

JOE 2019 Information Packet for Moderate Lenape Ridge/Minisink Trail Loop Hike (afternoon)

Day: Saturday Afternoon	Start Time: 12:30 pm	End Time: 4:30 pm
Co-Leader: Terry Auspitz	Co-Leader: Gayle Nadler	Limit: 12 people
Transportation: Personal Cars	Driver: Terry Auspitz - Car Susan Kappel - Car Catherine Gibson - Car	Radios: 2 / First Aid Kit: 1
Fees: none	Travel Distance: 14 Mile – One way	Travel Time: 16 Min.- One Way

Moderate Lenape Ridge/Minisink Trail Loop Hike (afternoon)

This easy-moderate loop hike follows the Lenape Ridge within the Huckleberry Ridge State Forest, with interesting vegetation and panoramic views over the Heinlein Pond, Shawangunk Ridge in NY, High Point in NJ and beyond. This hike is a very simple, narrow loop, a four-mile hike which passes through rhododendron and hemlock forests. Since it is a ridge walk, it's an easy-going journey with minimal ups and downs once you attain the ridgelines. Approx. 630+ Ft. overall elevation gain.

- Bring: Food, Water, Hiking Shoes, Walking Stick, Hat
- Distance from Camp: 14 Miles /16 Min. One Way

Websites of interest:

- [Paul Takes a Hike - Key Pictures of the trail](#)
- [The Trails of NJ and NY in Pictures](#)
- [Gone Hiking Blog of Lenape Ridge and Minisink Trails](#)

Logistics:

Depart Camp: 12:30 pm

- 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm Travel to Trailhead and prep
- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Hike Trail (three hours to hike four miles)
- 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm Return to camp

Trail Description

From the parking area, head north on a footpath, following the red blazes of the Lenape Ridge Trail and the yellow blazes of the Minisink Trail. Bear right at a junction with an unmarked trail and continue through an attractive forest of deciduous trees and white pines, with an understory of blueberries and ferns.

Soon you'll come to a fork where the two trails diverge. The yellow-blazed Minisink Trail will be your return route, but for now, bear right and continue ahead on the red-blazed Lenape Ridge Trail.



Soon, the trail begins to climb on switchbacks towards the ridge, then levels off just below the ridge. Here, the forest is composed of deciduous trees and hemlocks, with sprouts of American chestnut mixed in. Although decimated by the chestnut blight over a century ago, chestnut seedlings still sprout from the roots of trees that have been killed by the blight and can reach a height of up to 20 feet before succumbing to this

disease.

Lenape Ridge Shale Outcropping: Soon after reaching the crest of the ridge, the trail emerges onto an open area with rock outcrops. The outcrops along the ridge are formed of shale, a relatively soft and crumbly rock, which has been uplifted and slanted at sharp angles.

In about a quarter-mile, you'll reach a panoramic viewpoint over the Shawangunk Ridge. The High Point Monument (which marks the highest point in the state of New Jersey) is visible to the right, and you can see (and, unfortunately, hear) the traffic as it makes its way up the ridge on I-84. You'll want to stop here to take in the view.

Continue north along the ridge and, you'll soon reach another viewpoint, this one marked by pitch pines and cedars, from which you can see the crest of I-84 as it cuts across the Shawangunk Ridge. In another quarter mile, you'll reach a third broad viewpoint, from where you can look down through the trees at Heinlein Pond below.

High Point Monument from the Lenape Ridge Trail: After following an open section of the ridge (with views to the east blocked by trees), the trail turns sharply right and descends slightly. A short distance ahead, the trail briefly joins a wooded road which comes up from the left, then turns left, leaving the road, and continues with a footpath.

In another quarter-mile, the yellow-blazed Minisink Trail joins from the left at a power line clearing, which affords a broad west-facing view over tranquil farmland.



