

Official Guide to  
**THE LENAPE TRAIL**  
Essex County's Greenway



Winding 36 miles through parks and woodlands, the Lenape Trail is your easy escape to the outdoors.



Partners for Health  
FOUNDATION



The Lenape Trail Guide is intended to be a living document, updated regularly to reflect new information and trail improvements on the ground. The date of the last update can be seen in each page's footer.

Have you noticed missing or outdated information in this guide? When walking the trail, have you seen problems with the trail's condition or maintenance?

Let us know! Email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org) with "Lenape Trail Guide" in the subject line to share your knowledge. Our organization is built on the dedicated efforts of volunteers, and we welcome your involvement.

Happy exploring,

-The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

*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 brochure and improvements to the Trail have been made possible by the Partners for Health Foundation.*

## About the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference



The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference has partnered with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 2,100 miles of public trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region.

The Trail Conference organizes volunteer service projects that keep these trails open, safe, and enjoyable for the public. We publish maps and books that guide public use of these trails.

The Trail Conference is a nonprofit organization with a membership of 10,000 individuals and 100 clubs that have a combined membership of over 100,000 active, outdoor-loving people.

## About the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs



The Parks System is comprised of over 6,000 acres of open space, including large undeveloped reservations and heavily used neighborhood parks which have an abundance of recreational facilities and over 140 buildings. The Department also operates Turtle Back Zoo, Richard J. Codey Arena at South Mountain Recreation Complex, the Essex County Environmental Center, and three golf courses.

## About the Partners for Health Foundation



Partners for Health Foundation's vision is focused on making our 15 communities healthier, better places to live. Our mission is to invest in programs and policies through collaborations that will lead to healthy communities and healthy lifestyles. Today, more than ever, we're harnessing the efforts of engaged partners to implement strategies that collectively work toward shared goals.

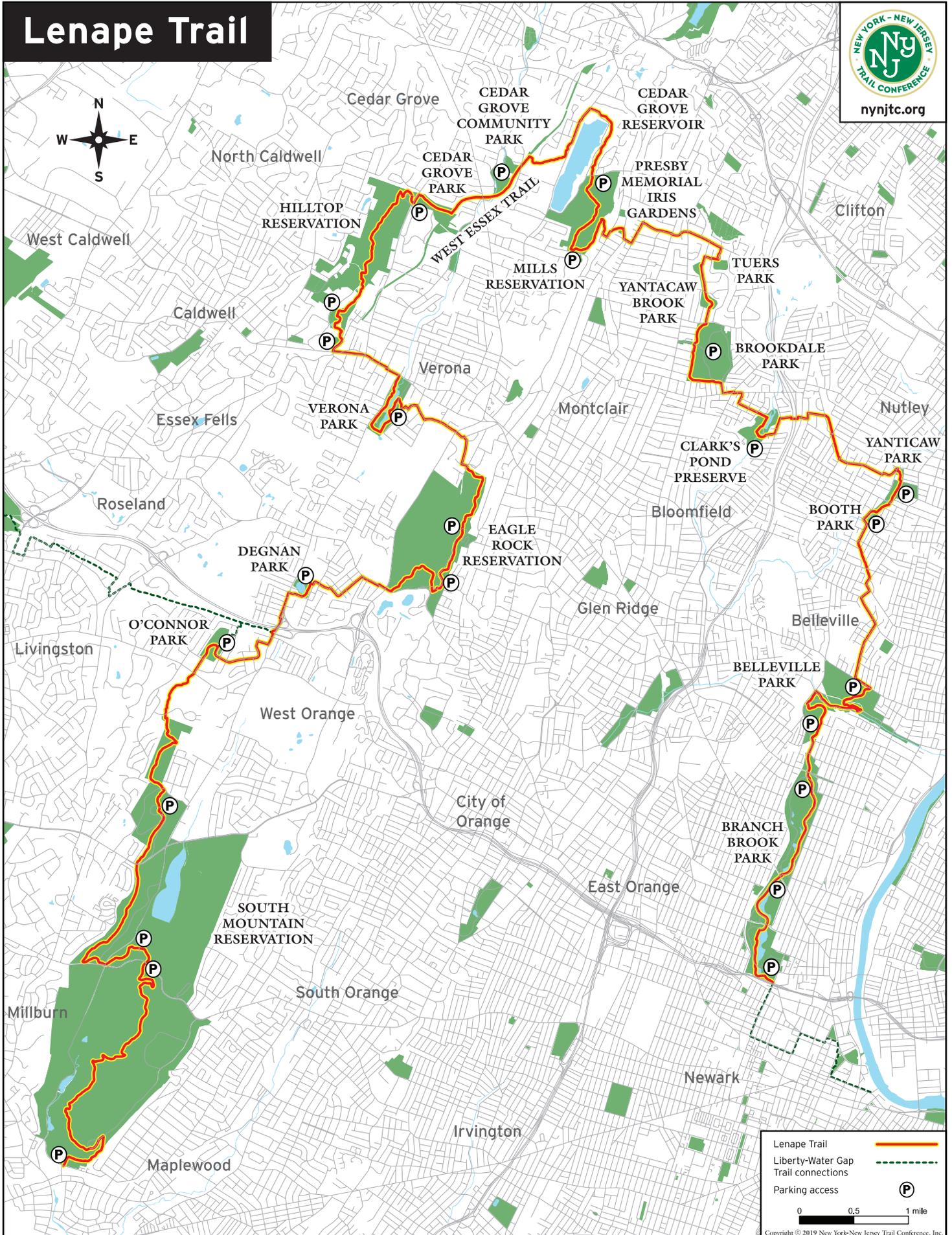
Since 2008, Partners for Health Foundation has made 324 grants to 110 organizations, totaling more than \$12 million.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview Map.....	4
The Lenape Trail.....	5
The Lenape People .....	6
Natural History .....	7
How to Use this Guide .....	8
Prepare for Your Outing.....	10
The Essex County Park System .....	11
<b>Park Descriptions</b>	
Branch Brook Park.....	12
Belleville Park.....	12
Booth Park .....	13
Yanticaw Park .....	13
Clark's Pond Preserve.....	13
Brookdale Park .....	14
Yantacaw Brook Park.....	15
Tuers Park.....	15
Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.....	15
Mills Reservation .....	16
Cedar Grove Reservoir .....	16
Cedar Grove Community Park .....	17
Cedar Grove Park .....	17
Hilltop Reservation .....	17
Verona Park.....	18
Eagle Rock Reservation.....	19
Degnan Park .....	20
O'Connor Park.....	20
South Mountain Reservation.....	20
Co-Aligned Trails .....	22
<b>Maps and Points of Interest</b>	
Branch Brook Park to Belleville Park .....	23
Belleville Park to Brookdale Park.....	25
Brookdale Park to West Essex Trail.....	27
West Essex Trail to Eagle Rock Reservation...	29
Eagle Rock Reservation to O'Connor Park .....	31
South Mountain Reservation (North).....	33
South Mountain Reservation (South).....	35
Get Involved.....	37
Resources.....	38
Web Links .....	39
Acknowledgements.....	41

New York City skyline view from Mills Reservation

# Lenape Trail



## The Lenape Trail

The 36-mile Lenape Trail is a unique urban/suburban trail connecting 18 parks and 11 municipalities in Essex County. The trail follows an inverted horseshoe path, running between the famous Branch Brook Park in Newark and South Mountain Reservation in Millburn.

Named in recognition of the Lenape people, the original inhabitants of the area, the trail offers an easy escape to treasured green space including forested reservations, hilltop meadows, stunning overlooks, rivers, and lakes. Along the way, hikers and bikers following the yellow blazes will find historic landmarks, community gardens, and several parks planned by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, the famed designer of New York City's Central Park. The Lenape Trail also connects to larger trail networks including the Patriots' Path, the West Essex Rail Trail, and the Morris Canal Greenway.

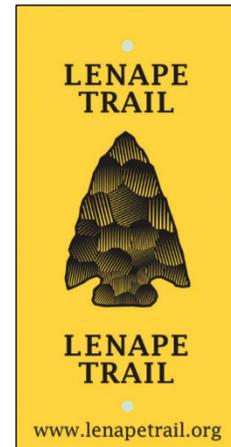
Essex County has the oldest county park system in the nation, and the Lenape Trail was designed to serve as a showcase of the County's most notable natural, cultural, and historic landmarks. These include its three largest natural reservations (South Mountain, Eagle Rock and Mills reservations), several nationally-renowned gardens (Branch Brook Park Cherry Blossom Center, Presby Memorial Iris Gardens), a rail trail (the West Essex Trail), and one of the nation's most prominent cathedrals (Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart). Over seventy percent of the trail traverses parkland or other natural areas, while the rest follows road shoulders and sidewalks.

Work on the Lenape Trail began in 1976, spearheaded by Al Kent, a former Trail Coordinator for the Morris County Parks Department. Al wanted the public to experience as many natural resources and points of interest in Essex County as possible, and he strove to connect them through a trail that traversed towns, parks, woodlands, residential areas, and cities along the way. Al completed the blazing of the trail in its original form in 1979. Al was a truly remarkable individual who, even into his mid-80s, performed maintenance nearly every day throughout the year on both the Lenape Trail and Patriots' Path in Morris County. Mr. Kent was long active with the Sierra Club and the New Jersey Environmental Lobby and was a life member of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Al passed away on September 17, 2018, and is greatly missed by the trail community.

The year 2010 saw a resurgence of interest in the Lenape Trail. Volunteer trail leader Steve Marano worked with Ed Goodell, Executive Director of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference at the time, to involve the Trail Conference in management and maintenance of the trail. This revitalization project saw the entire trail re-blazed, marked in strategic locations with professionally-printed medallions, and planned for the installation of navigational posts along the trail. This was also the year that Essex County issued a formal Letter of Adoption for the trail, accompanied by a press conference from County Executive Joe DiVincenzo.



Founder Al Kent next to a Lenape Trail sign.



Lenape Trail tag blaze.

In 2017, The Partners for Health Foundation provided an award to bolster this effort and offer increased trail planning, public workshops, and volunteer support for the trail - resulting in the first formal Trail Conference maps of the trail, including an interactive digital map. An additional award in 2018 from Partners for Health made the guide you are reading possible, and the trail continues to improve with each passing year. We hope you enjoy exploring the Lenape Trail with this guide as your companion!

## The Lenape People

The name of the Lenape Trail is intended to pay respect to the Lenape (English: Len-nah-pay) people, who lived on the lands around Essex County long before European settlers arrived and displaced them. They are also sometimes called the Leni Lenape or Delaware Indians, because of their communities in the Delaware River Basin. While the Lenape Trail was not laid out to follow specific routes used by the Lenape, it does pass through lands that are historically theirs. Far beyond Essex County, the Lenape people's historical territory includes present-day New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania along the Delaware River watershed, New York City, western Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. This area was referred to as "Lenapehoking" by the Lenape.

Starting with the so-called purchase of Manhattan in 1626, the Lenape and other native communities in the New York-New Jersey area were forced or coaxed into signing a series of massive land agreements, many with conflicting boundaries and fraudulent residual rights for hunting and other use. The Walking Purchase of 1737 alone claimed 1,200,000 acres of Lenape land in Pennsylvania along the Delaware including where the Appalachian Trail now crosses. Their lands taken from them, the Lenape were largely forced to move to Ohio, Canada, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and other areas. The French-Indian War, the American Revolution, inter-tribal warfare with the Iroquois, and the scourge of smallpox also decimated many tribal communities.

Today, Lenape people belong to the Delaware Nation and Delaware Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma; the Stockbridge-Munsee Community in Wisconsin; and the Munsee-Delaware Nation, Moravian of the Thames First Nation, and Delaware of Six Nations in Ontario. The name "Delaware" comes from British military officer Thomas West, who carried the family title Lord De La Warr and was known for his brutal campaigns against the Irish and later against the Lenape and other tribes. West served as a governor and military leader in Virginia in the early 1600s.

Although the Lenape were forced from their homes, time has not erased the proof of their presence all through the New York-New Jersey region. Their words remain embedded in our geography, including examples such as Manhattan (or Mana-hatta), Hackensack, Allamuchy, Kittatinny, Lake Hopatcong, Ho-Ho-Kus, Cupsaw Lake, Ramapo, Cheesequake, and many more.

While most were forced into displacement, some Lenape descendants remained in New York and New Jersey. This includes members of the Ramapough Lenape, who often intermarried with other communities and are working to hold on to as much of their heritage as possible in spite of ongoing assaults on their lands, language and culture. To this day the Ramapough and other Lenape communities in the United States and Canada continue to explore their history and find ways to celebrate and protect their culture.

To learn more visit [LenapeLifeways.org](http://LenapeLifeways.org), managed by Lenape Lifeways Educational Programs, Inc. This not-for profit organization focuses on New Jersey's first people - The Lenape - and is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the prehistory of New Jersey and the surrounding region.



Map of Lenapehoking and Lenape languages spoken in the New York-New Jersey area. Credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape#/media/File:Lenape\\_Languages.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenape#/media/File:Lenape_Languages.png)

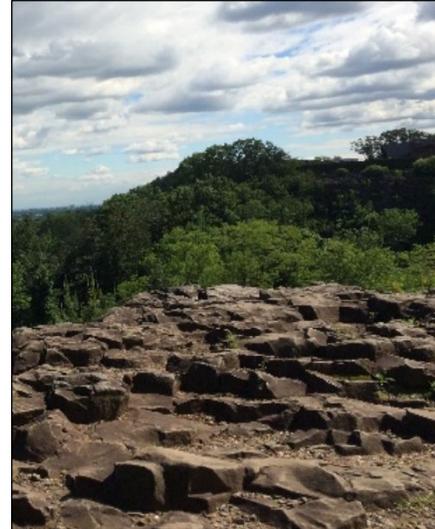
## Natural History

The Lenape Trail traverses the streets of Newark to the winding landscape and elevated forests of the Watchung Mountains. For many Essex County residents, the Lenape Trail is one of the easiest ways to access wooded natural areas on foot. For those looking to learn more about these natural areas, the Essex County Environmental Center is an essential visit. Anyone can visit the Environmental Center at 621-B Eagle Rock Avenue in Roseland, or go online to learn more about upcoming programs: [essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center](https://essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center).

### Geology

The pronounced stone ridge that the Lenape Trail traverses forms a portion of the Watchung Mountain range. The word "Watchung" comes from the Lenni-Lenape *Wach Unks*, meaning "high hills." The Watchung Mountains are a group of three parallel volcanic ridges, each between 400 and 500 feet tall. The rock which forms the Watchungs is volcanic basalt, which formed when molten lava extruded out of the earth's surface and cooled rapidly roughly 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period.

