

Somerset Hills YMCA & Great Swamp Watershed Association Ten Towns Bike Tour – 30 mile route

| Cum Mileage | Pt to Pt Mileage | Directions | POI |
|----------------|---------------------|---|-----|
| 0.00 | 0.0 | Rt. At SS Mt. Airy | |
| 0.45 | 0.4 mi | to Rt. Chimney Ash Farm Road | |
| 0.58 | 0.1 mi | to Lt. Ivy | |
| 0.65 | 0.1 mi | to Rt. Oak Ridge | |
| 0.82 | 0.2 mi | to Oak Ridge becomes Brook Ave. | |
| 0.95 | 100 yd | to Rt. West Oak at SS. Cross above route 287 | |
| 1.66 | 0.7 mi | to SS Rt. Finley Ave. and quick Lt. around island & flag pole (keeping brick church on your left) | |
| 1.75 | | Lt. SS N. Maple Ave. | 1 |
| 2.75 | 0.9 mi | to TL, Rt. Madisonville (becomes Lee's Hill Rd.) | |

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| 3.33 | 0.5 mi | to Rt. Pleasant Plains Rd to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge New Visitor center | |
| | 0.3 mi | to restrooms here, behind White House. Turn Rt. gravel driveway | |
| | 0.3 mi | back to Pleasant Plains Rd | |
| 4.13 | | Rt. At SS onto Lee's Hill Rd (turns into Blue Mill) | |
| 5.13 | | Cross Primrose Brook | 2 |
| 6.68 | | TL Continue S on Lees Hill Rd. | |
| 6.90 | 2.7 mi | to Lt. Sand Springs Rd. | |
| 7.29 | 0.3 mi | to Rt. Sand Springs Lane | |
| 7.86 | 0.5 mi | to SS, Lt. James St. | |
| 8.55 | 0.6 mi | to TL, Lt. Harter Rd. | |
| 8.83 | 0.1 mi | to Lt. Tiger Lily Lane | |
| | 0.4 mi | to end of cul-de-sac; Port-a-Potty here (spring-summer-fall)! | 3 |
| 9.35 | 0.4 mi | back on Tiger Lily Lane | |


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| 9.85 | | Rt. At SS Harter Rd. | |
| 10.05 | 0.1 mi | to TL, Lt James St. | |
| 10.57 | 0.5 mi | to Rt. Southgate Parkway | |
| 10.81 | 0.9 mi | to Lt at SS, South St. | |
| 11.15 | 0.3 mi | to Rt. Woodland (towards Madison and Chatham) | |
| 12.00 | 0.9 mi | Rt. to Green bike route sign onto paved bike pathway. Stay on paved path over bridge. Park trails. | 4 |
| 12.48 | | Restrooms on Rt. in brick bldg. | |
| 12.50 | | Lt at T intersection & Rt. on roundabout to parking area. Keep pond on left, and continue straight to SS. | |
| 12.69 | | At SS, Lt. Kitchel Rd. | 5 |
| 12.72 | | Rt. onto paved bike path | |
| 13.77 | | at 4 way intersection, go S | |
| 14.20 | | In Loantaka Brook Reservation parking lot. | |




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| 14.25 | | to Lt at SS Loantaka Way. On public roads. | |
| 14.48 | 0.2 mi | to Rt. Shunpike towards Hickory Tree & Chatham | |
| 15.11 | | At TL, S at Green Village Rd. (Shop Rite on Rt.) | |
| 15.23 | 0.7 mi | to TL, Rt Southern Blvd (towards New Providence) | |
| 16.57 | 1.3 mi | to Morris County Park Commission's Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center. Restrooms 0.5 mi down entrance road. Open limited hours. | 6 |
| 16.58 | | Crossing Black Brook, part of Great Swamp Watershed | |
| 17.61 | 1.0 mi | to TL, Rt. Fairmount | |
| 19.45 | 1.7 mi | to Rt. Meyersville Rd. (towards Meyersville) | |
| 21.95 | 2.4 mi | to approach for circle to Rt. New Vernon Rd/Lees Hill (towards Great Swamp) | 7 |
| 22.79 | | Note - Black Brook of Great Swamp Watershed | |
| 22.88 | 0.8 mi | to Lt. White Bridge Rd. | |
| 24.06 | | Note on Rt. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Center | 8 |

