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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Welch Trail utilizes a very unique site alongside the Chautauqua Creek in Westfield, New York in reconnecting the public to invaluable natural resources by adapting a historic railroad bed and expanding the use of existing site amenities.

The Welch Trail becomes a point of public access to the Chautauqua Creek in Westfield, laying a path for preservation, education, recreation, and appreciation of this natural and cultural treasure.

It is important to preserve that which we appreciate, and we can only appreciate that which we see and know. The Chautauqua Creek has a timeless and vital significance to that should be visible, accessible, admired, and enjoyed.



The
Welch Trail

Westfield, New York

JULY 2015

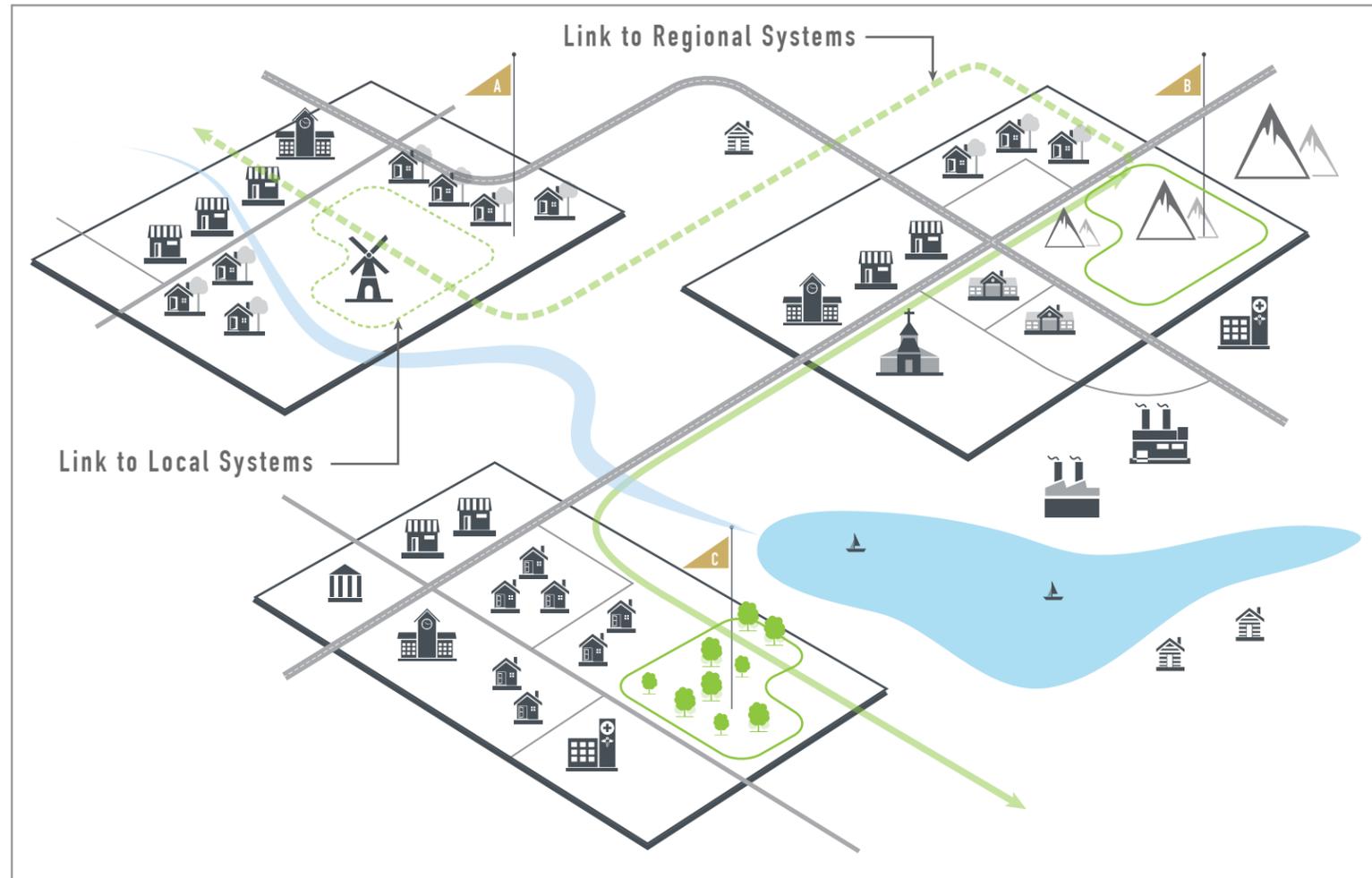
VISION STATEMENT

Connecting people and places is key to build and sustain healthy communities, so developing access to vital natural resources is a top priority for Westfield, New York and the greater Chautauqua County Region. The Welch Trail has the potential to achieve those aims and generate ripples of social, health, heritage, and economic benefits.



City of Asheville Reed Creek Greenway

Some potential benefits of the Welch Trail include enhanced recreational opportunities, expanded and promoted tourism, community development, small business opportunities, multidisciplinary education and career development opportunities, the connection of shared resources, and potential expansion of regional arts and cultural programs.



About the Welch Trail Concept Diagram

In this concept diagram, three small communities are shown. Much like Westfield, New York and neighboring towns, each has a unique and valuable natural / cultural resource unto to itself and another shared between neighboring communities. Residents are linked to one another by roads, and ideally are linked to their natural / cultural resources by a community trail.

Westfield does not yet have a trail link to their natural / cultural resources so The Welch Trail would be key in filling that void. Individual community trails could then be linked to one another by a larger greenway system, allowing residents and visitors to experience collective enjoyment and appreciation of this body of resources.



WHAT MAKES THE WELCH TRAIL SO IMPORTANT?

SOCIAL BENEFITS:

Connecting people and places. The Welch Trail makes a vital connection in Westfield, New York between the Main Street district and currently underutilized and/or inaccessible resources.

HEALTH BENEFITS:

Promote active living. Welch Trail facilitates expanded seasonal use of outdoor recreational assets. Connecting residents directly to trail networks makes staying active more attractive and achievable.

HERITAGE BENEFITS:

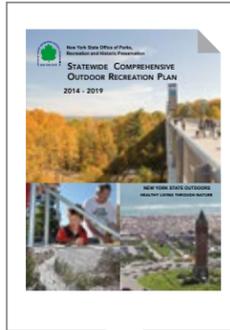
Rich history and geography embedded within and surrounding the site enhance the potential assets of the Welch Trail as it can immerse users in the interpretation of natural, cultural, and historic assets.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Offering new ways to experience what is familiar for residents and what is new for visitors increases the amount of time and investment everyone spends locally. Increasing proximity to open spaces also increases property values, reduces environmental service costs, reduces medical costs, and creates new job / business opportunities.

