**NEWS**

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Contacts: Deborah H Fenn (716) 913-3274
 Beth Lasky: (716) 713-4363

**ECRT Volunteers Cleanup OP Trail on National Trails Day
*2-mile section cleared by Orchard Park Friend of ECRT on June 5***

(June 9, 2021) Orchard Park, N.Y.: The Orchard Park Friends of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail (ECRT) were out in full force on Saturday, June 5, National Trails Day, to spruce up the previously opened section of the ECRT Trail in Orchard Park. About 20 ECRT Friends were out with saws, clippers and hedge trimmers cutting back the overgrowth and making the trail safe and beautiful for walkers, trail runners, hikers and mountain bikers.

“During the summer, we welcome about 100 walkers and hikers each week on the ECRT trail to quietly enjoy nature,” said Deb Fenn, ECRT Board Chair. “Today, the trail in Orchard Park between Jewett Holmwood and Ellicott Roads is in great shape, thanks to our fabulous Orchard Park Friends.”

The ECRT Board Is working to improve the unfinished section of trail in Orchard Park and to expand the trail north to connect with the Village. In December, ECRT launched a campaign to raise $120,000 to finish the open section. In 6 months, 274 donors have contributed $53,000 to that campaign, nearly half of the organization’s goal.

For more information about ECRT, to donate to the OP campaign or to sign up as an OP Friend, visit [www.ecattrail.org](http://www.ecattrail.org)

**About ECRT, Inc.**

Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2008 to serve as trail manager for a 27-mile recreational trail on the Buffalo Pittsburgh Railroad (“BPRR”) rail line. In 2018, ECRT, Inc. and BPRR filed a long-term rail banking agreement with the Surface Transportation Board to allow for trail use and further improvements. Today, in Orchard Park a 2-mile section of the trail is cleared and open, but not yet finished, from Ellicott Road to Jewett Holmwood Road. Additionally, a 1.7 mile “Pop Warner” section in Springville is open, along with another 3.5 miles of unimproved trail north to Sibley Road in East Concord. ECRT, Inc. has over 6,500 friends and community supporters.

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