

## **Trails & Open Space Committee**

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4PM 40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Chair: Joe Grasso

Members: Eric Connolly VC, Ed Kinowski, Michele Madigan,

Matt Veitch

### **Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting
- III. Authorizing the transfer of funds from the Trails Reserve Fund and amending the 2024 County Budget in relation thereto Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development
- IV. Discussion: New York State Open Space Plan Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development
- V. County Forestland / Zim Smith Trail / County Grant Updates— Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment



50 WEST HIGH ST, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Trails and Open Space Committee Members

CC: County Administrator's Office

**County Attorney's Office** 

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors** 

FROM: Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: March 2024 Trails and Open Space Meeting

### **Trails Grant Reserve Fund Transfer**

The following grants are preparing for reimbursement and transfers must be made from the Trails Reserve Fund (A-0888.TR) to the Municipal Planning Trails Grant Program (A.80.000-8492.9) to facilitate the reimbursement:

- 1. 2022 Town of Halfmoon (awarded via Resolution 309-2022) \$10,000
- 2. 2023 Town of Northumberland (awarded via Resolution 216-2023) \$10,000

### County Forestland / Zim Smith Trail Updates / County Grant Updates

- There are currently 6 pending Open Space/Farmland Protection Projects, including the three (3) 2023 awards, being administered by the Planning Department. Of the 6 projects, 1 is 2022 (last year) awards and 2 are prior awards.
- The Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Grant application was released on January 10, 2024 with a due date assigned for March 29, 2024. It was sent to all municipalities as well as Saratoga PLAN.
- Currently, there are 19 pending Trail Projects being administered by the Planning Department. Of the 19 projects, 11 are 2023 awards, 6 are 2022, one is 2021 and one is 2020. The Town of Halfmoon and Town of Northumberland have submitted for reimbursement and a resolution will be proposed in March 2024 to close out these projects.
- The 2024 Trail Grant application was sent out to all of the Town Supervisors on February 21, 2024 and all the Village/City Mayors on February 22, 2024. Also, Saratoga PLAN received the trail grant application on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A due date of June 28, 2024 has been posted.



## SARATOGA COUNTY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator George Conway, County Attorney Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warmt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Matt Rose, Management Analyst
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney's Office

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 22924

**COMMITTEE:** Trails & Open Space

1. Is a Resolution Required:

Yes, Other

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

Authorizing the Transfer of Funds From The Trails Reserve Fund And Amending the 2024 County Budget in Relation THERETO

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

Resolution will authorize a budget transfer from the Trails Reserve Account (A.-0888. TR) to the General Fund - Local Assistance County Trails Grant Program (A.80-000-8492.9) to allow for the payment of trails projects for the for the Town of Halfmoon (2022 grant), and Town of Northumberland (2023 grant)

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office Consulted Yes

4.	If yes, b	oudget lines and impa	ded: V YES or NO nust be provided. st have equal and offsetting entri	es.	County Administrator's Office Consulted Yes
			for impacted budget lines. than four lines are impacted.)		
	Revenue				
	Account	t Number	Account Name	Amou	int
	A.088	8 TR	Trails Reserve Account	\$20	,000,
	Expense	·			
	Account	t Number	Account Name	Amo	unt
	A.80.0	000-8492.9	Local Assistance - County Trails Grant Program	\$20	,000
	Fund Ba	lance (if applicable):	(Increase = additional revenue, I	Decrea	se = additional expenses)
	Amour	nt:			
5.	Identi	fy Budget Impact ( <b>Re</b>	equired):		
Other					
	a.		A.0888TR and A.80.000	) <b>-</b> 849	2.9
	b.	Budget year impact	ed <b>2024</b>		
	c.	Details			
	The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and reduce the Trails Reserve Account fund by \$20,000				

