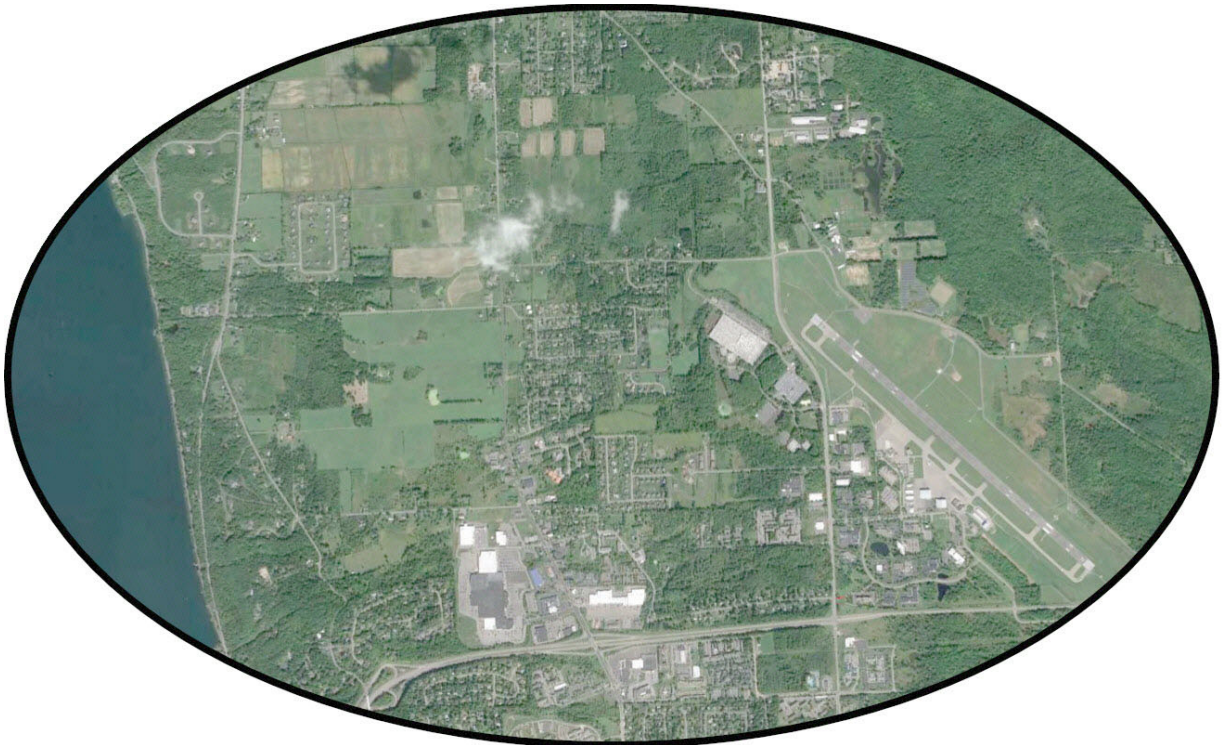




Village of Lansing Greenway Plan

Revised from August 2, 2018 Greenway Plan
by Village of Lansing Greenway Committee
Release Date: October 17, 2022.



Approval Process

Greenway Plan public hearing held on October 17, 2022.

Greenway Plan approved by Village Board of Trustees on October 17, 2022 as Resolution #6893.

PLEASE NOTE:

Within this document “Greenway Committee” and
“Committee” are synonymous and reflect the consensus of the
Village of Lansing Greenway Committee.

Contents

Introduction	1
Definitions	1
Benefits of Green Space	2
Environmental Benefits	2
Physical Health Benefits	3
Mental Health Benefits	3
Economic Benefits.....	3
Aesthetic Benefits.....	3
Greenway Plan Goals	4
Overview	4
Existing Village Green Spaces.....	5
Walkways and Pathways.....	5
Village Sidewalk Law	5
Village Gardens and Flower Boxes.....	5
Promoting Village Green Spaces	6
Adding Village Green Spaces	6
Private Land Dedication	6
Temporary, Revocable Easements.....	6
Public Land Purchases.....	6
Private-Development Recreational Set-Asides	7
Developing Village Green Spaces.....	7
Developing Walkways and Pathways	8
Village Walkways – Sidewalks and Pathways	8
Purpose and Intent of Village Sidewalk Law.....	8
Village Pathways for Wheeled Traffic.....	8
Monitoring and Maintaining Village Green Spaces.....	9
Recommended Plans and Goals	9
Establish a Standing Greenway Committee.....	9
Budget for Village Landscaping.....	9
Tree Monitoring and Maintenance.....	9
Greenway Maintenance	9
Establish Neighborhood Greenway Friends of Park Groups.....	10
Recognition of Greenway Volunteers.....	10
Village Walkways and Pathways Creation and Maintenance.....	10
Standardized Park Signs.....	11
Improve and Increase Walkways and Pathways.....	11
Village Tree Conservation and Replacement Local Law	11
Develop Village Online Resources for Greenways.....	11

Village of Lansing Greenway Plan – 2022

Reviewing and Updating the Greenway Plan	12
Online Greenway Plan Resources	12
Summary	12
Greenway Committee Members	13
Appendix A – Village Greenways	14
Online Map for Village Greenways	14
Village Parks	14
Global Village Park	14
Philip R. Dankert Park	14
Marian Hartill Village Park	15
Shannon Park	15
Ned Hickey Village Park	15
Blackchin Overlook	16
Village Walkways	16
Sevanna Park / Highgate Place	16
Lansing Trails I	17
Janivar Dr. / St. Joseph Ln. / Triphammer Rd.	17
Shannon Park / Beckett Way / Shops at Ithaca	17
Northwoods / Nor Way / Churchill / Graham	18
Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker Woods	18
Cinema / Uptown	19
Graham Road to Cayuga Mall Walkway	19
Cornell Business & Technology Park	20
Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes	21
Village Gardens	21
Village Flower Boxes	21
Appendix C – Poison Ivy Point	22
Recommendations for Poison Ivy Point, Village of Lansing	22
Appendix D – Greenway Improvement Projects	24
Past Greenway Improvement Projects	24
Endnotes	28

Introduction

This Village of Lansing Greenway Plan is a guide for the development and use of a comprehensive network of parks, natural habitats, and recreation systems consisting of pathways, walkways, park land, and designated green or open space areas within the boundaries of the Village of Lansing. The plan provides the Committee members' recommendations to the Village's Board of Trustees for goals related to maintaining greenways and providing public access to those greenways.

In August 2015, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees formed the Greenway Plan Update Committee to review and update the Village's 1994 Greenway Plan. The Committee comprised members of the Board of Trustees, the Planning Board, and the Board of Zoning Appeals along with community representatives. Committee members reviewed the 1994 Greenway Plan, updated information, and worked with the Village Department of Public Works to evaluate greenspaces in the Village for maintenance needs, updated playground equipment, and designed the Marian Hartill municipal park. The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the updated Greenway Plan on August 2, 2018.

One of the Greenway Committee's actions is to regularly review the Greenway Plan to ensure that its goals, actions, and information is up to date. For that reason, the Greenway Committee initiated a review and revision of the 2018 Greenway Plan in 2020. This version of the Greenway Plan is the product of the Committee's review and revision efforts.

Definitions

For consistency in this Greenway Plan, the Committee used greenway-related definitions extracted from the Village of Lansing Code, Chapter 98 – Parks and Recreation Law.¹

Bikeway - A generic term to define a shared bicycle and pedestrian thoroughfare. Bikeways may be delineated by a solid white line on the side of trafficways and markings to indicate bicycle use.

Greenway – For the purposes of this Greenway Plan, the terms “greenway,” “green space,” and “open space” are synonymous and will refer to the definition of “open space” provided by the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan:

“Open space is defined as land which is not intensively developed for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. Open space can be publicly or privately owned. It includes agricultural and forest land, undeveloped coastal and estuarine lands, undeveloped scenic lands, public parks and preserves. It also includes water bodies such as lakes and bays. What land is defined as open space depends in part on its surroundings. ... A narrow corridor or pathway for walking or bicycling is open space even though it is surrounded by developed areas.”²

To refine the definition for the Village of Lansing, this Committee expanded the definition of green space to include the following description.

Green space comprises land that is partially or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, gardens, or other natural or planted vegetation. Village green spaces include, but are not limited to, public and private park lands, land-development set-asides, community gardens, natural habitats, and other designated open spaces.

