



Canal Corporation

2025

Empire State Trail Town Action Agenda



Village of Canajoharie

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Table of Contents

Trail Town Program	3
Trail Town Framework	4
Program Process	5
2025 Trail Town Wins	6
Existing Conditions	7
About Canajoharie	7
Empire State Trail Inventory	8
Trail User Counts	9
Plans & Upcoming Projects	10
Assessment	12
Trail-oriented services and amenities	12
Bicycle and pedestrian experience	14
Wayfinding signage and informational resources	15
Welcoming atmosphere and community character	16
Recommendations	18
Implementation	26



The Trail Town Program

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) developed the Empire State Trail Town program in 2022 to help upstate communities recognize and capture the economic impact of the Empire State Trail and create a culture in trailside communities that views the trail as an asset integral to what makes those places special. The 750-mile Empire State Trail was completed in 2020, forming the nation's longest single-state multi-use trail and one of the state's premier outdoor recreation destinations. The Empire State Trail Town program was designed to build capacity and guide communities through the process of identifying ways they can transform into trail-friendly destinations where visitors want to stay, explore, and spend.

In 2025, PTNY and the NYSCC selected three new communities for participation in the Empire State Trail Town program - the Village of Clyde, the Village of Canajoharie, and a consortium of two villages and three towns participating as the Cayuga County Canal Communities. Having been selected for their strong baseline of trail-based services and amenities and demonstrated commitment to improving the trail user experience, the selected communities worked with PTNY throughout the year to identify opportunities and develop the tools to more effectively harness visitation to the renowned long-distance trail in their backyard and enhance quality of life for their residents.

Over the course of nine months, Canajoharie worked with PTNY to develop a network of local partners committed to the Trail Town initiative, conduct research and assessment, and develop promotional resources and strategies. In this document, the work completed through the course of the program is summarized to guide Canajoharie's advancement as a Trail Town.

Canajoharie's participation in the Trail Town program has, and will continue to support local tourism by offering a platform for dialogue about the importance of creating a sense of place and safe places for both visitors and residents to recreate. Through the creation of a "trail culture," community members see the trail as part of their community's identity and see the success of the trail as part of their community's success. By setting a consistent baseline of expectations for visitors in terms of what services to expect and how to find them, by growing the trail culture and by promoting the services and amenities available, an increasing number of trail users will have a positive experience, boosting the reputation of Canajoharie- and of the trail system as a whole- as an outdoor recreation destination.

Upon adoption of this Action Agenda, Canajoharie will be recognized as an officially certified Empire State Trail Town.

Empire State Trail Town Goals

Make communities more trail-user friendly.

- Embrace the trail as a core asset around which future planning and investment should be oriented
- Increase the frequency with which residents and visitors walk or bike both on and off the trail.



Help communities realize economic benefits of the Canalway Trail.

- Increase the number of Canalway Trail users who spend money either at retail businesses or at a bar or restaurant as part of their trip
- Increase the number of Canalway Trail users who choose the community for an overnight stay



Empire State Trail Town Objectives

NETWORK: Form a network of individuals (including representatives of the municipality, engaged residents, volunteers, and members of the business community) dedicated to the Trail Town vision

RESEARCH: Conduct research and assessment to identify each Trail Town's strengths and areas for improvement, as well as understand current use of the trail

PROMOTION: Increase the visibility of the Trail Towns as destinations

ADVANCEMENT: Establish a plan and process to guide continued work toward Trail Town goals beyond the direct assistance provided by PTNY



Trail Town Framework

What makes a great Trail Town? Thriving vibrant Trail Towns are places where trail users can find the amenities and services they need, where they can safely travel by foot or by bike around the community (often their primary mode of transportation), where they can find information out about what's around them, whether ahead of time online or in the moment through wayfinding and welcome centers, and finally, probably the least tangible, is that the community is welcoming and has a unique sense of character. Thriving, vibrant Trail Towns are successful because they exhibit four key qualities and invest in these areas.



Trail-oriented services and amenities

Trail users can find exactly what they need, whether they're just passing through, spending a few hours exploring, or staying the night.

- Restrooms & drinking water
- Overnight accommodations - indoor lodging and camping
- Food and drink - especially local fare
- Attractions/destinations
- Information center
- Bike amenities



High-quality and safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

Pedestrians and cyclists can safely travel around the community, both on the trail and off the trail to explore other parts of the community

- Trail conditions
- Connecting trails
- On-road connections to points of interest



Wayfinding and informational resources

Information is crucial for introducing potential visitors to the community or encouraging residents to get out and explore their own trails, be it ahead of time trip-planning resources or signage and welcome centers that help direct trail users in the moment.

- Pedestrian scale wayfinding signage
- Online & print promotional materials



Welcoming atmosphere and unique community character

Successful Trail Towns embrace and showcase what makes them unique, highlighting local history, culture, events and food. Visitors get to know what makes each town along the trail unique, and have more incentive to visit– and spread the word. Residents for their part get to share the best parts of their community and gain an enhanced sense of local pride.

