

## RAIL TRAIL RULES

- Keep to the right
- Call out when passing
- Bikers and skaters should yield to walkers
- Keep dogs on a short leash and clean up after them
- Do not litter – carry in, carry out
- Stop at all road crossings
- No motorized vehicles permitted
- Do not cut or remove vegetation
- Do not disturb or feed wildlife
- Park only in designated areas
- Respect our rail trail neighbors: stay on the trail; please be quiet near residences
- No alcoholic beverages, camping or fires
- No hunting on the trail

## RAIL TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY

### Trail length

- Wassaic to Millerton: 10.7 miles
- Undermountain Road to Copake Falls: 4 miles

### Linear trail

- Open year round, hiking, biking, multi-use
- Winter use includes cross country skiing and snowshoeing

### Typical Grade is 0.8%

### Typical Cross Slope is 1.0%

### Typical Tread Width is 123 inches

### Trail Surface is Asphalt

- 100% of the trail is Paved

### Hazards and Obstructions

- Bollard – 37 inches apart

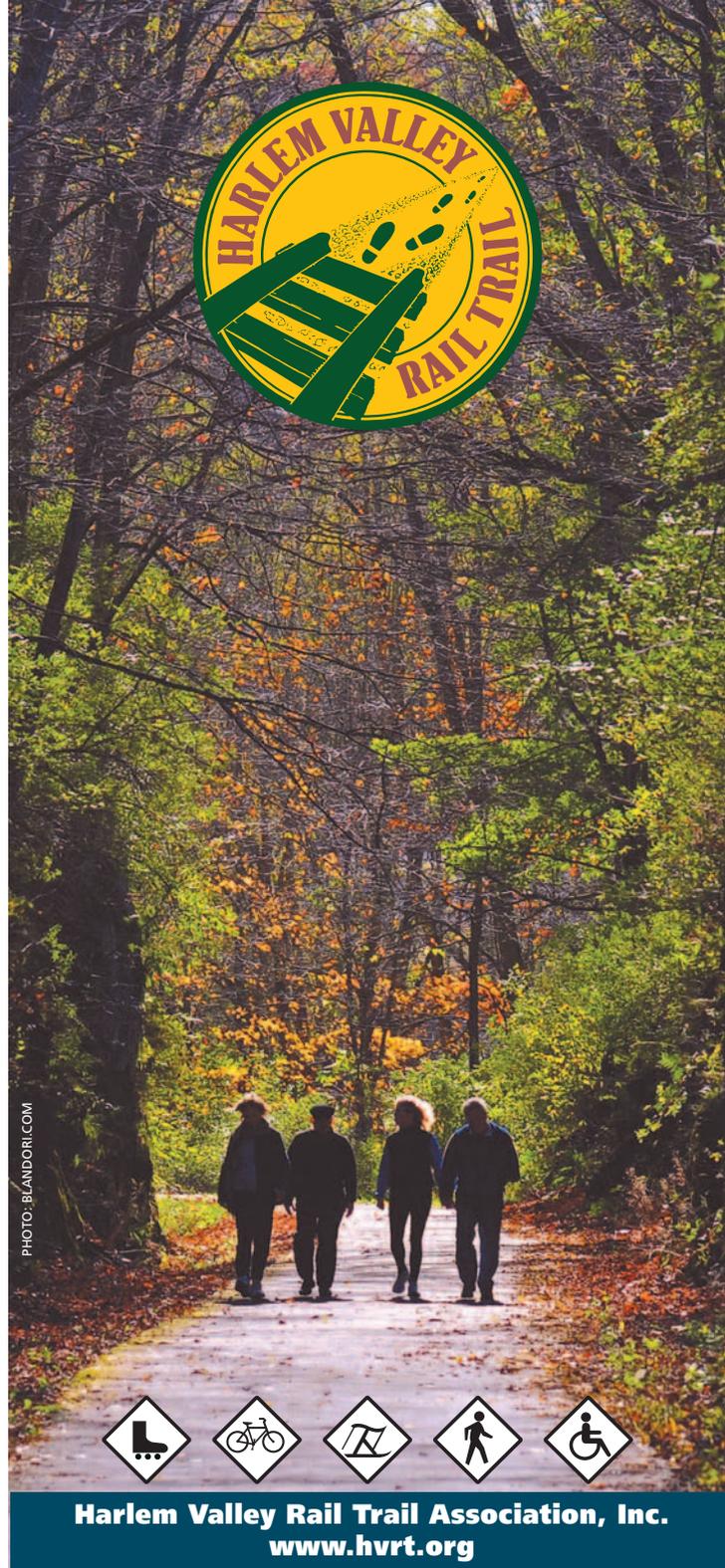
Warning: Temporary obstructions (e.g. fallen trees or land slides) may occur from time to time.

