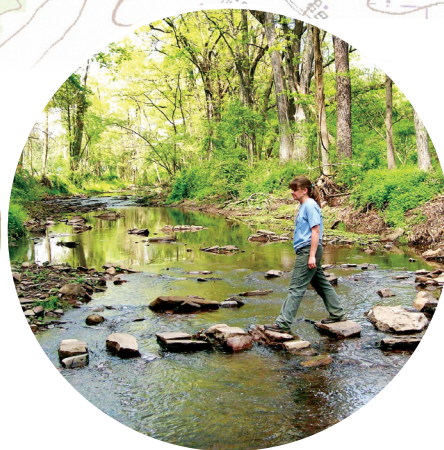
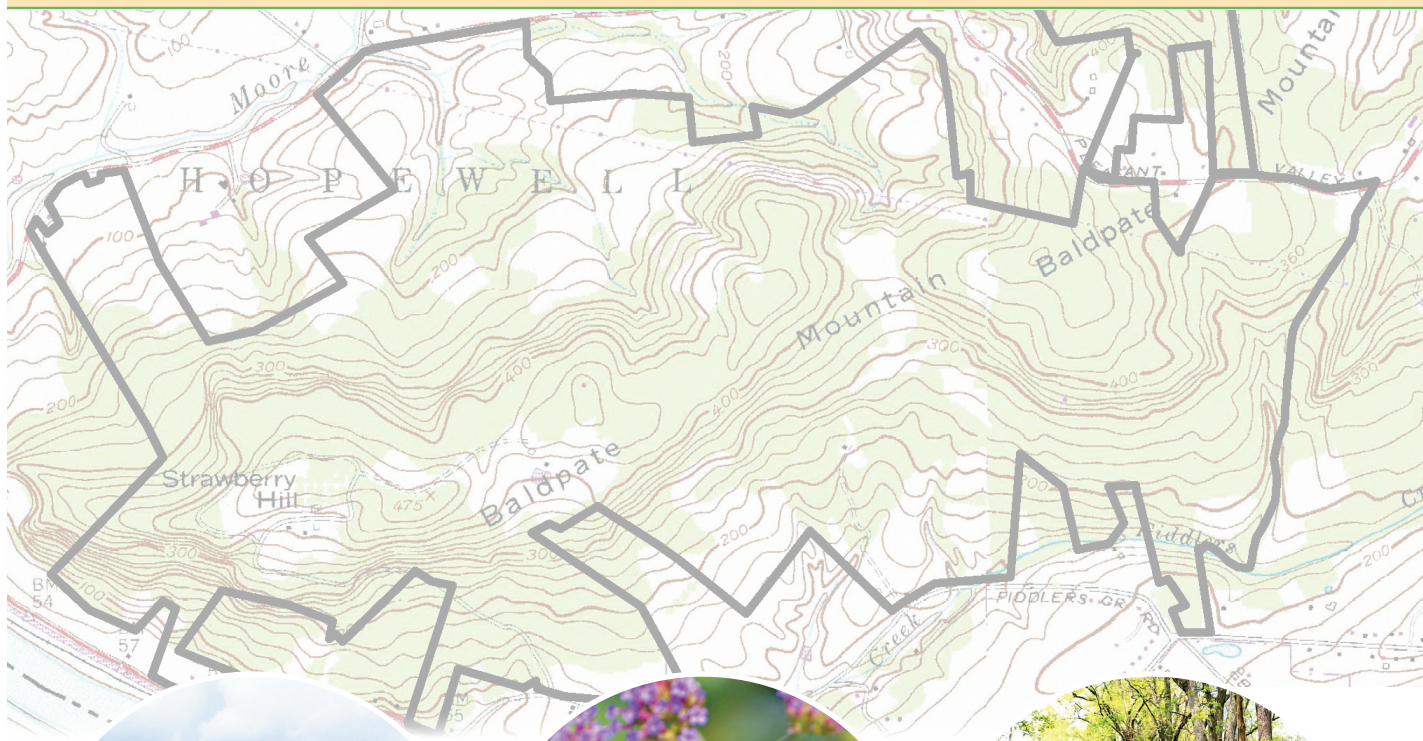


Guide to

THIRD EDITION

Walking Trails in the Hopewell Valley

Explore Hopewell Valley's preserved open space.

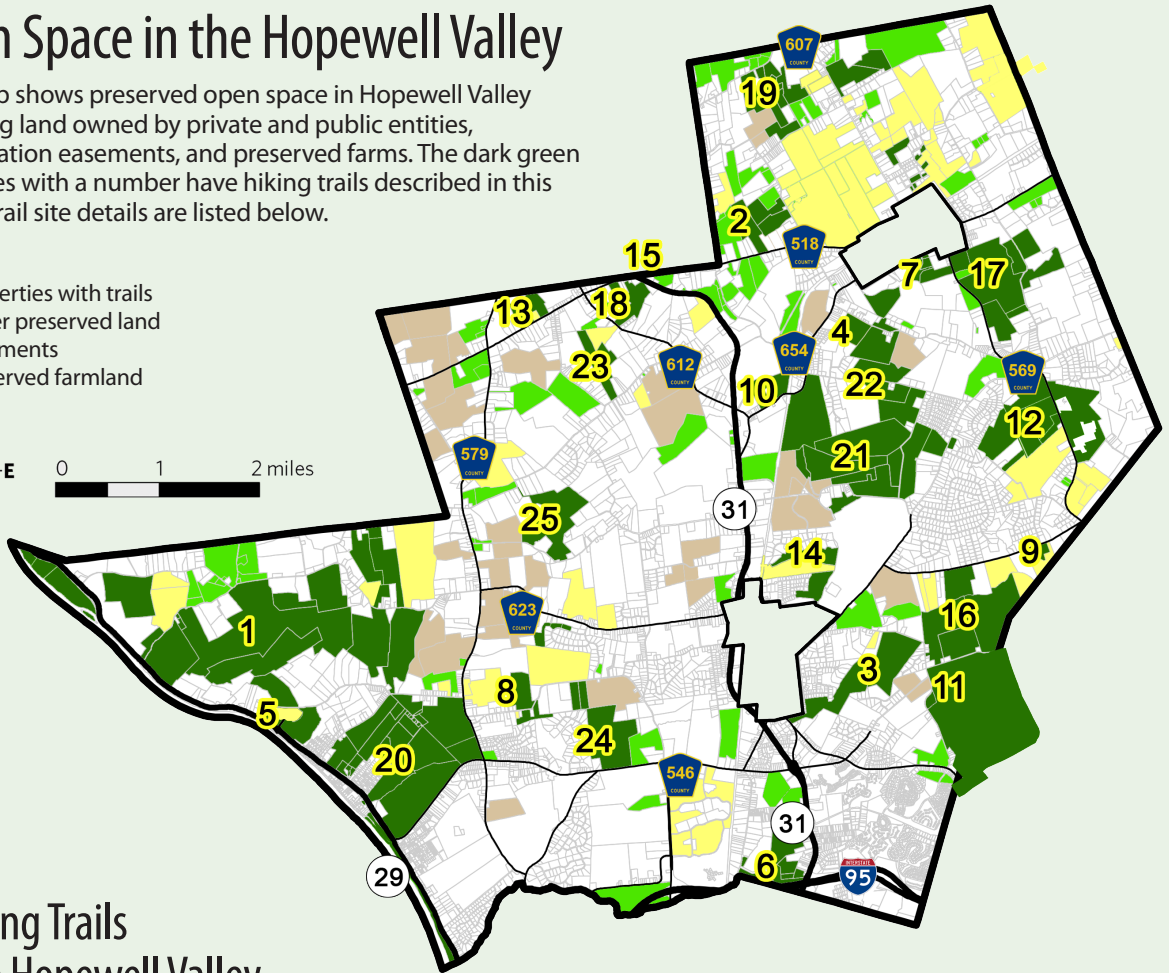
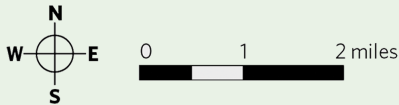


FoH VOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Open Space in the Hopewell Valley

This map shows preserved open space in Hopewell Valley including land owned by private and public entities, conservation easements, and preserved farms. The dark green preserves with a number have hiking trails described in this guide. Trail site details are listed below.

- Properties with trails
- Other preserved land
- Easements
- Preserved farmland



Walking Trails in the Hopewell Valley

Trail Site/Trail

1. Baldpate Mountain – Ted Stiles Preserve
2. Cedar Ridge Preserve
3. Curlis Lake Woods
4. Elks Preserve
5. Fiddler's Creek Preserve
6. Heritage Preserve
7. Hopewell Borough Park
8. Jacobs Creek Trail
9. Kate's Trail
10. Marshall's Corner Preserve
11. Mercer Meadows
12. * Mount Rose Preserve
13. Nayfield Farm Preserve

Trail Site/Trail

14. Pennington Loop Trail
15. * Rocky Brook Trail
16. Rosedale Park
17. St. Michaels Farm Preserve
18. Skyview Preserve
19. Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve
20. Washington Crossing State Park
21. Watershed Reserve
22. Watershed Reserve – Mount Rose Trails
23. Woodsville Preserve
24. Woolsey Park
25. * Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve

(*Additional trails this edition.)

On the cover

A topographical map of the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain—the area's most popular place to hike. The photograph at right shows a crossing of Jacobs Creek on the Jacobs Creek Trail.

Guide to Walking Trails in the Hopewell Valley

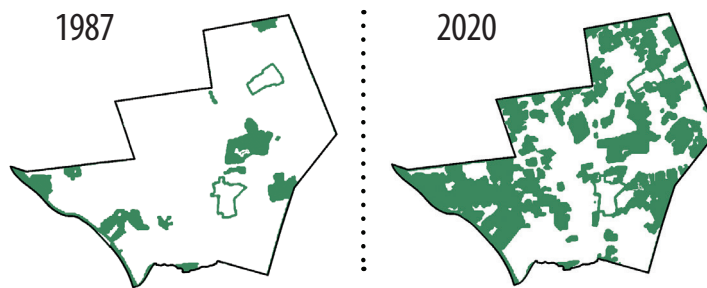
Hopewell Valley is known and appreciated for its wide-open spaces, scenic vistas, rural charm, and extensive woodlands. The public can enjoy over 10,000 acres of open space preserved largely through the efforts of local governments and non-profit organizations including Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS), the D&R Greenway Land Trust, the Watershed Institute, and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. A major funding source for land preservation has been provided through the State's Green Acres Program and Mercer County's open space program.

Today, over 100 miles of trails are open to the public at the 25 locations described in this guide. Since 2007, through volunteer efforts, the number of trails on preserved open space has increased dramatically on new and previously acquired preserves.

Now it's your turn—the public's turn—to take advantage of these trails: for personal enjoyment, exercise, and better appreciation of our natural environment. So, go take a hike!

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

The Hopewell Valley, bordered by the Delaware River to the west and the Sourlands region to the north, is defined by its natural beauty and scenic vistas. The valley's rolling hills, forests, farms, and streams are valued highly by the area's residents.



Preservation in Hopewell Valley over the years

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) is an accredited nonprofit land trust that is dedicated to preserving the Valley's character through open space and farmland preservation, and natural resource protection. Since our inception in 1987, we have partnered with landowners, government, and nonprofit organizations to preserve over 7,800 acres of open space and farmland. FoHVOS actively preserves land for open space use. Upon acquisition, we write a 10-year plan customized to the unique features of each parcel that enables FoHVOS staff and volunteers to engage in ecological improvements, known as *land stewardship*. Stewardship plans include restoring native trees and wildflowers, managing invasive species and deer, and planning trails, kiosks, and parking access. Carefully planned trails provide the perfect balance to connect the community with nature while the restorations and management support healthy habitat for plants and wildlife.

In order to meet our overall objectives, our land stewardship work encompasses not only public open spaces, but also private residences, corporate, school and municipal properties. Our comprehensive program is known as FoHVOS Community Conservation.

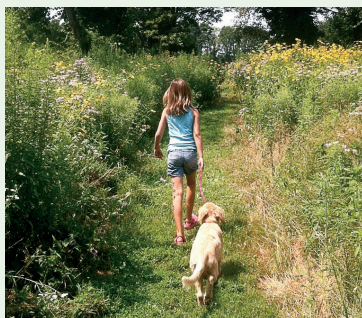
Use these maps for self guided tours or sign up for guided trail and forest bathing events at fohvos.org.

Preface: FoHVOS Trail Guide

2020 Edition

At FoHVOS, we believe that the health of the world begins with the health of our lands. This truth was reinforced during the societal shut down resulting from the spring 2020 Coronavirus pandemic. Our nation's businesses ground to a halt and FoHVOS wasn't immune — the release of this Trail Guide was delayed by months. Yet, as the world's human inhabitants suffered the negative impacts of COVID-19, our environment thrived. Land, water, and air quality improved, wildlife flourished, and the community visited FoHVOS preserves in record numbers!

Coming out in droves, people internalized the established evidence that connecting with nature can improve physical, emotional,



Community visited FoHVOS preserves in record numbers!

and spiritual health. New studies support these health benefits by finding that the virus is less likely to be transmitted outdoors,¹ and if contracted, outdoor exercise may reduce or prevent the respiratory disease that is the major cause of death among COVID-19 patients.²



Connecting with nature improves physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

"The health of the world begins with the health of our lands."

Throughout the pandemic, even as other state and local parks were closed, FoHVOS kept our preserves open and continued our stewardship to support the health of our lands, wildlife, and the community.

Open Space is Open to Everyone

After months of battling COVID-19, racial justice issues took center stage in our national public dialogue. At FoHVOS, we advocate for environmental justice including equal access to not only environmental benefits like healthy air, water, and land, but also associated benefits including career opportunities, access to open space, and fresh food sources. FoHVOS helped found a coalition that promotes environmental equity initiatives throughout Mercer County, introduced a diverse high school internship program, and holds inclusive outings and programs.



FoHVOS took steps to ensure safety while keeping our preserve open.

We invite you to join our mission to preserve our lands, protect natural resources, and inspire the next generation of conservationists. Start by following the guidance on the next page and visit our preserves. Next, review our community and residential projects in the back of this guide. We hope these examples of private and public stewardship projects will inspire you. Finally, maximize your positive impact on our earth by volunteering, donating, or suggesting a new project for FoHVOS.

Lisa Wolff

Lisa Wolff
FoHVOS Executive Director

1. April 2020 Study by University of Hong Kong. medrxiv.org
2. May 2020 Study by University of Virginia. uvahealth.com



How to use this Trail Guide

This Trail Guide includes much more than just places to hike throughout the Hopewell Valley!
Here's how to ensure you encounter all there is to see out on the trails.

Know before you go...

Dress Appropriately

- Wear a hat, and closed-toe shoes (preferably hiking boots) that offer support in uneven terrain.
- Dress in light-colored attire to assist with spotting any unwanted insects and debris.
- Apply or bring along bug spray and sunscreen.
- Bring a backpack to carry water, snacks, and litter.

Select a Trail

Trail adventures range from distance hikes to steep inclines, while others offer a wooded scenery and stream side sounds. Once you get to the preserve, visit the kiosk for the latest information. Some kiosks provide the most up to date trail maps. Locate garbage cans or bathroom facilities.

- Use our Trail Guide to choose your next adventure.
- If choosing a FoHVOs Trail, scan the QR Code.
- Confirm that the trail is open. (Trails may be closed for deer hunting and seasonal maintenance.)
- Familiarize yourself with the location, terrain, and parking.

QR Codes

Using your smartphone's camera, scan the QR Code, located on the trail page of any FoHVOs-owned trail, to access our trail information on our website and our interactive GPS map. From that page you can also find additional information about the trails, points of interest, events, research, deer hunting schedules, parking, and more. For more information and a demonstration of the interactive GPS map features, visit fohvos.org/explore-hopewell/trail-guide.



FoHVOs

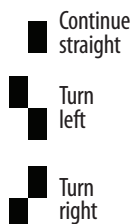
Dogs, horses, and vehicles

Dogs must be kept on a leash. Please check with the land owners/site managers to see their policies regarding bicycles, horses or motorized vehicles (such as ATV, dirt bikes, etc.). In most cases they are NOT allowed on the trails with some exceptions. (For example, Baldpate and Washington Crossing State Park do allow horses on certain specified trails.)

Once you have arrived...

Blazes and Trail Markers

Once you are out on the trails, look at the trees and watch for blazes and trail markers to ensure you are staying on your desired path. Please avoid going off trail in order to protect the flora and fauna in the area. Trail markers are colored-coded by trail. Trail blazes are little rectangles painted on the trees.












Snap a Picture!

We ask that you "Take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints" in efforts to keep our preserves litter free. Nature on the trails is changing every day and offers new sights throughout the seasons. If you spot something beautiful, unique, or worth sharing, kindly send it to photos@fohvos.org or tag #FoHVOs, #HikeHopewell. You and your photo may even be featured on FoHVOs Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn!

Report It!

As beautiful as Mother Nature is, we sometimes have to keep her in line for us to enjoy her wonders. If you spot a tree that is downed or a stream that needs an extra rock to pass, let the land owner or site manager know. Trail maps include information about land ownership and site managers. To report regarding a FoHVOs owned preserve, please visit our online trail maintenance page at FoHVOs.org. For all others, their contact information can be found at the back of this guide.

Map symbols used in this guide

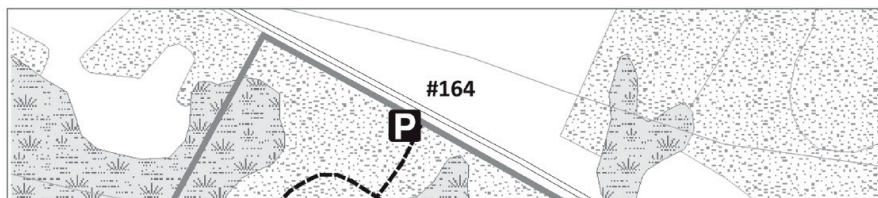
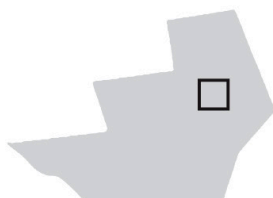
	Trail		Forest
	Boundary		Water
	Parking		Forested Wetland
	Contour (20 ft; Jacobs Creek Trail 10 ft)		Wetlands
	Roads		

4. Elks Preserve

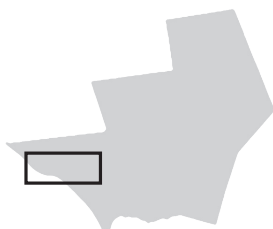
Land Manager Information

Land owner/site manager:
FoHVOs

QR Code



1. Baldpate Mountain – Ted Stiles Preserve



Location

Bordered by Route 29, Fiddler's Creek Road and Pleasant Valley Road

Trails and Distances

There are many trails totaling 12 miles

Ted Stiles Preserve Main Trails: there are numerous trails that vary in length from 1 to 4 miles

Honey Hollow Trails: there are numerous trails that vary in length from 1 to 2 miles.

Parking Location

Fiddler's Creek Road parking lot (40 cars).

N40.3178, W74.8896









Pleasant Valley road parking lot (40 cars and/or trailers).

