

# Case Study: A Pathway to a Greenway



A Marcellus Community  
Collaborative

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01

# Introductions / Entities



# Village of Marcellus



## Mayor

- Initiated with former Mayor John Curtin
- Continued by current Mayor Chad Clark



## DPW

- Continuity of support and guidance from key village employees
- Mallory Zabinski
- Greg Crysler



# Town of Marcellus



Initiated with former Town Highway Superintendent Don Maclachlan



Continued by current Town Highway Superintendent Michael Ossit



Shared resources and labor



## Business Partners

- Owner/Engineer Joe Durand and his team
- Michael Dipaola - Project Manager
- Key engineering insights
- Supervision and guidance for Student ideas



Igniting the future

# Marcellus Central School District

- Partnership between district and municipalities (Village/Town)
- Former Superintendent of Schools Michelle Brantner initiated
- Current Superintendent of Schools Jean Sharlow continues partnership
- Integrated with Professional Pathways Program overseen by Tyler Cooper
- Carried out by numerous students over the last 7 years

02

# The Transformation



# Timeline of Events

**1812**

**Saw Mill Constructed**

**1881**

**Crown Mill**

**1906**

**Included in Village**

**1961**

**Mill closes its doors**

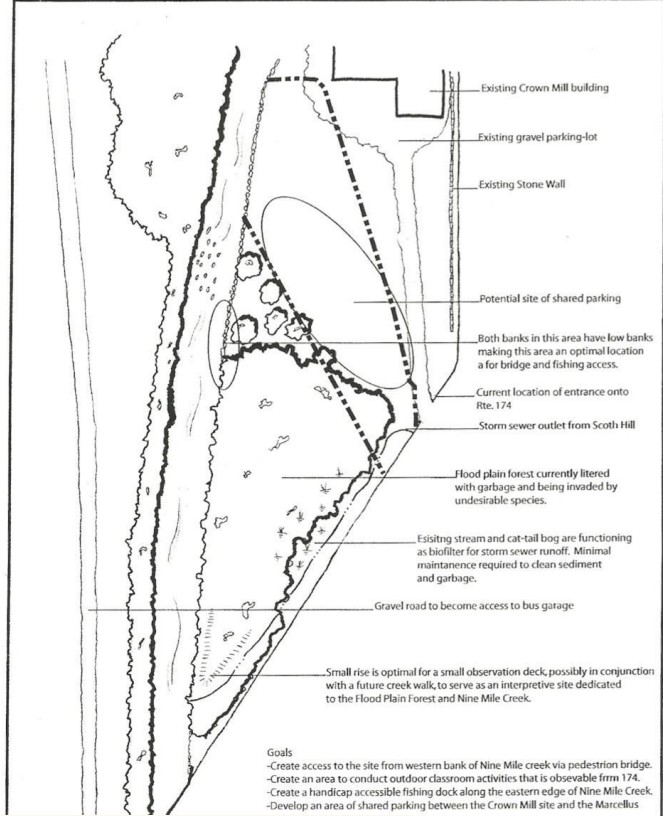
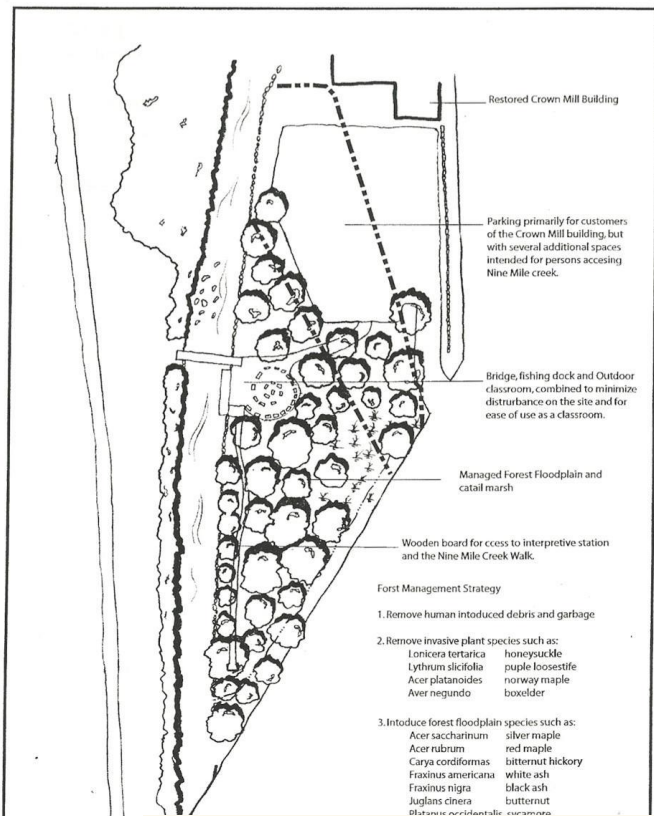
**2016**

