

# PARKS & TRAILS NEW YORK 2010 COMMUNITY TRAIL AND GREENWAY AWARDS

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS



For Madison County's Chittenango Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail System and the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail, Senator David Valesky and Assemblyman William Magee recognized a need and responded at just the right time.

Decades ago, Chittenango citizens envisioned a trail along the creek connecting Main Street to the Canalway Trail and additional short trails linking village neighborhoods. For years, political and economic factors didn't allow this trail system to become a reality, but the desire to complete it never waned.

Recently, community members were eager to try again. The Village DPW was willing to help, but they didn't own the kind of equipment needed to get the job done. But, perfectly timed assistance from Assemblyman Magee and Senator Valesky kick started the whole project and made things finally begin to happen. At last the trail committee could purchase the materials and the Village could rent the machinery they needed to start clearing and creating the neighborhood trails. As soon as they finished, residents began using the new trail connections to get to the community park, the high school and the business district.

With this success, the project turned the corner and financial and community support for the entire 3-mile trail system blossomed, including additional support from Assemblyman Magee and Senator Valesky, resulting in the opening of the first section of the Creek Walk Trail last weekend.

With the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail, support from Assemblyman Magee and Senator Valesky also came when it was needed, allowing the Village of Hamilton and the nonprofit Chenango Canal Association to complete a necessary bridge onto the old canal towpath trail and build 1.5 miles of new trail, directly linking the

Village to existing path trail to the north--- giving Hamilton residents access to a 7-mile trail for walking and bicycling for the first time. Assemblyman Magee and Senator Valesky's support also arrived just as the Chenango Towpath Trail was named a National Recreational Trail, making it possible to purchase the official signs to recognize this important distinction.

For their generous and timely support for the creation and expansion of the Chittenango Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail System and the Chenango Canal Towpath Trail, Parks & Trails New York recognizes Assemblyman William Magee and Senator David Valesky with its Special Recognition Awards.