



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



TIOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

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WE ARE TEAM TIOGA

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on over 30 years of operation, TEAM Tioga acknowledges the **profound changes in the business landscape**. As a pioneering force in the industry, we have not only weathered these changes but **adapted seamlessly** to the new paradigm.

Our enduring mission remains steadfast: to **create jobs** to strengthen the economic base of Tioga County; to **increase the tax base** to benefit our residents; and sustain a **quality of life** that not only serves our community but also draws in visitors from beyond our county lines.

In the face of dynamic shifts, we take pride in our ability to **innovate and navigate emerging challenges**. Our commitment to the economic well-being of Tioga County persists, driving us to explore new avenues and strategies. As we move forward, **we extend our gratitude** for your continued support and collaboration.

Together, we will continue to shape a resilient and thriving future for Tioga County.



LEE ANN TINNEY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
PLANNING



ELAINE JARDINE
PLANNING DIRECTOR



MEGAN SCHNABL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TIOGA
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CHRISTINE CURTIS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REBECCA MAFFEI
DIRECTOR, TIOGA COUNTY
TOURISM



ELLEN PRATT
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER



KAREN WARFLE
OFFICE SPECIALIST



WHAT WE DO



Grantsmanship
Technical
Assistance



Municipal Local
Law &
Comprehensive
Plan Review



Municipal
Technical
Assistance



Workforce
Development



Industrial
Retention &
Attraction



Small
Business
Resource &
Referral



Business
Location
Siting



Local Approvals
Assistance &
Streamlining



Commercial
Revitalization &
Façade
Improvements



Agricultural &
Small Business
Loans



Facilitate
Connections



Administer NYS
Agricultural
Districts Program

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

- Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC)
- Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association
- Tioga County Non Profit Network
- Tioga County Foundations Coalition
- United Way Impact Council Review Panel
- Tioga County Talent Supply Table
- Leadership Tioga Advisory Committee
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
- Southern Tier 8 CED's Committee
- Tioga County Institute for Advancement
- Broome Tioga Workforce Development Board
- New York Land Bank Association
- NYS Association of County Planning Directors
- NYS Region 7 Open Space Committee
- Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
- STREDC Loan Committee
- Southern Tier 8 Regional Board (STERPDB)
- ST8 Regional Planners Committee
- Valley Economic Development Association
- Susquehanna Heritage Area Commission
- Tioga County Local Development Corporation
- Tioga Women Lead
- Tioga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
- Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group
- ITCS Steering Committee
- Southern Tier Network Broadband Coalition

WE WORK FOR YOU



2023 Highlights

VILLAGE OF WAVERLY WINS NEW YORK FORWARD GRANT:

The Village of Waverly has secured a significant \$4.5 million win through the NY FORWARD grant program. The project targets the central business district, aiming to **attract new businesses, expand the tax base, and create diverse housing and job opportunities**. This transformative grant anticipates community-wide investment in a brighter future, unlocking potential projects and catalyzing additional investments from stakeholders.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOT: The construction of The Neighborhood Depot in Owego is underway after the demolition of three condemned houses earlier this year. **Local nonprofits will collaborate within this 16,000-square foot facility**, providing a wide range of services, support, and programs for early childhood, people with disabilities, poverty-stricken families, and other community needs. The facility, designed as a railroad depot, will be located at 146 Central Ave., with a tentative opening date set for late 2024.

NICHOLS CONNECTALL STN FIBER EXPANSION: The expansive fiber-optic network **serves 800 residences and businesses**, with 357 active customers as of January 1, 2024. Supported by a **\$2.5 million investment from Tioga County and NYS ConnectAll** and an additional \$5 million from NYSEG, this collaboration has yielded tangible outcomes, enhancing digital access and community connectivity.

RESTORE NY FUNDS REJUVENATE OWEGO BUSINESSES: Fuddy Duddy's Confectionery and the former Tioga Trails Café building were both awarded Restore New York Communities Initiative funds to **rehabilitate vacant buildings in downtown Owego**. Both projects will leverage these funds to enhance their facilities, create jobs, and contribute to the overall economic vibrancy of Tioga County.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Land Bank Properties	NY Forward Grant Dollars Awarded to the Village of Waverly	Social Media Followers
24	\$4,500,000	2,505
Active ConnectAll STN Fiber Customers	Tioga County Events Promoted	Tioga County ED&P 239 referrals
357	300+	26



GRANT AWARDS

In addition to seeking funding for projects, TEAM Tioga partners with businesses and organizations to assemble proposals and provide technical assistance in order to make projects successful. The following are grants above \$500,000 awarded in 2023:



\$4,500,000

Village of Waverly - NY FORWARD



\$1,800,000

Fuddy's Duddy's Confectionery - RESTORE NY



\$1,000,000

Tioga Trails - RESTORE NY



\$900,000

Land Bank - Land Bank Initiative

PLANNING & ZONING 239 REFFERALS



HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE:

Tioga County received a Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to complete a required update to the County's 2018 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). **A Hazard Mitigation Plan is a way to identify natural hazards the County faces**, evaluate people and property at risk, and create strategies to minimize damages and injuries in the long term.

