

Master Plan for the Township of Middlefield, Otsego County, New York State, 1989

**Affirmed, Updated, and Adopted by the Town Board June 14, 2011
(pursuant to NYS Town Law Section 272-a)**

The lands encompassed by the Township of Middlefield are graced by earth, water and air of exceptional quality. In accordance with the laws of New York State, the Planning Board of the Township of Middlefield has developed, and the Town Board has adopted this Master Plan and its updates to control use of these lands.

The Master Plan of the Township of Middlefield establishes four general goals:

1. That the senior citizens of the Township, who have stewarded these lands in such a way as to deliver them to a younger generation in a beneficial condition, may continue to live here in a manner which they find harmonious;
2. That men and women of the current generation who live and work on these lands may prosper in an environment that is both flexible and secure;
3. That, perhaps more importantly, future generations shall inherit these lands in a condition which allows for a healthful, prosperous and independent way of life;
4. That improvement of land be encouraged and fostered in a manner which benefits the community as a whole, but that development of land in a manner which threatens the health or well-being of the community as a whole be prevented.

Addendum (1989): While it is hoped that the above goals may provide direction to the control of land use in the Town of Middlefield, current conditions necessitate a more specific statement of intent of the Town.

Since the time of the settlement of the Township, farming has constituted the economic backbone of the community. As confirmed by the many families which have lived here for generations, farming is a basic human industry which stabilizes the community in good times and bad. At the present time, the human population of the United States and of the world is increasing at an unprecedented rate; while farmlands are disappearing in response to economic, governmental and population pressures. A grim paradox is thus created. In this regard, farm land may soon be more vital

than ever to the health, prosperity and well-being of the community.

It is the specific goal of this Planning Board, in accordance with the four general goals in this Master Plan, to sustain the viability of farm lands where possible and to encourage and foster improvement that does not diminish farm lands.

Other specific goals of the Planning Board shall be the preservation of Otsego Lake, of wooded areas harboring game and of important aesthetic and historical characteristics of the Middlefield Township.

Addendum (2011): The Town of Middlefield Profile and Inventory (February 2011) is included as an addendum in support of this Master Plan. This Profile and Inventory is excerpted from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (accepted by the Town in December 2002). In the spirit of this Master Plan, the FGEIS examines the current environmental conditions of the entire Otsego Lake region, identifies environmentally sensitive locations and analyzes the capacity for growth and development in the Towns of Otsego, Middlefield, Springfield and Hartwick, and the Village of Cooperstown. The FGEIS identifies important natural resources of the area, evaluates potential impacts that could occur in the future and offers a set of mitigation measures that could be taken to avoid those impacts. While the entire FGEIS can be used by Middlefield to help implement this Master Plan, the Profile and Inventory and associated maps highlight important natural resources that the people of the Township desire to be protected.

The Town of Middlefield will review, and update as needed, this Master Plan every five years to ensure it remains relevant to the residents and current.