



# CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

## Town of Fort Ann Village of Fort Ann



**Trail Description:** Fort Ann is described as “A Beautiful Place at the Crossroads of a Beautiful Region”. The Town is part of a historic corridor between the Hudson River and Lake Champlain where European armies constructed fortifications for the French and Indian Wars, and American rebels fought British forces in the Battle of Fort Ann at Battle Hill. This action delayed their advance to Saratoga long enough for Colonial forces to mount a successful defense at Saratoga which in turn led to a turning point in the Revolutionary War. The southern part of the CCT trail through Fort Ann begins at Baldwin Corners Road on the Fort Ann Towpath Trail and it continues along this dedicated pathway to its terminus and trailhead on Ann Street. The next trail segment continues over the Clay Hill Bridge and along the shoulder of Clay Hill Road to the intersection with Dewey’s Bridge Road. It continues north on South Quarry Lane, then onto North Quarry Lane until reaching Rt 22 when it turns west along the Rt 22 shoulder, crosses the canal again and turns north onto Old Route 4 to Lock C-11 Canal Park.



**Empire State Trail:** The EST utilizes the same route as the CCT until reaching the intersection of Routes 22 and 4 on the west side of the Champlain Canal. From this point north, the EST is planned as an on-road shoulder route along Route 4 into the Village of Whitehall. NYSDOT will be responsible for signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements.

**Champlain Canal Access Points:** Fort Ann Waterfront Park (gazebo, picnic shelter, public docks and kayak launch); Comstock Informal Boat Ramp; and Lock C11 Canal Park (future camping facility planned).

**Public Facilities:** Old Stone House Library/LTLP Heritage Center; Battle Hill Revolutionary Historic Site; Halfway Creek and Kane’s Falls; Lakes to Locks (LTLP) Passage Pocket Park; and Old Champlain Canal Historic Locks.

**Public Events:** Fort Ann supports and participates in all regional events and activities throughout Washington County including the Washington County Fiber Tour, Maple Weekend, and the Cheese Tour.

### Connector Trails:

Slate Valley Trail: Proposed 22-mile multi-use recreational trail extension from Granville with connections to Vermont (route presently unknown).

Kingsbury Barnstormers Snowmobile Trail: The snowmobile route has loops throughout West Fort Ann and connections west to the Lake George area.

Granite Hill Campground Spur: This trail route is being considered as a future spur that may become part of the CCT at some point in the future.

Battle Hill Trails: This is a planned closed hiking loop trail system with an interpretive plaza at the trailhead/parking area.

### Planning Support:

- Fort Ann Joint Community Plan (2008)
- Fort Ann Streetscape and Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2008)
- Village of Fort Ann Downtown Revitalization Plan (2009)
- Washington County Tourism Study (2017)
- Fort Ann to Whitehall Trail Feasibility Study (2018)

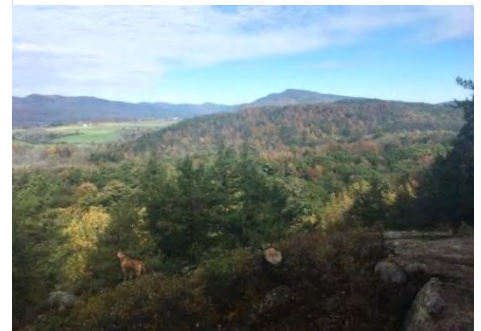
**Implementation Strategy:** Funding is in place for the entire route through Fort Ann with construction slated for 2019-2020. Work includes improving the Fort Ann Towpath Trail with a stone dust surface. Contractors will work with the local snowmobile club to avoid winter conflicts.



*Champlain Canal North of Clay Hill Bridge*



*Fort Ann Towpath Trail at Baldwins Corners*



*Battle Hill Site from Granite Hill Campground*

## Trail Sections:

### FORT ANN TOWPATH TRAIL TO ANN STREET (FA-1)

**Description:** This is an existing dedicated 1.5-mile trail with a mostly level turf surface that runs from Baldwin Corners Road to the Fort Ann Towpath Trailhead at Ann Street. The northernmost 0.2-mile section of the trail has been separated from South Canal Road making it now a dedicated path. The trail continues as an on-road signed route across the Clay Hill Bridge.