STATE OBJECTIVES

01



New York Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

<http://nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/documents/201419StatewideComprehensiveOutdoorRecreationPlan.pdf>

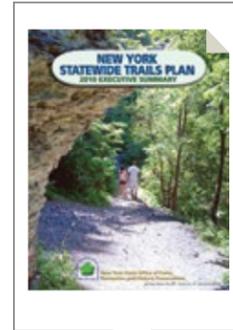
SCORP was prepared by the New York office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation. It contains initiatives & goals that reflect major issues & provide a larger context to enhancing existing recreational programs & activities across New York State.

SCORP Recommendations Employed:

- ✓ Rehabilitate + adaptively reuse existing recreation and historic facilities to satisfy existing and projected recreation, interpretive, + education needs.
- ✓ **Promote compatible shared uses** + maximize the length of activity seasons.
- ✓ **Improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities** through public transit, bikeways, and greenways.
- ✓ Encourage the use of trails to increase physical activity + combat the obesity epidemic, as well as reduce the risk of many chronic diseases.
- ✓ Promote greenways, water trails, and blueways as a means of urban recreation and transportation.
- ✓ Connect New Yorkers with nature, recreation, + health.
- ✓ Encourage the development of trails to provide pedestrian access to neighboring communities and facilities.
- ✓ **Expand environmental + cultural education + interpretation.**

STATE OBJECTIVES

02



New York Statewide Trails Plan

<http://nysparks.com/recreation/trails/documents/StatewidetrailsPlan/StatewideTrailsPlan.pdf>

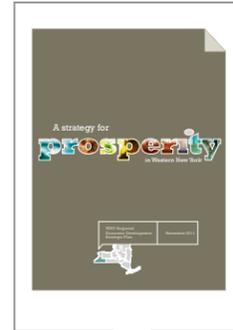
Describes importance of trail connections as extensions to the statewide networks. Considerations during planning, development, and maintenance of trails, as well as strategies to address each issue can be taken on a local, regional, and/or statewide level.

Statewide Trails Plan Goals Fulfilled:

- ✓ **Foster Healthy Hearts & Minds.**
The Welch Trail offers free access to recreational and natural resources directly from downtown commercial and residential areas.
- ✓ **Connect Youth to Nature.**
The Welch Trail has multiple layers of interpretive value - ecological, cultural, and historical, offering a free opportunity for local school and learning program field trips.
- ✓ **Be a Quiet Economic Engine.**
Parks and trails can attract visitors, extend their length of stay, and add to the collection of attractions in the area. The Welch Trail promotes smart growth principles in the downtown area.
- ✓ **Offer a Transcendent Experience.**
Trails are not strictly utilitarian. They can help people reconnect with nature as places of healing, regeneration and peace; and places to find spiritual solace.
- ✓ **Promote Communication, Cooperation, & Coordination.**
Multiple entities work together to plan, develop, manage, and maintain - among them government entities, landowners, user groups, and other non-governmental organizations.

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

03



Strategy for Prosperity in Western New York

http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/regions/westernny/A_Strategy_for_Prosperty_WNY_Strategic_Plan.pdf

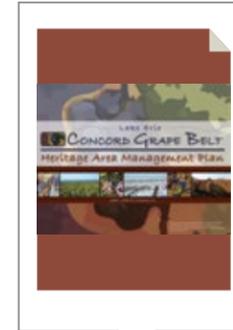
Smart growth projects enhance walkability + multiple modes of transportation, foster mixed use private investment, and protect existing open space, natural resources + water supplies. They build on the unique opportunities natural resources present for economic development and quality of life.

SFPWNY Criteria for Projects Employed:

- ✓ **Promotes diversity.**
Trail activities are all relatively inexpensive, + unorganized, providing accessible recreation opportunities for a diversity of users.
- ✓ **Promotes Smart Growth.**
Integrates economic development / job creation with community quality-of-life by preserving and enhancing built + natural environments.
- ✓ **Oriented to Young Adults.**
Many young adults (ages 18 to 35) tend to love the "work hard, play hard" mentality, and projects like the Welch Trail help attract those who desire a work/life balance.
- ✓ **Builds Upon Strengths.**
Enhance the region's existing strengths to achieve the largest impact with limited resources.
- ✓ **Regional Impact.**
The Welch Trail is a segment of a regional trail system project links multiple counties.
- ✓ **Improves Region's Image.**
The Welch Trail will reconnect both residents and visitors to the iconic Chautauqua Creek.

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

05



Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area Management

http://nyupstateplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Concord-Grape-Heritage-Area-Management-Plan_pjsmall.pdf

A very solid foundation exists upon which to build the future of the Concord Grape Belt. The key to success lies in developing an integrated strategy that preserves and enhances these resources in a manner that unites sustainability, viability and economic development.

Heritage Area Management Goals Addressed:

- ✓ **Educate the public.**
Expands public awareness of the importance and benefit of Chautauqua Creek. It encourages and supports educational users via interpretive programming and educational signage, integrating the site with Chautauqua County's "The World's Learning Center" tourism strategy.
- ✓ **Enhance, support, and develop recreation and tourism opportunities.**
Improves and promotes access while informing the public of the importance and potential of recreation and heritage resources. Promote interconnectivity of resources and offers unique activities to engage residents and visitors.
- ✓ **Preserve cultural heritage & natural resources.**
The Welch trail preserves and protects views to/from the Chautauqua Creek, interprets history and culture of the site/region, and revitalizes the connection between people and the water.
- ✓ **Promote economic viability of Grape Belt.**
Marrying tourism with recreation and education encourages users to spend more time and money in the local economy. The "Welch" Trail name pays homage to the local Welch's grape juice industry.

KEY OVERARCHING CONCEPTS:

LINK TO LARGER SYSTEMS:

The Welch Trail will reconnect residents to the Chautauqua Creek and form a vital link in the Barcelona - Chautauqua Trail System.



PROMOTE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES:

The Welch Trail will cater to an array of seasonal users - providing opportunities for local residents and visitors to engage the landscape, stay active and engage.



SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES:

Redeveloping this historic rail corridor into a multi-use trail connects natural resources to the commercial and residential heart of the community sparking economic development (i.e. bikeshop), and community engagement.



COUNTY OBJECTIVES

05



Chautauqua 20/20 Comprehensive Plan

http://www.planningchautauqua.com/pdf/CompPlan/FinalReport/Chautauqua_CompPlan.pdf

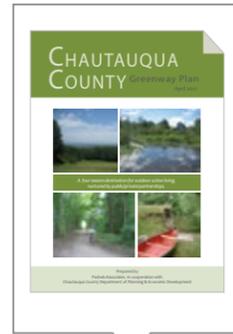
Chautauqua County is abundant in natural, built and human assets, which must be capitalized on through proactive planning to create jobs, lower the cost of existing services, and enhance the quality of life while preserving the rural charm of the County.

