

THE NORMANSKILL FARM

A Short History

In 1630, an early settler called "the Norman", leased the water privileges of what was then called by the native Americans, "Ta-wal-sen-tha". The "Val of Tawasentha", in Longfellow's poem Hiawatha, is the Normanskill Valley. The Norman erected a mill farther east from here, towards the Hudson. Thereafter, Dutch settlers referred to the stream as the Norman's Kill.

Prehistoric native American encampments have been identified along the Normanskill in this immediate vicinity. The ruins just beyond the parking lot kiosk, along the trail, are from a saw mill and ice house, both of which date from 1800's. The site has been farmed at least since the 1800's. The farm came to be known as the Normans Kill Dairy Farm about 1900. It was part of C.P. Stevens larger dairy business that included a skimming station in Westerlo and a bottling plant in Albany. The Normans Kill Dairy delivered milk in horse drawn carts in Albany until 1955. The bottling plant in Albany was displaced by the Empire State Plaza, and the last milk cows were sold off in 1970. The Farm remained in the ownership of the Stevens Family until the late 1970's. The Farm was acquired by the City of Albany in 1980 for open space preservation and recreation purposes. The property is still active as a farm under a lease agreement with a cattle farmer. The City of Albany Police Department horses are also housed in the main livestock barn. The APD Mounted Unit maintains an office on site. The main farm house is occupied by a Farm manager. Many of the Normanskill Farm out buildings remain, including the blacksmith shop, pig barn, poultry sheds, main hay barn, main livestock barn, and several others.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT!



City of Albany

Department of General Services

*Thank you for helping to keep
this historic and scenic City
resource beautiful!*

Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor

Dog Park

**Open Everyday
Dawn to Dusk**

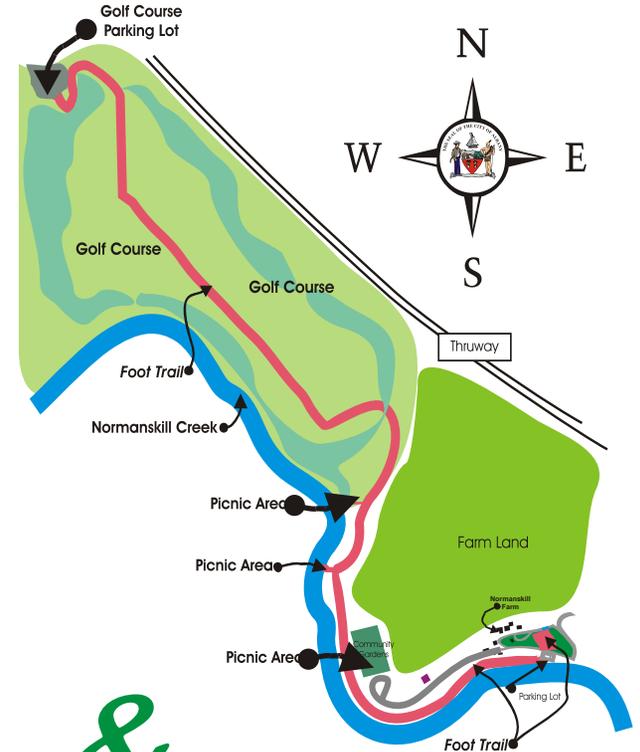
- 1 You **MUST** clean up after your dog
- 2 Owners must remain in the park & monitor their dog
- 3 If your dog can't play nice with the other dogs, please take them home



For More Information
please call the
Department of General Services
434-CITY

THE NORMANSKILL FARM

Hiking Trail & Organic Gardens



&

Dog Park

DIRECTIONS:

- Delaware Avenue south toward Delmar,
- Just before the Normanskill Bridge turn left on Mill Road
- Follow Mill Road to the trail parking lot on the left.

THE NORMANSKILL FARM

Hiking Trail & Organic Gardens

Rules for Visitors, Gardeners & Dog Owners

Due to the potential for conflicts between various uses, with livestock and farm machinery, please be advised:

1. From the parking lot, stay on the two foot trails only. The main barn areas are off limits. The Farm complex and the Whipple bowstring truss bridge can, however, be viewed from the top of the foot trail across the road from the parking lot.
2. Please park in the parking lot area only.
3. Persons signed up for garden plots may drive to the garden to drop off or pick up supplies, tools, etc. Otherwise, the gardeners are also encouraged to park in the parking lot.
4. This is a carry in / carry out location. Lets keep it clean, do not litter.
5. All dogs *MUST* be on a leash while using the trail.
6. Trails open dawn to dusk for public use.

If you are interested in a Garden Plot, contact the Capital District Community Gardens 274-8685

