

Village of Sackets Harbor

Resources are located between NYS DOT Start/End Mile Point Jefferson County 18.32 through 27.71

Founded in 1801 by Augustus Sacket as part of Jefferson County and incorporated into the Town of Hounsfield as a strategic point of entry for shipping and military defense along the Canadian Border, military troops were first stationed at Sackets Harbor in 1808 to stop smuggling into Canada. Due to its strategic location as a military installation in the northern frontier, the Navy located its headquarters in the village during the War of 1812 and strengthened the installation with construction of a permanent training post that existed until 1945.

Tourism:

The Village of Sackets Harbor is one of 13 Urban Park Communities and is engaged in ongoing efforts to revitalize/rehabilitate the historical, cultural, and architectural resources of the village with over 150 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A desired destination, the small rural community offers visitors an array of specialty shops, marinas, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, and entertainment in a historic setting with breathtaking views of Lake Ontario and the harbor. Guiding development is a shared vision documented in a Comprehensive Plan, Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) and reinforced through zoning and historical zoning laws. Currently, efforts to revise the LWRP are underway through grant funding.

Several of the privately owned businesses located within the village and along the byway serve to enhance the overall experience of the visitor by providing retail services, overnight accommodations, entertainment, boutiques and unique shops, serving as an attraction to visitors. Special initiatives by local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to extend traditionally operated seasonal businesses to year-round operations through seasonal market and promotion campaigns featuring complementary businesses to attract visitors as a destination. In recognizing local communities by themselves offer limited attractions to attract visitors from a limited market, representatives from Sackets Harbor and serving on the LAC support a regional approach in promoting and marketing special events and services to expand opportunities to a state, interstate, and international as an approach to encourage and attract visitors for week-long excursions. The LAC/LSC identified likely partners in orchestrating a regional effort are local chambers (advanced by the Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce), Seaway Trail, 1000 Islands Tourism Council, Olympic Byway and I Love NY Campaign.

In January 2003 and following a lengthy discussion by committee members representing the western segment of the Olympic Byway Local Advisory Committee, unanimously agreed the strategic positioning of the Olympic Byway Tourist Information Center is crucial in maximizing efforts to attract visitors into local communities. In selecting a site location, committee members placed a high emphasis upon existing locations currently attracting high volumes of vehicular traffic and conveniently located to Route 3 and

Interstate 81. In addition, LAC members emphasized the importance of tourist information centers in surrounding areas to disseminate Olympic Byway information to broaden and expand opportunities for benefit.

Transportation:

Seasonal vehicular traffic into downtown Sackets Harbor is often congested due to bottleneck access and limited parking along the main street area. Travelers are encouraged to park vehicles in designated areas off tributary roads and business establishments located in the village and walk to points of interest within the downtown area.

Successful promotion and marketing campaigns continue to expand traffic flows in to the village as a destination point emphasizing the need to design a traffic study to assess the communities need for travelers based upon local and regional efforts to promote and market the projected growth of the tourist industry to the village as a point of destination

Currently, the designated bicycle route traverses along the Seaway Trail on NYS Route 3 to the intersection of Rt. 3 and 180 to Dexter and into the city along Route 12. A designated bicycle route is absent in Sackets Harbor, however, bicyclists are encouraged to travel into the village to sites of interest and services. Well-maintained sidewalks, streetscape enhancements, and village parks and open space areas invite pedestrians to stroll into the downtown area for special events, retail services, shopping and to enjoy the ambiance of the Urban Park.

Airline service to the region is available at the Dexter International Airport provided by U.S. Airway.

