



VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

PREPARED BY THE
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE

DRAFT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
BACKGROUND & PURPOSE	3
STRATEGIC CONTEXT	4
CAPITAL PROJECT SELECTION	5
CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS	6
PROJECT PROFILE OVERVIEW	7
PIPELINE PROJECTS	8
FUNDING STRATEGY	9
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	10
CONCLUSION	11
APPENDIX	12

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PREFACE

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TASK FORCE

The Village of Saranac Lake owns and maintains over \$40 million in capital assets—including buildings, parks, equipment, streets, and stormwater, water, and sewer infrastructure—all of which require routine upgrades and replacement. The Village must also plan for future infrastructure needs to support long-term sustainability and growth.

Recognizing the need for a structured, transparent approach to infrastructure investment, the Board of Trustees established the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Task Force by resolution on March 11, 2024. The Task Force was charged with integrating existing capital project plans and evaluating potential new projects within a comprehensive framework that balances investment in both existing assets and future needs. It was also tasked with implementing a community engagement strategy.

[See Appendix: Community Engagement Strategy and Results]

Working with Municipal Solutions, Inc., the Task Force developed this Capital Improvement Plan. Upon adoption by the Village Board of Trustees, the CIP will serve as a strategic guide for infrastructure investment—supporting fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and alignment with community priorities.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a structured framework for aligning the Village of Saranac Lake's capital investments with its long-term goals for economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and public service delivery. The CIP serves as both an internal planning tool for budgeting and project coordination, and as a public document to communicate priorities to residents, funding partners, and regulatory agencies.

The Plan identifies 18 high-priority caprojects, totaling approximately \$115 million in identified needs, covering water and sewer systems, streets, parks, and public facilities.

Key Objectives:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Ensure projects directly support adopted plans, policies, and community goals.
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** Invest in maintenance, upgrades, and critical infrastructure improvements.
- **Community Investment:** Enhance parks, waterfront access, recreational facilities, and public safety.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Employ fiscally sound funding strategies for all capital projects.

The CIP is a living document, to be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing needs, project status, and funding opportunities. Upon adoption, it will guide capital budgeting and project development, providing Village leaders, staff, and the public with a clear understanding of project priorities, funding strategies, and implementation timelines.



BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Village of Saranac Lake owns and maintains over \$40 million in capital assets, including public buildings, parks, equipment, streets, and water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. Many of these assets are aging and require systematic upgrades or replacement. The Village also needs to plan for new infrastructure investments to ensure long-term sustainability.

To address this, the Village Board of Trustees established a Capital Improvement Plan Task Force on March 11, 2024, charged with creating a comprehensive plan that consolidates existing project lists, collects new project ideas, and prioritizes investments within a single framework.

Throughout 2024 and the first half of 2025, the Task Force worked with Municipal Solutions, Inc. to gather infrastructure data, review over two dozen adopted Village plans and studies, and solicit input from residents and stakeholders. This process resulted in the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, which links long-range community goals with practical budgeting and project implementation strategies.

The CIP is designed as a multi-year financial planning tool—not a one-time report. It supports forward-looking decision-making by helping the Village:

- **Forecast capital needs**
- **Anticipate required funding**
- **Coordinate across departments**
- **Avoid unexpected infrastructure failures & emergency expenditures**

The CIP provides internal stakeholders (Board, management, department heads) and external partners (funders, regulators, community members) with a clear, organized approach to capital investment planning.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Effective capital planning begins with a clear understanding of the assets the Village owns and the infrastructure needs that must be addressed. The Village's capital portfolio includes:

- **Transportation Infrastructure:** Approximately 28 miles of Village-maintained streets, along with sidewalks, trails, bridges, and parking facilities, all essential for pedestrian and vehicular mobility.
- **Water Supply and Wastewater Systems:** A complex network of water sources, treatment facilities, distribution mains, sewer lines, pump stations, and a wastewater treatment plant. Portions of these systems are several decades old and require significant reinvestment to maintain service reliability and regulatory compliance.
- **Public Buildings and Facilities:** Includes administrative offices, police and fire stations, the DPW garage, and other operational buildings. These facilities require periodic upgrades to remain functional, efficient, and code-compliant.
- **Parks, Waterfronts, and Recreation Amenities:** Community assets such as playgrounds, riverwalks, parks, and waterfront access points support quality of life and tourism. These assets require ongoing investment for maintenance, accessibility, and modernization.

Capital Project Threshold:

For the purposes of this plan, capital projects are defined as investments with an estimated cost of \$50,000 or more. This threshold helps distinguish large, strategic projects from routine maintenance and ensures that the CIP focuses on investments requiring dedicated financial planning, cross-departmental coordination, and potential outside funding.



CAPITAL PROJECT SELECTION

The CIP was developed with a focus on strategic alignment with the Village's adopted plans and policies. The Village has a strong foundation of community planning, including the Comprehensive Plan (2013), Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2013), Arts and Culture Plan (2018) and Downtown Strategic Investment Plan (2018), among others. In total, over 20 adopted plans and studies were reviewed during the CIP process.

Only projects documented in an adopted plan or policy—and sufficiently defined for evaluation—were advanced for scoring and prioritization.

This approach ensures that the CIP reflects established community goals and that investments are grounded in prior planning and public input. In effect, the CIP operationalizes these plans by translating them into prioritized, actionable projects.

In addition to aligning with adopted plans, projects are expected to meet applicable Village policies and initiatives. These include standards such as the Complete Streets Policy for multi-modal access, and requirements set by the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for water quality, shoreline protection, and public access. Other policy considerations incorporated during project design include:

- Green infrastructure and stormwater management
- Flood resilience (e.g., design for 100-year flood conditions)
- Public art integration
- Renewable energy use and energy efficiency
- Accessibility and recreation programming

These checkpoints help ensure each capital project advances not only infrastructure goals but also community priorities related to sustainability, safety, and public benefit.

[See Appendix: Policies and Initiatives Checklist]



PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The Village required a consistent, objective method for determining project priority. The Task Force developed a Project Prioritization Matrix as a decision-making tool, ranking projects based on the following criteria:

1. **Strategic Alignment:** Alignment with the Village’s strategic goals and adopted plans.
2. **Operating Budget Impact:** Impact on the Village’s operating budget, including maintenance, staffing, or financing costs.
3. **Financing Leverage:** Degree of external funding available and timing considerations.
4. **Risk Reduction and Asset Condition:** The extent to which a project mitigates significant risks to public safety or addresses critical asset deterioration.
5. **Legal or Regulatory Mandates:** Compliance with laws, regulations, or consent orders.
6. **Economic Impact:** Potential to stimulate economic activity, support businesses, create jobs, or expand the tax base.
7. **Community Impact:** Social or cultural benefits, including improvements to quality of life, community facilities, or accessibility.

Each criterion was assigned a score, with total scores calculated out of 100. This system allowed projects of different types to be compared consistently. The scoring process was iterative and adjusted based on feedback and information available. The Prioritization Matrix served as a structured tool—supplemented by professional judgment and community input—to finalize project rankings.

The Prioritization Matrix reinforces a disciplined, objective approach to capital budgeting—ensuring that limited funds are directed to the projects with the greatest combined benefit, risk reduction, and strategic value.

[See Appendix: Prioritization Matrix]



PROJECT PROFILE OVERVIEW

The heart of the Capital Improvement Plan is the portfolio of projects that the Village of Saranac Lake intends to undertake or initiate.

As noted, the CIP Task Force identified and scored 18 priority projects over the \$50,000 threshold, that met the criteria of being defined, needed, and aligned with adopted plans.

These projects span all major sectors of Village infrastructure, reflecting a holistic approach to community improvement.

Collectively, they address critical maintenance, compliance mandates, and opportunities for enhancement that will shape the Village's future.

Each project is described in the appendices (with scope, justification, cost estimates, and funding considerations), but a narrative summary of the portfolio is provided here to illustrate how these investments advance Saranac Lake's strategic goals.

The key point is that the CIP provides a structure to capture all identified facility needs, prioritize them, and coordinate them with each other.

[See Appendix: Projects List]

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PROJECTS SCORED

A number of high-priority projects focus on Saranac Lake's streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities – the backbone of daily life and commerce.

For example, the **Dorsey Street Parking Lot Redevelopment** is among the top-ranked projects. This project will redesign and resurface the central Dorsey parking lot to improve its functionality and safety. Upgrades include defined pedestrian walkways and raised curbs, a new bus stop to support public transit, and bioswales for stormwater management to reduce runoff into the Riverwalk. By creating a safer, more attractive parking area and a better connection between the downtown business district and the Saranac River waterfront, this project addresses both transportation and economic development goals.

Another flagship initiative is the **Village-wide Sidewalk Improvement Project**. This is conceived as a multi-year effort (approximately \$2 million total) to systematically replace or install sidewalks in high-priority areas. Guided by a prior engineering study (the 2012 Northwoods Engineering Sidewalk Inventory) and an upcoming updated inventory, the program targets corridors with deteriorated or missing sidewalks – for instance, sections of Shepard Avenue, Pine Street, and other pedestrian routes identified as gaps. The project will not only reconstruct sidewalks to be ADA-compliant and safe, but also add features like crosswalk improvements and curbing where needed. The community's strong support for walkability directly influenced the prominence of this project in the CIP.

Similarly, **Woodruff Street Corridor Improvements** will redesign a key downtown street to better accommodate bikes and pedestrians, creating a more inviting multimodal link through the village core. And on neighborhood streets like Church Street, planned improvements will add crosswalks, traffic calming, and streetscape enhancements to improve safety and quality of life for residents.

