

About South Branch Reservation

Hunterdon County began buying land along the South Branch of the Raritan River in 1974, when the Assiscong Marsh was acquired. Most of the remaining land was purchased in 1975, but additional parcels have been purchased through the 21st century. Today, over 1000 acres of parkland exist along this river, and these pieces are collectively referred to as the South Branch Reservation. This reservation helps protect the watershed and provides wildlife habitat. It also provides recreational opportunities such as canoeing, fishing, birding, hiking, biking, and picnicking.

This brochure is designed as an overview of the South Branch Reservation. Many of the sections have their own trail map and guide. These brochures are available at the Hunterdon County Arboretum or the Hunterdon County Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us (click on "Parks & Recreation").



Sycamore at Riverfield

With the exception of park properties with reservable facilities, all properties are "carry in / carry out" and trash/recycling receptacles are not provided. Please plan accordingly and do not leave any trash/recyclables behind.

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

South Branch Sections

Arches: West Main & Arch Streets, High Bridge. This is a popular fishing spot and also has one picnic table. *Section not shown on map.*

Riverfield: 1738 Route 31 North, Clinton. Park in the front right corner of lot of the Clinton Health Campus of the Hunterdon Health and Wellness Center. A circular trail, about 3/4 mile, provides river access for fishing. *Section not shown on map.*

Landsdown Meadows & Trail:
5 Sidney Road, Pittstown or
36 Main Street, Clinton

Melick's Bridge:
245 Hamden Road, Annandale

Pine Hill: 34 Pine Hill Road, Annandale

Valinski:
502 Hamden Road, Annandale or
123 River Road, Annandale

Sunnyside: 47 Kiceniuk Road, Annandale

Stanton Station:
30 Stanton Station Road, Flemington

Wings: 52 Deerpath Road, Flemington

Assiscong Marsh: 150 River Road,
Flemington

Three Bridges:
15 Dory Dilts Road, Flemington

Hunting

In order to control the population of deer on park property, hunting is permitted. Hunters must obtain a special permit issued by the Division to be able to hunt on the reservation. Visitors between September and February are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange or confine visits to Sundays.

(Revised 5/2017)

It is the policy of the County to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities upon advance notice of need. Persons requiring accommodations should make a request at least two weeks prior to program attendance.

Canoeing

Canoeing the South Branch of the Raritan River is a wonderful way to view wildlife. The river corridor provides an excellent habitat for waterfowl, which can be seen all along the river. Aquatic reptiles, such as Painted Turtles and Northern Water Snakes, are regularly observed perched on the stone and tree outcroppings along the banks of the river. Recommended canoe access sites are Melick's Bridge, Pine Hill, Valinski, Sunnyside, and Stanton Station.

Fishing

The South Branch of the Raritan River is a popular fishing destination. All sections listed here permit fishing, except Assiscong Marsh. The river is seasonally stocked with trout. New Jersey State Fish and Wildlife laws apply, and a state fishing license with a trout stamp must be displayed to fish trout-stocked waters.

Sharing the South Branch of the Raritan River

River etiquette calls for canoers and tubers to maneuver around someone fishing whenever possible. But please understand not all paddlers have this knowledge, nor is it always feasible with river currents, so those who are fishing should politely communicate their needs to ensure a safe passing distance is obtained.

Trails

Many of the South Branch sections have short hiking trails, including Wings and Stanton Station. Some can also be used for biking or horseback riding. Please check each section's brochure for specific information, or look for our guides on Hiking, Biking, and Horseback Riding. The basic rule of trail etiquette is "wheels yield to heels, yield to horses" (Bikers yield to both, and pedestrians yield to horses).

South Branch Reservation

Map and Guide



Canoeing is a popular activity.

