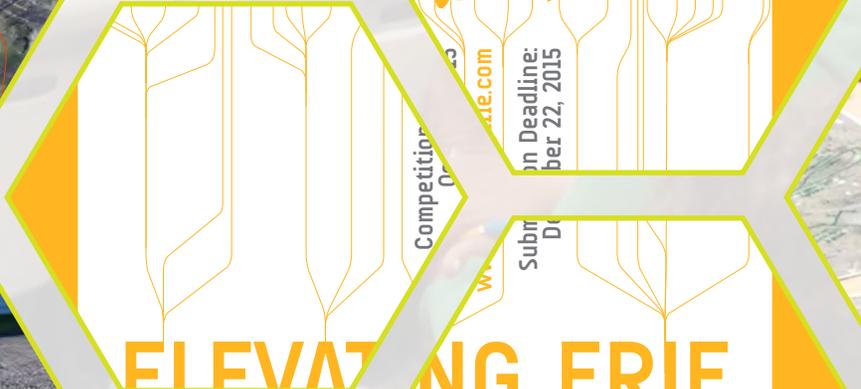
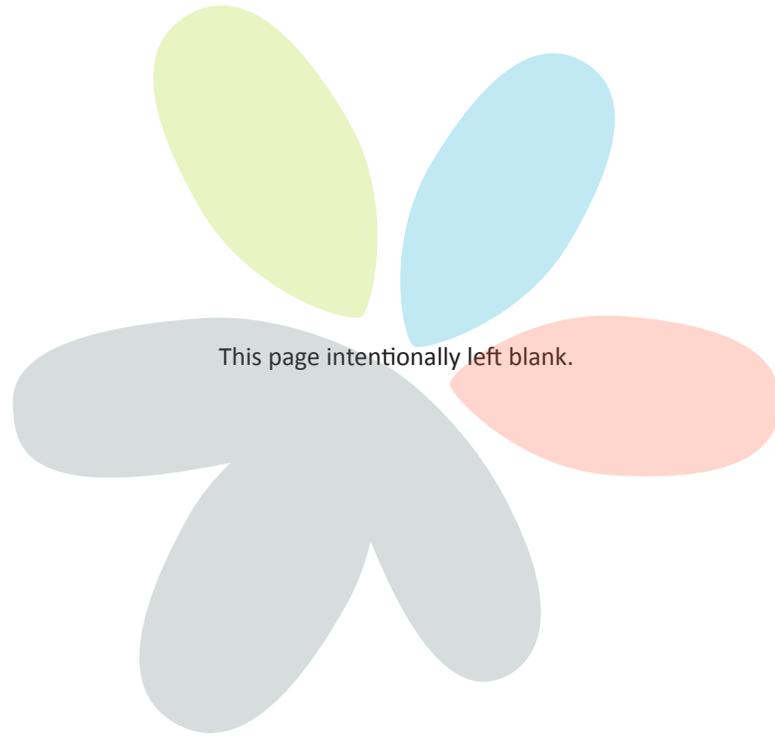


TOWN OF DeWitt

Department of Planning and Zoning
2015 Annual Report





This page intentionally left blank.

2015 Department of Planning and Zoning ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted to:

Edward M. Michalenko, PhD., Supervisor

and

Town Board Members:

Joe Chiarenza, Jr.

Karen Docter

Jamie Frank

Kerry Mannion

Kerin Rigney

Sam Young

Department of Planning and Zoning Staff

Samuel Gordon, Director

Andrew Worden, Codes Enforcement Officer

James Conlon, Codes Enforcement Officer (PT)

David Barnhart, Codes Enforcement Officer (PT)

Christine Manchester, Naturalist & Sustainability Coordinator

Kelly Hill, Administrative Aide

Sally Monti, Clerk (PT)

We thank the dedicated chairpersons and members of the following Boards and Commissions for all that they do to serve the residents and businesses of DeWitt

