

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Wayne County Planning Department provides a variety of services designed to have a positive impact on the quality of life of the residents of the County. Recognizing that the return of tax dollars to the County is a priority, the staff of the Planning Office makes every attempt to apply for relevant grants to improve the physical appearance of the County, repair and replace aging infrastructure, improve housing stock and provide greater recreational choices, housing choices, and social opportunities for our residents. Although our most visible efforts involve the preparation and administration of grants, the staff also attends local meetings, provides technical assistance and supports communities with their planning and improvement initiatives. A synopsis of our activities for 2007 follows.

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

- ***NY Main Street Grant*** - \$200,000 awarded to the Town of Williamson to conduct improvements to buildings and the streetscape of the Hamlet of Williamson. Project funded in full.
- ***FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program*** - \$948,000 to mitigate persistent flooding problems in the Jefferson, New Hartford and Butler Street area of the Village of Wolcott. Project will allow for the upgrade of inadequate storm sewers and the installation of some new infrastructure, protecting 65 homes, a sanitary sewer pump station and several significant historic resources from flooding. Project funded in full.
- ***Community Development Block Grant*** - \$400,000 to replace ±1,250 linear feet of badly deteriorated water lines along Elmer Street and Depew Avenue in the Village of Lyons, and connect them with a newer line on Geneva Street. Project not funded.
- ***Community Development Block Grant*** - \$265,100 to assist twenty (20) homeowners in the Town of Huron with the rehabilitation or replacement of their septic systems. Project funded in full.
- ***RESTORE NY*** - This application was a resubmission of an application from the previous funding cycle in 2006. The Village of Lyons applied for \$950,000 to implement the Lyons National Bank Corporate Center Project. Grant funds, combined with \$500,000 committed by the bank, would have been used to restore the former Lyons Community Center (aka Myron Taylor House) to accommodate the building as the bank's new corporate headquarters. Project not funded.
- ***LGRMIF*** - \$37,960 for the preparation of a Countywide GIS Needs Assessment. Project funded in full.

- ***NYS Department of Agriculture*** – prepared a \$25,000 application on behalf of the Town of Butler to develop an Ag and Farmland protection plan, comprehensive plan and land use law. (Project funded in full on 2/27/08)
- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – prepared an application for funding in the amount of \$155,310 on behalf of the Lyons Community Center to construct new athletic fields and locker room facilities and to address deficiencies in handicapped accessibility. Project was not funded.
- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – prepared an application for funding in the amount of \$123,635 on behalf of the Town of Williamson for the construction of a new enclosed and heated park shelter to open the park to all season use. Project was not funded.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

NYS Quality Communities Program

Award in the amount of \$40,000 from the NYS Department of State to the communities of Clyde, Galen, and Savannah to develop a joint master plan. Worked with participating communities to develop RFP. Prepared work plan for the state contract, finalized RFP and submitted final contract to the state for approval.

Snowmobile Program

Oversee all paperwork for mileage reimbursement from New York State for approximately 150 miles of snowmobile trails in Wayne County. Distributed \$31,925 in grant funds to four snowmobile clubs in Wayne County for trail maintenance and development.

Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan

On behalf of the Towns of Sodus and Huron and the Village of Sodus Point, continued administration of the \$30,000 Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan grant, worked with the planning consultant and coordinated all activities with the Sodus Bay Intermunicipal Committee.

Most of the Intermunicipal Committee's time this year was spent working with FES Associates on the draft Great Sodus Bay Water Use and Harbor Management Plan. Meetings focused on discussing and finalizing policies regarding controversial issues such as: 1) creating a uniform Docks and Moorings Law, 2) modifying the existing no-wake zone and 3) establishing public access on Crescent Beach. The project is anticipated to be complete by Fall 2008.

Septic System Rehabilitation Program – Town of Huron

The County, which will be administering this program on behalf of the Town, has completed all startup activities and is in the process of recruiting applicants. Twenty (20)

individual properties will be assisted with an average of \$11,000 each. Of those property owners, nine will be senior citizen homeowners (62 years of age or older).

Huron Community Development Block Grant

The County completed administration of this 2005 program, which assisted 14 property owners in the rehabilitation of their single-family homes. A total of \$388,650 was expended and closeout will be completed subsequent to a State monitoring visit. As the financing structure includes a low-interest loan component, the Town will receive repayments for use in additional community development initiatives. Implementation of this program served as the motivation for the Town's 2007 Septic Rehabilitation Program.

