

**TOWN AND VILLAGE OF CHAMPLAIN  
SMART GROWTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
Community Profile (Task 9)  
Chapter 4: Public Facilities and Services  
July 2025**



**Department  
of State**

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## **Chapter 4: Public Services and Facilities**

*Please note that highlighted information "calls out" specific and relevant data.*

*Please also note that all photos courtesy of the Town and Village of Champlain unless otherwise noted,*

### **4.1 Introduction**

Public services and facilities provide an array of services including drinking water, wastewater treatment and disposal, storm water management, hazard mitigation, public spaces, including parks, recreation, cemeteries, public buildings, libraries, schools, street lighting, healthcare, and transportation services and systems. Publicly-regulated utilities provide telephone, electric and gas services. It is conducive to the wellbeing of the residents and the community as a whole for these services to be provided in an economically and environmentally safe manner.

Public works projects begin to deteriorate from the day the construction is completed and the ribbon-cutting ceremony takes place. Maintaining government-owned public facilities requires an intensive and regular investment by the various facility owners. Many projects take Town and Village Board attention, project planning, and taxpayer money. Champlain Town and Village annually examine their capital investment programs and how they employ ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement-- as a necessary practice for each and every public facility and system in the Town and Village. The Town and Village recognize that deferred maintenance is expensive, yet it is a challenge to employ programs of capital investment and annual maintenance while making annual loan payments on public works projects.

Champlain's public buildings, spaces, and services are located on the maps in this chapter. Most of the mapped facilities provide multiple opportunities for the Town and Village residents and visitors. The maps illustrate that most town and village facilities are centrally located or available nearby.

## 4.2 Town Government

### 4.2.1 Introduction

Everyone in New York who lives outside a city, or an Indian reservation lives in a town. There are more towns in New York than there are cities and villages combined<sup>1</sup>. “A town is a municipal corporation comprising the inhabitants within its boundaries and formed with the purpose of exercising such powers and discharging such duties of local government and administration of public affairs as have been or maybe conferred or imposed upon it by law.” (Section 2, Town Law)

Members of the Town Board and the Town Supervisor oversee the Town of Champlain. Town Law does not provide for a separate executive branch of the town government. Because the supervisor occupies the leader’s position on the town board, and because town residents often turn to the supervisor with their problems, many people think the supervisor’s position is the executive position of town government. But the supervisor is part of the legislative branch and acts as a member and presiding officer of the town board. He or she acts as a full member of the board, voting on all questions and having no additional tie-breaking or veto power. The supervisor is more of an administrator than an executive. The supervisor’s duties under law are to:

- act as treasurer and have care and custody of monies belonging to the town.
- disburse monies.
- keep an accurate and complete account of all monies.
- make reports as required.
- pay fixed salaries and other claims; and
- lease, sell, and convey properties of the town when so directed by the town board.

The basic source of the supervisor’s power lies in the position’s traditional political leadership and the holder’s ability to use this leadership. Familiarity with day-to-day problems of the town often enables the supervisor to influence the policy decisions of the town board.<sup>2</sup>

### 4.2.2 Town Operations & Services

The Town of Champlain’s Fiscal Year is based on the Calendar Year.

Town Board Meetings generally occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7PM, unless otherwise advertised on the Town Website. Records of the Town Board (Minutes, Budgets, Etc.) can also be found on the Town Website, which is regularly maintained and updated. <https://www.townofchamplain.com/meeting-minutes>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/town\\_government.html](https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/town_government.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/town\\_government.html](https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/town_government.html)

**Employees of, and Appointments for the Town generally include:**

Town Supervisor  
Deputy Town Supervisor  
Town Board Member (s): #3  
Town Clerk  
Town Justice  
Town Code Enforcement Officer  
Town Assessor  
Town Tax Collector  
Town Highway Superintendent  
Town Highway Crew  
Champlain Wastewater Superintendent  
Town Historian  
Transfer Station/Garbage Removal

Secretary to the Board & Bookkeeper  
Court Clerk(s)  
Safety Officer  
Water Operator  
Recreation Director  
Dog Control Officer  
Planning Board Members  
Zoning Board Members  
Town Health Officer  
Town Attorney  
Dog Control Officer  
Town Custodian

**Town Departments and Services**

Elections  
Tax Assessment  
Code Enforcement  
Fire Protection  
Zoning  
Dog Control

Youth Recreation  
Highway Department  
Town Clerk / Tax Collector  
Assessor  
Water & Sewer

**Special Districts and Special Improvement Districts**

Town of Champlain, which encompasses both villages, has established special districts to serve areas outside the respective village's jurisdiction. For instance, the town has created water and sewer districts to manage and provide these services to residents in the broader town area. An example is the proposed Sewer District No. 7, aimed at constructing a sewer collection system to connect with the Village of Rouses Point's wastewater treatment facilities.

Lighting  
Wastewater  
Drinking Water  
EMS

#### 4.2.3 Town-Owned Facilities and Land

The Town of Champlain owns and operates several buildings and facilities that serve the community. These include:

Town Hall: Located at 10729 Route 9, Champlain, NY 12919, the Town Hall houses various municipal offices and serves as the center for town administration.

Highway Department Garage: Situated at 10729, Rt 9, Champlain, NY 12919, this facility is responsible for maintaining town roads and infrastructure.

Bob Venne Community Park: Located at 106 Route 276, Champlain, NY 12919, this park offers outdoor spaces for sports, picnics, and community events.

The Harry McManus Northern Tier Recreation Trail connects the Village of Rouses Point and the Village of Champlain. The Town-owned portion of the trail runs through the Bob Venne Community Park.

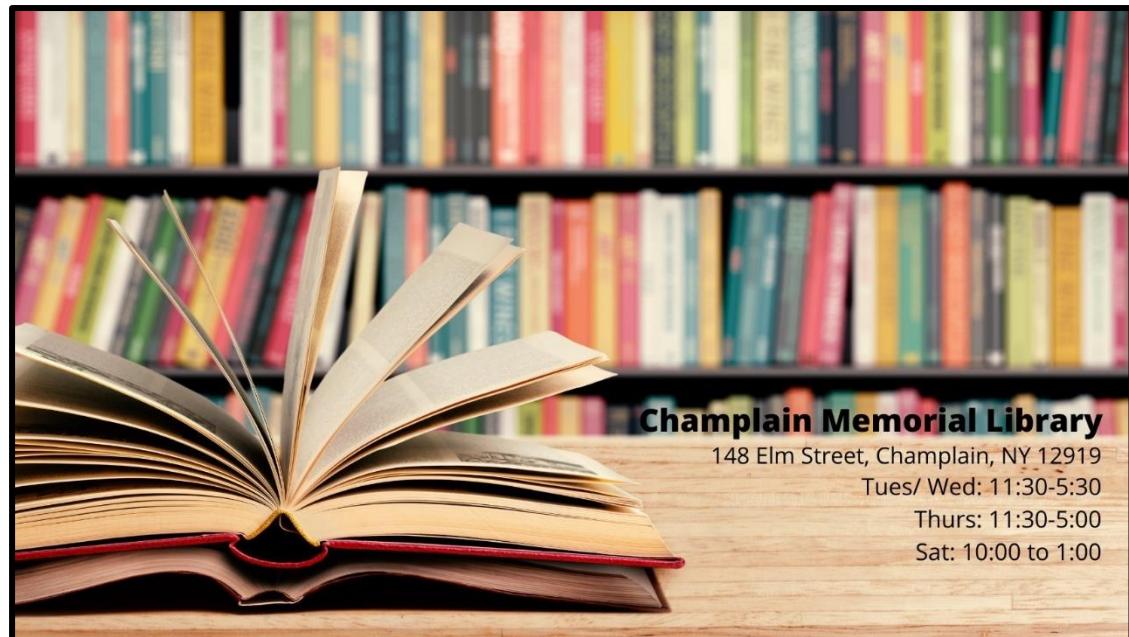


Figure 1 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

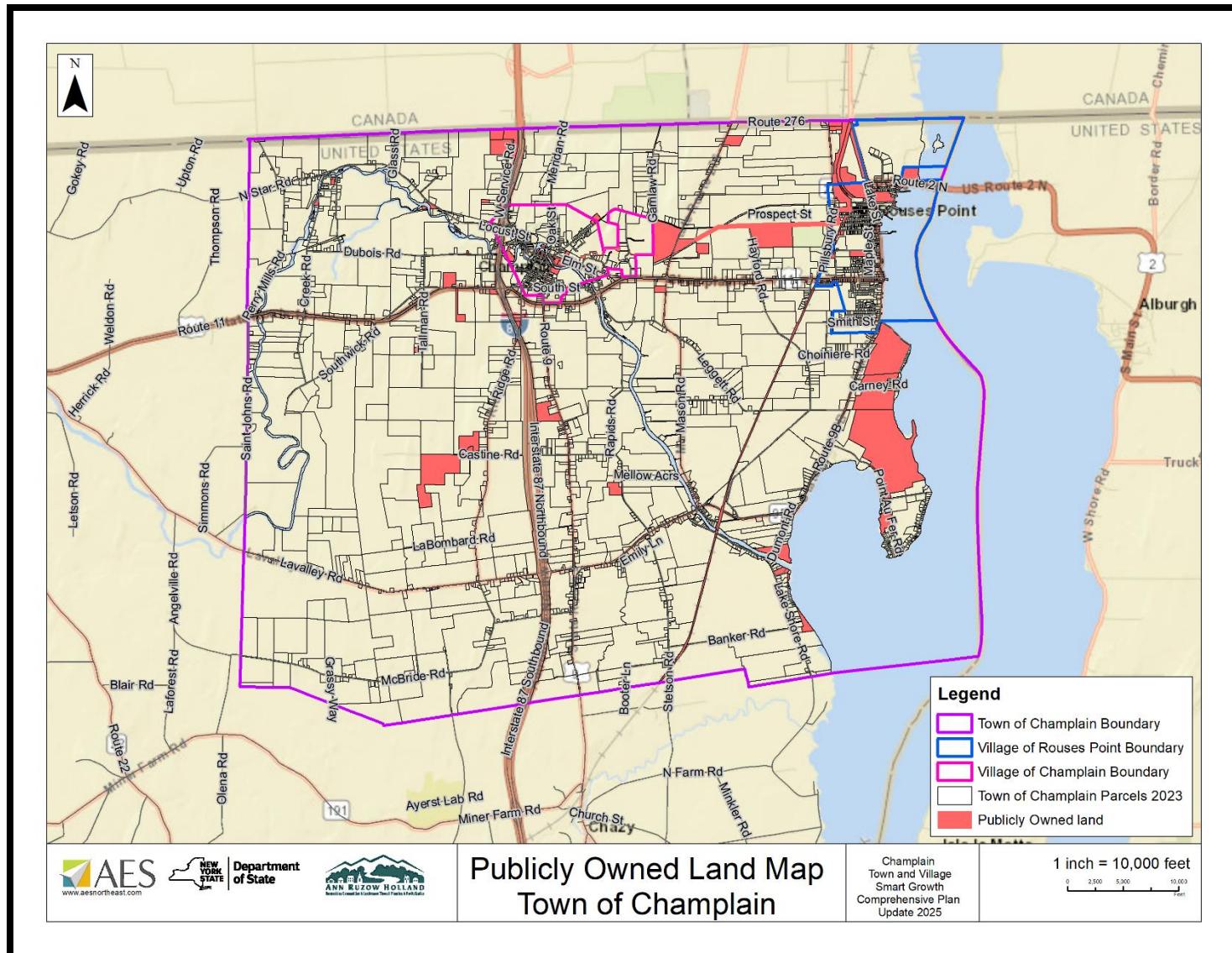
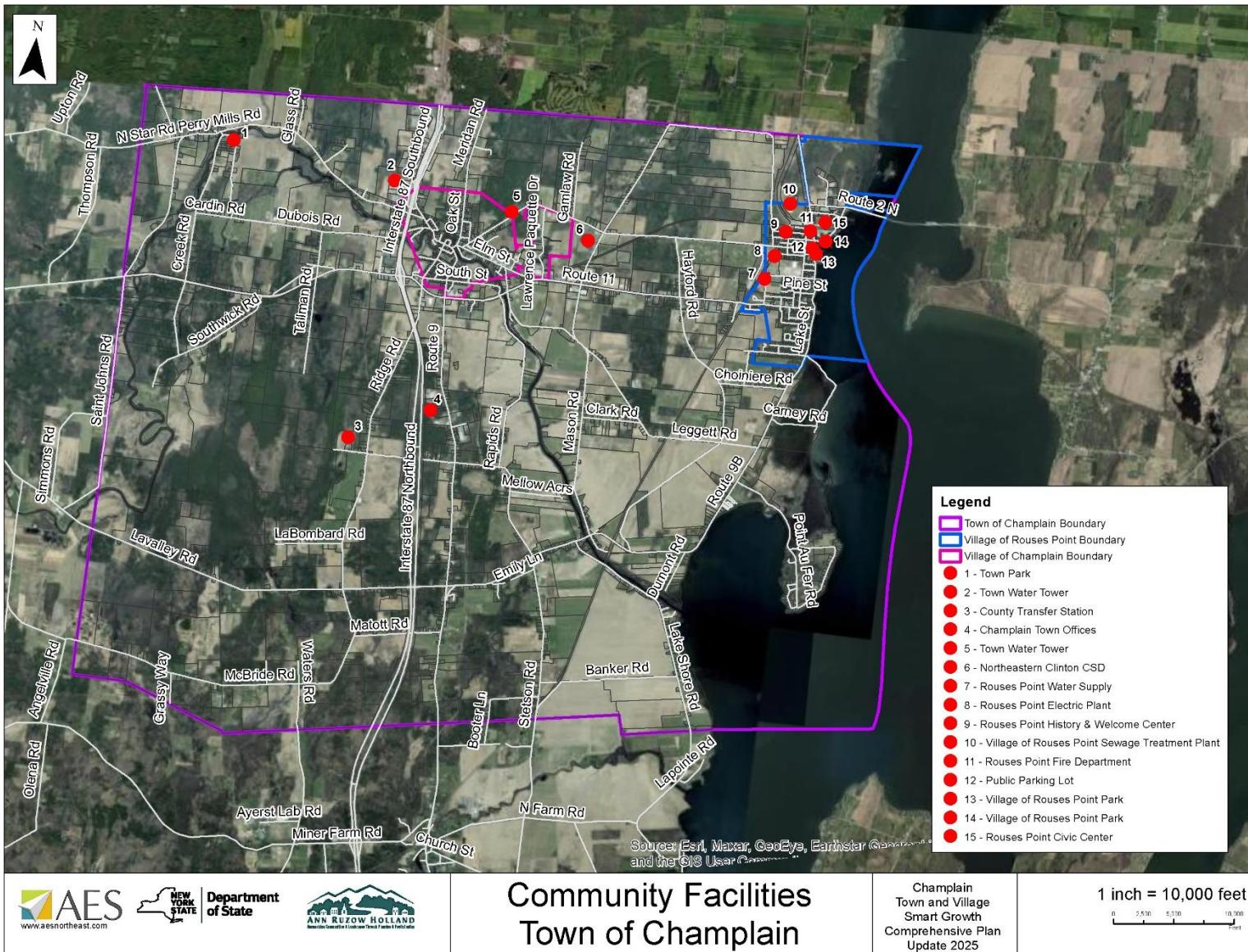


