



Friends of the
Genesee Valley
Greenway

Painting Gates in
Nunda

I Love My Park
Day 2022.



Spring 2023

GET OUT on the TRAIL

Parks & Trails New York's

I LOVE MY PARK *days*

MAY 6

Genesee Valley Greenway State Park will be bursting with events throughout the year, but the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (FOGVG) will kick off the season by celebrating the 12th annual **I Love My Park Day (ILMPD)** on **May 6**. FOGVG volunteers will join with thousands of others across the state to “give back” by helping to maintain, enhance and bring greater visibility to New York’s treasured state parks and historic sites.



32 volunteers cleaned up the trail in Scottsville in 2022
See page 3 for a full list of 2023 ILMPD work sites throughout the Greenway corridor.

I Love My Park Day is coordinated at the statewide level by Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

and state park and DEC lands friends groups.

Register for one of the work sites:

<http://www.ptny.org/ilomypark/>

This year there are six main work sites. Whether you are interested in picking up brush, painting trail gates, or planting flowers there is a community that can use your help.

Questions? Contact Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator, Pauline Burnes

peburnes@burnesrla.com or call 607-765-8543

President's Message

The Genesee Valley Greenway is a hive of activity these days.

In October, the Friends celebrated its **30th Anniversary and Annual Meeting in Scottsville**. Before our customary dish to pass dinner, members and friends (some who originally helped form the Friends) enjoyed walks and bike rides on the newly refurbished section of trail between Ballantyne Road and Scottsville's Canawaugus Park.

In November, we formally celebrated a **Ribbon Cutting** at Scottsville's Canawaugus Park, opening 17 miles of beautiful refurbished trail between Chili and Avon. Check out the interactive trail map on our website or get a copy of our Map/Brochure available in Greenway communities to help you plan your next Greenway visit.

In December, we hired Pauline Burnes as our **new Coordinator for the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative**, our collaborative program designed to cultivate economic vibrancy and sustainability within our exceptional outdoor recreation region. (see p. 4)

Like to paint? If you've been spending time on the trail, you've seen freshly painted gates. During the last two years, FOGVG volunteers painted 57 gates, but there are still 30 to 40 gates to paint. This year LMPD will offer gate painting at four sites if you want to help with this important project.

Is your 2022-2023 FOGVG membership up to date? Check the list of members on p. 7. If your name is not in bold, please bring your FOGVG membership up to date. Your support is critically important to our efforts.

Many, many thanks to FOGVG Newsletter editor **Irene Szabo** and Layout Assistant **Jo Taylor** for years of service. Best wishes on your well-deserved retirement.



Email: fogvg@frontiernet.net
Telephone: 585-490-3302



Nothing like a cake to celebrate 30 years and two of the FOGVG founding members were present to cut it.
Brian Managan (L) and Cole Gill (R)



Cutting the Ribbon on 17 miles of refurbished trail Canawaugus Park, Scottsville

L-R: GVG Crew Aaron Yokum, Scottsville Mayor Maggie Ridge, FOGVG President Joan Schumaker, PTNY Trails Director Dylan Carey, OPRHP Commissioner Erik Kulleseid, Ralph J Wilson Jr Foundation Director JJ Tighe, OPRHP Genesee Region Director Art Briley, GVG State Park Manager Kristine Uribe

HELP WANTED

PHOTOGRAPHERS FOGVG 's new website needs photos that show people using the Greenway in all seasons of the year, wildlife on the Greenway, activities such as work sessions and major trail events, and beauty shots of the trail and surrounding area. Send a note to fogvg@frontiernet.net and we will provide access to a Dropbox to upload your images.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR and LAYOUT You don't have to write the stories, but we need someone to do layout and someone to direct and manage the effort..

Thanks so much!

Parks & Trails New York's

I LOVE MY PARK days

MAY 6

General Greenway Clean up

Great Opportunity for Families

When you arrive: Volunteers check-in; pick up an ILMPD t-shirt (while supplies last and a heavy duty garbage bag; and either select or be assigned a section of trail to clean.

