

Tools and Techniques

Environmental Protection Fund and Clean Water / Clean Air Bond Act Grants

New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) administers two grant programs to provide funding for parks and recreational facilities and salt storage barns. The grant programs are the Environmental Protection Fund and the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

Both grant programs provide up to 50% of the funding needed for projects. Grant recipients are required to provide a local match equal to at least 50% of the total project cost. The local match may be in the form of cash, in-kind or donated labor and/or donated materials or real estate.

Both grant programs are very competitive, and historically have provided limited amounts of funding for projects with a few exceptions. Applications historically been solicited annually. Not-for-profit corporations are eligible for grant funding provided the project being funded is open to the public and/or improves the environment.

Legislative Member Item Grants

Each year members the NYS General Assembly and NYS Senate make special appropriations for projects in each legislator's district. Such funding was obtained to partially fund the purchase of the land acquired for the Field of Dreams. Future appropriations for recreational projects may be forthcoming if pursued. This source of funding may also be pursued for the construction of a salt storage building.

Recommended Actions

1. Continue to provide support for the efforts of Chris Martin Field of Dreams, Inc. to obtain funding for the future development of the Chris Martin Field of Dreams public park.
2. Continue to provide support and encourage the Tri-Town Athletic Association to continue to provide organized sports and recreational activities for Alexander youth.
3. Continue to work cooperatively with the Towns of Bethany, Pembroke and Batavia, the Village of Alexander and the Alexander Central School District to provide a summer youth recreation program.
4. Continue to maintain the Alexander Town Hall as an historic building and in good condition.
5. Encourage Town residents to join and/or maintain their memberships in the Alexander Fire Department.
6. Seek grant funding for the construction of a salt storage barn.
7. Work with the U.S. Postal Service to maintain a Post Office in the Town of Alexander.

Chapter Eight

Implementation Strategy

1. Summary of Goals and Recommended Actions
2. Recommended Actions, with Time Frame, Estimated Costs and Responsible Agencies
3. Summary of Recommended Actions Grouped by Time Frame

Summary of Recommended Actions

A. Land Use (Chapter One)

Goals

1. Preserve and protect the rural small town character of the Town of Alexander.
2. Balance new development with the protection of natural resources, agricultural land, open spaces, views and rural character.
3. Encourage the preservation of privately-owned, historically-significant properties.

Recommendations

1. Utilize zoning and subdivision regulations that balance the competing needs of the various land uses in the Town, as represented in the Future Land Use Map.

B. Natural Resources (Chapter Two)

Goals:

1. Protect natural resources such as streams, wetlands and wildlife habitats.
2. Protect the water quality of the aquifer that underlies Alexander.

3. Protect the water quality of Tonawanda Creek.
4. Minimize impacts from flooding on farmland and other property.
5. Protect groundwater, farmland and residents' quality of life from the impacts of mineral extraction.

Recommended Actions:

1. Revise Town zoning regulations to prohibit the establishment of new commercial gravel mines and the expansion of existing mines.
2. Distribute information to landowners along Tonawanda Creek to encourage maintenance of streambanks and reductions in erosion.
3. Work with Genesee County Cooperative Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation District to encourage conservation practices among farmers.
4. Provide training to Town Highway Department personnel in practices that minimize erosion and sedimentation from roadside ditches.
5. Work with Genesee County agencies and neighboring Towns to remove snags and log jams in Tonawanda Creek.

6. Work with NYS DEC to open drainage ditches through existing railroad beds (such as along Peaviner Road)

C. Farmland and Agriculture (Chapter Three)

Goals:

1. Promote the continued viability of agriculture and the retention of farmland
2. Protect landowners' equity in farmland

Recommended Actions:

1. Adopt a local "Right to Farm" law
2. Work with Genesee County to implement the recommendations of the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.
3. Consider potential impacts on agricultural production in the review of development proposals and the extension of infrastructure.
4. Utilize zoning and the subdivision review process to encourage creative development designs that incorporate the retention of farmland.

