

12. ROUND MOUNTAIN. You are standing at the base of Round Mountain, formed by volcanic activity during the Triassic period. The 600 foot high mountain is characterized by gray rocks known as Diabase. This area was once a favored site for logging, because it was too rugged for agricultural use.

13. PETER BUELL TRAIL. This trail was named in honor of a former employee. Peter Buell initiated and continued to be instrumental in creating trails and trail networks within the county. The Peter Buell Trail branches off near the top of the self-guided Nature Trail and spans across Round Mountain, eventually it brings hikers to Foothill Rd.

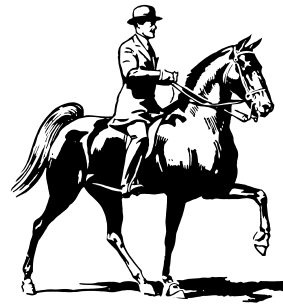


14. BIG BEECH. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) is a handsome tree easily recognized by its smooth, gray bark and toothed leaves. Beech is a valuable tree for wildlife, especially turkeys and squirrels, who both depend on its beech nuts. Humans often carve into the bark, causing undue stress on the trees and permitting insects to invade the tree.



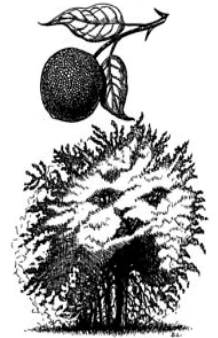
15. STONE WALL. Rock Walls, like this one, are common throughout Hunterdon, representing hours of back-breaking labor. Farmers built these walls as they cleared their agricultural fields and to establish property lines.

16. NATURAL RECYCLING. This dead tree will be utilized by many insects, birds and other animals as shelter, food or both. Eventually the tree will decay and enrich the soil with nutrients for future flora growth.

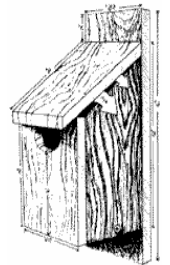


The Round Mountain Section of Deer Path Park can be enjoyed by various means, including hiking, biking, and on horseback. Hikers and bikers are required to give horse and rider the right of way. When sharing the path with horses, never walk behind the horse or jump out at them, for the horse may be spooked and both the hiker and the rider are at the mercy of the horse and could get injured.

1. THE LIVING FENCE. Rows of Osage Orange trees (*Maclura pomifera*), like the one in front of you, were planted in fields by farmers as hedgerows, windbreaks, and “natural cattle fences” before the introduction of barbed wire. These spiny specimens are easily recognized by their large greenish fruit, which were once referred to as “monkey brains.” When the fruits are broken apart, the seeds are sometimes eaten by birds.



2. BIRDHOUSES. Every year, New Jersey plays host to thousands of birds of many different species. New Jersey is a strategic location for breeding, migratory, and wintering bird species. Nesting boxes for many species, especially Eastern Bluebirds and American Kestrels, have been placed throughout the county parks, and nearly all are used.



3. AGRICULTURE/OPEN SPACE. Imagine life a century ago when many Americans were farmers and hay rakes like this one were drawn by horses over fields. Scenes like that were common until motorized equipment came along. Today, such areas are at risk due to rising farm costs and the threat of urban sprawl.



4. PIN OAK (*Quercus palustris*). This large Pin Oak produces small acorns every autumn. Acorns provide an important food source for many animals, including turkeys, squirrels, deer and black bear. In some areas oaks are declining because of the foraging on acorns. They are being consumed before they have the chance to grow into young trees.



5. STREAM AND BEDROCK. Notice how flowing water has cut the stream bed here, exposing the bedrock of Brunswick Shale. This rock, deposited under the Atlantic Ocean about 160 million years ago, is red because it contains large amounts of rusted iron. Brunswick Shale is the dominant bedrock for the southern two-thirds of Hunterdon County.

6. EASTERN RED CEDAR (*Juniperus virginiana*). These trees are frequently one of the first species to colonize abandoned fields. They are highly tolerant of light, thriving in full sunlight. Cedars are often displaced as other species establish themselves in the shade created by the cedars.



7. WHITE ASH (*Fraxinus americana*). White Ash bark is marked with diamond-shaped furrows and its winged fruits which hangs in clusters, thus making for easy identification. White Ash is dense and strong wood and is often used in the construction of sport equipment, such as baseball bats and tennis rackets.

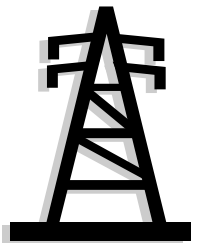


8. WHITE PINE GROVE. White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the only eastern pine species to have needles in clusters of five. When planted in groves, the dense canopy blocks out the sun and creates a cooler “microclimate” underneath. Groves like this one were planted to promote reforestation.



9. YOUNG GROWTH FOREST. This site, once used for growing agricultural crops, is now in a transitional stage changing from a field to a forest. Dry soil conditions and bright sunshine allow trees like Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and Eastern Red Cedar to colonize fields. These trees then permit species like White Ash and Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) to grow and succeed in replacing the earlier species. This process is known as “succession”.

10. POWER LINE CUT. The brush area along the power line right-of-way is a prime example of the “edge effect,” where open field and forest habitats converge. An array of wildlife will seek food and cover along this edge, although true forest-dwelling species will suffer from the extra competition.



11. SPICEBUSH (*Lindera benzoin*). Early land surveyors regarded this species as an indicator of good agricultural land. The strong aromatic twigs and leaves have been used for tea and the berries have been powdered as a spice. Deer, rabbits, opossum, and numerous songbirds eat the twigs and fruit.