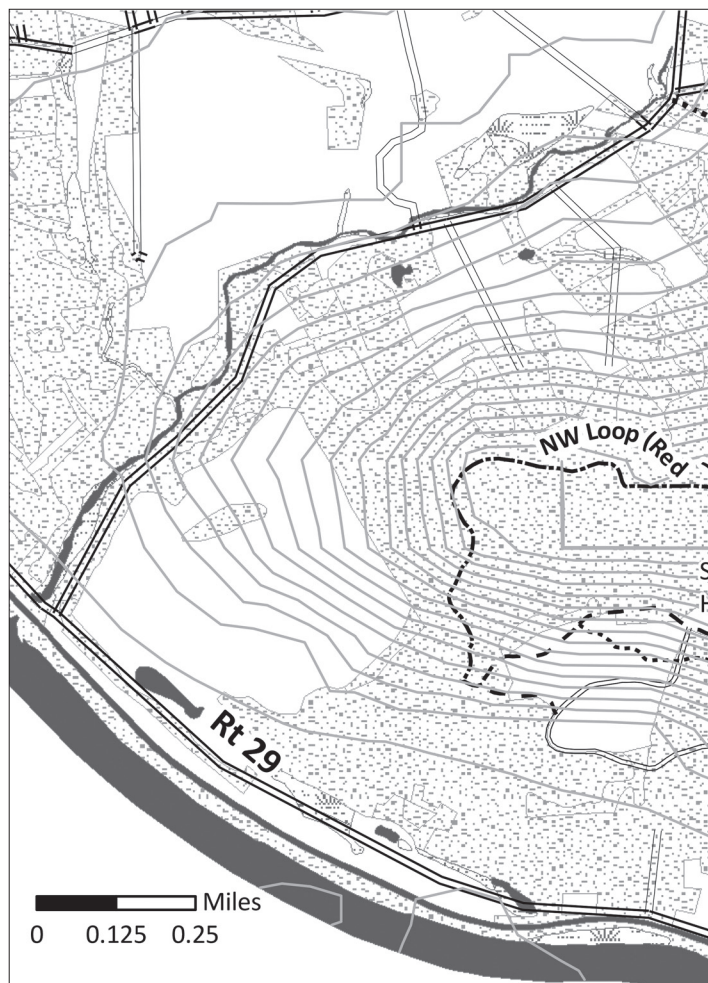
N40.3345, W74.8948

Washington Crossing Park lot (for Honey Hollow Trails) on Brick Yard Road (10 cars).

N40.3186, W74.8662

Map symbols used in this guide

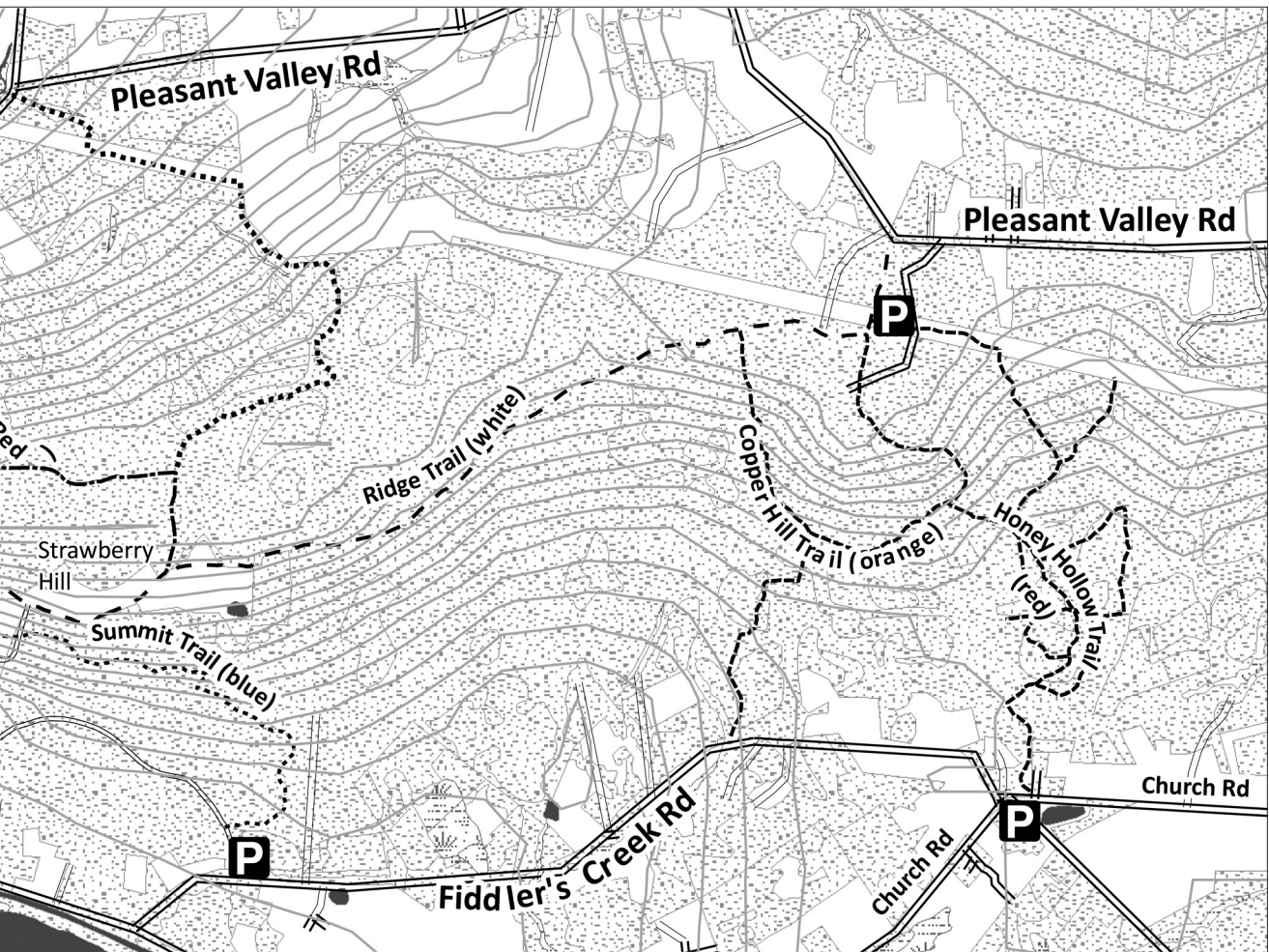
----- Trail	 Forest
 Boundary	 Water
 Parking	 Forested Wetland
 Contour (20 ft; Jacobs Creek Trail 10 ft)	 Wetlands
 Roads	



The Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain stretches approximately 1,200 acres on a ridge running roughly east-west between Fiddlers Creek Road to the south and Pleasant Valley Road to the north. Baldpate Mountain offers some of the most challenging hikes in Mercer County. An extensive network of trails, old logging roads and some specially built trails, lace the southern and northern flanks of the ridge, and a 2-mile trail runs along its spine. The most popular trail, the Summit Trail, starts at the Fiddler's Creek Road parking lot and ascends over 400 feet to the top. A dedicated band of volunteers spent months constructing this trail in 2006. After reaching the top, hikers can enjoy great views of the Delaware River to the south and even a view of the Philadelphia skyline on a clear day.

A large map of trails of Baldpate Mountain can be seen on the kiosks at the start of the Summit Trail off Fiddlers Creed Road and at the Ridge Trail off of Pleasant Valley Road. BUT do check the signs at the entrances for hunting dates. Only hunters are allowed on hunting dates. The dates are also posted on the Hopewell Township website, www.hopewelltwp.org.

The Honey Hollow trails start at Church Road just east of Fiddler's Creek Road. Look for a very large white oak that is at the trail head. Honey Hollow was the site of a 19th century settlement and is reported to have been occupied by some 50 families before being abandoned. Remnants of foundations and chimneys of houses still exist in the area.



Most of the land was preserved as open space in 1998 by a consortium of Mercer County, the State of New Jersey, Hopewell Township, and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. Ted Stiles, PhD, who died in 2007, was the long time president of FoHVOS who was instrumental in the preservation of Baldpate Mountain.

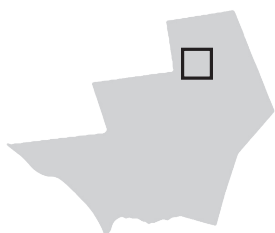
The top of Baldpate Mountain was home to Strawberry Hill, the country estate of the John Kuser family in the early 20th century. The main house and nearby lodge were restored by Mercer County in 2008.

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, a partner with Mercer County in managing the Ted Stiles Preserve, restored Strawberry Hill's original walled garden for native plants in 2014 and created a ten-acre wildflower meadow at the summit in 2015.



2. Cedar Ridge Preserve

Land owner/site manager:
D&R Greenway Land Trust



Location

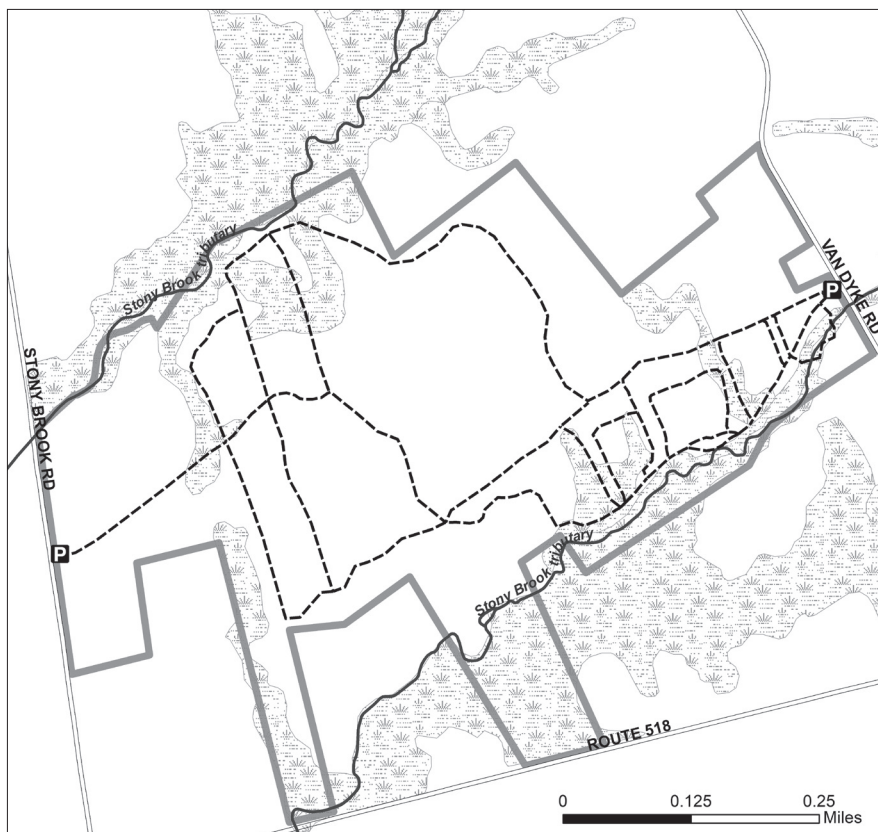
Van Dyke Road, about one third mile north of Route 518, and Stony Brook Road about a quarter mile north of Route 518

Trail Distance

2 miles (full loop);
3.8 miles total

Parking Location

Parking area off Stony Brook Road (8 cars).
N40.3895, W74.802637
Small parking area off of Van Dyke Road (4 cars).
N40.3934, W74.7884



This property consists of a combination of open fields, shrub land, streams and woodlands covering 216 acres at the edge of the Sourland Mountains. Woodlands are both young and mature with a large stand of White oaks near the Stony Brook Road entrance. There are kiosks at both entrances to explain the wildlife and bird life found on this preserved land.

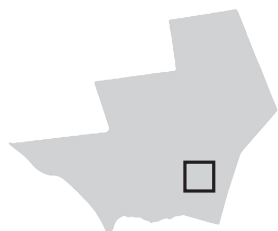
The preserve is bordered by Stony Brook Road to the west, Route 518 to the south and Van Dyke Road to the east. From Van Dyke Road, the main trail loops around meadows and runs parallel to the Stony Brook before heading north through cedar and young deciduous forest. The portion of the main trail from Stony Brook Road follows a gravel driveway across open fields and mature deciduous forest with an open understory.

D&R Greenway's stewardship for Cedar Ridge involves maintaining a healthy variety of habitats: native sun-loving shrubs and small trees between open meadow and forest habitats, and small forest fragments. A seven-acre fenced area, formerly a monoculture of invasive autumn olive, was replanted to benefit species that need young forest in their life cycle.

This preserve includes one of D&R Greenway Land Trust's earliest trails and has been expanded significantly with new acquisitions over the last 30 years. D&R Greenway Land Trust began preserving land in this region in 1991. The Fullam Family first donated a conservation easement on the property and then came back 10 years later to donate land to the D&R Greenway Land Trust. The Land Trust was able to extend the preserve to Stony Brook Road with the acquisition of a 52 acre parcel in 2014.

3. Curlis Lake Woods

Land owner/site manager:
Mercer County Park Commission, FoHVOS



Location

Just south and east of Pennington Borough, off South Main Street (main entrance)

Trails and Distances from the main entrance

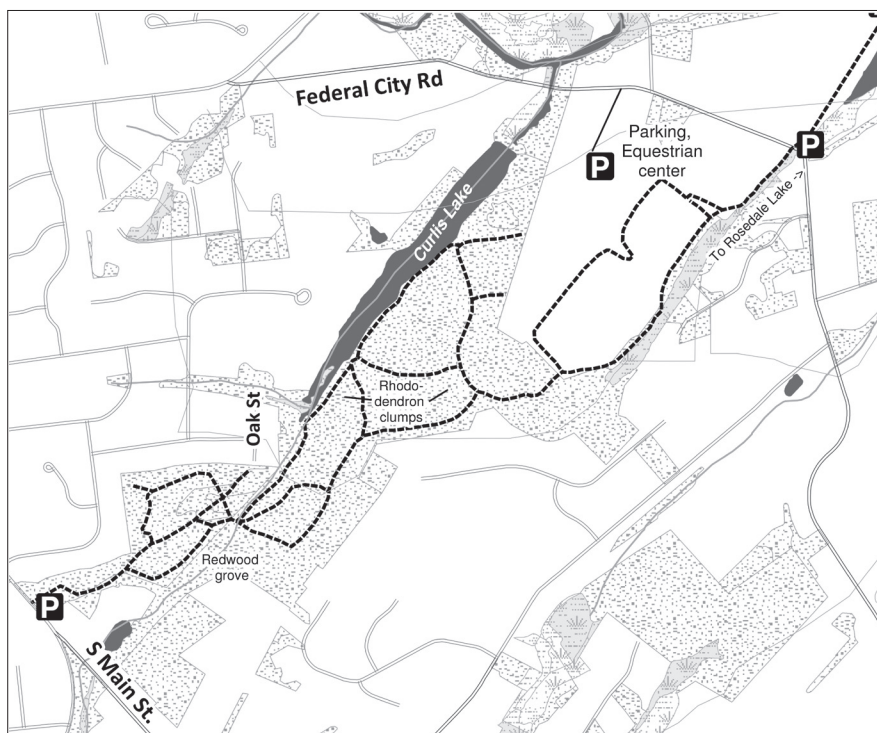
(all distances are round trip)

Howe's Lane: 1.3 miles

Howe's Lane/Redwood Trail: 1.4 miles

Howe's Lane/Lake Shore Trail: 2.8 miles

Howe's Lane/Woodland Trails: 3-4 miles



Parking

Pull over area on South Main Street just south of Pennington (5 cars). N40.3154, W74.7877

Mercer County Equestrian Center on Federal City Road (30 cars). N40.3289, W74.7677

The main entrance to Curlis Lake Woods is off S. Main Street at the southern end of Pennington Borough. A secondary entrance is at the end of Oak Street to the east of Pennington in Hopewell Township. The main trail, Howe's Lane, extends from the main entrance to the Oak Street entrance. About 500 feet from the main entrance there is a large color map displaying all trails. Access to Curlis Lake Woods can also be made from the Mercer County Equestrian Center on Federal City Road. Entrances to the Woodland Trails can be found to the right of the fences.

Starting at South Main Street, Howe's Lane runs through a thicket of rose, shrubs and young trees. The trail is broad and easy to follow. A side trail from Howe's Lane is the Redwood Trail which passes by a grouping of dawn redwood trees planted by Howe's Nursery. A nearby bridge was constructed as an Eagle Scout project in 2010. Since then, several additional bridges and boardwalks were constructed as Eagle Scout projects.

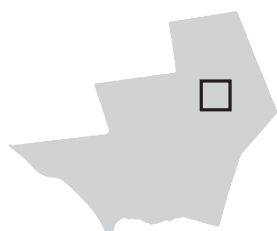
Howe's Lane and the Redwood Trail lead to a small brook which can be crossed on stepping stones. At this point, hikers enter a mature woodland that changes from beech near Curlis Lake to oak and hickory on the slope extending up from the lake. The Lake Shore Trail for the most part hugs the edge of Curlis Lake. The Woodland Trails form a network on the slope up from the lake. One of these trails, the Red Trail, passes by the County Equestrian Center. Hikers can traverse the Equestrian Center and fields beyond to get to Rosedale Park.

Curlis Lake Woods was part of Howe's Nursery in Pennington. Some of the non-native trees, such as the dawn redwoods, date back to Howe's Nursery. Mercer County acquired the site in 1993 following a public campaign and the urging of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space to save the area once proposed for the "Pennington Bypass."

4. Elks Preserve

Land owner/site manager:

FoHVOS



Location

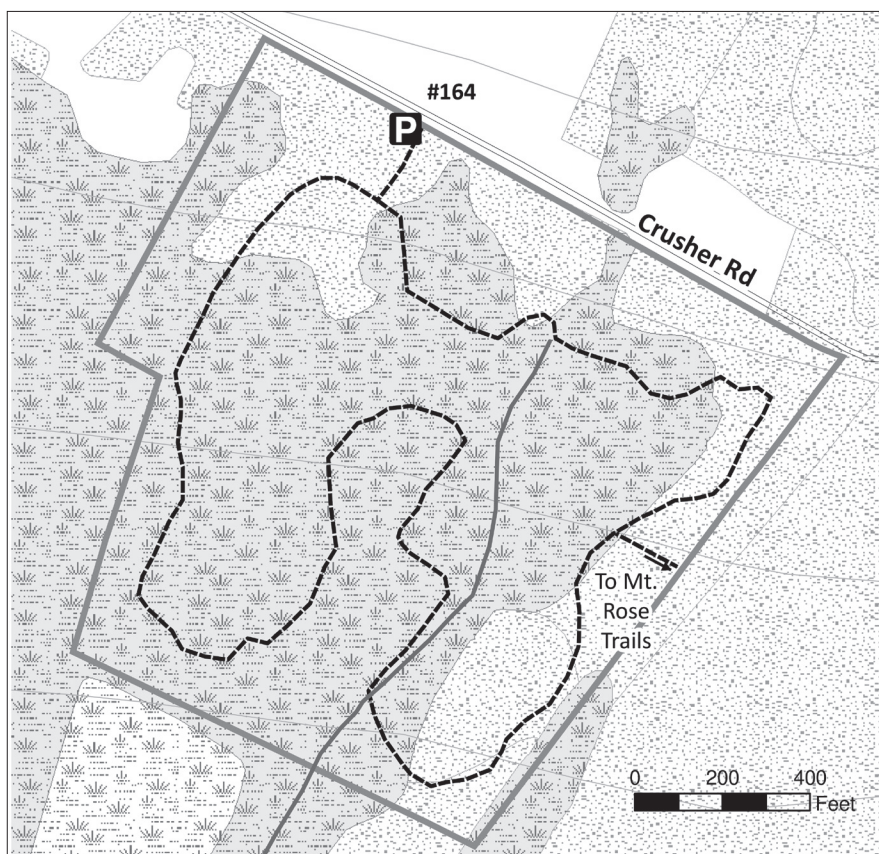
Crusher Road, one quarter mile east of Route 654 (Pennington-Hopewell Road)

Trail Distance

1.2 miles

Parking Location

Small parking area off of Crusher Road (2-3 cars).
N40.3777, W74.7799



This is an especially pleasant walk in autumn when the red maples and other trees are at their most colorful states. In early spring when the maples are a haze of red flowers this area is also beautiful, but the trail is likely to be muddy in spots.

The loop trail passes through lowland woods of predominately red maples with elm, white ash, beech and oak scattered throughout. In the southeast section the trail enters a dense stand of red cedar. This stand is so dense that there is no undergrowth or ground cover. Look for muscular, wildly artistic grape vines looping and climbing to the tops of the trees. Near the half way point, the trail crosses a small stream where a bench has been placed. The trail then continues through the lowland forest and returns to the parking area. There is also a connector trail that leads to the Mount Rose Trail system on the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Preserve.

The property was farmed until 1973. Since then, the farm fields have succeeded, first to brush and then to the young forest you see. The property was used as a hunting preserve by the Elks Club of Hopewell until 2002 when the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space purchased the property. The loop trail was constructed by volunteers in 2007.

