



CHAMPLAIN CANALWAY TRAIL PROFILE

Town of Waterford

Village of Waterford



Trail Description: Waterford, located at the junction of the Hudson River, Champlain Canal, Mohawk River and Erie Canal, is the start of the Champlain Canalway Trail. The Champlain Canalway Trail is entirely located along the Old Champlain Canal and is nearly fully developed throughout the Town and Village of Waterford. The trail runs from Old Champlain Lock 4 at the southern point of the Town and just east of Route 32. It continues north along the Old Champlain Canal for about 1.25 miles to the 4th Street Bridge into the Village. The trail continues from the Erie Canal Lock 2 Park north for about 0.35 miles before it reaches the Village border just after the Old Champlain Canal Weighlock and the overhead railroad bridge. It then continues north for about 1.9 miles to the Town’s border with the Town of Halfmoon.



Tugboat Round Up

Empire State Trail: The Empire State Trail will follow the same path as the Champlain Canalway Trail through Waterford.

Hudson River/Champlain Canal Access Points: Schaghticoke Municipal Boat Launch; Peebles Island State Park; Battery Park in Waterford Canal Harbor; 123rd Street Launch; Troy Motorboat and Canoe Club; 111th Street Launch.

Public Facilities: Waterford Harbor Visitor Center; Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center; Unger Canal Tugboat historic teaching & touring vessel); Peebles Island State Park; Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Visitor Center; Flight of Locks; Lock E2 and E6 State Canal Parks; Old Champlain Canal Locks 4 and 5; Old Champlain Canal Weighlock; and Old Champlain Canal Sidecut Locks.



Old Champlain Canal Towpath Trail

Public Events: Waterford Canal Fest; Waterford Steamboat Meet; Waterford Dragon Boat Festival; and Waterford Tugboat Roundup.

Connector Trails:

State Bike Route 9: On-road signed route along Route 4, an All-American Road.

Flight of Locks Trail: Follows Locks E3 – E6 from Division Street to Flightlock Road.

Black Bridge Trail: An important connection between the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Uncle Sam Bikeway: A 3.5-mile multiuse path that begins at the Waterford Bridge and continues on a former railroad bed running north-south beginning at Middleburgh Street and ending at Northern Drive in the City of Troy.

Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail: A Bike-Hike Trail connecting Albany and Schenectady Counties on the south side of the Mohawk River to the Erie Canal Trail.

Peebles Island State Park: Peebles Island Loop Trail.



Flight of Locks

Local Planning Support:

- Town & Village of Waterford Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (2010)
- Town of Waterford Comprehensive Plan (2016)

Implementation Strategy:

The Empire State Trail is funding construction of the two remaining trail segments in Waterford. These segments will connect and extend existing but isolated trails which will create a continuous off-road trail running 7 miles from Broad Street/Route 32 in Waterford to the intersection of Route 4 and Main Street just south of Mechanicville.

Trail Sections:

OLD CHAMPLAIN LOCK 4 TO ERIE LOCK 2 PARK (W-1)

Description: Old Champlain Lock 4 and Waterford Towpath Trail serve as the trailhead and start of the Champlain Canalway Trail. This stone dust trail follows the “towpath” along the Old Champlain Canal to the intersection of South Street where it continues over the Fourth Street Bridge. The entrance to the Lock 2 Park has a large and well-maintained interpretive sign describing the history of the canal and providing a list of trail connections to surrounding points of interest. From here, the trail splits. The first route directs trail users south across a small concrete bridge over the old canal to the Lock 2 Park and onward to Lock 4 on the southern edge of Waterford. The second route travels southeast on a gravel trail to the Waterford Harbor Visitor Center and onward to the Second Street bridge which leads to the Peebles Island State Park. The Empire State Trail will utilize the same route as the Champlain Canalway Trail throughout the Town and Village of Waterford.

Parking & Signage: The trail on the Southside of Broad Street leading toward the Canal Lock 2 Park has a large DOT-style sign directing motorists and pedestrians to the Park. The sign is in good condition but needs to be straightened. There is no signage for the Champlain Canalway Trail at this intersection. A dirt/gravel parking lot is available near Old Champlain Lock 4 and Erie Canal Lock 2 Park.