**Trailheads, Parking & Signage:** There is parking available at the Ann Street Trailhead. Lakes to Locks Passage interpretive signage explains the historic locks and stages of canal development. The trail is also signed throughout with Champlain Canalway Trail signs. An informal pull-off is available at the Baldwin Corners Road.

**Phase:** Improvements include a stone dust surface and the addition of signage as part of the construction of the EST.

### ANN STREET/CLAY HILL BRIDGE TO DEWEY'S BRIDGE ROAD (FA-2)

**Description:** This 2.7-mile section begins at the Fort Ann Waterfront Park, crosses the Clay Hill Bridge and continues over the Clay Hill Bridge and along the shoulder of Clay Hill Road to the intersection with Dewey's Bridge Road. It continues north on South Quarry Lane, then onto North Quarry Lane until reaching Rt 22 when it turns west along the Rt 22 shoulder, crosses the canal again and turns north onto Old Route 4 to Lock C-11 Canal Park.

An alternative off-road route that avoids the steep hill on Clay Hill Road may be considered in the future. After crossing the Clay Hill Bridge hikers and bikers would turn left onto an unimproved road on Canal Corps lands, continue on lands owned by the Granite Hill Campground to the Granite Hill peak, and return to the Campground entrance on Clay Hill Road. The trail would then continue on the paved shoulder of Clay Hill Road to the intersection with Dewey's Bridge Road.

**Trailheads, Parking & Signage:** These roads will be signed to identify it as the EST and striping and wayfinding signage will be provided where necessary. Parking is available at the Ann Street Trailhead and at Fort Ann Waterfront Park.

**Phase:** Funding for surveying, archeological review, environmental analysis, permitting and design of this segment is provided through a 2017 LWRP NYSDOS grant with completion in 2019. Construction will be completed through EST funds in 2019-2020.

### DEWEY'S BRIDGE ROAD TO QUARRY LANE/ROUTE 22 (FA-3)

**Description:** This pastoral section of trail starts as a turn north on South Quarry Lane and then Quarry Lane (dirt road) for about 2 miles to the intersection with Rt 22. The view is striking as the trail continues just east and past Great Meadows Correctional Facility.

**Trailheads, Parking & Signage:** A parking lot with trailhead signage could be established at the closed entrance to the former Dewey's Bridge. Signage for this route will be provided by the EST and CCT.

**Phase:** Funding for surveying, archeological review, environmental analysis, permitting and design of this segment is provided through a 2017 LWRP NYSDOS grant. Construction will be completed in 2019-2020 utilizing EST funds.

### QUARRY LANE/ROUTE 22 TO LOCK C-11 CANAL PARK (FA-4)

**Description:** At this intersection the trail will follow the shoulder of Route 22 for less than one mile before crossing the Champlain Canal at the Rt 22 Bridge. The trail continues north on Old Route 4 along the Champlain Canal for approximately 1.5-miles to the end of North Old Route 4. It will continue north on Canal Corps and private lands to Ryder Road.

**Trailheads, Parking & Signage:** The trail will pass through Lock-11 Canal Park where a trailhead with camping and waterfront amenities for land and water visitors are planned. Canal Corps and Lakes to Locks Passage interpretive signage and waterfront will be completed in 2019.

**Phase:** Funding for surveying, archeological review, environmental analysis, permitting and design of this segment is provided through a 2017 LWRP NYSDOS grant. Construction will be sought following completion of the pre-construction elements.





