

Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve

The Mohawk Landing Nature Preserve is a quiet six-acre riverfront preserve that offers a short 800-foot packed stone dust and boardwalk nature trail, leading to an attractive picnic area overlooking the Mohawk River. The route passes through young woods and wetlands ending in a grove of mature trees.

Directions: Take I-87 north to Exit 8A.

Drive west on Grooms Road (State Route 91) and continue straight at intersection with Droms Road. Grooms Road bears to the right. Stay on Droms Road for 0.8 miles and take a left onto Riverview Road. The parking area is off Riverview Road just past Riverview Orchards.

Parking: A steep, short gravel entrance road (110 ft.) leads from Riverview Road to a packed gravel parking area (54'x 68') surrounded by a split rail fence. There is a 19'x30' paved parking area at the trailhead.

Distance: 1600 feet round trip

Trailhead: Begins at end of parking lot between two posts.

Surface: Firm and stable crushed stone.

Width: The trail varies from three to six feet in width.

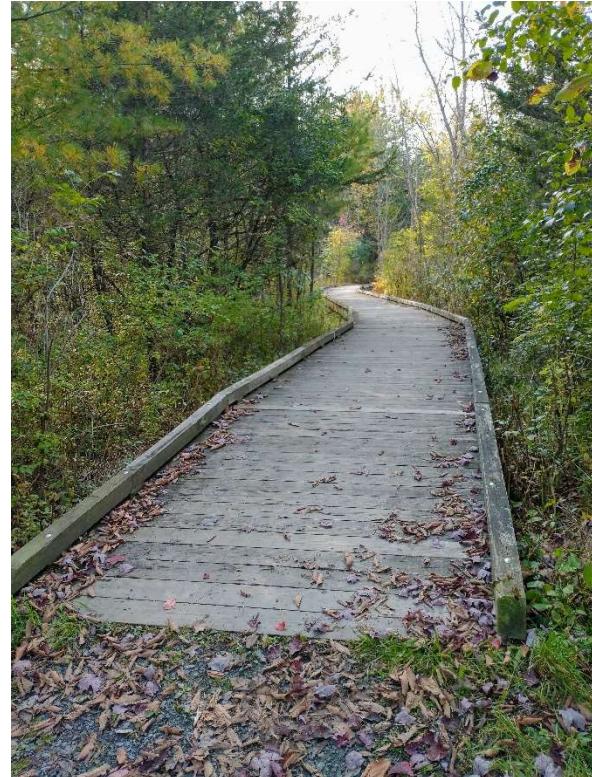
Slope: The path to the river has a slope below 5% grade.

Cross slope: The trail has a 2% or less cross-slope.

Cautions and Prohibitions: Park hours are 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. All dogs must be leashed. No motorized vehicles are allowed. The park is a carry-in/carry-out facility. A sign in the parking area warns of lyme disease with a description of ticks as carriers.

Description: A large sign to right of the trail entrance designates the preserve as part of the Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. There are photographs and a map of the packed gravel trail to the river and a dirt foot path loop trail.

The trail begins on stone dust path which passes through an open area before reaching the first boardwalk at 54 feet into



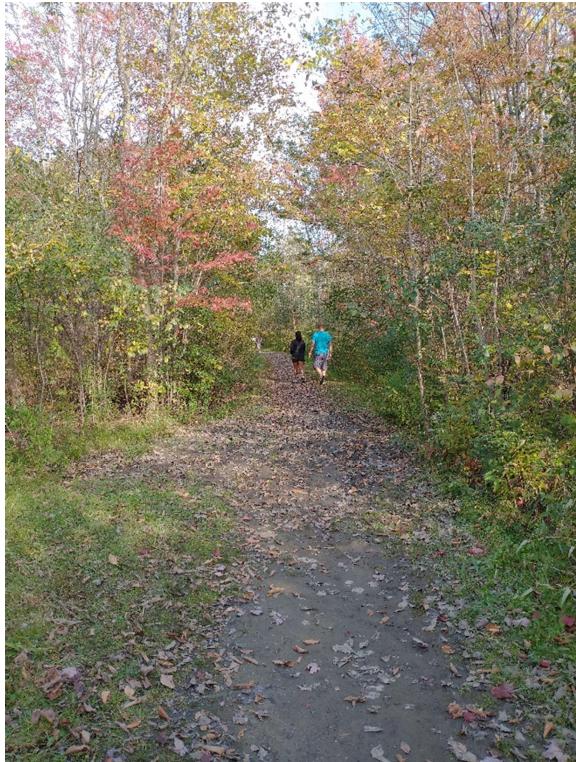
the walk. The boardwalk was carefully constructed with boards laid close together and raised edges protecting the sides. The boardwalk continues for 118 feet over a wet area before returning to the stone dust path. Shrubs observed along the open area included gray dogwood, honeysuckle, sumac, juniper and multiflora rose. Adding color to the trailside were buttercups, daisies, red clover and hawkweed. Asters and goldenrod would bloom later in the season. Along with a surprising number of young American elms were ash leaf maple, Norway maple, red cedar, and an occasional white pine.

Wetland plants along the boardwalk included sensitive and royal ferns, cattails beside the invasive phragmites, alders and young gray birch.

Beyond the first boardwalk, the trail passes through young woods with red maple, hickory and ash as well as previously observed trees.

At 362 feet into the walk, the trail reaches the second boardwalk, which continues for 120 feet. This boardwalk marks the halfway point of the trail. The path in this section has woodland on the left and wetlands on the right. After approximately 220 feet past the second boardwalk, there is a small stream and a third boardwalk.

A nicely shaded picnic area is 60 feet past the third boardwalk, and the stone dust path ends there. This area has two picnic tables



and one of the tables had an extended end for wheelchair users. There are two large red oaks and a shagbark hickory providing shade. Here the forest is more mature than near other parts of the trail. This area sits high above the Mohawk River and provides an expansive view of the water, the opposite shore and passing boats.

A steep trail leading down the bank to the water provides access for those interested in launching a canoe or kayak.

A narrow (1 to 1.5-foot wide) dirt foot path leads west from the picnic areas on the right and travels along the high bank of the Mohawk, through mature forest. There are, however, significant rough patches that are interspersed with large rocks and roots. The trail is a half-mile semicircle that the site map shows reconnecting with the primary trail. The trail in this section is significantly less accessible, has no signage and can be overgrown and difficult to navigate in places.

Owner: Towns of Clifton Park

For more information:

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TRAILS FOR ALL IN SARATOGA COUNTY

This trail report is part of a series of documents describing outdoor spaces with accessible features in Saratoga County. It was created by ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, a regional environmental organization. For more information, or to find more descriptions of trails for users of different ability levels, go to ecosny.org. ECOS also publishes a series of guides describing natural areas in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties.