

Broome County

Annual Report

Department of Planning
and Economic Development

2014

60 Hawley Street – Binghamton, New York

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the sound and orderly economic, physical and environmental development of Broome County and its constituent municipalities. Provide technical planning and environmental services and assistance to the County Executive, County Legislature and municipal jurisdictions and by implementing projects and programs designed to improve the economy, environment and physical infrastructure of the County.

Description

The Department of Planning and Economic Development extends professional services to Broome County Government, its departments and municipalities as well as to other public and private entities. Its three Divisions, the Division of Planning & Economic Development, Environmental Management Council and Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study, provide assistance in land-use planning, zoning, grantsmanship, economic development, transportation planning, environmental studies and recommendations, 239 Reviews, community assistance, GIS Mapping and research and infrastructure development. Advisory guidance is provided by the Southern Tier Economic Partnership, Environmental Management Council and BMTS Advisory Committee, the Broome County Land Bank, the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, and the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Board.

Objectives

- Closely collaborate with economic development entities in the region to continue implementation of a coordinated approach to economic development.
- 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 239 reviews, zoning and subdivision reviews.
- 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
- Continue implementation of the County-Wide Comprehensive Plan action plan.
- Continue coordinating implementation of the FEMA mandated update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Continued implementation of federally mandated Stormwater Management Plan and providing education and facilitating public participation for MS4 Compliance, (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems).
- Complete Step III of the Endicott Johnson Industrial Spine BOA.
- Oversee construction and start-up of Southern Tier Regional Farmer's Market
- Continue to coordinate the Flood Task Force, administer flood related grant programs, and evaluate and implement new and better flood mitigation strategies.
- Continue collaboration with Village Centers and the Western Broome Roundtable.
- Continue participation and providing support to the new Broome County Land Bank.
- Continue participation on the NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Board. Assist with initiating an Upper Susquehanna Watershed Study in conjunction with the NYS DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Begin monitoring program post EPA clean Up Cooperative Agreement for 312 Maple Street Remediation.
- Continue providing support and assistance to Broome County municipalities on Comprehensive Plan Development.
- Continue participation on and providing support for the Ag and Farmland Protection Board.

Broome County Land Bank

In 2013 Broome County received designation by Empire State Development as a 'Land Bank'. This is a new economic development tool in New York, but it has been used successfully for redevelopment in many other parts of the country.

Through a 'Land Bank', the County can take ownership of distressed properties, and promote their redevelopment through a market based approach. During 2013, the Broome County Land Bank was incorporated, established a board of directors, set goals and objectives and applied for funding from the New York State Community Revitalization Program. The Land Bank received \$150,000 in administrative funding for 2014. As a result of this grant, the Land Bank transitioned from a part-time function of the Planning Department to a full-fledged, stand-alone not-for-profit. In early 2014, the Land Bank board hired Stacey Duncan to be their first executive director and sole paid staff member. More information about the Land Bank is on their website: www.broomelandbank.org.

Agriculture Task Force

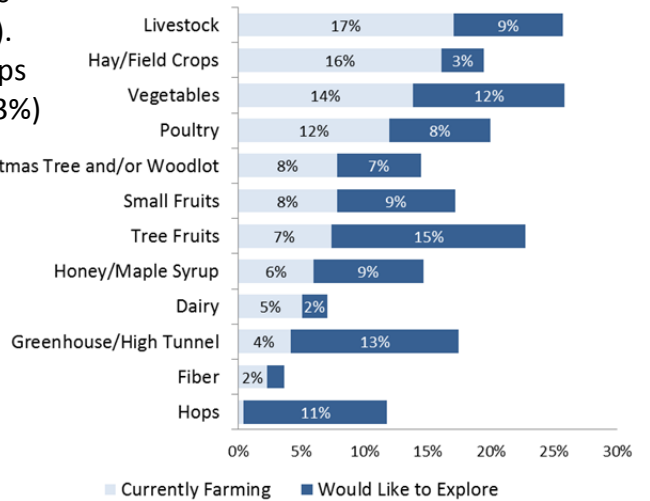
In 2013, Broome County formed an Agriculture Task Force consisting of representatives from the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Broome County Farm Bureau, the County Legislature, the Broome County Industrial Development Agency and Broome County Planning.

