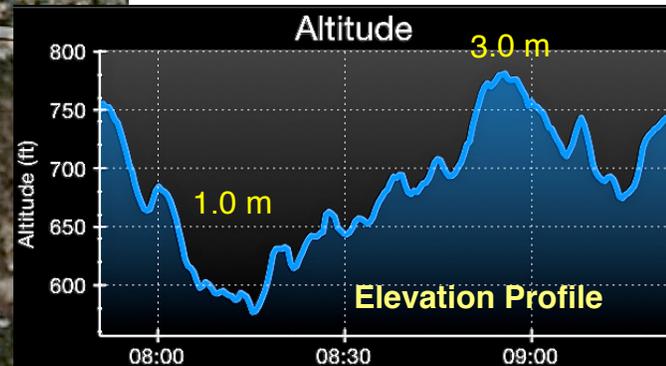


**Punch Brook Loop:**  
**Class 1**  
**4.0 miles**  
**900' vertical**  
**2.2 hours**



state forest border



Mileage summary  
 descend on B/Y to B/P junction at 0.6 >  
 turn right on B/P and a 90° left at 1.2 >  
 cross bridge over Punch Brook at 1.3 >  
 ascend 3 hills on B/P to B/Y at 2.1 >  
 turn left and ascend on B/Y to 3.0 >  
 cross road and return to car at 4.0

The hike begins at the Stone Road parking lot ( 41°45'19.1"N 72°56'23.8"W), 0.3 miles south of the stop sign at George Washington Turnpike. 100 yards after the road turns to gravel, turn right on the blue blaze with a Yellow Dot trail (B/Y) just south of a green gate. At 0.6 miles, cross the cul-de-sac of George Washington Turnpike, and turn right at the trail junction to follow the blue blaze with Purple Dot trail (B/P). At 0.8 miles, cross over Punch Brook, which might be a challenge if it has been extremely wet. Punch Brook Road is reached at 1.0 mile. Before crossing the road, look slightly to your left. This is one of the best locations in town to spot an eagle or other raptors in flight, since it is above a series of ponds that are part of the State Fish Hatchery.

At 1.2 miles there is a trail relocation (2014). The old trail goes straight, but onto private property (note photo). The new trail makes a 90° left turn and crosses Punch Brook on a new bridge (1.3 miles). You now encounter a series of 3 steep ascents. The first one is the steepest (Trekking poles could help) and the third might require your hands to climb up a rocky section. The trail then flattens out and starts a gradual descent to the junction with the B/Y at 2.1 miles. Turn left on this trail, hiking uphill to the junction with Punch Brook Road at 3.0 miles. The B/Y trail passes the earlier junction with the B/P trail at 3.4 miles. After hopping over Punch Brook again, you reach your car at 4.0 miles.