

## **2025: A Year of Progress and Achievement in the Town of Clarence**

The Town of Clarence made meaningful strides throughout 2025, with significant accomplishments that strengthened public safety, expanded recreational opportunities, supported economic development, and enhanced overall quality of life for residents.

One of the most visible areas of progress was the continued investment in Clarence's parks system. Major improvements moved forward at Fogelsonger Park, where the new pavilion opened and upgraded playing surfaces were completed, providing expanded recreational space for families, athletes, and community groups. Town Place Park also saw significant upgrades, including a new pavilion and playing services that were extensively used throughout the spring, summer, and fall. These investments reinforced Clarence's reputation for maintaining one of the strongest parks systems in Erie County.

Trail connectivity was another major achievement in 2025. With the completion of the Northwind Trail extension through New York State grant funding, residents gained safer and more convenient access to the Town's growing trail network. The new connection brings the Peanut Line Trail closer to Fogelsonger Park and the Harris Hill area while allowing Northwoods residents to access trails without traveling on busy roadways. These improvements support walkability, recreation, and resident safety.

Clarence also celebrated the first full year of operation for the Clarence Center Pocket Park. The Duchsherer and Baker families head up the Music in Clarence Center series there which is a popular event that draws hundreds to Clarence Center. These events helped strengthen Clarence Center as a vibrant gathering place while supporting local vendors and encouraging foot traffic in the area.

Accessibility and inclusion were key priorities in 2025 as well. The Town, working in partnership with the Clarence Lions Club, secured grant funding for Clarence's first all-inclusive playground. Planning and fundraising continues throughout this year, laying the groundwork for a half acre playground at Town Place Park that will provide children of all abilities with safe and engaging play opportunities.

Public safety and municipal infrastructure also saw important progress. Clarence continued investments in road maintenance, equipment upgrades, and facility planning to ensure reliable services for residents. Design work began to convert the former Highway Garage into Clarence's first Recreation Center, a project that will ultimately provide indoor athletic space, program areas, and league facilities for residents of all ages. The plan is also to move events from the Club House like the Art's and Craft Show to the larger double gym floor at the Rec Center.

Economic development remained strong in 2025, highlighted by continued commercial growth and investment along key corridors. The arrival of Trader Joe's was a particularly notable milestone, reflecting Clarence's appeal as a destination for both residents and businesses. New development and reinvestment contributed to a strong local tax base while preserving the Town's suburban character.

Throughout 2025, Clarence Town government remained focused on thoughtful growth, community safety, and long-term planning. From park improvements and trail expansions to economic development and recreation planning, the Town continued to invest in projects that directly benefit residents today while positioning Clarence for a strong future.

As the Town looks ahead to 2026, the accomplishments of 2025 reflect a clear commitment to maintaining high quality services, safe neighborhoods, and a community that continues to thrive.

The accomplishments of 2025 provide momentum as Clarence looks ahead to 2026. With a focus on safety, quality services, and long term planning, the Town remains committed to moving forward together.