



South Mountain Conservancy

South Mountain Reservation Advocacy and Stewardship

Favorite SMR Hike

Hike Name:	Hemlock Falls Loop from Tulip Springs		
Author:	Dave Hogenauer	Date Published:	3/24/2015
Overview:	An easy walk to the falls and then a more challenging one circling the falls.		
Features:	Two falls and a brook.		
Length (miles):	1.6	Difficulty:	Easy to Moderate
		Approx. Time (hrs.):	1.5
Start:	Tulip Springs, located 0.4 miles north of the light at the intersection of S. Orange Ave. and Cherry Lane/Brookside Dr.		
Map Link:	Sector 9c on map or go to www.somocon.org/about-the-reservation/maps-of-locations/		
Route Description			
1	Facing the kiosk in the Tulip Springs parking lot, turn left and cross the entry road to the yellow-blazed Lenape Trail. Ascend a broad stairway, continue uphill, and cross a white pine forest to a woods road, and turn right onto the road and follow it to the pedestrian bridge over S. Orange Ave.		
Miles: 0.2			
[Total: 0.2]			
2	Continue on the woods road, following the yellow blazes. Another woods road will come in from the left. Continue on the road to the kiosk and turn left. Following the yellow blazes, pass a stone bridge on the right, a small falls on the left (Cobble Falls) and then cross a second stone bridge. Turn left for a good view of the falls (there are benches to rest at). <i>Note: Hemlock Falls is 25 feet tall, the tallest falls in the park. The evergreens in the area are Hemlocks, known for short needles and very small cones.</i>		
Miles: 0.3			
[Total: 0.5]			
3	Reversing your route, cross back over the bridge and immediately on your right pick up the trail with a red circle in the middle of a white blaze. This is the Hemlock Falls Loop Trail. Ascend to the stone stair case and at the top turn right onto a paved path. Passing a couple park benches on the right, the trail will bear right at an angle away from the paved path after about 50 feet. It will cross some rock outcroppings, make a hairpin turn and cross the brook at a narrow spot. <i>Note: Be careful not to step on wet rock which can be slippery. If there is high water, this brook crossing will not be passable.</i>		
Miles: 0.2			
[Total: 0.7]			
4	After crossing the brook the trail turns left, following the brook. After a while it turns sharply right at the bottom of a small cliff, and makes a couple sharp turns to come out on the top of it. Crossing an open woods and then a woods or wide gravel road (the Openwood Trail), the trail makes a ninety degree turn to the right. Soon it crosses the same Openwood Trail again and goes along the edge of a steep cliff. <i>Note: In winter, from the steep cliff, the falls and the adjoining hollow or cirque can be seen across the chasm.</i>		
Miles: 0.3			
[Total: 1.0]			
5	The yellow-blazed Lenape Trail crosses the red dot trail at this point. Pick it up by making a very sharp, hairpin turn to the right. It descends the chasm wall at a moderate angle down the slabbing stone. At the bottom, it makes a sharp left turn and going along the bottom of the chasm, comes out again at Hemlock Falls.		
Miles: 0.1			
[Total: 1.1]			
6	From this point retrace your footsteps from sections 1 and 2 above to return to the Tulip Springs parking lot. Be sure, after crossing the pedestrian bridge to bear left through the white pine grove on the yellow Lenape trail.		
Miles: 0.5			
[Total: 1.6]			