

# Building Walkable Communities in the North Country

—

Jefferson Co, NY  
Sep. 2006



Mark Fenton; [mark.fenton@verizon.net](mailto:mark.fenton@verizon.net)

[Mark.Fenton@verizon.net](mailto:Mark.Fenton@verizon.net)



# Your region's future:



## Which will it be?

[Mark.Fenton@verizon.net](mailto:Mark.Fenton@verizon.net)



# The future of your cities & towns:



Which  
will it be?



**Your children's  
future.**



**Which  
will it be?**



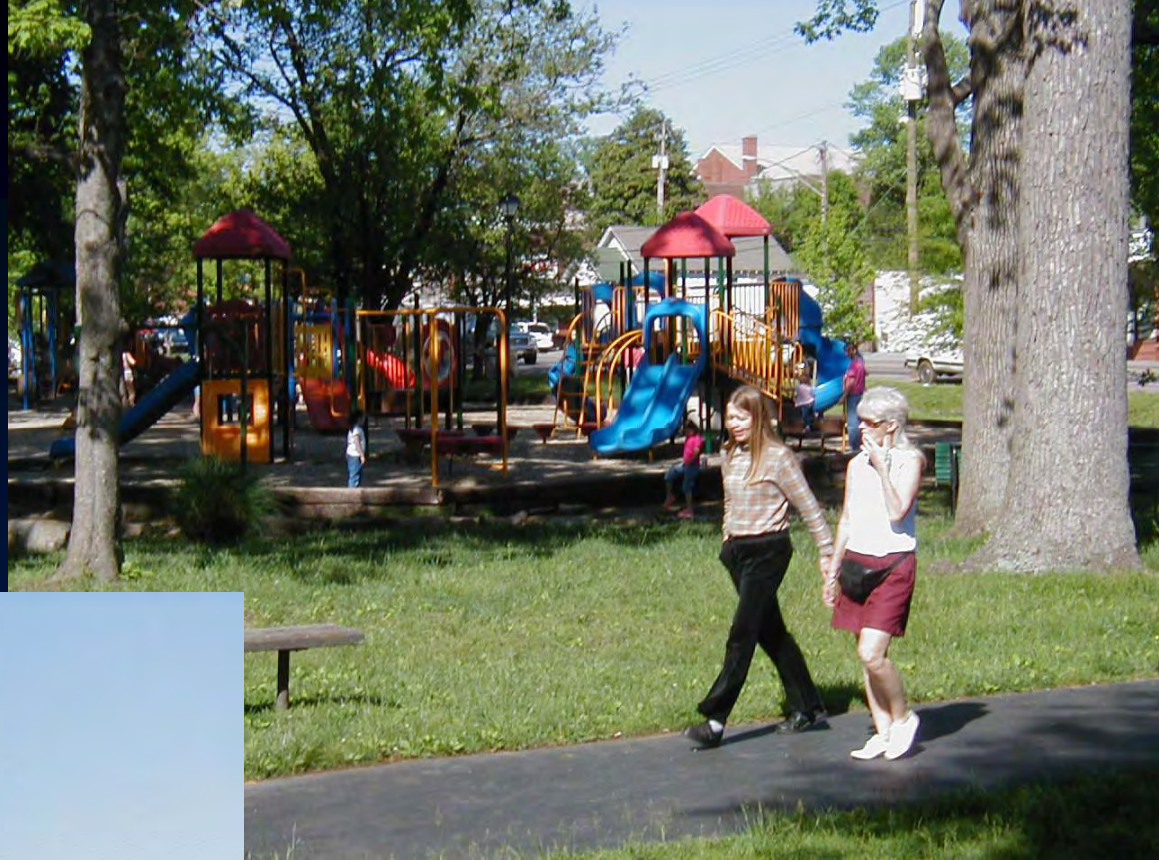


**Are they at risk . . . ?**





**Where will  
they play?**



**Which  
will it be?**



# Your area's economic future:



## Which will it be?

# Long or short term decisions:



Which  
will it be?











