



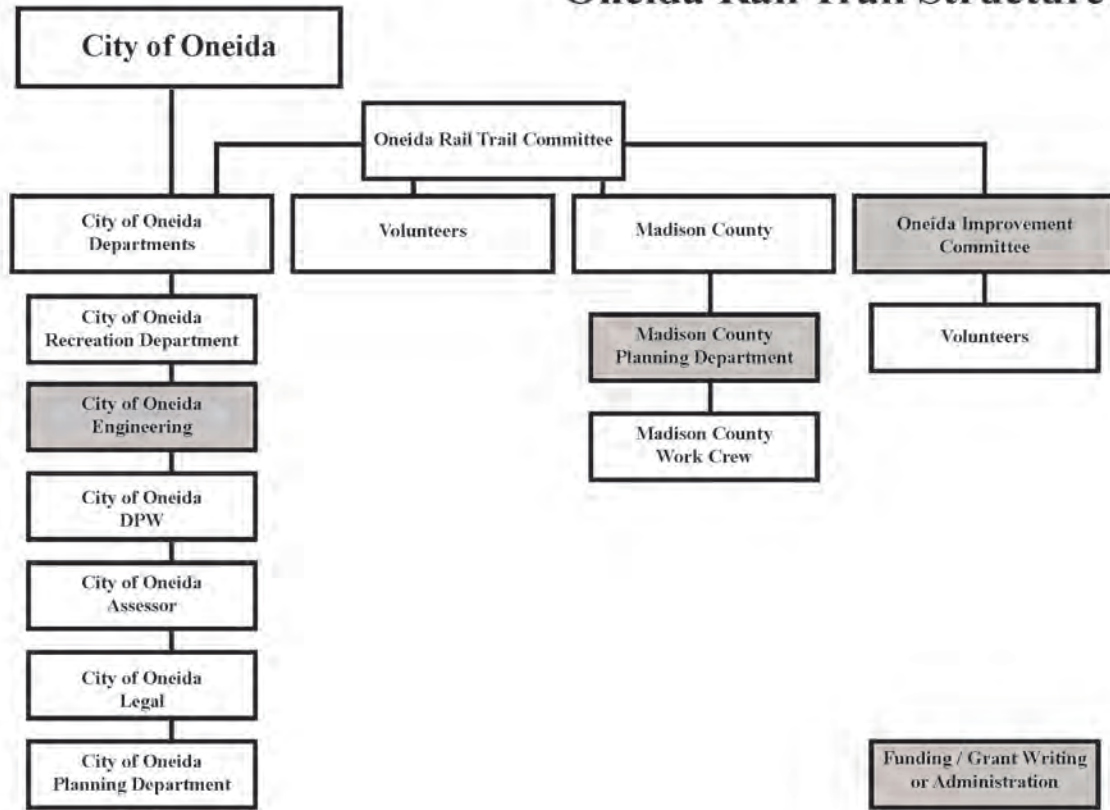
ORT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT and 2017 Goals



PROJECT PARTNERS

The ORT is a City of Oneida trail system. The project partners represent a collaboration across various City departments with support from Madison County and the Oneida Improvement Committee, the non-profit partner. An ORT Committee was assembled to help move the project from a goal in the City's Comprehensive Plan to reality.

Oneida Rail Trail Structure



Oneida Rail Trail Committee

John Taibi
 Steve Blair
 Luke Griff
 Joe Magliocca
 Jim Chamberlain
 Patti Meakin
 Jamie (Hart) Kowalczk
 Jon Rauscher
 Danielle Krol
 Mark Spooner

Attend an ORT Committee Meeting!
 Last Thursday of every month
 Oneida Recreation Center
 217 Cedar Street, Oneida
 6:00 pm

Public welcome

Mission:
 “formally designate railroad right-of-ways as greenways and initiate implementation of trail system.”

-City of Oneida Comprehensive Plan

January 21, 2017

Our fourth year is in the books! As you flip through this report you will notice one common thread for 2016....Community Partnerships! A long winter was spent inside planning, compiling, researching, and writing. As soon as we could get outside events sprung up like tulips in April!

