

# Discover the **Town of Esopus**

The Town of Esopus is home to unique nature preserves, historic sites, hiking trails, scenic roads and cultural centers. This brochure is part of Scenic Hudson's commitment to fostering greater awareness and appreciation for these special places through land preservation, public outreach and education. This user-friendly guide links the various sites that make Esopus a special place to live, work and explore into a comprehensive package. The result is a heritage and recreation network that can benefit visitors and residents alike.

Town of Esopus  
174 Broadway  
P.O. Box 700  
Port Ewen, NY 12466  
845-331-0676

This brochure can be viewed on line at:  
[www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com)  
[www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org)



## Heritage and Recreation Network

Sleightsburgh Park  
The Town of Esopus Library  
Esopus Meadows Lighthouse &  
Lighthouse Park  
Esopus Meadows Point Preserve  
Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum  
Shaupeneak Ridge Recreation Area  
Black Creek Forest Preserve  
John Burroughs Sanctuary & Slabsides  
Perrine's Bridge  
Sojourner Truth Freedom Trail

















This brochure is part of the Town of Esopus Heritage and Recreation Network project, 2002. Project sponsors:



Town of Esopus Library





|   |                           | Stieglitsburgh | Esopus Library | Lighthouse & Park | Esopus Meadow | Esopus Museum | Shaupeneak Ridge | Black Creek | Shahsides | Perrine's Bridge | Freedom Trail |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
|  | Mountain Biking           |                |                |                   |               |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Hiking                    | •              |                | •                 | •             | •             | •                | •           |           |                  | •             |
|  | Snowshoeing               |                |                | •                 | •             |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Hunting                   |                |                |                   | •             |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Cross Country Skiing      |                |                | •                 | •             |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Canoeing                  | •              |                |                   | •             |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Fishing                   | •              | •              |                   | •             | •             |                  | •           |           |                  |               |
|  | Boat Ramp                 | •              |                |                   |               |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Bird Watching             | •              | •              | •                 | •             | •             |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Nat'l Historic Register   |                | •              | •                 |               |               |                  | •           | •         |                  |               |
|  | Picnic Facilities         | •              | •              | •                 |               |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Scenic Vista              | •              | •              | •                 | •             | •             | •                | •           | •         | •                | •             |
|  | Waterfowl                 | •              | •              | •                 | •             | •             |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Educational Program(s)    | •              | •              | •                 | •             | •             | •                | •           |           |                  |               |
|  | Historic/Natural Collect. | •              | •              |                   | •             |               |                  |             |           |                  |               |
|  | Handicap Accessible       | •              | •              | •                 |               |               |                  |             |           |                  | •             |

The Town of Esopus Heritage and Recreation Network has been developed with a grant from the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., with in-kind contributions from the Town of Esopus, Town of Esopus Library, and Scenic Hudson, Inc. Scenic Hudson was the recipient of the grant. This initiative would not have been possible without the active participation and support of a number of individuals representing the various sites and programs that have been part of this project.

Participants include: Esopus Business Association, Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc., Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, John Burroughs Association, Inc., Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum, Save Esopus Lighthouse Commission, Scenic Hudson, Inc., SUNY-New Paltz Sojourner Truth Library, Town of Esopus, Town of Esopus Library, and Ulster County Buildings and Grounds.