Today the Watchung Mountains provide many scenic views overlooking the New York City, Newark and Jersey City skylines. The rugged mountain ecosystem also serves as a haven for rare plants, endangered wildlife, rich minerals, and globally imperiled trap rock glade communities amidst an ocean of urban and suburban development. Parks, preserves, and numerous historical sites dot the valleys and slopes of the mountains, providing recreational and cultural activities to one of the most densely populated regions of the nation.



*Exposed volcanic rock at Mills Reservation.*

### Plants

Essex County features plant life typical of northeastern coastal forests, a temperate broadleaf and mixed forests ecoregion. Stands of oak, hickory, birch, tulip, and beech trees make up much of the woodland that the Lenape Trail passes through. Mid- to late-spring rewards hikers with mountain laurel blooms along parts of the trail, and the more developed parts of the trail take hikers past gardens featuring a wide variety of ornamental flowers.

### Animals

Northeastern coastal deciduous forests teem with wildlife. White-tailed deer, eastern gray squirrels, chipmunks, garter snakes, woodchucks and raccoons are all common. Lucky and keen-eyed hikers may be able to spot water snakes, black rat snakes, snapping turtles, box turtles, or red foxes along the trail. Birdwatchers are constantly treated to sparrows, chickadees, cardinals, goldfinches, and other songbirds, while spring and fall draw hawks, kestrels, and even bald eagles to migratory flyways along the Watchung Ridge. When hiking by ponds and waterways, long-necked egrets and great blue herons can often be seen hunting for frogs and fish to eat.



*Great blue heron.*

## How to Use this Guide

Now that you are familiar with what the Lenape Trail is, its connection with the Lenape people, and some natural history found along the trail, you're ready to dive into the rest of this guide.

First, prepare for your outing by learning about the map resources below and following other recommendations on subsequent pages. Then, learn about the Essex County Park System and each of the parks traversed by the Lenape Trail, starting at the eastern end in Branch Brook Park and proceeding to the western end in South Mountain Reservation.

Maps of the Lenape Trail can be found in the section following the park descriptions. A set of seven maps covers the entirety of the Lenape Trail, from Map 1 at the eastern end in Newark to Map 7 at the western end in Millburn. This guide was arranged from east to west so that the beginning is the most convenient starting point for the largest population of people, and to allow new walkers to "find their legs" on easier sections of the trail before reaching more rugged sections. However, this "east to west" direction is only a suggestion, so there is no reason you cannot start on Map 7 and work back to Map 1!

Each map has a corresponding page with a description of the Lenape Trail on that map and descriptions of significant points of interest that can be found on or near the trail. As with the maps, the points of interest are arranged as if hiking the trail from east to west, and they cover historic features, scenic features, and park facilities that may be of use to a hiker.

In the last part of the guide, discover ways you can get involved in a volunteer capacity, find additional information about the parks and trails with a list of websites, and learn about some of the amazing people who helped to create this Lenape Trail Guide! To find additional information not in this guide or to learn who to contact with any questions, visit [www.lenapetrail.org](http://www.lenapetrail.org).

## Map Resources

Multiple map resources are available to help you explore, so choose the options that work best for you.

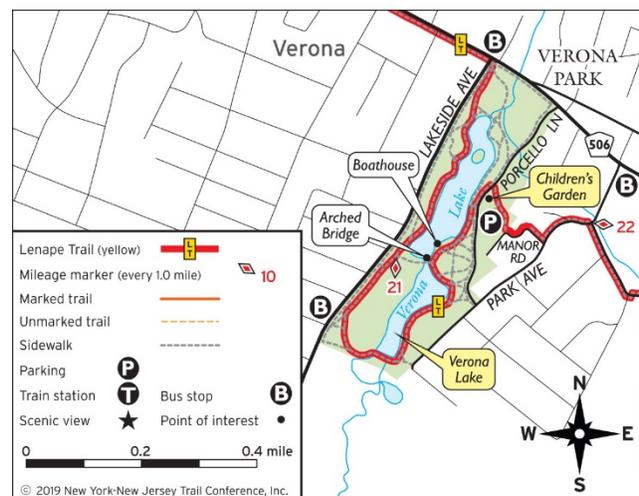
- 1. Print or view guide maps:** The maps in this guide can be printed as part of the overall guide, printed out as individual pages, or simply viewed as a PDF on your mobile device.

Each map shows the Lenape Trail as a thick red line with yellow "LT" blazes. Diamond mileage markers are placed every mile along the trail. In the parks traversed by the Lenape Trail, additional sidewalk paths and footpath trails are shown; however, in parks with large trail networks, detailed blaze and trail name information is not included on the map.

Where the Lenape Trail follows paved paths or sidewalks, a gray dashed line is overlaid on the red line. Sections without the gray dashed line are either footpaths within parks and natural areas or, if positioned along a road, roadwalks without a sidewalk. These gray dashed lines can help identify sections that may be more accessible versus sections that may be more rugged.

Parking locations are included, and bus and train public transportation access points are shown. For bus stops, only locations near the Lenape Trail have been included.

Points of interest along and near the Lenape Trail are shown as callouts that point to the feature. Callouts with yellow shading are described in more detail in the corresponding description page.

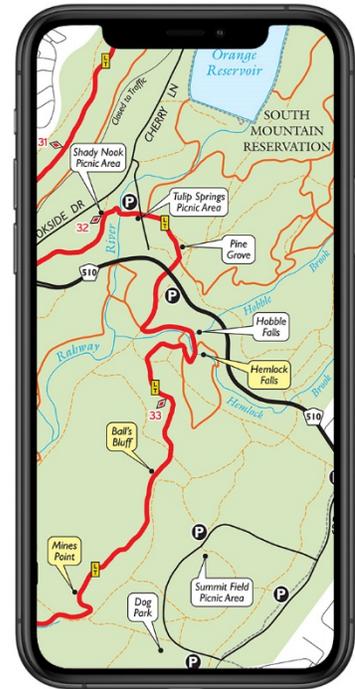


**2. Download the Avenza Maps app map:** The maps in this guide are also available as an app map for use on mobile devices through the Avenza Maps app. This app map combines the seven individual maps into a single map.

Avenza Maps is available on Apple and Android devices, and the app allows you to pinpoint your location with GPS accuracy, track your route, and navigate the Lenape Trail in an exciting new way. More than 200,000 digital Trail Conference maps have been downloaded through the app and enjoyed by trail users.

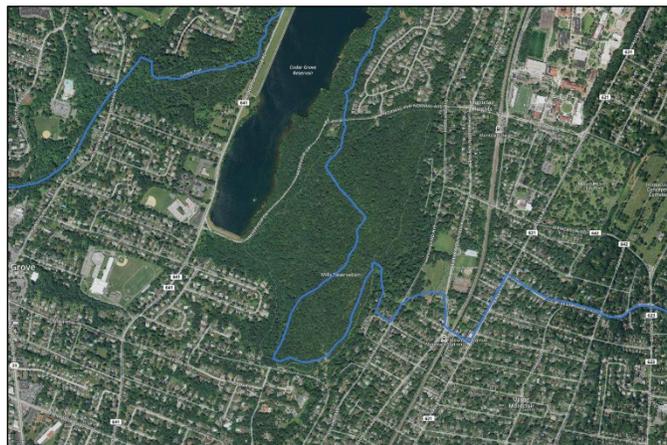
To obtain the app map, first download the Avenza Maps app from your device's app store. Then download the Lenape Trail app map by either visiting [www.lenapetrail.org](http://www.lenapetrail.org) and finding the latest app map link on the Lenape Trail Guide page, or going to the map store within the app and searching for "Lenape Trail". Once the app map is downloaded, you can use it anywhere along the trail, even if you lose cell coverage.

A small blue dot shows your precise location directly on the map, and you can use simple multi-touch gestures to enlarge the maps, add waypoints, measure distances, and much more. To learn more about the app and the 70+ Trail Conference maps available digitally, visit [www.nynjtc.org/pdfmaps](http://www.nynjtc.org/pdfmaps).



**3. View an interactive map online:** An interactive map of the entire route of the Lenape Trail is also available online at [www.maphub.net/tcmaps](http://www.maphub.net/tcmaps). It can be useful for trip planning by accessing on a computer, but if used in an area of good cell coverage, the interactive map can be used out on the trail.

This interactive map features several basemap backgrounds to choose from, including topographic maps, street maps, and satellite imagery maps. Points of interest as described in this guide are not currently identified on this map.

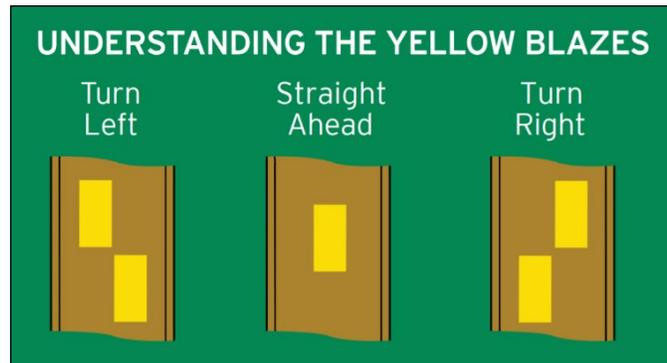


**4. Obtain additional park maps:** Some of the parks through which the Lenape Trail passes have their own park maps, and it can be helpful to obtain additional maps, especially if you may want to explore any parks beyond just the route of the Lenape Trail. South Mountain Reservation includes an extensive trail network, and a detailed map produced by the South Mountain Conservancy and printed on waterproof paper is available for purchase at [www.somocon.org](http://www.somocon.org). Several other Essex County parks have simplified maps available for download on each park's website, so visit their sites by using the Web Links section at the end of this guide. Also, while out on the trail, be on the lookout for maps and other timely information on kiosks or other signage at parking areas and other access points.

## Prepare for Your Outing

The Lenape Trail is a unique experience that covers everything from residential sidewalks to wilderness-style hiking trails. What ties the trail together, however, are the distinctive yellow trail markings (called “blazes”). Following these blazes will keep you on the trail and give you a heads-up when the path is about to take a turn so that you don’t miss it.

Take a look at the diagram to the right to see how to follow these trail blazes. While you may have to look hard for them at first, following them will quickly become second nature.



## Packing Essentials

The “ten essentials” are a packing list designed for serious hikers and campers, but most of the recommended items also make sense to bring for your walks along the Lenape Trail.

**Hiking Boots or Athletic Shoes:** Make sure to choose footwear that can handle uneven surfaces and long walks while protecting your toes and ankles. Boots are ideal, but any old pair of sneakers will do just fine.

**Water:** Always carry water with you, even if you don’t think you’re going far enough to need it. While it will differ by person, a good rule of thumb is to bring one liter (standard Nalgene bottle) for every two hours you plan on being out. Bring more if it’s hot weather!

**Navigation:** The Avenza Maps app described in this guide is a great tool, but you should never rely on a digital map alone - phones can lose power, and you don’t want to be left not knowing where you are. Consider printing the map pages you’ll need from this guide and bringing them along on your walk.

**Food:** Depending on the length of your trip, pack a sandwich, trail mix, fruit, seeds, or chocolate for when you get hungry.

**Sunscreen and Insect Repellent:** Apply regularly to protect yourself even on cloudy days. SPF 30 is recommended.

**Rain Gear and Extra Clothing:** Be prepared for changing weather, even if it’s not in the forecast. Take a light rain jacket and sweater if there’s any chance of getting wet or chilly.

**First Aid Kit:** This can be as simple as a few band-aids and tube of antibiotic ointment in a baggie to handle any scrapes or pokes. If you plan on being out often, you can also buy small pre-packed first aid kits at your local pharmacy.

**Headlamp or Flashlight:** While you should always plan to be out of any wooded parks by sunset, it never hurts to carry a small flashlight just in case you’re running behind schedule.

**Items You Probably Won’t Need:** While “Matches or Lighter” and “Tools” round out the list of ten essentials, we don’t think you’ll need them on the Lenape Trail!

## Leave No Trace

No matter how you choose to enjoy the Lenape Trail, it’s important that you leave it no worse than you found it. This means carrying out all your own garbage (or dropping it in park trash receptacles), resisting the urge to pick flowers to bring home, and picking up after your pet if you bring one along. To become an even more responsible park user, you can learn more about the seven principles of Leave No Trace at [www.lnt.org/why/7-principles](http://www.lnt.org/why/7-principles).

If you find yourself really enjoying the Lenape Trail and looking for a way to give back, check out the “Get Involved” section toward the end of this guide to learn more about volunteer opportunities along the trail. It takes a lot of people like you to keep the trail in good shape, and we welcome the help!

## The Essex County Park System

In 1895, the first county park system in the United States was established. Governor Werts of New Jersey signed legislation creating the Essex County Park Commission, and 60 acres were acquired from the City of Newark to create Branch Brook Park, the nation's first county park. It is now a national historic site.

In 1898, the Commission engaged the renowned Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm, which designed all the parks and reservations of the Essex County System into the mid-twentieth century. Established by the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., the nation's foremost landscape architect known for such works as Central Park in Manhattan and Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the Olmsted Brothers organization produced one of the nation's finest park systems.

Using the elements of nature, the parks were meticulously designed and constructed with lakes excavated, mounds built, and trees and plants imported. The Olmsted style features winding roads, natural waterways, open fields, and scenic overlooks. Sunken roadways drop the visual intrusion of traffic below eye level, and thickly planted border mounds are contoured to give the illusion of nature extending beyond the parks.



*Hemlock Falls in South Mountain Reservation.*

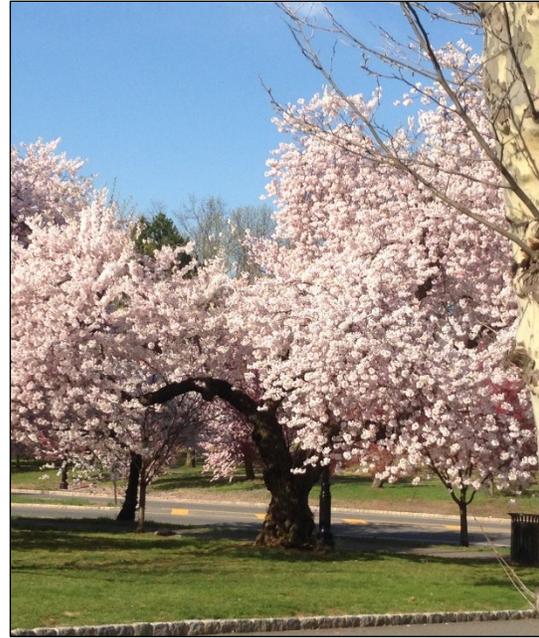
Today the Essex County Park System, now managed by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, consists of more than 6,000 acres. It features 23 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, the Treetop Adventure Course, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, a miniature golf course, golf driving range, several off-leash dog facilities, a castle, and the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens. The Park System is responsible for maintenance, enhancement, restoration, and preservation of many natural areas and open spaces in the County and provides a great array of services and opportunities for recreation, exercise, relaxation, and events. Annual community events include the famous Cherry Blossom Festival, which attracts tens of thousands to Branch Brook Park to view the over 5,000 trees; free summer concerts, which draw music enthusiasts who enjoy every genre from jazz to rock 'n roll to rhythm and blues to classical; and the spectacular Fourth of July fireworks.

