

1 The Village of Lansing



2 **Greenway Plan**

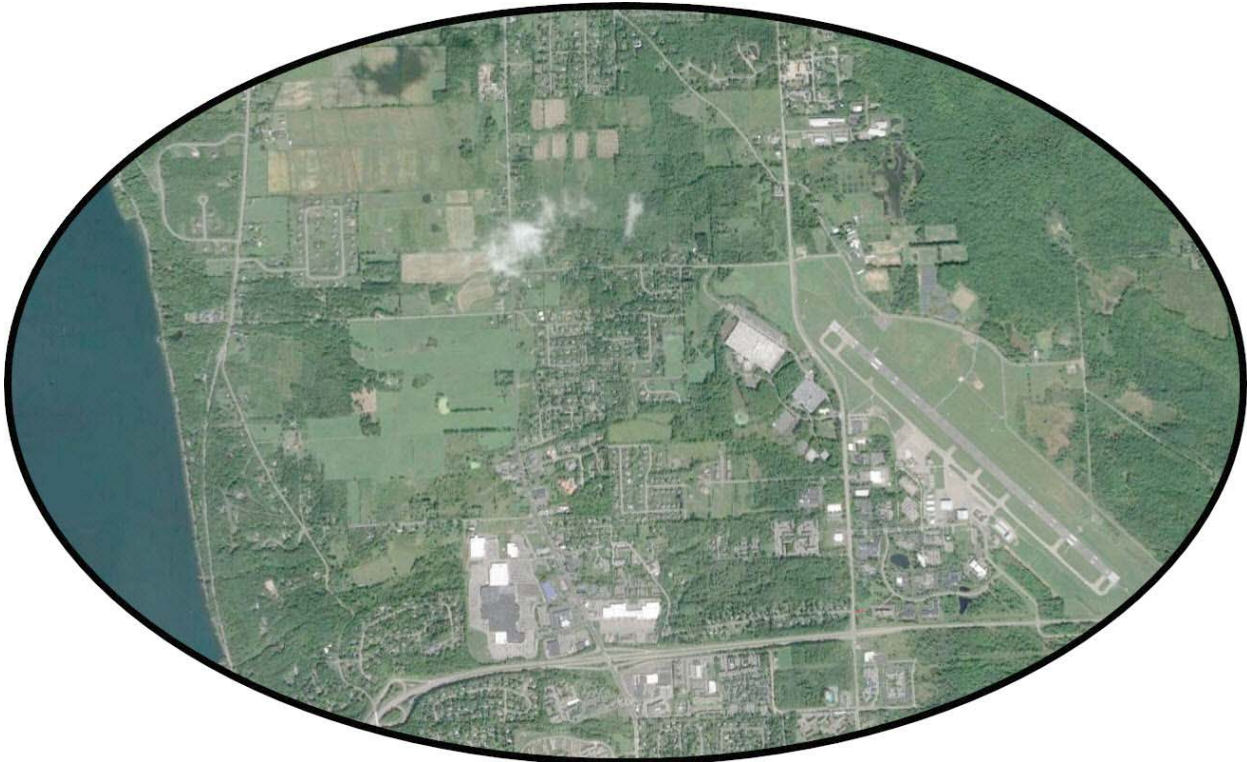
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3 Prepared by

4 Village of Lansing Greenway Committee

5 Draft Date: May 16, 2018

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The Village of Lansing Greenway Committee

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wishes to dedicate this Greenway Plan to

4

Edward J. (Ned) Hickey.

1 **Greenway Committee Members**

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2 The following individuals contributed time, talent, and effort to the Village of Lansing  
3 Greenway Committee to create this updated Greenway Plan.

- 4 Larry E. Bieri, Community Representative
- 5 Katrina Binkewicz, Lansing Town Board Representative
- 6 Phil Dankert, Community Representative
- 7 Deborah Dawson, Planning Board Member and Secretary
- 8 John Dennis, Community Representative
- 9 John Gillott, Planning Board Member
- 10 Ronny Hardaway, Trustee Member and Greenway Committee Chair
- 11 Lynn Leopold, Board of Zoning Appeals Member
- 12 Monica Moll, Community Representative
- 13 Gerry Monaghan, Trustee

14 **PLEASE NOTE:** Within this document “Greenway Committee” and “Committee” are  
15 synonymous and reflect the consensus of the Village of Lansing Greenway Committee.

16 **Approval Process**

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- 17 Greenway Plan public hearing held on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18 Greenway Plan approved by Village Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 as Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_.

1 **Contents**

---

2 Introduction..... 1

3     Definitions of “Greenway,” “Green Space,” and “Open Space” ..... 1

4         Additional Greenway-Related Definitions ..... 2

5     Benefits of Green Space ..... 2

6         Environmental Benefits ..... 3

7         Physical Health Benefits ..... 3

8         Mental Health Benefits ..... 3

9         Economic Benefits ..... 4

10        Aesthetic Benefits ..... 4

11 Greenway Plan Goals ..... 5

12     Overview ..... 5

13     Existing Village Green Spaces ..... 6

14     Walkways and Pathways ..... 6

15     Village Gardens and Flower Boxes ..... 7

16     Promoting Village Green Spaces..... 7

17     Adding Village Green Spaces ..... 7

18         Private Land Dedication ..... 8

19         Temporary, Revocable Easements ..... 8

20         Public Land Purchases..... 8

21         Private-Development Recreational Set-Asides..... 8

22     Developing Village Green Spaces ..... 9

23     Developing Walkways and Pathways..... 9

24         Village Walkways – Sidewalks and Pathways ..... 9

25         Village Pathways for Wheeled Traffic..... 10

26     Monitoring and Maintaining Village Green Spaces..... 10

27         Landscaping ..... 10

28         Greenway Maintenance..... 11

29         Walkway and Pathway Maintenance ..... 11

30 Short-Range Plan (1 to 5 Years)..... 12

31     Establish a Standing Greenway Committee ..... 12

32     Develop Marian Hartill Village Park ..... 12

33     Village Park Names..... 12

34     Standardized Park Signs ..... 13

1 Solicit and Establish Neighborhood Greenway “Friends” ..... 13

2 Budget for Village Landscaping ..... 13

3 Improve and Increase Walkways and Pathways..... 13

4 Develop Village Online Resources for Greenways..... 14

5 Ongoing Maintenance of Existing Green Spaces ..... 14

6 Long-Range Plan (5 Years and Beyond) ..... 15

7 Sustain and Support Standing Greenway Committee ..... 15

8 Budget for Village Landscaping ..... 15

9 Community Landscaping and Greenway Groups ..... 15

10 Village Walkways and Pathways Creation and Maintenance ..... 15

11 Reviewing and Updating the Greenway Plan ..... 16

12 Online Greenway Plan Resources ..... 16

13 Summary ..... 17

14 Appendix A – Village Greenways ..... 19

15 Village Parks ..... 19

16 Global Village Park ..... 19

17 Philip R. Dankert Park ..... 19

18 Marian Hartill Village Park ..... 20

19 Shannon Park..... 20

20 Ned Hickey Village Park..... 21

21 Blackchin Overlook..... 21

22 Village Walkways ..... 22

23 Sevana Park / Highgate Place ..... 22

24 Lansing Trails I..... 22

25 Janivar Dr. / St. Joseph Ln. / Triphammer Rd..... 23

26 Shannon Park / Beckett Way / Shops at Ithaca..... 23

27 Northwoods / Nor Way / Churchill / Graham ..... 24

28 Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker Woods Walkway ..... 24

29 Cinema / Uptown..... 25

30 Graham Road to Cayuga Mall Walkway ..... 25

31 Cornell Business & Technology Park..... 26

1 Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes ..... 27

2 Village Gardens ..... 27

3 Village Flower Boxes..... 27

4 Appendix C – Poison Ivy Point..... 28

5 Recommendations for Poison Ivy Point, Village of Lansing ..... 28

6 Appendix D – Greenway Improvement Projects..... 30

7 Current Greenway Improvement Projects..... 30

8 Past Greenway Improvement Projects ..... 30

9 Endnotes..... 33

10

11

## 1 **Introduction**

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2 In August 2015, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees determined that a committee  
3 should be formed to review and update the Village's 1994 Greenway Plan. The Greenway  
4 Plan Update Committee held its first meeting in September 2015. The committee held  
5 scheduled public meetings approximately monthly, and between meetings committee  
6 members reviewed the 1994 Greenway Plan, updated information, and drafted this plan.  
7 Committee members, working with the Village Department of Public Works, also evaluated  
8 current greenspaces within the Village for maintenance, updated playground equipment,  
9 and designed a new Village park on Northwoods Road in 2017.

10 This Greenway Plan is a guide for the development and use of a comprehensive network of  
11 parks, natural habitats, and recreation systems consisting of pathways, walkways, park  
12 land, and designated green or open space areas within the boundaries of the Village of  
13 Lansing. The plan provides the Committee members' recommendations to the Village's  
14 Board of Trustees for short-term and long-term goals related to maintaining greenways  
15 and providing public access to those greenways.

16 The Greenway Committee, representing Village officers, Village staff, and local citizens,  
17 reviewed the 1994 Greenway Plan in their early meetings and determined that the 1994  
18 plan should be updated to reflect the Village's current greenway spaces, trails, and  
19 walkways. The Committee also determined that the Village would use online tools to  
20 present greenway information to the public and expedite revisions to the plan and its  
21 greenway resources.