Park – A public area of land used for recreational purposes. A park may be left in its natural state or may contain improvements for recreational purposes.

Pathway – A generic term to define a thoroughfare that is suitable for shared use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheeled devices [i.e., skateboards, hoverboards, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mobility devices,³ etc.] Pathways include sidewalks, paved shoulders, mowed pathways, trails, and designated pathways crossing parking lots.

Paved Shoulder – The part of a roadway delineated by a solid white line suitable for pedestrian and bicyclists.

Public Recreational Area – Any park, walkway or pathway.

Sidewalk – A walkway separated from the roadway and surfaced with concrete, blacktop, or oil and stone.

Trail – A pathway that is not located along a road or in a parking lot.

Walkway – A generic term to define a pedestrian-only thoroughfare that is not suitable for shared use by pedestrians and bicyclists.

Benefits of Green Space

Benefits provided to the Village of Lansing by green space include: environmental, physical health, mental health, economic, and aesthetic. Brief summaries of these benefits follow.

Environmental Benefits

Environmental benefits of green spaces to the Village of Lansing include:

- Improved air quality through filtering of dust and pollutants
- Reduction of CO₂ emissions
- Cooler air temperatures produced by shading and by plant transpiration and evaporation into the atmosphere
- Reduced soil erosion
- Greater rainfall retention
- Improved water quality through reduction of pollutants into waterways
- Retention of natural habitats for native flora and fauna.⁴

Physical Health Benefits

Many studies exist showing the physical health benefits related to green spaces:

- Physical activity has been shown to improve individuals' cardiovascular and respiratory health and to extend their longevity
- Green spaces provide inviting, open space for adults and children to take advantage of physical activity
- Close proximity of green spaces increases the accessibility and frequency of physical activity
- Green spaces facilitate active lifestyles
- Provide therapeutic spaces for rehabilitative exercise.⁵

Mental Health Benefits

In addition to physical health, there are many mental health benefits associated with green space availability because they:

- Provide opportunities for contact with the natural environment, which have “positive restorative effects on mental health and wellbeing and may also help to provide a buffer against stressful life events.”⁶
- Alleviate stress and anxiety
- Improve mood and attention
- Foster social interaction; thereby reducing social isolation, generating social capital, and strengthening individual resilience and wellbeing.⁷

Economic Benefits

The economic benefits of green spaces have been documented since Frederick Law Olmsted began developing U.S. public park spaces in the mid-19th century. Some of those benefits include:⁸

- Increased real estate property values and demand near green spaces
- Potential for greater municipal revenues through property tax, sales tax, and tourism-related spending
- Attraction and retention of workers and talent who want to live near green spaces
- Attraction and retention of retirees.

Aesthetic Benefits

Environmental aesthetics associated with green spaces can provide benefits that are known to:

- Create or strengthen place attachment and emotional bonds to the Village
- Reinforce a sense of community among Village residents
- Increase community satisfaction and the desire to live in the Village
- Increase the likelihood that tourists will return to the Village.⁹

Greenway Plan Goals

Overview

This Greenway Plan provides guidance to the Village of Lansing government for documenting, promoting, expanding, developing, monitoring, and maintaining Village of Lansing green spaces, pathways, and walkways for the use and enjoyment of Village residents and visitors. An associated goal is to document plans for a system of walkways and pathways that connect the Village’s green spaces to each other and to those of surrounding communities. An overarching objective of this plan is to help make the Village of Lansing and Tompkins County walkable and accessible by pedestrians and bicyclists.

In reviewing the 2018 Village Greenway Plan, the Committee found that the following ten goals are still relevant.

1. Provide Village officials with a mechanism for decision-making regarding open space.
2. Design a Greenway that preserves environmentally significant features of the Village.
3. Foster a sense of local identity through careful attention to the “image” of the Village of Lansing.
4. Design a Greenway that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users.
5. Design a Greenway that is accessible to those residing, working, and shopping in the Village or visiting the area.
6. Encourage the use of alternative means of transportation.
7. Facilitate pedestrian/bicycle travel to and from adjacent communities.
8. Encourage local citizens and others to participate in Greenway development and maintenance.
9. Minimize the costs associated with developing and maintaining the Greenway.¹⁰
10. Where possible and practical, design and encourage access to Village greenways for persons with disabilities.

This plan also reflects the updated vision of the Village as described in the Village’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan¹¹:

“Planning for Character, Quality and Sustainability Character: The Village should strive to improve the quality, consistency, and aesthetics of the built environment in all areas to improve its overall character.”¹²

“Recreation and Greenspace: The Village should augment and maintain the system of trails, parks and open spaces that are accessible to all residents.”¹³

“Natural Resources: The Village should promote and manage plans and programs to protect and enhance the natural environment.”¹⁴

Existing Village Green Spaces

The existing Village green spaces are listed in *Appendix A – Village Greenways* of this plan. The appendix is a directory of Village green spaces, walkways, and pathways. Listing Village green spaces in an appendix allows future updates to the list of existing green spaces without revising the text of the entire Greenway Plan.

Walkways and Pathways

Walkways and pathways are important elements of the Village Greenway Plan because they connect residents and visitors to green spaces, to unique natural areas (like Sapsucker Woods), to commercial centers (such as the Cornell Business and Technology Park and local businesses and malls), to public facilities (such as the Village Hall, the Post Office and the Cayuga Medical Convenient Care Center), and to recreational facilities (such as the YMCA and Village parks). The walkways and pathways increase the walkability and cyclability of the Village, and they link neighborhoods, businesses, and public facilities into a shared community. They also promote alternative travel through the Village, reducing vehicle traffic and traffic emissions.

Village Sidewalk Law

In 2021, the Village adopted Local Law 3 (2021) to add a section on Sidewalks and Walkways (Section 145-20.1) which requires the installation of sidewalks by the owner or developer when a special permit or subdivision is considered by the Planning Board. While there is a presumption in favor of sidewalk installation, the Planning Board, at their discretion, may waive the required sidewalks should adequate reasons apply. If a sidewalk or walkway is not feasible at the time of building, a Village controlled escrow account is to be funded by the developer for the addition of a sidewalk at a later date or in another part of the Village as deemed appropriate by Village officials.

Village Gardens and Flower Boxes

The Village owns and is responsible for gardens and flower boxes that are used for the beautification of Village properties and for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors. Village gardens exist on Village-owned properties, like the Village Offices and our Village public recreational areas. Village flower boxes decorate our Village boundary signs. *Appendix B* lists the Village gardens and flower boxes.

The Village should plan and maintain its gardens and flower boxes to present a visual commitment to public greenways and community beautification efforts. It is important to care for the Village gardens and flower boxes on a seasonal basis to maintain a good public impression for residents and visitors.

Promoting Village Green Spaces

Public promotion of Village green spaces informs Village residents and visitors what green spaces are available and where to find those green spaces. Information about the existing Village green spaces, documented in Appendix A, will be made available online through the Village of Lansing website. Each green space, walkway and pathway will link to an online map to help residents and visitors find each of the green spaces.

Additionally, promoting Village green spaces through printed material is important so that residents and visitors can navigate the Village with printed resources. Village green space information should be included, where possible, in printed literature published by other municipalities or organizations (or online, as downloadable resources) to promote our Village green-space resources to broader audiences.

Adding Village Green Spaces

Village of Lansing green spaces may be increased or expanded through private land dedication, revocable easements passing through private property, Village land purchases, and green-space set-asides (or exactions) within development projects.

Private Land Dedication

The Village of Lansing Code defines “dedication” as:

“The deliberate appropriation of property by its owner for general public use.”¹⁵

Private land dedication may be used to transfer private ownership of roads, trails, parks, gardens, and other green spaces to public ownership by the Village of Lansing. Private land dedication to the Village must follow the process and guidance of the Village of Lansing Code for such dedications. Once the private land is transferred to public ownership through dedication, the Village is responsible for the dedicated land and its maintenance and upkeep.

Temporary, Revocable Easements

The Village may obtain temporary, revocable easements from property owners to provide a public right-of-way within the Village for a specified term and within certain restrictions. The Village may offer to maintain the public right-of-way for the negotiated duration of the temporary, revocable easement. The Village or the landowner may revoke such easements should the need arise.

Public Land Purchases

The Village Board of Trustees may choose to purchase property that is appropriate for general, public use as green space. Once a property is purchased and owned by the Village, it becomes the responsibility of the Village to develop and maintain the property as public green space.

