

About Arches Section

High Bridge is named after the wooden railroad trestle, which spanned 1300 feet. By 1859, railroad officials determined that this bridge should be replaced as a precaution against locomotive fires. Over the next six years, the bridge with its eight massive stone piers was buried with earthen fill and other debris. Two arching stone culverts were built at the base, one for the South Branch of the Raritan River to flow through and the other for vehicle travel along Arch Street. The main parking lot of Arches was the sight of the Dorland's Mill, which existed in the early 1800s.

The County acquired the property in 1989 as an addition to the South Branch Reservation. This reservation, which totals over 1000 acres, helps to preserve the watershed along the South Branch of the Raritan River as well as provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.



The arches of High Bridge

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.

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, and 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 N.J. State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATV's, 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 and Recreation.

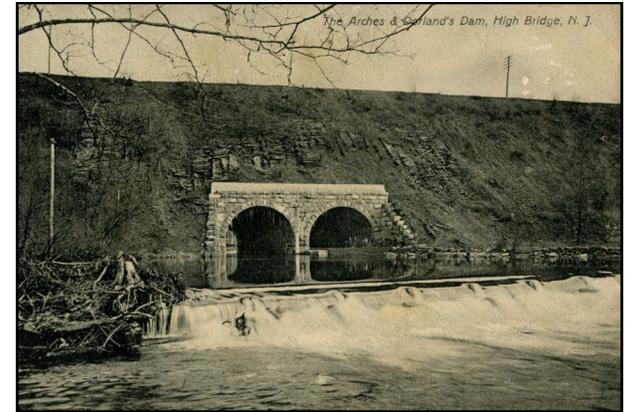
Penalties: Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$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.

Arches Section

of the South Branch Reservation

Trail Map and Guide



The Arches and Dorland's Dam, 1909



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

Arches Section

Location: The Arches Section is located along West Main Street, High Bridge 08829. The park is open from sunrise to sunset. *No restroom facilities are available.* Parking is available on West Main (513) and Arch Street.

Directions from the Clinton Area:

Proceed north on Route 31 for 1.7 miles past the intersection with Route 78, to Route 513 north. Turn right and follow Route 513 north for 1.9 miles to Arch Street. The first parking location is on the right just beyond the turn for Arch Street. To park at the second location, turn onto Arch Street and bear to the left. The parking area is on the left.

Recreational Opportunities

This three-acre site provides a popular location for fishing along the South Branch of the Raritan River, and a great view of the historic railroad arches. There is a small trail from the parking area on Route 513 to access the west side of the river and a couple of points along Arch Street. The river is stocked with Rainbow, Brown, and Brook Trout. A state fishing license must be displayed while fishing.

There is one picnic site (first come, first served, no reservations) along Arch Street for public use. Alcohol is not permitted at this location.

(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.

