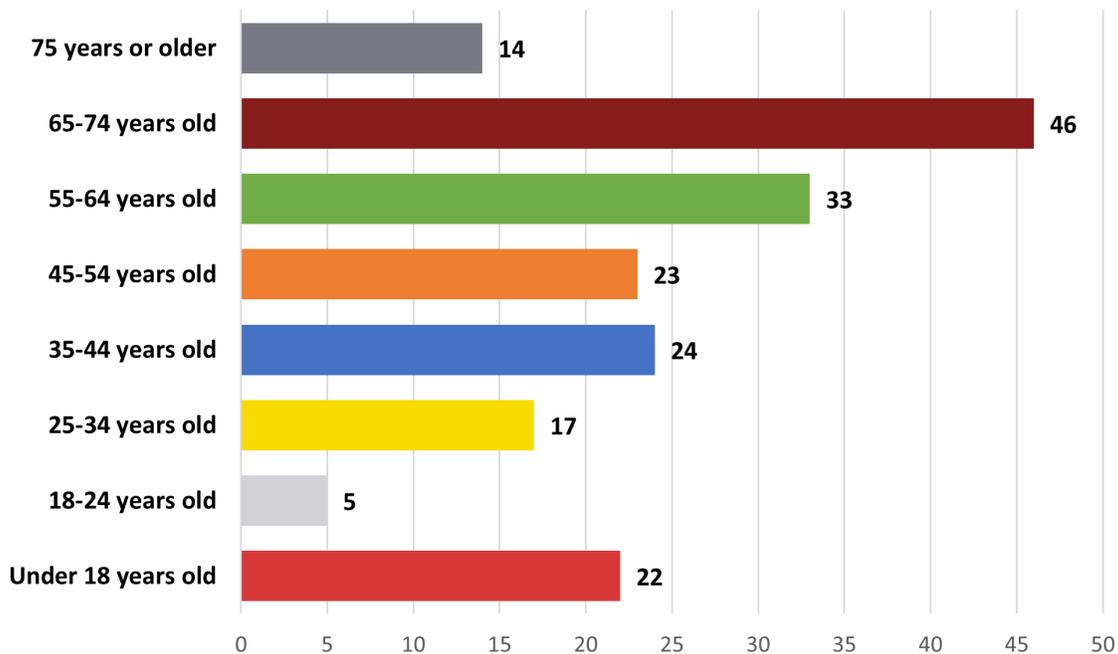
An in-person public meeting was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 and a virtual public meeting was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Due to limited public participation in these meetings, the online survey was the primary source of public engagement for the Watervliet Comprehensive Plan Update.

**184** SURVEY RESPONSES

### Online Survey

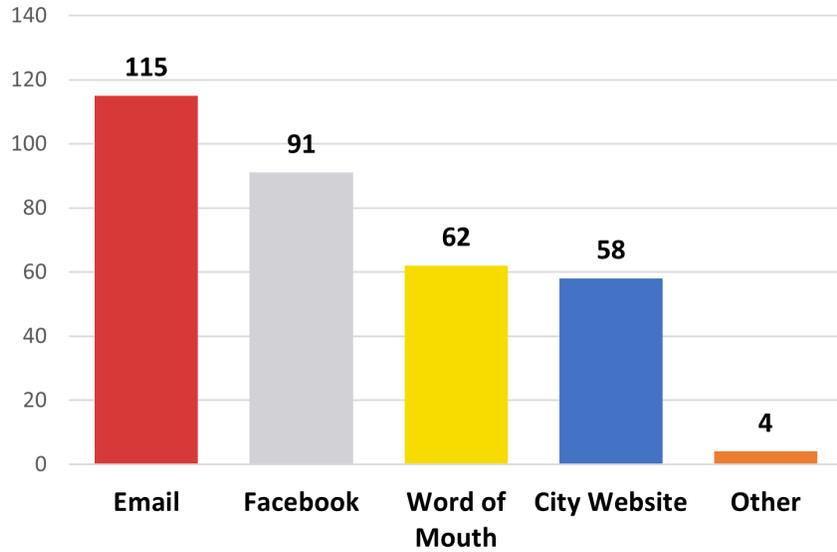
A survey was made available on the City website for input on this Comprehensive Plan Update from October 17, 2022 to October 31, 2022. There were a total of 184 responses to the survey. The following graphics summarize the results of the survey.

