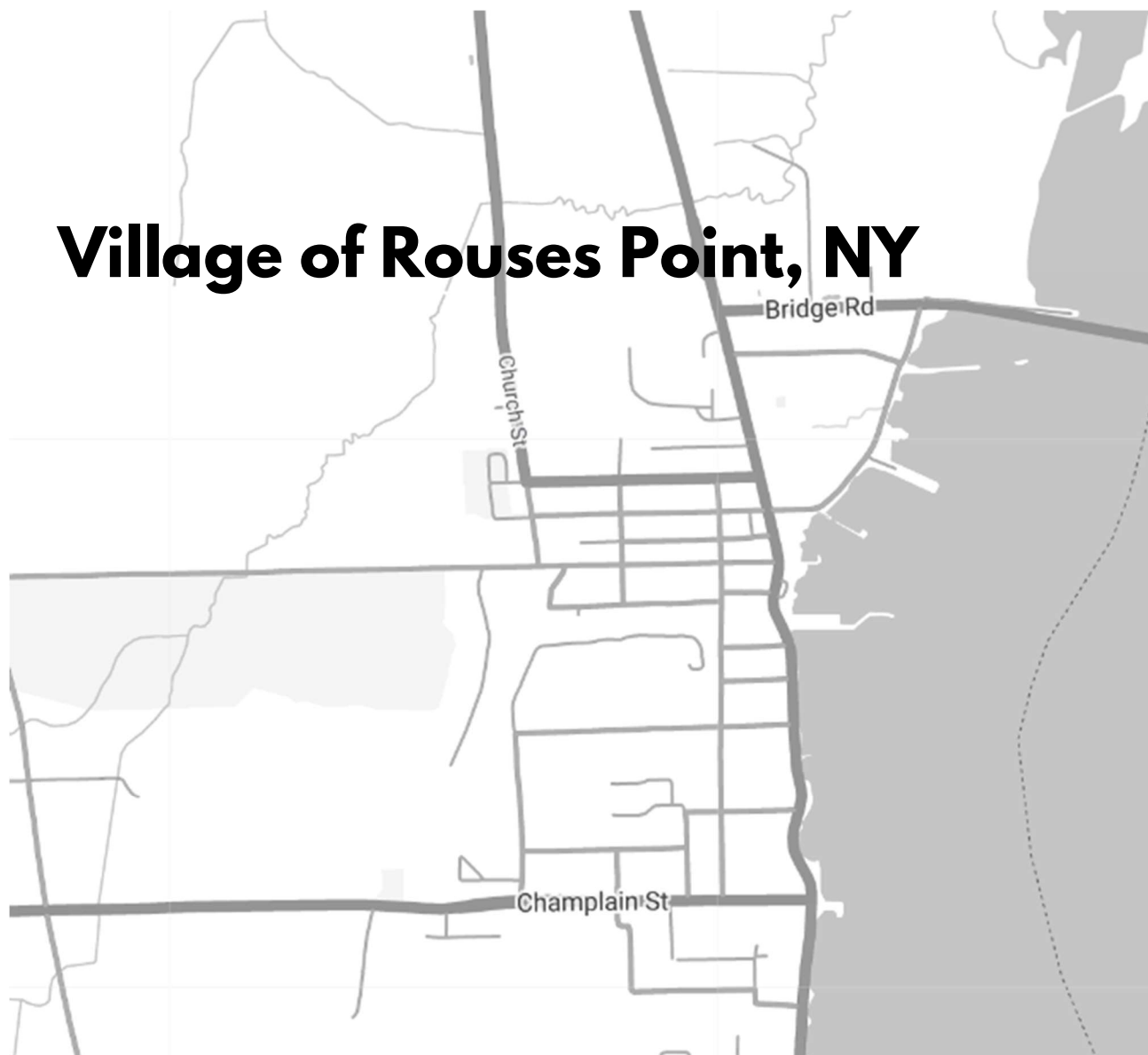


# Village of Rouses Point, NY



## Active Community Concept Plan

# 2023-2024

# Introduction

## Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC)

*Creating Healthy Schools & Communities (CHSC)* is a New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) grant being administered by the Clinton County Health Department to address health inequalities in Clinton County. Comprehensive grant goals include improving access to healthy foods and physical activity, by connecting every day destinations. To improve access to physical activity, grant funds are available for eligible Clinton County communities to identify and implement small scale complete streets projects.

