

# MAP & CONTACT INFO

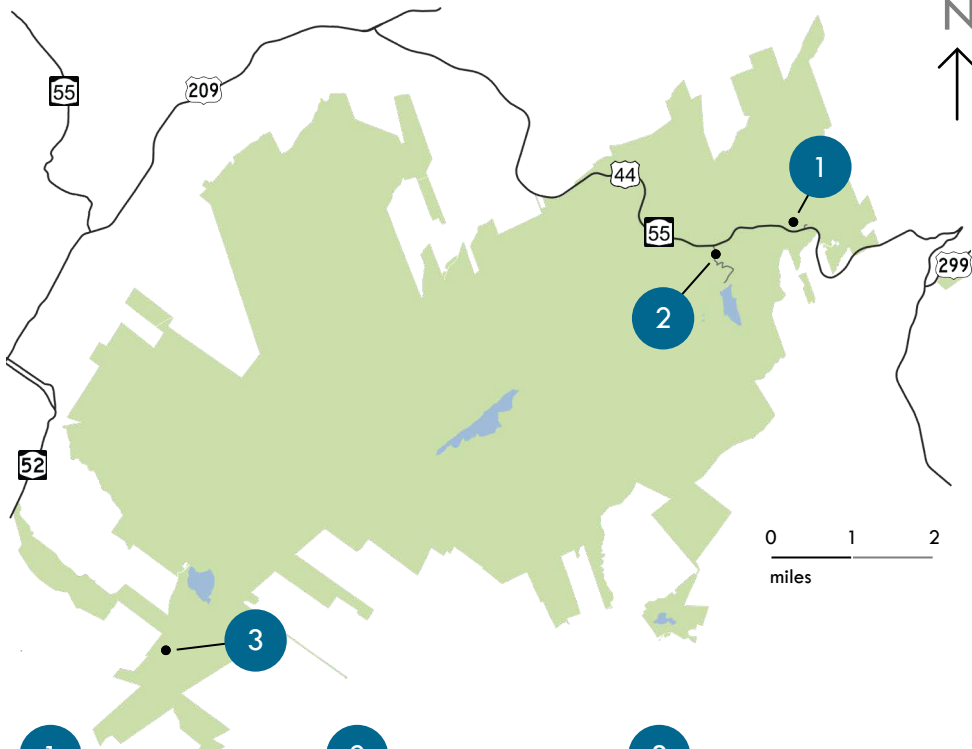


New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Palisades Interstate Park Commission

# SCHOOL GROUP PROGRAMS

1st through 6th grade

## Minnewaska State Park Preserve



1

### Peter's Kill

5080 Route 44/55  
Gardiner, NY 12525

Latitude: 41.737960  
Longitude: -74.218970

2

### Lake Minnewaska

5281 Route 44/55  
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Latitude: 41.735149  
Longitude: -74.239037

3

### Sam's Point

400 Sam's Point Road  
Cragsmoor, NY 12420

Latitude: 41.676158  
Longitude: -74.354925

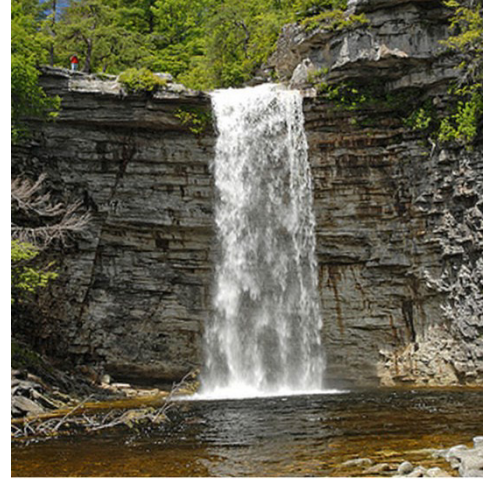
Minnewaska State Park Preserve  
PO Box 893  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
845-255-0752 Minnewaska phone

Sam's Point  
PO Box 86  
Cragsmoor, NY 12420  
845-647-7989 Sam's Point phone

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Give your students a chance to break out of the classroom and learn directly by seeing, hearing, touching and playing outside, just like Mother Nature intended!