Peter Webber - Chair, Planning Board

Tom Carello - Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

Gordon Heisler - Chair, DeWitt Advisory Conservation Commission

Ann Stevens - Chair, Tree Committee

CONTENTS

- 01 INTRODUCTION
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY
FIGURE 1 - DEPARTMENT REVENUES

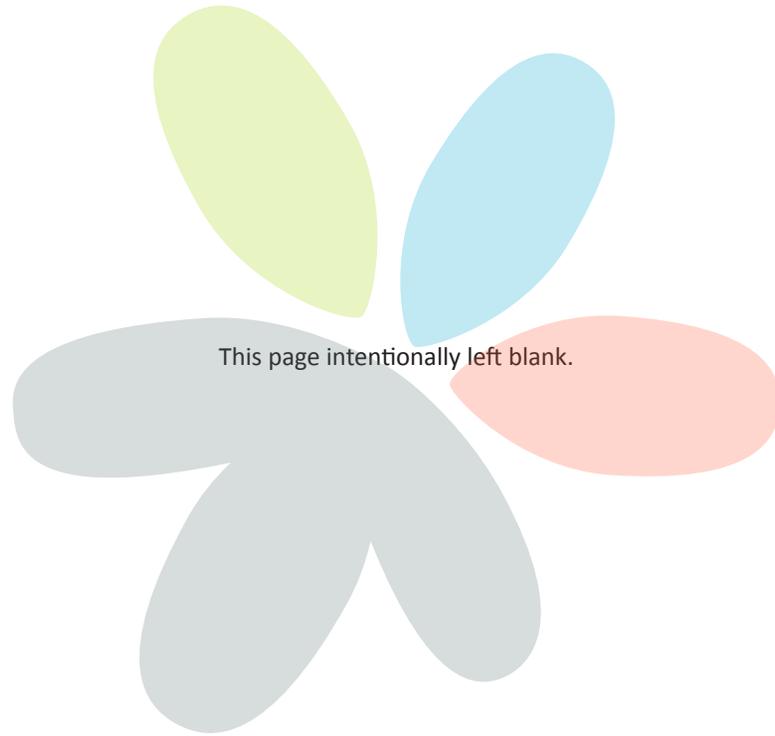
- 02 **FIGURE 2 - 2015 SITE PLAN APPROVALS, SUBDIVISION APPROVALS, VARIANCES**

- 03 PERMITTING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT
FIGURE 3 - DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY WITHIN THE TOWN OF DEWITT 2012-2015

- 04 **FIGURE 4 - CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2013-2015**

- 05 **MAP 1 - VACANT PROPERTIES (OCTOBER 2015)**

- 06 PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY
FIGURE 5 - DEPARTMENT GRANT AWARDS 2015



This page intentionally left blank.

Introduction

This Annual Report of the Department of Planning and Zoning is presented to the Town Supervisor and Town Board and provides a summary of activities, revenues, and progress over the course of 2015 as well as background data for previous years (in some cases dating back to 2012).

The report is meant to paint a picture of the accomplishments of the Department over the course of the past year, as well as to provide an opportunity to share some of the future goals and planned activities for the Department as we move into 2016.

The Department experienced several major changes over the course of the past two years. These changes include a new Director as well as new staff. While the Department has retained what has been its core mission of protecting the health, safety, and quality of our Town's neighborhoods and commercial areas through the enforcement of Town, State, and Federal codes, rules, and regulations, it also has expanded its duties to include staffing of additional Boards and Commissions of the Town, as well as embarking on new proactive planning initiatives.

Direct revenues for the Department have remained relatively constant over the past three years (the increase in building permit fees in 2014 was due to several large projects). Subdivision activity has increased by 160 percent over the same time period (see [Figure 1](#)).

FIGURE 1—Department Revenues (2013-2015)

Year	2013	2014	2015
Direct			
Building Permits	\$192,059	\$264,668	\$192,047
Planning Board	\$16,004	\$27,345	\$18,962
Miscellaneous Fees	\$7,455	\$10,628	\$10,343
subtotal:	\$215,518	\$302,641	\$221,352
Indirect			
Subdivision	\$1,580.00	\$3,690.00	\$4,120
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$7,630.00	\$7,250.00	\$8,050
Grants*	-	-	\$295,000
subtotal:	\$9,210	\$10,940	\$307,170
Total:	\$224,728	\$313,581	\$528,522

*see page 6 for more detail on grant awards

Development Activity

There was a significant increase in development activity within the Town over the course of the past four years, dating back to 2012 (see [Figure 3, page 3](#)). The Town Planning Board reviewed 59 projects in 2015, which represented a 59 percent increase over the number of projects reviewed in 2012. This number was nearly identical to 2014.

[Figure 2, page 2](#) lists the projects that received site plan or subdivision approval from the Planning Board in 2015, as well as projects that were granted variances by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Planning Board continues

to experience strong development interest into 2016.

In total over \$221 million has been invested in the Town since 2012. These figures are based on the reported construction costs at the time that a permit application is received and are likely 20 to 30 percent below actual costs. 2014 and 2015 represented an approximate 150 percent increase in development fees over 2012. Development fees collected by the Department through the permitting process increased nearly 60 percent between 2012 and 2015 from \$128,157 to \$202,320. With the exception of 2013, the number of permits issued by the Department has remained relatively stable.