**Remaining building demolished**

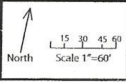
**2019**

**Village purchases site**




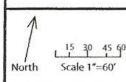


# Proposal by ESF 2005



Village of Marcellus  
Rte 173 and Nine Mile Creek  
"Old Crown Mill Site"  
Site Plan

Prepared by:  
Benjamin Wikonen  
Professor Scott Shannon  
SUNY-ESF ISA dept.  
Spring 2005

Village of Marcellus  
Rte 173 and Nine Mile Creek  
"Old Crown Mill Site"  
Inventory and Analysis

Prepared By:  
Benjamin Wikonen  
Professor Scott Shannon  
SUNY-ESF ISA dept.  
Spring 2005



the forest Flood plain and adjacent marsh for both educational value that they can provide.  
an extend Creek Walk that speaks about the Forest and Nine Mile Creek.



**Before Demo**



**After Demo (2011)**



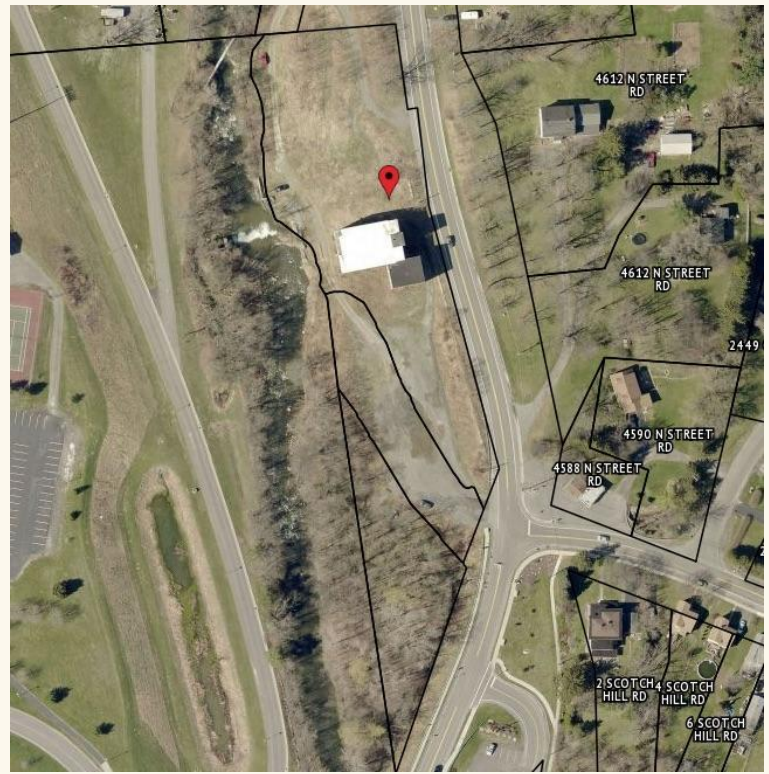
**Last remaining portion (2016)**



**Last remaining portion (2016)**



**Cleared Site (Fall 2016)**



**Onondaga County owned building site  
due to back taxes**

# Role of Government Entities



## Village

- IMA with Town and School: Shared resources and Manpower
- Orchestrated demolition of site due to unsafe conditions
- Coordinated with County for purchase of property



