

# Environmental Awareness Recreation Project

## APPENDICES

- 1) Financial Commitment Letter from Mayor Straut
- 2) Project Site Location and Maps
- 3) Existing Conditions and Photographs
- 4) Support Letters
- 5) Renderings



*Village of Voorheesville  
Albany County*

## Project Summary

The Village of Voorheesville is requesting funding from Albany County Parks and Recreation for the **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project** that will involve adding a fishing line and hook disposal tube to **Pine Street's Park**. The Project will also involve creating a new pedestrian trail in **Nichols Park** along Vly Creek to endorse creek access for recreation and raise conservation awareness to the valued natural resources in the Capital District.

Our Village is small, consisting of roughly 3,000 residents, but we continue to build regional connections and develop recreational value to the region. Pine Street Park is parallel to the 9-mile Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail ("Rail Trail") and consists of an open grass parcel (5,460 SF) and direct access to Vly Creek, commonly used for fishing. The Village was awarded funding to add an ADA compliant switchback paved walkway that will connect the Rail Trail down to Pine Street Park for opportune access to Village amenities and the Park for recreation (refer to **Appendix 2 Maps** for identified businesses and locations). As we embrace this new enhancement at Pine Street Park, our goal is to supply residents and all visitors with an ecofriendly tool to properly dispose of unused fishing equipment, like hooks and broken fishing lines, and create better access to the creek in different park locations. The Project will help preserve the water source, protect animals and park users, and encourage more recreational use at both park locations.

*“Create better access to the Vly Creek and promote its use for recreation. Consider improvements to access the Vly Creek at Nichols Park, at the Pine Street Park area adjacent to the Rail Trail.”*

*- 2018 Village Comprehensive Plan*

## County Connections

The Rail Trail was introduced to the Village in 2018 when it made its lasting impact to the community through fundamental resources and network connections to Albany and neighboring areas, including disadvantaged communities. With the awarded project to install a switchback trail from the Albany County Rail Trail to Pine Street Park as well as the proposed project of creating better access to the Creek in Nichols Park, we foresee an increase in fishing recreation at both project park sites. Nichols Park presently has a narrow walking path bringing visitors from one end of the Village to the other, but there is often congestion between bicyclists and those walking. The new pedestrian path for Nichols Park will be about 200 ft. long, trailing off of the existing path at the entrance by Maple Avenue for a safer, more nature-based trail in the Park. The new trail will also compliment recent natural-resource conservation projects, such as the Rain Garden and Vly Creek bank stabilization efforts that were funded through Albany County Soil and Water Conservation.

## Statement of Need

According to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), Albany County’s **Relative Index of Needs** ranks a demand for fishing recreation at a 7 out of 10, 10 demonstrating the most need in the County. A new walking path in Nichols Park along Vly Creek and a fishing line and hook disposal at Pine Street Park will allow residents and visitors of all ages convenient access to partake in fishing recreation and simultaneously raise natural resource conservation awareness.

## Community Support

Nichols Park is conveniently located behind Village Hall where recreational activities such as youth summer programs, fitness classes, and sleigh riding in the winter occur. Many appreciate the Park for its convenient, centralized location and ease of access thanks to our newly adopted Complete Streets policy and the Albany County Rail Trail located just a quarter of a mile from the Park.

Our community is supportive of local projects that protect the environment and intended to improve the quality of life for our locals and visitors. We are fortunate to have residents, organizations, and an involved school district who engage in a variety of volunteer activities and recreational programs for all to enjoy.

During a Village Service Group meeting that consisted of several community organizations, all agreed that Vly Creek would be a valuable resource for future community and activity planning opportunities, including educational and recreational programs centered around nature and the environment. There has also been a big push from the community for more outdoor recreation since the pandemic occurred that will concurrently meet the needs of our growing community. The proposed project will reintroduce recreational basics like fishing or appreciating the outdoors before electronics consumed society.