Together, these transportation projects aim to make Saranac Lake a safer, more connected community while supporting economic activity (attractive streets and sidewalks encourage visitors and shoppers).

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PROJECTS SCORED

Several of the most significant (and costly) CIP projects are those addressing the Village's water and wastewater systems, which are essential services with direct impact on public health, environmental quality, and future development potential.

The **Water Source and Distribution Project** is a comprehensive initiative to secure Saranac Lake's future water. This project, estimated at over \$22 million, includes evaluating and potentially developing a new surface water source to diversify supply, as one of the Village's existing wells has experienced water quality issues (high iron levels) and cannot reliably meet peak demand on its own. It also involves replacing aging water mains in problem areas – for example, along Lake Flower Avenue where old pipes and valves are prone to breaks – and upgrading the distribution system for better pressure and fire flow. By investing in this project, the Village intends to ensure a safe, abundant water supply for decades to come, while reducing the risk of discolored water and service disruptions. Notably, a detailed engineering plan for water system improvements was completed in 2024 by consultants (Suozzo, Doty & Associates), providing a roadmap that this CIP now moves toward implementation. The high priority of this project reflects both its alignment with regulatory requirements (clean water standards) and community priorities (clean, reliable drinking water was a top concern in public input).

On the wastewater side, the **Sewer Collection and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrades Project** represents one of the largest capital undertakings in the plan. Initially projected at \$34 million, this project's cost was revised to approximately \$49 million in early 2025 to leverage federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The scope encompasses comprehensive improvements to the sewage collection system – repairing or replacing deteriorated sewer mains that are leaky or over capacity – as well as major upgrades at the WWTP to ensure it meets modern treatment standards and can handle future flows. Portions of this investment are expected to be offset by grants or low-interest loans (e.g. through the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and FEMA), given the critical environmental importance of preventing sewer overflows and protecting water quality. In tandem, a related project addresses a particularly vulnerable segment of the sewer system known as the **"Swamp Line" trunk sewer**. This line runs through difficult terrain, has limited access, and is at high risk of failure. The project (which has secured FEMA hazard mitigation funding) will replace and flood-proof that sewer trunk, in two phases: an immediate repair phase followed by a major reconstruction and infiltration prevention phase. Completing the Swamp Line repair will significantly reduce the Village's exposure to sewer overflows and environmental hazards in that area.

PROJECTS SCORED

Enhancing community recreation opportunities and waterfront access is another major theme of the CIP. Saranac Lake's natural setting is one of its greatest assets, and the plan invests in making the most of these spaces for residents and visitors alike.

For example, **Baldwin Park Improvements** will transform a small gateway park into a more welcoming and usable space. The project includes clearing overgrown areas to open up beautiful water views, installing interpretive signage about local history/ecology, improving parking and pathways, and adding amenities like benches, bike racks, and landscaping. The goal is to create an inviting spot that draws people to the waterfront and provides a pleasant stop for those entering downtown, thus also supporting economic activity in the village.

Likewise, **Riverside Park Upgrades** are identified for the Village's signature downtown park on Lake Flower. This project will add ADA-accessible features and a modern bandshell for performances, upgrade landscaping, and potentially relocate or improve seasonal facilities (like restrooms) to better serve events and daily use. A new bandshell, in particular, will bolster Saranac Lake's ability to host outdoor concerts and community events, enhancing cultural life downtown.

Garwood Park, a neighborhood park, is slated for new playground equipment, fencing repairs, and safety improvements, addressing both an ADA compliance goal and local family needs. **Prescott Park**, along Lake Flower's shoreline, will see shoreline vegetation restoration, a canoe/kayak launch, and defined spaces for seasonal activities like the Ice Palace in winter. These improvements not only provide recreation but also environmental benefits (erosion control, habitat enhancement).

All park and recreation projects were well-supported in public outreach (parks and waterfront projects garnered about 18% of support in the survey, reflecting high interest. By executing these projects, the Village will improve livability for residents, boost its appeal to tourists, and honor goals from plans like the Park Vision Plan and LWRP.

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PROJECTS SCORED

Ensuring that first responders and public servants have adequate facilities and equipment is another focus of the CIP.

One of the more complex and long-term endeavors in this realm is the proposed **Emergency Services Complex**. A proposed concept is to consolidate the Village's fire department, police department, and rescue squad into a single modern complex (proposed at 33 Petrova Avenue) that would streamline operations. The new facility would be purpose-built with proper bays for fire apparatus, up-to-date communications systems for dispatch, training spaces, and accommodations for both career and volunteer responders. Currently, the fire and rescue services operate out of cramped, aging buildings that are not optimally designed for today's demands. A combined complex could foster better coordination among emergency services and reduce redundant costs (through shared meeting rooms, backup generators, etc.). However, at an estimated cost of \$30 million, this project has a large potential impact on village taxpayers. Its score reflects factors such as the impact it would have on Village finances if locally funded, and the fact that the concept is still being refined. Community feedback revealed support for improved facilities but also significant concern about cost and location. For these reasons, while the Emergency Services Complex remains in the CIP as a recognized need, it is categorized differently from other projects – essentially as a placeholder for long-term planning, contingent on further analysis, potential cost reductions, and securing outside funding.

In the nearer term, the CIP addresses public safety needs in more incremental ways. For instance, the plan calls for **Fire Department Equipment Replacement** on a scheduled basis. The Village's Heavy Rescue truck, a critical piece of fire/rescue apparatus, is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The CIP funds a replacement of this vehicle by 2027, consistent with the Fire Department's practice of replacing major trucks every 20 years. Upgrading to a modern rescue truck will improve firefighter safety and emergency response capabilities (with updated extrication tools, breathing apparatus support, etc.), and it can be budgeted via a combination of reserve funds and financing to spread out the cost. Keeping equipment up to date is a cost-effective way to maintain service levels.

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PROJECTS SCORED

Another notable facilities project in the CIP is the **renovation of the historic 1-3 Main Street building** (also known as the “Power & Light” building).

This Village-owned property is an old electric generation building on the Saranac River, rich in history and potential. The CIP project allocates funds to restore the building’s hydroelectric generation capacity, alongside structural repairs and accessibility improvements. Essentially, the plan is to refurbish the turbine, penstock, and controls so that this facility can once again produce renewable power for the Village’s use. By doing so, Saranac Lake can offset municipal energy costs and showcase a sustainability initiative, all while preserving a unique historic asset.

This project scored moderately but offers a clear long-term payback and aligns with the Village’s Energy Master Plan (2022) goals for local renewable energy production.

It demonstrates the CIP’s creative approach to financially responsible projects – investing one-time capital to achieve ongoing cost savings and revenue generation (a theme also seen in smaller energy efficiency projects not detailed here).

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PIPELINE PROJECTS

In addition to the 18 priority projects that have been scored within the CIP, the Task Force is mindful of a variety of potential projects and ideas that are on the horizon but not yet ready for full inclusion in the CIP.

These pipeline projects are initiatives that may be important for Saranac Lake's future but lack complete definition, feasibility analysis, financial details, and/or official endorsement in an adopted plan as of now.

The CIP Task Force compiled a list of such ideas during its process, ensuring they remain visible for future consideration. They are not included in the current priority ranking and funding plan, but they form a living backlog of capital needs that the Village can develop and evaluate further over time.

By clearly distinguishing pipeline projects from the scored CIP projects, the Village achieves two things: (1) transparency that these ideas are on the table (so community members know they haven't been forgotten), and (2) a disciplined focus in the CIP on projects that are mature and actionable.

The Task Force recommends revisiting the project list and scores annually – as new information becomes available or as some of the pipeline ideas get fleshed out. New and revised projects can be developed into full project proposals, given a prioritization score using the same matrix, and added to the CIP proper.

In this way, the CIP process is continuous and adaptable: today's ideas can become tomorrow's funded projects, following planning, design, funding, and community vetting. This pipeline approach helps the Village stay prepared for future needs and signals to outside funding agencies what may be coming, even if not immediate.

[See Appendix: Pipeline List]

PIPELINE PROJECTS

Examples of pipeline ideas discussed by the Task Force are described below.

- **Expanded Recreation at Mt. Pisgah:** The Village's ski hill and recreation center at Mt. Pisgah has long-term potential for upgrades (such as improved lodge facilities, expanded trails, or year-round uses). While not in the immediate CIP, the Task Force noted that continued improvements at Mt. Pisgah could be pursued as separate recreation/tourism projects, possibly in partnership with private or regional entities, once a clear master plan for the site is developed.
- **Village Sand Pit Property Planning:** The Village owns a "sand pit" property whose future use is under consideration. One idea is to develop it for public works or other municipal purposes, or possibly for housing or recreation. The CIP defers this until a concrete plan or adopted policy defines the project, but it remains on the radar as an asset that could be put to better use. Once a direction is set (perhaps via a feasibility study or public input), a capital project could be formulated and added to the CIP in a future update.
- **Flood Response and Stormwater Mitigation Plan:** In light of increasing flood risks (as seen in recent years' heavy rain events), the Task Force floated the idea of a comprehensive Village flood resilience and response plan. This could lead to capital projects like floodwalls, pumping systems, or major drainage redesigns. At present, it's an idea pending more data (some flooding issues are being tackled by the sewer/stormwater projects already in the CIP), but it is identified as a potential future initiative, especially as climate data evolves.
- **Additional Downtown Parking or Structured Parking:** As the Village grows, parking needs downtown might exceed the capacity of surface lots like Dorsey. A concept for a future parking structure or additional parking capacity is noted as a pipeline project. This would require significant investment and partnerships, so additional parking is not yet in the plan, but monitoring downtown development will inform if/when this becomes a priority.
- **Other Facility and Infrastructure Ideas:** The ideas list also includes items like expansion of the Village water system to unserved areas, potential new bike/pedestrian trail linkages beyond those already planned, and technology upgrades (such as fiber-optic network expansion or smart city infrastructure). These are recognized needs or opportunities, but without defined scopes or funding, they remain in the idea stage.