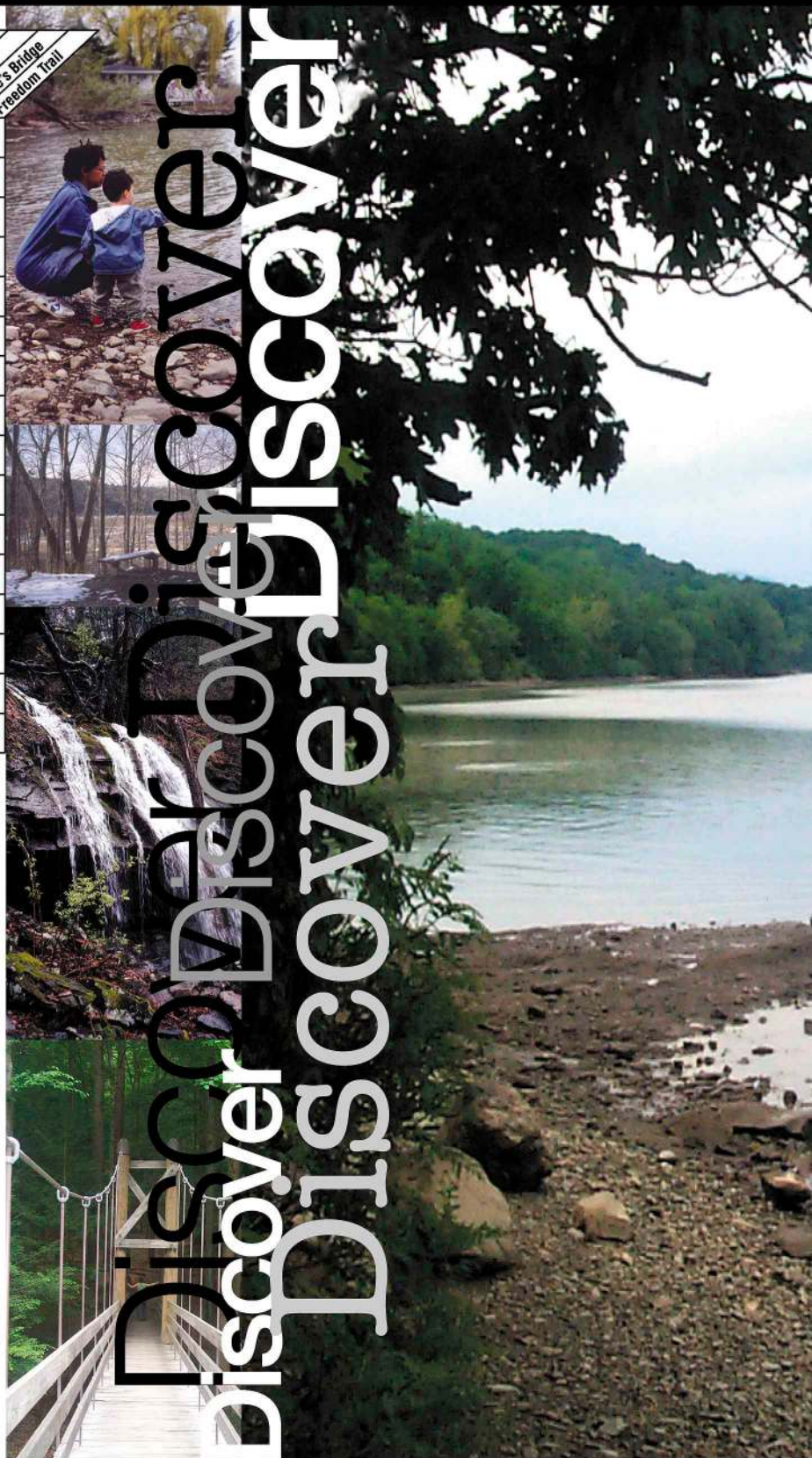
**Project Consultant:** Katherine Daniels, AICP

**Art Direction:** Pen & Ink Creative

**Design:** Rachel D. Jaffe, Harvard University Fellow for Scenic Hudson

**Photo Credits:** James Bleecker, John Burroughs Association, Inc., Tom Ligamari, Neil Moore, Save Esopus Lighthouse Commission, Sojourner Truth Library

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







## ① Slightsburgh Park

Purchased by Scenic Hudson and owned by the Town of Esopus, this 79-acre peninsula at the mouth of Rondout Creek has two trails plus two small islands accessible by foot during low tide (*use extreme caution*). The foundation of the Rondout Lighthouse is still visible. Located in Port Ewen on Everson St., 0.4 mi. from intersection of North Broadway and First Ave. Info 845-331-0676 & [www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com)



