



# Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development

## Staff

### PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Frank Evangelisti, Director

Lora Zier, Senior Planner

Beth Lucas, Senior Planner

Stephanie Brewer, Planner

Lori Darling, Senior Account Clerk

Haley Eggert, Intern

### GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Douglas English, GIS Administrator

Joseph Gaynor, GIS Specialist

Brian Damour, GIS Technician

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Administered by Beth Lucas, Senior Planner

# Annual Report

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Innovation Districts, known locally as iDistricts, took a major stride forward in 2017. The idea was first proposed in the County's comprehensive plan. Last year, New York State released a call for proposals for \$20 million in funding for projects which further the goals of the iDistricts located in Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson City. Those applications are currently under review with announcements expected in late 2018.

Another exciting development in 2017 was the unveiling of the Go All Out Broome campaign. This idea was also borne out of the County's adopted comprehensive plan. Planning staff and interns spent several years gathering information on all of the outdoor recreation assets in the County. This included boat launches, cross country ski trails, u-pick farms, hiking trails and more. All of that information is now mapped and online at [www.goalloutbroome.com](http://www.goalloutbroome.com).

# Mission

The Department of Planning and Economic Development provides professional services to many departments in Broome County Government, local municipalities as well as other public and private entities. These services include preparing comprehensive plans, researching land-use planning issues, preparing and administering grants, assisting with economic development, conducting environmental studies and assessments, carrying out reviews of development proposals, preparing tax maps, providing GIS mapping and coordinating municipal training on a wide variety of subjects.

Planning staff works in close collaboration with the Agency (Broome County Industrial Development Agency), Environmental Management Council, Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study, Broome County Flood Task Force, Broome County Land Bank, the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, the Broome County Agriculture Task Force, and the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

## 2018 PLANNING DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- Update the County's FEMA-mandated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Work to administer the \$20M Greater Binghamton Fund
- Complete the County-Wide Parks Master Plan
- Assist with the Jobs Access Transportation Plan
- Expand marketing and implementation of the Go All Out Broome campaign
- Implement the County-Wide Comprehensive Plan
- Effectively manage the Hotel-Motel fund to maximize its impact by leveraging the fund with other resources
- Aggressively pursue state, federal and other grant funding to meet County goals and objectives
- Work with municipal officials to coordinate reviews of development proposals
- Administer the expanded Susquehanna Heritage Area program to protect and preserve our cultural resources
- Conduct training and workshops for municipal officials
- Continue to expand the County's GIS capabilities
- Collaborate with local municipalities to carry out the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
- Carry out the federally mandated Stormwater Management Plan by providing education and facilitating public participation for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Compliance
- Coordinate the Flood Task Force, administer flood related grant programs, and evaluate and implement new and better flood mitigation strategies
- Assist with the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Study in conjunction with the NYS DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Complete Step III of the Endicott Johnson Industrial Spine BOA
- Provide support to the Broome County Land Bank
- Provide support and assistance to Broome County municipalities for comprehensive plan development and updates to zoning and land use ordinances
- Participate on the Ag and Farmland Protection Board

## UPSTATE REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

The Broome County Comprehensive Plan included many important ideas and projects, but one stood out. Following a model developed in Barcelona, and carried out in New York City, Boston, Syracuse and elsewhere, we proposed developing Innovation Districts here in Broome County. Innovation Districts, which we called iDistricts, would work to: Create Clusters of Innovative People; Build Flexible Housing Options that Work for Flexible Lifestyles, and Provide Public Space and Programming to Foster an Innovation Ecosystem.

One iDistrict is proposed to be centered on the high-technology incubator proposed for Hawley Street in downtown Binghamton. This iDistrict will focus on technology transfer from Binghamton University into the commercial sphere. A second iDistrict is planned to be centered on the Wilson Hospital campus and the new Binghamton University School of Pharmacy in Johnson City and will be focused on innovations in health care, senior living, and the Johnson City Health and Culture District. A third iDistrict is designated for the Huron Campus in Endicott, the Center for Advanced Microelectronics Manufacturing, and will use the combination of ample low cost manufacturing space and discounted electricity to support electronics manufacturing firms. There are three key components of our proposed iDistrict program:

**Cultivators** are local development corporations, technical assistance providers, incubators, shared work spaces, and tech transfer offices

**Drivers** are research and technology-based institutions such as high tech firms, engineering and design companies, fabricators, and innovative medical practices.

**Vibrant neighborhoods** that feature cafes, small scale retail, walkable streets, attractive buildings, bike and pedestrian amenities, and a range of desirable housing options.

Broome County Planning took this idea to the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council as they formed their plan to compete for the \$500,000,000 Upstate Revitalization Initiative. The Regional Economic Development Council embraced the idea and made iDistricts one of just four key components of their plan. On December 10, 2015, Governor Cuomo announced that the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council was one of three winning proposals and would take home the half-billion prize.

To carry out the ideas incorporated in the winning Upstate Revitalization Initiative plan, Broome County Planning worked with municipal leaders in Endicott and Johnson City to develop revitalization plans for their iDistricts.

Broome County hired Bergmann Associates to lead a multi-disciplinary team preparing the two iDistrict plans. In 2017, plans for both Endicott and Johnson City were largely completed. In addition, Bergmann Associates prepared design guidelines for both iDistricts to help guide development that is anticipated as part of the massive influx of investment that will come from winning the Upstate Revitalization Initiative.

The iDistrict plans and design guidelines are online at [gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs](http://gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs)

At the end of the year, Empire State Development issued a call for proposals for the \$20 million Greater Binghamton Fund which was created out of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative. The announcement of winning proposals from this fund is expected in late 2018.

## GO ALL OUT BROOME COUNTY

A major accomplishment of 2017 was the launch of the branding and promotional strategy for Outdoor Recreation in Broome County, Go All Out Broome County. This project provides readily accessible information for residents and visitors related to outdoor recreation as a tool for tourism, economic development, wellness, alternative transportation and other related initiatives. The project was funded through the Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax with the goals of increasing usership of



recreational resources and raising awareness about the many great activities and special places right in our backyard.

