



SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

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www.sawmillriveraudubon.org

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.
  - Motorized vehicles, bikes, fires, camping and hunting are all prohibited in our sanctuaries.
  - 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 an old orchard at the intersection with an old farm road, an open meadow that is periodically mowed to keep the forest from intruding, a red maple swamp by 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. It adjoins a 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 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 reputed to be those of a farm dating from the Civil War period. The hemlock grove near the spring is dying due to the woolly adelgid infestation that is affecting hemlock stands throughout the northeastern United States. As the hemlock cover decreases, more sunlight to the forest floor will allow a new generation of trees and shrubs to replace the hemlocks.

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. In 2007, a portion of the Highland Trail was re-routed onto Brinton Brook Sanctuary trails (see map).

The **Highland Trail**, marked with **white**, enters Brinton Brook at the northeast corner from its connection with the Jane E. Lytle Village Arboretum along a trail easement on the north side of the Hudson National Golf Club. Within Brinton Brook, it follows eastern portions of the green-blazed Coyote Trail, red-blazed Hemlock Springs Trail and yellow-blazed Laurel Rock Trail (with additional white blazes on each) before exiting at the parking area at the top of Arrowcrest Drive by the golf club entrance. Off of SMRA property, the Highland Trail is maintained by the Village of Croton-on-Hudson Trails Committee. The Village-of-Croton trail map is available online:  
[http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/public\\_documents/crotonhudsonny\\_rec/CrotontrailsGuide.pdf](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/public_documents/crotonhudsonny_rec/CrotontrailsGuide.pdf)