### 22 **Definitions of "Greenway," "Green Space," and "Open Space"**

23 For the purposes of this Greenway Plan, the terms "greenway," "green space," and "open  
24 space" are synonymous and will refer to the definition of "open space" provided by the New  
25 York State Open Space Conservation Plan:

26 *"Open space is defined as land which is not intensively developed for residential,*  
27 *commercial, industrial or institutional use. Open space can be publicly or privately*  
28 *owned. It includes agricultural and forest land, undeveloped coastal and estuarine*  
29 *lands, undeveloped scenic lands, public parks and preserves. It also includes water*  
30 *bodies such as lakes and bays. What land is defined as open space depends in part*  
31 *on its surroundings. ... A narrow corridor or pathway for walking or bicycling is*  
32 *open space even though it is surrounded by developed areas."*<sup>1</sup>

1 To refine the definition for the Village of Lansing, this Committee expanded the definition  
2 of green space to include the following description.

3 *Green space comprises land that is partially or completely covered with grass,*  
4 *trees, shrubs, gardens, or other natural or planted vegetation. Village green spaces*  
5 *include, but are not limited to, public and private park lands, land-development*  
6 *set-asides, community gardens, natural habitats, and other designated open*  
7 *spaces.*

### 8 **Additional Greenway-Related Definitions**

9 For consistency in this Greenway Plan, the Committee used greenway-related definitions  
10 extracted from the Village of Lansing Code, Chapter 98 – Parks and Recreation Law.<sup>2</sup>

11 **Park** – A public area of land used for recreational purposes. A park may be left in its  
12 natural state or may contain improvements for recreational purposes.

13 **Pathway** – A generic term to define a thoroughfare that is suitable for shared use by  
14 pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheeled-sport devices (i.e., skateboards, Segways,  
15 hoverboards, etc.) Pathways include sidewalks, paved shoulders, mowed pathways,  
16 trails, and designated pathways crossing parking lots.

17 **Paved Shoulder** – The part of a roadway delineated by a solid white line suitable  
18 for pedestrian and bicyclists.

19 **Public Recreational Area** – Any park, walkway or pathway.

20 **Sidewalk** – A walkway separated from the roadway by a ditch or a curb and  
21 surfaced with concrete, blacktop, or oil and stone.

22 **Trail** – A pathway that is not located along a road or in a parking lot.

23 **Walkway** – A generic term to define a pedestrian-only thoroughfare that is not  
24 suitable for shared use by pedestrians and bicyclists.

### 25 **Benefits of Green Space**

26 Benefits provided to the Village of Lansing by green space include: environmental, physical  
27 health, mental health, economic, and aesthetic. Brief summaries of these benefits follow.



1 **Environmental Benefits**

2 Environmental benefits of green spaces to the Village of Lansing include:

- 3 • Improved air quality through filtering of dust and pollutants
- 4 • Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- 5 • Cooler air temperatures produced by shading and by plant transpiration and
- 6 evaporation into the atmosphere
- 7 • Reduced soil erosion
- 8 • Greater rainfall retention
- 9 • Improved water quality through reduction of pollutants into waterways
- 10 • Retention of natural habitats for native flora and fauna.<sup>3</sup>

11 **Physical Health Benefits**

12 Many studies exist showing the physical health benefits related to green spaces:

- 13 • Physical activity has been shown to improve individuals' cardiovascular and
- 14 respiratory health and to extend their longevity
- 15 • Green spaces provide inviting, open space for adults and children to take advantage
- 16 of physical activity
- 17 • Close proximity of green spaces increases the accessibility and frequency of physical
- 18 activity
- 19 • Green spaces facilitate active lifestyles
- 20 • Provide therapeutic spaces for rehabilitative exercise.<sup>4</sup>

21 **Mental Health Benefits**

22 In addition to physical health, there are many mental health benefits associated with green

23 space availability because they:

- 24 • Provide opportunities for contact with the natural environment, which have
- 25 “positive restorative effects on mental health and wellbeing and may also help to
- 26 provide a buffer against stressful life events.”<sup>5</sup>
- 27 • Alleviate stress and anxiety
- 28 • Improve mood and attention
- 29 • Foster social interaction; thereby reducing social isolation, generating social capital,
- 30 and strengthening individual resilience and wellbeing.<sup>6</sup>

1 **Economic Benefits**

2 The economic benefits of green spaces have been documented since Frederick Law  
3 Olmsted began developing U.S. public park spaces in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Some of those  
4 benefits include:<sup>7</sup>

- 5 • Increased real estate property values and demand near green spaces
- 6 • Potential for greater municipal revenues through property tax, sales tax, and  
7 tourism-related spending
- 8 • Attraction and retention of workers and talent who want to live near green spaces
- 9 • Attraction and retention of retirees.

10 **Aesthetic Benefits**

11 Environmental aesthetics associated with green spaces can provide benefits that are  
12 known to:

- 13 • Create or strengthen place attachment and emotional bonds to the Village
- 14 • Reinforce a sense of community among Village residents
- 15 • Increase community satisfaction and the desire to live in the Village
- 16 • Increase the likelihood that tourists will return to the Village.<sup>8</sup>

# 1 **Greenway Plan Goals**

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## 2 **Overview**

3 This Greenway Plan provides guidance to the Village of Lansing government for  
4 documenting, promoting, expanding, developing, monitoring, and maintaining Village of  
5 Lansing green spaces, pathways, and walkways for the use and enjoyment of Village  
6 residents and visitors. An associated goal is to document plans for a system of walkways  
7 and pathways that connect the Village's green spaces to each other and to those of  
8 surrounding communities. An overarching objective of this plan is to help make the Village  
9 of Lansing and Tompkins County walkable and accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists.

10 This Committee, in reviewing the 1994 Village Greenway Plan, found that the 1994  
11 committee's list of nine goals were still relevant.

- 12 1. *Provide Village officials with a mechanism for decision-making*  
13 *regarding open space.*
- 14 2. *Design a Greenway that preserves environmentally significant features*  
15 *of the Village.*
- 16 3. *Foster a sense of local identity through careful attention to the "image"*  
17 *of the Village of Lansing.*
- 18 4. *Design a Greenway that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other*  
19 *users.*
- 20 5. *Design a Greenway that is accessible to those residing, working, and*  
21 *shopping in the Village or visiting the area.*
- 22 6. *Encourage the use of alternative means of transportation.*
- 23 7. *Facilitate pedestrian/bicycle travel to and from adjacent communities.*
- 24 8. *Encourage local citizens and others to participate in Greenway*  
25 *development and maintenance.*
- 26 9. *Minimize the costs associated with developing and maintaining the*  
27 *Greenway.<sup>9</sup>*

28 This Committee added one more goal to the original nine goals:

- 29 10. *Where possible and practical, design and encourage access to Village greenways for*  
30 *persons with disabilities.*

1 An important recommendation from the 1994 Greenway Plan was for the Village to create  
2 a “Village Center.” After years of consideration, the Board of Trustees determined that a  
3 Village Center was not feasible. In 2013, a new Village Administrative building was  
4 budgeted for and constructed, and it was finished in early 2014. This new building serves  
5 as the Village center, and in 2017, the Trustees authorized the conversion of the prior office  
6 in the old Village Hall into a community meeting room. A budget was earmarked for the  
7 community meeting room, and the renovation is planned to be completed in 2018.

8 This plan will also reflect the updated vision of the Village as described in the Village’s 2015  
9 Comprehensive Plan<sup>10</sup>:

10 **“Planning for Character, Quality and Sustainability**

11 **Character:** The Village should strive to improve the quality, consistency, and  
12 aesthetics of the built environment in all areas to improve its overall character.”<sup>11</sup>

13 **“Recreation and Greenspace:** The Village should augment and maintain the system  
14 of trails, parks and open spaces that are accessible to all residents.”<sup>12</sup>

15 and

16 **“Natural Resources:** The Village should promote and manage plans and programs  
17 to protect and enhance the natural environment.”<sup>13</sup>

18 **Existing Village Green Spaces**

19 The existing Village green spaces are listed in *Appendix A – Village Greenways* of this plan.  
20 The appendix is a directory of Village green spaces, walkways, and pathways. Listing  
21 Village green spaces in an appendix allows future updates to the list of existing green  
22 spaces without revising the text of the entire Greenway Plan.

23 **Walkways and Pathways**

24 Walkways and pathways are important elements of the Village Greenway Plan because  
25 they connect residents and visitors to green spaces, to unique natural areas (like Sapsucker  
26 Woods), to commercial centers (such as the Cornell Business and Technology Park and  
27 local businesses and malls), to public facilities (such as the Village Hall, the Post Office and  
28 the Cayuga Medical Convenient Care Center), and to recreational facilities (such as the  
29 YMCA and Village parks). The walkways and pathways increase the walkability and  
30 cyclability of the Village, and they link neighborhoods, businesses, and public facilities into  
31 a shared community. They also promote alternative travel through the Village, reducing  
32 vehicle traffic and traffic emissions.

