

# ONONDAGA COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

**Planning & Economic Development Committee**

*Tuesday, March 24th, 2026*



# MISSION & VALUES

The Onondaga County Department of Planning provides a variety of planning services and promotes effective planning for the City of Syracuse and the 19 towns and 15 villages in Onondaga County. By following best practices in the areas of public participation and citizen engagement, we work to ensure an equitable and effective planning environment to develop policies that resonate with individuals and local communities. Overall, our goal is to create great communities for all.

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# OVERVIEW

The Onondaga County Department of Planning works to guide land use, development and long-range growth while supporting local municipalities with data and mapping in contemplation of Plan Onondaga. It does this through two divisions – Planning which focuses on coordinating zoning, transportation and housing opportunities and GIS which provides expertise in mapping and spatial data.

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# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

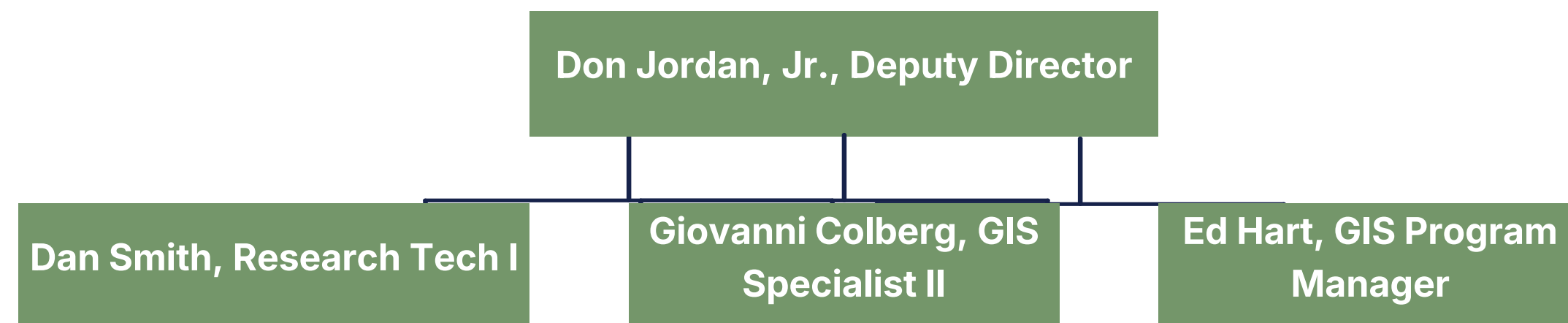


GIS provides spatial data and mapping support for planning efforts, county departments and initiatives, municipalities, businesses, and the public. They create, acquire, and maintain a wide array of spatial data sets, maps, and applications that support government functions. The GIS is an essential tool that is used by county departments to maximize effectiveness and efficiency and improve decision-making.

It provides extensive spatial data support to the City of Syracuse and towns and villages in the County. GIS staff also manage, distribute, and support the County's digital aerial photography program (EagleView/Pictometry). The GIS Division also staffs the 911 Address Administration Program to provide street addresses and review street names in the county to help ensure a high-quality address system for the 911 Emergency Communications Department.

