

Broome County

Department of
Planning and Economic
Development

2016

Annual Report

Jason Garnar, County Executive
Frank Evangelisti, Director of Planning

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

Daniella Madubuike, 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

In 2016, long-awaited Broome County Regional Farmers Market opened its doors on the campus of Cornell Cooperative Extension on Upper Front Street in the Town of Dickinson. After many years of planning, design, and grant writing, the year-round market was an immediate and complete success. The market is full, and vendor sales are strong. It has met or exceeded all expectations.

We took major strides forward with our plan to create Innovation Districts in Binghamton, Endicott, and Johnson City. In 2015, the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council won the \$500,000,000 prize under the Upstate Revitalization Initiative. One of the ideas from Broome County's comprehensive plan became a key initiative in the successful Upstate Revitalization Initiative plan: Creation of Innovation Districts in Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson City. To follow up on the Upstate Revitalization Initiative success, we engaged planning consulting firm Bergmann Associates to prepare revitalization plans for the Endicott and Johnson City iDistricts.

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, Susquehanna Heritage Area, and the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Board.

2016 PLANNING DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- 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
- Coordinate implementation of the FEMA mandated update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation 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
- Participate on the NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Board
- 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
- Oversee construction and start-up of Southern Tier Regional Farmers Market
- 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 Innovation Districts 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 has 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 2016, we formed steering committees and held the kickoff meetings with both communities. It is anticipated that the Endicott iDistrict plan will be completed in early 2017 in time for the annual New York State Consolidated Funding Application process.

BROOME COUNTY REGIONAL FARMERS MARKET

The long-awaited Broome County Regional Farmers Market opened its doors to the public on June 25, 2016. Construction on the market began on at the end of October the previous year. Aided by a mild winter, work proceeded which enabled the market to be opened ahead of schedule.

Under the management of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County (CCE), the regional market was an immediate success. It experienced overwhelming visitation from the first weekend and is now open year-round on Saturdays and on Tuesday nights from May through October. The market greatly exceeded expectations from both the community and vendors. The facility served more than double the projected number of farmers by housing a total of 45 indoor and outdoor vendors during the summer season. For the 2016 holiday season of the market, the market was projected to have 25 percent vacancy rate, but instead it was entirely full at 37 vendors.

The Broome County Regional Farmers Market is helping to increase the profitability of local agriculture. Because the market is open year-round, farmers are taking advantage of an extended growing and selling season to increase their winter production with greenhouses and winter crops. The market also allows farms and businesses to increase the diversity of their products. Farms are producing raw crops and value-added products that they have never sold before to meet the customer demand of the market. The majority of participating farms and businesses have increased their sales at the Regional Market, in certain cases, doubling or tripling their sales from the previous year.

Market vendors are local to Broome County and surrounding counties and sell fresh produce, locally raised meat, baked goods, honey, maple, dairy, flowers and plants, bath and body products, prepared lunch and dinner, wine, beer and cider.

The Broome County Regional Farmers Market also houses a commercial kitchen, which was used for the first time during CCE's annual fundraiser, Fresh Food Face Off, on September 27, 2016. With the help of local businesses such as Maines, Welsh's and Blakeslee Restaurant Supply, the kitchen is now outfitted with a 30Qt mixer, pots, pans and all small wares necessary for its start up. This incubator kitchen will assist local farmers with value-added products and allow at-home processors the ability to scale up production. CCE will be offering workshops and classes meant to assist farmers with the certifications for national standards that are necessary for selling wholesale.



The Regional Market has brought other benefits to the Broome County community. Consumers can meet their local farmer, learn more about the food production system, and access fresh, locally-grown food. All market vendors accept EBT and WIC checks, making buying local more accessible to low-income families.

Many players were a factor in this winning effort. In addition to funding from Broome County Government, New York State Parks, Empire State Development, the Agency, and the Low Income Investment Fund, the project would not have been successful without the vigorous support of the County Executive, the Broome County Legislature, the Town of Dickinson, Broome County Engineering Division, Keystone Associates, Broome County Planning, the Public Archaeological Facility at Binghamton University and, of course, the staff of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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. The consultants spent much of the year gathering demographic, market trend and land use data. In November, 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. We met with 21 farmers from a variety of backgrounds and discussed their needs, issues, and opportunities to make agriculture a viable industry in Broome County. Many interesting ideas and insights came out of these sessions which will inform and enrich the plan.

