

**WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**2001 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Wayne County Planning Department provides a wide variety of services designed to positively impact the quality of life of the residents of the County. Our most visible efforts involve the preparation and administration of grants; however, the staff also attends local meetings, provides technical assistance and supports communities with their planning initiatives. A synopsis of our activities for 2001 follows.

**Grant Applications**

1. The following applications were prepared under the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act/Environmental Protection Fund:
  - a. \$190,000 for erosion control and the construction of a greenway path connecting downtown Sodus Point with the County beach, demolition of the old Marine Patrol Station and the bathhouse and the construction of a new combined facility. (total project cost - \$380,000) Prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  - b. \$50,000 to construct a pocket park in the Hamlet of Walworth where a run down gas station and car repair shop presently exists. (total project \$100,000) Prepared by Peg Churchill.
  - c. \$77,390 for the construction of a skate park in the Village of Newark (total project cost \$154,780) Prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  - d. \$34,000 for a Local Waterfront Rediscovery Program on behalf of the Towns of Lyons and Arcadia and the Villages of Lyons and Newark (total project \$68,000) Prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  - e. \$15,000 for the installation of a playground in Willow Park in the Village of Sodus Point (total project cost \$33,750) Prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  
2. An Application was prepared by Peg Churchill and Jill Marshall under the Transportation Enhancement Program for the following projects:
  - a. \$136,800 to construct a pedestrian walkway alongside the Canandaigua Road Bridge in the Town of Walworth (total project cost \$171,000)
  - b. \$40,320 to improve the Edgett Street bridge for use by pedestrians and bicyclists connecting the Canal trail and the Newark Industrial Park with the Route 31 business area in Newark (total project cost \$50,400). This project has been recommended for funding by the Genesee Transportation Council. NYS DOT in Albany will make the final decision.
  - c. \$15,120 for improvements to the Townline Road bridge in the Town of Palmyra for multi-modal recreational trail use (total project cost \$18,900)

- d. \$400,000 to reconstruct the historic bridge in the Town of Sodus over Maxwell Creek by replacing it with a Bebo arched bridge and including pedestrian walkways on each side (total project cost \$500,000)
  - e. \$128,000 for the Seaway Trail surface improvement project for the addition of shoulders to Lake Road from Pultneyville to Sodus Point to safely accommodate the increasing use of this route by cyclists (total project cost \$160,000)
  - f. \$45,882 for the improvement of snowmobile trails along rail trail corridors in northern Wayne County, particularly the Wallington to Sodus Point trail and the old Hojack line trail between Wolcott and the border with Cayuga County (total project cost 91,946)
3. The Erie Canal Cultural Center final Section 108 loan application in the amount of \$2,450,000 was submitted to HUD in 2001. Peg Churchill prepared this application and worked closely with HUD on revisions and amendments.
  4. \$49,633 to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Program on behalf of the Lyons Fire Department to purchase 20 self contained breathing apparatus units. Application prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  5. \$21,750 to the NYS Recreational Trails program on behalf of the Office of Public Health for a fitness trail on Nye Road. Application prepared by Sharon Lilla.
  6. The following applications were submitted for agricultural and farmland preservation activities by Ora Rothfuss:
    - a. \$389,108 to the USDA Farmland Protection program for the Town of Macedon and the Genesee Land Trust. \$166,319 was awarded to complete funding for the Rogers Farm (556 acres). Assisted NYS Ag and Markets with their application for \$208,000 in federal funds to cover the local match requirement for the Airy farm. Of that total, \$200,000 was awarded.
    - b. \$1,085,827 to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets on behalf of the Town of Macedon for the purchase of development rights on two farms totaling 564 acres.
    - c. \$317,919 for one farm in the Town of Arcadia totaling 690 acres.
    - d. \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant from the Governor's Office for Small Cities to establish an agribusiness microenterprise loan program.
    - e. Together with NY FarmNet, prepared a proposal to USDA Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) to create a farmer apprentice-mentor program. Design included a 5 county pilot project with on-farm and classroom management training for aspiring farmers as well as classroom training for farmer mentors. The proposal was not funded, so it is undergoing revision in anticipation of a future submission.

