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you need to
know about
the nature
trails of
our area

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Democrat

MAY 2023 • SECTION 1
CALLICOON, NEW YORK

Find Your Trail

'A look at nature from a hiker's perspective'

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Tusten Mountain Trail

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NIC BIRGLER

The Tusten Mountain Trail is a beautiful hiking trail located in Tusten, New York. This trail is maintained by the National Park Service and is owned by the Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp.

It is approximately 3 miles long and is rated as moderate in difficulty and takes you on a loop through historic remains of the Tusten Settlement as you climb to the summit for a magnificent view of the Upper Delaware Valley.

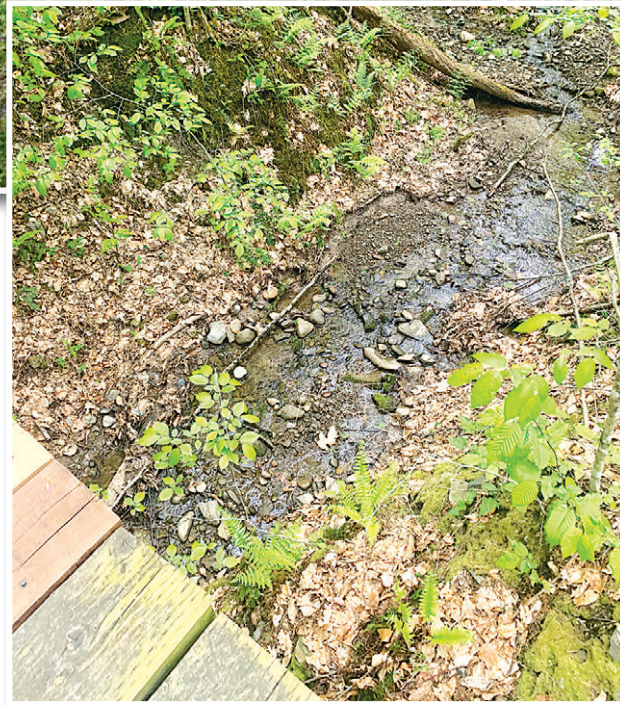
The trail starts at the Tusten Mountain Trailhead and follows a well-marked path through the forest. The trail is well-maintained and offers hikers a chance to experience the natural beauty of the area. Along the way, hikers will see a variety of trees, plants, and wildlife.

As hikers make their way up the trail, they will be rewarded with stunning views of the surrounding area. The trail offers panoramic views of the Delaware River and the surrounding mountains as well as 10 Mile River. Hikers can take a break at one of the many benches along the trail and take in the breathtaking views.

The Tusten Mountain Trail is a great hike for families and groups of friends. The trail is not too difficult, but it offers enough of a challenge to keep things interesting. Hikers can take their time and enjoy the scenery or push themselves to complete the trail in a shorter amount of time.

It is important to bring appropriate gear and footwear when hiking the Tusten Mountain Trail. Hikers should wear comfortable shoes with good traction, as the trail can be rocky in some areas. It is also important to bring plenty of water and snacks, as there are no facilities along the trail.

Overall, the Tusten Mountain Trail is a great hiking trail for anyone looking to experience the natural beauty of Tusten, New York and the Sullivan Catskills. The trail offers stunning views, a well-maintained path, and a chance to experience the great outdoors. Whether you are an experienced hiker or just starting out, the Tusten Mountain Trail is a must-see destination.

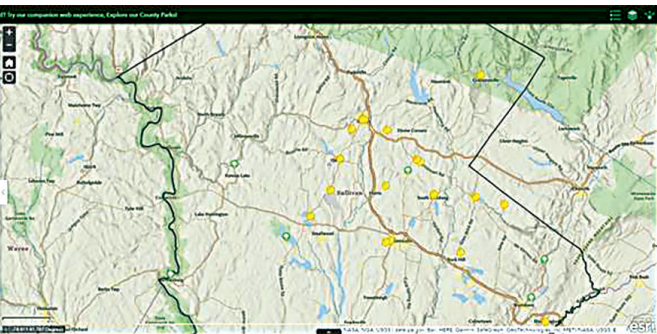


Above top: The stunning view from the top of the Tusten Mountain Trail.

Above bottom: 10 Mile River runs underneath trail bridge.

At right: Narrowsburg Resident Gillian Rapp enjoys the Tusten Trail's scenery.

Interactive parks map debuts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The home menu of the Sullivan County Parks app.

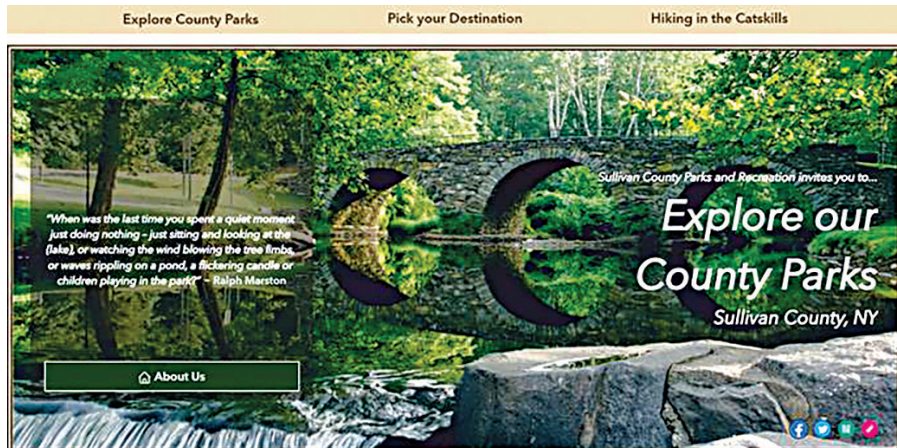
A map indicating where certain parks are located.

MONTICELLO — The Sullivan County Planning Division, Sullivan County Office of Parks, Recreation and Beautification, and Sullivan County ITS' GIS Program are excited to introduce a new Parks Locator!

"This locator is a companion to, and is embedded in, our new 'Explore our County Parks' web experience. It is also a stand-alone app within our Featured Apps Gallery," explained Parks Director Brian Scardefield. "Designed by our GIS Coordinator Jennifer Stone, supported by GIS Specialist Alison Heaney, the Parks Locator

is meant to help residents and visitors easily locate parks and other outdoor recreation sites owned/maintained by the County, local municipalities, and New York State."

"The public isn't often given the opportunity to visualize the technological magic performed in ITS (Information Technology Services) on a daily basis," acknowledged ITS Commissioner Lorne Green. "I cannot be prouder of our GIS team for their role in the creation of an application highlighting and making it easier to find our County's park resources."



"Be sure to check out the address links!" encouraged Stone. "Users can click on an address link in the results panel for a specific location to get directions to that park or other site of interest. Viewer-friendly icons tell our visitors what amenities are available for a selected site. Pictures are included where possible to provide a multimedia viewing experience for each park/site."

The Parks Locator, as well as its companion "Explore our County Parks" experience, is currently available via <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/GIS>. The ex-

perience is also highlighted on the Sullivan County Parks and Rec page: <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/ParksRecreation>.

"This new app makes note of ADA-compliant, youth-oriented, and even dog-friendly parks (for those who want to share their adventures with canine companions!)" said Acting Planning Commissioner Heather Brown. "It highlights a range of community activities that I hope both residents and visitors will share and explore, as Sullivan County is home to an amazing array of beautiful spots to visit."