The strategy included development of a brand, logos, website, and social media presence. The website was launched in June of 2017. Activities that are highlighted include hiking, biking, fishing, paddling and more. The website includes links to local



clubs and organizations, local outdoor events, and a brief overview of activities. The most noteworthy tool on the site is the interactive map that includes all of the information gathered through the outdoor recreation mapping project. Within the map you can find places and activities nearby, get information about recreation sites, get directions with the click of a button, bookmark your adventures to revisit, and share your customized map view via social media. For each activity, you can link to the local agencies and organizations with the best local knowledge and expertise serving as a gateway to even more information and experiences.

After the initial launch, the Department began Phase 2 of the project, development of promotional materials. This phase includes development of print materials, promotional items, and social media marketing. The intent is to raise awareness about Go All Out, increase traffic to the website and increase our social media following. Completion of this aspect of the project is anticipated in March of 2018.

In addition to local marketing and promotion, Planning used the Go All Out data as part of a regional initiative. As a partner with the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy, Endless Mountains Heritage Region in Pennsylvania and others, Planning is part of a project to promote recreational paddling along the entire Susquehanna River. The group aims to coordinate efforts for consistent mapping, signage and promotion and anticipates integrating these components into an overall strategy called Paddle the Susquehanna. Discussions will continue into 2018 and Planning intends to contribute additional data, help obtain funding, and integrate this effort into programming under Go All Out.

## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In 2015, the Planning Department secured a \$50,000 grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to update the County's 2001 Agriculture Economic Development Plan. The County is matching the \$50,000 grant with \$10,000 from the Hotel-Motel fund and \$40,000 of in-kind services. Requests for Qualifications were distributed late in the year.



In early 2016, the County hired EDR to prepare the Agricultural Economic Development Plan update. One important feature of the plan will be the development of three, grant-ready ideas to support agriculture in Broome County. During 2016, the consultants spent gathered demographic, market trend and land use data and the Planning Department worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome to conduct four focus groups to obtain input from Broome County's farmers and agricultural businesses. In late 2017, EDR presented a robust draft plan with recommendations which is currently under review by the steering committee. Adoption of the plan is expected in early 2018.

## BROOME COUNTY PARKS PLAN

The Broome County Planning Department continued to implement actions identified in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan by initiating a plan for county parks. In February 2017, Broome County Planning, Parks, and the DPW Engineering Division formed a committee to write the Broome County Parks Plan. In the following months, the group developed a scope of work for the plan, and brainstormed ideas to inform and engage the public about the plan.

An online survey was developed to gain insight from the public about the needs, issues, and opportunities facing the Broome County Parks system. To spread awareness,

postcards were mailed to property owners throughout the County, and the survey was publicized on local media websites. Questions focused on topics such as, users favorite activities, facilities



rankings, park visitation, allocating budget resources, and riverfront activities. Over 890 surveys were completed and over 300 comments and ideas were provided by the public.

Throughout the summer of 2017, a series of Parks Plan Public Workshops were hosted at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market, the Garden Brothers Circus, and the Business Leadership Institute. Various stations were set-up that allowed

The Broome County Parks Department, and Hartly, want to know YOUR vision for the future of our Parks!

Go to:  
[broomecountyparks.questionpro.com](http://broomecountyparks.questionpro.com)

Fill out our online survey and enter to win a Dick's Sporting Goods gift card!

Questions - call 607-778-2390



participants to provide feedback on styles of park features and facilities, budget spending, and new activities and programs. The committee will use this feedback to inform the plan. The Parks Plan Committee will continue to develop the plan throughout 2018.

## COUNTYWIDE RESILIENCY PLAN

The Planning Department submitted a grant application to the NYS Office of Storm Recovery for funding to develop a Countywide Resiliency Plan. The intent of the plan would be to build upon the data and analysis in existing plans (including the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Watershed Flood Analysis, and Building Resiliency report, among others) to improve our overall resiliency to disasters. The proposed study includes the following components: Identification of key assets, Economic Impact Assessment, Green Infrastructure Network Analysis and Site Level GI Framework, Built Infrastructure and Utilities including a Smart Cities Readiness Evaluation, Bluefield Redevelopment Plans, and a Public Information Strategy. If selected, we anticipate an award announcement in early 2018.

## TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Broome County Planning Department offers support and technical assistance to local municipalities to write their comprehensive plans. By preparing a new comprehensive plan, a community lays out its shared vision and builds consensus for public investment and regulatory policies. The plan can be used to protect resources, give validity to local land use decisions, guide infrastructure investments, support grant writing, and foster economic development. In 2017, the Planning Department assisted three local municipalities with the development of their comprehensive plans.

### Binghamton Comprehensive Plan

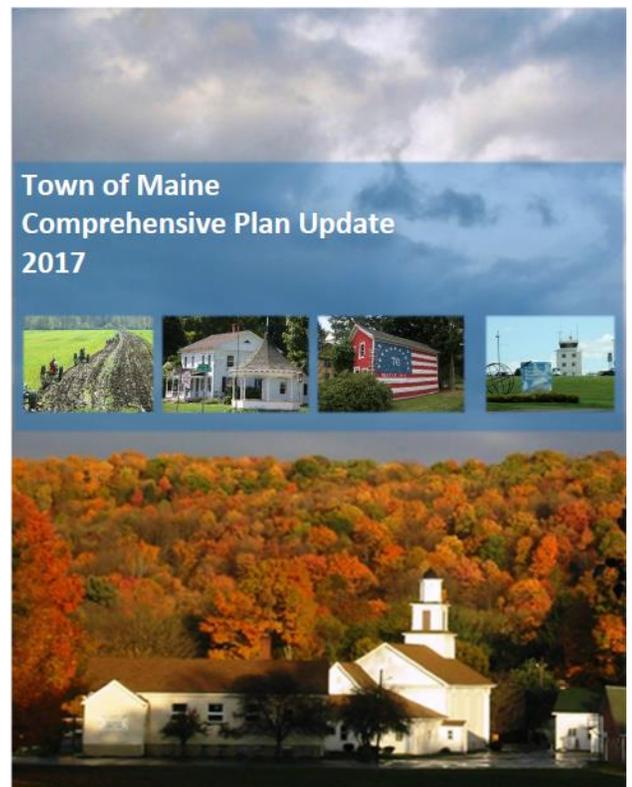
In 2017, the Broome County Planning Department worked with the Town of Binghamton Planning Board to complete their Comprehensive Plan. This effort updates their 2009 plan. The comprehensive planning process included collecting and analyzing demographic, housing, economic, transportation, environmental and land use data to provide



an overview of the existing conditions in the Town. In addition, the Planning Department reviewed the Town's Local Laws. Public input was sought throughout the planning process. A public survey was developed to obtain information about the community's needs, challenges, and opportunities; 546 surveys were completed, representing a 30% response rate. Two public meetings were held in the fall of 2016 and summer of 2017. The purpose of these meetings was to present information on the plan and obtain residents' feedback. The adopted plan identified actions to: maintain the rural character of the Town; manage potential growth at a measured rate; adopt green policies where feasible; protect and manage natural resources; manage stormwater runoff; consider expanding utilities and services; encourage senior housing; minimize the total tax burden; improve code enforcement; and continue to update local code ordinances.

