

Columbia County Outdoors: Northern Guidebook



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Foundation

CLC gratefully dedicates this publication to Sheldon Evans, who inspired the creation and authored the first edition of Columbia County Outdoors in 2012.

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Beebe Hill State Forest

436 East Hill Road, Austerlitz
dec.ny.gov/lands/66460.html

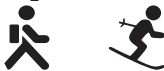
This 2,548-acre State Forest includes five trails, as well as numerous mountain biking trails. The Blue Trail leads to the Fire Tower Trail, which terminates at a lean-to and a 60-foot fire tower with an exceptional view. The Red Trail, which begins at the parking lot, leads to Harvey Mountain State Forest.



Borden's Pond Conservation Area

1628 Route 203, Ghent
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 62-acre site just outside the Village of Chatham offers two miles of trails through mixed-deciduous forest and wetlands, along with an observation area to view the abundant wildlife including but not limited to monarch butterflies, songbirds, and amphibians such as salamanders and frogs. Hunting is prohibited.



Crellin Community Park

2940 Route 66, Chatham

crellinpark.org

This 50-acre park owned by the Town of Chatham has a pond for swimming, two tennis courts, a basketball court, playgrounds, several trails, three soccer fields, a softball field, a skateboard park, and two pavilions with snack bars and restrooms. The park also has fishing access in the Stony Kill Creek.



Freund Wildlife Sanctuary

Pitt Road, Old Chatham

This 57-acre preserve was donated by Emmanuel and Frances Freund. Today, it is owned managed by the Nature Conservancy. The site includes two trails: the Blue Loop and the Orange Trail. Both trails take about an hour; the Orange Trail is shorter in length but is more difficult. The former farmland is now mostly forested and is home to a wide variety of wildlife.



Greenport Conservation Area

319 Joslen Boulevard, Greenport
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 736-acre site in Greenport offers 7.17 miles of trails of varying difficulties through meadow, forest, and wetland habitats. The Stockport-Greenport trail connects to Harrier Hill Park. The “Access For All” trail is universally accessible. Hunting is by permit only.



Hand Hollow Conservation Area

387 Gale Hill Road, New Lebanon
4079 CR 9, New Lebanon
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 433-acre site in New Lebanon offers three miles of trails through wetland, marsh, swamp, woodland, and meadow habitats. Blue herons use Hand Hollow as a nesting site. A kayak launch is also available at the lake. Hunting and fishing are by permit only.



Hand Hollow State Forest

Hand Hollow Road, New Lebanon
dec.ny.gov/lands/101433.html

This 518-acre State Forest consists of woodland, brushland, and Spiegelberg Lake. There are a variety of recreational options at this site for all seasons. The area is managed for timber production, watershed protection, and protecting wildlife habitat. There is a 0.75 mile trail that leads to Spiegelberg Lake.



Harrier Hill Park

Rod and Gun Road, Stockport
scenichudson.org/parks/harrierhillpark

This 6-acre park owned by Scenic Hudson and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy includes a short, universally-accessible trail that leads to a pavilion overlooking the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. The park is surrounded by the Stockport Wildlife Management Area, and connects with Greenport Conservation Area via the Stockport-Greenport Trail.



Harris Conservation Area

105 Bloody Hollow Road, Austerlitz
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 76-acre property in Austerlitz includes 1.9 miles of trails. The hemlock forests provide habitat for a variety of birds. The property's cliffs and outcroppings are home to lichens over a century old. Hunting is by permit only.



Harvey Mountain State Forest

East Hill Road, Austerlitz
dec.ny.gov/lands/66460.html

This 1,909-acre State Forest offers 12 free campsites and a 3.5 mile round-trip hike up the Pinnacle Point Trail to the highest point in Columbia County. There is an excellent view of the Taconic Plateau on this trail and also access to Harvey Mountain Trail, which leads to Beebe Hill State Forest.



High Falls Conservation Area

540 Roxbury Road, Philmont

clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 47-acre site in Philmont offers an easy half-mile hike to view the highest waterfall in Columbia County. Three other easy hiking trails at this site traverse hemlock forests and wooded ravines. Fishing, winter recreation, and wildlife viewing are also popular. Hunting is prohibited, fishing is by permit only.



Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

1013 Route 9H, Kinderhook
nps.gov/mava/index.htm

This 300-acre site owned and managed by the National Park Service includes Lindenwald, the former home of President Martin Van Buren. A three-quarter mile loop circles the grounds, and tours of the mansion are available. Martin Van Buren County Park is across the road, and includes four trails, one of which connects Lindenwald to the Lukyas Van Alen house.



Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center

1024 Route 66, Ghent
ccswcd.org/mud-creek-elc.html

This 12-acre site in Ghent operated by the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a half-mile loop through wetlands and fields. A variety of wildlife can be observed from the boardwalks and bridges. There is also a one mile outer loop trail that has an overlook with views of Mud Creek. The Learning Center offers a variety of classes for all ages as well as educational hikes.



Nutten Hook State Unique Area

Ferry Road, Stuyvesant

Nutten Hook provides access to the Hudson River for paddlers and also a half mile trail to the remains of the R & M Scott Ice House. The trail begins at the parking area on Ferry Road, and has scenic views of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. The trail and ice house can also be accessed from the DEC lot on NY 9J.



