



22 Hikes in Philipstown

A sampling of the many trails within our community.

Prepared by the Philipstown Greenway Committee 2005



1. Breakneck Ridge (difficult, 2.8 mi., 3-4 hr.)

A steep, difficult loop hike with the most dramatic views in the Highlands. Exhilarating, although not recommended in windy or slippery conditions.

Park (4 cars) at the pull-off on the west side of Route 9D, just beyond the Breakneck Tunnel, 2.1 miles north of Cold Spring. Additional parking for 8 cars is available a few hundred yards farther north. The Breakneck Ridge Trail (white blazes) begins just south of the parking area, ascends a hill and crosses the Breakneck Tunnel. At the first lookout, view access stations for the Catskill Aqueduct and Storm King Mountain directly across the river. (*The gravity-fed aqueduct brings water from the Catskills to New York City. Completed in 1916, it tunnels 1,100 feet under the Hudson River at this point.*) Continue to ascend past several viewpoints. Below lies Pollepel Island with picturesque Bannerman's Castle. (*Francis Bannerman was an arms merchant who, in 1865, purchased Civil War surplus and, after 1898, bought captured military supplies from the Spanish-American War. In 1900 he bought Pollepel Island, where he built a combination summer house and armaments warehouse. Completed in 1918, the year of his death, the home recalled the baronial castles of Bannerman's native Scotland. In 1920 an explosion severely damaged the structure, but the Bannerman family lived there until 1967 when they sold the island to NY State. In 1969 a major fire left the castle in ruins. The Bannerman's Castle Trust, a not-for-profit, has opened it for visitors on a limited basis.*) After 1.5 miles watch carefully for the red-blazed Breakneck Bypass Trail on the left, which is marked by a huge boulder. Take the Bypass Trail, which ends 0.8 mile from the Breakneck Ridge Trail at the yellow-blazed Wilkinson Memorial Trail. Turn left and follow the Wilkinson Trail for 0.5 mile to return to Route 9D about 0.3 mile north of the parking pull-off. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 102)

5. Bull Hill (Mt. Taurus) from 9D (moderate/difficult, 5.7 mi., 4-5 hr.)

A loop hike with a spur to the summit, at 1420 feet the tallest mountain in Putnam County. Some steep portions, tricky footing, and spectacular views.

Parking for 12 cars near the entrance to Little Stony Point Park, on either side of Route 9D, just north of Cold Spring. The trailhead for the Washburn Trail (white blazes) is at the parking area on the eastern side. There is an almost immediate junction with the Cornish trail (blue). Stay on the Washburn, which, just before entering an old quarry floor, turns sharply right and climbs near the quarry's south rim with views over the Hudson to Storm King. The trail then zigzags up to a huge view over the Valley. At 1.4 miles you will see the junction with the Undercliff Trail (yellow). Turn left (north) on the Undercliff or continue another 0.4 mile to the summit and then return to this junction. To climb to the summit, stay on the Washburn (white blazes). At the top, continue until the trail turns left and take the small herd path to a clearing on the right for a view south over Putnam Valley and deep into Westchester. Back on the Washburn, walk another 200 feet for a view down the full length of the Fishkill Ridge, including the Catskills and the Shawangunks on a clear day.

Return to the junction and turn right (north) onto the Undercliff Trail (yellow) to reach a view north into the gap made by Storm King and Breakneck mountains. Continue through birch, mountain laurel, maple and beeches and, after 1.6 miles, turn left (west) onto the Brook Trail (red). Do not follow the yellow markers across the foot bridge. Pass the remains of the Cornish estate, with huge tulip poplar trees on both sides of the trail. The extensive ruins are from the estate of Edward G. Cornish (a president of the National Lead Company), which was built in the early 1900s. They include a stone mansion, which was destroyed by fire in 1956, a greenhouse, swimming pool, formal gardens and, farther up the valley, a stone dairy, which was built using rocks from Breakneck Ridge. Soon you will bear left onto the Cornish Trail (blue), a woods road to 9D. Just before the gate at Route 9D, follow the blue-blazed trail as it turns left and returns to the parking area. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 102)

2. Round Hill (moderate, 5.5 mi., 3-4 hr.)

A loop hike through woods with a couple of great views.