What you will do: Volunteers can pick up litter, rake, and remove small sticks from the trail surface and sides to prepare for State Parks crew mowing throughout the season.

Bring: Volunteers should bring gloves, rakes, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, and snacks.

Work Site Meeting Locations and Times:

***Wheatland/Scottsville:** 10 am - 1 pm, Parking lot, Canawaugus Park, Scottsville (43.018276, -77.747667)

***York:** 10 am – 12 pm, Parking lot, York Landing (42.864515, -77.851009)

***Mt. Morris:** 10 am - 1 pm, Parking lot, East State St. (Rt 408) (42.726340, -77.872477)

***Nunda:** 9 am – 12 pm, Nunda Historical Society, 24 Portage St., Nunda

Caneadea-Hume: 9 am – 12 pm, Caneadea Town Park Gateway Pavilion in Houghton University parking lot near the Houghton Fire Hall, east side of Route 19. (42.42478, -78.1533)

Cuba: 10 am - 12:30 pm, Greenway Gazebo, Bull St., Cuba (42.216592, -78.283329)

Most of the work will take place at the west end of the trail.

Trail Gate Painting

General Instructions

Gate Painting will take place **only** at the sites marked above with *. You must register with PTNY by **May 1**. You will be contacted to confirm your gate location. Family members or friends are encouraged to request working in pairs when registering. Teams may elect to paint more than one gate and paint after May 6 as schedules/weather permits. Gates may already be prepped to remove rust before you arrive.

Part 1—Paint and Tool Pick Up

When you arrive: Check in, pick up an ILMPD t-shirt, paint, and a tool kit with everything you will need.

What you will do: Remove rust and prime if not already done, paint all metal surfaces of the gates.

Bring: Volunteers should bring gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, and snacks.

Part 2—Return of Tools and Unused Paint

Arrangements for return of unused supplies will be made with volunteers prior to May 6. Every effort will be made to minimize travel distance for volunteers.

Register for one of the work sites at <http://www.ptny.org/ilovemypark/>

Questions? Contact Genesee Valley Trail Town Coordinator, Pauline Burnes

peburnes@burnesrla.com or call 607-765-8543

New Coordinator Benefits Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative

Landscape architect, Pauline Burnes, has recently been selected by FOGVG to join the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative as its Trail Town Coordinator.



The Trail Town Initiative brings together 10 communities within Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming and Allegany Counties as well as FOGVG, Letchworth Gateway Villages (LGV), PTNY, and OPRHP. The goal of the Initiative is to cultivate economic vibrancy and sustainability in an exceptional outdoor recreation region. The Trail Town communities currently participating in the Initiative are Wheatland-Scottsville, Avon, York, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Nunda, Perry, Hume-Fillmore, Caneadea-Houghton, and Cuba.


The Trail Town Coordinator will build on the efforts of the Initiative partners to foster community coordination and provide technical assistance to further strengthen and grow the capacity of local businesses, municipalities, and community organizations. The aim is to capitalize upon their proximity to Genesee Valley Greenway State Park and other outdoor recreation and heritage tourism available in the region.

Pauline brings many specialized and valuable skills to this new position. She retired after 24 years as a Landscape Architect with the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Region 6 where she served as the Regional Landscape Architect and Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator. During her time at NYSDOT she provided designs for highway streetscapes in villages and rural communities and the use of native plants for landscape restoration.

An Arkport resident, Pauline recently served four years as the volunteer project manager, grant writer, and administrator of the Trail 4 Improvement Project on Allegany County's NYSDEC West Almond Trail System. She is also an equestrian experienced in designing and maintaining multi-use trails in ways that minimize landscape disruption.

