

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018



**Broome County Department of  
Planning & Economic Development**

**Frank Evangelisti, Director  
Jason Garnar, County Executive**



# Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development

## Staff

### PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Administered by Beth Lucas, Senior Planner



# Annual Report

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New York State awarded over \$19 million in project funding from the Greater Binghamton Fund to iDistricts, an idea first put forward in the County's 2013 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Department submitted two applications to this program, iDistrict Art Parks and Murals and Mosaics, and both were funded. We look forward to advancing these exciting initiatives.

In partnership with students at Binghamton University and the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, Broome County created the Student Entrepreneurship Grant program. Members of the Broome County Department of Planning closely collaborated with University students to research successful entrepreneurship programs across the country. As the program developed, it was refined by the expertise of the professionals at the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator. As a result, grant recipients are part of a comprehensive program that helps nurture their business ideas.

# 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.

## 2019 PLANNING DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

### Comprehensive Plans, Studies and Technical Assistance:

- Complete the Town of Sanford Comprehensive Plan
- Undertake the Village of Port Dickinson Comprehensive Plan
- Complete the Parks Master Plan
- Update the County-Wide Comprehensive Plan action plan
- Conduct training and workshops for municipal officials

### Economic Development:

- Continue implementation of iDistricts in Binghamton, Endicott, and Johnson City
- Work to administer the \$20 million Greater Binghamton Fund
- Administer and market the Go All Out Broome campaign
- Continue the effective collaboration with the Agency for economic development services

### Flood Mitigation and Storm Water Management:

- Complete the update of the FEMA mandated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Assist with coordinating the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Study in conjunction with the NYS DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Continue implementation of federally mandated Storm Water Management Plan and providing education and facilitating public participation for MS4 Compliance, (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)
- Continue to coordinate the Flood Task Force, administer flood related grant programs, and evaluate and implement new and better flood mitigation strategies
- Continue to actively participate in the BC Community Organizations Around Disasters (BCCOAD)

### Grants and Grants Administration:

- Effectively manage and leverage the Hotel-Motel fund
- Aggressively pursue state, federal and other grant funding to meet County goals and objectives

### Agriculture:

- Finalize the Agriculture Economic Development Plan
- Continue to work with the Agriculture Task Force to support and expand farming

### Brownfields:

- Update database of brownfield sites and create story map
- Initiate environmental assessments of brownfield sites

## UPSTATE REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

The idea of iDistricts advanced dramatically in 2018. Through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, New York State made \$20 million available for the Greater Binghamton Fund to carry out projects in the Endicott, Johnson City, and Binghamton iDistricts. Projects were funded in three categories:

- 1 Commercial + Mixed Use Property Revitalizations
- 2 Housing Rehabilitation
- 3 Streetscape Improvements

To set the stage for this application process, Broome County Planning worked with municipal leaders in Endicott and Johnson City to develop revitalization plans for their iDistricts and the County funded the Deco District plan for Binghamton. The iDistrict plans and design guidelines are online at [gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs](http://gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs)

In September of 2018, New York State announced \$7M for Commercial and Mixed Use projects, \$4M for Housing Rehabilitation, and \$8M for Streetscape Improvements. These grants are expected to leverage \$80.3M in public and private investment.

The Planning Department secured two of the streetscape grants: \$240,000 for the Development of 28 Murals and Mosaics in the iDistricts and \$1.3M for the Development of Three iDistrict Art Parks.

Public Art Rendering from Johnson City iDistrict Plan



Also in 2018, we followed up on the proposed design guidelines for the Village of Johnson City. Design guidelines are an effective way to ensure that development respects Johnson City's history and done to a high standard. Using a New York State grant we hired Bergmann Associates to integrate the draft design guidelines into Johnson City's codes and ordinances. That work will start in early 2019.

## GO ALL OUT BROOME

In 2018 there was a major push to expand the reach of Go All Out Broome, a program to promote outdoor recreation opportunities in the County. Go All Out 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 through Facebook, Instagram, and the website: [www.GoAllOutBroome.com](http://www.GoAllOutBroome.com),



Initial program implementation included development of branding, logos, website, and social media presence. In 2018, the focus shifted to raising awareness about the program through marketing and promotional efforts with the intent of driving people to the website and social media pages. This included development of a promotional brochure, development of promotional items, and targeted advertising on social media. In addition, the County integrated the Go All Out brand into relevant County-sponsored outdoor events including the Dick's Sporting Goods Open, LGT Tennis Challenger, Herald of Victory Marathon and the Beer Tree River Float.