CHQ 20/20 Strategies Employed:

- ✓ Develop several new tourist attractions that increase **visitation in all four seasons.**
- ✓ Link visitor activities to more effectively market the range of options and increase tourism's economic impact in the County.
- ✓ Leverage and connect Chautauqua Institution to existing and new visitor destinations that support the "World's Learning Center" brand.
- ✓ Identify market niches for Chautauqua's cities, towns and villages that support the County's economic direction and **complement their historic, walkable character.**
- ✓ **Build healthier communities** that are compact, pedestrian-oriented, and limit sprawl that consumes land resources.
- ✓ Promote vibrant communities that excite Chautauqua's youth and attract new residents.
- ✓ Capitalize on the County's abundant water and energy resources for economic development.
- ✓ **Reuse of vacant and underutilized properties** in the County's urban centers.

COUNTY OBJECTIVES

06



Chautauqua County Greenway Plan

http://www.planningchautauqua.com/_pdfs/EconDev/Greenways/CCGreenway%20Plan.pdf

A network of connections between the County's diverse natural areas, various cultural & historic resources, recreation opportunities, and local population centers help to preserve the County's natural systems, unique character and quality of life, while providing valuable recreational opportunities for local residents.

CHQ Greenway Strategies Employed:

- ✓ Guide growth and development in a sustainable manner. The Welch Trail reconnects users to the Creek but also utilizes existing but inaccessible parking for downtown use.
- ✓ Improve the economy by enhancing tourism opportunities and venues, and by providing services to meet the needs of our residents and tourists.
- ✓ Cater to alternative transportation use. Providing proximal areas for residents to exercise/bicycle reduces dependence on driving and assists in improving air and water quality.
- ✓ Connect residents and neighborhoods to one another, its parks, schools, and cultural and natural resources.
- ✓ Conserve natural resources, which provide life sustaining functions and create the character of place for current and future generations of Chautauqua County residents.

COUNTY OBJECTIVES

07



Barcelona to Chautauqua Institution Trail Plan

[http://www.planningchautauqua.com/_pdfs/EconDev/Greenways/B2CI%20-%2012-11-13%20\(4\).pdf](http://www.planningchautauqua.com/_pdfs/EconDev/Greenways/B2CI%20-%2012-11-13%20(4).pdf)

The Welch Trail becomes a link in this larger trail system from Chautauqua to Barcelona Harbor. This project helps generate momentum for future expansion of the greenway system connecting local resources to regional assets.

B2CI Trail Plan Strategies Employed:

- ✓ **Destination Oriented.**
The Welch Trail creates public access to Chautauqua Creek in Westfield, making it the ideal destination to enjoy this scenic feature while being in close proximity to downtown goods & services.
- ✓ **Attract Local & Regional Users.**
The Welch Trail site currently offers limited recreational opportunities and lacks access and visibility. This site has incredible potential to improve access and expand use will - inviting local and regional users to explore and enjoy one of the hidden gems in downtown Westfield.
- ✓ **Target Larger User Base.**
Westfield residents seek an active lifestyle but lack accessible outlets for seasonal recreation in the downtown area. The Welch Trail will offer unique opportunities for warm and cold weather recreation as well as invaluable educational opportunities for local schools, care, and cultural programs.
- ✓ **Increase Awareness of Local Resources.**
Trail creates first public access point to Chautauqua Creek in downtown Westfield, N.Y.
- ✓ **Generate Positive Economic Impacts.**
The Welch Trail is a catalyst for smart growth in downtown Westfield, N.Y.

LOCAL OBJECTIVES

08



Westfield Connections Plan

<http://www.townofwestfield.org/plans.html>

Framed within a general interest to further promote tourism in the Town and Village and as such, the study focused on those aspects of the landscape that strongly relate to visitors to the area.

Connections Plan Objectives Checked:

- ✓ **Improve Roadway Landscape.**
The connections plan focuses on the importance of North Portage, and the trail creates many new opportunities for travelers on this road to experience Westfield.
- ✓ **Strengthen Visibility of Town Brand/Image.**
Welch's easement site is noted as the point where architecturally and spatially the village boundary exists. The trail will make this area an appealing visual introduction to the town.
- ✓ **Interpret & Celebrate Unique History.**
The Welch Trail offers a unique combo of recreation, education, interpretation and utilizes a historic railroad bed. The edge of the trail offers an overlook to a scenic/active railroad trestle catering to heritage tourism.
- ✓ **North Portage St.-Welch's Parking Lot Ramp.**
Trail creates first access ramp from downtown to underutilized Welch's Parking Lot via Portage Inn demo site.
- ✓ **Develop a Greenway Trail Network.**
The Welch Trail becomes the town of Westfield link in the larger Chautauqua Greenway System.

KEY OVERARCHING CONCEPTS:

ATTRACT VISITORS:

The Welch Trail will cater to both local residents and heritage tourists who are looking to combine travel, leisure, and recreation with cultural activities.



PRESERVE HERITAGE:

The Welch Trail will create opportunities for the public to engage the landscape in both active and passive activities - aiming to increase awareness and respect for the natural and cultural assets of the area.



ENHANCE RECREATION:

A multi-use trail located in the heart of the community makes it a viable year round activity center. The Welch Trail will provide a one-of-a-kind location for cross country skiing, hiking, and other winter recreation opportunities.



REGIONAL ASSETS

New York State envisions having a world class system of sustainable, recreational, conservational, cultural, economically viable land and water routes. Creating links between existing trails and expanding the scale and variety of experiences offered are key to achieving those aims. The Welch Trail falls in line with these objectives, providing measurable and definable benefits for individuals and the larger community. The Welch Trail helps to foster a healthy lifestyle for both the mind and body. Having its origins rooted in community history, the Welch Trail also affords educational opportunities and a pride of place.



Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau

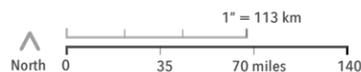
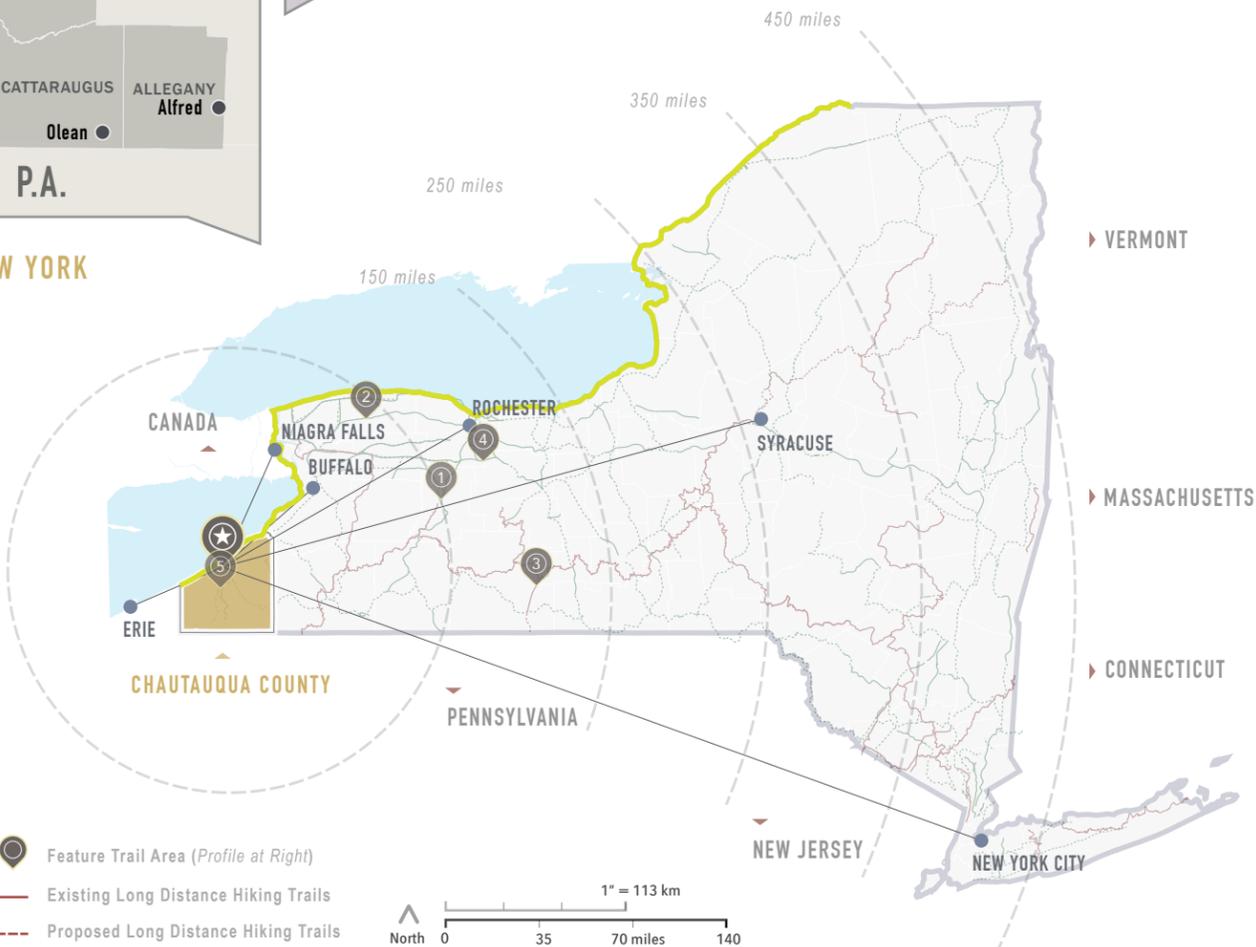


WESTERN NEW YORK

WNY LOCATED WITHIN 500 MILES OF 41% OF THE U.S. POPULATION AND 59% OF CANADIAN POPULATION.

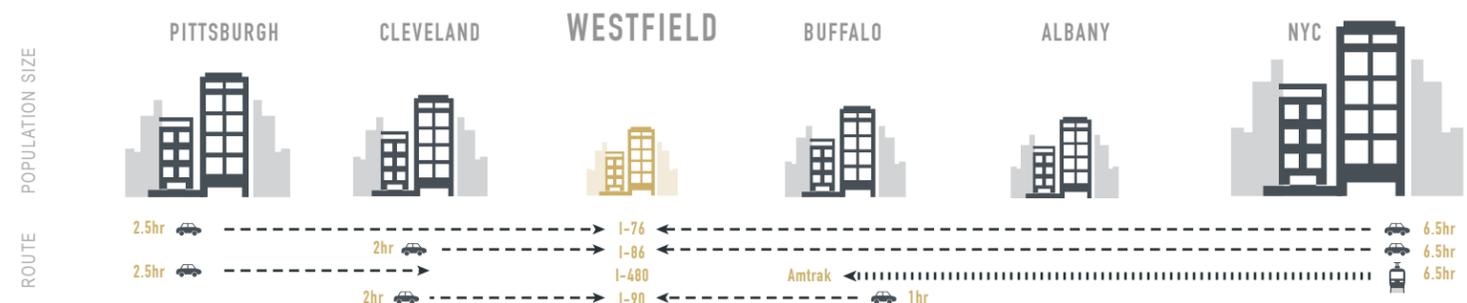
- Site of the Welch Trail
- Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area
- Urban Population Centers
- Chautauqua County Boundary
- Great Lakes
- Great Lakes Seaway Trail
- Existing Rails to Trails
- Proposed Rails to Trails
- Feature Trail Area (Profile at Right)
- Existing Long Distance Hiking Trails
- Proposed Long Distance Hiking Trails

The state designated Concord Grape Belt Heritage Area in WNY is the largest grape growing and production region in the eastern U.S. The area has great tourism appeal, with the total combined impact of Chautauqua County's wine industry generating \$141 million and drawing 25,000 visitors in 2005 alone. Westfield, N.Y. lies right in the heart of this zone and the Welch Trail is well-suited to attract and offer a uniquely immersive natural experience to grape-belt heritage visitors.



WHAT ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM?

- 1 GENESSEE VALLEY GREENWAY**
Location: Rochester > Cuba, New York
Length: 60 miles open + 30 proposed
Surface: Packed cinders, gravel, grass, paved, stone dust.
Type: Public / Multi-Use
Uses: Hike, Bike, Horseback, Cross-Country Ski, Rollerblade, Fish, Snowmobile
- 2 ERIE CANALWAY TRAIL**
Location: Buffalo > Albany, New York
Length: 365 miles
Surface: Packed cinders, gravel, grass, paved, stone dust.
Type: Public / Multi-Use Network
Uses: Hike, Bike, Cross-Country Ski, Rollerblade, Fish, Snowmobile
- 3 CATHARINE VALLEY TRAIL**
Location: Watkins Glen > Horseheads, New York
Length: 9 miles open + 3 proposed
Surface: Compacted stone dust.
Type: Public / Multi-Use
Uses: Hike, Bike, Cross-Country Ski
- 4 LEHIGH VALLEY TRAIL**
Location: Rush > Victor, New York
Length: 16.4 miles
Surface: Ballast, Cinder, Dirt, Grass
Type: Public / Multi-Use Rail-Trail
Uses: Hike, Bike, Horseback, Cross-Country Ski, Rollerblade
- 5 CHAUTAUQUA RAILS TO TRAILS**
Location: Sherman > Brocton, New York
Length: 28.56 miles
Surface: Concrete, Crushed Stone, Dirt, Grass, Gravel
Type: Public / Multi-Use Rail-Trail
Uses: Hike, Bike, Horseback, Cross-Country Ski, Rollerblade, Fish, Snowmobile