**Age of Respondents**

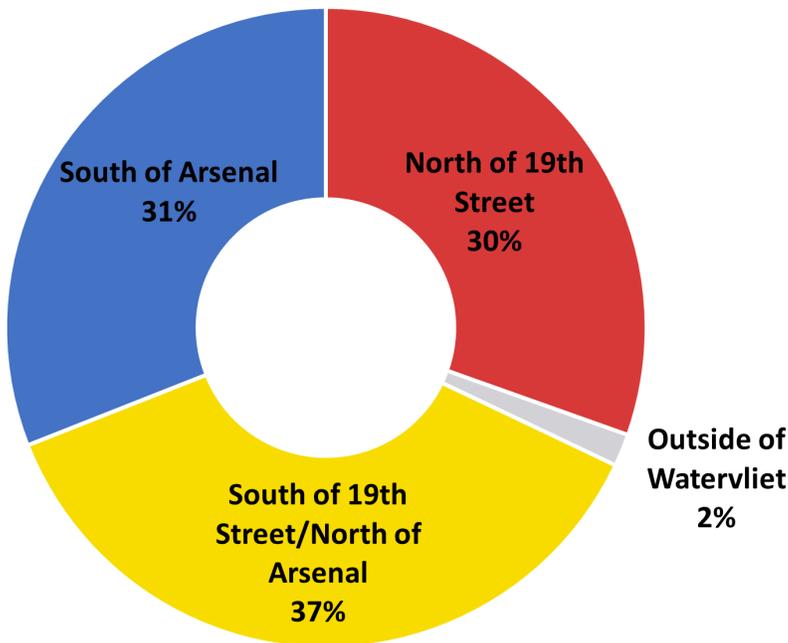


**How do you learn about community events?**

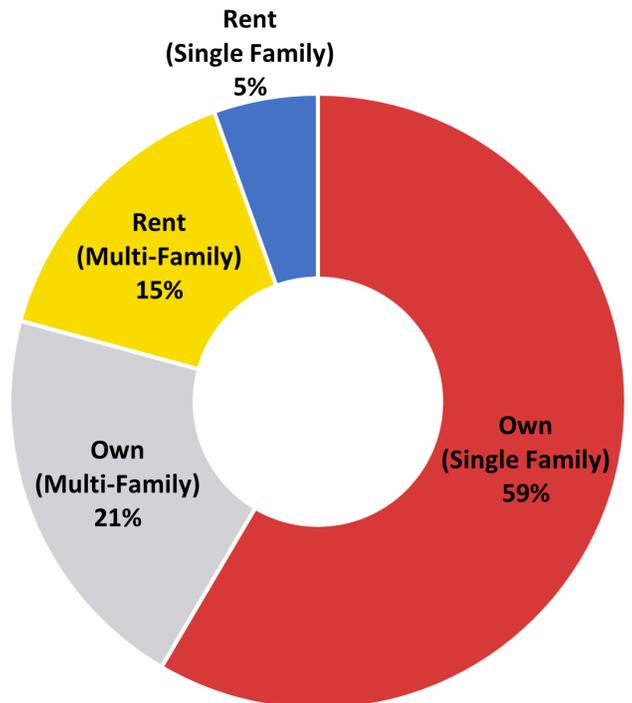
*(respondents were able to check multiple options)*