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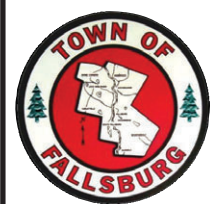
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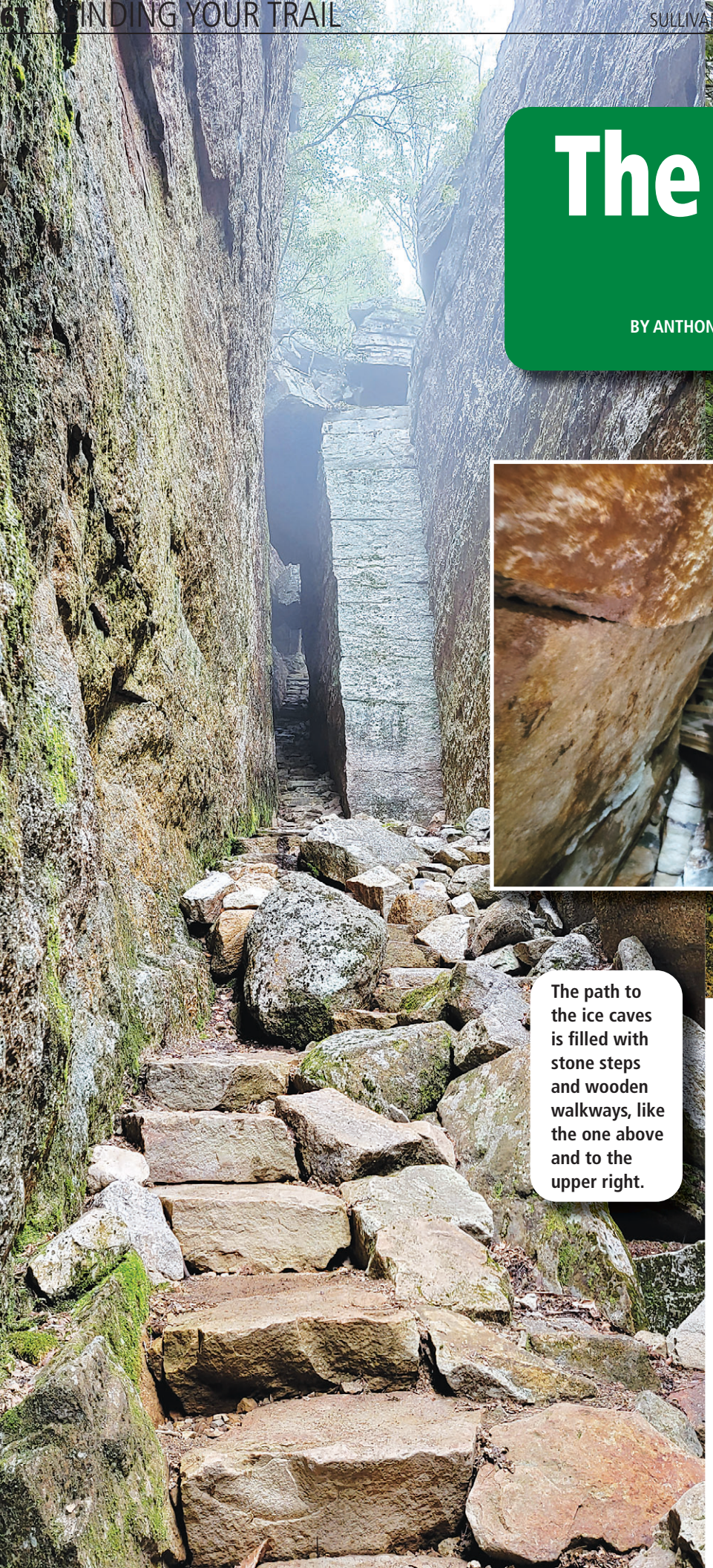


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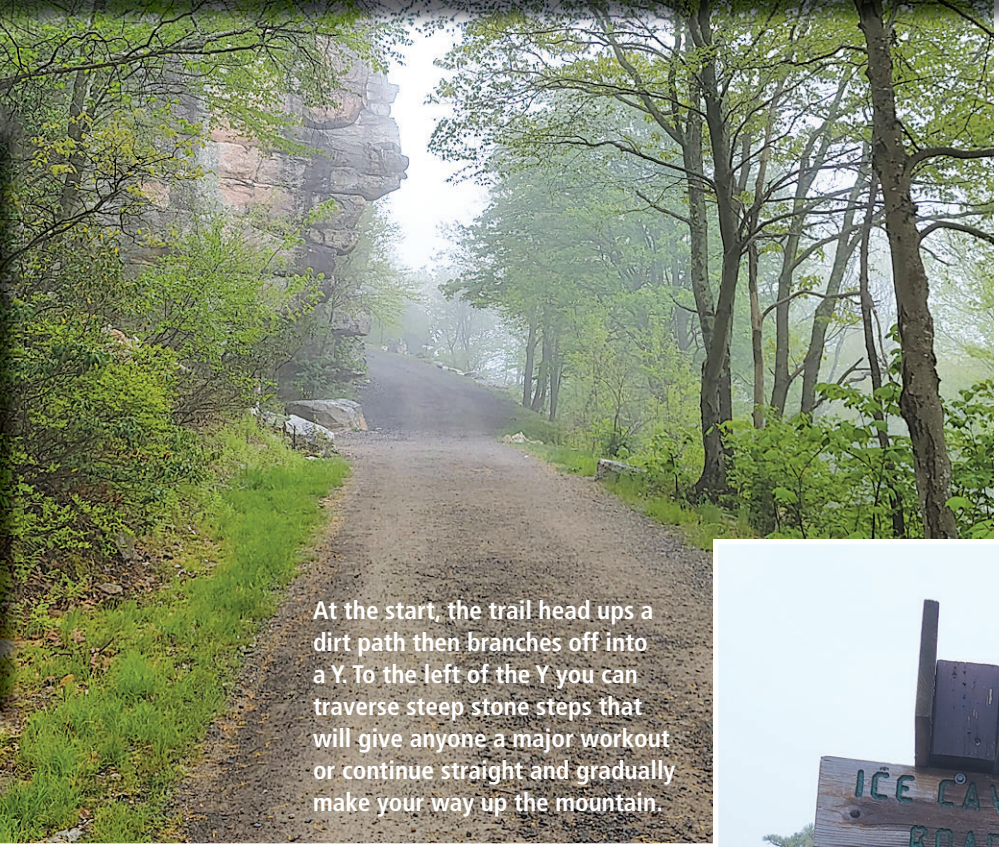
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The sights of the Sam's Point Area of Minnewaska State Park Preserve

