

HOURS AND REGULATIONS

The Columbia Land Conservancy's (CLC) Public Conservation Areas (PCAs) are open to the public free of charge, year-round, from dawn to dusk for non-motorized recreation including fishing, hiking, bird watching and cross-country skiing. Please stay on the trails and respect the marked boundaries. We ask that you be considerate of other visitors and follow a few simple rules so that everyone may enjoy the area:

- "Carry in, carry out" policy; there are no trash cans. There are no restrooms.
- Camping, fires, swimming, motorized vehicles, and snowmobiles are prohibited.
- All pets must be on a leash; please clean up after them.
- Rock or ice climbing is prohibited.
- Audio equipment or radio use allowed with earphones only.
- Please respect the plants and animals. Do not remove or destroy plants, wildlife or historical artifacts.
- Recreational shooting/paintball is prohibited.



VOLUNTEERS

CLC has worked with hundreds of volunteers who have contributed valuable time and energy to help us improve access to the county's natural landscapes. If you enjoy the outdoors and would like to take part in CLC's Conservation Area projects, please call us at 518-392-5252.

HUNTING AND FISHING

Please contact the Conservancy at 518-392-5252 about hunting at our public conservation areas. Fishing (including ice fishing) is a permitted use. New York State regulations and license requirements apply.

Caution: Deer ticks are common in Columbia County, and can carry diseases. Take precautions while outdoors and check carefully for ticks after leaving.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Columbia Land Conservancy is a locally supported, not-for-profit organization, that works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.



The Conservancy works to carry out its mission by:

- assisting individuals, families, and communities to identify their conservation goals and conserve their land with voluntary conservation agreements;
- ensuring that the goals of each conservation easement we hold are respected in perpetuity;
- managing each public conservation area to foster a greater understanding of and appreciation for the property's unique habitat;
- providing environmental education programs in partnership with youth groups and schools, and offering outdoor opportunities for children and adults;
- serving as a community resource by providing conservation planning and design services, conducting funding research and grant writing, and reviewing planning and zoning documents;
- building links between local organizations and landowners to further their land management and conservation goals.

PLEASE HELP US

These special places were made possible almost entirely by the support of individuals and families who value our work and share our commitment to protect the natural communities within Columbia County. If you enjoy your visit at one of our PCAs, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to CLC.

If you have a particular interest in one of these properties, you may consider becoming a "Land Steward" by annually sponsoring a portion of the cost of maintenance at the site. Your support will help us continue to provide public access to these county-wide treasures for future generations to enjoy.

PUBLIC CONSERVATION AREAS (PCAs)

- These public conservation areas encompass nearly 2,000 acres with more than 25 miles of trails on some of the county's most scenic and ecologically important lands. It is estimated that more than 30,000 people visit these conservation areas annually. At just 4.2%, Columbia County has the least amount of public land as compared with any of the neighboring counties.
- CLC has made it possible for people of all physical abilities to experience the natural beauty of this region by developing the Access for All Program, which includes a one-mile wheelchair-accessible trail at the Greenport Conservation Area, and ultra light all-terrain wheelchairs. Please call the office for details.
- These areas serve as "outdoor classrooms" for CLC's free school and public programs, with hundreds of individuals participating annually.
- Establishment of these properties was made possible through the generous support of our members and supporters. This includes numerous visionary landowners who have donated land or offered it at a reduced cost.
- As part of our Good Neighbor Policies, we make Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and support our local emergency services.



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COLUMBIA
LAND CONSERVANCY, INC



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COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY PUBLIC CONSERVATION AREAS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK



1 HAND HOLLOW

Routes 9 and 34, New Lebanon

433 acres: 5.5 miles of trails; easy to moderate hiking
Ponds, streams, a 21-acre lake, woodlands, meadows, wetlands and heron rookery.

