

Lake Loop Hike



Length: a little over 1/2 mile

Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference *North Jersey Trails Map # 115*

Highlights

This hike is really a guided walk more than a hike which is perfect for new campers at Camp. It is slightly more than a half a mile looping along the paths and trails around Lake Vreeland. It goes past a number of historic sites in Camp and gives you a chance to look at the ecology of Lake Vreeland up close.

Trail Description

0.00 mi. The hike starts at the foot of the ramp leading up the dam and to the dining hall from the Camp parking lot. The hike starts at the trailhead of the Old Guard Trail. It is marked with two trail blazes over a single blaze, all of them are Green Tulip Leaf on White metal markers, this is the marker used as blazes on the Old Guard Trail.

0.01 mi. Near the top of the ramp, off to the left in the undergrowth you will see the original site of the Mother's Pavilion, HT 8.

0.03 mi. At the top of the ramp is the Dining Hall, HT 7, which was rebuilt in 1968 after a fire destroyed the original Dining Hall built back in 1926.

0.06 mi. On the left you will pass the Old Guard Campfire Ring, HT 28, site of many Camp ceremonies over the years since the founding of Camp. On the right is a trail up the hill to Mothercroft and the Old Guard Cabin.

0.08 mi. These buildings are two of the three oldest general use buildings in Camp, HT 6. Just slightly further along the trail is the third, the Library, also called Uncle's Cabin in honor of Frank Gray who was the namesake of Camp Glen Gray, he lived his final summers in the Library. On the lake side of the road in front of the Library is the starting point of the Camp Interpretative Trail.

0.15 mi. The Old Guard Trail leaves the camp road by turning to the left and entering the woods, continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes. The turn in the trail is shown with two blazes with the upper blaze leaning in the direction of the coming turn.

0.17 mi. As you follow the trail into the woods you will pass Hemlock Chapel, HT 27, on a point extending into Lake Vreeland with its namesake stand of hemlock trees. The trail turns right at the Hemlock Chapel, continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

0.18 mi. On the left is the footbridge over to the North Brook campsite, the marked trail turns slightly to the right, leave the Old Guard Trail with its Green Tulip leaf on White blazes by crossing the bridge into the North Brook campsite.

0.20 mi. Walk slightly to the right as you enter the campsite, continue across the campsite to another bridge. Cross this bridge to get to the west side of a branch of the North Brook.

0.21 mi. After crossing this bridge follow the path to the left, the path follows along the end of Lake Vreeland on a wooded path.

0.25 mi. The wooded path ends at an open field that is the Camp Amphitheater, HT 31. This area is a large meeting place for big campfires and other Camp-wide activities. The seating area holds 200 people which makes for a really big campfire. The Camp Interpretative Trail ends at the far side of the Camp Amphitheater. There are some access spots to your left that allow you to see the lake and the vegetation growing in the western end of Lake Vreeland.

0.28 mi. After looking at the lake continue across the Camp Amphitheater to the camp road on the other side, at the road walk to the left, still following along the side of the lake. The hike is now again following a blazed trail, now marked with Orange blazes that mark the Schuber Trail. The Schuber Trail is named in honor of the former Bergen County County Executive Pat Schuber who was instrumental in preserving Camp Glen Gray as part of the Bergen County Parks System.

0.29 mi. As you exit the Camp Amphitheater you will cross the pipes that carry the South Brook in from your right on its way to Lake Vreeland.

0.32 mi. The open pavilion on the left is the Mother's Pavilion, HT 16. The floor contains the original compass rose from the Mother's Pavilion when it was below the dam near the parking lot. During a required re-construction of the dam the Mother's Pavilion had to be moved. Troop 1 from North Caldwell moved the compass rose here and re-built the pavilion dedicating it to Nancy Gasser's memory, a Boy Scout leader from North Caldwell.

0.33 mi. Just past the Mother's Pavilion the Schuber Trail turns right when it joins the Millstone Trail. This turn takes the trails up to the top of Millstone Hill and over to Camp Tamarack, HT 19, and ultimately over to Skyline Drive. The cabin just up the trail is the Explorer Cabin, HT 32. To continue on the hike you want to continue walking straight ahead by now following the White blazes of the Millstone Trail and following along around the south side of Lake Vreeland.

0.35 mi. The Waterfront area is on both sides of the trail, the Camp boathouse is on the right and the access to the lake is on the left. If there is no Camp staff present when you are hiking please don't enter the Waterfront.

0.40 mi. The trail rises up a hill to a pretty view of the waterfront and Lake Vreeland on the left. On the right are the sites of two historic campsites from the early days of Camp, Upper and Lower Bluntville, HT 21. They are named for Robert Blunt, a former Scoutmaster from Cedar Grove who also served as Camp Director in the 1920's.

0.48 mi. The cabin on your left is the Rotary Cabin, HT 9, this building was used initially as the Camp Hospital and later as the Camp Trading Post, it is now a comfortable cabin that sleeps twelve campers. To your right is the historic Pattigumpus campsite that is now used as a campfire area for the campers using the Rotary Cabin.

0.52 mi. At the foot of the hill the Millstone Trail ends with three White blazes in the ending trailhead convention marking of a single blaze over two blazes. This is the end of the Millstone Trail and also the Lake Loop Hike.

The Hiking the Glen Project is the latest effort to encourage hiking in the Ramapo Greenway. The author gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the many Boy Scouts, their leaders and others who over past years have developed and maintained earlier versions of these sheets. While using the existing material the author remains completely responsible for this version. Further information about the Hiking the Glen Project is contained on the Hiking the Glen sheet that should be reviewed by all users for details about the specific hiking sheets.

The trails on these sheets are part of the North Jersey Trails network designed, developed and maintained by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The trails are subject to changes at the discretion of the Trail Conference and its land management partners. The mileage references used on these sheets are approximate and are based on GPS readings from actual hikes of the route, your GPS readings as well as measured map distances will vary. Further information about the trail network is contained on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set. The complete map set can be obtained at the Camp Glen Gray HQs or directly from the Trail Conference. Additional information about the Trail Conference is available at www.NyNJTC.org.

Camp Glen Gray is a weekend camping facility and as such the camp parking area is not available for use as a day hiking trailhead. The trails in the Ramapo Greenway area, including those described on this sheet, can be accessed for day hiking from trailhead parking areas on nearby public roads, the three closest to Camp Glen Gray are on Skyline Drive and Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202, details are on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set.

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