



## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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The Department has four major program categories:

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

### **RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

### **COUNTY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **DEMOGRAPHICS & DATA SERVICES**

Staff oversees a number of County programs: Jefferson County Rural Public Transportation Program, Community Development Block Grants, North Country HOME Consortium, County Planning Board, Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, NYS Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid Program, NYS Septic System Replacement Program, Geographic Information System (GIS) Services, Fort Drum-related growth and development technical services, and Demographic and Census services.

The Department also provides local government technical assistance to town and village boards in the development and implementation of comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and subdivision regulations. These services are intended to assist and guide efforts at both the County and local levels, to develop and implement planning and development programs which will have positive impacts on the area's economy, environment, rural character and land uses.

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### **COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

As resources permit, the Department provides staff assistance to communities in support of their land use, comprehensive planning, and community development projects.

- [Click here for a list of local land use controls adopted by Towns and Villages](#)  
(include most recent version of spreadsheet)

The Department has recently provided assistance to the Villages of Alexandria Bay, Black River and the Towns of LeRay, Hounsfield, Orleans and Henderson. The office also coordinates a fall land use training session with the NYS Department of State, Local Government office for local municipal planning officials.

### **Local Contacts for Land Use and Development Projects**

New York State has a "home-rule" form of local government. Under this system, land use and development decisions are controlled at the Town, Village and City levels.

Nearly all local municipalities in Jefferson County have some form of local land use control, typically through a Zoning Law or Development Code. A Zoning Law controls the type of land use and density of development that may occur in any particular area of a community. Each municipality with zoning has an appointed Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer that administers the Zoning Law. Typically, this individual is the best "first point of contact" for anyone proposing development within a municipality. The Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer will issue a zoning permit for permitted uses that comply with the Zoning Law.

Most communities also have a Planning Board that is often responsible for site plan reviews and the approval of special permits for specific uses identified in the Zoning Law.

Many communities also have subdivision regulations to manage the creation and arrangement of property parcels for new development. These regulations are administered by the Planning Board.

Each municipality with a Zoning Law must also have a Zoning Board of Appeals to consider appeals made to the Zoning Enforcement Officer, and to issue interpretations on the local Zoning Law.

Approval under the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code is usually required to ensure that standards and specifications for structural construction and fire safety are met. Usually, this approval is obtained after local zoning approval through a Uniform Code or Building Permit. In some cases, municipalities issue Zoning and Uniform Code approval at the same time. Each municipality determines whether it is responsible for the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code approval, or if it chooses to opt-out to Jefferson County for administration of this Code.

### [Jefferson County Building Code Authority Map](#)

In an effort to direct the public to the appropriate official to begin land use and development procedures, contact information for the officials and review bodies described above is provided for each Town and Village in Jefferson County as well as the City of Watertown, in the following links:

[TOWNS](#)   [VILLAGES](#)   [CITY OF WATERTOWN](#)

**DISCLAIMER:** Contact information is up to date as of January 2025. Please contact the clerk for the latest information or if not listed.

### **County Planning Board**

The Jefferson County Planning Board was created by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors (Resolution Number 85 of the year 1966) pursuant to Article 12-B of the General Municipal Law, Section 239-b of the State of New York. The CPB consists of eleven members appointed by the Board of Legislators. The County Planning Board is authorized to conduct reviews of certain classes of planning and zoning actions by a city, town or village within the County pursuant to sections 239-m of General Municipal Law. The CPB meets on the LAST TUESDAY of the month, 4:00 p.m., in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference room at 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY.

### General Municipal Law 239-m Review Procedures

- A. Referrals to the County Planning Board shall be submitted by the municipality and shall be received at the Jefferson County Department of Planning Offices no less than 12 calendar days prior to the scheduled County Planning Board Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month.

B. As stated in General Municipal Law 239-m, referrals will be considered "received" on the date when a "full statement" has been submitted. A full statement shall mean all materials required by and submitted to the referring body as an application on a proposed action, including a completed environmental assessment form and all other materials required by such referring body in order to make its determination of significance pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act. When the proposed action is the adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance or law, "full statement of such proposed action" shall also include the complete text of the proposed ordinance or local law as well as all existing provisions to be affected thereby, if any

C. Determination of Full Statement

1. Staff will conduct an analysis of the contents of each referral to determine that it is a "full statement".

2. In the case that a referral is determined to be an incomplete statement in accordance with the above requirements, staff shall notify the municipality responsible for the referral of the inadequacy of the materials submitted, and shall request that additional information be provided to render the referral of a complete statement. This notification shall be in writing, except when time constraints dictate otherwise.

