



The Thomas Creek Wetland Walk is a recreational and educational area dedicated to enhancing the awareness and appreciation of wetland environments. It encompasses 13 acres, with Thomas Creek and the surrounding wetlands making up the majority of the site. The area includes walking trails, elevated boardwalks and wildlife viewing areas. The marshy setting is ideally suited for taking quiet walks, or sitting and enjoying the numerous birds, beavers, muskrats and other animals that inhabit the area. It is also accessible to people with disabilities.

Described by local officials as a "little oasis of green, quiet park within a fairly urbanized area", the Thomas Creek Wetland Walk has a three-fold purpose: to preserve the wetlands, encourage tourism, and educate the public.

The project scope included construction of a .275 mile long pedestrian trail, excavation of .5 acres of wildlife pond, installation of a crushed stone parking lot, various amenities including benches, garbage receptacles and bicycle racks, and landscaping.

The uplands portion of the pedestrian trail consists of a stone dust path that connects to the towpath along the old Erie Canal. Within the wetland, the trail transitions into a timber boardwalk and observation platform. Interpretive signs designed to educate individuals, families, school groups and other organiza-

tions about the benefits and importance of wetlands are strategically located along the trail. The 5' wide x 520' long boardwalk traces the contours of Thomas Creek, and is supported by 118 timber piles driven with a hydraulic pile driver.

The material excavated from the wildlife ponds was used to create a series of small berms around their perimeter. The berms were effectively stabilized so that the excavated material could not re-enter the creek. The heavy equipment used to perform this work was operated in such a way as to minimize turbidity that could adversely affect aquatic plants and animal life.

Siltation barriers were installed between the wetlands and the construction area to prevent siltation into the wetland.

client:

Village of Fairport, NY
Industrial Development Agency

project:

Thomas Creek Wetland Walk

engineer:

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