<b>5</b> .	YE	e Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?  S or NO (If yes, provide details) s a new position being created? Y N	Human Resources Consulted
	a. 1	Effective date	
		Salary and grade	
	b. I	s a new employee being hired? Y N	
		Effective date of employment	
		Salary and grade	
		Appointed position:	
		Term	
	c. Is	s this a reclassification? Y N	
		Is this position currently vacant? Y N	_
		Is this position in the current year compensation plan?	Y N
7.	Does th	is item require the awarding of a contract: Y V N	Purchasing Office Consulted
	a.	Type of Solicitation	
	b.	Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)	
	c.	If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an uposubmitted and approved by Purchasing Department?	dated letter, has been Y N N/A
	d.	Vendor information (including contact name):	
	e.	Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:	
	f.	State of vendor/contractor organization:	
	g.	Commencement date of contract term:	
	h.	Termination of contract date:	
	i.	Contract renewal date and term:	
	k.	Is this a renewal agreement: Y N	
	1.	Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:	

8.	Is a g	grant being accepted: YES or NO	County Administrator's Office Consulted
	a.	Source of grant funding:	
	b.	Agency granting funds:	
	c.	Amount of grant:	
	d.	Purpose grant will be used for:	
	e.	Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:	
	f.	Time period grant covers:	
	g.	Amount of county matching funds:	
	h.	Administrative fee to County:	
9.	Sunno	rting Documentation:	
<i>)</i> .	Suppo	Marked-up previous resolution	
		No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney	
		Information summary memo	
		Copy of proposal or estimate	
		Copy of grant award notification and information	
		Other	
10.	Ren	narks:	
	See	e attached memo for summary.	

3/19/2024<del>12/19/2023</del>

### **RESOLUTION 345-XXX - 20243**

Introduced by Trails and Open Space: Supervisors Grasso, Connolly, Gaston, Kinowski and M. Veitch

# AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY TRAILS DEVELOPMENT RESERVE AND AMENDING THE 20234 COUNTY BUDGET IN RELATION THERETO

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 249-2015, this Board established a capital reserve fund to be known as the "County Trails Development Reserve" for the purpose of depositing unexpended funds for the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receipt of a reimbursement voucher from the municipal applicant, funds will be appropriated to the General Fund budget from the Country Trails Development Reserve for reimbursement to the municipal applicant; and

WHEREAS, unexpended grant funds for the 2022 Town of Clifton Park Halfmoon (\$10,000.00), and 2023 Town of Northumberland grants (\$10,000.00) 2022 Village of South Glens Falls (\$10,000.00), and Town of Wilton (\$10,000.00), total \$20,000.00\$\$30,000.00; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement requests have been submitted by the Town of Clifton Park Halfmoon and, Town of Northumberland Village of South Glens Falls, and the Town of Wilton for grant projects previously approved in 2022 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the transfer of funds from the County Trails Development Reserve to the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program account for disbursement to municipal applicants require this Board's approval and an associated amendment to the 20234 County budget; and

**WHEREAS**, our Trails and Open Space Committee and the Director of Planning and Economic Development have recommended that \$20,000.00\$30,000.00 be transferred from the County Trails Development Reserve to the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program account; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Board authorizes the transfer of \$20,000.00\$20,000.00\$30,000.00 from the County Trails Development Reserve funds to the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program account to provide reimbursement to municipal applicants as approved by our Saratoga County Trails Grant Program;

; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Budget Officer is hereby authorized to enter the appropriate journal entries to reflect the approved budget transfer; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the 20243 County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

### **PLANNING**

**Increase Appropriations** 

A.80.000-8492.9 Local Assistance County Trails Grant Program

\$20,000.00<del>\$20,000.00\$30,000.00</del>

Decrease Reserve

A-0888.TR Trails Reserve

\$20,000.00<del>\$20,000.00\$30,000.00</del>

; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

<u>BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT</u>: The budget will be amended to increase appropriations and reduce the Trails Reserve Fund by \$20,000.00\$20,000.00\$30,000

