

BORESTONE MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SANCTUARY

TRAIL DETAILS, HIKING TIMES AND DISTANCES

Length of the Hike: Brisk hiking up and down the mountain should take about 3-4 hours. Groups who picnic, sightsee on the summit and spend time in the Visitors' Center may spend 5-6 hours at Borestone.

Facilities: Half way up the mountain (near the Visitors' Center) hikers will find clean composting toilets.

Trail Information and Hiking Choices: Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary offers visitors two ways to hike to the Visitors' Center (half way up the mountain). At the Visitors' Center hikers may then choose to continue to the summit or enjoy the mountain views at the center before returning to the parking area.

Base Trail (to Visitors' Center) .8 miles: From this kiosk, the trail makes a left turn into the forest and is blazed with green trail markers. It begins gently but then becomes steeper, finally leveling off before joining the access road near the toilet facilities. This trail is more direct, but more physically demanding than the access road. This trail is more scenic and offers a more genuine woods hiking experience. Near the top of the trail hikers may detour to a scenic view of Little Greenwood Pond (look for the detour sign). We recommend hikers use this trail.

Access Road (to Visitors' Center) 1.1 miles: The road offers a less vigorous hike than the Base Trail, but hikers may encounter sanctuary vehicles on the road. Near the top of the road hikers may detour to a scenic view of Little Greenwood Pond (look for the detour sign).

Visitors' Center: The staffed Robert T. Moore Visitors' Center is located on the shores of Sunrise Pond (alive with insect and amphibian life). The center offers hikers information about the mountain's history and wildlife displays. Profits from the sale of items at the small nature store, located in the center, benefit the Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary. Hikers should register and pay the hiking fee at the center before continuing their experience on the mountain. Some hikers and families with small children decide to enjoy the area around the center, watching the wildlife and picnicking, while others continue their hiking experience to the mountain's peaks using the Summit Trail.

Summit Trail (begins at the Visitors' Center) to West Peak (.7 miles) and to East Peak (1 mile): The Summit Trail follows the shoreline of Sunrise Pond with a gentle green-blazed trail. The trail leaves the shoreline and begins a rigorous ascent. (Over 140 stone steps placed on the trail aid this climb.) The trail levels off onto a small wooded plateau before the final steep climb, which includes a scramble over rocks (with iron bars to help climbers). Panoramic views include area mountain ranges and countless streams, ponds, rivers, and lakes. Travel time between the West and East peaks is approximately 15 minutes or .3 miles and the views are spectacular.

(Caution: Wet weather creates slippery rocks and roots.)