

SMART GROWTH

State 'quality community' grants announced

Audubon applauds effort and calls for increased funding

By Alison Heaphy

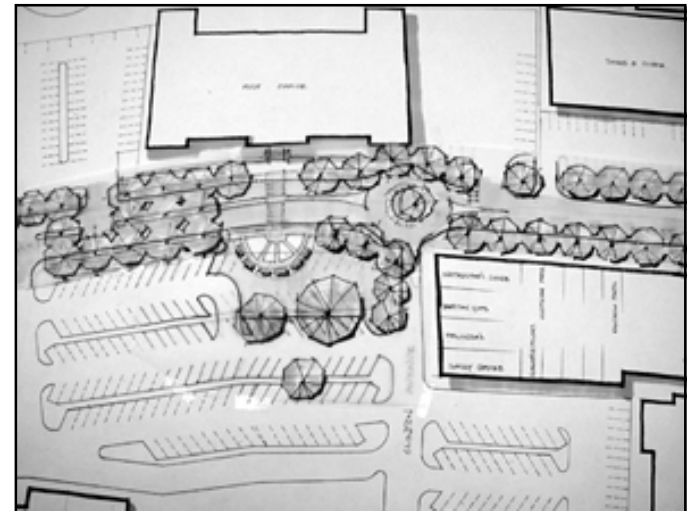
Throughout the month of October, Lieutenant Governor Mary O. Donohue announced the awarding of state grants aimed at improving the quality of life of New York's communities through economic and environmental protection measures under the Quality Communities Demonstration Program, administered by the Department of State (DOS).

"It's vital that we work at the state level with local governments to help improve the quality of life within their communities," said Lt. Governor Donohue, who chairs the governor's task force on quality communities. "The grants we are announcing ... will help communities better plan their future and promote collaboration with other municipalities for the betterment of their citizens."

A total of \$1.3 million in grants was awarded to 28 communities under this initial phase of the Quality Communities Demonstration Program. Earlier this year, a request for applications was issued by DOS, which drew 179 responses from more than 200 municipalities and school districts.

This overwhelming response by communities demonstrates a crucial need for increased funding for local smart growth planning in next year's budget. National Audubon Society of New York State's Smart Growth Working Group has identified increased planning dollars as one of their top priorities for inclusion in Governor Pataki's Quality Communities Task Force report.

The Quality Communities Task Force was created by Governor George E. Pataki in January to study



Courtesy of Vision Huntington

Pictured above are an artist's renderings of the redevelopment of Gerard Street in Huntington. The town was awarded \$45,000 for its Huntington Smart Growth and Community Revitalization Project.

community growth issues throughout the state. The task force will recommend strategies to build upon current economic achievements, while protecting and enhancing environmental resources. It will deliver recommendations to Governor Pataki early next year for a voluntary program of incentives, technical assistance and intermunicipal cooperation, to help communities prepare for the future and to assure that state programs support local visions and values.

"Thanks to Governor Pataki, the quality communities initiative is laying the foundation for a dynamic partnership between local and state government that fosters economic and community development and protects the environment," said Secretary of State Alexander Treadwell, whose office administers the grants program. "These grants will effectively assist local governments throughout New York state in implementing plans that best meet their needs and are sensitive to the concerns of neighboring communities."

The largest single award in the state's demonstration program was \$150,000 to Rockland and Westchester counties for a cooperative planning effort to address growth and natural

resource conservation challenges on both sides of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Another state funded project included \$45,000 awarded to the Town of Huntington for its Huntington Smart Growth and Community Revitalization Project. Huntington Audubon Society played an active role in the effort. Other examples of grants include:

- \$58,900 to Dutchess County on behalf of the Towns of Milan, Stanford, Pine Plains and Clinton to create a "Greenprint" for future economic development and resource protection for communities in the Wappinger Creek Watershed.
- The Town of Pittsford, with co-applicants the City of Rochester, Town of Brighton and Village of Pittsford will receive \$20,000 toward the Monroe Avenue Corridor project called "A Main Street for Monroe County."
- Oswego County will be awarded \$55,000 for its "Salmon River Greenway Corridor Community Enhancement Plan," a community-based plan, encompassing six municipalities, for the future development and conservation of the Salmon River Corridor.
- The Village of Port Henry in Essex

County, in cooperation with the Towns of Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Moriah, Westport, Essex, Willsboro, Chesterfield and the Village of Keeseville, will receive \$40,000 for the "Champlain Valley Non-Motorized Access" project to develop walkways and trails.

- A \$35,000 grant has been awarded to Warren County for implementation of an action plan for "The First Wilderness Heritage Corridor" to aid Warren and Saratoga Counties in the creation of an intermunicipal agency to manage the redevelopment of the river/rail corridor from Saratoga Springs to North Creek.
- A \$51,955 grant to the Town of Amherst to develop a curriculum to instruct and involve youth in local government planning issues.

For more information on the grants awarded, visit Lt. Governor Donohue's website at <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/ltgov/> and look through her press release page for grant announcements. For more information on the Quality Communities Task Force go to <http://www.dos.state.ny.us>.

NASNY welcomes new TRS development officer

Staff Report

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary (TRS) is pleased to welcome Devon M. Daniel, our new development officer to the staff.

Daniel comes to us from The Resource Group, a fund-raising and development consulting firm in Holbrook, New York. He resides in Rocky Point, New York, and is the father of three boys: Dale-Anthony (2 years old) and Taylor and Tyler (twins, 3 months old).

Daniel received his bachelor of science degree in business management from California State University Fullerton in 1993. He spent four years (active duty) in the United States Marine Corps as a radio operator for Force Recon, and is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm), as well as the Somalia Conflict.

Daniel's Audubon responsibilities include identifying and managing all foundation and corporate

support, as well as initializing a major gifts program and other aspects of fund-raising. Daniel brings a welcomed dimension to the sanctuary's programs and the many people and communities we serve.



Devon M. Daniel

2nd Annual Smart Growth Conference Proceedings

The proceedings from the 2000 Smart Growth Conference will be available in December.

To order, call (518) 869-9731 and send \$5 for postage and handling to NASNY, 200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203.