**THE BEAR MOUNTAIN INN** an architectural jewel built in 1915 in a distinctive rustic style of stone and logs, is the center of activities in the Park. It has served as the model for the designs of the other buildings in the Park and elsewhere. The interior, recently renovated, features a structure and accessories of natural materials, and is a stopover for food and drink, and sleeping accommodations. It is the perfect starting point for many hikes in the area. The Inn is open 365 days a year.

**HESSIAN LAKE** Spotted-fed Hessian Lake, named for the bloody early September battle of Hessian chasseurs were thrown into the Lake, lies at the foot of Bear Mountain and adjacent to picnic grounds and playing fields. Fishing is allowed by permit only and paddle boats and row boats are available for rent beginning in the spring. A snack bar and restrooms are also available.

**THE TRAILSIDE MUSEUMS AND ZOO** is a unique outdoor nature museum that consists of Geology, Nature Study, Reptiles/Amphibian/Fish, and History buildings and enclosures housing animals native to New York. The AT was routed through the area on an old nature trail leading to the Bear Mountain Bridge access. The facility is open year-round from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM and, when closed, can be bypassed by hikers between the Inn and the Bridge along the east side of Hessian Lake north and across Route 9W.

**STATUE OF WALT WHITMAN** Shortly after the entrance to the Zoo is the striking statue of Walt Whitman, sculpted by Jo Davidson. The Harriman family presented the statue in 1940 to commemorate the 1910 gift of land and money by Mary W. Harriman that made the Park a reality. This famous statue depicts the poet and newspaper editor in a pose that portrays the image created by his “Song of the Open Road,” words of which are carved into the rock base.

**FORT MONTGOMERY** The Fort Montgomery site is a National Historic Landmark, acquired by the Park in 1916, with a self-guided interpretive trail leading past the uncovered ruins of the earthworks and building foundations that comprised the original Fort. On this location overlooking the Hudson River, British troops attacked and captured this fort and Fort Clinton in 1777. A commemorative battery of cannons is aimed at the River access.

**PERKINS MEMORIAL TOWER** on top of Bear Mountain, and the Memorial Drive to it were built by funds donated by the Perkins family in honor of G.W. Perkins Sr., the first President of the PIPC. The Tower offers a spectacular panoramic view of the region. Interpretive displays in the Tower describe the views and mosaics depict the history of the Park. Hikers on the AT find the Tower area to be an important stopping point for the views and to picnic.

**BEAR MOUNTAIN BOAT AND FISHING DOCK** This area also has family picnicking areas at the end of the paved walkway. It provides some of the best views of the River, the Bridge, Iona Island, and Anthony’s Nose.

**IONA ISLAND** is a 120 acre site in the Hudson River managed by the PIPC since 1965 and now used as a research area officially called the Iona Island Estuarine Reserve and Bird Refuge. The Island has deciduous forests, freshwater and brackish tidal wetlands, and riverine habitats. It has a long history of prior uses. Public access for viewing birds and wildlife is best from the access road and railroad causeway from Route 9W. Special permission from the PIPC is needed to enter the main part of the Island.

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**DOUDLETOWN** The abandoned hamlet of Doodletown lies in a beautiful valley surrounded by Bear Mountain on the north, Bald and Dunderberg Mountains on the southeast, and West Mountain on the west. The placarded remains of buildings (some dating back to the early 1800s), the historic cemeteries, and the old mines can be viewed from the roadways crossing Doodletown and intersecting the 1777 and Cornell Mine Trails.

**FISHING DOCK** The Ice Skating Rink is an uncovered outdoor facility providing public skating sessions at various times during the period it is open, which is generally from late October to early March. Skate rentals and lockers are available.

**ICE SKATING RINK** at (845) 786-2701 or by visiting www.nysparks.com
ACTIVITIES AND HISTORY

Bear Mountain State Park consists of 5067 acres administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). The Park is 45 miles north of New York City, nestled along the Hudson River at the southern access to the Hudson Highlands. Its name derives from the Mountain profile that resembles a bear lying down. Activities at the Park include hiking, swimming in a large outdoor pool, boating on Hessian Lake, ice-skating, picnicking, eating at the Inn, fishing, cross-country skiing, a merry-go-round, the Trailside Museums and Zoo, Perkins Tower, and the remains of Doodletown and the Revolutionary Forts. The Park is primarily a day-use facility open 365 days a year from 8 AM to dusk. It can be reached by car and bus. Admission fees are charged for parking and use of the pool, Trailside Museums and Zoo, Merry-Go-Round, ice-skating rink, and boat rentals. More details on facility use can be obtained in the Park office (845-786-2701) or visit us online at www.nysparks.com. Information about activities at the Inn can be obtained at 845-786-2731.

Bear Mountain has a long and varied history. As development of the Palisades along the River and the Hudson Highlands in the early 1900s began to impact the area’s natural beauty, numerous efforts were made to preserve much of it. Spurred by the possibility that Sing Sing prison would be relocated to Bear Mountain, a number of local residents, led by the Harriman family, contributed land and capital to the preservation of the region. Mary W. Harriman’s 1910 gift of land to the PIPC was the basis for the establishment of the Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park system. In 1915 the Inn was opened, and other facilities were added over the years, with many park structures constructed in the 1930s by Civil Conservation Corps workers. The first section of the Appalachian Trail (AT) was built at Bear Mountain in 1923. The historic Bear Mountain Bridge is the longest bridge on the AT.

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference volunteers construct trails and provide general maintenance, including blazing, brush clearing, removal of fallen trees and erosion control on all the Park’s hiking trails, including the AT. The Conference also publishes “Harriman Trails” and “The New York Walk Book” that provide extensive information about the area and its hiking opportunities. These books and detailed maps of the trails in Bear Mountain State Park may be obtained from:

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
156 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
(210) 512-9348
email: info@nynjtc.org | web: www.nynjtc.org

These and other publications about Bear Mountain State Park are also available at the PIPC Visitor Center, located near Exit 17 of the Palisades Interstate Parkway. Maps are also available at the Bear Mountain State Park Administration Office reception desk.

Individual hiking trails are described in an accompanying brochure.