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The Westfield-Chautauqua Greenway

The Westfield community has at its doorstep a wonderful opportunity for a greenway, a pedestrian trail system that can connect the residential areas of the village and town to a beautiful and healthful trail experience. A greenway trail could interconnect the various neighborhoods and parks of the town and village with the linear landscape of Chautauqua Creek, offer access to the uniquely beautiful Chautauqua Gorge, follow along the historic rail and trolley rights-of-way, and along rural roads that make their way through the surrounding countryside and vineyards. A greenway in Westfield would be a valuable recreation resource allowing residents and tourist to travel north from the village to Barcelona Harbor or south to Chautauqua lake along a designed pedestrian route that would be free from motorized vehicles. The trail would be available throughout the year for walking, jogging, bicycling and cross-country skiing.

This section describes a general concept for a greenway and the benefits it holds for the Westfield community.



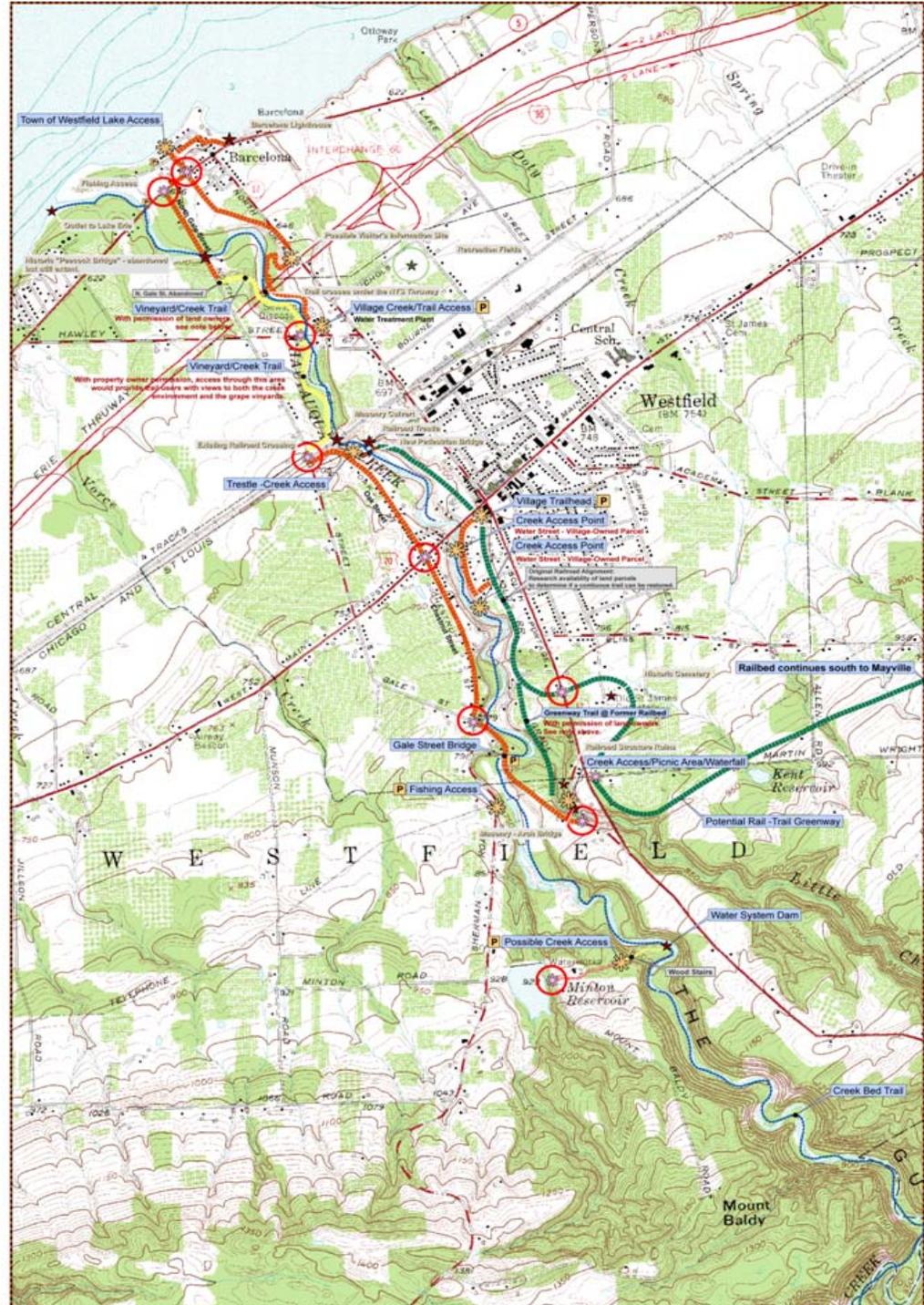
Westfield-Chautauqua Greenway

Principle benefit for the greenway is the availability of a designated pedestrian walkway that is free from automobiles and offers a human scale, green environment for passive recreation within the village and town.

To underscore the importance of greenways to public health, the NYS Health Department has developed a program, Healthy Trails, Healthy People, to help fund the design and development of greenways throughout New York State. Their research indicates that greenway trails can have a significant positive affect on public health because they offer a convenient, "at your doorstep" means for enjoyable exercise. The critical feature is that the recreation opportunity be convenient and easily accessible to the residential areas in a community.

The map to the right describes a preliminary concept for a greenway trail in Westfield. The plan illustrates several potential alignments for a greenway that links the Village of Westfield with Barcelona Harbor, Lake Erie, Mayville and Chautauqua Lake. The alignments follow a mix of abandoned rail beds, creek environments and rural roadways.

Certainly, the development of the greenway will require coordination among many area agencies and cooperation among a variety of property owners, both public and private. Considerate and sensitive attention to property owner's needs will be the foundation for a successful greenway system.





Selected images found along the Westfield-Chautauqua Greenway