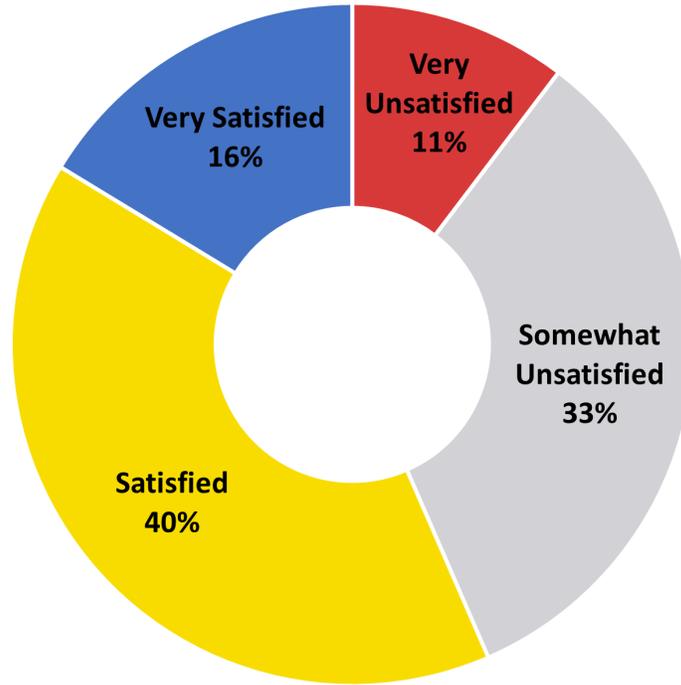
**Where is your primary residence?**



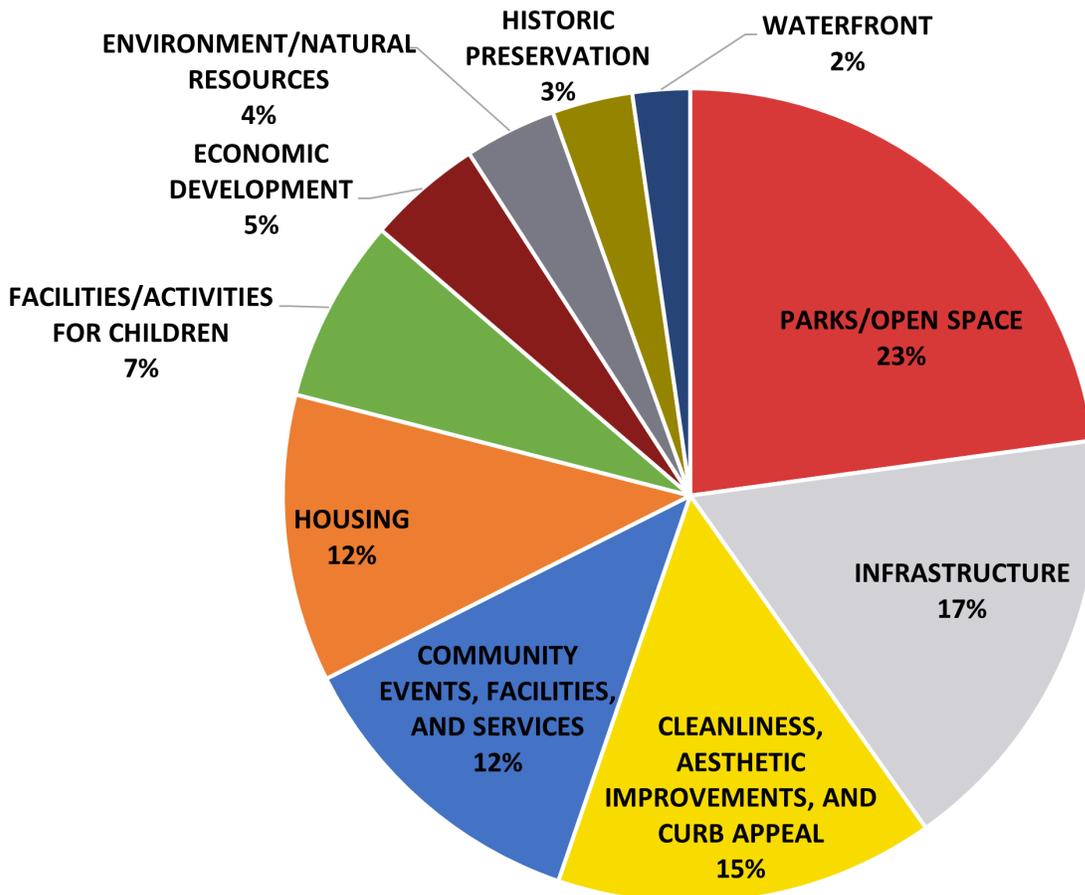
**What is your type of primary residence?**



**How would you rate your quality of life in Watervliet?**



**What area of Watervliet do you think needs the most improvement?**  
*(Respondents were able to list multiple topics/locations)*



