



Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

The project is very much in keeping with the original 2015 Master Plan, with a few key changes:

1. The route out of the Village was shifted from Fair Street to Dockside Park after several public meetings and a public survey indicated that route would be preferred by residents. A trail starting in Dockside and connecting over the causeway to Little Stony Point is a priority project identified in both the Village of Cold Spring's Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. In other words, that route change helped implement strategic priorities the community had identified for itself through its own outreach process.
2. The project is now situated to address many of the challenges the community has identified it faces due to visitation—**at no cost** to the Village. These challenges include not having enough restrooms; overflowing garbage; and needing sidewalk and pedestrian improvements, managed parking, and better wayfinding. At a November 2022 workshop, these were the key challenges locals identified as impacting quality of life in the Village. The 2015 plan contained wayfinding and some limited sidewalk extensions (along Fair Street). The new plan will go much further to meet existing challenges, adding restrooms at Dockside, garbage removal at Dockside, and potentially more sidewalk and pedestrian improvements as well as parking and traffic mitigation.
3. The revised Draft Master Plan contained program areas designed to serve one of two purposes - to either better accommodate existing uses of spaces, or to intentionally draw people north, away from Cold Spring. Accommodation of uses included an outdoor classroom at Little Stony Point and, after the Master Plan was drafted, locals asked for swimming as that is a popular (but illegal and potentially dangerous) activity at the beach. These were both then incorporated into our thinking. The addition of a forest canopy walk north of Dutchess Manor in Fishkill was envisioned as another intentional draw away from Cold Spring for visitation management purposes. The intention was to create a draw in a wooded area of the trail with no river views or access, as a balance to other sections of the trail. However, with our "Trail First" approach, which we announced earlier this year, all program areas like these have been put on hold for the time being, as we heard through our two years of outreach meetings after the draft plan was released, that locals were concerned about creating "new" attractions that could serve as visitation drivers.

This is all to say that the changes to the project are intended to manage crowding and overtourism currently being experienced in the Village of Cold Spring and adjacent Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve, and in turn protect quality of life for residents.