

Stairs

The vast majority of stone stairs on the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain were quarried on-site and lowered into place using human-powered rigging and highline systems — wire ropes tensioned by winches anchored to trees. No heavy machinery was needed! Each step weighs between 800 and 1,200 pounds, but by working smart, not hard, and using leverage and mechanical advantage, these big slabs of rock can seem almost weightless. There are over 1,000 stone steps between the Bear Mountain Inn and Perkins Memorial Tower. Can you keep count?



New York-New Jersey
Trail Conference

LEFT Utilizing a highline, this stair stone is “flown” into place.

BEFORE



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RIGHT Stairs can help make sections of trail more defined and easier to hike.

AFTER

