

Park Rules & Regulations

Please remember: You are not only a visitor but also a steward of the land. For a safe and enjoyable experience, please observe these rules:

1. The park is open dawn to dusk.
2. Park only in designated areas.
3. Stay within property boundaries, and be considerate of other visitors and adjoining property owners.
4. Stay on marked trails.
5. Always hike with a friend.
6. Keep pets leashed; please clean up after them.
7. Do not remove or destroy plants, wildlife or artifacts.

The following are prohibited:

Motorized vehicles, camping, fires, alcohol, firearms (except with a hunting permit in season*), smoking, dumping, swimming, metal detectors and radios.

The preserve offers:

Hiking, birding, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, waterfowl observation and hunting* by permit only.



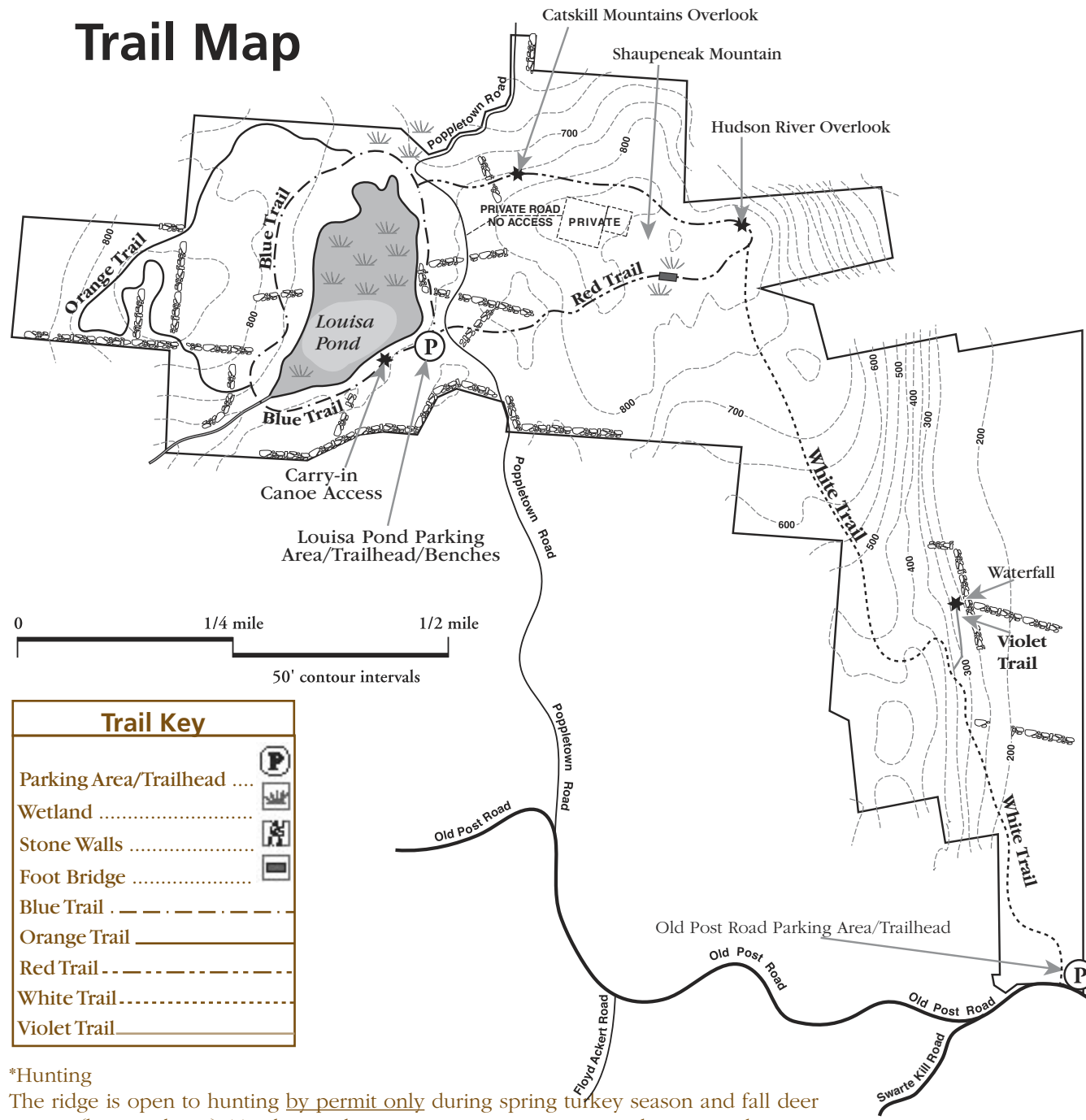
CAUTION:

Deer ticks, which can transmit Lyme Disease, are a growing problem. Take precautions and check for ticks after leaving.



Kindly carry out what you carry in.

Trail Map



*Hunting

The ridge is open to hunting by permit only during spring turkey season and fall deer season (bow and gun). To obtain a hunting permit, you must complete an application, which is available at Scenic Hudson. Hunters must have a current license issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Nonhunters may use the property during hunting season at their own risk but should wear bright clothing and stay on designated trails.