Signage:

Sackets Harbor announces to visitors their arrival to the destination spot with visually enhanced and attractive design welcome signs positioned at points of entrance to the village and located in well groomed landscaped areas. Special events signs are added to the welcome signs to inform visitors traversing the Rt. 3 corridor of coming attractions. Some interpretive signage exists at key locations and points of interest in the village, however, interpretive signage is recommended by committee members at the site location of the Cable Carry. Identified in the Draft “Tourism Plan for the City of Watertown” and the LAC is the need for interpretive and directional signage located at strategic points of interest and intersections to facilitate pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular flows of traffic. Identified throughout the plan are strategic locations for interpretive signage. Historic structures along Public-Square lack interpretive signage to inform visitors of their significance and directional signage to assist bicyclers traveling the bike path into the city along Coffeen Street and left to find their way through heavily and confused areas of traffic from there. Directional signage to facilitate pedestrian traffic will enhance the overall experience of visitors.

Implementation:

As local community representatives, members of the LAC recommend the continuation of quarterly meetings facilitated by the Tug Hill Commission to maintain the flow of communication and information to support the advancement of recommendations and build upon the strengths of neighboring communities in a regional planning effort. The CMP also identifies likely partners associated with the resources to implement the recommendations and serves as a reference list as members of the committee track progress.

<i>Resources and Special Sites & Attractions</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Likely Partners or Stakeholders</i>
<i>Scenic:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Landscape – located on the outskirts of the village along Route 3 to the boundaries of the City of Watertown – visitors are attracted to agriculturally managed open space farmland that reflects the activities of the season ranging from planting to harvesting and grazing farm animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalize on prime agricultural lands by promoting & encouraging agricultural development while maintaining and retaining open-space characteristic of the landscape. • Create Arterial Corridor Protection Overlay Zone to preserve agricultural landscape and guide development along the corridor. • Identify & support agricultural initiatives to enhance development opportunities for a sustainable quality of life to farmers. <p>(See Town of Hounsfield Water District #2 Corridor Plan – February 14, 2001- which advocate several of the same recommendations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag & Farmland Protection Plan; NYS Purchase of Development Rights Program; Jefferson County & Local Planning/Zoning. Local Land Trust. • NYS Department of Transportation (DOT); Jefferson County & Local Planning/Zoning; Agricultural land & related business owners. • Agricultural land & related business owners. NYS Farm Bureau; State & County-wide financial business assistance; Agricultural Districts
<i>Natural</i>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Ontario – located in the heart of the village on W. Main Street and along Route 3 – visitors are attracted to the natural beauty and breathtaking views of the harbor, sunsets & sunrises, and sandy beach. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign featuring the natural beauty of the lake and recreational opportunities; • Ongoing maintenance of the fish restocking program to support recreational fishing; • Ongoing efforts to revise a local waterfront plan through a \$45,000 NY DOS Grant fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). • Village and Sackets Harbor Heritage Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black River Bay – DEC Boat Launch Area 2. Muskellunge Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance of the natural environment to protect and support wildlife habitat; • Retain and protect the fragile balance of natural resources as development threatens to encroach upon its boundaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Town, Village Planning & Zoning Board.
<p><i>Historic:</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Madison Barracks – located along the waterfront with administrative offices at 85 Worth Rd. and constructed between (1816-1930). The former military post’s architecture, its polo and parade grounds intrigue visitors. Through an adaptive reuse initiative to completely renovate apartments featuring the latest amenities, visitors are invited to eat at restaurants, stay in short- or long-term accommodations, shop at the stores, and enjoy a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and preservation of the historic significance of the barracks through ongoing restoration/rehabilitation/adaptive reuse of historic structures through available public/private funding sources & initiatives. • Ongoing efforts to secure available funding to rehabilitate the Stone Hospital; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sackets Harbor Area Cultural Society, Madison Barracks Board of Directors, Private owners, supported through local and state incentives under historic preservation.