1 **Village Gardens and Flower Boxes**

2 The Village owns and is responsible for gardens and flower boxes that are used for the  
3 beautification of Village properties and for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors.  
4 Village gardens exist on Village-owned properties, like the Village Offices and our Village  
5 public recreational areas. Village flower boxes decorate our Village boundary signs.  
6 *Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes* lists the Village gardens and flower boxes.

7 The Village should plan and maintain its gardens and flower boxes to present a visual  
8 commitment to public greenways and community beautification efforts. It is important to  
9 care for the Village gardens and flower boxes on a seasonal basis to maintain a good public  
10 impression for residents and visitors.

11 **Promoting Village Green Spaces**

12 Public promotion of Village green spaces informs Village residents and visitors what green  
13 spaces are available and where to find those green spaces. Information about the existing  
14 Village green spaces, documented in Appendix A, will be made available online through the  
15 Village of Lansing website. Each green space, walkway and pathway will link to an online  
16 map to help residents and visitors find each of the green spaces.

17 Additionally, promoting Village green spaces through printed material is important so that  
18 residents and visitors can navigate the Village with printed resources. Village green space  
19 information should be included, where possible, in printed literature published by other  
20 municipalities or organizations (or online, as downloadable resources) to promote our  
21 Village green-space resources to broader audiences.

22 **Adding Village Green Spaces**

23 Village of Lansing green spaces may be increased or expanded through private land  
24 dedication, revocable easements passing through private property, Village land purchases,  
25 and green-space set-asides (or exactions) within development projects.

1 **Private Land Dedication**

2 The Village of Lansing code defines “land dedication” as:

3 *“The deliberate appropriation of property by its owner for general public use.”<sup>14</sup>*

4 Private land dedication may be used to transfer private ownership of roads, trails, parks,  
5 gardens, and other green spaces to public ownership by the Village of Lansing. Private land  
6 dedication to the Village must follow the process and guidance of the Village of Lansing  
7 Code for such dedications. Once the private land is transferred to public ownership through  
8 dedication, the Village is responsible for the dedicated land and its maintenance and  
9 upkeep.

10 **Temporary, Revocable Easements**

11 The Village may obtain temporary, revocable easements from property owners to provide a  
12 public right-of-way within the Village for a specified term and within certain restrictions.  
13 The Village may offer to maintain the public right-of-way for the negotiated duration of the  
14 temporary, revocable easement. The Village or the landowner may revoke such easements  
15 should the need arise.

16 **Public Land Purchases**

17 The Village Board of Trustees may choose to purchase property that is appropriate for  
18 general, public use as green space. Once a property is purchased and owned by the Village,  
19 it becomes the responsibility of the Village to develop and maintain the property as public  
20 green space.

21 **Private-Development Recreational Set-Asides**

22 The Village of Lansing Code identifies a “Minimum Recreational Area” required for  
23 residential developments and subdivisions.<sup>15</sup> These recreational-area set-asides provide  
24 community green spaces for nearby residential dwellers and the public. These set-asides  
25 are intended to create the benefits attributed to green spaces, or open spaces, as identified  
26 in this plan’s Introduction. Because they are part of a private development, they are  
27 maintained by the private development unless the set-aside is dedicated to the Village. At  
28 that point the Village will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

1 **Developing Village Green Spaces**

2 As the Village purchases or receives green spaces, they may be developed as parks for safe  
 3 public use. If the Village decides to develop a new park, this Committee recommends the  
 4 following measures:

- 5 • Retain as many natural trees and as much natural flora as possible
- 6 • Replace decayed or damaged trees that must be removed for safety reasons (once  
 7 the park space development is completed)
- 8 • If appropriate, segregate playground spaces to separate younger children  
 9 (2-5 years) from older children (5-12 years)
- 10 • Place benches or seating areas near playgrounds so that parents or caretakers can  
 11 comfortably supervise their children at play
- 12 • Include a minimally invasive stormwater management system when required
- 13 • Provide for public safety within the park space with federal- and state-regulated,  
 14 design, engineering, and construction and with planned and supervised  
 15 maintenance of the park space.
- 16 • Provide a prominent kiosk for the posting of park rules and access hours
- 17 • Use minimal lighting for the park space when needed (preferably solar-powered  
 18 lighting)
- 19 • Provide and maintain public trash receptacles in the park space, but also encourage  
 20 carry-in/carry-out of all waste (as in New York State parks<sup>16</sup>)
- 21 • Facilitate easy, long-term maintenance by the Village’s DPW staff.

22 **Developing Walkways and Pathways**

23 The Committee recommends that the Village continue to plan and develop walkways and  
 24 pathways throughout the Village to connect green spaces, neighborhoods, and commercial  
 25 districts. Proper planning and development of these walkways and pathways provide for  
 26 the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians and cyclists.

27 **Village Walkways – Sidewalks and Pathways**

28 Sidewalks would be created in residential and business areas and surfaced pathways  
 29 would be created in green spaces or in more “rural” neighborhoods within the Village.

1 The Committee recommends that the Village develop sidewalks and surfaced pathways on  
2 Village-owned property wherever possible. Paved-shoulder walkways should be avoided  
3 because they put pedestrians at risk within Village traffic flow. Sidewalks should be  
4 engineered and placed at a safe distance from roadways following Village code and state  
5 and federal sidewalk recommendations or guidelines.

6 Once the owners of the developments have completed sidewalks, and if the sidewalks are  
7 dedicated to the Village, the Village DPW department would be responsible for the upkeep  
8 and maintenance of the sidewalks (including snowplowing.)

9 The Committee recommends that Village surfaced pathways be crushed-stone-paved (or  
10 similar) and that they be engineered and placed at a safe distance from roadways. Village-  
11 owned parks or green spaces would use surfaced or mowed pathways for visitors.

### 12 **Village Pathways for Wheeled Traffic**

13 Village pathways for bicyclists should be incorporated into any new road construction or  
14 renovation within the Village. Many existing Village roads have integrated paved shoulders  
15 that allow wheeled traffic (i.e., bicycles, skateboards, hoverboards, Segways, and  
16 wheelchairs) to travel the trafficked roads in relative safety. As new roads are developed,  
17 or existing roads are resurfaced, paved pathways should be planned and developed along  
18 with the roads' development.

19 Within Village parks or green spaces, the surfaced pathways should be wide enough to  
20 accommodate pedestrian and wheeled traffic where possible. The Committee recommends  
21 signs on shared pathways warning pedestrians and wheeled traffic of the shared paths.

### 22 **Monitoring and Maintaining Village Green Spaces**

#### 23 **Landscaping**

24 The Greenway Committee recommends that the Village plan for and budget for appropriate  
25 landscaping of all Village-owned green spaces in the Village's annual budget. Consistent,  
26 planned landscaping presents a welcoming impression to visitors and residents, and  
27 landscaping maintains the aesthetic and economic investment in publicly owned green  
28 spaces.



1 Recruiting residents to monitor and maintain the landscaping of Village parks is  
2 recommended. Monitoring of Village green spaces would include monitoring trash  
3 receptacles within the green spaces. Should trash receptacles need service or to be  
4 emptied, the Village DPW staff would be notified of the service or emptying request The  
5 Village would pay for, or assist with, the cost of the landscaping materials, and the  
6 residents would volunteer their time and labor.

7 If needed, the Village could hire part-time, temporary help during the landscaping season  
8 to assist with park landscaping and park maintenance needs. Village-designated officers,  
9 staff, or Committee members would supervise the temporary help as determined by the  
10 Board of Trustees.

### 11 **Greenway Maintenance**

12 The Village's DPW staff will be responsible for the grounds, tree, shrub, playgrounds, and  
13 facilities maintenance within the Village-owned green spaces and parks. Mowing, weeding,  
14 trimming, removal, and planting of trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground-cover should be  
15 performed by and/or monitored by the DPW staff.

16 Public parks and green spaces should be designed and developed to allow easy and safe  
17 maintenance by the DPW staff. Therefore, when a green space is being developed, designed,  
18 or redesigned, members of the DPW staff should be consulted about long-term park  
19 maintenance needs and layout.

### 20 **Walkway and Pathway Maintenance**

21 The Village walkways and pathways should be developed, monitored, and maintained to  
22 provide safe and pleasant movement through the Village. The Committee recommends that  
23 residents near these walkways and pathways be recruited to monitor them for  
24 obstructions or need for repairs and maintenance. The Village DPW department should be  
25 contacted for assistance with removal of obstructions and surface maintenance.

## 1 **Short-Range Plan (1 to 5 Years)**

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2 The purpose of the Committee's short-range plan is to suggest priorities related to  
3 greenway development, landscaping, and maintenance to be performed in the next 1 to 5  
4 years.

### 5 **Establish a Standing Greenway Committee**

6 The Committee recommends that the Village establish a permanent, standing Greenway  
7 Committee. The committee members can help plan and develop new greenspaces, and they  
8 can help monitor green spaces and interact with green space volunteers (see *Solicit and*  
9 *Establish Neighborhood Greenway "Friends"*, below) who help monitor and maintain  
10 existing green spaces.

11 The Committee also recommends that the standing Greenway Committee provide a status  
12 report on green-space activities to the Board of Trustees and/or the Planning Board on a  
13 regular basis, and at least semi-annually.

