

DRAFT

Date: November 15, 2023

Project Name: Let's Get Moving Youngstown – Project Sidewalk

Requesting Municipality:

Village of Youngstown NY
240 Lockport St.
Youngstown NY 14174

Grant Writer:

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Opportunity

The Village of Youngstown has identified the community needs to improve physical, social-emotional, and cognitive benefits (mind/body/soul building activities) of our youth, provide a safe and engaging environment for families, and become inclusive (ADA compliant). A five-year plan has been developed based on youth and community feedback to address these key needs.

This grant request strictly focuses on Phase 2 of the plan to improve the mobility and connectivity of the Village by renovating sidewalks, addition of a walking/bike trail in Veteran's Park and ensuring ADA compliance.

Target population:

There are 1,935 residents in the Village of Youngstown and the thousands of visitors to our historic village and Fort Niagara each year. We have seen a significant growth in young families moving to the village and an aging senior population.

Description of project:

The project targets increasing the community's ability to safely walk and bike through Youngstown, especially for the children to get to their school bus stops, and senior's ability to get to the local market and businesses. The project also includes the conversion of the historic rail corridor from Swain Road to Nancy Price Drive as a bike path.

Details:

- Sidewalks: The Village's sidewalks are aged and have deteriorated over the years. In 2023, the Village replaced 106 sidewalk slabs addressing many of the immediate safety concerns and has identified a minimum of 500 cement sidewalk slabs that need to be replaced. During the project design phase, updates to sidewalks at the intersection at Main St & Lockport St for ADA compliance will be defined and are included in this project.
- Bike path: The project includes a new paved Youngstown bike/walking path. This will provide connectivity from River Road to Veteran's Park by converting the old train corridor into a safe biking environment (Swain Rd to Nancy Price Dr.). This will require significant clean-up and reconfiguration of the area due to overgrowth, DPW storage, and the current Village recycling. The old Lewiston – Youngstown Frontier Railway train station located at 707 Nancy Price Dr. will be renovated, improving the bike path experience. The train station will become a destination to stop and learn about the historical significance of the Frontier Railway and its impact on the commercial growth of the region. We will be preserving a historical structure for future generations along with providing a safe southern path to Veteran's Park. Significant clean-up around the train station will be required with the relocation of the Village's brush recycling and DPW equipment storage.
- Walking path: The addition of a new concrete half mile walking path within Veteran's Park will provide a safe environment for the community to be active. The path will serve as connectivity of the park's activity centers (ball fields, tennis, basketball, frisbee golf, etc) which is the subject of the overall 5 year plan. We will locate several informational markers providing educational historic information about Youngstown along with benches for visitors to enjoy. The path is planned to be wider than the existing sidewalks in Youngstown.
- The project will be designed to ensure ADA compliance, increasing the ability of the population to be more active.

Goals/Strategies

The goal of the overall 5-year Veteran's Park renovation plan is to:

- Improve physical, social-emotional, and cognitive benefits (mind/body/soul building activities) of our youth and engagement with families.
- Become a Village that is focused on ADA inclusion and compliance.
- Provide a safe and enjoyable biking environment.
- Increase the utilization of Veteran's Park by the local residents, visitors and American's with Disabilities by engaging in outdoor activities through the year. Today, most activities are only held in the park during the summer months.

- The village will also utilize this project as an opportunity to engage the local community members in volunteer days to assist on construction of the project. The goal is to inspire a community spirit and ownership of the renovation.

Timeline

The following is a proposed timeline based on funding approval in January/July 2024.

The project is estimated to start in summer of 2024 with construction to be completed by December 2026.

Background Information on the historic train station

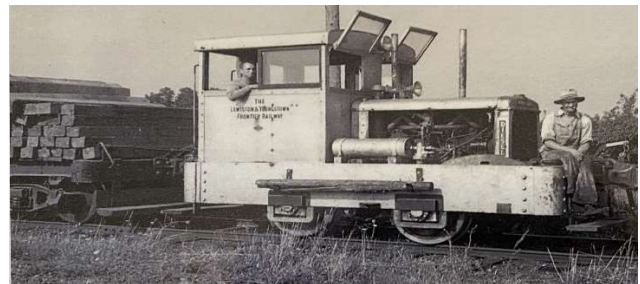
Reference:

Information: Niagara Frontier Publications, dated September 6, 2011 by J. Maloni
Historical photos: Town of Porter Historical Museum, Youngstown NY

The Lewiston Youngstown Frontier Railway, commonly referred to as the "The Old Fort Route," 1896-1950.

