

Countywide Trails Initiative Minutes

Tuesday, June 11th, 2024, 4:30 pm

50 W. High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Attendees:

Bill Herman	CWT Chair. Town of Halfmoon Trails & Open Space, PLAN board member
Bonnie Nightingale	Saratoga PLAN, Stewardship manager
Scott Miller	Town of Clifton Park resident. PLAN advisory council & Cons. Cmte
Kim Lambert	Saratoga County Planning
Jason Kemper	Director, Saratoga County Planning
Jeff Williams	Saratoga County Planning
Ted Orosz	City of Saratoga Springs
Jim Schneider	ADK Mt Club, Glens Falls- Saratoga Chapter
Bill Bechtel	(wiltbec@gmailcom), Town of Ballston trails and rec committee
Phil Corney	NYS Parks
Bill Clark	Town of Corinth
Mathew Miczek	Wilton Wildlife board of directors co-chair
Ryan Riper	Director, Town of Wilton Planning
Dave Woodin	Dir. Planning, Town of Waterford, Champlain Canalway liaison
Sallie Way	Friends of Saratoga Horse Trails
Anna Laloe	Saratoga Trails Alliance
Cay Hanley	Union College, Town of Clifton Park resident

Chairman Remarks (Bill Herman)

Thanks to Charlie Dake for 7 years of service to the committee

- Committee goals
 - Chairman would like the committee to establish goals.
 - Possible goals outlined in agenda and in an online survey: poll, among possible goals:
 - Trail inventory and progress
 - Inter municipal and regional trail connections
 - Trail usage counting
 - Survey includes best time for fall meeting
 - Sub committee to draft recommendations for consideration at fall meeting (Scott Miller, Ted Orosz, Bill Herman – would like one or two other volunteers- contact Bill Herman)
- Saratoga County (Jason Kemper)

- Zim Smith: Funding in place, ROW issues may require reroute, looking at enhancements, construction funding Oak Street to Malta Avenue in place. Hope for construction start in 2025, finish in 5 years.
- Realistically the county is fiscally booked out for about 5 years of trail construction (roughly \$5-10MM) – new trails concepts will have to be further out or come with funding.
- Trail mapping status: county working on common attribute list. Goal is to make a protocol for collecting data simple enough so that volunteers can use. Update forthcoming.
- Trail Use counting
 - Saratoga County has used CRTC counters on the Zim Smith in the past. More than 120000 users (annually). Getting a consistent counting platform for all users would be helpful. (Jason Kemper)
 - Saratoga Springs has a counter – unknown type (Ted Orosz)
 - DEC ADK regional office in Warrensburg uses TRAFx counters <https://www.trafx.net/>. They do not have a comparison of trail register traffic to counted traffic – expect to compile data this fall (Jim Schneider)
 - CRTC is doing more trail use counting this summer on Hudson Helderberg trail. Contact Chaim Simon (csimon@capitalmpo.org) if you want to be considered for other trail counting.
 - CRTC uses PyroEvo counters from EcoVisio. <https://www.eco-counter.com/produits/pyro-evo-range-en/>
- State Parks (Phil Corney)
 - Trail plan for Big Bend property attached (Figure 3). [Governor’s announcement](#). Trails are now open (July 11, 2024). Users permitted are Equestrian, mountain biking, and pedestrian (hiking, running, snow shoeing, cross country skiing).
- Wilton (Ryan Riper)
 - Town of Wilton Trail plan attached (Figure 1&2). The town has an approved open space and trails plan. <http://townofwilton.com/wilton/assets/File/Planning/2021/Wilton-Open-Space-Recreation-Pathways-Plan-APPROVED-2021-01-07.pdf>
- Saratoga Springs – Milton (Old Business – Barbara Kerr)

- Contact Michael Dutre, City of Saratoga, Administrator of Parks, Open Lands and Historic Preservation, michael.dutre@saratoga-springs.org, regarding information on MacMillin parcels.

Supplemental information:

- CRTC is working through their long range transportation plan (looking out to 2050) called InMotion. You can access it through <https://www.inmotionplan.org/>
 - The draft of the regional trends and conditions is now available <https://www.inmotionplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Draft-Capital-Region-Trends-Summary.pdf>. You can comment at <mailto:info@capitalmpo.org>.
 - The bicycle and pedestrian section of the previous plan (2040) might be of interest. https://www.capitalmpo.org/wp-content/CRTC/images/new_visions/2040Plan/Bicycle-Pedestrian-White-Paper-September-2015.pdf

Contacts

- DEC forester (traffic counter)
 - Rebecca Terry (Warrensburg office – Pilot knob)
 - Kirstin Seleen (Spruce Mountain) kirstin.seleen@dec.ny.gov.
- NYS DOT contact used by Saratoga Springs.
Lorenzo Distefano
lorenzo.distefano@dot.ny.gov
518.485.1715
- NYS DOT contact for trail committee
Audrey Burneson (<mailto:Audrey.Burneson@dot.ny.gov>)

