



South Mountain Conservancy

South Mountain Reservation Stewardship and Advocacy

SMR Hikes – Fall 2017

These South Mountain Reservation hikes are sponsored by the South Mountain Conservancy and are free and open to all, including children 10 and older with their families. Get to know your park better in the company of others who enjoy the outdoors. You do not need to register, just be at the starting point about 10 minutes ahead of time so the hike can start promptly. Times are our best estimates; they can vary depending on conditions, and the size and pace of a group. If you have any questions, call the leader. Steady rain cancels, but intermittent drizzle does not. Check our Facebook and Meetup pages for updates. **Bring water and shoes with good traction.** For directions to starting locations, go to www.somocon.org/about-the-reservation. Note: Dogs are not allowed on hikes unless specified.

General Locations:

Locust Grove picnic area: 197 Glen Avenue, Millburn, across from the first aid station and intersection with Lackawanna Place. On weekends, additional parking across the street.

Tulip Springs picnic area: 0.4 miles north of the traffic light on the corner of South Orange Ave. and Brookside Dr./Cherry La. or 0.8 miles south of the light at Northfield and Cherry/Pleasant Valley. After turning off of Cherry La., make an immediate right turn to reach the larger parking area.

Turtle Back picnic area: In West Orange, drive east on Northfield Ave. passing the ice skating area and zoo and about 3 traffic lights. Turn right at the light onto Walker Road and continue about 0.2 miles. The park entrance is on the right.

Sunday, Sept. 24: 10-12:30: Elmdale

Meet at: Locust Grove, Millburn (remember available parking across the street next to library). Hiking Blue Blazed - Elmdale trail just to the lollipop and upper route back. two nice climbs 4+ miles. Water & boots are always recommended. Please arrive at 9:45 in order to leave on time! Note: Brookside Drive is closed on Sunday mornings between South Orange Ave. and Glen. **Leader:** Gail Waimon 973-229-7414.

Sunday, Oct. 1: 10-12:30: Tulip Springs Circular

Meet at: 9:45 at Tulip Springs. We will hike up the hill to the Girl Scout Oval, cross SO Avenue on the new foot bridge, pass by Hemlock Falls, pick up the white trail and bushwhack along the river to the stone bridge, and Painters Point and back on white. About 4 miles at a moderate to fast pace. Tulip Springs is located off of Cherry Lane, 0.4 miles north of the light at the corner of S.O. Ave. and Cherry Lane. Upon leaving Cherry Lane, turn immediately right to reach Tulip Springs. **Leader:** Bijoy Mechery 908-487-8482.

Sat., October 7: 10-12:30: Lenape Circular

Meet at: Locust Grove, Millburn (remember plenty of parking across the street next to the library). Strong climb up the stairs to the Lenape to Bear Lane and then the Swampy trail back to the Lenape. A good 3.5 mile route. **Leader:** Gail Waimon 973-229-7414.

Sunday, October 8th, 10 – 12: Tulip Springs to Hemlock Falls and Around.

Starting from Tulip Springs, we'll cross over South Orange Ave, pass Hemlock Falls and then loop our way back. **Meet at:** Tulip Springs located 0.4 miles north of the light at South Orange Ave. and Brookside Drive/Cherry Lane. After you leave Cherry Lane, turn immediately right to reach Tulip Springs. About 2.5 Miles. **Leader:** Lou Nocito 973-953-7099

Sat., Oct. 14: 9:45-1:00: Mayapple Hill

Meet at: Mayapple Hill parking lot at 9:45 for a 10am start. 2.5 to 3 hours, brisk 4 to 5 miles. Leader's choice of trails depending on weather, underfoot conditions, composition of the group, etc. Promise of a good work out and not meant for the faint hearted! The entrance to Mayapple Hill is located 0.1 mile west (uphill) from the light at the corner of Pleasant Valley Way/ Cherry Lane and Northfield Ave. **Leader:** Bijoy Mechery, 908-487-8482.

