

Mission

The mission of the Vassar Ecological Preserve is to protect and preserve the ecological diversity of the land to ensure that its educational value will be maintained in perpetuity. The Vassar Ecological Preserve promotes increased understanding and appreciation of the natural systems on the preserve through field-based education and research.

Rules

- No camping or fires.
- No adding or removing plants/animals.
- No altering the landscape.
- Follow a Leave No Trace ethic.
- Only authorized vehicles allowed.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.
- Pets waste must be picked up.
- Special events require prior approval.
- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset.

History & Use

The first piece of the Vassar Farm was purchased in 1895 to create a sewage treatment system. In 1911 the college acquired additional property and created a farm that provided vegetables, meat, and dairy to campus.

1917 brought the rise of the Farmerettes. Vassar girls worked as farmhands over the summer during World War I and World War II because other help was in short supply. In the 1950's farming was discontinued because of rising costs. In 1973 Margaret Wright proposed that the land should become an ecological center. In 1976 Vassar adopted a mix use plan, with education and research at the forefront for land use.

Today the land continues to serve as an education and research facility for Vassar and the surrounding community. It is one of the largest open green spaces in Poughkeepsie. Residents and students are welcome to learn and explore the trails and rich habitats nestled within the preserve.

Affiliations & Contact

Ecological Preserve & Collin's Field Station

The preserve includes streams, wetlands, forests, and old fields that are home to an abundance of wildlife. The field station is a lab and classroom used for research and education.

Keri VanCamp, Field Station & Preserve Manager
kevincamp@vassar.edu

Environmental Cooperative At Vassar Barns

A Hudson Valley initiative to inspire conservation through education, outreach, and research within the community and region. Partners of the Co-op include the Hudson Valley SCA (Student Conservation Association), and EMMA (Environmental Management and Monitoring Alliance)

Jenn Rubbo, Manager Hudson Valley SCA, Office
jerubbo@vassar.edu hudsonvalley@thesca.org

Exploring Science at Vassar Farm

A hands-on science and environmental education program at the Collin's Field Station where Vassar students teach Poughkeepsie elementary students through exploration and discovery.

Lynn Capozzoli, Director
lyncapozzoli@vassar.edu

Athletics

Vassar's Varsity Rugby and Cross Country are located on the property.

Bruce Gillman, Head Coach
brgillman@vassar.edu

Poughkeepsie Farm Project

Grows food for their CSA, trains future farmers, provides educational programs, runs the community garden and improves access to healthy locally-grown food.

Lee Anne Albritton, Executive Director
leeanne@farmproject.org



VASSAR FARM AND ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE



farm.vassar.edu



[vassarecologicalpreserve](https://www.instagram.com/vassarecologicalpreserve)



[vassarfarmandpreserve](https://www.facebook.com/vassarfarmandpreserve)

In the event of an emergency:
Vassar Security (845) 437-7333
Poughkeepsie Police (845) 485-3666.

TRAIL MAP

DIFFICULTY

- easy
- fair
- tough
- water

BIKING

- Farm 1.62 mi.
- Swain 0.30 mi.
- North 0.68 mi.
- Drumlin 0.55 mi.
- Helen Johnson Woodworth Memorial 1.30 mi.

NO BIKING

- Collin's 1.03 mi.
- Davies 0.11 mi.
- Quercus 0.88 mi.
- Wright 0.51 mi.

NOTABLE PLACES

- a** SCA Planting
- b** Vassar Barns
- c** Poughkeepsie Farm Project
- d** Rugby Field
- e** Old Field Demonstration
- f** Collin's Field Station
- g** Reconstructed Ponds
- h** Beaver Pond

Vassar
College