Having an updated plan will allow the County, Towns, and Villages to **remain eligible to apply for funding from FEMA for hazard mitigation projects**. Tioga County will focus on flood, drought, severe storms, and extreme temperatures in the plan update.

TIOGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD:

The Tioga County Planning Board reviewed and made recommendations on **26 municipal referrals** for proposed development.

NYS ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Elaine Jardine, Planning Director, was elected to the **At-Large position** on the NYS Association of Planning Directors Executive Committee



Nearly 400 acres of viable farmland were added to the Spencer Agricultural District #1

SUSTAINABILITY



BORROW-A-BIN PROGRAM:

Tioga County Sustainability initiated a new Borrow-A-Bin program, **a free service that loans beverage recycling bins to help local event organizers to divert waste recycling from landfill**.

Events that benefitted from this program in 2023 included the Owego Strawberry Festival, Tioga County Fair, and Sundaes at the Farm. This program recovered hundreds of bottles and cans from the trash.



33.07 tons of electronics were recycled through Tioga County's partnership with the Broome County Household Hazardous Waste program

REDUCE WASTE VIDEO CAMPAIGN:

Our Sustainability Manager initiated a "Reduce Waste" video campaign by partnering with two non-profit organizations located in Tioga County.

The highlighted projects included **food recovery at Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga** in Nichols and **medical equipment reuse at the Med Shed** in Nichols.

These videos demonstrate how organizations in Tioga County are helping our community by keeping food and life expanding equipment out of the landfill.



Saved taxpayers over \$15,600 in recycling costs by partnering with municipalities for 5 clean up events



RESTORE NEW YORK: FUDDY DUDDY'S

Tioga County was awarded \$1.8 million at the end of 2022 for the rehabilitation of 178-180 Front Street, Owego, the future home of Fuddy Duddy's Confectionery, currently located on Lake Street in Owego. During 2023, TEAM Tioga coordinated meetings with the property owner, New York State ESD, contractors and architects to move the project forward. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

NEW YORK FORWARD: VILLAGE OF WAVERLY

APPLICATION

TEAM Tioga assisted the Village of Waverly, community partners, and stakeholders in applying to the Regional Council for Round 1 NY Forward funds. The application was successful and selected for funding in the amount of \$4.5 million.

PLANNING

Once the Village of Waverly application was awarded, the Local Planning Committee (LPC) was established. The LPC then went to work on developing a Strategic Investment Plan. The Plan included a vision for the downtown area and a catalogue of transformative projects based on community outreach and input.

IMPLEMENTATION

In 2024, New York State will make the announcement of the Waverly projects selected for funding. The awards will be used to implement the most transformative projects submitted in the Strategic Investment Plan.



RESTORE NEW YORK: TIOGA TRAILS

Tioga County was awarded \$1 million in 2023 for the rehabilitation of 48-50 Lake Street, Owego. This severely blighted building will be transformed into commercial space on the first floor, and residential space on the second and third floors. In 2023, TEAM Tioga worked with the property owner and New York State ESD to begin work on the project.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LAND BANK)



MAIN STREET CANDOR REHABILITATIONS:

The Tioga County Land Bank was awarded a New York Main Street grant in the amount of \$500,000 to assist a local property owner in rehabilitating three buildings on Main Street in the Village of Candor. Construction was completed in the fall of 2023. Program accomplishments included the **renovation of 8 apartments, exterior renovation of 3 commercial units, and complete interior rehabilitation of the commercial space at 82 Main Street.** The total investment in the properties was \$865,000.



Completed 4 demolitions in the Village of Owego

81 NORTH AVE OWEGO PROJECT:

The Land Bank acquired 81 North Avenue in the Village of Owego in December 2023. This severely blighted and **vacant mixed-use development building is located in the heart of the Village's downtown historic business district.** The Land Bank will use LBI - Phase 2 funds to stabilize and fully rehabilitate this prominent structure.

OWEGO APALACHIN CSD PARTNERSHIP:

The Land Bank, in partnership with the Owego Apalachin Central School District (OACSD), has developed a program that has **junior and senior students enrolled in the district's Building Trades and Construction Systems Program** rehabilitating a single-family home located at 103 Liberty Street in Owego. The anticipated completion date is August 2024.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



TIOGA COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TEEN CENTER:

With the assistance of our Community Development Specialist, the Tioga County Boys and Girls Club **secured funding to complete construction of a 1,000-square-foot addition that will house a Teen Center** that fully complies with New York State childcare regulations.

