

THE PRESERVE at Vassar



vassar.edu/preserve

@eco_vc

@vc_nature

The Preserve at Vassar



Rules

- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.
- No camping or fires.
- No adding or removing plants/animals.
- No altering the landscape.
- Follow a Leave No Trace ethic.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.
- Pet waste must be removed.
- Special events require prior approval



Our Mission

The mission of the Preserve at Vassar is to protect and preserve the ecological diversity of the land and to promote increased understanding and appreciation of natural systems through field-based education and research.

History & Use

Prior to European colonization, the land that now hosts the Preserve was home to the Munsee Lenape, Indigenous peoples who were forcibly displaced and continue today as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community in Wisconsin, the Delaware Tribe and Delaware Nation in Oklahoma, and the Munsee Delaware Nation in Ontario.

In 1895, Vassar purchased the first piece of the Preserve to create a sewage treatment system for the College. In 1911, Vassar acquired more land and created a farm. Vassar student "Farmerettes" worked to provide food to campus, particularly during WWI & WWII when food and farmhands were in short supply. By the 1950s, farming became financially infeasible and was discontinued.

The land had no formal use for years. In 1973, Professor Margaret Wright proposed using the land and its many ecosystems as an ecological center. In 1976, Vassar adopted a mixed-use plan prioritizing education and research. Today, the land continues as an education and research facility. The Preserve also hosts a number of local organizations and is the largest remaining green space in Poughkeepsie, open to all for recreation and connection to nature.

Organizations & Affiliates

Collins Field Station

The Collins Field Station is a lab and classroom that facilitates Vassar education and research on the Preserve, including ecological monitoring and management of the Preserve's water, wildlife, forests, and open fields.



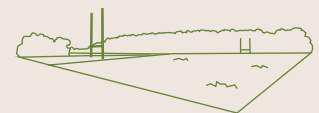
Environmental Cooperative

The Environmental Cooperative supports local conservation efforts through community engagement and outdoor education. The Coop regularly hosts public events and runs Exploring Science, an environmental education program for elementary school students.



Vassar Athletics

The Preserve hosts Vassar Athletics' Rugby Fields and NCAA DIII Cross Country course. Vassar's rugby, cross country, and ultimate frisbee teams regularly practice and host matches and meets on the Preserve.



Poughkeepsie Farm Project

The Poughkeepsie Farm Project is a local, independent non-profit working toward a just and sustainable food system. PFP operates a member-supported CSA, trains future farmers, and runs education and food justice programs in the City of Poughkeepsie and greater Hudson Valley.



Student Conservation Association

The Student Conservation Association, founded by Liz Titus Putnam '55, is a national non-profit dedicated to building the next generation of conservation leaders. The SCA Hudson Valley Corps is headquartered in the Environmental Cooperative barn.



Vassar College Community Gardens

The Vassar College Community Gardens offer 120 sunny plots for local residents to garden from year to year for a nominal fee. Each gardener plans and maintains their own garden and participates in a community work day annually.



In the event of an emergency, contact Vassar Security (845) 437-7333 or Poughkeepsie Police (845) 485-3666

PRESERVE MAP



Legend

Trails

- Farm Road 1.62 miles ○
- North 0.48 miles ○
- Swain 0.41 miles ○
- Drumlin 0.51 miles ⊕
- Helen Johnson Woodworth Memorial 1 mile ⊕
- Davies 0.11 miles ○ ⊗
- Wright 0.5 miles △ ⊗
- Quercus 0.38 miles △ ⊗
- Collins 0.83 miles △ ⊗
- EcoRestore 0.45 miles ○
- Pedestrian Path 0.52 miles ○

Symbols

- Water
- P Visitor Parking
- ⊗ Rugby Fields
- ⊗ Community Gardens
- ⊗ Poughkeepsie Farm Project
- ⊗ No Biking Allowed
- Easy - flat, even terrain
- △ Fair - hilly, varied terrain
- ⊕ Tough - steep, rocky terrain

