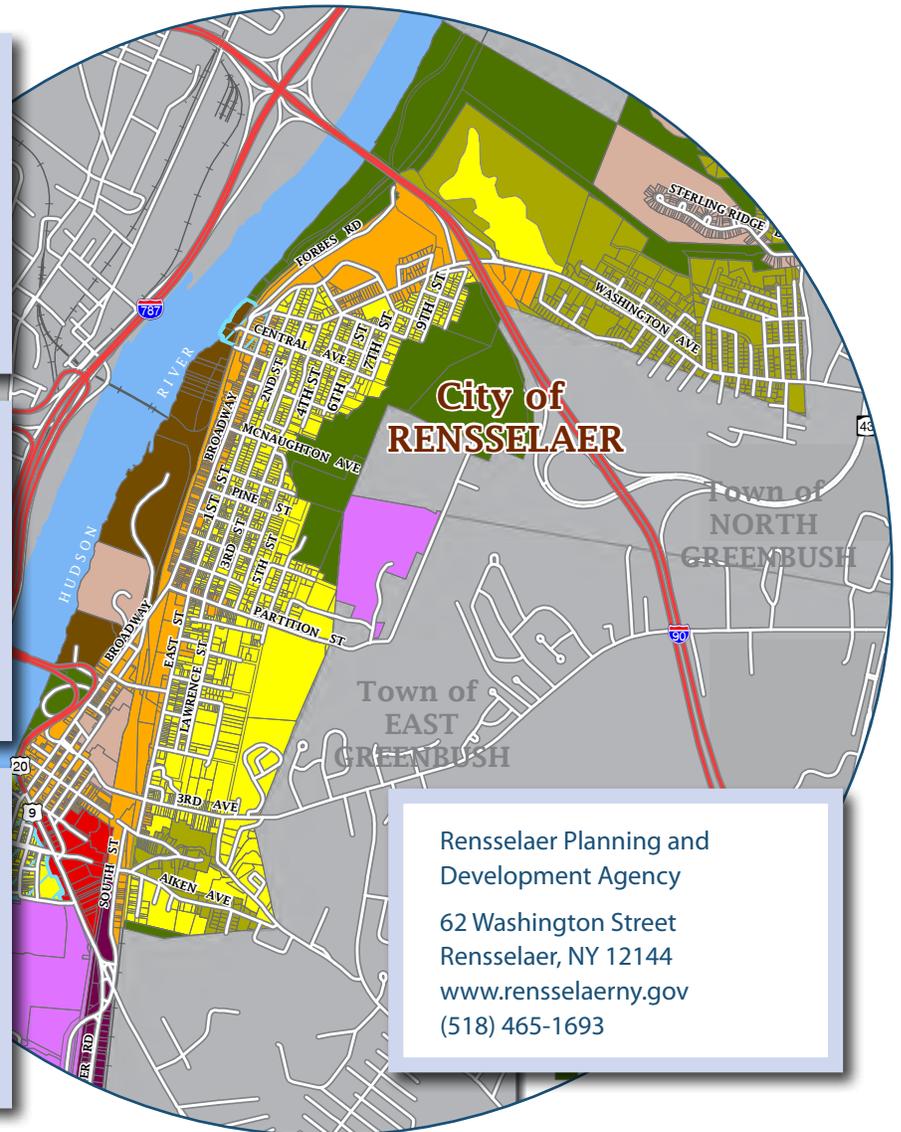




Rensselaer:

Hub of New York's Tech Valley



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Quality of *Life*

The City of Rensselaer is known to some only by its location: across the Hudson from Albany. But those who know better are in on the Capital Region's best-kept secret: that Rensselaer is a small city with a rich history and a tight knit sense of place found in few other communities.



RENSELAER'S LEADERS KNOW a community is greater than the sum of its parts, and that a bright future takes proper planning and ambition.

With unrivaled access to the river and breathtaking views of Albany and the Upper Hudson, the 9,400 residents of Rensselaer enjoy an experience that weds the convenience and choice of metropolitan living with a close-knit sense of community. A strong emphasis has been placed on creating a network of support for the community, from investing in public safety, to seasonal events that bring the entire city together.