## Maine Comprehensive Plan

In 2017, the Planning Department also worked with the Town of Maine Comprehensive Plan Committee to complete an update to their 2008 plan. The Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Planning Department held regular monthly meetings to update the chapters of the plan. The plan focused on updating demographic, housing, economic, transportation, environmental and land use data. In addition, the plan provided a review of the Town's Local Laws, and information about future development in the Airport Road Corridor. A public survey was distributed to registered voters and commercial property owners within the Town. Over 850 surveys were completed! The major goals identified in the plan include: enhance the Town's identity; protect agriculture, open space, and natural resources; support the Greater Binghamton Regional Airport; improve and expand infrastructure; protect, preserve, and enhance the local housing stock; design an aging in place community; improve town services; minimize the local tax burden; and manage stormwater runoff. In June 2017, a public meeting was held to present the plan to the community and residents offered additional input for the plan.



## Sanford Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Department held a kick-off meeting for the Town of Sanford Comprehensive Plan. Over the next year, the Planning Department will be working with the Committee to update their 1992 plan.

## BROWNFIELDS

### 59 Lester Avenue – The Victory Building

The Victory Building was opened in 1921 as factory for the Endicott-Johnson (EJ) Shoe Manufacturing Company. Its name commemorates the signing of the Armistice ending World War I. At one time, EJ manufactured up to 30 percent of the nation’s shoe market. In the 1970’s, EJ’s left the Victory Building and it was eventually purchased by a private owner for use as car and boat storage. The building fell into disrepair and became one of the largest and most visible eyesores in the county. In 2014, Broome County took possession of the Victory Building as part of a tax foreclosure for unpaid property taxes. Measuring over 250,000 square feet, the building was going to be a challenge to market and redevelop.

Using funds from the Broome County Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax which is dedicated to brownfield redevelopment, Planning staff oversaw the preparation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 environmental assessments, preparation of a code review, and development of floor plans for the massive building. All of this material formed the basis for a request for proposals which was distributed by Broome County Purchasing to interested developers. The result was a purchase offer from a developer looking to create more than 200 apartments and approximately 60,000 square feet of complimentary commercial space. In December 2017, the County closed on the sale of the property.

### 19 Avenue B

Broome County foreclosed on 19 Avenue B, Johnson City for failure to pay property taxes. The building is approximately 40,000 gross square feet,



19 Avenue B  
Johnson City

three stories, and on a 0.8-acre site. It is in the heart Johnson City iDistrict and adjacent to 59 Lester Avenue, a very large county-owned property. The Planning Department contracted with Delta Engineering to prepare a Phase I Environmental

Assessment and Pre-Demolition Asbestos Survey for 19 Avenue B. No recognized environmental conditions were documented by Delta Engineering as part of their environmental assessment. As a consequence, no further environmental work is planned for this site.

At the end of the year, the Planning Department contracted with Delta Engineering to prepare a code study of 19 Avenue B. That results of their work expected in early 2018. Broome County will soon have the information needed to promote the redevelopment of 19 Avenue B.

## Former Phillips Foundry

Phillips Foundry in Binghamton was once a vibrant manufacturing site which made aircraft parts during WWII. But the building has long been abandoned and is now in serious disrepair. The area, known as the Brandywine Corridor, has drawn serious development interest, but brownfields like the former foundry deter investors from making a commitment to redevelopment.

Due to a tax foreclosure, Broome County is now the owner of the former Phillips Foundry. The Planning Department contracted with O'Brien and Gere to prepare a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the site. This initial assessment found potential environmental issues which include leaking containers of unknown materials, foundry waste throughout the building, liquids and staining indicating potential past spills or leaks, a history of underground storage tanks, and reported spills upgradient of the site. Based on these findings, O'Brien and Gere were given



Phillips Foundry  
Binghamton

approval to go ahead with testing and a limited Phase II Environmental Assessment.

That limited Phase II assessment is now complete. Sampling found only four metals (iron, magnesium, manganese, and sodium) which exceeded groundwater standards for drinking water. Three of these (iron, magnesium and manganese) may be related to past foundry operations or may be naturally occurring. The sodium is likely related to salt use during winter road maintenance. The County is now exploring redevelopment options for this site.