- Festivals, events & programs
- Public art & history
- Volunteer presence

Program Process & Timeline

In March 2025, PTNY and the NYSCC selected the three participating communities, including the Village of Canajoharie, for participation in the Trail Town program. Over the following months, Canajoharie's participation in the program proceeded along the following timeline:

- April 7 - Virtual Orientation for all Trail Town communities
- April 9 - Steering Committee Meeting with PTNY
- April 20 - Canal Clean Sweep volunteer event hosted in Canajoharie
- Spring - Self-Assessment submitted to PTNY by Canajoharie steering committee
- May 3 - Trail Counter installed at eastern trail access point by Mitchell Street
- May 5 - Empire State Trail Towns Virtual Networking Event
- June 11-12 - Placemaking and Bike Around Workshops undertaken by PTNY staff and steering committee members in Canajoharie
- July 11 - Interim report sent to Canajoharie steering committee members
- July 18 - Canajoharie welcomed 600+ participants to stay overnight for the annual Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour
- September - Landing Page Worksheet and Draft Priority Actions submitted to PTNY



2025 Trail Town Wins

Even while undertaking the planning process, Canajoharie has advanced several projects and initiatives that contribute to its trail friendliness and its designation as a Trail Town.

Signage & Amenities:

- Montgomery County installed an interactive kiosk at the Church St trailhead
- Montgomery County installed new bike racks at multiple locations on Church St
- Trail Town Committee coordinated with the NY Forward planning process, also received in 2025.
 - Small project fund for NY Forward – this is for signage, mural on trestle bridge
 - Bathrooms at Waterfront Park – proposed project through NY Forward
- Trail Town Committee is working on historic markers along the path through town in collaboration with History group from the Canajoharie High School
- Trail Town Committee is working on drafting a proposal to the Village Board for approval of Overnight camping at Waterfront Park

Events & Programs:

- PTNY's Cycle the Erie Canal returned to Canajoharie after a year away and riders were celebrated with beautiful signs and a welcoming committee greeting them as they entered the village and prepared for the "Canajoharie Climb" up to the overnight campsite at Canajoharie Central Schools

New Trail-Serving Businesses:

- Iroquois Lanes opened an ice cream shop alongside the bowling alley, located just off the trail.

Planning for New Trail Connections:

- Montgomery County submitted an application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grant program, in support of final planning and design for an interpretive greenway trail along Canajoharie Creek at the former Beech-Nut site in the Village of Canajoharie.



Existing Conditions

This section provides an overview of the community, an inventory of the Empire State Trail, and a summary of existing plans and upcoming projects.

About Canajoharie

The Village of Canajoharie, nestled along the Mohawk River in Montgomery County, New York, is rich in history and small-town charm. Known as the “Pot That Washes Itself” from a Mohawk word referencing a unique geological feature located in the village, it blends natural beauty with a deep historical character. The village offers scenic river views, turn-of-the-century architecture, a welcoming downtown and beautiful natural landmarks. Once a hub of industry and Erie Canal commerce, Canajoharie today celebrates community, history, and a strong connection to the greater Mohawk Valley.

