




Parks & Trails

NEW YORK

[www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org)



Working to expand, protect, and promote a network of parks, trails, and open spaces throughout the state for all to use and enjoy



# **Why are trails important for your community?**



# Economic Conservation



## Health



## Social



# Multiple Benefits of Trails





# Turning an idea into reality



# Identify Stakeholders

- **Users**
- **Landowners**
- **Civic groups**
- **Local government officials**
- **Businesses and corporations**
- **Health care providers**
- **Advocates for persons with disabilities**
- **Community leaders**
- **Informal opinion leaders**
- **Recognized opponents**

**Sparkplug(s)**



# **Gather public input**

# **Develop a map and a plan**



# Inventory the corridor





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# Host community meetings





# Consult professionals



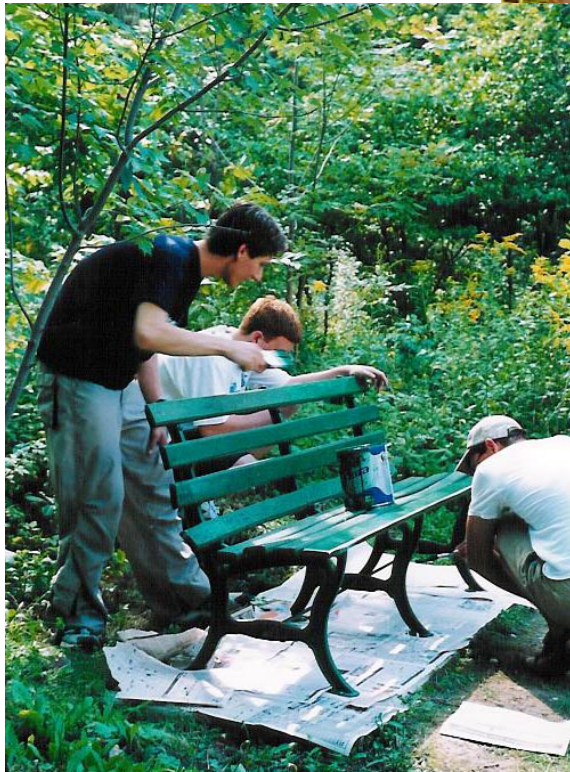
# Assemble resources

*It's more than money!*





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**Volunteer labor  
and in-kind donations**





**ADOPT-A-TRAIL  
PROGRAM**  
**John Hamilton &  
Marile Waterstraat**  
Maintains This Segment  
Of The Canalway Trail  
NYS Canal Corporation  
1-800-6CANALS

# Adopt A Trail



- **40-pages, organized by steps common to most trail planning and development projects**
- **A dozen New York State case histories**

## Getting Started...



## A Guide to Planning Trails in New York State



A joint publication of:  
Parks & Trails New York  
and Hudson River Valley Greenway





# ***Healthy Trails, Healthy People***





[www.ptny.org](http://www.ptny.org)



- Funding tips
- Legislative Updates
- Trail and Health Resources
- Program updates
- Heard on the Trail
- Trail Spotlight





# Publicize your efforts

- **Newspaper articles**
- **Website**
- **Events**
- **Brochures**
- **Presentations to other organizations**
- **Media coverage**
- **T-shirts**
- **Trail signage**
- **Partnerships**
- **One on one conversations**



# Address Concerns

## Landowner

- Privacy loss
- Safety / security
- Trespass / liability
- Litter
- Illegal motorized use

