

ALBANY-HUDSON ELECTRIC TRAIL: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS March 2021

The Hudson River Valley Greenway completed construction of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) in December 2020. All sections of the trail are open for non-motorized public recreational use. The trail is 10 to 12 feet wide with an improved surface and gentle grades, welcoming visitors of all ages and abilities.

Below are responses to frequently asked questions about the AHET trail.

AHET Trail Map and Parking:

Where can I get a map of the trail route and designated parking areas?

A detailed on-line map of the AHET route can be accessed on NYS' Empire State Trail website: <https://empiretrail.ny.gov>. The on-line map depicts the trail route, designated trailhead parking areas, the trail surface type (mainly asphalt with some stonedust sections in Columbia County), on-road connecting sections, and nearby attractions. NYS has not produced a paper map of the AHET trail.

Trail Use Rules and Regulations:

What rules govern public use of the trail?

New York State has adopted formal regulations governing the AHET trail. Key rules include:

- The trail is open year-round, dawn to dusk, for bicycling, walking, running, and other non-motorized recreational activities. The trail is closed during nighttime hours.
- ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and other motor vehicles are prohibited.
- Dogs are allowed but must be kept on leash at all times, and owners must clear up after their pets.
- Trail users must stay on the trail and not enter adjacent private property.
- Littering, dumping, and defacing property is prohibited.
- Horses are not allowed on the trail.
- Alcoholic beverages, camping, campfires, or open fires are prohibited.
- Discharging firearms on or across the trail is prohibited.

How will the trail rules be enforced?

All state and local law enforcement agencies have authority to enforce the AHET trail rules and regulations, including the State Police, county sheriffs, and town and village police departments.

Emergency Response and Law Enforcement:

What do I do in case of an emergency on the trail?

In the event of an emergency, trail users should dial 911. The Rensselaer and Columbia County 911 systems have the ability to identify the location of cell phones on the trail route. In

addition, road street names signs have been posted at all locations where the trail crosses public roadways.

Winter Activities:

What's the trail like in winter months?

The trail is not plowed. During winter months the trail is open for hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing as weather and snow conditions allow.

Trail Maintenance:

Who is responsible for maintaining the trail?

The AHET trail is being maintained through a partnership involving the Greenway, local governments, and non-profit friends groups. The Greenway is responsible for long-term capital trail repairs. The following local partners have agreed to mow the trail shoulders, trim vegetation, and conduct routine maintenance along the 36-mile trail route: the Town of East Greenbush; the Town of Nassau; the Village of Nassau; the Village of Kinderhook; the Rensselaer Land Trust; and the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail.

Adjacent Landowners:

I am an adjacent property owner to the trail and have concerns about potential impacts to my property. Who can I speak to?

Greenway staff are happy to respond to questions from adjacent landowners. The best way for property owners to contact the Greenway is to submit a comment to hrvg@hudsongreenway.ny.gov. Greenway staff review each submitted comment, and will send individual responses to specific questions. Greenway staff are available to meet on-site with adjacent landowners when appropriate.

Will having the trail adjacent to my residence lower my property value?

While each situation is unique, many studies including research conducted by Realtors associations have found that multi-use trails are an amenity that increases property values and improve the quality of life for nearby residents.

What is the liability of homeowner's whose property is adjacent to the trail?

New York State, like most states, has a Recreational Use Statute (General Obligation Law Section 9-103) that protects property owners from liability from injury claims made by hikers, bicyclists, and other trail activities on private property. The general experience of rail-trails across New York State is that users stay on the trails and respect adjacent private property.

What steps will be taken to prevent trail users from entering adjacent private property? Will fencing be installed to ensure my property's privacy and security?

Based on experiences on other rail-trails, there typically are not significant problems with people leaving the trail and entering private property. Trail users understand that adjacent land is private property, not to be entered without permission. The AHET Trail includes several features to reinforce the requirement that users respect private property. Rules emphasizing

people are not allowed to enter adjacent property are posted at trailheads. The trail will be 10 to 12 feet wide, whereas the National Grid corridor ranges in width from 60 to 150 feet, providing a buffer to private property (and natural vegetation growth will deter users from leaving the trail). Generally speaking, the Greenway has not installed privacy fencing along the trail corridor. However, in special circumstances the Greenway installed additional signage, fencing, or vegetative plantings where warranted.