Figure 2 - Publicly Owned Land Map, Town of Champlain



*Figure 3 - Community Facilities, Town of Champlain*

## 4.3 Village Government

### 4.3.1 Introduction

In New York State, the village is a general-purpose municipal corporation formed voluntarily by the residents of an area in one or more towns to provide themselves with municipal services. But when a village is created, its area still remains a part of the town where it is located, and its residents continue to be residents and taxpayers of that town. The first village was incorporated at the end of the eighteenth century. The village form of municipal organization became a prominent feature of the state's growing metropolitan areas between 1900 and 1940. The patterns of village organization are similar to those of cities. By definition, a village is a municipality which, at the time of its incorporation, met statutory requirements then established as prerequisites to that incorporation (Village Law.) Although the Village Law now sets area and population criteria for initial village incorporation, a number of existing villages have populations smaller than the present statutory minimum.<sup>3</sup>

The legislative body of a village — the board of trustees — is composed of the mayor and four trustees. However, the board may increase or decrease the number of trustees, subject to either referendum on petition or mandatory referendum, depending on how the local law is structured. Trustees are elected for a two-year term unless otherwise provided by local law. The village board has broad powers to govern the affairs of the village, including:

- organizing itself and providing for rules of procedure
- adopting a budget and providing for the financing of village activities.
- abolishing or creating offices, boards, agencies, and commissions, and delegating powers to these units.
- managing village properties; and granting final approval of appointments of all non-elected officers and employees made by the mayor.

The mayor presides over meetings of the board. The majority of the board, as fully constituted, is a quorum. No business may be transacted unless a quorum is present.

One can find information regarding NYS Law on Villages: Village Law, Chapter 64 of the Consolidated Laws of New York State.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/village\\_government.html](https://video.dos.ny.gov/lg/handbook/html/village_government.html)

### **4.3.2 Operation and Services**

The Village of Champlain operates on a fiscal year that begins on June 1 and ends on May 31 of the following year. The Village of Champlain Board of Trustees typically holds its monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. However, meeting dates and times can occasionally change. To ensure you have the most accurate and up-to-date information, it's advisable to visit the Village's Official Website: The Notices section often contains announcements about upcoming meetings.  
<http://www.vchamplain.com/index.html>

**Employees of, and Appointments for the Village generally include:**

Mayor  
Village Board (#4)  
Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Deputy Clerk  
Superintendent of Public Works  
Dog Control Officer  
Code Enforcement Officer

Recreation Director

**Village Departments and Services**  
Administration  
Animal Control  
Code Enforcement  
Recreation  
Public Works

#### **Village Special Districts**

The Village of Champlain, New York, provides essential services such as water and sewer utilities directly to its residents. These services are managed by the village's Public Works Department, ensuring that residents have access to necessary utilities without the need for separate special districts.

#### 4.3.3 Village Owned Properties and Land

The Village of Champlain owns and operates several key facilities to serve its residents:

**Village Office:** Located at 11104 Route 9, Champlain, NY 12919, this building houses the administrative functions of the village, including the offices of the Mayor, Clerk, and other essential departments.

**Public Works Garage:** Situated at the same address (11104 Route 9), this facility supports the village's Public Works Department, responsible for maintaining infrastructure such as streets, water, and sewer systems.

**Water Treatment Plant:** This facility ensures the provision of clean and safe drinking water to village residents.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Manages the treatment and processing of the village's sewage and wastewater, ensuring environmental compliance and public health.