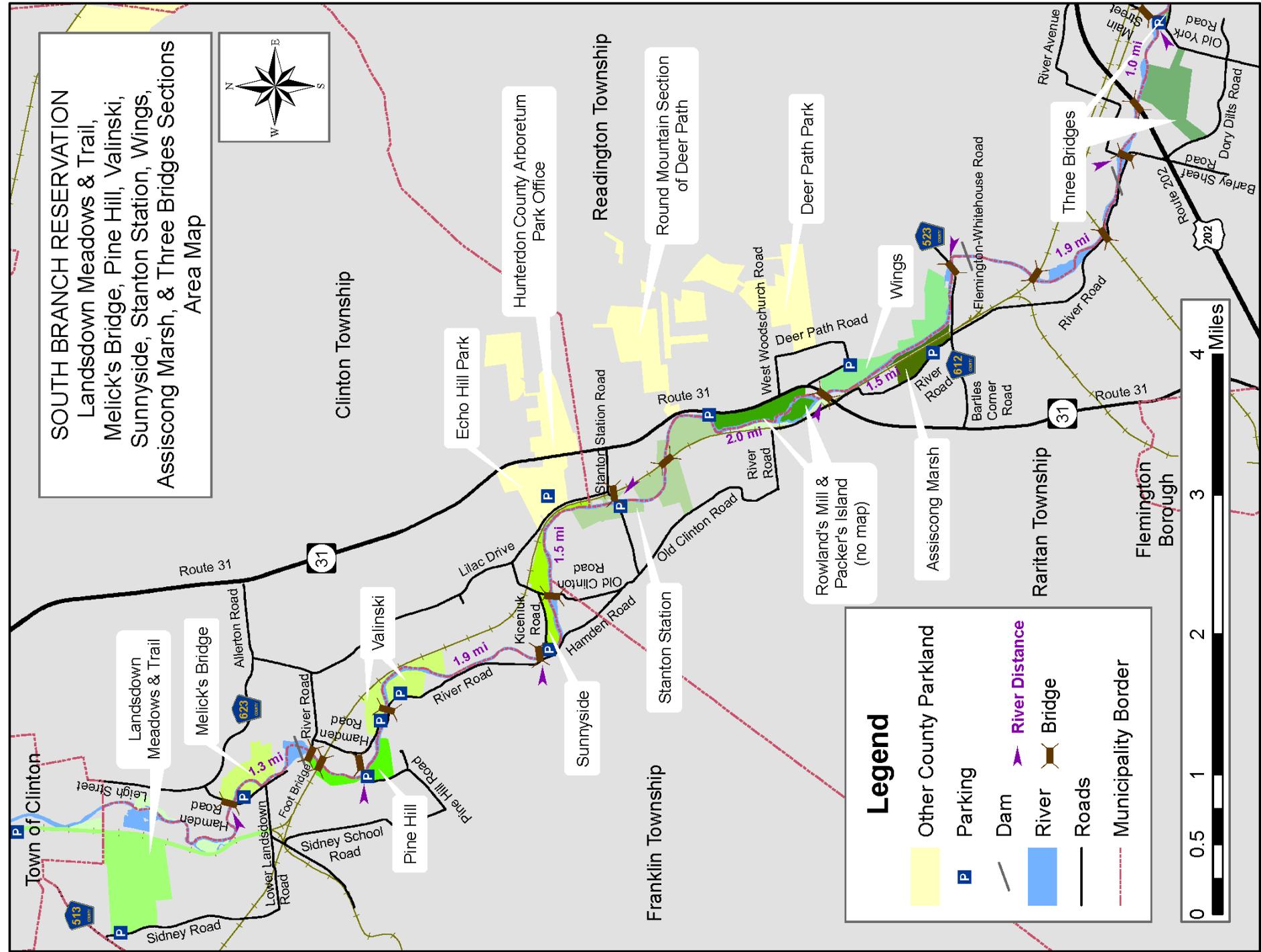
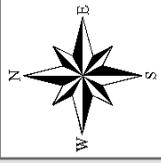


Hunterdon County
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(click on "Parks & Recreation")

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

**SOUTH BRANCH RESERVATION
Landsdown Meadows & Trail,
Melick's Bridge, Pine Hill, Valinski,
Sunnyside, Stanton Station, Wings,
Assiscong Marsh, & Three Bridges
Area Map**



SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:

"The Board of Chosen Freeholders may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground, or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation."

These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Permits: A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity, shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

Prohibited Acts: The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel-powered modeled aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

Regulated Activity: The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery-powered modeled aircraft and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property: No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources: No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People: No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

Vehicles: All the provisions of the NJ State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.**

Enforcement: The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2, thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks & Recreation.

Penalties: Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body, or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

NOTE: County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.