

STATE LAND

Brookfield Railroad State Forest

On this page

- **Open for recreation:** Year-round
- **Fee:** Free
- **Contact Information:**
 - DEC Region 7 Sherburne Office (M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM), (607) 674-4017; R7Forestry@dec.ny.gov
 - Search, rescue, wildfire, and enforcement matters: 911- or - 1-833-NYS-RANGERS (1-833-697-7264)
A local Forest Ranger </about/667.html> is a valuable source of information for the state land you would like to visit.



Contact for this Page

NYSDEC Region 7 Sherburne Sub-office
2715 State Hwy 80
Sherburne, NY 13460

Phone: 607-674-4017

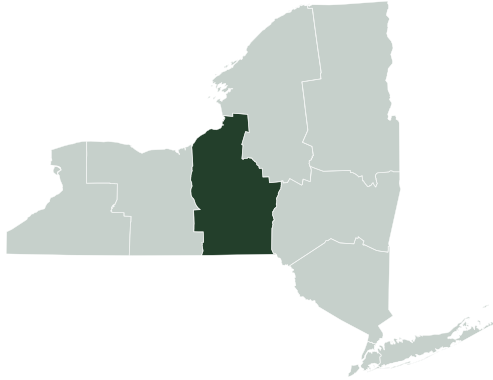
WAYS TO PROTECT Local Towns of E

Location: Town of Brookfield, Madison County

This Page Covers

- **Wildlife Management Unit** [/outdoor/8302.html](http://outdoor/8302.html): 7M

Region 7 - Central New York



- **Map:** Brookfield Railroad State Forest Map (GeoPDF) </docs/regions_pdf/brookfieldrrsf.pdf> || Brookfield Trail System Map (GeoPDF) </docs/regions_pdf/brookfieldtrailmap2020.pdf> - GeoPDF Instructions </pubs/120176.html> || Google Earth </pubs/42978.html> || DECinfo Locator

Originally purchased in the 1930s, like most of the State Reforestation Areas throughout New York, the 848-acre Brookfield Railroad State Forest is part of the highly acclaimed Brookfield Trail System which is located in southeast Madison County. The majority of the horse trails, including the assembly area, are located on the nearby Charles E. Baker State Forest </lands/8225.html>.

A multiple-use trail system on Brookfield Railroad State Forest provides miles of enjoyment for hiking, snowmobiling, and horseback riding.

Featured Activities



Hiking



Primitive Camping



Freshwater Fishing



Biking



Hunting



Trapping



Snowmobiling



Cross-Country Skiing



Snowshoeing



Horseback Riding

Accessible Features

General information on accessible recreation </outdoor/34035.html> includes links to other locations with accessible recreation opportunities and information on permits for motorized access.

Significant portions of the trail system are accessible for those with mobility impairments through the Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD) </outdoor/2574.html>. Those with a MAPPWD permit can use ATVs on Trail 33 and on the Will Mason Loop (which includes Trail 35 and Will Mason Road) for hunting, wildlife viewing and camping.

Directions

From the south: Take State Route 8 north to County Route 99 north which goes into the hamlet of Brookfield. In the hamlet turn left onto County Rt. 80, then right onto Hibbard Road. Hibbard runs through the heart of the forest.

- Vidler Road Parking Lot (42.830681°N, 75.364686°W) [Google Maps](#)

All coordinates provided are in decimal degrees using NAD83/WGS84 datum.

Rules, Regulations and Outdoor Safety

Practice Leave No Trace Principles <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles> when recreating on state land to enjoy the outdoors responsibly minimize impact on the natural resources and avoid conflicts with other users.

All users of Brookfield Railroad State Forest must follow all State Land Use Regulations </lands/44115.html> and should follow all Outdoor Safety Practices </outdoor/28708.html> for the safety of the user and protection of the resource.

Special Regulations for Brookfield Railroad State Forest

1. Off road trails are closed to horse and mountain bike travel from October 31 to May 1.
2. Horse owners must have a current negative Coggins certificate in accordance with Agriculture and Markets Rules and Regulations, Part 64 and carry such with them.
3. Out-of-state horse owners may be required to produce a 30 day health certificate.
4. Horses may not be run, galloped or cantered in the assembly area.

Planning and Management

DEC manages these lands in accordance with the management activities described in the Brookfield Unit Management Plan /lands/4979.html#brookfield_unit. In addition to management objectives, the UMP contains detailed information on natural features, recreational infrastructure, geology, natural and human history, habitats, wildlife, fisheries and much more.

If you have questions and/or comments about this UMP, please email us at R7Forestry@dec.ny.gov.

History

This state forest is named for the railroad line that was designed to connect the Villages of Brookfield to North Brookfield and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad in the late 1800s. The area still holds evidence today of the historic attempt by immigrant workers to build a spur line over four miles of rugged terrain with continual elevation challenges. Construction was started in 1886 with \$100,000 worth of capital stock funded to a local charter company. The workers nearly completed the grade for the spur line before financial hardship doomed the project's completion without a single rail ever being laid. Even today, much of the original rail bed is still evident throughout parts of the state forest.

Nearby State Lands, Facilities, Amenities and Other Information

State Lands and Facilities

- Charles E. Baker State Forest </lands/8225.html>
- Beaver Creek State Forest </lands/8255.html>

Where to Find Nearby Amenities

- **Gas, food, dining** and **lodging** may be found in the nearby communities of Sherburne and Hamilton.

Madison County Tourism <<http://www.madisontourism.com>> can provide information about other recreation, attractions and amenities in this area.

Numerous guidebooks and maps are available with information on the lands, waters, trails and other recreational facilities in this area. These can be purchased at most outdoor equipment retailers, bookstores, and on-line booksellers.

Additional information, outdoor equipment, trip suggestions and guided or self-guided tours may be obtained from outdoor guide and outfitting businesses. Check area chambers of commerce, telephone directories or search the internet for listings.

Consider hiring an outdoor guide if you have little experience or woodland skills. See the NYS Outdoor Guides Association <<http://www.nysoga.org>> for information on outdoor guides.

Important Links



Hiking Safely

<<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28708.html>>



Hiking and Camping Rules

<<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7872.html>>



Madison County Tourism Office

<<http://www.madisontourism.com/>>

Department of Environmental Conservation </>

Quick Links

[About DEC](#)

[Hunting & Fishing Licenses](#)

[DECinfo Locator](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Employment](#)

[Apply for a Grant](#)

Help Center

[Contact Us](#)

[Accessibility Assistance](#)

[Language Assistance](#)

[PDF Help](#)

[Help for Businesses](#)

[Doing Business with DEC](#)

Resources

[Website and Usage Policies](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Freedom of Information Law FOIL](#)

[Donate](https://www.naturalheritagetrust.org/dec)

Subscribe to DEC's Conservationist Magazine

Conservationist is packed with informative articles, first-rate photography and stunning artwork.


SUBSCRIBE <<https://www.simplecirc.com/subscribe/conservationist-magazine>>


CONNECT WITH US


 **INSTAGRAM** <<https://www.instagram.com/nysdec/>>


 **FACEBOOK** <<https://www.facebook.com/nysdec>>

 **TWITTER** <<https://twitter.com/nysdec>>

 **LINKEDIN** <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nys-department-of-environmental-conservation>>

 **YOUTUBE** <<https://www.youtube.com/user/nysdecvideos>>

 **FLICKR** <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nysdec/albums>>

 **Translation Services** <<https://www.ny.gov/web-translation-services>>

This page is available in other languages