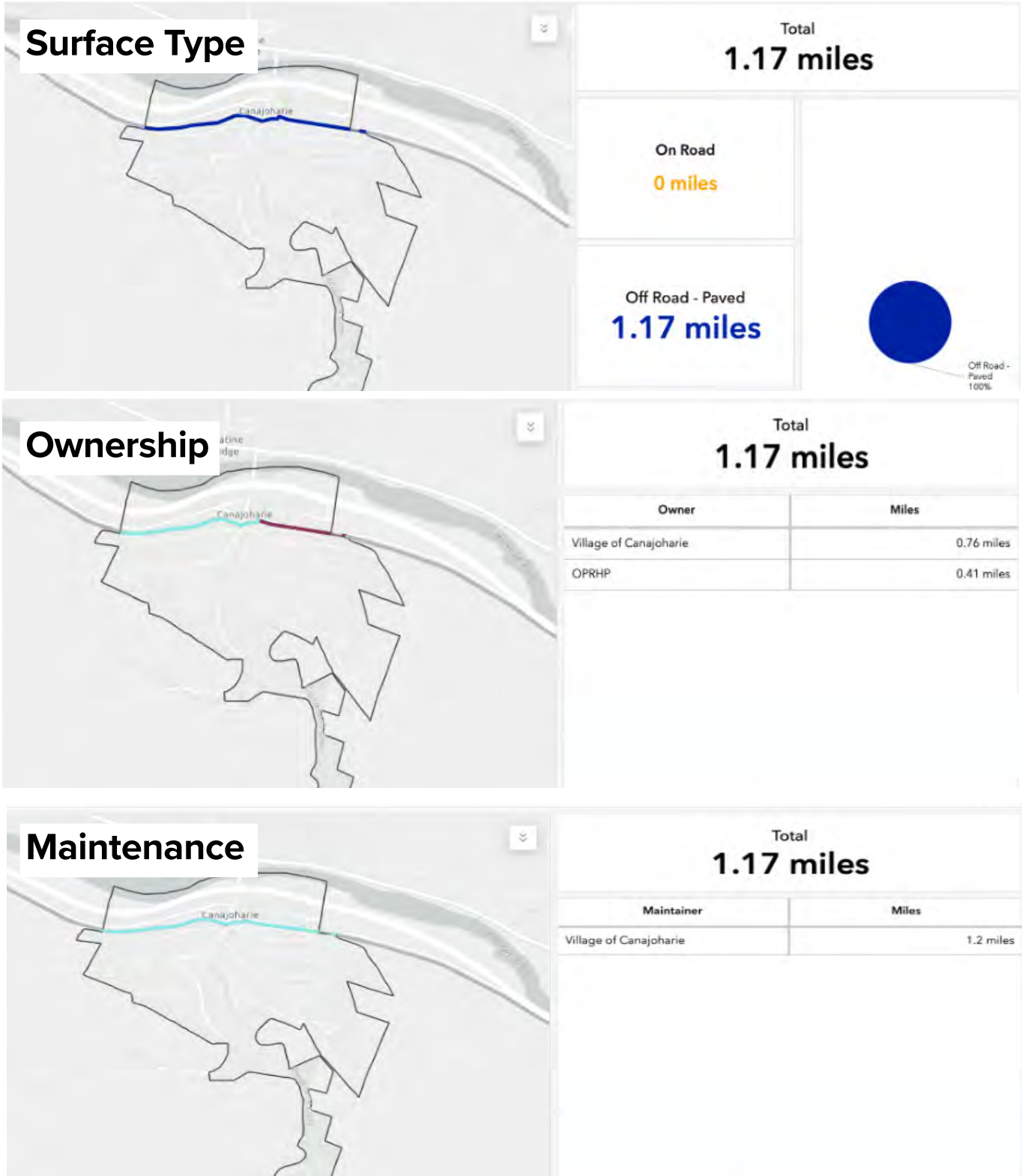
Canajoharie Empire State Trail Towns



Empire State Trail Inventory

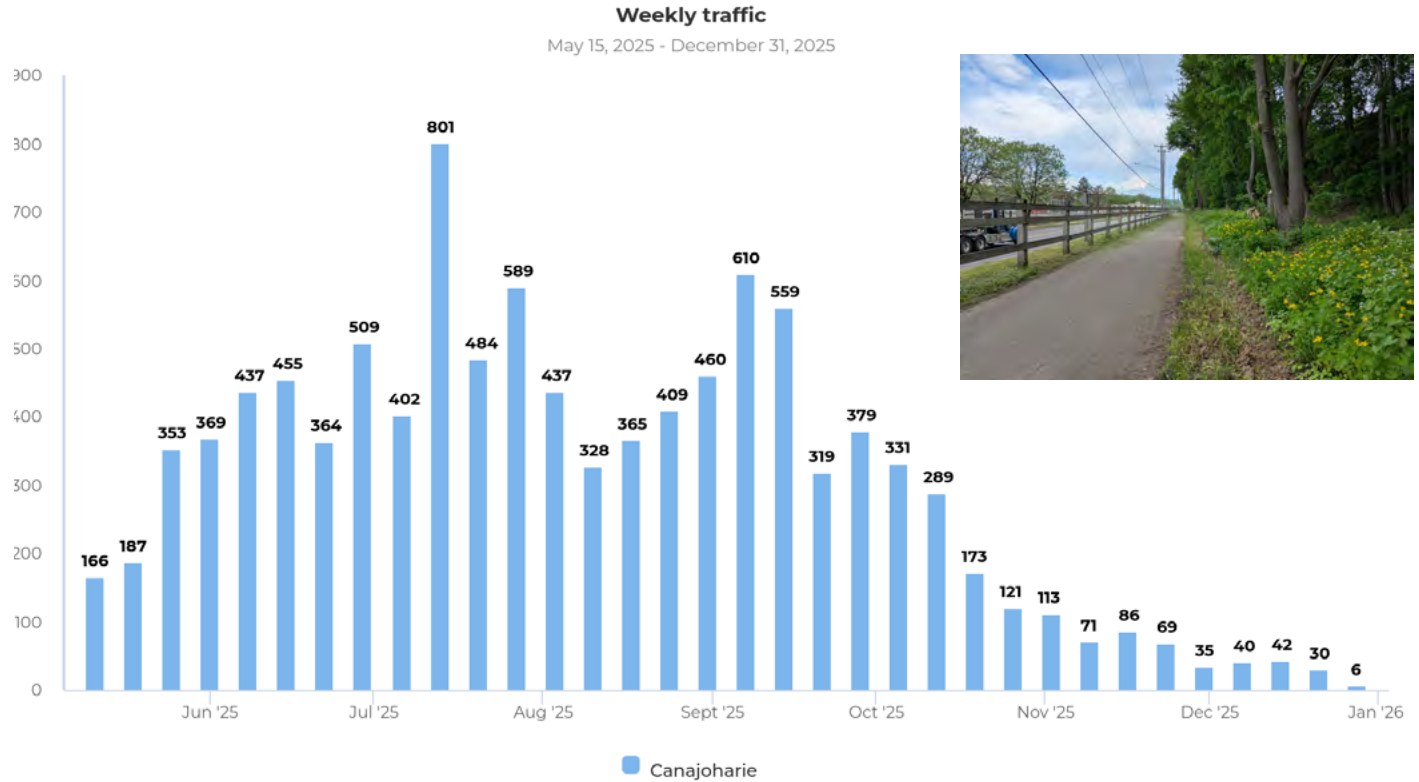
Surface Type, Ownership & Maintenance Responsibilities

The Village of Canajoharie is home to 1.17 miles of the Empire State/Erie Canalway Trail, all of which are off-road. The Village owns the trail from the village's western border to Mitchell Street, at which point, the ownership transitions to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP). The Village of Canajoharie maintains all of the trail within the village, regardless of ownership.



