JAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Jay Historical Society is an active group which meets once a month and maintains the Homles-Crafts Homestead on Jay Hill. The society has a joint yard sale/museum viewing every August with the local Fire Department. The Historical Society depends upon volunteers to keep the Society viable and to increase and improve the offerings of the group.

PUBLIC INPUT ON HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The public survey received the following responses in relation to Archaeological & Historic Resources:

1) **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

   Many respondents acknowledged that Jay has a rich history, particularly tied to its industrial past with mills and granite production. Some expressed a desire for this history to be better celebrated and preserved, though others felt that it is often overlooked or neglected (e.g., the demolition of the old mill). A few also suggested that history could be incorporated more into school curriculums or community events.

2) **HERITAGE AND PROGRESS**

   Some responses reflected a sentiment that while heritage is important, it should not impede progress or future development. There's a push for the town to embrace change and think creatively to ensure future growth, while still honoring its past. This perspective emphasizes the notion that communities must adapt to survive, even as they maintain respect for their history.

3) **STRENGTHS FOR HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

   Jay is seen as having valuable natural resources and a rich historical background that could be used for economic growth and recreation. The community values its history and its natural beauty, and there's a desire to see this heritage preserved and celebrated.

4) **CHALLENGES FOR HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

   There are concerns over historic resource depletion, the potential negative impacts of overdevelopment (such as solar farms), and environmental damage (especially related to water and the archaeologically sensitive areas along the CMP corridor).

5) **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH FOR HISTORIC & ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

12. **Community Spaces (e.g., YMCA, restaurants, outdoor kids' places):**
    - **Current Issue**: Insufficient community spaces impact cohesion.
    - **Strategy to Strength**:
        - Revitalize existing facilities to serve broader community needs.
        - Encourage local businesses to sponsor or co-develop community areas.
13. **Lack of Social Activities**:
    - **Current Issue**: Limited social activities lead to isolation and affect mental health.
    - **Strategy to Strength**:
        - Organize community events like festivals, concerts, or sports days.
        - Facilitate the formation of hobby or interest groups.
        - Partner with surrounding towns to share resources for larger, more frequent events.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Higher Education (certificates, credentials, skilled trades):**
    - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Partner with institutions like community colleges or the University of Maine System for programs matching local industry needs.
    - **Strategy**:
        - Develop certificate programs in high-demand fields like renewable energy, forestry management, or healthcare.
        - Offer adult education classes through RSU 73, focusing on employable skills.
        - Establish apprenticeships with local businesses for hands-on training.
2. **Recreational Assets**:
    - **Leveraging Opportunity**: The Androscoggin River and surrounding landscape offer significant recreational potential.
    - **Strategy**:
        - Promote eco-tourism through trails, water sports, and winter activities like snowmobiling.
        - Market Jay as a base camp for adventures in Western Maine's mountains or lakes.
        - Host regional sports and outdoor events to stimulate the local economy.
3. **Agriculture and Forest Products**:
    - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Rich natural resources support agriculture and forestry.

- **Strategy**:
  - Encourage value-added production, like artisanal wood products or local farming.
  - Support local food initiatives and agrotourism to boost produce sales.

4. **Energy Creation (biomass, hydropower, solar)**:

   - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Abundant resources enable energy production.

   - **Strategy**:
     - Develop alternative energy projects or encourage installations on public buildings.
     - Upgrade or expand hydropower facilities along the Androscoggin River.
     - Explore biomass energy projects using local wood waste.

5. **Tourism**:

   - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Jay's natural beauty and small-town charm attract tourists interested in travel.

   - **Strategy**:
     - Market Jay as an outdoor destination with accommodations and activities.
     - Develop educational tours on local wildlife and conservation efforts.
     - Promote local crafts, food, and culture to enhance the economic cycle.

6. **Migration**:

   - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Attracting new residents can revitalize the community.

   - **Strategy**:
     - Promote Jay to remote workers or digital nomads with incentives like housing or tax benefits.
     - Highlight quality of life and access to nature to attract families or retirees.
     - Develop housing to accommodate growth.

7. **Distribution/Logistics/Warehousing**:

   - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Jay's location and transportation networks support logistics.

   - **Strategy**:
     - Develop or repurpose land for warehousing, targeting goods needing quick distribution.
     - Improve rail and road linkages to establish Jay as a regional logistics hub.

8. **Infrastructure (electricity, waste, water, shipping channels)**:

   - **Leveraging Opportunity**: Upgrading infrastructure supports industrial expansion.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Conservation efforts in Jay are supported by Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Maine Lakes Society, the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, Maine Farmland Trust, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Androscoggin Land Trust, Beginning with Habitat and various other state agencies. Preservation of critical natural resources in Jay should be furthered through coordination with adjacent communities in conjunction with the aforementioned conservation groups.

PUBLIC INPUT

The public survey received the following responses in relation to Natural Resources:

1) **CONCERNS OVER INDUSTRIAL GROWTH**

   There's a degree of skepticism about the growth of industries that may harm Jay's natural environment or quality of life. For example, some respondents are wary of the increasing push for solar farms, which they believe could be depleting fields and pushing out small farms. There's also concern about the ongoing extraction of gravel and timber resources, which could be running out.

   While some respondents advocate for embracing new development (such as alternative industries or more tourism-related infrastructure), others emphasize the importance of protecting natural resources and being mindful of the town's long-term environmental sustainability.

2) **SUPPORT FOR THE RILEY MILL AND GRANITE QUARRY**

   Some respondents highlight that the Riley power plant and granite quarry are important, longstanding employers for the community. These resources are seen as valuable contributors to Jay's economy, and there is support for maintaining and growing these industries while conserving natural resources. There's also concern that some of Jay's natural resources could be exploited in a way that depletes them, making sustainability a key consideration moving forward.

