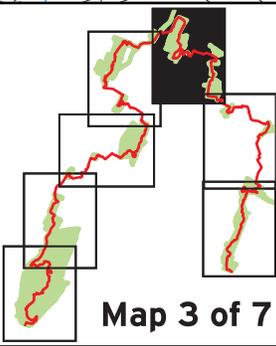




# Lenape Trail Brookdale to West Essex Trail

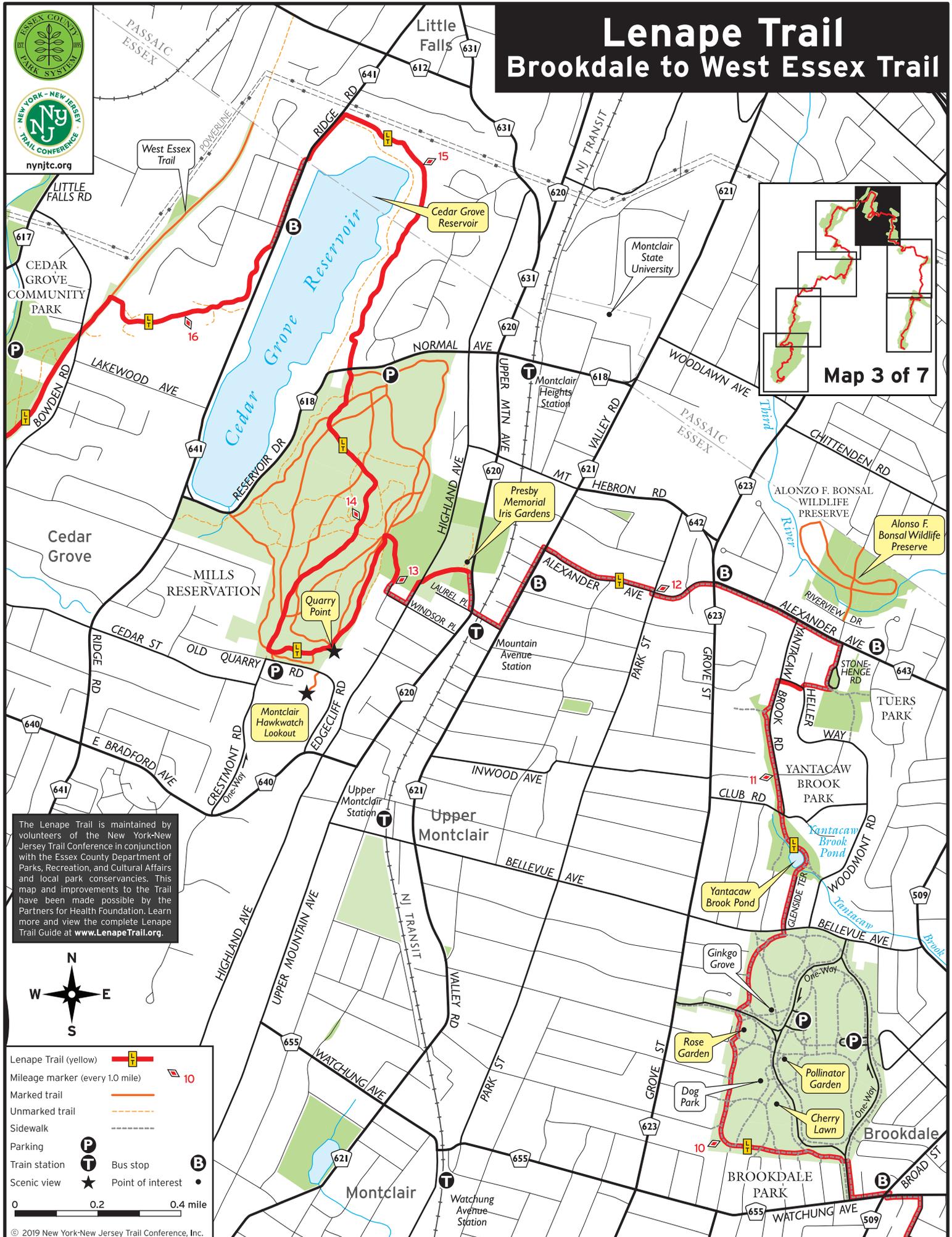


The Lenape Trail is maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in conjunction with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs and local park conservancies. This map and improvements to the Trail have been made possible by the Partners for Health Foundation. Learn more and view the complete Lenape Trail Guide at [www.LenapeTrail.org](http://www.LenapeTrail.org).