## **Grant Administration**

7. NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Program. Awarded \$18,300 for the maintenance of snowmobile trails along the Route 104 corridor. Funds are distributed to snowmobile clubs in exchange for work they perform to groom, sign and maintain the trails. The clubs submit documentation supporting their activities before receiving checks from the County. Peg Churchill submits documentation to the state for reimbursement for these activities.
8. HUD Disaster Recovery Initiative Program. Awarded \$99,000 to raise portions of River Road in the Town of Galen above the 100-year floodplain. The Planning Director is currently preparing the NEPA required environmental review record for this project, which will likely require an Phase IA and IB Cultural Resource Inventory. Administered by Sharon Lilla.
9. Governor's Office for Small Cities. Awarded \$600,000 to establish a Countywide microenterprise loan program for the agricultural community. The Agricultural Development Specialist is administering this program by creating a partnership between the Wayne County Industrial Development Agency, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, Farm Credit of Western New York, NY FarmNet and the Wayne County Planning Department to establish the microenterprise agribusiness program. Administered by Ora Rothfuss.
10. NYS Department of Agriculture. Awarded \$2.4 million to the Town of Macedon for the protection of farmland. The Agricultural Development Specialist coordinates the administration of this award on behalf of the Town of Macedon, assisting in the negotiation of easement purchases between various attorneys, the Town and the State.
11. Rochester Area Community Foundation. Awarded \$2,500 to hold an educational seminar for farmers and attorneys concerning the Purchase of Development Rights Program. The program, which was sponsored jointly by the Wayne County Planning Department, the Monroe County Planning Department, the Ontario County Planning Department and the Genesee Land Trust, was held in March of 2001 at the Farm Restaurant in Macedon. The curriculum was provided by the American Farmland Trust with 40 area farmers and 20 attorneys and accountants in attendance. Attorneys and accountants received continuing education credits which marked the first time this was offered by the American Farmland Trust. The grant was prepared and administered by Ora Rothfuss.
12. Governor's Office of Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Awarded \$238,140 to provide municipal sewer service for residents and businesses along Route 31 in the Town of Lyons. The environmental review record was completed and the Planning staff prepared a Request for Release of Funds which was approved by GOSC. The Town of Lyons issued and awarded bids and completed the majority of construction on this project by the end of 2001. All payment

documentation, requests for funds and required reports have been prepared and submitted by the Planning Director on behalf of the Town of Lyons.

13. NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Nearly all of the \$400,000 in HOME funds awarded to the County in 2000 had been utilized by the end of 2001 resulting in the rehabilitation of 43 Wayne County homes. Because of the favorable administrative record for this program, Bishop Sheen was invited to apply for an additional \$400,000 to continue this program into 2002. Funds are used to implement a countywide owner occupied, low income housing rehabilitation program. Both the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation and the Planning Department administer this program.
14. HUD Economic Development Initiative. Awarded \$319,125 to provide an erosion control structure along the Port Bay Barrier Bar. The environmental review record was completed by the Planning Director in 2001, bids were awarded and the project was finished by November of 2001. Final reports to HUD must be completed prior to reimbursement. Administered by Sharon Lilla.
15. Received a \$5,000 member item from Assemblyman Robert Oaks to pay for the design of the reflecting pool for the Aldrich Change Bridge Project. Administered by Peg Churchill.
16. Received a \$20,000 member item from Senator Michael Nozzolio to conduct a ridership research survey to determine the market for the new Amtrak Passenger Station proposed for the Village of Lyons. The RFP was issued and the County hired the firm of Allee, King, Rosen and Fleming to conduct the survey. Administered by Sharon Lilla.
17. Received a \$1,000,000 member item from Senator Michael Nozzolio for the construction of the new Amtrak Passenger Station. The design contract for \$250,000 between Wayne County and the NYS Department of Transportation was executed by both parties in 2001 allowing the County to move forward with the selection of a design consultant. A Request for Proposals was issued in October of 2001 and the selection committee began the process to choose a consultant team from 17 proposals in November of 2001. Administered by Sharon Lilla.
18. Received \$200,000 from Senator Nozzolio and \$500,000 from Governor Pataki for the construction of the Crusoe Conservation Center in Savannah. The SEQR review was completed for this project however, DEC was awarded additional funds for the construction of this facility and assumed responsibility for the design and additional environmental reviews. The Audubon Society became a full partner so the local committee has redefined its role to include monitoring the design of the building and assisting in the development of programming.

