

Point Mountain South & Central

Point Mountain is located in the Highlands region of the state. Its land includes mixed oak-hardwood forests, low-lying shrubs, and fertile farmland. This provides habitat for reptiles and amphibians; elusive mammals such as fox, coyote, and black bear; and over 160 species of birds, including migratory hawks at the overlook.

Point Mountain is one of the highest elevations in the county, rising 935 feet above sea level. Early settlers referred to it as “Squire’s Point.” Nearby is the hamlet of Penwell, a quaint collection of homes centered around the Penwell Mill. Originally built in 1785 and rebuilt in 1855, the mill was known as “Stires Mill” after its sale to John Stires in 1893. A previous owner was David Shrope, who was descended from Penwell Shrope, the first settler of Penwell and a relative of the Penn family of Pennsylvania. The present mill can store up to 800 tons of feed and is the last active feed mill along the Musconetcong River. The county began acquiring land in the Point Mountain Reservation in 1995, and today the reservation totals 1145 acres.

Recreational Opportunities

Point Mountain offers many forms of recreational activities. Visitors can hike on many miles of trails. Most of the trail system allows for horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking. **Rock climbing is prohibited in the park.** The Musconetcong River is stocked seasonally with trout and State Fish and Wildlife laws apply. One section is a Trout Conservation Area.

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.

Directions

Location: Point Mountain is located at the northernmost tip of Hunterdon County. There are several parking areas available for the public. The park is open sunrise to sunset.

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. Turn right on Mountain Top Road, and drive carefully. The parking area will be on the left in about 3/4 mile (132 Mountain Top Road, Washington 07882).

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, and the parking area is on the right (80 Point Mountain Road, Washington 07882).

To Penwell Road Parking Area:

From I-78 travel north for 8 miles on Route 31 to the traffic light at Route 632, and turn right. After four miles, turn right at the stop sign at the junction with Route 57. Proceed for 0.2 mile 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 (402 Penwell Road, Port Murray 07865).

Hunting

Hunting is permitted to control the deer population. Hunters must obtain a special permit issued by the Division to be able to hunt in the park. Visitors between September and February are strongly encouraged to wear blaze orange or confine visits to Sundays.

(Revised 9/2012)

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. From Point Mountain Road to the overlook contains a steep and rocky incline.



View from overlook

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. It crosses several small mountain streams. 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. Much of this land is contracted to a local farmer. **Please stay on the trails and do not pick or damage any crops.**

Point Mountain Reservation South & Central Sections Trail Map and Guide



Black Bear cub



County of Hunterdon

Division of Parks and Recreation

Office Location:

1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833 (*Clinton Twp.*)

Mailing Address:

PO Box 2900

Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

Phone: (908) 782-1158 * Fax: (908) 806-4057

E-mail: parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us
(click on “Parks & Recreation”)

Office Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 8 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, 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.

