



# Trails & Open Space Committee

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 4PM  
40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY

**Chair:** Joe Grasso

**Members:** Eric Connolly VC, Ed Kinowski, Michele Madigan,  
Matt Veitch

## Agenda

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting
- III. Discussion: 2024 Open Space Grant Awards
- IV. Updates:
  - a. County Grants
  - b. County Forestland
  - c. Zim Smith Trail
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment



4. Is a Budget Amendment needed: YES or NO  
 If yes, budget lines and impact must be provided.  
 Any budget amendments must have equal and offsetting entries.

County Administrator's Office Consulted
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Please see attachments for impacted budget lines.  
 (Use ONLY when more than four lines are impacted.)

Revenue

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Expense

Account Number	Account Name	Amount

Fund Balance (if applicable): (Increase = additional revenue, Decrease = additional expenses)

Amount:
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5. Identify Budget Impact (**Required**):

- a. G/L line impacted
- b. Budget year impacted
- c. Details

6. Are there Amendments to the Compensation Schedule?

YES or NO (If yes, provide details)

a. Is a new position being created?  Y  N

Effective date

Salary and grade

b. Is a new employee being hired?  Y  N

Effective date of employment

Salary and grade

Appointed position:

Term

c. Is this a reclassification?  Y  N

Is this position currently vacant?  Y  N

Is this position in the current year compensation plan?  Y  N

Human Resources Consulted

7. Does this item require the awarding of a contract:  Y  N

a. Type of Solicitation

b. Specification # (BID/RFP/RFQ/OTHER CONTRACT #)

c. If a sole source, appropriate documentation, including an updated letter, has been submitted and approved by Purchasing Department?  Y  N  N/A

d. Vendor information (including contact name):

e. Is the vendor/contractor an LLC, PLLC, or partnership:

f. State of vendor/contractor organization:

g. Commencement date of contract term:

h. Termination of contract date:

i. Contract renewal date and term:

k. Is this a renewal agreement:  Y  N

l. Vendor/Contractor comment/remarks:

Purchasing Office Consulted

County Administrator's Office  
Consulted

8. Is a grant being accepted: YES or NO
- a. Source of grant funding:
  - b. Agency granting funds:
  - c. Amount of grant:
  - d. Purpose grant will be used for:
  - e. Equipment and/or services being purchased with the grant:
  - f. Time period grant covers:
  - g. Amount of county matching funds:
  - h. Administrative fee to County:

9. Supporting Documentation:

- Marked-up previous resolution
- No Markup, per consultation with County Attorney
- Information summary memo
- Copy of proposal or estimate
- Copy of grant award notification and information
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

10. Remarks:



# DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JASON KEMPER, DIRECTOR

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trails and Open Space Committee Members

**CC:** County Administrator's Office  
County Attorney's Office  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jason Kemper, Director of Planning and Economic Development

**DATE:** May 29, 2024

**RE:** June 2024 Trails and Open Space Meeting

### County Forestland / Zim Smith Trail Updates / County Grant Updates

- The 2024 Farmland Protection and Open Space grants received five applications with a total of request of \$1,277,720. The subcommittee met on April 16<sup>th</sup> with a subsequent meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the applications with Saratoga PLAN. The subcommittee will report their findings and recommendations based on various funding amounts and use of Open Space Reserve Funds.. The goal is to forward this committees decision to the Law and Finance committee and the Board of Supervisor's for funding of the 2024 applications at the June meeting. A summary spreadsheet of the applications received is attached for your review.
- There are currently 6 pending Open Space/Farmland Protection Projects, including the three 2023 awards, 1 from 2022, and 2 from 2021.
- Currently, there are 15 pending Trail Projects being administered by the Planning Department. Of the 15 projects, 8 are 2023 awards, 5 are 2022, one is 2021 and one is 2020. The Town of Clifton Park's 2023 Trail Grant project award will be paid this week and considered closed in May.
- The 2024 Trail Grant application was sent out to all of the Town Supervisors on February 21, 2024 and all the Village/City Mayors on February 22, 2024. Also, Saratoga PLAN received the trail grant application on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A due date of June 28, 2024 has been posted.
- Saratoga County DPW completed extensive work at expanding and improving the parking lot on Redmond Road. This is part of a larger project to connect County Forestland with NYS Parks land. Pictures of the completed work are attached. Materials will be provided to the Town of Moreau for the crossing to be completed on Butler Road.
- Zim Smith North Updates – Zim Smith North Design continues to move forward. Additional meetings have been scheduled and occurred with landowners along the proposed trail route.

