



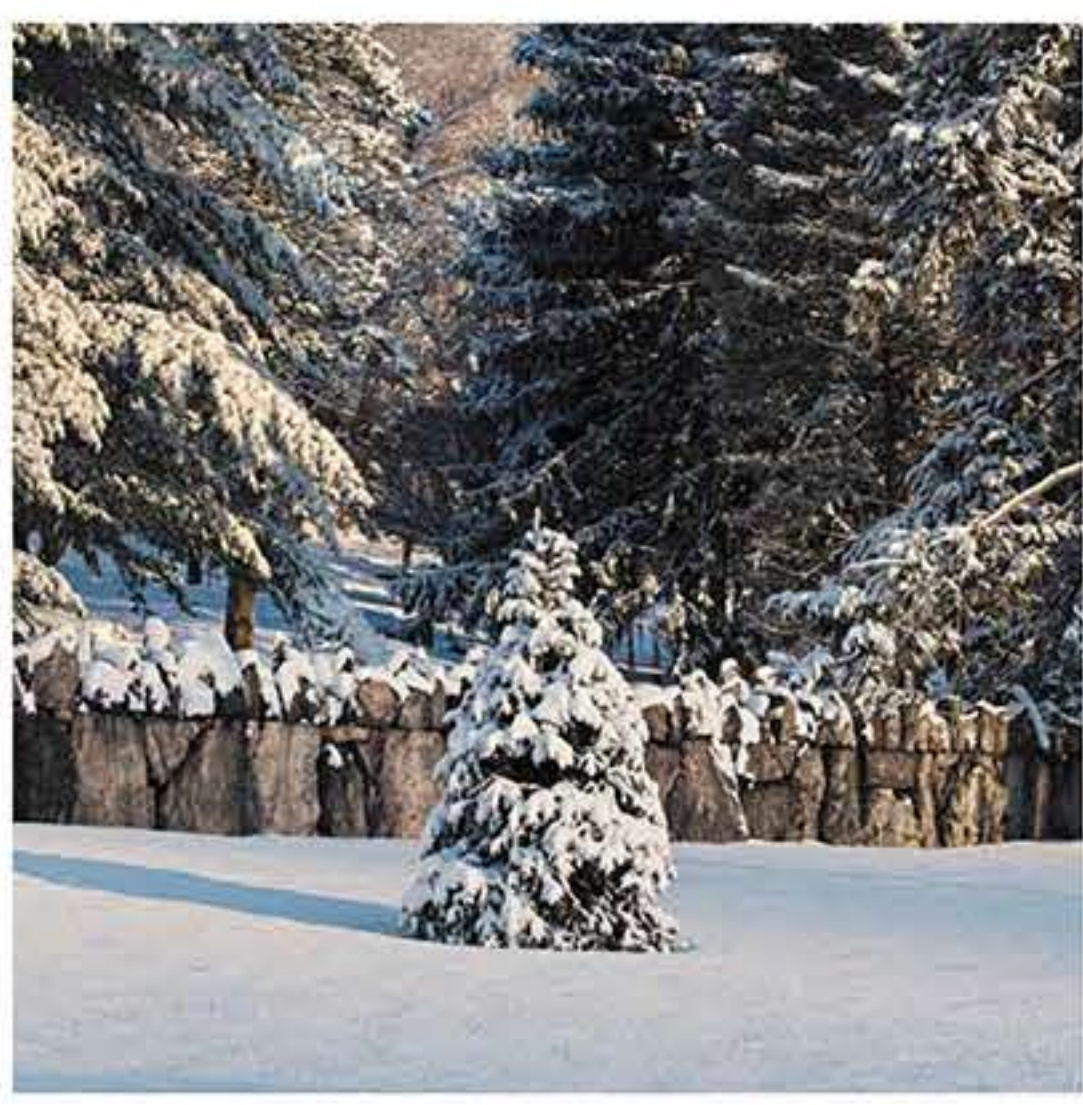
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Lorillard's passion for nature was further incited by his funding of an archeological expedition to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The explorers brought back powerful images of romantic Mayan ruins entangled in ancient tropical vegetation.

His imagination soaring, Lorillard hired Bruce Price, an emerging architect gaining a reputation for innovative designs, and paired him with Ernest Bowditch, an experienced landscape engineer, who had built the gardens at Lorillard's Newport mansion. Together with contractor J.H. L'Hommedieu, the trio commanded an army of 1,800 workmen, mostly immigrants from Italy and present-day Slovakia, to realize the tobacco millionaire's vision of a wilderness redoubt.

This decision to build a rugged mountain sanctuary instead of a refined suburban town resulted in the barely tamed character of Tuxedo Park still evident today.

Just eight months after the first shovel broke ground, on May 31, 1886, Tuxedo Park was unveiled to 700 of New York's most socially prominent citizens. Its features included an imposing stone entrance gate and keep and perimeter walls; a three-story, shingle-clad clubhouse; thirteen guest cottages serviced by water, gaslight, and sewerage; and eighteen miles of scenic paved roads, all nestled in forested acres.