This welcoming atmosphere is backed up by top-notch educational opportunities, including a new, state-of-the-art campus for the city's pre-k through high school students, which also offers innovative small business incubator space. Rensselaer is also home to Doane Stuart, one

of the region's oldest and most prestigious college preparatory schools. Located across the river from the state Capital and flanked by the SUNY East Campus, with its biomed and biotech incubator, and the RPI Tech Park at its northern border, Rensselaer residents enjoy some of the shortest commutes in the region.

The city's housing market boasts a mix of options from apartments to single-family homes, and services include both locally owned and national names. The population continues to grow and this need is being met by the development of new homes, townhouses and condos, as well as high-end apartments.

Today, the City of Rensselaer exudes a sense of community pride much as it did when the area was first settled four centuries ago. It is a community aware of its accomplishments and cognizant of its potential.

Rensselaer is a very caring community, parents are very interested in what the schools can do for their children. When students enter the school they look at the school district as a second home. They are very comfortable here, the faculty and staff that work at the district are very caring for the students. They take an interest in the students, almost as if these children were their own.

Over the course of the 18 years that I have been here, generations of families have gone through our school district, so it seems to be a community within a community at the school district.

— Sally Ann Shields,
Superintendent of
Rensselaer City
School District

“The city has hills that provide appealing views of downtown Albany across the river. There are sites along the river front that have potential for an imaginative developer.” —Mike Hendricks, *The Business Review*, June 7–13, 2013



Open for *Business*

Situated on the Banks of the Hudson, the City of Rensselaer sits at a crossroads of industry and innovation. Only a few hours and with direct access to locations like New York City, Boston and Montreal via I-90, I-787 and Amtrak the city is not only in the right place, but imbued with the support structures that enterprises of all types need to succeed.



RENSELAER IS BLESSED WITH tremendous potential unlike any other community along the Hudson. Today, there exists a confluence of efforts both public and private that is helping that potential be fully realized.

Recently, more than \$1 billion in private investments have been made in the city's port area. Millions of dollars have been invested in new water, sewer and gas lines along with enhanced pedestrian-friendly streets. In fact, the city was awarded a Project of the Year award from the American Public Works Association for the reconstruction of Broadway, improving access to the ninth-busiest Amtrak station in the country.

The city is already home to a rich mix of businesses and entrepreneurs. They came for the same reasons companies have located in Rensselaer for decades: location, sense of place and business environment. Thanks to these factors, Rensselaer's population increased by 21 percent in the most recent Census reversing the long decline typically seen in rustbelt cities.

Take the story of Monolith Solar Associates, which was founded in a cramped garage in neighboring East Greenbush in 2008. Today, they employ dozens of people in multiple locations from their headquarters in Rensselaer. Documentation Strategies and Vision Data, two innovative and successful tech

companies have called Rensselaer home for years.

Established businesses like international research and manufacturing leader Albany Molecular Research, Inc. and clean energy pioneer Empire Generating Co. also chose to locate in Rensselaer. The latter, a \$1 billion natural gas-based project, provides enough power for 750,000 homes.

With prime real estate still available along the river, a blossoming downtown and support structures in place, the opportunities present in Rensselaer are nothing short of tremendous.

Rensselaer: a Friend to Business

The City of Rensselaer is making a concerted effort to make sure every business in Rensselaer is seeing success.

The Rensselaer City IDA actively supports businesses with the goal of creating jobs. The independent body has the power to provide financial assistance to businesses and assign various incentives to worthy projects, such as payment in lieu of tax agreements. The Rensselaer Local Development Corporation is also available to assist with economic development projects.

In addition, the city has available a unique Economic Development Loan Program to offer below-market-rate loans to eligible businesses to finance the acquisition of land, buildings, machinery and

equipment as well as for new construction, renovation, expansion and/or conversion of facilities to help spur growth and job creation.