- Zim Smith Sewer Work – The sewer district continues towards completion of the sewer relining project and restoration work along the Zim Smith Trail. Paving is expected to be completed the week of May 27<sup>th</sup> and topsoil and seeding will occur shortly thereafter.
- Zim Smith Trail Counts- As mentioned at the May 2024 Trails and Open Space Committee meeting, the Capital Region Trail Council has performed Trail Count analysis along the Zim Smith Trail. A copy of the most recent summary (December of 2023) of trail usage is attached. The Planning and Economic Development Department is exploring options to purchase trail counters for the Zim Smith Trail to collect usage numbers on a regular basis.
- The Department has completed all of the trout stocking (Rainbow and Brook Trout) for the 2024 season. The stocking season concluded with a large stocking event at the Town of Day Boat Launch Site on 5.17.24. See attached pictures of the event. In addition, the Department continues to work with Christine Rush on the revision of the Saratoga County Fish Stocking Brochure. Attached to the memo is a map of current locations stocked by Saratoga County.

2024 PENDING Open Space Grants

Municipality	Project Name	Acreage	S.B.L.#	Original County Request	County Awarded	Total Project Cost	Total Outside Funding	Open Space/Farm Protection	Description	Source of Outside Funding	Status	Updates
Town of Moreau	Kropp-Rowson Palmertown Ridge C.E.	81.00	89.-1-4	\$38,203.00		\$155,703.00	\$117,500.00	Open Space	A proposal to permanently protect the terrestrial and aquatic habitats of an 81-acre parcel within the Palmertown Range and adjacent to Moreau State Park by establishing a conservation easement. The property is a mix of forest, meadow and a residential use that provides various ecosystems and offers protection to a tributary of the Snook Kill.	\$37,500 from Nature Conservancy and \$80,000 from the landowners	Pending review from County Open Space and Trails Committee	Saratoga PLAN-Received March 20, 2024
Town of Northumberland	Butler Family Farm	75.00	117.-1-24	\$382,771.00		\$425,301.00	\$42,530.00	Farmland	The property is approximately 75 acres consisting and operated as support land for hay and corn production by the Barber Bros Dairy, LLC. In return, the Butlers operate on the 89.44-acre tax parcel 117.-1-67, which is owned by Barber Bros Dairy, LLC and held under easement by Saratoga PLAN. It is the aim of the Butler Family to swap ownership of the parcels following the closing of the easement. The Property is almost entirely cleared for cropland, except for a small, wooded portion in the northwestern corner, and two shale ridges that bisect the property from north to south	\$7,530 Landowner-bargain sale. & \$35,000 stewardship fund donated by landowner	Pending review from County Open Space and Trails Committee	Saratoga Plan -Received March 28, 2024
Town of Charlton	Blue Corners Farm C.E.	75.64	223.-1-34.1 & 223.-1-34.2	\$273,414.00		\$308,414.00	\$35,000.00	Farmland	A proposal to protect 75.64-acres, comprised of two parcels, that practices regenerative farming for a number of farm animals. The landowners are looking to preserving the conservation values of the property by using the purchase of development rights (C.E.)	\$35,000 stewardship fund donated by landowner	Pending review from County Open Space and Trails Committee	Saratoga Plan -Received March 28, 2024
Town of Stillwater	Tanner Ridge Farm	47.10	220.-1-33.11 & 220.-1-33.12	\$183,332.00		\$203,702.00	\$20,370.00	Farmland	The landowners would like to place 45-acres, consisting of two parcels, into a permanent conservation easement with 2 acres in the southern woodlot excluded for subdivision. The property is home to an equine boarding and training facility, with a newly constructed indoor riding arena built in the last year. The property contains a house, equipment barn, outdoor arena, round pen and pad, horse barn with stalls, along with several other outbuildings and run-in sheds.	\$10,000 donation from Town with PDR program and \$10,000 town legal counsel by holding the C.E.	Pending review from County Open Space and Trails Committee	Saratoga Plan -Received March 28, 2024 - Town of Stillwater to hold easement
Town of Stillwater	Old Munger Farm	98.92	220.-1-38.11	\$400,000.00		\$506,026.00	\$106,026.00	Farmland	The landowners would like to place 96.92 acres of the property into a permanent conservation easement with 2 acres excluded for subdivision. The remaining 96.92 acres will be protected through an agricultural conservation easement with reserved rights for residential and agricultural structures on the property. Residential structures will be limited to "the farmstead area determined by a site plan. The property contains 31 acres of actively planted cropland which is currently leased to a neighboring farmer, Yap Captein, as support land for his operation."	PDR up to \$100,000 from the Town with \$10,000 town legal counsel by holding the C.E.	Pending review from County Open Space and Trails Committee	Saratoga Plan -Received March 28, 2024 - Town of Stillwater to hold easement
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED:</b>				<b>\$1,277,720.00</b>								

