

Dryden Lake Trails

Nearest community: Dryden, NY

County: Tompkins

A small network of easy trails



General description:

Dryden Lake is a very pretty small lake accessed through the New York State Multiple Use Area. It is an excellent “picnicking area” and gives you access to an old rail-to-trail known as the Jim Shug Trail. Choose how far you want to go, from a few hundred feet locally to a couple of miles in either direction on the Jim Shug Trail.

** In 2019, a new segment of trail was opened up going from the end of the Jim Shug Trail in the Village of Dryden, to Freeville (about three miles one way). It is currently a mountain biking or hybrid trail. Eventually, this trail system will connect the trails in Ithaca. Stay tuned!

Surface:

Hard packed dirt, cinders or gravel with some grassy areas.

Elevation change:

Essentially flat.

What you may see:

One segment of the trail follows the shoreline of Dryden Lake and into wetlands and fields. Water means wildlife. But on all segments of the trails you will find a variety of birds and other wildlife common to Central New York.

How to get there:

Physical address: Chaffee Road, Dryden, NY. Crossroad is West Lake Rd.

Directions: From I-81, take Exit 12 (Homer/Cortland) and follow Route 281 south for 3.8 miles to Route 13. Follow Route 13 south for 7.5 miles to the red light in downtown Dryden. When Route 13 goes right, you continue straight onto Route 38 south. Follow it 2.0 miles and turn left onto Chaffee Road. Follow it 0.2 miles and turn left onto West Lake Road. Follow it about 100 feet and turn right into the New York State Multiple Use Area. Follow the access road in about .2 miles to a gravel parking lot. The access trail begins at the end of that parking lot.



Trail note: The initial 400-foot gravel trail takes you to the Jim Shug rail-to-trail. Turn left and follow the lake shoreline or turn right and you will be headed toward the Village of Dryden, about two miles away.

GPS readings:

Parking area:

N 42° 27.713' W 076° 16.627'

Season-Hours-Fees-Parking:

Open year-round during daylight hours. There are no fees and there is parking for dozens of cars in the area.

Time: Spend an hour or an entire afternoon day.

Pet friendly?

Yes, but they must be leashed and under control at all times and you must pick up after them.

Facilities:

Restrooms are open April 1 to November 1. There are picnic pavilions, a fishing pier, boat access and a playground. And that's all, in addition to the trails.

What we found:

This is a great little area to hike, bike and explore. It has easy access and easy trails. Even better, we have never found it to be crowded. ☺

Special tale:

Evidence of this area having been a Native American hunting ground has been found at this site. Check out the interpretive marker out front for more information.

Check out more details about dozens of others trails on the website- <https://rogerfulton.com/ny-trail-guides/finger-lakes/>

**Times, fees, parking, and other information may have changed since this document was published.*

Help us keep the database up to date. Drop us a note with any changes you notice to Roger@RogerFulton.com