Sodus Main Street Revitalization Program

The County is nearing the completion of administration of this program, which will rehabilitate three (3) owner-occupied units and twenty (20) renter-occupied units. The program will also install an antique-style street clock and stamped concrete crosswalks in the downtown area. One single family home and 3 rental units are completed. An additional 12 rental units are nearly finished and the clock has been delivered. This program will be completed several months ahead of schedule and will exceed its proposed accomplishments by three housing units.

H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company Plant Restoration

The County has obtained all the financing necessary for the implementation of this project. A total of \$977,008 has been obtained and committed from the National Park Service, the NYS Canal Corporation, NYS Department of Transportation, and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. Contracts have been executed with these agencies, the environmental review completed, and an architect obtained.

Sodus Point Downtown Visioning Plan

With \$15,000 in assistance from the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities and technical assistance from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Center for Community Design Research, the Village completed their vision plan for the downtown area. The Planning Department administered this grant and participated in the visioning process. The project was completed and closed out in 2007.

Town of Ontario Downtown Visioning Plan

With financial assistance from the NYS Office for Small Cities and the Town of Ontario, the Town engaged the services of the Center for Community Design Research in undertaking a visioning plan for the Hamlet of Ontario. The Planning Department provided administrative services, including contract and financial management and environmental review. Planning staff participated in the community vision planning process, which was nearing completion at the close of 2007.

Clyde Downtown Revitalization Program

With \$200,000 in assistance through the New York Main Street Program, the department continued to assist the Clyde Chamber of Commerce in implementing a multifaceted

program that will restore 13 building facades, rehabilitate 4 upper story residential units, renovate 2 street-level commercial spaces, and install various streetscape improvements. Currently 8 building owners have applied for assistance and 2 projects are underway.

Savannah Downtown Revitalization Program

With \$187,986 in assistance from the NY Main Street Program, the Savannah Chamber of Commerce will provide funding for the rehabilitation of seven buildings in the central business district, the installation of streetscape improvements including benches and trash receptacles and the construction of new sidewalks. Currently the program has funded improvements to three buildings and another two building owners have applications pending.

Northern Rail Trail Corridor

With \$70,000 in Recreational Trails grant funding, the department continued implementation of this project, which includes the development of a multipurpose trail between the hamlet of Wallington and the Village of Sodus Point, purchase of trail maintenance equipment and redecking a bridge in the Village of Red Creek.

In furtherance of this project, bids were advertised and awarded for the salvage of the Wallington to Sodus Point rail and cross ties. Removal of the rail was completed in May of 2007.

Clyde River Flow Restoration Project

Our project goal remains to restore flow conditions on the river by 1) conducting a snag and pick (remove debris) on the entire river, 2) dredging a channel from Lyons-Marengo Road to Pond Brook and 3) replacing the Lyons-Marengo Rd. culvert with a timber bridge. A \$950,000 appropriation was received from Congressman Walsh to complete the project.

A permit was obtained late this year from the NYSDEC to complete the “snag and pick”. We have obtained required (NYSDEC) sediment samples, which will ultimately determine where the spoils must be deposited. We are still weighing options for this phase. The NYS Canal Corporation may not allow us to use their Creager Island upland disposal site for sediment disposal. We have a set of draft design plans for the timber bridge that will replace the Lyons-Marengo Rd culvert.

Sodus Point Park Project

Completed project in early summer of 2007. Project components included a new bathhouse; new beach and erosion control revetment; new sidewalks and greenway path.

Marion Hazard Mitigation Program

Completed administration and finalized closeout of the \$419,000 Marion HMGP grant for the Union Street drainage project. Approximately 40 homes were protected from flooding with the installation of an improved storm water collection system.

