

Draft Vision Statement – Williamsville Community Plan  
January 2006

Introduction

The Vision of Williamsville is one of inclusive diversity, in which the best elements of the Village's rich historical, cultural, and natural heritage have been conserved and sensitively enhanced for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

The residents of Williamsville have worked in cooperation to construct the following "Vision" to represent their collective future. The Vision has been developed as the result of a varied public input process and an analysis of existing conditions. The physical design and planning policy, prepared as a part of Williamsville's Community Plan, must incorporate all elements of this Vision. The Vision represents both a rationale and series of guiding principles to ensure that future planning moves the Village forward in a direction its residents are willing to take.

In shaping its future, the Village of Williamsville is ever cognizant of its place within the Town of Amherst and Western New York. The Village and Town are partners in mutually supportive endeavors to manage growth, promote economic development, and provide facilities and services for residents. Within the Region, Williamsville offers living, business and shopping opportunities for residents, workers and visitors in an historic setting that reflects its heritage and role in the renewal of Western New York.

## The Vision

Williamsville's future builds upon its present as a unique and historic place. Our Village functions as an integral part of the Town of Amherst and the surrounding region. Ideally, the future Village will enhance this unique character by building upon our defining characteristics:

- Our diverse neighborhoods
- Our Main Street Shopping District
- Our physical setting

Our Vision ensures that Village **neighborhoods** remain safe and secure, with a range of housing available to all socioeconomic groups. Each neighborhood has its own identity, derived from a strong sense of community and active participation by residents in civic life. Residents respect the history of their homes by maintaining and enhancing their unique character. Our neighborhoods connect to each other, to the historic center of the Village, to a responsive government, and to the surrounding Town of Amherst by modes of movement that emphasize pedestrian accessibility and safety.

Our economy is focused along Main Street and its environs. Our **Main Street Business District** is enhanced by the presence of civic institutions, housing opportunities, historic and cultural assets located at the crossroads of the historic Buffalo Road and Ellicott Creek. Business, government, and residents work together to promote economic prosperity while protecting the valued Village quality of life. The positive effects of coordinated public and private investments are evident along the Main Street corridor where residents and visitors stroll amongst vibrant businesses and splendid civic spaces. The Village's residents have ready access to local and regional job opportunities and to education and training programs that prepare them for the changing workplaces of the future.

The **physical setting** of Williamsville is defined by our natural resources, places of commerce, open spaces and civic activity. Our environment is built to a human scale and is comprised of a natural waterfront environment, a vibrant and walkable business district, historic buildings and assets, comfortable spaces for civic celebration, attractive neighborhoods, and a network of parks and open spaces. Amherst State Park, Glen Park and Island Park are linked by Ellicott Creek to form a green corridor that intersects with the Main Street Business District and historic Water Mill Complex to form the crossroads of Village life. A high quality of design is reflected in the built environment throughout Williamsville, especially along its defining corridors and at “gateway” entrances.

While our Village welcomes future growth in the form of new jobs, new assets and new living opportunities, we also demand that each is sensitively developed within the context of the natural setting our current residents enjoy. We welcome change, yet choose to embrace that change within an adopted planning policy that protects the quality of life for both residents and visitors.