FIGURE 2—2015 Site Plan Approvals, Subdivision Approvals, Variances

Planning Board Approved Projects	
Alexander & Catalano	Sign(s)
Baitul IhSan Mosque	Building/Site Alter
Brixmor Property Group (former KMart Plaza)	Building/Site Alter
Capital Telecom Acquisition LLC	Cell Tower
Christian Brothers Academy (CBA)	Site Alterations
Church of the Living Word Apartments amendment	New Construction
LED Manufacturing Facility (Collamer Crossing Business Park)	New Construction
Cole Bros Circus of the Stars	Event
Cummins Diesel	New Construction
Deere Rd Warehouse Facilities	New Construction
DeFranciso & Falgiatano Law Firm	New Construction
Dig Safely New York	Site Alterations
Drumlins Bakery	Building Alterations
Dunuwila Schoolhouse Expansion	Building/Site Alter.
Dunuwila Annex	Building/Site Alter.
6800 E Genesee St LLC	Multi-tenant sign
Enterprise II & III	Re-approval
Environmental Solutions of America	Building/Site Alter.
Erie Mechanical Contractors Inc	Building/Site Alter.
EXPRESSMART (East Malloy Rd.)	Sign(s)
EXPRESSMART (Thompson Road/Carrier Circle)	New Construction
FedEx Ground (former Magna bldg)	New Construction
Galsion Realty LLC	Building/Site Alter.
Gitzen Companies Inc	Building/Site Alter.
Hamlet Hotel	Building/Site Alter.

Hematology Oncology	Parking Lot
Homewood Suites by Hilton	Sign(s)
Inficon	New Construction
Inficon	Sign/Site Alter.
Jack's Septic Service	Building/Site Alter.
La Quinta Hotel	Re-approval
Magnum Properties Company LLC	Site Alterations
Marshall's Plaza amendment	Site Alterations
Natur-tyme tent	Event
Notch 8 Café	Building Alterations
RAV Properties	Building/Site Alter.
Richelieu	New Construction
Safety Kleen	New Construction
Scolaro Perry Law PC	Building/Site Alter.
Sonic Restaurant	New Construction
Tarbell Rd Associates LLC	Parking Lot
Tarbell Rd Associates LLC	Building/Site Alter.
Tucker Haskins Inc	Building/Site Alter.
Tucker Haskins Inc Amendment	Multi Tenant Sign Plan
Ultra Dairy LLC Milk Storage Addition	New Construction
Verizon - Brooklawn Golf Course	Cell Tower
Verizon - Hampton Ashdale	Small Cell
VP Supply Warehouse	Building/Site Alter.

Planning Board Subdivision Approvals	
Buniak (Borys & Lida)	Residential
COR Collamer Crossing	Commercial

DeFranciso & Falgiatano	Commercial
DeWitt Community Library	Community
Dunuwila	Commercial
FedEx Ground	Commercial
Kunz, Margaret	Residential
Moquin, Mary	Residential
Palm, Bramley	Residential
Technology Place LLC	Commercial

Zoning Board of Appeals Variances Granted	
Brixmor Property Group (KMart redev) sign variance	
Brixmor Property Group (KMart redev) setback variance	
Capital Telecom Acquisition LLC	
DeFranciso & Falgiatano	
Empire Plaza (Sonic)	
Environmental Solutions of America	
Ethan Allen redev.	
FedEx Ground	
Galaxy Portable Restrooms	
Hamlet Hotel	
Jack's Septic Service	
Messina, Joseph	
Petrela, Rustan	
Safety Kleen	
Tarbell Rd Associates LLC vestibule	
Tolhurst, Chad	
Verizon - Brooklawn Golf Course	

Permitting and Code Enforcement

The Department operated for the better part of 2015 with one full-time and two part-time NYS certified Codes Enforcement Officers: Andrew Worden, James Conlon, and David Barnhart. Andrew and James, combined, have 67 years of experience in the field.

Figure 4, page 4 depicts the permitting activities of the Department since 2013. Commercial renovation and new construction projects accounted for nearly 70 percent of permitting fees on average over the past three

years. The number of new residential projects has remained relatively stable for the past three years, the amount of available space for single-family residential new construction projects is declining. While there are a few new residential subdivisions that either have been or are currently seeking approval (i.e. Hummel Estates and Worthington Gate), it is likely that these projects will decline significantly over the next several years.

The Department saw a 300 percent increase in solar photovoltaic installations between 2013 and 2015. The Town adopted the NYS Unified

Solar permitting process in 2015 and has been an active participant in the Solarize CNY program which has drastically increased the amount of solar PV that has been installed in CNY.