*Fort Ann Waterfront Park Kayak Launch*



*Fort Ann Towpath at Ann Street*



*Waterfront Park*

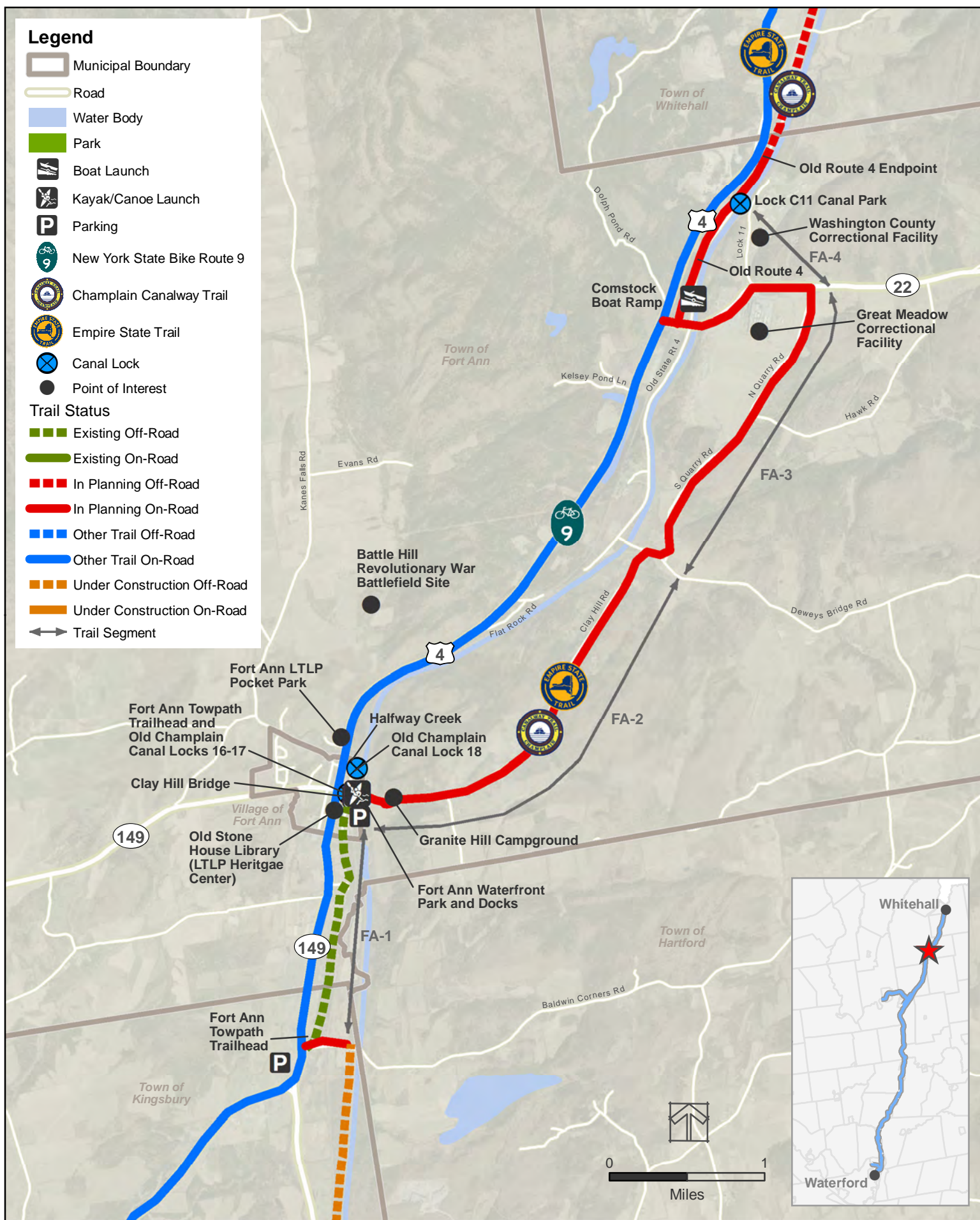


*Lock 11 Canal Park*



# Champlain Canalway Trail 2019 Action Plan

Town of Fort Ann





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Village of Fort Ann

