

A Wild River

The Adirondacks was the first place
Americans embraced the wilderness as a
feature of civilization. The First Wilderness
Corridor follows the Upper Hudson River
from Saratoga Springs to North Creek. This
wild and scenic river rolls through rapids,
past dramatic cliffs of magnificent marble
before it slows to flow easily through ice
meadows, kept perpetually cleared of trees
by the annual scouring of spring ice floes.

ATrail Through History

The land along the river first served as a hunting ground for Indian people, who established trails connecting the Mohawk Valley with the Champlain Valley. American and European soldiers followed these trails during the French and Indian War. Once fighting had subsided, the vast tracts of timber spurred the logging and tanning industries. Construction of a railroad just after the Civil War gave vacationers easy access to hotels and resorts, and Americans discovered the lure of nature to restore their lives.



A Wilderness to Explore

Today, communities along the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor celebrate their shared history along this route into the heart of the Adirondack wilderness. Drive along the scenic byway, or paddle the river course to America's "First Wilderness."