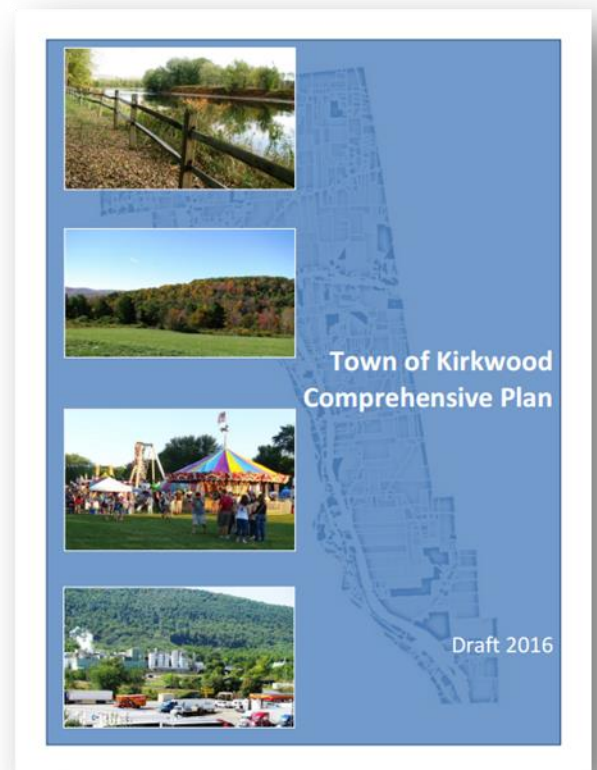
TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

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 2016, the Planning Department assisted three local municipalities with the development of their comprehensive plans.

Kirkwood Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Department worked closely with the Kirkwood Comprehensive Plan Committee to complete the Town's Comprehensive Plan in October 2016. This effort updates their 2002 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. Staff also inventoried the Town's major facilities, and examined the existing conditions of the Town's major gateway, the Court Street Corridor and the Kirkwood Industrial Park. In addition, staff worked with the Town's attorney to review the local land use laws and ordinances. Throughout the planning process, the committee engaged the Town's residents to provide input for the plan by means of a public survey and two public meetings where residents

had a chance to participate in a SWOT analysis and provide feedback for the plan. The final document included recommendations related to the follow topics: fiscal constraint, improving the appearance and safety of the Court Street Corridor, retaining and attracting new businesses in the Industrial Park, flooding and stormwater management, solar and wind energy, services and housing for the elderly, protecting farms and agriculture, increasing recreation and cultural activities, and improving the Town's local laws. The Town of Kirkwood adopted the comprehensive plan November 1, 2016.



Binghamton Comprehensive Plan

In January 2016, the Planning Department began working with the Town of Binghamton Planning Board to update their 2009 comprehensive plan. The purpose of this update is to assess the progress the Town has made since the previous plan, identify which goals/recommendations are still relevant to the Town, and determine if there are any new goals the Town should pursue in the future. Staff updated demographic, housing, economic, and land use data with the most recent available census figures, and made minor updates to other chapters from the previous plan. A public survey was conducted in the spring and the first public meeting was held in November. The Town of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan is expected to be complete mid-2017.

Maine Comprehensive Plan

In September 2016, the Planning Department began working with the Town of Maine to update their comprehensive plan from 2008. In November, a public survey was distributed to registered voters within the Town, and more than 700 surveys were completed. Staff are currently updating the demographic, housing, economic, and land use data chapters, and reviewing the Town's local laws and ordinances. A public meeting is expected to be held in the spring.

BROWNFIELDS

312 Maple Street Remediation and Redevelopment

In 2010, The Planning Department was awarded over \$131,000 in funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the remediation of 312 Maple Street in Endicott. The project was one of only 5 cleanup grant awarded in New York State in that round of federal funding. Broome County took possession of the property when it foreclosed on LMS of North America, the previous owner.