“Pauline’s many skills, extensive experience, and wide network of allied professionals, including engineers, architects, land surveyors and planners, have made her a most effective GVTT Coordinator and valuable resource for the trail town communities since beginning her work in November 2022. We are indeed fortunate to have her on the Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative team,” said FOGVG President Joan Schumaker.

According to Pauline, “It is very rewarding to have the opportunity to work with so many dedicated people residing in the Genesee River watershed who are striving to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities by improving local and regional parks and trails. This effort will benefit participating Trail Town communities and visitors attracted to the natural beauty of the area now and for future generations.”

The Trail Town Coordinator’s efforts are part of the Building a Genesee Valley Trail Town Network project that is supported with funding awarded to the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway from the New York State Park and Trail Partnership Grants and New York’s Environmental Protection Fund. The Park and Trail Partnership Grants are administered by Parks & Trails New York, in partnership with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. 



Trail Town Coordinator Pauline Burnes Introduces NYSDOT representatives at February 23 Trail Town Initiative Networking Meeting

Genesee Valley Trail Town Initiative Keeps Growing

Genesee Valley Trail Town (GVTT) Coordinator Pauline Burnes, RLA, has truly hit the ground running since she began her work in November 2022. She started by reviewing key documents developed by Initiative partners in 2021 and 2022 to aid the 10 Trail Town communities: the Bike Around Assessments, Community Action Plans, Trail Town Design Guidelines, and the 2021 Trail Town Visitor Survey.

Throughout her almost five months on the job, Pauline has conducted phone calls and multiple zoom and onsite meetings with the program leaders, stakeholders, and Trail Town committees. She has also visited each community's section of the Greenway as well as other areas of the corridor not specifically covered by a Trail Town.

Regular contact with the Trail Towns is one of the most important aspects of the Coordinator's function so Pauline has centered her efforts on helping each Trail Town committee complete its projects funded with grants from PTNY in 2022, undertake activities planned for 2023, and select projects for upcoming funding opportunities. Because of Pauline's professional expertise and long history of working for NYSDOT, she is able to draw upon her broad base of contacts throughout the region to provide valuable information and advice to each of the communities regarding ADA compliance, streetscape improvements; sidewalk connections to the Greenway, and safe road/trail intersections.

In coordination with the Trail Town Committee leaders for Hume, York, and Nunda, Pauline has initiated safety studies with NYSDOT that will include a review of current road/trail intersections and signalization for trail crossings. She has also contacted the Architecture Department at Alfred State College to discuss whether students could prepare renderings of proposed projects for grant applications and asked the Building Trades Department if students could construct projects such as kiosks and pavilions.

Pauline was also primarily responsible for planning the February 23 Genesee Valley Trail Town Networking Meeting held at Letchworth State Park Humphrey

Nature Center. The meeting was attended by representatives of Livingston County and Allegany County Planning and Development, NYSDOT, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Legacy Fund, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, Genesee Country Village and Museum, OPRHP Allegany Region, InSite Architecture, Leadership Allegany, Livingston County Dept. of Tourism and Economic Development, and Alfred State College as well as Trail Town committee members and Trail Town Initiative partners LGV, PTNY, FOGVG, and GVG State Park.



The February 23 Trail Town Networking Meeting provided an opportunity for conversation and learning for stakeholders from throughout the 90-mile Greenway corridor.



ILMPD 2022
Cuba Trail Town Committee volunteers removed a dump truck full of brush, weeds, and litter from the trail and trailhead. They also painted the trim on the trailhead gazebo and all the trail gates.

Trail Talk — Major Advancements Made in Greenway Development ...

Kristine Uribe, Park Manager Genesee Valley Greenway State Park



Genesee Valley Greenway State Park received several major funding awards that will make a dramatic change in number of visitors to the Greenway and the communities adjacent to it.

The Bridges of Allegany County

In 2021, Genesee Valley Greenway State Park received a \$1.25M grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation and a \$5M Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) award from the NYS Dept of Transportation (DOT) to build four pedestrian bridges, resurface more than 12 miles of trail, and add much needed amenities in the southern half of the 90-mile corridor.