<p>variety of services located in the former Army post.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stone Hospital – (1830’s construction) 2. Stone Water Tower – (1892 construction) 3. Ft. Pike – War of 1812) 4. Stone Row and “Sally Port” (1816-1819 construction) 5. Polo & Parade Grounds 6. Barracks and Administrative Buildings – (1816-1930’s construction) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustus Sacket House (circa 1801) – now serves as the Sackets Harbor Visitor Center – Located at 304 West Main Street – serves as a visitor’s orientation, overview, and information center for the community/ heritage area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing structural preservation, maintenance and enhancements; • Create temporary exhibits; • Ongoing promotion and marketing of area attractions and tourist information; • Update Heritage Are Management Plan with an approved \$45,000 NY Department of State Grant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village board, State Heritage Area, Sackets Harbor Foundation, Historical Society, Battlefield Program Staff; • Chamber of Commerce;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site – located at the end of Main and Washington Street’s- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing of special events to attract and inform visitors of the significance of the battlefield site; • Ongoing structural maintenance (recent projects include roof and furnace replacements; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commandant & Lieutenant's Houses – (constructed between 1847-48) 2. Stable 3. Ice House 4. Well House 5. Hall House & Barn 6. Memorial Tree Grove & Monument 7. Ft. Kentucky 8. Battlefield Grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a formal long-term plan of recommendations for implementation (preliminary plans currently being discussed with the expectation of a 1-year completion date); • Phase I - conversion of the Lieutenant's House as a Visitors Orientation Center and gift shop featuring a gallery with display panels of text and graphics (2-3 yr.); • Phase II initiative - is to assess American Disability Act compliance and provide recommendations followed by implementation. • Phase III – move offices to the 2nd floor of the Visitors Center and add an Archival Research Center; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Side and two Military Cemeteries – Peaking the interest of historic and/or genealogy buffs, the cemeteries are located within the boundaries of the village. Visitors are drawn to the site by an ornamental gate and surrounding iron fence clearly reflective of the 1800's. Headstones date back as far as the early 1800's with several of the early village founders, veterans from the 10th NYS Heavy Artillery, Civil War, Battle of Fredericksburg, and War 1812 are buried. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance, general cleanup and preservation of the sites and artifacts; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sackets Harbor Cemetery Association, American Legion, Village Board, Sackets Harbor Madison Barracks;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing underbrush cleanup, general maintenance and enhancements to trail systems; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS OPRHP, Seaway Trail Board of Directors, Sackets

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cable Carry Trail 2. Seaway Trail 3. Battlefield Site Trail 4. Sackets Harbor Walking Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaigns to attract visitors; • Clearly mark trail routes with interpretive signage indicating the significance of the trails as funding becomes available; 	<p>Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Sackets Harbor Historical Society, village DPW crews, and special interest groups</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickering-Beach Museum and Cottage – constructed between 1816-1936 as a private home and donated to the village in 1949. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and preservation of the historic structures and grounds; • Rehabilitation of the Cottage as funding becomes available; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village, Sackets Harbor Foundation, Historical Society
<p><i>Cultural:</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly Proposed Agricultural Park – located at the intersection of Routes 180 and 3. <p>While in the early phases of exploring the possibility of development, local committee members recognize the important significance of an agricultural park to the agricultural industry in Northern NY and its contribution to the corridor as an informational and product driven resource to visitors along the corridor. A feasibility study was recently completed to explore options for a North Country Agriculture Business Park and offered recommendations for funding, implementation,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand opportunities for agri-tourism and the development of the park as a destination for knowledge tourism (5-10 years); • Improve the viability of the small/family farm as an economic model; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jefferson County Job Development Agency (JCJDA) is the “Lead Agent” with support from, Jefferson County Ag Development Corporation, Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension Jefferson County, and the NYS Tug Hill Commission