Figure 4 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

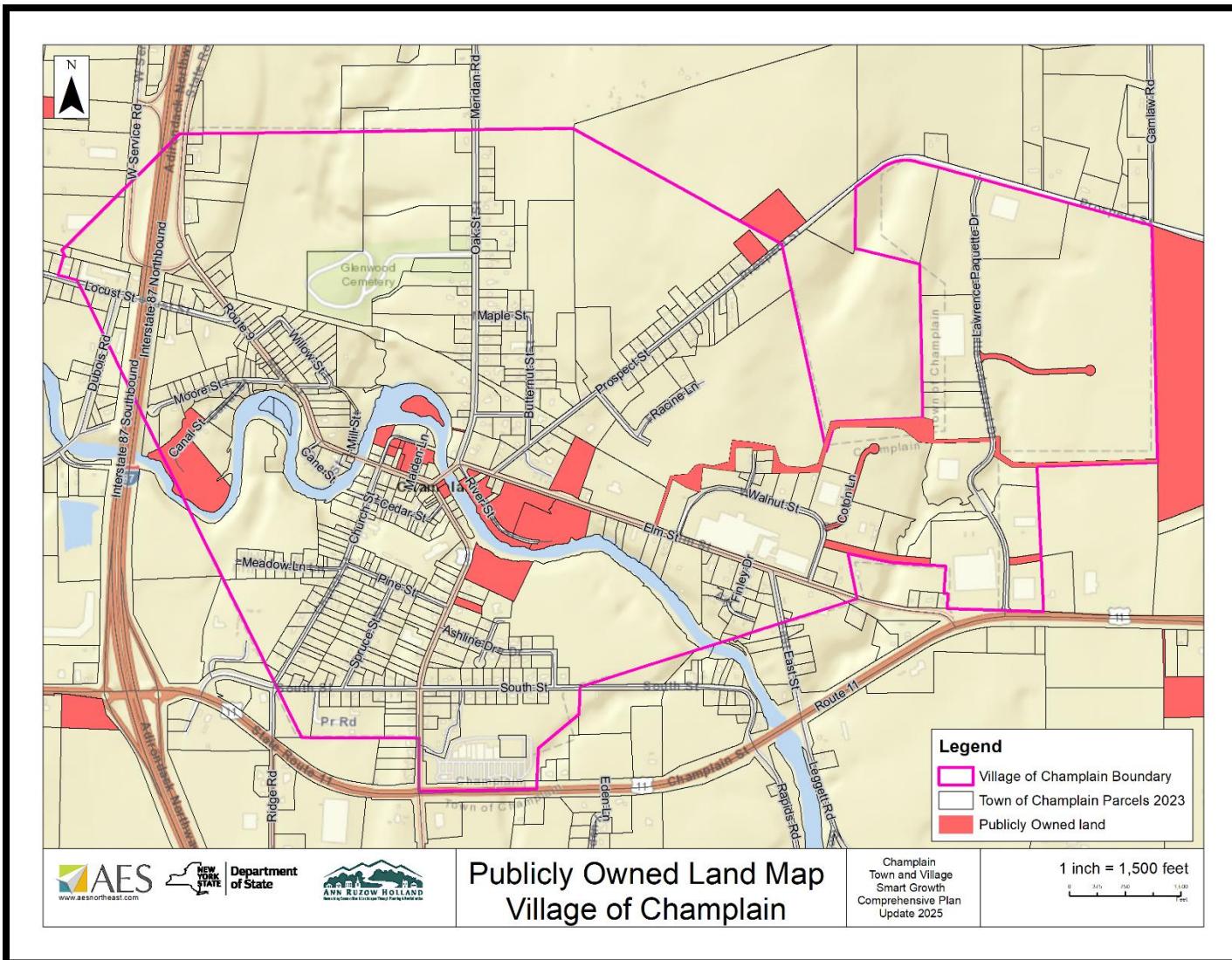


Figure 5 - Publicly Owned Land Map, Village of Champlain

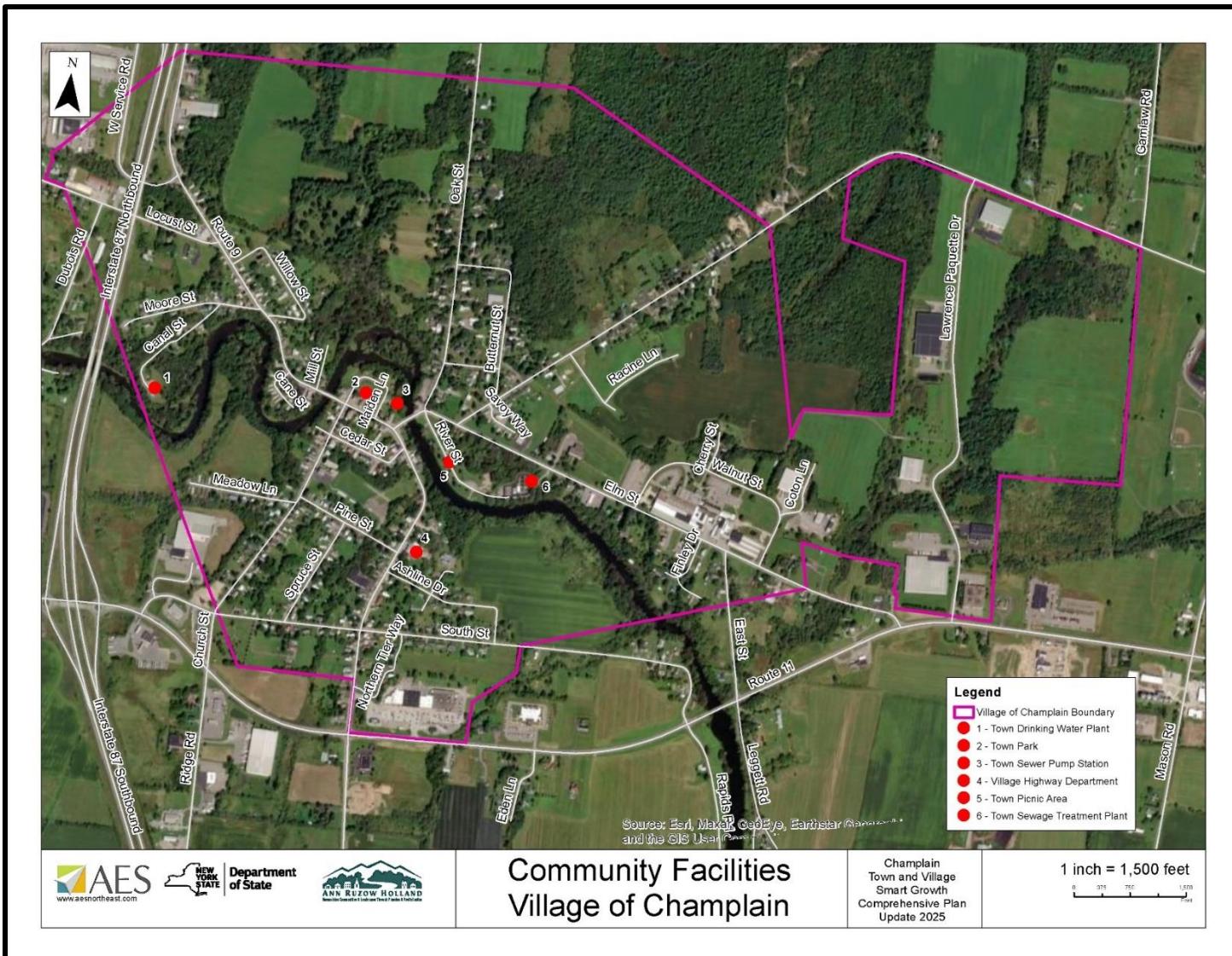


Figure 6 - Community Facilities, Village of Champlain

## 4.4 Town and Village Characteristics and Fiscal Condition

### Town of Champlain

According to the New York State Comptroller's fiscal monitoring (FY 2023), the Town of Champlain was given a "No Designation" stress rating—i.e., *no fiscal stress* [fiscaladvisors.com+2www1.osc.state.ny.us+2fiscaladvisorsauction.com+2](https://fiscaladvisors.com+2www1.osc.state.ny.us+2fiscaladvisorsauction.com+2). This places the town in strong standing relative to its peers in Clinton County and New York State, as *most municipalities with this rating manage revenue/expenditure balance, reserve levels, debt ratios, and tax base stability effectively*. The Town of Champlain exhibits strong relative performance, with no stress signs as of FY 2023.

### Village of Champlain

In April 2024, the Village issued \$2.378 M in Bond Anticipation Notes, a form of short-term borrowing typically used for funding capital projects. These Notes have no credit rating, which is not uncommon for small municipalities but suggests a lack of independent external review—possibly a signal of moderate credit risk or simply small-scale borrowing practices. No fiscal stress data from the State Comptroller is publicly noted, but the need to issue short-term BANs may indicate *managing capital needs with debt and limited reserves*.

### Village of Rouses Point

While the Office of the State Comptroller's site provides access to Village's Annual Financial Reports, no specific stress-score data was found. In general, similar small villages issuing BANs without ratings reflect *standard local government fiscal tools*. Without Comptroller designation or adverse audit findings, Rouses Point likely follows typical fiscal practices—balanced budgets, baseline reserve or debt usage.

### Broader Context

The two villages use debt tools (BANs) for capital needs—common for small municipalities. Lack of Comptroller-level stress scores doesn't indicate a problem but also means there's less formal assessment. Overall, none of the three show red flags. The Town's state-rated healthy status anchors local strength, while the villages employ standard municipal finance practices. The Town of Champlain, with no fiscal stress, stands favorably compared to other Clinton County towns (many of which face varying fiscal pressures and stress warnings in those OSC assessments). When comparing across New York State, most small towns either of "No Designation" or "Susceptible/At-risk." The Town's standing is commendable. The villages, with BAN financing and no ratings, fall in line with typical small village fiscal structures statewide; not top-tier, but not financially distressed either.

**Taxable Residential Property by Density**  
**Town of Champlain Including Villages of Champlain and Rouses Point**  
**(Retrieved 2024 Clinton County Real Property)**

Use	Acres	%	Taxable	%	Assessed Value Per Acre
Single family	1387.71	4.96%	\$343,449,300	60.77%	\$247,494
Two family	14.53	0.05%	\$14,455,300	2.56%	\$994,859
Three family	4.7	0.02%	\$4,466,300	0.79%	\$950,277
Rural res w/10+ acres	5023.83	17.96%	\$27,323,700	4.83%	\$5,439
Seasonal residences	1034.27	3.70%	\$9,570,300	1.69%	\$9,253
Mobile homes	285.5	1.02%	\$9,870,600	1.75%	\$34,573
Multiple mobile homes	13.53	0.05%	\$811,100	0.14%	\$59,948
Res multi-purpose	44.7	0.16%	\$3,609,000	0.64%	\$80,738
<b>Total residential</b>	<b>7,808.77</b>	<b>27.91%</b>	<b>413,555,600.00</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>\$52,960.40</b>
<b>Total All Uses</b>	<b>27,976.03</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$565,165,651</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$20,202</b>

*Table 1 - Taxable Residential Property by Density*

Taxable Residential Property by Density Village of Champlain (Retrieved 2024 Clinton County Real Property)					
Use	Acres	%	Taxable	%	Assessed Value Per Acre
Single family	75.97	12.44%	\$48,842,300	61.08%	\$642,916
Two family	4.53	0.74%	\$3,601,300	4.50%	\$794,989
Three family	0	0.00%	\$935,000	1.17%	\$0
Rural res w/10+ acres	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	-
Seasonal residences	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	-
Mobile homes	23.54	3.85%	\$1,917,200	2.40%	\$81,444
Multiple mobile homes	0	0.00%	\$60,000	0.08%	-
Res multi-purpose	3.2	0.52%	\$772,400	0.97%	\$241,375
<b>Total residential</b>	<b>107.24</b>	<b>17.55%</b>	<b>\$130,218,100</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>\$1,214,268.00</b>
<b>Total All Uses</b>	<b>610.93</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$79,963,100</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$130,887</b>

Table 2 - Taxable Residential Property by Density, Village of Champlain

**Taxable Residential Property by Density**  
**Village of Rouses Point**  
**(Retrieved 2024 Clinton County Real Property)**

Use	Acres	%	Taxable	%	Assessed Value Per Acre
<b>Single family</b>	56.45	10.50%	\$126,485,800	76.24%	\$2,240,670
<b>Two family</b>	0	0.00%	\$8,077,800	4.87%	-
<b>Three family</b>	0	0.00%	\$2,843,600	1.71%	-
<b>Rural res w/10+ acres</b>	14.2	2.64%	\$200,000	0.12%	\$14,085
<b>Seasonal residences</b>	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%	-
<b>Mobile homes</b>	1	0.19%	\$1,005,500	0.61%	\$1,005,500
<b>Multiple mobile homes</b>	0	0.00%	\$158,600	0.10%	-
<b>Res multi-purpose</b>	0	0.00%	\$1,091,800	0.66%	-
<b>Total residential</b>	71.65	13.33%	\$139,863,100	84%	\$1,952,032
<b>Total All Uses</b>	537.59	100.00%	\$165,912,700	100.00%	\$308,623

*Table 3 - Taxable Residential Property by Density, Village of Rouses Point*

Fiscal Analysis Clinton County Towns (Retrieved 2024 Clinton County Real Property Tax Rolls)				
Municipal Town	Full Value	Tax Levy	Tax Rate	Full Value per Acre
<b>City of Plattsburgh</b>	<b>\$1,863,951,347</b>	<b>\$7,959,072.25</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>\$847,250.61</b>
<b>Town of Altona</b>	<b>\$270,810,076</b>	<b>\$454,960.93</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>\$4,068.66</b>
<b>Town of AuSable</b>	<b>\$306,924,052</b>	<b>\$512,563.17</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>\$10,899.29</b>
<b>Town of Beekmantown</b>	<b>\$663,161,906</b>	<b>\$1,114,112.00</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>\$14,802.72</b>
<b>Town of Black Brook</b>	<b>\$235,159,275</b>	<b>\$540,866.33</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>\$2,701.74</b>
<b>Town of Champlain</b>	<b>\$646,776,847</b>	<b>\$2,774,672.67</b>	<b>4.29</b>	<b>\$20,211.78</b>
<b>Village of Champlain</b>	<b>\$220,500,488</b>	<b>\$941,537.08</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>\$231,618.16</b>
<b>Town of Chazy</b>	<b>\$510,795,306</b>	<b>\$858,136.11</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>\$14,511.23</b>
<b>Town of Clinton</b>	<b>\$240,266,477</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$5,520.83</b>
<b>Town of Dannemora</b>	<b>\$318,418,552</b>	<b>\$534,943.17</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>\$7,439.69</b>
<b>Village of Dannemora</b>	<b>\$4,022,091,284</b>	<b>\$17,174,329.78</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>\$6,875,369.72</b>
<b>Town of Ellenburg</b>	<b>\$304,595,079</b>	<b>\$514,765.68</b>	<b>1.69</b>	<b>\$4,406.76</b>
<b>Town of Mooers</b>	<b>\$290,810,887</b>	<b>\$485,654.18</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>\$5,222.90</b>
<b>Town of Peru</b>	<b>\$789,848,530</b>	<b>\$1,319,047.05</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>\$13,270.30</b>
<b>Town of Plattsburgh</b>	<b>\$2,112,592,421</b>	<b>\$10,626,339.88</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>\$70,723.86</b>
<b>Village of Rouses Point</b>	<b>\$352,913,086</b>	<b>\$1,506,938.88</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>\$321,707.46</b>
<b>Town of Saranac</b>	<b>\$395,031,121</b>	<b>\$663,652.28</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>\$5,275.52</b>
<b>Town of Schuyler Falls</b>	<b>\$332,457,934</b>	<b>\$741,381.19</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>\$13,670.15</b>

Table 4 - Fiscal Analysis, Clinton County Towns

Fiscal Comparison: Clinton County New York Full Valuation 2020 (Source Clinton County Real Property Tax Office)						
Municipal Town	Population (2020 Decennial Census)	Land Area (Square Miles)	Density (Person/Square Mile 2020)	Full Value 2020	Full value/person 2020	Rank (Full Value per person)
Town of Clinton	652.00	68	9.59	\$363,719,097	557,851.38	1
Town of Plattsburgh	11,886.00	53	224.26	\$3,024,575,636	254,465.39	2
Town of Ellenburg	1,842	108	17.06	\$320,030,903	173,740.99	3
Town of Black Brook	1,453.00	136	10.68	\$176,565,352	121,517.79	4
Town of Altona	2,666.00	104	25.63	\$294,708,277	110,543.24	5
Town of Beekmantown	5508	70	78.69	\$506,169,420	91,897.14	6
Town of Champlain	5,745.00	50	114.90	\$495,708,568	86,285.22	7
Town of Chazy	4096	55	74.47	\$347,123,746	84,747.01	8
Town of Peru	6772	93	72.82	\$567,254,631	83,764.71	9
Town of Saranac	3,852.00	117	32.92	\$281,863,582	73,173.31	10
Town of Schuyler Falls	4,843.00	38	127.45	\$320,858,609	66,252.04	11
Town of Dannemora	4,037.00	67	60.25	\$261,793,153	64,848.44	12
Town of AuSable	3,183.00	44	72.34	\$196,070,626	61,599.32	13
Town of Moose	3,467.00	87	39.85	\$189,869,205	54,764.70	14
<b>Totals</b>	60,002.00	1,090.00	960.92	7,346,310,805.00	1,885,450.66	
<b>Average</b>	4,285.86	77.86	68.64	524,736,486.07	134,675.05	

Table 5 - Fiscal Comparison: Clinton County NY Full Valuation, 2020

## 4.5 Transportation

Transportation services and systems determine the movement of people and goods to and from a town. They also provide access for visitors and tourists and move residents to workplaces. Transportation systems link the region together. The Town of Champlain features a diverse transportation infrastructure that supports both local and international travel. Rail systems and commercial boating on Lake Champlain supplement road systems within the Town and nearby aerial transportation facilities exist in Plattsburgh and Burlington. However, automobiles and trucks are the dominant form of transportation in Champlain.

### 4.5.1 Roadways

Interstate 87 (I-87): Also known as the Adirondack Northway, I-87 runs north-south through the town, connecting the New York City metropolitan area to the Canadian border. The highway provides vital access to and from Canada, culminating at the Champlain–St. Bernard de Lacolle Border Crossing into Quebec, where it transitions into Autoroute 15 toward Montreal.

U.S. Route 9 (US 9): Parallel to I-87, US 9 traverses the town from south to north, passing through the Village of Champlain before terminating near the Canadian border. This route offers scenic views along Lake Champlain and serves as part of the Lakes to Locks Passage, an All-American Road.

U.S. Route 11 (US 11): Running east-west, US 11 intersects both US 9 and I-87 within the town. It serves as a primary route connecting the village of Rouses Point to other parts of the North Country and extends to the Canadian border, where it continues as Route 223 in Quebec.

