

Town of HENDERSON

Hamlet Downtown Area
A Certified Pro-Housing Community

Jefferson County, NY

NY Forward Application

Round 3
North Country Region REDC

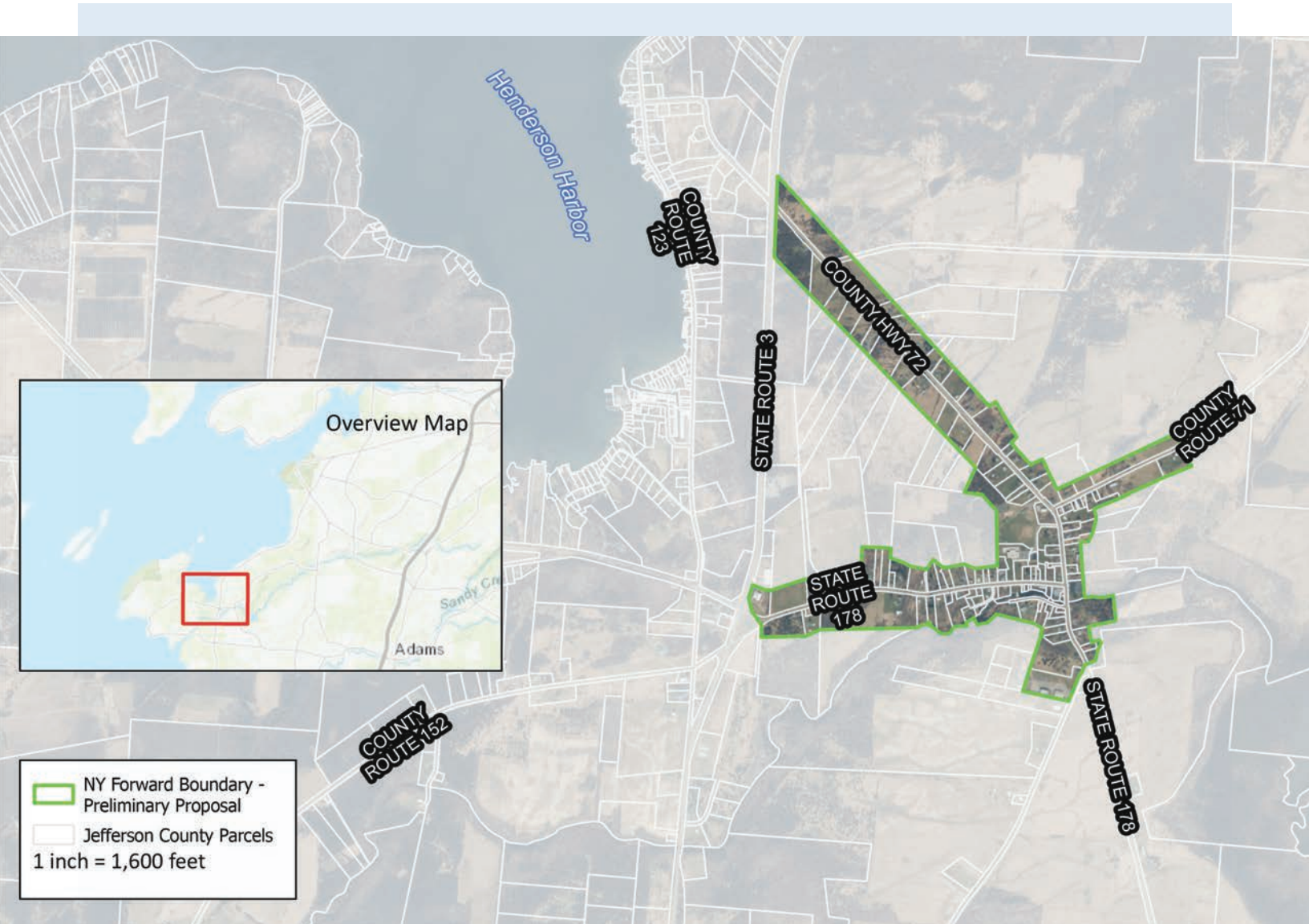
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GEOGRAPHIC AREA & JUSTIFICATION

The downtown area of the Hamlet of Henderson, NY, is found at the junction of two main streets in a T-configuration, approximately 1.5-miles and 0.8-miles long. It contains a mix of local government buildings, a post office, a volunteer fire department and ambulance service, a library, community room, playground, historical society and museum, ball fields, walking trail, small private businesses, a church, senior living facility, and residences. Numerous historic structures, some dating to the early 1800s, are located within the downtown area. A small river (Stony Creek) runs through the downtown. The river includes a scenic waterfall with a public viewing area, and it is a popular fishing location for residents and visitors alike.

The hamlet is the heart of the Town of Henderson.

