

# Genesee – Finger Lakes Regional Blueway Analysis

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*An Inventory and Description of Regional Blueway Opportunity Areas*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Genesee – Finger Lakes Regional Blueway Analysis presents an inventory and description of waterways which may be suitable for blueway use and designation. The purpose of this project is to facilitate the blueway planning process and to encourage local municipalities to consider and explore the blueway concept as a framework for improving their own local waterways, create new destinations and tourism opportunities, and foster intermunicipal cooperation.

The report is broken into five major sections. Section I of the report provides the reader with a brief introduction and project background. The term “blueway” is defined and the concept of “Blueway Opportunity Areas” is presented and explained to the reader. The five guiding principles of the project are described in detail. A short explanation is provided regarding how the document should be used by the target audience. A brief Disclaimer is also provided, cautioning the reader that illustrations and descriptions contained in this report are in no way intended to be used as guidance materials or navigational aids. It emphasizes that this document is to be used for planning purposes only.

Section II of the report provides a description of the project approach and methodology. This section describes in detail the methods used to involve the public, to identify and assess navigable regional waterways, and to gather data on those waterways, as well as how all of that information would eventually be compiled and organized into GIS and report formats.

Section III of the report describes how and why Blueway Opportunity Areas would be ranked in this report. Ranking was identified as a means of first identifying the level of service that various waterways would provide in a regional or statewide blueway system and then categorizing and organizing these various Opportunity Areas.

Section IV begins to describe the actual Blueway Opportunity Areas in detail. Detailed maps and information is provided which describes the waterway and its various attributes. Information such as launch points, the condition of launch points, municipal jurisdiction, and presence of supportive, complementary recreational infrastructure is provided in a combination of charts and maps.

Finally, Section V provides a summary of critical blueway planning concepts. This section is intended to familiarize the reader with some of the basic knowledge applicable to the subject. Ideally this information will play a role in encouraging and empowering local citizens and leaders to begin planning for local blueway trails in their own communities.

Appendices are included which provide the reader information on a variety of subjects, including selected references used in this report, materials associated with the field reconnaissance phase of the project, a full list of the blueway access point inventory, summary of public comments, as well as summaries of important laws and other pertinent documents.

