



Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail - Cohoes to Rotterdam Junction Section

ALONG THE BIKE-HIKE TRAIL - A BRIEF HISTORY

Located at the confluence of the HUDSON and MOHAWK Rivers, New York State's Capital District is rich in the foundations of American social and technological history. From its earliest days as a collection of European settlements in the lands of the Iroquois Indian Federation, the region quickly grew into an established center of trade, industry, and government.

As this country began its surge westward, the ports of Albany on the Hudson and Schenectady on the Mohawk, connected first by King's Highway, were critical in the achievement of America's "manifest destiny". The construction of the Erie Canal in 1823, called the greatest engineering feat of its era, further solidified the area's place in post-colonial development. The world's first steam passenger train, and America's first inter-city rail route, linked Albany and Schenectady in 1831. This "Mohawk and Hudson" rail line added to the region's importance as a center of transportation and commerce. Combined with unequalled waterpower and abundant human and natural resources, the cities of Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Cohoes, and Watervliet, as well as their surrounding villages and towns, led the Industrial Revolution into the Twentieth Century.

Today, the Capital District covers some 2,000 square miles and is home to more than three-quarters of a million people. It's mix of communities offers convenient urban services, sophisticated cultural attractions, a wide variety of very affordable residential settings, diverse employment and educational opportunities and impressive natural beauty.

One of the region's most notable and popular recreational features, a cooperative project among the state, counties, and their municipalities, is the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail...itself a part of this region's magnificent tradition. In many sections, the trail was built directly upon the former railroad grades and canal towpaths of the area's first transportation routes. It passes next to and through the many historic neighborhoods, buildings, and sites that remain to tell the story of the Capital District's heritage.

As you ride, jog, walk, or skate along the various sections of the Bike-Hike Trail, the many views of our majestic rivers will be nothing short of spectacular; but make sure you take notice of some of America's earliest mills, dams, locks, bridges, mansions, churches, and music halls along the way. The serenity of traveling through the shaded green spaces will be an enjoyable experience.



Acknowledgments

This map was produced and designed by the Capital District Transportation Committee using Geographic Information Systems Technology.

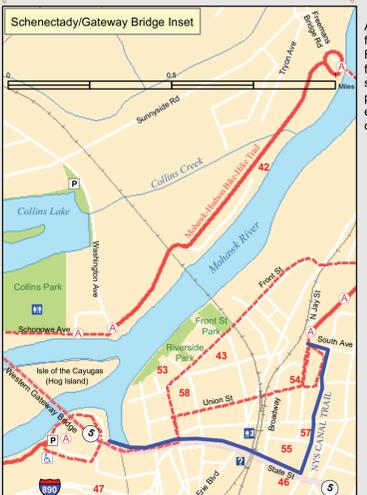
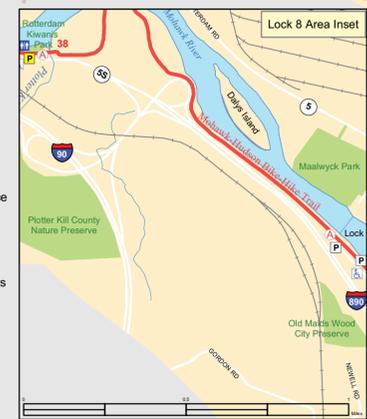
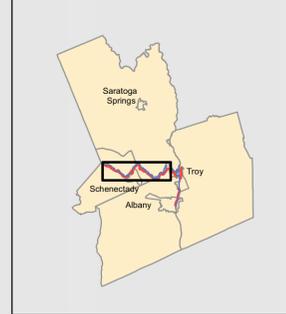
Input was provided by members of CDTC's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force. Data and text provided by NYSDOT. CDTC staff verified the locations of trail amenities as well as on-road signage. All data reflects existing trail conditions at the time of print.

Copies of this map, as well as CDTC's Regional Bike-Hike Map can be obtained from the Capital District Transportation Committee.

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AREA OF MAP COVERAGE



As you head north out of Schenectady and into Niskayuna, away from the edge of the Mohawk and along the old Penn Central Railroad bed, you will find a comfortable ride along the relatively flat grade. The exception occurs at the heavily forested hillside separating the old railroad from the gently rolling fields of the plateau above. This area is characterized by a steep grade with exciting turns. Be sure to watch for other trail users, especially on this section of the trail.

