



RETURN TO THE WILD



Snake Rocks Preserve is one of many properties protected and maintained by the Woodstock Land Conservancy for the public's enjoyment.

The Preserve was generously donated by **Mr. Richard Strain** and **Ms. Eva Van Rijn** in 2004. Located in a rural part of Woodstock, NY, near Ohayo Mountain, this 35.54-acre parcel boasts scenic views, dramatic rock formations, and a tranquil quarry pond. Visitors will also find the remains of a large bluestone quarry which once aided in the construction of some of New York City's most famous buildings.

The Woodstock Land Conservancy's efforts to ensure that Snake Rocks is available to be enjoyed and appreciated by the public have also been greatly aided by the generous support and guidance of Dennis Drogseth and his family. His grandfather E.O. Drogseth acquired Snake Rocks along with the entire top of Ohayo Mountain in 1919 after emigrating from Norway. The land quickly became a recreational centerpiece for families who settled in the area. A recognized artist and lover of nature, E.O. Drogseth is said to have chosen Woodstock because it had "more variations of daylight" than anywhere else he'd seen.

SHHH...

Please be sensitive to the surrounding neighbors on Nordic Drive, a private road. There is no on-site parking at the Preserve: the designated parking area is located south on Yerry Hill Road along the guard rail at the top of the hill.



VISITING THE PRESERVE

Directions: The Preserve is located off Yerry Hill Road. (about 1.5 mile from Route 212 in Bearsville). Take Yerry Hill Road approximately 1 mile. Continue past Nordic Drive.

Note: Cars and parking are prohibited on Nordic Drive. Continue approximately 250 feet further along Yerry Hill Road to the Preserve's off-site parking. Please park within the designated area along the guardrail at the top of the hill and follow signs back to Nordic Drive and the Preserve.

Knowledge exchange: Please visit our website for more details about the preserve and its unique features. In order to develop a more complete list of animal and plant species found here, we encourage you to keep a log of your sightings and share what you find!

MISSION

The Woodstock Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization committed to the protection and preservation of the open lands, forests, wetlands, scenic areas and historic sites in Woodstock and the surrounding area.

SUPPORT

When you support the Woodstock Land Conservancy, you help us conserve the open spaces and special places that make our area unique and keep our natural environment healthy. Your financial donations and volunteer efforts are vital to meeting our goals.



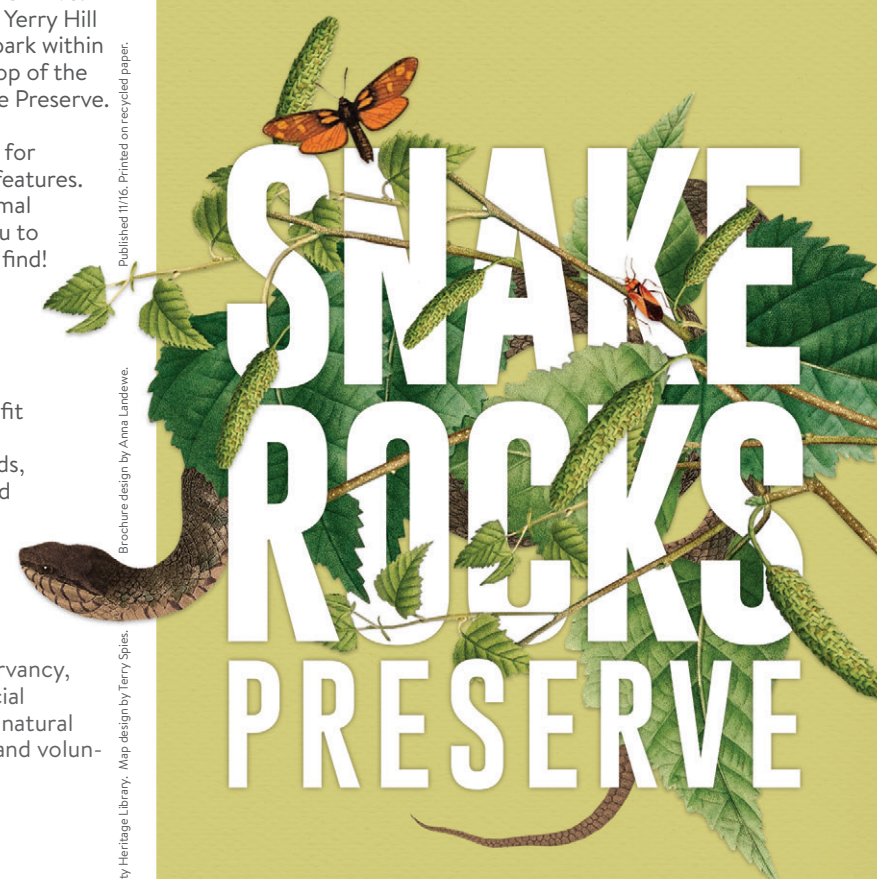
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WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

