

**KEN-TON BEE ARTICLE
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Tonawanda's Trail System is Expanding

Soon, the Town will be able to include two new recreation and transportation alternatives among its inventory, giving expanded meaning to our Town motto, "A Great Place to Live, Work, and Play." Two federal grant funded trail initiatives have been in the planning stages for quite some time and the first of these trails, the Sherwood Greenway, will open this Spring. It is the first major trail to be constructed in the Town since Riverwalk was constructed in 1986. The 2.1 mile trail will begin on Sheridan Drive at Praxair's campus and run southward then westward across Riverview Boulevard and along Woodward Avenue West. It then continues across Kenmore Avenue, and parallel to Sheridan Drive where it will connect to Riverwalk at Aqua Lane Park. It will create an 8.1 mile loop with Riverwalk and the Two Mile Creek Greenway, providing an extremely important link between our vital neighborhood core and our evolving waterfront.

Our trail network will expand further next year when construction begins on the long anticipated Tonawanda Rails-to-Trails project. Partnering with the NFTA, Erie County and the NYS Department of Transportation, the new trail will extend nearly four miles, from the City line on Kenmore Avenue, through the Town of Tonawanda, to the City of Tonawanda. The trail is designed to be built atop the former Erie-Lackawanna railroad tracks that bisect the town in a north-south fashion. The trail will begin at Kenmore Avenue at the City of Buffalo line and go northward through the City of Tonawanda to State Street, a length of 3.94 miles. The trail will link not only to the surrounding neighborhoods but also to Lincoln Park, Ben Franklin School, Ellwood Playground, the YMCA, Thomas Edison School, Kenney Field and Cardinal O'Hara High School.

We greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation, patience and support. We especially wish to thank Erie County, the New York State Department of Transportation and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority for their support in turning these plans into a reality that expands our quality of life here in the Town of Tonawanda. The new trails will provide expanded opportunities for health and wellness, increasing walkability, jogging and bicycling alternatives to get around Town. My wife and I have our bikes all tuned up and hope to see you out on the trails in the near future!

Featured Town Event for April – In keeping with our trail theme, why not follow Peter Cottontail as he hops on down the Bunny Trail to the Town's 31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This popular event will be held Saturday, April 12 inside the Lincoln Arena. Check the Town's website at www.tonawanda.ny.us for details. Hope to see you there!