

Guidelines to Use

- * General Use: The Center is a carry-in, carry-out facility and visitors are asked to carry out their trash.
- * Leave No Trace: No collecting of any kind allowed. The only exception is picking up the litter of others to leave the park better than you found it. Please leave all plants, animals and fungi as found.
- * Fires: Campfires are not permitted.
- * **Trail Systems:** The park has approximately eleven miles of trail ranging from shorter self-guiding trails to the 4.8 mile Dyken Pond Long Trail.
- * No motorized vehicles or horses on the trails.
- * **Swimming:** In the interest of protecting wildlife habitat along the lakeshore, there is no public swimming.
- * **Boating:** There is a non-motor boat launch 800 feet from the parking lot. The launch is accessible by car to unload gear, but vehicles must be parked at the main parking lot. Portaging may be necessary at certain times. Call ahead to assure vehicle access to launch.
- Canoes and Kayaks are available for rental.
- * Winter Use: Trails are open in winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The lake is available for ice fishing. Snowshoes can be rented with advance reservations.
- * **Dogs:** Are welcomed, but please keep them on a leash.
- Hours: Open daylight hours every day of the year.
- * Overnight Camping: No overnight camping allowed except for youth groups preapproved to rent lean-to area

Educational Programs

Field Trips Public Programs
Afterschool Programs Classroom Visits
Outdoor Adventure Camp

More About the Center

Dyken Pond is the principal headwaters of the Poesten Kill, and the largest lake on the Rensselaer Plateau. Its historic dam was built in 1902 by Manning Paper Company and regulated the stream flow powering machinery along the Poesten Kill to Troy. Manning Paper Company donated its land holdings to Rensselaer County in 1973. Since that time, Rensselaer County has owned and operated this vibrant watershed as a living classroom for all to study and learn from as well as a low-use recreation area. There are 670 acres open to public access. Thirty-three ecological communities are found on the property, ranging from beech-maple forests to spruce-fir swamps and vernal pools. This variety offers visitors an exciting blend of places to explore and enjoy.



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Visitor Guide And Trail Map



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