

Friends of Stewart Park

Momentum is strong for the revitalization of Stewart Park, a key destination along the Cayuga Waterfront Trail.

A separate private non-profit organization, Friends of Stewart Park, is being formed to organize and carry out a renovation of Stewart Park, its buildings and amenities. Friends of Stewart Park will work in partnership with the City of Ithaca to rehabilitate and maintain Stewart Park and the adjacent environment through advocacy, strategic planning, fundraising and volunteer coordination.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Scott Wiggins at scott@latourelle.com or Victoria Armstrong at varmstrong@hsctc.org. The 2009 Stewart Park Rehabilitation Action Plan (SPRAP) and 2011 Architectural Sketches detailing the plans are available on our website (www.cayugawaterfronttrail.com)



Creating Healthy Places to live work and play

A new project is afoot to help Tompkins County stay healthy and it is helping us build the trail! The Creating Healthy Places Project (CHPP) is a Health Planning Council initiative to promote health in four core areas: increasing places for residents to be physically active; improving accessibility of residential areas to recreation areas; increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables; and improving worksite wellness habits and options. CHPP funding comes from New York State Department of Health; it is an multi-year statewide initiative to decrease the cost and prevalence of Type II diabetes and obesity through increased physical activity and access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

As part of its mandate, CHPP works with many partners, including providing administrative and communications support for the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative and the new Friends of Stewart Park. Thanks to CHPP Coordinator Jeanne Leccese and CHPP Associate Victoria Armstrong for all their help. CHPP can be contacted at 607-273-8686.



Cayuga viewing (Emily Coon, 2011)



Ithaca Festival on the Trail (Emily Coon, 2011)



Walking from bus stop (Allan Delesantro, 2011)

Trail Updates & History

Cass Park Trail (2.0 mile loop) Completed June 2003
Provides convenient connections to Ithaca Children's Garden, the swimming pool, Cass rink, playgrounds and ball fields. With gardens, interpretive signage, overlooks, and plenty of benches, the Cass Park Trail is a popular destination looked to as a standard for new trail design.

Farmers Market to Stewart Park (2.0 miles) Completed Fall 2010
Connects the Farmers Market to Stewart Park and the Visitors Center. Improvements to this section include a boardwalk, resurfaced bridges, pedestrian crossings, and the Willow Ave bioswale. The enhancement of the trail through furnishing and landscaping is on-going, with help from community contributions.

Creating Safer Connections to the Waterfront
The City is developing improvements to the Dey and Third Street crossings and sidewalks within adjacent neighborhoods to increase safe and easy access to the Waterfront Trail and its destinations. Expect development in early 2012.

Cass Park to Farmers Market (1.5 mile link) Construction Planned for 2012
When completed, this section of the trail will connect the East and West banks of the Cayuga Inlet. Design is in final stages and construction is expected to begin in 2012.



Meet our Summer Interns!



From left to right: Allan Delesantro '15, Tiger Hudson '13, and Emily Coon '12

CWTI has benefited from the participation of many Cornell work-study and grant fellows during the past ten years. This summer we are grateful to have three multi-talented Cornell interns eager to apply their knowledge and creativity to our work.

Allan Delesantro '15, our design intern, is entering his second year in the Architecture program. Focusing his studies on sustainable urbanism, Allan views the trail as an opportunity to become a part of the many initiatives toward healthier and

more environmentally friendly living that Ithaca has already pioneered and continues to pursue. Allan is from South Texas.

"CWT is a transportation method in itself," said Tiger Hudson '13, our gardener intern for the CWTI. Tiger hails from Las Vegas, Nevada and is studying for a dual degree in City & Regional Planning and Economics. "CWTI is bridging the gaps in order to connect the community. I'm excited to get Ithaca excited about the trail and to see all the happy travelers while I'm working on the trail!"

Emily Coon '12, our communications intern for CWTI, is working primarily on outreach initiatives. "I'm so enthused about the opportunities that the CWTI affords to expand enjoyment and appreciation of Ithaca's beautiful natural spaces," Emily said. Emily is studying English and Cognitive Science and grew up in northern Vermont.

The students are enjoying their summer in Ithaca and are pleased to help bring this project to fruition and to continue the work of CWTI. Please feel free to stop by, say hi, and introduce yourself if you see them working on the trail.

Furnish the Trail

Why furnish the trail? By furnishing the trail you help create a more comfortable outdoor environment for trail users and help finance future trail developments. All furnishings come with engraved name plates for donor recognition. For an extended list of donor opportunities visit cayugawaterfronttrail.com



Bench

Benches are an essential feature of the trail, providing trail users with a great place to rest and enjoy company and the surroundings. Donation: \$3,000

Interpretive Signage

In addition to recreation and transportation, the trail can serve as an educational asset through interpretive signage. Interested parties should email info@cayugawaterfronttrail.com for details. Donation varies.



Bike Rack

Bike racks are needed to provide security to bike users at destinations along the trail. Donation: \$500



To donate, join the mailing list or for information email info@cayugawaterfronttrail.com, visit cayugawaterfronttrail.com or find us on Saturdays at the Farmers Market Trailhead.