### December March 19, 20234 Regular Meeting

Motion to Adopt: Supervisor Schopf Second: Supervisor Hammond

AYES (216082): Eric Connolly (11831), Joseph Grasso (4328), Philip C. Barrett (19014.5), Jonathon Schopf (19014.5), Eric Butler (6500), Diana Edwards (819), Jean Raymond (1333), Michael Smith (3525), Kevin Veitch (8004), Arthur M. Wright (1976), Kevin Tollisen (25662), Mark Hammond (17130), Scott Ostrander (18800), Theodore Kusnierz (16202), Sandra Winney (2075), Ian Murray (5808), Tara N. Gaston (14245.5), Matthew E. Veitch (14245.5), John Lawler (8208), John Lant (17361)

NOES (0):

ABSENT (19427): Thomas Richardson (5163), Willard H. Peck (5242), Edward D. Kinowski (9022)

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# SARATOGA COUNTY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator George Conway, County Attorney Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warmt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
Bridget Rider, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Matt Rose, Management Analyst
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney's Office

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 22924

**COMMITTEE:** Trails & Open Space

1. Is a Resolution Required:

No, Discussion Only

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office Consulted Yes

4.	If yes, budget lines and	t needed: YES or impact must be provided.	Consulted Yes	ce		
	Please see attachments for impacted budget lines. (Use ONLY when more than four lines are impacted.)					
	Revenue					
	Account Number	Account Name	Amount			
	Expense					
	Account Number	Account Name	Amount			
	Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)					
	Amount:					
5. Identify Budget Impact ( <b>Required</b> ):						
	a. G/L line impa	cted				
	b. Budget year in	mpacted				
	c. Details					

<b>5</b> .	YE	S or NO (If yes, provide details) s a new position being created? Y NO	Human Resources Consulted
		Effective date	
		Salary and grade	
	b. I	s a new employee being hired? Y N	
		Effective date of employment	
		Salary and grade	
		Appointed position:	
		Term	
	c. Is	s this a reclassification? Y N	
		Is this position currently vacant? Y N	<u></u>
		Is this position in the current year compensation plan?	Y N
7.	Does th	is item require the awarding of a contract: Y N	Purchasing Office Consulted
	a.	Type of Solicitation	Turchasing Office Consumed
	b.	Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)	
	c.	If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an uposubmitted and approved by Purchasing Department?	dated letter, has been Y N N/A
	d.	Vendor information (including contact name):	
	e.	Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:	
	f.	State of vendor/contractor organization:	
	g.	Commencement date of contract term:	
	h.	Termination of contract date:	
	i.	Contract renewal date and term:	
	k.	Is this a renewal agreement: Y N	
	1.	Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:	

8.	Is a gr	rant being accepted: YES or NO	County Administrator's Office Consulted <b>Yes</b>
	a.	Source of grant funding:	
	b.	Agency granting funds:	
	c.	Amount of grant:	
	d.	Purpose grant will be used for:	
	e.	Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:	
	f.	Time period grant covers:	
	g.	Amount of county matching funds:	
	h.	Administrative fee to County:	
9.	Suppor	ting Documentation:  Marked-up previous resolution  No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney  Information summary memo	
		Copy of proposal or estimate  Copy of grant award notification and information	
		Other	
10.	Rem See	arks: attached memo from Supervisor Grasso for backup on the	e NYS Open Space Plan

**TO: Saratoga County Trails and Open Space Committee Members** 

FROM: Joe Grasso, Committee Chair

SUBJECT: New York State's Open Space Plan Update - Saratoga County's Priority Projects List

New York State is currently undergoing an update to its New York State Open Space Plan (the Plan). This Plan is an important document, as the list of priorities included within it may be eligible for future State funding opportunities, or identify projects NYS will pursue on its own for potential conservation easements or property acquisitions. The Plan was last updated in 2016. The current initiative is to update the Plan in 2024. NYS is reaching out to each of the Counties across NYS for their list of "priority recommendations" that should be included within the Plan.

The attached updated Saratoga County Priority Projects List (the List) is being circulated for your review and comment. The majority of items on this list are carry-over items that were included in the 2016 Plan. Updates were drafted by County appointees Alison Crocker and Julia Stokes, with input from Jason and me. All Town Planning offices in Saratoga County were contacted on two separate occasions for their input on updates to List. Specific recommendations were received from Clifton Park, Saratoga Springs, and Wilton with additional feedback from Saratoga PLAN, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park.

