



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BROOME COUNTY PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JASON GARNAR
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BETH LUCAS
DIRECTOR





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, obtaining, 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 Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study, Agency (Broome County Industrial Development Agency), Environmental Management Council, 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.



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In 2022, Planning made great strides through new projects and programs with an eye to the future. This transition period following the peak of the pandemic signified a time to reflect upon how our community has changed and envision a future that is prosperous and thriving, even in times of great challenges.

The Planning Department plays a critical role in reimagining and achieving our vision for the future through proactive and strategic efforts to inspire and engage the community, departments, and partner organizations. To that end, the Department has remained focused on initiatives to enhance community development, support local communities, modernize infrastructure, and overall enrich and improve the lives of residents.

The Planning Department is charged with providing the tools that the County and local communities need to thrive and be successful in a way that reflects our shared vision for the future, respects our rich history, and takes advantage of available opportunities for progress and growth. Through a dedicated staff and continued partnerships, several significant initiatives have allowed us to make strides toward defining our community vision, engaging the community, fostering collaborative partnerships, and spurring project implementation. These include:

- Securing funding for strategic planning in the areas of housing, sustainable operations, and energy infrastructure.
- Assessment and strategic planning for our digital infrastructure through completion of the Broome County Broadband Feasibility Study.
- Continued community improvements such as securing funding for the Chugnut Trail expansion project and implementation of the Innovation Districts Murals and Mosaics program.
- Establishing a framework and marketing strategy to spur economic development in the three downtowns that make up the Triple Cities Innovation Corridor.
- Continued collaboration with our housing partners such as the Broome County Land Bank.

Heading into 2023, Planning looks forward to continuing the initiatives highlighted in this annual report as we move toward the vision for a better Broome County and shape our future, built on the unique people, places and neighborhoods that make it great.

Sincerely,



Beth A. Lucas
Director of Planning

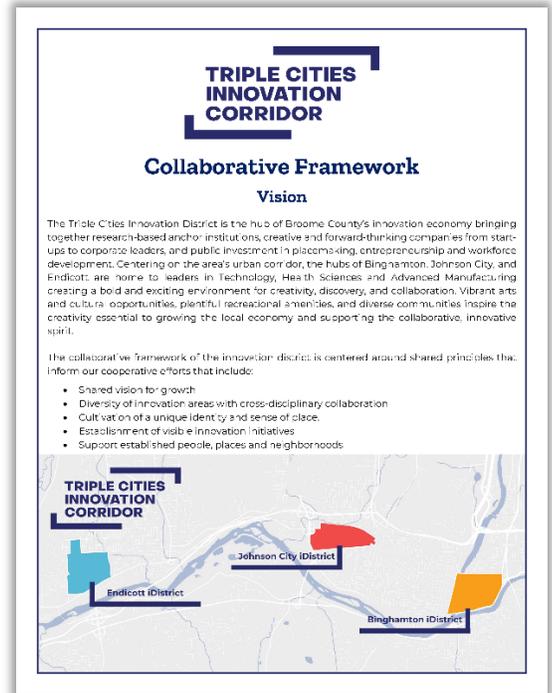


TRIPLE CITIES INNOVATION CORRIDOR

One of the most successful ideas in the Broome County Comprehensive Plan was to create Innovation Districts (iDistricts) in the downtowns of Binghamton, Endicott, and Johnson City. Through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, New York State made \$20 million available for the Greater Binghamton Fund to carry out projects in the iDistricts. The Planning Department worked with our municipal partners on several initiatives in this area in 2022.

TCIC COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK

Planning developed and finalized the TCIC Collaborative Framework in 2022. The purpose of the document is to lay out a strategy for working together with partners in local government, academia, workforce and economic development to drive the success of our three urban downtowns. In 2023, information from the framework along with other informational documents will be integrated into the Department website as well as an ArcGIS Story Map highlighting key assets in these areas.



BRANDING AND MARKETING STRATEGY

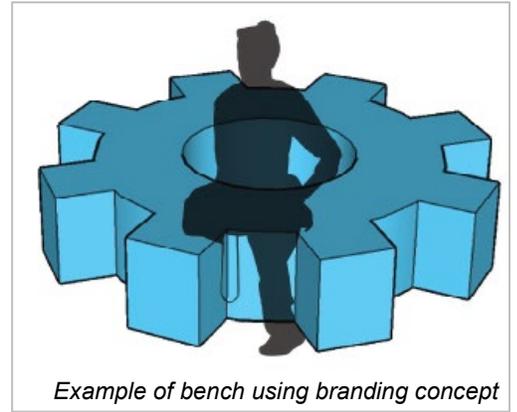
While the iDistricts experienced great success in recent years developing strategies to guide development and attracting hundreds of millions in investments, the Planning Department recognized the need for a branding and marketing strategy that would help increase awareness of the iDistricts, provide a targeted strategy for future streetscape improvements, and ultimately attract new residents, businesses, and visitors to the iDistricts. In 2022, the Planning Department hired a local marketing firm, Idea Kraft, to develop a comprehensive Branding and Marketing Strategy for the that would help create a shared message and image for the iDistricts.



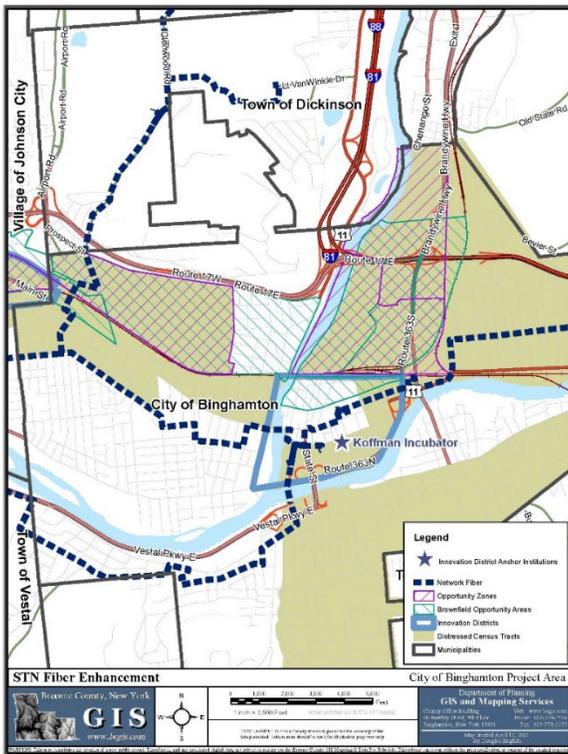
The Planning Department led this effort and assembled a stakeholder group made up of municipal partners including the City of Binghamton, the Village of Endicott, the Village of Johnson City, as well as The Agency (IDA/LDC). Over the course of ten months, the Planning Department and its partners had multiple meetings to establish a brand identity and develop the components of a marketing plan including the Brand Guidelines, Marketing Strategy, and Streetscape Strategy. These efforts led to the development of a logo system with symbols and color palette, logo patterns, social media templates, and a sell sheet for the Triple Cities Innovation Corridor (TCIC). The Planning Department used these materials to establish a webpage on the County's website outlining the goals and various resources available in the TCIC. The department will continue to work with its key partners to pursue funding and implement the recommendations identified in the Marketing and Streetscape Strategy.

STREETSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS

Planning also continued to coordinate with the three local municipalities on streetscaping improvements as part of the Greater Binghamton Fund. Through the Branding and Marketing Strategy funded by the Planning Department, we assisted the municipalities in development of a streetscape strategy that aligns with the branding and marketing goals for the iDistricts. The streetscape strategy identified opportunities to combine the branding themes with the design guidelines established through previous planning efforts. The goal of this effort was to identify unique ways to enhance the streetscape and human experience while establishing a unique sense of place within the downtown areas. The group assessed the existing streetscape and identified priority improvements including pavement markers, planters, benches, and banners as the primary streetscape features to enhance the ground, eye, and overhead elements of the streetscape. The municipalities are using this information to guide streetscape improvements funding through the Grater Binghamton Fund. The Planning Department will continue to work with municipalities to pursue funding opportunities to implement the streetscape recommendations. More information about the Triple Cities Innovation Corridor branding and marketing project is included in the Branding and Marketing Strategy.



IDISTRICTS FIBER ENHANCEMENT AND SMART CITIES PLAN



In October of 2021 Broome County was awarded a grant through the federal ARC POWER program for development of the Broome County Innovation District Fiber Enhancement and Smart Cities Plan. The POWER Initiative targets federal resources to support workforce and economic development activities in the communities and regions of Appalachia. The proposed project will include development of a study outlining expansion of the Southern Tier Network open access fiber broadband network and the potential for smart cities integration in the Innovation Districts and Opportunity Zones.

In October, the Planning Department and the consultant working on the plan, ECC Technologies, met with representatives from the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott, and Village of Johnson City to identify broadband gaps and initiatives, learn about types of technological solutions the communities are currently using, other technologies that can be used in the future, and consider how they can be used to respond to their current and future challenges and opportunities. The Planning Department also worked with its municipal partners to identify strategic educational, institutional, and economic development stakeholders to engage with during the planning process. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

PUBLIC ART

As part of the \$20 million Greater Binghamton Fund to carry out projects in the Innovation Districts Broome County Planning was awarded a grant for various projects to support enhancements of the downtowns with Public Art. Implementation of the programs and projects awarded under the grant continued through 2022.

Murals and Mosaics Program

Broome County was awarded \$240,000 from New York State through the Greater Binghamton Fund to install public art in the Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott iDistricts. The goal of this program is to create more public art in our downtown areas and further enhance the cultural identity of these areas. The Planning Department will also create an online promotional tool to promote the new and existing public art as part of tourism efforts through the County and our partners.

In 2022, the Planning Department worked closely with the Broome County Arts Council along with the various artists and property owners participating in Round 2 of the iDistricts Public Art Program. Virtual meetings were held in early 2022 to introduce the partners and to provide an overview of the program. Throughout the spring and summer, the Planning Department established agreements with both the property owners and artists and to coordinate the permitting and approval process for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the local municipalities. Six (6) mural projects were completed during the summer of 2022, bring the total number of completed murals through this program to nine (9) and adding over 7,200 square feet of murals to the iDistricts' landscape. The murals were met with a lot of excitement from the community.



During the Fall of 2022, Broome County released a third Call for Walls to solicit interest from property owners within the iDistricts; four new locations were identified for Round 3 of the iDistrict Public Art Program.

iDistricts Art Parks

Broome County was awarded \$1.32 million from New York State through the Greater Binghamton Funds to create three Art Parks in each of the iDistricts. The goal of this project is to enhance public spaces in the iDistricts with innovative and interactive features.

In 2022, the Planning Department worked closely with project partners to advance the design of the Johnson City iDistrict Art Park. The Planning Department coordinated with the project committee to complete the draft design of the park and completed the SHPO and SEQR reviews for the project. The project was approved in August and the final design was completed in November. Broome County will continue to work with the Village to complete the bidding process and start construction in 2023.

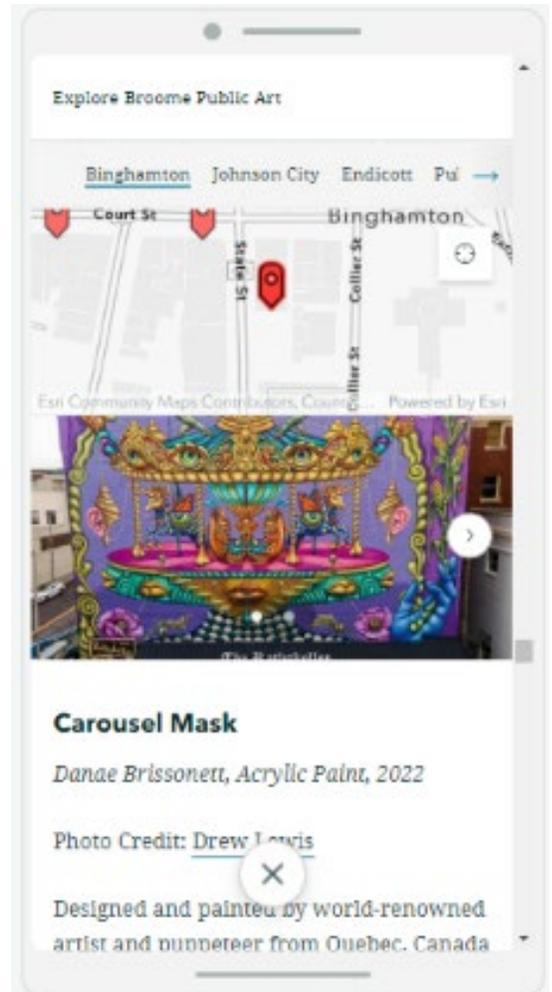
In February, the Planning Department coordinated with the Village of Endicott and the Town of Union

to begin the design of the Endicott Art Park. To help inform the design, a public survey was released in May to gather information and feedback about general ideas for the space i.e., how it would be used, what type of features people would like to see in the park, etc. During the following months, the design consultant met with the Planning Department and municipal partners to discuss the project and develop a series of conceptual plans for the space. After deciding on a concept that would meet the goals of the Village, a second public survey was released in December to gain more targeted feedback on the style and design of various features that would be integrated into the park. The Planning Department is working with the Village to complete the final design.

The third art park was proposed for Government Plaza in downtown Binghamton which included adding pedestrian amenities and incorporating green infrastructure throughout the plaza space. The project is being funded in part by the GBF grant, with significant funding from the NYS Green Innovation Grant Program. While the design for the project was completed in late 2020, the continued rising costs of the post-COVID construction environment led to significant budget limitations for construction. The Planning Department applied for additional funds from the 2022 CFA to make up for the budget gaps, but ultimately was not awarded the funding needed to complete the project as planned. The department is working with the State to determine the best way to move this Binghamton iDistrict Art Park project forward.

Interactive Map

In a complimentary effort, Planning worked with the Department of Public Art, a local non-profit with a focus on encouraging and installing public art throughout the community, on development of an interactive map to highlight public art throughout the area. This was done through creation of an ArcGIS Story Map called “Explore Broome Public Art”. This map is a resource for community members and visitors to view and learn about public art nearby, view photos, and plan new places to visit. The Department of Public Art developed promotional postcards for the map that they have placed throughout the community.



BROADBAND

In 2022 Planning finalized development of the Broome County Broadband Feasibility Study in partnership with Southern Tier Network, Inc. (STN). STN is a nonprofit, open access fiber broadband network that operates and leases bandwidth on its middle mile, dark fiber network infrastructure. STN is open to a range of service providers, including internet providers, enterprise-class services, cellular carriers and dedicated health and education networks. This model enables service providers and other users to utilize the STN infrastructure to expand and reach less marketable service areas more rapidly. This makes it a good option for connecting rural areas where it may be more difficult to generate revenue supporting individual investment. This project aimed to identify areas within the County that are underserved in their level of broadband access, and opportunities for expansion of STN infrastructure to reach these areas. This consists of development of a broadband market assessment and development of a high-level design for expansion of the open-access broadband infrastructure.

A detailed assessment was developed to identify an accurate, reliable broadband map using real-world network performance data to better illuminate the current broadband situation in the County and allow us to move more confidently forward with prioritization/implementation of broadband expansion projects. The detailed market assessment included information obtained from a leading speed test provider to gain insight into the performance, quality, and accessibility of networks.

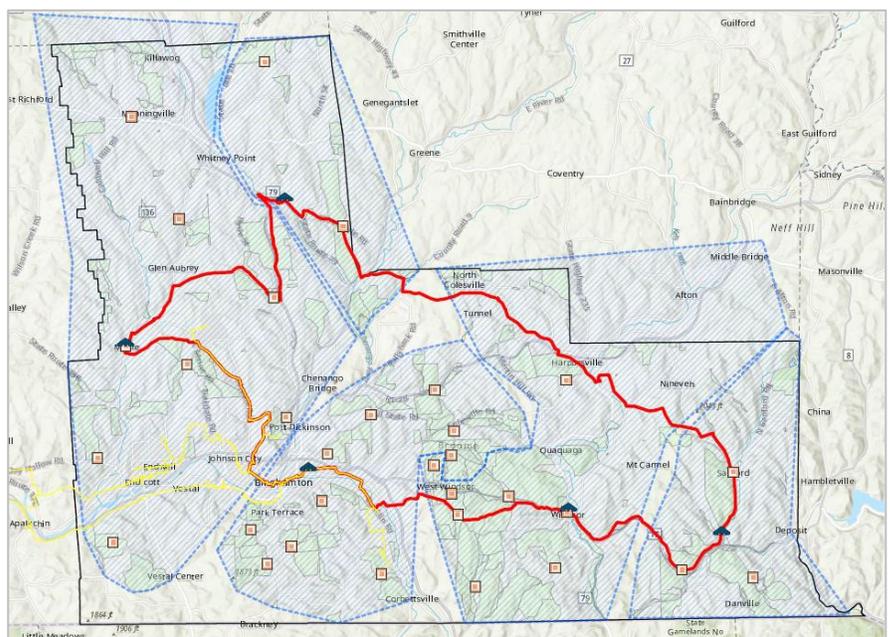
Based on the new information the study recommendations were refined as follows:

- Prioritize expansion to underserved areas as based on the more refined market assessment.
- Expansion to reach the underserved areas may also provide opportunities to provide enhanced choice for those areas that are served but have limited choice in service providers.
- Complete a high-level network design based on these findings – reaching the approximately 5,900 underserved homes.