### *Income Surveys*

Before communities are eligible to apply for Community Development Block Grant Small Cities funding, they must determine if they meet certain income criteria. The standard for eligibility is determined by conducting an income survey of the target area. In 2000, the Planning Director conducted and analyzed the results of income surveys in the Town of Rose, the Town of Palmyra and the Village of Red Creek. Over 200 surveys were distributed and analyzed and the Village of Red Creek and the Town of Rose went on to apply for funds under the CDBG program.

### *Technical Assistance*

The Planning staff is responsible for analyzing zoning and subdivision referrals for review by the Wayne County Planning Board in accordance with General Municipal Law 239 l,m and n. The County Planning Board held 11 meetings and reviewed 163 zoning and subdivision referrals in 2001. Bret DeRoo is fully responsible for the preparation of materials for all these reviews as well as presentation of each review to the County Planning Board.

The Planning Department serves as a repository for census data, flood hazard areas, state and federally designated wetlands, SEQR regulations and coastal erosion hazard areas. The staff provided assistance on these issues as requested and fielded well over 250 requests for information on these topics.

The staff of the Planning Department partnered with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry on a Waterfront Rediscovery Program for the communities surrounding Sodus Bay. The program attracted over 100 citizens who participated in the development of a vision plan for Sodus Bay. The document was immediately used by the Planning Director to support a grant application to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for funds to improve the Sodus Point Beach.

The process for reviewing agricultural districts has been modified after lengthy negotiations with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. District boundaries will now coincide with Town boundaries and all mapping will be digital, with parcel specific delineation. The review of consolidated Agricultural District No. 1 began with an assessment of the current participants and a mailing to over 5000 property owners asking whether or not they wanted to be included or excluded from the district. Agricultural District reviews are coordinated by Bret DeRoo.

The Planning staff is represented by Bret De Roo on the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. Ora Rothfuss routinely attends these meetings in his capacity as the County's Agricultural Development Specialist. Bret and Ora assisted in the coordination of a farming summit in March of 2001 together with the Ag and Farmland Protection Board. Attendees represented the Board of Supervisors, the Lyons Bank, WEDC, the Ag

and Farmland Protection Board, local downtown business, the Water and Sewer Authority, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Wayne County Department of Tourism, Wayne County Planning, local agricultural industry, Wayne CAP and the NY Farm Bureau. Ideas to enhance the viability of farming were chronicled by the participants for future action by the Ag and Farmland Board and the Planning staff. Participants suggested a number of areas to explore further including tax relief programs similar to those provided to industry as incentives to locate in Wayne County, consumer education and marketing focusing on a buy local theme, communicating agricultural protection goals to our local legislators, utilizing the Geneva Experiment Station to expand upon new ideas and increase the amount of public funds allocated for marketing of our locally grown products much like the State of Washington does to market their apple crop.

Bret DeRoo handles the Notice of Intent procedure on behalf of the Ag and Farmland Protection Board, reviewing proposed infrastructure construction within agricultural districts and providing technical information so the Board can issue appropriate recommendations. He also serves as Secretary for the Board and is responsible for the preparation and dissemination of minutes, meeting notices and other pertinent information.

