

Cartersville / Simon Stone's Mill Trails

Cartersville / Stone Loop 2.20 Miles

The Cartersville Trail follows the south bank of the Erie Canal Great Embankment, 70 feet above Irondequoit Creek. Note the straight canal walls where the embankment is at its highest. One million years ago, a river in this broad valley drained the area south of Rochester. Irondequoit Bay and Irondequoit Creek are remnants of the ancient river, replaced in the glacial era by the Genesee River.

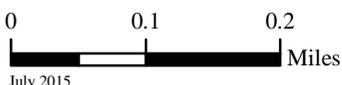
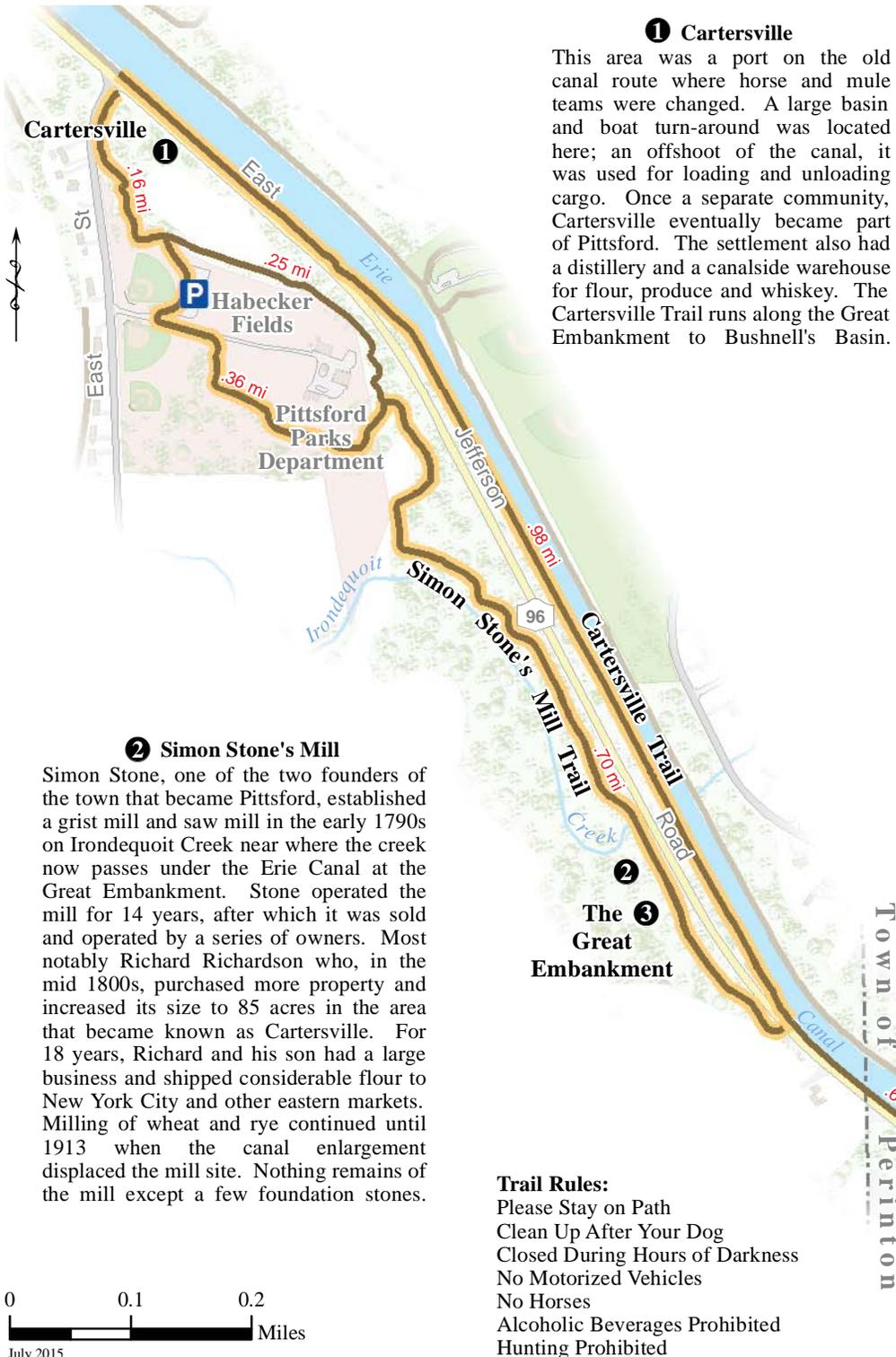
3 The Great Embankment

Built between 1821-1822 to carry the canal across the 70 foot deep, one mile wide Irondequoit Creek Valley, the Great Embankment is one of the most significant engineering feats of the entire Erie Canal. It was hand-built by laborers and farmers with dirt, debris and logs taken from nearby hills and fields and moved by wheelbarrow or horse and wagon. The Great Embankment canal bed was enlarged in the 1850s and again in the 1900s. When the water was put in the enlarged canal in 1911, the new soil bank gave way and washed out Marsh Road. It just missed hitting a trolley that ran in that area, but the water did tear up the tracks. Another break occurred in 1912 - the new canal had been put over the old 1840 culvert, and it began to leak. Pieces of concrete 8 to 10 feet thick were pushed about and there was an enormous amount of water on both sides, but there was no damage to homes because most of the water flooded farmlands downstream. A third break in the area occurred in October 1974 when a contractor tunneling under the canal for the construction of sewers caused a collapse. One house was completely washed away and many others suffered severe damage from water, mud and debris. Thankfully, no lives were lost. To this date, the Great Embankment is still the highest canal embankment in the world. The Irondequoit Creek now runs through a culvert under the canal. Before the glacial era, this stretch of the creek was the path of the Genesee River.

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.

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



1 Cartersville

This area was a port on the old canal route where horse and mule teams were changed. A large basin and boat turn-around was located here; an offshoot of the canal, it was used for loading and unloading cargo. Once a separate community, Cartersville eventually became part of Pittsford. The settlement also had a distillery and a canalside warehouse for flour, produce and whiskey. The Cartersville Trail runs along the Great Embankment to Bushnell's Basin.

2 Simon Stone's Mill

Simon Stone, one of the two founders of the town that became Pittsford, established a grist mill and saw mill in the early 1790s on Irondequoit Creek near where the creek now passes under the Erie Canal at the Great Embankment. Stone operated the mill for 14 years, after which it was sold and operated by a series of owners. Most notably Richard Richardson who, in the mid 1800s, purchased more property and increased its size to 85 acres in the area that became known as Cartersville. For 18 years, Richard and his son had a large business and shipped considerable flour to New York City and other eastern markets. Milling of wheat and rye continued until 1913 when the canal enlargement displaced the mill site. Nothing remains of the mill except a few foundation stones.