Showcasing the Essex County Parks System, the Lenape Trail winds through 11 of its parks and reservations, forming a horseshoe-shaped trail with access to natural areas and open space in one of the most densely populated counties in the country. Starting in Newark in the southeast arm of the horseshoe with Branch Brook Park and Belleville Park, it winds north through Yanticaw Park in Nutley and then on to Brookdale Park, the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens and Mills Reservation in Montclair and Cedar Grove at the northernmost point. It then turns south to Cedar Grove Park and Hilltop Reservation, continuing south to Verona Park and on to Eagle Rock Reservation, ending its journey at South Mountain Reservation, which runs through Maplewood, West Orange and Millburn.

On the pages that follow, some park names are preceded by a  symbol. Where you see this symbol, the park is formally managed by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Parks without this signifier are managed by a different entity, typically the local town or municipality.

## 🌿 Branch Brook Park [Map 1]

Branch Brook Park is distinguished as the first county parkland in the United States. Located in the City of Newark, the park is nearly 4 miles long and averages 1/4 mile in width. Begun in 1895, it now encompasses 360 acres and is the largest developed park in Essex County. The park is a combination of open meadowland and small patches of woodland on gently rolling terrain with meandering streams and ponds. A major highlight of the park is the cherry tree collection of over 5,000 flowering cherry trees, the largest and most varied collection in the United States. The annual Cherry Blossom Festival attracts approximately 100,000 visitors each April. The park also features many architecturally significant bridges, buildings, gates, and sculptures.



*Branch Brook Park is renowned for its cherry blossoms.*

The first design of the park, based largely on romantic garden themes, was proposed in 1895 by John Bogart and Nathan Barrett. In 1898, the Park Commission hired the Olmsted brothers firm to proceed in designing the park with a more natural feel, similar to their father Frederick Law Olmsted's work on Central Park. The park was increased in size in the 1920s with the addition of land along the Second River. The park features a roller-skating rink, a 2-mile fitness course, soccer, baseball, and softball fields, and tennis and bocce courts.

The park is named for Branch Brook, a tributary of the First River that flowed in the valley where the park lies. In the Southern Division, where the brook and springs filled former quarries, the 24-acre Branch Brook Lake was formed. Stocked with trout, its shoreline includes architectural features such as the Prudential Lions and the Octagon Shelter. North of Park Avenue in the Middle Division, the lake becomes narrow and sinuous, and small islands attract aquatic birds. Above Bloomfield Avenue, as it flows past an urban forest with many native trees and shrubs, the Branch Brook is evident between a string of beautifully designed ponds and pools. Crossing over the brook are eight bridges crafted from local brownstone and glacial boulders to blend into their surroundings.

More water can be found in the Extension, which connects the rest of the park to the Second River ravine and continues downstream to Washington Avenue. A series of art deco bridges allow the river, Mill Street, railroad right-of-way and park paths to intersect. It is here that the Olmsted firm really showcased the ornamental cherry trees in their design, interspersing the pale-blossoming trees with evergreens and shrubbery along the terraced slopes.

Today the Branch Brook Park Alliance (BBPA), a public/private partnership organized in 1999, provides design expertise and funding support to help Essex County restore and revitalize the park. Together with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the BBPA hosts festivals, events, movies, dances, and concerts in the park.

## 🌿 Belleville Park [Map 1]

Belleville Park is a mid-sized 30-acre park of wooded greenery bordered by Mill Street, Parkside Drive and Belleville Avenue, contiguous with Branch Brook Park. The land, acquired in 1915, was once the Hendricks family homestead. In 1917, to aid in the war effort, the open fields were temporarily planted with corn. The Olmsted Brothers firm designed the park, using coniferous trees to divide it into sections and isolate it from the city streets. Construction was completed in 1922 and even today the park retains some of the original landscaping in its sweeping lawns and winding paths. The open field areas provide feeding habitats for small mammals and migratory birds. Next to the park is Hendricks Field Golf Course, extending the green landscape still farther northward.



*The Third River flowing through Booth Park.*

### **Booth Park [Map 2]**

Booth Park, a Nutley Township park, covers slightly over 13 acres and is located between Centre and Harrison streets, extending the green corridor from the southern portion of Yanticaw Park. The Third River flows south through the park alongside amenities including a universal playground area, a baseball/softball field, a soccer/lacrosse field, and a picnic area.

### **🌿 Yanticaw Park [Map 2]**

Yanticaw Park is located in the Township of Nutley. It is a mid-sized park, encompassing 28.75 acres and bisected by the Third River. A park drive separates the picturesque valley created by the river from the upper flatland where there are several ball fields.

The park name is of Native American derivation. The name “Yanticaw,” widely used throughout the town of Nutley, has its origins from a local Native American ceremonial dance of thanksgiving called Yantacaw. It stems from the Lenni-Lenape words meaning "place of the wood boundary." The Lenni-Lenape people traditionally made an annual trek to the seashore to catch fish and to gather shells used for cooking and eating utensils. On their way, they gathered at a spot where the present Third River – recorded as “Yountakah” on a 1666 deed made between Captain Robert Treat and the Lenape people – flows into the Passaic River in Nutley.

In 1895, John R. Clark and Dr. Thomas E. Satterthwaite campaigned ceaselessly for the creation of a park here. Actual acquisition of the park started in 1911, and by 1914 Yanticaw Park became a reality. The swampy lowlands were drained, a dam was built to create a lake (later removed), and paths were laid out following the design of the Olmsted Brothers.

A renovation in 2010 updated the playground, restroom facilities, two softball fields, and a large grass baseball field. The park is the site of town-sponsored events and festivals.

### **Clark’s Pond Preserve [Map 2]**

While technically not a formal park, Clark’s Pond Preserve is a valuable green respite with waterside paths. Fed by the Third River, this pond and nature preserve is home to a wide variety of wildlife. There are deer, fox, wild turkey, egrets, and blue heron, among other animals that live in the preserve. The pond is a favorite spot for fishing where you will find bass, sunnies, carp, catfish, perch, and some trout. There is a path that follows one side of the pond, a small picnic area, and a pedestrian bridge over the river.



*Clark's Pond on a clear, sunny day.*

## Brookdale Park [Map 3]

Brookdale Park, designed by the world-renowned Olmsted Firm, is one of the larger parks in the Essex County Park System. With a total of 121 acres - 78 acres in Bloomfield and 43 acres in Montclair - it is one of the most heavily visited parks in the county. It features open vistas, a deep forested area, open lawns, lush gardens, sports fields, track facilities, tennis courts, an archery range, a playground, and a stadium with grandstand.

Several gardens can be found throughout the park. One of its most notable attractions is the Essex County 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 volunteers from the Master Gardeners of Essex County. Planted in the spring of 2018, the new pollinator garden provides food and habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinating insects. The Cherry Lawn currently showcases some of the park's original cherry trees as well as recently planted successor trees. Brookdale Park offers over 200 acres of varied wildlife habitat and hosts a great number of bird species from the common house sparrow to the occasional wild turkey.



*Archway in the Essex County Rose Garden.*



*Job clock in Brookdale Park.*

A variety of recreational facilities are scattered throughout the park. At the northern end of the park you will find the archery field, where archers have been holding tournaments since 1930, and the tennis center. The lower fields host local soccer, rugby, and baseball teams, and the outer path around the park includes the recently renovated 18-station outdoor fitness course. While walking on the Lenape Trail in the park, you may come across a trail bollard sign with a "job clock" attached to it. The walking program uses unique "click to walk" technology, whereby program participants receive a free key tab upon registering for the program. Participants "click in" before and/or after each walk allowing administrators to gather important data for further research to encourage behavior changes leading to more physically active lifestyles.

The park hosts a summer concert series and the Fourth of July Fireworks each summer, as well as craft fairs, sports events, and festivals.

Brookdale Park is located in what once was a gathering place for the Lenni-Lenape. During the 17th century, Dutch settlers transformed the area, then called Stonehouse Plains, into farming and grazing land. In the 1800s, when the area received its own post office near the

Third River, the neighborhood came to be known as Brookdale. In 1928, land purchases began for the park, but the onset of the Great Depression caused construction schedules to slow as money was needed elsewhere. As unemployment spread, agencies such as the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) were organized and subsequently provided most of the funding and labor needed to construct the park's landscape.

Today the volunteers from the Brookdale Park Conservancy, in partnership with Essex County and the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County, work on landscape restoration and park enhancement as well as sponsoring community outreach programming and events.

## Yantacaw Brook Park [Map 3]

Yantacaw Brook Park is an 11.5-acre municipal park located in Montclair, one block away from Brookdale Park. The park contains a small pond and a stream that attracts visiting waterfowl. Trees and low hills surround the pond, and there are paths and benches throughout the area. The Yantacaw Brook feeds the pond and then continues into the Third River through Bloomfield, Nutley, and Belleville, where it finally meets the Passaic River. Both Yantacaw Brook and the Third River were referred to by the Lenni-Lenape people as “Yantokah” or “Yantacaw.”

The park occupies the former site of the Upper Montclair Golf Club. In 2011, the Yantacaw Brook Park Conservancy was created to improve and enhance the park and its facilities. Conservancy members and volunteers work on projects such as keeping the park clean, planting flowers and shrubs, and protecting the park and its stream and pond from the introduction of invasive plants and animals.

## Tuers Park [Map 3]

Tuers Park is an 8-acre municipal park in the northern residential section of Montclair. It features a softball diamond, a basketball court, a children's playground, and bikeways.

## 🌸 Presby Memorial Iris Gardens [Map 3]

Located at the base of Mountainside Park, the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens contain over 10,000 individual iris plants which produce over 100,000 blooms. There are currently 26 beds containing historical bearded irises, as well as areas planted with non-bearded Spuria, Siberian, Japanese, and Louisiana irises. Some of the irises date back as far as the 1500s. The sweeping triangle of the beds, with approximately 1,500 different varieties of iris, creates a virtual rainbow on the hill each May. Over the decades, many volunteers have offered their time and talents to keep the irises blooming.

In the early 1920s, Frederick and Barbara Walther had mobilized residents to preserve undeveloped land north of their home on Upper Mountain Avenue as Mountainside Park. Frank Presby, a Montclair resident, horticulturist, and a founder of both the Montclair Art Museum and the American Iris Society, believed in beautifying the parks through flowers, trees, and blooming shrubs. After Frank Presby died in 1924, the Presby Memorial Garden was established in 1927. Members of the Montclair Art Museum and others, including Mrs. Walther, called for an iris garden in his memory on the hillside of the recently established park and John Wister, President of the American Iris Society, was engaged to design the garden.

A Citizens' Committee with horticultural interests was recruited and Barbara Walther was appointed as its first chair. Their objectives were to create a picturesque landscape with the irises, to include new hybrids each year, and to be an educational resource. The nonprofit Citizens Committee maintained the gardens independently until 2009, when Essex County purchased the 12 acres with the house and grounds, saving the Gardens from an uncertain future and becoming a park in the Essex County Park System. Today, the Citizens Committee continues to maintain the plantings, manage operations, and carry out educational programming and cultural events on the grounds.



*Presby Memorial Iris Garden in bloom.*

## 🌿 Mills Reservation [Map 3]

Mills Reservation is a protected 150-acre wooded area located on the First Watchung Mountain and bordering Cedar Grove Reservoir on the reservation's northwest side. The parkland has been preserved in its natural state, including deciduous woodland and wetlands. It features several walking/jogging trails, including the Lenape Trail that follows the eastern cliff and leads to an overlook with a sweeping view of the New York City skyline.

Settled centuries ago by Dutch families, much of this area was still owned into the 20th century by descendants of the Speer, Jacobus, and van Reyper families. In 1954, the Essex County Park Commission received a gift of 118.9 acres of what is now Mills Reservation from the Davella Mills Foundation established by David Mills, with the stipulation that the land be preserved in its natural state.



*Walkers resting at the anti-aircraft light foundation, near a patch of exposed jagged basalt.*



*Mills Reservation offers some of the most natural hiking paths along the Lenape Trail.*

The outcrop at Mills Reservation, known as Quarry Point, offers spectacular views of New York City and is considered one of the highlights of the reservation. The cliff-edge overlook contains volcanic basalt outcrops in addition to a round cement platform, remains of the foundation for an anti-aircraft light 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 the 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.

Quarry Point is well-situated for observing migratory birds. The New Jersey Audubon Society hosts their spring Hawkwatch at the site, while their fall Hawkwatch occurs on the opposite cliff outcrop across Old Quarry Road.

## Cedar Grove Reservoir [Map 3]

Not technically a park, the Cedar Grove Reservoir is owned by the City of Newark and limited public access - including the route of the Lenape Trail - is allowed for recreational purposes.

At the turn of the 19th century, a secure drinking water supply was needed for Newark's growing population. Cedar Grove was selected as the site of the reservoir due to its proximity to the city and being close to a railroad for material transportation, but the location came with a challenge - most reservoirs are built in low valleys so that gravity helps water recharge the reservoir, while this project would be built near the top of a mountain. The construction of dams and pipelines to accommodate this challenge made the project more complicated than a typical reservoir.

Construction of the reservoir began in 1901, but it quickly encountered delays. Between challenging geology, worker strikes, malaria outbreaks, and a smallpox scare, the projected completion date of December 1902 quickly fell behind schedule. The reservoir finally held its formal opening in August 1905.

## Cedar Grove Community Park [Map 4]

Cedar Grove Community Park is a municipal park bordered on the west side by the Peckman River and the east side by the West Essex Trail. The park has a variety of recreation facilities including two large playgrounds, two bocce courts, a softball field, a large grass field and garden, and a picnic area with a surrounding wooded area. Across the parking lot is a large public pool with changing rooms and restrooms.

## 🌿 Cedar Grove Park [Map 4]

Cedar Grove Park, formally dedicated on December 12, 2016, was developed on the site of the former Essex County Hospital Center, also known as the Overbook Asylum. At 80 acres, it is one of the largest developed parks in the county parks system. The Robert J. O'Toole Community Center in the park was named for the township's retired three-term mayor.

Adjacent to the community center are four bocce courts, three fitness stations along meandering paths, and a playground designed with a farming theme in recognition of the site's history that included a farm to support the hospital.