OMI International Arts Center

1405 CR 22, Ghent

artomi.org

This 60-acre site is an outdoor art space with nearly 80 pieces on display. The Fields Sculpture Park provides a unique opportunity to experience art and nature together. The trails allow visitors to explore farmland, woods, and wetland. There is a visitor's center with a cafe and restrooms. Bicycles and golf carts are available for rent, and trails are groomed for cross-country skiing.



Ooms Conservation Area

480 Rock City Road, Chatham
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, the 180-acre site in Chatham offers a two-and-a-half-mile trail system through meadows and grasslands surrounding Sutherland Pond. The gazebo offers a pleasant view of the Catskill Mountains and excellent bird-watching. Hunting is prohibited, fishing is allowed by permit only.



Patchaquack Preserve

4106 Elm Street, Valatie

veravalatie.com/V_Trails_and_Parks.html

This 43-acre site is managed by the Village of Valatie. The term Pachaquack is Mohican for “cleared meadow,” and much of the site consists of meadow and forest habitats. A one-mile loop trail parallels the Kinderhook Creek.



Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary

Hunt Club Road, Old Chatham

alandevoebirdclub.org/AboutSanctuary.htm

This 145-acre site owned by the Alan Devoe Bird Club and protected by the Columbia Land Conservancy includes four miles of trails. The trails take visitors to a stream, marshes, glades, Reilly Pond and Dorson's Rock. Dorson's Rock is renowned for hawk-watching and breath-taking views. Dogs are not permitted at this site.



River Street Park

River Street, Valatie

veravalatie.com/River_Street_Park.html

This 10-acre park includes four miles of trails. Near the parking lot gate you will find the Middle (White) Trail, which is a flat, wheelchair-accessible trail through the woods, as well as the River (Blue) Trail, which runs along the Kinderhook Creek.



Schor Conservation Area

58 Cemetery Road, Canaan

clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 233-acre site in Canaan offers two miles of trails of varying difficulties through upland forest, meadows, and past a pond. A highlight of this site is a 1,450-foot overlook with a great view of the Capital Region and Catskill Mountains beyond. Hunting and fishing are allowed by permit only.



Siegel-Kline Kill Conservation Area

1452 CR 21, Ghent
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 54.6-acre site in Ghent has one and a half miles of trails through fields, floodplain forests, and meadows. This site offers access to the Kline Kill via spurs off the Blue Trail and also has a great hill for sledding. Hunting is prohibited, fishing is allowed by permit only.



Stockport Flats

Ferry Road, Stockport
Station Road, Stockport
dec.ny.gov/lands/92355.html

This 1,600-acre site is the northernmost site in the Hudson River Reserve. The islands are accessible by boat. Gay's Point has almost two miles of scenic trails. Camping is allowed with a permit. The boat launch is located at the end of Station Road.



Stockport Wildlife Management Area

Rod and Gun Road, Stockport
dec.ny.gov/outdoor/103586.html

This 357-acre site is managed for wildlife and habitat protection, and to promote wildlife-dependent recreation. The site consists of forests, tidal marshes, and forested wetlands. Activities such as hiking, fishing, hunting, and trapping can be found at this site.



Lewis A. Swyer Preserve

1599 9J, Stuyvesant

nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/eastern-lewis-a-swyer-preserve/

This 95-acre site owned by the Nature Conservancy consists of freshwater tidal swamp, marsh, and mudflat habitats. The boardwalk leads to an overlook area with views of the Hudson River and interpretative signs explaining the importance of the habitat. This site has a wide variety of birds and waterfowl.



Boat Launches

Henry Hudson Riverfront Park

Front Street, Hudson

Kinderhook Lake

Main Street, Niverville

Queechy Lake

Queechy Lake Drive, Canaan

Summit Lake

Lake Shore Drive, Philmont

Town Parks

Austerlitz

Austerlitz Town Park

Route 203 behind the Spencertown Academy

Canaan

Stoddard Field

CR 5 across from the Town Hall

Chatham

Crellin Community Park

2940 Route 66, Chatham

Town Parks

Claverack

Claverack Town Park

91 Church Street, Mellenville

Lakeshore Park

Lake Shore Drive, Philmont

Memorial Field

Church Street, Philmont

Philmont Village Green

10 Maple Avenue, Philmont

Town Parks

Ghent

Ghent Town Park

Water & Maple Avenue, Ghent

W. Ghent Recreational Facility

1055 CR 22, Ghent

Greenport

Greenport Town Park

413 Joslen Boulevard, Greenport

Town Parks

Hudson

Charles Williams Park,

238 Mill Street, Hudson

Henry Hudson Riverfront Park

Front Street, Hudson

Oakdale Park

134 N. 6th Street, Hudson

Promenade Hill Park

1 N. Front Street, Hudson

Town Parks

Kinderhook

Callan Park

New Street, Valatie

Volunteer Park

54 Opportunity Way, Kinderhook

Kinderhook Dog Park

54 Opportunity Way, Kinderhook

Kinderhook Town Park

Church Street, Kinderhook

Mills Park

Albany Avenue, Kinderhook

Pachaquack Preserve

4106 Elm Street, Valatie

Village Park

Rothermel Avenue, Kinderhook

Town Parks

New Lebanon

Shatford Memorial Park,
14755 Route 22, New Lebanon

Stockport

Stottville Ball Field,
Atlantic Avenue, Stottville

Stuyvesant

Ken Hummel Memorial Park

Sharptown Road, Stuyvesant

Stuyvesant Riverview Park

Riverview Road, Stuyvesant

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.

