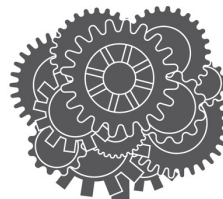


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**TEAM TIOGA**

*we work for you*



**TIOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING**

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# TEAM TIOGA

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# OUR MISSION

In over 30 years of operating, we have watched as the world of business has changed drastically. As an industry leader, we have evolved and adapted to the new landscape.

Our mission, however, remains the same: to create jobs to strengthen the economic base of Tioga County; to increase the tax base to benefit Tioga County residents; and to sustain the quality of life to benefit Tioga County residents and attract out-of-county visitors.



## WE WORK FOR YOU

### ED&P services include:

- Industrial retention & attraction
- Small business resource & referral
- Business location siting
- Local approvals assistance & streamlining
- Grantsmanship assistance for businesses & municipalities
- Review of municipal local laws & comprehensive plans
- Municipal technical assistance
- Small business loans
- Commercial revitalization & facade improvements
- Agricultural business loans
- Social media spotlights
- Farm & agricultural development assistance

# STRATEGY

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Projects funded by the 2017 Downtown Revitalization Initiative were announced by New York State in August. Contracts are expected in early 2020.
- Voigt & Schweitzer New York Galvanizing, LLC broke ground in 2019. A \$15.5 million dollar investment, the site is expected to be fully operational beginning in early 2020.
- All 15 Tioga County municipalities completed and adopted the Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was also approved by FEMA and NYS DHSES.
- Tioga County Regional Economic Area Partnership LDC (REAP) was awarded a USDA RBDG grant to study code enforcement potential shared services in the County, which started in September 2019 and will be complete by the end of June 2020.
- New visitors to the Tioga County Tourism website increased by 103%.
- The Village of Waverly Planning Board is working with Thoma Development Consultants to update the Village's 1981 Comprehensive Plan.
- The Land Bank completed demolition of nine unsafe, blighted properties.

## 2019 BY THE NUMBERS



Land Bank  
Properties

12

Secured  
Grant  
Funding

\$1.2 million

Active  
Grants

24



Property Tax  
Levy Increase

\$693,700

Sales Tax  
Revenue  
Increase

1.46%

FB Followers  
Increase

1,281





# LAND BANK

The Tioga County Property Development Corporation, a New York State land bank, was established as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in January 2017. The following has been completed in 2019:

- Structures demolished in the Village of Waverly at 429 Chemung Street, 108 Park Street, 112 Park Street, 452 Cayuta Avenue, 127 Providence Street, 530 E. Chemung Street, and 457 Fulton Street.
- Structures demolished in the Village of Owego at 115-117 Chestnut Street, 39-41 Temple Street, and 117 Liberty Street.
- 35 Lincoln Street, Waverly readied for rehabilitation and sale.
- 207 Howard Street, Waverly readied for rehabilitation and sale.

## TOURISM

Tioga County Tourism (TCT) embarked on a series of new projects, planning, and programming this year. As part of the 2019 Tourism Strategic Plan, TCT invested in paid digital marketing campaigns with the goal of increasing traffic to [www.experiencetioga.com](http://www.experiencetioga.com). As a direct result, website traffic doubled and social media engagement increased dramatically. Also of note:

- The Tioga GeoTour brought in geocachers from all across the United States and Canada. With 451 Favorites, it's a popular tour.
- Thanks, in part, to participation on the Haunted History Trail, Fainting Goat Island Inn was voted the #2 Haunted Hotel in the U.S. in a USA Today 10 Best contest.
- Since opening, the Visitor Center has hosted approximately 200 visitors per month.
- Over 3,000 emails were collected as part of the Vacation Contest Digital Campaign.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Implemented the Tioga County Foundations Coalition public web portal: <https://www.tiogacountyny.com/tioga-county-foundations-portal/>
- Worked to facilitate the implementation of the Tioga County Housing and Community Investment Initiative and laid the groundwork for the formation of the Tioga Neighborhood Revitalization Coalition.
- Attended municipal meetings each month and created a database of priority projects.
- Began work to update REAP's Strategic Plan and continued to build upon strong partnerships with area municipalities, as well as agencies such as Tioga Opportunities, Southern Tier 8, Cornell Cooperative Extension, etc.
- Provided technical assistance for the Village of Waverly Waverly Glen Park Improvements Project.

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 8 Year District Review- Tioga County consists of 3 agricultural districts as defined by NYS Ag and Markets. On their 8 year anniversary dates, districts undergo a review process where land can be added or removed from the district. In 2019, ED&P began preparations for 2 of the districts, whose 8 year review periods will begin in early 2020.
- Annual Inclusion Enrollment- Each year, the department holds its annual agricultural district enrollment period in January. During this time, any agricultural property owner may request inclusion of viable agricultural land not already included in a certified NYS Ag district. In 2019, Tioga County added 74.33 acres of land into existing Ag districts.
- Food Hub: Exploring an Innovative Approach- Tioga County farmers are always looking for new opportunities to market their goods. In 2019, ED&P began exploring how a food hub model would fit in the county, and what it would mean for county farmers. With potential partners identified, 2019 marked a great start to expanding markets for local producers.
- Ag Tires Recycling Program- Partnering with Tioga County's sustainability manager and the Soil and Water Conservation District, ED&P began work on a recycling program for agricultural tires. Using a grant that was awarded through Soil and Water in 2019, the three departments will work together to create a way for Tioga County farmers to rid their farms of old, unwanted tires in a cost effective and environmentally friendly way in 2020.