One of the first accomplishments of the Agricultural Task Force was the distribution in 2014 of a survey to farmers to learn how they are doing and see how the Task Force can help. The findings were very interesting.

Most farmers have a positive outlook for agriculture in Broome County. Over 2/3rds agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “I see good prospects for a farm like mine”.

Most survey participants reported that they raised livestock (17%) followed by hay and field crops (16%). The fewest farmers raised hops (0.5%). But, many farmers are interested in growing hops (11%). Tree fruits (15%) and greenhouse (13%) agriculture also hold great promise, according to Broome County farmers.

What Types of Agriculture Do We Have?



Following up on the survey, in late 2014, the Planning Department submitted a grant application to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to fund an update to the county’s agriculture economic development plan.

Rural Broome Counts

Rural Broome Counts is a needs assessment project being conducted by Rural Health Network of South Central New York. The project is taking an in-depth look at the eleven rural towns in Broome County. These are the towns with less than 200 people per square mile. Rural Broome Counts was initiated in 2014 and will be completed by August 2015. At that time the Rural Health Network will distribute a report to all stakeholders. The plan



is to update Rural Broome Counts every three years so in order to track rural Broome County’s status and provide information for other planning efforts such as the Broome County

Community Health Assessment, Aging Services Plan, Coordinated Transportation Plan, and others.

The Planning Department participated in the Rural Broome Counts kick off and has provided additional data and GIS support to the effort. We look forward to the resulting report.

Colesville Comprehensive Plan Update

In early 2014, the Planning Department contracted with the Town of Colesville to update their comprehensive plan. The Town's previous plan was from 1983. The Planning Department began by assisting the Town with drafting and mailing a survey to Colesville residents. Survey topics included satisfaction with Town services, compatibility of various types of development, and the town's assets and shortcomings. Planning staff tallied the results and presented them to the Colesville comprehensive plan committee and ultimately at a public hearing for town residents. Staff also reviewed the Town's land use laws, inventoried Colesville's assets and began drafting chapters for the plan. The Colesville comprehensive plan update is expected to be completed in early 2015.

Flood Mitigation and Recovery

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The update to the Broome County Multijurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA in June of 2013 and adopted by the Broome County Legislature in July 2013. Update and adoption of the Plan is required every five years. Therefore, the next full update is scheduled for the year 2018. The Plan outlines a maintenance strategy whereby Broome County requests information from each municipality on an annual basis to track progress between updates. In 2014, the Department developed forms to capture any new projects, completed projects or modifications that have occurred since the Plan's completion. These were distributed and filed as returned by participating municipalities.

Broome County Watershed Based Mitigation Strategy

The Broome County Watershed Based Flood Mitigation Strategy is being 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. Occurrences of river flooding and flash flooding events and their associated damage have taken a financial toll on local municipalities, including capital costs for infrastructure repairs and upgrades and indirect impacts to local economic and community development. Considering local financial constraints, the prioritization of projects that improve stormwater and flood management, while minimizing impacts to the local economy is essential for maximizing the benefits received from infrastructure investments.

By taking a more comprehensive view of the watershed and including all the municipalities working together, it is easier to prioritize and identify strategies that may have broader impacts for managing flood water flow, and also to incorporate more proactive, innovative strategies. The intent of this project is to provide a broad comprehensive view of our County's stormwater 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 will focus 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.

The Department, working with Woidt Engineering and Consulting, began work on the project in March of 2014. The project is being completed in two phases. Phase one objectives are to locate frequent flood hazard locations in Broome County, to create an updatable database that contains pertinent flood hazard characteristics, to use the database to prioritize the County's watersheds based on the level of deleterious impacts caused by the flooding hazards. Activities for phase one included research and analysis of existing reports and programs, outreach to the municipalities via the Flood Task Force, and outreach to the community via a public meeting.