Rick Manning, CWTI Coordinator

Tim Logue, City Transportation Engineer, City of Ithaca, 607-274-6535; timlo@cityofithaca.org

Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative
c/o Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce
904 East Shore Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

The Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative is a partnership of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the City of Ithaca. 2011



Stepping Stones



Rolling Stone (4" x 8" clay brick): \$75

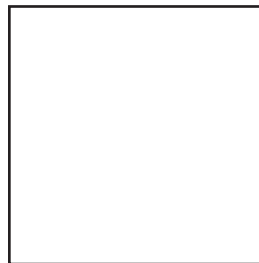
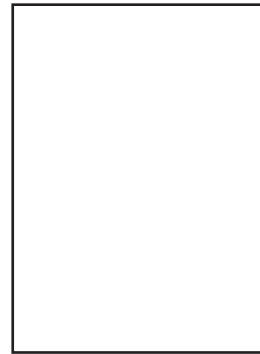
Corner Stone (7" x 9" concrete paver): \$250

Keystone (12" x 12" native flagstone): \$500

Engraved to donor specifications.

Become an End-to-End!

Pledge to donate a stepping stone (any kind) for each of the five trailheads and become an End-to-End. Names of End-to-End donors will be placed on a sculptural steel plaque at the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center Trailhead.



SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Farmers Market and Stewart Park Now Connected

The Cayuga Waterfront Trail now extends from the south end of the Ithaca Farmers Market around Newman Municipal Golf Course and through Stewart Park to the Visitors Center.

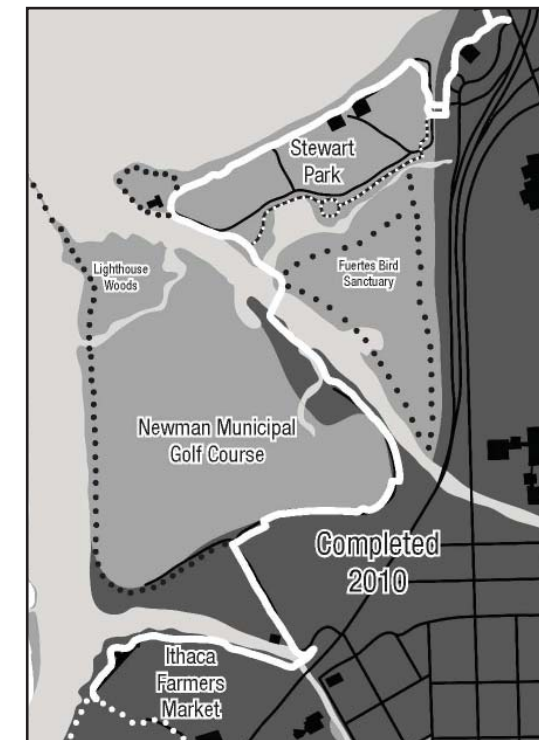
2.0 miles of new 12' wide trail was constructed in the fall of 2010. On Sunday June 5th, hundreds of Ithaca Festival-goers enjoyed the leisurely walk to the festival at Stewart Park along the trail.



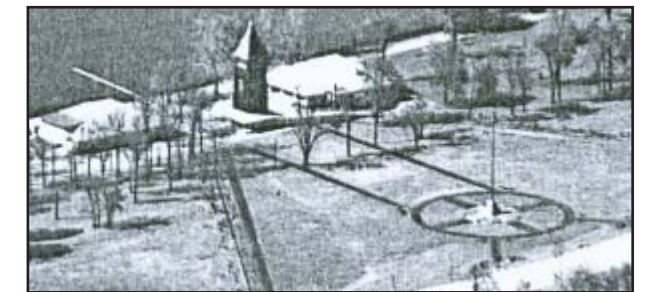
Trail users on the new connection (Emily Coon, 2011)

The new trail provides safe and easy access to the Farmers Market and opportunities for an evening stroll or morning jog for users from adjacent neighborhoods. New features include two resurfaced bridges, a beautiful wooden boardwalk at the entrance to Stewart Park, and a stormwater treatment bioswale along Willow Avenue (across from TCAT garage). The bioswale naturally filters and cleans storm runoff before it enters the lake.

Further work needs to be done to make this eastern section of the trail more user-friendly like the Cass Park Trail. CWTI will be adding signage throughout the summer to identify features and help with wayfinding. CWTI is also actively looking for generous trail donors to add furnishings, benches and plantings all along the trail. Benches make it possible for all users to enjoy the trail, taking breaks as they need and want to.



Mayor Stewart Memorial Flagpole Garden



1932 aerial photograph of Stewart Park

Ninety years ago, Stewart Park became Ithaca's first public waterfront park when Mayor Stewart launched the initiative to transform neglected Renwick Park into a thriving city amenity.

The park officially opened July 4 1921 and in 1927 a flagpole garden was erected in his memory. Although Stewart Park continues to be a very popular destination for Ithacans and visitors alike, the Mayor Stewart Memorial Flagpole Garden has fallen into disrepair.

CWTI is spearheading the restoration of the flagpole garden. Mayor Carolyn Peterson, along with four past City of Ithaca mayors - Ray Bordoni, Alan Cohen, John Gutenburger, and Bill Shaw - support the initiative.

At 4pm on July 4 2011, the ninetieth anniversary of the opening of Stewart Park, the ground will be 'broken' on the garden restoration. Involvement of the community in this project is vital to restoring this feature of our wonderful park. See our website for ways to get involved.

Thank you Mayor Stewart and all of our mayors for your support.