



Day Hiking

Finger Lakes National Forest



Backbone Trail

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Trail Facts:

Length: 5.5 miles one way	Feature: Variety of Forest Types
Max. Elevation Change: 134 feet	USGS maps: Finger Lakes National Forest Quad
Amount of use: Moderate	Hiking level: Easy Blaze: Blue
Average ride time: 2 - 2 ½ hours round trip	Use restrictions: No motorized vehicles except snowmobiles when conditions permit
Average hike time: 5 ½ - 6 ½ hours round trip	

Trail Description:

The Backbone Trail begins at the Backbone Horse Campground. The trail traverses the Forest through shrub-lands, pastures, old roads, and many old homestead sites. It intersects the Interloken and Burnt Hill Trails to the south and the No-Tan-Takto trail to the north. It is a relatively flat, primitive trail with natural tread, gravel in wet places, and traverses through fenced pastures. **Please close gates behind you.** From the north, the Backbone Trail can be accessed at the corner of Ball Diamond Road and Wardner Corner Road, at the Foster Pond parking lot, or at several other locations. Follow the signs and blaze marks. Please practice Leave No Trace ethics, such as carry out what you carry in.

Caution: Hikers beware; skiers and snowmobilers also use this trail in season.

Note: Trails are closed to horses from March 15th thru May 1st due to muddy conditions.

Directions:

From the South, take State Route 14 North (Exit 52 off State Route 17) to Watkins Glen, NY. In Watkins Glen, turn right at the Fourth St intersection onto State Route 414 North. Go approximately 9 miles north, past the Hector Ranger Station of the Finger Lakes National Forest. 0.5 miles past the Ranger Station, turn right on Schuyler County Route 2. Travel 3.5 miles east. The Backbone Horse Campground is on the left, opposite the intersection with Burnt Hill Road. Park in the campground, near the trail head.

From the North, take State Route 414 South to Hector, NY (Exit 41 off I-90). In Hector, 1 mile past the Dandy Mini Mart, turn left onto County Route 2. Travel 3.5 miles east. The Backbone Campground is on the left, opposite the intersection with Burnt Hill Road. Park in the campground, near the trail head.



U.S. Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

Finger Lakes National Forest

5218 State Route 414, Hector, NY 14841

Phone:(607) 546-4470

FAX:(607) 546-4474

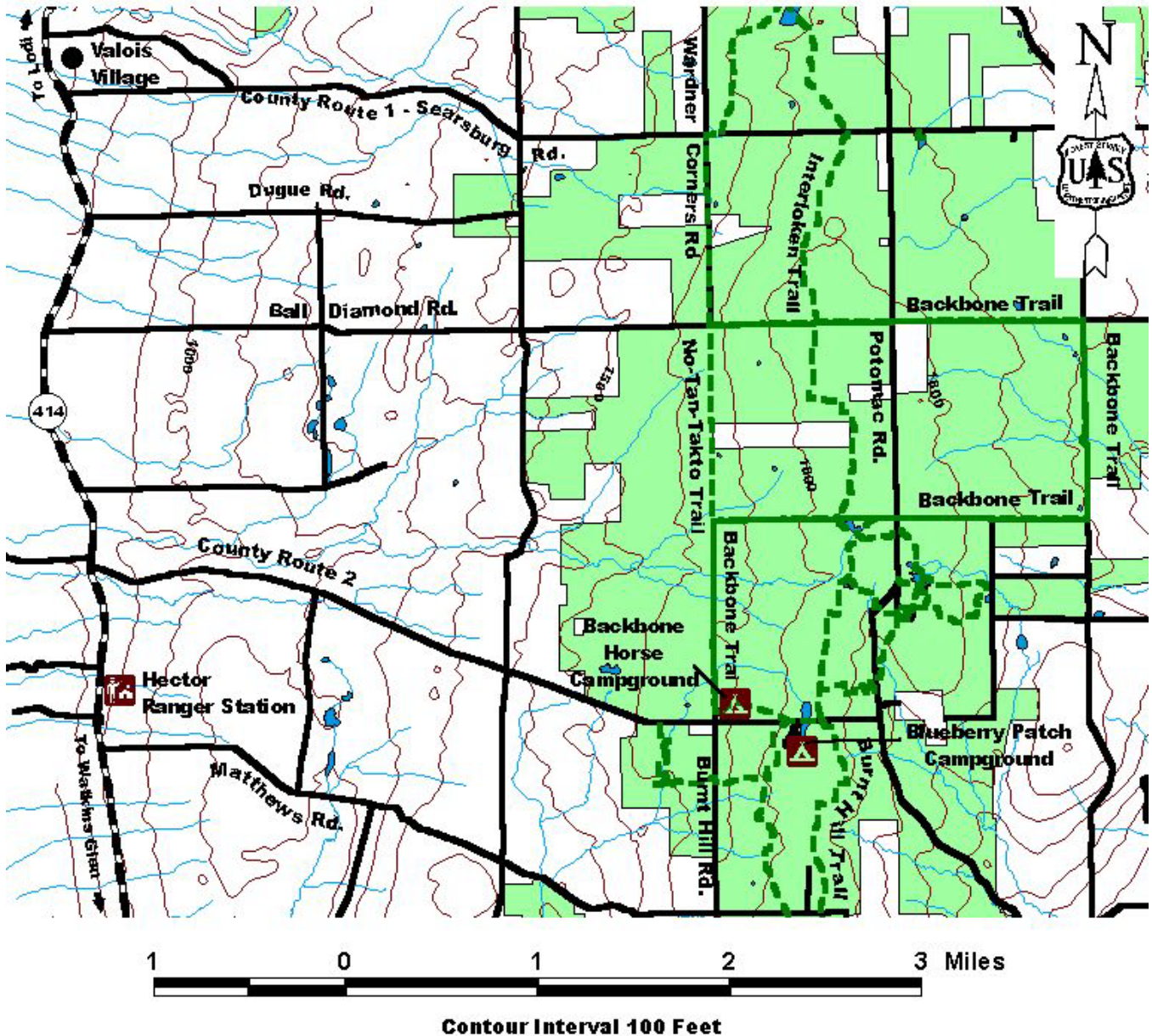
Website: www.fs.usda.gov/fingerlakes

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Area Services:

Food and Services: Hector shops and fuel stations		
For all Emergencies: 911		
Police: (607) 535-6642 or 911	Fire: (607) 535-6642 or 911	Rescue: (607) 535-6642 or 911

Map:



For More Information:

Hector Ranger Station, 5218 State Route 414, Hector, NY 14841, (607) 546-4470

This Recreation Guide is Available in Large Print at Forest Service Information Centers