BY ANTHONY MORGANO



The path to the ice caves is filled with stone steps and wooden walkways, like the one above and to the upper right.



At the start, the trail head ups a dirt path then branches off into a Y. To the left of the Y you can traverse steep stone steps that will give anyone a major workout or continue straight and gradually make your way up the mountain.

CRAGSMOOR – Just across the border into Ulster County, a breathtaking view awaits atop the Verkeerderkill Falls Trail Hike. The launching point leads uphill past the beautiful cliffs and views of the Shawangunk Conglomerate to the left, with large rock outcrops to the right. Continuing along that path, you'll eventually reach Sam's Point, which features even more spectacular views as well as a great place to take a short break. Returning to loop road and heading to the right, you'll eventually come to a gravel road that leads to Ice Caves Road. The narrow crevices and wooden bridges lead to even more views, including the spot for which the Ice Caves are named: A narrow crevice

that ice and snow can usually be seen even in the middle of the summer. The seven mile hike usually takes around four and a half hours, but it can be broken up over multiple trips rather than taking on the whole trip at once. On the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference website, nynjtc.org, more information about Sam's Point and a description of the trails can be found. The trail description for Sam's Point highlights some of the various views and landmarks that you can find on your adventures, but getting out and experiencing them for yourself are the best way to truly experience the Ice Caves and the Verkeerderkill Falls Trail and the rest of the Minnewaska State Park Preserve.



There are beautiful rock formations all along the trail that will make you catch your breath.



PETRA DUFFY | DEMOCRAT
Nysa Calkin (Democrat photo editor) traversed the trails at Sam's Point with her dog Kangaroo.



Celebrate National Trails Day on June 3

WOODRIDGE — Come out and celebrate National Trails Day with the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance on Saturday, June 3rd at 9 AM on the historic O&W Rail Trail between Woodridge and Fallsburg. The trail clean-up event will gather and begin at the trailhead at 269 River Road, Woodridge. Trash bags will be provided to volunteers.

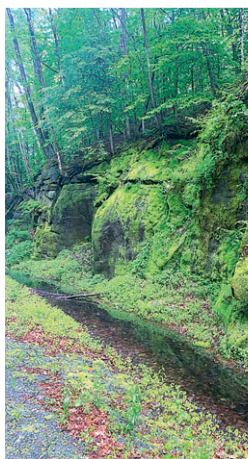
National Trails Day is an annual event sponsored by the American Hiking Society during which communities gather to promote trail advocacy and service. The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance uses the day to promote the trail and foster stewardship through clean-up events in the spirit of the national day's tagline "A Day of Service for Hometown Trails and the People Who Love Them."

An additional trail clean-up event will be hosted in Liberty by the Liberty Middle School Class of 2027, National Junior Honor Society, and the Liberty Middle School Wellness Committee; along with other community partners. The Liberty event starts at 10 AM at the Bridge & Tunnel Brewery, 50 Lake Street Liberty.

"The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail is a trail for everyone," said Heather Jacksy, from Sullivan County Planning and member of the Alliance. "National Trails Day is part of a year-long series of seasonal events." Visit the event Facebook page at bit.ly/NTDSullivan or call (845) 807-0531 for more information.

