



acts

tion:

2'

7'

25 - 40 minutes

deep terrain

low shoeing,

ly, Photography

Putnam County Land Trust (PCLT) was incorporated in 1969 for the benefit of all residents of Putnam County. It is dedicated to preserving for posterity unique or environmentally significant parcels of land for the purposes of conservation, education, and passive recreation.

All PCLT lands are open to the public for hiking and nature study. School groups are welcome to conduct field trips and nature watches.

How can I become a member of the PCLT?

Membership is open to anyone interested in the preservation of open spaces. Please fill out the form below and mail to:

Putnam County Land Trust
P.O. Box 36
Brewster, NY 10509

I would like to become a member of the Putnam County Land Trust. Enclosed is my tax deductible check for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership	1,000.00

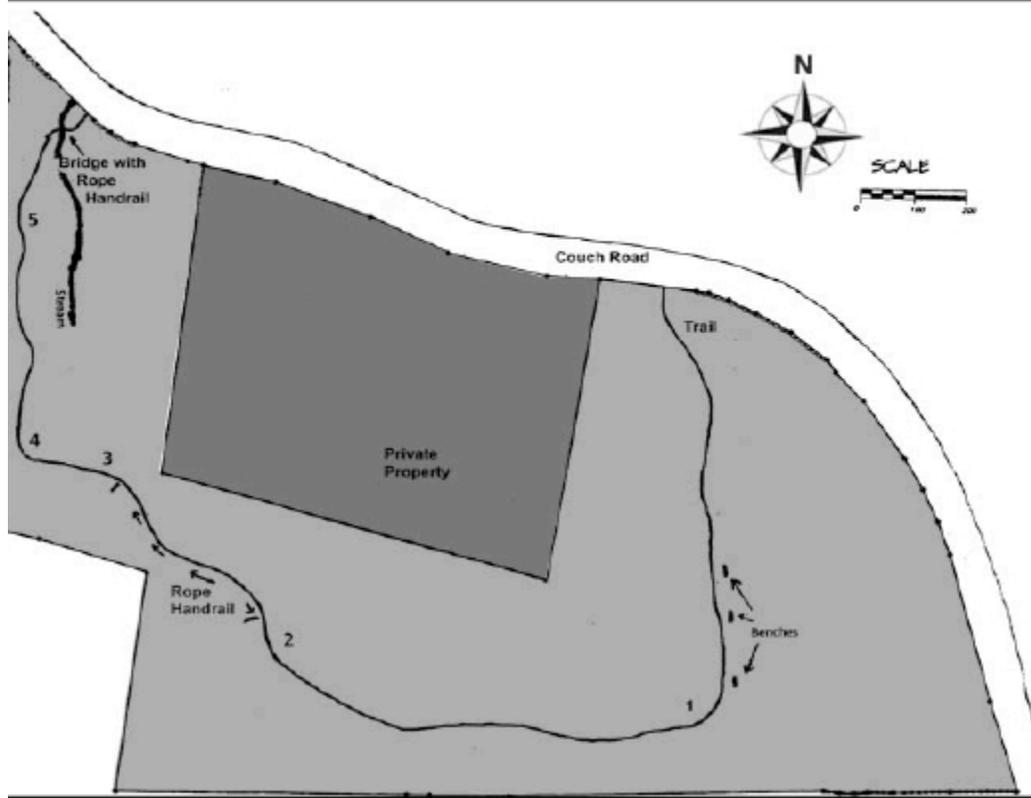
Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

Sterling Farm Preserve



A preserve owned and managed by...





Trail Regulations

Please sign in before beginning your hike.

Help us to protect and preserve the plant and life found on this property by not disturbing the area, staying on the paths, and by observing the regulations posted at the entrance.

History: Donated to the Putnam County Trust in 1997 by Tom and Edie Keasbey, this 37-acre parcel was once part of one of the 100-acre farms carved out of the Philipse lands by Revolutionary War veterans. In the early 1800s, it belonged to the Couch family. Hezekiah Couch was the first Commissioner of Highways of the Town of Patterson. This property became known as Sterling Farm after Edie Keasbey's grandparents, Charles Fitzhugh Simon and Edith Stearns Simon, acquired the land in 1918. They lived on the property until their deaths in 1954 and 1961.

Preserve Features

Shade Community: A north-facing slope, where limited sunlight means seasonal growth may be several weeks behind other areas in this region. Look for butterflies, Blueberry, Pipsissewa, ferns, mosses, and Lowbush Blueberry.

Mountain Laurel: Acidic, rocky, shady environments are where this plant thrives. It blooms in late May/early June.

Looking for Farm Well

The elevation at this point on the trail makes it possible to gaze directly at the treetops of the woods below. Normally birds are observed from the forest canopy. This location provides a special view of the birds in the forest canopy.

Wetlands: Home to a variety of native plants including Blue Flag Iris, Yellow Flag Iris, Cinnamon Fern, Royal Fern, and Blue-eyed Mountain Grass.

Exploring the preserve: The hillside was dairy pasture until the late 1920's, but it is now mostly second growth oak forest. Black, Red, and Chestnut Oaks are abundant on the rocky terrain. Lowbush Blueberry is the dominant shrub-layer plant along with the significant Mountain Laurel. There is a small wetland community at the northern end of the property. The foundation of the old dairy barn is still visible at the edge of the wetland.

Access: From Rt. 164, turn onto Cornwall Hill Road. Go 0.8 mile and turn right onto Couch Road. Continue 0.4 mile to parking area on the right side of this road. Markers on trees serve as trail guides.