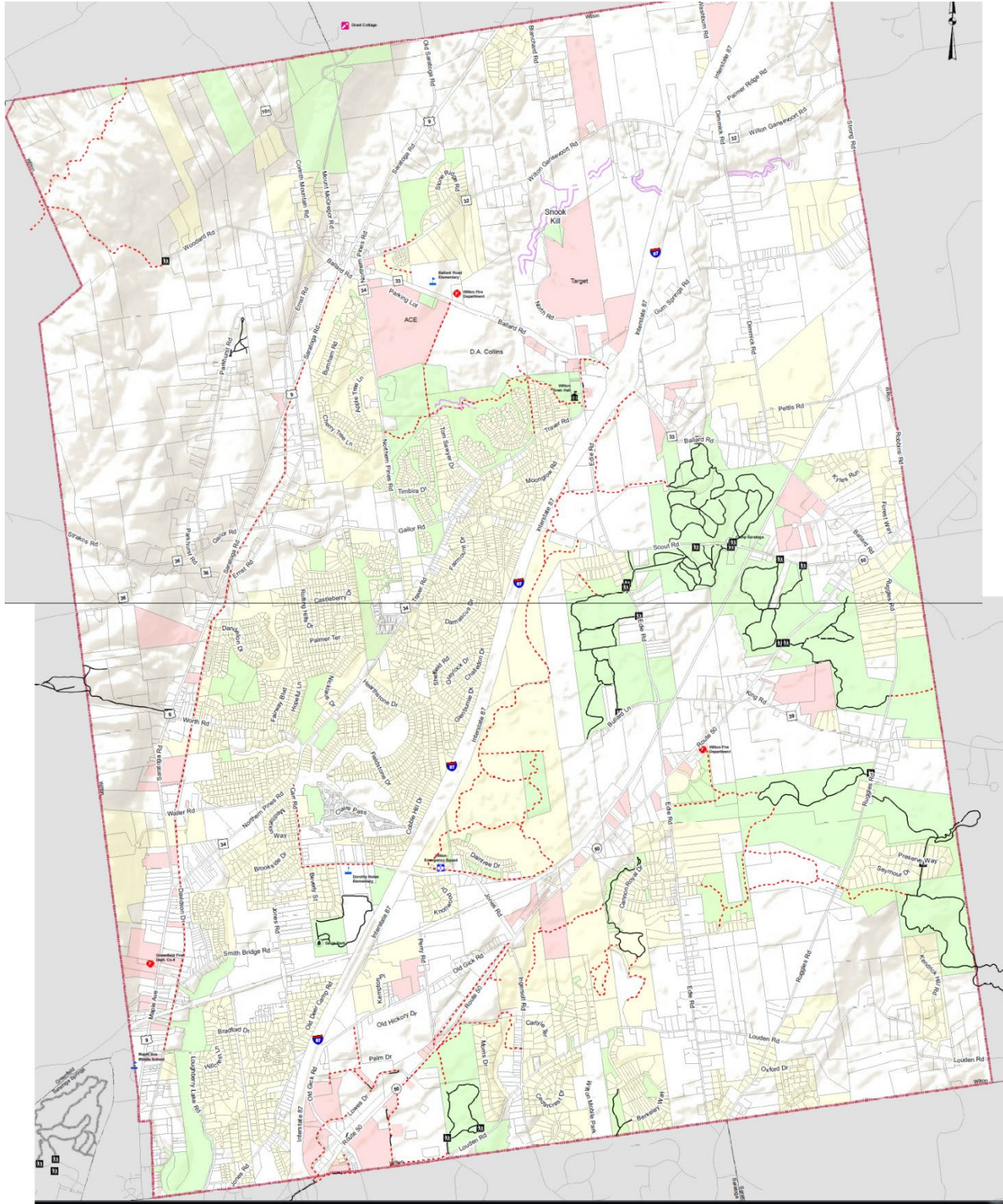


Figure 1: 2024 Town of Wilton Trail Plan

Legend

	Trailheads		Town Limits
	Emergency Services		Residential Development
	Fire Station		Commercial Development
	Historic		Publicly Owned Parcels
	Park		Existing Off Road
	School		Proposed Off Road
	Town Hall		Fishing Access

Figure 2: legend for 2024 Wilton Trail plan map

Big Bend Preserve, Moreau Lake State Park

Park Office: (518) 793-0511
 Saratoga - Capital Regional Office: (518) 584-2000
 Park Police: (518) 584-2004
 In Case of Emergency: 911



New York State
 Parks, Recreation and
 Historic Preservation

Map produced by NYS DPRHP, June 14, 2024.

