

Town of Pompey, Onondaga County

The Town of Pompey is located in Onondaga County, within the southwest portion of the Oneida Lake watershed, and covers 66.4 square miles of land. According to Census data, 5,317 people lived in Pompey in 2000 and the town had experienced a 16% population increase between 1990 and 2000. The median age in 2000 was 39 years and the average household size was three persons. Median household income in 2000 was \$59,190. There were 2,272 housing units in the town, 17% of which had been built between 1990 and 2000. Pompey provides many recreation opportunities, including two golf courses, Pratts Falls, and Highland Forest. US Route 20 (east-west highway) and NYS Route 91 (north-south highway) intersect in Pompey. The town is very rural and development is restricted to a small portion of the municipality.

The Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) is the principal source of retail water service for Onondaga County outside of the City of Syracuse. Within the Oneida Lake watershed OCWA's wholesale and retail service area includes the Towns of Cicero, Dewitt, Manlius, Onondaga, Lafayette, Pompey, and the Villages of East Syracuse, Minoa, Fayetteville and Manlius. The eastern part of Onondaga County drains to Oneida Lake through the Chittenango, Limestone, and Butternut Creek subwatersheds. The east and west branches of Limestone Creek flow north through Pompey. The town is located in the Appalachian Upland region. Agriculture and forestry are the largest land uses and dairying is the principal type of farming. Most of the forest acres are commercial, and the majority of the acres occur in small, scattered woodlots. Forests in Pompey are mostly natural and reforested areas owned by the county, state, or private landowners.

Assessment Results

Town of Pompey	Full or Partial Implementation	Not Applicable
1. Development - total	28 of 42 (67%)	0
1a. Existing	10 of 20 (50%)	0
1b. New and substantial redevelopment	18 of 22 (82%)	0
2. Forestry / Agriculture - total	1 of 12 (8%)	0
2a. Forestry	0 of 10 (0%)	0
2b. Agriculture	1 of 2 (50%)	0
3. Waterways / Wetlands - total	14 of 16 (88%)	1
3a. Modified waterways	9 of 10 (90%)	1
3b. Wetlands and Riparian Area Mgmt/Restoration	5 of 6 (83%)	0
4. Marinas - total	0 of 48 (0%)	48
4a. Existing Marinas	0 of 20 (0%)	20
4b. New Marinas	0 of 18 (0%)	18
4c. Existing and New Marinas	0 of 10 (0%)	10
5. Roads and Bridges - total	21 of 26 (81%)	1
5a. New Roads and Bridges	5 of 6 (83%)	0
5b. Existing Roads and Bridges	12 of 13 (92%)	0
5c. New & Existing Roads & Bridges	5 of 7 (71%)	1
OWTS	6 of 7(86%)	7

54 parcels in Pompey are part of the Syracuse Urban Area MS4 Stormwater program. Several land use tools are in place to protect water resources, such as subdivision regulations, site plan review, and zoning. The Pompey Planning Board and code enforcement officer routinely review stormwater plans. Pompey also has a Conservation Advisory Council that provides advice to municipal officials. Floodplain and wetland controls are in place and stormwater drainage laws are defined in the subdivision regulations. Subdivisions are required to be included in a stormwater district. Pompey occasionally shares programs with neighboring jurisdictions and has a Comprehensive Plan. A Planning Reference Guide, compiled in 1993, defines goals for land use, erosion and sedimentation guidelines, stormwater management, and open space preservation.

Summary and Recommendations

The CNY Regional Planning Board and SWCD are working with the NYS DEC to help the town plan and implement the Phase II Stormwater Permit Program, including the development of land use and regulatory controls to reduce erosion and sedimentation. The Pompey code enforcement department is responsible for enforcing the Phase II Stormwater Program regulations. The Pompey Town Board is currently discussing new stormwater text amendments in response to the MS4 requirements. In addition to standard building permits, each project proposal must be accompanied by a Siltation and Erosion Control plan, which is used to hold the developer/construction company responsible for implementing proper erosion and sedimentation control measures.

Based on the assessment process, the CNY RPDB recommends that Pompey adopt overlay zones for portions of the town situated in the MS4 Syracuse Urban Area. An overlay district is a zoning tool that identifies certain areas of a municipality based on criteria such as soils and wetlands. An overlay district for these areas would have specific regulations that are different from the rest of the zoning law. As the name suggest, these districts overlay the current zoning designation (such as commercial, residential, etc.). The underlying zoning and all of its regulations remain in place and the overlay district adds another set of regulation processes to help protect these sensitive areas. An example of an environmental protection overly district is found in Appendix G.

Municipalities have authority and primary responsibility for local roadway, bridge, and drainage maintenance. The CNY RPDB recommends that municipalities continue to implement stormwater controls and provide educational opportunities to update highway and public works department staff on current road, bridge, and drainage BMPs. Additional recommendations are found in a section titled “Road, Drainage Way, and Bridge Recommendations” (IV B) of the introductory narrative.

Municipal Contacts

- Lloyd Sutton, Code Enforcement Officer
- Paul Sheneman, Town Engineer
- Carole Marsh, Town Supervisor
- Ted Spencer, Town Attorney

Local Laws Reviewed

- Planning Reference Guide, Town of Pompey
- Subdivision regulations
- Zoning regulations and site plan review
- Pompey zoning ordinance