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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Breakneck Station Reopens for 2022 Hiking Season**

*NY-NJ Trail Conference Stewards will be in place beginning Memorial Day weekend*

**FISHKILL, NY (Dutchess County)** — Metro-North Railroad, NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NY-NJ Trail Conference, and Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail announced today that the Hudson Line Breakneck station will reopen on Saturday, May 28, 2022 for weekend service. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, NY-NJ Trail Conference Trail Stewards will be staffing the popular Breakneck trailhead in Hudson Highlands State Park-Preserve to orient and assist visitors, who arrive by train, foot, or car. The Breakneck station has been closed since late 2019 and has since undergone a number of safety enhancements. When the COVID pandemic hit in early 2020, the parking area was also closed and on-street parking limited to reduce crowds.

Safety enhancements were made to the Breakneck station over the past several months. These enhancements include an off-road trail that connects passengers to the southbound platform, a safety fence separating pedestrians from the railroad tracks, anti-trespass panels around the train platforms, and temporary wayfinding signage to assist visitors in easily accessing the hiking trails. These measures were funded by Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail and MTA funds secured by State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef of District 95 for Metro-North as well as in-kind services from NYSDOT and State Parks.

Station service was timed to resume when the NY-NJ Trail Conference Trail Stewards would be on site on weekends to help screen and orient hikers to ensure they are prepared for the hike. The Trail Steward program, in place since 2014, has greatly reduced the incidence of lost or injured hikers associated with the ever-popular Breakneck Trail. The stewards will be on site from Memorial Day weekend through the beginning of November, and possibly longer this season.

The physical improvements at the train station and trailhead are an interim step towards the planned comprehensive redesign known as the Breakneck Connector. The Breakneck segment will mark the first mile of the planned 7.5-mile Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail linear park slated to go to construction at the end of 2022. When construction begins, the Breakneck station will again close until the completion of construction in 2025. Out-of-town visitors wishing to directly access the Breakneck and Wilkinson Trails are strongly encouraged to take the train and use the Breakneck station stop rather than negotiate the two-mile walk from the Cold Spring station or attempt to find parking on the side of the highway where space is limited.

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is envisioned as a linear park, spanning 7.5 miles along the Hudson

River connecting the Village of Cold Spring and the City of Beacon in New York State's Hudson Valley. Metro-North, NYSDOT, and NYS Parks are among the many partners working together to make the Fjord Trail a reality, including local municipalities, governmental agencies, community groups, and regional conservation organizations, such as project lead Scenic Hudson. The Metro-North Hudson Line includes three stations where visitors will be able to access the Fjord Trail directly once it is completed: Cold Spring, Beacon, and the Breakneck station.



A Metro-North train on the Hudson Line near Breakneck.  
Photo Ty Cole for Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc.

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The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail will offer a linear park experience inviting people of all abilities to immerse themselves in the sublime beauty of the Highlands and river landscapes. It will serve as the gateway to some of the most breathtaking and popular day hikes in the United States, including Breakneck Ridge, Mount Taurus and Little Stony Point. Impact management, habitat restoration, and easing the burden of heavy recreation visitation on local communities are all core components of the project's mission. Completion of this regionally defining resource is projected for 2027. <https://hhft.org/>

For more information on the Metro-North Railroad Hudson Line, please visit: <https://new.mta.info/agency/metro-north-railroad>

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. is a supporting organization of Scenic Hudson.

**\*For high-resolution photos, contact [dtanyol@hudsonfjordtrail.org](mailto:dtanyol@hudsonfjordtrail.org)**