FUNDING STRATEGY

The Village of Saranac Lake’s long-term capital funding strategy should be built on a balanced mix of local, state, federal, and private sources, with each funding approach tailored to the size, scope, and community impact of the project.

While the CIP includes estimated project costs and identifies potential funding sources, it is important to note that these estimates are based on publicly available data—some of which may be outdated or incomplete. Regular access to updated financial information, including detailed project scopes, cost estimates, and funding timelines, will be critical for future iterations of the CIP to support accurate forecasting, sound financial planning, and transparent decision-making.

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FUNDING STRATEGY

■ FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS & AID

Aggressively pursuing grant opportunities is central to the CIP funding approach.

Programs such as the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds, USDA Rural Development programs, and others are targeted to support eligible projects.

For example, the Sewer Trunk/Swamp Line project is already approved for FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant funding, and the Village will seek NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation grants/loans for the WWTP upgrades. Grant funding is money (often with a required local match), which can dramatically reduce local costs – the CIP prioritizes projects that align with grant criteria to maximize this benefit.

A dedicated effort will be made each year to apply for relevant grants as cycles open (e.g. NYS Consolidated Funding Application, federal infrastructure grants, transportation funding for sidewalks, etc.).

■ MUNICIPAL BONDS / DEBT FINANCING

For large-scale projects that cannot be fully grant-funded, the Village will use long-term borrowing (bonds) to spread capital costs over the useful life of the asset.

This approach ensures intergenerational equity—future users contribute to the cost—and helps stabilize annual budgets.

Bond financing decisions will be guided by the Village's debt management policies, with careful attention to: Existing debt service obligations, Statutory debt limits, Market conditions, Credit rating impacts, and Long-term budget capacity.

Projects with multi-decade benefits—such as Water System improvements and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades—are appropriate candidates for bond financing, particularly when paired with low-interest loans from programs like the State Revolving Fund. The timing of bond issuance will be coordinated with project construction schedules, ensuring that debt service begins only when necessary and remains within manageable limits. (For context, the Village's 2025 general fund operating budget is approximately \$7.2 million; new debt will be planned to avoid significant annual budget impacts.)

FUNDING STRATEGY

LOCAL CAPITAL RESERVES

Saranac Lake will continue to set aside funds annually in capital reserve accounts for recurring needs.

Smaller projects (generally those under a certain cost threshold, e.g. \$100,000–\$200,000) and routine equipment replacements can be financed directly from the annual budget or saved-for in advance, avoiding interest costs. The CIP identifies which projects could be good candidates for capital reserves.

For instance, the Village has been reserving money each year for fire truck replacement; by 2027, those reserves combined with a short-term lease or bank loan will cover the Heavy Rescue Truck purchase without a large single-year spike. Similarly, park improvements may be funded incrementally through the regular budget or with the help of donations and volunteer labor to stretch dollars.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND OTHER SOURCES

In select cases, the Village will explore public-private partnerships or developer contributions to advance projects.

If a private development benefits from a particular infrastructure improvement, cost-sharing arrangements (like sidewalk installation required of developers or joint grant applications with non-profits) will be pursued.

An example might be working with a housing developer to include infrastructure upgrades as part of a project. Additionally, some projects might tap into special revenue sources: for instance, if a parking district were created, fees could support a parking structure; or if tourism increases, occupancy tax revenue might help fund park amenities. While these are not guaranteed sources, the CIP remains open to leveraging any viable funding streams beyond the traditional tax base.

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NEXT STEPS

Once adopted, the CIP should serve as a decision-making tool for Village departments and the Board, guiding annual capital budget requests, aligning project timelines across departments, and ensuring coordinated infrastructure investments — such as sequencing utility upgrades with road reconstruction.

One of the guiding principles behind the CIP is to avoid sudden spikes in property tax or utility fees. To support this goal, the Task Force recommends phasing large capital projects and sequencing investments in a deliberate, manageable way.

For example, the Village’s estimated \$49 million sewer system improvement program will be broken into phases and pursued across multiple grant cycles, avoiding undue pressure on the Village’s budget in any single year. The CIP also provides flexibility: lower-priority projects can be deferred or rescheduled if fiscal conditions tighten, allowing the Village to focus resources on its most critical needs.

By planning multi-year funding strategies, the Village can forecast debt service obligations, manage cash flow, and align capital projects with the annual operating budget.

Best practices call for the CIP to be integrated into the Village’s annual budget process each year, the Board should review upcoming capital projects and formally appropriate funds for projects slated for the next fiscal year. In this way, the CIP serves as a rolling, multi-year capital budgeting framework that informs both capital investment decisions and their future operating cost impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Village's capital financial strategy should emphasize:

- Maximizing external funding sources (grants, partnerships)
- Strategically using debt for long-term assets
- Paying cash for smaller, short-life assets
- Phasing investments to align with what taxpayers and ratepayers can sustain annually

To ensure the plan remains relevant and actionable, the Task Force recommends an annual fall review of the CIP, including opportunities for public input, prior to the Village's budget season. During this review, staff should:

- Update project status and timelines
- Reassess project priorities using the Prioritization Matrix
- Consider adding new projects or removing completed ones

The first year of the CIP should establish the Village's annual Capital Budget, while the outer years provide a framework for longer-term capital planning. This rolling approach equips the Board to make informed decisions about advancing, phasing, or deferring projects based on a clear, strategic roadmap. The CIP should also be referenced in grant applications, bond issuances, and intergovernmental communications to demonstrate that projects are part of a larger, community-driven plan.

The CIP is intentionally designed to be adaptable. Should unforeseen challenges arise—such as critical infrastructure failures or shifts in funding availability—the Village can reprioritize projects using the same transparent criteria. Conversely, if new funding opportunities emerge, the Board can accelerate projects within the CIP framework.

Finally, the Task Force encourages the Village to continue refining the CIP process over time. This may include forming a permanent Capital Planning Committee, adopting improved project proposal tools, and comparing outcomes year-to-year to strengthen accountability and planning.



CONCLUSION

The Village of Saranac Lake's Capital Improvement Plan establishes a structured framework for identifying and prioritizing infrastructure investments. The CIP enhances the Village's competitiveness for state and federal funding by demonstrating project readiness, public engagement, and fiscal planning.

Each of the 18 prioritized projects was evaluated using a weighted matrix that considered alignment with adopted Village plans, regulatory compliance, community and economic impact, risk mitigation, and budget implications. Only projects with sufficient definition and justification were scored. Pipeline projects not yet ready for inclusion are documented for future consideration, ensuring the plan remains expandable and adaptive.

The CIP is intended for direct use in annual budgeting, grant applications, and interdepartmental coordination. The Task Force recommends that the Village Board use the first year of the CIP to select and fund specific capital projects as part of the annual Village budget. The remaining years of the CIP should be used as a planning tool to guide which projects are likely to be funded in future years. This allows the Board to make informed decisions about what to fund now, what to schedule for later, and how to coordinate timing across departments to avoid duplicated work and control costs.

By aligning capital spending with strategic community goals, leveraging diverse funding sources, and fostering transparent decision-making, the CIP strengthens the Village's fiscal sustainability and resilience. With annual reviews, public engagement, and ongoing coordination, this living plan will ensure that capital investments meet both current needs and future opportunities — safeguarding community assets and quality of life for generations to come.

APPENDIX

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY & RESULTS

The development of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2025-2030 was an effort designed to promote openness, gather valuable input, and align infrastructure investments with local priorities. The Village of Saranac Lake actively sought feedback from residents and stakeholders to inform capital project priorities and funding strategies.

The public engagement process was structured to:

- Educate the community on the importance of capital planning.
- Gather input on infrastructure needs and project priorities.
- Ensure transparency by involving residents in decision-making.
- Incorporate community values into project selection and prioritization.

Engagement Methods

To achieve these goals, the Task Force implemented a multi-faceted engagement strategy, which included:

1. Community Survey – A survey collected resident feedback on priority capital projects, concerns, and funding preferences. Key findings included strong support for sidewalk and road improvements, water and sewer system upgrades, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. (28 responses collected).
2. Public Open Houses – Two interactive open-house events allowed residents to engage with Task Force members, provide feedback on project lists, and weigh in on project ranking criteria.
3. Village Board Presentation – A formal presentation of the draft CIP was held during a regularly scheduled Village Board meeting.