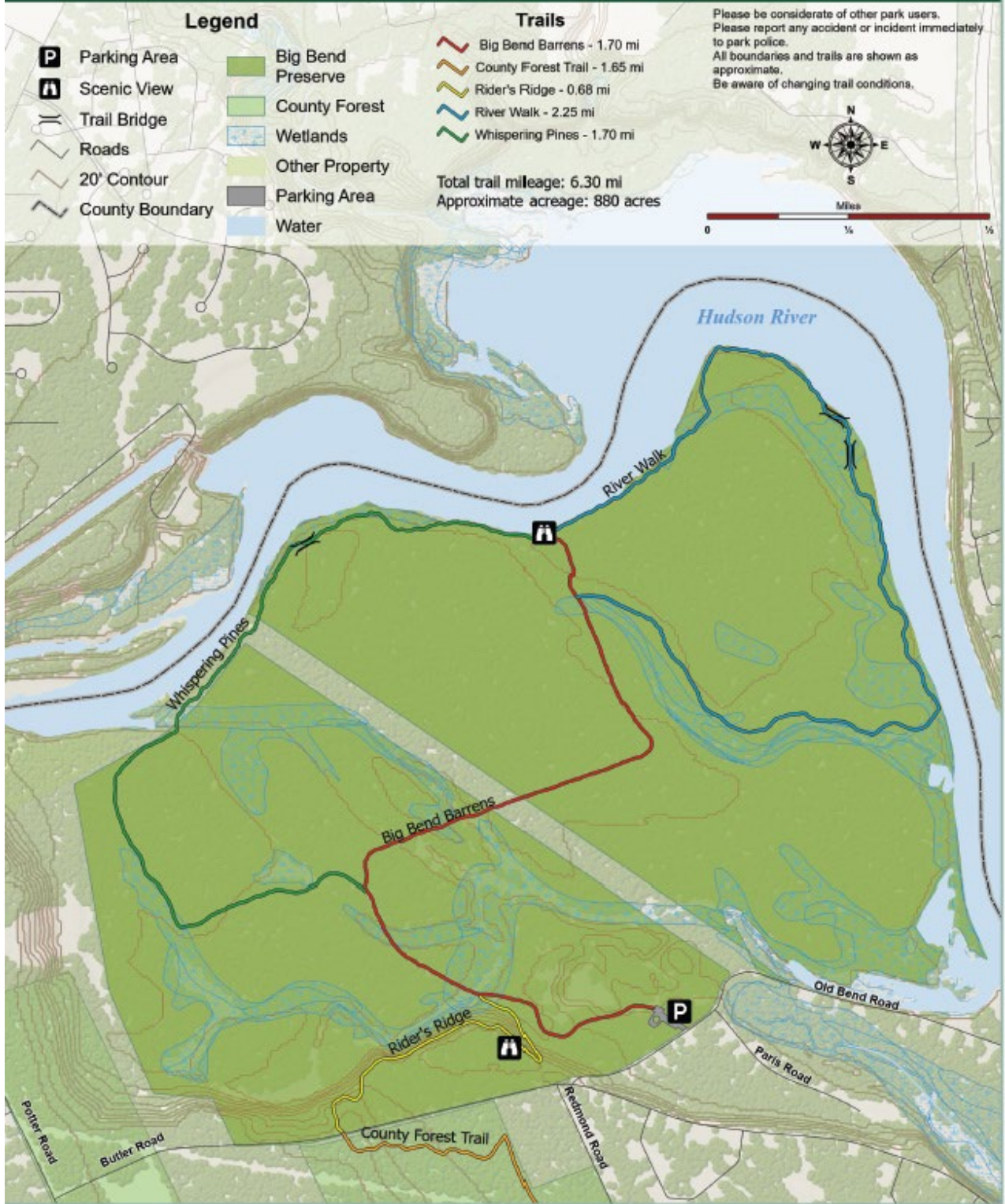


Figure 3: 2024 Trail Map for Big Bend addition to Moreau State Park.

Important information from the CRTC:

Subject: Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan - August public meetings!

Good morning.

We are excited to announce that the Capital Region Transportation Council (the Transportation Council) is hosting four public meetings (three in-person and one virtual) across the region in August 2024 to publicly launch the Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, which focuses on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes to an eventual goal of zero on all public roadways in the Capital Region.

Each of the four public meetings will present identical content and will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the development of the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, identify existing transportation safety issues, recommend changes to improve transportation safety, and meet with the project team. Community members are encouraged to attend the public meeting that is most convenient for them:

- **Watervliet: August 14, 2024** from 4:30-7:30PM at the Watervliet Senior Center located at 1501 Broadway, Watervliet, NY. This in-person meeting is open house style, come for as little or as long as you like.
- **Albany: August 15, 2024** from 4:30-7:30PM at the Washington Avenue Branch Library in the Large Auditorium located at 161 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY. This in-person meeting is open house style, come for as little or as long as you like.
- **Virtual: August 20, 2024** at 6:30PM. To attend this Zoom webinar, please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/CapitalRegionVisionZeroWebinar>
- **Saratoga: August 21, 2024** from 4:30-7:30PM at the Saratoga Springs Public Library in the Dutcher Community Room located at 49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY. This in-person meeting is open house style, come for as little or as long as you like. *Please note, on-street parking is free, and parking in the library lot is for Saratoga Springs city residents only.*

All are welcome. If you require any assistive technologies, language translation, American Sign Language interpretation, and/or adaptive strategies to attend and engage at these public meetings, please contact Liz Podowski King with Highland Planning at 585-649-1210 or Liz@highland-planning.com at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting you plan to attend