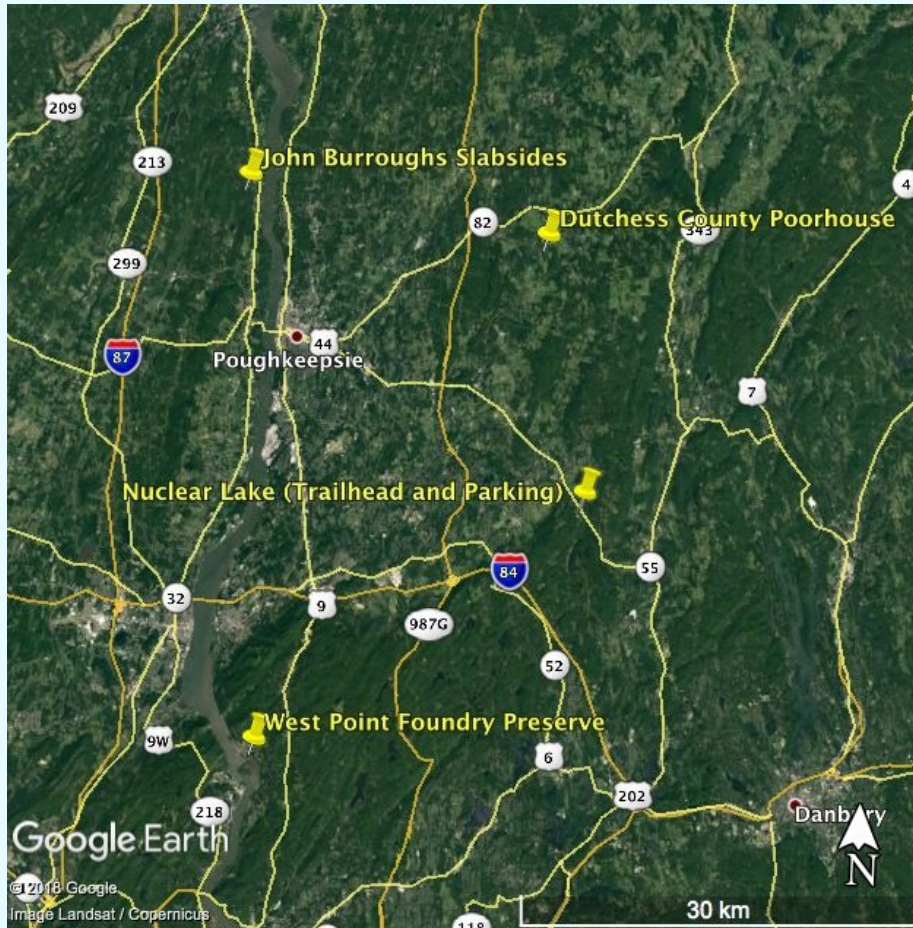


Map of Sites



Locations of the sites mentioned in this brochure. North to South: John Burroughs Slabsides, Dutchess County Poorhouse, Nuclear Lake Trailhead, and West Point Foundry Preserve. Enjoy your explorations!

Green Spaces of the Hudson Valley



Above: The group at the Cary Institute. Top to Bottom: Sally Gaston, Benjamin Bachman, Zach Bygall, Travis Longstaff, Lucas Gordon, Samirah Aziz, Julie Morel, and Maddie Maguire. (Not pictured: Elise Matera)

Over the course of six weeks, our class visited eleven unique parks and historic sites throughout the Hudson River Valley. When visiting these sites, we were asked to think critically about the wide range of historical, cultural, and environmental contexts that are considered in the selection, establishment, and ongoing maintenance of green spaces. We learned that parks are rarely, if ever, formed on vacant land devoid of important and complex histories. In this brochure we have selected four sites we found to be especially representative of the variety of historical backgrounds we encountered in our weekly field trips. If you would like to visit any of these locations, we encourage you to consider them as more than places to walk your dog or observe beautiful nature, but also as places to reflect on history and our complex relationship with the outdoors.