It contains all the elements of a downtown center — municipal buildings (a town office, post office, library and fire department), churches, a playground, small businesses, multi-story and mixed-use buildings, ball fields, historic structures, recreational facilities and a scenic creek teeming with wildlife.

All of these elements are connected by sidewalks and walking paths. Moreover, the hamlet is within walking

distance of the tourism-centered businesses, restaurants and motels of the harbor district.

Community events are held in the hamlet throughout the seasons. The area contains pocket parks with seating for residents and visitors to relax and enjoy the scenery and small-town atmosphere.

Opportunity is knocking at Henderson’s door.

The town’s population is on the rise (up 13.5% in 30 years), with new families settling in the area to improve

homes and properties, develop businesses and enrich the town’s culture. Yet, there is still room for growth in Henderson, with numerous empty spaces and vacant or historic homes waiting to be revitalized.

These factors, paired with town zoning laws that support mixed commercial and residential uses, and planned public investments — such as a municipal sewer system spanning the complete downtown area — make Henderson an optimal place for NY Forward investment.



VISION STATEMENT

Henderson is a small but vibrant community, and the hamlet is its center of activity as the site of popular social events and essential town services.

We share a commitment to preserving history, cultivating a sense of community and welcoming seasonal visitors. We envision a hamlet that better serves residents in the present and continues to flourish in the future. To maintain Henderson’s unique community character while making it an even better place to live, work and visit, we aim to restore historical landmarks, enhance walkability and increase access to community resources.



PAST & FUTURE INVESTMENT

Recent public and private investment has been made within the hamlet downtown area being targeted by the NY Forward application. This investment, coupled with other planned and future projects, are positive signs to help improve the community and promote economic growth.

Public Investments

The Town of Henderson has employed the Clayton Local Development Corporation (CLDC) to submit a funding application to the NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The Town of Henderson LWRP project directly aligns with the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's 2023 Regional Strategic Plan Update in many ways, including the specific goal of *Placemaking — Create livable, attractive, and connected communities where people want to live, work, visit and invest*. The detailed plan will allow for more deliberate, effective community investment in the hamlet downtown area and connect the area to the waterfront.

Investment To Date: \$7,500 Future Investments: \$150,000

The Town of Henderson has implemented a Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) to install a municipal sewer system throughout the hamlet downtown area, and beyond. This investment is crucial for the future of Henderson and will improve the quality of life of the residents, preserve our natural environment, and allow for creation and expansion of small businesses. Funding for the project is a combination of federal, state, and 0% interest loans by the town and is being finalized. Construction is scheduled to start in 2025.

Investment To Date: \$2 million* Future Investments: \$38 million*

*These investments are town-wide, but include the entire hamlet downtown area.

The Henderson Fire District is a NYS municipality run by a five-member board of commissioners elected by the public. It oversees and, through taxation, financially supports the Henderson Fire Department and Ambulance Squad and the Henderson Firemen's Auxiliary. It owns the Henderson Fire Hall, which is located in the hamlet downtown area and houses the Henderson Free Library and a rentable community room for public and private gatherings. Recent investments include an electronic public information board and floor resurfacing in the community room. Future investments include expansion of truck bays, installation of an exhaust removal system, firefighter laundry facilities, and a decontamination room.

Investment To Date: \$35,000 Future Investments: \$3 million



The Henderson Fire District Building houses the Henderson Fire Department and Ambulance Service, Henderson Free Library, and a rentable community room for public and private gatherings.

Private Investments

Henderson School Apartments is a rent-subsidized senior housing community located in a two-story renovated former school building in the downtown area of Henderson. It contains 23 one-bedroom apartments, three of which are handicapped accessible. The building is owned by Christopher Community, Inc., a not-for-profit development and management company that specializes in promoting senior housing facilities in upstate New York. Recent investments include installation of new windows and replacement of heating boilers to provide more energy efficient operation. Future investments include restoration of the historic front façade facing the main street.

Investment To Date: \$100,000 Future Investments: \$175,000

Ball fields located in the hamlet downtown area are used by local Little League Baseball teams, Henderson’s Summer Recreation Program, and local families and individuals. Recent investments include construction of dugouts by the Henderson Men’s Club and installation of a scoreboard.

Investment To Date: \$18,000

The Henderson Historical Society is located in the hamlet downtown area. The museum campus consists of three buildings — a former Universalist Church, which houses local artifacts and documents; a furnished 1820s log cabin; and the Peters-Stevens Boat Annex, which contains historic boats and nautical artifacts. Recent investments include re-enforcement of the church’s stone foundation, re-roofing the historic cabin and restoration of stained-glass windows. Future investments include replacement of church siding and complete exterior painting.

