

WASHINGTON COUNTY AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2019

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisors Shaw, Moore, Hogan, Middleton, Rozell, Hicks, David Perkins, Tim & Mary Ward, Gretchen Stark

AD HOC TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Idleman, M. Traver, Mayor V/FE

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Hicks

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Laura Oswald, Economic Dev. Director

Heather Weller, GIS Specialist RPTS

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Pamela Landi, Planning

Public & Media

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – November 14, 2018
- 3) Trails Updates:
 - A. Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail
 1. Whitehall
 2. Fort Ann
 3. Kingsbury
 4. Fort Edward – Village and Town
 5. Greenwich
 - B. Slate Valley Rail Trail
 1. Granville
 2. Salem
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Rozell and adopted.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL 2018 ACTION PLAN – Tracy Clothier, LA Group, presented an updated Champlain Canalway Trail 2018 Action Plan, power point slides attached. The Champlain Canalway corridor from Waterford to Whitehall engages two large counties, nineteen municipalities, three rivers and three canals. The trail has sections in planning, in or just about in construction and built, the whole trail will be completed. She highlighted the significant location of this trail stating that this trail has more historical and heritage jewels than anywhere else on the Empire State trail. The vision for this trail is to create a continuous 77-mile multi-use trail from Waterford to Whitehall along the Hudson River and Champlain Canal. She stated there are less than twenty (20) overnight rooms along the entire corridor. Washington County has 46.5 miles of this trail with 8.95 miles of trail completed and 37.55 miles of trail in design, engineering and construction. She praised Lakes to Locks for their work with interpretive signage along this trail. The Champlain Canalway Trail and Empire State Trail are one in the same but do veer off from one another in places. She stated you need to be ready because the Governor has a time table and will open the trail. Projections have been done on the number of bikers – on Empire State Trails website. Regarding the Kingsbury section of the trail, two bridges over Bond Creek and the Feeder Canal and a tunnel will be constructed and a contractor has been selected and tree cutting scheduled to start with a completion date in March. She recommends looking at these numbers at the next meeting and start talking about what could get done to maximize this. Recommends the County next month adopt the plan.

CFA Champlain Canalway – Laura Oswald, Economic Development Director, stated the County applied for LWRP funding to do the design and engineering which follows an initial route/mapping that was undertaken by Chazen Engineering with the Greenway Grant. They will have to prove out the trail and do survey work then design and engineering of the trail. The

contract documents require a little bit of construction some place along the trail and the intention is to use municipal in-kind services after the completion of the design phase in an area that is most reasonable for a short phase of construction. The lawyers have all agreed on the wording, the State has approved execution of the contract and it is ready for the Chairman's signature. The next step is aerial surveying of the area. Due to the time of year, initial surveying probably won't happen until April meanwhile Chazen will work on other initial items.

Ms. Clothier stated we are on the Governor's timetable and that is good because it propels us both but you need time to make these things happen. The Canalway Trail officially ends in Whitehall and there will be an Empire State Trail head by the museum. She stated this Champlain Canalway Trail 2018 Action Plan will help municipalities along the trail to get money/grants for things in the future, i.e. signage, marking the road, bathrooms. This is also a waterway and there are water access points. Municipalities need to be ready because once complete, the Governor will start marketing the Empire State Trail. People will start arriving in communities to use the trails and communities need to be ready. She stated it is the onus of the County to figure out how this fits into the County's economic development strategy and find out what each of the communities need in terms of grants, etc. to move forward to make this happen. People will come and you have to be ready. Mr. Hogan asked if projections have been done on the number of people expected to use these trails. The Economic Development Director stated projections have been done on the Empire State Trail and information available on that website. Ms. Clothier stated this is an economic development opportunity; not huge in the beginning but it will grow. She recommends for the next meeting gathering some of this information and start talking about what these projections really mean and how at the local and County level you would market this trail. She believes there will be plenty of statewide marketing. She plans to make a presentation of this plan to the partnership at the end of the month, place on websites and then have the municipalities and County adopt the plan. Once the plan is adopted, it can be used for funding purposes.

Points of Interest – Pam Landi, Planning, and Heather Weller, GIS Specialist, have been working on compiling a points of interest list for the trail. Ms. Landi reported that a list has been compiled but needs some data fields completed; points of interest database master list and data fields information distributed – on file. Supervisors were provided with town specific points of interest lists to review. Ms. Weller, GIS Specialist RP, stressed the importance of providing data field information. She stated they are trying to include everything right now. The Economic Development Director stated they had no information to start with and Ms. Landi has spent hundreds of hours working on this project. A major amount of work has gone into this and it will have to be maintained going forward. To help make with the tourism connection, this information has been passed on to I Love NY. This will be a phenomenal resource.

Public Amenities – Mr. Shaw mentioned the need to identify public amenities along the trail route. He asked Tim McInerney, Canal Corp., if their bathrooms were public and he stated no but they do have port a johns and some of the Locks have outdoor bathrooms. As for as camping, if you hike, bike or boat in then there are designated areas for camping.

Maps – The GIS Specialist has not put any of the points of interest on a map yet. She does have available Empire State Trail maps by town provided by Alta Planning for planning purposes and Supervisors should contact her.

TRAIL UPDATES:

Empire State Trail/Champlain Canalway Trail:

- Whitehall – Mary Ward stated pretty much covered for where they are at. In a wait and see mode.
- Fort Ann – Gretchen Stark stated pretty good right now and waiting to see about what happens with the campground. Mr. Moore stated initially the trail will be on Clay Hill Road and the likelihood of the campground coming to fruition is marginal at this time. It is a great idea but there is a lot more that needs to be done and it would take significant more money to make that happen.
- Kingsbury – Mr. Hogan stated construction should begin next month. The Canal Corp. representative stated the tree cutting has to be done by March 31st. Two bridges are going in and a tunnel under Rt. 196.
- Fort Edward Village and Town – Village – Town – Mr. Middleton stated he has nothing new at this time and cannot speak for the village. He stated they would like the aqueduct but there are questions whether it is structurally safe to go that way.
- Greenwich – not represented.

Mr. Shaw asked about the responsibility for maintain the trails. Fort Edward to Fort Ann will be maintained by the Canal Corporation because it is on their property. There would probably be lease agreements if private property is used which would state the town would maintain the trail. Mr. Hicks stated in Granville, the town and village maintain their specific portions of the Slate Valley Rail Trail. Discussion ensued on whether or not horses are allowed on the trail. Ms. Clothier stated it was her knowledge that standard usage of the Empire State Trail did not include horses. She agreed to see if the State has something in writing regarding usage of the trail; what is allowed and what is restricted. Mr. Shaw also asked if there was a designation on how the trail is built. The Economic Development Director stated there are minimum design standards.