D. Residential Development and Neighborhoods (Chapter Four)

Goals:

1. Balance residential development in the countryside with the protection of farmland, natural resources and rural character.
2. Encourage an appropriate level of maintenance of residential properties.
3. Maintain low residential densities in the rural, agricultural areas of the Town.
4. Continue to accommodate a variety of housing types in the Town.
5. Maintain a high quality of life for Town residents.

Recommended Actions:

1. Review and revise zoning and subdivision and land separation regulations as needed to protect rural character while accommodating new residential development.
2. Diligently enforce the provisions of the Uniform Code that apply to property maintenance.
3. Continue to use zoning regulations to provide for a variety of housing types in the Town.

E. Transportation and Utilities (Chapter Five)

Goals:

1. Continue to maintain Town roads and drainage ditches in good condition.
2. Reduce the impact of truck traffic on residences along Route 98 and Route 20.
3. Provide public water to households that rely on private wells, while restricting development that may occur in agricultural areas in accord with the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan.
5. Compile and maintain records that document the frequency and severity of flooding and the amount of damage that results.
6. Seek grant funding for projects to reduce or eliminate flooding.
7. Work with the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to remove logjams from the Tonawanda Creek.
8. Provide public water service to the southwest quadrant of the Town and along the Route 98 and Route 20 corridors.

Recommended Actions:

1. Continue to participate in the mutual aid program with the highway departments of adjoining towns and the Genesee County Highway Department.
2. Pursue grant funds and low-interest loan funds for the construction of water distribution mains to serve areas of the Town that rely on private wells that produce insufficient quantities of water and/or poor quality water.
3. Establish and maintain a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan.
4. Establish and maintain a Capital Improvement Fund for accumulating funds to construct capital improvement projects.

F. Tax Base and Economic Development (Chapter Six)

Goals:

1. Continue to support the agricultural industry, including production agriculture and agriculture related businesses.
2. Encourage business and industrial development that is consistent with the rural character of the Town.

Recommended Actions

1. Revise zoning regulations as needed to permit commercial and industrial businesses of the type that are consistent with the rural character of the Town in areas of the Town best suited for such development.
2. Work with Genesee County to implement the County's "Agricultural Development Plan."

G. Government and Community Services (Chapter Seven)

Goals:

1. Continue to provide existing Town services and programs.
 2. Continue to maintain Town facilities in good condition.
 3. Encourage community organizations to continue to provide recreational facilities and programs for Town residents.
 4. Encourage private property owners to continue to permit recreational trails across their properties.
2. Encourage the Tri-Town Athletic Association to continue to provide organized sports and recreational activities for Alexander youth.
 3. Continue to work cooperatively with the Towns of Bethany, Pembroke and Batavia, the Village of Alexander and the Alexander Central School District to provide a summer youth recreation program.
 4. Continue to maintain the Alexander Town Hall in good condition and as a historic building.
 5. Encourage Town residents to join and/or maintain their memberships in the Alexander Fire Department.
 6. Seek grant funding for the construction of a salt storage barn.
 7. Work with the U.S. Postal Service to maintain a post office in the Town.

Recommended Actions:

1. Provide support for the efforts of Chris Martin Field of Dreams, Inc. to obtain funding for the future development of the Chris Martin Field of Dreams public park.

Recommended Actions with Time Frames, Estimated Costs and Responsible Agencies

A. Land Uses

1. Utilize zoning and subdivision regulations that balance the competing needs of various land uses in the Town.

Action:	A.1. Balance completing land uses
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

B. Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

1. Revise Town zoning regulations to prohibit the establishment of new commercial gravel mines and the expansion of existing gravel mines.

Action:	B.1. Prohibit Commercial gravel mining
Time Frame:	Immediately
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	Nominal costs for legal work to prepare zoning amendment.
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

2. Distribute information to landowners along Tonawanda Creek to encourage maintenance of stream banks and reductions in erosion.

