

Bridge conditions in Harriman Bear Mountain Updated (9/25/2012)
Compiled by Trails Chair John Mack

Many bridges within Harriman/Bear Mountain Parks were destroyed by hurricane Irene and subsequent flooding. Following is a listing of locations considered impassable or with significant trouble or risk in crossing if bridges are missing, with comments on current status.

Our Harriman Bear Mountain Trails maps would be very useful in planning hikes to avoid the trail blockages resulting from the missing bridges.

Current crossing status:

1779 Trail crossing outlet of Turkey Hill lake: Bridge was broken by a fallen tree, it is disassembled preparatory to rebuilding. Replacement is planned but is not yet accomplished. Crossing is not difficult in low to moderate water conditions.

Hillburn-Torne-Sebago Trail over Pine Meadow Brook (Just above Cascade of Slid): Bridge is gone. Attempting to cross, at least when water is high, is inadvisable due to swift current and proximity to the cascade. The park has taken responsibility to replace this bridge. Though action had begun we have not learned of an estimated date of completion.

Kakiat Trail Bridge over Stony Brook: Bridge is gone, crossing is not advised. Crossing the stream appeared to be very impractical the week of September 17, 2012, after recent rains. Stream flow indicates that crossing is likely impractical even with lower water conditions. The park planned to relocate this crossing to a more suitable place, with a shorter span and higher banks to reduce the likelihood of future washout. Exploration to date has not discovered such a location.

Long Path over Horsechock Creek, just north of Call Hollow Road: Bridge is gone. Alternate crossing is questionable, but crossing can be avoided entirely by use of nearby Old Turnpike.

Nurian Trail

- o The park has recently repaired the steel beam bridge over Ramapo River at Southfields between Route 17 and the NYS Thruway Pedestrian Bridge. There remains a rather difficult 34" high vertical step to attain the bridge on its western end. Plans are in work to provide steps up to the bridge level in late fall.
- o Stahahe Brook crossing about 0.4 mile west of The Valley of The Boulders - formerly two bridges in close proximity: these bridges will not be replaced. Our Trail construction crew has built stone-step crossings which will be adequate in conditions of normal water levels (spring-time high water flow as expected in most years would likely make crossing here seasonally impractical).

Pine Meadow, Kakiat, & 7-Hills Trails bridge over Pine Meadow Brook: A newly built bridge is now in place.

Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail: Stream crossing south of Anthony Wayne Recreation Area, shortly south of the departure of R-D Trail from the Appalachian Trail: Bridge washed away. Crossing was impossible in September last year but at the present time with low water the stream is easily crossed. Check the map to determine a moderate detour. An Eagle Scout project is to begin a rebuild within weeks.

Red Cross Trail: The low bridge about 0.3 mile south of Hasenclever Mine was washed out. Crossing is possible by a somewhat difficult hop over stones. It will be difficult in times of high water. Replacement is not yet planned.

Stahahe Brook Trail: This major bridge on the old Harriman Arden Road over Stahahe Brook, formerly adequate for park trucks, was totally washed out, including the stone structure and embankments. There is no plan to replace it. Although crossing upstream is possible with care in recent water conditions, the Stahahe Brook Trail has been totally relocated to now follow the

opposite (east) side of the stream, beginning just north of the former bridge site, and connect with the Nurian Trail, eliminating need to cross the brook.

The (Old) Arden Road leading from the Elk Pen to this bridge site was severely eroded. The park has greatly improved the road though it remains somewhat rough with cobbles.

Timp-Torne, 1777E & 1779 Trails over Popolopen Creek: The fiberglass truss bridge carrying these trails was washed aside and essentially destroyed. Crossing the Popolopen Creek is impractical at the bridge site. Crossing may be possible elsewhere for the adventurous but is not recommended. The Park has purchased a replacement bridge, due for delivery in October. Installation details are now being developed with intention to install the bridge before winter.