The Planning Director serves as the Fair Housing Officer for Wayne County and is responsible for resolving complaints according to HUD guidelines. The Fair Housing Officer must also prepare and submit a report to HUD each year and comply with fair housing promotional initiatives. In November of 2001, the Planning Department partnered with the Housing Council of Rochester and sponsored a Landlord Training Seminar at the Courthouse in Lyons. Over 50 landlords attended and learned about budgeting, fair housing, legally structured leases, property management and eviction rights.

Peg Churchill works closely with area snowmobile clubs to facilitate the repair and/or replacement of bridges, culverts and other obstructions to improve the continuity of the snowmobile trail network in Wayne County.

Peg is also working with the Parks Department on the development of a Parks Master Plan.

Peg represented Wayne County at Niagara Mohawk's Digital Towpath seminars where she worked on developing a user friendly website for Wayne County.

### **Mapping/Computer Assistance**

The Planning Department's Geographic information system is operated by Bret DeRoo. He provided the following assistance to departments, agencies, towns and villages in 2001:

- ◆ Continued required mapping for the Agricultural District Program
- ◆ Assembled computer data for use on the GIS system

- ◆ Drafted a zoning map for the Village of Clyde
- ◆ Produced a farm stand map for the Wayne County Tourism Department brochure
- ◆ Drafted an industrial site location map of the Sodus Fruit Farm for WEDC
- ◆ Produced a tourism map for the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Produced maps for use by the Ag Development Specialist for the PDR projects
- ◆ Compiled a set of D-sized maps for the Western Finger Lakes Authority curbside collection routes. Maps covered every street in the County by Town and Village
- ◆ Created final version of Wayne County Trails Map
- ◆ Created Lyons Emergency Service Zone map for Jim Lee
- ◆ Provided scans for several individuals and county departments including Tourism, E-911 and WEDC.
- ◆ Routinely provided county GIS data to support plans and grant applications prepared by consultants on behalf of the County, including Stu Brown and SUNY ESF.

### **Erie Canal Corridor Initiative**

Peg Churchill is fully responsible for the Canal Corridor Initiatives Program as funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A description of the activities associated with the implementation of the CCI program in Wayne County follows:

1. Erie Canal Cultural Center. Submitted the final Section 108 loan application package to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$2.5 million. Represented the County in negotiations with ECCC, Inc. concerning management and construction agreements.
2. Old Lock E-53 Acquisition and Trail Development. Working with the property owner's attorney to clarify issues around title. It appears that the Village of Clyde owns land originally proposed for acquisition by the County, which will require a modification to the original purchase offer. Unfortunately, the present owner of the property in question has also been paying taxes on the property owned by the Village of Clyde, further complicating the purchase scenario. Design of ½ mile of canal trail associated with this project has been completed and easement acquisition should be completed in 2002.
3. Aldrich Change Bridge. Assisted the Village of Palmyra with the implementation of this project by coordinating the acquisition of foundation stones, working with the engineer to resolve design and pricing conflicts and providing overall administrative guidance.
4. Harrison Spillway Bridge Project. Developing a partnership with the NYS Canal Corporation that will likely allow the bridge to be completed with their assistance.
5. Canal Trails. Providing ongoing technical assistance for the canal trails in Palmyra, Arcadia, Clyde and Galen. Working closely with local representatives in Clyde to develop an overall plan for the trail route through the Village.

### *Agricultural and Farmland Preservation*

The Agricultural Development Specialist continued his successful efforts to preserve farmland and enhance the farming economy. In addition to the grants awarded for the Purchase of Development Rights program in Macedon and the seminar with the American Farmland Trust, agricultural preservation activities included the following:

Conducted an educational seminar for 35 landowners and interested individuals from Macedon and Ontario concerning conservation easements.

Met with the Macedon and Ontario Town Boards on 10 separate occasions on the issue of purchase of development rights.

