Foundation of CVPH/Town of Plattsburgh  
SRTG Spur along Lapiere Lane in Morrisonville  
June 2017 Overview

Project Overview and Purpose
The Foundation of CVPH and the Town of Plattsburgh are well positioned to establish an already planned spur/node of the Saranac River Trail Greenway (SRTG) on Lapiere Lane, in the Morrisonville community. Morrisonville is a hamlet (Pop. 1,545) of the Town of Plattsburgh (Pop. 11,870). The Town of Plattsburgh is the second most populated municipality in Clinton County (Pop. 81,500) and is considered the economic driver of the county. Norsk industry recently established a titanium plant, located in the Town of Plattsburgh, on a portion of the former Clinton County Airport. Norsk is a manufacturer of 3-D titanium aerospace components. Many have called this an economic game changer for the region. This is one example of anticipated community growth.

Preliminary conceptual design is complete for the Lapiere Lane Riverway spur/node, along with the required Wetlands Assessment. An archaeological/cultural study has been completed, making this a near shovel ready project. This spur/node, would be approximately 1.5 miles in length, with a section running directly along the banks of the Saranac River. The planned spur/node is an integral piece of the Town of Plattsburgh, Lake Champlain and Saranac River Waterfront Revitalization Plan and the Clinton County Waterfront Development scope of work, being coordinated and included as part of the Saranac River Trail Greenway (SRTG) plan. In addition, the proposed trail spur/node follows the efforts of the Clinton County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for population based health improvement, by providing physical activity opportunities that are permanent and sustainable (built environmental change) in local communities.

The Town of Plattsburgh Priority Projects identified in their Waterfront Revitalization Plan includes the Lapiere Lane property. All Town of Plattsburgh Priority Projects are meant to improve access to the Saranac River and sections of Lake Champlain and to create connections to the Saranac River Trail Greenway (SRTG). Each project provides a different sense of place that will allow people to use these locations for non-motorized boat launch sites, winter recreation, formalized wind surfing and kite boarding put-in areas, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, biking, hiking, and inspiring scenic vistas.

The Lapiere Lane property was donated to the Town of Plattsburgh several years ago by a constituent who believes in providing physical activity opportunity to residents in the Morrisonville and surrounding community and sharing the beauty of the Saranac River. Currently, the area is accessible by sidewalk/roadway in the Morrisonville community. The establishment of the spur/node will open a once privately owned section along the Saranac River, to runners, bikers, snow shoers, cross country skiers, canoes and kayaks, families/picnickers and walkers of all ages and abilities. The spur/node will connect residents of Roderick Rock Senior Apartment (24 Units), to an accessible and safe area to walk for health benefit and other activities. This piece fits well into the “aging in place” concepts that are well anchored in the Clinton County community and supported by both municipal and community based organizations and faith based groups. The constructed spur/node will also allow a “safe” access point, crossing over Rt. 22 to the Lapiere Lane Riverway spur/node for local residents.

Included in the Lapiere Lane Riverway concept is a separate grassy area that would be developed into a family picnic area. Off from that will be a number of groomed and landscaped “pin wheel like arms” leading to natural material play areas. These areas will be fashioned from natural materials (stone/wood) in an effort to maintain Adirondack uniqueness. Materials used and construction design will resemble physical activity efforts like rock climbing, trail hiking, water crossing, inclines, core strength situations for our aging population and more. The plan also includes a healing/meditative “garden” allowing residents a place to dwell, contemplate, and relax.

Lapiere Lane Riverway will also include markers for historic facts, local flora/fauna and fish species, along the water way. This area will also provide access for recreational fishing. These pieces will provide a strong environmental education anchor to be completed by SUNY Plattsburgh students in the Environmental Sciences. These students already have a collaborative connection with the Town of Plattsburgh Parks and Recreation Program.

Local businesses/corporations will be approached to help support and sponsor many of the concepts identified in the Lapiere Lane Rivrway spur/node. This may include one of the “pin wheel arms” off the family picnic area,
signage for the flora/fishing/fauna pieces, support and promotion of community activities to be held on the spur/node. An example could be a Trout Unlimited fishing camp held for children/adults to learn fly fishing.

**Community Partners**
The public health system members in Clinton County have a lengthy and strong record of local partnership to accomplish the type of work proposed on Lapierre Lane Riverway in the Town of Plattsburgh. Shared responsibility, coordinated effort, strong communication links and shared vision, all combine to make effective, planned community change for population based health improvement. Once again this effort will include a wide variety of community partners. Some are listed below.

1. Foundation of CVPH (Lead)  
2. Town of Plattsburgh  
3. Eastern Adirondack Health Care Network  
4. Roderick Rock Apartments  
5. The Saranac River Trail Greenway  
6. Clinton County Health Dept.  
7. Clinton County Action for Health Cons.  
8. Northern Forest Canoe Trail  
9. Corporate/Business Partners  
10. SUNY Plattsburgh Env. Science Dept.

**Project Outcomes**

1. Lapierre Lane Riverway spur/node will be the first completed section of the Saranac River Trail Greenway outside of the City of Plattsburgh. Approximate length: 1.5 mile, running from Roderock Apts to Lapierre Lane node.

2. A Community Manual will be developed, ready to be shared with other “like” rural communities on the process used in Clinton County/Town of Plattsburgh to facilitate this type of project.

3. The Town of Plattsburgh will assume a “Stewardship role”, providing open opportunities to conduct fishing programs, senior exercise classes and more.

4. Parks maintenance will be coordinated with local partners including the Town of Plattsburgh, Roderick Rock Apts., and local residents will be encouraged to form a Morrisonville Community Lapierre Lane Riverway community stewardship effort. This could include a strong beautification component and trash/debris monitoring and clean up.

5. Community agencies/organizations will be asked to provide benches along the trail and support the purchase of equipment: snow shoes, fishing and tackle, etc. for use by the public and residents of Roderick Rock Apts. Efforts will also be made to develop a program that would allow additional equipment to be housed at the senior apts for loaning to residents in the Morrisonville area for use on the trail.

6. Facilitate transportation to the Lapierre Lane Riverway J node working closely with the Clinton County public transportation.

**Time line for Lapierre Lane Trail Spur: Scenario One – 12 Month Prep/Construction Time Line**
Process will begin by determining length of time needed to complete trail from start (design/engineer plans) phase to trail completion and grand opening. Phase and associated cost. This will be completed in the months of April/May/June 2017, accomplished through a series of meetings.

**Next steps would be:**

1. Bring to TOP Board and Foundation of CVPH Board for discussion and approval to apply to the NYS Foundation for Lapierre Lane Trail construction: Aug/Sept. 2016. (Approved by both)  
2. Request the Foundation of CVPH to sponsor the grant application: Sept. 2016 (Approved)  
3. Complete NYS Health Foundation application for funding: May 2017  
4. Submit application to the NYS Health Foundation May 2017 for a July 1, 2017 start.  
5. Complete draft of design/engineer portion of trail scope of work: July/Aug 2017  
6. Bring draft design/engineer plan to TOP Board/Foundation of CVPH for review: Aug/Sept 2017  
7. Bring back final design/engineer piece back to TOP Board and Foundation of CVPH for final review/approval: Oct. 2017  