The Department has also witnessed an increase in the number of vacant or derelict residential properties (see Map 1, page 5). As a result staff have had increasing interaction with the Syracuse and Onondaga County Land Bank, as well as *Compliance Connections*, an organization formed by commercial banks to ensure that their properties are maintained in good condition.

FIGURE 3—Development Activity within the Town of DeWitt 2012-2015

	2012	2013	% increase/ 2012	2014	% increase/ 2012	2015	% increase/ 2012	Total
Site Plan Review Projects	37	42	14%	58	57%	59	59%	196
SPR Application Fees	\$10,915.81	\$16,004.11	47%	\$27,345.28	151%	\$18,962.86	74%	\$73,228.06
Development Permits	398	500	26%	450	13%	424	7%	1772
Certificates of Occupancy	156	242	55%	189	21%	152	-3%	739
Development fees**	\$128,156.86	\$191,899.95	50%	\$265,216.45	107%	\$202,320.25	58%	\$787,593.51
Total Investment***	\$27,915,787.54	\$52,169,626.23	87%	\$71,368,525.44	156%	\$69,556,153.13	149%	\$221,010,092.34

**Permit fees for all construction projects within the town

***Self reported projections are likely 20 to 30% below actual

FIGURE 4—Code Enforcement Activities 2013-2015

Year	2013				2014				2015			
Complaints	1416	Complaints			1198	Complaints			1323			
Code Violations, General	355	Code Violations, General			382	Code Violations, General			338			
Inspections	1048	Inspections			883	Inspections			1102			
Development Permits		Est. Valuation	Fee	% of Total Fee		Est. Valuation	Fee	% of Total Fee		Est. Valuation	Fee	% of Total Fee
Accessory Structure	27	\$231,110.69	\$2,424.57	1%	38	\$478,516.96	\$4,965.92	2%	38	\$238,525	\$3,842	2%
Comm/Industrial/Alteration	83	\$19,793,460.50	\$82,726.80	43%	73	\$21,116,539.82	\$118,448.55	45%	62	\$13,573,952	\$85,747	45%
Deck	32	\$237,379.88	\$3,037.07	2%	21	\$129,963.41	\$1,846.98	1%	27	\$107,538	\$2,310	1%
Demolition	10	\$746,700.00	\$4,114.20	2%	14	\$437,480.00	\$3,404.88	1%	9	\$172,000	\$1,572	1%
Energy Conversion System	6	\$421,908.00	\$2,241.96	1%	18	\$366,441.00	\$5,767.31	2%	26	\$650,227	\$2,556	1%
Fence	100	\$760,772.00	\$8,953.03	5%	77	\$306,369.26	\$6,308.84	2%	86	\$403,627	\$7,494	4%
Fire Protection	6	\$180,967.00	\$1,002.40	1%	4	\$60,485.00	\$570.21	0%	7	\$88,830	\$953	0%
Generators	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	4	\$29,634.00	\$417.80	0%	3	\$35,695	\$393	0%
Grading/Filling	4	\$56,000.00	\$240.00	0%	2	\$38,000.00	\$348.00	0%	4	\$400,500	\$2,643	1%
Handicap Ramp	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	2	\$3,200.00	\$130.20	0%	1	\$800	\$65	0%
Heat Producing Device	14	\$149,298.00	\$1,249.03	1%	12	\$62,647.18	\$1,065.06	0%	7	\$58,400	\$770	0%
New Comm/Industrial	7	\$15,648,473.00	\$35,132.30	18%	13	\$45,829,183.50	\$87,189.86	33%	4	\$44,800,000	\$39,878	21%
New Residential Dwelling	14	\$5,550,530.00	\$9,557.80	5%	18	\$4,554,560.00	\$12,743.00	5%	14	\$4,339,500	\$11,095	6%
Oper-Pyrotechnic Display	4	\$0.00	\$222.00	0%	4	\$0.00	\$180.00	0%	9	0	\$540	0%
Other	23	\$1,743,656.00	\$8,503.51	4%	17	\$335,344.00	\$2,234.65	1%	4	\$145,680	\$706	0%
Pool/Hot Tub	34	\$714,824.76	\$5,286.66	3%	20	\$412,027.60	\$3,644.12	1%	25	\$567,549	\$4,512	2%
Residential Add., Repair, Conv.	62	\$3,076,414.41	\$12,427.97	6%	43	\$1,136,340.21	\$6,693.69	3%	42	\$1,281,054	\$6,947	4%
Sign	48	\$386,231.99	\$4,240.65	2%	52	\$295,147.50	\$4,543.19	2%	38	\$249,221	\$3,675	2%
Site Improvements	8	\$1,922,900.00	\$7,387.00	4%	2	\$107,500.00	\$765.00	0%	7	\$1,428,880	\$9,518	5%
Tank	1	\$46,000.00	\$200.00	0%	1	\$0.00	\$57.50	0%	3	\$274,000	\$1,818	1%
Telecommunications Equip	2	\$59,000.00	\$323.00	0%	2	\$35,800.00	\$330.00	0%	1	\$10,000.00	\$120	0%
Telecommunications Tower	15	\$444,000.00	\$2,620.00	1%	13	\$367,900.00	\$3,204.00	1%	7	\$722,700	\$4,966	3%
Totals:	500	\$52,169,626.23	\$191,889.95	100%	450	\$76,103,079.44	\$264,858.76	100%	424	\$69,548,678	\$192,119	100%

