# **RAMAPO MOUNTAIN** State Forest



- Open Field or Grass ---- Cannonball Trail (4.8 mi) Forest - Castle Loop Trail (3.1 mi) Developed Area Water Wetland
  - Erskine Connector (0.5 mi) Hoeferlin Memorial Trail (2.7 mi) - Indian Rock Trail (0.3 mi) LeGrande Hill Loop Trail (1.9 mi) LeGrande Hill Spur Trail (0.8 mi)
- Matapan Rock Trail (0.3 mi) ---- Pool Hollow Trail (1.3 mi) Ramapo Lake Loop Spur Trail (0.11 mi) Ramapo Lake Loop Trail (2.6 mi) Ramapo Lake Spur Trail (0.6 mi)
  - Ringwood-Ramapo Trail (3.2 mi)
  - ------ South Ridge Trail (1.5 mi)
- Tamarack Loop Trail (1.2 mi) 🔛 Birding 📥 Canoeing Todd Loop Trail (0.6 mi) ••••• Wanaque Ridge Spur Trail (0.7 mi) Fishing – Wanaque Ridge Trail (3 mi) Parking Lot P Parking (Pull Off) 🐇 Scenic View

### Tamarack Loop Trail

Purple • 1.2 miles • Hiking Easy to Moderate • Short loop passes Lake Tamarack and Todd Lake

**Trailhead** Across Skyline Drive from upper parking area. **Tamarack Lake Trail** is a short circuit hike covering portions of Ramapo Mountain State Forest and Ramapo Valley County Reservation and passing remnants of two Boy Scout camps near Lake Tamarack and Todd Lake.

# **Todd Loop Trail**

Green • 0.6 miles • Hiking Easy to moderate • Forested road and trail **Trailhead** Lake Tamarack Trail from upper parking area on Skyline Drive. **Todd Loop Trail** is a short loop trail through hardwood forest leading to a viewpoint.

## Wanaque Ridge Trail

Orange • 3 miles • Hiking Moderate • Follows ridgeline above reservoir **Trailhead** Indian Rock or Cannonball Trail. **Wanaque Ridge Trail** crosses small hills and drainages as it heads north to reach a higher ridgeline between Ramapo Lake and Wanaque Reservoir. Wanaque Ridge Trail continues along the ridgeline for 0.75 miles until turning sharply to the east then descending among smaller boulder ridges and drainages. The trail crosses a natural gas pipeline before ending at a junction with Cannonball Trail north of Ramapo Lake. The trail is also accessible via the 0.7-mile Wanaque Ridge Spur Trail from Wolfe Drive.



Explore Trail Tracker The Interactive Trails Map of NJ State Parks





# TRAILS OF

**RAMAPO MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST** 

Ramapo Mountain State Forest includes 14 official trails, totaling more than 28 miles. Trails vary in length from less than 1 mile to 10 miles and many trails continue beyond Ramapo Mountain State Forest into adjacent County and State lands. Many multi-use trails are suitable for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross country skiing. Please obey all designated uses of the trails posted at trailheads and trail crossings.

# Cannonball Trail

Red • 4.8 miles (in Ramapo) • Multi-use Moderate • Primary trail through center of forest **Trailhead** Numerous points of entry throughout park. **Cannonball Trail** runs through the forest from south to north. From its starting point at the end of Indian Rock Trail, near the southern tip of Ramapo Lake, the trail continues north along the western shoreline of the lake. After leaving the lake, the trail ascends and crosses Skyline Drive before joining with Hoeferlin Memorial Trail. At the northern end, the trail passes to the west of Cannonball Lake and through an old camp with cabins and lodges. Cannonball Trail ends as it joins with Shore Trail in Ringwood State Park.

# **TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY**

**Trail Markings:** Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. For your safety and habitat protection, please stay on the trails and do not alter trail markings or create new trails.

**Preparations:** Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return.

**Hunting:** Sections are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

**Pets:** Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

**Keep It Clean and Green:** Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

**Bikers:** Follow the IMBA "Rules of the Trail" guidelines for trail etiquette and yield appropriately. Helmets are required by law for children under 17 and recommended for all riders.

**Tick Protection:** Bring insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower, and launder clothes immediately.

**Bear Aware:** Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the park office. Visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at *www.njfishandwildlife.com* for additional information on bear safety.

#### **Emergency Numbers**

1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911



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#### **Erskine Connector Trail**

Light blue • 0.5 miles (in Ramapo) • Multi-use Easy to moderate • Connects major forest trails **Trailhead** Ringwood-Ramapo or Cannonball Trail. **Erskine Connector Trail** connects Ringwood-Ramapo Trail with Cannonball Trail, crossing ridgelines, then running south alongside a small lake.

