

# Glenville Greenway Strategic Development Plan

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Glenville Greenway Strategic Development Plan outlines the planning, feasibility and preliminary design work necessary to develop a town wide multi-use pedestrian and bicycle transit trail system—a greenway system-- within the Town of Glenville and Village of Scotia. The purpose of the greenway is to connect employment, cultural, residential and recreational points of interest within the Glenville/Scotia area to similar points of interest in surrounding municipalities. Continuing to expand on the town’s trail system will improve the quality of life, provide recreational opportunities and help to stimulate economic development. The preparation of the plan was supported by a grant to the Town of Glenville from Empire State Development. The town hired Behan Planning and Design and the Chazen Companies to develop the plan, utilizing the support of town staff and input from the Study Advisory Committee.

## **GREENWAY BENEFITS**

A greenway is a linear recreational corridor of land that emphasizes non-motorized transportation. It can be a large regional corridor like the Hudson River Valley Greenway or the Erie Canalway Trail, or a more focused open space and transportation corridor like the Glenridge Road path the town has recently developed.

Greenways can serve a variety of needs within a community. If the trails are well planned and form a strong network, in addition to recreation benefits, greenways can offer an alternative means of commuting that is healthy and cost efficient. They can form local and regional connections between neighborhoods, parks, and urban centers, or from towns out to rural areas. Successful greenways result in decreased air pollution by forming an alternative means of transportation and decreasing the number of short, local automobile trips. The economic benefits of greenways are well documented in terms of contributing to community property values and the addition of valued recreation and transportation amenities.

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

Analysis of existing town, village and county plans, along with public input and guidance from the study advisory committee, informed the early development of this Greenway Strategic Development Plan. Using information from a public workshop, study advisory committee meetings, the prior planning studies and guidance from town staff and the consultant team, a Greenway Trail System Map was created that identified an overall vision of potential trail connections. A set of priority trail segments from this larger system map was selected using guidance from the study advisory committee including use of a rating system. Each proposed trail segment was ranked on a scale of 1 (low) to 3 (high) for each of the following criteria:

- System Connectivity
- Prior Planning and Support
- Likely Number of Users
- Types of Different Land Uses Connected
- Safety and Comfort
- Regional Connectivity
- Relative Cost
- Ease of Implementation
- Maintenance
- Accessibility



## PRIORITY TRAIL ROUTES – RECOMMENDATIONS

A series of 27 trail segments were considered for establishing priority routes for implementation. The top three priority trail segments were determined using the rating system described above:

### Trail Route Priority 1 - Van Buren Road

This segment would potentially connect the new pedestrian path along Glenridge Road from Town Hall through Stoodley Corners to the Andersen Dog Park.

### Trail Route Priority 2 – Alplaus Avenue Area

The Alplaus path would connect Alplaus Ave and the Bruce Drive area

### Trail Route Priority 3 - Freemans Bridge Road > Town Center

This corridor would connect the Freemans Bridge Road area and the Town Center area along NYS Route 50.



Additional priority segments are described in the full report.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The greenway report provided additional, more detailed information addressing:

- Potential funding sources and approvals.
- Land/right-of-way acquisition process.
- Trail construction.
- Trail maintenance and funding/support for trail maintenance
- Recommended local law changes to help advance the plan.
- Future considerations for the greenway system.

## CONCLUSION

This planning process has documented the feasibility for continuing on the path toward developing a town wide greenway network—a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle transit trail system within the Town of Glenville and Village of Scotia that will connect with local, and ultimately with regional destinations. Travelling on this system will improve the quality of life, enhance public health, provide recreational opportunities and transportation alternatives, and help to stimulate economic development as properties become increasingly accessible to this network. The benefits of the investments the town, village and other partners have made in this system will be expanded at an increasing rate as the network becomes increasingly interconnected.