## **GIS Initiatives**

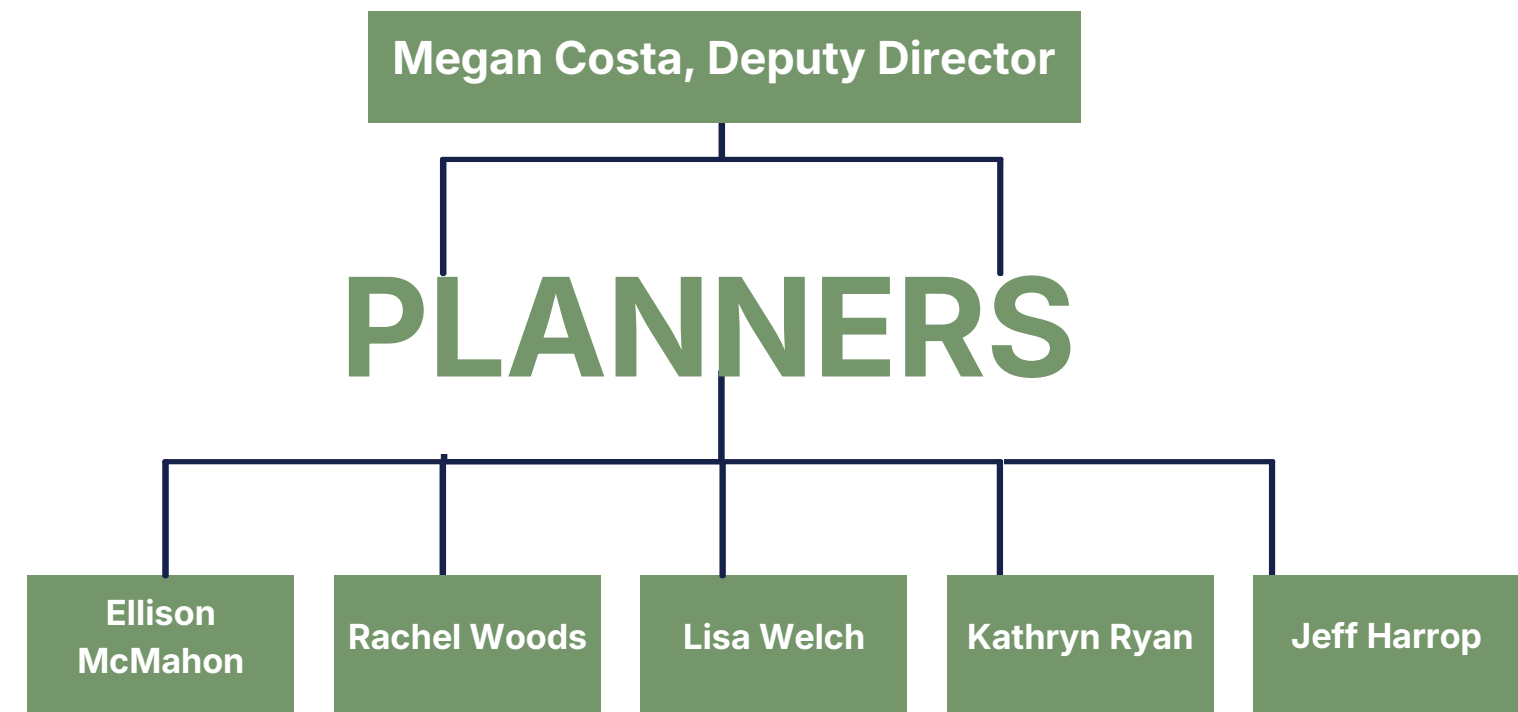
- GIS Website
- Aerial Photography
- Story Maps
- Map Services
- Direct Mapping and Spatial Data Support
- Drone
- Address Administration



# PLANNING

The Planning Division focuses on long-range visioning, policy development, and execution of local, countywide and regional planning initiatives that shape how Onondaga County grows and evolves. In concert with Plan Onondaga and its five themes, the department works with municipalities, county departments, and varied local stakeholders towards the creation of well-planned communities.

In addition to the work within Plan Onondaga's thematic areas, Planning staff also provides formal staff support to the Onondaga County Planning Board, the County Legislature's Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, and to the Onondaga County Planning Federation, which provides annual training and education to the hundreds of local planning and zoning board members and the local planning community.



## Planning Initiatives

Implementation of Plan Onondaga's five themes – Strong Centers, Housing & Neighborhoods, Community Mobility, Blueways & Greenways, and Agriculture

# PARTNERS



**Onondaga County Planning Federation** – A nonprofit corporation that serves every municipality in the County by hosting annual training conferences for elected and appointed local officials and the public, and providing trend data and planning information to Federation members.

**Onondaga County Planning Board (OCPB)** – Advises local boards on the potential inter-municipal or countywide impact of local land use decisions. The Board uses the County's comprehensive plans to direct its recommendations on municipal land use referrals and to review the proposed Onondaga County Capital Improvement Program.

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# PLAN ONONDAGA

COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

-  **PLAN ON strong centers**
-  **PLAN ON housing + neighborhoods**
-  **PLAN ON community mobility**
-  **PLAN ON greenways + blueways**
-  **PLAN ON agriculture**

*Plan Onondaga County Comprehensive Plan was developed to define a vision and goals for community success with focus on five thematic areas – each working as a framework for community-based planning and impactful projects.*





## **PLAN ON strong centers**

- *Support & Enhance Existing & New Centers of All Scales*
- *Provide Tools, Resources & Partnerships for the Development of Strategic New Centers*
- *Invest in Public Places & Spaces within Existing & New Centers*
- *Incorporate Multi-Modal Options as a Central Element of Centers*



