

Get Out There
Four Recreation Areas in the Honeoye Valley
By Linda Z Vanderbeck, 2021



The autumnal equinox has passed, and fall has arrived in the Honeoye Valley! During most mornings, fog hangs over the lake and the air is chilly - you'll need a jacket or sweater to go outside. Boats and hoists are coming out of the lake, summer visitors are going back to the city, and no one is swimming or tubing now. Admittedly, water recreation on Honeoye Lake has come to a close. But even though you aren't playing on the lake, be sure you aren't missing out on the fall season in our beautiful Honeoye Valley.

Four recreation areas located right here in the Honeoye Valley, offer a myriad of outdoor activities where you can admire the forests' changing colors, observe wildlife, bird watch, go hiking or simply find tranquility in the natural world. Some locations offer organized activities and guided hikes. You can also subscribe to newsletters (see websites) and keep current with conservation news and local initiatives.

Following is a brief introduction to each recreation area along with a link to its website and trail map - get out there!

Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area

is located in Canadice, NY with nearly 23 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and a snowmobile route. From the road leading into the park, you'll see the breathtaking panoramic view of Honeoye Lake pictured here. The park is beautiful, dense woodland and boasts the highest spot in Ontario County.

WEBSITE:

<https://parks.ny.gov/parks/164/details.aspx>

TRAIL MAP:

<https://parks.ny.gov/documents/parks/HarrietHollisterTrailMap.pdf>



Wesley Hill Nature Preserve can be accessed from either Gulick Road or Wesley Hill Road. Diverse stands of mature forest, a wide array of wildflowers, and sweeping views of the hills surrounding the south end of Honeoye Lake make this site truly special. The hiking trails are very well marked and while on them, you might hear Yellow-Throats, Bluebirds and Song Sparrows, and may even see a deer, fox, or woodchuck.



WEBSITE: <https://www.fllt.org/preserves/wesley-hill-nature-preserve/>

TRAIL MAP: <https://www.fllt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Preserve-Brochure-Wesley-2.pdf>



Cummings Nature Center is on Gulick Road between Honeoye and Naples. You can discover something new each time you visit the Cumming Nature Center from exploring their exhibits to embarking on a nature trail adventure. There is an interpretive center at the site entrance and historical artifacts at Pioneer Cabin and Sugar Shack along the purple trail, and at the Sawmill on the blue trail. A small entrance fee is required.

WEBSITE: <https://rpsc.org/cumming-nature-center/nature-center-programs-and-events>

TRAIL MAP: https://rpsc.org/files/CNC_Summer_map_01.pdf

Sandy Bottom Park is located at the north end of Honeoye Lake off of County Road 36 just south of Route 20A. This park has hiking trails, a picnic pavilion, boardwalk, playgrounds and softball field. Located right here in Honeoye, Sandy Bottom Park is somewhere you can visit often for a brisk walk, quiet nature hike or family outing.

WEBSITE: <https://www.visitfingerlakes.com/listing/sandy-bottom-park/320/>

TRAIL MAP: <https://townrichmond.digitaltowpath.org:10135/content/Parks/View/1:field=documents;content/Documents/File/1838.pdf>