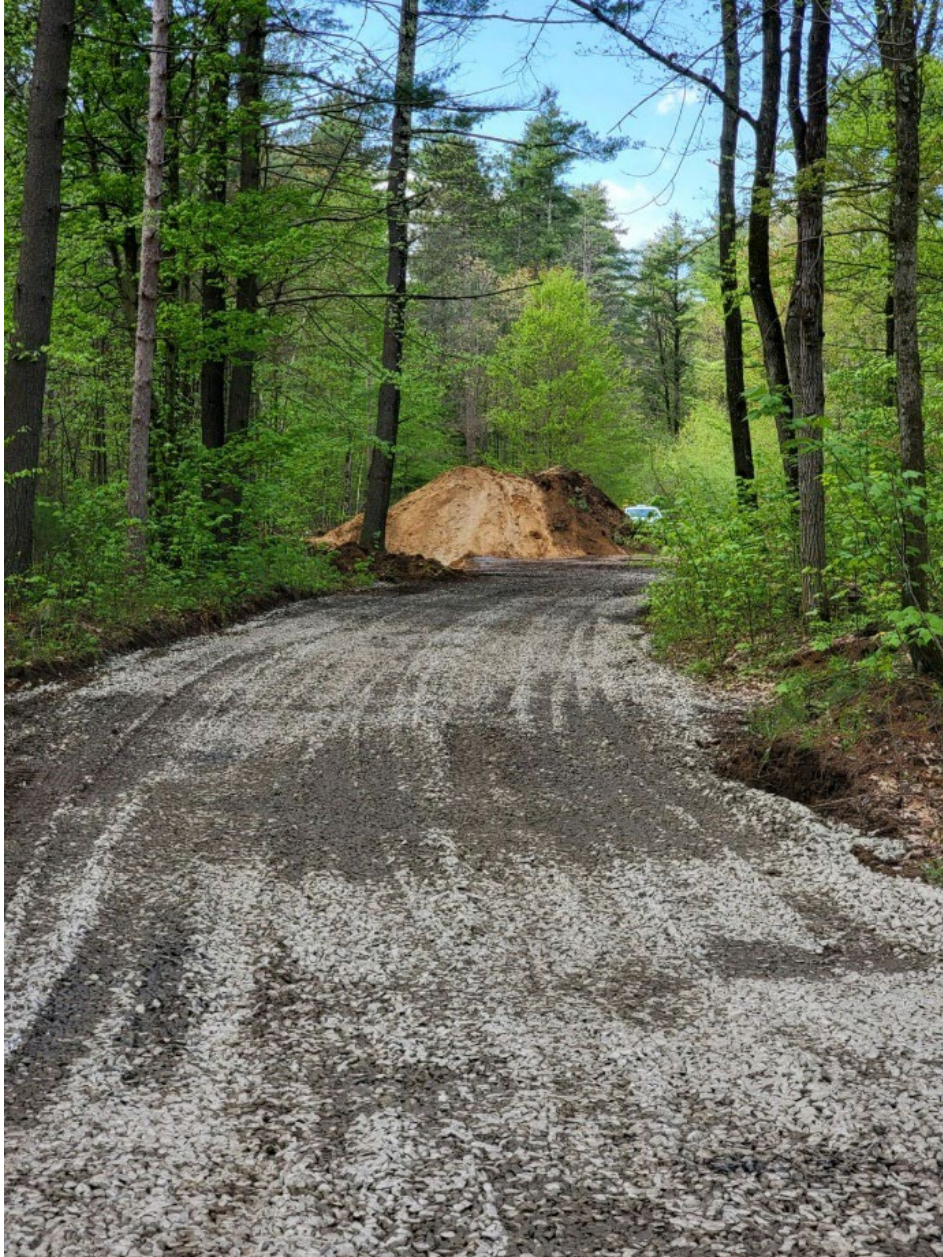
C.E. = conservation easement



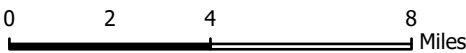