The consultants developed a high-level network design, clearly defining the fiber expansion route and costs, as well as operational recommendations to fill the identified broadband gaps in the County. This high-level design covers the necessary engineering and planning components, including project cost estimates, providing the data necessary to proceed with funding requests or other investments. This information is critical as a basis illuminating a demonstrable benefit of funds and establishing a realistic design and budget, components that are critical in applying for and obtaining implementation funding.

After the study was finalized, STN and Broome County identified a buildout to West Windsor as a high priority first step due to the large unserved area in that location. Planning will work into 2023 to identify funding for the project in partnership with STN.

In addition, Planning utilized the results of the study, as well as data from New York State to submit challenges to the FCC's broadband map. Areas marked as unserved on these maps are eligible for broadband funding under various federal programs. If submitted challenges are upheld this will expanding the areas denoted in the map within Broome County and better reflect the availability of service.



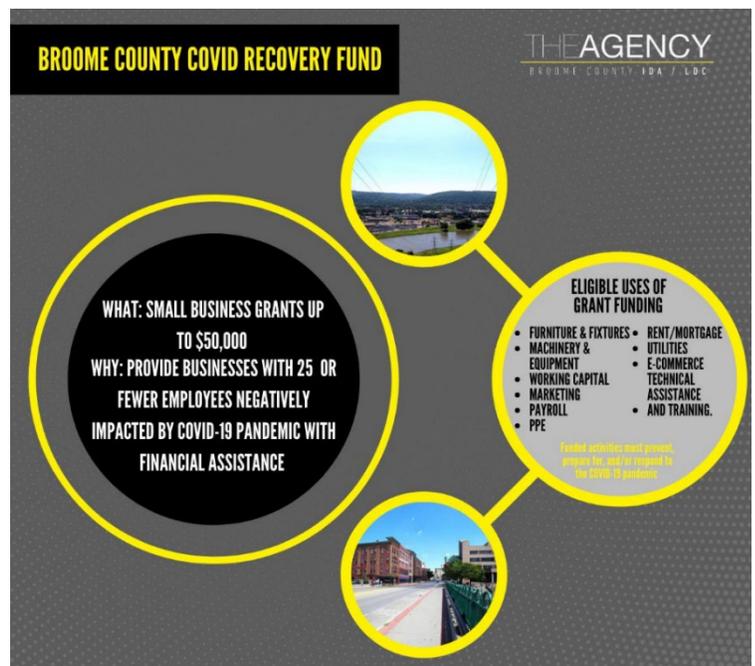
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Johnson City Downtown Revitalization Initiative

In 2022, the Director of Planning was invited to sit on the committee to develop an application for the Village of Johnson City for submission to the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative program. Each year, the competitive program provides one community per economic development region a significant \$10 million investment from the State for revitalization of targeted areas in the community. In addition to County Planning, the group consisted of Village officials, representatives from the Town, the Agency, local employers, and community organizations. The group worked together to document significant community investments, revitalization ideas, and other information to develop a strong application on behalf of the Village. In late 2022, the Village, along with the cities of Binghamton and Ithaca, was selected as a finalist for the year's award and the committee worked with the Village to develop a presentation to the Regional Economic Development Council in support of the application. A decision on the award is expected in early 2023.

COVID Recovery Fund

In 2021, Broome County was awarded \$1,000,000 to support the Broome County COVID Business Recovery Fund. The purpose of the program is to help businesses respond to the financial hardships they are facing due to the pandemic, and better prepare their business for future events. The Planning Department partnered with The Agency (IDA/LDC) to administer the grant and carryout program delivery activities. The program was launched on February 1, 2022, and applications were accepted by The Agency on a rolling basis. After launching the Broome County COVID Recovery Fund (CRF), The Agency received applications from 29 small businesses throughout the county. Types of businesses requesting assistance from the CRF largely represent those severely impacted by the pandemic including bars/restaurants, service/hospitality, landscaping, auto repair and more.



Throughout the past year, Broome County and The Agency prepared documentation and worked closely with the funding agency, New York State Office of Community Renewal, to ensure the project was meeting all grant requirements. In August, the Planning Department assisted with the preparation of a grant extension request to allow The Agency additional time to process the remaining CRF applications and expend the remaining grant funds. In October, the Planning Department organized a second public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the effectiveness of the program administration.

These efforts resulted in grant awards to seven (7) small businesses totaling \$348,367.92. Funds were used for a variety of expenses including payroll, marketing, rent/mortgage, working capital and equipment, among other expenses. To-date, grant awards helped retain eight (8) full time and part time low-moderate income employees and assisting one (1) low-moderate income business owner. Broome County will continue working with The Agency to implement the program and expects to close out the grant in early 2023.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Broome County Parks Plan was adopted by the Broome County Legislature in 2019. The intent was to develop recommendations and actions to be used to improve our parks facilities and pursue grant opportunities through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) and other funding sources. In partnership with the Departments of Parks and Public Works, Planning worked on implementation in 2022 through projects to improve these vital County assets.

Dorchester Park

In 2022, the Planning Department continued to coordinate with other County departments to complete the Dorchester Park's Pathway to Play Accessibility Improvements project. In July, Planning joined the Broome County Executive along with Broome County Parks and Public Works to announce the opening of the new facilities to the public. This project replaced decades old playground equipment in one of the park's play areas with a universal design playground, installed a new ADA kayak launch at the boat rental area, added a beach wheelchair, and paved connective pathways to the new amenities.

Forget Me Not Memorial Garden

Planning continued its partnership with the Department of Public Works on a project to renovate a property in the city of Binghamton into a memorial garden in remembrance of child crime victims. The property at 6-1/2 Sturges Street is sadly known for the tragic loss of 12-year-old Cheri Lindsey who was killed there in March 1984. The Planning Department completed the SEQR, coordinated municipal approval for the project, and participated in the design process. The department developed a project narrative that highlighted the symbolism of various features in the park. The Forget Me Not Memorial Garden was dedicated on August 2, 2022.



Grippen Park

In early 2022, the Planning Department worked with Broome County Parks and DPW to carryout public engagement activities for the Grippen Park Recreational Building Project. Planning worked to develop public workshop materials that educated people about the project and provided opportunities to share input and ideas. However, due to the concerns and risks associated with COVID at the time, the meeting was canceled, and the Planning Department worked swiftly to develop online materials to collect public input. Planning developed an online survey and mailed about 500 postcards to property owners in the Grippen Park neighborhood. During the months of January and February, Planning and Parks publicized the public survey to collect input on the project. Over 700 people participated in the survey and shared their ideas for the future of Grippen Park and the recreational building.

Once the survey period ended, the Planning Department collected and analyzed the results and created a report highlight the findings. The results of this survey were used to inform the design process of the Grippen Park recreation building and they were also used as a basis for an LWRP grant application.

Chugnut Trail

In 2022, the Planning Department developed a grant application for the 2022 Consolidation Funding Application Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). Information from the Grippen Park Public Survey and draft

Broome County LWRP was used to develop the request for funding to extend the Chugnut Trail to Grippen Park as well as expand the playground area, make improvements to the trailhead parking area, and incorporate wayfinding/interpretive signage into the park. This project builds on decades-long efforts to construct the Chugnut Trail from downtown Endicott to Glendale Park in the town of Union and complements current efforts to enhance the county's waterfront areas and improve Grippen Park. To demonstrate public support for the project, Planning Department obtained twelve (12) letters of support from a variety of local, regional, and state stakeholders.

