

TUG HILL TIMES



Bi-weekly newsletter bringing you the latest news, trainings, and updates from in and around the Tug Hill region.

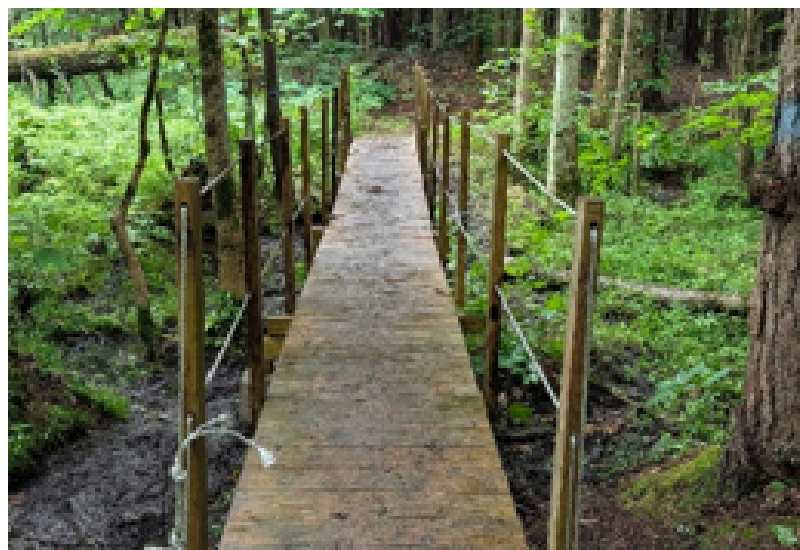
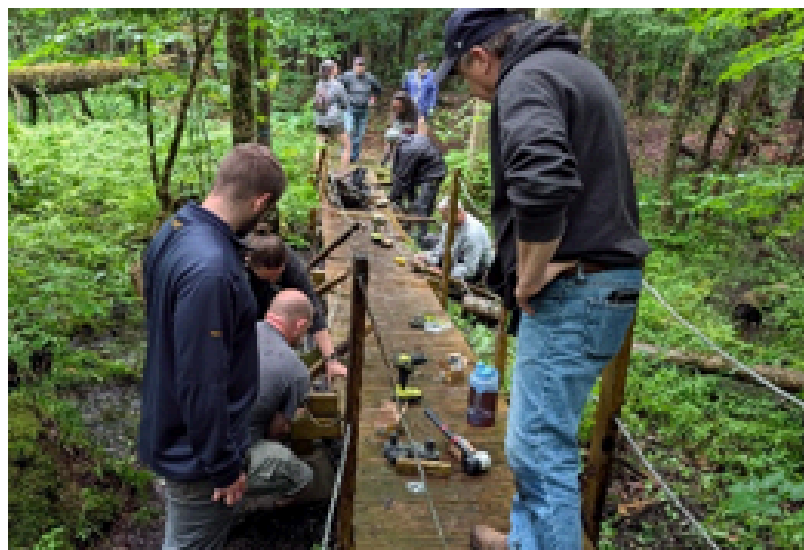
NYS Tug Hill Commission
 tughill@tughill.org
 315-785-2380
 www.tughill.org

CARTHAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED

The village of Carthage has been awarded two grants this year for the improvement and expansion of facilities at Carthage Park. In May, the [Jefferson County Visitors Investment Fund](#) awarded the village \$24,180 to develop a sensory trail, story walk kiosks, and new signage around the trails at Carthage Park.

On Tuesday, June 30, it was [announced](#) that the village will receive \$839,218 through the Municipal Parks and Recreation statewide grant program. This grant program is a part of Governor Hochul's "Unplug and Play" Initiative. The award will allow the village to renovate the park's existing playground and construct a new splash pad. Commission staff assisted the village in submitting both successful grants.

