



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

Town of Halfmoon



Trail Description: The Town of Halfmoon is a rural residential bedroom community of over 23,000 residents. The Town's demography has led to the expanding demand for hiking and biking trails that serve as connectors to all of the Town's recreational assets and open spaces. The Town's trail system includes three distinctive sections along the Champlain Canal/Hudson River. When complete, this corridor will contain a continuous 6-mile stone dust hike/bike trail. The first two segments are entirely completed and form a continuous 4-mile stone dust trail that is in active use. From the south, it extends north from the southern town border near School House Lane just south of the boundary with Town of Waterford continuing north to Upper Newtown Road. This stone dust trail has uniform wayfinding and instructive signage, including interactive QR code signage and is bordered by wooden fencing. The third trail segment is about 2-miles in length and is in the design stage. A fourth segment, now under development, is a connector trail from the Brookwood Road trailhead to Lighthouse Park.



Brookwood Road Trailhead



Empire State Trail: The Empire State Trail will follow the Champlain Canalway Trail through the entire Town of Waterford. EST will be responsible for off-road signage while NYSDOT will be responsible for on-road signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C1 Canal Park; Lighthouse Park (kayak dock, lockers and storage, open-air pavilion, public restrooms, accessible pathways, and benches).



Old Champlain Canal and Towpath

Public Facilities: McDonald's Historic Waste Weir and Old Lock 7.

Public Events: Community Night; Trunk or Treat; and Winter Carnival.

Connector Trails:

State Bike Route 9: US Route 4 on-road bike route.

Waterfront Connection Trail: Connects Brookwood Trail and Lighthouse Park.

Crescent Road Multi-Use Trail: Connects Halfmoon with Clifton Park.

Crescent Trail along Mohawk River: Also connects to the Erie Canal Towpath Community Connector.

Upper Newtown Link: Connects Halfmoon Town Park and Open Space areas.



Halfmoon Hike-Bike Trail

Local Planning Support:

- Town of Halfmoon Comprehensive Plan (2003)
- Town of Halfmoon Trails Master Plan (2006)
- Town of Halfmoon Natural Resource and Open Space Conservation Plan (2010)

Implementation Strategy: Complete design, engineering and construction underway for Upper Newtown Road to Farm to Market Road/Route 146. Seek a rural connection from the trail's north terminus northwest to the Zim Smith Trail near Elizabeth Street in Mechanicville. Obtain necessary permits and construct required road and railroad track crossings.

Trail Sections:

SCHOOLHOUSE LANE TO BROOKWOOD ROAD (H-1)

Description: This completed trail begins at the end of the Town of Waterford trail on Clute Street and connects to the Town of Halfmoon trail by way of Schoolhouse Lane. Trail users will walk or bike along the existing internal road network to Schoolhouse Road at the end of which the paved surface transitions to stone dust, marking the beginning of the Town of Halfmoon trail. This 1.5-mile trail section continues as a 6-foot wide, stone dust trail.

Parking & Signage: A trailhead/parking lot has been established. Uniform wayfinding and instructive signage along the Old Champlain Canal to Brookwood Road exists.

Status: This trail section is completed and in active use.

BROOKWOOD ROAD TO UPPER NEWTOWN ROAD (H-2)

Description: The trail continues north from the Brookwood Road Trailhead to Upper Newtown Road. This 2.5-mile trail section continues as a 6-foot wide, stone dust trail.

Parking & Signage: A trailhead/parking lot has been established on both ends of this segment. Uniform wayfinding and instructive signage along the Old Champlain Canal to Upper Newtown Road exists.

Status: This trail section is completed and in active use.

UPPER NEWTOWN ROAD TO FARM TO MARKET ROAD/ROUTE 146 (H-3)

Description: The trail segment is presently an informal unimproved 1.4-mile path owned by Town of Halfmoon. The trail follows the partially-watered Old Champlain Canal and towpath route. The significant forest, wetland, and riparian habitat provide trail assets and liabilities. Constraints include beaver dams in Canal prism and a lack of bridges. Important connections exist to the old hydroelectric plant, Lock 2, and downtown business district. Access at the north end is constrained by Route 146 crossing, railroad, and Sewage Treatment Plant. One potential solution is to provide an easterly connection off the trail through a willing property owner south of the Saratoga County Sewage Treatment Plant, along the easterly edge of this parcel, over the established railroad track crossing and down the access road to a proposed crossing on Route 4 to Jack Bryne Ford, and north up South Main Street (Old Route 59).

Parking & Signage: Parking and wayfinding signage is available at the Upper Newtown Road Trailhead.

Status: This trail is in the schematic design phase with construction completed by 2020. NY Empire State Trail will provide funding for this segment at an estimated cost of \$2.47 million.

WATERFRONT CONNECTION TRAIL: BROOKWOOD ROAD TO LIGHTHOUSE PARK (H-4)

Description: This trail is being established to link the Old Champlain Canal Trail to the Town's Lighthouse Park on the Hudson River. This will be a 10-foot wide multi-use pedestrian trail that will involve a railroad crossing and a crossing at Routes 4 and 32 directly leading into Lighthouse Park. DOT permitting is being sought for two road crossings while a fully executed agreement has been obtained from CP Rail.

Parking & Signage: The Brookwood Road Trailhead and Lighthouse Park will be utilized for as official parking areas. No signage has been established for this link.

Status: This partially constructed trail is fully funded through grants under the NYSDOS LWRP program and Saratoga County Open Space and Farmland Protection Program, plus local match funds.



Lighthouse Park



Old Champlain Canal Historic Waste Weir at McDonald's Creek

Champlain Canalway Trail 2019 Action Plan

Town of Halfmoon

