

**What Value Would a Trail Committee in Dutchess County Offer?**

# WHO ARE OUR TRAIL COMMITTEE CONSTITUENTS?

* Trail Operators
* Trail Communities
* Trail Landowners
* Trail Users

### TRAIL OPERATORS, LANDOWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

* Private
* Not for Profits
* Institutions (Bard College, Marist College, Culinary Institute, Unification Theological Seminary…)
* Local Governments
* County
* State
* Federal
* Greenway
* NY-NJ Trail Conference
* Appalachian Trail Conference

### TRAIL USERS

* Hikers
* Cyclists
* Pedestrians
* Commuters (School Kids, etc.)
* Equestrian
* XC Ski
* Limited transportation access (low income, non-drivers, etc.)
* Birders
* Nature enthusiasts

# WHAT DO CONSTITUENTS NEED?

* Mapping
* Promotion and branding
* Wayfinding and signage
* Event partnerships
* Funding support
* Advocacy
* Access to information and expertise
* Forum to study and debate issues
* Legal advice
* Stewardship
* Assistance with building connections to existing and planned trails and destinations
* Clarity around a County-wide trail concept

# WHAT CAN A TRAIL COMMITTEE PROVIDE?

* Lead a County-wide trails visioning, planning, and implementation process
* Support emerging trails and groups
* Communicate trail connection ideas and trail needs to constituents, key stakeholders, elected officials and department heads
* Assist municipalities/landowners with acquisition and/or easement logistics
* Write letters of support for grant applications
* Provide education about and support for trails resolutions
* Provide a forum to study and debate issues
* Oversee trail data collection, documentation and updates
* Create guidelines for consistent signage, wayfinding, maps, branding, and trail amenities
* Act as a clearinghouse for knowledge and sharing of stakeholder experience: best practices, sample easements, liability information, case studies, lessons learned, trail committee enabling legislation, trail-based zoning regulations, etc.
* Coordinate with neighboring Counties to maximize cross-border connections and promotion opportunities
* Increase visibility of trails and trail initiatives

# WHO WOULD SIT ON THE COMMITTEE AND/OR PARTICIPATE?

* County: legislators; GIS, planning, DPW staff
* State: NYS DOT, NYS OPRHP…
* Federal: National Parks Service…
* Citizens: trail community, hiking and biking community, historical community, mobility impaired community…
* Land Trusts and Trail Management Entities
* Local Government Representatives

# GOALS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, or MISSION STATEMENT…

* Support growth of robust county-wide trails system
* Aid in establishing trails (for all the associated benefits)
* Identify and promote connections
* Identify funding opportunities and support applications
* Serve as an information clearinghouse
* Coordinate among trail stakeholders – including between state, county, and local gov AND other trail operators, constituents and users

## Now that we know who the committee is, and what it does, what is the most effective parent organization for it?