Directions: From Route 295, take Route 9 north for 5.25 miles. Bear left at intersection with Route 34; first driveway into the lot at the beige farmhouse. From Route 20 take Route 9 south 1.2 miles, turn right at farmhouse just past pond. A second parking area, with access to Meizinger Lake, is located on Gale Hill Road, off of Route 9.

2 OOMS

Rock City Road, Chatham

180 acres: 2 miles of trails; easy to moderate hiking
The rolling fields at this property encircle a 35-acre pond for fishing and boating (electric motors only). Excellent bird watching opportunities. Managed by CLC on behalf of the Open Space Institute.

Directions: From Route 295, take Rock City Road or Hartigan Road. Look for lower and upper parking areas on Rock City Road.

3 SCHOR

Cemetery Road, Red Rock

233 acres: 2.5 miles of trails; moderate to strenuous hiking
Woodland trails travel through upland forest and hemlock groves to a rocky overlook with views of the Catskills and Hudson Valley. There is a picnic pavilion near a small pond.

Directions: From Chatham, take Route 203 east, turn left onto Route 9 for 2.5 miles, bear right onto Route 24, following for 1.8 miles. Take a left onto Cemetery Road and follow for one mile to Shoreview Drive on the right. Continue 0.5 mile to parking area and trail head.

4 BORDEN'S POND

Route 203, Ghent

62 acres: 2 miles of trails; moderate to strenuous hiking
Within walking distance of the Village of Chatham. A lower trail leads visitors along a small stream and two loop trails travel along ridgelines to the upland forest.

Directions: East on Route 203 from the Village of Chatham (1/4 mile from Route 203/Route 66 intersection), turn left into driveway/parking area.

MAP OF COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC CONSERVATION AREAS



5 SIEGEL-KLINE KILL

Route 21, Ghent

54 acres: 1.5 miles of trails; easy level hiking
Mostly meadow with a working farm field in the center of the property. Large Sycamore trees dominate an extensive flood plain forest along more than 1,000 feet of the Kline Kill, with fishing access.

Directions: Located on Route 21 (Garage Place), approximately 1/2 mile west of Route 66 and Ghent Town Hall.

6 GREENPORT

Daisy Hill Road, Greenport

714 acres: 5.5 miles of trails, easy to moderate hiking
One mile of wheelchair accessible trails, overlooks and picnic area. Hudson River and Catskill Mountains views from a gazebo and picnic area. Includes woodlands and meadows. Managed by CLC on behalf of the Open Space Institute.

Directions: From Route 9 north of Hudson, take Joslen Boulevard to Daisy Hill Road. Follow Daisy Hill Road to the parking area.

7 HIGH FALLS

Roxbury Road, Philmont/Claverack

47 acres: 2 miles of trails; moderate to strenuous hiking
Columbia County's highest waterfall, cascading 150'. Access to the Agawamuck Creek, a NYS DEC designated trout stream.

Directions: From Route 217 (Main Street) in Philmont, turn south on Roxbury Road and cross over the Agawamuck Creek. Entrance is 100 yards on the left.

8 DROWNED LANDS SWAMP

Route 3, Ancram

114 acres: 1.5 miles of trails; easy to strenuous hiking
A lower trail provides views of the wetlands, and a scenic trail climbs the prominent knoll, known locally as "Old Croken", which rises to a summit with scenic views of surrounding farmlands.

Directions: From Route 22 in Copake, take Route 3 west past Wiltsie Bridge Road, Blodget Road, and over the Punch Brook. Parking area is just past the brook on the left.

9 ROUND BALL MOUNTAIN

Route 22, Ancram

105 acres: 2 miles of trails; moderate to strenuous hiking
The property has steep wooded slopes that rise to a summit of 1,318', rocky outcroppings and small cascading streams. Seasonal views to farmlands and the Taconic Mountains.

Directions: From Route 22 in Ancram at the Columbia/Dutchess County border, turn onto Carson Road. Turn right approximately 1/2 mile up from Route 22; parking area on right.