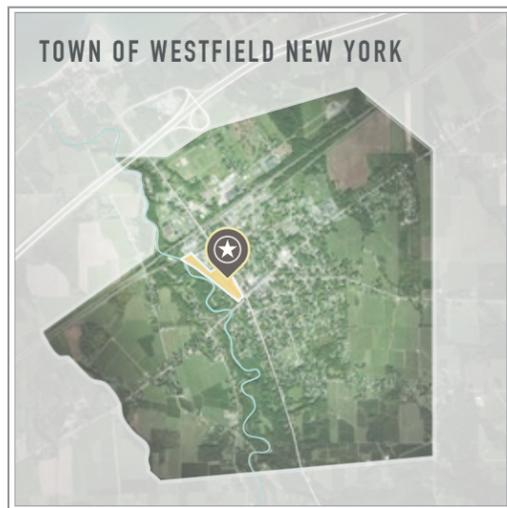
What major transportation routes take visitors into the area and could draw users to the trail?

The site is situated within a day's drive of most of the major population centers of the northeastern U.S. and southern Canada. Being crossed by two major interstates (I-90 and I-86), a network of state and federal highways, and rail, the County has two commercial airports and a network of well maintained county roads.

LOCAL ASSETS

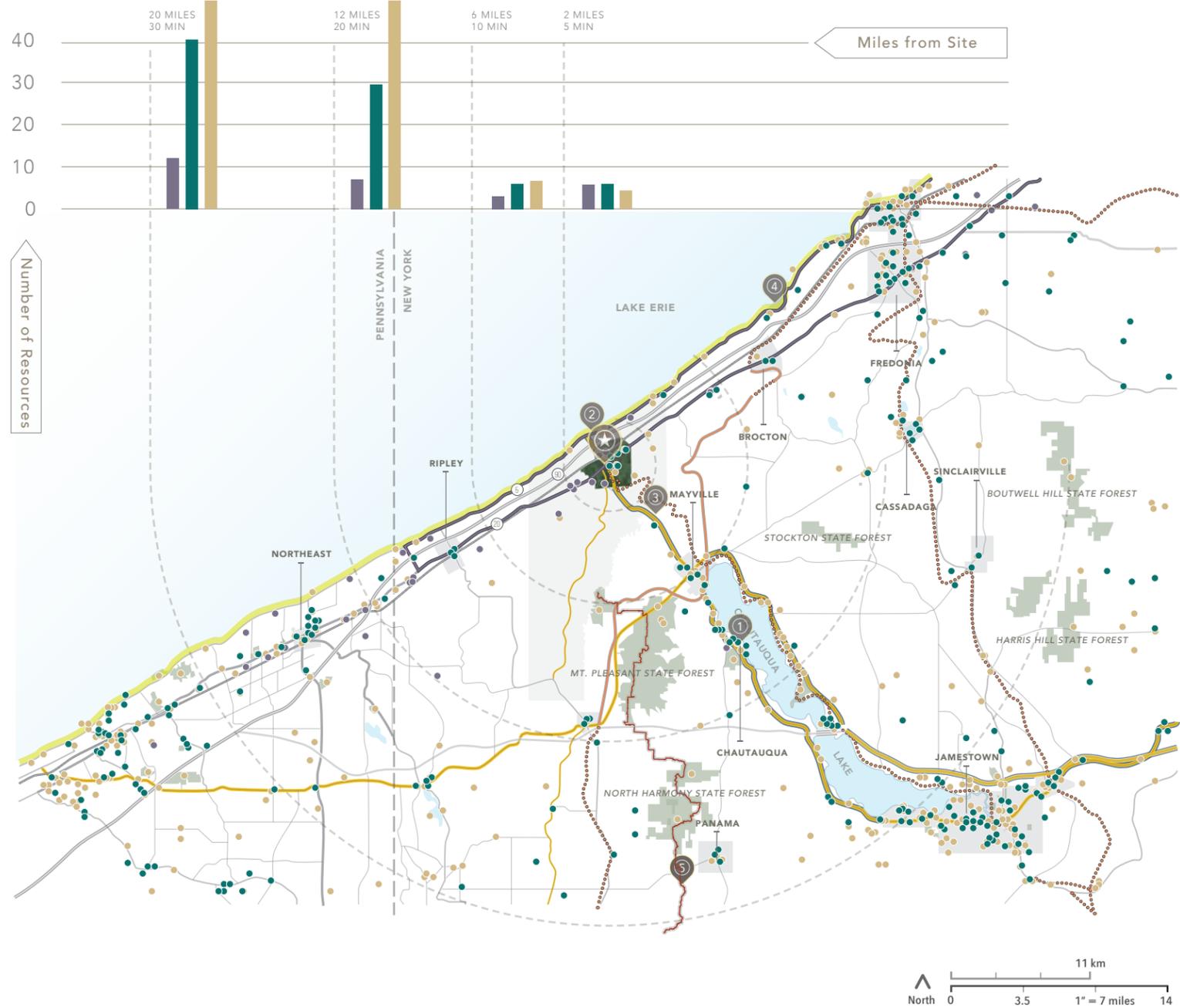
Heritage tourism is the fastest-growing tourism segment in the world, and a rich development niche for Chautauqua County. Visitors in this sector seek authentic and one-of-a-kind travel experiences combined with educational and recreational programming of which this area has lots of.

The Welch Trail would be uniquely positioned at the heart of the "World's Learning Center" an oasis of Chautauqua culture combined with recreational opportunities and the region's scenic resources, poised to utilize existing cultural and heritage tourism assets as a new point of interest for both local and regional visitors exploring the area.



MAP KEY:

- Site of the Welch Trail
- Town of Westfield
- Population Centers
- State Line / County Boundary
- Water Body
- Roads
- State Parkland / Open Space
- Feature Trail Area (Profile at Right)



TRAIL SYSTEMS:

- Existing Rail-Trail
- Abandoned Rail Line
- Existing Bike Routes
- New York State Bike Route 17
- Great Lakes Seaway Trail
- Concord Grape Belt Trail
- Overland Hiking Trail

RESOURCES KEY: *Points of Interest for Heritage Tourists*

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wine Heritage Point of Interest | Cultural Point of Interest | Recreation Point of Interest |
| Wineries | Libraries | Amusement Parks |
| Grape Discovery Center | Schools / Universities | Marinas / Public Beaches |
| Vineyards | Theaters | Golf Courses / Clubs |
| Wine Tastings | Museums | Athletic Fields / Clubs |
| Wine Cellars | Art Galleries | Camping Sites |
| Wine Trail | Nature Preserves | Community Parks |
| | Research Centers | Playgrounds |

WHAT ARE SOME KEY RESOURCES IN THE LOCAL AREA?

