

STEPS

Seneca Towns Engaging People for Solutions



OUR JOURNEY

A timeline of community impact and progress

PHASE 1 & 2: 2014 - 2015

- Residents used Asset Mapping findings to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan
- Institutional & Associational partnership were formed
- Physical space enhancements included adding outdoor tables, benches, a horse shelter & hitching area
- Residents received Lead Paint removal training; 3 large-scale painting projects completed the first of the three Community Gardens established
- Lodi Food Pantry started as Resident Health Promotion Project (RHPP) walking, exercise, dance, nutrition / cooking activities, & the paint the 4 Town Project
- An Annual Day of Service was initiated & STEPS Wellness Corners were introduced at local festivals
- A Community Art Series was launched with six murals completed in the next phase

PHASE 3: 2016 - 2018

- Hands-on Lodi supported four community collectives with beautification projects
- Local residents taught seven intergenerational classes through STEPS Communiversity
- South County Volunteer Transportation Corps Pilot Project was launched
- Residents, especially teens engaged in the literacy/book box project, eight book boxes were placed throughout the four towns to distribute free books
- Emergency House Numbers Signs Project launched; 3,000 signs installed in the STEPS neighborhood
- Food, Fun, and Family Series launched as RHPP
- A walking/steps competition was introduced
- A successful Health and Wellness Fair was held
- NYSEDA energy workshops & the South Seneca Solar Project were launched

2017

- Residents took action to advocate for preserving the scenic beauty & clean environment
- Community gardens catalyzed complementary activities, e.g., Art & English Language Arts
- Microenterprise program launched & business panel discussions offered twice annually
- Literacy initiatives, including STEPS-sponsored movies & literacy nights, encouraged reading across all age groups

2018

- Environmental sustainability emerged as an area of interest, STEPS hosts Sustainability Forums & extreme weather workshops
- Following devastating floods, residents played an active role in community recovery efforts
- The Green Team was launched to address waste management & composting
- Food security identified as an emerging issue; Food 4 All Lodi Pantry was awarded a Greater Rochester Health Foundation Community Health Grant
- Throughout Phase 3 STEPS hosted AmeriCorps volunteers, Cornell students, & a Romulus High School exchange student from Mexico

7150 Main Street, P.O. Box 621, Ovid, NY 14521

(607) 241-1220

stepscommunity@pivotalphp.org



www.senecasteps.org

www.facebook.com/NYStepsProject

[@seneca_steps](https://www.instagram.com/seneca_steps)

PHASE 4: 2019 - 2021

- Supported the launch of the Ovid Farmers Market & sponsored MasterFood Preservers
- Hosted a BioChar learning event at the Romulus White Deer Association
- Participated in the Radically Rural Conference held in New Hampshire
- Hosted the "Be in the Know" program with the Paleontological Research Institution - covering extreme weather, climate science, and social issues, followed by community Kitchen Table discussions to encourage deeper conversation and local engagement

2020

- Adapted to accommodate the pandemic, virtual meetings, live Facebook classes, resident check-in calls, pen pal projects, & videos
- Created "fun packs" to help keep youth mentally & physically active during COVID-19
- Awarded \$2,000 PPE mini-grants to support local small businesses
- Hosted a Complete Streets Workshop & collaborated with partners to secure Creating Healthy Schools and Communities grant funding
- Launched a film & discussion series about issues impacting the Earth
- Sponsored Introductory Mindfulness Meditation Series
- Supported the formation of a local Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting

2021

- The South Seneca Composting Task Force formed & worm bin composting launched at one of the community gardens
- Helped promote HeatSmart FLX South, offering free home energy assessments
- Sponsored another Watch/Read/Listen event featuring the film Other Side of the Hill
- Hosted an Emergency Preparedness Workshop
- Ovid Village Park playground: added ADA swings & a toddler sit and spin

PHASE 5: 2022 - 2026

- WFD Youth Bureau funds received to enhance fitness & play for youth engagement
- Since 2014, 121 Health Promotion Projects have implemented various forms of yoga and meditation, themed walks (history, tree, bird), community art, garden & more

2023

- Supported Interlaken Grange pill bottle collection & the four towns of events
- Presented at the annual NYS Public Health Association & other staff development included ongoing (since launch)
- Asset-based Community Development Technical Advisement
- Over \$100,00 invested in 35 microenterprises through loans & grants

2024

- The Village of Interlaken developed a plan for Water Tower Park; with a \$12,500 Emil Muller grant, a pavilion was constructed & over 30 trees were planted in parks & playgrounds
- Received the Community Vision Award from the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute for giving voice to rural health & well-being

2025

- Post the 2025 Ovid block fire, the STEPS office returned to the Ovid Health Center
- Pivotal secured \$24,000 to purchase grocery food vouchers for 57 residents directly affected by the fire

2026

- Participatory Project evaluation feedback confirms STEPS is making a significant impact on community health improvement and well-being, & residents expressed the importance of the project

Creative Movement:
Local resident Andi Pisacano teaches youth how to be active through creative dancing.



Interlaken Community Garden



Balance:
The Romulus Summer Recreation Program learned about balancing all aspects of health.