

# TRAILS

We believe that this is the most accurate trail map ever made for the Catskill Park. We hiked every official trail with a minimum of two GPS units to accurately map out each trail location, water sources, lean-tos, viewpoints, etc. We also hiked many of the unmarked trails, dirt roads, and old logging roads shown on this map. Trails in the Catskill Park range from short and easy, to ones in which require long hours of steep hiking to challenge even the best hikers and climbers.

The New York State DEC has developed color-coded trail markers (red, blue, yellow, horse, x-ski, snowmobile and bicycle) to identify the trails for navigation. The markers are typically placed on trees every 30-50 ft, and there are also navigational signs at trail intersections. The NYCDEP also provides miles of unmaintained footpaths. (See NYCDEP permit section). All of the hiking trails are marked on this map with the corresponding color. The trails are also numbered, and a table is available on the western side of the map with more information about each trail. The trail numbers also correspond to the numbers in the Catskill Trails (3rd edition) book by Adirondack Mountain Club. This book is regarded by most hikers as the best book for trail information in the Catskill Park. Please note that black trails are for unmarked, or private trails. Some of the official DEC trails start at a private property; therefore, please respect the private property boundary and stay on the trail until you reach public land. Always sign in at each DEC trail register you pass. This will help rescue crews to locate you in the event of an emergency. It also helps DEC plan new or maintain existing trails based on trail usage.

Due to the length of certain trails some require spending the night to reach their final destinations. Lean-tos are available by the trails and their locations are shown on the map. We also included GPS coordinance for every lean-to so that you can locate them in the dark or bad weather where visibility is poor. Remember that lean-tos are on a first-come first-serve basis; therefore, be sure to bring a tent in case the one you were planning on sleeping in is occupied. Please see the camping section for more information. Almost all lean-tos have a fire ring in front of them; however, fire wood is hard to find nearby. Please use only dead wood on the ground and do not cut healthy trees. Make sure to use the fire rings and not create fires in any other place around lean-tos. Do not burn fires inside the lean-tos.

When hiking to the top, you may find some of the Catskill peaks laden with trees which may obstruct views. There are five fire towers in the Catskill Park offering a spectacular 360 degree panoramic view of the Catskills. These towers are located on Balsam Lake Mountain, Hunter Mountain, Overlook Mountain, Red Hill, and Tremper Mountain. Most trails also have viewpoints that provide an opening in the woods for great views. Viewpoints are marked on the map with a star. Some places may have more than one viewpoint right next to each other. Due to the scale of the map, for adjacent viewpoints, we typically show just one star. Some viewpoints might be slightly overgrown in the summer. Late fall, winter and early spring offers the best views.

A compass is an essential tool when hiking in the Catskill Park. Make sure that you do know how to use a compass before ever going onto unmarked trails or stepping into the woods. A compass rose (dial that shows magnetic and true north) is provided on both sides of the map. Remember that a compass in the Catskills will not point to true north, yet to the magnetic north which is rotated 13 degrees to the west.

As trails might be replaced by other trails, moved, or removed since production of this map, please remember to always follow the DEC trail markers and signs.

# COMPARISON CHART

Comparison chart below is between this map in the (VOM) column, Catskill Trails Map Set 8th Edition from NY-NJ Trail Conference (TC) Catskill Mtn Trail Map (2009) from Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and The Catskills 2nd Edition map from Jimapco (JIM)