welcomes you to



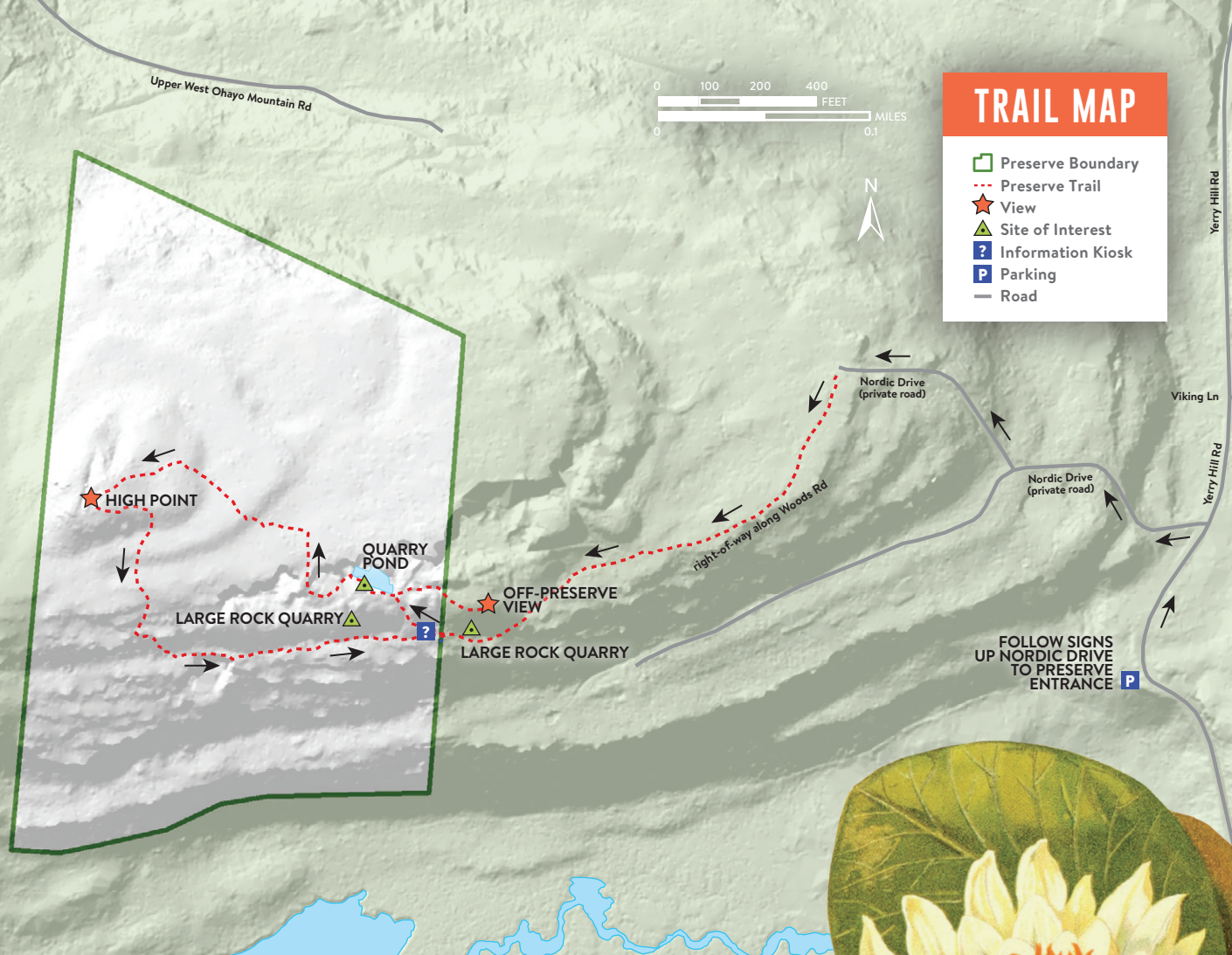
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open daily from dawn to dusk





THE LANDSCAPE

Echoes of human presence in an enchanting natural amphitheater...

Follow the trail to journey through a nineteenth-century bluestone quarry. Stop along the way to enjoy the peaceful reflections of the quarry pond and the sweeping mountain vistas. There are several points at the top of the rock piles which afford spectacular views of the surrounding Catskills.

As Richard Heppner, Woodstock town historian describes, "The quarries in this area were worked mainly by Irish immigrants, many of whom migrated towards the stone cutting and quarrying industry after leaving Ireland in the wake of economic and human devastation created by the famine there."

In the mid 1800s, quarrying bluestone grew as a result of the expansion of cities such as New York and Albany. Around the turn of the twentieth century bluestone was replaced by a new technology—portland cement—which was cheaper and easier to use.

Encouraged to return to the wild, this former quarry is now home to a broad range of flora and fauna. Waterlilies decorate the pond surface; birch and pine trees stand tall along its terrain; reptiles, birds, and mammals find comfort in its hollows.

We hope you enjoy your visit to this special place.



RULES OF THE PRESERVE

Please help us protect the ecology of this fragile landscape

- Open daily from dawn to dusk
- Stay on marked trails
- No swimming in pond
- Please respect our neighbors: do not go onto Wittenberg Sportsmen's Club Property; do not throw stones from trail onto adjacent properties
- Use trail at your own risk: trails pass over loose rocks; go around pond and over steep slopes
- Use extreme caution hiking on Preserve during deer (rifle) hunting season from mid-November to mid-December; bright clothing recommended
- No hunting or trapping
- No fires or overnight camping
- No use of motorized vehicles
- No horseback riding
- Dogs allowed on leash: please clean up after your pet and take it with you
- No collecting of plants, animals or any other specimens from this property without prior permission from the Conservancy
- Leave the Preserve as beautiful as you found it: carry out what you carry in

SNAKE ROCKS

*slip away—
imagine a Chinese hermitage
fallen into ruin
just like quarry stones
save for the goldfish
who rises from the still dark deep
to greet you with stupid innocence
which is the essence
of stepping outside of time*

*this day will never come again
only you will know the difference*

—Will Nixon

