

The Wallkill Valley Loop Guide

Note: Important services such as parking, camping/shelters, water, and supplies are marked in bold.

- 0.0** Begin the hike in the Village of Greenwood Lake (NY) at the end of Lion's Field, just past the playground pavilion. This trail winds above the DPW buildings. Turn left onto a gravel road and then make a right to head towards the water tanks.
- 0.8** Reach an open rock clearing with views of the Greenwood Lake and the Village of Greenwood Lake. The village is sited on the location of a former Munsee village. Their name for the lake was "Quampium", which is said to translate to "long water". Though a natural lake, Greenwood Lake is larger now than when the Native Americans lived here, having been dammed for this purpose in 1837.
- 0.9** Junction with the Appalachian Trail (AT). The AT is an almost 2,200 mile footpath conceived by Benton MacKaye in the early 1920s and connecting the summits of Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia, running along the Appalachian Mountains nearly the entire way. To continue following the Wallkill Valley Loop, turn left (heading south).
- 4.3** Reach Prospect Rock (1,433').
- 4.7** Cross the NY/NJ border. State Line Trail intersects with the AT a short distance past this point, on your left.
- 5.8** Cross Long House Creek.
- 6.9** Cross Long House Road (also known as Brady Road).
- 8.3** Cross Warwick Turnpike and enter Wawayanda State Park. There is a small pullout along the road next to the trail with **parking** for several cars. The name of the park comes from a Lenape word meaning "winding waters". In the 19th century, this area saw industrial use in the form of iron-smelting. A historic iron furnace still exists within the park to this day. Iron industry was replaced with logging in the mid 20th century before the nearly 17,000 acre park was protected in 1961.
- 8.6** Pass a blue-blazed side trail (Hoeflerlin Trail) on the left. Following this trail for ~0.3mi will take you to the park headquarters. There is a pay phone outside and **water** from a faucet on a maintenance building, adjacent to a fenced off area.
- 8.7** Reach Wawayanda **Shelter**. This shelter sleeps six and has a privy.
- 8.9** Cross Wawayanda Road.
- 9.8** Cross Iron Mountain Road Bridge.
- 10.9** Cross Barrett Road.
- 12.6** Reach the summit of Wawayanda Mountain (1,340'). A 0.1mi blue-blazed trail on the left will take you to Pinwheel Vista. On a clear day, you should be able to see some of the climbs ahead, including Pochuck Mountain and High Point Monument.
- 14.0** Cross NJ 94. The Heaven Hill Farm **store** (open from Easter through September) is 0.1mi to the right. If you visit, please leave your packs outside and out of the way before going in.
- 14.9** Cross Canal Road.
- 15.1** Reach a long boardwalk. This boardwalk is anchored with 20-foot deep posts, is over a mile long and was completed with volunteer labor in 2003. The boardwalk and bridge were created to traverse a 25,000 acre federally designated wetland and to eliminate 2.1 miles of road walking.
- 15.6** Cross Pochuck Creek suspension bridge.
- 16.3** Cross County 517.
- 17.8** Cross County 565. There is a small stream past 565 that can be used as a **water** source. This is the only water source between here and the Pochuck Mountain Shelter.
- 19.0** Reach the summit of Pochuck Mountain (985'). Pochuck translates to "out of the way place" in the Lenape language.
- 20.5** Reach Pochuck Mountain **Shelter**. This shelter sleeps six and has a privy. There is **no water** at this shelter.
- 21.0** Cross Liberty Corners Road (County 667). Soon after this crossing, the trail begins to skirt along the NY/NJ border for a number of miles. There is a short connecting trail approximately 150 feet before the road that leads to a **water** spigot on a vacant house owned by the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection.
- 21.5** Enter Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge was established in 1990, and provides protected habitat for both migratory and nesting birds. The refuge includes a nearly contiguous 9 mile stretch of the river in both NY and NJ and numerous surrounding wetlands.
- 23.3** Turn left and cross the Wallkill River on Oil City Road. There is a **parking** (Liberty Loop) area is to the right (east). This is the first of two crossings of the river on the Loop hike. The Wallkill has some notoriety for being a north flowing river between two south flowing rivers (the Hudson and Delaware) and also for being a river that drains into a creek, the Roundout. The name

“Wallkill” is of Dutch origin, though there is debate regarding its exact meaning.

