Trails & Open Space Committee

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 4PM
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

Chair: Joe Grasso
Members: Dave Ball, Michael Gyarmathy-VC, Ed Kinowski, Ram Lalukota, Scott Ostrander, Minita Sanghvi

Agenda

I. Welcome and Attendance

II. Approval of the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting

III. Office of Planning & Economic Development Updates – Jason Kemper, Planning & Economic Development

- Agricultural District
- Farmland/Open Space Grant
- Trails Grant
- Graphite Range Community Forest
- Saratoga County Fish Stocking
- County Forestland Timber Harvest
- DEC - Karner Blue & Frosted Elfin Butterflies
- Zim Smith Trail Usage Report

IV. Discussion: Update from Jennifer Hunt Dempsey, Saratoga Trails Alliance

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JASON KEMPER, DIRECTOR

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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: April 29, 2026

RE: May 2026 Trails and Open Space Meeting

2025-2026 Agricultural District Inclusions

Resolution 76-2026 authorized amendments to the Agricultural Districts in the County. Correspondence was received from NYS Dept. of Ag. and Markets on 4.1.26 verifying the annual 303b ag. district inclusion period has been completed with 64.05-acre of land added to Saratoga County Ag. District #1 and 57.21-acres into Saratoga County Ag. Dist. #2. The Saratoga County Office of Real Property was notified on April 15, 2026 and the respective town assessors and the individual landowners were notified on April 16, 2026 regarding the inclusion of the lands into the county's agricultural districts. This process will begin again in mid-September for the 26-27 303b 30-day ag. inclusion period held each October.

County Forestland / Zim Smith Trail Updates / County Grant Updates

- There are currently 7 pending Open Space/Farmland Protection Projects, including the three 2025 awards, one 2024 award, two from 2023 and one from 2021. A 2021 Town of Malta project, a 2023 Town of Northumberland project and a 2024 Town of Northumberland project have submitted reimbursement materials, and they are being reviewed for completeness and to determine if revised resolutions must be prepared. Town of Clifton Park closed on their 2025 project and a reimbursement request will be submitted shortly.
- Currently, there are 23 pending Trail Projects being administered by the Planning Department. Of the 23 projects, 12 are 2025, 6 are 2024, one is a 2023 award, one is 2022, one is 2021 and one is 2020. The Towns of Greenfield and Northumberland have recently informed the department that their 2025 trail grant projects are completed, and reimbursement requests will be submitted soon.
- Supervisor Grasso and Jason Kemper have been attending regular meetings of the Graphite Range Community Forest Advisory Committee. Trail usage, signage, maintenance, and event policies have all been discussed.

- A public forum for the Graphite Range community Forest North Project was held in the Town of Greenfield on 4.14.26, plans are being prepared for submission to the Town of Greenfield Planning Board. The county will acquire the parcel once all improvements on the site have been made.
- 2026 Saratoga County Trails Grant Program Grants and the 2026 Saratoga County Farmland and Open Space Program Grants are due on June 18, 2026. To date, one grant application has been received by the planning department. – 2025 Grant Applications attached for reference
- The Saratoga County Fish Program has initiated the fish stocking program for 2026. Fish stocking events with Corinth School will occur on 4.28.26 at the Corinth Reservoir Property. On May 8th, a fish stocking event with the Edinburg and Northville School Districts will occur at the Town of Day Boat Launch. All Supervisors are welcome to attend these events. The trout stocking will be concluded by the second week in May.
- The next timber harvest on county forestland will be in the Town of Galway on Consaul Road. The Supervisor has been consulted and toured the site, the timber will be marked for sale and a bid released later this year. Depending on the volume of the sale, this project may spread over two years. At the conclusion of the harvest, a trail network will be developed on the parcel.
- At some point later this year, DEC will be contracting with a firm to study quality of habitat for Karner blue butterfly and frosted elfin butterfly in the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park and the Saratoga Sandplains Wildlife Management Area. Once the contractor is selected, they will be seeking permission to access the county forestland and conduct these surveys on the Edie Road parcel.
- A quarterly report for Zim Smith Trail Usage is attached to the memo. A fourth trail counter was recently installed in the Town of Malta at Shenantaha Park on 4.1.26. The usage at this trail counter is not included in the report. As of 4.27.26 over 7200 individuals have passed in front of the counter (800 on Sunday 4.26.26).

Saratoga County

Nisha Merchant

04/02/2026

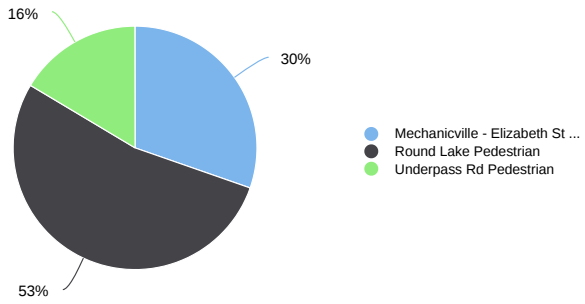
Zim Smith Trail Usage Report (Date Range)

