



## Planning Department Year in Review ...

**...thank goodness 2020  
is in the rearview mirror**

January 14, 2021

**5**

reports completed

- Energy Benchmarking
- North Creek Sewer
- Green Infrastructure Feasibility
- Economic Value of Clean Water
- Road Salt Reduction

**\$411k**

in project money expended

**6**

grants closed out

### Staff Time Distribution

General Planning - 2280 hrs/24

GIS - 1701 hrs/18

LWRP Lakes - 1240 hrs/13

LWRP First Wilderness - 1132 hrs/12

Covid Response - 650 hrs/7

Census - 630 hrs/7

Smart Growth - 334 hrs/4

Housing Study - 223 hrs/2

Planning Board - 193 hrs/2

E-911 - 190 hrs/2

Shared Services - 109 hrs/1

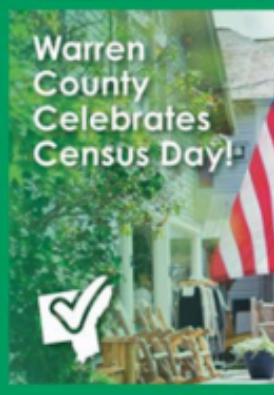
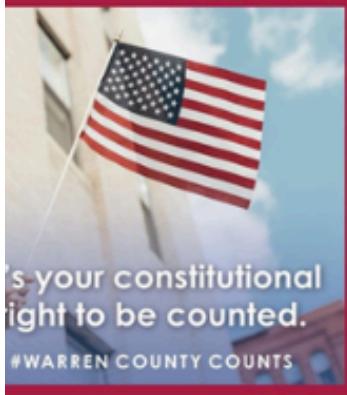
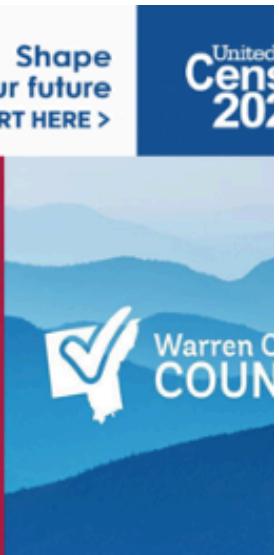
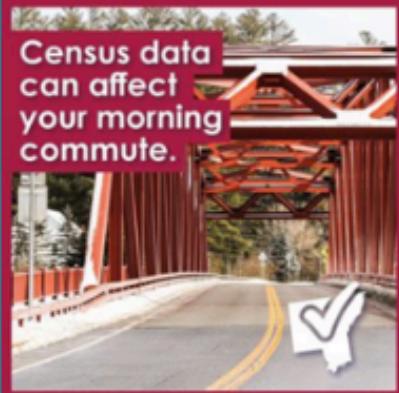
Climate Smart - 74 hrs/1

Other - 601 hrs/6

## 2020 by the numbers

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

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## Census 2020

Public outreach for Census 2020 was one of the department's most important projects last year, as we created, revised, and attempted to execute outreach plans that were in continual flux due to the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, we are hopeful our efforts encouraged response from residents who may otherwise have not participated. Apportionment figures are expected in the next couple of months.

[GF middle school census video](#)

[Nonprofit census video](#)



## Climate Smart Bronze Certification

Warren County became one of only 55 bronze certified Climate Smart Communities in the state, thanks to the hard work of department staff.

Activities that qualified Warren County for this certification, which assists in the County's qualification for future grant funding, include:

