Albany-Electric Hudson Trail: Before and After Pictures
Columbia County Trail Section
June 2022

The Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) is a 36-mile "rail-trail" that runs from the City of Rensselaer to the City of Hudson, in Rensselaer and Columbia Counties. The AHET trail is part of NYS' larger 750-mile Empire State Trail.

The NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG) oversaw the AHET trail's planning, design, environmental review, and construction. Planning began in 2017, construction started in May 2019, and New York State announced the trail was completed in December 2020. The project team included:

- HRVG staff coordinated the AHET project from start to finish.
- The consulting firm Alta Planning + Design assisted in developing the AHET concept plan and provided technical support throughout the project.
- The consulting firm Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) led the development of detailed engineering plans and specifications, completed environmental review and permitting requirements, and provided comprehensive construction management/construction inspection services.
- The construction firm Carver Construction built the AHET section in Rensselaer County.
- The construction firm A. Colarusso & Son, Inc. built the AHET section in Columbia County.

The 36-mile AHET route is 80% off-road trail, constructed on an abandoned trolley line that ran from 1899 to 1929. Today the corridor is owned by National Grid. The remaining connecting AHET sections are designated along public roadways.

During the initial 2017 project planning phase, HRVG staff walked the entire 36-mile AHET route, taking detailed pictures to document the corridor prior to construction.

In May and June 2022, HRVG staff took pictures of the completed trail at more than 100 locations matched to the 2017 photographs, to create detailed "before and after" documentation of the AHET trail.

On each page, the "before" picture is on the top of the page, the "after" picture of the completed trail at the same location is on the bottom of the page.

This document covers the AHET trail section in Columbia County. The pictures are arranged "north to south", starting in the Town of Chatham and running south to the Town of Greenport.

North Chatham – trailhead parking area.

North Chatham – Route 203/CR32 intersection.

North Chatham – historic trolley depot.

North Chatham – south of the Trolley Depot.

Chatham – south of the Trolley Depot.

Chatham – north of Waldorf Road.

Chatham – looking north from Waldorf Road.

Chatham – Little Lake Road crossing, looking east.

Chatham – Bridge B over the Valatie Kill.

Chatham – trail corridor looking north from Electric Park Road.

Chatham – Niagara Mohawk Road.

Chatham – trail south of East Hill Road.

Chatham – trail on east side of Kinderhook Lake, adjacent to Route 203.

Kinderhook – Route 203 under the railroad bridge.

Kinderhook – trail corridor, north of Niverville.

Kinderhook – Niverville Trailhead.

Kinderhook – trail looking north toward Niverville.

Kinderhook - Bridge A between Niverville and Valatie.

Kinderhook - Bridge A between Niverville and Valatie.

Kinderhook – trail corridor along Valatie Kill.

Kinderhook – trail north of Valatie.

Kinderhook – trail north of Valatie Depot.

Kinderhook – Valatie Depot, Main Street/Route 9 intersection.

Kinderhook – looking north at Main St/Route 9 intersection (slip lane removed).

Kinderhook – trail looking north at River Street in Valatie.

Kinderhook – trail corridor south of River Street in Valatie.

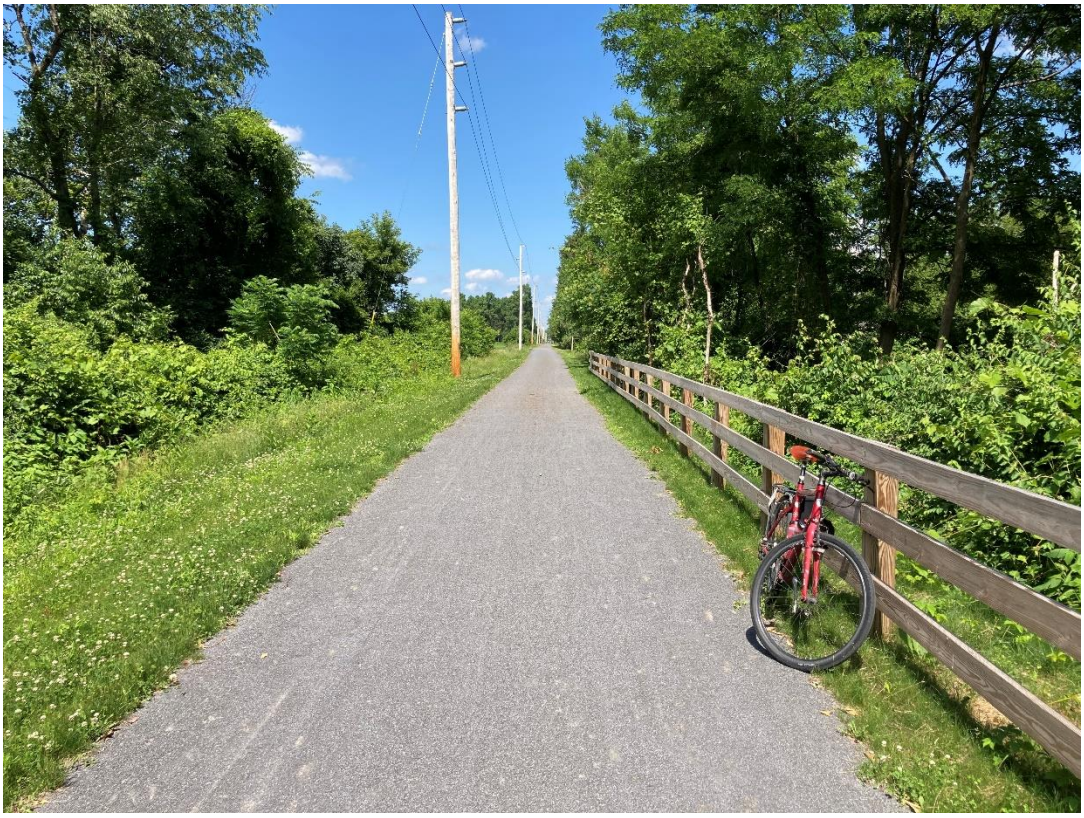
Kinderhook – Route 203 trail entrance at Stewart's.

Kinderhook – looking north at Village DPW garage.

Kinderhook – looking north next to Samascott Orchards.

Kinderhook – looking north at Rothermel Village Park.

Kinderhook – looking north toward Eichybush Road.

Kinderhook – Gaffney Lane crosswalk.

Kinderhook/Stuyvesant boundary.