

## WELCOME TO ROWLAND HOLLOW CREEK PRESERVE!

The Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve is a ~45 acre preserve with 3/4 mile of trails that meander through a wooded area and includes an overlook of Rowland Hollow Creek. This preserve is part of an innovative conservation subdivision project in conjunction with the new Meadow Vista Estates development. A wooded trail system invites people to safely explore the preserve while the woodlands protect wildlife habitat and the water quality of Rowland Hollow Creek. Project partners include Charlew Builders and the City of Saratoga Springs.

### What is Letterboxing?

Letterboxing is an old English tradition dating back to 1854 where 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 and put it to use on Saratoga PLAN's nature preserves and trails. Each preserve has a letterbox ranging in difficulty for participants and gives each type of adventurer an exciting opportunity to explore our preserves and have fun while doing so. When you find the letterbox, you can feel free to take a postcard, and mail it back to us with your comments about your journey. You can also take the stamp from within 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 on this preserve. Interspersed within the clues *in italics* are natural history observations and hiking information for those interested.**

### LETTERBOX CLUES FOR ROWLAND HOLLOW CREEK PRESERVE

1. **Start your journey at the trail head with the kiosk on your left, this is the white trail. When you come to your first intersection, stay to the right.**

*This trail starts off winding between the road and a neighborhood, but soon, the woods will begin to thicken around you!*

*The tall trees surrounding you as you enter the woods are primarily Red Pines.*

2. **The white trail will soon begin to curve around to the left. Follow the trail as it does, keeping an eye out for the many different birds that live in the surrounding trees.**

*Listen for the call "who-cooks-for-you" from up in the trees. This is the call of a Barred Owl, known to inhabit these thick woods. Young Barred Owls can climb trees by grasping the bark with their bill and talons, flapping their wings, and walking their way up the trunk.*

3. **Next, look out for the bench that is on the white trail.**

*Take advantage of the bench to enjoy the sights and sounds of the rich wetland habitat located opposite the bench, just down the hill. This bench was donated to Saratoga PLAN by the Saratoga -Wilton Elks Lodge #161 and Wilton Cub Scout Pack #16.*

4. **As you continue on the white trail, pass a kiosk on your left and continue following the right-curving trail. Look ahead for red trail markers.**

5. **Now look for a big tree in the shape of they letter "Y". This pine tree is indicating "Yes! You're on the right path." When the trail splits ahead, veer left.**

6. **Enjoy passing the new growth pine on your right as you look for a blue trail marker (on your left).**

*Stop here and listen - you can hear Rowland Creek, which means you're close!*

7. **You will soon come to a bench overlooking the creek.**

*Did you know that the Rowland Hollow Creek flows into Geyser Brook and then empties into the Kayaderosseras Creek? As water flows through this protected preserve, it is being filtered and cleaned, providing a better environment for people and the plants and animals that live in this aquatic (water-based) habitat.*

8. **As you sit on the bench and enjoy the view, don't forget to turn around to find the letterbox!**

### GREAT WORK!

**To head back to the parking lot, return to the white trail and take either path with white trail-markers.**

We hope you enjoyed your letterboxing adventure at the Rowland Hollow Creek Preserve. Please return the letter box as you found it, and head out the way you came in.

*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](http://www.saratogaplan.org).

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