23.5 Turn left onto Carnegie Road.

23.6 Turn right into the woods.

24.3 Cross Oil City Road.

24.8 Cross NJ 284. There is limited **parking** along the west side of the road, adjacent to the trail.

25.8 Cross Lott Road (also known as Jersey Avenue). Following the road 0.4mi to the right will take you to Unionville, NY. The village was settled before the civil war and acquired its name from a nearby Union church. Unionville has a **post office** (Zip Code 10988), a **general store** (Horler’s), **camping** (at Unionville Memorial Park, fill out a permission slip at Horler’s first), and a **hostel** (Backtrack Inn).

26.7 Cross Unionville Road.

27.5 Cross Goldsmith Road.

28.0 Cross Goodrich Road

29.0 Cross Gemmer Road.

31.6 Cross County 519. You are now hiking in High Point State Park. This park was established in 1923 on lands donated from Colonel Anthony R. Kuser and was landscaped by the Olmsted brothers, of Central Park fame.

32.9 Reach High Point **Shelter**. This shelter sleeps eight and has a privy. There are two streams nearby, however the **water** is not reliable in dry periods. Filter from the first stream you cross en route to the shelter, as the other drains an area near the privy.

Water can also be obtained at the park headquarters 1.5mi south on the AT (past the junction with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail).

33.4 Junction with the Shawangunk Ridge Trail (SRT). The SRT was officially opened in 1993 and was intended to be a relocation of the Long Path, but now is simply part of the Long Path system that provides an alternative route for hikers wishing to avoid a long road walk through Orange County. The SRT is marked with aqua blazes, like the Long Path (LP). However, the first 1.5mi of trail are co-aligned with the Monument Trail and are marked in that trail’s red over green circular blaze. To continue following the Wallkill Valley Loop, turn right and follow the Monument Trail.

33.6 Reach High Point Monument (1,803’). This is the highest point in New Jersey, on the Kitattinny Ridge, and on the Wallkill Valley Loop. The top of the tower offers 360 degree views of the surrounding lands. Looking north and moving clockwise, you should be able to see the Catskills, the Shawangunks, the Wallkill Valley, the Hudson Highlands, Wawayanda Plateau, the NJ Highlands, the Kittatinnies (Lenape for “endless mountains”), the Delaware River, and the Poconos.

33.7 Reach park concession area. There are restrooms here and also food and **water**.

33.8 Reach a **parking** lot. The trail continues at the end of the lot, past a barricade.

34.3 Pass several side paths with more viewpoints of the area.

34.8 Reach an Atlantic white cedar swamp, the most inland example of such a swamp. Turn left here, beginning to follow the aqua blazes of the LP and SRT. This is part of the Dryden Kuser Natural Area, named for a NJ State senator and son of Colonel Anthony Kuser.

35.2 Turn right and cross the cedar swamp on a boardwalk.

35.5 Rejoin the Monument Trail briefly until top of a small knob. Turn right at the top of the knob and continue along the aqua blazes.

36.2 Cross a small stream. This stream is not a reliable **water** source in dry periods.

36.4 Cross the NY/NJ border (look for a small concrete monument next to a left turn in the trail). The mountain range is known as the Shawangunks in NY. The trail climbs back up the ridge, with several viewpoints. The name “Shawangunk” comes from the Lenape language, roughly translating to “in the smoky air”. The rock of the Shawangunks is a light-colored conglomerate of quartz and sandstone, naturally cemented with silica. This ridgeline is the northern extent of a larger Appalachian Mountain ridge extending all the way to Virginia. The trail here is rough and requires close attention to follow.

