IRVINGTON TRAIL SYSTEM

Irvington’s woods are bordered by the Irvington Reservoir and Cyrus Field Road to the west, the Saw Mill River Parkway to the east, and Mountain Road (also called Peter Bont Road) to the north. There are a number of marked trails accessible from several trailheads for hiking and biking. Motor vehicles are not permitted. The terrain is very hilly and rocky, so please use caution.

Some suggested hikes are:

**Easier** - Starting from the parking lot on Mountain Road, the North-South Trail (NS) quickly intersects with the Ice Pond Trail (IP). IP leads to a small man made pond where ice was harvested on the former Stearns Estate, continues west to Marshall’s Pond, and ends at the playing fields behind the High School. The trail is approximately .5 miles long.

- - Staying on the North-South Trail (NS) is a bit more challenging, and connects the parking lot on Mountain Road to the parking lot on Cyrus Field Road to the South. If you start from Mountain road, the compost site of the Village of Irvington appears to your right. You then cross a small bridge over the outflow of the Hermit Wetland, which is the headwater of Barney Brook. Off to the left, the Hermit Wetland Trail (HW) leads to the wetland where one can view abundant wildlife (Blue Herons have been sighted). Continuing southward on the North-South Trail you will pass Split Rock Trail (SR) on the right where a large glacial erratic can be viewed. It is said the writer Washington Irving composed some of his works there. The trail goes down a steep hill and comes to the intersection with the Hermit Grave Trail (HG), crosses another bridge, and then comes to the intersection of Sunset Rock Trail (SN) (with its Hudson River views during the winter) and Monument Loop Trail (ML). The North-South Trails southern terminus is the parking lot next to the reservoir on Cyrus Field Road. The trail is approximately .75 miles long.

- - Starting from the high school, a 5 km Cross-Country Trail (XC) has been incorporated into the trail system.

**More Difficult** - A trailhead for the East-West Hermit Grave Trail (HG) is located by the spillway at the reservoir dam, near Fieldpoint Road (no parking). At the start of this 1-mile trail is Jenkins Point, named after The Rev. F.R. Jenkins, and just over the concrete bridge is the entrance to Barney Brook Trail (BB) on the left. Continuing east on the Hermit Grave Trail, you will pass the southern terminus of the Waterline Trail (WL) on the left, which heads north to the Ice Pond Trail and the Mountain Road parking lot. The HG trail continues eastward, passes a small village compost area and, becomes a narrower trail at a junction with the beginning of the Sunset Rock Trail, bears left and heads steadily upward away from the Reservoir. At the top of the ridge, it starts downhill, passes the Hermit Wetland Trail (HW) and turns left and heads steeply downhill, sharing a leg of the Monument Loop trail. As we approach the gravesite, an abandoned spur of the Sawmill River Parkway (1928) is noticed underfoot. The trail takes a sharp left up a short steep hill to the grave. The only marked grave in the Village of Irvington is that of Johann Wilhelm Stolting (1810-1888) native of the Isle of Heligoland.

- - The Monument Loop Trail (ML) starts at a spur on the loop’s western side that connects to the North-South Trail (NS). At the end of the spur, if you turn right onto the western side of the loop and head south, the trail stays along the ridge and you’ll be taking the loop counter clock wise. At this leg’s southern most point there is a stone terrace with eastern views of the Saw Mill Valley. Just before the terrace the trail turns sharply left and heads steeply downhill with stone steps leading to the bottom. On the right there’s a short path that leads to a monument plaque dedicated to V. EVERIT MACY a great citizen of Westchester County. Turning left, the loop continues north parallel to the Saw Mill River Parkway and utilizes drywall roads to cross wet areas and benches, which have been cut out of the rock cliffs. At the northern end of the loop, the trail turns left and heads uphill, sharing the trail with the Hermit Grave Trail (HG). At the top of the hill there is a juncture with the HG trail heading right and the ML trail heading left and returning to the spur that leads back to the North-South Trail (NS).

PLEASE CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN!