

Adirondack Daily Enterprise
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Adirondack communities to get 'growth grants'

By the Associated Press and Enterprise staff

ALBANY - The state Department of Environmental Conservation is awarding \$500,000 in "smart growth grants" to nine Adirondack projects that link economic development with environmental protection and quality of life in the communities.

Since 2007, the Environmental Protection Fund has included a total of \$4.1 million in grants to promote smart growth initiatives; \$2 million has been earmarked for the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Hamilton County is getting \$123,000 for a parkwide action plan to improve economic conditions called the "Adirondack Park Economic Development Strategy."

Essex County will see \$88,000 worth of training to help community leaders expand their areas zoned as hamlet, the highest-concentration area allowed by the Adirondack Park Agency.

The town of Bolton will receive \$69,000 for a detailed master plan of hiking, biking and snowmobiling opportunities on the west side of Lake George.

Newcomb was awarded \$40,000 for plans to develop state Route 28 as a main street to improve quality of life and accommodate ecotourism. The plans will include site-specific land-use recommendations, a pedestrian-oriented, multi-modal "complete street" plan and a marketing strategy.

Lake Luzerne was awarded \$40,000 to support growth of the nonprofit Adirondack Folk School.

Elizabethtown will get \$37,000 for a comprehensive plan that will, among other things, anticipate pedestrian linkages and public sewer.

The DEC's announcement came with supportive statements from leaders of the APA, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Adirondack Council environmental group and state Assemblywoman Janet Duprey.