## Existing Conditions

Appendix 3 Reveals existing conditions, enhancements, and proposed park improvement plans for both Pine Street Park and Nichols Park.

## Renderings

Appendix 5 includes renderings of the Project with *Before and After* images to demonstrate the proposed recreational enhancements to Nichols Park and Pine Street Park in Voorheesville.

## Project Estimated Cost

The Village estimates a total cost of \$16,000 to purchase fishing disposal equipment, park amenities like benches and footpath lighting, and stone material to create a new walking path (200 ft.) at Nichols Park.

We are requesting \$10,600 from Albany County Parks and Recreation for the stone material, benches, foot lighting, and rental cost of the machinery equipment that will be used by our DPW staff to prepare the site.

The Village is committed to contributing up to \$5,400 through in-kind services when the Village's DPW staff perform site preparation which will consist of removing the existing horseshoe games in Nichols Park, followed by grading and gravel placement for the new walkway.

If the project exceeds the estimated amount of \$16,000, the Village will consider limiting or removing nonessential accessory features of the Project until park reserves are reestablished in the budget.



# Budget and Cost Breakdown



Vly Creek at Pine Street Park



Nichols Park

## Expense Table

Item	Qty.	Cost (est.)	Payment Source
Site Preparation and Path Installation <i>Remove horseshoes, brush cut, grading, gravel placement</i>	20 Hours	\$5,400 (\$90/hr. 3 staff)	Village (In-Kind DPW Staff)
Stone Material	200 Linear Feet \$10/LF	\$2,000	Albany County Parks and Rec
Equipment Rental and Machinery Labor	12 Hours (\$300)	\$3,600	Albany County Parks and Rec
Benches	(3) Benches (\$1,000/bench),	\$3,000	Albany County Parks and Rec
Foot Lighting	(10) LED outdoor walkway lighting (\$100/light)	\$1,000	Albany County Parks and Rec
Fishing Disposal Equipment	1 combined fishing line and hook disposal container	\$1,000	Albany County Parks and Rec

**Total Project Cost: \$16,000**

**\$10,600** – Albany County Parks and Rec (Municipal Park Improvement Program)

**\$5,400** – Village of Voorheesville (In-Kind Services)

# **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project**

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

## **Appendix 1**

### **Financial Commitment Letter**

August 31, 2024  
*Village of Voorheesville*



# VILLAGE OF VOORHEESVILLE

Richard A. Straut  
Mayor



Richard A. Berger  
Deputy Mayor  
John J. Stevens, Jr.  
Kaitlin C. Wilson  
Sarita C. Winchell

August 26, 2024

Alexandra Robert, Acting Commissioner  
Albany County Parks & Recreation  
390 New Salem Road  
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Re: Village of Voorheesville's ***Environmental Awareness Recreation Project***  
Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant Round #3 Application

Dear Commissioner,

The Village of Voorheesville would like to **thank Albany County Parks and Recreation** for awarding the *Rail Trail and Pine Street Park Connection Project* that will provide direct access from the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail to Pine Street's vacant park and our Village's downtown. We greatly appreciate the County's decision to provide another opportunity to apply for further municipal parks and recreation funding that will benefit the Capital District.

As we begin to revitalize our local parks and downtown area welcoming more small businesses, such as the Pretty Alright Breakfast Club (Café) and Blackbirds Tavern, we recognize the importance of utilizing various resources, like the County, to seize any opportunity to reach our long term goal of creating a sustainable Village that has much to offer.

We are experienced and familiar with County-funded projects having worked with the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District on two Vly Creek Conservation Projects, including the Rain Garden at Nichols Park that was completed in December 2023.

For this final round of Municipal Park Improvement funding, we are proposing to place a fishing hook and line disposal tube at Pine Street Park as well as add a walking path along Vly Creek in Nichols Park to compliment other conservation and recreation enhancement projects recently implemented. We are committed using In-Kind services from our DPW Staff for site preparation and construction of the new walking path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rich Straut".