1 CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION
Location: 15 minutes from Welch Trail site.
Size: 750 acres
Use: Community of Arts, Education & Recreation
About: The 9 week summer program season draws over 100,000 visitors, most existing from I-90 and passing through Westfield on their way to and from the Chautauqua grounds.

2 CHAUTAUQUA WINE TRAIL
Location: Chautauqua County
Span: 23 Local Wineries & Vineyards
Use: Education, Recreation, Relaxation
About: The local wineries attract more than a quarter of Chautauqua County visitors. Adding new experiences and attractions to this route will encourage visitors to future explore the area.

3 NEW YORK STATE BIKE ROUTE 17
Location: Lake Erie to the hamlet of Kennedy
Span: Westfield to the Hudson River Valley.
About: This is one of Chautauqua County's most beautiful bike routes as it completely encircles Chautauqua Lake and takes in the rest of the county's beauty. The Welch Trail would be located directly along this route and offer riders a pleasant branch experience that relinks to rt. 17.

4 LAKE ERIE STATE PARK
Location: 15 minutes N.E. of Welch Trail site.
Uses: Hike, Bike, Cross-Country Ski, Camp, Picnic, Birdwatch.
About: Scenic high bluffs overlook Lake Erie and the park offers campsites and cabins. Users can enjoy sheltered picnic areas, playgrounds, and hiking trails that are available to cross-country skiers during the winter months. It is also uniquely recognized as an excellent place for locating rare migratory birds.

5 FRED CUSIMANO WESTSIDE OVERLAND TRAIL
Location: Mayville > Sherman, New York
Length: 24 miles
Surface: Earthen path, mowed track, woods road, rural and forest roads.
Type: Public / Multi-Use County Trail System
Uses: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Cross country Skiing, Camping.

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE:

- | | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| 1 | OUTSIDE CONNECTIONS: Future connection point to larger trail system via B2CI Development . | 8 | OPENS TRESTLE VIEWSHED: Trestle overlook becomes a safe and scenic vantage point for train spotters and trail users. |
| 2 | ADAPTIVE REUSE: Portage Inn demo site utilizes otherwise vacant property as direct vehicular access point. | 9 | POSITIVE DRAINAGE: Natural retention basin ensures dry trail and keeps maintenance and construction costs down. |
| 3 | UTILIZING EXISTING AMENITIES: Creating access to existing/underutilized parking benefits downtown/site. | 10 | NATURAL ENTRY POINT: Shallow slope here makes construction easy, and offers cyclists a safe no-dismount entry. |
| 4 | ECONOMIC GROWTH: Trail development increases value of neighboring property / offers smart growth opportunities. | 11 | ECONOMIC GROWTH: Trail development increases value of neighboring property & creates smart growth opportunities. |
| 5 | EXPANDED SITE USE: Little league field users would have expanded use of site during / outside of field events. | 12 | TRAIL VISIBILITY: Highly visible trailhead location from N.Portage (esp. visitors off 90) drawing new users. |
| 6 | WATERFRONT ACCESS: Improving existing game/fishing paths improves public access to Chautauqua Creek. | 13 | RESIDENTIAL ACCESS: Promoting active lifestyles by offering safe and easy access to Welch Trail for nearby residents. |
| 7 | OPENING SCENIC VIEWSHED: Trail opens dense vegetation to scenic views of Chautauqua Creek. | 14 | USING EXISTING AMENITIES: Existing bathrooms, storage, and concessions could be expanded/improved for trail use. |



OBSTACLES TO NAVIGATE:

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | UNSAFE ACCESS: Cars and pedestrians are currently use this low visibility access point which poses a safety concern. | 6 | LOW LYING BANK: Area is well graded but low enough to see spring flooding - amenities suited to higher ground. |
| 2 | DISCONNECTED SITE: Visitors on Main St. have limited site access and would benefit from direct steps and signage. | 7 | STEEP GRADE: Moderate slopes to either side of trail will at points require some protective fencing for safety. |
| 3 | UNDERUTILIZED PARKING: Large parking lot is not intuitively accessible and underutilized by downtown area. | 8 | DRAINAGE CHANNEL: Right of trail requires simple drainage channel to keep runoff from eroding or wetting surface. |
| 4 | STEEP GRADE: Vehicular access from Portage Inn site is feasible but requires grading to accomodate grade change. | 9 | STEEP GRADE: Connecting trail along this side hindered by steep slopes and dense vegetation close to field. |
| 5 | NARROW COORIDORS: Position of Little league field leaves little room on sides - enough for access trail not road. | 10 | OWNERSHIP: Property for trailhead currently owned by Welch's, their easement would allow for development. |



The Welch Trail would connect in segment 1 to the larger Barcelona to Chautauqua Institution Multiuse Trail.



Trail would let out here onto a natural shore of Chautauqua Creek and open visibility from trail network.



Parking is currently underutilized and would become accessible with creation of access road off Portage Inn site (Green #2)



Runoff currently collects and dampens future trail site. A simple drainage ditch would channelize water to right of trail and keep surface dry.

PAST CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION

PROPOSED CONDITION

DESIGN PERSPECTIVE

DESIGN FEATURES



EXISTING & PROPOSED SITE CONDITIONS CHART



The Welch's easement offers the most shallow grade on site - making it a very feasible trailhead especially to improve site accessibility for cyclists.



A shared-use 6' wide crushed limestone trail will branch from an improved bike lane on rt. 394 offering pedestrians and cyclists a safe vehicle-free access point.



Enhancing visibility and accessibility here are top priority via signage and a crosswalk. Other amenities include benches, bollards, lighting, and bicycle parking.



Signage is a key component as this trailhead is the most visible to travelers on rt. 394. **Directional and informational signage** will be borrowed from the B2CI Plan for continuity.

A

WELCH EASEMENT

- Gradually sloping site topography at this potential access point is prime location for a trailhead and would require minimal intervention.
- Good site visibility to attract users (especially cyclists) from route 394 / NYS Bike Route 17, especially those riding through the area during summer months.
- Clearing required at treeline.



The JW & NW trolley from Jamestown to Westfield was once considered one of America's fastest + most thrilling short lines.



The old trolley bed is still in good condition and could easily be adapted to fit the needs of a shared-use trail system.



Clear and regrade the trail to mound, dig drainage ditches to the right and resurface with crushed limestone.



Trail is accessible along ridgeline but in steeper areas may require safety fencing and additional drainage features to include short boardwalks.



Strategically located picnic areas offer observation points to watch playing children, points of rest for recreational users, and nodes of activity because more eyes = safer trail.

