



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Joseph B.
Clarke Rail
Trail**
New York



Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail

New York

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The 4-mile rail-trail passes through three downtowns. The quaint town centers on the Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail are compact and surrounded by woodlands, sanctuaries, and parks.

About the Route

From its southern end in Tappan, the trail runs through the hamlets of Sparkill, Orangeburg, and Blauvelt in Rockland County. Although it rolls inland, it joins two other rail-trails that overlook the Hudson River from The Palisades. Already popular with local residents, the 2019 opening of a multiuse path on the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, formerly known as the Tappan Zee Bridge, made the trail even more appealing.

Tappan is a town steeped in Revolutionary War history. The DeWint House, which was built in 1700 and served as a temporary headquarters for George Washington during the war, is located 0.4 mile east on Oak Tree Road.

Heading north through hardwood forest alongside Sparkill Creek, the trail comes to a fork at Depot Square in Sparkill. The right fork joins the [Old Erie Path](#), which follows the old Northern Railroad corridor to the riverfront villages of Piermont and Grand View-on-Hudson and connects to the [Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail](#) in South Nyack. Take the left fork to stay on the Clarke trail and follow the Erie Railroad's main line.

In 1.3 miles, the path arrives in Orangeburg at a pedestrian bridge over NY 303 and crosses Greenbush Road. The hamlet is the former home of Camp Shanks, where 1.3 million GIs stopped before being shipped out to Europe and North Africa from Piermont during World War II. A museum in a simulated barracks about 400 feet north at 20 Greenbush Road tells their story.

The newest 1.6-mile section passes beneath the Orangeburg Road bridge and crosses the CSX Railroad tracks on another pedestrian bridge before arriving in Blauvelt. On the way, the route passes Dominican College and ends across the street from the Lions Town Park and next door to the Blauvelt Free Library, located in the 18th-century home of Judge Cornelius Blauvelt.

Connections

at Depot Square, the right fork of the trail joins the [Old Erie Path](#), which follows the old Northern Railroad corridor to the riverfront villages of Piermont and Grand View-on-Hudson and connects to the [Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail](#) in South Nyack.

Trail History



Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail

New York

States: New York

Counties: Rockland

Length: 4miles

Trail end points: Oak Tree Rd (Tappan) to
Western Hwy S (Blauvelt)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail runs between Western Hwy S (Blauvelt) and Oak Tree Rd (Tappan), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

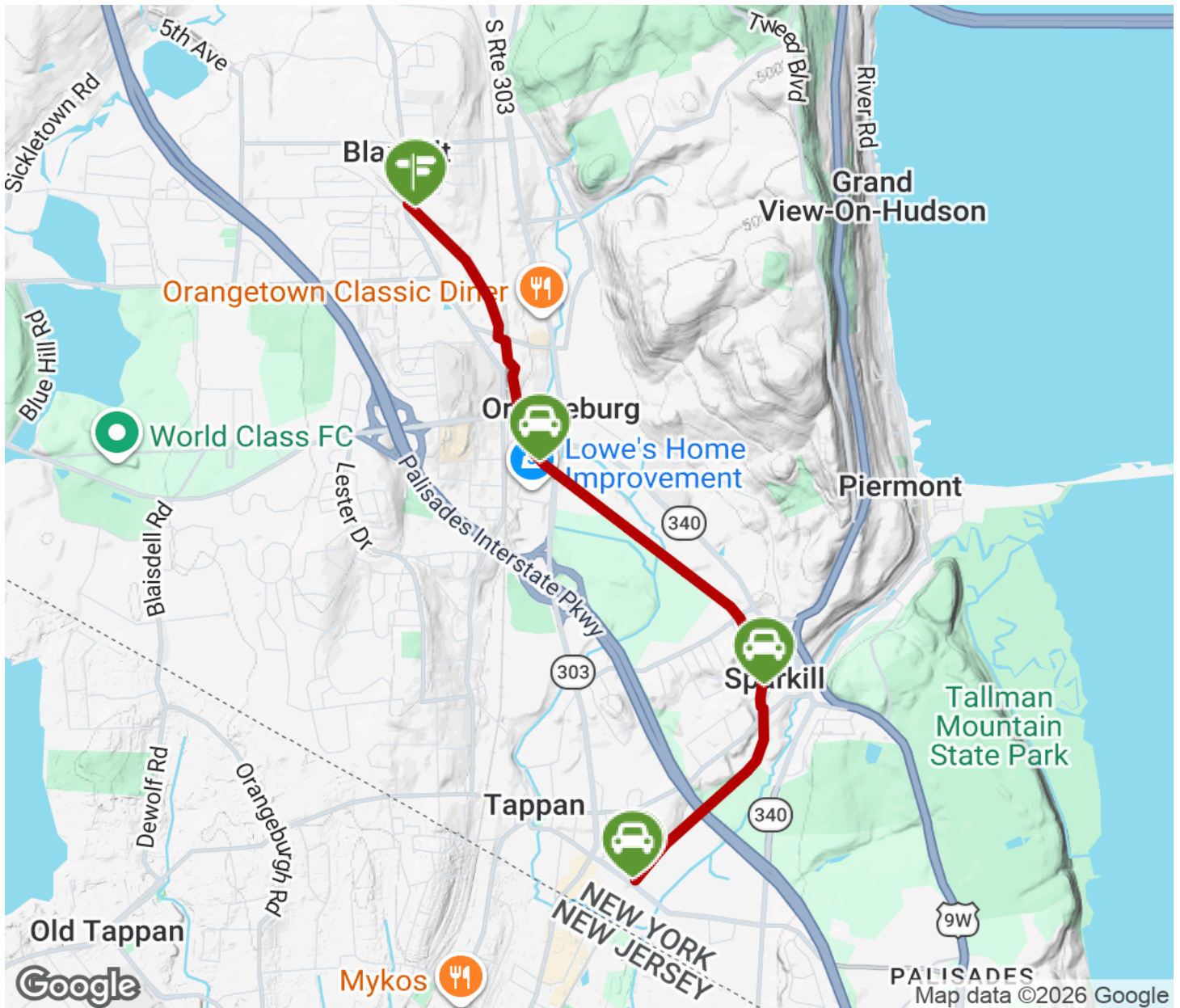
- Sparkill Memorial Park, 600 Main St (Sparkill)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com