MAP 1—Vacant Properties (October 2015)

Staff are active in the Central Chapter of NYSBOC (New York State Building Officials Conference) where Andrew Worden serves as Treasurer, and James Conlon is a past President and acting Historian. The Chapter meets on a quarterly basis, and offers an annual training conference that benefits code officials throughout the state. Code officials are required by NYS Department of State to be members of NYSBOC, through which they receive their annual required 24 hrs of in-service training.

In 2015, Andrew and James traveled to Long Beach, CA as State delegates designated by NYSBOC for this year's round of code hearings held by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC is a member-focused association, dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, construction and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Its members consist of designers, tradesmen, codes professionals and facilities managers worldwide. New York State first adopted the ICC model code in 2002.

As a model code, these code adoptions directly affect New York building, fire safety, energy, green building and sustainability codes and as such affect DeWitt residents and contractors in the implementation of new codes and standards that will change the future of how buildings and structures are designed and used in New York and DeWitt. This year was very productive with the adoption of the 2015 codes and officially adopted the 2012 Green Building code. We are thankful for the opportunity to be part of this important process and to the New York State Building Officials Conference for sponsoring travel and registration.

Looking ahead to 2016

As was mentioned earlier the Department functioned for the majority of 2015 with 2 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Codes Enforcement officers. The first priority for the Department in 2016 will be to find a full-time Codes officer to bring the Department back to full staffing levels.

Since 2008 the Department has utilized BAS (Business Automation Services, Inc.) Code Enforcement and Compliance Tracking System to assist with the day to day management of Code Enforcement and Permitting activities. There are many other systems on the market, and we plan to review those systems and associated costs to evaluate whether there is a better product. We plan to work with our NYSBOC partners to explore the potential for a joint purchasing arrangement that may help to reduce costs.

The Department purchased two tablet computers at the end of 2014 to assist the Codes Officers with inputting field inspections, complaints, and photo documentation of violations. BAS does not currently contain all of the Town Codes, which makes it time consuming to issue certain violation notices. In order to fix this problem staff has been in communication with E-Code to provide an upload to BAS that will include the entire Town code. Incorporating the Town code will facilitate a streamlined Code enforcement process for staff.

The State is anticipated to transition to a new ICC Building Code as well as an updated Energy Code in the summer of 2016, which will lead to new training requirements for staff.

