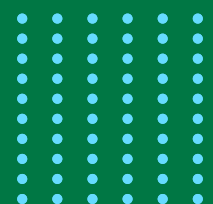




# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

Warren County, New York  
Department of Planning and Community Development



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

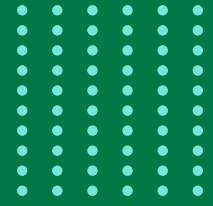


The following Annual Report highlights the accomplishments and projects of the Department in 2022. The Department continued to administer existing grants while providing the primary staff assistance to the ARPA Committee as it solicited, reviewed and awarded funding to address COVID impacts within the County.

As the GIS side of operations continued to expand and provide support to more Departments and partner Agencies, it became apparent that the Department would operate more efficiently with some adjustments to the organizational structure. During the budget process the position of Director was added to the Department to oversee the Planning side and the GIS of operations. Those two sides, or Offices, now operate as equal components of the Department.

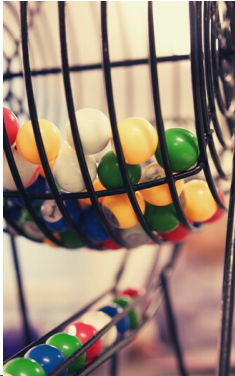
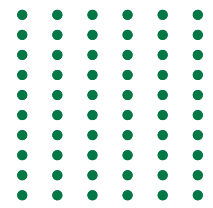
The Warren County GIS Hub, the culmination of many hours of staff time, launched in the fourth quarter of the year. The new website provides increased public access to the many maps, web applications and data developed by the department. GIS staff continued to support existing operations of county and municipal staff during 2022, as well as implement a variety of new applications. Looking forward to 2023 will see significant staffing changes due to retirements and, hopefully, new staff joining the County workforce and continuing the legacy of support to County initiatives.

**Wayne E LaMothe, AICP**  
Director of Planning and  
Community Development



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Message from the Director</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>By the Numbers</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Organization and Staff</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Warren County Planning Agency</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Community Development</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Planning and Programs</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>GIS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Looking Forward</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix: Looking Back</b>	<b>23</b>

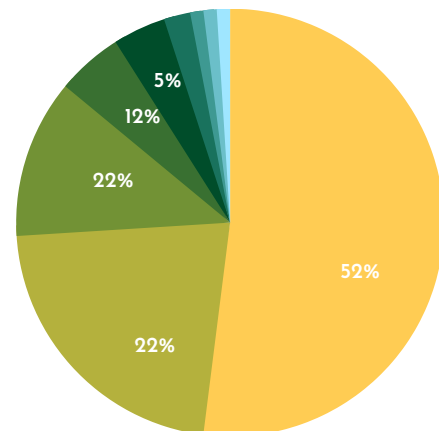


## PLANNING DEPARTMENT BY THE NUMBERS

The Planning Department spent just over half of its staff time in 2022 on general planning activities, including writing grant applications, preparing requests for proposals, and managing grant funded activities. GIS projects accounted for just over a fifth of staff time. The department received nearly \$800,000 in new grant funding, managed the allocation of \$11.7 million in ARPA funding, and distributed almost \$300,000 in septic awards.

### 2022 Staff Time Distribution

52%	General Planning 4801 hours
22%	GIS - 2024 hours
12%	ARPA - 1114 hours
5%	LWRP Lakes - 437 hours
4%	GML 239 Reviews - 363 hours
2%	LCLGRP - 241 hours
1%	Community Development - 115 hours
1%	E911 - 97 hours
1%	Other - 98 hours

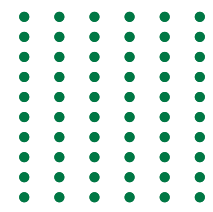


**\$795,000**  
grant money received

Northern Borders Regional Commission  
NYS DEC Septic Replacement Program

NYS DEC Septic Replacement Program  
American Rescue Plan Act

**\$12 million**  
grant money allocated



## ABOUT US

# ORGANIZATION AND STAFF

The Warren County Department of Planning and Community Development provides general planning services, community development assistance, and geographic information system support for the County. The Department consists of six full-time and two part-time staff members. Staffing changes in 2022 included Office Specialist Gina Martin going from part-time to full-time and the change in title of Amanda Beck from Junior Planner to GIS Specialist.



**Wayne LaMothe, AICP**  
County Planner, full-time



**Ethan Gaddy, AICP**  
Assistant County Planner, full-time



**Patricia Tatich, AICP**  
Planner, Special Projects, part-time



**Sara Frankenfeld**  
GIS Administrator, full-time



**Amanda Beck**  
GIS Specialist, full-time



**Martin Fitzgerald II**  
Housing Cost Coordinator, part-time



**Sue Tucker**  
Office Specialist, full-time

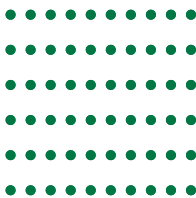


**Gina Martin**  
Office Specialist, full-time

# COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY

Local law number 3 of 2012 authorized the Planning Department to fulfill the County's obligations pursuant to GML 239 l and m. This report fulfills the Agency's responsibility in accordance with Section 239d paragraph 6 of the General Municipal Law to provide an annual report to the County Board of Supervisors. The County Planning Board function continues to be staffed by the Department of Planning and Community Development.