Bring your class to explore the magnificent Shawangunk Ridge at Minnewaska State Park Preserve, located within one hour of Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh, just 15 minutes from New Paltz, NY. Minnewaska now includes Sam's Point, located in the town of Cragmoor, NY. Education programming is currently available at Sam's Point.

Our professional environmental education staff is available all year to enlighten and enliven you and your students at both Minnewaska and Sam's Point Preserve.

**PROGRAMS**

- Are up to 4 hours long and leave time for snack and lunch breaks
- Meet New York State Learning Standards
- Feature active learning in a beautiful natural setting
- Incorporate Universal Instructional Design using visual and auditory teaching tools
- Can be modified to meet the specific needs of your group
- Programs available to accommodate up to 50 students
- Lower exposure to poison ivy, ticks, and other possible hazards: many programs offered on carriage roads

**GROUP SIZE**

*Traditional Environmental Education Programs:*  
 15 students per 1 Minnewaska Environmental Educator  
 Groups of 30 will be split in half

*Large Group Program ONLY:*  
 25 students per 1 Minnewaska Environmental Educator

**COST**

Free for the educational program  
 \$60 parking fee per not-for-profit bus, as of January, 2016  
 Fees subject to change

To reserve a date for a school program, call or email:

Laura Conner: 845-255-0752  
 Minnewaska Environmental Educator  
 Laura.Conner@parks.ny.gov

Nicholas Martin: 845-255-0752  
 Assistant Environmental Educator  
 Nicholas.Martin@parks.ny.gov

Becca Howe-Parisio: 845-647-7989  
 Sam's Point Educator  
 Rebecca.Howe@parks.ny.gov

**Please provide the following information:**

- Two possible dates and times
- Grade and size of your class
- Your name and school
- Choice of program
- All contact information for you



Sam's Point

beautifuldestinations.com

**INDEX/PROGRAMS AT MINNEWASKA**

	<b>PAGE</b>
Contact Information.....	2
Beautiful, Beloved Birds.....	3
Butterfly Searchers.....	4
Berry Picker History Hike.....	5
Fire Ecology.....	6
Geology of the Northern Shawangunks.....	7
Large Group Program.....	9-10
The Life of a Tree.....	11
Winter Wildlife Strategies.....	13
Water, Water Everywhere.....	14
Directions.....	17-18

## BEAUTIFUL, BELOVED BIRDS

**Grades:** 1-3

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 1.5–2 miles

**Location:** Lake Minnewaska Area

**Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall

Photo: David Johnson



Birds greet us with glorious songs and they brighten our world with their beautiful colors. In this program, students will learn all about the unique qualities of birds through the following activities:

- Lesson on bird characteristics that includes touching bird feathers and nests, listening to bird song and seeing mounted birds of prey
- Make a pair of play binoculars or a bird mask
- Play a running game that teaches about bird survival
- Bird detective hike, including a trailside bird scavenger hunt

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Models*

## BUTTERFLY SEARCHERS

**Grades:** 2-4

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 1.5–2 miles

**Location:** Lake Minnewaska Area

**Season:** Late Spring, Summer, Fall



Insects are so much more than annoying, pesky creatures that bite us. Through the following activities, we'll teach your students that insects are actually fascinating and vital to the survival of all living things:

- Interactive lesson on insects, including a discussion of their unique characteristics and the important jobs they do for the planet
- Live insect search along the trail
- Educational and active game about the life of a butterfly