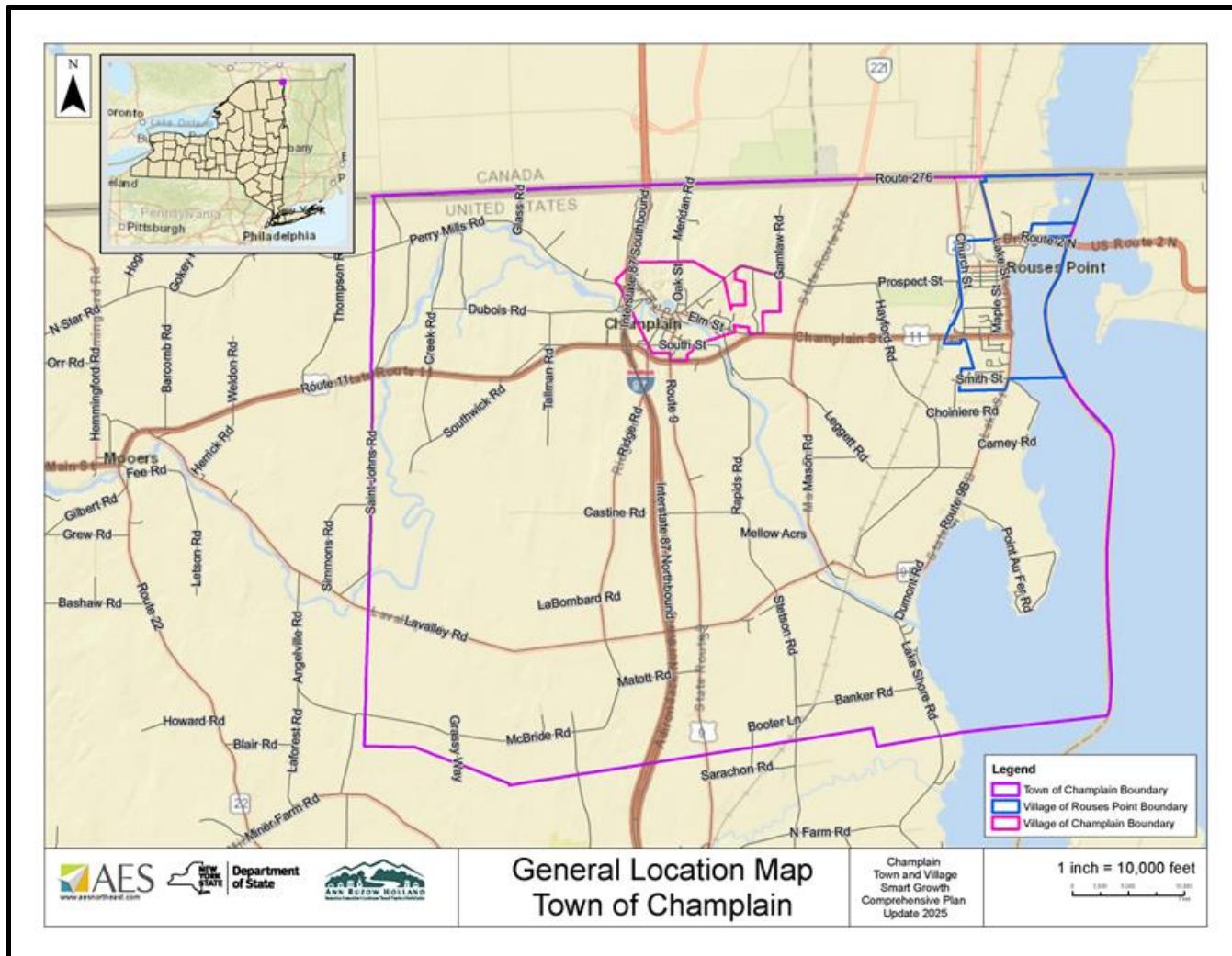
New York State Route 9B (NY 9B): This state highway branches off from US 9 in the Town of Champlain and heads northeast toward the Village of Rouses Point, running along the western shore of Lake Champlain. It serves as a connector between US 9 and US 11.

New York State Route 276 (NY 276): NY 276 links the Town of Champlain to the Village of Rouses Point, with its western terminus at US 11 in Champlain and eastern terminus at US 11 in Rouses Point. The route also provides access to Quebec Route 221 via the Overton Corners–Lacolle 221 Border Crossing.

In addition to these Federal and State-owned roadways, the County, Town, and Villages also own roadways. NYS Department of Transportation reports that the total mileage of roads in the Town of Champlain is 102.9. Of this total, 53.7 miles are owned by the Town and Villages. And of this amount, the Village of Champlain owns 8 miles. Clinton County owns 17.9 miles and New York State owns 31.3 miles. Of the 31.3 miles owned by New York State, 1.9 miles are located in the Village of Champlain.

Clinton County maintains approximately 33.65 miles of roadway within the Town of Champlain. These county routes play a crucial role in the town's transportation network, supporting both local and through traffic.

- County Route 21 (CR 21): Also known as Perry Mills Road, this route extends approximately 4.52 miles, connecting US Route 11 to the Champlain village line.
- County Route 22 (CR 22): Known as Ridge Road, CR 22 spans about 3.53 miles, linking CR 21 to US Route 11.
- County Route 23 (CR 23): This route covers approximately 7.58 miles, running from US Route 11 in Mooers to US Route 9 in Champlain.
- County Route 24 (CR 24): Extending 17.57 miles, CR 24 connects US Route 9 in Beekmantown to US Route 11/NY Route 276 in Champlain.



*Figure 7 - General Location Map, Town of Champlain*

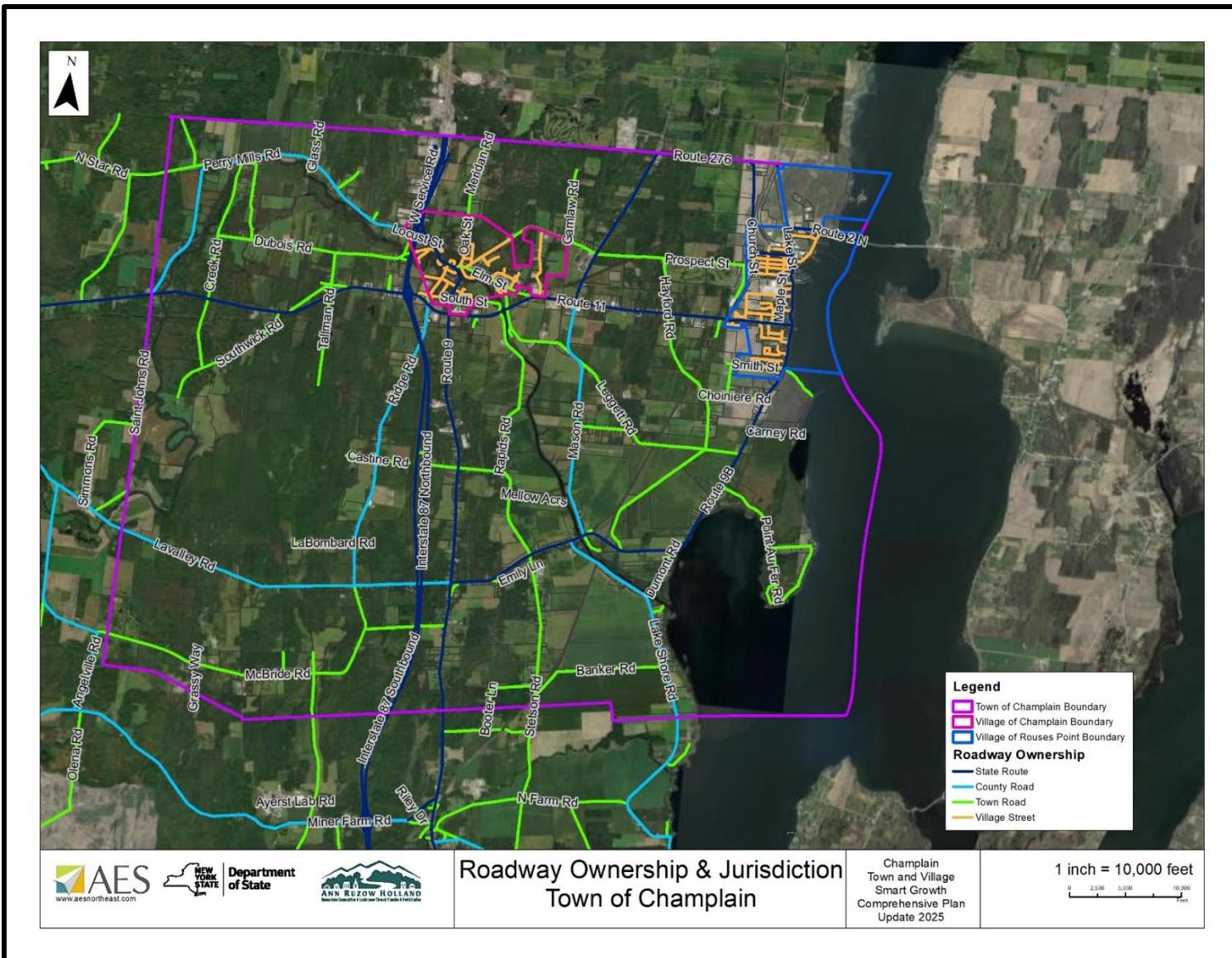


Figure 8 - Roadway Ownership & Jurisdiction, Town of Champlain

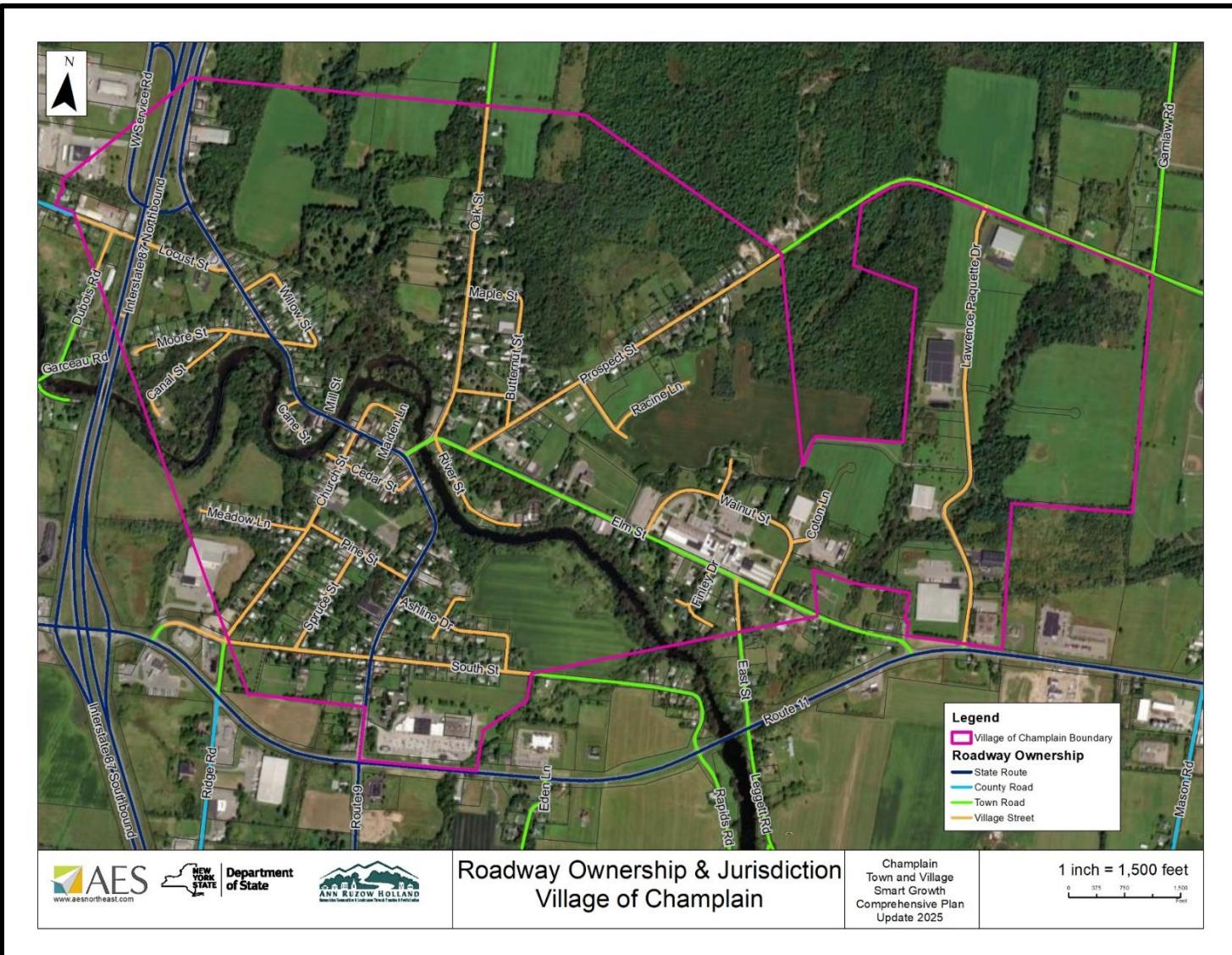


Figure 9 - Roadway Ownership & Jurisdiction, Village of Champlain

#### 4.5.2 International Border Crossing USA-Canada: Champlain Port of Excellence

The Champlain–St. Bernard de Lacolle border crossing, located where Interstate 87 in New York meets Autoroute 15 in Quebec, is one of the busiest and most strategically important land ports of entry between the United States and Canada. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the crossing facilitates the movement of millions of travelers and hundreds of thousands of commercial vehicles annually, serving as a critical trade and travel link between New York City and Montreal. Equipped with dedicated commercial inspection lanes, NEXUS and FAST lanes, and full-service customs facilities on both sides, the port handles a significant share of U.S.–Canada motor-carrier freight traffic. Despite its efficiency, the crossing often experiences congestion, especially during peak travel seasons and construction periods, prompting some travelers to seek alternate routes such as the Overton Corners or Rouses Point crossings. The Champlain border station is not only a vital economic corridor but also a key point of binational cooperation and infrastructure investment, reflecting its long-term role in supporting regional mobility, commerce, and international relations.