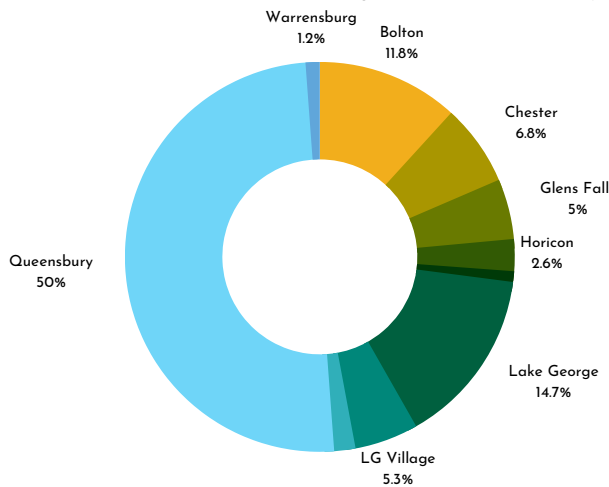
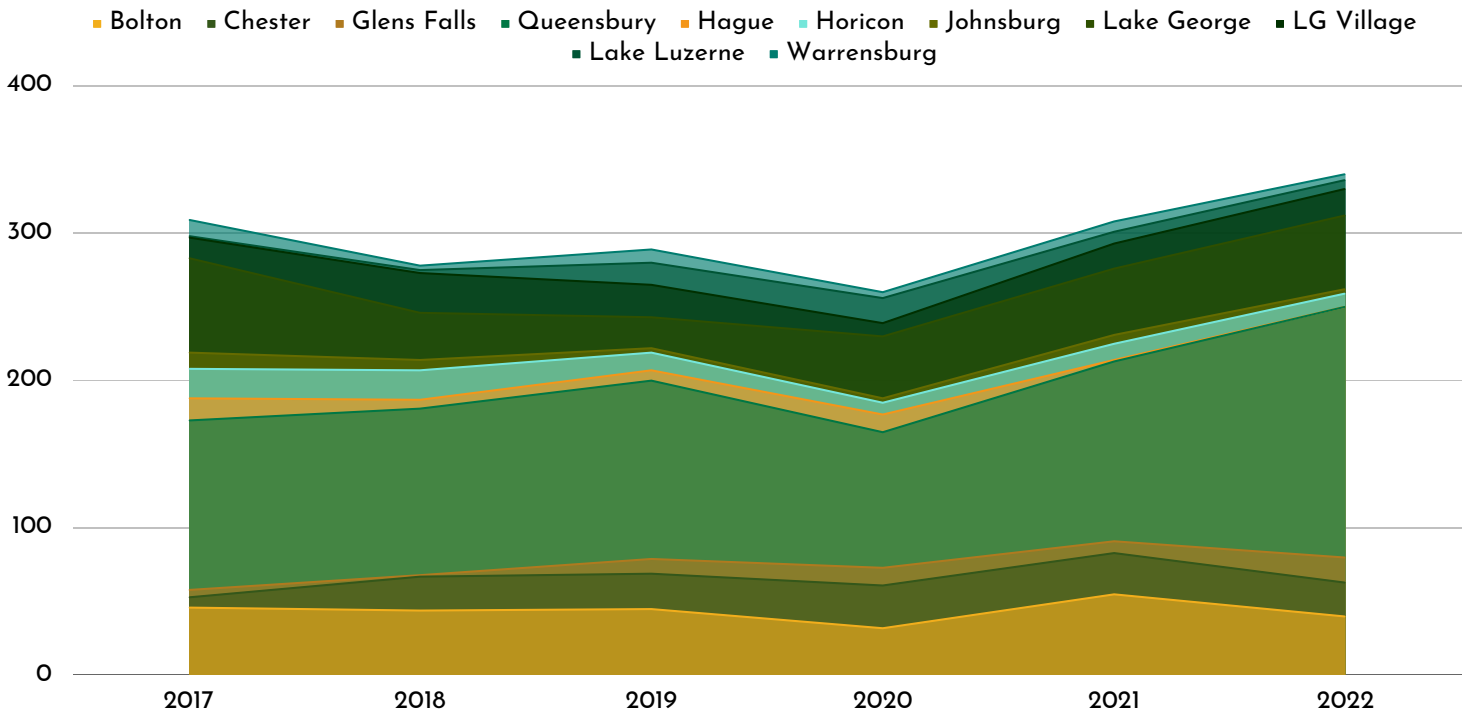
	Site Plan	Area Var	Use Var	Rezon/ LL	Cond Use	Sign Var	Other	TOTAL
Bolton	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	40
Chester	13	8	0	2	0	1	1	23
Glens Falls	7	7	1	1	0	0	1	16
Hague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horicon	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Johnsburg	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
L George	21	21	0	5	0	1	2	50
LG Village	10	3	0	3	0	0	2	18
L Luzerne	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	6
Queensbury	73	53	0	15	0	7	22	170
Warrensburg	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>340</b>



# COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY

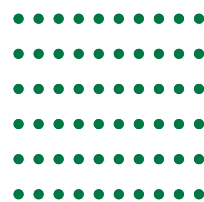
The towns of Bolton, Queensbury and Lake George contribute the vast majority of referrals to the County. Referrals were up 32 projects over 2021, with the largest increase in the town of Queensbury. The total number of referrals, 340, is the largest it has been over the past six years. The previous high was 309 projects in 2017.

## Projects by Year



## 2022 Projects by Town

Bolton - 40	Lake George - 50
Chester - 23	Lake George Village - 18
Glens Falls - 17	Lake Luzerne - 6
Hague - 0	Queensbury - 170
Horicon - 9	Warrensburg - 4
Johnsbury - 3	





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# INFRASTRUCTURE



### Pottersville Water District

In 2021, the Town received a Community Development Block Grant Award in the amount of \$36,100 to complete an engineering study to identify significant issues with the Pottersville public water system and to provide solutions and recommendations for critical improvements to the water system for this rural Adirondack Hamlet. The engineering study will be used to secure state and federal funding to complete essential improvements. During 2022, the County Purchasing Department solicited written proposals on behalf of the Town and Cedarwood Engineering Services PLLC was selected and a contract with the Town was put in place. It is anticipated that the engineering study will be completed in April 2023.

### Countryside Adult Home

In 2018 the Department secured a grant from the NYS Office of Community Renewal to undertake a Building Condition Assessment Report for the Countryside Adult Home. Utilizing the recommendations of that report the Department worked closely with the County Engineering staff to secure a grant of \$300,000 to assist with replacement of the roof. A subsequent funding round to address COVID related issues provided \$810,932 to upgrade the HVAC to comply with MERV 13 standards. The Director worked closely with DPW staff and the consultants to ensure that bid documents and requirements met all of the grant regulatory requirements. In 2022 the Director was successful in securing an additional \$950,000 of ARPA funds to reduce County General Fund expenses for building upgrades.

The Department is monitoring labor standards compliance and provides all reporting to the grantor agencies. Construction commenced in 2022 with a targeted completion of August 2023.





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HOUSING



### Fair Housing Plan

As a recipient of CDBG funding, the County is required to adopt a Fair Housing Plan that conforms to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 and the Human Rights Law (Executive Law, Article 15 of the State of New York). The last update to the Plan was accomplished in 1991. The Department sought technical assistance from other Counties and drafted a new plan that conforms to the most recent changes in the guiding regulations. That plan was adopted at the November Board of Supervisors meeting.

### Housing Study

The County Planning Department prepared an application to the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation for planning assistance to complete a County Housing Needs and Market Demand Analysis. Concerns by County Officials on the lack of rental housing and homeownership opportunities in all communities is impacting the local economy - particularly for major employers and the service business industry. A Community Development Block Grant award of \$46,000 combined with local resources of \$20,000 was available for the identified study. The Planning Department with assistance from the County Purchasing Department solicited written proposals and Novogradac and Company LLP was selected to complete the housing study. The contract with the consultant is in place and it is anticipated that the study will be completed in May 2023.

PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# PROTECTING OUR LAKES

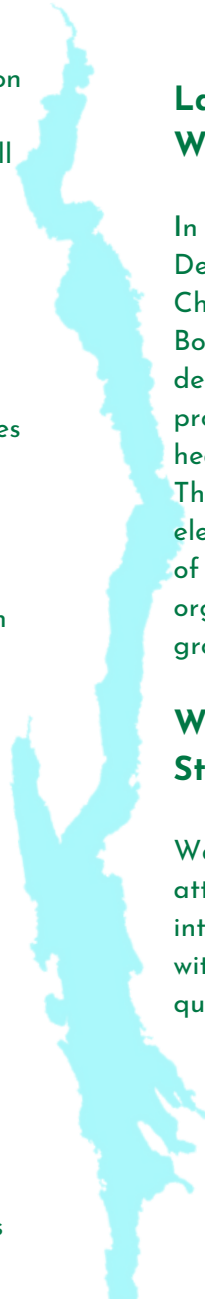


Since 2017, the Warren County Planning Department has submitted funding applications and overseen the implementation of critical water quality projects in the Lake George and Schroon Lake watersheds as well as assisted with water protection initiatives throughout the County.

## Septic Initiatives

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Facilities Corporation awarded \$340,000 to Warren County in 2021 to assist property owners repair and replace underperforming septic systems on the shore of Lake George. Due to overwhelming interest in the program the Planning Department worked with regional clean water advocates to petition NYS for additional funding for the program. In 2022 NYSDEC and EFC announced that Warren County would receive an additional \$635,000 for the septic replacement program, nearly doubling the previous allotment.

In 2022, the Planning Department coordinated with the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to understand opportunities to align the NYS Septic Replacement Program with the LGPC's pending septic inspection program. The rules developed through the LGPC's septic inspective initiative will protect the water quality of Lake George for generations.