Improvements to the park are already underway. On Friday, June 26, staff members Chris Barboza, Maria Covey, and Mickey Dietrich joined volunteers from Home Depot's Team Depot program, as well as volunteers from the Carthage area, to begin repairing fallen railings on sections of boardwalk in Carthage Park. The team completed repairs on two of the four boardwalks, and another volunteer day will be conducted soon to fix the remaining railings.



The team in the process of repairing the railings (left), and the final result (right).

Newsletter Highlights

- Carthage Park Improvements Funded
- Champion and West Carthage SWOT Exercise
- Budget and Accounting Training Held
- July/August SFS Prequalification Webinars
- Materials Available From Data Center Webinar
- Tug Hill Recreation Guides Available
- NYS Archives Webinar July 23
- ATS Gives Back - Radar Speed Sign Program
- Clean Energy Zones Program Proposal Open for Public Comment

CHAMPION AND WEST CARTHAGE SWOT EXERCISE

The Champion and West Carthage comprehensive plan committee held a “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats” (SWOT) exercise on June 23, as part of their joint comprehensive plan update. The session, led by Tug Hill staff Christopher Barboza and Taylor McKinney, solicited input from planning board members, town board members, and residents. About 20 town and village residents (including board members) attended the session and provided valuable input.

A SWOT is a type of visioning exercise which helps gather thoughts and opinions about the future of the town and village. All comments will be compiled into a summary for the comprehensive plan committee to review. Any relevant questions or concerns heard at the SWOT will be incorporated into a community survey to be sent out later this year.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRAINING HELD

On June 18 and 19, the Tug Hill Commission hosted a two-day budgeting and accounting training at Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. The training brought together more than 15 participants from across the Tug Hill region for two days of learning, collaboration, and professional development.

The training was led by Laird Petrie, who presented a wide range of valuable information on budgeting and accounting principles, best practices, and practical strategies that attendees can apply in their communities. Participants had plenty of opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions, and gain useful insights.

Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming training opportunities!



Participants at the budget and accounting training at Tailwater.

JULY/AUGUST SFS PREQUALIFICATION WEBINARS

Non-profit organizations in New York must be prequalified in the Statewide Financial System for grants offered by various state agencies. In commission staff experience, this can sometimes be a challenge, so non-profits are encouraged to work on prequalification well before a grant deadline.

Several online, free information sessions are being offered in July and August by the state to assist with potential grant applications. Go to grantsmanagement.ny.gov/webinars to register for July 15, July 29, August 12, or August 26, all from 11:00 a.m. to noon, or to view previously recorded webinars.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM DATA CENTER WEBINAR

More than 50 participants joined a webinar on June 25 to learn about the data center industry and planning considerations for Tug Hill communities. The presentation was provided by speakers from Camoin Associates and the Tug Hill Commission, and a recording of the webinar and slide deck are available at tughill.org/services/training/. At the end of the webinar, five steps for communities to plan for data centers were outlined:

1. Establish and document community priorities; hold public conversations on the trade-offs around large-scale developments, what infrastructure improvements matter the most, what benefits are expected, how environmental considerations must be addressed, and how your community's stance aligns with state priorities.

2. Build internal decision-making capacity; know what questions to ask developers and investors, understand application of tax incentives, PILOTs, and other incentive structures, coordinate regionally with neighboring communities, develop standard review process.

3. Update land use and zoning codes; define data centers, determine what zone they match with, address setbacks, buffering, noise, height, and expectations as a community.

4. Evaluate infrastructure capacity; water and wastewater planning, transportation impacts, broadband mapping, energy assessment.

5. Identify and engage property owners; identify potential sites of interest, understand owners' expectations and future land use goals, clarify community vision.

Current Status in NYS

- As of June 24th – Senate and Assembly signed a 1-year moratorium, has not yet gone to Gov's desk.
- Municipalities have taken action in some cases.