The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance grew out of the 2019 Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Feasibility Study and is a partnership of local government entities, non-profits, and volunteers which serve as the stewards for the trail. For more information about the O&W Rail Trail and the work of the Alliance, visit www.SullivanOandW.com.

Rail Trails rock!



1

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SULLIVAN O&W RAIL TRAIL ALLIANCE



2



3

1. The Rail Trails provide a great way to get outside and get moving in any season. These photos of the Hurleyville and Liberty trails highlight the different seasons in Sullivan County.

2. The Parksville trail features lush forests to either side as well as a waterfall alongside the path. Woodridge:

3. The Woodridge Rail Trail runs next to the water, offering excellent scenery.

Do you enjoy the rail trail in Hurleyville? Really, who doesn't enjoy a beautiful walk through the rock cut, followed by a great meal, then another stroll to walk off the calories?

But what about the rail trails in Parksville, Liberty, Mountaindale, South Fallsburg, Woodridge, Mamakating, and Wurtsboro? Did you know they are all part of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail?

Indeed, there is a growing alliance of local governments and non-profits working together in partnership to connect these parcels into one 50-mile trail from Mamakating all the

way to Rockland – not to mention further connecting it to trails in Ulster and Orange counties. It's an ambitious plan, yes, but this alliance has a lot of hard workers.

Regardless, now's time to go exploring. The level grade of these trails makes for easy walking. In fact, since trains aren't very good at going up hills, slopes were leveled off and mountains were blasted through by the railroads in order to make the route as flat as possible.

Several of the Sullivan O&W trails have a surface that make them great for riding bikes, too. The plan is to one day surface the entire 50-mile trail

with materials that can accommodate bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs.

Visit www.sullivanandw.com to find out more about each trail section and to make sure your experience is the best. Learn about trail history, where to eat, and the feasibility study showing the proposed trail development.

It's regularly updated with information about happenings on the trail, and you can download "In the KnO&W," the quarterly newsletter. And don't forget to follow the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail's doings on Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok.

You can also join organized events!



MINISINK BATTLEGROUND PARK

Town of Highland, New York
58 County Rd 168 Barryville, NY 12719
Around a mile of trail

located off Route 97 on County Road 168, Barryville within the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River in close proximity to the famous Roebling Bridge and Zane Grey Museum.



D&H LINEAR PARK

Town of Mamakating, New York

3½ miles of trail situated along the historic D&H Canal ideal for hikers, bikers, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature watching and fishing. No admission fee, the park is open year round. Hours are from 8:00am 'till dark. Two accesses located off Route 209 - Hornbeck's basin access ½ mile north of Wurtsboro; Bova Road 4½ miles north of Wurtsboro between Summitville and Phillipsport.



LAKE SUPERIOR STATE PARK

342 Dr. Duggan Road, Bethel, New York 12720
Off Route 17B, 10 Miles West of Route 17 Exit 104

Lake Superior State Park consists of 1409 acres and features Lake Superior and Chestnut Ridge Pond. Lake Superior State Park Beach Loop Trail is a 2 mile loop that starts and ends at the beach area The Park is operated by the County of Sullivan pursuant to a Cooperative Agreement with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.



- Lake Superior State Park
- Fort Delaware
- Museum of Colonial History
- Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park
- Livingston Manor
- Covered Bridge Park
- Sullivan County Museum

Interpretive Centers located at each of the parks, displaying the historical features on the sites

845-807-0287
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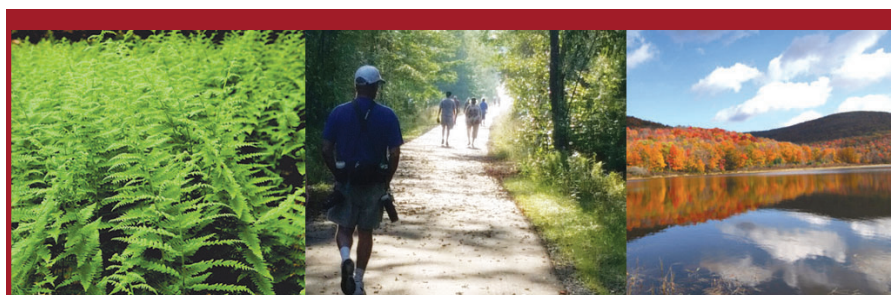
Sullivan 180 has been leading the way with a calendar of events designed to have fun on (and bring attention to) the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail, with the next being a celebration of National Trails Day on June 3rd. This event includes a litter pluck and a group hike. It is a sneak peek at the next big project location - the Neversink River - where a bridge will be constructed to connect two existing sections of trail.