Trail Use Counts & Analysis

Trail use data can help businesses and decision makers understand the potential market for trail user-oriented services and amenities, as well as when people are using the trail so that the community can best serve their needs. The following chart shows weekly use from May 15, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Further data analysis will be provided in PTNY's forthcoming Who's on the Trail: Canalway Trail 2025 report.



Canajoharie, NY (east of Mitchell St)
Data Period: May 15, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Total traffic	Daily Average	Average week days	Average weekend traffic	Daily Median	Peak Day	Peak Count	Peak day of the week
10,388	45	41	55	43	Sat 19 July 2025	463	Saturday

Weekly trail use trends indicate that trail use is strongest in the summer, but stays high well into October. The peak trail use day occurred on Saturday, July 19, with most trail use that day occurring between 6am and 9am, corresponding with when PTNY's annual Cycle the Erie Canal bike tour riders left Canajoharie and traveled past the counter.

Plans & Upcoming Projects

Village of Canajoharie Comprehensive Plan (2024)

In 2024, the Village of Canajoharie adopted an updated comprehensive plan to guide land use, development and other long-range planning decisions. One of the core principles identified in this plan was to “become a Trail Town destination,” which participation in this program is helping to implement. While many of the plan’s recommendations will help bring Canajoharie closer to becoming a trail-friendly destination, a few action items identified within the plan that are relevant to becoming a Trail Town include:

Economic Development & Tourism

- Seek grants to design and install wayfinding and historic interpretive signage throughout the downtown and gateways into the Village.
- Adopt zoning changes that would regulate short-term rentals, increase the supply of overnight accommodations, and incentivize businesses that support the tourism industry

Parks & Recreation

- Create a waterfront trail through the Beech-Nut site that would connect the Erie Canalway Trail to Riverfront Park.
- Develop a concept plan for improvements to Riverside Park including under the overpass, and the fishing access near the sewer plant.
- Install a self-service kayak kiosk and/or bike rentals in the vicinity of Riverfront Park and the Canalway Trail.
- Explore the feasibility of connecting Wintergreen Park to the Erie Canalway Trail via Old Cunningham Road.
- Develop primitive campsites for cyclists traveling along the Canalway Trail with access to public restroom facilities.
- Adopt changes to the Village Code to allow snowmobiles in the Village via a direct connection to the Montgomery-Fulton Snowmobile Trail System.

Transportation & Circulation

- Adopt a “Complete Streets” resolution and pursue funding to improve sidewalks and pedestrian crossings throughout the Village, particularly along the NY-5S gateways and NY-10 through the downtown core.
- Perform a “Trail Town Assessment” and survey during PTNY's annual Cycle the Erie Canal event to identify additional facilities and amenities that would appeal to trail users.
- Prepare conceptual designs and cost estimates for safety improvements and sidewalk replacement along the gateway travel corridors, at Wagner Square and walking routes to schools.
- Install wayfinding and interpretive signage systems that welcome boaters, bicyclists and motorists and provide information regarding local culture, art, history, and natural resources.



Canajoharie NY Forward (2025)

In 2025, Canajoharie was selected as a recipient of a \$4.5 million grant award from New York State Governor Kathy Hochul and the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) through the third round of the NY Forward program. The NY Forward program is providing the village with planning and implementation support needed to attract more businesses, residents and visitors while also providing a higher quality of life for all residents. Several of the projects identified in Canajoharie's NY Forward Application (2024) would directly enhance the community's Trail Town appeal:

West Hill School transformation into boutique hotel with brewpub and restaurant in the basement

Riverfront Park boater and recreational user amenity enhancements

Creek Trail & Beech-Nut Interpretive History Walk

Village Directory aka "Country Directions" & Public Art

Exit 29 Redevelopment Project

The former Beech-Nut facility sits in the heart of the Village of Canajoharie. The Village and Montgomery County acquired the property in 2017, creating the opportunity to begin redevelopment of the iconic site encompassing 26.9 acres. Longterm, the community's vision is to revitalize the former Beech-Nut site into a productive, vibrant, walkable development that integrates with the existing fabric of the Village and enhances quality of life. Stakeholders and community members envision a mix of development that provides jobs, increases the tax base, and provides recreational and social benefits for Village residents.



Exit 29 redevelopment project map from project website.

Assessment

The Trail Town planning process assessed conditions in four areas:

- ✓ Trail-oriented services and amenities
- ✓ Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- ✓ Wayfinding and informational resources
- ✓ Atmosphere and community character

Within each area, each aspect was assessed and coded on a color-coded scale to determine how well the criteria is being fulfilled to help the community determine whether additional action is needed:

Red = No evidence. This criteria is not fulfilled or conditions are very poor.

Orange = Opportunity. This criteria may be partially met, but there is opportunity for improvement.

Yellow = Acceptable. This criteria is fulfilled and meets the needs of trail users, but there is still opportunity to make it excellent.

Green = Excellent. This criteria is completely fulfilled and goes above and beyond to meet the needs of trail users.