**The safety  
of your  
residents:**



**Which  
will it be?**

**Mark.Fenton@verizon.net**





**Massey (Holcomb?) & Coffeen Streets**





# The “Toxic” Environment?



Court St.  
bridge









**My somewhat  
*unique*  
perspective . . .**







# Surgeon General's 1996 Physical Activity & Health Recommendation



- 30 minutes of activity.
- Most days of the week.
- Can be broken up.
- Reduced risk for CVD, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, dementia & depression, a growing list of cancers.



**Which kind of infrastructure will be in demand?**





# Walkable Community Workshop

## agenda:

- **Vision.** Your wish for this area 10 years from now.
- **Listen.** Presentation of the tools and language.
- **Walk.** See real issues.
- **Work.** Group problem solving using **programs, projects, & policies.**
- **Plan.** Commitments, next steps.





# Walkable Community Workshop Invitation List

- Concerned citizens (elderly, parents, children).
- Professionals: public works, police, fire, health, planners, engineers, schools, historical, conservation.
- Elected officials and staff.
- Advocates: Environment, safety, social justice.
- Businesses, chamber of commerce, economic development.
- Developers, builders, land owners, realtors.





# On your index card write 3 things:

- **Your Vision – One-sentence that describes at least one aspect of a successful community 10 years from now. What will make it great to be here?**
- **Your name & organization.**
- **Your contact information (phone, email).**



# 1. Intros and Visions

- **Connect the visions.** Connect people.
- **Crystallize & clarify.** Help focus them on major themes.
- **Write it down.** Reference it all day.
- **Plant the closing challenge early:**  
*What will you do tomorrow?*



# USA Today Mar. 2005

## Oil drilling in Alaska Nat'l Wildlife Refuge.

INSIDE: GM  
profits  
plummet . . .

“Obesity threatens  
life expectancy.”

**USA TODAY**  
NO. 1 IN THE U.S.A.

**PlayStation toggles game wars**  
Shores stock up, 10  
Standing games, 70  
Review: 58

**Hoop hopes rise, fall today**  
■ Previews of first 16 games, 4C  
■ Washington is surprise No. 1 seed, 3C  
■ Men's bracket, 7C ■ Women's bracket, 9C

**Wolfowitz to World Bank**  
Bush picks  
Defense deputy  
to be head of  
development  
bank ■ 13A

**Vote sets stage for drilling in refuge**  
Senate Democrats  
say fight isn't over

**Two years later**  
Daily life  
after Saddam

**Families' lives measure pace of progress in Iraq**

**The al-Tajids**  
Three generations  
optimistic for future  
but cautious for now

**The Muhalsens**  
Life looks neither  
better nor worse  
from squatter's shack

**The al-Zubaidis**  
Clan turns shame  
into honor, fear  
into anticipation

**Historic day**  
■ Assembly  
meets, 14A

**Cover story**

**Obesity threatens life expectancy**

**Disputed study says young could lose 2 to 5 years**

**Gaining weight**  
Child average weight  
by age

Age	Weight (lb)
10-year-old girl	77.4
10-year-old boy	74.2

**Oil sets record**  
■ Hits \$56.46  
per barrel, 1B



# The “Toxic” Environment?



# So what seems to matter?

- Land use mix.
- Network of bike & pedestrian facilities.
- Site design and details.
- Safety.





# What *really* seems to matter:

- Destinations within walk & bike distance?
- Sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, crossings?
- Inviting settings for bikes & pedestrians?
- Is it safe?



**Land use mix.**



**Schools,  
parks in  
town.**



**Smaller lot  
sizes.**

**Accessory  
dwellings.**



**Mixed use, multi-family.**





# A land use remedy: smart zoning.

Mixed use:  
keep retail,  
residential,  
commercial,  
schools,  
recreation  
close  
together.



**Retail on the first  
floor; offices,  
housing on upper  
floors.**



**1900's**



**2000's**







# Network? Research says more walking if:

- Presence of sidewalks, paths.
- Shorter blocks, more frequent intersections.
- Access to trail, park, greenway.





# Comfortable pedestrians? Drivers?



How far back?







# Bicycle network options:





# Bicycle Lane Design Guide.

[www.pedbikeinfo.org](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org)



**5 ft., wider if along hard barrier, parked cars.**







**Bikes on  
busses (ideal  
w/ college  
students).**





# Bus arrival information (Arlington, VA)





# Improving crossing safety.





**Median  
islands.**



**Curb  
extensions.**

