

About The Landsdown Trail

The Landsdown Trail was once a spur line for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The line was completed in 1881 and connected the Town of Clinton with Landsdown. While the line was mainly used for passenger service, freight was also moved on the line to and from Mulligan's Mill (known today as the Clinton Mill) which operated as a grist mill and also processed graphite. Operation on the line discontinued several decades ago but the old train station survives and has been converted and used as a store for Cyrus Fox Lumber Company in Clinton. The old rail line was acquired by the County in 1993.

The Landsdown Trail runs along part of the South Branch of the Raritan River. Over 1000 acres of parkland exist along this river and is referred to as the South Branch Reservation. This reservation provides recreational opportunities, helps preserve the South Branch of the Raritan River Watershed and provides habitat for wildlife. Visit the county park website for trail maps and guide for these park areas.



The Hunterdon County Department 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.

Landsdown Trail

Location: The Landsdown Trail Section is located between Lower Landsdown Road in Franklin Township and West Main Street in the Town of Clinton. The park area is open from sunrise to sunset. No restroom facilities are available.

Directions from the Flemington Area:

Travel Route 31 north to the jughandle north of Interstate 78. Take the overpass over Route 31 and follow the signs for the business area of Clinton. Proceed past the traffic light for Leigh Street. The trailhead is located between the Cyrus Fox Lumber Company and the Clinton Global Ag.



(Eastern Chipmunk)

Directions from the Hampton Area:

Take Route 31 south to the Traffic Light Intersection with Halstead Street. Turn right and proceed into the Town of Clinton. At the traffic light turn right onto West Main Street. The trailhead is located between the Cyrus Fox Lumber Company and the Clinton Global Ag.

Note: No official parking is available in the Town of Clinton for the Landsdown Trail. Visitors must use local public parking when accessing the trail within the Town of Clinton. No parking is available along Lower Landsdown Road in Franklin Township.

Recreational Opportunities

The Landsdown Trail is 1.5 miles long and stretches from Lower Landsdown Road to the center of the Town of Clinton. The trail's natural surface is conducive to hiking, biking, and cross country skiing. The trail traverses through both open fields and forests as well as some wetland, offering several opportunities to view a wide range of wildlife.



(Red-winged Blackbird)

At one point the trail crosses over the Capoolong Creek, which is one of the main tributaries to the South Branch of the Raritan River. The State's Capoolong Creek Trailhead is a short hike down Landsdown Road and offers about an additional 4 miles of hiking and ends in Pittstown.

The Landsdown Trail does provide limited access to the South Branch of the Raritan River and the Capoolong Creek for fishing. The river is stocked with Rainbow, Brook, and Brown Trout. A state fishing license with a trout stamp must be displayed.

Nearby County Park Areas

Hamden Area: Is an area south of the Town of Clinton and offers no Public Access

Melick's Bridge: Is located along Hamden Road and offers 2 fishing trails to access the South Branch of the Raritan River. For more information, see its specific guide.

(Rev: 8/2008)

Landsdown Trail

Trail Map and Guide



(Spring Peeper)



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Office Hours:
Mon.-Wed, Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Thur. 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM

SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Department 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 Department 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 . 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 Department 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 Department 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 Department 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.