Slate Valley Rail Trail (13 – 14 miles):

- Granville – Mr. Hicks stated through the efforts of the Economic Development Director and Staff and working with Chazen Engineering, they were awarded a \$250,000 CFA grant. They are working with Chazen and moving this project forward. They have one landowner issue to be resolved.
- Salem – In discussions with Chazen Engineering and they also have a landowner issue.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Erie Canalway Trail Study – Mr. Perkins would like to report out at the next meeting on the economic data from the Erie Canalway Trail Study.
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. There is a considerable section in Washington County on roads that only need signs. Mr. Perkins stated through the Canalway Trail Committee, efforts are underway to reach out and get signs to designate the route.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th 11:00 A.M. in the Supervisors large conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors

Champlain Canalway Trail 2018 Action Plan



Presentation To
Washington
County Adhoc
Trails Committee
Meeting
January 16, 2019



The Setting

Saratoga & Washington
Counties

19 Municipalities

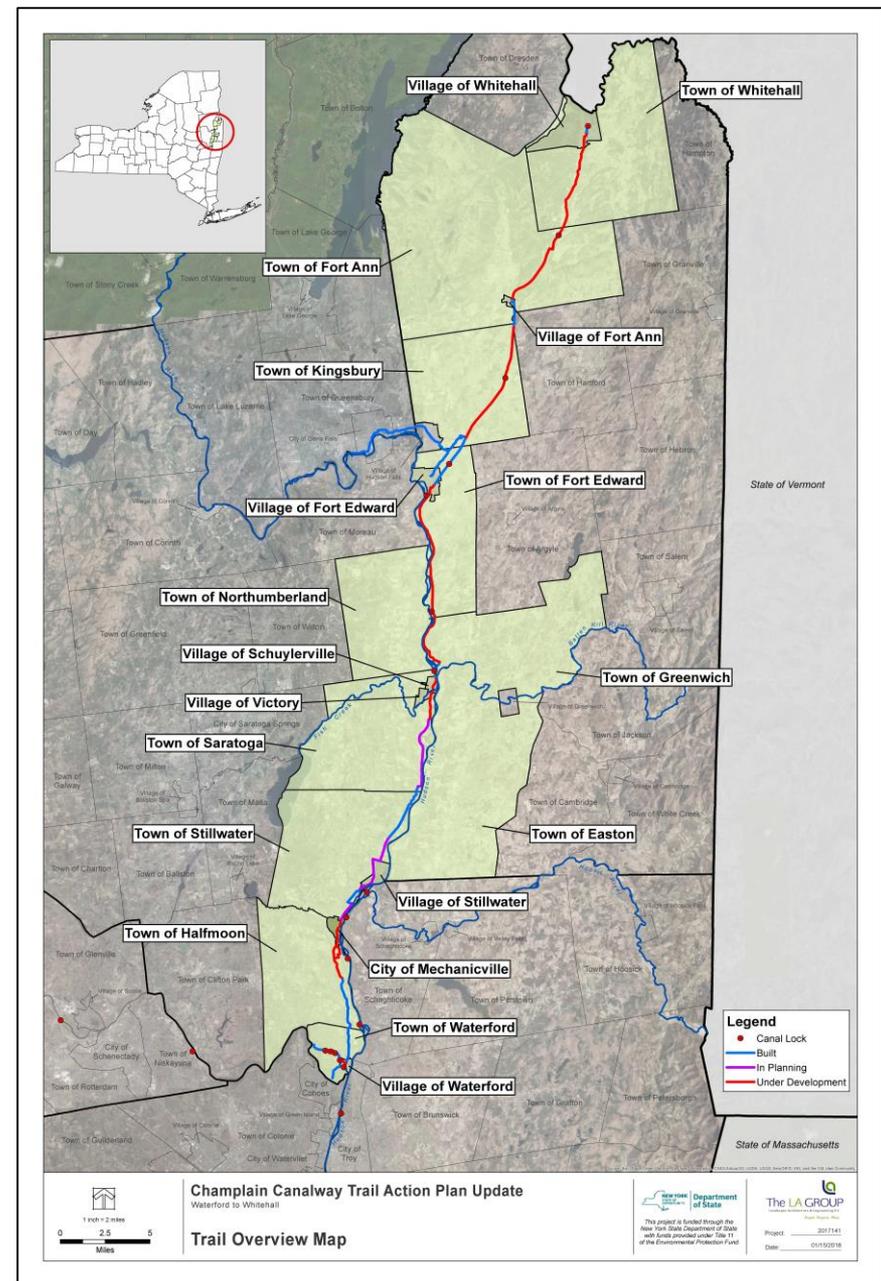
3 Rivers: Mohawk River;
Hudson River; Batten Kill

3 Canals:

Champlain Barge Canal

Old Champlain Canal

Glens Falls Feeder Canal



The Partners

- Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group
- Assisted by a Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant
- Administered through the Town of Stillwater
- Washington County & Saratoga County Planning Departments
- Empire State Trail
- Hudson River Valley Greenway, Saratoga and Washington Counties and the private sector will complete

Regional Context

The CCT received a boost from Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail initiative to create a continuous 750-mile route spanning the state from New York City to Canada and Buffalo to Albany, creating the longest multi-use state trail in the nation.

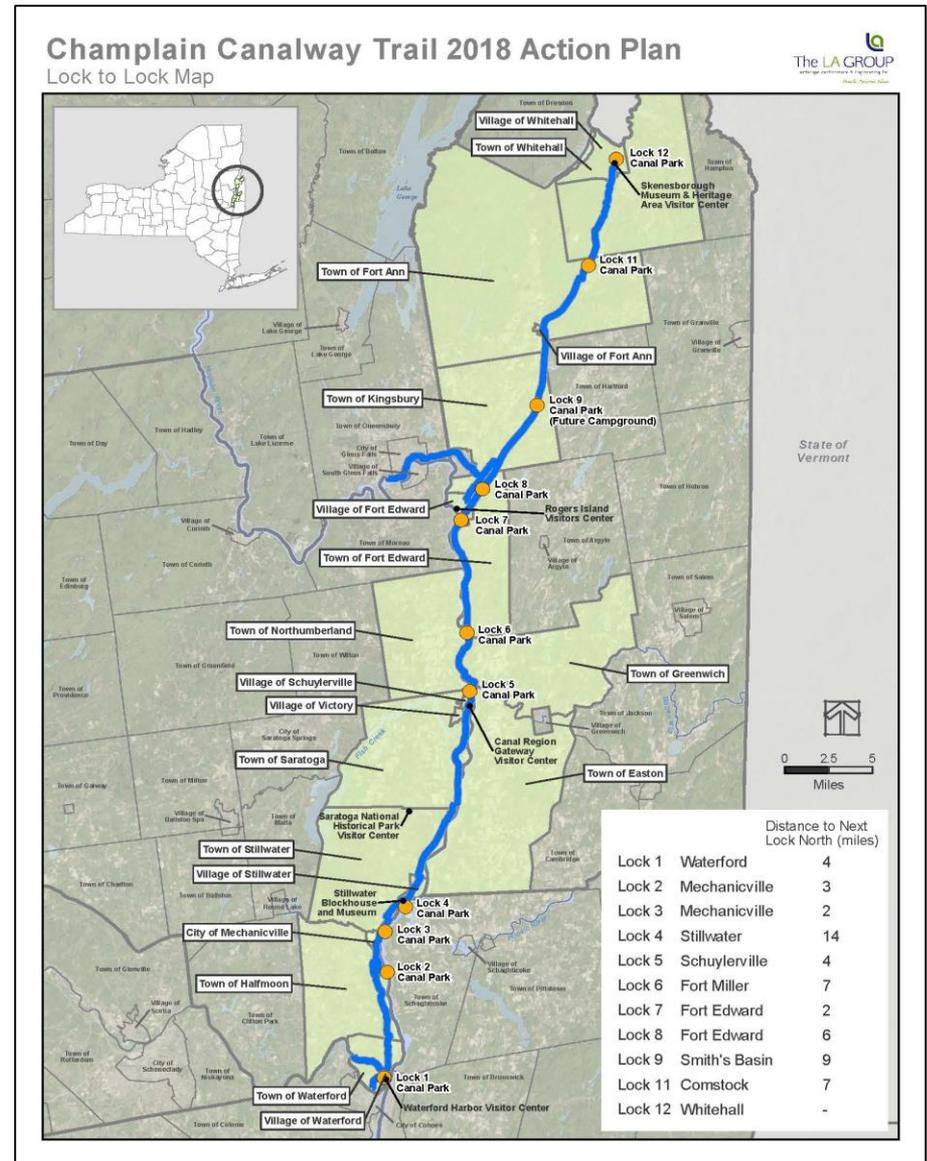


Regional Context



The 2020 CCT Trail Vision

- Establish a continuous 77-mile multi-use trail from Waterford to Whitehall along the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.
- Utilize the historic Champlain Canalway Towpath, Champlain Canal shoreline, existing local and regional trails, and on-street bicycle routes.
- Link the region's historic, cultural, natural and recreational assets into a system of interconnected canal lock parks, visitor centers, downtowns.
- Coordinate marketing with Empire State Trail.
- Establish a world-class destination for residents and visitors.



