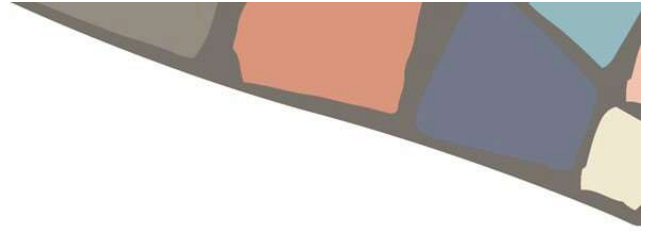




PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD



June 24, 2026

Parks & Trails Advisory Board
39 Main Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Adirondack Park Agency
Benjiman Amos
P.O. Box 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Re: Village of Saranac Lake Baldwin Park Project Application Permit and
Variance for non-conforming dock

Dear Benjiman,

I write on behalf of the Saranac Lake Parks and Trails Advisory Board to express our strong support for the Village of Saranac Lake's Baldwin Park Project and its application for your review of a permit and variance request for the construction of a non-conforming dock involving wetlands to provide public ADA-accessible canoe and kayak access to Lake Flower.

The Baldwin Park Project is a great example of a project intended to increase ADA access to Adirondack waterways. Located on the shores of Lake Flower in Saranac Lake, park improvements include:

- Increased shoreline resiliency through wetland restoration and stormwater improvements
- Enhanced access to Lake Flower, including a new ADA accessible canoe and kayak launch, lake viewing, picnicking and public gathering spaces, with wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Improved bike and pedestrian access

The project aligns well with Governor Hochul's recent support and announcements regarding accessibility for all to the State's recreational assets, including funding for ADA-accessible small craft launches in the Villages of Catskill and Athens. Currently there are no ADA launches specifically for paddle craft in the Tri-Lakes area of the Adirondacks. The need for this type of asset outweighs the impact the launch will have on the associated underwater wetlands and we request that the APA move forward with approval of the permit and variance.

In addition to ADA access to Lake Flower, this project will create dynamic public areas, improve community parks and trails, and enhance recreational opportunities that can provide a significant stimulus for the local economy and set the stage for community resiliency.

As a member of the Parks and Trails Advisory Board, I feel that this project will benefit a very wide range of residents and visitors of our village. This infrastructure complements what is currently available and will also build upon the recreation planning of the last decade.

Sincerely,

Colleen O'Neill, Chairperson
Parks & Trails Advisory Board