

Potential funding sources: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, private foundations

Action 4.6 Create partnerships between public, private and non-profit sectors to strengthen youth centers, creating more programs and recreational opportunities for teens in the City.

Many residents at the Neighborhood Asset Workshops felt that there is a need for more youth activities for older kids. Additionally, youth were asked for their feedback on a variety of issues at two meetings held at local schools. The young people expressed concern about not having activities to do or places to gather that appeal to their age group. The young people see a need for youth centers, somewhere to hang out, and more youth-oriented activities. The young people also feel that current age-specific activities leave out those in the 15- to 18-year old age range. They would like to see more activities tailored to their age group. They also expressed an interest in having a community theater in a park, sports facilities and a library with hours and books that appeal to young people.

The City will continue to work with the YMCA, school district, the existing youth center and other appropriate private, public and non-profit stakeholders to develop more teen activities and to move the Youth Center to a more central location to enable easier access. Corning cannot construct or operate the new programs with City funds, but can act as a conduit for grant funding to create new programs and facilities.

Time frame: Long Term
Potential stakeholders/partners: City of Corning, The Youth Center, Family Services, New York State, YMCA, Corning City School District
Estimated costs: \$50,000 annually
Potential funding sources: YMCA, Corning City School District, private foundations

Action 4.7 Develop a system of pocket parks in neighborhoods throughout the City that are underserved by the existing park system

The Community Profile found that because most of Corning's parks are located along the periphery of the City, much of the central area of the City, particularly on the Northside, is underserved. In fact, many residents do not have a neighborhood park within a half-mile of their homes. This is particularly discouraging given the City's relatively small land area and high density.

Corning should consider working with local neighborhood associations to develop a system of pocket parks in these areas to help meet local recreational needs. These would be passive recreation spaces with simple landscaping and benches available. The City could identify appropriate vacant properties, purchase the sites and make needed improvements.

Time frame: Medium to Long Term
Potential stakeholders/partners: City of Corning
Estimated costs: \$150,000 to fund three pocket parks
Potential funding sources: City Resources



Goal 4: Fully utilize existing and potential recreation and education facilities to support opportunities for City youth and other residents.

The City of Corning has approximately 80 acres of parks and recreational facilities including a large community park (Denison), neighborhood parks, passive mini-parks and a Civic Center with skating facilities. Most of the parks are located on the periphery of the City, making park access inconvenient to many residents. Nonetheless, parks, recreation programs and playing fields are well utilized, though additional maintenance would improve the appearance and safety of all of the park facilities. In addition to improved park maintenance, key community needs raised during the planning process included better river and waterfront access, improved bike and pedestrian trails, better access to parks, and more youth programs, especially for 15 to 18 year olds.

Action 4.1 Develop a multi-year park improvement plan as a part of the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

The condition of Corning's parks was one of the issues raised at the Neighborhood Assets Workshops. Many neighborhood residents feel that local parks need improvement. Further, Synthesis Architects conducted a visual survey of the existing conditions of City-owned parks in April 2001. Synthesis noted that additional maintenance would enhance the appearance and safety of facilities and landscaping could better define and enhance all parks. The City includes park improvements as a specific element of its Five Year Capital Improvement Plan that will address the mix of recreation needs, land area and facilities, and include a multi-year capital improvement plan

Time frame:	Short to Medium Term
Potential stakeholders/partners:	City of Corning
Estimated costs:	Costs for plan part of Capital Improvement Plan budget, funds needed for ongoing implementation
Potential funding sources:	City of Corning, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund

Action 4.2 Develop a bicycle and hiking trail

In 1999, a feasibility study for a hike/bike trail to be located on the Northside was prepared for the City of Corning. According to the feasibility study, "the proposed trail system would develop a circular 'closed loop-type' multi-purpose pedestrian trail system that would join retail areas, residential neighborhoods, and civic districts into a single, safe and aesthetically pleasing non-vehicular experience. The proposed trail system would also be linked to the existing Village of Riverside and Painted Post Recreational Trail System. The City should revisit the feasibility study and work on developing a bicycling and hiking trail. The City submitted a Transportation Enhancements Program funding application last year. NYSDOT is expected to announce funding awards during summer 2002.

