

Rockefeller State Park Preserve

125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Preserve Office: (914) 631-1470
Taconic Regional Office: (845) 889-4100
State Park Police: (845) 889-8866
In Case of Emergency: call 911
Website: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/59/>

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Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve

whose mission is to help restore and maintain the Preserve's unique system of carriage roads and pastoral landscapes.
To donate to the Friends, please visit: friendsrock.org
Click on "Donate Now"

The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) is a 501(c) charitable trust created to receive and administer gifts for the exhibits, science and land stewardship at the Preserve.
To donate to the Preserve via NHT, visit: naturalheritagetrust.org
Click on "Donations & Gifts"

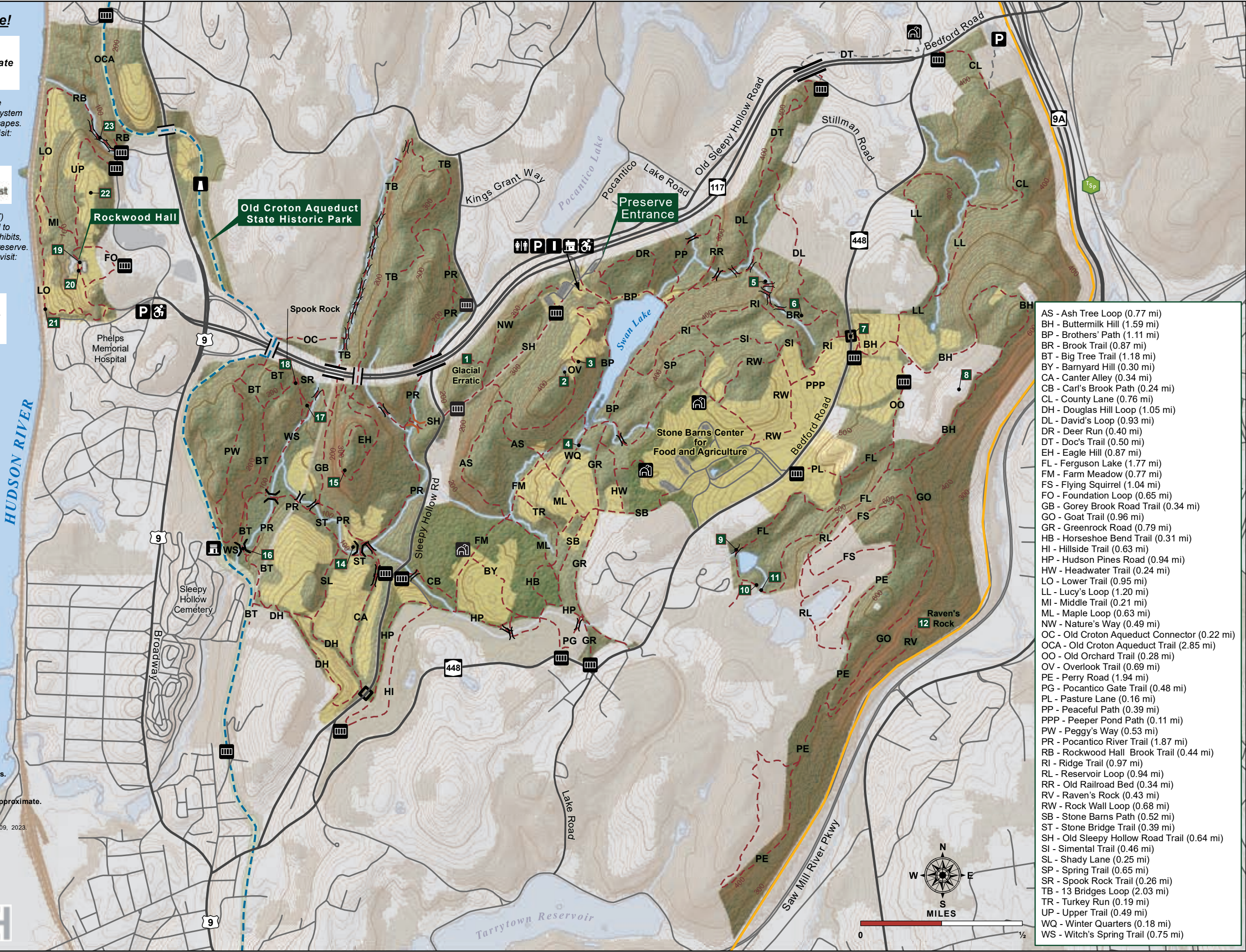
The Preserve is a "Carry In - Carry Out" Facility

