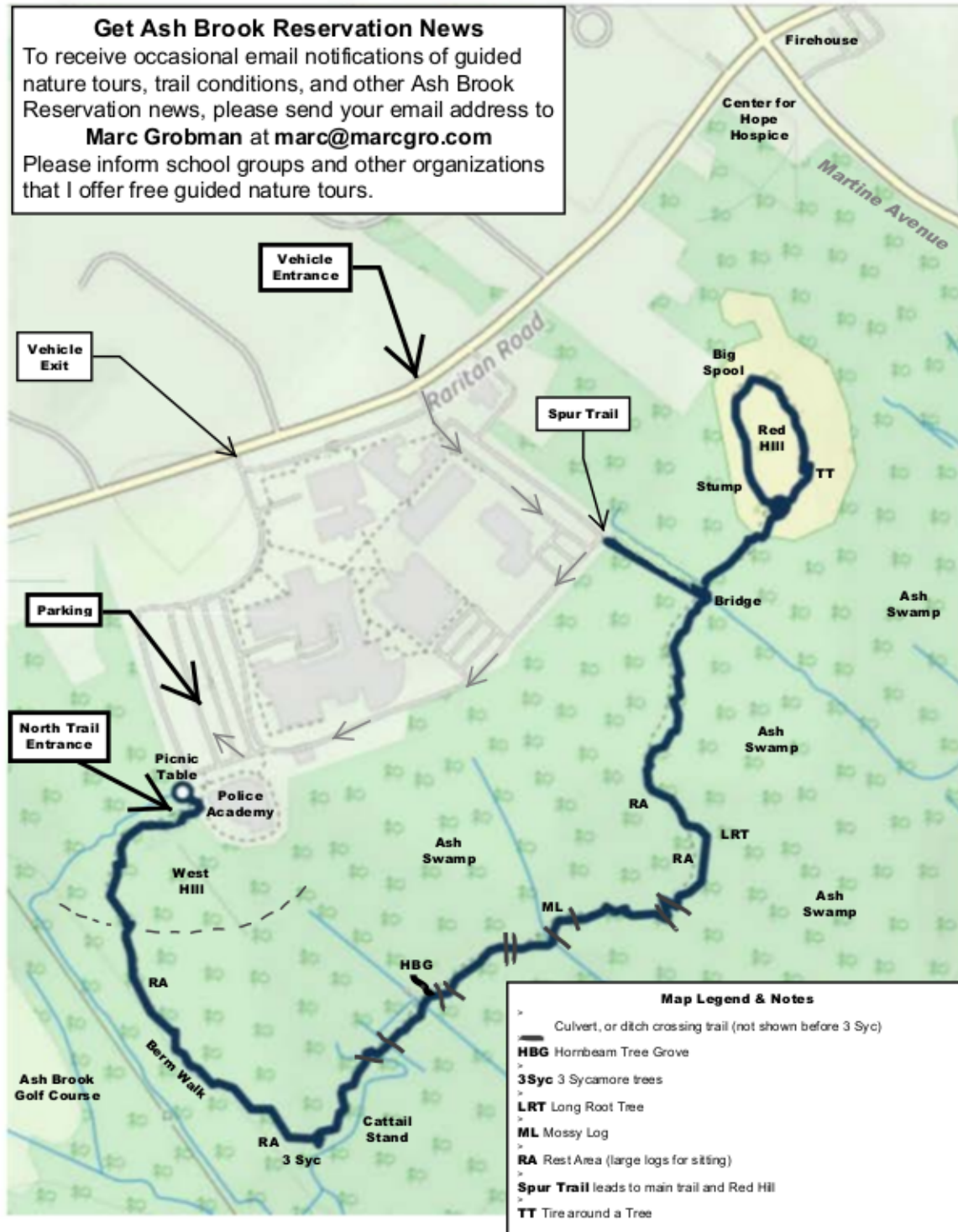# Ash Brook Reservation Hiking and Nature Trail Map - see reverse for directions and more information

Get Ash Brook Reservation News

To receive occasional email notifications of guided nature tours, trail conditions, and other Ash Brook Reservation news, please send your email address to **Marc Grobman** at **marc@marcgro.com** Please inform school groups and other organizations that I offer free guided nature tours.

Firehouse

Center for Hope Hospice

Martine Avenue

Vehicle Entrance

Vehicle Exit

Raritan Road

Spur Trail

Big Spool

Red Hill

Stump

TT

Bridge

Ash Swamp

Parking

Ash Swamp

North Trail Entrance

Picnic Table

Police Academy

Ash Swamp

RA

LRT

RA

Ash Swamp

West Hill

ML

RA

HBG

Berm Walk

RA

Ash Brook Golf Course

Cattail Stand

RA

3 Syc

Map Legend & Notes

> Culvert, or ditch crossing trail (not shown before 3 Syc)

HBG Hornbeam Tree Grove

> **3Syc** 3 Sycamore trees

> **LRT** Long Root Tree

> **ML** Mossy Log

> **RA** Rest Area (large logs for sitting)

> **Spur Trail** leads to main trail and Red Hill

> **TT** Tire around a Tree

> **At the meeting of Scotch Plains, Plainfield, and Clark, Come enjoy Union County's most natural park!**

> Treat yourself to a quiet walk along the North Trail of Ash Brook Reservation, a natural oasis that seems far away from the sounds of cities and towns!

> You'll venture through four very diverse habitats, starting with a walk over a gentle hill forested by beeches, tulip trees, sweetgum, and sassafras. Soon you will head down into Ash Brook Swamp, which is populated by ash, maple, swamp white oak, a grove of hornbeam trees, and blackberry, skunk cabbage, and cattails. After you cross a small bridge, you'll pass through a shady forest of black birches, ferns, mosses, and ground pines. Suddenly you'll emerge from the shade onto a bright meadow on an arid hill dotted with pines, pin oak, and high bush blueberry, reminiscent of the South Jersey Pine Barrens.

> **But prepare and proceed cautiously.** You'll walk on a primitive trail, not groomed walkway. Please <u>wear appropriate footwear such as boots or sneakers</u> and watch where you step so you won't trip or slip or fall. The area between the two hills, Ash Swamp, may be muddy or even under water in wet months, generally winter and spring. <u>When there is deep snow, avoid walking through Ash Swamp</u>. The snow may hide a ditch, fallen branches, slippery ice, or frigid water.

> **Trail length, from North Trail entrance to Red Hill:** 1.1 miles, about 25 minutes without stopping.

> **Disclaimer:** This map and all other information in this flyer were created by Marc Grobman, a volunteer Trail Steward in the Union County Adopt-A-Trail program. All contents are my own creation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Union County Parks & Recreation Department.

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> **Release notes:** Version 3.0, released October 2016.