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# **Danby Town Plan**

**Adopted: September 10, 2020**

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**RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

## Introduction

The first municipal plan for the Town of Danby was adopted in 1989 with the goal of reflecting the objectives and needs of the town's citizens and to be used as a guide for future growth and development of Danby.

## Statutory Authority

The Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act (the Act) guides the preparation of Town Plans and includes required and suggested elements and adoption procedures.

The Act requires that all plans contain twelve elements: a statement of objectives, policies, and programs; a land use plan; a transportation plan; a utility and facilities plan; a statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas; an educational facilities plan; an implementation program; a statement indicating how the Plan relates to development trends in adjacent communities; an energy plan; a housing element; an economic development element; and a Flood Resilience element.

Town plans must also describe how designated growth areas, such as Village Centers (which Danby has), support community goals.

In order for the town plans to receive Regional Approval from the Regional Planning Commission they must be consistent with a series of statewide planning goals. These include addressing agriculture and forestry, maintenance of historic settlement patterns, additional identification and protection of natural resources, transportation, housing affordability, flood resilience, economic development and child care.

## Adoption and Maintenance

The first step towards implementation of the Town Plan is its adoption as public policy. As required by the Act, the Planning Commission shall hold at least one public hearing on the proposed Plan. The

Planning Commission must then make any necessary revisions and submit the proposed Plan to the Selectboard. Under the Act the Selectboard shall hold one or more public hearings (towns with populations over 2,500 require two public hearings) on the proposed plan. After the final public hearing the Plan may be adopted by the Selectboard, or if substantial changes are made, may be sent back to the Planning commission. Town plans expire eight years from the date of adoption.

## Public Involvement

Public participation is the backbone of any successful planning process. For the last major update of the town plan (in 2015) public involvement was instrumental and shaped a future vision based on the past and current realities. For 2020's update, a workshop on Economic Development was also held, providing valuable insight and ideas for the future.

In association with the 2015, update the Planning Commission also conducted a survey based on plan elements to gather feedback. The results are presented throughout the document and attached as an amendment. A "Plan Danby" workshop was held in May 2014 to present the survey results and conduct breakout sessions on specific elements of the plan such as Land Use, Economic Development, Housing, Natural Resources, Plan Implementation and Transportation.

## Implementation Strategies

Implementation of the Town Plan is a local responsibility. There are many ways to implement the goals and policies of the Plan that fall under two general categories - regulatory and non-regulatory.

Regulatory options consist of land use bylaws and other town ordinances, which can include numerous specific regulations that further the goals and policies in the plan. The Act enables bylaws that can implement a municipal plan:

- Subdivision Regulations
- Official Map
- Zoning Regulations
- Shoreland Bylaws
- Flood Hazard Area Bylaws

Other Regulations that can be used to implement the plan include, but are not limited to:

- Sign Ordinances
- Health Regulations
- Building Codes
- Curb Cut ordinances

The best process in which the town plan has regulatory effect is during the Act 250 review process. The Town is automatically a party to Act 250 proceedings which are triggered by development in the community greater than one acre in size. Participation in the Act 250 development review process is a significant opportunity to shape large-scale development projects. Clear community standards presented in the Plan are the most effective way a town Plan can shape growth to reflect community values.

Non-regulatory tools focus on what the community can do to mobilize community efforts and secure funding to achieve its goals. Such tools include, but are not limited to:

- **Capital Planning** - The capital budget and program provides an approach for municipalities to select, schedule, and finance their capital projects. The program sets forth the capital projects to be funded each year and identifies the source of funding for each project.
- **Public Education** - Successful implementation of a Plan depends on the voluntary actions of residents and landowners. Public education regarding the Town Plan helps to convey the importance of local resources, facilities, and services and increases understanding of the need to plan for the future.

- **Public Investment** - In conjunction with capital planning, public investment can include spending for water, transportation, education, solid waste, recreation, open space, housing, and more. Funds to pay for public investment can come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, taxation, user fees, and governmental transfers (state aid) and grants.

- **Creation and/or nomination of historic districts or structures** to the National Register of Historic Places to increase interest in historic preservation and attract funding for projects.

- **Land Preservation Programs** - Such programs identify and prioritize land for preservation to be protected through a variety of techniques. These techniques, which are typically voluntary, involve direct work with property owners.

- **Village Center Designation** - The Borough area is currently designated as a Village Center from the State of Vermont. The designation shall be renewed every five years to carry out goals and action items of this plan and to support land use goals of the State of Vermont, encouraging compact centers surrounded by rural working lands. It is a goal of the Danby Town Plan to maintain this designation. The next renewal date is June 1, 2023.

## Relationship to Adjacent Towns and the Rutland Regional Plan

A review of town plans for adjacent communities indicates that the Danby Town Plan is compatible with the plans and development trends of surrounding communities. The plan's objectives of encouraging development to take place in appropriate areas surrounded by working lands and supporting the continuation of sound agricultural practices and preserving the character of rugged natural resource areas are compatible with objectives in the municipal plans of

Tinmouth, Wallingford, Dorset, Rupert, Wells and Pawlet. Mount Tabor does not have a town plan. Due to close proximity, opportunities exist for Danby and Mt. Tabor to share functions such as transfer stations.

The Danby Plan is also compatible with the goals and objectives of the Rutland Regional Plan that was adopted in June 2018. Danby continues to have community representatives appointed to regional committees such as the Regional Planning Commission and the Rutland Region Transportation Council.

## Community

### Town History

Danby was first settled in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century as a farming community by settlers from Nine Partners, New York. In the years following 1765, Danby Four Corners was laid out as the first town center for small scale farm operations throughout the hills surrounding it.

The town's second settlement area was Danby Borough. Water power from the Mill Brook and traffic along one of the soon-to-be state's most important stage roads, later US Route 7 spurred construction in this area.

The first sawmill was built in 1790 to accommodate local wood processing. Over the next several decades as the town grew sawmills were a significant force in the local economy.

At the time of the first US Census of Population in 1791 Danby had the fourth-highest population in the region. The town continued to grow through 1810, when the population hit its peak - 1,730. The town had between 1,300 and 1,600 residents over the course of the rest of the century.

The oldest standing structure in Danby is a Cape-Cod style house built circa 1790 in the north-east



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corner of the town on the east side of Raymond Road.

Danby's most famous resource, marble, was first mined in the town in 1827. Small-scale mining continued until 1840 when the first marble sawmill was built along Mill Brook. As the marble industry grew Danby Borough overtook Danby Four Corners as the community center.

By 1850 marble mining and production employed over 600 workers in Danby, many of whom were Italian or Polish.

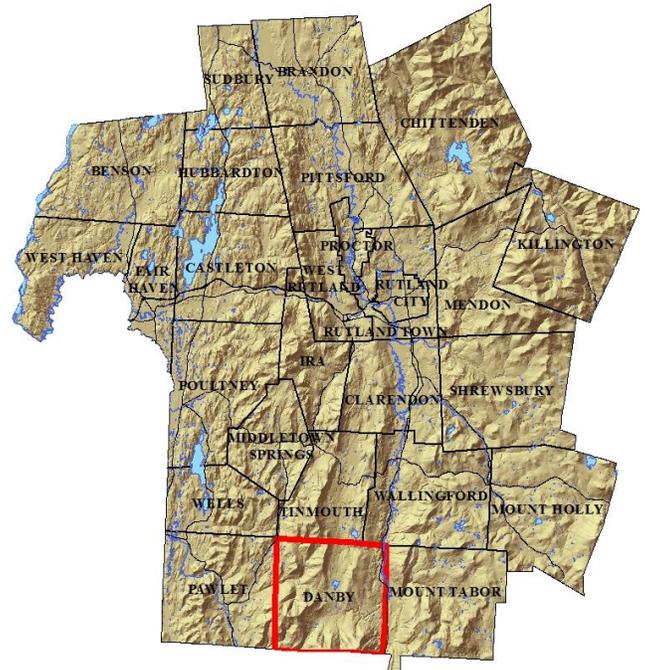
The railroad arrived in Danby in 1851, fifteen years after its construction had begun from Rutland. It had an immediate impact on goods shipping, most notably marble, but also dairy. For the next several years thirteen marble-laden railroad cars left Danby daily. In the world-wide financial panic of 1857 the marble industry was severely hurt and the railroad went bankrupt and the Danby Bank folded.

The Western Vermont Marble Company bought out most of the quarrying operations in the town between 1862 and 1868 but competition from throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties forced all of the quarries in Danby to close by 1870. Agriculture and cattle farming resurfaced as the town's economic focus in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Twentieth Century opened with great promise for Danby. Silas L. Griffith, a Danby resident, became one of the wealthiest men in the state through the lumber and charcoal industry he owned in Mount Tabor. He built a water and sewer system for the Borough and bequeathed a portion of his estate to the town. He gave funds to the Congregational Church, the schools, Scottsville Cemetery, and created a fund that annually provides children in Danby and Mount Tabor with a Christmas gift, candy, an orange, and winter clothing, and provided boots for the needy. His most substantial legacy, the S.L. Griffith Memorial Library, opened in 1904 and continues operations today as a private library in Danby Borough. The library is now also the home of the Mount Tabor and Danby Historical society.

Marble returned to the forefront of the Danby economy at the turn of the Twentieth Century with a revival in the use of white marble in public buildings. The expanding Vermont Marble Company bought the Danby quarries from the Western Vermont Marble Company in 1905. Just two years later they opened Danby's most famous quarry in Dorset Mountain's Lower Imperial Layer. This quarry is still active and was acquired by Pleuss Staufer Industries (Omya) in 1976 when it purchased Vermont Marble Company. The Vermont Danby Quarry is now owned by Omya and leased to RED graniti and Mazzuchelli Marmi of Carrara Italy and operates under the name Vermont Quarries Corp.

### RUTLAND REGION



Danby has a rich history. Its built environment and social legacies are an important part of the community's heritage. One of the town's most proud features is its continuity of development, especially in the Borough area. Businesses in the community continue to occupy the same buildings they did twenty-five years ago while homes

continue to stand just off the main roads leading into the Borough.

*The Historic Architecture of Rutland County*, published in 1988, lists 113 structures in the National Register of Historic Places in Danby, all of which are located in the Borough, and another 61 buildings from the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. This reference is highly recommended to anyone interested in finding out more about Danby's cultural heritage and historic architecture.

Virtually the entire Borough area, stretching from North Main Street to South Main Street north of Depot Street, is on the National Register. Homes, shops, the church, and the library are all listed and contribute to the town's appeal and appearance of continuity. From a preservation perspective the Town is fortunate to have had US Route 7 diverted east of the Borough area. Main Street continues to be a local road serving mainly the community and its businesses.

Historic sites and resources are found throughout the Town. They include churches, stores, homes, and places such as the Smokey House Center near Danby Four Corners. Over the course of the town's history it has had residents involved in the blacksmith trade, wood and marble saw mills, cider mills, tanneries, creameries, cheese factories, and quarrying, among others. Each one of these industries, and many more, are described in *Danby Two Centuries*, a book published in 1976 by the community.

## Topography

Most of Danby is located within the Taconic Mountains ecological region. This region influences the area's geologic, climatic, and vegetative characteristics. For instance, the marble veins create conditions favorable for biodiversity of species, especially botanical, because of their alkalinity. The marble veins also create a karst aquifer which creates complex hydrological flows in the local aquifers that make it especially vulnerable to contamination and depletion.

There can be a wide variation of conditions within a given region. The Town of Danby can be divided into four main geographic districts:

1. The town's eastern extremity borders the Otter Creek and the Vermont Valley. The valley stretches to Mount Tabor to the east and to the Danby Borough to the west before meeting the edge of the Taconic Mountain range. It is on this edge of the mountains that the town's lowest elevation - 650 feet above sea level - is found.
2. Aside from the Borough, the majority of the town's flat land is located in the Danby Four Corner upland plateau at an elevation of approximately 1,400 feet. The flat land is surrounded to the west by Dutch Hill as it runs into the Danby Four Corners area. Dutch Hill forms a steep ridgeline that is one of the town's most dominant physical features. At its steepest point the ridge drops 1,000 vertical feet in less than half a mile. Danby Hill and Colvin Hill form the eastern boundary of the Danby Four Corners Plateau, which extends north into Tinmouth and Clarendon.
3. Steep slopes follow westward towards the town of Pawlet in a valley between Woodlawn Mountain and Mount Hoag.
4. Danby's southern border is wedged between two peaks: Dorset Mountain, one of the five highest peaks in the region at 3,804 feet of elevation, and Woodlawn Mountain (elevation 3,110). A pass crosses from the town of Dorset at an elevation of approximately 1,700 feet and is served by the Dorset Mountain Road.

## Elevations

Dorset and Woodlawn Mountains, as well as Dutch Hill, contain the town's most severe topography and highest elevations. These areas are unique and important scenic, recreational, and hydrological resources in the community. Because soils in these areas are generally shallower, the

potential for surface runoff is high and vegetative growth is slow.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has determined that environments above 2,500 feet elevation are considered sensitive to development. Most of Dorset Mountain is already designated as Conservation Land and is protected from extensive development. Areas at high elevations or with steep slopes are shown on the Natural Resource maps included in this document.

## Built Environment

Like many Vermont communities, Danby is predominantly rural and reflects land use patterns that have shaped the town for hundreds of years. There are several small concentrated pockets of development surrounded by working lands, which includes agricultural uses up to forested mountain elevations or slopes. Linear development along roadways is primarily residential, with agricultural and commercial development present. Approximately 20% of the land in Danby is conserved through public and private measures.

The town of Danby's built environment has many shapes and sizes. Features include:

- Large tracts of conserved and forest resource areas.
- A handful of densely settled areas.
- Mineral extraction and processing facilities.
- Single-family housing units on greater than 2-acre lots.
- Lands in agricultural use.

Danby Borough is the largest population and commercial center in the community. Significant population growth occurred here in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the village core reflects traditional land use patterns and architecture. It borders Mt. Tabor just west of US Route 7 and the rail line.

The Borough is Danby's activity center and includes the town's historic district. It has received

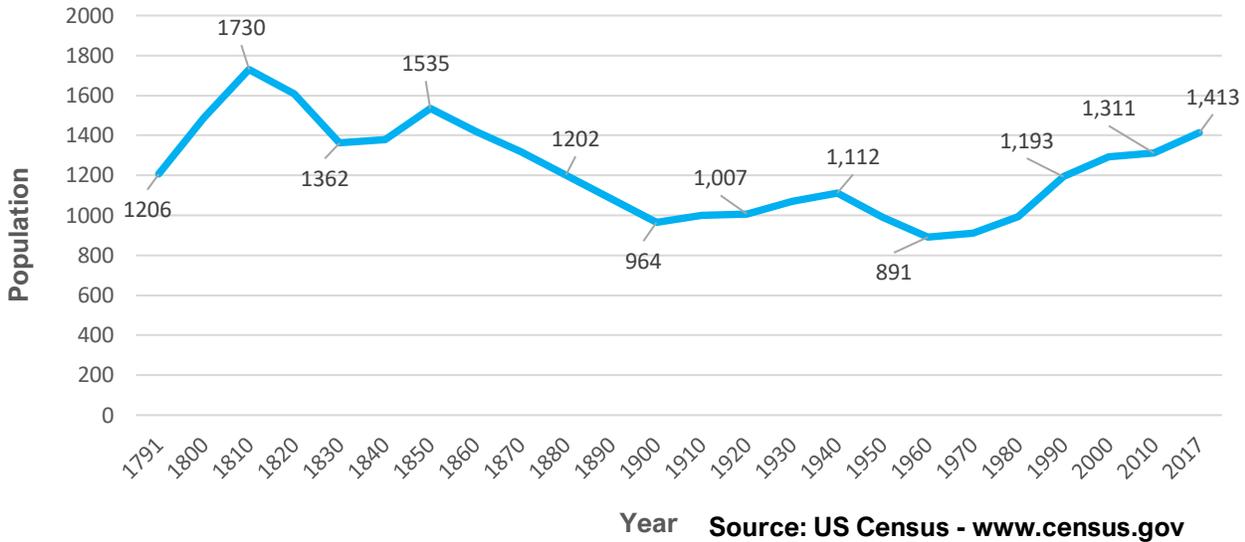
the Village Designation from the State of Vermont. Activities taking place here include the Town Clerk's Office, the Currier Memorial Elementary School, the fire station, the town garage, the library, the historical society, church, the post office, the Masonic Hall, and the town's transfer station.

Much of the built environment within the Borough has been standing for more than 100 years and has been included on the State and National Historic Registry.

Danby has a wealth of mineral resources and extraction operations have been an important part of the Danby economy for over 150 years. A band of sedimentary rock, which often contains marble, stretches from Dorset Mountain in the town's southeast corner northwards into Tinmouth Mountain. The quarry within Dorset Mountain has been operational since 1906. Gravel resources are also plentiful in the community. Small gravel pits have been a source of income for the community for several decades. Industrial activities in the town for the most part are focused on the extraction and processing of mineral resources.

The mix of uses between residential, light commercial and commercial/industrial earth extraction operations occurs within the Borough area and along Route 7 in the northern part of town. These operations strive to minimize disturbance to the abutting residential area and the town realizes the benefits these operations provide.

### Danby Population 1791-2017

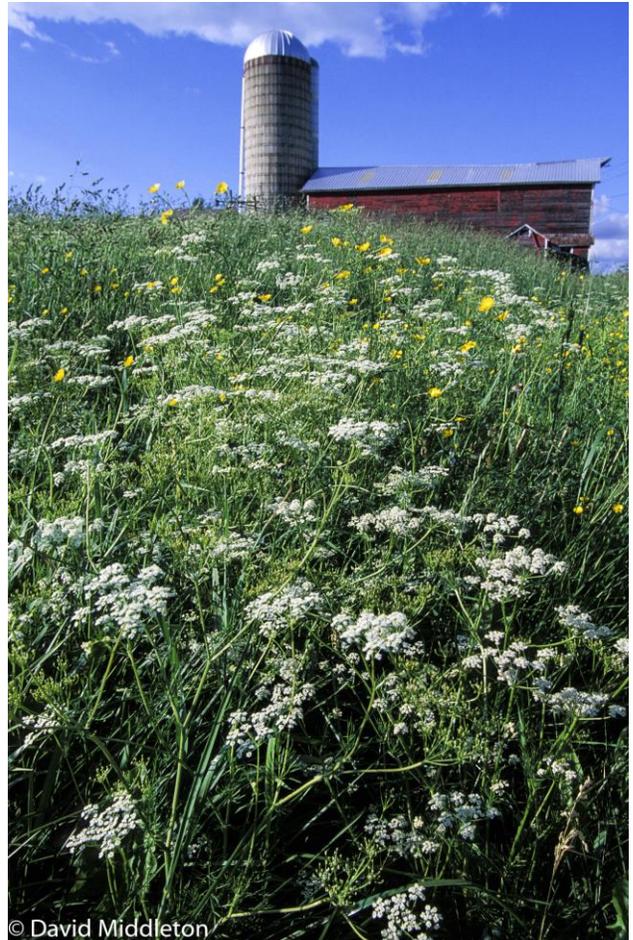


Danby Four Corners, the second largest center and original settlement site, is in the approximate center of the township. Scottsville, north off Route 7, the West Side, and Quarry Hill to the south of the Borough, are also population centers.

Agriculture and forestry working land uses dominate the landscape. Twenty one percent of the Town is in private and public conserved land and used for a variety of purposes.

### Population

Danby’s 2017 population of 1,413 placed it 12<sup>th</sup> among the Rutland Region’s 27 communities and represented a 9% percent increase from 2000. The 2017 Census figure also marked the third time since 1890 that the population was above 1,200.

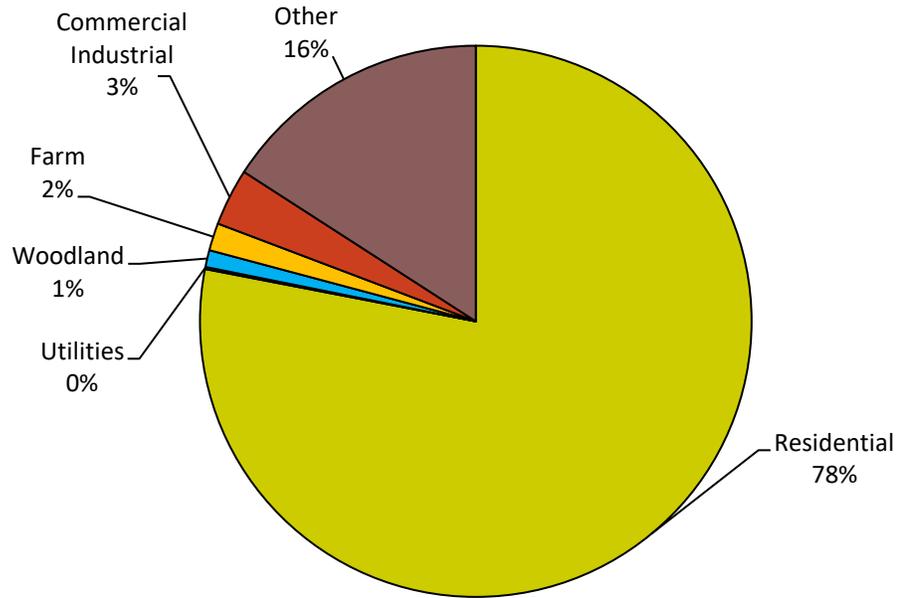


### Age Distribution

Two significant demographic shifts have taken place in Danby over the past three decades. There has been a clear increase in the proportion of individuals over 45 and a drop among those aged 20 to 45.

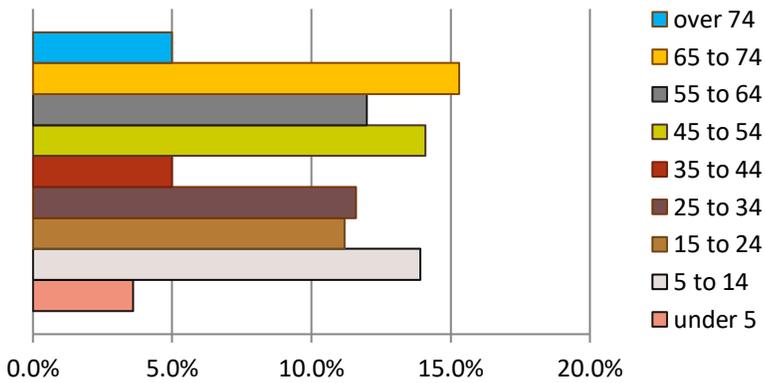
The proportion of residents over 65 has also increased in recent years. In 2017, they represented 20 percent of the total, up from 13 percent in 2000. The average age of Danby residents is 42.7.