Dutchess County Poorhouse



Address: 131 County House Rd, Millbrook, NY 12545

Parking: Contact Dutchess Government Center before arriving to hike (845) 486-3000

Hours: 9am - 5pm

Left: *The only marked grave at the poorhouse, reading "My Brother, Lewis B. Hubbell, Died Mar 11 1871, Aged 59 years."* (PC: Ginny Buechele)

Meant to house the poor and mentally ill, poorhouses were government-run facilities that often had very low-quality living conditions and treated its habitants less than well. When folks passed away, no one cared enough to offer a proper burial. As a result, hundreds of people are buried on the grounds of these

institutions, even long after their demolitions. The Dutchess County Poorhouse, built in 1863, was one of these sites and ran through the 1950s. When legislation was passed in 2014 to demolish the site, approximately 800 graves were left behind in the area. The shallow depressions of the graves are visible today, and the forest has been permitted to overgrow the region, giving the few visitors the sense that these people are truly forgotten. A few hundred graves are numbered with small round stone posts, but many are unmarked. Currently, the Department of Public Works is trying to make an effort to bring awareness to this space while hoping to transform the land into a respectfully proper cemetery by uprooting the trees and creating manicured lawns, which would pay respect to these peoples' final resting ground, but will alter the environment drastically.

West Point Foundry Preserve



Address: 80 Kemble Ave, Cold Spring, NY 10516

Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Parking: Lot at address site

Left: *Original office building of West Point Foundry, now ruins*

Full of historical and ecological significance to the Hudson Valley, the West Point Foundry Preserve offers a glimpse into the area's heavy impacts on both military and civilian life. Visitors today can see what remains of an operation that

resulted in a large portion of the artillery used in the American Civil War as well as the earliest railway locomotives. The well-maintained park offers a half-mile of accessible trail leading from Cold Spring's Metro-North Station past Foundry Cove. Two more miles of trails pass by foundry ruins and end at related sites in Cold Spring.

Nuclear Lake

Address: 3215 State Route 55, Poughquag, NY 12570

Parking: Pulloff along Route 55

Hours: Dawn to dusk

Right: *Little evidence remains of the facility once located on the shore of Nuclear Lake*

Despite being the site of a minor plutonium accident in the 70s, Nuclear Lake is an ideal spot for outdoor recreation. After many years of government cleanup and



public debate, the lake has become a popular destination along the Appalachian Trail (AT) for both thru-hikers and casual users. Among locals, the lake carries a rich tradition of stories and legends. Though the site is considered safe, fears over dangerous nuclear waste have garnered popular attention; one search for radioactive barrels in the lake turned up a sunken Jeep instead. Ultimately, Nuclear Lake's intrigue outweighs its negligible dangers. Because of its isolation and naturalization, the property was integral to the creation of off-road sections on the AT through New York State. Nuclear Lake contributes to the singular vision and landscape conservation of the AT across 2,200 miles in the eastern United States, and the trail conservancy continues to offer resources for management and education.

Slabsides

Address: 261 Floyd Ackert Road West Park, NY 12493

Hours: Nature Sanctuary: Dawn to dusk
Burroughs' House: specific occasions

Parking: Burroughs Road

Right: *Group at Slabsides Cabin*
Slabsides is unique due to its naturalist and historical impacts in both the past and the present. This home was nature writer John Burroughs' escape into the natural world, and today it allows



visitors to have a long-lasting impact by sustaining his legacy of seeing the world differently. When at Slabsides, one can find inspiration from their surroundings on the various hiking trails on the property. Hiking is free to the public year round, and the John Burroughs Association holds guided bird walks, discussions, and various other events which can be found on their website. The cabin is open two days a year to the public, but Slabsides nonetheless is worth the visit. Slabsides is truly memorable due to its natural and historical charm.