At a very early hour I am quite sure to hear the hermit thrush singing in the bushes… how quickly I am transported.

— John Burroughs

“Wildlife About My Cabin,” Far and Near

The John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary is located on Burroughs Drive at Floyd Ackert Road, West Park, NY, just 90 miles north of New York City and ten miles south of Kingston.

From I-87, exit 18, New Paltz, east on Rte 299. Left on Rte 9W for 3.7 miles. Left on Floyd Ackert Road to Burroughs Drive. Parking for trails and Slabsides is on Burroughs Drive or alternately on Floyd Ackert Road (Pond Entrance).

Hours
The trails are open dawn to dusk everyday.
No admission fee. Donations are welcome.

Open House
• Slabsides Open House with guest speakers: 3rd Sat. in May, 1st Sat. in October. Also open during NY Ramble in September and NY Heritage Weekend in May, and by appointment. Check our website for additional openings.

John Burroughs (1837-1921) was one of the most popular and influential authors of his day and is considered the originator of the modern nature essay. The inspiration for many of his essays was the wild land around Slabsides, which he called “Whitman Land” after his good friend Walt Whitman. Through works written at Slabsides about nature close at hand there, Burroughs had a profound impact on the emerging conservation movement and inspired generations of readers to head out of doors and national leaders to preserve land and its wildlife.

The John Burroughs Association owns and maintains Slabsides and the Nature Sanctuary where it brings to life the legacy, writing, and natural world of John Burroughs.

Become a member of the JBA to support Slabsides, the Trails, and its literary awards program. Join other outdoor enthusiasts who have discovered Burroughs’ personal and insightful observations of nature and the timelessness of his essays. Visit us online.
John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary

This 200-acre Nature Sanctuary features dramatic cliffs, dense hemlock forest, fern valleys, vernal pools, waterfalls and 4 miles of trails winding through the landscape that inspired the writings of literary naturalist John Burroughs.

**Please Remember**
1. Carry out all trash.
2. Stay on the marked trails.
3. Do not remove or destroy plants, wildlife, or artifacts.
4. Respect the boundaries of adjoining properties.
5. Hunting is not allowed.
6. Deer ticks, which can carry Lyme disease, are known to be in this area. Take precautions and check for ticks.

### Map Legend
- Slabsides
- Pond House, JBA naturalist residence
- Waterfall
- Marsh
- Board Walk
- Unmarked Trail
- Boundaries
- Dirt Road Trail
- Contour Interval 10'

### Trails
- **Ridge Trail** (0.9 miles, moderate)
  - Explores the southern area of the Nature Sanctuary following the contours of broad, wooded ridges. It passes the spring Burroughs used, crosses over his former celery swamp on a boardwalk and also features a steep stone stairway along a dramatic cliff.

- **Chodikee Trail** (0.7 miles, easy)
  - Winds through dense hemlock woods and rock cliffs. Follow it into the Black Creek State Forest and to Black Creek, skirting a waterfall that once powered a barley grist mill. Burroughs called this area the Shattega. It is rich in wildlife.

- **Ladder Trail** (0.2 mile, easy/moderate)
  - Traverses two cliffs that lie between the Ridge Trail and the Chodikee Trail in deep woods.

- **Amasa Martin Trail** (0.4 mile, easy)
  - Loops around the former homestead of Amasa Martin, who worked in Burroughs' celery swamp. His stone walls from the late 1800's still stand.

- **Peninsula Trail** (0.1 mile, easy)
  - Follows the narrow rock ledge that extends into the Pond. A favorite picnic destination.

- **South Pond Trail** (0.3 mile, easy/moderate)
  - Connects the Slabsides area with the Pond and takes you along a stone pathway past several cascading waterfalls, vernal pools and beaver habitat. Enjoy it after a heavy rain or as the winter snow melts. You may hear the plink of frogs seeking cover as you cross over two streams.

- **North Pond Trail** (0.3 mile, easy)
  - Traces the often sunny northern end of the Pond where stone boulders invite you to linger. It connects Pond Lane with Burroughs Drive.

- **East Overlook Trail** (0.3 mile, easy/moderate)
  - From Burroughs Dr. loops through mixed woods and offers an eastern view toward the Hudson River.

- **Julian’s Rock Trail (pending)**
  - Ascends the cliff face in front of Slabsides. This trail is abandoned but plans to restore it are pending.

- **Pond Lane Trail** (0.6 mile, easy)
  - Delightful walk from Floyd Ackert Rd. through hemlock forest to and along the eight-acre Pond. Don’t miss stunning colors of the maples turning in fall.

**Coordinates**: N 41 47916’ • W 73 58555’