

Civic Service Student Activity Program

The Tug Hill Commission recognizes the need to involve younger community members to fill board and volunteer positions throughout the Tug Hill region. Many conversations about this took place within the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) region, which led the Tug Hill Commission to partner with the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center BOCES Program to offer students a start to achieve the [NYS Seal of Civic Readiness](#). The Commission created the Civic Service Student Activity Program (CSSAP) to support students in achieving this. CSSAP is designed to develop and support students and future leaders in their exploration of leadership opportunities as part of public and government service and workforce development. This is a pilot program, and it could be replicated in other regions as well.

CSSAP is a two-day program that will kick off on Thursday, October 24 for students interested in the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. The first day will focus on presentations and group activities with public and government professionals. The second day will be focused on field trips to explore workplace environments and what a “day in the life” is like. This will take place sometime in May. Engagement with future leaders in county, city, town, village, and public service agencies is crucial to supporting the next generation of leaders entering public service and participating in community leadership roles.

If there are any students interested from the following school districts, they should reach out to their guidance counselors to express their interest. The school districts that are part of the Howard G. Sackett Technical Center BOCES are Adirondack, Beaver River, Carthage, Copenhagen, Lowville, South Lewis, and Town of Webb. Students have until October 1, 2024, to sign up. Senior and junior students will get priority, but any freshman and sophomore students are encouraged to let their guidance counselors know of their interest since the program could expand to include those students. Lunch will be provided by RACOG.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jillian Lee at the NYS Tug Hill Commission at jillian@tughill.org or call her at (315) 785-2380. You can also reach out to Mickey Dietrich at the NYS Tug Hill Commission at mickey@tughill.org or call him at (315) 681-5023.

RACOG September Meeting

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) will meet on September 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the town of Wilna office building located at 414 State St., Carthage. At the meeting the board will be presented with the RACOG Transportation Study that was compiled by Chris Barboza from the NYS Tug Hill Commission.



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Rodman Comprehensive Plan Nearing Public Review

Work is nearing completion on Rodman’s draft comprehensive plan. After holding a visioning session and completing a survey, the plan committee held a series of meetings with local experts on subjects such as agriculture, roads and highways, recreation, and land use. Following completion of the first draft, a public hearing will be held and the plan will be sent to the Jefferson County Planning Board for review.

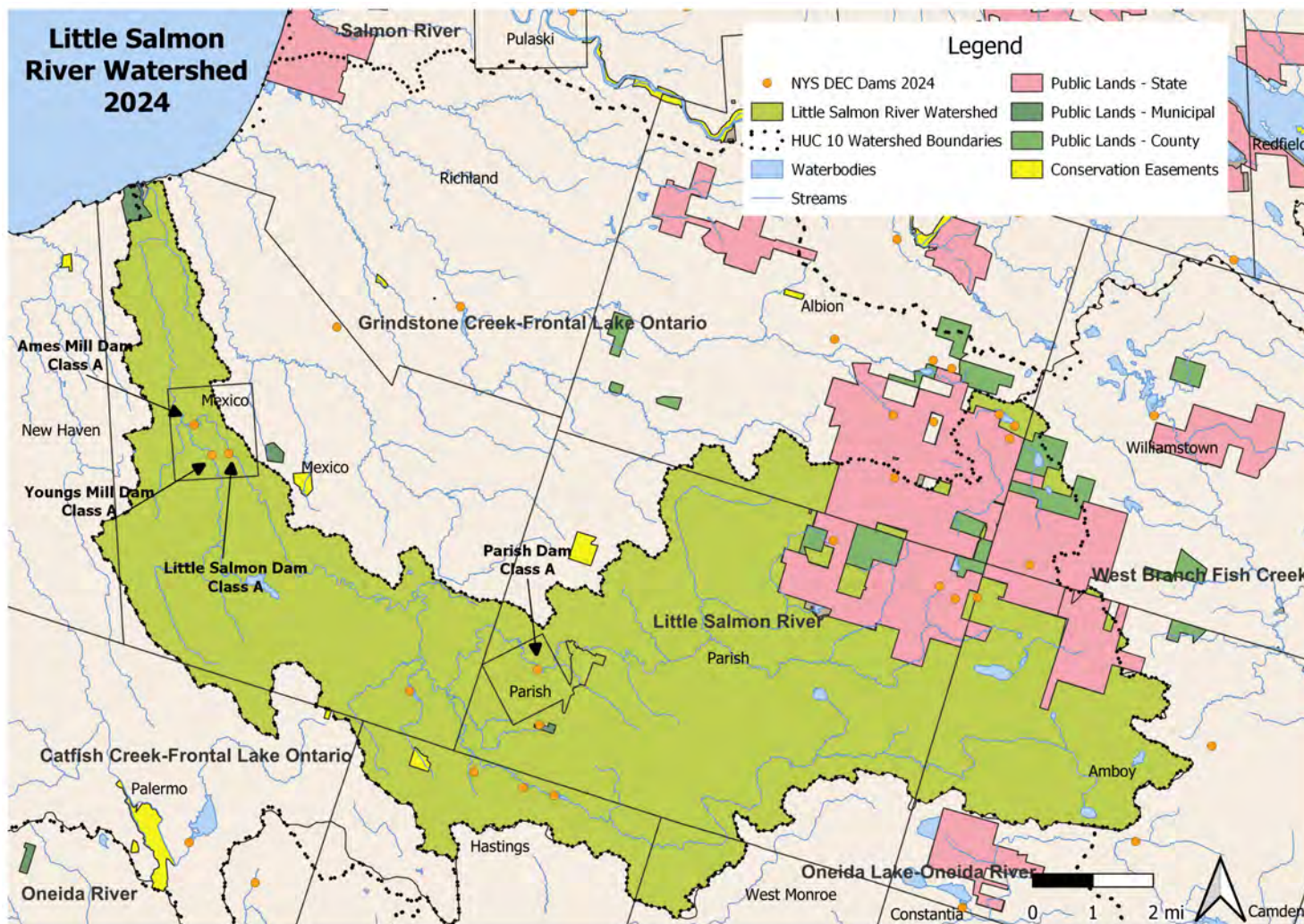
Little Salmon River Watershed Dams Update

