

DRI VISIONING WORKSHOP

PUBLIC INPUT

6/26/25

DRI Visioning Workshop – June 26, 2025

- Goal: Introduce the public to the DRI process, understand public perception of Catskill and the opportunities presented by the DRI process.
- Over 120+ residents and stakeholders gathered at the Catskill Senior Center.
- LPC members, youth from the Catskill Clubhouse, State representatives and the Consultant Team shared information about the DRI program, the Catskill DRI application, the Open Call for Projects, and the path to develop a Strategic Investment Plan for Catskill's DRI Area.
- Participants met in small groups, adding sticky notes to boards addressing downtown challenges, strengths, opportunities and their vision for the Catskill DRI Area.



Catskill DRI Draft Vision: Community Input

Catskill Will Continue to grow into a more dynamic place to live, work, & visit, while retaining its small town character and remaining open & affordable to people of all income levels and backgrounds.

[illegible]

Catskill DRI Draft Vision: Summary of Input

“Catskill will continue to grow into a more dynamic place to live, work and visit, while retaining its small-town character and remaining open and affordable to people of all income levels and backgrounds.”



Does this capture what you'd like to see downtown? What is missing? What's important?

- Access to outdoor recreation and activities for all ages
- How caring, supportive and inclusive Catskill is
- Creating opportunity and access for all, especially disenfranchised people & people of color
- Village of Catskill's heritage/historic character
- Emphasis on overall affordability
- Environmental sustainability
- Main Street revitalization

Catskill DRI Draft Vision: Summary of Input



Catskill DRI Draft Vision: Specific Comments

History

- Small town historical character
- Celebrate the history of Catskill
- Catskill will continue to..."honor local heritage and thoughtfully grow into..." a more dynamic place to live, work and visit...

Recreation & Activities

- River, creek, mountains access
- Spaces to PLAY together
- I would like to see a community center for the youth of our village
- Skatepark
- Pool

Inclusivity & Equity

- Inclusive and equitable
- Culture of care/caring community
- Culturally inclusive
- Social support
- Create opportunity
- Opportunities for disenfranchised populations
- No more displacement of the folks of color
- Access for all people
- Make sure decisions live up to "all income levels & backgrounds"
- This is a caring community. Whether it stays (or is) affordable remains to be seen

Environmental Sustainability

- Sustainability or environmentally sustainable growth
- Sustainable for whom?
- Environmental stewardship

Affordability

- Affordable and sustainable
- Yes to all this, plus we need to attract businesses and residents who can contribute to the tax base
- Definitely agree. Emphasis on affordable. Not just housing but affordable or free things to do solo or with a family!
- This is a caring community. Whether it stays (or is) affordable remains to be seen

Catskill DRI Area Strengths: Summary of Input



What Do You Feel Attracts Residents and Visitors to the DRI Area?

- Arts, history and cultural attractions
- Scenic beauty (river, mountains, views)
- Creative, friendly, authentic community
- Strong community building
- Recreation options (creek and river)
- Compact, walkable Main Street
- Small local businesses

Catskill DRI Area Strengths: Summary of Input



Catskill DRI Area Strengths: Specific Comments

Arts, History, Culture

- The Thomas Cole House and historic sites
- Myth of Rip Van Winkle
- Upstate Films revamp of Community Theater
- Music at the river
- Arts community
- Recognizing historic sites
- Farmers Market
- The Library

Scenic Setting/Nature

- Hudson River & Catskill Creek
- Views
- Catskill Mountains
- Natural beauty
- Hudson River Skywalk
- Proximity to Catskill Mountains

Unique Community

- Creative, diverse, intimate
- People are attracted to authenticity
- Common goal of community building
- Community interaction
- Arts community
- Friendly people
- 30+ volunteer organizations
- Infectious, hopeful vibes from dedicated local community

Misc.

- Access to Amtrak, 87 and skiing
- Vacant movie theater

Recreation

- Swimming (pool & in the creek with lessons with diving board)
- Boat launch
- Dutchman's Landing

Small Businesses

- Small local businesses
- Local artisanal food/goods
- Merchant partnerships
- Community events at businesses

Main Street Character

- Downtown
- Sidewalks and walkability
- Small town vibe and feel



Catskill DRI Area

Where do you spend time in downtown Catskill?

