Rockefeller State Park Preserve

This Park Preserve has been made possible through the foresight and generous gift of the Rockefeller Family. Since 1983, over 1700 acres of their Pocantico Hills and Rockefeller Hall estates have been deeded to the New York State to safeguard the it’s natural beauty and wildlife 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 Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and 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 Visitor Center features gardens with native flowers and 425 tree peonies donated by the people of Yatsuka Town in the Shimane Prefecture of Japan which bloom in early May and an art 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 horseshoe riding, carriage driving, and running teams.

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 waterfront, and stately red oak trees. Connecting trails lead through hardwood forest into a network of fields with long vines 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, look for the bubbly, tinkling call of bobolinks and “skulke” call of red-winged blackbirds.

In the eastern section of the Preserve, Buttermilk Hill overlooks the Sawmill River Valley. The trails on this forested ridge are more isolated and wild. 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.

In the western section of the Preserve, the carriage roads lead through deep forest, audit 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 Palisades Cliffs. Bluebirds, swallows, and hawks are seen in and around the rolling fields.

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EDGE-ON-HUDSON
A New View On The River

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 NYSED License.
Running (Organized groups, 7 or more require a permit):
• Run in groups of less than 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.

PROHIBITED
Smoking / Alcohol / Fires/Grills / Hunting / Camping / Trapping / Bikes/Scooters / Mechanized Vehicles / Amplified Music

EXCEPT AT ROCKWOOD HALL

CARRIAGE ROADS OF THE
ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE

125 PEELPHS WAY
PLEASANTVILLE, NY 10570
(914) 631-1470
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Erik Fuskedal, Commissioner
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency

PROHIBITED

• Picnicking / Ball Playing / Kite Flying / Skateboards / Ball Playing

www.rockefellerstatepark.org
facebook.com/RockefellerSPP

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

In the eastern section of the Preserve, Rockwood Hall overlooks the Sawmill Valley. Palisade Rockwood Hall offers grand vistas of the Hudson River and cliffs, spacious grassy fields, magnificent specimen trees, and massive rock walls and terraces. It’s a good vantage point to sight butterflies in the fall and bald eagles in the winter.

Buttermilk Hill offers superb fall colors and distant views of the Hudson River and Palisades Cliffs. The trails on this forested ridge are more isolated and wild. 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.

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