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

Photos: David Johnson



## BERRY PICKERS HISTORY HIKE

**Grades:** 6-12

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 3 miles

**Location:** Sam's Point Area

**Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall

In the mid-1800s an interesting culture developed at Sam's Point as people migrated to the ridge in the summers, when a tasty seasonal crop was ready to be picked. By participating in the following activities, your students will develop a better understanding of what it was like to be one of these Berry Pickers:

- Lesson on the Berry Pickers of the northern Shawangunks, including how historic events affected their lives, and how the activities of the Berry Pickers affected the environment
- Interpretive hike around the Loop Road which passes remnants of Berry Picker shacks and provides excellent views of Lake Maratanza
- Learn how to identify huckleberry and blueberry bushes
- The Huckleberry Pickers: A Vanished Shawangunk Culture, a 27 minute documentary that includes interviews with a few Berry Pickers themselves, is available to be shown at the Visitor Center or in the classroom as a pre-trip activity

Photos: David Johnson (blueberries), Samuel J. Mance Family (berry picker cabin)



## FIRE ECOLOGY

**Grades:** 6-12

**Length:** 3 hours

**Distance:** 1 mile

**Location:** Sam's Point Area

**Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall



Fire is a fascinating thing. How fire affects an ecosystem can be even more interesting! While fire has the potential to be detrimental, it can also have many positive impacts and breathe new life into an ecosystem. In order to survive for future generations, the pitch pine barrens and chestnut oak forest located at Sam's Point need to burn every 10 to 50 years. Your students will learn about plant adaptations to fire and prescribed fire management while participating in the following activities:

- Lesson on how fire effects the ecology at Sam's Point
- Burn tray demonstration
- Lesson on prescribed fire management
- Interpretive walk through an unburned section of forest and the site of a prescribed burn from 2013 in order to compare and contrast the species composition

# GEOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN SHAWANGUNKS

**Grades:** 6-12

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 3 miles

**Location:** Sam's Point Area

**Season:** Late Spring, Summer, Fall

The northern Shawangunk Ridge towers above the surrounding valleys. Why is it there? How did it form? What exactly is an Ice Cave? The following activities will help your students to discover the answers to these questions and many more:

- Discussion of mountain forming events and types of rock present at Sam's Point
- Interpretive hike through the Ice Caves
- Look for signs of glaciation along trail
- Observe and discuss other landforms visible from the Sam's Point Overlook