## PLANNING + ZONING 239M REFERRALS

The Tioga County Planning Board received 17 referrals from various municipalities throughout the County for recommendation on development projects. Especially interesting projects include the High End Multi Processing CBD oil extraction facility in the Town of Barton and four Community Distributed Generation solar projects, one each from the Town of Candor, Town of Tioga, Town of Nichols, and Town of Owego.

The Village of Spencer established a Land Use Commission with the intention of exploring the feasibility of regulating land use by zoning within the Village.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE STRATEGY

Phase I of the Tioga County Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy was completed in May of 2019. TEAM Tioga, in partnership with REAP, submitted an application to the USDA and was awarded funds to conduct Phase II of the study. Phase II of the plan is currently in progress.

It is anticipated that Phase II will be completed by June of 2020 with the following deliverables:

- A strategic action plan that will identify priorities and actions needed to help employers attract and develop talent and workforce supply for today and for the future
- Strategies that will connect local school districts and higher learning institutions, with employers, to create a highly qualified and skilled workforce pipeline
- A labor strategy vision for Tioga County



# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- \$693,700 Assessed Value was added to taxable roll section.
- The New York State Comptroller Audit was successfully completed in 2019.
- The Industrial Development Agency (IDA) contributed to the 4th Wave Study on battery technology.
- The IDA continued to support the Tioga County Housing and Community Investment Initiative.
- Two new PILOT Agreements were approved in 2019: Voigt & Schweitzer New York Galvanizing, LLC and Home Leasing/Owego Gardens II.
- Voigt & Schweitzer New York Galvanizing, LLC broke ground in 2019. Located in the Town of Owego, this \$15.5 million dollar investment is projected to create approximately 60 new jobs. The site is expected to be fully operational beginning in early 2020.
- Additionally, with support from the IDA, Voigt & Schweitzer New York Galvanizing was awarded \$18,000 through the NYSEG Economic Development Natural Gas Infrastructure Investment Program.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Voigt & Schweitzer New York Galvanizing, LLC groundbreaking.



## 2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census is starting soon. Residents in Tioga County will be receiving an invitation in mid-March to complete the 2020 Census Form online or by phone. The Tioga County Complete Count Committee (CCC) started work to make residents aware of the 2020 Census last April. A customized logo was created and promotional materials were developed with the help of a graphic designer. The 2020 Census was promoted at the Tioga County Fair, the Older Adult Health Fair, the Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit Mixer, and Lights on the River. Census Bureau 2020 Census chip clips and lip balm, as well as Tioga County CCC logo canvas grocery bags were all distributed to local food banks. CCC promotional efforts will intensify in 2020 via various methods, at least until the end of May. To assist financially with this, the CCC is awaiting a Request for Applications from the NYS Complete Count Committee to secure nearly \$73,000 for additional promotional products, advertising, and events.

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## NEW EMPLOYEE CORNER

### BOARDS + COMMITTEES

- Broome Tioga Talent Task Force
- Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council (STREDC)
- STREDC Workforce Development Work Group
- STREDC Advanced Manufacturers Work Group
- STREDC Loan Committee
- Southern Tier 8 Regional Board (STERPDB)
- ST8 Regional Planners Committee
- Broome Tioga Workforce Investment Board
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
- Valley Economic Development Association
- Waverly Business Association
- Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Assoc.
- Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study Planning Committee
- NYS Association of County Planning Directors
- NYS Region 7 Open Space Committee
- Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
- 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
- Tioga Business Services Team
- Tioga Housing Partnership Coalition
- Tioga County Non Profit Network
- Tioga County Foundations Coalition
- United Way Impact Council Review Panel
- Community Foundation for South Central NY Grant Review Panel
- Tioga County Women's Suffrage Committee



#### Megan Griffiths

Megan joined TEAM Tioga in September 2019 as the Agriculture Development Specialist. Megan grew up in Endicott and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Binghamton University. With her background in Public Administration, she looks forward to making a positive impact on our region and working with Tioga County's strong agricultural community.



#### Abbey Hendrickson

Abbey joined TEAM Tioga in June 2019 as the Community Development Specialist. An Owego native, she earned her Bachelor's Degree at SUNY Brockport and her Master's Degree at the University at Buffalo. She enjoys working in Tioga County and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to her community.



# GRANT AWARDS

- \$58,200 from USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) for Tioga County Code Enforcement Feasibility Study - REAP
- \$38,563 from USDA RBDG for Tioga County Workforce Development Pipeline Strategy Phase II - REAP
- \$42,882 - New York State Snowmobile Trail Grant - Tioga County
- \$10,000 from the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation for Nichols Park Grandstand Restoration - Village of Spencer
- \$25,000 from Tioga Downs for Tioga Theater Condition Report/Environmental Study - REAP
- \$10,000 from Preservation League of NYS to fund a Cultural Landscape Report for Evergreen Cemetery - Village of Owego
- \$300,000 from Empire State Development CAP Grant to fund water & sewer extension - V&S New York Galvanizing
- \$118,000 from NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Empire State Development (ESD) Capital Grant - Midwestern Pet Foods, Waverly
- \$424,000 from NYS CFA ESD Capital Grant - Franziska Racker Centers, Inc.
- \$250,000 from NY Main Street - Village of Owego North Avenue Revitalization Program
- Technical assistance grant - USDA Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) for REAP Strategic Plan - REAP
- Technical assistance grant - Cornell University Design Connect in support of Art Park - Village of Owego

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE TIMELINE