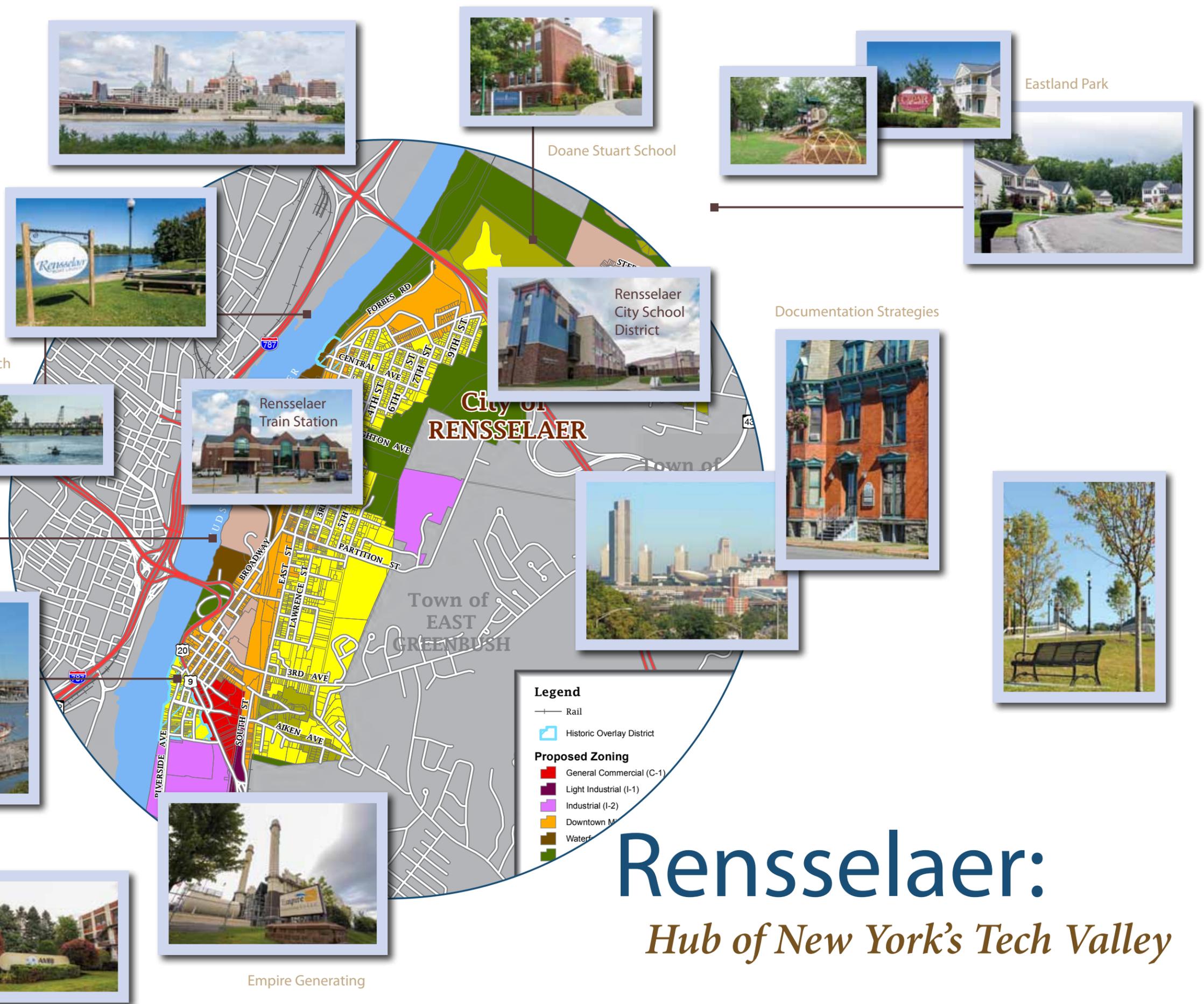
The city also provides interest-free loans for residents of the Fort Crailo Historic District to finance facade improvements to their buildings. The Fort Crailo Façade Revolving Loan Program has helped transform many of the older buildings throughout the District, beautifying and energizing this hidden regional gem.





What Rensselaer does have is perhaps the best waterfront view of any urban location in the Capital Region. It's the perfect site for the kind of housing that we're told is increasingly attractive to young professionals and empty nesters alike."

—Rex Smith, *Times Union*, October 11, 2013



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