Natural Communities

In the woodlands, you can see a mixed forest of white pine, hemlock, oak, ash, beech, birch, and hickory. This diverse habitat is home to animals like deer, black bear, bobcat, wild turkey, and migrating birds.

In the mixed open fields, be on the lookout for small mammals and songbirds. The Eastern meadowlark is found here, as is the Eastern bluebird, which makes use of the nesting boxes constructed by CLC with the help of area school children.

In the wetlands and ponds, beaver dams dominate. Look for waterfowl like mallards, black ducks, common pintails, and blue-winged teals, which enjoy the food and seclusion the dams provide. You may also spot otters or great blue herons nesting here in the early summer.

Site History

Hand Hollow is named after the Samuel Hand family who migrated from Massachusetts to settle in New Lebanon Springs in the late 1700’s. The Hand Hollow Conservation Area includes a patchwork of former small family properties. It was made possible through the vision and generosity of families who understood the importance of protecting open space.

Project History

CLC would like to thank the Rickey, Winch, Meizinger, Lewis, Spiegel, and Dobkin families for making this beautiful property accessible to the public for future generations to enjoy. We would also like to thank our acquisition funders: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Norcross Wildlife Foundation; George Rickey Foundation, Inc; Fields Pond Foundation; Ellsworth Kelly Foundation; Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust; T. Backer Fund, Inc.; Wellspring Foundation; and the many CLC supporters whose generous gifts made this project a reality.

Getting There

Hand Hollow
387 Gale Hill Road or
4079 County Road 9
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Get in Touch

Columbia Land Conservancy
49 Main Street
Chatham, NY 12037
518.392.5252
info@clctrust.org
clctrust.org

The Columbia Land Conservancy works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat, and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.

All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
Hand Hollow encompasses 447 acres and offers visitors an opportunity to view a beaver dam, a heron rookery, many bird species, and water features.

Green Trail
1.7 miles
This trail travels through the center of the property, connecting the two parking areas. At the entrance, you can see a heron rookery. As you hike along, spot beaver ponds, woods, and an early stagecoach road.

Yellow Trail
0.3 miles
This short loop off the Green Trail travels through a stand of white pine and a section of meadow with views of a wetland.

Red Trail
0.4 miles
The Red Trail leads to a rustic gazebo, reconnecting with the Green Trail at the eastern tip of Meizinger Lake.

Blue Trail
0.4 miles
This trail travels through woodlands and provides access to Meizinger Lake for fishing (by permit only).

Enjoy Your Day, Respect the Setting.

• Hours and fees. Hand Hollow is free, and open dawn to dusk.
• Dogs. All dogs must be on a leash and owners must remove dog waste.
• Trash. No receptacles are located on-site. Please take your trash with you.
• Cars and parking. Park only in the designated parking area.
• Respect the site and its visitors. Audio equipment and radio use is allowed with earphones only. Drones are allowed with permission from CLC. Alcohol is prohibited. Open fires are prohibited. Please respect the plants, animals, and artifacts at the site, as they are part of what makes these properties special.
• Hunting and fishing are by permit only. Call CLC to find out more.
• Swimming is prohibited due to hazardous conditions.
• Camping is prohibited. Objects left overnight are subject to removal by staff.

Love it Here? Help Protect this Special Place!
• Volunteer. Help with trail maintenance, events, and office tasks.
• Make a donation. More than 96% of CLC’s budget comes from grants and donations from people like you.