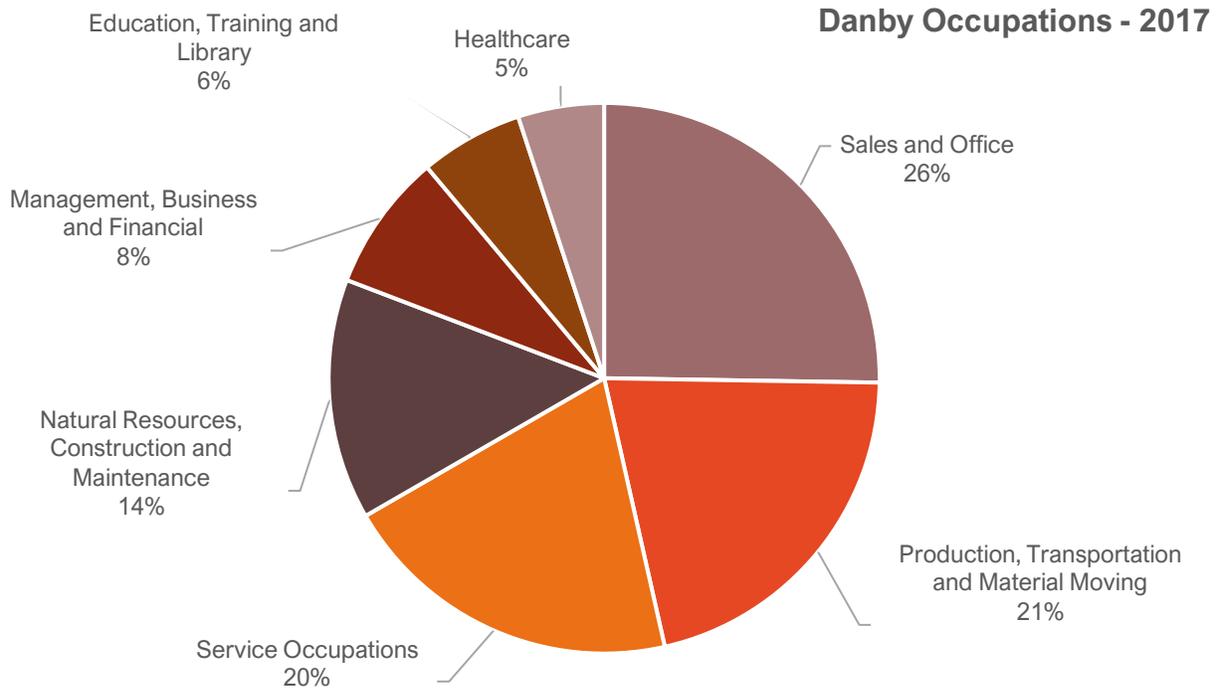
### Danby Land Use - 2018



Other includes: undeveloped land that is not mostly forest covered, e.g. shore lots, residential building lots, and unimproved agricultural land.

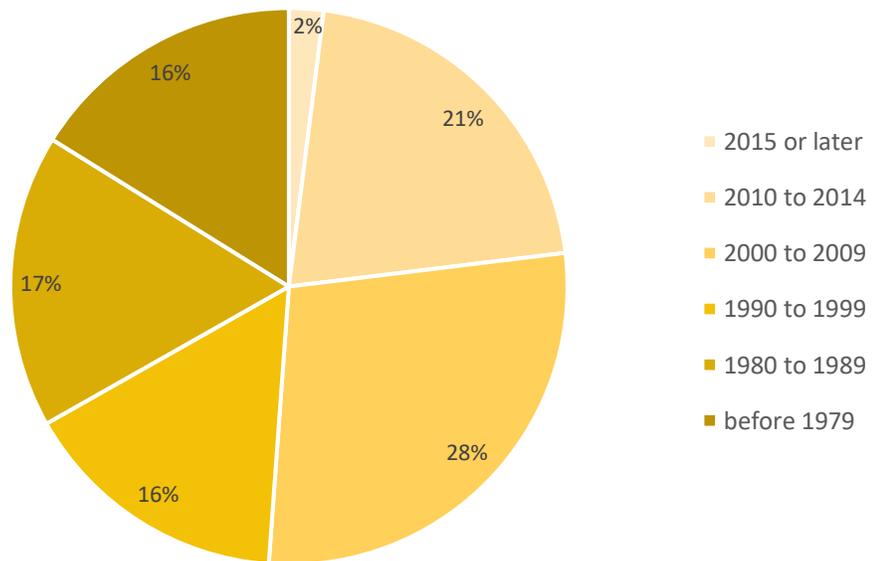
### Age Distribution Danby - 2017

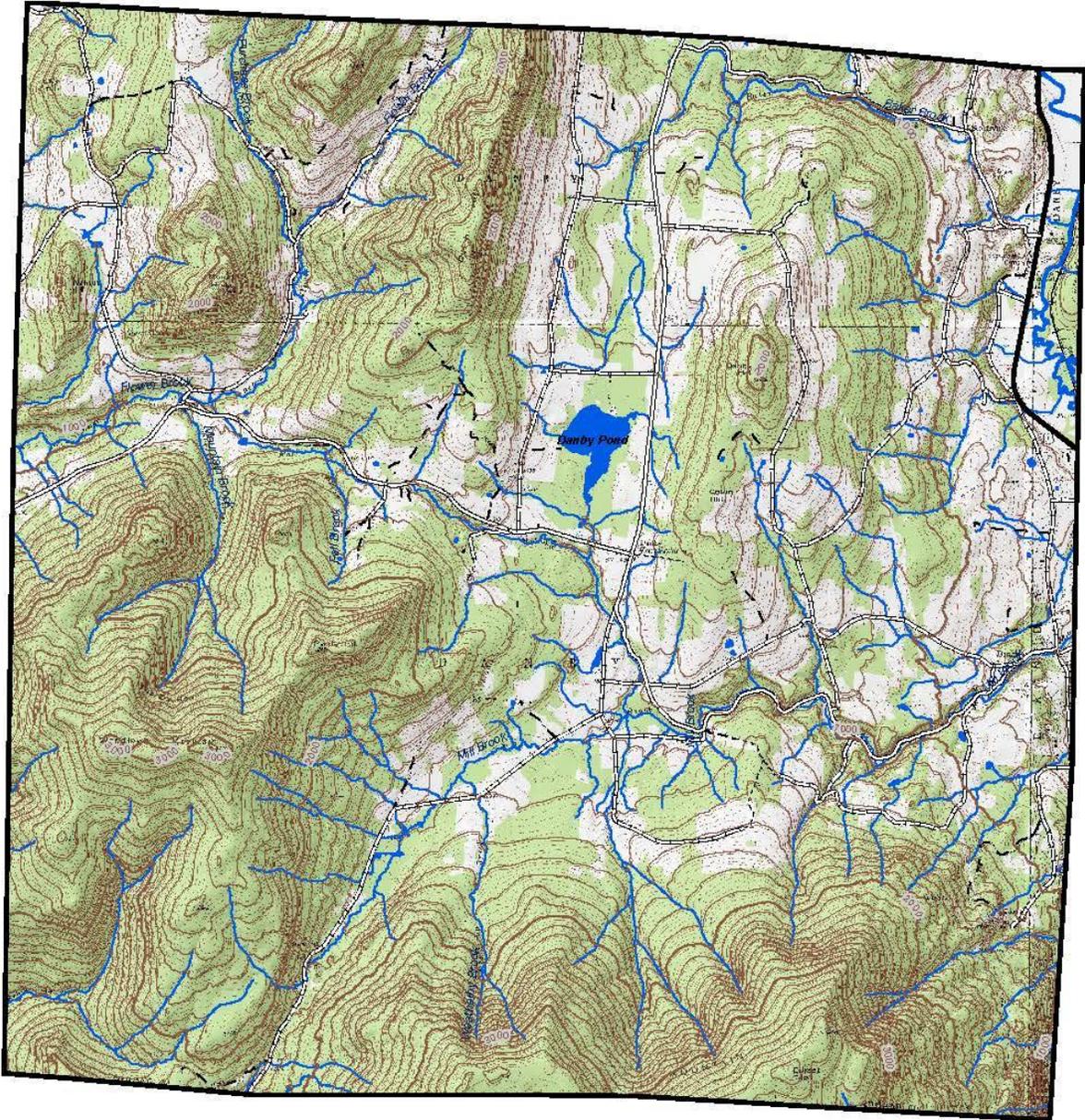




Source: US Census - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### Year Householder Moved Into Unit

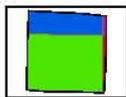




## DANBY VERMONT Topography

The Town of Danby is covered by four USGS topographic maps.

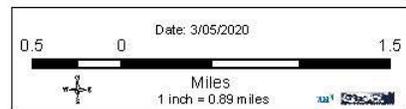
- Danby, VT (0506)
- Dorset, VT (0407)
- Wallingford, VT (0507)
- Middletown Springs, VT (0406)

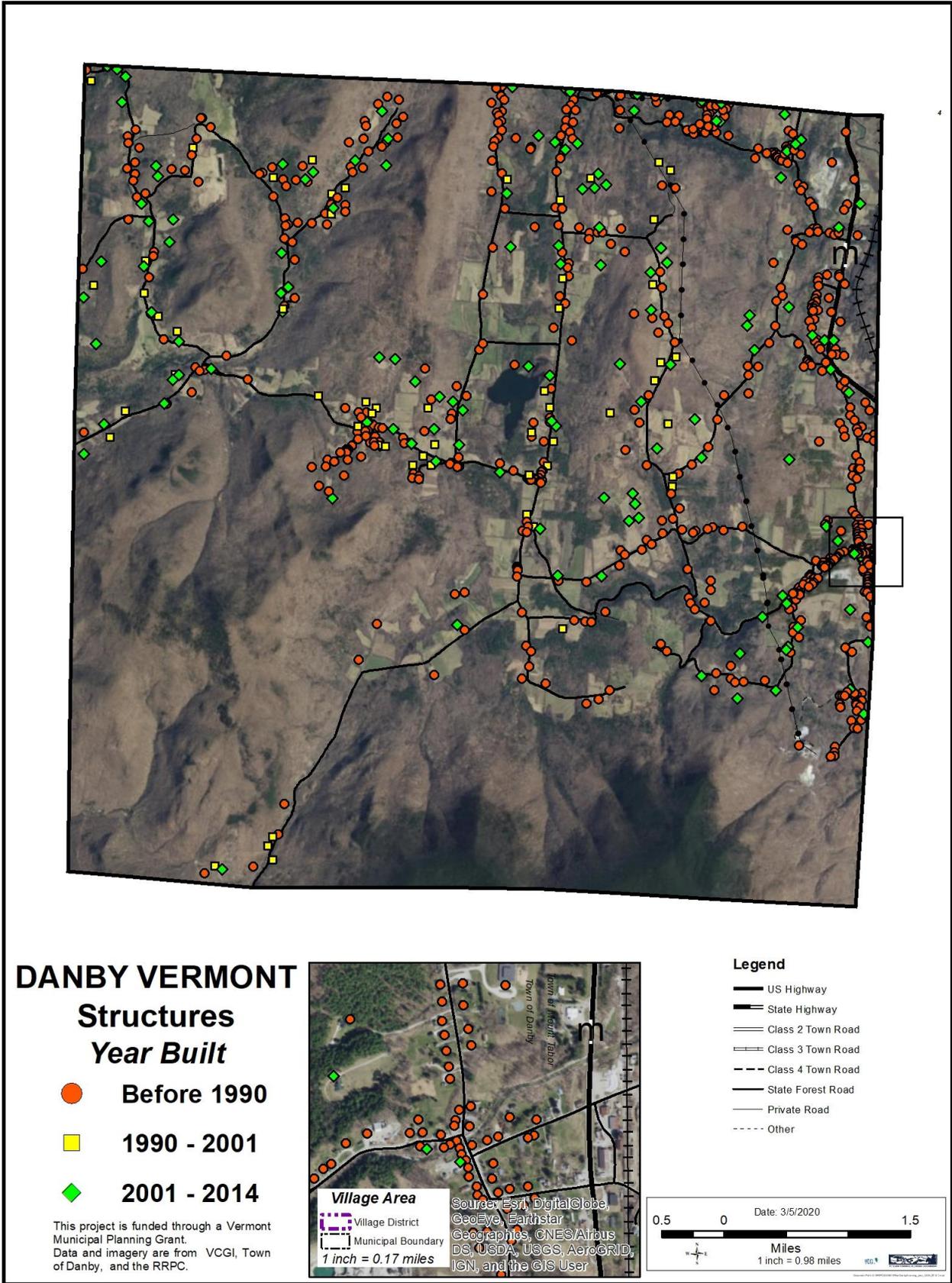


### Legend

- US Highway
- State Highway
- Class 2 Town Road
- Class 3 Town Road
- Class 4 Town Road
- State Forest Road
- Private Road
- Other
- 100 Foot Contour Interval
- 1000 Foot Contour Interval

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.





## Land Use

The following land use districts have been identified, and policies developed for their use:

- **Highlands**
- **Agriculture and Rural Residential**
- **Industrial / Heavy Commercial**
- **Village and Light Commercial**
- **Aquifer Protection**
- **Special Flood Hazard Areas**

## Highlands

Land above 1,700' elevation is placed in this category. All land falling in this district shall be used for agriculture, forestry and limited recreational purposes.

In conjunction with the Aquifer Protection District, these areas serve to protect the purity of the watershed and headwaters, and the sensitive natural resources of these areas. Extraction is not permitted in this area.

## Industrial/Heavy Commercial

The heavy commercial and industrial district recognizes industrial and commercial uses. These include, but are not limited to: manufacturing, mining, aggregate processing, solar electric generation facilities (150 kW and over), and industrial scale wind (100kW and over). These uses take advantage of the access provided by Route 7 to shipping points and to Rutland.

**This is the only district that solar generation facilities 150kW and over and industrial scale wind facilities 100kW and over are allowed.**

## Village and Light Commercial

This district includes most of Danby Borough and is supported by a State of Vermont Village Center Designation. Uses in this district include, but are not limited to: professional offices, residential, small-scale retail stores, lodging and dining and light commercial uses.

Structures in the Borough are typically built on small lots, resulting in relatively high densities. The compact nature of the settlement patterns in this area support mixed uses and non-automobile modes of transportation such as pedestrian, bicycle and public transit. A majority of the land in this district is encompassed by the Village Center Designation.

Designation is an important tool that can be utilized to protect and enhance the characteristics of the area that are valued by the community. This Plan supports the renewal of the designation every five years so that it does not expire.

### **Agricultural/Rural Residential**

All lands below 1,700', unless otherwise designated, are included in agricultural and rural residential categories. Uses in this district should support agricultural and forestry working lands and low-density residential uses.

### **Aquifer Protection**

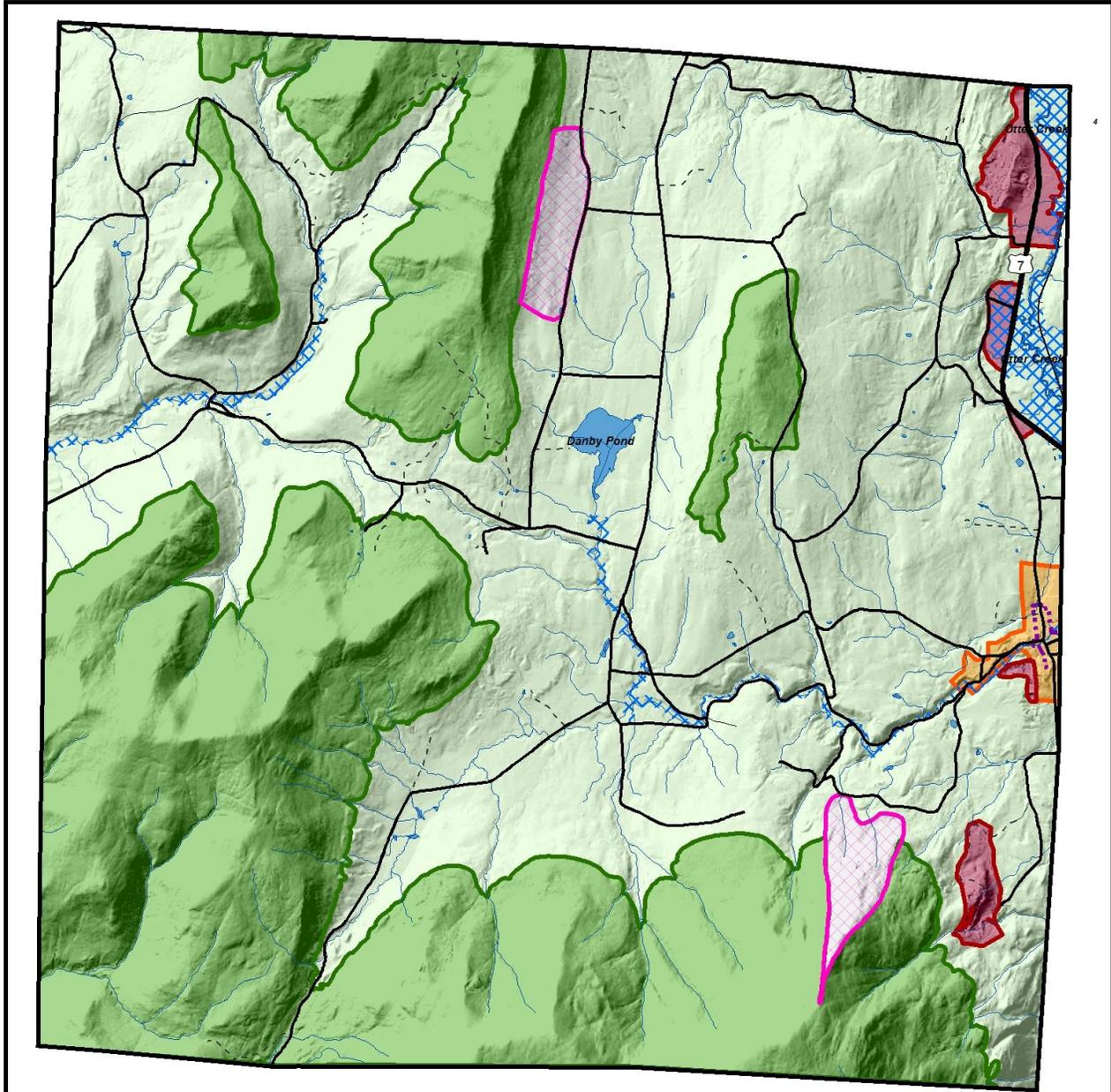
The Aquifer Protection districts are shown on the Land Use Map and created to protect the significant water resources of the town. Development in these areas shall be avoided. Extraction operations are not permitted in Aquifer Protection districts.

### **Special Flood Hazard Areas**

The Special Flood Hazard Area is designated throughout the town by National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Development in these areas shall be avoided when possible. Lands in these areas are regulated by the Town of Danby Flood Hazard Bylaws.

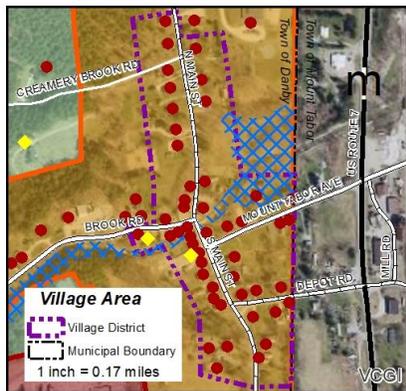


*Danby Village circa 1985*



## DANBY VERMONT Land Use Districts

- Village and Light Commercial
- Commercial / Industrial
- Highland
- Aquifer Protection Area
- Agriculture and Rural Residential
- Danby Designated Village Center
- Special Flood Hazard Area (Zones: A; AE)



### Legend

- Town Class One; US and State Highways
- Town Class Two; Town Class Three
- Town Class Four
- Private/ Unknown Roads

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.



## Energy

Energy planning in the municipal plan supports integrated policies and strategies for resource protection, transportation, land use, and community facilities and services. The municipal energy plan also forms the basis for related community energy programs and actions.

The plan supports the development of renewable energy resources and energy facilities in Danby in a collaborative manner while limiting adverse impacts on public health, safety, welfare, the town's historic and planned pattern of development, environmentally sensitive areas, and our most highly valued natural, cultural and scenic resources.

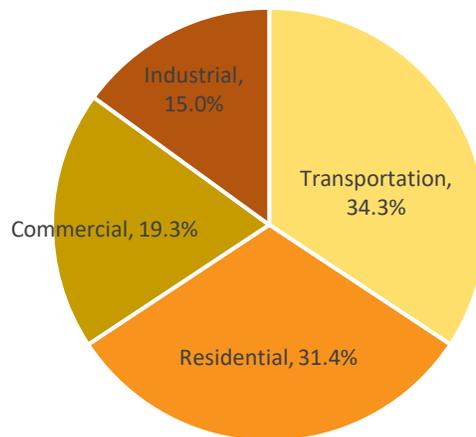
Energy generation and transmission systems that are linked to the electrical grid are regulated by the VT Public Utility Commission (VTPUC) under 30 V.S.A. Section 248. Municipal plan policies - as adopted community standards - provide the basis for local participation in state regulatory proceedings under Section 248. Before the VTPUC can issue a Certificate of Public Good it must find that the purchase, investment, or construction, with respect to an in-state facility,

will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration having been given to clear written community standards contained in the municipal plan of the affected municipality.

## Energy Use

Energy use in the Town of Danby is similar to other Rutland Region communities with transportation and home heating as the two primary draws on fuel and energy. While Vermont has the lowest per-capita energy use in the country, rising energy costs and the

VT Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector 2018



Source: VT Department of Public Service

environmental impacts of energy production have made energy an important issue and planning priority.

### Electricity

According to the VT Department of Public Service nearly 40% of the energy consumed in the state comes from electricity. In 2011 Vermont had the lowest carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation among the 50 states: a tenth of a percent.

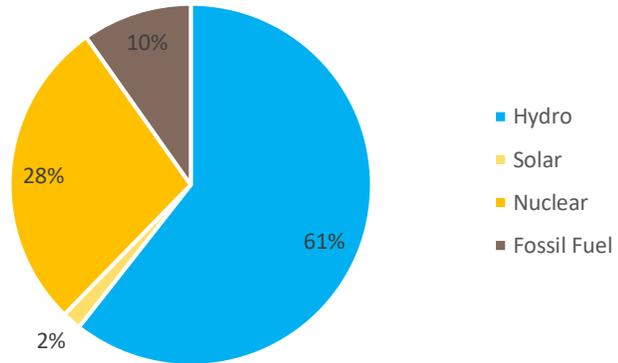
Green Mountain Power (GMP) provides electricity to Danby’s residential, commercial, and institutional facilities. GMP has a total of 62.0 miles of distribution line in Danby, 95 percent of which is above ground. Electricity is supplied through a network of distribution transformers that convert power for home and business use.

One 46kv transmission line runs through Danby. GMP supplies electricity for the sole customer of the transmission line, Vermont Quarries Corp underground marble quarry facilities. GMP has approximately 5.5 miles of 46KV transmission line in Danby, as well as a substation at the quarry itself.

### Transportation

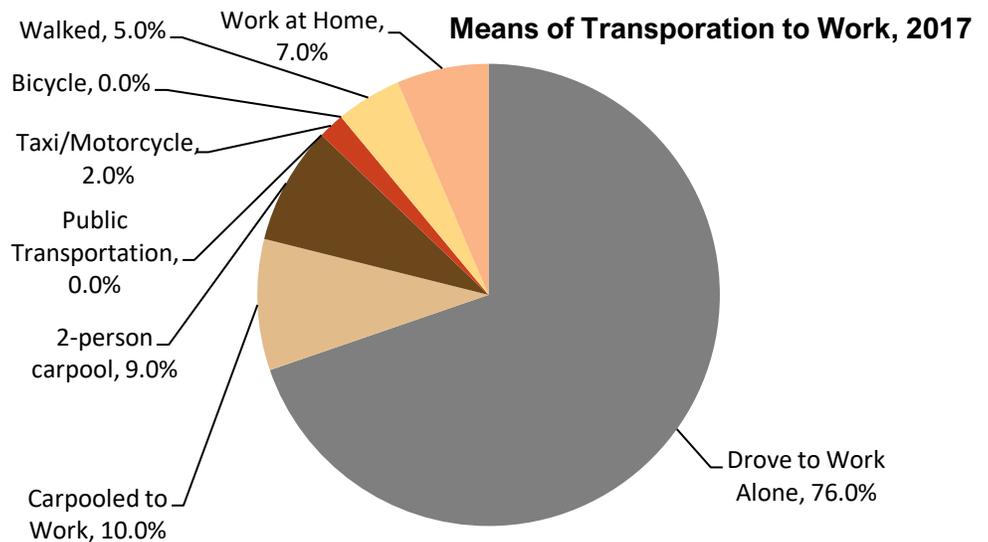
Transportation is a significant consumer of energy in the Rutland Region and Vermont as a whole due to its rural nature. According to the Vermont Department of Public Service transportation accounts for 34% of all energy consumed in 2018 and is the leading consumer of petroleum energy, accounting for two-thirds of all petroleum

GMP 2018 Power Supply Resource Profile



usage. Private automobile use is the primary source as residents tend to drive long distances to jobs and shopping. For Vermont residents nearly 44 cents of every dollar spent on energy is for transportation.

