

Punch Brook Loop:

Class 1

4.0 miles

900' vertical

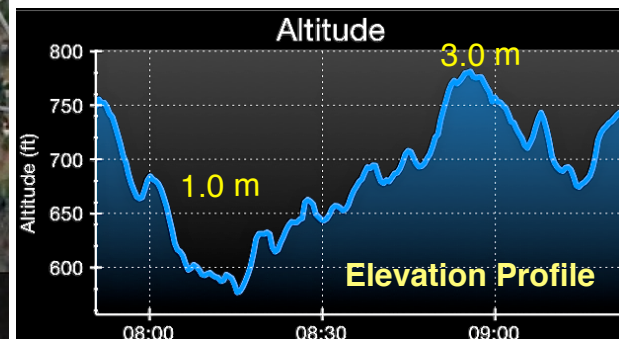
2.2 hours



The new B/P & B/Y plastic trail markers



The B/P marker on the tree shows the route up this Class 1+ pitch.



The hike begins at the Stone Road parking lot (41.755306, -72.939944). Hike south for 100 yards on this road, then turn right near a green gate onto the Blue/Yellow Trail. At 0.6 miles, cross at the end of the cul-de-sac for George Washington Turnpike and gradually descend to the junction with the Blue/Purple Trail. Follow the B/P crossing over Punch Brook on 2 quality bridges at 0.8 miles. Punch Brook Road is then crossed at 1.0 mile. Before crossing this road, look slightly to your left which could be a good location to spot an eagle or other raptors in flight, since it is above 4-5 ponds used by the Connecticut State Fish Hatchery program at the Punch Brook Station.

At 1.2 miles there is a trail junction with the end of the Blue / Red Trail (B/R) which goes to Taine Mountain. The Blue / Purple Trail turns left and crosses Punch Brook on another quality bridge. You now encounter a series of switchbacks up a steep slope, The trail's next experience is across the Witches Kettle at 1.4 miles that maybe the biggest glacial kettle holes in Burlington (70 feet deep & 210 feet across)*. The B/P trail then takes a very quiet walk through a very tall planted pine forest. The trail's biggest challenge is a climb up a short but steep Class 1+ rocky ledge that would require using your hands (1.9 miles) The trail then gradually flattens out and starts descending to the junction with the Blue/Yellow trail at 2.2 miles. Turn left onto the B/Y trail, hiking uphill to the junction with Punch Brook Road at 3.0 miles. Go straight across this road following the B/Y markers through 2 sharp turns. At 3.4 miles the trail crosses the white (W) mountain bike trail and shortly returns to your earlier junction with the B/P trail. Continue south on the B/Y trail, returning to your car at 4.0 miles.

* = Connecticut Walk Book 1970, page 74