

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Neahwa Park's Mill Race Trail Ribbon Cutting on July 4

June 30, 2022

On Monday at 4:30, there will be one more thing to celebrate in Neahwa Park during the Hometown 4th of July event. A new link in the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway will be ready for anyone who wants to walk, run, or roll.

After the ribbon cutting, 20 years of work by the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway (OSG) will be realized when the Neahwa Park Mill Race is officially opened. The Future for Oneonta Foundation (FOF) provided a \$50,000 grant that kickstarted this transformational project. The improvement has been in the City of Oneonta's Comprehensive Plan since 2000 but FOF's donation proved crucial to getting shovels in the ground.

"The City's gratitude for the Future for Oneonta's generous contribution cannot be overstated," Mayor Mark Drnek said. "In the blink of an eye, FOF has helped realize the dreams of so many in our community, while offering support and leadership in the attainment of much more to come.

On behalf of the citizens of Oneonta, I offer my heartfelt thanks to FOF for its continuing enrichment of our shared quality of life. 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 chair 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 is now done, 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.

WHAT: Mill Race Trail Ribbon Cutting

WHERE: Neahwa Park on the right side of the Damascke Field parking lot

WHEN: Monday, July 4 at 4:30 p.m.

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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