

Trail Enhancements in Northern Dutchess

By: Robert Wills, Senior GIS Project Coordinator

Dutchess County residents have many new opportunities to get out and enjoy nature on an expanding Greenway Trail system...with more on the way! Dutchess County communities are looking to connect parks, schools, and other resources with pedestrian access opportunities. We are responding by building an extensive GIS inventory of present and proposed trails, including information about ownership, surface, and condition. By mapping these resources, potential connections can be identified early by both communities and our planners.

Collaboration is Key

Partnerships play a critical role in trail development. One successful partnership is the Hyde Park Trails Committee, which includes members from the Town of Hyde Park, Dutchess County Departments of Health and Planning & Development, National Park Service, Winnakee Land Trust, and Scenic Hudson. Each plays a role in identifying trail opportunities, negotiating with landowners, preserving the trail corridor, constructing and maintaining the trail, and then promoting it.

The trail network throughout Hyde Park was blazed, improved, and officially opened last year. To publicize it, the Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout was developed with key support from the Department of Health and the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program. The message is clear, that good community planning and trails for walking promote a healthier and more enjoyable lifestyle. This program gets people out walking.



Earn this commemorative patch by walking trails in Hyde Park. [Click here](#) for more information.

The momentum of this partnership is contagious. County Executive William R. Steinhaus and former Commissioner of Public Works, the late Michael Murphy, donated a kiosk to be installed at the trail head to Winnakee Land Trust's Hyde Park Nature Preserve on Van Dam Road.

Current Planning Efforts: From Kaal Rock to Bard Rock

Dutchess County Planning is working with the Culinary Institute of America and adjacent landowners in establishing a Pedestrian Access Easement, to be held by the Winnakee Land Trust, for a new section of the Greenway Trail. Stretching from the National Park Service properties south through the CIA, the trail would give walkers both a wild and urbane experience, winding through pristine uplands before descending to the CIA campus and restaurants. This will establish a continuous walking trail from the City of Poughkeepsie waterfront north through the National Park Service properties, from Kaal Rock to Bard Rock.

More Trails to the North

In the Town of Red Hook, the Unification Theological Seminary recently donated a Pedestrian Access Easement to Winnakee Land Trust for the newest section of the Hudson River Greenway Trail. Open for pedestrian access, this trail is situated along the bank of South Tivoli Bay, and affords amazing views of Skillypot Island and the Catskills beyond. It commemorates both the childhood wanderings of Theodore Roosevelt (who summered on the original estate as a boy of nine, and there began his vocation as a naturalist) and the affection the Reverend Sun Myung Moon has for the beauty of the Hudson River Valley. The trail is open to the public, dawn to dusk, and parking is available at the trailhead off Barrytown Road.

So get your walking shoes on...the best way to appreciate our beautiful Dutchess County trails is to use them. See you on the trails!

For More Information

Earn a Patch! Visit [Hyde Park Healthy Trails Walkabout](#) for information and a map/brochure containing the Walkabout Log Card, or call the Hyde Park Recreation Department for information at 845-229-8086.

[Hyde Park Heritage Greenway Trail Listed as "National Heritage Trail"](#)

National Park Service's [Rivers and Trails Program](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to view past issues of the DCPF's newsletter, *Plan On It*.

This newsletter was developed by the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Planning Federation.

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