The entrance to the trail is marked with a Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space "Nature Preserve" sign. Additional trail information can be found online at www.fohvoss.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the Preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website (www.fohvoss.org) or the sign at the entrance for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting activity on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

5. Fiddler's Creek Preserve

Land owner/site manager:
Mercer County Park Commission, FoHVOS



Location

Fiddler's Creek Road
opposite
Ted Stiles Preserve at
Baldpate Mountain

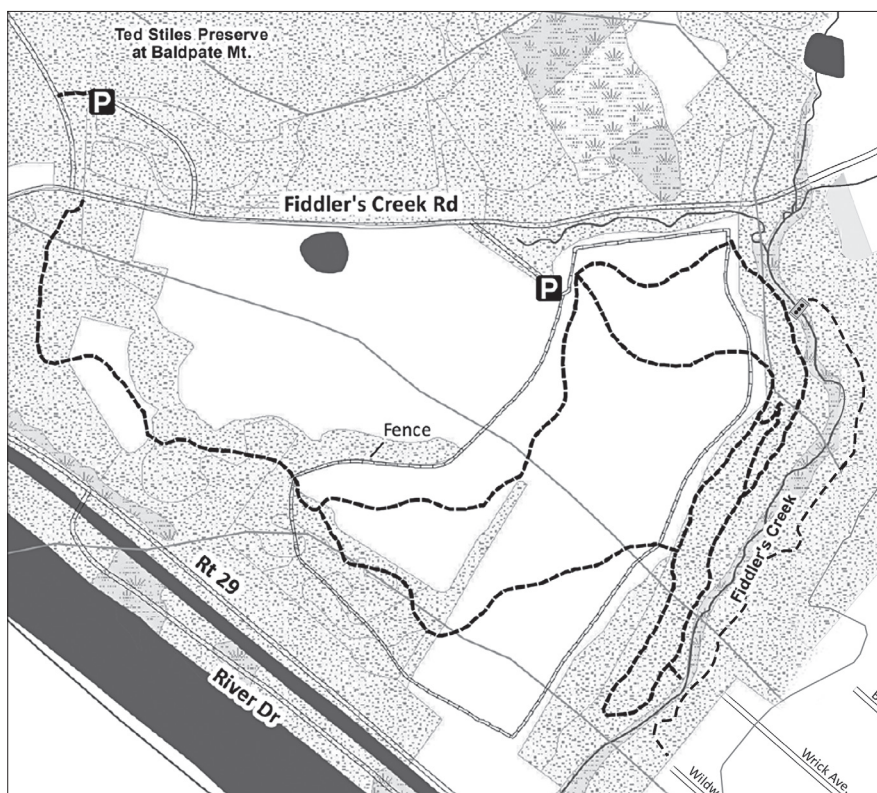
Trails and Distances

Loop trails of varying
distances

Parking

Large parking area at the Ted
Stiles Preserve at Baldpate
Mountain

Secondary parking available
on the Fiddler's Creek
Preserve; see stone driveway
about 0.2 mile east of the
Baldpate Mt. parking lot.
N40.3171, W74.8858



This 121-acre complement to the larger Ted Stiles Preserve offers broad views of the Baldpate Mountain ridge, stunning views down into the Fiddler's Creek ravine, idyllic walking along the creek at the bottom of the ravine, and links to the industrial past of the Hopewell Valley a century and more old.

The terrain falls in three categories: (1) scrub woods and open areas along the western side of the property; (2) a central 40-acre area of open fields (undergoing reforestation by Mercer County and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space) extending northeast from those scrub woods to Fiddler's Creek Road; and (3) the Fiddler's Creek ravine on the east side of the preserve. The open field area is surrounded by a fence to protect young trees from deer, and is crossed by four trail segments, with gates at five points to let walkers through.

There are two trail entrances to this preserve. The Overlook Trail (blue) is accessible from the Baldpate Mt. parking area. From there, signs direct hikers to the trail on the south side of Fiddler's Creek Road.

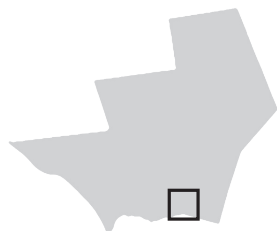
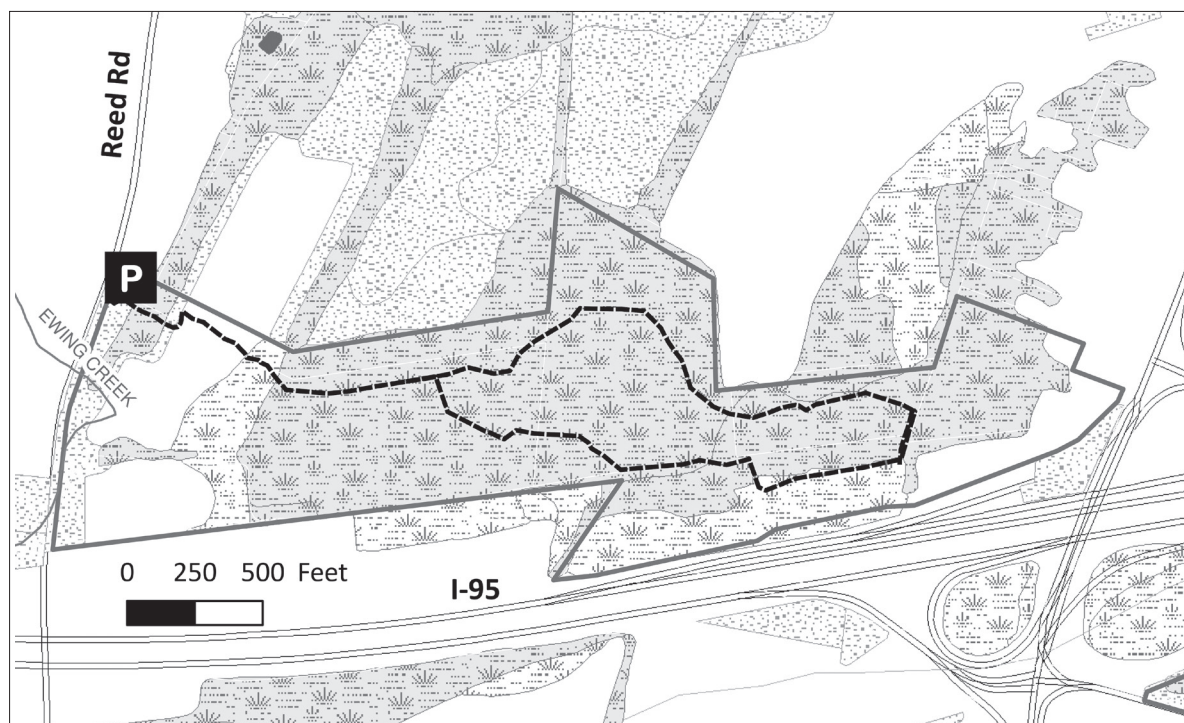
The trail winds alternately through open grassy areas and scrub woodland to the reforestation area. Beyond the reforestation area it enters the wooded Fiddler's Creek ravine.

The second trail entrance is located about a quarter mile south of the Baldpate Mt. parking area and is marked with an entrance sign at a stone driveway which ends at a small parking area. Inside the fenced reforestation area, two trails lead to the wooded ravine and a third trail to the right crosses the reforestation area. From the Ravine Trail, located to the far left, hikers cross the reforestation area to enter the wooded Fiddler's Creek ravine. The trail closely follows the creek and loops back to the reforestation area. A short cut can be taken on the Stoneface Trail (white). Shortly after the trail goes down to the creek, hikers can cross the creek (when water is low) and take the Southbank Trail (yellow) to Wildwood Way. Hikers can continue walking down Wildwood Way to Church Road and cross over to follow a path leading to Washington Crossing State Park.

6. Heritage Preserve

Land owner/site manager:

FoHVOS



Location

Reed Road, one quarter mile north of I-95 or one mile south of Washington Crossing-Pennington Road.

Trail Distance

1.5 miles

Parking Location

Small parking area off of Reed Road (2-3 cars).
N40.2928, W74.7973

This trail is a long narrow loop that begins by going through a former farm field. It continues through young red maple forest and then a mature beech bottomland forest. This preserve has outstanding spring wildflowers. There are a number of vernal pools, small streams and old farm drainage swales. As the trail meanders through the forest, there may be some wet spots in spring and after rain.

The land of the Heritage Preserve was farmed for many, perhaps hundreds of years. The 1930 aerial photographs show that a little over a third of the land was forested. As you walk the trail you can easily identify the old forest by the large mature trees. About half of the rest of the property in 1930 was fields for crops and the remainder was pasture. Aside from two hayfields, farming ended

in the late 1970's. At that time the former fields and pastures began to succeed, first to shrub land and then to forest. Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space purchased the preserve from the Heritage Conservancy in 2008 with State Green Acres funds.

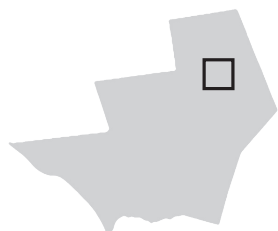
The entrance to the Heritage Preserve is marked with a Friends of Hopewell Valley "Nature Preserve" sign. Additional trail information can be found online at www.fohv.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the Preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website (www.fohv.org) or the sign at the entrance for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting activity on Sunday and nearly all Mondays.

7. Hopewell Borough Park

Land owner/site manager:

Hopewell Borough



Location

Columbia Avenue

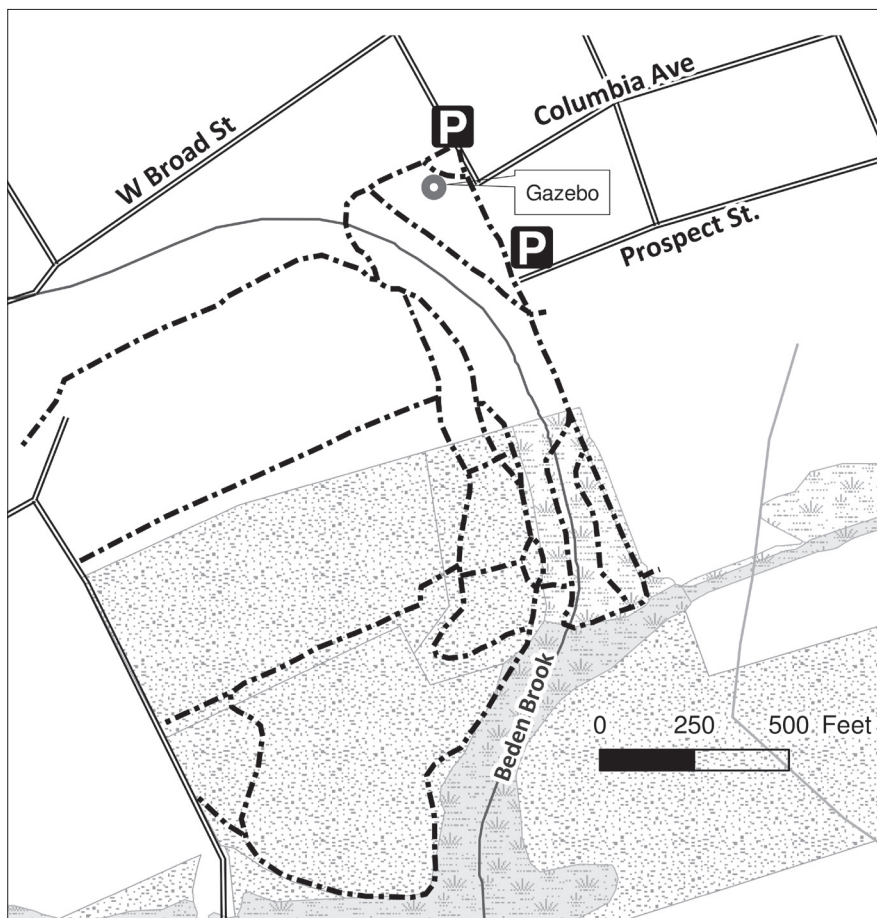
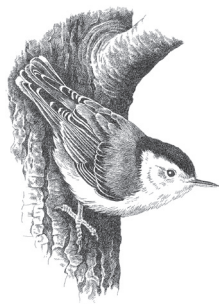
Trail Distance

There are various trails from 0.25 mile to 2 miles in length.

Parking Locations

On Columbia Avenue.
N40.3882, W74.7610

In the Hopewell Elementary School parking lot



Hopewell Borough Park is owned and managed by Hopewell Borough. The park is also known as Gazebo Park, after its most prominent feature. It could be said that the park has two distinct areas. The first is the developed area at the north end off Columbia Avenue. This part has a playground, picnic tables, benches, as well as a gazebo that hosts musical performances during the summer months.

The park also has a larger, less developed part. It contains several walking trails that wind along the Beden's Brook and into an old farm pasture. In a large field along the trail, volunteers led by the Sourland Conservancy and the Mercer County Park Commission in 2017 planted a variety of trees in various locations and later placed dead limbs and discarded Christmas trees around the planting areas to protect the seedlings from deer browsing.

In 2019, these organizations again teamed up for a Foraging Forest habitat restoration project which enlisted volunteers to plant hundreds of native shrubs, included edible species, within a fenced area near the end of the trail along Beden's Brook.

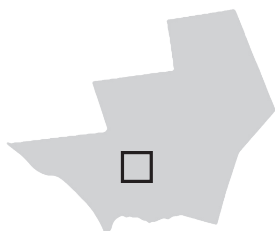
The 49-acre park is a surprisingly good place to see birds. The wooded corridor along the stream hosts Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, yellow warblers and the usual assortment of titmice, chickadees and nuthatches. The lower fields are a good place for observing woodcocks on an early March evening and later in spring meadowlarks have been heard singing.

The park forms a portion of a greenbelt surrounding Hopewell Borough.

8. Jacobs Creek Trail

Land owner/site manager:

FoHVOS



Location

Along Jacobs Creek from Pennington-Titusville Road to Pennington-Harbourton Road and south of Pennington-Titusville Road

Trail Distance

1.2 miles each way
(northern section)

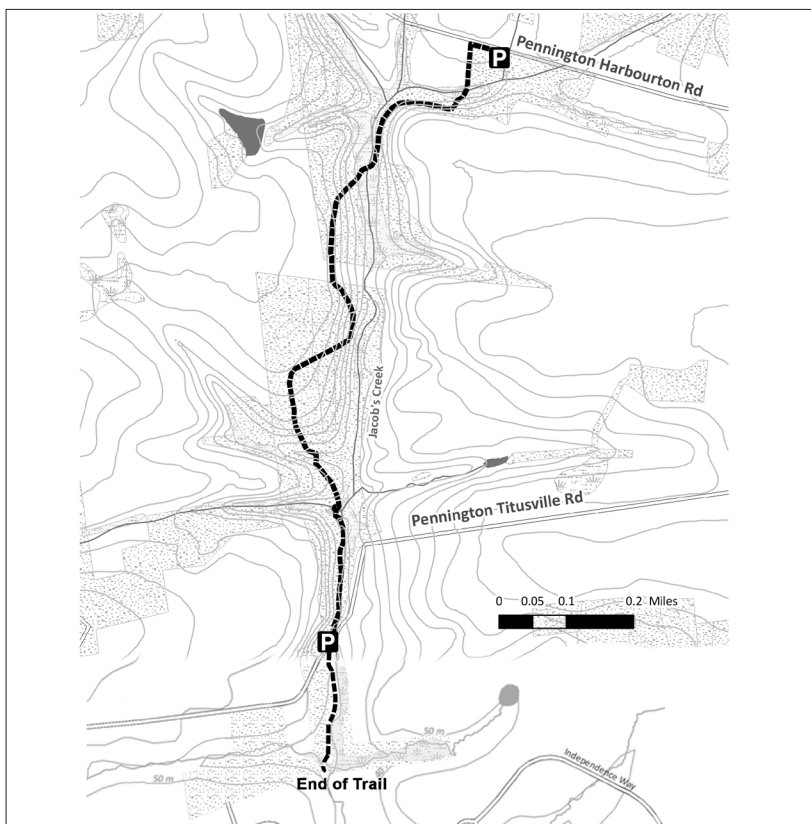
0.25 mile each way
(southern section)

Parking

Pull over parking is located near trail entrances.

Pennington-Titusville Road (3 cars).
N40.3182, W74.8382

Pennington-Harbourton Road
(21 cars).
N40.3310, W74.8336



From the main entrance on Pennington-Titusville Road, the Jacobs Creek Trail extends north to Pennington-Harbourton Road and south for about a quarter mile. The trail traverses mature woods and younger successional woods. Much of the area was farmed many years ago and remnants of old farm roads still exist. One historic feature of note along the trail is the ruins of an old dam which once extended across the creek. Further up the trail is what appears to be a small quarry where stone for the dam was obtained.

A smaller section of the Jacobs Creek Trail continues south of Pennington-Titusville Road. It closely follows Jacobs Creek along a flood plain.

Unlike most FoHVOS trails which contain a loop for circling back, the Jacobs Creek Trail is a straight trail that dead-ends on both sides. The Jacobs Creek Trail is a central piece of the FoHVOS trail strategy: planned extensions from both sides of the existing trail will ultimately connect with other preserves.

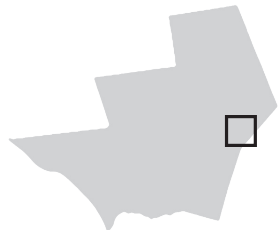
Trail extensions will be announced as they are opened.

Major portions of the northern section of the trail go through private property on which easements for public access are held by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS). North of Pennington-Titusville Road to the powerline, the trail is closed during the hunting season except on Sunday. The section north of the powerline, owned by FoHVOS, is closed on certain days except on Sunday and Monday. Please check the website, www.fohvos.org, for specific dates (look under 'Nexus').

On the southern section of the trail, bow hunting for deer is allowed on selected days during hunting season. Please check the website, www.fohvos.org, for specific hunting dates (look for the 'Franz preserve'). There is no hunting on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

9. Kate's Trail

Land owner/site manager:
D&R Greenway Land Trust



Location

Elm Ridge Road, about one half mile west of Carter Road

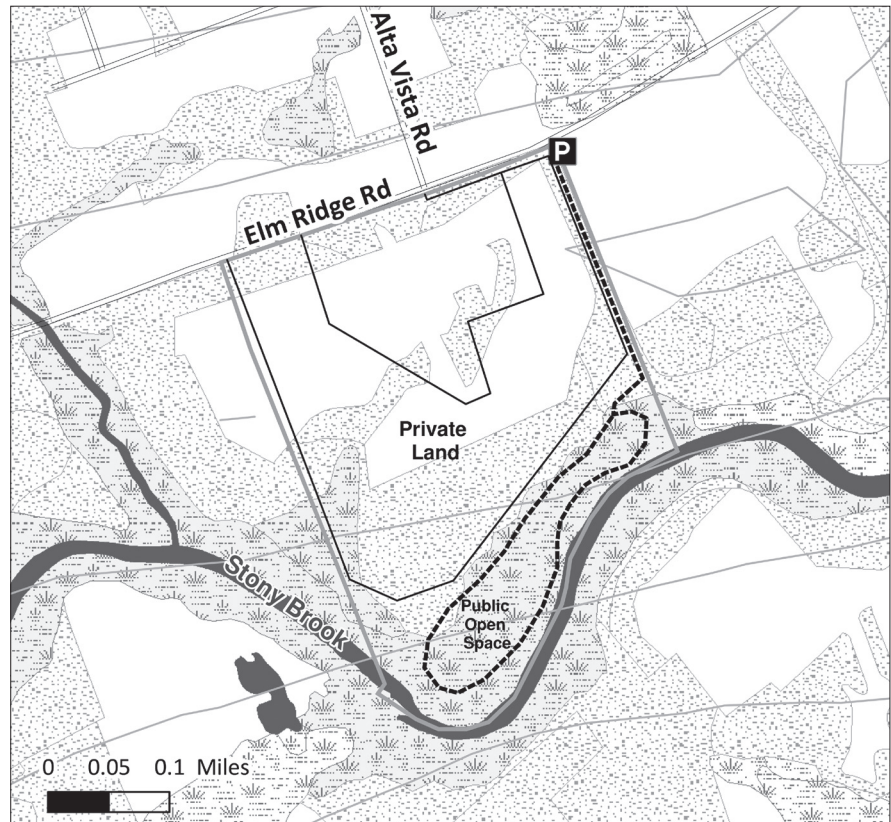
Trail Distance

1.1 miles round trip

Parking Location

Pull over on Elm Ridge Road at trail entrance (1 or 2 cars).
N40.3430, W74.7358

Park on Alta Vista Drive a short distance west.
N40.3428, W74.7377



Kate's Trail is on a 60-acre conservation easement acquired by D&R Greenway Land Trust in 2000. The area of the easement with the trail and public access covers 20 acres. The remaining 40-acre easement does not allow public access, but will remain as permanent open space. The distance from the road to the Stony Brook is 0.25 mile. Another 0.25 mile of the trail closely follows the Stony Brook.

