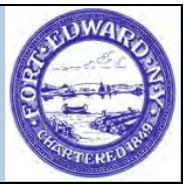




CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

Town of Fort Edward

Village of Fort Edward



Trail Description: Known as the "Great Carrying Place", Fort Edward is steeped in rich history and heritage having played a major role in the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution. Fort Edward has the advantage of being located at the entrance of the Hudson River and Champlain Canal, being located near Highway I-87 and having major railroad access while retaining the historic and country charm of a rural community. The CCT will take advantage of this strategic location by highlighting Hudson River views and access points in its southern approach from the Town of Greenwich. As the trail continues into the Village of Fort Edward it will move onto the Old Champlain Canalway route which becomes the critical connector to the Feeder Canal and the Upper Hudson River. This route conveys an entire interpretive story can be from the Old Junction Lock to the Five Combines Park area.



Old Champlain Canal Lock 13 Pocket Park



Empire State Trail: The EST will exist entirely on Route 4 as an on-road shoulder route throughout the Town of Fort Edward. It will follow the CCT route throughout the Village of Fort Edward and to its border with Kingsbury. NYSDOT will be responsible for roadside signage, striping and wayfinding enhancements. Route 4 will continue to serve as an on-road bicycle route.



Old Champlain Canal Junction Lock

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Lock C-6 Fort Miller; Lock C-7 Fort Edward; Lock C-8 Fort Edward; Bradley Beach Kayak Launch; Fort Edward Yacht Basin Terminal Wall; and Public Docks at the Route 4 Bridge.

Public Facilities: Old Fort House Museum; Rogers Island Visitor Center; Canal Street Market; Mullen Park & Walking-Fitness Trail; Washington County Historical Society; Fort Edward D&H Railway Depot (Amtrak Station); Moses Kill Aqueduct; Fort Edward Junction Lock; Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area; and Fort Edward Yacht Basin and Terminal Wall.



Old Champlain Canal Towpath

Public Events: Annual Locktoberfest; Fort Edward Heritage Days; Annual Country Fair and Antiques Auction; Rogers Island French & Indian War Encampment; and Community Fall Festival.

Connector Trails:

Grasslands Loop Trail: This loop connects to the Washington County State Wildlife Management Area and Solomon Viewing Area

Feeder Canal Trail: This trail is a stone surfaced outdoor walking/bike trail that runs along the shores of the Feeder Canal from the official starting point on the Hudson River Overlook Park in Queensbury to Five Combines Park and Mullen Park in Fort Edward.

Rogers Island Trail: This is a future trail loop currently in the planning and design stage.

Planning Support:

- U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan (2005)
- Rogers Island Visioning Plan (2007)
- Hudson River and Champlain Feeder Canal Intermunicipal LWRP (2008)
- Pre-Nomination Study Northeast Industrial Development and Reuse Strategy (2014)

Implementation Strategy: There are several substantial areas that could serve as an off-road trail on Route 4. Although challenging for design and construction, these areas should be studied for feasibility and the best available route outlined.

Trail Sections:

LOCK C-6 CANAL PARK TO LOCK C-7 CANAL PARK (FE-1)

Description: This trail segment begins in the hamlet of Fort Miller and continues north for approximately 6 miles along the shoulder of Route 4 to Lock C-7 Canal Park. This segment will also be the route for the EST and therefore will be signed and marked as an official bicycle route. The existing shoulders are wide and in reasonable condition throughout this trail segment. Lock C-7 Canal Park is highly scenic area and offers a great respite stop for cyclists.

Trailheads, Parking and Signage: The southern trailhead will be the Old Champlain Canal Lock 13 Pocket Park and the northern trailhead will be the Lock 7 Canal Park. The Pocket Park has areas for picnicking and provides interpretive signage about the history of the Champlain Canal. There are several historic remnants of the Old Champlain Canal throughout the Route 4 corridor that can be interpreted in the future and used as potential off-road trail segments. Both sides of Route 4 have street markings that separate bikers from automobiles. Basic signage identifying the road as the EST are in place.

Phase: A feasibility study is required to determine the potential for moving the trail to a dedicated off-road (Route 4) route.

LOCK C-7 CANAL PARK TO OLD FORT EDWARD JUNCTION LOCKS (FE-2)

Description: This trail segment begins at Lock 7 Canal Park just south of the Route 4 Bridge into the Village of Fort Edward. This segment will also be the route for the EST and therefore will be signed and marked as a bicycle route. The trail continues along the shoulder of Route 4 and over the bridge. The trail crosses to the east side of Route 4 into the Canal Pocket Park where the public docks are located. The trail continues off-road until reaching the existing sidewalk. The trail then crosses and turns right onto the west side of Rt 197/Argyle Street and turns into the Old Fort Edward Junction Locks parking lot. This site marks where the Feeder Canal made its critical connection to the Champlain Canal. This area is very important to the CCT because it contains many intact features of the old canal route for which an entire interpretive story can be conveyed through the Five Combines Park area. A side trail loop off Blackhouse Road provides access to 3 viewing areas of native grassland birds.

Trailheads, Parking and Signage: The southern trailhead will be the Lock 7 Canal Park. Improvements are planned at the Park including interpretive and wayfinding for water and land trails. The next trailhead north will be the Old Fort Edward Junction Locks. There is presently no wayfinding or interpretive signage in this area.

Phase: A design and engineering study will be required for improvements of the Junction Lock area. This route would permit the trail to directly connect to Canal Street thereby eliminating the use of State Street and Notre Dame Street.

OLD FORT EDWARD JUNCTION LOCKS TO WALKING & FITNESS TRAIL PARKING LOT (FE-3)

Description: This segment leads from the parking area of the Old Junction Lock, over Bond Creek and into Canal Street, east on East Street, and north on Wing Street to Mullen Park. The trail continues north through Mullen Park on the existing paved Feeder Canalway Trail and where it uses the existing crossing across McIntyre Street to a parking lot for the Fitness Trail. The CCT continues across the front of the parking lot and crosses Towpath Lane to an informal path.

Trailheads, Parking and Signage: The southern trailhead will be the Old Junction Lock. The next trailhead north will be the parking lot at the Fitness Trail. No signage is present at the Old Junction Lock. Both wayfinding and interpretive signage is available at Murray Park.

Phase: A design and engineering study will be required for improvements of the Junction Lock area, Canal Street and the remainder of the route to the Fitness Trail parking lot. All local roads will need to be marked and signed for the trail and crossing will need to be provided.

WALKING & FITNESS PARK PARKING LOT TO FEEDER CANAL "T" INTERSECTION (FE-4)

Description: This trail section continues down an existing footpath along the northwest side of Towpath Lane to the pedestrian bridge where the Feeder Canal Trail connects into Five Combines Park. At this point, the trail continues north along Towpath Lane to the end of the road. It continues as a more formal trail north from entrance bollards and signage.

Trailheads, Parking and Signage: The southern trailhead will be the parking lot at Fitness Park. Improvements are planned at the Park including wayfinding for the EST/CCT. The next trailhead north will be Towpath Lane Turnaround parking area.

Phase: Design, engineering and construction are being provided by the EST for this trail segment.



Fort Edward Yacht Basin



Canal Street Marketplace



Lock C-7 Canal Park



Mullen Park Fitness Trail

Champlain Canalway Trail 2019 Action Plan

Town of Fort Edward



Champlain Canalway Trail 2019 Action Plan

Village of Fort Edward

