



## PRESERVING NATURE'S MAGNIFICENCE IN PERPETUITY

**Rock Oak Preserve** is one of several Woodstock Land Conservancy preserves with at least one public trail. While the preserves are as diverse as their locations across the eastern Catskills region, they have a commonality: landowners who loved their property enough to want to see it protected forever.

**George and Christy Martin** purchased what is now Rock Oak Preserve in the 1970s from New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. They enjoyed exploring its hidden treasures, watching the native plants spring to life, marveling at the growth of the oaks and spotting the creatures that called the place home. In 2022, the family donated the land to WLC to ensure the place they adored remained free of development. Thanks to a grant from the NYS Conservation Partnership Program funded by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund — and from a generous private donation from the Martin family, WLC was able to create a public trail, construct a parking area, build a kiosk and install an interpretive sign.

If you'd like to learn more about donating land to the Conservancy, please visit our website at [woodstocklandconservancy.org](http://woodstocklandconservancy.org).

## VISITING THE PRESERVE

**Directions:** From the center of Woodstock, take West Hurley Road (375S) then turn left on Onteora Trail (28E). Turn right on Basin Road, and the parking will be about a mile on your right. From Kingston, take NY-28 W to Waughkonk Rd. Turn left. Turn right onto NY-28A W. About a mile later, turn right on Basin Road. The parking lot is 230 Basin Road.

**Knowledge exchange:** Use this QR code to 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

Woodstock Land Conservancy is a nonprofit 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 Woodstock Land Conservancy, you help us conserve the open spaces and special places that make our part of the Hudson Valley unique and keep our natural environment healthy. Your financial donations and volunteer efforts are vital to meeting our goals.



email: [info@woodstocklandconservancy.org](mailto:info@woodstocklandconservancy.org)  
call: 845-679-6481  
visit: [woodstocklandconservancy.org](http://woodstocklandconservancy.org)  
mail: PO Box 864, Woodstock, NY 12498

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Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## WOODSTOCK LAND CONSERVANCY

*welcomes you to*



*open daily from dawn to dusk*





# THE LANDSCAPE

*Nature reclaimed this area from its industrial past*

**Rock Oak Preserve** is a 30-acre hardwood, coniferous forest with a canopy of red oak, chestnut oak, white pine and eastern hemlock. It is home to black bear and red fox as well as an array of resident and migratory birds, native plants, reptiles and amphibians.

Its stunning rock-cut is a reminder of its rich history—and nature's ability to recapture land. The rock-cut was created for the railroad, but the destruction of West Hurley in the early 1900s to build the Ashokan Reservoir stopped the trains here. The one-mile trail includes a short spur trail into the rock-cut and a meandering loop through upland oak forest, passing glacial erratics, rock outcroppings and a scenic lookout. The history and beauty are freely available to visitors thanks to the Martin family's generous land donation to the Woodstock Land Conservancy.