## 🌿 Hilltop Reservation [Map 4]

Hilltop Reservation, a recent addition to the Essex County Park System, is a 284-acre nature preserve located on the Second Watchung Mountain in the host communities of Cedar Grove, North Caldwell, and Verona. Its various types of habitats - dry oak-hickory forest, wet maple-tupelo forest, open meadows, and shrublands - can support a wide diversity of plants and animals. Since the reservation sits at the heart of the Central Passaic Wetlands Critical Bird Migration Area, it serves as a stopover habitat during spring and fall migrations and provides great bird-watching opportunities year-round. Common sightings include hawks, swallows, warblers, finches, woodpeckers, and owls.

The land at Hilltop Reservation has experienced intense human use since the 1600s. Agriculture dominated through the 1800s until being gradually superseded by institutional use, including an Essex County penitentiary, a tuberculosis treatment sanatorium, and a mental health hospital. Steady population growth in the 1900s prompted high-density development surrounding the site, converting former forests and fields into suburban housing. Through a campaign spanning the 1980s and 1990s, a



*Hilltop Reservation's reclaimed grassland meadow habitat for butterflies and birds, with Lenape Trail on the left.*



*Prisoner's Pond, restored with the help of the Hilltop Conservancy.*

volunteers before it was ready for seeding with wild grasses.

The Lenape Trail crosses the fully restored 15-acre grassland meadow which has become a habitat for birds and butterflies. The meadow features native grasses and wildflowers including switchgrass, indiagrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, asters, bee balm, lavender hyssop, milkweed, and wild senna. The Hilltop Conservancy continues to work on preserving the land and providing habitat for native plants and wildlife species. They are currently working on a project to restore the area around Prisoner's Pond.

## **Verona Park [Map 4]**

Verona Park is a picturesque park bordered by Lakeside and Bloomfield Avenues in the southern part of Verona. The park features a large lake with paddleboats and a boathouse used for community events. It provides a welcoming habitat for many animals and birds such as white-tailed deer, eastern painted turtles, northern water snakes, double-crested cormorants, Baltimore orioles, egrets, mallard ducks, and red-winged blackbirds.

Once an old swamp, the lake in Verona Park was first formed in 1814, when the Peckman River was dammed for a gristmill. Later, Verona Lake, with its weeping willow trees and winding paths, became an ideal location for family activities, boating, bathing, skating, picnics, and band concerts.

The first land acquisitions by the county for the park were made in 1920, and the landscape plans prepared by the Olmsted Brothers were approved the same year. To acquire part of this land owned by the Erie Railroad Company, an agreement was made that allowed the railroad to retain a right-of-way across the park, creating the island in the lake. However, the railroad bridge never materialized.

In 1995, a group of concerned citizens met to explore ways they could help restore Verona Park. As a result, a non-profit organization - the Verona Park Conservancy - was formed to restore the park to the design originally prepared by the Olmsted Brothers. Today, the conservancy continues its work to maintain and enhance the park's appearance and facilities.



*A Lenape Trail bollard in Verona Park.*

portion of the land was spared from development and designated a nature preserve. The land was designated a Conservation Easement in 2001 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, permanently dedicating it for conservation and recreation purposes.

Through the dedicated work of the Hilltop Conservancy, Hilltop has been restored as a wildlife habitat. The first habitat restoration project undertaken by the conservancy was the grassland meadows area formerly occupied by the Essex Mountain Sanatorium. The sanatorium buildings had been demolished by the time the Conservancy initiated the project in 2005, but the site was far from ready for planting. It took three full years of heavy cleaning and clearing work by

## 🌿 Eagle Rock Reservation [Map 5]

Eagle Rock Reservation, a 400-plus-acre reserve along the crest of the Watchung Mountains ridgeline, got its name in the early 19th century when bald eagles were said to nest in the rocky cliffs on its eastern edge. There are multiple hiking trails and bridle paths throughout the wooded forest, and a lookout point offers sweeping panoramas of New Jersey and the New York City skyline. From this vantage point, George Washington's army monitored British troop movements across the Hudson River during the American Revolution, and more recently, horrified crowds gathered on September 11, 2001.

When the Essex County Park Commission was formed in 1895, protecting the land at Eagle Rock from quarrying and residential construction was one of its first goals. The late 1890s saw Eagle Rock developed as a year-round resort where visitors would travel by trolley from New York to picnic and take in the fresh air, natural surroundings, and views. The trolley ended at the foot of the cliff and a wooden staircase known as the Hundred Steps provided



*The casino (Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant) and east-facing view.*

accessibility to the top of the mountain. In 1907, a spiked concrete wall secured the edge and replaced the old wooden rail fence. Two years later, a large arched masonry structure called "the casino" (after open-air Italian-style dwellings) replaced the resort café. The concrete wall survives today as part of the September 11th Memorial, and the casino is now the Highlawn Pavilion restaurant.

Eagle Rock was also the site of early 20th century automobile endurance and speed competitions known as "hill climbs." Automobile enthusiasts of that period held races up the cobblestone roadway of Eagle Rock Avenue terminating in Eagle Rock Reservation. The Eagle Rock Hill Climb in 1901 was one of the first recorded hill climbing events in the United States, and the first in New Jersey.



*Bronze fireman's helmet.*

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, residents of nearby communities gathered at Eagle Rock Reservation to view the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Because of this, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Essex County dedicated a section of the reservation to a memorial built in honor of those killed during the attacks. The Essex County memorial was designed and built by sculptor and artist Patrick Morelli, a resident of nearby Cedar Grove. The centerpiece consists of a bronze bald eagle with an eight-foot wingspan perched on a tree, a book with the names of those lost from Essex County, and a girl named Gabrielle holding a teddy bear. On either side are a fireman's helmet and a police officer's hat. Off to the left is a teenage boy holding a lantern and gazing toward the skyline with the words "Remembrance and Rebirth" on the pedestal. The concrete barrier wall was replaced by polished granite with the names and hometowns of all who were lost in the attacks. There are also seven dogwood trees along

a side path for each of the four hijacked planes, the Pentagon, and the two World Trade Center towers. A gazebo provides a spot where visitors can rest.

At the dedication of the Eagle Rock memorial, Patrick Morelli said, "It is up to us to give meaning to this terrible tragedy," asking those assembled to select a name from the wall and perform a good deed in that person's name.

## Degnan Park [Map 5]

Operated by the West Orange Recreation Department, Degnan Park is located at Pleasant Valley Way near the high school in West Orange. The park has a playground, five tennis courts with lights, a softball field with lights, and a basketball court. Vincent's Pond is nestled in the heart of the park and features a fishing dock. The park was named in honor of Bernard M. Degnan, a longtime West Orange public servant who served as West Orange Mayor from 1938 to 1951.

Degnan Park is also the home of the Katz Community Center, with rooms available for public events and an outdoor patio with picnic tables.

## O'Connor Park [Map 5]

Operated by the West Orange Recreation Department, O'Connor Park is located on Ralph Road at the intersection of Lorelei Road. O'Connor Park features a playground, three multi-purpose fields, four tennis courts with lights, two basketball courts, a street hockey court with lights, a walking path, and an ecosystem with a hands-on living science exhibit. The two-tiered ecosystem illustrates the interdependency of life forms and includes a wetlands area and a stream-fed pond.

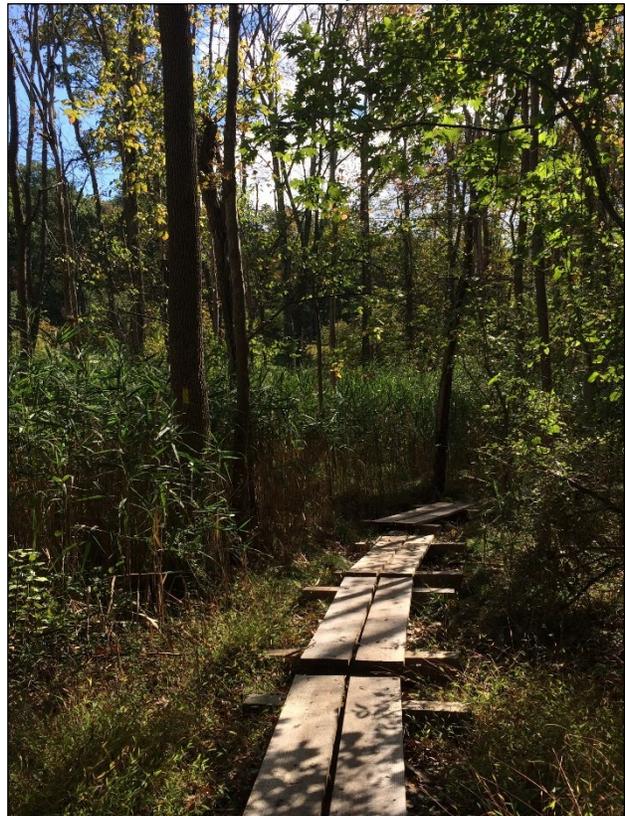
O'Connor Park opened in 1974 and was named in honor of Frank O'Connor (1867-1951). He served West Orange for 40 years in various roles and was considered one of the foremost stage actors of the Oranges, appearing in over 100 local theatrical productions.

## South Mountain Reservation [Maps 6 and 7]

The South Mountain Reservation, covering 2,100 acres, is the largest reservation in the Essex County Park System. It is located in portions of Maplewood, Millburn, and West Orange between the first and second ridges of the Watchung Mountains. Endowed with hills, rivers, and forests, the reservation has been preserved primarily in its wild state. It offers 50 miles of trails and inspiring scenery, vistas of New York City, a dramatic 25-foot-high waterfall at Hemlock Falls, deep woods, millponds, streams, picnic areas, and open fields in the interior valley.

South Mountain lies within the Rahway Watershed, and the West Branch of the Rahway River flows through the reservation. The Orange Reservoir, Hemlock Falls, Campbell's Pond, Diamond Mill Pond, and other water features in the reservation feed this branch. The river has played an important role for the communities that surround South Mountain by powering watermills, providing drinking water, and acting as a site of recreation. In colonial times, sawmills flourished on the Rahway River to meet the demands of the logging industry.

Both the land and the water served the needs of industry. In colonial times, sawmills flourished on the Rahway River to meet the demands of the logging industry. Old growth forests were cut for lumber and paper, and many private woodlots provided fuel for homes. Paper was in growing demand, so in the 1820s the Diamond Paper Mill Company dammed the river to direct water to their mill site, which today is the location of the Paper Mill Playhouse, just south of the reservation. Tree bark from the hemlock that abounded here was an important resource



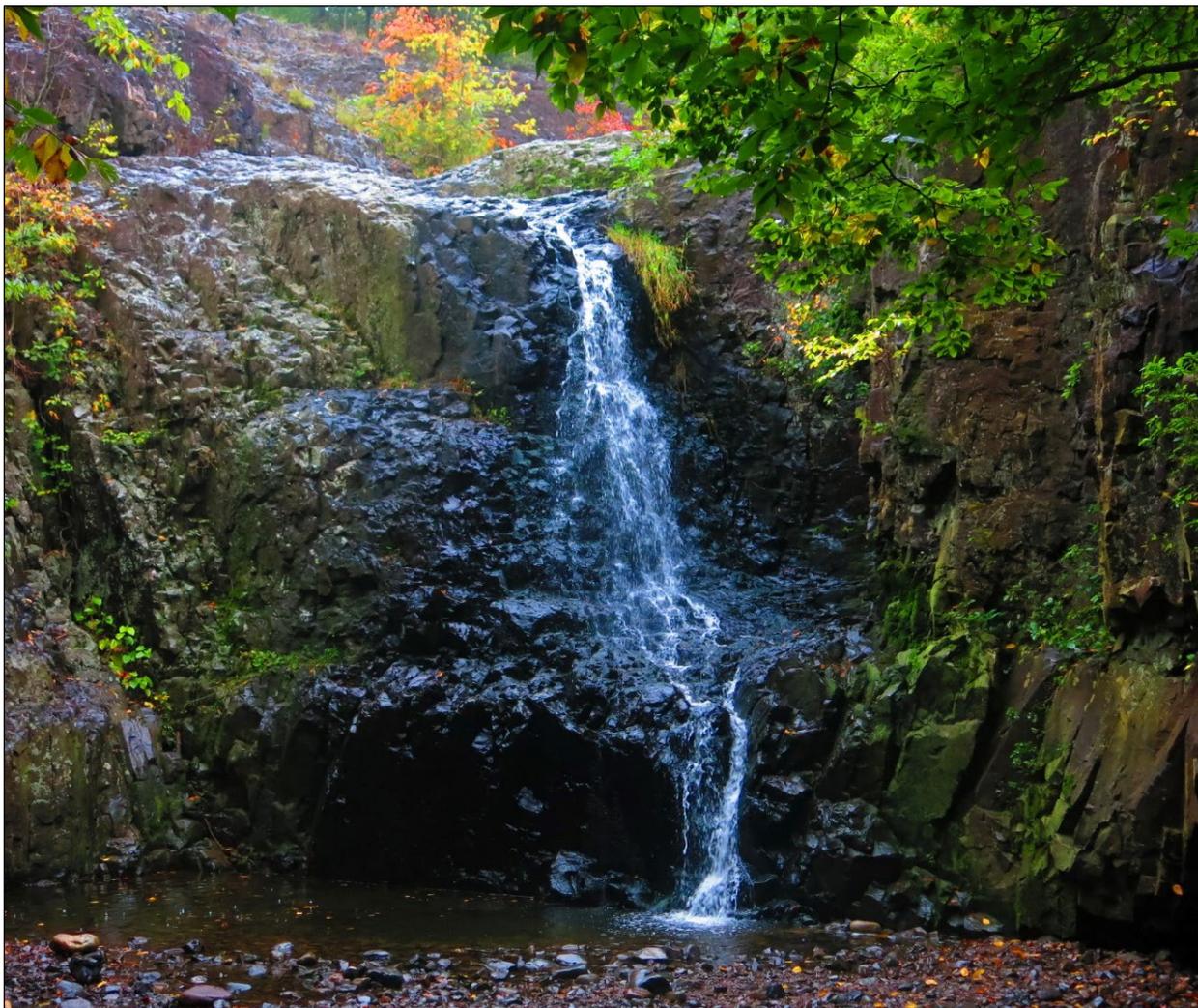
*Timber "bog bridges" connect the northern end of South Mountain Reservation with the rest of the Lenape Trail.*

for the leather tanning factories of Newark, and trap rock quarried here helped build the areas roads and buildings.

Soon after the Essex County Park Commission was established in 1895, it began purchasing private lands for the formation of South Mountain Reservation.

