

Stone Barns Center is partnering with the Rockefeller State Park Preserve on a new initiative to manage 350 acres of conserved grasslands with livestock grazing. We are honored for the opportunity to steward this magnificent landscape with generative agricultural practices that will improve the health and wellbeing of soil, wild and domesticated animals and plants, microbes, and our community of neighbors for generations to come.

Strategic grazing of cattle and sheep across the landscape returns a number of benefits to these grasslands that have already become apparent just two seasons in. Plant biodiversity in the pastures has increased, and wild birds have found adequate habitat in the tall grasses we preserve during the nesting and fledging season. By using animals, rather than haying and tractors, to maintain the fields, we are able to modulate the impact on the soil and build its fertility while also reducing the use of fossil fuels and heavy equipment.

Goats and pigs also have a role to play in managing these lands, particularly in the forests. Pigs find their true purpose in the forest by helping to root up thick brush in the search for bugs and other tasty morsels. Their work loosens and stimulates the soil and provides a fresh seedbed for woodland grasses and other native or naturalized plants. Likewise, goats eat – and help mitigate the spread of – undesirable and aggressive plants, greatly improving the potential of desired forest species to thrive and allowing the Preserve to avoid the use of herbicides.

By thoughtfully deploying animals in the right balance for the landscape according to their natural contributions, we have the opportunity to improve conserved lands as a benefit to the larger community. We are also encouraged by the growing body of knowledge showing that these practices, when oriented around soil health, have the potential to draw carbon out of the atmosphere and sequester it in the earth, offering a bright spot in the fight against climate change.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Preserve on this important work, and are hopeful that this project will serve as an example and inspiration to other farmers and conservation organizations seeking to protect landscape and community health.



Please follow posted Preserve rules and regulations. For more information visit parks.ny.gov/parks/59.



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STONE BARNES CENTER is a nonprofit on a mission to bring about an ecological food system.



AGRICULTURE AS CONSERVATION

SELF-GUIDED TOUR





We have placed benches at key points along the system of trails across the Preserve where you can observe the dynamic relationships between nature and domesticated systems. We hope you will pause on these benches to take in the abundant beauty of these preserved lands.

1. BUTTERMILK POND

A dynamic landscape with upland fields, a pond, and remnants of historic orchards.

2. BUTTERMILK VISTA

Long, open fields provide essential nesting grounds for grassland birds like the Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow and American Kestrel.

3. PEEPER POND

Man-made ponds such as this one help to reduce erosion and provide valuable riparian habitat (plant life at water edges).

4. BLUEBIRD PATH

These rocky fields are low in fertility, so we move pastured hens across the fields to add nutrients.

5. RIVER VIEW

The surrounding fields are managed to provide tall grass pasture for winter stockpile that feeds cattle, sheep and goats through the coldest months.

6. SILVOPASTURE

A managed silvopasture forest (forest with pasture grasses underneath) provides space, light and diversity to the maturing trees as well as the forest floor, along with shade for animals.

7. FRONT PASTURE

Annual and perennial rotations across a diverse landscape provide the greatest degree of resilience and agricultural sustainability, improving the capacity of soils to absorb and hold water, form organic matter, sequester carbon and increase biodiversity.

8. WINTER QUARTERS

The long-term presence of animals on these pastures has led to high fertility, balanced soil ecology and healthy animals.

9. GREAT OAK

This Great Oak is thought to be 250 years old. The barns on this site provide an extension for Stone Barns to store equipment and supplies as well as a water cart fill area for thirsty animals farther afield.

10. OWL HILL

These pastures, which were previously managed with haying and fertilizers, are now managed by Stone Barns Center with intensive livestock grazing.

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|----|-------------------|----|------------------------|----|-----------------------|----|------------------------------|
| AS | Ash Tree Loop | DL | David's Loop | NW | Nature's Way | ST | Stone Bridge Trail |
| BH | Buttermilk Hill | DR | Deer Run | OC | Old Croton | SH | Old Sleepy Hollow Road Trail |
| BP | Brothers' Path | EH | Eagle Hill | PE | Aqueduct Connector | SI | Simental Trail |
| BR | Brook Trail | FL | Ferguson Lake | PG | Pocantico Gate Trail | SL | Shady Lane |
| BY | Barnyard Hill | FM | Farm Meadow | PP | Peaceful Path | SR | Spook Rock Trail |
| CA | Canter Alley | FS | Flying Squirrel | PR | Pocantico River Trail | ST | Spring Trail |
| CB | Carl's Brook Path | GB | Gorey Brook Road Trail | RL | Ridge Trail | TB | 13 Bridges Loop |
| DH | Douglas Hill Loop | GO | Goat Trail | RR | Raven's Rock | TR | Turkey Run |
| | | GR | Greenrock Road | RW | Rock Wall Loop | WQ | Winter Quarters |
| | | HB | Horseshoe Bend Trail | SB | Stone Barns Path | WS | Witch's Spring Trail |
| | | HI | Hillside Trail | | | | |
| | | HP | Hudson Pines Road | | | | |
| | | HW | Headwater Trail | | | | |
| | | LL | Lucy's Loop | | | | |
| | | ML | Maple Loop | | | | |

To learn more about regenerative agriculture, visit stonebarnscenter.org/grazing