

**Pittsford Neighbors** – Pittsford Town Supervisor's column – March, 2017 issue

**Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**

### **Explore Pittsford's trails and pathways**

The Town of Pittsford maintains one of the most extensive trail systems in the state. Two major regional pathways, the Auburn Trail and the Erie Canal Trail, wind through our community as part of our network.

Altogether, our public pathways provide over 80 miles of convenient walkability within the Town limits, comprised of more than 42 miles of trails and over 37 miles of paved sidewalks. This system provides walkers, hikers and cyclists unique routes connect us to destinations of historic interest and natural beauty, and to each other.

Each trail has a distinct character. Whichever you may use, you'll find a lovely and welcoming place to walk, bike, run, watch birds, or enjoy seasonal activities like snowshoeing and cross-county skiing.

To encourage use of Pittsford's pathways, last summer we fulfilled one of my early ambitions as Supervisor: producing a new set of maps for Pittsford's splendid network of trails. We created 10 individual online maps that can also be downloaded and printed. More than just a guide to each trail alone, the maps 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 explore them.

On the Town website you'll find our trail maps at the tab designated "About Pittsford" on the home page. The maps include pathways in Thornell Farm Park and Isaac Gordon Nature Park, along Irondequoit Creek, and several along the Erie Canal. To facilitate downloading and printing for those who desire it, each map is in PDF form. Hard copy maps are also available at Town Hall (11 South Main Street), the Spiegel Community Center (35 Lincoln Avenue) and at the Pittsford Community Library (24 State Street).

Our work on improving accessibility to Pittsford's trails continues. Future plans call for adding to the maps already online, and for developing an interactive feature that allows creation of 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 encourage you, whether on your own or via one of the guided hikes frequently offered by our Recreation Department, to experience the inspiring beauty and renewed sense of vigor afforded by an outing along one of Pittsford's trails. I've walked many of them and can tell you no matter the time of year or the location, the experience rewards the effort.