37.9 Turn right onto Greenville Turnpike. There is limited **parking** in a pullout about 0.5mi to the west (left).

38.1 Turn left off of Greenville Turnpike into the woods between two large homes.

38.2 Make a left off of the old woods road near a large boulder.

39.7 Reach a high point for the path (~1,400’). An opening in the trees provides a view back to High Point Monument. The path is difficult to find, so pay close attention to your right for markings heading downhill shortly after passing the viewpoint. The trail descends steeply to Old Mountain Road. Use caution making your way down on the loose rock.

40.2 Turn left onto Old Mountain Road.

40.5 Turn left onto US Route 6. The Greenville Firehouse Deli **store** is 0.1mi to the right.

40.9 Cross under I-84.

41.0 Turn left onto Hathorn Boulevard.

41.1 Continue straight ahead on Lake Shore Drive. Hathorn Lake is on your left.

41.4 Reach a cul-de-sac; trail heads into woods here. There is limited **parking** available at the cul-de-sac.

41.5 Pass old cars and trucks. The path here follows the eastern edge of Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, managed by the DEC. The eastern border of the State Forest extends from near the cul-de-sac until the trail crosses the stream valley and turns left (next waypoint). **Camping** is permitted in the forested area to the west, provided you follow DEC camping guidelines.

(<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/publands/bacrule.html>)

42.0 Turn left and cross a stream valley. This stream is not a reliable **water** source in dry periods. The path crosses this seasonal stream several times before heading uphill to a small knob.

42.7 Reach an unnamed knob (1225').

43.2 Reach an open rock slab with views to the west.

43.5 Turn right and follow a service road along side rail tracks. These tracks are for the Main-Bergen line of Metro-North, and run from Port Jervis, NY to Hoboken, NJ.

44.1 Pass under a bridge then climb the embankment on your right.

44.2 Follow the jeep trail to the left.

44.6 Leave the old road, heading to the left.

45.0 Cross stream by a waterfall. This is a reliable **water** source. Above the waterfall there is a grove of hemlocks. This is an excellent spot to stop for a spell.

45.5 Cross stream by a waterfall. This is a reliable **water** source.

45.9 Trail crosses over Guymard Turnpike (stay on the right side of the bridge). There is limited **parking** available for two vehicles on the near side of the bridge, next to the guardrail (but don't block the access road).

46.0 Turn right and follow the old rail bed as it splits away from the Main-Bergen line tracks. This is the original route of the Port Jervis line of the Erie Railroad and was abandoned after the construction of the tunnel underneath Otisville Notch. The rail bed is mostly wooded for the next 2.5mi and passes several seasonal streams (**water** not reliable in dry periods).

47.2 Pass remnants of some old stone structures.

48.9 Reach power lines. The canopy opens up here and views to the west are plentiful for the next 0.5mi.

50.1 Cross NY 211 and follow Otisville Road (County 61). There is a Metro-North **train station** about 1.5mi to the left, offering service between Port Jervis and Hoboken. To reach the Otisville train stop, head east on NY 211. Turn right onto Walker St. and merge onto Main Street heading east. Turn left onto County 11 and after a short distance turn right onto Wallace St. Turn right onto Kelly Hill Rd. and follow to the train platform. **Parking** at the station is free on weekends and holidays, but there is a fee on weekdays. Otisville also has a small **general store** and a **post office** (Otisville, NY 10963). There are also three **campgrounds** in the vicinity, though all will require arranging some sort of transport ahead of time: American Family Campground (1-800-226-7232), Oakland Valley Campground (1-800-8322254), and Otisville Campground (845-386-5104).

51.7 Turn right onto Indian Orchard Road (which becomes South Road).

51.9 Turn left into the woods, just past a DEC **parking** area.

52.0 Turn right onto the Basha Kill Rail Trail. This trail is built on the remains of the Ontario and Western (O&W) Railroad that ran from Port Jervis to Kingston. You are now entering DEC-owned Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area. The Basha Kill is a mix of open water and wetlands formed by meanders of the Basha Kill creek. It is the largest freshwater wetland in southeastern New York State.