*Amenity-rich, vibrant, and walkable centers can strengthen the quality of life and improve the economic stability of local communities*



## **PLAN ON housing + neighborhoods**

- *Expand Housing Choice*
- *Develop Targeted Market-Driven Programs to Support Neighborhood Health*
- *Support & Enhance the County's Housing & Neighborhoods*



*To retain as well as attract future residents, housing in the county needs to be affordable, efficient, diverse, and attractive.*



## **PLAN ON community mobility**

- *Become a Vision Zero Community*
- *Invest in Transit Corridor*
- *Implement An Expanded & Connected Network of Bike Lanes, Trails & Multi-Modal Corridors*
- *Prepare for Our Transportation Future*



*Enhancing mobility means better access and better options to move people throughout the county.*

## **PLAN ON greenways + blueways**

- *Formalize Greenway and Blueway System Planning*
- *Continue to Invest in the Development of a Countywide Multi-Use Trail Network*
- *Invest in the Development of a Countywide Blueway System*
- *Preserve Ecological Assets Within Greenways and Blueways*



*Providing unique opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat, and ecological protection.*

## **PLAN ON agriculture**

- *Protect Natural Resources and Scenic Views*
- *Grow the Agricultural Economy*
- *Provide Food and Support Local Agriculture*
- *Protect Farmland and Rural Landscapes*



*Local agriculture is vital to the success of Onondaga County's economy, landscape and food system.*



**PLAN**  **ONONDAGA**  
COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

***Quarterly Update***





# PLAN ON **strong centers**

Implementation of planning objectives in Plan Onondaga that will strengthen the quality of life and economic stability of local communities through the development of amenity-rich, vibrant and walkable centers.

- **Town and Village Planning Grants:** *This program provides funding to local governments to establish and update their comprehensive plans. To date, fifteen municipalities have taken part in the program and have been allocated approximately \$1.4 million. The municipalities include Lafayette, Elbridge (Village and Town), Skaneateles (Hamlet Plan and Village), Marcellus (Town and Village), Cicero, Fayetteville, North Syracuse, Salina, Van Buren, Liverpool, Camillus (Town and Village).*
- **Housing Plan – Phase II:** *Phase II does include a look at a variety of underdeveloped or nearing obsolescence sites that could be made into a center type setting that would include mixed use designs, residential and commercial spaces. The Phase II study should be released in the second quarter of 2026.*



## **PLAN ON housing + neighborhoods**

**Implementation of planning objectives found in Plan Onondaga that support and sustain attractive, diverse and efficient housing and neighborhoods to retain and attract future residents across the entirety of Onondaga County from Urban to Suburban to Rural.**

- ***Housing Study – Phase I:*** Phase I was completed in July 2024 and provided an overview of the housing market, the coming needs for housing and the challenges that housing is facing locally and across the state.
- ***Housing Study – Phase II:*** Phase II started April 2025 and will take approximately twelve months to complete. Phase II will provide a deeper examination the financial gaps that exist in terms of getting new units built; recommendations, if needed, on novel interventions as well as looking at housing typologies and development/redevelopment opportunities. The Phase II study should be released in the second quarter of 2026.
- ***Continual Review/Discussion:*** OCDOP meets regularly and has on going planning discussions with municipalities, developers and other related interests on the needs in the housing market and zoning/planning issues.



# PLAN ON community mobility

**Implementation of planning objectives found in Plan Onondaga which will enhance mobility by improving safety, accessibility and diversity of available options for moving people within and between communities.**

- **Safe Streets for All Strategy Plan:** *OCDOP received a \$450,000 federal grant to complete a Safe Streets for All Strategy. This Strategy Plan will be completed with C&S Engineering and will look at traffic and crash data to analyze high risk roadways and intersections and propose novel interventions. Completion of this Strategy Plan may allow for access to implementation grants for projects that are identified in the plan. The Strategy Plan should be released in the fourth quarter of 2027.*
- **Bicycle Commuter Corridor Implementation:** *This initiative is in partnership with SMTC to engage road owners and stakeholders in the next steps toward implementation of the Bicycle Commuter Corridor Study. This could include the development of four technical memos that outline an implementation strategy for each of the four main corridors identified in the study to be followed up by working one on one with interested municipalities to progress projects which may include facilitating discussions with road owners, exploring funding opportunities, and potentially assisting in grant funding solicitation efforts with municipalities or road owners.*
- **Route 31 Transportation Assessment:** *This initiative was in partnership with SMTC to assess various forms of mass transportation along the Route 31 corridor mainly focusing on light rail, BRT bus service and enhanced bus service. This assessment included the types and density of housing that would be required along the corridor to sustain each type of transportation.*
- **Intersecting Community Needs – Food Access & Transportation:** *In collaboration with the Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance (SOFSA) and SMTC this initiative seeks to update the Onondaga County Food Environment Study. The revised study will focus on transportation metrics, particularly barriers to transportation-related food access in low-income, low-access communities. The goal is to generate data that informs equitable transportation solutions and improves food system accessibility across the County.*