### 14 **Develop Marian Hartill Village Park**

15 Development of the Village's Marian Hartill park began in 2016 with an initial undergrowth  
16 clearing, walking assessments of the parcels' topography and plants, and a preliminary  
17 concept drawing of the park's planned features. Park construction began in 2017 as the  
18 Department of Public Works removed unwanted or decayed trees, shaped the park surface  
19 and installed subsurface water-control infrastructure. Two age-appropriate playground  
20 areas were installed in the Fall of 2017. The park's parking area was started in 2017, also.

21 Once the park landscaping is completed, additional park equipment and features (tables,  
22 benches, trash receptacles, basketball hoop, etc.) will be ordered and installed. The  
23 Greenway Committee will help select and order the necessary equipment and above-  
24 ground features for the park.

### 25 **Village Park Names**

26 The Committee recommends that the Village seek input from Village residents for naming  
27 parks as the need arises. The Village could allow residents to vote from a list of suggested  
28 names for the parks. Voting for park names would publicize the existence of the parks, and  
29 it increases public buy-in for the selected names.

1 In the April 2018 Village election, voters were asked to help select park names for three  
2 Village parks. The results from the park-name ballots were:

- 3 • New Village park on Northwoods Road: **Marian Hartill Park**
- 4 • Corner park on Uptown Road (across from Dankert Park): **Global Village Park**
- 5 • Pocket park at the corner of Craft Road and Leif's Way: **Ned Hickey Park**.

### 6 **Standardized Park Signs**

7 The Committee recommends purchasing and installing standardized park and trail signs to  
8 identify Village-owned and Village-maintained green spaces and corridors. The Committee  
9 also recommends that all park signs include "Village Park" on the sign. This additional  
10 wording would remind residents that the Village government provides support and  
11 maintenance of our public parks.

### 12 **Solicit and Establish Neighborhood Greenway "Friends"**

13 The Greenway Committee recommends that the Village solicit residents who live near each  
14 of the Village's green spaces to monitor the green spaces for maintenance. These volunteers  
15 would perform simple landscaping maintenance. The volunteer monitors would also  
16 monitor trash receptacles and would contact the DPW staff if maintenance or emptying is  
17 needed. The Village DPW department would perform significant maintenance, such as  
18 mowing, playground equipment repair, and large plant or limb removal.

### 19 **Budget for Village Landscaping**

20 The Committee recommends that the Village Board of Trustees continues to include  
21 landscaping costs in their annual budget. It is recommended that the budget include items  
22 such as: money to hire part-time, temporary help; pay for landscaping trees, shrubs and  
23 plants; and for any landscape planning required for major green-space improvements.

### 24 **Improve and Increase Walkways and Pathways**

25 The Committee recommends that the Village Planning Board require the construction of  
26 sidewalks or surfaced walkways in any new development. The Committee also  
27 recommends that the Village expand walkways by constructing new sidewalks in existing  
28 residential and commercial areas where pedestrians are currently required to use  
29 inadequate or unsafe road shoulders. The Committee recommends that surfaced walkways  
30 and pathways be paved with a long-lived, easily maintained surface to make walking and  
31 biking (if allowed) safe during non-winter months.

1 **Develop Village Online Resources for Greenways**

2 The Committee recommends that the Greenway Committee and Village website  
3 administrator(s) maintain online resources related to greenway spaces within the Village.  
4 Online descriptions and maps should be provided to guide residents and visitors to chosen  
5 green spaces. The online resources would be easier and less expensive to update than  
6 printed materials.

7 **Ongoing Maintenance of Existing Green Spaces**

8 The Committee recommends that the Greenway Committee monitor and guide ongoing  
9 maintenance of existing green spaces through their scheduled meetings and on an as-  
10 needed basis.

## 1 **Long-Range Plan (5 Years and Beyond)**

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### 2 **Sustain and Support Standing Greenway Committee**

3 The Committee recommends that a permanent, standing Greenway Committee be  
4 maintained with regularly scheduled, or issue-specific, meetings to evaluate the progress  
5 or condition of greenways, parks, trails, walkways, pathways, and properties. The  
6 membership of the Committee should include representatives from the Village's trustees,  
7 boards, and staff along with representatives from the Village community.

### 8 **Budget for Village Landscaping**

9 To sustain the long-term vision for the Village of Lansing, this committee recommends that  
10 landscaping in the Village-owned and Village-maintained properties should be planned for  
11 as part of the Village's annual budget cycle.

### 12 **Community Landscaping and Greenway Groups**

13 When possible, the Village's Greenway Committee should coordinate with Village residents  
14 who live near Village parks and trails to assist with the landscaping and maintenance of  
15 those parks and trails. When needed, funds should be used from the Village budget to  
16 provide tools and materials for community-based landscaping efforts to help foster a  
17 community sense of ownership in the Village's greenways.

### 18 **Village Walkways and Pathways Creation and Maintenance**

19 The Committee recommends that the Village plan, build, and maintain infrastructure for a  
20 walkable Village and county. Walkability requires surfaced and appropriately-lighted  
21 walkways and pathways within and between Village neighborhoods, greenway spaces, and  
22 parks.

## **1    Reviewing and Updating the Greenway Plan**

---

2    The Greenway Committee should monitor this plan’s Short-Range and Long-Range goals  
3    annually. The results of the goals’ review should be communicated to the Village Board of  
4    Trustees and the Village Planning Board to assist with future budgets, plans and actions by  
5    those boards.

6    The standing Greenway Committee members should review this Greenway Plan every five  
7    years. The plan should be updated when significant changes are required. Committee  
8    members should recommend, discuss, and approve changes to the Greenway Plan during  
9    scheduled meetings that are open to the public.

10   Once the Committee approves changes, the updated version of the Greenway Plan must be  
11   presented to the Village Board of Trustees for final approval. Once the Board of Trustees  
12   approves the updated plan, it will replace the previous version and will be made available  
13   to the public on the Village’s website. At least ten (10) copies of the revised Greenway Plan  
14   will be printed for distribution. Additional copies may be printed should they be needed.

15   As new parcels or trails are added to the Village’s green spaces, the Committee  
16   recommends that the Village Board of Trustees consider and pass resolutions to  
17   incorporate the new spaces into this Greenway Plan. The Greenway Committee members  
18   will add the new parcels’ information to the Plan’s appropriate appendix.

### **19   Online Greenway Plan Resources**

20   Appendices to this Greenway Plan were created so that they could be updated in a timely  
21   manner without revising the entire Greenway Plan. The standing Greenway Committee will  
22   review appendices’ content and make recommended revisions when required. The updated  
23   versions of the appendices will be offered through the Village of Lansing website.

24

## 1 **Summary**

---

2 In August 2015, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees requested that a committee be  
3 formed to update the Village's Greenway Plan from 1994. The committee comprised Village  
4 officers, board members, and citizen representatives from the Village and the Town of  
5 Lansing. The Greenway Committee evaluated the 1994 plan, created new content and  
6 layout for the plan, and reviewed the new content for completeness and consistency.

7 This updated Greenway Plan builds upon the vision and goals provided in the Village's  
8 2015 Comprehensive Plan, and it is directed by the codification of our Village laws. The  
9 plan retains the original nine goals from the 1994 Greenway Plan, and the Committee  
10 added one new goal: *Where possible and practical, design and encourage access to Village*  
11 *greenways for persons with disabilities.*

12 The plan provides a guide for the Village officers, staff, committees, and community  
13 volunteers to identify, develop, and maintain the Village's greenways, parks, gardens,  
14 pathways, and walkways. It also identifies short-term and long-term goals to enhance and  
15 sustain the Village's ongoing greenway efforts.

16 The Greenway Plan recommends that the Village design and promote green spaces,  
17 walkways, and pathways to take advantage of their benefits, including: environmental  
18 quality; physical and mental health from outdoor exercise; economic growth through  
19 population growth and tourism drawn by healthy greenways; and strengthening  
20 community bonds and satisfaction through the aesthetics of greenways, gardens, pathways,  
21 and walkways.

22 This plan's short-term (3- to 5-year) goals include: establishing a standing Greenway  
23 Committee to maintain the Greenway Plan and guide ongoing greenway efforts; developing  
24 the Village's new park on Northwoods Road; eliciting Village park names and trail names  
25 from Village residents; creating neighborhood-volunteer groups to monitor and provide  
26 simple maintenance of greenway areas; budgeting for Village greenway and landscaping  
27 maintenance; improving and increasing walkways and pathways; and implementing online  
28 Village resources for public access to greenway information.

1 The recommended long-term goals (5 years and beyond) include: institutionalizing the  
2 Greenway Committee; continuing budgets for Village landscaping; expanding and  
3 supporting community-volunteer groups that assist with landscape monitoring and simple  
4 maintenance of greenways, walkways, and pathways; and continuing to expand walkways  
5 and pathways to help improve the Village’s walkability. As new parcels or trails are added  
6 to the Village’s green spaces, the Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees  
7 consider, and pass, appropriate resolutions to formally incorporate these new spaces or  
8 trails into the Greenway Plan.

9 This Greenway Plan is meant to be a living document; therefore, the standing Greenway  
10 Committee should monitor the plan’s short- and long-range goals annually for accuracy and  
11 relevancy. Appendices to this Greenway Plan should be updated in a timely manner. The  
12 Greenway Committee should review appendices’ content and make recommended  
13 revisions when required. The updated versions of the appendices should be offered  
14 through the Village of Lansing website. Every five years, the Greenway Committee should  
15 fully review and update the plan as needed.

