

The Village of Lansing

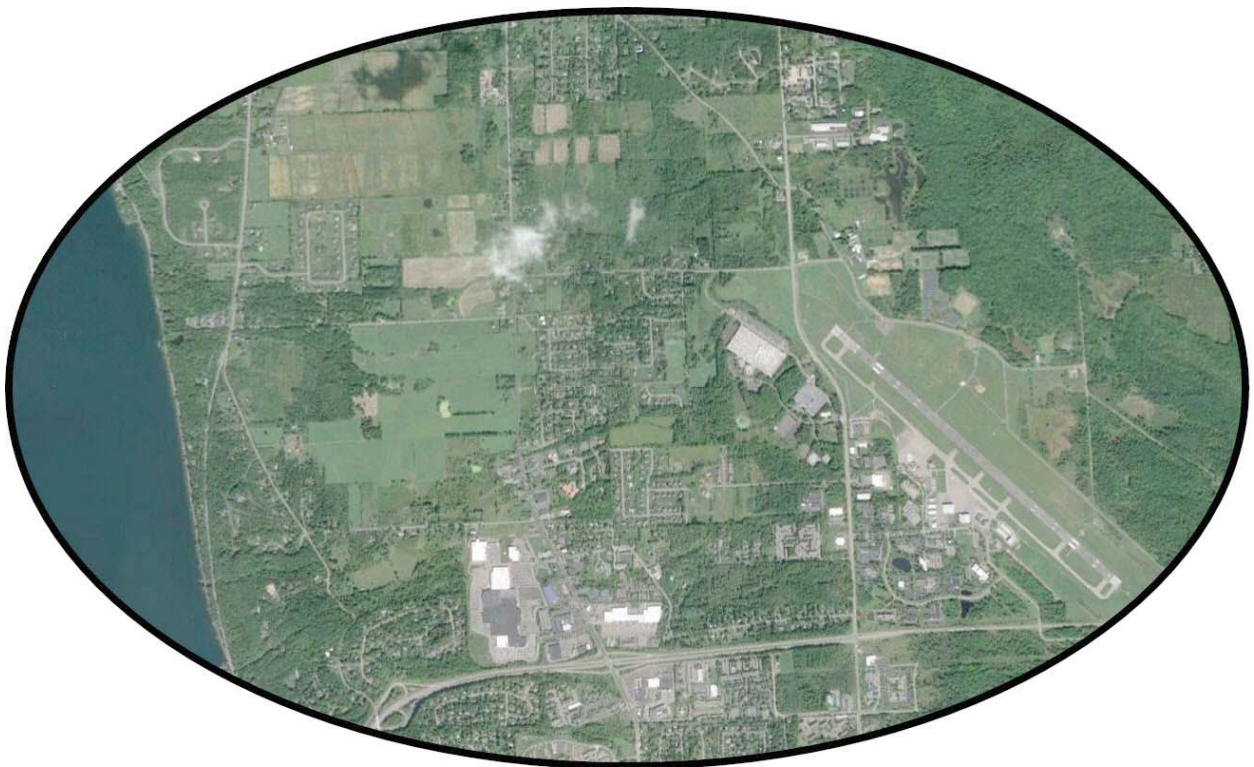


Greenway Plan

Prepared by

Village of Lansing Greenway Committee

Release Date: August 2, 2018



Approval Process

Greenway Plan public hearing held on **July 2, 2018**.

Greenway Plan approved by Village Board of Trustees on **July 16, 2018**
as **Resolution #6502**.

The Village of Lansing Greenway Committee
wishes to dedicate this Greenway Plan to
Edward J. (Ned) Hickey.

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

Definitions of "Greenway," "Green Space," and "Open Space"

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

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

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

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

Additional Greenway-Related Definitions

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

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

Pathway – A generic term to define a thoroughfare that is suitable for shared use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheeled devices [i.e., skateboards, hoverboards, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mobility devices,³ etc.] Pathways include sidewalks, paved shoulders, mowed pathways, trails, and designated pathways crossing parking lots.

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

Public Recreational Area – Any park, walkway or pathway.

Sidewalk – A walkway separated from the roadway and surfaced with concrete, blacktop, or oil and stone.

