IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

The APPLE ORCHARD features varieties that were grown in early 19th-century New York. When planning Boscobel, States Dyckman (1755–1806) purchased more than 225 fruit trees.

The term BELVEDERE derives from the Italian words bel, meaning “beautiful,” and vedere, meaning “view.”

This elegant, brick-walled FORECOURT adjoins the back of the house. Since visitors arrived by boat in the early 19th century, the front of the mansion faces the river.

The FORMAL GARDEN was designed in an English wheel pattern according to the sensibility of Boscobel’s founding patron Lila Acheson Wallace. It is planted with pollinator-friendly, native species that were popular in early American gardens.

The plants in the HERB GARDEN—tended skilfully by Philipstown Garden Club volunteers since 1972—were known in the early 19th century for their culinary, medicinal, and practical uses.

The HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL ARTIST GARDEN features portrait busts by sculptor Greg Wyatt that showcase ten major artists of the Hudson River School. The garden was funded by the Newington-Cropsey Foundation.

In the GALLERY below the mansion, select programs and exhibitions take place.

The GREAT LAWN offers sweeping views of Constitution Marsh, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Hudson River, and the mountains beyond.

Built in 1804-08 for the Dyckmans, a family of Loyalists, the Neoclassical mansion was rescued by preservationists after its 1955 demolition. Founding patron Lila Acheson Wallace helped restore Boscobel to a new level of grandeur on this current location 15 miles north. Opened as a HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM in 1961, it now contains one of New York’s finest collections of decorative arts, illustrating the centuries-long exchange between Hudson Valley design, history, and nature.

As the dramatic approach to the back of the house, MAPLE LANE is flanked by mature trees that were transplanted here for the museum’s opening to the public in 1961.

The design of the NECESSARY HOUSE echoes the architectural style of the mansion. Its five seats were shared by family, guests, and servants.

The ORANGERY is modeled after garden buildings that were used in the early 19th century to overwinter warm-weather plants such as orange trees.

Cool year-round, the SPRING HOUSE stored food at Boscobel’s original location in Montrose, New York. In the 1950s, a stone mason disassembled and rebuilt it on this site in Garrison.

At the VISITOR CENTER, we welcome you to pick up tickets, make a comfort stop, orient yourself, speak with our Visitor Services team, and meet your tour guide.

The 1.25-mile Frances Stevens Reese WOODLAND TRAIL of Discovery winds through 29 acres of forest with river views. The path to Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary also begins on this route. (Please see the trail map for details.)

VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE AT BOSCOBEL.ORG/CALENDAR
Although foreseeable precautions have been taken, use of Boscobel’s trail is at your own risk. Please be warned of loose and eroded pathways, snakes, and ever-present deer ticks, which can transmit Lyme Disease. Be sure to inspect yourself and children carefully for ticks.

1. This 1.25-mile loop through 29 wooded acres are named for conservationist Frances Stevens Reese (1917-2003). A Boscobel trustee, she organized local citizens to fight against a Storm King Mountain power plant that threatened the Hudson Valley’s ecosystem and scenic character.

2. Boscobel’s 68 public acres were home to Indigenous Peoples for at least 8,000 years prior to European settlers, many of whom depended upon enslaved African American laborers. The land was clear-cut to fuel West Point Foundry furnaces in nearby Cold Spring during the Civil War, then farmed. Had they not been acquired as Boscobel’s new home in the 1950s, the fields were slated to become suburban tract housing.

3. English explorer Henry Hudson and his crew on the Half Moon recorded sailing this territory in 1609. They encountered Native Peoples from the Wappingers Confederacy, one of several local Algonquian tribes who lived along the waterways of the lower Hudson River. This began centuries of economic and cultural exchange, as well as violence, disease, and displacement that nearly decimated local tribes.

4. One of the Indigenous names of the river is Muh-he-kun-ne-tuk, or “river that flows both ways.” It is both a fjord and an estuary, connected to the Atlantic Ocean with two high and low tides each day. Boscobel’s view of the river cutting through the Hudson Highlands, a section of the Appalachian Mountain Range, has been studied by artists and geologists for centuries.

5. Red Oaks like this one are a native tree prized for lumber and fuel. The acorns and inner seeds were used medicinally by Indigenous Peoples.

6. The Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary is one of New York’s most important refuges for wildlife, including the Bald Eagle, Marsh Wren, Louisiana Waterthrush, Spotted Sandpiper, Virginia Rail, and over a thousand snapping turtles. (Please see the trail map for directions to the Audubon Center via Indian Brook Road.)

7. Sailors referred to Boscobel’s section of the Hudson as “World’s End,” as it is the deepest section of the river and notoriously challenging to navigate. General George Washington described it during the American Revolution as “the key to the continent.” He ordered a 500-yard Great Chain of Iron to be strung from Constitution Island to West Point in 1778 to block British ships. The Hudson’s military importance is evident at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Army’s longest, continuously-occupied post.

Trail maintenance is supported by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway and volunteers from the Keon Center.