

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Sunset at sodus point park



2008 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 applies for relevant grants 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. A synopsis of our activities for 2008 follows.

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

- ***LGRMIF*** – completed an application requesting \$125,000 to fund implementation activities as identified in the Countywide GIS Needs Assessment. Project was not funded.
- ***NYS Snowmobile Trails Program*** – completed 2008-09 Snowmobile grant-in-aid application which resulted in an award to Wayne County in the amount \$61,275.
- ***NYS Farmland Protection Program*** – completed and submitted seven purchase of development rights proposals for property located in Williamson, Ontario, Macedon and Walworth. The proposals include 12 farmers that own collectively 1,647 acres of land. The total project cost is \$5 million and the application requests \$3.7 million. Awards have not been announced. Specifics of the applications follow:

Town of Williamson – 1 Farm - 247 acres – Grant request of \$417,000

Town of Ontario – 2 Farms, 3 landowners – 268 acres – Grant request of \$1,047,300

Town of Macedon – 2 Farms, 3 landowners – 741 acres - Grant request of \$1,323,200

Town of Walworth – 2 Farms, 2 landowners - 235 acres – Grant request of \$408,000 (This also included additional land in the Town of Penfield)

- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$194,060 on behalf of the Village of Sodus Point to acquire the foreclosed property known locally as Carey's Cove. This project was consistent with goals identified in the Village of Sodus Point's Downtown Vision Plan and Design Principles. Although the project was reviewed favorably at the state level, the Village chose to withdraw the completed application after the property was purchased privately.

- ***NYS Environmental Protection Fund*** – completed an application for funding in the amount of \$154,000 on behalf of the Village of Wolcott to develop hiking trails, an outdoor classroom and bathrooms on 3.14 acres of land known as Dr. Chan’s Garden. Awards have not been announced yet.
- ***NYS DOT Transportation Enhancement Program*** – completed an application in the amount of \$893,035 (total project cost of \$1,116, 294) on behalf of the Village of Wolcott for the Streetscape and Mill Street Culvert Improvement Project. The project includes the removal and replacement of 21 street light poles and fixtures, removal and replacement of 12 trees, replacing damaged sidewalk sections with decorative sidewalk, adding sidewalks, curbing and drainage to Mill Street and expanding the Mill Street Culvert to accommodate sidewalks and lighting and to provide to safe pedestrian access. Application was not funded.
- ***NYS DOT Transportation Enhancement Program*** – completed an application on behalf of the Towns of Arcadia and Lyons and the Village of Newark in the amount of \$896,513 (total project cost of \$1,122,513) to construct the section of the statewide Erie Canal Trail between Route 88 in Newark and the western border of the Town of Lyons. The project was rated sixth out of 14 submissions for this DOT region. The first four applications received funding; hence this project was 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. Coordinated the review of proposals, conducted interviews and selected a consultant. The plan was begun in June of 2008 and work continues to progress, with the plan scheduled for completion in June of 2009. Planning staff is administering the grant on behalf of the participating municipalities.

Snowmobile Program

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

Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan

Completed the Harbor Management Plan and submitted it to the NYS Department of State for their review and approval. Still awaiting notification from the state on the status of their review of the plan.

Town of Huron Community Development Block Grant - Septic System Rehabilitation Program

Began administration of a \$265,100 program to assist 16-20 homeowners with the replacement/rehabilitation of their septic systems. The program currently has 10

applicants with one project completed. The program is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2009.

Town of Huron Community Development Block Grant – Housing Rehabilitation Program

Completed the administration of a \$388,650 housing rehabilitation program that assisted 14 owner-occupied households. Final monitoring was conducted by the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR) in August and closeout documents were submitted to OCR in October of 2008. The Town is awaiting final confirmation of grant closeout from OCR.

