



# Allegheny River Public Access & Recreation Plan

Cattaraugus County, New York

November 2017

Prepared for: City of Olean - Community Development Department

Prepared by: Ingalls Planning & Design in association with Highland Planning





# Acknowledgments

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# Introduction

## Background and Purpose of Study

The City of Olean and its partners – the City of Salamanca; the Towns of Allegany, Portville, Olean and Salamanca and the Villages of Portville and Allegany – worked with a consultant team to prepare a public access and recreation plan for the Allegheny River. From winter 2016 to fall 2017, the project explored strategies to improve waterfront access, promote the underutilized river corridor and attract recreation-based businesses to strengthen the tourism economy.

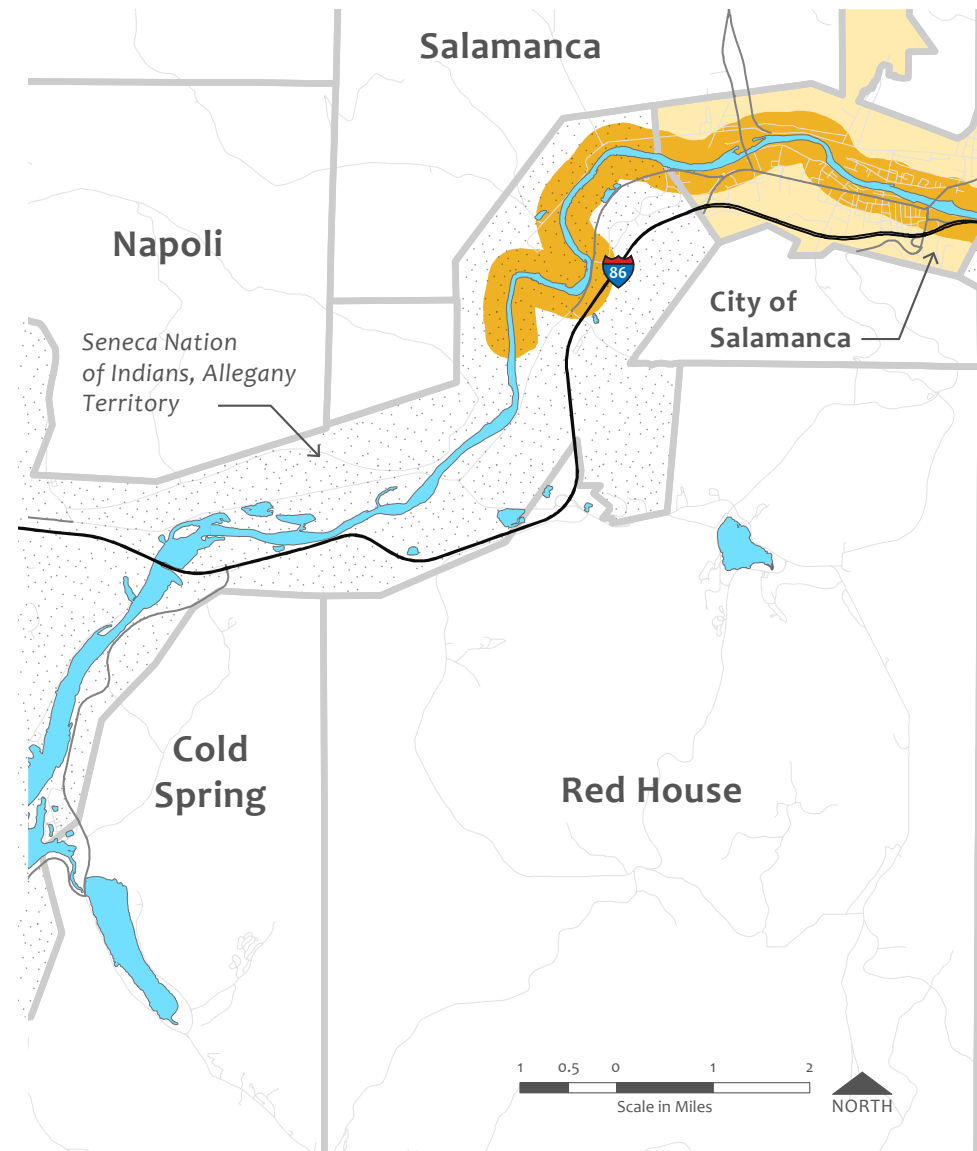
The project's study area is nearly 20,000 acres of land along 30 miles of the Allegheny River, which is shown in orange on the map. One key focus of the plan was to evaluate options for a multi-use recreational trail system along the Allegheny River.

The Plan describes and maps existing and proposed recreational networks along the Allegheny River, including hiking trails, bikeways, public access, natural areas, working landscapes, historic sites, museums, festivals, events and other points of recreational and heritage interest.

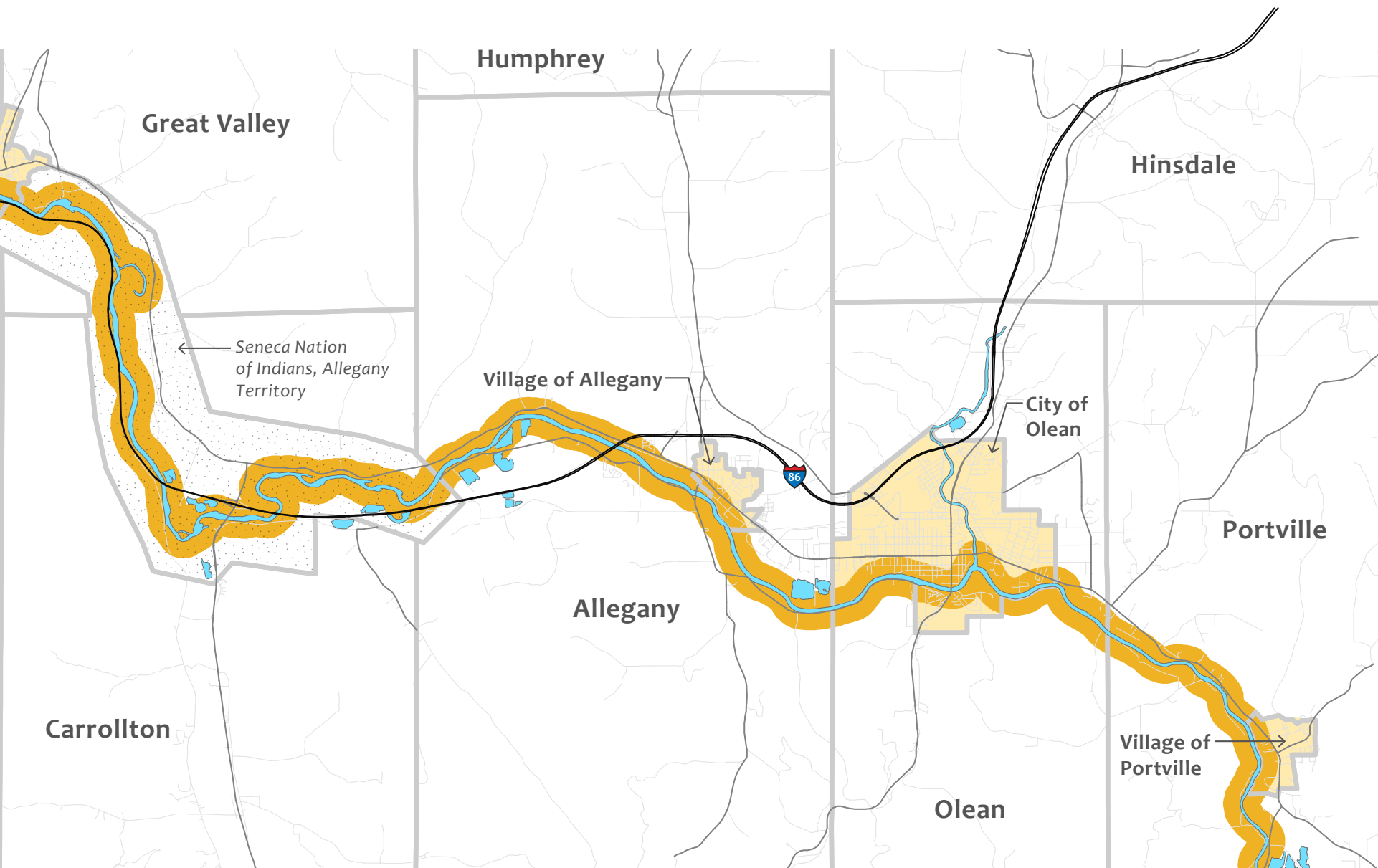
The Plan also includes an analysis of potential sources of funding, environmental impacts, existing infrastructure, trail types and alternatives, functional linkages within the study area, phasing of implementation, maintenance and management options.

The Plan also recommends strategies and identifies projects to enhance and expand public access to waterfront areas where appropriate; preserve open space and natural resources; and identify new tourism infrastructure and recreation projects to promote the river corridor.

Figure 1: Project Planning Area









# Planning Context

## Planning Process

The planning process for the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan sought to thoughtfully and methodically answer the following questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go?
3. How do we get there?

To answer the question ‘Where are we now?’, the consultant team held two meetings with the Project Advisory Committee, developed a public participation plan, and researched and collected data for the Inventory and Analysis. Together, this information provided a snapshot of where the community is today.

To help answer the question ‘Where do we want to go?’, the consultant team held the first community workshop in October 2016 at Jamestown Community College in Olean, NY. At this Community Workshop, the consultant team led workshop attendees through a series of visioning and issue identification exercises. In addition to the public workshop, 163 area residents provided input through an online survey that was developed for this project. All of this information helped to form the Vision Statement and inform the project goals.

Answering the question ‘How do we get there?’ involved taking the information from the previous tasks and using it to develop alternative concepts and recommendations. The concepts and alternatives were first vetted by the Project Advisory Committee. Following their review, the preferred alternatives were selected and presented to the community at an open house in June 2017. 30 people attended the open house and provided valuable

feedback and guidance. Following the community open house, the consultant team developed a draft master plan, which included recommendations, priority projects, and an implementation strategy. This draft plan was presented to the community at a third public meeting in November 2017.

The project is funded by a grant that the City of Olean received through the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS), with funding provided under Title II of the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Matching funds for the project were provided through a combination of cash and in-kind services.



*Residents sharing knowledge about the river corridor at the first community workshop.*

## Summary of Other Plans & Studies

Planning is a continuous process, and cannot be done in a vacuum. To understand the context in which a project is happening, other plans and studies are evaluated to see what they say about the study area and related key issues. The communities in the Allegheny River study area have done varying amounts of planning, and not all of it is relevant to this plan. Some of the plans listed below do not address the Allegheny River, nor do they address recreation, parks, and trails in a context that is relevant to the study. The relevant key issues from each document have been highlighted below.

### State Plans

#### NYS Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019

The SCORP is prepared periodically by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) to provide statewide policy direction and fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. The goals of the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan are compatible with the goals established at the state level, including:

- Continue to improve, repair and expand outdoor recreation facilities to attract visitors.
- Reconnect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Continue to develop a comprehensive, interconnected recreationway, water trails, greenway, blue-way, and heritage trail system.

#### New York State Trails Plan 2010

The NYS Trails Plan provides a statewide framework for three types of trail systems: greenway trails, long distance hiking trails and water trails, based on existing primary trails and proposed potential corridors and routes that provide connectivity. This



framework is the basis for the long-term vision for a trails network in the state. The Plan identifies three greenways and one long-distance hiking trail that are potential connections: the Pat McGee Trail, the Allegheny River Valley Trail, the Genesee Valley Greenway, and the Finger Lakes/North Country Hiking Trail. The Plan also proposes two schematic greenway trail alignments:

- A north-south trail running north out of the City of Salamanca.
- An east-west trail that follows part of the Allegheny River between Salamanca and Olean, then heads northeast to connect with the Genesee Valley Greenway.



## Town and Village Comprehensive Plans

A comprehensive plan, or master plan, is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. A comprehensive plan typically addresses transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. Several communities provided comprehensive plans, and the relevant information from each plan is listed.

### Town of Allegany Comprehensive Plan (2011)

The Town's plan does not extensively address the Allegheny River or recreation, but the following key issues are identified:

- Opportunities and Constraints – Recreation: The Allegheny River is heavily used for recreational boating. Providing additional boat ramps and better signage for the DEC boat launch would improve recreational opportunities.
- Objective 5-5: Work with Cattaraugus County and other agencies to promote Allegany as a destination for tourism, recreation, and hunting and fishing.
- Objective 11-1: Work with other local, county and other agencies to extend the Allegheny River Valley Trail.
- Objective 14-2: The Town should work to develop a public boat launch at Allegheny River Park, Gargoyle Park, and/or on excess right of way land owned by Cattaraugus County on County Road 60. (Boat ramp constructed in 2015.)
- Objective 14-3: Town should work with NYSDEC to provide signage for the boat launch ramp on South Nine Mile Road.

### Town of Carrollton Comprehensive 2010 Master Plan

Carrollton's comprehensive plan does not address the river, trails or recreation in much detail. However, it is important to note that of the 34,066 acres of land in Carrollton, 33% is in Allegheny State Park, and another 19% is part of the Seneca Nation of Indians

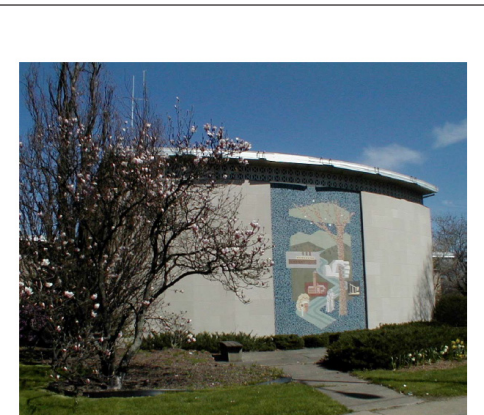
Allegheny Reservation, leaving less than half of the town outside of those boundaries. The plan lists the following objectives:

- To attract residents of the Town of Carrollton and those living elsewhere to appreciate and utilize the natural resources and recreational resources available in the Town of Carrollton.
- Develop and encourage tourism attractions and recreational activities with trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and motocross and promote hunting, fishing and boating.

### City of Olean Comprehensive Development Plan 2005-2025

The City's Comprehensive Plan addresses the Allegheny River Valley Trail (ARVT), as well as trails, parks and recreation in great detail. The Allegheny River and the ARVT are identified as two of the City's strengths.

In the Existing Conditions section, the plan notes that planning is underway to link Olean and the ARVT to the Town of Hinsdale, expanding the trail network by about 4 miles. The plan notes that despite their waterfront location, access to the river at Franchot and Forness Parks is limited by the berms and absence of public riverside trails. The following goals and objectives are relevant:



City of Olean  
Comprehensive Development Plan  
2005-2025

Adopted by City Council  
August 9, 2005

- Neighborhoods Goal 5: Provide quality parks and recreational facilities and opportunities that meet the needs of all residents. Objectives f and i address trail connections.
- Environmental Goal 2: Continue to support ARVT Improvements. Objectives address improvements and preservation of the trail system, maintaining the beauty of adjacent lands, permanent protection of additional lands adjacent to the existing trail, providing operating and security support, and working with local organizations.

### Town of Portville 2020 Comprehensive Plan

The Portville Plan has relevant Goals and Actions:

- Community Facilities and Recreation, Goal: Parks & Trails Plan. Action item 1: Evaluate the need for park expansion. Action item 2: Investigate possibility of partnering with the Village to improve existing parks. Action item 3: Assess support for a multi-purpose trail between Olean and Portville.
- Community Facilities and Recreation, Goal: Expand Recreational Water Activities. Action item: Consider developing river access for boating and other activities.
- Transportation, Goal: A community in which vehicles, bikers and walkers travel safely. Action item: Encourage alternative transportation (i.e. biking, walking)

### City of Salamanca Comprehensive Plan (2010 update)

The City's plan extensively discusses recreation, tourism, riverfront access, and the relationship of the community to the river. Key points include the following goals, policies and projects:

*The Natural Environment:*

- Goal: Preserve the natural environment of the river corridor and its tributaries.

- Goal: Enhance visual and functional connections to the mountains and the river, including enhancement of public access to the river and natural areas.

*City Center:*

- Goal & Policy: Relationship to the river - Better connect downtown visually and functionally to the river. Physical linkages between the City Center and the river should be developed for both waterside and landside users.
- Riverfront access project: Redevelop small park adjacent to the Main Street Bridge to have a riverfront orientation and pedestrian walkway that connects Main Street with Crowley Park along the river; walking trail on dike; tie ups for watercraft east of the Main Street Bridge; welcome sign and kiosk with map and directory of services.

*Recreation and Tourism:*

- Goals: Provide recreation facilities accessible to both City residents and visitors. Take advantage of potential for public access to the waterfront.
- Policies (waterfront): Park and recreation facilities that are oriented to river activities should take advantage of the City's riverfront park development on lower Front Avenue. Additional riverfront access in the East Race Street area for small craft launching is encouraged.
- Policies (trails): The City should seek to establish itself as an origination point for the many trail systems in the area by creating linkages between the trails and downtown Salamanca.
- Trail projects - River Trail on the south side of the river, long-term - obtain easements to allow a continuous trail that follows the shoreline as closely as possible; a continuous loop trail from downtown along both sides of the riverfront; potential rail-to-trail conversions to multi-use trails on two rail lines; and a trail linkage to Allegany State Park.



## Other Plans and Studies

Other plans and studies are also relevant to this project. Some communities – the City of Olean, and the Town and Village of Allegany – have Complete Streets Policies that encourage bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Town and Village of Portville has been considering passage of a Complete Streets policy. The Complete Streets plans and policies are important but are not detailed here. Two key recreation plans are discussed below.

### Final Master Plan for Allegany State Park, 2010

Allegany State Park (ASP) is a key resource along the planning area, and the master plan outlines many wonderful improvements planned for the park. However, a detailed assessment of the ASP Master Plan was not made because the SNI Reservation stands between the Allegheny River planning area and the park, which makes connections difficult. The plan should be reviewed in more detail if representatives of SNI become interested in collaborating.

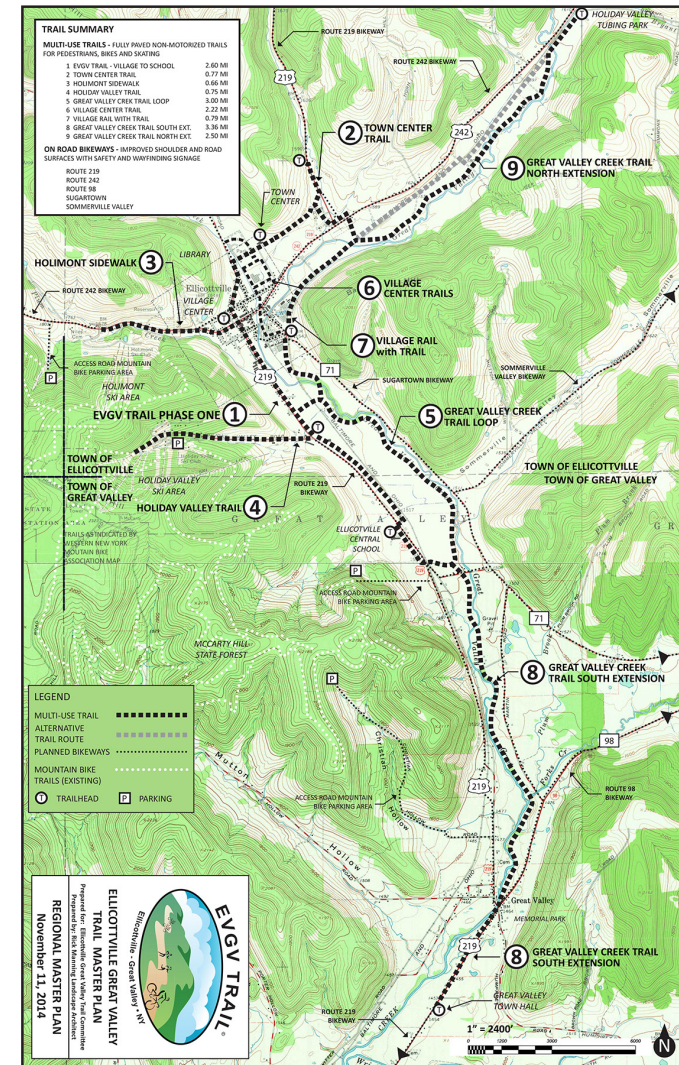
### Olean-Allegheny River Recreation Trail Master Plan, 1994

Written in 1994, this strategic plan provided a conceptual framework that identified new trail possibilities and pinpointed barriers to the development of a trail system. This plan was the precursor to what now exists as the Allegheny River Valley Trail. All phases of the trail – as outlined in the plan – have not been completed. The plan outlines different phases, management and maintenance strategies, and offers a number of different trail cross-section scenarios. Due to the age of the plan, it is unclear how much of the plan is still relevant.

## Parallel Projects

Other trail planning projects are underway in Cattaraugus County that should be considered and have coordinated planning where possible. These include the Cattaraugus County Trails System Plan

(started in November 2016), the Ellicottville-Great Valley Trail Master Plan (completed in 2014), and the efforts of the Genesee Valley Greenway (ongoing).



Ellicottville Great Valley Trail Regional Master Plan, 2014.







# Inventory & Analysis

This section provides an overview of the Allegheny River corridor today, including project boundaries, land and water use, public access and recreation, historic resources, natural resources, infrastructure, environmental concerns, visitors and tourism.

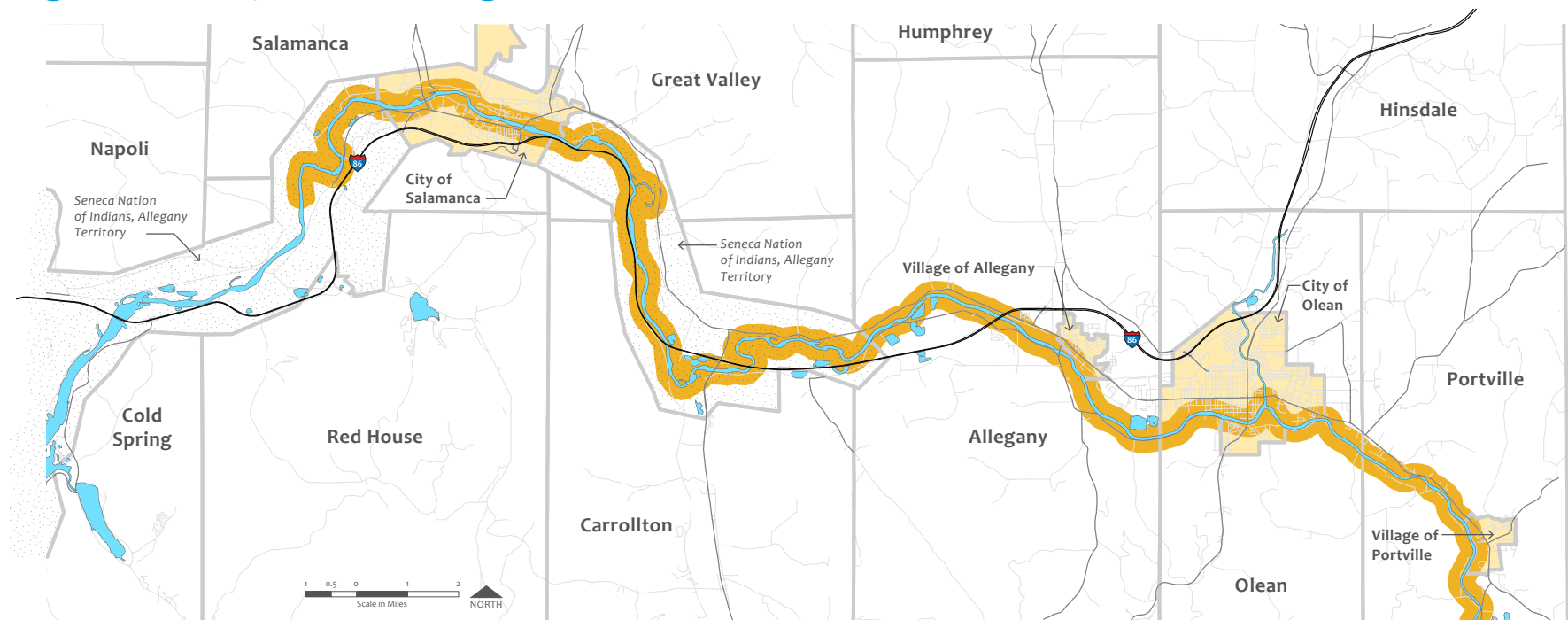
## Planning Area Overview

The following section provides an overview of the Allegheny River planning area evaluated in this plan. The boundaries of the project planning area and the characteristics of the local population are described.

## Project Boundaries

The planning area for the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan follows a 30-mile stretch of the Allegheny River in the Southern Tier of Western New York. The planning area is defined by ½-mile on either side of the centerline of the waterway. From east to west, the study includes land and water located within the following communities: the Town and Village of Portville, the City and Town of Olean, the Town and Village of Allegany, the Town of Carrollton, the Town of Great Valley, and the City and Town of Salamanca. The planning area also includes portions of the Allegheny Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI).

**Figure 2: Project Planning Area**





## Census Data and Population

According to the U.S. Census, the communities along this stretch of the Allegheny River had 41,566 residents in 2010. This is a decrease of 5.0% from the 43,760 residents who lived in this area at the time of the 2000 Census. Table 1 shows the population change for each community.

**Table 1: Population of Planning Area Communities**

Name	Type	Population (2010)	Population (2000)	Population Change
Allegheny	Town	8,004	8,230	-2.7%
Allegheny	Village	1,816	1,883	-3.6%
Carrollton	Town	1,297	1,410	-8.0%
Great Valley	Town	1,974	2,145	-8.0%
Olean	City	14,452	15,347	-5.8%
Olean	Town	1,963	2,029	-3.3%
Portville	Town	3,730	3,952	-5.6%
Portville	Village	1,014	1,024	-1.0%
Salamanca	City	5,815	6,097	-4.6%
Salamanca	Town	481	544	-11.6%
SNI/Allegheny	Territory	1,020	1,099	-7.2%
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>41,566</b>	<b>43,760</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>

Sources: U.S. Census, 2000; U.S. Census, 2010

## Land and Water Use

The following section provides an overview of land and water use in the Allegheny River planning area.

### Land Use

Through the assessment process, each municipality classifies every property in their community and provides that information to the NYS Office of Real Property Services. This information can be used to understand how the land is used in a community or region. New York State has a simple and uniform classification system that is used in the assessment process. Properties are classified using the following categories:

- Agricultural - Property used for the production of crops or livestock.
- Residential - Property used for human habitation.
- Vacant Land - Property that is not in use, is in temporary use, or lacks permanent improvement.
- Commercial - Property used for the sale of goods and/or services.
- Recreation/Entertainment - Property used by groups for recreation, amusement, or entertainment.
- Community Services - Property used for the well being of the community.
- Industrial - Property used for the production and fabrication of man-made goods.
- Public Services - Property used to provide services to the general public.
- Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks - Reforested lands, preserves, and private hunting and fishing clubs

This information can be reviewed to understand the general land uses occurring in the planning area adjacent to the Allegheny River. Table 2 indicates which uses are evident in each community.