In 2012, GZA GeoEnvironmental completed their remedial design for the site and implemented an enhanced anaerobic bioremediation. Through this process, a food grade material was pumped through a network of injection wells and this attracted microbes which fed on the contamination breaking it down into harmless constituent components. This resulted in all but removal of hexavalent chromium and a significant reduction in most TCE compounds with an expected rise in daughter compounds. This confirms that the injection wells worked as planned.

In 2014, the Planning Department secured an approximately \$58,000 grant to execute and implement an environmental easement, implement the site management plan and prepare required reporting. In 2015, the County signed the environmental easement for the property, signaling that the project had entered the final stages of the cleanup. And finally, on March 23, 2016, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued its official “Certificate of Completion” for the site. This confirms that that the property has been remediated and is ready for redevelopment.



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 giving approval to go ahead with testing and a Phase II Environmental Assessment. The results of that report are expected in early 2017.

19 Avenue B

Broome County foreclosed on 19 Avenue, Johnson City B 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 and close 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.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES REPLACEMENT PROJECT

In 2016, the Planning Department began to administer a \$126,549 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Infrastructure Project for the replacement of the wastewater system at the Forest View Mobile Home Park in the Town of Windsor. The existing system is in violation of the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit. The new system will benefit the entire mobile home park community, of which 85% are low-moderate income individuals (LMI), with a wastewater system that is no longer substandard.

In April 2016, staff completed the Environmental Review Record for the project which included a National Environmental Policy Act review, a State Environmental Quality Review, State Historic Preservation Office compliance, and coordination with other agencies including Fish and Wildlife Service, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). It was determined the project would have no adverse environmental impacts.

Staff then submitted a Request for Release of Funds from NYS Office of Community Renewal to for the expenditure of grant funds for program activities. Throughout March and April, staff worked with the Broome County Department of Purchasing to release a Request for Proposals for engineering consulting services to conduct soil and topographic tests, complete the final design of the wastewater system, and assist with the bidding and construction administration phases of the project. Three proposals were received, and in July the County entered into an agreement with Keystone Associates to perform these services. As of December 2016, the final design was complete and awaiting approval from the NYSDEC. It is anticipated the bidding for the construction of the wastewater system will begin in early spring, followed by the construction of the system in the summer of 2017.

OUTDOOR RECREATION MAPPING AND PROMOTION PROJECT

The Broome County Outdoor Recreation Mapping and Promotion Project was initiated in Fall of 2014. This implements recommendations from the Broome County Comprehensive Plan to assess and fill in data gaps regarding outdoor recreation opportunities to enhance marketing of these opportunities. Broome County Planning began the Project with the goals of identifying, documenting, mapping and promoting the County's outdoor recreation resources. In order to establish a successful program, two key aspects were integrated: A complete, accurate, adaptable data set, and a modern, effective, sustained promotional strategy.

While the outdoor recreation data will continue to be updated as new resources are identified, the primary data collection effort has been completed. The compilation of existing data was completed in 2014, through a stakeholder survey that was distributed to local recreation groups and other organizations with an interest in recreational resources, and research into existing plans, promotional documents and websites by a Binghamton University intern,



who then identified missing data that required additional work to fill. A major missing piece was the County's hiking trails. Planning staff hiked the trails with a GPS unit to accurately map them. This effort was completed in 2016, resulting in the mapping of 70 miles of trails in the County.

Upon completion of the data collection component, the Department began the development of a promotional strategy to market these resources. The Department established a project committee made up of organizations with an interest in the project to guide the strategy as it moves forward. The committee includes Planning and GIS, BMTS, Broome County Health Department of Planning, Broome County Parks, the Agency and the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce.

In the last quarter of 2016, the County hired a marketing consultant ABC Creative, to develop the promotional strategy. This will include: branding, interactive mapping, promotional materials, mobile friendly web presence, integration of social media, and a long-term implementation strategy. We view the interactive mapping tool and social media integration as key components in the project. These aspects are essential considering the ways people get and use information in the modern world.

At the close of 2016 the Department along with ABC Creative have begun the background work for the development of a brand and logo, and the Planning Staff have worked on finalizing the data format for use in the interactive web tool. We anticipate that this exciting project will be completed in late Spring/early Summer of 2017.

MUNICIPAL TRAINING

Planning staff has coordinated and conducted training for local government staff and officials for many years. Changes in State law requiring ongoing training for planning commission and zoning board members, along with a reduction in the state provided training opportunities, have made these training programs vital.

