

About the Assiscong Marsh

The Assiscong Marsh is Hunterdon County's largest freshwater marsh, spanning 25 acres. Wetlands were once considered places of little value and were lost to development. However, areas like Assiscong Marsh act as natural detention basins to channel flood waters during storms and prevent damage to other areas. The marsh attracts and supports a spectacular concentration of migratory and resident waterfowl that use it as a resting or breeding area along the Atlantic Flyway. It is also home to other wildlife, such as muskrats, frogs, snakes, and turtles.

The County acquired the Assiscong Marsh in 1974 as one of the first properties along the South Branch Reservation. Today, the reservation totals over 1000 acres and preserves the watershed along the South Branch of the Raritan River, as well as offering recreational opportunities to explore its natural resources.



Wood Duck

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.

Assiscong Marsh Section of the South Branch Reservation Trail Map and Guide



Great Blue Heron



Hunterdon County
Division of Parks & Recreation
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(click on "Parks & Recreation")

Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Assiscong Marsh Section

Location: The Assiscong Marsh Section is located at 150 River Road, Flemington 08822 (Raritan Township). The park is open from sunrise to sunset. *No restroom facilities are available.*

Directions from the Flemington area:

Take Route 31 north from the Flemington Circle about 4 miles and make a right onto River Road. Proceed on River Road about 0.8 miles until you see the gravel lot on the left.

Directions from the Clinton area:

From the Route 78 junction, take Route 31 south for approximately 8 miles. Do not take the River Road junction. Make a U-turn to get onto Route 31 North by taking the jug handle onto Sand Hill Road (make a left at the stop sign followed by another left at the light). Proceed on Route 31 North for about 1 mile and make the right turn onto River Road. Proceed 0.8 miles and the gravel lot is on the left.

Recreational Opportunities

The Assiscong Marsh is a wonderful location to observe wildlife. The marsh serves as a resting and breeding area for migrating birds along the Atlantic Flyway. Regular inhabitants include Canada Geese, Mallards, Black Ducks, Wood Ducks, Northern Pintails, and many others. Great Blue Herons and shorebirds can be seen in the marsh when the water level is low. The marsh is also home to muskrats. Like beavers, muskrats build lodges from trees or plants that they cut down. Search along the vegetation line and at the base of trees for evidence of their activity. All wildlife viewing is from the road shoulder—there is no access to the far side of the water.

(Revised 6/2016)

