

**Town of Alden Comprehensive Plan - Public Survey #3 Results**

<b>1. Where do you live?</b>							
Town	75	Village	36	Other **	18	Total	<b>129</b>

<b>2. If you live in the <u>Town</u>, how long have you live here?</b>			
1 - 5 years	17	16 - 20 years	5
6 - 10 years	11	20 - 25 years	7
11 - 15 years	8	26+ years	26
Unknown	1		

**3. What things in the Town would you like to see change?**

Eliminate duplicative services between Town and Village - Merge Village and Town  
 Resurface/fix the trails behind the high school  
 Public water (water system is inadequate) - complete WD #5  
 Need a Walmart or similar type of store / Put a Wal-mart on Walden Avenue  
 Revitalize the Ames Plaza with small businesses  
 Have more smaller businesses  
 Need smaller stores (country stores - like Marilla and southern tier communities)  
 The Village needs a makeover with better maintained properties (fill vacancies)  
 Redevelop underutilized and unutilized properties and vacant businesses  
 Need more opportunities to spend money locally  
 Need Walmart, Tim Hortons, Mighty Taco - better shopping and restaurants  
 Need a Boys and Girls Club  
 Fix the potholes / roads / driveway at Ames plaza  
 Need fewer bars and pizza places and more small businesses  
 Need more than McDonald's - want other drive thru's  
 Expand the tax base - be more business friendly and open to change  
 Cooperation between Town and Village (needs to be improved - merge to one gov't)  
 Plant more trees - need a planting program  
 Lower the school tax rate; lower taxes  
 Limit residential subdivision that requires more services and pays less taxes  
 Clean up litter on Broadway, around Firemen's Park and the viaduct  
 Less rentals and trailer parks and more single family homes  
 Restrict number of unlicensed vehicles on private property (1 per home max)  
 Need a different or another supermarket (Budway's, Aldi's, etc.)  
 Need one universal type of store that is equipped for all businesses/residents  
 Opportunities for jobs - need more for youth and seniors  
 The ZBA lets anything through - need more scrutiny and expertise with decisions  
 Need a youth center / Need more community events  
 Clean up the Town - unlicensed vehicles, property maintenance, etc.  
 Need more regulation over ATVs and other unregistered vehicles  
 Existing and new businesses in Town should be "good neighbors"  
 Need greater police presence in the housing developments  
 Make community more walkable - more walking and bike paths  
 Planning and development that respects the rural/agriculture nature of the Town  
 Centrally locate the Town Hall  
 Rejuvenate the Village core only - beautify the Village - replace trees in core  
 Bring in more light industry  
 Bring in more retail stores (competition) so prices go down (Tops is too expensive)  
 Stores are too far away  
 People who came here expecting big stores and public everything should leave  
 Less residential construction in agricultural districts  
 More restriction on residential subdivision  
 Change mentality of those who think open space is just area waiting to be developed  
 Sidewalks on Broadway to Three Rod Road  
 Need more use of farmland to feed Alden and employ local people  
 Pass a right-to-farm law  
 Need fewer rules that impair personal freedom (e.g., dog law)

**4. What things in the Town would you like to see stay the same?**

Maintain the festivals, programs and seasonal decorations  
 The small town atmosphere (no huge commercial stores - maintain village feel)  
 Rural setting - keep area quiet, safe, small and friendly - preserve rural character  
 Bandstand area in the Village and band concerts / local events  
 Town Park with the walking trails - parks in general  
 Don't become Clarence or Lancaster - don't have a lot of new development  
 Recreational facilities/amenities and programs for kids / team sports  
 Farmland and greenspace - open land / keep these areas the same  
 Joe Panza Nature Trail  
 Local government (no downsizing)  
 Keep the Village the center of the Town  
 Stable population of friendly people  
 Regardless of the monetary profit - don't turn farmland into prime real estate  
 No more development - like the Town the way it is  
 Schools - they are in good locations  
 Farmers Market  
 "Mom and Pop" stores / small businesses  
 Alden Community Church  
 Trees, fresh air, open space, country atmosphere  
 Keep rural environment - We have enough building already - no more development  
 The activities that bring the Town together  
 Being able to have a contained fire in the backyard  
 Broadway - don't make it Transit Road / Leave Broadway alone  
 Maintain the balance of rural/semi-rural with new development  
 Rural characteristics, open spaces, fields, woods, farms, peace and quiet  
 Alden has the right mix of settled area and farmland  
 Outdoor recreation - hunting, fishing, hiking  
 Keep farms and rural areas the same; have growth in the other parts of the Town  
 Keep everything the way it is / If it ain't broke don't fix it  
 Learn from the mistakes that have been made in other communities - stay rural  
 Keep Reinhart Road open