## Complete Streets

Complete streets are public roadways that provide safe and comfortable access to community destinations for people of all ages and abilities. Roadway design features include sidewalks, lane striping, bicycle lanes, signage, crosswalks, curb cuts, raised crosswalks, traffic calming measures, among other pedestrian safety interventions.

The New York State Department of Transportation supports complete streets principles enacted into law in the Complete Streets Act of 2011. A number of Counties and local municipalities in NY have implemented policies and resolutions in support of complete streets. As of 2024, the Clinton County Highway Department and all 18 municipalities in Clinton County have a complete streets resolution in place to help guide roadway design and maintenance.

The CHSC grant provides technical assistance and grant funds for communities to identify and implement small scale complete streets projects to support a more equitable, safe, economically viable, and healthy environment.

Figure 1. Complete Street Intervention



Image courtesy of Smart Growth America: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/what-are-complete-streets/>

The Village of Rouses Point is a northern border community in the northeast corner of Clinton County, NY with an estimated population of 2,530. The community is primarily served by NYS Rte. 9, and NYS Rte. 11. A small walkable, densely settled village center lies along the shores of Lake Champlain at the border of Canada and VT. Its geographical location provides great potential for exponential future growth. Although the downtown has good sidewalk connectivity with a number of everyday destinations and dense housing, the main corridor is a commercial route utilized by Vermont/NY truck traffic to access the NYS Interstate and Canadian border, which creates uncomfortable pedestrian conditions.

Figure 2. Demographic and Community Data\*

Data Metric	Village of Rouses Point	New York State
Population	2,530	19,677,152
Number of Households	1,191	8,585,784
Median Age	45	40
Race & Ethnicity	95% White	53% White
Median Household Income	\$45,542	\$79,557
Poverty	18.5%	14.3%
Housing	54% owner occupied and 60% single family units	54% owner occupied and 46% single family units

\*Data Source: Census Reporter 2022 ACS Data, <https://censusreporter.org/>

## Plans & Policies

A built environment assessment was completed under the 2023 CHSC grant to identify local plans and policies in support of complete streets and activity friendly communities.

The Village of Rouses Point manages land use planning through local zoning practices as outlined in the Village zoning code adopted in 1994 and most recently updated in 2012. The Village received a NYS DOS DOT? grant in 2022 to develop a comprehensive master plan to guide future growth and community investment. It is recommended the Village consider community access and complete streets concepts when developing the master plan.

The Village adopted a complete streets resolution in February 2021to help guide future road design and maintenance. To support the resolution, the Village utilized grant funding made available from CCHD under the Routes to Better Health grant. A number of multi-use trail improvements were implemented to increase and improve access to the 5-mile, multi-community, partially paved and off-road, Harry J. McManus Northern Tier Recreation Trail. The trail connects the Village to a central school and the two neighboring communities of the Town of Champlain and the Village of Champlain. Activity friendly trail improvements included new crosswalk striping at trailheads, pedestrian crossing signage, shared road markings, wayfinding signage, trail lighting, benches, and trailhead maps. It is recommended the Village continue to coordinate with the Town of Champlain and Village of Champlain to improve and promote the Northern Tier Recreation Trail.

## Community Survey

An online survey was released in October 2023 on CCHD and Village social media sites to gather feedback from Village residents regarding existing street conditions, pedestrian behaviors, and project identification. A summary of survey results is provided in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3. Village of Rouses Point Complete Streets Survey Results

Survey Question	Responses
<b>How old are you?</b>	25-34=11% 35-44=22% 55-64=28% 65+=33%
<b>What road do you live on?</b>	Woodhaven Dr, Montgomery St., Academy St., Albert Carriere Way, Mountain View Dr, Priscilla Lane, State St., Maple St., Stewart St, Pine St., Smith St., Rose Ave.
<b>What destinations do you walk, bike, and roll to?</b>	Northern Tier Rec Trail x 2, Downtown businesses x 3, Montgomery St. pier x3, Rec Center x 6, RP Elementary School x 2, Library x 2, Stewarts, Dollar General x 2, Down Smith St. to Stewarts and Dollar General, Stony Point Rd, Maple St. & Lake St. x2, Montgomery St. & Lake St x2, around the Village x 5
<b>Which intersections do you feel are not safe to walk, bike, and roll?</b>	Several hedges encroach entrances to the road on Lake St., Lake St/Montgomery St., Chapman & Maple St, Lake St. & Champlain St., Lake St where trucks drive to Rte. 11 from Vt to Stewarts, Laket St. & Pratt St, Pine St. & Lake St. (hedges), Pearl St. & Maple St (hedges), All intersections because cyclists drive against traffic, need to make more aware
<b>What projects would you like to see completed?</b>	No sidewalks on Woodhaven, Edgewater, Lakeview where families with children live, better marked crosswalks x 2, solar speed signs, stop light at the 4 way intersection of Lake St. & Montgomery St., trail for all season activities, sidewalk repair throughout Village x 2, more community access to the Lake x 2, sidewalk repair on Lake St., redo the creative crosswalk, signage markings for Stoney Point, repair shuffle board court, help with awareness of traffic rules for pedestrians/bicyclists

