



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



# Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail

*New York*



## Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail

New York

*The Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail travels from one end of the village of South Nyack to the other in 1 mile but greatly expands*



The Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail travels from one end of the village of South Nyack to the other in 1 mile but greatly expands its reach by connecting with the Old Erie Path and a new shared-use path on the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge, formerly known as the Tappan Zee Bridge, which crosses the Hudson River from Westchester County.

The path follows the former route of the Northern Railroad of New Jersey, which began running trains from Nyack to Jersey City in the 1870s. The Northern was a business partner of the Erie Railroad, which acquired the Northern in 1942. It operated as Erie's Nyack and Piermont Branch until it ceased passenger service in 1966. The trail came into being about the same time that other Orangetown Township communities resuscitated another

pair of disused Erie Railroad corridors into trails: the [Old Erie Path](#) and the [Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail](#). They connect to form more than 8 miles of pathway. The trail is named for former South Nyack Mayor Raymond G. Esposito.

Like the Old Erie Path, the Esposito Memorial Trail hugs the steep hillsides of the Hudson Palisades on the river's western shore and has scenic views of the river valley after the leaves have fallen. Starting at the Old Erie Path junction, the Esposito Memorial Trail has a firmer surface as it runs alongside US 9W. Just before it crosses I-87/I-287 on a bridge shared with US 9W, steep stairs on the right connect to the Elizabeth Place Dog Park.

After it crosses I-87/I-287, the Esposito Memorial Trail is accompanied by the new shared-use path built on the north side of the bridge spanning the Hudson River. Concerned that heavy bicycle traffic from the new path would overwhelm the Esposito Memorial Trail, local officials separated the two trails with a divider up to a new trailhead at Clinton Avenue. Both trails have access to a trail-only parking lot and restroom facility at Exit 10 on I-87/I-287.

After crossing Clinton Avenue, the Esposito Memorial Trail heads north 0.3 mile alongside residential South Franklin Street to its end at Franklin Street Park. In the park, a plaque marks the former site of the South Nyack depot, where commuter passengers would board for a trip to Jersey City and the ferry ride across to New York City.

While South Nyack is residential, the village of Nyack offers snacks, restaurants, and shops just a few blocks downhill on South Broadway.



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**States:** New York

**Counties:** Rockland

Length: 1miles

**Trail end points:** Old Erie Path at S. Broadway and Hawthorne Pl. to Cedar Hill Ave. and S. Franklin St.

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Mountain

Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

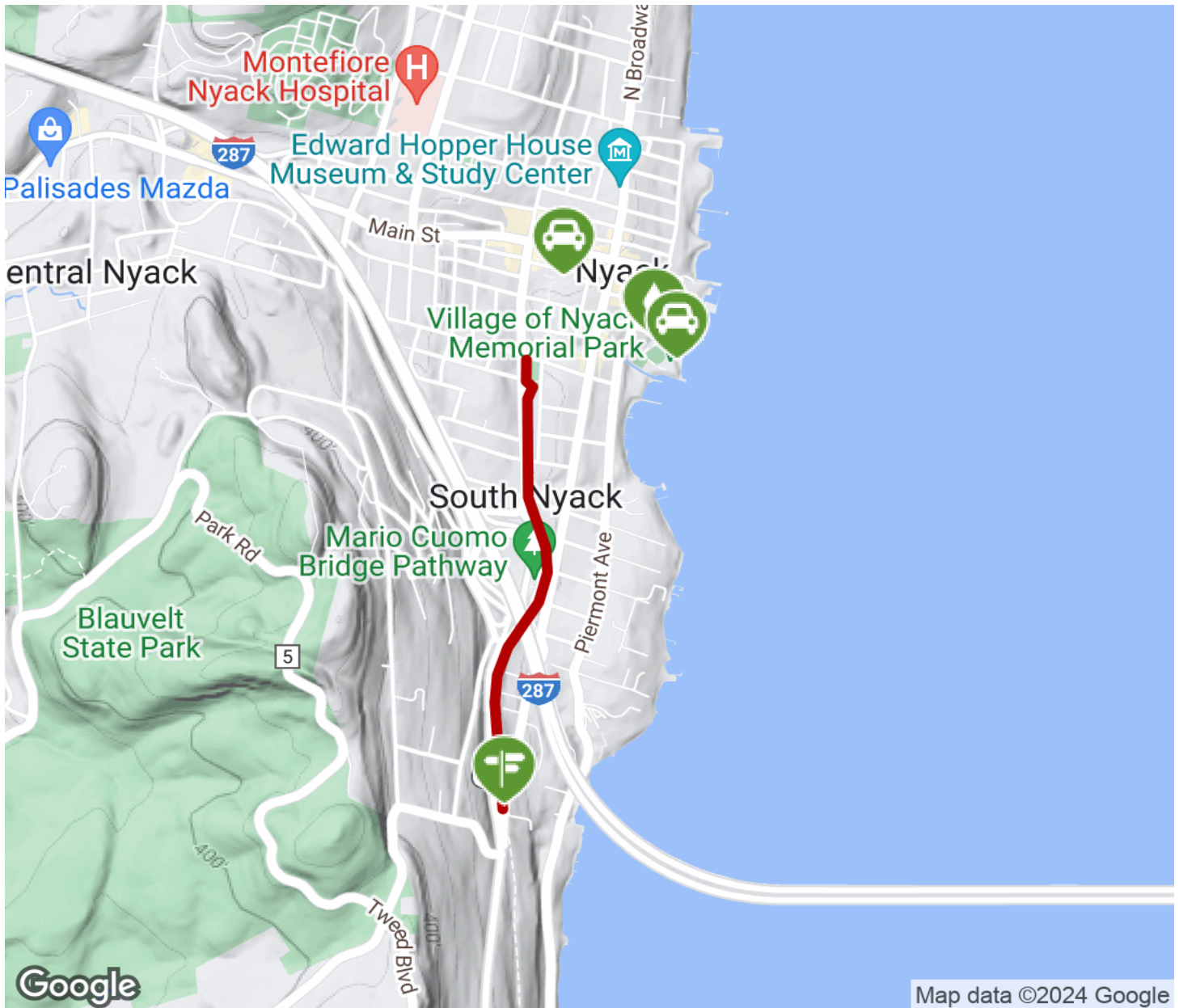
To reach the northern endpoint in South Nyack from I-87/I-287 W, take Exit 11 and stay straight on High Ave. Go 0.5 mile, and turn right onto S. Franklin St.; then go 0.3 mile to Cedar Hill Ave. and Franklin Street Park. Look for on-street parking on S. Franklin St. or Cedar Hill Ave.

To reach the northern endpoint in South Nyack from I-87/I-287 E, take Exit 11 and turn left onto NY 59. Go 0.8 mile, and turn right on S. Franklin St. Go 0.2 mile to Cedar Hill Ave. and Franklin Street Park. Look for on-street parking on S. Franklin St. or Cedar Hill Ave.



# Raymond G. Esposito Memorial Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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