## FLOODING AND HAZARD MITIGATION

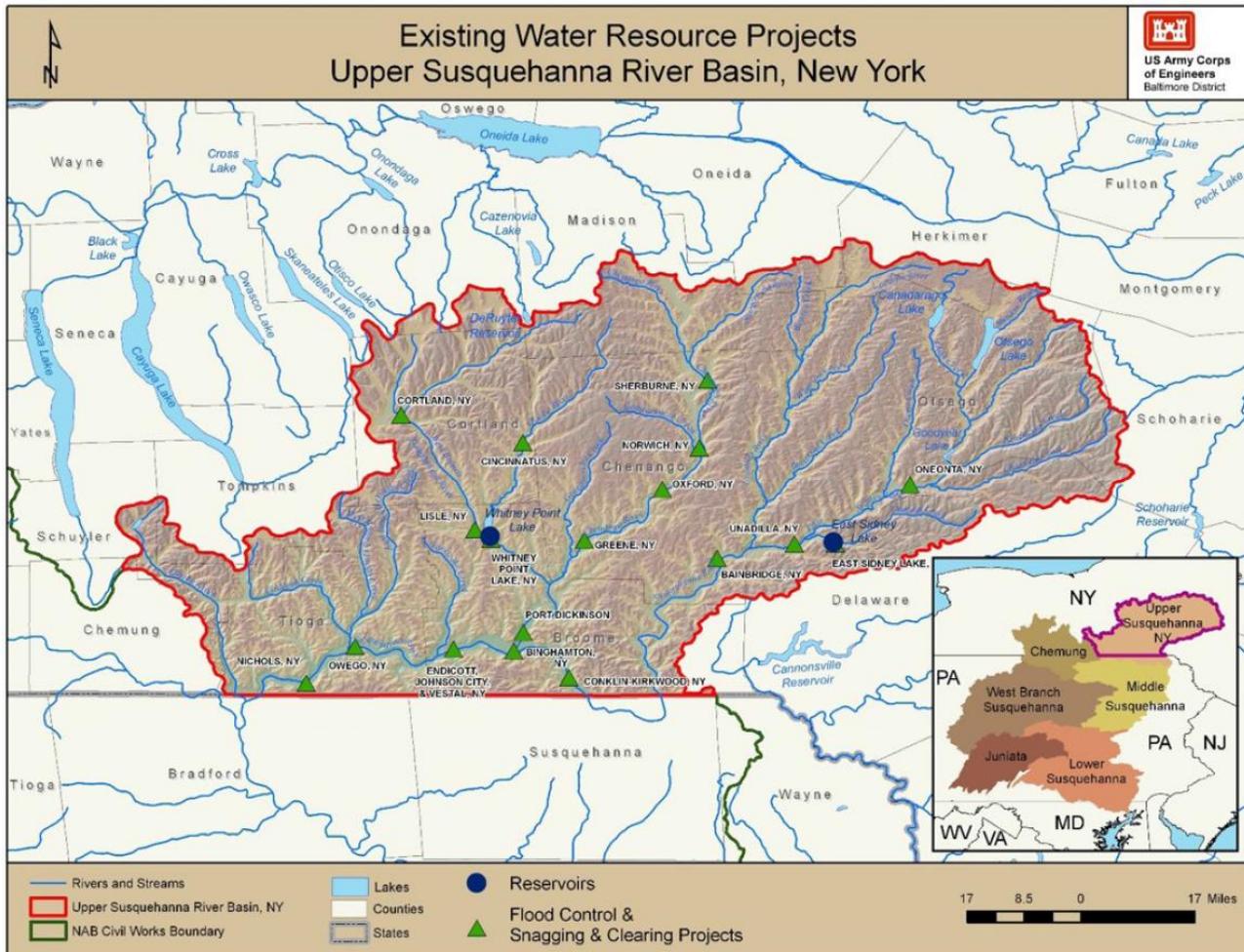
### Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

In anticipation of the expiration of the current Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan in July of 2018, the Planning Department applied for funding through the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program for the Plan Update. FEMA requires updates every five years by federal regulations to remain eligible for federal hazard mitigation funding. In late 2017 Broome County was awarded a \$150,000 grant for development of an updated plan. A request for qualifications to hire a consultant for this task was distributed in December. We anticipate that a consultant will be hired by Spring of 2018 with expected completion in Spring of 2019.

### Army Corps of Engineers Upper Susquehanna Study

The Planning Department contributed to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Upper Susquehanna River Basin Comprehensive Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study. The study is being developed to identify the current risk for flooding and propose ways to minimize the impact from flood events, preliminarily determine environmental and economic impact from various levels of flooding, and suggest structural and non-structural alternatives that could help minimize damage to life and property.

As partners in the process, Planning contributed technical knowledge of local flood impacts, served as a liaison with the local municipalities, and assisted ACE in scheduling meetings with the local municipalities for input on flood information and data in the region to be integrated into the plan. As the project continues into 2018, Planning will continue as a partner with the ACE on this important project.



## FEMA Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP)

The Planning Department contributed to the FEMA LAMP process which was initiated for several of the levee protected communities in the County. This is the levee analysis and mapping procedures for addressing flood hazards in areas located behind non-accredited levee systems.

Previously, levees found noncompliant with FEMA's regulatory requirements were mapped as though the levee was not present. FEMA now recognizes that non-accredited levee systems may provide some measure of residual base flood protection, thus warranting procedures that provide greater precision in mapping risks. The intent of the LAMP process is to support local risk management strategies, create an opportunity to better communicate flood risks behind levees, and synchronize methodologies with the USACE. The information determined through the LAMP process will inform the flood mapping process when it is initiated in the future.

As partners in the process, Planning served as a liaison between FEMA and the NYSDEC and the local municipalities, coordinated the municipal response to FEMA regarding the process, and participated in meetings, offering technical input as necessary. As the project continues into 2018, Planning will continue to coordinate this project.

## Broome County Stream Recovery Project

In cooperation with the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Broome County closed a grant from Empire State Development's Hurricane Irene-Tropical Storm Lee Flood Mitigation Grant Program. The grant funded a series of projects to stabilize and restore streams at high priority locations throughout the County and prevent future flooding damages in the Towns of Union, Vestal and Windsor. By the end of 2016 all projects were completed and final documentation submitted to Empire State Development for reimbursement. Final State approval and reimbursement of funds is expected to be complete in early 2018.