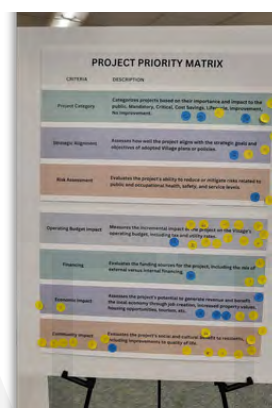
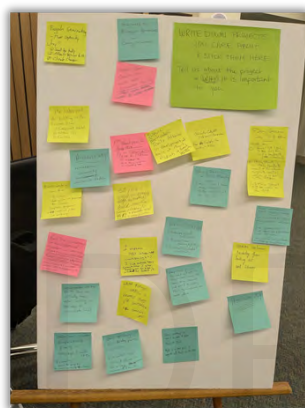


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY & RESULTS

Results & Key Takeaways

Community engagement efforts highlighted several priority areas that residents felt strongly about:

- **Sidewalk and Road Improvements:** Residents emphasized the need for comprehensive sidewalk and street repairs, particularly on Cedar Street, Park Avenue, Kiwassa Road, and Algonquin Apartments to Lake Street.
- **Water and Sewer System Upgrades:** Participants stressed the importance of upgrading aging infrastructure to prevent costly failures, improve water quality, and enhance stormwater management. Issues along Cedar Street, Crossfield Avenue, and near the Best Western on Rt. 86 were specifically identified.
- **Parks and Recreation Enhancements:** Public feedback strongly supported improvements to Garwood Park (ADA compliance, fencing repairs), Prescott Park, and waterfront access projects.
- **Public Safety Facilities:** While there was consensus that police, fire, and EMS need facility upgrades, significant community debate emerged around location, cost, and scope of the proposed Emergency Services Complex. Many residents advocated for renovating existing buildings or repurposing the Armory site.
- **Green Infrastructure & Flood Prevention:** Several community members called for enhanced flood mitigation efforts downtown, shoreline stabilization on Lake Flower Avenue, and strategies to reduce stormwater runoff impacts.
- **Public Transportation & Accessibility:** Rail trail connectors, improved pedestrian crossings, and ADA accessibility at key locations were among the most frequently mentioned concerns.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY & RESULTS

Incorporating Public Input into the Final Plan

The feedback received from residents directly influenced the final Capital Improvement Plan by:

- Refining Project Prioritization – The prioritization matrix was adjusted to place greater weight on community impact and economic benefit, in response to survey feedback.
- Adding Key Projects – Several new projects identified through public input—including rail trail connectors, ADA accessibility improvements, sidewalk expansions, and stormwater drainage fixes—were incorporated into the final plan.
- Adjusting Funding Strategies – Based on concerns about affordability, the plan placed greater emphasis on securing grants and utilizing phased implementation strategies to reduce financial strain on taxpayers.
- Enhancing Public Engagement – The Task Force recommended the Board commit to an annual review and public engagement to maintain community involvement beyond plan adoption.



VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE
CAPITAL improvement plan

Capital Improvement Plan Survey

The Village of Saranac Lake is creating a 7-year Capital Improvement Plan to guide investments in our community's buildings, parks, streets, water and sewer systems, and more. We want your input!

This quick survey gives you the chance to tell us:

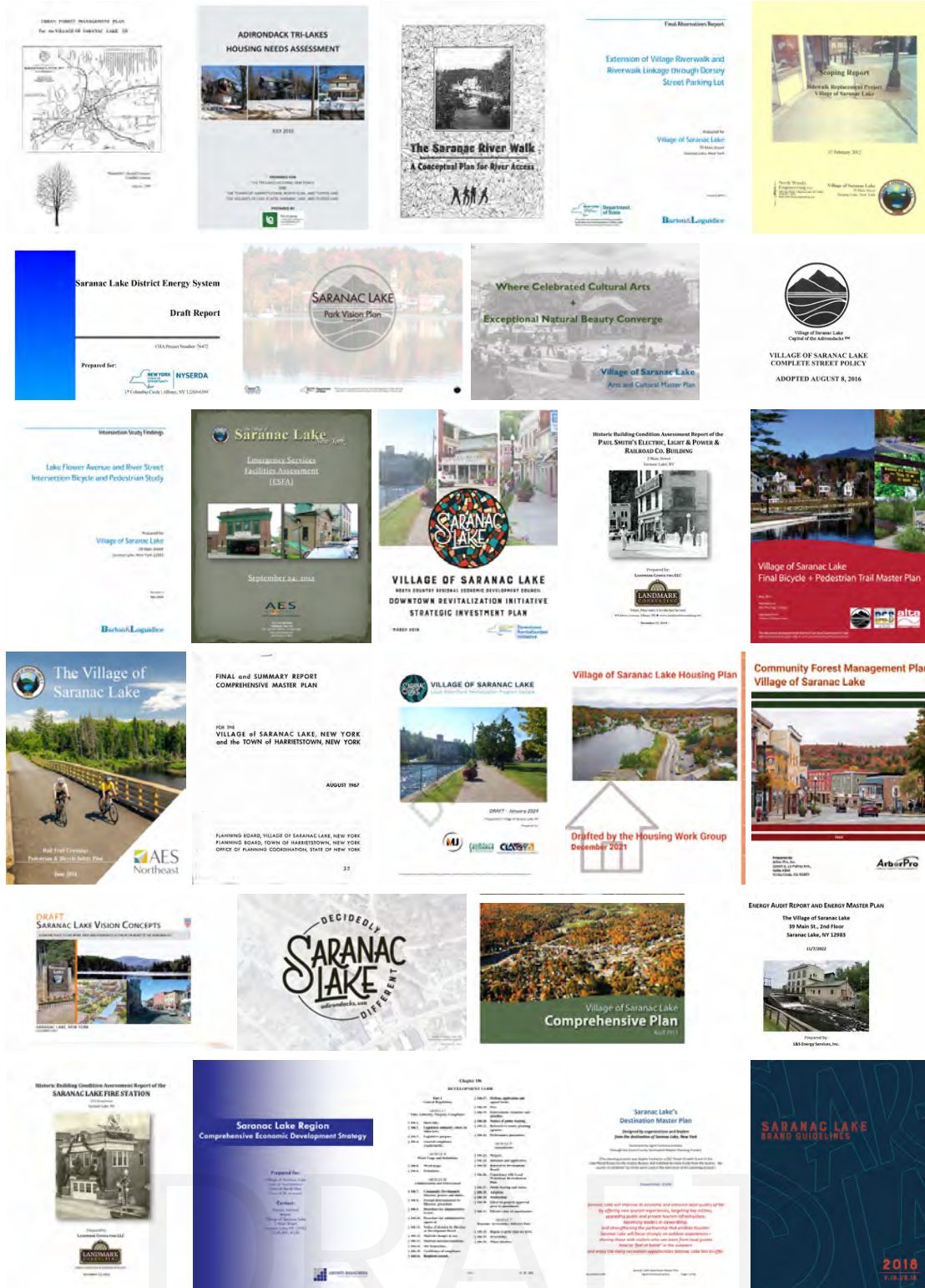
- What projects you think are **most important** for the Village to complete
- Why those projects matter to you
- Any feedback on projects the Village should **not** prioritize

Take the survey!
Scan the QR code or visit
<https://forms.office.com/r/ar2Mp87B3a>
Deadline: October 31st

ADOPTED PLANS, POLICIES, & STUDIES

5 Main Street Historic Assessment	2018
100 Broadway Historic Assessment	2022
Arts and Cultural Master Plan	2018
Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Plan	2013
Brand Guidelines	2018
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	2008
Comprehensive Plan	2013
Destination Master Plan	2009
District Energy System	2023
Downtown Strategic Investment Plan	2019
Downtown Vision Concepts	2007
Emergency Services Facilities Needs Assessment	2012
Emergency Services Facility Feasibility Study	2023
Energy Master Plan	2022
Forest Management Plan	2022
Housing Plan	2021
Lake Flower Avenue River Street Plan	2020
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)	2024
Park Vision Plan	2018
Public Health Emergency Plan	2001
Rail Trail Crossings Safety Plan	2024
Riverwalk Dorsey Parking Lot Plan	2020
Sidewalk Replacement Report	2012
The Saranac River Walk Plan	1992
Tri-Lakes Housing Needs Assessment	2010
Wastewater Treatment Plant Evaluation	2021
Water Source & Distribution Evaluations	2024
Inflow and Infiltration Study	2020
FEMA Phase 1, 2, 3, 4	2020

ADOPTED PLANS, POLICIES, & STUDIES



POLICIES AND INITIATIVES CHECKLIST

While the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) did not evaluate each proposed project against all adopted Village policies and initiatives during the prioritization process, implementers are expected to apply this checklist during project planning and design.

The purpose of this checklist is to ensure that all capital projects—regardless of type or funding source—align with key local priorities related to sustainability, public health and safety, accessibility, and economic development. Design teams and department leads should review and incorporate applicable policies at the earliest stages of project development to maintain consistency with the Village’s long-term goals and regulatory commitments.

This alignment will also strengthen the Village’s position in seeking outside funding by demonstrating that projects are advancing adopted community strategies.

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POLICIES AND INITIATIVES CHECKLIST



VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Water Quality** – Establish ongoing partnerships with state agencies for fish stocking, boat decontamination, and road sand/salt management (LWRP).
- ☐ **Water Access** – Implement the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan to improve recreation, install boat docks, rentals, and enhance waterfront aesthetics (CEDS).
- ☐ **Shoreline Protection** – Conduct assessments and invasive species inventories to identify riparian restoration needs (LWRP).
- ☐ **Flood Zone Management** – Ensure development and infrastructure consider 500-year floodplain data (LWRP).
- ☐ **Green Infrastructure** – Identify cost-effective green infrastructure applications in parking lots and along the Saranac River (LWRP).
- ☐ **Complete Streets** – Ensure all transportation projects follow the Complete Streets policy, emphasizing multimodal access and safety.
- ☐ **Safe Routes to School** – Develop safe bicycle and pedestrian routes for school children (Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan).
- ☐ **Public Art** – Install artwork in public spaces, including downtown and parks, per the Streetscape Master Plan.
- ☐ **Net Electrical Metering** – Maximize energy savings and revenue for municipal operations.
- ☐ **Recreation Program** – Develop free or low-cost water safety courses and recreational equipment rentals for residents and visitors (LWRP).