## Lake George Comprehensive Watershed Action Plan

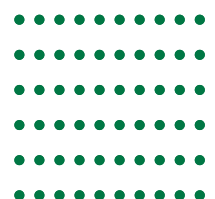
In 2022 the Warren County Planning Department worked with the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP) to advance the development of a comprehensive strategy to protect and enhance the environmental health of the entire Lake George watershed. This planning effort includes three counties, eleven smaller municipalities and a myriad of state and regional regulatory organizations as well as environmental groups.

## Warren County Water Quality Strategy Committee

Warren County Planning Department staff attends these meetings as an opportunity to interface with other groups that are involved with understanding and promoting water quality protection.



septic systems funded in 2022





## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# PROTECTING OUR LAKES: AQUATIC INVASIVES

In 2022 the Warren County Planning Department used the remaining balance of a 2018 grant to include an additional season of boat inspections and milfoil harvesting on Schroon Lake. The total milfoil harvest was 1031.3 lbs, up from the previous years 834.4. 5,249 watercraft were inspected for AIS and 72 decontaminations were performed.

Additionally, the Planning Department worked with the NYSDOS to establish a new, two-year aquatic invasive species program that will include the use of an unmanned, mobile boat decontamination unit. The project advisory committee for the 2023 aquatic invasive species initiative tentatively includes Paul Smiths



Watershed Institute, the NYSDEC, the Nature Conservancy’s Adirondack Park Invasive Plan Program, lake associations, the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Towns of Horicon, Chester, and Schroon.

After a successful debut of the Planning Department’s GIS and GPS-based milfoil data collection tools in 2021, the department’s GIS staff supported another season of data collection on Lake George, as well as assisted with the expansion of the tools to additional lakes, including Brant Lake and Paradox Lake. The tools will be used during the 2023 season on Schroon Lake, as well.

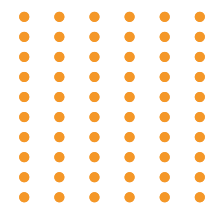
Milfoil dashboards are available on the Warren County GIS Hub at [warrencountyny.gov/gis](http://warrencountyny.gov/gis).



**5,249**  
boats inspected



**1031**  
pounds of milfoil harvested



## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Department continued its productive working relationship with the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board during 2022, both providing and receiving assistance with numerous projects. The LCLGRPБ reimburses department staff for time spent on GIS projects



### Quantifying Phosphorous Reduction

GIS staff completed work on the Phosphorous Reduction project, calculating drainage basins and land use for nutrient load reduction projects throughout the Champlain Basin. This information will be available in an online map and can be used to plan projects and apply for grant funding throughout the basin.



### Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Planning Department staff worked with the LCLGRPБ on updating the region's CEDS. This document is an important tool for aligning local needs and federal spending.



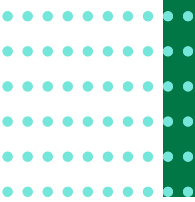
### Economic Dashboards

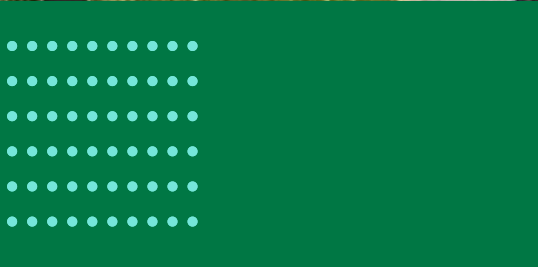
GIS staff completed a series of online dashboards displaying housing, demographic, school enrollment and economic indicators for the five-county region covered by the Regional Planning Board. The dashboards can be viewed here: <https://lclgrpb-dashboards-warrencountyny.hub.arcgis.com/>.



### Broadband Challenge Support

In 2022, the Federal Communications Commission released broadband availability data at the address level. GIS staff assisted the Regional Planning Board with reviewing addresses to ensure the FCC's database was complete. Staff also assisted with preparing provider data for review by local officials and submission to the FCC for updates.





## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# TRANSPORTATION



### Assistance to A/GFTC

The Planning Director continued to serve on the A/GFTC Planning Committee and as an alternate on the Policy Committee. The Planning Director provided input and assistance on the Brant Lake pedestrian study, and assisted with review of local requests for DOT 5310 funding, requested A/GFTC staff to undertake an assessment of rural EV charging stations and attended eight planning meetings throughout the year, totaling approximately 31 hours of assistance to A/GFTC in 2022.

Planning Department staff also provided GIS technical assistance to A/GFTC, gathering rural transportation workforce data and providing mapping support for the updated Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.



### Trail Connectivity Study

In 2022 the Warren County Planning Department won a competitive State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission. The award of \$160,000 is for a \$200,000 modernization and connectivity study of the trails and downtowns that connect Lake George to the Empire State Trail. This project will be launched in mid-2023.



### Rural Workforce Transportation Plan

Planning Department staff serve on the steering committee for the Rural Workforce Transportation Plan. This is a joint effort of the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board and Adirondack Glens Falls Transportation Council with the purpose of developing an understanding of barriers to workforce engagement and exploring the feasibility of new transportation options. This effort will continue in 2023.

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

As part of the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Warren County was awarded approximately \$12.4 million to support economic and community recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The ARPA Advisory Committee was formed for the purpose of making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about how to best use the funding.

Two members of the Planning Department staff serve on the ARPA Advisory Committee and several additional staff members supported the operations of the Committee.

Facilitating the distribution of ARPA funds and providing support for the committee was a major task for the Planning Department in 2022: twelve percent of the department's overall staff time for the year was spent on ARPA related tasks.

On behalf of the advisory committee, in 2022, the Planning Department conducted public outreach to better understand the impacts of the pandemic and solicited project ideas that would support a sustainable and prosperous recovery from the pandemic. Staff also reached out to other counties and municipalities to understand their approach to ARPA fund allocation and helped establish spending priorities to aid in the evaluation of funding requests.

Department staff helped facilitate, under the direction of the ARPA Committee co-chairs, 16 meetings over the course of 2022. Staff coordinated with the County Attorney, Treasurer and County Administrator to make sure that spending decisions were legal and accountable and filed required quarterly and annual reports to the US Treasury.

Department staff developed and launched an online application portal and evaluation form. They also worked with IT and Communications staff to develop and maintain a website so Warren County residents could understand and participate in the ARPA fund allocation process.

Staff continue to work closely with applicants and awardees to develop projects and effectively use ARPA funds.



### Non-profits

37 projects  
\$2.57 million



### Small Businesses

10 projects  
\$463,000



### Gov't Services

12 projects  
\$6.12 million



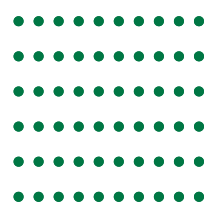
### Mental Health

2 projects  
\$1.07 million



### Other Projects

17 projects  
\$1.5 million

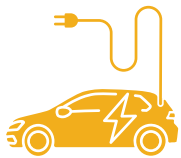




## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

Warren County is a certified bronze New York State Climate Smart Community. The department continued several Climate Smart related activities in 2022 and maintained coordination with the City of Glens Falls' and Town of Queensbury's Climate Smart Communities groups.



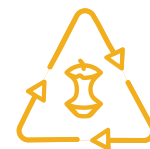
### EV Fleet Initiative

The Planning Department is working with an ad-hoc group consisting of the Purchasing Department, Buildings and Grounds, and the Administrator's Office to figure out how best to integrate electric vehicles into the county fleet. This group has worked with various other counties to identify opportunities to collaborate on procurement and policy. In 2023 the Warren County fleet will include a small number of all-electric vehicles.



### Municipal Center Energy Audit

Working with NYSERDA, the Planning Department has been overseeing an energy audit of the municipal center. The report is intended to identify energy efficiency practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time saving taxpayers money.