While residents in Danby Borough have the opportunity to walk to a few local services, the majority of the town’s residents use vehicles for daily trips. According to the 2017 Census, 34% of Danby residents work outside of the town and the mean travel time to work is 27 minutes. 95% of Danby residents drive to work, one of the highest rates in Rutland County.



Source: US Census - www.census.gov

The Region’s bus service, “The Bus”, makes trips through Danby. Car-pooling is taking place but no formal town program is in place.

According to the Vermont Department of Public Service, energy consumption in the transportation sector increased by 23% between 1990 and 2001 resulting in a proportional increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by transportation. Reducing energy for transportation will mean promoting use of more efficient vehicles and the development of compact village centers which support enough density to attract public transportation and encourage other modes of travel, such bicycle and pedestrian, as well as the increasing opportunity to work at home because of fiber optic high speed internet service throughout Danby. In comparison to outer-edge, suburban development patterns compact development reduces vehicle miles traveled by 20-40% [Growing Cooler, Urban Land Institute].

### Heating Fuel

Heating and other related household activities account for 31% of all energy use in Vermont. According to the US Census fuel oil heated 66.2% of all homes in Rutland County. In Danby fuel oil and wood were the most common sources of heating fuel.

Vermont Gas Systems has a goal of getting natural gas to Rutland, and future plans to go

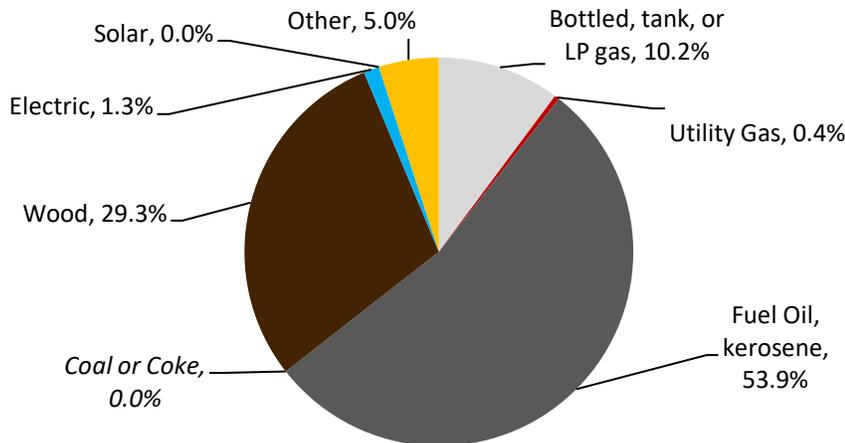
south to Bennington. If Danby is along the proposed pipeline route, natural gas should be located along Route 7 where it can be available to village, commercial, and industrial use.

### Energy Efficiency

Energy conservation and energy efficiency are a top planning priority because it is more cost effective to conserve rather than produce energy. The importance of energy efficiency is reflected in Vermont’s planning statutes which require an energy plan adopted as part of a municipal plan to include “a statement of policy on the conservation of energy...”

Energy efficiency measures have direct economic benefits to communities. Approximately \$0.80 of every dollar spent on energy efficiency remains in Vermont, while approximately \$0.80 of every dollar spent to purchase energy leaves the state. A 2007 report prepared by the VT Department of Public Service found that the state could save over \$3 dollars in reduced fuel cost for every \$1 dollar invested in making homes and businesses more efficient.

Source: US Census - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)



Housing Units Heated by Source, 2017

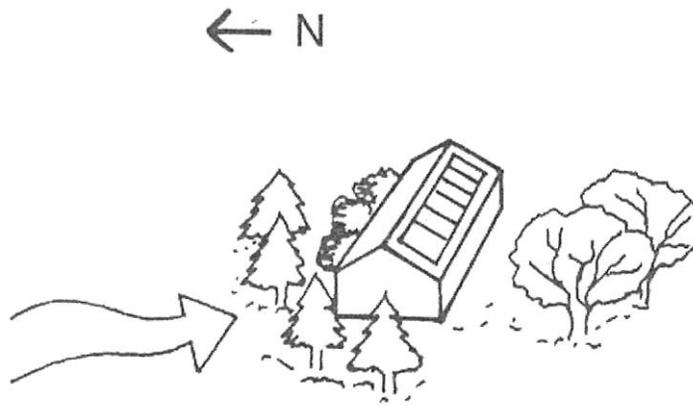
Addressing efficiency in the energy plan typically involves identifying potential efficiency opportunities, establishing efficiency goals and policies, and identifying the programs and implementation strategies necessary to achieve those goals. Common implementation goals and strategies for energy efficiency:

- Improve efficiency in municipal buildings, facilities and operations.
- Maximize local access to available regional, state and federal programs.
- Improve fuel efficiency of municipal vehicles.
- Promote town-wide transportation efficiency
- Support building efficiency in the private sector.

Efficiency Vermont, the state’s energy efficiency utility, offers a number of programs and financial incentives for local government, businesses and residents to increase energy efficiencies and reduce energy costs. The state has also enacted energy efficiency standards for commercial and residential construction that are administered through the Vermont Department of Public Service.

### Efficient building design

The way that buildings are sited and constructed can affect the amount of energy needed to access and use them. Energy efficiency techniques include low-flow toilets and shower heads; energy efficient appliances and lighting; local materials; passive heating and cooling, building orientation, proper landscaping and design/construction of openings in buildings; solar hot water; extra insulation, and renewable heating sources such as wood and geo-thermal. By nature of their design single family structures are generally less energy efficient in northern climates such as Vermont, due to the number of outside walls per dwelling unit.



*Illustration shows basic building orientation and landscaping that maximizes passive heating and cooling.*

Multi-family structures, with more common interior walls, provide greater thermal integrity against the elements. A greater mix of single and multiple unit structures would improve energy efficiency on the municipal level, resulting in reductions in per capita energy consumption.

### Land Use and Transportation

The Rutland Region’s rural, low density settlement patterns contribute to the area’s reliance on the private automobile for most travel. Transportation is a leading source of energy consumption and is directly linked to land use patterns. Vermont’s statutory planning and development goals call on municipalities to “plan development as to maintain the historic settlement pattern on compact village and urban centers surrounded by rural countryside.” This historic pattern was established prior to the age of the automobile and cheap fossil fuels. Development was located to take advantage of the dominant energy source of the times, including animal power that required open land for food and pasture, hydro-power which concentrated industrial activity around water resources and coal and wood that fueled early rail service that served growing communities located along main lines.



Figure 4.4 (a) dispersed and car-dependent versus (b) traditional, compact and walkable layout.

Vermont’s historic settlement pattern – characterized by compact, mixed-use development – is the precursor to the contemporary development model often referred to as smart growth. This type of development continues to offer energy-efficient alternatives to scattered, low-density development as it reduces demand for transportation related consumption by locating goods and services in proximity. It does this by facilitating other, more energy-efficient means of transportation such as pedestrian and bicycle. Compact development patterns also reduce energy costs associated with maintaining roads and

related infrastructure.

Supporting compact, mixed-use development surrounded by rural open areas and working lands also maintains the traditional land use pattern that residents and visitors associate with the history and character of the town. Maintaining large tracts of healthy forests and productive farmland not only provides the contrast with the built environment, but ensures long term access to local food supplies and forest products.

## Renewable Energy Development

To maintain a good quality of life, vibrant communities, and prospering economies Danby will have to develop conservation strategies that allow the town to use remaining nonrenewable fuels wisely while transitioning to energy obtained from cleaner, renewable sources.

Nearly one-quarter of all energy consumed in Vermont and the Rutland Region comes from renewable sources, including but not limited to wind, solar, hydroelectric and bioenergy. To expand the use of renewable energy for both heating and electricity. By 2032, the state goal is to have 75% of all electricity coming from renewable sources and 90% of energy needs across all sectors from renewables by 2050.

Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, biomass and geo-thermal can provide significant amounts of clean energy. New Technologies not yet available may enable future options for moving away from fossil fuels, as current renewable technologies have limits. Developing those resources is extremely important as the total amount of energy that can be extracted from such resources is still less than what we currently obtain from fossil fuels. Danby supports the exploration and use of renewable and alternative energy resources in the Town where they fit with the natural environment and are supported by the community through a collaborative siting process.

## Local Energy Resources

To assist small-scale and community renewable energy projects Vermont has a Clean Energy Development Fund. Vermont is the first state to institute a feed-in tariff for small renewable energy facilities. The feed-in tariff, called the Standard Offer, guarantees owners of small renewable facilities like solar panels a specific price for their power and requires electric utilities to buy all power offered until a statewide cap is reached. Standard offer contracts are often in place and locked into a location prior to host towns and neighbors learning of the project. Danby encourages developers to meet with the town prior to finalizing project locations.

Since 1998, the Vermont Public Service Board has issued “Certificates of Public Good for Interconnected Net Metered Power Systems,” permitting electrical utility customers in Vermont to generate their own power using small-scale renewable energy systems. In the “net metering” program any excess power generated that is not used by the customer is fed back to the utilities and customers are credited on their next monthly bill. This program is also available to farmers who generate up to 150 kilowatts. This limit offers an opportunity to farms to economically generate their own power and reduce demand from utilities. Group net metering is also now allowed, so that neighborhoods can join together to install one renewable energy facility that a number of residences can benefit from. This is especially important because not everyone has a good south facing site for PV.

## Solid Waste Management

Historically, waste management has been a municipal concern with important implications for energy planning. Since 1960 the amount of waste generated per person per day in the U.S. has increased by 1.8 pounds. Total waste generation in the U.S. in 2008 was 249.6 million tons. That same year, over 560,000 tons of solid waste was disposed of by Vermonters, 80% of which ended up in in-state

landfills. Managing and removing materials from the waste stream may not only extend the life of our landfills but also reduce energy consumption and costs associated with disposal.

In Vermont, municipalities are responsible for the management and regulation of the storage, collection, processing and disposal of solid waste within their jurisdiction in conformance with the state solid waste management plan. Danby is a member of the Rutland County Solid Waste District.

## Housing

Housing, particularly affordable housing, is a critical concern in Rutland County and the State of Vermont. Vermont is considered one of the least affordable states in the nation..

Homeownership in Vermont is also difficult for many credit-worthy households due to the high up-front costs of purchasing a home and the increase in median home sales prices in recent years.

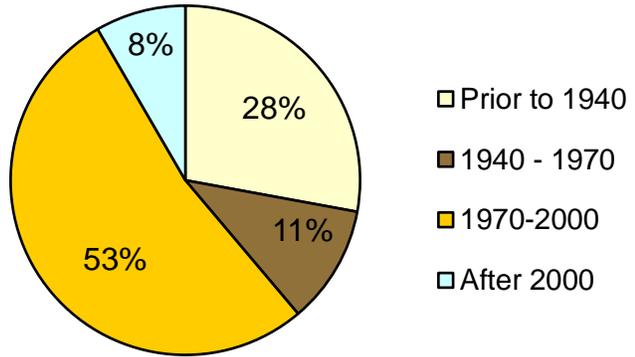
Nationwide, a trend toward fewer persons per household has changed the type of housing needs and increased the demand for housing, especially affordable housing, in many towns.

Danby has housing needs that are comparable with state and national trends in some respects, but that are also heavily influenced by the town's unique history and location between Rutland and Manchester.

### Existing conditions

**Age of Housing** - While houses are spread throughout Danby areas of concentration include the Borough, the Four Corners, Scottsville, Quarry Hill and the West Side. The age of housing in Danby varies greatly and reflects the population shifts in the community. The median year of houses built in Danby is 1975, compared to Rutland County (1969) and State of Vermont (1974)

Year Structure Built, Danby



Source: US Census - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

**Housing Occupancy** - The 2017 Census shows that 540 of Danby's 766 (70%) total housing units were occupied. There were 226 vacant units, however 70% of these were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. The majority of homes in Danby (80%) are occupied by their owners.

<b>Table I</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2000 % of Total</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2010 % of Total</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017 % of Total</b>
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	647		734		766	
Total Occupied Units	502	78%	550	75%	540	70%
Owner Occupied	394	79%	436	79%	434	80%
Renter Occupied	108	22%	114	21%	106	20%
Vacant Housing Units	145	22%	184	25%	226	30%
Seasonal, recreational or occasional use	128	20%	140	19%	158	21%
<b>Housing Stock</b>						
Single Family	471	73%	521	72%	597	78%
Two Family	26	4%	39	7%	30	4%
Multi-family (more than 3)	18	3%	18	2%	13	2%
Mobile Home	131	20%	115	20%	126	16%

**Table 1 – Danby Housing Stock and Occupancy 2000-2017**

## Households

Average household size has been dropping from 2.73 persons per home in 1990 to 2.57 in 2000 and 2.38 in 2010. Yet the Region and the State are still lower at 2.28 and 2.34 persons per household respectively. This trend, common throughout the country, will have an impact on future housing needs.

The overall proportion of households with children under 18 years of age in Danby was 28% in 2010. The number of children under 18 has increased from 325 in 1990 to 382 in 2017.

## Special Needs Population

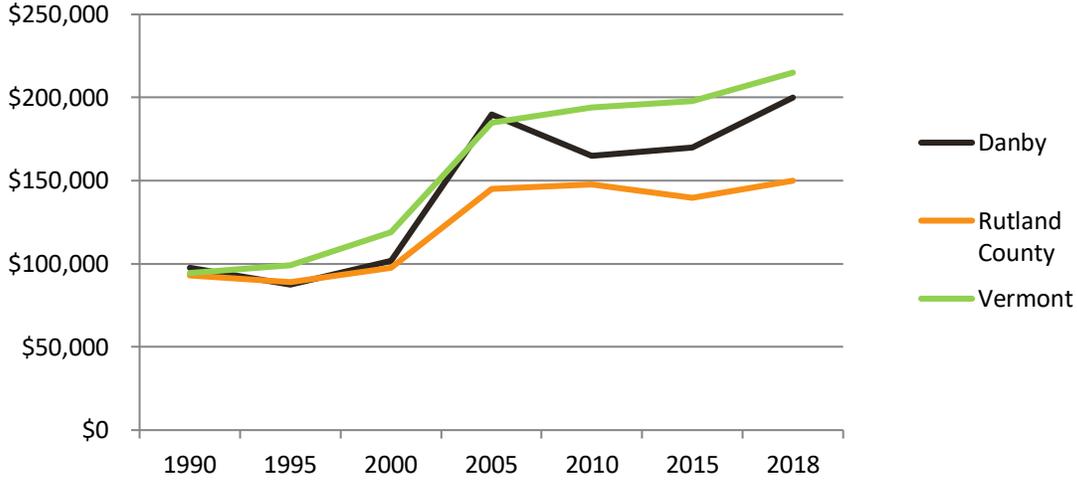
*Definition: The special needs population, for the purposes of a housing analysis includes single parent households, elderly and the homeless, and the physically and mentally impaired.*

In addition to requiring certain services that differ from typical single-family households (i.e. physical accessibility, assisted living) these groups also tend to be in the lower income category. The 2017 Census indicated that Danby had 44 female-led households (8%). Danby also had 73 residents over the age 65 living alone (14% of all households), up from 26 (5.9%) in 1990.

## Housing Affordability

*Definition: Housing is considered to be affordable where a household earning an average income is able to spend no more than 30 percent of their total income on an average-priced new home or older home in good condition.*

**Median Price of Primary Residences Sold**



The Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition makes projections on the necessary income for a family to afford a one, two, or three bedroom housing unit in each of the state’s counties. Their 2019 figures suggest that a family in Rutland County would have to earn \$50,400 annually - up from \$32,240 annually in 2001 - to be able to afford a three-bedroom unit without paying more than 30% of income on housing. And while the median family income was estimated to be \$61,940 in 2017, up from \$41,600 in 2000, 14% of Danby households earned less than \$25,000. Table II shows what proportion of households in the county meet this target of paying less than 30% of gross income on housing.

**Housing Affordability in Rutland County and Danby**

The 2017 Census data for Danby indicated that 35% of all households paid more than 30% of income on housing. 12% of households paid more than 50% of income for housing expenses. These figures are in line with county and state amounts.

The median price for primary residence sold in Danby in 2017 was \$200,000 - higher than the Rutland County median, however, lower than the Vermont amount of \$215,000.

**Affordable Housing Index for Rutland County Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition 2019**

TABLE II	Family Income (2017)	Fair Market Rent by # of Bedrooms			Annual Income Needed to Afford Without Spending More than 30%		
		1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed
<b>Rutland County</b>	\$61,940	\$788	\$939	\$1,260	\$31,520	\$37,560	\$50,400

## Future Housing Needs

- The majority of homes in Danby are single family. Of the 766 total housing units in Danby in 2017, 94% were either single family houses (597) or mobile homes (126).
- The high, although declining, number of mobile homes suggests that there may be an affordability gap where income levels do not match average housing costs in the community. An abundance of mobile homes suggests that the cost of a single family home is prohibitive for many families.
- The town's population and number of homes may continue to grow over the next 10-20 years. The number of new housing units, specifically single-family units, created between 1990 and 2017 suggest that growth will continue. Whether or not these trends will affect housing affordability is in part determined by the vacancy rates of rental and ownership units.
- With the continuing aging of the population, the continued decline in the average household size, and the number of those over 65 living alone a need for smaller housing units will be created.
- Danby, like much of the county, contains a high percentage of old housing stock. In 2017, 28 percent of all units in the community were constructed before 1940. These units will continue to present housing opportunities for householders of varying income levels.
- Residents, both in surveys and by choice, have indicated a preference for single family homes. Whether this might change because of housing affordability and the factors noted above is something the community should investigate.

## Culture and Recreation

### Churches and Cemeteries

The First Congregational Church and Union Church buildings were constructed beginning in 1838 and 1840, respectively, and are still in use today. The Catholic Church in Danby Borough was built in 1947 to replace a former bank that had been used as a church since 1871. The church ceased operations in 2008 and the property was sold in 2014.

*Danby Two Centuries* identified 16 cemeteries in Danby. The oldest among them is the Read Hilliard Cemetery by Smokey House, followed by the Maple Grove Cemetery located west of the Four Corners.

### Silas L. Griffith Memorial Library

A free library has served the Town of Danby since 1906, the year the Silas L. Griffith Memorial Library opened its doors on South Main Street in the Borough.

The library building and its services are among the most historic facilities in the Town. Built and run using a trust fund left by Silas L. Griffith, the private library has served the community for over 100 years. A board of trustees oversees the library's operations.

The library is a resource for the entire community and has an extensive collection of books, articles, and photographs of Danby's history on display. There is a reading room for those interested in browsing the stacks or new releases.

The Library is both a part of Danby's Historic character and an excellent source of information on the Town's history. In 1976, the Library reprinted "the History and map of Danby, Vermont" by J.C. Williams, originally published in 1869. The Library has also made an effort in recent years to gather and display photographs, newspaper articles, and other memorabilia of the town's people, businesses, industries, and institutions. The Town would benefit greatly if the library were open more frequently and greater use could be made of the library for community events. Since the library has computers, greater access to them could benefit both students and adults that do not otherwise have access to high speed internet.

## Recreation

Recreation facilities in Danby are located at the Currier Memorial School. The school has a tennis court, ball field, and a playground. Residents and visitors also take advantage of activities such as hiking, cycling, fishing, hunting, skiing, swimming, horseback riding, and ATV/snowmobile riding.

## Community Organizations and Activities

Below is a list of organizations and activities operating in Danby:

- Girl Scout troops operate through the Currier Memorial School and generally use that facility as their venue. Girl Scout troops exist for girls aged 5-17 and are divided among five different groups - daisies, brownies, juniors, cadets, and seniors. The younger groups cooperate with Currier Memorial School to attract members.
- The Green Mountain Climbers serve as the local chapter of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc., a non-profit snowmobile organization with 33,000 members statewide. The organization maintains a network of trails across the region and state. Two trail branches pass through the northern part of the Town of Danby, connecting Tinmouth to the Otter Creek Valley in Mount Tabor.
- The Danby-Mt. Tabor Volunteer Fire Department, local churches, and private individuals often have suppers and fund raisers to which the community is invited. The Otter Creek Campground presents musical events every Thursday night.
- Danby - Mount Tabor NOW (a 501 (c)3 non-profit) celebrates the good things about our towns. The primary purposes of the organization are to 1) design, build and maintain the veterans' memorial in remembrance of our town veterans and 2) organized community events, programs and activities for the community, such as the annual town-wide tag sale, Trunk-or-treat for the town's children, concerts during the summer, and a holiday celebration in December.
- The Circle of Friends formed when the Lions Club disbanded and distributes holiday gift cards to more than fifty families.

- The Marble Lodge #76 F & AM formed in January of 1866 and continues to meet the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in their Lodge on South Main Street. The building, once Jesse Lapham's Stone Store, was donated by Katherine Tiel Griffith, widow of Silas, in 1915. The Masons support the Grand Lodge of Vermont CARE program (Comprehensive Assistance Recovery Effort) which trains those employees associated with the Vermont Education system to recognize the outward symptoms of "at risk" children and to direct them to the proper opportunities for support and assistance. The building is available for public use, funerals, training sessions, etc.
- The Mt. Tabor Danby Historical Society was founded in 1985 as a 501 (c)3 corporation. Membership is open to residents of Danby and Mt. Tabor including part time residents. The original building and historical contents were lost during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. The purpose of the Society is to archive artifacts connected with the history of both towns and to provide educational programs. The society holds a 25-year lease on a portion of the S.L. Griffith Library on Main Street.



## Natural Resources

### Geology and Soils

Three major soil groupings within nine soil associations encompass the Rutland Region. The three groupings, soils formed in water-deposited material, soils formed in the Vermont and Champlain Valleys and the Taconic Mountains, and soils formed in the Green Mountains, are all present in Danby.

Danby Borough borders the first of those groupings and is located in the Hinckley-Warwick-Windsor Association of soils that formed in water-deposited material and organic material as part of the Vermont Valley.

The majority of the town, including most of its center, is located in the second major grouping. Danby Four Corners and its associated valley form part of the Paxton-Georgia-Amenia Association of soils that runs north-south from Rutland City through Clarendon and Tinmouth into Danby. Also common are soils from the Dutch-Bomoseen-Pittstown Association.

Finally, Dorset Mountain makes up part of the third major grouping and is lined primarily with soil from the Rawsonville-Houghtonville Association.

### Water Resources

#### Hydrology/Watersheds

Topography, geologic, and climatological factors greatly influence the hydrologic events of watersheds and drainage basins. A watershed is defined as any sloping surface that sheds water. A drainage basin is a watershed that collects and discharges surface stream flow through one outlet or mouth.

Two main watersheds, the Mettowee River and the Otter Creek, drain the town of Danby. The Mettowee drains the western half of the town towards Pawlet and New York State. The Otter Creek drains the eastern half of the town towards Rutland, Middlebury, and eventually into Lake

Champlain. Both watersheds are part of the larger Lake Champlain Basin that covers approximately one-third of the state of Vermont, part of New York State, and part of southern Quebec.

Watershed management plans are produced periodically the state, and should be reviewed for recommendations pertinent to Town interests. The Poultney-Mettowee Basin Plan was published in 2005. An updated plan for the specific watershed does not exist, but the South Lake Champlain Tactical Basin Plan (approved in 2017) incorporates elements of the old document and should be consulted for town-specific planning purposes. The Otter Creek Basin-Water Quality Management Plan was approved in 2019.

There has already been some monitoring of the Mill Brook by students at Currier Memorial School and erosion studies have been conducted on a number of reaches of streams in both watersheds; further studies should be considered for portions of the Mill Brook that could be impacted by runoff, erosion, or other issues.