Private-Development Recreational Set-Asides

The Village of Lansing Code identifies a “Minimum Recreational Area” required for residential developments and subdivisions.¹⁶ These recreational-area set-asides provide community green spaces for nearby residential dwellers and the public. These set-asides are intended to create the benefits attributed to green spaces, or open spaces, as identified in this plan’s Introduction. Because they are part of a private development, they are maintained by the private development unless the set-aside is dedicated to the Village. At that point the Village will be responsible for upkeep and maintenance.

Developing Village Green Spaces

As the Village purchases or receives green spaces, they may be developed as parks for safe public use. If the Village decides to develop a new park, this Committee recommends the following measures:

- Retain as many natural trees and as much natural flora as possible.
- Replace decayed or damaged trees that must be removed for safety reasons (once the park space development is completed.)
- If appropriate, segregate playground spaces to separate younger children (2-5 years.) from older children (5-12 years.)
- Place benches or seating areas near playgrounds so that parents or caretakers can comfortably supervise their children at play.
- Include a minimally invasive stormwater management system when required.
- Provide for public safety within the park space with federal- and state-regulated, design, engineering, and construction and with planned and supervised maintenance of the park space.
- Provide a prominent kiosk for the posting of park rules and access hours.
- Use minimal lighting in park spaces when needed (preferably solar-powered lighting.)
- Provide and maintain public trash receptacles in the park space, but also encourage carry-in/carry-out of all waste (as in New York State parks¹⁷.)
- Where feasible and appropriate, plan for and install public restrooms and public water fountains. Part of the planning would include health and safety issues associated with the public restrooms and water fountains.
- Public parks and green spaces should be designed and developed to allow easy and safe maintenance by the DPW staff. Therefore, when a green space is being developed, designed, or redesigned, members of the DPW staff should be consulted about long-term park maintenance needs and layout.

Developing Walkways and Pathways

The Committee recommends that the Village continue to plan and develop walkways and pathways throughout the Village to connect green spaces, neighborhoods, and commercial districts. Proper planning and development of these walkways and pathways provide for the safety and enjoyment of pedestrians and cyclists.

Village Walkways – Sidewalks and Pathways

Concrete sidewalks should be created in residential and business areas and surfaced pathways should be created in green spaces or in more “rural” neighborhoods within the Village.

The Committee recommends that surfaced pathways be paved with a long-lived, easily maintained surface to make walking and biking (if allowed) safe during non-winter months and that they be engineered and placed at a safe distance from roadways. The Village DPW department recommends ADA-compliant, 8-foot-wide asphalt for the surfaced walkways. Village-owned parks or green spaces would use surfaced or mowed pathways for visitors.

Purpose and Intent of Village Sidewalk Law

Sidewalks and walkways should be created in accordance with Village of Lansing Codification Section 145-20.1–Sidewalks and Walkways. The purpose and intent of this section is to improve Village walkability and bike routes within the Village, to provide safe routes to schools and workplaces, to decrease vehicular traffic, carbon emissions, greenhouse gases and pollution and to promote the Village goal of being a Climate Smart Community*. The proposed zoning action is intended to be consistent with the Village Comprehensive Plan.

Village Pathways for Wheeled Traffic

Village pathways for bicyclists should be incorporated into any new road construction or renovation within the Village. Many existing Village roads have integrated paved shoulders that allow wheeled traffic (i.e., bicycles, skateboards, hoverboards, and ADA mobility devices) to travel the trafficked roads in relative safety. As new roads are developed, or existing roads are resurfaced, paved pathways should be planned and developed along with the roads’ development.

Within Village parks or green spaces, surfaced pathways should accommodate shared pedestrian and wheeled traffic where possible. The Committee recommends signs on shared pathways warning pedestrians and wheeled traffic of the shared paths.

* Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Monitoring and Maintaining Village Green Spaces

The Village of Lansing and its crew of professional DPW workers are primarily responsible for maintenance of all Village properties including parks and greenways. The committee recommends that Village residents be encouraged to participate as laid out in the following section on Plans and Goals.

Recommended Plans and Goals

The Committee recommends that the Village of Lansing consider the following plans and goals.

Establish a Standing Greenway Committee

The Committee recommends that the Village establish a standing Greenway Committee that would meet regularly (as determined by the Committee chair and members.) Committee members would assess the need to update this Greenway Plan, plan new greenspaces, evaluate the progress or condition of existing greenways, parks, trails, walkways, pathways, and properties, and interact with green space volunteers (see *Establish Neighborhood Greenway Friends of Park*, below) who help monitor and maintain existing green spaces.

The Committee recommends that the standing Greenway Committee provide a status report to the Board of Trustees and/or the Planning Board at least once annually.

Budget for Village Landscaping

The Greenway Committee recommends that the Village plan for and budget for appropriate landscaping of all Village-owned green spaces in the Village's annual budget. Consistent, planned landscaping presents a welcoming impression to visitors and residents, and landscaping maintains the aesthetic and economic investment in publicly owned green spaces.

Tree Monitoring and Maintenance

The Committee recommends that Village-owned trees be inspected regularly for their health and safety. Unhealthy trees should be treated, if possible, or removed as soon as possible. Healthy trees should be trimmed for the trees' health and for public safety.

Greenway Maintenance

The Village's DPW staff will tend to the grounds, tree, shrub, playgrounds, and facilities maintenance within the Village-owned green spaces and parks. Mowing, weeding, trimming, removal, and major planting of trees, shrubs, flowers, and ground-cover should be performed by and/or monitored by the DPW staff.

If the Village DPW crew cannot perform landscaping, tree monitoring, and other maintenance needs due to their workload, Committee members recommend that the Village budget annually for, and contract for, these services with a local contractor.

Establish Neighborhood Greenway Friends of Park Groups

The Greenway Committee recommends that the Village recruit frequent visitors and residents who live near each of the Village’s green spaces to monitor their parks and associated trails for needed maintenance. For example, they could monitor trash receptacles and contact the DPW staff if emptying is needed. Such involvement helps to foster a sense of community ownership and investment in Village greenways.

As stated in the previous section, the Village DPW would perform all significant maintenance, such as mowing, playground equipment repair, and large plant or limb removal. However, when and where appropriate, “Friends of the Park” groups could perform simpler landscaping tasks including:

- Monitoring of park trash receptacles and notify the Village DPW staff for service or emptying.
- Weeding of landscaped areas.
- Planting and transplanting flowers or small shrubs.
- Litter collection.
- Simple pruning of landscaping shrubs.

Beyond the listed tasks, or others simple chores, members would report any maintenance issues to the Village Department of Public Works.

Each group should have a coordinator who would communicate with the Village, and plan and facilitate group meetings and work actions related to a park and/or trails. Village funds could be used to provide tools and materials for Friends of the Park landscaping projects to show support of their sense of investment and ownership in Village greenways.

Recognition of Greenway Volunteers

The Committee recommends that the Village recognize “Friends of the Park” volunteers who monitor, maintain, and otherwise support greenway areas with an annual picnic at Marian Hartill Park. The Village would provide food, non-alcoholic beverages, and set-ups for a buffet-style picnic to thank the volunteers for their support of the Village amenities.

Village Walkways and Pathways Creation and Maintenance

The Committee recommends that the Village plan, build, and maintain infrastructure for a walkable Village and county. Walkability requires surfaced and appropriately-lighted walkways and pathways within and between Village neighborhoods, greenway spaces, and parks.

The Committee also recommends planning and implementing at least one trail between the Town of Lansing and the Village of Lansing. This would require shared services between the two municipalities.

Standardized Park Signs

The Committee recommends purchasing and installing standardized “Park Rules” signs for all Village parks. The Committee also recommends a standardized sign that asks groups or parties in Village Parks collect and remove their trash rather than using the park’s trash receptacles.

Improve and Increase Walkways and Pathways

The Committee recommends that the Village Planning Board require the construction of sidewalks and surfaced walkways in any new development. The Committee also recommends that the Village expand walkways. The Committee recommends that surfaced walkways be paved with a long-lived, easily maintained surface to make walking and biking (if allowed) safe during non-winter months. The Village DPW department recommends ADA-compliant, 8-foot-wide asphalt for the surfaced walkways.

Village Tree Conservation and Replacement Local Law

The Committee recommends that the Village adopt the proposed “Tree Conservation and Replacement Local Law.” The draft local law is under review by the Village for future acceptance and inclusion in the Village Code. The ordinance will provide standards for the conservation and replacement of trees within the Village.