This hike is in the Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area. Drive north on Route 9 and, shortly past Route 301, turn right at the sign for the Hubbard Lodge. Follow the signs to the lodge where there is ample parking along the road. Then take the path to the right of the lodge a short distance and turn left onto the School Mountain Trail (white blazes). At 0.1 mile this woods road crosses two steel-decked bridges in quick succession. Just before a third bridge, a woods road runs between stone pillars on the left and leads to the site of the former Hubbard mansion. On the other side of that bridge at 0.6 mile, the Fahnstock Trail (blue) turns right. Do not turn: this is where you will come out at the end of the hike. Keep following the white blazes for another 1.3 miles, looking for the Perkins Trail (yellow) on your right. Go right on the Perkins trail and ascend the Perkins Trail for 0.5 mile following a stream and across a series of stone walls until it joins the Fahnstock Trail (blue). The two trails run together along a woods road for 0.4 mile. Follow the blue trail as it turns to the right and begins to ascend. After 0.9 mile, the trail reaches a westerly view of the interior of the conservation area. Keep ascending for another mile as the trail contours along the south slope near the top of Round Hill with several switchbacks and occasional views until it reaches a view to the southwest including the Bear Mountain Bridge over the Hudson River. The variety of beautiful grasses at this spot include blues, greens, browns, and reds. Watch carefully for the markers, as the grasses make them difficult to see. At this point you will see many trees that have been hit by lightning, creating stunning natural sculptures. After this, the trail gradually descends the hill for 1.6 miles until it reaches the white-blazed School Mountain Road. Take a left and return to the start of the hike. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 103)

6. Little Stony Point (easy, 1 mi., 1 hr.)

A short loop hike with spectacular views of the Hudson and a spur trail to a clifftop.

Parking (for 12 cars) near the entrance for Little Stony Point Park, on the west and east sides of Route 9D, just north of the Village of Cold Spring. Cross the bridge over the railroad tracks and turn either left or right to follow the unmarked loop trail that leads around the point past river beaches and the remains of a quarry. Riverbank views look south to Cold Spring on the east side of the river and West Point on the west, and north to where Bannerman's Castle can be seen. For a higher version of the same view, at the start of the loop trail look straight ahead for a shorter, unmarked trail leading into woods and up to a clifftop.

Storm King and Crow's Nest mountains rise across from Little Stony Point. Bull Hill, Breakneck Ridge and Beacon Hill stand behind it. These mountains are part of the Appalachian Range, and the gorge at Little Stony Point is the only place the range is cut by a river. Glacial activity deposited an immense granite formation here. At the turn of the last century the rock was mined and used in the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and other projects. A tramway brought the granite from the mines to a dock at Little Stony Point.

Trail routes are marked by plastic or paint tags known as a "blaze".

A double blaze indicates a turn, with the upper blaze indicating the new direction.

A triple blaze marks the beginning or end of a trail.

3. School Mountain Road (easy, 8.2 mi., 4hr,)

An out and back hike especially good for horses, and mountain bikes.

This out and back hike is in the Hubbard-Perkins Conservation Area. Drive north on Route 9 and, shortly past Route 301, turn right at the sign for the Hubbard Lodge. Follow the signs to the lodge where there is ample parking along the road. Then take the path to the right of the lodge a short distance and turn left onto the School Mountain Trail (white blazes). At 0.1 mile this woods road crosses two steel-decked bridges, which might be troublesome for horses. Just before a third bridge, there are stone pillars on a woods road to the left which leads to the site of the former Hubbard mansion. The white-blazed trail continues past many intersections with other hiking trails. The trail is wide and generally in good shape for horses, but a couple of bridges may require searches for fordable places. The trail reaches its northern terminus at East Mountain Road South (1 mile east of Route 9), where there is parking for two cars. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 103)

4. Charcoal Burners Trail (easy, 2 mi., 1-2 hr.)

A woodland loop with a side trail overlooking a pond.

Parking for many cars on either side of Route 301, 3.4 miles east of US 9. Look for red blazes and a white "X" painted on the rocks on the north side of NY 301. Follow the Charcoal Burners Trail (red blazes) north for 0.6 mile, through a stretch of mountain laurel that blooms in early June. Turn left at the intersection with the Cabot Trail (white). The Cabot Trail passes through open woods along a woods road. At 0.4 mile it turns left. Straight ahead is private property; please do not enter the posted area. At 0.5 mile, the trail crosses a stream and there is a short, unmarked side trail to Jordan Pond overlooking Glynwood Farm. Glynwood is one of the oldest estates in Philipstown. It is still a working farm and now also a conference center. After 1 mile, the trail ends at the Perkins Trail (yellow). Go left (east) on the Perkins Trail for 0.3 mile until you meet the red-blazed Charcoal Burners trail again. Go right on the Charcoal Burners Trail for 0.1 mile until you reach Route 301. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 103)

7. Bull Hill from Nelsonville Footpath Trail (moderate/difficult, 5 mi., 3-4 hr.)

A loop to the summit, with phenomenal views during any season.