Trail-oriented Services and Amenities

Services & Amenities	Assessment
Restrooms	No public restrooms downtown, but several businesses downtown are open to trail users.
Drinking water	No public drinking fountains, but several businesses downtown are open to trail users and can provide drinking water.
Bike amenities - Bike parking	There is bike parking at some of the businesses, and Montgomery County installed a few new bike racks on Church St in 2025. Generally however, there is not sufficient bike parking downtown on Church St to meet the needs of cyclists who wish to keep their bicycle within sight while eating or shopping.
Bike amenities - Bike repair stations	There is one bike repair station at the western trailhead (Cardamone Crossing), but it is not very visible or well-known.
Bike amenities - Bike shop/rentals	There is no bike shop in town. Lee's Shops at Wagner Square has a bike repair kits. There are no bike rentals available in town. The closest bike shops are S&H Bicycle Works in Sloansville (they also have a satellite self-service bike shop location in Little Falls), and The Bike Works in Johnstown.
Trail parking	There is one dedicated trailhead parking lot at the western trailhead (Cardamone Crossing). There is also parking at the eastern trailhead, although it is not well defined. There is longterm parking available at Riverfront Park and Mitchell Street, though it is not marked.
Accommodations - Indoor	There are no hotels or official bed & breakfasts in Canajoharie. There are however a few short-term rentals that advertise as bike friendly.
Accommodations - Camping	The nearest official camping available is in Fort Plain at NYS Canal Corporation's Lock 15, so many cyclists bypass Canajoharie as an overnight location in favor of camping at Fort Plain. Cyclists are also permitted to stay overnight at Sprakers Reformed Church.
Food & Drink	Canajoharie has a strong food scene, with bars, multiple coffee shops, a deli, and various kinds of cuisine, and most recently, ice cream at Iroquois Lanes. A full service grocery store and the popular convenience store Stewart's are located in Palatine Bridge, across the river from Canajoharie. There is no brewery/distillery.
Destinations/attractions	Canajoharie has strong recreational and historic attractions including the easily accessible Arkell Museum & Gallery and Riverfront Park. Wintergreen Park and the Canajoharie Creek Scenic Trail (Boiling Pot trail) are also highlights but less easily accessible by foot/bike.

Bike Friendly NY Certification	Canajoharie has five certified Bike Friendly NY businesses, but potential for many more. Certified businesses include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Right Cafe • Arkell Museum & Canajoharie Library • Berean Bean • Taco 29 • Lee's Shops at Wagner Square
Information/Welcome Center	The new Village of Canajoharie Info Booth and the Arkell Museum & Library (open every day except Monday) both provide good sources of information.
Boater amenities - Boat launch	Canajoharie's Riverfront Park has many amenities for boaters but suffered a flood in 2019. Upgrades are planned for enhancements to boater experience.
Boater amenities - Kayak rentals	There are no kayak rentals available at Riverfront Park.



Bike out front of Arkell Museum.



Cyclist in front of Lee's Shops at Wagner Square.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

Bike/Pedestrian element	Assessment
Empire State Trail - Trail Conditions	The Empire State Trail through the Village is paved and in good condition. The section between Church St and Michigan St is on sidewalk concrete, which while wide enough to be a shared use path, is confusing to trail users because it does not look like a typical trail.
Empire State Trail - Trail Crossings	All trail crossings are marked with a crosswalk. The crossing of Church St is very wide and feels a bit uncomfortable because of the nontraditional shape and unpredictability of traffic at this intersection.
Connecting trails	<p>Canajoharie Creek Trail - There is a proposed trail that would connect the ECT/EST to the Riverfront Park. This is a critical connection.</p> <p>Boiling Pot & Wintergreen Park Trails - Both parks are not directly connected to the Empire State Trail by trail, but both offer hiking trails.</p>
On-road connections to points of interest	<p>Downtown Businesses - Easy to see and walk to from the trail on sidewalks, but Church St is uncomfortable to bike on and sidewalks are narrow. Businesses like Keep Right Cafe and Iroquois Lanes & Restaurant located far from Church St are even more uncomfortable to access because of wide roadways.</p> <p>Riverfront Park - Not visible from the trail, can be accessed on Church St but is uncomfortable to ride on. A trail along Canajoharie Creek would address this connection.</p> <p>Boiling Pot & Wintergreen Park Trails - No marked route or bicycle facilities to get to these parks.</p>



View of the route of the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail from Church Street where the trail is made of concrete.



View of the route of the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail facing east, where the trail parallels Mohawk Street.

Signage & Information

Signage/ Information Element	Assessment
ECT/EST identifier blazes	The Empire State Trail blazes are in good condition and the route is easy to follow. Canalway Trail blazes are faded and out-of-date. There is a missing EST/ECT blaze sign on the west side of Mitchell St to direct trail users onto the pedestrian/bike route.
Trailhead signage	The western trailhead at Cardamone Crossing has a good trailhead kiosk with a bulletin board. There is no trailhead or trailhead signage at the eastern trail access point.
Kiosks	There is a kiosk with a bulletin board at the western Cardamone Crossing trailhead. It could be further leveraged with local event flyers and business menus. There is a great Canajoharie visitor kiosk at Church St with a new interactive screen.
Gateway/Welcome Signage	There is a nice “Welcome to Canajoharie” sign at the eastern Mitchell St Trail Access point. There is no “Welcome to Canajoharie” at the western Cardamone Crossing trailhead. The Canajoharie visitor kiosk at Church St serves as a great Gateway moment to let visitors know where they are and provide context.
Wayfinding within the community	There is very little wayfinding to direct trail users to destinations and amenities that they cannot immediately see from the trail, including the Arkell Museum, Riverfront Park, and Wintergreen Park.
Print resources	There are no print resources that provide information about local amenities or points of interest.
Online materials	<p>There are several regional online resources that promote Canajoharie’s businesses, but not many highlight the area’s recreational opportunities:</p> <p>https://canajohariepalatinechamber.com/ https://villageofcanajoharie.org/ https://www.arkellmuseum.org/ https://business.fultonmontgomeryny.org/list https://visitmontgomerycountyny.com/ Montgomery County’s Cycling the Erie Canal Audio Tour</p> <p>The Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee maintains an active Facebook page with recreational and stewardship opportunities. https://www.facebook.com/PTCanajoharie</p>
Municipal webpage	The Village website does not have any information about the Village’s history, recreational opportunities, or resources for trail users.