The 2016 we prepared and presented municipal training on *New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Basics for Local Officials*. This course provided an introduction to the fundamentals of applying SEQRA to local government decisions. It included an overview of the SEQRA process, including establishing a lead agency, classifying an action, and making a determination of significance, and tools to assist municipalities in the SEQRA process, including the SEQRA Handbook, Environmental Assessment Form Workbook, and available online mapping tools.

Realizing the increasing popularity of solar power ranging from small rooftop panels to large solar “farms” that generate megawatts of power, last year the Department also prepared and presented municipal training on *Planning for Solar Energy*. This course covered the land use and zoning issues associated with various types of solar power and explained how municipalities can mitigate the impacts of solar power installations and encourage appropriate solar development in our communities through careful planning.

The Planning Department partnered with the Broome County Health Department and Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) to provide municipal training on *Complete Streets for Our Communities* as part of a New York State Department of Health *Creating Healthy Schools and Communities* grant. The invitations were extended to the municipalities, healthcare providers, and schools. This course explained how effective Complete Streets policies help communities create safe and inviting transportation networks for everyone, including bicyclists, drivers, transit operators and users, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, how to balance the needs of all users, and how to develop and implement effective policies and procedures to create networks of Complete Streets in our communities. The training covered the ***Foundation for Complete Streets, Complete Streets Legislation, BMTS Complete Streets Policies, Local Complete Streets Policies, Local Examples of the Land Use, Site Design, and Transportation Connection, and Next Steps for Our Communities*** including opportunities for one-on-one meetings, evaluation of the street system, identification of the Complete Street needs, and assistance with establishing a Complete Streets policy for the municipality or agency.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)

The Department provides technical assistance to Broome County Government for the compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as it pertains to County projects. The Department assisted with the following projects in 2016:

SolarCity Photovoltaic Installation

In early 2016 we provided technical assistance to the Broome County Division of Engineering in completing the SEQR review related to a project being completed in cooperation between SolarCity and Broome County. In order to provide solar energy to Broome County, SolarCity will install photovoltaic arrays on County property. A site was selected within the Broome County Corporate Park in the Town of Conklin. The Department assisted the Division of Engineering and SolarCity in completion of the Environmental Assessment form and conducted a review of the project for environmental impacts, ensuring compliance with NYS regulations.

The Agency Building

In early 2016 The Agency (Broome County IDA) entered an agreement with Broome County to construct an office building on the SUNY Broome Campus in the Town of Dickinson. The Department assisted The Agency and their consulting engineers in completion of the Environmental Assessment form and conducted a review of the project for environmental impacts, ensuring compliance with NYS regulations.

FLOODING AND HAZARD MITIGATION

Broome County Watershed Hazard Mitigation Analysis

The Broome County Watershed Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis was completed in the first half of 2016. The study was developed by the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development with funding, in part, by a grant from the NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The intent of the study was to take a comprehensive view of the watershed. By including all the municipalities, it is easier to prioritize and identify strategies that may have broader impacts for managing flood water flow, and to incorporate more proactive, innovative strategies.

The intent of this project was to provide a broad view of our County's stormwater and flood control infrastructure in frequently flooded areas, and to provide local municipalities and agencies with a tool for making prudent individual and collective decisions about stormwater and flood management. The project focused on incorporating a variety of tools and strategies including natural resource protection and restoration, as well as maintenance or expansion of existing flood control structures, along with the use of better site design, green infrastructure, reclamations of paved areas, and standard stormwater management practices.

In early 2015 Broome County hired Woidt Engineering and Consulting to develop the plan with the assistance of the Planning Department. Phase 1 of the watershed plan was completed in mid-2015. This part of the project focused on identifying and documenting flood hazards throughout the County and integrating them into a database used to monitor progress of flood mitigation activities county-wide. These hazards were also utilized to prioritize watersheds throughout the County based on the severity of impacts in the community. In the latter half of 2015 and early 2016, the focus of the project was Phase 2, which included the development of conceptual mitigation strategies in the 3 top priority watersheds, as identified in Phase 1. Phase 2 was completed and a final report was issued in May of 2016. A copy of the report is online at gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs

Broome County Stream Recovery Project

In cooperation with the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District, Broome County continued administration of a grant from Empire State Development's Hurricane Irene-Tropical Storm Lee Flood Mitigation Grant Program for a series of projects to stabilize and restore streams at high priority locations throughout the County and prevent future flooding damages. The grant funds totaling \$653,032, reimbursed local municipalities (Towns of Union, Vestal and Windsor) and Broome Soil and Water Conservation District for projects that they managed under this program. By the end of 2016 all projects were completed and final documentation was submitted to ESD for reimbursement. Final approval by ESD and reimbursement of funds is expected to be complete in early 2017.

