

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

Marbletown Trails Committee
marbletown.net/MarbletownOWRailTrail.cfm

**Rondout Valley Business Association's
Rail Trail Initiative**
rondoutvalley.org/RondoutValleyBusinessAssociationInitiatives.aspx

**D & H Canal Historical Society and Museum,
and Five Locks Walk**
canalmuseum.org

Stone Ridge Public Library
stoneridgelibrary.org

Bevier House Museum
bevierhousemuseum.org

The Mohonk Preserve
mohonkpreserve.org

Minnewaska State Park
nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/127/details.aspx

D & H Canal Heritage Corridor Alliance
dandhcorridor.org

Shawangunk Mountains Scenic Byway
mtmscenicbyway.org

Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association
gorailtrail.org

Walkway Over the Hudson NYS Park
walkway.org

Ulster County Tourism
ulstercountyalive.com

The Marbletown O&W Rail Trail has been designated a "Greenway Land Trail" by the Hudson River Valley Greenway. This makes Marbletown's trail the second longest designated trail in Ulster County. The Town thanks the Greenway for funding this brochure through its Conservancy Small Grant Program.

**Hudson River Valley
Greenway**
hudsongreenway.state.ny.us



MARBLETOWN RAIL TRAIL



Marbletown, NY

THE MARBLETOWN O&W RAIL TRAIL

Welcome to the Marbletown Rail Trail, a publicly owned linear park that follows the path of the old Ontario and Western (O&W) Railroad. The Rail Trail is free and open to the public for walking, running, biking, cross-country skiing, dog walking, horseback riding and nature study throughout the year.

To take a walk along the Rail Trail is to enjoy beautiful scenery and fresh air. It is also a chance to ponder a rich transportation history; one that has evolved from the construction of canals and railways, to the emergence of the automobile and the creation of modern day recreational parkland.

Imagine yourself living in the Hudson Valley in the early 1900s. The D&H Canal, once a busy thoroughfare from Pennsylvania to the Hudson River, has filed for bankruptcy as the various railroads are coming into their own. Freight and passengers, no longer hauled by canal barge through the hamlet of High Falls, are now serviced by the Ellenville to Kingston O&W Railroad spur built by Italian immigrants. Henry Ford's founding of the Ford Motor Company in 1903 has brought the first production line for the "Model T". America is on its way to a new industrial prosperity and an expansive auto road system to service a fast growing country.

Now fast forward to 1957. Traffic has been eliminated on the entire O&W railway line and the company is getting ready to end all operations. The NYS Thruway and Route 17 north from New York City have been completed. The latest transportation technology, the Boeing 707, will fly travelers to far away vacation destinations, supplanting the annual summer exodus from the City to the Catskills' resorts. There is no longer a need for train service to the Catskill Mountains.

If you are reading this on the Marbletown O&W Rail Trail you are now part of this history. Along the trail you will see remnants of the past, including



old stone abutments which once held up the mighty railroad tracks. Many of these blocks of stone were re-used from dismantled canal locks in and around High Falls. You will also see two original train stations (now privately owned) and even an occasional railroad tie. All these are reminders that you are on a historical transportation time-line rescued from extinction by a group of history and nature lovers who began "saving" the trail as Ulster County took over the rail bed in 1957.

Now owned and maintained by the Town of Marbletown, the Marbletown O&W Rail Trail is almost nine miles long, and is linked to the Town of Hurley Rail Trail at its northern end. To the south, the towns of Rochester and Wawarsing and the Village of Ellenville are working diligently to refurbish and expand this scenic trail so that someday in the not-too-distant future, visitors will be able to travel on foot from Kingston to Ellenville along a continuous trail through our beautiful Rondout Valley.

All are welcome to use the trail year-round and to explore the various venues in and around the hamlets of High Falls and Stone Ridge. Within a mile or two in each direction from the Trail, you will find shops, restaurants and historic architecture as inviting as the natural beauty of the landscape. Learn about the old canal at the D&H Canal Museum and Five Locks Walk in High Falls. Visit the Library in Stone Ridge and take a walk along Main Street for views of other handsome well-preserved 18th century stone houses. Most of all...enjoy the plants and wildlife along the trail, it's scenic vistas, and all that Marbletown has to offer.



ACCESS TO THE RAIL TRAIL

The Marbletown O&W Rail Trail is open from dawn to dusk 365 days a year. Motorized vehicles, including ATV's and snowmobiles, are prohibited (with the exception of powered wheel chairs). Firearms, fires, and camping are strictly prohibited on the trail.

Public access to the trail is currently via four trail heads with parking. Proceeding south from the city of Kingston on NYS Route 209 they are located on Route 209 (Town of Hurley), Marcott Road, Cottekill Road, and Leggett Road. The trail ends at the Kripplebush Creek approximately one half mile south of Rest Plaus Road. See the centerfold map for more details about trail access.

MORE ABOUT THE TOWN OF MARBLETOWN

The Town of Marbletown (www.marbletown.net) is located in the heart of the Rondout Valley at the foot of the Catskill Mountains. Places of interest in Stone Ridge located west of the trail on Main Street (NYS Route 209) are the Stone Ridge Library, the Stone Ridge Historic District, the Marbletown Community Center and Marbletown Town Hall. SUNY Ulster, the county's community college, is located on Cottekill Road also in Stone Ridge. East of the trail on NYS Route 213 is the hamlet of High Falls with the D&H Canal Museum, the 5 Locks Walk, the Sunday Flea Market and the High Falls Historic District. Marbletown is also convenient to a number of nationally recognized outdoor recreational facilities including the Mohonk Mountain House and grounds, Mohonk Preserve, and Minnewaska State Park.



View of Mohonk from Marlestown O&W Rail Trail

Key to Map

- Marbletown O&W Rail Trail
- D & H Canal
- Rondout Creek
- Parking
- Historic District
- Shopping

Distances

- Hurley Parking – Marcott Rd: **3.1 miles**
- Marcott Rd – Cottekill Rd: **1.1 miles**
- Cottekill Rd – Leggett Rd: **1.9 miles**
- Leggett Rd – Rt. 213: **0.8 miles**
- Rt. 213 – Rest Plaus Rd: **1.7 miles**



Bevier House Museum



Above: Marbletown Community Center
Right: Stone Ridge Library

WHILE ON OUR TRAIL PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

- Park only at designated trail head parking areas
- Stay on the trail and respect adjacent owner properties
- Leash your dog
- Clean up after your animals
- Carry out your litter
- Stop and use caution at road crossings
- Be respectful of wildlife and the environment



Clockwise starting at top: Waterfalls on the Rondout; D&H Canal Museum; D&H Canal Five Locks Walk