The rail line, originally powered by electricity, connected with the Niagara Gorge Belt Line in Lewiston, and proceeded to the Village of Youngtown, where it diverged. One spur ran to the barracks at Fort Niagara, and the other east, to Rumsey Park, on the shores of Lake Ontario.

In addition to carrying fruit from the farms in Porter, passenger service was provided for visitors and residents of the area. Freight and passenger service for Fort Niagara was significant. Local residents, including high school students, used the line to travel to Lewiston and Niagara Falls. Visitors flocked to Rumsey Park, which provided a bathing beach, dancing pavilion, lunch hall and kitchen, merry-go-round, swings and other entertainment. Over time, automobiles, trucks and busses became more prevalent and popular, and permission to abandon operation as a passenger hauler was approved in the late 1920s. Freight service was to continue until the 1950s owned and operated as the Youngstown Cold Storage Line, which replaced the LYFR, purchasing the right-of-way about 1928 and transporting fruit and freight until 1950.



Freight for the cold storage:



The later years:



2001:



Today:





Let's Get Moving Youngstown: 5 -Year Plan Summary

5 Year "Let's Get Moving Youngstown" Plan

Village of Youngstown, NY
in partnership with
Friends of Youngstown



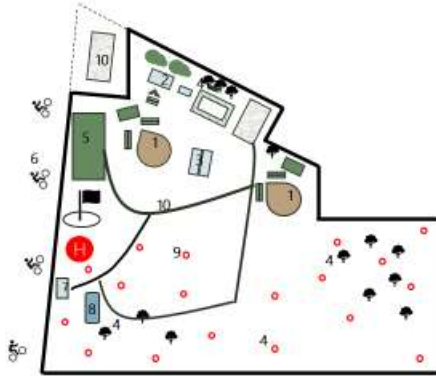
Proposal

Goals of "Let's Get Moving Youngstown"

The overall goal of the 5 year plan is to:

- Improve physical, social-emotional, and cognitive benefits (mind/body/soul) of our youth and engagement with families
- Become "inclusive" - all ages and abilities (ADA)
- Provide safe a community
- Increase utilization of Veteran's park by the residents and visitors throughout the year
- Inspire a community spirit