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

Village of Saranac Lake: Capital Improvement Plan				
Project Priority Matrix				
#	Criteria	Description	Score	Scoring Description
1	Strategic Alignment	Assesses how well the project aligns with the strategic goals and objectives of adopted Village plans or policies.	15	Directly aligned with Comprehensive Plan OR 2 or more adopted Village Plans and/or Policies
			5	Directly aligned with 1 adopted Village Plan and/or Policy
			0	No alignment
2	Operating Budget Impact	Measures the incremental impact of the project on the Village's operating budget, including tax and utility rates.	15	Decrease in operating costs - decreased tax or utility rates
			10	No change in operating costs - tax levy or utility rate neutral
			5	Increase in operating costs up to 5% - increases tax levy or utility rates
			0	Increase in operating costs greater than 5% - increases tax levy or utility rates
3	Financing	Evaluates the funding sources for the project, including the mix of external versus internal financing.	15	Funded 100% from external sources AND must proceed immediately in order to leverage use of funds
			10	Funded 100% from external sources (i.e. capital grants) OR Funded 50%-99% AND must proceed immediately in order to leverage use of funds (ie. signed contract)
			5	Funded 50% to 99% from external sources
			0	Funded less than 50% from external sources
4	Economic Impact	Assesses the project's potential to generate revenue and benefit the local economy through job creation, increased property values, housing opportunities, tourism, etc.	15	Substantial economic benefit to the local economy
			10	Moderate economic benefit to the local economy
			5	Minimal economic benefit to the local economy
			0	No economic benefit to the local economy
5	Community Impact	Evaluates the project's social and cultural benefit to residents, including improvements to quality of life.	15	Substantial social benefit to the quality of life of residents and/or contribution to community character
			10	Moderate social benefit to the quality of life of residents and/or contribution to community character
			5	Minimal social benefit to the quality of life of residents and/or contribution to community character
			0	No social benefit to the quality of life of residents and/or contribution to community character
6	Risk Assessment	Evaluates the project's ability to reduce or mitigate risks related to public health and/or safety by addressing deficiencies in service delivery or infrastructure reliability. Not mandatory but are necessary for maintaining infrastructure in order to meet current service levels and maintain a state of good repair.	15	Substantial reduction of risk to the public OR Substantial increase in service level
			10	Moderate reduction of risk to the public OR Moderate increase in service level
			5	Minimal reduction of risk to the public OR Minimal increase in service level
			0	No impact
7	Legal Requirement	Assesses the extent to which the project ensures compliance with legal, regulatory, or safety mandates.	10	Address an urgent legal, safety, or regulatory requirement where a consent order, judgment, fine, or penalty has been levied, demonstrating the necessity for immediate action. These projects are prioritized for their critical nature and direct implications.
			5	Address anticipated legal, safety, or regulatory requirements or mandates that are not yet critical but are foreseeable and necessary to ensure future compliance and avoid potential consequences. These projects are prioritized based on their proactive nature and long-term importance.
			0	Not legally required
Total				

PROJECT LIST

Parking Lot: Dorsey

This project includes the full redesign and resurfacing of the Dorsey Street Parking Lot to enhance safety, accessibility, and stormwater management. Improvements will include raised sidewalks, new curbing, defined pedestrian crosswalks, bioswales, and enhanced connectivity to the Riverwalk and downtown core.

Water Source & Water Distribution

This project addresses system reliability by identifying a water source (e.g., McKenzie Pond), remediation of the offline well, replacing aging water mains, and improving water quality through infrastructure upgrades. Specific improvements include line replacements on Lake Flower Avenue and pedestrian safety enhancements along the corridor.

Sidewalk Improvements

This multi-year initiative will replace deteriorated sidewalks and install new segments in priority areas identified through engineering assessments. Improvements will also include ADA-compliant curb ramps, crosswalk enhancements, safety upgrades in high-traffic pedestrian zones, and close critical network gaps in underserved neighborhoods.

Garwood Park

Garwood Park will be upgraded with modern, ADA-accessible playground equipment, improved site safety features, and landscaping. Amenities such as benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles will support expanded use.

Baldwin Park

Baldwin Park will be redeveloped to improve shoreline views, circulation, and public access, incorporating interpretive signage and low-impact design features. Amenities such as benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles will support expanded use.

William Wallace / Lake Colby Beach

This project will redevelop Lake Colby Beach to include beach area restoration, construction of a year-round pavilion, a children's play area, and kayak/canoe storage. It also includes upgrades to the Lake Colby Connector to address drainage issues, improve sightlines, and enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility.

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PROJECT LIST

Riverwalk

Improvements to the Riverwalk will address existing maintenance needs and introduce placemaking features such as wayfinding, lighting, and seating. The goal is to enhance year-round usability, visual appeal, and riverfront connectivity.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park upgrades will feature a new performance bandshell to accommodate community events and programming. Improvements will include shoreline vegetation restoration, relocation of seasonal restrooms for better access, and new site amenities such as benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles to support expanded use.

Sewer Trunk and Swamp Line

This FEMA-funded hazard mitigation project involves phased replacement of the aging Swamp Line trunk and lateral sewer lines in a flood-prone, low-access area. Phase 1 will implement immediate repairs, followed by Phase 2 full reconstruction to reduce infiltration, overflows, and environmental risks.

Boothe River Park

This project proposes the construction of a whitewater wave feature on the Saranac River near Route 3/Lapan Bridge as part of a downtown river activation strategy. Scope includes river access improvements, signage, and adjacent site amenities to create a recreational anchor along the waterfront corridor.

Church Street

Church Street improvements will include new and repaired sidewalks, upgraded pedestrian-scale lighting, and wayfinding signage to enhance safety and accessibility. These streetscape upgrades will create a more walkable, ADA-compliant connection between River Street and Bloomingdale Avenue.

Fire Dept. Equipment Replacement

The project includes the planned replacement of the Village's Heavy Rescue Truck with a new vehicle that meets current safety and operational standards. The replacement will enhance reliability, improve response capabilities, and ensure compliance with requirements.

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PROJECT LIST

Recreation Fields / Old Land Fill

This project will convert the closed and capped landfill into multi-use recreation fields. It will provide new athletic and community event space, expand recreational access for residents, and transform an underutilized property into a productive public asset.

Prescott Park

Improvements to Prescott Park will include shoreline stabilization, kayak/canoe launch, improve pedestrian access, and enhancements to support year-round activity. Amenities such as benches, bike racks, and waste receptacles will support expanded use. The site will also be improved for the Ice Palace infrastructure.

Woodruff Street Corridor

The Woodruff Street corridor will be redesigned to support multi-modal use pedestrians and cyclists. including improved sidewalks, crosswalks, streetscape improvements, and pedestrian-scale infrastructure to enhance safety and connectivity between neighborhoods and downtown.

Sewer Collection & WWTP

This project includes upgrades to the Village's sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant, addressing aging infrastructure, capacity limitations, and regulatory compliance. The scope reflects funding through federal infrastructure programs.

1-3 Main Street

This project will restore the historic hydroelectric infrastructure at 1-3 Main Street through rehabilitation of the turbine, penstock, and control systems. The upgrades will enable on-site renewable power generation to offset municipal energy costs while preserving a Village-owned historic asset.

Emergency Services Facilities

This project proposes a combined Emergency Services building at 33 Petrova Avenue to consolidate police, fire, and ambulance services in a single facility. The building will modernize response operations, improve operational efficiency, improve coordination, and meet functional requirements.

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PIPELINE / IDEAS LIST

Village-Owned Buildings

17 Main Street
24 Depot Street
Lake Flower Lift Station
Mechanics (Central) Garage
WWTP (Building)
Water Tank (View Street)

Other

Depot Street Plan
Indoor Courts or Multi-Sport Facility
River Street & Lake Flower Avenue (NBT Intersection)

Village-Owned Infrastructure

Parking Lots
Streets
Sidewalks
Sandpit
Urban Trees
Wayfinding Signage

Village-Owned Parks & Trails

Alpine Terrace Pathway
Berkeley Green
Hydro Point Park
Mt Pisgah Recreation Center
Mt Pisgah Connector Trail
Riverfront Park
Skatepark
Ward Plumadore Park
William Morris Park
World War 1 Memorial Park

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Dorsey Street Parking Lot Improvements
Project Number	1
Project Description	The Dorsey Street Parking Lot Improvements project is aimed at enhancing both the functionality and the visual appeal of a key parking area in downtown Saranac Lake. The project will include full repaving, the addition of raised curbs and sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety, bioswales for stormwater management, and a new bus stop to support public transportation. These improvements will increase ADA accessibility, enhance the connection to the Riverwalk, and create a safer, more attractive gateway between the Riverwalk and the business district on Main Street and Broadway.
Benefits	This project will significantly improve mobility, accessibility, and aesthetics in a highly trafficked area of the downtown core. Businesses will benefit from better access for customers and deliveries, while visitors and residents will enjoy a more welcoming, functional space. By tying into the Downtown Revitalization Initiative's (DRI) goals for Active Transportation and Mobility, the project supports broader economic development and sustainability strategies.
Department	General

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$576,629
Annual Operating Cost	\$0
Changes in Operating Revenue	\$0

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$576,629

Prioritization Matrix Score	55
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Project Name	Sidewalk Improvements
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	<p>Stakeholder surveys and the open house showed improving the quality and quantity of parking available in the village is important to residents. Funding for the improvements should come from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Grant.</p> <p>While the original score for Legal Requirement was 0, the Task Force may want to reconsider this in light of ADA compliance. Current conditions lack dedicated ADA parking and accessible paths, and the proposed improvements will address these gaps. Given evolving discussions and consistent scoring across projects, a 5-point score may be justified.</p>