Trail work days, these are the events where we get our hands dirty and meet the volunteers who support our mission to formally designate railroad right-of-ways as greenways and initiate implementation of a trail system. We had the good fortune of fantastic weather to prepare for the opening of the next section of the ORT. On May 4, 2016 our second official section of the Oneida Rail Trail was officially opened. The ½ mile section adjacent to the Oneida High School was opened with as much fanfare as the first mile the year before. History came alive during the opening. Posters of the very trains that traveled the all but forgotten tracks lined the ½ mile path.

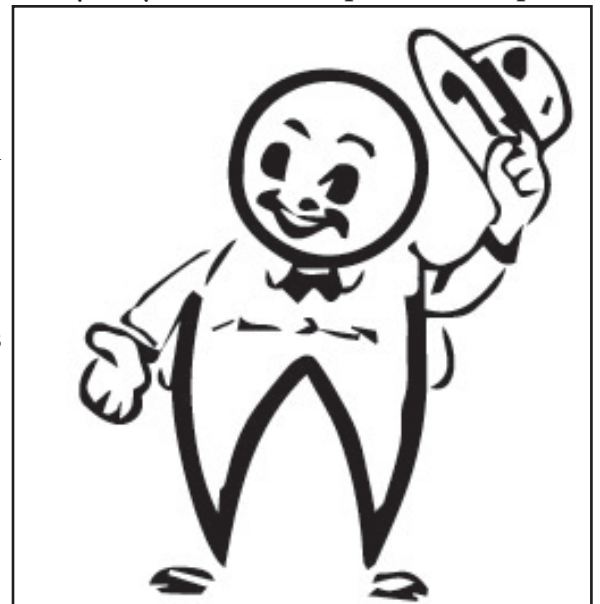
The Oneida Rail Trail seems to be resonating on the minds of community members and organizations in 2016. The City Centre apartment complex was designed with the ORT in mind. Situated along the former New York Central Railroad the past comes to life as you pass by the recreated train depot that serves as an equipment storage shed. Talk about history coming to life! The Oneida Improvement Committee (OIC) was able to purchase a scale miniature diorama of the Main Street Station that sat where the NY O & W and West Shore Division Railroads met.