In December 2022, the Planning Department was awarded \$2,613,820 for the proposed project. Over the next few years, the Planning Department will work with various partners to implement the project.

Go All Out Broome

In 2022 there was continued promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities through Go All Out Broome. 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.

While staff limitations made it difficult to create significant new content, Planning continues to use Go All Out resources to promote outdoor events and activities. We continued to partner with the Triple Cities Hiking Club on the Broome County Dozen Hiking Challenge, a program to highlight twelve unique hiking spots throughout the County and reward participants with a patch showing that they have completed the challenge. The project is a true partnership with information housed on goalloutbroome.com and promoted by Go All Out and all submissions being managed by the TCHC.



The interest in the hiking challenge helped to support improvements at one of the locations, Wolfe Park in the Town of Chenango where flash flooding had washed out one of the pedestrian bridges along the trail. Planning connected the Hiking Club with the Town, and through funding from a Small Community Fund grant the groups were able to work together to replace the bridge and integrate additional improvements to the trail.

We plan to continue promotional activities through events in the community and social media. Go All Out will be a key part of promoting many of the new parks and waterfront improvements going on at the County including new boat launches, scenic outlooks, playgrounds, and trails. We also plan to add more data to the interactive map on the website.

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Prior to COVID, the Planning Department began the process of updating the Broome County Comprehensive Plan (previously adopted in 2013). The intent was to assess progress made since the previous plan was adopted and assess the alignment of previously identified and new actions with the current vision moving forward. As part of this process we formed a steering committee consisting of representatives of higher education, workforce development, the Legislature, the Executive Office, the Office for the Aging, Public Works, the agricultural community, rural villages, and urban centers. We also solicited public input through a public survey and a wide range of stakeholder meetings covering all aspects of the community.



While significant progress was made, the long-term nature of the pandemic and the widespread community impacts have become more apparent making it clear that these need to be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan and to take a deeper look at how community impacts in a post-COVID world have changed the characteristics of Broome County and the vision moving forward.

As part of that effort, Broome County Planning applied for funds through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to support strategic planning efforts to be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan. As New York State and the federal government roll out significant policies, programs and funding, more detailed analysis is needed to ensure that Broome County is aligning our goals and priorities to ensure that we are best positioning ourselves in this context. Areas where more detailed analysis is needed include housing needs, energy use and infrastructure, and sustainability and climate resilience.

In light of this, the strategic studies to be developed through the grant will include the Broome County Housing Needs Assessment, Broome County Sustainable Operations Plan, and Broome County Energy Plan. Preliminary goals include establishing historical and regional context for these issues, assess current conditions, outline future community impacts and benefits, develop goals and targets for the future, and profile various projects that will help the County meet its goals. The project will produce valuable data and information that will support other planning activities and be integrated into the updated Broome County Comprehensive Plan.

Once developed, we will integrate these detailed plans into the overall Comprehensive Plan. Through 2022, and into 2023, Planning continues to work on previously completed sections of the plan including integration of updated 2020 census data, as well as integration of new projects, programs and policies as necessary.

WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION

The Planning Department received a grant from the NYS Department of State for developing a County-wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) to update the 2011 County-wide Inter-municipal Waterfront Access Plan and developing a River Trails Plan, along with a River Guide to promote recreational river use in the area.



The project includes updating the current plan, including identification of implementation projects in waterfront areas. We will also create a River Trails Plan that will lay out details associated with wayfinding for recreational river use, evaluation of existing services, solutions for identified hazard locations, and development of a river guide showing the river trails, access points, amenities, and services for use in awareness and promotion.

Planning began development of the LWRP with the assistance of our contractor, Bergmann Associates. Initial stages of plan development included formation of a steering committee for the plan made up of municipal representatives of the waterfront communities and stakeholders with an interest in waterfront development, recreation, tourism, and other related areas. We also began holding individual meetings with the involved municipalities to get their feedback on waterfront areas of interest and their ideas for potential projects.

The plan saw significant progress in 2021 with development of the draft inventory and analysis, project profiles and other key sections. In 2022, Planning and the consultants began work on the Blueway Plan and River Guide components of the project. The purpose of the Blueway Plan is to identify goals and strategies to develop the county's blueway and increase awareness of and improve user experience on the county's waterfront areas.

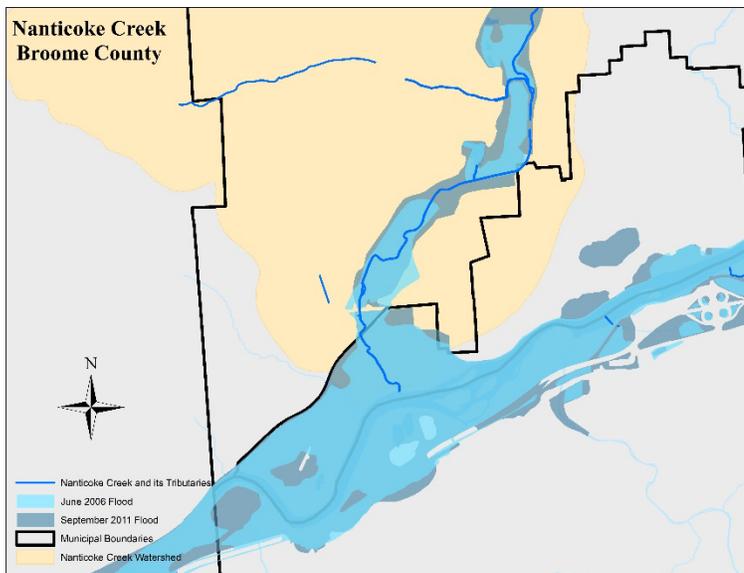


This past summer, the Planning Department carried out additional public engagement activities to obtain input on the Blueway Plan and River Guide. The department held stakeholder meetings with individuals from a variety of stakeholder groups including the NYSDEC Region 7, Broome County Environmental Management Council, Tier Independence Center, Visit Binghamton, and Ahwaga Canoe and Kayak Club and an online survey was released to gain additional insights. on experience using the county's rivers, paddling trips, points of interest, as well as potential riverfront projects they would like to prioritize in the waterfront area. In 2023, Planning and Bergmann will work to further refine project documents for final completion.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Flooding and hazard mitigation have continued to be a priority for the County and Planning Department. Continued localized and flash-flooding events highlight the ongoing need for local collaboration on these issues.

Currently, Broome County and local municipalities utilize the 2019 Broome County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for prioritization and implementation of hazard mitigation projects, policies and programs. By having a current plan in place, local municipalities are eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding through various federal programs through FEMA, allowing us to continue to evaluate and address issues related to flooding or other hazards in our community. In order for continued eligibility these plans must be updated every five years, with the current plan expiring in August of 2024.



In anticipation of the upcoming update, in Fall of 2022 Planning submitted a grant application under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through the New York State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to fund development of the updated plan. As part of this upcoming update, Planning anticipates that we will revisit the various plan components including the detailed hazard assessments, evaluate progress of previously identified recommended actions, and identify opportunities for new projects. One area of focus of the updated plan is to establish a better digital presence through development of a web-based plan, providing easier and more clear access to information from the community and municipal partners.

We anticipate that funding will be awarded in early 2023 with plan development beginning shortly after, on track for completion in Summer of 2024.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Broome County Planning works in many facets to support agriculture and agricultural economic development throughout the County, partnering significantly with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. In 2022 the Planning Department continued to work as part of the Ag Task Force, led by CCE, to address issues surrounding agriculture and agricultural economic development in Broome County, and partnered with CCE on a number of trainings for municipal planning and zoning boards related to agricultural land uses. The Planning Department previously lead development of the County's Agriculture Economic Development Plan in partnership with CCE in 2019, and we continue to work together toward implementing the Plan.