South Mountain Reservation was envisioned a century ago by the Olmsted landscape architecture firm. Frederick Law Olmsted believed in nature's restorative power to heal and inspire, and he regarded this area as some of the most beautiful and promising terrain he had ever seen anywhere. The Olmsted firm's vision for South Mountain Reservation, and their involvement in its design over three decades, highlights the unique challenge of presenting a natural environment in an appealing way for visitors. While appearing to be unplanned, the woodlands, meadows, and groves you see while walking through the reservation were carefully designed. In their landscape forestry design, they embraced the existing features of the parklands such as the lookouts, waterfalls, and rock outcroppings.

Today, the reservation continues to be protected and preserved through the South Mountain Conservancy, a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the South Mountain Reservation through active stewardship, advocacy, and education.



*Hemlock Falls in South Mountain Reservation.*

## Co-Aligned Trails

The Lenape Trail is one of the top 10 longest trails in the state behind popular trails like the Appalachian Trail, Highlands Trail, Delaware and Raritan Canal Trail, and Batona Trail. The trails listed below also partly co-align with the Lenape Trail, meaning they overlap and share part of their route with it.

### West Essex Trail

The West Essex Trail is 3 miles long and was originally the rail bed of the Erie Lackawanna railroad. It passes over the Peckman River and Pompton Avenue (Rt. 23). Once planned to extend to Grover Cleveland Park in Caldwell, public debate delayed it and unfortunately the land was sold off.

### Morris Canal Greenway

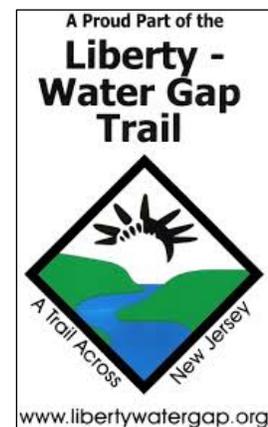
The Morris Canal was built primarily to move coal to industrializing eastern cities that had exhausted all their local forests. When completed, the canal extended 102 miles across the rugged highlands of New Jersey, from Phillipsburg on the Delaware River, uphill to its summit level near Lake Hopatcong, and then down to Jersey City. The Morris Canal Greenway is envisioned as a 111-mile continuous pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting six counties in northern New Jersey. Once completed, it will extend from the Delaware River on the west to the Hudson River on the east.



### Liberty-Water Gap Trail

The Liberty-Water Gap Trail is an emerging “trail of trails” that, when fully completed, will span 150 miles across the entire state of New Jersey, linking one national monument to the west, the Delaware Water Gap, with another on the east, the Statue of Liberty National Monument at Liberty State Park. The trail was envisioned in 1999 by the same Al Kent who created the Lenape Trail. The developing trail offers an extremely diverse set of natural and historic points of interest, including 15 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, over 30 rivers and streams, and over 40 national, state, county, and municipal parks, including America's first county park, Branch Brook Park in Newark, and Liberty State Park on the Hudson River.

Several gaps in the trail still exist in Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties. When completed, the entire Liberty-Water Gap Trail will be open to hikers, while bicyclists will be restricted to certain trail segments. A current map of the Liberty-Water Gap Trail route can be found on the AllTrails website at: <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/liberty-water-gap-trail-complete--3>.

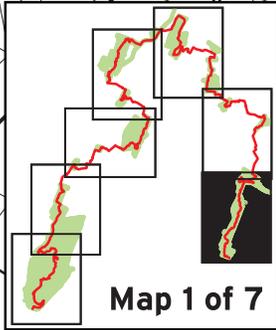
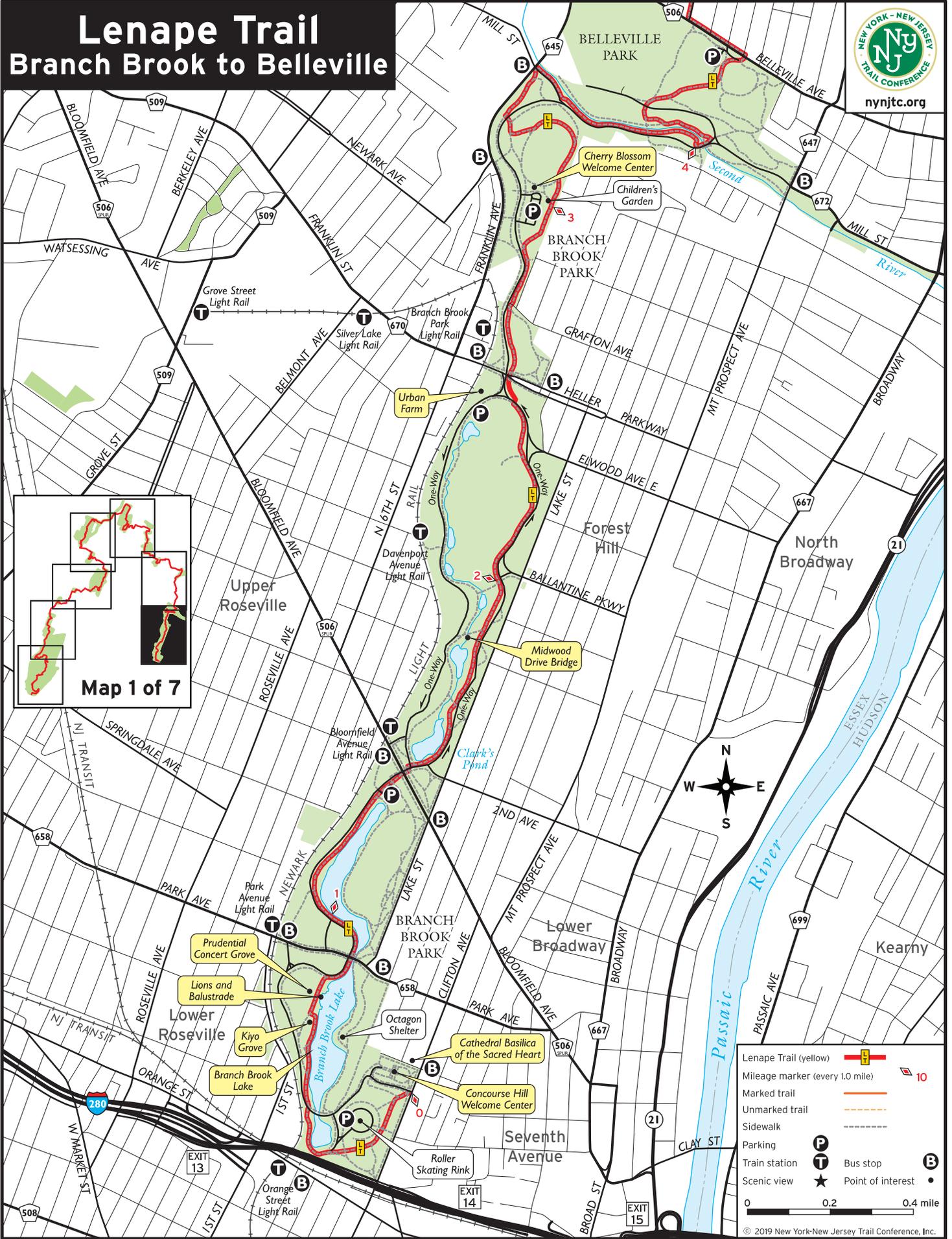


### September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail

The September 11th National Memorial Trail is a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that are a symbol of resiliency and character. It links the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. It serves as a tribute to the fallen heroes who perished on September 11, 2001, and the many heroes who have committed themselves to the response for their country. The exact route is still being determined, particularly for the section of trail stretching east from Shanksville, Pennsylvania to New York City. The planning of the trail is based on the use of existing trails and greenways wherever possible.



# Lenape Trail Branch Brook to Belleville



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

0 0.2 0.4 mile

## Map 1

**Branch Brook Park to Belleville Park**

The eastern end of the Lenape Trail starts near the Concourse Hill Welcome Center and heads north through Branch Brook Park, largely along sidewalks and paved paths. It continues along sidewalks into Belleville Park before reaching Belleville Avenue, where it turns left onto road sidewalks.

**Points of Interest:**

**Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart:** The fifth-largest cathedral in North America, the Cathedral is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. Designed in the French Gothic Revival style, construction on the Cathedral began in 1899 and was finished in 1954.

**Concourse Hill Welcome Center:** Built on one of the highest points in the City of Newark, the Center was designed as an overlook with sweeping views of New York City and Newark, an open-air pavilion, and beautiful gardens featuring various ecotypes seen throughout the Essex County Parks.

**Branch Brook Lake:** In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were extensive sandstone quarries in this area that provided the region with “brownstone.” The lake was formed when the quarries were exhausted and was the source of Newark’s drinking water until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Olmsted Brothers design called for the lake shoreline to have both natural-looking and man-made shapes. Home to catfish and carp, it is also stocked with bass and trout. In the Middle Division north of Park Avenue, the lake has several small islands that attract migrating birds and aquatic wild fowl, such as egrets and herons.

**Kiyofumi Sakaguchi Memorial Grove (Kiyo Grove):** Named after Kiyofumi Sakaguchi, a former president and CEO of Prudential, this grove provides spring displays of daffodils, flowering shrubs, and flowering cherry trees.

**Prudential Concert Grove and Pavilions:** The Concert Grove, shaped as an amphitheater, is the site of open-air concerts and cultural events. The pavilions were designed by architects Ely and Ely, designers of Newark City Hall, and were erected in 1921. Extensive restorations in 2011 re-created the historic wooden trellises with concrete columns made to resemble the original tree trunks. Recent additions to the Concert Grove are the bronze sculpture bust of composer Felix Mendelssohn, originally donated to the park in 1904, and the bust of Frederick Law Olmsted.

**Lions and Balustrade:** Crafted by famed sculptor Karl Bitter around 1892, the limestone lions stood at Prudential's Newark headquarters until 1959, when they were donated to the park. The balustrade was designed by Carrère and Hastings, one of the outstanding Beaux-Arts architecture firms in the United States.

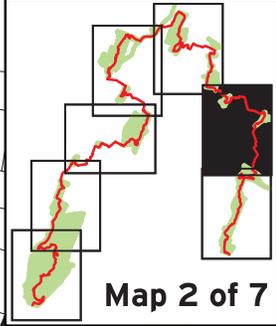
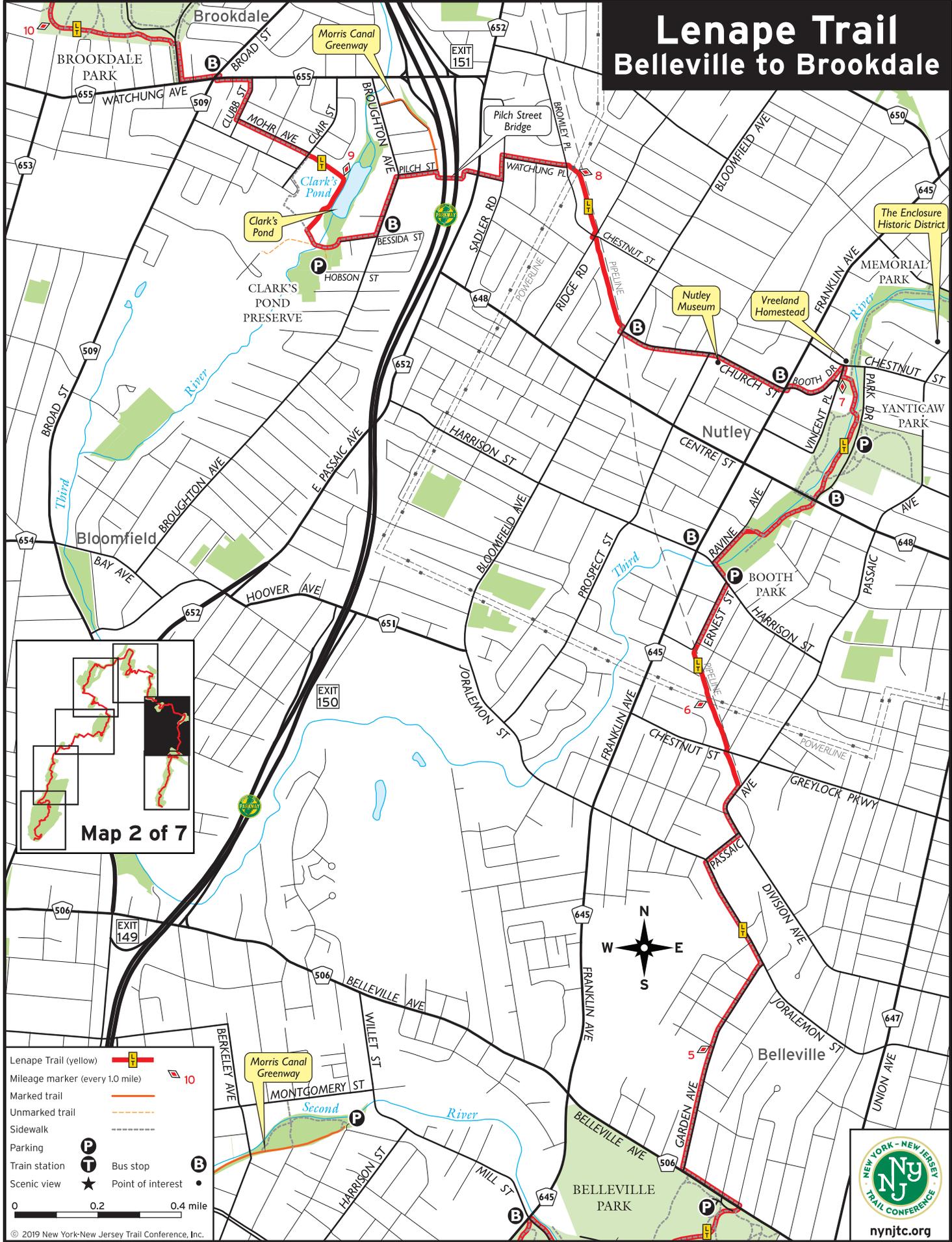
**Midwood Drive Bridge:** Designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm, this rustic fieldstone bridge was constructed around 1900 from locally-gathered stones. It is one of two very wide bridges in the area that originally contained roadways connecting the east and west park drives, and one of several stone bridges in the Northern Division between Bloomfield Avenue and Heller Parkway.

**Urban Farm Greenhouses:** This self-sustaining venture of Essex County, Branch Brook Park Alliance, and Essex County College trains students in food production and distribution while providing fresh, nutritious food to surrounding communities.

**Cherry Blossom Welcome Center:** Every spring, over 100,000 visitors from all around the world come to see the flowering cherry trees. The first ornamental cherry trees in the park were planted in 1928. Now there are over 5,000 trees, the largest collection of these trees in one location in the United States. Planted throughout the Park, the largest numbers of cherry trees are in the Southern Division and north of the Welcome Center along the Second River and into Belleville Park.

The Welcome Center offers restroom facilities open to the public during operating hours.