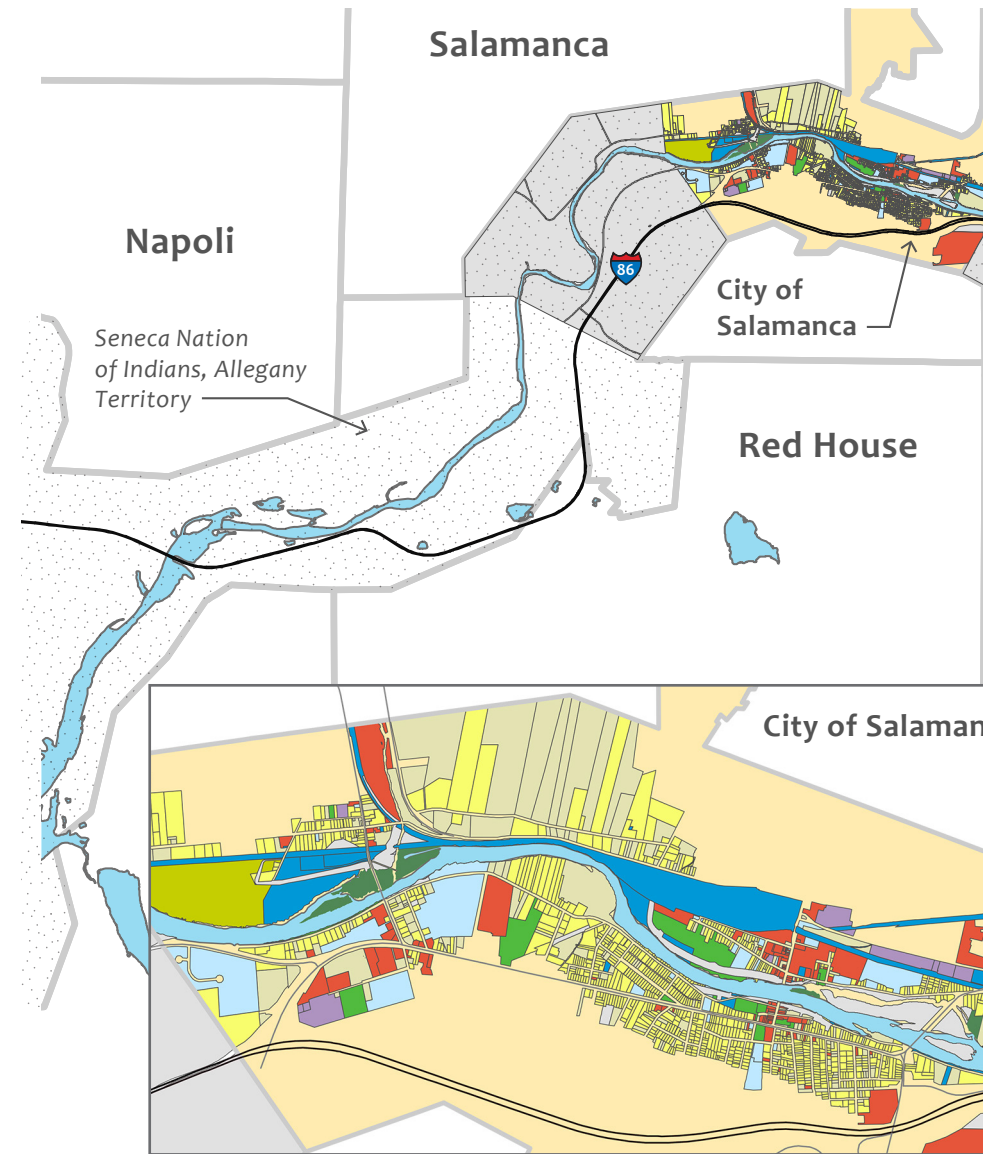
**Table 2: Land Use Along the Allegheny River Within the Planning Area**

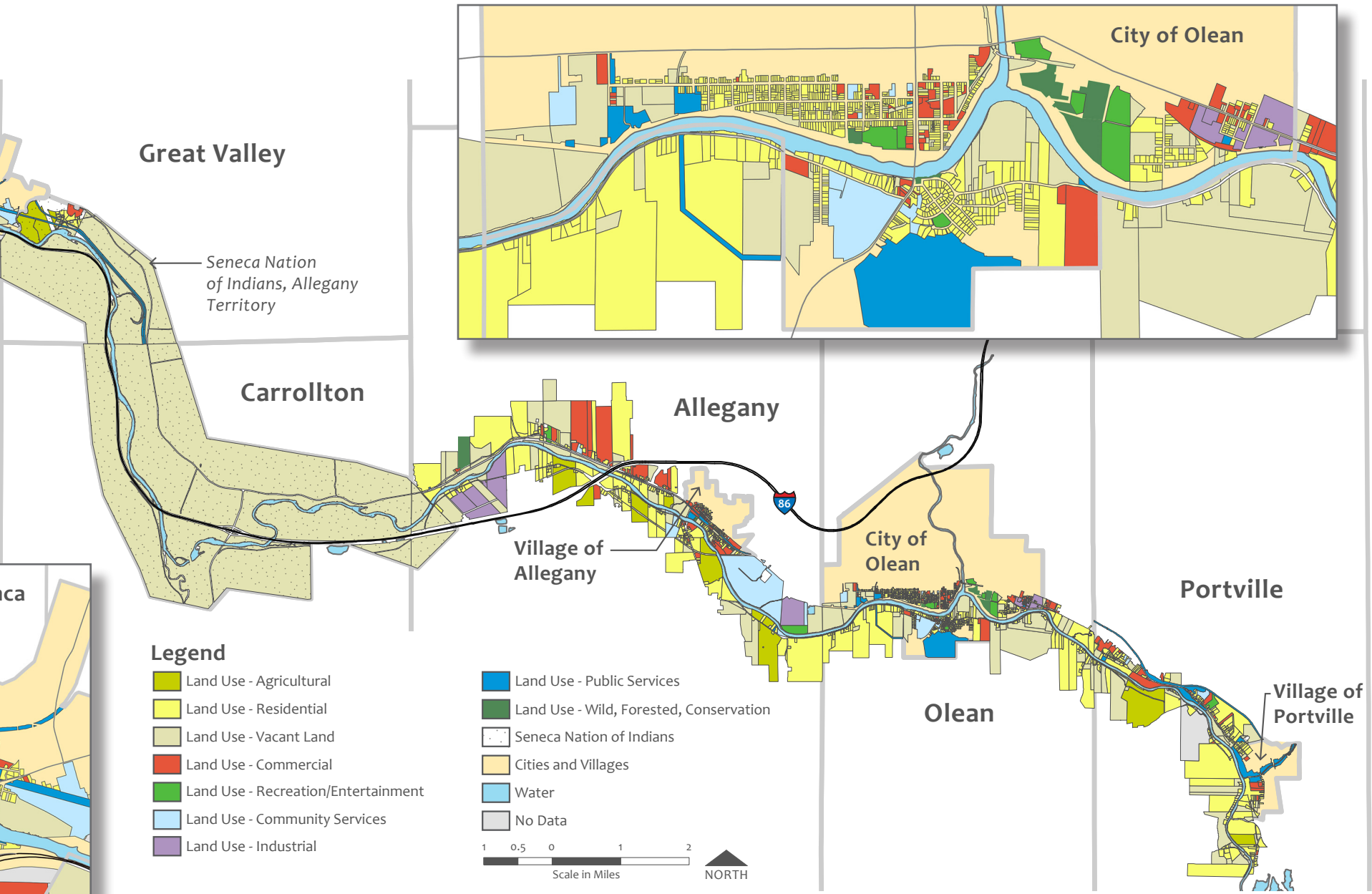
Community	Primary Land Uses Along the Allegheny River	Secondary Land Uses Along the Allegheny River
Town of Allegany	Community Services (St. Bonaventure), Residential, Vacant Land, Agricultural	Recreation/ Entertainment, Industrial
Village of Allegany	Residential, Commercial	Vacant Land
City of Olean	Residential, Vacant Land, Wild/ Forested, Recreation/ Entertainment,	Industrial, Commercial, Public Services
Town of Olean	Residential, Vacant Land	
Town of Portville	Residential, Agricultural, Vacant Land	Commercial, Public Services
Village of Portville	Residential, Vacant Land, Public Services	
SNI/ Town of Carrollton	Vacant Land	
SNI/ Town of Great Valley	Vacant Land	One large Agricultural parcel adjacent to the City of Salamanca
SNI/ City of Salamanca	Residential, Public Services, Vacant Land	All other land uses except Industrial
SNI/ Town of Salamanca	No data available	

*SNI - Seneca Nation of Indians, Allegany Territory*

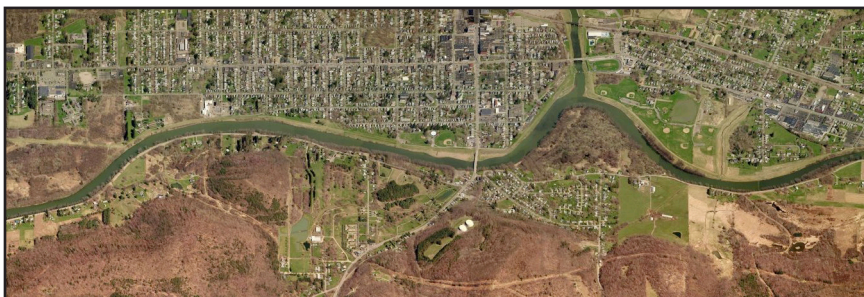
The map and table illustrate that some of the main land uses occurring in the river corridor are residential, agricultural, and public service uses, as well as vacant land.

**Figure 3: Land Use**









*Aerial view of Olean from Google Earth, 2017.*

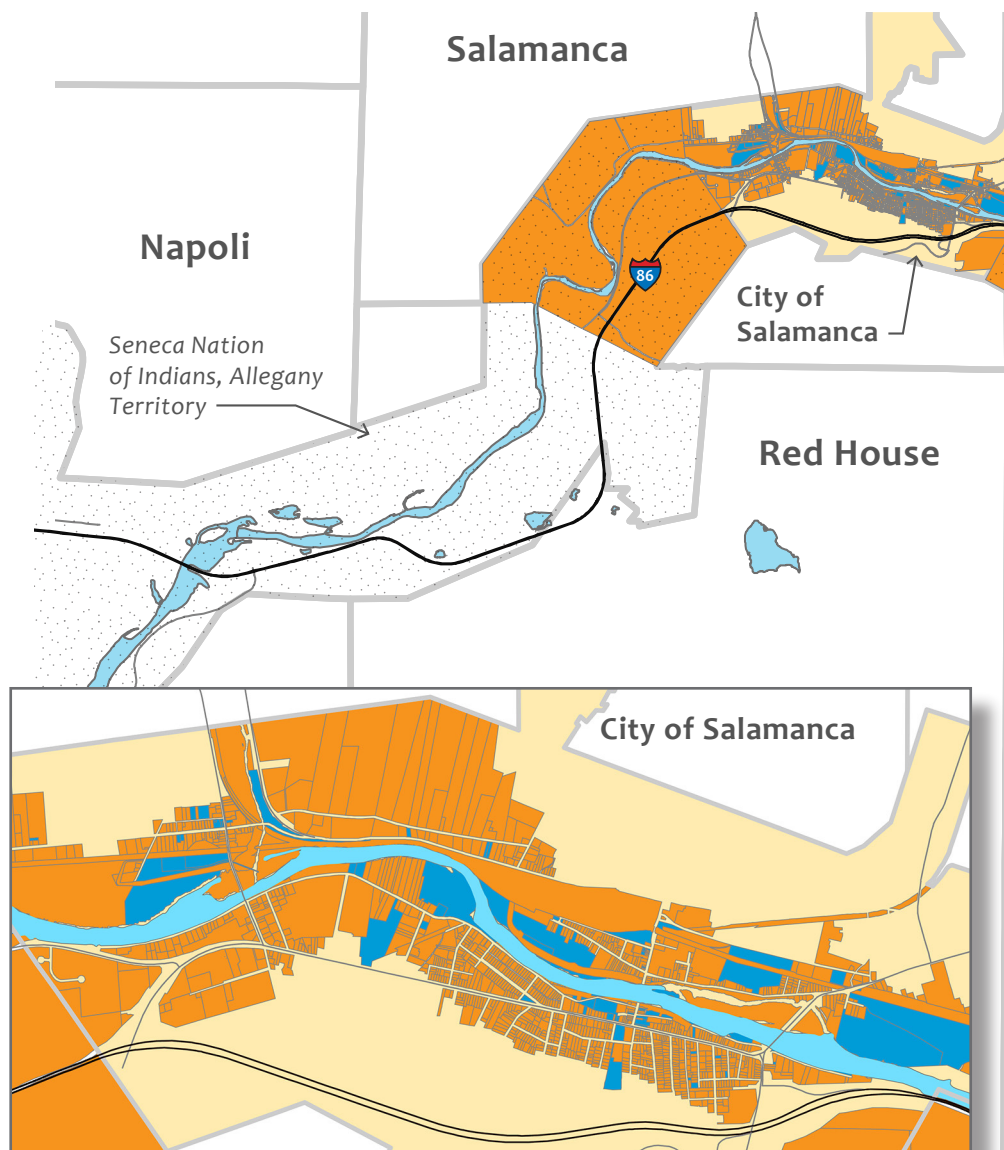
### Land Ownership Patterns

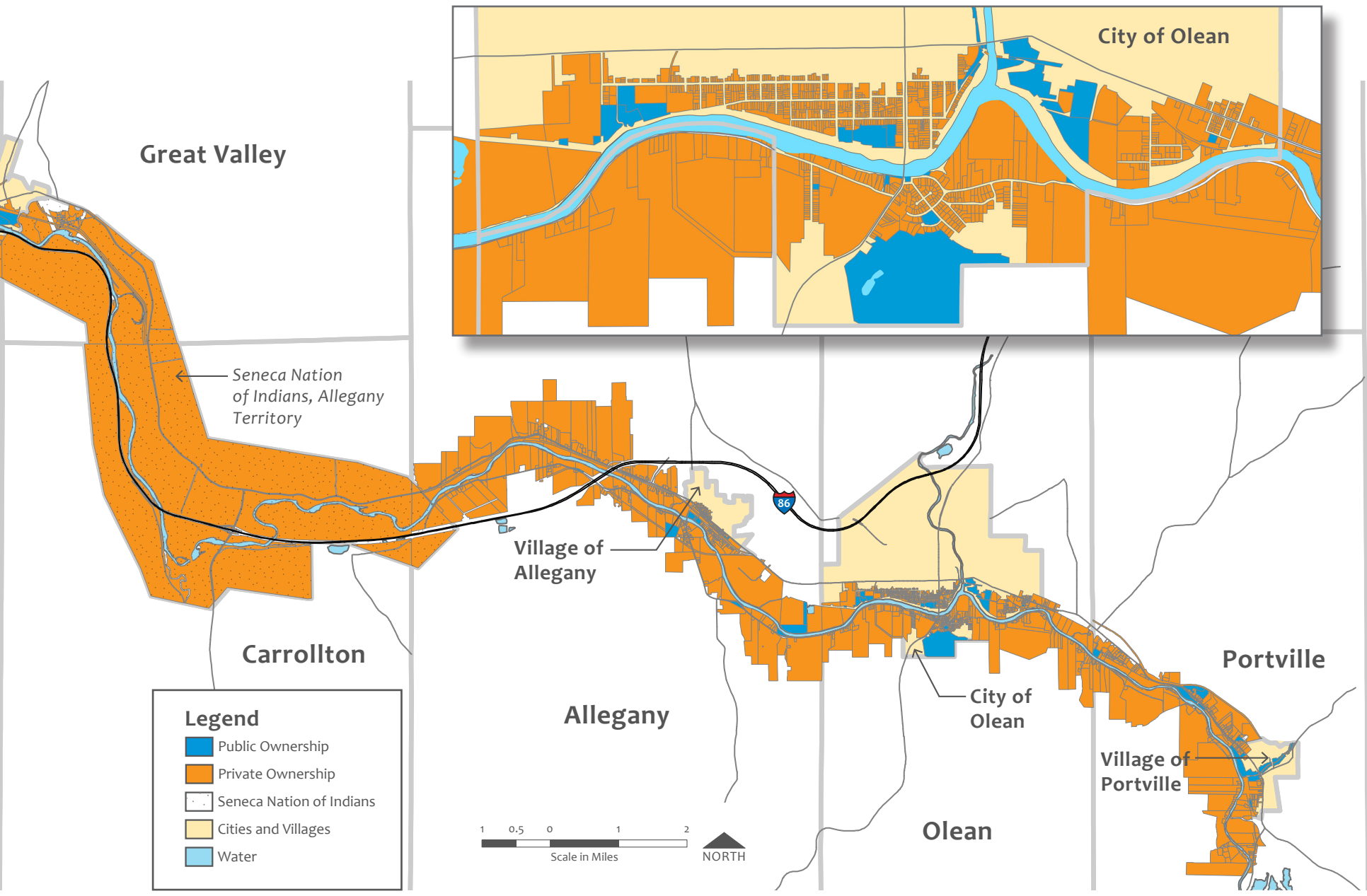
Land along the Allegheny River is primarily held by private landowners, as can be seen in orange in Figure 4. One of the key landowners in the planning area is the Seneca Nation of Indians, a federally recognized tribe based in Western New York. According to the United States Census Bureau, the Allegany Territory has a total area of 43.7 square miles. 36.4 square miles of this area is land and 7.3 square miles is water. The territory borders both banks of the Allegheny River and is partially within the following Towns in the planning area: Salamanca, Great Valley, Carrollton, and Allegany. The City of Salamanca, with the exception of a northern spur along U.S. Route 219, is also within the reservation. Nearly half of the planning area for this plan is encompassed by the boundaries of the Allegany Territory.

### Water Use

The Allegheny River and the associated wetlands provide important ecological services, such as fish and wildlife habitat, which are described in more detail in the Natural Resources section. The river itself is used for recreational pursuits, such as boating and fishing. The river corridor is also used for hiking, biking, hunting and birdwatching. Recreational uses are discussed in more detail in the Public Access & Recreation section.

**Figure 4: Land Ownership**





## Zoning and Local Development Controls

The project planning area includes two cities, six towns and two villages. Each community is different, and not every municipality has opted to have zoning or other land use regulations. Zoning is the means by which communities regulate the use of land and buildings to protect and promote the quality of life within their boundaries. The following municipalities use zoning codes to guide development: the Town and Village of Allegany, the Town of Carrollton, the Town of Great Valley, the City and Town of Olean, and the City of Salamanca. The following communities do not use zoning: the Village of Portville, and the Town of Salamanca. The Town of Portville has a land use ordinance focused on minimizing flood losses, but does not have zoning.

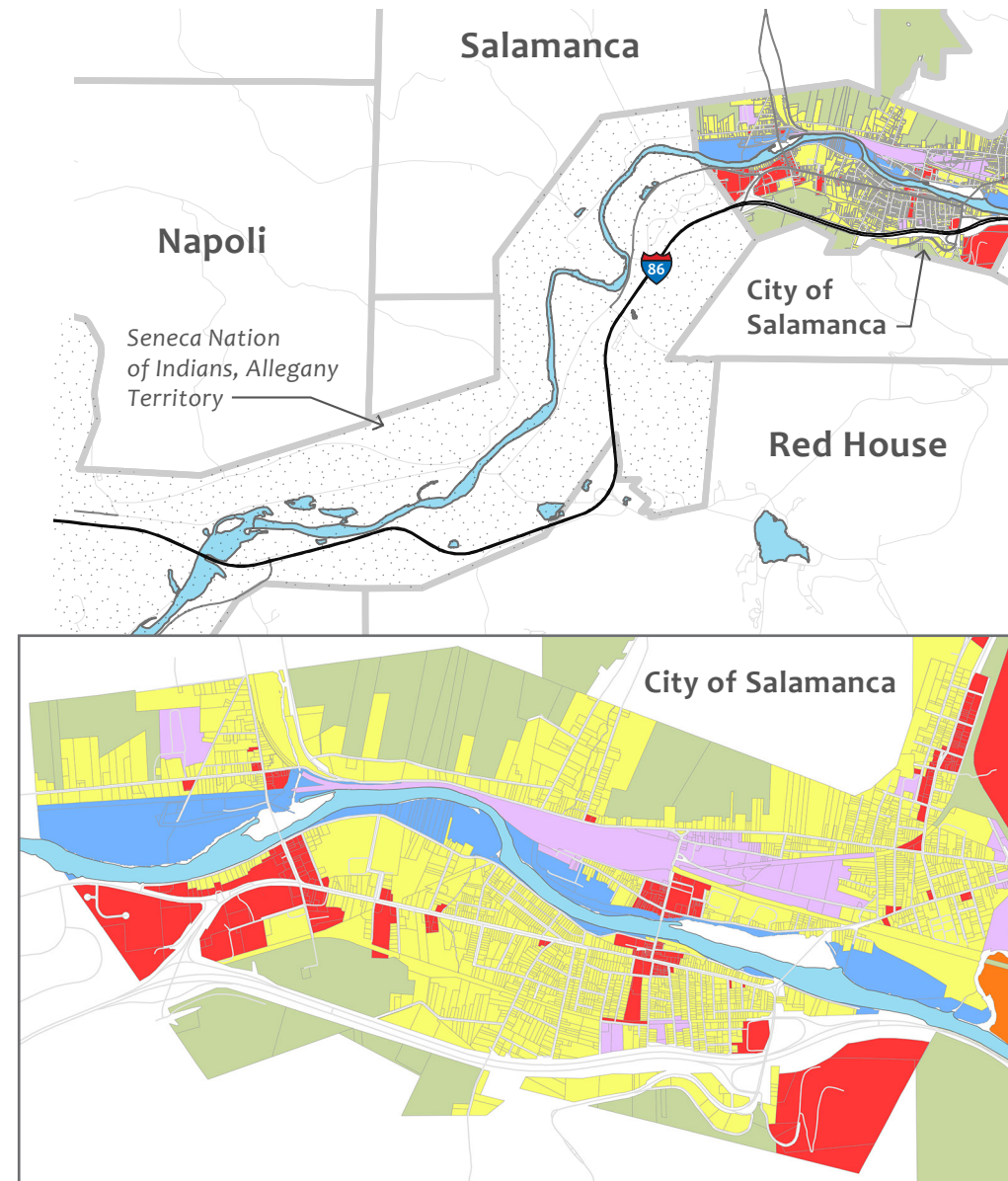
To develop a map of the zoning that is currently in effect in the study area, municipal zoning district types were combined into more generalized categories: Residential, Agriculture/Forestry, Commercial/Business, Mixed Use, Industrial/Manufacturing, Community Facilities/Higher Education, and Waterfront Conservation.

The following zoning types are currently found along the river's edge in each community:

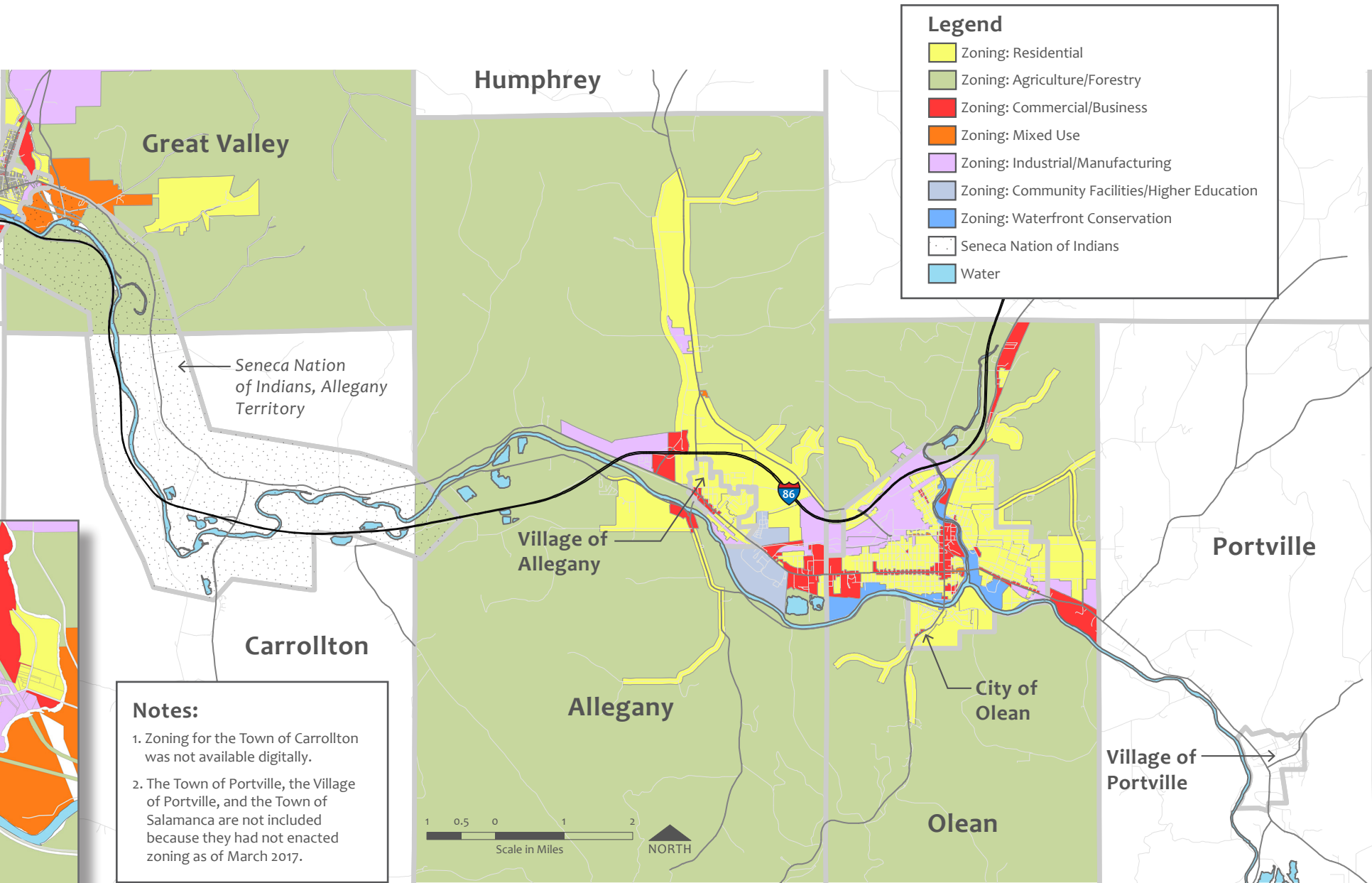
- Allegany (T) - Agriculture/Forestry, Community Facilities, Commercial/Business, Residential
- Allegany (V) - Industrial/Manufacturing, Residential
- Carrollton (T) - no zoning in Seneca Nation Territory
- Great Valley (T) - Agriculture/Forestry, Mixed Use
- Olean (C) - Waterfront Conservation, Residential, Industrial/Manufacturing
- Olean (T) - Commercial/Business, Agriculture/Forestry
- Salamanca (C) - Waterfront Conservation, Residential, Commercial/Business, Industrial

The Waterfront Conservation district type, which is found in the Cities of Olean and Salamanca, is the most conducive to fostering water-dependent uses.

Figure 5: Generalized Zoning







## Public Access and Recreation

Cattaraugus County is a scenic and beautiful area of Western New York. Both residents and visitors enjoy the many recreational opportunities in and adjacent to the Allegheny River.

### Hiking and Biking Trails, Proposed

The **Ellicottville Great Valley (EVG) Trail** is a proposed 15-mile network of multi-use trails that will expand the active transportation and recreation options for area residents and visitors. Like many other successful ski resort communities, Ellicottville is planning this trail network to link and expand programming and connect facilities in all seasons. Multi-use trails will accommodate users of all abilities by creating a comfortable and accessible non-motorized transportation and recreation system. The proposed trail system extends south to the Great Valley Town Hall. The Master Plan was completed in late 2014 and the first phase of construction was anticipated in 2016.

As described in the previous Existing Trails section, the **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park** is an open space corridor between the City of Rochester and the Village of Cuba. Additional greenway connections have been proposed to extend the greenway. The first connection is between Cuba (Allegheny County) and Hinsdale (Cattaraugus County). Once the Cuba to Hinsdale connection is completed, future plans include connecting Hinsdale to Olean, and then Olean to Allegheny State Park.

A trail was proposed for the **West Bank of Olean Creek** in the Northwest Quadrant Revitalization Plan, completed in October 2015 for the City of Olean. The trail is shown in the Master Plan on top of the flood control levee between North Union Street Extension at Boardman Park to James “App” Driscoll Park. The trail would provide public access to the water’s edge and a direct link between the two parks.