Also, the law establishes a monetary “tree bank” offering an option to replacing removed trees from a property. The tree bank will fund an off-site tree replacement program to plant and maintain trees where the Village deems appropriate. Further, the tree bank funds can be used for climate initiatives to offset the Village’s carbon footprint that such trees would have otherwise performed.

Develop Village Online Resources for Greenways

The Committee recommends that the Greenway Committee and Village website administrator(s) maintain online resources related to greenway spaces within the Village. Online descriptions and maps should be provided to guide residents and visitors to chosen green spaces. The online resources would be easier and less expensive to update than printed materials.

Reviewing and Updating the Greenway Plan

The Greenway Committee should monitor this plan’s goals annually. The results of the goals’ review should be communicated to the Village Board of Trustees and the Village Planning Board to assist with future budgets, plans and actions by those boards.

The standing Greenway Committee members should review this Greenway Plan every five years. The plan should be updated when significant changes are required. Committee members should recommend, discuss, and approve changes to the Greenway Plan during scheduled meetings that are open to the public.

Once the Committee approves changes, the updated version of the Greenway Plan must be presented to the Village Board of Trustees for final approval. Once the Board of Trustees approves the updated plan, it will replace the previous version and will be made available to the public on the Village’s website.

As new parcels or trails are added to the Village’s green spaces, the Committee recommends that the Village Board of Trustees consider and pass resolutions to incorporate the new spaces into this Greenway Plan. The Greenway Committee members will add the new parcels’ information to the Plan’s appropriate appendix.

Online Greenway Plan Resources

Appendices to this Greenway Plan were created so that they could be updated as needed without revising the entire document. The Greenway Committee will review appendices’ content and make recommended revisions when required. Updated versions of the appendices will be offered through the Village of Lansing website.

Summary

The Village of Lansing recognizes the importance and value of greenways and walkways within its municipal boundaries. Since the early 1990s, the Village has commissioned several greenway-focused committees to evaluate, document, and monitor the status of municipal recreational facilities; and it has established funds and budget items to promote green spaces, walkways, and pathways. This updated Greenway Plan retains the original ten goals from the 2018 Greenway Plan update and recommends that the Village continue in its efforts to take advantage of the many benefits greenways provide. These include:

- Improved environmental quality;
- Improved physical and mental health from outdoor exercise;
- Improved economic growth through population increase and tourism spurred by healthy greenways; and
- Strengthened community bonds and satisfaction through the aesthetics of greenways, gardens, pathways, and walkways.

This Greenway Plan builds upon the Village of Lansing 2015 Comprehensive Plan, and it is directed by the Laws and Code of the Village. Thus, it provides a guide for Village officers, staff, committees, and community volunteers, helping them to identify, develop, and maintain the Village’s greenways, parks, gardens, pathways, and walkways. It also presents specific goals to enhance and sustain the Village’s ongoing greenway efforts.

This updated plan’s goals include:

- Establishing a standing Greenway Committee to maintain the Greenway Plan and guide ongoing greenway efforts;
- Continued budgeting for annual Village landscaping and greenway maintenance;
- Expanding and supporting community volunteer groups to assist with landscape monitoring and simple maintenance of greenways, walkways, and pathways;
- Continued development of Village parks’ amenities;
- Continued improving and increasing walkways and pathways;
- Implementation and enforcing of the Village’s local laws pertaining to sidewalks and tree conservation and replacement; and
- Implementing online resources for public access to Village greenway information.

As new parcels or trails are added to the Village’s green spaces, the Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees consider, and pass, appropriate resolutions to formally incorporate these new spaces or trails into the Greenway Plan.

The Village Greenway Plan is meant to be a living document; therefore, the standing Greenway Committee should monitor the plan’s goals annually for accuracy and relevancy. Appendices to this Greenway Plan should be updated in a timely manner. The Committee should review appendices’ content and make recommended revisions when required. The updated versions of the appendices should be offered through the Village of Lansing website. Every five years, the Greenway Committee should fully review and update the plan as needed.

Greenway Committee Members

The following individuals contributed time, talent, and effort to the Village of Lansing Greenway Committee to create this updated Greenway Plan.

Larry E. Bieri, Community Representative

Carolyn Greenwald, Trustee Member

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee Member and Greenway Committee Chair

Lynn Leopold, Board of Zoning Appeals Member

Monica Moll, Planning Board Representative

Gerry Monaghan, Community Representative

Anthony Colavito, Planning Intern

Appendix A – Village Greenways

Online Map for Village Greenways

The Greenway Committee has created and maintains an online Google Map of the Village parks and trails. Please visit the following webpage to view the current map:

[VOL Greenway Google Map](#)

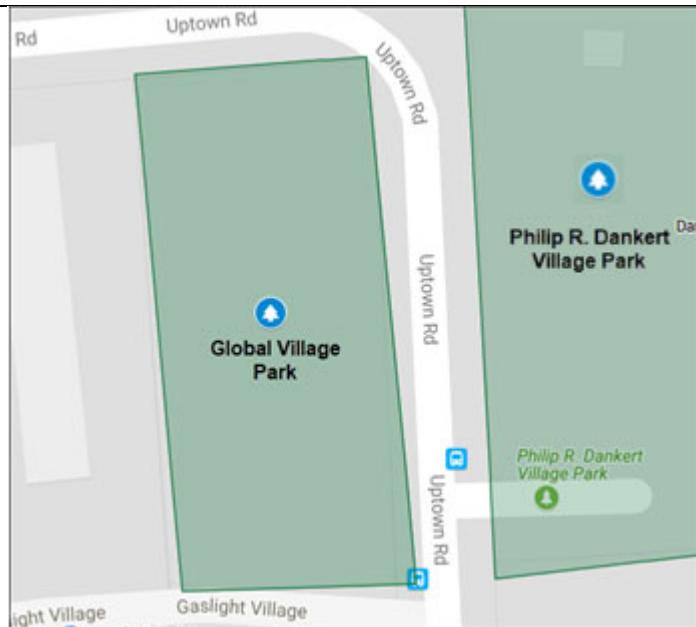
Village Parks

Global Village Park

Location: 57 Uptown Road
(42°28'51.6"N 76°28'23.7"W –
across the street from Dankert
Park)

Features:

- Parking (across Uptown Road in Dankert Park)
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years. (Installed in 2017)
- Swings for children aged 2 to 12 years
- Park benches

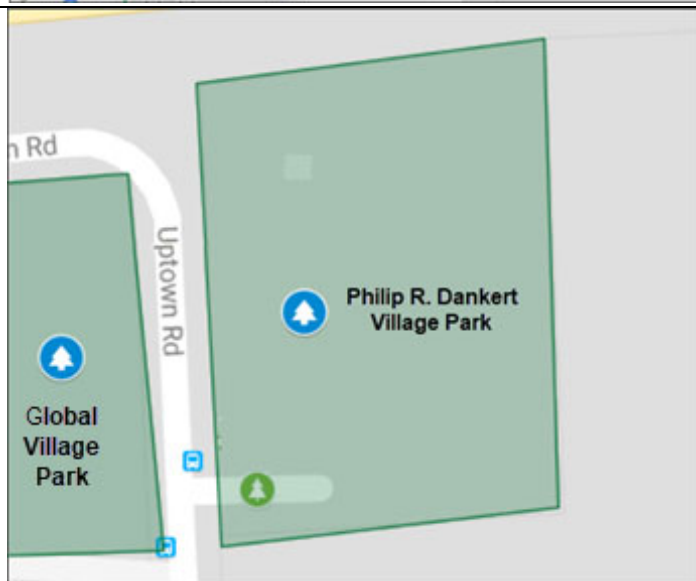


Philip R. Dankert Park

Location: 86 Uptown Road
(42°28'51.6"N 76°28'20.6"W –
across the street from Village Park)

Features:

- Parking
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years (installed in 2009)
- Swings for children aged 2 to 12 years
- Park benches
- Half basketball court
- Soccer field
- Picnic pavilion