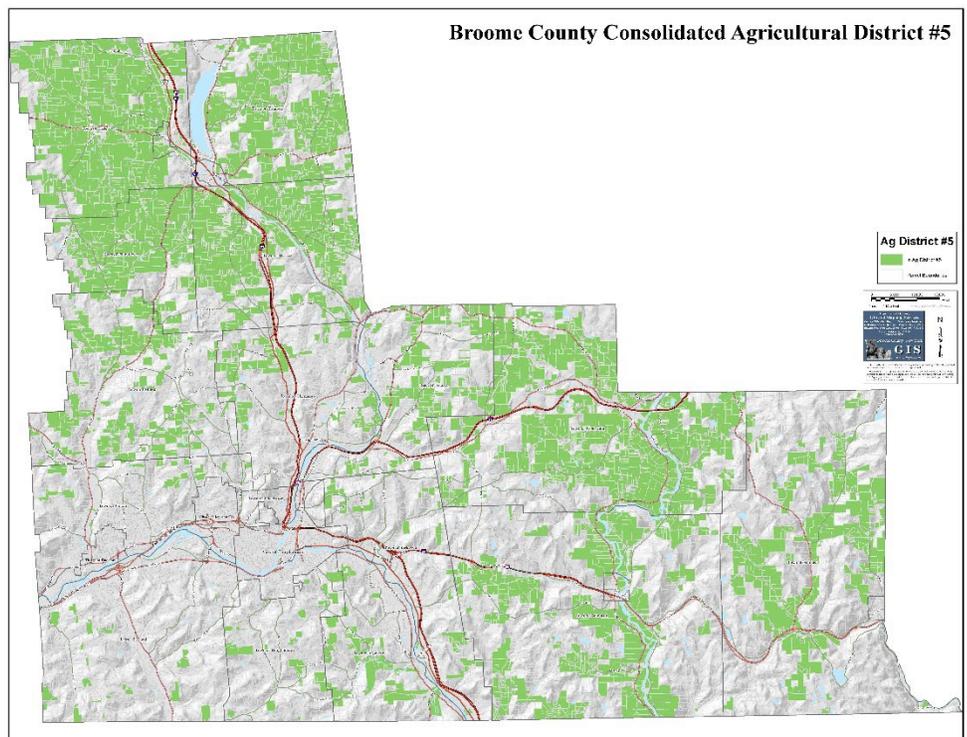
A major role for the Planning Department is administration of the Agricultural Districts program. As part of this effort Planning coordinates meetings of the Ag and Farmland Protection Board, works with CCE on accepting and reviewing applications for the district, researches details of proposed additions, and performs other administrative tasks. In 2022, the main efforts under this program included carrying out the annual enrollment period and development of the required eight-year review report for the County's agricultural districts.

Annual Enrollment Period

While actions to modify the Agricultural Districts are reviewed and approved by the Ag and Farmland Protection Board, Planning staff coordinates activities related to administration of the Agricultural District program in coordination with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. In 2022, the department worked closely with Board on outreach and processing of annual additions to the agricultural districts. The annual enrollment period is an opportunity for property owners to have their property designated as being part of the agricultural district and receive the protections that are afforded as such. In 2022, there were a total of ten (10) additions totaling approximately 356 acres. The Planning Department worked with the Legislature Department and CCE Broome to process the applications, hold a public hearing, complete the SEQR, and compile the information to submit to the State for their official approval and integration into the official agricultural district map.

Eight-Year Review

In 2022, Broome County continued to work through the Eight-Year Review Process as required by the NYS Agricultural & Markets Law. The Eight-Year Review process provides counties with an opportunity to proposed modifications to the agricultural districts. As recommended by the State, the Planning Department took this opportunity to identify parcels that are no longer being used for agricultural purposes to be considered for removal. In February, the Planning Department met with the AFPB to review potential parcels for removal from the county's agricultural district. The County mailed letters to the property owners informing them their parcel was under review for removal and



allowing an opportunity to request to remain in the district. In addition, the County proposed consolidating its three agricultural districts (#3, #4, and #5) into one countywide agricultural district to streamline the administration and reporting required by New York State and to make reporting less burdensome for property owners who own land in multiple districts. In March, the Planning Department mailed over 3,100 letters informing property owners of the consolidation and informed them of the public hearing, so they had an opportunity to provide feedback. The Planning Department responded to over 60 phone calls from property owners interested in learning more about the consolidation and impacts to their property. In April, the Planning Department completed the Eight-Year Review Report, the master parcel list, maps, and the SEQR for review and adoption by the County Legislature. The Broome County Consolidation Agricultural District #5 was certified by the State in May.

BROWNFIELDS

Planning plays a role in redevelopment of brownfields and brownfield opportunity areas (BOAs) in a variety of ways. Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized properties with potential environmental contamination, while Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) are a designation within a defined area aimed at revitalizing brownfield sites and addressing brownfield challenges comprehensively.



Brownfield sites often present complex challenges due to their historical land use, potential pollution, and the need for redevelopment. Planning coordinates with local municipalities on Brownfield issues within designated BOAs or for site specific projects. Planning works with partners on tasks that include assessing and inventorying sites and contamination, conducting site investigations, risk assessments, and cleanup strategies, developing land use plans, market analyses, and site reuse plans, and community engagement. In 2022, Planning worked with the Agency and City of Binghamton on a project in the First Water BOA centering around the Clinton Street area.

2 Titchener Place

In late 2021 Broome County foreclosed on 2 Titchener Place, a 3-acre site previously home to the Titchener Company's metal plating facility. The site is considered strategic due to its size and central location in the heart of the Clinton Street commercial corridor. The site was abandoned in 2004 and was briefly owned by Broome County around 2015. While it was sold to a developer with plans for the site at that time, these fell through, with the property once again ending up under County ownership. This has provided an opportunity to do the planning and development work needed to bring this site into productive reuse in line with plans developed by the City of Binghamton's First Ward BOA Plan.



An opportunity to conduct a new assessment, along with additional needed assessments arose through a grant awarded to the Agency to do this type of work at various sites throughout the County. Development of the assessments and reuse plan began in early 2022 with draft documents provided by the close of the year.

The purpose of the Reuse Plan and Market Assessment is to support the revitalization and reuse goals for the 2 Titchener Place property, which include:

- To assess the physical characteristics of the property and building and make a preliminary determination as to its suitability for redevelopment.
- To identify potential future uses for the property that are consistent with community needs and market demand.
- To build upon the significant investments that have been made in the City and County.
- To provide sufficient programming details based upon community needs and market demand to inform site planning and conceptual reuse designs.

The draft report outlines the property setting, market assessment, environmental issues, and connectivity, and also assesses multiple reuse options including use as an industrial flex space and a makers space. A final draft is expected in January 2023.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

In 2019 Broome County was awarded bronze certification as a Climate Smart Community by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as well as designation as a Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA. The status achieved under these programs gives Broome recognition as a leader in sustainability and an extra advantage when applying for state grant funds.

Upcoming state-level policy changes through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act are expected to enact ambitious goals for reducing green-house gas emissions state-wide in the coming years. In anticipation of this, Planning hired a senior planner who has been focusing on meeting these challenges through upgrades to County facilities and operations through new planning initiatives and identification of funding opportunities.

Lighting Retrofit

As a Clean Energy Community, Broome County received a grant to retrofit interior lighting at the County Office Building with more efficient LED light fixtures, managed by Planning. This project was completed in 2020. It is anticipated that this changeout will result in significant energy and cost savings at that facility. With the success of this project, Buildings and Grounds is interested in working together to identify funding for similar projects at additional facilities.

In 2021, Planning worked with Buildings and Grounds to allot additional funding to implement a similar lighting retrofit at an additional building, the historic Broome County Courthouse building on Court Street. Planning worked with NYSERDA to make the needed changes to allocate remaining grant money to this project. Installation of the lighting retrofits was completed in 2022.

Fleet Electrification

In mid-2022 Planning was recommended to NYSERDA by our Clean Energy Communities Coordinator to receive a free fleet electrification analysis by a consultant group called CADMUS. After being selected by NYSERDA, we were invited to participate in their Fleet Electrification Analysis Program, which provides technical assistance to municipalities that are interested in electrifying their vehicle fleet. Throughout 2022 we worked collaboratively with CADMUS to jumpstart the process to conduct an analysis of our municipal fleet to prioritize vehicles for electrification. Our work will continue into 2023, and once the above analysis is complete, CADMUS will identify available technologies and products, and develop recommendations to how to best implement a fleet electrification program for Broome County.

Sustainable Operations Plan and Energy Action Plan

In the summer of 2022, Planning staff applied for grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for strategic planning that will contribute toward the update to the Broome County Comprehensive Plan. A component of that grant will be devoted to development of a Sustainable Operations Plan and Energy Action Plan. The general objective of these plans is to help the County and local municipalities to prepare for anticipated changes and opportunities at the state and federal level related to energy and infrastructure policies and investments as well as support development of sustainability components of the updated Broome County



Comprehensive Plan. The Sustainable Operations Plan will create the framework for Broome County to direct County Operations toward a more resilient and energy efficient level of operations in the future, and the Energy Action Plan will provide information and guidance for local communities related to the energy infrastructure and land use impacts resulting from the changing energy landscape into the future. Both will be developed with consideration of existing and emerging state and federal regulations and initiatives.

In anticipation for the grant award, in late 2022, Planning staff drafted a Request for Qualifications that will be used to solicit a consultant for development of the plans through 2023 into 2024. The Broome County Sustainable Operations Plan and Energy Action Plan will be the first comprehensive planning effort completed for Broome County that examines how Broome County can prepare and position itself for the future in the context of climate resiliency and energy management. Plans will provide local and regional data assessment as well as recommendations for how to prepare for the challenges to come. The purpose of this project is to provide a road map for how Broome County maintains levels of services to meet the needs of its citizens in the future. Through these efforts, Broome County is aiming to be in a better position to consider anticipated impacts of climate change policies and to obtain available funding for projects to improve our resiliency, specifically funding anticipated to be available over the next five to ten years.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Housing Needs Assessment

To respond to the complex housing issues facing the county, the Planning Department will undertake a comprehensive study to identify and prioritize the county's housing needs. In August, the Planning Department developed a Request for Qualifications for professional services to assist with the development of the Broome County Housing Needs Assessment. The purpose of this project is to identify existing and future housing needs, as well as critical housing gaps and issues, and develop strategies that guide activities related to housing opportunities for the County, municipalities, and other partners. In December, the County selected Camoin Associates and Highland Planning to develop the study and carryout public engagement activities. The Planning Department identified municipal and community partners who will be involved in the steering committee and stakeholder meetings. The information developed in the needs assessment will be used to update the County's Comprehensive Plan.

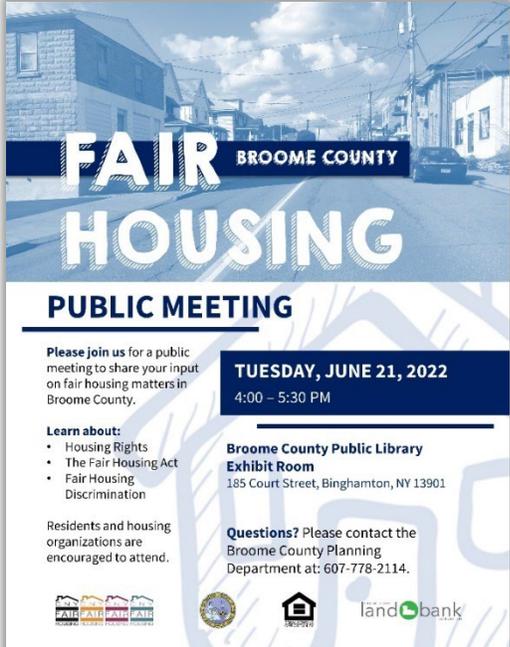
Broome County Land Bank

In 2021 Broome County Planning was awarded a grant through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in partnership with the Broome County Land Bank as a subrecipient of funds for residential housing rehabilitation projects. The goal is to complete housing projects in areas of the County that are "non-entitlement communities". These are communities outside of the urban core that do not receive annual allocations of federal funds to support housing development. This grant allows the County and Land Bank to devote attention to the housing needs in these areas through rehabilitation of sub-standard or blighted properties.

In 2022, the Land Bank focused on identifying and acquiring properties under ownership of the County through foreclosure and in need of substantial rehabilitation for residential housing. Through this process, the Land Bank took ownership of three properties, 1593 Oakdale Road in the Town of Union, and 224 and 313 Marion Street in the Town of Vestal. In late 2022 the Land Bank began the needed environmental and structural assessments to identify the scope of work for each property. It is expected that work on all properties will begin in Spring to Summer of 2023 and be substantially completed in late 2023/early 2024.

Fair Housing

As a recipient of CDBG funds, Broome County is required to undertake activities and report on efforts to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. In an effort to encourage community input on fair housing matters, the Planning Department worked with the Broome County Land Bank to host a public meeting on fair housing during the month of June. The meeting notice was posted in the local newspaper, on social media, and flyers were shared with various housing organizations throughout the county. During this meeting, a representative from CNY Fair Housing provided a presentation about Fair Housing issues and then led a discussion afterwards. The Broome County Planning Department and the Broome County Land Bank were also present at the meeting to facilitate the meeting and answer questions.



The flyer features a blue-tinted photograph of a residential street with houses and utility poles. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "FAIR HOUSING" in large, bold, white letters, with "BROOME COUNTY" in smaller white letters to the right. Below this, it says "PUBLIC MEETING" in bold blue letters. The date and time are listed as "TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022" and "4:00 - 5:30 PM". The location is "Broome County Public Library Exhibit Room, 185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901". A list of topics to be discussed includes Housing Rights, The Fair Housing Act, Fair Housing Discrimination, and a note that residents and housing organizations are encouraged to attend. Contact information for the Broome County Planning Department is provided. Logos for the State of New York, Broome County, and Land Bank are at the bottom.

FAIR HOUSING BROOME COUNTY

PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us for a public meeting to share your input on fair housing matters in Broome County.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022
4:00 - 5:30 PM

Learn about:

- Housing Rights
- The Fair Housing Act
- Fair Housing Discrimination

Residents and housing organizations are encouraged to attend.

Broome County Public Library Exhibit Room
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

Questions? Please contact the Broome County Planning Department at: 607-778-2114.

STATE OF NEW YORK BROOME COUNTY landbank

OCCUPANCY TAX

In 2022, the Director continued administration of the Hotel Motel Occupancy Tax Fund. The total Hotel Motel Occupancy tax, a tax on stays in the County's hotels and motels, is 5%. Of this, 3% of funds go to the contract agencies for economic development and tourism. The remaining 2% is allotted for three purposes, economic development and marketing, brownfields, and the Small Community Fund. Expenditure of these funds is determined by the Hotel Motel Committee consisting of representatives from various County departments and officials. Planning provides administrative assistance to this committee through management of applications to the fund, coordination of the group, and management of the finances with the assistance of the Budget Director.

There are two major programs administered by the Planning Department through this fund, the Economic Development and Marketing Fund and the Small Community Fund. In addition, Planning provides guidance for expenditures through the Brownfields funding established under the program.

Economic Development and Marketing

This fund supports projects anywhere in the County that can demonstrate a positive impact on the local economy and tourism. These may be projects that bring in visitors from other areas, improve community character, or support efforts to leverage private investment, among others. Projects, programs, and events that received Economic Development and Marketing funds from the fund in 2022 included Dicks Sporting Goods Open, Spiedie Fest, Luma and matching funds for Visit Binghamton's NYS tourism grant.

Small Community Fund

This fund supports small projects to enhance community character or smaller contributions that leverage other funds for larger projects. The intent of this program is to highlight the importance of our diverse communities to the local economy. Projects funded in the 2022 round of the program include the following:

- Food pantry improvements for Salvation Temple Church
- Revitalization of the Westside Community Gym
- New ambulances for Windsor Emergency Services and Chenango Ambulance
- Parking lot improvements for the Binghamton Bulldogs
- Generators for Five Mile Point Fire Company, Endwell United Methodist Church, United Way of Broome
- Meeting room for Mary Wilcox Memorial Library
- Kitchen expansion for Mercy House
- Outdoor education center for the Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club
- Basketball court renovations at Port Dickinson Community Park
- New pavilion for the Hillcrest Community Association
- Renovation of the firehouse beacon at the Goodwill Theater
- Purchase of an excavator for the Village of Whitney Point
- Field improvements for the Union Endicott Little League and Whitney Point Youth Club
- Promotional LED map for Broome County Arts Council
- Floor equipment and marketing items for the Johnson City Senior Center
- Relocation costs for the Crime Victims Assistance Center, Inc.
- Roof replacement for the Deposit Historical Society
- Improvements at Ethel and Barlow Park in the Town of Vestal
- HVAC and parking lot improvements for Kopernik Society
- Radio tower enhancements for Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad
- Ely Park Golf Course improvements in the City of Binghamton
- Equipment and Furnishings for the Binghamton Township Historical Society
- Bridge repair and other trail improvements at Wolfe Park in the Town of Chenango

- Renovations to the first aid building at the Broome County Fairgrounds
- Building expansion for the Samaritan Counseling Center of the Southern Tier
- Town Hall upgrades in the Town of Fenton
- Johnson City Senior Center
- School zone safety lighting for the Maine-Endwell School District

Planning continues an effort to better streamline the programs and application process for projects funded through these programs. This effort will continue into 2023. We expect that this will establish a clearly outlined program for grantees and a manageable process for staff. Ultimately, Planning would like to work with Information Technology on development of an electronic grant submission portal into the future.