Rich Straut, Mayor

## Latest News

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Posted on: May 9, 2024

### Vly Creek Clean Up Efforts & Conservation

In 2023 the Village of Voorheesville was awarded a grant through the Albany County Soil and Water District to do clean up efforts along Vly Creek and install a butterfly and rain garden in Nichol's Park. That work was performed in the summer of 2023 and completed in November of 2023.

Take a stroll through Nichol's Park and you can see the new Rain Garden across from the Tennis Courts. Elemental Landscapes worked with Village staff to create the Rain Garden and the Village is grateful to be able to work with them. Their landscape team goes above and beyond by returning this spring to clean, weed and lay new mulch, at no charge to the Village residents.



The Village applied for the grant program in 2024 and recently received notification of additional award money. This year DPW will arrange for removal of hazardous fallen trees in the creek along Nichol's Park, behind the Methodist Church and on the lower levels of Pine Street. Riprap materials will be placed to armor the bank for erosion control and soil will be prepped and re-seeded.

Also, this Saturday, May 11th Girl Scout Troop 1663 will be working on the Meditation Park behind the Methodist Church. All are welcome to come and work along side these hard working young folks AND lunch will be served.

← [Previous](#)  
[Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety](#)

[Next](#) ⇒  
[Water Service Self Check Request](#)

## Other News in Latest News

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### HIRING-School Crossing Guard

Posted on: July 9, 2024

### HIRING-Clerk Treasurer Position Available

Posted on: July 3, 2024

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- [Latest News](#)
- [Public Notices](#)