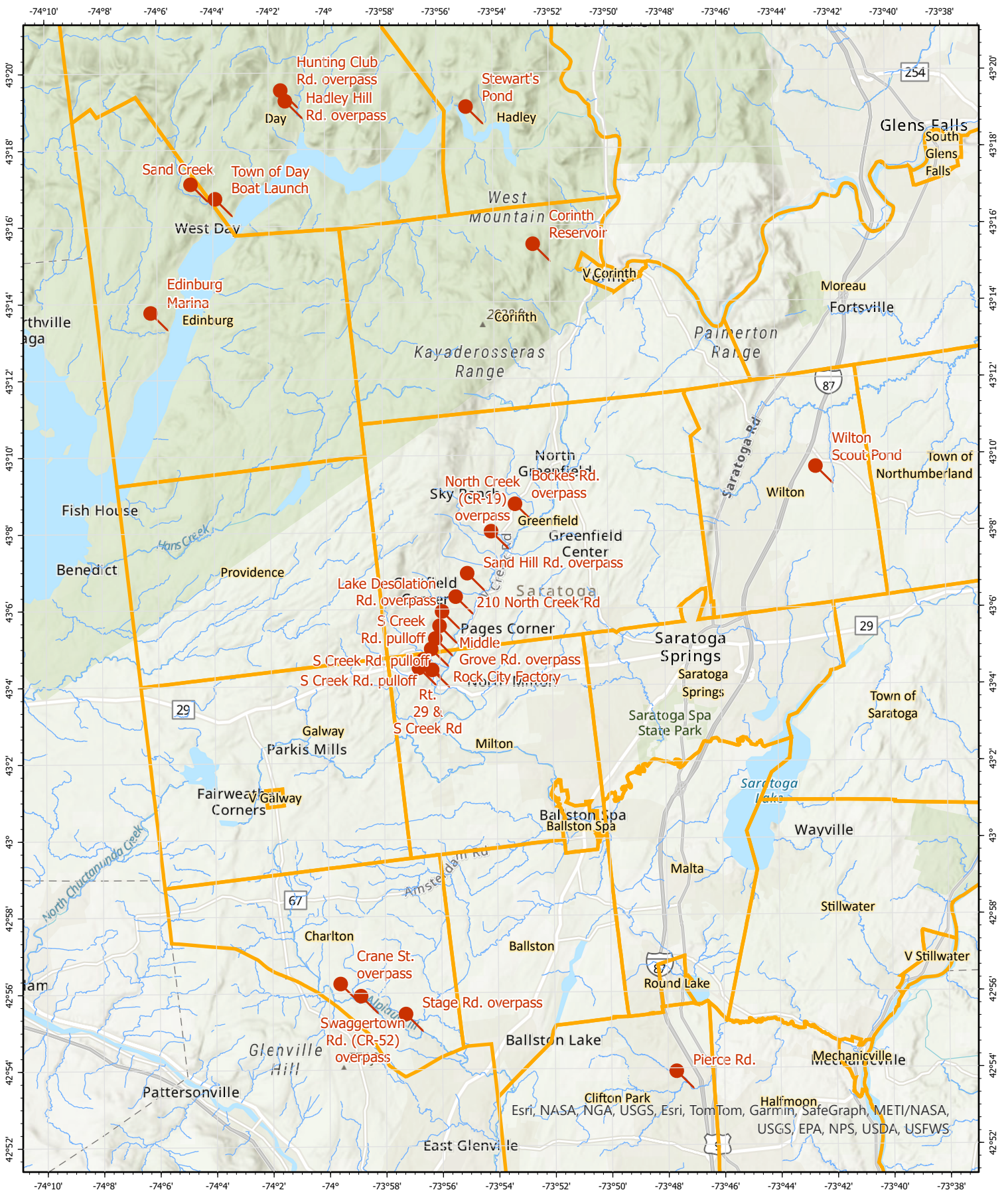
## Great Sacandaga Lake Fish Stocking