Figure 10 - Photo courtesy of Town/Village of Champlain

##### Champlain Port of Excellence Initiative

The Champlain Port of Entry on Interstate 87 is one of the busiest and most economically significant commercial gateways on the U.S.–Canada border. It has undergone major improvements under the federally supported “Port of Excellence” initiative, which enhanced infrastructure and streamlined border operations to accommodate increasing volumes of trade and passenger traffic.

Upgrades include expanded commercial inspection lanes, modernized facilities, and enhanced cargo processing systems. This investment supports the Town's position as a vital hub for international commerce, linking Montreal to New York City. The Port's modernization directly contributes to local employment and has regional economic impacts, further reinforcing Champlain's strategic importance in North Country's logistics and trade ecosystem. The federally supported Champlain Port of Excellence initiative has reinforced the Town's role as a critical point for international commerce. Continued investment in border infrastructure supports long-term regional economic growth and strengthens Champlain's status as a key player in cross-border trade and logistics.

#### 4.5.3 Rail Transportation

The Town of Champlain is strategically positioned within a regional rail network that supports both freight and passenger movement, though its direct rail infrastructure is limited. The critical Rouses Point rail junction is where major freight lines converge before continuing into Canada or toward Vermont and southern New York. Freight service through the town is facilitated by Canadian Pacific and Canadian National rail lines, which are vital for transporting goods such as lumber, agricultural products, and industrial materials across the U.S.-Canada border.

Nearby stations in Rouses Point and Plattsburgh provide access to Amtrak's Adirondack line, which connects New York City and Montreal along the scenic Lake Champlain corridor. This regional connectivity ensures that Champlain remains a key player in cross-border commerce and travel and underscores the town's importance as a transportation and logistics hub in the North Country.

Future development includes a new rail customs facility on the St. John's Highway, which will enhance rail-based inspection and increase Champlain's importance in multimodal trade and tourism.

#### 4.5.4 Air Transportation

Plattsburgh International Airport (PBG), located approximately 20 miles south of Champlain offers both passenger and cargo services, providing regional access to air travel.



Figure 11 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

Burlington International Airport (BTV), located 45 miles from Champlain offers both passenger and cargo services, providing regional access to air travel.

There are two main airports in the Montreal metro area that are proximate to Champlain. Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL) is approximately 45 miles from Champlain. Montréal-Mirabel International Airport (YMX) (*used mostly for cargo and private flights*) is approximately 65 miles from Champlain.

#### 4.5.5. Public Transportation

Champlain offers several public transportation options primarily facilitated by Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT):

- Champlain/Rouses Point Route:
  - Service Area: Connects key locations within Champlain and extends to Rouses Point.
  - Schedule: Operates multiple times daily, with specific stops including Dollar General, Mobil (Spellman Road), Champlain Family Health, and the Government Center.
  - Route Deviations: CCPT buses can deviate up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from their mapped routes. Passengers needing pickups or drop-offs within this zone should call (518) 561-1452 at least a day in advance to schedule. An additional fee applies for deviations.
- Connections to Plattsburgh:
  - Service: CCPT operates routes connecting Champlain to Plattsburgh, facilitating access to broader services and amenities.
  - Schedule: Buses run multiple times daily between Champlain Family Health and Broad Street & Durkee Street in Plattsburgh, with an approximate journey time of 40 minutes.

Essex County Public Transportation: While primarily serving Essex County, connections can be made in AuSable Forks to reach areas within Clinton County, including Champlain.

Contact: For real-time bus locations, scheduling deviations, or general inquiries, contact CCPT dispatch at (518) 561-1452.  
[transit.clintoncountyny.gov](http://transit.clintoncountyny.gov)

#### **4.5.6 Alternative Transportation Options**

Both Greyhound and Trailways provide bus services to and from Champlain, New York.

Greyhound: Bus Stop Location: Xb Lacolle Route 15, near the US-Canada border in Champlain, NY 12919. Greyhound offers routes connecting Champlain to major cities, including New York City, Albany, and Montreal.

Trailways: Bus Stop Location: Trailways services Champlain, NY, with specific stop details available on their website. Trailways connects Champlain to various locations, including New York City.

In addition to taxi services, Uber and Lyft services are available in Champlain, New York.

#### **4.5.7 Active Transportation and Trails**

Sidewalks are limited primarily to the Village of Champlain, where there is a modest pedestrian network.

The region has access to Lake Champlain Bikeways, and the area has been exploring trail development for recreation and connectivity.

The McManus Trail System links the Villages of Champlain and Rouses Point

#### **4.5.8 Complete Streets Conditions and Recommendations**

Implementing Complete Streets in the Town and Village of Champlain involves assessing current infrastructure, identifying areas for improvement, and adopting policies that promote safe and accessible transportation for all users.

##### Existing Conditions:

- Infrastructure: The area features a mix of rural and urban roadways, with varying levels of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.
- Pedestrian Facilities: Sidewalks are present in some areas but may be inconsistent or in need of repair.
- Bicycle Infrastructure: Dedicated bike lanes are limited, potentially discouraging cycling as a mode of transportation.
- Public Transportation: Access to public transit is available but may not be comprehensive, affecting mobility for non-drivers.

##### Recommendations:

Adopt a Complete Streets Policy: Formalize a commitment to designing and maintaining roadways that accommodate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders.

Conduct a Needs Assessment: Evaluate current transportation networks to identify gaps and prioritize areas requiring improvements.

Enhance Pedestrian Infrastructure. Install or repair sidewalks, ensuring ADA compliance. Implement crosswalks with appropriate signage and lighting at key intersections.

Develop Bicycle Facilities: Create dedicated bike lanes or shared-use paths where feasible. Provide bike racks and other amenities to encourage cycling.

Improve Public Transit Access: Enhance bus stops with shelters, seating, and clear signage. Ensure safe and accessible pathways to transit hubs.

By implementing these strategies, Champlain can create a more inclusive and efficient transportation system that benefits all community members.

#### **4.5.9 How Transit Impacts Housing Affordability**

Access to reliable transit plays a significant role in shaping housing affordability by influencing transportation costs, residential development patterns, and access to economic opportunities. Transportation is the second-largest household expense in the U.S., and transit access can significantly reduce these costs. Reliable public transit allows households to spend less on private vehicle ownership, fuel, insurance, and maintenance.

Transit systems expand the geographical range of affordable housing by connecting outlying or less expensive neighborhoods to job centers. Low- and moderate-income households can access affordable housing without being isolated from employment opportunities. Developers may invest in affordable housing in transit-accessible areas. Proximity to transit often raises property values and rents due to the desirability of reduced commuting times and better access to amenities.

Transit provides affordable, reliable access to jobs, education, and services, reducing the overall cost of living. Residents with transit access can afford to live in less expensive neighborhoods without sacrificing job accessibility. Employers benefit from a larger labor pool, supporting economic growth. Finally, transit systems reduce barriers for non-driving populations, such as seniors, students, and low-income residents.

In the Town and Village of Champlain, enhancing transit options like bus services or creating park-and-ride facilities near I-87 could expand access to affordable housing. Integrating housing affordability with transit planning can create a balanced, accessible community where residents benefit from lower transportation costs and broader housing choices.

## 4.6 Municipal Drinking Water System

The Village of Champlain operates a public drinking water system that serves both village residents and certain areas within the Town of Champlain. The water source is drawn from three deep wells. The wells are 100' deep with 8" casings. Two wells are used as primary sources, and the other is used as a back-up source. The Village has studied source water for possible susceptibility to contamination.

The well water is disinfected with chlorine prior to distribution. Since 1992, the Village has also added orthophosphate for corrosion control, and to prevent rusty water problems.

The water system serves a population of approximately 2,950 persons within the Village, including the NCCS School and the Champlain Border facilities. The water system has approximately 490 connections in the Village of Champlain and 160 connections in the Town of Champlain. The total amount of water produced in 2021 was about 41 million gallons.

### Water System Upgrades

The municipal water system was significantly enhanced through the Shared Water Project, completed in 2017. This effort included the installation of approximately 44,000 feet of ductile-iron water main, two new elevated storage tanks to stabilize pressure across the system, and a state-of-the-art nanofiltration water softening plant.

The improvements not only addressed aging infrastructure but increased system capacity by roughly 50%, enabling the Town and Village to accommodate increased demand from new residential neighborhoods and commercial or industrial users. These upgrades ensure consistent water quality, fire flow protection, and supply reliability—critical features for attracting development. Funding for these improvements was supported through a combination of state infrastructure programs, USDA Rural Development resources, and local bonding mechanisms.



Figure 12 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

For comprehensive details on water quality, treatment processes, and any potential health considerations, residents and interested parties can refer to the Village's *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This report provides in-depth information and is accessible through the village's official website.

## 4.7 On-site and Centralized Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

### 4.7.1 Centralized Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

The Town has limited sewer infrastructure, mainly in hamlet areas, and relies on septic systems in rural and agricultural areas. In areas where the Town lacks its own treatment facilities, agreements with the Villages of Champlain and Rouses Point facilitate wastewater treatment services. Town of Champlain Wastewater System encompasses several sewer districts, each serving specific areas. Some districts have limited infrastructure, leading residents to rely on individual septic systems. Sewer District No. 7 will have the planned construction of a low-pressure sewer collection system that will convey wastewater to the existing Village of Rouses Point Wastewater Treatment Facility, enhancing service for residents in that district.

The Village of Champlain maintains a network of sewer lines and pump stations that collect wastewater from residences and businesses, directing it to the treatment facility. This plant is designed to handle a flow capacity of 0.35 million gallons per day (MGD). The treatment process includes primary clarification, trickling filters, and chlorine disinfection. Treated effluent is subsequently discharged into the Great Chazy River. The Village's wastewater treatment plant has recently undergone upgrades to enhance its disinfection capabilities. Specifically, the installation of an ultraviolet (UV) effluent disinfection system was completed to improve water quality by reducing pathogens in the plant's discharge. Operations are conducted in accordance with standards set by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As of the latest available data, the facility serves approximately 500 users. The average annual cost per user is estimated to be \$400.

### Wastewater System Upgrades

Wastewater infrastructure has also seen critical investment. The Town received approximately \$5.48 million to establish Sewer District No. 7, enabling expanded service to growing areas. Meanwhile, the Village of Champlain secured over \$3.3 million in financing—including \$830,000 in grants and \$2.5 million in zero-interest loans—for wastewater treatment plant upgrades, specifically to improve effluent disinfection and maintain compliance with evolving environmental standards. These projects increase treatment capacity, reduce pollutant discharge, and support infill development as well as greenfield expansion. Funding sources

include the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, Environmental Facilities Corporation programs, and federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund support.

#### **4.7.2 On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**

The quality and environmental safety of on-site systems depends on the surrounding soils and on the owners' maintenance. Soil septic suitability, slope, surficial geology and the presence of wetlands and aquifers reveal a wide range of conditions that makes modern, on-site wastewater challenging to successfully design. New York State does not require routine inspections or routine maintenance of private septic systems. Individual responsibility and management programs are means of ensuring clean functioning systems to protect the natural systems. However, site specific planning may require compliance with regulations promulgated by local building codes, and NYS/Clinton County Department of Health for on-site wastewater treatment systems. The local Code Enforcement Officer determines which rules apply to individual situations. Deep-hole test pit soil examination and percolation tests are required for each proposed on-site wastewater treatment system.

Aged or outdated on-site wastewater systems may not operate properly and could contaminate ground and surface waters. It would be appropriate to assess the number of new septic systems installed in Champlain annually in order to understand trends and to determine whether and where on-site wastewater treatment is occurring—and whether wastewater district expansion is economically feasible and suitable as an alternative to on-site wastewater treatment.

### **4.8 Water and Wastewater System Upgrades – Strategic Context for Growth**

The ongoing and planned upgrades to the water and wastewater infrastructure in both the Village and Town of Champlain are critical enablers of future residential, commercial, and industrial development. These upgrades ensure reliable service delivery for existing residents and businesses, capacity to accommodate new housing developments, including affordable and market-rate options, infrastructure readiness for industrial parks and commercial corridors, especially along key transportation routes, and support for infill development and downtown revitalization, aligning with Smart Growth Principles and comprehensive planning goals.

The Village and Town of Champlain are strategically investing in their water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure the region can support current needs and attract future investment. These upgrades not only improve public health and environmental protection but also lay the foundation for long-term, sustainable economic and community growth.

## Water System Capacity and Upgrades

The existing water system has sufficient baseline capacity, but modernization and upsizing are needed to meet NYSDOH standards and support additional users. Improvements, such as well rehabilitation and new well construction to increase redundancy and flow capacity, water main replacements to improve fire flow and reduce line losses and meter upgrades and SCADA systems for better system monitoring and water conservation can make a big difference.

Future demand is projected to increase by 20–30% over the next 10–15 years, based on anticipated residential subdivisions in the Town (zoned for low- and medium-density growth), expansion and adaptive reuse of industrial facilities, and commercial redevelopment along key corridors.

## Wastewater System Capacity and Upgrades

The Village Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serving both the Village and parts of the Town was originally constructed decades ago. The system currently handles up to ~0.75 MGD (million gallons per day) of flow, nearing operational capacity during peak flow periods. Several pump stations and gravity mains are reaching their useful life and are under capacity stress during storm events (inflow & infiltration issues). WWTP modernization with advanced treatment processes to improve efficiency, nitrogen removal, and resilience, together with I&I (inflow and infiltration) mitigation projects, including lining or replacing old sewer mains, lift station replacements and force main upgrades to handle greater volumes and serve expansion zones would make a big difference.

New residential and commercial growth is anticipated to generate an additional 150,000–250,000 GPD within 10–15 years.

Industrial demand is expected to spike with logistics and manufacturing growth, driven by proximity to the Canadian border and Port of Montreal. System expansion could respond to overall demand, including underserved or development-ready parcels in the Town (e.g., along Industrial Blvd or Route 11).

## **4.9 Communications & Utilities**

### **4.9.1 Utilities**

The New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) provides electric services to the Champlain area, ensuring reliable power supply for residential and commercial customers. Natural Gas is limited in availability; propane and electric heat are more common in rural areas.

### **4.9.2 Telecommunications**

All the areas of the Champlain are served With Cable TV and "Broadband". The current cable providers are "Spectrum, Verizon, and Frontier." Broadband Internet is available through Charter/Spectrum, but coverage gaps remain in some parts of the Town. The Village has more complete access to cable, DSL, and fiber due to its higher population density.

Mobile phone servers include AT&T, Verizon and Sprint.

Champlain Technology Group (CTG) is a local telecommunications company offering residential and commercial telephone services, as well as high-speed internet, to Champlain, Mooers, Rouses Point, and Altona. With over a century of experience, CTG provides fiber-optic broadband services with speeds up to 500 Mbps, enhancing connectivity for the community.

Through the New NY Broadband Program, efforts have been made to expand high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved areas in New York State, including parts of Champlain. This initiative aims to provide residents with reliable and fast internet services, supporting education, business, and daily activities.

Many believe economic progress may be hampered by intermittent cell phone/wireless service and limited high speed/Broadband internet access. However, Champlain has good Broadband, just a few areas need to be added and improved. The Town is on the waiting list for regional broadband investments.

## **4.10 Solid Waste and Recycling**

The Clinton County Solid Waste Management System oversees transfer stations, recycling, and landfill services. Both the Town and Village rely on private haulers for curbside pickup, with recycling and trash removal contracted individually or through shared service agreements.

Clinton County Landfill is located at 286 Sand Road in Morrisonville, the landfill is operated by Casella and serves as the primary disposal site for the region. It accepts various waste types, including municipal solid waste and certain recyclables.

**Casella Waste Systems:** Casella operates the Champlain Convenience Station at 144 Castine Road, providing residents with a facility for disposing of household waste and recyclables. The station is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Casella offers Zero-Sort® recycling, allowing residents to place all recyclables into a single bin without the need for sorting. Accepted materials include cardboard, paper, plastics, metal cans, and glass.

**Electronic Waste:** While the Champlain Convenience Station does not accept electronic waste, residents can utilize other facilities within Clinton County that handle items like TVs, monitors, computers, and printers.

**Hazardous Materials:** The Champlain Convenience Station does not accept hazardous waste, such as chemicals, paint, and cleaning fluids. Residents are advised to contact local municipalities or specialized facilities for proper disposal options.

Construction and Demolition Debris: Materials like drywall, metal, shingles, clean wood, and concrete are not accepted at the Champlain Convenience Station. Alternative disposal sites or services should be consulted for these waste types.

Yard Waste: The Champlain Convenience Station does not accept yard waste, including brush, leaves, and lawn clippings. Residents should seek other local facilities or municipal services for yard waste disposal.

#### **4.11 Stormwater and Environmental Infrastructure**

Stormwater runoff is managed through culverts, ditches, and catch basins, particularly in the Village. The Town maintains roadside drainage infrastructure, though improvements are needed in flood-prone zones near waterways like the Great Chazy River.

Stormwater management is regulated under NYSDEC MS4 guidelines for the Village and some higher-density areas in the Town. Champlain adheres to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) guidelines, which align with the federal Clean Water Act. These regulations mandate the development and implementation of Stormwater Management Programs (SWMPs) to control pollutants in stormwater discharges.

**Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) include:**

- Green Infrastructure: Incorporation of permeable pavements, rain gardens, and vegetated swales to enhance infiltration and reduce surface runoff.
- Erosion and Sediment Control: Utilization of silt fences, sediment basins, and proper site grading during construction activities to prevent sediment from entering waterways.
- Public Education and Outreach: Engagement with the community through workshops and informational materials to promote awareness and participation in stormwater management efforts.
- Champlain actively participates in regional programs aimed at improving water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin:
  - Lake Champlain Watershed Implementation Plan: This plan, developed by NYSDEC, outlines strategies to reduce phosphorus levels and address harmful algal blooms in Lake Champlain. Champlain contributes to these efforts by implementing local projects that align with the plan's objectives.
  - Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY): As a member of CWICNY, Champlain collaborates with neighboring municipalities to share resources, knowledge, and strategies for effective stormwater management.

#### **4.12 Lighting District**

Champlain has a small lighting district. Lighting in a town provides visibility for safety and helps to promote facilities, events and businesses. In the Adirondack Park and other places of natural beauty there are lighting pollution considerations and regulations. An overabundance of artificial light screens views of the night skies. The Lighting District, like the Sewer District, is not large in regards to percentage of the town, but it benefits the same areas, where it is most needed for the public.

## 4.13 Public Health and Safety

### 4.13.1 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

The 2021 Clinton County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan<sup>4</sup> identified 11 potential hazards affecting Clinton County communities in 2014. In 2021, the list of potential hazards grew to 20 potential hazards identified in the following table.

The report also devotes an entire section to the Town and its two villages. While the report cannot be reiterated in its entirety here, it is suggested that the Town and Village continually update its emergency response and hazard plans and strategies on a regular basis. Champlain will continue to implement projects and programs to reduce the effects of hazards to the town.

HAZARDS ADDRESSED IN THE 2021 CLINTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN	
Avalanche	Hurricanes
Climate Change	Ice Storms
Dam Failure	Land Subsidence
Drought	Landslides
Earthquake	Seiche Floods
Extreme Cold	Severe Winter Storms
Extreme Heat	Thunderstorms
Floods	Transportation (Truck)
Hail Events	Transportation (Rail)
High Winds/ Tornadoes	Wildfires

Figure 13 - Hazards Addressed in the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.clintoncountyny.gov>

The floodplain ordinance will continue to be enforced to ensure new construction is built to resist flood damages. Building codes must continue to be implemented to reduce damage from wind events and snow loads on structures. Current fire suppression programs, led by the DEC, will continue to ensure that wildfires mitigation occurs.

Clinton County Hazard Ranking for 2021 Update				
		Impact		
Probability	High	High	Med	Low
	High	Floods, High Winds and Tornadoes		Extreme Cold, Ice Storms, Severe Winter Storms, Thunderstorms
	Med			
	Low		Drought, Earthquake, Hail Storms	Avalanche, Extreme Heat, Hurricanes, Landslides, Seiche Floods, Transportation (Truck and Rail), Wildfires

## Flooding

Table 6 - Clinton County Hazard Ranking for 2021 Update

Critical facilities in the town were evaluated in regard to their flood vulnerability as part of the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Planning process. According to the plan, The town hall is the Emergency Operations Center, as well as the fire stations located within the town. The Town Hall has communications equipment. Hudson Headwaters is a medical facility located within the town, it offers urgent care services as a wide range of general practitioner and specialist services. There are no nursing homes, or blood banks within the town. There are no daycare facilities. A phone company is located within the town, and it is unknown whether there is a generator present. There are no drug and alcohol treatment centers nor are there any homeless shelters. There are 4 locations within the Town of Champlain that have been designated as locations for temporary housing in the event of a disaster. The schools located within the town could all potentially be used for emergency shelters, and all have power water and

sewage available on site. The former Pfizer parking lot could be used for RVs and mobile homes. There is also the Miromar mall that would be suitable for RVs and mobile homes to be temporarily placed in the event of a disaster.

The Town of Champlain will continue to manage their floodplains in the future. They will review and approve new development in the special flood hazard areas to ensure these structures are built compliant with the local floodplain ordinance. As the new FIRM are updated by FEMA, meetings will occur with floodplain managers, town supervisors to provide training on the National Flood Insurance Program. Compliance will be discussed at these meetings. Floodplain managers of the most vulnerable communities will be encouraged to join the state floodplain manager association to continue to increase their understanding of how to manage their flood vulnerable areas.

TOWN OF CHAMPLAIN CRITICAL FACILITY ASSESSMENT				
Facility	Located in 500-year Floodplain?	Flooded in the Past	Generator	Notes/ Mitigation Actions
Fire Station	Yes	No	Yes	Town of Champlain and Village of Rouses Point fire stations both have self-enclosed generators
Critical Vehicle and Equipment Storage	No	No	Yes	
Emergency Operations Center	No	No	Yes	Town Hall, and fire stations
Medical facilities	No	No	Yes	Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Drinking water and wastewater treatment plant	Yes	No	Yes	Water: built above flood height. Wastewater: berm built around facility (after 1996 flood)

Table 7 - Town of Champlain Critical Facility Assessment

#### Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021) Critical Maps

Four maps from the Hazard Mitigation Plan are reproduced here and follow.

