

SRTG Highlights 2023



"Let's build another mile or two..."

Mission

To create quality recreational and economic opportunities along the lower Saranac River corridor, in the City of Plattsburgh, the Town of Plattsburgh, the Town of Schuyler Falls, and the Town of Saranac, by establishing public multi-use greenway trails and infrastructure that engage and link residents, visitors, business and communities with healthy recreational, environmental, historical and transportation resources.

Meet Our Board, Partners, & Friends

President	Phil VonBargen – Town of Schuyler Falls	Kathleen Howard	Member at Large
Vice President	Mike Coon – Member at Large	André Lacombe	Member at Large
Secretary	Jennifer Stanton – Clinton County	Barbara Napper	Town of Saranac
Treasurer	Kristina Bennett – Member at Large	Brendan Owens	City of Plattsburgh
		Paula Calkins Lacombe	Clinton County

The Board consists of members from partner municipalities and the community at large. Thank you to Jennifer Stanton for her service and enthusiasm and to Phil VonBargen for his leadership and long-term commitment to the SRTG. Both these members tenure ended 12/2023. Your willingness to share your time and talents with us is greatly appreciated.

Adirondack Bank

Central River Power now Patriot Hydro

Champlain Area Trails

City of Plattsburgh

Clinton County

Clinton County Health Department

Friends of the Saranac River Trail

Hoffman Eells Group CPAs, P.C.

North Country Chamber Commerce

Northern Forest Canoe Trail

NYS Department of State

Plattsburgh City School District

Plattsburgh Rotary Club

Stafford, Owens Law Offices

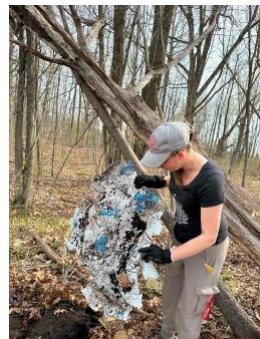
SUNY Plattsburgh

Town of Plattsburgh

Town of Saranac

Town of Schuyler Falls

Trout Unlimited



Board members with family cleaning the Treadwell Mills Connector trail on Earth Day.

BECOMING A REALITY

SARANAC RIVER TRAIL GREENWAY, INC.

The **Saranac River Trail Greenway, Inc.** (SRTG) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization incorporated in 2012 and registered in the State of New York. Representatives include partner municipalities (Clinton County, City of Plattsburgh, Towns of Plattsburgh, Saranac, and Schuyler Falls) and members-at-large.

Let's Extend the Trail

In 2011, the City of Plattsburgh opened the Saranac River Trail. With this trail a reality, the question was asked, **why not extend the trail all along the lower Saranac River Valley** traversing multiple municipalities and connecting people to this beautiful natural asset.

The Feasibility Study

In 2016, Clinton County completed a **feasibility study** that identified the possible routes for a **27-mile "greenway"** starting in the City of Plattsburgh and extending through the Towns of Plattsburgh, Schuyler Falls and ending in the Town of Saranac at the High Falls Dam. This **Saranac River Trail Greenway** will combine shared-use paths, low-volume roadways, natural surface trails, wetland boardwalks, and other connections.

Key Activities

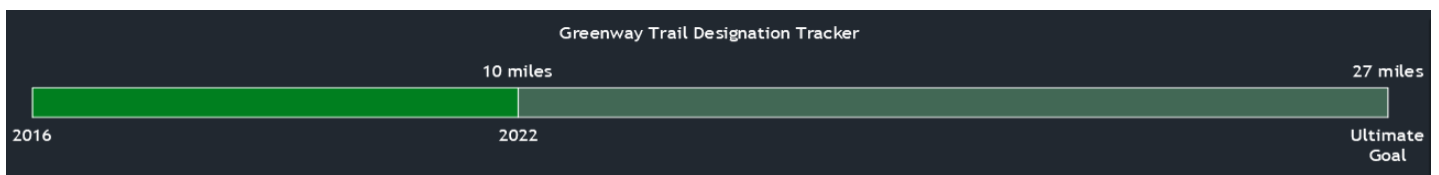
- **Identifying and engaging** potential municipal and community partners
- **Providing guidance** in designing and constructing segments of the Greenway
- **Assisting community partners** in securing funding through grant writing and fundraising
- **Negotiating rights of way** with business and private landowners
- **Establishing guidelines** for consistent signage and maintenance
- **Bringing awareness** to the history, natural ecology, and wildlife in the surrounding areas
- **Promoting the Greenway** through social and other media and providing informative displays in various venues

Trail Walks and Talks or Drives and Talks

The *Trail Walks & Talks* or *Drives & Talks* provide opportunities for the Board and friends to explore future SRT Greenway routes and introduce them to others. Participants describe them as "relaxing, fun, good exercise, a great way to visualize what the greenway can look like". These outings keep all of us excited about building the Greenway one mile at a time!



On a Drive & Talk event to LaPierre Lane Riverway in Morrisonville, N.Y.



HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Board and Community Activities

- *April 22, 2023*, SRTG again participated in the City of Plattsburgh's **Earth Day Community Clean Up** targeting the Treadwell Mills Connector Trail. Families of board members participated along with our four-legged friend.
- *May 6, 2023*, three board members participated in the Champlain Area Trails (CATS) Grand Hike event in Essex County consisting of an almost 14 mile walk through forests and fields.
- *May 8, 2023*, several board members, and a representative from the Town of Plattsburgh Board on a *Drive & Talk* toured the Morrisonville area of the SRT Greenway including the LaPierre Lane Riverway, and points of interest and destinations along the Saranac River.
- *May 20, 2023*, SRTG board members, friends, and families participated in the City of Plattsburgh Block Party which included a **bike ride** along the Saranac River Trail in the City of Plattsburgh.
- *June 12, 2023*, board members explored the SRT Greenway alignment on a *Drive and Talk* through three townships, the Towns of Plattsburgh, Schuyler Falls, and Saranac including the former Oxbow bridge, Goddeau Road, a NYSEG fishing access, and Duquette Road with a location for a future overlook site.
- *September 21, 2023*, two board members attended the opening ceremony of the new section of the City's Saranac River Trail along the River from Bridge Street to Broad Street.
- *September 24, 2023*, 3 board members and a friend of SRTG prepared the site and placed a sign at the Route 22 entrance to the Treadwell Mills Connector Trail.



Marketing, Outreach, & More

- Continued SRTG Facebook and Instagram accounts
- Appeared in the November 28, 2023, *Adirondack Explorer* newsletter in the article entitled, *Saranac River Trail Network Keeps Growing* by Tim Rowland.
- Developed and introduced the kiosk template for the new section of the City's Saranac River Trail at the opening ceremony held September 21. This was a multi-agency effort with SRT Greenway board members, City Historian Joshua Beatty, the Plattsburgh Middle School students in Kathleen Howard's class, and Malana Tamer, local planner, and community member.
- Held nine board meetings in addition to maintaining three committees, Governance, Marketing, Trails, and an additional Kiosk committee.
- Began development of a SRTG website.
- Applied for and received \$500 grant from the Plattsburgh Rotary Club for trail enhancements to the Treadwell Mills Connector Trail and the new Plattsburgh City School District loop behind the Plattsburgh High School. Thank you, Plattsburgh Rotary Club!

Making Connections

The Board strives to make connections whether through *Trail Walk & Talks* or *Drive & Talks*, participating in events, making presentations, or one-on-one conversations. It's these connections that will ensure the Saranac River Trail Greenway is built one mile at a time!

saranacrivertailgreenway@gmail.com
Facebook and Instagram

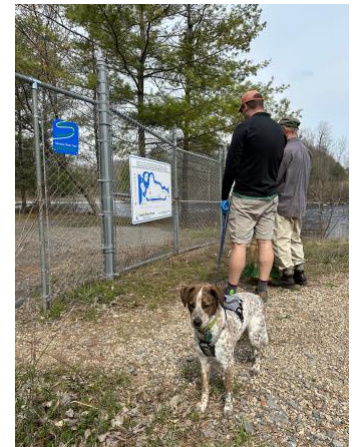
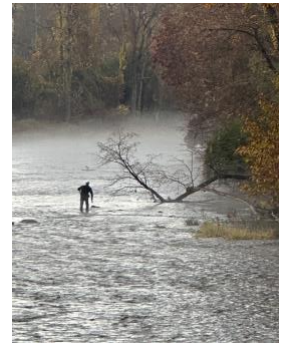
HIGHLIGHTS & HAPPENINGS

Historic Changes Along the Treadwell Mills (TM) Connector Trail

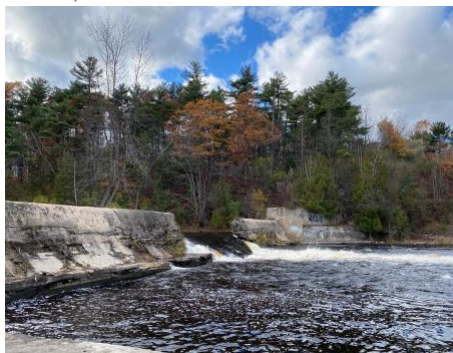
Remnants of two dams were visible near and on the *TM Connector Trail*; the Indian Rapids and Fredenburgh Falls dams. These unique structures added to the *charm* of the trail. The Indian Rapids dam was breached back in the 1950s (a portion was opened), allowing more flow in the river and raising the question for those who viewed it...what happened. Further along the trail at the site of the former Fredenburgh Falls dam, one saw large steel structures scattered in the river and wondered where they came from.

In late 2023, both dams were removed opening the river to future access for salmon migrating up the river for spawning. These were two of three dams that blocked the way for spawning salmon. All that remains now is the Imperial Mills dam in the City of Plattsburgh. Two fish ladders, one at the Treadwell Mills dam which already exists and another at the Imperial Mills dam which needs to be constructed) will provide access. Removing these two historical dams is the first steps to making the river accessible to salmon for the first time since 1786. Canoers will also enjoy improved access. The pictures below show you some before and after pictures.

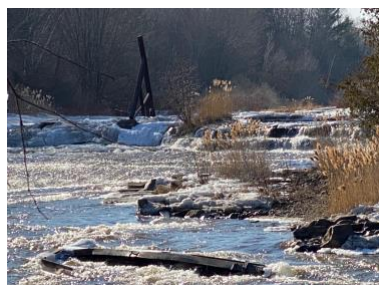
**The Saranac River,
is a precious asset in our
community
one to be enjoyed by all....**



Photos by P. Calkins Lacombe



Above, the Indian Rapids dam in 2021 showing the breach, and then in November 2023 after the dam was removed. The first picture below indicates the structure that was to the left of the Indian Rapids dam 2021. This was also removed.



In 2022, note the large steel structure in background at Fredenburgh Falls dam. In Nov. 2023, all steel remnants in the River were removed.

We'd love to hear from you;
please feel free to
join us in our efforts.

Saranac River Trail Greenway
Board Members

saranacrivertrailgreenway@gmail.com
or check us out on our Facebook page.