### Organics Management Plan

The Planning Department's successful 2021 application for funds to develop an Organics Management Plan enabled the Department of Public Works to hire a consultant for the project in 2022. The development of the plan is now being fully managed by DPW.

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Two Planning Department staff members served on the Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee. Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Office of Emergency Services are leading the update of this plan for the County and municipalities with the assistance of a consultant. The plan details a variety of potential hazards that could affect residents. It also the County and municipalities to be eligible for future mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The plan uses GIS data extensively for identifying and modeling hazards and required approximately 45 hours of GIS staff time in 2022. Staff will continue to support the efforts of the committee through the completion of the plan in 2023.



Learn more about the Hazard Mitigation planning process at: [warrencountynewyorkhmp.com](http://warrencountynewyorkhmp.com)





# WARREN COUNTY HISTORIANS' CHALLENGE

## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS LETTERBOXING

The Planning Department had another successful Letterboxing year, with the launch of the new Historians' Challenge in June. Department staff worked with the municipal historians to identify a location of interest in each community and created riddles leading to each one. A box with a hand-carved stamp was hidden in each location. When the riddles were solved together and all boxes found, a bonus riddle led to the discovery of one of Warren County's most accomplished female citizens, Jeanne Robert Foster. We had assistance this year from our partners at Cliff & Redfield Interactive who worked with the historians to develop stories explaining the history of each location, as well as create a ten minute video highlighting all of the stops and the scenic drive between them.

As with the previous First Wilderness Letterboxing Challenge, which we also kept up and running, the Historians' Challenge was a huge hit. We distributed several thousand passports over the course of the summer, received much positive feedback, and had well over 100 finishers.

[warrencountyny.gov/  
historianschallenge](http://warrencountyny.gov/historianschallenge)

[firstwilderness.com](http://firstwilderness.com)

"We saw and appreciated many interesting places we would not have seen otherwise. Thank you for providing this excellent way to explore the area." - Janet and Beverly

"Thank you for the fun time. We saw many places we would have never known about." - John and Lucinda

"Our family and neighbors - of all ages - have enjoyed this activity SO MUCH this summer and we hope you continue with new locations." - Linda

"Thank you so much for this wonderful activity. We saw so many places that I didn't even know were around...We heard such a positive response from everyone participating and they all loved the adventure, as did we." - Jeff

"My family and I had such a blast working on acquiring the stamps...It was a fabulous summertime activity and fun for all. Our family is large ranging in age from 83 years down to two years old. We all had fun with it...we can't wait to do more next summer!" - Carol

"Our troops came up to do their letterboxing badge. It was a great time and enjoyable. Thank you for the fun adventure." - Sandy Creek/Pulaski Girl Scouts

"Thank you! We have LOVED completing this during our extended school year program with special ed kids! - Glens Falls School District

"We enjoyed completing the process very much and it took us to some really nice places that we never otherwise would have known about, even though we've lived in Warren County for 30 years." - Scott

"It was a fun challenge and very interesting. Perfect excuse for hiking trails I'd always wanted to go on and never got around to. Thank you for the experience." - Elaine



## PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

# STORIES FROM OPEN SPACE

2022 saw the continuation and expansion of our productive partnership focused on promoting cultural and historic tourism in the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor with local collaborative media firm Cliff & Redfield Interactive (CRI).

Stories From Open Space worked with three student interns to conduct thirteen Civic Conversations in two series, A Collaborative History of the First Wilderness, and Living With Wilderness. We produced stories highlighting the contributions of the Schaefer and Zahniser families to protecting wilderness, both in the Adirondacks and at the national level. We also engaged a variety of local experts, including Planning Director Wayne LaMothe, town of Johnsbury supervisor Andrea Hogan, and DEC's Natural Resources Manager for the Siamese Ponds Wilderness and Wilcox Lake Wild Forest, Kirstin Seleen, to discuss present day opportunities and challenges facing the First Wilderness communities.

Dan Forbush and Bill Walker of CRI shared their many First Wilderness adventures over the course of 2022 in a series of fourteen trip reports, featuring details of cycles, paddles and hikes throughout the Corridor in all seasons, with a focus on the historic context of each destination.

In October, the collaborative team produced a center spread for *Adirondac* magazine entitled "Exploring Cabin Country", focused on destinations around the Bakers Mills area of the First Wilderness, as well as the history of the Schaefer and Zahniser families.

The collaboration was awarded occupancy tax funding to continue its work in 2023, providing stipends for seven student interns. Student, staff and CRI will work on ten collaborative projects as the team moves into the realm of spatial storytelling using ArcGIS StoryMaps and STORY to create GPS-triggered audio tours.

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Warren County GIS had a productive year. GIS staff are responsible for maintaining a variety of widely used web applications, including Imagemate Online, the Community Map, the Recreation Mapper, and the Covid Hub. The department also maintains GIS parcel data, road centerlines, and address points. Staff assign e-911 addresses for eleven of the County's municipalities.



**592,000**

site visits to the department's dozen most widely used apps



GIS staff created maps, provided technical support, developed mobile and web applications and created data for numerous County departments in 2022, including Board of Elections, DPW, the Office of Emergency Services, the Sheriff's Office, Parks and Rec, Real Property, the County Historian and the District Attorney's Office. Staff also provided technical assistance for the ARPA committee.

**e-911  
addresses  
assigned**

GIS staff provide technical and mapping support for the County's municipalities, including a redistricting project for the City of Glens Falls, as well as the Lake George Park Commission, Warren County Soil and Water, Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council, and the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board.

GIS staff support the County's municipalities, the Lake George Park Commission, Warren County Soil and Water, Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council, and the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board with GIS technical and mapping needs.

In conjunction with the release of the Warren County GIS Hub, GIS staff also updated and redesigned the department's most widely used web application, the Community Map. Staff overhauled and expanded the popular Recreation Mapper and its collection of trail maps. Detailed information is now available for nearly every trail in the County in a variety of user-friendly formats.



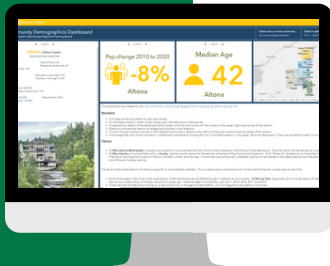
## Warren County GIS Hub

One of 2022's largest accomplishments was the release of a comprehensive new website providing easy public access to an extensive number of applications, datasets and maps covering an array of topics including basemaps, history, recreation, demographics, planning and zoning, the economy, public health and safety, and transportation and infrastructure.

[warrencountyny.gov/gis](http://warrencountyny.gov/gis)

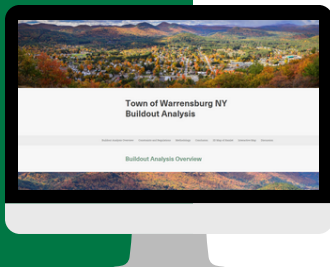
# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## 2022: MAPS AND APPS



### Demographic and Economic Dashboards

Staff created a series of four interactive dashboards for the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board, highlighting demographics, economic factors, school district enrollement and housing facts in a five-county region. View the dashboards here: [lclgrpb.org](http://lclgrpb.org)



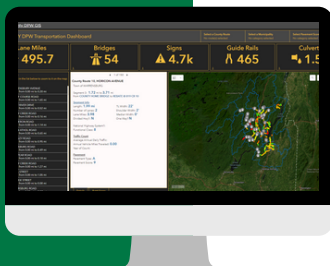
### Warrensburg Buildout Analysis

GIS staff assisted four interns in Skidmore's Advanced GIS with creating a buildout analysis for the town of Warrensburg. The department expanded on the students' work to generate detailed statistics and modeling for the town. View the results on the GIS hub website.