Local Attractions Index

- 39 Shaker Miller's House c. 1820
- 40 Cornieus Reynold's House c. 1848
- 41 Schenectady Yacht Club Information: 518-384-9971
- 42 Canal Bridge Replica
- 43 Stockade Historic District Information: 518-374-0263
- 44 Union College Information: 518-388-6000
- 45 Schenectady Museum & Planetarium Information: 518-382-7890
- 46 Proctors Theater Information: 518-346-2604
- 47 Schenectady County Community College Information: 518-381-1200
- 48 General Electric
- 49 Rotterdam Square Mall Information: 518-374-3713
- 50 Platter Kill Aqueduct
- 51 Rexford Aqueduct State Historic Site
- 52 Glenville Mini Sportsplex Information: 518-393-4140
- 53 Schenectady County Historical Society Information: 518-374-0236
- 54 Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame Information: 518-785-5537
- 55 Jay Street Pedestrian Mall Information: 518-382-2663
- 56 Schenectady Light Opera Theater Information: 518-393-5732
- 57 Schenectady City Hall Information: 518-382-5035
- 58 Governor Yates House Information: 518-374-0263

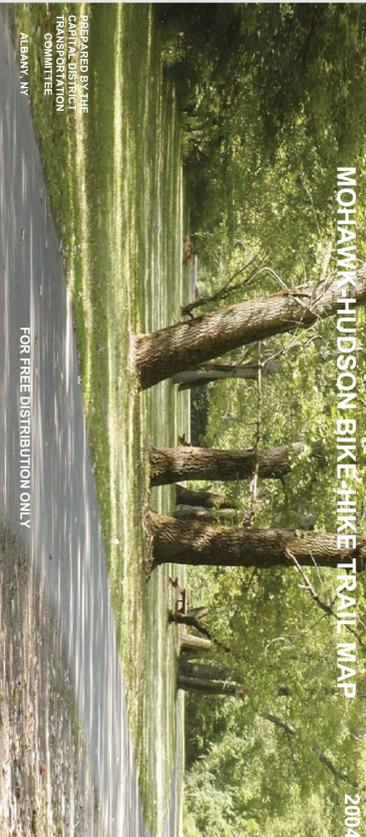
With the exception of the section that parallels River Road, you will once again be on the old railroad grade that tunnels through the over-hanging trees. Wildlife is abundant along this section of the trail. Intermittent views of the Mohawk and adjacent wetlands are also visible in this area. Lock 7 is a particularly nice area to relax and enjoy the activity along the Mohawk.

The old railroad bed provides a variety of spectacular views. Birds are common on the edge of the Mohawk, in this area. The open shoreline near Forts Ferry Road offers one of the most dramatic views of the sunset along the entire trail.

LEGEND

- Trailhead Parking with Restroom Facilities
- Trailhead Parking
- Trail Access
- Steep Hill
- Narrow Road
- Busy Intersection
- Restroom Facilities
- Visitors Center
- Rail Stations
- Accessible Trailhead
- Hospitals
- Local Bike Trails
- Local Attractions (Please see Index)
- Connecting Trails (On-Road)
- Connecting Trails (Off-Road)
- Mohawk - Hudson Bike - Hike Trail (On-Road)
- Mohawk - Hudson Bike - Hike Trail (Off-Road)
- Mohawk - Hudson Bike - Hike Trail (Gravel)
- Railroad Tracks
- Roads
- State Bike Route 5
- Parks and Recreational Lands
- Lakes and Rivers
- Cities, Villages, and Towns

1 inch equals 0.5 miles
0 0.5 1 Miles



Along the westerly end of the bike-hike trail you will experience the contrast between the old Erie Canal and the more recent Erie Barge Canal along the Mohawk River. Seclusion can be found while traveling along the original Canal Tow Path. The section of trail near Interstate 890 offers some of the most dramatic views of the Mohawk River. At canal lock 8 you can experience the raising and lowering of the water as boats pass through.

With the City of Schenectady overlooking the Mohawk River, you will have the option of traveling along the floodplain on the north side or traversing urban streets on the south side. Quaint shops and restaurants can be found in the Jay/State Street area of downtown Schenectady. A peaceful trip through the quiet streets of the Stockade Historic District will provide a memorable experience. Downtown Schenectady and the Stockade are accessible from a section of the trail along a former railroad bed. The section of the trail in Glenville on the North side of the Mohawk provides relaxing picnicking areas at Collins Park and Freedom Park.