These efforts have proven to be successful since the program's launch. The website has received over 26,000 page views. The program's Facebook page has nearly 2000 followers, a figure that doubled due to targeted Facebook ads. With the additional of the Go All Out Broome blog we have been able to expand our reach further. One notable post regarding "8 Great Broome County Hiking Spots" reached nearly 12,000 people, our most popular post by far.

In 2019, we plan to continue promotional activities further expanding our reach in the community. We will also be announcing new partnerships and promotional items. This includes a hiking challenge in collaboration with the Triple Cities Hiking Club and development of a Susquehanna River Guide as part of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning efforts. We hope to add more data to the interactive map on the website including the location of amenities like parking and restrooms.

## STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Working with students at Binghamton University and the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, Broome County has created a program to address the 'brain drain' and foster the innovation economy. Members of the Broome County Department of Planning closely collaborated with University students to research and assess entrepreneurship grant programs that have been successful in other parts of the country. This was backed up by a survey of 667 students at the University and SUNY Broome, with results indicating that 80% would be interested in staying in the local area upon graduation if there was a countywide entrepreneurship grant program to fund student startups.

As the program developed, it was refined by the expertise and experience of the entrepreneurship professionals at the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator. Grant recipients are given more than a check; they are part of a comprehensive program that helps nurture their ideas into fully formed businesses. With funds from the Hotel-Motel Economic Development and Marketing fund, grants of \$5,000 were made to the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator to be provided to two student-led firms.

Broome County is hoping to extend the program into 2019 with another of another round of funding for incubator businesses.

## MUNICIPAL TRAINING

New York State requires all zoning and planning board members to receive 4 hours of training each year. In 2018, we tried something different. We teamed up with lawyers from Coughlin and Gerhart, LLP to have a day-long training. It worked. We packed the room at the Taste NY building on the campus of Cornell Cooperative Extension



of Broome County. Attendees learned about Greyfield Redevelopment, Broome County's 239 Review Process, Case Law Update, and Article 78 Proceedings. You can view the presentations here: [www.gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs) We hope to continue this successful partnership in 2019.

## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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 matched the \$50,000 grant with \$10,000 from the Hotel-Motel fund and \$40,000 of in-kind services.

The County hired EDR to prepare the update. One important feature of the plan will be the development of three, grant-ready ideas to support agriculture in Broome County. The consultants 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



**BROOME COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
Final draft  
January, 2019

businesses. The plan was nearly finished in 2018, with only minor tweaks remaining. Adoption of the plan is expected in early 2019.

## BROOME COUNTY PARKS PLAN

The Broome County Planning Department in cooperation with the Parks Department and the Department of Public Works continued to develop the Broome County Parks Plan. In January, the committee solicited input from various recreational group stakeholders at a public workshop. Participants brainstormed ideas related to the strengths, threats, and opportunities facing Broome County Parks. In February, the Broome County Parks Managers met with the steering committee to discuss their role and what could be done to improve park maintenance and operations. Using aerial photography, they mapped park areas where there are issues that need to be addressed or opportunities to improve park services.

In the Summer of 2018, the Planning Department worked with Broome County DPW to complete a facilities inventory of the parks. This involved documenting the existing conditions and identifying infrastructure priorities for future improvements. In addition, a Parks Department intern began to document the ADA accessibility of paths, ramps, and parking lots within the parks. Nearly 50



locations within the parks were measured and analyzed for their ADA compliance; this inventory helped determine where accessibility gaps exist within the park system, and establishes locations to focus future improvements.

The Parks Plan is anticipated to be completed and adopted in early Spring 2019. Recommendations and actions identified in the plan will be used to pursue grant opportunities through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and other funding sources.

## TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

The Broome County Planning Department offers support and technical assistance to local municipalities to write their comprehensive plans. By preparing a 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.

## Sanford Comprehensive Plan

Working closely with the Sanford comprehensive plan committee, the Planning Department made substantial progress on updating the town's 1992 plan. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, a public meeting was held in the Sanford Town Hall. At this well-attended meeting residents discussed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the town. These comments buttressed the findings of the survey that the Planning Department helped prepare and distribute as part of the developing the update. A second public hearing and the final draft of the plan are expected in early 2019.

## BROWNFIELDS

### 19 Avenue B

In 2017, Broome County foreclosed on 19 Avenue B, Johnson City for failure to pay property taxes. The building is approximately 40,000 gross square feet, three stories, and on a 0.8-acre site. It is in the heart Johnson City iDistrict. Planning contracted with Delta Engineering to prepare a Phase I Environmental Assessment, a Pre-Demolition Asbestos Survey, and code study for the site. No recognized environmental conditions were documented by Delta; therefore, no further environmental work is planned for this site.

