

7. Groomed Trails

Until now, you have been walking on a groomed trail, cushioned with crushed shale. From this point forward, the trail becomes rocky and natural. Although groomed trails disturb the forest, they allow more visitors to experience nature at low impact.

8. Living and Dead Trees

Many forest birds and mammals are cavity nesters: they take shelter in holes found in living or dead trees. Can you find any cavities here?

The flowers, leaves, and fruits of living trees provide important food sources. Many of the trees here are oaks, and provide acorns, an important food source for **Grey Squirrels**, **Eastern Chipmunks**, and **Blue Jays**.

9. The Original Path

Beyond the railing you can see what remains of the original path to North Lookout. In the late 19th Century mule-drawn carts and quarrymen walked to and from work along this path (see Number 10).

10. Mountaintop Sandmine



Tuscarora Sandstone

The sand you see along the path is eroded **Tuscarora Sandstone**. In the middle of the 19th Century, the J.D. Stone & Co. hauled sand to the Little Schuylkill Railroad in mule wagons, and later, a gravity railroad. Today, only a few remnants of this once busy sand mining industry are

left, the most visible being the patches of sand found along the trail.

11. Kettle View

The Tuscarora Sandstone boulders found here at Kettle View and other lookouts were formed 400 million years ago. The layers of harder Tuscarora Sandstone make up the ridges, and the softer, easily-eroded shale makes up the valleys.

12. North Lookout

Your last stop is North Lookout, the site of the longest-running hawkwatch in the world. The **Autumn Hawkwatch**, held annually, runs from August 15th through December 15th. A **Spring Hawkwatch** is held from April 1st through May 15th. An average 18,000 birds of prey pass each autumn; about 1,200 pass during spring. The plastic owl decoy perched atop a tall wooden post often attracts passing migrants. Some hawks, particularly **Merlins** and **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, will strike the decoy, providing visitors with a closer look.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Hours

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary trails are open year round, 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. The Visitor Center, which includes a bookstore, birdfeeder observation window and *Wings of Wonder* gallery, is open 8 am to 5 pm September through November and 9 am to 5 pm all other months.

The Visitor Center is closed only on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information visit www.hawkmountain.org or call: 610-756-6961.

Admission (Trail admission collected in the Visitor Center)

Hawk Mountain members are admitted free, year-round. Non-members pay a modest trail fee, which helps maintain the Sanctuary and supports Hawk Mountain's conservation and education programs. Members may proceed directly to trail entrance.

Trail Fee (Always FREE for Members)

Adults	\$5
Seniors	\$4
Children ages 6 to 12	\$3

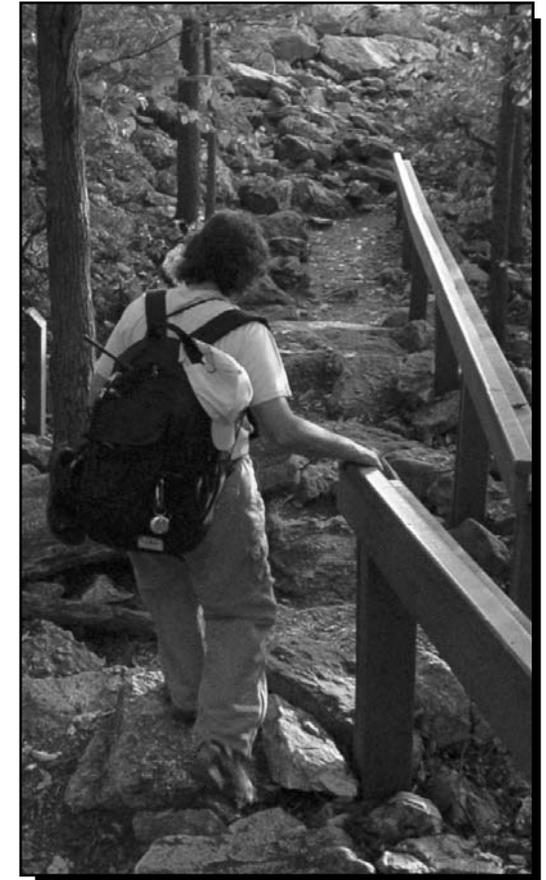
Autumn Weekends (Sept.-Nov.) and National Holidays:

Adults and Seniors	\$7
Children ages 6 to 12	\$3

Children ages 5 and under are always free.



TRAIL GUIDE TO NORTH LOOKOUT



Guide to the North Lookout Trail

A series of 12 numbered posts along the trail correspond with information about Hawk Mountain and its cultural and natural history. Use this guide as a learning tool to explore Hawk Mountain and discover more about Appalachian Mountain ecosystems.