# **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project**

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

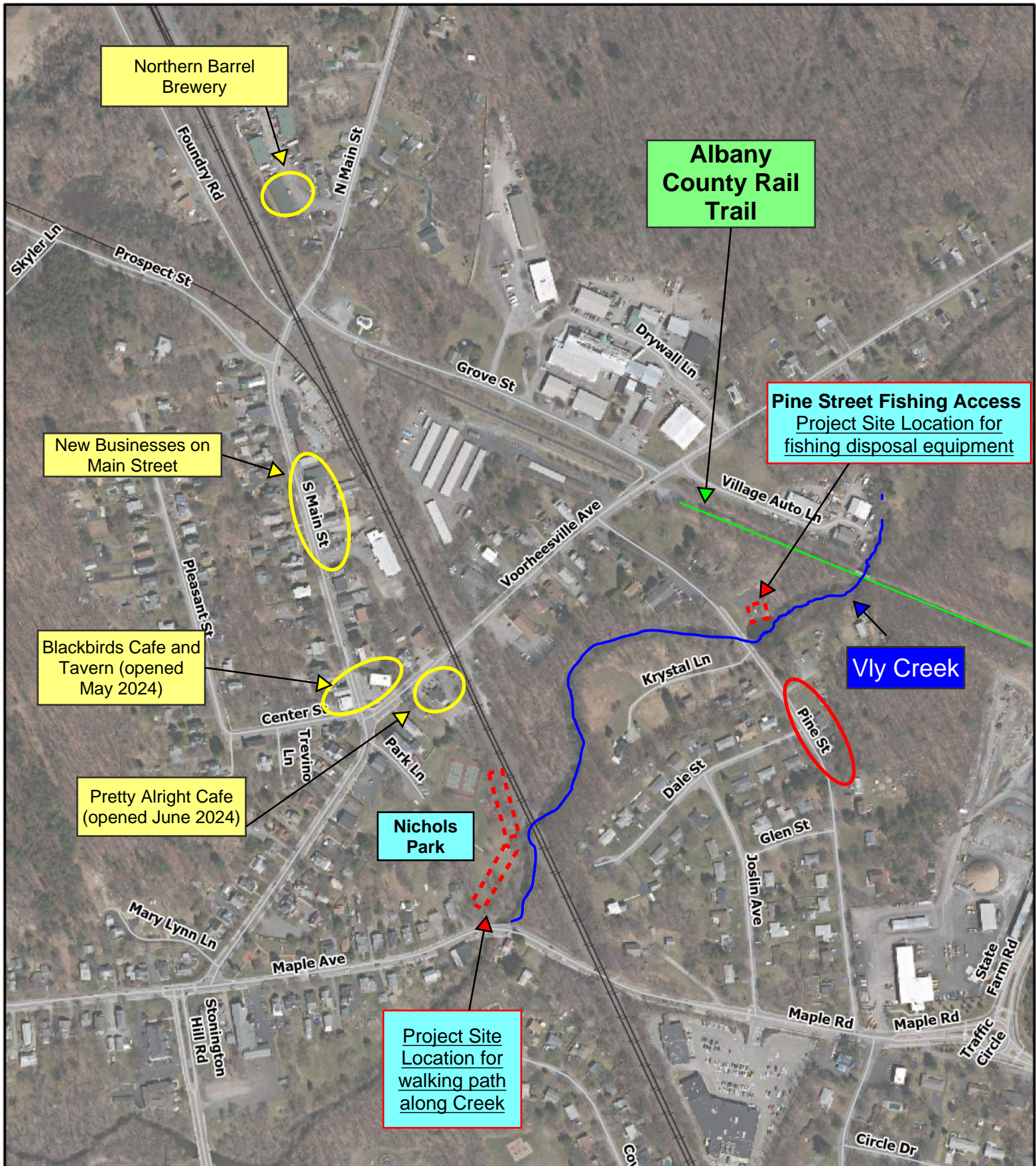
## **Appendix 2**

### **Project Site Location and Maps**

August 31, 2024

*Village of Voorheesville*





## Voorheesville - Environmental Awareness Recreation Project

Village of Voorheesville

Albany County, NY



1:4,800

Map Note: The locations and features depicted on this map are approximate and do not represent a field survey.

Project Number: 21.1544  
 Data Source: NYSGIS Clearinghouse  
 Projection: State Plane NAD83 NYE (Feet)  
 Date: September 27, 2021  
 File: Voorheesville\_Map\_ForThatcher.aprx  
 GIS: D Landreville

### Legend

- AlbanyCO\_Roads2019
- Railroad

### C.T. MALE ASSOCIATES

Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C.