## Town

- IMA with Village and School: Shared resources and manpower
- Hanson with rocks for classroom (vendor input)



## County

- Julie Abbott proposal for sale of County Parcel
- Shared vision for use of space

# Alignment with Comprehensive Plans

## Village

- Recreation and Open Space
- Adaptive reuse of underutilized land
- Environmental stewardship and creek protection

## Town

- Protecting and enhancing Nine Mile Creek Corridor
- Expanding recreation opportunities for Town residents
- Supporting regional open-space and environmental goals

## County

- Greenways and Blueways

# Planning and Zoning tools used

## Zone Change

Commercial to open land - February 2018

## Designation as a park

Green Gateway Park - 10/23/23

## Coordination with DEC and US Fish and Wildlife

Dan Bishop

Carl Schwartz

Future Fishing rights for DEC Ownership



# Securing Funding

- CREST DASNY - \$180,000 Senator John Mannion (Dates) Bridge
- CREST DASNY - \$180,000 - Senator May - Pavilion, Fishing Platform, water retention area
- Blueways/ Green way - \$255,000 - Ryan McMahon - Additional funds for Pavilion, Fishing Platform, footpath to connect parks



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# The Student Role



# How it Started



## One student with a vision

As Andrew Kammer in 2019 completed ESF Global Environment course, wanted to apply what he learned to a real world application



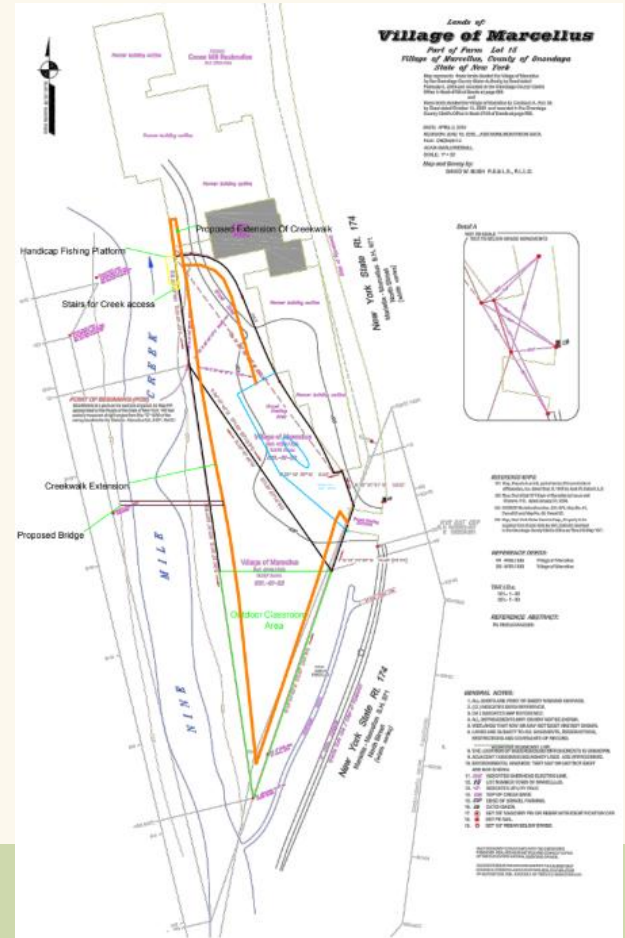
## Marcellus Mayor with an idea

Former Marcellus Mayor John Curtin connected with the school to discuss how we could utilize the site and acquire the county property.



## Pitching an proposal

Together the student and Mayor collaborated to create an ongoing agreement to continually improve the site and shared design with county.