Description of Trails

There are six trails, totaling more than 3.5 miles, that traverse the 570-acre recreation area. Shaupeneak has many meandering, wooded roads where one could easily get lost. Please stay on marked trails. The degree of difficulty for the hiking trails ranges from easy to moderate and the mountain biking trails from moderate to technically difficult. Trail users should wear sturdy shoes and beware of loose rock, holes and slippery surfaces.

Blue Trail

3/4 mile

This trail winds around Louisa Pond. A small, carry-in boat launch for nonmotorized boats, canoes, kayaks, etc., is located at the pond's southeast corner. The pond's north side is a sensitive wetland area.

Orange Trail

1 mile

Constructed by volunteers to accommodate mountain biking, this trail also offers a delightful stroll through a mixed-woods forest. The trail begins a short distance past a handmade dam at the southwest bank of Louisa Pond. Mountain bikers rate this ride as difficult.

Red Trail

3/4 mile

Distinguished by its two scenic overlooks, this trail begins at the Louisa Pond parking area. After approximately one-half mile, you will come to a rock outcrop with a spectacular Hudson River view. Continue to the Catskill Mountains overlook. Eventually you will return to Poppletown Road, crossing it to reconnect with the Blue Trail.

White Trail

(Steep) 1 mile

Beginning from the lower parking area off Old Post Road, this trail works its way up to the ridge line. A brief detour on the Yellow Trail will take you to a short spur, the Violet Trail, which leads to a cascading waterfall. Be cautious of wet surfaces. Returning to the Yellow Trail, turn right and continue to the White Trail. Make another right and continue to the ridge top and the connection with the Red Trail.

Shaupeneak Ridge Cooperative Recreation Area is primarily a wild-life conservation area. This 570-acre site provides spectacular river and mountain vistas. A hike to the ridgetop yields views of the eastern Hudson River shoreline from Hyde Park to Rhinebeck, both in Dutchess County. To the west, the Catskill and Shawangunk mountains can be seen.



The Scenic Hudson Land Trust acquired the property in 1994 and began work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the West Esopus Landowners' Association – a group of neighboring landowners and sportsmen – to protect and manage this outstanding natural resource. Under the partnership, the DEC enforces wildlife regulations, patrols the property and conducts nature studies. The Landowners' Association provides a local presence, stewards the property and assists during hunting season. Scenic Hudson issues hunting permits and coordinates overall site management. Working with AmeriCorps volunteers, we use the preserve to teach school groups about ecology and environmental ethics.

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Shaupeneak Ridge is a perfect destination for an afternoon or all-day excursion. Recreational opportunities abound, including hiking, birding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing and canoeing. Nestled in the Marlboro Mountains, the preserve is home to centuries-old hemlock trees, as well as foxes, coyotes and other animals. Glacially carved Louisa Pond attracts osprey and other raptors to a lush wetland bog. (Deer and wild turkey hunting are permitted in season – see how to get a permit on bottom of trail map page.)



DIRECTIONS

Crossing the Mid-Hudson Bridge from east to west, take Route 9W north for 8.2 miles. Turn left on Old Post Road.

Lower parking lot is 0.2 miles on the right. For **upper lot**, follow Old Post Road to Poppletown Road, which splits off to the right. Parking area is on the left, 2.5 miles from the intersection of Route 9W and Old Post Road.

Operating Hours: Open year-round from dawn to dusk.

SCENIC HUDSON

YOUR VALLEY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE.

We hope you enjoy visiting Shaupeneak Ridge Cooperative Recreation Area. This and other significant Hudson Valley landscapes are protected by The Scenic Hudson Land Trust with the support of The Lila Acheson and DeWitt Wallace Fund for the Hudson Highlands, created by the founders of Reader's Digest Association, Inc. Scenic Hudson also gratefully acknowledges those who helped make this preserve a reality – AmeriCorps and their National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), YRDC, New York–New Jersey Trail Conference, Fats in the Cats, Student Conservation Association (SCA), Town of Esopus, West Esopus Landowners' Association, students and teachers working with Scenic Hudson's youth Trailmasters Program and dedicated local residents.

Visit other Scenic Hudson Parks nearby:

Black Creek, Esopus, Ulster County
Esopus Meadows, Esopus, Ulster County
www.scenichudson.org/parks

Please call or write to receive a free *Adventure Guide to Scenic Hudson's Parks, Preserves and Trails.*

Founded in 1963, Scenic Hudson is dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring the Hudson River and its riverfront as a public and natural resource. To realize this vision, the group's experienced leaders and staff of experts combine coalition building, citizen-based advocacy and sophisticated planning tools to create environmentally healthy communities, champion smart economic growth, open up riverfronts to the public and preserve the valley's inspiring natural beauty.



Shaupeneak Ridge Cooperative Recreation Area



Old Post Road (Base)
Poppletown Road (Ridge)
Esopus, NY

Preserve Guide and Trail Map

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