## **PLAN ON greenways + blueways**

**Implementation of planning objectives found in Plan Onondaga relative to development and improvement of greenway and blueway programming and facilities. These projects may be county projects in parks, but will also include working with municipalities and private interests to further greenway and blueway development across the county with a focus on long term connectivity.**

- ***Greenways + Blueways Masterplan:*** *Colliers Engineering & Design has been awarded the contract for developing the Greenways + Blueways Masterplan & will take approximately 12 months.*
- ***Greenways + Blueways Grant Program:*** *Approximately \$1.6 million for the Greenways + Blueways Grant Program of which \$935,000 has been awarded.*
- ***Bear Trap Creek Trail:*** *Working with SMTC on a connection plan for the Bear Trap Creek Trail to connect it to Park Street, Regional Market and Loop the Lake Trail.*
- ***Empire State Trail Economic Opportunities – Phase II:*** *In partnership with SMTC , this initiative will focus on engaging with municipalities in the next steps toward plan implementation of the Empire State Trail Local Economic Opportunities Plan (LEOP).*
- ***Martisco to Otisco Lake Trail:*** *Engaging with SMTC to complete a planning level study to show options for a trail that would go from Martisco to Otisco Lake.*

**Implementation of planning objectives found in Plan Onondaga and the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan centering on agritourism, farmland protection and Regional Market improvements.**

- ***Agritourism Grant Program - Phase I:*** Phase I awarded \$790,000 to 53 agritourism operations and generated an additional \$4.7 million in private investment.
- ***Central New York Regional Market:***  
***Strategy Plan:*** Completed and outlines the operational and capital needs/goals of the Market. Highlights include:
  - a. Improving connectivity overall but to the Northside specifically; adding modern facilities; re-purposing existing facilities.*
  - b. The Capital Improvement Project(s) at the Regional Market being funded by the County will total approximately \$3.75 million and include a Gateway Entrance, Improvements to the C Shed and the construction and fit out of shared commercial kitchens.*
  - c. Working with Management and Board of the Regional Market to identify funding that can assist with further implementation of the Strategy Plan.*
- ***Farmland Protection Board:*** Work with the Farmland Protection Board to adopt agricultural policy which will further the goals of our farms which includes assisting with identifying farms that are interested in the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG).



# ON FARM FEST

- Annual day on the farm event
- Helps to build a relationship between food producers and consumers
- Encourages the community to visit, tour and support local farms
- Family-friendly, fun event with music, food and giveaways
- ON Farm Fest 2026 date to be announced soon!



It's Onondaga Grown.



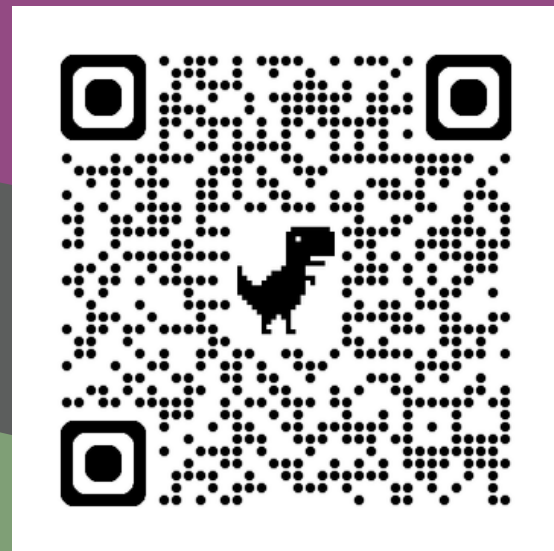
# The Lafayette Apple Festival Countdowns Begins!

Saturday October 10 & Sunday October 11, 2026

# ONONDAGA COUNTY

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