Bring your dog to the BowO&W on August 10th, or let out a HOWL on October 27th (All details are on the calendar). Like the cold? You'll

be able to slap on your boots or snowshoes for the 2024 4th Annual SnO&W!

Before heading out on the trail, make sure you are prepared for the excursion with appropriate gear. Check the weather, and dress accordingly. Make sure you have bug spray, and watch out for those hungry ticks. Need gear? Visit the website for outdoor gear, bicycle rentals, snowshoe rentals and other related stuff.

But don't wait - get going. Find your next adventure. It could just be a really great afternoon!



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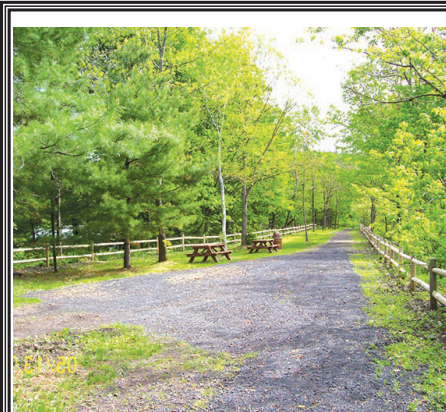
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After returning indoors, check for ticks, change clothes, and shower as soon as possible.



Check your pets for ticks regularly.

Use an insect repellent with at least 20% DEET, picaridin, or IR3535.

Avoid tick infested places such as brush, tall grass, and wood piles.

Whenever possible, wear long sleeves and long pants.

Treat clothes and equipment with Permethrin.

Warning: Tick Habitat

Don't let a tick make you sick!

For more information on ticks and tick-borne illness, call Sullivan County Public Health Services at: 845-292-5910.

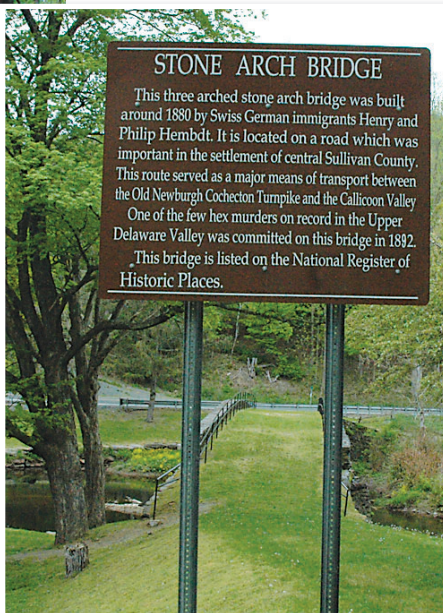
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Bridging the gap at Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park



Above: Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park features two trails, the Worthington and Bridge trails, which cover about a mile of hiking.

At left: The Worthington and Bridge trails offered at Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park have a slight elevation gain.



Above right: Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park offers visitors with 20 acres of terrain, which includes two trails covering about a mile of hiking.

Above: The Stone Arch Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historical Places as the centerpiece to the Historical Park near Kenoza Lake and Jeffersonville.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY ALEX KIELAR

Located along Route 52 just north of Kenoza Lake, Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park offers visitors with 20 acres of terrain to explore.

A scenic three-arched stone bridge is the focal point of the park, which was originally built around 1880 by Swiss immigrants Henry and Phillip Hembt.