The upper part of the trail follows a ridge above the Stony Brook. Large tulip trees, swamp white oak and pin oaks can be found here. The lower section of the trail lies in the Stony Brook floodplain and can be wet at times.

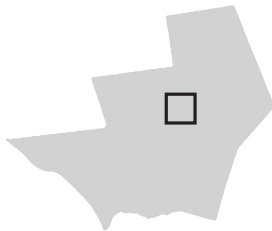
Many species of birds in season can be seen along the trail including great blue herons, wood ducks, scarlet tanagers, and Baltimore orioles. Amphibians and reptiles including the Eastern box turtle can also be found along the stream.

Kate's Trail is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Wright Gorrie. There is a kiosk at the start of the trail with more information about Kate and a map showing the trail route.



10. Marshall's Corner Preserve

Land owner/site manager:
FoHVOS



Location

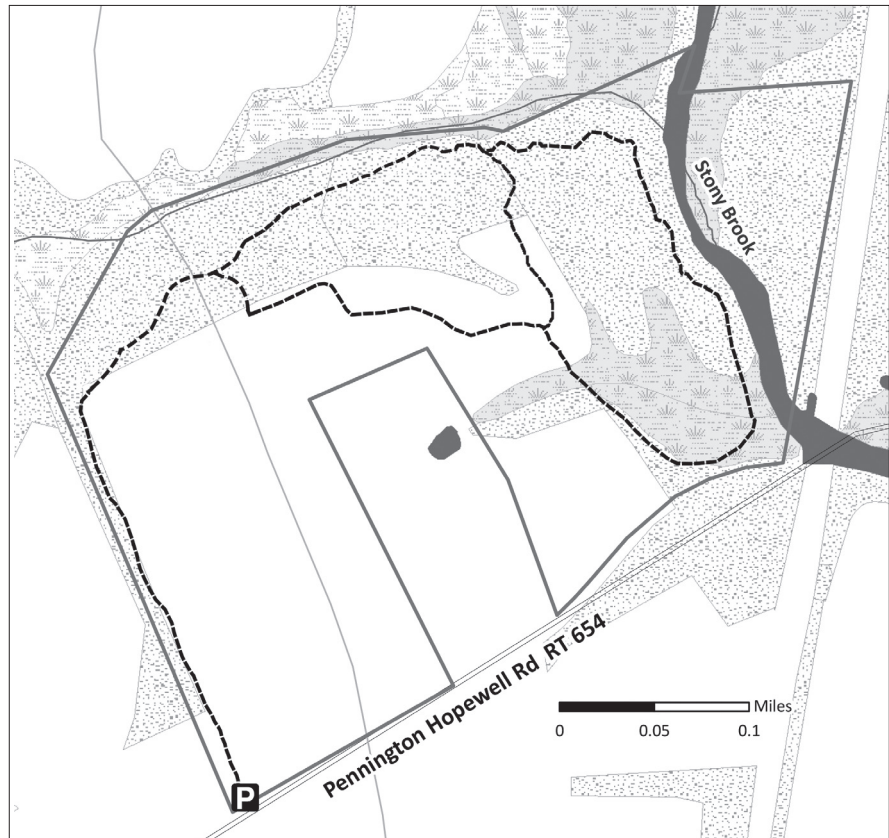
Pennington-Hopewell Road

Trail Distance

1.5 miles (long loop)

Parking Location

Parking along access driveway next to Marshall's Corner Schoolhouse (4 cars).
N40.3628, W74.7939



The trail is a loop that starts out alongside agricultural fields then enters woodlands after about a quarter mile. Soon after entering the woods, the trail splits to form a loop. Going to the right, the trail passes a fenced in woodland restoration area before reaching a native wildflower meadow. At the end of the meadow, the trail splits again. The trail to the left forms a shorter loop. The trail to the right forms a longer loop which dips down to the Stony Brook. Both the short and long loop trails return to the fenced in area and briefly follow a small tributary of the Stony Brook. The trail skirts the fence before re-joining the trail along the fields.

The native wildflower meadow of just over 8 acres was created in 2010. The project was funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In 2018, a five-acre wooded area was fenced in to allow newly planted native shrubs and trees to grow without deer browsing. Corporate and student volunteers planted 1,000 shrubs and trees within the enclosure.

The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Also planted by volunteers in 2019 were hundreds of shrubs and trees near the Stony Brook as part of the “Roots to Rivers” Riparian Restoration project.

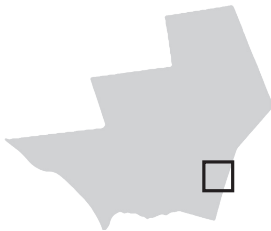
The three fields (17 of the 57 acres) in the southwestern portion of the preserve are leased for organic farming and foraging of wild plants.

This preserve was purchased by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space in 2002. The entrance is marked with a Friends of Hopewell Valley “Nature Preserve” sign. Additional site information is available at www.fohvos.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website or the signs at the entrance for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting activity on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

11. Mercer Meadows

Land owner/site manager:
Mercer County Park Commission



Location

Federal City Road
Blackwell Road

Trails and Distances

Maidenhead Trail: 1.8 miles
(one way)

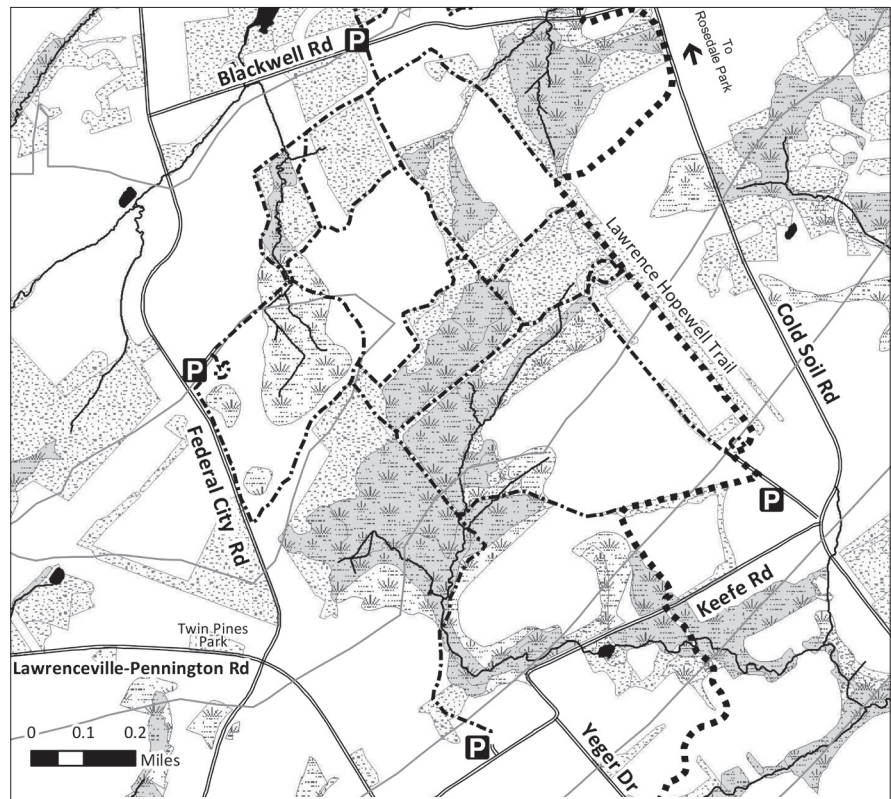
Farm History Trail: 0.7 miles
(one way)

Twin Pines Trail: 1.8 miles
(one way)

Lawrence-Hopewell Trail: 1.8
mile section of regional trail

Parking

There are four parking areas,
which are accessible from
Blackwell Road, Federal City
Road, and Keefe Road.



Mercer Meadows in this guide (Pole Farm and Reed-Bryan Farm) refers to the 812-acre tract of land purchased from AT&T by Mercer County, and is bounded by Federal City, Blackwell, Keefe, and Coil Soil Roads. The County Park Commission has split up this area into two sections or districts: the Farm History District accessible from Blackwell Road and Federal City Road and the Pole Farm District accessible from Keefe Road in Lawrence Township.

Since its acquisition from AT&T in 1998, Mercer Meadows has been allowed to revert to natural fields and forest. About three quarters of the area consists of open fields and early successional forest. Another quarter consists of numerous small pockets of wetlands which are predominately found in the central portion of the property.

In 2012, a 435-acre habitat restoration project was undertaken by Mercer County and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space to improve the grasslands for native wildlife, including grassland

birds, by planting seeds of native grasses and wildflowers.

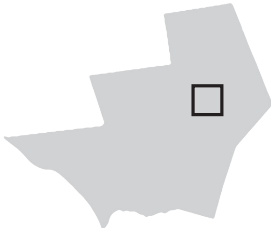
There is a network of four major trails, suitable for pedestrians and bicyclists, which crisscross all sections or districts of Mercer Meadows.

Among the trails is a section of the 22-mile Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT), most often used by cyclists, which extends into Lawrenceville and Rosedale Park. Direct access is available at the Pole Farm entrance off Keefe Road (look for red barn).

Other major trails are accessible from the four parking areas which border Mercer Meadows. In addition to the main trails, there are numerous "nature trails" narrower in width which branch off from the four main trails.

Interpretative displays about the history of the site as farmland and as the first transcontinental communications transmission site are located at the three on-site parking areas.

12. Mount Rose Preserve



Location

Carter Road, about one quarter mile south of the intersection at Mount Rose

Trails and Distances

Forest Trail: 2 miles loop from parking area

Meadow Trail: 0.4 miles loop from parking area (west of Carter Road)

Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT) Connector: 0.2 miles (east of Carter Road)

Parking Location

Large parking area accessible from driveway off Carter Road.
N40.3632, W74.7346



From the parking area west of Carter Road, the Mount Rose Preserve features one long loop trail in the wooded section and a short loop trail through a meadow. In addition, the preserve includes part of the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT). A kiosk at the parking area includes a large trail map showing the west side of the preserve with walking trails and the multi-use LHT on both the west and east sides of Carter Road (the east side section to be completed in 2021).

Forest Trail

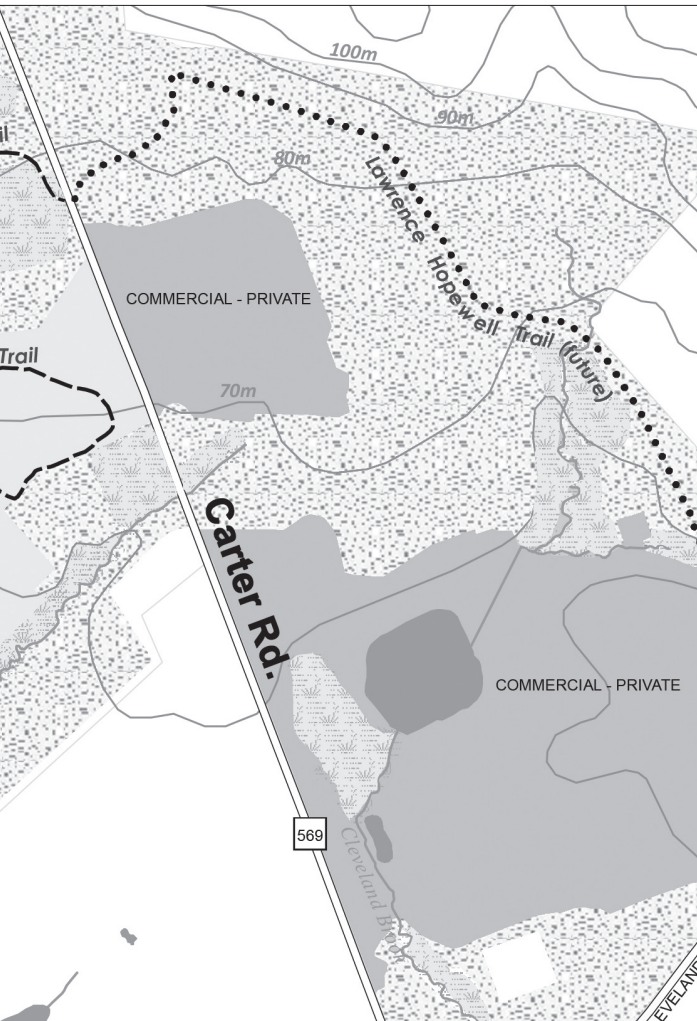
From early successional forest dominated by eastern red cedar, to mature mixed hardwood and stands of majestic American beech and White Oak, this 2-mile loop trail traverses the diverse forest

types of the Mount Rose Preserve. Soon after the trail entrance, hikers will pass a large fenced in area which is the site of an ongoing forest restoration project. A large sign by the fence explains the project in detail.

Please note that this trail is closed, except for Sundays and Mondays, during the deer hunting season from early September through mid-February. Signage will be posted at the trailhead.

Meadow Trail

This gentle 0.4-mile trail winds its way through meadows and shrubland habitat near the parking lot. This trail is a great place for butterfly and bird-watching during the breeding and migration seasons.



Lawrence Hopewell Trail (LHT)

On the west side of Carter Road, a 0.4-mile paved section of this regional multi-use trail is located within the preserve. A 0.2-mile trail from the parking lot kiosk provides access to the LHT. The LHT section on the west side of Carter Road is linked by a crossing on Carter Road to a continuation of the LHT on the east side of Carter Road. This section is scheduled to be completed in 2021.

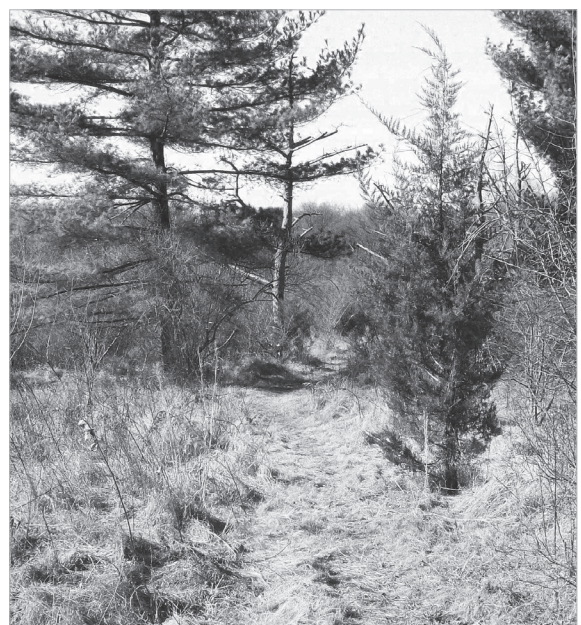
The Mount Rose Preserve site, together with two office buildings on the east side of Carter Road, was opened in 1958 as the nation's first corporate campus. It served as the major research and education facility for Western Electric, and later AT&T. The corporate

education facility, located on the west side of Carter Road and built in 1969, was torn down in 2016.

Following negotiations led by a citizens group and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Carter Road 230-acre property was preserved in 2015 with the backing of a partnership of more than a dozen public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The land acquired on the west side of Carter Road is surrounded by over a hundred acres of preserved open space and farmland.

During hunting season (mid-September to mid-February), the Forest Trail is closed to hikers except on Sundays and Mondays. Additional information about the site is available online at www.fohvos.org.

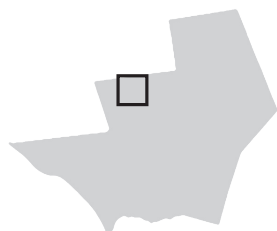
The Mount Rose Preserve is owned and managed by the NJ Conservation Foundation, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, Hopewell Township, and Mercer County. It was preserved by these partners along with Hopewell Valley Citizens Group Inc., NJ Green Acres Program, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Hopewell Borough, Pennington Borough, Friends of Princeton Open Space, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Lawrence Township and Princeton Township.



13. Nayfield Farm Preserve

Land owner/site manager:

FoHVOS



Location

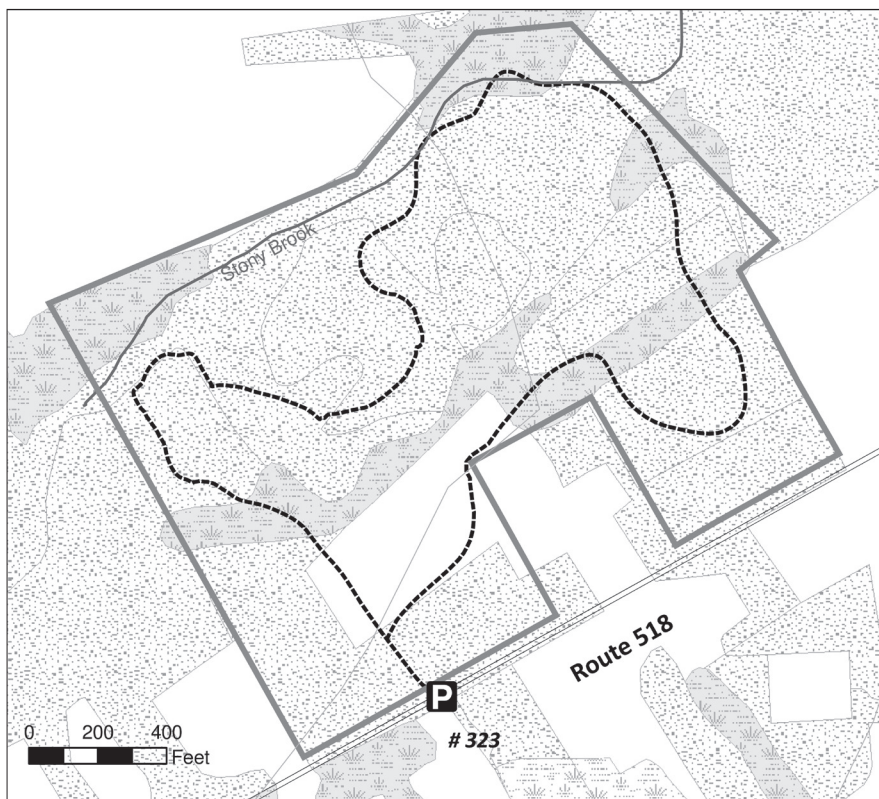
On the north side of Route 518, about two miles west of Route 31

Trail Distance

1.5 miles

Parking Location

Small parking area off of Route 518 (2-3 cars).
N40.3756, W74.8403



This is a very pleasant walk through many different habitats including farm fields, mature oak-hickory forest, red maple forest, some red cedar woods, and a pine grove. Parts of the trail may be swampy or muddy in the spring. Many of those sections were made passable by boardwalks constructed as an Eagle Scout project in 2017.

The trail passes a tributary of the Stony Brook where there is a bench at the stream bank. Spring woodland flowers include jack-in-the-pulpit, mayapple, dogwood and large areas of trout lily. In summer the forest canopy closes providing abundant cool shade.

In fall the preserve hosts a multitude of colors from wildflowers in the wet meadow and trees in the hardwood forest. In winter the meadow provides a valuable source of food for winter resident birds and the snow stands in stark contrast to the dark trees and grapevines.



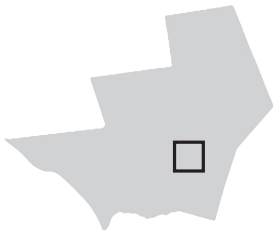
The land where Nayfield Preserve stands today was used as a dairy farm until the early 1960's. Thickets and trees started growing in various fields after farming activity was abandoned. The exception was a five-acre corn field that was used through the 1970s. Over the years, the field has reverted to a wet meadow and the forest has continued to grow and mature.

