Rockefeller State Park Preserve

This Park Preserve has been made possible through the largesse 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 New York State to safeguard the site’s natural beauty and wildlife for 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 Yatuka 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 horseback riding, carriage driving, and running teams.

**Heading:**

**Print Outlined By:**

**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 NYSDCF license.

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

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

**PROHIBITED AREAS**

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Fires/Grills
- Hunting
- Picnicking
- Camping
- Trapping
- Ball Playing
- Bikes/Scooters
- Drones
- Kite Flying
- Measuring
- Skateboards
- Vehicles
- Ball Playing
- Sledding

**Destination Areas**

Numbered on the map are featured areas to find & explore.

Described areas are available online at:

- parks.ny.gov/parks/Rockefeller
- Rockefeller Friendsrock.org
- facebook.com/RockefellerSP

**Carriage Roads of the STATE PARK PRESERVE**

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

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency
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
#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”. 
#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.
Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Destinations Guide

Pocantico River / Eagle Hill / 13 Bridges
#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.

#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 our history.

#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?
#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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>Glacial Erratic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Swan Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Nature’s Way (NW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.10852, 73.84265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#2</th>
<th>Sleepy Hollow Cistern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Swan Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Overlook Trail (OV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.1081, 73.83655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>#3</th>
<th>Swan Lake Overlook</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Overlook Trail (OV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Brothers Path (BP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.1083, 73.83651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Toad Face Tree</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Pocantico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Brook Trail (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.11236 73.82532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Travel along Brook Trail and look closely at the trees, many have their own characters and some tell stories. What do you see?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#6</th>
<th>Fishpond Ruins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Swan Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Brook Trail (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.1107 73.82456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#4</th>
<th>Curious Creek Crossing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>Swan Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL</td>
<td>Winter Quarters (WQ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>41.10465 73.83640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>In these broad pastures to the left and right of the trial 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Destinations Guide
Rockwood Hall / Hudson River
#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!
#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.