*Allegheny River Valley Trail*



## Hiking and Biking Trails, Existing

**Allegheny River Valley Trail** is a 6.2-mile, 10' wide asphalt handicapped accessible loop trail that runs between the Town of Allegheny and the City of Olean, through St. Bonaventure University along the Allegheny River. The trail meanders through a forested route for nearly three miles along the river, connecting Allegheny and Olean without crossing a single street. After this forested section, the trail loops north away from the river, passes along 20th Street through a residential area, and then follows Constitution Avenue.

From Constitution Avenue the trail heads east to Country Fair at the intersection of 12th and Buffalo Streets, and then uses sidewalks along Wayne Street to continue east to just west of the tracks. The trail then uses school-owned sidewalks south to Whitney Avenue, then heads east across North Union Street to the JCC Campus. The trail continues along JCC property, with a proposed trail extension south of East Avenue to East State Street to War Veterans Park. The trail is located on easements provided by numerous private property owners. A portion of the trail route currently uses sidewalks.

**Allegheny State Park (ASP)** has approximately 79 miles of hiking trails, 5.7 miles of paved multi-use trails for hiking and biking, as well as 24 miles of multi-use trails at the Art Roscoe Ski Touring Area. The multi-use trails are groomed for Nordic skiing in the winter, and attract mountain bikers in the summer and fall. The wide trails wind through mixed oak and hardwood old growth forests in the northern part of ASP, and offer views of the surrounding mountains, forests, and Red House Lake.

The **Finger Lakes Trail (FLT)** crosses through the planning area. The FLT is an east-west footpath system across NYS from the Alleghenys in the west to the Catskills in the east. The trail passes south of the Finger Lakes, and has several branches extending north of the main east-west route. The FLT passes through some of

the most varied and beautiful country in the east — forests, lakes, glacially sculpted hills and valleys, secluded glens and waterfalls. The FLT is also part of a larger trail system, the North Country Trail (NCT). More than 19 miles of the FLT/NCT wind through Allegheny State Park. The trail crosses the Allegheny River on Center Street in Salamanca and heads west to Sawmill Run as the trail continues to trend in a northeastern direction across the state.



*Genesee Valley Greenway, Cuba, NY. Photo credit: Cuba Friends of Architecture*

The **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park** is a 90-mile open space corridor that follows the route of the Genesee Valley Canal (1840-1878) and the Pennsylvania Railroad Rochester Branch (1882-1963) from the Erie Canalway Trail in Rochester's Genesee Valley Park to the Village of Cuba in Allegheny County. The greenway is a public, multi-use trail. The majority of the trail is an old railway bed that is a straight, level surface consisting of cinders, gravel and mowed grass. The Greenway passes through woodlands, wetlands, river and stream valleys, rolling farmlands, steep gorges, and historic villages in sixteen towns located in Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegheny, and Cattaraugus counties. The GVG connects to the Genesee River Trail, Finger Lakes Trail, Erie Canalway Trail, the Erie Attica Trail and the Lehigh Valley Trail. 60 of the 90 miles are now open. Future greenway development is described in the next section.



The **Pennsy Trail** is a nearly two-mile paved trail in the southern part of the City of Salamanca that was selected as the focus of a major revitalization project in 2014. Construction work started in 2016, with a targeted completion of Spring 2017. The trail work is a partnership between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the City of Salamanca, with funding from New York State. In addition to the paved trail, the improvements will include lighting, benches, informational signs, plantings, call boxes, lighting, cameras, and crosswalks at intersections. A future extension of the trail is planned to connect to the new walking trail on Broad Street.

The **Pat McGee Trail** is a 12.1-mile multi-use trail used by hikers, bicyclists, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and equestrians. This rails to trails conversion runs from the City of Salamanca, through the Village of Little Valley to the Village of Cattaraugus, with plans to extend the trail eventually to Zoar Valley and Gowanda.

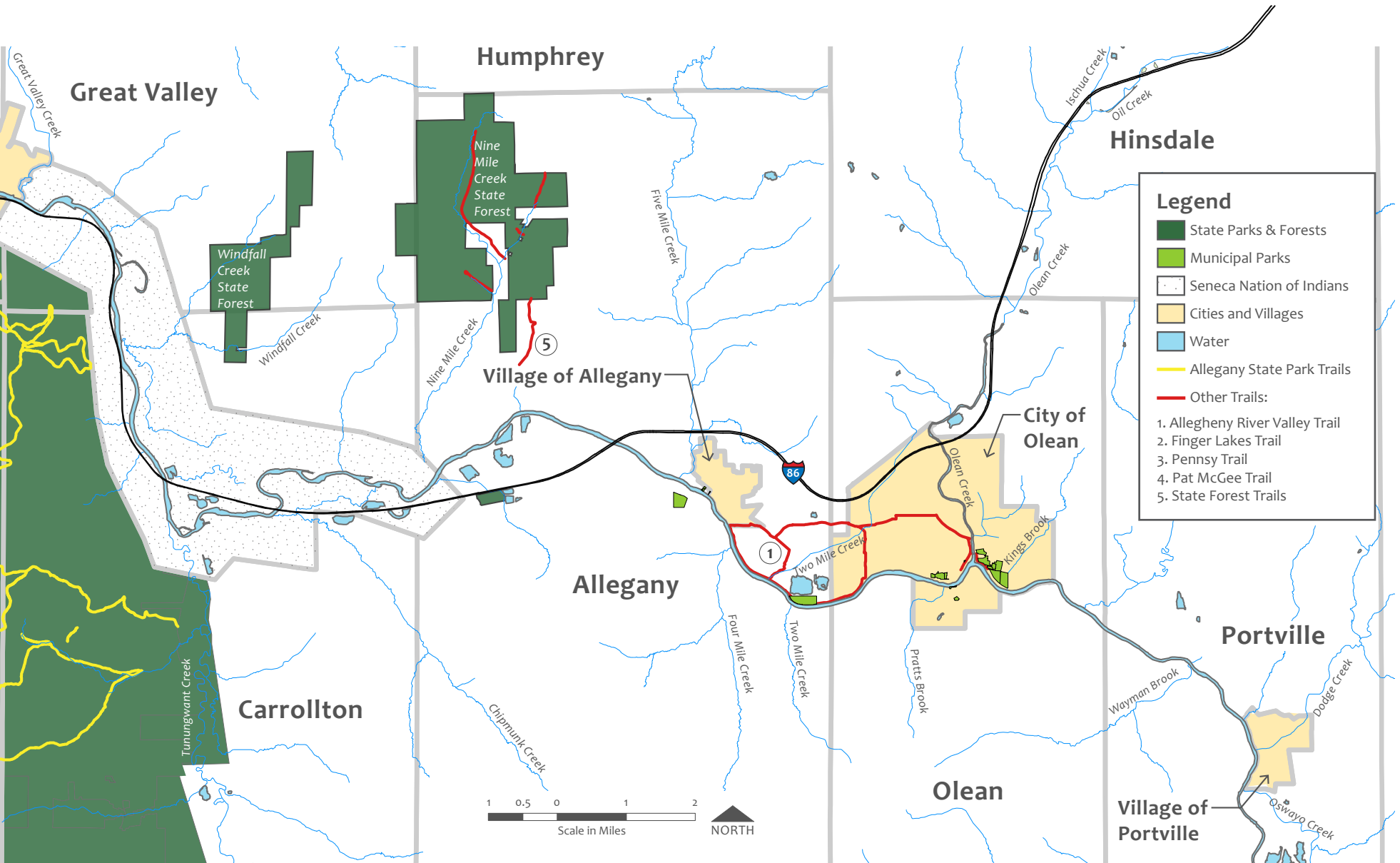
### Parks, Open Space, Natural Areas

**Allegheny River Park**, located on West Union Street in the Town of Allegheny, is situated on the north side of the Allegheny River. This 4.7-acre park has a playground, pavilions, softball fields, a basketball court, picnic tables, and access to the Allegheny River.

**Allegheny State Park (ASP)** is the largest park in the New York State park system, with 65,000 acres (101 square miles) of natural beauty for people to enjoy. The park is filled with rolling hills, forests, and lakes, and is open year-round with activities for every season. The park has amenities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, and swimming. The park has 3 campgrounds with a total of 319 campsites, 344 cabins (including 160 that are winterized), and 38 cottages. The park also has swimming beaches, boat launches, trails, athletic fields, picnic areas, and other park amenities. The park is located south of the City of Salamanca, primarily in the Town of Red House.

**Figure 6: Public Recreation**





**Boardman Park**, located on North Union Street Extension in the City of Olean, is situated on the west side of Olean Creek. This 3.6-acre city park has playground equipment, a parking area and a paved basketball court. A trail is proposed to connect to James “App” Driscoll Park along the west bank of Olean Creek.

**Chamberlain Park (Fulton Street Park)**, is located at Fulton and Adams Streets off East Henley in the City of Olean. This 0.25-acre park has playground equipment and is a transition point for the Allegheny River Valley Trail. Trail users transition from the trail to the river levees to get to 19th Street where the trail begins again.

**Elm Street Park**, located between Elm and East State Streets in the City of Salamanca, has a playground and a basketball court.

**Erie Street Park**, located on Erie Street in the City of Salamanca, has playground equipment and a basketball court.



*Gargoyle Park, Allegany*

**Forness Park**, located on Rowland Avenue in the City of Olean, is on the north side of the Allegheny River. This 43.1-acre city park has a number of athletic fields, a fishing pond, 2 playground areas, pavilions, restrooms, picnic areas, and parking for 225 vehicles.

**Franchot Park**, located on Franchot Boulevard in the City of Olean, is situated on the north side of the Allegheny River. This 10.5-acre park has a bathhouse and wading pool for children, athletic facilities, a fitness trail and jogging trail, a gazebo, pavilions, parking area and a playground.

**Gargoyle Park**, located on Gargoyle Road in the Town of Allegany, is situated on the north side of the Allegheny River. This 49.0-acre park has a large enclosed pavilion, a stage, parking area, and a playground. The Allegheny River Valley Trail runs along the southern edge of the park.

**Highland Street Park**, located on Highland Street in the City of Salamanca, has playground equipment and a basketball court.

**Irving Park**, located on Irving Street and South 11th Street in the City of Olean, is situated right next to the dike on the north side of the Allegheny River. This tiny 0.2-acre park has a picnic table, a small play area, and a bench.

**James “App” Driscoll Park**, located on River Street in the City of Olean, is situated on the west side of Olean Creek. This 3.5-acre park has a softball field and playground equipment. A trail is proposed to connect to Boardman Park along the west bank of Olean Creek.

**James J. Crowley Community Park**, located on Water Street in the City of Salamanca, is situated near the city center and on the north side of the Allegheny River. This large park has athletic fields (soccer, baseball, football), pavilions, picnic areas, playground equipment and river frontage.





*Paddling on the Allegheny River*

**Jefferson Park**, located on Jefferson Street in the City of Salamanca, is south of the Allegheny River. This small park is used for concerts and the Farmer's Market.

**Linn Launch**, on Steam Valley Road in Portville, is a public park and river access point located immediately adjacent to the south side of the Allegheny River. Linn Launch is an accessible facility with a floating launch, paved launch, seasonal restroom, parking for 10 vehicles, picnic tables and grills.

**Pioneer Park**, located in the Village of Portville, has historic monuments and a pavilion on the east side of Main Street, and a basketball court, sports fields, parking and a concession stand on the west side of Main Street. The facilities on the west side are in fairly close proximity to the north side of the Allegheny River.

**Pine Street Park**, located on Pine Street in the City of Salamanca, has playground equipment and a basketball court.

**School Street Park**, located on School Street in the City of Salamanca, has playground equipment and a basketball court.

**Simon Bolivar Triangle Park**, located on Broad Street in the City of Salamanca, is south of the Allegheny River. This small green space has benches, trees, parking, and a small memorial.

**South Avenue Park**, located on South Avenue in the City of Salamanca, has a youth center, basketball court, vegetable garden, large green space, playground equipment and exercise equipment.

**Sycamore Park**, located on Sycamore Street in the City of Salamanca, has courts for basketball, pickle ball, and tennis.

**Veterans Memorial Park**, located on Broad Street in the City of Salamanca, is south of the Allegheny River and near the high school. This large park has athletic fields (football, baseball), a basketball court and playground equipment. The bleachers are used for concerts and special events.

**War Veterans Park**, located at the corner of East State and Front Streets in the City of Olean, is situated on the east side of Olean Creek. This 9.3-acre park has playground equipment, an outdoor basketball court, a pavilion, a swimming pool and regulation size ice skating rink known as the William O. Smith Recreation Center/Ice Rink Complex.

### Hunting and Fishing

Cattaraugus County is a popular location for hunting and fishing. Fishing season on the Allegheny River is typically from late June to the end of November. Fish that can be found in the river include smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike and musky. Certain fish species, such as sauger, are protected and must be released by anglers if they are caught.

The Seneca Nation of Indians has exclusive rights to hunting and fishing in their territories. Other people are allowed to fish if they obtain a SNI Fishing License. Allegany State Park (ASP) is a popular destination for both hunting and fishing. Deer and small game hunting, as well as fishing, are permitted in designated areas of ASP with an appropriate New York State hunting or fishing license and a park permit.

### Boating

The Allegheny is navigable under appropriate water conditions in a hand-carried boat, such as a canoe or kayak. Navigation of the river may be impeded in low water conditions in the following locations by: two large pipes crossing the river near Olean; vertical log piles at Tunungwant Creek and above Portville; and shallow rifts between Salamanca and Red House.

A number of creeks flow into the Allegheny River that are also navigable by canoe or kayak under appropriate water conditions. These waterways include, but are not limited to: Great Valley Creek, Oswayo Creek, Tunungwant (Tuna) Creek, and Olean Creek as well its tributaries, Ischua Creek and Oil Creek.

### Boats and Outfitters

Conditions on the Allegheny River are not suited to rafting, and local rafting outfitters lead trips on Cattaraugus Creek instead. Despite the fact that the Allegheny River can be paddled in a hand-carried boat, most outfitters and guide services in the

region are neither renting boats nor leading paddling or fishing trips on this section of the river. Some exceptions are:

- Adventure Bound on the Fly, a sporting goods store and guide service out of Ellicottville, leads fly-fishing trips on waterways throughout the county, including the Allegheny River.
- Whitetail Country Sports World, a sporting goods store and guide service out of Olean, offers guided drift and wade fishing trips on waterways throughout Western NY and Northern PA, including the Allegheny River.

Evergreen Outfitters, located in Mayville, expressed future interest in leading paddling trips on the Allegheny River. Allegheny Outfitters, located in Warren, PA, rents boats, leads trips and provides shuttle services on sections of the Allegheny below Kinzua Dam in PA, but does not provide these services in NY.

The following options exist for people wishing to rent a canoe or kayak for use on the Allegheny River:

- Portville Central School District has 30 kayaks available for use by Portville residents. The kayaks were purchased through a physical education program grant.
- Riverhurst Park Campground, a privately owned campground located on the banks of the Allegheny River in the hamlet of Weston Mills, has canoes and kayaks available for rent by registered campers, as well as a boat launch on site. The owner indicated possible interest in expanding boat rentals to a larger audience in the future.
- Allegheny Adventures opened in June 2017, and is affiliated with Four Mile Brewing. The business provides kayaks and canoes, along with personal flotation devices. Allegheny Adventures has a truck and trailer to haul the boats to and from river access points in Portville, Olean, and Allegany. Boaters, however, are expected to arrange their own personal transportation.





CAUTION  
DROP OFF  
AT END  
OF RAMP



## River Access

The Allegheny River can currently be accessed from public access points in the following locations:

- Boat Launch, Front Ave/RC Hoag Drive, Salamanca
- Hillview Launch, Front Ave/Iroquois Drive, Salamanca
- Main Street Launch, Main Street Bridge, Salamanca
- Nine Mile Launch, South Nine Mile Road, Carrollton
- DEC Fishing Access Site, West River Road, Allegany
- Allegany Launch, Allegheny River Park, Allegany
- South Union Street Launch, West Riverside Drive, Olean
- Linn Launch, Steam Valley Road, Portville

Local residents also access the river in the following private and/or informal locations (please see numbered locations on the map):

1. Zawatski Launch, Great Valley Creek, Kill Buck
2. Private Access Point, 7th Street and Peck Road, Allegany
3. Informal Access Point, East of Two Mile Creek along Allegheny River Valley Trail, Allegany
4. Private Access Point, Two Mile Rd/West River Rd, Allegany
5. Riverhurst Park Campground, 1269 Olean-Portville Rd, Olean

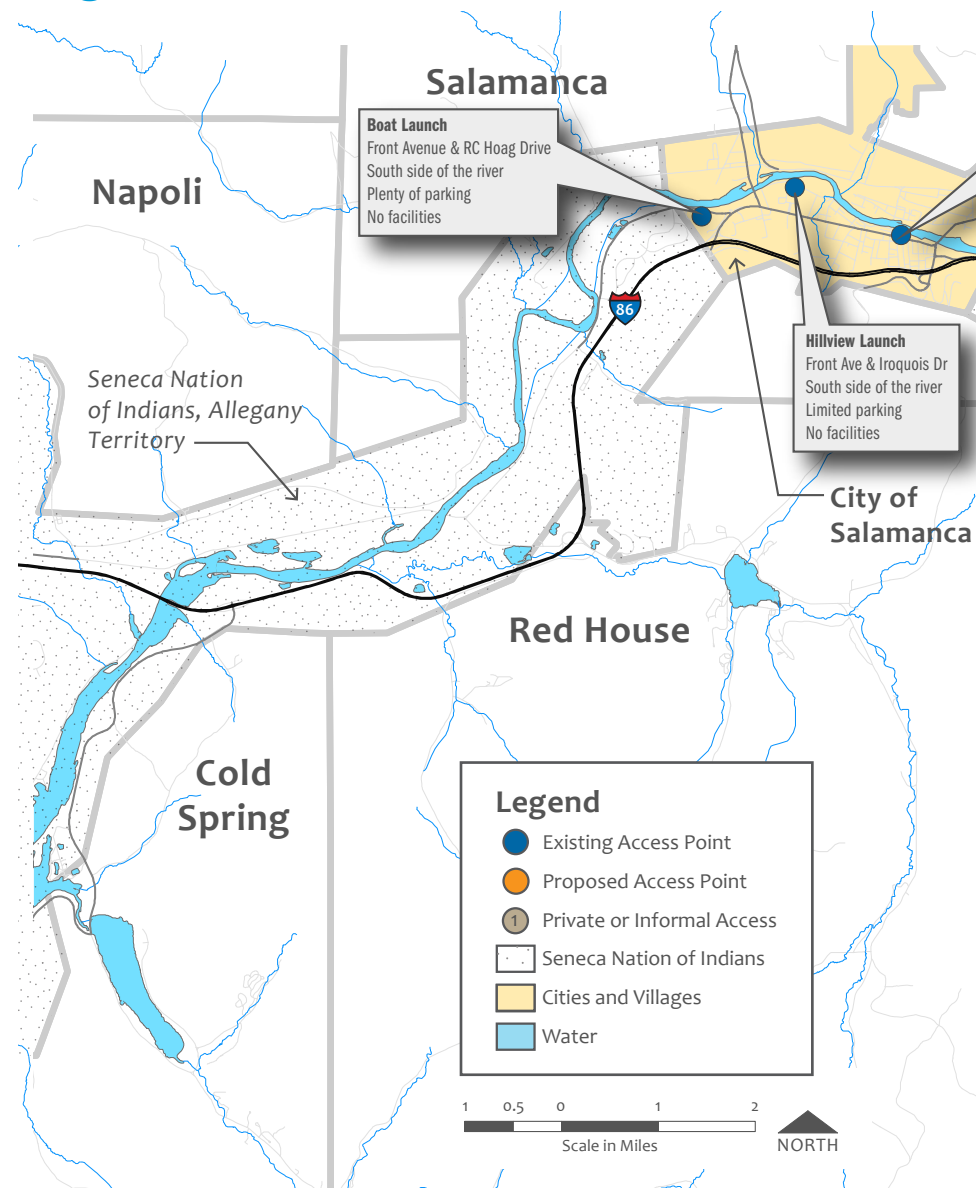
The following access points are proposed:

- Allegany Launch, Two Mile Road/West River Road, Allegany
- Brewery Launch, East Greene Street, Olean
- Water Well Launch, East River Road, Olean
- Dodge Creek Rest Stop, Paddle in-Paddle out, Portville
- Gleason Hollow Launch, Gleason Hollow Road, Portville

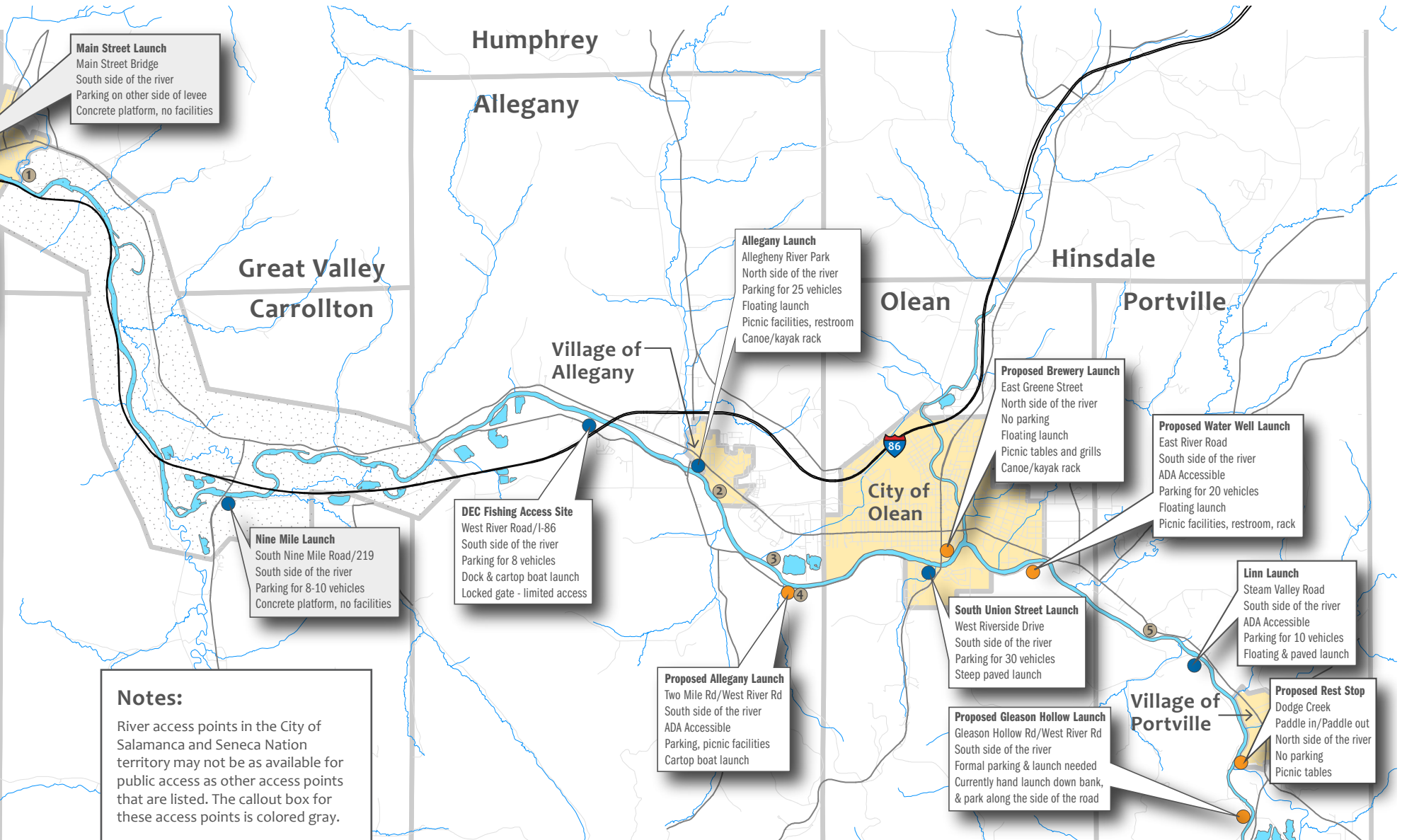
## Regattas

There are three annual regattas held in Cattaraugus County on the Allegheny River and its tributaries. The Great Valley Regatta is 10 miles long and is held in May on Great Valley Creek. The Falling Leaves Regatta is 7.8 miles and is held in September on Ischua Creek. The Wounded Warrior Regatta is held in June and is a 9 mile float down Oswayo Creek and the Allegheny River, benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project.

Figure 7: Water Access Points







## Natural Resources

### Waterways

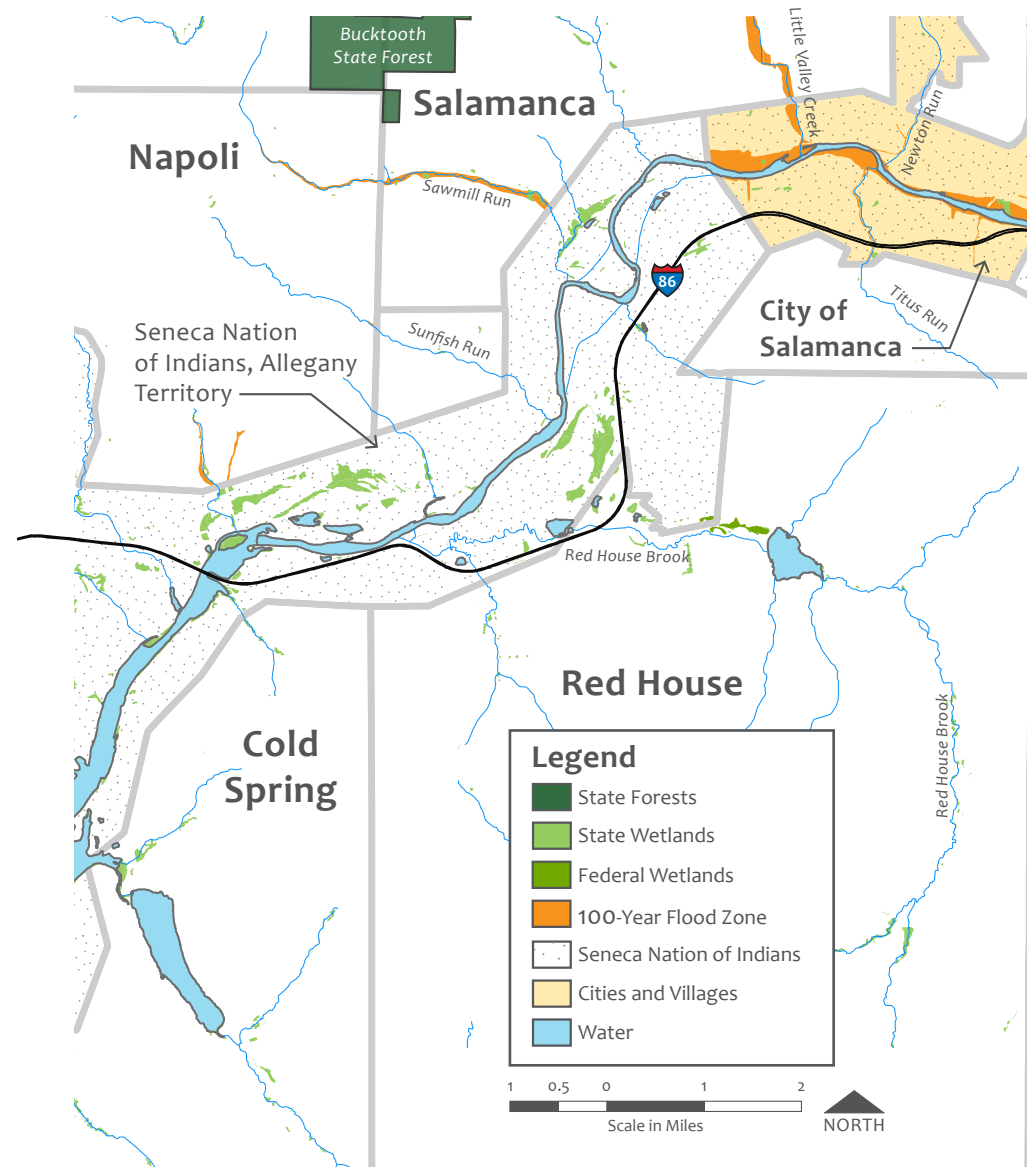
The Allegheny River begins in Pennsylvania, and meanders north to Cattaraugus County in New York. Along the river's path through New York, four major tributaries flow into the Allegheny. Olean Creek flows in from the north in the City of Olean. After flowing north from Bradford, Pennsylvania, Tunungwant (Tuna) Creek joins the river from the south in the Town of Carrollton. Great Valley Creek and Little Valley Creek join the river from the north in the City of Salamanca before the river becomes the Allegheny Reservoir.