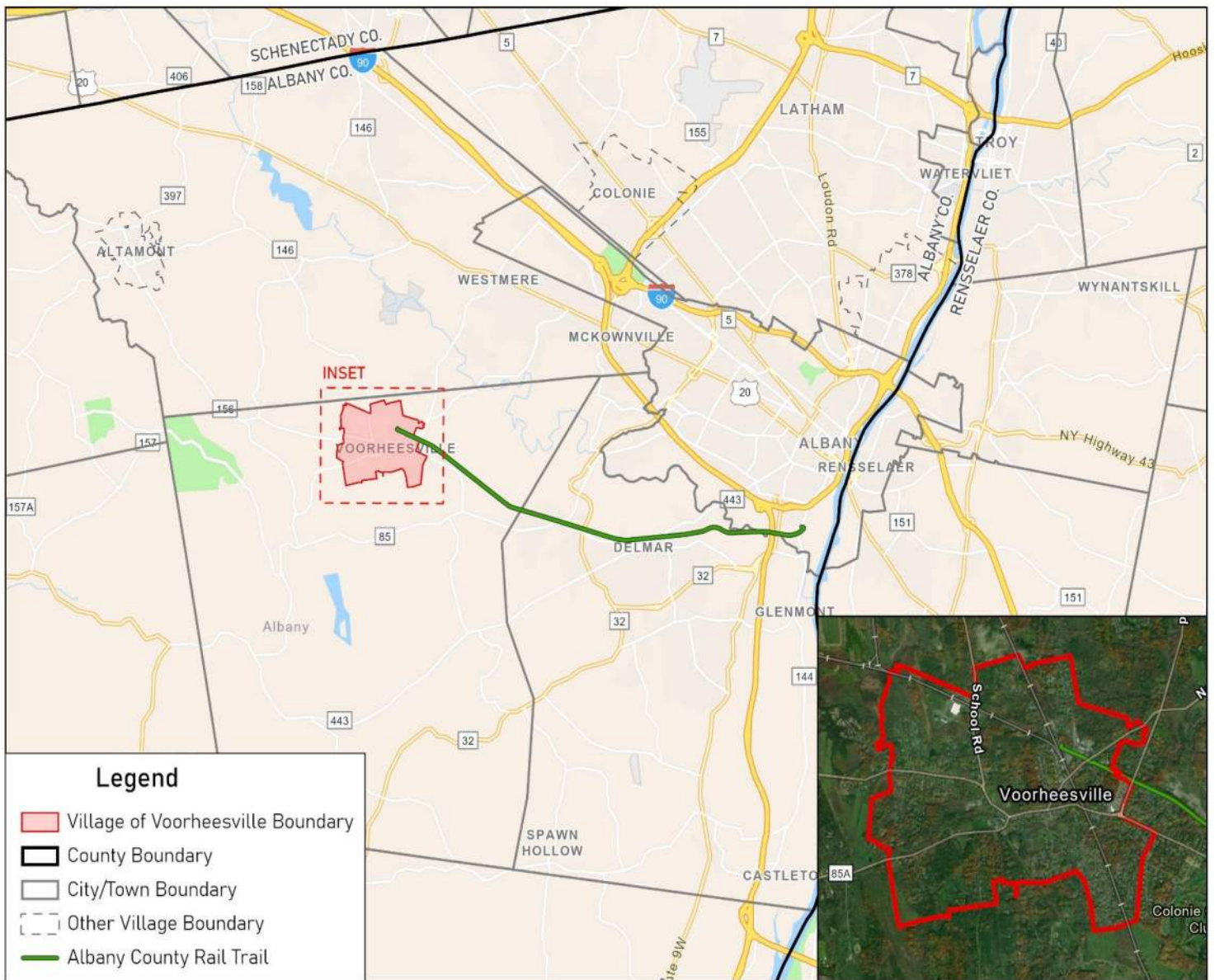
50 CENTURY HILL DRIVE, LATHAM, NY 12110  
 518.786.7400 \* FAX 518.786.7299





# Environmental Awareness Recreation Project

## Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity - Round 3



## Village of Voorheesville

Location within the Capital Region and the Albany County  
Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail

# **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project**

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

## **Appendix 3**

### **Existing Conditions and Photographs**

August 31, 2024

*Village of Voorheesville*



# Environmental Awareness Recreation Project

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

## Existing Conditions

Included in this Appendix are photographs taken in 2024 to reflect the existing conditions for the proposed project site locations: **Pine Street Park** and **Nichols Park** (*Voorheesville, NY – Albany County*). The images demonstrate recent projects, existing park features, and proposed plans to create better access to Vly Creek for more recreation and environmental conservation efforts.

*Pine Street Park*





The fishing gear disposal tube will be placed at Pine Street Park near the Creek where fishing hooks and lines can be properly disposed of or recycled to promote responsible angling. This strategy is designed to protect people, wildlife, and waters as well as ensure fishing for future generations.

We will empty the tube once a month and report any necessary data to DEC or the County as needed. We will also encourage local organizations to encourage educational programs and services that focus on nature, conservation, and the environmental benefits of this equipment.