Action:	B.2. Distribute stream bank maintenance information
Time Frame:	Medium-term (3-5 years)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	Negligible
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

Implementation Strategy

Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (continued)

3. Work with Genesee County Cooperative Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation District to encourage conservation practices among farmers.

Action:	B.3. Encourage conservation practices among farmers
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board, Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

4. Provide training to Town Highway Department personnel in practices that minimize erosion and sedimentation from roadside ditches.

Action:	B.4. Minimize soil erosion
Time Frame:	Short-term (1-2 years)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	Negligible
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

5. Work with Wyoming County agencies and neighboring Towns to remove snags and logjams in Tonawanda Creek.

Action:	B.5. Remove logjams from Tonawanda Creek
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board and Town Highway Superintendent
Estimated Cost:	\$1,000 - \$3,000 -Cost to prepare FEMA grant application. Project cost—To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Project—FEMA Flood Prevention grant program Grant application— Town Budget

6. Work with NYSDEC to open drainage ditches through existing railroad beds (such as along Peaviner Road)

Action:	B.6. Open drainage ditches
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board and Town Highway Superintendent
Estimated Cost:	To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

C. Agriculture and Farmland

1. Adopt a local "Right to Farm" law.

Action:	C.1. Adopt Right to Farm law
Time Frame:	Immediate (within 1 year)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

2. Work with Genesee County to implement the recommendations of the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.

Action:	C.2. Assist County to implement Farmland Protection Plan
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

3. Consider potential impacts on agricultural production in the review of development proposals and the extension of infrastructure.

Action:	C.3. Evaluate impacts of development on agriculture
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Planning Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

4. Utilize zoning and subdivision review process to encourage creative development proposals that incorporate the retention of farmland.

Action:	C.4. Use zoning to retain farmland
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board and Town Planning Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

Implementation Strategy

D. Residential Development

1. Review and revise zoning regulations and subdivision and land separation regulations as needed to protect rural character while accommodating new residential development.

Action:	D.1. Revise zoning and subdivision regulations
Time Frame:	Long-term (5-10 years) and On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board and Town Planning Board
Estimated Cost:	\$6,000—Zoning Regulations \$2,000 - Subdivision Regulations Cost for consultant or County Planning Dept. to assist revising regulations
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

2. Diligently enforce the provisions of the Uniform Code that apply to property maintenance.

Action:	D.2. Enforce property maintenance regulations
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Zoning Officer
Estimated Cost:	Duties covered by Zoning Officer's salary
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

3. Continue to use zoning regulations to provide for a variety of housing types in the Town.

Action:	D.3. Provide for a variety housing types
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

E. Transportation and Utilities

1. Continue to participate in the mutual aid program with the highway departments of adjoining towns and the Genesee County Highway Department.

Action:	E.1. Participate in highway mutual aid programs.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	Negligible
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

2. Pursue grant funds and low-interest loans for the construction of water distribution mains to serve areas of the Town that rely on private wells that produce insufficient quantities of water and/or poor quality water.

Action:	E.2. Pursue grants and loans to the construct water mains.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	\$5,000—Cost to prepare Small Cities grant application \$2,500—Cost to prepare DWSRF and RD grant/loan applications. Cost of project—To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Preparation of grant application— Town Budget Project Construction: • Small Cities grants • Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grants/loans • Rural Development grants/loans

3. Continue to maintain a Capital Improvement Fund for accumulating funds to construct capital improvement projects.

Action:	E.3. Maintain Capital Improvement Fund
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

4. Establish and maintain a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Action:	E.4. Establish Capital Improvement Plan
Time Frame:	Short-term (1-2 years) and On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board with assistance of Town Planning Bd.
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

Implementation Strategy

Transportation and Utilities (continued)

