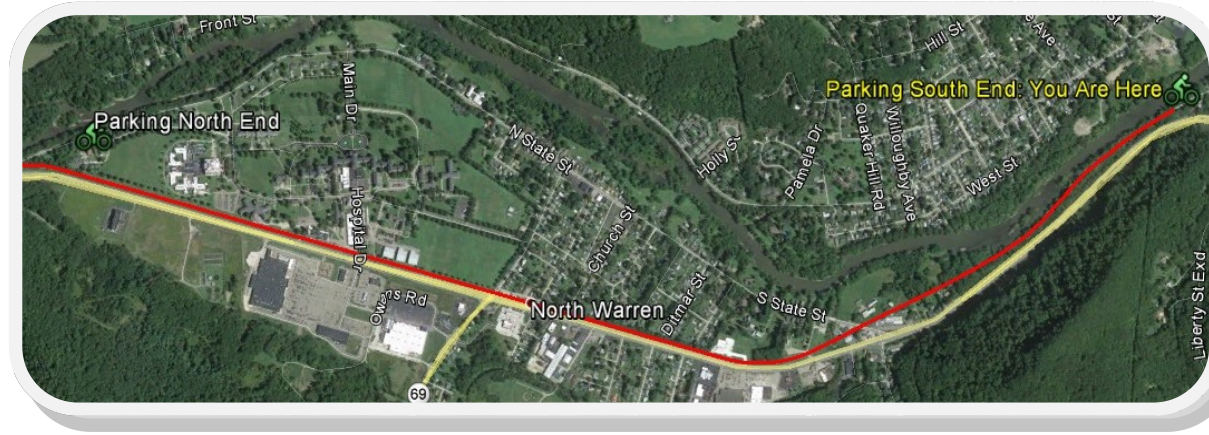


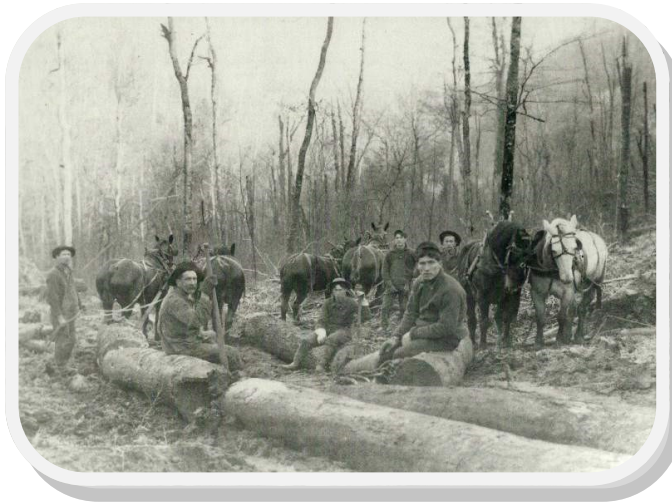
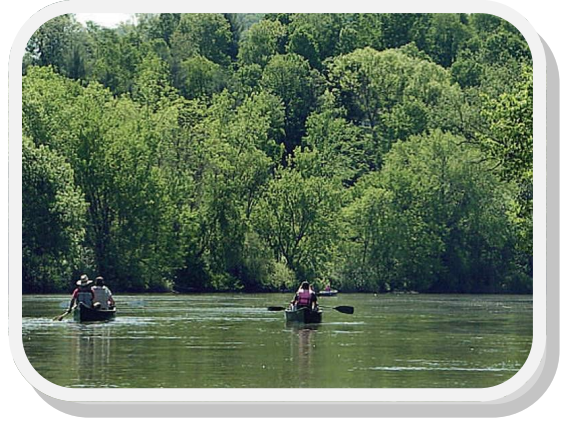


Warren/North Warren Bike Trail

Located along the banks of the Conewango Creek, the open three-mile segment of the trail follows the old New York Central branch north from the City of Warren. Beginning at the north end of East Street in downtown Warren, the trail leads north out of town, following the banks of the quiet Conewango Creek. As the trail continues north, it leaves the creek and enters a busy commercial section along Route 62. The trail is sufficiently removed from the highway, creating a nice buffer from the traffic. The trail ends near a beautiful town park that has picnic areas, a garden, parking and restrooms.



CONEWANGO CREEK
Conewango is an Iroquois name meaning "below the riffles." The Conewango Creek was the waterway trail leading to the "Forbidden Path" of the Seneca Nation, so called because it was guarded so carefully and it was a direct line to the "Land of Lakes," their special domain. In the 1800's, the creek became a logging highway as vast lumber rafts were lashed together and floated downstream to Pittsburgh for sale. Today, the Conewango is still rural and wild, a haven for wildlife and for those who wish to paddle back in time.



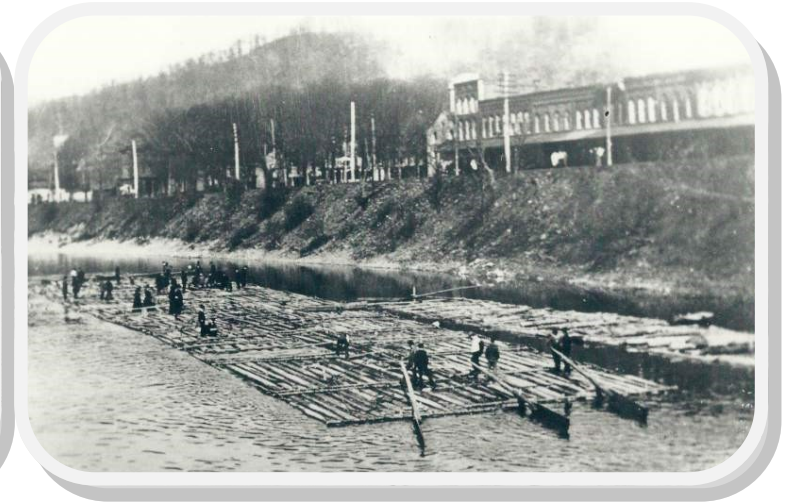
Horses being used to move logs, the prime moving power in the woods.



Getting logs to water.



Maneuvering a raft through shallow waters.



Last Square Timber Raft, made up of pieces from the Conewango – 1900. Three oars at each end indicate that it is a river raft.

FROM THE FORESTS TO THE SAWMILLS TO MARKET

In the early 1800's, sawmills began springing up along the waterways of northwestern Pennsylvania in response to growing demand for dimensional building lumber. Transporting the cut timber from forest to sawmill was dangerous work and no easy task. Working in teams, early lumberjacks (also known as "jobbers") clear-cut all worthwhile dimension trees of Eastern White Pine. Utilizing sturdy teams of horses and/or oxen, they then skidded, trailed or slid logs to a staging area along the banks of the stream. From there, the logs were rolled into the stream and floated to sawmills. The Conewango Creek served as a highway for transporting squared timber rafts and sawn lumber rafts to downstream markets. The standard sawn lumber raft was a platform assembled from alternating courses of 16 foot boards between a bottom and top frame joined together by "grubs," which were young saplings with roots. On the Conewango Creek, the standard raft was ten (10) platforms long and one (1) platform wide, approximately 170 feet long by 17 feet wide with one oar at each end. Where the Conewango entered the Allegheny River at Warren, 6 of the 10 platform "strings" would be coupled together to form an "Allegheny Raft" approximately 340 feet long and 51 feet wide, with three oars or sweeps at each end. Because of their size, rafts could be launched only in times of high water, which was generally in the spring of the year following snow melt.

Historic photos provided by:

*The Warren Public Library and,
The Warren County Historical Society*



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