Not only does the Bridges of Allegany County project have an appealing name, it will also have a major impact on the trail’s development. Many have been looking forward to the day when we can travel on the entire 90 miles of trail uninterrupted, and this project is a huge step in that direction.

Bridges will be built over Wiscoy Creek in Rossburg, Cold Creek in Fillmore, Houghton Creek within the Houghton College campus, and in Caneadea near where Caneadea Creek empties into the Genesee River. When the project is finished, it will reconnect communities in the 22 miles of corridor between Portageville and Belfast. This connection has not existed since the Pennsylvania Railroad abandoned service and removed its tracks and bridges 60 years ago!

In addition to reconnecting Greenway communities, this project will enhance quality of life as well as “open the southern gates” for trail visitors to explore what Allegany County has to offer and hopefully bring local businesses some added economic relief.

Houghton College student athletes will be able to train on the trail instead of the shoulder of State Route 19. In Fillmore, residents, especially students, will be able to go to school or local businesses on an off-road route. Since Cold Creeks cuts Fillmore in half, the only bridge over the creek now is State Route 19, which experiences heavy truck traffic. A pedestrian bridge will allow everyone to reach the supermarket, drug store and Miller Park on the south side of the creek or the school and many main street shops and services are on the north by bicycle or on foot.

State Buys 17 Miles of Former Rail Corridor

In 2022, New York State announced the purchase of 17 miles of the former Conrail corridor from the Genesee River north of Belfast south to Cuba. The \$400,000 purchase will help close gaps in the Genesee Valley Greenway trail in southern Allegany County and create “loop trails” within the Greenway corridor.

17 Miles of Greenway Trail Resurfaced and Enhanced

The ribbon was cut on 17 miles of beautifully refurbished Greenway on November 3, 2022. Funding for the multi-year \$6.5M project included a \$2.5M grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, \$2.5M in State Parks Capital funding, and \$1.54M in Transportation Alternatives Program funding administered by New York State Department of Transportation. If you have not already done so, visit this section of trail between Ballantyne Road in Rochester and Route 5 in the village of Avon to experience the wider, new stone dust trail surface, infrastructure improvements such as picnic tables and bike racks, and signage.

Strong Turnout for 2023 First Day Hikes

The Greenway was the place to be on the first day of 2023. A total of about 500 persons participated in First Day Hikes held in Avon, Cuba, Hinsdale, Mt. Morris, Nunda, Rochester, Scottsville, and York.



For up to date Greenway trail information, “like” the [Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Facebook page](#). For Facebook Lives or new posts, hover the pointer over the drop-down next to "Following" and click on the pencil next to "In Your Newsfeed" and "Notifications" to set your preferences. The only way to catch a Facebook Live is to turn on notifications.



Membership Information

A BIG THANK YOU to MEMBERS & FRIENDS

RENEW or become a NEW MEMBER

Go to www.fogvg.org, to download a membership form or pay online

Names in **Bold** have renewed or are new in 2022-23.

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* \$100-\$499

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New Member



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Lock Tenders at Erie Canal Lock #61, Macedon

JUNE 3 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Lock #2—The Life of a Lock Tender and his Lock

Interpretive Presentation 11:00 a.m.



Celebrate the 31st Annual National Trails Day with a visit to the newly refurbished c. 1840 Genesee Valley Canal Lock #2 in Chili. Walk through the 90-foot long, 15-foot wide chamber, marvel at the massive hammer-dressed cut stone blocks that were somehow lifted into place without the aid of power tools, learn how the wooden doors worked to let water in and out, and see the remaining hinges that made them work. Discover where the lock tender's house once stood and what it may have looked like while also getting a glimpse into the lock tender's life.

Hike or bike from:

- Brook Road Parking Lot (.8 mile)
- Scottsville's Canawaugus Park (4 miles)



Genesee Valley Canal Lock #2