5. Compile and maintain records that document the frequency and severity of flooding and the amount of damage that results

Action:	E.5. Document flooding severity, frequency and resulting damage.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Highway Superintendent
Estimated Cost:	Negligible (cost of photographs)
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

6. Seek grant funds for projects to reduce or eliminate flooding.

Action:	E.6. Seek grant funds for projects to eliminate flooding.
Time Frame:	Long-term (5-10 years)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	\$1,000—\$3,000 Cost to prepare FEMA grant application Project cost—To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget—Preparation of grant application Project-FEMA Flood Prevention grant program

7. Work with Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to remove log jams form the Tonawanda Creek. (See **B.5—Remove logjams from Tonawanda Creek**)

8. Provide public water service to the southwest quadrant of the Town and along the Route 98 and Route 20 corridors.

Action:	E.8. Provide public water to areas of the Town.
Time Frame:	Long-term (5-10 years)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	\$5,000 - Cost to prepare Small Cities grant application \$2,500—Cost to prepare DWSRF/RD grant/loan applications. Project cost—To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Preparation of grant application – Town Budget Project Construction: • Small Cities grant • Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant/loan • Rural Development grant/loan

F. Tax Base and Economic Development

1. Revise zoning regulations as needed to permit commercial and industrial business development of the type that is consistent with the rural character of the Town in areas of the Town best suited for such development. (See D.1.— *Revise Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.*)
2. Work with Genesee County to implement the County's "Agricultural Development Plan."

Action:	F.2. Assist County to Implement Agricultural Development Plan.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

G. Governmental and Community Facilities and Services

1. Continue to encourage the efforts of the Chris Martin Field of Dreams, Inc. to obtain funding for the future development of the Chris Martin Field of Dreams public park

Action:	G.1. Encourage the Chris Martin Field of Dreams park project
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	Nominal
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

2. Continue to support and encourage the Tri-Town Athletic Association to continue to provide organized sports and recreational activities for Alexander youth.

Action:	G.2. Support Tri-Town Athletic Association
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	\$600—current amount budgeted
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

3. Continue to work cooperatively with the Towns of Bethany, Pembroke and Batavia, the Village of Alexander and the Alexander Central School District to provide a summer youth recreation program.

Action:	G.3. Continue youth summer recreation program.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	\$13,800—current amount budgeted
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

Implementation Strategy

4. Continue to maintain the Town Hall in good condition and as a historic building.

Action:	G.4. Maintain Town Hall in good condition.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board with assistance of Town Highway Superintendent
Estimated Cost:	Negligible
Potential Funding Sources:	Town Budget

5. Encourage Town residents to join and/or maintain their membership in the Alexander Fire Department.

Action:	G.5. Encourage Town residents to join Alexander Fire Dept.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

6. Seek grant funding for the construction of a salt storage barn.

Action:	G.6. Seek grant funds to construct a salt storage barn
Time Frame:	Short-term (1-3 years)
Responsible Agency:	Town Board with assistance of Town Highway Superintendent
Estimated Cost:	Preparation of grant application-\$1,000-\$2,000 Cost of Project- To be determined based on project scope
Potential Funding Sources:	Grant application—Town Budget Salt barn construction -NYS Environmental Protection Fund and Town Budget (50% local matching funds required)

7. Work with the U.S. Postal Service to keep a post office in the Town.

Action:	G.7. Retain post office in the Town.
Time Frame:	On-going
Responsible Agency:	Town Board
Estimated Cost:	None
Potential Funding Sources:	Not Applicable

Summary of Recommended Actions Grouped by Time Frame

ON-GOING

Land Use

- A.1. Utilize zoning and subdivision regulations that balance the competing needs of various land uses in the Town.

Natural Resources

- B.3. Work with Genesee County Cooperative Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation District to encourage conservation practices among farmers.
- B.6. Work with NYSDEC to open drainage ditches through existing railroad beds (such as along Peaviner Road).