16



1 **Appendix A – Village Greenways**

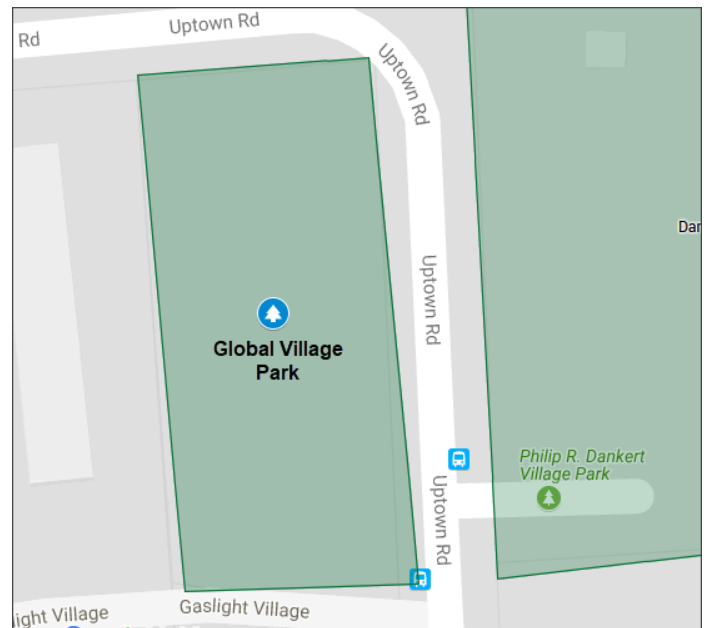
2 **Village Parks**

**Global Village Park**

Location: 57 Uptown Road  
(42°28'51.6"N 76°28'23.7"W –  
across the street from Dankert Park)

Features:

- Parking (across Uptown Road in Dankert Park)
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years. (Installed in 2017)
- Swings for children aged 2 to 12 years
- Park benches

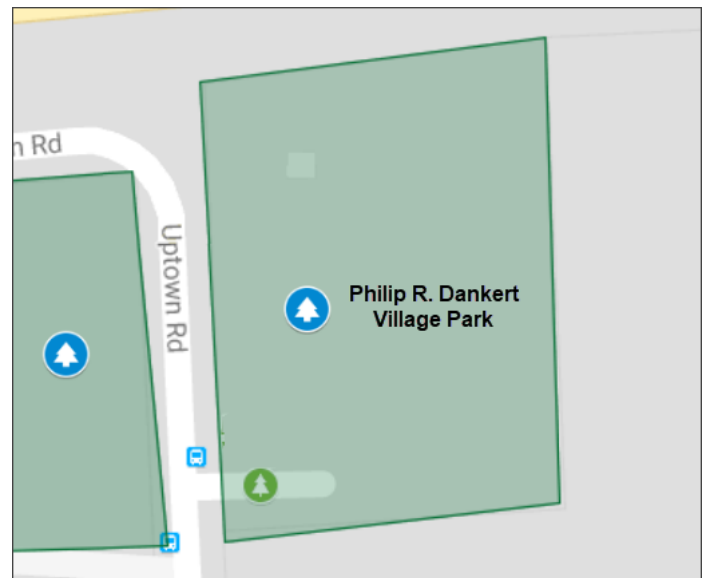


**Philip R. Dankert Park**

Location: 86 Uptown Road  
(42°28'51.6"N 76°28'20.6"W –  
across the street from Village Park)

Features:

- Parking
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years (installed in 2009)
- Swings for children aged 2 to 12 years
- Park benches
- Half basketball court
- Soccer field
- Picnic pavilion

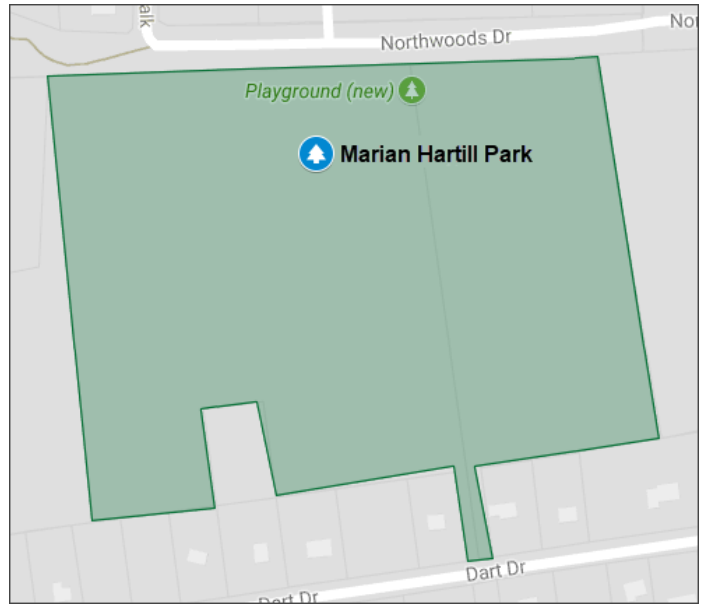


## **Marian Hartill Village Park**

**Location:** Northwood Road  
(42°29'09.3"N 76°28'29.4"W)

Features (in work):

- Parking on south side of Northwoods Dr.
- Second pedestrian access provided by trail from Dart Drive
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years. (Installed in 2017)
- Separate playground equipment for children aged 2 to 5 years (Installed in 2017)
- Park benches
- Half basketball court
- Multi-sport field (i.e., soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Picnic pavilion
- Park trails

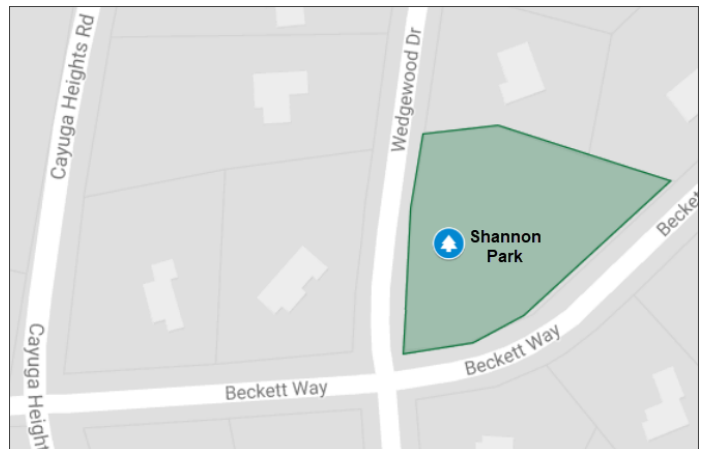


## **Shannon Park**

**Location:** 18 Beckett Way  
(42°28'52.7"N 76°29'59.7"W)

Features:

- Pocket park
- Park bench
- Small play space

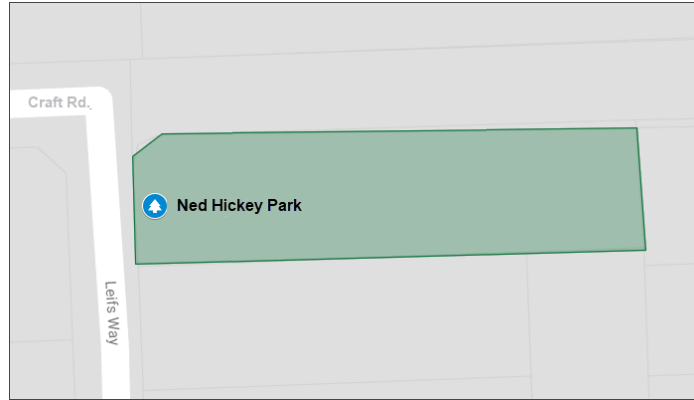


**Ned Hickey Village Park**

Location: Corner of Craft Road and Leif's Way  
(49°29'29.6"N 76°28'50.2"W)

Features:

- Open, grassy grounds
- No amenities.

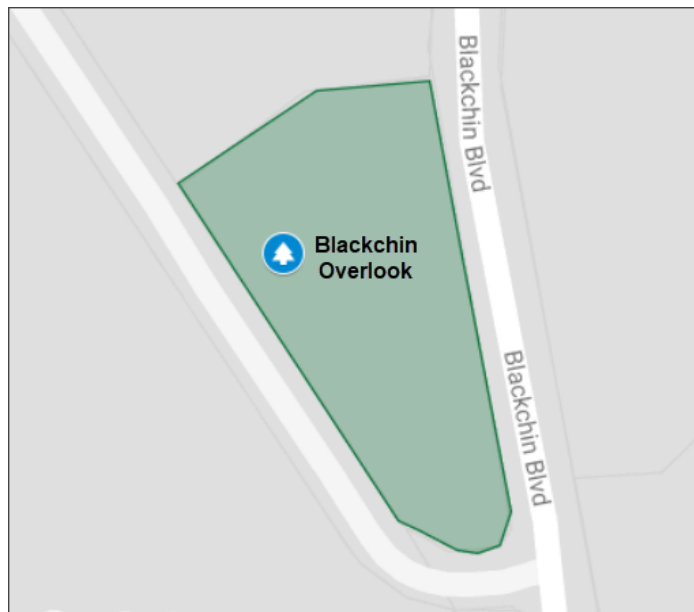


**Blackchin Overlook**

Location: Blackchin Blvd.  
(42°30'18.4"N 76°30'54.0"W)

Features:

- Parking lot
- Lake view
- No amenities.



