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Wallkill Valley Rail Trail New York



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#### About the Route

The corridor's current incarnation as a linear park welcomes all nonmotorized trail users, and the path is well maintained and easy to navigate. The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail is mostly unpaved except when entering the various towns to which it connects. Even so, the unpaved sections are easy to traverse with a hybrid bike, even after inclement weather. Parking is plentiful along the trail, which provides an excellent tree canopy and scenic views of mountains, water features, and prairies. This trail has excellent wayfinding signage and allows many opportunities to enjoy the cafés and other amenities of the several small towns it unites.

Heading south from Kingston to Rosendale, enjoy vistas of Third, Fourth, and Fifth Lakes, as well as the historical cement-mining facilities visible from the trail. Around mile 8, one of the best features of the trail is the Rosendale Trestle, about 150 feet tall and 900 feet long, offering great views of the surrounding Hudson Valley.

From Rosendale, the rail-trail travels beside orchards, organic farms, lakes, streams, and the Wallkill River and provides access to the towns of New Paltz and Gardiner. The National Park Service has designated this multiuse trail as a National Recreation Trail, and it's no wonder. Just west of New Paltz are Mohonk Preserve and Minnewaska State Park Preserve, which provide access to more than 30,000 acres of woodlands, cliffs, trails, and lakes. Fishing opportunities are also available along the Wallkill River.

At 15 miles, the trail meets the Historic Huguenot Street District in New Paltz, which was once home to American Indians and European settlers. Today the district includes a visitor center and local history archive, archaeological sites, historical stone houses, a reconstructed 1717 Huguenot church, a replica Munsee wigwam, and a burial ground that dates to the town's first European settlers.

Continue another 7 miles south from New Paltz to reach the trail's southern terminus in Wallkill. This spot is only 2.5 miles from the northern terminus of the <u>Walden-Wallkill</u> <u>Rail Trail</u> traveling down to Walden and then Wallkill. Note that although no parking is available at the Wallkill endpoint, there may be parking 2.5 miles north in Gardiner.

While the Wallkill Valley Railroad no longer carries fruits and vegetables from Ulster County to New York City, trail users can still discover small, family-owned farms and farmers markets serving up fresh produce, meats, and locally made products and beverages along this route. Today the



## TrailLink.com



States: New York Counties: Ulster Length: 21.4miles Trail end points: NY-32 (Kingston) to Denniston Rd (Gardiner) Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Cinder,Dirt,Gravel Trail category: Rail-Trail Trail activities: Bike,Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

# Parking & Trail Access

The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail runs between NY-32 (Kingston), where parking is available, and Denniston Rd (Gardiner).

Parking is also available at:

• Sojourner Truth Park, 55 Plains Rd (New Paltz)

Visit the <u>TrailLink map</u> for all parking options and detailed directions.









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