IN SUMMARY

- **STRENGTHS**

  Jay is seen as having valuable natural resources and a rich historical background that could be used for economic growth and recreation. The community values its history and its natural beauty, and there's a desire to see this heritage preserved and celebrated.

- **CHALLENGES**

  There are concerns over resource depletion, the potential negative impacts of overdevelopment (such as solar farms), and environmental damage (especially related to water and the CMP corridor). Some respondents worry that Jay lacks a distinct identity or downtown space that can attract businesses, residents, and visitors.

- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH**

  The town is encouraged to think creatively about utilizing its natural resources, such as the Androscoggin River, Spruce Mountain, and other town-owned properties, to attract new industries, tourism, and recreational activities. Emphasis is placed on creating a balance between progress and preserving the town's natural and historical assets.

Overall, respondents are optimistic about Jay's future potential but believe it will require careful planning, sustainable development, and a commitment to preserving the town's environment and history.

project should result in interconnectivity of trail systems, new trails, and improved trail conditions and access, including handicapped access in certain locations.

The Future Land Use Plan illustrates the location of the Whistlestop Trail. Future development decisions and capital investments in trail systems and recreational areas will consider increased connectivity amongst trail networks in coordination with Livermore and Livermore Falls, as identified in the Tri-Town Recreations & Facilities Master Plan.

PUBLIC INPUT ON FUTURTE LAND USE

The following feedback was received through the public survey in relation to future land use in Jay:

1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Several comments suggest the need for more sustainable development, better infrastructure, and a focus on creating a more walkable and accessible community. There are calls for more regulations on commercial, agricultural, and residential growth to preserve the town's character and improve the overall quality of life.

2) CONCERNS OVER INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

There's a degree of skepticism about the growth of industries that may harm Jay's natural environment or quality of life. For example, some respondents are wary of the increasing push for solar farms, which they believe could be depleting fields and pushing out small farms. There's also concern about the ongoing extraction of gravel and timber resources, which could be running out.

3) ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Feedback highlighted a strong desire to protect Jay's natural environment, particularly its water resources. Concerns about the impact of the CMP corridor project and its effects on local brooks and rivers have been voiced, with some respondents worried that the environmental damage caused by previous work may not be repaired in the future.

4) TOWN IDENTITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Some comments point to Jay's lack of a defined downtown area, which makes it difficult for the town to have a clear identity or serve as a hub for local businesses, entertainment, or youth activities. There's a call for more community-focused spaces and activities that can help young people, local businesses, and visitors connect.

2. Review regulatory and non-regulatory provisions to implement the Future Land Use Plan that include clear detail of desired scale, intensity, and location of future development; establish fair and efficient permitting procedures and appropriate fees; streamline permitting procedures in growth areas; and clearly defining protective measures for critical resource areas.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, CEO, Ordinance Committee
   Time Frame: Short Term/Ongoing

3. Include in the Capital Investment Plan anticipated municipal capital investments needed to implement the future land use plan.

   Responsibility: Town Manager, Select Board, Department Heads
   Time Frame: Ongoing

4. Meet with neighboring communities to coordinate land use designations and regulatory and non-regulatory strategies.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, JLLF Chamber of Commerce, Recreation Committee
   Time Frame: Short-Term/Ongoing

5. Establish a system to track new development by type and location to understand building trends.

   Responsibility: CEO, Assessor, AVCOG, Planning Board
   Time Frame: Short-Term/Ongoing

6. Periodically (at least every five years) evaluate implementation of the plan.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
   Time Frame: Ongoing/Long-Term

7. Direct a minimum of 75% of new municipal growth-related capital investments into designated growth areas identified in the Future Land Use Plan.

   Responsibility: Town Manager, Select Board, Planning Board
   Time Frame: Ongoing

8. Provide the code enforcement officer with the tools, training, and support necessary to enforce land use regulations, and ensure that the Code Enforcement Officer is certified in accordance with 30-A M.R.S.A. §4451.

   Responsibility: Town Manager, Select Board
   Time Frame: Ongoing

JAY'S STRATEGIES

1. Create a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to oversee the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Plan.

Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Town Manager, CEO, AVCOG
Time Frame: Short-Term/Ongoing

2. Encourage improvements to sites along the Androscoggin River to enhance community character and protect water quality.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, AVCOG
   Time Frame: Short-Term/Ongoing

3. Continue to enforce permissive land use standards to facilitate the creation of residential and commercial development.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, AVCOG
   Time Frame: Short-Term/Ongoing

4. Include land use standards which direct manufacturing/industrial development away from residential land uses and critical natural resources in accordance with the Future Land Use Plan.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Ordinance Committee, AVCOG
   Time Frame: Short-Term

5. Include development incentives in land use standards to encourage infill development in growth areas.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Ordinance Committee
   Time Frame: Short-Term

6. Require developers to conduct an analysis to determine the impact to public facilities and services when proposing developments over a threshold determined by the Town.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Town Manager, Code Enforcement Officer
   Time Frame: Short-Term

7. Require that all solar developments provide a decommissioning plan to address the cleanup of contaminated land, water, and air, which may include restoration of the site to a usable condition.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Ordinance Committee
   Time Frame: Short-Term

8. Assess the existing lot sizes to ensure that development may be reconstructed at the same scale and density in Village areas. This may require revisions to ordinance standards to allow for increased density on lots which were previously developed.

   Responsibility: Planning Board, Select Board, Ordinance Committee
   Time Frame: Short-Term