

Dutchess Rail Trail

LEGEND:

-  Dutchess Rail Trail
-  Veterans Memorial Mile
-  Parking
-  Trailhead
-  Seasonal Restrooms (Operated by City of Poughkeepsie Spring, Summer & Fall)
-  Portable Toilet
-  Bridge
-  Town Line
-  Road (crossing Dutchess Rail Trail)
-  Road (outlying)
-  Pond/Lake/Stream
-  U.S. Route
-  State Route
-  County Route



Please stay to the right

CAUTION: Steep slopes and drop-offs are located at many places along the former railroad bed on which the Rail Trail has been constructed. Please stay on the trail, supervise children, and proceed with caution.



Since I became County Executive in 1992, I've had a vision of a countywide system of trails for residents and guests to explore the beauty of Dutchess County on a variety of footpaths, gravel trails and paved surface trails. Combining the Greenway trails, County and other Municipal Parks and abandoned rail beds of the Hudson Valley, my vision is rapidly becoming a reality.

Dutchess County's rail trails offer opportunities for exercise and enjoyment of users of all ages and for all forms of non-motorized transportation.

Our *Dutchess Rail Trail* has captured the interest and the anticipation of residents from all across Dutchess County and beyond. Hundreds of people came out to participate in the various informational meetings we hosted throughout the communities along the trail where they shared their ideas and thoughts about the creation and design.

Thousands of trail users have already enjoyed the completed phases of the Dutchess Rail Trail... taking advantage of the opportunity to walk, run, cycle, rollerblade and more.

I believe the rail trails of Dutchess County are wonderful opportunities to connect with family, friends and neighbors. I encourage you to also visit our beautiful *Harlem Valley Rail Trail* with over 10 miles of scenic trail through the communities of Millerton, North East, Amenia and Wassaic.

Building the *Dutchess Rail Trail* has been one of our top priorities and we look forward to the trail's completion. So come on out and enjoy our beautiful outdoors with a stroll or bike ride with family and friends along the completed phases of the *Dutchess Rail Trail*. I look forward to seeing you out there!

William R. Steinhaus

William R. Steinhaus
County Executive

Rules of the Dutchess Rail Trail

- Trail open dawn to dusk.
- Please be courteous and considerate of other trail users.
- Stay to the right.
- Travel at a reasonable and controlled speed.
- Announce "on your left" then pass with care.
- Bicyclists must wear a helmet.
- Dogs must be leashed.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Horses are not permitted on trail.
- This is a "Carry In/Carry Out" park, NO LITTERING.
- Please respect private property.
- No hunting on trail property.
- No motorized vehicles.

Please report any incidents to Dutchess County DPW at (845) 486-2900

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

The Dutchess Rail Trail is patrolled by local police and deputy sheriffs.

William R. Steinhaus
County Executive



Charles E. Traver
Commissioner of Public Works

www.dutchesscountytrails.com



Welcome to the
**Dutchess
Rail Trail**



Welcome to the Dutchess Rail Trail!

The *Dutchess Rail Trail* (DRT) will be a 12-mile multi-use linear park stretching through the heart of the County from Morgan Lake on the Town/City of Poughkeepsie border through the towns of LaGrange and Wappinger, to East Fishkill at the Hopewell Junction hamlet. Due to the complex engineering and environmental challenges of the DRT, the trail is being constructed in multiple phases.

We hope you will enjoy your visit to the *Dutchess Rail Trail*. Along the trail you will find educational signage highlighting points of interest and historical aspects of the trail, including the *Dutchess Rail Trail's* history as the Maybrook Rail Line. Other signs showcase the various ecological aspects of the trail such as wildlife found along the trail.

In Summer 2011, we will dedicate the *Veterans Memorial Mile*, a special one mile section dedicated to Dutchess County veterans in honor of their service to our country on behalf of our community. The "*Veterans Memorial Mile*" will be located in the Town of Wappinger from Diddell Road to Sprout Creek.

Phase I— Open

Phase I, which runs from NYS Route 376 to Lake Walton Road in East Fishkill opened to the public in November 2007. Phase I features a 11' wide paved surface with an 8' soft parallel surface for runners. The 1.7 mile section quickly became such a popular destination the readers of *Hudson Valley Magazine* named the *Dutchess Rail Trail* as the "*Best New Hiking Trail*" in the Hudson Valley.

I love it! It has been a very therapeutic way for me to get back into shape and good health. I suffered a stroke and the rail trail has become my way to good health. I am currently training to walk/run a marathon. The rail trail is my life saver! "

- Angela, Fishkill

Phase II — Open

In July 2009, hundreds of people joined us for an inaugural ride when we opened Phase II of the *Dutchess Rail Trail*, the trail section from Morgan Lake in the City of Poughkeepsie, stretching south 2.4 miles to Overocker Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Within weeks of opening, thousands of residents and visitors flocked to walk, run, rollerblade, bike and enjoy the great outdoors.

Phase II features a 13' foot wide paved surface and serves as a quick and direct commuting bypass link to major area employers including Dutchess Community College, St. Francis Hospital and Marist College. This is an easy commute by bicycle, offering a great option to help protect the environment and save gas money! When completed, the entire trail can serve as a transportation corridor for bicyclists to the many employers across 12 miles in the five communities connected by the *Dutchess Rail Trail*.

"It is great! Being close to Dutchess Community College is an advantage to us between classes. Nicely done!"

- Diane, Millbrook

Phase III — Open

Phase III opened in May 2011, adding 6 more trail miles through LaGrange and Wappinger. This section links with Phase I, making an 8+ mile continuous stretch from Old Manchester Road in LaGrange to the town of East Fishkill at Route 82 in the hamlet of Hopewell Junction.

Phase III features a 13' wide paved surface with a 6' wide soft parallel surface. There are three road crossing bridges along Phase III at:

- Titusville Road in LaGrange
- Maloney Road in Wappinger
- NYS Route 376 in East Fishkill

Fishing enthusiasts should plan a stop at the bridge over Sprout Creek, stocked annually with trout. The bridge features a special section for handicapped accessible fishing.

Phase IV - Planned

Phase IV features the most complex construction aspect of the *DRT*— the construction of a new 750ft, 4 span bridge that will extend over NYS Route 55's six lanes of traffic, and the Wappinger Creek.

Phase IV will provide the final *Dutchess Rail Trail* connection from Poughkeepsie, through LaGrange and Wappinger, to East Fishkill for 12 miles of uninterrupted miles of trail.

Design work on Phase IV is nearly complete and construction is expected to begin in 2012.

"(The DRT) gives us 'walkers' a safe, traffic free place to walk....I hope to see the trail finished in the future ASAP. Thanks!"

- Kathy, Pleasant Valley

Other Dutchess Rail Trail Info:

The *Dutchess Rail Trail* is designated as a **Start! Walking Path** by the American Heart Association for the healthy benefits from walking, cycling and other trail activities.



Mileage markers along the *Dutchess Rail Trail* reflect the trail's history as the Maybrook Rail Line and mark how far trains were from the original Hopewell Junction depot. This mile marker, near the Morgan Lake Trailhead, shows 11.5 miles ahead to the Hopewell Depot Trailhead.

In November 2010, an **original Maybrook Rail Line signal** at the North Grand Avenue crossing of the *Dutchess Rail Trail* was reactivated after local railroad buffs Robert Roraback and David Williams led a volunteer effort to restore this piece of railroad history.



More information about the *Dutchess Rail Trail* is available at www.dutchesscountytrails.com