



2020 Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail Update: *Orchard Park section now available for local & limited use*

Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Inc. (ECRT) is the trail manager for the 27-mile inactive Buffalo & Pittsburgh rail line running from Orchard Park to Ashford, NY. This property has been federally designated for use as a recreational trail by the Surface Transportation Board (STB). **NEW! The ECRT team has cleared section between Jewett Holmwood and Ellicott Roads. Local and limited use is now permitted.**

Local use only – no public parking

Currently the trail is available for local access to individuals who can access the trail by foot or bike. Trail entry can be found at both Jewett Holmwood and Ellicott roads. During future development phases, parking will be allowed at designated trailheads and additional amenities and improvements will be made.

DO NOT CROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY TO ENTER THE TRAIL.

Trail users welcome – follow trail rules on signs

Trail users are now welcome on the trail; **they are not trespassing**. The rail line is private property, owned “fee simple” by the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad and the use of the right-of-way as a trail was determined by the federal Surface Transportation Board. Trail users who stay on the trail and follow the rules are welcome on this section. Trail rules are posted at each end of this 2-mile stretch.

Surface accommodates limited use: Walking, hiking and mountain bikes

Because this an unimproved surface, at this time walking, hiking and mountain bikes or fat tire bikes work best on this section. The surface will not accommodate strollers, road bikes or rollerblades. Motorized vehicles, including ATVs, dirt bikes and snowmobiles, are not allowed. Horses are also not allowed at this time.

Responding to public demand for trail access

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor exercise like bike riding, hiking and walking has skyrocketed. Because trails are a great place to exercise and stay socially distanced, the use of trails has also exponentially increased. In Orchard Park, residents who live on or near the ECRT trail, specifically the section from Jewett Holmwood Road to Ellicott Road, are accessing the trail more often. This section has been cleared and is now available to the local community to quietly enjoy nature.