## Trail Builder

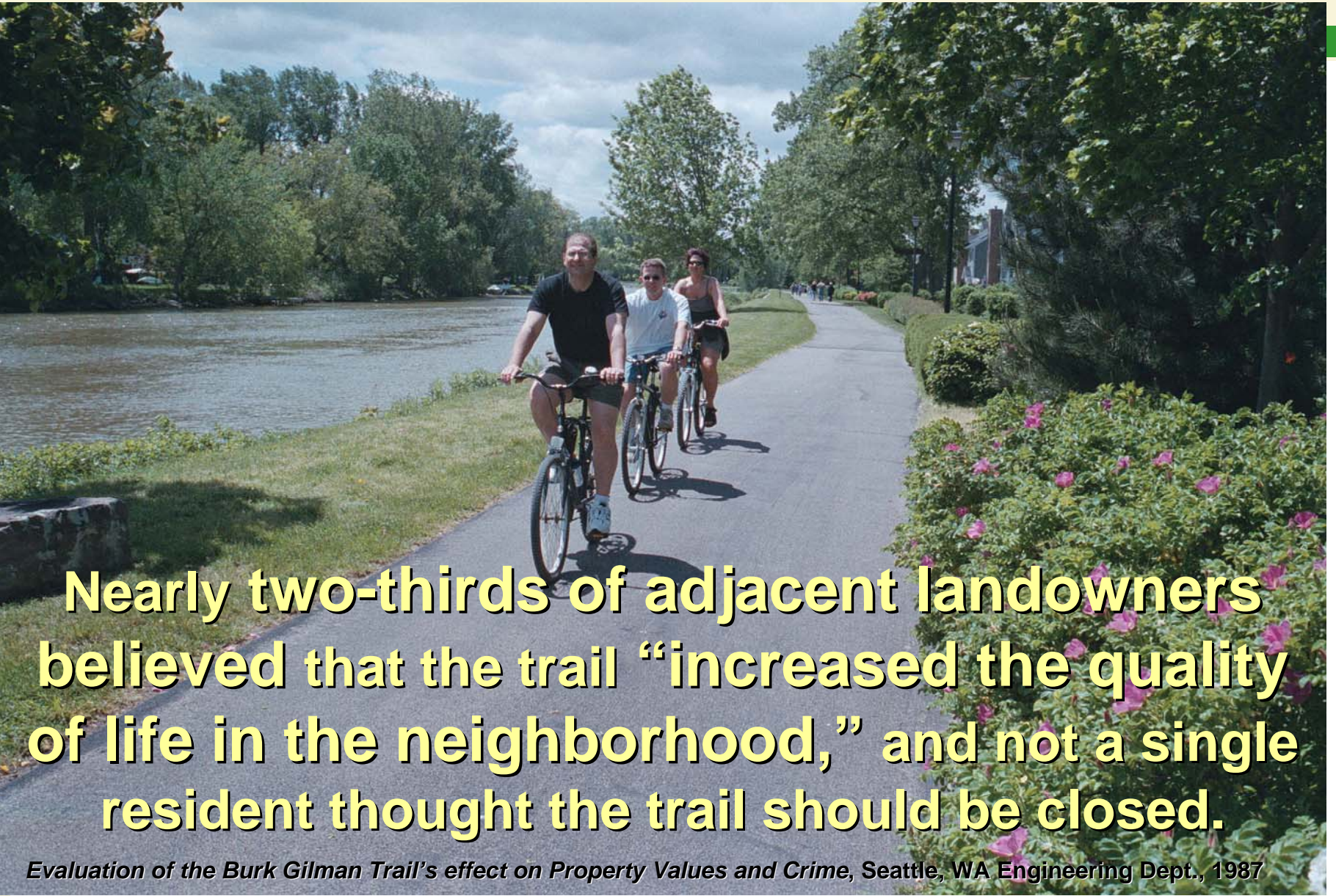
- Access rights
- Construction costs
- Maintenance costs



Survey of residents along the Mohawk- Hudson Trail found common fears associated with proposed trails were not active concerns once the trail was developed and open

*Mohawk-Hudson Hike-Bike Trail – Analysis of Use, Regional Benefits & Economic Impact, Schenectady County Planning Department, 1998*



A photograph of three people riding bicycles on a paved trail. The trail is on the right side of a body of water, with a grassy bank and trees on the left. The trail is paved and has a white line marking. The people are riding towards the camera. The background shows more trees and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**Nearly two-thirds of adjacent landowners believed that the trail “increased the quality of life in the neighborhood,” and not a single resident thought the trail should be closed.**

*Evaluation of the Burk Gilman Trail's effect on Property Values and Crime, Seattle, WA Engineering Dept., 1987*





# Privacy



# Crime

- Only 3% of 372 trails surveyed across the U.S. had experienced a major crime
- The surveyed trails represent 7,000 total miles and 45 million estimated users



*Rail-Trails and Safe Communities, Rails to Trails Conservancy, 1998*





**“The trail does not encourage crime, and in fact, probably deters crime since there are many people, tourists and local citizens using the trail for many activities at various hours of the day.”**

**Pat Conlin, Sheriff Green County, WI**







# Liability

## **State law**

- Holds landowners harmless for trespass related to recreational activities like hiking and biking (General Obligations Law 9-103)

## **Homeowners' insurance**

- Most policies ensure the right to legal representation in trespass suits

## **Municipal insurance**

- Municipal governments can extend their insurance coverage to landowners along a trail through additional insureds certificates...usually done as part of a trail access agreement
- Trails usually have no impact on local government's general liability premium



# Give Thanks



# **Fran's 7 P's for Successful Trail Development**

**Planning**

**Public Input**

**Partnerships**

**Publicity**

**Patience**

**Persistence**

**Professionalism**





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