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## New NOCCOG Website

After some deliberation, the NOCCOG Executive Committee decided to move from Digital Towpath late last year. The decision was not an easy one, as NOCCOG played a large role in the creation and implementation of Digital Towpath back in the 1990s. The remodeled website is live, but still very much under construction, with corrections, edits, and content being added as time allows. The newly remodeled website offers much of the same information and links to useful resources, but with greater ease of navigation. It continues to have the links to municipal members' websites, as well as the Tug Hill Commission. Check it out at: [www.NOCCOG.org](http://www.NOCCOG.org)

## Commission Board Meeting June 21 in Adams

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet Tuesday June 21 at the Adams Municipal Building, 3 South Main Street, Adams, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Remote access will also be offered, by Zoom at [us02web.zoom.us/j/85692979650](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85692979650), or by calling (929) 205-6099, meeting id 85692979650. The public is welcome to attend.

## Constantia Resumes Work on Comprehensive Plan Update

After being somewhat sidetracked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the town of Constantia Planning Board has resumed meeting monthly to update the town's 2002 comprehensive plan. Work so far has included updating demographic and land use information, updating mapping, and holding a visioning/scoping session with town officials and residents. The updated plan will provide guidance for public improvements that will facilitate development in the town while protecting natural resources and rural character.



# NYSDEC Seeking Public Comment on Fish Creek Draft Unit Management Plan

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has released a draft management plan for 3,464 acres of Kasoag, Klondike, Orton Hollow, and Stone Hill state forests located in Oswego County. You are encouraged to review the draft plan available from the NYSDEC website: [Fish Creek Unit Management Plan](#). Comments will be accepted until July 10, 2022, by email with the subject line "Fish Creek Unit" to [R7.UMP@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R7.UMP@dec.ny.gov), or mail to: Erin Jennings, Forester, NYSDEC, 2133 County Route 22, Altmar, NY 13302.

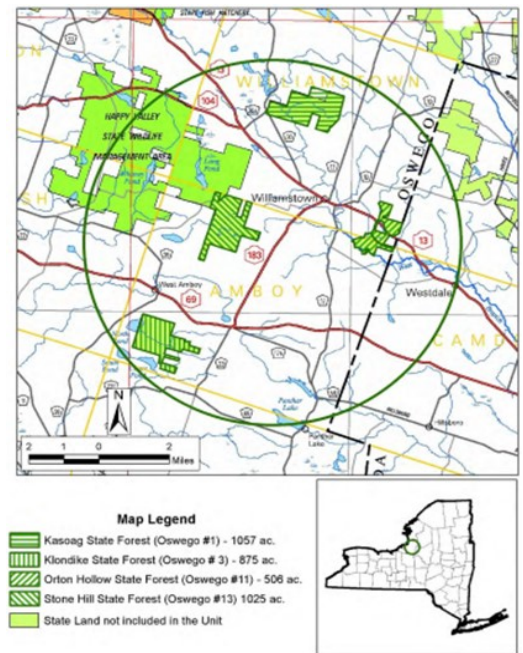
The draft plan balances recreational opportunities while protecting wildlife and natural resources. The Fish Creek Unit Management Plan will set the framework for 10 years of management by addressing natural resources management and maintenance, maintaining ecosystems for healthy fish and wildlife, continuing timber sales, and providing opportunities for recreation, education, and research.

Lands, waters, and forests are managed by NYS to benefit fish and wildlife while providing opportunities to the people of NY including hiking, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, hunting, trapping, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and UTV access for those with limited mobility.

Included in the plan is the designation of 0.5 miles of an existing accessible trail for motorized access by permit to trails in Orton Hollow State Forest for individuals with mobility limitations, maintaining existing partnerships with snow-mobile clubs for maintenance and grooming of trails, and continuing forest management best practices.

The draft plan sets objectives, and identifies both near-term and long-term projects to accomplish the following management goals:

- Goal 1: Provide Healthy and Biologically Diverse Forest Ecosystems
- Goal 2: Maintain Man-Made State Forest Assets
- Goal 3: Provide Recreational Opportunities for People of All Ages and Abilities
- Goal 4: Provide Economic Benefits to the People of the State



*Fish Creek Unit Management Plan Area (NYSDEC 2022)*

## Climate Smart Communities Grant Round Six Announced

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is accepting applications for round six of its [Climate Smart Communities](#) grant program, available through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process due July 29. The Climate Smart Communities program provides funding for municipalities to address greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation at the local level. There is a total of \$14 million in funding available for this grant round.

Twelve million dollars of the grant funding is earmarked for projects with a grant range of \$50,000 to \$2,000,000 that help communities:

- Reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Reduce food/organic waste
- Refrigerant management with leak management systems and repair plans and community disposal plans
- Increasing or preserving natural resilience for wetlands and floodplain systems
- Reducing future flood risks
- Reducing and right-sizing flow-barriers on streams
- Emergency preparedness for extreme weather events

The additional \$2 million in funding is available for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000 for projects to help municipalities become certified as a Climate Smart Community, with at least half of the funds designated for communities with under 100,000 in population.

In Jefferson and Lewis County, the Adirondack North Country Association's (ANCA) newest Energy Circuit Rider, Erin Griffin ([egriffin@adirondack.org](mailto:egriffin@adirondack.org)) can help with these programs, or you can reach out to the Tug Hill Commission staff for help as well.

# Alder Creek Solar Community Grant Program Accepting Applications for Summer 2022



The Alder Creek Solar Community Grant Program is now accepting applications for its summer 2022 grant cycle.

