

Millstone Hike



Length: 2 miles

**Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference *North Jersey Trails Map # 115*
Special Feature: Recognition Patch available**

Highlights

The Millstone Trail winds through 2 miles of the southern portion of historic Camp Glen Gray. It runs along the Millstone Hill, the ridge separating Camp Glen Gray from another former Boy Scout, Camp Tamarack that is also now part of the Ramapo Greenway. Hikers will see a hidden pond, several interesting glacial erratic formations, a rattlesnake cave, a cactus garden, a lookout to the southwest and a collection of abandoned millstones in various stages of carving.

Trail Description

0.00 mi. The Millstone Trail begins just across the camp road from the Camp HQs. Look for three White blazes arranged with one blaze above two blazes, which marks the start of the trail. The trail ascends the camp road to the left of the parking lot.

0.05 mi. The trail passes the Rotary Cabin, HT 9, on the right and the old Pattigumpus campsite on the left.

0.15 mi. The trail passes the Waterfront; to the left of the trail are the sites of former campsites Upper and Lower Bluntville, HT 21. They are named for Robert Blunt, a former Scoutmaster from Cedar Grove.

0.19 mi. The trail turns left on a woods road just before reaching the Mother's Pavilion, HT 16. The turn in the trail is marked with two White blazes, one above the other, with the top blaze tilted in the direction of the turn. Here it joins with the Schuber Trail marked with Orange blazes which comes in from the west.

0.22 mi. Both trails pass the Explorer Cabin, HT 32, and then split just ahead at a fork in the trail. The Explorer Cabin was originally built by Troop 9 from Montclair as a troop cabin but today is available for use by all campers. The Millstone Trail takes the right fork with its White blazes, while the Schuber Trail with the Orange blazes leaves to the left.

0.31 mi. The Millstone Trail climbs steeply and passes the Pioneer campsite, a remote tent camping site.

0.41 mi. The trail turns left, leaving the woods road, be sure to continue to follow the White blazes.

0.44 mi. The trail continues on a rocky footpath through dense thickets, passing Hidden Pond on the right.

0.49 mi. Azalea Swamp is to the right as the trail continues through the hilly undergrowth and eventually back up the side of the hill.

0.53 mi. The trail continues to ascend to the east, the trail crosses the same Orange blazed Schuber Trail you left back at the Explorer Cabin, continue to follow the White blazes of the Millstone Trail.

0.55 mi. The Millstone Trail approaches Rocky Slide Gulch where a small pile of iron-ore tailings is visible to the right just before the trail descends into the shallow gulch. After turning right and briefly following the gulch, the trail turns left and ascends up Millstone Hill on a steep, rocky footpath.

0.65 mi. The trail reaches the crest of a ridge, it descends slightly and then makes a short, steep climb.

0.70 mi. The trail passes to the left of a large glacial erratic boulder called Sitting Hen Rock, HT 10. The trail bears right and continues its climb up to the crest of Millstone Hill.

0.81 mi. Just beyond this crest, the trail reaches the Southwest Lookout, off to the right. After descending gradually, the trail climbs again to traverse another ridge.

1.13 mi. The trail passes another glacial erratic called Balanced Rock and Rattlesnake Cave, HT 17. Just past the boulder in an open area over to the right is a patch of prickly pear cactus, which usually blooms with yellow flowers in early July. The trail now bears left and begins a gradual descent.

- 1.25 mi. Just after the Yellow Trail marked with Yellow Diamond blazes joins from the right two abandoned millstones, HT 11, in various stages of completion may be seen to the right of the trails.
- 1.33 mi. Both trails follow the same path down and around the quarry site until the trails pass a millstone, HT 12, in nearly perfect condition, off the trails to the right.
- 1.43 mi. Both trails cross an old woods road and continue straight ahead, staying to the left of an old stone wall, which marks the approximate historic Camp Glen Gray boundary.
- 1.52 mi. Continuing to descend, the trails reach paved Midvale Mountain Road, just walk across the road, and re-enter the woods. Older trail descriptions may indicate using the road to proceed back to Camp HQs, please stay on the trails and do not walk on the road, it is primarily for use by motorized vehicles.
- 1.54 mi. Once across the road you will be in the Tulip Springs area of Camp, HT 13, this is the area that was used in 1917 for the first summer encampment held in Camp Glen Gray. When back down in the woods turn left to follow the trails toward Fox Brook, which you'll cross on two wooden bridges, constructed by Scouts in 2004 as Eagle Scout projects.
- 1.64 mi. The island in the middle of Fox Brook is named Eagle Island, HT 29, in honor of the many Eagle Scouts who have chosen to accomplish their Eagle Scout Service Projects in Camp. Once across the brook, ascend to where the trails reach a level woods road and then split up.
- 1.72 mi. Here, turn sharply left to follow the White blazes of the Millstone Trail, as the Yellow Trail goes off to the right. The level areas off to your right contained some of the original Troop cabins in Camp, HT 25, seventy years ago there were five cabins in this area.
- 1.83 mi. Continue to follow the White blazes as the Millstone Trail follows a rocky footpath and the trail climbs up close to the location of one of the oldest buildings in Camp, the Troop 4 Montclair Cabin, HT 14. This cabin is the only remaining cabin of the original cabins in this area. The trail then descends steeply, after crossing a stream, the trail descends further down to the Glen and Gray Cabins. As you pass the cabins please respect the privacy of any campers using the cabins.
- 1.96 mi. The trail turns sharply right in front of Gray Cabin, then to the left as it re-crosses Fox Brook on a plank bridge.
- 2.00 mi. The trail completes its loop with three White blazes, two over one meaning the end of the trail. Walk slightly to the right through the parking area and you'll be back at the Camp HQs.

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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