



## **WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Wayne County Planning Department provides a variety of services that contribute to a better quality of life for residents of the County. Recognizing that the return of tax dollars to the County is a priority, the staff of the Planning Department applies for grant funding to improve the physical appearance of the County, repair and replace aging infrastructure, improve housing stock, enhance the agricultural economy 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 to residents and civic and business organizations and supports communities with their planning and improvement initiatives. Planning staff also provides training classes throughout the year so local planning and zoning board members can comply with state training requirements. A synopsis of our activities for 2011 follows.

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS**

**NYS Snowmobile Trails Program** – completed 2011-12 snowmobile grant-in-aid application which resulted in an award to Wayne County in the amount \$59,090 for trail maintenance and development of 176 miles of trails.

**NY Main Street Program** – assisted the Village of Palmyra with an application to establish a building rehabilitation and streetscape program. The grant was not awarded.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$57,428 on behalf of Cracker Box Palace, Inc. to prepare a Historic Structures Report for seventeen buildings on the Alasa Farms property. The grant was awarded.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – Received an award of \$500,000 to subsidize the costs associated with the acquisition and preservation of Alasa Farms.

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – resubmitted an application requesting \$200,000 of a total \$577,000 project cost to install erosion control measures along 1200 linear feet of Lake Ontario shoreline in B. Forman Park. The project did not receive funding, although the state indicated that it ranked high and encouraged the County. Submitted a proposal for the Sodus Point Park to repair the

**Community Development Block Grant Program - Savannah Sewer District**-Prepared and distributed income survey, tabulated results and prepared and submitted CDBG application requesting \$600,000 for improvements to Savannah Sewer District No. 1. which was awarded. Received \$1500 revenue for the department budget for the preparation of the application.

**National Scenic By-ways program grant** for B. Forman Park shoreline erosion control measures.- Provided technical assistance for a grant submitted by Seaway Trail for \$200,000 to install erosion control measures along 1200 linear feet of Lake Ontario shoreline in B. Forman Park. Announcements are expected in the summer of 2012.

## **GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

**NYSERDA Energy Efficiency Lighting Grant** – prepare reports and related documents associated with administration of this grant for Wayne County.

### **Community Development Block Grant Program -**

- **Candy Apple Day Care Project** Performed administrative functions in connection with Candy Apple Day Care CDBG grant program, to include review of administrative agreement with County Attorney, coordinating activities between Candy Apple Day Care, the grant administrative consultant and Wayne County and establishing the required filing system and serving as a repository for all documents in conformance with CDBG regulations.
- **NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program** – In 2010, Wayne County was awarded \$240,000 for a three year program to continue the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Four Point Main Street Program. The grant is administered in partnership with the Western Erie Canal Alliance. The Genesee Finger Lakes Planning Council will participate by historic restoration guidelines for the participating communities. The project began in 2011 and will last for a period of three years.

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**NYS Environmental Protection Fund** – Assisted Cracker Box Palace, Inc. with the administrative requirements associated with the \$500,000 grant award they received to subsidize the acquisition of Alasa Farms.

**NYS Brownfield**- The Planning Director coordinated the attempted sale of the Schoepfel property.

**Snowmobile Program**- Oversee all paperwork for mileage reimbursement from New York State for approximately 175 miles of snowmobile trails in Wayne County. Distributed \$59,090 to four snowmobile clubs in Wayne County for trail maintenance and development. Became the second County in the state to test online tracking of snowmobile club expenses and volunteer hour logs.

**H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company Plant Restoration closeout**- Planning staff oversaw the successful closeout of four grants and the transfer of the building to the Village of Lyons. The Village Lyons then transferred the building to the Lyons Heritage Society who now owns the building.

**NY Main Street Program-** Completed closeout of the Savannah Main Street grant program.

**Salmon Creek Watershed Report-** Staff assisted on the advisory committee for this project and authoring the portion of the narrative pertaining to development patterns, census, topography, floodplains, wetlands and demographics. The report is a scientific analysis of nutrients found in the Salmon Creek to determine what impact they have on the Pultneyville Harbor.