New York State has significant funding available to support efforts to protect farmland, natural resources, and open space by Counties, local municipalities and nonprofit organizations such as Saratoga PLAN. The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, passed in 2022, makes \$4.2 billion available for environmental and community projects. In addition, the 2024 NYS State budget proposes an additional \$187 million in the Environmental Protection Fund for these types of projects. These are our tax dollars, so it is important that Saratoga County be in the best position possible to achieve our open space goals with the support of state funding. Your review and concurrence of the updated List is an important part of this effort.

Thanks, Joe

### **SARATOGA COUNTY**

<u>Dwaas Kill Natural Area and Watershed</u> – This nature preserve features a complex of aquatic, wetland and upland habitat associated with the middle reaches of the Dwaas Kill stream system and the Long Kill and Cooley Kill tributaries. Approximately 240 acres of the core natural area have been protected as the Town of Clifton Park's Nature Preserve, however the extended stream corridor, including these tributaries, along with the upland, forested lands and quality DEC and ACOE wetlands, warrant protection as community forests, and as additional lands to help reduce stormwater runoff and water quality impairment in a highly developed area. The expanded preserve will afford approximately 5 miles of stream corridor protection, assist in preservation of water quality and protect one of the town's major aquifers. Hemlock-laden ravines, a large wetlands complex and relatively undisturbed riparian habitat provide a solid diversity of native flora and fauna plus important wildlife habitat and travel corridors.

Kayaderosseras Creek and Fish Creek Corridor/Lake Lonely/Saratoga Lake - Kayaderosseras Creek, Drummond Creek, Spring Run, Bog Meadow, Blodgett Landing, and the southern area of Saratoga State Park feed the complex wetland areas of Saratoga Lake and Lake Lonely, flowing through Fish Creek and to the Hudson River. They flow through five towns, three villages and the City of Saratoga Springs in Saratoga County. This major water corridor through the center of the County is important for recreation, fishing, water shed protection as well as providing significant connected wetlands and natural habitat. Increased public access to both the creeks and the lakes are goals of the surrounding municipalities in the County's Green Infrastructure Plan. Protection efforts can be undertaken by state, county and municipal jurisdictions, or by other organizations (such as Saratoga PLAN) through fee or easement acquisitions, as Saratoga PLAN recently did in acquiring Snake Hill on Saratoga Lake.

<u>Mid County Trail System</u> – There is much opportunity to expand the mid county trail system and to close gaps in existing trails that traverse multiple towns in the County. Expanding the Ballston Veterans Bike Trail northward to the Zim Smith Trail, and southward to Glenville, will allow the County trail system to connect to the Hudson Mohawk Bike Path at Rexford and Scotia, giving the county a western trunk trail similar to the Champlain Canal Trail to the east. Completion of this segment would give the Empire State Trail users a Saratoga County trail option to connect to the Champlain Canal Trail in Mechanicville. In conjunction with the current County priority to extend the Zim Smith Trail to Saratoga Springs and finish gaps in the Halfmoon section of the Champlain Canal Trail, most of the population in the County will be within a short distance of a local trail connection to the regional trail system.

<u>Vischer Preserve/Mohawk Corridor Protected Area, including Buffer Lands and Lands within and along the Mohawk Towpath National Scenic Byway Corridor</u> – Located in the Southern portion of Saratoga County, the Vischer Ferry Preserve is a priority open space area for the Town of Clifton Park, designated an Important Bird Area by Audubon and a New York State Bird Conservation Area. The preserve, managed by the Town and owned by the Canal Corporation, has wetland and forest habitats as well as Mohawk River Shoreline. It includes multiple historic Erie Canal features and the Erie Canal Community Connector Trail that restored an historic towpath route to the Town of Halfmoon to the east. There is opportunity for additional parcels from private landowners to be added to the Preserve Complex. Continued acquisition of available parcels is part of the Town's open space plan and would provide increased river access, along with supporting the long-term vision of a safe pedestrian and bicyclist route along and in the vicinity of the Riverview Road corridor/Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway Corridor.

