

NEWSLETTER



Friends of the
Genesee Valley Greenway



| The Year in Review

2025 Annual Report: A Year of Growth & Connection

In 2025, we reached new heights in trail engagement by **strengthening our vital partnership** with NYS Parks, and Genesee Valley Trail Towns. These collaborations, paired with our **dedicated stewardship**, allowed us to continue **active support of the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park**,

by providing volunteers to support I Love My Park Day and improved amenities for trail users. Together, we successfully expanded hikes and educational programming by **growing our calendar of community events**, allowing us to engage more residents than ever before and foster a deeper connection to the Greenway.



Our Mission

FOGVG advances public recreation—including walking, cycling, skiing, and horseback riding—while preserving historic canal-era resources and protecting the diverse natural habitats that call this corridor home.

| Message from the President

2025 was a landmark year for the 90-mile Genesee Valley Greenway. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our mission is to develop, maintain, and promote this historic corridor. This past year, we deepened our commitment to outdoor recreation, natural resource protection, and community engagement. Working with all Genesee Valley Trail Towns, the Greenway continues to thrive as a vital resource and opportunity for all.

-Carl Schoenthal



| 2025 Recap Continued



Community Recreation

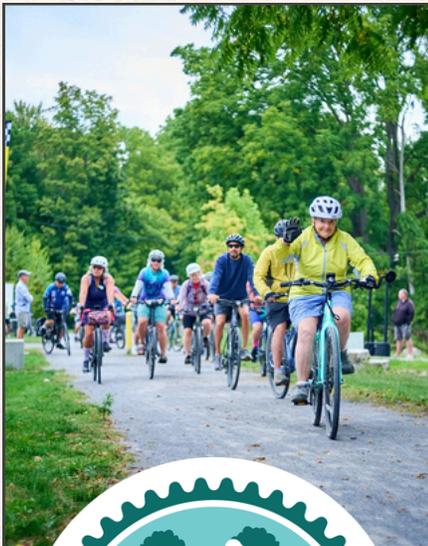
- **Expert-Led Discovery:** In 2025, the Letchworth Regional Interpretation Team led multiple monthly programs across the Greenway. We are proud to partner with these experts to provide essential nature and history education to our trail communities.
- **Trailside Hospitality:** To enhance these staff-led hikes, FOGVG provides snacks and warm beverages, ensuring a welcoming and fueled experience for participants in every season.

Trail Improvements & Stewardship

Throughout 2025, we focused on **enhancing the user experience**. Building on past successes—like our **community events, new kiosks and improved trailhead signage, water station in Avon, ribbon cutting event in York**—we continue to invest in the infrastructure that makes the Greenway a premier destination.



| 2025 Event Spotlight : The Greenway Cycle Challenge



The 2025 Greenway Cycle Challenge highlighted the unique history and ecology of the corridor. Most importantly, the event made a lasting impact with 100% of the proceeds directly supporting trail improvements and our ongoing mission. As one observer noted, "seeing children and octogenarians riding side-by-side perfectly captures the spirit of the Greenway."

CYCLE CHALLENGE BY THE NUMBERS:

- **101 Attendees:** Our growing community of riders and families who took the challenge in 2025.
- **10 Miles:** The scenic distance traveled from Scottsville to Avon.
- **2 Years:** The age of this rapidly growing signature tradition.
- **8 to 80+:** The inspiring age range of our 2025 participants.
- **100%:** The portion of event proceeds that directly fund trail stewardship.
- **1 Amazing Title Sponsor:** CooperVision



Next Cycle Challenge September 12th 2026!

FRIENDS OF GENESEE VALLEY GREENWAY



[Click here to shop our new merch!](#)

| The Year in Review

The Backbone of the Greenway: Our Volunteers

We extend our deepest gratitude to the "hands-on" heroes of 2025. From stewardship days to community outreach, our volunteers make the work possible.

Spotlight: This year's "I Love My Park Day" in Cuylerville saw incredible turnout, with volunteers clearing brush, painting bat boxes, assembling picnic tables as preparations for the busy season.



Support the Trail

Membership renewals and donor support directly sustain our trail enhancements and programming. Your contributions ensure the Greenway remains a high-quality, publicly accessible resource for the entire region. While the corridor is open for daily use, it is your generosity that allows us to host specialized events and provides the critical funding needed to preserve this 90-mile historic treasure for future generations.



| Stay informed with FOGVG:

 **Digital News:** Seasonal newsletters featuring park advocacy and trail town updates.

 **Web Presence:** Fresh updates to fogvg.org, [Facebook.com/FOGVG](https://www.facebook.com/FOGVG), and Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Enthusiasts Group on Facebook

 **Regional Collaboration:** Active participation in the Genesee Valley Trail Town Program, working alongside local businesses and municipalities to boost regional tourism.

❄️ Beat the Chill:

For many, winter is a time to stay inside, but for the Friends of the Greenway, it's when the trail truly shines. The "Quiet Season" offers views you can't see in the summer—frozen waterfalls, eagle nests visible through bare branches, and the peaceful hush of a snow-covered valley. Here is how you can get inspired and stay comfortable on the trail this season:

1. The Mindset: The "10-Minute" Commitment

The hardest part of winter hiking is the transition from your warm car to the trailhead. Use the 10-Minute Rule: tell yourself you'll only walk for ten minutes. Once your heart rate rises and your body generates its own heat, the cold disappears, and the beauty of the nature takes over. You'll almost always decide to keep going.

2. Master the Three-Layer System

Don't just wear a "big coat." Dress like a pro to manage moisture and temperature:

- The Base: Use a moisture-wicking synthetic or wool layer. Avoid cotton—it holds onto sweat and makes you colder.
- The Mid: A fleece or "puffy" jacket to trap heat.
- The Shell: A windproof outer layer to protect you from the gusts that sweep through the valley.

3. Chase the "Golden Hour" 🌅

Winter light is different. Because the sun sits lower on the horizon, the Greenway is bathed in a soft, orange glow as early as 3:00 PM. This is the ultimate time for photography. Head to the Erie-Attica Branch or the Avon trailheads to catch the sunset hitting the snow-covered fields.

4. Fuel Your Adventure

Winter hiking burns more calories as your body works to stay warm.

- Hot Hydration: Swap your water bottle for a thermos. Drinking hot herbal tea or cocoa at a trail midpoint isn't just a treat—it's a great way to core-heat your body.

5. Safety First: Watch the "Hidden Ice"

While the Greenway is famously flat and accessible, Winter can bring "black ice" under light snow. We recommend:

- Traction: Bring along a pair of "micro-spikes" that slip over your boots.
- Visibility: With shorter days, always tuck a small headlamp or flashlight into your pack, even if you plan to be back by 4:00 PM.

Renew Your 2026 Membership to Make a Difference!

Thank You! To our volunteers, members, donors, and partners—you make this work possible.

FRIENDS OF THE GENESSEE VALLEY
GREENWAY, INC.
PO Box 42
Mt. Morris, New York 14510

✳️ fogvg.org

✉️ info@fogvg.org

*Renew
Now!*



Friends of the
Genessee Valley Greenway