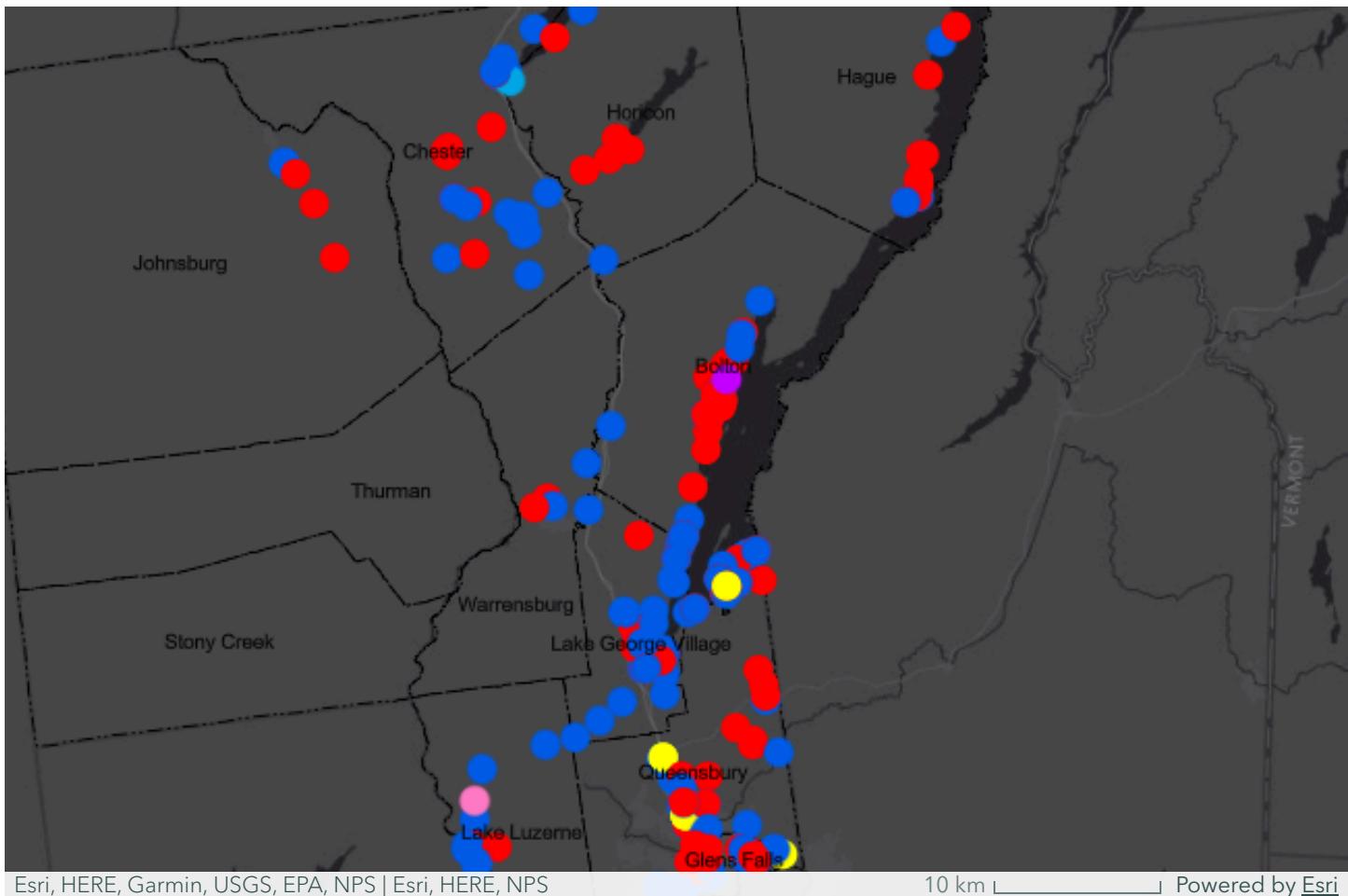
- Development of a vulnerability assessment
- Development of adaption climate strategies
- Adopting the New York State Solar Permit
- Establishing a financial project for building energy efficiency

[Read an Adirondack Explorer article about the County's certification here.](#)

[Read more about the State's Climate Smart program here.](#)

## **Energy Benchmarking Report**

Hand in hand with our Climate Smart certification, the Planning Department completed a Building Energy Benchmarking Report in September 2020, detailing square footage, annual energy cost, electricity and natural gas use, and total greenhouse gas emissions for 29 county owned buildings.



## County Planning Board

Referrals to the County for planning board review were down by 29 projects over 2019. Department staff reviewed 260 applications, including 125 site plans and 107 area variances.

