

HISTORY OF THE O&W RAILROAD

The former O&W Railroad, or the "New York, Ontario and Western Railway (NYO&W)," stretched from Weehawken, N.J. to Oswego, N.Y. From its start in the late 19th century until its bankruptcy in the 1950's, the route was mainly used for transporting people, coal, and dairy to and from rural communities across New York and the New York City metropolitan area. The rail line experienced financial strains when the coal industry wavered during the 1920's and persisted to decline through the mid-20th century. The railroad went bankrupt and liquidated its assets in 1957.

THE SULLIVAN O&W RAIL TRAIL INITIATIVE

The O&W Rail Trail in Sullivan County has been a decades-long effort, spearheaded by multiple municipal, private, and grassroots organizations, all with a common goal of connecting communities along the corridor and providing an important recreation and transportation asset to area residents and visitors alike. The current effort to connect the existing segments of the O&W Trail is led by Sullivan County and a committee comprised of trail municipalities, community residents, businesses, and civic organizations. Their vision is a continuous recreational trail linking businesses and amenities in nine hamlets and two villages.

ABOUT THE SULLIVAN O&W TRAILS

PARKSVILLE RAIL TRAIL

The 1.3-mile unpaved trail looks down upon the scenic Little Beaver Kill and is easily accessible from New York State Route 17. From the trailhead, you can walk, bike, or ride horseback under the lush tree canopy and admire the views of the stream below. At the southern end of the trail, the small hamlet of Parksville offers food and convenience retail. The trailhead features accessible parking and informational signage.

LIBERTY RAIL TRAIL

At over **2.7 miles** in length, this **multi-surfaced trail** accommodates biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. The trail is a short walk from the Village of Liberty's historic business district, and the outdoor recreation experiences of Walnut Mountain Park. The gravel trailhead offers parking and informational signage. The trail ends at the northern abutment of the long-gone Ferndale span.

HURLEYVILLE RAIL TRAIL

Referred to locally as "The Milk Train Trail," the Hurleyville segment of the O&W features nearly two miles of smooth-surfaced, ADA-compliant multi-use trail, extending in each direction from the center of the hamlet for a total of 3.5 miles. To the east, an additional 1.9 miles of gravel-surface trail connects Hurleyville to South Fallsburg. he fast revitalizing hamlet of Hurleyville contains a variety of venues for arts, cuisine, and culture in a walkable and universally accessible streetscape.

WOODRIDGE RAIL TRAIL

This 1.7-mile length of multi-surface trail connects the Village of Woodridge with the Neversink River to the west. Woodridge offers opportunities for dining and re-supply, some of them seasonal.

MOUNTAIN DALE RAIL TRAIL

A replica of the Mountain Dale Depot building anchors the trailhead for this **2.6-mile cinder-paved** segment connecting Mountain Dale with Woodridge. It features a display of historic photos, along with public restrooms, parking, picnic tables, and a basketball court. A trailside bike shop offers rentals as well as sales and repairs. In the hamlet, trail users can grab a bite to eat and browse a growing number of shops and galleries.

MAMAKATING TRAILS

The O&W in Mamakating is part of a system of intersecting trails that have been developed along former rail lines and canal towpaths. Stretching from the Orange County border at the bottom of the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area up to the residential hamlets of Summitville and Phillipsport, surface conditions vary, making these 10.5 miles of trail mainly suitable for hikers and mountain bicyclists. At the center is the Village of Wurtsboro, with main street restaurants, shops, and amenities.