High Hazard Pipeline Inventory

The Department was awarded a grant from the US DOT for a Technical Assistance Grant to develop a High Hazard Pipeline Inventory. The grant totaling \$47,945 covers 100% of the cost to hire a consultant to assess the hazard vulnerability of pipelines at stream and river crossings due to

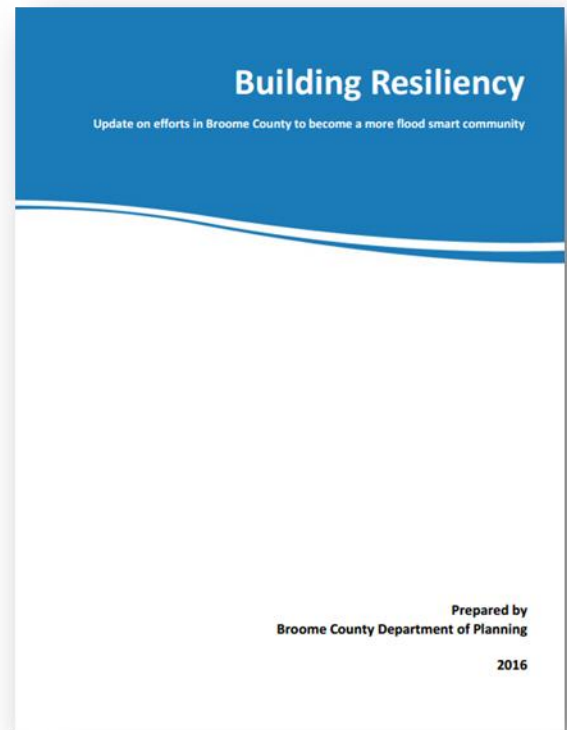
flooding and erosion. In 2016 an RFP was developed which resulted in the hiring of Woidt Engineering and Consulting to develop the plan. A kickoff meeting was held with the project committee consisting of representatives from Planning, Emergency Services and the Soil and Water Conservation District. Project completion is anticipated in Fall of 2017.

Building Resiliency Report

This community has been declared a Federal disaster area nine times due to flooding, including historic floods in 2006 and 2011. One of the common refrains we hear is that we have done nothing to prepare for future floods. To address this misconception, Planning Department compiled the *Building Resiliency* report.

In early 2016 we met with officials from each of the flood impacted communities to interview them on the status of flood mitigation efforts in their municipality and compiled this information into a report, including a map documenting the location of these projects. The report updates Broome County residents on the progress that has been made to address flooding in our community since 2006.

The projects were classified into six categories: Property Protection, Structural, Prevention, Emergency Services, Public Awareness, and Natural Resource Protection projects. Since 2006, over 170 large and small-scale flood mitigation projects have been initiated or are underway to strengthen resiliency throughout Broome County. The report is online at gobroomecounty.com/planning/pubs



Living with Water Summit

Broome County partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the City of Binghamton and several other partners in flood management, mitigation and response for the coordination of the Living with Water Summit. This project was initiated with the assistance of Cornell University through their Rust 2 Green initiative, a university-community partnership conducting action research focused on transitioning Binghamton and other NYS Rust Belt cities to a more resilient future. The intent of Living with Water was to encourage awareness and collaboration on flood resiliency issues through

a summit, held in October of 2016, directed at local officials and community members, where local experts would give updates on resiliency projects and programming in our community.

Planning Staff was on the steering committee for the event with a focus on curating a slate of speakers that would reflect the immense amount of work being done to enhance our resiliency in Broome County. As part of that effort, the Senior Planner along with Woidt Engineering and Consulting, presented at the summit to give an overview of the *Broome County Watershed Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis* and the Director of Planning and Economic Development gave an overview of flood mitigation projects in Broome County based on the report *Building Resiliency* developed by the Department.

