

Boy/Girl Scout Trail Projects

Several bridges and other improvements on the hiking trails have recently been constructed by Pennington based Girl Scout Troop 71853, Eagle Scout candidates in Boy Scout Troops 41 and 44, as well as by individual Pennington residents.

Proposed Route 546 Bikeway

Mercer County has planned a future Route 546 bikeway along Pennington-Lawrenceville Road to Lawrenceville and along Washington Crossing-Pennington Road to Washington Crossing State Park. To avoid the Pennington Circle, the route would detour on to S. Main Street and Ingleside Avenue with a pedestrian activated light at Route 31.

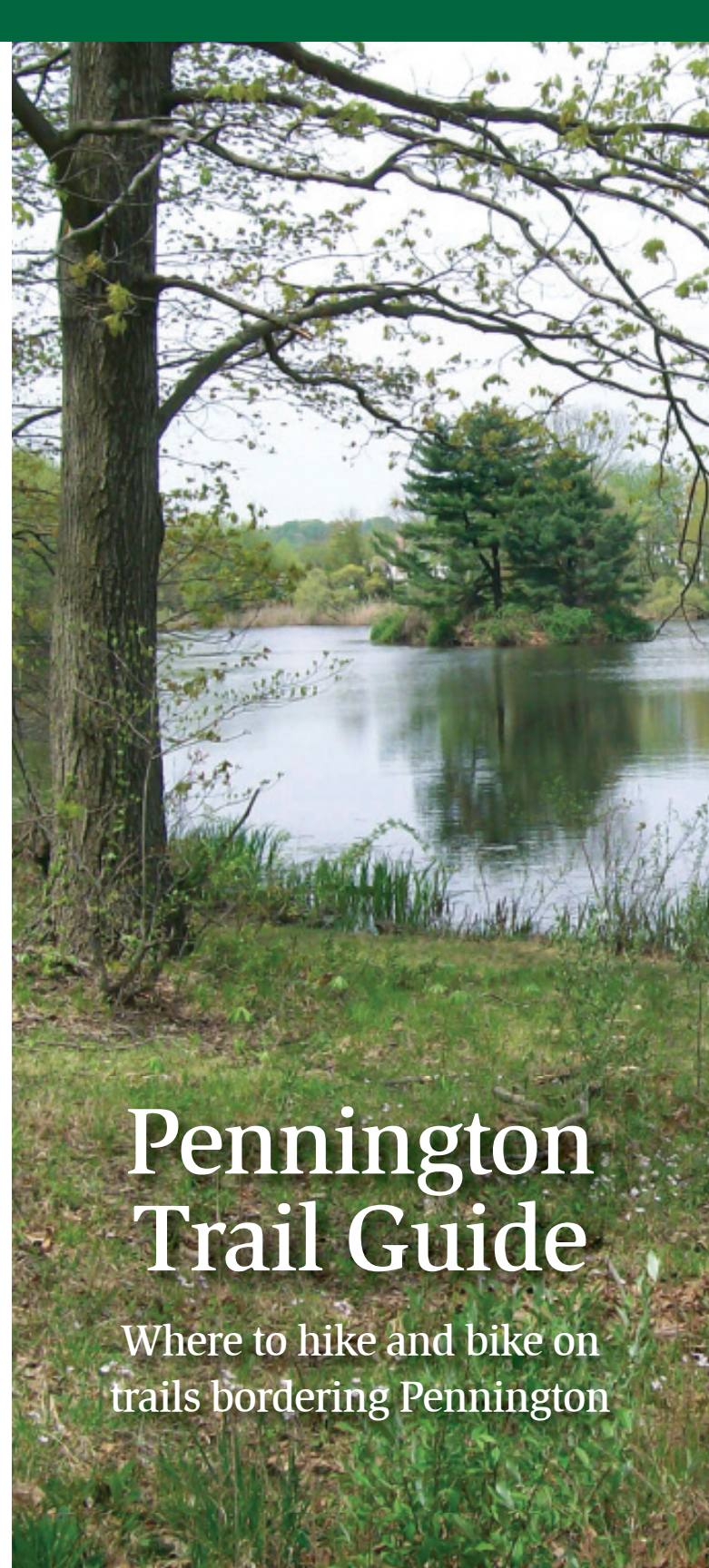
Acknowledgements

Funding for the printing of this brochure was provided by a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) to the Pennington Borough Environmental Commission.

Mapping services were provided by the D&R Greenway Land Trust.

BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON

30 N. Main Street • Pennington, NJ 08534
www.penningtonboro.org



Pennington Trail Guide

Where to hike and bike on trails bordering Pennington

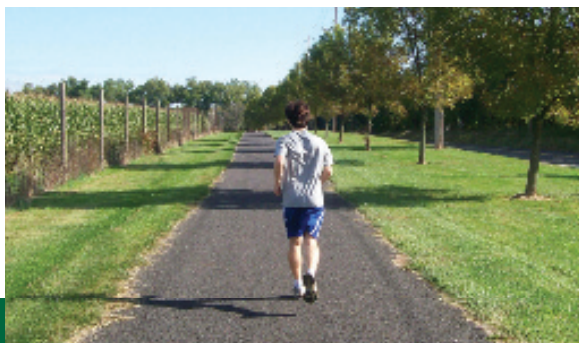
Pennington Trail Guide

You can walk, bike, or jog on trails just outside Pennington and directly accessible from Pennington’s sidewalks and streets. This guide shows you where to find these trails and where they go – through woods, along lakes and streams, or across open fields.

Pennington residents are fortunate to have large amounts of preserved open space with trails just north and south of the Borough. To the north, the Pennington Loop trails traverse 54 acres of preserved open space bordering Baldwin Lake and the Stony Brook. To the south, a network of trails winds through the 88 acre Curlis Lake Woods Preserve.

In addition to hiking trails, Pennington residents have easy access to bike, walk or jog on the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail (LHT) which comes within a quarter mile of Pennington as it crosses Pennington-Rocky Hill Road just south of Old Mill Road. The LHT provides access to the 980 acre Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed preserve and all parts of the County’s Mercer Meadows Park including Rosedale Park and the Pole Farm.

Detailed information about the trails in this brochure is available at www.njtrails.org and www.lhtrail.org.



Curlis Lakes Wood Trails

Access

Enter Curlis Lake Woods Preserve from S. Main Street south of Baldwin Street or from Oak Street at the end of Maple Lane (*see Trail Location Map*). The S. Main Street entrance is accessible from the Borough sidewalk on the east side of the street. Limited parking is available at both trail entrances.

Trail Information

Howe’s Lane Trail is the “entrance trail” to Curlis Lake Woods from S. Main Street and Oak Street. A side trail, known as the Redwood Trail, features a grove of large Dawn Redwoods, a smaller version of the California redwoods, native to China. There is a short connecting trail from Howe’s Lane to a network of trails in mature woodlands beyond a small stream. Look for groves of large beech trees and rhododendrons and hike along Curlis Lake. An upland trail extends to the Mercer County Equestrian Center and beyond to Rosedale Park.

Trail map signs are located at the S. Main Street entrance and about 500 feet from the entrance.

Site History: Much of Curlis Lake Woods was part of Howe’s Nursery in Pennington. The Dawn Redwoods are part of the 1950’s era nursery stock that remains. Mercer County acquired the site in 1993 with County and State Green Acres funds following a public campaign led by the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space to save the area once proposed for the “Pennington Bypass.”

Pennington Loop Trails

Access

The primary access point to Pennington Loop Trails is at Kunkel Park off King George Road (see sign at the end of parking lot). Kunkel Park is accessible to pedestrians from a sidewalk along the north side of King George Road. A secondary entrance is located off North Main Street just east of the bridge over the railroad tracks. Limited parking is available past the guard rail.

Trail Information

At the main trail entrance in Kunkel Park, the trail heads down to the Lewis Brook where it can be crossed on stepping stones or long utility poles. Past the brook, the trail to the right goes through mature woodlands in the Stony Brook floodplain on its way to Baldwin Lake. There you typically will see Canada geese, but swans and beavers can be sometimes be spotted.

At Baldwin Lake hikers can return to Kunkel Park on a trail above the Stony Brook floodplain or take a much longer loop trail along the entire south shore of Baldwin Lake ending at N. Main Street. At that point, hikers can take Borough sidewalks back to Kunkel Park.

Site History: Most of the trail area was acquired or preserved in 1995 by D&R Greenway Land Trust and Pennington Borough using State Green Acres funds. Baldwin Lake, which is managed by the N.J. Division of Fish and Wildlife, was created to impound flood waters in the Stony Brook watershed.



Pennington Connection to the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail

Access

The Pennington Connection starts at the Stony Brook bridge on Pennington-Rocky Hill Road. A 5-foot wide walkway on the bridge connects to a crosswalk and sidewalk on King George Road. A reconstructed “lower” King George Road includes bike lanes starting at Park Avenue.

Trail Information

The Pennington Connection to the LHT extends north along Pennington-Rocky Hill Road up to where the LHT crosses the road. Temporarily, part of the connection route is on mowed grass well away from the road.

Going north, the LHT heads up to the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Reserve. To the east across Pennington-Rocky Hill Road, the trail merges with Old Mill Road and crosses Federal City Road before reaching Rosedale Park.

Trail History: Pennington Borough provided funds for the construction of the first phase of the Pennington Connection through federal grants and its Open Space Trust Fund. Engineering work was contributed by Hopewell Township.