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|-------|--------|---|----|
| 24.39 | | Note: Raptor Trust Bird Area parking lot on Rt., restrooms | 9 |
| 25.00 | | S White Bridge Rd. on bridge over Passaic River. White Bridge Rd. becomes Lord Stirling Rd. | 10 |
| 25.02 | | Dirt section (0.31 miles) go slowly! | |
| 25.33 | | Somerset County Park Commision Environmental Education Center, Restrooms | 11 |
| 26.36 | 3.4 mi | to Rt. SS, S. Maple Ave. | |
| 27.23 | | Liberty Cycle Bike Shop on left | |
| 27.39 | 1.0 mi | to Lt. Oak St.(No sign) towards Basking Ridge Center | |
| 27.40 | | At SS S to continue on W. Oak St. Caution (cross Finley Ave.) | |
| 28.17 | 0.7 mi | to Lt. Brook Ave. | |
| 28.32 | 0.1 mi | to Rt. Oak Ridge | |
| 28.49 | 0.1 mi | to Lt. Ivy | |
| 28.55 | 100 yd | to Rt. at SS, Chimney Ash Farm Rd. | |

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| 28.69 | 0.1 mi | to SS, Lt. Mt. Airy Rd, Caution...traffic | |
| 29.18 | 0.5 mi | to Lt. into Somerset Hills YMCA | |

Somerset Hills YMCA & Great Swamp Watershed Association Ten Towns Bike Tour – 30 mile Route Points of Interest

| # | Mileage | | |
|---|---------|--|---|
| 1 | 1.75 | <p>Entering Great Swamp Watershed.</p> <p>Basking Ridge Oak. This huge old white oak tree is 600 years old and 97 feet tall, with a spread of 156 ft and a circumference of 18 ft. According to local lore, George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette picnicked under its shade and colonial soldiers stopped here to rest.</p> |  |

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|---|------|--|---|
| 2 | 3.33 | <p>Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. New visitor center opening '09 with gift store/interpretive displays.</p> |  |
| 3 | 5.13 | <p>Cross Primrose Brook, one of five tributaries to the Passaic River flowing through Great Swamp. Four of these tributaries either rise or flow through Bernardsville.</p> |   |

4

8.87 **Conservation Management Area (CMA).** This 50-acre forested wetland is owned and managed by Great Swamp Watershed Association. It includes 1.5 miles of trails including portions through a 23-acre deer enclosure. It is managed for biodiversity and is the site of much restoration work. Trails open dawn to dusk. Volunteer to help GSWA manage this area! Port-a-Potty here Spring through Fall.



5

12.00 **Morris County Park Commission Loantaka Brook Reservation.** 600-acre ribbon park has nearly 5 miles of paved recreation trail and unpaved bridle trails, and stretches along the banks of the Loantaka Brook, protecting fragile stream edges with forest and allowing wildlife to move in safety.



6

12.69 **Kitchell Pond** is part of the GSWA water quality monitoring program where nutrients, pH, and other parameters are studied. Results have determined that this stream is most in need of remediation in the watershed. Efforts to protect the site from erosion and salt addition are underway.



7

16.57 **Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center** has 78 acres of trails through the floodplain forests and marshes surrounding Black brook. The center offers information and programming year-round.



8

15.58

Nearly 90% of **Black Brook** is located within Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and it joins the Passaic River just beyond the Raptor Trust (see mile 24.39 below).



9

21.95

Watch for the “Blue Goose” signs indicating boundaries of the **Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**. You are cycling through the heart of the refuge’s 7,600 acres of federally protected marshes, swamps and floodplain forests.



10

24.06

This is the administrative Headquarters of the refuge but has limited public opening hours and restroom access. **FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP** is a non-profit group that supports the activities of the refuge and has a gift store and great kids discovery area beyond the refuge Headquarters . Their hours are limited to weekends.



11

24.39

THE RAPTOR TRUST is a non profit organization dedicated to wild bird rehabilitation. Trails lead past its cages of non-releasable birds, which are open for viewing 7 days a week. A donation is suggested when visiting to help offset costs of the organization.



12 25.00 The Passaic River flows toward its exit from Great Swamp Watershed at Millington Gorge.



13 25.33 SOMERSET COUNTY PARK COMMISSION. Lord Stirling Park. This park has 8 miles of walking trails and is open 7 days a week year round. There is a gift store and interpretive exhibit about the formation and cultural history of Great Swamp. Programs are offered year round.

