

Punch Brook Loop:

Class 1

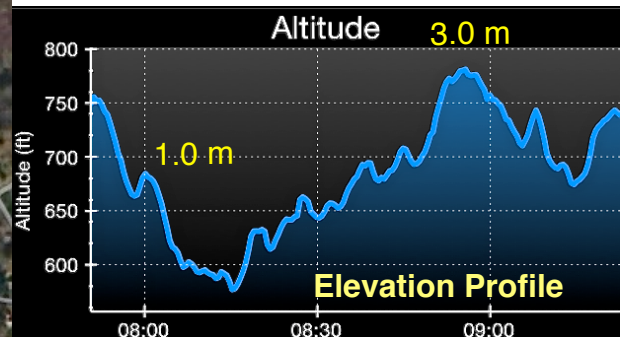
4.0 miles

900' vertical

2.2 hours



The new Blue / Yellow plastic trail markers



Mileage summary

descend on B/Y to B/P junction at 0.6 > turn right on B/P > at 1.0 cross road > cross bridge over Punch Brook at 1.3 > ascend several slopes 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 (41.755306, -72.939944). Hike south for 100 yards on the road, then turn right near a green gate onto the Blue/Yellow Trail. At 0.6 miles, cross the cul-de-sac of George Washington Turnpike and descend a short steep slope. Turn right at the bottom following the new plastic Blue/Purple Trail markers (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 then crossed at 1.0 mile. Before crossing the road, look slightly to your left. This is a good location to spot an eagle or other raptors in flight, since it is above a series of ponds for the State Fish Hatchery.

At 1.2 miles there is a trail junction with the end of the Blue / Red Trail (B/R) which goes to Taine Mountain. The Blue / Purple Trail turns left and crosses Punch Brook on a quality bridge (1.3 miles). You now encounter a series of switchbacks up a steep slope, followed by a peaceful walk through a tall planted pine forest. The trail's next challenge is a climb up a steep Class 1+ rocky ledge that might require your hands. The trail then flattens out and starts a gradual descent to the junction with the B/Y at 2.1 miles. Turn left onto the B/Y trail, hiking uphill to the junction with Punch Brook Road at 3.0 miles. Turn right, then left to follow the B/Y trail across the W bike trail at 3.3 miles, returning to the junction with the B/P trail at 3.4 miles. After hopping over Punch Brook again, you reach your car at 4.0 miles.