### Citizen Reports

GIS staff created several apps during 2022 that allow the public to report locations of concern to county staff. The Sheriff's Office Safe Pace application provides a platform for reporting traffic concerns. Our Trail Reporter app allows hikers to report maintenance issues on local trails. The Storm Reporter, developed for the Office of Emergency Services, provides a platform for citizen reports of severe weather and/or storm damage.



### Infrastructure Mapping

During 2022, staff continued assisting the Department of Public Works with transitioning to maintaining its infrastructure data in GIS. A staff shortage at DPW has prevented a full transition, but we're hopeful this project will continue to advance in 2023.

GIS staff also provided assistance to EDC and the Regional Planning Board with reviewing broadband eligible locations and service providers as mapped by the Federal Communications Commission. Corrections to this data were provided to the FCC to incorporate into its national dataset.



## LOOKING FORWARD

# WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA FOR 2023

2023 brings the retirement of our long-time director, Wayne LaMothe, and hopefully the addition of new planning staff to the department. As well as ongoing projects such as ARPA, septic replacements, planning board review, Countryside upgrades, the Housing Study, and continuing GIS technical support, several new initiatives will occupy the bulk of staff time during 2023.



### Outdoor Recreation Economy Strategic Plan

Over the course of 2022 department staff worked with Empire State Development to execute a grant agreement and contract, and to develop a detailed request for proposals to develop a plan to expand the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry. The project is anticipated to begin in mid-2023.



### Countywide Comprehensive Plan

In 2022 the Warren County Planning Department developed a scope of work and aligned funding for a county-wide comprehensive plan. A consultant team was selected and work will begin in the spring of 2023. The comprehensive plan will identify the county's shared goals and suggest policies and programs to achieve such goals. Once complete, the comprehensive plan will help Warren County competitively pursue state and federal grants.



### Bikeway Connectivity Study

In 2022 the Warren County Planning Department won a competitive State Economic & Infrastructure Development (SEID) grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission. The award of \$160,000 is for a \$200,000 modernization and connectivity study of the trails and downtowns that connect Lake George to the Empire State Trail. This project will be launched in mid-2023.



### GIS Needs Assessment

The Planning Department initially conducted a GIS Needs Assessment in 2001 and updated the assessment in 2009. In the past 14 years, both staff and technology have undergone substantial changes. GIS staff will meet with each County department to explore potential ways of incorporating GIS into department workflows, with the goals of improving efficiency, providing additional services, and increasing public access to data.



### Schroon Lake Aquatic Invasives Initiative

The department will work with an advisory committee tentatively including Paul Smiths Adirondack Watershed Institute, DEC, the Nature Conservancy, local lake associations, municipalities and Soil and Water to establish a two-year aquatic invasive species initiative that will include robust data collection and the use of an unmanned mobile boat decontamination unit.

## LOOKING FORWARD

# STORIES FROM OPEN SPACE

With Occupancy Tax funding, and technical support provided by Warren County's GIS team, area historians and students at Skidmore College and SUNY Plattsburgh are collaborating on ten history-oriented projects over the course of 2023, aimed at supporting heritage tourism in the First wilderness Heritage Corridor. Our tools include ArcGIS StoryMaps, with which we'll create point-and-click narratives on interactive maps, and STORY, with which we'll produce audio narratives to be triggered on phones by GPS markers. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with Cliff & Redfield Interactive.



### Gore Mountain Story Cloud

This audio GPS tour will enable visitors to learn the history of the Gore Mountain region as they drive and hike between historic "points of interest"



### Exploring the Three Lakes

For cyclists and drivers, this GPS tour will provide historic narratives on the relatively flat and bike-friendly roads connecting Schroon, Brant and Loon Lakes.

### Warren County Historians' Challenge

This GPS tour will provide audio narratives of the 12 historic letterboxing sites identified by historians in the county's 12 municipalities.



### Warren County's Underground Railroad

This StoryMap will chart the routes followed by enslaved African Americans through the Adirondacks and introduce the abolitionists who helped and provided shelter along the way.



### Rafting the Hudson

This StoryMap will be a guide to historic places on the Hudson River as experienced by whitewater rafters.



### Ancient Windows of the Earth (AWE)

This exhibit will feature remarkable art produced by Vincent Schaefer using a diamond-tipped saw blade to slice Adirondack rock, making it as translucent as stained glass.



### Warren County's First People

This StoryMap will take us back to the Paleo-Indians who arrived in our region at the end of the Ice Age, then introduce us to key locations in the history of Mohawks, Algonquins, and European settlers.



### How Skiing Came to North Creek

With the 90th anniversary of the first Snow Train approaching on March 4, 2024, we're exploring in a StoryMap and in a print-on-demand book how North Creek became the most active skiing community in the country during the Great Depression.



### A Dam We're Glad Never Happened

This StoryMap will help us visualize the impact of a proposed dam on the Schroon River that would have submerged Schroon, Brant and Paradox lakes in a single body of water larger than Lake George.



### First Wilderness Film Series

This collection will connect films produced by John Apperson, Paul Schaefer, Bill Gluesing, Roger Summerhayes, and others to the stories we're telling over the course of this project.

# APPENDIX:

## LOOKING BACK

# HISTORY OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 1977-2022

by Wayne E. LaMothe, AICP, Planning Director

Through the Office of Community Development the County of Warren has been engaged in projects and programs in three main areas since its inception in 1977: Housing Assistance Programs, Economic Development initiatives and Improvements to Public Resources. In many instances the program areas overlap and can fall into multiple categories. Initially, in 1977, the programs were almost exclusively funded through HUD grant awards administered by the Buffalo Office of HUD. Later, funding was provided through a diverse assortment of State and Federal pass through awards. The following is a brief synopsis of activities since 1977.

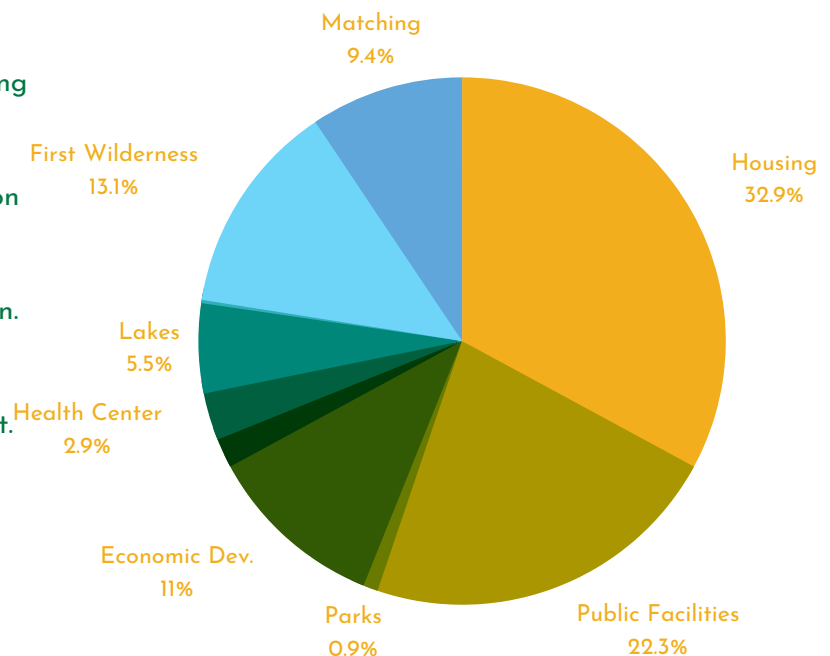
## Overall Community Development Activity

To date the Office has secured 113 funding awards in the amount of \$36,444,186 while leveraging an additional 10.2 million dollars of local resources or private financing. The chart provides a brief overview of the funding areas.

