

Rockefeller State Park Preserve

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 to 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, wolves, bears, racoons, squirrels, chipmunks, mink, turtles, deer, frogs, insects, skunk, hedgehogs, groundhogs, snakes, fish, and many other residents of the Preserve.

It also means that:

- 1) dogs must be leashed at all times
- 2) Bicycles, mechanized vehicles, drones, metal detectors, snowmobiling, camping, and open fires are strictly prohibited.
- 3) See more info at: <https://parks.ny.gov/PARKS/59>

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

SECTORS

Buttermilk Hill Area

Swan Lake / Farm Fields & Forests

Pocantico River / Eagle Hill / 13 Bridges

Rockwood Hall / Hudson River



Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Destinations Guide

Buttermilk Hill Area





Rockefeller State Park Preserve

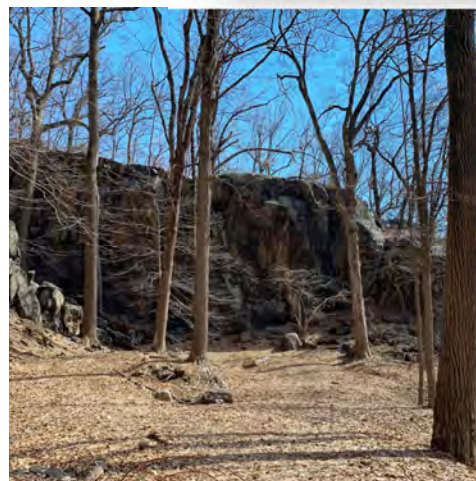
#7 Northwest Passage Tunnel
 SECTOR Buttermilk
 TRAIL Buttermilk Hill (BH)
 GPS 41.09393 -73.84955
 DESCRIPTION Wander under this stone structure to cross to the “other side” of the Preserve. Buttermilk is idyllic part of the part often missed by visitors. Like much of the area it has a history.



#8 USGS Benchmark and Plaque - Oldest Triangulation Station in America
 SECTOR Buttermilk Hill Area
 TRAIL Raven’s Rock (RR)
 GPS 41 06 36.37123 073 48 37.47542
 DESCRIPTION This 1833 plaque (on the tunnel) commemorates the bicentennial of the Buttermilk Hill triangulation station by the US Geologic Survey as the oldest triangulation station in America. The actual Benchmark is some .5 miles west of this plaque. (see GPS Coordinates above)



#12 Ravens Rock
 SECTOR Buttermilk
 TRAIL Raven’s Rock (RR)
 GPS 41.0964 73.8164
 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”.



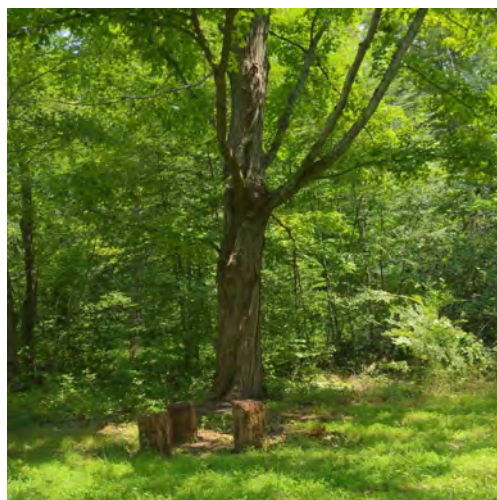


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#11 **Stone Arch Creek Tunnels**
SECTOR Buttermilk
TRAIL Ferguson Lake (FL)
GPS 41.098 73.82506
DESCRIPTION These interesting 3 stone arches are simply a means to channel water, but are a nice example of the detail taken by the Rockefellers to have 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 decisions, he obviously influenced the final design.



#10 **Fairy Circle**
SECTOR Buttermilk
TRAIL Ferguson Lake (FL)
GPS 41.09855 73.82663
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?



#9 **Reservoir Bridge**
SECTOR Buttermilk
TRAIL Ferguson Lake (FL)
GPS 41.09988 73.82705
DESCRIPTION This lovely reservoir is often missed by visitors to the Preserve. If you trek Buttermilk, don't be one of them. Its lovely in all seasons.