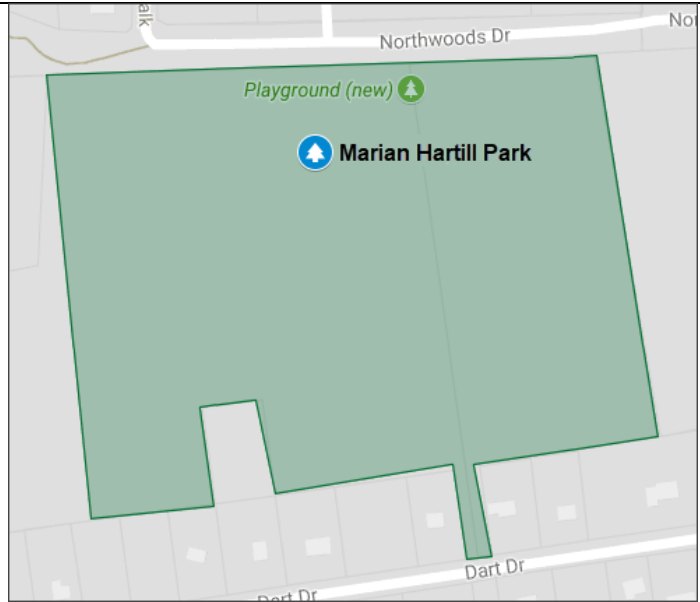


Marian Hartill Village Park

Location: Northwood Road
(42°29'09.3"N 76°28'29.4"W)

Features (in work):

- Parking on south side of Northwoods Dr.
- Second pedestrian access provided by trail from Dart Drive
- Playground equipment for children aged 5 to 12 years. (Installed in 2017)
- Separate playground equipment for children aged 2 to 5 years (Installed in 2017)
- Park benches
- Half basketball court
- Multi-sport field (i.e., soccer, baseball, etc.)
- Picnic pavilion
- Park trails

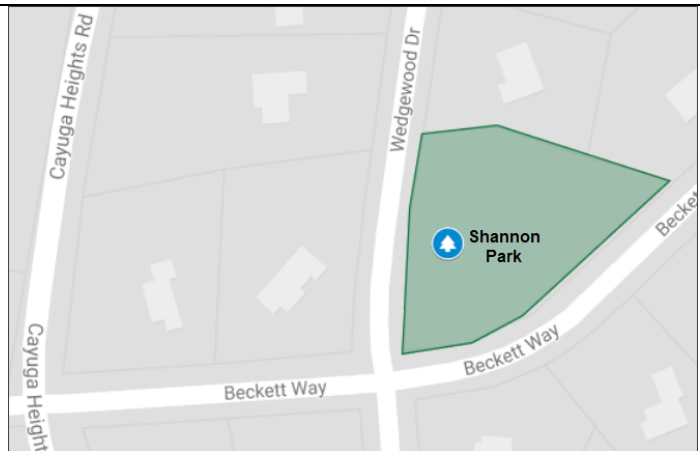


Shannon Park

Location: 18 Beckett Way
(42°28'52.7"N 76°29'59.7"W)

Features:

- Pocket park
- Park bench
- Small play space

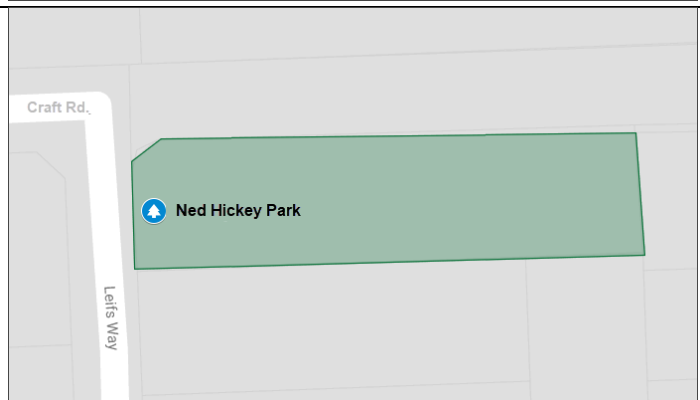


Ned Hickey Village Park

Location: Corner of Craft Road and Leif's Way
(49°29'29.6"N 76°28'50.2"W)

Features:

- Open, grassy grounds
- Park bench

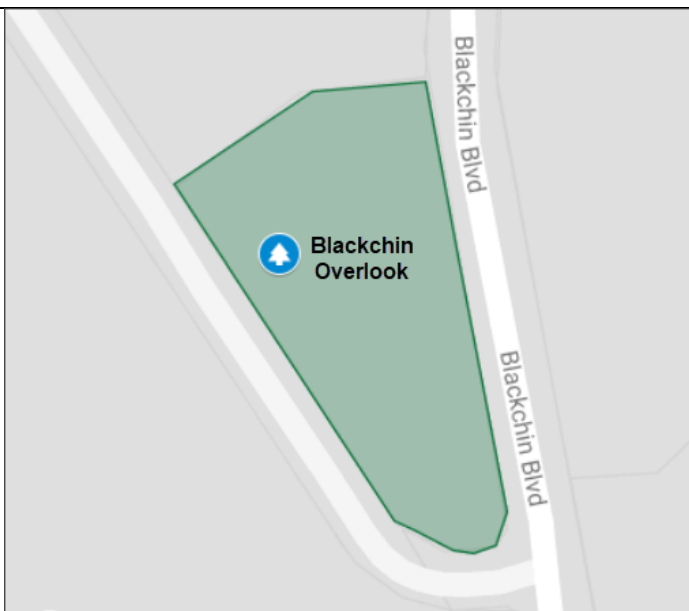


Blackchin Overlook

Location: Blackchin Blvd.
(42°30'18.4"N 76°30'54.0"W)

Features:

- Parking lot
- Lake view
- Park benches



Village Walkways

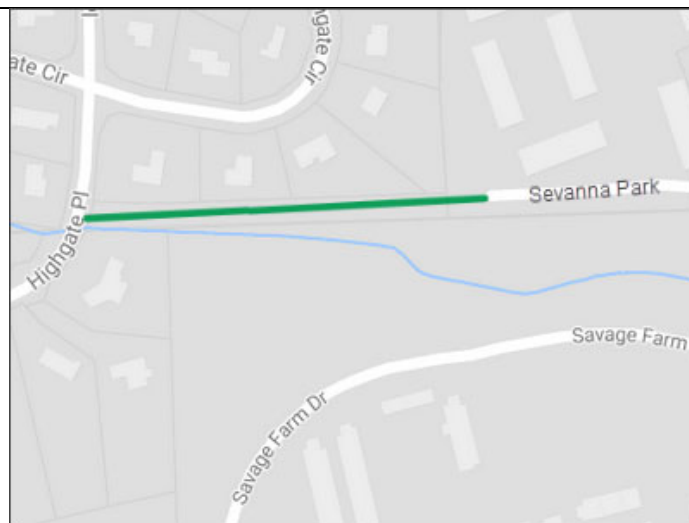
Sevanna Park / Highgate Place

Location:
Connects Sevanna Park and Highgate Place

(Sevanna Park: 42°47'80.0"N, 76°48'78.7"W, Highgate Place: 42°47'78.5"N, 76°49'07.8"W)

Features:

- Paved surface



Lansing Trails I

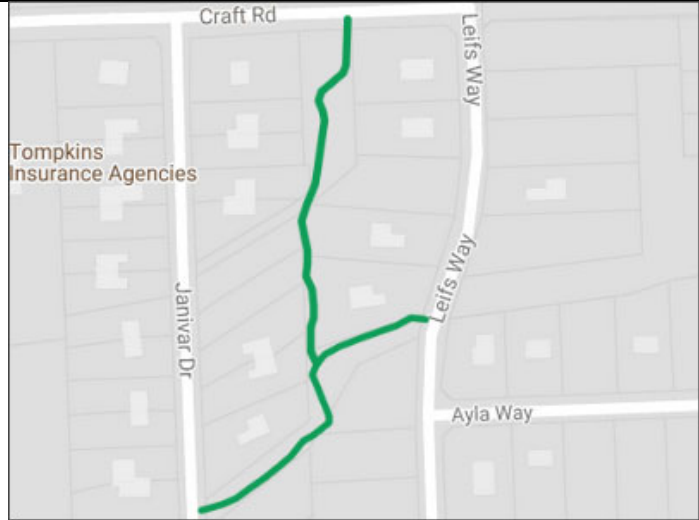
Location:

Connects Craft Road, Janivar Drive, and Leifs Way

(Craft Road: 42°49'16.3"N, 76°48'18.4"W, Janivar Drive: 42°48'91.2"N, 76°48'28.9"W, Leifs Way: 42°49'01.0"N, 76°48'12.6"W)

Features:

- Paved surface



Janivar Dr. / St. Joseph Ln. / Triphammer Rd.