Take Route 301 to Nelsonville, turn north on Pearl St. (Nelsonville Town Hall is on the corner) and park in the lot (10 cars) at the end of the street, west of the Masonic Hall. This hike does not start at the kiosk ahead of you. To get to the beginning of the hike, walk east along Secor St. past the Masonic lodge. The green-blazed Nelsonville Footpath Trail begins across from the green house. Follow this trail, which joins briefly with the Undercliff Trail (yellow), then crosses the Catskill Aqueduct (access buildings are visible on either side). Continue on the Nelsonville Footpath (green) trail as it gradually climbs Bull Hill past mountain laurel (blossoms in early June) and sheer rock walls on a wide old rocky carriage road. The trail ends after about 2 miles at the intersection of the Washburn (white) and Notch (blue) trails. Turn left onto the Washburn Trail. After a short steep ascent the trail runs along a ridge (which includes the peak of Bull Hill at 1350 feet) affording views to the northwest of the Catskills, Shawangunks, Stewart Airport, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, Breakneck Ridge and the Hudson River. As the trail begins to descend gradually, there are views from ledges to the south and west of Storm King, West Point, Cold Spring, Constitution Marsh and the Hudson River. You will be on the Washburn for about 1 mile. The Washburn then begins to descend steeply, and you should watch closely for the intersection with the Undercliff Trail (yellow). Turn left onto the Undercliff and follow until you once again see the green-blazed Nelsonville Footpath Trail. Go left and retrace your steps to Secor St., about 1.25 miles from the Washburn. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 102)

Wear comfortable shoes or boots with sturdy non-slip soles.

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8. West Point Foundry (easy, 1 mi., 1 hr.)

A stroll through the West Point Foundry Preserve past the ruins of the historic foundry.

In operation from 1818-1912, the West Point Foundry played an important role in industrialization. One of four national armories established after the War of 1812, it manufactured much of the Union's artillery, including the famous Parrott gun, during the Civil War, and was immortalized as the "Goldspring Foundry" in Jules Verne's 1865 book, From the Earth to the Moon. Non-military cast-iron products included machinery for cotton and sugar mills, America's earliest steam engines, and several of its first locomotives, including the De Witt Clinton. The Foundry also cast cannon and structural parts for iron-clad ships which transformed nautical technology. This site is both archaeologically & ecologically sensitive; please do not touch or remove any artifacts, soil, or plants.

To reach parking (5 cars), drive west on Main St. in Cold Spring, go left on Rock St. (at the Pig Hill Inn), right at the stop sign onto Kemble Ave. (no street sign here), and follow the road south to the dead end. Enter the Foundry Preserve by walking through the opening in the fence and go left. On your right is Foundry Cove. It was listed as an EPA Superfund site in 1983 due to toxic sediment from wastes discharged from an adjacent nickel/cadmium battery factory in operation from 1952-1979. As part of the clean-up, begun in 1993, the sediment was treated on-site and removed by more than 2,000 train cars via a railroad spur built for that purpose. Follow the old roadbed toward the remains of the tall loading platform. Stay on the road as it turns left onto a cleared path toward several outbuildings. Go around them to enter a clearing in front of the 1865 Office building, where a kiosk placed by the site's current owner, Scenic Hudson, describes the history of the Preserve. Pick up the trail (blue) behind the kiosk, which follows Foundry Brook upstream through remains from the foundry. As you near the Route 9D bridge, the trail divides. Turn left (toward Chestnut St.) and immediately left again to descend on the other side of the Foundry site. The trail soon becomes a wide woods road offering a view of the site from a higher perspective. The road swings to the right, goes around a hill to the left and ends at the parking area. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map102)

16. Glyncllyffe Loop/Benedict Arnold Escape Path. (easy, 1.6 mi., 1 hr.)

A loop on the Glyncllyffe property in Garrison, which was acquired by the Open Space Institute (OSI) in 2001. Offering fields, streams, gentle rocky slopes and ridges, a portion of the trail follows the route taken by Benedict Arnold in 1780 when he escaped to the British Army.