## Walk Audit

A walk audit was conducted in the Village of Rouses Point on November 13, 2023 with Mayor John LaBonte, Ben Arno, Trustee, Chris Latremore, Village Administrator, 3 members of the public, and CCHD staff. The public was formally invited to attend the walk audit via social media and local



marketing efforts. A focus area was identified within the Village downtown district starting at the Village office on Rte. 9/Lake St. then traveling north along Lake St. to Montgomery St., along Montgomery St. to the Veterans Park/Recreation Center access drive then along a multi-use path to the Recreation Center and turning south on Lake St. The walk continued along the main street commercial corridor passing several everyday destinations to Chapman St. The walk continued west on Chapman to Maple St. and south along Maple St. passing the Rouses Point Elementary school through dense neighborhoods and back to Lake St/Rte. 9 to the Village office. An inventory of existing conditions was collected including pavement markings, number and type of roadway travel lanes, traffic control devices and pedestrian signage, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian ramps and whether they are accessible, roadway and pedestrian lighting, and other streetscape amenities. A number of small-scale complete streets projects were identified and are included in this plan. Additional information can be found in **Figure 4: Village of Rouses Point CHSC Project Map 2023-2024**.

## Village Board Meeting

It is recommended the 2023-2024 CHSC concept plan be presented at a Village Board meeting to garner both Board and public feedback and support. Board approval will be required to implement the projects identified in this plan as the Village will be required to purchase equipment and materials with approved expenses eligible for 100% reimbursement upon receipt of proof of payment. Equipment and materials must be purchased by March 15, 2024 and proof of purchase submitted to CCHD no later than April 1, 2024 to ensure successful project implementation within calendar year 2024. Additional project implementation information can be found in the Project List and Implementation sections of this plan.

## Project List

A number of complete streets projects have been identified utilizing Village administration input, community engagement, a formal walk audit, CHSC grant guidelines, and complete streets and active transportation best practices. Projects identified are eligible for reimbursement under the CHSC grant unless otherwise noted. All materials identified must be purchased by the Village and will be reimbursed by CCHD as approved in the associated project Memorandum of Understanding. The cost of labor is **not** an eligible grant expense and project implementation is the responsibility of the municipality. All projects **MUST** be completed by the end of calendar year 2024. Please note that all projects identified within a local, county, or State right of way may require additional coordination and permitting. All roadway improvements must be installed according to local, County, and NYS DOT regulations.

### Project List

**For more information, see Figure 4: Village of Rouses Point CHSC Project Map 2023**

Map ID #	Location	Project Description	Materials Required	Level of Coordination required
<b>1</b>	Veteran's park/RP	Solar trail lights x 40.	Solar lights	Village DPW

