

Columbia County Outdoors: Southern Guidebook



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The Hudson River Bank & Trust, Co.
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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Contents

Recreational Sites

Clermont State Historic Site	1
Copake Lake	2
Doodletown Wildlife Management Area	3
Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area	4
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	5
High Falls Conservation Area	6
KEEP Conservation Preserve	7
Lake Taghkanic State Park	8
Livingston State Forest	9
New Forge State Forest	10
Olana State Historic Site	11
Overmountain Conservation Area	12

Contents

Palatine Park	13
Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Sanctuary	14
Roeliff Jansen Park	15
Rogers Island Wildlife Management Area	16
Taconic State Park	17
Won Dharma Meditation & Retreat Center	18
Boat Launches	19
Town Parks	20

Clermont State Historic Site

1 Clermont Avenue, Clermont
friendsofclermont.org

This 502 acre-site once owned by Robert Livingston, Jr., consists of a restored mansion, four gardens, five miles of hiking trails, and a great lawn for picnics. The trails are relatively flat and offer spectacular views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. Tours of the site are available.



Copake Lake

CR 7 & Lakeview Road, Copake Lake
dec.ny.gov/outdoor/84145.html

At 410 acres, Copake Lake is one of the largest lakes in Columbia County. This site offers swimming, boating, fishing, water-skiing, and winter activities such as ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and ice skating. Copake Lake is known for its largemouth bass population.



Doodletown Wildlife Management Area

384 Westfall Road, Ancram

623 CR 27, Ancram

260 Doodletown Road, Ancram

dec.ny.gov/outdoor/112438.html

This 690-acre State Wildlife Management Area is managed for wildlife and habitat protection, and to promote wildlife-dependent recreation such as hunting. The habitat at this site is primarily forest and wetland and is ideal for hiking and bird-watching. There are no designated trails at this site.



Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area

653 CR 3, Ancram
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 113-acre site in Ancram includes 1.5 miles of trails through diverse habitat and is home to a number of threatened species. This site boasts beautiful views of the Berkshire-Taconic Mountains and the surrounding farmland from the top of “Old Croken” hill. Hunting is by permit only.



Harlem Valley Rail Trail

253 NY 344, Copake Falls
Undermountain Road, Ancram
Valley View Road, Copake
hvrt.org

This site in Copake Falls, formerly the Upper Harlem Line of the Penn Central Railroad, offers 15 miles of flat, paved trails for biking, walking, or running, with plenty of scenic views including farmland, wetlands, beaver ponds, forests, and meadows. This trail is also great for watching wildlife.



High Falls Conservation Area

540 Roxbury Road, Philmont
elctrust.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. This waterfall used to power the mills of Philmont (formerly known as Factory Hill). Other hiking trails traverse forests and ravines. Hunting is prohibited, fishing is by permit only.



KEEP Conservation Preserve

525 CR 8, Germantown

keepconservation.org

This 143-acre site in Germantown is comprised of woods, streams, and former farmland and is home to a wide variety of bird species. The habitat at this site attracts threatened species such as bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks. Visitors can observe the wildlife while walking along three miles of mowed paths. Dogs are not permitted.



Lake Taghkanic State Park

1528 Route 82, Ancram

parks.ny.gov/parks/38/details.aspx

This 1,568-acre State Park in Gallatin and Taghkanic is equipped with a ball field, playground, sandy swimming beach, eight miles of trails, campsites, cabins, and boat rentals. Bow hunting and pets are permitted only in designated areas.



Livingston State Forest

Fox Creek Road, Livingston
dec.ny.gov/lands/106761.html

This 320-acre State Forest was part of Robert Livingston's original 1686 land grant of 160,000 acres. The site is relatively wild and unmanaged. There are trails, but they are neither marked nor maintained. In the winter this site is ideal for snowmobiling, skiing, and snowshoeing. Hunting and trapping are permitted.



New Forge State Forest

New Forge Road 1, Ancram
dec.ny.gov/lands/106771.html

This 612-acre State Forest is a primitive forest with creek access and three campsites. One trail leads directly from the kiosk and will bring you to the Taghkanic Creek and a waterfall. Above the waterfall is an ideal spot for fishing or canoeing. There are also more trails beyond the gate at the other end of the parking lot.



Olana State Historic Site

5720 Route 9G, Hudson

olana.org

This 250-acre site is the home, studio, and designed landscape of Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church. Church designed his home at Olana for over 40 years. The five and a half miles of carriage roads that travel through the farmland, meadow, and woodlands of the property offer spectacular views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. Tours are available.



