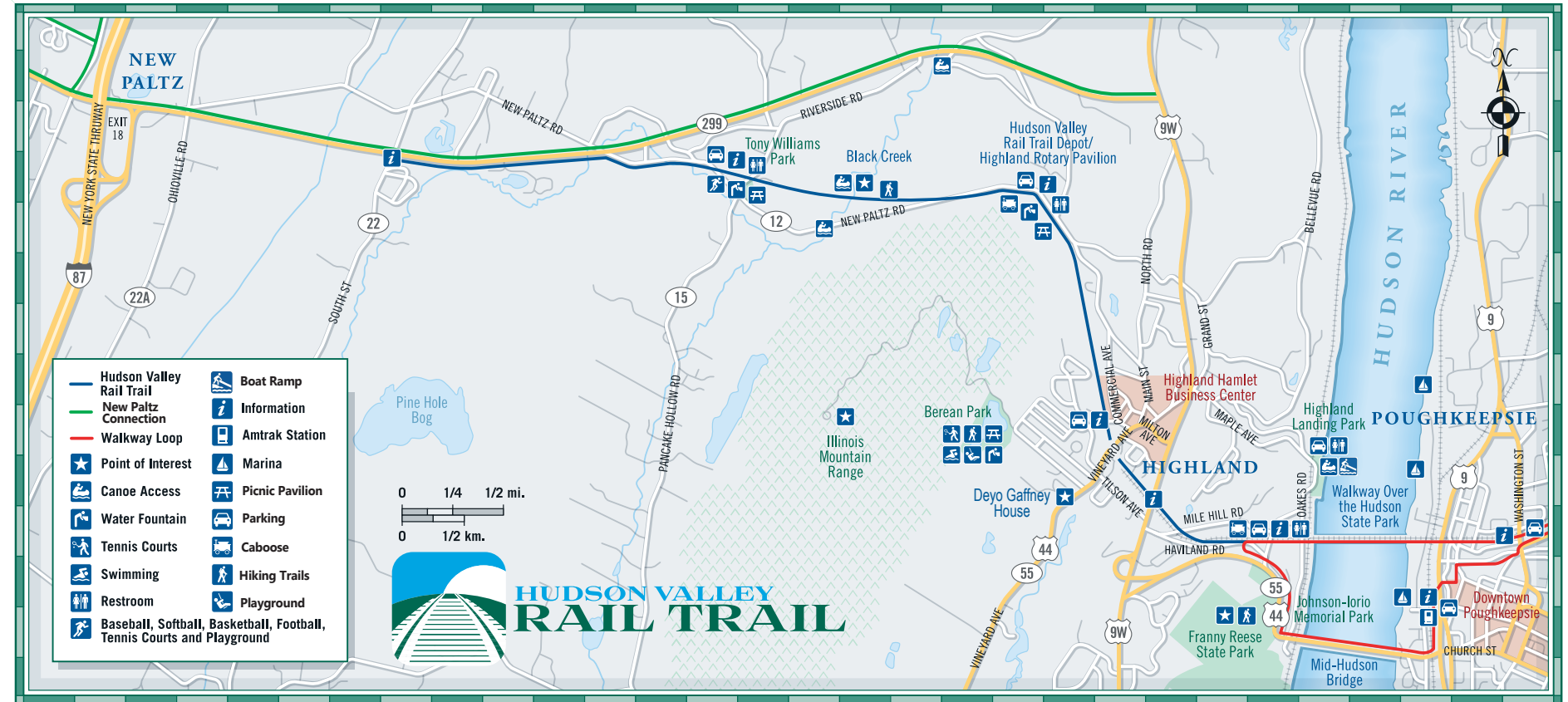




From Walkway Over the Hudson to the Hamlet of Highland and beyond. . .



. . .five and half miles of paved adventure through time and nature.



0.0: Walkway Over The Hudson.

0.1: Parking Lot at 75 Haviland Road, 1926 Caboose Gallery, info kiosks.

0.3: Deep rock cut for the former railroad.

0.4 to 0.5: Overpasses for Mile Hill Rd. and 9W.

0.6: Pedestrian access ramp to/from 9W.

0.8: Site of old Pratt Lumber Yard. Closed Vintage Village antique center; apartment building on right.

0.9: Trail crosses bridge over Vineyard Avenue.

1.1: Commercial Ave. Parking Lot. RR signal Tower on right. Rotary Centennial Garden on left. Nearby is a RR artifacts display behind which is site of locomotive turntable being developed.

1.3: Start of 1/2 mile long Rotary fitness circuit.

2.1: Rotary Pavilion and 1915 Caboose; parking.

2.2: Old steel bridge above for farmer access to fields.

2.3: Long rock cut for railroad.

2.5: New Paltz Road Overpass.

2.7: RR signal on right; access to new Woods Walk on earlier rail bed on which railroad ran. This leads to a footpath to the banks of Black Creek.

2.8: RR signal on left; rail trail runs on 1/2-mile long Viaduct 25 feet above Black Creek Marsh.

3.2: Black Creek. Stairs to stream & beach.

3.5: Tony Williams Park. Town park with parking, facilities, ball fields, tennis courts and children's area.

3.6: Past Riverside Rd. Overpass trail runs through steep-sided ravine.

3.8: New Paltz Rd. Overpass.

3.9: Trail crosses over stream. On left stream makes a 90 degree turn to go over small waterfall.

