



Mohonk Preserve Backgrounder

- Mohonk Preserve's mission is to protect the northern Shawangunk Ridge and inspire people to care for, enjoy and explore the natural world
- Founded in 1963, it is New York's largest nonprofit nature preserve. For more information about our history, visit www.mohonkpreserve.org/timeline
- Protects over 8,200 acres of mountain cliffs, forests, fields, streams, ponds, grasslands and other environmentally and historically significant places
- Program areas include:
 - Conservation & Community Education – using the latest scientific techniques and over a century of weather and natural history research to monitor and manage our diverse ecosystems and serving the community through innovative public programming
 - Stewardship – managing our lands and infrastructure, including 70 miles of historic carriage roads and trails, along with five trailheads, the Visitor Center, and other Preserve buildings, facilities and equipment
 - Visitor Experience – providing a safe, participatory experience in nature for members and visitors, maintaining the critical balance between recreation and conservation, and promoting low-impact, Leave-No-Trace principles
- 17,000 annual members
- 300,000 visitors each year
- Over 70 miles of historic carriage roads and trails
- On-land activities include climbing, bouldering, hiking, biking, trail running, birding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and horseback riding
- Over 100,000 climbers each year/ over 800 climbing routes
- Designated New York State Birding Trail
- Leave-No-Trace Community Partner and Gold Standard Organization – the first in New York State – recognized nationally for implementation of Leave No Trace principles
- The Preserve protects lands in five Ulster County towns – Gardiner, Marbletown, New Paltz, Rochester and Rosendale

- Trailheads include the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center, East Trapps, West Trapps, and Coxing Trailheads, all in Gardiner; the Spring Farm Trailhead in High Falls; and the Testimonial Gateway and Upper Duck Pond Trailheads at the Mohonk Preserve Foothills in New Paltz
- The Visitor Center is a great place to explore all the Preserve has to offer through interactive exhibits and maps, a visitor orientation theater, the Kids Corner and Children's Forest. It also features the fully handicap accessible J&S Grafton Sensory Trail
- The West Trapps Trailhead is best known for its climbing routes and the Overcliff-Undercliff Carriage Road trail. Coxing provides direct access to Split Rock, a small waterfall and wading area, and Spring Farm is the trailhead for the popular Bonticou Crag hike and rock scramble. The Testimonial Gateway Trailhead features the historic stone Testimonial Gateway Tower, the beautiful tree-lined Pin Oak Allee, and sweeping views of the Shawangunk Ridge
- Hours: The Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center is open year-round, free-of-charge, 9am-5pm daily. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve after 12 noon, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Preserve lands are open 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset
- Access to the land is available via Mohonk Preserve Membership or Day-use Pass
- Children 15 and under are always free and must be accompanied by an adult
- Annual Basic membership is \$70 for adults and includes hiking, running, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Annual Plus+ Membership is \$115 for adults and includes the Basic activities plus climbing, biking and horseback riding
- Discounted memberships are available for students and seniors
- Full membership information is available at <https://mohonkpreserve.org/join>
- Day-use passes are \$15 for hiking, running, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing and \$20 for climbing, biking and horseback riding