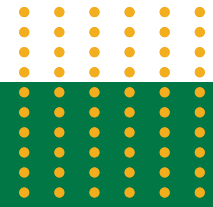
The funding identified represents only what the Department was directly involved with securing. Other funding resulted from complimentary investments by mortgage lenders and neighboring communities that partnered with the First Wilderness program. The Federal Highway Administration provided an additional 13.6 million dollars to support rail line acquisition and rehabilitation as an outgrowth of the recommendations in the North Creek Action Plan.

The direct infusion of program funds from all categories has had a significant financial impact. Using median incomes over the program years with an economic multiplier of 2.5 it is estimated that the cumulative economic impact of these program funds is approximately 102 million dollars.

### Funding by Program Area

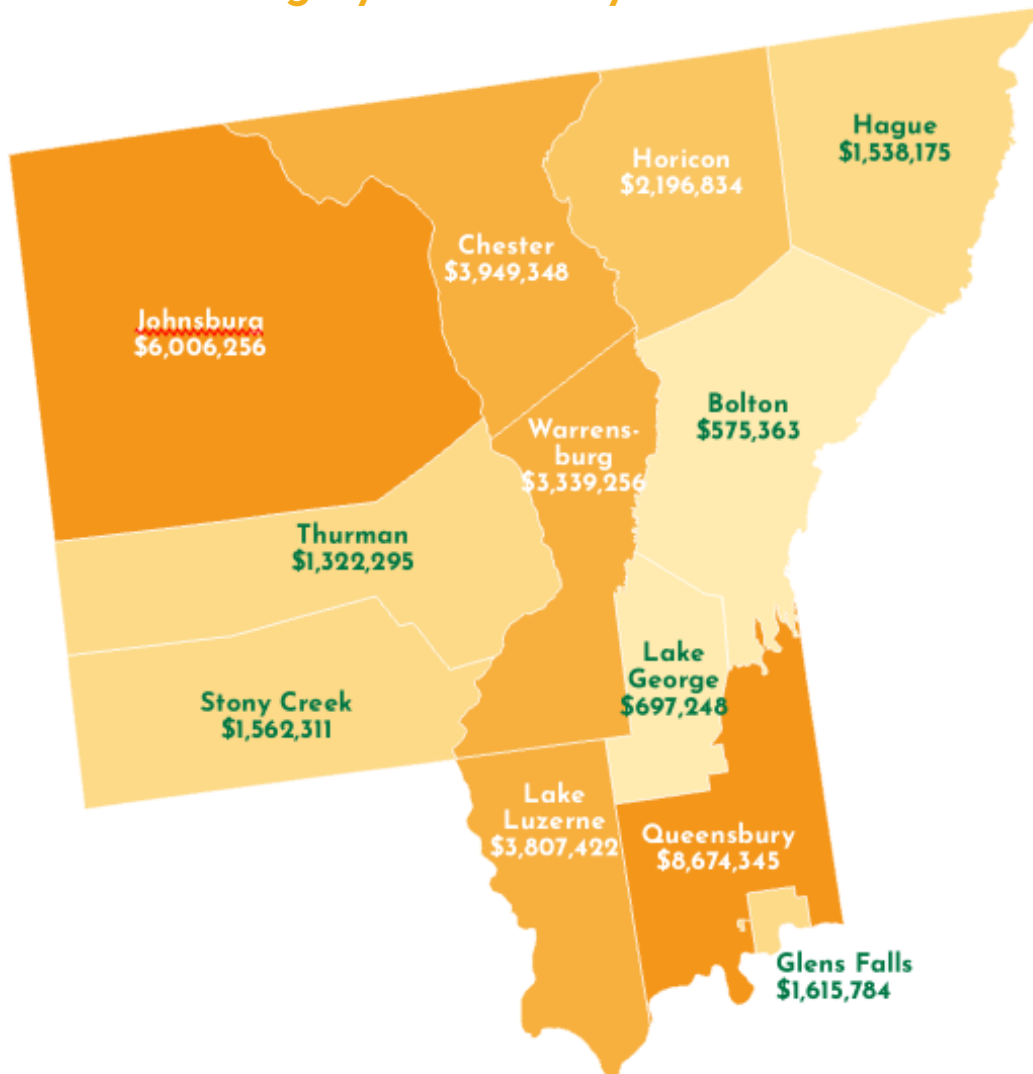


# APPENDIX



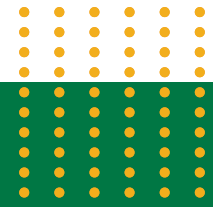
There continue to be several impediments to securing funding for certain areas of the County. Most notable is the City of Glens Falls as it is a CDBG entitlement community and receives direct allocations from HUD. As such the County could not request funding for programs within the City boundary. Some direct benefit projects were awarded for the Feeder Canal, special needs housing and micro loans recipients as the benefit of using public dollars could be shown to extend beyond the City boundaries. The high land value assessments of Lake shore communities means that it is harder to find ways to make these communities eligible for programs that target low to moderate income recipients. Housing assistance and “target area” grant programs are difficult to secure for the more rural communities. These programs are designed for an urban setting where neighborhoods provide a concentrated setting to demonstrate benefit. Scattered site programs require a more detailed and substantial benefit test in order to secure funding.

## Funding by Community: All Sources





# APPENDIX



## Housing Assistance Programs

From 1977 through 2010 the Office administered approximately 15.5 million dollars of awards to rehabilitate owner occupied housing or to assist first time home buyers. These programs assisted 1,954 individual residences and provided an additional 66 units of new construction for lower income home buyers. The new home ownership programs leveraged \$3,322,420.27 of private financing in addition to \$1,813,309.12 of grant funding.