Overmountain Conservation Area

138 Catalano Road, Ancram
clctrust.org

Owned and managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy, this 1,700-acre site offers 10 miles of trails and is CLC's largest Public Conservation Area. The trails wind through deciduous forests and around cascading streams. Multiple trails lead to spectacular views of the Taconic State Park, the Taconic Ridge, and the Harlem Valley. Hunting is by permit only.



Palatine Park

50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown
[germantownny.org/community/parks-recreation/
palatine-park-2/](http://germantownny.org/community/parks-recreation/palatine-park-2/)

This 50-acre town park offers a variety of activities such as volleyball, basketball, skateboarding, and roller-blading. The facility is equipped with ball fields for baseball, soccer, and football and a dog park. A 1.5 mile universally-accessible trail circles the park and lake. Park passes are available at the town offices.



Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Center and Sanctuary

225 Cambridge Road, Hillsdale

ny.audubon.org/about-us/centers-sanctuaries-chapters/rheinstrom-hill

This 1,037-acre Audubon Center includes four miles of trails that traverse wooded and wetland habitats and provide excellent wildlife viewing and bird-watching. Visitors may see raptors, turkeys, hummingbirds, or waterfowl. Trails near the Visitors Center are universally accessible.



Roeliff Jansen Park

116 Old Route 22, Hillsdale

[hillsdaleny.com/parks-and-recreation/
roeliff-jansen-park/](http://hillsdaleny.com/parks-and-recreation/roeliff-jansen-park/)

This 300-acre State-owned park managed by the Town of Hillsdale features four trails that wind through woods and farmland. The park also includes a dog run and a community garden. The trails are all relatively easy and lead to some highlights of the park including the Roeliff Jansen Kill, the Picnic Grove, and an overlook of the valley.



Rogers Island Wildlife Management Area

Hudson

dec.ny.gov/outdoor/86076.html

Accessible by boat, this 281-acre site is managed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to promote wildlife-dependent recreation. The site consists of forests, tidal marshes, forested wetlands, and mudflats. Fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife observation are permitted on the site. The best landing spot is on the southwest corner of the island.



Taconic State Park

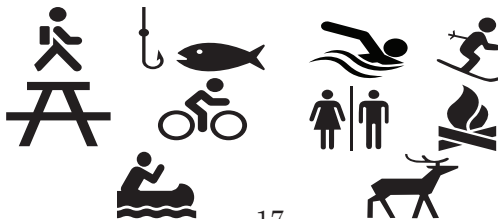
253 NY 344, Copake Falls

59 Rudd Drive, Millerton

parks.ny.gov/parks/83/details.aspx

This 7,000-acre State Park includes 25 miles of trails through wooded, wetland, meadow, and mountainous habitats.

This park also features an Iron Works Museum and is connected to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.



Won Dharma Meditation & Retreat Center

361 NY-23, Claverack, NY
wondharmacenter.org

The Won Dharma Center is home to six miles of trails that are open to the community. Visitors are encouraged to walk silently and mindfully in order to fully enjoy their connection with the earth.



Boat Launches

Cheviot Boat Launch

27 Cheviot Road, Germantown

Copake Lake

281 Lakeview Road, Craryville

Ernest R. Lasher, Jr. Memorial Park

Anchorage Road, Germantown

Henry Hudson Riverfront Park

Water Street, Hudson

Summit Lake

Lake Shore Drive, Philmont

Town Parks

Ancram

Blass Memorial Park

1292 CR 7, Ancram

Children's Playground

1416 CR 7, Ancram

Claverack

Claverack Town Park

91 Church Street, Mellenville

Lakeshore Park

Lake Shore Drive, Philmont

Philmont Park

Main Street, Philmont

Philmont Village Green

10 Maple Avenue, Philmont

Town Parks

Copake

Copake Memorial Park

Mt. View Road, Copake

Germantown

Ernest R. Lasher, Jr. Memorial Park

Anchorage Road, Germantown

Palatine Park

50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown

Roe-Jan Kill Park

Dales Bridge Road, Germantown

Town Parks

Hillsdale

Roeliff Jansen Park

116 Old Route 22, Hillsdale

Hamlet Park

2609 Route 23, Hillsdale

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

Livingston

Livingston Recreation Park

65 Lockwood Road, Livingston

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.