<u>Saratoga County Agricultural Lands –</u> Saratoga County has created an active farmland conservation easement program, utilizing the Saratoga County Farmland Preservation and Open Space Fund, and with

assistance from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets' Farmland Implementation Grant Program (FPIG). Throughout the county, which is undergoing increasing pressure from residential subdivisions and commercial solar development, important farmland protection projects have been initiated. These projects maintain the character of the county and also provide vital grassland habitats. It is urged that New York State focus commensurate attention and resources in DEC Region 5 on the protection of agricultural lands for working farms – similar to the protection of forested lands for working forests. Any reasonably viable farmland under consideration should be protected, whenever possible, by the purchase of an easement rather than fee simple acquisition, in order to enhance the future use of the land for agriculture. Saratoga County has a long history of an economy based on agriculture. The diverse array of high-quality ag soils in Saratoga County supports important food production for the region through its many dairy farms, egg producers, orchards and vegetable farms. Most recently Saratoga County has seen significant growth in horse farms. The equine industry supports pasture, hay and feed production businesses in the County. These industries require farmland and open space to grow hay or to pasture horses.

There is a particular need to conserve farmlands in Ag Districts 1 and 2 in the western part of the County (Clifton Park) with the goal of connecting a cluster of vulnerable farms to adjacent protected farms in the towns of Ballston Spa and Charlton and beyond. In addition, preserving agricultural lands that surround Saratoga National Park is critical to sustaining the natural system benefits the Park provides. As the Battle of Saratoga approaches its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027, there will be much focus on the Park. Preserving agricultural lands that surround it would add to celebration of the history and the natural beauty of the Park.

<u>Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park (WWPP)</u> – The town of Wilton developed a plan to create a 3000-acre park in the Saratoga Sand Plains found in the center of town to provide a recreational and aesthetic open space to compliment future development in one of the fastest growing counties in New York State. A mixture of acquisitions and easements, involving local, state and federal funding is being used to accomplish this ambitious project. It provides an important habitat for the state and federally endangered Karner blue butterfly, along with threatened and species of special concern including Blanding's and spotted turtles, frosted elfin butterflies, spadefoot toads, eastern hognose snakes, and American woodcock, to name a few. The town of Wilton is outside of the Adirondack Park.

<u>Blanding's Turtle Recovery Area</u> – Blanding's turtles, a threatened species in New York, were found in one area in central-eastern Saratoga County on lands that are within the area known as WWPP. This localized area in the towns of Wilton and Northumberland, is facing significant pressure from subdivisions. DEC, and local lands trusts such as Saratoga PLAN, has and will continue to acquire properties in fee and under easement, that contain Blanding's turtle breeding, feeding and over wintering habitat. These properties will become part of the Saratoga Sand Plains Wildlife Management Area, which also encompasses the WWPP.

<u>Saratoga Sandplains Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Unit</u> – The Unit includes the WWPP which has already been included as a Priority Project and additional properties in the town of Northumberland. Within the Unit boundaries are habitat and areas suitable for habitat restoration which can be used to expand and link populations. The Saratoga Sand Plain area is one of the three target areas for establishment of a viable population as part of recovery at the national level. DEC acquisitions in this Recovery Unit have been and will continue to be included as part of the Saratoga Sand Plains Wildlife Management Area. Saratoga Count

in consultation with NYSEC completed approximately 180 acres of habitat restoration in the Towns of Northumberland and Wilton.

Snook Kill and Saratoga Sand Plains — The goal is to extend connectivity to the Adirondack Foothills, also known as the Palmertown Range, along the Snook Kill. The Snook Kill originates in the Palmertown Range and travels northerly through the Town of Wilton into Northumberland and eventually connects with the Hudson River. The Snook Kill is one of the cleanest streams in Saratoga County and is an excellent candidate for public recreation with fishing, educational opportunities, and nature trails. Connectivity from the Palmertown Range along the Snook Kill and to the vast Saratoga Sand Plains would provide an immersive experience of broad diversity of environmental ecosystems with mountains, streams and sand plains, all within Saratoga County. Providing this connectivity to nature where people live has proven to be beneficial for overall health and quality of life.

Round Lake and Anthony Kill Corridor – The area around Round Lake is identified in the Saratoga County Green Infrastructure Plan as exhibiting all four of the green infrastructure theme areas: natural systems, working landscapes, recreation and trails and cultural landscapes. The Lake itself is important for recreation, fishing, watershed protection and provides wetland and natural habitat protection. Round Lake is a well-known recreational area for non-motorized boats and is an excellent warm water fishery. The area around Round Lake is also a potential area for grassland bird habitat recovery work. The Anthony Kill flows east from Round Lake into the Hudson River and contains class II-III rapids and a mix of natural and urban surroundings. Protection and public access efforts have been undertaken by State, County, municipal and private partnerships. It is important at this time to try to conserve the wetlands and watershed for the Anthony Kill.

<u>Sacandaga Corridor</u> – This encompasses the lands in the Town of Hadley adjacent to the Stewart's Bridge Reservoir and the Sacandaga River below the Stewart's Bridge Reservoir Dam that are currently owned by the Open Space Institute and National Grid. The properties include acreage near the shoreline of the reservoir adjacent to FERC required public recreational access to the water, and along the river adjacent to the Town of Hadley Whitewater Recreation Area. State ownership of the properties will enhance the existing recreation opportunities and protect the view shed from the river corridor.

Southeastern Adirondack Foothills — The Palmertown and Luzerne Ranges lie immediately west of rapidly developing towns along the Adirondack Northway such as Wilton and Queensbury, and in close proximity to the tourism centers of Saratoga and Lake George. This area is the ecological transition zone between the Adirondacks and the Hudson Valley, resulting in high biodiversity and includes the Moreau Lake Forest Important Bird Area. Existing public lands include Lincoln Mountain State Forest, Moreau Lake State Park, City of Glens Falls watershed, Luzerne State Campground, and Prospect Mountain. Saratoga County recently acquired the Graphite Range Community Forest, with public access from Saratoga Road (Route 9) in Wilton. The Palmertown Trail connecting Moreau Lake State Park with the City of Saratoga Springs is an important component of the County-wide trail system identified in the County's Green Infrastructure Plan. (Portions of this project are located in Warren County.) Saratoga County Forest Lands within this Adirondack Foothill region are a highly resilient landscape to climate change and a priority conservation area for Saratoga County.

Stony Creek Reservoir Natural Area and Watershed, Town of Clifton Park — Stony Creek Reservoir and its watershed lands cover more than 1000 acres in the Town of Clifton Park, representing a significant, large block of a natural area in the eastern, more developed part of the Town. The reservoir and surrounding land are owned and protected by the Latham Water District (Town of Colonie) and was formerly used as a

back-up water supply, but no public access is available to any of it. The Town of Colonie may no longer have any use for the Reservoir. The open space area includes the northern reach of the Stony Creek as it flows into the reservoir, surrounding wetlands, Stony Creek groundwater aquifer recharge lands, fish and wildlife habitat, woodlands and opportunities for passive recreation. A significant fisheries habitat is associated with the Stony Creek reservoir and Stony Kill (stream-class A). The Stony Creek Reservoir is the largest water body in Clifton Park and is identified as a specific plan goal and long-range opportunity for protection of water supply and natural resources in the Town of Clifton Park Open Space Plan. Acquisition of other parcels within the greater Stony Creek Watershed, the Vischer Ferry Hamlet and the forested area along Grooms Road are desirable to provide greater protection for this important natural resource.

Long Path – This long-distance hiking path currently connects the George Washington Bridge in New Jersey to John Boyd Thatcher Park in Albany County, mostly following public lands. It is projected to facilitate various modes of travel through the western towns of the county such as Charlton, Galway, and Providence. Ultimately, it is proposed to connect to Whiteface Mountain. Saratoga County's Green Infrastructure Plan supports extending the Path along public roadways and lands including Lake Desolation. Additional trail corridors could be acquired as properties exchange owners. The Path would link major landmarks, including Revolutionary War sites and significant geological features.