## Surface Waters

Danby's surface waters comprise one major body of water - Danby Pond - and a network of rivers and streams crossing throughout the town. The largest moving body of water is the Mill Brook. The Brook travels southeast between Dorset and Woodlawn Mountain before turning eastward. The Brook then flows by Danby Borough and into the Otter Creek. Baker Brook, in the northeast corner of town, flows into Otter Creek. Another set of streams drain the northwestern part of the town: Fall Brook and Mountain Brook flow into Flower Brook and, later, into the Mettowee River.

**Development along bodies of water** - Roads, farms, and buildings located near to surface waters can pose threats to maintaining healthy surface water bodies. Point source pollution such as faulty septic systems can combine with non-point source pollution such as run-off from roads and driveways to seriously damage lakes, ponds, and rivers. Run-off from agricultural fields is also an important element.

Most of Danby's surface waters have been relatively free of encroaching development in the form of housing. Danby Pond is generally free of structures and has only two small access roads leading to it. Future development near the pond must comply with the Vermont Shoreland Protection Act (enacted in 2014), which established new regulations for shoreland development within 250 feet of all lakes and ponds greater than 10 acres in size.

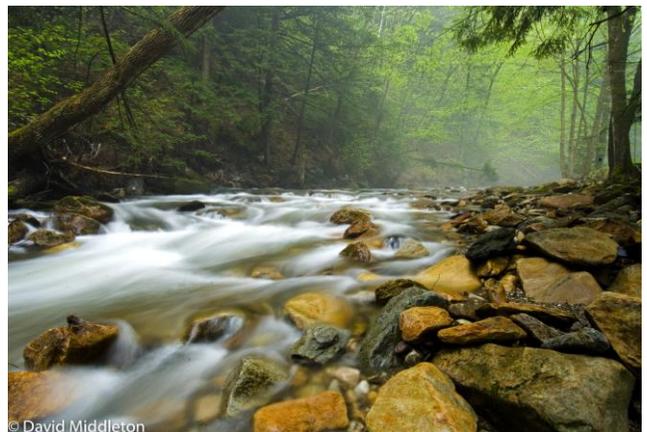
Development along the Mill Brook is limited, with two notable exceptions: the Borough, and Brook Road. The Mill Brook is more susceptible to pollution from surface run-off in the Borough simply because of the higher density of development and use of roads. Smokey House students and other residents have conducted water quality monitoring in Danby Pond and other

brooks, including Baker Brook which routinely tests positive for e-coli in summer months.

**Erosion** - Erosion is soil loss into a body of water. Soil may be either carried down along 'channels' from higher ground or taken away along the bank of a river. It is a natural phenomenon but is often greatly exacerbated by development and/or the removal of vegetation along stream banks and lake shores. Excessive erosion can lead to the deterioration of water quality and to the loss of personal or public land. In mountainous regions like Vermont erosion is often the prime contributor to flooding instead of the outright inundation that occurs in flatter regions of the country. Logging practices that utilize water bars and best management practices can reduce erosion from logging activities.

The potential for river bank erosion is greater in areas with steep slopes. Runoff is highest where trees and shrubs have been removed from a landscape because nothing exists to slow the course of rainfall down a slope. Two common effects of erosion are thermal pollution - an increase in the temperature of the water, potentially causing fish populations to die - and sedimentation - an increase in the amount of soil being carried in the river.

In Danby erosion of river banks, especially along Mill Brook and Flower Brook, is an important consideration. Mill Brook is susceptible to erosion because of its slope and the encroachment of housing and roads along its banks; Flower Brook is susceptible both to erosion and to thermal pollution because of the loss of vegetation along its edges. Geomorphic assessments of these



© David Middleton

headwaters should be considered. Measures should be taken to strengthen river banks wherever possible, thereby decreasing the chance of flooding in the event of major precipitation.

**Buffer strips** - Buffer strips are bands of protected vegetation along the side of a body of water. They are a natural solution to many of the problems associated with water-side development, capturing and dissolving water and pollutants. Buffer strips act as filters for water running towards the stream or lake.

A guide produced by the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, "The Importance of Streamside Buffers", describes their role: "Plant roots in the buffer hold the banks of the river in place, stabilizing the soil. Roots also absorb the water and some of the contaminants in it. The bodies of plants (tree trunks, bushy shrubs, and tall grass) slow the rush of polluted runoff, allowing the water to seep into the ground, where it is filtered and cleaned. Plants and leaf litter catch eroded soil before it reaches the waterway." In 2006, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns produced a model Riparian Buffer Strip Regulation for consideration by communities.

**Back road maintenance** - Back roads, by nature of their topography and design, if not properly maintained can contribute heavily to water pollution. The Vermont Better Backroads Manual describes a number of cost-effective techniques and actions that can be used to improve maintenance of graveled backroads in a manner that also protects and enhances local water quality. Mapping and keeping accurate inventory of all town-owned culverts will allow for more effective back road drainage.

**Surface water pollution issues** - Existing water pollution problems, as identified in State of Vermont - Agency of Natural Resources Basin Plans, Water Quality Assessment (305(b) report), and the Clean Water Strategy should be considered

high priority for abatement. These problems can include:

- a) Agricultural runoff.
- b) Erosion, sedimentation, and water crossings from construction sites and other land disturbance, road and ditch runoff, stream bank destabilization, impoundments, and logging.
- c) Failing or inadequate community and individual on-site wastewater disposal systems.
- d) Elevated temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and physical habitat degradation from poor flow regimes.

## Groundwater

Danby generally has high ground water quality. Protected forests on Dorset and Woodlawn Mountain combined with a sparse development pattern account for this. Ensuring that residents have safe drinking water is among the town of Danby's top priorities. Danby has one wellhead protection area that provides the source of water for the Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire District's water system. (see the Natural Resources map) and one aquifer protection area in Danby Four Corners where residents are entirely dependent on groundwater.

**Constraints to development** - Among the most significant constraints to development in Vermont is the suitability of land to handle subsurface water sewage disposal. Slope, soil type, depth to bedrock, and water table levels are determining factors for construction in the state. Septic fields are also a serious problem and may result in pollutants reaching the surface. The State now controls the distribution of permits for on-site

systems; there are provisions for performance based systems.

## Wetlands

Wetlands are land areas that are saturated with water at least part of the year and include marshes, swamps, soughs, fens, mud flats, and bogs. They provide important wildlife habitat, but also play a critical role in local water management. They serve as an additional filter for stormwater runoff and limit erosion by slowing the progress of water into a lake or river system. They are also storage basins for chemicals such as phosphorous and help minimize algae blooms and nuisance aquatic growth during the summer.

**Classes of Wetlands** - Wetlands are identified by three parameters: hydrology, soils, and vegetation. Class I and II wetlands are considered significant and are protected by the Vermont Wetland Rules.

**Class 1:** Class One wetlands are those which the Vermont Water Resources Board determines are exceptional or irreplaceable. Only three have been identified in the State; one is the Tinmouth Channel which is partially fed from sources in Danby.



**Class 2:** The rules designate most wetlands shown on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps

and those wetlands contiguous to mapped wetlands as Class Two wetlands. A 50-foot protected buffer zone is designated adjacent to all Class Two wetlands. The majority of the town's Class II wetlands are found in the center of the town in the area surrounding Danby Pond. Please see the Natural Resource maps in this document for the approximate location of Class II wetlands in the town.

**Class 3:** Class Three wetlands are those which either considered not significant for producing any wetland functions when last evaluated or that have not been mapped on the NWI maps. Class Three wetlands are not protected under the Vermont Wetland Rules. They may play important local functions and can only be regulated at the local level.

## Riparian and Aquatic Habitats

Riparian areas are ecosystems comprised of streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and floodplains that form a complex and interrelated hydrological system. These ecosystems extend up and down streams and along lakeshores, and include all land that is directly affected by surface water. The frequent disturbances related to inundation, transport of sediment, and the abrasive and erosive forces of water and sand ice movement result in the creation of ecologically diverse communities.

## Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are small wetlands characterized by a lack of vegetation resulting from the persistence of standing water for a portion of the year. They typically occur in small depressions in upland forests over a relatively impermeable substrate layer, but they also may be found in the depressions of some forested swamps. They typically lack inlets and outlets with the possible exception of outflow after heavy spring rains.

Vernal pools are best known as important breeding habitat for amphibians such as salamanders and frogs. These species may breed in other wetlands but rely on vernal pools to maintain their populations. Other animals use pools as well

including fairy shrimp, clams, snails, and frogs. The amphibians and invertebrates found in pools also serve as a rich source of food for various birds, mammals and reptiles.

According to Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) mapping data Danby currently has one confirmed vernal pool, located in its north between Little Village Rd and along Old Otis Rd.

## Wildlife & Vegetation

The benefits provided by wildlife habitats and other natural and fragile areas are numerous. They contribute to the economy by attracting travelers, recreation seekers, and wildlife admirers as well as add to the community's character and sense of place.

Wildlife habitats and other natural and fragile areas are mapped generally by the state and include deer wintering areas, bear habitat, migratory staging areas for waterfowl, mast stands, fisheries and sites of rare plants and animals.

### Deer Wintering Areas

White-tailed deer in Vermont live near the northern limit of their range in eastern North America. In coping with Vermont's severe climactic conditions, they rely on access to wintering areas (also known as "deer yards"). Deer winter habitat consists of areas of mature of maturing softwood cover, with aspects tending towards south/southwest or even easterly and westerly facing slopes.

State maps indicate that deer wintering areas are scattered throughout Danby. The largest one lies in the southeastern part of town where it is bisected by Mill Brook. Other notable areas exist along Baker Brook in the northeast, directly east of Danby Pond, and alongside Flower Brook in the west.



### Mast stands

"Mast" is a term commonly used to describe the seeds of shrubs and trees that are eaten by wildlife. "Hard mast" refers to nuts (particularly those of beech and oaks) while "soft mast" refers to berries of a variety of species. In Vermont hard mast is an important wildlife food source with 171 species known to use beech or oak stands as habitat. These include species on federal and state endangered/threatened species lists, permanent residents, and migratory birds. Mast stands can occur as discrete stands or patches on the landscape.

Mast stands are valuable to a variety of wildlife in Vermont and may be irreplaceable on a regional basis. The importance of hard mast stands to black bears in Vermont has become so well established that the Fish & Wildlife Department considers areas of beech or oak with a history of bear feeding use to be a necessary wildlife habitat as defined by Act 250.

### Bat Habitat

Two distinct habitats are critical for the persistence of a bat population: a winter hibernaculum and a

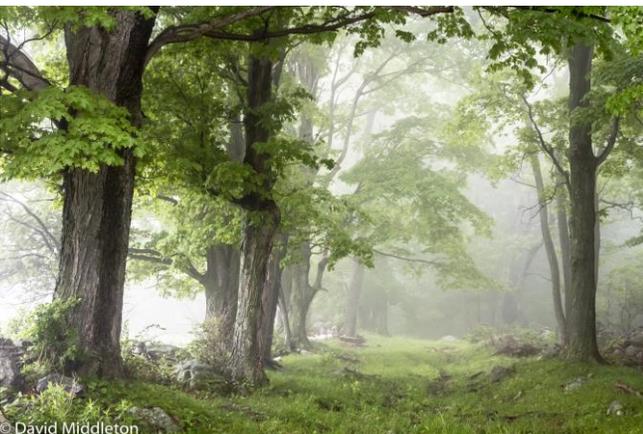
summer roosting colony. A winter hibernaculum – usually a cave or mine – provides a constant temperature and protection for winter hibernation. Summer bat colonies consist of two types: maternity colonies and foraging colonies. Maternity colonies – where female bats gather to give birth and raise young during summer – are often found in trees and tree cavities and also potentially in buildings. Foraging colonies may be small and dispersed or may contain large numbers.

There are nine bat species in Vermont, with four of them classified as endangered under Vermont state law: the Indiana bat, small-footed bat, little brown bat, and northern long-eared bat. Danby is labeled on ANR maps as a potential summer colony for Indiana bats. Given the widespread white-nose syndrome that has decimated bat populations in recent years appropriate efforts should be made to nurture winter hibernaculum and summer colonies.

### Rare, threatened, and endangered species

A rare species is one that has only a few populations in the state and that faces threats to its continued existence in Vermont. These species face threats from development of their habitat, harassment, collection, and suppression of natural processes.

Threatened species are defined by state law as a species whose numbers are significantly declining because of loss of habitat or human disturbance, and unless protected will become an endangered



species. Endangered species is defined under both state and federal law, but the term generally refers to species whose continued existence as a viable component of the state’s wild fauna or flora is under jeopardy.

According to ANR mapping data, there are six areas in Danby identified as having rare species, and two with threatened and/or endangered species. Please refer to the Natural Resource Maps for their location.

### Contiguous Forest

Contiguous forest habitat is an area of forested land with either no roads or low densities of Class 3 or 4 roads and little or no human development (such as buildings, lawns, or gravel pits). Contiguous forest areas may have various age classes of forest cover and be composed of other habitat types such as wetlands or old meadows that are part of the overall contiguous habitat complex. Instead of absolute acreage it is most important to consider the size and connectivity of the forest habitat and associated species of plants and animals within the context of the level of fragmentation in the region/area.

Native plants and animals are supported by contiguous forest habitats. Species such as bobcats and black bears require large areas to survive. Combined with other habitats such as wetlands, the contiguous forest supports natural processes such as predator/prey interactions and natural disturbance. It also helps buffer species against the negative consequences of fragmentation. Preservation of large contiguous forest areas benefits the human population in several ways, including maintaining air and water quality, providing forest management opportunities for sustainable extraction of forest products, and supporting appreciation of the natural landscape that is valued by Vermonters and visitors alike.

Examination of contiguous forest mapping data produced by the University of Vermont’s Spatial Analysis Lab indicates that the majority of Danby’s contiguous forest lies in the southern half of the

town, with smaller tracts in the northern half extending into Tinmouth.

## Connecting Habitat

A connecting habitat is a land that links larger patches of habitat within a landscape allowing the movement, migration and dispersal of animals and plants. Riparian habitat along streams and rivers, strips of forest cover between developed areas and even hedgerows/fencerows all represent potential connecting habitat.

Although connecting habitat is often associated with wide-ranging mammals (bobcats, black bears), or animals requiring a great deal of space to meet their daily needs (such as barred owls or otters), it is equally important for animals with relatively small ranges, as well as plants. Establishing and preserving wildlife corridors will allow plants and animals to colonize new habitat as climate change, succession, or other ecological processes force them to migrate. A free flow of migration is essential going forward in order to ensure that native species have the means to interact, reproduce and maintain a robust ecosystem. Danby's connecting habitat is part of a large habitat block that extends north through Tinmouth and Clarendon to the Pittsford Ridge. (refer to map on page 41)

## Natural Communities

A natural community is an interacting assemblage of plants and animals their physical environment and the natural processes that affect them. It is important to identify natural communities in order to develop effective land management plans and determine conservation priorities. Within Danby the ANR has identified two locations where natural communities exist: the southernmost part of the town that includes Dorset Mountain, and a smaller swath of land in the northern part of the town, nearly equidistant from Old Otis Rd and Tinmouth Rd.

## Air Quality

Air quality has a great impact on the quality of life and the ecology of an area. Due to relatively low emission densities and relatively favorable meteorological conditions ambient concentrations of locally generated pollutants are relatively low in Vermont by national standards. Additional information on air quality, by county, is maintained by the VT Air Quality and Climate Division and can be found on the internet.

Overall, the Rutland Region's air pollution levels have not violated EPA standards for air pollutants. Small towns like Danby can help to maintain and improve air quality by promoting the use of public transit and car-pooling, enforcing prohibitions on the burning of trash, and protecting forest resources which can help to filter out a number of potentially harmful pollutants.

## Major Infrastructure Projects and the Surrounding Environment

Given the prevalent ridgelines, abundant open spaces and natural resources existing in Danby it is inevitable that proposals for major infrastructure projects will ensue, including but not limited to renewable/nonrenewable energy, telecommunications and extractive industries. Realizing the sometimes-incongruous relationship between state and municipal lawmaking and administrative bodies the town should undertake a comprehensive review of siting proposals to ensure preservation of its aesthetic quality and natural resources. In recent years, Danby has seen proposals for a natural gas pipeline, a large open pit mine, and wind turbines. All of these industrial scale projects have been proposed to be located outside the industrial/commercial land use areas identified in the town plan. If an infrastructure project is already in operation, modification and expansion requests should receive the same level of scrutiny.



## Scenic Resources

Danby has many important scenic resources that need protection. In particular, Dutch Hill has been photographed by professional photographers whose work has been featured in Vermont Life Magazine, Country Magazine, in artists' galleries, in state tourism brochures and on post cards. It is the goal of the town to conserve this and other scenic views which are valuable economic resources in Danby.

## Agriculture and Forestry

Agriculture and has been an important part of Danby's livelihood for over two centuries. Today despite changes in national and international practices both remain important parts of the Danby economy and landscape. While the total acreage of farms in Vermont has declined since the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the number of farms has been rising, suggesting that more individuals have taken to farming as a lifestyle.

According to the VT Dept. of Taxes, there are several active farms in town. Among these are the Smokey House Center, the Bushee Family Maple Farm, the Bromley Farm and the Fisk-Haines Farm. Encouraging agriculture continues to be a primary concern of the community. Agricultural and forestry practices exist throughout the town,

but are most common where soils have made it most effective.

New actions that could encourage agriculture would be the founding of a seasonal farmers market, working with co-ops in the surrounding area, or perusing agritourism. With an established Agritourism site already present (the Smokey House Center) the town could really increase tourism and booster its economy by investigating agritainment and other agripensual efforts.

A prime example of agritourism is showing off the process of maple sugaring. Many visitors from other states visit Vermont in the fall to look at the changing leaves, and many will also want to buy local, preservable foods, such as cheese or maple syrup. There are many things that can be done with the tapping of trees in the area. Some have suggested that sugar makers from various regions get together to 'brand' their product as coming from a certain region, and to mark the year it was collected, much in the way that wines are. In this way maple syrup could also be marketed as a high end, discerning product that will grow in value into the future.

There is a substantial amount of land in the town which lies between 1,500 and 2,000 feet in elevation that has been used for agricultural and forestry purposes. Land of this type is also suitable for limited residential use where soils and slopes are appropriate and where it does not increase forest fragmentation. Maintaining a low population density in this land conserves water purity and ensures safe and adequate sewage disposal.

The Smokey House Center has 1,300 acres of permanently conserved land above 2,500 feet on Dorset Mountain. Land is one of the greatest assets Danby has, and has a variety of ways it can be used. Silviculture is the act of 'harvesting' the forest for renewable hardwoods, wild edibles, game animals, and other products that do not take away from the sustainability of the land. There have been great strides in the art of conservation

land management that allow large land owners to make a profit off of their land while still having 90% of it, at any one time, look completely untouched.

In 1978 the state instituted the Current Use Program, where enrolled parcels are taxed according to use rather than fair market value. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Through this program the state reimburses municipalities for the balance in tax revenue, negating any fiscal municipal impacts for conserving the town's working and natural resource lands. To be enrolled, forest land must have an approved, 10-year forest management plan.

This plan must include a description of the land's current conditions, long term goals, management activities, and it is highly recommended that the plan be created by a certified forest manager. Not only does this plan mean that farmers, silviculturalists, conservationists, and other such land users are taxed less on their property, but there are many penalties that apply if the land is ever converted into other use ahead of the plan.

This provides incentives to keep the forests whole, and disincentives for developers looking to quickly flip land. For FY 2014, the Department of Taxes reports that 55 properties in Danby are enrolled, totaling 14,048 acres, which is 52% of the town's total acreage (26,671.59 acres).



## CASE STUDY: SMOKEY HOUSE CENTER

Smokey House Center stewards a 5,000-acre working landscape in Danby Four Corners that promotes sustainable agriculture and forest management practices while engaging people in meaningful work and learning programs that serve their communities.

### Conservation

Smokey House Center’s conservation vision is for a productive landscape contributing to the economic vitality of the region, while balancing the ecological needs of the landscape. Smokey House works diligently to sustainably manage forestlands for timber production, wildlife habitat, water quality, and a range of other ecosystem services. Smokey House has permanently conserved over 95% of the property through easements that will protect its careful use for generations to come.

### Agriculture

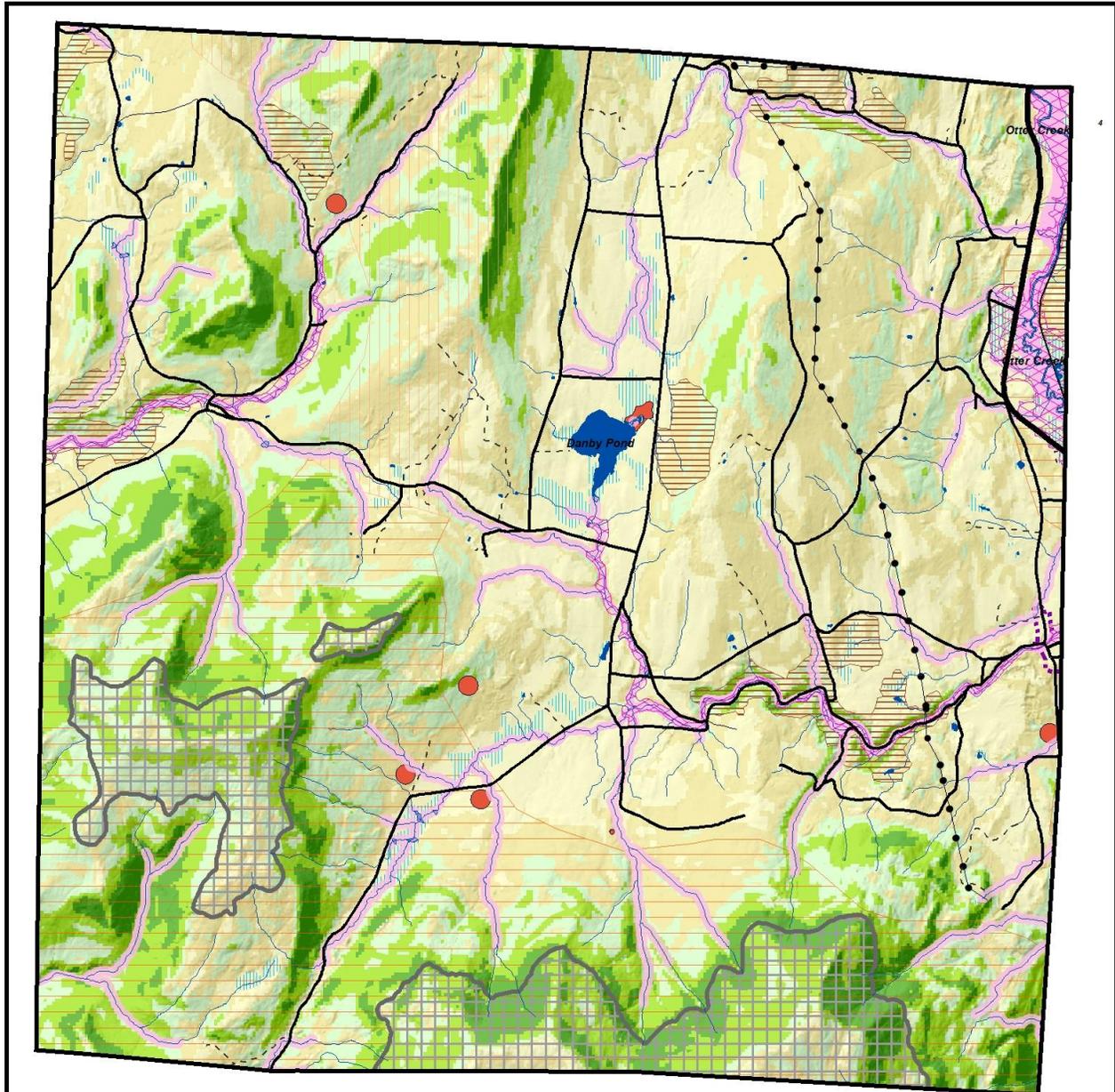
Working family farms are important to the history and future of Danby and Vermont. At Smokey House Center, hundreds of acres of productive farmland, buildings, and the farm stand support independent, family farm businesses, in addition to educational farming programs. As an incubator for local agriculture, we’ve helped new farmers establish their businesses and sustain their families while providing local jobs and products. These farms also provide an invaluable learning opportunity for our educational programs and contribute to a robust, diverse local agriculture and food system.