Accomplishments and Gaps

77.65 TOTAL MILES OF LINEAR TRAIL (INCLUDING THE FEEDER CANAL)

Washington County: 46.5 miles

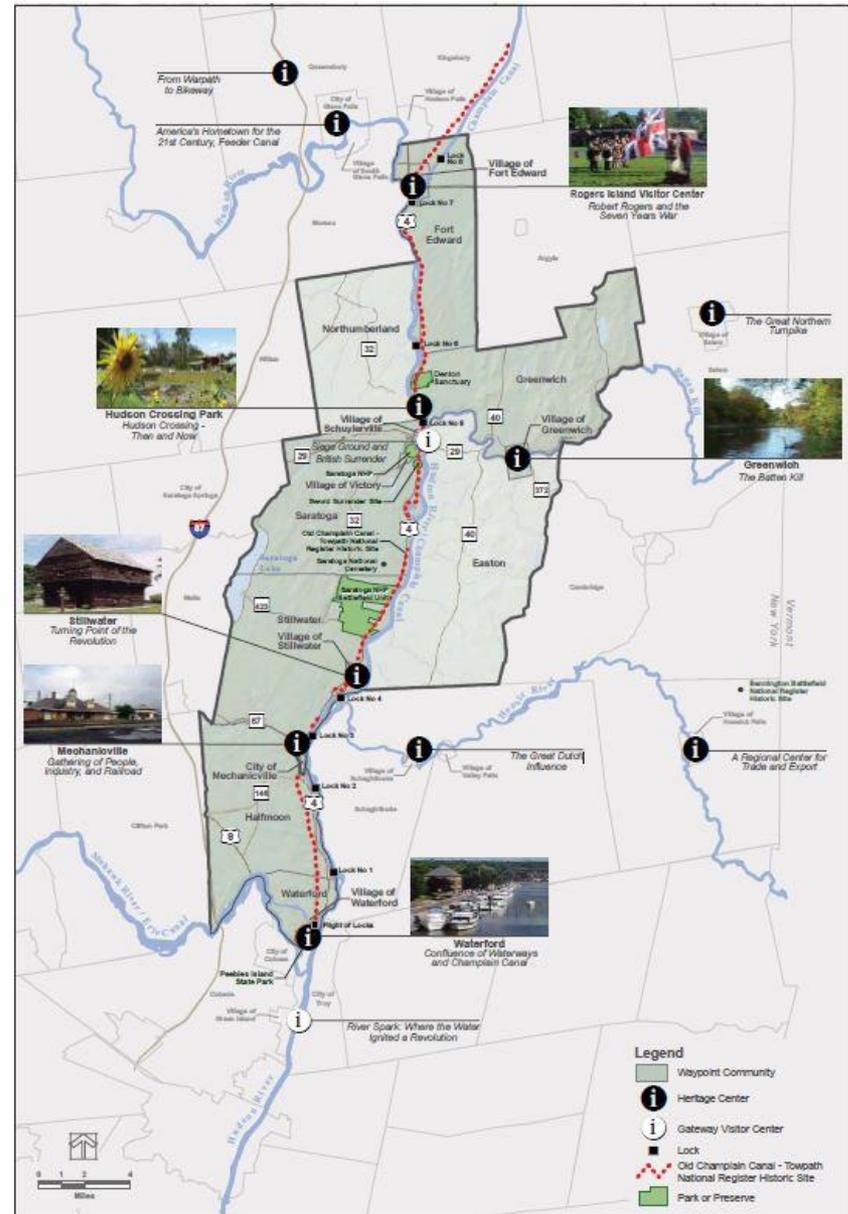
Saratoga County: 31.15 miles

- ***20.41 Total Miles of Trail Completed (26%)***
 - Washington County: 8.95 miles (44%)
 - Saratoga County: 11.46 miles (56%)
- ***43.49 Total Miles of Trail in Design and Construction (56%)***
 - Washington County: 37.55 miles (86%)
 - Saratoga County: 5.94 miles (14%)
- ***13.75 Total Miles of Trail in Planning (18%)***
 - Washington County: 0 miles (0%)
 - Saratoga County: 13.75 miles (100%)

The Interpretive Framework

Lakes to Locks Gateway
Visitor & Heritage Centers

Wayfinding, Informational
and Interpretive Signage



Town and Village of Waterford



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Waterford Village of Waterford



Trail Description: Waterford, located at the junction of the Hudson River, Champlain Canal, Mohawk River and Erie Canal, is the start of the Champlain Canalway Trail. The Champlain Canalway Trail is entirely located along the Old Champlain Canal and is nearly fully developed throughout the Town and Village of Waterford. The trail runs from Old Champlain Lock 4 at the southern point of the Town and just east of Route 32. It continues north along the Old Champlain Canal for about 1.25 miles to the 4th Street Bridge into the Village. The trail continues from the Erie Canal Lock 2 Park north for about 0.35 miles before it reaches the Village border just after the Old Champlain Canal Weighlock and the overhead railroad bridge. It then continues north for about 1.9 miles to the Town's border with the Town of Halfmoon.



Tugboat Round Up

Empire State Trail: The Empire State Trail will follow the same path as the Champlain Canalway Trail through Waterford.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Schaghticoke Municipal Boat Launch; Peebles Island State Park; Battery Park in Waterford Canal Harbor; 123rd Street Launch; Troy Motorboat and Canoe Club; 111th Street Launch.



Old Champlain Canal Towpath Trail

Public Facilities: Waterford Harbor Visitor Center; Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center; Unger Canal Tugboat historic teaching & touring vessel; Peebles Island State Park; Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Visitor Center; Flight of Locks; Lock E2 and E6 State Canal Parks; Old Champlain Canal Locks 4 and 5; Old Champlain Canal Weighlock; and Old Champlain Canal Sidecut Locks.

Public Events: Waterford Canal Fest; Waterford Steamboat Meet; Waterford Dragon Boat Festival; and Waterford Tugboat Roundup.

Connector Trails:

State Bike Route 9: On-road signed route along Route 4, an All-American Road.

Flight of Locks Trail: Follows Locks E3 – E6 from Division Street to Flightlock Road.

Black Bridge Trail: An important connection between the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Uncle Sam Bikeway: A 3.5-mile multiuse path that begins at the Waterford Bridge and continues on a former railroad bed running north-south beginning at Middleburgh Street and ending at Northern Drive in the City of Troy.

Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail: A Bike-Hike Trail connecting Albany and Schenectady Counties on the south side of the Mohawk River to the Erie Canal Trail.

Peebles Island State Park: Peebles Island Loop Trail.