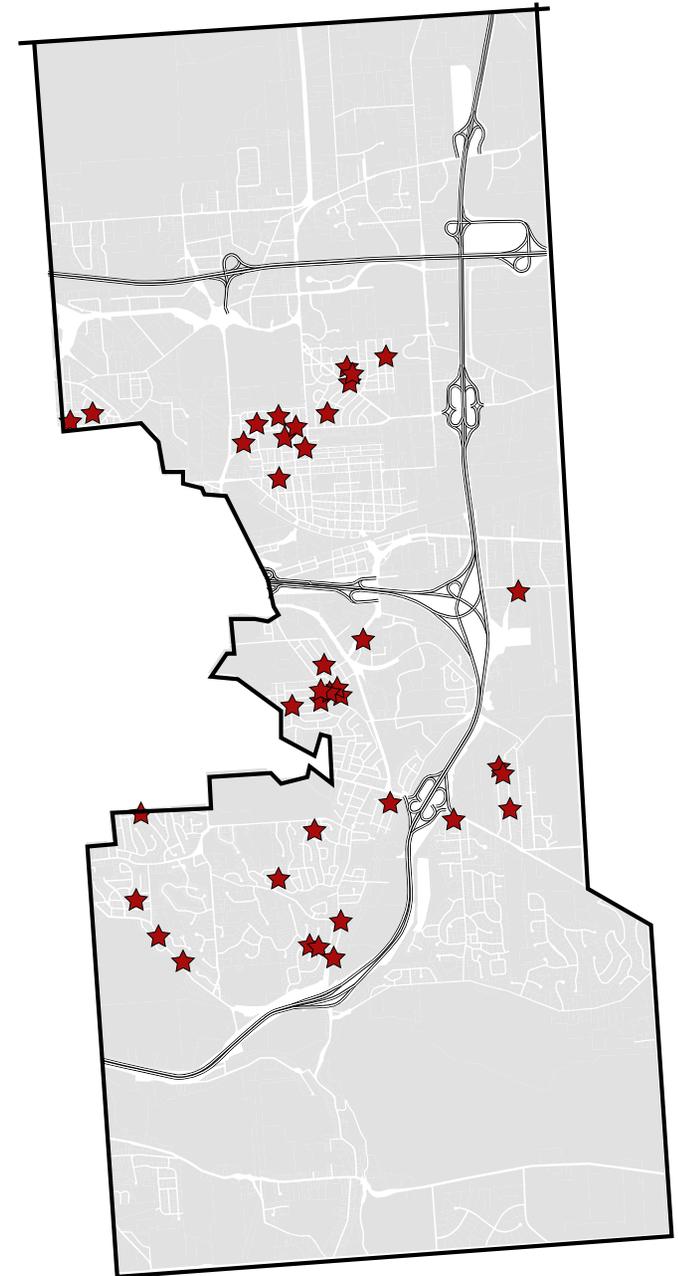


FIGURE 5—Department Grant Awards 2015

Planning and Sustainability

The Department is responsible for coordinating Planning and Sustainability Initiatives, as well as staffing various Boards and Committees involved in Planning, Zoning and Sustainability of the Town.

Additionally the Department has been proactively seeking grant opportunities to assist with the above mentioned activities. **Figure 5—Department Grant Awards 2015** depicts the grant activities of the Department during 2015. In total, the Department was successful in obtaining nearly \$300,000 in grant assistance, with a net of just over \$220,000.

Over the course of the past two years the Department has increased its focus on proactive planning and sustainability initiatives. Several new **planning initiatives** were launched in 2015:

+ Comprehensive Plan Update

Department staff have worked with a committee of volunteers to review and provide recommendations for updates to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in 2002.

+ Moving DeWitt

The Department organized and hosted 9 public forums throughout the Town during the first quarter of 2015 to gather information from the public about pedestrian and bicycle safety to create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan as an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan. The Department is continuing to work with a committee of dedicated volunteers to develop the plan document. We have also worked with several interns to analyze the data from community forums, to administer

Name	Amount	Match	
		Cash	In-kind
FS-GLRI	\$45,000	\$-	\$6,840
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Tour the Towpath	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,100
FL-Prism	\$5,000	\$-	\$10,560
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Tour the Towpath (sponsorship)	\$500	\$-	\$-
NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan	\$124,000	\$54,000	\$70,000
CNY RPDB Jamesville Hamlet Master Plan	\$52,500	\$17,500	\$-
Unified Solar Permit (NYSERDA)	\$2,500	\$-	\$-
NYS DEC Tree Planting and Maintenance	\$12,500	\$-	\$13,000
NYS DEC Tree Inventory	\$25,000	\$-	\$-
CNY Community Foundation Elevating Erie Exhibition	\$20,000	\$-	\$-
NYS DEC Urban Forest Management Plan	\$5,000	\$-	\$-
Total	\$295,000	\$71,500	\$83,000

a survey of Town residents on bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and to assist with the development of the final DRAFT plan document.

+ Jamesville Hamlet Master Plan

The Town received a planning technical assistance grant from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board to work with the Hamlet of Jamesville to develop a Hamlet master plan. A committee

of 7 members with 3 alternates was formed and has met four times since May of 2015. A community outreach meeting was held on September 22, 2015 at the Jamesville Fire Hall where 49 people were in attendance.

+ Town Logo and Wayfinding

The department worked with *Adam Rozum Design* to develop a new Town Logo and concept for a Town-wide wayfinding system.

+ Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP)

The Department was awarded a \$124,000 grant from NYS Department of State through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in 2015. The Department has hired Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering, & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) as a consultant to assist with the development of a local waterfront revitalization plan focused on the Butternut Creek corridor and the Old Erie Canal historical alignment through the Town. This is a multi-year effort scheduled to be completed in 2017.

- Elevating Erie Ideas Competition

In October of 2015 the Department launched the *Elevating Erie Ideas Competition* in cooperation with the City of Syracuse. Working with *Joe Sisko*, a partner with the firm *LOCUS*, the competition sought design ideas for the historical Erie Canal Corridor between DeWitt and Syracuse. The competition was advertised internationally, 65 proposals were received from 16 different countries. Competition awards will be announced in February of 2016, and an exhibition will be presented at the Erie Canal Museum in Downtown Syracuse in April of 2016.