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Pocantico River / Eagle Hill / 13 Bridges





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#16 **Triple Arch Bridge**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Big Tree Trail (BT)
GPS 41.09991 73.85619
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.



#18 **Spook Rock**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Spook Rock Trail (SR)
GPS 41.10787 73.85315
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?



#17 **Hulda's Hut**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Witch's Spring Trail (WS)
GPS 41.10672 -73.85236
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.



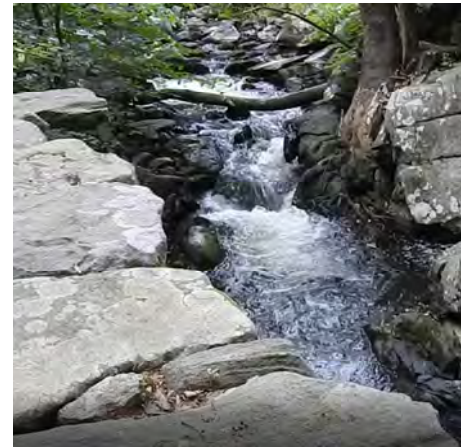


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#15 **Eagle Hill Lookout Point**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Eagle Hill (EH)
GPS 41.613 -73.512
DESCRIPTION One of the most spectacular views in the entire Preserve is this bench overlooking the Hudson River and the Mario Cuomo bridge. If you are lucky you might even see a bald eagle while you are up on Eagle hill. Listen, as you may hear them before you see them.



#13 **Pocantico Falls**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Pocantico River Trail (PR)
GPS 41.1044 73.84631
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
DESCRIPTION This amazing tree lives yet invites you to come stand inside and feel its energy. Is it a yoga tree?





Destinations Guide

Swan Lake / Farm Fields & Forests





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#1 **Glacial Erratic**
SECTOR Swan Lake
TRAIL Nature’s Way (NW)
GPS 41.10852 73.84265
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 41.1081 73.83655
DESCRIPTION



#3 **Swan Lake Overlook**
SECTOR Overlook Trail (OV)
TRAIL Brothers Path (BP)
GPS 41.1083 73.83651
DESCRIPTION



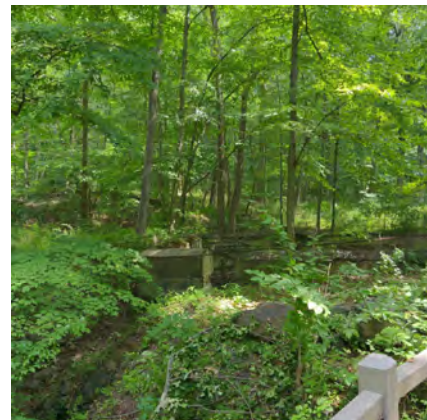


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#5 **Toad Face Tree**
SECTOR Pocantico
TRAIL Brook Trail (BR)
GPS 41.11236 73.82532
DESCRIPTION Travel along Brook Trail and look closely at the trees, many have their own characters and some tell stories. What do you see?



#6 **Fishpond Ruins**
SECTOR Swan Lake
TRAIL Brook Trail (BR)
GPS 41.1107 73.82456
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.



#4 **Curious Creek Crossing**
SECTOR Swan Lake
TRAIL Winter Quarters (WQ)
GPS 41.10465 73.83640
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 wont need a boat to cross but you might get your feet wet.





Destinations Guide

Rockwood Hall / Hudson River





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#19 **Foundation Ruins**
SECTOR Rockwood
TRAIL Foundation Loop
GPS 41.11275 73.86583
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



#22 **Sugar Shack**
SECTOR Rockwood
TRAIL Upper Trail
GPS 41.11656 73.86491
DESCRIPTION We are not certain, but we believe sugar from the surrounding sugar maples was processed here when the area was a working farm.



#21 **Bridge View Benches**
SECTOR Rockwood
TRAIL Lower Trail
GPS 41.11113 73.86787
DESCRIPTION One of the best views of the Hudson and the Bridge can be seen from this bench. You may not want to leave!





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#23 **Rockwood Creek and Bridges**
SECTOR Rockwood
TRAIL Rockwood Hall Brook Trail
GPS 41.11113 73.86787
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?



#20 **The White Tree of Rockwood**
SECTOR Rockwood
TRAIL Foundation Loop
GPS 41.11103 73.86617
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.