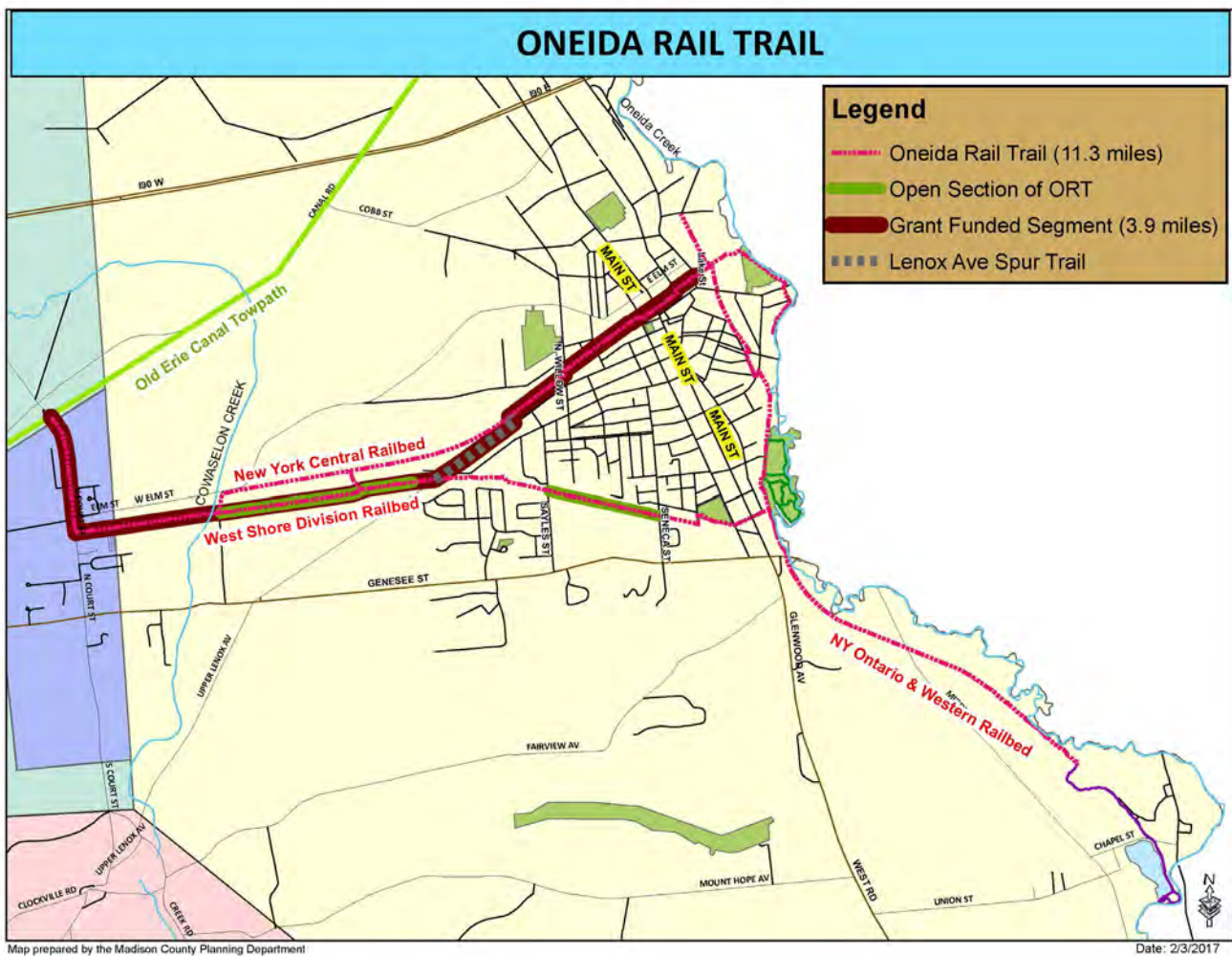
Community partnerships.....The Oneida Rail Trail partnered with The Live Well Committee of the Rural Health Council of Madison County to create the Monday Mile on the newly opened ½ mile section of the ORT. Argentine Health Partners, professional health coaches, coordinated health walks on the Oneida Rail Trail. Bike to the Market Day encouraged families to ride their bikes to the local farmers market. There they found an afternoon filled with bike information and events. Craft Days at Cottage Lawn invited us back for another year of making walking sticks with kids. We weren't running out this year and were ready with 325 sticks. Adults even made their own sticks this year.

In 2017 we are planning how we and the community can take care of our ORT investments. The creation of a Trail Ambassador Program is being planned. Volunteer ambassadors will not only inspect portions of the trail; they will become familiar with the trail system and their community as a whole. With this knowledge they will greet trail users and help make their experience an informative one to remember. Safety has to be one of the biggest investments we will see. The ORT Committee will work with every City of Oneida department, especially Police & Fire to design a safety manual. Maintenance will be headed up by Oneida Parks & Recreation with the help of the DPW and volunteers. There will be adopt-a-spot beautification opportunities for local groups and we will introduce a bike friendly program for local business in 2017.

We eagerly wait until those spring flowers begin to peek out from under the snow to get our hands dirty this Spring. If you would like to get your hands dirty, please feel free to contact us at Oneida Parks & Recreation 315-363-3590 or drop into our public meetings at 6:00 pm on the last Thursday of every month at the Oneida Rec Center, 217 Cedar Street, Oneida. See you on the trail!

Regards,
Oneida Rail Trail Committee Members





The Oneida Rail Trail is a proposed 11.3-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail located in the City of Oneida. The Oneida Rail Trail (ORT) will preserve and utilize existing rail beds (no tracks remain) to create a cultural corridor along three former rail lines: the New York Central, West Shore Division, and New York Ontario & Western. These former rail beds run through the heart of downtown Oneida and connect to the Village of Wampsville to the west and the City of Sherrill to the southeast.

Through the use of these rail beds, the Oneida Rail Trail will link three communities, multiple neighborhoods, businesses, offices, parks, tourist destinations, education facilities, and other trails including the Old Erie Canal Towpath to create a new economic engine in the area and source of community pride.

As of 2016, 1.5 miles of the ORT is officially open for public use. This includes a 1 mile section that stretches from Hubbard Place to Lenox Avenue. The trailhead is located at Hubbard Place. Another 1/2 mile segment is open near Oneida High School between Seneca and Sayles Streets.