# How it Started



# Acquisition of Property

## County Cooperation

Once the county supported the vision and sold the property to the Village of Marcellus August 2019

## Community effort

Students and community members began to invest some sweat equity into the property to clean up and prepare for improvements.



# The Student Perspective

Why their voice matters



# Bronte Stahl



**Austin Raicht**



**Jack Waterman**

# New York Inspires



- Development of real-world skills
- Enhanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Flexibility and creativity
- Improved student engagement and motivation
- Increased understanding of how different subjects relate to each other

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# Moving Forward



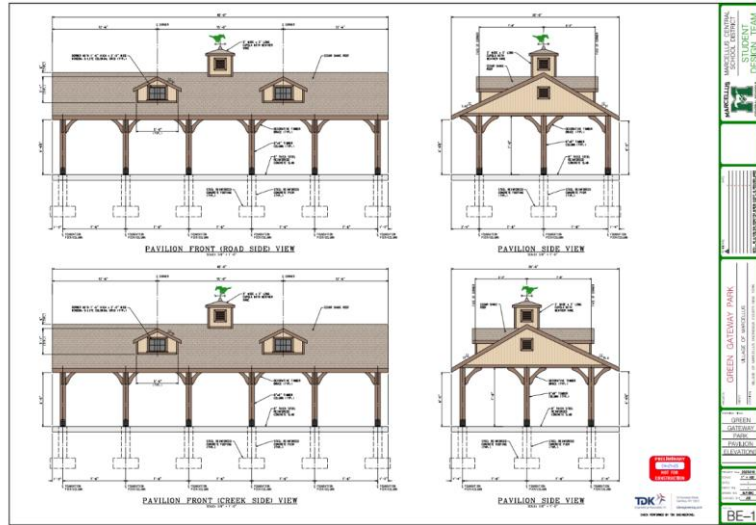




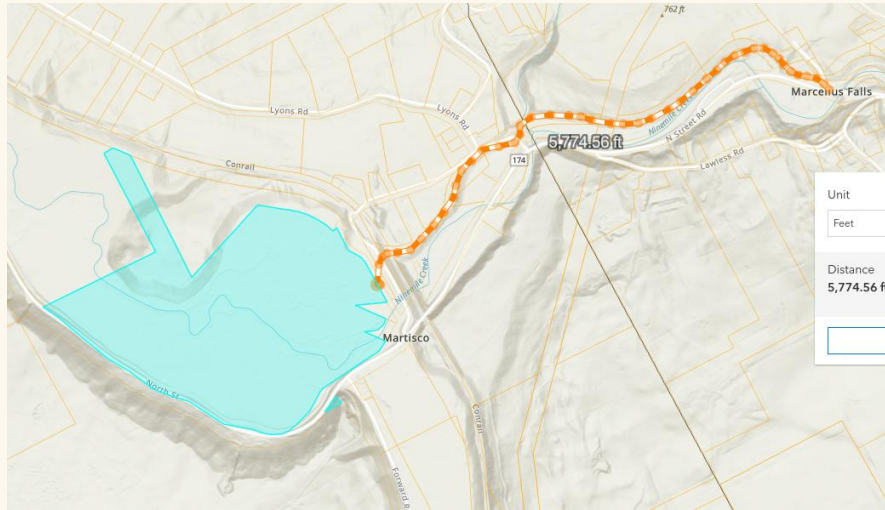
# ADA Fishing Platform

- First of its kind in CNY
- DEC worked closely with Marcellus in Collaboration
- Will be used as an example for other projects