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PHOTO BY JEANNE REBILLARD

PHOTO: BLANDOR.COM



**Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.**  
[www.hvrt.org](http://www.hvrt.org)

## About the Trail

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail right-of-way spans 46 miles from Wassaic to Chatham, NY. The completed trail covers 14-plus miles in two locations. Ultimately the trail will pass by towns, villages, three schools, three public parks, and a county fair-ground. In addition, the trail courses through some of the Harlem Valley's most scenic land including farms, wetlands, beaver ponds, woods, rolling pastures, and magnificent vistas. This is a spectacular opportunity for trail users to experience the environmentally diverse and scenic rural landscape of Columbia and Dutchess Counties.

### SECTION 1

Metro-North Station, Wassaic to Mechanic St., Amenia | Length: 2.6 miles | Status: Paved and open.

### SECTION 2

Mechanic St., Amenia to Coleman Station | Length: 4.6 miles | Status: Paved and open.

### SECTION 3

Coleman Station to Main St., Millerton | Length: 3.5 miles | Status: Paved and open.

### SECTION 4

Main St., Millerton to Undermountain Rd., Ancram | Length: 8 miles | Status: Unimproved.

### SECTION 5

Under Mountain Rd., Ancram to Taconic State Park Copake Falls Entrance | Length: 4.0 miles | Status: Paved and open.

### SECTION 6

Copake Falls to Chatham | Length: 22.5 miles. Privately owned. HVRTA has purchased 14 of these miles. State Parks is seeking to purchase the remaining parcels from willing sellers. (See Proposed Expansion)

## Visit the local towns

The trail passes directly through the towns of Amenia, Millerton and Copake Falls. Take time to stop and visit the shops and restaurants each of these communities has to offer.

## Along the trail you can see...

**A** **Taconic State Park**, Route 344, Copake Falls. Swimming, fishing, picnicking, campsites, children's swimming area and hiking. A one-mile hike takes you to Bash Bish Falls in Massachusetts.

**B** At **Copake Falls** the **ore bed, furnace and exhibits** explaining the history of the Copake Iron Works are near the trail.

**C** The former **Copake Falls railroad station** is now a convenience store.

**D** A **concrete marker** says "NY 101" just north of Undermountain Road. Here you are precisely 101 miles north of Grand Central Station.

**E** Another hiking trail near Boston Corners rises steeply up **Alander Mountain**. At the top of the mountain you can hike north to Bash Bish Falls or connect to any of the South Taconic Trails.

**F** A steep half-mile ascent from Deer Run Road (off Route 63) leads to a fairly flat, approximately one-mile hike to **Brace Mountain**, elevation 2,311 feet, the highest point in Dutchess County.

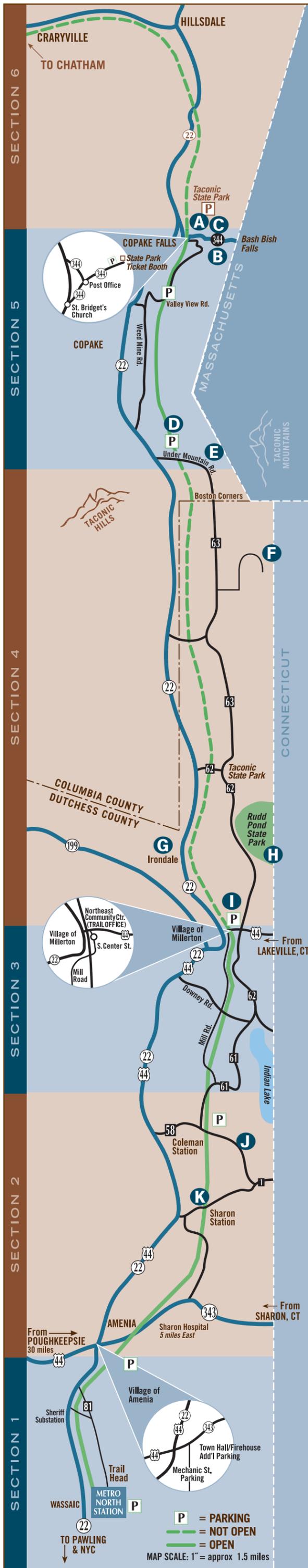
**G** The **Irondale Furnace**, just north of Millerton, is another historic example of an industry that once dominated this region.

