



SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON

275 Millwood Road • Chappaqua, New York 10514 • (914) 666-6503 • [office@sawmillriveraudubon.org](mailto:office@sawmillriveraudubon.org)

[www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://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 New Castle Police Department: (914) 238-4422.

## **ABOUT THE TRAILS**

The **Fern Trail**, marked with **white**, leads from the sanctuary entrance on Woodmill Road along a dirt road cut through the woods when this land was surveyed for development in the 1960s. The dirt road takes you to a boardwalk through a swamp. Pruy Trail (see below) begins here. The Fern Trail continues along the edge of the swamp and crosses it again with another boardwalk segment before continuing south through upland woodlands and a loop walk through rocky hilltops. This trail ends at Seven Bridges Road through a section of sanctuary land that runs between two private houses.

The **Pruyn Trail**, marked with **green**, includes a boardwalk loop through a swamp. The wooden boardwalks are gradually being replaced with ones made from recycled plastic, which are safer for the fragile wetland and less slippery for visitors. The trail crosses Gedney Brook and continues beside mudflats and a pond. A side trail on the eastern side of the stream leads to a bird blind, an observation area and bird feeding station. The Pruy Trail makes a loop uphill, through an arboretum with labeled trees and shrubs near the Pruy House, and back down to the swamp. The arboretum also contains a butterfly and hummingbird garden. Interpretive signs along this trail highlight animals and plants found in the sanctuary. They were funded by a grant from Audubon New York.

The **Ridge Walk**, marked with **blue**, leads up a gentle slope off the Fern Trail near the sanctuary entrance. It continues through open woodlands where locust trees are giving way to black birch, sugar maple and American beech trees. The trail descends into a small valley where spring wildflowers are prevalent and deer and other wildlife shelter from winter winds.

The **Deer Loop**, marked with **yellow** and connected to the Ridge Walk, follows the northeastern boundary of the sanctuary and is very steep in sections, leading past some outstanding rock formations and stands of chestnut oak. It loops back through the secluded valley described above.

The **Swamp View Trail**, marked with **red**, is in the southern part of the sanctuary. It passes beside a stone wall that overlooks the Crystal Spring wildlife area, continuing through a beech grove and near wild azalea and high bush blueberry shrub stands.

The **Crystal Spring Trail**, marked with **orange**, follows a boardwalk section across the southern part of the swamp adjacent to the Birchwood Swim Club. This boardwalk was built with a grant from the New York City Environmental Fund in 1999. On the other side of the swamp, the trail circles a steep rocky hillside that offers another view overlooking the swamp.