

# Planning Foundation

The people that make up Arcade, every day, are faced with decisions big and small that will impact the future and trajectory of the area. From the Mayor and Town Supervisor to residents and business owners, everyone has a role to play in shaping the day-to-day qualities that make Arcade a great place to live.

Looking back at how Arcade has succeeded and failed to adapt to change, we can collect the wisdom of the past, evaluate the present, and create a framework for future decision making that shares a consistent vision and set of community goals. While the future is uncertain, the comprehensive plan will provide a consistent vision to help evaluate future decision making and how it aligns with community goals in Arcade.

The following vision and planning principles are the foundation of the plan; representing a synthesis of steering committee input vetted through the community via the public engagement process.

## Vision Statement

The vision statement is our shared desire for the future of Arcade. It outlines the qualities of what make the Town and Village of Arcade unique, interdependent, and authentic; defining the core values, planning principles, and priority policy areas that will serve as foundational to future decision making.

Our vision for Arcade....

*Arcade offers the best of both worlds: we are the region's undisputed commercial/industrial powerhouse, yet we're stabilized by a long-standing agricultural tradition and economy.*

*Acknowledging this, we will protect and improve our compact, walkable Village centers and neighborhoods, grow our population, safeguard our cherished agrarian landscape, sustain our first-rate school system, and invest in our historic downtown. Arcadians recognize how such assets greatly increase our quality of life, and we aim to preserve, celebrate and expand in ways consistent with our identity.*

*We take pride in the harmony between our compact village and its pastoral setting. Access to our expansive network of trails through rolling farm fields and creek-bisected valleys offers a high quality of life to residents and high recreational value to visitors. To enhance it, we will improve access and connections to neighborhoods. To conserve it, we will recruit and aim housing investments towards existing population centers where they advance workforce and economic development, employee retention and pedestrian activity.*

*We cherish our downtown as a vital community forum - our front porch and a barometer of Arcade's health - and will support investments that further its vision as a vibrant, activated civic space supportive of local business. In all these ways, our downtown will thrive and our agricultural and commercial interests will be protected, catalyzing entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses within Arcade to expand local offerings. As a result, residents will be attracted by our diverse and affordable housing options, access to nature and rural values, but also low utility costs and high job opportunities. They will stay because of the spiritual, social and civic engagement within our community that bolsters our identity and pride of place.*

# Planning Principles

Our planning principles — derived from our vision — are the litmus test against which ongoing decisions in the Town and Village are judged. They allow us to evaluate on an individual basis how well a decision aligns with the vision and values of Arcade. They will allow decision-makers to evaluate the pros and cons of individual actions holistically, evaluating the more nuanced interdependence of decisions to better inform policy, procedure, and implementation.

Arcadians will make choices ensuring we become:

## **Collaborative and Connected Stewards of our Vital Resources Committed to Sustainable Growth Economically Resilient**

### **Collaborative and Connected**

- We (the Village and Town) will make the time to collaborate on important decisions, and develop policies towards a shared vision, while addressing differences in form, character, and infrastructure needs.
- We will seek ways to support one another's endeavors and strive for unified messaging.
- We will nurture the social networks that support Arcade.
- We will make decisions to improve community well-being and public health outcomes that are measured, holistic, and insightful.

*Ask the questions: Have we collaborated with all departments, committees, and the public affected by this decision? Are our policies and actions aligned with the Vision? Are we cognizant and supportive of our differences in character and appeal? Have we communicated to the various effected committees, subcommittees, and public stakeholders.*

### **Stewards of Our Vital Resources**

- We will protect the boundaries and function of our agricultural lands — a vital source of pride, identity, and prosperity for the region.
- We will make informed choices that protect our natural resources, ensuring the viability of our agricultural lands, watersheds, flora and fauna.
- We will enhance access to — and connectivity between — open spaces and active recreation opportunities.
- We will develop strategies for the flood zone and alleviate development constraints.

*Ask the questions: Are we encroaching on the character or function of agricultural land with this decision? Is it protecting the short and long-term viability of the environment? Will the flood zone be impacted or potential flooding affect this decision? Are local resources being exploited for non-local profit?*

### **Committed To Sustainable Growth**

- We believe that growing the resident population will be vital to the stabilization of our local economy.
- We will direct growth to be in proximity to existing services, amenities, and infrastructure to reduce sprawl, emissions, and cost.
- We will expand utility coverage to reduce gaps and increase local capacity for additional density and growth.
- We will explore strategies to increase the variety of housing types and land uses.
- We will promote compact design and infill to improve connectivity between housing and our hubs of activity, without negatively affecting the established character of place.
- We will develop active transportation networks for local travel connecting population centers, open spaces, and recreational points of interest.