Village of Sodus Main Street Revitalization Program

The County is nearing the completion of administration of this program, which has resulted in the rehabilitation three (3) owner-occupied units and twenty (20) renter-occupied units. Funds were also used to install an antique-style street clock and stamped concrete crosswalks in the downtown area. Although the program will exceed its original goal by three housing units, difficulties with a contractor have caused long delays in the completion of the program. The program should be completed by April 30, 2008 with final closeout shortly thereafter.

H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Company Plant Restoration

The County has secured a total of \$981,978 for the restoration of this important historic structure. Primary funding for this project comes from the four grants that are detailed below. The County has authorized negotiations with the Western Erie Canal Alliance to maintain the structure in accordance with the protective covenants that are required for the NYS EPF grant and the Save America's Treasures Grant. Once this agreement is in place a Request for Qualifications can be released to acquire an architect/engineer for the project.

- ❖ *SAFETEA-LU (\$413,000)* – The Intermunicipal Agreement between the State and County was referred to the County Attorney in March 2008. We have not yet received comments back from him. This grant expires in April 2009.
- ❖ *Erie Canal Greenway (\$224,787)* – These funds are on hold until architectural designs are ready to be approved. This grant expires in June 2009.
- ❖ *Save America's Treasures (\$197,221)* – These funds are on hold until the Protective Covenant is in place between NPS and the County. This grant expires in June 2009.
- ❖ *NYS EPF (\$75,000)* – The contract between the State and the County has not yet been signed and is waiting for the Protective Covenant to be signed. This grant expires in December 2008. A grant extension was requested in December 2008 and has been forwarded on to Albany by our regional representative.

It has been determined that to satisfy the procurement standards for each of the granting agencies, the strictest standards should be used. This would be the Quality Based Standards that are required for the SAFETEA-LU funds. These standards require the release of an RFQ and the selection of a firm based on their qualifications. Once a firm has been selected the scope of work can be determined. Once the scope of work has been approved then the firm can submit a cost proposal.

The RFQ has been drafted, however; it will not be issued until the agreement between the County and WECA is finalized. An authorizing resolution from the County Board of Supervisors is still needed before the RFQ can be released.

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. The project was completed and closed out in March of 2008.

Clyde Downtown Revitalization Program

Continued to assist the Clyde Chamber of Commerce in implementing their \$200,000 New York Main Street Grant. Twelve applications will result in the restoration of 12 facades, the rehabilitation of four street level commercial spaces and one upper story residential unit. The program will utilize \$23,700 to place murals throughout the downtown that highlight key moments in the Village's history. This project is scheduled for completion by October 2009.

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 exterior and interior improvements to four buildings, including four residential units and three commercial spaces. The recently completed visioning process has resulted in greater interest for the program from additional business owners.

Northern Rail Trail Corridor

This grant for \$70,000 in Recreational Trails Grant funding expired in December 2008. A request for a contract extension and a modification to the project scope was submitted in November 2008. The County has asked the State to allow us to use the full \$70,000 on the re-decking of the trail bridge in the Village of Red Creek. If the extension is approved the project can be completed by December 2009.

Maxwell Creek (aka Salmon Creek) Parking Area

Wayne County is assisting Seaway Trail in completing work as a result of a grant Seaway Trail received from NYS DOT. This work entails improvements to the Maxwell Creek Parking Area and providing interpretive kiosks of the area. This project has been delayed

as a result of the Maxwell Creek Bridge Replacement project. Since the bridge replacement project will heavily impact the improvements at the adjacent parking area, it was decided to postpone the work until the bridge replacement project was complete. The Request for Proposals will be issued in May of 2009 with a contractor selected by the end of July 2009. This project will be completed by the end of the 2009 construction season.

Edgett Street Bridge Restoration

This project is on hold until an agency can be found to assume ownership of the bridge from the State. According to the file the Canal Corporation was offering to do so, but based on conversations with Steve Beauvais of NYSDOT, it does not appear as though the transfer ever took place.