Enter Glyncllyffe Road, off Route 9D 0.5 mile south of Route 403. About 250 feet on the right, follow a sign directing you to go right to park. There is a large cleared space on the left (6 cars.) Walk back from the parking area and cross Glyncllyffe Road. Walk south on the field next to the line of trees along Route 9D. At the end of the field, follow the OSI blazes (red and white circles) as they descend the side of a hill, follow the edge of the pond, and cross a concrete bridge over a stream to the kiosk describing Benedict Arnold's famous flight. The trail continues southwest along a woods road until it turns right and ascends a hill. At the top, the trail goes both south and north. Turn left (south) and walk a short distance to a beautiful seating area that overlooks the spot on the Hudson where the dock was located from which Benedict Arnold made his famous escape to the British. Retrace your steps to the trail junction and then head north (straight) to continue the loop. The trail winds around the former Hamilton Fish mansion and ends at a road across from the current Philipstown Community Center. An arrow indicates a left turn on the road which the trail follows for a short distance until another arrow (before a large stone urn) indicates the trail goes left off the road. Follow the trail markers west then north on a rocky bluff overlooking the river. Continue to follow the blazes to the gazebo overlooking the Hudson River, a nice spot for a break. Exit the gazebo to the north down the path to a woods road that is part of Marcia's Mile (white circle markers). (Left takes you to Arden Point and the Garrison Train Station.) To return to the beginning of the loop, follow Marcia's Mile as it goes right and takes an immediate left. The trail then takes another sharp left into the woods. Follow the markers closely as they ascend a hill, go straight for a short while, and then take a hard right, cross a field and exit on the Glyncllyffe Road just west of the parking area. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101)

9. Boscobel: The Woodland Trail (easy, 1 mi., 1/2 hr.)

A stroll with views over Constitution Marsh and West Point. Grounds pass needed.

Enter Boscobel Restoration on the west side of Route 9D just south of Cold Spring and park in the large lot. Known for its historic Federal period house, Boscobel is also renowned for its beautiful grounds. Purchase a "grounds" pass at the Visitor's Center and pick up a trail map. Follow the path past the Visitor's Center, turn left just before the entrance to the rose garden (in season, return via the garden), and continue across to the other side of the courtyard in back of the house. The path winds in front of the spring house where the entrance to the Woodland Trail (yellow) is well marked. Along the trail, numbered signs correspond to the map with information about interesting natural and cultural aspects of the area. A slate bench offers a great view overlooking Constitution Marsh and West Point. After 3/4 mile, three rustic benches and a rustic summerhouse pavilion overlook the major view south along the Hudson River. Returning to the trail entrance, extend your walk by turning left and proceeding across the lawn, past the mansion, to the belvedere overlooking the river. Wander back through the rose garden, with possible side trips to the herb garden and gift shop.

The deer tick, which can transmit Lyme Disease, is common in this area.

Take precautions by wearing light-colored clothing with long sleeves, tucking pants into socks, using insect repellent on your clothing and checking for ticks at the end of your hike.

17. Sugarloaf Hill (moderate, 3.2 mi., 2 hr.)

An out and back hike in Hudson Highlands State Park. At the top is a spectacular view south of the Hudson River, Bear Mountain Bridge and Anthony's Nose.

Parking for 8-10 cars is available at an official hiker's parking lot. To reach it, drive between two stone pillars entitled "Wing & Wing" and "Castle Rock" on the east side of Route 9D, 1/2 mile south of Route 403, and follow the road as it bears left past the red barn to the lot. On the hill to the east is Castle Rock, a privately owned Cinderella-style castle built in 1881 by William Henry Osborn (with advice from his friend, painter Frederick Church).

Walk on the driveway past the front of the brown building that houses the Riverkeeper's offices; go past the entrance to a private residence, and look for a sign reading "hikers this way" followed by red blazes. The trail takes a sharp left turn and crosses a large open field. Before entering the woods, turn around for a wonderful view of West Point.

The red-blazed trail then turns right in front of a beautifully restored gazebo. After a few minutes, the blazes make a sharp left onto one of the many constructed carriage roads built by the Osborn family. (Note this turn well, as it is easy to miss on the way back.) After several switchbacks and past a pond on the left, the trail meets the blue-blazed Osborn Loop Trail. Here, the red-blazed trail takes a sharp right and steeply ascends Sugarloaf Hill (0.5 mile). At the top, follow the trail south (left) along the ridgeline to a fabulous view to the south. (The house off to the left was originally built by the Colt [firearms] family.) Return by the same route. For many choices of longer hikes in this area, refer to NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101.

Dogs are permitted on most trails on a leash.

10. Constitution Marsh Trail (moderate, 2 mi., 1 hr.)

This out and back hike in the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary has a short difficult section leading to a boardwalk into the marsh.

