

VILLAGE OF HERKIMER

120 Green Street, Herkimer, NY 13350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Village of Herkimer Launches DRI Implementation Committee, Kicking Off Design for Myers Park and Streetscape Improvements

New committee brings together village officials, residents, and business leaders to guide \$4.8 million in downtown revitalization projects funded by the state's \$10 million DRI award

HERKIMER, N.Y. --- The Village of Herkimer has officially launched the Implementation Committee for its Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) projects, marking a major step forward in the community's plan to revitalize Myers Park and enhance the streetscapes of downtown Herkimer. The implementation committee held its kick-off meeting on August 20, 2026, bringing together village leaders, stakeholders, business owners, and the project's design consultant to begin the next chapter of the DRI process: turning years of community planning into real, on-the-ground improvements.

A Community Vision Years in the Making

Herkimer was named the Mohawk Valley Region's winner of Round Seven of the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) in early 2024, receiving a \$10 million award from Governor Kathy Hochul to reinvigorate its downtown. Led by Herkimer's Local Planning Committee (LPC), and informed by extensive public engagement, a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) was created that identified a slate of public, private, and non-profit projects to guide the DRI investment.

Two projects, the revitalization of Myers Park and Main Street enhancements, were awarded DRI implementation funding and are now entering active design with a combined budget of approximately \$4.8 million, a significant share of the Village's DRI portfolio.

Revitalizing the “Heart of Herkimer” and Improving the Look and Feel of Main Street

Myers Park, the only public park in downtown Herkimer, is a primary community gathering space hosting music, holiday celebrations, and other events for decades. The DRI project will focus on improvements to pedestrian circulation, restoration of existing features, and the introduction of new amenities, creating an inviting public space worthy of its position as the center of community life. The overall intent is to keep Myers Park as it has been for decades while incorporating modest improvements to enhance the visitor experience.

The companion streetscape project will transform the pedestrian experience throughout downtown. Potential improvements include new sidewalks and crosswalks, street tree plantings, traffic-calming measures such as sidewalk ‘bump outs’ to decrease the length of crossings for pedestrians, street planters, decorative lighting, and bicycle accommodations. The project will extend along Main Street from Court and Church Streets (the Historic Four Corners) to the intersection of East and West Albany Streets, as well as along Park and Green Streets, creating safer, more attractive pedestrian connections throughout the downtown district.

A Committee Representing the Whole Community

The newly formed Committee will guide the projects through design and construction, reviewing progress, weighing in on key decisions based on outreach performed by the LPC, and helping ensure the work stays true to the vision set forth in the Strategic Investment Plan. Committee members include:

- Mayor Mike Jory, Village of Herkimer
- Justin Cristman, Village of Herkimer Department of Public Works
- Erin Kelley, Village of Herkimer Board of Trustees
- Chris Connolly, Local Historian and former Local Planning Committee member
- Jenn Parmon, Herkimer Business and Professional Association
- John J. Piseck, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency
- Dr. Renee Shevat, Former DRI Local Planning Committee Chair and local business owner

The committee is supported by the Village's design and engineering consultant, Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR), along with representatives from the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS).

A Word from the Mayor

"This is an exciting next step for the Village of Herkimer and for everyone who has helped shape our downtown vision through the DRI process," said Mayor Mike Jory. "With the Implementation Committee in place and design work beginning for Myers Park and our Main Street improvements, we are moving from planning to action. These projects will strengthen the heart of our community, improve the experience for residents and visitors, and build real momentum for downtown Herkimer."

What's Next

With the committee now established, the design team will move into the next phase of work, including:

- Completing a topographic survey of the Myers Park and streetscape project areas
- Conducting a design team site visit for inventory and analysis
- Advancing schematic design concepts for both projects

Public information sessions will be held to provide project updates and maintain public awareness of revitalization efforts. The projects are expected to move through design, environmental review, and permitting over the next two years, with construction anticipated to begin in 2028 and project completion targeted for 2029. Public input on the next level of design is expected to take place something in the Fall of 2026.

The Village will share updates as the projects progress. Residents interested in learning more are encouraged to contact the Village of Herkimer's office or visit the Village's website at: <https://village.herkimer.ny.us/>

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About the Herkimer Downtown Revitalization Initiative

In 2024, the Village of Herkimer was awarded \$10 million through Round Seven of New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), a program that couples strategic planning with immediate project implementation to transform downtowns into vibrant, livable neighborhoods. Herkimer's award supports a slate of public, private, and non-profit projects identified through its Strategic Investment Plan, including the revitalization of Myers Park and enhancement of the Village's streetscapes. The Village's Strategic Investment Plan and project award listing can be found at the following website: [Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round Seven | The State of New York](#) and clicking on 'Mohawk Valley'.