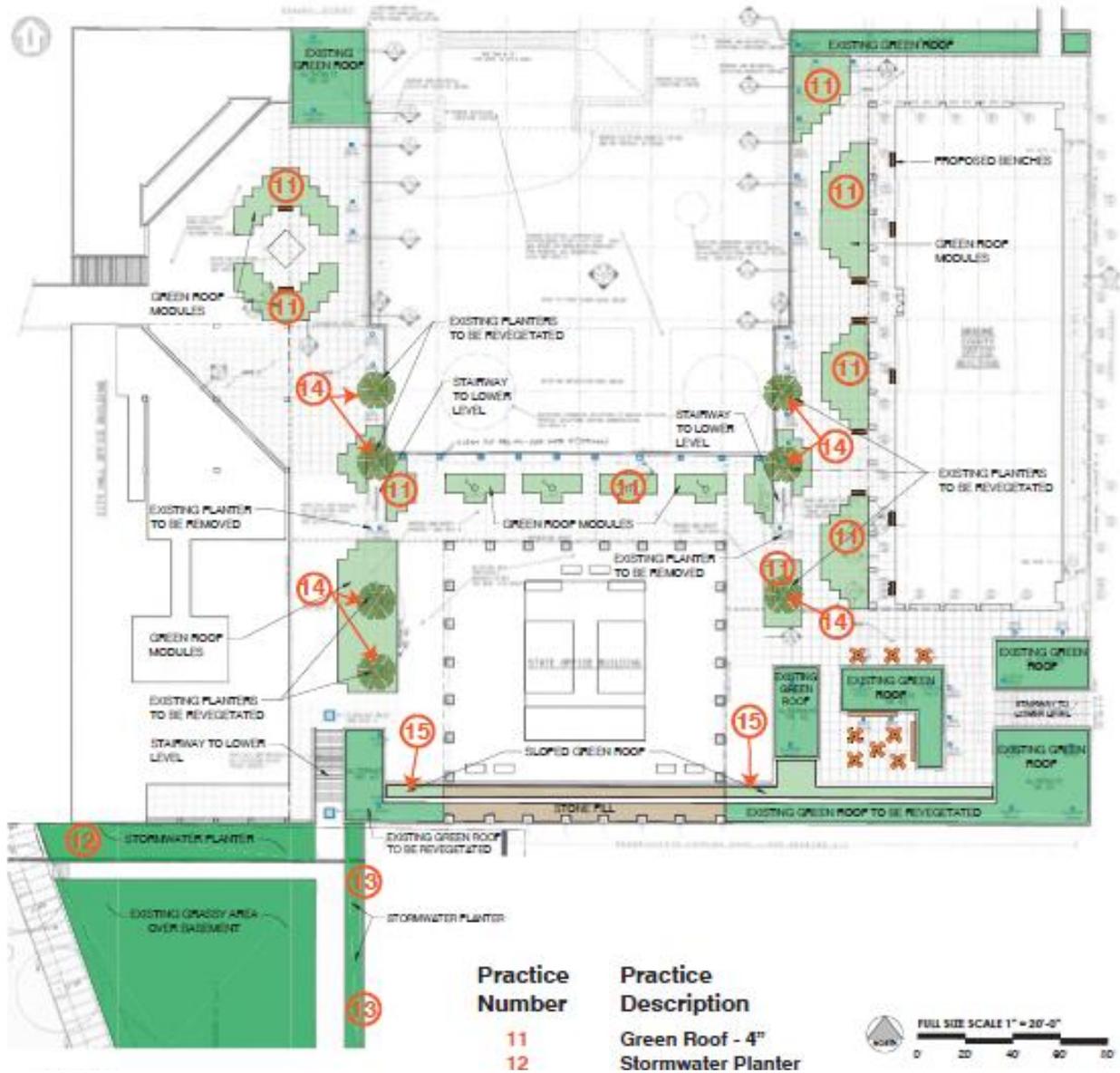
## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

### Government Plaza Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study

Government Plaza houses the County Office Building, Binghamton City Hall and the regional New York State Office Building. The site features an extensive two level public plaza for which Broome County provides operations and maintenance services. Existing deficiencies at the site have made it necessary to do major rehab at the Plaza. These include a damaged waterproofing membrane causing leaks in the underground garage, inadequate landscaping, aging amenities, and poor pedestrian accessibility. In anticipation of the major construction needed to repair the leaking membrane, Planning identified an opportunity to integrate innovative water management solutions while improving the overall aesthetics and functionality of the property through the addition of green infrastructure. This would also make additional grant funds to help offset the cost of the project.

In early 2017 the Planning Department worked with a consultant team to develop a Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study for Government Plaza for submittal through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application for funds from the Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program. The grant application was submitted in July and in December 2017 we were notified that we received an award of \$1.7 million to fund the design and construction of the project.

Upon notification of the award, Planning has begun coordination with New York State Office of General Services who is spearheading the membrane replacement project. Design of the project is anticipated in 2018 with construction to begin in 2019.



## Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC)

Broome County is a member of the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC), a group of regulated municipalities that collaborate to address local stormwater issues and meet federal and state Stormwater mandates. Planning staff works with other BTSC members on implementation and compliance by providing public education, opportunities for public participation, and training and outreach services.



Beth Lucas served as the Vice-Chair of the group for 2016 and representative for Broome County. A major task was the completion of the Stormwater Management Plan Program annual report for the full BTSC, which was completed in partnership with the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board. Planning specifically is responsible for documenting activities related to public education and public participation activities conducted throughout the year. The Annual Report is a compilation of the activities of all regulated municipalities under the state regulations, as well as Coalition wide activities for submittal to the NYSDEC.



Public education and participation activities included attendance at local events, such as the annual Earth Fest and coordination of the annual Riverbank Cleanup. The Riverbank Cleanup was held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. About 170 volunteers participated to collect approximately 1.5 tons of trash from the County's riverbanks.

The BTSC continued implementation of the public education campaign, "Water from Rain", [www.waterfromrain.org](http://www.waterfromrain.org). The intent is to tie together all of the local efforts for stormwater education including general best management practice for residents and businesses, awareness and implementation of green infrastructure practices and flooding issues as they relate to stormwater management. In 2017, additional promotional items were developed to bring awareness to the website and stormwater issues. These included t-shirts, tote bags and umbrellas. In addition, the group focused on efforts to increase awareness through the Water from Rain Facebook page.

## SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE AREA

The Planning Department in partnership with the Tioga County Department of Economic Development and Planning, provides administrative and technical support for the Susquehanna Heritage Area. The Planning Department is tasked with implementing the goals (preservation, education, recreation, revitalization, marketing and partnerships) and recommendations of the 2010 Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan. The current plan builds upon previous Plans that have been developed since the Susquehanna Heritage Area was recognized by the New York State legislature in 1982.



The current plan builds upon previous Plans that have been developed since the Susquehanna Heritage Area was recognized by the New York State legislature in 1982.

The goals of the plan are to identify, promote, and develop the historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of an expanded Susquehanna Heritage Area, encompassing Broome County and Tioga County in their entirety. The plan guides the implementation of programs and projects to foster economic revitalization and enhance quality of life throughout the region. In 2017, the Planning Department carried out the following Susquehanna Heritage Area work:

Grant Funding: The two counties and all 39 municipalities and the non-profit agencies are eligible to apply for State Heritage Area funding. In 2017, the Planning Department coordinated the Commission review of the projects applying for Heritage Area, Parks and Historic Preservation funding under the Consolidated Funding Application/Environmental Protection Fund application process. The Commission reviewed six projects applying for Heritage Area, Historic Preservation, and/or Parks funding. Of these six projects, two applied for Heritage Area funding, four applied for Historic Preservation funding, and two applied for Parks funding.

