

JULY 1, 2016

Tug Hill Intern Hitting the Trail



Leif at the start of the North Ridge trail at Whetstone Gulf on May 23, 2016

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust has hired summer intern Leif Ostrum through a Pratt-Northam Foundation Workshop grant to collect recreational trail data to prepare an update to the Tug Hill Recreation Guide. Working cooperatively with staff at the Tug Hill Commission, Leif is collecting accurate trail data on non-motorized trails across the region using the commission's GPS receiver. Once data is collected, Leif will work on creating up-to-date maps that will be incorporated into a new version of the recreation guide. Last published in 2006, the recreation

guide is out of print and many of the trail systems included in the guide have changed in the intervening decade, although the old version can still be accessed online at www.visittughill.com.

If your community has a non-motorized trail that you would like included in the new version, please contact Linda Garrett at the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, 779-8240, thtomorr@northnet.org.

In This Issue

- Hitting the Trail
- Restore NY Program
- Trail Funding Opportunities
- Students Release Trout and Salmon
- Executive Sessions
- Clean Energy Public Hearings
- Emerald Ash Borer Workshop
- Great Lakes Small Grants
- Crown Cleaners Clean Up

Restore NY Program New Round Announced

Round 4 of the Restore New York Communities Initiative is now open, which is a \$50 million program to provide municipalities with funding to support efforts to revitalize and stabilize urban areas and neighborhoods. This program provides local governments with financial assistance in order to encourage economic development and revitalization urban centers and neighborhoods throughout the state. This is the first time this funding has been made available since 2009.

Cities, towns and villages are eligible to apply for support for projects that include demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties. In addition, funds can be used for site development needs including, but not limited to water, sewer and parking. The program places a strong emphasis on projects in economically distressed communities. The program can provide up to 90% of project costs, with a required 10% match. In the Tug Hill region, this program was used to restore the Buckley Building in Carthage several years ago.

Information and an application are available online at: <http://esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/RestoreNY.html>. The intent to apply deadline is Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 5 p.m. and the deadline for completed applications is Monday, October 3, 2016 at 3 p.m.

One-time Funding Opportunities for Trails



Trail and active transportation advocates have a one-time opportunity to obtain funding for their trail and bicycle/pedestrian projects. The current federal transportation funding bill - Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act - gives states a second chance to spend expired grants, or earmarks, that are more than 10 years old. NY has more than \$200 million available in expired earmarks, including \$18 million for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

For many trail and active transportation projects, funding is the last hurdle. In the Mohawk Valley, for example, a critical four-mile gap in the Erie Canalway Trail can be completed with just \$4 million. This new section of trail will expand the economic, health, recreational, and environmental benefits of one of the nation's longest multi-use trails to several communities.

To help determine if your trail or active transportation projects are eligible to receive this funding, Parks & Trails NY has put together a resource on their website at <http://ptny.org/earmarks> that not only explains the eligibility requirements and suggests next steps to take, but also includes a map that shows the location of every eligible earmark available for repurposing in NY.

If you think your local project is eligible and a good match for funding, contact your bicycle and pedestrian coordinator at the Department of Transportation. Call Parks and Trails NY at 518-434-1583 if you have questions about this funding opportunity. Or call the commission and talk to Jennifer Harvill to see if might have a project that can be funded through this funding opportunity.

NYS must notify the Federal Highway Authority of its decision to repurpose this money by August 29, 2016, so there is no time to waste.

NYS DOT Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators for the following counties:

Region 7 -Clinton, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence:

Lynn Godek - (315) 785-2547, Lynn.Godek@dot.ny.gov, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601

Region 3 -Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Seneca, Tompkins :

Jeff Sterly -315) 254-2065, Jeff.Sterly@dot.ny.gov, 333 E. Washington Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Region 2 -Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida:

Joseph Kaczor -(315) 793-2690, Joseph.Kaczor@dot.ny.gov, Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13501



Camden Middle School Students Release Trout and Salmon

On June 7th, 170 6th grade students, teachers and aides from Camden Central School and volunteers from the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club released 200 Brook Trout and 500 Atlantic Salmon into the Mad River, which runs behind the Middle School. This event marked the 4th year the 6th grade science class has collaborated with the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club to raise fish in the classroom and release them behind the school. This project was made possible by joint grants: One third from Tug Hill - Black River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, one third from the NYS Council of Trout Unlimited and one third from the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club. The Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club has been involved with restoring Atlantic Salmon in Fish Creek since 1997. For more information, one may review material on the club website at: www.fishcreeksalmon.org



Maryssa, Kayla and Erica preparing to release the fish.