1. Hay-Scented Fern



Hay-Scented Fern

This clearing resulted when a tree fell. The **hay-scented ferns** that grow here are characteristic of disturbed areas. This fern's lacy, mint-green leaves quickly turn brown with autumn's first frost. Can you find the ferns?

Exotic plants also are common in disturbed areas. Two you can look for as you cross Hawk Mountain Road include **Asian stilt grass** (bright green, soft-looking grass) and **crown vetch** (in spring, look for clover-like clusters of pink and white flowers and fern-like leaves).



Crown Vetch

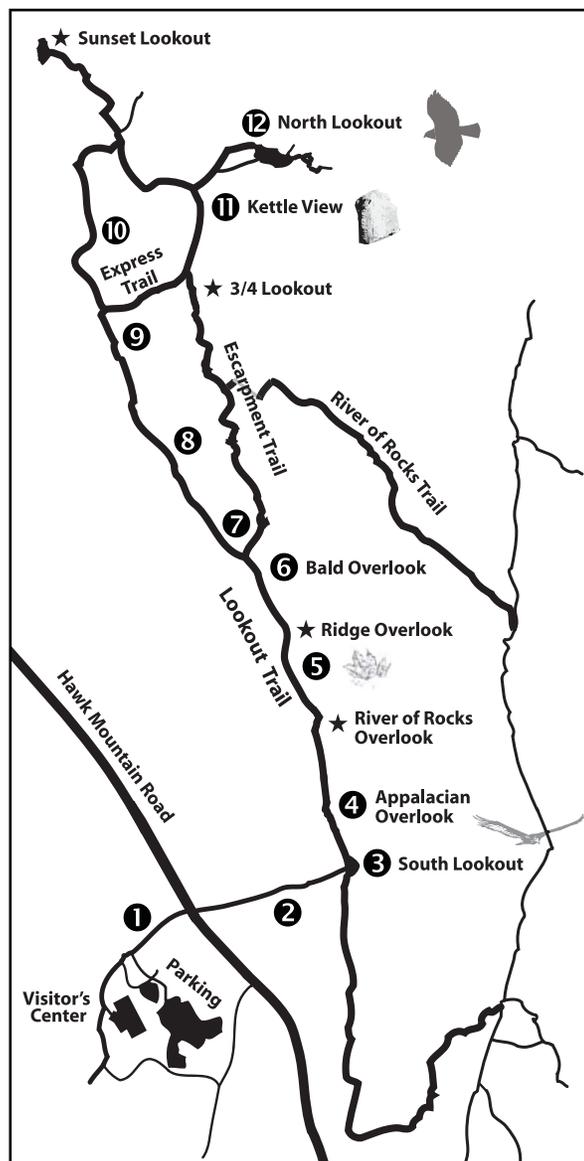
2. Forest Regeneration

This area was the site of a devastating ice storm in 2005, causing damage and loss to 22% of the mature trees and opening the canopy of the forest. A study conducted after the storm indicates a greater number of young saplings have been established in this area responding to the increase in sunlight.

3. South Lookout

From this point you can see the **Kittatinny Ridge** — or “Endless Mountain” — to your left. Part of the Appalachians, it stretches 300 miles from southern New York to the Maryland border.

Below you is the mile-long **River of Rocks**, an Ice-age boulder field where stones just like the ones here lay in piles.



Trail Rules

To protect the fragile ecology of the Mountain, and for your own safety, please remain on the trails at all times. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles. No pets, radios, bicycles, horses, camping, fires, smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted. Keep voices low on trails and lookouts. All trails are open from dawn to dusk.

4. Appalachian Overlook

This overlook is a great place to spot the graceful **Turkey Vulture**. Note how it flies with wings raised in a shallow “V” above its back, soaring about in search of dead animals below.



Turkey Vulture

5. Ridgetop Trees

Three species of trees dominate Hawk Mountain's ridge-top forest. Can you find:



Red Maple

Red maple shows red in every season. In spring, red flowers bloom. In summer, leaves have red stalks. In autumn, leaves turn brilliant red. During winter it has red buds.

Chestnut Oak is identified by its dark brown, deeply furrowed, “corky” bark. Leaves have rounded edges, and loosely resemble leaves of the American Chestnut tree.



Chestnut Oak



Red Oak

Red Oak is recognized by its smooth, grayish bark with vertical plates and furrows. The leaves have pointed, deeply toothed lobes, unlike those of the chestnut oak, which have rounded edges.

6. Bald Overlook

Bald Overlook is a great place to look for **lichens**, one of the first life forms to colonize an area. You can see these black, green, and white leafy and encrusting life forms growing on the lookout's rocks. The first real plants to colonize are **mosses**. Mosses and lichens grow on bare surfaces, where they help erode the rocks and form soil.