LOCAL LAND USE

Town of Sanford Comprehensive Plan

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.

In 2017, Broome County began working with the Town of Sanford to develop the Town's first Comprehensive Plan in over 30 years. After completing the draft plan and preparing for the final public hearing in 2018, the Town notified the County of their intention to pause these efforts, so they could direct their efforts on addressing a large-scale wind energy project proposed for the community. In late 2022, the Town established a new comprehensive plan committee and re-engaged the department to complete the comprehensive plan. The Planning Department will work with the Town to update the data and information in the draft plan, develop a section about renewable energy in the town, and finalize the Recommendations chapter for completion in 2023.

Municipal Training

New York State requires all zoning and planning board members to receive 4 hours of training each year. Planning organizes trainings each year to give local board members an opportunity to meet this training requirement and to educate local boards and officials of land use issues pertinent in our community. During and after COVID virtual training were integrated into our programming. These continued in 2022, along with integration of some in person events. We also continue to make our training video recordings and PowerPoint presentations available on our website.

In Spring 2022, we partnered with NYSEDA for a three-part training series on Battery Energy Storage Systems Law, Model Solar Law, and Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan. Through these trainings Broome County received points towards our Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities Certifications. We then partnered with the New York State Department of State (DOS) for a training on Affordable Housing and Aging in Place, and with Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP for a training on Cannabis Planning and Zoning in NYS.

In Fall 2022, we worked with the Broome County Cornell Cooperative Extension to hold another three-part training series on Agricultural Zoning, Barriers to Agri-Tourism, and Investments in Ag. Then, we were joined by the Broome County Office of Aging again for a training on Universal Design.

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 completed reviews and provided opinions on 208 projects in 2022.

Broome County Construction Data Reports

The Department prepared the 2021 Construction Data Report in 2022. 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.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

Planning continued to complete SEQRA reviews and provide technical assistance to Broome County departments for the compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) as it pertains to County projects. In 2022, the Planning Department prepared the SEQR for the Agricultural Districts Eight-Year Review, the Johnson City iDistrict Art Park Improvements at Jenison Park, and the AboveGrid Solar Project at the Broome County Airport.

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 2022, Broome County conducted four public surveys, held a public meeting to discuss Fair Housing in Broome County, held six (6) stakeholder meetings for the LWRP and Fiber Enhancements and Smart Cities Plan, and tabled at two events. Broome County also had planned an in-person public engagement workshop for the Grippen Park Recreational Facility project. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we decided to move our input session online and created an interactive online survey to gather public input on the project. Over the course of the past year, the Planning Department's social media page, made 79 posts that were viewed 28,119 times and engaged 2,379 people. We will continue to use social media and other public outreach tools to engage our community.

Stormwater Management

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.



A Planner serves on the Coalition to represent the Planning Department along with a representative from the Engineering Division and representatives from each of the regulated communities. The Planner was newly elected as Chair of the group for 2022. Along with Engineering, Planning documents activities related to implementation of Broome County's Stormwater Management Program Plan for the Annual Report required by New York State. 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.



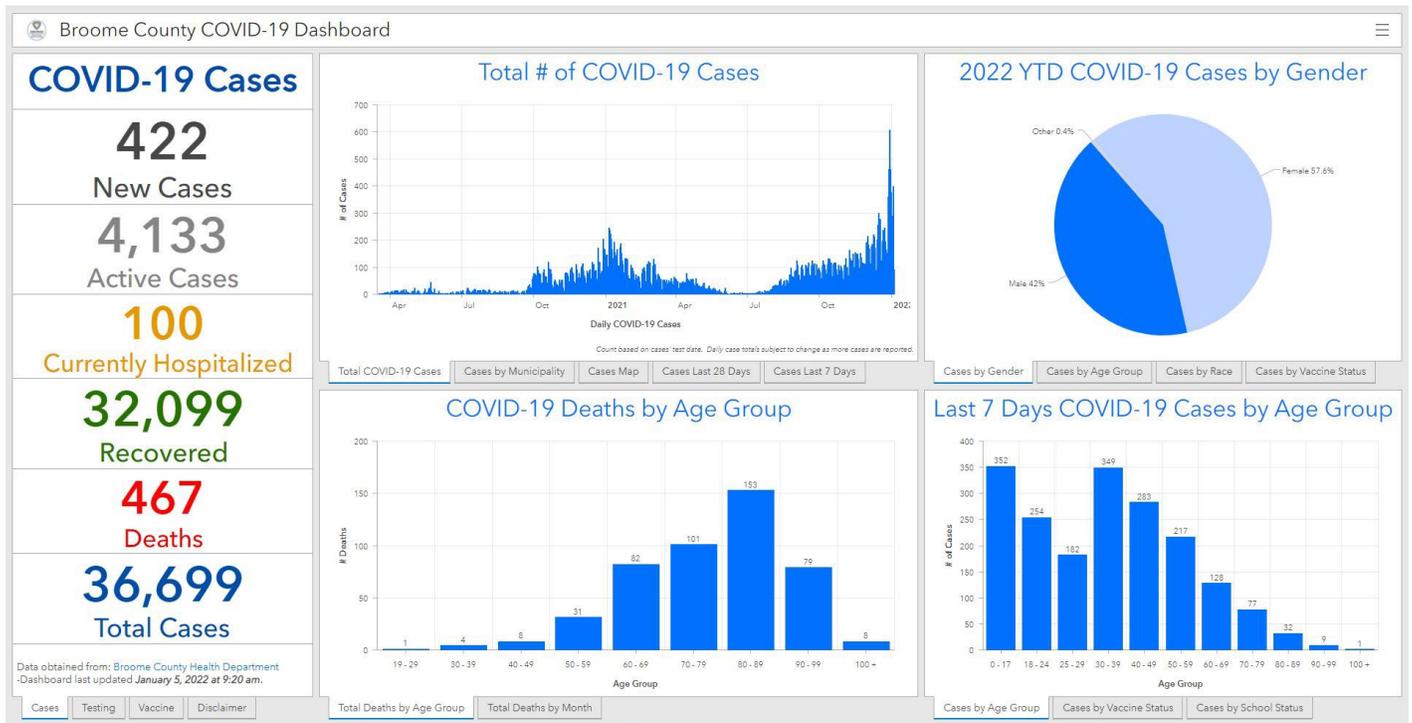
Planning most directly has a role in public education and participation activities required by the program, typically including attendance at local events, such as the annual Earth Fest, Porchfest, Luma Festival, Blues on the Bridge, and coordination of the annual Riverbank Cleanup. Planning continued to use resources from the BTSC's public education campaign, "Water from Rain", www.waterfromrain.org.

Finally, Planning staff completed Chesapeake Urban Stormwater Professionals training in the second half of 2022. This training focused on the different ways in which stormwater can be treated and best management practices for urban settings within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GIS Portal Website and Mapping Applications

The GIS Portal website and mapping applications continue to be highly-demanded online county resource. In 2022 the GIS Portal website received nearly 300,000 visits by over 95,000 unique users. This represents a -6.5% decrease in visits and a -10.3% decrease in unique users over 2021. The most viewed resource on the site was the *Parcel Mapper* with over 200,000 views (-0.1%). Parcel detail sheets saw a large increase in views over 2021 at nearly 131,000 (+25.8%), which may be related to the strong housing market in 2022. The *Election Mapper* saw a large increase in view as well at just over 4,300 (+55.1%), likely due to 2022 being a midterm election year. PDF tax maps were viewed just over 10,600 times (+10.1). The COVID dashboards were viewed nearly 390,000 times and averaged nearly 1,100 views per day. This represents a drop of nearly two-thirds from views in 2021. This is most likely due to the relative easing of the COVID pandemic.