The Village of Johnson City received a grant of nearly \$1M for the redevelopment of the property. To support this project, the County sold the building to the Village and recouped the costs associated with the engineering work done there.



## Former Phillips Foundry

Phillips Foundry in Binghamton was once a vibrant manufacturing site which made aircraft parts during WWII. But the building was long abandoned and fell into dangerous disrepair. Due to a tax foreclosure, Broome County took ownership of the former foundry. The Planning Department contracted with O'Brien and Gere to prepare a Phase I Environmental Assessment and limited Phase II Environmental Assessment of the property.

Following the collapse of the metal building on the site, the property was sold. The buildings have now been cleared by the private owner.



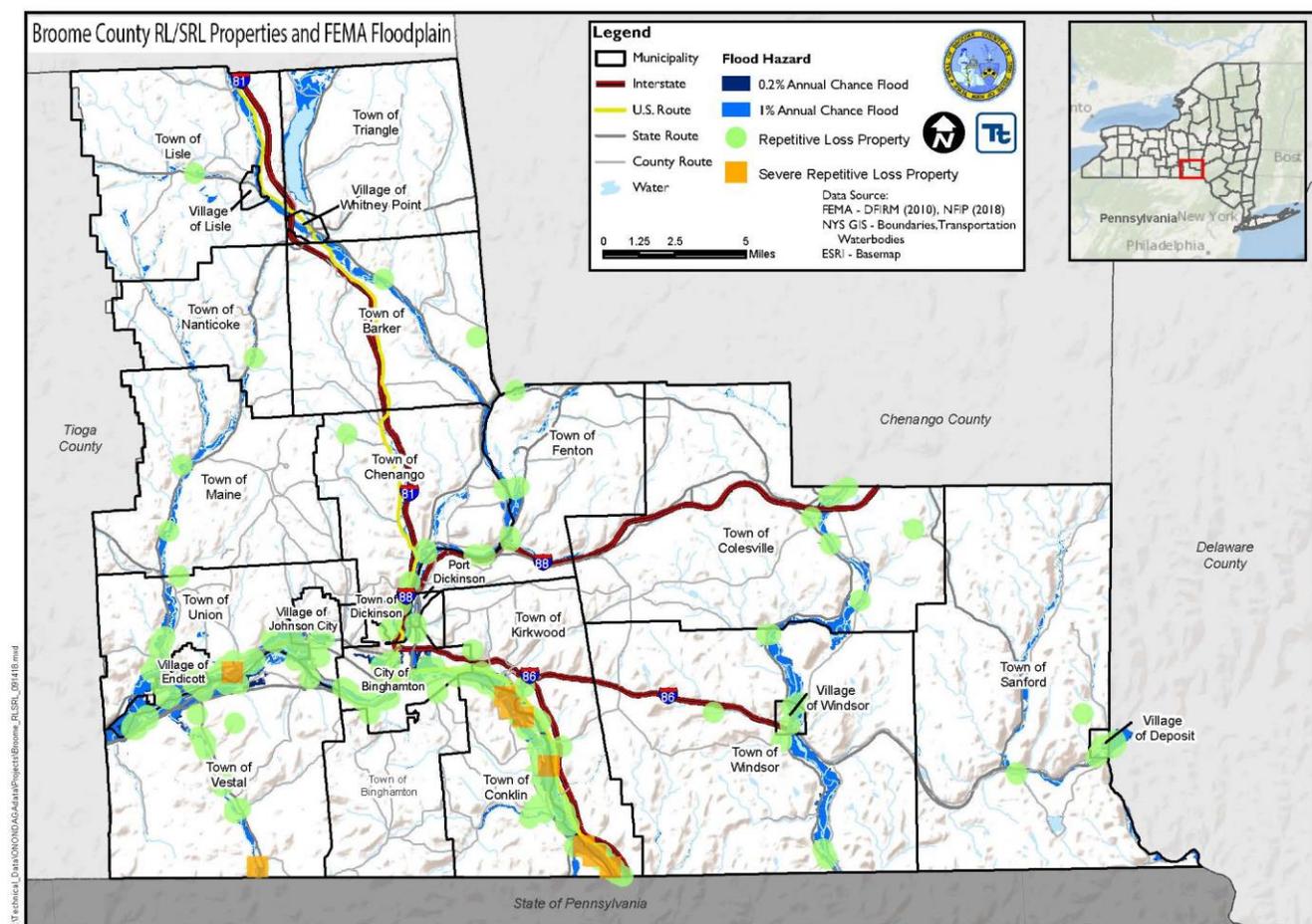
Phillips Foundry  
Binghamton



## FLOODING AND HAZARD MITIGATION

### Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

In June of 2018 the Planning Department began the update of the Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan funded through a FEMA grant awarded at the end of 2017. FEMA requires updates every five years for participating municipalities to remain eligible for federal hazard mitigation funding. Broome County updates the hazard mitigation plan on behalf of the local municipalities who participate in the planning process by providing information and data related to hazard mitigation efforts, while Broome County Planning coordinates the overall planning effort.



The Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses our natural hazard risk and vulnerability, summarizes legal, regulatory, and fiscal capabilities, and presents mitigation strategies to reduce

risk to human health and safety, private property and municipal infrastructure. Hazards addressed in the plan include flooding, severe storms, severe winter storms, extreme temperatures, wildfires, earthquakes, and invasive species.

Throughout 2018, Planning and consultants from TetraTech, worked to gather data and information from existing plans and mapping databases, organize meetings of the steering committee and planning partnership, and conduct various analyses and assessments. At the close of the year the project was nearing completion. Hazard and risk assessments have been completed, draft jurisdictional annexes have been shared with local municipal representatives, and mitigation strategies have been developed. We anticipate that the draft plan will be completed for submission to NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and FEMA by the end of February. Once approved Planning will work with local municipalities on adoption of the plan as required by FEMA.

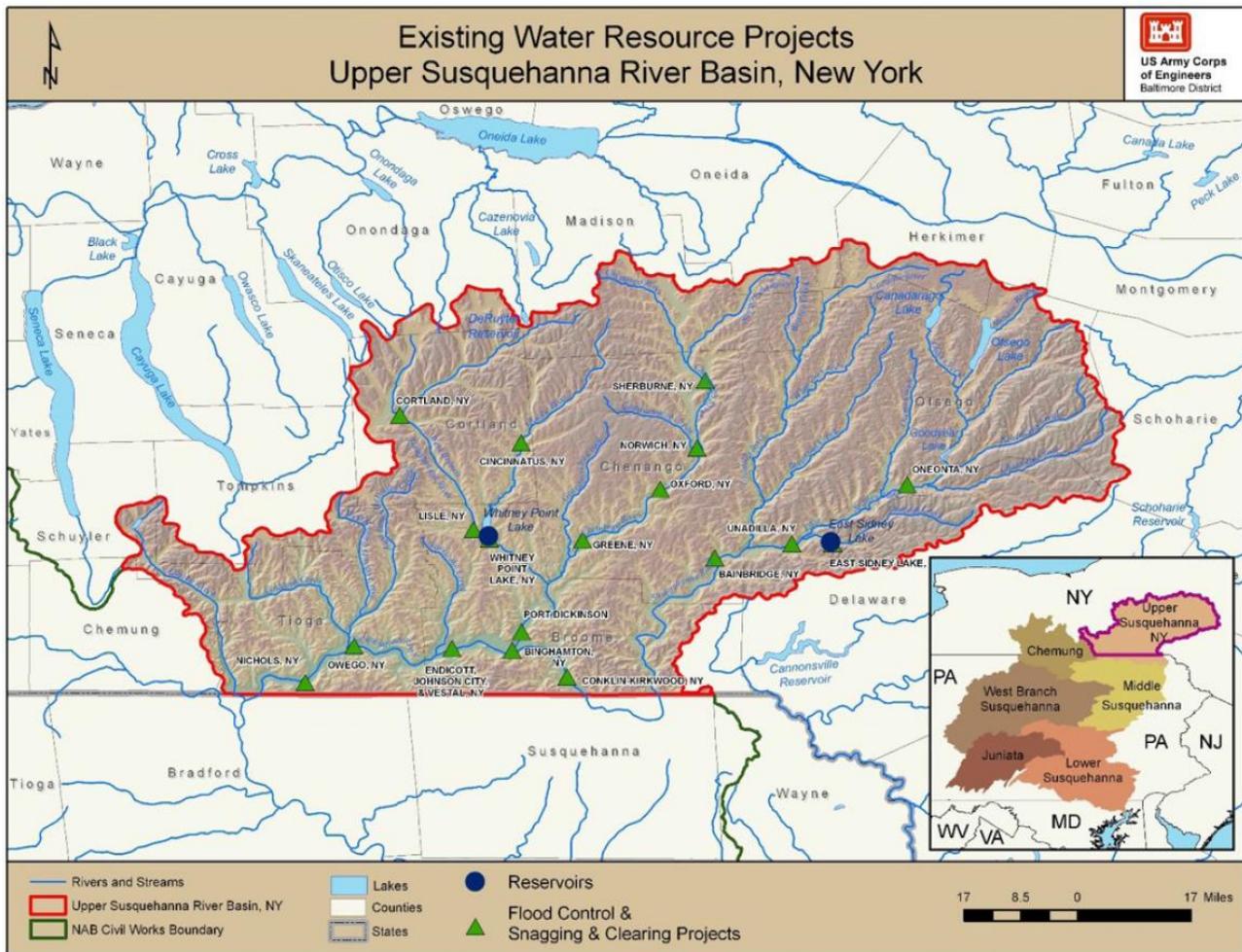
### Army Corps of Engineers Upper Susquehanna Study

