The History of the Mianus River Gorge Preserve

Since our inception over sixty-five years ago as The Nature Conservancy's first land project, the Mianus River Gorge Preserve (MRGP) has grown from its original 60 acres to over 930. The Preserve was created in 1953 when local concerned citizens and scientific experts from several prestigious universities and museums sought to protect this remnant old-growth forest from development. In recognition of our rare hemlock forest, in 1964 the federal government designated MRGP the nation’s first registered National Natural Landmark. In 1990, the Preserve restructured its historic relationship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Today, Mianus River Gorge is an independent not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation affiliated with TNC. Mianus River Gorge receives no annual funding from TNC and is solely reliant upon its own programs and fund raising to support its endeavors.

Mianus River Gorge is responsible for the conservation of the Preserve's old growth forest, woodlands, abundant wildlife and for protecting the watershed and wetlands feeding the Mianus River — a water supply for over 130,000 people in Westchester and Fairfield counties. To fulfill our mission, we work with and provide counsel to town boards and other local and regional land preservation organizations in an effort to protect watershed quality and remaining wildlife habitat. Through our programs in applied suburban ecology, we invest heavily in scientific research at all levels of education from high school through advanced graduate studies. We use this research to create and foster innovative land management practices for natural areas of human-modified landscapes while training the next generation of scientists.

Welcome to the Gorge!

We invite you to enjoy over 4 miles of woodland trails at the Mianus River Gorge Preserve. The Preserve is a private preserve, not a public park. Our trails are open only to hiking. While we understand this can be an inconvenience, the rewards are many. Our hiking paths are narrow and winding, well kept, yet rugged. Visitors have the experience of a remote wilderness within an hour's drive from one of the world's largest cities. It is important that we maintain this experience for all our visitors.

Please DO NOT:

- Enter with dogs, even on leash
- Ride bicycles or any vehicles on trails
- Smoke or use fire in any form
- Remove or disturb plants, animals or minerals
- Picnic in the woods. Picnics are only permissible in the Map Shelter area
- Leave designated trails
- Cut or remove standing or fallen trees
- Hunt or trap animals
- Swim or wade in river, streams or reservoir
- Disturb scientific research sites
- Camp in the Preserve
- Use boats on the river or reservoir

We need your help to protect, preserve and promote appreciation of the Mianus River Gorge and its watershed. Please support our mission and our programs involving land protection, research and education, watershed protection, stewardship and land management. The Mianus River Gorge is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that relies solely upon the support of individuals who treasure this unique natural resource.

Please visit our Map Shelter to:

- learn about the delicate ecology and natural history of the Preserve,
- make a contribution in the donation box or a tax-deductible donation by mail to help support our programs,
- keep informed about our ongoing research and educational initiatives,
- obtain information, special interest publications and a copy of our latest newsletter, and
- learn about volunteer opportunities at the Preserve.

For the latest information, news and events, please visit our website www.mianus.org. If you have any questions or comments or wish to contact us, please email info@mianus.org.

Thank you for visiting and for supporting the Mianus River Gorge.
Points of Interest

1. Mianus River Gorge Office (Gibb House)
2. Lucy Adams Memorial Bench - A river overlook easily accessible for those unable to hike our trails.
3. The Fording Place - Old wagon pass across the Mianus River.
4. Rockwall Breach - Narrowest point across the Gorge cut by melting glacial waters 15,000 - 20,000 years ago.
5. Monte Gloria - Site of the first land acquisition named in honor of the Preserve founder, Gloria Anable. Some of the old growth forest was damaged during a hurricane that created a gap in the canopy and allowed light for succession - the rapid growth of young trees, shrubs, and grasses.
6. Hobby Hill Quarry - Mica, quartz and feldspar were mined here in the 19th century by local farmers. Please no collecting.
7. Vernal Pool - Temporary wetland that is devoid of fish, thus provides critical habitat for the reproduction and development of numerous insects and amphibians.
8. Reservoir Overlook - The Mianus River supplies drinking water for the residents of Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester and Greenwich.
9. Havemeyer Falls - (Waterfall seasonal) Healthiest tributary in the Mianus River's 37 square-mile watershed. This stream has traveled 1.5 miles through the Preserve at this point.
10. S.J. Bargh Reservoir - Reservoir is private land. No access.

Preserve Open:
- 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
- April 1 to November 30
- No dogs, bikes or motorized vehicles allowed
- PLEASE STAY ON TRAILS

Loops
- A Out on Green, back on Red - 0.4 miles
- B Out on Green, back on Red - 1.1 miles
- C Out on Red, back on Blue - 1.5 miles
- D Out on Red, back on Blue - 2.3 miles
- E Out on Red, back on Blue - 3.0 miles
- F Out on Red, back on Blue - 4.2 miles

To Quarry: 1.0 miles
To Overlook: 1.7 miles
To Falls: 1.9 miles
To Reservoir: 2.1 miles

Mianus River Gorge Preserve
Private Land