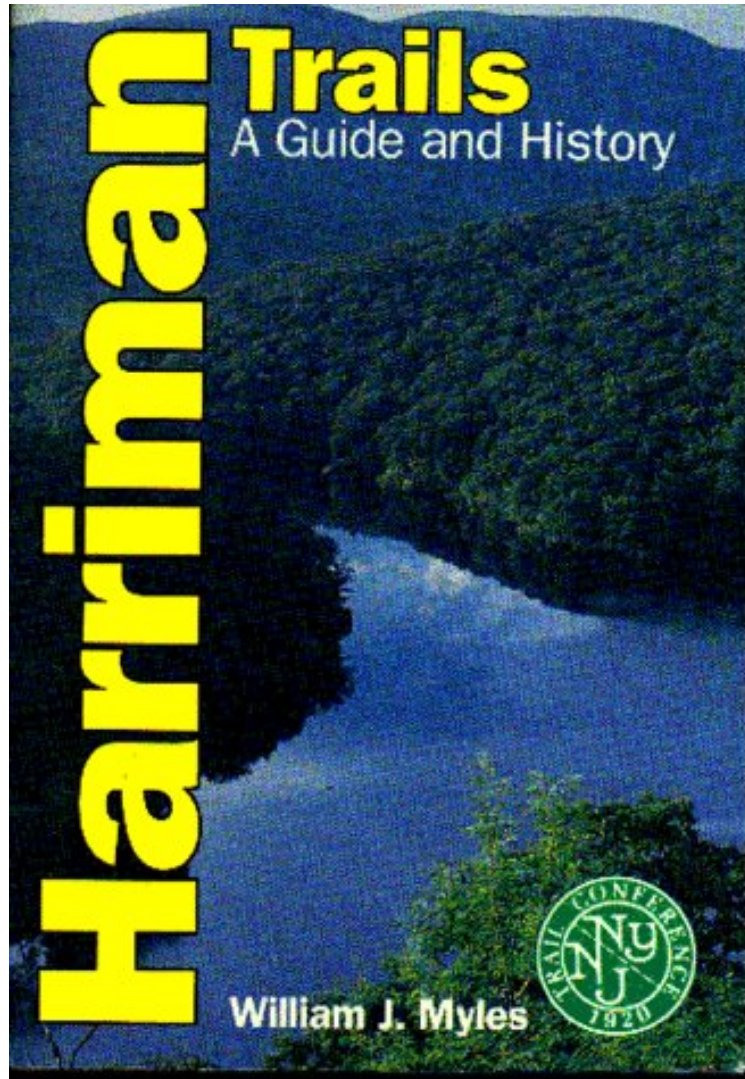


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## Harriman Trails: A Guide and History

*William J. Myles*

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**William J. Myles : Harriman Trails: A Guide and History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Harriman Trails: A Guide and History:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Heavy on the history, light on the trail guideBy Janik ZikovskyAs a standard trail guide, I found this book unsatisfying. It feels as though the description of the actual trail was a second thought. I expected the usual trail guide details: the topography, interesting sights, things to look out for such as hazards, difficult sections, the right time of year to visit, when is it crowded, interesting plants/animals. I found too few of these details. Instead, the author describes the history of each trail in great detail: when it was planned, how it was built, by whom, who maintained it, etc. There was obviously a LOT of research involved in this step, and it shows

in the very detailed histories written. However, this was not my primary interest when looking for a hike. To me, this history is only mildly interesting and would merit a short paragraph, not form the bulk of the text. Summary: if you're looking for history, you'll be very happy; if you're looking for a trail guide, you'll be somewhat disappointed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An invaluable reference guide to Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks By Kevin F. Forbes Harriman and Bear Mountain State parks are a spectacular gift open to the public. If you live anywhere near the New York City area, it is absolutely worth your while to investigate these parks regardless of if you are a hardcore hiker or you are looking for a casual day trip. One thing you will notice while hiking through the woods, is the innumerable remnants of people who have lived and worked in this area over the last two hundred years. One of the best ways to get the most out of your visits and understanding its past, is by referencing Harriman Trails. Not only does it provide detailed guidance on all the trails roads in the park, but it is also a wonderful source of information regarding the history along these paths and trails. I have hiked every inch of every maintained trail in these parks and this book has been my constant companion throughout. This book has the right balance of providing a detailed milestone description of trails, as well as an easy to read history of the things you will see while on the trails themselves. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great guide to an underused resource By Customer Harriman State Park (NY) is about 30 minutes outside of NY City. The main areas get crowded on late spring, summer and early fall weekends, but hike into the park a mile or so and you will find excellent and challenging trails virtually all to yourself. The Harriman Trails, A Guide and History gives the hiker many interesting facts on the trail they are contemplating hiking. It also gives the weary hiker the distance to the trail head ;) Great book. Too bad it's out-of-print. I was going to buy another one because my copy is dog-eared and worn.

William Myles has written much more than a guide. Years of research have produced a fine history as well. Marked and unmarked trails, lakes, roads and mines are all covered in depth. A complete reference with many historical photos.

About the Author Bill Myles spent years hiking in Harriman-Bear Mountain Parks. After he retired, he decided to write a comprehensive guidebook that would describe the trails -- both marked and unmarked -- in Harriman, as well as the lakes, roads and mines in the Parks. He also spent years researching the archives of the Trail Conference and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and other sources to obtain historical information about the trails and other features of the Parks. Bill passed away in 2006 at the age of 93. Daniel Chazin has been a Board member of the Trail Conference since 1982 and has hiked nearly all of the trails in Harriman-Bear Mountain State Parks. He has written up over 200 hikes in the New York metropolitan area that were first published in The Record (Hackensack, N.J.) and are now featured on the Trail Conference web site. He has also served as the editor of the New York Walk Book, the New Jersey Walk Book, and many other Conference publications. Daniel worked very closely with Bill in his role as editor of the first two editions of Harriman Trails and has assumed complete responsibility for the new third edition.