## Moreau County Forestland Parking Lot Improvements







Fish Stocking Location



Saratoga County  
Fish Stocking 2024



# Zim Smith Trail Perspective



December 2023

## Overview

The Zim Smith Trail is a former D&H rail corridor that stretches eleven and a half (11.5) miles from Ballston Spa to Mechanicville. The Capital Region Transportation Council (Transportation Council) installed mobile Eco Counter PYRO Boxes at three (2) trailheads – Goldfoot Road in Round Lake and at the Zim Smith Trail East trailhead in Mechanicville. Each counter was installed for about two (2) weeks and recorded users using PYRO sensor technology that detects infrared radiation emitted by the human body. PYRO Boxes can detect all trail user types but cannot differentiate them by mode.

During the count period, the region experienced extreme weather events including heavy rains and high temperatures. These types of events, as well as any nearby construction or other activity occurring nearby may impact trail use. The PYRO Box installed at Goldfoot Road experienced an interruption in data transmission due to an undetermined cause. Due to the interruption, the count period was limited to ten (10) days, which is fewer days than the typical trail count.

The Transportation Council estimated daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal, and annual use at each trailhead using the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project methodology. Conducting regular trail counts and estimating use is a fundamental practice in transportation planning that is crucial to the development of safe, efficient, and inclusive transportation systems. The information and data described herein can be used by planners, engineers, and policymakers to make informed decisions about trail maintenance, enhancements, safety measures, design, and resource allocation.

Other uses of the data contained in this memo include:

- Develop capital improvement plans
- Gauge demands for new trail connections, parking, and amenities
- Inform grant applications
- Plain maintenance
- Understand weather impacts
- Communicate success
- Quantify growth
- Capture daily, weekly, and seasonal trends
- Understand network flows

Table 1. Zim Smith Trail Count Details

Location	Facility Type	Days Installed	Weekday Average	Weekend Average	Monthly Average	Est. Annual Visits
Mechanicville	Multi-use trail	30	168	185	4,997	<b>59,964</b>
Round Lake	Multi-use trail	12	384	414	11,364	<b>136,371</b>

Table 2. Estimated Zim Smith Trail Use

	Mechanicville	Round Lake
<b>Estimated Annual Usage</b>	<b>59,964</b>	<b>136,371</b>
<b>Weekly Usage</b>	1,896	3,500
<b>Estimated Sasonal Usage</b>		
<b>Winter</b>	5,397	12,273
<b>Spring</b>	17,390	39,548
<b>Summer</b>	16,190	36,820
<b>Fall</b>	13,792	31,365
<b>Average weekday</b>	168	0
<b>Average weekend</b>	185	0
<b>Maximum weekday</b>	405	405
<b>Maximum weekend</b>	276	276
<b>Estimated Monthly Usage</b>		
<b>January</b>	1,799	4,091
<b>February</b>	1,799	4,091
<b>March</b>	4,197	9,546
<b>April</b>	6,596	15,001
<b>May</b>	6,596	15,001
<b>June</b>	7,196	16,365
<b>July</b>	7,795	17,728
<b>August</b>	8,395	19,092
<b>September</b>	6,596	15,001
<b>October</b>	3,598	8,182
<b>November</b>	3,598	8,182
<b>December</b>	1,799	4,091
<b>Monthly Average</b>	4,997	11,364

Trail counts have been conducted on the Zim Smith Trail regularly since the mid-2000s. A comparison of trail use on the Zim Smith Trail at four (4) different trailheads since 2016 is shown in the table and figure below. In general, trail use regionwide spiked significantly in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people visited local trails for recreation and exercise due to public health guidelines that encouraged people not to congregate with others indoors and restricted tourism/travel outside of New York State. The trail extension from Coons Crossing in Halfmoon to Mechanicville was completed in September 2020.