Creek

- On the creek fishing
- Riverfront and creekfront

Arts/Culture/ Event Venues

- Farmers Market
- Dancing/concerts at Avalon
- Arts events
- Enjoying the Sunday market
- Public art projects – many places have murals welcoming all
- First Fridays

Other Places

- Aerobics at the Hudson Riverfront
Would love to have it in Catskill
- Midtown Kingston

Community Orgs.

- Library!
- Little libraries
- Catskill Youth Clubhouse

Restaurants/Bars

- Hemlock
- Left Bank (Soup Night/Events)
- Return Brewing
- Chocolate Shoppe!
- Ice cream at Cone E
- Dinner at various places
- On Main Street having a smash burger at Hemlock

Parks/Outdoors

- Pocket parks
- Sidewalks walking my dog
- Walking over the bridge
- The Pointe
- Skywalk
- Black Bridge / Chilling on Black Bridge
- Sunset at municipal parking lot (could be better)
- Dog park
- Biking along West Main

Shopping/Retail

- Shopping



Catskill DRI Area Challenges: Summary of Input



What specific issues need to be addressed in the downtown area?

- Housing affordability
- Pedestrian safety: bridges, sidewalks, crossings and connections
- Public transport options
- Public creek access
- Lack of local jobs
- Lack of youth activities (community center)
- Overall affordability and social supports
- Need more retail and local businesses
- Need for cooperation among organizations
- Environmental quality (water, trees)

Catskill DRI Area Challenges: Summary of Input



Catskill DRI Area Challenges: Specific Comments

Safe Streets & Transit

- Public transport (ferry, bus, train, rideshare)
- Branding and signage
- Inaccessible, dangerous sidewalks & pathways
- Sidewalks don't connect to park and trails
- Improve walkability & pedestrian corridors (the slides need help)
- Bridge is not pedestrian friendly
- Pedestrian safety, school kids, West Main and West Bridge, Water Street and Bridge
- Walking across the bridge to West Main Street feels dangerous
- Connection of West Bridge and Main not pedestrian friendly
- 9W crossing on Main Street
- Too many parking lots

Housing

- Housing!!!
- Housing cost
- Affordable housing
- Accessibility
- Workforce Housing

Recreation/Youth Activities

- Public creek access – swimming
- Pool
- Substantive, perennial and year-round activities over tourism
- More activities for kids
- Community center (something for children to do; an actual real community center, not a spa; historically unable to support a community center)

Employment

- Local lack of employment opportunities
- Workplaces
- How will projects retain workers in community over transplanted money?
- Not enough stable jobs

Affordability

- Affordable and sustainable village
- Lack of affordability
- Affordable business rentals
- Services for low-income folks (e.g., laundromat)
- Affordable housing

Catskill DRI Area Challenges: Specific Comments

Social Supports/Services

- More social supports and community spaces
- Services for low-income folks (e.g., laundromat)
- More adult education workshops

Cooperative Planning

- Lack of cooperative planning among non-profits (turf issues)
- Many civic organizations that need to work together
- Divisions

Environmental

- Water quality
- Water resilience
- Public support for trees (also a strength!)

Small Bus/Retail

- We don't have a hotel! Or bed and breakfast
- Year-round markets for healthy groceries
- Having more restaurants
- Include West Bridge St. businesses in the boundary
- Folks need a reason to come from 9W to our Main Street
- Small and independent business needs NOT millionaire assets

Misc.

- Hop O Nose residents should be reached out to directly
- Impending gentrification
- Few people owning and monopolize downtown and property
- Median age of people
- Blurring lines between Village and Town
- Foreland
- History
- A crafted experiential community, not a hollow aesthetic



Catskill DRI Workshop #1: OPPORTUNITIES



Catskill DRI Opportunities: Summary of Input



What would improve Catskill's Main Street/DRI Area experience?

- **Safe, accessible multi-modal streets:**
 - Pedestrian safety: Accessible & connected sidewalks
 - Creekside trail
 - Bike lanes/paths & bike racks
 - Better public transit (bus, shuttle)
 - Expanded parking
- **Waterfront** use and creek access, park, trails & public kayak/canoe rental
- Expanded **recreation** options (pool, skatepark, youth activities)
- **Main St. and streetscape improvements** (façades, lighting, vacancies, seating, murals/art, trees, infrastructure upgrades, restrooms)
- **Wayfinding signage and branding** (e.g., community kiosk, general wayfinding, branding with art themes, parking signage, trail signage)
- **Entertainment/events** (music, theater)
- New and renovated **housing** (e.g., mixed-use, replace fire-damaged homes with higher-density apartments)
- Use and reuse of **vacant buildings** in DRI Area
- Increased range of **community services and supports** (e.g., skill share spaces, adult education, home for Food Pantry, diverse representation, After School Program, etc.)