52.1 Pass another DEC **parking** area on the right.

52.3 Cross a small stream. This is a fairly reliable **water** source.

52.6 Reach a large DEC **parking** area. There are several short nature trails nearby which offer views of the wetland. Pay careful attention to trail markers to stay on the SRT.

53.3 Reach a DEC **parking** area with a boat launch.

54.9 Cross a small stream. This is a fairly reliable **water** source.

55.1 Cross Haven Road.

55.3 Cross the main DEC **parking** area.

55.7 Pass a short nature trail on the left. This trail leads to a raised viewing platform.

56.2 Pass a side trail that leads to another DEC **parking** area.

56.7 Cross under NY 17.

57.3 Turn left onto South Road (which becomes Pennsylvania Avenue).

58.2 Turn right onto Sullivan Street. The trail passes right through the Village of Wurtsboro. Wurtsboro, once known as Mamakating Hollow, was named after the Wurts brothers, builders of the D&H Canal. Services can be found to the left, including **grocery stores, restaurants, and lodging**. The **post office** (Wurtsboro, NY 12790) is on the trail, to the right.

58.6 Pass the old O&W train station, now a private museum.

59.2 Turn left onto an old dirt road, a continuation of the abandoned O&W rail corridor. The trail turns into the woods almost immediately on the right.

60.2 Reach an open rock slab with panoramic views and the junction with the Long Path. This junction is within Wurtsboro Ridge State Forest and is marked with blue DEC disks. **Camping** is permitted in the forest, provided you follow DEC camping guidelines (see mile 41.7 entry for link to DEC guidelines). To continue hiking the Wallkill Valley Loop, turn right onto the Long Path (heading towards NYC). The Long Path is a footpath from Fort Lee, NJ (just west of the George Washington Bridge) to Altamont, NY (near Albany), nearly 350 miles in length. It was conceived in the 1930s by Vincent Schaefer as an unmarked footpath connecting scenic and historic points of interest, from George Washington Bridge to Whiteface Mountain, in the Adirondacks. Due to the large amount of land in private ownership, the modern Long Path is a marked footpath. The NY/NJ Trail Conference works yearly to get the path off of the roads and to realize the vision of a continuous pathway to the Adirondacks.

60.5 Follow the gravel roads down the ridge. This road was to be part of a subdivision on the ridge that failed when the owner went bankrupt.

60.7 Turn left onto Shawanga Lodge Road. This begins the long road walk section to Woodcock Mountain, approximately 33 miles long, with an off-road break in Highland Lakes State Park. If you are biking, you can leave from here or at the intersection of Shawanga Lodge Road and Crane Road (see next waypoint), where there is room for a support vehicle to pull off the road and drop off bikes.

61.3 Turn right onto Crane Road.

62.0 Turn right onto Roosa Gap Road.

62.1 Turn left on Pantelop Road (also known as Roe Road).

62.7 Cross Nashopa Road.

64.0 Turn right onto County 61.

64.2 Turn left onto Rouis Road.

64.3 Turn left onto Larson Road.

64.4 Bridge over the Shawangunk Kill. This reach of the Shawangunk Kill is a state-designated recreational river, which is preserved in a free-flowing condition under the New York State Wild Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act.

64.5 Turn right onto Stone School House Road.

65.3 Turn left onto Petticoate Lane.

66.7 Turn left onto Long Lane.

67.3 Turn right onto Burlingham Road.

68.8 Turn right onto NY 302.

69.1 Cross NY 17K and follow Lybolt Road, a slight left where the road splits. You are now in Bullville. There is a gas station **convenient store**, a **farm stand**, and a **pizza** place all within sight of this intersection. The **post office** (652 Lybolt Rd, Middletown, NY 10941) is along the path, south of the intersection. There is plenty of **parking** available in the vicinity of this intersection.