Lenape Trail (yellow)	
Mileage marker (every 1.0 mile)	
Marked trail	
Unmarked trail	
Sidewalk	
Parking	
Train station	
Bus stop	
Scenic view	
Point of interest	

0 0.2 0.4 mile



Map 3

## Brookdale Park to West Essex Trail

The Lenape Trail follows sidewalks through Brookdale Park, continues along a short road sidewalk, and reaches a sidewalk through Yantacaw Brook Park. A short roadwalk is necessary to reach sidewalks of Tuers Park, and the Lenape Trail then follows road sidewalks to reach Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. It follows garden paths and then a short road sidewalk before reaching footpaths of Mills Reservation, where the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. The Lenape Trail crosses Normal Avenue onto Cedar Grove Reservoir lands, follows a short road sidewalk, and then continues along a footpath to reach the West Essex Trail near Bowden Road.

### Points of Interest:

**Brookdale Park Cherry Lawn:** Brookdale Park's Cherry Lawn is a quiet, raised open lawn with over a dozen original 1930s flowering cherry trees. Recent restorations included the addition of 12 new cherry trees.

**Brookdale Park Pollinator Garden:** Planted in the spring of 2018, Brookdale Park's new pollinator garden was designed by Essex County Master Gardener Jean Greeley to provide food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinating insects.

**Brookdale Park Rose Garden:** Established in 1959 through a joint effort of the New Jersey Rose Society and the Essex County Parks Department, the Garden has grown to include 1,500 rose bushes, including nearly 100 different varieties, and the 29 separate beds are maintained by dedicated volunteers from the Master Gardeners of Essex County, who work tirelessly to restore and revitalize the garden for the enjoyment of all park visitors. While the garden can be enjoyed year-round, peak blooming times are in mid-June and early October.

**Yantacaw Brook Pond:** The Yantacaw Brook, a tributary of the Third River, runs through the park and creates a peaceful pond with flowering trees, native plants, and visiting waterfowl.

**Alonso F. Bonsal Wildlife Preserve:** The Alonso F. Bonsal Wildlife Preserve is a 30-acre wilderness and wildlife sanctuary, home to many animals including red foxes, raccoons, white-tailed deer, eastern cottontail, muskrats, woodchucks, opossums, box turtles, and red-backed salamanders.

**Presby Memorial Iris Gardens:** Often referred to as the "rainbow on the hill," the historic iris gardens contain over 10,000 irises of 1,500 varieties, some dating as far back as the 1500s. The gardens were established in 1927 as a memorial to Frank Presby, a leading Montclair resident, horticulturist, and one of the founders of the American Iris Society. In 2009, Essex County purchased the gardens and grounds that continue to be maintained by The Citizens' Committee of the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. To see the garden in peak bloom, be sure to visit in the month of May.

**Quarry Point:** Quarry Point offers spectacular views of New York City and is considered one of the highlights of Mills Reservation. The cliff-edge outlook contains volcanic basalt outcrops in addition to a very old cement platform, where anti-aircraft lights were installed during World War II. Earlier the platform may have been the base of a water tower for the steam machinery and firefighting system of the former quarry of Osborne & Marsellis, located below. There are also reports that that location was used as a fire-beacon station in the French and Indian War, and earlier as a smoke-signal point by the Lenni-Lenape. The New Jersey Audubon Society hosts their Spring Hawkwatch at Quarry Point.

**Montclair Hawkwatch:** The New Jersey Audubon Society's Montclair Hawkwatch is located atop a stone-filled platform on a 500-foot basalt ledge. The Hawkwatch is open September through November. A short but steep trail and stair climb, accessible from the street, will bring you to the platform.

**Cedar Grove Reservoir:** Bordering the woodlands of Mills Reservation, the reservoir was constructed in 1905 to supply water for the City of Newark.