Select Activity in NYS (Proposed)

Genesee County –
500 MW

St. Lawrence County –
635 MW at former Reynolds
site

Erie County – 300
MW at the
Tonawanda Coke
Corp



Onondaga County
Ranalli Lysander
data center, 6-
month moratorium

Town of Perth
(Fulton Co.) – 1
year moratorium

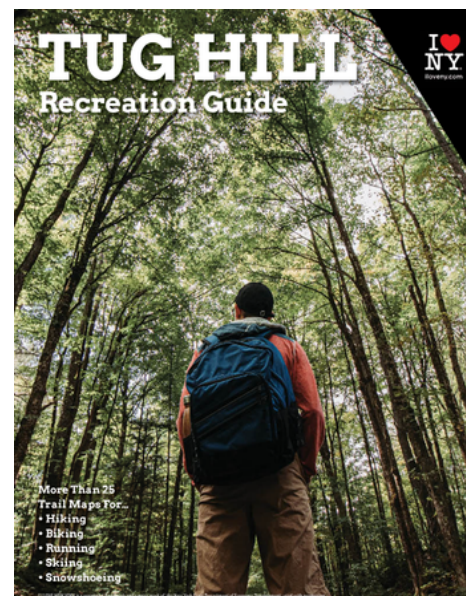
Albany County –
180 MW at former
school site

TUG HILL RECREATION GUIDES AVAILABLE!

Summer is a great time to explore a new trail on Tug Hill. Free copies of the 2026 Tug Hill Recreation Guide are available at the commission's Watertown office, or by contacting your circuit rider. The digital version of the guide is also available at www.visittughill.com. Town and village offices are great places to make guides available to residents.

The guide features over two dozen full page, color trail maps of publicly accessible trails in all four of Tug Hill's counties. From the iconic Salmon River Falls in Orwell, to a challenging hike at Whetstone Gulf State Park, there is a place for people of all ages and abilities to explore.

Contact the office at (315) 785-2380 or email tughill@tughill.org for more information.



NYS ARCHIVES WEBINAR JULY 23

New York State Archives has a webinar titled “The Basics of Maintaining Your Inactive Records Storage” scheduled for Thursday, July 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Ensuring the access and preservation of inactive records in the correct environment is one of the essential elements of a good records management program. This webinar will discuss some of the basic principles involved in maintaining inactive records storage areas and give some helpful solutions to the different challenges these records present. The webinar will also talk about organizing and ensuring access for inactive records and the disposition of records past their retention time.

The training is free and people with all levels of knowledge of records management are encouraged to attend. Registration information can be found on the [workshop registration](#) page. NYS Archives also has many recorded webinars that are available for viewing at your leisure, which are available on their [webinar](#) page. Registration for the webinar closes at 4:00 p.m. on July 22 and will be recorded for later viewing.

ATS GIVES BACK - RADAR SPEED SIGN PROGRAM

All Traffic Solutions, a company based in Wisconsin, offers a program that supplies radar speed signs to law enforcement agencies. The program awards a radar speed sign to an agency once a month, specifically selecting small agencies with limited resources to apply for traditional grant funding. Applicants will need to ensure that the donated sign is deployed within 60 days of receiving it. More information, including the application, can be found [here](#).

CLEAN ENERGY ZONES PROGRAM PROPOSAL OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

The NYS Department of Public Service (DPS) is accepting public comments through August 10 on a proposal that would establish a Clean Energy Zones (CEZ) program to guide the development of future renewable energy and electric transmission infrastructure development across the state. A CEZ is defined as an area where the state, utilities, developers, and local communities would coordinate the development of concentrated new generation and transmission projects. The DPS released a white paper on May 15, 2026, to foster discussion on the coordination and planning of renewable energy projects and electrical transmission infrastructure in identified areas suitable for development. The white paper is available for download [here](#). Comments can be posted on the DPS website ([here](#)) by navigating to the “Post Comments” tab located in the upper right area of the website.

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

Visit Us

Web: www.tughill.org
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[YouTube](#)

Sign up to receive our newsletter electronically. For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our calendar.