Legend

- Wooden Bridge
- Stone Bridge
- SH Road Trail Bridge
- Steel Bridge
- Stone Underpass Tunnel
- Gate
- OCA Weir Chamber
- OCA Vent Shaft
- Barn/Farm
- Park Office & Visitor Center
- Parking Lot
- Comfort Station
- Active Railroad
- Rockefeller State Park Preserve Paths
- Old Croton Aqueduct Path
- North Country Trail (Westchester County Parks)
- Forest
- Fields & Pastures

Please be considerate of other park users.
Please report any accident or incident immediately to park police.
All boundaries and trails are shown as approximate.
Be aware of changing trail conditions.

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, January 09, 2023.



- AS - Ash Tree Loop (0.77 mi)
- BH - Buttermilk Hill (1.59 mi)
- BP - Brothers' Path (1.11 mi)
- BR - Brook Trail (0.87 mi)
- BT - Big Tree Trail (1.18 mi)
- BY - Barnyard Hill (0.30 mi)
- CA - Canter Alley (0.34 mi)
- CB - Carl's Brook Path (0.24 mi)
- CL - County Lane (0.76 mi)
- DH - Douglas Hill Loop (1.05 mi)
- DL - David's Loop (0.93 mi)
- DR - Deer Run (0.40 mi)
- DT - Doc's Trail (0.50 mi)
- EH - Eagle Hill (0.87 mi)
- FL - Ferguson Lake (1.77 mi)
- FM - Farm Meadow (0.77 mi)
- FS - Flying Squirrel (1.04 mi)
- FO - Foundation Loop (0.65 mi)
- GB - Gorey Brook Road Trail (0.34 mi)
- GO - Goat Trail (0.96 mi)
- GR - Greenrock Road (0.79 mi)
- HB - Horseshoe Bend Trail (0.31 mi)
- HI - Hillside Trail (0.63 mi)
- HP - Hudson Pines Road (0.94 mi)
- HW - Headwater Trail (0.24 mi)
- LL - Lucy's Loop (1.20 mi)
- MI - Middle Trail (0.21 mi)
- ML - Maple Loop (0.63 mi)
- NW - Nature's Way (0.49 mi)
- OC - Old Croton Aqueduct Connector (0.22 mi)
- OCA - Old Croton Aqueduct Trail (2.85 mi)
- OO - Old Orchard Trail (0.28 mi)
- OV - Overlook Trail (0.69 mi)
- PE - Perry Road (1.94 mi)
- PG - Pocantico Gate Trail (0.48 mi)
- PL - Pasture Lane (0.16 mi)
- PP - Peaceful Path (0.39 mi)
- PPP - Peeper Pond Path (0.11 mi)
- PW - Peggy's Way (0.53 mi)
- PR - Pocantico River Trail (1.87 mi)
- RB - Rockwood Hall Brook Trail (0.44 mi)
- RI - Ridge Trail (0.97 mi)
- RL - Reservoir Loop (0.94 mi)
- RR - Old Railroad Bed (0.34 mi)
- RV - Raven's Rock (0.43 mi)
- RW - Rock Wall Loop (0.68 mi)
- SB - Stone Barns Path (0.52 mi)
- ST - Stone Bridge Trail (0.39 mi)
- SH - Old Sleepy Hollow Road Trail (0.64 mi)
- SI - Simental Trail (0.46 mi)
- SL - Shady Lane (0.25 mi)
- SP - Spring Trail (0.65 mi)
- SR - Spook Rock Trail (0.26 mi)
- TB - 13 Bridges Loop (2.03 mi)
- TR - Turkey Run (0.19 mi)
- UP - Upper Trail (0.49 mi)
- WQ - Winter Quarters (0.18 mi)
- WS - Witch's Spring Trail (0.75 mi)

SWAN LAKE / FARM FIELDS & FORESTS

Swan Lake is the scenic heart of the Preserve and Brothers’ Path is the gateway. Brothers’ Path, which circles the lake, offers wildflower and sightings of painted turtles sunning on logs, water lilies, herons, wintering waterfowl, and stately red oak trees. Connecting trails lead through hardwood forest into a network of fields with long views and lichen-encrusted rock walls. The rolling pastures of David Rockefeller’s Hudson Pine Farm will be bequeathed to New York State. Through a cooperative agreement, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture grazes livestock using movable fences. In the spring, listen for the bubbly, tinkling call of bobolinks and “okalee” call of red-winged blackbirds.

Trail Name	(mi/km)	Trail Name	(mi/km)
Ash Tree Loop	0.77 / 1.23	Nature's Way	0.49 / 0.79
Barnyard Hill	0.30 / 0.48	Old Sleepy Hollow Road Trail	0.64 / 1.02
Brook Trail	0.87 / 1.40		
Brothers' Path	1.11 / 1.79	Overlook Trail	0.69 / 1.11
Carl's Brook Path	0.24 / 0.39	Old Railroad Bed	0.34 / 0.55
David's Loop	0.93 / 1.50	Peaceful Path	0.39 / 0.63
Deer Run	0.40 / 0.64	Peeper Pond Path	0.11 / 0.18
Equestrian Access Trail	0.50 / 0.80	Pocantico Gate	0.48 / 0.77
Farm Meadow Trail	0.77 / 1.24	Ridge Trail	0.97 / 1.56
Greenrock Road	0.79 / 1.27	Rock Wall Loop	0.68 / 1.09
Hadad's Way	0.18 / 0.29	Simental	0.46 / 0.74
Headwater Trail	0.24 / 0.39	Spring Trail	0.65 / 1.05
Hillside	0.63 / 1.01	Stone Barns Path	0.50 / 0.80
Horseshoe Bend	0.31 / 0.50	Turkey Run	0.19 / 0.31
Hudson Pines Road	0.94 / 1.51	Winter Quarters	0.18 / 0.29
Maple Loop	0.63 / 1.01		

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- Glacial Erratic
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- Sleepy Hollow Cistern
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- Swan Lake Overlook
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- Curious Creek Crossing
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- Toad Face
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- Fishpond Ruins

BUTTERMILK HILL AREA

In the eastern section of the Preserve, Buttermilk Hill overlooks the Sawmill River Valley. The trails on this forested ridge are more isolated and wilder. Buttermilk Hill Trail hugs the steep slope along rock outcroppings becoming narrower and steeper towards Raven’s Rock, a deeply fissured and fractured cliff. Look for spring wildflowers and migratory songbirds, especially colorful warblers.

Trail Name	(mi/km)	Trail Name	(mi/km)
Buttermilk Hill	1.59 / 2.56	Old Orchard Trail	0.28 / 0.45
County Lane	0.76 / 1.22	Pasture Lane	0.16 / 0.26
Ferguson's Loop	1.77 / 2.85	Perry Road	1.94 / 3.12
Flying Squirrel Trail	1.04 / 1.67	Raven's Rock	0.43 / 0.69
Goat Trail	0.96 / 1.54	Reservoir Loop	0.94 / 1.51
Lucy's Loop	1.20 / 1.93		

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- Northeast Passage
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- USGS Benchmark
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- Reservoir Bridge
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- Fairy Circle
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- Stone Arches
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- Raven’s Rock

POCANTICO RIVER / EAGLE HILL / 13 BRIDGES

In the western section of the Preserve, the carriage roads lead through deep forest, sunlit fields, and gurgling streams. Three 100-year-old stone bridges span the scenic Pocantico River. Gory Brook, a slender stream with a mysterious name, is crisscrossed by 13 Bridges Trail. In the autumn and winter, Eagle Hill offers superb fall colors and distant views of the Hudson River and Palisade Cliffs. Bluebirds, swallows, and hawks are seen in and around the rolling fields.

