

## 7. US Route 6 to Woodbury

**Features:** Harriman State Park, Howell, Brooks and Blackcap Mountains, and the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain

**Distance:** 11.10 miles

**USGS Map Quads:** Popolopen Lake

**Trail Conference Maps:** Map 4, Northern Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails, and Map 8, West Hudson Trails

### General Description

This section is the last of the three within Harriman State Park, and is by far the most rugged. The Long Path climbs four peaks, often on steep grades both up and down. The exertion is worth the effort because of views of dramatic geology, especially in the U-shaped valley between Howell and Brooks Mountains. The trail frequently borders West Point Military Reservation. The last part of this section is outside of Harriman State Park and generally follows suburban and rural roads.

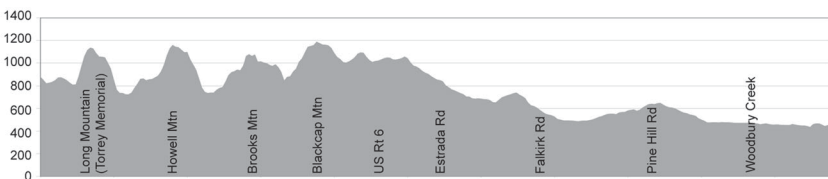
### Access

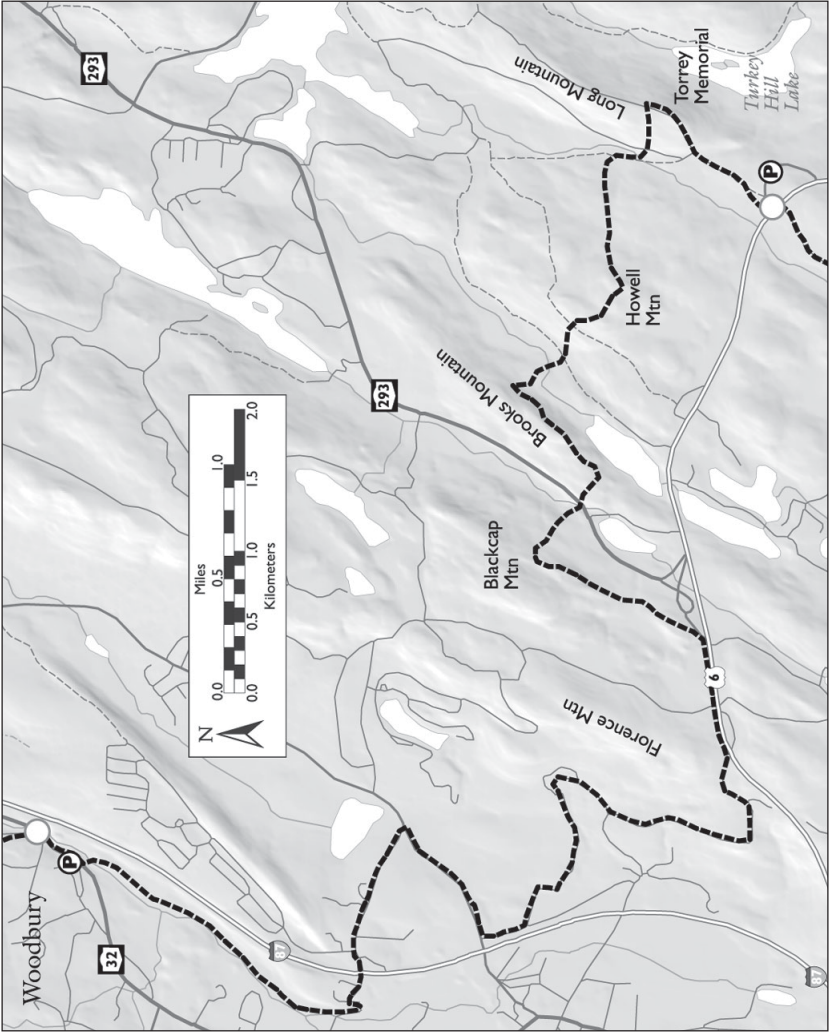
Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 16, Harriman. Continue east on US Route 6. Or take the Palisades Interstate Parkway to Exit 18, and continue west on Route 6. The section starts at a parking area in a narrow, unmarked loop on the north side of Route 6. Entry by car is one way from the east side of the loop, about 1.2 miles west of the Long Mountain Circle.

### Parking

**0.00** Parking area off Route 6. (18T 579286E 4574266N)

**11.10** Intersection of Evans Drive and NY Route 32, about 0.2 miles south of the Long Path's crossing of Route 32 at a railroad trestle. (18T 574643E 4579193N)





## Trail Description

**0.00**The Long Path leaves the pavement of the parking area loop road at the interpretive kiosk honoring Raymond H. Torrey and the Long Path. It heads north into the woods on a wide gravel road. The road becomes grassy as it passes through oak forest with open, short and shrubby understory. The descent into a hollow steepens as traffic noises fade.

**0.30**Pass an old woods road going down to the left. Immediately thereafter, the Popolopen Gorge Trail (red square on white) leaves to the right. The Long Path turns left after this and begins to climb toward the summit of Long Mountain, steepening rapidly.

**0.50**The grade levels off as the trail approaches the summit and the vegetation becomes sparse.

**0.60**The Long Path reaches the summit of Long Mountain, the site of the Torrey Memorial. There is a spectacular 360-degree view from the summit with Bear Mountain visible to the east and Turkey Hill Lake directly below.

**0.65**The Long Path continues past the Torrey Memorial and starts a gradual descent from Long Mountain. In another 500 feet, the trail turns left and descends through a series of long switchbacks.

**1.10**The trail intersects an old woods road to the left and crosses Deep Hollow Brook (the crossing can be difficult after a heavy rain). It then turns right and continues on a path alongside the stream. Meet a second stream paralleling the trail on the left. Shortly thereafter, the trail turns left at an opening in the woods and crosses the stream on rocks. It then ascends and approaches a cleared swath along the West Point boundary. The trail follows the boundary

### *Final ascent of Long Mountain*



TODD SCHREIBMAN



*Torrey Memorial*

line, with some detours to the left and back again, for about half a mile. The trail eventually leaves the boundary permanently and heads left to top out at a knoll with lots of blueberries.

**2.15** Reach a viewpoint on Howell Mountain with Brooks Mountain visible to the west and Blackcap Mountain beyond. Route 6 is visible straight ahead. The trail briefly continues its gentle descent on a curve, slabbing a rise to the right. Then, it abruptly turns left and begins a steep plunge into Brooks Hollow. The Long Path traverses a flat terrace before another left turn over the edge completes the descent, this time with switchbacks.

**2.55** Cross the outlet stream from Lake Massawippa in the middle of Brooks Hollow, a classic U-shaped post-glacial valley. Its broad, flat floor with several intermittent streambeds, curves upward on both sides at a rapidly increasing pitch. Once over the log bridge, the trail turns left and goes upstream for a short distance before continuing across the valley floor. It reaches the valley wall and the trail begins a steep ascent of Brooks Mountain, principally by two long switchbacks. The second switchback becomes gentler in grade as it merges with the southwest trending crest of Brooks Mountain. Once on the crest, the grade is gently uphill with views of the steeply plunging valley to the left.

**3.20** The ridge ends suddenly at a rocky knob. The Long Path turns to descend steeply to the left at first and then curves to the right around the end of the ridge. It reaches and climbs out of the small valley to views of Lake Massawippa a few hundred feet downhill to the left. The trail next undulates up and down through laurel and then blueberry, the dominant understory plants.

**3.70** Reach NY Route 293 near a stream. Cross the road at the end of the guardrail and re-enter the woods. The trail now ascends, often steeply, up the shoulder of Blackcap Mountain. Once attained, it follows the ridge crest southwest, closely paralleling the West Point boundary, until the trail descends toward Route 6.

**5.05** The trail approaches US Route 6 and turns west along the highway. The next blazes are about 30 feet inside the woods bordering the road, next to a

chain-link fence bordering the highway. (In the reverse direction, the trail enters the woods about 30 feet west of the “Yield” sign for traffic entering US Route 6 from Route 293.)

**5.60** Just before a large grassy clearing with a power line on the north side of the highway, the trail passes through a gap in the chain-link fence. It veers to the right and crosses the clearing on a diagonal to the northwest. At the opposite side of the clearing, there is a telephone pole at the end of an abandoned paved road (the old Route 6). Turn right and follow this road.

**6.20** Reach a barricade across the road with a small vehicle turnaround on the opposite side. There is currently no parking allowed here. The trail continues straight ahead on what is now known as Estrada Road, a quiet residential street, past several houses. Thomas Estrada-Palma, the first president of Cuba (1902-06), lived here from 1879 to 1902 while he headed a junta that financed the Cuban Revolution.

**6.65** The trail continues straight ahead as the road becomes paved where several driveways join it.

**7.15** Continue straight, staying on Estrada Road. In 200 feet, in sight of the New York State Thruway, turn right onto Abrams Road. Pass Stone Gate Road on the right.

**7.95** At a T-intersection, go right on Smith Clove Road (Orange County Route 9) and head away from the Thruway.

**8.45** Pass a golf course entrance on right.

**8.55** Go left on Pine Hill Road.

**9.15** Cross the Thruway and follow Pine Hill Road downhill as it curves.

**9.45** Follow Pine Hill Road under the railroad.

**9.55** Just before Pine Hill Road crosses Woodbury Creek, the Long Path turns right on a gravel road which runs between the railroad tracks and Woodbury Creek.

**10.45** Cross a seasonal stream.

**11.05** Cross Woodbury Creek. This stream crossing may be difficult during periods of high water. If it can't be crossed at the pipeline, follow the shore downstream under the trestle to the road. Do not cross the trestle! (Metro-North now uses this railroad trestle, part of what was formerly known as the Graham Line of the Erie Railroad, for passenger service). The trail is heavily overgrown in this section.

**11.10** Reach NY Route 32. Turn right and go under the trestle. The section ends about 50 feet north of the trestle, where the Long Path turns left and climbs an embankment.