**H** **Taconic State Park**, Rudd Pond, Millerton. Lakeside beach and bathhouse, fishing, picnicking, row-boat rentals, campsite, children's play area, cross country skiing and sledding.

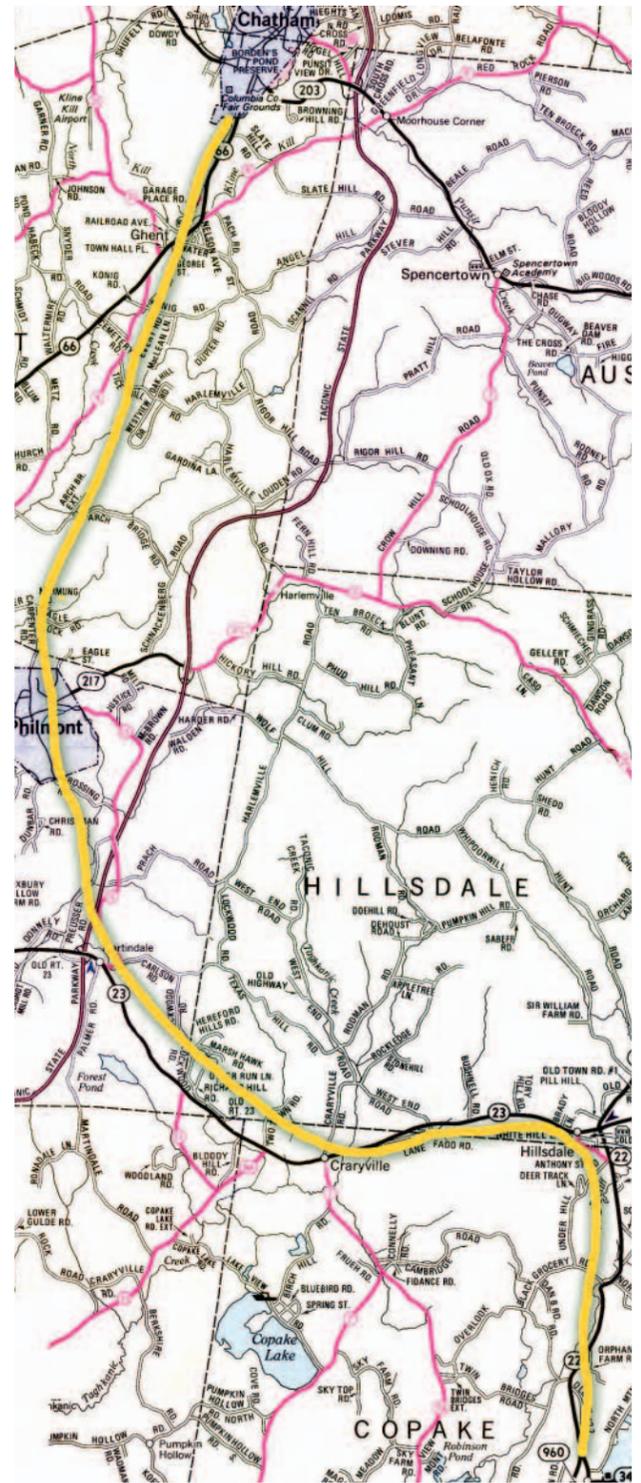
**I** The **railroad station in Millerton** seems to have changed little since the days when it was a focus of village activity.

**J** At **Coleman Station**, the railroad station located to the east is gone. The **Diana K. Temple Memorial Garden** is now located here.