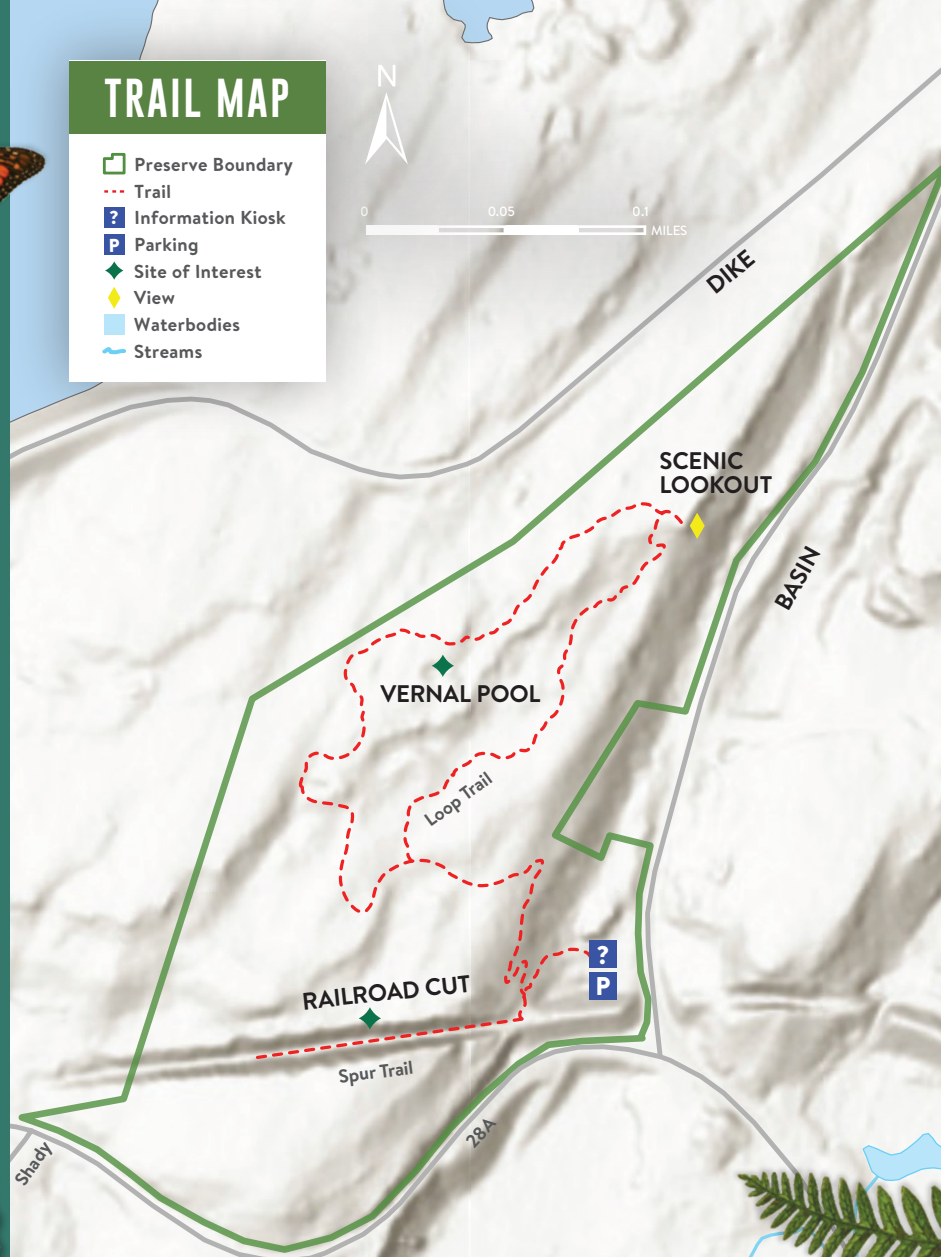
Rock Oak Preserve is named for the bountiful chestnut oaks, also known as rock oak because they grow in dry, rocky soil. These magnificent trees are easily recognizable by their deep-ridged bark and their leaves with rounded "teeth" along the edges. The rock oaks help to create the diverse ecosystem that thrives in this preserve as the animals, flora and fauna returned to the place abandoned by humans and their machines.

**We hope you marvel at the power of nature in this special place.**



## TRAIL MAP

- Preserve Boundary
- Trail
- Information Kiosk
- Parking
- Site of Interest
- View
- Waterbodies
- Streams



## RULES OF THE PRESERVE

*Please help us protect this fragile landscape.*

- Open daily from dawn to dusk.
- Stay on marked trails and away from edges of the rock-cut.
- Use caution in rock-cut as it's a dynamic and natural environment.
- Poison ivy, ticks and other hazards can exist on and off trails.
- No hunting or trapping.
- No fires or overnight camping.
- No use of motorized vehicles.
- No mountain biking or 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 you found it: carry out what you carry in.

## A TROUBLED HISTORY

Originally part of the immense lands inhabited by the Lenape, European settlers in the 1800s developed the area as part of a small town called West Hurley. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was a thriving hamlet with multiple bluestone quarries, local businesses and homes for a growing population. Just like today, visitors flocked to the area to see the foliage.

Those days were numbered, however, when plans for the Ashokan Reservoir were finalized. West Hurley was one of the 11 towns flooded or relocated to build the reservoir between 1908–1915. The land that is now Rock Oak Preserve was abandoned for more than a century, allowing the natural environment to thrive again.