The results of phase one was presented to the Flood Task Force in December of 2014. In 2015, the phase one report will be finalized and the project team will move on to complete phase two which involves the development of mitigation strategies for the top three priority watersheds identified in phase one of the project.

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. Grant funds total \$653,032, which is being used to reimburse local municipalities and Broome Soil and Water for projects that they will be managing under this program. Most projects have been completed including those managed by the Town of Union (one project), Town of Windsor (one project), Town of Vestal (four projects) and Broome County Soil and Water (two projects). Two additional projects managed by Soil and Water will be completed in 2015.

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)

In 2014, Broome County Planning became an affiliate member of the Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). COAD is a non-profit which was incorporated in 2009, but its roots go back farther in the area. After the



**BROOME COUNTY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
ACTIVE IN DISASTER**

devastating floods of 2006, an ad-hoc group of representatives from a wide array of disaster response agencies and organizations met and communicated frequently

to coordinate services, volunteer efforts, and the collection and distribution of contributions to flood relief. This informal group evolved into COAD. When the area flooded again in 2011, having a network of human service and volunteer organizations in place was very effective. Today, COAD has a full time staff person who is housed at the Broome County United Way and they continue to improve our disaster preparedness, response and recovery.



In September of 2014, COAD held a large exercise regarding how this area would plan for recovery following a major flood event. The exercise was attended with well over 75 participants, including a representative from the Planning Department. More exercise and educational efforts are being organized as COAD grows and takes on more members.

League of Women Voters Presentation

In September of 2014, Planning staff made a presentation to the Broome County League of Women Voters regarding flood maps and flood mitigation. Also on the panel was James Rollo who is expert in flood insurance, and Peter Knuepfer, a professor at Binghamton University who is an expert in the impacts of changing climate on flooding frequency and severity. The presentations covered changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, the status of revised flood maps for the region, and what the types of flooding events that this region can anticipate as the climate warms.



Stormwater

Broome County MS4

Planning staff facilitated a meeting of the Broome County Stormwater Working Group in March. This is a group consisting of department heads and supervisory personnel that

have a roll in implementation of the County's Stormwater Management Program Plan. The main focus of the meeting was to review draft municipal good housekeeping plans for Broome County facilities. The Division of Engineering took lead on the development of these plans with assistance from O'Brien and Gere. Planning staff assisted in the review and distribution of the plan to relevant County departments.

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 worked 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.



A major activity of the Coalition with administrative support from Planning and the Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board (STERPDB) was an update to the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Coalition. This included the institution of a fee based membership to the Coalition which will provide funds for the organizations projects and programs. The updated MOU was developed in the first quarter of 2014. Municipalities were given a deadline in March of 2015 to sign the MOU for inclusion in the 2015 annual report. Planning worked on providing assistance and coordinating outreach regarding the MOU throughout 2014 and this continues into 2015.

Planning staff provide administrative support for the Coalition's programs and initiatives. The 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. 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. Administrative activities also included updating the BTSC website, www.broometiogastormwater.com, housed on the County server, distributing notices related to BTSC meetings and events, as well as news and information from the NYSDEC and EPA regarding stormwater regulations and guidance.

Planning staff also coordinated BTSC meetings throughout the year. This included meetings of the full BTSC and the smaller Public Education and Participation Committee. Planning staff also organized training opportunities for BTSC members, along with Broome and Tioga's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These included training regarding

municipal good housekeeping practices and municipal stormwater construction inspection training.

Planning staff has continued to provide assistance as necessary when municipalities are being audited by the NYSDEC or the US EPA for their respective Stormwater Management Programs. As administrative support to the BTSC, planning staff assisted by providing relevant materials related to BTSC projects and programs, including the public education and participation aspects of the program and records of training opportunities.

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 11th. About 175 volunteers participated to collect about 1.7 tons of trash from the County's riverbanks.