The Planning Department provided technical assistance for the applicants; conducted outreach to the municipalities and non-profits; and coordinated the review process, including the applicant interviews in which the Commission met with the applicants, reviewed their projects and provided further guidance. In December 2017, the George W. Johnson Carousel Rehabilitation Project received \$129,000 in Heritage Area funding and Waverly Glen Park Master Plan Implementation received \$490,000 in Parks funding.

Education, Marketing and Promotion: The Planning Department provided direction and coordination for the local participation in the *June 2017 and October 2017 New York State Path*

*Through History Weekend* – a bi-annual statewide event to promote the historical and cultural resources of New York State. Planning staff attended local meetings and provided technical assistance and direction for the local programming, conducted extensive outreach to the Broome County municipalities and historical and cultural groups garnering their interest and requesting their participation. Planning and GIS staff designed the promotional map and event descriptions designed to promote these sites and events and raise awareness of the historical and cultural resources of Broome County and the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

Municipal and Non-Profit Representation: In October 2017 the Commission approved the appointment, Judi Hess, Director of Visit Binghamton, as Advisory Board Member-At-Large.

Commission and Advisory Board Meetings and Membership: Planning Staff continued to coordinate and facilitate the bi-monthly meetings of the Commission and Advisory Board and coordinate the Commission and Advisory Board membership. Lora Zier continued to serve as the Broome County Program Administrator, Commission Secretary and Commission Representative for the Broome County Executive.

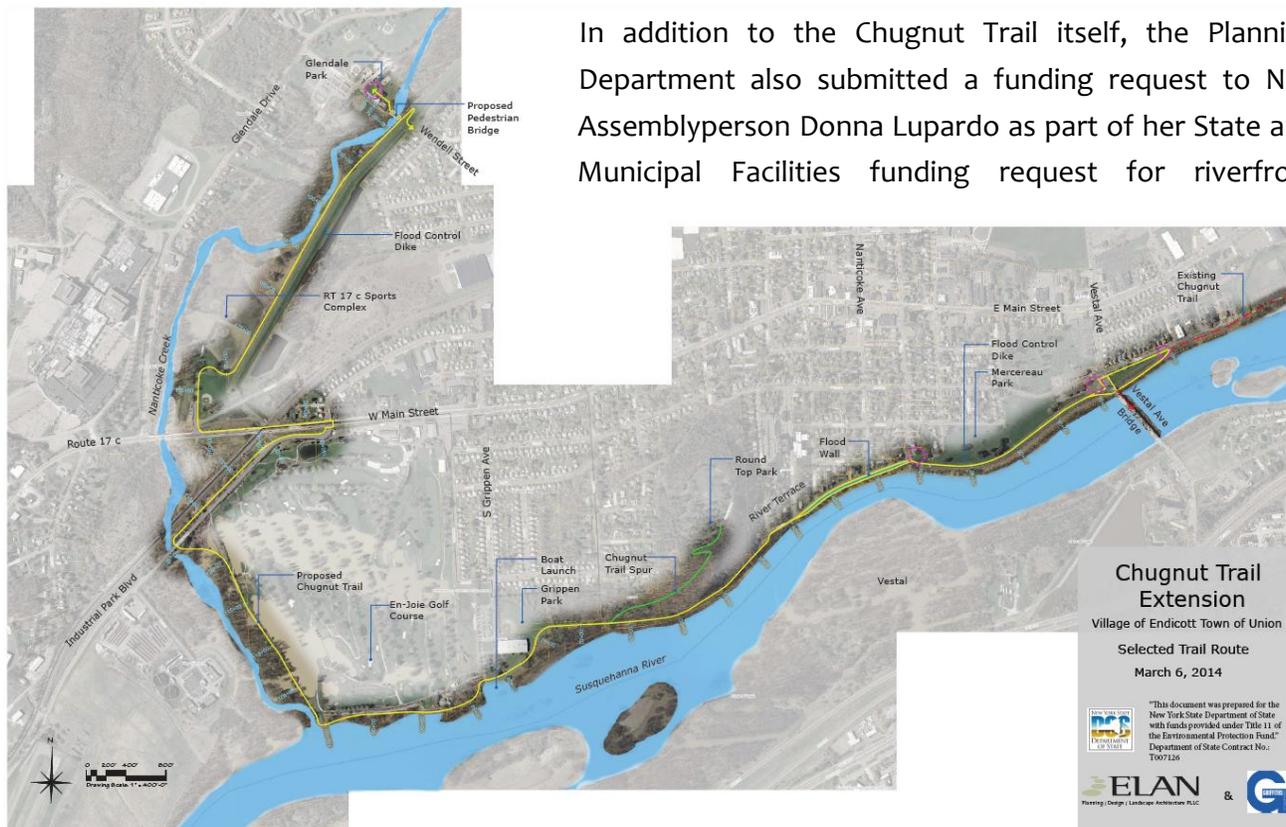
## ADDITIONAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### Chugnut Trail

The Planning Department worked as a partner in the design of the Chugnut Trail extension located in the Village of Endicott and Town of Union. The existing Chugnut Trail is a one mile paved trail located along the Susquehanna River behind Union-Endicott High School. The Greenway Plan, that outlines the planned route for the Two Rivers Greenway, includes the extension of the Chugnut Trail as part of the multi-use trail system, connecting with the Vestal Rail Trail across the Susquehanna via the Vestal-Endicott Bridge. The municipalities had previously developed a Feasibility Study that assessed alternatives for a route for the trail extension and determined a preferred route and the design, funded in part by funds from the County Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax, is the next phase in the implementation of the trail.

In anticipation of the final design, the Planning Department submitted a grant application to the Appalachian Regional Commission in Summer of 2017 for the portion of the trail on Broome County property. This portion of the trail would connect County-owned Grippen and Roundtop Parks, increasing their value to the community as riverfront assets. If selected, we anticipate that this grant will be awarded in Summer of 2018. However, in the meantime the Planning Department intends to

work with the Parks Department on the creation of a natural hiking trail between the two parks utilizing Parks employees and equipment, and assistance from volunteer organizations.