### Education

Over nearly five decades, Smokey House has engaged thousands of local youth and others in work-based learning and outdoor education, providing valuable training and a connection with the land. Recent Community Farm and Danby Mountain Day Camp programs provide enrichment and employment opportunities for area youth while serving the food insecure and community food programs.



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## DANBY VERMONT Natural Resources Map 1

- |  |                             |  |   |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
|  | Flood Hazard Area           |  | Rivers and Streams                          |
|  | Deer Wintering Areas        |  | River Corridor Small Streams(50 ft setback) |
|  | Seasonal Bear Habitat       |  | Vermont River Corridor (Jan. 2015)          |
|  | Bear Production Habitat     |  | Uncommon_Species_and_Other_Features         |
|  | 2500 FT Elevation & Greater |  | Designated Village Center                   |
|  | Wetlands                    |  | Village District                            |
|  | Slopes 0 - 10 %             |  | Lakes, Ponds and Major Rivers               |
|  | Slopes 11 - 14 %            |  |   |
|  | Slopes 15 - 20 %            |  |   |
|  | Slopes 21 - 24 %            |  |   |
|  | Slopes 25 - 100 %           |  |   |

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES: 1:24000 USGS Quadrangles, VCGI, 1991-2007.

ROADS & RAIL: VT Enhanced 911 Board, 2014. VT Agency of Transportation, 2014. VT Center for Geographic Information.

ELECTRIC LINES: VT Electric Power Company, 2003.

SURFACE WATER: Vermont Hydrography Dataset using 1:5,000 digital orthophotos, USGS 7 1/2 quadrangles and 1:25,000 color infrared aerial photography and other data sources, 2013.

WETLANDS: boundaries are derived from National Wetlands Inventory (NWI, 2004) and the Vermont Significant Wetland Inventory (VSWI, 2010) and are approximate. Wetlands less than three acres in size may not be shown. The wetlands depicted are those regarded as regulatory by the VT Water Resources Board.

DEER WINTERING AREAS: EcologHabitat\_DEERWV, taken from 1:24000 and 1:25000 USGS topographic quads, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, 2011.

BLACK BEAR HABITAT: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1991-2007.

RARE PLANTANIMAL SITES: Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species & Significant Communities, 1:24000, Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program, VANR, 1997.

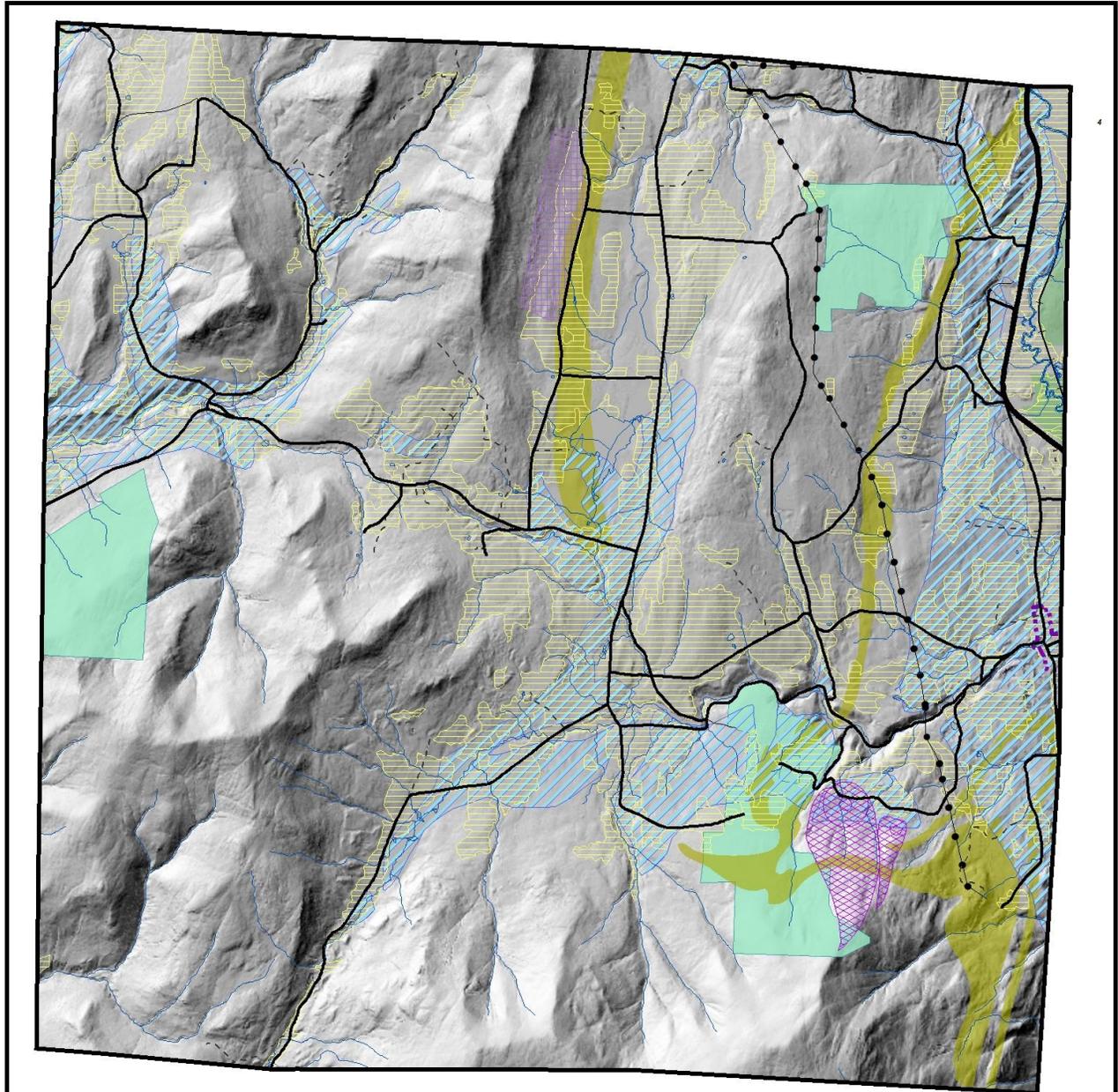
FLOOD PLAIN: DFIRM data from FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps, August 2008. Floodplains for planning purposes only. Refer to the VANR, DEC, Water Quality Division, Floodplain coordinator for official floodplain determinations. (802) 241-3759.

SLOPE: Slopes generated from USGS NED based 7.5' DEM24 data, 2002

2500' ELEVATIONS: Digitized from 1:24,000 or 25,000 USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles, VANR, 1962."

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.





# DANBY VERMONT Natural Resources Map 2

## Legend

- ⚡ Rail
- Electric Line
- ⬜⬜⬜ Designated Village Center
- ⬜⬜⬜ Town Groundwater Protection Area
- ⬜⬜⬜ Wellhead Protection Area
- ⬜⬜⬜ Prime Agricultural Soils
- ⬜⬜⬜ Potential Sand and Gravel Deposits
- ⬜⬜⬜ Potential Marble Deposits
- ⬜⬜⬜ Conserved Land: Private
- ⬜⬜⬜ Conserved Land: Public
- ⬜⬜⬜ Lakes, Ponds and Major Rivers

ROADS: VCGI database TransRoad\_RDS, taken from VTRANS information and VT E911, 2014.

ELECTRIC LINES: VT Electric Power Company, 2007.

SURFACE WATER: Data is from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc (VCGI), database Waterhydro\_VHD or the Vermont Hydrography Dataset, 2004. The VHD is a subset of the National Hydrography Data Set.

SAND AND GRAVEL: The classifications of sand and gravel resources are based on information developed by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Soil data are accurate to a resolution of three acres, unmapped "inclusions" up to three acres may exist in some areas. This information is generalized. It should not be used for the evaluation of individual sites. Soils shown are based on national USDA-NRCS criteria and have good potential for sand and gravel deposits, 2003.

MARBLE DEPOSITS: The 2011 Bedrock Geologic Map of Vermont.

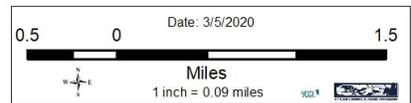
AGRICULTURAL SOILS: Prime, statewide and local are VT primary agricultural soils for Town and Act 250 planning, 2003.

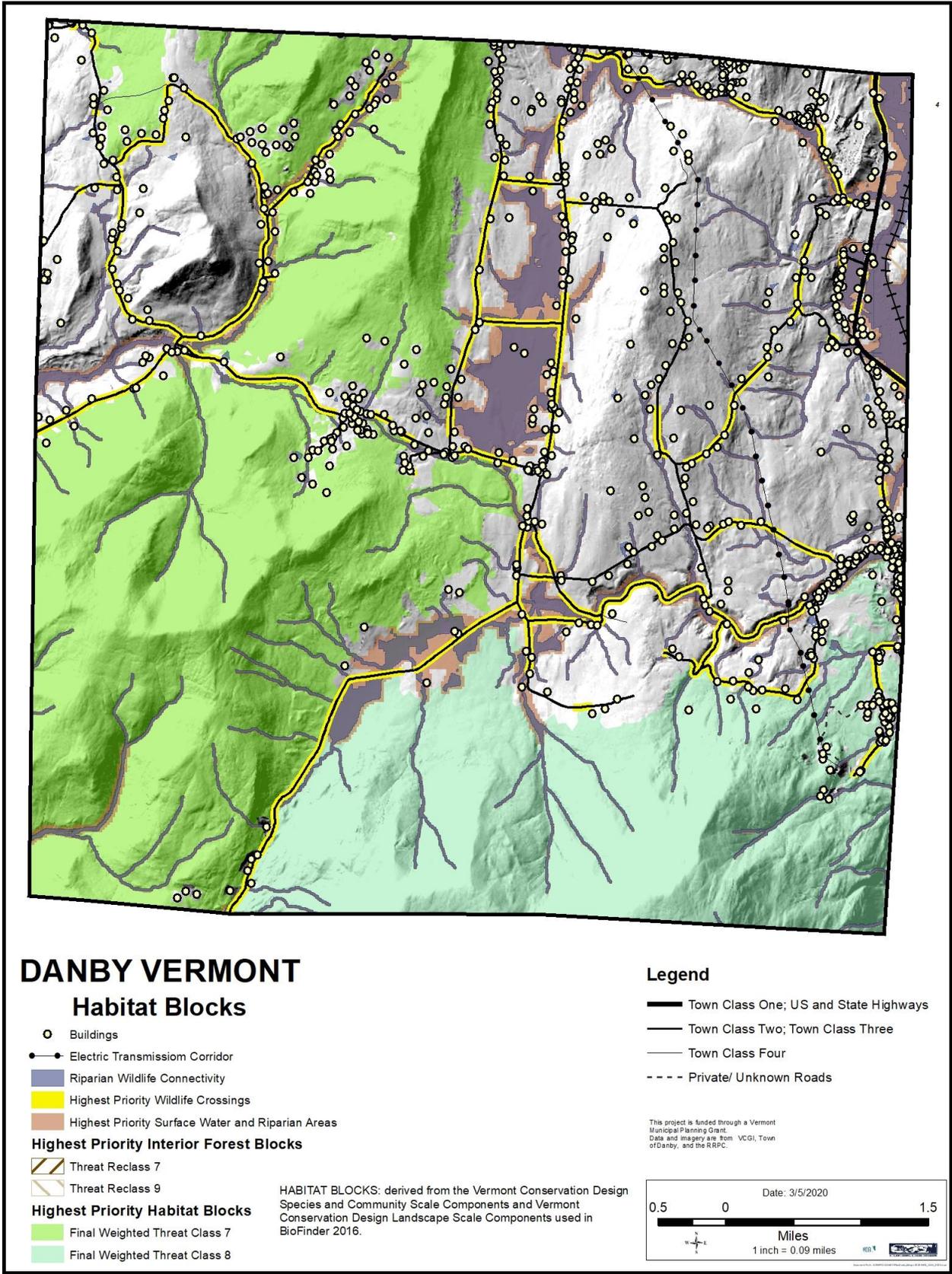
PRIVATE CONSERVED LANDS: Land in full or partial ownership by 501(c)3 conservation organizations (VLT, TNC, GMC, and others), a subset of the Vermont Conserved Lands database, 1999.

PUBLIC LANDS: VCGI dataset CadastralPublands\_CONSPUB, 2004, a subset of the Vermont Conserved Lands database. It includes land owned by Municipal, State and Federal entities.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREAS: SPA's for groundwater sources (wells, springs), 1:24,000 USGS Quadrangles, VANR-DEC- Water Supply Division and the VT Department of Health, 1998.

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.





# DANBY VERMONT

## Habitat Blocks

- Buildings
- Electric Transmission Corridor
- Riparian Wildlife Connectivity
- Highest Priority Wildlife Crossings
- Highest Priority Surface Water and Riparian Areas

### Highest Priority Interior Forest Blocks

- ▨ Threat Reclass 7
- ▨ Threat Reclass 9

### Highest Priority Habitat Blocks

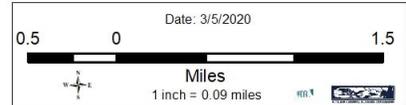
- Final Weighted Threat Class 7
- Final Weighted Threat Class 8

HABITAT BLOCKS: derived from the Vermont Conservation Design Species and Community Scale Components and Vermont Conservation Design Landscape Scale Components used in BioFinder 2016.

## Legend

- Town Class One; US and State Highways
- Town Class Two; Town Class Three
- Town Class Four
- - - Private/ Unknown Roads

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and Imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.



## Transportation

The Transportation Section of the Danby Town Plan is a guide to help focus transportation planning efforts in Danby. Effective transportation planning can increase a Town’s capacity to manage growth, foster community and economic development, improve health and safety, and assure accessibility, efficiency, and mobility. The Town will benefit greatly from implementing various planning resources and tools to help manage and grow an efficient and equitable transportation system. From managing assets such as culverts and roads to performing traffic and pedestrian studies, the Town will find that effective planning leads to cost effective town improvement.

### Highway System

The rural character of Danby, like many other small Vermont communities, is supported, in large part, by its network of rural roads comprising the Town highway system. Town highways constitute the most substantial component of the transportation network in Danby. According to the 2015 VTrans Town Highway Data, Danby has a total of 56.28 road miles. The distribution of highway by class is included in the table below and maps of Danby’s transportation system can be found at the end of this document.

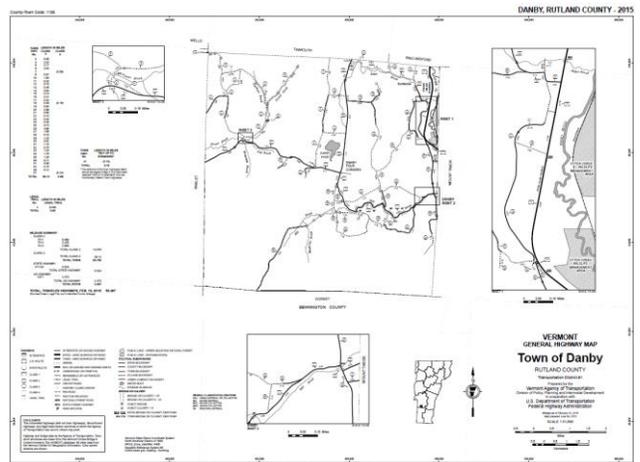
Town of Danby Highway By Class		
VTrans Data	Miles	Percent Total
Class 2	14.67	26.1%
Class 3	39.12	69.5%
State	0.024	0.0%
US	2.473	4.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.287</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

US Route 7, a US Highway, is the primary access and major arterial route in Danby, and major North-South route in Vermont. US-7 is maintained by the State of Vermont. Route 7

has the most significant impact for development and access management within Danby.

Danby does not contain any Class I Town Highways. Class 2 and 3 constitute the majority of road miles (95%) in the town of Danby. The primary use of these Town Highways is local with some truck traffic. The Town is responsible for maintaining Class 2 and 3 Town Highways, which are managed by the Highway Department that includes an appointed Road Commissioner, Road Foreman, and two additional full-time employees. Road maintenance, including road upgrades and snow removal, is a critical need for residents and visitors and is a significant item in the Town’s municipal budget.

The Town Capital Improvement Budget is an effective planning tool for the Town of Danby to manage town highway maintenance and upgrades. Capital Improvement Planning can provide structure for routine maintenance, prioritize upgrade projects, and allocate adequate funding. Danby has adopted the 2019 Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Town Road and Bridge Standards for



maintenance, which can be found in the VTrans Orange Book (current edition 2017-2019).

2015 VTrans Highway Map – Town of Danby

### Bridges & Culverts

Danby has a total of 29 town-owned bridges, with 23 short-structures and 6 long-structures. Short-

structures are anything under 20 feet in length and long structures are anything over 20 feet in length. The Town and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) share jurisdiction for the maintenance of long-structure bridges in Danby. Routine bridge inspection and maintenance are critical to ensure effective connectivity and safe travel within Danby. Bridge inspection reports can be viewed online through VTrans' VTransparency website. Prioritizing town bridge projects is the responsibility of the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee and VTrans.

Danby has a total of 552 culverts, all of which were inventoried in 2019. The full list of culverts, sorted by condition, material, size, and type can be access on the VTrans online culvert inventory - vtculverts.org. The online inventory is an important planning tool for the Town Capital Improvement Budget and can provide structure for routine maintenance, prioritize upgrade projects, and allocate adequate funding. Of the 552 total culverts, 49 culverts are listed as poor, critical, or urgent condition and should be scheduled for replacement and/or upgrade in accordance with the VTrans Town Road and Bridge Standards.

### Municipal Roads General Permit

The Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) is intended to achieve significant reductions in stormwater related erosion from municipal roads, both paved and unpaved. In order to comply with the MRGP, towns implement a customized, multi-year plan to stabilize their road drainage system. Danby, with the help of the RRPC, has conducted by a road erosion inventory to identify problematic road segments, develop mitigation strategies, and target potential sources of funding. The RRPC created a Road Stormwater Management Plan to assist the Town with planning road segment upgrades under the MRGP.

The full road erosion inventory can be accessed online through the MRGP Implemental Table Portal. The online portal is an important planning

tool to ensure compliance with the MRGP. The online portal can help prioritize road segments and identify sources of funding. Currently, of the 484 hydrologically-connected road segments in Danby, there are 11 very high, 10 high, and dozens of medium and low priority road segments that need to be upgraded to meet MRGP standards.



Road and Bridge Upgrades 2019-2020: upper left, High Bridge, upper right Parker Road Bridge, lower left Brook Road, lower right, Tinmouth Road

### Traffic Safety & Volume

Danby's geographic location adjacent to US-7 creates a blend of local traffic on Town Highways and non-local through traffic on US-7. The most recent VTrans traffic counts in Danby, collected in 2017, indicate an average annual daily traffic (AADT) of 4,300 vehicles on US-7, 410 vehicles on Brooke Road, and 670 vehicles on Danby Pawlet Road. The Town of Danby can request further traffic counts on Town Highways from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission or VTrans.

Due to a mix of physical terrain, weather conditions, and rural road configuration, Danby has experienced a fair number of vehicle crashes. According to the VTrans Public Crash Data

Report, from 2/12/2015 to 2/12/2020, Danby has experienced 54 vehicle crashes, with 16 resulting in personal injury and 1 fatality. According to the data, the highest accident location is on US-7 with 16 crashes, with only 3 resulting in injury. Of the Town Highways, Brook Road, Danby Pawlet Road, and Danby Mountain Road have reported the most vehicles crashes with nearly half resulting in injury. The locations of these accidents can be viewed in the image provided below.

## Alternative Transportation

Due to the rural nature and land-use patterns, there is limited access to alternative transportation in the Town of Danby. However, regional alternative transportation options exist within the Rutland Region. Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD or “The Bus”) provides public transportation within the Rutland Region. The Manchester Route runs four times a day, six days a week, with a stop at the Mt. Tabor General Store. The Bus allows “flag-down” stops along the route if the driver determines the stop safe and allows deviations up to ¼ mile from Route 7 with a one-day advanced notice. In addition, the Bus offers paratransit, Medicaid, Elderly & Disabled, and demand-response service by request.

In addition to public transportation provided by MVRTD, air and rail passenger travel is available in surrounding Towns. Passenger rail service is available through Amtrak with a station in nearby Rutland City. In addition, the Rutland Southern-Vermont Regional Airport, located in nearby Clarendon, offers commercial passenger air service to Boston through the carrier Cape Air. Access to air travel is important in the Rutland Region because it helps attract new business, industry and tourism to the area, helps to retain existing businesses, and opens the region to long distance travel.

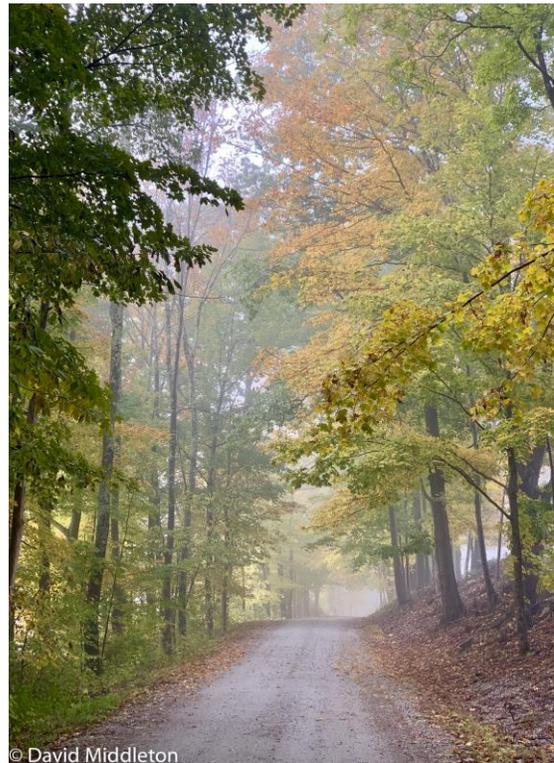
Bicycling and pedestrian travel are recreational and practical transportation modes but limited by the availability of adequate facilities such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and road shoulders. No

formal bicycle or pedestrian facilities exist in Danby. However, Tinmouth Road and Danby Pawlet Road are part of the Rutland Region Bicycling Network, which connects Danby to Tinmouth to the north and Pawlet to the west.

In 2014, a walk audit identified improvements needed to safely and comfortably accommodate pedestrians. The Borough lacks sidewalks on most of Main Street, with the exception of the bridge and links of sidewalk south of Mt. Tabor Ave. Destinations such as the school, post office, library, town office and churches should be accessible to pedestrians and are not.

## Regional Perspective

Danby participates in regional transportation planning through a member appointment to the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee (RRTAC), which consists of representatives from all Rutland Region Towns. The RRTAC identifies and develops solutions to town and regional transportation issues and serves to promote and support an integrated, sustainable, and resilient transportation system. In addition, the RRTAC serves a valuable role in



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the project prioritization process with VTrans to add and rank projects on the State Capital List for state and federal funding.

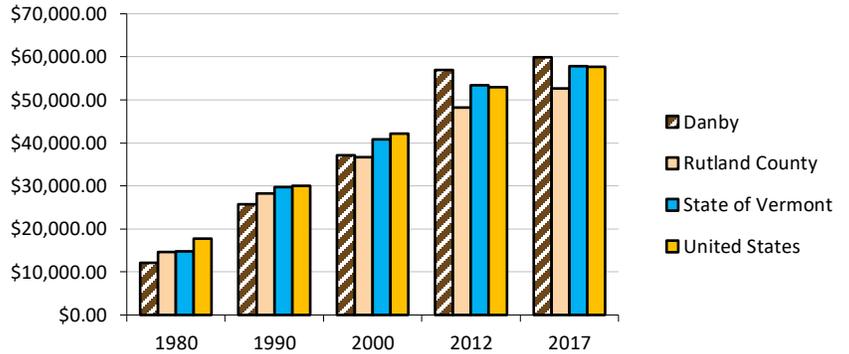
## Economic Development

Planning for economic development establishes and maintains the community's diversity and unique character. It encourages a healthy mix of enterprises to support jobs and tax revenues.