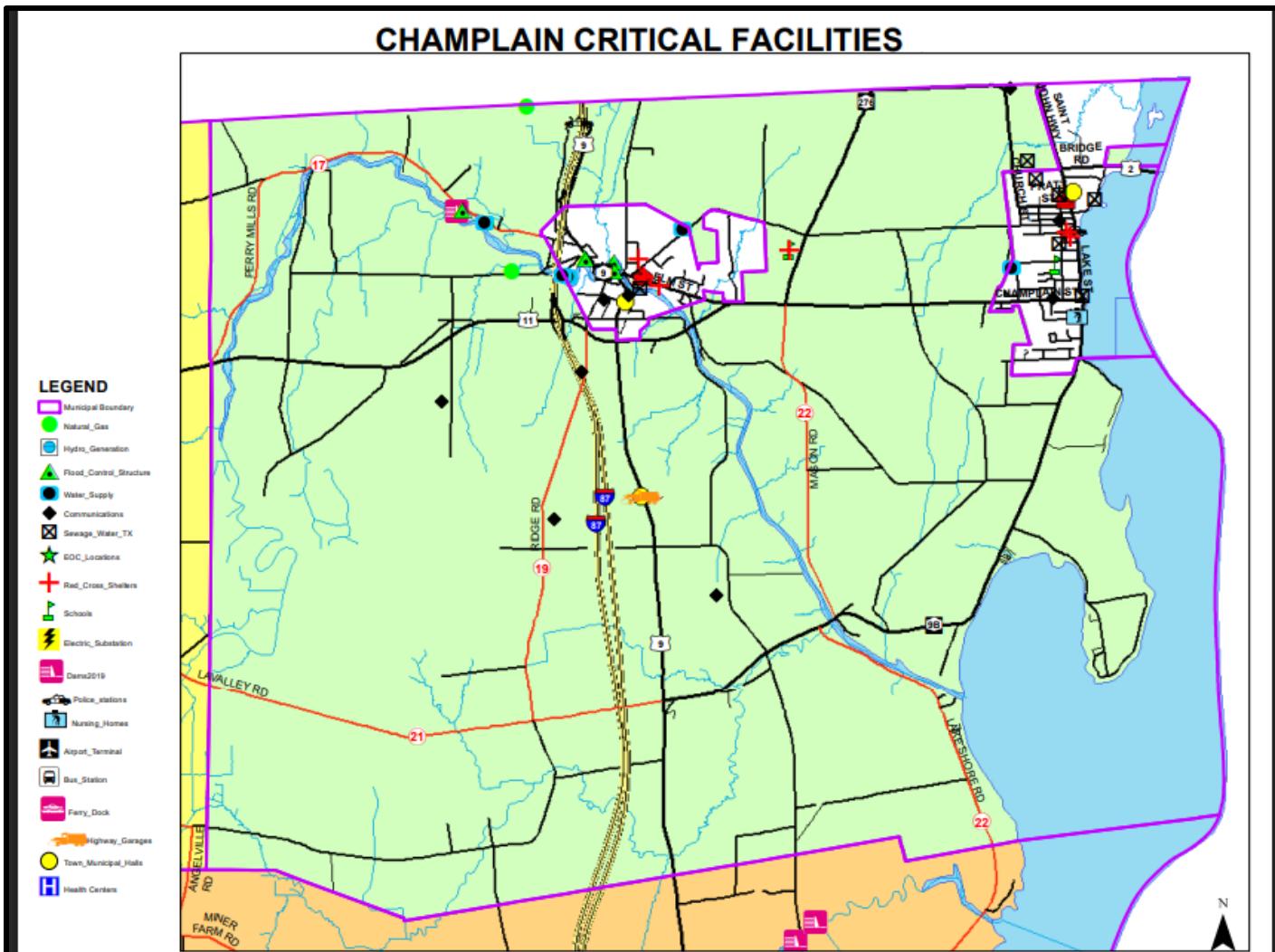


Figure 14 - Champlain Critical Facilities

## CHAMPLAIN CRITICAL FACILITIES

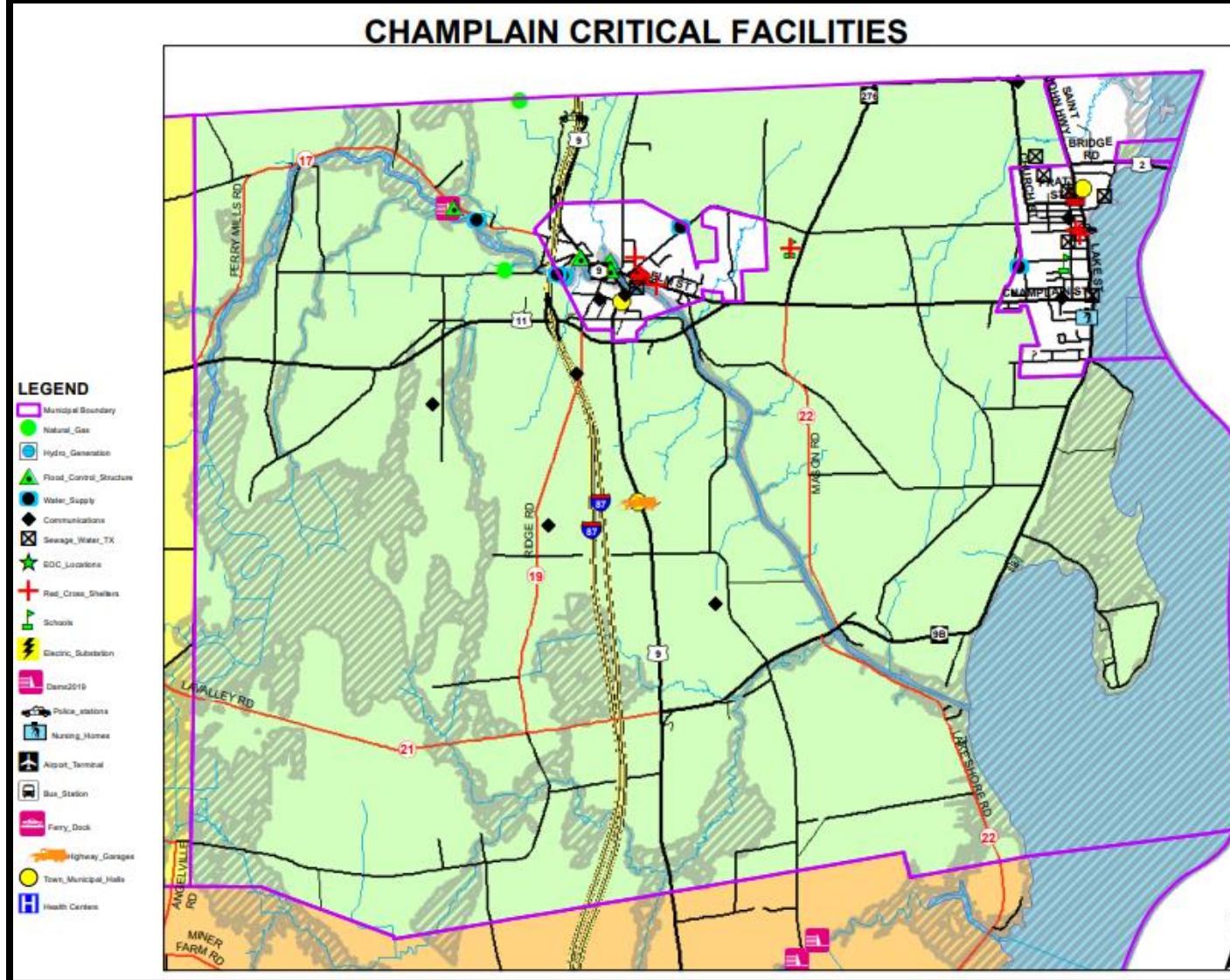


Figure 15 - Champlain Critical Facilities, Map 2

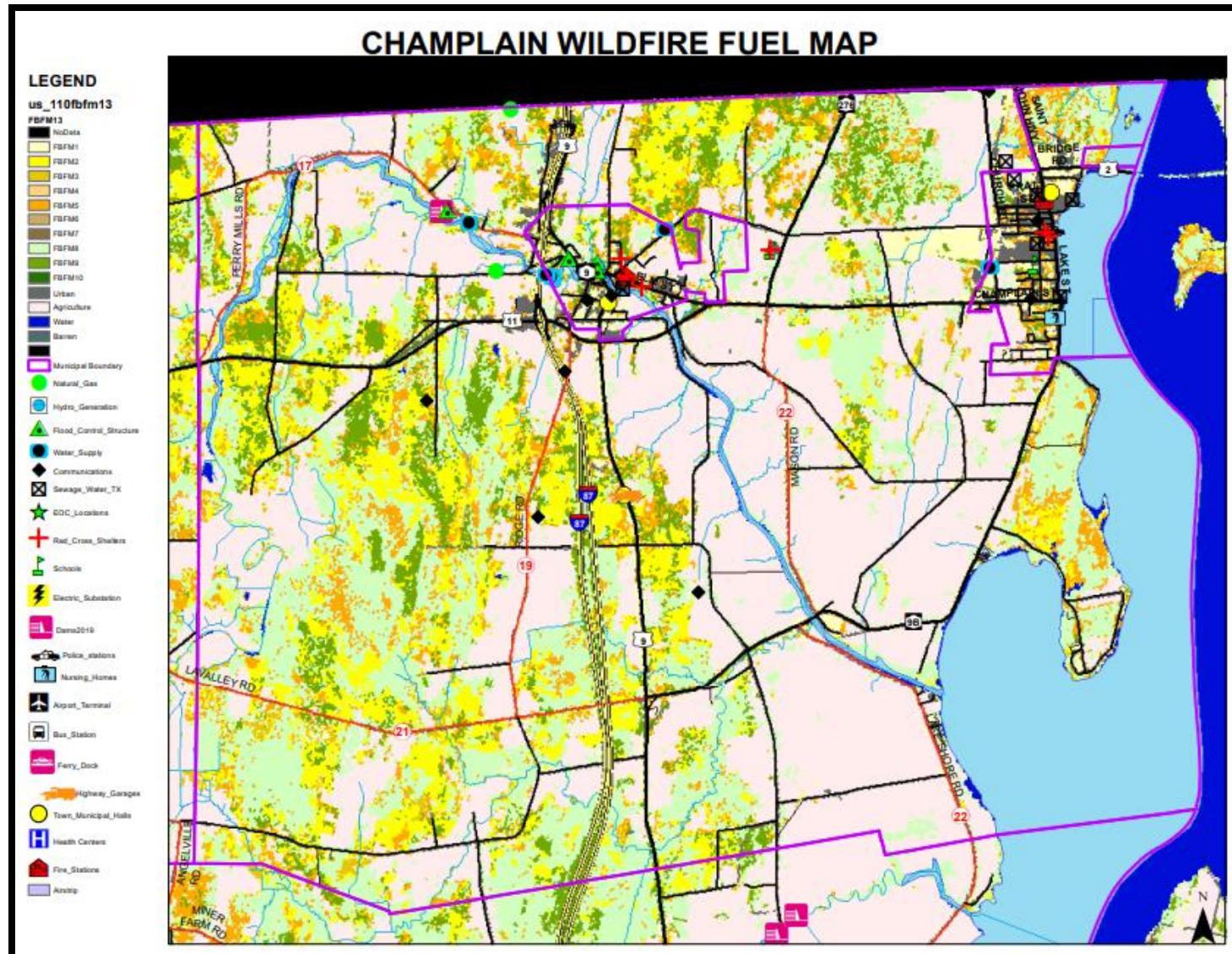


Figure 16 - Champlain Wildfire Fuel Map

## CHAMPLAIN EVACUATION ROUTES

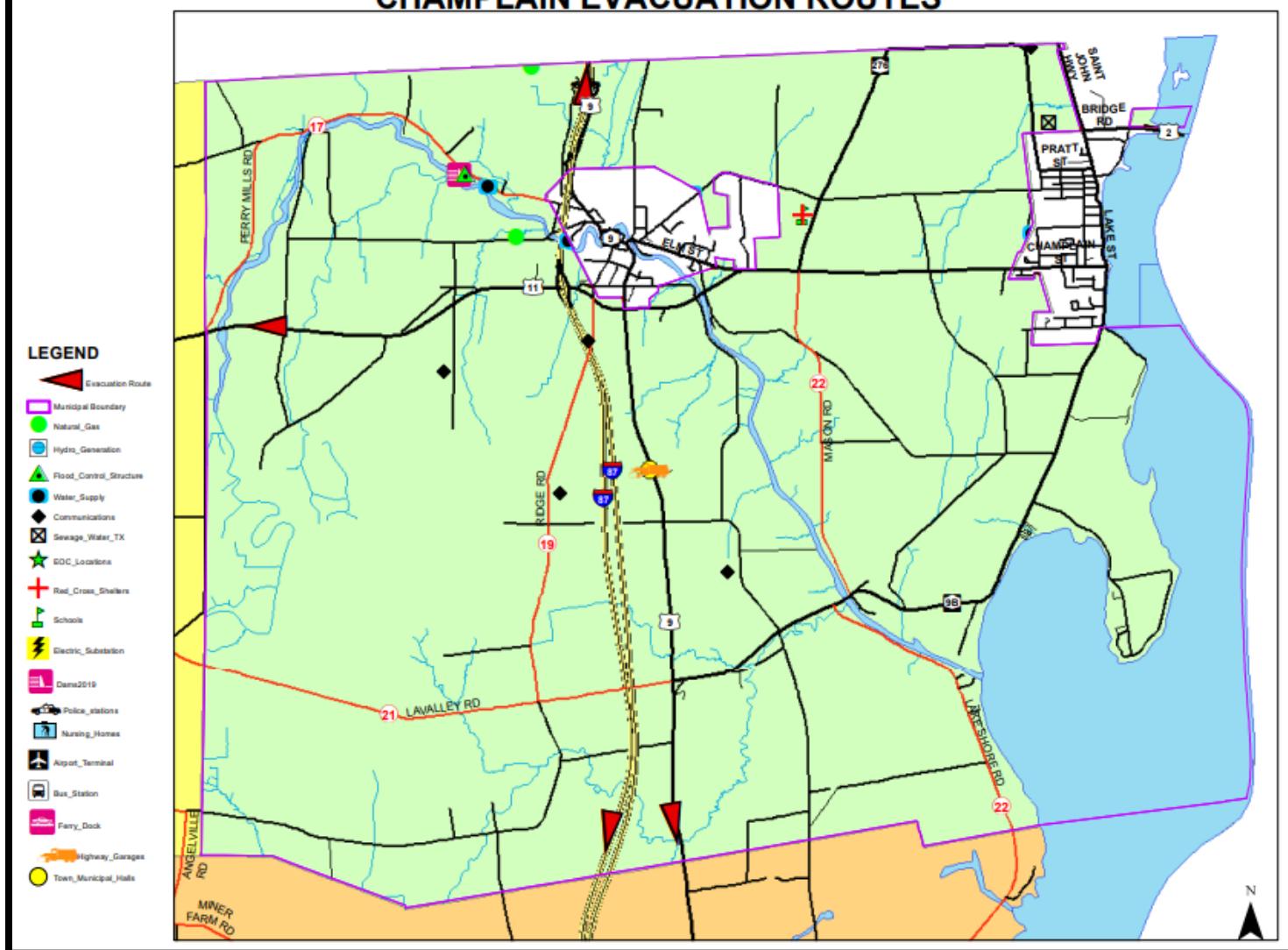


Figure 17 - Champlain Evacuation Routes

## 4.13.2 Public Health and Medical Care

### Public Health

Data on Public Health is not available per se for the Town and Village of Champlain. However community health assessments (CHA) are routinely conducted by the Clinton County Department of Public Health, along with its partner organizations<sup>5</sup>. The purpose of the Clinton County, NY Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is to demonstrate a collective, comprehensive understanding of the significant health needs of Clinton County residents and the actions necessary to address these gaps. Health needs were identified through a systematic analysis of multi-source health indicator data, community and stakeholder feedback, and demographic, socioeconomic, and other factors that influence health and lead to inequities and disparities in health outcomes.

The priority areas identified in the 2022–2024 Clinton County Community Health Assessment apply to all towns and villages within the county, including the Town and Village of Champlain:

- Prevent Chronic Disease: Focus on healthy eating & food security, physical activity, chronic disease prevention, care & management, and tobacco prevention.
- Promote Well Being and Prevent Mental & Substance Use Disorders: Includes overall wellbeing initiatives and targeted efforts to prevent mental health and substance use issues health.
- Address Disparities: Special focus on inequities tied to income, geographic location (e.g., rural areas like Champlain), and age.

While the CHA doesn't list separate priorities for Champlain, the county-wide goals hold clear relevance. As a border town, Champlain may face unique challenges in access to healthy food, chronic disease management, mental health, and substance abuse resources. Systemic issues, such as low incomes and age disparities are likely present in Champlain too, given trends across other county towns.

The 2022 CHA Appendix B provides some specific information about Champlain that are based on the township report and survey which included 69 respondents. These statistics show alignment with the county's priority areas (Preventing chronic disease, supporting mental/substance health, and reducing disparities), but with a stronger local emphasis on aging-related conditions, livable wages, and healthcare accessibility—especially specialist care.

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<sup>5</sup> Clinton County Health Department. (2023, June). Community Health Assessment: 2022–2024. Plattsburgh, NY. This CHA is available as a PDF on the Clinton County Health Department website

**Total respondents: 69**

**Gender:** 76.8% female

20.3% male,

1.5% non-binary or other

**Age:**

45–64: 31.9%

25–44: 26.1%

65–79: 24.6%

80+: 15.9%

18–24: 1.5%

### **Community Identity & Perception**

Agree/strongly agree they live in a *healthy community*: ~65%

**Top features of a healthy community:**

Affordable housing

Health care services

Safe environment

Clean environment

Livable wages

### **Access to Medical Care**

Residents of the Town and Village of Champlain have a range of medical care options within a 60-mile radius, spanning primary care, urgent care, specialty services, and emergency treatment. Primary care coverage is strong with a brick-and-mortar center offering sliding-fee options and after-hours access. Urgent care is available nearby with same-day service and flexible hours in Plattsburgh and Saint Albans. Hospital care is readily accessible within 20 miles; more advanced or specialized treatment is available further out. Cross-border and networked care: Facilities in Vermont and NY collaborate through the UVM Health Network, ensuring coordinated care across jurisdictions. High availability of primary and urgent care ensures timely non-emergency treatment. Emergency response is efficient, with ERs reachable in under 30 minutes. Access to specialty and trauma services is solid via CVPH and UVM Medical Center. Financial access is improved by FQHC designation and sliding fee programs. Overall, Champlain

### **Personal or family health concerns:**

44% identified age-related issues

43% cited chronic disease

~39% noted substance abuse in the community

### **Self-Rated Health**

**Physical health:** ~65% rate their health as good to excellent

**Mental health:** Nearly 50% rate theirs as good to excellent

### **Household/family social challenges:**

44% experienced lack of livable wage

26.9% reported employment challenges

25% face transportation issues

21.2% had difficulty accessing healthy foods

### **Top environmental concerns:**

Aging infrastructure

Drinking water quality

### **Medical care barriers:** 60% experienced at least one barrier

Most common barriers:

No specialist locally

High deductibles/co-pays

No local appointments available

benefits from robust access to comprehensive medical services within a reasonable radius, enhanced by cross-state coordination and health network integration.

### Primary & Outpatient Care in Champlain

- *Champlain Family Health Center* (Hudson Headwaters Health Network, FQHC): Comprehensive family medicine, including lab, X-ray, behavioral health, nutrition, podiatry, and clinical pharmacy services. Open Mon–Thu 8 a–8 p, Fri 8 a–5 p, Sat 8 a–1 p with after-hours phone access, making it a true medical home for all ages.
- *CVPH Diagnostic Center* – Champlain: On-site lab and imaging connected to regional hospital system

### Urgent Care and Walk-In Services Within Plattsburgh (~20 miles south)

- *Plattsburgh Family Health* – Urgent care capabilities
- *WellNow Urgent Care* – Extended evening/weekend hours
- *SUNY Plattsburgh Health Center* – Additional urgent/walk-in care

### Saint Albans, VT (~20 miles west):

- *Northwestern Urgent Care* serves cross-border emergencies

### Hospitals & Emergency Departments

Facility	Distance	Key Services
Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH)	19 miles	300-bed Level III ER, full inpatient/outpatient, trauma, specialty care
Northwestern Medical Center (Saint Albans, VT)	~20 miles	Full-service hospital with inpatient and emergency care
University of Vermont Medical Center (Burlington, VT)	~60 miles	Advanced care including trauma, pediatrics, oncology, surgery
Alice Hyde Medical Center (Malone, NY)	~44 miles	Community hospital with full ER and specialty services