Investment To Date: \$22,000 Future Investments: \$75,000

Fargo’s Family Market is a small grocery store with gas and clear kerosene; full deli with pre-made and made-to-order items such as pizza, wings, subs and salads, and groceries including fresh meats and produce. It is a community hub and a cornerstone of the downtown area. Recent investments include store renovations, installation of new HVAC equipment and purchase of an adjoining property to enable future expansion. Future investments include exterior painting and demolition of adjoining vacant structure to develop an outdoor seating area along the scenic Stony Creek.

Investment To Date: \$85,000 Future Investments: \$75,000

The Henderson Free Library has been a resource to community members for more than 100 years. It offers patrons of all ages a variety of materials to borrow, including books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines. The library provides public computer access and free Wi-Fi both indoors and outdoors. The library sponsors community events throughout the year and hosts weekly “Story Hour” events for children. Recent investments include a new exterior sign, new computers, desks and furnishings, and new outdoor tables and seating.

Investment To Date: \$27,000





RECENT & IMPENDING JOB GROWTH

In the past, the hamlet of Henderson was a center of commerce where hatmakers, tanners and hoteliers could build thriving businesses, and where the dam in Stony Creek powered a multipurpose mill.

While those days are gone, with ingenuity and investment Main Street can again bustle with businesses that provide residents with both vital services and gainful employment.

SMALL TOWN, BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Transforming Vacancy into Prosperity

This application lists several transformative project opportunities in which private owners plan to renovate existing vacant properties into mixed-use commercial and residential structures. Continued progress

on these projects will create numerous part- and full-time jobs in the hamlet downtown area. For instance, plans for a mixed-use coffee shop renovation at 8907 NY-178 state:

“By the end of our first year, our goal is to employ at least three full-time employees and three part-time employees. As we expand into coffee roasting over the long term, our goal is to have a team of eight to 10 employees that support with all aspects of the shop.”

Seasonality and Tourism

Proximity to the harbor district and Lake Ontario means that, particularly in the summer months, the hamlet downtown area bustles with RV campers, fishermen and boaters arriving from all corners of New York, the United States, and even Canada. Henderson’s population nearly triples in the summer,

and businesses within the hamlet open additional part- and full-time positions. Nearby restaurants, motels, campgrounds and marinas also increase job offerings in summer months.

Rise of Remote Work

The modern economy represents an opportunity for Henderson. The rise of telecommuting and online commerce has allowed career opportunities to flourish wherever there’s reliable internet and cell phone service. Professionals who work from home and small-business owners who market their goods and services online can enjoy the benefits of small-town living while also advancing their careers. Henderson has seen a rise in remote-working residents, and this application seeks funding for a free downtown Wi-Fi network to attract additional work-from-home workers and small businesses.

Made in Henderson: Andrew Leonard

Andrew Leonard is a Henderson native and sole proprietor of Andrew Leonard Composites. From his workshop on Henderson’s Main Street, he fabricates one-of-a-kind automotive and marine parts from carbon fiber, aramid and other composite materials. In fact, the specialized work Andrew does cannot be found within a 200-mile radius. His products, made in Henderson, have been ordered from as far away as Dubai.

Andrew has traveled to work on ground-breaking projects such as *Patriot*, a racing yacht that competed in the America’s Cup; the *Regent Craft*, a Mark Cuban-funded endeavor to build the first electric flying machine for commercial passengers; and *Rocket Lab*, a New Zealand-based private spaceflight company.

No matter where he goes, though, he is dedicated to Henderson.

“In Henderson, I have this closeness to world-class water with the exclusivity and privacy that you don’t get anywhere else. This area is freedom, defined, for me.”



QUALITY OF LIFE

Henderson is a historic, rural community a stone's throw from Lake Ontario. Farming, ranching, hunting, fishing and sailing are popular activities, whether for profit or pleasure. It's a place where roosters crow in the morning and coyotes howl at night.

At first glance the center of Henderson appears quiet and unassuming. Yet, like its peaceful waterways, the joy of social connectedness and multigenerational family life flow strong through the hamlet and imbue it with a special charm. Young families and retirees alike are putting down roots here to enjoy the slower pace of life, safe environment and sense of community Henderson offers.

The source of Henderson's unique quality of life is found in its hard-working, neighborly and civic-minded residents who celebrate together and take care of each other. Volunteerism is alive in this community. The Henderson Firemen's Auxiliary hosts annual Election Day dinners. The Henderson Methodist Church sponsors free senior luncheons. The Henderson Men's Club holds pancake breakfasts

and an annual "pluck-a-duck race" in Stony Creek to raise money for local causes and student scholarships.

Henderson's volunteer fire department and ambulance squad provide 24/7 emergency service. Our ambulance squad responded to 230 calls in 2023 and is the smallest by call volume in the three-county area to be staffed by a paramedic.