### Rehabilitation

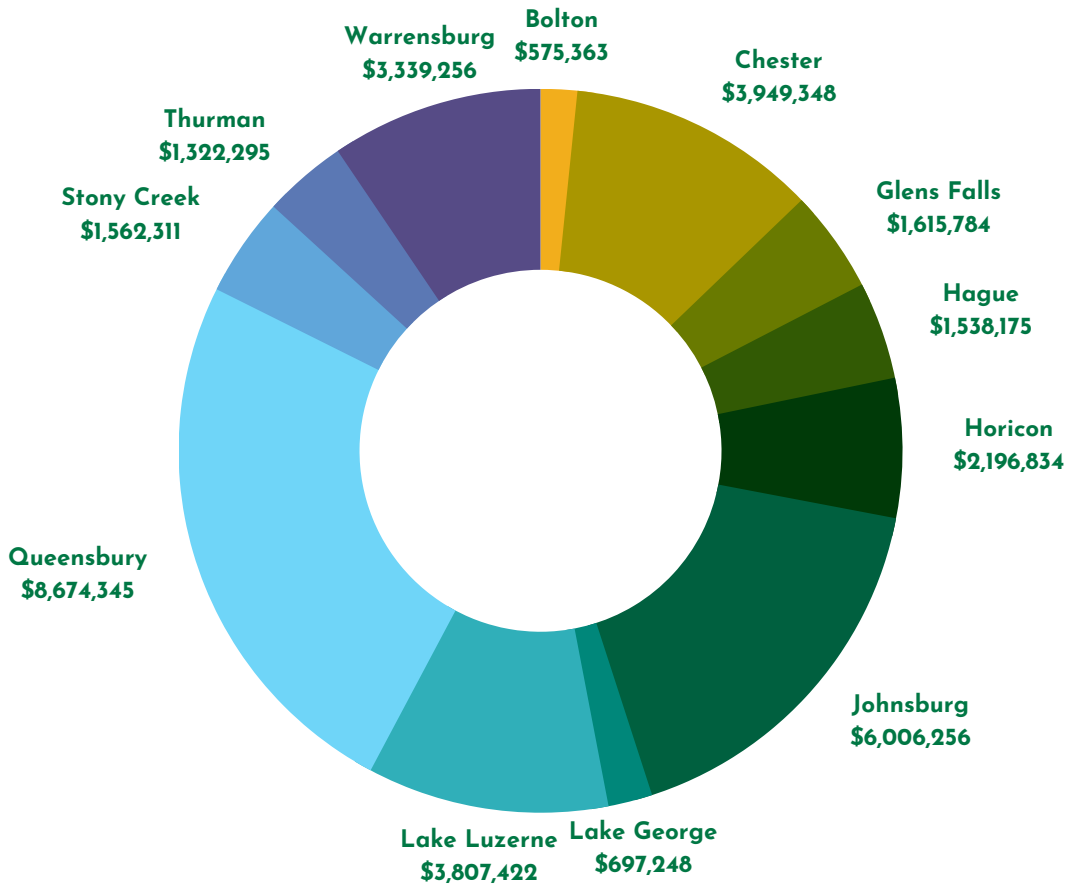
1,934  
residences



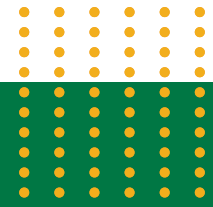
### New Construction

66  
low-income units

## Housing Expenditures



# APPENDIX



## Economic Development Initiatives:

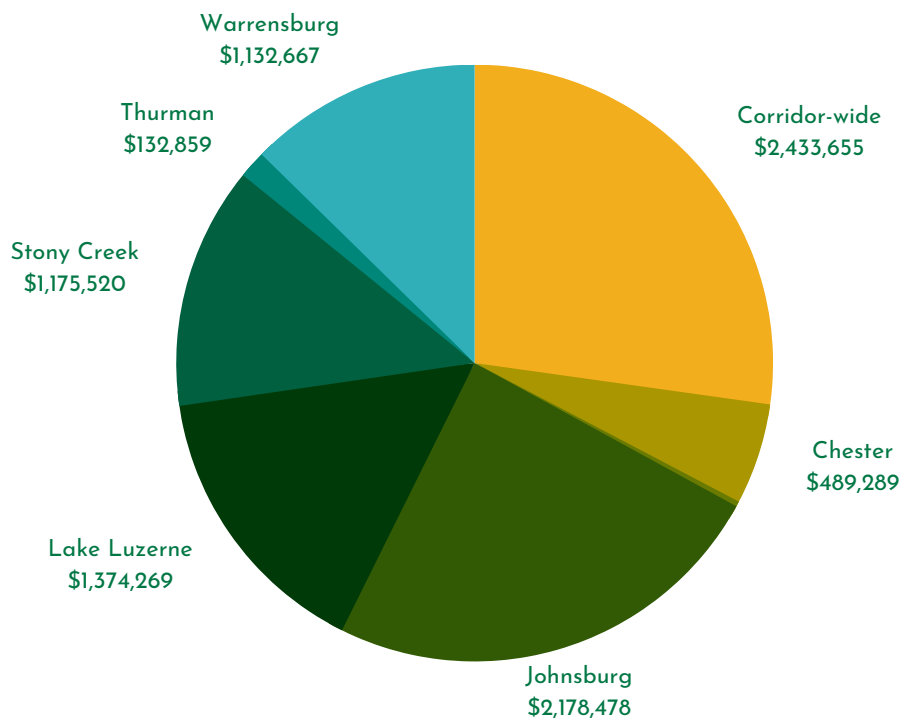
The County secured \$5,144,500 of public awards to assist with the expansion or development of local businesses. Most of the funding was for a Micro Enterprise loan program with a couple of larger awards for specific end users. Full details and records were transferred to the EDC as part of the LDC management agreement. The Department initiated the creation of the LDC in late 1980's to act as a repository for loan repayments.

## Improvements to Public Resources:

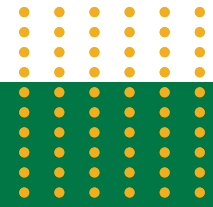
Funding awards under this category range from direct assistance to public facilities such as Westmount and Countryside, to local health centers along with improvements to recreation assets and lakes. The office secured \$1,382,200 in three grant awards to assist with development of new health centers in Chestertown, Warrensburg and Queensbury. Two grant awards from NYS Office of Community renewal totaled \$1,110,932 for improvements to Countryside Adult Home.

A significant program to improve public infrastructure is the ongoing First Wilderness Program. The program has been the recipient of \$8,941,812 of investment in plans, studies and public infrastructure.

## First Wilderness Corridor Community Investment



# APPENDIX



## Planning Department Staffing 1977-2022

### Planners

Brian Harrison  
Patricia Tatich  
Dan Kane  
Wayne LaMothe  
Bob Link  
Kristen Guild  
Laura Moore  
Chris Belden  
Amanda Beck  
Ethan Gaddy

### Housing Staff

Al Stern  
Bill McMillan  
Mike Ryan  
John Farndell  
Rick Bolton  
Martin Fitzgerald  
Rob Hickey  
Vince Geally  
Tim Costello

### GIS Staff

Sara Frankenfeld  
Sheri Norton  
Kevin Avery  
Amanda Beck

### Interns

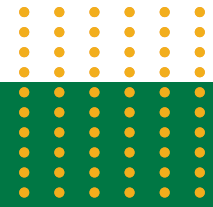
Sue Roberts  
Wayne LaMothe  
Craig Leggett  
Kevin Avery  
Nicholas Fitzgerald

### Support Staff

Alice Linsot  
Sheri Meade  
Toni Cobb  
Kelly Swinton  
Pam Tillis  
Sandra Waddell  
Pam Pettis  
Gail Root  
Jamie White  
Lisa Kershaw  
Glenda Benware  
Pam Morin  
Sue Tucker  
Gina Martin



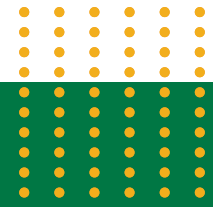
# APPENDIX



## Grant Funds Awarded to Warren County Department of Planning and Community Development 1977-2022

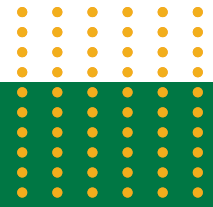
Year	CD#	Source	Purpose	Units	Funds	Function
1977	CD1	B-77-DN-36-0114	Housing	90	\$275,000	Applicant
1979	CD2	B-79-DN-36-0151	Public Facilities		\$350,000	Applicant
1979	CD3	B-79-DN-36-0306	Housing	210	\$528,000	Applicant
1979	CD4	B-79-DN-36-0081	Public Facilities		\$500,000	Applicant
1980	CD5	B-80-DN-36-0069	Housing	105	\$750,000	Applicant
1981	L&WCF		Parks		\$13,000	Facilitator
1981	CD6	B-81-DN-36-0099	Housing	270	\$480,000	Applicant
1983	CD7	B-83-HJ-36-0054	Economic		\$163,300	Applicant
1983	CD8	B-83-HJ-36-0055	Economic		\$137,000	Facilitator
1983	L&WCF		Parks		\$135,000	Facilitator
1983	CD9	B-83-DH-36-0432	Housing	200	\$936,000	Applicant
1983	CD10	B-83-DH-36-0431	Housing	136	\$750,000	Facilitator
1985	CD11	B-85-DH-36-0345	Housing	48	\$400,000	Applicant
1985	CD12	B-85-DH-36-0377	Housing	41	\$362,835	Facilitator
1986	CD13	B-86-DH-346	Economic		\$550,000	Applicant
1986	CD14	AHC-86-280/15	Housing	52	\$200,000	Applicant
1987	CD15	B-87-DH-36-0364	HHHN		\$582,000	Applicant
1988	CD16	B-88-DH-36-0326	Housing	103	\$599,605	Facilitator
1988		Clean Lakes Program			\$79,390	Facilitator
1989		Planning Assistance			\$20,000	Applicant
1990	CD17	B-90-DH-36-0040	Housing	36	\$400,000	Facilitator
1990	CD18	B-90-DH-36-0029	Housing	37	\$400,000	Facilitator
1990	CD19	B-90-DH-36-0064	Housing	34	\$400,000	Facilitator
1990	CD21	B-90-DH-36-0431	Public Facilities		\$337,003	Applicant
1990	CD22	B-89-DH-36-1030	Housing	34	\$400,000	Facilitator
1991	CD23	B-91-DH-36-0029	Housing	35	\$400,000	Facilitator
1991	CD24	B-91-DH-36-0084	Public Facilities		\$400,000	Facilitator
1991	CD25	B-91-DH-36-0288	Housing	10	\$449,580	Applicant
1992	CD26	B-92-DH-36-0058	Housing	17	\$578,200	Applicant

