



# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY COUNTYWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREPARED FOR: CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

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# 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Cattaraugus County Countywide Trail System Plan is to preserve and promote the County's natural resources, maximize opportunities for outdoor recreation, and capitalize on the outdoor tourism industry.

Project goals include:

- Surveying existing trails,
- Determining the feasibility of connecting existing trails within and beyond Cattaraugus County,
- Identifying potential trail corridors,
- Recommending trail improvements and potential new trails.



## TRAIL BENEFITS

The extensive benefits of trails were documented for this study. These benefits include decreased impact on the environment through reduced motor vehicle usage and increased environmental awareness, health benefits through increased physical activity and reduced stress, and economic benefits through increased tourism.

## INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The study included an inventory and analysis phase where the existing conditions in and around Cattaraugus County were assessed. Topography, soils, ecological character, habitat, drainage, wetlands, land use, municipal boundaries, destinations, property ownership, access, circulation, and infrastructure were evaluated. The project addresses a number of opportunities and constraints which include: an extensive park system within Cattaraugus County, other types of tourism within the County, habitat diversity, scenic views, historic resources, and property ownership.

## TRAIL USER GROUPS

Cattaraugus County has a robust trail system, used by many different user groups, each with its own needs and preferences. This section discusses different types of trail users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, emerging user groups, winter sports enthusiasts and equestrians.

The County has many volunteer organizations that represent different trail user groups. These organizations are an asset to the County trail system. This section also discusses how the County can benefit most from these organizations and provide additional coordination between them.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

The planning process for this study included outreach to both the general public and to key stakeholders. Representatives from various organizations served on the steering committee, and provided continuity and study oversight. In addition, input from the public was solicited using web based crowdsourcing applications, online mapping and online surveys.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

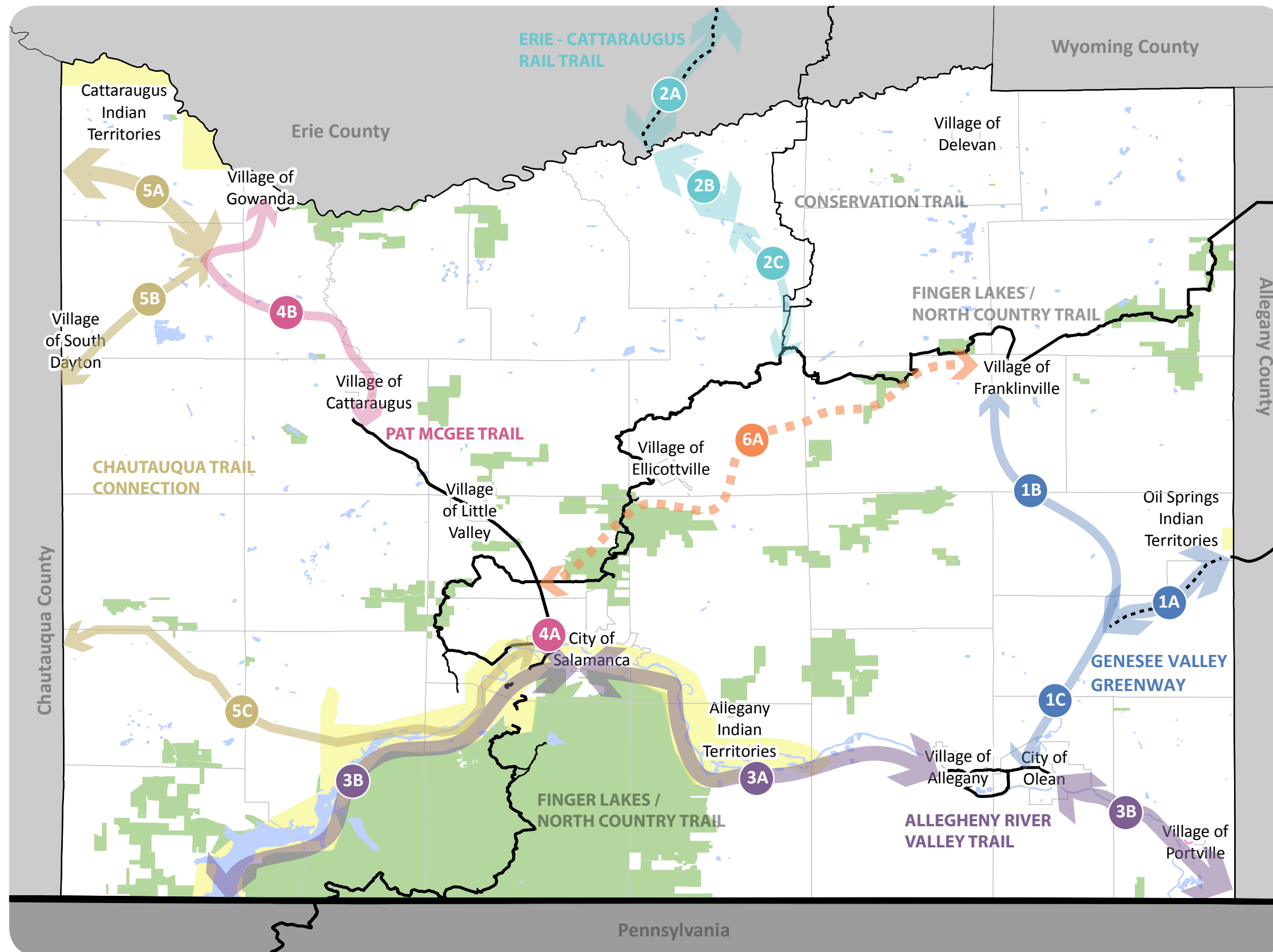
Recommendations for the Cattaraugus County Countywide Trail System Plan include:

