

Welcome to the Indian Kill Preserve.

The 100 acre Indian Kill Preserve follows the banks and bluffs of the Indian Kill. The Preserve is comprised of a number of diverse habitats including, native hardwood forest, conifer plantations, and wetlands. The Preserve is an attractive area for hiking, nature study, fishing, crosscountry skiing, and snow-shoeing.

The Preserve is also a special place for wildflowers in the spring, and a variety of fern species. Hepatica, trout lilies, trillium, cohosh, toothwort, and jack-in-the-pulpits bloom along the stream banks. Eleven species of ferns grow along the trails, emphasizing the diverse habitats of the area, moist stream banks, wetlands, cool north-facing bluffs and the dry sandy uplands.

Parking: Visitors to the Indian Kill Preserve may park in the designated lot off Hetcheltown Road.

Trails:

From the parking lot the Clair Schmitt trail winds through a young forest and then down the slope to the valley of the Indian Kill. Cross the stream on a bridge built on the old dam which impounded water for the former Glenridge Hospital. Continue along this trail and either go up stream or down.

Down stream: Take a left off the bridge on to an unmarked trail to view many wildflowers and fern covered stream banks.

Near Maple Ave the yellow trail leads up the bluff to the sandy, dry plateau and a mature oak forest. This trail will lead you back to the bridge.

Up stream: Taking a right off the bridge on the Clair Schmitt trail will take you upstream, climbing the bluff along a zigzag path through a sandy oak forest with red pine and red cedar plantations. Behind Helen Estates the trail goes down the bluff to go along the stream bank. Return on the yellow loop which crosses fern-filled gorges on small bridges.

Directions to the Indian Kill Preserve

Go north on Rte 50 to Glenridge Rd. Turn right on Glenridge Rd. and go 1.3 miles to traffic signal at Maple Ave. Turn left and go .4 miles to parking lot on left at junction of Maple Avenue and Hetcheltown Rd. Parking is on the left.

The Indian Kill Preserve is open dawn to dusk. Carry in / Carry out

Prohibitions: No overnight camping, fires, littering, or dumping. No motorized vehicles or bikes. No hunting, trapping or carrying of firearms. No cutting or collecting of plant specimens. Please leash dogs and respect private property surrounding the Preserve.

CAUTION! Steep slopes encountered throughout this Preserve contain all the natural hazards inherent is such formations. Please keep back from edges. For your own safety and for the protection of fragile plants and soils, please stay on the marked trails. Also beware of Poison Ivy.

For further information contact the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council at the

> Schenectady County Planning Department 107 Nott Terrace Schaffer Heights, Suite 303 Schenectady, NY 12308 (518) 386-2225



Fern covered banks of the Indian Kill



Fishing at the Indian Kill dam

A GUIDE TO THE INDIAN KILL NATURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVE SCHENECTADY COUNTY NEW YORK