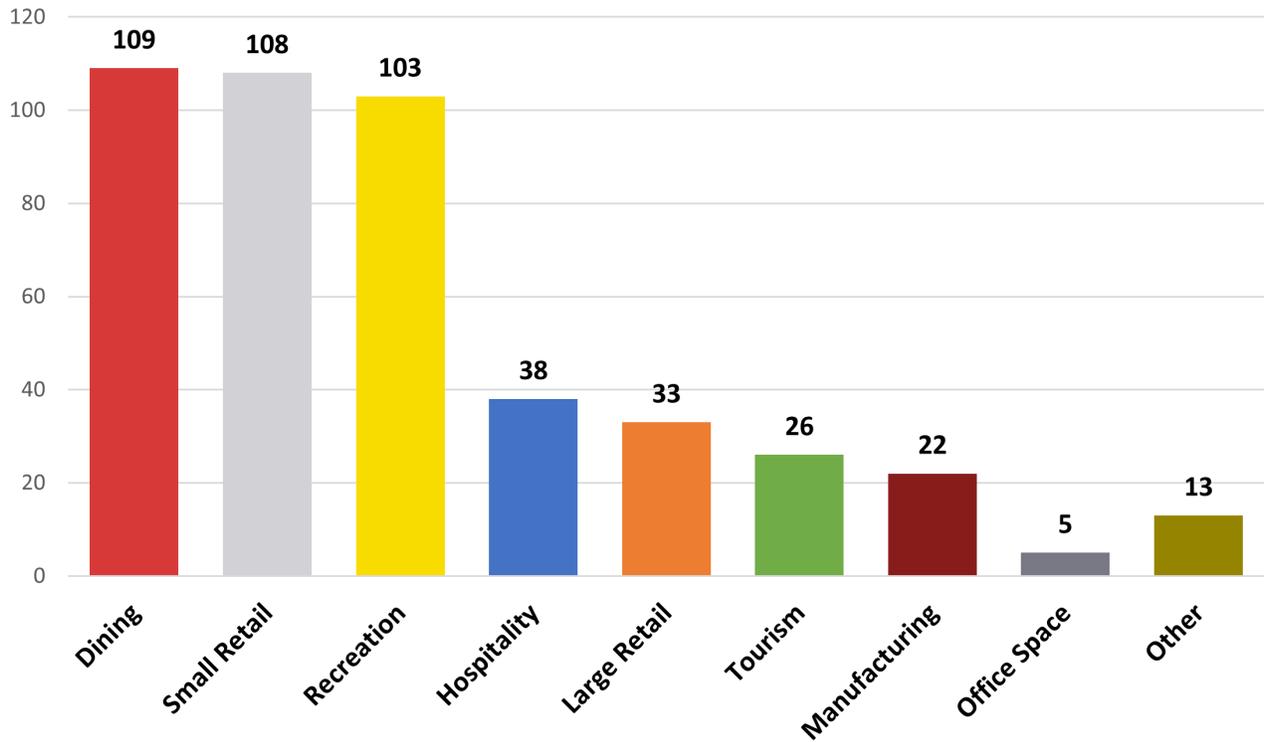
**What is your favorite place in Watervliet?**