1

2

## 1 Village Walkways

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### Sevanna Park / Highgate Place

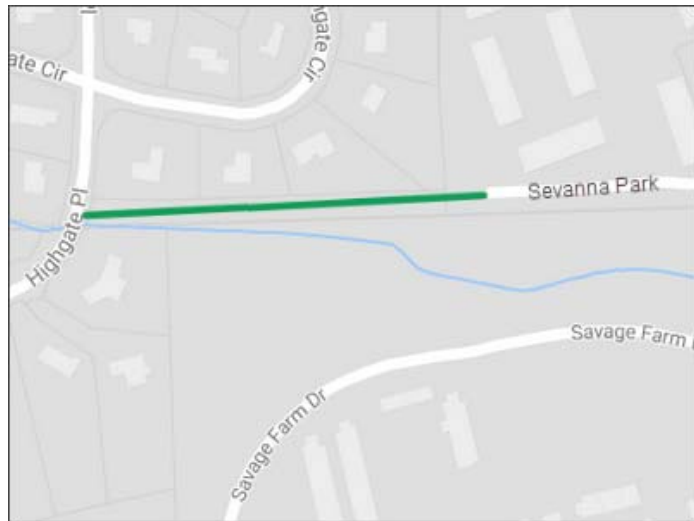
Location:

Connects Sevanna Park and Highgate Place

(Sevanna Park: 42°47'80.0"N, 76°48'78.7"W, Highgate Place: 42°47'78.5"N, 76°49'07.8"W)

Features:

- Paved surface



### Lansing Trails I

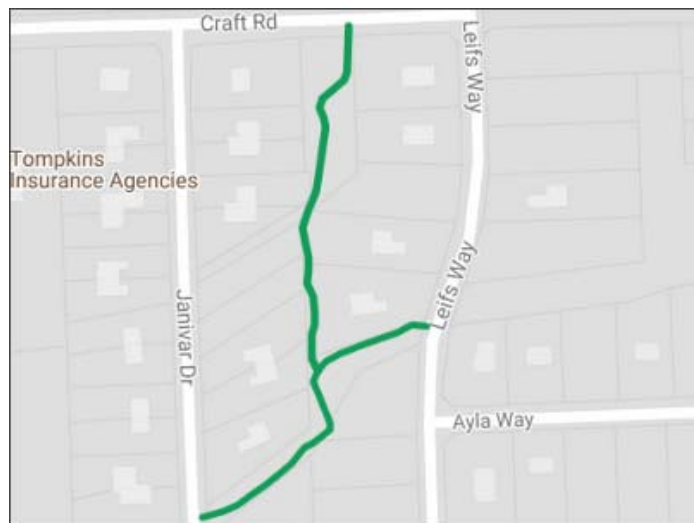
Location:

Connects Craft Road, Janivar Drive, and Leifs Way

(Craft Road: 42°49'16.3"N, 76°48'18.4"W, Janivar Drive: 42°48'91.2"N, 76°48'28.9"W, Leifs Way: 42°49'01.0"N, 76°48'12.6"W)

Features:

- Paved surface



**Janivar Dr. / St. Joseph Ln. /  
Triphammer Rd.**

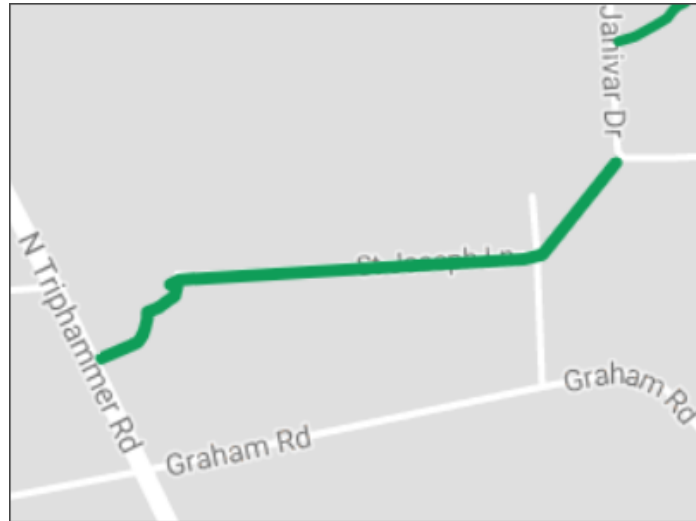
Location:

Connects Janivar Drive and  
Triphammer Road

(Janivar Drive: 42°48'83.1"N,  
76°48'28.7"W, Triphammer Road:  
42°29'13.5"N, 76°29'16.0"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- St. Joseph section on street
- Western end through Colonial  
Pet Hospital parking lot.



**Shannon Park / Beckett Way /  
Shops at Ithaca**

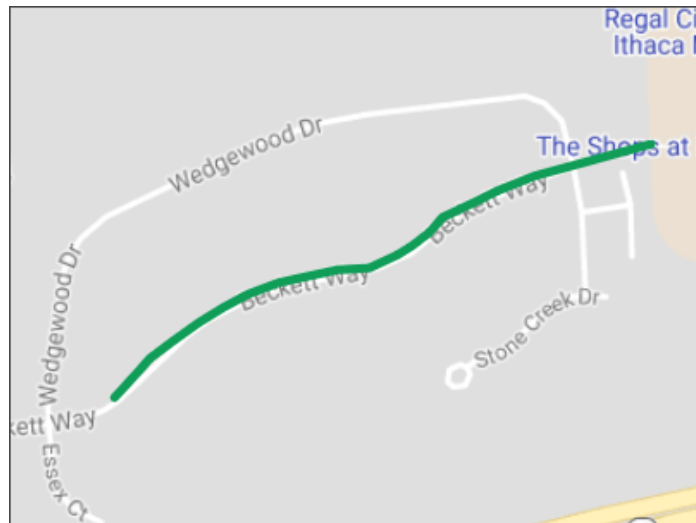
Location:

Connects Shops at Ithaca Mall and  
Shannon Park

(Mall: 42°48'33.9"N 76°49'31.6"W,  
Shannon Park: 42°48'13.9"N,  
76°49'47.6"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- Beckett Way section on street



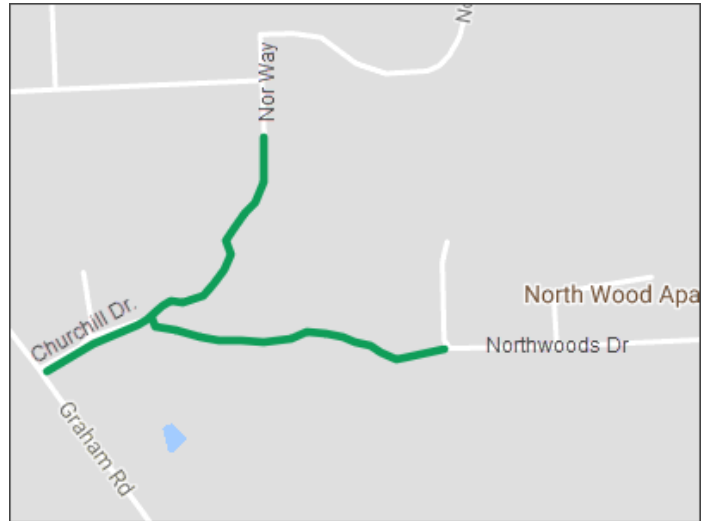
**Northwoods / Nor Way /  
Churchill / Graham**

Location:  
Connects Nor Way, Churchill Drive,  
Northwoods Drive, and Graham  
Road

(Nor Way: 42°29'16.1"N,  
76°28'43.1"W, Churchill Drive:  
42°29'09.9"N, 76°28'50.9"W,  
Northwoods Drive: 42°29'09.5"N,  
76°28'34.7"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- Churchill Drive section on street



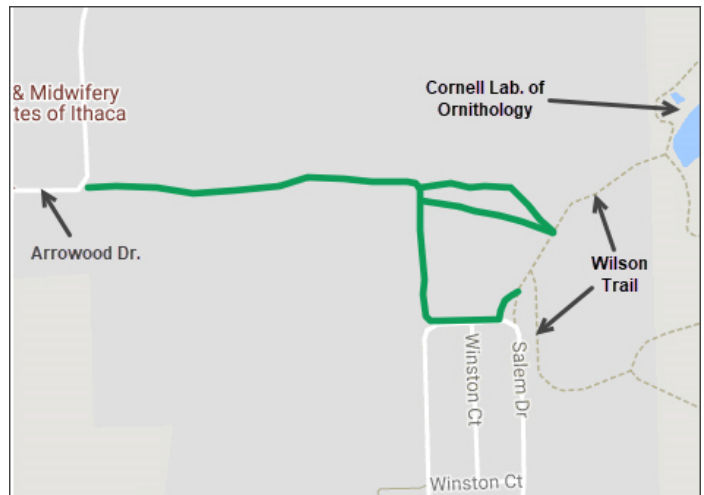
**Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker  
Woods Walkway**

Location:  
Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker  
Woods, Wilson Trail, and Cornell  
Lab. of Ornithology

(Arrowwood Drive: 42°47'87.2"N, -  
76°46'32.5"W, Wilson Trail (N):  
42°47'82.2"N, 76°45'64.3"W -  
approx., Wilson Trail (S):  
42°47'75.9"N, 76°45'69.5"W -  
approx.)