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

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

Benefits of Green Space

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

Environmental Benefits

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

- Improved air quality through filtering of dust and pollutants
- Reduction of CO₂ emissions
- Cooler air temperatures produced by shading and by plant transpiration and evaporation into the atmosphere
- Reduced soil erosion
- Greater rainfall retention
- Improved water quality through reduction of pollutants into waterways
- Retention of natural habitats for native flora and fauna.⁴

Physical Health Benefits

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

- Physical activity has been shown to improve individuals' cardiovascular and respiratory health and to extend their longevity
- Green spaces provide inviting, open space for adults and children to take advantage of physical activity
- Close proximity of green spaces increases the accessibility and frequency of physical activity
- Green spaces facilitate active lifestyles
- Provide therapeutic spaces for rehabilitative exercise.⁵

Mental Health Benefits

In addition to physical health, there are many mental health benefits associated with green space availability because they:

- Provide opportunities for contact with the natural environment, which have "positive restorative effects on mental health and wellbeing and may also help to provide a buffer against stressful life events."⁶
- Alleviate stress and anxiety
- Improve mood and attention
- Foster social interaction; thereby reducing social isolation, generating social capital, and strengthening individual resilience and wellbeing.⁷

Economic Benefits

The economic benefits of green spaces have been documented since Frederick Law Olmsted began developing U.S. public park spaces in the mid-19th century. Some of those benefits include:⁸

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

Aesthetic Benefits

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

- Create or strengthen place attachment and emotional bonds to the Village
- Reinforce a sense of community among Village residents
- Increase community satisfaction and the desire to live in the Village
- Increase the likelihood that tourists will return to the Village.⁹

Greenway Plan Goals

Overview

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

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

1. *Provide Village officials with a mechanism for decision-making regarding open space.*
2. *Design a Greenway that preserves environmentally significant features of the Village.*
3. *Foster a sense of local identity through careful attention to the "image" of the Village of Lansing.*
4. *Design a Greenway that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users.*
5. *Design a Greenway that is accessible to those residing, working, and shopping in the Village or visiting the area.*
6. *Encourage the use of alternative means of transportation.*
7. *Facilitate pedestrian/bicycle travel to and from adjacent communities.*
8. *Encourage local citizens and others to participate in Greenway development and maintenance.*
9. *Minimize the costs associated with developing and maintaining the Greenway.¹⁰*

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

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

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

This plan will also reflect the updated vision of the Village as described in the Village’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan¹¹:

“Planning for Character, Quality and Sustainability

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

“Recreation and Greenspace: The Village should augment and maintain the system of trails, parks and open spaces that are accessible to all residents.”¹³

and

“Natural Resources: The Village should promote and manage plans and programs to protect and enhance the natural environment.”¹⁴

Existing Village Green Spaces

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

Walkways and Pathways

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

Village Gardens and Flower Boxes

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

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

Promoting Village Green Spaces

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

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

Adding Village Green Spaces

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

Private Land Dedication

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

“The deliberate appropriation of property by its owner for general public use.”¹⁵

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

Temporary, Revocable Easements

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

Public Land Purchases

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

Private-Development Recreational Set-Asides

The Village of Lansing Code identifies a “Minimum Recreational Area” required for residential developments and subdivisions.¹⁶ These recreational-area set-asides provide community green spaces for nearby residential dwellers and the public. These set-asides are intended to create the benefits attributed to green spaces, or open spaces, as identified in this plan’s Introduction. Because they are part of a private development, they are maintained by the private development unless the set-aside is dedicated to the Village. At that point the Village will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

Developing Village Green Spaces

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

- Retain as many natural trees and as much natural flora as possible
- Replace decayed or damaged trees that must be removed for safety reasons (once the park space development is completed)
- If appropriate, segregate playground spaces to separate younger children (2-5 years) from older children (5-12 years)
- Place benches or seating areas near playgrounds so that parents or caretakers can comfortably supervise their children at play
- Include a minimally invasive stormwater management system when required
- Provide for public safety within the park space with federal- and state-regulated, design, engineering, and construction and with planned and supervised maintenance of the park space.
- Provide a prominent kiosk for the posting of park rules and access hours
- Use minimal lighting for the park space when needed (preferably solar-powered lighting)
- Provide and maintain public trash receptacles in the park space, but also encourage carry-in/carry-out of all waste (as in New York State parks¹⁷)
- Facilitate easy, long-term maintenance by the Village's DPW staff.

Developing Walkways and Pathways

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

Village Walkways – Sidewalks and Pathways

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

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

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

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

Village Pathways for Wheeled Traffic

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

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

Monitoring and Maintaining Village Green Spaces

Landscaping

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

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

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

Greenway Maintenance

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

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

Short-Range Plan (1 to 5 Years)

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

Establish a Standing Greenway Committee

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

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

Develop Marian Hartill Village Park

Development of the Village's Marian Hartill park began in 2016 with an initial under-growth clearing, walking assessments of the parcels' topography and plants, and a preliminary concept drawing of the park's planned features. Park construction began in 2017 as the Department of Public Works removed unwanted or decayed trees, shaped the park surface and installed subsurface water-control infrastructure. Two age-appropriate playground areas were installed in the Fall of 2017. The park's parking area was started in 2017 and completed in 2018.

