

WELCOME TO THE HENNIG PRESERVE!

The Hennig Preserve, located just outside of the Adirondack Park, is Saratoga PLAN's largest nature preserve, boasting ~ 606 conserved acres of land with approximately 10 miles of trails. At different times throughout its history, this land was used for subsistence farming, logging, charcoal-making and maple syrup production, among other things. Saratoga PLAN manages the property as a natural area for native forest and wetland flora and fauna. It is open to the public for passive recreation such as hiking and walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and nature study.

What is Letterboxing?

Every PLAN preserve has a letterbox hidden along the trail, containing postcards, and a stamp and ink. Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to 1854, when people began leaving a self-addressed post card or note in a jar, hoping for them to be returned by mail by the next visitor. Today we've adapted this English tradition to use on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves and trails. Each preserve has letterbox clues ranging in difficulty, and gives each type of adventurer an exciting opportunity to explore our preserves and have fun while doing so. When you find the letterbox, feel free to take a postcard, and mail it back to us with your comments about your journey. Use the stamp inside the letterbox and mark your PLAN Preserve Passport on the appropriate page. Once you have collected at least five stamps (or listed three species observed during each visit) stop by PLAN's offices in Saratoga Springs for a FREE Saratoga PLAN t-shirt!

We hope you enjoy your letterboxing experience at this preserve. Interspersed within the clues *in italics* are natural history observations, side notes, and fun facts for those interested, for example:

LETTERBOX CLUES FOR HENNIG PRESERVE

1. **You will begin your adventure from the Hennig Preserve parking area off Centerline Rd.**

The Hennig Preserve is home to many different animal species, including sightings of bear and moose over the years.

2. **Look for the yellow trail to the north of Centerline Road. This is the side opposite the large "Hennig Preserve" sign on the road.**

The yellow trail extends both north and south from Centerline, so it is very important that you get started in the correct (north side) direction.

3. **Sign in at the kiosk on your right. Take the left fork after the kiosk, staying on the yellow trail.**

As you walk the trail, look at how the PLAN trail markers are put on the trees. Think of reasons why the nails holding the markers are not hammered in all the way.

4. **As you proceed along the trail, you will see an old house foundation and a well on your left. Imagine what it might have been like to live here 175 years ago!**

Look down into the old well; our volunteers have worked hard to make it safe for preserve visitors. The ground water level changes with the season and rainfall.

5. **Continue along the yellow trail and pass over two wooden bridges. As you climb a gentle slope after the second bridge, watch carefully for a white trail sign on your left. Turn left onto the white trail.**

Saratoga PLAN's volunteers that care for these trails meet at the preserve almost every Monday. Collectively, the group's efforts add up to several thousand volunteer hours annually! You may thank them and tell them how your visit was by leaving a message in the letterbox logbook once you find it.

6. **This trail rises and dips and runs along a ridge part of the way.**

At the top of the ridge, if you keep your eyes peeled, you will spot a bench on the left of the trail that has a nice view. Stop and rest here, if it pleases you.

7. **Keep following the white trail. Eventually you will come to a hill which slopes down to a stream and wooden bridge.**

8. **As you approach the bridge, pay attention to any large trees with shaggy dark-colored bark about 30 yards to the left of the trail, and about 10 yards from the stream. What you are seeking awaits you here.**

GREAT WORK!

We hope you enjoyed your letterboxing adventure at the Hennig Preserve. Please return the letterbox as you found it, before turning around and heading back to the parking area the way you came. Please note: If heading back the way you came, you will want to take a right onto the yellow trail from the white trail. There are many other trails to explore, so feel free to spend some time getting to know the other beautiful areas of the Preserve!

Thank you! - *Your Friends at Saratoga PLAN*

The mission of Saratoga PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. To learn more, please visit us at www.saratogaplan.org.

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