Features:

- Unpaved vehicle access road
- Unmaintained footpaths
- Some areas of water or ice  
retention – caution advised

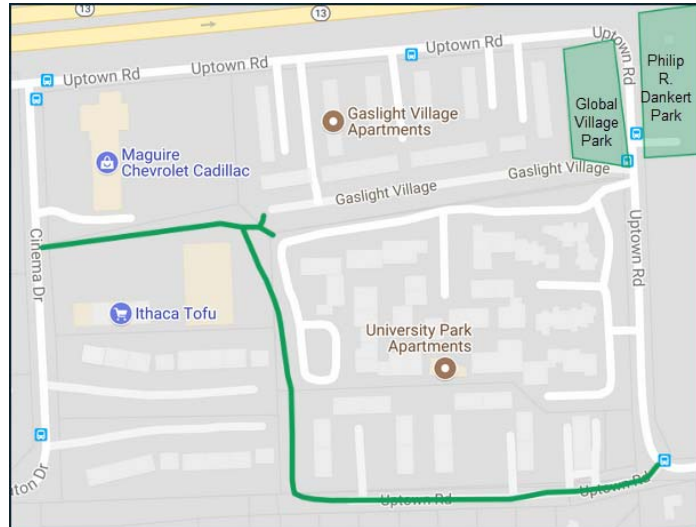


Southern leg runs on Winston Drive

### **Cinema / Uptown**

(Cinema Dr.: 42°28'47.8"N,  
76°28'42.4"W, Uptown Rd.:  
42°28'42.4"N, 76°28'21.4"W,  
Gaslight/University Park Fork:  
42°48'48.4"N, 76°28'34.7"W)

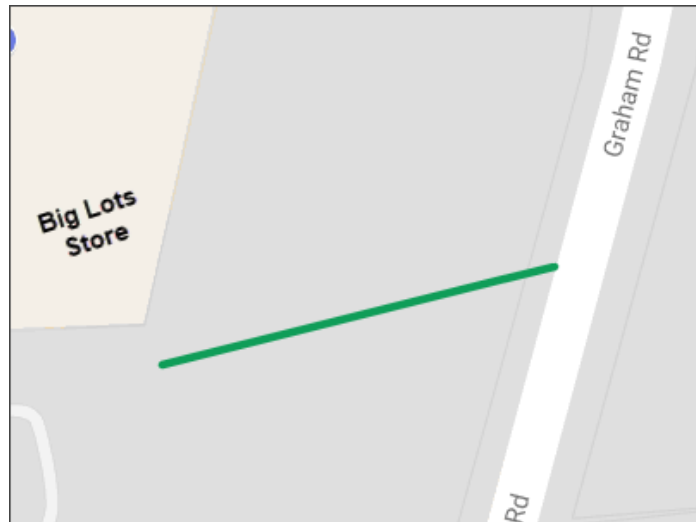
- Paved surface
- Uptown Rd. section on street



### **Graham Road to Cayuga Mall** **Walkway**

(Graham Rd.: 42°28'59.4"N  
76°28'47.6"W, Shannon Park:  
42°28'59.0"N, 76°28'49.7"W)

- Paved surface
- Western end is next to Big Lots store



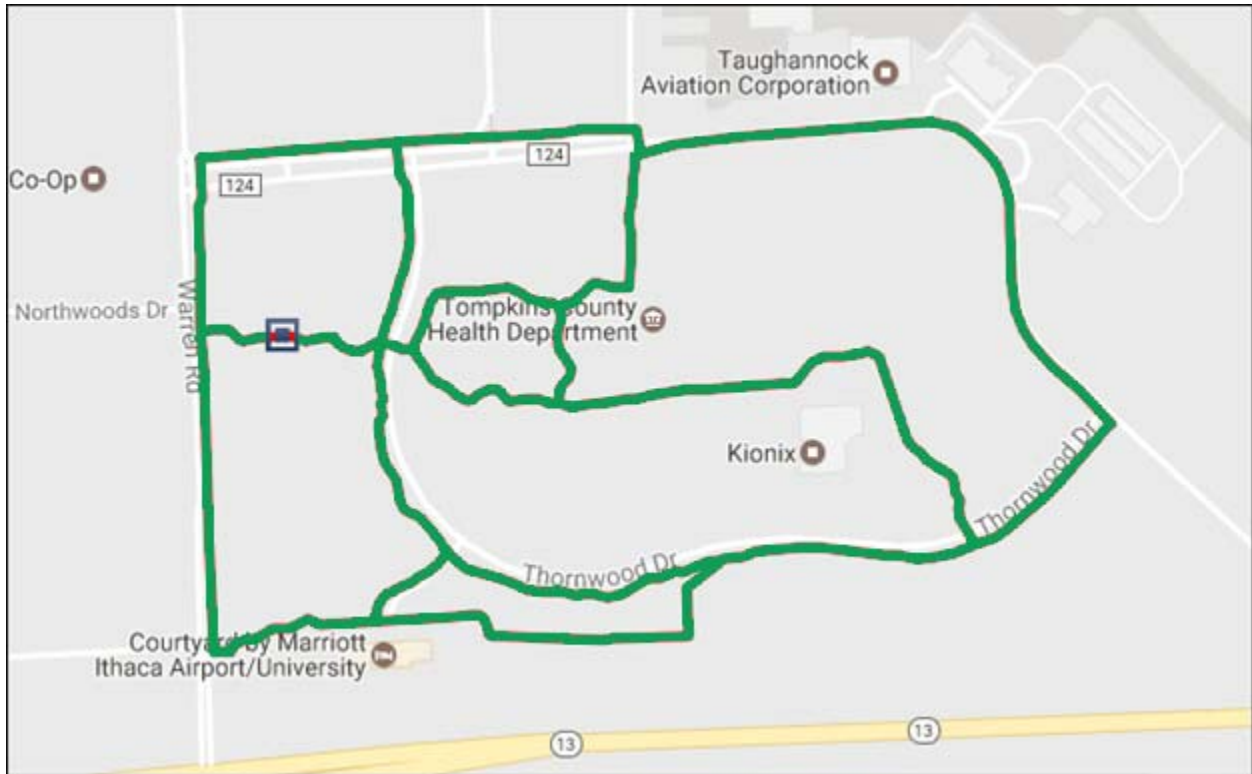
1 **Cornell Business & Technology Park**

2 Location:

3 East of Warren Road between Route 13 and Brown Road (GPS points from Warren Road)  
4 (Brown Road: 42°48'74.1"N, 76°46'73.9"W, CB&T Trail North: 42°48'62.3"N,  
5 76°48'01.1"W, CB&T Trail South: 42°48'33.4"N, 76°47'72.5"W)

6 Features:

- 7 • Paved surfaces
- 8 • Pond
- 9 • Pavilion
- 10 • Benches



11

12



## 1 **Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes**

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2 This appendix lists the Village gardens and flower boxes so that those greenway elements  
3 can be monitored and maintained on a seasonal basis.

### 4 **Village Gardens**

- 5 • Village Offices
- 6 • Shannon Park
- 7 • Entrance to Shoppes at Ithaca mall (on both sides with benches)
- 8 • Welcome garden at Trust Company (Triphammer and Sheraton)
- 9 • Southeast corner of Cayuga Mall
- 10 • Gulf station location (Triphammer Road)

### 11 **Village Flower Boxes**

- 12 • North Triphammer Road: west side, northern Village border
- 13 • North Warren Road: across from Airport
- 14 • South Warren Road: next to Convenient Care entrance
- 15 • Burleigh Drive: off Uptown Road
- 16 • Highgate Place: east
- 17 • Highgate Circle: west
- 18 • East Shore Drive: west side
- 19 • Bush Lane
- 20 • Cherry Road, east of North Triphammer Road

## 1 **Appendix C – Poison Ivy Point**

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### 2 **Recommendations for Poison Ivy Point, Village of Lansing**

#### 3 **Submitted by Lynn Leopold, October 17, 2017**

4 The parcel of land to the south, abutting the Bolton Point water intake building has  
5 historically and locally been referred to as Poison Ivy Point (PIP). This land has been the  
6 subject of consideration for several years as a possible Village Park, should access over the  
7 Norfolk Southern railroad ever be resolved. For the present, the land has been left in a  
8 semi-natural state, allowing for the growth of some mature trees, natural development of  
9 some wetlands, and successional growth of shoreline and forest plants. Ecosystems such as  
10 this on the Cayuga Lake shore are increasingly rare, owing to shoreline development.