Saratoga County

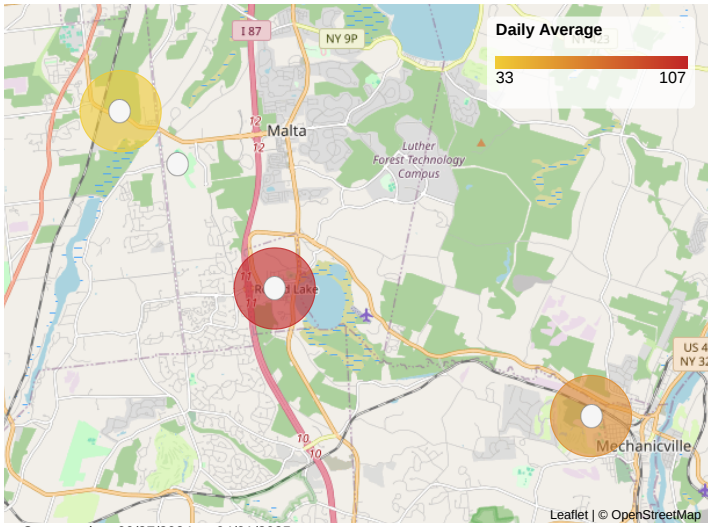
September 26, 2025 → March 31, 2026

Total	Peak Day	
37,418	Sunday Oct 5, 2025	**1,172**

Distribution

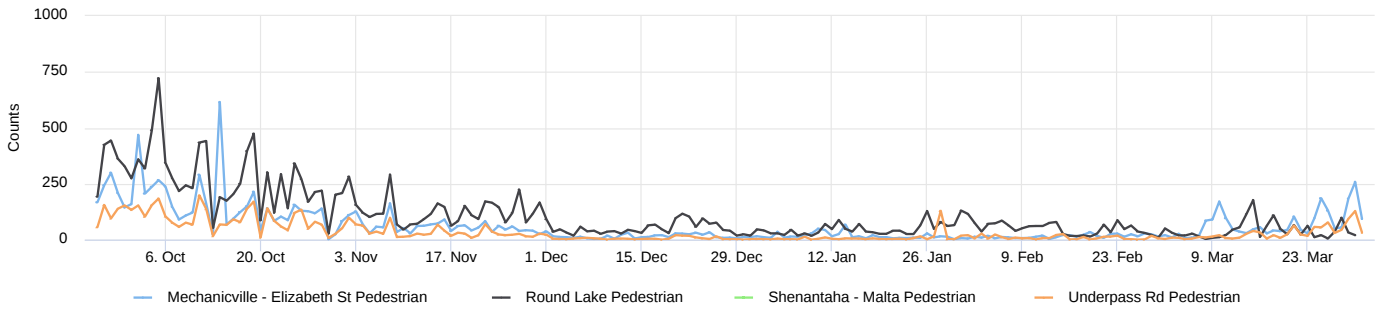


Key Figures Map



Compared to 09/27/2024 → 04/01/2025

Daily Traffic



Zim Smith Trail Usage Report (Date Range)

Saratoga County

September 26, 2025 → March 31, 2026

Key Figures Summary

Site	Daily Average		Peak Day		Peak Count	
Round Lake Pedestrian	107		Sun Oct 5, 2025		722	
Mechanicville - Elizabeth St Pedestrian	61		Tue Oct 14, 2025		615	
Underpass Rd Pedestrian	33		Sat Oct 11, 2025		198	
Shenantaha - Malta Pedestrian						

Compared to 09/27/2024 → 04/01/2025

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
Audra Hedden, County Administrator's Office
Emily Spring, County Attorney's Office

DEPARTMENT: Department of Planning & Economic Development

DATE: 4/25/26

COMMITTEE: Trails & Open Space

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

County Attorney's Office Consulted

1. Is a Resolution Required:

   No, Discussion Only

2. Proposed Resolution Title:

3. Specific Details on what the resolution will authorize:

County Administrator's Office
Consulted Yes

4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: ☐ YES or ☐ NO
If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided.
Any budget amendments must have equal and offsetting entries.

☐ 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 (**Required**):

a. G/L line impacted

b. Budget year impacted

c. Details

6. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?

☐ YES **or** ☐ NO (If yes, provide details)

Human Resources Consulted

a. Is a new position being created? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date

Salary and grade

b. Is a new employee being hired? ☐ Y ☐ N

Effective date of employment

Salary and grade

Appointed position:

Term

c. Is 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 this item require the awarding of a contract: ☐ Y ☐ N

Purchasing Office Consulted

a. Type of Solicitation

b. Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)

c. If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an updated letter, has been submitted and approved by Purchasing Department? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ N/A

d. Vendor Contact Name:

e. Vendor Email:

f. Vendor Phone:

g. Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:

h. State of vendor/contractor organization:

i. Commencement date of contract term:

j. Termination of contract date:

k. Contract renewal date and term:

l. Is this a renewal agreement: ☐ Y ☐ N

m. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

County Administrator's Office Consulted

8. Is a grant being accepted: ☐ YES or ☐ NO

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. Supporting 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. Remarks:

see attached memo for summary

Updates to include:
Agricultural District Updates
Farmland and Open Space Grant Updates
Trail Grant Updates
Graphite Range Community Forest Updates
Saratoga County Fish Stocking Updates
County Forestland/Timber Harvest Updates
DEC Karner Blue
Zim Smith Trail Usage Updates