**Camp Beechwood State Park-** Prepared management plan for Beechwood State Park for the Town of Sodus.

**NYS Multi-Modal Grant-** This funding (originally \$1 million) is used to advance the Amtrak Passenger Station Project in Lyons. In connection with the above referenced TIGER application, the Planning staff worked with a grant consultant and a rail consultant to development information in preparation for future funding opportunities associated with this project. Unfortunately the project has been in a holding pattern awaiting the results of a study from Amtrak to determine if there is a market for passenger rail in the Finger Lakes Region.

**Alasa Farms Preservation Project-** Successfully utilized State, Federal and foundation funding for a purchase of the property by Cracker Box Palace, Inc. with a closing on February 28, 2011. Worked with the Genesee Land Trust and Cracker Box Palace, Inc. to obtain adequate funding to purchase and preserve the 617 acre historic Shaker Property commonly known as Alasa Farms. State and Federal grants totaling \$1.1 million have been awarded so far. In 2010 the Preservation League of New York listed Alasa Farms as one of their “Seven to Save” historic properties, one of only seven properties across New York State to receive this important designation. State and Federal conservation easement language was negotiated and finalized.

**Farmland Protection Program –** awarded five purchase of development rights federal proposals for properties located in Williamson, Ontario, Macedon, Sodus and Walworth. The proposals include 5 farms covering collectively 1374 acres of land. Funding in the amount of \$939,112 was awarded. The federal grants will be used to match funding already awarded from the NYS Department of Ag and Markets for 4 of the farms. The \$607,000 awarded for the Alasa Farms project will match an award from the NYS Environmental Protection fund.

**West Shore Property Park Planning Project-** This 26-acre, 2-mile long parcel connects the hamlet of Savannah to the Seneca River and Erie Canal. County Planning is assisting on the advisory committee to hire a consultant to develop a plan for creating a park on this property.

**Clyde River Flow Restoration Project-** This project was completed in 2011 with the goal of restoring flow conditions on the river by removing debris, reestablishing a channel from Lyons-Marengo Road to Pond Brook and replacing the Lyons-Marengo Rd. culvert with a much larger culvert. This project utilized two grants from the state and federal government. A \$40,000 grant was used to identify the original channel for dredging purposes, identify and permit an upland spoils disposal site, prepare preliminary plans and permits for dredging and conduct repeated spoils testing as required by DEC. A \$950,000 grant from the federal government is used to

prepare and complete plans for the bridge/culvert replacement, obtain necessary state and federal permits, prepare specifications and construct.

The “snag and pick” phase of the project was completed in early 2009. After nearly four years, all required US Army Corps of Engineers and NYS DEC permits were obtained which allowed the project to be completed.

**Great Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan-** The Department administers the EPF grant for the Village of Sodus Point to complete the Great Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan, which was submitted to NYS DOS for a 60-day review in 2008. NYS DOS now claims the 60-day state and federal agency review is no longer needed and as of December 2011, is recommending that a “partial LWRP” be considered.

**The following grant programs were successfully closed out:**

- Savannah Main Street grant program.

**MEMBER ITEM GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

- Maple Grove Cemetery - \$15,000

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM TASKS**

- 125 maps produced for Wayne County Planning Board referrals
- Salmon Creek Watershed Maps
- 2011 Apple Tasting Tour Map
- Worked with Real Property Tax Service to complete a series of maps (15) identifying county-owned property.
- Town of Savannah Zoning Law – Zoning Maps
- Sodus Point Kiosk Map
- Salmon Creek Watershed Action Plan – Various Maps
- Sodus Point Reservation – Property Ownership Maps
- Town of Savannah CDBG Application – Maps Required for Grant Application
- Village of Palmyra NYMS Application – Maps Required for Grant Application
- Town of Savannah Park Planning Project – Maps Required for Grant Administration

**Countywide GIS Needs Assessment implementation-** The Department is working with RPTS and EMS to rectify tax parcel boundaries to correspond with NYS Orthoimagery (aerial imagery), a project identified in the Countywide GIS Needs Assessment. The county is in the process of releasing an RFP for consultant services. To date the project tasks have included a field visit to Yates County RPTS and contact with ESRI (mapping software company) and drafting the RFP (September).