Another 3.9 miles of the trail is in the process of being developed through funding awarded by the NYS Department of Transportation. This section stretches from the Old Erie Canal State Park through the Village of Wampsville and then east along the former New York Central and West Shore railbeds into the downtown of Oneida.

One of the unique features of the ORT project is that because it involves three intersecting railbeds it is not just an out and back trail but instead will offer the option for a loop around the city.



1/2 Mile
Segment Opens
Pages 6-9

NYS DOT TEP/
TAP Funding
Update
Pages 10-11



Thank you Mr.
and Mrs. Durkee
Page 12

Diorama acquired
and on display!
Page 13



ORT at the 2016
Walk/Bike NY
Conference
Page 14



Community Groups
use the ORT
Page 15
ORT Events
Page 16

1/2 MILE SEGMENT OPENS

May 2016 - A 1/2 mile segment of the Oneida Rail Trail opens! This segment is along the former West Shore Railbed between Seneca St. and Sayles St. adjacent to Oneida High School.



ONEIDA RAIL TRAIL
Grand Opening Celebration!
Please join us!
May 4th
6 pm
Ribbon-cutting event
on the trail near Seneca St in Oneida

Join us for the ribbon-cutting event to officially open this section of the City of Oneida's Oneida Rail Trail (ORT)!

Events include speakers and the unveiling of new gates and signage. Temporary historic photos will be placed along the trail during the event for those that attend to take a self-guided walk to learn more about how the railroad shaped the city.

The 1/2 mile section to open extends from Sayles St along a former railbed to Seneca St. Utilizing existing railbeds, the envisioned ORT trail system will eventually circle the City. While many portions of the railbeds are used by the community now, this 1/2 mile section represents a portion of the trail to be officially open and designated for public use.

Learn more about the ORT at www.improveOneida.com





A clean-up event will be held Saturday, April 30 from 9 am - 11 am to get the trail ready for opening. If you are interested in volunteering, please email info@improveoneida.com



A huge THANK YOU to Oneida High School student and Eagle Scout Candidate, Chase Ortlieb, who volunteered to construct the two gates needed for this section as his Eagle Scout Project!
-photo credit the Oneida Daily Dispatch

Oneida Rail Trail: Sayles St to Seneca St

Legend

-  ORT Open for Use (1/2 mile)
-  Future Oneida Rail Trail (11.3 miles)



Map prepared by the Madison County Planning Department

Date: 5/4/2016

1/2 MILE SEGMENT OPENS

Prior to the opening, volunteers installed trailhead signage and the gates on both ends of the segment.



The view from Seneca Street



Thank you to all the volunteers!

As you can see from the photos, trail work days are also fun!



The view from Sayles Street



1/2 MILE SEGMENT OPENS

A great time was had by all at the Grand Opening Ceremony of this 1/2 mile segment.



Thanks to PAC 99 for filming the Grand Opening!

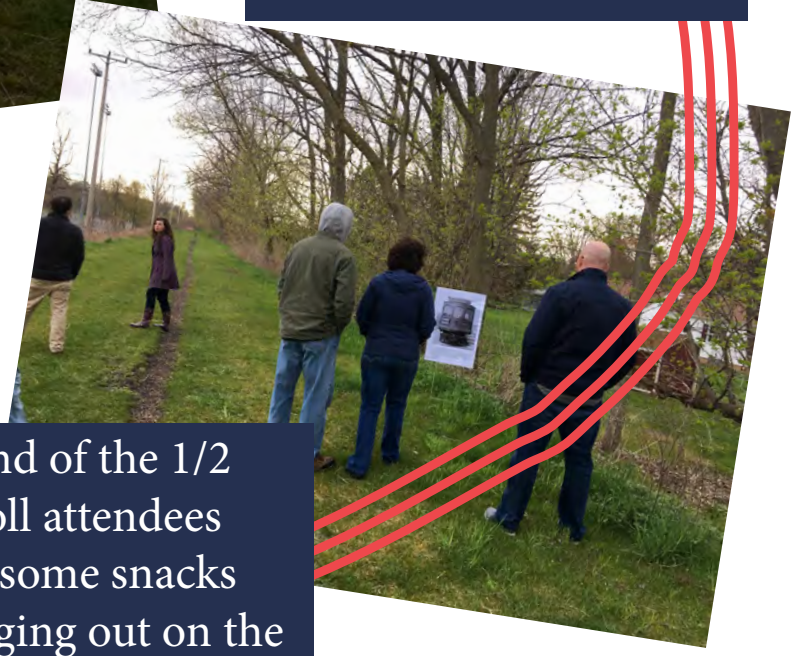
To view the speeches and footage go to improveOneida.com



1/2 MILE SEGMENT OPENS



As part of the Grand Opening, attendees walked the segment which was lined with posters depicting the history of the railroad in Oneida.



At the end of the 1/2 mile stroll attendees enjoyed some snacks and hanging out on the newly placed boulders



This section is open for YOU to enjoy too! Get outside and experience it for yourself!



NYS DOT TEP/TAP Funding Update

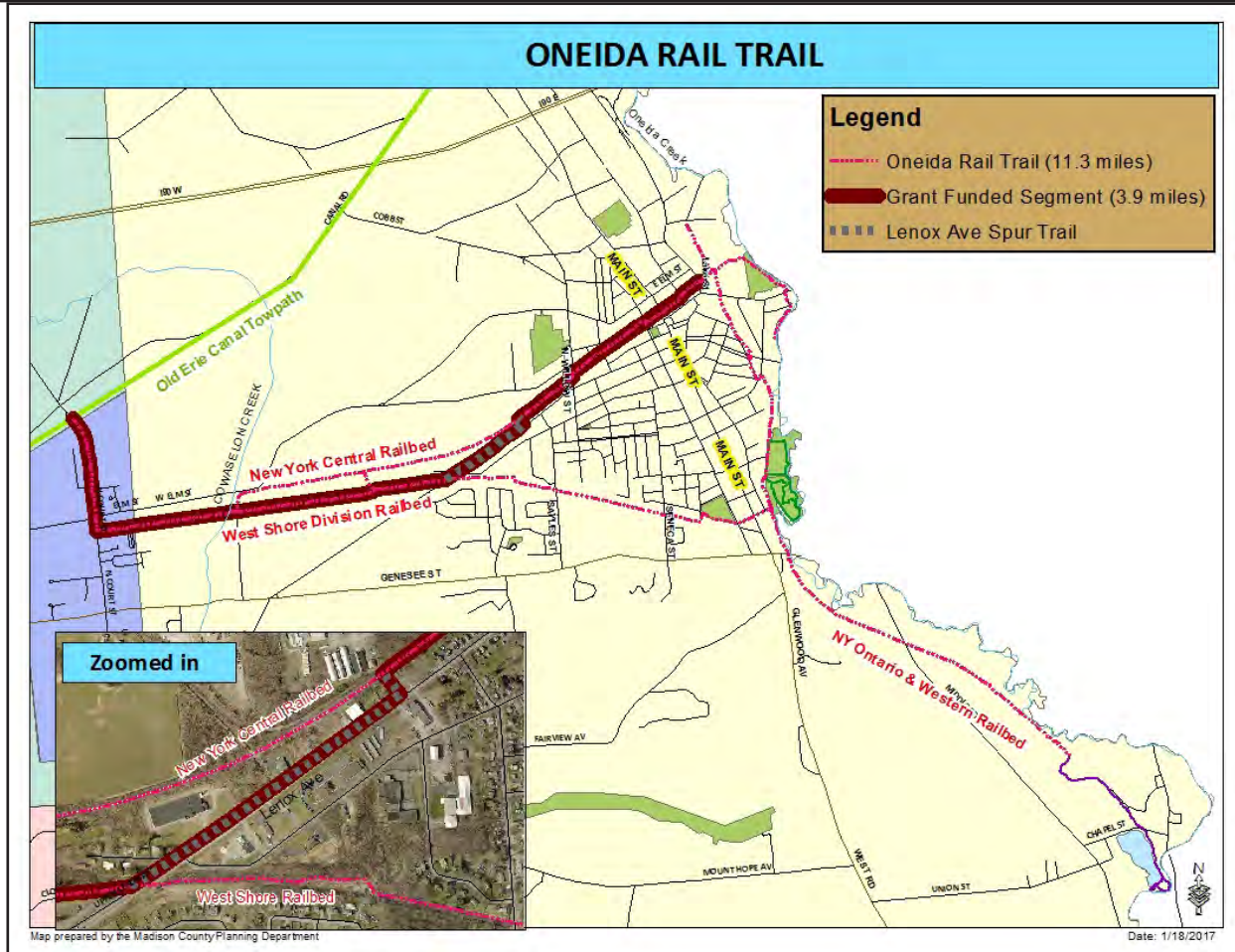
The City moved forward with the design of the NYS DOT funded segments of the Oneida Rail Trail. Construction will begin Spring 2017.

Unfortunately, the grant funded portion of the trail had to be rerouted off the New York Central Railbed and onto Lenox Ave for approximately 1/2 mile. The hope is that one day the trail will be able to continue along the railbed alignment, but given time constraints of the grant a Lenox Avenue spur will connect the trail in the near term.

This DOT grant funded segment will officially open 3.9 miles of the ORT from the Erie Canalway Trail in Wampsville through Oneida City Center.

The TEP funded segment is 3.1 miles and extends from the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park and Erie Canalway Trail through Wampsville along the former West Shore and NY Central railbed to N. Willow Street. Proposed improvements to this section include enhancing the trail surface with stone dust, extending the sidewalk along N. Court Street to link to the Erie Canalway Trail, and the redecking of the historic rail bridge over Cowaselon Creek.

The TAP funded segment is a 0.8 mile segment that picks up at N. Willow Street continuing along the NY Central Railbed and traverses into the heart of Oneida City Center ending at N. Lake Street. This highly visible section of the ORT has proposed improvements that integrate complete street design concepts. Design features include a protected bike lane with bump outs, a new pedestrian plaza along Clinch Park as well as trail kiosks and new curbing and sidewalk.



NYS DOT TEP/TAP Funding Update

Now that is what we call a public-private partnership!

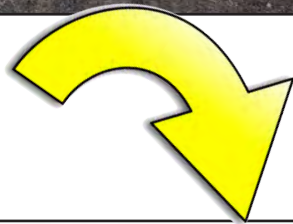
Kinderhook Development incorporated the ORT into the site of their new apartment complex located at 120 Warner Street.

The apartment complex, called City Centre Apartments, features a portion of the Oneida Rail Trail system. The 10 foot wide path through the property connects the trail from Warner Street to Liberty Street and will be paved as part of the DOT funded segment.

Kinderhook installed a bike rack along the trail and even designed their storage shed (pictured below) to resemble a train depot.



Before



After



check out the resemblance!



THANK YOU MR. & MRS DURKEE

Ron and Jeanne Durkee are generously donating a portion of their property to the City for development of the ORT.

The property being donated is a portion of the West Shore Railbed. This will allow the trail to connect from the currently open section by Oneida High School over to Allen Park.

When asked why they wanted to donate to this cause, the Durkees replied because they believe the ORT will be a great asset to the community!



The Madison County Planning Department worked with the OIC and the Durkees to create renderings of what the trail could look like here. The Durkees request for a landscape buffer and fence is included in the proposed rendering on the right.



A tremendous thank you
Mr. and Mrs. Durkee!

Your generous donation is
making the ORT possible!

Main Street Depot Diorama

The Oneida Improvement Committee (OIC), a non-profit partner of the ORT, acquired a historically accurate diorama of the Oneida Castle (Main St) Depot, where the NY O & W and West Shore Division Railroads met. This rail depot used to be approximately where the Rite Aid at the corner of Main Street and Route 5 currently exists. While the depot no longer exists, the rail bridge over Oneida Creek remains today.

The diorama was built by John Foote. The diorama is on display for everyone to see at the Oneida Recreation Center located at 217 Cedar Street, Oneida.

In the past...

Main Street Depot O. & W.R.R. and 3rd Rail System, Oneida, N.Y.



Looking north

Today...



Looking north



Looking south

Diorama...



Looking west

ORT at Walk/Bike NY Conference

The Oneida Rail Trail brings attention to the City of Oneida!



Walk-Bike NY
A LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM
SPONSORED BY:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
New York State Department of Health
Federal Highway Administration
New York State Department of State
New York State Department of Transportation
Cornell Local Roads Program
Institute for Traffic Safety Management & Research

Additional planning agencies and organizations:
New York Bicycling Coalition
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.
NYS Metropolitan Planning Organization Associations
Parks & Trails New York

The City of Oneida was invited to speak at the 2016 Walk/Bike NY Conference held in Syracuse on September 13-14. The City was selected because of its work on the Oneida Rail Trail.

Attendees were from across the state. Luke Griff, City of Oneida Recreation Director, and Jamie Kowalczyk of the Madison County Planning Department are seen below giving the ORT presentation at the conference.



Community Groups use the ORT

Monday Mile!

The ORT was selected for a Monday Mile!

The Live Well Committee, in partnership with the Madison County Rural Health Council and Healthy Monday Syracuse, selected four walking trails in Madison County as part of the Monday Mile initiative.

The ORT was one of the trails selected! The Monday Mile section of trail is the segment between Seneca and Sayles Street adjacent to Oneida High School.



What is a “Monday Mile”? It’s a fun way to get in your daily exercise and helps jump start your week in a healthy way. Research has shown that many people vow to start a healthier lifestyle “on Monday”.



Argentine Health Walks

ARGENTINE HEALTH PARTNERS
Morning Walk 8:30-10:00

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

National Optimal Health™ Day is Take Shape For Life's annual day of celebration for Optimal Health™!

Our mission is to get America healthy, and having this day is a reminder of that pledge. Join us on Thursday!

- × 2 easy, flat miles
- × FREE!
- × Bring a Friend
- × Gather at 8:15
- × Park at Hubbard Place
- × Info!
 - Len 315-264-9900 or
 - Maggie 315-264-4382

WELCOME to the ONEIDA RAIL TRAIL.

Almost this section of track was once located where you are standing. The 19 miles brought bridges and passenger to Oneida and its railroad stations on Lenox Avenue and Route 5. Today, with the help of community partners, the City of Oneida is working to transform the former railbeds into a city-wide trail system. In September of 2014, this 1 mile section from Hubbard Place to Lenox Avenue opened because the first officially opened segment of the Oneida Rail Trail.

Join us at our Oneida Home for a Healthy Happy Hour 6-8PM!
Free chair massage – Wellbeing Evaluations – Healthy Snacks & more.

Maggie Argentine shared Argentine Health Partners's event — with Deborah Francabandiero Brewer and 3 others.

5 likes · Oneida ·

Join us tomorrow morning ... 8:15 AM, Meet at Hubbard Street parking area of Oneida Rail Trail!!

We are thrilled that for the second year in a row Argentine Health Partners (AHP) have incorporated a mile of the Oneida Rail Trail (from Hubbard Place to Lenox Ave) into their National Optimal Health Day which takes place every September.

This certified health coach husband and wife duo formed AHP in 2009. Argentine Health Partners provides Professional Health Coaching & Supervised Weight Loss consulting in Oneida and in other cities throughout the United States. Working with individuals in one-to-one, corporate and community-based settings, Maggie and Len Argentine go beyond weight loss to help individuals achieve “Optimal Health.” Using a ‘primary prevention’ focus, Maggie and Len seek to prevent disease and/or reduce disease & its impact by inspiring and equipping individuals to improve their health habits, lose weight, and become confident in shaping their physical, mental and financial wellbeing.

Maggie sums it up best, “We love the Oneida Rail Trail”.

ORT Events

Bike to Market Day

Oneida hosted a Tuesdays on the Towpath ride on August 9th. Tuesdays on the Towpath is a recreational bike ride series that takes place throughout the summer in communities throughout Central New York. The theme of Oneida's ride was "Bike to the Market" with the ride starting at Madison County Historical Society's Farmers Market and looping around the City via the ORT and Erie Canalway Trail. The Oneida Police Dept gave a special presentation on bike safety and Dirty Bikes did a demonstration on bike maintenance.



Bike to the Market

Tuesday Aug. 9th
3:00-7:00pm

Jump on your bikes and come join us this Tuesday for a special bike themed week!