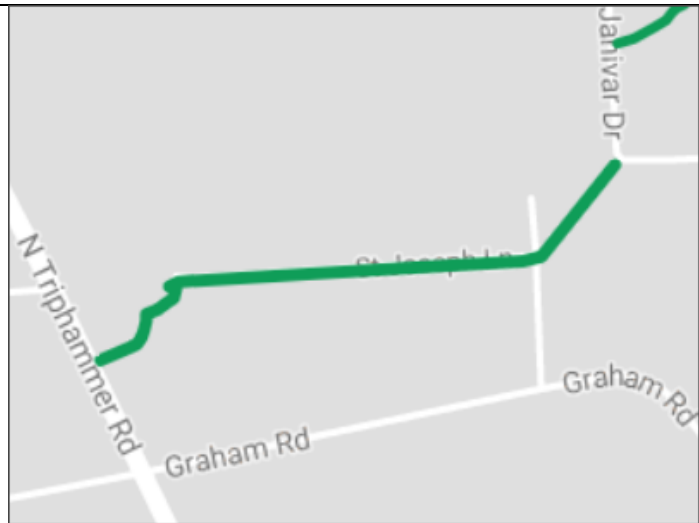
Location:

Connects Janivar Drive and Triphammer Road

(Janivar Drive: 42°48'83.1"N, 76°48'28.7"W, Triphammer Road: 42°29'13.5"N, 76°29'16.0"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- St. Joseph section on street
- Western end through Colonial Pet Hospital parking lot.



Shannon Park / Beckett Way / Shops at Ithaca

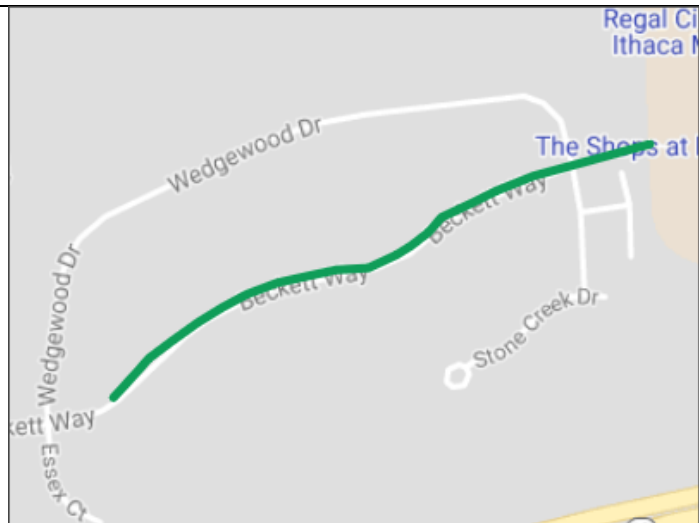
Location:

Connects Shops at Ithaca Mall and Shannon Park

(Mall: 42°48'33.9"N 76°49'31.6"W, Shannon Park: 42°48'13.9"N, 76°49'47.6"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- Beckett Way section on street



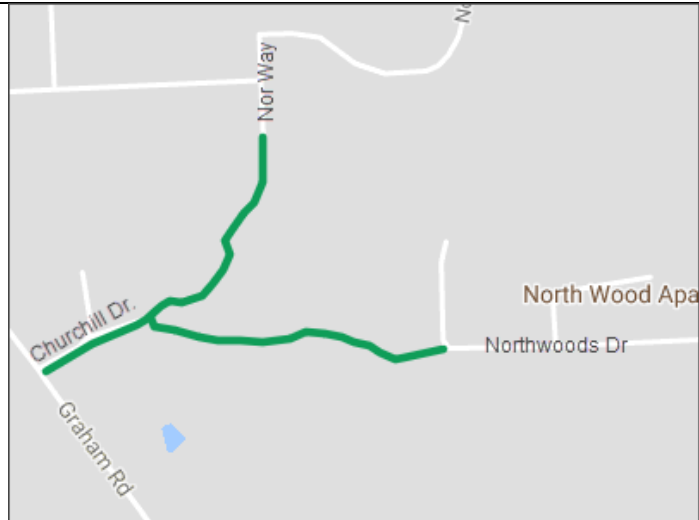
**Northwoods / Nor Way /
Churchill / Graham**

Location:
Connects Nor Way, Churchill Drive,
Northwoods Drive, and Graham
Road

(Nor Way: 42°29'16.1"N,
76°28'43.1"W, Churchill Drive:
42°29'09.9"N, 76°28'50.9"W,
Northwoods Drive: 42°29'09.5"N,
76°28'34.7"W)

Features:

- Paved surface
- Churchill Drive section on street



**Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker
Woods**

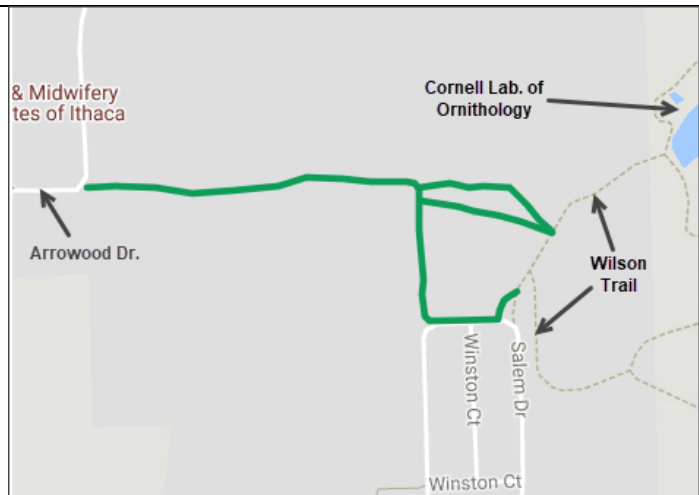
Location:
Arrowwood Drive to Sapsucker
Woods, Wilson Trail, and Cornell
Lab. of Ornithology

(Arrowwood Drive: 42°47'87.2"N, -
76°46'32.5"W, Wilson Trail (N):
42°47'82.2"N, 76°45'64.3"W -
approx., Wilson Trail (S):
42°47'75.9"N, 76°45'69.5"W -
approx.)

Features:

- Unpaved vehicle access road
- Unmaintained footpaths
- Some areas of water or ice retention – caution advised

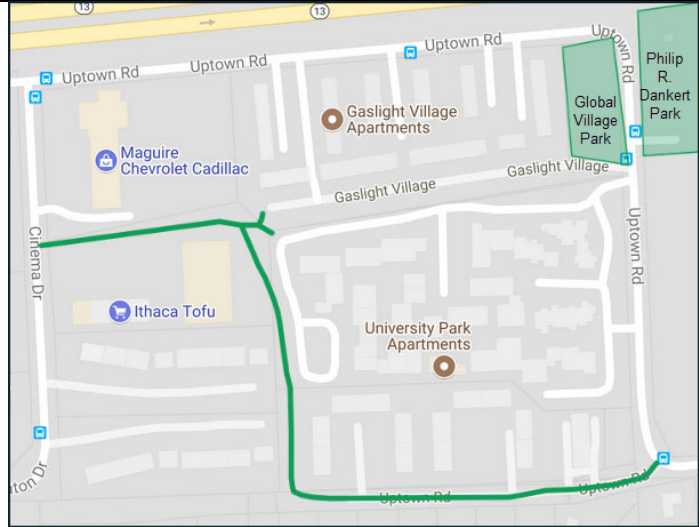
Southern leg runs on Winston
Drive



Cinema / Uptown

(Cinema Dr.: 42°28'47.8"N,
76°28'42.4"W, Uptown Rd.:
42°28'42.4"N, 76°28'21.4"W,
Gaslight/University Park Fork:
42°48'48.4"N, 76°28'34.7"W)

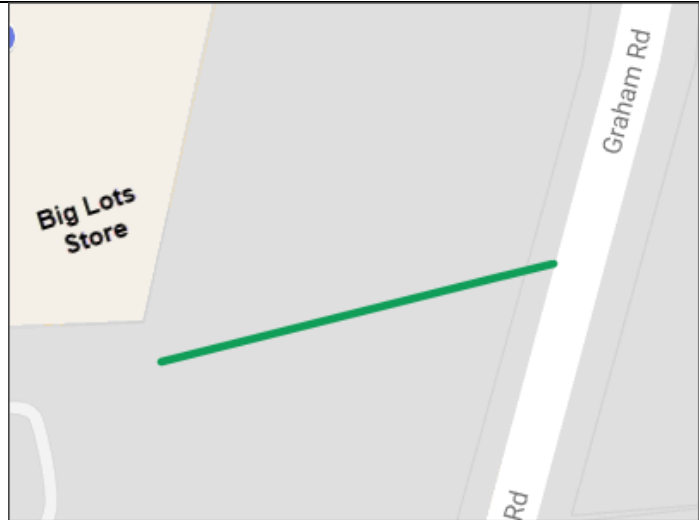
- Paved surface
- Uptown Rd. section on street



**Graham Road to Cayuga Mall
Walkway**

(Graham Rd.: 42°28'59.4"N
76°28'47.6"W, Shannon Park:
42°28'59.0"N, 76°28'49.7"W)

- Paved surface
- Western end is next to Big Lots store
- CAUTION: This walkway can be dangerous in icy conditions.