	Recreation Center	Every 20' both sides, staggered. (400')		
<b>2</b>	RP Elementary School (Maple St.)	Crosswalk x 3 & Creative Crosswalk x 1	Multiple color traffic paint & application supplies* <i>*Supplies already secured</i> Crosswalk stencil ADA compliant pads x 8 (or as needed )	Village DPW/NCCS/CCHD
<b>3</b>	Montgomery St. @ Lake St. (westbound lane sidewalk for ~600+ east)	~600' Sidewalk repair	Concrete Concrete Forms	Village DPW
<b>4</b>	Montgomery St. (all)	Sharrows & signage	White traffic paint Sharrow stencil Breakaway post x 4 W11-1, Bike (only) warning sign x 4 In lane sign x 4 (need MUTCD #)	Village DPW
<b>5</b>	Montgomery St. @ Rte. 9/Lake St.	Crosswalk & Traffic Mirror	30" Convex Pole Mirror White traffic paint Crosswalk stencil	NYS DOT Highway Work permit
<b>6</b>	Montgomery St. at Pier/Gazebo	Crosswalk	White traffic paint Crosswalk stencil Breakaway post x 4 W11-2, Pedestrian Crossing sign x4 W16-1P, Supplemental arrow x 2 W16-9P, Supplemental ahead x 2	Village DPW
<b>7</b>	Academy St. Extn, Priscilla Lane	Sharrows & signage	White traffic paint Sharrow stencil Breakaway post x 4 W11-5, Ped/Bike sign x 4 W16-1P, supplemental Share the Road sign x 4	Village DPW
<b>8</b>	Lake St. @ Dodge Memorial Library	Custom Bench	Custom Bench with historic "wrap"	Village DPW & Dodge Memorial Library
	Village wide	Custom sidewalk decals	"Chart your course to downtown Rouses Point!" sidewalk decals to encourage walking/biking to downtown. 24" x 24" custom round decal x 100	Village DPW
	Village wide	Solar Radar Sign	NYS DOT approved solar radar sign Breakaway post x 1	NYS DOT
	Village wide	Re-stripe crosswalks and sharrows	White traffic paint Sharrow stencil Crosswalk stencil	Village DPW

## Project Implementation

An installation guide has been provided as Attachment 1 for Village highway officials and staff as guidance for installation of crosswalks, shared road signs, pedestrian signage, and other roadway improvements. The installation guide is based on federal MUTCD, NYS DOT regulations, and best practices, but official specifications should be referenced and used. CCHD and the CHSC grant are not responsible for any projects identified within this plan and the associated map that are not completed in accordance with applicable regulations.

To support sustainability of these projects it is recommended the Village consider the following actions:

- Budget for annual sidewalk repair.
- Budget for annual sidewalk snow clearing and prioritize main sidewalk routes.
- Budget for bi-annual re-striping and road symbol painting.
- Identify 1-2 small scale complete streets projects every year.
- Consider community connectivity in all planning and zoning undertakings.

## Additional Funding Opportunities

A number of local, state, and federal funding sources are available for complete streets projects in New York State. Most grant opportunities require a local match, therefore it is critical to consider planning and budgeting for capital projects at the local level. In addition, state and federal grants often require significant reporting requirements, therefore it is important to consider budgeting for grant administration.

Federal Grant resources are available through the online website, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Funding from numerous State organizations is available annually through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) process. The Village of Rouses Point is part of the North Country Region Economic Development Council (NCREDC) and applications are reviewed and approved by the local REDC and NYS. Funding is typically announced in May with applications due in July.

Local funding and other smaller grants may be available through AARP, Clinton County, CVPH Health Foundation and other local philanthropy and community groups like the Rotary Club.

## Summary

The projects identified in this plan support the NYS DOH CHSC grants' program goals for activity friendly routes to destinations. The project list is not exhaustive and it is anticipated the Village will continue to build upon its commitment to complete streets and a healthy, walkable community.

For more information about this plan or recommendations within, please contact the Clinton County Health Department or the Village of Rouses Point.



Figure 4. Village of Rouses Point CHSC Project Map 2023-2024

# Key

- Everyday Destinations
- Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path\*
- Walk Audit Route
- CHSC Projects
  - Sidewalk/Path Upgrade
  - Crosswalk
  - Road Sign
  - Street Furniture/Lighting
  - Landscaping
  - Road Marking
- Other Projects\*\*
  - New Sidewalk/Multi-Use Path
  - Lighting
  - Placemaking
  - Community Survey Projects

\*All pedestrian safety improvements to meet current FHWA, NYS DOT, and local standards and specifications. Permits will be obtained as required.