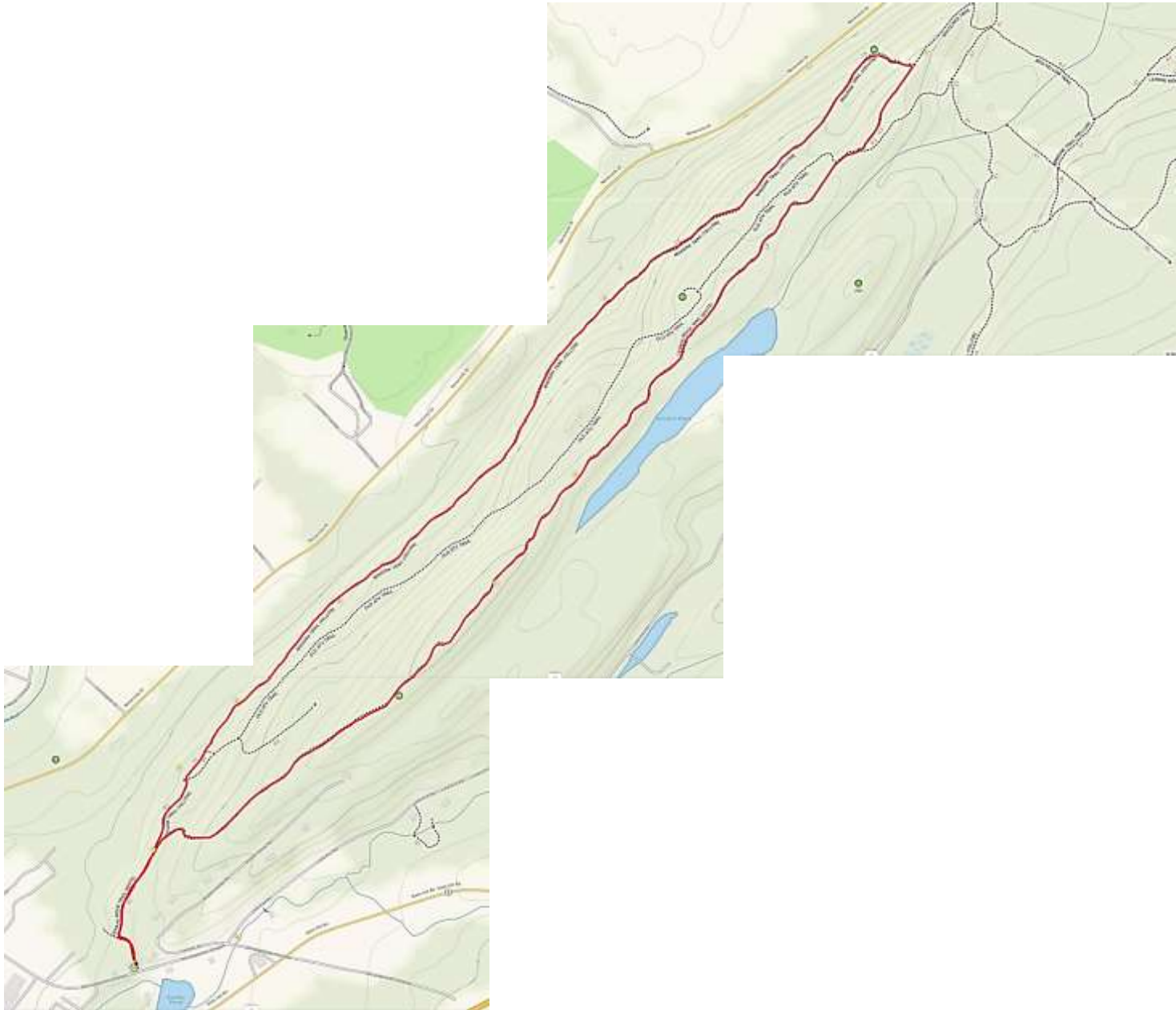
After taking in the view, turn around and proceed south on the yellow-blazed Minisink Trail. You're now following the western side of the ridge and paralleling the Metro-North Port Jervis Line, which is visible in places immediately to the west (right). Unlike the trail along the eastern side of the ridge, which is nearly level, the trail along the western face features several rather steep ups and downs.