Flight of Locks

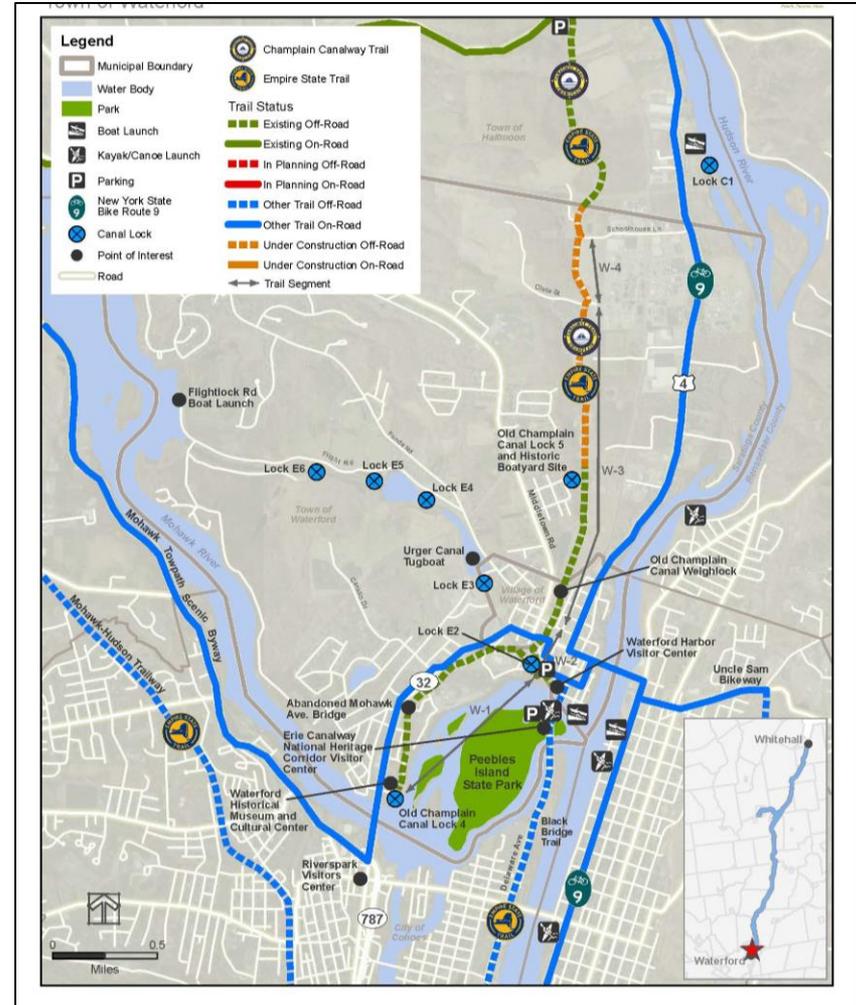
Local Planning Support:

- Town & Village of Waterford Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (2010)
- Town of Waterford Comprehensive Plan (2016)

Implementation Strategy:

The Empire State Trail is funding construction of the two remaining trail segments in Waterford. These segments will connect and extend existing but isolated trails which will create a continuous off-road trail running 7 miles from Broad Street/Route 32 in Waterford to the intersection of Route 4 and Main Street just south of Mechanicville.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE



Town of Halfmoon



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Halfmoon



Trail Description: The Town of Halfmoon is a rural residential bedroom community of over 23,000 residents. The Town's demography has led to the expanding demand for hiking and biking trails that serve as connectors to all of the Town's recreational assets and open spaces. The Town's trail system includes three distinctive sections along the Champlain Canal/Hudson River. When complete, this corridor will contain a continuous 6-mile stone dust hike/bike trail. The first two segments are entirely completed and form a continuous 4-mile stone dust trail that is in active use. From the south, it extends north from the southern town border near School House Lane just south of the boundary with Town of Waterford continuing north to Upper Newtown Road. This stone dust trail has uniform wayfinding and instructive signage, including interactive QR code signage and is bordered by wooden fencing. The third trail segment is about 2-miles in length and is in the design stage. A fourth segment, now under development, is a connector trail from the Brookwood Road trailhead to Lighthouse Park.



Brookwood Road Trailhead



Empire State Trail: The Empire State Trail will follow the Champlain Canalway Trail through the entire Town of Waterford. EST will be responsible for off-road signage while NYSOT will be responsible for on-road signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements.



Old Champlain Canal and Towpath

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C1 Canal Park; Lighthouse Park (kayak dock, lockers and storage, open-air pavilion, public restrooms, accessible pathways, and benches).

Public Facilities: McDonald's Historic Waste Weir and Old Lock 7.

Public Events: Community Night; Trunk or Treat; and Winter Carnival.

Connector Trails:

State Bike Route 9: US Route 4 on-road bike route.

Waterfront Connection Trail: Connects Brookwood Trail and Lighthouse Park.

Crescent Road Multi-Use Trail: Connects Halfmoon with Clifton Park.

Crescent Trail along Mohawk River: Also connects to the Erie Canal Towpath Community Connector.

Upper Newtown Link: Connects Halfmoon Town Park and Open Space areas.



Halfmoon Hike-Bike Trail

Local Planning Support:

- Town of Halfmoon Comprehensive Plan (2003)
- Town of Halfmoon Trails Master Plan (2006)
- Town of Halfmoon Natural Resource and Open Space Conservation Plan (2010)

Implementation Strategy: Complete design, engineering and construction underway for Upper Newtown Road to Farm to Market Road/Route 146. Seek a rural connection from the trail's north terminus northwest to the Zim Smith Trail near Elizabeth Street in Mechanicville. Obtain necessary permits and construct required road and railroad track crossings.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Halfmoon



City of Mechanicville



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE City of Mechanicville



Trail Description: The City of Mechanicville was profoundly shaped by the development of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777, Old Champlain Canal in 1823, and the Rensselaer and Saratoga Railroad in 1835. By 1900 the City had become a transitional area for the regional interchange of commerce. Today the Old Champlain Canal is buried under the City's street infrastructure and no longer visible. The Mechanicville trail section will generally follow the path of the Old Canal beginning at the end of the Town of Halfmoon trail in the southern end near the Saratoga County Sewer Plant and ending at the northern edge of the City near Mulberry Street and Best Avenue. Once the trail crosses over to Main Street, it will continue along the existing sidewalk network through the downtown to where the street connects with Rt 4/32 again at the Saratoga Avenue/North Central Avenue/North Main Street intersection. Mechanicville is a designated Lakes to Locks Passage *Waypoint Community* where visitors are encouraged to take advantage of this entirely walkable downtown commercial district.



Empire State Trail: State Bike Route 9 along Route 4 will continue as an on-road bicycle route and be marked and signed as the official route for the Empire State Trail. At the intersection of Route 4/32 and South Main Street, South Main Street will become the Empire State Trail until the intersection with 4/32 in the north section of the City. The road will be marked and signed as required.



City Dock Boathouse

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Mechanicville City Dock which has free public docking, kayak launch, access to water, power, pump out facility, restrooms, and gathering space with seating and picnic tables.

Public Facilities: Champlain (Barge) Canal and Lock 3; XO Tower along the CSX rail line, new home for the Mechanicville-Stillwater Area Chamber of Commerce; and City Dock.

Public Events: Canadian Pacific Holiday Train; Annual Family Day in the Park; Mechanicville Library Farmers Market.



Train in Historic Railroad District

Connector Trails:

State Bike Route 9: On-road signed route along Route 4, a nationally-designated All American Road.

Zim Smith Trail: This 10.2-mile paved and stone dust trail runs along the former rail bed of the D & H North South Railroad corridor from Ballston Spa to Coons Crossing Road in Halfmoon. It serves as the primary trail north-south multi-use trail spine through Saratoga County. The 3-mile segment from Coons Crossing Road to the intersection with the Champlain Canalway Trail in Mechanicville is planned for construction in 2019.