# APPENDIX



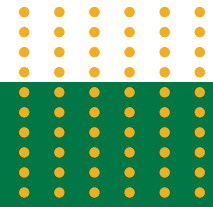
Year	CD#	Source	Purpose	Units	Funds	Function
1993	CD27	DHCR 93000689	Housing	32	\$377,140	Applicant
1993	CD28	B-93-DH-36-0249	Housing	34	\$400,000	Facilitator
1993	CD29	B-93-DH-36-0303	Housing	15	\$467,040	Applicant
1995	CD30	B-95-DH-36-0210	Housing	26	\$400,000	Facilitator
1996	CD31	DHCR	Housing	24	\$300,000	Facilitator
1996	CD32	B-96-DH-36-0355	Housing	10	\$716,000	Facilitator
1996	CD33	B-96-DH-36-0328	Public Facilities		\$155,000	Facilitator
1997	CD34	B-97-DH-36-0030	Canal Corridor		\$920,000	Applicant
1997	CD35	DHCR	Housing	32	\$378,400	Applicant
1998	CD36	B-98-DH-36-0494	Public Facilities		\$400,000	Applicant
1998	CD37	B-98-DH-36-0475	Housing	32	\$400,000	Facilitator
1999	CD38	B-99-DH-36-0307	Public Facilities		\$400,000	Facilitator
1999	CD39	B-99-DH-36-0313	ED Stonecast		\$446,000	Applicant
1999		EPF	Turntable		\$30,000	Applicant
1999		LWRP	Planning		\$27,500	Facilitator
2000	CD50	GOSC	Public Works		\$302,000	Applicant
2000	CD51	GOSC	Planning TA		\$20,000	Applicant
2000		Quality Communities	Planning		\$35,000	Applicant
	CD52	GOSC	Housing	36	\$400,000	Applicant
	CD53	DHCR	Housing	12	\$50,000	applicant
	CD54	DHCR	Housing	28	\$400,000	Applicant
	CD55	GOSC	Public Works		\$237,000	Facilitator
	CD56	GOSC	Public Works		\$129,000	Facilitator
		ANCA	Scenic byway		\$30,000	Applicant
		DOS	Archives		\$75,000	Applicant
		L&WCF	Ski Bowl		\$175,000	Facilitator
		LWRP	Planning		\$85,000	Applicant
2004	CD57	GOSC	Micro		\$336,200	Applicant
	CD58	GOSC	Chester Health Center		\$400,000	Administrator
	CD59	GOSC	Housing	7	\$247,800	Applicant
	CD60	HTFC	HOME Horicon	26	\$486,000	Applicant

# APPENDIX



Year	CD#	Source	Purpose	Units	Funds	Function
	CD61	HTFC	RESTORE	14	\$40,000	Applicant
	CD62	GOSC	Housing Chester	26	\$400,000	Applicant
		Main Street	ED		\$200,000	Facilitator
		Access to Home	Housing	15	\$200,000	Facilitator
2004	DOS	LWRP	Design/constructi on		\$150,000	Facilitator
2005		Quality Community	Planning		\$9,725	Applicant
2005	DOS	Luzerne LWRP	Planning		\$75,000	Facilitator
2005	CD63	GOSC	ED		\$320,000	Applicant
2006	CD64	Ski Bowl GOSC	ED		\$516,000	Facilitator
2006	LDC	Ski Bowl N Grid	ED		\$250,000	Facilitator
2006	LDC	Ski Bowl HUD	ED		\$498,000	Facilitator
2006	LDC	SKI Bowl HUD	ED		\$248,000	Facilitator
2006	CD65	GOSC	ED		\$320,000	applicant
2007		Canal funding			\$150,000	Applicant
2007	CD66	HOME	Housing	32	\$500,000	Applicant
2007		LWRP	FWHC		\$505,000	Facilitator
2007		LWRP	Warrensburg		\$60,000	Facilitator
2007	CD68	HOME	Warrensburg	22	\$300,000	Applicant
2008	CD67	RESTORE	County	12	\$125,000	Applicant
2008	CD69	CDBG	Luzerne Senior Center		\$400,000	Applicant
2008		NYS DEC	Quadracential		\$45,000	Applicant
2008	H312	LWRP	FWHC		\$258,270	Applicant
2009		AHC			\$120,000	Applicant
2009	CD70	RESTORE	Housing	12	\$70,000	Applicant
2010		ANCA	BYWAY Planning		\$59,026	Applicant
2010	CD71	DHCR	HOME ext		\$300,000	Applicant
2009	H313	LWRP	FWHC projects		\$415,006	Applicant
2010	CD72	HTFC	Westmount sprinklers		\$493,705	Applicant
2011		OCR	Micro		\$200,000	applicant
2011	H334	DOS	FWHC2011		\$463,116	applicant

# APPENDIX



Year	CD#	Source	Purpose	Units	Funds	Function
2012		EFC	Public works - bridges		\$324,500	applicant
2012	H340	DOS	FWHC2012		\$308,000	applicant
2012	CD73	CDBG	HHHN		\$400,000	applicant
2013	H349	DOS	LWRP2013		\$553,500	applicant
2013	H347	DOS	LG		\$482,050	applicant
2013	H349	DOS	LG Village		\$390,000	Administrator
2014	CD74	CDBG	Countryside		\$400,000	applicant
2014	H356	DOS	LWRP2014		\$410,450	applicant
2014		DOS	LG Village		\$535,250	Administrator
2015	H367	DOS	LWRP 2015		\$425,988	Applicant
2016	H372	DOS	LWRP 2016		\$520,300	Applicant
2017	H380	Smart Growth	FWHC Marketing		\$69,700	Applicant
2017	H382	DOS	LG LWRP		\$600,000	Applicant
2017	CD75	CDBG	Countryside		\$43,237	Applicant
2018	H383	DOS	Invasives		\$800,000	Applicant
2020	CD76	CDBG	PF Countryside		\$300,000	Applicant
2021	CD77	CDBG	CARES Act		\$812,932	Applicant
2021	CD78	DHCR	Housing needs		\$46,000	Applicant
2021	H409	DEC	Organic management		\$40,000	Applicant
2021	H408	DOS	Invasive species		\$251,838	Applicant
2021	H407	ESD	Recreation study		\$42,500	Applicant
2021		CDBG	Chester water study		\$36,100	Facilitator
2022		Northern Borders	Bikeway study		\$160,000	Applicant

**Total: 113 awards**

**\$36,444,186**