Wallkill Valley Rail Trail

Location
Ulster County and Orange County

Trail Length Vision
38 Miles

Communities to be Served

Trail Will Connect With
Catskill Mountain Rail Trail, Empire State Trail, River-to-Ridge Trail, Shawangunk Ridge Carriage Roads, Schunnemunk Rail Trail, and the Orange County Heritage Trail.

Immediate Funding Goals
• $100,000 to leverage public funding for improvements to the 6.25-mile section from the Village of New Paltz to the Town of Gardiner.
• $1.5 million for rehabilitation of the trail from Gardiner to Wallkill.

The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail currently runs from the City of Kingston to Gardiner, and is envisioned to extend as far south as the Village of Chester. It runs through the scenic Binnewater Hills, the northern reaches of the Shawangunk Ridge, and scenic farmland, and includes a 940-foot long trestle and pedestrian walkway over the Rondout Creek in Rosendale.
**OSI History**
In 2009, OSI partnered with the Wallkill Valley Land Trust to acquire more than 11 miles of the northern Rosendale and Ulster sections of what is now the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail and, in 2013, the organizations raised nearly $1.5 million to restore the Rosendale Trestle. Then, between 2018 and 2022, OSI raised another $2 million to fully restore more than 13 miles of the trail from the City of Kingston through the Village of New Paltz.

**Impact**
The Wallkill Valley Rail Trail functions as a major engine for tourism activity in the communities along its route. A section of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail is part of New York’s Empire State Trail.

**Current Projects**
- Restoration of a five-mile section of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail from New Paltz to Gardiner.
- Extending the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail further south into Orange County to connect with the Schunnemunk Rail Trail and Orange County Heritage Trail.

**Trail Partners**
Wallkill Valley Land Trust, New York State Parks, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy, Ulster County, Orange County, the Village of New Paltz, and Towns of Ulster, Rosendale, New Paltz, and Gardiner.

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