City Dock

Local Planning Support:

- City of Mechanicville Comprehensive Plan (2000)
- City of Mechanicville Downtown Revitalization Plan (2006)
- Downtown Revitalization Grant Project (2009)
- Central Avenue Corridor Linkage Study (2009)
- City of Mechanicville Waterfront and Downtown Revitalization Plan (2009)
- City of Mechanicville Revitalization Initiative (2012)

Implementation Strategy: This section of the Canalway Trail is still in the early stages and will require a formal agreement between the City of Mechanicville and the Town of Stillwater. Along Main Street the trail will need signage and a designated bike lane or shared lane markings for bicyclists. Plans for striping on Main Street are already underway to improve the flow of traffic.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update City of Mechanicville



Town and Village of Stillwater



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Stillwater Village of Stillwater



Trail Description: The Town of Stillwater has been actively completing sections of the Stillwater Multiuse Trail. When complete, the trail will span approximately 5 miles connecting the City of Mechanicville with the Town of Saratoga. Completed trail sections include the Campbell Park Trail, the Stillwater Multi-use Trail (Phase 1), and the Saratoga National Historic Park Trail. The trail primarily follows the historic Old Champlain Canal towpath. The southern section provides a greater integration of the Stillwater Junction and Riverside communities and will serve as a gate way into Stillwater from Mechanicville and the Zim Smith Trail. A central trail loop runs through the heart of the Village downtown connecting neighborhoods with local amenities, and the Hudson River. The northern trail system establishes links from Bemis Heights north to the Phillips Road entrance to the Saratoga National Historical Park. The trail proceeds southward principally along sidewalks through the village and terminates at its intersection with an active railroad corridor, approximately 0.75 mile south of where the trail crosses Halfway House Road to the trailhead parking lot. The Village is considering new waterfront connections via Water Department lands off Ferry Lane.



Riverfront Town Park



Stillwater Multi-Use Trail



Stillwater Blockhouse

Empire State Trail: State Bike Route 9 along Route 4 will continue as an on-road marked bicycle route and serve as the route for the Empire State Trail. The road will be marked and signed for bicycling.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Stillwater Riverfront Park (canoe/kayak launch); Lock C4 Stillwater; Admiral's Marina.

Public Facilities: Stillwater Blockhouse and Museum; Knox Trail Marker; Saratoga National Historic Park; Stillwater Riverfront Park; Bemis Heights Pocket Park (parking trailhead); and Lock 4 State Canal Park (access from Stillwater Bridge Road).

Public Events: 18th Century Day (SNHP); Stillwater Fall Festival; and Trees of Lights.

Connector Trails:

Saratoga National Historical Park: Internal trail system.
Zim Smith Trail: Multi-use Trail linking Ballston Spa to Mechanicville.

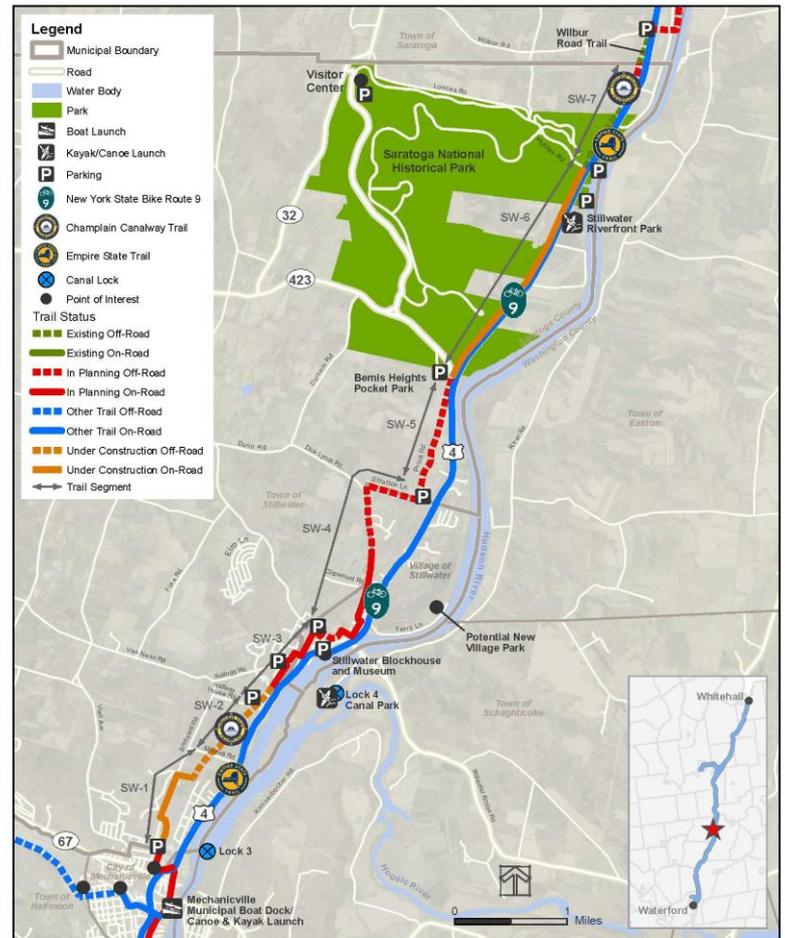
Local Planning Support:

- Town and Village of Stillwater Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2016)
- Stillwater Trail Feasibility Study (2012)
- Stillwater Farmland Protection and Green Infrastructure Plan (2007)
- Stillwater US Route 4 Corridor Study (2006)

Implementation Strategy: Three sections of trail need to be constructed to assure all sections are well connected. A grant in the amount of \$98,943 awarded to the Town of Stillwater for a Champlain Canal connector project is presently under development. The Town of Stillwater is seeking state funds to develop two additional miles of multi-use trail at an estimated cost of about \$484,000.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Stillwater



Town of Saratoga-Victory-Schuylerville-Northumberland



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

Town of Saratoga

Villages of Victory and Schuylerville



Trail Description: The Town of Saratoga was significantly influenced by the Hudson River which connects historic events that shaped our nation and the visual character of the Town. The cluster of sites and monuments makes Saratoga a hub for heritage tourism initiatives. The new *Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center* at Fort Hardy Park will soon serve visitors who want to understand the resources, communities and people unified by an interconnected waterway, a community ethic of pride in place and a commitment to the Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway. The trail's centerpiece is a 1.5-mile span from the Schuyler House to the Dix Bridge. This segment of trail is shared with the Town of Northumberland who are partners in its development with Hudson Crossing. It is a family destination for safe off-road walks, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The *Vision for the Old Champlain Canal* reimagines the waterway as a public place for fun, recreation, and exploration of the natural environment. This unique and attractive destination will be a catalyst for revitalization.

Empire State Trail: State Bike Route 9 along Route 4 will be the formal route for the EST to Fort Hardy Park until other segments of the trail are completed. A formal trailhead will be constructed on Reds Street and the EST will continue north along Towpath Road to Hudson Crossing Park on Lock 5 Island. EST will provide wayfinding signage and road crossing markings.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Town of Saratoga Rt 4 Boat Launch; Fort Hardy Park Kayak Launch; Schuylerville Boat Ramp; Hudson Crossing Park Kayak Launch; Lock 5 Canal Park with public docks and the dock site of the Caldwell Belle Tour Boat.

Public Facilities: Saratoga National Historic Park's Old Saratoga Unit including the Saratoga Surrender Site (future), Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, and Victory Woods; Fort Hardy Park; Hudson Crossing Park; Restored Historic Dix Bridge; Schuyler Saw Mill Park; Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center; Historic Towpath and Turning Basin Empire State Trail/ Champlain Canalway Trail; Stark's Knob; Marshall House; Gerald B. Solomon National Veterans Cemetery.

Public Events: Schuylerville Craft Fair; Turning Point Parade and Festival; Schuylerville Fall Festival.

Connector Trails:
Victory Wood's Trails: Trail loop through Old Saratoga Unit of Saratoga National Historical Park.
The Siege Trail: Fish Creek link from Schuyler House to Saw Mill Park.
Fort Hardy Park Loop: Planned trail loop linking Gateway Visitor Center to the waterfront.
Hudson Crossing Park: Trail loop linking the Old Champlain Canal, Dix Bridge and Greenwich.

