



December 29, 2020

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Grant to help improve Greenville park trails

*By Andrea Macko
Porcupine Soup*

GREENVILLE—The Town of Greenville has again been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Iroquois Gas Transmission System to improve the trail system at Vanderbilt Park.

“The grant will go toward improving another portion of the trail through some wooded areas this coming spring,” explained Barbara Walter, who serves as treasurer of Community Partners of Greenville, the non-profit who applied for the grant on behalf of the town.

“After completion of brush removal, grading the trails, fixing wet areas and widening the path, the park will offer a longer trail with more even surfaces that is especially important to our seniors, the handicapped and runners,” Walter said.

Community Partners, officially known as the Greenville Citizens Park Committee, was formed in 1992 to help acquire the land for Vanderbilt Town Park for the town.

“The town and Community Partners work together on community desired improvements in public spaces including enhancements to Vanderbilt Park,” Walter said.

“Over the past 30 years, Community Partners has also partnered with community groups to make improvements to the park, including the addition of ball fields, walking and running trails, a bird watching area and a dog park,” Walter added. “Community Partners’ members do an annual trail clean up through the ‘forever wild’ sections of the park.”

Iroquois Gas Transmission System is a 414-mile natural gas pipeline that brings gas from eastern Canada to the New York City area. Their

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competitive-based grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and are reserved for communities where the pipeline passes.

In August Community Partners and the Town of Greenville completed significant improvements to the Vanderbilt Park trail system with the previous \$10,000 grant from Iroquois Gas Transmission System. That funding, along with help from the town maintenance and highway departments, as well as volunteers and membership donations from Community Partners, resulted in the most significant investment in the park in many years, Walter said.

The improvements feature about a mile of mostly shaded trails which were graded and mulched with wood chips. An expanded parking area for the trail at the north end of the soccer fields has also been a boon to dog owners, who often enter the park at that point, Walter noted. Community Partners also updated the map of Vanderbilt Park showing the various trails thru the woods and fields.

"We expect more families and more seniors to enjoy a walk in our 100 plus-acre park where they can enjoy the trees, fields, ponds and streams," Walter said. "It is especially important to provide healthy outdoor experience options during the COVID-19 pandemic."



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