# Lenape Trail Belleville to Brookdale



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



## Map 2

**Belleville Park to Brookdale Park**

From Belleville Park, the Lenape Trail follows road sidewalks before turning left onto a footpath paralleling a pipeline. It then follows road sidewalks to reach sidewalks through Booth Park and Yanticaw Park, and then follows road sidewalks to reach a second section of footpath along the pipeline. The Lenape Trail continues along road sidewalks, including a pedestrian crossing of the Garden State Parkway, to reach a path through Clark's Pond Preserve. It then follows short section of road sidewalks before reaching Brookdale Park.

**Points of Interest:**

**The Enclosure Historic District:** In 1873, James Hay, a New York City realtor, purchased the circa-1812 John Mason house in Calico Lane and enticed scores of artists to move to the area known as the Enclosure. The rustic beauty and the quiet setting were ideal for creative work. Many artists also had studios in the city, where the market for their work was centered, and they commuted via the railroad built around 1885. Among the residents were painters Frank Fowler, Frederic Dorr Steele, and Frederick Dana Marsh, authors Frank Stockton and Henry C. Brunner, and editors of prominent magazines such as Puck, Century, Judge, and The Railroad Gazette. Even the famous sharpshooter Annie Oakley took up residence in 1892 in a house on Grant Avenue, which has since been demolished. The Enclosure was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

**Vreeland Homestead (228 Chestnut St):** The Vreeland Homestead stands at the southern entrance to Memorial Park, which honors those who died in World War I and World War II. The house was built by Hendrick van Giesen in 1751. Recent research has found that the history listed on the site plaque is incorrect. The homestead was sold to Captain Abraham Speer in 1783, and he in turn sold the house to his brother-in-law John M. Vreeland, who had served as a private in his militia company. The house remained in the Vreeland family until the early 1900s. The Women's Club of Nutley purchased the house in 1923 and owned it until 2012, when it was turned over to the Nutley Historical Society. It was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1994.

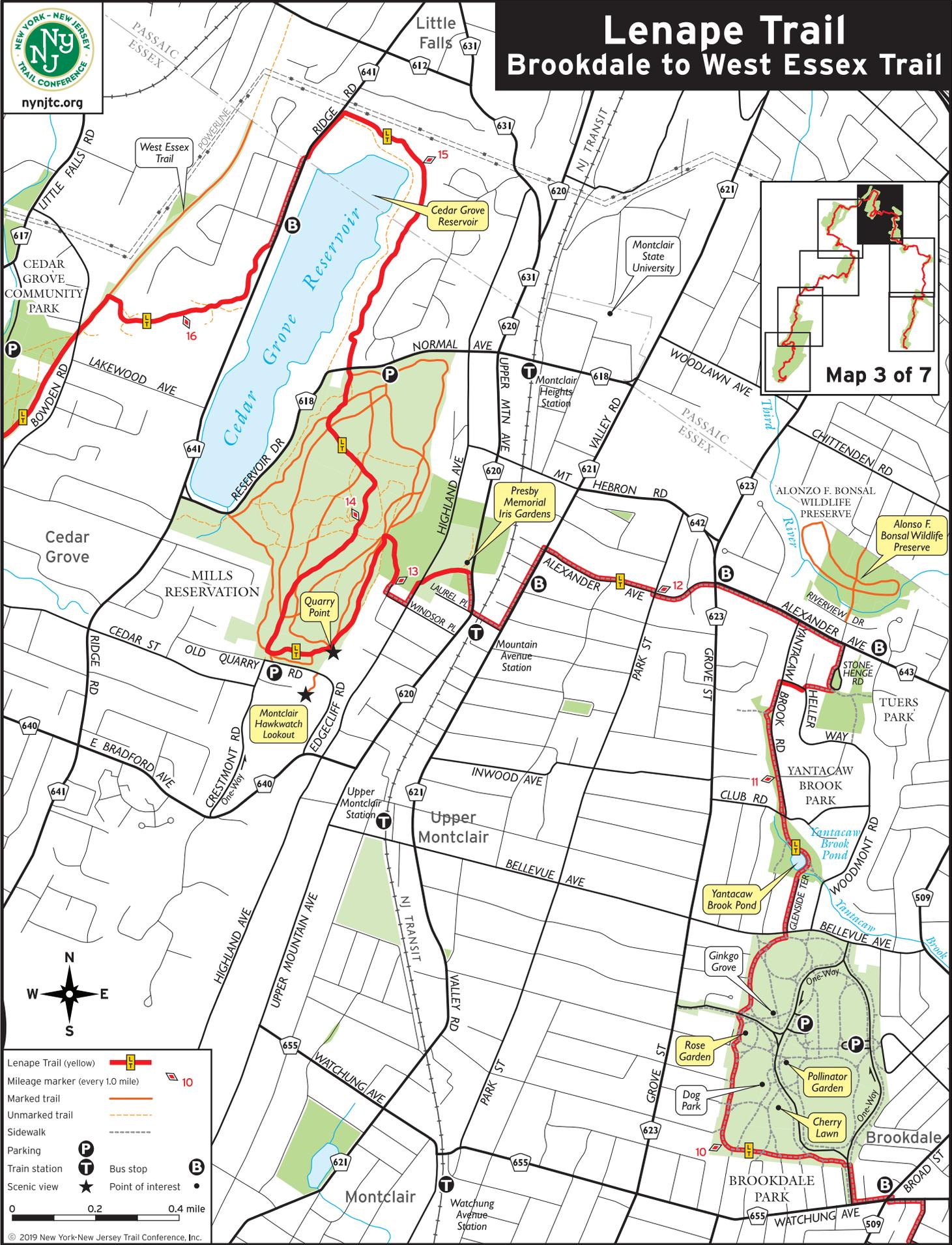
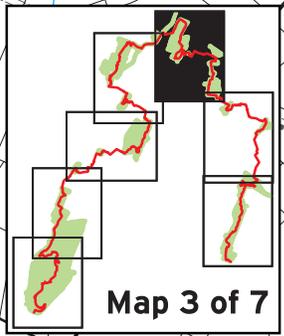
**Nutley Museum (65 Church St):** The Nutley Museum is housed in the former Church Street School built in 1875, and it holds a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum, home of the Nutley Historical Society, houses an interesting collection of photographs and artifacts of famous Nutley residents. These include guns that belonged to Nutley resident Annie Oakley, a coin shot by Oakley during a town fair, and a narwhal's "tusk" (actually a protruding canine tooth) collected from the Arctic during Admiral Robert Peary's expedition in the early 1900s. It was brought back by former Nutley Mayor Emil Diebitsch, who served as Peary's astronomer.

**Morris Canal Greenway:** In 1824, the Morris Canal & Banking Company was chartered to build a canal to carry coal, mined in Pennsylvania, to developing markets along the eastern seaboard. The completed Canal extended 102 miles across the highlands of New Jersey, from Phillipsburg on the Delaware River to Jersey City. In the heyday of the canal, hundreds of boats carried everything from coal and iron ore to agricultural products. The canal's famous water-powered inclined planes were an engineering marvel that enabled canal boats to be raised or lowered up to 100 feet at a time. The canal promoted commerce and shaped the economic development of the northern part of the state. By the early 1900s, the canal had become obsolete. Today, the Morris Canal Greenway is preserving the historic remains.

**Clark's Pond:** Fed by the Third River, this pond and nature preserve is home to a wide variety of wildlife. There are deer, fox, wild turkey, egrets, and blue heron among other animals that live in the preserve. The pond is a favorite spot for fishing, where you can find bass, sunnies, carp, catfish, perch, and some trout. There is a path that follows one side of the pond, a small picnic area, and a pedestrian bridge over the river.



# Lenape Trail Brookdale to West Essex Trail



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

0 0.2 0.4 mile  
 © 2019 New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.

## 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.

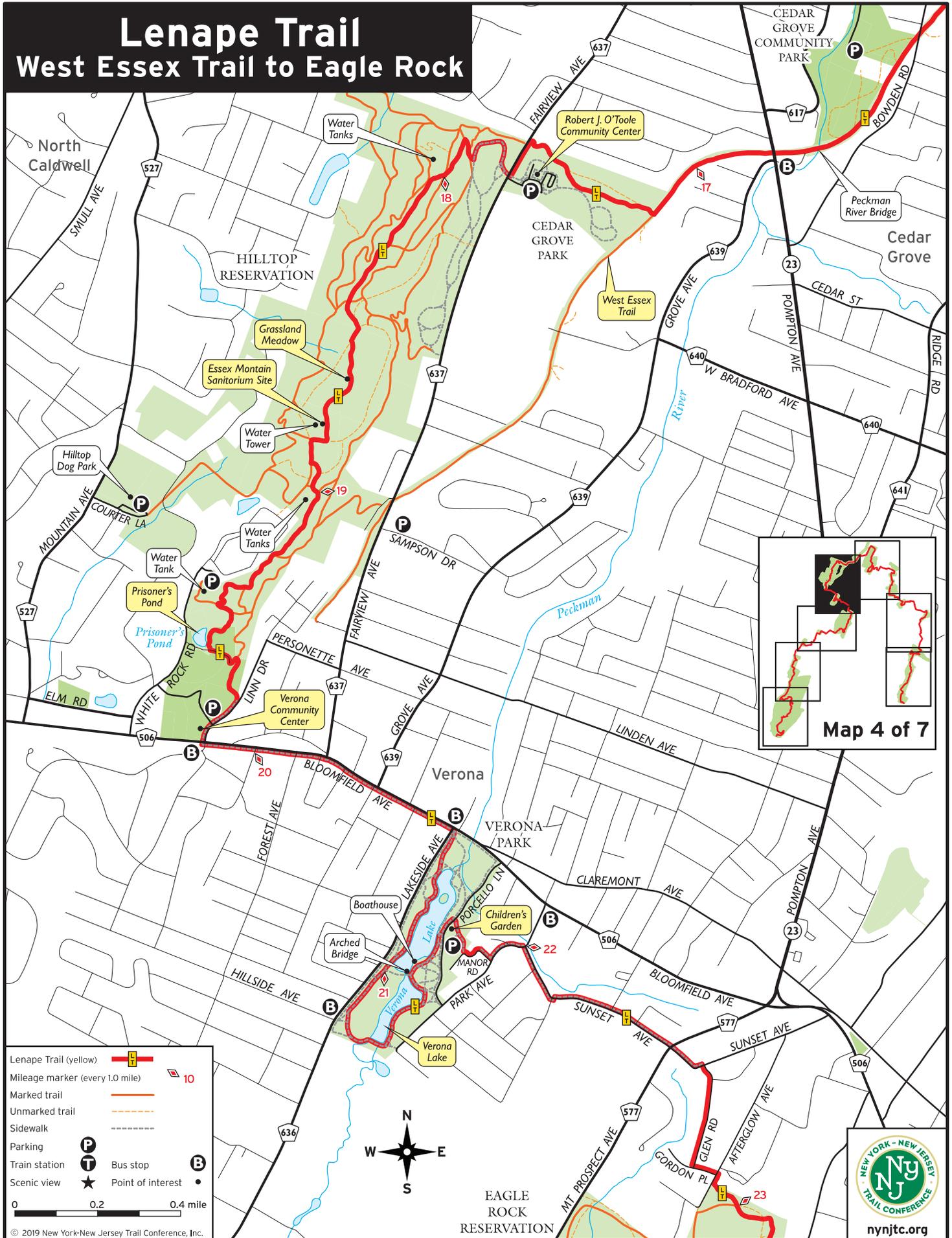
**Quarry Point:** Quarry Point offers spectacular views of New York City and is considered one of the highlights of Mills Reservation. The cliff-edge outlook contains volcanic basalt outcrops in addition to a very old cement platform, where anti-aircraft lights were installed during World War II. Earlier 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.

# Lenape Trail

## West Essex Trail to Eagle Rock



**Legend**

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

0 0.2 0.4 mile

© 2019 New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.

**Map 4 of 7**



EAGLE ROCK RESERVATION

## Map 4

**West Essex Trail to Eagle Rock Reservation**

From Bowden Road, the Lenape Trail continues along the route of the West Essex Trail before turning right onto a footpath into Cedar Grove Park. After crossing Fairview Avenue, it follows paved paths and turns onto footpaths into Hilltop Reservation, where the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. The Lenape Trail continues along a mix of footpaths and old woods roads to reach the Verona Community Center, where it continues along road sidewalk to reach Verona Park. It follows sidewalk within Verona Park, and then road sidewalks and roadwalks are followed to reach the northern end of Eagle Rock Reservation.

**Points of Interest:**

**West Essex Trail:** The West Essex Trail is situated on the former Caldwell Branch of the old Erie-Lackawanna Railroad. Acquired in 1985 through Green Acre funding, the 2.84-mile trail runs from the Passaic County line southwest to Arnold Way in Verona.

**Robert O'Toole Community Center:** The Robert J. O'Toole Community Center, within the 77-acre Essex County Cedar Grove Park, was named for Robert O'Toole, the township's retired three-term mayor. The park was developed on the site of the 121-year-old Essex County Hospital Center, also known as the Overbrook Asylum. Adjacent to the community center are four bocce courts and a playground designed with a farming theme in recognition of the site's history that included a farm to support the hospital. The Community Center itself provides restrooms and water fountains that hikers may use during operating hours.

**Hilltop Reservation Grassland Meadow:** This stunning 15-acre natural meadow is home to numerous varieties of native grasses and wildflowers and creates an excellent habitat for butterflies. Hilltop Reservation's location on the Second Watchung Mountain puts it in the middle of the Atlantic migratory flyway, providing great bird-watching opportunities year-round.

**Essex Mountain Sanatorium Site:** The grassland meadow is located at the site of the former Essex Mountain Sanatorium. Built in 1907 as a facility aimed at curing tuberculosis, the sanatorium was demolished in the 1990s. The Hilltop Conservancy initiated a major restoration project in 2005 to return the site to its natural state. Restoration continues through stewardship and expansion plans for the meadow.

**Prisoner's Pond:** This spring-fed pond has fish, frog, and turtle residents, along with occasional ducks and herons. The pond is named Prisoner's Pond after the Essex County Penitentiary that occupied the land around it for most of the 20th century. Built in 1872, it closed in 2004, prompting a rediscovery of the pond and efforts to reclaim the area. Most recently, the Hilltop Conservancy has embarked on a 5-year plan to regenerate 5 acres of area surrounding the pond with native trees.

**Verona Community Center:** The community center offers an activity hall and small party rooms within its 8,200 square-foot space, as well as restrooms open to the public during operating hours. The center is also notable for being one of the first municipal buildings in the area to feature solar panels. Adjacent to the center is a baseball field, jungle gym, and playground.

**Verona Lake:** The park's 13-acre lake is used for boating and fishing and provides an excellent habitat for double-crested cormorants, mallard ducks, egrets, and Canada geese. The boathouse is used for community gatherings and there is an ornamental pedestrian bridge that crosses the lake.