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

Village Park Names

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

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

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

Standardized Park Signs

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

Solicit and Establish Neighborhood Greenway "Friends"

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

Budget for Village Landscaping

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

Improve and Increase Walkways and Pathways

The Committee recommends that the Village Planning Board require the construction of sidewalks or surfaced walkways in any new development. The Committee also recommends that the Village expand walkways. The Committee recommends that surfaced walkways and pathways be paved with a long-lived, easily maintained surface to make walking and biking (if allowed) safe during non-winter months.

Develop Village Online Resources for Greenways

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

Ongoing Maintenance of Existing Green Spaces

The Committee recommends that the Greenway Committee monitor and guide ongoing maintenance of existing green spaces.

Long-Range Plan (5 Years and Beyond)

Sustain and Support Standing Greenway Committee

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

Budget for Village Landscaping

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

Community Landscaping and Greenway Groups

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

Village Walkways and Pathways Creation and Maintenance

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

Reviewing and Updating the Greenway Plan

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

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

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

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

Online Greenway Plan Resources

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greenway Committee Members

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

Larry E. Bieri, Community Representative

Katrina Binkewicz, Lansing Town Board Representative

Phil Dankert, Community Representative

Deborah Dawson, Planning Board Member and Secretary

John Dennis, Community Representative

John Gillott, Planning Board Member

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee Member and Greenway Committee Chair