In the past two years, have successfully funded nearly 2100 acres of conservation easements in the Town of Macedon, helping them achieve nearly 1/3 of their open space preservation goal outlined in the Town's Master Plan.

Initiated and sponsored the fourth consecutive Wayne County Apple Tasting Tour with 13 farm stands participating. Also increased the order for Wayne County salsa varieties to 90 cases.

Assisted a local apple farm apply for funding from the USDA value added grant program for the development of a new product line.

Attended 4 meetings of the Lake Ontario Wine Trail and provided assistance with initial organization and start up activities

Actively participated in 13 meetings of the Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty, which is a 14 county collaborative effort highlighting locally grown foods at locally grown restaurants. Other partners include Cooperative Extension, Wayne County Tourism, Wayne County Farm Bureau, local farmers, restaurants, wineries and small-scale food processors. There is a pilot project underway designed to identify and solve problems associated with the farmer-restaurant relationship, with Pine Hill Orchards participating in this effort. Also participated in the planning and implementation of the winter trade show held at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo in March of 2001.

As a result of the success of the Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty, the Ag Development Specialist was asked to assist with the planning of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Finger Lakes Agritourism Conference in partnership with Cayuga County Office of Tourism and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County and Tompkins County. The conference was entitled "Rural Partnerships to Create Tourism Destinations." The conference attracted 60 people with the Agricultural Development Specialist and the Tourism Office participating as speakers.

The Ag Development Specialist served on a project advisor panel funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by Professor Nelson Bills of Cornell University. This comprehensive study was designed to identify agricultural economic development impacts in New York State and in 13 “competitor” states. The study also qualified and quantified such indicators as job growth, economic multipliers and gross agricultural income. The panel included Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Rick Zimmerman, agribusiness owners and five additional private and public agricultural economic developers.

Attended 25 meetings with individual farmers to discuss farmland protection tools, the microenterprise program and agricultural district reviews.

Prepared and presented papers to the following conferences and seminars:

- ◆ Empire State Development Conference concerning the Agribusiness Microenterprise Program
- ◆ Quality Communities Conference concerning the Macedon Farmland Protection Program

Represented Wayne County at the following events:

- ◆ Rochester Area Community Foundation Uncommonly Good Planning Award
- ◆ U.S. Conference of Mayors and American Farmland Trust symposium on smart growth and farmland protection
- ◆ Agricultural District No. 1 public hearing with 50 landowners present

Presented to:

- ◆ Seneca County Planning Forum on farmland protection
- ◆ Farmington farmers and ag committee on farmland protection
- ◆ Penfield Town planners, farmers and Supervisor on farmland protection
- ◆ Wolcott Rotary on the state of agriculture in Wayne County
- ◆ Environmental Defense Fund fact-finding seminar to provide information during the farm bill discussions in Washington

### **Organizational Representation**

The Planning staff is represented on the following boards and organizations:

- ◆ Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Commission
- ◆ Canal Trail Association of New York
- ◆ Canal Society of New York
- ◆ Wayne County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board
- ◆ Crusoe Conservation Center Committee
- ◆ Friends of Montezuma

- ◆ Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Sodus Bay Waterfront Visioning Initiative Committee
- ◆ Sodus Bay Historical Society, Inc.
- ◆ Genesee Transportation Council Regional Trails Initiative
- ◆ Genesee Transportation Council Planning Committee
- ◆ Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
- ◆ Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council Planning Coordination Committee
- ◆ Common Good Planning Center Planners Advisory Committee
- ◆ Rochester Renaissance 2000 Stewardship Committee
- ◆ Greater Montezuma Wetlands Complex Master Plan Committee
- ◆ Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty
- ◆ Cornell Program Work Team for Agricultural Community Economic Development
- ◆ Wayne County Industrial Development Agency
- ◆ WEDC Microenterprise Loan Review Committee
- ◆ Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Local Advisory Committee
- ◆ Lake Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council

The Planning staff attended over 375 meetings of town and village boards and planning boards, civic and business organizations, non-profit organizations and related professional organizations in the year 2001.