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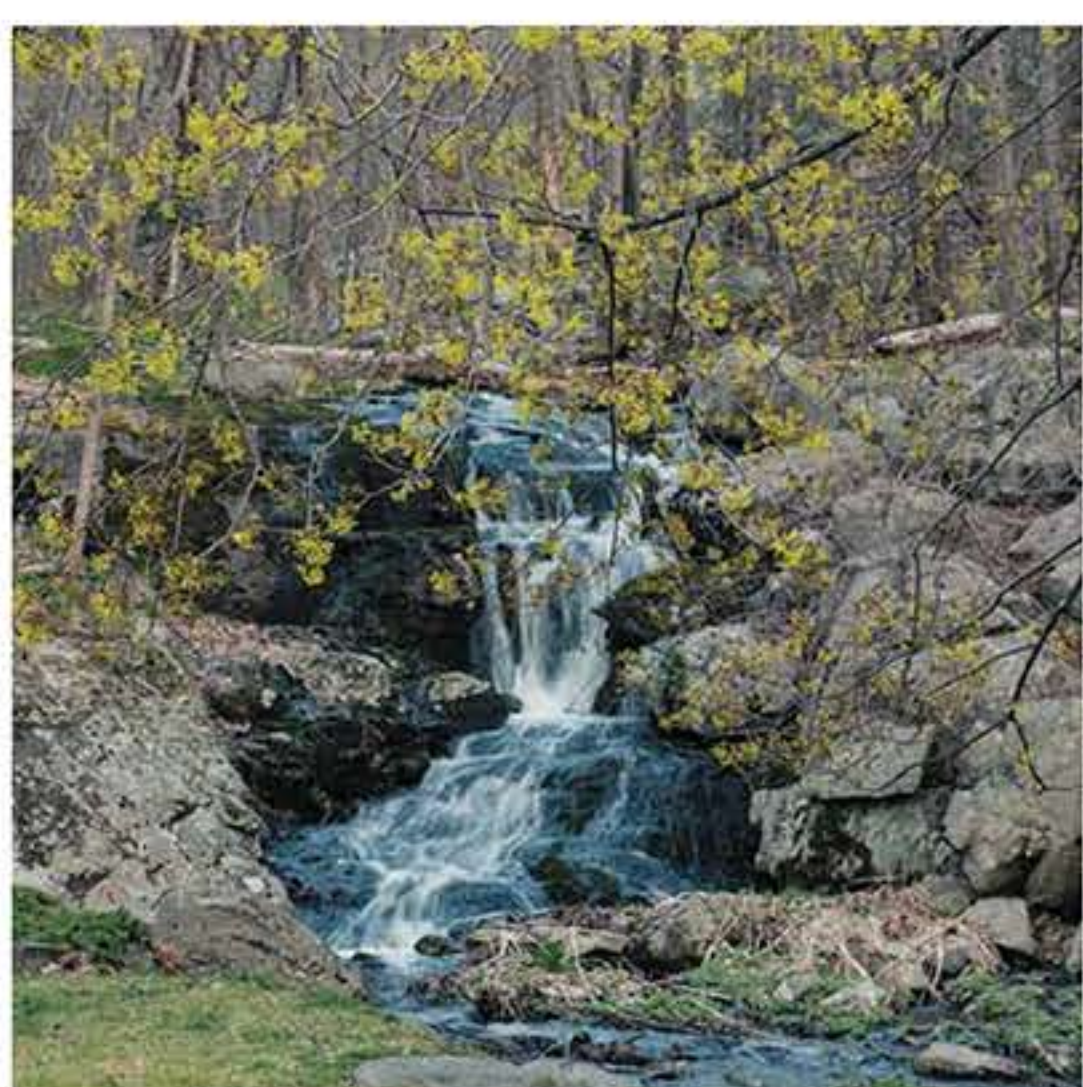
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Geology conspired with Lorillard by endowing Tuxedo Park with unique characteristics.

Some 1.2 billion years ago, the collision of continents created a mountain range in the Tuxedo area the height of the Himalayas. The bedrock of Tuxedo Park was formed tens of miles beneath the earth's crust, at depths that subjected it to extremes of temperature and pressure. This caused new minerals to form inside the resulting transformed rocks, called gneiss.

In time, the overlaying mountains eroded away. Their gneissic foundations, further modified and eventually brought to the surface through the impact of other continents colliding from the southeast, formed the present southeast-northeast trending hills, valleys, and lakes. Then came the Laurentide ice sheet, the last glacial mass that expanded out of Labrador and swept down across Connecticut, the Catskills, and the entire Hudson Valley. It profoundly transformed the topography before retreating some 15,000 years ago.

The Ramapo Mountains, a product of these titanic forces, surround Tuxedo Park on all sides, reaching over 900 feet above sea level on the west. Thus protected, the village enjoys its own microclimate and a vibrant ecosystem that provides a sanctuary for more than 450 species of plants, 150 species of butterflies and moths, and nearly 200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, including the protected pileated woodpecker and bald eagle, and the endangered Eastern timber rattlesnake.



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