In addition the Department has participated in regionally focused planning projects with outside partners. The following are a sample of these projects from 2015:

+ Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council Planning Studies

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) conducts transportation related studies as part of its annual unified work program. The Director has participated



NEW TOWN LOGO DEVELOPED WITH ADAM ROZUM DESIGN

NY Finance who provides an alternative to traditional equity or unsecured loans. The Program uses an innovative form of financing called Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. Under the PACE financing model, a property owner opts to pay for energy improvements by authorizing the municipality where the property is located to add a special tax charge to the property (a "Financing Charge") for that purpose. Department staff has assisted CNY RPDB with organizing several community forums with Onondaga County officials in order to promote this advantageous tool for clean energy financing.

The following **sustainability initiatives** and events were developed and implemented during 2015:

+ Toyota TogetherGreen Program

November 2014-October 2015
The Department coordinated with the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) and the Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) youth volunteers to provide youth involved with the People in Action (PIA) program the opportunity to learn about green infrastructure through interactive sessions and hands-on experiences.

+ Adoption of Unified Solar Permit

February 2015
Adopted NYSERDA's Unified Solar Permit to simplify the permitting process for Solar Photovoltaic systems in the Town. As a result the Town received \$2,500.00.

+ Community Garden at Klim Center

April 2015
Coordinated with OEC to take over managing

the community garden. OEC provided compost and also installed a large food safe water container to collect rain water to be used to water the garden.

+ Clean-up to Green-up

April 2015 & October 2015
DACC's Dennis Payne coordinated a Town wide effort to collect trash from road edges.

+ Tree Planting-Spring

May 2015
Under a NYS DEC grant, 17 trees were planted along Thompson Road at Swiss Village Apartments with volunteers and OEC staff.

+ Nature Tours

May 2015
Four Elementary School groups visited the Ryder Park Butterfly House, received a nature tour, and picnic in the Ryder Park pavilion. Fee is generally a donation of \$1.00/child.

+ Food Waste Management

May 2015
Staff worked with a team of 4 graduate students from SU and SUNY-ESF through the Whitman School of Management to develop a food waste management plan for the Town.

+ Erie Canal National Heritage Award

May 2015
Staff nominated the Town and the Town subsequently received an award for the work along the old Erie Canal towpath to include the connective bridge to Butternut Park, gazebo, and other improvements.

+ Vernal Pool Interpretive Sign at Butternut

CLEAN UP TO GREEN UP PARTICIPANT TOWN BOARD MEMBER KAREN DOCTER CELEBRATES SUCCESS



Creek Trail

May 2015
The Department worked with graphic artist, Kate Woodle to create and design an interpretive sign for the newly created vernal pool in Butternut Creek Recreation Area. Dale Longden and crew from Parks constructed a viewing platform where the vernal pool sign is installed. The Town received \$2,000.00 from Keybank for the construction of kiosks at either end of the park.

+ Solarize CNY

Summer 2015
Department staff participated on the advisory committee for the development of this program and hosted three workshops in DeWitt for the Solarize campaign. 26 new solar installations took place in DeWitt in 2014 and 2015.

+ DeWitt Tree Inventory

Summer 2015
Under a NYS DEC grant, the Department issued an RFP, interviewed respondents and hired Urban Forestry LLC to complete a street tree inventory through a competitive bid process. Most of the residential streets in the Town were inventoried.

Vernal Pool

Where's the Water? A vernal pool is a unique wetland feature that does not hold water all year long. This area provides an ideal nursery for some sensitive species such as toads, newts and frogs.

Did you know?
Vernal pools are an important micro habitat. Because they dry up during the summer, there are no fish that might eat the eggs or larvae of animals like frogs and salamanders.

An Eastern Red-spotted Newt has three life stages. The green, brown larva lives in water. The red eft lives in leaf litter far from the pool where it was born. The green adult with red spots returns to the water to live and lay eggs.

Marsh Marigolds are adapted to live at the edges of marshes and vernal pools where the water may disappear but the soil remains moist.

Wood frogs lay their eggs in vernal pools. Adults spend winters under leaf litter or the top layer of soil of upland forests—far from where they were born.

A Swamp Darner Dragonfly lays its eggs in a dry vernal pool. The eggs won't hatch, for up to two years, until the pool fills with water.

