

“We have such beautiful parks and historic sites in this region for families and friends to explore together.”

— Assemblymember Didi Barrett



Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are having a good summer, enjoying time with family and friends. We are so fortunate, here in the Hudson Valley, to have a spectacular array of beautiful parks and historic sites. From the magnificent Hudson River to the verdant Taconic Mountains, the 106th Assembly District has world-class destinations to be enjoyed by tourists and local residents alike.

As a member of the Assembly Committee on Tourism and Parks, I am committed to preserving and supporting these nearby treasures where anyone can hike, bike, camp, swim or just stroll. So, go out and visit one of our terrific state and county parks.

Sincerely,

Didi Barrett, Member of Assembly

Didi Barrett *Assemblymember*

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Assemblymember Didi Barrett: Explore the beauty in your backyard!

State Parks

Lake Taghkanic

Lake Taghkanic State Park, along Lake Taghkanic in Columbia County, offers tent and trailer campsites, as well as cabin and cottage camping facilities. The lake is also open for swimming and non-motor boat activities. For more information on the various recreational opportunities available, visit nysparks.com/parks/38/resources-links.aspx or call 518-851-3631.



Lake Taghkanic

Mills Norrie State Park

Together, the Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills Memorial State Park and the Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park comprise more than 1,000 acres of the Mid-Hudson Valley. The parks offer various trails, camping and a marina with river access for boating. For more information, call 845-889-4646.

Walkway Over the Hudson

Opened in 2009, the Walkway Over the Hudson is the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world. The Walkway Over the Hudson State Park provides wonderful views of the Hudson River for walkers, hikers, runners and bicyclists. For more information, call 845-454-9649.



Taconic State Park

Taconic State Park

Taconic State Park features two developed areas for camping and hiking in the Taconic Mountain Range near Copake Falls in Columbia County. For more information, call 518-329-3993.

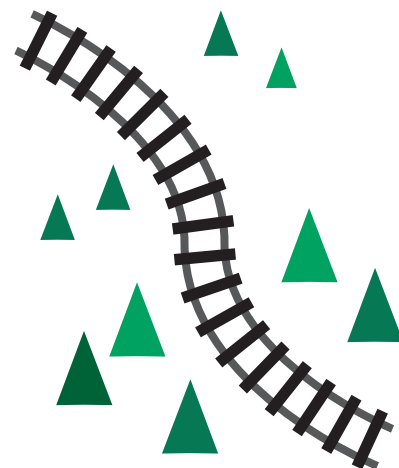


Walkway Over the Hudson

Rail Trails

Harlem Valley Rail Trail

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail runs through eastern Dutchess and Columbia counties and currently includes 15 miles of paved trails through beautiful rural countryside, with more sections opening. Visit hvrt.org for more information and a map of the trail.



Dutchess Rail Trail

Beginning in Hopewell Junction and running northwest, the Dutchess Rail Trail offers 13 miles to walk, run, cycle or blade, linking the Walkway Over the Hudson with trails on the other side of the river. Visit co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/dpw-parks/17055.htm for more information.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site

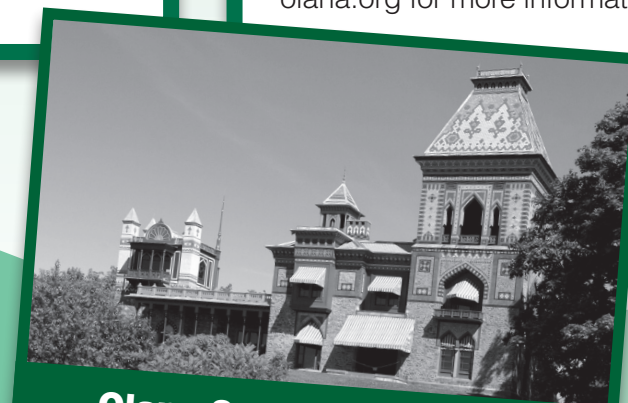
Also known as "Springwood," Franklin D. Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park is open for tours year-round, seven days a week, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. It includes the country's first presidential library, grave sites, a rose garden and hiking trails. Visit nps.gov/hofr or call 845-229-5320 for more information.

Clermont State Historic Site

The Clermont State Historic Site is the former estate of the Livingston family, a prominent New York State family for several generations. Overlooking the Hudson River, the site offers tours, as well as picnicking and nature trails. Visit nysparks.com/historic-sites/16/details.aspx or call 518-537-4240 for more information.

Olana State Historic Site

The Olana State Historic Site outside of Hudson was the home of artist Frederic Edwin Church from 1860 to 1900. Situated on 250 acres, the grounds and gardens are open year-round, offering guided tours of the house, as well as access to the beautiful landscape. Visit olana.org for more information.

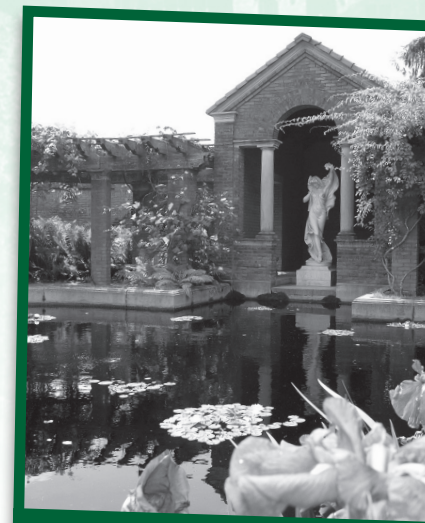


Olana State Historic Site

Historic Sites

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

Once home to Eleanor Roosevelt, this National Historic Site, also known as "Val-Kill," is the only site dedicated to a First Lady. Tours of the Hyde Park home are offered year-round and visitors can access gardens, grounds and trails. For more information and tour schedules, visit nps.gov/elro or call 845-229-9422.