3. In recognition that many municipal bodies have the authority to waive the application requirements of their local zoning legislation, the requirements of a Full Statement above do not require that municipalities submit materials that have been waived by the local board. However, written documentation that the required materials and information have been waived will be required.

4. If the referring municipality fails to respond to the request for additional information twelve (12) days prior to the scheduled Jefferson County Planning Board meeting, the referral may be deemed improper and may not be included on the agenda for that month's County Planning Board meeting. The referral may be considered resubmitted on the first day of the month following the original receipt date.

D. Exemption Of Matters Of Local Concern

General Municipal Law Section 239m gives the County Board of Legislators and local municipalities the authority to enter into agreements which exempt certain matters, considered to be of local rather than inter-community or County-wide concern, from County Planning Board Review.

The Jefferson County Board of Legislators passed Resolution 246 of 1992 on September 1, 1992, titled "Exemption of Matters of Local Concern from County Planning Board Review". This Resolution and any amendments to it shall be attached to the By-laws.

[General Municipal Law 239m Summary](#)

[County Planning Board Meeting Schedule – 2025](#)

[FILLABLE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD REFERRAL FORM](#)

[2025 County Planning Board Newsletter](#)

[2025 Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

[2024 Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

[2023 Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

[2022 Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

Jefferson County Planning Board Members:

David Prosser, Chair  
Lisa L'Huillier, Vice-Chair  
Jon Storms

John Stinson  
Jean Waterbury  
Richard Nuijens

John Stano  
Randy Lake

Donna Dutton  
Neil Katzman

## Land Use Training

Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members are required by NYS Law to receive a minimum of four hours of training every year. Each municipality determines acceptable training formats for training credit.

Training Videos

[Planning Board Overview](#)

[Solar Energy Seminar](#)

[Rx For Your Zoning Law](#)

[Airport Land-Use Compatibility](#)

[SEQRA Basics](#)

[Sustaining Your Community Vitality into the Future](#)

[Managing Land Use on Highway Corridors](#)

[Spot Zone or Use Variance](#)

[Planning Boards and Open Question Period](#)

[Site Plan and Special Permit Process](#)

[Land Use Hot Button Topics](#)

The Tug Hill Commission also has training sessions available on-line at: <https://tughill.org/services/training/>

Alternately, the NYS Department of State Land Use Training Unit offers on-line land use training courses. For more info, visit the New York State Department of State's website: <https://dos.ny.gov/training-assistance>

If your municipality is a member of the [NY Planning Federation](#), you may access the NYPF website for videos.

## Planning Primers

The following Planning Primers were modeled with permission, using narrative, bullet points, and images from the set of Greenway Guides, developed by the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development and published in 2001. They are also based on the Jefferson County Planning Board Growth and Development Guidelines adopted in 2005. Their purpose is to help communities refine their decision-making, promote open discussions about future projects and ultimately enhance communities over time. They should assist communities describe local priorities in various ways, as each subdivision, site plan review, and special permit decision represents a unique set of issues and challenges. If the community agrees on basic principles or values up front, then review processes can thrive from a balanced and clear approach. Thus, by using the planning primers to discuss\illustrate local community desires, projects will be more likely to enhance communities and reflect local priorities.