Lynn Leopold, Board of Zoning Appeals Member

Monica Moll, Community Representative

Gerry Monaghan, Trustee

Appendix A – Village Greenways

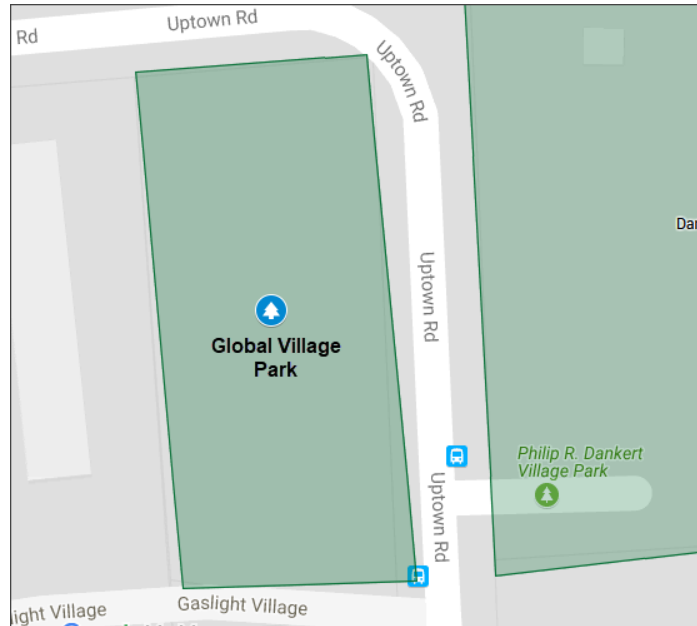
Village Parks

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

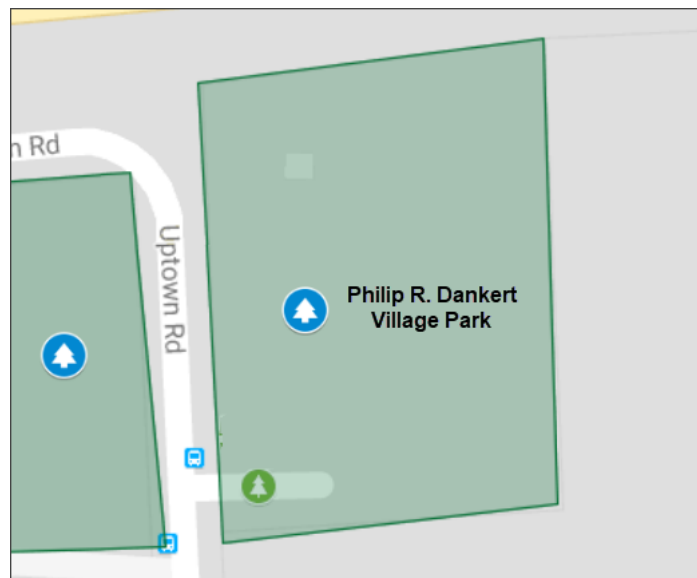


Philip R. Dankert Park

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

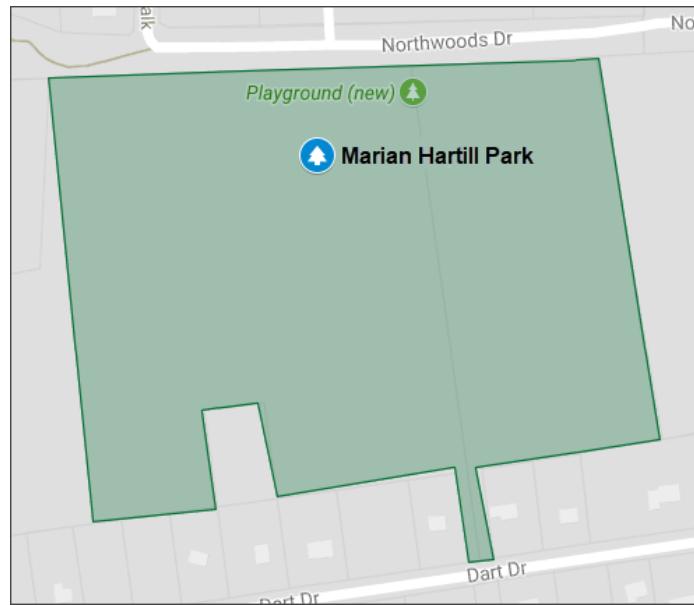


Marian Hartill Village Park

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

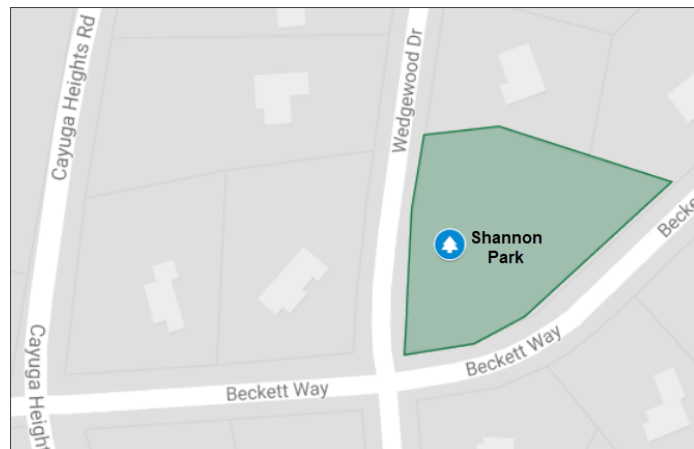


Shannon Park

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

Features:

- Pocket park
- Park bench
- Small play space



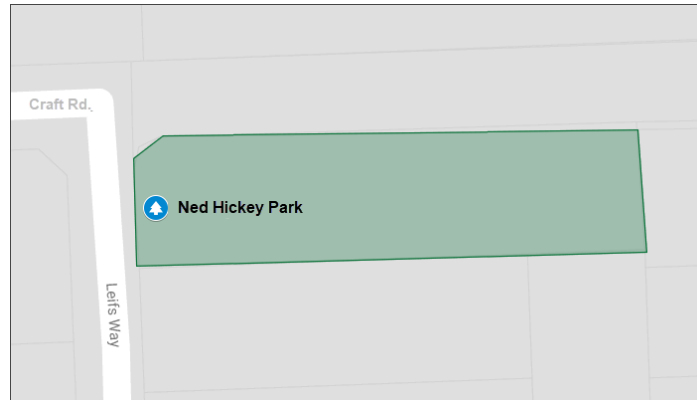
Ned Hickey Village Park

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.



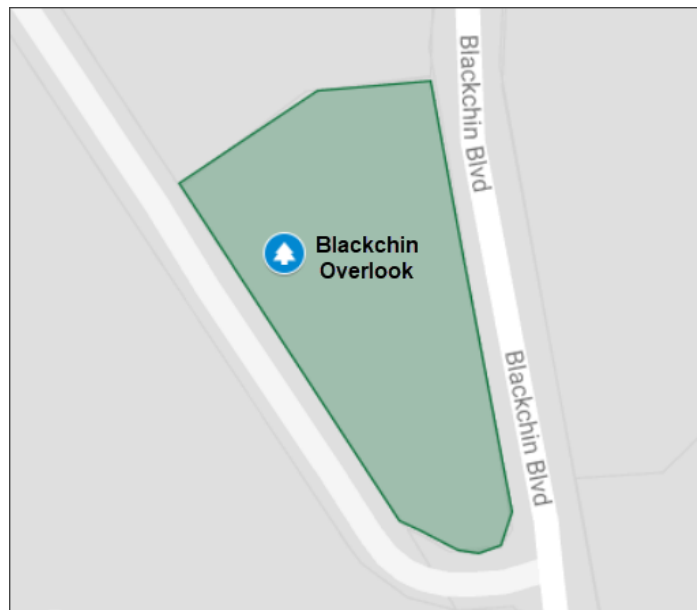
Blackchin Overlook

Location: Blackchin Blvd.

(42°30'18.4"N 76°30'54.0"W)

Features:

- Parking lot
- Lake view
- No amenities.