Other online GIS items of note: the demographic information app was updated to reference newer 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey data; an app was created for Binghamton City Council for the purpose of redistricting; the Public Safety PDF map was updated in the GIS Portal Map Library; the Construction Report dashboard was updated with 2021 data.

County Departments

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

- *Emergency Services*: continued to assign all 911 addresses within the county; continued to support 911 dispatch mapping; mapped ambulance calls within the County.
- *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.
- *Security*: provided maps for various county events like the Dick's Open, Spedie Fest, and the Greater Binghamton Air Show.
- *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*: continued to update 239 review information in the parcel data and the 239 review layer in the *Parcel Mapper*; supported ag district consolidation effort with various maps and data; provided various maps and/or data for different projects and grants.
- *Health*: continued to update the COVID dashboards; geocoded and provide other COVID and non-COVID related maps and data.
- *Elections/Legislature*: generated maps of the newly-adopted County legislative districts; redrew and reconfigured a large number of election districts to coincide with the newly-adopted legislative districts; fulfilled various map and data requests for Elections and the Legislature; verified voter addresses for Elections; produced maps for the consolidation and annual additions to agricultural district # 5 for the Legislature.

City of Binghamton

In 2022 nearly 450 GIS projects and 3 map prints were provided to the City of Binghamton. Some highlights include:

- *Police*: incidents and cases dashboard updated daily; 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.
- *Fire*: provided land use, urban/suburban/rural percentages, station territory maps, and fire calls maps and data.
- *Planning*: provided mapping for various projects and grants; continued to provide updated data and server map services for the City's Building Blocks application.
- *Building & Code*: provided various maps and data.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

The Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) 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. Planning provided technical, bookkeeping, and other support services. The EMC typically meets monthly. Planning generally provides administrative support to the EMC through meeting organization, membership administration, and other tasks. Hiring a new Planner in September of 2021 allowed the EMC to work to get back on track and accomplish their goals set for 2022.



The annual EMC Riverbank Cleanup went forward in October with volunteer members of the Riverbank Cleanup Committee organizing and holding the event. Tasks included pairing groups with locations and coordination for trash collection. The event helps promote the preservation of water quality and helps the County to meet our requirements under state and federal stormwater regulations. This year's event was the largest in recent years with a total of 17 groups, 19 sites, 169 volunteers, 101 bags filled totaling a collection and removal of over 1.8 tons of trash.

In addition, the EMC continued with the two working committees created in 2021. One focused on Climate Smart Communities. The EMC is Broome's officially designated Climate Smart Community Task Force. The goal of this group is to evaluate opportunities to move the County forward in our climate action goals as a bronze certified Climate Smart Community. In 2022, this committee accomplished their goal of creating a running list of sustainability partners in our region that have the potential of aiding the County in achieving its climate action goals. The second group is the Zero Waste Committee focusing on opportunities to advise on opportunities to enhance waste management policies and programs that provide alternative outlets for waste (through recycling, composting and other means), thus reducing the volume of trash in our community. In 2022, this committee accomplished working with a student group to complete a survey on the public's opinion and understanding of recycling here in Broome County. The group hopes to use the results of this survey to further the goals of the EMC and Broome County departments relating to solid waste reduction.

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.

Grant Funding

The two counties and all 39 municipalities and non-profit agencies are eligible to apply for New York State funding under the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Heritage Area funding. Planning administers the activities of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission that is responsible for reviewing and recommending projects for funding under this program, as well as those applying for historic preservation and parks grants under the broader program. Planning conducts outreach out to the municipalities and nonprofit agencies regarding the grants, facilitates meetings with the commission, advisory board, and applicants, provides technical assistance, reviews projects for consistency with the SHA Plan, and prepares the resolutions of endorsement and support letters for the applications.

In 2022, the Planning Department coordinated the review for 9 projects: Binghamton City School District – Binghamton High School Main Street Entrance Restoration; Broome County Urban League Cameo Theatre Rehabilitation; Roberson Museum and Science Center – Mansion Masonry and Ironwork Restoration; Goodwill Theatre Inc. – Firehouse Foundation Restoration; Southern Tier Zoological Center – Interpretive Center; Discoveries in Sculpture – Randall House Re-Use; City of Binghamton – Ross Park Trail; Village of Johnson City – Virginia Avenue Park Revitalization; Town of Windsor – Windsor Town Hall Exterior Masonry Restoration and Water Abatement. Of these, the Binghamton City School District, Roberson Museum and Science Center, and City of Binghamton were funded.

Path Through History Weekend

The Planning Department provides direction and coordination for the local participation in the *New York State Path Through History Weekends* – a bi-annual statewide event to promote the historical and cultural resources of New York State. Planning staff partner with Visit Binghamton to provide local meetings, technical assistance, and direction for the local programming and reach out to Broome County municipalities and historical and cultural groups to garner their interest and participation. Planning, GIS, and Print Shop staff design the interactive map, handout, poster, and event descriptions designed to promote these sites and events and to raise awareness of the historical and cultural resources of Broome County and the Susquehanna Heritage Area. Broome County Planning uses the Go All Out Broome and Broome County Planning Department websites to promote these two

annual events and the Broome County Executive Office hosts the press conference held at Roberson Museum Mansion.

Ride the Carousel Circuit

For more than 25 years Broome County has coordinated with the local municipal parks departments for the Ride the Carousel Circuit Program. Planning provides the informational brochures and jeweled buttons that serve as tokens for participants in the program. We also partner with Visit Binghamton to promote the program annually.

Municipal and Non-Profit Representation

The Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board are 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. Lora Zier serves as the Broome County Program Administrator, Commission Secretary, and Commission Representative for the Broome County Executive.

Commission and Advisory Board Meetings and Membership

In 2022, due to Covid-19 the Planning Department partnered with the City of Binghamton and Tioga County to hold in-person and virtual meetings which included discussion of the new grant opportunities and projects going forward in the new year and update of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Management Plan Amendment.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Planning Department has taken an active role in collaborating and ensuring that our needs are met at a regional level as well. One of the primary means of regional collaboration is through participation in efforts spearheaded by the Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Development Board. The Director of Planning is a sitting board member and participates in several of the related committees and groups. On an annual basis, along with the other regional Planning Directors, we work to identify projects to be funded through the federal Appalachian Regional Commission program and provide guidance for other federal funding and programming managed by ST8.

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Director of Planning sits on the ST8 Planning Committee along with the other local Planning Directors in our region. One task of this group is to assist ST8 with implementing the local distribution of funds under the federal Appalachian Regional Commission program, intended to support investments in the region's economic and community development. Each applicant to the program must provide a letter of support from the Planning Director from the counties impacted by their proposed project. Annually, representatives assist in outreach to potential grant applicants and reviewing projects for consistency with local goals, feasibility, impact and other criteria.

CEDS

The Director of Planning also sits on ST8's committee that drives development and implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region. The committee consists of representatives from each county with a role in economic development. In Broome this includes representatives from the Leadership Alliance (IDA and Chamber of Commerce) and Broome-Tioga Workforce in addition to Planning.

Broadband

In the wake of the COVID pandemic, with remote work and learning becoming a necessity for everyone, accessible internet access became a priority from the standpoints of economic development, resiliency, and equity on a nationwide scale. Locally, under the leadership of ST8 Broome County has partnered with neighboring counties to work together through the Regional Broadband Collaborative. The group works together on assessing local broadband needs, identifying the barriers to accurate service data and funding, and monitoring state and federal broadband policies that may impact our ability to make progress in broadband expansion.

BOARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Planning staff served on the following boards and committees in 2022:

- Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board
- Agricultural Task Force
- Aging Futures Partnership
- BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
- BMTS Planning Committee
- Broome County Community Health Assessment Steering Committee
- Broome County Environmental Management Council
- Broome County Flood Task Force
- Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition
- Census Complete Count Committee
- Communities Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)
- Department of Public Art
- Johnson City Downtown Revitalization Initiative Local Planning Committee
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- NYS DEC Region 7 Open Space Committee
- Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Development Board
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board
- New York State Path Through History Local Committee