In 2014, the BTSC completed the development of a public education campaign, "Water from Rain". The intent was to develop a memorable campaign, logo and educational brand that would 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 relates to stormwater management. The initial phase of the program has been focused on the best management practices for residents and homeowners, but the BTSC plans to expand the campaign to additional areas in the future. The campaign includes establishment of a new logo, website (www.waterfromrain.org), TV ad, radio ad, and brochure. The campaign and website were launched in February of 2014. TV ads premiered during the 2014 Super Bowl and TV and radio ads ran for 2 months after that.



As an official launch to the program, the BTSC held an educational event at the Discovery Center's Story Garden in August of 2014. This event was planned and organized by Planning Staff, with assistance from STERPDB. The event centered on a press conference to promote the website and campaign. Educational activities for kids helped to engage them and their families in stormwater activities.

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 awards allocated 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.

During the second quarter of 2012, GZA GeoEnvironmental completed their remedial design for the site and implemented an enhanced anaerobic bioremediation. Through this process, a food grade material is pumped through a network of injection wells and this attracts microbes which feed 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 are working as planned.

In 2014, the EPA clean up grant terminated. Broome County will complete the monitoring program utilizing Hotel-Motel Brownfield clean up funds. Also 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.

When the cleanup is complete, the property will once again be on the tax rolls.

Susquehanna Heritage Area Management

The Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development 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, which 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 2013 the Planning Department facilitated the signing of the Amended Agreement Establishing the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission by the Broome County Executive, Tioga County Legislative Chair and Mayors of the City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott and Village of Johnson City. The Commission Amended Agreement reflects the expanded boundary and

new composition of the Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission to allow the two counties and 39 municipalities located in the two counties to participate in the Commission. In 2014 the Planning Department assignments included the following:

Grant Funding: The two counties and all 39 municipalities and the non-profit agencies are eligible to apply for State Heritage Area funding. In 2014 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. Under the direction of the Planning Department, the Commission reviewed five (5) 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 2014. Three (3) of these projects also applied for Historic Preservation funding or 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 2014 the **Tri-Cities Opera** received the only **Heritage Area award** for the Southern Tier Region, with the award **totaling \$90,364** for roof replacement and masonry façade repairs to correct damage from storm-water runoff and snowmelt to its landmark building.

Education, Marketing and Promotion: Tasked with promoting education, promotion and partnerships, the Planning Department coordinated the local participation in the 2014 NYS Path Through History Weekends – a statewide event to promote the historical and cultural resources of New York State. In 2014 the Planning Department was approached by Swartout Tours of Ithaca to arrange a carousel tour for July 2015. The Planning Department arranged the itinerary for the day-long event, including visits to the Binghamton Visitor Center, Endicott Visitor Center and Roberson Museum and Science Center Gift Shop, a carousel presentation by a local historian, lunch in the Endicott Visitor Center Community Hall and desert in Little Italy in an effort to promote the historical and cultural resources of the Susquehanna Heritage Area.

Municipal Representation: In 2014 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.

Commission and Advisory Board Meetings and Membership: The Planning Department continued to coordinate and facilitate the bi-monthly meetings of the Commission and Advisory Board rotating the meeting locations between Broome County and Tioga County and coordinates the Commission and Advisory Board membership. The Planning

Department continued to serve as the Broome County Program Administrator, Commission Secretary and Commission Representative for Broome County Executive Debra A. Preston.

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 state provided training opportunities due to budget cuts, have made these training programs increasingly important.

In 2014 the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development partnered with Coughlin & Gerhart LLP to provide municipal training giving local municipalities the planning and zoning tools available to them to address industrial uses, including oil and natural gas drilling. This intensive municipal training entitled ***Municipal Land Use Planning and Zoning for Industrial Uses*** covered the following topics:

- **State Environmental Quality Act Generic Environmental Impact Statement for High Volume Fracturing in Marcellus Shale:** Summary of previous activity, SGEIS timetable and pertinent provisions.
- **Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Local Zoning Laws:** ECL preemption of local zoning in oil and gas drilling, comparison to the Mined Land Reclamation Law and extent to which municipalities can regulate through local zoning.
- **Industrial Scenarios:** Industrial use scenarios such as pipe yards, staging areas, storage yards, compressed natural gas stations, truck traffic, noise and visual character.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** Adoption and amendment process, purpose of the plan, relationship between the plan and zoning, sample language for goals, zoning districts and general conditions.
- **Zoning:** Zoning districts, site plan regulations, supplemental standards, special use permits and code enforcement.
- **Local Laws and Ordinances:** Noise, worker housing, light, odors, air quality, dust control and an overview of road preservation.