Other minor tributaries, such as Five Mile Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Chipmunk Creek, and Red House Brook also join the waterway on its trip through Southern New York. The Allegheny then turns back to the south and re-enters Pennsylvania, flowing towards Pittsburgh. Overall, the Allegheny River is approximately 325 miles long, and one of the major tributaries of the Ohio River.

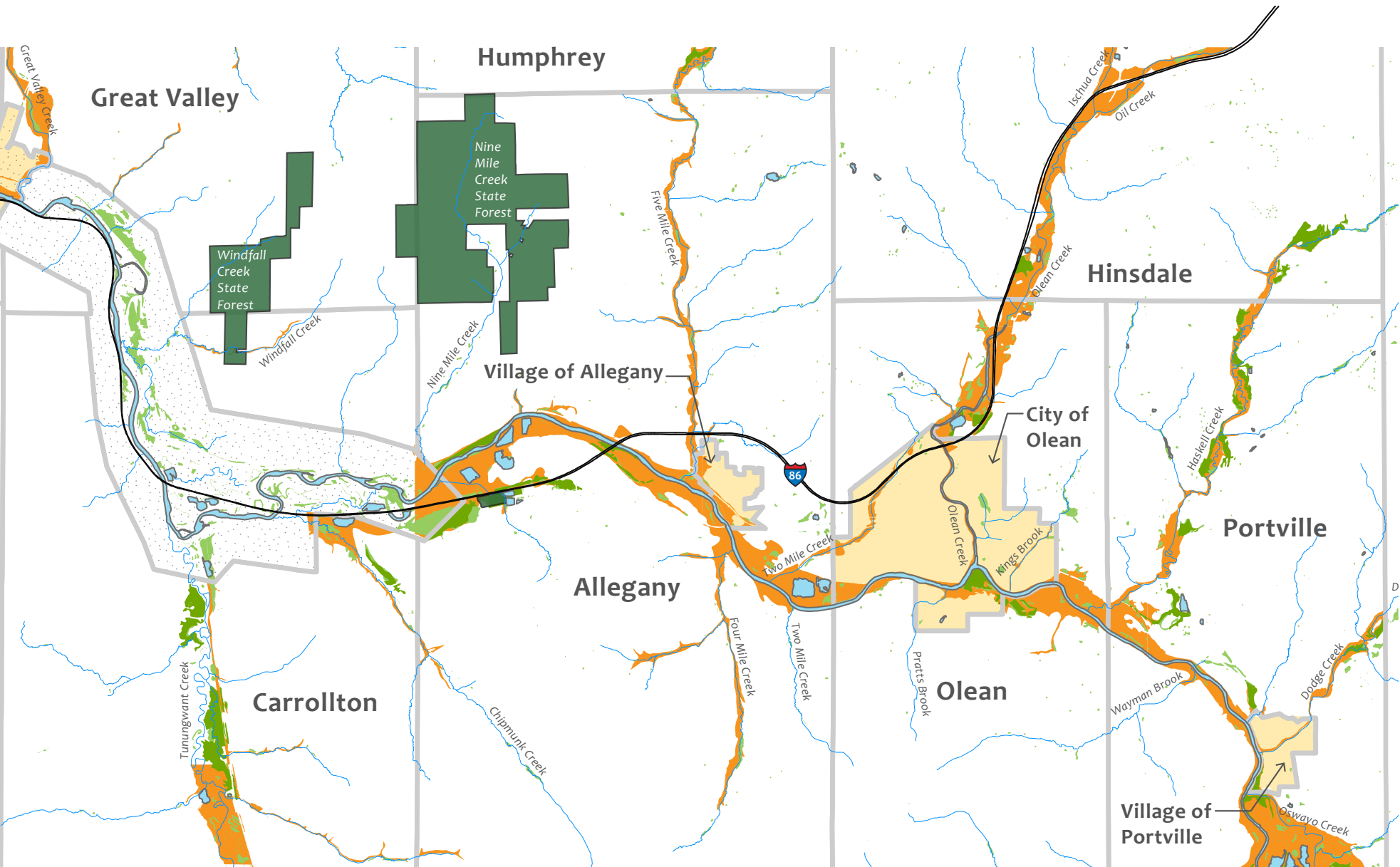
The waters of the Allegheny River are classified as a C and B level waterway, depending on the location. From Portville downstream to the Town of Allegany, the river is designated as a C classification, which means that the water can support fisheries, and is suitable for non-contact activities. In the western part of the Town of Allegany, the river's designation changes to a B classification, which means that the waters are somewhat better, and can be used for swimming and other contact recreation, but not for drinking water. The Allegheny River's B classification continues through to the middle of the City of Salamanca, where the classification reverts to C. The C classification continues until nearly the end of the planning area, where it reverts to a B classification in the last stretch of river flowing through the Town of Salamanca.

Streambank erosion is a problem throughout the planning area.

Figure 8: Natural Resources







## Wetlands

Adjacent to the river, there is significant acreage that is comprised of freshwater wetlands. Wetlands are transition areas between uplands and aquatic habitats that play an integral role in the natural environment. According to the NYSDEC, freshwater wetlands provide a number of ecological services, which include: flood and storm water control, fish and wildlife habitat, surface and groundwater protection, pollution treatment, nutrient cycling, erosion control, and protection of channels and harbors. Wetlands also provide recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and bird watching.

Development in (or near) wetlands is regulated by both the state and the federal government. The state maintains a database of state regulated wetlands through the NYSDEC, and the federal government maintains the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. State and federal wetlands are both located in the planning area. State-regulated wetlands are primarily located in the eastern portion of the planning area, but not in the western portion where the Allegheny Reservation is located. Federal wetlands are located throughout the planning area. Development practices should be minimized around critical wetland areas.

## Floodplains

Any land area susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters from any source is known as a floodplain. The most critical floodplain to consider is the 100-year floodplain, which is typically impacted by a flooding event once every 100 years. Development in these areas should be minimized and may be subject to NYSDEC review and permitting. In addition, each municipality should cooperate with Cattaraugus County in any flood mitigation planning to minimize the potential for property damage and loss of life due to future flooding. Significant portions of the planning area are located in the 100-year floodplain.



*Flood Levees, Allegheny River*



In much of the planning area, community residents are separated from the river by flood control levees. These grassy berms are designed to hold back flood waters from inundating the developed areas along the waterway. However, many of the levees have been decertified and are no longer recognized by the Army Corps of Engineers as a suitable flood control strategy.

## Wildlife

Most of the planning area is in the vicinity of one or more rare animals and/or rare plants. However, NYSDEC does not provide specific locations. Instead, generalized areas have been located on a map where New York State has information regarding rare animals and/or rare plants. These generalized areas are in the vicinity of actual, confirmed observations of rare animals and plants. The precise locations, as well as the name of the animal or plant, are not provided because some animals and plants can be harmed or disturbed by human activity.

Cattaraugus County is home to several species of fish and wildlife that are considered endangered, threatened or of special concern by the state or federal government. These include: the Rayed Bean (*Villosa fabalis*), mollusc - endangered; Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*), mollusc - endangered; Bluebreast Darter (*Etheostoma camurum*) fish - endangered; Gilt Darter (*Percina evides*) fish - endangered; Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), mammal - threatened; and the Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*), amphibian - special concern. The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been delisted in New York State and is no longer considered at risk.

If a project is within or near an area with a rare animal, a permit may be required if the species is listed as endangered or threatened and the NYSDEC determines the action may be harmful to the species or its habitat. If a project is within or near an area with rare plants and/or significant natural communities, the environmental impacts may need to be addressed.



Bald Eagle, Cattaraugus County



### Topography and Steep Slopes

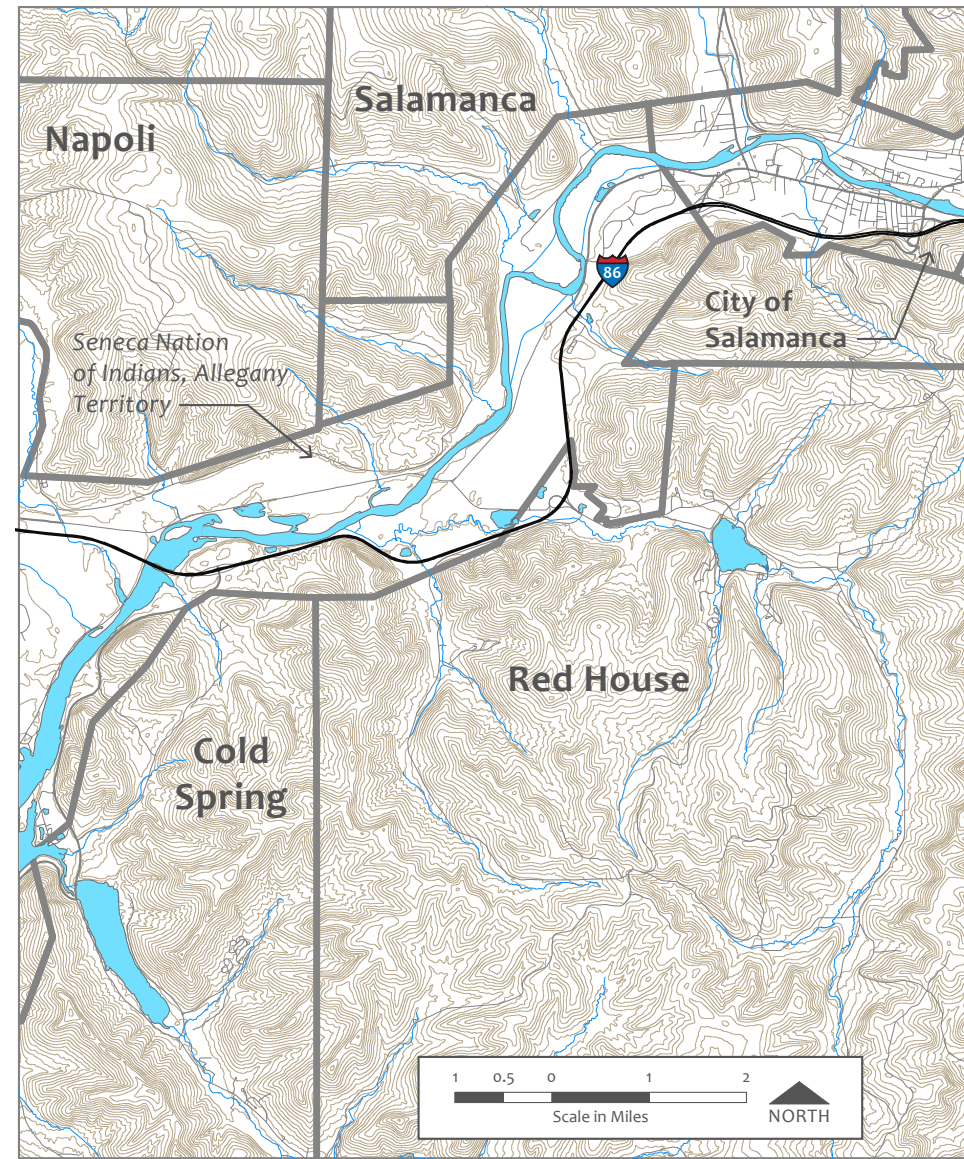
Situated on the western flank of the Allegheny Plateau, Cattaraugus County sits at an average elevation of about 1800 feet above sea level. The southern portion of Cattaraugus County is the only area of western New York that was not affected by the glaciation of the last ice age. For this reason, the topography is noticeably more rugged than neighboring areas, which had peaks rounded and valleys filled by the glacier. The entire area appears mountainous but is actually a dissected plateau that was formed by river flow. A continental divide between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds runs through the county. The Allegheny River drains into the Mississippi River watershed.

Despite Cattaraugus County's current promotional nickname as the "Enchanted Mountains", the county's heights are typically described as hills. There are only two comparatively small "mountains" (Mount Seneca and Mount Tuscarora), both of which are located in Allegany State Park. The area around the Allegheny River is flat in most areas, formed by fluctuating water levels. In a number of locations throughout the planning area, sloping hillsides abut the waterway. This can be seen in Figure 9. The contours are shown at 40 foot intervals.

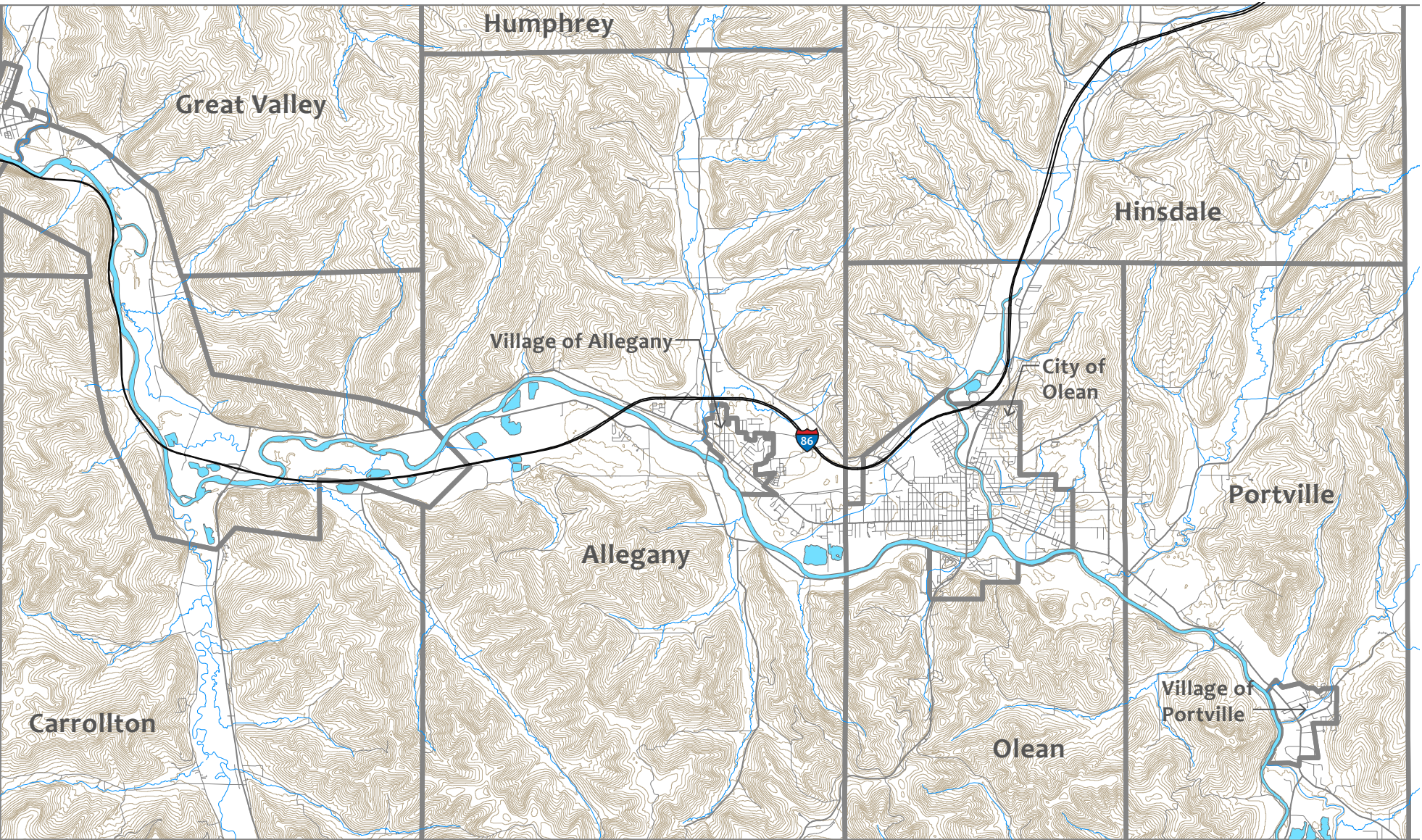
### Important Agricultural Lands

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, between 1996 and 2010 the number of farms in Cattaraugus County increased (from 1,050 to 1,120), but the land in farms decreased (from 210,000 acres to 179,000 acres). The 2007 Agricultural Census identified 1,122 farms in the county with an average size of 163 acres. On these farms, 550 farmers considered farming their primary occupation, while another 572 farmers had a different primary occupation. Agricultural districts are primarily located outside of the planning area, with a few exceptions in Portville, Allegany, and Great Valley.

Figure 9: Topography









## Environmental Concerns

### Olean Well Field (East Olean Superfund Site)

The Olean Well Field is a 1.5-square mile superfund site located in East Olean on the south side of the Allegheny River in the Town of Olean. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the well field includes three public and 50 private wells contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as trichloroethylene (TCE). Much of the groundwater contamination is believed to be the result of industrial operations at several nearby commercial establishments.

Contamination was discovered in 1981. Use of the public wells was discontinued after detection of the TCE and an old surface water filtration plant was reactivated to provide water to city residents. In 1990, the public wells were reactivated after two air strippers were installed to treat the groundwater. Following immediate actions to protect human health and the environment, the EPA placed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in September 1983.

Site investigations and long-term cleanup efforts are ongoing. The site is not considered ready for use, but human exposure is considered "under control". The EPA lists the groundwater status as "contaminated ground water migration is under control", which indicates that:

- all information on known and reasonably expected ground water contamination has been reviewed,
- the migration of contaminated ground water has stabilized,
- there is no unacceptable discharge to surface water, and
- monitoring will be conducted to confirm that affected groundwater remains in the original area of contamination.

### Exxon Mobil Allegheny River Remediation

Exxon Mobil Environmental Services Company has proposed dredging the Allegheny River to remove 1,000 cubic yards of petroleum-impacted sediment. Dredging will be located at the foot of the 7th Street bridge in the City of Olean, near the intersection of South 7th Street and West Green Street. The work will have to navigate the flood control levee that is in between the river and the staging area.

The contamination in the river has been attributed to historic discharges from a stormwater outfall (located immediately south of 7th Street) that serviced the former Standard Oil Company of New York (SOCONY) refinery and other industries in northern Olean. Officials at Exxon Mobil (the successor company to SOCONY) have volunteered to address this contamination, and as of March 2017, were working with State and Federal agencies to get all of the required permit and approvals with the intention of starting work in the Summer of 2017. Dredging is expected to last 1 to 2 months.



*Vicinity of Proposed Dredge Area, Allegheny River*



## Infrastructure

### Roadways

The project planning area is served by a number of local roadways, as well as regional routes and a major highway. Historically, the steep topography confined transportation routes primarily to the valleys. The first regional transportation corridor was the Allegheny River, which subsequently defined the corridor for roadway development and later for railways. Outside of the cities and villages, the overland routes often parallel the river and local streams. The following list includes the primary roadways in the project planning area.

**Table 3: Key Roadways in the Planning Area**

Roadway	Type
Interstate 86/NYS Route 17	Major East-West Highway
US Route 219	Regional North-South Route
NYS Route 16	Regional North-South Route
NYS Route 305	Regional North-South Route
NYS Route 353	Regional North-South Route
NYS Route 417	Regional East-West Route

### Bike Routes

State Bicycle Route 17 is a signed, on-road bicycle route that extends 442 miles from State Bicycle Route 9 in the Village of Wappingers Falls to State Bicycle Route 517 in the Village of Westfield on the shores of Lake Erie. Bike Route 17 is one of only a few state-designated bicycle touring routes. The bicycle route consists of signage along a network of NYS roadways that approximately follows I-86 but is not actually located on I-86. This route runs through the Southern Tier, including various streets in the City of Salamanca, and then along Route 417 towards Allegany, Olean, Portville and other points east.

### Water and Sewer

Many residents of the project planning area are served by individual sewage disposal systems, primarily individual septic systems, and by private, individual water wells. However, municipal water supply and sanitary sewer disposal systems serve some portions of the planning area. These municipal systems play an important role in the future growth of the area. This section provides an overview of the water and sewer infrastructure that currently exists in the planning area.

The City of Salamanca has municipal water and sewer services provided by the Salamanca Board of Public Utilities. Water and sewer services are also provided to two additional areas: the Kill Buck area of Great Valley and an area in the Town of Salamanca north of the city along Newton and Erie Streets.

The Town of Carrollton has municipal water and sewer services in the Hamlet of Limestone. The rest of the Town does not have municipal water and sewer services.

The Town of Allegany has three sanitary sewer districts and five water districts, but not all areas within the districts necessarily have service. Water districts encompass all areas of the Town. However, municipal water service is only available in a small part of the Town, generally in the vicinity of the Village of Allegany where development is the most dense.

The Village of Allegany and the City of Olean both have municipal water and sewer services. The Town of Olean has a small sewer district adjacent to the City of Olean.

The Village of Portville has municipal water and sewer service. The Town of Portville has limited service where there are extensions from other municipal systems. These include the Happy Hollow Sewer District and the Weston Mills Water District, which connect to the City of Olean. The Village of Portville also provides service to a few locations in the Town along Route 417.

## Historic Resources

### National Register Sites and Districts

Historically, development was often concentrated near waterways. Thus, it is not surprising that there are properties in the planning area that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All of the historic sites and historic districts that are located in the planning area are located in Olean and Portville.

**Table 4: Historic Properties and Districts Listed in the National Register of Historic Places**

Property Name	Municipality
Beardsley - Oliver House	Olean
Conklin Mountain House	Olean
Oak Hill Park Historic District	Olean
Olean Armory	Olean
Olean Public Library	Olean
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Complex	Olean
Union & State Streets Historic District	Olean
U.S. Post Office	Olean
Portville Free Library	Portville
William E. Wheeler House	Portville

### Archaeological Resources

The planning area, which follows the path of the Allegheny River, is likely to contain archaeological sites. However, these sites are sensitive and cannot be listed in a public document. Future development efforts will need to coordinate with the New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation and the Seneca Nation of Indians to ensure that future development does not impact a sensitive area.

The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District prepared the Seneca Nation of Indians Cultural Resources Inventory in 1993, which included a study of archaeological sites on SNI lands, reviewing and compiling records from several key institutions, and preparing GIS mapping and documentation of the sites. This excellent resource is the property of the Seneca Nation. According to the City of Salamanca Comprehensive Plan, five archaeological sites were identified in the City of Salamanca alone. This suggests other sites are likely in the project planning area.

### Museums

Cattaraugus County has a rich history that is, in part, preserved and recorded in local museums and visitors centers. Some of the organizations that run these museums also conduct events. For example, the African-American Center for Cultural Development has organized a “Walking Tour of African American History in Olean”, which includes stops that were historically on the Underground Railroad.

**Table 5: Museums and Visitors Centers Located in Municipalities Adjacent to the Allegheny River**

Museum	Municipality
African-American Center for Cultural Development	Olean
Cutco – Ka-Bar Visitors Center	Olean
Fannie E. Bartlett House & Olean Point Museum	Olean
Pfeiffer Nature Center	Portville
Portville Historical & Preservation Society Museum	Portville
Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts	Allegany
Saint Bonaventure University Archives	Allegany
Salamanca Historical Society Museum	Salamanca
Salamanca Rail Museum	Salamanca
Seneca-Iroquois National Museum	Salamanca



## Visitors and Tourism

The area has an established brand in the “Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County”, which is used to communicate images of beautiful scenery; forested, rolling hills; and clean, sparkling lakes. The County’s website further describes the area: “Located in Western New York’s scenic uplands, Cattaraugus County is a panorama of thriving communities, rolling farmlands, forests and picturesque waterways.” The Enchanted Mountains website is full of useful maps, photos, and information. Website visitors can request brochures and other tourist-related information tailored to their needs, which is sent in a timely manner, free of charge.

The County also has interactive tourist materials. An Enchanted Mountains of Western NY app can be downloaded to a mobile device to have information readily available about activities, places and events. In addition, the County has a GIS-based interactive outdoor map available online, the Cattaraugus County Outdoor Viewer, that can be downloaded from the Enchanted Mountains website. The Viewer can be used to see hunting and fishing access points, shops, environmental features (such as state land, water bodies, and topography) and aerial photos.



## Lodging and Accommodations

There are a variety of places to stay throughout Cattaraugus County. Accommodations include rustic camping, public & private campgrounds, cabins and cottages, bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels, and vacation rentals. Places to stay can be found on the County’s website: [enchantedmountains.com/stay](http://enchantedmountains.com/stay).



*A sampling of the festivals and events happening in Cattaraugus County. To find a full listing, visit: [enchantedmountains.com/events](http://enchantedmountains.com/events)*

## Festivals and Events

Communities and businesses throughout Cattaraugus County invite visitors and residents to attend a variety of events and festivals that occur from the first day of the year to the very last. Many of the festivals and events utilize local parks and open space areas along the river. Holiday Valley Ski Area, Allegany State Park, Pfeiffer Nature Center, and Creekside Roundup are among the many organizations that host events and festivals.

Cabin at Allegany State Park. Photo credit: Allegany State Park Facebook page.





*Spring on the Allegheny River. Photo credit: Bob Fischer.*



## Economic Development

### Education, Income, & Employment

To provide context to economic development in Cattaraugus County (and the project planning area), it is helpful to examine demographic data. The U.S. Census Bureau reports the following data in the 2011-2015 American Community Survey.

Of Cattaraugus County residents age 25 and older, 87.9% are a high school graduate (or higher), and 17.8% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The median household income in the county is \$42,601. (This compares with a median household income in New York State of \$59,269.) Of the nearly 78,000 county residents, 18.3% live in poverty. This includes 27.7% of children under the age of 18.

Of county residents age 16 and older, 59.3% are in the labor force. Most (59.2%) are in the civilian labor force. 40.7% of the population is not in the labor force, and there is an unemployment rate of 8.2%. The mean travel time to work is 21.8 minutes.

Cattaraugus County residents in the civilian work force occupy the following employment classes:

- 73.9% are private wage and salary workers,
- 19.8% are government workers,
- 6.1% are self-employed (in own not incorporated business), and
- 0.3% are unpaid family workers.

These same workers have occupations in the following sectors:

- 27.7% in management, business, science and arts,
- 24.6% in sales and office,
- 20.7% in service,
- 15.7% in production, transportation, and material moving, and
- 11.4% in natural resources, construction, and maintenance.

### Economy

The U.S. Census Bureau reported the following 2012 economic measures for Cattaraugus County:

- Total accommodation and food service sales: \$128,626,000
- Total health care & social assistance revenue: \$324,516,000
- Total manufacturers shipments: \$1,558,645,000
- Total merchant wholesaler sales: \$637,700,000
- Total retail sales: \$1,091,488,000
- Total retail sales per capita: \$13,737

The City of Olean is Cattaraugus County's industrial and retail hub. The Olean-Allegany area's vast range of employers range from the CUTCO Cutlery International Headquarters to the St. Bonaventure University Campus.

### Tourism

Tourism is a \$220 million industry in Cattaraugus County that sustains nearly 5,000 jobs and provides more than \$100 million in labor income. In 2015, travelers spent \$35 million on lodging, \$46 million on recreation, \$54 million on food and beverages, \$38 million on retail and service stations, \$4 million on transportation, and \$41 million on second homes. Tourism generates 8.8% of the county's income. 17% of all employment is sustained by visitors. Tourism-generated taxes save each household in the county \$799.