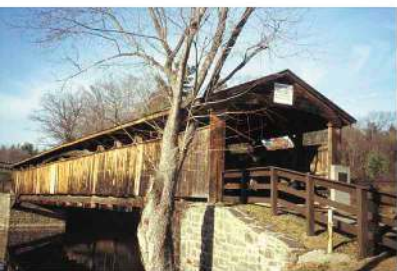
## ② The Town of Esopus Library

Features the John Burroughs Study Center and Hudson River multimedia collection. Houses historical and environmental works about Hudson River and local environs. Maintains a collection donated by the late Mrs. Elizabeth Burroughs Kelley, granddaughter of John Burroughs and town resident. Community, education and cultural programs are available (*see Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Located in Port Ewen at Route 9W and East Main St. Info 845-338-5580 & [www.esopuslibrary.org](http://www.esopuslibrary.org)

# Discovering Esopus

## ⑩ Sojourner Truth Freedom Trail

Sojourner Truth was a prominent public speaker, preacher, abolitionist, suffragette and National Women's Hall of Fame inductee. Follow her 11-mile escape route from slavery and view the dedication plaques on Route 213 near Sturgeon Pool, her birthplace and the Kingston Courthouse (*see Discover Sojourner Truth Freedom Trail insert*). Info at Sojourner Truth Library SUNY New Paltz 845-257-3681 & [www.newpaltz.edu/sojourner\\_truth](http://www.newpaltz.edu/sojourner_truth)



## ⑨ Perrine's Bridge

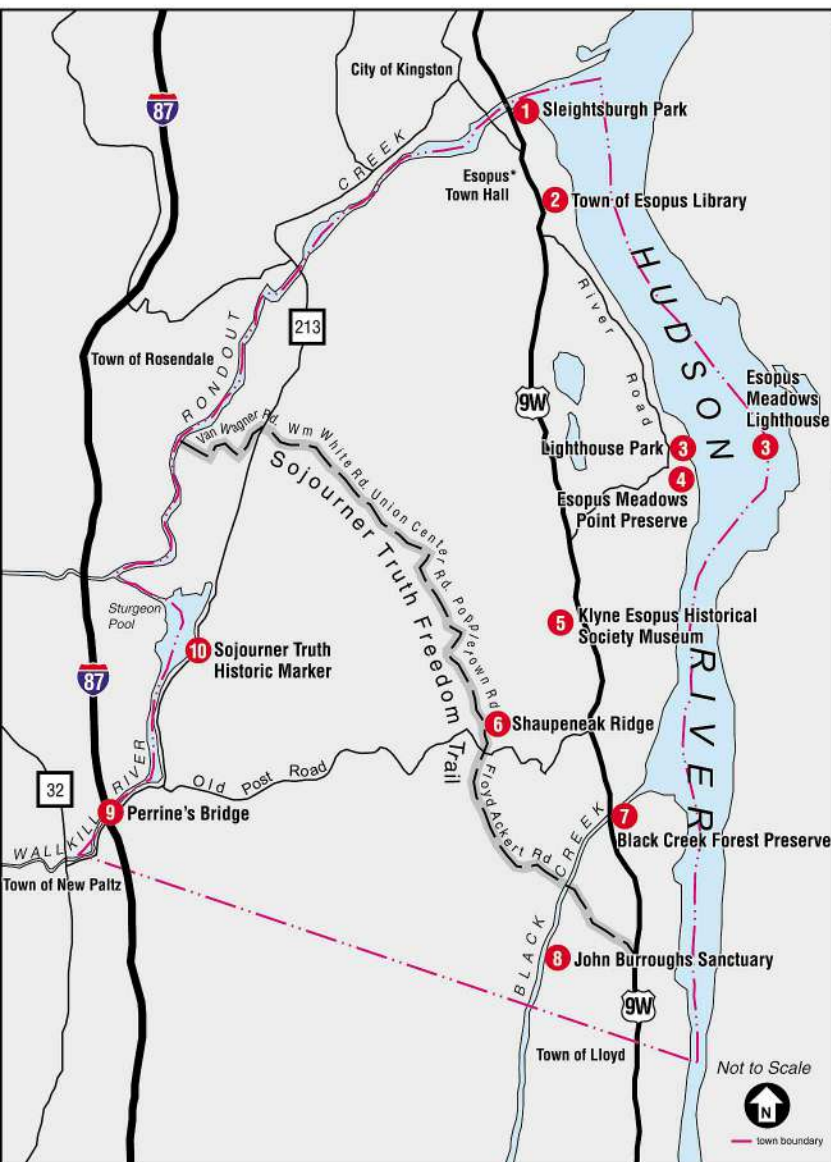
Built circa 1835, this unique bridge is the oldest remaining covered bridge and the only single-span, Burr-arch truss bridge in New York State. Owned by Ulster County. Located between mile markers 81 & 82 on NYS Thruway, near junction of State Route 32 & 213. Info at Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum 845-338-8109 & [www.nycoveredbridges.org](http://www.nycoveredbridges.org)



