

Press Release
Genesee Riverway Trail Ribbon Cutting
Turning Point Park to Petten Street

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Mayor Robert J. Duffy, today was joined by Northwest District Council Member Robert J. Stevenson, N.Y. State Senator, Joseph Robach, and Christopher Zeltmann from Representative Louise Slaughter's office at a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the newest link in the City's Genesee Riverway Trail System. This link connects Turning Point Park to the riverfront promenade at Petten Street.

Participants parked at the Boxart Street trail head in Turning Point Park, traversed the slope (or were shuttled) down a portion of the new trail to arrive river side where the ceremony was held. From this point the trail continues over the water around the turning basin to the north and then onto land and through the woods, between the railroad and a privately owned marina, to a new trail head at Petten Street, where 5 parking spaces are available for trail users in a lot just north of Petten Street, at the new public riverfront marina and promenade.

Proposed in 1996 as an alternate off road route for biking, walking, and running, the trail also provides access to the river for canoeing, kayaking, fishing and bird watching. Trail users are treated to spectacular panoramic vistas of the gorge, natural wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Construction began last fall, a challenging effort over topography ranging from sheer cliffs to marshes with limited accessibility. Barges, cranes, helicopters were carefully employed to complete this project with minimum impact on the wetlands and the wildlife they support. Funding for the \$5M project was provided by the Federal Highway Administration (\$4M), the City's Capital Improvement Program (\$1M) and from the NYS Park Department (\$100,000).

The Genesee Riverway Trail, an 18 mile urban multi-use trail and greenway, that runs along the river through the scenic historic and cultural heart of Rochester, is a designated National Recreational Trail, adding it to the more than 800 miles of trails of the National Recreational Trails System. The Genesee Riverway will eventually link Genesee Valley Park through to the south with Ontario Beach Park to the north and with it, downtown, a university, other parklands, historic districts, neighborhoods on both the east & west banks of the river.

Mayor Duffy expressed the City's appreciation to Charlotte neighborhood residents and community associations for participating in public forums over the last decade which guided design and implementation of this project. Living and working along urban trail systems is fast becoming a national trend, spurring increases in property values and new development throughout the country. Rochester is ahead of that trend and moving forward every day to provide the amenities and services that will preserve our heritage and secure our future.