Proper Use of Executive Sessions

Many local governing bodies question when it is appropriate to utilize an executive session, which provides officials the opportunity to discuss specific topics privately outside of public session. Section 105 of the Open Meetings Law clearly outlines the circumstances under which executive session can be used.

1. Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting pursuant to a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, a public body may conduct an executive session for the below enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys:
 - a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
 - b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
 - c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
 - d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
 - e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
 - f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
 - g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and
 - h. the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.
2. Attendance at an executive session shall be permitted to any member of the public body and any other persons authorized by the public body.

The Open Meetings Law also outlines requirements for public posting of meetings and minutes. To read the law in its entirety you can visit <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/openmeetlaw.html#s103>

New York State Clean Energy Standard Public Hearings Held

The New York State Department of Public Service recently held a statewide round of public statement hearings to provide information and take public comments on Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard. The hearings held at Oswego City Hall were very well attended.

The Governor has directed the Public Service Commission to design and enact a new Clean Energy Standard which mandates that by 2030, 50% of all energy consumed in New York State electricity must come from clean and renewable energy sources. The Clean Energy Standard is part of the state's 2015 Energy Plan, and its goal is to provide clean, resilient, and affordable energy for New Yorkers.

Emissions-free upstate nuclear power is part of the Clean Energy Standard's goal of a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as early closure of these plants would result in increased carbon pollution from fossil fuel generators, reduced fuel diversity, and unstable electric prices.

The state's Energy Plan can be found at <http://energyplan.ny.gov/>

The Governor's letter directing establishment of a Clean Energy Standard can be found at: www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Renewable_Energy_Letter.pdf

More information about Reforming the Energy Vision, can be found at: www.ny.gov/programs/reforming-energy-vision-rev

Emerald Ash Borer Workshop

Friday, July 15th, 9am- 2pm
Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
Wellesley Island State Park
44927 Cross Island Rd., Fineview, NY 13640

For more information and to pre-register contact:
Megan Pistolese - SLELO PRISM Educator
315-387-3600 x7724 or megan.pistolese@tnc.org

Molly Farrell - Nature Center Director
315-482-2479 or molly.farrell@parks.ny.gov

Great Lakes Small Grants Due September 23; Webinars July 11 and July 25

New York Sea Grant, in partnership with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York's Great Lakes basin.

Grants of up to \$25,000 (no match required) will be awarded for projects that implement Goal #5 and/or Goal #7 of the [Great Lakes Action Agenda](#), to:

- "conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats to achieve and sustain resilient ecosystems and vibrant economies" and
- "enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management"

Project planning, design, and/or implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted outreach and education initiatives are eligible. Projects must be located within or be directly related to the Great Lakes basin region of New York.

To help not-for-profit organizations, local governmental and public agencies, and public and private educational institutions apply for grants, New York Sea Grant will offer informational webinars on July 11, 2016 at 12pm and July 25, 2016 at 12pm. Those interested in attending may register at https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/SmallGrantsProgramWebinars_112. For questions or more information, please email Heather Weitzner at hw528@cornell.edu.

Proposals will be due by September 23, 2016. Grants will be announced the week of October 31, 2016. Full request for proposals and application guidelines are online at <http://www.nyseagrant.org/proposals>.

Clean Up Continues at Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. Superfund Site

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) clean-up crews and heavy excavation equipment are now returning to the Crown Cleaners 9-acre superfund site, to complete PAH soil excavation and complete this phase of the project in 2016. According to EPA, additional monitoring wells will be installed to provide information that will be helpful in completing the groundwater treatment plan that will guide next steps in remediating groundwater contamination.

The site on Route 3 in Town of Wilna and Village of Herrings has been on the EPA Superfund list since 1991, a result of dry cleaning chemicals contamination. Based upon recommendations in the 2012 remediation plan and with assistance from the EPA, DEC, Tug Hill Commission and Senator Schumer's office, clean-up activities began in the fall of 2014.

The property was acquired by Wilna in 2012 for future use as an outdoor waterfront recreation facility and is located along the Olympic & Black River Trails and Black River Blueway Corridor. The town is preparing a funding request in the 2016 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for professional landscape and design services to document the communities vision for development and construct key projects outlined in the plan.

Contact Us

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