11 I contend that this small natural area be left just as it is, in as natural a state as possible, for  
12 the following reasons:

- 13 1. Cayuga Lake happens to be directly under a major waterfowl flyway that ranges from  
14 James Bay at the south of Hudson Bay all the way to the Chesapeake. This particular  
15 geography helps explain the unusually large number of waterfowl that migrate through  
16 our area, many overwintering on Cayuga Lake if conditions are right. Further, it is also  
17 the migratory route of many songbirds who need places to rest and feed along their  
18 journey to wintering grounds farther south. The value of Salt Point in the Town of  
19 Lansing has been well-documented as a critical area for birds, both breeding and  
20 migratory. Poison Ivy Point, while considerably smaller, still can host a large number of  
21 migrants, given its plants, trees and ponds. One of the small ponds lies in a grove of  
22 trees and is well hidden from view--a perfect place for Wood Ducks to rest and feed.
- 23 2. The Village has already committed to building a large park on Northwoods Rd, and has  
24 other constructed parks to offer its residents. Removing all the vegetation and grading  
25 Poison Ivy Point to build a park there would, in my opinion, be a real waste of a good,  
26 natural resource. The south-facing area of the Point is thickly overgrown now with  
27 shrubs and other plants, and a small wetland just behind the beach is now filled with  
28 cattails--a sure sign of a functioning wetland. In fact, in my inspection of the area, there  
29 is no poison ivy at all, so the moniker no longer makes any sense. The Village has no real  
30 natural areas, so leaving this in a natural state would be an asset to wildlife and visitors  
31 to the point, should there ever be access.
- 32 3. Access to this area is moot as long as the railroad prohibits crossing their tracks. People  
33 go down there all the time regardless, but legally, we do not have access. Should the  
34 Village ever decide to allow people there in any numbers, cars would quickly  
35 overwhelm the small parking area at the bottom of Blackchin Boulevard. I doubt that  
36 allowing cars access to the area across the tracks would make any sense at all. There  
37 would not be sufficient parking. Further, swimming there is not likely, unless the Village

1 designates it as an official swimming area, which would require life guarding. There is  
2 already swimming at Myers Park, so not really needed here. Presently, boaters often tie  
3 up near or on the south beach and swim or picnic there, but they do not have access to  
4 the interior. It is too overgrown.

5 If the Village chooses to keep PIP in its present semi-wild state, there are a few things to  
6 consider. Right now, it is very difficult to access, due to the layout of the track and steep  
7 embankments toward the lake. Cutting a trail would probably do more damage than good  
8 in the long run, since it would have to be graded to make it walkable. There are some  
9 notable stands of invasive plants there, specifically Black swallowwort, Japanese knotweed  
10 and Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus), both of which are very aggressive and difficult to control. I  
11 am not sure it would be worth the expenditure of money to try to deal with these. Perhaps  
12 a team of dedicated volunteers could go in there, but it is a real jungle in the interior of the  
13 Point.

14 As a natural area, it is subject to the whims of storms, fluctuations in lake level, and having  
15 all manner of floating debris accumulate on the shore. Trash could be managed by seasonal  
16 pickups, again, by volunteers. Leaving trees and branches to fall would be preferable to  
17 going in with chain saws to "neaten things up".

18 Staff at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have given presentations in the past on the  
19 value of Cayuga Lake and its serendipitous geographical location as a benefit for birds. The  
20 wild natural areas around the lake include Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the  
21 Canoga Marsh (recently improved and restored), the state parks on both shores that have  
22 available shoreline, trees and other vegetation that are a boon to both migrant and resident  
23 birds, Salt Point, Hog Hole and the Cornell Biological Station at the south end of the lake,  
24 and the Renwick Preserve (sometimes referred erroneously as Fuerte's Woods) behind  
25 Stewart Park. Between Salt Point and the south end of the lake, there is nothing but PIP as  
26 an area of sufficient size to provide the necessary resting/feeding opportunities to migrant  
27 birds coming along the lake.

28 It is my firm belief that we should not develop this area, but leave it in its "natural" state for  
29 its wildlife values. We already have adequate "people" parks. Let's leave this one to the  
30 birds.

31

1 **Appendix D – Greenway Improvement Projects**

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2 **Current Greenway Improvement Projects**

3 This is a list of greenway improvement projects that were undertaken during the update of  
 4 this Greenway Plan.

- 5 • Elicited park names in April 2018 Village election: Marian Hartill Village Park, Ned
- 6 Hickey Village Park, and Global Village Park.
- 7 • Updated Village Park (named “Global Village Park” in April 2018) playground
- 8 equipment for safety reasons (April 2017)
- 9 • Updated Global Village Park amenities, grounds and fences (Spring/Summer 2017)
- 10 • Updated Dankert Park amenities, grounds and fences (Summer 2016)
- 11 • Evaluated, planned, and started new park on Dart parcels (named “Marian Hartill
- 12 Village Park” in April 2018) including: sports field, basketball half-court, two age-
- 13 appropriate playgrounds, pavilion, walkways/pathways, etc. (2016-2017)
- 14 • Worked with Friends of Shannon Park to evaluate and maintain Shannon Park
- 15 amenities, grounds and landscaping (June 2017)

16 **Past Greenway Improvement Projects**

17 The following table presents a list of past greenway-related projects and activities as  
 18 reported in the Village of Lansing annual review documents.

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Village Park grounds (for new equipment installation)</li> <li>• Installed new playground equipment in Village Park.</li> <li>• Performed maintenance on Dankert Park and Village Park grounds, equipment, and fencing.</li> <li>• Added striped, pedestrian crosswalk between Dankert Park and Village Park.</li> <li>• Began clearing Dart parcels’ grounds for new park.</li> <li>• Ordered and installed park equipment in new Dart parcels park.</li> <li>• Installed boundary stones in new Dart parcels park.</li> <li>• Prepared parking area in Dart parcels park for 2018 surfacing.</li> <li>• Performed Shannon Park cleanup with Friends of Shannon Park.</li> </ul>
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<p>2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed the sidewalk on Pyramid Dr. by TOPS.</li> <li>• Greenway Plan Committee continued work on updating Greenway Plan.</li> <li>• Started plans for new park on Dart parcels – Greenway Plan Committee and DPW.</li> <li>• Held informational hearing for new park’ proposed design.</li> <li>• Friends of Shannon Park hold their first meeting.</li> <li>• Learning Web students to help maintain gardens at Village Office and Pyramid Entrance.</li> <li>• Greenway Plan Committee held site visits to Dankert Park, Village Park, and Shannon Park to assess maintenance needs.</li> <li>• Removed old, wooden playground equipment in Village Park and bought new playground equipment for 2017 installation.</li> <li>• Began Uptown Road sidewalk with base installation</li> </ul>
<p>2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established a Greenway Landscape Committee charged to recommend an update of the current Greenway Plan, consider access and further landscaping needs.</li> <li>• Village Comprehensive Plan updated, which contains guidelines to plan for “Recreation and Greenspace,” “Natural Resources,” and “Sustainability.”</li> </ul>
<p>2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaped new Village Office.</li> <li>• Modified Tree Planting Program to add Shrubs in special instances.</li> </ul>
<p>2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New soccer goals installed in Dankert Park.</li> <li>• Dart Drive parcels purchased by Village.</li> </ul>
<p>2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland/Bird Habitat and Surrounding Buffer Maintenance Agreement for the Lansing Meadows PDA.</li> </ul>
<p>2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volker Vogt volunteered to be a steward for Shannon Park.</li> <li>• Village study and discussions began on Dart parcels as potential park area.</li> </ul>
<p>2010</p>	<p>—</p>
<p>2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build “wishing well” for Dankert Park</li> <li>• Kiosk installed at Dankert Park</li> <li>• Installed Playworld Structure for Dankert Park</li> <li>• Added new gardens on the side of the office</li> </ul>
<p>2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail from Wakefield to Northwood was paved.</li> </ul>
<p>2007</p>	<p>—</p>

2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village adopted the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program: Cayuga Lake waterfront Plan.</li> </ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dankert Park pavilion roof was replaced.</li> <li>• Village adopted Municipal Tree Program as a policy.</li> </ul>
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Open Space Plan was completed by Trowbridge &amp; Wolf.</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce set aside \$3,500 towards plantings along N. Triphammer Rd.</li> <li>• Trail clean-up work was performed.</li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kirkway Farms contracted to do Lansing Trail Improvements, Coventry Walk to Wakefield Trail and Bush Lane.</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the planting of eight trees on Cinema Dr.</li> <li>• Municipal Tree Inventory &amp; Maintenance Plan was presented for review.</li> <li>• Tree Beautification Proposal for N. Triphammer Rd. completed.</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swarthout &amp; Ferris agreed to let Village build a bridge for a trail from Kensington to Graham.</li> </ul>
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Planning Board worked with landscape architects, Village residents and business owners to develop a plan for low traffic commercial districts.</li> </ul>
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board of Trustees placed a high priority on pedestrian needs.</li> <li>• The sidewalk on Sheraton Drive was completed.</li> </ul>
1997-1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triphammer Road sidewalk to corner of Sheraton Drive was extended.</li> <li>• Sidewalk next to Ramada Inn and walkway from Pyramid Mall to Shannon Park were built.</li> </ul>
1996-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed a walkway that joins Highgate Circle to the Triphammer area apartments and malls.</li> </ul>

## 1 Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. 2016. Web:  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf), Published online 2016 December 18.
- <sup>2</sup> *Code of the Village of Lansing*. Chapter 98 - Parks and Recreation Law, §98-6. Definitions. 2008.
- <sup>3</sup> “Benefits of Green Infrastructure,” United States Environmental Protection Agency. Web:  
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