The tourism industry ranks second in Cattaraugus County as a result of the natural beauty and abundance of four season outdoor activities that can be enjoyed throughout the region. These features attract visitors but are also helpful for businesses working to attract and retain employees and their families. New York State's largest state park is located within the county, and over 1.5 million visitors come to enjoy the beauty of Allegany State Park and the region. Other unique destinations include Griffis Sculpture Park, the Seneca Nation of Indians, Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, and the Amish Trail.

# Community Participation

Widespread and meaningful public participation provides the opportunity for residents, visitors, property owners, business owners, and community leaders to engage in the planning process. When people are engaged early and consistently, the process is more useful and meaningful for all involved. Planners are able to hear what people value in their community, and understand the important issues that need to be addressed. Participants have the opportunity to ensure that the planning efforts respond to their ideas and concerns. A successful planning process often leads to excitement and plan ownership, which is needed to enact positive change.

## Community Involvement

There were many opportunities for people to get involved in the development of the Allegheny River Public Access & Recreation Plan. These included: project advisory committee meetings, a community workshop, stakeholder meetings “in a box”, a community survey, an intermediate community meeting to review and provide input on the draft plan, and a final public meeting to review the final plan. These sessions were instrumental in developing and clarifying a cohesive community-based vision for the river corridor, which provided a strong foundation for the Allegheny River Public Access & Recreation Plan.

Developing a community-based vision is a critical part of developing a plan, whether for a neighborhood, a city or a regional asset, like a river corridor. Community members do not often have the opportunity to get together and discuss their region in a positive and constructive manner. The objective of a community design and planning workshop is to systematically evaluate an area’s issues, opportunities, and assets and then develop an ideal image of what the community or region will be

like in years to come. This image or vision should be big picture and reflect the shared values of local residents.

**Having a vision can motivate community residents by providing a long-term goal. However, it is important to remember that a vision is an ideal state. This ideal state may not be fully realized but it can and should guide the actions and choices of the community.**

## Community Workshop #1

The City of Olean held the first of three community meetings on October 12, 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on the Jamestown Community College Campus in Olean, NY. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit public input regarding community and local waterfront issues, opportunities and goals for the future. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, including residents, property owners, business owners, and local government officials.

The meeting was organized in an open house format with four activity stations. Participatory exercises were used at the activity stations to help attendees focus on community issues, opportunities, and assets and to develop a long-term vision to help guide development and redevelopment along the Allegheny River. The following pages include a description of the activity stations and the results.





3

What is your  
idea?





## Postcard to Aunt Sally

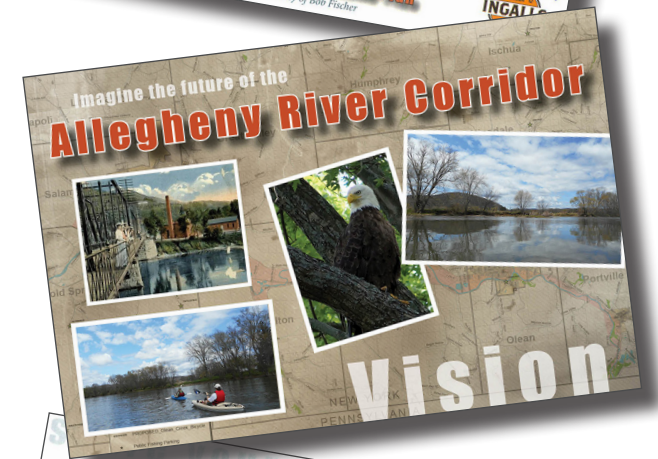
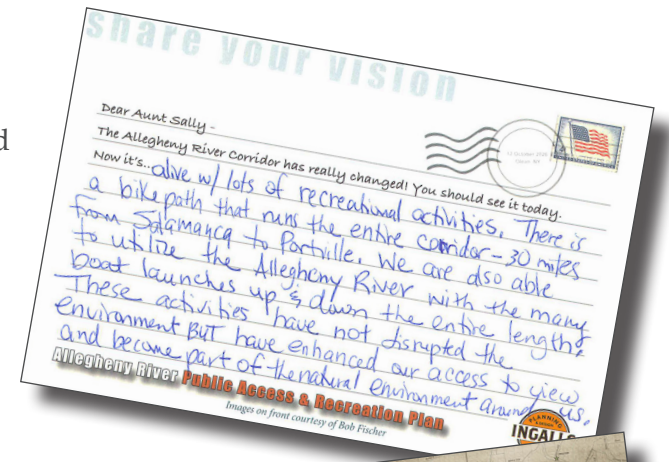
Meeting participants were asked to imagine that their fictitious Aunt Sally had moved away from the area and that ten years had passed. They were asked to write her a postcard describing what had happened in the Allegheny River Corridor since she left. In their message to 'Aunt Sally', participants described their vision for the future of the river corridor. Participants imagined that many wonderful changes had happened to improve access to recreation around the Allegheny River. The comments primarily related to river access, recreational features, and tourism.

Meeting participants considered:

1. What changes have occurred to make the Allegheny River easier and better to use?
2. What is your vision for the Allegheny River corridor?

The results of this exercise revealed the following key elements:

- Visual character:** A clean and beautiful corridor where the improvements are integrated in a way that has not disrupted the natural environment.
- Water access:** Canoe and kayak launch points every few miles that are ADA accessible, with easy access and parking.
- Recreational trails:** A welcoming trail along the river from Portville to Salamanca, with connections to other trails (e.g. Pat McGee Trail) and destinations (e.g. Allegany State Park), possibly paved and well lit.
- Trail amenities:** Picnic areas with grills, clean restroom facilities, and water fountains.
- Destinations:** New restaurants, shops and destinations throughout the corridor, with access for paddlers. Suggestions included kayak and bike rentals, ice cream, restaurants with music, and breweries/ brewpubs.
- Tourism:** The natural beauty and recreational opportunities attract tourists.





## Other Workshop Results

### Mapping

The mapping station centered on a large map of the Allegheny River as it flows through the towns, villages and cities in the project planning area. This 30-mile stretch of river varies through different seasons and different years. The purpose of the station was to help the consultant team understand the issues and opportunities related to current and future use of the river corridor. The questions at this station addressed scenic views and vistas, access to the river, and stream bank erosion.

Meeting attendees discussed their thoughts with project staff, and all of the comments and ideas were recorded with corresponding map notations. The results of this exercise revealed that meeting attendees were most interested in discussing trails and river access. No comments were received about scenic views/vistas and streambank erosion. Attendees identified a variety of locations where people are formally or informally accessing the Allegheny River for paddling and fishing. (These locations can be seen in Figure 7 in the previous chapter.) Attendees also identified opportunities to consider, and listed concerns about specific hiking and boating locations.

### Cardstorming

The cardstorming station asked participants to identify their highest priority for improving public access and recreation along the Allegheny River corridor. Answers were limited to a few words written on a post-it-note. Post-it notes were placed on the wall and categorized. As the wall began to fill, the facilitator began organizing the post-it-notes according to topic, and over the course of the evening, some trends emerged that identify the most important opportunities. The responses were grouped into the following six categories:

- Trails:** Prioritize extending the bike trails (9 responses)
- Access:** Additional access points/boat launches (9 responses)
- Tourism:** Make the corridor a tourism destination (5 responses)
- Cleanliness:** Clean up the river and banks (4 responses)
- Amenities:** Place portable restrooms along the corridor (4 responses)
- Varied:** Miscellaneous priorities, including a covered bridge (2 responses)

## A MEETING IN A BOX

To encourage increased participation throughout the 30-mile planning area, members of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) were asked to conduct a “meeting in a box”. The meeting was designed to be easy to facilitate, using activities that were prepared in advance by the consultant team. Two such meetings were held in November 2016.

One meeting was organized by Bob and Holly Fischer at the Town of Portville municipal building with 12 members of the Portville Paddlers. A second meeting was organized by Kate O’Stricker at the Cattaraugus County Center in Little Valley with 18 participants at the County Trails meeting.

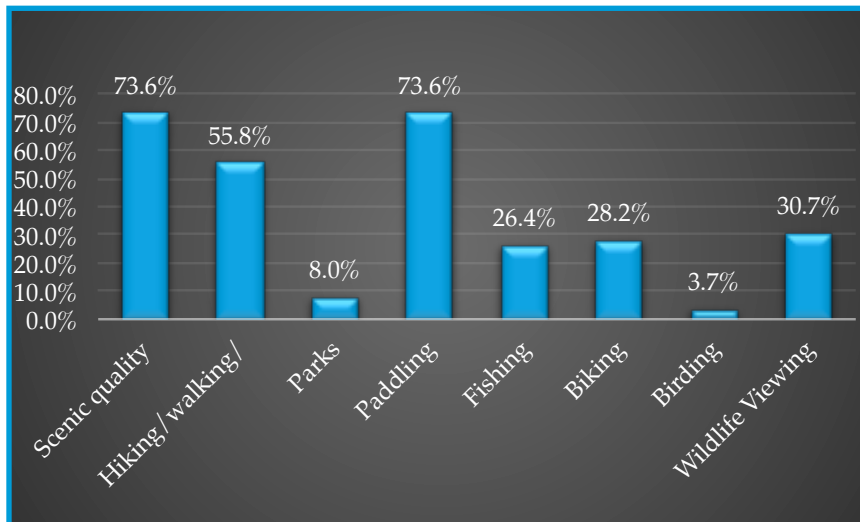
Attendees were asked to list strengths/assets and weaknesses/challenges in the first exercise. In the second exercise, attendees identified a vision and recommendations for the river corridor.

## Survey Results

To solicit input from a greater number and variety of people, the consultant team developed and administered an online survey. Two laptops were provided at the October workshop for attendees to participate in the survey. A total of 163 people completed the on-line survey, either at the workshop or on their own.

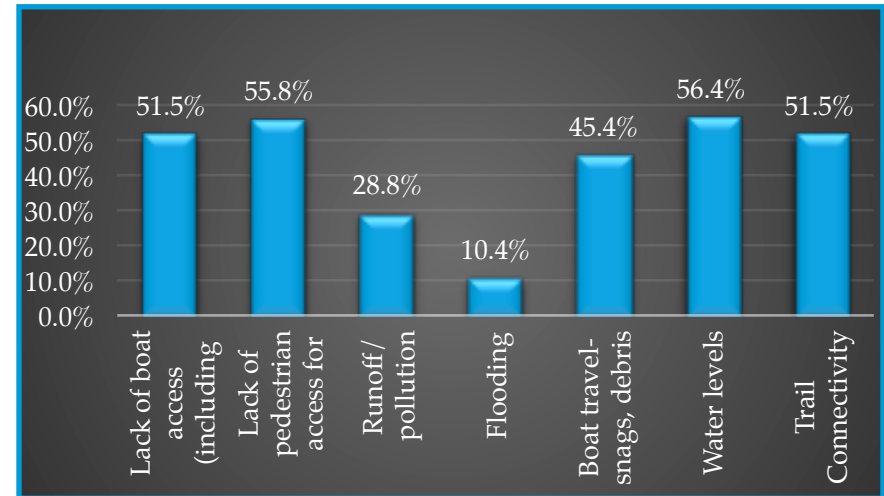
The survey included 22 questions related to assets, opportunities and issues of the project planning area. The survey also queried respondents about desired amenities, including existing and desired water-related activities. Finally, the survey collected input about parking and safety, as well as respondent demographics.

**Survey Question:** In your opinion, what are the best assets of the Allegheny River? (Please pick your top 3 choices.)



Survey respondents most frequently selected the following responses regarding the top three assets of the Allegheny River: scenic quality (120 responses - 74%), paddling (120 responses - 74%), and hiking/walking/running (91 responses - 56%).

**Survey Question:** In your opinion, what are the most important issues that need to be addressed in the Allegheny River corridor? (Please pick your top 3 choices.)



Regarding the top 3 most important issues that need to be addressed, the number one response was water levels at 56% (92 responses). Second was lack of pedestrian access for hiking/walking/running with 56% (91 responses) followed by a tie for third between lack of boat access (including ADA compliant access) and trail connectivity, both of which received 52% (84 responses).

Approximately 60% (98 responses) believe that there is sufficient parking in the river corridor. However, many locations were suggested for more parking.



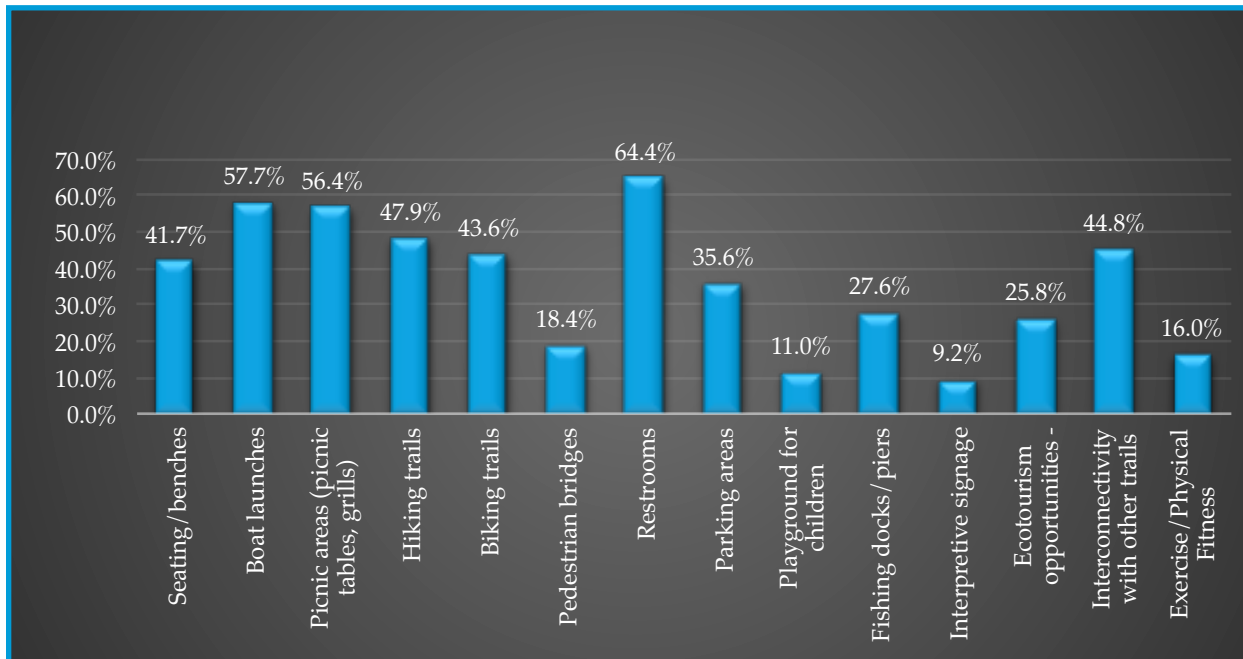
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Kayak/canoe paddling was the most frequently selected activity that residents currently enjoy (or wish to enjoy) along the Allegheny River corridor.

Approximately 78% of respondents said that they currently feel safe when utilizing the existing trails along the Allegheny River corridor.

72% of responses indicated that additional boat launch locations are needed, while 88% of responses supported the installation of additional restrooms. A variety of locations were suggested for both.

65% of survey respondents indicated that improved cell phone coverage is important.



**Survey Question:** What amenities would you like to see included along the river corridor in the future? (Please pick your top 5 choices.)

The top five amenities the respondents would like to see included along the river corridor in the future were:

- restrooms 64% (105 responses),
- boat launches 58% (94 responses),
- picnic areas 56% (92 responses),
- hiking trails 48% (78 responses), and
- biking trails 44% (71 responses).

# Key Findings

## Issues, Opportunities, and Assets

All of the feedback that was received in the Fall of 2016 regarding issues, opportunities and assets related to public access and recreation in the Allegheny River Corridor has been distilled into the following summary of key findings. These findings include input received at the project advisory committee meetings, the first community workshop, the two meetings in a box, and the online survey. The key findings subsequently informed the project vision and goals.

## ISSUES

The following issues are key concerns that were identified:

- Fluctuating water levels
- River access is limited by number of launch sites and levees
- Pedestrian access and safety
- Trail connectivity
- Parking is inadequate
- Garbage and debris in the river and along the banks
- Facilities are needed - restrooms, picnic areas, camping
- Flooding, runoff, and pollution
- Lack of canoe and kayak rental options
- Signage and maps are needed
- Flood levees and regulatory agencies (NYSDEC, USACOE)
- Intermittent cell phone coverage, limited service to 911

## OPPORTUNITIES

The following opportunities were identified by project stakeholders and the general public:

- Create additional access points and boat launches.
- Extend hiking and biking trails and connect to other trail corridors, such as the Genesee Riverway Trail.
- Use the flood levees for trail purposes.
- Develop signage to address wayfinding and regional history, including mile markers for hiking/paddling distances. Communicate where facilities and attractions are located.
- Develop cell phone app for finding amenities along the river.
- Partner with various organizations, such as the Seneca Nation of Indians, Friends of Olean Area Hiking Group, and Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway.
- Evaluate existing regattas and assess ways to expand, enhance and promote regatta activity on the river and tributaries.
- Enhance the corridor's presence as a tourist destination by promoting existing opportunities (multiple activities in four seasons), developing new amenities and promoting the corridor as a multi-state waterway.
- Encourage the development of more lodging options with convenient river and trail access, including primitive camping, RV camping, and bed & breakfasts.
- Develop additional waterfront facilities, such as restrooms and picnic areas, to encourage better use of the river.
- Encourage the development of water-dependent businesses, such as outfitters that offer guided fishing and paddling trips and rent canoes and kayaks.

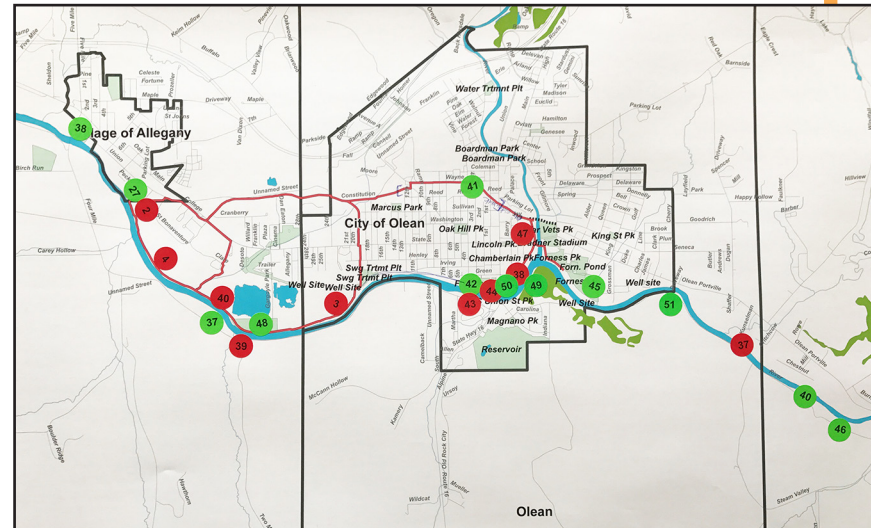


## ASSETS

The following assets were identified as strengths of the Allegheny River Corridor:

- Outdoor activities, such as paddling, hiking, walking, running, wildlife viewing, biking, fishing, birding, and swimming.
- Scenic quality and natural beauty.
- Parks and open space, including Allegheny State Park.
- Boat launches and access points to get on and off the water to experience local attractions on shore.
- Existing trails that offer four season activities.
- Local businesses and attractions, including restaurants, the new campground in Kinzua and the covered bridge (under construction).
- The size, length and diversity of the Allegheny River, which meanders from NY to PA and back.
- The length of the corridor through the county and several communities is helpful for cost sharing of improvements and for bringing people to the area.
- Easy access to the region from Routes 86 and 417.
- Strong communities with great people.
- Existing regattas on Allegheny River and tributaries.

# Key findings informed the project vision and goals.



Map from Community Workshop, October 2016.

# Project Vision and Goals

A vision statement helps to answer the question, 'Where do we want to go?'. It is a broad description of the values and desired identity of the community. The vision statement can also provide a pragmatic guide for the future. When faced with a challenge or dilemma related to the project area, the vision statement should help to guide the decision-making process.

This Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan was developed with the participation of many passionate citizens that live, work, and play within the area surrounding the Allegheny River in New York and Pennsylvania. They came together to share their concerns and ideas and express their vision for the area. As defined through this process, the overall vision for the river corridor is captured in the following vision statement and goals:

## VISION

**The scenic Allegheny River Corridor will be recognized as a regional asset and destination where all people can enjoy a network of trails and a beautiful waterway with a growing number of restaurants and attractions nearby. Improved facilities in the river corridor will promote tourism and encourage visitors to spend time along the river while conserving and protecting the natural resources of the area. Increased tourism and recreational activities will encourage the revitalization of the riverside communities throughout the region.**



# GOALS

## Connectivity & Collaboration

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Collaborate with other communities along the Allegheny River in both New York and Pennsylvania to jointly promote the river corridor and the surrounding region in bold and creative ways. Each community can emphasize its own features while supporting those of the adjoining communities.

## Recreation

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Increase the variety and availability of recreational opportunities along the Allegheny River. The river is a resource to be enjoyed by all, which can occur more effectively with an increased variety of uses, activities, and experiences throughout the corridor.

## Access

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Improve access to the Allegheny River for paddlers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts by developing easily accessible launch points along the river, improving wayfinding through better signage, and increasing trail linkages.

## Tourism & Economic Development

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Promote the distinctive geographical character of the river corridor through marketing and public education. Support new restaurants, shops and destinations throughout the region. In particular, encourage sensitive and appropriate business development in proximity of the trails or water access points that have complementary services.

## Preservation

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Ensure that future development along the river corridor respects the existing natural features, scenic views, and residential neighborhoods by integrating new amenities in a sensitive manner. Encourage responsible use of the river's fragile ecosystems.

## Culture & History

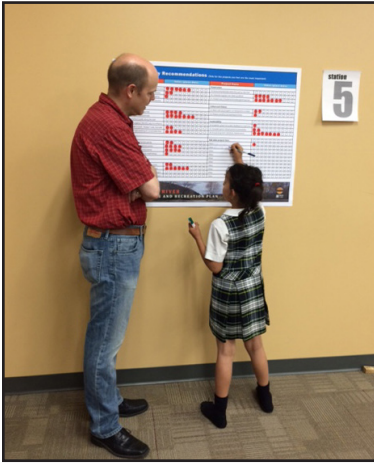
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Respect and protect the history and culture of the Seneca Nation of Indians in development efforts. Work with the Seneca Nation to integrate local history into educational and interpretive materials for the corridor.

## Sustainability

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Ensure that future development in the river corridor is economically, environmentally, and operationally self-sustaining.



## Community Workshop #2

The City of Olean hosted the second of three community meetings on June 15, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Manufacturing Technology Institute Building on the campus of Jamestown Community College. Nearly 30 people attended the meeting, including residents, property owners, business owners, and local government officials.

The goals of the workshop were twofold: (1) to provide information to a variety of stakeholders, with varying levels of knowledge about the project and (2) to solicit feedback about project priorities, recommendations, and specific topics such as the proposed trail alignment and potential water access points.

The meeting was organized in an open house format with five activity stations. The first two stations were informational, and the other three stations were participatory.

- **Station 1** had committee members to provide a brief project overview and answered any questions about the project.

- **Station 2** had an informative poster display to describe the project vision, goals, key findings, and feedback received.
- **Station 3** had consultant staff to discuss recommended trail alternatives and water access points. Maps of proposed trail routes and water access points were provided for discussion. Participants were asked to share their feedback regarding the relative strengths and weaknesses of each option.
- **Station 4** had representatives of the Seneca Nation of Indians. Representatives of the Seneca Nation hosted a station in order to describe their planning process and seek ideas about river access and trails on Seneca Nation lands.
- **Station 5** had consultant staff to assist in evaluating the recommendations. Attendees could ask questions and then assist in prioritizing projects. Each participant received three stickers, which they could use to indicate their top priorities by voting with the stickers on a list of the recommendations. All attendees could see the results as voting happened.



## Workshop Summary

### Trail Alternatives and Water Access Points

Attendees provided feedback regarding the trail alternatives and water access points at Station 3. Some of the key comments included:

- Allow camping in new locations (e.g. east of Gargoyle Park)
- New potential access points
- Allow for fishing and exploring adjacent to Franchot Park, using paths or a seasonal boardwalk
- Suggestions for adjustments to proposed trail alignments
- Proposed pedestrian bridges should have high enough clearance for paddlers and stand-up paddleboards
- At Allegheny River Valley Trail crossing at North Union Street, develop the trailhead park and arch, kiosk with trail maps, compact playground equipment, and comfort facilities proposed by others
- Traffic calming and bike lanes on South Union Street from river to East State Street, and East State Street from Union Street to Front Street
- Resurface Allegheny River Valley Trail (ARVT), improve maintenance provided by various municipalities
- Install signage to delineate private property along ARVT
- Provide signs at the wetlands showing and describing wildlife and flora

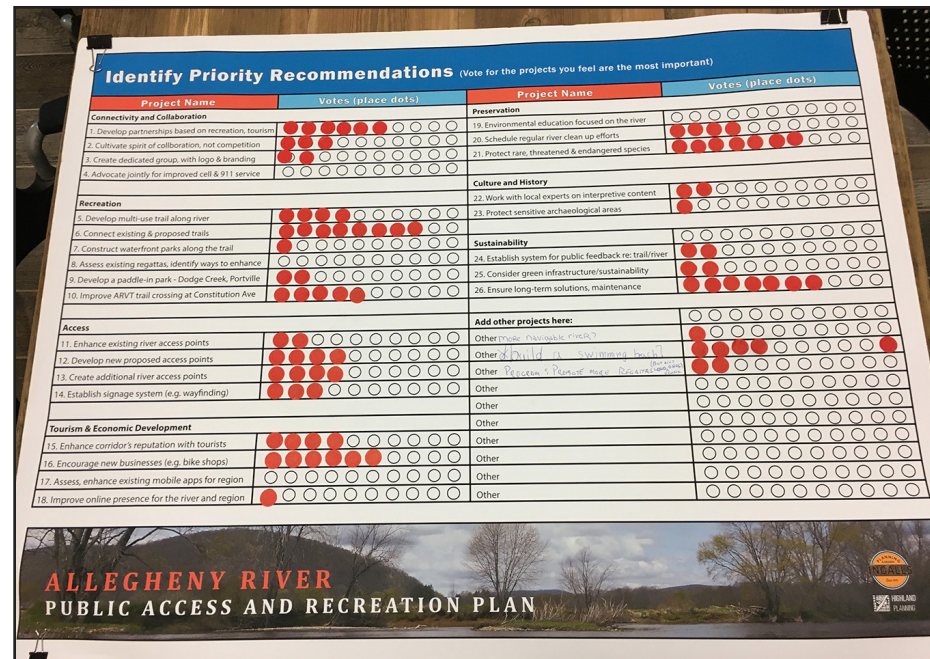
### Prioritizing Recommended Projects

The following recommendations emerged as top priorities for participants:

- Encourage new businesses (e.g. bike shops)
- Develop partnerships based on recreation and tourism
- Protect rare, threatened and endangered species
- Connect existing and proposed trails
- Ensure long-term solutions and maintenance

The following new ideas were suggested:

- More navigable river
- Build a swimming beach
- Program and promote more regattas, but not loud ones



# Recommendations

## Introduction

The vision and goals for the Allegheny River Corridor are directly related to the “Dear Aunt Sally” postcard responses and the feedback received during the community workshop and other stakeholder meetings. They provide a framework for developing and organizing the recommendations, and the recommendations provide an action strategy for achieving the vision.

The recommended projects that are described in the following pages were developed in partnership with the Steering Committee. Projects were identified through discussions with attendees at the community workshops or at meetings with local stakeholders.

This section is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Instead, these recommendations are designed to help improve public access and recreation in the river corridor and continue moving things forward in a coordinated manner. As progress continues, this project list should be updated and expanded to reflect local and regional changes and future opportunities that may arise.

