

Accessible Features

Welcome to Five Rivers! It's a place to experience the outdoors and learn about the natural world. The grounds and trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Public restrooms are available in the visitor center. Additional restrooms are open from 8 AM to sunset at the Guided School Program building, adjacent to the visitor center. The visitor center and three trails are designed to be accessible for individuals with mobility disabilities. Please call the visitor center at **518-475-0291** or email 5Rivers@dec.ny.gov if you have any questions.

Visitor Center – The visitor center is open Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, except for state holidays. The building houses interpretive exhibits, a bird viewing area, classrooms, an information desk, and a gift shop. Guided programs for the physically and developmentally challenged are provided upon request. Call 518-475-0291 or email 5Rivers@dec.ny.gov for information. We'll happily adapt our public programs for all participants who are interested.

Nature's Accessible Backyard Trail (¼ mile loop with shortcut options) – Acquaint yourself with flora and fauna common to your backyard on this asphalt trail near the main parking lot. Designed and funded by Friends of Five Rivers, the path showcases wildlife habitat enhancement projects you can do at home and whets the appetite for further outdoor exploration. Scenic vistas offer engaging views of Beaver Pond and Heron Pond. *A wheelchair-accessible binocular station brings Heron Pond right up close.* Native pollinator gardens and a large pavilion are accessible from the trail.

Woodlot Trail (¼ mile loop with shortcut option) – This trail of crushed stone winds through a lush woodland, an excellent place to encounter small mammals and songbirds. Mature oak, hickory and beech trees provide exceptional wildlife habitat and refreshing forest scenery. Check the tree crotches for the leaf nests of the grey squirrel and look for woodpecker nest holes and feeding posts among the snags. In fall, maples and sassafras adorn the canopy in warm oranges and reds. In winter, the bright red fruits of winterberry add stunning contrast. The trailhead is convenient to the main parking lot and the visitor center.

Fisher Trail (0.66-mile trail) – The Fisher Trail has trailheads at 47 Fisher Boulevard and at 106 Mason Lane. A half-mile portion of the trail, from Fisher Boulevard to an elevated viewing platform overlooking the Phillipinkill, is accessible to people with mobility disabilities (crushed stone surface; maximum 6% grade). From there, a non-accessible portion the trail continues down a steep slope into the ravine of the Phillipinkill.

Picnic Pavilion – A wheelchair-accessible picnic pavilion is located 50 feet from the main parking lot, along Nature's Accessible Backyard Trail.

Electric Scooter – An electric scooter and trail wheelchair are available for free on a first come, first serve basis, or by reservation, when the visitor center is open. The latest return time is 4 PM.

Service Animals – Trained service animals are welcome when they are helping their companion. (Note that emotional support animals are not service animals.) Pets are not permitted at Five Rivers. If you are looking for a natural area to visit with your pet, we are happy to recommend nearby locations where they are welcome.