# Trolley Station Pavilion

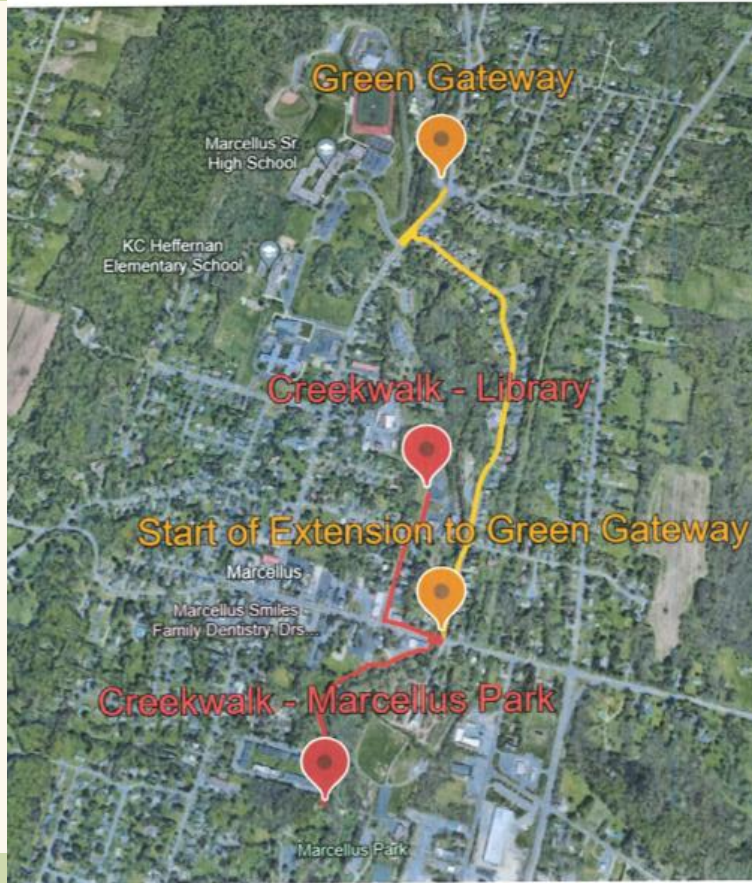


- Honoring the past of the community
- Student originated design
- Improving public use space for the park



# Connecting Communities

- Regional Trail to Camillus
- Collaborating with other towns
- Connecting via old trolley beds

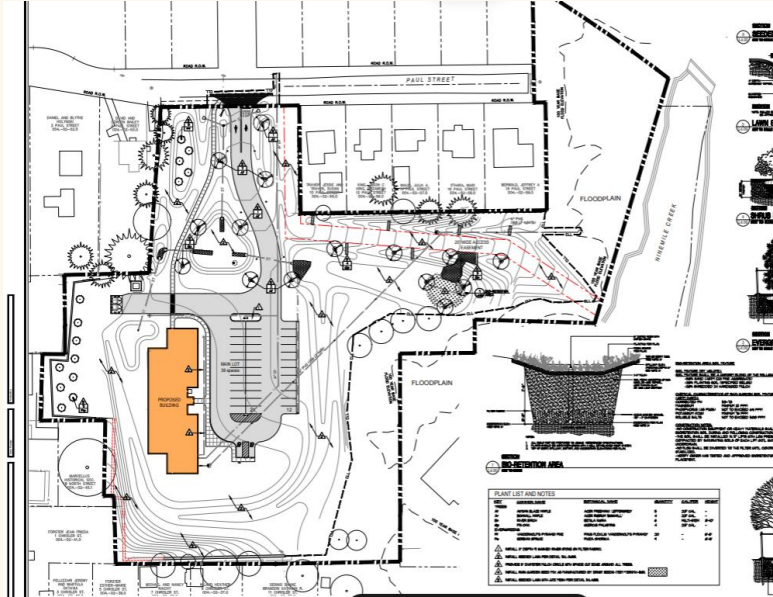


# Connecting Parks

- Making Marcellus more walkable
- Student led designs
- Collaborating with multiple municipalities

# New Housing

- Revitalizing another unusable industrial site
- Student involvement with project and progress
- Meeting a housing need





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# Takeaway for Planning



# Key Planning tools that supported Success

- Effective Communication between all entities
- Enabling flexibility in zoning
- Public-private partnerships
- Youth engagement in municipal planning
- Creating spaces that connect history, nature, and people



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Questions?