The town can be active in maintaining and enhancing the physical character of Danby by encouraging development to take appropriate forms or choose appropriate locations.

According to the US Census, there are 684 employed persons in Danby over the age of 16. Of those, 76% work in a different town, and 35% work in outside of Rutland County.

Median Household Income 2017

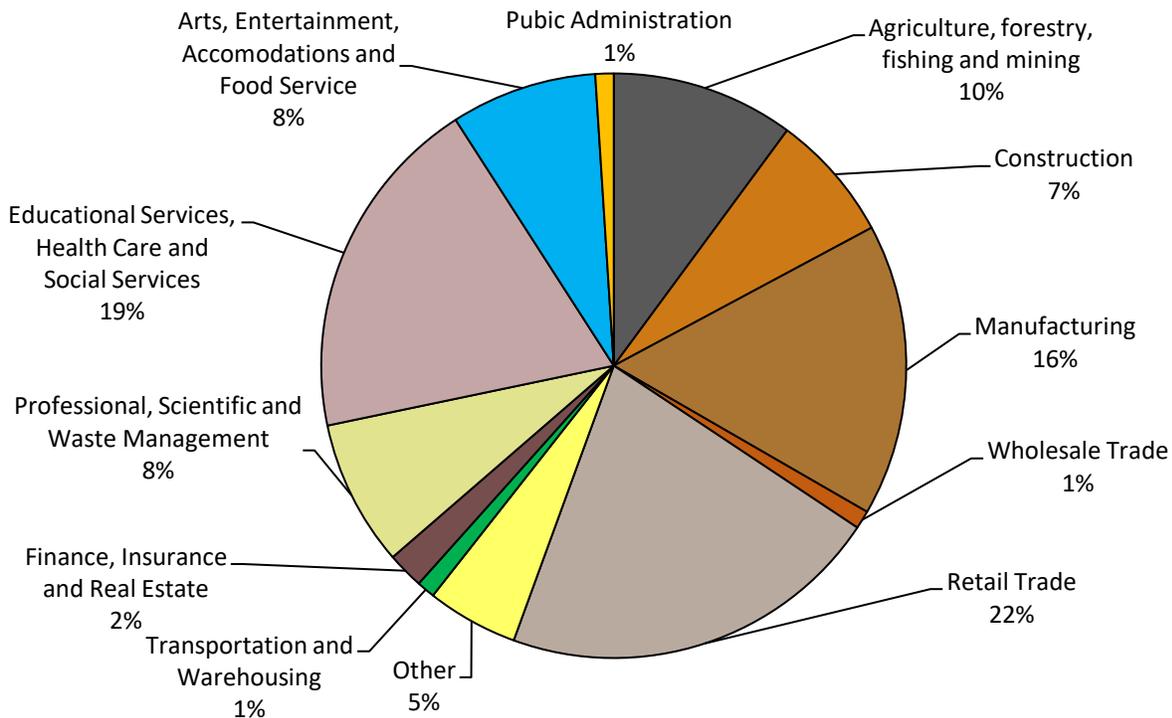


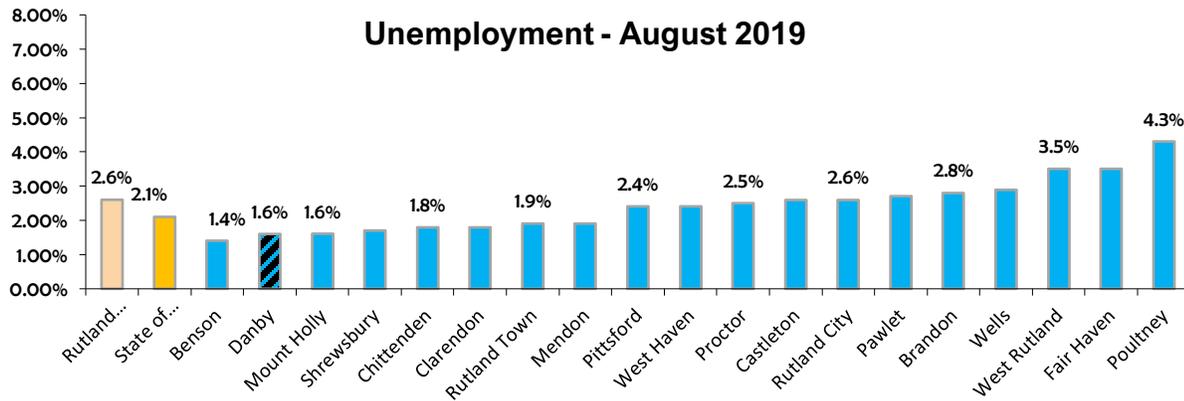
Of Danby occupations 76% are private wage and salary workers; 15% are self-employed; and 7% are government employees.

Median Household income in 2017 was at \$59,853, a 61% increase from the 1990 amount of \$37,137.

In August 2019, the unemployment rate was 1.6% and the town poverty rate was 4.7%

## Industry and Occupation of Danby Residents 2017





Source: US Census - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

### Retail Analysis

Finding the right retail mix and density is essential for a community that seeks to create a sense of place that can provide services to residents and attract visitors. A retail market

analysis examines the supply and demand for goods and services within a particular municipality to help identify opportunities, characteristics, and amenities that can be expanded upon to grow the retail market.

The retail market analysis conducted for the town plan update found demand for goods and services not being met is largest for most industry groups (40 total); with the highest demand in: Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers, Automobile Dealers, Food and Beverage Stores, Food Services and Drinking Places, Grocery Store, Restaurants/Other Eating Places, Building Materials and Supplies Dealers and Health and Personal Care Stores.

A sales surplus could be an indication of market saturation. There were only three industry groups that showed that demand is being met: **Direct Selling Establishments, Land and Garden Equipment & Supply stores and Home Furnishing Stores.**

### Plan Danby 2020 Update

As part of the Danby Town Plan 2020 update, the Planning Commission conducted a community workshop on February 17.

The workshop built on monthly meetings and 2015 Town Plan Update work and Community Survey. The economic development survey questions reflected the sentiment that town economic development was suffering due to too few job opportunities which would attract and retain youth or cause the town to not only be a bedroom community.

Workshop responses are highlighted below and in the Implementation Program and Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks, beginning on page 60.

Residents stated the following existing town assets should be built upon:

- Smokey House Center and Remaining Farms.
- Marble Quarry and stone industries.
- Water System and Septic capacity in Village.
- High Speed Internet.
- Proximity to MT Tabor traffic on Route 7.
- No Zoning.

- Vermont Store Fixtures.
- Recreation opportunities.
- Access to quality schools.

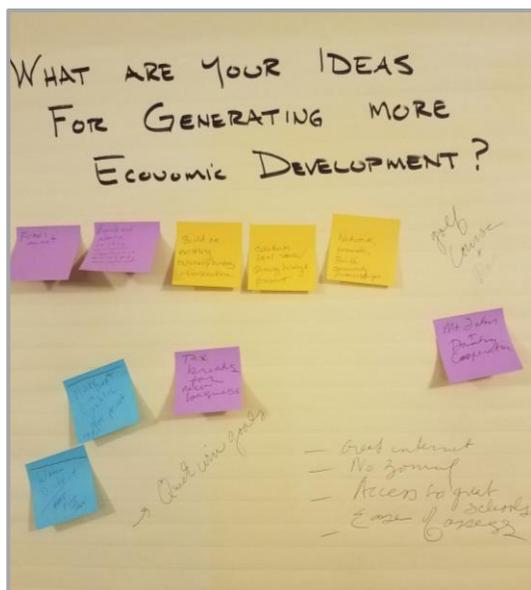
The following businesses were specifically mentioned:

- Cannabis-related.
- Farming and related accessory businesses.
- Coffee shop/café/small grocery store.
- Restaurant.
- Hardware store.
- Telecommuting industries.
- Agriculture incubator
- Marble Store.
- Brewery.
- Small/low impact home occupations.

Other ideas mentioned:

- Tax breaks for new and existing businesses.
- Make Village more pedestrian friendly by narrowing roadway to calm vehicular traffic.
- Increased partnership with MT Tabor officials to encourage development along the Route 7 corridor.
- Advertise town assets to encourage people to move to town.

## Agriculture and Agritourism



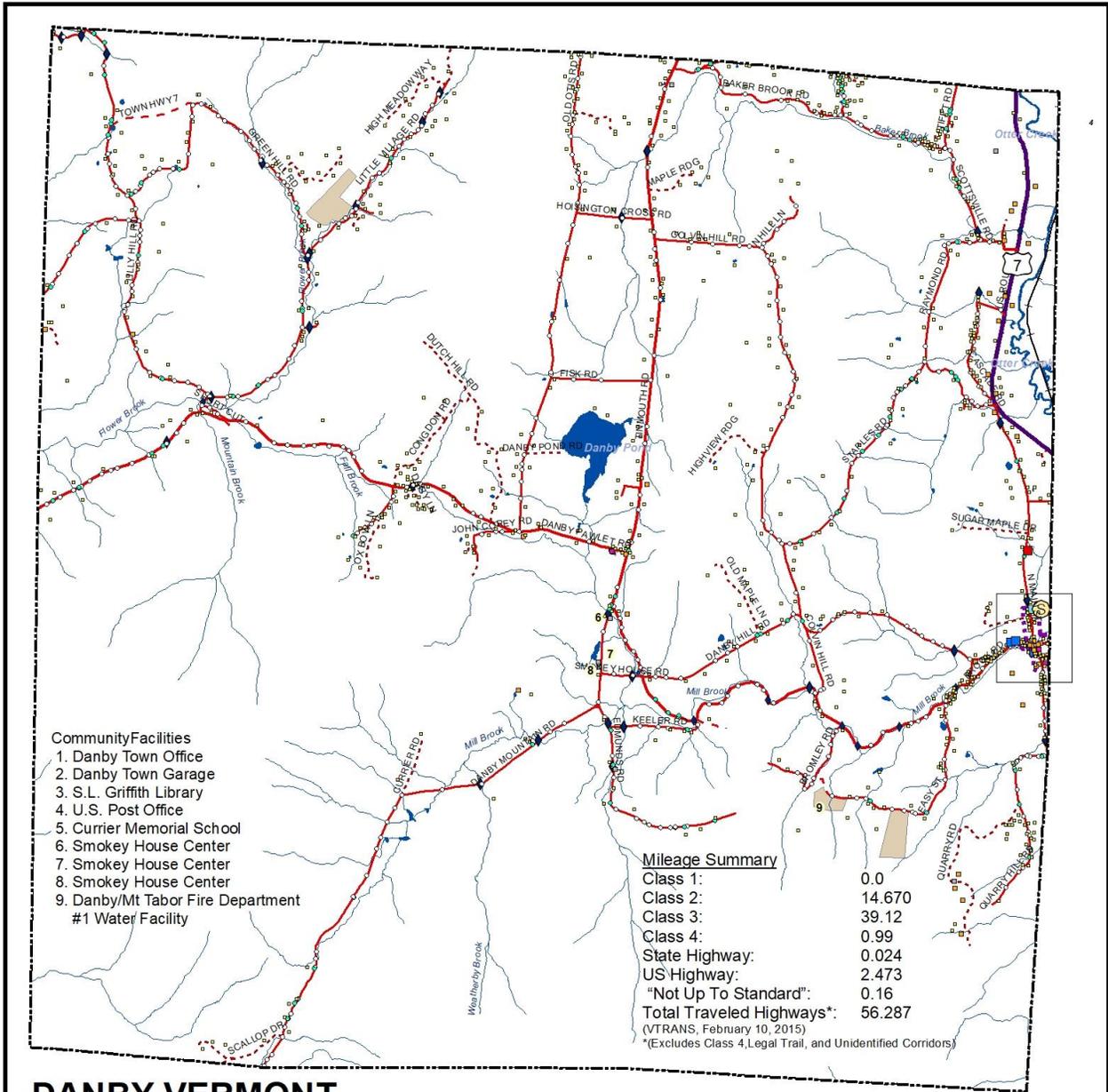
The traditional agriculture of Vermont has been in a state of flux in the last fifty years. Large dairy farms have become less profitable, with large, privately owned farms disappearing from towns. At the same time both large industrial farms and smaller organic farms have been popping up to replace them. Especially in small, traditional towns like Danby, these more numerous, if smaller, organic farms can do a lot to help the town. Most prominently is the growing ‘farm to table’ movement that seeks to source twenty percent of vermonters food from within vermont by 2020.

A small, organic farm can work closely with local food shelters, restaurants, or even schools, providing seasonal foods. They can also provide food to the public at farmers markets though most of the year. Beyond that, there is a growing market for organics throughout the country, and



there is a market for buyers in both small towns and large cities, such as New York, Boston, Quebec, and Buffalo.

One of the fastest growing industries in Vermont however is Agritourism, the combination of agriculture and tourism. It involves activities such as direct sales of raw and value added goods, activities aimed at family’s and children, activities that educate, or simply activities that are unique to those who would travel to Vermont, such as cider, cheese, and maple syrup tastings. Corn mazes, petting zoos, hay-rides, and seasonal activities also fall into this category. Not only does the farmer gain income with these activities, but they draw visitors to the towns restaurants, shops, and other local crafts.



## DANBY VERMONT

### Education, Transportation and Community Facilities

**STRUCTURES**

- COMMERCIAL
- † CEMETERY
- GOVERNMENT
- OTHER
- LIBRARY
- POST OFFICE
- FIRE STATION
- HOUSE OF WORSHIP
- RESIDENTIAL
- Ⓢ CURRIER MEMORIAL SCHOOL
- TOWN LAND
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- DESIGNATED VILLAGE CENTER

**CULVERTS**

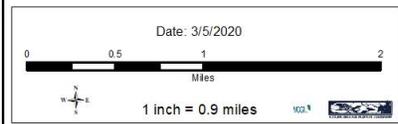
- Municipal
- Private

This project is funded through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant. Data and imagery are from VCGI, Town of Danby, and the RRPC.



**Legend**

- Town Class Two
- Town Class Three
- - - Town Class Four
- - - Private/ Unknown Roads
- US and State Highways
- Rivers and Streams



1 inch = 0.24 miles

## **Utilities, Facilities, and Education**

The Town of Danby and its partners endeavor to maintain and improve access to safe and efficient services and utilities throughout the community. The provision of safe drinking water, proper disposal of waste water, accessible solid waste and recycling facilities, cell phone / broadband capabilities and quality education facilities are critical to the continued health of the community. Danby is a town experiencing population growth. Utilities and facilities will need to continue to match growth in the community.

### **Utilities**

#### **Fire Protection**

The Danby-Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Company provides fire protection for both towns. The company operates out of two fire stations, a main station on North Main Street north of Danby Borough and a sub-station in Danby Four Corners. It belongs to a Mutual Aid Pact with Clarendon, Tinmouth, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Poultney, Ira, Wallingford and the Wells Fire Departments. Its budget draws from three major sources: the towns of Danby and Mount Tabor, donations, and fund-raising events.

Although the majority of calls come from Danby and Mount Tabor the company has agreements for mutual aid services in both Rutland and Bennington Counties.

The main water supply for firefighting is the available rivers and ponds throughout town. The company responds to around fifty-five calls a year according to a Fire Department Official. Over the past few years, the Fire Department has received Dry Hydrant Grants and has installed eleven dry hydrants throughout the community; and two more will be installed in 2014.

There are a few flowing bodies of water in the Town. Most of the accessible sites are not

suitable as firefighting water sources due to low flows, high lifts, and construction complications. This makes development of year round reliable water sources difficult. Ideally the Fire Company would like twenty dry hydrants spread throughout the Town and they strongly encourage residents to install a dry hydrant in any new ponds that are built that are near fire truck access. Additionally, the Town should consider assisting with the cost of construction of these dry hydrants in public streams, particularly in extremely vulnerable areas such as Danby Village.

The Company continues to upgrade its equipment and facilities through funds provided by the Department of Homeland Security. In 2014 voters approved a contribution of \$25,000 each year for seven years for the purchase of a new fire engine. A new truck was purchased in 2013 and is housed in the Danby Four Corners Fire Station through the same method.

While the Danby-Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Company operates independently of either government, the Town of Danby encourages it to be active in considering new development proposals with regard to emergency access. General accessibility from the Company's two fire stations and site-specific road and building designs are especially critical.

#### **Police Protection**

Police protection is provided by a contract with the Rutland County Sherriff's Office. Danby is also covered by State Police from Rutland.

## Municipal Services

An elected five-person Selectboard governs Danby. Members are elected each year to serve three-year terms. They are assisted by other elected and appointed officials: a Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Listers, Auditors, School Board Members, Regional Planning Commissioner and Planning Commission Members, and other Town officers as listed in the Danby Town Report.

The Town Offices and town garage are located in Danby Borough on Brook Road. Annual town meetings are held at Currier Memorial School. The transfer station and recycling center are located adjacent to the town garage.

## Water Supply

The majority of homes had their own water supply, driven wells, dug wells, or springs.

The recharge area for the Danby-Mt. Tabor Fire



*Danby Town Office (formerly School #8)*

District No. 1 well and springs are indicated on the Natural Resources Map. This system serves the portion of the town within the Danby-Mount Tabor Fire District 1. Planning for future water use should include adequate water for fire protection as well as domestic use.

The water is abundant and of excellent quality. The Town Plan contains policies for protecting the streams, springs and other water supplies from contamination and depletion. Currently the

system can provide 50,000 gallons per day. The system is at capacity.

## Sewage Disposal

Sewage disposal is provided on an individual basis through town. Septic tanks, dry wells and leach fields are the common method of disposal. Rural areas should continue to rely on individual on-site sewage disposal with low enough densities to allow such disposal without problems to adjacent neighbors or water supplies.

There are many new alternative systems that could be investigated both by individual homeowners and by developers interested in constructing housing in a more compact manner. All wastewater disposal systems are permitted through the State of Vermont – Agency of Natural Resources.

## Education

Assuring a high level of education is critical. It not only provides Danby's youth with the tools to grow and succeed, but it is a source of community pride. Danby and Mount Tabor share one public elementary school, Currier Memorial. Additionally, some parents have chosen to home school their children or send them to private or religious schools.

## Currier Memorial School

Danby's public school, Currier Memorial, is part of the Taconic and Green Supervisory Union District. It serves children from pre-school to 5<sup>th</sup> grade and has an enrollment of approximately 90 students. The overall proportion of households with children 18 years of age or younger in Danby was 28% in 2010.



The school has eight classrooms. The school also maintains a library, kitchen, multi-purpose room, and a variety of offices. Recreational facilities at the school include a playground, soccer field, tennis court, and the indoor gymnasium. Facilities are available for use by area residents.

### Secondary Education

As Danby has no high school facilities local families may choose which middle or high school their children attend. Students attending public schools have tuition paid in full. Students attending private, non-religious schools are given the state average to apply towards tuition. In 2013-14, that figure was \$11,703 for elementary school students, and \$13,084 for students in grades seven through twelve.

In the 2014-2015 school year, the majority of high school students from Danby attended Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester (42 students), Mill River Union High School in Clarendon (30 students), and Long Trail School in Dorset (9 students). At least 5 other high schools and local schools providing 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade education are also used. Bus service is provided for Danby residents who attend Mill River and Burr and Burton.

### Health Facilities

Medical care is provided by physicians in Rutland, West Pawlet, Manchester and Wallingford. The Rutland Visiting Nurse and Hospice Association

provides services to the town while the Manchester, Wallingford, and Granville Rescue Squads provide emergency rescue services. Danby also has first response capability. In-patient care is provided by both Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington and the Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland.

### United States Postal Service

The Danby Post Office celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community in January 2002. Today the United States Postal Service operates one facility in Danby that employs two individuals full-time and three others on a part-time basis.

### Solid Waste Disposal

Danby is a member of the Rutland County Solid Waste District which is the primary regional entity administering and addressing solid waste disposal problems on a regional level on behalf of its constituent municipalities. The Town of Danby maintains a contract with a local solid waste disposal company and runs a waste transfer station at the town garage. Home and business owners are responsible for transporting solid waste and recyclables to the transfer station.

In 2012 Act 148—Vermont’s Universal Recycling Law—was passed. The intent of the law is to divert recyclable items, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps from landfills. By July 1, 2015 recyclables will be banned from landfills; by July 1, 2016 leaf and yard debris and clean wood waste will be banned from landfills; and by 2020 food scraps will be banned. Facility owners and trash haulers will need to collect and manage these wastes accordingly. Municipalities are also required to implement variable rate pricing based on volume or weight by July 1, 2015. The Town will need to work with the District to ensure compliance with Act 148.

### Telecommunications Facilities

The Public Utilities Commission regulates the siting, construction, and modification of towers and cellular structures. Traditional tools that towns use to participate in the siting of cellular facilities include planning, adopting reasonable

bylaws, and focusing on aesthetics, safety concerns (other than radiation) and character of the neighborhood.

As a result of rapid industry growth, emerging technologies, and industry permit leasing requirements, Vermont towns have seen an increase in applications for telecommunications towers. Given the industry’s plans to increase its presence in Vermont and the sometimes highly sensitive nature of telecommunications tower proposals, it has become increasingly urgent that every Vermont town adopt community standards specifically addressing siting and application requirements for these towers. Thoughtful regulations balance the desire for better communications facilities with the desire to preserve scenic landscapes and ensure safety in each community.

**Child Care**

The availability of child care for our residents is a big factor related to the affordability of living in Danby. Parents of young children need to have safe, accessible, and affordable child care options. Otherwise choices have to be made between earning a living or raising a family.

**Children in Danby** - Source: 2017 Census

Age	% of Population
Under 5 years	3.6%
5 to 9 years	4.7%
10 to 14 years	9.2%
15 to 19 years	9.6%

In Danby there is currently one licensed afterschool program, one registered home care provider, and one licensed nursery and preschool that opened in 2014. It is difficult to assess the need for child care facilities in Danby because of the high proportion of adults who commute to other communities to work. For instance, the 2017

Census data showed that for Danby residents the mean travel time to work was 27 minutes. It is expected that many parents choose to have their children near to their places of work thus potentially reducing the need for facilities in Danby. Some undoubtedly use family members to provide child care. Parents and/or child care providers in Danby should be asked to provide input on the need for additional child care facilities.

Throughout the Rutland Region there are approximately 85 registered home care providers and 69 licensed child care centers, which include early childhood and school-age care programs. Rutland City accounts for nearly half of the capacity of the region’s providers, with 30 registered homes and 27 licensed centers. To improve the quality of services Vermont has established the Step Ahead Recognition System (STARs) program to recognize regulated child care, preschool, and afterschool programs that take measures to exceed state standards in providing services to children and families. STARs ratings range from 1 to 5 stars based upon their success in five areas of performance (e.g. staff qualifications). Approximately 72 child care providers in the region participate in STARs. Sixteen of those providers have achieved the highest rating of 5 stars, and 18 have a rating of 4 stars.

There are critical issues regarding child care that should be considered in Danby even with the small number of child care facilities in Town. Low income families have difficulty accessing child care and afterschool programs due to financial constraints, lack of transportation, and the demands placed on working parents. Middle income families also struggle to pay for child care. Statewide from 2003 to 2012 market rates for a preschool age child in a licensed child care center increased \$140 per week to \$200 (43.9% increase) and rates for a preschool age child in registered home care increased from \$106.25 to \$150 per year (41.2% increase) (2012 Vermont Child Care Market Rate Survey). Another deficiency is specialized child care services for infants as well as children with special needs.

## Emergency Management

Having emergency services available is among the basic needs of residents in Danby. The Town, together with its non-profit partners, strives to be active in all four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

### 1. Mitigation

Mitigation means acting before the next disaster to reduce losses of life and property. In 2016, the Town received FEMA final approval on their first single jurisdiction, stand-alone Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan identifies the most likely types of natural and human-caused hazards and locations where these hazards are most likely to take place. The Plan also sets forth a prioritized list of tasks to be completed to reduce the damage from future hazard events.

High risk hazards in Danby include flooding and fluvial erosion, hazardous material spills, particularly along Route 7 and the rail line, highway and railroad accidents, water supply contamination, as well as the significant fire risk in the Village District because of the lack of sprinklers in the wooden structures.

Mitigation priorities in the 2016 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan include installing dry hydrants, upgrading culverts and roadside ditches, public education regarding fire hazards, stabilizing stream banks, and several other mitigation projects. Since the FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan expires after five years, the Town will begin working to prepare and adopt a new plan in 2020.

The Town has also completed an inventory of its bridges and culverts and adopted a series of codes and standards for road maintenance that ensure sustainable practices. Having these programs in place reduces the Town's match against State dollars for federally declared disasters and certain public works maintenance projects.

### 2. Preparedness

Preparedness involves activities and measures, such as training, plans, procedures, and equipment, taken in advance of an incident to ensure effective response. The Town has an appointed Emergency Management Director who is responsible for coordinating the various components of the emergency management system. One of the EMD's core functions is to maintain an up to date emergency management plan.

Danby's Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was last updated and adopted on May 16, 2019. In 2019, Vermont Emergency Management released a new Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) to replace the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).

The LEMP establishes lines of responsibility during a disaster and includes staffing and location information for the local emergency operations center (EOC); municipal purchasing agents for emergencies and emergency spending limits; a listing of municipal resources, mutual aid agreements, and local resource suppliers; selected methods for public information and warning; locations that are to be used as shelters; and a complete listing of contacts. The LEMP identifies the Danby-Mount Tabor Village Fire House as the primary local EOC and the Town Office as the alternate EOC. The Fire House is also listed as the primary local shelter and the Currier Memorial School as the alternate local shelter.

The LEMP should be examined and re-adopted annually by May 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure all content remains current and accurate. In addition, Danby should consider exercising their LEMP on a periodic basis. Exercises enhance knowledge of plans; allow members of the local emergency team to improve their own performance; and identify opportunities to improve capabilities to respond to real events. There are different types of exercises that can be used to evaluate plans – tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises.

3. *Response*

Response activities address the short-term direct effects of an incident and seek to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. In Danby, response services include fire protection, rescue, and public safety/police. Danby is served by the Danby-Mount Tabor Volunteer Fire Department. Rescue services are provided by the Manchester Rescue Squad. Danby relies on the Rutland Barracks of the Vermont State Police for police services.

4. *Recovery*

Recovery is the process of rebuilding, restoring, and rehabilitating the community following an emergency. The Town should maintain records of costs incurred in the recovery from disasters, including road and culvert repairs. This information is reported to Vermont Emergency Management and aids the state in applying for federal declarations of disaster in larger events. It is also critical to ensuring the Town then receives the fullest amount of government financial assistance legally allowed during a federally declared disaster.

Vermont's Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) provides state funding to match federal Public Assistance after federally-declared disasters. Eligible public costs are reimbursed by federal taxpayers at 75%. For disasters after October 23, 2014, the State of Vermont will contribute an additional 7.5% toward the costs. If the Town takes specific steps to improve flood resilience the State will contribute 12.5% or 17.5% of the total cost based on these requirements. Currently, Danby is at the 17.5% level because they have adopted the four mitigation measures described below and adopted interim River Corridor Bylaws.

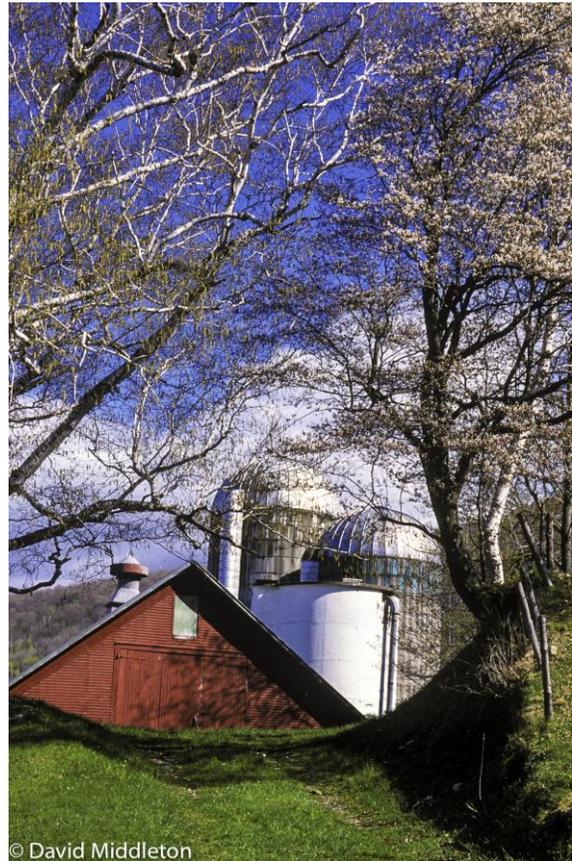
12.5% for eligible communities that have adopted four mitigation measures:

1. National Flood Insurance Program (participate or have applied);

2. Town Road and Bridge Standards - (annually certify adopted standards that meet or exceed current VTrans Standards);
3. Local Emergency Management Plan (adopt annually after town meeting);
4. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - Adopt a FEMA-approved local plan (valid for five years).

17.5% ERAF funding for eligible communities that also have adopted:

1. Maintenance of an active rate classification (class #1 through 9) under FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) that includes activities that prohibit new structures in mapped flood hazard zones, OR;
2. Adoption of a Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) or other river corridor or floodplain protection bylaw that meets or exceeds the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources FEH model regulations and scoping guidelines.



© David Middleton

## Flood Resilience

Flood events are Vermont’s most frequent and costly type of natural disaster. There are two types of flooding that impact communities in Vermont: inundation and flash flooding. Inundation is when water rises onto low lying land. Flash flooding is a sudden, violent flood which often entails fluvial erosion (stream bank erosion). According to the Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security the state incurred costs of more than \$850 million from Tropical Storm Irene.

## Mapping Flood Hazard Areas

Maps are an essential aid to meet the new state requirement of identifying flood hazard and fluvial erosion areas and designating areas to be protected. Because the methods of mapping inundation and fluvial erosion corridors differ significantly, river corridor maps are a critical addition to existing flood hazard maps.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address inundation hazards. Flood insurance rates are based on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) or Digital Flood insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) which delineate areas of the floodplain likely to be inundated during a flood. These are identified as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or with a 1% annual chance of flooding. Town participation in NFIP is voluntary. In Vermont two thirds of flood damages occur outside of federally mapped flood areas.

## History of Flooding

A number of significant flooding events have occurred in Danby in the last two decades alone, as indicated in the flood table below:

The worst recurring flooding problems tend to cover the roads and disrupt traffic flow, but to the actual damage to the roads, culverts etc. is typically minimal. Frequent problem areas where damage to roads actually occurs include:

- Brook Rd – runs in a tight valley along the Mill Brook, crossing at several points and making several sharp turns
- Easy Street
- Danby Mountain Road
- Little Village Road
- Green Hill Road
- Colvin Hill Road
- Kelly Hill Road
- Lilly Hill Road

## Recent Flooding and Fluvial Erosion History

Vermont’s River Corridor and Floodplain Management Program, developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), delineates areas subject to fluvial erosion. River corridor maps are designed with the recognition that rivers are not static. A certain amount of erosion is natural when Danby floods because of the town’s steep terrain and frequent storms. Developments in the river corridor and stream channel engineering over time have increased channel instability.



*Mill Brook during Tropical Storm Irene (moments before the Mill Brook House was washed away)*

**DANBY TOWN PLAN 2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
June 29 – July 1, 2017	Severe Storm and Flooding; FEMA Declared Disaster (DR-4330)	Town-wide	\$375,965 in FEMA Public Assistance Funds.
August 2011	Tropical Storm Irene flooding; FEMA Declared Disaster	Town-wide: Parker Road, Lilly Hill Road, Green Hill Road, Short Cut before Lily Hill Road, Danby-Pawlet Road, Jim Town Road, Scottsville Road, Danby Mountain Road, Keeler Road, Main Street, Brook Road, Bromley Road	\$197,775 in FEMA Public Assistance Funds.
December 2000	Flooding; FEMA Declared Disaster	Town-wide	\$116,235
January 1996	Flooding; FEMA Declared Disaster	Town-wide	\$62,429
April 1-2, 1998	Flash flooding from spring flooding	County-wide	\$10,000
March 29-30, 1998	Flash flooding from dramatic snowmelt and rapid rises on rivers	County-wide	\$20,000
January 8-9, 1998	Flash flooding; rainfall amounts of 3-5 inches	County-wide	\$5,000

Special mapping and geomorphic assessments can identify fluvial erosion hazard areas along rivers.

Three rivers in Danby have undergone Phase 1 Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA); Baker Brook, Mill Brook, and Flower Brook in 2005 and Phase 2 SGAs have been done for Flower Brook and a section of the Otter Creek and Baker Brook in 2009; in some cases River Corridor Management Plans have been developed but no river corridor protection plan has been adopted.

These studies and plans are vital in determining river and stream alterations which affect water flows and could potentially lead to future flood damage. The SGAs and River Corridor Plans suggest potential remediation

actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of future flood damage including planting stream buffers, stabilizing stream banks, removing berms, removing structures and restoring incision areas.

Mapped River Corridors/Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) Areas of Danby are available from the VT Agency of Natural Resources and should be referenced in this Town Plan.

Danby completed a town-wide culvert inventory to survey and report on the condition of all 500 culverts in town in 2019.

## **Flood Hazard Area Regulations**

The Town of Danby adopted Flood Hazard Area Regulations on June 5, 2008 which restrict development within Zones designated as “A” on Flood Maps. Furthermore, Danby has participated in River/Stream Corridor planning which identifies recommendations from the Stream Geomorphic Assessment (SGA) for Flower Brook and Baker Brook/Upper Otter Creek to reduce the risk of fluvial erosion and flood damage.

Danby has participated in the NFIP since 1980 and its current effective map date is August 28, 2008. As of February 2019, the Town has one flood insurance policy in the SFHA and 2 additional policies in town through the NFIP. In total these policies cover \$712,200 in value. Flood insurance is available for any structure in town regardless of previous losses or location. The cost of flood insurance premiums rises in areas identified at a high-risk level. Flood insurance is not required where property (but not a structure) is in a flood hazard area. The town has 17 structures in its Special Flood Hazard Area. Danby officials will continue to ensure it is in compliance with NFIP requirements as appropriate.

The regulations ameliorate flooding and fluvial erosion by avoiding new development, filling, and/or removal of wetlands in the River Corridor or Special Flood Hazard Area. The current flood hazard regulations, since they do not include river corridor protection, do not qualify the Town for favorable (17.5%) state reimbursement rates after disasters as established in the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) rules.

E-911 mapping from July of 2013 indicates that 17 structures in Danby are within the SFHA (1% annual chance of flooding) as identified on the Rutland County DFIRM dated 2008.

## **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The Danby Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was adopted on June 9, 2016. Danby’s Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) was adopted on May 16, 2019 and is reviewed annually.

## **Lands that Minimize Flooding**

River corridor assessments aid communities in making knowledgeable and strategic decisions about how to best protect, manage, and restore watershed resources. Riparian buffers reduce flood hazards and stabilize stream banks, attenuate floods, provide aquatic and terrestrial habitat and wildlife corridors, filter runoff, absorb nutrients, and shade streams to keep them cool. Wetlands also prevent flood damage and are a vital component for maintaining the ecological integrity of land and water. In addition, upland forests also moderate flood impacts and attenuate flood impacts. Steep slopes on the other hand can be a detriment during flooding by amplifying water volume and velocity in rivers and streams.

Because impervious surfaces prevent the infiltration of water into the soil these man-made surfaces exacerbate flooding by increasing the amount and velocity of stormwater runoff, particularly in areas where these surfaces are prevalent.

The citizens, property and economy, and the quality of the Town’s natural resources are protected by: using sound planning practices to address flood risks; supporting development in the Town that does not interfere with natural river functions and will not worsen flooding and cause negative impacts downstream; and enabling the Town’s flood resilience.

Informing property owners of the steps they can take to mitigate their risks (such as flood insurance, retrofit projects, property buy-outs, avoid new encroachments in harm’s way) can reinforce strategic decisions made at the municipal level.

# Implementation Program

## Introduction

## Statement of Future Goals

## Vision, Goals, Principles and Tasks for Each Area of the Plan:

1. Community
2. Implementation
3. Culture and Recreation
4. Housing
5. Economic Development
6. Natural Resources
7. Energy
8. Land Use
9. Utilities, Facilities and Education
10. Transportation
11. Flood Resilience

## Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks

## 2015 Town Plan Implementation Results – Appendix 2

## Introduction

The Danby Town Plan is a guide for future growth within the town and provides for the development of land, public services and facilities commensurate with that growth. It defines a long-term vision and a means for achieving that vision. It is designed to serve as a primary reference when making community decisions and to provide guidance to local officials when setting public policy. The plan provides historical data and background information, describes Danby's current conditions, character and challenges and includes town goals, principles and tasks. The terms "goal", "principle" and "task", for use in this plan, are defined as follows:

### Goals:

- Expresses the long-range community vision relative to one or more area of the plan.
- This is a statement of achievement to which the town aspires.

### Principles:

- Expresses the town's intent or position with regard to specific issues or topics.
- In certain settings, such as Select Board meetings or Act 250 proceedings, Principles should serve as the basis for determining conformance with the Town Plan.

- While other sections of the plan, in particular the narrative sections and goal statements, provide useful context, it is the Principles that serve as the final statement regarding the town's position.

**Tasks:**

- Describes a specific action to be taken to support one or more Principles and achieve long-term goals.

**Once the Town Plan is approved, implementation activities will be guided by the following:**

- The town recognizes and appreciates the difficulties and challenges involved in balancing the rights of all individuals within a community.
- At the same time, the town continues to place a high value on property rights and intends to protect those rights.
- The Select Board / Planning Commission endorse land use changes that, in their judgment, is in alignment with the Town Plan.

**Statement of Future Goals:**

- **Foster a vibrant, prosperous, and socially inclusive community.**
- **Promote the health, safety and general welfare and education of residents.**
- **Protect and maintain Danby's natural resources and scenic vistas.**
- **Protect and conserve the value of property.**
- **Encourage practical locations for residences, including affordable housing.**
- **Keep a low level of tax burden on property owners by efficiently operating town government.**
- **Promote continuation of agriculture as an important part of the town's economic base.**
- **Encourage suitable commercial and industrial enterprises that align with land use designations, to promote economic development and to add to the tax base.**

## Community

*Vision Statement:* Over the coming decades we anticipate Danby's population growing in ways that preserve our compact village structure and the forested and agricultural character of the town as a whole, that allow Danby to be financially and logistically manageable, and that foster a vibrant, inclusive sense of community.

### Goals:

- Danby's citizens continue to have a deep sense of community and remain independent and self-reliant.
- The town will be economically, environmentally and culturally diverse.
- The town's rate of growth will not exceed the community's ability to afford, finance and construct needed educational and other municipal facilities.
- Elderly services will meet the needs of the town's elderly population.
- New opportunities for young adults will be created.

### Principles:

- Support:
  - Encouraging young adults to make Danby their home.
  - Nurture community-mindedness and social interaction among all town residents by promoting opportunities to engage with community organizations, gather for recreation, education and other activities.
  - Childcare options.

### Implementation Tasks:

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Implementation

*Vision Statement:* The plan is designed to serve as a primary reference when making community decisions, and to provide guidance to local officials when setting public policy. Each section of the plan has principles for the town to follow in order to reach stated goals. Mechanisms must be maintained to make sure the plan remains current and relevant

### Goal:

- Actively ensure the ongoing maintenance and implementation of the approved Town Plan.

### Principles:

- Utilize town / community resources and oversight to ensure successful implementation of the plan.
- Continue communicating progress on Front Porch Forum and the Town Website.
- Enlist local organizations / citizens to own portions of the plan for implementation.
- The Principles in the plan guide prioritization of implementation - as implementation progresses, tasks can evolve - subject to approval of the Select Board and Planning Commission.

### Implementation Tasks:

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Culture and Recreation

*Vision Statement:* It is vital, while planning for Danby's future, to remember the historic, scenic, cultural and recreational resources that have long made this an interesting, exciting, and rewarding place to live.

### Goals:

- Encourage a vibrant and healthy lifestyle among community residents.
- Promote expansion of cultural opportunities.
- Strengthen ties to non-profit / community groups in town to support their causes and further the goals of the Town Plan.

### Principles:

- Foster programs that preserve and enhance scenic, historic and recreational resources.
- Encourage and promote efforts to enhance the appearance of historic structures and districts.
- Promote outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, swimming, biking and hiking as well as entertainment, special events, and seasonal activities to benefit area residents and attract tourists.
- Develop long-range plans for recreation in cooperation with other towns, ensuring landowner approval when required.

### Implementation Tasks:

See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Housing

*Vision Statement:* Affordable, energy-efficient housing for the residents of Danby must also take into account the needs of renters and homeowners alike, of the retired and elderly, as well as families just starting out. The Town Plan must support effective cooperation between residents, developers, builders, and regulatory agencies as they attempt to meet these needs.

### Goals:

- Maintain a diverse mix of housing options for the spectrum of household incomes.
- Households with individuals with special housing needs, including the elderly, those with physical or mental disabilities, single parent households, as well as low and moderate-income households are able to attain suitable and affordable housing.
- Maintain and promote the historic character and development pattern of housing in Danby.
- Property taxes should be affordable.
- Residential development will have limited impact on municipal services costs and the rural, agricultural, and historic character of the town.

### Principles:

- Increase availability of housing that is affordable to rent, own, and operate for all citizens.

- Encourage accessory apartments and other living arrangements for the elderly and those with special needs.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## **Economic Development**

Vision Statement: To have a healthy economy driven by local entrepreneurs, community services, tourism, natural resources and agriculture.

**Goals:**

- Ensure fiscal balance with reasonable maintenance and development of town facilities, utilities and services that supports economic growth.
- Encourage the growth of agriculture and small and medium sized enterprises, including home occupations, local artisans, craftspeople, and seasonal businesses.
- Promote Danby through various forms of communication, including signage and internet promotion.
- Local government and local business will work together closely, effectively and efficiently.

**Principles:**

- Economic development should be encouraged to provide maximum economic benefit with minimum negative environmental impact.
- Diversification of economic base is a primary focus and implementation tasks should focus on the following opportunities:
  - Growth of agriculture and forestry.
  - Small and medium sized enterprises such as home occupations, dining, crafts, and seasonal business.
  - Promote and retain existing businesses.
  - Revitalization of the Mt. Tabor / Danby retail corridor along Route 7.
  - Maintain a capital improvements budget that promotes economic development.
  - Promoting internet high-speed cable and fiber optics accessibility, providing necessary services for all citizens, including work at home professionals.
  - Improved signage, website maintenance and online promotions.
- Ensure the timing and rate of economic growth / new housing construction does not exceed Danby's ability to provide adequate public facilities, services and roads.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## **Natural Resources**

Vision Statement: It is vital, while planning for Danby's future, to remember natural resources that have long made this an interesting, exciting, and rewarding place to live. Our prosperity is inseparable from the health and beauty of our natural environment.

**Goals:**

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- Conserve and protect natural resources and wildlife assets.
- Danby town officials and residents will benefit from education programs that increase awareness of the value of natural resources while increasing knowledge of existing state regulations.
- Land use activities shall not unduly impact Danby's natural resources.
- Maintain the natural state of high-elevation areas.
- Improve surface water quality to protect aquatic habitats and recreational resources.
- Maintain the excellent quality of groundwater resources.
- Protect wetlands.
- Further sustainable agriculture and forestry uses and practices in the community.
- Balance continuation of natural landscapes with mineral extraction.

**Principles:**

- Increase awareness of, and use existing state regulations to protect natural resources.
- Encourage proper installation and maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems.
- Construction should be discouraged where slopes exceed 15 percent and in areas susceptible to inundation and erosion.
- Keep the rugged/poorly accessible mountain and forest areas free from development.
- Continue to support the road crew in employing gravel road maintenance.
- Techniques that prevent soil erosion, road surface deterioration, and storm water runoff.
- Current and future mineral extraction should be done in such a manner so as to limit negative impacts.
- Withdrawal or contamination which affects the quality or quantity of surface water should be discouraged.
- Significant wetlands should be protected from development by encouraging the maintenance of an undisturbed buffer strip of natural vegetation at least 50 feet in width around the edge and by preventing runoff and direct discharge into wetlands.
- Give due consideration to the effects of interruptions to the natural flow of water.
- Encourage pollution abatement in the town's rivers, streams, and ponds.
- Vegetated buffer strips should be encouraged in shore land and riverside areas surrounding streams and ponds.
- Logging and agriculture activities that are potential sources of pollution should follow best management practices.
- Encourage development which will minimize run-off in vulnerable areas.
- Land use activities should prevent loss of groundwater quality and quantity.
- Upland watersheds should be maintained for forest and recreation use to ensure high quality of streams and tributaries.
- Protect areas with rare, threatened, and endangered species.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Energy

*Vision Statement:* Careful planning will be necessary to meet the energy needs of Danby's residents and businesses at a time of rapid technological, environmental, and economic change. This will require both a spirit of innovation and close coordination with regional and statewide agencies.

### Goals:

- Commit to efficient use of energy sources and conservation to achieve a more economical community-wide energy profile.
- Support citizens generating energy locally from renewable sources for electricity, heating and/or transportation needs.
- Promote energy-efficiency and conservation in the design, construction and maintenance of all municipal, residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

### Principles:

- Establish a strong and visible commitment to efficiency and increased use of renewable fuels in line with land use in the Town Plan.
- Work to create opportunities for walking, cycling, and other energy efficient, non-motorized alternatives.
- Utility and commercial scale infrastructure, including electric and gas transmission as well as renewables, shall be located only in the commercial/industrial area as noted on the land use map - no other zones are permissible.
- Promote the use in municipal buildings of energy-efficient materials and appliances as well as outdoor lighting cutoff fixtures.
- Support efforts of residents to partner in the installation of micro-grid and residential-scale distributed energy systems.
- Support the broader use of residential-scale solar power for local electricity generation, provided aesthetic impacts are minimized.
- All planning for electric transmission lines should be strongly weighed in favor of underground placement to prevent outages and preserve scenic landscape.

### Implementation Tasks:

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Land Use

*Vision Statement:* Natural growth and historic economic patterns have determined Danby's land use settlement. Danby is anchored by a village area that includes most of the high-density residential and commercial development within the town. Danby's forestry, agriculture and mineral extraction industries continue to contribute significantly to the statewide economy.

### Goals

- Land development will be managed in a manner that takes into account the important cultural and natural resources of our community.
- A reasonable balance between land use limitations and the rights of individual land owners will be maintained.
- Maintain and enhance its historic village for residential and commercial activities.

- Provide and maintain conditions promoting the health, safety and welfare of its residents.
- Invite and encourage community participation in the planning process.

**Principles**

- Ensure development activities maintain historic development patterns and conform with the land use districts defined in the Town Plan consisting of Village and Light Commercial, Agriculture and Rural Residential, Industrial/Heavy Commercial, Highlands, Aquifer Protection and Special Flood Hazard districts.
- Continue supporting the process, available on the town website, that promotes active and productive communication between businesses and neighboring property owners to reconcile land use issues and concerns.
- Maintain the Vermont Village Center Designation.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## **Utilities, Facilities and Education**

*Vision Statement:* Provide ways to make the most efficient use of Danby's utilities and facilities for the benefit of our residents' quality of life as well as ensure prudent stewardship; in addition, planning for the education of our children impacts every aspect of our social health and economic vitality.

