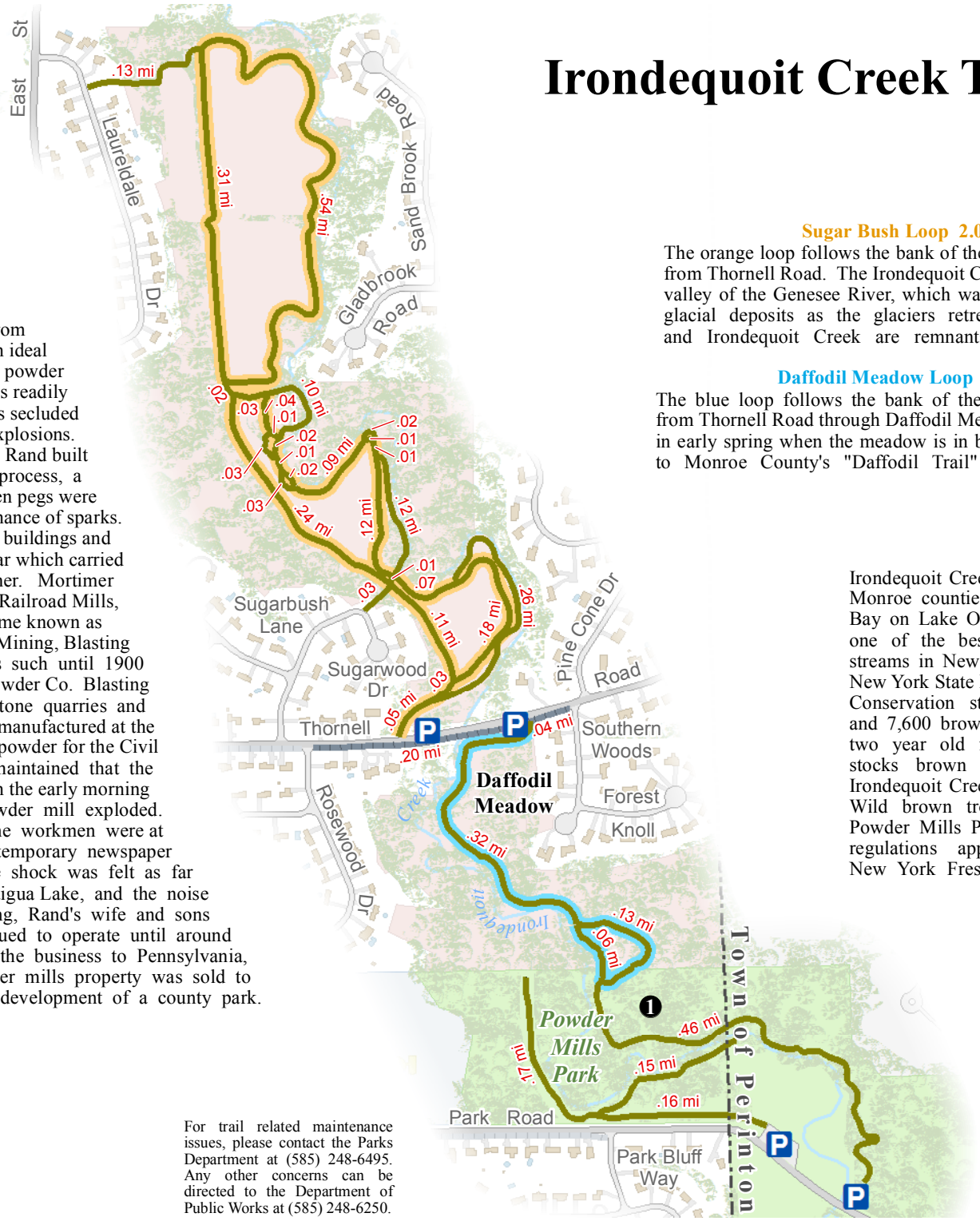
Irondequoit Creek Trails

townofpittsford.org



❶ Powder Mills Park

Daniel Curtis Rand came to Pittsford from New England in the 1863. He found an ideal site near Irondequoit Creek to establish powder mills. It had water, shipping facilities readily available, and most importantly, it was secluded in case of potential accidents and explosions. Familiar with the danger of explosions, Rand built several mills, one for each step in the process, a good distance from each other. Wooden pegs were used in the construction to lessen the chance of sparks. A small wooden railroad connected the buildings and wooden wheels were used on the flat car which carried materials from one building to another. Mortimer Wadhams, who operated a grist mill at Railroad Mills, joined Rand in the business and it became known as Rand and Wadhams Manufacturing of Mining, Blasting and Sporting Powder. It remained as such until 1900 when it was renamed the D.C. Rand Powder Co. Blasting powder used in western New York stone quarries and northern Pennsylvania coal mines was manufactured at the powder mills. There were rumors that powder for the Civil War was produced, but the family maintained that the powder was too coarse for muskets. In the early morning hours of December 27, 1887, the powder mill exploded. Thankfully, no one was injured as the workmen were at breakfast and not at the plant. Contemporary newspaper accounts of the event stated that the shock was felt as far away as Honeoye Lake and Canandaigua Lake, and the noise was heard in Avon. After his passing, Rand's wife and sons took over the business which continued to operate until around 1910 when two of the sons moved the business to Pennsylvania, closer to the coal mines. The powder mills property was sold to Monroe County about 1930 for the development of a county park.

Sugar Bush Loop 2.00 Miles

The orange loop follows the bank of the Irondequoit Creek north from Thornell Road. The Irondequoit Creek Valley is the ancient valley of the Genesee River, which was rerouted to the west by glacial deposits as the glaciers retreated. Irondequoit Bay and Irondequoit Creek are remnants of the ancient river.

Daffodil Meadow Loop 0.83 Miles

The blue loop follows the bank of the Irondequoit Creek south from Thornell Road through Daffodil Meadow, especially beautiful in early spring when the meadow is in bloom. The loop connects to Monroe County's "Daffodil Trail" in Powder Mills Park.

Fishing

Irondequoit Creek flows through Ontario and Monroe counties, emptying into Irondequoit Bay on Lake Ontario. Irondequoit Creek is one of the best rainbow trout (steelhead) streams in New York State. Each year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation stocks 27,500 rainbow trout and 7,600 brown trout including over 1,500 two year old fish. Monroe County also stocks brown trout into the portion of Irondequoit Creek within Powder Mills Park. Wild brown trout are found upstream of Powder Mills Park. Lake Ontario tributary regulations apply. Please consult the New York Freshwater Fishing Regulations.

Trail Rules:

Please Stay on Path
Clean Up After Your Dog
Closed During Hours of Darkness
No Motorized Vehicles
No Horses
Alcoholic Beverages Prohibited
Hunting Prohibited

For trail related maintenance issues, please contact the Parks Department at (585) 248-6495. Any other concerns can be directed to the Department of Public Works at (585) 248-6250.

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

January 2019

Trail
Sidewalk