In addition to the Chugnut Trail itself, the Planning Department also submitted a funding request to NYS Assemblyperson Donna Lupardo as part of her State and Municipal Facilities funding request for riverfront

improvements. Projects included in this request were an enhanced boat launch and scenic overlook at Grippen Park, a scenic overlook at Roundtop Park, and boat launches with amenities at Riverview and William H. Hill Parks.

## High Hazard Pipeline Inventory

The Department completed work on the High Hazard Pipeline Inventory, funded by a grant from the US DOT Technical Assistance Grant program. The project aimed to assess the hazard vulnerability of pipelines at stream and river crossings due to flooding and erosion. The first phase of the project mapped both federal and state regulated pipelines throughout the County, identified stream crossings for these pipelines, and ranked their vulnerability to exposure due to erosion in flood conditions. The intent was to do additional analysis on highly vulnerable stream crossings to assess the likelihood of exposure further. However, discrepancies in the data obtained from utilities lead made identification of the pipeline in the field difficult. Additional analysis was needed, however, the grant period came to a close before this could be achieved and the project was concluded. The results of the Phase 1 inventory

will be used to monitor those high risk stream crossings during and after flood events, and additional analysis may be conducted as needed as funds become available.

### Climate Smart Communities

In 2017 the Executive Office formed the Broome County Sustainability Committee. The intent of the community is to bring together key County staff and representatives from relevant community organizations for the planning and implementation of sustainability projects and programming for Broome County. The Planning Department was tasked with the administration of this group and associated programming. The group, that meets quarterly, met three times over the course of the year.

From the initial discussions, the group decided to pursue certification under the NYSDEC's Climate Smart Communities Program and NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program. These programs provide an established framework around which to assess existing efforts for sustainability, establish goals for sustainability of municipal operations, and to monitor progress toward meeting those goals. In Fall of 2017, with the assistance of an intern from Binghamton University, the Department began assessing our status under these programs and collecting documentation for submittal to the State agencies for consideration. In December, the Planning Department submitted the collected documentation and it is currently being assessed by the State. We anticipate a response to our submittal in early 2018. In addition, Planning will continue to collect and submit additional documentation as available. We expect that we will have enough points submitted to achieve Climate Smart Communities certification by mid-2018.

### Climate Study

Throughout 2017 the Planning Department partnered on the Climate Based Flood Risk Assessment with Abt Associates, a firm that selected Broome County as a target area for researching climate based flood projections as part of a project funded by NYSERDA.

The results of this analysis will provide us with the tools to assess what areas might be impacted by flooding into the future and what the potential additional damages may be. As these studies move forward, they will provide us with valuable information and data that can help us to develop and quantify the effectiveness of resiliency strategies that we develop through the plan. Planning worked with Abt Associates to develop a scope for the project that would be useful for the local municipalities, provided input about County flood impacts, and helped organized outreach to municipal representatives to obtain their input.

There has been a lot of research regarding the impacts of climate change on coastal communities but little has been done to assess the impacts on communities along inland waterways. This project will provide our community with innovative tools at the forefront of flood mitigation planning that can inform our hazard mitigation and resiliency planning efforts. The project is expected to be complete in 2018.

## State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

Beth Lucas continued to provide technical assistance to Broome County departments upon request for the compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as it pertains to County projects. In addition, the Planning Department continues to be available for training regarding SEQRA at the request of municipalities and community organizations. In 2017, Beth Lucas gave a presentation about SEQR to the Nimmonsburg Rotary at their request to inform them about how they can be involved in the environmental review process in their community.

## Market New York Spiedie Fest 2018

Broome County provided support for events and festivals that make our area an inviting place to live, work, and play. In 2017, the Planning Department secured a \$150,000 grant from Empire State Development's Market New York program. The Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally is our area's largest tourism event each year drawing \$7 million into Broome County. This project will provide marketing materials and allow the Spiedie Fest to bring in large musical acts, overall increasing event attendance and out-of-area tourism in Broome County.

## Broome County Website User Survey

In the Fall of 2017, the Planning Department developed an online survey to receive feedback on the existing County website. Questions were focused on resident, business, and government use of the County website, identifying new features to include in a website upgrade, and a section for write-in comments was also provided. Over 300 people took the survey and over 130 comments/suggestions were received.

## Land Use Reviews (239)

The Department has a legal obligation to conduct reviews and render advisory opinions on land-use proposals covered under NYS General Municipal Law 239 (l) and (m). The Department reviewed 190 cases in 2017.

## Internship Program

The County's comprehensive plan calls on us to 'Engage Our Students and Young Professionals'. As part of this effort, the Planning Department once again hosted an intern from Binghamton University. The 2017 spring semester intern was Haley Eggert, from Binghamton University. Hailey did research on brownfield success stories to assist in the creation of an online 'story map'. She also assisted the department in documenting all County efforts that would count towards securing a Climate Smart Community certification.

## Broome County Construction Data Reports

The Department prepared the 2016 Construction Data Report. This report, available on the County's website, provides an indicator of countywide growth and development patterns and trends, residential and nonresidential building data from municipalities, and tables and charts documenting annual building permit activity within the municipalities. The construction data is online here: [gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs](http://gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs)

## Public Engagement

The Broome County Planning Department understands the importance of public engagement, and values the opinions of our residents, businesses, and other organizations. In 2017, we made a strong effort to keep the public informed about projects, events, and other interesting news related to planning and our community. Last summer, we received input from 1,230 people through two public surveys, and engaged more than 300 people in various public workshops and meetings. On the Planning Department's social media page, we made 103 posts that were viewed 14,936 times and received 351 "Likes". These figures do not include the Go All Out Broome or the Broome County GIS social media pages. We will continue to use social media and other tools to engage our community.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC), established in 1971 by the County Legislature, serves as a citizen advisory board to county government on environmental matters. The EMC conducts environmental research and planning, reviews environmental plans, reports and impact statements, and helps raise awareness through public participation and education programs. Beth Lucas provided technical, bookkeeping and other support services.



The EMC typically meets bimonthly. In 2017, they met 5 times, in January, March, May, September and November.