Volunteer members staff and maintain a town history museum, historic cabin and boat annex located in the town park. All of these structures contain artifacts donated by townspeople and are evidence of the pride we take in keeping our town's history alive. When the early 1800s lakeside cabin was revealed beneath the walls of a cottage destroyed by fire, volunteers raised funds to dismantle it and put it back together in the town park. Among the many visitors who explore it each year are fourth graders from Belleville Henderson Central School. The students experience a day learning local history through hands-on activities guided by historical society members.

Along with our museum complex, there is much to enjoy in our town park: youth tee-ball and baseball



Children enjoy a bubble-making event at the Henderson Free Library.



Signage welcomes visitors to Henderson's playground.



Green heron hatchlings nest along Stony Creek in Henderson.

games, pick-up basketball, a playground next to a picnic pavilion with barbecue grills, and a walking track. A youth summer recreation program also takes place here, providing children of year-round and seasonal residents socialization, physical activity and arts and crafts.

Quality of life is also enriched by the Henderson Free Library, which has a large selection of books, magazines and DVDs available on site, as well as four counties' worth of library materials through the North Country Library System. The library offers community members free computer access and Wi-Fi. It also hosts free movies, concerts and children's events, including a weekly "Story Hour" and a summer reading program. Next door, in the Henderson community room, residents gather for regular Tai Chi and exercise classes and get together to play bridge or bunco.

Last, but not least, Henderson offers its residents a clean natural environment with fresh, unpolluted air and water. The vibrancy of our town's natural resources and biodiversity are symbolized by nesting bald eagles, osprey, green herons and other species — once rare to see, now commonplace throughout Henderson.

Whether they've lived here their whole lives or only recently set down roots, residents cherish the natural beauty, small-town culture and sense of safety that Henderson provides.



Families enjoy a softball game at Henderson's ball fields.



SUPPORTIVE LOCAL POLICIES

The Town of Henderson has enshrined in local town laws its commitment to providing equal employment opportunities and prohibiting all forms of unlawful harassment and discrimination.

The Town of Henderson is a **Certified Pro-Housing Community**. Its local laws include comprehensive principles to ensure fair housing opportunities for all town residents in the sale or rental of housing, financing or financial assistance, and provision of brokerage services.

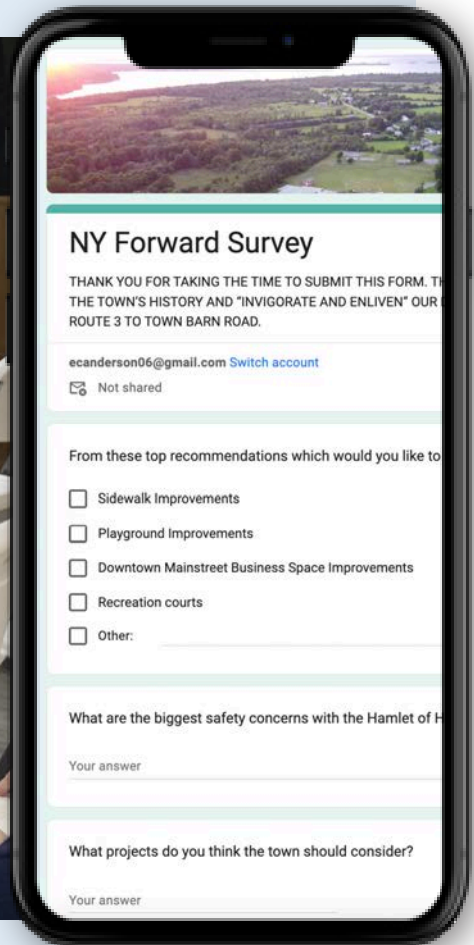
Complete Streets principles are incorporated in local laws that ensure pedestrian and disability-friendly characteristics of sidewalks. Pedestrian easements are specified to ensure safe access to and from roads, parks, schools, etc. Complete Streets principles also specify adequate parking guidelines and standards.

Smart Growth principles are included in the town’s zoning laws. A mix of residential and compatible small commercial uses are encouraged in the hamlet’s downtown area while ensuring neighborhood character and integrity is maintained. There are provisions for multiple dwellings on a site.

Climate Smart Communities principles are incorporated by provisions for small non-commercial wind energy and solar power systems in the town’s zoning laws.

The Town’s **Comprehensive Land Use Plan** is currently undergoing revision with support from Jefferson County planning professionals.





PUBLIC SUPPORT

Multiple public outreach methods were used to gather community input in developing the vision statement and ideas for transformative project opportunities.

The committee created flyers advertising the public outreach meeting, with a QR code linking to an online survey seeking input on transformative projects. Flyers were posted on the town's website and social media, and at the general store, library and post office. Hard copies of the survey were also placed in these locations, alongside collection boxes.

