

About the Trail

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail right-of-way spans 46 miles from Wassaic to Chatham, NY. The completed trail covers 14-plus miles in two locations. Ultimately the trail will pass by towns, villages, three schools, three public parks, and a county fair-ground. In addition, the trail courses through some of the Harlem Valley's most scenic land including farms, wetlands, beaver ponds, woods, rolling pastures, and magnificent vistas. This is a spectacular opportunity for trail users to experience the environmentally diverse and scenic rural landscape of Columbia and Dutchess Counties.

SECTION 1

Metro-North Station, Wassaic to Mechanic St., Amenia | Length: 2.6 miles | Status: Paved and open.

SECTION 2

Mechanic St., Amenia to Coleman Station | Length: 4.6 miles | Status: Paved and open.

SECTION 3

Coleman Station to Main St., Millerton | Length: 3.5 miles | Status: Paved and open.

SECTION 4

Main St., Millerton to Undermountain Rd., Ancram | Length: 8 miles | Status: Unimproved.

SECTION 5

Under Mountain Rd., Ancram to Taconic State Park Copake Falls Entrance | Length: 4.0 miles | Status: Paved and open.

SECTION 6

Copake Falls to Chatham | Length: 22.5 miles. Privately owned. HVRTA has purchased 14 of these miles. State Parks is seeking to purchase the remaining parcels from willing sellers. (See Proposed Expansion)

Visit the local towns

The trail passes directly through the towns of Amenia, Millerton and Copake Falls. Take time to stop and visit the shops and restaurants each of these communities has to offer.

Along the trail you can see...

A **Taconic State Park**, Route 344, Copake Falls. Swimming, fishing, picnicking, campsites, children's swimming area and hiking. A one-mile hike takes you to Bash Bish Falls in Massachusetts.

B At **Copake Falls** the **ore bed, furnace and exhibits** explaining the history of the Copake Iron Works are near the trail.

C The former **Copake Falls railroad station** is now a convenience store.

D A **concrete marker** says "NY 101" just north of Undermountain Road. Here you are precisely 101 miles north of Grand Central Station.

E Another hiking trail near Boston Corners rises steeply up **Alander Mountain**. At the top of the mountain you can hike north to Bash Bish Falls or connect to any of the South Taconic Trails.

F A steep half-mile ascent from Deer Run Road (off Route 63) leads to a fairly flat, approximately one-mile hike to **Brace Mountain**, elevation 2,311 feet, the highest point in Dutchess County.

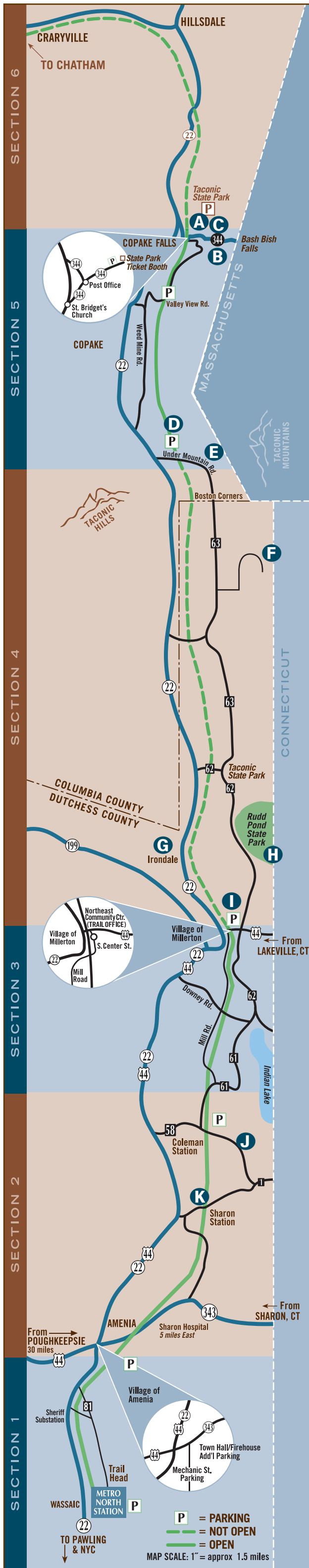
G The **Irondale Furnace**, just north of Millerton, is another historic example of an industry that once dominated this region.

H **Taconic State Park**, Rudd Pond, Millerton. Lakeside beach and bathhouse, fishing, picnicking, row-boat rentals, campsite, children's play area, cross country skiing and sledding.

