

# KIRKLAND TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Founders Campaign | Nature and Knotweed | Planning Committee

## Nature Along the Kirkland Trail

Kirkland Trail South is a wonderful place to observe nature. Lovely spring wildflowers along the trail in April and May, including trillium, hepatica, and marsh marigold, gradually gave way to early summer species such as Dame’s rocket, cinquefoil, and valerian.



*Soapwort*

Later summer flowering asters and goldenrods are emerging now. Thus far we have records of more than 100 plant species in flower.



## Kirkland Trails Founders Campaign

**The Kirkland Trails Founders Campaign**, launched June 1, is Kirkland Trails’ inaugural effort to raise funds to secure Phase 1 of the trails and begin to develop Phase 2.\* This campaign is our first major fundraising effort, and many community members as well as out of town friends have already been generous contributors.



Thank you to everyone who has already contributed! Because of you, we are on the way to reaching our goal of the Founders Campaign. The campaign is continuing into the Fall, so it is not too late to donate if you have intended to support the Founders Campaign but have not yet done so.



*Yellow Warbler*

## Nature, continued

Birds were very active in May and June, and one could always hear song sparrows, yellow-throats, chestnut-sided warblers, yellow warblers, indigo buntings, and many more along the trail. Chipmunks and bullfrogs are always present.



*Deptford Pink*

Interested in more nature observations and photos of seasonal changes along the trail? Go to the Nature Blog on the Kirkland Trails website: <https://kirklandnytrails.org/category/nature-blog/>

Ernest Williams,  
local naturalist

We are excited to announce that the Kirkland Trails has become an official non-profit organization with 501c3 status; now all direct donations to the Kirkland Trails are tax deductible. The Kirkland Trails continues to be associated with the Community Foundation and appreciates their support and guidance.

The KT Founders Campaign information packet, including the brochure, cover letter and reply card, can be found on the Kirkland Trails website. We welcome and encourage you to visit the website and donate to the Kirkland Trails Founders Campaign today! ([www.kirklandnytrails.org](http://www.kirklandnytrails.org))

Thank you for your support,

The Kirkland Trails Fundraising Committee:  
Paula Balch, Corrine Gates, and Cindy Shaw Wirene

\*Kirkland Trail South (Phase 1), the first three miles of trail on the south side of the village of Clinton, is now open for walking, running, and biking. Trail improvements are coming soon. Phase 2, on the north side of Clinton, is in the preliminary planning stage now.



## Planning Committee Report

Kirkland Trail South, part of the Chenango Canal Corridor, includes the 2-mile trail section from Dugway Rd. to Rte. 315 in Deansboro. This section needs clearing of brush along the margins, grading of the surface, and filling of low areas, probably with stone dust. The work will be done by the Town of Kirkland Highway Department under the direction of Superintendent Jon Scott. We also will be constructing an information kiosk at the Dugway Rd. trailhead and benches along this portion, which should be installed this season.

Kirkland Trail South also includes the 1-mile north section between Dugway Rd. and the intersection of Rtes. 12B & 233, a section of trail that is more challenging. We are awaiting the completion of a survey of this segment to establish property lines, to be followed by grading and filling which will be more extensive than in the southern section. This northern section will be completed in the next year.

Plans for the creation of parking areas at both the Dugway Rd. and Rtes. 12B/233 trailheads are being discussed with the Town Highway Department and NYS Department of Transportation.

We are also doing long range planning for our Phase 2 trails north of Clinton. Phase 2 includes the Chenango Canal corridor between McBride Avenue and the junction of Rte. 12B and Middle Settlement Rd. as well as the Rome–Clinton Railroad corridor, which branches off north of the village and parallels Kirkland Avenue to Clark Mills and beyond to Rome and the Erie Canal Trail. We are exploring easements with landowners and have commissioned a survey of the area of Sherman Brook just north of McBride Ave. where construction of a new bridge will be necessary. We expect completion of Phase 2 to take a number of years.

Jim Bramley, Chair of Planning Committee



*White Trillium*



*Marsh Marigold*



*Song Sparrow*

## Japanese Knotweed Eradication

Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is an extremely fast-growing invasive herbaceous plant. Knotweed spreads through rhizomes and from cut pieces of the plant falling on the ground.

Kirkland Trails is undertaking a small program to eradicate invasive Japanese Knotweed along the southern part of Kirkland Trail South. There is an area along the bank of the railbed near Dugway Road which has a stand of this noxious weed.

Our eradication plan is for manual removal of the plants. A group of volunteers cut the canes/stems of the plants in early summer, and we plan to cut the regrowth of the plants in early fall. Several rounds of cutting of this invasive plant will be needed to eradicate it, and this work will likely take several years. In some areas we are also attempting to dig out the rhizomes. We are looking for volunteers to help with this eradication work.

Gerry Gogel



## From the President

On behalf of our board and volunteers, I hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer, including using Kirkland Trail South of the Chenango Canal Trail. The 2-mile trail south of Dugway Rd. and the 1 mile north of Dugway have been very well used. We all need safe, lovely places to walk, and what could be better than a woodland trail in our community!

Wildflowers and birds have been beautiful and abundant, and you may have spotted fairy houses and even a fairy bird house along the trail. Thank you to the anonymous spirits who have provided them. See a few photos here of the fairy houses, wildflowers, and birds; more photos are at our website under the tab "Nature Blog."

Equally exciting for our organization is that we now are a tax-exempt organization. Now all donations to

Kirkland Trails are tax-exempt, and donors can claim a tax deduction. This is very good news for our developing organization.

Enjoy reading more in this newsletter about our 2020 summer and successes, and I hope to see you on the trail!

Sharon Williams, President

Kirkland Trails Board of Directors, 2020

Sharon Williams, President; Chip Bassett, Vice President; Tom Grenier, Treasurer;  
Sandy Scofield, Secretary; Jim Bramley; Kathy Collett; Joe Gale; Gerry Gogel; Nicholas Heintz