In addition, in 2014 the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development co-sponsored a municipal training entitled ***Complete Streets – The Importance and Benefits of Designing Streets for All Users*** with the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS), Broome County Health Department and United Way of Broome County. The BMTS took the lead in providing this training.

Finally, the Department also partnered with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County, Cornell Waste Management Institute, Broome County Real Property Tax Services, NYFarmNet, Town of Maine Code Enforcement Officer and Former Town of Chenango Assessor to provide municipal training on agricultural. The topics covered are described below.

- **Agricultural Waste: What Is It? What Is the Role of the Farm and the Municipality?** This session gave an overview on local agricultural waste and the farm role and the municipal role in regulation and disposal.
- **Agricultural Property Assessments and Other Rural Landowner Programs:** This session gave an overview on the Agricultural Property Assessment Program, 480A Forest Tax Program and other rural landowner programs available to municipalities to encourage agriculture.
- **Rural Code Enforcement and Property Assessment:** This session discussed the tensions between municipalities and farmers and explained how municipalities can use code enforcement and property assessment to encourage agricultural growth.

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 168 cases in 2014. The most significant projects reviewed by the Department in 2014 were as follows:

- Site Plan Review, Planned Unit Development and Rezoning to convert Traditions Resort and Golf Course and Townhouses into a multi-phased casino, including new parking, site improvements, hotel expansion and an outdoor entertainment venue.
- Site Plan Review to construct the new Southern Tier High Technology Incubator in downtown City of Binghamton.
- Zoning Text Amendments to amend the Town of Sanford Mobile Home Local Law and Land Use Management Local Law and create a new Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Local Law and Travel Trailer District in anticipation of the housing needs for the natural gas industry.
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment to update the Town of Chenango Comprehensive Plan in anticipation of natural gas drilling. The review included the permissibility of the energy recommendation; the adequacy of the proposed sign regulations; the feasibility of rezoning agricultural land to commercial; and the need for design guidelines, landscape requirements and a Complete Streets policy for the Front Street Corridor.

- Site Plan Review to demolish a car dealership and construct a new United Health Services medical-office building on the Vestal Parkway East.
- Comprehensive Plan Adoption and Zoning Text Amendment to create a new City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan and Main Street/Court Street Corridor Plan Form-Based Code (Blueprint Binghamton).
- Site Plan Review, Use Variance and Area Variance to convert property located on Court Street and Pine Street in the City of Binghamton into a Veterans Administration clinic.
- Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit to convert the former Sheltered Workshop manufacturing building into multiple-family housing on Court Street in the City of Binghamton. This project was one of several multiple-family housing reuse projects proposed for the downtown that the Planning Department reviewed in 2014.
- Site Plan Review to allow a controversial cigar lounge, private parties, catering and outdoor events to occupy an existing commercial site located along NYS Route 12A in the Town of Chenango.

Broome County Construction Data Reports

As part of the annual reporting process, the Department prepared the 2013 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 Unit continues to provide a robust GIS website with access to both static and interactive maps. In 2014, the site received over 180,000 visits. Although the GIS website is one of the most widely visited sites of Broome County government, the web server it resides on and the GIS software that enables the interactive mapping applications are both outdated and no longer supported. In order to remedy this situation, a new web server was purchased and ESRI ArcGIS for Server software installed, which will replace the unsupported ESRI ArcIMS software on which the current mapping applications run. Regarding mapping applications, work began on a new parcel application to replace the

existing *Unified Parcel Information System*. This new application should be available in early 2015, enabling the old web server to be decommissioned.