Farmland and Agriculture

- C.2. Work with Genesee County to implement the recommendations of the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.
- C.3. Consider potential impacts on agricultural production in the review of development proposals and the extension of infrastructure.
- C.4. Utilize zoning and subdivision review to encourage creative development proposals that incorporate the retention of farmland.

Residential Development and Neighborhoods

- D.1. Review and revise zoning and subdivision and land use separation

regulations to protect rural character while accommodating new residential development. *(Also Long-term)*

- D.2. Diligently enforce the provisions of the Uniform Code that apply to property maintenance.
- D.3. Continue to use zoning regulations to provide for a variety of housing types in the Town.

Transportation and Utilities

- E.1. Continue to participate in the mutual aid program with the highway departments of adjoining towns and the Genesee County Highway Department.
- E.2. Pursue grant funds and low-interest loans funds for the construction of water distribution mains to serve areas of the Town that rely on private wells that produce insufficient quantities of water and/or poor quality water.
- E.3. Continue to maintain a Capital Improvement Fund for accumulating funds to construct capital improvement projects.
- E.4. Establish and maintain a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- E.5. Compile and maintain records that document the frequency and severity of flooding and the amount of damage that results.

Tax Base and Economic Development

- F.2. Work with Genesee County to implement the County's 'Agricultural Development Plan.'

ON-GOING (continued)

Government and Community Services

- G.1. Continue to encourage the efforts of Chris Martin Filed of Dreams, Inc., to obtain funding for the future development of the Chris Martin Field of Dreams public park.
- G.2. Continue to support and encourage the Tri-Town Athletic Association to continue to provide organized sports and recreational activities for Alexander youth.
- G.3. Continue to work cooperatively with the Towns of Bethany, Pembroke and Batavia, the Village of Alexander and the Alexander Central School District to provide summer youth recreation program.
- G.4. Continue to maintain the Alexander Town Hall in good condition and as a historic building.
- G.5. Encourage Town residents to join and/or maintain their memberships in the Alexander Fire Department.
- G.7. Work with the U.S. Postal Service to keep a post office in the Town.

IMMEDIATE (LESS THAN 1 YEAR)

Natural Resources

- B.1. Revise Town zoning regulations to prohibit the establishment of new gravel mines and the expansion of existing gravel mines.

Farmland and Agriculture

- C.1. Adopt a local "Right to Farm" law.

SHORT-TERM (1-2 YEARS)

- B.4. Provide training to Town Highway Department Personnel in practices

that minimize erosion and sedimentation from roadside ditches.

Transportation and Utilities

- E.5. Establish and maintain a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan. *(Also On-going)*

Government and Community Services

- G.6. Seek grant funding for the construction of a salt storage barn.

MEDIUM-TERM (3-5 YEARS)

Natural Resources

- B.2. Distribute information to landowners along Tonawanda Creek to encourage maintenance of stream banks and reductions in erosion.

LONG-TERM (5-10 YEARS)

Natural Resources

- B.5. Work with Wyoming County agencies and neighboring Towns to remove snags and logjams in Tonawanda Creek.

Residential Development and Neighborhoods

- D.1. Review and revise zoning and subdivision and land separation regulations as needed to protect rural character while accommodating new residential development. *(Also On-going)*

Transportation and Utilities

- E.6. Seek grants funds for projects to reduce or eliminate flooding.
- E.7. Work with the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to remove logjams from the Tonawanda Creek. *(See B.5.—Remove logjams from Tonawanda Creek)*

LONG-TERM (continued)

- E.8. Provide public water service to the southwest quadrant of the Town and along the Route 98 and Route 20 corridors.

Tax Base and Economic Development

- F.1. Revise zoning regulations as needed to permit commercial and industrial businesses of the type that are consistent with the rural character of the Town in areas of the Town best suited for such development. *(See D.1.—Revise Zoning and Subdivision and Land Separation Regulations)*