Parking (8 cars) on Indian Brook Road, about 1/2 mile south of Route 9D. (Very limited parking; please be sure to observe all parking rules.) Walk down the steep Warren Landing Road to the Visitor's Center. Then follow the blue-blazed trail to the boardwalk, which climbs over a steep rocky ledge to a hillcrest with fantastic vistas of the Hudson River and surrounding Highlands, and a view of the United States Military Academy at West Point on the other side of the river. Continue down the other side of the hill to the boardwalk that extends into the marsh. With patience, you can be rewarded with unforgettable sightings of some of the diverse wildlife of the Hudson River estuary. The marsh's 270 acres of cattails and other marsh plants are home to dozens of species of birds during the summer. Hordes of waterfowl use the marsh during migrations, and bald eagles can often be seen during the winter.

The Visitor's Center is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, April through October, with intermittent hours during the winter. The Center building offers knowledgeable staff, a restroom, water and several interesting nature displays. The trails are open daily (9 a.m.-6 p.m., April through October, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., November through March). For more information, call the Center at 845-265-2601.

Horses and mountain bikes are permitted on Hike 3, School Mountain Road.

18. White Rock Walk (moderate, 3 mile, 1.5 hr.)

This loop hike features a swampy meadow boardwalk, dramatic stone walls, a pretty Hudson overlook, and varied terrain, on the Appalachian, Osborn Loop, and Carriage Connector Trails.

Park on Cross Road (5-8 cars), which is east of Route 403, just north of the intersection of Routes 9 and 403. Walk back to the intersection and look for a tall wooden marker on the west side of Route 403, which designates the white-blazed Appalachian Trail. Follow the boardwalk through a swampy meadow into woods. At this point, the AT turns sharply right. After a short distance, the trail divides again. Do not keep walking straight on the yellow-blazed Carriage Connector Trail, but turn left following the AT. The AT crosses through a break in an impressive stone wall on a very steep slope, turns south and wanders through a thicket of mountain laurel (beautiful in June). It crests a ridge, then intersects with the Osborn Loop Trail (blue blazes). Turn left to follow the AT (white) and Osborn Loop (blue). After a short way, turn onto a viewpoint trail off to the right (west) which takes you to "White Rock" for an excellent view of the Hudson and a good place for a snack. Return to the Osborn/AT, turn left and retrace your steps to the original junction with the Osborn Loop Trail. Now, to complete the loop, continue straight on the blue-blazed Osborn Loop Trail, down to the junction with the Carriage Connector Trail (yellow blazes). Turn right onto the Carriage Connector Trail (do not follow an unmarked trail bearing off to the left). Where the trail splits in three, stay on the Carriage Connector (yellow), which takes a sharp right. Cross a seasonal stream to rejoin the AT (white) and return to the starting point. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101)

Carry water, and for emergencies, bring a cell phone.

11. Philipstown Park (easy/moderate, 3/4 mi., 3/4 hr.)

The Trail of Trees in Philipstown Park has a couple of wetland crossings on stepping stones or a narrow plank, then passes through forested woodlands with a view of West Point.

The Philipstown Park is located on the west of Rt. 9D just south of the Hastings Center and 5.7 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. (The large parking lot is very busy during the spring and fall soccer seasons.) A large green arrow points the way to the "Trail of Trees." The trail was built by Cold Spring resident Avril Merandy in 1998 as her senior environmental education project at the University of Vermont. Small directional arrows bring you through a pine woods and across a small field. Descend into a ravine by way of a handmade staircase of logs. A plank walkway crosses a wet area. The trail is not marked, but is clear through the woods to a rocky outcrop that overlooks West Point. The trail continues just north and west of the outcrop and winds through a hemlock forest. The disastrous effect of the hemlock woolly adelgid, *Adelges tsugae*, can be seen in the number of dead hemlocks here. This introduced insect, believed to be a native of Asia, has been in the United States since 1924 and is a serious pest of the eastern hemlock. The trail exits the woods west of the large soccer field in the park. At this point you can follow the trail south and back to the parking area, or take a left around the edge of the field to a bench with a view north up the Hudson between Storm King and Breakneck mountains. The Philipstown Park is on land that was owned by the Malcolm Gordon School until 1997 when it was acquired by the Open Space Institute (OSI). OSI donated the park lands to the town in 2002, subject to a conservation easement which ensures the property's long-term recreational use and protection.

Stay on the trail to minimize impact on the forest environment.