On August 28th the Tug Hill Commission facilitated an informational meeting at the village of Mexico office, focused on issues surrounding the dams in the Little Salmon River Watershed. The meeting was intended to be a forum for municipalities and other concerned entities and residents to learn about resources that are available through New York State and other organizations, and as a forum for sharing their independent concerns. There are 5,736 state-regulated dams in New York State.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) fisheries biologist Scott Prindle presented an update on the three dams in the Village of Mexico, along with examples of other dam removals in the state. Roy Widrig, NY Sea Grant great lakes coastal hazards and processes specialist, presented on dam safety in the Northeast and Great Lakes. Jeremy Dietrich, principal aquatic ecologist with Cornell University and New York State Water Resources Institute presented on ecological monitoring surrounding barrier sites in the village of Mexico. Emily Fell, DEC's eastern great lakes watershed coordinator with the Great Lakes Program and NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, presented on funding for watershed resiliency. Some residents in attendance expressed concern over the potential dam removals due to cost, sediment release, loss of impoundments, and lack of transparency. Other attendees expressed support for the return of fish passage upstream of the village, a more natural waterway, and the removal of liabilities that would be costly to repair.

The Youngs Mill Dam, owned by the Mexico Academy and Central School District, is in the process of being removed with the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Step pools will be installed to aid fish passage and a sea lamprey barrier will be installed. The Ames Mill Dam is privately owned and has no immediate removal plans. Up-river of the Ames Mill Dam, the Little Salmon Dam is owned by the village of Mexico, partially breached in 2020, and is out of compliance with DEC dam safety requirements. The village is seeking funding to remove the dam. All three dams in the village were identified in a 2006 DEC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supported report as priority dam removal projects for New York's Great Lakes Basin to facilitate the resumption of fish passage for migratory fish species including steelhead trout, salmon, native brook trout, suckers, and American eel.

Additional information and resources can be accessed [here](#).