**K** The railroad station at **Sharon Station** was recently restored to its original 1870 appearance.



## PROPOSED FUTURE TRAIL EXPANSION



## DIRECTIONS TO SOUTH TRAILHEAD

**From New York City to Wassaic** (approx. 80 miles; travel time 1 hour, 45 minutes): Take the Saw Mill Parkway (from Manhattan) or Hutchinson River Parkway (from Queens, Bronx and Brooklyn) north to Interstate 684. Take I-684 north to Brewster, where 684 becomes Route 22. Continue north on Route 22 until you reach the Wassaic Station of Metro North Railroad. Parking is available at the station for a fee on weekdays; free on weekends and holidays.

**By train from NYC:** Take MetroNorth's Harlem Line to the final station, Wassaic. The Wassaic trailhead is right at the station. For train info call 800-METRO-INFO; in NYC 212-532-4900.

**From Poughkeepsie to Amenia** (approx. 30 miles; travel time 40 minutes): Take Route 44 east to Amenia. At the single traffic light go straight onto Route 343. Take the first right (across from Cumberland Farms) onto Mechanic Street. The trail is on the left.

**From Connecticut:** Take Route 4 or 41 to Sharon. At the clock tower turn right on to Route 343 west toward Amenia. Take the left across from the Cumberland Farms in Amenia onto Mechanic Street. The trailhead is on the left. Or take Route 44 west through Lakeville into Millerton. The Millerton trailhead is across from the old train station in Railroad Plaza.

## DIRECTIONS TO COPAKE FALLS TRAILHEAD

**From the north:** Reach Route 22 south. From Albany take the Taconic Parkway south to Route 23. Take Route 23 east to Hillsdale and pick up Route 22 south at the stop light. From Hillsdale proceed 4 miles to Route 344. Turn left and proceed about half a mile to the triangular green. Bear to the left to the stop sign. Proceed straight about a third of a mile to the entrance of Taconic State Park; ask the attendant where to park.

**From the south:** Take Route 22 north to Route 344, about 6 miles north of Millerton. Turn right and follow the directions above.

Please do not park in areas not designated for Rail Trail.

## THE HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL...

...is a paved bicycle/pedestrian path built on the old railroad bed that connected New York City, the Harlem Valley and Chatham, NY. The trains stopped running on the Harlem Line north of Dover Plains in 1976. Three years later, the tracks from Wassaic to Chatham were removed. In 1989, New York State purchased 22 miles of the right-of-way from Wassaic to Copake Falls, NY to build, in cooperation with Dutchess County, a linear park (a portion of which is part of the Taconic State Park System in Columbia County). This new rail trail is ideal for walkers, runners, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, wheelchair users, hikers, and other who want to enjoy the beauty of the Harlem Valley landscape.



Former Copake Falls Rail Station

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

Dutchess County Tourism: (800) 445-3131  
Columbia County Tourism: (800) 724-1846



Millerton Station

## WILDLIFE & WETLANDS AROUND

The natural rhythms of the seasons coupled with the wonders of nature have made the Harlem Valley Rail Trail a trail for all seasons. It offers a tremendous opportunity for trail users to observe a variety of animal species and plant life in their undisturbed habitats.

Animals living here include many species of birds (including the blue heron), beavers, raccoons, deer, coyotes, foxes, hawks, owls, and turtles, to name a few. You can see signs of these animals all along the trail in the form of such things as beaver dams, turtle eggs, and fox dens.

The plant life along the trail is breathtaking. In the summer the joe pieweed, one of the many beautiful wild flowers, can be seen waving in the breeze all along the trail.

Come and take in the beauty of the wetland grasses, the variety of wildflowers, the sounds of nature, and the fall colors.



## BECOME A MEMBER

Your membership donation to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association helps support our volunteer trail maintenance program, and our efforts to speed completion of the trail from Wassaic to Chatham. Please join the Rail Trail community by becoming a member. You will receive our newsletter and timely updates.

Annual Dues:

- \$15 ( Individual)       \$25 (Family)
- \$50                               \$100
- \$200                               Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to volunteer along the trail, in the office, or at events.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to HVRTA and mail with completed form to:  
P.O. Box 356, Millerton, NY 12546  
or  
P.O. Box 99, Copake, NY 12516

Thank you for your support.  
Enjoy the trail!

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc.  
(518) 789-9591 • www.hvrt.org

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