*Nichols Park*





*Walking path that leads to existing the Park onto Maple Avenue.*



*Proposed Project Site for new gravel walking trail that will line parallel with the creek bank*

*Small existing path behind the brush that leads to Vly Creek.*









*Walking Pedestrian using the walking path in the Park.*





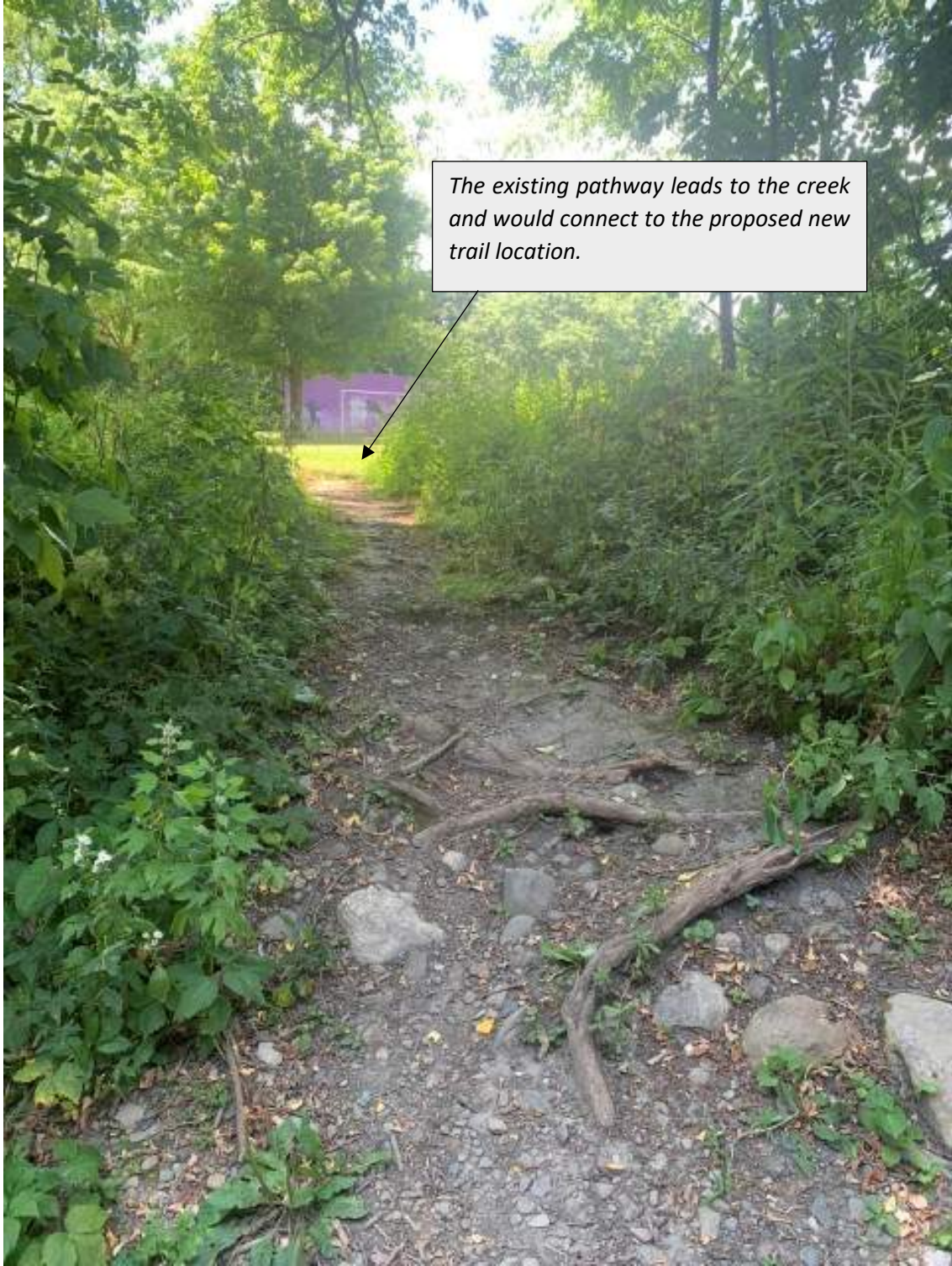












*The existing pathway leads to the creek and would connect to the proposed new trail location.*