#### Hoeferlin Memorial Trail

Yellow • 2.7 miles (in Ramapo) • Multi-use Moderate • North/south corridor trail **Trailhead** Across from upper parking area on Skyline Drive. **Hoeferlin Memorial Trail** runs north along a major ridgeline between the Wanaque Reservoir (to the west) and the Ramapo River (to the east). Hoeferlin Memorial Trail also serves as a primary travel corridor with connections to many other trails in the forest and in Ringwood State Park.

#### Indian Rock Trail

Red & white • 0.3 miles (in Ramapo) • Hiking Moderate • Short connector trail from the west

# **TRAILS** *of* Ramapo Mountain State Forest





State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection **Division of Parks and Forestry** State Park Service

The trail to the west travels a short distance to large rock slabs overlooking Skyline Drive.

#### **Pool Hollow Trail**

Yellow • 1.3 miles (in Ramapo) • Multi-use Moderate • Connects northern and southern sections of Ramapo
Trailhead End of Pool Hollow Road. Pool
Hollow Trail is primarily a connector trail linking the small southern section of the park to the main section via a pedestrian footbridge over Interstate 287. It connects with LeGrande Hill Spur Trail, which provides access to LeGrande Hill Loop and Ramapo Lake Loop Trails.

#### Ramapo Lake Loop Trail

Blue • 2.6 miles • Multi-use Easy • Circuit hike around Ramapo Lake Trailhead Eastern tip of Ramapo Lake. Ramapo Lake Loop Trail follows a lakeside fire road along the scenic lake, popular with hikers and fisherman alike. The trail is accessible from the lower parking area on Skyline Drive via the 0.6 mile Ramapo Lake Spur Trail.

#### **Castle Loop Trail**

White • 3.1 miles • Multi-use Moderate • Scenic loop to lake and Van Slyke Castle ruins **Trailhead** Upper parking area on Skyline Drive. **Castle Loop Trail** descends toward Ramapo Lake, following a lakeside fire road before ascending to scenic viewpoints near the ruins of a stone mansion overlooking Ramapo Lake, then returning to the parking area. The castle, known as Foxcroft or the Van Slyke Castle, was the family home of William Porter. It was built in 1910 and occupied until 1940, when it fell into ruin.

This brochure was funded by Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. **Trailhead** Parking area at Back Beach Park. **Indian Rock Trail** leaves Back Beach Park, a Wanaque Borough park, and heads southwest, crossing to the east side of the Wanaque River and joining with Cannonball Trail south of Ramapo Lake.

#### LeGrande Hill Loop Trail

Red • 1.9 miles • Hiking Easy to moderate • Short loop around LeGrande Hill Trailhead Ramapo Lake Loop Trail, south of the spillway of Ramapo Lake. LeGrande Hill Loop Trail is a short loop trail southeast of Ramapo Lake. The trail follows a creek then winds through hillsides above the Ramapo River. The .8 mile LeGrande Hill Spur Trail connects the loop with Ramapo Lake Loop and Cannonball Trail at the southern tip of Ramapo Lake.

## Matapan Rock Trail

Red • 0.3 miles (in Ramapo) • Hiking Easy • Short trail leading to overlook Trailhead Hoeferlin Memorial and Cannonball Trail. In Ramapo, Matapan Rock Trail begins from the shared section of Hoeferlin and Cannonball Trails approximately one mile north of the upper Ramapo parking area on Skyline Drive.

#### **Ringwood-Ramapo Trail**

Red • 3.2 miles (in Ramapo) • Multi-use Moderate • Long connector trail to Ringwood State Park **Trailhead** Hoeferlin Memorial Trail. **Ringwood-Ramapo Trail** leads from the northern portion of Ramapo Mountain to Ringwood Manor. The section of trail within Ramapo Mountain State Forest is approximately 3.2 miles and follows a mix of single-track and forest roads.

# South Ridge Trail

White • 1.5 miles • Multi-use Moderate • Short trail above Ramapo River **Trailhead** A quarter mile from start of Pool Hollow Trail at Pool Hollow Road. **South Ridge Trail** climbs a rocky hill through hardwood forest to a high point and ridgeline. There are open views to the south over the Ramapo River valley. The trail continues along a ridge and begins to descend to join Pool Hollow Trail at the forest boundary, south of the pedestrian footbridge across Interstate 287.