Can you guess their names?
Find a green frog, a meadowhawk, a fairy shrimp, a spotted salamander, frog eggs, a tadpole, a dragonfly larva, and salamander eggs.

answer: green frog 5, meadowhawk 7, fairy shrimp 2, frog eggs 4, tadpole 6, spotted salamander 1, dragonfly larva 3, salamander eggs 8

TOWN OF DeWitt
more than you think.

free standing wooden swings, and activities for children were offered as well as a Tree Planting demonstration.

+ **Butternut Creek Boardwalk unveiling**

June 2015
Ribbon cutting, guided walk, and tree planting demo.

+ **Tuesday's on the Towpath**

August 2015
The Department hosted a Tuesday's on the Towpath recreation ride from DeWitt to Fayetteville.

+ **Canal Day**

August 2015
Department staff helped to coordinate a planning Team for Canal Day that met monthly and worked out entertainment, layout, timing, and organization. New additions included a beer/wine garden (not very successful), food trucks (very successful), fun walk down canal, end destination for Tour the Towpath, crafters, and balloon build. New additions accompanied old favorites. Weather was perfect! More attendance this year than has been seen in the past several years.

+ **Tour the Towpath**

August 2015
1st Annual, 36 mile bike ride down the old Erie Canal from Rome to DeWitt. Participants were given a choice of a 1-day ride or a 2-day ride. Cost was \$30.00 each. Total of 50 riders + 5 support staff for 55 riders between the 2 days. \$115.00 remains from 2015 to be added to next year's budget.

+ **Free Standing Swings**

Spring 2015
The Department coordinated with staff and students at ESM High School to design and build free standing swings for parks. Swings ideally would feature "green roofs" providing fun entertainment for adults while children play on playground. A prototype was built and installed at Franklin Park.

+ **Franklin Park Festival**

June 2015
OEI staff coordinated a community festival in Franklin Park featuring green infrastructure. Rain barrels were distributed, ESM built two



FRANKLIN PARK FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

TOUR THE TOWPATH PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE IN DEWITT



+ Canalway Trail User Count

August 2015

Staff coordinated with Parks and Trails NY to conduct a User Trail Count for the segment of the Erie Canalway Trail in DeWitt. Worked with volunteers to physically count users and collect data (surveys) for 8 days, 2 hours each. Preliminary data suggests 155,000 annual users.

+ Raymour and Flannigan

Spring and Summer 2015

During renovation of Trader Joe's, street trees along Erie Blvd were severely pruned in violation of the Town Tree ordinance. A violation notice was sent and a court date scheduled. After several site visits and meetings, a planting plan was agreed upon with the owners of the plaza.

+ Ash Treatment

September 2015

Approximately 6 ash trees were identified for treatment. Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWD) staff performed the work.

+ Gristmill Park Tree Planting

October 2015

Staff coordinated with Jane Praetorius and Steve Hadley to plant a tree in park. Assessed trees currently growing. Parks will prune or remove in spring depending on leaf out.

+ Tree Planting-Fall

October 2015

98 Trees Planted within the Town. All locations were approved by homeowners. Approximately 25 Trees planted throughout the Town, purchased bare-root from Schictell's, planted by the Parks Department; Approximately 25 trees planted under a DEC grant and Block grant, planted with mainly volunteers and OEC staff, and minimal support from Parks staff. Truck and equipment provided. Approximately 48 trees planted under Save the Rain grant by OEC.

+ Fishing Derby

October 2015

Staff coordinated volunteers to assist with the Town's Annual Youth Fishing Derby. Poles provided by NYS DEC-Jim Everard. Volunteers from community and Rotary Club. Police Department donates door prizes. Tim Horton's donates coffee. Purchased donuts. 34 participants; 14 received additional prizes.

+ Tree Removals

December 2015

Based on information collected from street tree inventory, approximately 200 street and park trees were identified as Priority 1 and Priority 2 removals. Trees in the Franklin Park and Butternut Creek Boardwalk were removed.

+ Deer Management

Ongoing

Fielding complaints regarding deer. Tasked DACC to work with the public and draft a plan to address public concern regarding white tailed deer.

Communications

The Department maintains multiple channels of communication, in addition to providing content for the quarterly Town Brochure, including a bi-monthly e-news letter that updates Town residents and stakeholders on Planning and Sustainability activities. The Department maintains two Facebook pages: Town of DeWitt Nature Programs (131 likes) and DeWitt Green Initiatives (140 likes), a Twitter account (@MovingDeWitt) with 78 followers, and an Instagram account (50 followers).



KRISTINA FERRERA OF CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ASSISTS WITH FALL TREE PLANTING



TOWN OF DEWITT
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
5400 BUTTERNUT DRIVE
EAST SYRACUSE, NY 13207