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Future for Oneonta Foundation Jumpstarts a Green Transformation

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On Thursday, June 16, 20 years of work by the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway (OSG) will be realized when ground is broken for updates to the Neahwa Park Mill Race segment of this popular trail. The Future for Oneonta Foundation (FOF) provided a \$50,000 grant to bring this transformational project from the plan and into the park.

This grant kickstarted the project. The improvement has been in the City of Oneonta's Comprehensive Plan since 2000 but this donation proved crucial to breaking ground in 2022.

"From the OSG's standpoint this section was a critical link between Neahwa Park, Catella Park, and the trails available on New Island," OSG's Donna Vogler says. "It is gratifying to see this section paved and accessible to all."

The Mill Race trail will be made ADA compliant and is a valuable part of Oneonta's history. In 1806, sawmill owners James and John McDonald diverted the Susquehanna into this narrow canal to power their tools. Their success gave Oneonta its original name: McDonald's Mills.

Like the original Mill Race, this project will grow the city in new ways.

"I am so very pleased that the Future for Oneonta Foundation could play a role in getting this project to the next level," said Alan Cleinman, the newly installed chairman of FOF. "The FOF grant helped the Susquehanna Greenway Committee complete this next phase, which opens the door for greater use of the trail system by citizens of all ages and abilities. FOF looks forward to further supporting the project to realize its full potential over the coming years."

Because of this work, more people will be able to engage with the Susquehanna River, one of our local natural resources that is underutilized and unexplored. Plus, the newly paved trail will delight Oneonta's high number of cyclists, help attract new residents, and invite additional infrastructure investment.

"This kind of transformative support is what drives FOF. We will continue to be a catalyst for change in the Oneonta community," Cleinman says.

About Future for Oneonta Foundation: Created by leading Oneonta citizens in 1982, the Future for Oneonta Foundation (“FOF”) is a non-profit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code. FOF’s mission is “to promote improvement of the quality of living and the general welfare of the community and the citizens of Greater Oneonta.” FOF desires to stimulate interest in the civic affairs of the community and support the cultural and civic needs of the community through grants and strategic support. Since its inception, FOF has provided more than \$500,000 in program support to area agencies and civic, cultural, and educational projects. FOF is authorized to receive tax-deductible gifts, trusts, property or money for investment through its fiscal agent, Community Bank, Oneonta, and to authorize expenditures for designated purposes or perpetuate the grants and gifts as the donor or grantor shall specify. FOF maintains both General Funds, which are received without direction for any specific project, as well as Directed Funds, which are given for specific purposes or projects.

For more information about the Future for Oneonta Foundation, visit www.fofoneonta.com.

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