Welcoming Atmosphere & Community Character

Atmosphere & Character Element	Assessment
Festivals, Events & Programs	<p>The Village has an active slate of community events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canajoharie Farmer’s Market - Every Sun from May-Oct • Canajoharie National Night Out - 1st Tues in Aug - Food, music, vendors, activities for children, outdoor movie in White Park • Music on Mainstreet - Tuesday evenings in August - Concert series featuring live musical acts • Canajoharie Street Fair - 2nd Sat in Sept - Village wide festival including 50+ vendors, scavenger hunt, parade, fireworks at dusk • Elves Day Out - 1st Sat in Dec - Village wide event including vendors, activities at local businesses, Ugly Sweater 5k road race in the AM, parade <p>There are no regular social bike rides. There is a running scene.</p>
Public Art	The Arkell Museum houses a high-quality art collection, but there is very little public art outside of the museum.
Historic Interpretation	The Arkell Museum and Library and Van Alstyne Homestead are repositories of local history. There are no interpretive signs along the ECT/EST offering historical context to the many historic buildings in town.
Volunteer Presence & Community Organizations	Canajoharie has an active group of community members devoted to enhancing Wintergreen Park, and is actively undertaking the NY Forward process, requiring community participation. The Parks and Trails Committee also hosts stewardship events on the trail like Canal Clean Sweep.
Celebration of Trail Culture	Two businesses stand out as embracing cyclists with art and signage: Lee’s Shops at Wagner Square and Keep Right Cafe. There are opportunities at some of the other businesses to more outwardly market to trail users, offer incentives to cyclists, or name sandwiches, dishes, or drinks after trail or local history-related concepts.
Community Brand	The Village has branded itself the “Light in the Valley,” playing off the historic dummy light at Church St. The “dummy light” is a unique traffic signal (one of only 3 left in the entire US) that has stood as a historic landmark which has been a centerpiece in the community for more than 100 years.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed by PTNY and the Trail Town committee, and include information about a realistic timespan these strategies should be pursued within. Short timespan projects can be pursued immediately and completed within 12 months. Medium timespan may be 1-2 years, while long term projects may take 3-5 years. When planning for projects on land owned by the NYS Canal Corporation (NYSCC), all necessary permits and approvals will be required. All signage on land owned by the Canal Corporation must conform to the NYS Canal Corporation Design Guidelines.

- 1. Strengthen the route and character of the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail.**
- 2. Enhance the safety and comfort for cyclists and pedestrians to encourage them to explore more of Canajoharie.**
- 3. Strengthen trail-oriented business support & prepare local businesses to welcome cyclists.**
- 4. Develop Waterfront Park as a recreational destination by enhancing amenities and creating connections to the park.**
- 5. Continue to develop the Canajoharie Welcome Center and Village Green as a gateway and hub for visiting trail users**
- 6. Elevate Canajoharie's parks and trails through information and community events.**


Strategy 1: Strengthen the route and character of the Erie Canalway/Empire State Trail.

	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources/Notes	Potential Funding
1.1 Request and install an EST identifier sign and turn arrow on the west side of Mitchell Street to direct westbound travelers onto the pedestrianized railroad trestle bridge.	Short Complete within 12 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trail Committee Partners: NYS OPRHP	The NYS OPRHP Trail Manager may have these signs available. Provide documentation of the need and location. The Village will need to install it. Signage requests can be made at https://empiretrail.ny.gov/contact	Village of Canajoharie
1.2 Document the need for Erie Canalway Trail identifiers to replace faded ECT identifier signs. Using NYS Canal Corporation's digital designs and specs, print and install these signs at needed locations.	Short Complete within 12 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie DPW Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trail Committee Partner: NYS Canal Corporation	Take pictures of signs that need to be replaced, document these locations on a map and send the proposal to NYS Canal Corporation. Using the design and specs for Pedestrian Sign Type: D2a Trailblazer on p. 40 of the NYS Canal Corporation Signage Guidelines (2024) , print signs at a signage shop and install them at the identified locations. PTNY can help facilitate this process.	Village of Canajoharie
1.3 Install additional pavement markings (e.g. a yellow line down the middle for a few yards or a temporary bike stencil) where the trail transitions to concrete on the west side of Church St.	Medium Complete within 12-24 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie DPW; Lead: NYS DOT Partners: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee	Crossing on Church St. is a state highway (Rt 10)	Village of Canajoharie; NYS DOT
1.4 Paint a mural on the inside of the trestle bridge where the EST/ECT crosses Canajoharie Creek.	Medium Complete within 12-24 months	Lead: Canajoharie Park & Trails Committee Partner: Village of Canajoharie	The Art Box Canajoharie The Art Thing (recommended by member of Parks & Trails Comm.) Canajoharie High School Art Dept.	NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure Grant; T-mobile Hometown Grants; Project for Public Places Community Placemaking Grants
1.5 Develop and install historic markers along the ECT/EST through the village in collaboration with the History group from the Canajoharie High School.	Medium/Long Complete 24-48 months	Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trail Committee Partners: Montgomery County Tourism Village of Canajoharie; Canajoharie Central Schools	Only issue could be property owners along the bike trail not wanting signs on their property (west of Church St.) – need to work with local stakeholders to determine best approach.	CFA Parks & Trails Grant NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure Grant;

Strategy 2: Enhance the safety and comfort for bicyclists and pedestrians to encourage them to explore more of Canajoharie.