**5. Are there enough programs for youth in the Town?**

	<u>Town</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yes	36	17	8	61
No	23	14	6	43
No comment	16	5	4	25

Comments:

Need Boy and Girls Club and/or a YMCA facility  
 Need programs for teens (summer programs at community center too)  
 Need a youth center (put in Ames Plaza)  
 Need more places for kids to hang out (to keep them out of trouble)  
 Need more organized sports / need more sports in general  
 Need more non-team recreation activities / need more in general  
 Need/expand summer recreation programs (swimming lessons)  
 Need YMCA programs (afterschool program and sports programs)  
 Need facility for ice/roller skating (like Depew)  
 Need to better advertise events for youth (use Town website)  
 Need a place to ice skate in winter  
 Use Ames Plaza for a hockey/roller skating arena  
 Need better playground equipment in Town parks  
 Need something other than sports related activities (evening/summer events)  
 Social programs (Scouts, etc.) should be operated by churches, etc.  
 Have more use of gym in Town Hall (hockey and basketball)  
 Put lights in the parks

**6. Are there enough programs for seniors in the Town?**

	Town	Village	Other	Total
Yes	22	15	2	39
No	4	3	3	10
No comment	49	18	13	80

Comments:

- Need more senior housing
- Need the senior van to help shut ins
- Need meals on wheels all the time (expand service)
- Need more evening recreation events (card clubs, meet & greet, etc.)
- Need cheap or free activities
- Have the library open more often
- Need more structured programs for seniors
- Improve advertising of senior activities (use Town website)
- Expand services of senior van - shopping opportunities (other areas)
- Senior center should offer more day programs run by seniors & volunteers
- Need a YMCA for all ages
- Social programs should be organized/operated by churches, etc.

**7. Where should residential development occur?**

	Town	Village	Other	Total
In/Around the Village of Alden	23	12	3	38
In and around the hamlets	27	7	8	42
Anywhere in the Town	22	15	10	47
Want no more development	12	4	0	16

*(some respondents checked more than 1 box)*

Comments:

- One Town resident wants residential development to only occur in the Village
- If anywhere in Town, keep limited and well planned.
- Nice homes on big lots with as much green space as possible.
- Keep it in the Village only
- Do not put residential develop in areas with prime farmland
- Anywhere in the Towns of Lancaster, Cheektowaga, etc.

**8. What type of housing is needed in Alden?**

	Town	Village	Other	Total
Traditional single-family homes	47	17	15	79
Two or three-family homes	6	2	2	10
Apartments (3 or more units)	10	4	2	16
Condos / Townhouses	14	11	4	29

*(some respondents checked more than 1 box)*

Comments:

- Need more senior housing - keep in and near village (walkable)
- Need assisted living
- No more rentals
- Need more housing alternatives for seniors who want to stay in Alden
- No low income housing
- Condos, townhouses, etc. only in the Village
- Focus on resale of existing homes in Town
- Don't become another Lancaster - keep new single-family residential limited
- Need more apartments in the Village
- Keep single family housing on small lots, preferably in the Village
- Keep new housing out of agricultural districts

**9. Where, and at what scale, should commercial development occur in the Town?**

Scale:	small	medium	large
Near Village	33 (T), 15 (V), 7 (O)	17 (T), 11 (V), 5 (O)	6 (T), 1 (V), 1 (O)
Along Broadway	22 (T), 11 (V), 0 (O)	27 (T), 12 (V), 8 (O)	13 (T), 7 (V), 4 (O)
Walden Avenue	18 (T), 5 (V), 2 (O)	26 (T), 10 (V), 6 (O)	23 (T), 15 (V), 5 (O)
Genesee Street	16 (T), 7 (V), 1 (O)	24 (T), 9 (V), 7 (O)	21 (T), 14 (V), 4 (O)

