What’s Next for the Empire State?

Dylan Carey
Greenway Program Director
Parks & Trails New York
March 14, 2023
Greenway Trails - Open
Greenway Trails - Planned

Open Greenway Trails
Planned Trails

0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles
Greenway Trails - Proposed
Greenway Trails Plan Working Group

Who: MPO and County-level planners from around the state, state agency partners

- Raise awareness of what is happening in neighboring communities and around the state
- Make connections
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and potential challenges
- Work on implementing Greenway Trails Plan
Greenway Trails Plan Development Guide

**What:** Overview and summary of key topics and resources for shared-use trail development.

High and mid-level information on:

- Identifying potential trail corridors.
- Working with landowners (railroads, utility companies, state agencies, etc.).
- Funding opportunities.
- Developing feasibility studies, planning, and design documents.
- Costs and considerations for trail construction and maintenance.
- Memoranda & cooperative agreements.
Greenway Trails Plan Progress Report

What: Summary of accomplishments and progress made on the GWTP goals and recommendations.

- Highlight of major greenway trail projects advanced across the state
- Major planning efforts to expand Greenway Trail network
- Significant programming on and around greenway trails
- Major funding sources available to build additional greenway trails
North Shore Rail Trail

10-mile rail trail from Port Jefferson to Wading River, opened June 2022

Built on former rail corridor now owned by Long Island Power Authority
New York City Greenway Network

$7.25 million federal RAISE grant for greenway network planning

$47.6 million for Destination: Greenways! Plans in Brooklyn and Queens

$35 million for Phase One of the QueensWay in Central Queens
Open Space Institute report - 250+ mile network of greenways across 3 counties

Expand existing & build new trails:

- Wallkill Valley Rail Trail
- O&W Rail Trail/D&H Canal Corridor
- Catskill Mountain Rail Corridor
- Orange County Heritage Trail
- Schunnemunk Rail Trail
- Shawangunk Ridge Carriage Roads
Livingston Avenue Bridge

Proposed $400 million replacement of more than century-old bridge

Would include bicycle/pedestrian access over Hudson River

Key link for Empire State Trail
Adirondack Rail Trail

34-mile recreational trail through heart of the Adirondacks on former rail bed.

Phase one under construction by NYSDEC currently, running 9 miles from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake

Phases two and three, extending the rest of way to Tupper Lake, expected complete by 2025

Trailhead improvements underway concurrently
Dryden Rail Trail Bridge

Part of a 14-mile rail trail connecting Dryden and Ithaca.

Key connection taking trail safely across busy NYS highway.

Project made possible by $1.5M Transportation Enhancement grant and $700K earmark from Sen. Gillibrand
Genesee Valley Greenway

- 90-mile former rail corridor from Rochester south past Letchworth State Park to Hinsdale
- 17 mile renovation from Rochester to Avon
- Funding secured for construction of four bridges in Allegany County
- Acquisition completed for 17-mile former rail corridor parallel to existing GVG corridor
Trail Town Programs

Empire State Trail Town program - run by PTNY, worked with Brockport in 2022 and 3 new communities in 2023

Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative

Adirondack Rail Trail Towns

Sullivan O&W Trail Town Program
Programming & Trip Planning Resources

Cycle the Erie Canal (July 9 - July 16)
Cycle the Hudson Valley (July 30 - Aug 5)
On the Canals Excursions
Canalway Challenge
PTNY Cycling Guidebooks
OPRHP Empire State Trail Website
## Funding

### State Funding

- **NYS OPRHP Capital Budget** - $250M
- **Environmental Protection Fund** - $400 M
  - Open Space/Land Conservation ($40M)
  - State Land Stewardship ($48.7M)
  - Waterfront Revitalization ($16.5M)
  - Municipal Parks Program ($26M)

### Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs

- Environmental Bond Act - $4.2 billion

### Federal Funding

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
  - Transportation Alternatives
  - Recreational Trails Program
  - Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program
- **American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds**
- Congressionally Directed Spending (Earmarks)
Questions?

Contact Information

Dylan Carey
Greenway Program Director
Parks & Trails New York

dcarey@ptny.org
(518) 434-1583