The preserve was acquired by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and the State of New Jersey in 2005. The entrance to the trail is marked with a Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space "Nature Preserve" sign. Additional information about the site is available online at www.fohv.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the Preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website www.fohv.org, or the sign at the entrance of the preserve, for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

14. Pennington Loop Trail

Land owner/site manager:
D&R Greenway Land Trust



Location

Just north of Pennington Borough, with access from King George Road and N. Main Street

Trails and Distance

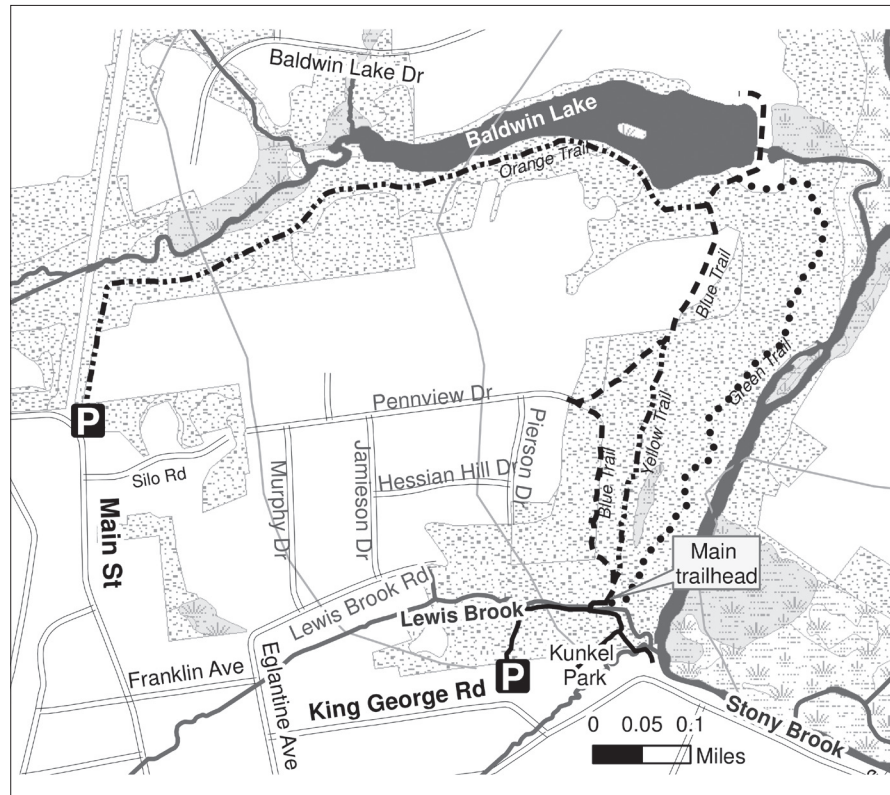
Short Loop Trail: 1.5 miles round trip (from Kunkel Park entrance)

Long Loop Trail: 2.5 miles

Parking Location

Kunkel Park parking lot off of King George Road in Pennington (15 cars). N40.3329, W74.7849

N. Main Street just east of R/R overpass—see gap in guardrail (2-3 cars). N40.3367, W74.7932



The Pennington Loop Trail extends north of the Borough to Baldwin Lake. Hikers have a choice of taking a short loop which begins and ends at Kunkel Park in Pennington or a long loop, which can be accessed either from Kunkel Park or from N. Main Street where it turns to go over the railroad tracks. Hikers can complete a full circle that connects both ends of the trail at Kunkel Park and N. Main Street by walking along streets in Pennington Borough. A continuous sidewalk can be followed on N. Main Street, E. Franklin Street, Eglantine Street, and King George Road to Kunkel Park.

Starting from Kunkel Park, the trail crosses the Lewis Brook which hikers can usually step across or walk across on two utility poles. The trail closely follows the Stony Brook in mature woodlands on its way to Baldwin Lake. Since the first section of the trail is within the Stony Brook floodplain it can be

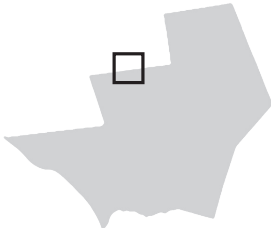
wet at times. The upper portion of the trail above the Stony Brook floodplain follows the south shore of Baldwin Lake and traverses a field.

Baldwin Lake was created to impound flood waters in the Stony Brook watershed and is owned by the State's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Canada geese are the most prevalent wildlife there but large white swans can occasionally be spotted.

This area has been a popular place for hikers for many years. The trails were made by nearby residents before the area was finally preserved. The preserved area is 41 acres, with most of the area having been acquired or protected by D&R Greenway Land Trust in 1995. In 2006, a local Eagle Scout candidate marked the trails. In 2009, Pennington Girl Scout Troop 71853 constructed a bridge over a gully on the lower section of the Short Loop Trail.

15. Rocky Brook Trail

Land owner/site manager:
East Amwell Township



Location

North side of Route 518 about one third mile west of Route 31 just west of the bridge.

Trail and Distance

This one-way trail is 1.3 miles in length (2.6-miles round trip)

Parking Location

Stone shoulder on north side of Route 518 provides parking for about four cars. N40.3837, W74.8162



This trail hugs a tributary of the Stony Brook called the Rocky Brook from Route 518 north to Syndertown Road in East Amwell Township. The trail features up close views of small waterfalls and pools lodged between massive rocks. There are a total of six crossings over this boulder strewn brook. Stepping stones are provided but hikers are urged to use caution when stones are wet and slippery. When stones are covered in water, hikers are advised to turn back.

At the northern end, the trail gives hikers the option of crossing the brook to the west side or continuing along the east side. Both trails join further north at a brook crossing to form a loop, which lengthens trail to about 1.6 miles.

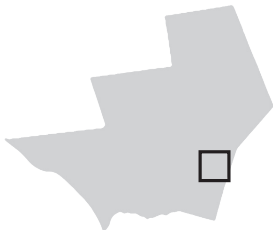
The trail follows a public access corridor within a larger conservation easement that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection obtained in 2002, and is overseen by the management of Washington Crossing State Park. East Amwell Township is responsible for maintaining the trail.

The trail passes through a “middle age” forest and a patch of Norway spruces, which may be a remnant of a Christmas tree farm. More mature hardwoods can be found near the brook and small ravines undisturbed by farming. The trail also passes old stone walls which once defined field boundaries and remnants of an old mill. There is a blue sign at the trailhead with some historical information about the site.



16. Rosedale Park

Land owner/site manager:
Mercer County Park Commission



Location

Federal City Road (main entrance), about one mile east of Pennington Borough and a half mile north of Blackwell Road

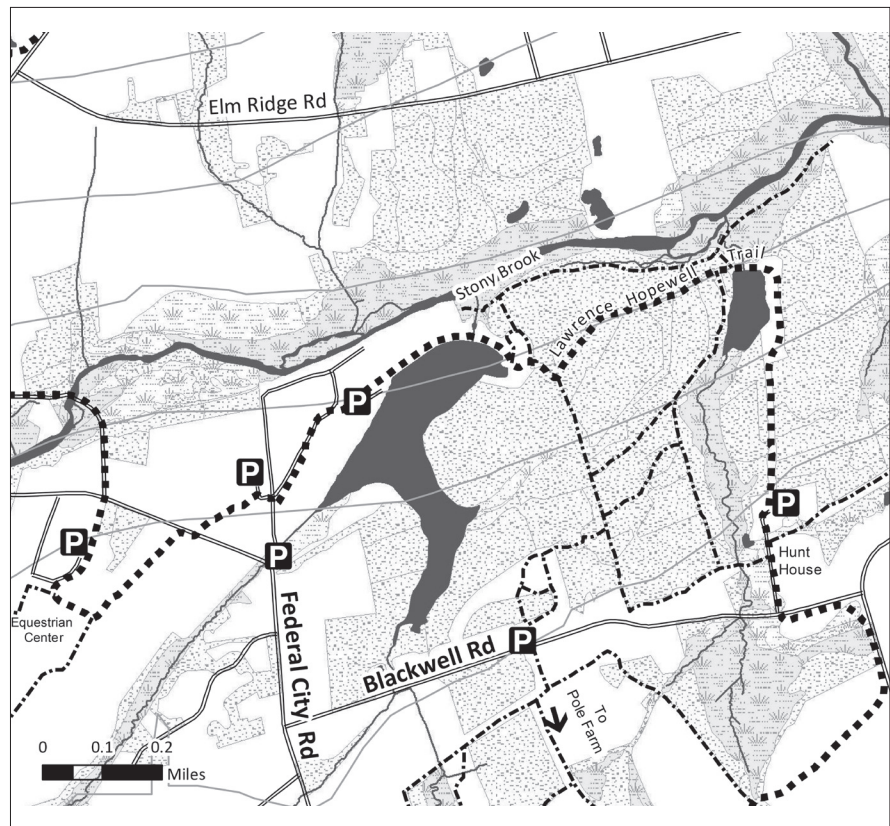
Trails and Distance

Approximately four miles of trails consisting of several loops (see trail map)

Parking Locations

Rosedale Lake main parking lot off of Federal City Road (50 cars).
N40.3276, W74.7606

Blackwell Road satellite parking lot (35 cars).
N40.3255, W74.7529



Rosedale Park encompasses 472 acres that includes a 38 acre lake stocked with trout. The land on which the park stands was originally three farms. The dam for the lake was built by the Soil Conservation Service starting in 1969. The lake was filled in 1971 and stocked for fishing. Around the lake area are two picnic areas with a dozen picnic tables, two playgrounds, and areas for playing volleyball and baseball. This is also an excellent area for kite flying, fishing, and bird watching. Restroom facilities are provided.

The main trail in Rosedale Park is the multi-use Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT), which connects to most of the other trails. It enters the park near the dog park and goes along the dam at one end of Rosedale Lake. From there, it enters the area of woods and thickets on the northeast side of the lake and connects to both ends of the White Trail. The LHT continues to a small lake that is filled with wildlife (look for frogs, snakes, ducks, geese

and osprey). On the east side of the lake, the trail heads straight south toward the old Hunt house on Blackwell Road. It crosses Blackwell Road and continues through Mercer Meadows.

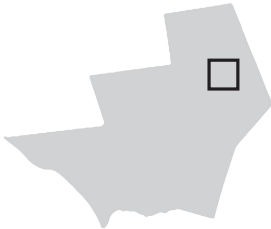
The White Trail, for hikers only, descends from the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT) to the Stony Brook and follows the brook through a beautiful beech woods before it ascends to rejoin the LHT Trail at the dam of the small lake.

The Yellow Trail starts at the LHT by the small lake. It follows the lake shoreline then turns away from the lake to enter a young forest that is sprinkled with stands of red cedar. Other connecting trails include the Blue, Orange, and White Trails.

The trails link to other nearby trails in Curlis Lake Woods and to Mercer Meadows south of Blackwell Road. There is a large trail map for Rosedale Park at the Blackwell Road parking area.

17. St. Michael's Farm Preserve

Land owner/site manager:
D&R Greenway Land Trust



Location

A large preserve between Hopewell-Princeton Road and Aunt Molly Road

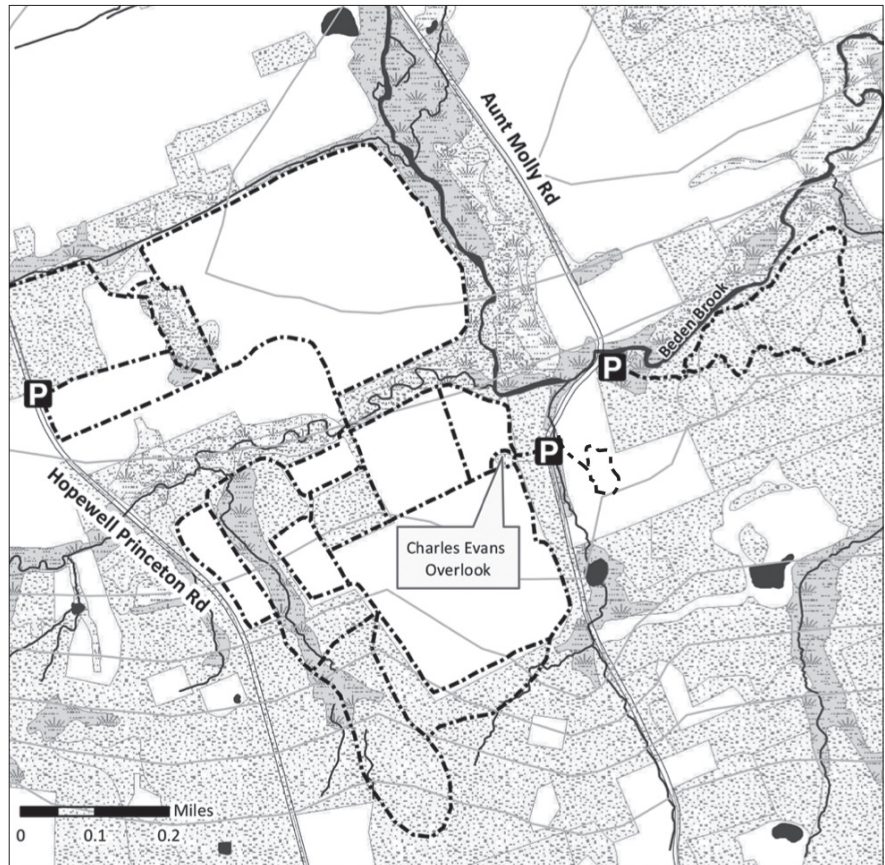
Trail Distance

Distances vary by trail

Parking Locations

There is room for 2 cars on Aunt Molly Road 0.7 miles from Rt. 518. N40.3843, W74.7407

There is a large parking area on the east side of Hopewell-Princeton Road 0.5 miles from Rt. 518. N40.3836, W74.7548



The St. Michael's Farm Preserve is a pioneering example of how to accommodate farming and public recreation in the same area. The preserve includes a total of 415 acres of preserved land, mostly between Hopewell-Princeton Road and Aunt Molly Road, but a portion of the preserve lies on the east side of Aunt Molly Road.

About 200 acres of the preserve are actively farmed under lease from D&R Greenway Land Trust, and the remaining acres are forested. Many trails follow old farm roads or mowed routes along field edges, but east of Aunt Molly Road and in the southern portion of the property, woodland hiking paths have been created.

Walks on the preserve offer bucolic open vistas, and from the overlook near Aunt Molly Road a broad view of the preserve, the spires of Hopewell, and the Sourland Ridge to the north can be seen.

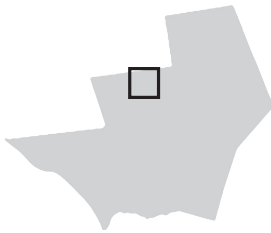
The Charles Evans Overlook is a special place for celebrations and for solitary reflection. The overlook is easily accessed from Aunt Molly Road and sits at a high point of the preserve where a panoramic view of the protected land can be appreciated. The overlook is named after Charles Evans, a visionary and entrepreneur. Mr. Evans recognized the enormous economic and environmental benefits that land preservation provides to communities.

Download the "TravelStorys" app for free and enjoy a fascinating audio tour with twenty stories about the history, the former Orphanage, the geology and natural resources of the property. The tour and preserve are dedicated to the children who once lived at the St. Michael's Orphanage, between 1883–1973.

Visit during daylight hours. Dogs must be kept on a leash due to the presence of ground nesting birds.

18. Skyview Preserve

Land owner/site manager:
FoHVOS



Location

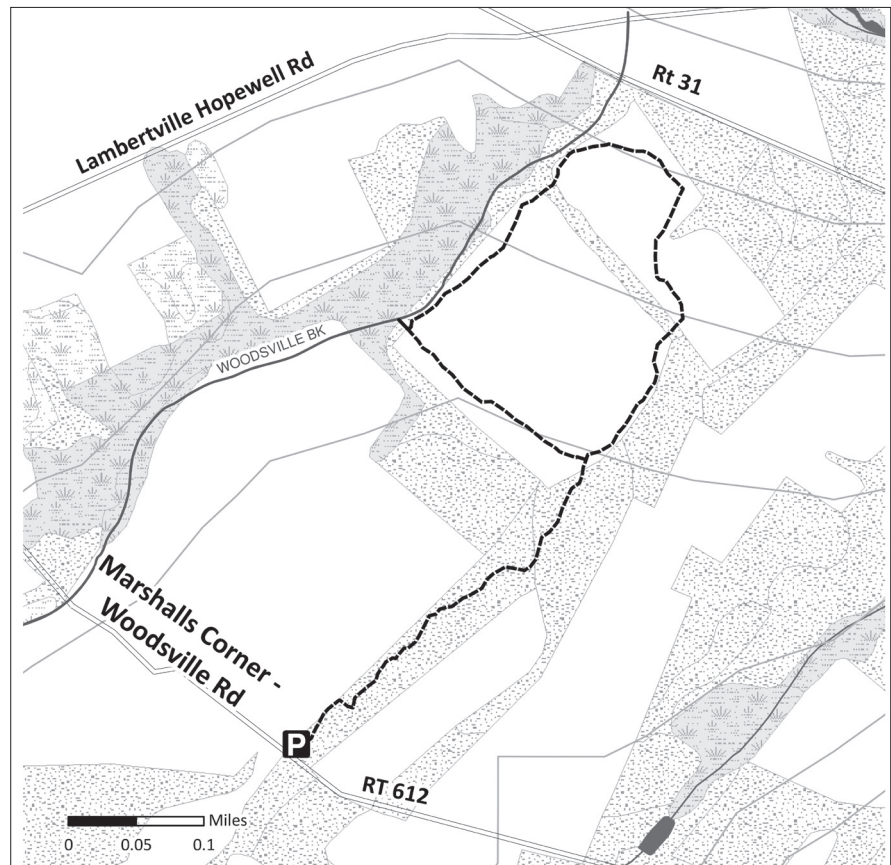
Marshall's Corner-
Woodsville Road CR 612

Trail Distance

1.4 miles (long loop)

Parking Location

Small parking area off of
Route 612 (2 cars).
N40.3756, W74.8222



Start at the parking area and follow the trail up a slight rise through a wood of cherry, dogwood, hickory and pin oak. Note the large cedars, a reminder that this was once an open field. As the trail goes east the trees are larger and older. Look for large old grapevines climbing the trees as the trail nears the turn into the meadow.

