
Railroad Run

The Railroad Run trail is a friendly, flat and partially wooded trail, built on a segment of the old Delaware and Hudson Railway, which ran between Schenectady and Saratoga Springs. The trail runs from West Circular Street in Saratoga past Congress Ave to Route 50. A crosswalk at Route 50 links the end of the Railroad Run trail to walkways in Saratoga Spa State Park.

Directions: From the Northway (I-87) take Exit-14 and continue west on Union Avenue for 1.7 miles to West Circular Street. Turn left on West Circular Street and continue for 0.6 miles to Beekman Street entering on the right. There is an entrance to Railroad Run on the left but only on-street parking is available. There is plenty of parking at the YMCA on West Avenue and multiple access points to the trail from the parking lot there.

Parking: There is a parking lot on the street near the trail entrance on West Circular Street or parking in the YMCA parking lot on West St. The YMCA lot does have accessible parking near the building, across the parking lot from the trail entrances. None of the paved parking spaces adjacent to the trail entrance have access aisles.

Distance: 1.3 miles one way.

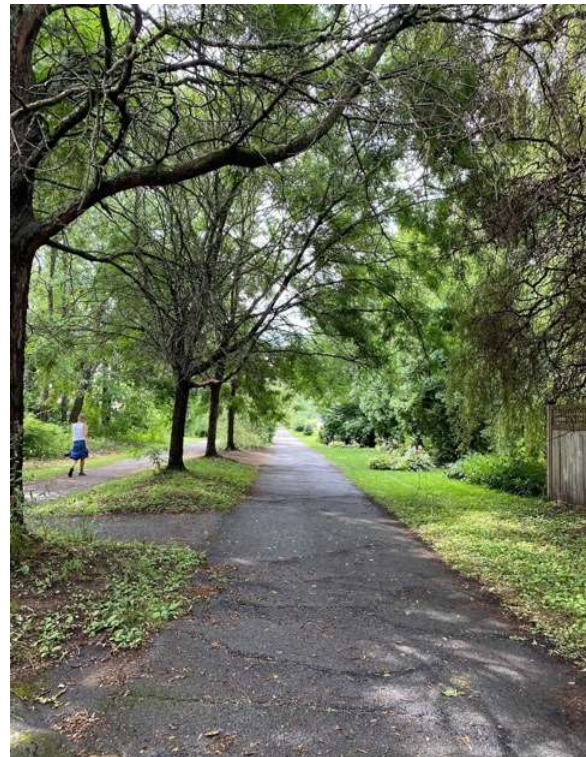
Trailhead: The main entrance to the trail is on West Circular Street, but there are a few connections to the trail from the YMCA parking lot and from there you can hike north or south on the trail.

Surface: The trail is packed stone dust and asphalt for entire distance. There are a few rough spots due to tree roots coming up through the asphalt.

Width: The trail is eight feet wide or more for its entire distance. There is a paved trail on one side of a vegetated median, and a crushed stone path on the other.

Slope: The trail slope is less than 2%. However, the curb cut at New Street, 1,161 feet north from the YMCA parking lot, has a 10% slope for four feet. The opposite curb cut is a more manageable 3% slope.

Cross slope: Most of the trail is under 2%.



Features: A port-a-john at the YMCA parking lot was not an accessible design at the time of our assessment..

Description: Railroad Run is a multi-use path enjoyed by people of all ages for a wide variety of recreational activities, including walking, bicycling, and inline skating.

At the West Circular Street entrance, there is a sign describing the history of the D & H Railway that previously traveled through the area. Built in 1932, the railway played an important role in the economic and social development of Saratoga as a resort until its discontinuation in the 1950s. Today the trail is part of the city-wide bicycle and pedestrian trail system, sponsored by the City of Saratoga Springs and the Open

Space Project to connect with the Saratoga County Heritage Trail System.

The first section of trail has two surfaces. One surface is asphalt and the other half is stone dust. The trail runs behind a residential area with lovely gardens on one side and commercial businesses on the other. Residents along the trail have planted and tended a considerable number of flowering plants and shrubs for the enjoyment of trail walkers. Evergreens planted between the trail and the businesses provide an attractive barrier. There are curbs cuts at Congress Street, however one side is steep.



The single path that remains is paved and continues through a nice wooded area. The trail reaches Route 50 (Ballston Avenue) after 0.4 miles (0.9 miles from the start at West Circular Street). Crossing the road connects to the trails in Saratoga Spa State Park. Most of the large cracks and raised areas across the trail tread were on the paved section between New Street and West Circular Street. At West Circular Street, there is a dog waste bag dispenser and trash can for disposal.

The eventual goal of Saratoga PLAN is to join existing trails to make a ring around the city. This ring would link with the Saratoga Heritage Trail Network and the Zim Smith Trail.

In recent years, the Railroad Run trail has received 300 tree seedlings thanks to the National Tree Trust. These seedlings were planted as part of the annual spring clean-up and beautification carried out by Saratoga PLAN and the Department of Public Works. Local Brownie troops, school children and families all worked to improve elements along the trail for the enjoyment of future generations. Watch for the seedlings and take note of how they grow over the years!

Owner: City of Saratoga Springs and Saratoga PLAN

For more information:

www.saratogaplan.org, (518) 587-5554, info@saratogaplan.org

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.