**Goals:**

- Provide access to adequate public facilities and services to meet existing and future needs of the community.
- Encourage a variety of community services, including education, senior citizen programs, telecommunication services and meeting facilities.
- Encourage maximum flexibility for parents to have access to quality child care providers.
- The town's fire, police, and rescue services will continue to enjoy strong community support.
- Storm water and water systems will be maintained to meet state standards.
- Support efforts of School District to provide quality education to Danby's students.

**Principles:**

- Explore ways to share costs of transfer station, road maintenance, and other town services with neighboring towns.
- Find a new site for municipal garage/sand-salt sheds and support town office enhancements /renovations.
- Investigate the need to establish a town administrator position that supports day-to-day duties for operating town government, ensuring funding for this does not increase taxes.
- Reduce fire damage as much as possible by having an adequate year round water supply for fire suppression.
- Continue to support fire, police, and emergency services in Danby.
- Continue to support the Currier Memorial School in its endeavors to educate children in Danby.
- Ensure that present and future residents maintain access to safe and cost-effective sources of drinking water.

- Encourage the expansion of adult and senior activities and education in the community.
- Encourage the expansion of health services available to Danby residents and visitors.
- Encourage settlement patterns that reuse existing town infrastructure.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Transportation

Vision Statement: Provide transportation options that address the needs of our citizens.

**Goals:**

- Have a safe, integrated, economical and environmentally friendly transportation system to move people and freight within and through the region.
- Have infrastructure so that people can walk and ride bicycles safely along town roads.
- Take an active role in transportation planning for the Town of Danby.
- Actively promote the use of alternative transportation in Danby.
- Develop a Capital Improvement Plan to identify, prioritize, and fund transportation related projects.
- Continue to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit.

**Principles:**

- Ensure that VTrans provides adequate funding and a satisfactory maintenance schedule for Danby's bridges and highways.
- Maintain roads according to a systematic annual review of their condition and levels of usage.
- Identify road maintenance services to address areas in need of improvement.
- Work in cooperation with the state to improve roads to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian uses.
- Continue to support public transportation options, including more access to frequent, low cost service including western corridor rail expansion and bus stop shelters to protect passengers from the elements.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See 'Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks' for tasks related to this section of the plan.

## Hazard Mitigation & Flood Resilience

Vision Statement: Protect the citizens, property and economy, and the quality of the Town's natural resources by using sound planning practices to address hazardous events and flood risks.

**Goals:**

- The citizens, property and economy, and the quality of the Town's natural resources are protected by: using sound planning practices to address flood risks; supporting development in the Town that does not interfere with natural river functions and will not worsen flooding and cause negative impacts downstream; and enabling the Town's flood resilience.

- Ensure the Town is able to recover from hazardous events, including flooding, quickly and in a manner that improves resilience.
- Encourage development that does not worsen flooding.

**Principles:**

- Ensure Danby’s Hazard Mitigation Plan is successfully implemented.
- Reduce impervious surfaces near waterways.
- Study river corridors, setbacks and buffers.
- Avoid development in flood plain designated areas.
- Enhance flood hazard regulations to protect water assets, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.

**Implementation Tasks:**

- See ‘Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks’ for tasks related to this section of the plan.

**Consolidated List of Implementation Tasks**

This section provides the consolidate plan of tasks, along with priorities and timing. The Planning Commission will continue managing the implementation of tasks as it did from 2015-2020 – that is, an implementation coordinator will work monthly with the Planning Commission to ensure progress is made. Updates will be provided several times per year to the Select Board on issues, risks and overall plan status. Tasks with the priority rating of ‘A’ or ‘B’ are the town’s top priorities and should be pursued as ‘quick wins’ for the town.

Section	Timing	Priority Rating	#	Tasks
Community	2020	A	1	As part of the economic development section, promote Danby as a town close to Rutland, Manchester and Dorset, with high-quality internet access, affordable housing and access to the best schools in the country
	Ongoing	A	2	Continue supporting town-wide events, including Historic Society gatherings, annual tag sale, trick-or-trunk celebration, Veteran's events, holiday activities; Work with local organizations to identify additional community outreach options including community beautification initiatives
	2022+	C	3	Working with VT state, local government and private organizations, promote childcare options for residents on Front Porch and town Website
Implementation	Ongoing	A	4	Continue implementation process established in 2015, including monthly PC meetings, periodic Select Board Updates, minutes published on Front Porch and Implementation Coordinator role
	Ongoing	A	5	Work with community organizations to take ownership for task implementation
	Annually	C	6	Refresh tasks annually and obtain Select Board approval for changes
Cultural, Historic, Scenic and Recreation Resources	2020	A	7	As part of economic development section of the plan, promote historic and outdoor activities available in Danby; Develop long-range plans for recreation in cooperation with other towns, ensuring landowner approval when required;

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				develop illustrated guide of village architecture and a system of markers for structures and identify and inventory significant public scenic resources
	2021	A	8	Work to improve sidewalks for pedestrians / bike paths in the Village
	Ongoing	B	9	Continue supporting Historical Society in their efforts to preserve and promote Danby / Mt. Tabor's history
	2022+	C	10	Provide information and technical assistance regarding how to maintain and renovate historic structures in keeping with their history on the town website and Front Porch Forum
Housing	2022+	C	11	Identify potential affordable housing sites and publicize availability
	2022+	C	12	Perform a study that helps identify development and public/private affordable housing investment options
Economic Development	2020	A	13	Form an economic development oversight committee with Mt. Tabor (for example titled, Danby/Mt. Tabor Econ Dev Cooperative) to develop joint recommendations and plans and promote partnerships for success
	2020	A	14	Work to attract and sustain agriculture and light industry businesses
	2020	A	15	Working with Mt. Tabor Select Board, analyze and recommend actions that revitalize the retail corridor along Route 7
	2020	A	16	Working with Mt. Tabor, study the feasibility of establishing a site that is appropriate for development of a light industry industrial park, incubator park, or business park along Route 7 corridor
	2020	A	17	Improve and enhance the connection between the Village and Route 7
	2020	A	18	In an effort to reestablish and save businesses in town, investigate feasibility of establishing private 'shareholders' that would invest money to purchase and operate struggling businesses (e.g., Country Stores saved in Calais, VT)
	2020	A	19	Work to reestablish a local gathering place, e.g., coffee shop, internet café, promoting locally produced products
	2020	A	20	Promote existing businesses to 'keep what we have' e.g., attract tourist to Danby marble
	2020	A	21	Assess promoting and establishing cannabis and hemp farming / industries
	2020	A	22	Promote business friendly environment in Danby (real-estate affordability, high-speed internet, ease of access, limited zoning and regulations)
	2020	A	23	Partner with Smokey House to expand their mission to make it an 'economic engine' to draw more people into Danby, for example, becoming the Agriculture/Forestry/Climate Change/Recreation center in the region
	2021	A	24	Work to establish a farmer's market in the Village
	Ongoing	B	25	Maintain and evolve town website capabilities to promote economic development
	2021	B	26	Inventory vacant properties and explore options to recruit businesses to ensure maximum usage of the building stock
	2021	B	27	Create an event that happens 1 to 2 times per year and collaborate with businesses, tourism, and transportation support and community participation
	2021	B	28	Study and propose benefits of offering new and existing businesses real estate tax abatement, tax stabilization or other local property tax relief mechanisms to encourage development in the Village and throughout the town
2021	B	29	Investigate establishing a brewery in Danby (e.g., calling it 'White Marble Brewery')	
2021	B	30	Team with the Vermont Department of Tourism to create awareness of what Danby has to offer	

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	2021	B	31	Work with adjacent towns, local not for profit groups, and state agencies to develop biking and hiking trails that promote access to natural resource areas
	2022+	C	32	Develop growth plan and guidelines for new construction that coordinate with Danby's public facility capital improvement plans
	2022+	C	33	Determine feasibility of establishing a golf course in Danby / Mt. Tabor
Natural Resources	2021	B	34	Update available state and federal information on town website that addresses all town plan principles for natural resources.
	2022+	C	35	If directed by the Select Board, revisit putting in place tougher regulations for river corridor protection (that failed to pass in 2019); a byproduct is increased funding from Federal and State agencies in the event of a disaster
	2022+	C	36	Identify and map areas of potential water quality concern and investigate options to maintain water quality in those areas
Energy	2021	B	37	Update available state and federal information on town website that addresses all town plan principles for energy; advertise on Front Porch
	2021	B	38	Analyze opportunities to promote broader use of solar and wood powered energy for residential and small commercial endeavors
	2021	B	39	Study the hydropower potential of Danby's waterways
	2022+	C	40	Work with Green Mountain Power to promote underground installation of new / upgraded power lines; investigate options for underground power lines conversion in the Village
Land Use	Ongoing	A	41	Promote the process, available on the town website, that encourages active and productive communication between businesses and neighboring property owners to reconcile land use issues and concerns and as a last resort can be escalated to the Select Board for resolution
	2021	B	42	Make available on the town website and Front Porch Danby's Land Use map that emphasizes designated areas for industry and light commercial use; Periodically revisit designations and update as appropriate
	2022+	C	43	Ensure state Village Designation program (renewed in 2015) is renewed and benefits promoted
Utilities, Facilities and Education	2020	A	44	Encourage broader citizen participation in town government
	2020	A	45	Assess, recommend and implement renovations to the existing or relocation of the town garage and sand-salt shed
	2021	B	46	Research feasibility of establishing an attendance policy for appointed town positions
	2021	B	47	Ensure 2019 renovations to the town office are maintained and required enhancements are funded and implemented including improving the grounds, parking and traffic flow
	2021	B	48	Study ability to share costs of transfer station, road maintenance, and other town services with neighboring towns
	2022+	C	49	Assess effectiveness of fire department and determine if it should remain privately managed vs. public ally
	2022+	C	50	Monitor and advertise quality of drinking water in the Village on the town website
	2022+	C	51	Develop five-year plan for the routine maintenance and major renovation of all the town-owned property / facilities, including roads, vehicles and buildings, including possible funding sources
	2022+	C	52	Inspect all town facilities and buildings periodically, ensuring that insurance and maintenance protects the town's investments

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	2022+	C	53	Develop Operations and Maintenance Manuals for town services that delineate roles, responsibilities, technical requirements, ensuring continuity when staffing changes occur.
	2022+	C	54	Engage with the Taconic/Green school district to develop partnerships with town government to improve quality and efficiency of education
Transportation	Ongoing	A	55	Ensure the road supervisor continues to maintain a road surface improvement schedule
	2022+	C	56	Continue to seek grant funding for municipal planning and feasibility studies related to transportation
	2022+	C	57	Continue active participation in the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee
	2022+	C	58	Promote the use of public transit among students, commuters, residents, and the elderly or disabled and provide resources to improve ease-of-use such as bus schedule information, Go Vermont App, and Transit App.
	2022+	C	59	Promote the use of active transportation such as bicycling by adding bicycle racks and promoting safe routes
	2022+	C	60	Utilize vtculverts.org to plan culvert and structure upgrades and maintain an up-to-date culvert inventory
	2022+	C	61	Apply for state and federal grants to assist with project funding including Class 2 Paving Grants
	2022+	C	62	Continue to maintain roads to fully meet MRGP compliance
	2022+	C	63	Utilize the MRGP Implementation Table Portal and the Road Stormwater Management Plan to plan upgrades to road segments that do not meet the standard
	2022+	C	64	Apply for state funding from the Better Roads Program, Grants In Aid, and other VTrans stormwater funding source to improve roads and stormwater infrastructure
	Hazard Mitigation & Flood Resilience	2022+	C	67
2022+		C	68	Continue to maintain and update town bridge and culvert inventories. Use this information to maintain a schedule to replace undersized culverts
2022+		C	69	Design culverts and bridges to, at a minimum, meet the VTrans Hydraulics Manual, ANR Stream Alteration Standards and VTrans Codes and Standards. Maintain culverts to ensure they are effective during several weather events
2022+		C	70	Ensure that all wetlands with flood storage functions are not developed
2022+		C	71	Complete remediation actions from the Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGA) for Baker, Mill and Flower Brooks
2022+		C	72	Educate the community by establishing and sustaining a flood resilience education and outreach effort to support flood damage mitigation and better insure community residents and property for future flood damage
2022+		C	73	As the Hazardous Mitigation Plan is updated periodically, ensure an implementation and management process is been established; bring tasks into this plan for Planning Commission oversight

# Appendix 1

## Town of Danby 2014 Survey Results:

*Although this survey is several years old, the Planning Commission kept this in the updated plan because they felt it still provides citizens useful information. Outdated content was removed.*

(All numbers in this appendix refer to total number of respondents who answered the question in that particular way. "No Opinion" was an option that had to be selected, it was not a default for not answering. There was a total of 112 responses, 96 completed online, and 16 hand-written.)

### *Which of the following best describes your current occupation?*

- 18: Retired
- 9: Management; Business and Financial Operations; Education, Training, and Library.
- 8: Healthcare Practitioners and Technical; Sales and Related; Construction and Extraction.
- 6: Community and Social Service; Office and Administrative Support; Farming, Fishing, and Forestry.
- 5: Architecture and Engineering; Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media; Personal Care and Service.
- 4: Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.
- 3: Legal.
- 2: Production; Spouse and Parent.
- 1: Computer and Mathematical; Food Preparation and Serving Related.
- 0: Life, Physical, and Social Sciences; Protective Services; and Transpiration and Materials Moving.

### *How long have you lived in Danby?*

- 1 - 5 years: 11
- 6 - 10 Years: 22
- 11 - 15 years: 16
- 16 - 20 years: 12
- 21 - 30 years: 10
- 30+ years: 28

### *As a place to live, Danby is:*

- 21: Great

- 59: Good
- 24: Fair
- 3: Poor
- 5: No Opinion

### *What is your Satisfaction with the Current Level of Municipal Services?*

- 9: Great
- 49: Good
- 38: Fair
- 11: Poor
- 5: No Opinion

### *Do you feel Danby has adequate facilities for recreation?*

- 46: Yes
- 51: No

Note: there was a focus on creating open, safe, interesting places for children and adults alike to use. Parks, picnic benches, playgrounds, and walking paths were all suggested. The general attitude expressed in survey comments was a focus on creating or re-creating, a sense of town unity and making children happier to stay in town.

Note: many of those who said there were adequate facilities also self-identified as childless retirees, and said that there was no reason to spend money when people can just go for a walk.

### *Using a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the most preferred and 3 the least preferred, what kinds of development would you like to see in Danby?*

Development Preferences	1	2	3
Agriculture	66	24	13
Restaurants	65	28	15
Small Crafts, Artisans	64	32	9
Home Based Businesses	52	34	16
Professional Services	50	35	17
Tourist, recreation, attractions	46	34	23
Light Industry	38	36	28
Compact, Pedestrian growth	37	30	30
Senior Citizens Facilities	32	58	16
Educational institutions	32	39	27
Health care facilities	29	46	25
Housing	28	31	38
Vacation Homes	25	41	36
Energy Generation Facilities	24	30	43

Hotel	16	26	58
Motel	10	28	63
Heavy Industry	7	17	70
Auto-Centric Sprawl	7	12	73

**Do you rent or own the place where you live?**

2: Rent  
111: Own

**Do you think Danby should have Zoning?**

53: Yes  
41: No  
18: No Opinion

**Should Special Restrictions or Conditions be placed on any of the following?**

\*Ø - Individuals who responded that they did not care if restrictions were placed or not.

Restrictions on ...	Yes	No	Ø
Electric Generation Facilities	78	23	9
Gas Stations	74	29	5
Telecom	73	28	10
Gravel Pits	73	27	10
Mobile Homes	73	24	12
Quarries	72	24	12
Farming	28	67	13
Playgrounds	21	71	13

Note: While many respondents favored restriction, there was less support for an outright moratorium.

**Are there areas of Danby that should be protected from development?**

19: Downtown/Historical areas  
18: Wetlands, waterways, and wildlife areas  
16: Mountain areas and Ridgelines  
10: Farming and Forestry areas  
10: Open and scenic areas  
6: All of it  
3: None of it

**What is your opinion of large-scale wind or solar projects in Danby?**

51: Good  
14: Bad  
22: Solar only  
1: wind only  
14: No opinion

Note: While open to the idea of alternative energy, there are concerns about how much of an impact it will have, especially on ridgelines. Many respondents specified they would like the facilities to be placed in unused, out of the way, and/or inconspicuous locations.

Note: Many of the responses expressed concern about exactly how big 'large scale' is. Many people actively distrusted wind energy.

**How do you feel agricultural and undeveloped land could be protected? Please rank on a scale of 1-3; with the 1 the method you most prefer, and 3 the least preferred.**

How to Protect:	1	2	3
Land Trust	50	29	19
Agricultural Zones	50	22	29
Easements	49	31	10
Tax Stabilization	41	31	17
VT Use Appraisal	38	28	22
Large Lot Zoning	30	29	29
Cluster Development	16	22	48
Overlay Zones	14	26	34

Note: Most of those who did not answer this question, and many who did, expressed reluctance to do so because they did not regard themselves as having adequate information to do so.

**Are you concerned about how development in nearby towns will affect Danby or your property?**

40: Yes  
55: No  
19: No Opinion

**Do you feel there are adequate job opportunities in and around Danby?**

11: Yes  
55: No  
19: No Opinion

Note: Many respondents worried about the town's ability to attract and retain young people for anything other than being a pretty vacation location or bedroom community.

Note: Those who felt that there were adequate jobs were all individuals who were employed and over

the age of 40. In other words – they had not, nor were they likely to know anyone who had, searched for a job in the last five years. A choice response – “There are jobs out there for those who are aren’t too lazy to find them.”

*Do you operate a Business from your home?*

27: Yes  
83: No

*Are you involved in government issues?*

36: Yes  
83: No

*Would you be interested in Danby returning to a more traditional town meeting format where residents can modify and vote on the municipal and/or school budgets and consider articles from the floor?*

56: Yes  
26: No  
28: No Opinion

*Should the Town Garage be located in the geographic center of town to cut down on truck mileage and provide services more efficiently?*

43: Yes  
42: No  
24: No Opinion

*Would you like to see more communication with the Danby Town Planning Commission?*

73: Yes  
3: No  
29: No Opinion

*What areas of town need to be protected?*

9: Farming areas  
8: Wetlands; Dorset Mountain  
7: Scenic areas  
6: All of it  
5: Downtown; Historical areas; Ridgeline; Waterways;  
4: Smokey House Center; The Village

3: Steep Slopes; ‘Nature’; None of it  
2: Wildlife Areas; Open Areas  
1: Cemeteries; Forestry areas; Rural landscape outside the village.

*What are your feelings about Danby?*

26: Needs development / it’s stagnate  
11: Love it / Like it  
8: It’s a bedroom community  
8: Don’t change a thing / small is good  
7: It’s just O.K.  
5: Too many drugs / criminals / eyesores  
3: Too many flatlanders  
3: No town spirit  
3: It’s got potential  
3: Too many taxes  
2: Don’t like the government  
2: Not enough educational or job opportunities  
2: Needs Zoning  
1: Not good

## Appendix 2

Over the course of nearly five years (mid 2015 to early 2020), the Danby Planning Commission made significant progress on completing planned tasks as outlined below. Items tagged as 'Under Consideration' or 'Econ Dev Study' were reviewed and incorporated into this update when appropriate.

<b>Count by Status</b>	<b>Count of Status</b>	<b>%</b>
Canceled	20	22%
Complete	42	46%
In progress	1	1%
New Plan - Econ Dev Study	15	16%
New Plan-Under Consideration	14	15%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Status Count by Category</b>	<b>Count of Status</b>
<b>⊖ Cultural, Historic, Scenic and Recrea</b>	<b>7</b>
Canceled	2
Complete	5
<b>⊖ Economic Development</b>	<b>22</b>
Canceled	3
Complete	4
New Plan - Econ Dev Study	15
<b>⊖ Energy</b>	<b>9</b>
Canceled	1
Complete	5
New Plan-Under Consideration	3
<b>⊖ Hazard Mitigation &amp; Flood Resilienc</b>	<b>5</b>
Canceled	4
Complete	1
<b>⊖ Implementation</b>	<b>11</b>
Complete	11
<b>⊖ Land Use</b>	<b>3</b>
Complete	3
<b>⊖ Natural Resources</b>	<b>15</b>
Canceled	9
Complete	5
New Plan-Under Consideration	1
<b>⊖ Transportation</b>	<b>7</b>
Canceled	1
Complete	3
New Plan-Under Consideration	3
<b>⊖ Utilities, Facilities &amp; Education</b>	<b>13</b>
Complete	5
In progress	1
New Plan-Under Consideration	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92</b>

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Through the contributions of local government, businesses / organizations and individual volunteers, a great deal was accomplished, as summarized in the table below:

Categories	Tasks Completed
Cultural, Historic, Scenic and Recreation Resources	<b>Community beautification:</b> Memorial, Trees from HS, bridge, home renovations
	Community park / green / square: <b>Veterans Memorial</b>
	<b>Annual events:</b> Annual tag sale, trunk or treat, veteran events, HS events, concerts
	Expand library involvement w/community: HS relocation there has increased traffic Historic structures / areas enhanced: <b>Village renovations, tree plantings; access to Mill Brook at memorial</b>
Economic Development	Economic development w/o environment impact: State addresses via Act 250
	<b>Establish capital budget:</b> Worked with SB to put in place 2016
	<b>Promote work at home:</b> Website advertises Rutland Co as best internet connection in state
	<b>Town website developed:</b> Completed in 2015
Energy	Info on clean energy / efficiency available to contractors: On town website
	Energy efficiency resources: on website
	<b>Promote communication between residents re: land use issues:</b> Complaint process updated and on website
	<b>Town office energy audit:</b> completed 2013; required upgrades included in office renovation Renewable energy info: On town website
Hazard Mitigation & Flood Resilience	Review Hazardous Mitigation Plan: completed and endorsed by PC; <b>New River Corridor Regulation</b> developed based on State guidelines, <b>rejected</b> by Select Board
Land Use	Land Use compliance: Town plan updated with desired land use patterns; used by state when major development activities launched
	Process to promote productive communication between citizens re: Land Use issues: Complaint process updated and enabled on website
	<b>Renew Village Designation:</b> Completed in 2015
Natural Resources	Increase awareness on existing State regulations that protect natural resources: On website
	Sewage system guidelines: On website
	Conserve open land; discourage building on slopes: Addressed in land use maps & complaint process
	Keep rugged mountain/forest areas free from construction: <b>Addressed in land use maps &amp; complaint process</b>
Transportation	Process to promote productive communication between citizens & Land Use Subcommittee: Complaint process updated and enabled on website
	Transportation policies and road maintenance addressed: Handled by Select Board and Road Crew
	Maintain road surface improvement schedule: Done by SB and Road Crew <b>Traffic calming measures:</b> Stop signs in Village
Utilities, Facilities & Education	<b>Town Administrator position:</b> Studied and determined not needed in 2016
	<b>Town office: Renovations completed in 2019</b>
	Dry fire hydrants expanded: Completed by DMFD
	Support fire department, police, emergency services: SB continues this as well as fund raisers
	Support schools: Addressed through state action and taxes Safe water: Addressed through state regulation; also posted Fire District information / water quality reporting on website
Implementation	Appoint town plan implementation lead: Bob Tobin named in 2015 by SB
	Establish sub-committees to oversee implementation: PC decided not to use subcommittees, but instead work through the plan as a group - established monthly meetings to do so.
	Select Board members assigned to subcommittees: Entire SB participating via quarterly PC updates
	Name subcommittee chair persons: Opted not to establish subcommittees; using entire PC instead
	Meet monthly: Established in 2015
	Monthly minutes; quarterly SB updates: Put in place March 2015
	Update and refresh plan tasks: Done 2x annually
	Meet monthly: Established in 2015
	Community communication: Website and Front Porch used
	Volunteers to implement plan: Historical Society, DMTNow, Fire Department, Veterans, Masons Update and refresh plan tasks: Done 2x annually