



Temporary Closure

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Mohonk Preserve closed?

The health and safety of our staff and visitors are our highest priorities and this temporary closure is a critical component of our response to the escalating COVID-19 pandemic. We fully support Governor Cuomo's directive for New Yorkers to stay at home to protect public health.

What other factors played into your decision to close?

Beyond the state mandate, congestion points like trailheads, parking areas and traditional gathering spots on the Preserve were becoming unsafe for both the visiting public and staff. Despite the Preserve's best efforts to manage entry and maintain healthy social distancing practices, the volume of visitation was outpacing the organization's capacity to safely welcome people on the land. We were also concerned about the potential for accidents that would further challenge overburdened local rescue and healthcare personnel.

Can I get a refund on my membership?

Members are the heart and soul of Mohonk Preserve. We appreciate your support and understand that this closure may interrupt plans to visit us. We will automatically extend memberships by a month or more, depending on the length of the closure.

What parts of the Preserve are closed?

All trailheads, rock climbing areas, carriage roads, trails and facilities are closed to the public until further notice. All public programs and events are also suspended.

How long will you remain closed?

While no one knows the exact trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, our intention is to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Why is Minnewaska open and you're not?

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is part of the New York State Parks system and has not been mandated to close; however, they have repeatedly had to shut down due to overcrowding. Recently, the Governor ordered the closure of all New York State Parks playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, campgrounds and golf courses.

How are other recreational areas responding?

Across the country, many of our fellow recreation destinations are taking similar actions to curb visitation, including over two dozen major rock-climbing destinations such as Joshua Tree and Yosemite National Park. Agencies such as the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition are all actively discouraging long-distance and day hikes on their trails.

How is Mohonk Preserve doing?

As a nonprofit nature preserve, we rely on memberships, day fees, special events, and donations to fulfill our mission to protect the land, provide environmental education, advance conservation science, and maintain trails and visitor facilities. The closure and suspension of all events and public programs is hurting the organization financially. Fortunately, we have a large and loyal base of members and supporters and we don't take that for granted. We strive to earn their support even when the trailheads are closed. To help you stay connected with us, we are sharing ideas for family activities from our Education team [on our website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).