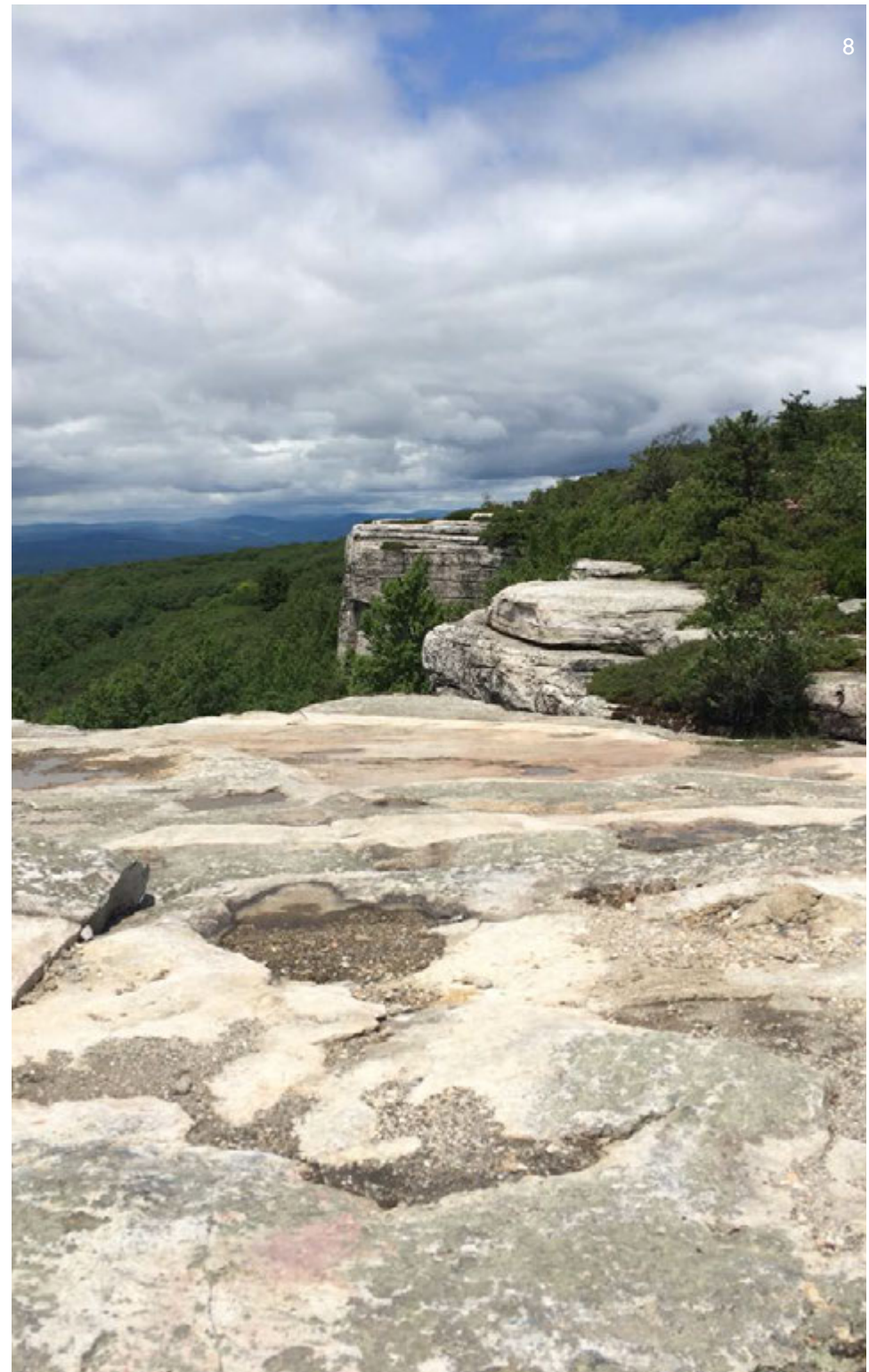


Photo: David Johnson

## LARGE GROUP PROGRAM

**Grades:** 1-3

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 1-2 miles (can be modified)

**Location:** Lake Minnewaska Area

**Season:** Spring, Fall

Your students will experience all the sights and sounds that make Lake Minnewaska so wondrous and appreciated! We will lead your classes in the following activities:

- Two mile long interactive walk along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road
- Participate in a scavenger hunt activity that teaches about camouflage
- Listen and look for wildlife along the trail
- Play interactive games that teach about trees and wildlife

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

With school budgets being cut, we have crafted a program specifically for large groups of up to 50 students. This size group allows the maximum number of students per large bus to visit Minnewaska and saves your school money on transportation.

**Grade:** 6

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 2 miles

**Location:** Lake Minnewaska Area

**Season:** Spring, Fall

Your students will learn about trees while on an interactive hike that includes games, and a hands-on science activity. The following activities will take place:

- Two mile long interactive walk along the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road
- Fun and educational game to “make friends” with a tree
- Learn how to identify common tree leaves and listen for wildlife
- Learn two methods to age a tree

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

## LARGE GROUP PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- ✓ The Large Group Program will take place on the Lake Minnewaska Carriage Road, featuring many picturesque views of the Lake

- ✓ The group is split into two groups of 25 students, each with one Minnewaska Environmental Educator
- ✓ Activities are simplified to accommodate group size
- ✓ School must supply one responsible/supervising adult per 10 students

## THE LIFE OF A TREE

**Grades:** 2-4

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 2 miles, modest hills included