The Planning Department continued coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers on their Upper Susquehanna River Basin Comprehensive Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study. The Army Corps is comprehensively evaluating flood risk management needs and opportunities in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin in New York in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

As partners in the process, Planning contributed technical knowledge of local flood impacts, served as a liaison with the local municipalities, and assisted the Army Corps in scheduling meetings with the local municipalities for input on flood information and data in the region to be integrated into the plan. In Spring of 2018 the Army Corps and NYSDEC sought community feedback on their Watershed Screening Results that identified improvements to existing and/or new structural flood risk management projects and/or implementation of non-structural strategies with potential federal and/or state funding assistance. Communities were asked to send feedback about which projects they would like to see move forward. Selected projects would be considered for advancement to conceptual designs if deemed feasible.

Planning assisted by organizing meetings of the affected communities so they could share information about how each anticipated moving forward, as well as questions or concerns about the process. Currently NYSDEC and the Army Corps are reviewing the responses received from each

municipality to assess which projects and strategies have both local support and high potential for advancement.



## FEMA Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP)

Beginning in 2017, the Planning Department contributed to the FEMA LAMP process which was initiated for 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. Throughout the process, into 2018, Planning acted as partners in the process, serving as a liaison between FEMA and the NYSDEC and the local municipalities, coordinating municipal response to FEMA regarding the process, and participation in meetings, offering technical input as necessary.

Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures is a refined approach to mapping flood hazards in areas landward of levee systems. Previously, levees found noncompliant with FEMA’s regulatory

requirements were mapped as though the levee was not present. However, FEMA recognized that non-accredited levee systems may provide some measure of flood protection, thus warranting development of procedures that provide greater precision in mapping risks. The Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures process provides a better assessment of hazards by leveraging local knowledge and data, aligning available resources for engineering analyses and mapping commensurate with the level of risk in the areas impacted by the levee, and considering the unique characteristics of each levee system from an engineering perspective.

In June of 2018 FEMA finalized the LAMP Plans for several Broome County communities including the City of Binghamton, Towns of Union and Vestal, and Villages of Deposit, Endicott, Johnson City, Lisle, Port Dickinson and Whitney Point. The final reports describe the Levee Analysis and Mapping Plan for each municipal levee system, resulting from the collaboration between FEMA, the City of Binghamton, and Broome County, NYSDEC, Army Corps of Engineers, and other local stakeholders. These reports document the progress through Phase 1, including the first pass analysis results and data evaluation, as well as the community's selection of the preferred Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures scenario. The information in the plans will be used when FEMA eventually moves forward with official remapping of Broome County's floodplains. However, there is no set date for when this process will begin.

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In December 2017, we were notified that Broome County received an award of \$1.7 million to fund the design and construction of green infrastructure at Government Plaza. The 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.

Upon notification of the award, Planning along with the Broome County Department of Public Works begun coordination with New York State Office of General Services who is spearheading the membrane replacement project. The final conceptual design includes several green infrastructure

features such as green roofs, bio-retention areas, storm water street trees, and cisterns. The design calls for opening the front wall along Hawley Street, creating an outdoor café space with storm water fountain, and building a public stage.



In 2018, Planning worked with the Environmental Facilities Corporation, the State funding agency, to update and finalize the feasibility study for the project as a requirement of the grant award. In late 2018, we finalized a contract with Delta Engineers for project design. The design process will be initiated in January of 2019 with completion anticipated in the fall.

### Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC)

Broome County is a member of the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition (BTSC), a group of municipalities that collaborate to address local storm water issues and meet federal and state Storm water 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 2018 and a representative for Broome County along with Engineering. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. About 150 volunteers participated to collect approximately 1.25 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 the local efforts for storm water education including general best management practice for residents and businesses, awareness and implementation of green infrastructure practices and flooding issues as they relate to storm water management.



## WATERFRONT PROJECTS

### County-wide LWRP

In mid-2018 the Planning Department submitted a grant application through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) grant to update the 2011 County-wide Inter-municipal Waterfront Access Plan. We were notified in December that we were awarded this \$150,000 grant.

We anticipate starting the project in mid-2019. It will include the following:

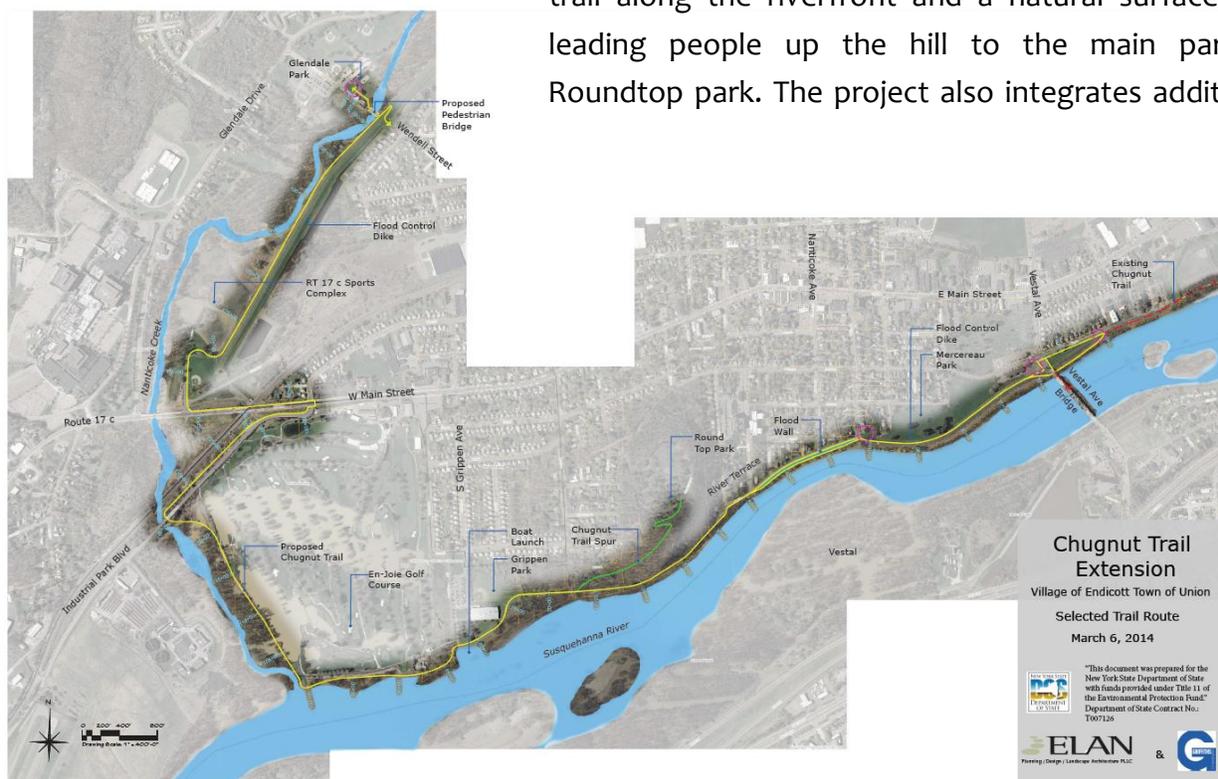
- Updating the current plan to assess progress and identify new projects that build upon the last plan, review existing conditions inventory and analysis component to ensure that it is consistent with LWRP requirements, and review and expand upon relevance of policies required to be addressed in local plans.

- Creating a River Trails Plan:
  - Develop River Trail Signage Plan and Design Guide - Brand the regional network of river trails and plan for wayfinding.
  - Service Assessment – Evaluate existing services available for river trail experiences and improvements to expand upon the service area reached for river trail uses.
  - Continuous Navigability Assessment – Find solutions for identified hazard locations that inhibit continuous navigability along the river trail, including schematic drawings.
  - Develop and print a river guide showing the river trails, access points, amenities, and services for use in awareness and promotion.

## 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 the County Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax, the next phase is the implementation of the trail.