Table 3. Change in Trail Use (2016-2023)

	Malta	Round Lake			Halfmoon	Mechanicville
	2016	2016	2020	2023	2020	2023
<b>Estimated Annual Usage</b>	<b>53,781</b>	<b>79,677</b>	<b>363,776</b>	<b>136,371</b>	<b>86,001</b>	<b>59,964</b>

Figure 1. Change in Trail Use (2016-2023)

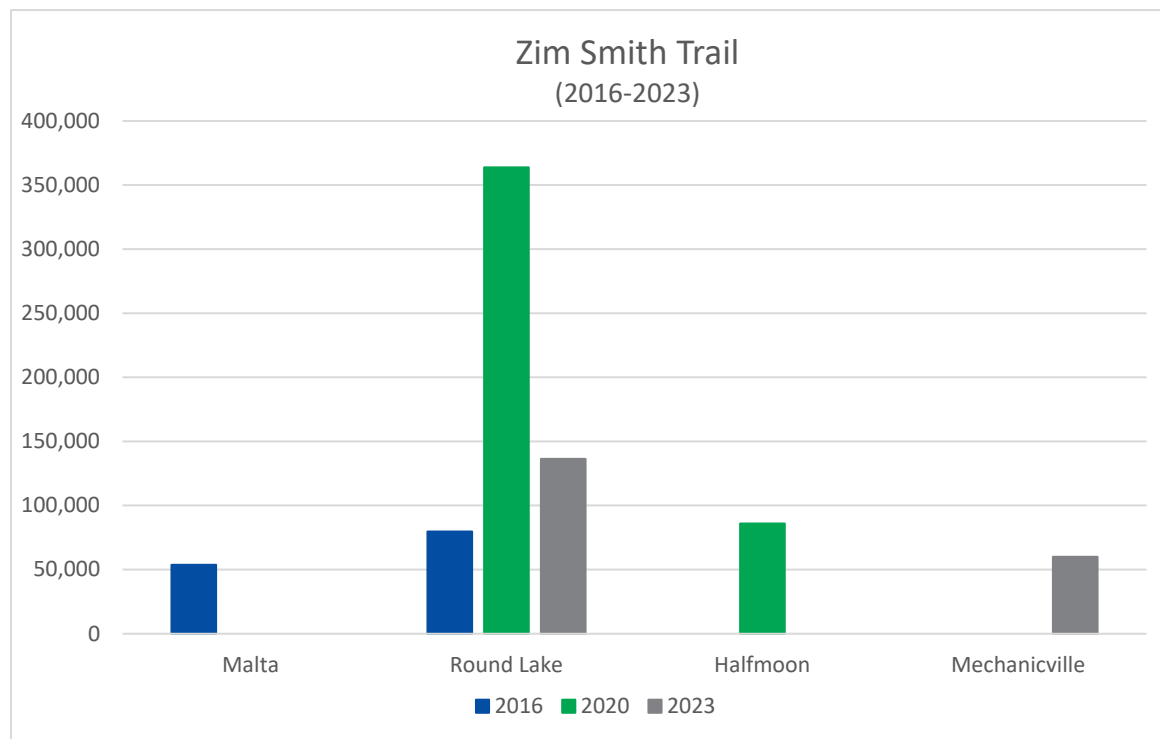
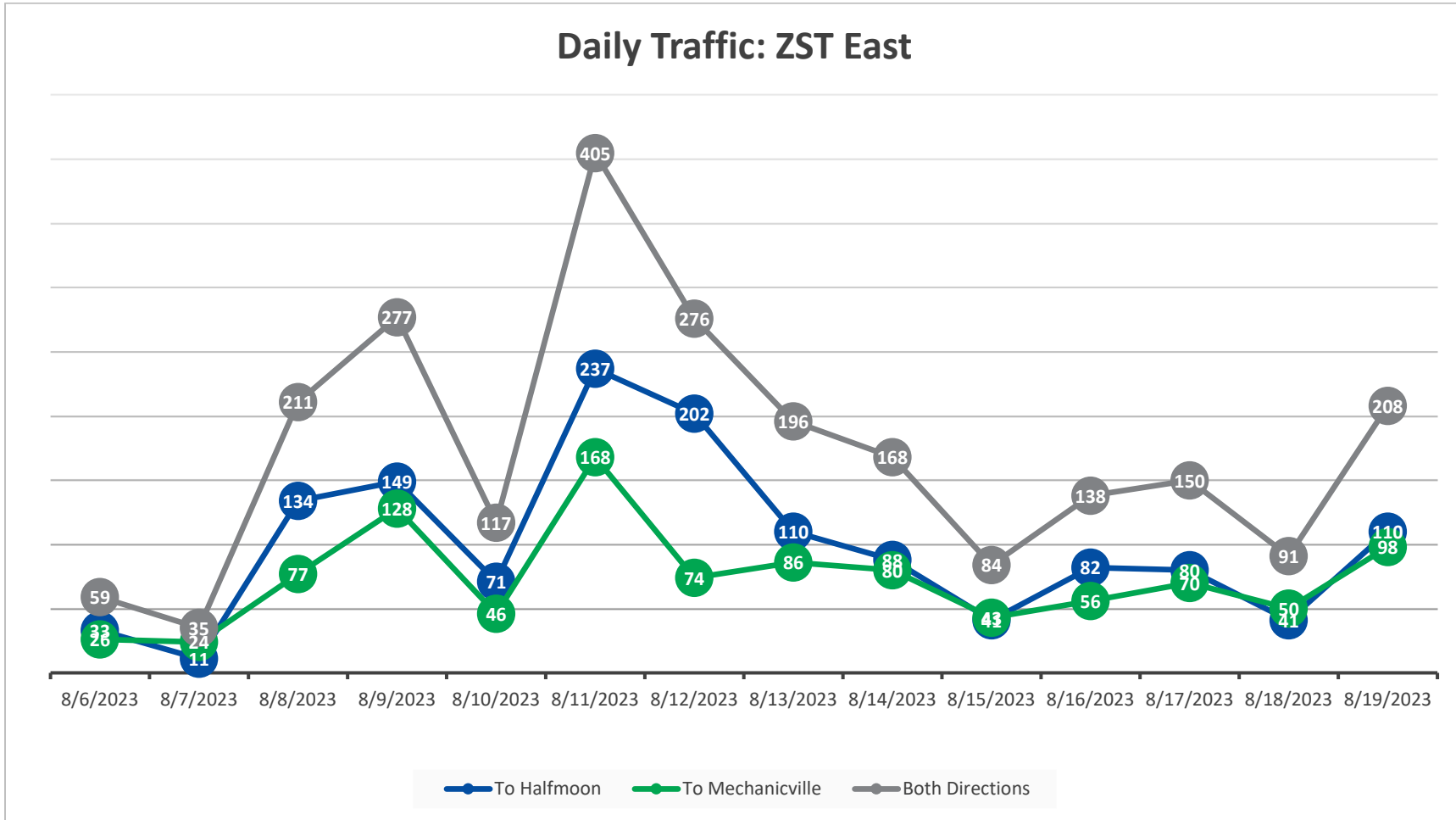