**Location:** Peter's Kill or Lake Minnewaska Area

**Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall

Trees provide us with so many valuable resources, from the oxygen we all breathe, to food, paper, warmth, houses and more. While on an interactive hike, your students will engage in the following activities:

- Lesson on trees, including why they are so important to all living things
- Learn leaf ID through a leaf matching game on the trail
- Play an active seed dispersal game
- Meet a tree up close, using only their sense of touch and smell
- Use tools to determine the age of a tree

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Living Environment*

Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Models*

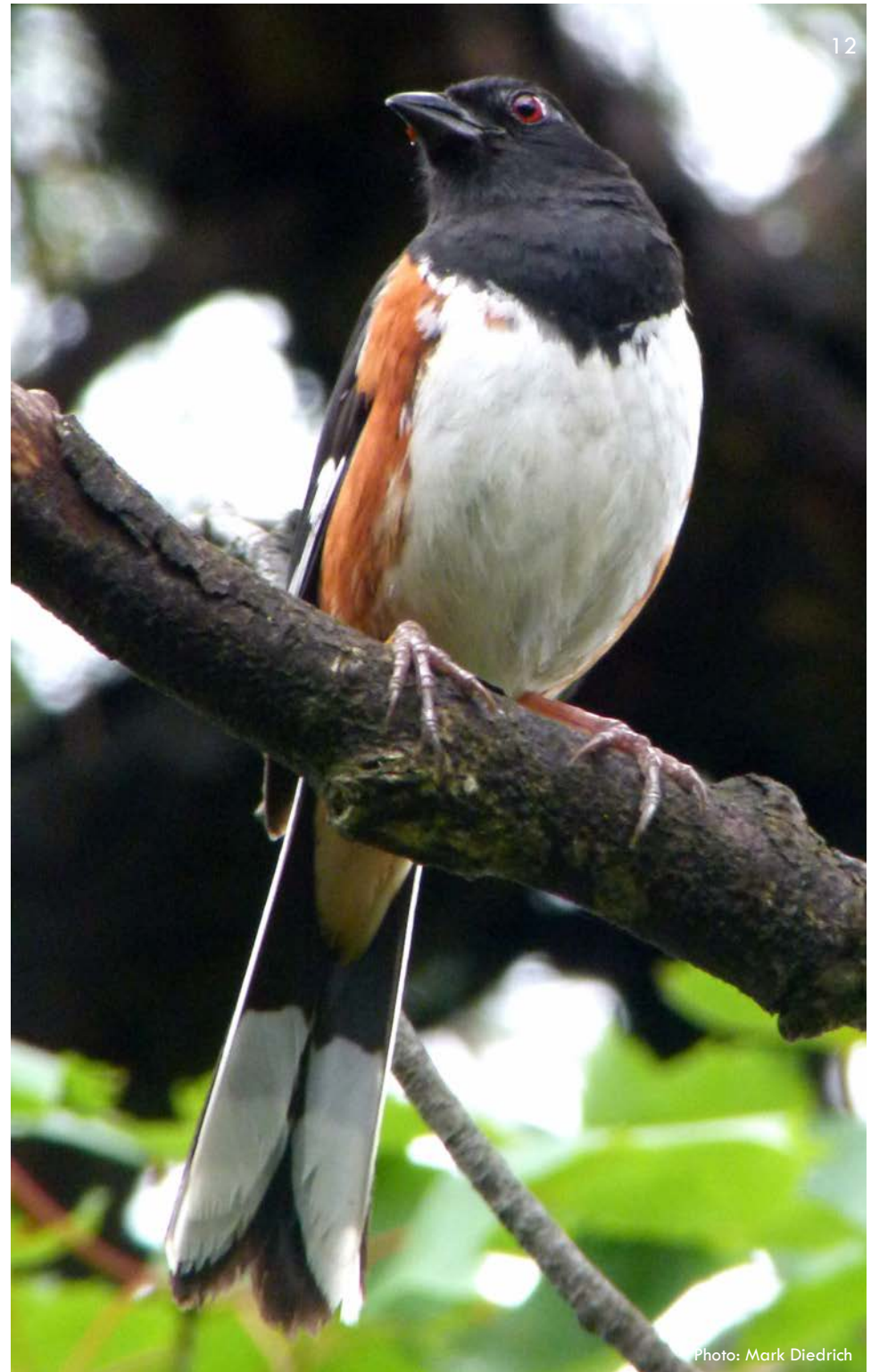


Photo: Mark Diedrich

## WINTER WILDLIFE STRATEGIES

**Grades:** 2-4

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 1.5–2 miles

**Location:** Lake Minnewaska or Peter's Kill Area

**Season:** Fall, Winter

Humans have warm coats, winter boots and heated houses to survive the winter, but how do wild animals live through winter outside? Through participating in the following activities, your students will understand the numerous adaptations that help wildlife survive winter:

- Interactive lesson on winter wildlife adaptations featuring various touchable wildlife props
- Educational and active game in which students pretend to be an animal trying to survive winter
- Trailside detective hike to look for various signs of wildlife including browse, scat, homes and tracks

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Physical Settings and Living Environment*

Photo: Jacob W. Frank



## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

**Grades:** 2-4

**Length:** 4 hours

**Distance:** 1 mile, including some hills

**Location:** Peter's Kill Area

**Season:** Spring, Summer, Fall



Your students will learn all about water, one of our most precious natural resources. The active learning experience includes the following:

- Lesson on water, including discussion of the three forms it takes, where it is found and its importance
- Students experience the water cycle while pretending to be a drop of water in an educational and active game
- Hike to a stream where students will look for macro invertebrates, and learn how to measure pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen

### NYS Learning Standards

Physical Education

Math, Science, Technology 1E – *Scientific Inquiry*

Math, Science, Technology 4E – *Physical Setting and Living Environment*

Math, Science, Technology 6E – *Systems Thinking*

Math, Science, Technology 7E – *Strategies*

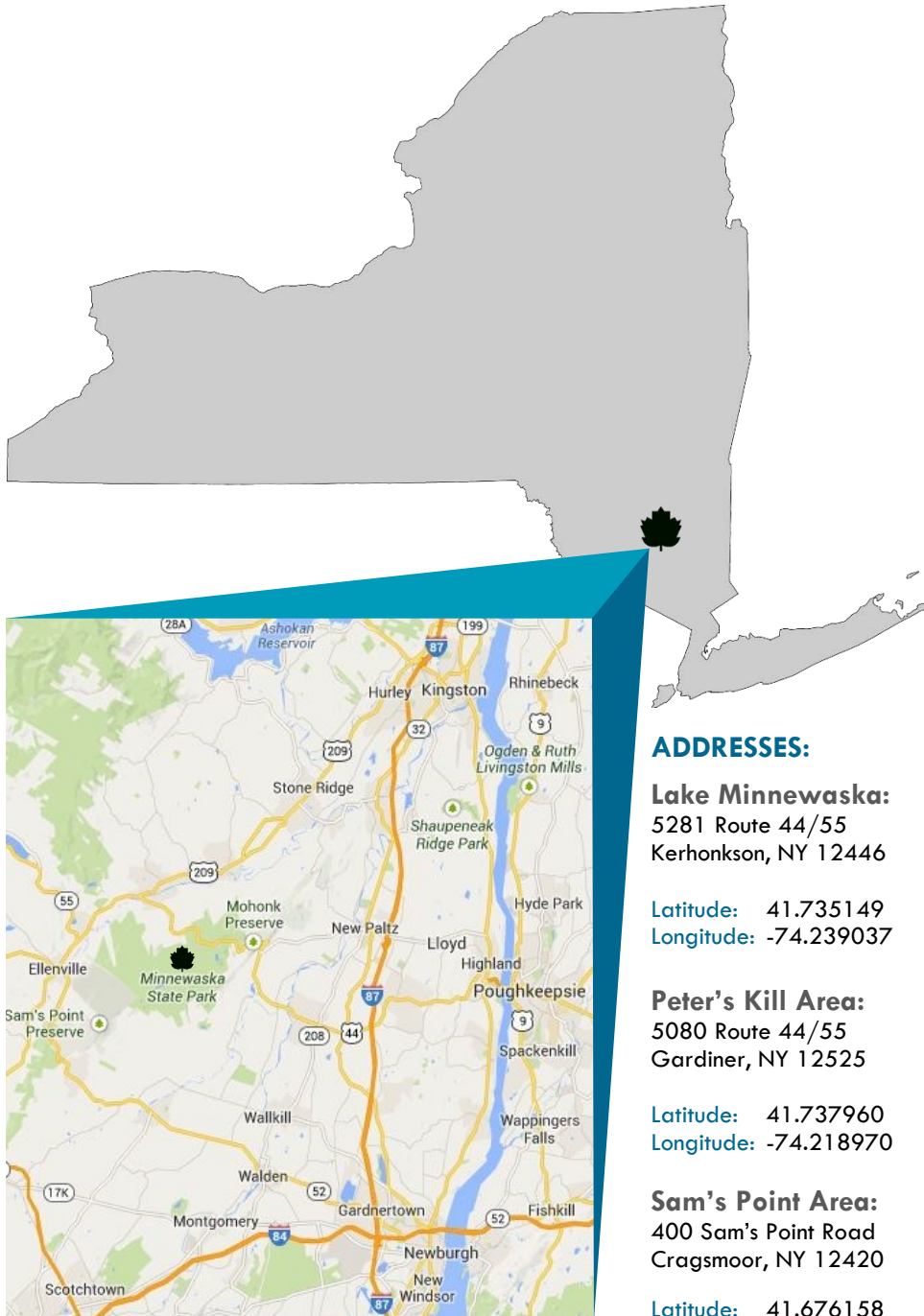


## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

Minnewaska State Park Preserve offers a variety of education and recreational programs all year to suit a diverse audience of people. All programs can be modified to meet your group's specific needs. Here's a sampling of our diverse audiences and programs:

- Afterschool programs
- Youth clubs (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H Clubs)
- Homeschool groups
- Guided outings for hiking clubs, MeetUp and other outing groups
- Education programs for Life Long Learning for retirees
- Supervised projects for community service credits





Map data copyright Google, 2014

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is located within one hour of Poughkeepsie, Kingston and Newburgh, and just 15 minutes from New Paltz, NY.

### **NORTH (Kingston)**

South on New York State Thruway to Exit 18, New Paltz  
 Take a left at light to merge onto Route 299 West  
 Continue until intersection of Route 299 with Route 44-55  
 Take a right onto Route 44-55 West  
 Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection

### **SOUTH (Newburgh)**

North on New York State Thruway to Exit 18, New Paltz  
 Take a left at light to merge onto Route 299 West  
 Continue until intersection of Route 299 with Route 44-55  
 Take a right onto Route 44-55 West  
 Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection

### **WEST (Ellenville)**

North on Route 209  
 At intersection of Route 209 and Route 44-55, take a right at light to continue East on Route 44-55  
 Main entrance is on right 5.8 miles from this intersection

### **EAST (Poughkeepsie)**

West on Route 44-55, cross Mid-Hudson Bridge  
 Take Route 9W North exit ramp, toward Highland  
 At intersection with Route 299, take left at light heading West on Route 299  
 Continue on Route 299 until intersection with Route 44-55  
 Take right onto Route 44-55 West  
 Main entrance is on left 4.5 miles from this intersection

### **ADDRESSES:**

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 Kerhonkson, NY 12446

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**Latitude:** 41.737960  
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