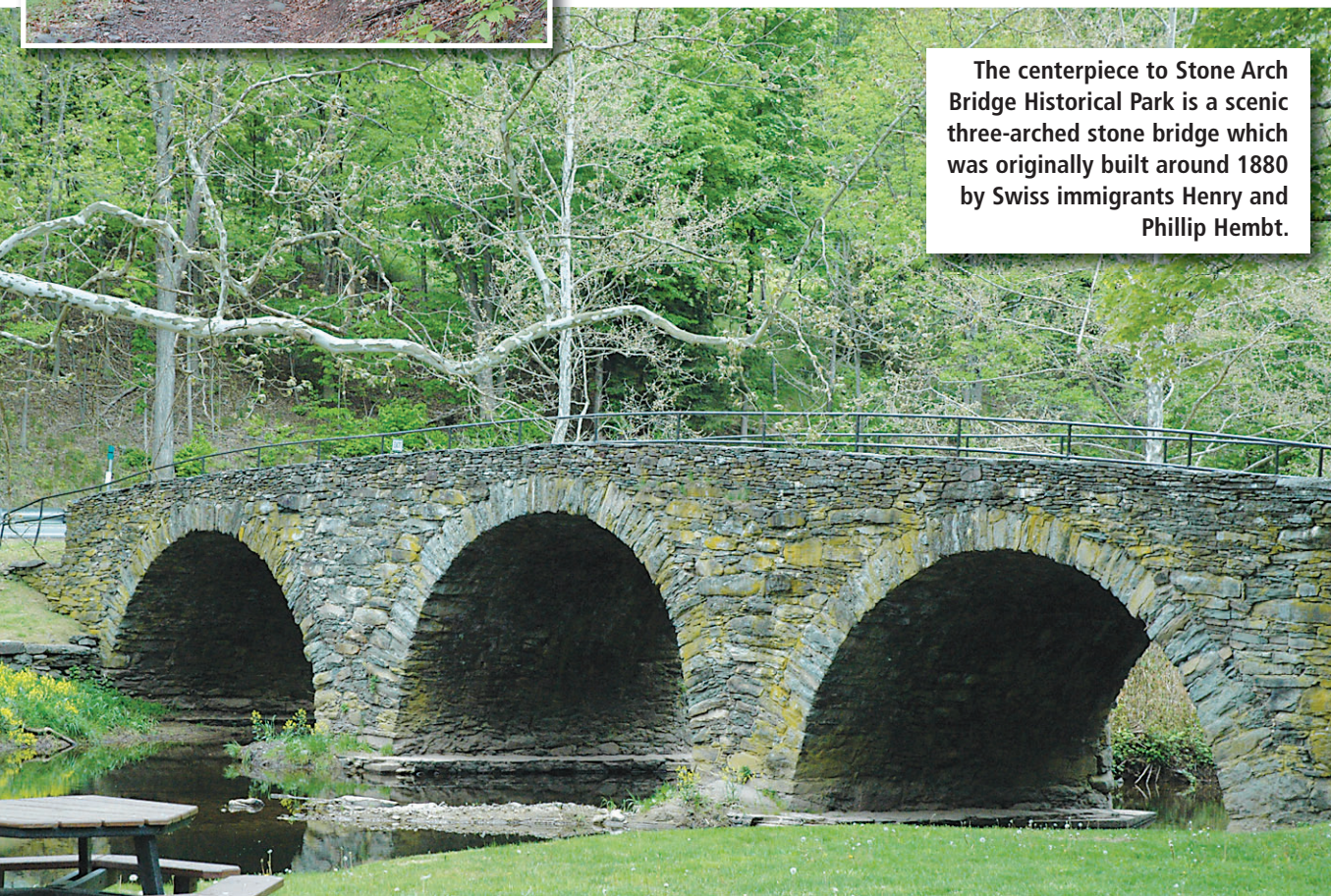
The 98-foot long bridge was restored in 1980-81 by the Division of Public Works and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge is located on a road that was a major key to the settlement of central Sullivan County.

Parkgoers get a magnificent view of the Callicoon Creek from the bridge and can also fish from the East Branch of the creek. The park reminds visitors that there is no swimming in the creek.

A playground for kids ages 5-12 is located adjacent to the park. There are two trails to explore, the Worthington and Bridge trails, which allow for about a mile of hiking.

There are restroom facilities available, as well as plenty of parking in the lot at the entrance.

The park is also available for wedding ceremonies and wedding party photos. There is no admission fee to the park and it is open daily from May to October, 8 am till dusk.



The centerpiece to Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park is a scenic three-arched stone bridge which was originally built around 1880 by Swiss immigrants Henry and Phillip Hembt.



Join us for a trail clean-up in honor of National Trails Day!

Saturday, June 3 at 9am
O&W Rail Trail Trailhead Parking,
269 River Road, Woodridge

Trash bags and light refreshments provided. Stay and clean up our trail as long as you like.



110374



SULLIVAN O&W RAIL TRAIL **Learn More** SullivanOandW.org
Follow us on   Call 845-807-0527

Tips for Hiking:

Know Before You Go:
Research your hike's route, the weather, & local animal safety. Be sure to pack sufficient supplies.

Share Your Plan:
Let someone know where you will be & when you plan to return.

Stay on Trail:
This will reduce your risk of injury & getting lost.

Stay Alert:
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