Local Planning Support:

- Green Infrastructure Plan (2006)
- Old Saratoga on the Hudson Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2007)
- Joint Open Space Plan for the Towns of Saratoga and Northumberland (2007)
- Stewardship Plan (2010)
- Hudson Crossing Master Plan (2014)
- A Vision for the Old Champlain Canal (2018)

Implementation Strategy: The nearly 8-mile trail is comprised of nine segments. Only the Wilbur Road Trail and the Towpath Road to Dix Bridge segments are complete. Schuylerville is seeking funds for the repair, replacement, clean-up and upgrading of various components of the Old Champlain Canal so the water will flow sufficiently to allow for year-round recreational activities and special events. Additional funds will be sought through the EST to complete these trail segments. This segment is shared with Northumberland who have partnered with Hudson Crossing and the Canal Corporation for its development.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE



Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update

Town of Saratoga



Legend

- ▭ Municipal Boundary
- ▭ Road
- ▭ Water Body
- ▭ Park
- 🚤 Boat Launch
- 🚣 Kayak/Canoe Launch
- 🅑 Parking
- 🚲 New York State Bike Route 9
- 📍 Champlain Canalway Trail
- 📍 Empire State Trail
- 📍 Canal Lock
- Point of Interest

Trail Status

- ▬ Existing Off-Road
- ▬ Existing On-Road
- ▬ In Planning Off-Road
- ▬ In Planning On-Road
- ▬ Other Trail Off-Road
- ▬ Other Trail On-Road
- ▬ Under Construction Off-Road
- ▬ Under Construction On-Road
- ↔ Trail Segment

Town of Greenwich



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Greenwich



Trail Description: The Town of Greenwich boundary begins at the Hudson Crossing Gate on Rt 42 to the Dix Bridge. This is a key segment since it passes through Hudson Crossing Park, a unique recreational and educational destination centered on Lock C5 Island on the Champlain Canal and Hudson River. Once the site of neglected land, Hudson Crossing Park is a testament to community involvement and municipal collaboration. The trails in the park host dog walkers, hikers, runners, bikers and bird watchers. The trail crosses the Dix Bridge, a restored structure on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The bridge provides passage over the Hudson River joining pedestrian, bicycle and snowmobile trails in Washington and Saratoga counties. The CCT follows Route 113 north to Route 4, crossing to follow River Road to the Town of Fort Edward. These sections will mostly follow low-use, scenic, riverside roads.



Empire State Trail: Bike Route 9 along Route 4 will continue to serve as an on-road marked bicycle route and be the official route of the trail. It will break with Route 4 at River Road until it meets up with Route 4 again just north of Old Champlain Canal Lock 13 Pocket Park.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C-5 Park has public docking and Hudson Crossing Park has a kayak launch.

Public Facilities: Denton Wildlife Sanctuary; Stark's Knob; Hudson Crossing Park (picnic pavilion, playground, restrooms, and trail system); Town of Greenwich Hudson Riverside Park.

Public Events: Washington County Fair; Tour of the Battenkill; Whipple City Festival; Annual Halloween Parade; Annual Holiday Tractor Parade; Greenwich Holiday House Tour; Riversweep; Canal Trail Bike Tour; Annual Cardboard Race; Annual Triathlon; International Steamboat Flotilla.

Connector Trails:

Hudson Crossing Park Trails: Riverwalk Sensory Trail; Island Loop Trail; Eagle Point Trail.

Denton Wildlife Sanctuary: Three miles of trails off Route 4.

Snowmobile Trail: Dix Bridge is the east-west bi-county connector.

Clark's Mill Bridge: New bridge with sidewalk under construction on Rt 113 over Batten Kill River.

Dionondahowa Falls: Short hike to Batten Kill waterfalls.

Battenkill Railroad Rail Trail: Potential future route to the Village of Greenwich.

Local Planning Support:

Old Saratoga on the Hudson Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2007)

Hudson Crossing Master Plan (2014)

Implementation Strategy: Planning and funding is needed to establish the official route for the Champlain Canalway Trail from the Dix Bridge to the River Road. EST funding is in place from River Road north to Fort Edward.



Historic Dix Bridge



Hudson Crossing Park Trail Map



Island Loop Trail in Hudson Crossing Park

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Greenwich



Town and Village of Fort Edward



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Fort Edward Village of Fort Edward



Trail Description: Known as the "Great Carrying Place", Fort Edward is steeped in rich history and heritage having played a major role in the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution. Fort Edward has the advantage of being located at the entrance of the Hudson River and Champlain Canal, being located near Highway I-87 and having major railroad access while retaining the historic and country charm of a rural community. The CCT will take advantage of this strategic location by highlighting Hudson River views and access points in its southern approach from the Town of Greenwich. As it continues into the Village of Fort Edward it will move onto the Old Champlain Canalway route which becomes the critical connector to the Feeder Canal and the Upper Hudson River. This route conveys an entire interpretive story can be from the Old Junction Lock to the Five Combines Park area.



Old Champlain Canal Lock 13 Pocket Park



Empire State Trail: The EST will exist entirely on Route 4 as an on-road shoulder route throughout the Town of Fort Edward. It will follow the CCT route throughout the Village of Fort Edward and to its border with Kingsbury. NYSDOT will be responsible for roadside signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements. Route 4 will continue to serve as State Bike Route 9, an on-road bicycle route.



Old Champlain Canal Junction Lock

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C-6 Fort Miller; Lock C-7 Fort Edward; Lock C-8 Fort Edward; Bradley Beach Kayak Launch; Fort Edward Yacht Basin Terminal Wall; and Public Docks at the Route 4 Bridge.

Public Facilities: Old Fort House Museum; Rogers Island Visitor Center; Canal Street Market; Mullen Park & Walking & Fitness Trail; Washington County Historical Society; Fort Edward D&H Railway Depot (Amtrak Station); Moses Kill Aqueduct; Fort Edward Junction Lock; Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area; and Fort Edward Yacht Basin and Terminal Wall.



Old Champlain Canal Towpath

Public Events: Annual Locktoberfest; Fort Edward Heritage Days; Annual Country Fair and Antiques Auction; Rogers Island French & Indian War Encampment; and Community Fall Festival.

Connector Trails:

- Grasslands Loop Trail:** This loop connects to the Washington County State Wildlife Management Area and Soloman Viewing Area
- Feeder Canal Trail:** This trail is a stone surfaced outdoor walking/bike trail that runs along the shores of the Feeder Canal from the official starting point on the Hudson River Overlook Park in Queensbury to Five Combines Park and Mullen Park in Fort Edward.
- Rogers Island Trail:** This is a future trail loop currently in the planning and design stage.

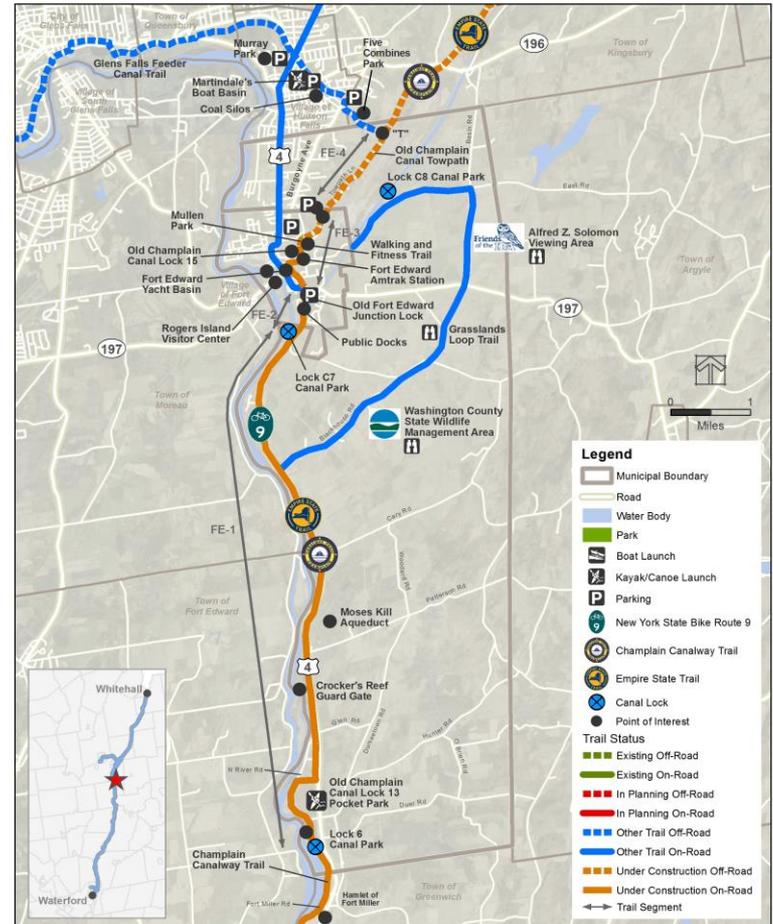
Planning Support:

- U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan (2005)
- Rogers Island Visioning Plan (2007)
- Hudson River and Champlain Feeder Canal Intermunicipal LWRP (2008)
- Pre-Nomination Study Northeast Industrial Development and Reuse Strategy (2014)

Implementation Strategy: There are several substantial areas that could serve as an off-road trail on Route 4. Although challenging for design and construction, these areas should be studied for feasibility and the best available route outlined.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Fort Edward



Town of Kingsbury



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Kingsbury

KINGSBURY

Trail Description: Kingsbury is a quiet rural community along the Champlain Canal with five distinctive hamlets – Adamsville, Baldwin Corner, Dunhams Basin, Kingsbury, Smiths Basin, and Vaughns Corners, and the Village of Hudson Falls. Formerly known as the Village of Sandy Hill (1810), it was largely agricultural until the opening of the Glens Falls Feeder Canal in the 1830's which connected to the Old Champlain Canal and opened commerce between the Upper Hudson River to Canada and New York City. After operating for 100 years in this capacity, the Feeder Canal closed and has been transformed into a vibrant fourteen-mile linear park with the towpath for hiking and biking, and the canal itself for fishing, canoeing and kayaking. The north-south route of the Old Champlain Canal and modern Champlain Canal is an exceptionally serene and picturesque travel corridor. The Towpath through Kingsbury offers a four-mile stretch of exceptional birding opportunities. Lock C-9 Canal Park, located in the hamlet of Smith's Basin, 6 miles north of C-8 Canal Park in Fort Edward, represents the perfect biking trail segment for families. Both canal parks offer public docking, and picnicking. Just to the southeast of the lock is the unique Siphon Spillway that allows excess waters to divert safely from the canal.

The completed section of the Champlain Canalway Trail is in the southern end of the Town where it intersects with the Feeder Canal Trail at the "T" and continues north to its end just south of Rt 196. This section of trail will be upgraded from a turf surface to stone dust. From this point north, the trail is in the planning phase with construction anticipated in 2019. When all projects are completed, a continuous 12-mile Champlain Canalway Trail will connect Fort Edward to Fort Ann.

Empire State Trail: The EST will follow the same path as the Champlain Canalway Trail throughout the Town of Kingsbury. Route 4 will continue to serve as State Bike Route 9, an on-road bicycle route.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C-9 Canal Park – cartop launch and public docks; Martindale Boat Basin Cartop Launch and dock (Feeder Canal).



Five Combines in Feeder Canal

Public Facilities: Feeder Canal Towpath and Water Trail; Five Combines Park with the Five Combine Locks; and Lock C9 Canal Park.

Public Events: Sandy Hills Days; Annual Feeder Canal Canoe/Kayak Race; and community participation in Washington County tourism events including the Fiber Tour, Cheese Tour, and Maple Syrup Festival.



Martindale Boat Basin on Feeder Canal

Connector Trails:

Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail: The Canal Towpath is a nine-mile trail suitable for walking, running or biking from the Feeder Dam in Queensbury to Mullen Park in Fort Edward.

Snowmobile Trails: Kingsbury Barnstormers Snowmobile Club manages several trail routes throughout the central portion of Kingsbury.

Planning Support:

- Feeder Canal Park Master Plan (1990)
- Village of Hudson Falls Comprehensive Plan (2004)
- Hudson River and Champlain Feeder Canal Regional Waterfront Plan (2009)
- Route 4 Corridor Management Plan (2015)
- Hudson Falls Parking Study (2016)
- Village of Hudson Falls Revitalization Opportunities Program (2016)
- Washington County Tourism Study (2017)



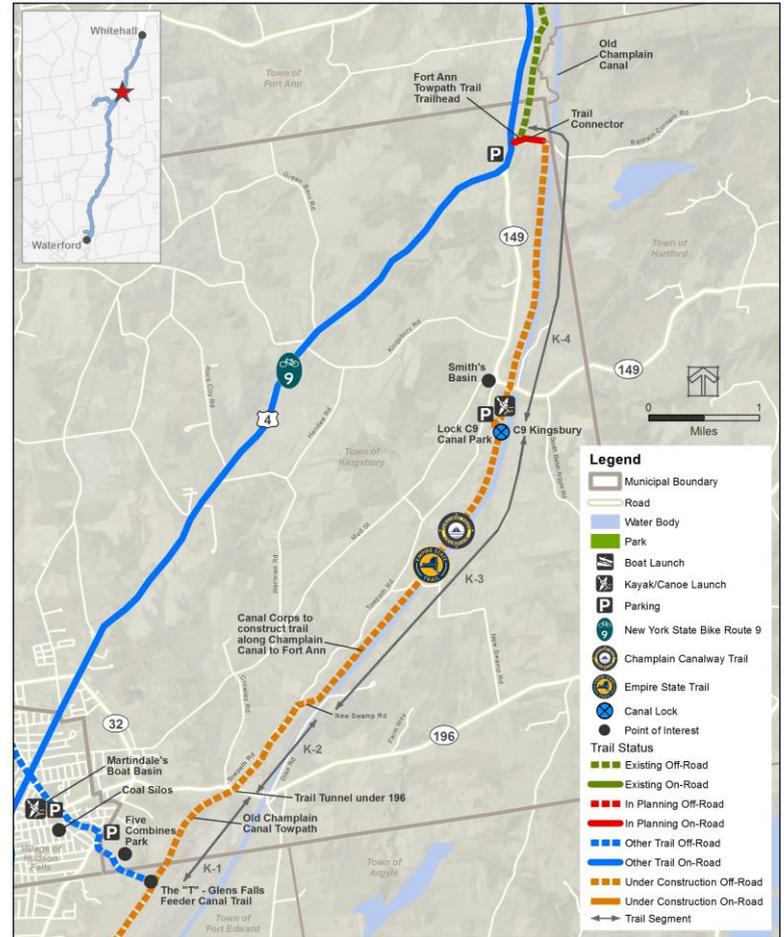
Towpath Road

Implementation Strategy: Continue to work with the NYS Canal Corporation and Empire State Trail organizations to complete construction of the Champlain Canalway Trail from the Feeder Canal Trail intersection to Baldwin Corners Road.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Kingsbury

The LA GROUP



Town and Village of Fort Ann



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Fort Ann Village of Fort Ann



Trail Description: Fort Ann is described as "A Beautiful Place at the Crossroads of a Beautiful Region". The Town is part of a historic corridor between the Hudson River and Lake Champlain where European armies constructed fortifications for the French and Indian Wars, and American rebels fought British forces in the Battle of Fort Ann at Battle Hill. This action delayed their advance to Saratoga long enough for Colonial forces to mount a successful defense at Saratoga which in turn led to a turning point in the Revolutionary War. The southern part of the CCT trail through Fort Ann begins at Baldwin Corners Road on the Fort Ann Towpath Trail and it continues along this dedicated pathway to its terminus and trailhead on Ann Street. The next segment of trail continues over the Clay Hill Bridge and along the east side of the Champlain Canal until reaching Rt 22 when it turns west along the Rt 22 shoulder, crossing the canal again and turns north onto Old Route 4 to Lock C-11 Canal Park.



