

**Pittsford Neighbors – “From the Supervisor” column – October, 2020 issue  
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**

**Completing Work on the Town’s Erie Canal Nature Preserve**

Preserving green space and offering a healthy recreational environment for Pittsford’s residents has been a Town priority for years. Along these lines one of our most ambitious projects in recent memory is the Erie Canal Nature Preserve, which protects and conserves a beautiful area of unspoiled land with a unique ecology. Located on approximately 20 acres of Town-owned land between the Erie Canal and the Auburn Trail, it includes a thriving and healthy frog breeding habitat with four ponds and adjacent wetlands. We’re nearing completion of the significant, but low-impact, improvements that make the site accessible to the public. The preserve offers a creekside rest area, overlooks of the Frog Ponds and meadows, and includes an elevated boardwalk trail allowing minimal-impact access to the wetlands. A new trail connects the Canal Path with the Auburn Trail.

Though Town-owned, the preserve lies mostly within the Village of Pittsford. It’s adjacent to 10 acres owned by the Village and recently dedicated by the Village as parkland. Both the Town and Village parcels had been designated, in an older canalside plan, adopted about 12 years ago, as sites for building. Supervisor Smith and Mayor Corby chose a different approach. In consultation with the Village, the Town applied for and won a State grant for the basic work to make the Town land publicly accessible as a preserve. The Town and Village collaboration will preserve this inspiring natural area for the benefit of wildlife and residents alike, and for years to come.