Trail Name	(mi/km)	Trail Name	(mi/km)
13 Bridges Loop	2.03 / 3.27	OCA Connector	0.22 / 0.35
Big Tree Trail	1.18 / 1.90	Peggy's Way	0.53 / 0.85
Canter Alley	0.34 / 0.55	Pocantico River Trail	1.87 / 3.01
Douglas Hill Loop	1.05 / 1.69	Shady Lane	0.25 / 0.40
Eagle Hill Trail	0.87 / 1.40	Spook Rock Trail	0.26 / 0.42
Gory Brook Road Trail	0.34 / 0.55	Stone Bridge Trail	0.39 / 0.63
Old Croton Aqueduct	2.85 / 4.59	Witch's Spring Trail	0.75 / 1.21

- 13
- Pocantico Falls
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- Sleepy Hollow “Hollow”
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- Eagle Hill Lookout
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- Triple Arch Bridge
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- Hulda’s Hut
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- Spook Rock

ROCKWOOD HALL / HUDSON RIVER

Rockwood Hall, William Rockefeller’s gentleman’s farm estate from 1886-1922, was landscaped by Frederick Law Olmsted, co-designer of Central Park. While the mansion is gone, Rockwood Hall offers grand vistas of the Hudson River and Palisade Cliffs, spacious grassy fields, magnificent specimen trees, and massive rock walls and terraces. It is a good vantage point to sight Monarch butterflies in the fall and bald eagles in the winter.

Trail Name	(mi/km)	Trail Name	(mi/km)
Foundation Loop	0.65 / 1.05	Upper Trail	0.49 / 0.79
Rockwood Hall Brook Trail	0.44 / 0.71	Middle Trail	0.21 / 0.38
		Lower Trail	0.95 / 1.53

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- Foundation Ruins
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- White Tree of Rockwood
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- Bridge View Benches
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- Sugar Shack
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- Rockwood Creek & Bridges

PRINTING UNDERWRITTEN BY:



Rockefeller State Park Preserve

This Preserve has been made possible through the farsighted and generous gift of the Rockefeller Family. Since 1983, over 1700 acres of their Pocantico Hills and Rockwood Hall estates have been deeded to the State of New York to safeguard the natural beauty and wildlife of these lands for present and future generations.

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, the Preserve is operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Preserve encompasses forested hills and valleys interspersed with a pastoral landscape of fields and pastures in the Pocantico River watershed. A distinguishing feature of the Preserve is the 45 miles of carriage paths, primarily designed by John D. Rockefeller Jr., that lead visitors around the 22- acre Swan Lake and down shady river lanes and intimate wooded paths to panoramic vistas.

The main entrance is on Route 117, one mile east of Route 9. The visitor center features a garden with 425 tree peonies donated by Yatsuka Town in the Shimane Prefecture of Japan which bloom in early May and a gallery with changing exhibits of contemporary art and natural and local history.

Open sunrise to sunset, the Preserve is ideal for walking, jogging, and cross-country skiing, as well as nature study, birding, hiking, and photography. Permits are available for horseback riding, carriage driving, and running teams.

DESTINATION AREAS: Numbered on the map, are featured destination areas to find and explore.
Descriptions of each area can be found online at friendsrock.org or at parks.ny.gov

Rules & Trail Etiquette

STAY ON THE CARRAIGE PATHS. Please stay out of the fields except when at the Rockwood Hall Area

Share the carriage paths. They are multi-use

Dogs must always be leashed and under control

Carry out litter and dog waste. There are no garbage bins

Fishing requires a NYSDEC license

Running (Organized groups, 7 or more require a permit):

- Run in groups of 4 or less with 200 ft. between groups
- Run two abreast, pass on left or where safe
- Communicate with others before passing them.
- Yield to carriages and equestrians, as horses have blind spots and may behave unpredictably

PROHIBITIONS **ALL AREAS:**

- Smoking
- Fires/Grills
- Camping
- Bikes/Scooters
- Mechanized Vehicles
- Amplified Music
- Alcohol
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Drones
- Skateboards
- Ball Playing

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

except at Rockwood Hall

- Picnicking
- Ball Playing
- Kite Flying
- Frisbees
- Sledding



Carriage Roads of the
ROCKEFELLER
STATE PARK
PRESERVE

125 PHELPS WAY
PLEASANTVILLE, NY 10570
(914) 631-1470



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Kathy Hochul, Governor
Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency



Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Destinations Guide



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

We'll see you out there

SECTORS OF THE PRESERVE

Swan Lake / Farm Fields & Forests

Buttermilk Hill Area

Pocantico River / Eagle Hill / 13 Bridges

Rockwood Hall / Hudson River

This Destination Guide is intended to be a companion
to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve Map.

www.rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org/maps

Produced by:
RangerSu and Linda Parker

Cover image: RangerSu

March 2024



Destinations Guide

Welcome to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve!