	VOM	TC	AMC	JIM
Waterproof	●	●	●	
Tear resistant	●	●	●	
Topo (elevation) lines	50'	100'	100'	
NY State land	●	●	●	
Lean-tos	●	●	●	
Fire towers	●	●	●	
GPS grid	●	●		
Campgrounds	38	6	6	●
Parking and pull-offs	519	79	0	10
Waterfalls	49	8	1	1
Unmarked trails in miles	518	65	0	0
Viewpoints on trails	●	●		
Water on trails	●	●		
NYCDEP land	●			
Town parks	●			●
Trailhead elevation	●			
Trailhead parking size	●			
GPS mapped trails	●		●	
Bicycle friendly trails	●			
Trail mileage on the map	●		●	
GPS coord. for lean-tos	●			
Difficult stream crossings	●			
Primitive campsites	●			
Public fishing rights	●			
Fishing footpaths	●			
Boat launches	●			●
Historic trout pools	●			
Catch and release areas	●			
Covered bridges	●			●
Town elevations	●			
Lake and pond elevations	●			
Road intersection elevations	●			
Highest spots on the roads	●			
Shaded relief mountains	●			●
USGS water gages	●			
Downhill ski trails	●			
Gas stations	●			
Hospitals	●			●
Golf courses	●			●
Evergreen forest areas	●			
Up-to-date watershed data	●			
Seasonal streams	●			
All CAT 100 peaks	●			
CAT 35 highlighted on map	●		●	

# FISHING

This is the most accurate and detailed watershed map available. Every map of this region that we could find has bodies of water drawn based on data from USGS TOPO maps that are on average 30 years old. During that time, watershed has gone through many changes. Floods have completely changed the way rivers and streams flow. Many ponds are gone and hundreds of new ponds were created. Yet those maps still show all the water as if time stood still for 30 years. We used the newest aerial photography to trace all the rivers, streams, ponds and lakes so that they appear on the map the way they look on the ground.

There are two kinds of streams in the Catskills. The freestone streams that flow into reservoirs and major rivers, and the tail water streams flowing from the NYC water supply reservoirs where the water is released from the bottom of the reservoir providing cool, clear water year round. Both waters provide great fishing opportunities with freestone streams being preferred in the spring and fall seasons and ice cold tail water in the summer. Both are some of the cleanest streams you will find in New York State. The Catskill Region has plenty of still water for those who like to try their luck on waters where near record fish like Small Mouth Bass, Large Mouth Bass, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, Walleye and Pickerel are caught each year. The six NYC water supply reservoirs in the Catskill Region which supply drinking water to New York City offer thousands of acres of clean, cold, deep water with easy access. Remember that a free NYCDEP permit is required to fish these waters. For more information, please read the NYCDEP permit section.

Public Fishing Rights (PFR) on private waters provides a large portion of fishing access in the Catskills. These locations are marked with orange 'PUBLIC FISHING STREAM' signs which are placed on trees, telephone/power posts, bridges, etc. On the map, the locations are marked in orange next to the rivers (please refer to the map legend). As many river banks have separate owners, fishing rights may exist on only one side of the riverbank. Please pay attention to the markings on this map and to the Public Fishing Stream signs. Also note that these areas are only open for fishing, and any other activity requires land owner permission. As flooding can divert the streams through properties where fishing is not allowed, please be cautious and only fish where recognizable signs are located.

New York City water supply land, also known as NYCDEP (New York City Department of Environmental Protection or DEP) land, offers some of the best still water fishing in the Catskills and excellent stream fishing on the reservoirs' tributaries (permit required). NYCDEP land surrounds all of the six reservoirs in the Catskills. Most reservoirs have roads that encircle it with pull-offs which are marked on the map. Please see the map legend for the 7 distinct NYCDEP Lands. There are also ponds and streams within the watershed, yet away from the reservoirs, which offer great Brook Trout fishing. Row boats are allowed on the reservoirs with a boat permit. As part of the permitting process, a special steam cleaning treatment is required to eliminate any possible bacteria or organisms that may be present on the equipment which could threaten the drinking water. The boat must remain on the shore of the reservoir; if removed, the steam cleaning process must be repeated. Ice fishing is prohibited on the Catskill's NYC water supply reservoirs due to the safety concerns of fluctuating water levels. However, it is permitted on some of the NYC water supply reservoirs east of the Hudson River where water levels are more stable. On NYCDEP waters, fishing from bridges is mostly prohibited. Waterproof waders should be used when entering water for purposes of fishing. For more information, please read the NYCDEP permit section included on this pamphlet, and visit the NYCDEP website listed below for the most complete and up-to-date information on recreational use of NYC water supply lands and waters.

<http://www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation.html>