Empire State Trail: The EST utilizes the same route as the CCT until the east side of the Clay Hill Bridge where it will continue along both sides of Clay Hill Road until the intersection with Dewey's Bridge Road. It continues north on South Quarry Lane, then onto North Quarry Lane until it reaches the intersection with Rt 22, where it continues west to the intersection of Routes 22 and 4 on the west side of the Champlain Canal. From this point north, the EST is planned as an on-road shoulder route along Route 4 into the Village of Whitehall. NYSDOT will be responsible for signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements.

Champlain Canal Access Points: Fort Ann Waterfront Park (gazebo, picnic shelter, public docks and kayak launch); Comstock Informal Boat Ramp; and Lock C11 Canal Park (future camping facility planned).



Champlain Canal North of Clay Hill Bridge

Public Facilities: Old Stone House Library/LTLP Heritage Center; Battle Hill Revolutionary Historic Site; Halfway Creek and Kane's Falls; Lakes to Locks (LTLP) Passage Pocket Park; and Old Champlain Canal Historic Locks.

Public Events: Fort Ann supports and participates in all regional events and activities throughout Washington County including the Washington County Fiber Tour, Maple Weekend, and the Cheese Tour.

Connector Trails:

Slate Valley Trail: Proposed 22-mile multi-use recreational trail extension from Granville with connections to Vermont (route presently unknown).

Kingsbury Barnstormers Snowmobile Trail: The snowmobile route has loops throughout West Fort Ann and connections west to the Lake George area.

Granite Hill Campground Spur: This trail route is being considered as a future spur that may become part of the CCT at some point in the future.

Battle Hill Trails: This is a planned closed hiking loop trail system with an interpretive plaza at the trailhead/parking area.



Fort Ann Towpath Trail at Baldwin's Corners

Planning Support:

- Fort Ann Joint Community Plan (2008)
- Fort Ann Streetscape and Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2008)
- Village of Fort Ann Downtown Revitalization Plan (2009)
- Washington County Tourism Study (2017)
- Fort Ann to Whitehall Trail Feasibility Study (2018)



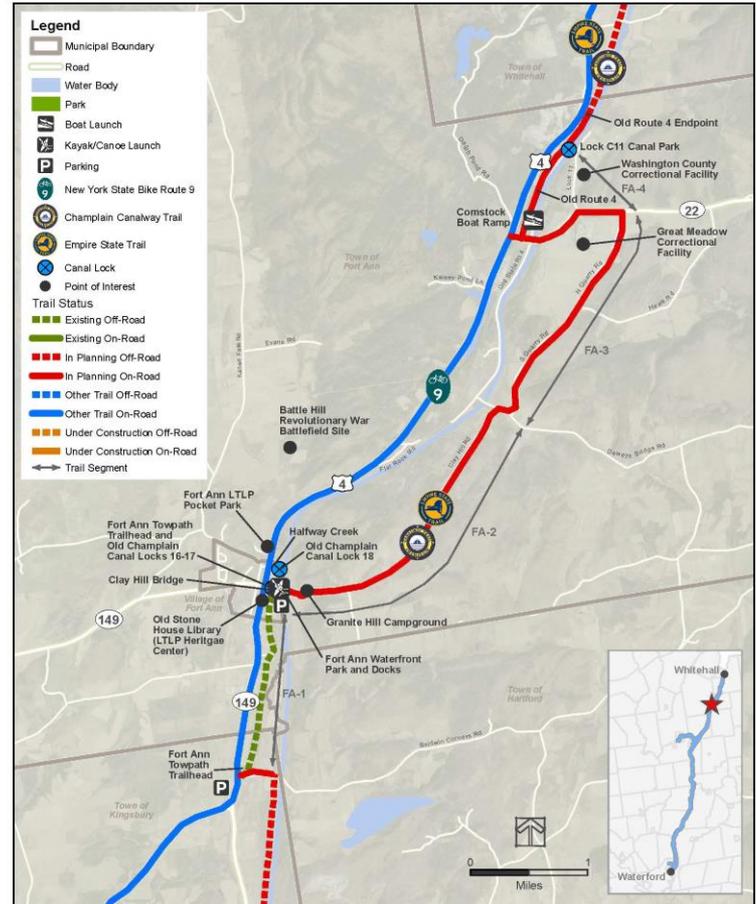
Battle Hill Site from Granite Hill Campground

Implementation Strategy: Funding is in place for the entire route through Fort Ann with construction slated for early 2019. Work includes improving the Fort Ann Towpath Trail with a stone dust surface. Contractors will work with the local snowmobile club to avoid winter conflicts.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update

Town of Fort Ann



Town and Village of Whitehall



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE Town of Whitehall Village of Whitehall



Trail Description: Located at the junction between the Champlain Canal and Lake Champlain, Whitehall is considered the birthplace of the American Navy. Whitehall was founded by British Army Captain Philip Skene in 1759 and was originally known as Skenesboro which became the first settlement on Lake Champlain and the center of maritime trade. In 1980, the Town was designated an Urban Cultural Park Canal Harbor, a state-designated area that has special significance in history. In recognition of this significance, the state has invested millions into the development of the Whitehall waterfront. Connecting the Canalway Trail to Whitehall to create a byway from Waterford to Canada was a primary recommendation in the Village's 2001 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and several regional plans. The vision was to extend the CCT north to the South Bay State Boat Launch. From there, the trail would continue over a pedestrian bridge onto Cooke's Island. At the southern end, the CCT from Fort Ann to the Village represents one of the most challenging segments. Although the Champlain Canal is exceptionally beautiful and the resources on the waterfront are abundant, the railroad tracks, wetlands and stream crossings will make the CCT expensive to construct. Construction of the trail along the canal is preferable since trail route alternatives have significant cost, noise, safety and permitting issues.



Empire State Trail: The EST will exist entirely on Route 22 as an on-road shoulder route throughout the Town and Village. NYSDOT will be responsible for roadside signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements. The EST may shift its route to the off-road route of the CCT once the design and engineering phase is completed. Route 22 will continue to serve as State Bike Route 9, an on-road bicycle route. EST plans to locate a trailhead and associated parking in Skenesborough Park.



Lock 12 Looking North

Lake Champlain/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C12; South Bay State Boat Launch; South Bay Fishing Pier; and Whitehall Harbor Boat Ramp.

Public Facilities: Whitehall Amtrak Station; Skene Manor; Skenesborough Museum and Heritage Visitor Center; and Whitehall Terminal Wall; Boat Tours; and Whitehall Cliffs Natural Area (future canoe to clifftop trail).

Public Events: Sasquatch Calling Festival; Summer Festival; Music in the Park; Friday Night Fish Fry; and Sasquatch Half Marathon.



Skenesborough Park

Connector Trails:

The Saddles Tract: Trail leading to North Saddle, Devils Den and South Bay.

Lake George Wild Forest: Trail system in the Shelving Rock Area, Gull Bay Preserve and the Last Great Shoreline.

Lake Champlain Bikeways: A series of on-road bike routes with a connecting point to Chimney Point at Crown Point.

Lake Champlain Birding Trail: Highway-based trail route that connects 88 bird sites along the Lake Champlain shoreline.

Snowmobile Trails: Snowmobile routes range east into the Town of Hampton, west into the Lake George area, and south from Fort Ann on the Champlain Canal.



Whitehall Cliffs

Local Planning Support:

- Village of Whitehall Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (2001)
- Washington County Tourism Study (2017)
- Fort Ann to Whitehall Trail Feasibility Study (2018)

Implementation Strategy: Design and engineering is funded for the entire route from the north end of Old Route 4 in Fort Ann north into the Village of Whitehall. Construction is not funded at this time.

CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL ACTION PLAN 2018 UPDATE

Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan 2018 Update Town of Whitehall

