



# ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Establishment Of Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee**

Ulster County Legislature's Chairman David B. Donaldson commends Legislator Robert Parete (D-Olive) for spearheading legislation to create a Countywide Trails Advisory Committee (TAC) in response to the need for new opportunities for fitness and recreation in Ulster County. The TAC will coordinate trail development and management in Ulster County and implement the County's new Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, which calls for linking existing trails and constructing new linear parks, including a nature trail along the Ulster & Delaware Railroad. In the late 1970s, Ulster County purchased the U & D Corridor, which stretches from Kingston to Highmount along scenic Route 28, for use as a railroad and other recreational activities.

"It is now time to utilize the U & D Corridor for the wider benefit of the general public and to promote physical fitness while enjoying the picturesque views of the Catskill Mountains. Promoting healthier lifestyles is my top priority and this initiative will go a long way towards reaching that objective," said Legislator Robert Parete.

In December of 2007, the Ulster County Legislature approved a multi-year capital plan to develop a hiking and biking trail along the U & D. The new TAC will use the capital plan, as submitted by Legislator Robert Parete, as a blueprint to accomplish this goal. Trails, which are becoming increasingly popular venues for recreation and enjoyment, are pathways often created along former railroad corridors. Users of this trail will be able to appreciate the dramatic natural beauty and unique historic value of the Catskills area.

Trails create many benefits for residents of and visitors to our community. For instance, trails are an environmentally friendly form of transportation; they create healthier lifestyles and bring families together to enjoy the outdoors. Legislator Robert Parete, Chairman of the Health Services Committee of the Ulster County Legislature, established Healthy Eating And Living - ***HEAL Ulster County*** in 2007. ***HEAL Ulster County*** supports a wide variety of health and wellness initiatives.

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“I am grateful that Legislator Robert Parete has spearheaded this vitally important committee. Recreational trails will add to the quality of life in Ulster County in a healthful and economically positive way,” said Majority Leader Brian B. Cahill.

“Establishing top quality trails for public use has been on the front burner for many communities in our region. It’s time for Ulster County to take the initiative and join the movement for establishing recreational trails in our own backyard,” added Legislator Brian Shapiro (D-Woodstock).

A resolution establishing the Trail Advisory Committee and was unanimously approved during last Thursday’s Health Services Committee meeting and came before the full Legislature for ratification at this month’s meeting, July 9, 2008 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.