



ROCKLAND P.L.U.S.
PLANNING LAND USE WITH STUDENTS

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT FORM: Team activity: to complete in small groups in class.

Think about the village/town in which your site is located and consider its strengths and weaknesses. How can your site improve the whole community? You can use your own knowledge of the community or check the County website - <https://rocklandgov.com>

Rate the following features of your community. Under **Strengths** or **Needs/Challenges** using a score of 1 (mainly absent) to 5 (well represented). Support your number choice with a few words of explanation.

Community Feature – How does your community rank in these categories?	Strengths Rank: 1 (low) - 5 (high) Your Community	Comments & Examples of Challenges & Strengths In Local Community	Strengths Rank: 1 (low) - 5 (high) Rockland County	Comments & Examples of Challenges & Strengths In Rockland County
Cultural Community Character: <i>Places of Historical Significance* Arts* Theatres</i>				
Demographic Diversity: <i>Diversity of people and backgrounds</i>				
Housing/Affordability/Mix of Housing: <i>Apartments* Condos* Single family homes* Options for Singles* Families *Retired</i>				
Transportation/Accessibility/Walkability: <i>Public transportation* Sidewalks* Drivable roads* Bike Trails*Crosswalks *Walking Paths</i>				
Health & Wellness: <i>Healthy food options*Exercise opportunities* Preventive treatment*Clinics and hospitals close by *Opportunities for Health Education</i>				
Social/Recreation: <i>Opportunities for various ages: children/teens/adults/seniors?</i>				
Wilderness: <i>Undeveloped areas ranging from open space to parkland</i>				
Climate Smart Community &/or Environmental Awareness: <i>Registered as Climate Smart? Community awareness? Of streams? Recycling? Are people energy conscious?</i>				

Community Feature – How does your community rank in these categories?	Strengths Rank: 1 (low) - 5 (high) Community	Comments: Needs/Challenges Local Community	Strengths Rank: 1 (low) - 5 (high) County	Comments: Needs/Challenges Rockland County
Water & Energy Conscious Development: <i>Stormwater runoff collection, Energy saving (i.e. solar or automatic light switch off), green building requirements.</i>				
Goods & Services (i.e. stores, shopping): <i>Can you walk to them?</i>				
Education: <i>Are there schools there? (pre schools through college level)</i>				
Safety: <i>Is there street lighting, fire depts., police? Do residents feel safe?</i>				
Employment: <i>Range of opportunities from entry level to professional; job training/internship opportunities</i>				

***Brainstorm:** Based on your completed table, evaluate the overall needs of the community.
Do you see opportunities to improve your community? (Look for low rankings in column #2)