Members of the committee went door-to-door throughout the hamlet, distributing flyers and engaging residents in conversation on ideas for transformative project opportunities.

The town is undergoing a revision to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and members from the NY Forward committee attended a comprehensive plan public outreach meeting on August 29, 2024. The meeting was well attended, and the NY Forward committee ran a table advertising the upcoming NY Forward public outreach meeting, gathering surveys from residents, and answering questions about the NY Forward program.

A public outreach meeting solely dedicated to the NY Forward program was held on September 12, 2024. At this meeting, committee members facilitated development of the vision statement and transformative project opportunities with the attendees.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Project Opportunities



Streetscape, Sidewalks & Bike Lanes

This project will refurbish existing sidewalks to a state that allows less-abled walkers to navigate without risk of falling, and extend existing sidewalks from CR-178 to NY-3 and from CR-72 to the playground. It will also establish an extended shoulder with a bike lane on CR-72 from the end of the sidewalk to NY-3.

Location: Hamlet Downtown

Type: Public

Cost: \$1.5 million

Readiness: 18-24 months following award

Town Signage Improvements

This project will add town-branded wayfinding signage to points of interest, commission a new town welcome sign, install Hometown Heroes signs to honor local veterans, and install historic markers to establish an Interactive History Trail.

Location: Hamlet Downtown

Type: Public

Cost: \$75,000

Readiness: 18-24 months following award

Downtown Wi-Fi Network

This project will establish a free community Wi-Fi network to cover the hamlet downtown area, ensuring Henderson remains competitive in attracting work-from-home workers, small businesses and visitors.

Location: Hamlet Downtown

Type: Public

Cost: \$200,000

Readiness: 18-24 months following award



Town Park & Pavilion Enhancement

This project will make improvements to the existing park pavilion and use creative landscape architecture to harmonize the pavilion, playground and other park elements. It will also improve the walking track to make it erosion resilient.

Location: 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$150,000 **Town Investment:** \$10,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Playground Revitalization

This project will upgrade playground equipment and establish a playscape that celebrates Henderson's geography and is accessible for all.

Location: 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$425,000 **Town Investment:** \$3,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Sports Courts Restoration

This project will resurface existing tennis courts in the downtown area—making them usable for both tennis and pickleball—and link them to the rest of the town park via accessible walking trail. It will also improve ball fields and basketball courts within the town park.

Location: 8871 NY-178 and 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$150,000 **Town Investment:** \$3,500

Readiness: Shovel ready



Community Garden

This project will build a community garden in the town park, offering a shared space for residents to grow fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Raised beds will be used to ensure accessible gardening for all ages and abilities.

Location: 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$25,000

Readiness: 12-18 months following award

Nature Trail Development

This project will develop a small nature trail in the town park, on unimproved land behind the basketball courts, to be used for walking, biking and snowshoeing or cross-country skiing in the winter.

Location: 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$150,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Salisbury's Mills Park & Fishing Access

Salisbury's Mills is the site of a former grist mill along Stony Creek in Henderson's downtown area, now used as a public pocket park. This project will improve access to the park — and fishing access to the creek — with steps, ramps and railings. It will also refurbish picnic tables, benches and the park's gazebo, and restore a safety railing along the dam observation area.

- Location:** 8872-8894 NYS-178
- Type:** Public
- Cost:** \$50,000
- Readiness:** Shovel ready

Historic Murals

This project will commission murals highlighting Henderson's history and heritage to be painted on the sides of the Henderson Post Office and Frontier Communications buildings — both of which abut Salisbury's Mills Park. The Henderson Fire District building will be the site of a third mural.

- Location:** Hamlet Downtown
- Type:** Public & Private
- Cost:** \$75,000
- Readiness:** Shovel ready



Historic murals are proposed for the façades of the Frontier Communications (top) and Henderson Post Office buildings, which abut Salisbury's Mills Park.





Senior Apartments Improvements

This project will make improvements to the Henderson Senior Apartments, housed in the former Henderson Central School, including exterior façade work, improved entrance signage, and restored functionality of exterior clock.

Location: 12541 Harborview Drive

Type: Private Nonprofit

Cost: \$200,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Historical Society Upgrades

This project will assist the Henderson Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, make necessary upgrades to its museum, located in an 1830s former Universalist church. Upgrades include complete re-siding and modernizing of plumbing and electrical systems.

Location: 12581 CR-72

Type: Private Nonprofit

Cost: \$150,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Masonic Temple Rehabilitation

This project will rehabilitate a 19th century former Masonic Lodge into a mixed-use space. Work includes stabilizing the existing historic structure and renovating it into a studio apartment and an open-plan commercial space. Additional housing units will be constructed on the existing rear foundation, keeping with the original character of the original building.