The Minisink Trail descends on switchbacks along an old power line access road, then descends more steeply on a footpath. At the base of the descent, it passes an attractive stand of rhododendron, then climbs again to emerge onto an exposed section of the ridge, with west-facing views. Look carefully for blazes in this area. The trail soon descends and continues through a hemlock grove.

Upon reaching an outcrop of massive boulders, the trail turns right and descends steeply along the boulders. After a short level stretch, the trail again begins to climb, with a short side trail leading out to the right towards the railroad tracks. Soon, the trail begins to run along the side of a hill, with some ups and downs. In several places, it runs along a steep escarpment on the right and passes more massive rock outcrops on the left.

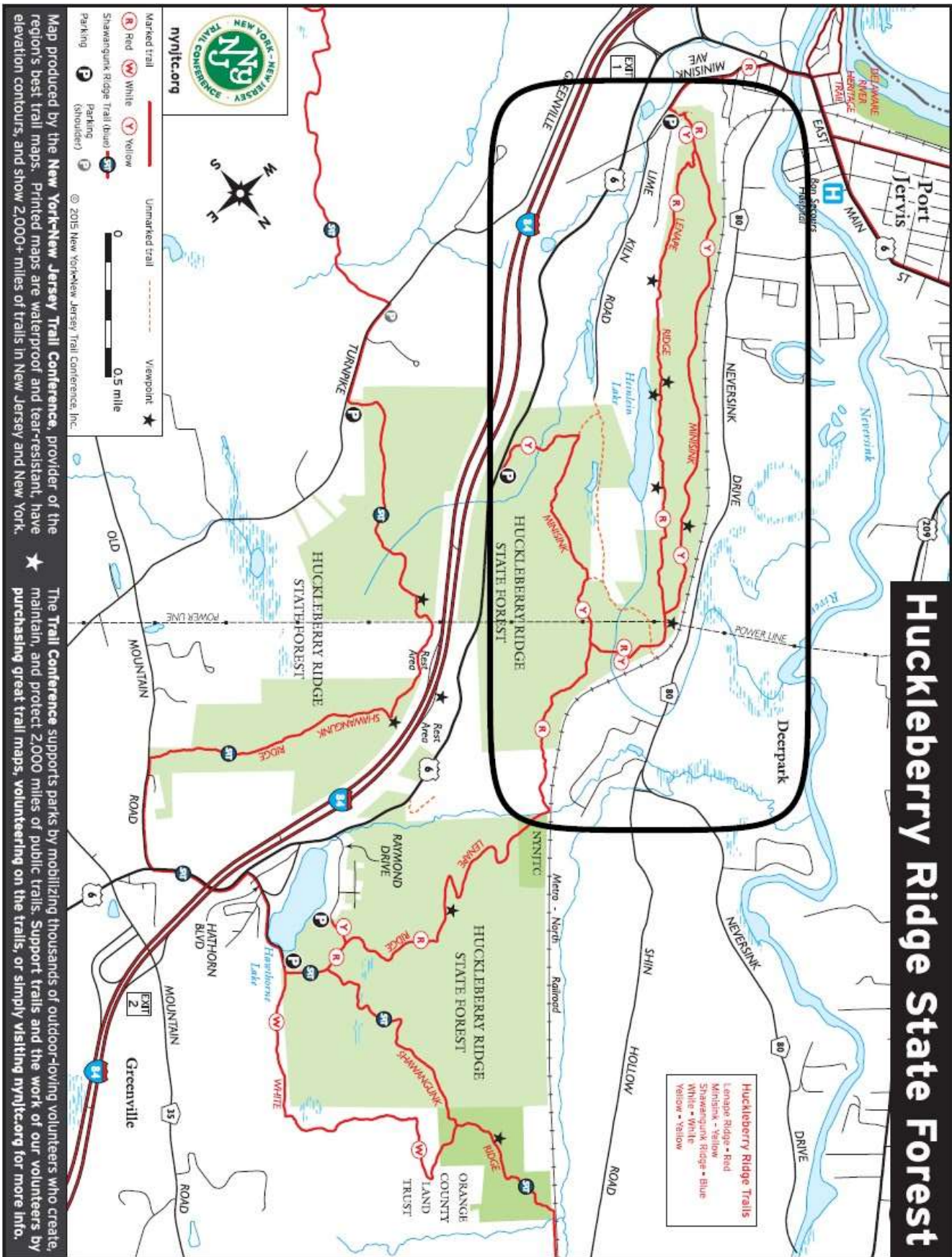
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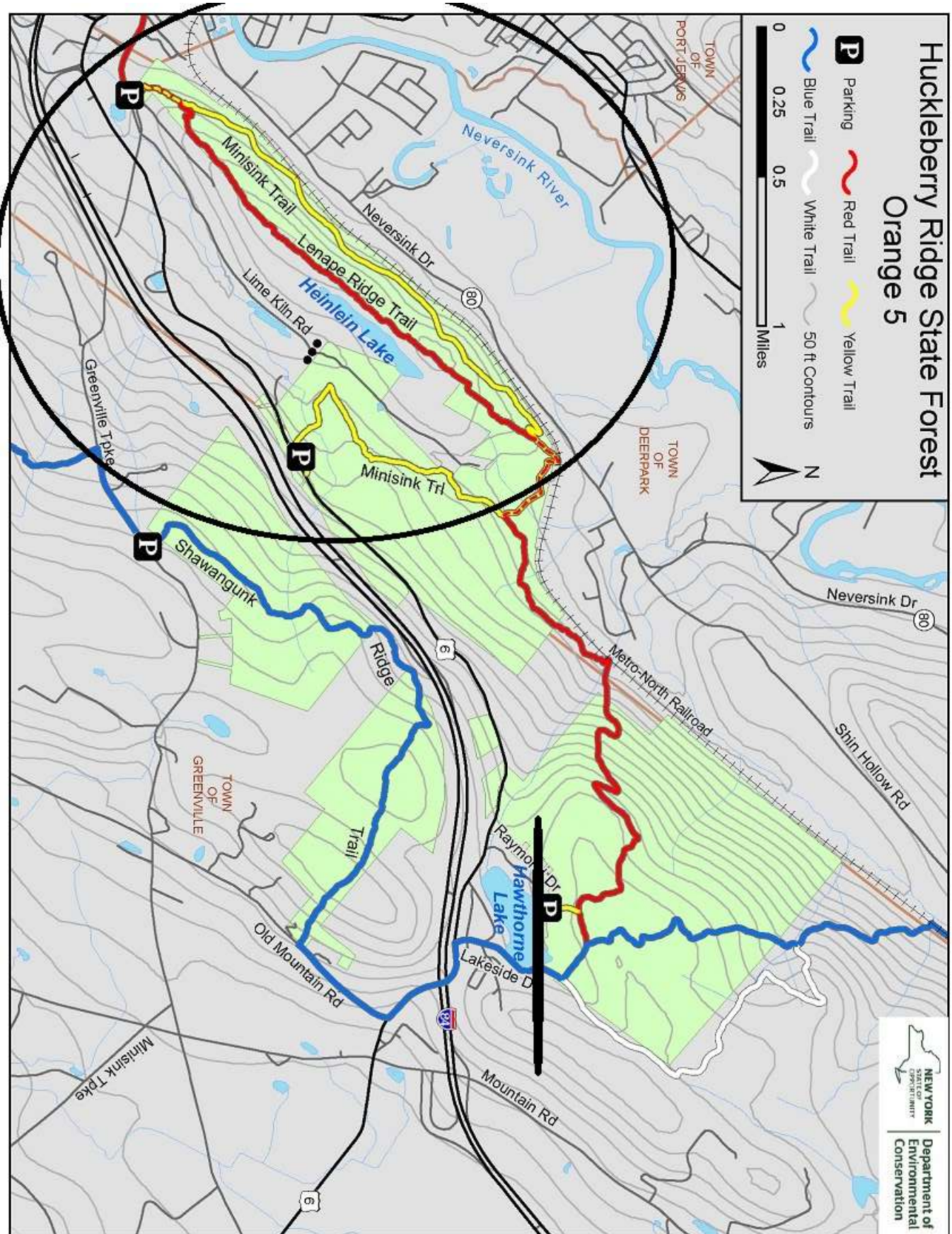
After nearly two miles of hiking along the western side of the ridge, the trail joins a wooded road for a short distance, then bears left and continues on a footpath. A quarter-mile beyond, you'll reach the junction with the red-blazed Lenape Ridge Trail. Turn right and follow the co-aligned red and yellow trails back to the trailhead.