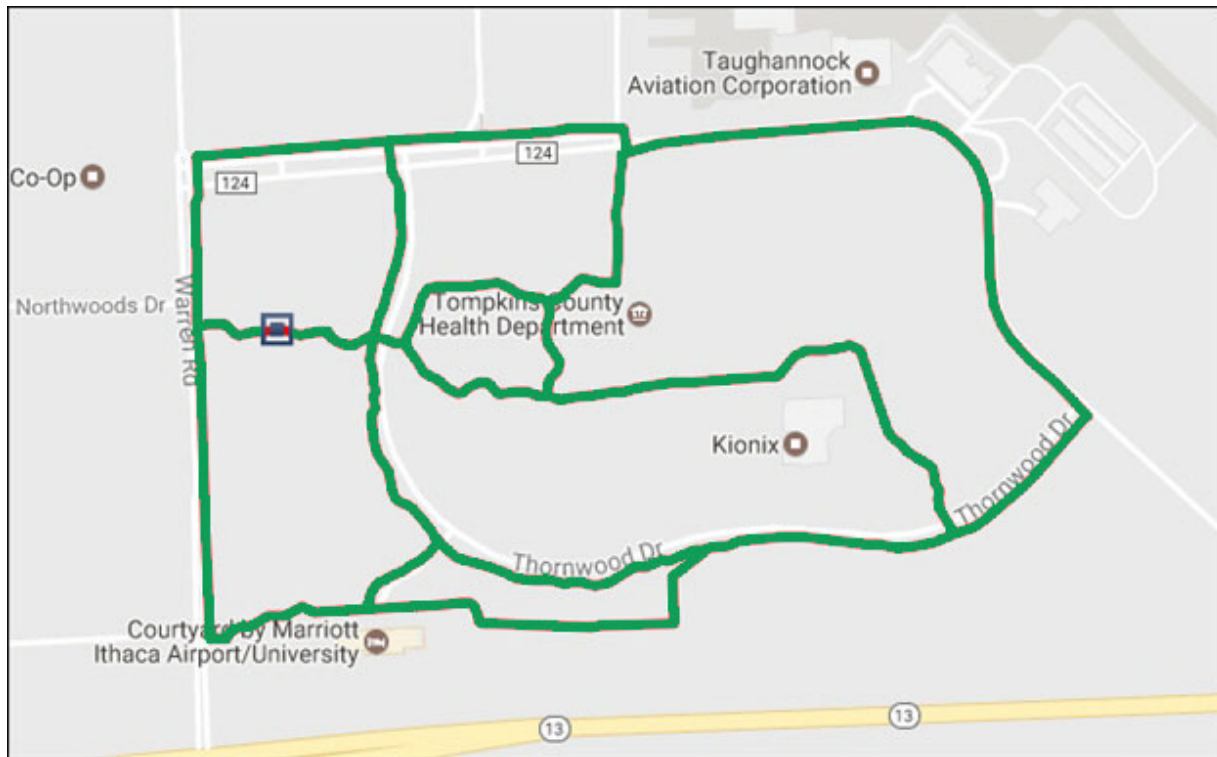
Cornell Business & Technology Park

Location: East of Warren Road between Route 13 and Brown Road
(GPS points from Warren Road)

(Brown Road: 42°48'74.1"N, 76°46'73.9"W, CB&T Trail North: 42°48'62.3"N,
76°48'01.1"W, CB&T Trail South: 42°48'33.4"N, 76°47'72.5"W)

Features:

- Paved surfaces
- Pond
- Pavilion
- Benches



Appendix B – Village Gardens and Flower Boxes

This appendix lists the Village gardens and flower boxes so that those greenway elements can be monitored and maintained on a seasonal basis.

Village Gardens

- Village Offices
- Shannon Park
- Entrance to Shoppes at Ithaca Mall (on both sides with benches)
- Welcome garden at Trust Company (Triphammer and Sheraton)
- Southeast corner of Cayuga Mall
- Mobil Station location (Triphammer Road)

Village Flower Boxes

- North Triphammer Road: west side, northern Village border
- North Warren Road: across from Airport
- South Warren Road: next to Convenient Care entrance
- Burleigh Drive: off Uptown Road
- Highgate Place: east
- Highgate Circle: west
- East Shore Drive: west side
- Bush Lane
- Cherry Road, east of North Triphammer Road

Appendix C – Poison Ivy Point

Recommendations for Poison Ivy Point, Village of Lansing

Submitted by Lynn Leopold, October 17, 2017

The parcel of land to the south, abutting the Bolton Point water intake building has historically and locally been referred to as Poison Ivy Point (PIP). This land has been the subject of consideration for several years as a possible Village Park, should access over the Norfolk Southern railroad ever be resolved. For the present, the land has been left in a semi-natural state, allowing for the growth of some mature trees, natural development of some wetlands, and successional growth of shoreline and forest plants. Ecosystems such as this on the Cayuga Lake shore are increasingly rare, owing to shoreline development.

I contend that this small natural area be left just as it is, in as natural a state as possible, for the following reasons:

1. Cayuga Lake happens to be directly under a major waterfowl flyway that ranges from James Bay at the south of Hudson Bay all the way to the Chesapeake. This particular geography helps explain the unusually large number of waterfowl that migrate through our area, many overwintering on Cayuga Lake if conditions are right. Further, it is also the migratory route of many songbirds who need places to rest and feed along their journey to wintering grounds farther south. The value of Salt Point in the Town of Lansing has been well-documented as a critical area for birds, both breeding and migratory. Poison Ivy Point, while considerably smaller, still can host a large number of migrants, given its plants, trees and ponds. One of the small ponds lies in a grove of trees and is well hidden from view--a perfect place for Wood Ducks to rest and feed.
2. The Village has already committed to building a large park on Northwoods Rd, and has other constructed parks to offer its residents. Removing all the vegetation and grading Poison Ivy Point to build a park there would, in my opinion, be a real waste of a good, natural resource. The south-facing area of the Point is thickly overgrown now with shrubs and other plants, and a small wetland just behind the beach is now filled with cattails--a sure sign of a functioning wetland. In fact, in my inspection of the area, there is no poison ivy at all, so the moniker no longer makes any sense. The Village has no real natural areas, so leaving this in a natural state would be an asset to wildlife and visitors to the point, should there ever be access.

3. Access to this area is moot as long as the railroad prohibits crossing their tracks. People go down there all the time regardless, but legally, we do not have access. Should the Village ever decide to allow people there in any numbers, cars would quickly overwhelm the small parking area at the bottom of Blackchin Boulevard. I doubt that allowing cars access to the area across the tracks would make any sense at all. There would not be sufficient parking. Further, swimming there is not likely, unless the Village designates it as an official swimming area, which would require life guarding. There is already swimming at Myers Park, so not really needed here. Presently, boaters often tie up near or on the south beach and swim or picnic there, but they do not have access to the interior. It is too overgrown.

If the Village chooses to keep PIP in its present semi-wild state, there are a few things to consider. Right now, it is very difficult to access, due to the layout of the track and steep embankments toward the lake. Cutting a trail would probably do more damage than good in the long run, since it would have to be graded to make it walkable. There are some notable stands of invasive plants there, specifically Black swallowwort, Japanese knotweed and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*), both of which are very aggressive and difficult to control. I am not sure it would be worth the expenditure of money to try to deal with these. Perhaps a team of dedicated volunteers could go in there, but it is a real jungle in the interior of the Point.

As a natural area, it is subject to the whims of storms, fluctuations in lake level, and having all manner of floating debris accumulate on the shore. Trash could be managed by seasonal pickups, again, by volunteers. Leaving trees and branches to fall would be preferable to going in with chain saws to "neaten things up".

Staff at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have given presentations in the past on the value of Cayuga Lake and its serendipitous geographical location as a benefit for birds. The wild natural areas around the lake include Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, the Canoga Marsh (recently improved and restored), the state parks on both shores that have available shoreline, trees and other vegetation that are a boon to both migrant and resident birds, Salt Point, Hog Hole and the Cornell Biological Station at the south end of the lake, and the Renwick Preserve (sometimes referred erroneously as Fuerte's Woods) behind Stewart Park. Between Salt Point and the south end of the lake, there is nothing but PIP as an area of sufficient size to provide the necessary resting/feeding opportunities to migrant birds coming along the lake.

It is my firm belief that we should not develop this area, but leave it in its "natural" state for its wildlife values. We already have adequate "people" parks. Let's leave this one to the birds.

Appendix D – Greenway Improvement Projects

Past Greenway Improvement Projects

The following table presents a list of past greenway-related projects and activities as reported in the Village of Lansing annual review documents.

2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed additional six benches in Village parks: 2 in Blackchin Overlook Park, 1 in Ned Hickey Park, 1 in Shannon Park, and 2 in Marian Hartill Park • Planned a Volunteer Recognition event
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected community input on future park development north of Marian Hartill Park. • Collected community input on future amenities in Ned Hickey Park.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed new park signs for all Village parks. • Installed 10 park benches in Village parks. • Added new topsoil to sports field in Marian Hartill Park. • Performed shrub removal and surface-leveling in Shannon Park. • Surfaced trail around sports field in Marian Hartill Park. • Created earth berm between sports field and playground areas in Marian Hartill Park. • Created soil hill for children’s play area. • Installed new sidewalk on Northwoods Road.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work on sports field in Marian Hartill Park. • Surfaced existing Marian Hartill Park walkways. • Cleared trail around sports field in Marian Hartill Park. • Installed basketball half-court in Marian Hartill Park.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a public vote for new park names and selected “Marian Hartill Park,” “Global Village Park,” and “Ned Hickey Park.” • Released updated “Village Greenway Plan.” • Cleared and leveled land for Marian Hartill Park. • Installed two sets of playground equipment in Marian Hartill Park. • Installed pavilion and picnic tables in Marian Hartill Park. • Began creation of sports field in Marian Hartill Park. • Cleared walkways for Mariah Hartill Park. • Added large stone borders around Marian Hartill Park playgrounds and parking lot.

Village of Lansing Greenway Plan – 2022

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Village Park grounds (for new equipment installation) • Installed new playground equipment in Village Park. • Performed maintenance on Dankert Park and Village Park grounds, equipment, and fencing. • Added striped, pedestrian crosswalk between Dankert Park and Village Park. • Began clearing Dart parcels’ grounds for new park. • Installed park equipment in Marian Hartill Park. • Installed boundary stones in Marian Hartill Park. • Prepared parking area in Marian Hartill Park for 2018 surfacing. • Performed Shannon Park cleanup with Friends of Shannon Park. • Learning Web students helped weed and mulch gardens at Village Office and Pyramid Entrance.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the sidewalk on Pyramid Dr. by TOPS. • Greenway Plan Committee continued work on updating Greenway Plan. • Started plans for new park on Dart parcels – Greenway Plan Committee and DPW. • Held informational hearing for new park’ proposed design. • Friends of Shannon Park hold their first meeting. • Learning Web students helped weed and mulch gardens at Village Office and Pyramid Entrance. • Greenway Plan Committee held site visits to Dankert Park, Village Park, and Shannon Park to assess maintenance needs. • Removed old, wooden playground equipment in Village Park and bought new playground equipment for 2017 installation. • Began Uptown Road sidewalk with base installation
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a Greenway Landscape Committee charged to recommend an update of the current Greenway Plan, consider access and further landscaping needs. • Village Comprehensive Plan updated, which contains guidelines to plan for “Recreation and Greenspace,” “Natural Resources,” and “Sustainability.”
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaped new Village Office. • Modified Tree Planting Program to add Shrubs in special instances.
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New soccer goals installed in Dankert Park. • Village purchased parcels for new park on Northwoods Drive (later named Marian Hartill Park.)

Village of Lansing Greenway Plan – 2022

2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland/Bird Habitat and Surrounding Buffer Maintenance Agreement for the Lansing Meadows PDA.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volker Vogt volunteered to be a steward for Shannon Park. • Village study and discussions began on Dart parcels as potential park area.
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • —
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built “wishing well” for Dankert Park • Kiosk installed at Dankert Park • Installed Playworld Structure for Dankert Park • Added new gardens on the side of the office
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail from Wakefield to Northwood was paved.
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • —
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village adopted the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program: Cayuga Lake waterfront Plan.
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dankert Park pavilion roof was replaced. • Village adopted Municipal Tree Program as a policy.
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Open Space Plan was completed by Trowbridge & Wolf. • Chamber of Commerce set aside \$3,500 towards plantings along N. Triphammer Rd. • Trail clean-up work was performed.
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirkway Farms contracted to do Lansing Trail Improvements, Northwoods / Nor Way / Churchill / Graham trail improvements and Bush Lane.
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved the planting of eight trees on Cinema Dr. • Municipal Tree Inventory & Maintenance Plan was presented for review. • Tree Beautification Proposal for N. Triphammer Rd. completed.
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarthout & Ferris agreed to let Village build a bridge for a trail from Kensington to Graham.
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Board worked with landscape architects, Village residents and business owners to develop a plan for low traffic commercial districts.

Village of Lansing Greenway Plan – 2022

1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board of Trustees placed a high priority on pedestrian needs.• The sidewalk on Sheraton Drive was completed.
1997-1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triphammer Road sidewalk to corner of Sheraton Drive was extended.• Sidewalk next to Ramada Inn and walkway from Pyramid Mall to Shannon Park were built.
1996-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Sevanna Park/Highgate Place walkway that joins Highgate Circle to the Triphammer area apartments and malls.

Endnotes

- ¹ *Code of the Village of Lansing*. Chapter 98 - Parks and Recreation Law, §98-6. Definitions. 2008.
- ² New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. 2016.
Web: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf, Published online 2016 Dec 18.
- ³ "Wheelchairs and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices," ADA National Network.
Web: <https://adata.org/factsheet/wheelchairs>. Published online 2014.
- ⁴ "Benefits of Green Infrastructure," United States Environmental Protection Agency.
Web: <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/benefits-green-infrastructure>. Published online 2015 Sep 30.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Lee A., Jordan H. and Horsley J. "Value of urban green spaces in promoting healthy living and wellbeing: prospects for planning," *Risk Management and Healthcare Policy*. 2015; 8: 131-137.
Web: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4556255/>. Published online 2015 Aug 27.
- ⁷ Haq S., "Urban Green Spaces and an Integrative Approach to Sustainable Environment," *Journal of Environmental Protection*, Vol. 2 No. 5, 2011, pp. 601-608.
Web: <http://www.scirp.org/journal/PaperInformation.aspx?paperID=5881> Published online: 2015 July.
- ⁸ "How cities use parks for economic development," City Parks Forum, Briefing Papers, American Planning Association. 2007.
Web: <https://www.planning.org/cityparks/briefingpapers/economicdevelopment.htm> Published online: 2007.
- ⁹ Jennings V, Larson L. and Yun J. "Advancing Sustainability through Urban Green Space: Cultural Ecosystem Services, Equity, and Social Determinants of Health." Chakraborty J, Grineski SE, Collins TW, eds. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2016;13(2):196.
Web: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4772216/> Published online 2016 Feb 5.
- ¹⁰ The Village of Lansing Greenway Plan. May 1994. pp 2-3.
- ¹¹ The Village of Lansing Comprehensive Plan. December 2015.
- ¹² Ibid. "Planning for Character, Quality, and Sustainability," p. 25.
- ¹³ Ibid. p. 26.
- ¹⁴ Ibid. p. 27.
- ¹⁵ *Code of the Village of Lansing*. Chapter 124 - Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sediment Control Law, §124-5. Definitions. 2008.
- ¹⁶ Ibid. Chapter 125 – Subdivision of Land. §125-26. (C) Calculation of Amount of Property to be Identified as Recreational Areas.
- ¹⁷ *Rules & Regulations*, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. State of New York. May 1994. p. 11. Web: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/attachments/FranklinDRooseveltNYStateOfficeofParksRulesandRegulations.pdf>