In 2018 the Planning Department was awarded a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to construct a portion of the trail on Broome County property connecting Grippen and Roundtop Parks, increasing their value to the community as riverfront assets. The project includes the paved trail along the riverfront and a natural surface trail leading people up the hill to the main part of Roundtop park. The project also integrates additional



riverfront amenities funded by a State and Municipal Facilities Grant (described in more detail below).

## State and Municipal Facilities Grant

In 2018 the Planning Department was also awarded funding for several riverfront improvements along the Susquehanna River in western Broome County through the State and Municipal Facilities program with the assistance of NYS Assemblyperson Donna Lupardo. 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 and amenities at Riverview, William H. Hill and Harold Moore Parks. Design of these projects is anticipated to begin in early spring of 2019 with construction by the end of the year.

## SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE AREA

The Broome County Planning Department in partnership with the Tioga County Economic Development and Planning Department, provides administrative and technical support for the Susquehanna Heritage Area. The Planning Department implements 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 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. The plan guides the implementation of programs and projects to foster economic revitalization and enhance quality of life throughout the region. In 2018, the Planning Department carried out the following Susquehanna Heritage Area work:

Grant Funding: The two counties and all 39 municipalities and non-profit agencies are eligible to apply for State Heritage Area funding. In 2018, the Planning Department coordinated the Commission review and requisite endorsement of the projects applying for Heritage Area funding and the Commission review and support of the projects applying for Historic Preservation and Parks

funding under the Consolidated Funding Application/Environmental Protection Fund program. The Planning Department reached out to the municipalities and nonprofit agencies informing them of the grants; arranged the meetings with the Commission, Advisory Board, and applicants; gave the applicants technical assistance in meetings and emails; reviewed the projects for consistency with the *Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan*; and prepared the Commission resolutions of endorsement and support for the applications. In 2018, the Planning Department coordinated the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board review for seven projects. In December 2018 two of these projects received funding from the Environmental Protection Fund program: City of Binghamton received \$75,000 in Historic Preservation funding for the *Stone Opera House and Strand Theater Historic Structure Reports* and the Village of Newark Valley received \$100,000 in Historic Preservation and Heritage Area funding for the *Newark Valley Municipal Building Window Restoration*.

Education, Marketing and Promotion: The Planning Department provided direction and coordination for the local participation in the *June 2018 and October 2018 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, provided technical assistance and direction for the local programming, and reached out to Broome County municipalities and historical and cultural groups to garner their interest and participation. Planning and GIS staff designed the interactive map, handout, poster, 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. Broome County Planning used the Go All Out Broome website to promote these two Path Through History Weekends.

Municipal and Non-Profit Representation: The Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board is comprised of representatives of the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott, Village of Johnson City, Town of Colesville, Broome County, Tioga County, Visit Binghamton, Goodwill Theatre, Inc., Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST), Broome County Arts Council, Tioga County Historical Society, and the local historian and landscape architect profession.

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.

## OTHER PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### Climate Smart Communities

In 2018 Broome County Sustainability Committee continued to meet. The intent of the committee 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.

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. Planning submitted applicable action items to the NYSDEC and discovered that the County has enough points to reach bronze certification status. The final step for certification is passing the Climate Smart Communities pledge.

### State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

Planning 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. Planning completed the SEQR review for projects at the Arena, Forum and Enjoie Golf Course. In addition, the Planning Department continues to be available for training regarding SEQRA at the request of municipalities and community organizations.

### 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 172 cases in 2018.

## Market New York Spiedie Fest 2018

In 2017, Broome County was awarded \$150,000 in Market New York funds to increase marketing and improve the attractions at the 2018 Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally. This past year the Broome County Planning Department worked with the event's organizers to administer the grant. With grant funds, Spiedie Fest developed direct mail flyers that were sent to 15,000 households in the Ithaca and Scranton areas, increasing the reach of marketing materials. In addition, the funds were used to attract big name music artists: KC & The Sunshine Band, Cheap Trick, and Phil Vassar.

## Our Town Grant Application

In support of the Greater Binghamton Fund Art Park application, Broome County Planning applied for \$200,000 from the National Endowment of the Arts Our Town program to create and install two interactive sculptures in the Endicott and Johnson City iDistrict Art Parks. The purpose of this project is support the iDistricts by creating dynamic public spaces in the urban environment that engage the public and cultivates our local creative and innovative cultures. If awarded, the Planning Department will work with the Broome County Arts Council to administer the grant and implement the project.