We have created this Destinations Guide to give you some ideas for places to go and things to see while enjoying your visit at the Preserve. We always welcome your feedback.

Please remember, Rockefeller is a *Park Preserve*. That means you may very well catch sight or sound of the 202 different bird species that call Rockefeller home as well as coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, mink, turtles, deer, frogs, insects, skunk, hedgehogs, groundhogs, snakes, fish, and many other residents of the Preserve.

It also means that:

- Dogs must be leashed at all times
- Bicycles, mechanized vehicles, drones, metal detectors, snowmobiling, camping and open fires are strictly prohibited.
- See more info at www.rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org

Thank you for your cooperation and we hope you enjoy your visit.

Destinations Guide

Sector: Swan Lake/Farm Fields & Forests

#1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6





#1 **Glacial Erratic**

SECTOR Swan Lake

TRAIL Nature's Way (NW)

GPS 41.10854, -73.84267

DESCRIPTION: This glacial erratic likely hitched a ride on a glacier in the Arctic Circle before being cast off here in the Preserve maybe 10,000 years ago. It is 20 feet high and 65 feet around and is one of the largest in the Hudson River Valley.



#2 **Sleepy Hollow Cistern**

SECTOR Swan Lake

TRAIL Overlook Trail (OV)

GPS 41.10808, -73.83655

DESCRIPTION: Stay on the trail while observing from a distance a large capacity cistern storing water that is still in use for the town of Sleepy Hollow.



#3 **Swan Lake Overlook**

SECTOR Swan Lake

TRAIL Overlook Trail (OV)

GPS 41.10876, -73.83668

DESCRIPTION: Enjoy a lovely walk on a trail providing a beautiful view of our Swan Lake along the open field. Sit on a nearby bench under the large tree to enjoy the view and the shade provided on a hot Summer day.



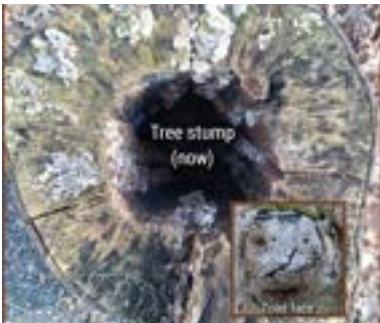
#4 Curious Creek Crossing

SECTOR Forests to Farm Fields

TRAIL Winter Quarters (WQ)

GPS 41.10466, -73.83641

DESCRIPTION: In these broad pastures to the left and right of the trail once roamed a mighty herd of David Rockefeller's breeding cattle. This natural spring-fed stream was their water source. You won't need a boat to cross but you might get your feet wet.



#5 Former Toad Face Tree (now a tree stump)

SECTOR Swan Lake

TRAIL Brook Trail (BR)

GPS 41.11231, -73.82525

DESCRIPTION: Travel along Brook Trail and look closely at the trees. Many have their own characters and some tell stories. This location is where a former tree had what looked like a toad face protruding from its trunk. Sadly it rotted and fell. What is left is this tree trunk that changes with other life forms taking over.



#6 Fishpond Ruins

SECTOR Forests

TRAIL Brook Trail (BR)

GPS 41.11018, -73.82325

DESCRIPTION: In the 1900's, fish were farm raised in this fishpond. Now abandoned, you can probably imagine local kids might have snuck in to swim here on a hot summer day. Weirs along this trail were said to have been put in by the Rockefellers so the King of England could fish when he visited.

Destinations Guide

Sector: Buttermilk Hill Area

#7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12





#7	Northwest Passage Tunnel
SECTOR	Buttermilk Hill Area
TRAIL	Buttermilk Hill (BH)
GPS	41.10939, -73.82020

DESCRIPTION: Wander under this stone structure to cross to the “other side” of the Preserve. Buttermilk is an idyllic part of the park often missed by visitors. Like much of the area, it has a history.



#8	USGS Benchmark and Plaque—Oldest Triangulation Station in America
SECTOR	Buttermilk Hill Area
TRAIL	Buttermilk Hill (BH)
GPS	41.11064, -73.80994

DESCRIPTION: This 1883 plaque commemorates the bicentennial of the Buttermilk Hill triangulation station by the US Geological Survey as the oldest triangulation station in America. The actual Benchmark is some .5 miles west of this plaque (see GPS



#9	Reservoir Bridge
SECTOR	Buttermilk Hill Area
TRAIL	Overlook Trail (OV)
GPS	41.09986, -73.82716

DESCRIPTION: This lovely reservoir is often missed by visitors to the Preserve. If you trek Buttermilk, don’t be one of them. It’s lovely in all seasons.