# **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project**

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

## **Appendix 4**

### **Support Letters**

August 31, 2024  
*Village of Voorheesville*





Giving back  
to move forward

605 North Broadway  
Saratoga Springs NY 12866

T 518.417.3811

August 28, 2024

Alexandra Robert  
Acting Commissioner  
Albany County Parks & Recreation

RE: V. of Voorheesville – ROUND 3 Park Application  
Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant

Dear Ms. Robert,

I write to you in support of the Village's proposed **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project** that will continue to enhance local parks near the Albany County Rail Trail. The project will add recreational features including benches and a direct path to the Rail Trail along with signs that direct walkers and bikers to the Village.

Our café off South Main Street and Voorheesville Avenue made its debut on May 29<sup>th</sup> with our tavern not far behind. Our business donates all proceeds from our eateries to sports-related programs in the Capital Region and is located within walking distance to both Pine Street Park and Nichols Park. Many customers, both locally and visiting, express an interest in nearby recreational activities so we will be pleased to share any new park improvements made to both locations.

We have worked closely with our local representatives, including Mayor Straut and the Village Board of trustees, to open our new businesses and hope to see continued, long term growth and expansion in the community, which will continue to develop if we utilize the Rail Trail and recreational space.

If you need to contact me for any additional information, I may be reached at [stephanie@bfg.org](mailto:stephanie@bfg.org).

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Marotta*

Stephanie Marotta

BFG Project Manager

August 28, 2024

Alexandra Robert  
Acting Commissioner  
Albany County Parks & Recreation

RE: V. of Voorheesville – **Environmental Awareness Recreation Project**  
Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant – Round 3 Application

Dear Ms. Robert,

I write in support of the proposed Project that will focus on recreational and environmental enhancements in our Village parks.

I am a long-time resident of Voorheesville, having lived here for nearly 50 years. I spent a short period of time living in Albany but conveniently made my way back into the Village with the use of the Albany County Rail Trail to visit family, friends, and community events including the farmers' market.

I remember raising my children in this Village and am now blessed to watch my grandchildren also grow up in the same neighborhood. There have been several new features in Voorheesville recently, including the Rail Trail, more sidewalks, and what seems to be a rise in the number of families settling in the community. The proposed park enhancements will be a great improvement to our local parks to keep up with the growing family population and encourage more recreation that all can enjoy.

I look forward to sharing outdoor activities by Vly Creek with my grandchildren similar to when I grew up here.

If you need to contact me, I may be reached at 518-378-9654.

Sincerely,

Carole Davis (*Resident on North Main Street*)



# Environmental Awareness Recreation Project

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Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Grant Opportunity – Round 3