[Planning Primers- Introduction and Index.pdf](#)

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES**

[Fitting Into the Landscape.pdf](#)

[Development with Open Space.pdf](#)

[Curbing Strip Development.pdf](#)

[Infrastructure Planning.pdf](#)

[Fort Drum Compatibility.pdf](#)

## **VIBRANT CENTERS- HAMLETS AND VILLAGES**

[Priority Growth Areas.pdf](#)

[Walkable Communities.pdf](#)

[Redeveloping in Context.pdf](#)

## **SITE SPECIFICS- DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEXT**

[Building Placement.pdf](#)

[Parking Lots.pdf](#)

[Site Access:Traffic Management.pdf](#)

[Outdoor Lighting.pdf](#)

[Signs and Signage.pdf](#)

[Landscaping and Buffering.pdf](#)

[Water Body Protection.pdf](#)

## **Jefferson County Resource Maps**

Agriculture:

[Jefferson County Agricultural Districts Map 2024](#)

[Town Agricultural Districts with 2024 Inclusions](#)

[Village Agricultural Districts with 2024 Inclusions](#)

[Northern Jefferson County Priority Agricultural Soils](#)

[Southern Jefferson County Priority Agricultural Soils](#)

Demographics:

[Percent Population Change by Town 2010-2020](#)

[2020 Population by Town](#)

[2020 Census Tracts \(color\)](#)

[2020 Census Tracts \(b&w\)](#)

School Districts

[Designated Urbanized and Metropolitan Areas](#)

[Percent Population Change by County 2010-2013](#)  
[Percent Renter Occupied Housing by Town 2008-2012](#)  
[Percent Seasonal Housing by Town 2010](#)

## Directions / Locator

[Jefferson County Municipalities \(color\)](#)  
[Jefferson County Municipalities \(b&w\)](#)  
[Town and Village Overviews](#)  
[County Major Roads](#)  
[Airport Locator](#)  
[County Highway Office Locator](#)  
[County Office Building Locator](#)  
[Department of Social Services Offices Locator](#)  
[Fort Drum Vicinity](#)  
[Public Health Services Locator](#)  
[Recycling Center Locator](#)  
[Jefferson County Regional Context](#)

## Land Use:

[Land Use 2024](#)

## Natural Resources:

[Surface Geology](#)  
[Water Quality](#)  
[Watersheds](#)

## Recreation / Attractions

[County Forests](#)  
[County Forest with Shaded Relief](#)  
[County Historic Districts](#)  
[Scenic Byways and Driving Tours](#)

## Planning Resources

### General Planning Links:

[New York State Department of State](#)  
[New York State Planning Federation](#)  
[Pace University Land Use Law Center](#)  
[American Planning Association National Chapter](#)  
[American Planning Association Upstate Chapter](#)  
[New York State Smart Growth Initiative](#)  
[NYS DOS Local Government Services](#)  
[NYS DEC SEQR Handbook](#)  
[NYS DEC Stormwater Management Design Manual](#)  
[APA Planning for Solar Energy](#)  
[NYSERDA AND CUNY Solar Presentation](#)

### Training Resources:

[NYS DOS Training and Technical Assistance](#)

## **COUNTY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Jefferson County Public Transportation**

In late 2022, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators adopted a resolution to apply for 5311 funds from the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) for capital expenditures associated with creating a public transportation system throughout Jefferson County. In its application, the County requested money to purchase six buses and funds to contract with a Mobility Manager to facilitate the County's startup program. The County is patiently awaiting approval from the State DOT.

In March 2023, the County created a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Mobility Management for its startup county-wide public transportation system.

As the 5311 application and RFP progress, County Planning Department staff will update the information here.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the Planning Department, at (315) 785-3144.

[Coordinated Transportation Plan - 2021](#)

[Coordinated Transportation Plan - 2016](#)

### **Community Development Block Grant Housing Program (CDBG)**

The Department administers the County's CDBG housing program. Staff undertakes program planning, application development, administration, and reporting requirements. Through the NYS Office of Community Renewal, Jefferson County applies annually for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation funds for qualifying low to moderate income home owners. The County works with a consultant to administer the program and with Neighbors of Watertown to process the applications and work with the contractors. The County has received \$13,000,000 and assisted 396 residential units since 2005.

The County currently has two open awards from the 2023 and 2024 funding rounds. Interested individuals should contact Neighbors of Watertown to determine eligibility and availability of funds.

### **HOME Consortium**

The North Country HOME Consortium consists of Jefferson, St. Lawrence, and Lewis Counties. The Consortium operates under authorization established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Consortium was created in order for the counties to qualify as an entitlement community thereby receiving federal funding annually for housing projects. The Planning Department has an administrative role in support of Jefferson County's status as the lead county. Since its inception in 1994, the Consortium has distributed \$34.73 million in local housing assistance to local not-for-profit housing providers. This has resulted in the purchase and/or rehabilitation of over 2,000 units in the three county area.

[North Country HOME Consortium Draft Consolidated Plan for 2021-2025](#)

[Draft Update to the Citizen Participation Plan](#)

[Language Assistance Plan](#)

## Housing Assistance Resources

If you are in need of funds to assist you with buying or rehabilitating a home, you should contact one of the local housing agencies that specialize in these activities. The agencies are partially funded by grants, so their programs may change on a yearly basis depending on what funding is available at the time. The most common programs are home rehabilitation assistance and first time home buyer assistance. All programs require the participants to be income eligible.

In addition to housing assistance, Neighbors also offers a homebuyer education class for first time home buyers. Contact their office for more information. Neighbors of Watertown [www.neighborsofwatertown.com](http://www.neighborsofwatertown.com)  
315-782-8497

### Local Housing Agencies:

North Jefferson Improvement Association	<a href="https://www.northjeffersonia.com/">https://www.northjeffersonia.com/</a>	315-686-3212
Frontier Housing Corporation		315-639-3940
North Country Affordable Housing	<a href="http://www.northcountryaffordablehousing.com">www.northcountryaffordablehousing.com</a>	315-785-8684
Community Action Planning Council	<a href="http://www.capcjc.org">www.capcjc.org</a>	315-782-4900

The Community Action Planning Council also acts as Jefferson County's Fair Housing Office. If you feel you have been the victim of discrimination, assistance is available in filing a complaint. For further information regarding Housing Rights, call CAPC.

### [Fair Housing Brochure](#)

If you are looking for information on rental assistance, contact:

Lewis County Opportunities Watertown Office  
749 LeRay Street  
Watertown, NY  
315-788-0193 email: [housejeff@lcopps.org](mailto:housejeff@lcopps.org)  
[www.lewiscountyopportunities.com](http://www.lewiscountyopportunities.com)

Lewis County Opportunities can provide rental subsidies in Jefferson County through the HUD Section 8 voucher program. The subsidies provide the means for low income families, the elderly and disabled to obtain decent, safe, affordable housing.

For more information on the HUD Section 8 program, [click here](#).

### **HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)**

HEAP is a federally funded program that issues heating benefits to supplement a household's annual energy fund.

For more information, visit the [Office of Temporary Disability Assistance](#) .

Or call: Jefferson County Department of Social Services 315-785-3000

If you're age 60 or older, you may apply for the program through:

[Jefferson County Office for the Aging](#) (link to their webpage)  
315-785-3191

For other housing related questions, please call HUD directly.  
HUD Buffalo 716-551-5755  
HUD Albany 518-464-4200

HUD Storefront (Syracuse) 315-477-0616

## **Fort Drum Growth Management Assistance**

The Department works with Fort Drum, Advocate Drum and Jefferson County Economic Development staff to develop the annual Fort Drum Regional Economic Impact Report. Staff participates on the Advocate Drum Sustainability Committee and the Compatibility Committee. Staff also discusses local projects with possible impacts on Fort Drum with Fort Drum staff. In the past staff worked on the Fort Drum Growth Management Strategy, Fort Drum Region Transit Needs Assessment, housing construction database, and the Fort Drum Joint Land Use Study. Additional information is available at [www.fdrlo.org](http://www.fdrlo.org).

- [Fort Drum Growth Management Strategy](#)
- [Fort Drum Region Transit Needs Assessment](#)

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The Department provides staff assistance to the CEDS Committee, which develops and maintains the Jefferson County CEDS Plan for use by various agencies in their economic development programs. The Committee's work includes partnerships with the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA), and other local economic development interests to identify and promote local economic development strategies. The Department also coordinates with the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) on behalf of the CEDS Committee to profile and endorse local capital projects that might be eligible for funding assistance.

