The Corkscrew Rail Trail Association partners with willing landowners and the community to support and enhance the Corkscrew Rail Trail, an unpaved trail generally following the old rail bed of the Rutland Railroad. The trail provides recreational opportunities for residents and visitors who enjoy the natural beauty of our area and promotes the health and strength of our community and local businesses.

**History**

The Rutland Railroad ran both steam and diesel engines. The Corkscrew Division delivered passengers, milk, freight and mail until 1952, when it was abandoned and the right-of-way ceded to adjacent landowners.

**Rail Trail Natural History**

At times, the Trail runs along the Wyomanock Creek, a cold-water stream that supports trout. It winds through an extensive forest (approx. 3,500 acres), offering a chance to glimpse wildlife, including deer, reptiles, beaver, forest birds, and an occasional moose. The variety of vegetation along the trail captures the full range of flora characteristic of this area.
Corkscrew Rail Trail

The rail trail follows a section of the old Rutland Railroad which ran from Bennington, Vermont, to Chatham, New York. Due to tight turns between hills, this section was called "The Corkscrew." Although abandoned in 1952, many sections of the rail beds are in good condition. The Corkscrew Rail Trail Association was formed in 2014 by trail advocates from Stephentown and New Lebanon. Crossing the county line, this group works to open rail segments where landowners support year-round recreational use, except in deer hunting season. Starting small and building links, the group opened the first segment on June 6, 2015. It runs approximately 2.5 miles south from Knapp Road, Stephentown, past the Columbia County line into New Lebanon. We plan to work with other property owners to open additional sections in both New Lebanon and Stephentown.

Directions and Parking

Primary trail access is on Knapp Road, about a half mile west of NYS Route 22. This trail can also be accessed on Wynomanock Road. Parking is along the roadside.

RAIL TRAIL RULES

- This trail is on private property and is open to public use by the generosity of the owners. Please respect all rules and treat this community trail with care.

- Unless posted otherwise, the trail is open to hikers, bicyclists, horses, and winter use by skiers and snowmobiles.

- Parts of this trail, as marked, are a driveway for residential use. Use caution and keep to the right.

- Bicycle riders should wear protective headgear. This is required by state law for children 16 years and younger, but recommended for all wheeled users.

- Littering, camping, fires and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Keep pets on a short leash and clean up after them.

- Stay on the trail and respect adjacent private property.

- Stop at all road crossings.