

Gedney Park

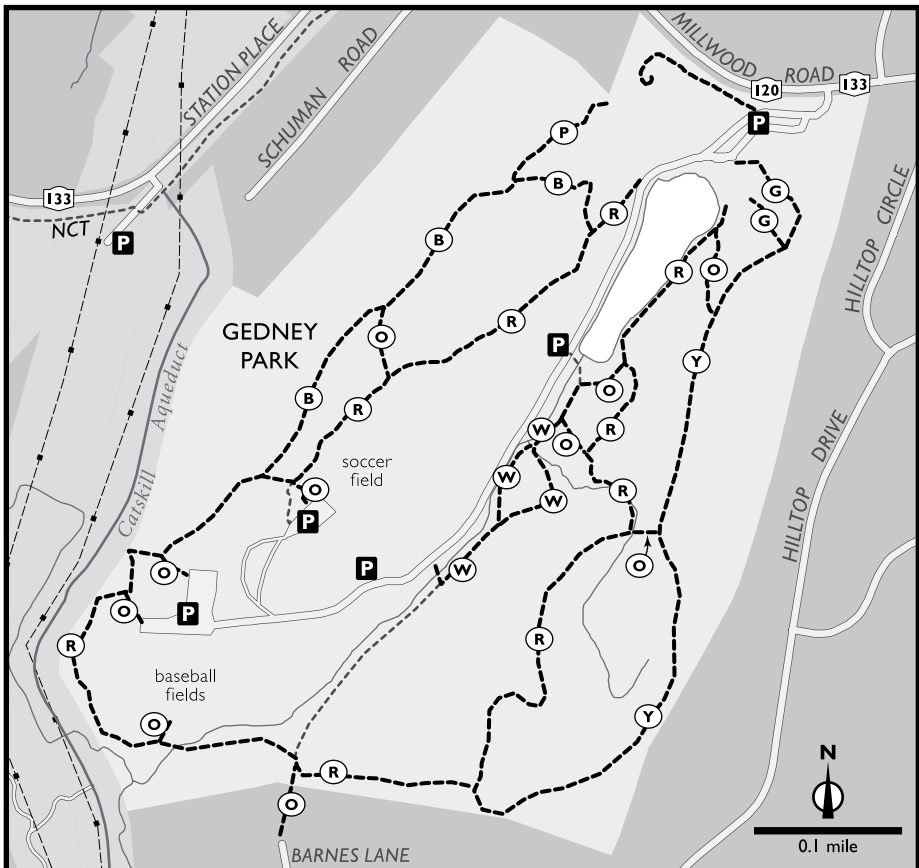
Millwood • 3.7 miles, 126 acres



Do not be misled by the entrance to Gedney Park with its playground, fishing pond, and sledding hills. Having passed the park many times during the first 30 years we have lived in Westchester County, it was only when we started writing the first edition of this book, did we discover the network of interesting trails in this Town of New Castle park. A locked gate prevents access to the southern parking areas when ball fields are closed for the season. Dogs are permitted off leash, but not in the area around the playground.

TRAILS

The trails in Gedney Park form a loop surrounding ball fields, a pond, and playground. They have relatively flat sections with gentle ups and downs and some short steep sections. The 0.4 miles of orange trails either connect trails or are an access trail. A 0.2 mile handicapped accessible paved path goes from the parking





At the pond.

lot to a fishing pier and then parallels the road behind a wooden barrier. It ends at a pull out for 3-4 cars south of the lake. The 9/11 Trail goes 0.1 mile to a memorial to the town residents killed in the attack on the World Trade Towers. An unmarked fire access road goes 0.2 mile to the cul-de-sac at Barnes Lane.

Eagle Scout projects have built three interpretive trails at the park: the 0.3-mile Wetlands Trail (white), paralleling the road along wetlands and a stream, focuses on wetlands; the red trail along the edge of the pond has signs which describe how Native Americans lived, hunted and gathered food; and a 0.1 mile nature trail (green) behind the playground features woodlands.

Blue Trail

Length: 0.4 mile Blaze: blue

Beginning on the red trail, the blue trail climbs steeply uphill. At 0.1 mile, it passes the purple trail to the right, which heads 0.1 mile downhill to the top of a hill used for sledding in the winter. The blue trail heads over the crest of the hill and, at 0.3 mile, reaches a junction where, to the left, an orange trail heads downhill to connect to the red trail. Continuing downhill, the blue trail crosses a stone wall and ends at a T junction at the red trail.

Red Trail

Length: 1.7 miles Blaze: red

There are many ways to reach the red trail as it circles the park because orange trails provide access from ball fields, parking lots, and other trails. Just past the gate on the road to the ball fields, the red trail heads uphill and passes the blue trail to the right. The red trail continues straight uphill skirting the base of the hill. After passing an orange trail to the right which leads uphill to the blue trail, the red trail heads down steps to parallel a soccer field at 0.2 mile. At the next trail junction, where an orange trail heads left to a parking lot, the red trail bears right. At 0.4 mile, the red trail passes the blue trail and heads steeply downhill. At

a T junction at 0.6 mile, the red trail turns right. The orange trail to the left goes downhill to a parking lot.

At the next intersection, the red trail makes a sharp left. Well inside the woods, the red trail circles ball fields. Passing over a wet area on a bridge at 0.9 mile, the red trail is within sight of baseball fields and passes an orange trail to the back of the ball fields. Turning right, the red trail crosses a stream, and reaches a woods road which leads to the cul-de-sac at the end of Barnes Lane. To the left, it is 0.2 mile along an unmarked woods road to the white trail. Heading uphill, the red trail reaches the junction with the yellow trail at 1.1 miles and turns left. The yellow trail begins straight ahead.

The red trail heads downhill. After crossing a stream at 1.4 miles, it reaches a trail junction where, to the right, an orange trail connects to the yellow trail. At the next intersection at 1.5 miles, the red trail makes a sharp right turn. Straight ahead an orange trail leads downhill to the white trail. The red trail descends to the south of the pond where, to the left, an orange trail heads to the white trail and the red trail curves right. It follows the edge of the pond which has interpretive signs explaining how Native Americans used plants. The red trail ends at an open area near the sledding hill that is next to the playground

Yellow Trail

Length: 0.5 mile Blaze: yellow

From behind the playground at the top of the sledding hill, the yellow trail heads up hill at the edge of the woods. At 0.2 mile, it reaches a junction where, to the right, an orange trail goes to the red trail. Bearing left, it follows the base of a hill and crosses stone walls before it climbs steeply uphill. After passing a split rail fence, it ends at the red trail.

NEARBY TRAIL & PARKS: North County Trailway, Pruyn Sanctuary, Warburg Park

DRIVING: From the Taconic State Parkway, take the Route 100 Exit. Head north on Route 100 to the traffic light at a shopping center at Station Place (Route 133) and turn right. Continue for 0.5 mile and at the next intersection turn right where Route 133 joins Route 120 The entrance is in 0.3 mile [41.187924N 73.791507W].

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Beeline Bus #15. The nearest bus stop is at the junction of Station Place and NY 100 in Millwood. Follow the sidewalk to Route 133/120 and turn right to walk 0.3 mile along the road to the park entrance.

For contact information, see Appendix, New Castle.