Hike Profile:







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Trailhead: 41.358297, -74.677262 or 17 Old Greenville Turnpike, Port Jervis, NY 12771

16MIN 13.3MI

1. Start out going northwest on Sawkill Rd. toward Bridge Rd.
 - a. Then 0.21 miles 0.21 total miles
2. Take the 1st right onto Bridge Rd.
 - a. If you reach the Grand Army of the Republic Hwy. you've gone about 0.2 miles too far
 - b. Then 0.16 miles 0.37 total miles
3. Turn right onto Grand Army of the Republic Hwy./US-6 E. Continue to follow US-6 E.
 - a. Then 2.69 miles 3.06 total miles
4. Merge onto I-84 E toward Port Jervis (Crossing into New York).
 - a. Then 8.89 miles 11.95 total miles
5. Take EXIT 1 toward US-6/Port Jervis/Sussex/NY-23. This exit appears very quickly after crossing into New York.
 - a. Then 0.31 miles 12.25 total miles
6. Turn right onto County Hwy-15 towards Port Jervis
 - a. Then 0.25 miles 12.50 total miles
7. Turn right onto US Highway 6/US-6 E.
 - a. Then 0.53 miles 13.03 total miles
8. Go a short distance turning left just after Sinclair with DinoCare Gas Station into the driveway for First AG. Church (<https://portjervis.church>)
9. Go to the other end of this driveway on Old Greenville Turnpike. Turn right, and the trailhead is just ahead on the left. Look for the sign for Huckleberry Ridge State Forest
10. 41.358297, -74.677262 / 17 Old Greenville Turnpike, Port Jervis, NY 12771
 - a. Your destination is 0.1 miles past Lime Kiln Rd.
 - b. If you are on Minisink Ave. and reach Woodland Dr., you've gone about 0.2 miles too far



appears very quickly



Nearest Hospital



**Bon Secours
Community Hospital**
Westchester Medical Center Health Network

160 E Main St, Port Jervis, NY 12771 (845) 858-7000

<https://www.bonsecourscommunityhosp.org/emergency-dept>

Directions from trailhead to Bon Secours

3MIN 1.0MI

1. Start out going west on Old Greenville Turnpike toward Minisink Ave.
 - a. Then 0.15 miles 0.15 total miles
2. Old Greenville Turnpike becomes Minisink Ave.
 - a. Then 0.26 miles 0.41 total miles
3. Turn slight right onto E. Main St/US-6 W.
 - a. E Main St. is just past Bennett St.
 - b. Phil's Ford is on the corner
 - c. Then 0.60 miles 1.01 total miles
4. Bon Secours, 160 E Main St., Port Jervis, NY 12771 is on the right.
 - a. Your destination is just past Skinner St.
 - b. If you reach Pennsylvania Ave., you've gone about 0.2 miles too far