Sat., Oct. 21: 10-12: Nature Walk: the Woods in Autumn

A leisurely walk, no more than two miles, to take note of the fruits, nuts, and seeds as well as the colors of autumn as the plants ready themselves for a long winter's nap and the chance to grow again come spring. **Meet at:** Dogwood Hill parking area at the bottom of a broad grassy field 0.6 miles south of the light at the corner of Brookside Drive and S. Orange Ave. **Leader:** Dave Hogenauer 973-287-6268.

2017 Fall SMC Hikes

Sunday, October 29, 10 - 3:30. Lenape-Rahway combo from Tulip Springs.

About 6 miles with several uphill. Bring a snack. **Meet at:** Tulip Springs in located 0/4 miles north of the light at South Orange Ave and Brookside Drive/Cherry Lane. After you leave Cherry Lane, turn immediately right to reach Tulip Springs. **Leader:** Lou Nocito: 973-953-7099 (cell).

Friday, Nov. 3, 7:00-8:45 p.m. Beaver Moon Night Hike. A moderate hike in the dark to Washington Rock to see the new shelter just one day before November's full moon. **Meet at:** Dog Park (10 Bear Lane) off Crest Drive. For ages 15 and above. **Bring a flashlight** - sunset is at 5:50 p.m. **Leader:** Dennis Percher, [973-868-6994](tel:973-868-6994)

Sat., Nov. 4: 10-12:30: Mayapple Hill

Meet at: Mayapple Hill parking lot at 9:45 for a 10am start. 2.5 to 3 hours, 4 to 5 miles, leader's choice of trails depending on weather, underfoot conditions, composition of the group etc. Promise of a good work out and not meant for the faint hearted! ! The entrance to Mayapple Hill is located 0.1 mile west (uphill) from the light at the corner of Pleasant Valley Way/ Cherry Lane and Northfield Ave. **Leader:** Bijoy Mechery, 908-487-8482.

Sat., November 11: 10-12: Old Short Hills Park

A crisp moderate hike on mostly easy terrain with some ups and downs, crossing Brookside and onto the Painter's Point area and back. About 3-4 miles. Water and boots are always recommended. Please arrive 9:45 in order to leave on time! **Meet at:** Old Short Hills Park, 274 Old Short Hills Rd., Millburn. **Leader:** Gail Waimon 973-229-7414.

Sat., November 18: 10-12: Washington Rock

We will walk to this famous location from which Washington is supposed to have observed the Battle of Springfield during the Revolutionary War. 2 miles at an easy to moderate pace on trails not as frequently taken. **Meet at:** Wild Flower/Forest Preserve and Dog Park, off of Crest Drive at the top of the mountain. **Leader:** Kirk Barrett 973-207-5353

Sunday, November 26, 9:30 - 11:30: Oakdale Loop

A stroll of about 3 miles at a moderate pace with only one moderate uphill section. **Meet at:** Oakdale Picnic Grove off Cherry Lane, about 0.3 miles south of the light on Northfield Ave., or one mile north of the light on South Orange Ave. **Leader:** Lou Nocito 973-953-7099 (cell).

Sun., Dec. 3: 2-4: Hoskier Road, South Orange: Unusual Entrances to the Park

Repeating one of the series of hikes utilizing seldom used entrances to the reservation, we will walk about 3 miles at an easy to moderate pace. **Meet at:** Hoskier Rd. is located off of Glenview Rd. about 0.6 miles north of the traffic light on South Orange Ave. near the crest of the mountain. **Leader:** Dave Hogenauer -973-287-6268.

Sat., Dec. 9: 10-12: Turtle Back Rock and Turtle Back Trail

We will hike about 4 miles, passing Turtle Back Rock, and going at a moderate to fast pace trace a broad circle on the west side of First Mountain. **Meet at:** Turtle Back picnic grove off of Walker Road in West Orange. **Leader:** Kirk Barrett 973-207-5353.

Sunday, December 17, 10 - 3:00. The Great Circle

We will hike from Locust Grove along the Lenape Trail with a break at Hemlock Falls. We'll return along the Rahway River. Bring a snack. This is a hike of 6 miles with some uphill sections. **Meet at:** Locust Grove opposite the First Aid Station on Glen Ave. in Millburn. **Leader:** Lou Nocito: 973-953-7099 (cell).