## ⑧ John Burroughs Sanctuary & Slabsides

Famed Hudson Valley naturalist-writer and West Park resident John Burroughs built this rustic cabin retreat in 1895. Now part of the 192-acre John Burroughs Sanctuary, open daily, featuring Greenway trails and spectacular pond. Slabsides Day open house held in May and October. Guided tours by appointment year-round. (*See Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Located in West Park at Burroughs Drive off Floyd Ackert Road. Info at John Burroughs Association 845-384-6320 & <http://research.amnh.org/burroughs/>





### ⑦ Black Creek Forest Preserve

Sited along a major Hudson River tributary, this 130-acre Scenic Hudson preserve features a 120-ft. suspension footbridge across pristine Black Creek, mixed forest communities, vernal pools, three interconnected hiking trails (2.5 mi. total) and direct access to the river. Serves as classroom for Scenic Hudson's environmental education program (see *Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Located at intersection of Route 9W and Winding Brook Acres Rd. Parking lot immediate left. Info 845-473-4440 & [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org)

### ③ Esopus Meadows Lighthouse & Lighthouse Park

This 0.7-acre, town-owned park, once owned by Scenic Hudson, offers a stunning view of the last wooden lighthouse remaining on the Hudson River. The lighthouse was built in 1871 and nicknamed "Maid of the Meadows." The volunteer group, Save Esopus Lighthouse Commission, is working to open this historic landmark to the public. The park is located just north of the Esopus Meadows Point Preserve. Park info 845-331-0676 & [www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com) Lighthouse info 845-331-1478 & [www.esopusmeadowslighthouse.org](http://www.esopusmeadowslighthouse.org)



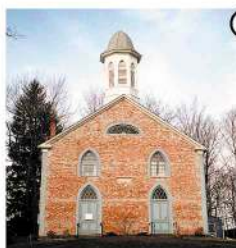
### ④ Esopus Meadows Point Preserve & Environmental Center

With 3,500 feet of Hudson River shoreline, this 100-acre Scenic Hudson site offers views of the Esopus Meadows Lighthouse, three Greenway trails, an interpretive botanical trail and an environmental center for the Sloop Clearwater's Tideline Discovery Program (see *Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Located 1 mi. from intersection of Route 9W and River Rd. Preserve info 845-473-4440 & [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org) Sloop Clearwater info 845-454-7673 & [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org)



### ⑤ Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum

Housed in an 1827 church and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum has artifacts, documents and a genealogical library related to history of Town of Esopus. Hosts reenactments and education programs (see *Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Located on Route 9W, 8.5 mi. north of Mid-Hudson Bridge. Info 845-338-8109 & [www.klyneesopusmuseum.org](http://www.klyneesopusmuseum.org)



### ⑥ Shaupeneak Ridge Cooperative Recreation Area

Three and a half miles of trails wind through the unique geology of this 561-acre wildlife conservation area owned by Scenic Hudson. Hosts beautiful vistas and glacially carved Louisa Pond. Serves as classroom for Scenic Hudson's environmental education program (see *Discover Esopus Educational Programming insert*). Lower lot located 0.2 mi. from intersection of 9W and Old Post Rd. Upper lot 2.5 mi. from intersection of 9W and Old Post Rd. Info 845-473-4440 & [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org)