70.2 Continue left at a 3-way intersection onto Gordon Road.

70.7 Turn right onto King Road.

72.3 Cross Scotchtown Road and follow Tamms Road.

73.0 Look for the path on the right, entering Highland Lakes State Park. This 3,155 acre undeveloped park was created by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission through a series of land purchases, completed in 1974. You will pass a **parking** area on the way, about 0.3 mi from where the trail enters the woods. If you are biking the Long Path section of the Wallkill Valley Loop, then it

is recommended that you follow on alternate route: Stay on Tamms Road to Last Road and continue straight ahead. Take a right onto Crans Road, then another right onto Van Amburgh Road, and then right again onto Prospect Road. Prospect Road turns to the left and becomes Camp Orange Road. Turn right onto NY 211. Turn left onto County 53 and continue with Loop Guide directions from there.

73.1 Cross a meadow, follow blazes closely through numerous intersecting roads and paths.

74.6 Pass a small lake.

74.9 Bear right as another road comes in from the left.

75.1 Continue straight at an intersection with an oak tree at the center.

75.7 Turn right onto Camp Orange Road.

75.8 Turn left onto a main park road.

77.0 Exit Highland Lakes State Park.

77.1 Follow path through a field to a mobile home community driveway.

77.3 Cross NY 211 and follow Hidden Drive.

77.5 Turn left onto path through a field.

77.9 Turn right onto County 53.

78.5 Cross under I-84.

79.8 Bridge over the Wallkill River. You are now in the heart of the Wallkill River valley, which is a small part of the Great Appalachian Valley and is bounded in the north by the Hudson River valley and in the south by the Kittatinny valley. The Esopus Indians who lived here referred to the river valley as “Twischsawkin”, roughly meaning “the land where plums abound”. After settlement by the Dutch, the valley was referred to as the “Drowned Lands”, owing to the extensive flooding in the valley during the spring months. After the creation of a series of canals in the 1800s, the area was extensively farmed. The rich agricultural soils of the region are still evident in “Black Dirt Region”, surrounding Warwick (to the south). Today the valley is experiencing a new form of use, in the form of rapid suburbanization.

80.9 Turn left onto NY 207. There is a small café at this intersection.

81.1 Turn right onto County 77 (Egbertson Road).

81.8 Intersection with Watkins Road. To the left, approximately 0.4 mi, is the Campbell Hall Metro-North **train station**, which offers service between Port Jervis and Hoboken. **Parking** at the station is free on weekends and holidays, but there is a fee on weekdays.

82.9 Turn right onto County 8 (Sarah Wells Trail).

83.1 Turn left onto Pische Road.

83.9 Turn left onto Purgatory Road.

85.4 Cross Ridge Road.

86.2 Turn left onto Goshen Road.

86.7 Turn left onto Hulsetown Road.

88.0 Turn right onto Cherry Hill Road.

89.5 Turn right onto Tuthill Road.

90.0 Turn left onto NY 94.

90.1 Turn right onto Horton Road.

91.3 Turn left onto NY 208.

91.5 Turn right onto Woodcock Mountain Road. Washingtonville, NY is 0.4 mi ahead on NY 208.

94.0 Turn right into the forest. If you are biking the Long Path section, this is a good place to stop and for a support vehicle to pick up bikes.

94.5 Cross an open field and turn left onto an abandoned paved road.

95.1 Turn right onto Clove Road. The shoulder is narrow and the traffic fast here: use caution.

95.6 Turn left into a small grassy **parking** area just past Hil-Mar lodge. **Camping** is available if you call well in advance (845-496-4869) to get permission to camp on this privately owned property.

95.9 Cross a small stream. This stream may not be a reliable **water** source during dry periods. You are now entering Schunemunk Mountain State Park and Preserve. This area was protected thanks to the work of the Open Space Institute and the Nature Conservancy in the 1990s and was dedicated as a New York State park in 2001. The name “Schunemunk” comes from the Lenape

for “excellent fireplace”.