Palmyra Route 21 Truck Study

This study was completed in 2007 and the \$16,000 grant with the Genesee Transportation Council to prepare the study was closed out.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OTHER COMPUTER RELATED TASKS

- After obtaining a NYS Archives LGRMIF grant, totaling \$37, 960, our department helped complete the Wayne County Countywide GIS Needs Assessment, Conceptual System Design and Implementation Plan (Adopted December 2007).
- Developed and delivered planning maps to the Town of Savannah

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

- The Wayne County Planning Board reviewed 160 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2007 over the course of 10 evening meetings. Photographs in the form of power point presentations and written Preview Committee comments are provided for each referral the Board reviews. Maps utilizing tax parcel boundaries, wetland boundaries, flood zones and orthoimagery are created and provided for the referrals that the board reviews.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEW

We held the required Consolidated Agricultural District (CAD) No. 3 (Towns Arcadia, Lyons and Sodus), public hearing on August 22nd. The Draft Agriculture and Land Use Report and CAD 3 map were modified to reflect requests that were made by landowners attending the hearing.

After an evaluation of the Agricultural District Review process, the Planning Department proposed a modified review process that would allow for the creation of a single district in 2008. This would streamline the review process and reduce overall costs associated with the review of several agricultural districts. Mapping and letters were finalized for the initial mailing, which was expected to occur early in 2008. Once completed, another review will not be required for eight years.

The annual Agricultural District Review Period (January 1st –January 31st) resulted in no additions to any of the County's Agricultural Districts.

SEQR REVIEWS

Completed the following reviews in fulfillment of Wayne County's requirements under SEQR:

- Dispose of Surplus County Property located in the Town of Arcadia.
- Dispose of Surplus County Property located in the Town of Wolcott.
- Nye Road parking lot construction.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Worked on WEDC Business Retention and Expansion visits (5 firms)
- Helped WEDC with projects related to agriculture- 3 firms
- Helped WEDC coordinate Reckitt and Benckiser meeting for Senator Nozzolio
- Helped WEDC with administration of the Agricultural Microenterprise Loan program
- Consolidated Ag District 3” mailings, public hearing, mapping and reports.
- Helped the Tourism Department with the Apple Tasting Map.
- Worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Ag Development Board to implement SARE grant by presenting the “Exploring the Small Farm Dream” workshop (20 attendees).
- Helped organize Agricultural Economic Development breakfast and tour highlighting local products with Wayne County Board of Supervisors (12 attended), Jerry Cosgrove, Deputy Commissioner, NYSDAM presented. Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman Oaks also attended.
- Helped Town of Ontario coordinate Farmland Protection Summit. NYSDAM, USDA, American Farmland Trust represented. Approximately 40 persons attended.
- Helped landowners and interested Towns with draft language to submit to State and Federal legislators concerning farmland protection programs.
- Represented Wayne County on Farmland Protection advisory committee of NYSDAM (4 meetings)
- Was asked by American Farmland Trust to visit Congressman Kuhl to explain USDA-NYSDAM Farmland Protection policy conflict.

GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Information Sharing

Responded to over 300 tax parcel map and data base, flood zone, census, agricultural district, wetland, zoning and other miscellaneous (scans, copies, downloads) requests from consultants/engineers, other planning departments, county departments, realtors, appraisers, Bishop Sheen and county constituents.

Williamson Sodus Airport

Opened dialog with the airport to evaluate areas where the County may be helpful in advancing initiatives to improve this important aviation facility. Coordinated a meeting with Congressman Walsh to discuss establishing a permanent presence for the U. S. Coast Guard at the airport. Also prepared a couple of appropriation requests on behalf of the airport for snow removal equipment and a jet fuel truck.

Census LUCA

Together with the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, assisted local communities with the paperwork involved to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. The Planning Department will also assist the Planning Council with the update of the master address files for Wayne County.

Ginna Drills

Members of the Planning Staff participated in required emergency preparedness exercises relative to the Ginna Nuclear Power Station.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Planning Staff is represented on the following public and non-profit Boards and organizations:

- NYS Implementation Plan Task Force
- Great Sodus Bay Watershed Intermunicipal Committee
- Montezuma Audubon Center Advisory Committee
- Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- Wayne County Historical Society, Inc.
- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Planning Coordination Committee
- Genesee Transportation Council UPWP grant committee
- WEDC Microenterprise Loan Review Committee
- Wayne County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
- Strategic Plan Implementation Team
- NY Farm Net Board of Directors
- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Protection Advisory Committee
- Growing New Farmers Consortium professional development committee
- Cornell Program Work Team for Agricultural Community Economic Development
- Rural Housing Action Corporation, Inc.
- Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation, Inc.