Vanderbilt Mansion

Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site

The Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park is one of the oldest and best examples of Gilded Age architecture in the country. Visitors may take a guided tour of the 211-acre grounds. Visit nps.gov/vama for more information.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site

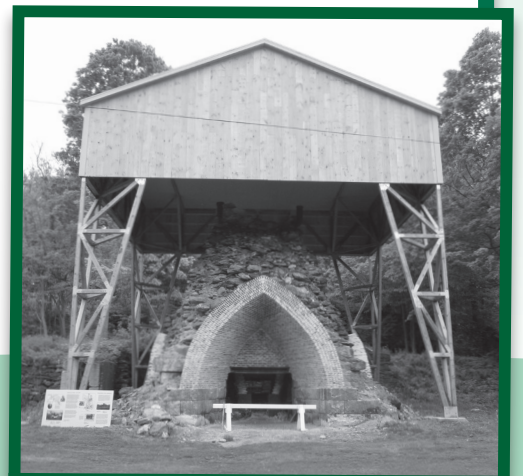
This historic country home of Ogden Mills and his wife Ruth Livingston Mills is another stunning example of a Gilded Age (1876-1917) estate. Mills' father made his fortune by investing in banks, railroads and mines. For more information and tour schedules, visit nysparks.com/historic-sites/25/details.aspx or call 845-889-8851.



Staatsburgh State Historic Site

The Copake Iron Works

The Copake Iron Works, part of Taconic State Park, is the site of an iron extraction and production operation established in the mid-19th century. For more information, call 518-329-3993.



The Copake Iron Works

County Parks



Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area

Wilcox Memorial Park

Route 199, Milan

This family friendly park offers a sandy beach, two small lakes, paddle or row boat rentals, mini-golf (available in season), a snack bar located on the lower lake – and even a resident heron, one of the many beautiful birds in the park to look out for. Call 845-758-6100 or visit dutchessny.gov/countygov/departments/dpw-parks/ppwilcox.htm for more information.

Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area

653 County Route 3, Ancram

The Drowned Lands Swamp features 114 acres, with 1.5 miles of trails. The conservation area offers woodlands, meadow, wetlands and a perennial stream, including portions of one of the largest wetland complexes in southeastern New York. For more information, visit clctrust.org/public-conservation-areas/drowned-lands or contact Columbia Land Conservancy at 518-392-5252.

Greenport Conservation Area

319 Joslen Blvd., Greenport

The Greenport Conservation Area features 625 acres of upland meadows, deciduous forests and an estuarine wetland. Picturesque views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains can be seen from here. For more information, visit clctrust.org/public-conservation-areas/greenport or call the Columbia Land Conservancy 518-392-5252.

Bowdoin Park

85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls

Bowdoin Park is a 301-acre park located on the banks of the Hudson River in the town of Poughkeepsie. The park offers picturesque views, areas for picnicking, a water spray park and a handicapped-accessible playground area. The park also offers soccer, baseball and softball fields and a nationally recognized cross-country race course. Call 845-298-4600 or visit co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/dpw-parks/ppbowdoin.htm for more information.

High Falls Conservation Area

540 Roxbury Road, Philmont

The High Falls Conservation Area features the tallest waterfall – at 150 feet – in Columbia County. The conservation area offers 47 acres that include trails, forest, access to Agawamuck Creek and a picnic bench. For more information, visit clctrust.org/public-conservation-areas/high-falls or call 518-392-5252.

Palatine Park

Palatine Park Road, Germantown

Palatine Park offers a BBQ and picnic area, a playground and soccer fields. The park's name honors the first Germantown settlers from southwest Germany. For more information, call 518-537-6687 or visit germantownny.org/community/parks-recreation/palatine-park-2.

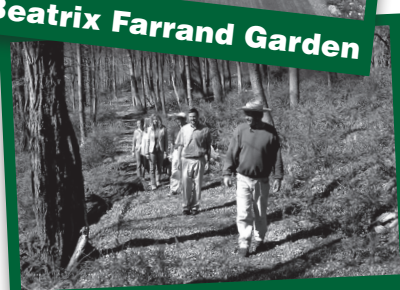
Quiet Cove Riverfront Park

Clearwater Drive, Poughkeepsie

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park is located in the town of Poughkeepsie on Clearwater Drive. The park offers open area for picnicking and grilling, fishing, walking trails and scenic views of the Hudson River. Visit co.dutchess.ny.us/countygov/departments/dpw-parks/ppquietcove.htm for more information.



Beatrix Farrand Garden



Locust Grove

Public Gardens

Beatrix Farrand Garden at Bellefield

Now over 100 years old, this classic garden is a stunning example of the work of Beatrix Farrand, one of the most celebrated landscape gardeners of the first half of the twentieth century. Visitors can tour the restored garden, situated in the heart of Hyde Park, free of charge between 7 a.m. and sunset every day. Visit beatrixfarrandgardenhydepark.org for more information.

Locust Grove

This Italian villa overlooks the Hudson River and is surrounded by acres of restored and revitalized grounds, gardens and carriage roads. Visitors can tour the historic home, which now serves as a not-for-profit museum, or spend the day wandering the many miles of trails exhibiting luscious and refined landscaping. Visit lgny.org for more information or to schedule a tour.

¹ Judith Tankard's "Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes"