Welcome to Brinton Brook Sanctuary

We hope you enjoy your walk. A few reminders as you begin your visit:

- A sanctuary is a place where all life is respected. Please do not remove or injure any plant or animal and please leave only your footprints behind when you leave.
- Dogs are welcome on leashes. Please pick up after your dog.
- If you have an emergency, call 911 or the Croton Police Department: 914-271-5177

ABOUT THE TRAILS

The Pond Loop, marked with yellow, leads from the sanctuary entrance and parking lot to Brinton Brook Pond and back again, returning on the east side of the parking area. Along the way, it crosses through a variety of habitats including: a stand of black locust at the intersection with the old farm road, a small meadow being restored with native plants, a red maple swamp around the pond, and upland forest stands.

The Turkey Trail, marked with blue, explores the farthest corners of the sanctuary with a hilly hike through a hardwood forest of black birch, hickory and oak. On the north, it is near the Con Edison power line opening from which you can see the Bear Mountain Bridge.

The Hemlock Springs Trail, marked with red, begins by crossing Brinton Brook on the south and ends on the north near the red maple swamp of Brinton Brook pond. Along the way it passes the Split Rock Spring designed by Willard Brinton and stone ruins dating from the Civil War period. The hemlocks for which this trail was named have declined due to the wooly adelgid, an Asian insect that has devastated hemlocks throughout the eastern US.

The Laurel Rock Trail, also marked with yellow, is an outer loop of the Hemlock Spring Trail and offers some of the most rugged hiking in the sanctuary with switchbacks across a rocky slope lined with mountain laurel.

The Coyote Trail, marked with green, explores scenic vistas overlooking Brinton Pond and swamp through a dry ridge hardwood forest habitat. This trail also connects to the white-blazed Highland Trail, maintained by the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.

The Highland Trail, marked with white, connects Brinton Brook with the Lyon Arboretum to the east along an easement on the north side of the Hudson National Golf Club. Within Brinton Brook, white blazes for this trail are also on the Coyote, Hemlock Springs and Laurel Rock Trails. Outside Brinton Brook, this trail is maintained by the Village of Croton-on-Hudson Trails Committee. (A map of the Village’s trail system is linked from our web site.)
TRAVEL DIRECTIONS AND TRAILS ENTRANCE

The entrance road to Brinton Brook Sanctuary is on Route 9A in Croton-on-Hudson marked with a sign. It can be reached by the Senasqua Road exit off Route 9. Turn left (north) on Route 9A. The sanctuary entrance road is on the right, 3/10 of a mile north of the Sky View Home.

The gravel entrance road is 300 yards long and makes a sharp bend at our parking area before continuing left into a neighbor's private driveway.

A second entrance is at the top of Arrowcrest Road with a small parking area outside of the entrance to Hudson National Golf Club. A sanctuary sign also is at this trailhead.

HISTORY OF BRINTON BROOK

Laura and Willard Brinton gave the original 112 acres of Brinton Brook Sanctuary to National Audubon to permanently protect their land as a wildlife sanctuary. After Laura’s death in 1975, an additional 17 acres were added to the sanctuary by the Brintons’ niece, Ruth Brinton Perera. Saw Mill River Audubon managed Brinton Brook Sanctuary for National Audubon from 1958 to 1991, when full ownership of the original sanctuary lands was transferred to our organization. In 1995 Saw Mill River Audubon added the Coyote Trail to link Village trails through a 27-acre parcel in the northeast corner. This parcel is owned by the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and managed by Saw Mill River Audubon as part of Brinton Brook.

We are committed to protecting and restoring the native habitats here for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.

To learn more about our other sanctuaries, our free public field trips and programs, and our other activities, visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org