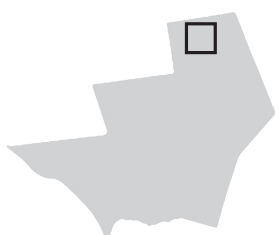
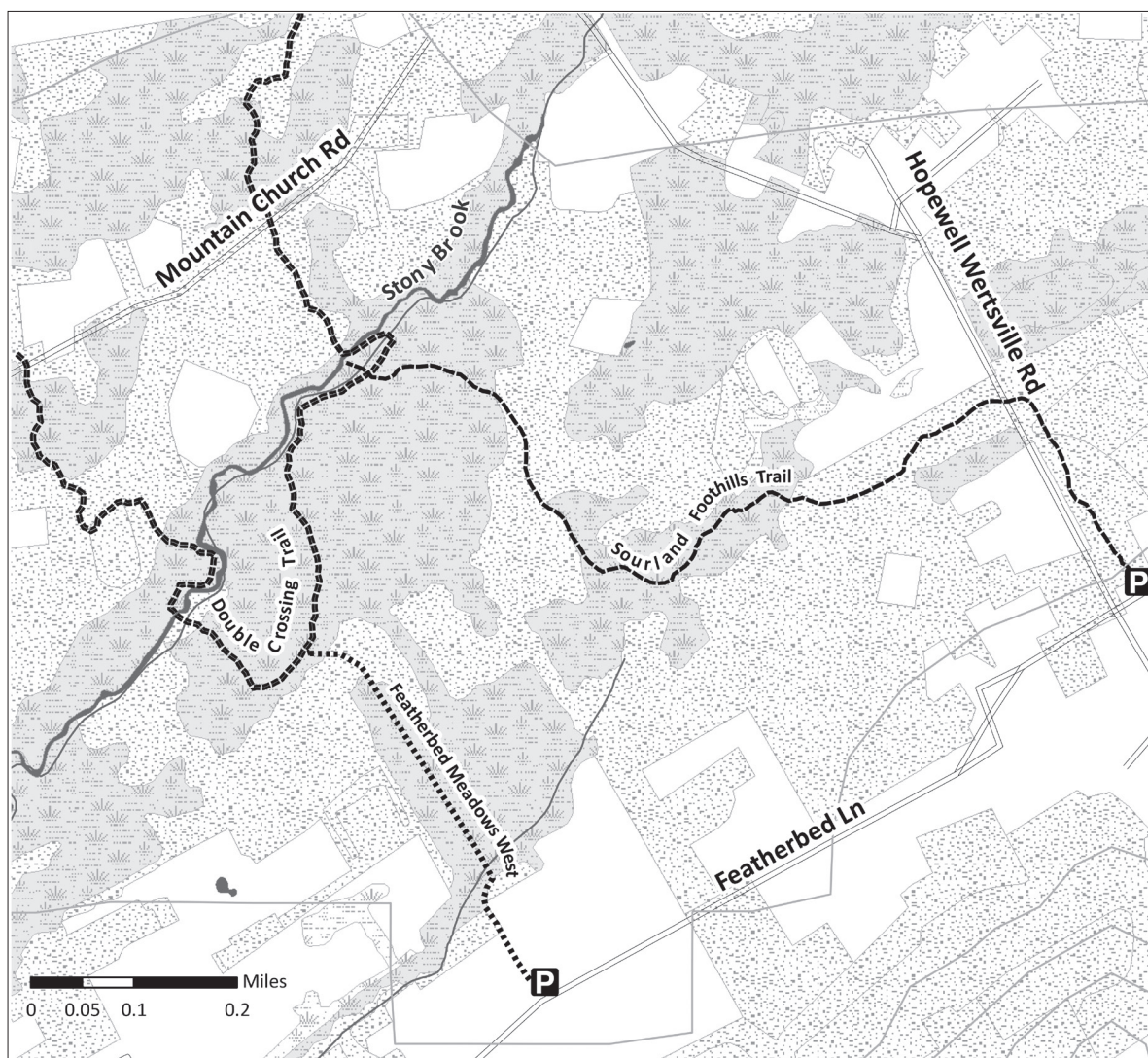
The mowed trail then loops through two meadows separated by an old hedgerow of mature elm, cherry, maple and ash. The field plants include goldenrod (shoulder high in the late autumn) asters, mullein, some young cedars and scattered small islands of multiflora rose. These fields are alive with birds during the fall migration. A variety of sparrows, finches and warblers can be found as well as hawks circling overhead. On the mowed trail, look for signs of deer, fox and woodchuck.

On the far northwest corner of the loop there is a short spur that leads down toward Woodsville brook. This is an excellent place to look for birds taking shelter in the little valley cut by the brook. The mature trees and vines, along with little thickets of wild rose interspersed with raspberry bushes make good hiding places for the birds and mammals as evidenced by the nests in the trees and bushes.

The entrance to the Skyview Preserve is marked with a Friends of Hopewell Valley "Nature Preserve" sign. Additional site information is available at www.fohv.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the Preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website or the sign at the entrance for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

19. Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve (Hopewell Twp.)



Location

Featherbed Lane one mile north of Hopewell Borough

Trails and Distances

There are three connecting trails on the South side of the Sourlands.

Featherbed Meadows Trail:
0.4 miles

Sourlands Foothills Trail:
1.1 miles

Double Crossing Trail:
1.1 miles

Parking Locations

Two parking areas on Featherbed Lane

Featherbed Meadows West Trail:

Small lot on Featherbed Lane about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of Hopewell-Wertsville Road (4 cars).

N40.4047, W74.7887

Sourlands Foothills Trail:
Small lot on Featherbed Lane just east of Hopewell-Wertsville Road (4 cars).

N40.4105, W74.7773

The 90-square-mile Sourland region includes parts of three counties and seven municipalities in central New Jersey, encompassing a complex ecosystem of forest, wetlands and grasslands. Its mosaic of habitats is home to an incredibly rich diversity of animal and plant species, many rare or endangered. As the surrounding area grows and changes rapidly, the Sourlands are increasingly in jeopardy. The magnificent old forests, boulder fields, and extensive grasslands of the Sourland Mountain region are unique in central New Jersey. Working farms, historic homesteads, and extensive parkland complement its wild abundance. The resulting balance between natural and cultural heritage give this area its special character. The Sourland Mountain is a rich landscape for people and wildlife alike.

The area of the Featherbed Lane trails is primarily woodland comprised of a mix of mature forest and forested wetlands to the north with areas of younger forest to the south. The preserve also includes areas of early successional wet meadow. A headwater stream corridor to the Stony Brook crosses a portion of the preserve near the meadow. The fields are dominated by goldenrod where they are dry and sedges where they are wet. The forested areas contain a number of mature hardwoods like pin oak and beech. A variety of animal species can be found such as deer and raccoons as well as many bird species including hawks soaring overhead and songbirds in the forest.

The preserve includes the first property purchased for preservation with a New Jersey Green Acres grant to D&R Greenway Land Trust in 1992.

Featherbed Meadows Trail

This trail is part of a much larger trail system that begins in Hopewell and continues into Hunterdon County. It goes through a preserve that is co-owned by D&R Greenway Land Trust and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. It begins in a wet meadow and takes you into a mature forest of the Sourland Mountains. It then threads through a wet, early successional red cedar/red maple wooded area with little understory. Further north the trail enters slightly older red maple/white ash/pin oak woodland. The trail intersects with the

Double Crossing Loop trail at the crossing of the Stony Brook. At this point you can return to the parking area, hike the Double Crossing Loop or get to the Sourlands Foothills trail via Double Crossing.

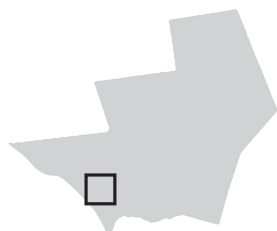
Sourlands Foothills Trail:

The Sourlands Foothills Trail starts at the parking area near the intersection of Featherbed Lane and Hopewell-Wertsville Road. It traverses property that is owned by Mercer County, the State of New Jersey, and the D&R Greenway Land Trust. The first section of Sourlands Foothills Trail parallels Hopewell-Wertsville Road. It threads through a wet, early successional red cedar and red maple wooded area. After crossing Hopewell-Wertsville Road, the trail enters slightly older red maple/white ash/pin oak woodland. The trail then enters mature woodlands. The trail crosses and follows a small tributary for a short section where large American beech and shagbark hickory trees grow. The trail then turns north and parallels and sometimes follows an old logging road. There are several sections of old stone walls and the quality of the woods improves as the trail continues further up the Sourland ridge.

Double Crossing Trail

This trail gets its name because it crosses the Stony Brook twice along the route. It is primarily in mature forest but you will notice that it surrounds one private residence with ducks, chickens and pigs. Although ATV's are no longer allowed on the preserve you may notice some trail damage from days past. One of the highlights of the trail is a stunning grove of American beech. The double crossing of Stony Brook via boulders is the fun part of this trail and you'll find yourself saying, "It doesn't get any prettier than this". In spring, look for wood ducks in quiet pools in the brook, and stoneflies on beech tree trunks during the hatch in April. The trail lies on two preserved parcels of land, one is owned by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and the other by D&R Greenway Land Trust. Double crossing ends at Mountain Church Road but you can cross the road and hike the trails of D&R Greenway's Northern Stony Brook Preserve in Hunterdon County.

20. Washington Crossing State Park



Location

Washington Crossing–
Pennington Road (CR 546)

Hiking Trail Distances

There are numerous trails that total 135 miles. Trail maps are available at the Visitor Center and the Nature Center

Multi-Use Trails: There are about 7.5 miles of multi-use trails. Horses and bikes as well as hikers are allowed on these trails so be alert when hiking.

Parking Locations

Visitor's Center:
N40.3061, W74.8616

Nature Center:
N40.3136, W74.8629

Knox Grove:
N40.3102, W74.8590

along the Delaware River:
N40.2971, W74.8678

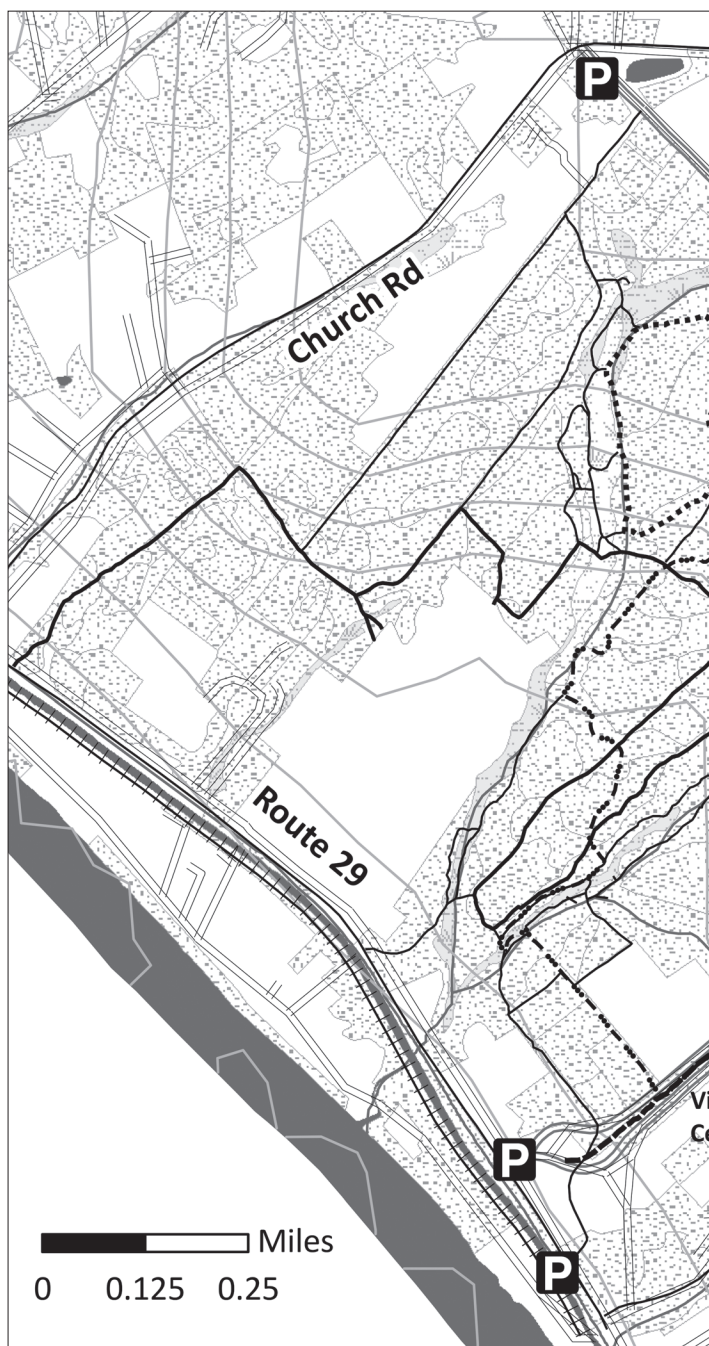
Multi-use trails are accessible from:

Route 579:
N40.3151, W74.8563
pond area on Church Road:
N40.3186, W74.8662

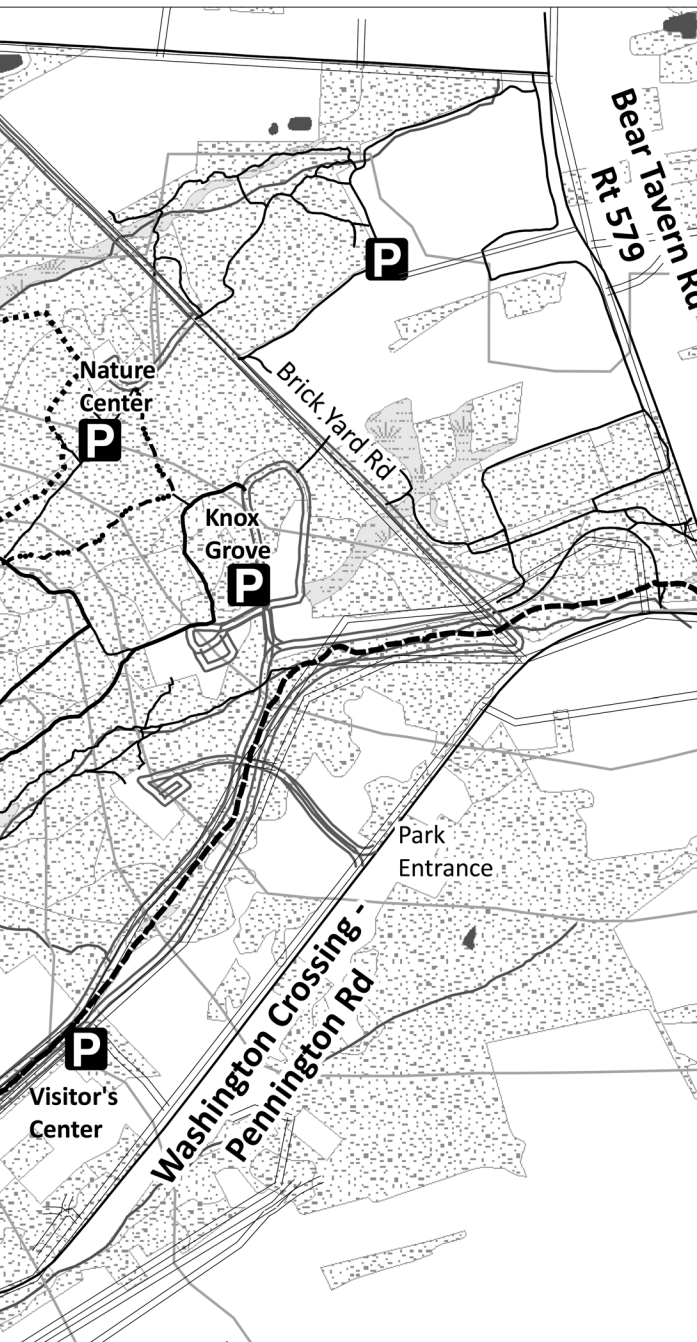
Amenities

Visitor Center and museum
Nature Center
Johnson Ferry House
Nelson House
Open Air Theater

Washington's Crossing has several trails within its 1400 acres and most of them are level to gently rolling. The trails take you through mixed hardwood, old growth and secondary forests along with meadows and park like areas. On the trails you may see coopers hawks, pileated woodpeckers, wild turkeys and a large variety of songbirds. Black bears are an occasional visitor to the park. The dominant tree in the park is oak, followed by maple and hickory. The under story consists of flowering dogwood, spicebush and multiflora rose. In the spring, the woods are carpeted with early wildflowers, like trout lily, spring beauty, mayapple and jack-in-the-pulpit. Several of the trails follow the Steele Run, which feeds into the Delaware River. The Steele Run is usually dry in the summer, but flows nicely in the spring and after heavy rains. You may find a variety of macroinvertebrates if you explore the gravelly bed of the Run. In the fall, the maples, hickories, oaks and dogwoods put on a wonderful display of color and in the winter, the evergreens make a nice contrast against the snow.



The Red Dot trail is a good trail to take if you want to see a majority of the park. It runs from the Nature Center to the Visitors Center, while intersecting many other trails along the way. The Red Dot trail takes you through different forests within the park, over the Steele Run and through a wonderful spicebush thicket.



The Red Trail, which starts at the Nature Center, is a loop trail with several smaller trails branching off from it. It takes you by the stream and one of the branches leads you to the Wildlife Blind. Here you can watch several species of birds at the feeders and observe other animals in the stream just beyond.

The multi-use trails run along the fields in the eastern portion of the park and the woods in the northern portion. For hikers it is a great place to observe birds that thrive in a grassland environment. The Blue Dot Trail, the longest in the park, is accessible from the Open Air Theater parking lot and extends to the Titusville Methodist Church and Church Road. If you cross the road to Wildwood Way, you can walk along that street to the Southbank Trail in Fiddler's Creek Preserve. Many of the trails provide an opportunity for cross country skiing in the winter. A brochure with a large trail map and detailed trail descriptions is available at the Visitor's Center and the Nature Center.

Delaware and Raritan Canal Towpath

Distance

30 miles

Parking

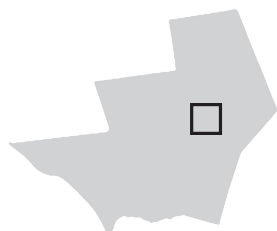
Parking for the Towpath can be found in the Washington Grove picnic area along the Delaware River. In the summer, the parking area fills very early in the morning, especially on weekends.

You can also park at the Ferry House within the main park and take the pedestrian bridge over Route 29 to Washington Grove.

The Towpath runs from Trenton to Frenchtown. A very small section passes through Washington Crossing State Park. It is level and the surface is crushed stone, great for strollers and bikes. The entire towpath runs along the D&R Canal. Geese, ducks, great blue herons, muskrats, turtles and snakes can be seen in and along the canal.



21. Watershed Reserve



Location

Titus Mill Road (main entrance), about one mile west of Pennington-Rocky Hill Road

There are three main trails, which can be accessed from the Watershed Institute's headquarters building off of Titus Mill Road.

Trails can be accessed from the small parking area on Wargo Road

Trails, Distances and Access Point

Watershed Trail:
1.1 miles round trip
(Headquarters Building)

Stony Brook Trail:
2.5 miles round trip
(Headquarters Building)

Meadow Trail:
2.5 miles round trip
(Headquarters Building)

Pond Loop Trail:
0.62 miles round trip
(Wargo Road)

Parking Locations

Large parking lot at headquarters building.
N40.3515, W74.7721

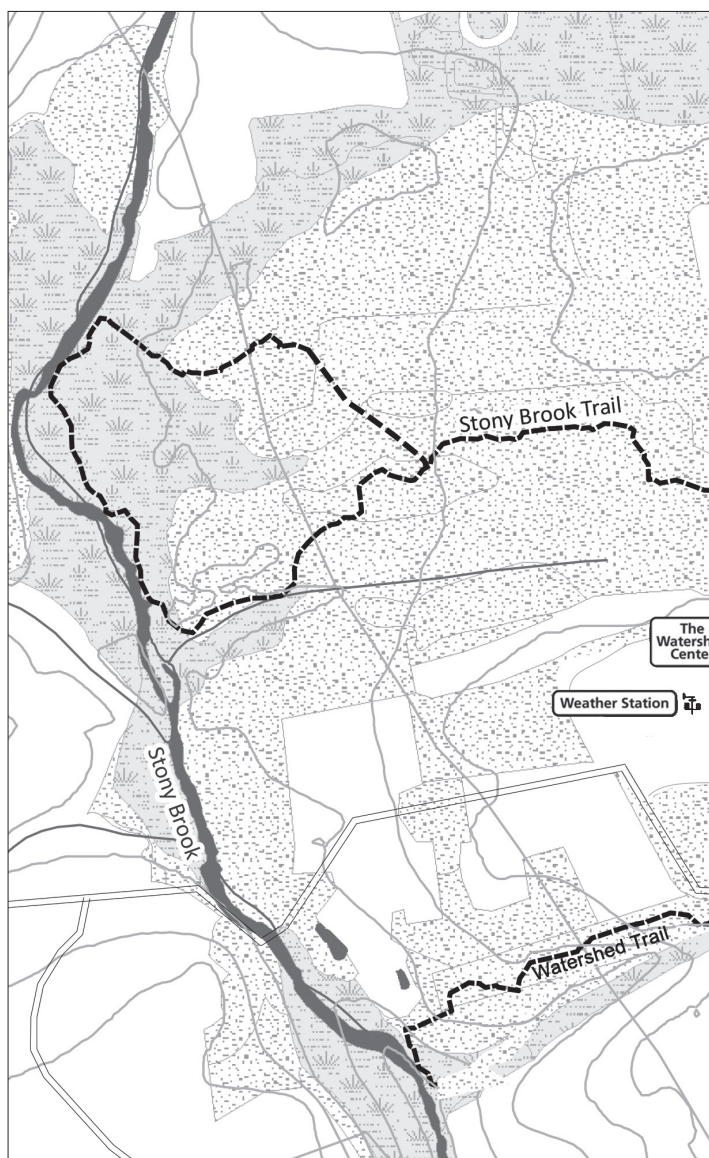
Parking on Wargo Road for 2 to 3 cars.
N40.3573, W74.7657

A good starting point for any visit to the Watershed Reserve is the new Watershed Center completed in 2015. The center houses a number of interpretative displays, a three dimensional map of the reserve, a small shop and restrooms. Maps are available at the front desk. The center is open Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and most Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Main Reserve is a well-blended combination of forests, fields, streams, ponds and wetlands allowing for a wide array of plants and animals. The fields are wonderful places for wildflowers and butterflies. The combination of open fields with edges provides habitat for many birds including prairie warblers, field sparrows, bluebirds, and tree swallows.

