

## Hamlet of Felts Mills

*Resources are located between NYS DOT Start/End Mile Point Jefferson County 6.66 through 8.89*

Located in northern Jefferson County in the Town of Rutland along Route 3, early settlers first constructed a dam as a power source for the development of a flourmill in 1807 following the 1804 construction of a bridge across the Black River. The bountiful natural resource of wood and water influenced community development as well as its strategic location to travel routes. Small dairy and crop farms, complementary retail services supporting development, and a tourist economy supported by visitors traversing to and from other destinations were key businesses supporting the local economy.

The hamlet serves as a bedroom community to surrounding communities and offers retail services to visitors traversing the corridor. A core group of residents and local officials recently formed the “Felts Mills Beautification Committee” to enhance the overall appearance of the community and seek opportunities for funding to maintain historic, cultural, and natural resources while building upon recreational development opportunities along the riverfront areas of the Black River. A newly constructed infrastructure along Route 3 and cooperative municipal efforts to implement a planning process to guide development along the corridor provide enhanced opportunities for economic development while encouraging visitors to explore points of interest.

<i>Resources and Special Sites &amp; Attractions</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Likely Partners of Stakeholders</i>
<i>Natural</i>		
Black River – traverses along the north side of Route 3. Visitors are provided with opportunities to enjoy breathtaking views of the river along an abandoned railroad-hiking trail. In addition, opportunities exist to traverse the river by canoe/kayak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan to identify and open scenic vistas along the corridor as opportunities and funding become available;</li> <li>• Develop a beautification plan to enhance views along the corridor with debris clean up and strategically removed underbrush;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Rutland, DPW Crews, NYS DOT, Special Interest Groups</li> </ul>

<b><i>Recreational</i></b>		
Fishing – Off shore fishing located along the waterfront area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a plan to identify safe fishing areas;</li> <li>• Directional signage to facilitate visitor access to safe fishing areas;</li> <li>• Develop a plan to enhance designated fishing areas with picnic tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYS DEC</li> </ul>
Hiking Trail – located along Route 3 on an abandoned railroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop existing trails as part of an interconnected multi-use trail system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Rutland, NYS PRHPO, Special Interest Groups</li> </ul>
Felts Mills Creek – traverses under a bridge crossing Route 3 in the hamlet to the Black River and through a forest. It is classified as a stocked brook trout stream and offers outdoor enthusiasts public access to fishing. It is not handicapped accessible and has no parking access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing efforts to stock the creek with trout;</li> <li>• Develop public parking access over the next 5-7 years;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town of Rutland, DEC</li> </ul>
<b><i>Historic</i></b>		
Felts Mills Cemetery – located on the South side of Route 3, offers visitors an opportunity to explore the historic roots of the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing maintenance and enhancements;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Board, special interest groups, Rutland Cemetery Association</li> </ul>