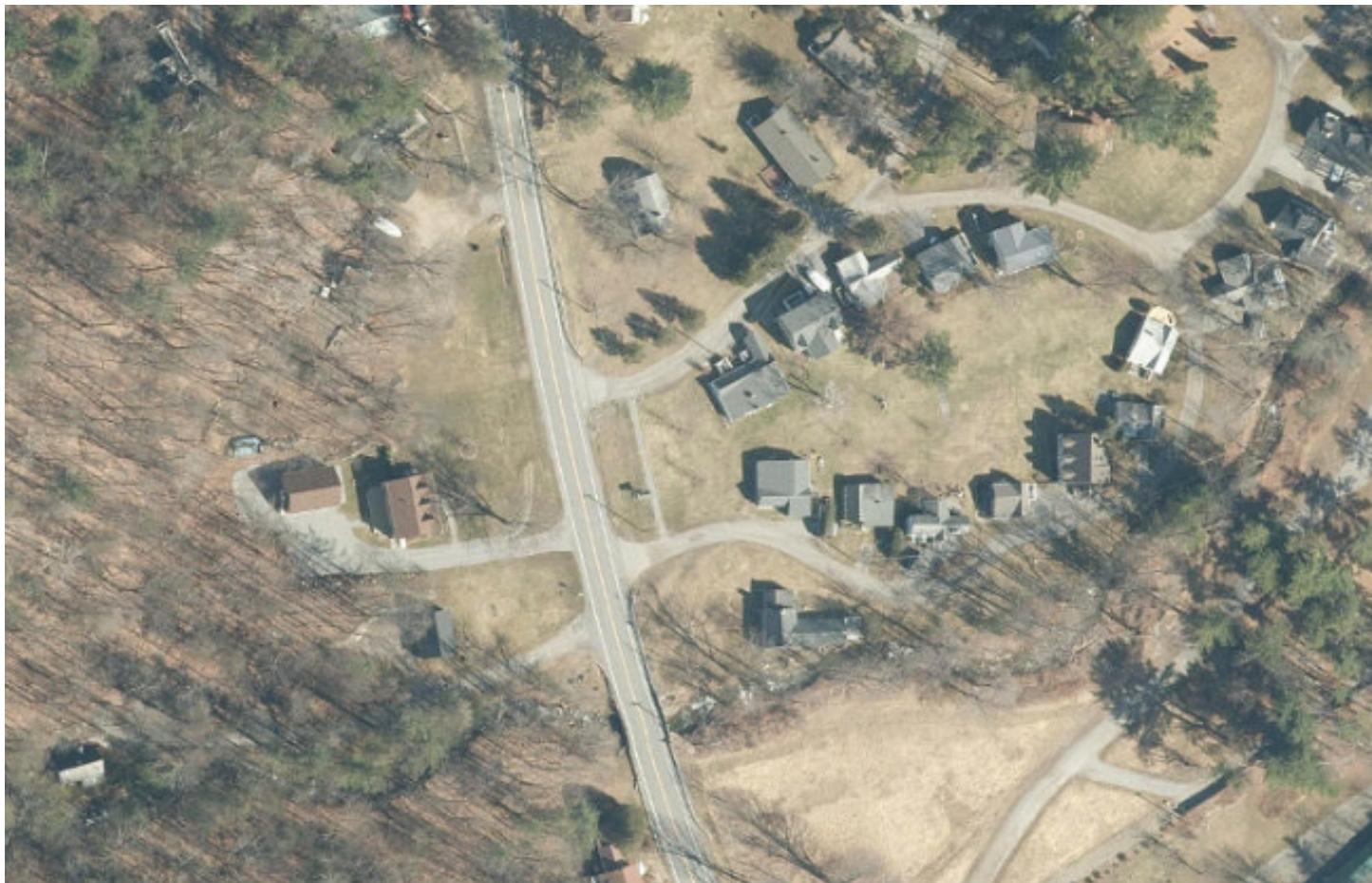
Lake George overtook Bolton for second place, with the most projects referred after the Town of Queensbury.

[Click here for the full 2020 report.](#)

## **Covid Hub**

The Covid Hub launched in April to provide a centralized location for up-to-date Covid information from Public Health, as well as resources for residents, businesses and visitors, as we all coped with the pandemic.

The hub has had over 200,000 views since its inception and currently averages over 4,000 views a day. It has become a go-to source for up-to-date information on the pandemic for our county residents.



New York State, Microsoft, Vantor

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## Infrastructure Mapping

The Department made good progress on our infrastructure mapping in 2020. Staff converted all existing water and sewer data in the County to GIS format and printed new maps for each town. We hope to train town staff to maintain this data in the field in 2021. We also developed a culvert field data collection app for Soil and Water.

In addition, GIS staff converted County DPW's full sign inventory to GIS format. More to come on this huge project soon!



## Smart Growth Projects

The Planning Department finished up the bulk of the projects included in our 2017 DEC Smart Growth grant award, including the installation of the new panels in the Lake George Visitors' Center in February, continuing work on the Letterboxing Trail, and managing social media content for the First Wilderness.

The Letterboxing Trail had a delayed launch due to the pandemic, but we look forward to rolling it out in 2021. Stay tuned!

[First Wilderness Instagram](#)

[First Wilderness Facebook](#)

[Town Sell Sheets](#)



**Erosion and Sediment Control**



**Economic Value of Clean Water Report**



**West Brook Storm Water Management**



**Implementation of BMPs to Control Road Salt**



**Eurasian Milfoil Control in Lake George and Schroon Lake**



**Boat Wash Stations on Lake George and Schroon Lake**

## LWRP Lake Grant Projects

The Planning Department managed projects for three LWRP grant awards for Lake George and one for Schroon Lake. Projects for the 2012 and 2014 grant awards were fully completed and closed out.