Village Walkways

Sevanna Park / Highgate Place

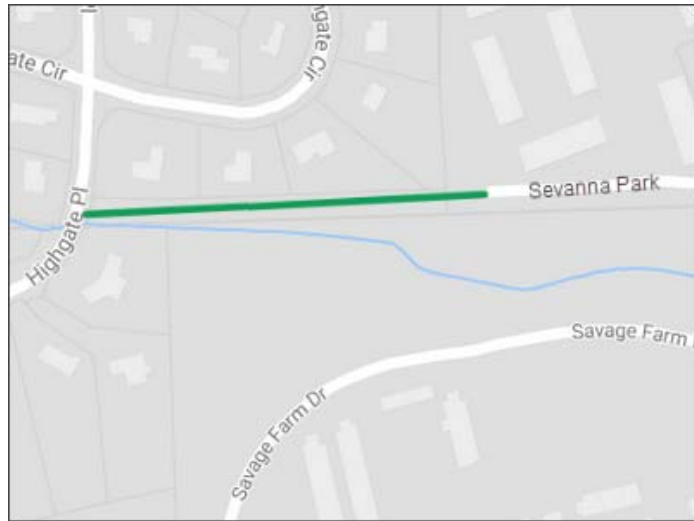
Location:

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

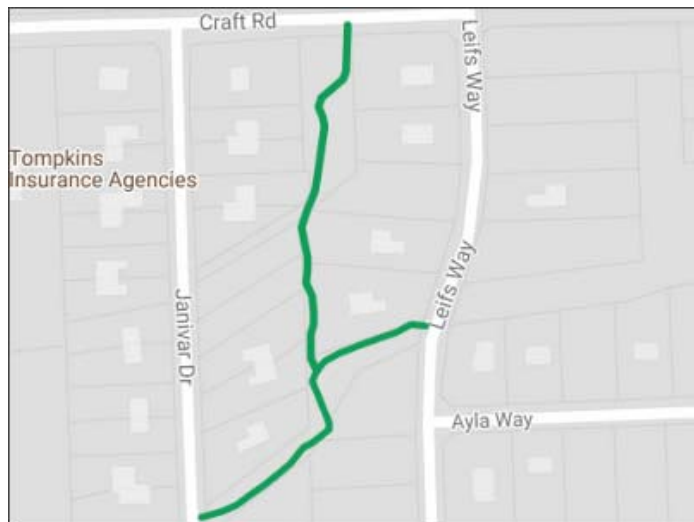
Location:

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.**

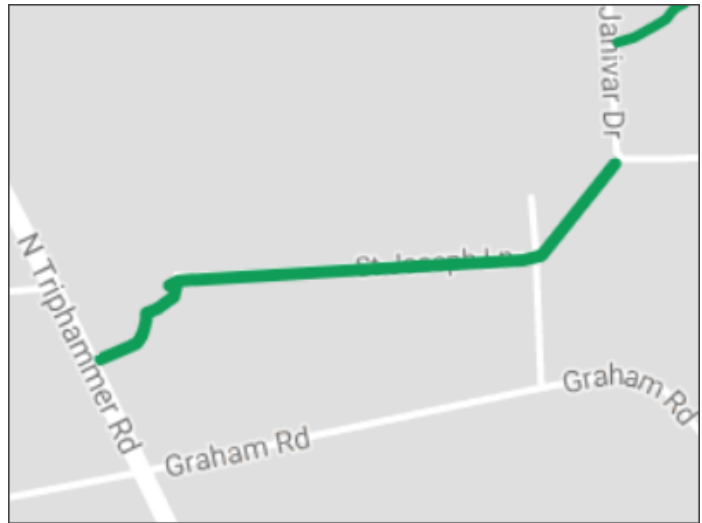
Location:

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**

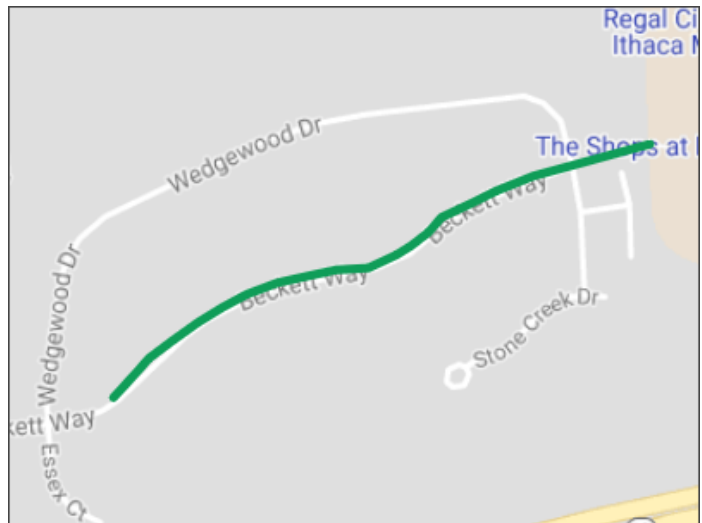
Location:

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



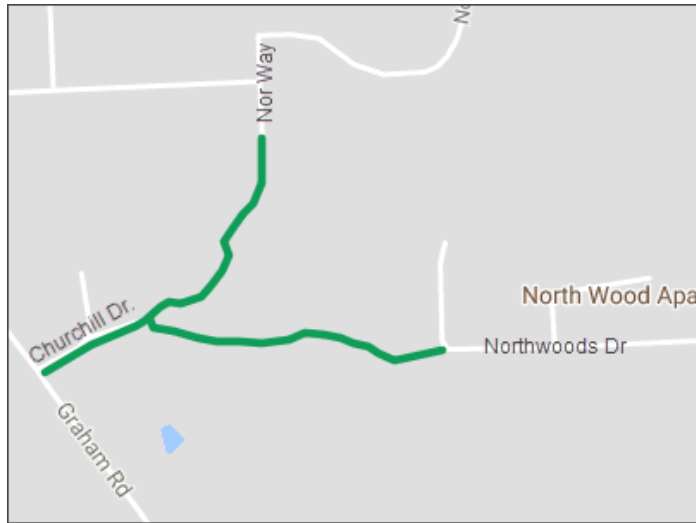
**Northwoods / Nor Way /
Churchill / Graham**

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**

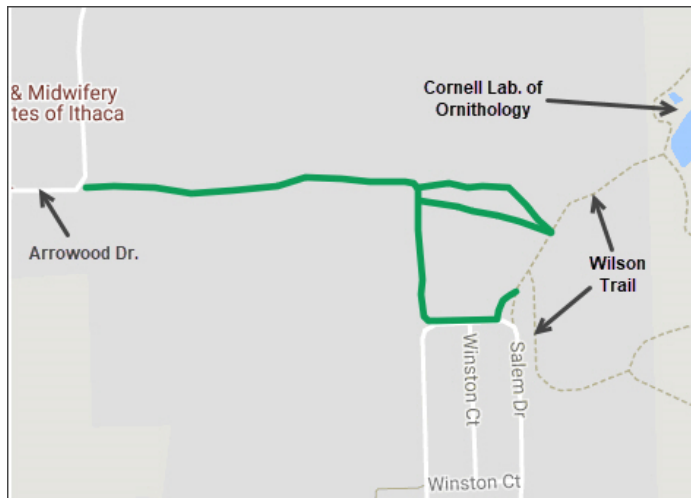
Location:
Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker
Woods, Wilson Trail, and Cornell
Lab. of Ornithology

(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

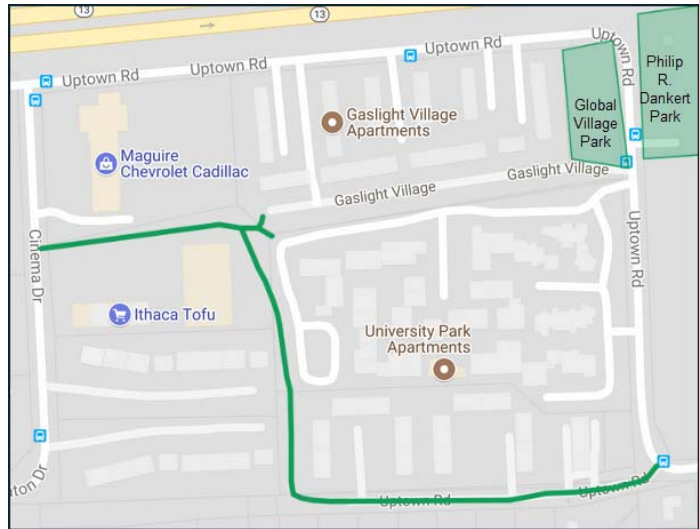
Southern leg runs on Winston
Drive



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)

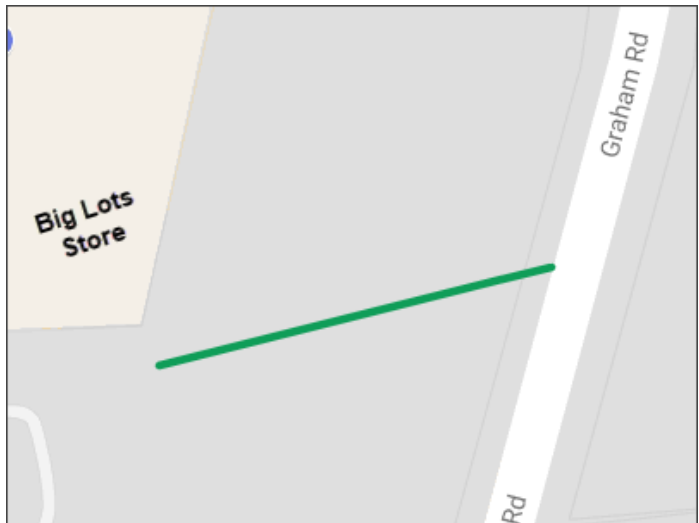
- Paved surface
- Uptown Rd. section on street