The main objective of the program is to assist with:

- Building Healthy Communities - Programs that support public health or enhance the quality of life in the community
- Economic Development - Programs that support the economic well being of the community
- Environmental Sustainability - Programs that support environmental revitalization, sustainability, or empower residents to be stewards of the environment.
- Promoting Education - Programs that support educational institutions, especially the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This may include curriculum development, vocational training, or literary support.

The program funded six organizations in the last cycle, including the Boonville Search and Rescue, the Boonville Fair Association, Erwin Library and Institute, the Boonville Area Chamber of Commerce, Wholesome Living, and the Penn Mountain Snow Riders.

Organizations working in the towns of Boonville and Forestport, as well as the broader Oneida County are encouraged to apply. Awards are typically between \$250 and \$4,000.

Please apply by July 8 to: [www.aldercreeksolar.com/grant](http://www.aldercreeksolar.com/grant)

If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Anna Mathes, [anna.mathes@apexcleanenergy.com](mailto:anna.mathes@apexcleanenergy.com) or (585) 590-2254.

## Farmers' Markets Across Tug Hill

The few weeks at the end of May and beginning of June mark the beginning of the farmers' market season for many local farmers, craftsmen, and other small businesses. Farmers' markets are a great way to get outside, find fresh and local produce, sample wares from local businesses, and access other seasonal goods. See the following list for farmers' market programs that are located in or near the Tug Hill region:

### **Jefferson County –**

#### [Watertown Farm and Craft Market](#)

May 25 – October 5, Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

#### [Watertown Saturday Farmers' Market](#)

June 4 – October 29. Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.. – 2:00 p.m.

#### [Carthage Farmers' Market](#)

May 27 – October 14, Fridays, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### **Lewis County –**

#### [Lyons Falls Farmers' Market](#),

June 14 – October 4, Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m.. – 4:00 p.m.

#### [Lewis County General Hospital Farmers' Market](#),

June 9 – October 6, Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Oneida County –**

#### [Vienna Farmer's Market](#),

May 7 – October 29, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

For a more complete list of farmer's markets and produce stands in the Tug Hill Region and the rest of New York State, please visit the Department of Agriculture and Market's webpage here: [Farmers' Markets | Agriculture and Markets \(ny.gov\)](https://farmersmarkets.ny.gov). Near the top of the webpage, click the "Find a market" tool, and then select by county for more information.



# Climate Action Council Public Comment Period Extension

The Climate Action Council has extended the deadline for public comment on the Draft Scoping Plan to July 1.

The Draft Scoping Plan will serve as an initial framework for how New York will meet the requirements of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) which was signed into law in 2019. The Climate Action Council has asked for feedback from the public to release a final scoping plan by the end of the year.

For more information, click [here](#) for links to the Draft Scoping Plan, the online public comment form, and an email and physical address for the comment submissions.

## Spotlight on Totman Falls



*Photo credit: Tug Hill Commission*

Totman Gulf is named after Calvin Totman, an early settler to the area. Located in the town of Lorraine, Totman Gulf has several natural features accessible by trail, including Totman Falls, a ribbon cascade waterfall with a drop of approximately 90 feet. The falls empty into a small pool at the base of the gorge, which is accessible by a short, forested trail. The hike to the falls also features steep cliffs lined with shale along the walls of the gorge. At one point in time, a ramp and bridge forded the river, though it has since fallen into disrepair; however, the stone ruins of the bridge supports can still be seen on both sides of the gorge.

Fox Creek runs through the gorge, though Totman Falls technically belongs to an unnamed stream that enters the Creek. Fox Creek flows into South Sandy Creek, which flows into Lake Ontario.

The area remains a popular recreational and hiking area for locals. Pets are allowed, though dogs should remain leashed.

To reach the falls, hikers should locate the parking pull-off from Lemay Road. The trailhead located to the west marks an easily accessible foot trail of mild difficulty. Alternatively, the rim trail on Totman Gulf also offers a spectacular view from the top of the gorge, but it is a more strenuous hike and may not be suitable for children or pets. Please utilize caution if approaching the cliffs.

## New York State Archives June Webinars

Email Preservation and Transfer - Wednesday June 8, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Developing a Policy for Managing Email - Wednesday June 22, 10:00 -1:00 a.m.

Disaster Response for the Records Manager - Thursday June 30, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

[Please register](#) for the live webinars. Webinars will also be [recorded](#).

You can also subscribe to the [New York State Archives on YouTube](#) and view many recorded trainings on records management, preserving historical records and records grants.

## Contact Us

### NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380

Toll Free within the region:

1-888-785-2380

Email: [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/  
TugHillCommission](http://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

## Great Lakes Small Grants Open Through July 1

Great Lakes Small Grants, administered by NY Sea Grant and NYSDEC, support stakeholder driven efforts to restore and revitalize the state's Great Lakes region and demonstrate ecosystem based management. This year's grant funding is focused on projects that implement NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda, and other plans. For more information and to review past projects funded under the program, visit: [small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/](http://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/) An informational webinar was held on May 19 and a recording is available at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoYbKEOm\\_a8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoYbKEOm_a8). **Applications are due by July 1 at 4:30 p.m.**

## ReLeaf Conference July 21-23, Watertown

All tree enthusiasts are invited to the 29th Annual NYS ReLeaf Conference to be held **July 21-23**, at Jefferson Community College in Watertown, New York. New York ReLeaf is a state program promoting management and care of our state's community trees. It is a cooperative effort coordinated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Urban Forestry Council (NYSUFC) with major funding supplied through the USDA Forest Service. The goal of New York ReLeaf is to create partnerships among tree professionals, citizen volunteers, educators, government, and the private sector. The annual state conference brings together these interested parties from across the state's nine regions to share experiences, ideas, and new information.

To learn more and register, visit: [nysufc.org/releaf-annual-conference/](http://nysufc.org/releaf-annual-conference/)