Upper Susquehanna River Basin Comprehensive Flood Damage Reduction NY Feasibility Study



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Last year, the US Army Corps has initiated a look at flooding issues in the New York portion of the Upper Susquehanna River Basin. The Corps study has the following goals:

- Identify the current risk for flooding
- Preliminarily determine environmental and economic impact from various levels of flooding
- Propose structural and non-structural alternatives that could help minimize damage to life and property

The Corps held community meetings in Owego, Sidney and the Town of Chenango to inform local officials of their project and begin to solicit input. The Planning Department helped coordinate these meetings and is working with the Army Corps to facilitate public outreach for this effort. The study will be concluded in 2019.

Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP)



FEMA

Following the historic floods of 2006, FEMA visited the area, met with elected officials, held community workshops and produced preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Then FEMA withdrew the preliminary maps and worked to revamp their methodology for mapping levee protected

areas. FEMA is now back in the area with the new mapping process called Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) for non-accredited levees. As with the Army Corps study, the Planning Department is helping coordinate and facilitate the public outreach for the LAMP process. FEMA expects to conclude the LAMP first phase in early 2016.

Other Hazard Mitigation and Flood Activities

The Department continued participation on the Project Advisory Committee for the Stream Corridor Management Plan that will be developed for the Upper Delaware River Tailwaters area, which includes portions of the Town of Sanford. This project is expected to take up to two years to complete, ending in 2017.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition

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. The BTSC's Public Education and Participation Committee continues to develop stormwater awareness messages and brochures, among other items as required by State stormwater regulations.

Senior Planner 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 15th. About 175 volunteers participated to collect over 2 tons of trash from the County's riverbanks. The BTSC also was a sponsor for the Living with Water event noted previously.



The BTSC continued implementation of the public education campaign, “Water from Rain”, 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 2016, additional promotional items were developed to bring awareness to the website and stormwater issues. These included promotional stickers and magnets. In addition, efforts to increase awareness through the Water From Rain Facebook page, www.facebook.com/waterfromrain, were increased, with a special promotional effort made to post daily educational links during Earth Month (April).

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 195 cases in 2016.

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 2016 spring semester intern was Daniella Madubuike. Daniella prepared a paper on best practices for incorporating smart cities technology into the local community, with an emphasis on assisting the aging population. She also researched inventory and assessment methods for developing a parks master plan for the county.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Planning Department increased efforts to engage the public in Planning Department projects and programs, encourage general promotion of Broome County, and promote the programs and events of our partner agencies, through the department's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BCPlanning. The most popular posts were those referencing the department's efforts to map the County's hiking trails.

BROOME COUNTY CONSTRUCTION DATA REPORTS

The Department prepared the 2015 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

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) DIVISION

GIS Portal Website and Mapping Applications

The GIS Portal website and mapping applications continue to be a highly popular online county resource. In 2016 the GIS Portal website received nearly 226,800 visits by over 81,000 unique users. This represents an 8.5% increase in visits over 2015. The most viewed resource on the site was the *Parcel Mapper* with nearly 138,000 views. Other popular resources were the parcel detail sheets with nearly 69,000 views and street views with over 18,000 views. The *Election Mapper* was viewed over 9,200 times and PDF tax maps were viewed nearly 7,900 times.

Several enhancements were made to the *Parcel Mapper* in 2016. Large format map printing was added using a python script and geoprocessing service. In the past, the largest map that could be printed was ledger size (11 x 17). Now C (17 x 22), D (22 x 34), and E (34 x 44) sizes can all be printed. The ability to email a direct link based on your current extent, parcel selection, and layer visibility was also added. Many improvements to the drawing component of the *Parcel Mapper* were added. Users now have more control over the graphics and labels. In terms of layers available, the 1972 flood inundation layer was created and added so there are now three inundation layers available (1972, 2006, and 2011).

Other items of note concerning the website include a new Transportation Improvement Program projects application developed for BMTS and made available in the Apps section of the website. An ArcGIS Online story map was created to showcase locations participating in the Path Through History weekend. The demographic search function was updated with the newest census 5-year American Community Survey data. Work also began on a Traffic Count application for BMTS that should be available in early 2017.