Bringing this project to life for Tioga County youth required coordination of grant funds from the following local foundations: Floyd Hooker Foundation, the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, the Community Foundation for South Central New York, the Mildred Truman Faulkner Foundation, Visions Cares through Visions Federal Credit Union, and the Tioga State Bank Foundation.

NICHOLS PARK POND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:

The Nichols Park Pond Beautification Project was awarded over \$33,000 for the restoration of the trail around Nichols Pond in the Village of Spencer.

This project successfully revitalized the trail, transforming it into a model of sustainability and inclusivity. **The trail now complies with ADA accessibility standards and caters to inter-generational usage, fostering a sense of unity and enjoyment for everyone in the community.** Nichols Park Pond, centrally located in the heart of the Village, remains a cherished public space, offering free access for fishing, boating, walking, and nature recreation.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE (DRI) PROGRESS

MULTI-SITE FUND PROGRAM

In March of 2023, the TCIDA awarded five new projects under the multi-site fund program, a program made up of funds relinquished from DRI projects that did not move forward.

Projects completed in 2023 included the spa addition at Shear Paradise, the patio addition at The Parkview Restaurant, and the apartment and deck rehabilitation at The Cellar Restaurant.

Work continued to progress on the remaining projects, which are expected to be completed in 2024.

OWEGO DONUT & BEER CO.

In December 2023, Owego Donut & Beer Co. opened its doors to the public at 229 North Ave in Owego. The restaurant received a \$430,000 grant from the Owego Downtown Revitalization Initiative to renovate the former Thompson Grocery building.



WORKFORCE PIPELINE



TALENT SUPPLY TABLE GATHERING:

In August, various **workforce partners gathered to discuss Tioga County's workforce pipeline.** Participants included five Tioga County school districts, two BOCES, four businesses, two local Chambers of Commerce, and government agencies including Tioga County Economic Development & Planning, New York State Department of Labor, Broome-Tioga Workforce New York.

TWIN TIERS REGIONAL JOB FAIR:

The job fair **brought together over 110 business and 300 graduating seniors** from Waverly CSD, Candor CSD, Owego Apalachin CSD, Spencer-Van Etten CSD, Twin Tiers Christian Academy, Binghamton CSD, Northeast Bradford CSD, Towanda Area SD, and GST BOCES New Visions.

TALENT SUPPLY TABLE PROGRESS REPORT:

The Talent Supply Table Progress Report documented the **collaborative strides that the Talent Supply Table committees achieved** during the 2022-23 school year. Committee members include Tioga County school districts, BOCES partners, and workforce organizations.

Highlights included providing technical assistance for the Candor EMS Jr Member Program and the OFA Building Trades Liberty Street House Project. Additional successes noted were the Twin Tiers Regional Job Fair, Home Central Trades Day, and Shared Business List.



33 stakeholders attended the first annual Talent Supply Table Gathering

TOURISM



ExperienceTioga.com attracted **50,000 unique views**

OWEGO DRI WAYFINDING SIGNS:

Tioga County Tourism, along with a Steering Committee, **completed the branding for the Village of Owego Wayfinding Sign** and Creative Community Downtown Revitalization Initiative Project. Installation is planned for the first half of 2024.



EVENT CALENDAR & PROMOTION:

Tioga County Tourism **promoted over 300 events** on the new ExperienceTioga.com events calendar with over 2,500 page views from the start of implementation in July through the end of 2023.

A new software purchased by Tioga County Tourism (TCT) automatically aggregates Tioga County events posted online. This investment has led to the inclusion of more events on the calendar and has resulted in **a robust, county-wide calendar**. TCT also supported 12 of Tioga County's most prominent events with the Cooperative Marketing Program.



2,500 page views on the Events Calendar since implementation in July

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



OWEGO SQUARE/ OWEGO GARDENS II:

Coordinated with Fagan Engineers, RB Robinson, Aquastore, and Veolia to **complete construction of the water tank at Owego Square**, which was funded in part by an Empire State Development Capital Grant.

TCIDA LOAN PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS:

Presented TCIDA Loan Programs at Lenders' Roundtable, Tioga County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, and Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.



Provided technical assistance to Reed Brook Meats in Waverly for a **\$250,000 USDA Local Meat Capacity Grant**

GRANT ADMINISTRATION:

Building a Talent Supply Pipeline (\$150,000):

Education Workforce Coordinator position, Sources: ARC, Floyd Hooker Foundation

Buck Road Site Design (\$26,500):

Site Design for TCIDA-owned Buck Road economic development site, Source: ARC

Municipal Water Extension Study (\$23,560):

Preliminary engineering for water extension from the Village of Van Etten to Raymond Hadley in the Village of Spencer, Source: ESD

Railroad Crossing Stormwater Mitigation (\$45,000):

Preliminary engineering and design for IDA railroad crossing stormwater mitigation in Richford, Source: FEMA.



CONTACT US



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TIOGA TOGETHER Advancing the Vision



WE WORK FOR YOU