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Multiple plans reference parking needs and improvements.
Operating Budget Impact	10	
Financing	NMI	Needing more information about total project cost and financing source, Task Force was not sure if there was sufficient funding left from the DRI grant to cover the total project cost.
Economic Impact	10	Important for local businesses.
Community Impact	10	Important for community members.
Risk Assessment	10	Would result in a moderate increase in service level.
Legal Requirement	0	Unclear if the Village is in compliance with the Americans for Disabilities Act.
Total	55	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Sidewalk Improvements
Project Number	2
Project Description	This multi-year project proposes a comprehensive sidewalk replacement and infill program throughout the Village of Saranac Lake. It will prioritize locations identified in the 2012 Northwoods Engineering Sidewalk Inventory, including Shepard Avenue, Pine Street, and other high-traffic or underserved areas. The updated inventory (expected in FY 24/25) will further refine these priorities. The project includes full replacement of deteriorated sidewalks, installation of new segments where none exist, and upgrades to curbing and crosswalks to ensure ADA compliance.
Benefits	Although specific figures were not available, it is anticipated that operating costs will increase slightly due to the need for snow removal and maintenance of expanded sidewalk networks. However, the use of durable materials and prioritization of high-need areas is expected to yield long-term savings by reducing the frequency of reactive repairs.
Department	DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$2,000,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	Village budgets around \$186,000 for sidewalk materials and services annually
Reserves	\$105,515 in current sidewalk capital reserve
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	NYS CHIPS

Prioritization Matrix Score	55
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Project Name	Sidewalk Improvements
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The Village will update the sidewalk survey for costs and needs in 2025. Ranking should be based upon the merits of the program with costs to be determined later.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Referenced in multiple plans and studies.
Operating Budget Impact	NMI	Needs more information, no operating budget information available.
Financing	NMI	The financing strategy relies on a combination of annual budget allocations, the existing sidewalk capital reserve, and state assistance through NYS CHIPS. Additional grant opportunities could be pursued following the update to the sidewalk inventory. While exact total costs are still being refined, current Village budget practices indicate a sustainable long-term approach is in place.
Economic Impact	10	Improved walkability is important to local businesses.
Community Impact	15	Improved walkability is important to village residents.
Risk Assessment	15	Improving poor sidewalks and creating new ones would be a substantial increase in service level.
Legal Requirement	0	Any improvements would need to comply with the Americans for Disabilities Act.
Total	55	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Baldwin Park
Project Number	3
Project Description	The Baldwin Park project will transform a gateway park into a welcoming, accessible space that better serves both residents and visitors. Planned improvements include enhanced water views, interpretive signage, improved parking and circulation, shoreline enhancements, and amenities such as benches, bike racks, and pet waste stations.
Benefits	This park is a gateway to the village and upgrading the park will create a more welcoming experience for visitors. It will also make the park more usable for residents.
Department	Community Development/DPW
Start Date	12/1/2024 (NYS DOS Contract Term)
End Date	11/30/2029 (NYS DOS Contract Term)

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$1,193,249
Annual Operating Cost	\$0
Changes in Operating Revenue	\$0

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$298,312 Combination of in-kind services and Fund Balance
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$894,937.00

Prioritization Matrix Score	55
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Project Name	Baldwin Park
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	In several plans. Grant has already been approved. The Task Force noted the improvements may not attract new people to the Village, but they will provide a more welcoming experience for visitors to the nearby hotels.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	
Operating Budget Impact	10	
Financing	10	
Economic Impact	5	While not a direct economic driver, Baldwin Park improvements will enhance the experience of hotel guests and visitors arriving from the Route 86 corridor, encouraging longer stays and repeat visits. It supports the tourism economy by adding a beautiful, functional public space near downtown lodging.
Community Impact	10	Gateway park that will provide water access and interpretive signage.
Risk Assessment	0	
Legal Requirement	5	When the Village put in the new docks, it triggered the Americans for Disabilities Act and the Village is now out of compliance. Upgrades will reduce liability risks, stabilize the shoreline, and provide safe recreational opportunities.
Total	55	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Water Source & Water Distribution *Includes Lake Flower Avenue Improvements
Project Number	4
Project Description	This project includes evaluating new water supply options (such as McKenzie Pond), replacing water mains in problem areas (such as Lake Flower), and reducing contaminants in the water supply and distribution system. A detailed capital improvement plan for this specific project was completed in 2024 by Suozzo, Doty & Associates.
Benefits	PW-1 (the existing well) has experienced increased levels of iron and is primarily offline. An alternative treatment method or alternative source is necessary. The system is old (130+ years). The water main on Lake Flower Avenue has a history of breaks and the water mains are undersized and aging, creating water pressure problems, water loss, and costly repairs. The Village only has one well that can be used, this is a violation of the NYS Sanitary Code and a violation order has been issued.
Department	Water

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$22,148,000
Annual Operating Cost	\$2,708,694
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	-
Reserves	\$3,000,000
Fund Balance	-
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$14,000,000 (0% for 30 years = \$466,666/year)
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$5,000,000

Prioritization Matrix Score	55
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Project Name	Water Treatment and Distribution System Improvements (SDA Project Number 23-017) *Includes Lake Flower Avenue Improvements
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	Task Force members discussed the need to integrate the work on Lake Flower Avenue with the pedestrian and streetscape plan. It was noted that the Village is already paying back a 30-year loan for the two wells drilled approximately 10 years ago. This is taking on additional debt.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	
Operating Budget Impact	0	The information presented shows debt payments for this project will result in a 24.7% increase in operating costs
Financing	0	Less than 50% is available from external sources The total project cost is \$22.1 million, with current funding sources including \$5 million in grants, \$3 million from reserves, and \$14 million in 0%-interest debt financing. While this covers the entire cost, grant funding remains below the 50% threshold. However, the strategic use of 0% financing significantly reduces long-term taxpayer burden. Additional grant applications are expected to further improve the financial picture.
Economic Impact	10	Will reduce business' costs for replacing corroded pipes, etc.
Community Impact	10	The water system improvements will directly enhance the daily lives of nearly every resident, visitor, and business in the Village. By upgrading aging infrastructure and replacing problem mains along Lake Flower Avenue, the project will improve water quality, pressure, and reliability—especially in areas currently subject to boil water orders and pipe corrosion. A modern, multi-source water system ensures uninterrupted access to safe drinking water and supports future development, fire protection, and climate resilience.
Risk Assessment	15	Will significantly increase service level, especially along Lake Flower Ave
Legal Requirement	5	The Village is in violation of the law.
Total	55	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Garwood Park
Project Number	5
Project Description	Upgrade Garwood Park with modern playground equipment and enhanced safety measures. Amenities like benches, bike racks, and trash/recycling receptacles are also included.
Benefits	Garwood Park is one of only two playgrounds located within Village limits. This project proposes full modernization of the site, including new inclusive play equipment.
Department	Community Development/DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$355,000 (based on 2018 plans)
Annual Operating Cost	\$0
Changes in Operating Revenue	\$0

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$355,000
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	50
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Project Name	Garwood Park
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	Upgrades at this park are a priority for the 2025 Village budget so where it fits in the 2026 plan will depend on how much is budgeted in 2025.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	In multiple plans.
Operating Budget Impact	10	
Financing	0	Although currently shown as being funded solely from the annual budget, this project may be eligible for grants through NYS Parks, ADA-focused funding programs, or community foundations. Seeking external funding would improve the financing outlook and reduce reliance on general funds.
Economic Impact	0	
Community Impact	15	Garwood Park adds value to nearby neighborhoods, supports walkable access to recreation, and makes Saranac Lake more family-friendly, a key factor in attracting and retaining residents.
Risk Assessment	5	Upgrades will increase the level of service.
Legal Requirement	5	ADA Module was installed in 2023 that triggered legal compliance that is currently unmet.
Total	50	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	William Wallace / Lake Colby Beach
Project Number	6
Project Description	This project involves implementation of park improvement recommendations contained in the Park Vision Plan. Planned improvements include improving the beach area, a year-round accessible pavilion, children's play area, kayak rental/storage racks, and the conversion of the parking lot's north entrance into a pedestrian trail.
Benefits	Improvements to Lake Colby Beach will increase safe public access to swimming and paddling, and create year-round functionality via an accessible pavilion. The addition of a new children's play area and walking trail enhances the park's value for families and seniors alike. These upgrades make the facility more inclusive, increase its recreational value, and support healthy outdoor activity.
Department	Parks

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$1,510,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	50
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Project Name	William Wallace / Lake Colby Beach
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	Mentioned by multiple Department Heads as an upcoming priority.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Comp Plan, LWRP, Parks Plan.
Operating Budget Impact	5	Increase to a year-round asset.
Financing	0	Currently, no grants or other funding are identified. However, this project is well-positioned for funding through NYS Parks, the Environmental Protection Fund, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
Economic Impact	5	
Community Impact	10	The connector trail and site improvements will improve quality of life making it more accessible and enjoyable.
Risk Assessment	10	Beach house is not ADA compliant. Safe swimming area concerns.
Legal Requirement	5	Inadequate facility.
Total	50	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Riverwalk
Project Number	7
Project Description	<p>Improve the Riverwalk by installing placemaking and addressing maintenance needs.</p> <p>As of 2020, there is a missing segment, pedestrians have no continuous path along the river corridor, and must use the alternate sidewalk route (the Dorsey Street Parking Lot over the Dorsey Street Bridge to Dorsey Street to Broadway).</p>
Benefits	<p>The Riverwalk is a signature element of Saranac Lake's downtown identity. Improvements will enhance safety, aesthetics, and usability by addressing missing links in the pedestrian path, fixing deteriorated segments, and adding placemaking elements like signage, seating, and public art. It reinforces downtown as a walkable, accessible environment and supports both tourism and community life.</p>
Department	Parks

