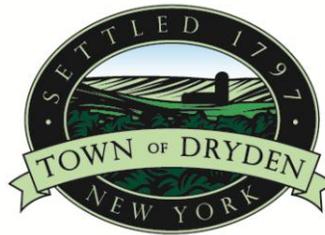


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For Immediate Release:

Dryden Rail Trail Wins State Funding

The Town of Dryden has been awarded a \$182,000 grant for the Dryden Rail Trail. The town applied for this competitive funding in July 2017 through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund.

"This funding will greatly enhance the goals we are pursuing for town residents, which include improving recreational opportunities," stated Jason Leifer, Dryden town supervisor. "It's great news to start the holiday season for Dryden."

"We're extremely grateful to the state for this recognition, to rail-bed property owners for easements, and to the strong team of volunteers who are dedicated to advancing the trail" added Dan Lamb, town board member and trail liaison. "We're particularly thankful to Bob Beck and John Kiefer, who serve on the Rail Trail Task Force, for preparing a successful grant application."

The Dryden Rail Trail is designed as a multi-use, non-motorized path in the abandoned Lehigh Valley rail corridor that spans the town of Dryden. The trail will connect to the existing East Ithaca Recreation Way at the Ithaca town line on Game Farm Road and provide access to the City of Ithaca and Cornell University. It will pass through the Hamlets of Varna and Etna, the Village of Freeville, and the Village of Dryden where it will connect to the existing Jim Schug Trail.

The award will allow upgrades to significant portions of the 10.5 mile trail. This work will enhance sections from Game Farm Road to Route 13, including: resurfacing and repair to two historic railroad bridges, brush clearing, trail resurfacing, signage and installation of parking areas. It will also go towards continued improvement of sections between the villages of Freeville and Dryden.

More information on the Dryden Rail Trail can be found at <http://dryden.ny.us/board-commission-list/rail-trail-task-force/>

For additional information, contact Bob Beck, Chair, Dryden Rail Trail Task Force: 607-432-0397