Time frame:	Short Term
Potential stakeholders/partners:	City of Corning, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Estimated costs:	\$2.4 million

Corning Master Plan

Potential funding sources: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), Transportation Enhancements Program, National Recreational Trails Program

Action 4.3 *In partnership with the private and non-profit sectors, evaluate the feasibility of increased river access to create a riverfront trail and on-water recreation opportunities.*

The Chemung River is an underutilized asset in Corning. The City has completed an engineering design for a riverfront bike/hike trail and improved access to the River, and a new boat launch is to be built in 2002.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, any riverfront trail would need to be constructed inside the existing levy. NYSDEC has not supported proposals for levy-top trails because of concern that such a path would compromise the integrity of the levy. The dikes are designed so that much of their strength comes from the grass growing on them. The interlocking root system of the grass holds the dirt together and forms a relatively impermeable surface for floodwaters. The informal bike and walk path on the northern dike is already compromising the integrity of the structure by wearing a dirt trail into the grass. A paved or gravel trail would further damage the safety of the levy system. NYSDEC reports that it is possible to create a levy that can support a trail, but the trail would need to be incorporated into the design, building a taller, wider structure to meet both flood control and recreational needs.

The NYSDEC has agreed to increase the number of access points across the dike if the bike trail is built. Crossings already exist east of East High School and at the extreme western end of the City, and these crossings have been incorporated into the trail's design. Further, the NYSDEC has agreed to permit two dike crossings at Bridge Street, one on either side of the street, to provide an alternate, albeit round-about, pedestrian alternative to crossing Bridge Street.

The NYSDEC will construct a boat launch on the river at the end of Conhocton Street in spring, 2002. This will significantly increase small craft access to the water. The City Recreation Department teaches kayak lessons on the river, and the boat launch will enable expanded programming on the water for a wide range of activities.

Time frame: Medium to Long Term
Potential stakeholders/partners: City of Corning, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Estimated costs: \$25,000
Potential funding sources: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund

Action 4.4 *Create a public/private funding partnership to make needed improvements to the Centerway Bridge and to develop it for recreation and related uses.*

The Centerway Bridge connects the Market Street retail (Centerway Square) area to the Northside. It is an incredible resource for both residents and tourists, creating a well



defined and attractive pedestrian connection between attractions, including the Corning Museum of Glass on the Northside and retail shops and restaurants on Market Street, south of the river. Centerway Bridge is currently used as a pedestrian bridge, but it is in poor condition and has little signage to direct tourists to destinations on either side of the river.

The bridge has reached the end of its useful life for the New York State Department of Transportation, which has transferred maintenance responsibility to CIDMA. The City has received a grant from the New York State Department of State to develop a future vision for the Bridge. Key to this vision is the creation of a sense of place; to justify the investment into its long-term survival, the Bridge must be more than a way to cross the river. Because it is located between the Corning Museum of Glass and Market Street, the City's two principal tourist destinations, the Bridge, if developed properly, can draw people from both directions. The grant is funding design for three aspects of this vision: a bike trail along the river, which would be centered on the bridge; design of the surface of the bridge, which could include gardens, kiosk-style retail, park space, trains and other community uses; and specially designed lighting to enhance not only the Centerway but also the Bridge Street and Briscoe Bridges.

In fact, this lighting concept has already been completed by Ross DiAlessi, a world-renowned lighting designer based in Seattle. Mr. DiAlessi's work, whether in Cleveland or in Oslo, has created lighting designs which highlight architectural features and which become visitor destinations because of the delicacy and drama with which they are done. The lighting of Corning's three bridges can become another attraction which the City has to offer, and the lighting of the Centerway Bridge is central to that design. The Centerway Bridge is the most architecturally significant of the three, and it can be the most dramatically lighted. Although the City has placed the responsibility for the development of the lighting scheme with the private sector, it is supportive of the idea, having already provided the conduits on the Bridge Street Bridge as part of that structure's rehabilitation.

CIDMA will use the visioning process to build partnerships that will seek funding for the improvements necessary to stabilize the bridge. While the City may act as a conduit and project sponsor for funding generated through the public/private partnership, it will not contribute City funds to the project.

Time frame: Medium Term
Potential stakeholders/partners: City of Corning
Estimated costs: \$2.0 million to fix the bridge plus cost of improvements as desired
Potential funding sources: CIDMA, foundation grants, federal transportation grants

Action 4.5 Create a public art walking trail

The City of Corning should consider creating a public art walking trail. The trail could capitalize on existing public art and expand to include art on locations on both sides of the river.

Time frame: Medium to Long Term
Potential stakeholders/partners: City of Corning, 171 Cedar Arts Center, Chamber of Commerce, the Steuben County Visitors Bureau, Market Street Restoration Agency
Estimated costs: \$50,000