B

TRAIL NETWORK

- Adaptive reuse of historic railroad bed for stretch of shared-use trail limits site disturbance.
- Site boasts large stretch of creek-front property - ability to develop sole public access point to Chautauqua Creek for warm / cold weather recreation.
- Steeper banks will necessitate grading work and installation of safety fencing at some points.



At the height of the railroads popularity, the Portage Inn was one of the most modern hotels in Western New York. It had a dining room and 27 sleeping rooms.



The Inn has since fallen into disrepair and without investment or maintenance has been condemned and scheduled for demolition.



The Welch Trail serves as an opportunity to repurpose the inn site - improving access to existing parking, ball fields and the Welch trailhead.



A new staircase will safely link ample parking behind Portage Inn from Lincoln Bedell plaza to the main street district, benefiting downtown business and events.

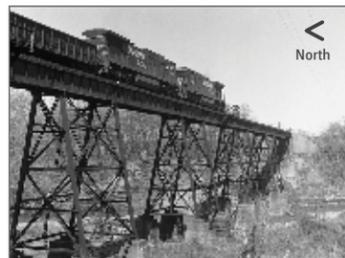


Proposed vehicular / bike access road will be engineered into former Portage Inn lot - increasing visibility, access, and safety for users of amenities behind former inn.

C

PORTAGE INN ACCESS

- Former Portage Inn site is a good location to provide access that currently doesn't exist off main street to parking and athletic facilities below.
- Access road of this nature has been reviewed by an engineer and is deemed feasible for the site location.
- Bank stabilization and regrading for altered runoff patterns.



Deck plate girder bridge over Chautauqua Creek on Norfolk Southern Railway.



The trestle is in good condition and train spotters would like to utilize the area but the best views from site are inaccessible and lack basic amenities like benches to accommodate users.



The Welch Trail offers a scenic overlook at the end of the Welch Trail to make the grand view accessible for all, esp. catering to use by train spotters.



At the point of overlook / end of the Welch Trail, there would be the opportunity to view informational signage about the creek and vista.



Design of overlook features **interpretive signage** in a style borrowed from the Chautauqua Institution - Barcelona Trail Plan to provide continuity.

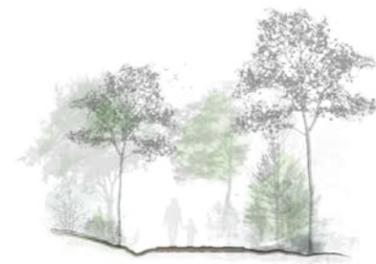
D

SCENIC OVERLOOK

- Multiple levels of natural and historic interpretation can be overlaid on this stretch of trail that has for many years been veiled from the public due to lack of access.
- Unique user group - train spotters - can be catered to and will likely maintain area if adopted for their use.
- Steeper banks will necessitate grading work and installation of safety fencing at some points.



View South from North Portage



View South along Railbed Trail



Southeast Birdseye View of Parking



View North to Trestle

WELCH EASEMENT

- 1 ENTRY SIGNAGE
- 2 PARK BENCH
- 3 LANDSCAPING TREES
- 1 SPOT LIGHTING
- 2 PEDESTAL LIGHTING
- 1 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 1 CROSSWALK (PAINTED/SIGNS)
- 3 SAFETY BOLLARDS
- 1 BIKE RACK
- .5mi LENGTH OF ACCESS TRAIL
- 6' WIDTH OF ACCESS TRAIL
- 4" DEPTH OF ACCESS TRAIL

TRAIL NETWORK

- 4 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 1 INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- 8 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- .16 mi LENGTH OF DRAINAGE DITCH
- .2 mi SAFETY FENCING
- 2 PARK BENCH
- 2 LANDSCAPING AREAS
- 1.25 mi max TOTAL LENGTH OF TRAIL
- 6' WIDTH OF MAIN TRAIL
- 4" DEPTH OF MAIN TRAIL
- 4' WIDTH OF BRANCH TRAILS
- 4" DEPTH OF BRANCH TRAILS

PORTAGE INN ACCESS

- 2 PARK BENCHES
- 4 LANDSCAPING TREES
- 4 PLANTING BEDS
- 30' WIDTH OF 2-WAY ACCESS ROAD
- 300' LENGTH OF ACCESS ROAD
- 5' WIDTH OF BIKE LANE
- 35' GRADE CHANGE
- 1 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 2 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE
- 1 ENTRY SIGNAGE
- 1 SPOT LIGHTING
- 1 4 PEDESTAL LIGHTING
- 2 CROSSWALKS
- 1 BIKERACK

SCENIC OVERLOOK

- 1 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 1 INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- 2 BUILT IN BENCHES
- 36" HEIGHT OF SAFETY RAILING
- 10' LENGTH OF PLATFORM
- 10' WIDTH OF PLATFORM

E PICNIC AREAS (3)

- 3 PICNIC TABLES
- 3 PICNIC TABLE PADS @ 14' x 16'
- 3 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- 3 GRILLS

F TRAILHEAD / PARKING (Extension)

- 2 PARKING LOT LIGHTS
- 2 PLANTING BEDS
- 2 LANDSCAPING TREES
- 6 INFORMATIONAL SIGNS
- 4282 SQ. FT. CRUSHED GRAVEL
- 3 BOLLARDS
- 2 PICNIC TABLES
- 2 PICNIC TABLE PADS @ 14' x 16'
- 1 ENTRY SIGN KIOSK
- 1 DIRECTIONAL SIGN
- 2 BIKE RACKS
- 1 SPOT LIGHT

G TRAILHEAD PARKING (Existing)

- 3 PARKING LOT LIGHTS

H LINCOLN BEDELL STEPS

- 6" RISER
- 12" TREAD
- 70 STEPS
- 69 TREADS
- 70 STEPS
- 69 TREADS
- 7 5' LANDINGS
- 104' TOTAL RUN
- 35' GRADE CHANGE
- 4 STEP LIGHTS
- 2 INFORMATIONAL SIGNS