5 Year Plan "Let's Get Moving Youngstown"

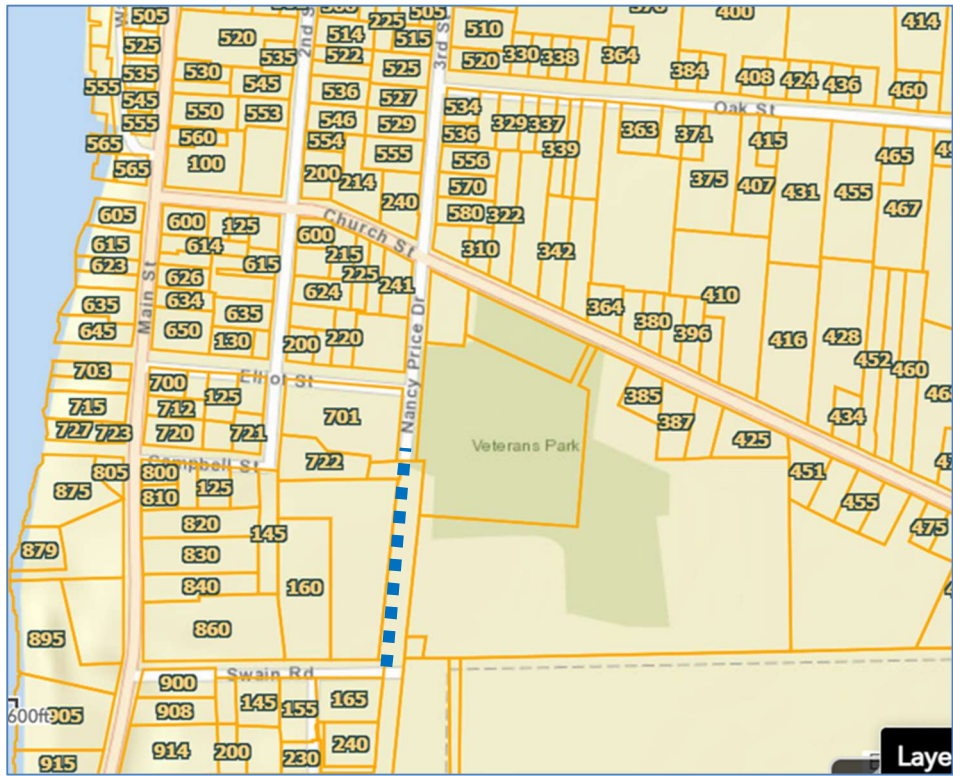


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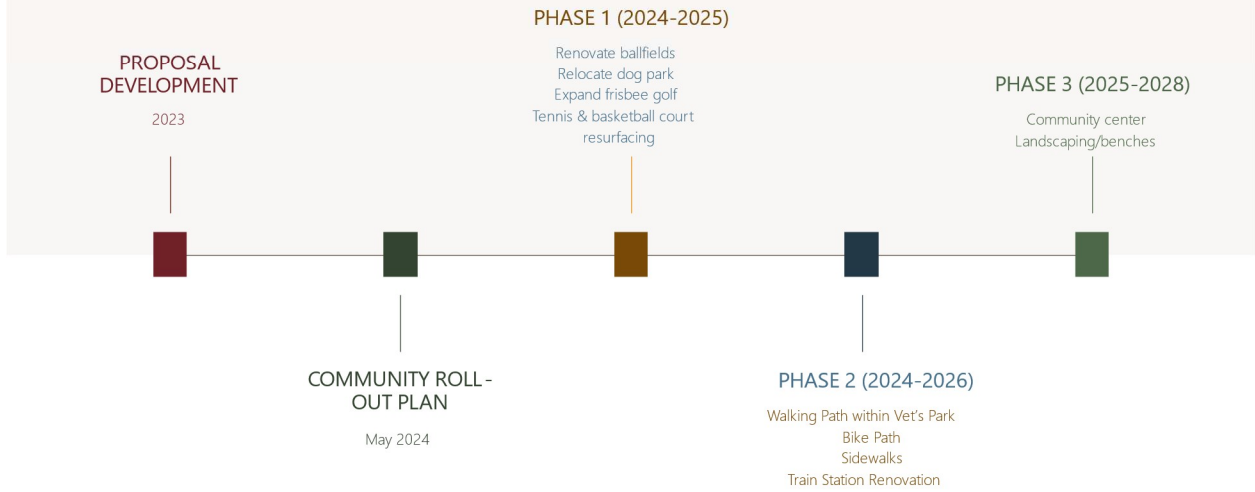
Proposed renovations:

1. Renovate 2 ball fields;
2. Resurface basketball court, add shelter over seating area and add landscaping along the road.
3. Resurface tennis courts to add pickle ball layout.
4. Add benches for seating around the park.
5. Convert existing building to a multi-purpose Recreation Community Center. Including an outdoor theater pavilion for music events, movie nights, plays. Update bathrooms. Remove existing pavilion and build new one as a part of the building update.
6. Add new bike path
7. Convert old train station into a historical information center about Youngstown and Frontier Railway.
8. Add ice rink
9. Build out the frisbee golf to full course. Managed clearing of wooded areas to add challenge to the course.
10. Add walking paths connecting areas of the park
11. Acquire corner lot to add parking, a large welcome to Veteran's Park sign and map of park and information center on events and how to reserve areas. Build new community center including Teen Center.
12. All to be ADA compliant

Bike Path



Proposed Timeline – 2023 - 2028



Friends of Youngstown, Inc.

FRIENDS OF YOUNGSTOWN (FOY), INC

A non-profit 501c3 organization



Support the Community of Youngstown in their efforts to revitalize, improve and ensure long term sustainability of the community in which we live.

Focus on Active Lifestyles, Historical Preservation & Environmental efforts.

FOY will:

- a) Act as the mechanism for the community for project fundraising and donations
- b) Stimulate community interest & involvement
- c) Ensure all funded projects are delivered according to key metrics
- d) Meet all state and federal requirements of a non-profit organization

Board of Directors:

Christine Rath
Sean Mackenzie
Heidi Reisman

EIN: 93 -1554181

Email: contact@FOY14174.com

Website: www.FOY14174.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofYoungstown>

FOY COMMITTEE

Purpose of Committee:

1. Drive FOY success
2. Decision making forum
3. Facilitate fundraising activities
4. Track focused projects to ensure goals are met
5. Financial oversight



Committee Members:

OC Allen
Christine Rath
Heidi Riesman
Joe Rossi
Rick Stortecky

Roles

Chair: Christine - facilitate meetings, grant writer & member

FOY Members:

Volunteers

Decision making

Facilitate planning & fundraising events

Village Liaison Rick – provides village input and provides village status of FOY