Location: 8899 NY-178

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$400,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



Sears Kit Home Rehabilitation

This project will rehabilitate the exterior and foundation of an early Sears, Roebuck & Co. "Kit Home," built in 1894.

Location: 12619 CR-72

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$350,000

Readiness: 18-24 months following award

Main Street Mixed-Use Improvements

The following four projects seek to rehabilitate and expand rental unit and small business properties along NY-178 (Main Street) in the hamlet downtown area. These projects will increase available housing, business space and improve the overall appearance of the hamlet.



8942 NY-178

This project will demolish a vacant home to expand Fargo's Family Market, adding an ice cream and coffee shop, improved parking and fuel access, and a pocket park along Stony Creek.

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$75,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



8903-8905 NY-178

This project will renovate the second apartment in a two-unit property, bringing it from disrepair to affordable housing. It will also improve the exterior of the building, which faces Main Street. Work includes installation of electrical wiring, insulation and Sheetrock, as well as replacement of siding and windows.

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$50,000

Readiness: Shovel ready



8907 NY-178

This project will renovate an existing single-family home into a mixed-use residential/commercial space. The Main Street-facing ground floor will be developed into a cafe and coffee roaster, wine bar, and gathering place for classes and clubs. Upper floors will be restructured into apartment units.

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$150,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready



8812 NY-178

This project will rehabilitate a former auto repair shop and remediate environmental issues, readying the site for potential sale or new commercial activity. This project was requested by numerous community members during public forums and in the online NY Forward Survey.

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$150,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready



Mixed-Use Agribusiness Expansion

This project will expand an existing apiary into a mixed-use agribusiness, building several energy-efficient short-term rental cabins, as well as a coffee and gift shop for selling honey and local produce.

Location: 12743 CR-72

Type: Private Owner

Cost: \$200,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready



Fire District Building Improvements

This project will expand and improve the Henderson Fire District Building. Improvements include adding community office spaces, expanding the library, refreshing carpets and interior paint, repairing and replacing windows, installing ADA-compliant doors, security cameras and a 24/7 drop box for library returns.

Location: 8939-8943 NY-178

Type: Private Nonprofit

Cost: \$700,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready

Improved Town Parking

This project will build a central, walkable parking area near the town park for improved access to the hamlet business district. The parking area will include electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Location: 12601 CR-72

Type: Public

Cost: \$175,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready



Town Branding and Marketing

This project will hire a branding consultant to propose and develop cohesive town branding to apply to all proposed improvements — murals, signage, façade improvements, etc. — that captures the “heart” of Henderson. It also includes hiring a landscape architect to embody this brand in the town’s parks and streetscapes.

Location: Hamlet Downtown

Type: Public

Cost: \$300,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready

Themed Façade

This project will establish and install a historic-themed façade for buildings in the hamlet downtown area, including but not limited to: the Henderson Fire District Building, Fargo’s Family Market, Henderson Tackle Shop and apartment complex, Frontier Communications building, and Henderson Post Office.

Location: Hamlet Downtown

Type: Public and Private

Cost: \$400,000

Readiness: Shovel Ready





ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

Henderson's fully functioning Town Board has five members, all of whom have professional career backgrounds including extensive experience in municipal, nonprofit and corporate organizations. Multiple board members have extensive engineering and project management experience, as well as current and previous executive level positions.

The demographics of our community comprises a wealth of retired professional residents who have the time and expertise to serve on committees that can support various project implementations and put in place processes and procedures to ensure continued maintenance and operation post-construction.

Additionally, a number of grassroots community organizations exist in Henderson with dedicated members who volunteer their time and talents toward bettering our town. Some community organizations who have established records of public service within the hamlet downtown area include the Henderson Garden Club, Henderson Men's Club, Henderson Fire Department and Ambulance Squad, Henderson Firemen's Auxiliary, and the Henderson Recreation Commission.



Members of the Henderson Men's Club and members of the Town of Henderson Highway Department work together in a local cemetery to reset and clean important monuments in the settler history of Henderson.

LETTERS *of Support*

NYS Senator Mark Walczyk, 49th Senate District
NYS Assemblyman Scott Gray, Assembly District 116
Henderson Fire District
Henderson Free Library
Henderson Men's Club
Henderson Historical Society
Henderson Business & Community Council

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



SENATOR MARK C. WALCZYK
49TH SENATE DISTRICT

September 17, 2024

ALBANY OFFICE
302 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
TEL (518) 455-3438
FAX (518) 426-6740

DISTRICT OFFICE
317 WASHINGTON ST., RM. 418
WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601
TEL (315) 782-3418
FAX (315) 782-6357

FULTON COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
223 WEST MAIN ST., SUITE B10
JOHNSTOWN, NY 12095
TEL (518) 762-3733

E-MAIL: WALCZYK@NYSENATE.GOV

North Country Regional Economic Director, Stephen Hunt
Dulles State Office Building
Watertown, New York 13601

North Country Regional Co-Chair, James McKenna
Dulles State Office Building
Watertown, New York 13601

North Country Regional Co-Chair, Dr. Kathryn Morris
Dulles State Office Building
Watertown, New York 13601

Dear Mr. Hunt, Mr. McKenna, and Ms. Morris;

Downtown Henderson is a charming waterfront community nestled on the eastern shores of Lake Ontario in Jefferson County. It is renowned for its excellent fishing opportunities and is a popular destination for anglers and hosts several fishing charters and guided tours. Applying for the NY Forward Grant would present a transformative opportunity to unlock the full potential of this regional gem.