	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources	Potential Funding
2.1 Ensure crosswalks, especially where the trail crosses roads, are clear and visible prior to each tourism season, and that vegetation is trimmed throughout the year.	Short/ Every year	Lead: Village of Canajoharie DPW Lead: NYSDOT	Empire State Trail Design Guide (p. 5-43)	Village of Canajoharie
2.2 Lower the village-wide speed limit to 25 mph.	Medium	Lead: Village of Canajoharie	Strive for 25 Resources (New York Bicycling Coalition)	Village of Canajoharie
2.3 Adopt a municipality-wide Complete Streets policy.	Medium	Lead: Village of Canajoharie Partner: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee	Complete Streets policy examples (NYSDOT) Steps to Adopting a Complete Streets Policy	n/a

Strategy 3: Strengthen trail-oriented business support & prepare local businesses to welcome cyclists.


	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources	Potential Funding
<p>3.1 Continue to work with businesses to certify them as Bike Friendly NY. Certified businesses are promoted on the Trail Town interactive map and receive education and resources to better attract cyclists as customers.</p>	Short/Continuous	<p>Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee</p> <p>Partner: Canajoharie-Palatine Bridge Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Partners: Local Businesses</p>	<p>ptny.org/bikefriendly: Bicyclists Bring Business handbook</p>	
<p>3.2 Encourage businesses and other community groups to post menus and flyers at the western trailhead, the western gateway to the village.</p> 	Short/Continuous	<p>Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee</p> <p>Partner: Canajoharie-Palatine Bridge Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Partners: Local Businesses</p>		
<p>3.3 Foster opportunities to build Canajoharie’s business community with additions like indoor lodging, bike shop, craft beverages, and places to purchase fresh produce.</p>	Long	<p>Lead: Village of Canajoharie</p> <p>Partner: Montgomery County</p> <p>Partner: Local Businesses</p>		

Strategy 4: Develop Waterfront Park as a recreational destination by enhancing amenities and creating connections to the park.

	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources	Potential Funding
4.1 Install a permanent restroom with shower facility at Waterfront Park.	Medium Complete within 12-24 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie / Montgomery County Partner: NYS Canal Corporation	When planning for projects on land owned by the NYS Canal Corporation (NYSCC), all necessary permits and approvals will be required. Example: Little Falls Canal Harbor & Rotary Park	NY Forward NYS Canalway Grant NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure Grant
4.2 Permit hiker/biker camping at Waterfront Park.	Medium Complete within 24-36 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie Partner: NYS Canal Corporation	When planning for projects on land owned by the NYS Canal Corporation (NYSCC), all necessary permits and approvals will be required. In the case of permitting camping, the existing permit with NYSCC may need to be amended. Examples: Little Falls Canal Harbor & Rotary Park ; Village of Brockport ; Village of Chittenango	The NYS OPRHP Trail Manager should have this sign available. Provide documentation of the need and location. The Village will need to install it.

<p>4.3 Establish kayak rentals at Waterfront Park.</p> 	<p>Medium</p> <p>Possibly complete within 12-24 months</p>	<p>Lead: Village of Canajoharie Partner: NYS Canal Corporation Partner: Montgomery County Tourism</p>	<p>When planning for projects on land owned by the NYS Canal Corporation (NYSCC), all necessary permits and approvals will be required. In the case of permitting camping, the existing permit with NYSCC may need to be amended.</p> <p>Potential to work with Upstate Kayak Rentals. From the website: “[Municipalities] pay a one-time set up / build / installation fee for each system, [Upstate Kayak Rentals] manage the calls and reservations, [the municipality] receives half the proceeds.</p> <p>New 6 place kiosk system: \$12,000 fully equipped and ready to go as shown below (plus delivery). Plastic lumber add \$3,000.</p>	<p>NY Forward</p> <p>NYS Canalway Grant</p> <p>NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure Grant</p>
<p>4.4 Finish planning/design and build the interpretive greenway trail along Canajoharie Creek at the former Beech-Nut site to connect the Empire State Trail to Waterfront Park.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>Complete within 12-24 months</p>	<p>Lead: Montgomery County Partner: Village of Canajoharie</p>	<p>Trails Across New York: A Grassroots Guide to Developing Greenway Trails</p>	<p>NY Forward</p> <p>Congresswomen Stefanik Congressional Community Project Federal Funding</p>

Strategy 5: Continue to develop the Canajoharie Welcome Center and Village Green as a gateway and hub for visiting trail users.