Clyde River Flow Restoration Project

A permit was obtained from the NYSDEC for the “snag and pick” phase of the project, which will be completed by the Wayne County Highway Department. Required (NYSDEC) project area sediment samples were collected and tested, with the results used to identify a suitable upland disposal site. As a result, the NYS Canal Corporation will allow the use of their Creager Island Upland Disposal Site (UDS 6-7) for sediment disposal. A Design Report is necessary to satisfy NYS and Federal Highway Administration requirements for the \$950,000 federal appropriation. That report is under preparation.

Sodus Point Park Project

Completed project construction in early summer of 2007. Project components included a new bathhouse; new beach and erosion control revetment; new sidewalks and greenway path. Final grant reimbursement documentation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$190,000); the HUD Economic Development Initiative (\$298,230) and the NYS DOT Multi-Modal program was submitted to respective state and federal funding agencies. Reimbursement was received from the Multi modal program and the HUD-EDI program. The Land and Water Conversation Fund reimbursement, which was submitted in September of 2008, is still under review by New York State.

MEMBER ITEM GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- Town of Sodus Recreation Program Grant received from Senator Nozzolio through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - \$30,000
- Town of Lyons Town Hall Improvement Grant received from Senator Nozzolio through the NYS Department of State - \$60,000
- Town of Lyons Veterans Monument Grant received from Senator Nozzolio through the New York State Department of State - \$25,000
- Town of Lyons Veterans Monument Grant received from Senator Nozzolio through the NYS Office of General Services - \$25,000

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OTHER COMPUTER RELATED TASKS

- 136 maps produced for Wayne County Planning Board referrals

- 10 maps produced for Town of Marion Town EPF Park grant application
- 1 map produced for Town of Rose Confined Animal Feeding Operation study
- 20 large participant signs produced for Town of Savannah and Village of Clyde NY Main Street Programs
- 2 maps for Town of Savannah land use/planning work
- 1 map produced to update Town of Sodus Zoning Map
- 3 maps produced for Village of Sodus Point "Carey's Cove" EPF grant application
- 7 maps produced for Sodus Bay Harbor Management Plan

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

- The Wayne County Planning Board reviewed 136 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2008 over the course of 11 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

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. This process was implemented and completed in 2008 and resulted in the consolidation of nine agricultural districts into one district and reduced the number of parcels included from 17,000 to 12,000. The process also increased the credibility of the ag district by deleting parcels that were not defined as agricultural. Individual Town maps were prepared and posted on the Planning Department's website.

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

TRAINING

The Planning Department continued its partnership with Seneca County to provide NYS Department of State Land Use Training for Local Officials. We alternate training locations between Counties each year. This year the training was held on April 28, 2008 at the Seneca County Community Center. Nearly 90 people from Wayne and Seneca Counties participated.

SEQR REVIEWS

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

- Consolidation of all agricultural districts into one Countywide district

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Town of Rose Confined Animal Feeding Operations Committee
- Town of Butler Farmland Preservation Plan Committee
- Worked with Wayne Economic Development Corporation on agriculture related projects involving three firms

- Presentation to WC Assessors regarding Ag District Review
- Assisted Tourism Department with Apple Tasting Map
- Helped Tourism Department with Lake Ontario Wine Trail committee
- Prepared 2008-2009 Snowmobile Trails Map
- Initiated an update to the Wayne County Right to Farm Law that requires realtors to notify residential buyers of property in ag districts of the potential for farming activities that could cause noise, dust and odors
- Assisted with the preparation of the Town of Butler Ag and Farmland protection plan, comprehensive plan and land use law. Attended five committee meetings, collated survey data and coordinated advertising the RFP for a consultant

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.

Census LUCA

The Planning Department continues to assist the GFL Regional Planning Council when necessary 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:

- Great Sodus Bay Watershed Intermunicipal Committee
- Montezuma Audubon Center Advisory Committee
- Galen-Clyde-Savannah Joint Master Plan Steering Committee
- 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
- PathStone Housing Action Corporation, Inc.
- Rural Housing Opportunities Corporation, Inc.