Projects included:

- Implementing green infrastructure projects on two roads near the Lake George headwaters  
Invasive Species Inspections and Boat Wash Stations  
Assessing the Economic Value of Clean Water in Lake George  
Best Management Practices for Salt Reduction  
Milfoil Eradication  
Assessing the Benefits of the West Brook Project

Additional reports for Lake George and Schroon Lake projects can be found here.

## **LWRP First Wilderness Grant Projects**

In addition to completing the two LWRP Lake George grant award projects described above, department staff also closed out the LWRP First Wilderness grant award from 2014.

Projects completed as part of this grant awards included:

- Map and Plan Report of North Creek Sewer Corridor Market Study  
Chestertown to Pottersville Trail Study  
Stony Creek Community Center Design

Staff continued work on the three additional First Wilderness LWRP grant awards and sought extensions of the 2013 and 2015

awards due to delays caused by the pandemic.



## **Countryside Grant Projects**

Planning Department staff facilitated the final closeout process with the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) for the funding awards related to the Countryside Adult Home.

The Project activities included the installation of a wastewater connection to the Town of Warrensburg's Wastewater System and a Building Assessment Study.

[Click here for the Building Assessment Study.](#)



## **Lake George Action Plan**

The **Warren County Planning Department** is assisting the **Town of Queensbury** and partnering communities around Lake George to update the Watershed Plan for Lake George. The Plan will include an inventory and analysis of watershed assets and conditions; assessments of local laws and programs, recommendations for restoration and protection of water quality; and an implementation strategy.

The town has partnered with the **Lake George Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board** to develop the plan. The process is underway and will continue through the spring and summer of 2021.



## Housing Study

The development of Housing Market Study was initiated as a joint effort between EDC Warren County and the Warren County LDC. Funding has been made available by these organizations to secure the services of a Market Analyst identified by the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

It is the intent of the Study to determine the market for new housing construction within the rural communities. County Planning staff initiated the collection of information for preparing the Request for Proposal.

# On County NY Capital Improvement Project Planning

County Project Needs    Outside Project Needs    Capital Improvement Plan

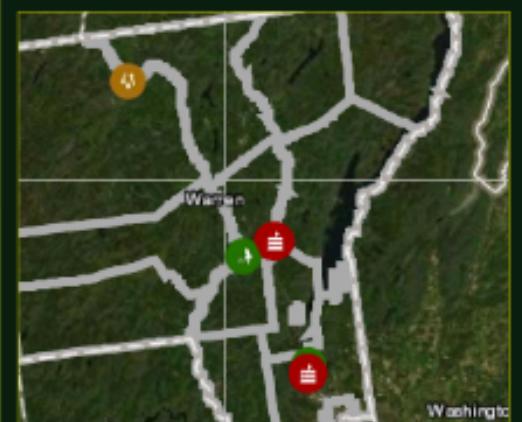
## On County Capital Improvements: Unfunded County Needs

Landscaping and Grounds  
Countryside  
Roads and Bridges  
County

	Needs - Electrical
	Countryside Immediate Needs - Plumbing
	Countryside Short Term Needs - Site Systems
	Countryside Short Term Needs - Architectural
	Countryside Short Term Needs - Electrical
	Countryside Short Term Needs - Plumbing
	Countryside Short Term Needs - Mechanical

**20**  
total projects  
Last update: a few seconds

**\$26,221,305**  
estimated cost  
Last update: a few seconds



Entity: DPW - County  
Type: Repair  
Category: Facilities  
Description: ADA signage at highway entrance, steel railing bases, dedicated concrete  
Priority: High  
Useful Life: 20 years

## Capital Improvement Plan

Department staff created a website and process for developing and implementing Capital Improvement Planning for the county, along with creating a set of project inventory dashboards that can be used to submit, review, and track Capital Improvement projects throughout the county.

Much more on this to come in 2021!

Census 2020 Complete Count Committee	Climate Smart Task Force
Tri-Lakes Business Alliance	Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council
Warren County Planning Group	Adirondack Hamlets to Huts
Warren County Water Quality Strategy Group	Adirondack North Country Association
Warren County Hospitality Group	NY Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association
New York Planning Federation	Friends of the Farmers Market
Lake George Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board	North Creek Business Alliance
Lake George Park Commission	Glens Falls Mayor Working Group

## **Collaboration with local and regional organizations**

One unexpected blessing of the pandemic was our extensive collaboration with local and regional organizations - some of these long established connections, and some new.

We're looking forward to continuing our work with these partners in the coming years.



## 2021 and Beyond...

2020 was a challenging year for a department that's centered around Planning for the future! One thing we've all learned this year is that sometimes the best laid plans have to be put aside in favor of taking things a day at a time.

Nevertheless, pandemic willing, we have some big plans for 2021!