County Departments

The GIS Unit continues to support nearly all county departments in some capacity with mapping, data, and analysis. Some highlights include:

- *Emergency Services*: continued to assign all 911 addresses within the county; continued working with Emergency Services concerning new dispatch software which is entirely map-based and scheduled to go live in early 2015; continued to provide support for NY-Alert addressing requirements; finished developing river response/rescue tile and overview maps; 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; maintained an Access database of cases for weekly report generation and to allow better search ability from user-selected criteria, based on weekly data extracts from the AS400.
- *Real Property*: the VBA code to automatically export tax map sheets does not work with the latest versions of ESRI ArcGIS. Therefore, new Python code was developed to provide this functionality and in the process, the tax map style was updated as well; continued to support tax mapping functions in GIS format; continued to provide PDF tax maps and access to RPS data online through Image Mate at our website.
- *Planning*: provided various maps and data for several different projects and grants including the Colesville Comprehensive Plan, outdoor recreation project, land bank, and individual property maps for the IDA.
 - *Health*: attended HIPAA training so that our staff can work with and map confidential health data for the Health Department; participated in the "Enhancing Disaster Response for Vulnerable Populations by Using Federal Data" training exercise in which GIS was used to map addresses and find the most efficient routes to visit the locations; provided various maps for projects and grants.
- *Elections/Legislature*: fulfilled many various map and data requests for Elections; produce maps of annual additions to agricultural districts for the Legislature.

City of Binghamton Departments

The inter-municipal agreement to provide GIS and mapping services to the City of Binghamton was extended for 5 more years (January, 2015 through December, 2019). The GIS Unit continues to provide GIS and mapping services to the City per this agreement. In 2014, an average of over 37 hours of service per week was provided in addition to nearly 400 map projects being created. Some highlights include:

- *Police*: maintain an Access database of Part I crimes for report generation and better search ability based on user-selected criteria; 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, and vacant property 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. A Senior Planner provided technical, bookkeeping and other support services.



Meetings

The EMC held meetings of the full on a bimonthly basis in January, March, May, July, September and November.

The group hosted several speakers. In January, the group heard from the group proposing the Traditions at the Glen Casino. They gave an overview of what they planned for the site including green design features such as energy and stormwater features. The project managers had requested to present to the group to get feedback from an environmental perspective on the project.

The EMC also hosted a public meeting for the Broome County Watershed Based Flood Mitigation Strategy. The Planning Department and Woitd Engineering and Consulting gave

a presentation on the objectives of the plan and the data collected and requested public input for additional sites or information.

Conference on the Environment

The NYS Association of EMC's and the NYS Association of CAC's holds a statewide conference each year called the Conference on the Environment. The associations requested that the event be held in Broome County for 2014. The Council voted to host the event in partnership with the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition. A conference committee was established consisting of Council members that worked toward the planning of the event. The Conference was held on October 2nd- 4th at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Binghamton.

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee, a standing committee of the EMC, continued to be a forum for air, land and water issues. Focus areas included open space conservation, energy issues, and air quality issues, among others topics. Members continued work on open space planning including updates to the inventory of the County's open space resources important for natural resource protection.

Special Events

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

- 29th Broome County Riverbank Clean Up – About 175 volunteers collected about 1.75 tons of debris and trash at locations along the banks of area's rivers and tributaries.
- EMC members 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.

Boards and Memberships

Planning staff continued to serve on the following boards and committees in 2013:

- Ag and Farmland Protection Board
- Aging Futures Partnership
- Binghamton Commission on Architecture and Urban Design
- Binghamton Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Binghamton Global Business Alliance
- BMTS Planning Committee
- Broome County Catholic Charities
- Broome County Land Bank Corporation
- Broome Tioga Storm Water Coalition

- Environmental Management Council
- Greater Binghamton Council of Governments
- Greenway Steering Committee
- Headwaters River Trail
- Livable Communities Alliance Steering Committee
- NYS DEC Region 7 Open Space Committee
- REDC Health Care Work Group
- REDC Infrastructure Work Group
- REDC Regional Sustainability Work Group
- Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board
- Southern Tier Economic Partnership (STEP)
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission and Advisory Board
- United Methodist Homes for the Aging