- 97.0** Reach the intersection of Barton Swamp and Trestle trails. Turn right and continue along the Long Path. There is an excellent viewpoint northward to the Catskills about 0.1 miles on the Trestle Trail.
- 97.5** Reach the intersection with Sweet Clover trail.
- 97.7** Reach open ridgeline with views eastward towards Woodcock Hill and the Shawangunks. The pinkish-colored, sedimentary rock along this ridgeline is often referred to as “puddingstone” due to its resemblance to plum pudding. The rock consists of various-sized bits of quartz and red sandstone pebbles, which are naturally cemented with hematite. The ridges around this viewpoint are dominated by pitch pine, which can tolerate the high winds and poor soils on the exposed rock.
- 98.2** Reach intersection with Western Ridge trail. Less than a mile down this trail is the summit of Schunemunk Mountain, the highest point in Orange County (1,664’).
- 98.5** Reach intersection with Barton Swamp trail.
- 99.7** Cross a woods road.
- 100.0** Junction with the Highlands Trail. This trail has been designated one of 50 Millennium Legacy Trails and, though not yet complete, will eventually connect the Hudson and Delaware rivers. To continue hiking the Wallkill Valley Loop, turn right and follow the Highlands Trail, which is marked with teal diamond blazes (co-aligned with Jessup Trail on Schunemunk Mountain, which is marked with yellow blazes).
- 101.6** Cross under an abandoned telephone line.
- 103.5** Turn right onto Seven Springs Road.
- 103.8** Cross County 44 (Mountain Road).
- 104.2** Turn right into a residential area.
- 104.7** Cross NY 208 and follow Orange-Rockland Lake shoreline.
- 105.0** Turn left onto Museum Village Road.
- 105.2** Cross over NY 17.
- 105.4** Turn right onto Orange Heritage Trail, a rail trail connecting Goshen to Monroe on the former Goshen line of the Erie Railroad. If you continue ahead on the road, you will reach Museum Village, a living history museum that provides a glimpse of 19th century life. The hours for the museum vary, so call ahead (845-782-8248) if interested in visiting.
- 105.7** Cross under NY 17.
- 106.4** Turn right just before a bridge and go down embankment.
- 106.5** Turn left under the bridge onto Craigsville Road.
- 106.9** Cross NY 17 for the last time.
- 107.0** Turn left onto NY 17M.
- 107.1** Enter Goose Pond Mountain State Park. The 1,588 acres of this park are managed as undeveloped open space by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. There is a **parking** area for the park on the opposite side of the road.
- 108.7** Turn left onto County 45 (Laroe Road), exiting Goose Pond Mountain State Park. There is another **parking** area nearby, just past an intersection with Spruce Hill Ct. Use caution hiking here as there are no shoulders, the road is windy with blind spots, and traffic is fast moving.
- 109.7** Turn right onto Gibson Hill Road.
- 110.2** Turn left onto McGuinnessburg Mountain Road.
- 110.3** Bear left at a fork. You are now passing through McGuinnessburg Cemetery.
- 110.4** Turn right and follow a woods road up to Bellvale Ridge.
- 111.4** Junction with the Appalachian Trail (AT). Turn right onto the AT, which is marked with white rectangular blazes, to continue hiking the Wallkill Valley Loop.
- 111.9** Reach Wildcat **Shelter**. This shelter sleeps eight and has a privy. There is **water** available from a spring near the intersection of the AT and the side trail to the shelter.
- 112.2** Reach Cat Rocks.
- 112.7** Reach the summit of the eastern Pinnacles (1,294’).
- 114.0** Cross NY 17A. The Bellvale Mountain **parking** area is nearby. 0.1mi to the right is Bellvale Creamery, which offers treats and ice cream.

116.1 Reach the junction with the Village Vista Trail. To return to the Village of Greenwood Lake and complete the Wallkill Valley Loop, turn left and head down the ridge.

117.0 End the hike at Lion's Field. The Village of Greenwood Lake has **lodging, grocery stores, restaurants,** and a **post office** (Greenwood Lake, NY 10925). There is **bus service** to Greenwood Lake via NJ Transit lines 196 and 197 from Port Authority terminal (stop at Greenwood Lake Park & Ride).

Please note: the information in the guide can never be 100% complete or accurate. Distances may not be exact, trail locations change, blazes can be lost, services may no longer be available, etc. As a hiker, you must always be prepared!