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



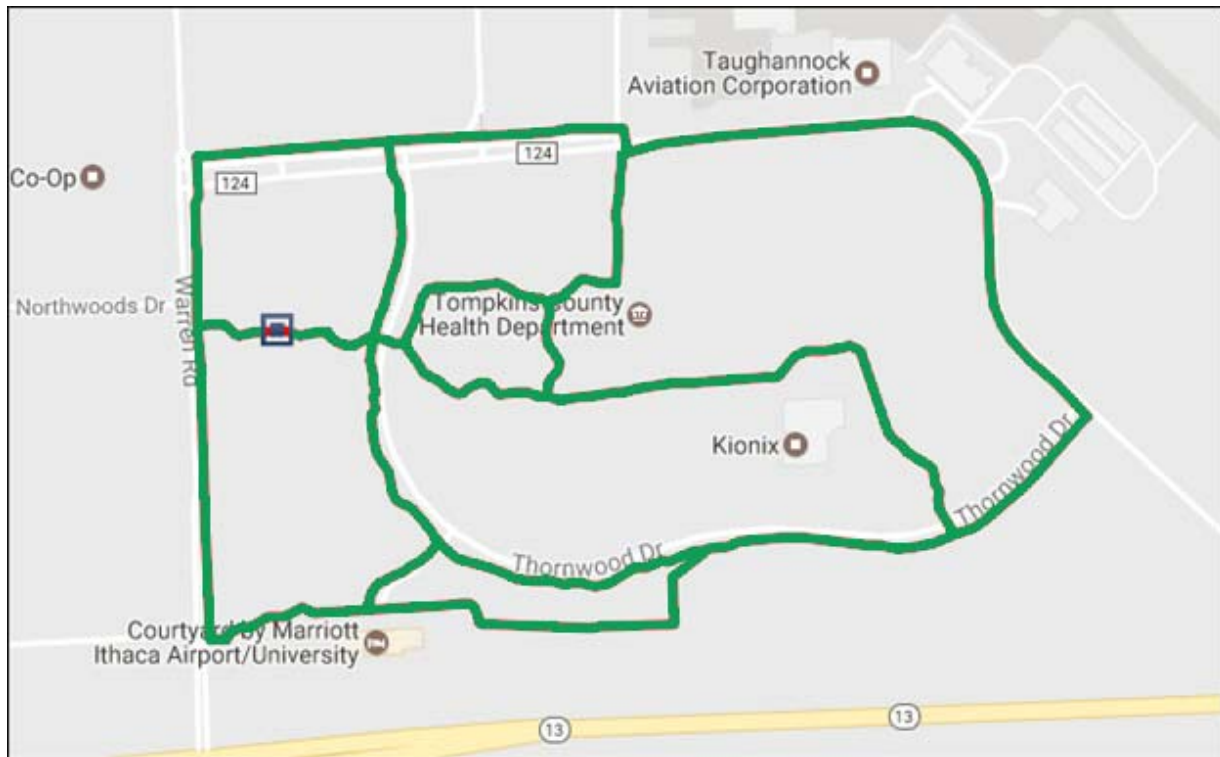
Cornell Business & Technology Park

Location:

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

Features:

- Paved surfaces
- Pond
- Pavilion
- Benches



Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes

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

Village Gardens

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

Village Flower Boxes

- North Triphammer Road: west side, northern Village border
- North Warren Road: across from Airport
- South Warren Road: next to Convenient Care entrance
- Burleigh Drive: off Uptown Road
- Highgate Place: east
- Highgate Circle: west
- East Shore Drive: west side
- Bush Lane
- Cherry Road, east of North Triphammer Road

Appendix C – Poison Ivy Point

Recommendations for Poison Ivy Point, Village of Lansing

Submitted by Lynn Leopold, October 17, 2017

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

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

1. Cayuga Lake happens to be directly under a major waterfowl flyway that ranges from James Bay at the south of Hudson Bay all the way to the Chesapeake. This particular geography helps explain the unusually large number of waterfowl that migrate through our area, many overwintering on Cayuga Lake if conditions are right. Further, it is also the migratory route of many songbirds who need places to rest and feed along their journey to wintering grounds farther south. The value of Salt Point in the Town of Lansing has been well-documented as a critical area for birds, both breeding and migratory. Poison Ivy Point, while considerably smaller, still can host a large number of migrants, given its plants, trees and ponds. One of the small ponds lies in a grove of trees and is well hidden from view--a perfect place for Wood Ducks to rest and feed.
2. The Village has already committed to building a large park on Northwoods Rd, and has other constructed parks to offer its residents. Removing all the vegetation and grading Poison Ivy Point to build a park there would, in my opinion, be a real waste of a good, natural resource. The south-facing area of the Point is thickly overgrown now with shrubs and other plants, and a small wetland just behind the beach is now filled with cattails--a sure sign of a functioning wetland. In fact, in my inspection of the area, there is no poison ivy at all, so the moniker no longer makes any sense. The Village has no real natural areas, so leaving this in a natural state would be an asset to wildlife and visitors to the point, should there ever be access.