**Verona Park Children's Garden:** The Children's Garden was opened in 2003 to give children the opportunity to observe and appreciate nature. The plantings include ornamental trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers, herbs, and vegetables.



## Map 5

## Eagle Rock Reservation to O'Connor Park

The Lenape Trail enters the northern end of Eagle Rock Reservation on footpaths, and the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. It turns onto sidewalks near the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial before turning back onto footpaths, eventually reaching road sidewalk at the southern end of Eagle Rock Reservation. Road sidewalks and roadwalks are then followed to reach the sidewalk through Degnan Park. The Lenape Trail then follows road sidewalk under Interstate 280 to eventually reach O'Connor Park, where sidewalk leads to Ellison Avenue at Mount Pleasant Avenue.

### Points of Interest:

**Casino/Highlawn Pavilion Restaurant:** A historic structure known as the casino was built on the Eagle Rock crest in 1911. It was an Italian-style country house, an open masonry shelter with a series of arches. During World War I, experiments for the nation's military were conducted in the casino by both Thomas Edison, whose laboratory was just down the hill, and the rival Westinghouse Company. They came to Eagle Rock to take advantage of its natural elevation and the view toward the Atlantic Ocean. The turn-of-the-century structure was restored and now is the site of the Highlawn Pavilion restaurant.

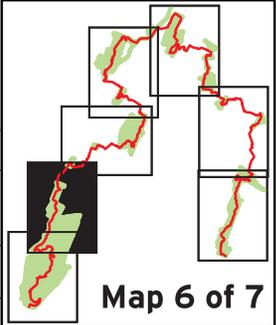
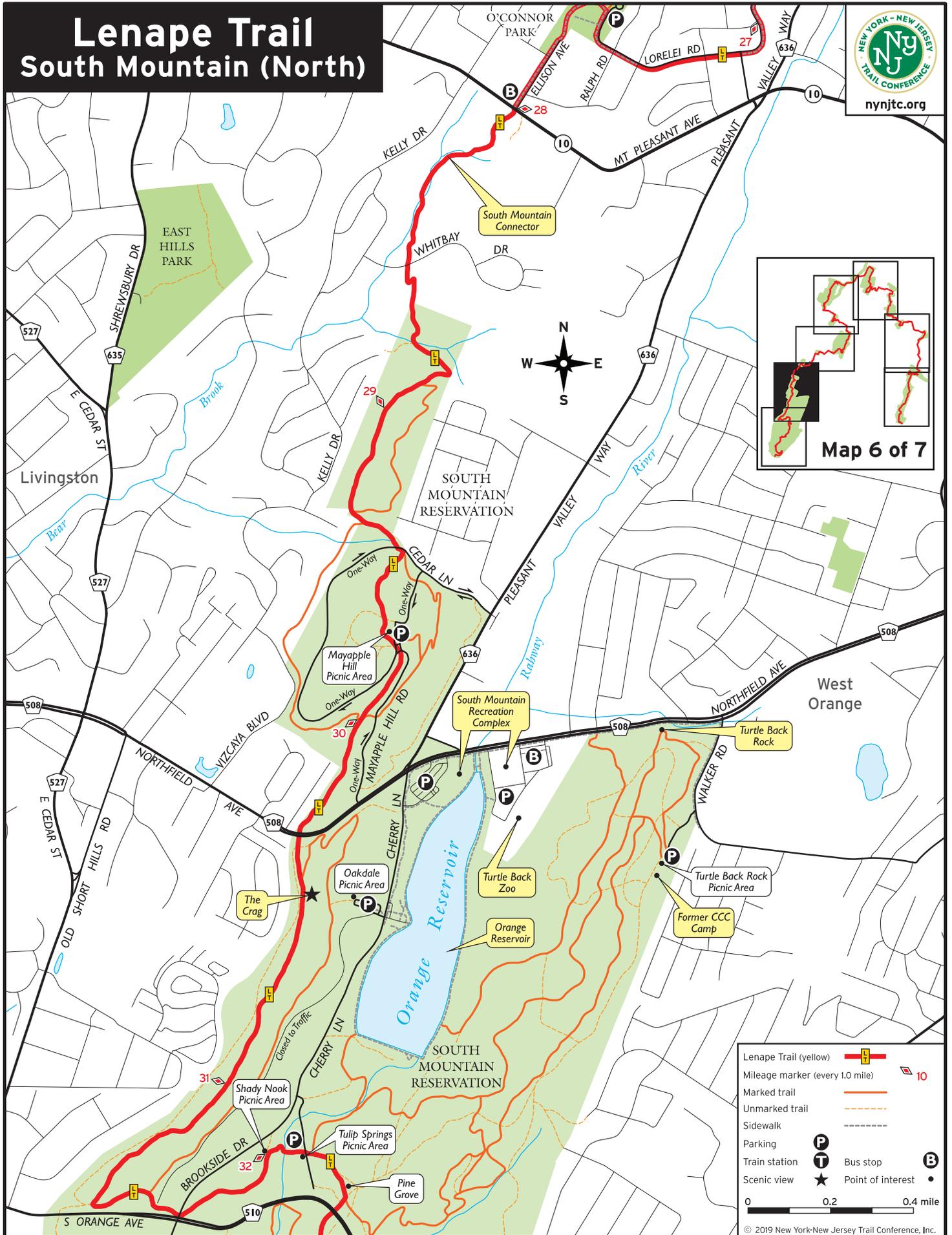
**Essex County Eagle Rock September 11th Memorial:** The Eagle Rock Overlook became a gathering place where thousands came to watch and pay respect to those who were lost on September 11, 2001. As word spread that this was a place where people gathered to grieve, to reflect, and to pay tribute, a spontaneous memorial of cards and candles, flags and flowers, photographs, prayers, and poems filled the wall overlooking New York City. Through funds raised by the County and the hard work of volunteers and family members, the Memorial was officially dedicated on October 20, 2002. At the center of the memorial is a 120-foot granite wall, carved with the 3,000 names of people who lost their lives. The site includes several bronze statues and a memorial grove of seven trees. In 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the attacks, a 7,400-pound steel and concrete piece of the World Trade Center foundation was installed along with a bronze plaque recognizing the bravery of emergency medical technicians. The memorial remains a special place where visitors find comfort and a tribute to resilience, peace, and hope.

**Eagle Rock Overlook:** Formed by glaciers of the last ice age, this overlook on top of Orange Mountain provides sweeping panoramic views of the area, including the New York City skyline. From this vantage point, Washington's army monitored British troop movements across the Hudson River during the American Revolution. In 1874, Alexander T. Compton began development of the Eagle Rock Resort, a year-round destination for city-dwellers to view nature and take in the fresh mountain air. In 1894, an electric trolley line was constructed to the base of the mountain, where visitors would then climb a wooden staircase known as the Hundred Steps to reach the top. When the Essex County Park Commission was formed in 1895, it protected the land at Eagle Rock from quarrying and residential construction. The old resort buildings were cleared and, in 1907, a spiked concrete wall was created to secure the edge. Today, the wall forms part of the boundary of the September 11th Memorial.

**Eagle Rock Climb Historic Automobile Race:** In the early 20th century, hill climb competitions tested the speed and endurance of early automobiles. The Eagle Rock Hill Climb, held in November 1901, was one of the first events of its kind in the United States. Drivers vied to reach the top of the 4,962-foot steep climb in record time. It became an annual event attracting thousands of spectators, but it ended in 1905 due to concerns over safety. At that time, Eagle Rock Avenue ran directly into the reservation with a very sharp left turn. It was realigned in 1957 to make the road safer, and the southern entrance to Eagle Rock Reservation was moved to its present location.

**O'Connor Park:** This town park in West Orange has a walking path and a hands-on living science exhibit. The two-tiered ecosystem exhibit includes a wetlands area and a stream-fed pond.

# Lenape Trail South Mountain (North)



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

0 0.2 0.4 mile

© 2019 New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Inc.

## Map 6

## South Mountain Reservation (North)

From Mount Pleasant Avenue, the Lenape Trail follows footpaths to reach South Mountain Reservation, and the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. It crosses Northfield Avenue on a pedestrian bridge and continues along footpaths to the pedestrian bridge crossing of South Orange Avenue.

### Points of Interest:

**South Mountain Connector:** The completion of the South Mountain Connector in 2017 resulted in the full route of the Lenape Trail as we know it today. This stretch of trail between Mount Pleasant Avenue and Whitbay Drive finally connected the South Mountain portion of the Lenape Trail to the rest of the route, giving the trail its distinctive “horseshoe” shape. The trail project was spearheaded and carried out by volunteers of the South Mountain Conservancy with support from the Trail Conference.

**Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex:** The complex features a variety of recreation opportunities including the Turtle Back Zoo, the Codey Arena for ice skating, MiniGolf Safari, the Berson Education Center, and the Treetop Adventure Course. The Waterfront area of the complex along the Orange Reservoir features the children’s Regatta Playground, paddleboat rental, a 1.7-mile-long walkway, the Clipper Pavilion picnic shelter, and opportunities for fishing.

**Orange Reservoir:** The West Branch of the Rahway River begins in West Orange and flows south through South Mountain Reservation, feeding the Orange Reservoir. The river has played an important role for the communities that surround South Mountain by powering watermills and providing drinking water. The 115-acre body of water was originally created to provide drinking water for the City of Orange. In the 1890s, the Essex County Park Commission incorporated the reservoir as an integral part of the surrounding park. Today, through a lease agreement with Orange, it provides a range of outdoor activities including fishing and boating, as well as serving as a wetlands habitat and a buffer for heavy rainfall, helping preserve the natural environment of the Rahway River Watershed.

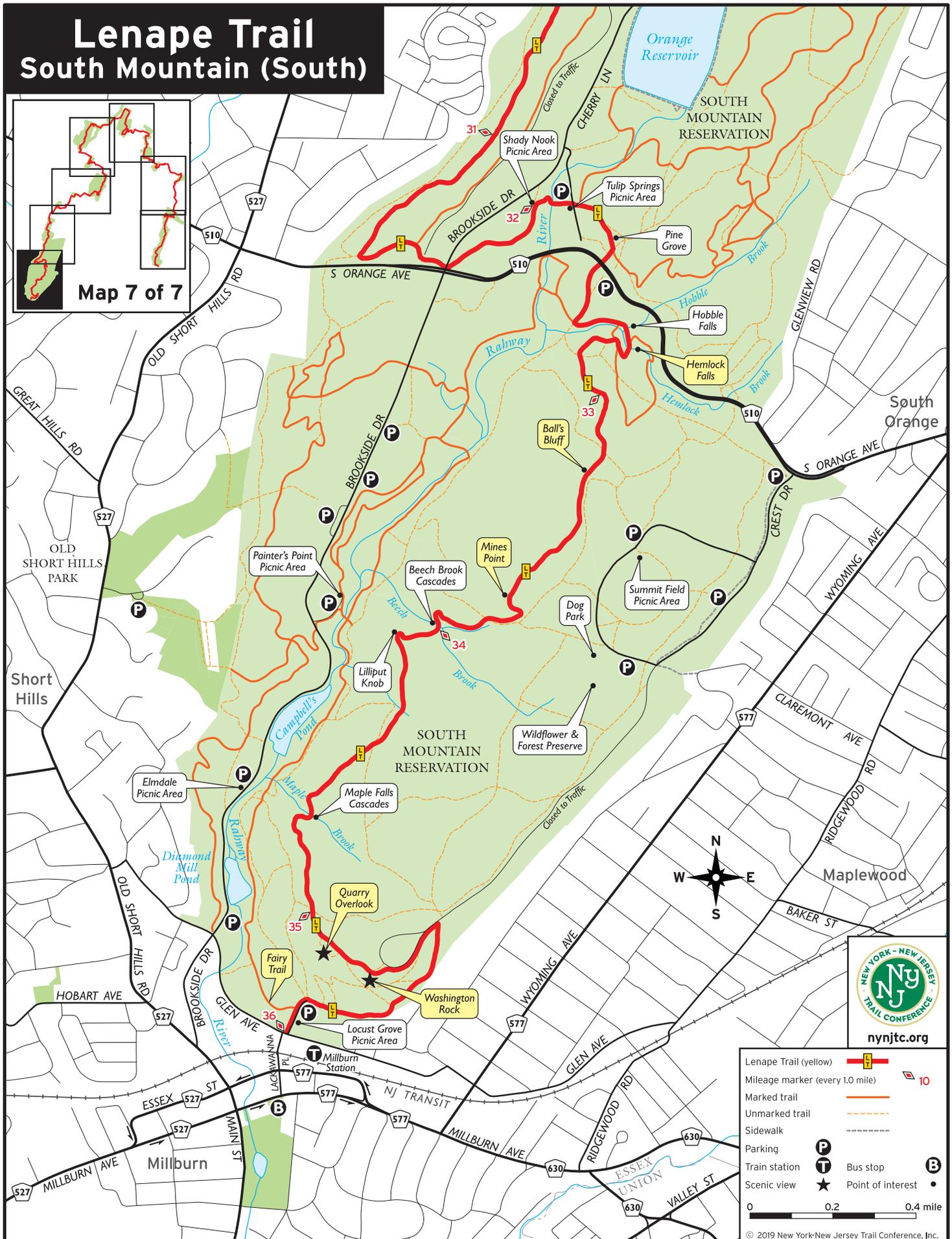
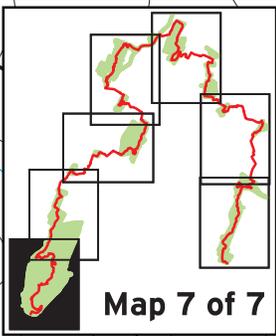
**Turtle Back Zoo:** Turtle Back Zoo, a facility of the Essex County Parks Department, opened in 1963 with a collection of 140 animals of 40 species to promote wildlife education and conservation. Situated on 20 acres, the zoo was originally a showcase for animals indigenous to the local area. Today, it houses approximately 1,400 animals from every continent except Antarctica.

**Turtle Back Rock:** Named Turtle Back Rock by the Lenape Indians, the markings on the top of this rock formation resemble the back of an enormous turtle. The rock has straight sides and angular fractures which create the distinct markings. Dating back 200 million years, it formed when lava cooled and cracked to create huge columns of igneous rock. Because this type of cooled lava rock, called “trap rock”, is resistant to corrosion, stress, and frost, it was quarried throughout the Watchung Mountains for the construction of roads and railroad beds that supported the rapid growth of the region.

**Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Turtle Back Rock:** During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the government created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in response to the nation's need to provide work for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men, aged 16 to 28. They were put to work to restore decimated woodland areas where resources to fund maintenance and labor were hard to find. The young men at this camp constructed picnic shelters, foot trails, and eight bridges, and they laid miles of timber guardrails, sewer lines, storm drains, and water pipes. In addition to improving the reservation’s scenic vistas by the selective cutting of trees, they furnished hundreds of cords of firewood to the poor throughout the county.

**The Crag:** Located on the edge of the Second Mountain, this site offers a lookout point with views of the Orange Reservoir and the South Mountain Recreation Complex. There is a rock outcrop with a very sharp drop-off and an open-sided shelter with benches and a patio area. The shelter is the last of seven stone shelters built in the park by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the late 1930s.

# Lenape Trail South Mountain (South)



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

## Map 7

## South Mountain Reservation (South)

From the pedestrian bridge crossing of South Orange Avenue, the Lenape Trail continues south along footpaths, and the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. It eventually reaches Washington Rock and a paved road, which is closed to traffic, before turning back onto a footpath to reach Locust Grove Picnic Area and Glen Avenue, which is the western end of the Lenape Trail.

### Points of Interest:

**Hemlock Falls:** Hemlock Falls is a dramatic 25-foot-high waterfall on Hemlock Brook, a tributary of the Rahway River. You can view the falls cascading over boulders and ending in a small pond at its base. Hemlock Falls is an impressive sight shortly after heavy rains and offers scenic overlooks from a short distance along the reservation's Hemlock Falls Loop Trail.

**Ball's Bluff:** In 1896, the reservation was greatly expanded by 474 acres, starting with the purchase of a 3.5-acre woodlot from Philander Ball, for which the bluff is named. During the Great Depression, the first footpaths were built to create a circular route linking Bramhall Terrace, Ball's Bluff, and Mines Point.

**Mines Point:** Mines Point is located on the first footpath created in the reservation. Here along the trail you can see small pits dug by miners in the early 1800s to extract copper.

**Quarry Overlook:** This overlook is at the top of a 139-foot-high cliff, created by the mining operations of trap rock quarry originally owned by Charles A. Lighthipe, a prominent 19th century citizen of Orange. The durable crushed rock was a key element for the development of new road infrastructure, critical to growing industry in the area. The quarry had a crusher that was housed in a building at the bottom of the cliffs, and after the stone was crushed it was loaded onto train cars. These cars were then pulled up along the bottom of the hill from the Morris and Essex line of the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad. Concerned that the quarry would expand farther into the parkland, the Essex County Park Commission purchased the Lighthipe Quarry in 1913 and preserved the property from further development.

**Washington Rock:** Local lore holds that General George Washington stood here in June of 1780 to oversee maneuvers of the Continental Army in the battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield that occurred in the valley below. The Watchung Mountains were strategic to the Revolutionary War effort, particularly Hobart's Gap, the break in the range observable from the overlook on this 500-foot cliff. In 1780, the British occupied Staten Island and New York City. Hobart's Gap was one of the few places that the British Army might pass through to Morristown. In order to mobilize the militia in the event of an attack, General Washington created an alert system of 23 bonfire signal beacons along the mountain range. On June 23, an American lookout lit signal beacon No. 9 near this spot, and Essex County and Newark Militia were first warned that the British had launched an attack westward toward "the Gap." After intense fighting, the British advance was repelled, and they would not make a major incursion into New Jersey again.

**Fairy Trail:** Along this short trail you will find intricate tiny fairy houses peeking out from tree hollows and tucked into roots. Made of natural materials from the woods, the magical fairy houses started mysteriously appearing around 2011. They were created by a special education teacher who enjoyed the reservation with her son, who has autism. Today, there are more than 30 creations and the trail has become a favorite of children and adults alike. In order to preserve the local environment and character of the trail, only local natural elements should be used in building these fairy houses.

## Get Involved

### VOLUNTEER TO PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered nonprofit organization caring for public lands and trails. Our passion is helping people responsibly enjoy the benefits of being outdoors.

When underfunded park agencies require resources for vital needs such as trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and visitor education, the Trail Conference jumps into action. Since 1920, we have brought our expertise and ability to find sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to land managers throughout the greater New York metropolitan region.

By partnering with these agencies and engaging the public, the Trail Conference preserves the integrity of trails and natural areas and inspires a deeper appreciation for the care that these special places require.

With your help, we can continue to keep trails and the lands they traverse open and safe for another century - and beyond.



### Give Back...

#### ...On a Trail

- Adopt and Care for a Trail Section
- Join a Trail Crew

#### ...In a Park

- Educate the Public as a Trail Steward

#### ...In a Workshop

- Learn How to Care for the Land and Trails

#### ...Behind the Scenes

- Support Wilderness Preservation
- Greet Visitors at Our Headquarters
- Boost Our Fundraising and Outreach Efforts
- Help Plan Events
- Join a Committee

#### ...As a Company

- Get Your Colleagues Outside for a Day of Service

Reach out for more information: [nynjtc.org/volunteer](http://nynjtc.org/volunteer) | 201.512.9348 | [volunteer@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteer@nynjtc.org)



## Resources

The Lenape Trail's route through densely-populated areas means that it has many unique points of interest and connections to local history. You may find yourself wanting to learn more about a specific point of interest, meet like-minded walkers with which to enjoy the trail, or even organize an event with your own organization. The contacts below should be able to help.

### Learn More

**The Montclair History Center** is an authority on local Essex County history and offers a variety of public tours and events. Their archives and library are located in the Clark House at 108 Orange Road, and more information about visiting is available at [www.montclairhistory.org](http://www.montclairhistory.org).

**The Essex County Environmental Center**, a facility of the Essex County Park System, is an environmental education center with a mission to create awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the environment and its relationship to Essex County residents. The center features hands-on exhibits and programs about local natural history: [www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/facilities/environmental-center).

**New Jersey Audubon** offers bird walks, field trips, workshops, migration watches, and more. If you're looking to learn more about the natural world, particularly the feathered friends that you share the Lenape Trail with, take a look at their website: <https://njudubon.org/gobirding/>.

### Experience the Trail with Others

**FreeWalkers** is a non-profit organization that educates the public on the benefits of walking and offers events, information, and networking. Their organized hikes include the Lenape Trail, and you can find them online at [www.freewalkers.org/all-events](http://www.freewalkers.org/all-events).

**The New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition's "Let's Walk!"** has a schedule of free walks open to the public: <https://njbwc.org/lets-walk/>

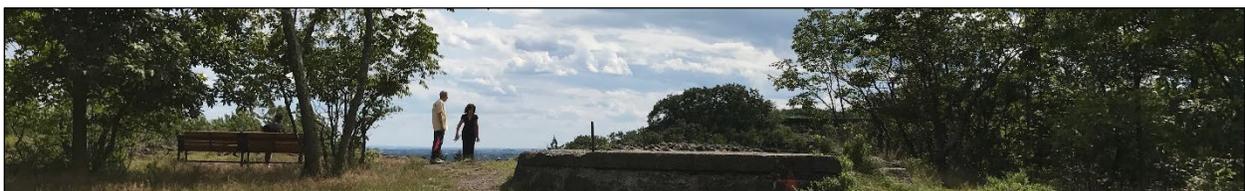
**The Lenape Trail Crew** schedules regular volunteer opportunities to meet like-minded local trail enthusiasts and give back to the parks you all enjoy. Email [volunteer@nynjtc.org](mailto:volunteer@nynjtc.org) to connect with the crew... beginners are welcome!

### Organize an Event

**The Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs** should be your first point of contact to organize an event taking place in Essex County Parks. You can find their special event permits online at [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks).

### Your Resources

Do you know of an organization that would be an asset to trail users and should be included in this guide? Let us know! Email [info@nynjtc.org](mailto:info@nynjtc.org) with "Lenape Trail Guide" in the subject line to share your knowledge. This guide is a living document, and we look forward to continuing to improve it.



## Web Links

In addition to the many people who came together to make this guide possible, dozens of valuable online sources were referenced. Below are the most prominent of those, sorted by location.

### Connecting Trails

#### East Coast Greenway

- [www.greenway.org](http://www.greenway.org)

#### Liberty-Water Gap Trail

- [www.delawariver.natgeotourism.com/files/portal/del4ZUD02FLSNN3LVZEK/pdf/content/delE0782F38475A4BFB3.pdf](http://www.delawariver.natgeotourism.com/files/portal/del4ZUD02FLSNN3LVZEK/pdf/content/delE0782F38475A4BFB3.pdf)

#### Morris Canal Greenway

- [www.morriscanal.org](http://www.morriscanal.org)
- [www.canalsocietynj.org/canal-history](http://www.canalsocietynj.org/canal-history)

#### September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Trail

- [www.911trail.org](http://www.911trail.org)

#### West Essex Trail

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/west-essex-trail](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/west-essex-trail)

#### Belleville Park

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/belleville-park](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/belleville-park)

#### Booth Park - Nutley

- [www.nutleynj.org/parksandrec](http://www.nutleynj.org/parksandrec)

#### Branch Brook Park

- [www.branchbrookpark.org](http://www.branchbrookpark.org)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/branch-brook-park](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/branch-brook-park)

#### Brookdale Park

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/brookdale-park](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/brookdale-park)
- [www.brookdalepark.org](http://www.brookdalepark.org)

#### Cedar Grove Park

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/cedar-grove-park](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/cedar-grove-park)

#### Cedar Grove Community Park

- [www.cedargrovenj.org/departments/recreation](http://www.cedargrovenj.org/departments/recreation)

#### Cedar Grove Reservoir

- [www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.cedargrovehistoricalsociety.org)

#### Clark's Pond Preserve

- [www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Clarks-Pond-South-8](http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/Clarks-Pond-South-8)

#### Degnan Park

- [www.westorange.org/facilities/facility/details/degnanpark-7](http://www.westorange.org/facilities/facility/details/degnanpark-7)

#### Eagle Rock Reservation

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/eagle-rock-reservation](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/eagle-rock-reservation)
- [www.nynjtc.org/hike/eagle-rock-reservation](http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/eagle-rock-reservation)

#### Essex County 911 Memorial

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/\\_media/\\_data/EssexResource/911-brochure-final.pdf](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/_media/_data/EssexResource/911-brochure-final.pdf)

#### Essex County

- [www.essexcountynj.org/history](http://www.essexcountynj.org/history)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/cultural/archives](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/cultural/archives)
- [www.npl.org/collections-services/charles-f-cummings-new-jersey-information-center/](http://www.npl.org/collections-services/charles-f-cummings-new-jersey-information-center/)

#### Hilltop Reservation

- [www.hilltopconservancy.org](http://www.hilltopconservancy.org)
- <https://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/hilltop-reservation>
- [www.nynjtc.org/park/hilltop-reservation](http://www.nynjtc.org/park/hilltop-reservation)

#### Mills Reservation

- [www.nynjtc.org/park/mills-reservation-county-park](http://www.nynjtc.org/park/mills-reservation-county-park)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/mills-reservation](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/mills-reservation)

#### Nutley Historical Museum

- [www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nutleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**O'Connor Park**

- [www.westorange.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/2](http://www.westorange.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/2)

**Presby Memorial Iris Gardens**

- [www.presbyirisgardens.org/wordpress](http://www.presbyirisgardens.org/wordpress)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/presby-memorial-iris-gardens](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/presby-memorial-iris-gardens)

**South Mountain Reservation**

- [www.somocon.org](http://www.somocon.org)
- [www.nynjtc.org/hike/south-mountainreservation](http://www.nynjtc.org/hike/south-mountainreservation)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/south-mountain-reservation)

**Tuers Park**

- [www.montclairnjusa.org/government/departments/community\\_services/park\\_and\\_facility\\_maintenance/parks\\_in\\_montclair](http://www.montclairnjusa.org/government/departments/community_services/park_and_facility_maintenance/parks_in_montclair)

**Verona Park**

- [www.veronapark.org](http://www.veronapark.org)
- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/verona-park](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/verona-park)

**Yantacaw Brook Park (Montclair)**

- [www.facebook.com/YantacawBrookPark](http://www.facebook.com/YantacawBrookPark)
- [www.cineamo.wixsite.com/ybpfloora-fauna](http://www.cineamo.wixsite.com/ybpfloora-fauna)
- [www.YantacawBrookParkConservancy.org](http://www.YantacawBrookParkConservancy.org)

**Yanticaw Park (Nutley)**

- [www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/yanticaw-park/about](http://www.essexcountyparks.org/parks/yanticaw-park/about)



*Volunteers of the Lenape Trail Crew show off the bridge they've just finished building to keep trail users high and dry.*

## Acknowledgements

The creation of this Lenape Trail Guide was a massive undertaking, and it would have been impossible without the help of dozens of dedicated, knowledgeable, and passionate individuals. The spirit of volunteerism has always been one of the defining features of the Trail Conference, and people came out in full force to carry on that tradition for this project. The following were particularly instrumental:

**Sue Bennett**, for carrying on the legacy of her father Al Kent and helping with everything from Trail Crew volunteer work, to sharing her photographs for use in this guide.

**Steve Marano**, for continuing to be an active presence in the Lenape Trail community and sharing his years of knowledge and experience with the trail. Steve also generously contributed his personal photographs for this guide.

**David DeShazer**, for stepping up as the latest in a legacy of volunteer leaders overseeing the Lenape Trail. Every time you pass a freshly-painted trail blaze, section of clipped-back undergrowth, or newly-built drain to keep the trail dry... you probably have David and his volunteers to thank!

**Tara Casella**, for being our direct line to the Essex County Parks Department and working so closely with the Trail Conference on projects - particularly the ongoing installation of bollards to help hikers discover and follow the Lenape Trail.

While our gratitude goes out to all involved in the stewardship of the Lenape Trail and the creation of this guide, we would be remiss not to mention the extra effort of those people listed below. From connecting us with valuable historic resources, to proofreading and catching errors before publication, everyone listed here went the extra mile to help make this guide a success.

Daniel Stusnick  
Dave Hogenauer  
Dennis Percher  
Frank Short  
Geordan Smith

Janet Shapiro  
Jean Jaeger  
John Simko  
Julie Ostering  
Kathy Kauh

Martha Schoene  
Michael L. Scurman  
Mollie Smith  
Rich Rockwell  
Theresa Trapp

Special thanks are also in order to Debra Kagan, the seasonal staff Field Manager for the Lenape Trail. Debra was instrumental in wrangling the many key contacts and partnerships that make up the Lenape Trail community, and her enthusiasm for the trail helped bring many more people on-board. We couldn't have asked for a more qualified or effective person to lead the charge on this initiative.

And of course, our thanks to the generosity of the Partners for Health Foundation for making this all possible. We hope that this Trail Guide connects Essex County locals and visitors with fun, healthy outings for many years to come.

Happy exploring,

Peter Dolan  
New Jersey Program Coordinator  
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