ONEIDA RAIL TRAIL The Oneida Rail Trail is a proposed 11.3-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail located in the City of Oneida. (3:00-7:00)

Climate Smart Community Advisory Committee
The goal of the Committee is to promote and execute sustainability strategies identified in the City's Climate Action Plan (3:00-7:00)

Oneida Police Department
Presentation on bike safety from 3:00-6:00



18th Cycle the Erie Welcome Station

For the third year in row, a welcome station was set up along the Erie Canalway Trail for the 17th Annual Cycle the Erie ride. This annual event brought over 650 visitors from all over the world through Oneida. The welcome station encouraged riders to hop off the trail and into Oneida restaurants and businesses.

MCHS Craft Days Booth

The Oneida Improvement Committee, on behalf of the ORT, sponsored a booth at the annual Craft Days Festival in Oneida. The booth serves to educate the public about the ORT project. The highlight of the booth are the walking sticks available to make for free. Over 300 kids (and adults!) enjoyed selecting and decorating their own walking stick! The hope is to build enthusiasm for people of all ages to go out on a hike and enjoy the outdoors.



Mum Sale Fundraiser

The 5th Annual Mum Sale was a huge success again this year! Thank you to all that placed an order for these beautiful fall plants. The proceeds benefit the Oneida Rail Trail!! Be on the lookout for the 2017 Mum Sale in September!

As you can see, with 1.5 miles of the ORT now open, 2016 was the year that the Oneida Rail Trail really started to be used by the community. It is just the beginning! The ORT Committee looks forward to advancing even further in 2017 with the following goals:

- Create a Trail Ambassador Program
- Develop a promotional video of the ORT
- Continue to seek out grants and fundraising opportunities
- Continue to educate the community on the project through public presentations and promotional materials
- Schedule and advertise community clean-up events along the ORT
- Organize public events along currently open sections of the ORT
- Work with local businesses to promote bike friendliness in Oneida
- Work with the City to officially open the section of the West Shore Division between Seneca St through Allen Park
- Work with the City of Oneida to help implement the NYS DOT TEP and NYS DOT TAP grants for the 3.9 mile section of the ORT extending from the Old Erie Canalway Trailhead in Wampsville to Lake Street in Oneida
- Work with the City of Oneida and NYS DOT to logically connect the West Shore railbed across Lenox Ave to the grant funded section of the trail.

Stay in touch with the ORT:

www.facebook.com/OneidaRailTrail/
and
www.ImproveOneida.com

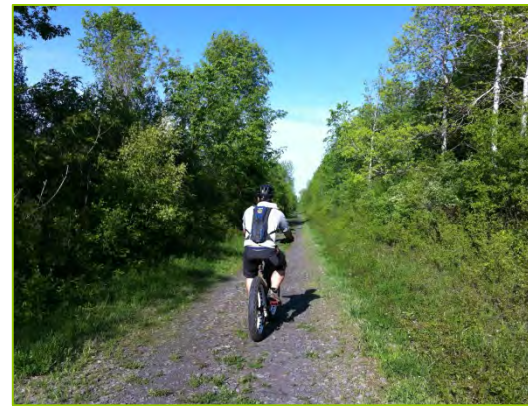
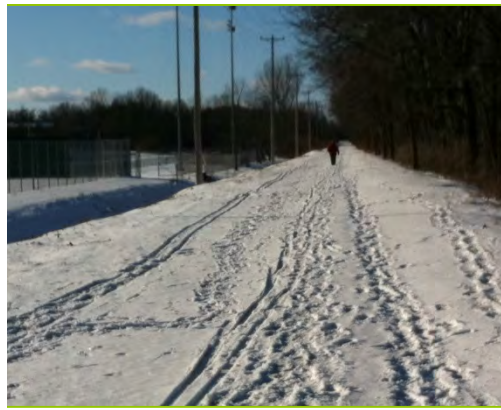
“People are different on a path. On a town sidewalk strangers may make eye contact but that is all. On a path they smile, say hello and pet one another’s dogs.

- Anne Lusk



Trail users along the West Shore Railbed

The Oneida Rail Trail.....



Connecting People to Community Destinations...