**Ontario Lake Level Management:** Staff is tracking the information coming out about the proposed IJC lake level plan modifications. For 2011 this included attendance at a meeting at the Sodus Point Village Hall on December 08<sup>th</sup> for a presentation by IJC Public Information Officer, Frank Bevacqua.

**Williamson-Sodus Airport Master Plan Update-** Department staff attended an informational meeting regarding the master plan update at the airport and helped coordinate presentations by the airport master plan committee to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Board meetings.

**Wayne County Telecommunications Study-** Created 23 maps for use in the draft “Wayne County Telecommunications Inventory and Broadband Needs Assessment” Of these, there were 16 Industrial Focus Area maps showing telecommunication infrastructure over Pictometry aerials of each area in addition to 7 other countywide maps, each with different layers of telecommunication/broadband information.

**Regional Dredging Management Plan Update-** The Department provides representation on the advisory Board for this 5-county effort funded through a grant to Orleans County. Following a procurement process, FES Associates has been hired to complete the plan.

**Wayne County Planning Board -** The Wayne County Planning Board reviewed 108 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2011 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. Pictometry images are also used extensively for reviews.

**Agricultural District Review -** The seven year agricultural review will not be necessary until 2015. In the interim, the state allows an annual ag district review period so landowners who may not have been included in the district have the opportunity to join. The annual review period does not allow parcel deletions.

The annual Agricultural District Review Period in 2011 (January 1<sup>st</sup> –January 31<sup>st</sup>) resulted in three requests for inclusion in the County’s Agricultural District. After research, it was determined the parcels did meet the minimum qualifications for inclusion in the ag district, so the applications were approved.

**Agricultural Development Plan-** Provided considerable assistance with the 2010 update of the Ag and Farmland Protection plan, including the amending the content of the plan to reflect current conditions and new policies advanced by New York State. Several illustrative maps were prepared for inclusion in the final updated plan. The updated plan was presented for review and approval in 2011. The Plan was approved by Commissioner Aubertine in January 2012.

**Recreationways Master Plan-** Met with members of Trailworks and began the process involved in updating the 10 year old Wayne County Recreationways Master Plan. Staff is working with Buildings and Grounds, Aging and Youth and Highway to develop a “Park” section of this plan.

**Training-** The Planning Department provided six training programs to local officials and citizen planners which allowed local planning and zoning board members to conveniently and affordably fulfill state mandated training requirements. Topics covered were Intro to Planning Board, Intro to ZBA, Site Plans and Special Permits and Historic Preservation.

**Seqr Reviews-** In addition to providing general technical assistance for SEQR reviews to the County and various communities, the following reviews were completed in fulfillment of Wayne County's requirements under SEQR:

- Annual Ag District Open Enrollment Period
- Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan update

**General Agricultural Activities**

- Assisted with the administration of the Alasa Farms/ Cracker Box Palace project
- Worked with Wayne Economic on agriculture related projects.
- Assisted Tourism Department with Apple Tasting Map
- Coordinated Ag Development Board annual Wayne County farm bus tour

**GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**Information Sharing-** Responded to over 350 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.

**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:

- Great Sodus Bay Watershed Intermunicipal Committee
- Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Planning Coordination Committee
- Genesee Transportation Council UPWP grant committee
- WEDC Microenterprise Loan Review Committee
- Wayne County Agricultural Development Board
- NY Farm Net Board of Directors
- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Specialty Crops Advisory Committee
- WC Soil and Water Ag Advisory Committee
- Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- PathStone Housing Action Corporation, Inc.
- Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation, Inc.
- Cracker Box Palace, Inc. Board of Directors
- Camp Beechwood Management Committee
- Lake Ontario Regional Dredging Plan
- Western Erie Canal Alliance Main Street grant advisory committee