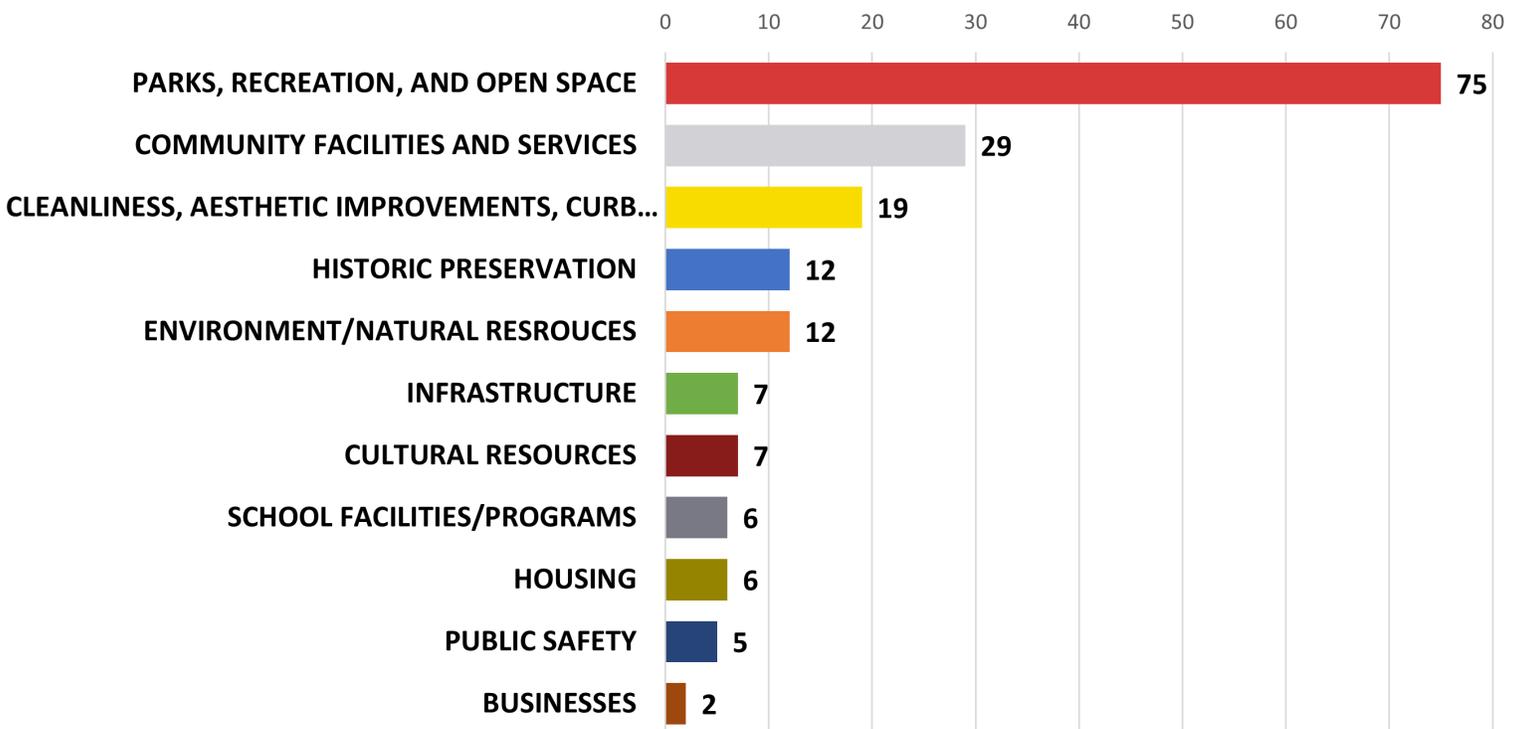
**Using one word or phrase, describe Watervliet:**



**Which areas of economic development are most important to you?**  
*(respondents were able to check multiple options)*



**If you had \$100 to spend, what areas would you allocate it to for improvement?**  
*(respondents were able to list multiple topics)*



## Which amenity or service would you most like to see in Watervliet?

### Most common responses:

- Small business loan program or other assistance/encouragement programs
- Skate Park
- Park Amenities (dog park, walking trails, picnic areas, etc.)
- Home improvement programs and/or first-time home buyer programs
- Public art installations/programming

### Additional responses:

- Programming and funding to improve cleanliness and curb appeal throughout City
- Infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, alleys, roadways)
- Senior and youth programming, services, and facilities
- Large retail opportunities (Walmart, Aldi, etc.)
- Environmental/natural resource programming

### General Comments:

- Many respondents cite “absentee landlords” or other homeowners who do not properly care for properties being an issue for the City; this applies to both code violations as well as curb appeal
- Many respondents indicate a need for improved/more frequent trash pickup and street sweeping; many complaints about the cleanliness of streets and properties
- Safety is another common concern among respondents, many asking for increased police presence in public areas
- Respondents request improvements to streets, sidewalks, and alleys
- Positive comments regarding current administration’s efforts to make improvements
- Many have pride in the Watervliet community and want to see conditions continue to improve

### Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held in November. The first was an in-person meeting and the second was a virtual meeting. The draft plan was also presented at a City Council meeting in December. Only one member of the public attended these public meetings; however, the City Council meeting was recorded and posted to the City’s YouTube channel for public viewing. A public hearing has been called for January 19th to solicit public comment prior to adoption of this Comprehensive Plan addendum.