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$120,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$
Fund Balance	\$100,000
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	45
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Project Name	Riverwalk
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Saranac River Walk, Comp Plan, DRI, Parks Vision Plan, LWRP
Operating Budget Impact	10	No change
Financing	0	Currently, \$100,000 is budgeted from the Fund Balance. This project may be well-positioned for Scenic Byways, Empire State Trail, or federal infrastructure grants. Additional funding will be needed to fully implement design goals including placemaking enhancements.
Economic Impact	5	Improves visitor navigation of the Riverwalk.
Community Impact	5	Well traveled transportation corridor.
Risk Assessment	10	Riverwalk is existing, but we are increasing the service level.
Legal Requirement	0	
Total	45	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Sewer Trunk and Swamp Line
Project Number	8
Project Description	<p>FEMA Hazard Mitigation Project. Phase 1 \$910,165 Phase 2 \$4,906,112 Resolution 88-2024</p> <p>This project aims to replace and upgrade a critical section of sewer infrastructure known as the Swamp Line, which includes both trunk and lateral lines. The current system is aging, poorly accessible, and at risk of failure—posing threats to both the environment and public health. The project will be implemented in two phases: Phase 1 focuses on immediate repairs, while Phase 2 includes major structural replacement and mitigation strategies to prevent infiltration, overflows, and service interruptions.</p>
Benefits	<p>This project is essential to protecting environmental quality and maintaining service to a large section of the Village. It reduces the risk of raw sewage discharges into sensitive wetlands and the Saranac River during storm events. It also protects against property damage and potential service loss for homes and businesses along the route. By proactively addressing these risks, the Village can avoid costly emergency repairs and demonstrate environmental stewardship.</p>
Department	<p>Sewer</p> <p>It may also involve interdepartmental support from DPW during construction phases and restoration work.</p>

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$5,816,277
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	-
Reserves	\$61,477
Fund Balance	\$500,000

Funding Sources	
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	–
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$5,255,000

Prioritization Matrix Score	50
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Project Name	Sewer Trunk and Swamp Line
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	
Operating Budget Impact	10	While no detailed estimate is provided, upgrades will likely result in decreased maintenance costs and fewer emergency service calls. The use of durable materials and improved layout is expected to reduce long-term operational burdens. Post-construction, annual inspections and standard upkeep will be needed but at a significantly lower cost than maintaining the failing infrastructure.
Financing	5	
Economic Impact	0	
Community Impact	5	While invisible to many residents, the sewer trunk line is foundational to everyday life. Upgrading it ensures reliable service for homes and businesses, protects natural resources, and prevents service interruptions. Particularly for neighborhoods near the line, the project will result in fewer disruptions.
Risk Assessment	10	
Legal Requirement	5	
Total	50	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Church Street
Project Number	9
Project Description	Improve Church Street – from Bloomingdale Avenue to River Street – by adding crosswalks, enhancing pedestrian safety features, and implementing streetscaping measures.
Benefits	Church Street is a heavily trafficked corridor for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. This project would enhance pedestrian safety through new crosswalks, signage, and streetscaping—improving visibility and reducing speeding. The upgrades would also support walkability between key areas like Lake Flower corridor and downtown. Drainage improvements will address existing flooding issues.
Department	DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	–
Annual Operating Cost	–
Changes in Operating Revenue	–

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	45
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Project Name	Church Street
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	Cost estimate is from DRI. More detailed improvements referenced in Bike & Ped.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, DRI
Operating Budget Impact	10	No new infrastructure
Financing	0	No funding is currently secured. However, Church Street is a strong candidate for grants focused on Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, or ADA compliance. A small planning grant could help develop a shovel-ready design and unlock larger infrastructure funding opportunities.
Economic Impact	5	Might result in investment. Encourage development.
Community Impact	10	High traffic street - vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, etc. Streetscape improvements would create a more user friendly experience.
Risk Assessment	5	Fix drainage issues, higher vis crosswalks
Legal Requirement	0	
Total	45	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Riverside Park
Project Number	10
Project Description	Upgrade Riverside Park with landscaping and park facilities, including ADA-accessible features and a modern bandshell. Improvements include accessible amenities and seating, enhanced lake-edge vegetation, relocation of seasonal restroom facilities, a new bandshell, and additional landscape enhancements.
Benefits	This project enhances one of the most prominent and heavily used public spaces in the Village. Improvements include ADA-compliant paths, a modern bandshell for performances, enhanced landscaping, and restroom relocation for year-round utility. These upgrades will improve access, aesthetics, and safety—especially during major events like concerts, the Winter Carnival, and the Farmers Market.
Department	Parks

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$460,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	40
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Project Name	Riverside Park
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	DRI, LWRP, Parks Vision Plan
Operating Budget Impact	5	New restroom facilities would create an increase in
Financing	NMI	Currently unfunded, but eligible for DRI, NYS Parks, or accessibility improvement grants. The visibility of this park and its role in hosting public events make it a strong candidate for external funding, which should be pursued to improve financing metrics.
Economic Impact	5	Benefit of restrooms and bandshell for tourism attraction
Community Impact	5	Very visible and active park. Would be a positive impact to many events - Farmers Markets, concerts, social
Risk Assessment	10	The service level will increase. Clean, sanitary restrooms vs. porta johns. Safe and accessible bandshell.
Legal Requirement	0	
Total	40	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Boothe River Park
Project Number	11
Project Description	This project proposes construction of a whitewater wave feature in the Saranac River near downtown. It will serve as a recreational amenity for kayakers and paddlers, and function as a visual anchor for the Riverwalk extension and DRI-funded waterfront improvements. It would also include safe river access points and nearby infrastructure like trash receptacles and signage.
Benefits	The park supports the local paddling culture, builds on the success of existing events like the 90-Miler, and positions Saranac Lake as a destination for outdoor recreation. It will help activate underutilized waterfront, strengthen tourism offerings, and enhance downtown vitality.
Department	Parks

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$1,510,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$441,000 (DRI)

Prioritization Matrix Score	35
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Project Name	Tom Boothe River Park
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	<p>Our ratings reflect the assumption Village capital funds will not be applied to this project.</p> <p>Village will provide associated infrastructure - insurance, parking, lighting, trash pick up, etc.</p> <p>Opportunity cost. If this project did not proceed the DRI funding could be used for other project(s).</p>

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	5	DRI Plan
Operating Budget Impact	10	"Tom Boothe Whitewater Park Friends" will do maintenance
Financing	0	Current funding is limited to \$441,000 from DRI, which covers only a portion of construction. Additional funding from recreation-focused grants or partnerships (e.g., private donors or outdoor brands) will be needed to advance the project.
Economic Impact	10	See Feasibility Study
Community Impact	10	See Feasibility Study
Risk Assessment	0	Although the whitewater feature is engineered for safety, there are inherent risks in inviting more active use of a natural water body. The Village will need to work with designers and risk consultants to mitigate these concerns. At the same time, safety infrastructure like signage and access ladders will help reduce liability.
Legal Requirement	0	
Total	35	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Fire Department Heavy Rescue Truck Replacement
Project Number	12
Project Description	This project will replace the Village's Heavy Rescue Truck in 2027, consistent with the fire department's vehicle replacement schedule, which recommends updating major apparatus every 20 years. The current truck is approaching the end of its service life and lacks modern safety and operational features. Replacement will ensure continued emergency response effectiveness and firefighter safety.
Benefits	The new vehicle will feature updated extrication equipment, improved lighting, and modern safety systems to support complex rescue operations. This upgrade is vital for responding to vehicle crashes, structural fires, and other emergencies. It also ensures compliance with insurance and safety standards, enhancing public confidence in emergency preparedness.
Department	Fire Department

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$900,000
Annual Operating Cost	\$0
Changes in Operating Revenue	\$0

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	-
Reserves	\$808,000
Fund Balance	\$92,000
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	-
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	-

Prioritization Matrix Score	35
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Project Name	Fire Department Heavy Rescue Truck Replacement
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The Task Force reviewed the Fire Department truck replacement schedule, and the only vehicle scheduled for replacement during 2026-2031 is the Heavy Rescue Truck which is due to be replaced in 2027.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	5	
Operating Budget Impact	10	
Financing	5	
Economic Impact	0	
Community Impact	5	
Risk Assessment	10	
Legal Requirement	0	While there is no explicit legal mandate to replace this truck, outdated safety equipment and apparatus can create liability risks and may affect ISO ratings, which influence insurance rates.
Total	35	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Recreation Fields/ Old LandFill
Project Number	13
Project Description	Design and construct new recreation fields on the site of the former landfill, including preliminary engineering and facility upgrades. Develop multi-use recreational sites on capped landfills in close proximity to their downtowns as a mode of infill recreational development for these communities in the North Country. The Village will engage the community in planning for the use and design of the sites and will then develop the sites, using a combination of volunteer and landscape design services.
Benefits	The project will provide much needed sports fields on underutilized land owned by the Village.
Department	DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$400,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$220,000