The public process made clear that community members want improvements in seven key areas. These key areas align with the goals outlined in the previous section, and include:

- Collaboration and Connectivity
- Recreation
- Access
- Tourism and Economic Development
- Preservation
- Culture and History, and
- Sustainability.



*Allegheny River at Gleason Hollow, Portville*

## Recommended Projects

26 recommendations are made across the seven key areas. Most recommendations also have several action steps and projects that are associated with the recommendation. High priority projects that should be addressed first are indicated with a large checkmark as seen below.



Priority projects are outlined in more detail in the Implementation chart, found in the Implementation section.



## COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIVITY

The Allegheny River begins in North Central Pennsylvania, where it flows through Potter and McKean Counties, before reaching New York where it flows through Cattaraugus County and the Seneca Nation of Indians Territory before returning to Pennsylvania. The river flows through multiple states, counties, and municipalities, where it is enjoyed by a variety of people.

Aside from a few small cities, the river corridor is not densely populated. The groups, organizations and municipalities should collaborate to jointly promote the river corridor and the surrounding region in bold and creative ways. Each community and group has their own interests, but working together and focusing on the river corridor as a regional asset is best for all. Each community can emphasize their own features while supporting those of the adjoining communities. The following recommendations outline some ways that this can happen.

### 1. Create a dedicated group to bring people together to collaborate and market the region.



As a continuation of the work of the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan, the project advisory committee should organize a formal coordinating committee that is focused on collaborative efforts across the region. The group should encourage representation from different jurisdictions and different organizations, as well as a variety of user groups. Many of the projects recommended in this plan will occur over years, not months, and effective communication is needed.

One of the key tasks that this group should oversee is developing a logo and branding strategy specific to the Allegheny River. The river runs through different areas that have different brands (e.g. Enchanted Mountains, Allegheny National Forest) and that should be considered in marketing efforts. Professional expertise is recommended for developing the most effective logo and branding strategy.

### 2. Develop partnerships between the varied organizations and municipalities working on recreation and tourism throughout the region.

A key task for the coordinating committee is making connections. Different groups and communities do not always know what other groups and communities are doing, or how they could work together. But in a recreational corridor where users move through the region, it is important to have effective partnerships. Possible groups include the Seneca Nation of Indians, Friends of Olean Area Hiking Group, Friends of Genesee Valley Greenway, as well as paddling groups, business groups, county organizations, and municipal groups.

### 3. Cultivate a spirit of collaboration rather than competition.

A coordinating committee can provide connections and encourage partnerships, but a key ingredient to regional efforts is a spirit of collaboration rather than competition. Working together will require some effort, but the rewards will be greater if the different partners throughout the region can be enticed to collaborate rather than compete. Two strategies for supporting collaboration include:

- Encouraging communication between different organizations and municipalities through meetings, an online group, etc.
- Applying for grants together that can be shared amongst the communities or groups involved.

### 4. Examine the issue of intermittent cell phone coverage and limited 911 service, and work together to advocate for improved services.

The committee (as well as 65% of survey respondents) identified improved cell phone coverage as an important regional issue. Cell phone service is important for both safety and tourism. Many mobile apps rely on cell service. Communities may have more success in getting improved service by working together.

## RECREATION

The Allegheny River corridor has a great deal of untapped potential as a recreational resource. This set of recommendations recognizes that potential and is focused on increasing the variety and availability of recreational opportunities to allow the river to be enjoyed by all people. Diverse uses, activities and experiences throughout the corridor will offer amenities to existing residents, and will also help to attract visitors and new residents to the area.

### 5. Develop a multi-use trail along the Allegheny River that connects communities between Portville and Salamanca.

From the very beginning of the planning process, a multi-use trail along the river was identified as a priority project. The trail should be connected to the regional trail network and have trail spurs into the adjacent waterfront communities. The trail also needs to have ADA accessible trail options, easy access, and parking areas. *This project is described in more detail in the Trail & Water Access section of the plan, see page 61.*

### 6. Plan and build trail connections between existing and proposed hiking and biking trails.

Trails provide transportation and recreation opportunities for people of all types and abilities. Trails that connect to a network of on-street and off-street routes are the most useful to trail users. Where possible, new trails should connect to existing trails and any on-street bicycle lanes. For pedestrian access, trails should connect to the sidewalk network.

The route proposed for the main river trail does not connect to every other existing and proposed trail in the region. However, as the river trail is constructed, linkages between other trails should be planned and built, too. Some examples of possible trail connections include the Genesee Riverway Trail, the Pat McGee Trail, the Finger Lakes Trail, the proposed Olean Creek Trail, and park trails in Allegany State Park. This project

did not assess possible routes to connect to these trails, but recommends that this be part of future trail planning efforts.



*Confluence of Dodge Creek and the Allegheny River, Portville*

### 7. Develop a paddle-in park at the confluence of Dodge Creek and the Allegheny River in Portville.

The Village of Portville owns a property on the northeast side of the confluence of Dodge Creek and the Allegheny River. The property is on the river side of the flood levee, and not very accessible for getting a canoe or kayak to the water. However, the location is attractive for people paddling from points south, who might wish to stop and rest. The location could be very simply improved with some picnic tables and signage. Picnic table(s) could be constructed by a local Portville group, such as the Fire Department or a high school shop class. Maintenance of the park would be required, and would include regular mowing of the grass and picking up litter.



**8. Construct and/or expand waterfront parks that complement the trail, with facilities such as restrooms and picnic areas, to encourage better use of the river.**

Throughout the 30-mile river corridor, there are several parks along the river and adjoining creeks. Some of the parks have river access, while some are hidden behind flood levees. Each waterfront community should consider developing more publicly accessible waterfront parkland as property becomes available over time. In addition, existing parks should be assessed to determine what facilities can be improved or developed to serve both waterfront users and local residents.

One such example is Franchot Park in the City of Olean. The Park Master Plan calls for a fishing beach or boardwalk on the broad river flats beyond the levy, as well as a new gateway entrance to improve the attractiveness of the entire neighborhood. These improvements will complement the trail, make the park more welcoming and easily accessed, and encourage better use of the river.

**9. Assess existing regattas and identify ways to enhance and promote regatta activity on the river and tributaries.**

There are three annual regattas held in Cattaraugus County on the Allegheny River and its tributaries. These include:

- Great Valley Regatta, 10 miles, Great Valley Creek (May)
- Falling Leaves Regatta, 7.8 miles, Ischua Creek (September)
- Wounded Warrior Regatta, 9 miles, Oswayo Creek and Allegheny River (June)

The coordinating committee should work with the groups who organize the existing regattas, as well as local municipalities and other interested groups to assess ways to expand, enhance and promote the events and regatta activity. One possibility is that the regattas could be scheduled in conjunction with other events to attract more people. For example, the City of Rochester conducts a Genesee River Romance weekend that has a regatta as well as many other events and activities.

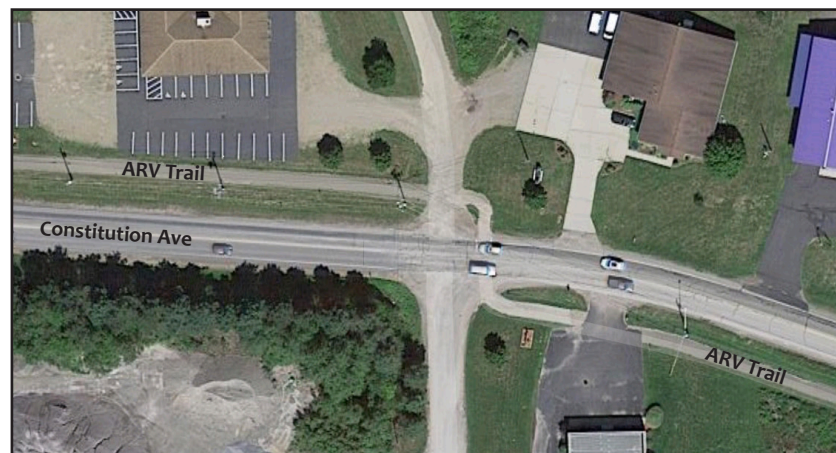
Another possibility is to organize a regatta route that uses more of the Allegheny River than any of the current events.

**10. Evaluate and improve the Allegheny River Valley Trail crossing at Constitution Avenue in Olean.**



The existing Allegheny River Valley Trail is used and enjoyed by many people in the region. However, safety concerns regarding a key trail crossing were identified by the steering committee that need to be addressed. Traffic does not consistently stop for pedestrians and bicyclists where the trail crosses Constitution Avenue in Olean. Also, the trail and roadway approaches to this crossing are not well maintained, and need to be assessed for possible improvements.

The trail crossing is located near the entrance to Buffalo Crushed Stone, a business that utilizes heavy trucks. The frequent truck traffic necessitates a pedestrian safety solution that is more extensive than a painted crosswalk. The trucks quickly wear away painted lines. A traffic safety measure such as a rectangular rapid flash beacon (RRFB) is needed to improve safety and visibility in this location.



*Allegheny River Valley Trail Crossing at Constitution Avenue, Olean*

## ACCESS

### 11. Enhance existing river access points with new and/or improved amenities.



In the eastern section of the project planning area, there are four public river access points. Three of these access points could be enhanced through varying levels of improvements. Enhancements might include improved access, improved maintenance, ADA-accessible boat launches, picnic facilities (grills, picnic tables), restrooms, parking, boat racks, bicycle racks, trash cans and signage. If the river access point is along the trail, a trailhead map and signage would be appropriate in the future. Recommended improvements include:

- Allegheny River Park, Allegany. A transfer plate is needed to make the boat launch at this location ADA compliant. *Trailhead signage may be appropriate in the future.*
- South Union Street Launch, Olean. Various amenities are possible, but picnic facilities, restrooms, and signage are suggested for this location.
- DEC Fishing Access Site, Allegany. Various amenities are possible, but regular maintenance, improved access, picnic facilities, and signage are suggested for this location. *Trailhead signage may be appropriate in the future.*

There are several river access points in the western section of the project planning area that are in the jurisdiction of the Seneca Nation of Indians. The Seneca Nation is undertaking a separate planning process, and river access in the Seneca Nation Territory will be addressed.

### 12. Develop proposed access points where planning is already underway.



Before the planning process started for this plan, many of the communities were already working to expand opportunities for public river access. This plan supports the development of these currently proposed access points. Some access points

have been planned (by other parties) in more detail than others. All of the proposals listed here have great merit, and we recommend continuing the planning process for each site.

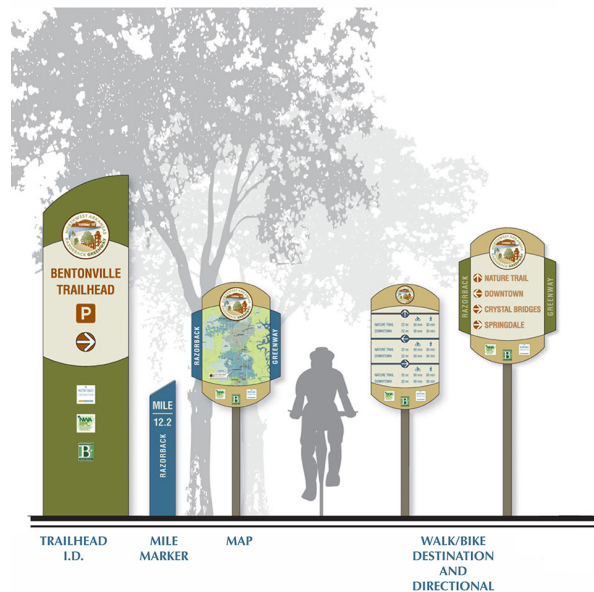
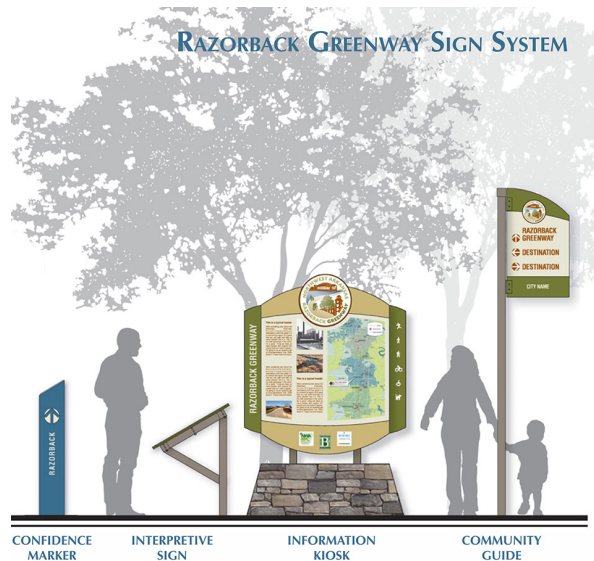
Amenities for each site may include ADA-accessible boat launches for canoes and kayaks, picnic facilities (grills, picnic tables), restrooms, parking, boat racks, bicycle racks, trash cans and signage. If the river access point is along the trail, a trailhead map and signage would be appropriate. A brief summary of each site is below:

- Gleason Hollow Launch, Portville. This informal launch is already heavily used and would benefit from a formalized access arrangement and facilities. Current users park along Gleason Hollow Road to hand launch down the river bank adjacent to the West River Road bridge. Suggested amenities include parking, ADA-accessible launch structure, restrooms, picnic facilities, and signage.
- Dodge Creek Paddle-in Park, Portville. *(Please see previous Recreation recommendations for more detail on this proposal.)*
- Water Well Launch, East River Road, Olean. This project proposed by the City of Olean includes: a launch structure, kayak/canoe storage racks, parking, and park furniture.
- Brewery Launch, 210 East Greene Street, Olean. This project by the City of Olean includes a launch structure, with proposed kayak/canoe storage racks, park furniture and trailhead signage planned for the future.
- Two Mile Road/West River Road Launch, Allegany. This project proposed by the Town of Allegany is likely to include: a launch structure, parking, picnic facilities, and signage. The Town has already purchased the land.

### 13. Create additional river access points.

In such a lengthy stretch of river, there are likely to be locations that would be good river access points, but have not yet been discussed or considered in detail. As the





Wayfinding Signage Example, Razorback Greenway Sign System  
(Alta Planning + Design)

recommendations from this plan move forward and are implemented, the communities and organizations working along the river are encouraged to look for and consider new opportunities that may present themselves. If new locations become available, the following improvements should be considered: ADA-accessible boat launches, picnic facilities (grills, picnic tables), restrooms, parking, boat racks, bicycle racks, and signage. Proximity to riverside destinations and attractions is important.

One possible location that was briefly discussed late in the planning process is near the Vandalia bridge over the Allegheny River in the Town of Allegheny. This location might work well for a combination trailhead and river access point.

#### 14. Establish signage system in the river corridor.

Tourism. Education. Wayfinding. The Allegheny River Corridor has many things to tell people about. Signage is important for residents and visitors alike. All people need to be able to safely find their way down the river, along any trails in the area, and to any destinations or attractions that they wish to see. That requires wayfinding signage. Some of these people may wish to know information about local history and the local environment, like river ecology, local birds and wildlife, and area geology. Interpretive signage can communicate topics such as these.

A coordinated signage system is recommended to address the following needs of users:

- Wayfinding, such as maps and mileage markers to communicate paddling and hiking distances, and the location of destinations/attractions.
- Interpretive content, such as regional history and river ecology. Some of the signage could describe historical remnants that can be seen throughout the river corridor.

## TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of the main principles supporting the recommendations is the idea that economic development will result from increased tourism. However, this will not happen (in any meaningful way, anyway) without planning and coordination. A coordinated strategy is needed. Physical improvements related to access and recreation need to be combined with effective promotion, new complementary businesses and an attractive online presence.

### 15. Shape the corridor's appeal as a tourist destination.

National Geographic promotes geotourism, a type of tourism that is focused on sustaining or enhancing the distinctive geographical character of a place - its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents.

The Allegheny River corridor needs to be envisioned and promoted in an authentic way. The region has features and characteristics that may not be well known! However, many people like to visit authentic places rather than tourist traps. They want to know where the locals go. What's the best swimming hole? What's the best restaurant? In addition, it is important to communicate that there are recreational opportunities available in all four seasons, and the fact that the Allegheny River is a multi-state waterway. These details may be appealing to visitors.

### 16. Support the development of new businesses in the river corridor.



When people visit the area, they may need places to stay, food and beverages to consume, and recreational equipment to use. The coordinating committee should work with local and regional partners to encourage sensitive and appropriate business development, whether through public-private partnerships, incentives, business development assistance, or other means. There is currently (and will continue to be) demand for complementary services in proximity to the trails

and water access points. Possibilities include:

- Varied lodging options with convenient river and trail access, including primitive camping, RV camping, bed & breakfasts, and inns. Lodging that has specialized facilities (such as boat or bike storage) for paddlers, cyclists and other recreational enthusiasts is particularly desirable.
- Water-dependent businesses, including outfitters that offer guided fishing/paddling trips, and rent canoes and kayaks.
- New complementary businesses with convenient river and trail access, such as ice cream shops, bicycle shops, breweries/brewpubs, and restaurants.



*Paddlers at the South Union Street Launch, Olean*

### 17. Assess existing mobile applications (apps) related to regional tourism and consider ways they can be expanded or enhanced.

Many people use mobile devices to get information before a trip, as well as while they are traveling or enjoying outdoor



activities. There are existing mobile applications that provide information about the region. These applications should be evaluated to see if they could be expanded or enhanced, or should be replaced with something different.

Some of the functions that might be desirable: trail maps, field guides, water routes, river access points, facilities (restrooms, picnic areas), destinations (food, beverage), lodging, and attractions, among other things. In addition, the ability to crowd source local information (in a manner similar to ‘Map My Ride’) may be desirable.

#### **18. Improve the online presence for the region by updating the Enchanted Mountains website.**

The Enchanted Mountains website is one of the main tourism websites for Cattaraugus County. The website has lots of great information that could be updated, streamlined and presented in a different way.

### **PRESERVATION**

While many of these recommendations focus on change and development, these efforts need to be balanced with a healthy dose of preservation. First and foremost, the river corridor is an ecosystem. Future development needs to respect the existing natural features and ecological processes. In addition, the river corridor is home to existing communities of people, and development needs to preserve scenic views and residential neighborhoods by integrating new amenities in a sensitive manner.

#### **19. Communicate to residents and visitors the importance of the river as an ecological resource.**

Educational efforts may be needed to encourage care and responsible use of the river’s fragile ecosystems. Methods to

promote this mindset could include educational materials, signage and programs, which can be coordinated with other interpretive content. Topics could include river ecology, wildlife, runoff, and waste disposal (e.g. dumping, litter). Environmental education (particularly related to waterways) is common, and ample resources are available online. Allegany State Park is a possible local resource.

#### **20. Schedule regular river clean-up efforts.**

During the planning process, many residents expressed concern about litter, dumping, and lack of maintenance throughout the river corridor. The Allegheny River coordinating committee could help in organizing an established team of volunteers willing to conduct river clean-ups on a regular basis. Similar to environmental education, river clean-ups are common, with many resources available online to help in planning such an event. In addition, members of the project advisory committee have participated in previous river clean-ups and may be able to assist in this area in future efforts. Cleaning up litter and debris is not only more aesthetically pleasing, but also better for the health of the ecosystem and better for water quality.

#### **21. Protect rare, threatened, and endangered species.**

State and federal agencies are already tasked with protecting rare, threatened and endangered wildlife species, but local citizens can also assist in this work. One well-known example of a species that can benefit from such an undertaking is the Eastern Hellbender, a rare giant salamander found in the Allegheny River. Efforts might include: partnering with organizations already doing this work, educating the public about hellbenders, informing fishermen about how to safely release hooked hellbenders, and encouraging people to report hellbender sightings.

## CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Allegheny River corridor has an interesting and rich history, with stories that should be told and historic sites that should be protected. The river has been a conduit for much of that story, and is a great place to tell about regional history. The Seneca Nation of Indians is a tremendous resource in the area, with different perspectives and stories to share. Public access to the river is not only for recreational purposes, but also for opportunities to learn about culture and history, too.

### 22. Work with local experts to develop interpretive content.

Interpretive content can be used on wayfinding signage, educational signage, trail maps, educational brochures and other materials. Local experts should be consulted in the development of interpretive materials. Possibilities include:

- Seneca Nation of Indians - Native American history / culture
- African American Center for Cultural Development - Underground Railroad
- Salamanca Rail Museum - railroad / industrial history
- Allegany State Park - ecology, geology, environment

### 23. Ensure that development efforts do not impact sensitive archaeological areas.

As projects are developed along the river, these efforts must be coordinated with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) to ensure that development does not impact sensitive archaeological areas. Areas along the river are more likely than other areas to be sensitive archaeological areas.

In addition, if projects are planned in the Seneca Nation of Indians Territory (in partnership with the Seneca Nation) the project locations should be carefully sited. As mentioned earlier in the plan, the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation

District prepared the Seneca Nation of Indians Cultural Resources Inventory in 1993, which included a study of archaeological sites on SNI lands, reviewing and compiling records from several key institutions, and preparing GIS mapping and documentation of the sites. This excellent resource is the property of the Seneca Nation. According to the City of Salamanca Comprehensive Plan, five archaeological sites were identified in the City of Salamanca alone.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable development was first defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 as “development which meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This approach has shaped the international community’s attitude towards economic, social, and environmental development over the past 30 years. The concept supports strong economic and social development, particularly for people with a low standard of living. At the same time, the concept emphasizes the importance of protecting the natural resource base and the environment. Economic and social well-being cannot be improved with measures that destroy the environment.

Sustainable development has been embraced at an international level, but can only be accomplished by changes made at a local level. In the past 30 years, many people have come to understand the concept of sustainable development, which has given it more



momentum and wider acceptance. Many funding sources focus on sustainability, and sustainable practices. The communities in the Allegheny River corridor should promote sustainable solutions in development practices.

#### 24. Permit and promote sustainable efforts and infrastructure in development projects.

Sustainable solutions can develop in a top-down manner, or at the grassroots level. Local officials are in a position where they can promote projects from the top, as well as provide resources that support creative, sustainable projects to flourish when people are willing to do the work from the ground up. One example is using green infrastructure such as rain gardens to alleviate drainage issues along the trail.

#### 25. Establish system for the public to provide feedback about the conditions of the river and the river trail.

When planning for recreational trails, a common topic of discussion at community meetings is maintenance of existing recreational resources. Trails in particular can have maintenance issues that go ignored because the route may extend into areas that are less traveled and may be less accessible. Maintenance issues can become safety issues and need to be documented, reported, and resolved in a timely manner. Maintenance is an important issue to plan into the management strategy of the trail.

One solution is to establish a system that trail and river users can use to communicate when and where there are areas that need attention. An effective solution might involve a GIS-based online system that could be used with a mobile device. This should be coordinated with the Cattaraugus County Trails Committee and the system determined for county-wide trail condition reporting.



*Linn Launch, Portville*

#### 26. Ensure long-term solutions by carefully considering and budgeting for maintenance and management requirements.

As described in the previous recommendation, maintenance is important in developing a long-term resource. Different kinds of maintenance are needed at varying intervals (e.g. weekly, monthly, yearly, long-term). Maintenance is linked to effective management. The coordinating committee might be able to provide some coordination and oversight regarding management, but may choose not to actually manage recreational amenities. Thus, before any new trails or amenities are built, the community or organization that is leading the effort should think carefully about some of the following questions:

- What maintenance is likely to be needed? How often?
- Who will do the work of maintaining the trail/amenity?
- Who will pay for the maintenance, repairs or replacement?
- Who will keep track of maintenance needs and schedules?

## Trail & Water Access

The 26 recommendations described in the previous part of this chapter are all important in the pursuit of developing public access and recreation opportunities in the Allegheny River Corridor. The priority projects, however, are the most critical in achieving the vision for the corridor. Some of these projects require more in-depth explanation. The following pages provide more information on the Allegheny River multi-use trail and water access points described in the Recommendations.

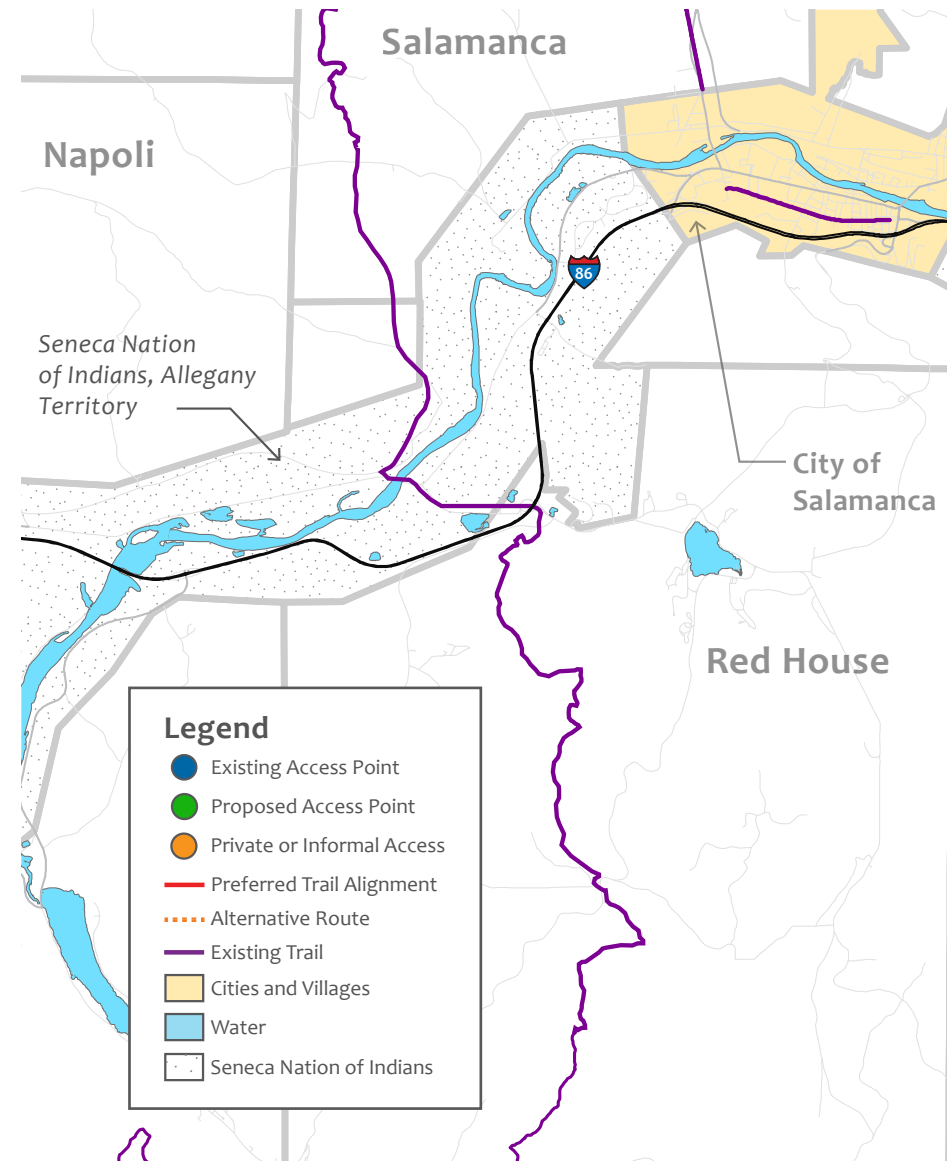
The corridor has been divided into different sections, as you can see in the map to the right. The relevant trail segment and river access points are described in the upcoming pages about each section. The following guiding principles were used to develop the trail alternatives. Where possible, trail alignments will:

1. Avoid wetlands.
2. Stay on the north side of the river.
3. Make connections to existing trails.
4. Use the levee system.
5. Avoid territory owned by the Seneca Nation of Indians.
6. Have alternative routes.
7. Take advantage of the proximity to the water.

