

Volunteer Vibes - *Volunteers play many crucial roles at the Preserve. They maintain trails, welcome visitors, conduct research, educate youth groups, support special events, beautify our gardens, capture breathtaking photography, and much more, contributing their time, talents, and thousands of volunteer hours annually. We will be regularly featuring our volunteers in Talus Talk so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Juan Cosillo

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Northern New Jersey, and then moved to Kingston, New York about 8 years ago.

What is your volunteer role(s) here at Mohonk Preserve?

I am trail keeper. My girlfriend (Dulce Coyt) and I maintain the Undivided Lot Trail from Clove Path to the Old Minnewaska Trail and the Plateau Path from the Old Minnewaska Trail to Laurel Ledge Road.

Why did you decide to volunteer your time and talents at Mohonk Preserve?

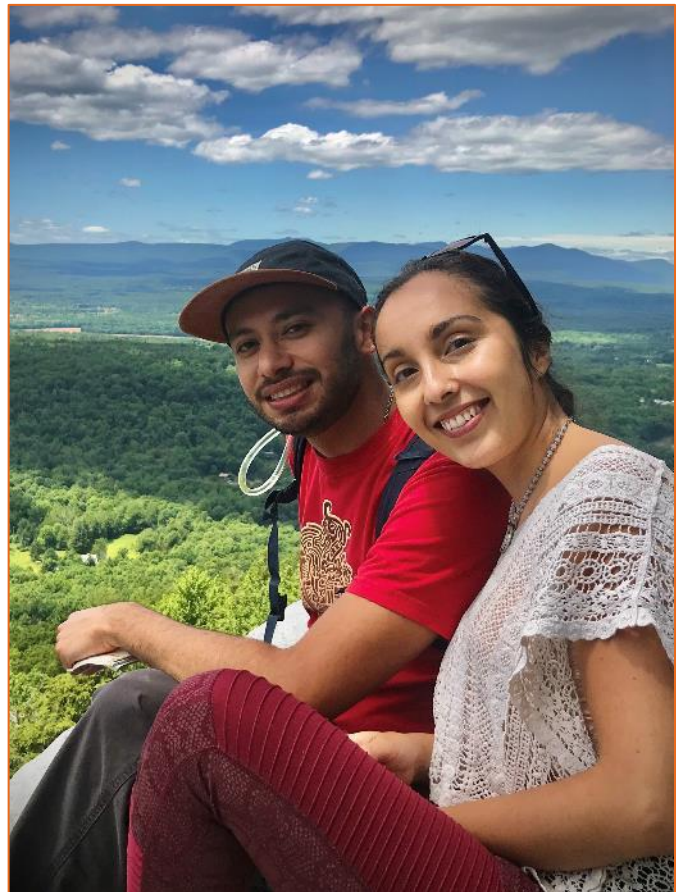
My whole life I have had a curiosity to learn about the trees, the plants, and the animals - everything the forest has to offer. It was the reason I decided to move to Kingston, New York. I wanted to spend more time in nature and learn as much as I could from the forest. When I learnt that I could give back to the forest by volunteering as a trail keeper, I signed up.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

I am proud that I have been able to protect the Mohonk Preserve for the past 7 years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to give back to the forest. I feel rewarded each time I return to maintain my trails and look back at all of the memories I have made. Whether it's sawing down a large fallen tree by hand or just taking a break at a one of the cliffs along the trail.

Where is your favorite place/trail on the Preserve and why is it your favorite?

The trails I maintain on the Preserve are my favorite. I love the pitch pines that grow along the trail. I also live very close to the area and am proud to call this place my home.



Juan Cosillo and Dulce Coyt taking in a view while maintaining their trail Photo by Aurora Cosillo