SITE ACCESS

WELCH EASEMENT

01 CURRENT CONDITION



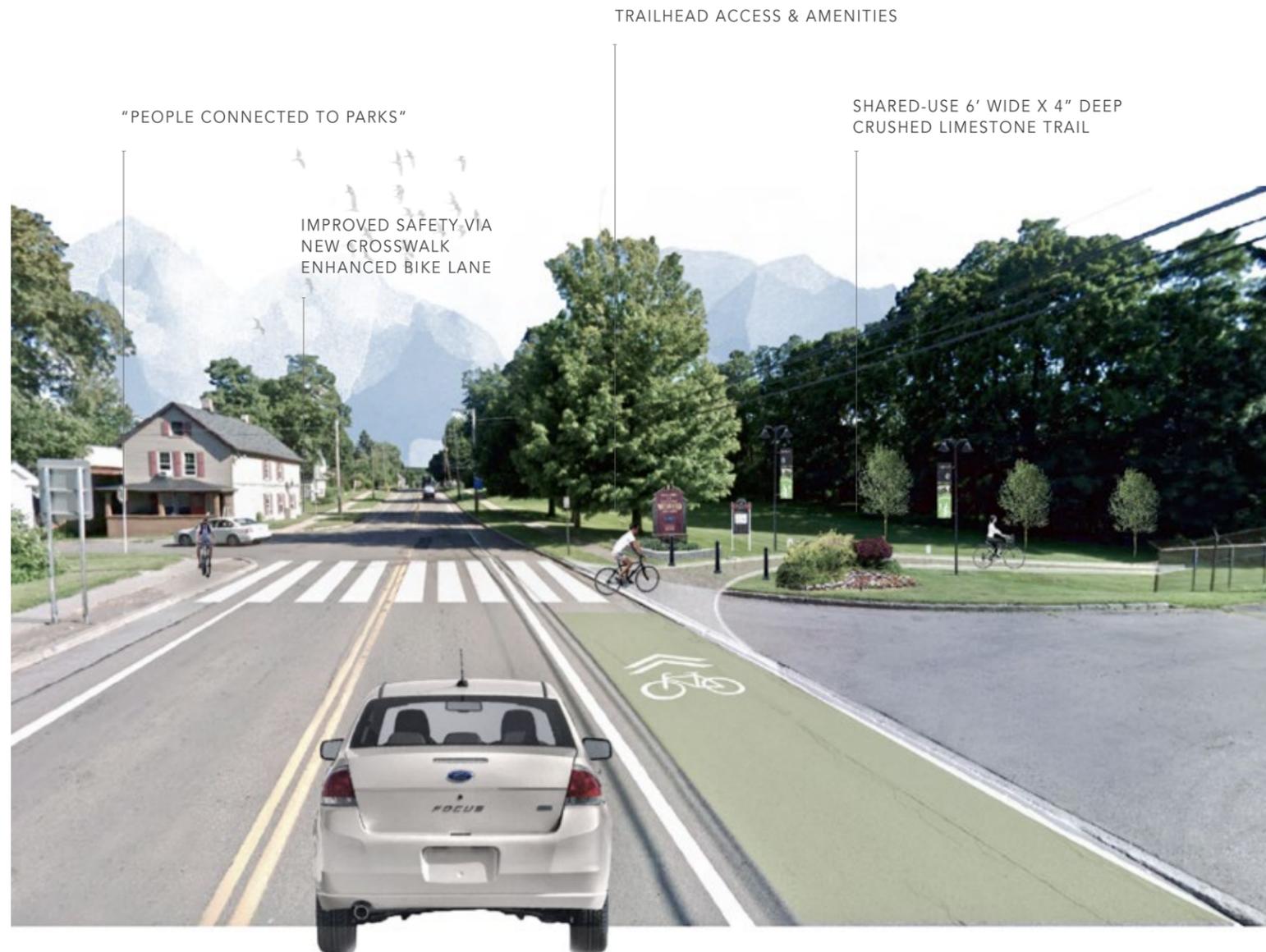
02 PROPOSED INTERVENTION



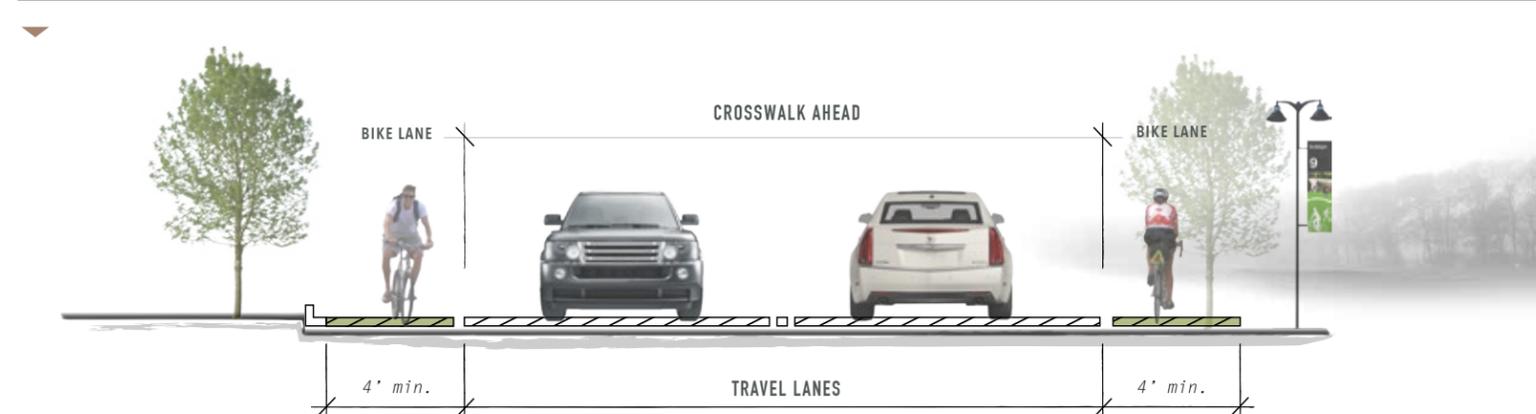
03 OBJECTIVES FOR THIS AREA

- Work corroboratively with Welch's to implement a mutually beneficial project on this property.
- Integrate trail access into the fabric of the neighborhood so active living becomes an everyday part of life for local residents.
- Fulfill objective of the Westfield Connections plan in building a link in a larger trail system.

TRAILHEAD ACCESS & AMENITIES



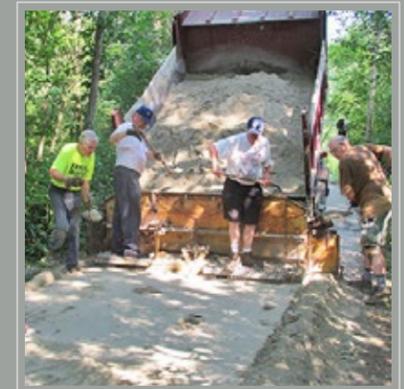
ROADSIDE IMPROVEMENTS: SECTION PERSPECTIVE



FEATURED DESIGN ELEMENTS:

TRAIL SURFACE:

Crushed limestone trails provide a user-friendly, all-season surface for all types and ages of visitors. Crushed stone trails can service an incredibly diverse range of visitors including: hikers, bikers, runners, strollers, and if built to meet ADA - the mobility impaired, visually impaired, and wheelchairs.



TRAIL AMENITIES:

Bike racks should be provided at trailheads and in the vicinity of picnic areas where cyclists may want to rest and park their bikes for awhile. It is recommended that bike racks be simple "U" -shaped metal racks that are surface mounted to concrete pads or footings.