	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources	Potential Funding
5.1 Prepare and stock the Welcome Center prior to each tourism season. Ensure to verify listings on the touch screen throughout the season.	Short/ Continuous	Lead: Montgomery County Tourism Partner: Village of Canajoharie Partner: Canajoharie-Palatine Bridge Chamber of Commerce		
5.2 Revive the Welcome Center Greeter or Ambassador Program.	Short/ Medium	Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee Partner: Canajoharie-Palatine Bridge Chamber of Commerce Partner: Volunteers	Example: Village of Brockport Welcome Center Greeters	
5.3 Install a drinking fountain at the Village Green.	Short Possibly complete within 12-24 months	Lead: Montgomery County Tourism Lead: Village of Canajoharie	Water station design, installation, and maintenance recommendations (p. 32) from NYS Canal Design Standards .	CFA Parks & Trails Grant NYS Canal System Tourism Infrastructure Grant
5.4 Construct and install wayfinding finger pointing signs to local points of interest at the Village Green. Consider installing at Cardamone Crossing and eastern village line as well.	Short Complete within 12 months	Lead: Montgomery County Tourism Lead: Village of Canajoharie	Example: City of Little Falls Fingerpointing Signs 	
5.5 Construct a proper trailhead at Eastern entrance of ECT/EST to Village of Canajoharie.	Medium	Lead: Village of Canajoharie Partner: Montgomery County Tourism	Move informational kiosk located adjacent to Village Green to greenspace along Mitchell St. with additional signage welcoming/directing users into village center	

Strategy 6: Activate the community to fully take advantage of the recreational opportunities that Canajoharie has to offer.

	Timespan	Partners	Additional Resources	Potential Funding
6.1 Update the Canajoharie municipal website to include a page with information about Canajoharie’s Parks & Trails and basic information for trail users.	Short/ Continuous Possibly complete within 12 months	Lead: Village of Canajoharie Partner: Canajoharie Parks & Trail Committee	Example: Little Falls Parks & Recreation	NYS Canal System Grant
6.2 Ensure businesses and village staff know how to answer common questions trail users may have, like where to park and where they can camp or stay overnight.	Short/ Continuous	Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee Partner: Canajoharie Palatine Chamber of Commerce Partner: Village of Canajoharie		
6.3 Continue to grow community and reach through Canajoharie’s Parks & Trails Facebook Page	Short/ Continuous	Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee Partner: Village of Canajoharie	Parks & Trails of Canajoharie Facebook Page Example: Clyde Welcome Center Facebook Group	
6.4 Host a community bike ride. This could be part of an existing community festival, at regular intervals during the summer, or in collaboration with nearby municipalities.	Medium	Lead: Montgomery County Tourism Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee	Example: Little Falls Canal Celebration Bike Ride Montgomery County and the Erie Canal Museum are hosting a Beers, Bikes, & Barges bike event on July 23rd from Fort Plain to Canjo and back to Fort Plain	NYS Canal System Grant
6.5 Continue to host stewardship and community events like Canal Clean Sweep and a Cycle the Erie Canal Bike Tour Welcome Celebration.	Annually	Lead: Canajoharie Parks & Trails Committee Partner: Montgomery County Tourism	Canal Clean Sweep (April) Cycle the Erie Canal (July)	

Implementation

In order for Canajoharie to fully capture the benefits of being an Empire State Trail Town, the recommendations on the preceding pages should be implemented. Taking the following steps will help the community reach its goals.

» **Adopt this Action Agenda with a Municipal Resolution**

The village of Canajoharie should recognize the progress the Trail Town committee has made by formally adopting this Action Agenda.

Resource: Download a [Sample Municipal Resolution](#)

» **Establish a Group to Implement this Action Agenda**

The Village of Canajoharie Park & Trail Committee will continue to meet in order to carry out the recommendations identified in this Action Agenda, collaborating with regional partners such as Montgomery County Tourism.

» **Celebrate Certification as an Empire State Trail Town**

Once the new Action Agenda has been adopted, the Trail Town committee will coordinate with local partners, PTNY, and the NYS Canal Corporation to celebrate the Village's official designation as an Empire State Trail Town.

» **Maintain Empire State Trail Town designation**

- Continue to meet Trail Town criteria as set forth in the Empire State Trail Town handbook.
- Prior to each tourism season (April of each year), the Trail Town steering committee shall verify with PTNY that the information on the Trail Town landing page is accurate.
- Each year, PTNY will host a virtual meeting for all Trail Towns to provide updates about the Empire State Trail and Trail Town initiative and allow Trail Towns to share progress on their action agendas. The Trail Town committee shall send at least one representative and will submit a brief written update prior to the meeting on progress and challenges.

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About Parks & Trails New York

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) is New York’s leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving our health, economy, and quality of life through the use and enjoyment of green space. PTNY works to expand, protect, and promote a network of parks, trails, and open spaces throughout our state for use and enjoyment by all. For more information, visit www.ptny.org.



About the New York State Canal Corporation

The New York State Canal Corporation runs the New York State Canal System, which includes the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca canals. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. In 2017, the Canal Corporation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Erie Canal, which occurred in the city of Rome on July 4, 1817. The Canal System includes the Canalway Trails, a network of approximately 420 miles of multiple-use trails across upstate New York. The Canalway Trails follows the towpaths of both active and historic sections of the New York State Canal System as well as adjacent abandoned rail corridors. Together, the canals and trails create a world-class recreationway that is a vibrant, scenic, and unique New York resource. To learn more about the New York State Canal and Canalway Trail System or to obtain a free map, please call 1-800-4CANAL4 or visit the Canal Corporation’s website at www.canals.ny.gov.