3. Access to this area is moot as long as the railroad prohibits crossing their tracks. People go down there all the time regardless, but legally, we do not have access. Should the Village ever decide to allow people there in any numbers, cars would quickly overwhelm the small parking area at the bottom of Blackchin Boulevard. I doubt that allowing cars access to the area across the tracks would make any sense at all. There would not be sufficient parking. Further, swimming there is not likely, unless the Village designates it as an official swimming area, which would require life guarding. There is already swimming at Myers Park, so not really needed here. Presently, boaters often tie up near or on the south beach and swim or picnic there, but they do not have access to the interior. It is too overgrown.

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

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

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

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

Appendix D – Greenway Improvement Projects

Current Greenway Improvement Projects

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

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

Past Greenway Improvement Projects

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

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

2007	—
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village adopted the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program: Cayuga Lake waterfront Plan.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dankert Park pavilion roof was replaced. • Village adopted Municipal Tree Program as a policy.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Open Space Plan was completed by Trowbridge & Wolf. • Chamber of Commerce set aside \$3,500 towards plantings along N. Triphammer Rd. • Trail clean-up work was performed.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirkway Farms contracted to do Lansing Trail Improvements, Coventry Walk to Wakefield Trail and Bush Lane.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the planting of eight trees on Cinema Dr. • Municipal Tree Inventory & Maintenance Plan was presented for review. • Tree Beautification Proposal for N. Triphammer Rd. completed.
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarthout & Ferris agreed to let Village build a bridge for a trail from Kensington to Graham.
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Board worked with landscape architects, Village residents and business owners to develop a plan for low traffic commercial districts.
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Trustees placed a high priority on pedestrian needs. • The sidewalk on Sheraton Drive was completed.
1997-1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triphammer Road sidewalk to corner of Sheraton Drive was extended. • Sidewalk next to Ramada Inn and walkway from Pyramid Mall to Shannon Park were built.
1996-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed a walkway that joins Highgate Circle to the Triphammer area apartments and malls.

Endnotes

- ¹ New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. 2016. Web: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf, Published online 2016 December 18.
- ² *Code of the Village of Lansing*. Chapter 98 - Parks and Recreation Law, §98-6. Definitions. 2008.
- ³ “Wheelchairs and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices,” ADA National Network. Web: <https://adata.org/factsheet/wheelchairs>. Published online 2014.
- ⁴ “Benefits of Green Infrastructure,” United States Environmental Protection Agency. Web: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/benefits-green-infrastructure>. Published online 2015 Sep 30.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Lee A., Jordan H. and Horsley J. “Value of urban green spaces in promoting healthy living and wellbeing: prospects for planning,” *Risk Management and Healthcare Policy*. 2015; 8: 131–137. Web: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4556255/>. Published online 2015 Aug 27.
- ⁷ Haq S., "Urban Green Spaces and an Integrative Approach to Sustainable Environment," *Journal of Environmental Protection*, Vol. 2 No. 5, 2011, pp. 601-608. Web: <http://www.scirp.org/journal/PaperInformation.aspx?paperID=5881> Published online: 2015 July.
- ⁸ “How cities use parks for economic development,” City Parks Forum, Briefing Papers, American Planning Association. 2007. Web: <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/economicdevelopment.htm> Published online: 2007.
- ⁹ Jennings V, Larson L. and Yun J. “Advancing Sustainability through Urban Green Space: Cultural Ecosystem Services, Equity, and Social Determinants of Health.” Chakraborty J, Grineski SE, Collins TW, eds. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2016;13(2):196. Web: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4772216/> Published online 2016 Feb 5.
- ¹⁰ *The Village of Lansing Greenway Plan*. May 1994. pp 2-3.
- ¹¹ *The Village of Lansing Comprehensive Plan*. December 2015.
- ¹² Ibid. “Planning for Character, Quality, and Sustainability,” p. 25.
- ¹³ Ibid. p. 26.
- ¹⁴ Ibid. p. 27.
- ¹⁵ *Code of the Village of Lansing*. Chapter 124 - Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sediment Control Law, §124-5. Definitions. 2008.
- ¹⁶ Ibid. Chapter 125 – Subdivision of Land. §125-26. (C) Calculation of Amount of Property to be Identified as Recreational Areas.
- ¹⁷ *Rules & Regulations*, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. State of New York. May 1994. p. 11. Web: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/attachments/FranklinDRooseveltNYStateOfficeofParksRulesandRegulations.pdf>