If secured to NY Forward Funds will assist in a list of potential projects including repairing of sidewalks and restoring of historical buildings. In addition, vacant houses would be refurbished and more Stony Creek fishing access points would be created.

I support downtown Henderson in their mission to preserve and protect their community. If you have any questions, please reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Schenk".

Michael J. Schenk
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator Mark Walczyk
New York SD-49

MJS/cg



SCOTT A. GRAY
Assemblyman 116th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

COMMITTEES
Aging
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Energy
Health
Higher Education

Regional Director Stephen Hunt
Regional Co-Chair James McKenna
Regional Co-Chair Dr. Kathryn Morris

September 17th, 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for the Town of Henderson's 2024 NY Forward program
Application**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Town of Henderson, this letter is a token of my support for their application to the 2024 NY Forward program. As a member of the Assembly, I am deeply committed to supporting this local community in their efforts to foster sustainable development as they look toward the future. The successful revitalization of the Town of Henderson's downtown hamlet is key towards transforming their community, as well as improving their residents' quality of life. If successful in obtaining the awarded funds of \$4.5 million, the Town intends to move forward with several projects, with the laudable goal of helping to boost new businesses while developing those in existence, expanding available rental housing units, and improving the livelihood of residents. Many of the tentative projects which the Town would undertake are outlined below.

A number of the proposals would focus on community and recreational infrastructure. For the community, the Town proposes the renovation of existing housing to prepare such units for mixed use, as well as restoring available rental units. Many of the Town of Henderson's historical buildings would also be renovated and preserved in order to retain the community character of the downtown area. Subsequently, murals would be crafted on various buildings depicting scenes from the town's rich and diverse history. This would also serve the community by providing summer job opportunities for artistically talented local school students. The Town would also improve and expand sidewalks and create widened shoulders to enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists downtown. This would also promote connectivity between the hamlet and harbor areas.



SCOTT A. GRAY
Assemblyman 116th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

COMMITTEES
Aging
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Energy
Health
Higher Education

For community recreation, the Town proposes repairing and strengthening the resiliency of the walking track to safely maintain the walking surface following heavy rain events. They also propose restoring existing tennis courts to usable, safe conditions while redeveloping them for both tennis and pickleball. Lastly, the Town would establish pocket parks adjoining the local Stony Creek to enhance and promote outdoor gatherings.

A community such as the Town of Henderson is only able to thrive when popular spaces like their downtown area promote a healthy mix of business, residential, and recreational venues. The residents' quality of life will be significantly enhanced by these places, as well as by the safeguard of such transportation as walking and cycling. I strongly support this application.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Gray
Member of Assembly
116th District

HENDERSON FIRE DISTRICT
8939 State Route 178, P.O. Box 269, Henderson, N.Y. 13650

Board of Commissioners:

Chairman Howard G. Furman Jr. * Shayne Morris * John F. Taylor * Barry L. Waite * Jody L. White

Staff:

Tammy Clark, secretary/treasurer * Eric C. Anderson, operations coordinator

October 4, 2024

Mr. Stephen Hunt, North Country Regional Director, Empire State Development
Mr. James McKenna, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dr. Kathryn Morris, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

Director Hunt and Chairs McKenna and Morris,


I am writing on behalf of the Henderson Fire District to express its support for the Town of Henderson's NY Forward grant program application.

Henderson is an optimal candidate for the NY Forward program. Situated near the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, our historic downtown area is safe, scenic and poised for economic growth and development. Funding through NY Forward would allow our town to make improvements necessary for this development to occur, including: restoring historic buildings, enhancing parks and public areas, improving accessibility for pedestrians, and other enhancements.

We feel strongly that these projects will enhance the lives of Henderson residents, foster a stronger sense of community, stimulate new business and tourism, and improve public safety. The Henderson Fire District oversees and financially supports a volunteer fire department and ambulance service, so we are particularly excited about this initiative's potential to attract new residents — and potential volunteers — to our town.