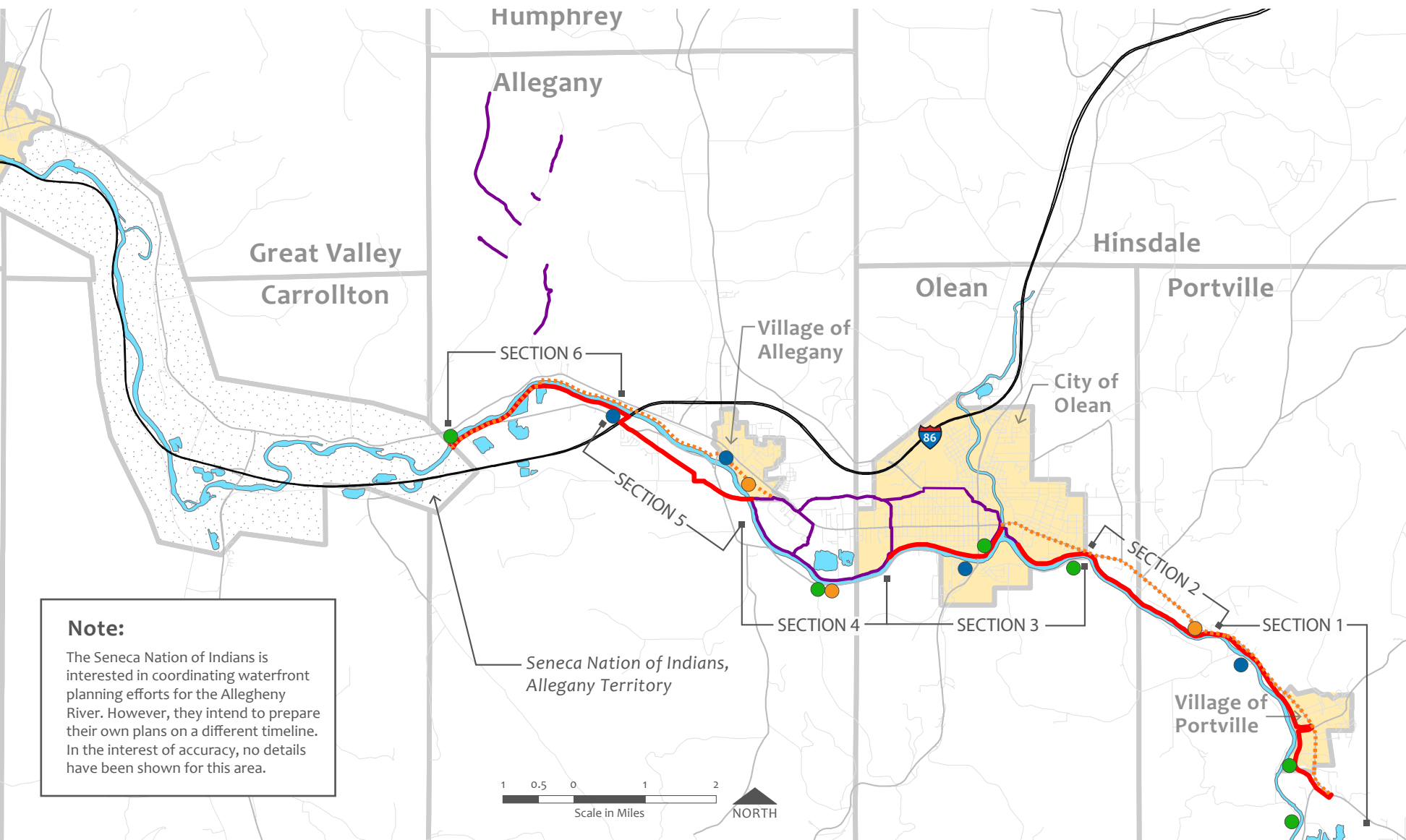
These principles were used to guide, not restrict. In some cases, there was not a good route that met all the principles. One example is Section 6. For the trail to be near the river, the trail route was on the south side of the river.

Two trail routes have been delineated: a preferred trail alignment and an alternate route. The preferred trail alignment is almost entirely off-road. The alternate route often uses on-street facilities and sidewalks to make connections. In some cases, the alternate route presents a temporary option to connect between sections of the trail that may be constructed at different times.

Figure 10: Proposed Access & Recreation







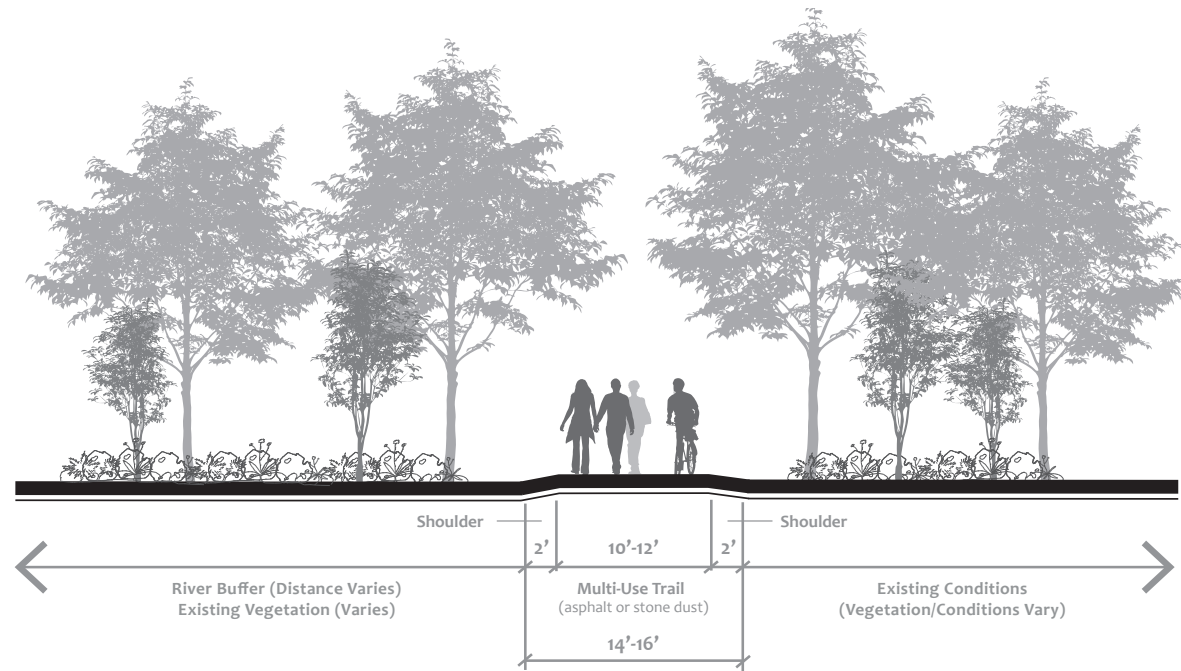
**Note:**  
The Seneca Nation of Indians is interested in coordinating waterfront planning efforts for the Allegheny River. However, they intend to prepare their own plans on a different timeline. In the interest of accuracy, no details have been shown for this area.

## Trail Types

The preferred trail alignment utilizes two main trail types. The cross sections shown here illustrate a generalized view of each trail type. Both trail cross sections include a proposed 10-12' asphalt or stone dust trail. The asphalt trail would have a center stripe to separate trail users traveling in different directions.

### Type 1

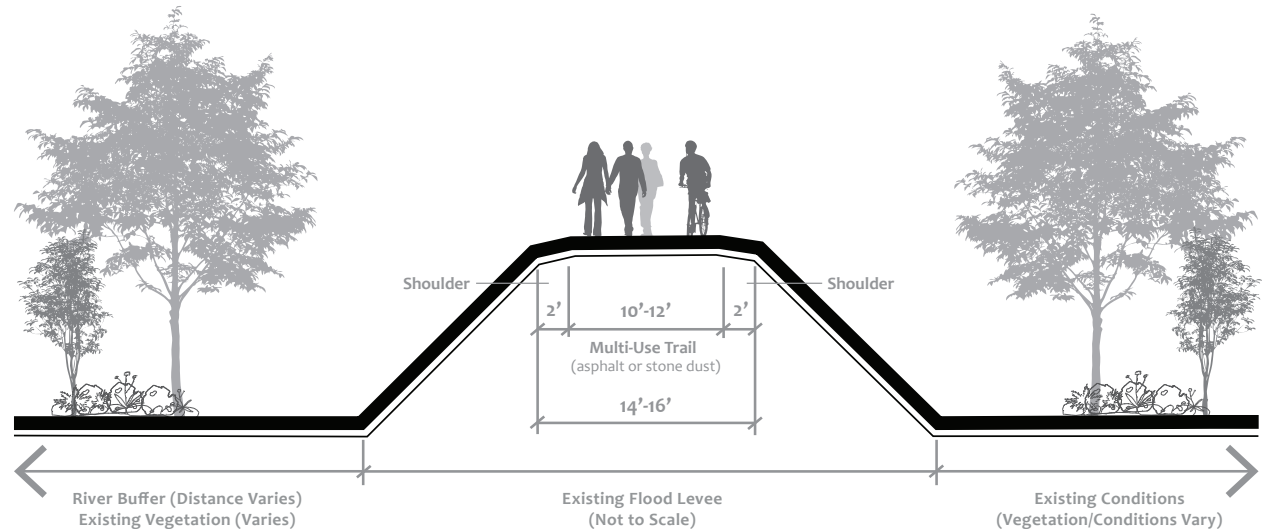
The cross section for the Type 1 Trail illustrates a pathway that could be developed adjacent to the Allegheny River when a flood levee is not used. The trail would be set into existing vegetation, or could include new vegetation as appropriate. The distance from the river would vary depending on the existing conditions.



**Type 1: Typical Trail Cross Section Adjacent to the Allegheny River**

### Type 2

The cross section for the Type 2 Trail illustrates a pathway that could be developed on top of the flood levees located next to the Allegheny River. Vegetation would be located off of the flood levee only, and could be used to screen the trail from adjacent properties, if desired. The flood levees currently allow for vehicular access for official vehicles, and that use should be preserved.



**Type 2: Typical Trail Cross Section On Flood Levee Adjacent to the Allegheny River**



*Simulation of Proposed Trail on Flood Levee*



*Existing Conditions, Typical Flood Levee*





## Section 1

**Location:** Town & Village of Portville, NY

**Proposed Length of New Trail:** 3.40 miles (17,950 LF)

**Existing River Access Points:** Linn Launch (Steam Valley Road)

**Proposed River Access Points:** Dodge Creek Paddle-In Park (Dodge Creek / Allegheny River Confluence) and Gleason Hollow Launch (Gleason Hollow Road at West River Road Bridge)

**Considerations:** Two road crossings, one stream crossing

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** The trail begins at an access road to the flood levee, near the intersection of Route 417 and Anderson Road. The Section 1 proposed trail route is located almost entirely on the flood levees. The route follows the flood levee to Route 305, where a road crossing would be needed. An at-grade road crossing with appropriate safety features is recommended. The trail route continues along the flood levee, above the banks of Oswayo Creek. After a short time, the creek heads west away from the levee toward the Allegheny River. The proposed trail route continues along the flood levee, above a state-designated wetland area between the levee and the river. The next crossing would be needed where the levee goes around Dodge Creek. The proposed trail route follows the levee east along Dodge Creek to the North Main Street bridge over the creek. Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be needed on the bridge. After crossing the bridge, the trail would follow the levee west on the north side of Dodge Creek, back to the Allegheny River. From this point, the levee closely follows the Allegheny River for some time. The levee is built over Lillibridge Creek, so no additional crossing would be needed. The trail route will eventually reach Steam Valley Road, where another crossing is needed. This trail section ends when the levee ends at Route 417, near Hillside Drive.

**Description of Alternate Route:** The alternate route follows Route 417. The bicycle and pedestrian accommodations may vary from one area to another, depending on the density of the surrounding development. Possibilities include on-street bicycle lanes and sidewalks, widened sidewalks, and/or a multi-use trail parallel to the road.



*View east along flood levee to the North Main Street Bridge with Dodge Creek on the right*

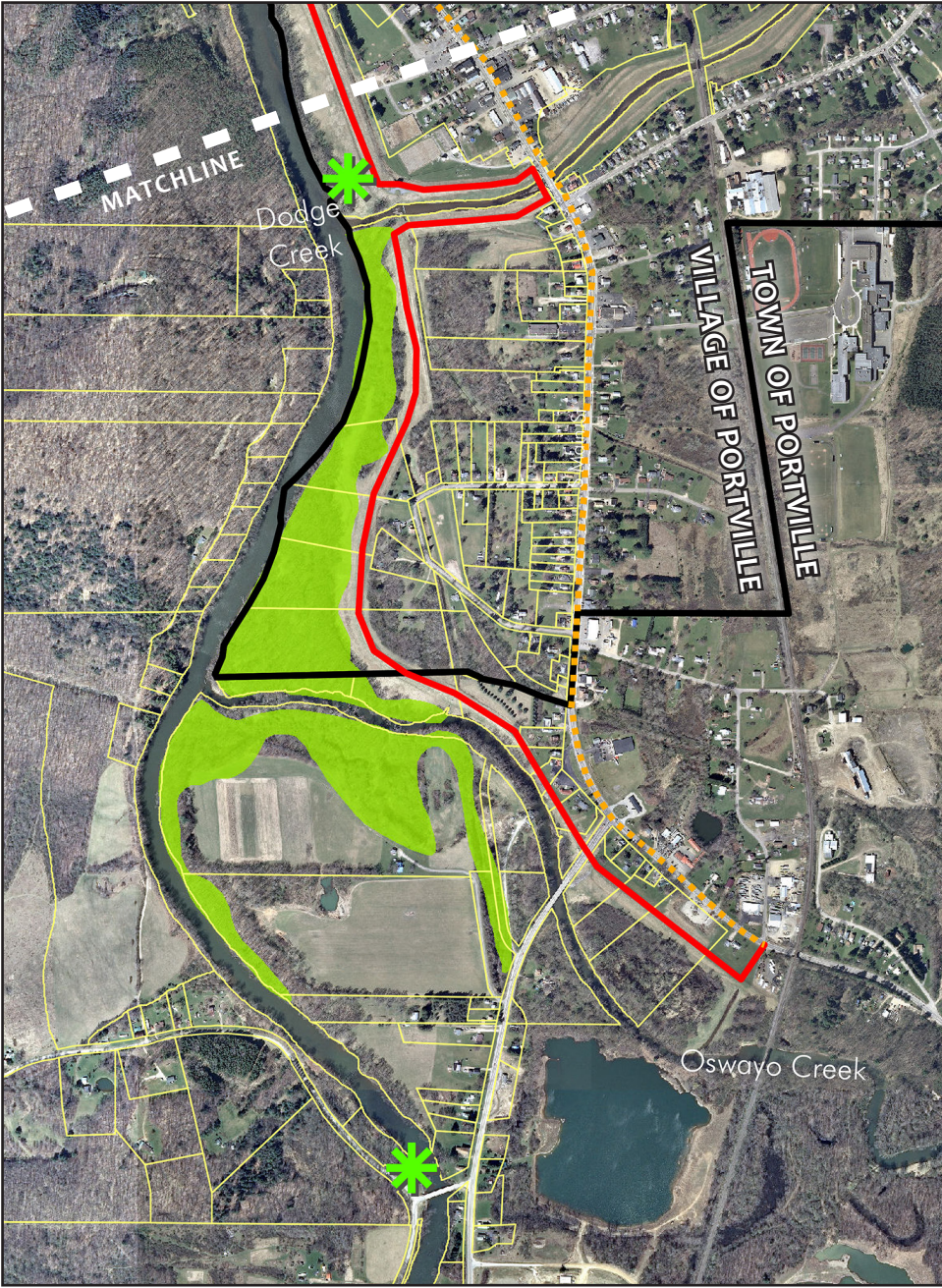


*View of Portville's flood levees from above, with the Allegheny River on the left and Dodge Creek running through the middle*





Section 1 North



Section 1 South



## Section 2

**Location:** City of Olean, Towns of Olean and Portville, NY

**Proposed Length of New Trail:** 2.58 miles (13,620 LF)

**Existing River Access Points:** Riverhurst Park Campground (1269 Olean-Portville Road, Privately Owned)

**Proposed River Access Points:** *Water Well Launch (East River Road, Olean) is visible on the map, but is actually in Section 3*

**Considerations:** Two stream crossings, two narrow sections, grade change, flooding

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** The preferred route continues along the Allegheny River with a grade change between Section 1 on the flood levee and Section 2 along the river's edge. The first part of Section 2 is narrow, sandwiched between the river and Route 417. A boardwalk or other structure may be needed in this area to make a continuous trail. The proposed route continues along the river's edge, through approximately five riverfront parcels and over one unnamed stream to the boundary between the Towns of Portville and Olean. After crossing the Town line, the proposed route traverses two more properties before reaching Haskell Creek. After crossing the creek, the trail crosses through seven more riverfront properties past the municipal boundary between the Town and City of Olean. This section ends after a narrow pass behind the former Dal-Tile Company building, near South Clark Street. A bridge, culvert or other type of crossing will be needed at the two stream crossings.

**Description of Alternate Route:** The alternate route continues to follow Route 417. This section changes in character depending on the type of surrounding development, but also due to the proximity of the railroad. As a result, the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations may need to vary from one area to another. Possibilities include on-street bicycle lanes and sidewalks, widened sidewalks, and/or a multi-use trail parallel to the road or railroad. Railroad? Yes, railroad. According to the Rails to Trails Conservancy report *Rails with Trails: Design, Management, and Operating Characteristics of 61 Trails Along Active Rail Lines*, placing trails alongside active rail corridors can be an excellent method of securing land for safe, popular and effective trail development.

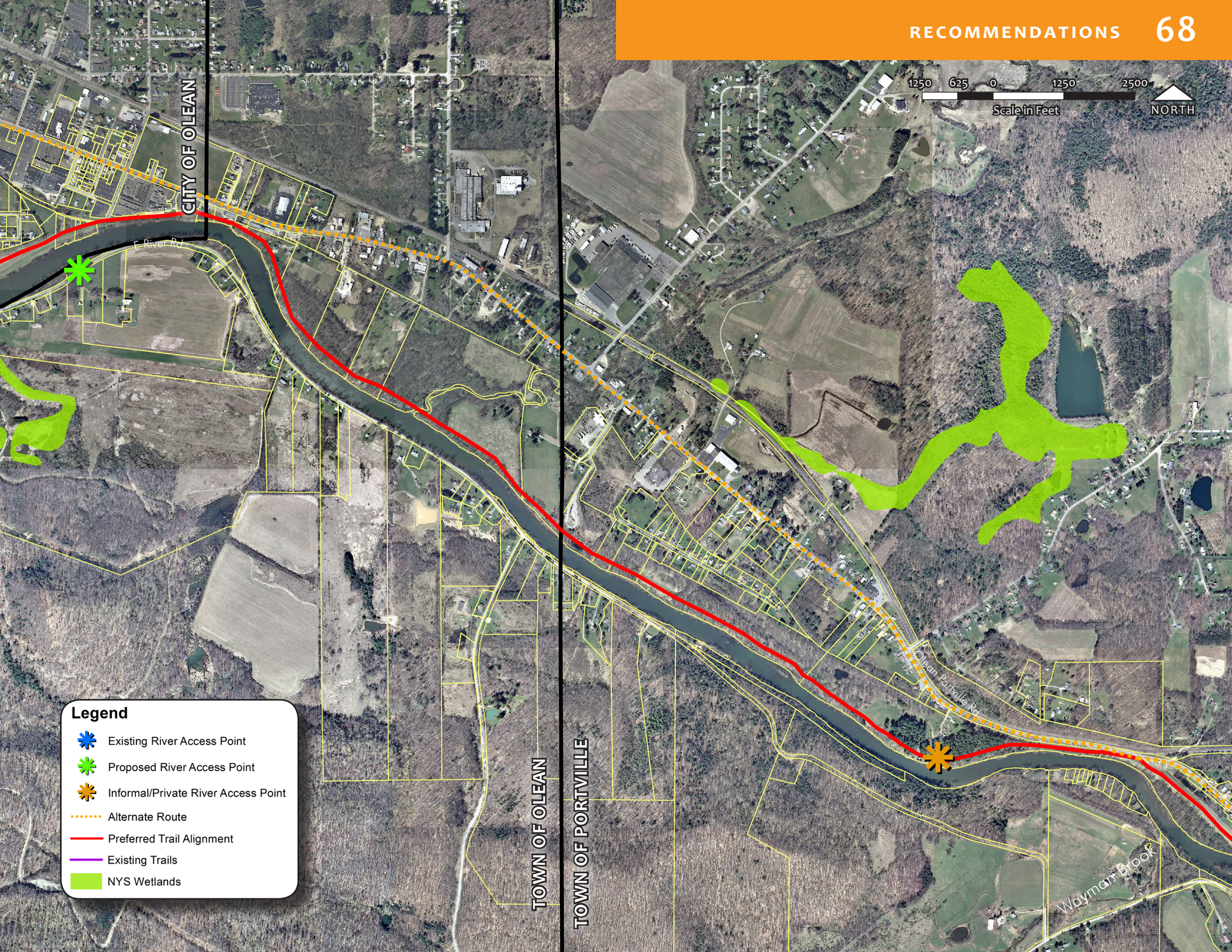


*View across the Allegheny River from East River Road to the proposed trail route*



*View from above of the proposed trail route along the Allegheny River in the vicinity of Haskell Creek*





**Legend**

- Existing River Access Point
- Proposed River Access Point
- Informal/Private River Access Point
- Alternate Route
- Preferred Trail Alignment
- Existing Trails
- NYS Wetlands

CITY OF OLEAN

TOWN OF OLEAN

TOWN OF PORTVILLE

E River Rd

Olean Portville Rd

Wayman Brook



## Section 3

**Location:** City of Olean, NY

**Proposed Length of New Trail:** 3.13 miles (16,525 LF)

**Existing River Access Points:** South Union Street Launch (West Riverside Drive)

**Proposed River Access Points:** Brewery Launch (East Greene Street), Water Well Launch (East River Road)

**Considerations:** One stream crossing, one road crossing

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** Section 3 begins at an access road to the flood levee from South Clark Street. The Section 3 proposed trail route is located almost entirely on the flood levees. The trail route follows the flood levees to Kings Brook. The levee is built over this waterway, so no additional crossing would be needed. The route continues along the levee, situated between the river on the left and athletic fields on the right. The proposed trail route joins another proposed trail route, and both would cross over Olean Creek using a new bridge on existing piers. The route continues on the levee around the west side of Olean Creek, past the proposed Brewery Launch at East Greene Street and on to South Union Street. A road crossing would be required in the location, unless a route were feasible under the bridge. The trail route continues past South Union Street on the levee along Franchot Park. The route continues along the river, and eventually past the Olean Waste Water Treatment Plant to join the existing Allegheny River Valley Trail.

**Description of Alternate Route:** The alternate route continues to follow Route 417 in Section 3. This section has more dense development and would likely require an on-street bicycle facility such as a bike lane or shared-use bicycle route, with pedestrians on high quality sidewalks. An expanded sidewalk, where space permits, is another solution for off-street bicycle routing. The alternative route ends at the west side of the East State Street Bridge, where the route merges with an existing section of the Allegheny River Valley Trail.

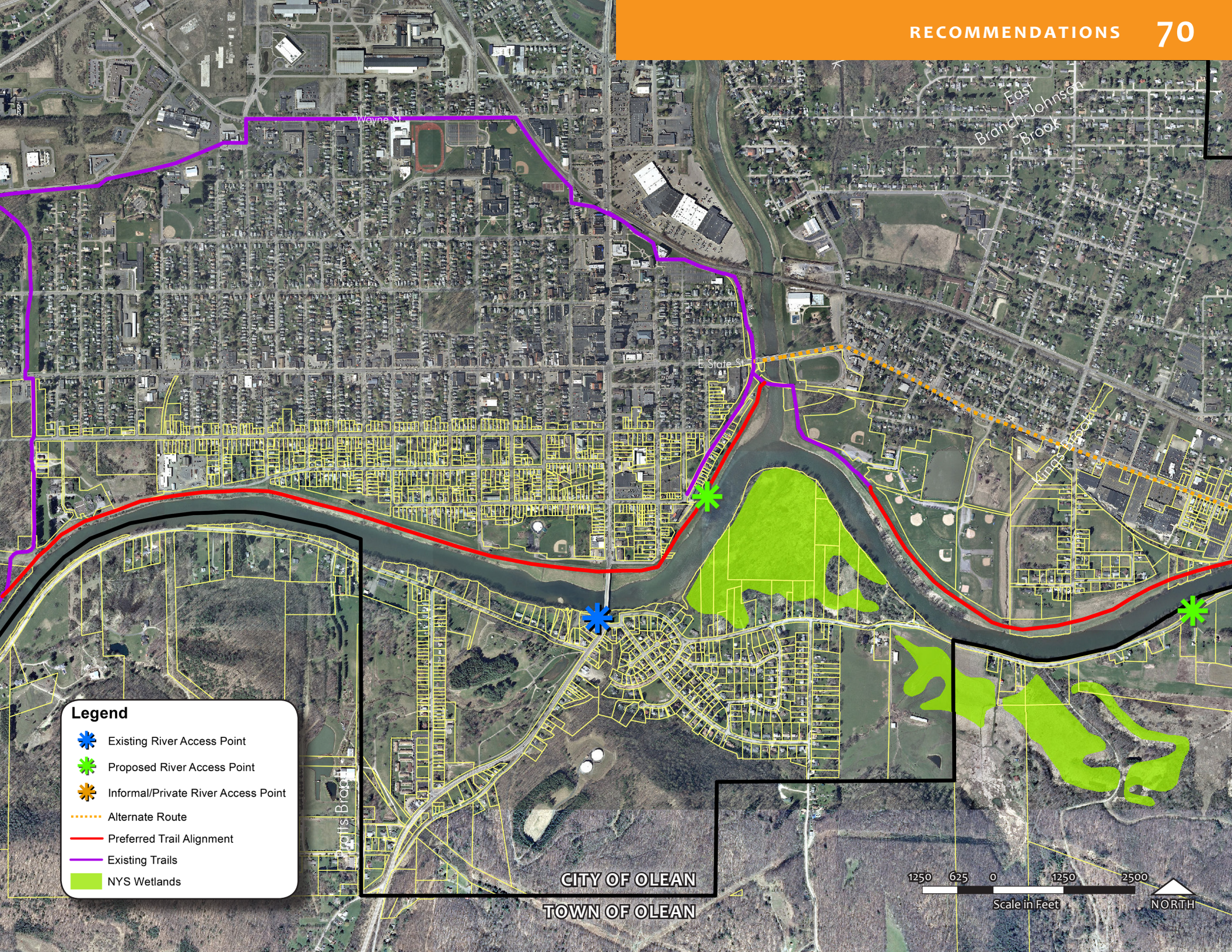


*View from the Allegheny River to the proposed trail route on the flood levee*










*View from above of the proposed trail route along the Allegheny River in the vicinity of Olean Creek*





**Legend**

-  Existing River Access Point
-  Proposed River Access Point
-  Informal/Private River Access Point
-  Alternate Route
-  Preferred Trail Alignment
-  Existing Trails
-  NYS Wetlands

CITY OF OLEAN  
TOWN OF OLEAN





## Section 4

**Location:** City of Olean, Town and Village of Allegany, NY

**Proposed Length of New Trail:** None

**Existing River Access Points:** Private Launch (West River Road at Two Mile Road)

**Proposed River Access Points:** Allegany Launch (West River Road at Two Mile Road)

**Considerations:** None

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** Section 4 does not prescribe a new trail route, but instead recognizes the value of the existing Allegheny River Valley Trail by connecting new trail segments at either end. Section 3 connects to the southeast corner, and Section 5 connects to the northwest corner. Expanded trail connections will create more loops and routes that appeal to a greater variety of users, and is likely to increase the use of the existing trail.

The existing Allegheny River Valley Trail should be evaluated to determine maintenance needs. Repair and maintenance of the existing trail is equally important to building new sections of trail. As the coordinating committee plans for maintenance and management of new trail sections, this discussion may include assessing future management and maintenance of existing trails to ensure that all trail sections receive equal care.