*Ask the questions: Is this decision leveraging the most of existing infrastructure capacity? Is this decision resilient against economic, social, or environmental changes? Is this decision contributing to the growth of Arcade's population? Is this decision increasing diversity of land use and housing typology?*

### **Economically Resilient**

- We will prioritize and think strategically to aim our fiscal resources toward catalytic investment.
- We will plan and create policies that support downtown as an attractive, safe, diverse commercial area where business thrives.
- We will attract businesses and workers by leveraging our unique assets and streamlining support.
- We will enhance networks that build small business capacity.

*Ask the questions: Will this decision help support businesses within Arcade? Will this decision create favorable market conditions within Arcade? Will this decision help owners invest in their buildings and businesses?*

# Priority Policy Areas

Arcade's call to Action!

The Priority Policy Areas are “where the rubber meets the road” with regard to implementing the Vision and Planning Principles outlined in the previous sections. The priority policy areas outlined below represent the issues posing the greatest challenges to Arcade advancing its vision and values. The four specific areas below represent an interdependent network of variables and goals that need to be evaluated holistically to ensure solutions continue to address their intended problems. Town and Village officials, developers, business owners, and residents all have a role to play in consistent stewardship of these collective goals.

Guided by public engagement and committee meetings, the following priority areas were determined:

- **Housing & Community Connectivity**
- **Infrastructure & Natural Resource Conversation**
- **Economic Development, Tourism, and Recreation**
- **Downtown Revitalization**

The priority policy areas are the most pressing and pertinent issues facing Arcade today. They are grouped together based on overarching similarity in implementation to have the largest impact on successfully advancing the vision and planning principles.

Each priority area is presented with a broad goal, a list of objectives, and a matrix of action items specifically tailored to guide policy and decision making over the next five years. Do not think of the matrix as a check-list of to-do items, but rather a jump-start for the town and village to begin developing the relationships and policies needed to become the Arcade necessary to succeed twenty years from now.

Arcade should look to update this plan every five years or so, to better understand if goals or priorities have shifted, and to update and add items to the implementation matrix to better respond to new developments.

### **Priority Area #1 – Housing and Community Connectivity**

This priority area is focused on adding housing within Arcade’s existing social, economic, and cultural centers to strengthen the attractiveness and resilience within Arcade. To achieve this, Arcade will:

- Incentivize and support additional housing units to be developed within existing population centers in a variety of appropriate sizes and forms.
- Promote changes in zoning that allow for compact building design, additional density, and creative infill opportunities while maintaining Arcade’s character.
- Incentivize new housing development that capitalizes on and enhances multi-modal linkages between existing walkable neighborhoods, commercial and retail districts, open spaces, and trail networks.
- Invest in and grow local and regional networks and initiatives that support public health, well-being, education, and economic resilience for residents.

### **Priority Area #2 – Infrastructure and Natural Resource Conservation**

This priority area is dedicated to striking the appropriate balance between future development and the preservation of agricultural lands and open space. Maintaining Arcade’s rural character and protecting its natural resources requires taking a proactive approach to developing within and near existing infrastructure. To achieve this, Arcade will:

- Promote infill and new development that maximizes the use of existing infrastructure to prevent sprawling residential and commercial growth.
- Invest in infrastructure maintenance and upgrades to enhance local capacity, sustainability, and resilience.
- Create policies and regulations to promote farmland preservation and natural resource conservation.
- Encourage the development of pedestrian and multimodal transportation infrastructure to improve safety and accessibility throughout Arcade.

### **Priority Area #3 – Economic Development, Tourism & Recreation**

This priority area is committed to maintaining and improving the economic well-being and quality of life of residents and business owners in Arcade. The Village and Town will grow the capacity of existing and future businesses and create an inviting environment for the region’s workforce to live.

- Cultivate opportunities to support existing businesses and industries through local programming in partnership with County and regional economic development resources.
- Increase local employment capacity by encouraging residential population growth.
- Work with local and regional partners to promote Arcade as a year-round regional recreation and tourism destination.
- Permit, create, and develop programs, events, and other tourism efforts that capitalize on Arcade’s unique history, geography, and traditions.

#### **Priority Area #4 – Downtown Revitalization**

The Downtown Revitalization priority area involves reinvigorating downtown as a thriving “front porch” for the broader community. Through investment in the built environment, programming and events, and engagement, the Village and Town will foster a distinctive sense of place in the downtown.

- Preserve the form and character of the Downtown through design standards that guide new and infill development.
- Address blighted commercial, mixed-use, and residential properties.
- Develop pedestrian and multi-modal transportation infrastructure to improve safety and accessibility throughout Arcade and its surrounding residential areas.
- Pursue streetscaping and placemaking opportunities to create inviting public spaces.
- Curate partnerships with local and regional partners to develop programming and events that support downtown vibrancy.