- #10 Fairy Circle**
- SECTOR** Buttermilk Hill Area
- TRAIL** Ferguson Lake (FL)
- GPS** 41.09829, -73.82603

DESCRIPTION: Nobody knows who built this little gathering circle, but it has been there as long as we can remember. Could it be fairies gather here?



- #11 Stone Arch Creek
Tunnels**
- SECTOR** Buttermilk Hill Area
- TRAIL** Ferguson Lake (FL)
- GPS** 41.09806, -73.82568

DESCRIPTION: These interesting 3 stone arches are simply a means to channel water but are a nice example of the detail taken by the Rockefellers to have everything done to be consistent and unobtrusive. A single cement pipe could have been used but would overwhelm the space. Since John D. Jr was involved in most of the construction decision, he obviously influenced the final design.



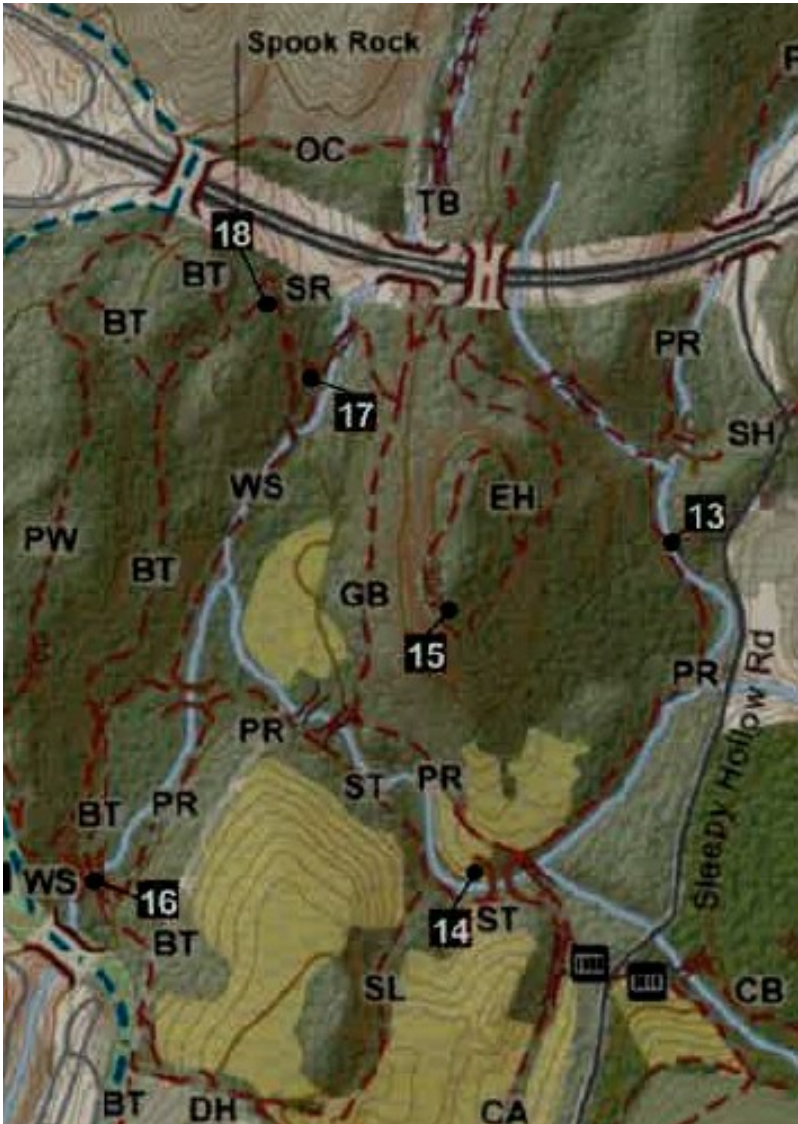
- #12 Ravens Rock**
- SECTOR** Buttermilk Hill Area
- TRAIL** Raven's Rock (RR)
- GPS** 41.09650, -73.81627

DESCRIPTION: This destination is guaranteed to amaze you when you reach it, even if you DO NOT see the legendary resident ghost as mentioned in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

Destinations Guide

Sector: Pocantico River/ Eagle Hill / 13 Bridges

#13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18





- #13** **Pocantico Falls**
- SECTOR** Pocantico
- TRAIL** Pocantico River Trail (PR)
- GPS** 41.10436, -73.84656

DESCRIPTION: The largest waterfall in the Preserve, this falls can go from mighty to meager depending on the season. It’s also quite striking in mid-winter with its many ice formations.



