

Forest Preserve Work Plan
for
Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or
Modification of Existing Facilities
Fiscal Year 2023
Project # 2023-RB-002

WP #285

<u>Region</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
5	Rail Trail Construction Phase 2

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
New Construction	Santa Clara, Harrietstown	Franklin	Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Adirondack Rail Trail

Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project:

Construction of the Adirondack Rail Trail - Phase 2:

Per the approved 2020 Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan (UMP) Amendment/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) (page 25), a 10-foot wide trail with a minimum 2.5 foot shoulder width on each side (total minimum cleared width of 15 feet) will be constructed between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid. The total distance of all phases of the trail will be 34 miles.

Construction of the Adirondack Rail Trail will be done in stages. As each stage is completed, that portion of trail will open to the public and be managed according to the 2020 UMP Amendment.

This work plan covers the second phase of rail trail construction, which includes the following activities:

- Trail tread construction from Route 86 (Broadway Street) in Saranac Lake to Floodwood Road in the Town of Harrietstown (approximately 15.25 miles).

The Adirondack Rail Trail will be designed to add a new, unique experience on the Forest Preserve. Unlike the more primitive trails that make up the majority of Forest Preserve opportunities, the rail trail will be designed to accommodate larger numbers of people recreating simultaneously over a long distance. The Travel Corridor classification, combined with existing infrastructure designed to withstand heavy use and sustain a flat grade, provides a unique opportunity to allow a diverse array of recreational uses while minimizing new impacts to natural resources. Furthermore, the Adirondack Rail Trail in many locations runs parallel to other Forest Preserve classifications and a variety of natural settings, providing a great opportunity for education, interpretation, and appreciation of the Forest Preserve and the value of these resources.

Well designed and strategically located parking and access are essential to maximizing the benefit of the Adirondack Rail Trail. Parking areas will be adjacent or in close proximity to major highways and/or populated places. Where possible, previously cleared and/or established parking areas will be utilized. Where tree cutting is required, they will be cut and dispersed in a manner to minimize visual impacts. Terrain modifications and soil disturbance will be minimized, and the final parking area design will allow for safe ingress and egress from public highways, and safe pedestrian access to the trail.

Four major trail user groups were identified by the NYSDEC and Stakeholder Group which includes walkers, bicyclists (including Class I e-bikes), cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. The proposed trail and associated attributes and amenities shall be designed to best accommodate these four user groups.

Description of Project Specifications:

The existing rail-bed will be re-surfaced with crushed stone and finished with stone dust to provide a uniform, firm, and stable trail tread for trail users. One bridge in Lake Clear will be paved.

To provide a consistent trail width, some sections of the existing railbed may be lowered, while others may be built up using additional crushed stone. Fill will be used to stabilize side slopes (max slope steepness of 1:2). Fencing will be installed for safety where the max slope is exceeded.

All work will be done within the travel corridor.

Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources:

Since passenger service ended in 1981 there has been limited maintenance in continuing the clearing of operational width of the corridor. Sightseeing trains ran from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake so the track from Tupper Lake to Saranac Lake was minimally maintained to deliver the train in the spring and return the trail in the fall. Tree cutting is limited to the minimum necessary to provide a clear trail corridor and allow construction of the trail tread. Up to 2,258 trees are to be removed, including 229 trees 3" or larger in diameter at breast height (DBH), and 2,029 trees less than 3" in diameter (DBH) will be removed from Forest Preserve lands to maintain the desired width of the trail corridor (see attached tree tally).

The project will impact State and Federally regulated wetlands, and will occur within the ½ mile corridor of Saranac River, a designated Recreational River under New York State's Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Act (WSRR). The construction project will be undertaken utilizing best management practices and will be subject to conditions included in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), wetland permits from the Adirondack Park Agency and Army Corps of Engineers, a Water Quality Certification - Under Section 401 - NY Clean Water Act (Permit ID 5-1646-00404/00001), and Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers Permit - Under Article 15, Title 27 (Permit ID 5-1646-00404/00002).

Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species or plant communities located within 1/4 mile of the project area:

Bald Eagle (Threatened)

Many parts of New York are under high development pressure. This species prefers relatively undisturbed, wooded areas near wetlands or large bodies of water with abundant prey (fish). Areas with development or other human disturbances would likely be unsuitable for nesting and wintering Bald Eagles.

(<http://guides.nynhp.org>)

Round Whitefish (Endangered)

The round whitefish is a medium-sized fish, averaging 8-12 inches in length and occasionally reaching 22 inches. Its body shape is long and tubular with a nearly round midsection (hence its name). Possible reasons for the decline in round whitefish populations include: predation by invading yellow perch on whitefish eggs and fry; predation by smallmouth bass; competition with lake whitefish; overfishing; loss of spawning sites; siltation; and lake acidification. Some of these factors continue to pose a threat to remaining populations. Round whitefish are now protected from harvest or possession by the Endangered Species Law.

(<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/26013.html>)

Dragon's Mouth Orchid (Threatened)

Dragon's Mouth orchid has one, sometimes two, magenta to bluish to white flowers at the top of a single narrow stem about 6-40 centimeters tall. The lip of the flower is pinkish-white with purple splotches and a yellow midvein. It curves out then down and has fringe on the top. Three petals form a hood over the lip while the two remaining petals stick up like rabbit ears. There is one long, narrow leaf halfway up the stem that is absent when the plant is in flower.

(<http://guides.nynhp.org>)

This project is located on the former railbed of the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor. The location and design were determined through the development of the 2020 Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor UMP Amendment/SEIS. As part of the UMP process, several alternatives were considered for the travel corridor (See attached UMP pages 103-108). Alternative 7, which includes construction of the rail trail from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid was the preferred alternative.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles, if any:

The trail will be constructed primarily using motorized equipment and motor vehicles. All motor vehicle and equipment use will be confined to the Travel Corridor. Access may also occur over existing administrative roads that intersect with the rail corridor.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities:

Some sections of the existing railbed may be lowered, while others may be built up using additional crushed stone. The trail is being built with all slopes under the required 8.33 percent slope. ADA Detectable Warning Surfaces will be installed at intersections.

Firmness and Trail stability testing will occur on trail surfaces with a rotational penetrometer to ensure required trail stability is ensured.

Other Relevant Considerations:

N/A

Prepared by (Name & Title): Keith Carrow
Phone: 518-897-1336

Date: 3/14/2023

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS					
PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Daley	Permit ID - NYR11J919
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Schmid	2020 Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor, Adirondack Rail Trail
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		With the approval of this work plan, cutting will proceed
	Protected Native Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Dragon's Mouth Orchid has could be in the area but has not been detected on site
	Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Included in Unit Management Plan
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEC	Protections included in APA, Army Corp, and SPEDES Permits
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft,motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Frank	Project # 2021-0256
	Corps. of Engineers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Frank	Permit #NAN-2021-00269-UCO
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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State Land Tree Tally

Project: Phase 2

State Land Unit: Adirondack Rail Trail

County: Essex

Town: Santa Clara, Harriestown

Date Talled: 3/3/2023

Talled By: Keith Carrow, Steve Guglielmi

Species	Diameter														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
aspen		1													1
beech, Amer.			1												1
birch, paper		8	2	1	3										14
birch, yellow		2	6	4		1	1	1							15
cherry, black		1	1												2
fir, balsam		34	5	3		1	1								44
hemlock		9	4	3	4										20
maple, red		12	4	3	3		1								23
maple, sugar		14	12	4											30
oak, red		1													1
pine, red		3													3
pine, Scotch		7	1												8
pine, white		50	7	1					1						59
spruce, black				1											1
cedar		5													5
Larch		1													1
Cherry, pin				1											1
	2029														2029
Total	2029	148	43	21	10	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2258

Adirondack Rail Trail Construction Phases

Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor
future Adirondack Rail Trail:


— Phase 1


— Phase 2 - Projected

— Phase 3 - Projected

P DEC Parking

Δ DEC Campground

 DEC Fish Hatchery

 DEC Ray Brook Office

DEC Conservation Easements

DEC Lands

