F I N A L  R E P O R T

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Contractor: Friends of Saranac River Trail
Prepared By: Jesse Feiler, President
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SARANAC RIVER TRAIL PHASE 2 EXPLORATIONS FINAL

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This project was funded by an agreement awarded by Friends of Saranac River Trail to NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program
*Note: Please see your executed MOA/contract/subaward with NEIWPCC for exact appropriate language to be include. Sample language below:

This project was funded by an agreement awarded by NEIWPCC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Saranac River Trail Phase 2 Explorations project introduces people to the new bridges across the Saranac River Trail, providing a new pedestrian-friendly opportunity to explore the river. This project included several walks. Dr. Michael Burgess, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, SUNY Plattsburgh, led a walk focusing on trees along the new bridge segment of the Trail. Downtown walks covered the Bridge Street area both before the Covid pandemic, and after as we were able to add a new Downtown walk in June 2023 that highlighted not only the Trail but also two new downtown businesses. Brochures were distributed to appropriate venues, including, but not limited to, visitor kiosks, events such as the World Water Day celebration hosted by LCBP and the Champlain Centre Mall, and SUNY Plattsburgh community outreach events sharing updates on the Saranac River remediation project.
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1. PROJECT SYNOPSIS
To create the downtown walks along the Saranac River, Friends of the Saranac River Trail (FSRT) updated the Saranac River Trail brochure (in both French and English) to reflect the new trail. Brochures were distributed to appropriate venues, including, but not limited to, events such as the World Water Day celebration hosted by LCBP and the Champlain Centre Mall, a SUNY Plattsburgh community outreach event sharing updates on the Saranac River remediation project, and visitor information locations at the City of Plattsburgh as well as the local Amtrak depot. The Saranac River Trail Phase 2 Explorations project was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but FSRT has recovered to finish a final Downtown trek in 2023. During the pandemic, FSRT was able to update the website to inform people of the NYSEG – Plattsburgh – Saranac St. site remediation project. (See saranacrivertrail.org). During the early days of the pandemic, people were advised to stay inside, and many businesses and schools were closed but the remediation site continued and was documented on the website.

2. TASKS COMPLETED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task #</th>
<th>Task Title</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Deliverable or Output</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Update SRT brochure</td>
<td>Add map of trail to brochure and translate to French</td>
<td>Provide new brochure to Chamber and local businesses, present at education engagements and Mayor’s Cup/ Battle of Plattsburgh</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Community Outreach Supplies</td>
<td>Table City events (Mayor’s Cup and Battle of Plattsburgh) Local school district, SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh Senior Center; Produce and distribute print materials.</td>
<td>Present speaking engagements, table events, produce social media and print marketing materials, schedule trail walks</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quarterly Reports</td>
<td>Complete Reports</td>
<td>Completed Reports</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Complete Project</td>
<td>Approved Report</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. METHODOLOGY
N/A
4. Quality Assurance Tasks Completed

N/A

5. Deliverables Completed

Friends of Saranac River Trail completed brochure design and printed and distributed updates to website during Covid. Several outreach events were attended to share the material with the public. See details in section 2.

6. Conclusions

The pandemic hit nonprofits extremely hard in terms of being able to complete outreach events. One on one contact with area residents is a crucial element of building an organization's base of supporters. Though Friends of Saranac River lost several longtime supporters and volunteers during the pandemic, FSRT participated in the local partner-driven World Water Day event and several other events as Covid cases dropped. The organization connected with five interested people who wished to discuss available volunteer opportunities during the World Water Day event. FSRT also held an important walk along the Saranac River. Bridge reconstruction was a key part of the City's strategy for enhancing the downtown as discussed in the original application but had the added benefit of helping to showcase the river system. A group of residents completed a public walk with the FSRT to enjoy a nice viewing point for the end of the river system as it winds through downtown Plattsburgh. The new brochure helped the Friends of Saranac River Trail reach new audiences.

7. References N/A

8. Appendices
   - Brochure (see page 7)

Photos:

[Image of a group of people along the river]

Electronic Data: N/A

Email your Project Officer with any electronic datasets you have generated through your project.
Be a Friend of the Trail

Friends of Saranac River Trail Inc. is a non-profit organization formed in 1986 to develop, maintain, restore, and promote the Saranac River Trail. The mission of the SAR, Inc. is to promote the Saranac River Trail and to encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of the natural environment in the Adirondack Park.

Mission

The Friends of Saranac River Trail Inc. (SAR, Inc.) is a non-profit organization formed to develop, maintain, restore, and promote the Saranac River Trail. The mission of the SAR, Inc. is to promote the Saranac River Trail and to encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of the natural environment in the Adirondack Park.

History

The Saranac River Trail was established in 1986 by a group of concerned citizens who sought to preserve and protect the SAR. The trail was officially dedicated in 1988, and since then, it has become a popular destination for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts.

SARANAC RIVER TRAIL

Les amis du sentier de la rivière Saranac

Events Événements

Keep up with events along the Trail with the Friends...

events@friendsartrail.org

Saranac River Trail

Friends of Saranac River Trail Inc.

SARANAC RIVER TRAIL

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