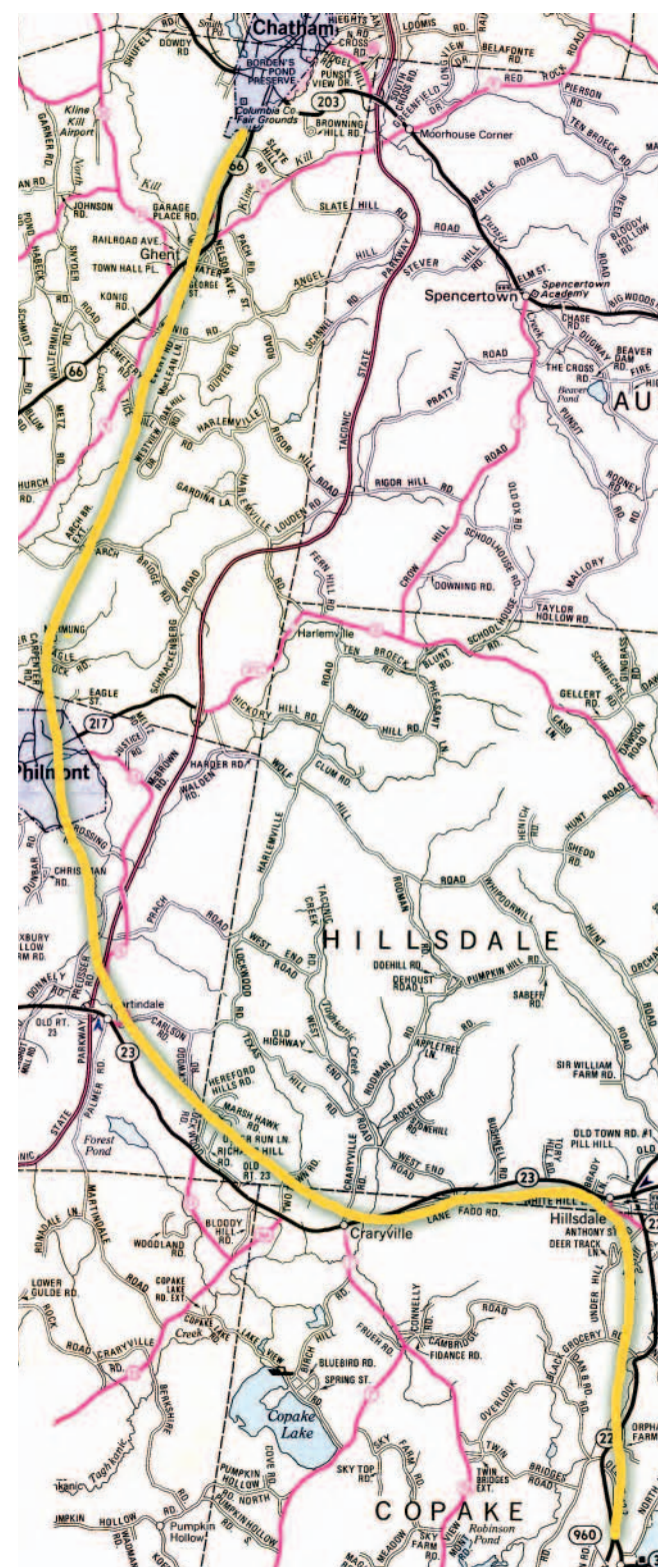
I The **railroad station in Millerton** seems to have changed little since the days when it was a focus of village activity.

J At **Coleman Station**, the railroad station located to the east is gone. The **Diana K. Temple Memorial Garden** is now located here.

K The railroad station at **Sharon Station** was recently restored to its original 1870 appearance.



PROPOSED FUTURE TRAIL EXPANSION



DIRECTIONS TO SOUTH TRAILHEAD

From New York City to Wassaic (approx. 80 miles; travel time 1 hour, 45 minutes): Take the Saw Mill Parkway (from Manhattan) or Hutchinson River Parkway (from Queens, Bronx and Brooklyn) north to Interstate 684. Take I-684 north to Brewster, where 684 becomes Route 22. Continue north on Route 22 until you reach the Wassaic Station of Metro North Railroad. Parking is available at the station for a fee on weekdays; free on weekends and holidays.

By train from NYC: Take MetroNorth's Harlem Line to the final station, Wassaic. The Wassaic trailhead is right at the station. For train info call 800-METRO-INFO; in NYC 212-532-4900.

From Poughkeepsie to Amenia (approx. 30 miles; travel time 40 minutes): Take Route 44 east to Amenia. At the single traffic light go straight onto Route 343. Take the first right (across from Cumberland Farms) onto Mechanic Street. The trail is on the left.

From Connecticut: Take Route 4 or 41 to Sharon. At the clock tower turn right on to Route 343 west toward Amenia. Take the left across from the Cumberland Farms in Amenia onto Mechanic Street. The trailhead is on the left. Or take Route 44 west through Lakeville into Millerton. The Millerton trailhead is across from the old train station in Railroad Plaza.

DIRECTIONS TO COPAKE FALLS TRAILHEAD

From the north: Reach Route 22 south. From Albany take the Taconic Parkway south to Route 23. Take Route 23 east to Hillside and pick up Route 22 south at the stop light. From Hillside proceed 4 miles to Route 344. Turn left and proceed about half a mile to the triangular green. Bear to the left to the stop sign. Proceed straight about a third of a mile to the entrance of Taconic State Park; ask the attendant where to park.

From the south: Take Route 22 north to Route 344, about 6 miles north of Millerton. Turn right and follow the directions above.

Please do not park in areas not designated for Rail Trail.