The Henderson Fire District fully supports the Town of Henderson's NY Forward application, and we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Howard G. Furman Jr.
Board of Commissioners Chairman
Henderson Fire District

Henderson Free Library

Serving Henderson and surrounding communities since 1922

P.O. Box 302 • Henderson, NY 13650
Phone: (315) 938-7169 • Fax: (315) 938-7038 • henlib@ncls.org

September 25, 2024

To the NY Forward Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Henderson's NY Forward application.

Henderson would benefit greatly from the NY Forward Award. Henderson is a small, rural community and the community would benefit greatly from being revitalized. If awarded I know that Henderson would use the money to clean up and make necessary improvements to the area such as extending the sidewalks to make the area more walkable.

We here at the Henderson Free Library feel that the revitalization of Henderson will make a positive impact on the community. The Henderson Free Library fully supports the efforts of the town to seek this award. The opportunity to revitalize and improve Henderson will only bring positive changes to the area and provide more resources to the citizens and visitors of Henderson.

Sincerely,



Ashley Morrison
Library Director

The Henderson Free Library is a 501 C (3) organization: Tax Exempt # 226954

Henderson Free Library



Since 1922



P.O. Box 44
Henderson Harbor, NY 13651

October 2, 2024

Mr. Stephen Hunt, North Country Regional Director, Empire State Development
Mr. James McKenna, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dr. Kathryn Morris, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street

Director Hunt and Chairs McKenna and Morris,

The Henderson Men's Club is pleased to express its support for the Town of Henderson's NY Forward grant program application.

Our club was founded in 2014 with a straightforward mission in mind: *Give back to the community*. Our approximately 25 members are men of all ages from the Town of Henderson who volunteer their time and talents to bettering our town in a variety of ways. We have served as road marshals during local events, repaired old gravestones in town cemeteries, built dugouts for our community ball field, and more. We host annual fundraisers that not only bring our community together, but also raise dollars for our public works and two scholarships for graduating seniors at Belleville Henderson Central School.

The transformative projects included in our town's NY Forward application align with the Henderson Men's Club's mission and will better the lives of Henderson residents. Most importantly, these projects are informed by members of our public, who are motivated to achieve them.

We proudly support the Town of Henderson's application and we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Preston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Preston" clearly legible.

Roger Preston
President
Henderson Men's Club



September 17, 2024

Mr. Stephen Hunt, North Country Regional Director, Empire State Development
Mr. James McKenna, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dr. Kathryn Morris, Co-Chair, North Country REDC
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

Director Hunt and Chairs McKenna and Morris,

I write today on behalf of Henderson Historical Society, housed in the former First Universalist Church, to express our organization's support for the Town of Henderson's application for funding through New York State's NY Forward program.

Henderson's downtown area is rich in local history, with many homes and structures, including the First Universalist Church, dating to the early 1800s. Our hamlet's natural beauty and local businesses and organizations – like our Historical Society – enrich the lives of our neighbors. The NY Forward award would make it possible for our town to revitalize and preserve these existing assets while reinvigorating our small-town economy with transformative projects.

The proposed projects aim to improve accessibility for all our residents as well as those visiting our town, to restore historical buildings, to enhance existing parks and recreational spaces and establish new ones, and to highlight our unique history with signs and murals.

We feel strongly that these projects will not only enhance the lives of Henderson residents, but will promote pride in our community, stimulate tourism, strengthen local commerce, and improve walkability and safety. Henderson Historical Society is very excited about the preservation and revitalization of our historic town buildings as well as the overall visual improvement of our town's beauty. We are proud to support the Town of Henderson's application and ready to assist with the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Anderson', written in a cursive style.

Eric Anderson
President
Henderson Historical Society



10-10-2024

Regional Director Stephen Hunt
Regional Co-Chair James McKenna
Regional Co-Chair Dr. Kathryn Morris

The Henderson Business & Community Council; Henderson, New York is greatly pleased to support the town of Henderson's application for the NY Forward award. This award will certainly result in a significant improvement in quality of life as well as the economic development of the downtown hamlet area and the larger town.

This investment is expected to diversify the recreation opportunities within the town and support the interconnectedness of the waterfront harbor area with the hamlet downtown mixed-use area.

A survey of the community by the local college Center for Community Studies in December 2020 showed that the greatest level of support for increasing are: "coffee/sandwich shops" (76% respond increase), "restaurants/bars" (74%), and "tourism/recreational development" (73%).

There is very large support for decreasing the amount of "abandoned and neglected homes" with a most common response of 64% indicating decrease.

The diverse proposed transformative project opportunities that this award would support, directly aligns with the survey results.

As a representative of the local business and investment community in Henderson, The Business and Community Council is enthusiastic about the contributions that an award from NY Forward would make for our community and the value it would bring to current and future residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Smith".

Gail Smith
President
Henderson Business and Community Council

Po Box 438
Henderson Harbor, New York 13651
Hbcc4386@gmail.com