19. Appalachian Trail from Graymoor to Denning Hill (moderate, 4 mi., 3 hr.)

An out and back hike along the Appalachian Trail with some brief but rapid changes in elevation and a 240 degree view south to NYC at the end. Two short walks to viewpoints afford additional sights.

On Route 9, one mile north of Route 403, take Old West Point Road east and drive 0.3 mile to Franciscan Way (on right), where 6 cars can park on the grassy areas at the intersection. Walk across Old West Point Road to the north side, and take a small gravel woods road down the hill. (The AT's white blazes do not go down this hill, but the AT intersects the dirt road after 0.1 mile.) Turn left onto the white-blazed AT and follow it 0.6 mile to a sign that says "shrine" pointing to a short, unblazed, uphill side trail on the right. Follow the side trail up to a Graymoor shrine affording a view to the south. Return to the AT and follow it north through woods and along a ridgeline. After 0.9 mile, watch on the left for a blue-blazed "viewpoint" trail. This 650-foot trail ends with a magnificent view looking north up the Hudson over the Garrison Golf Course. Return to the AT and continue 0.3 mile north to Denning Hill where there is a 240 degree view south and on a clear day you can see NYC. Turn around and retrace the AT to return. The more adventurous can spot cars and continue past Denning Hill to Old Albany Post Road where it meets Chapman Road. However, this would be considered a strenuous hike as the slope from Denning Hill to Chapman Road is steep and much rock scrambling is required. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101)

Be considerate while on the trails: Keep noise to a minimum. Stay out of private property. Park your car mindfully.

12. Cedar Ridge Trail (moderate, 1.5 mi., 1 hr.)

An out and back hike through fields of a working cattle farm and woods to a ridge with a view of the Hudson. Not recommended for dogs.

Park at the intersection of Philipse Brook Rd. and Old Albany Post Rd. (2 cars) Walk west along Philipse Brook Rd. (50 yd.) to a small gate for hikers on your right (yellow blazes). Throughout this hike, follow the yellow blazes. Enter through the gate, turn left and go straight up the hill (fence on left) to a gate near the field corner. (The cows you may see are part of Saunders' Farm. They will not bother you if they are not provoked.) Pass through the gate; the trail climbs parallel to the fence on your right. At the corner of the field, turn 90 degrees left and continue up hill; cross the fence near the end of the field to enter a huge field on the dome of a hill. The trail continues in the same direction (fence now on left), and descends into a woods. After 50 yards the trail follows another fence that turns right 90 degrees. Continue beyond the end of the fence to an opening in the field to the left. Follow along the fence/stone wall through a gate into the woods. Turn right inside gate and follow yellow blazes to a view of the Hudson. Return the same way. This trail is an easement agreement with the Open Space Institute. (NYNJTC Map 101)

13. Chimney Trail. (moderate, 3-4 mi., 2 hr.)

An out and back hike with a gradual ascent, about 40 minutes each way. Sweeping views to the west of mountains, and a peek at the Hudson River.

Parking (2 cars) on South Highland Road across from the private Garrison Fish & Game Club, with additional parking along the road further east. This unblazed trail is well maintained and relatively easy to follow. Start at the iron gate across from the game club and follow the trail into the woods. At the first intersection, take the right hand path, which will cross a stream. Take the right hand path again at the second intersection, at a grove of tall pines, and a right again at the third intersection, about another 1/2 mile along the trail. The trail ends in a clearing with the remains of a chimney from an estate believed to have burned in the 1960s. To the west are fantastic views of Beacon, Storm King and Crow's Nest mountains, along with a distant view of the Hudson and a view of Saunders' Farm. Retrace your steps to return.

20. Manitoga Paths (easy/moderate, 2.1 mi., 1-3 hr.)

Three hikes follow lovely loop paths at Manitoga, the former home of renowned designer Russel Wright. The hikes include steep portions, rocky terrain, views, the repeated sound of water falling over rocks, and a connection to the Appalachian Trail.

Manitoga is located on the eastern side of Route 9D, 2 miles south of Route 403 or 2.5 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge. Follow the entrance drive to the parking area, where there are brochures and trail maps. Follow the path signs through Mary's Meadow to the trailhead sign, where Lost Pond Loop (1.7 miles), White Pine Loop (1.2 miles), and Deer Run Loop (0.84 mile) begin together. Yellow markers lead to off-trail views.