Status: The trail segment is complete except for off-road construction from South Street to where it meets the Fourth Street Bridge. Improvements are needed in this short section to convert the existing footpath into a formal trail.



LOCK 2 PARK TO DIVISION STREET (W-2)

Description: The section of the trail between Canal Lock 2 Park and Division Street is about 6 feet wide and is paved. Division Street provides a natural separation between the north and south sections of the trail in Waterford.

Parking & Signage: Signage in this section includes signs advising motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the road at the Division Street Bridge over the canal and wayfinding signs at the entrance to the trail on both sides of the road. There is no signage for the Champlain Canalway Trail at Broad Street, crosswalk or appropriate signage warning motorists of pedestrians and bicyclists. Parking is available at Lock 2 Canal Park and along Division Street.

Status: This section of the trail needs maintenance, updated wayfinding signage and pedestrian/bike signage.

DIVISION STREET TO CLUTE STREET (W-3)

Description: The largest section of the trail in Waterford runs from the north side of Division Street to Clute Street near the Momentive silicon plant. The section to the Historic Boatyard site is owned by the Town of Waterford. The City of Mechanicville owns the trail north of this area. The first section lies within the Village of Waterford from the Erie Canal Lock 2 Park north for 0.35 miles before reaching the town border just north of the Old Champlain Canal Weighlock. The trail to the old railway bridge is stone dust and the rest of the trail is either dirt or stone dust. Debris in the canal past the rail bridge should be removed to make the trail more attractive.

Parking & Signage: Interpretive signage needs maintenance, replacement or enhancement at the start of this section of the trail and north to the Old Champlain Canal Boatyard.

Status: The trail is completed but needs maintenance and upgrading. In addition, the waters of the canal need to be cleaned up and fallen trees and vegetation along the shoreline removed. This section of canal could be used for kayaking.

CLUTE STREET TO SCHOOLHOUSE LANE (W-4)

Description: As partners, the towns of Halfmoon and Waterford and the City of Mechanicville developed an official trail connection from the end of the Town of Waterford trail on Clute Street to the Town of Halfmoon trail by way of Bells Lane to Schoolhouse Road. Trail users 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.

Parking & Signage: There is no parking in this location, but a small lot could be established on Schoolhouse Lane since this represents a natural break in the trail.

Status: Construction of the trail south of Higgins Road to the Halfmoon border will be funded by NY Empire State Trail at an

estimated cost of \$408,000. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2019 and be completed by the end of 2019.



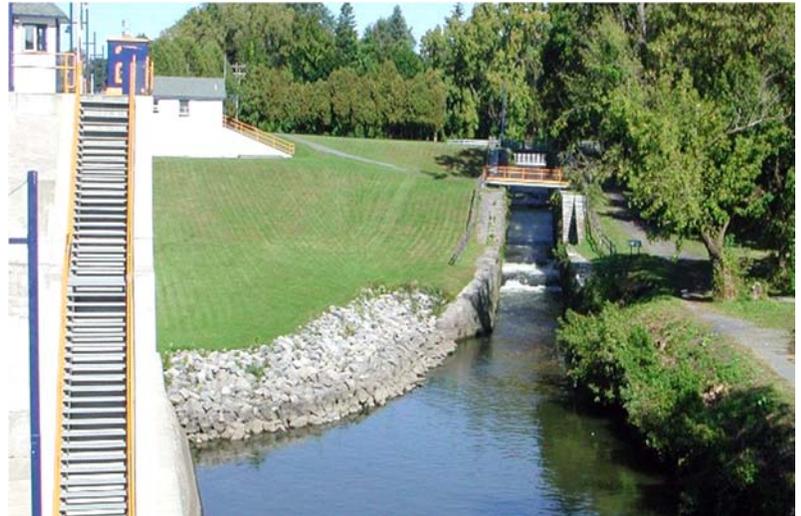
Waterford Lock



Waterford Harbor Visitor Center Waterfront Dock



Trail near Clute Street West of Industrial Park



Old Champlain Canal Side-cut Locks