*(T = Town, V = Village, O = Other ; some respondents checked more than 1 box)*

Scale:	small	medium	large
<b>TOTAL</b>			
Near Village	55	33	8
Along Broadway	33	47	24
Walden Avenue	35	42	43
Genesee Street	24	40	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>114</b>

*(some respondents checked more than 1 box)*

Comments:

- Reuse vacant buildings and existing properties
- Keep at small scale to preserve open space
- Keep development limited along Walden and put in industrial park
- No more commercial development
- Redevelop Ames Plaza
- Allow only in existing areas
- Keep small town feel - maintain "village scape"
- Have design restrictions - maintain rural character, use design and landscaping
- The Town does not need commercial development
- Use areas where infrastructure is already in place (Walden industrial park)
- No Wal-Mart type store - keep commercial development small scale
- There is plenty of room on Walden Avenue for the large stores that we need
- Keep small scale commercial in areas that have roads, parking and services

**10. Should the Town strive to protect/preserve agricultural use?**

	Town	Village	Other	Total
Yes	61	30	16	107
No	6	1	0	7
No comment	8	5	2	15

**If yes, why?**

	Town	Village	Other	Total
Important industry / jobs	32	18	6	56
Way to preserve open space	51	23	9	83
Source of local food supply	42	23	10	75
Preserves important farm soils	39	21	7	67
Important part of rural character	50	23	14	87

*(some respondents checked more than 1 box)*

Comments:

- It depends on where it occurs / we can have it but continue to grow
- Preserving agriculture makes economic sense - no farms / no food
- Agriculture provides an environmental buffer and provides biodiversity
- Preserve it for the future - keep a local supply of fresh food available always
- Farms only need basic Town services (roads and waste disposal)
- Farms help balance the tax base (requires less services than residential)

**Other Comments:** *(many were grateful for the survey and the request for public opinion)*

#1 comment was that people LOVE the rural, small town atmosphere of the Town  
We are against Walmart  
Keep growth managed and slow (what's the big rush?)  
Encourage and welcome farming activities in the community  
Alden is a great and safe place to raise kids - keep it small and rural  
Bring back the New Year's Eve ball drop!  
Need small businesses not large corporations (keep village atmosphere in Town)  
Need to support the farmers market, Alden Art Show and church events  
Need to maintain the agricultural tradition - don't let it disappear  
Agriculture should evolve on it's own - farmers don't want gov't to tell them what to do  
Put farming first  
Moved to Alden to escape suburban sprawl and excessive commercial development  
If people want stores and development they can move to Lancaster  
Control residential development  
It is NOT the Town's job to entertain my children  
Willing to drive to Transit Rd. to save rural atmosphere of the Town  
Too much housing - coyotes and deer have no where to go  
There is too much non-taxable land in Alden - need jobs and tax base increases  
Need to find creative ways to develop "backlands".  
Alden needs a movie theater  
Local officials need better understanding of State and Fed. regulations (soil, water, etc.)  
Put the reins on developers who are drooling over our open lands  
Small businesses need to exist for proper competitive balance  
Please help to save the character of our wonderful Town!  
Do not develop in the proposed extended village area  
Commercial development will kill the character of the Town  
The Town is not dying and will not die - no more commercial development  
State policy should be to revive business and industry in urban areas (preserve rural)  
What happened to the bike path along old rail line - this is a good amenity for Town  
Improve drainage and water flow on Greenfield Drive  
A department store is much needed; will help other businesses if located near village  
If you don't like Alden the way it is, don't move here (go to Lancaster or Cheektowaga)  
Need more vocal and legislative support from Town government to keep Alden rural  
Encourage commercial enterprises as home-based or on-farm businesses  
Keep small farms operating  
We need to be good, responsible stewards of our land - preserve for next generations  
You should not consider any surveys that are received anonymously  
Town Board members should live in the Town, not the Village  
Impose a fee or tax on buildings that sit vacant for more than one year (prevent blight)  
Village needs clearly marked pedestrian crosswalks  
Taxpayers are not school children in need of control

In an effort to be more concise, duplicate comments or comments of a highly similar nature were not added to a comment list if the gist of their concerns or ideas was already included.

\*\* Other = residents from communities outside of the Town (e.g., Marilla, Akron, Darien, etc.)

\*\*\* Identified at least one "repeat" questionnaire