[CEDS 2020-2025 Plan](#)  
[Previous CEDS Plans](#)  
[Previous CEDS Committee Plans](#)  
[Economic Indicators for Jefferson County](#)

## **Economic Development Resources**

[The Capital Corridor](#)  
[Development Authority of the North Country](#)  
[Empire State Development](#)  
[Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization](#)  
[Jefferson County Agriculture Development Corporation](#)  
[Jefferson County Local Development Corporation](#)  
[Small Business Development Center](#)  
[Thousand Island Bridge Authority](#)  
[Tug Hill Commission](#)  
[Watertown Empire Zone](#)

## **Development Site Research and Analysis**

The Department has assisted local and state development organizations with research and assessment of potential development sites. The Department utilizes maps and GIS resources to help identify sites meeting specific criteria such as conditions related to utilities, location/zoning characteristics and natural resource features as requested by development prospects.

## **RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

### **Agriculture**

Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

The Department administers and supports the Board in two main areas.

## NYS Certified Agricultural Districts

The County Agriculture Districts Program includes over 246,000 acres of land in three separate Districts in the County. New York's Agricultural Districts Law, Article 25-AA PDF of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, was enacted in 1971 to help keep farmland in agricultural production.

There are two processes at the county level for the addition and review of these districts. Each Certified Agricultural District is required by New York State to undergo an Eight-Year Review to determine if the district still consists of predominantly viable agricultural land. There is also an annual individual inclusions process where agricultural land may be added to an existing certified agricultural district.

The New York State Agricultural Districts Law requires counties to establish an annual 30 day period to allow parcels of predominantly viable agricultural land to be added to existing New York State Certified Agricultural Districts. The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has set **June 1st through June 30th of each year** for this purpose.

Viable agricultural land is land that is actively farmed as well as inactive and non-farm acreage which is highly suitable for agricultural production. A parcel of land is "predominantly" viable if a minimum of 51% of the parcel meets the above definition.

Certified Agricultural Districts are designed to protect agriculture through a combination of landowner incentives and protections that discourage the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, including:

- providing reduced property tax bills for agricultural lands - property owners must apply annually with their local assessor for an agricultural assessment
- providing the framework to limit unreasonable local regulation on accepted agricultural practices
- providing Right to Farm provisions that protect accepted agricultural practices from private nuisance suits
- modifying state agency administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the continuation of agricultural businesses
- modifying the ability to advance public funds to construct facilities that encourage development
- preventing benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies, or other rates and fees on farmland for the finance of improvements such as water, sewer or nonfarm drainage
- modifying the ability of public agencies to acquire farmland through eminent domain

Certified Agricultural Districts primarily benefit owners of land that is farmed. Being part of a Certified Agricultural District does not:

- directly affect the use of land beyond existing requirements, for example, zoning
- directly reduce or increase tax assessments—agricultural landowners can apply to the local tax assessor for an annual agricultural assessment

[Jefferson County 2024 Agricultural Districts Town and Village Maps](#) (LINK)

[Summary of Agricultural Districts Law Section 303-B](#) (LINK)

## **Jefferson County Agricultural Districts**

### Southeast District #1

The Southeast District consists of land within the Towns of Champion, Rodman, Rutland, Wilna, Worth and portions of the Towns of Adams, Hounsfield, Watertown and Lorraine.

The next Eight-year Review will commence in the spring of 2028.

### [Southeast District Map](#)

#### North Agricultural District #2

The North District consists of land within the Towns of Brownville, Pamela, LeRay, Lyme, Orleans, Philadelphia, Antwerp, Cape Vincent, Clayton, Theresa, and Alexandria.

The next Eight-year Review will commence in the spring of 2031.

### [North District Map](#)

#### Southwest District #3

The Southwest District consists of land within the Towns Hounsfield, Henderson, Ellisburg and portions of the Towns of Adams, Watertown, and Lorraine.

The Southwest Eight-year Review will commence in the spring of 2025.

Some landowners with land currently enrolled in the Southwest District will receive a Farm Survey that is intended to gauge the state of agriculture in the District. Landowners who currently own an agricultural operation within the Southwest District or rent their land to an agricultural operation are asked to complete and return the survey by June 30, 2025. The compiled results of the survey will be included in the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board's eight-year review report to the Jefferson County Board of Legislators. Individual responses will not be detailed in the report.

After the open period ends, the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board will review the requests and prepare a report that is submitted to the County Board of Legislators for their consideration. The Board will then hold a public hearing to receive feedback on the requested modifications, if any. Once the County Board of Legislators has approved of the changes, the report is finalized and sent to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for recertification of the North District. This process typically takes eight to ten months.

### [2025 Southwest District Survey form](#)

### [SW Agricultural District Press Release](#)

### [2018 Southwest District Report](#)

### [Agricultural District FAQs](#)

For more information contact:

Sam Wilson, Community Development Coordinator

Jefferson County Department of Planning

(315) 785-3144

[swilson@jeffersoncountyny.gov](mailto:swilson@jeffersoncountyny.gov)

#### **Annual Agricultural Inclusions**

Landowners can request to have their property added to a Certified Agricultural District during Jefferson County's Annual Individual Inclusions open enrollment. The Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board announces that the next annual open enrollment period for the addition of viable agricultural lands into Jefferson County Agricultural Districts will take place from **June 1st through June 30th**. Note that property can only be removed from an Agricultural District during the District's eight-year review.

Agricultural Districts are intended to encourage the continued use of farmland for agricultural production. Enrollment of viable agricultural lands into a State-certified Agricultural District provides protection of accepted

agricultural practices through New York State Agricultural Districts Law. Viable agricultural land is land highly suitable for, or currently used for, agricultural production.

For more information contact:

Sam Wilson

Jefferson County Department of Planning

(315) 785-3144

[2025 Inclusion Enrollment Form](#)

[2024 Agricultural Inclusion Report](#)

[2023 Agricultural Inclusion Report](#)

### County's Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

The importance of agriculture to Jefferson County cannot be understated. Agriculture has an important economic role and is also a critical feature of the landscape, contributor to tourism, and is valued as a land use contributing to the quality of life in the County.

The Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, with the assistance of Community Planning and Environmental Associates, has updated the 2002 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

The 2016 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan provides the County:

- A long-term vision and direction to guide policies and programs that can enhance agriculture;
- Strategies to maintain agriculture as a critical land use and economic driver;
- A framework for organization and collaboration to promote existing and new farm operations;
- Identification of potential project partners and sources of funding; and
- Data, maps, and other information that can be used to support agricultural economic development, public relations, marketing, grant writing, and other programs related to agriculture.

A variety of approaches were used to learn what farmers, agri-businesses, and agencies involved with supporting agriculture think are issues and opportunities to be addressed in this Plan. Public outreach and farmer input was gathered through a comprehensive process that included:

- Workshop for Farmers;
- Roundtable discussion with the Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board;
- Discussion with the Jefferson County Agricultural Round Table;
- A farmer's survey;
- Focus group meetings to learn about CAFO Farms, dairy processing, land trusts and farmland protection in the County, agri-businesses, ag-tourism, and ag-economic development; and
- Interviews with several farms.

The public input received from these efforts was organized into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to agriculture. From this, the vision and goals were developed along with a list of issues to be addressed and new strategies to implement.

Call the Jefferson County Department of Planning if you have any questions, (315) 785-3144.

[2016 Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Executive Summary](#)

[Part 1 Main Document](#)

[Part 2 State of Agriculture in Jefferson County](#)

[Part 3 Background Information](#)

[Jefferson County Right to Farm Law](#)

[Jefferson County Purchase of Development Rights Executive Summary](#)

## **Stormwater Management Program (MS4)**

[2021 MS4 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

[2022 MS4 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

[2023 MS4 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

## **Septic System Replacement Program**

Jefferson County is participating in the NYS Septic System Replacement Program. The purpose of this fund is to replace existing cesspools and septic systems that are having significant and quantifiable environmental and/or public health impacts to groundwater used for drinking water, or a threatened or impaired waterbody. In Jefferson County, Priority Geographic Areas identified for this program include: Moon Lake, Red Lake, Indian River, St. Lawrence River, and Guffin Bay. More detailed information is provided below.

[Septic Repair and Replacement Program Outline](#)

[Septic System Replacement Fund Program Summary](#)

[Septic System Replacement Grant Application](#)

[Septic System Replacement Grant Eligible Costs](#)

[Septic Replacement Program Grant Press Release - 7/8/2024](#)

## **FEMA – FLOOD MAP INSURANCE & CONTACTS**

[FEMA Flood Maps](#) [link to msc.fema.gov/portal/home](https://www.msc.fema.gov/portal/home)

## **Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid Program**

The Department works with snowmobile clubs and administers this NYS grant pass-through program on behalf of the County. The 2013-2014 grant will be the 23rd consecutive year that the County has participated in the program to enable access to trail maintenance and grooming funds.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC & DATA SERVICES**

### **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Management and Implementation**

Staff offers GIS services to the County through two major software platforms. First, the Department developed and oversees the County's online, web-based map and parcel viewer which can be found at [www.jeffcountymaps.com](http://www.jeffcountymaps.com). The system operates on ArcGIS Server platform. Numerous data layers are can be viewed including aerial imagery, Agriculture District coverage, and existing land uses. The system is integrated with the County's Real Property parcel database. Secondly, the office maintains an ArcMap GIS desktop platform in support of the digital map products required for Department programs, projects, and local community assistance.

The Planning Department's GIS staff provides a wide variety of mapping and data services to the County. The Department collects, develops, and maintains digital spatial data pertaining to the County, and presents that data to Jefferson County's municipalities, government offices, citizenry, and New York State. Common projects for municipalities include mapping zoning, comprehensive plans, school districts, economic development projects, land use, and aerial imagery. County projects include mapping housing and demographic trends, tracking and presenting New York Certified Agricultural Districts, land use mapping, flood area mapping, natural resource mapping, snowmobile trails mapping, service locator mapping, infrastructure mapping, and Census support effort. Special projects include election district and polling place mapping at the direction of the Board of Elections, maps related to planning efforts in the Fort Drum vicinity, and tourism mapping. The office also posts maps for general use or interest on the Planning Department's Resource maps page.

## US Census

The Planning Department works with the US Census Bureau every ten years to prepare for the Official Census. Staff reviews and updates the Census Master Address File, reviews municipal boundaries for changes, updates the address file with new construction data, and reviews census tracts and block groups to ensure they are within the required population criteria.

[What is the American Community Survey?](#) link

[What is the difference between the American Community Survey and the Census?](#) link

[What is a census designated place?](#) link

2010 Census data

Tables

[Town Population 1950-2010.pdf](#)

[Town Population Growth 1990-2010 \(alphabetical\).pdf](#)

[Town Population Growth 1990-2010 \(ranked by % change\).pdf](#)

[Village Population 1950-2010 .pdf](#)

[Village Population Growth 1990-2010 \(alphabetical\).pdf](#)

[Village Population Growth 1990-2010 \(ranked by % change\).pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Population Growth 1950-2010 \(alphabetical\).pdf](#)

[Town Population by Race.pdf](#)

[Village and City Population by Race.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Population by Race.pdf](#)

[Town Population by Age- Females.pdf](#)

[Town Population by Age- Males.pdf](#)

[Village Population by Age- Females.pdf](#)

[Village Population by Age- Males.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Place Population by Age- Females.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Place Population by Age- Males.pdf](#)

### **Housing Unit Tables**

[Town Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Villages and City Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Town Seasonal Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Villages and City Seasonal Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Seasonal Housing Units - 2010.pdf](#)

[Town Group Quarters Population 2010.pdf](#)

[Village and City Group Quarters Population 2010.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Group Quarters Population 2010.pdf](#)

### **Land Area Tables**

[Town Land Area and Density 2010.pdf](#)

[Village and City Land Area and Density 2010.pdf](#)

[Census Designated Places Land Area and Density 2010.pdf](#)

### **Maps**

[Census Designated Places.pdf](#)

[Median Age by Town.pdf](#)

[Population by Town.pdf](#)

[Percent Population Change by Town.pdf](#)

[Population Change by Town.pdf](#)

[Population Density by Town.pdf](#)

[Percent Seasonal Housing of Total Housing by Town.pdf](#)

[Percent Change of Housing Units by Town - 2010.pdf](#)

## **General Technical Assistance**

Each year, staff responds to hundreds of technical assistance and informational inquiries from the general public, local businesses, the development community, and other governmental agencies. These requests typically cover a broad range of topics, such as Census information, environmental and development requirements, economic demographics, and grant opportunities.