## 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 2018 spring semester intern was Alexa Sikoryak, from Binghamton University. Alexa researched a wide array of issues including Emerald Ash Borer removal policies, revenue ideas for the Parks Department, and local brownfield remediation successes. She also built two online story maps: Brownfield Successes and Flood Mitigation Projects.

## Broome County Construction Data Reports

The Department prepared the 2017 Construction Data Report. This report, available on Planning'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 2018, the Planning Department’s social media page, made 47 posts that were viewed 21,887 times and engaged 3,376 people. We will continue to use social media and other public outreach 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 2018, they met 5 times, in January, March, May, September and November.

The EMC hosted meetings on the following topics:

- Broome County Parks Plan Public Meeting - Frank Evangelisti and Stephanie Brewer, BC Planning and Matt Gawors, BC Parks
- Overview of draft Open Space Plan – Bill Heaviside, EMC MAL and Beth Lucas, BC Planning
- Guided tour at the Binghamton Zoo – Ian Jensen, Education Coordinator
- VINES Urban Garden Tour –Amelia LoDolce, Executive Director
- HeatSmart Southern Tier – Adam Flint, Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition



## Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Competition

This year marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that the Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Competition and Show returned after a five-year hiatus. This year the event had a theme of “Wetland Wonders” and a special award was given to the photo that best represented that theme. The exhibit included information about how each image related back to the theme.

This year's event culminated in an opening reception held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the gallery at Binghamton City Hall. Several partnerships made the event possible. The Two Rivers Photography Club provided their experience in planning similar photo contests and shows. The Broome County Arts Council coordinated the show 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 2019.

*Foggy Sunrise* by Sandra Kirker - Best in Show  
2018 JKLS Environmental Photography



## 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 150 volunteers collected approximately 1.25 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 2018 the GIS Portal website received over 267,500 visits by over 82,000 unique users. This represents an 11.1% increase in visits and a 7.9% increase in unique users over 2017. The most viewed resource on the site was the *Parcel Mapper* with over 165,000 views (+7.7%). Other popular resources include the parcel detail sheets with nearly 89,000 views (+0.5%) and street views with over 17,800 views. The *Election Mapper* was viewed over 1,900 times and PDF tax maps were viewed 7,600 times.

A couple of enhancements were made to the *Parcel Mapper* in 2018. 2018 aerial photos were provided by the State from which an image service was created and added to the *Parcel Mapper*. 2002 and 2006 aerial photo image services were also created to replace the existing services from the State which the *Parcel Mapper* used. This was necessary because photos from the State services could not be printed from the *Parcel Mapper*.

The GIS Portal was also upgraded to allow for searching of parcels by old tax map number. This function greatly assists Engineering and Environmental Health as they have databases and maps that reference old tax map numbers. The ability to search by old tax map number allows them to find locations much more efficiently. For Emergency Services, an online viewer was created to show ice jam locations with links to corresponding photos. Critical facility locations were added to an online map to allow for easier review of the locations for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update than a static PDF map could provide. Story maps were created to showcase locations participating in

both Path Through History weekends and added to the Story Map section of the website. The demographic search function was updated with the newest census 5-year American Community Survey data. A python script was created to automatically zip selected shapefiles and add them to the data download section of the GIS Portal website saving time and ensuring that the most recent data is available for download.

## 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 with over 2,000 sub addresses added based on State data; compared ALI data with GIS address points; reconciled address point and street segment range discrepancies with Susquehanna County in preparation of NG911; mapped damage assessments from August flash flooding; continued to support 911 dispatch mapping adding municipal boundaries, pipelines, electric supply providers, and city camera locations; developed an online ice jam photo viewer; continued to serve on the State NG911 GIS Subcommittee; produced Spiedie Fest, Dick's Open, and Greater Binghamton Air Show 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:* LUCA (local update of census addresses) was completed in preparation of the 2020 census. The review resulted in hundreds of addresses being added, mainly from newer student housing complexes. Continued to update 239 review information in the parcel data and the 239 review layer in the *Parcel Mapper*; provided various data for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update; provided various maps and/or data for several different projects and grants including, Go All Out, land bank, and the Agency.
- *Health:* provided various maps for projects and grants including elevated lead level maps; created a Promise Zone map for Mental Health for use on their website.
- *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 2018, an average of nearly 19 hours of service per week was provided and over 450 map projects were created. Some highlights include:

- *Police:* continued collaborating with SUNY Cortland to predict aggravated assaults using Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM); 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; provided updated 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 served on the following boards and committees in 2018:

- 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
- 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