

PRESS RELEASE

Town of Caroga Awarded Grant from New York Department of State Smart Growth Community Planning Program

Caroga, NY — January 5, 2026 — Caroga has been awarded a \$130,500.00 grant from the New York State Department of State (DOS) Smart Growth Community Planning Program to develop the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan*. The Town will contribute \$14,500.00 to the project.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the award as part of the State's Regional Economic Development Council initiative in the Mohawk Valley. The Governor expressed congratulations and said, "I remain grateful for everyone involved in advancing the work of the Regional Economic Development Councils. Their dedication to this ongoing public-private effort has had a transformational impact in every corner of the state."

"Caroga is kicking off the new year right with this grant to develop a Smart Growth plan that will guide land use decisions and improve economic development, housing and quality of life for this Mohawk Valley community well into the future," said New York Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley. "We congratulate the Town for taking this major step in the right direction and look forward to working together toward a more resilient, sustainable and equitable future."

"We thank New York State for this important investment in our community," said Chris Foss, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. "This funding will support community-driven Smart Growth planning to advance targeted reinvestments and to reclaim Caroga as a great destination and attractive place to live."

Caroga's 2025 *Community Survey* offered foundational insights to start the next phase of local planning. "Caroga's 2025 *Community Survey* showed that people see Caroga as a vibrant Town, deeply connected to nature and rich with opportunities to be part of family-friendly experiences. Residents and visitors alike appreciate Caroga's scenic beauty, outdoor recreation, and local charms. A variety of local community events and gathering places bring people together, offering an engaging yet laid-back way of life for all to enjoy."

"The Survey and other preliminary planning point to Caroga's enduring Adirondack wild character, irreplaceable outdoor recreation, and central infrastructure revitalization as guiding themes for the Town's community experience, natural environment, built environment, and economic opportunities for the future."

The *Survey Report* concluded, "As we look ahead together, we are committed to redeveloping the *Town of Caroga Comprehensive Plan* — grounded in community input and Smart Growth strategic principles — to help revitalize the heart of Caroga. Our shared goal is to create vibrant welcoming spaces that attract sustainable investments and growth while honoring the Town's unique natural character and identity."

THE CAROGA PROCESS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

TOWN OF CAROGA
Fulton County, New York

The DOS Smart Growth Community Planning Program funds municipal and countywide comprehensive plans, localized area plans, and zoning ordinances that incorporate the principles of Smart Growth. Smart Growth planning principles include walkable, bikeable and transit-accessible streetscapes; compact, mixed-use development; diversity of housing options at all price points; safe, accessible and inclusive parks and public spaces; age-friendly community design and amenities; climate resilience and greenhouse gas reductions; and strategic open space preservation and natural resource protection, among others.

The program is funded through the State's Environmental Protection Fund, which Governor Kathy Hochul increased from \$300 million to \$400 million in the Enacted Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The Department of State, through the Environmental Protection Fund, provides matching grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities.

The grant funding will bring together residents, stakeholders, professional engineers, and planning consultants to collaborate and shape the community vision and priorities for the future. Public workshops and ongoing outreach opportunities will take place in 2026 and 2027.

Additional information about the planning process and public participation will be announced as the project moves forward.

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**Town of Caroga Secures
\$130,500.00 in State Funding for Comprehensive Planning**



**Department of State
Planning, Development
& Community Infrastructure**