

Project: Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Update

State program: New York State Department of State Smart Growth Community Planning Grant Program

Planning period: Approximately 20 months after an award and State contract

Project goal

Replace the Town's 2014 Comprehensive Plan with a community-driven plan that reflects today's housing needs, development pressures, infrastructure limits, climate risks, renewable-energy proposals, transportation needs, and resident priorities. The plan will help the Town welcome appropriate growth while protecting rural character, open space, water resources, agricultural and forested lands, and neighborhood quality of life.

Objectives

- Build a shared vision through surveys, focus groups, public workshops, committee meetings, and direct stakeholder outreach.
- Identify suitable areas for housing, mixed-use growth, infill, adaptive reuse, redevelopment, and infrastructure investment.
- Plan for transportation, sidewalks, public transit, parks, recreation, public spaces, climate resilience, and natural-resource protection.
- Recommend future land-use policies and an implementation program that can guide zoning review, capital planning, partnerships, and future grants.

What the grant would support

A Comprehensive Plan and inclusive public process; review of the 2014 plan and current zoning; a community profile, data analysis, and GIS mapping; development of a shared vision, goals, future land-use concepts, policy recommendations, and an action plan; and preparation of the draft and final plan, required reviews, public hearing, and Town Board consideration.

Proposed budget

Total project: \$170,474.20 | State request: \$144,903.07 | Town share: \$25,571.13

The application proposes a combination of documented Town participation and local funds. The final eligible local-share structure will be reconciled with Department of State requirements before submission.

Public benefit

- Clearer direction for housing, businesses, services, redevelopment, and infrastructure.
- Better coordination of recreation, transportation, public spaces, environmental protection, and climate resilience.
- A stronger basis for future zoning updates, capital projects, outside funding, and regional partnerships.
- A documented public process showing how community input shaped the Town's priorities.

Partners and Board action

The Town has received support from Otsego County Planning, the City of Oneonta, Otsego Now, SUNY Oneonta, Congressman Riley, Assemblymember Miller, Destination Marketing, Otsego County Executive, Town Planning Board Chair, Otsego 2000, and community partners. Board authorization would permit the submission of the grant application and proposed Town share; it would not adopt the plan, change zoning, select a development project, or award a consulting contract.