



City of Glens Falls

Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan

Young Professionals Focus Group

Bullpen Tavern

February 27, 2025

Key Takeaways

1. Best Aspects of Living in Glens Falls

- Vibrant Community & Location: Strong sense of community, welcoming atmosphere, and proximity to Saratoga Springs, Lake George, and outdoor recreation.
- Walkability & Accessibility: Compact, contained city with no urban sprawl.
- Entertainment & Amenities: Rich in events, arts, food, and dining options.
- Affordability (Compared to Saratoga): Socioeconomic diversity, where service workers can still afford to live.
- Education & Safety: Good schools, strong library, nursing program.

2. Biggest Challenges Facing Glens Falls

- High Taxes: Higher than Saratoga County, making affordability an issue.
- Housing Affordability & Availability: Lack of options for young people and families, with concerns about becoming unaffordable like Lake Placid.
- Economic & Business Challenges: Few career-oriented jobs beyond service industries, business turnover, and expensive commercial rents.
- Downtown Development & Infrastructure:
 - No walkable grocery store.
 - Lack of outdoor seating for restaurants.
 - Parking shortages with limited public options.
 - Dangerous pedestrian crossings and outdated infrastructure.
- Communication & Awareness Gaps: Information about available grants, housing, and city programs isn't widely known.
- Historic Preservation Concerns: Desire to maintain city character and improve redevelopment efforts.

3. Ways to Better Support Young Professionals

- Increased Engagement & Leadership Opportunities: Creation of a Young Professionals Committee, better networking, and advisory roles.
- Enhanced Job Market: More professional jobs and co-working spaces.

- Walkability & Transportation: More pedestrian infrastructure, commuter rail options, and bike-friendly connections.
- Downtown Growth & Amenities: Grocery, hardware store, market (possibly co-op), and expanded nightlife options.
- Stronger City Promotion & Branding: Marketing Glens Falls to attract talent, including arts district promotion, signage, and visitor resources.

4. Priorities for Attracting & Retaining Young Professionals

- Housing – Affordability and variety.
- Job Growth – Expanding beyond service industry jobs.
- Public Transportation & Bike Accessibility – More and safer bike lanes, pedestrian bridge, and wayfinding signage.
- Community Involvement – More opportunities for young professionals to lead and contribute.
- Better City Communication – Improved digital outreach, signage, and event promotion.

5. Future Community Involvement Preferences

- Volunteering, joining boards, attending planning meetings, and participating in community groups.

6. Housing Needs & Affordability

- More diverse and income-based housing options are needed.

7. Mobility Hub Vision

- Desired services include wayfinding kiosks, connections to bikeways, bike-sharing, shuttle services, public transit improvements, safety gear, and public amenities.
- Suggested locations: Burger King site, hospital grounds, or TD Bank lot.