<p>operations, and initial business planning. In addition, the study provided recommendations on the design and structure of the park and its operations and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (A North Country Agricultural Park: Volume I,& II Park Concepts and Organization; Energy Alternatives Analysis for the North Country Agricultural Business Park Initiative). 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches – 3 traditional denominations are located in the village and constructed between 1823-1899. The structural design and architectural significance reflects the cultural importance in shaping community values and economic prosperity intrigue visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing structural maintenance, general enhancements and preservation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual denominational church communities and regional boards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CanAm Reenactment – located on the Sackets Harbor Battlefield and provides visitors with a historic reenactment of the British invasion on American soil and ensuing battle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing of special events & activities; • Ongoing efforts to expand the historic theme and significance as opportunities and funding are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce, NYS OPRHP
<p>Recreation:</p>		
<p>Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce – located 304 W. Main Street.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Square Park & Bandstand – located along the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to grounds and landscape; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Board, DPW crews,

<p>docks on “Main Street” in the village – The newly constructed bandstand offers visitors a beautiful respite area overlooking the lake & harbor after a stroll around downtown or serves as a covered outdoor stage for special events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing efforts to expand special events & program; • Ongoing promotion and marketing of special events; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber of Commerce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Dock & Sail & Motor Boat/Canoe/Kayaks & Skidoo Launch – located on Lake Ontario in the heart of downtown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance and enhancements to public dock and launch area; • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village, NYS DEC, • Chamber of Commerce, Seaway Trail & Olympic Byway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 - Marina’s – located on W. Main Street, General Smith Drive in Madison Barracks, and just outside the village boundaries along the lake. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign to attract visitors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private owners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of Summer Concerts, Activities & Special Events; - located along the waterfront and battlefield areas – visitors are attracted to an ongoing weekly series of concerts, special events and activities throughout the summer season from May to mid October with additional special events and activities scheduled year-round. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign; • Ongoing efforts to expand special events and programs as opportunities and funding become available; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sackets Harbor Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, AANNY, Seaway Trail, and Special Interest Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of Dining & Restaurants; - located along W. Main Street and Madison Barracks – visitors are attracted by the historic ambiance of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion and marketing of retail services; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privately owners, Chamber of Commerce

<p>village while dining at one of the areas fine restaurants.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotels/Lodging/Bed & Breakfast - located along Main Street - visitors are welcomed by warm and friendly atmosphere and accommodations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing promotion and marketing of services; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private owners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Ontario Playhouse – is located in the historic “Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F) Building at 103 West Main Street – visitors enjoys live stage dramatic and comedic performances in the historic setting of the village playhouse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing structural maintenance and enhancements; Ongoing promotion and marketing campaigns of special events and feature attractions; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private owner, with support from local & regional promotional and marketing brochures & campaigns - i.e. Sackets Area Chamber of Commerce, Thousand Island Tourism Council, Seaway Trails & Discovery Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialty Retail Shops – located along the “Main Street” in the village, Madison Barracks, and along access roads to the village– visitors are attracted to small downtown shops offering a quality product line of unique gifts while enjoying the historic ambiance of yesteryear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage year-round business opportunities to attract new businesses; Ongoing promotion and marketing campaign to attract a year-round economy; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Business owners;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seaway Trail Visitor/Discovery Center – is the site of the former Union Hotel (built in 1817 and is located at the corner of W. Main and Ray Streets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand upon regional education and awareness programs to visitors and local residents regarding the “Discovery Center.” Promote the trail through cultural and art exhibits to showcase points of interest. Marketing campaign to attract visitors to the local area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seaway Trail Foundation, Seaway Trails Incorporated, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain historic integrity of the structure for its adaptive reuse as a Visitors Center. • Consider a dual-purpose information center for the Seaway and Olympic Trails as a cooperative effort to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of service. 	<p>Preservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaway Trails Planning, Adirondack North Country Association.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seaway Trail Bicycle Route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional signage to mark the trail and identify historic sites and points of interest as funding is available. • Develop a plan for an interconnected multi-use trail system as an additional attraction to visitors and quality of life for residents (3-5 year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS DOT, local DPW. • Local Planning Board, Chamber of Commerce, Seaway Trail Discovery Center, Local Snowmobile/ATV Club.