

Genesee Valley Greenway

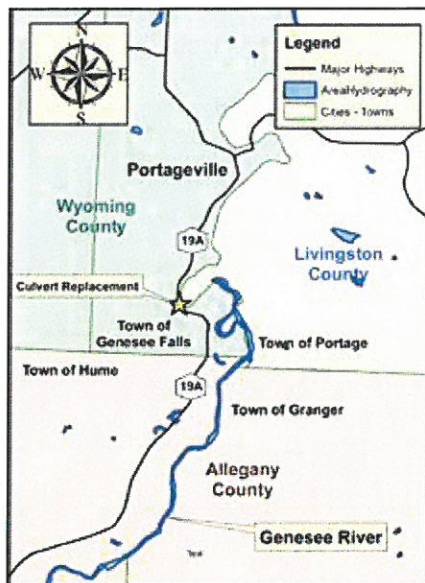
by Sarah Piecuch

In the fall of 2013, NYSDOT Region 4 completed a culvert rehabilitation and multi-use trail repair of approximately 1,000 foot section of the Genesee Valley Greenway (GVG) in the Town of Genesee Falls, Wyoming County. This was a Region 4 Environmental Initiative and a partnership between the New York State Office Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forest and New York State Department of Transportation Region 4. The project cost \$640,000.

The Genesee Valley Greenway is a multi-use trail and is one of hundreds of greenways being developed across the nation along old canals, abandoned rail beds, and riverbanks. It passes through scenic woodlands, river and stream valleys, rolling farmlands, steep gorges, and historic villages located in sixteen towns in Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany, and Cattaraugus counties in New York State (www.fogvg.org).

The repair of the trail and rehabilitation of the culvert corrected extensive slope failure that was threatening Route 19A. In addition, the culvert is located immediately upstream of a high quality State regulated wetland that is associated with an Oxbow Lake of the Genesee River. Repair of this trail section also corrected the sediment discharge to the wetland.

This is an exemplary project of the regional commitment to trail connections. Repair of this section of trail in conjunction with the installment of the Mt. Morris pedestrian bridge (another Region 4 project) in Livingston County resulted in approximately 43 miles of nearly continuous GVG trail within NYSDOT's Region 4. Other highlights of this project include the use of all native plantings to maintain the existing wildlife habitat and the repair of the temporary loss of habitat connectivity. Construction activities avoided disturbance and persevered habitat of a rare beetle known to occur in the project area.



New culvert and Oxbow Lake in background.



Repaired trail and Route 19A



New culvert

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