Prioritization Matrix Score	35
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Project Name	Recreation Fields/ Old LandFill
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The project is not mentioned in any plans. However, a site plan was completed.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	5	While the project is not referenced in adopted Village plans, it directly supports the Village's goals around infill development and recreational access. Consideration could be given to awarding 5 points for alignment with infill development practices common in sustainability plans.
Operating Budget Impact	5	Ongoing maintenance, including mowing, striping, and general field upkeep, would be required. While modest, these should be estimated to better inform budget planning—likely a few thousand dollars annually depending on usage and community programming.
Financing	5	Based on the original budget provided.
Economic Impact	10	Based on tournament potential and on impact in Lake Placid.
Community Impact	10	There is a need for athletic fields for youth and adult leagues, the school, and colleges.
Risk Assessment	0	
Legal Requirement	0	The landfill is already capped and compliant; however, any recreational use must be planned carefully with DEC guidance. This isn't a legal mandate, but potential regulatory review justifies monitoring this closely.
Total	35	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Woodruff Street Corridor
Project Number	14
Project Description	Transform the Woodruff Street corridor to accommodate multi-modal transportation, improving access for cyclists and pedestrians. This project proposes a redesign of the Woodruff Street corridor to support multi-modal transportation and create a more attractive, pedestrian-oriented downtown connection.
Benefits	Original plans under the Downtown Revitalization Initiative included sidewalk improvements, buried utilities, streetscaping, and new lighting, though the scope may be revised based on remaining funding.
Department	DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$225,000 Original DRI projection was \$2,500,000 but the total remaining from the DRI grant is approximately \$225,000.
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$225,000 DRI

Prioritization Matrix Score	35
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Project Name	Woodruff Street Corridor
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	<p>A contract for design work is pending with Northwoods Engineering.</p> <p>While sidewalks aren't mandated, ADA-compliant improvements along a high-traffic downtown corridor could reduce liability and improve access for individuals with disabilities.</p>

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Included in several plans.
Operating Budget Impact	10	No change in operating costs.
Financing	NMI	Unclear if total project cost can be covered with grant money, awaiting approval from NYS to allocate the DRI funds to this project.
Economic Impact	0	Enhanced streetscapes can spur private investment and improve foot traffic to nearby businesses. Although no specific figures are available.
Community Impact	5	
Risk Assessment	5	
Legal Requirement	0	Sidewalks could improve access for those with limited mobility.
Total	35	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	1-3 Main Street Waterway Restoration Project
Project Number	15
Project Description	This project will restore the hydroelectric generation capacity at the historic 1-3 Main Street building, also known as "Power & Light." Repairs include work on the penstock, turbine components, and associated control systems. The project ensures continued power generation, which offsets municipal energy costs and maintains operational continuity for Village facilities.
Benefits	As a municipally owned renewable energy source, the facility contributes to energy resilience and financial savings. It also holds historic value, being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Upgrades now will prevent future catastrophic failure, which could be significantly more expensive. The investment supports long-term operational sustainability.
Department	Community Development/DPW

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$701,750
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	-
Reserves	-
Fund Balance	\$175,437
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	-
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$526,313 New York State Historic Preservation grant

Prioritization Matrix Score	30
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Project Name	1-3 Main Street Waterway Restoration Project
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The details of the project are found in the 3 Main Street and Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) reports. Not as clearly part of an adopted plan or Comprehensive Plan. Important to do the maintenance before there is a failure of the generation equipment.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	5	Part of the LWRP.
Operating Budget Impact	10	
Financing	10	
Economic Impact	0	This maintains existing generation but does not provide a new economic benefit
Community Impact	0	Does not provide new community benefit
Risk Assessment	5	This would improve the level of service. If this project does not happen, the penstock could be shut off and power generation stopped.
Legal Requirement	0	While not currently mandated, repairs may become necessary to secure a future FERC license.
Total	30	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Prescott Park
Project Number	16
Project Description	<p>Canoe and kayak launch, enhanced lakeside vegetation, improved fishing access, seasonal youth programming space, improved area for the Ice Palace, pet waste station, seating - picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, grills, and bike racks.</p> <p>Final Design and Permitting 72,000 Site Preparation 98,000 Facility Construction and Furnishings 189,000 Mobilization, Bonds & Contingency 107,000 TOTAL \$466,000</p>
Benefits	<p>Upgrades to Prescott Park will expand its functionality and appeal across multiple user groups. By enhancing lake access for paddlers, improving fishing opportunities, and adding elements like picnic seating and grills, the park becomes a more attractive destination for residents and visitors alike. It also serves as a support site for seasonal programming and the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Ice Palace, strengthening its year-round relevance.</p>
Department	Parks

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$466,000.00
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$0
Reserves	\$0
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$0
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$0

Prioritization Matrix Score	30
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Project Name	Prescott Park
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Comprehensive Plan, Parks Plan, and LWRP
Operating Budget Impact	10	No change expected based on design.
Financing	0	Currently, the project shows no secured funding, which limits its immediate feasibility. However, its alignment with multiple plans positions it well for state and federal grants. Partnerships with local service organizations or businesses may also offer in-kind or matching support.
Economic Impact	0	While modest, the park's proximity to downtown businesses and the Winter Carnival event corridor could increase its potential economic benefit.
Community Impact	5	Natural vegetation - will help deter geese and improve water quality.
Risk Assessment	0	
Legal Requirement	0	
Total	30	

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Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Sewer Collection System & WWTP
Project Number	17
Project Description	This project includes both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) projects. The project cost was projected at \$34,000,000 but was increased in February 2025 to \$49,000,000 to take advantage of federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding.
Benefits	The Village's sewer collection system is more than 100 years old, which affects health, sanitation, and security. Critical sewer mains are inaccessible for maintenance, as they are located under prominent buildings, and they are undersized for current and future sewer flows.
Department	Sewer

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$49,000,000
Annual Operating Cost	\$566,666
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	Anticipated that approximately 1/3 of project costs will be passed on to ratepayers.
Reserves	-
Fund Balance	-
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	At least \$17,000,000 (0% for 30 years = \$566,666/yr.)
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	At least \$17,000,000 maybe more from BIL

Prioritization Matrix Score	30
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Project Name	Sewer Collection System & WWTP
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The Task Force noted that upgraded sewer system infrastructure is not specifically called out in the Comprehensive Plan but it is essential to Village residents and businesses.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	15	Only a brief reference in the Comp Plan, is in the LWRP and Water Resources Plan.
Operating Budget Impact	0	An annual debt service cost of \$566,666 per year is a >20% increase in operating costs.
Financing	5	\$17,000,000 is not 50% of the project cost, however, if BIL money comes in, then grant funds will be greater than 50% so the committee scored it as such.
Economic Impact	0	While not typically viewed as a direct driver of economic development, modernizing core infrastructure like the sewer system can prevent costly disruptions, reduce maintenance costs for businesses, and ensure reliable service for commercial and residential expansion. The system's age and limited capacity have the potential to limit future development, especially for large employers or housing projects. A more resilient, right-sized sewer system helps support growth and economic stability long-term, even if those benefits are indirect.
Community Impact	0	The current sewer system, much of which is over a century old, presents public health and environmental risks. Leaks, backups, and failures can affect waterways and neighborhoods. Upgrading the system will improve sanitation, prevent overflows, and provide peace of mind for residents. These improvements particularly benefit dense areas of the Village and demonstrate a commitment to long-term sustainability and environmental health, even if the day-to-day visibility is low.
Risk Assessment	10	Improvements would provide a moderate increase in service levels
Legal Requirement	0	While the Village is not currently under legal order for upgrades, the system's age and condition create exposure to future compliance risks, especially as federal and state regulators increase scrutiny of wastewater systems.
Total	30	

Village of Saranac Lake Capital Project Form

Project Information	
Project Name	Emergency Services Complex
Project Number	18
Project Description	Build a combined emergency services building at 33 Petrova Avenue to house the police, fire department, and rescue squad.
Benefits	Provides up-to-date facilities for emergency service personnel and garage/store space for equipment.
Department	General

Project Costs	
Project Cost	\$27,500,000
Annual Operating Cost	-
Changes in Operating Revenue	-

Funding Sources	
Annual Budget	\$644,150 for 30 years
Reserves	\$2,000,000 (remaining from \$700,000 already allocated)
Fund Balance	\$0
Debt Financing / Interest Rate	\$19,324,500 (based on information as of March 2025), 0% interest rate for 30 years
Grants (State, Federal, Other)	\$4,500,000 Congresswoman Stefanik \$200,000 Volunteer Fire Infrastructure grant \$475,000 NYSERDA (could also be applied to other projects)

Prioritization Matrix Score	15
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Project Name	33 Petrova Emergency Services Building
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Capital Improvement Plan Task Force Review	
Notes	The proposed emergency services building at 33 Petrova is not specifically mentioned in any of the adopted Village plans. However, since over \$700,000 has already been obligated for the property purchase and design and since the debt service for this project could easily eclipse all other capital projects under consideration, the Task Force included this project in the CIP. Task Force members noted community concerns about traffic, lighting, and other design factors that are not yet available.

Project Evaluation		
Criteria	Score	Notes
Strategic Alignment	0	This facility not referenced in any adopted plans
Operating Budget Impact	0	Although design is still underway, operational costs are expected to rise due to the increased size of the facility. Project as currently configured will increase operating costs by <5%.
Financing	0	With only ~20% of funding secured from external sources, and the remainder reliant on debt service, this project poses significant financial challenges.
Economic Impact	0	Project has no likely impact on jobs or economic growth.No documentation on recruitment or retention.
Community Impact	NMI	No documentation regarding use of the facility for community events, emergency shelter, or other specific increases in quality of life. No information on response time or insurance rates.
Risk Assessment	10	Moderate increase in service level. If emergency service personnel have better working conditions, their level of service provided increases.
Legal Requirement	5	Police department is likely not in compliance with the Americans for Disabilities Act since the move to the Armory, does not have gender-separated holding areas, or legally-compliant evidence lockers.
Total	15	

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