- Improving and expanding ADA accessible, paved trails within the County, particularly in the Cities and Villages.
- Increasing the number of trail access points within the trail system and mapping existing trail access points.
- Developing connections between existing trails, including the Pat McGee Trail, Finger Lakes Trail, and trails within the State Park system.
- Connecting to the larger western New York trail network, including connections to Lake Chautauqua, Letchworth State Park, the Genesee Valley Greenway and Erie-Cattaraugus Rail-Trail.
- Developing a signage system to make trail wayfinding simple and to create a unified identity for the Cattaraugus Trail System.
- Providing additional mapping, both paper and digital, to make it easier for both tourists and residents to find trail access points and plan trail excursions.
- Creating events to increase public awareness of the trail system.
- Encouraging business developments in the Cities of Salamanca and Olean and Villages throughout the County to support tourism.
- Participating in the North Country Trail Association Trail Town program.

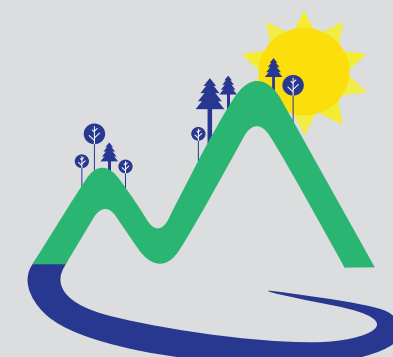
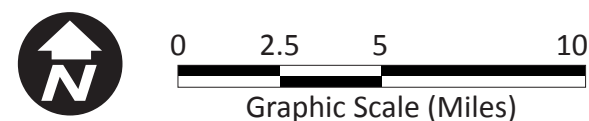
A full list of recommendations is included at the end of this executive summary.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This section includes information regarding phasing, SEQRA documentation, the permitting process, and funding. Appendices are included that provide more detailed information on funding, the community impact of trails, potential areas of conflict between trail users, and sustainable trail construction.



Map Sources: NYS GIS Clearing House, Cattaraugus County GIS Services



## CATTARAUGUS COUNTY TRAIL NETWORK

### FIGURE POTENTIAL REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- Existing Regional Trails
- - - Regional Trails Under Development
- ↔ Rail to Trail Opportunities
- ↔ Rail with Trail Opportunities
- ⋯ Summer Multiuse - Snowmobile Trail Opportunity
- Park Boundaries
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- ① Genesee Valley Greenway Connection
- ② Erie Cattaraugus Rail - Trail Connection
- ③ Allegheny River Trail
- ④ Pat McGee Trail Extension
- ⑤ Chautauqua Trail Connection
- ⑥ Franklinville- Pat McGee Trail