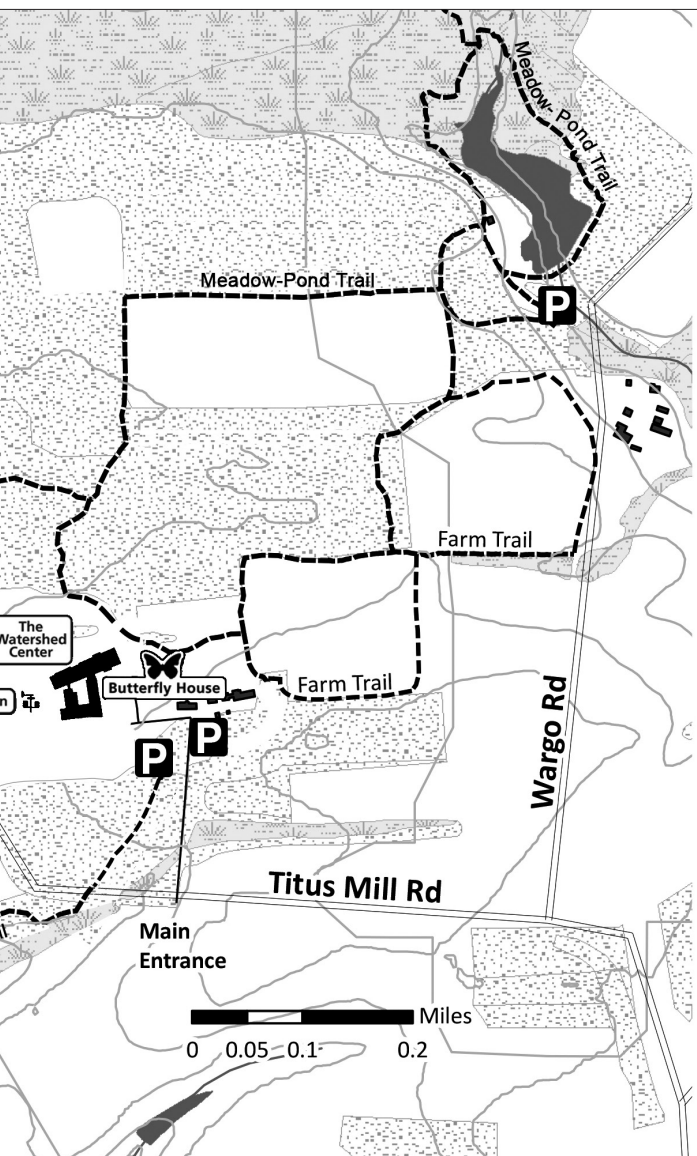
American kestrels, northern harrier and red-tailed hawks are common birds of prey seen visiting the fields during daylight while great horned and screech owls hunt in the evenings. Red fox, white tail deer, woodchucks, and meadow voles are just a few of the mammals that frequent the fields.

The forests of the reserve are predominately oak-hickory, although some of the early successional forests are still dominated by eastern red cedar. Spring beauty, mayapple and cut leaved toothwort blanket the forest floor in early spring and wood



thrushes, ovenbirds and scarlet tanagers provide musical background during the summer months.

Both the Stony Brook and the Watershed Trail lead to Stony Brook where great blue and green herons share the brook side feeding with kingfishers. The brook also hosts an abundance of macroinvertebrates. Stoneflies, mayflies, water pennies and hellgrammites all are indicators of excellent water quality. Sunfish, bass, creek chubs and shiners can be found in the riffle areas and the slower moving pools of the brook.



The Pond House area offers outstanding birding from great egrets and great blue herons to kingfishers, Baltimore orioles and a host of waterfowl. Several species of amphibians can be found including spring peepers, bullfrogs, green frogs and pickerel frogs. Painted turtles are often seen basking on logs along the shore and occasionally a snapping turtle can be seen rising to the surface.

The Watershed Institute Reserve is owned and managed by the Watershed Institute. The Institute

is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring clean water and the environment throughout the 265 square miles of land drained by the Stony Brook and the Millstone River. For further information and to learn more about the Watershed Institute, please visit their website at www.thewatershed.org.

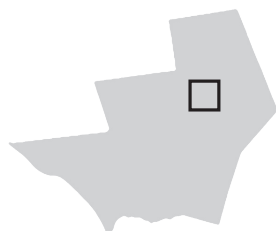
The Reserve headquarters sits on the site of the former Brookdale Farm. The farmhouse and barns date back to the early 19th century. The reserve is the result of the vision of an extraordinary woman, Dr. Muriel Gardiner Buttinger. Dr. Buttinger purchased the Brookdale farm in 1940 and began buying the surrounding farms as their owners looked to sell.

In 1965, Dr. Buttinger made her first gift of 400 acres of land to the Watershed Association, followed by several more gifts of land from 1969–1984. Today, with an additional Green Acres purchase made by the Association, the main reserve totals over 900 acres.



22. Watershed Reserve – Mount Rose Trails

Land owner/site manager:
Watershed Institute



Location

Moore's Mill-Mount Rose Road, about 0.75 of a mile east of CR654 (Pennington-Hopewell Road)

Trails and Distances

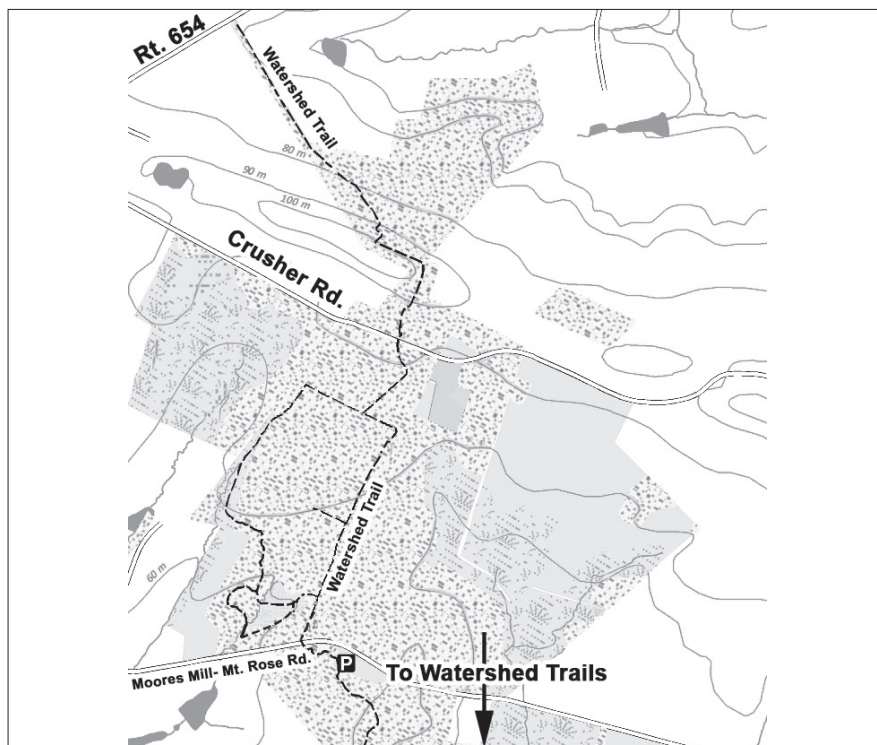
Watershed Trail:
2.1 miles round trip

Forest Loop Trail:
1.0 mile round trip

West Loop Trail:
1.3 miles round trip

Parking Location

Parking area off of Moore's Mill-Mount Rose Road.
N40.3675, W74.7700



The Mount Rose trails are on a 260-acre section of the Watershed Institute Reserve extending from Moore's Mill-Mount Rose Road past Crusher Road to Route 518.

The area consists mostly of early successional fields, but also contains a mature oak-hickory forest, skunk cabbage swamp, vernal pools, the unique geological formations of the Mount Rose Ridge and the headwaters of the Honey Brook.

All trails are accessed from the Mount Rose Trails parking area on Moore's Mill-Mount Rose Road. Please use caution when crossing the road and keep any dogs on a leash. After parking, walk into the site to the right and access the trailhead to the right of the information kiosk. After crossing the road the Watershed Trail wanders through mature oak-hickory forest. A connection to the Forest Loop on the left is reached at 0.15 miles. The Forest Loop offers a stroll through the oak-hickory forest with an observation platform overlooking a skunk cabbage swamp. Continuing on the main trail, a meadow is reached at 0.23 miles. From here the West Loop heads to the left where it meanders through thickets of multiflora rose and Eastern red cedar and then returns to the Watershed Trail.

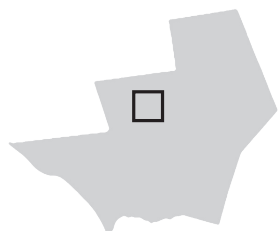
At the northwest corner of the West Loop there is a short trail that allows access to a trail on the adjacent preserve owned by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. The Watershed Trail passes two more fields on your left before reuniting with the West Loop at 0.44 miles. From here, the trail heads through younger, denser forest until it crosses Crusher Road at 0.58 miles. The trail reaches the top of the Mount Rose Ridge at 0.64 miles. Just beyond the top, a large rocky outcrop offers an overlook of farms in the Hopewell Valley and views of the Sourland Mountains to the left. The trail continues along the ridge and then turns right, heading down the ridge. As the trail levels out, it wanders among towering tulip, oak and ash trees. The trail continues to CR 654 ending just outside Hopewell Borough.

The original 200 acres of the Mount Rose trails section was added to the Watershed Reserve in 1998 through the State's Green Acres Program. An additional 40 acres was given to the Watershed Institute to manage by Mercer County and in 2018, 20 acres were acquired just south of Route 518.

23. Woodville Preserve

Land owner/site manager:

FoHVOS



Location

On Harbourton-Woodville Road, about one mile west of Marshall's Corner-Woodville Road

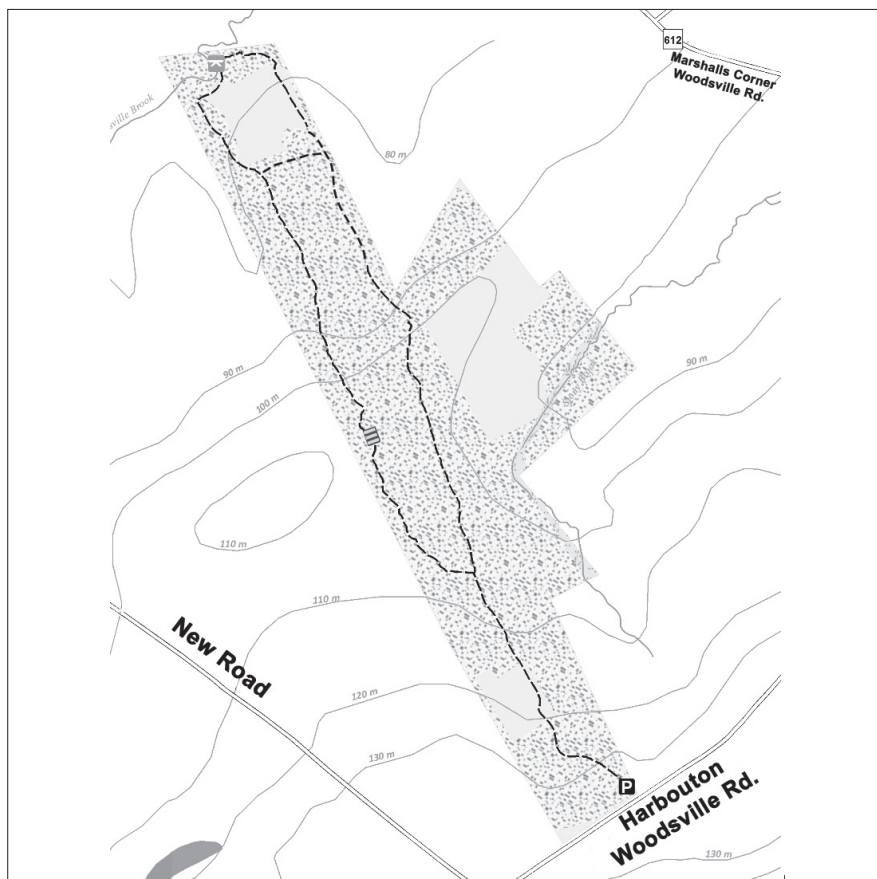
Trail Distance

1.5 miles

Parking Location

Small parking area off of Harbourton-Woodville Road (3 cars).

N40.3646, W74.8226



This trail is a long narrow loop through open woods and one field. It borders on a pretty section of Woodville Brook and winds through a mature grove of American beech trees.

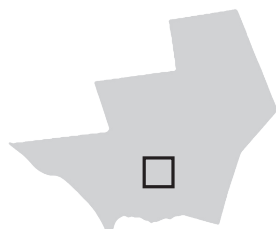
The first section of the trail follows an old road as it passes the site of a former house on the west side of the trail. The woods here are very open with red maple, white ash, some large black cherry trees, sassafras, tulip poplar and hickory. There are scattered stands of dying red cedar indicating that this was once an open field. As the trail continues down a gradual slope you enter a mature forest dominated by American beech, oak and hickory. Near the bottom of the slope, hikers can take a short trail which connects to the trail going back up the slope. Taking this “short cut” trail avoids having to hike in tall grass in the open area at the bottom of the slope. If hikers continue through the tall grass, the trail reaches the meandering Woodville Brook, skirts a slough filled with skunk cabbage

and then begins to climb back uphill through the mature forest.

For many years, this was a farm with a house, animal sheds and a greenhouse. The property was purchased by the State of New Jersey and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space in 2007. The entrance to the trail is marked by a Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space “Nature Preserve” sign. Additional trail information can be found online at www.fohvos.org.

FoHVOS conducts a deer management program on the Preserve to improve forest health. Hiking is not allowed when hunting occurs, which includes selected dates from early September through mid-February. Please check the website (www.fohvos.org) or the sign at the entrance of the preserve for specific hunting dates. There is no hunting on Sundays and nearly all Mondays.

24. Woolsey Park



Location

At Woolsey Park on Washington Crossing-Pennington Road (CR 546) approximately one half mile west of Scotch Road

Trails and Distances

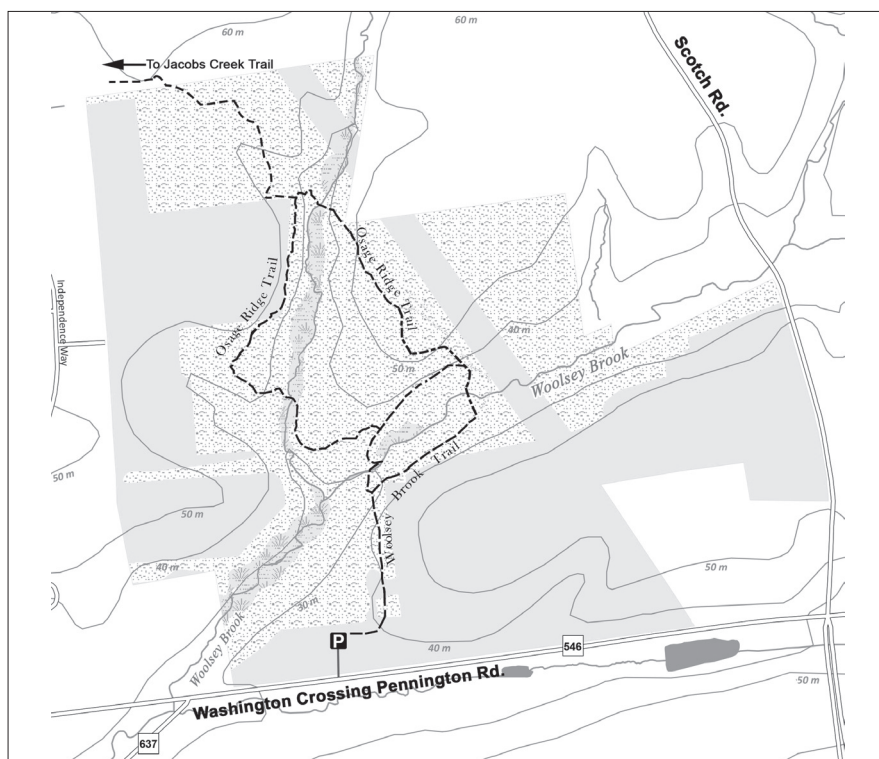
Woolsey Brook Trail:
1 mile from parking area

Osage Ridge Trail:
1.5 miles from parking area

Connector trail to Jacobs
Creek Trail: 0.75 mile

Parking

Large parking area and near trailhead, veterans memorial and 9-11 memorial.
N40.3080, W74.8228



Hopewell Township's Woolsey Park offer a varied trail experience: large groves of mature spruce trees, long rows of Osage orange trees that were used to fence in livestock years ago, up close views of the Woolsey Brook, vistas of deep ravines, and a bit of history. Of historic interest, the trail crosses the Woolsey Brook where a 19th century railroad once crossed overhead. Although the wooden railroad trestle is long gone, the 15-foot-high embankments for the trestle, constructed in the 1870's, are still a prominent sight. The Woolsey Brook is named after Jeremiah Woolsey who first settled this property in the mid 18th century (see site history below).

The Woolsey Brook Trail (with yellow markers) starts out to the right of the kiosk just past the Veterans' Memorial. After passing through a grove of Norway spruce trees, the trail enters the Woolsey Brook ravine where it splits at a large wood post to form a loop.

Right after the fork in the trail to the left is an overlook area on the abandoned 19th century railroad embankment. From this point, hikers can view the Woolsey Brook below and see where a wooden railroad trestle once spanned the Woolsey Brook to

an embankment on the other side. From the overlook, the Woolsey Brook Trail dips down to the brook where hikers can cross using stepping stones (except during periods of high water). The trail then follows a line of Osage orange trees.

After crossing back over Woolsey Brook, the trail ascends a ridge overlooking the brook. Up on the ridge, the trail passes one of the largest trees in the Hopewell Valley, a White oak which started growing before the Revolutionary War—over 260 years ago.



For a longer hike, hikers can leave the Woolsey Brook Trail at two locations to take the Osage Ridge Trail (see red blazes). This trail crosses a small tributary of the Woolsey Brook and follows a high ridge lined with Osage orange trees (which gives the trail its name). The trail also treads through a densely planted Norway spruce forest.

In 2020, the Osage Orange Trail was linked to the Jacobs Creek Trail nearly a mile distant. The entrance to the connecting trail begins on the high ridge of the Osage Orange Trail at its northern most point. The “connector trail” passes through the row of Osage Orange trees to enter a thicket of shrub trees. A short distance later, the trail leads to a grove of spruce trees, then winds through more shrub trees before skirting an open field. The final trail segment goes through mature woodlands as it descends to the Jacobs Creek. After crossing the creek, the Jacobs Creek Trail follows the west side of the creek north to Pennington-Titusville Road.

Two Eagle Scout candidates and adult volunteers constructed the trails in 2014 and 2015 with support from Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.

