

ROOSEVELT FARM LANE

HISTORY

Roosevelt Farm Lane is part of the historic road network that connected the Roosevelt Home, Val-Kill, Top Cottage, the Home Farm, and FDR's tree plantations. From the 19th century through 1945, the flat, fertile lands along the Albany Post Road (Rt. 9) and Violet Avenue (Rt. 9G) were used for growing crops, while the rugged, rocky and wet interior was only suitable for growing trees. The Roosevelt family farm, known as the "Home Farm," stretched along the east side of Rt. 9 from the current site of the Hyde Park Drive-In Theater south for nearly a mile. To the east along Rt. 9G, FDR leased land to a series of farmers, most notable Moses Smith. The interior of the land was heavily planted with trees by FDR – Norway spruce, tulip-poplar, white pine and red pine to name a few. Over 21 acres of trees were planted between 1912 and 1944. After FDR's death in 1945, the property was subdivided, with some of the land along Rt. 9 developed for commercial use. But the core of the land has mostly remained in its natural state to the present day. After being acquired by the Scenic Hudson Land Trust Inc. in 2001, the land was transferred to the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in 2007.

DESCRIPTION

Roosevelt Farm Lane is about 1.8 miles long. The trail passes through a variety of upland and wetland habitats, including a bridge over the Maritje Kill. The surface is gravel and the route is smooth but with some steep hills and curves. The lane is blazed with the green-and-white *Hyde Park Trail* markers. Permitted uses included hiking, bicycling (March through November only), cross-county skiing and snowshoeing. In the future, the National Park Service plans to operate an electric tram vehicle on the Lane which will permit visitors a chance to learn about Roosevelt estate operations with a Park Ranger.

There are three additional trails, marked with paint blazes. These are more traditional trails and the footing can be uneven; please use caution and wear appropriate footwear for the season. Stay on the marked trails.

- The *White Trail* starts about 0.2 miles from the Rt. 9 trailhead and is 0.7 miles long. It passes three historic tree plantations, parallels the Maritje Kill and ends at the Yellow Trail.
- The 0.8 mile long *Yellow Trail* begins about a half mile from the Rt. 9 trailhead. It travels east along a road historically called *Newbold Road* for 0.4 miles before turning south and plunging into native forest for another 0.4 mile. It connects back to the Roosevelt Farm Lane about 0.3 miles west of the Rt. 9G trailhead.
- The short *Blue Trail* leads for 0.2 miles between Roosevelt Farm Lane and the Yellow Trail.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Safety first!
- Open daily sunrise to sunset.
- Bikes permitted March through November only.
- Bikes must yield to pedestrians. Keep right except to pass. Sound a warning before passing.
- No littering - "Carry In - Carry Out."
- Stay on marked trails only.
- Hunting, trapping, or possession of firearms prohibited.
- No Fires • No Camping • No Swimming
- Pets must be leashed; please clean up after your pet.
- Removal or disturbance of flora, fauna, or cultural resources is strictly prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles prohibited.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911

Report Safety & Security Issues to (845) 229-9380

Report Trail Maintenance Issues to (845) 229-1521