Copley Hospital (Morrisville, VT)	~73 miles	Emergency room and inpatient services

Table 8 - Hospitals & Emergency Departments

#### 4.13.3 Emergency Services and Public Safety

The Town and Village of Champlain maintain an historical commitment and concern for public safety and emergency preparedness and recognize the need to continue supporting emergency infrastructure. This is particularly important due to the Town and Village's strategic position at the U.S.-Canada border. 24/7 readiness at the border necessitates constant CBP, EMS, Fire, and OES coordination. EMS interplay with CBP EMTs and hospital transports is critical during border incidents.

Command & Coordination is managed by the Clinton County Office of Emergency Services (OES), operates the county EOC, coordinates multi-agency preparedness, hazmat response, and border incident support. It facilitates mutual aid, interoperable communications, and joint threat planning across towns and federal partners. Clinton County's OES plays a central role in managing emergencies that affect towns and the border zone—especially when crossings close or hazardous materials spill.

#### Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance

**Champlain Fire District and Department** was established in 1873, this volunteer organization is equipped with modern apparatus and serves as a vital safety resource for the community. The department is 100% volunteer, providing fire suppression and technical rescue to both town and village. The department engages in mutual aid agreements with neighboring towns—including cross-border incidents, especially along border roads and facilities.



Figure 18 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

**Rouses Point Fire Department** was formed in 1890, it was the first in the county to include a rescue squad (1952). The department has continued modernizing its facilities and services. Volunteer fire crews rely on mutual aid to address large-scale or cross-jurisdictional events.

**Champlain Mooers EMS** is located at 1150 State Route 11. Champlain Mooers EMS delivers essential emergency medical care, working in collaboration with local fire departments. One of several County EMS squads. Champlain/Mooers EMS responds to both local and border-related medical emergencies and assists CBP and Fire as needed during international crossing incidents.

### **Police & Border Security**

U.S. Border Patrol – Champlain Station (Swanton Sector) is located at 1969 Ridge Road. This CBP site operates 24/7, managing the busy Champlain–St. Bernard-de-Lacolle Port of Entry on I-87, handling over two million travelers annually. CBP officers are cross-trained as EMTs, enhancing on-site emergency response capability for traveler health incidents .

New York State Police and Clinton County Sheriff's Office maintain coverage on border-area roads and interstate highways.

### **Border Infrastructure & Incident Response**

Champlain Port of Entry (I-87) is a full-service commercial and passenger crossing open 24/7. Events such as suspicious packages can lead to border closures, requiring coordinated incident response: state troopers redirect traffic, local Fire/EMS stand by, and county emergency services coordinate via the county EOC.

Additional Crossings include Overton Corners–Lacolle Route 221 and Rouses Point crossing. Both are open round-the-clock, often involve cooperative emergency response.

## 4.14 Public Education

*Please note: US Census 2020 data on educational characteristics of the population can be found in Chapter 1 of the Community Profile.*

### **Public Education Institutions Serving Champlain**

This section in Chapter 4 presents data specific to the school district and related educational services providing direct services to students in the Town and Village of Champlain.

#### **Northeastern Clinton Central School District (NCCS)<sup>6</sup> – Serves Champlain & surrounding areas**

- NCCS offers solid, community-minded education with good academic outcomes, comprehensive PK–12 structure, modest class sizes, and a focus on modern technology and student growth.
- Mission aims to meet NYS learning standards via collaborative goal-setting
- Technology committee supports 21st-century learning, integration of digital tools, and lifelong skills
- One PK–12 campus located at 103 Route 276, Champlain, NY
- Feeder elementary schools include Rouses Point and Mooers
- Enrollment & ratio: ~1,249–1,261 students with a 13:1 student–teacher ratio
- Northeastern Clinton Senior High: ~362 students
- Academic performance: 56% proficient in math, 44% in reading; annual graduation ~82%; average SAT 1150; ACT 24
- The district has consistently maintained high graduation rates, ranging from the high 80 percentiles to 88 %. That consistently surpasses the NYS average (~86 %)
- Class sizes are moderate, supporting individualized attention.
- While test scores show strengths in early grades (e.g., grade 4 math at 89%), proficiency decreases in higher grades.
- Chronic absenteeism in high school at ~32% is notable and may impact outcomes.
- The District maintains adequate funding (~\$25K/student) and holds a solid LSI accountability status—indicating baseline performance with room for targeted improvements.

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<sup>6</sup> NYS Education Department Report Card (2024) NCCS



Figure 19 - Photo courtesy of the Town/Village of Champlain

### Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES)

- Located 25 miles south, CVES offers career preparation, special education, instructional support, and pro-dev for educators to Champlain and nearby districts
- CVES enhances local K-12 opportunities with tech/vocational skills, addressing diverse learner needs.

### SUNY Plattsburgh

- Located ~20 miles south, delivers robust liberal-arts, professional, and athletic programs (16 Division III sports)
- The nearest public college, contributing educational access for Champlain youth.

## **Clinton Community College**

- Clinton is located 22 miles south of Champlain and offers both career and transfer degrees designed to help students achieve their goals.
- Clinton Community College is a home to an Institute of Advanced Manufacturing (IAM) and is known for its mechanical technology, wind, and environmental sciences programs. The IAM building is a state-of-the-art facility for the technology academic degree programs and manufacturing credentials training.
- Regional partnerships include SUNY Plattsburgh; Clarkson University; CITEC; the North Country Regional Chamber of Commerce; North Country Workforce Investment Board; The Development Corporation; CVTEC (BOCES); and a number of area manufacturers.