

Brighton-Pittsford Post – “From the Supervisor” column – August 6, 2015 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith

A Welcome Recognition; Better Access to Trails

I was delighted to see Pittsford accorded national recognition, in the current issue of *Family Circle* magazine, as one of the ten best places to raise a family in the United States. Delighted, but as I am sure along with you, not the least bit surprised.

The article spoke of quality of life, quality of schools, community events, attractions of our area generally and places to visit in the City of Rochester. You can read it at <http://www.familycircle.com/family-fun/travel/the-best-towns-for-families-2015/?page=6>.

Most significantly, to me at least, it spoke of what I'd characterize as a spirit of community. For this, for the sheer good fortune to be situated among so many other towns of quality and by a city that retains so much of its vitality, we in Pittsford are a lucky group.

In what I hope you'll find to be a further improvement to our community amenities, the Town has just fulfilled one of my early ambitions as Supervisor: producing a new set of maps for Pittsford's splendid network of trails. We have about 42 miles of trails; they help connect walkers, hikers and cyclists to places of natural beauty and to each other. It concerned me that the full extent of our system remained to many residents well concealed. That's no longer the case.

The Town's new trail maps went online early in July. More than just a guide to each trail alone, they suggest walking and hiking loops employing multiple trails. They include information of historical interest about the trails and some of what you'll encounter along the way as you enjoy them.

On the Town website you'll find the maps at the tab designated “About Pittsford” on the home page. The maps include pathways through Thornell Farm Park and Isaac Gordon Nature Park, along Irondequoit Creek and the Erie Canal. The online maps are in printable form. You also can obtain printed copies at Town Hall (11 South Main Street), the Spiegel Community Center (35 Lincoln Avenue) and the Library (24 State Street).

Our work on improving accessibility to Pittsford's trails continues. By this fall, in addition to the maps already online, we'll be adding an interactive feature you can use to create your own customized maps and walking routes. In the months ahead you can expect to see as well new trail markers and information kiosks on some of the major trails.

I've decided to celebrate the new trail maps and improvements by setting a personal goal: to walk or bike all of Pittsford's major trails in their entirety over the course of a year. Starting now. Will I make it? I'll keep you posted.

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