Grassland Bird Habitat that borders habitat in Washington County — the eastern portion of Northumberland from Bacon Hill, north through Reynolds Corners in Moreau, contains important grassland bird habitat that adjoins a significant expanse of habitat in Washington County. Northumberland and Moreau lie within the Atlantic Flyway, a critical bird migration route, harboring the greatest diversity of grassland bird species in the United States. There are multiple areas within Northumberland and Moreau that are ranked a 2 or 3 in the range of 0 — 6 for quality of habitat established by the Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative (Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

The importance of conserving this habitat and a description of the bird species affected by diminishing grasslands is set forth in the description of the Washington County Grasslands on the Priority Projects list in the Open Space Plan. There are other bird habitat areas across Saratoga County recognized and/or supported for protection by the County or town in which the property is located that provide high conservation value as well.

<u>Champlain Canal/Hudson River Corridor</u> – From Waterford to Whitehall, the Champlain Canal is an underused resource serving Saratoga and Washington counties. The majority of public ownership along its length is under the jurisdiction of the NYS Canal Corporation. Additional open space acquisitions should focus on recreational water access, habitat protection along the Hudson River, completion of the Champlain Canalway Trail and protection of the historic viewsheds of the battlefields, siege and surrender of Saratoga in 1777.



# SARATOGA COUNTY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST

TO: Steve Bulger, County Administrator Ridge Harris, Deputy County Administrator George Conway, County Attorney Therese Connolly, Clerk of the Board Stephanie Hodgson, Director of Budget

CC: John Warmt, Director of Purchasing
Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development
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Matt Rose, Management Analyst
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Samantha Kupferman, County Attorney's Office

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 22924

**COMMITTEE:** Trails & Open Space

1. Is a Resolution Required:

No, Discussion Only

- 2. Proposed Resolution Title:
- 3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

This column must be completed prior to submission of the request.

County Attorney's Office Consulted Yes

4.	If yes, budget lines and	nt needed: YES or I I I I I YES or I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Consulted Yes	s Office			
		nents for impacted budget lines.  I more than four lines are impac					
	Revenue						
	Account Number	Account Name	Amount				
	Expense						
	Account Number	Account Name	Amount				
	Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)						
Amount:							
5. Identify Budget Impact ( <b>Required</b> ):							
	a. G/L line impa	acted					
	b. Budget year i	mpacted					
	c. Details						

<b>5</b> .	YE	S or NO (If yes, provide details) s a new position being created? Y NO	Human Resources Consulted
		Effective date	
		Salary and grade	
	b. I	s a new employee being hired? Y N	
		Effective date of employment	
		Salary and grade	
		Appointed position:	
		Term	
	c. Is	s this a reclassification? Y N	
		Is this position currently vacant? Y N	<u></u>
		Is this position in the current year compensation plan?	Y N
7.	Does th	is item require the awarding of a contract: Y N	Purchasing Office Consulted
	a.	Type of Solicitation	Turchasing Office Consumed
	b.	Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)	
	c.	If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an uposubmitted and approved by Purchasing Department?	dated letter, has been Y N N/A
	d.	Vendor information (including contact name):	
	e.	Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:	
	f.	State of vendor/contractor organization:	
	g.	Commencement date of contract term:	
	h.	Termination of contract date:	
	i.	Contract renewal date and term:	
	k.	Is this a renewal agreement: Y N	
	1.	Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:	

8.	Is a gr	ant being accepted: YES or NO	County Administrator's Office Consulted <b>Yes</b>
	a.	Source of grant funding:	
	b.	Agency granting funds:	
	c.	Amount of grant:	
	d.	Purpose grant will be used for:	
	e.	Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:	
	f.	Time period grant covers:	
	g.	Amount of county matching funds:	
	h.	Administrative fee to County:	
9.	Suppor	ting Documentation:	
		Marked-up previous resolution	
		No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney	
	<b>'</b>	Information summary memo	
		Copy of proposal or estimate	
		Copy of grant award notification and information	
		Other	
10.	Rem	arks:	
	See	attached memo for Summary	