The EMC hosted the following guest speakers:

- Flood Mitigation in Broome County - Frank Evangelisti, BC Planning
- Discussion with County Executive - County Executive Jason Garnar
- Go All Out Broome County - Beth Lucas, BC Planning
- Waterman Conservation Center –Scott MacDonald, Executive Director
- EMC Membership Overview - Beth Lucas, BC Planning

## Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Competition

This year marked the return of the Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Competition and Show after a five-year hiatus. There was renewed interest by EMC members to resume hosting the event as a tool for showcasing Broome County’s natural environment and educating people about environmental stewardship. This year the event had a theme or “Our Forested Lands” and a special award was given to the photo that best represented that theme and the exhibit included information about how each image related back to that theme.

This year’s event culminated in an opening reception held on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The EMC formed new partnerships that made it possible to bring back the event. The Two Rivers Photography Club provided their experience in planning similar photo contests and shows. The Broome County Arts Council hosted the show throughout the month of July and assisted in the organization of the Opening Reception. The NYS Forest Owners Association, Sierra Club, and Naturalists Club of Broome County all contributed as part of the event committee as well.

The event was extremely successful and it is anticipated that it will continue in 2018.



*Lady Cardinal* by Ridgeway Caraig - Best in Show  
2017 JKLS Environmental Photography Competition

## Broome County Riverbank Clean Up

The EMC one again sponsored the Riverbank Cleanup in coordination with the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition. The event helps promote the preservation of water quality and helps the County to meet our requirements under state and federal stormwater regulations. About 170 volunteers collected approximately 1.5 tons of debris and trash at locations along the banks of area's rivers and tributaries. See the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition section of this report for more information about stormwater.

## Earth Fest

EMC members and staff also participated in Earth Day Southern Tier's annual Earth Fest. This event raises awareness about local environmental issues, promotes membership opportunities and recruits volunteers.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) DIVISION

### GIS Portal Website and Mapping Applications

The GIS Portal website and mapping applications continue to be a highly-demanded and growing online county resource. In 2017 the GIS Portal website received over 240,500 visits by over 77,000 unique users. This represents a 6.2% increase in visits over 2016. The most viewed resource on the site was the *Parcel Mapper* with over 153,000 views (+11.3%). Other popular resources include the parcel detail sheets with nearly 88,700 views (+29.1%) and street views with over 18,500 views. The *Election Mapper* was viewed over 2,900 times and PDF tax maps were viewed nearly 8,600 times.

A few enhancements were made to the *Parcel Mapper* and parcel data in 2017. In terms of parcel data, unit and 239 review information were added. Parcels with multiple units now indicate how many units there are. For 239 reviews, parcels with reviews include the most recent review number as well as the total number of additional reviews that parcel was subject to. In terms of layers, BU OCCT and BC Transit bus routes were added, along with a 239 review layer depicting reviews going back to 2004. In terms of functionality, Planning's 239 decision letters were added to the website and users can link to the appropriate letter based on a location selected in the 239 review layer or the most recent 239 review number listed in the parcel data.

Other items of note concerning the website include the development of a flood stage mapper application for Emergency Services. This application allows users to select a stage height at the various

gauges along the rivers to see the area inundated. The application also includes the county watershed inundation areas. A Traffic Count application for BMTS was also made available in the Apps section of the website. This application shows traffic count locations by year and provides links to the traffic count documents when a location is selected. An ArcGIS Online story map was created to showcase locations participating in the Path Through History weekend and added to our new Story Map section of the website. The demographic search function was updated with the newest census 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) data.

## County Departments

The GIS Division supports nearly all county departments in some capacity with mapping, data, and analysis. Some highlights from individual departments include:

- *Emergency Services:* continued to assign all 911 addresses within the county; continued to support 911 dispatch mapping; developed an online flood mapper application; produced Spiedie Fest and Dick's Open vendor layout maps.
- *Sheriff's Office:* continued to provide weekly, monthly, and year-to-date maps and data for long term, strategic/administration planning; continued to provide access to online web maps using ArcGIS Online.
- *Real Property:* continued to support tax mapping functions; continued to provide PDF tax maps and access to RPS data online through Image Mate Online from the GIS Portal website.
- *Planning/Economic Development:* provided various maps and/or data for several different projects and grants including the Town of Binghamton and Town of Maine Comprehensive Plans, innovation districts, Go All Out, land bank, and individual property maps for the IDA.
- *Health:* provided various maps for projects and grants including radon testing maps for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program and elevated lead level maps.
- *Elections/Legislature:* fulfilled many various map and data requests for Elections and produced maps of annual additions to agricultural districts for the Legislature.

## City of Binghamton Departments

The GIS Division continues to provide GIS and mapping services to the City of Binghamton under an inter-municipal agreement that expires in December 2019. In 2017, an average of nearly 20 hours of service per week was provided and 400 map projects were created. Some highlights include:

- *Police:* collaborated with SUNY Cortland to predict aggravated assaults using Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM). RTM is an approach to spatial risk analysis that identifies risks that come from features of a landscape, modeling how they co-locate to create unique behavior settings for crime; continued to

provide technical support to the City's Environmental Policing Task Force; continued to provide weekly, monthly, and year-to-date map, charts, and graphs for long term, strategic/administration planning; provided support for the City Crime Intelligence Center; utilized ArcGIS Online to create web maps for police use; participated in various meetings.

- *Planning:* provided mapping for various projects and grants including a DEC tree inventory grant; provided data and server map services for the City's Building Blocks application.
- *Building and Code:* various building permit, code violation, code activity, vacant property, and rental property maps and density maps provided.

## BOARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Planning staff continued to serve on the following boards and committees in 2017:

- Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
- Agricultural Task Force
- Aging Futures Partnership
- BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
- BMTS Planning Committee
- Broome County Chronic Disease Leadership Team
- Broome County Community Health Assessment Steering Committee
- Broome County Environmental Management Council
- Broome County Flood Task Force
- Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition
- Communities Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)
- Department of Public Art
- Greater Binghamton Fund Work Group
- Greenway Steering Committee
- Headwaters River Trail
- Livable Communities Alliance Steering Committee
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- NYS DEC Region 7 Open Space Committee
- Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board
- New York State Path Through History Local Committee