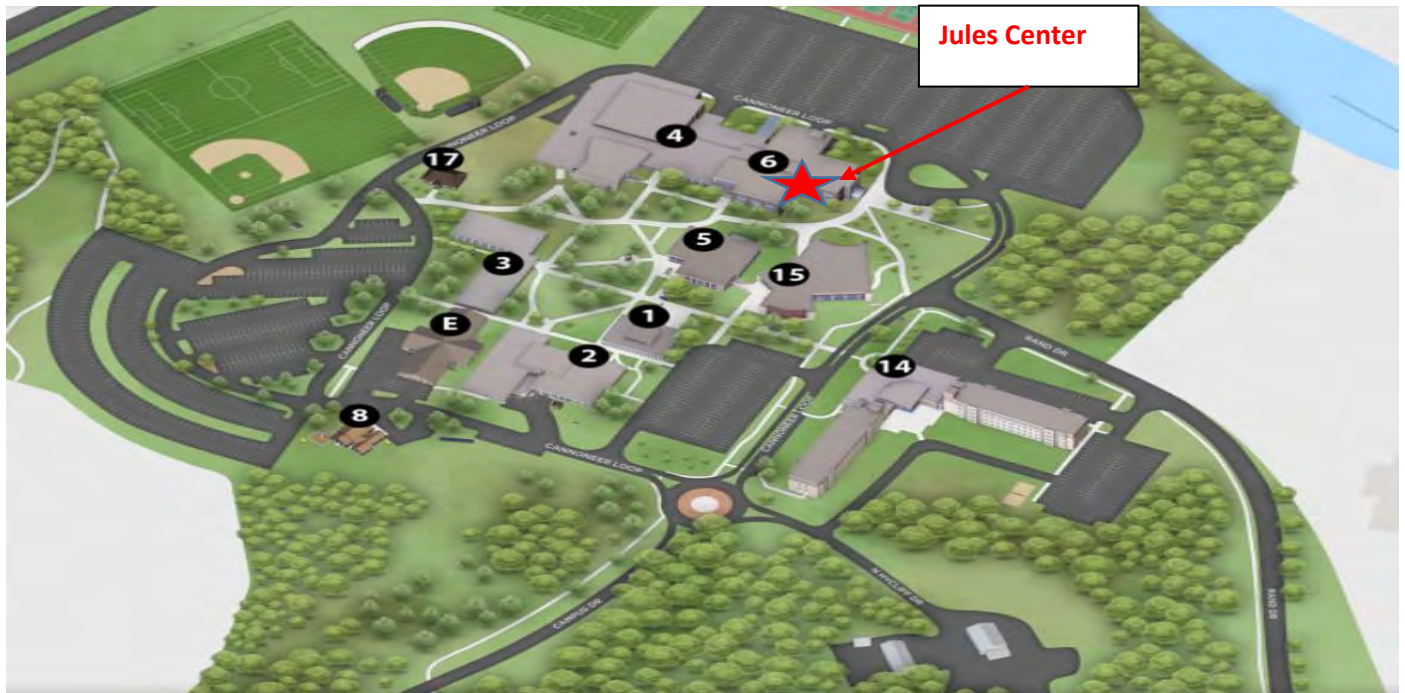
NYS DOS Land Use Training

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M.

Site Plan Review

Jefferson Community College
Amphitheater - Jules Center
1220 Coffeen Street

This course is an overview of the statutory authority local governments have to review site plans. It will address the scope and content of a site plan and the role of the site plan in municipal review of development projects. A discussion of design and the reasons some approaches might be preferable to others is included in the course.



REGISTRATION: Call the Jefferson County Planning Department at 315-785-3144 or email your name, board, and municipality to planning@jeffersoncountyny.gov

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (Round 8) and New York Forward (Round 3) Informational Webinar

An informational webinar will be hosted by the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council on Thursday, September 12 from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. [Register in advance](#).

The DRI and [NY Forward](#) are programs targeted at revitalizing smaller and rural communities.

Additional Resources:

[Application](#)

[Brochure](#)

[Capacity-Building Webinars](#): View a series of educational webinars providing municipalities with an overview of downtown revitalization and the steps required to renew and restore their downtowns.

Snow and Ice Control Workshop September 19

The Cornell Local Roads Program is offering a free snow and ice control workshop on Thursday, September 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension office in Watertown. The workshop is free thanks to the Jefferson County Highway Superintendents Association covering the registration fee.

Join to learn the backbone of an effective snow and ice control program including choosing the best anti-icing strategy, reducing tort liability, and reducing costs. This workshop is aimed at established highway/public works officials, crews and crew supervisors who manage snow and ice control operations.

Please register online [here](#).

Conducting an Inventory of Paper Records Webinar September 26

NYS Archives will present a webinar on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Conducting an Inventory of Paper Records.

To have an efficient and functional records management program it is critical for governments to maintain an up-to-date inventory of their records. This webinar introduces participants to the planning, implementation, and analysis of a records inventory for paper records. Presenters Jamie Brinkman and Vincent Comisso will discuss:

- How a records inventory can help you control records
- How to plan for and carry out a records inventory
- Identifying records to inventory
- Collecting meaningful inventory data
- Analyzing the results of the inventory
- How to identify retention periods for records

Registration for this webinar will close at 4:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the session. All webinars are recorded for future viewing. [Click here to register](#)

Grant Funding for Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Projects Webinar, September 24



NYPF is partnering with DEC to present this webinar on Tuesday, September 24 from 12:00 p.m.– 1:00 p.m. Through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP program,) DEC is providing funding to conserve New York

State's diverse fish and wildlife by restoring and enhancing important habitats. Municipalities (including Indian Nations), non-profit organizations, and soil and water conservation districts can receive state money to restore and enhance wetlands and riparian corridors that service as critical locations for native fish and wildlife to nest, spawn, forage, migrate, and overwinter.

This webinar is open to NYPF members and non-members. To register, email nypf@nypf.org with your name and municipality/organization no later than Monday, September 23 at 4:00 p.m. NOTE: NYPF members may receive one training hour for attending this session. Non-members are ineligible for training hours from NYPF.

NYCOM Public Works Training School, October 21-23

Join the New York Conference of Mayors as they present their annual Public Works Training School, October 21-23 at the Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. There is a cost to attend, and registration fees will increase after October 4.



There are three days of numerous concurrent sessions, including such topics as:

- A Day in the Life of a Public Works Professional
- Wastewater Update
- Budgeting for Department Heads
- Lead and Copper Rule Update
- Multi-Year Planning
- The Pavement Management Blueprint
- LED Street Lighting

Cyber Security: Protecting Your Infrastructure. There will be a peer-to-peer question and answer period Wednesday morning, as well as a legal panel Wednesday afternoon.

For more information, to view the full agenda, or to register, visit NYCOM's Fall Training School webpage, [here](#).

Contact Us

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To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org.

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