## Appendix 5 Renderings

August 31, 2024  
*Village of Voorheesville*



# BEFORE



*Nichols Park - Voorheesville, NY (Albany County)*



# AFTER



**VLY CREEK**  
*Brush scheduled for cleanup  
and removal.*

Maple Avenue behind  
trees and Creek

**Nichols Park - Voorheesville, NY (Albany County)**



# BEFORE

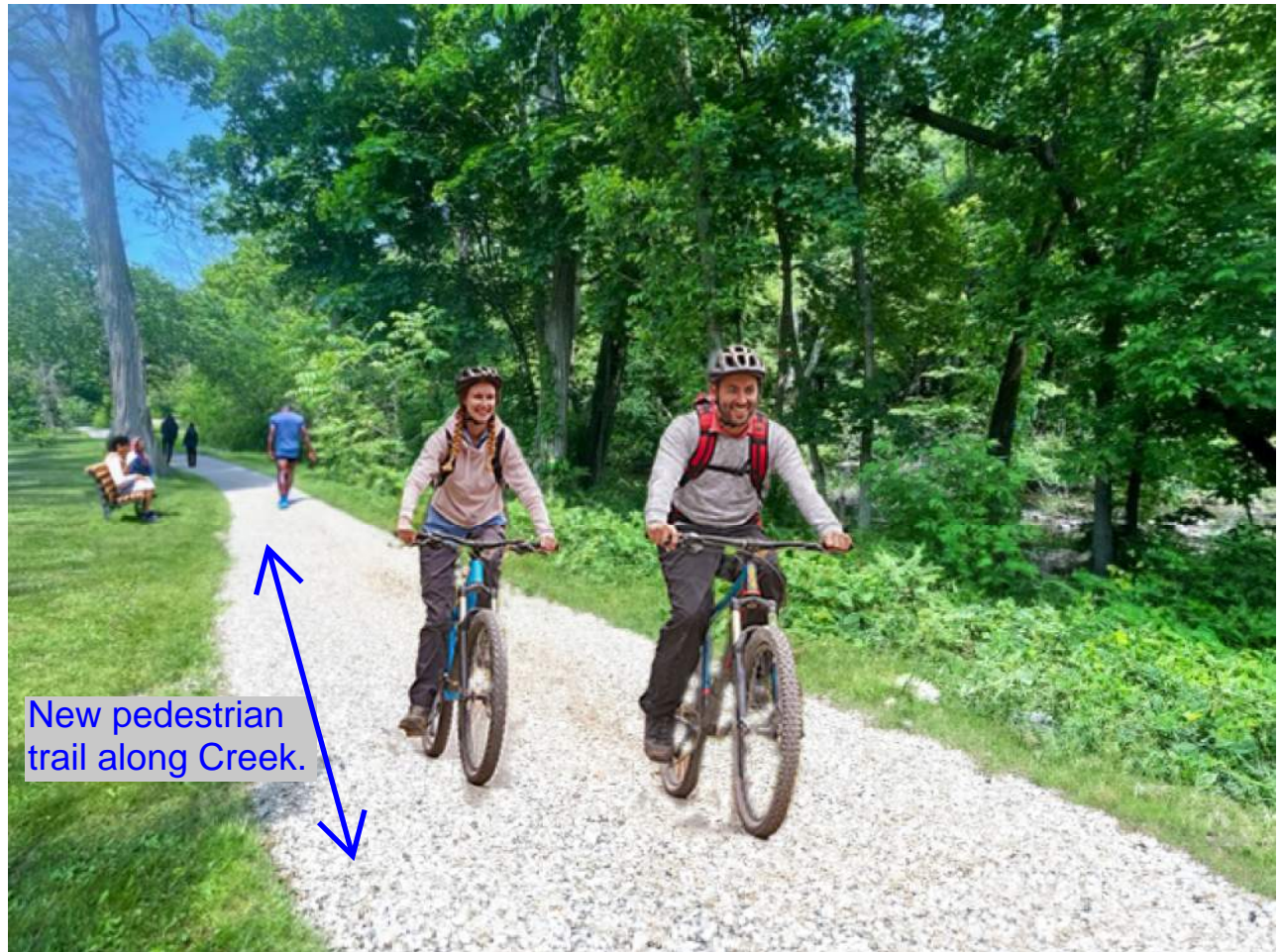
VLY CREEK



*Nichols Park - Voorheesville, NY (Albany County)*



# AFTER



New pedestrian  
trail along Creek.

*Nichols Park - Voorheesville, NY (Albany County)*



# Pine Street Park

**Albany County Rail Trail** where the awarded switchback trail will lead trail-users down to the Park for convenient Village access and fishing recreation

**Vly Creek Fishing Access**

*The proposed Project will welcome ecofriendly fishing equipment disposal (hooks, fishing lines, etc.) in order to welcome fishing recreation and conserve Vly Creek, a natural resource and tributary to the Hudson River.*



Voorheesville, NY (Albany County)