\*\*May not be eligible for CHSC grant funds

\*Sidewalks not mapped in Village due to extensive system with good connectivity



## Placemaking Ideas

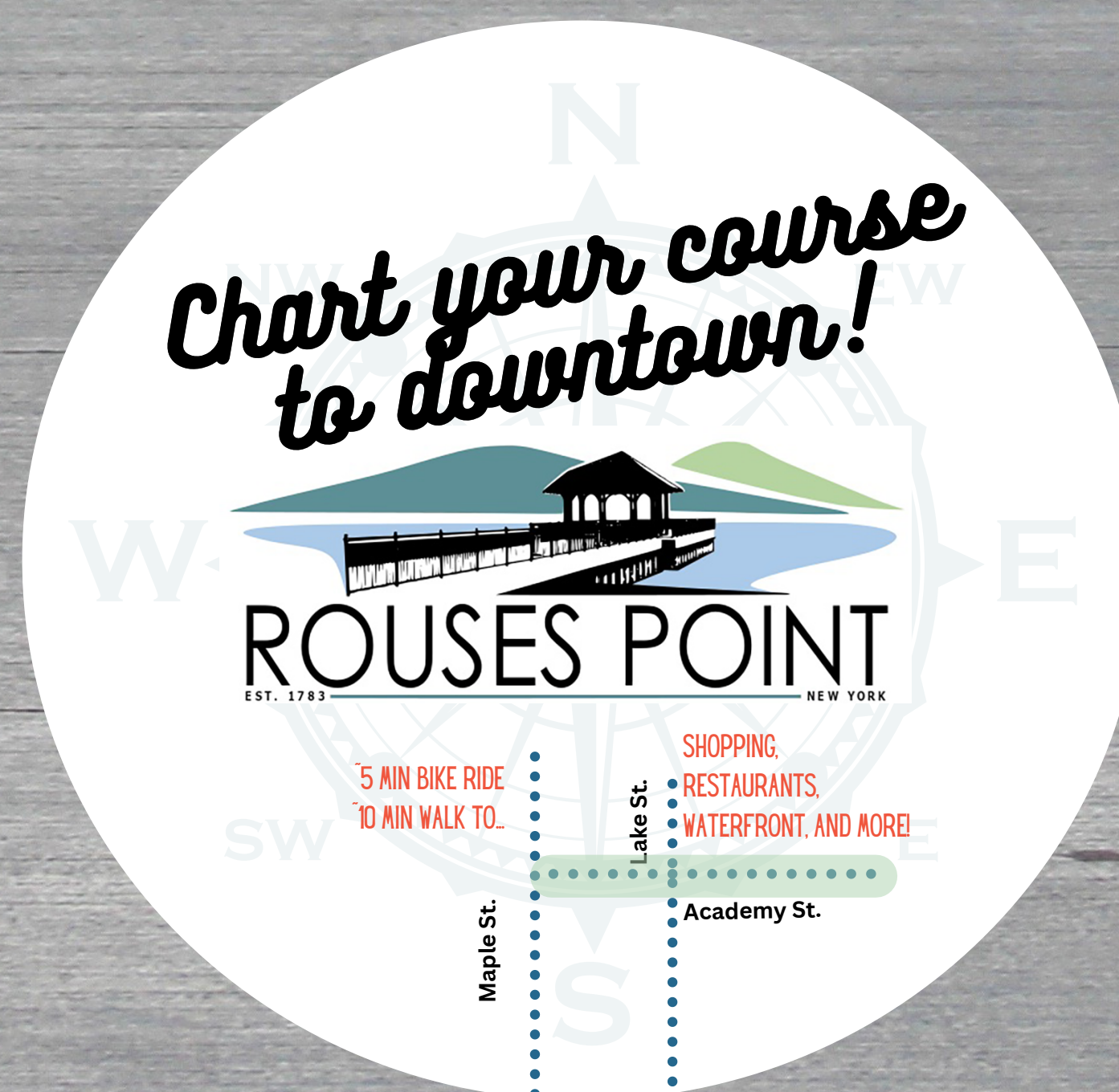
- Custom benches
- Art installations
- Interpretive signage
- Light pole banners
- Planters
- Historic lighting
- Art murals
- Unique public gathering spaces





## Village of Rouses Point sidewalk decal concept

Identify key locations within Village to install sidewalk decals to encourage walking and biking to downtown/Lake St. business district.





*Chart your course  
to downtown!*



ROUSES POINT

EST. 1783

NEW YORK

~5 MIN BIKE RIDE  
10 MIN WALK TO...

Lake St.

SHOPPING,  
RESTAURANTS,  
WATERFRONT, AND MORE!

Maple St.



## HISTORIC WRAPPED BENCH CONCEPT



**HISTORY IN THE STREETS!**

The Saronac River was Pittsburgh's economic lifeline through the 19th and early 20th centuries. But dams and factories damaged the environment, leading to cleanup efforts that are still ongoing today.



A block to the north is the historic Bridge Street Bridge, where thousands gathered on November 11, 1930 to dedicate the new bridge and to commemorate Armistice Day (now Veterans Day).



**HOWLIN'**

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Helms Bake