

Worksheet The Local Economy

Review Chapter 3: The Local Economy Section

Issues, Need, Concerns, Comments, Questions

Waterville's Economic Strengths

(Please add to this list)

- Colby and Thomas Colleges
- Other institutions of higher learning in the region including; Kennebec Community College, Unity College, and The University of Maine at Augusta/
- Available/pre-approved building sites for commercial and industrial development
- Municipal water and sewer available in most areas of the City
- Local airport.
- Access to Interstate 95
- Two hospitals and related medical services
- First Park
- Vacant buildings available for commercial re-use
- Full range of City Services
- Local and regional retail opportunities
- Variety of professional and related services
- Thriving downtown
- Numerous social and cultural events and activities throughout the year
- Four supermarkets
- Scenic Kennebec River frontage
- Active Railroad hub
- Diverse housing stock
- Numerous recreational opportunities
- Local and regional trails
- Numerous cultural opportunities
- Opera House
- Railroad square theater and film festival
- Active Chamber of Commerce
- Local and regional economic development planning
- New library expansion
- Waterville immediate metro region including the towns of Winslow, Oakland and Fairfield has a population of 36,448 persons. This expands to 49,404 persons if the towns of China, Vassalboro and Sidney are included.
- Close to the Capital Region and State offices and related services

Other Discussion Items:

- Regional economic development efforts benefit the City and should be continued.
- Need to encourage technology and other growth businesses and industries which strengthen the tax base and provide jobs.
- Need to further develop local skills which match the needs of businesses and industries.
- Need to continue to support the efforts of Waterville Main Street to improve the viability of the downtown.
- Vacant buildings provide opportunities for commercial in-fill development.
- Development along College Avenue would provide a nexus to the downtown and be within walking distance to some residential neighborhoods.
- Development of the Downtown area including the Hathaway Center, Head of the Falls and Frontage Street offers many opportunities and benefits.
- How should future investments/grants be targeted toward promoting economic development?
- What is the City's Economic Development plan/?
- How can the City work with and engage existing businesses to expand, grow and remain vibrant?
- What new business opportunities can develop by promoting our uniqueness and economic strengths?
- Are we prepared to welcome/ or respond to/ a new economic opportunities which are not on our individual or collective 'radar screens'?
- What changes in the economy /workforce/ and working habits should we be prepared to handle?
- How does home occupations and other small home based businesses fit into our economic strategy?
- What role will tourism play in our economic plan?
- Do we have the potential workforce to staff new business ventures?
- What is the unique role that the City should play in Economic Development? What is it that the City can do better than any other group etc?
- What does the City need to do to make itself 'Ready for new Economic opportunities'?
- Broadband-FI, Internet, & 3-Ring Binder.

- The importance of being pro-active and looking towards the future.
- Will we have the workforce available to meet future employment needs?
- What are the jobs of the future?
- How doe the City/Region and the State weather the current economic situation?