Catskill DRI Opportunities: Summary of Input



Catskill DRI Opportunities: Specific Comments

Safe, Accessible Multi-Modal Streets

PEDESTRIANS

- Pedestrian safety
- Pedestrian corridors
- Pedestrian friendly streets
- Incorporate bluestone in the new sidewalks
- Safe sidewalks
- Walkable streets – “walking village”
- Wheelchair friendly sidewalks and accessibility to businesses
- More creekside trails/connected walkways
- More sidewalk seating
- Fix the trail between Dutchman’s Landing and Prospect
- Black Bridge – Signage about train
- Turn blinking light on 9W into a pedestrian friendly cross light

CYCLISTS

- Bike infrastructure
- Bike lanes/path and racks
- Bike-friendly streets

PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Public transit infrastructure
- Better public transportation
- Bus stop and route to shopping
- Bus stop signage
- Shuttle
- Transportation to shopping and Hudson
- Gateway to Hunter and skiing – maintain shuttle good for locals and attract visitors in winter
- Consider multi-modal transportation, not just cars (only have one bike rack)

PARKING

- Free, plentiful parking
- Parking access for library
- Parking lot signage
- Put a municipal parking sign up for after school hours and weekends at the High School parking lot entrance on West Bridge St. for businesses
- The small businesses and residents on West Bridge St. would benefit greatly from increased parking, specifically between the creek and 9W

Wayfinding/Branding

- Consistent village-wide signage, general wayfinding and branding, detailed/accurate Farmers Market signage throughout Main Street
- Can you include West Bridge Street businesses in signage around town (like in Troy)?
- A giant physical community board for flyers, events, maps, business cards (with roof)
- Art murals
- Lean into cat theme
- Parking lot signage
- Walking trail signage
- Black Bridge – Signage about train
- Maps

Catskill DRI Opportunities: Specific Comments

Recreation/Activities

- Public kayak/canoe rental program (get people on the water!)
- Kayak launch
- More creekside trails/connected walkways
- Creek access
- More activities for kids, parents, and seniors
- Bridge walk
- Swimming pool in the creek with lessons with diving board
- Pool/Community pool
- Campground near the town
- Use our beautiful waterfront
- Waterfront park and paths
- Skate park
- Park
- Outdoor recreation opportunities (fitness classes)
- Fence in Park for Paws

Entertainment/Events

- More music
- Jazz club
- Live music venue (large event space)
- Live theater
- Open community events outdoors (exercise, art, music)
- Outdoor recreation opportunities (concerts, movies)
- Close streets for First Fridays
- Close streets and promote First Fridays; add seating in street

Public Art

- Art murals by local artists
- Art walls
- Cat art along Main Street and beyond

Main St/Streetscape

- Preserve Catskill history – restore historical integrity of Main Street
- Façade renovations on Main Street
- Healthy, happy trees
- More trees
- Vintage lamp posts and less light pollution / Dark sky lighting
- Put recycling bins with the trash on Main Street
- Updating supporting infrastructure (roads, lights, banners, sidewalks, underground wires)
- Public restrooms
- Benches / Park benches / Seating along the creek facing the water / Waterfront benches

Catskill DRI Opportunities: Specific Comments

Community Support & Services

- Skill share spaces
- More adult education opportunities
- More diverse representation
- Clean, accessible and permanent home for the Food Pantry
- Have a comment or idea box outside local businesses and Town offices for 24-hour public use
- Engaged community
- After School Programs
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- CSA & Catskill Agrarian Alliance
- Catskill PD “Beat Cop”

Use of New/Vacant Buildings

- Empty storefronts
- Make the Lumberyard something (with other buildings)
- I would like to see something happen to the abandoned Cat Hotel and eyesore on Main Street
- Vacant movie theater
- Fire damaged houses can be replaced with 1-2 room apartments

Housing

- Build more housing
- Fix abandoned housing
- Housing with designated off-street parking
- Housing for all
- Mixed-use housing

Misc

- Brickmaking – Get old Catskill bricks from water project – Build small patio by High School
- More job opportunities (structured, 40 hours)
- More bathrooms/shower at Dutchman’s Landing
- More sit-down restaurants
- Indian restaurant
- Maintain/Educate people about the riot history of Catskill