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, eliminated all duplicate addresses; assigned 911 addresses to locations at Binghamton University; new dispatch software which is entirely map-based went live in 2016; worked to find new suitable radio tower sites; developed rail pre-plan maps for Harpursville Fire; 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 Kirkwood and Maine Comprehensive Plans, innovation districts, trail mapping project, land bank, and individual property maps for the IDA.
- *Health:* Provided various maps for projects and grants including food location maps for the Healthy Communities grant, tobacco retailers and school locations in Johnson City, maps for the Community Health Assessment, and radon testing maps for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.
- *Elections/Legislature:* Fulfilled many map and data requests for Elections; plan to create election results maps for select 2016 races which will be placed online; 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 2016, an average of nearly 22 hours of service per week was provided and over 400 map projects were created. Some highlights include:

- **Police:** Provided technical support to the City's Environmental Policing Task Force, which utilizes the concept of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). It is based on the principle that proper design and effective use of buildings and public spaces in neighborhoods can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in quality of life. The group is comprised of staff from Broome GIS, and City Planning, Code, Public Works, Police, Fire, and the Mayor's Office; 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.
- **Building and Code:** Various building permit, code violation, code activity, and vacant property maps and density maps provided.

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 2016, they met 6 times, in January, March, May, July, September and November.



The EMC hosted the following guest speakers:

- Kevin Mathers, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, gave an update on Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, two invasive insects affecting Broome County.
- Bill Heaviside, EMC Chair, discussed the progress of the draft Broome County Open Space Plan

- Beth Lucas and Stephanie Brewer from Planning gave a presentation about the Broome County Outdoor Recreation Mapping Project.
- Chris Coddington, Director of Environmental Health gave an update on the department's projects and programs.
- Chris Burger and Adam Flint, members of both the EMC and the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition gave a presentation on "Living a Fossil-Fuel Free Lifestyle"

Once again, the EMC coordinated and participated in the following Special Events:

- 28th Broome County Riverbank Clean Up – About 175 volunteers collected over two tons of debris and trash at locations along the banks of area's rivers and tributaries.
- 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.
- In 2016 a committee was formed for the reinstitution of the Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show. The event was discontinued in 2012 due to a lack of staff resources, as well as member participation in the planning and implementation involved in the program. The EMC formed a partnership with the Two Rivers Photography Club and the Broome County Naturalist Club to explore options to get the program going again. Space has been secured at the Broome County Arts Council Gallery for the month of July, with a reception set to be held on July 7th during First Friday. More details will be planned in early 2017.

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 Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment, completed in 2010. 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 goal of the plan is 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 2016, 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 2016, 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 four (4) projects applying for Heritage Area funding and provided the requisite resolutions of endorsement for these Heritage Area projects to advance through the grant application process in 2016. Two (2) of these projects also applied for Historic Preservation funding and one (1) of these projects also applied for Parks funding and the Commission also provided resolutions of support for these projects. 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 technical assistance. In December 2016, the Goodwill Theatre, Inc. received \$500,000 in Historic Preservation funding for the JC iDistrict Performing Arts and Conference Complex & Historic Anchor Building Stabilization. The West Endicott Fire District received \$210,431 in Historic Preservation funding for the Bay Floor and Basement Improvements.

Education, Marketing and Promotion: The Planning Department provided direction and coordination for the local participation in the 2016 *New York State Path Through History Weekend* – an 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 Representation: In 2015, the Planning Department began contacting the 23 Broome County towns and villages that do not currently serve on the Commission and Advisory Board to

request their participation to give them a vote and a voice, an opportunity to network, promote their events and attractions, participate in Susquehanna Heritage Area and New York State Heritage Areas events, and to learn about grant funding opportunities. In 2015, the Town of Colesville agreed to participate in the Susquehanna Heritage Area program and send representatives to serve on the Commission and Advisory Board. In 2016, Planning staff continued this municipal outreach effort.

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. Senior Planner Lora Zier continued to serve as the Broome County Program Administrator, Commission Secretary and Commission Representative for the Broome County Executive.

BOARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Planning staff continued to serve on the following boards and committees in 2016:

- 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 Council of Governments
- 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