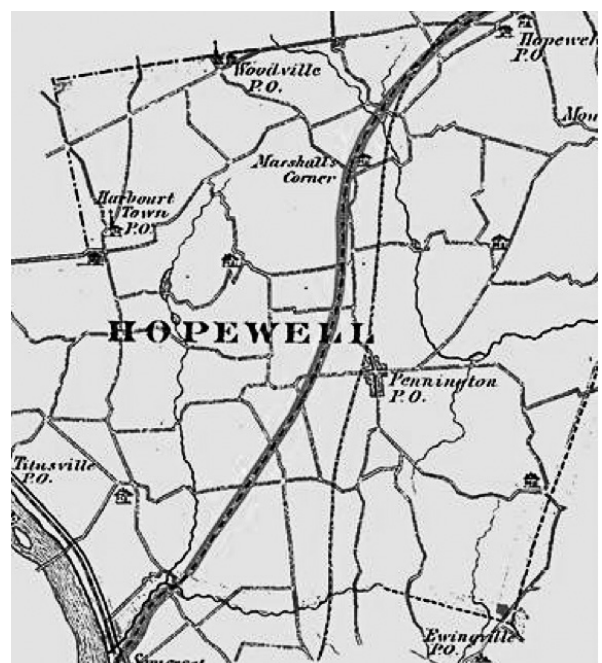
Site history

Jeremiah Woolsey, a prominent lawyer, acquired this land and land to the west circa 1768. His Dutch Colonial house, located just west of Jacobs Creek on Washington Crossing–Pennington Road, is a locally designated historic landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Mercer and Somerset Railway, completed in 1874, went diagonally through the park heading north from where Jacobs Creek Road is located. That road was constructed on the old railroad track bed. The railroad line, leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad, started at the Belvidere and Delaware Railroad tracks, which ran along the Delaware River. Throughout the park, the line followed the Woolsey Brook toward Pennington. A passenger depot for the line still stands south of Pennington-Titusville Road near Route 31. Going further north, the line connected to the Millstone and New Brunswick Railroad en route to New Brunswick. After declaring bankruptcy

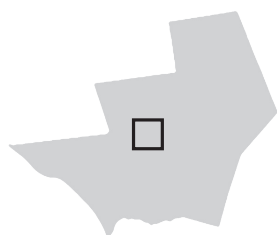
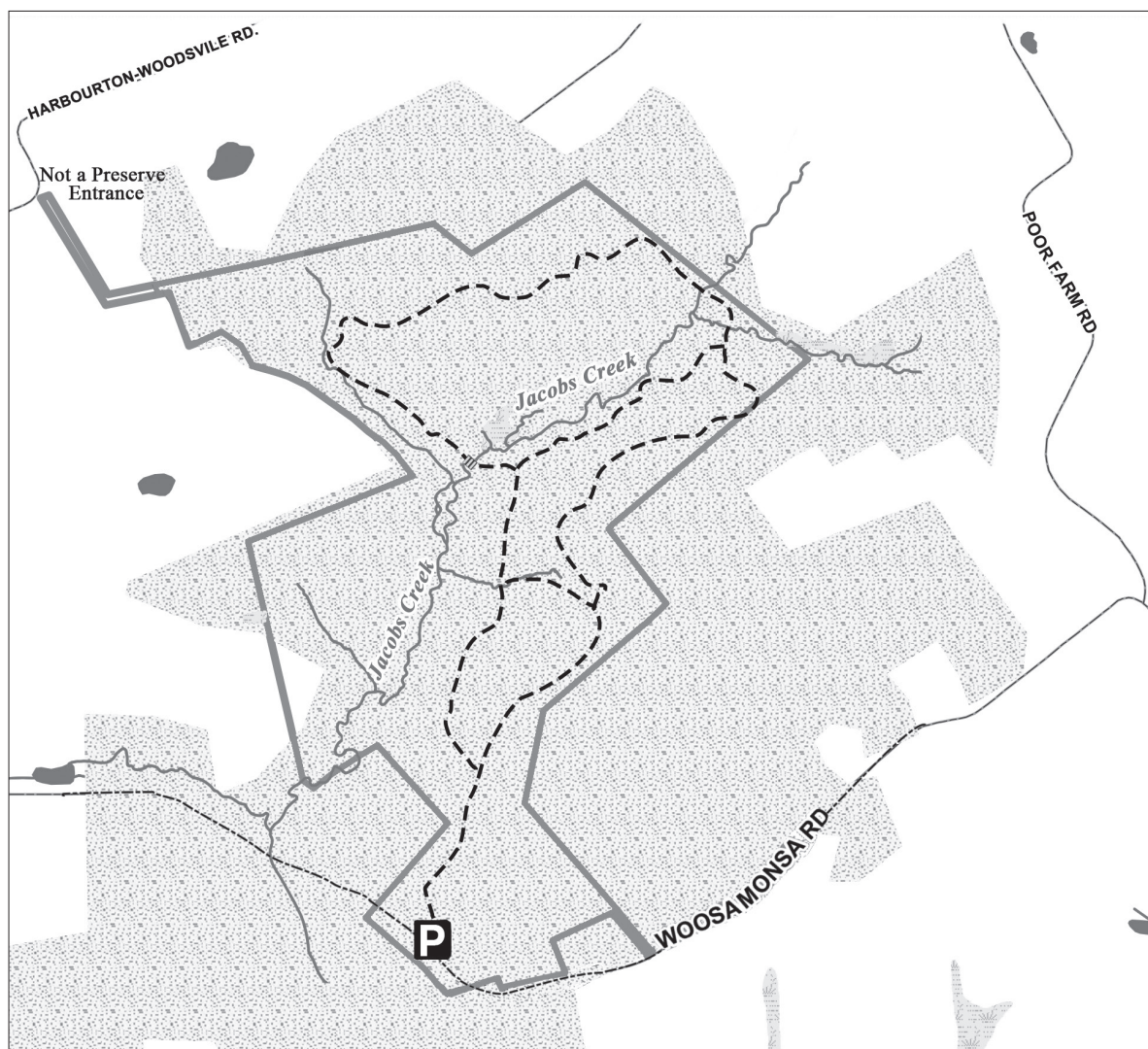
in 1879, the Mercer and Somerset Railway was sold at a foreclosure auction in 1880 to the Pennsylvania Railroad which removed the tracks that same year.

The short-lived railroad line was used by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a connection to New York. Its sole purpose was to serve as an alternative route to the Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad line connecting Philadelphia and New York (now used by CSX). When that line was able to cross the tracks of the Mercer and Somerset Railway in 1876 near Hopewell Borough following the “frog war,” it became the preferred through route between Philadelphia and New York resulting in the demise of the Mercer and Somerset line.



Mercer-Somerset route through Hopewell.

25. Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve



Location

Woosamonsa Road

Trails and Distances

Ridge Trail: 1.5 miles

Valley Trail: 0.75 mile

Creekside Trail: 0.33 mile

Hollow Brook Trail: Less than a quarter mile

Parking Location

Small parking lot off
Woosamonsa Road (7 cars).
N40.2025, W74.5008

This 146 acre preserve, covered in its entirety by a mature forest, offers hikers an enticing variety of terrain from a high ridge to lowlands along the Jacobs Creek. Trails wind through mature hardwoods including oaks, ashes, maples, and soaring 80–100 foot tall Tulip poplars. One trail follows a section of the Jacobs Creek just below its headwaters near Poor Farm Road. The trail offers close of views of the creek as it flows toward Woosamonsa Road. Another trail ascends a high ridge which overlooks Jacobs Creek. After skirting the top of the ridge, the trail dips down to the creek and crosses it before making its way up a ridge on the other side of the creek.



The forested land of the preserve had been used for horseback riding on bridle paths, which extended from the former owners' horse barn to the far reaches of the site. These wide bridle paths provided the basis for the outstanding network of trails which now exist throughout the preserve. To improve the hiking experience, a group of volunteers developed a trail connection between two bridle paths to create a longer, continuous ridge trail in 2018–19.

As shown on the trail map, there are four interconnected trails on the preserve which form three loops. Hikers have the option of taking whichever loop they wish depending on the desired hiking distance and terrain. There is a kiosk at the trailhead with a large trail map and other information.

The name Woosamonsa is derived from a word used by the Lenape Indians who inhabited the area. The earliest spelling of the native American word, recorded in 1689, was "Wissomency" and is thought to mean "place of wrinkled trees." Perhaps the word referred to a certain species' tree bark. A later spelling of the word was Wissamonson. The current angelized spelling came into use in the 19th century when Woosamonsa Road was laid out.



The D&R Greenway Land Trust, in partnership with Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) and Hopewell Township, acquired the 146-acre preserve from the Harbourton Foundation in 2018. The Foundation was established by Jay and Amy Regan who once owned the preserve's land as part of a large estate where they lived. The Regan's donated the subdivided, 146-acre forested portion of their estate to the Foundation with the intent that it be sold to the present owners and preserved forever.

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space has plans to increase the preserve's acreage with the acquisition of an additional 31 acres in 2020. This addition will extend the preserve up to Harbourton-Woodsville Road. Future plans include the extension of the preserve to Poor Farm Road.

Funds utilized for the acquisition of the preserve were provided by the NJ Green Acres Program, Mercer County, and Hopewell Township. The Preserve is owned and managed by the D&R Greenway Land Trust and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS). Additional site information can be found online at www.fohvoss.org.

Hunting is allowed during the hunting season of mid-September to mid-February except on Sundays. Hikers are advised to wear bright colored outerwear during the season or restrict hiking to Sundays.



Baldwin Lake on the Pennington Loop Trail



General Trail Use Information

Trail Information at Trailhead

Trail information, including maps, is available on kiosks located at trailheads. For some trails, including trails managed by Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS), trail maps, plus additional information, can be accessed by scanning QR codes with a smart phone equipped with a QR reader application. The QR codes are provided at some kiosks and at some FoHVOS trail sites in this guide.

Deer Hunting

The organizations that maintain the preserves listed in this guide have deer management programs to sustain or improve the health of the forest ecosystem. Each organization has rules for use of the preserve during hunting season but regardless of location, all trails are open to hikers on Sundays. Prior to hiking during hunting season you should check the organization's website to determine when hunting activity is occurring. Even if there is no hunting at the preserve, it is a good idea to wear bright orange or yellow when the statewide deer hunting regulations allow hunting (between early September and mid-February).

Ticks

While you are hiking, be sure to protect yourself from poison ivy and ticks. Wear solid, light colored clothing which will make sighting a tick easier. Examine yourself frequently for ticks while in tick-infested areas and perform a full-body exam on yourself, children, and pets after leaving tick habitat. For more information on ticks, you can visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website, www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/index.html.

Dogs

For the protection of both wildlife and people not comfortable with dogs, all organizations that manage the listed preserves require that dogs be kept on a leash at all times while walking the trails. Even the best-behaved dogs, by their canine nature, are impulsive creatures.

A dog chasing a squirrel could accidentally crush the eggs of ground nesting birds or disrupt the incubation cycle.

Horses, Bicycles










With very few exceptions (some trails at Baldpate Mountain and a couple at Washington Crossing State Park) horses and bicycles are not allowed on the trails listed in this guide. Most of the trails are wet in the spring and after heavy rains. Horses and bicycles have a severe impact on the trail and results in erosion.

In general, motorized vehicles (ATVs, dirt bikes, etc.) are not allowed on any of the trails listed in this guide. Please check with the preserve management organization to see their policy regarding motorized vehicles.

Litter

All users of the trails should follow "Leave No Trace" practices. As the old saying goes, "Take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints."

Map symbols used in this guide

	Trail
	Boundary
	Parking
	Contour (20 ft; Jacobs Creek Trail 10 ft)
	Roads
	Forest
	Water
	Forested Wetland
	Wetlands

FoHVOS: We're more than just trails!

Preserve

As an accredited land trust, FoHVOS is responsible for saving the places people love and has preserved over 7,800 acres of open space and farmland. The United States is quietly losing its remaining forests, and natural places at a blistering pace. Each year, America loses millions of acres of farms, forests, open spaces and wetlands. Every 30 seconds, a football field worth of America's natural areas disappears to roads, houses, pipelines, and other development.

People are instinctively drawn to our green open spaces, but they do far more than provide a beautiful place to hike. Preserving forests helps improve air and water quality and is among the top strategies recommended for mitigating the harmful impacts of climate change. Scientific research explains "Expansion of forest area typically removes CO₂ from the atmosphere and thus dampens global warming."



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Protect

FoHVOS Community Conservation coordinates partnerships with local residents, municipalities, businesses, and other nonprofits to improve our lands and provide needed habitat protection. Conservation work helps manage stormwater, provide habitat, introduce native plants, and limit invasives species and deer populations. Project examples are shown on the next page.

New habitat for tree and ground-nesting birds and locally threatened kestrels help address the issue raised by Science magazine last year that North America has lost 3 billion birds, nearly 30% of the total population.

FoHVOS Community Conservation also furnishes meadow habitats and bee abodes on public and private lands in an effort to reverse the decades long decline in bee population due to biodiversity losses and habitat destruction. After all, as Yale School Environmental Studies states, "One of every three bites of food eaten worldwide depends on pollinators, for a successful harvest."

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

Inspire

FoHVOS programming motivates future generations to continue our work for a sustainable impact. FoHVOS has regular features in local Hopewell Valley media and publications. The FoHVOS Invasive Species Strike Team is well respected throughout the state.

In addition, FoHVOS has two Force of Nature programs. The media program that recognizes the accomplishments of community leaders towards furthering the FoHVOS

mission, and the hiking program that inspires health and mindfulness on our trails.

Land stewards, scouts, and trail volunteers help

maintain safe and healthy lands.

FoHVOS and our partners mentor, educate and provide internships for HVRSD and Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County students in a grant-supported program known as, "Building Conservation through Diversity & Teamwork."

Feeling inspired? Please give time, money, and love below!

Give

Time

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space relies on volunteers to help us get our job done. We offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities for all age and ability types.

- Citizen Science
- Content Writing
- Event Planning
- Data Entry
- Trail Monitoring
- Rare Species Monitoring
- Invasive Species Removal
- Newsletters & Appeals

FoHVOS also offers paid **Land Steward Internships.** Check fohvos.org for details.

Money

Scan the QR Code using your smart phone to visit fohvos.org and make a donation.

Your donation supports important conservation work and entitles you to member benefits.



Visit fohvos.org for details, or call 609-730-1560.

Love

Honor friends and family by making a tribute donation and have FoHVOS plant a tree or wildflowers in their name. Your recipient will receive a customized framed card and "Tree of Life" charm along with an invitation to later attend a planting ceremony.



Tribute Donations Include:

- Locally planted native wildflowers or trees
- FoHVOS Charitable Contribution
- A personalized hand written note
- Framed Card wrapped in a "Tree of Life" charm

Order online at fohvos.org.



For more information, or to get involved, visit fohvos.org/community-conservation

FoHVOS has partnered with organizations and individuals across Hopewell Valley to conserve and enhance our environment through a program we call "Community Conservation." We are dedicated to improving Hopewell Valley's landscape, environment, and quality of life.

Organizational Projects

Since the program began in 2018, Community Conservation:

- employed public-private partnerships to install outdoor learning areas in all HVRSD public schools,
- built, deployed, and monitored nesting boxes to provide habitat for threatened kestrel populations,
- built bee abodes for residential and public lands to address declining pollinator populations.



Coneflowers at the Bear Tavern Outdoor Learning Area.



Monarch Butterfly at the Outdoor Learning Area pond.



Volunteer, Sarah Crosby, monitoring FoHVOS Kestrel Boxes.



Timberlane Middle School Rain Garden.



Students and Staff help to plant natives at the Timberlane Middle School Rain Garden.



Photo taken at a FoHVOS preserve by Kathryn Dunham.



Bee Abodes assembled by local community members as part of our Bee Abode Project.

Residential Projects

The Residential Community Conservation program was designed to gain similar ecological advantages on residential lands that we achieve on our preserves and other lands. We encourage homeowners to add native wildflowers to reduce stormwater runoff, and improve land, water, and air quality. The Residential Community Conservation program:

- Is free to FoHVOS members,
- Includes a visit to your Hopewell Valley home by the FoHVOS Stewardship director who will suggest ecological best practices customized for your residence,
- Provides access to wholesale native plant ordering, and
- Regularly updates participants with member specific events and communication.

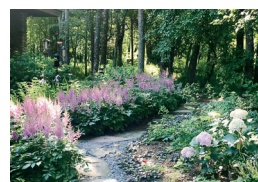
35,000
Native Plants Installed
.....
3,300
Residential Acres
.....
200
Participants



Community Conservation participant, David Voorhees, built this bridge with his son out of fallen trees.



Black Eyed Susans at Community Conservation participants Pascale Pousasat and Adam Maloof residence.



Walkway lined with natives at Community Conservation participants Pascale Poussart and Adam Maloof residence.



Community Conservation participants Moira and John Lawrences property.



New England Aster at Community Conservation participants Samantha and Mark Bean residence.

Acknowledgments

This third edition of *A Guide to Walking Trails in the Hopewell Valley* is dedicated to the memory of Simcha Rudolph. Utilizing her considerable map making skills, Simcha devoted many hours of her time to produce all nineteen trail maps in the first edition of the trail guide which appeared in 2011. Simcha passed away in 2018 after a long-fought illness. We are grateful for Simcha's lasting contribution to this trail guide.



Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution from Church and Dwight, which made printing of this trail guide possible.



Simcha Rudolph

Credits

Much of the text and trail maps for this guide were taken with permission from the NJ Trails Association whose website, www.njtrails.org, provides a wealth of information for all of the trails in this guide.

Graphic design by Mahlon Lovett and Logan Horvath

Drawings by Heather Lovett

Photographs by Kate Dunham, Tom Ogren, and Girish Pandit

Edited by Tom Ogren, Lisa Wolff, and FoHVOS Development Committee

Cartography

Cartography and data for maps provided by the D&R Greenway Land Trust, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, the GIS Center, and the Mercer County Park Commission.

Web Links

Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space / www.fohvos.org

D&R Greenway Land Trust / www.drgreenway.org

East Amwell Township / www.eastamwelltownship.com

Hopewell Township / www.hopewelltwp.org

Mercer County Park Commission / www.mercercountyparks.org

New Jersey Trails Association / www.njtrails.org

Washington Crossing Audubon Society / www.washingtoncrossingaudubon.org

The Watershed Institute / www.thewatershed.org

New FoHVOS Logo

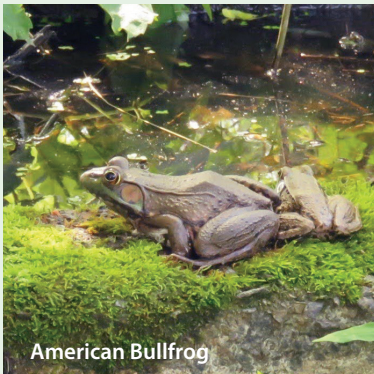
Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) adopted a new logo in 2017 which appears on the covers of this trail guide. This logo was preceded by the two "tree logos" as shown below. The logo at far left can still be found on signs at FoHVOS preserves. The new logo brings attention to our website address, www.fohvos.org, which has become a more important source of information about our organization and what we do.

Third edition ~ 2020

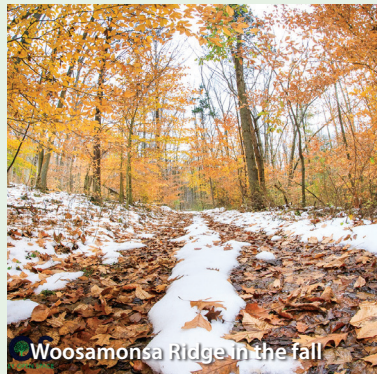




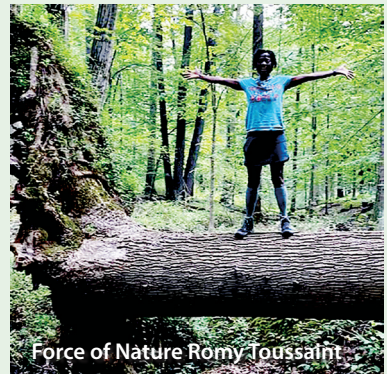
FoHVOS Headquarters at Strawberry Mansion atop the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate Mountain



American Bullfrog



Woosamonsa Ridge in the fall



Force of Nature Romy Toussaint



View from the top of Baldpate Mountain looking South to the Delaware River



Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space

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