**Description of Alternate Route:** None

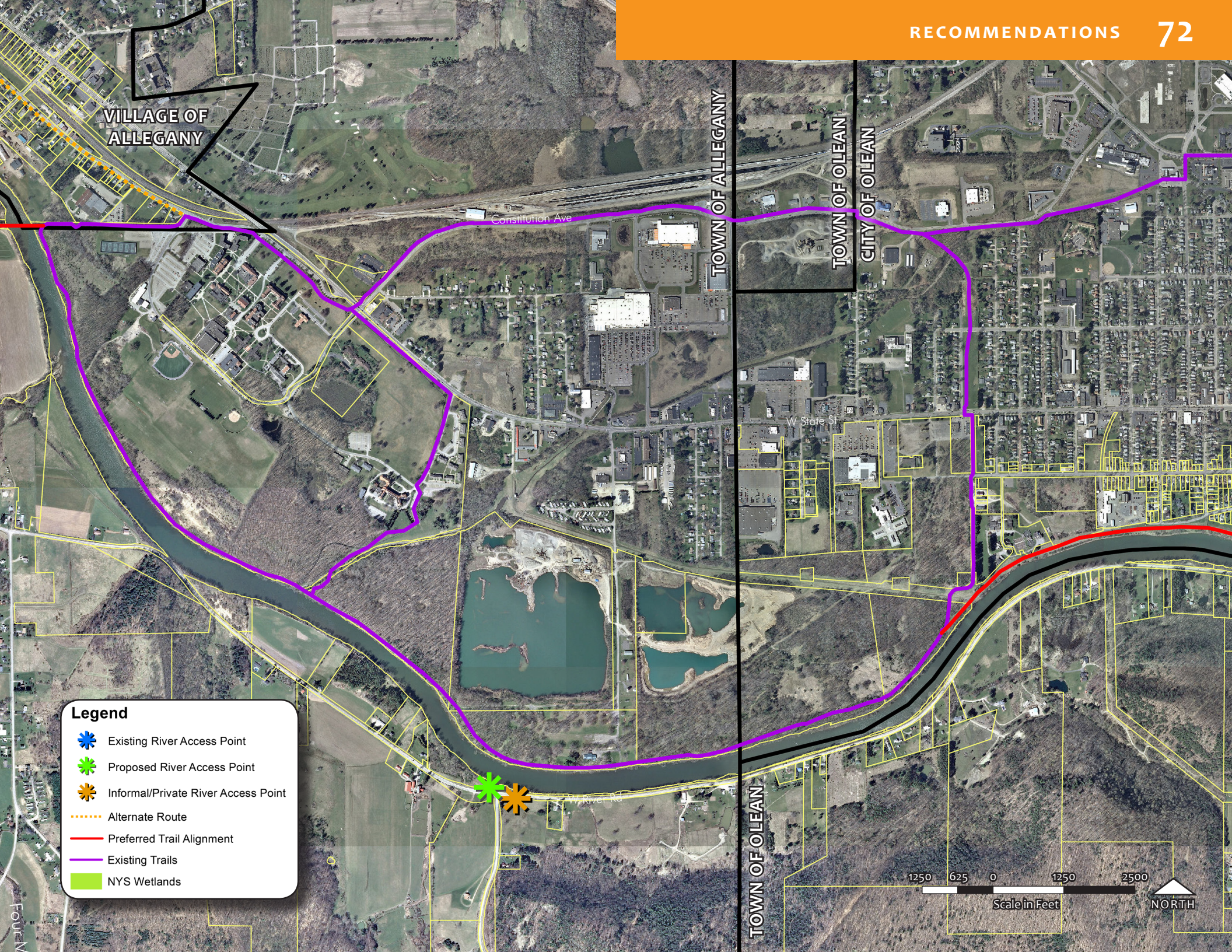


*Allegheny River Valley Trail at Two Mile Creek, facing east*



*Allegheny River Valley Trail at Gargoyle Park, facing west*





VILLAGE OF ALLEGANY

TOWN OF ALLEGANY

TOWN OF OLEAN

CITY OF OLEAN

Constitution Ave

W State St

**Legend**

- Existing River Access Point
- Proposed River Access Point
- Informal/Private River Access Point
- Alternate Route
- Preferred Trail Alignment
- Existing Trails
- NYS Wetlands

1250 625 0 1250 2500  
Scale in Feet  
NORTH



## Section 5

**Location:** Town and Village of Allegany, NY

**Proposed New Length:** 2.38 miles (12,555 LF) trail + 0.06 miles (315 LF) bridge

**Existing River Access Points:** Allegany River Park (First Street Bridge), DEC Fishing Access Site (West River Road at I-86), Private Launch in the Village of Allegany

**Proposed River Access Points:** None

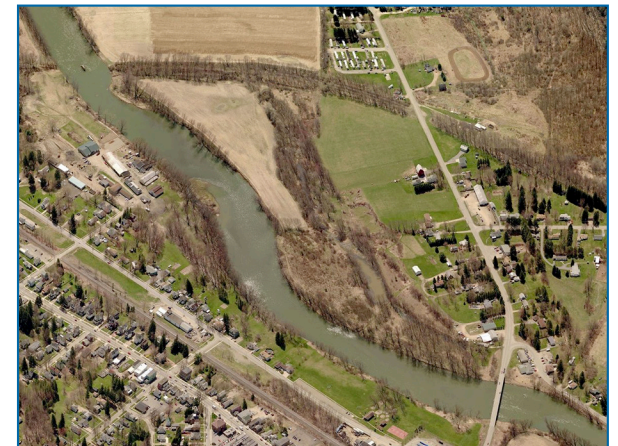
**Considerations:** Four road crossings, one bridge, wetlands

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** Due to various constraints, Section 5 veers away from the river and primarily follows an old railroad corridor. The route begins on the northern side of the Allegheny River, where the existing Allegheny River Valley Trail turns a corner. A new pedestrian bridge built on existing piers is proposed for this location to convey bicyclists and pedestrians across the river. The proposed trail route continues on the southern side of the river, and follows the route of the old railroad corridor. The proposed route crosses Four Mile Road at an at-grade road crossing, and continues in the railroad corridor to another at-grade crossing at Birch Run Road. Here, the proposed trail route will parallel Birch Run Road along Town property to the western edge of the property. From here, the proposed route will head north along the Town property to continue in the railroad corridor. The next crossing will occur at Klice Cross Road, after which the route continues in the railroad corridor to West River Road. The proposed route parallels West River Road, avoiding wetlands and streams, to the driveway for the DEC Fishing Site below Interstate 86.

**Description of Alternate Route:** The alternate route also connects to the existing Allegheny River Valley Trail, near the intersection of East Union Street and Bonaventure Road. The alternate route follows East Union Street to Allegany River Park, crossing 7th Street and 5th Street. This route might be a trail that parallels the road, or on-street bicycle facilities and sidewalks, or expanded sidewalks to accommodate all users. After Allegany River Park, the route crosses 1st Street, and meanders to the edge of the Allegheny River. The route follows the northern edge of the Allegheny River. This route will require a bridge or other crossing at Five Mile Creek on the way to Interstate 86.

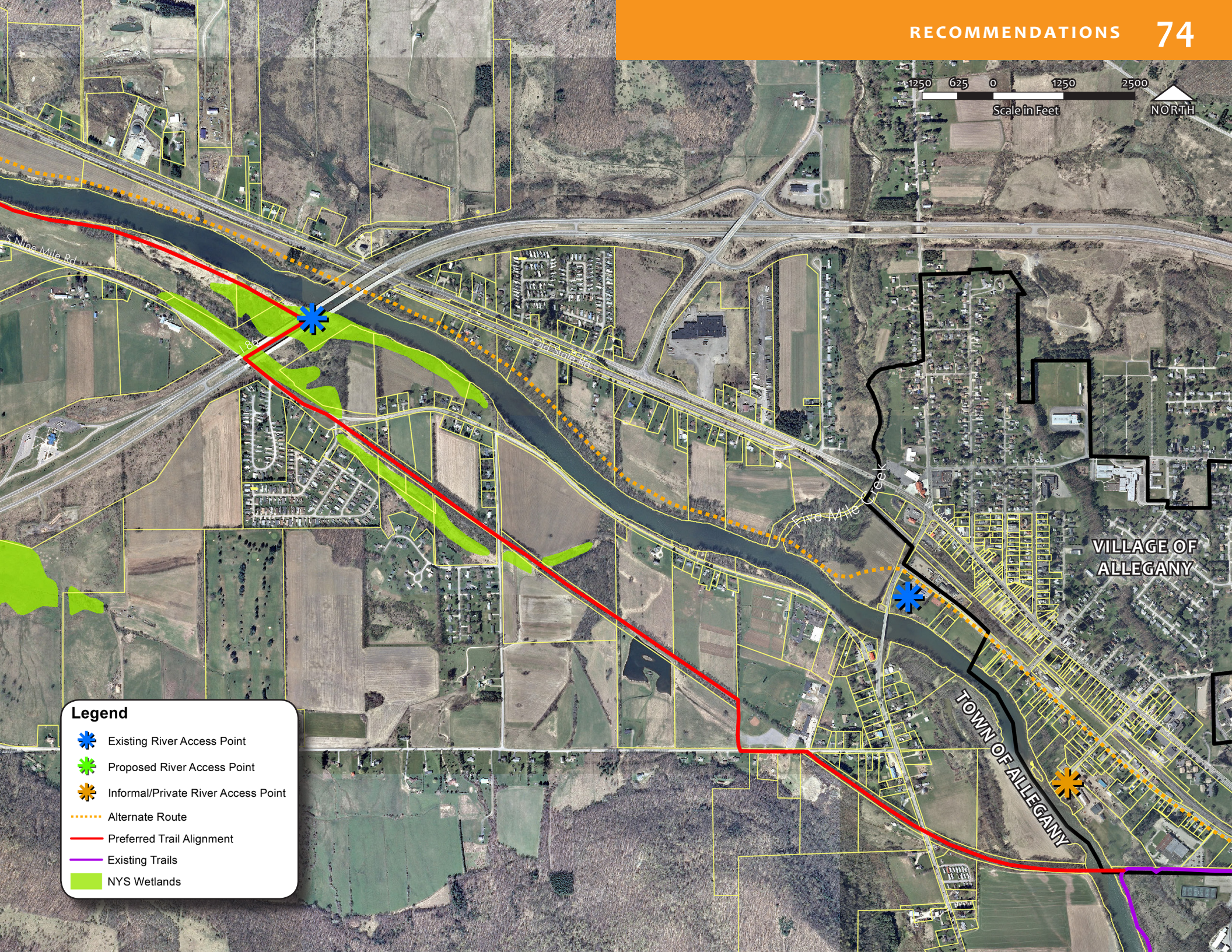
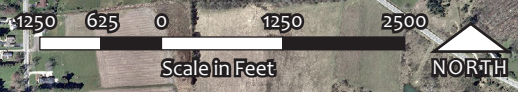


*Pier from old railroad bridge in Allegheny River, Allegany*



*View of the proposed trail route from above, looking southwest*





**Legend**

- Existing River Access Point
- Proposed River Access Point
- Informal/Private River Access Point
- Alternate Route
- Preferred Trail Alignment
- Existing Trails
- NYS Wetlands



## Section 6

**Location:** Town of Allegany, NY

**Proposed New Length:** 2.92 miles (15,415 LF) trail + 0.07 miles (370 LF) bridge

**Existing River Access Points:** DEC Fishing Access Site (West River Road at I-86)

**Proposed River Access Points:** Vandalia Bridge

**Considerations:** Wetlands

**Description of Preferred Trail Alignment:** Section 6 follows the river's edge between the DEC Fishing Access Site and the Vandalia bridge at Nine Mile Road. The route begins at the DEC Launch, and heads west along the southern edge of the Allegheny River. There are NYS designated wetlands in this vicinity, so a boardwalk may be necessary for a short stretch. The proposed route passes through approximately 15 different properties, but does not cross any roads, railroads or streams. The route passes between the river and two large ponds at the point where the river makes a large bend in a southerly direction. For the last stretch of the trail, the trail route is located between the river and West River Road until the route reaches Nine Mile Road and the Vandalia Bridge. This bridge, which has been unused for several years, is a recommended trail connection to allow access to the trail from both the north and south sides of the river. Adjacent to the bridge is a potential location for a trailhead and river access point.

**Description of Alternate Route:** The trail continues from Section 5 along the northern bank of the river. A bridge or other creek crossing will be needed shortly after departing the I-86 bridge. After crossing the creek, the alternate trail route continues along the northern edge of the river until the vicinity of Townsend Hollow Road, where the river bends back in a southern direction. At this point, the trail route becomes pinched between the river and the railroad. There is not enough space to fit a trail in this location, so a pedestrian bridge to the south side of the river is recommended before this point. After crossing the river, the preferred route and the alternate route are the same until reaching the Vandalia bridge.



*Vandalia Bridge at Nine Mile Road, Allegany*

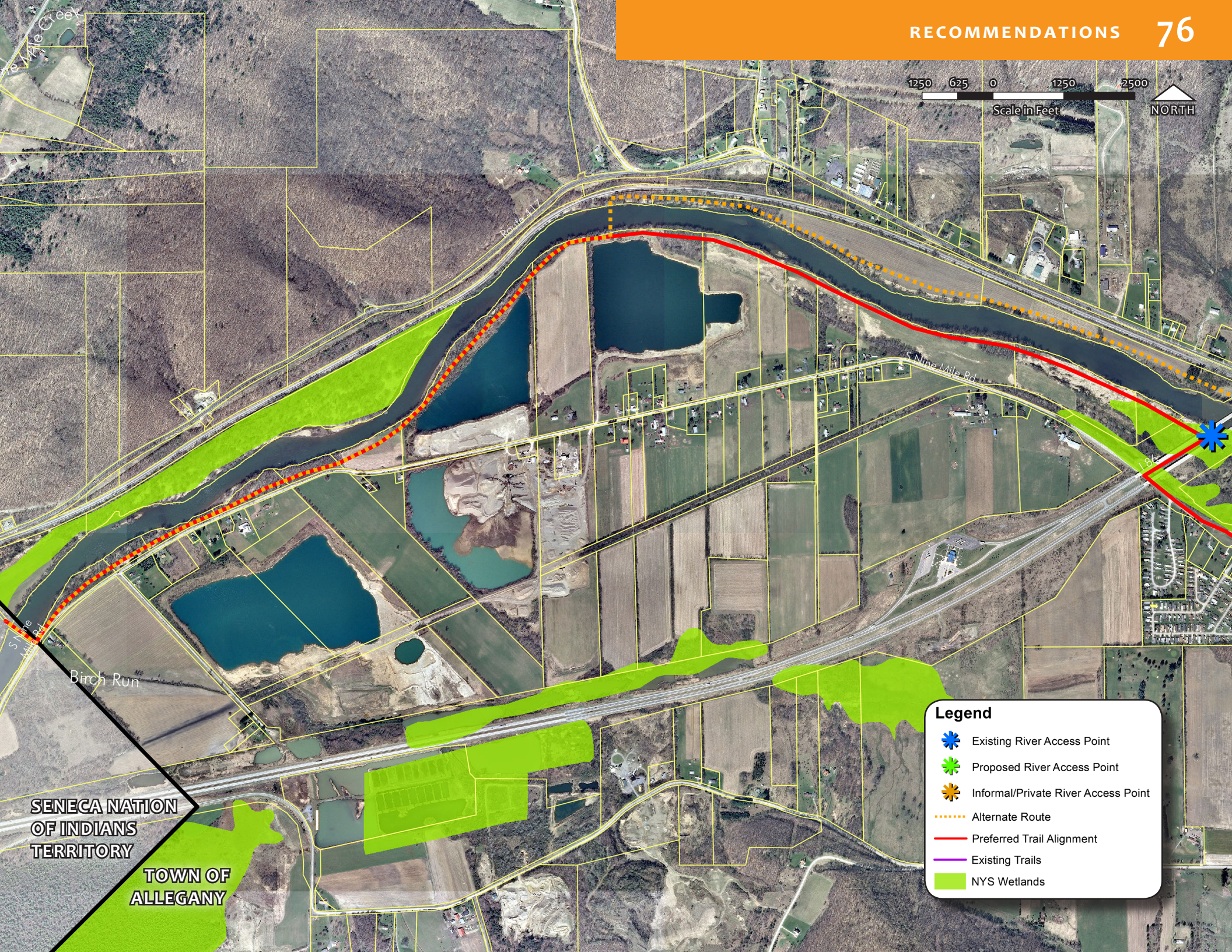


*View of river's edge from the river, Allegany*



*View of the proposed trail route from above, looking north*





SENECA NATION  
OF INDIANS  
TERRITORY

TOWN OF  
ALLEGANY

**Legend**

- Existing River Access Point
- Proposed River Access Point
- Informal/Private River Access Point
- Alternate Route
- Preferred Trail Alignment
- Existing Trails
- NYS Wetlands



## Additional Trail Routes

During the planning process, there was a great deal of uncertainty about the possibility of public access and recreation in the sovereign lands of the Seneca Nation of Indians. Representatives from the Seneca Nation were invited multiple times to participate in the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) in order to provide clarity, but were not permitted by Nation leaders until very late in the process. In lieu of concrete direction from the Seneca Nation, Ingalls Planning and Design developed preliminary trail alignment concepts to discuss with the PAC.

After these design concepts were developed and presented to the PAC, representatives from the Seneca Nation expressed interest in planning for public access and recreation along the river. The opportunity to collaborate on access and recreation is exciting! The timeline for their planning work in the western half of the project area will be different than the timeline for the eastern half of the project area. However, with such an extensive project area, any trails and river access points are likely to be built in stages anyway.

In the event that the preliminary design concepts developed during this planning process are determined to be useful in the future, they have been described in this section. Please note that these design concepts have not been reviewed or approved by the Seneca Nation of Indians. Maps have not been provided to emphasize the fact that these designs are not approved.

In general, preliminary trail routes through the Seneca Nation of Indians territory were located in the right-of-way of other transportation routes, both road and railroad corridors. The thinking that guided this decision was that using an existing right-of-way might be more agreeable to the Seneca Nation than a new route. These locations are not the most scenic or the closest to the Allegheny River, and may not ultimately be the best location.

### Section 7

The route in this section begins at the north side of the Vandalia bridge at Nine Mile Road in Carrollton, and follows Nine Mile Road north over an at-grade railroad crossing. After traversing the railroad, the proposed route follows the northern side of the railroad right-of-way over and around streams and wetlands as needed. Before reaching Ten Mile Road, the proposed route veers away from the railroad right-of-way to the right-of-way of Route 417 to avoid wetlands.

### Section 8

The route in Section 8 continues in the right-of-way of Route 417 through the Town of Carrollton to the municipal line with the Town of Great Valley. A few road crossings would be needed, most significantly a crossing of Route 219. The trail would need to meander away from Route 417 in a few locations to avoid some houses and other structures. The space between the railroad and the highway narrows until the trail route would be located in a somewhat narrow section right between both corridors.

### Section 9

The route in Section 9 continues in the narrow stretch of land east of Route 417/219 and west of the rail line. As this route passes through the Town of Great Valley, a few road crossings would be necessary. The space between the rail line and the road opens up again, and the proposed trail route follows the Route 219 road corridor to Depot Street in Kill Buck.

### Section 10

The trail route in Section 10 would follow Depot Street and School Street using an on-street bicycle facility and a sidewalk to cross over both railroads using an at-grade crossing. After crossing the second rail line, two alternatives were considered for a short trail segment. The trail route could take a scenic route and follow the northern bank of the Allegheny River. A bridge or other structure



would be needed to cross Great Valley Creek. After crossing the creek, the trail would follow the river's edge and meander back to Route 219 to cross the river on the sidewalk on the Route 219 bridge. Another alternative to following the river is to use the right-of-way on the southern side of the railroad towards Route 219 and cross using the same bridge over the river.

### Section 11

After crossing the river, the proposed route would include on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities for a short distance on Parkway Drive to connect to the old railroad right-of-way. The Pennsy Trail has been developed in this corridor slightly west of this location. Future plans (by others) call for expanding the Pennsy Trail towards Parkway Drive. The most logical location for a trail through Salamanca is to connect to the existing and proposed sections of the Pennsy Trail.

### Section 12

The Pennsy Trail ends at Center Street. The proposed trail route would utilize on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Center Street to cross back to the north side of the river. The route would turn west after crossing the railroad to use the northern right-of-way of the rail line. This route would require a few road crossings, and would end after crossing Sawmill Run Road the second time. The route of the Finger Lakes Trail crosses this proposed route, and any future trail development efforts should connect to this statewide trail.

# Implementation

## Introduction

The specific actions to implement this plan are described in the previous section. The implementation table on the following pages lists high priority recommended actions and provides a general time frame, next steps, and a list of possible partners and potential sources of funding or technical assistance (where applicable).

Prioritization and timing of project execution are critical to the implementation of the Allegheny River Public Access and Recreation Plan. Although each project is important, the high priority projects are transformative, motivating, and needed for the riverfront communities. Identifying and prioritizing short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions can assist in the implementation process.

**Short-term actions** are typically implemented within one to three years. These actions may address concerns that need immediate attention. Short-term actions are key in continuing the momentum of the planning process. Also, some recommendations are considered short-term to align with time-sensitive funding opportunities.

**Medium-term actions** are those that may require additional investment of finances and time which build on the successful completion of earlier tasks. These are anticipated to three to five years to complete.

**Long-term actions** would require significant commitments of time and funding, but are still important to the long-term success of the community. Long-term projects typically take more than five years to implement.

## Key Considerations

- Continue to build partnerships in both the private and public sectors. Improvements along the river must be a joint effort!
- Develop a committee to coordinate regional efforts.
- Show progress: pick some “low hanging fruit” and get something done.
- Celebrate successes and let people know about them.
- Emphasize quality in every aspect of the project.
- Other funding sources are available. Don’t feel limited by state and federal funding options. Consider private grants and capital improvement budgets, too.

## Leadership Champions

The implementation of each recommended project must be a collaborative effort. The following local agencies and organizations should be involved with the implementation of these recommendations. It is assumed that all these partners would be members of the regional coordinating committee or other organization. Just because a member is not listed for a project in the implementation matrix does not mean that they should not be involved in some way.

- City, Town and Village representatives
- Cattaraugus County representatives
- Seneca Nation of Indians representatives
- Regional tourism & economic development representatives
- Local business/property owners



## Abbreviations Used in the Matrix

### Local and Regional Stakeholders

ANF	Allegheny National Forest Visitor's Bureau
ARPSC	Allegheny River Plan Steering Committee
ARVT	Allegheny River Valley Trail Committee
BPO	Local Business and Property Owners
CC	Cattaraugus County
CCIDA	Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency
CCTSAC	Cattaraugus County Trail System Advisory Committee
COC	Chamber of Commerce
CTV	City, Town, and Village representatives
PPP	Public - Private Partnership
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committee
SNI	Seneca Nation of Indians

### Selected Funding Sources & Terms

AHS	American Hiking Society National Trails Fund
CFA	Consolidated Funding Application (NYS)
EPF	Environmental Protection Fund (NYS)
RTP	Recreational Trails Program (NYS)
SBA	Small Business Administration (US)
TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program (US)

### State and Federal Agencies

ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
NYSDEC	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOS	NYS Department of State
NYSDOT	NYS Department of Transportation
NYSESD	NYS Empire State Development
NYSMS	New York State Main Street Program
NYSOPRHP	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation



*Lock Haven Levee Trail, part of the Susquehanna Greenway System  
Susquehanna River, Clinton County, PA  
Photo: [www.susquehannagreenway.org/trails](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org/trails)*

HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS	TIME FRAME	POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES
1. Create a dedicated group (regional coordinating committee/RCC) to bring people together to collaborate and market the region. <i>(Key Area: Collaboration &amp; Connectivity)</i>	Short-term	Involve representatives from ANF, ARPSC, ARVT, BPO, CC, CCTSAC, CTV, SNI
5. Develop a multi-use trail along the Allegheny River that connects communities between Portville and Salamanca. <i>(Key Area: Recreation)</i>	Long-term	Partners: RCC, NYSDEC, CTV, CCTSAC Funding: EPF, RTP, TAP, NYSDOT, PPP, municipal
7. Develop a paddle-in park at the confluence of Dodge Creek and the Allegheny River in Portville. <i>(Key Area: Recreation)</i>	Short-term	Partners: RCC, Town/Village of Portville, paddlers Funding: PPP, EPF, municipal
10. Evaluate and improve the Allegheny River Valley Trail crossing at Constitution Avenue in Olean. <i>(Key Area: Recreation)</i>	Short-term	Partners: City & Town of Olean, ARVT Funding: RTP, TAP, NYSDOT, municipal
11. Enhance existing river access points with new and/or improved amenities. <i>(Key Area: Access)</i>	Short to Medium Term	Partners: RCC, CTV, NYSDEC, paddlers Funding: EPF, RTP, PPP, municipal
12. Develop proposed access points where planning is already underway. <i>(Key Area: Access)</i>	Short to Medium Term	Partners: RCC, CTV, BPO, NYSDEC, paddlers Funding: EPF, RTP, PPP, municipal
14. Establish signage system in the river corridor. <i>(Key Area: Access)</i>	Medium to Long Term	Partners: RCC, CTV, BPO, SNI, trail users/paddlers Funding: EPF, RTP, municipal
16. Support the development of new businesses in the river corridor. <i>(Key Area: Tourism &amp; Economic Development)</i>	Ongoing	Partners: RCC, COC, CC, CCIDA, CTV, BPO Funding: SBA, ARC, NYSMS, NYSESD, CCIDA, municipal
26. Ensure long-term solutions by carefully considering and budgeting for maintenance and management requirements. <i>(Key Area: Sustainability)</i>	Ongoing	Partners: RCC, CC, CCTSAC, CTV, ARVT, ANF Funding: AHS, RTP, municipal



## NEXT STEPS

Identify person/entity to convene/organize the committee and invite key stakeholders able to commit time/expertise. (Keep committee size manageable!) Hold first meeting to develop regular meeting schedule and identify committee roles and goals.

This process should start immediately, but will take time. Build consensus around priority trail segments, submit a NYS CFA or other funding applications for design and a phasing plan, and identify local match (for matching grants). Continue working with the SNI to explore possibilities for public access and recreation. NYS funds are available for projects in SNI territory, too.

Develop plans and budget for signs, picnic tables, maintenance. Identify community organizations to sponsor and/or make picnic tables. Apply for funding if necessary. Develop content for signs, coordinate with RCC to develop signs that are consistent with overall signage system for corridor, work with professional to design signs. Identify future maintenance needs, schedule, entity/person responsible, budget.

Submit funding applications for further traffic study (if needed), detailed design and construction. Involve other stakeholders as needed (e.g. Buffalo Crushed Stone).

Build consensus around priority improvements, submit NYS CFA or other funding applications, and identify local match (for matching grants). Discuss possible improvements to facilities and access at NYSDEC Fishing Access Site with NYSDEC. Continue working with the SNI to explore possibilities for public access and recreation. NYS funds are available for projects in SNI territory, too.

Build consensus around priority improvements. Address property use/acquisition issues (as appropriate). Submit NYS CFA or other funding applications for feasibility/design/construction (as appropriate), and identify local match (for matching grants).

Consider an overall signage strategy to decide what signage will be needed and where. Work with a design professional to create signage hierarchy and sign design. Establish phasing protocol for installing signage along trail, at trailheads, and at access points when trail will be built in phases. Funding may be needed for using the services of a design professional.

Identify potential small business owners. Identify types of business/services that are desired by visitors/residents (e.g. canoe/kayak rental). Assess what services/funding are currently available to existing/prospective business owners. Consider what other assistance would be helpful in supporting small business development that is focused on the trail/river.

Learn about best practices to identify management and maintenance strategies to adopt. Work with all municipalities and partners responsible for maintenance to develop maintenance standards and schedules. Develop system to remind team members to budget for maintenance in grant applications/municipal budgets. Work with County to develop a system for trail/river users to report maintenance concerns.