

Point Mountain South & Central

Point Mountain South and Central, as well as the Musconetcong Gorge, is part of the Musconetcong Mountain Range. Point Mountain, at 935 feet above sea level, is the third highest point in the county. The name refers to the prominent crest that this property displays. The County Parks Department acquired the first tract of land in 1995. Today, the park contains over 700 acres of prime forest, fields, streams and geological wonders.

Penwell Mill was named after Judge David P. Shrope's Mother, a descendant of the Penns of Pennsylvania. Judge Shrope constructed a stone house and barn in the 1830's. The barn was constructed with fine rubble and masonry. Brick "loop" ventilators were incorporated into the structure that permitted air flow for drying hay and other products. Both the barn and the house can be seen from the parking area. The barn is located on park property. The house is a private residence.

Recreational Opportunities

Point Mountain South and Central offers many forms of recreational activities. Visitors can hike on over four miles of trails. Horseback riding, cross-country skiing and mountain biking can be conducted on most of the trail system. **Rock climbing is prohibited in the park.** Trout fishing in the Musconetcong River is also very popular. The river is stocked seasonally and is a good fly fishing area. The section between Penwell and Point Mountain Roads is a Trout Conservation Area, and special regulations apply.

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.

Directions

Location: Point Mountain is located at the northernmost tip of Hunterdon County. There are two parking areas available for the public. The park is open sunrise to sunset. *Please note that there are no restroom facilities at this park.*

Directions from the Junction of I-78 and

Route 31:

To Mountain Top Road Parking Area:

From I-78 travel north for about 7 miles on Route 31 to the traffic light before the Musconetcong River. Turn right onto Musconetcong River Road and proceed for about 5.5 miles. Mountain Top Road will be a right turn. Drive carefully up this road. The parking area will be on the left in about 3/4 of a mile.

To Point Mountain Road Parking Area:

From I-78 travel north for about 7 miles on Route 31 to the traffic light before the Musconetcong River. Turn right onto Musconetcong River Road and proceed to the end of the road. Turn left onto Point Mountain Road, the parking area is on the right.

To Penwell Road Parking Area:

From I-78 travel north for 8 miles on Route 31 to the traffic light at Rte. 632. Turn right onto Rte. 632. Four miles after turning onto Rte. 632, you will come to a stop sign at the junction with Rte. 57. Turn right onto Rte. 57. Proceed straight for 0.2 miles and turn right onto Penwell Road. In approximately 1/2 mile, you will cross a one-lane bridge. The park entrance is the second driveway on the right.

Wildlife

Over 90 species of birds have been reported nesting in the park and over 160 species of birds have been observed. The overlook makes a great location to observe hawks as they migrate along the mountains. The rocky terrain provides perfect habitat for reptiles. The mountain streams and the Musconetcong River provide habitat for amphibians. Evidence from elusive mammals such as fox, coyote, and black bear have also been recorded.

South & Central Sections Trails

Riverwalk Trail: The Riverwalk Trail is a circular trail that is divided by Point Mountain Road. The downstream portion of the trail winds through forest and a small open field. There are many access points to the river. Along the upstream portion, large boulders and sycamore trees line the edge of the river.

Ridge Trail: The Ridge Trail cuts through the forests and a mountain stream. A scenic overlook is along this trail and provides a view of distant mountains and farmland in Warren County. The trail is diverse and challenging at times. The section from the Point Mountain Road Parking Area to the Overlook contains a steep and rocky incline.



(View from Overlook - Courtesy of Tom Drake)

Overlook Trail: This trail provides a connection between the White and Ridge Trails that delivers one straight to the overlook site. It drops down into a small ravine before climbing back up to the ridge and is rated a moderate to difficult trail. The trail crosses over Point Mountain Road.

White Trail: This is an easy to moderate trail that traverses through a large grassland field and the forest of the park. Several small mountain streams are crossed. The trail connects Mountain Top Road to the Ridge Trail. This trail crosses over Point Mountain Road.

Field Trails: Mowed path areas are maintained around the fields. Be aware that the trails along eastern field are steep. Horses are permitted on these trails.

(Rev: 09/2009)

Point Mountain Reservation

South & Central Sections Trail Map and Guide



(Black Bear - cub)



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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.