

History of Miquin Woods

Long-term residents of Lebanon Township may remember Miquin Woods as Camp Watchung, a summer camp for the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts established the camp in 1928 for the Watchung Area Council, which comprised of the scout troops of Union and Somerset Counties, and Piscataway Township in Middlesex County. About 1,300 scouts a year were exposed to fishing, boating, swimming, nature, crafts, camping, Native American lore, and other related topics. The oldest structure on the property, a circa 1850 stone farmhouse, served as the main office. The dining hall could hold up to 150 people. The camp operated until 1986.

After plans fell through for the property to become a housing development, the County and New Jersey Water Authority were able to acquire the property, a total of 302 acres, in 2003. The word "Miquin" is the Lenni Lenape word for "feather" and is a tribute to the scouting heritage of the site. The feather was the symbol for the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow Lodge, which was located within Camp Watchung.



The old Boy Scout entrance

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.

Miquin Woods

Location: Miquin Woods is located at 326 Newport Road, Glen Gardner 08826 (Lebanon Township). The park is open from sunrise to sunset. No restroom facilities are available.

Directions from the Clinton Area:

Take Route 31 north to the Borough of Glen Gardner. At the traffic light for Sanitarium Road, turn right and make the immediate left onto Main Street. Proceed on Main Street a short distance and turn right onto Hill Road (Route 628). Stay with Route 628 for about 3.5 miles and turn left onto Red Mill Road (before a right turn for 628). In about 1.5 miles, turn right onto Newport Road. The park entrance will be on the right in about 3/4 of a mile.

Directions from the Califon Area:

Take Route 513 south to Bunnvale and the junction with Route 628. Turn right onto Route 628 and proceed to past the Woodglen School. At the stop sign turn left and then right on to Red Mill Road. Then proceed as above.

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 in order to hunt in the park. Visitors during hunting season are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange or confine visits to Sundays.

(Revised 11/2019)

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.

Habitat of Miquin Woods

Miquin Woods is bisected by the Spruce Run. This creek is one of the main tributaries of the Spruce Run Reservoir, which provides clean water to four different counties. The creek also feeds a small pond on the property. Together, the creek and pond provide shelter to beavers and several kinds of amphibians and reptiles.

Two small meadows exist within the park and provide a mixture of grassland and forest-edge habitat. Field and Song Sparrows, Red-tailed Hawks, and other mixed habitat species can be seen. Within the forest areas, one can search for several species of woodpeckers, Red-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, and migratory warblers.

Recreational Opportunities

Much of the trail system of Miquin Woods was created by the Boy Scouts of Camp Watchung. Many of the trails are several feet wide and are very easy to hike. Mountain biking is possible on most of the trail system. During the winter some of these trails can be used for cross-country skiing. Fishing is allowed along the banks of the Spruce Run and in the pond, which supports Largemouth Bass and sunfish. NJ State Fish and Wildlife laws apply. Boulderling is not permitted within this park.



Gray Squirrel

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.

Miquin Woods

Trail Map and Guide



Chopping Wood at Camp Watchung, August 1948

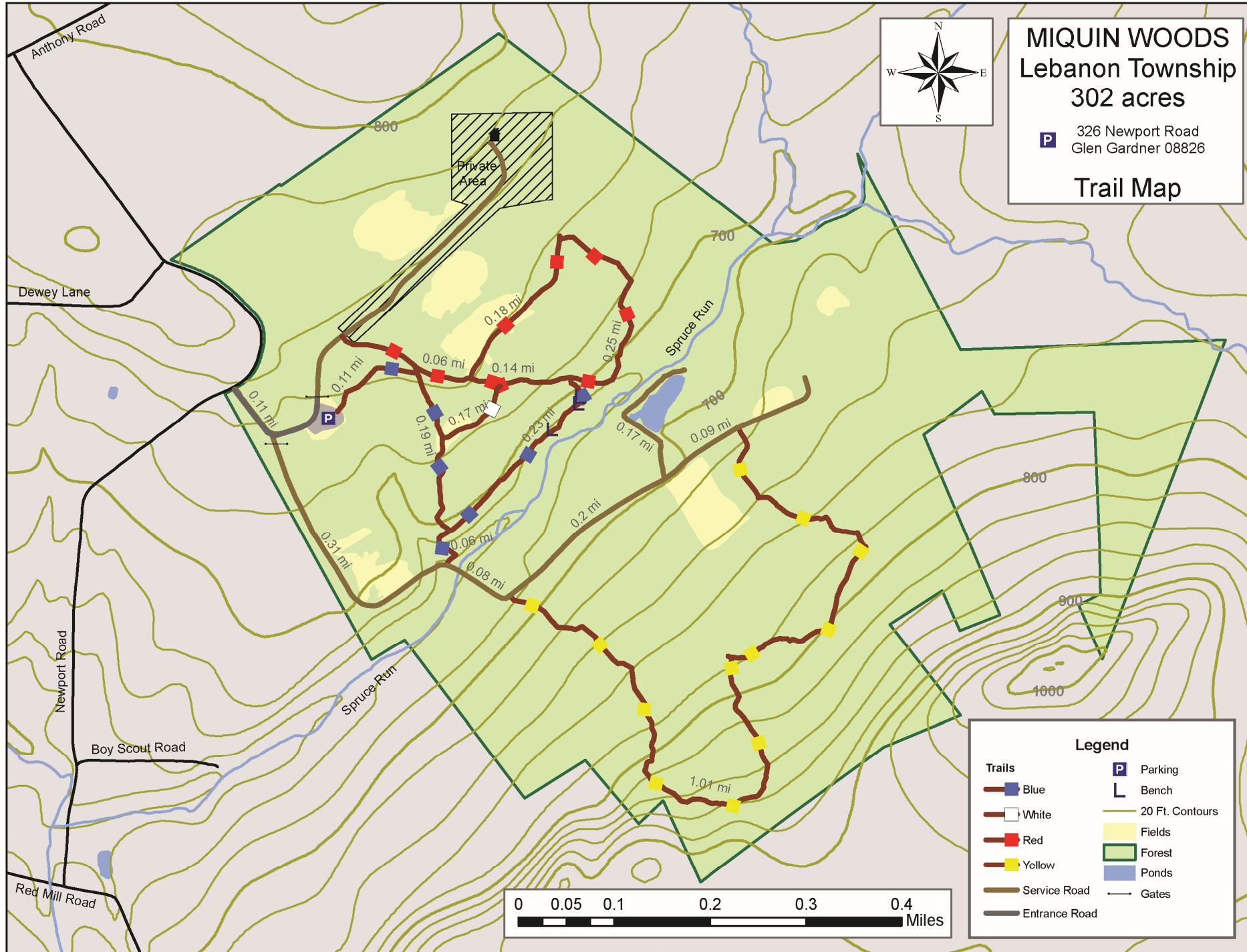


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Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

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.