- #14** **Sleepy Hollow “Hollow”**
- SECTOR** Pocantico
- TRAIL** Pocantico River Trail (PR)
- GPS** 41.10035, -73.84941

DESCRIPTION: This amazing tree lives yet invites you to come stand inside and feel its energy. Is it a yoga tree?



- #15** **Eagle Hill Lookout Point**
- SECTOR** Pocantico
- TRAIL** Eagle Hill (EH)
- GPS** 41.10339, -73.85022

DESCRIPTION: One of the most spectacular views in the entire Preserve is this bench overlooking the Hudson River and the Mario Cuomo bridge. If you are lucky you might even see a bald eagle while you are up on Eagle hill. Listen, as you may hear them before you see them.



#16	Triple Arch Bridge
SECTOR	Pocantico
TRAIL	Big Tree Trail (BT)
GPS	41.10026, -73.85641

DESCRIPTION: This magnificent structure was the first triple arch bridge built in the United States. It spans the Pocantico and provides a fantastic view of the massive Old Aqueduct Trail embankment.



#17	Hulda's Hut
SECTOR	Pocantico
TRAIL	Witch's Spring Trial (WS)
GPS	41.10667, -73.85226

DESCRIPTION: "Hulda the Witch" (more likely a misunderstood healer, but certainly a real person) is said to have lived on this spot. What you see is a recreation the Preserve created to tell her story which is intriguing part of the our history. More info: www.huldasnight.com



#18	Spook Rock
SECTOR	Pocantico
TRAIL	Spook Rock Trail (SR)
GPS	41.10796, -73.85314

DESCRIPTION: More Sleepy Hollow legends can be found at Spook Rock. Can you see the legendary maidens dancing around their basket atop the ancient Native American council rock? Download our Legends booklet at: www.rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org/legends

Destinations Guide

Sector: Rockwood Hall / Hudson River

#19, #20, #21, #22, #23





#19	Foundation Ruins
SECTOR	Rockwood Hall
TRAIL	Foundation Loop (FO)
GPS	41.11313, -73.86593

DESCRIPTION: Rockwood Hall was former home of William Rockefeller, brother of John D. Rockefeller, both co-founders of the Standard Oil Company. The mansion at its height had 204 rooms making it the second-largest private house in the U.S. at the time.



#20	The White Tree of Rockwood
SECTOR	Rockwood Hall
TRAIL	Foundation Loop (FO)
GPS	41.11219, -73.86555

DESCRIPTION: One of the most spectacular trees on the property, this Sycamore stands proudly at the foundation like a sentinel. It is best viewed at a distance, however, as you climb up the Lower Trail to return to the entrance.



#21	Bridge View Benches
SECTOR	Rockwood Hall
TRAIL	Lower Trail (LO)
GPS	41.11114, -73.86789

DESCRIPTION: One of the best views of the Hudson and the Bridge can be seen from this bench. You may not want to leave!



#22 Sugar Shack

SECTOR Rockwood Hall

TRAIL Upper Trail (UP)

GPS 41.11679, -73.86470

DESCRIPTION: We are not certain, but we believe sugar from the surrounding sugar maples was processed here when the area was a working farm.



#23 Rockwood Creek & Bridges

SECTOR Rockwood Hall

TRAIL Rockwood Hall Brook
Trail (RB)

GPS 41.11860, -73.86446

DESCRIPTION: This lovely hidden walk is missed by many visitors who only see the Foundation. Don't miss this. It is a cool place in the summer with lovely shaded trees and the sound of the creek flowing past. Can you see where this creek joins with the Hudson?

New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Rockefeller State Park Preserve

125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, NY 10570
914-631-1470 x 0

www.rockefellerstateparkpreserve.org



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