For the longest hike, follow the Lost Pond Loop (white blazes) through the Laurel Field (especially beautiful when the mountain laurel blooms in early June) across a wooden bridge over the brook. Take the yellow-blazed side trail to Sunset Osio (viewpoint) for a glimpse of the Hudson. Return to Lost Pond Loop and follow stepping stones across the brook. The white-blazed trail climbs away from the brook and leads you to Lost Pond, nearly the highest point on the trail system. On a clear day, stand on the large rock for a view north through the gap between Storm King and Breakneck mountains to the Newburgh/Beacon bridge.

Continue on Lost Pond Loop (white) downhill and follow an off-shoot trail with yellow markers to a spectacular view of the Hudson at the Chestnut Oak Osio. Return to Lost Pond Loop, which will take you to Four Corners, the nexus of all three paths. Here a left bend in the trail sets you on the path back to Mary's Meadow following the white blazes. Both the White Pine Loop (red blazes) and the Deer Run Loop (blue blazes) are shorter hikes that start and end with the white-blazed trail and take you through different woodland habitats and views.

House and Landscape tours daily at 11a.m., April thru October. Self-guided tours of public paths daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Suggested donation for hiking.

14. North and South Redoubts - Revolutionary War Heritage Trails (moderate, 2.4 mi., 2 hr.)

Sweeping Hudson River vistas from summit ruins of two Revolutionary War forts. The route is out and back and includes two half-mile uphill segments.

Park on Snake Hill Road opposite the entrance to the Walter Hoving Home (4 cars). A post marks the trailhead, blazed with red Open Space Institute markers. Ascend the trail. After the second switchback you will come to a fork (to which you will return for the rest of the hike) marked by a cairn. To continue to the North Redoubt, bear right at the fork and ascend a short steep section. A path leads right (north) to the summit (550 ft), on which a hexagonal earth enclosure and three external battery platforms remain of the North Redoubt. *This Redoubt was manned by 120 Continental troops from 1779 until 1783. Both the North and South Redoubts were built to counter a British attack on West Point overland from the east.* This trail follows the historic Cannon Road that connected the two forts and has been nominated to the statewide Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. OSI acquired the North Redoubt in 1991 and donated it to the State of NY. Return to the fork and go right (south) on a trail marked with red painted circles through a stone wall, past a ruined stone enclosure, and down to a steep grassy meadow. Cross the meadow past a cairn to the carriage road beginning at an old shed. Follow the carriage road up a short distance to a clearing where orange signs designate this section as part of the Garrison School Forest. Follow the red painted blazes as they turn right (south) through a stone wall and ascend the red-blazed Cannon Road for 0.35 mile to the South Redoubt (780 ft). *On Sept. 25, 1780, General George Washington was inspecting the South Redoubt at the very moment that Major-General Benedict Arnold was fleeing to the river from the West Point commandant's headquarters just off Route 9D, visible to the south from the South Redoubt (see Arnold Escape Path, Hike 16).* Return the way you came. Note: It is a crime to dig, vandalize, or remove artifacts from these historical sites. For a shorter hike (1 hour out and back) to either Redoubt, park in the clearing (5 cars), which you can access at 135 Snake Hill Road: enter the driveway; bear left where it forks.

21. Manitou Point Nature Preserve (easy, 2 mi., 1 hr.)

A loop past a mansion with a path paralleling the Hudson River.

Enter the Manitou Point Nature Preserve on the west side of 9D, south of Route 403 at the Outward Bound entrance, which is Mystery Point Road. About 30 feet in, there is a hiker's parking area on the left (10 cars). Walk down the road to the bridge over the railroad tracks. Across the tracks is the former Livingston Manor, now the headquarters of Outward Bound, Inc. Cross the stone bridge over the tracks, and, keeping the mansion to your left, look for the grassy mowed path down to the Hudson. The path forks: turning right will take you to a charming riverside perch with a view north up the Hudson. Turn left to continue beside the Hudson heading south. The path parallels the river, becoming a narrow, moss covered trail where hikers are required to walk in single file. Several steep drop-offs could cause problems for small children and people uneasy about heights. The trail is flanked by mountain laurel, with views of the river and the hills and houses on its western shore. You will eventually come upon a cairn (pile of rocks indicating a trail turn), after which the path will occasionally be marked with white blazes as well as cairns, still following the river. There is a cairn at the intersection where several trails merge. Take the path to the right which heads back toward the river with more river views seen through the woods. The trail loops to the east, runs along the railroad tracks and meets the grassy carriage road that leads back to the Manor house. At the Manor retrace your steps on the grassy trail along the river keeping the Manor on your right. There is a view of Sugarloaf Hill to the northeast. The trail swings around to the front of the Manor. Circle the house and return via the road.

