



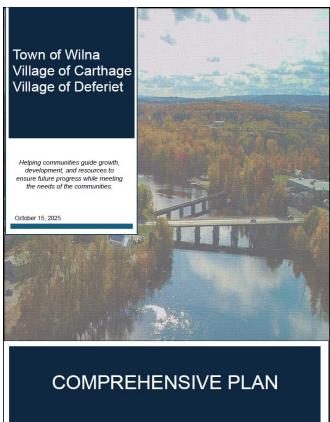
January 2, 2026

NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION | DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING | 317 WASHINGTON STREET | WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 | [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

## ATV Recreation Workshop January 8

The Tug Hill Commission and Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will hold a workshop on Thursday, January 8, 2026, to present the recently completed paper *ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities*. The workshop will be held at the Boonville Municipal Building, 13149 State Route 12, Boonville at 7 p.m., and will include both a presentation and question and answer session. Commission staff will walk attendees through the content, including the impetus for writing the document, the approach taken to research local laws and relevant court cases, and best practices municipalities may want to consider when opening roads for ATV recreation in their town or village. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

Please RSVP to John Healt at the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org) or 315-942-2818. The paper can be downloaded from the commission's website [here](#), or by contacting either your circuit rider or the Tug Hill Commission for a hard copy.



## Wilna, Carthage and Deferiet Adopt New Joint Comprehensive Plan

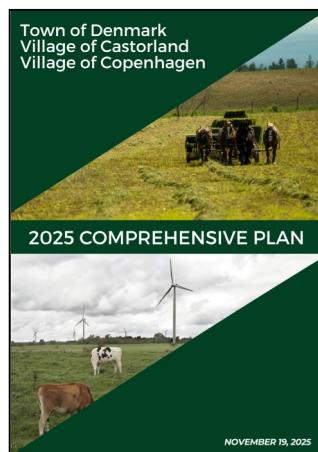
The town of Wilna and the villages of Carthage and Deferiet recently adopted their new joint comprehensive plan. Developed by the joint comprehensive plan committee, the document is designed to prioritize capital investments, strengthen local infrastructure, and provide a clear direction for future development. The plan supports the revitalization of village centers, encourages economic growth, and promotes responsible land use and housing development. It will also serve as a framework for zoning, subdivision regulations, and long-term planning decisions to ensure that growth aligns with community goals while preserving local character. The joint planning efforts of the three municipalities reflect a strong regional partnership that focuses on creating vibrant and sustainable communities that future generations can enjoy.

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## Denmark, Castorland and Copenhagen Comprehensive Plan Update

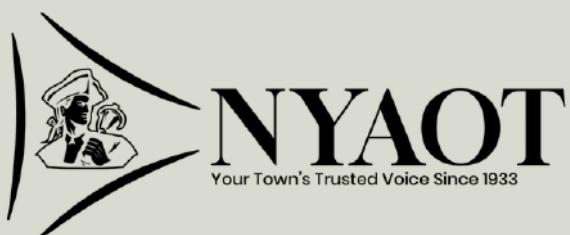
The town of Denmark has adopted its new joint comprehensive plan, developed in partnership with the villages of Castorland and Copenhagen (both fully located within the town) to guide community growth and investment. The villages are expected to formally adopt the plan during their next board meetings in January 2026. The plan will serve as a policy guide that addresses topics such as working lands conservation, transportation, historic preservation, parks and recreation, land use, and community infrastructure. The joint comprehensive plan strengthens regional cooperation and positions the communities in obtaining a well-planned and sustainable future.



# NEWLY ELECTED Officials training

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026  
6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM, ONLINE ONLY**

**REGISTER AT [TINYURL.COM/2026NEWLYELECTED](https://tinyurl.com/2026NEWLYELECTED)**



The evening's speakers will be Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the New York Association of Towns. You don't want to miss this!