Table X: Project Phasing

<b>1. Genesee Valley Greenway Connection</b>	a. Complete segment from Cuba NY in Allegany County to Hinsdale NY in Cattaraugus County along abandoned railway	<b>Priority</b>
	b. Trail connecting Genesee Valley Greenway in Hinsdale to Finger Lakes / North Country Trail in Franklinville, possible routes along active railway or existing snowmobile trail	<b>Recommended</b>
	c. Trail connecting Genesee Valley Greenway in Hinsdale to City of Olean, possible route along active railway	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>2. Erie Cattaraugus Rail - Trail Connection</b>	a. Support Erie- Cattaraugus Rail- Trail to complete proposed trail to County line (Town of Ashford) along abandoned railway	<b>Priority</b>
	b. Work with Erie Cattaraugus Rail- Trail to extend trail into Cattaraugus County along abandoned railway. Trail ends in Town of Ashford	<b>Priority</b>
	c. Create trail connecting Erie Cattaraugus Rail - Trail to Finger Lakes / North Country Trail & Conservation Trail. Possible route along active railway.	<b>Priority</b>
<b>3. Allegheny River Trail</b>	a. Expand and connect rail to trail projects along Allegheny River to create new major County trail from City of Salamanca to Village of Allegany / City of Olean along abandoned railway	<b>Recommended</b>
	b. Continue trail west from Pennsy trail and east from Allegheny River Valley Trail along abandoned railway to County line.	<b>Possible</b>
<b>4. Pat McGee Trail Extension</b>	a. Extend trail south to connect to City of Salamanca, Pennsy trail and Allegany State Park	<b>Recommended</b>
	b. Extend trail north to connect to Village of Gowanda and Zoar MUA, possible route along active railway	<b>Recommended</b>





CATTARAUGUS COUNTY  
COUNTYWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN



Project Name	Project Description	Priority Level
<b>5. Chautauqua Trail Connection</b>	a. Connection from northern edge of Pat McGee trail to Town of Perrysburg and Chautauqua County border, possible route along active railway	Possible
	b. Connection from northern edge of Pat McGee trail to Village of South Dayton and Chautauqua County border, possible route along active railway	Possible
	c. Connection from southern edge of Pat McGee trail to Town of Randolph and Chautauqua County border, possible route along active railway	Possible
<b>6. Multiuse Trail from Village of Franklinville to Pat McGee Trail</b>	a. New multiuse trail connecting Franklinville, Ellicottville trail system and the Pat McGee Trail, possible route along existing snowmobile trail	Possible
<b>7. All Terrain Vehicles</b>	a. Provide information about existing ATV trails on County trail maps, and County tourism website	Recommended
	b. Expand key snowmobile trails for summer ATV use	Possible
<b>8. Existing Trail Improvements</b>	a. More ADA accessible, paved trails including widening the Allegheny River Valley Trail and paving the Pat McGee Trail	Possible
	b. Winter maintenance of ADA accessible trails	Possible
	c. Increased general maintenance	Possible
<b>9. Trail Access Improvements</b>	a. Map any unidentified trail access points	Priority
	b. Include additional seating, restrooms and drinking fountains on longer and more popular trails	Recommended
	c. Provide separated equestrian parking areas at trails that allow equestrian use	Recommended



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY  
COUNTYWIDE TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN



<b>10. Signage</b>	a. Create a comprehensive signage system using consistent graphics, colors and materials for all trails within Cattaraugus County trail system	<b>Priority</b>
<b>11. Mapping</b>	a. Update Trail Viewer to reflect current trail data	<b>Priority</b>
	b. Include trail difficulty and ADA accessibility in County trail mapping	<b>Priority</b>
	c. Include trail access points in County trail mapping	<b>Priority</b>
	d. Add trail businesses and points of interest to County trail mapping	<b>Recommended</b>
	e. Coordinate all County websites related to trails to provide links between related trail information	<b>Priority</b>
	f. Include Trail Viewer Map in County download-able GIS map viewer application	<b>Priority</b>
<b>12. Marketing and Events</b>	a. Plan multi-day trail events	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>13. Village and Business Development Opportunities</b>	a. Incorporate guidelines from 'Economic Development Strategy' plan into municipal code for all cities and villages in Cattaraugus County	<b>Possible</b>
	b. Join North Country Trail Association Trail Towns Initiative	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>14. Trail and Event Coordination</b>	a. Fund a trail coordinator position for Cattaraugus County	<b>Recommended</b>