Figure 3. Trailhead Daily Use

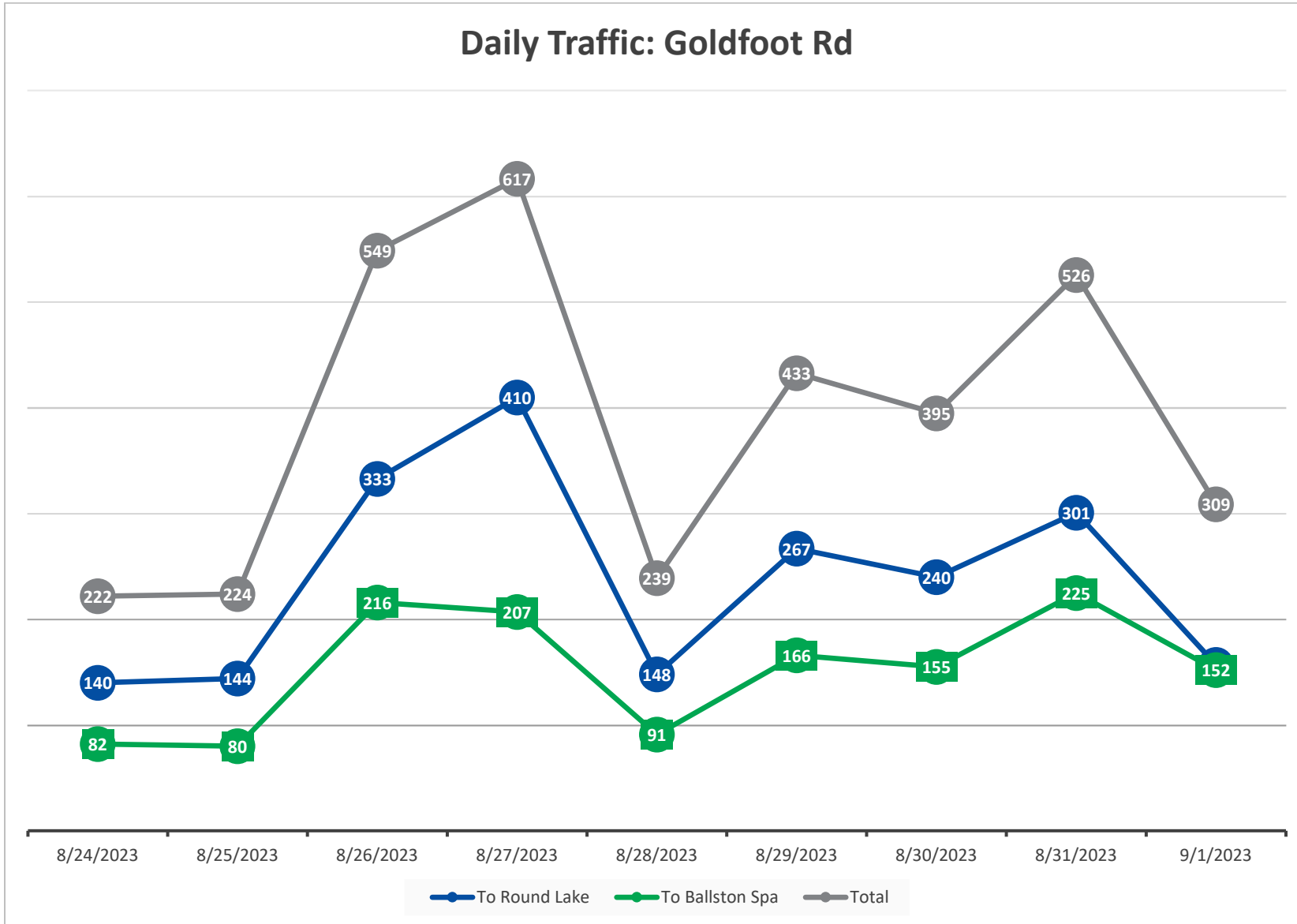


Goldfoot Road Trailhead, Round Lake (August 24 – September 1, 2023))

Figure 4. Goldfoot Road. Trailhead Heatmap

	8/24/2023	8/25/2023	8/26/2023	8/27/2023	8/28/2023	8/29/2023	8/30/2023	8/31/2023	9/1/2023
0:00		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1:00		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2:00		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3:00		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4:00		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5:00		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
6:00		2	7	7	7	3	0	4	5
7:00		16	18	10	13	15	0	20	12
8:00		6	46	39	39	30	20	30	32
9:00	31	19	79	40	30	36	37	48	35
10:00	34	26	95	58	36	19	19	44	57
11:00	37	16	76	70	44	42	20	51	60
12:00	27	18	50	63	26	53	34	54	58
13:00	20	26	45	77	18	41	40	46	47
14:00	18	18	40	74	11	23	61	52	
15:00	14	29	38	56	0	22	44	44	
16:00	9	18	18	40	0	40	42	30	
17:00	18	9	10	33	0	42	30	46	
18:00	14	13	14	27	3	44	34	49	
19:00	0	4	13	20	12	20	11	8	
20:00	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	0	
21:00	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	
22:00	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	
23:00	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	

Figure 5. Hudson Ave. Trailhead Daily Use



## Summary

The Transportation Council will continue to collect usage data for the regional trail system to measure changes in commuting and recreation trends and help inform future regional transportation plans. Full year counts on the Rail Trail should be considered to collect more accurate information. This additional usage data would allow the Transportation Council, Saratoga County, and other trail planning entities to more confidently determine peak usage periods, which may vary by location, and other usage patterns that may not be discoverable over the course of a few weeks

## Disclaimer

This document was prepared and published by the Capital Region Transportation Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for a planning area that includes the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga (except for the Town of Moreau and the Village South Glens Falls, which lie within the adjoining MPO region for the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council) and Schenectady. This report was funded in part through grants from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of this report do not necessarily state or reflect the official views or policy of the U. S. Department of Transportation.