## **Free workshop sponsored by:**

NYS Tug Hill Commission  
Cooperative Tug Hill Council  
Northern Oneida County Council of Governments  
River Area Council of Governments  
North Shore Council of Governments  
Salmon Rivers Council of Governments



**TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, CODE OF ETHICS AND BOARDS OF ETHICS, FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS, TYPICAL TOWN OFFICES AND THEIR ROLES, OATH OF OFFICE, AND PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS!**

# Upcoming Online Department of State Training Sessions

Monday, January 5, 2026	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
DOS Winter Webinar Series #3	Course:
<a href="#">Click here to register</a>	Planning Board Overview
Monday, January 12, 2026	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
DOS Winter Webinar Series #4	Course:
<a href="#">Click here to register</a>	Zoning Board of Appeals Overview
Thursday, January 22, 2026	2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
DOS Winter Webinar Series #5	Course:
<a href="#">Click here to register</a>	Essentials for Planning and Zoning Board Staff

## Records Management Officer Webinar January 8

New York State Archives is holding a free webinar on Thursday, January 8 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for local government records management officers. Local governments must designate a Records Management Officer (RMO) to coordinate a program for managing records. To learn more, join State Archives staff as they:

- explain the law and regulations behind the role of the RMO and others managing local government records,
- discuss key areas to develop policies and procedures for managing records throughout their lifecycle,
- describe tools to help you manage records, and
- review services of the State Archives and other organizations available to help you build and maintain a successful Records Management Program.

[Click here for more information and to register](#). 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.

## Commission Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lowville Municipal Building, 5533 Bostwick Street, Lowville, NY 13367.

The public is welcome to attend.

## OSC Fiscal Oversight Training January 21

The NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) will present “Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board” on Wednesday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. online. The governing board’s oversight role can touch virtually every aspect of a local government’s operations. This session will discuss some key functions including budget responsibilities, interim reporting, the audit of claims, and the annual audit requirements. OSC’s staff will also provide resources available to assist in these oversight activities.

Register online [here](#) or visit the Comptroller’s Office Academy for Local Officials website at [www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy](http://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy). The Academy for Local Officials webpage lists information on OSC’s accounting schools, in-person seminars, webinars (many of which are available on demand), publications and many other resources for local officials.

# Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grants Due February 25

The V-FIRE grant program is a state-funded \$25,000,000 competitive grant that provides critical funding to strengthen volunteer fire departments and districts statewide. Eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1,000,000 if proposing projects for construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities (buildings, training facilities, etc.) that support fire operations, or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities. Eligible applicants: volunteer fire companies, municipalities (including fire districts), and counties with municipal shared services projects that have not been funded in a previous round of V-FIRE. [Click here for complete information](#), including details about e-grants, prequalification, and a very informative frequently asked questions document. The deadline to submit an application is **February 25, 2026**.

## Municipal Parks and Recreation Grants Due February 9

\$10 million is available for the second round of the Municipal Parks and Recreation (MPR) grant program to fund the development and improvement of municipal parks and recreation sites. Funding for this program is provided by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The MPR grant funding is available for the construction of recreational facilities and other improvements to municipally owned recreational sites and parks. Examples include playgrounds, courts, playing fields, and facilities for swimming, biking, boating, picnicking, hiking, fishing, camping, or other recreational activities. Program guidelines, including how to apply, will be available beginning December 31, 2025, on the [State Parks website](#). The first round of the MPR grant program [awarded](#) \$10 million to 17 projects across the state.

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, towns, and villages within New York State that own the property where the proposed project will take place. Grants will primarily fund construction costs. Preconstruction activities, such as developing plans and design specifications, may be included in the project budget, but the grant cannot fund projects that are solely for planning and design without a construction component. To maximize accessibility to funding, the MPR grant opportunity can fund up to 90 percent of the total eligible project costs, with a matching share requirement of 10 percent. The maximum grant award is \$900,000. Grants are administered on a reimbursement basis. The application period will open on December 31, 2025, and applications must be submitted by February 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Awards are expected to be announced no earlier than May 22, 2026.

## Environmental Bond Act Project Tracker

The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act) funds are made available through the sale of general obligation bonds and are being used by NYS agencies and authorities to implement projects that protect water quality, reduce pollution, protect natural resources, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency, and create green jobs.

Bond Act funds support projects in the following categories:

- \$1.5 billion for Climate Change Mitigation
- \$1.1 billion for Restoration and Flood Risk Reduction
- \$650 million for Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure
- \$650 million for Open Space Land Conversation and Recreation
- \$300 million for other projects not specifically allocated.

Projects funded to date can be viewed on an interactive map [here](#). More information, including a 2024-25 annual report, is available at [environmentalbondact.ny.gov/](#).

### Contact Us

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