4.1: Trail Parking Lot across from firehouse.

4.4: Trail crosses over stream; vast marsh on left.

5.5: Trail Terminus at South Street, Parking.

Ahead is a 3.25 mile trail connection through New Paltz to the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail.

Directions to Rail Trail

Near Walkway: From 9W turn on Haviland Rd. to trail parking lot on left (75 Haviland Road).

9W Pedestrian Access: Ramp is on west side of 9W, just North of Tillson Ave.

Commercial Ave. Parking: From Vineyard Ave. turn on Commercial Ave., take 1st road on left.

Rotary Pavilion: From Route 299 take South Chodikee Road; make right on New Paltz Road; go to trail parking on left (101 New Paltz Road).

Tony Williams Park: From Route 299 turn on South Riverside Road. Parking lot is on left.

Trail Parking Lot: From Route 299 turn East on New Paltz Rd. Lot is across from firehouse.

South St. Parking Lot: Take Route 299 to South Street; lot is across from Lowe's Store.

Highland

The commercial center of the Town of Lloyd, Highland is a rural, family-oriented community featuring apple orchards and plenty of open space with Illinois Mountain as a backdrop and the beautiful Black Creek Corridor accessible via the Hudson Valley Rail Trail. From launching a kayak or boat on the Hudson to hiking and everything in between, Highland offers a small-town feel, yet close proximity to everything.

Trail Safety & Courtesy

- *Open from dawn to dusk*
- *No motorized vehicles except wheelchairs*
- *No alcoholic beverages*
- *No littering; pick up after dogs*

CYCLIST & SKATERS

- *Yield to pedestrians*
- *Go slow near them, pass in single file*
- *Give warning even if room to pass*
- *No more than two abreast*
- *Keep to right on trail*
- *Bell required on bike*

PEDESTRIANS

- *Allow room for faster users to pass*
- *Look behind when passing others or changing direction*
- *No more than two abreast*
- *Keep to right on trail*
- *Be watchful of your children*
- *Leash/control dogs, maximum 6' leash*

Hudson Valley Rail Trail Assoc.

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating, maintaining, promoting and improving the Hudson Valley Rail Trail in Highland on behalf of the Town of Lloyd.

For info on activities and membership:
Hudson Valley Rail Trail Association
12 Church Street, Highland, NY 12528
www.hudsonvalleyrailtrails.org

Rail Trail Origins

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail sits on an abandoned part of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. Ulster County took possession of these sections due to back taxes and then sold off portions to recoup some funding. A 5.5 mile stretch of this abandoned railroad was given to Highland in the 1990s.

In 1997, a company was interested in running a fiber optics line that stretched from the NYS Thruway to Poughkeepsie. They put in an offer of \$10,000 to use the rail trail for this project. Ray Constantino, town councilman at the time, saw an opportunity to enhance the rail trail inspired by a rail trail walk at Lake George he had enjoyed with his wife Claire. Ray, also a member of the Highland Rotary, had previously proposed this idea to the Town Board as a project for the group and now there was an opportunity to fund this idea. Negotiations brought the \$10,000 offer up to \$400,000 because it would save the company 1 million in the long run – a win for everyone involved.



TIME LINE:

- 199? – Highland acquires 5.5 mile stretch of abandoned railroad
- 1997 – Proposal from fiber optics company to run optics line through this stretch turns into a \$400,000 funding opportunity
- 2009 – Walkway Over the Hudson opens
- 2010 – Rail trail is extended eastward 1.1 miles to connect with Walkway Over the Hudson
- 2018 – The town adds 0.7 miles from Tony Williams Park to near Route 299, Ulster County then added another 1.2 miles to South Street
- ??? – Highland Rotary adds amenities (Pavilion, bathrooms, exercise stations, etc.)

Our Rail Trail is now a vital link in the Empire State Trail system that extends from NYC northward to Canada, and westward to Buffalo.

A Passage East To West

As you leave the Walkway Over The Hudson and go under the Rail Trail Gateway Arch, you enter a passage of varied terrain and experiences that you will not soon forget.

First, is a 1926 caboose, a reminder that this was once a major railroad freight line for moving goods and raw materials. Inside are exhibits about the trains and the role caboose crews played. Adjacent is a deep canopy of trees that in summer shades. After a long rock cut, the trail comes to an abandoned lumber yard on the edge of the Hamlet of Highland with access to shops and eateries.



The rail trail now breaks out into wider, more open space. Along this stretch you find a commemorative garden for reflection and a par course fitness circuit to work your muscles. You next come to the Rotary Pavilion with rest rooms, covered picnic tables and a 1915 caboose. Just ahead is an old farmers' bridge built to give them access over the tracks to fields and orchards. Here the trail goes through a deep rock cut that glistens with ice formations in winter to enjoy as the trail is regularly plowed.

More railroad evidence: several train signal towers. At the first one is access to a new Woods Walk and a footpath to Black Creek. Now the rail trail runs on a half mile long earthen viaduct built high above the surrounding marsh. Below you is Black Creek and a small beach that you can descend to via stairs. Just ahead is Tony Williams Park with ball fields, children's area and rest rooms. Here is a broad view of the back slope of Illinois Mountain.

The trail then runs through a deep ravine and crosses a stream with a small waterfall. Now the trail goes along a highway. But even here you are often shielded by trees from road traffic and are on the edge of remnants of a once great marsh.