15. Arden Point - Marcia's Mile (easy, 2.2 mi., 1.5 hr.)

A hike around a magnificent promontory to a gazebo with views of the Hudson River.

Park at the south end of the Garrison train station lot (fee during the week, free on the weekend). The trail begins at the sign marked Arden Point between stone pillars at the south entrance of the lot. Follow the woods road (blue blazes) past the sites of former houses and across a handcrafted wooden bridge. After 0.5 mile the trail intersects with a railroad bridge. Note the sign for Marcia's Mile ahead (you'll return to this spot). Turn right, cross the bridge and take an immediate right to follow the blue-blazed trail (ignore the road that turns left). The blue trail ends in 0.3 mile at an intersection with a red-blazed trail. Continue straight on the red-blazed trail past an old stone wall and follow stone steps to the water for a great view north up the Hudson River including West Point. Retrace your steps on the red-blazed trail, and continue to follow it when it veers right at the intersection with the blue-blazed trail. Pass a viewpoint with a wooden bench overlooking the river to the west and follow the trail along the river on the western edge of the point. After 0.4 mile, at the end of the red-blazed trail, continue straight down the path (no blazes) to the southern end of the point and a great view. Arden Point was acquired by the Open Space Institute and later transferred to the State of New York to ensure its long-term protection. From here follow a woods road north a short distance back to the railroad bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right (south) onto yellow-blazed Marcia's Mile. After about 0.2 mile, stone steps to the right (west) lead to a large gazebo with a beautiful view of the river and Highland Falls on the opposite bank. Marcia's Mile was created by the Open Space Institute in memory of Marcia Favrot, a local artist and environmental advocate. To return, retrace your steps back to the railroad bridge intersection, then back down the woods road to the train station. (NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101)

22. Anthony's Nose (moderate/difficult, 3.6 mi., 3 hr.)

An out and back hike on the Appalachian and Camp Smith trails to the promontory known as Anthony's Nose. Spectacular views overlooking Bear Mountain Bridge and the Hudson River.

The trailhead is on South Mountain Pass off Route 9D, 1.6 miles north of the Bear Mountain Bridge or 2.8 miles south of Route 403 (0.2 mile after the Outward Bound entrance). Drive 0.7 mile on South Mountain Pass. The Appalachian Trail crosses the road at this point (look for white blazes) and there is a pull-off (4 cars) on the south side of the road. Walk south on the AT (white blazes) as it traverses up the mountain. After about an hour (1.2 miles) the AT intersects with the blue-blazed Camp Smith Trail on an old woods road. Follow the Camp Smith Trail south continuing to ascend the mountain. Be sure you do not follow the AT as it takes a hard right and starts west down a steep hill. The blue-blazed trail passes a trail registry book and continues up. After 0.6 mile you will come to a stack of rocks known as a cairn in the middle of the woods road. At the cairn, turn off the blue-blazed trail and take a short walk over the rocky outcroppings to your right (west) to find the huge rocky outcrop that overlooks the Bear Mountain Bridge, with spectacular views of Bear Mountain, Fort Montgomery, Iona Island, and south. You can often see turkey vultures at the bridge overlook and, if you are really lucky, the peregrine falcons that nest on the bridge. To return, go back to the (blue) Camp Smith Trail and retrace your steps. On your way back (going north), there is another viewpoint worth mentioning, but it is a little harder to find. As you walk north on the blue-blazed trail, before it begins to descend, watch on the left for any of several herd paths, at least one of which has a small cairn. The key is to look for several large cement blocks at the top of the hill to your left. These were part of a former aircraft beacon; the viewpoint, looking west and up the river, is just beyond them. Return to the blue-blazed trail and go left to descend to the (white) AT again, take a right on the AT and follow it back to South Mountain Pass. Note: To learn more about hikes in this area, particularly the Camp Smith Trail which ascends to Anthony's Nose from the south with consistently spectacular views, refer to NYNJTC East Hudson Map 101.

Dear Residents of Philipstown:

On behalf of the Town Council and in conjunction with the Philipstown Greenway Committee, it is a pleasure to be able to present this brochure to Philipstown's residents and visitors. The brochure and map describe more than twenty different hikes that you can take within our borders. These hikes are but a sample of the many miles of trails within our community for hiking, biking and horseback riding. We hope you will be encouraged to find and enjoy them all.

I wish to thank the many individuals and organizations that have contributed to making this map a reality and hope that you take the time to discover and enjoy what nature has provided in this beautiful region.

Sincerely,

William Mazzucca
Town Supervisor

Thank you to the following people and organizations for their support of this Hike Guide:

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