



**Finger Lakes Trail Conference**  
**FAQ Response to COVID-19 Public Health Crisis**  
**UPDATED June 16, 2020**

**1. Is it safe to hike or run the FLT? Is it allowed?**

The trail is open. We ask that you continue to follow these guidelines:

- Recreate locally. Please do not travel outside of your immediate community to access the FLT.
- The trail is open to individuals and small groups only.
- If you do use the FLT, please maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other trail users and wear a mask or bandana when passing others.
- Carry and use hand sanitizer after touching surfaces others may have touched.

**2. What about overnight trips or End-to-End (E2E) hikes? What should I do if I have a trip planned?**

Overnight trips and End-to-End (E2E) hikes are allowed. We ask you to please follow the basic guidelines outlined above AND abide by the following:

- As the state of New York re-opens, REGULARLY check the status of each region through which you will be travelling, monitor DEC and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) conditions in case of new limitations and/or closures, and, as always, check the trail conditions section of the FLTC website *before* you begin a section. Links to all are here:
  - Interactive map of Regional COVID-19 Metrics:  
<https://forward.ny.gov/regional-monitoring-dashboard>
  - DEC/OPRHP: <https://parks.ny.gov/covid19/>
  - FLTC Trail Conditions:  
<https://fingerlakestrail.org/plan-hikes-finger-lakes-trail/trail-conditions/>
- Note that the FLT passes through 21 counties. Please check county website for any additional restrictions or closures.
- Hikers may use shelters and lean-tos located on private land and in state forests. However, all hikers planning an overnight hike should bring a tent, hammock or other form of shelter in the event that other hikers or hiking parties are using the available lean-to.
- DO NOT contact Car Spotters/Trail Angels at this time and until further notice. Please secure your own transportation from members of your immediate household.
- As parts of the trail are likely to be unmaintained, carry a pruning saw or a collapsible buck saw, and be prepared for downed trees.
- Move quickly and don't linger in those areas where there are likely to be a lot of day hikers (e.g. Robert Treman State Park, Watkins Glen State Park, etc.)

**3. What about areas of trail that run through public lands and State Parks?**

- Complete guidelines for use of DEC and State Parks lands are available here: <https://parks.ny.gov/covid19/>. Please note specific closures and parking restrictions at certain parks.
- **Camping & Pavilion/Shelters:** New York State Park campsites, cabins and cottages are currently open only to those with existing reservations. New reservations for all available sites – including tents, trailers, RVs, cabins, yurts and cottages -- will be accepted at 9 a.m. June 8, for camping stays beginning on June 22. Reservations are expected to fill quickly. Reservations can be made

in advance by calling toll free 1-800-456-CAMP or <http://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com>. Online reservations are encouraged. You must have a reservation to camp. No walk-up camping stays will be accepted. For more information, please see our [press release](#).

#### **4. What about trail work? Can I perform routine maintenance? Can I work with others?**

Yes, you can perform trail maintenance, following these guidelines:

- Please work individually or in small groups and DO NOT carpool to trailheads and work sites. Drive separately and maintain social distancing within your work group.
- Avoid sharing tools and equipment. Carry your own personal pruning or bow saw, loppers and work gloves. Use hiking poles for safety and to flick sticks off the tread.
- Wear a mask if you're likely to be passed by hikers or if you are working near others. Consider wearing sterile gloves underneath your work gloves for added protection.
- Carry hand sanitizer and an extra pair of exam gloves to use when you return to the manmade environment.
- In order to avoid other trail users, we do not recommend performing maintenance on highly trafficked areas of the trail at this time.
- Please remember that chainsaw work is to be completed by certified sawyers ONLY. Please continue to report trail conditions to the FLTC via email to [trailreports@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:trailreports@fingerlakestrail.org). You may find some sections in need of clearing. Please be assured we will get to them when we can.

#### **5. Is the FLTC's office open? What about map and merchandise orders?**

The FLT's office at Mt. Morris is currently staffed, but is not open to the public. Map and merchandise orders are being fulfilled, but due to high volume of orders and limited staff, please allow a little extra time for processing. FLTC Staff can be reached as follows:

- Quinn Wright, Executive Director: [qwright@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:qwright@fingerlakestrail.org); 716-826-1939
- Christy Post, Director of Marketing and Communications: [cpost@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:cpost@fingerlakestrail.org); 585-978-9344
- Debbie Hunt, Office Manager: [debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org](mailto:debbieh@fingerlakestrail.org); 585-658-9320

#### **6. What changes have been made to the FLT's schedule for group hikes, events and activities?**

FLT staff and members of our Board of Managers have been monitoring the situation carefully and we have made a number changes to group hikes and events in the next few months. We will announce additional schedule changes as decisions are made. The calendar on our website and events on Facebook are currently up-to-date.

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Trail Council Meeting – REFORMATTED  
Changed from an in-person meeting to an email exchange of reports & Q/A, with a probable follow-up meeting via ZOOM or similar platform.
- Spring Weekend - CANCELLED
  - Originally schedule for June 12-14 at Houghton College. This event is cancelled for 2020.
- Annual Membership Meeting - RESCHEDULED
  - The Annual Membership Meeting traditionally takes place during Spring Weekend. The Membership Meeting was moved to Fall Weekend, which has also been cancelled. The Annual Membership Meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, September 12.
- Fall Weekend – CANCELLED
  - Fall Weekend was scheduled to take place September 11-13 at Greek Peak Resort, but has been cancelled for 2020.
- Cross-County Hike Series – POSTPONED/RESCHEDULED
  - The 2020 Cross-County Hike Series in Cortland County was scheduled to begin on April 18. The entire series of hikes has been postponed to 2021. Registrants have the option

of deferring to one of the next two years: 2021 in Cortland County or 2022 in Tompkins County.

- Hiking 101 – MAY, JUNE AND JULY HIKES POSTPONED/RESCHEDULED
  - The Hiking 101 series was scheduled for the first Saturday of each month beginning in May. The Series, which consists of six hikes, has been rescheduled and will occur the first and last Saturday of each month beginning July 25. The complete schedule is available on our website and on Facebook.
- Alley Cat Kanakadea Lean-To Project – Postponed to 2021
- Alley Cat Hesse Lean-To Project – RESCHEDULED
  - The Hesse Lean-To Project was scheduled for June 19-22. This project has been rescheduled to take place August 7-9. Please contact Project Manager Peter Wybron for more information.
- Alley Cat Trail and Bridge Work in Solon, NY
  - This project has been scheduled for October 5-9. Please contact Peter Dady or Mary Coffin for more information.