

Connections to Local Facilities & Communities

The NYSDEC and ORDA operate an expansive network of hiking, mountain biking, and cross country ski trails on the Belleayre Mountainside and within the surrounding Shandaken Wild Forest. This network is expanding rapidly with both organizations identifying the U&D railroad corridor as an important link in their network of trails. The U&D corridor will also connect the local communities of Big Indian and Pine Hill to the established facilities and offer an alternative option to hike, bike, or commute between these facilities and communities.

Public Health Benefits

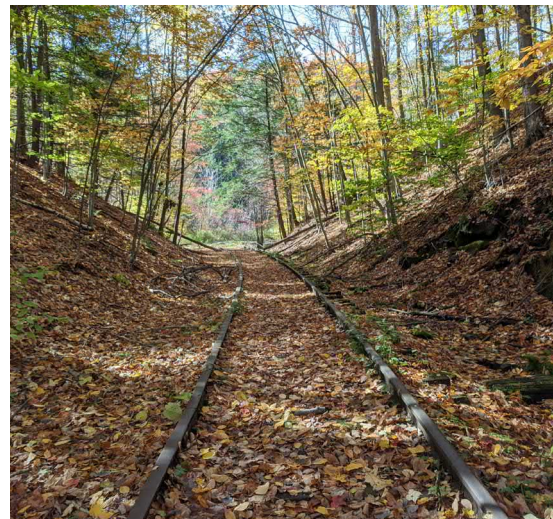
Shared use trails create a safe environment for people to walk and bike with limited exposure to traffic and provide a transportation alternative to those who may not have access to vehicular transportation. Numerous studies have documented the health benefits of bicycle and pedestrian trails and their potential to reduce obesity and chronic diseases by increasing the physical activity of the surrounding community.

Trails have been proven to provide a direct medical benefit of \$2.94 for every \$1 investment in the trail, and persons living near a trail were 49% more likely to meet the recommended daily activity levels.

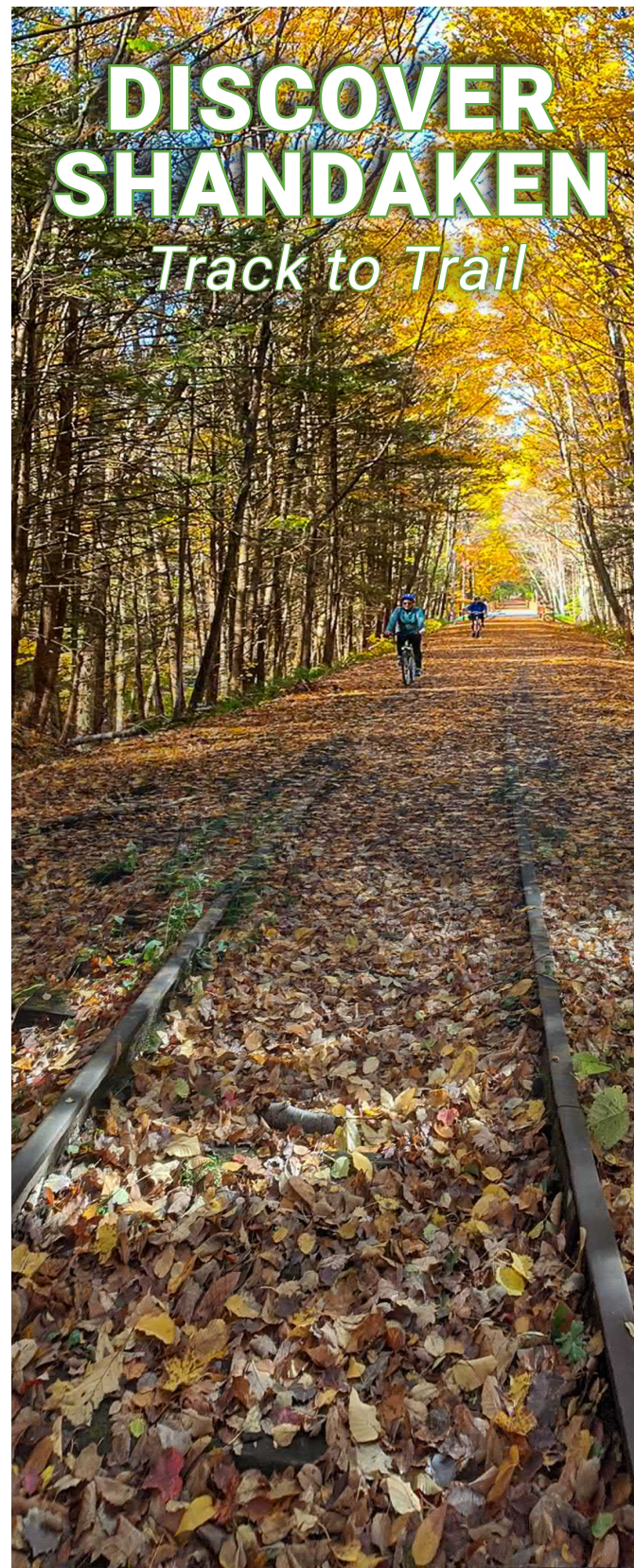
Economic Benefit

Ulster County reported revenue of \$10 Million in 2019 that was directly related to spending by shared use trail users. One hotel local to the recently completed Ashokan Rail Trail has seen an increase in occupancy of 15-20% since the trail opened and other shops and eateries have also seen an increase in business directly related to the opening of the trail.

On average, local trail users spend \$3-\$15 per day and non-local users spend \$15-\$35. Overnight users typically spend the most on average at \$100-\$300 per day.



DISCOVER SHANDAKEN *Track to Trail*



It can be done!

Ulster County completed a Feasibility Study to assess the corridor conditions and evaluate the constructability of the proposed trail. The report assessed conditions of the railroad infrastructure of the U&D corridor, identified design criteria of the proposed trail, analyzed alternative design considerations, evaluated connections to trails in the area, and assessed the environmental conditions of the corridor. The report also makes recommendations to convert the railroad corridor into a trail, including construction access locations, trailhead locations, material selection, pedestrian railing locations, bridge rehabilitation alternatives, project phasing, and estimated cost of the project.

County Network of Trails

Just recently, Ulster County completed the conversion of 11.5 miles of the same U&D railroad corridor along the Ashokan Reservoir from West Hurley to Boiceville into a world class trail. The Shandaken Rail Trail looks to build upon the success of the Ashokan Rail Trail while also recognizing the identity, unique features, character, and history of this Shandaken section of the U&D Corridor. The importance of converting this 5 mile section of the U&D Railroad Corridor is included in the Town of Shandaken Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan, update to the Belleayre Ski Center UMP, and the Shandaken Wild Forest UMP (DEC).

SEE THE REPORT!

Visit bit.ly/3hZPJNJ

Did you know?

Ulster County is home to 75 miles of shared-use community trails that average over 600,000 users and generates \$10 million annually.

