

TRI-COMMUNITY TRAILS LINK

Linking the trail networks of

**Byram Township
Hopatcong Borough
Stanhope Borough**



As shown on this map, the meeting point of the three trail networks is at the old 'Cutoff' RR overpass.

In all three towns, the trail networks continue beyond this map. Please refer to each town's own trail map.

BYRAM TOWNSHIP'S TRAILS

Trail maps at www.byramtwp.org.

Byram Township is constantly expanding its trail network, which includes bicycle paths, wooded trails, regional rail trails, cross-Jersey trails, and the tri-state Highlands Trail. The goal is to map trails that tie all neighborhoods to one another and to municipal and recreation sites, shopping areas, and schools. Byram's terrain ranges from very rugged to flat, with most natural areas being well forested. Almost a quarter of Byram is parks and open space; and Byram is all in the Highlands Preservation Area, except for its commercial Route 206 corridor.

Byram's connector to the Tri-Community Trails system is the Mansfield Bike Path, a one-mile trail on an old road. This path starts at the municipal and school complexes, passes by the East Brookwood area, and ends at the 'Cutoff' RR overpass, the linking point with the Stanhope and Hopatcong trails. The Mansfield Bike Path is forested, with two bridges over Cowboy Creek. It is flat near the schools but steep near the 'Cutoff' overpass. Path benches provide quiet sitting places within the forest.

HOPATCONG BOROUGH'S TRAILS

Trail maps at www.hopatcong.org.

Hopatcong has a long tradition of involvement with hiking and nature trails. The original proposal for the Appalachian Trail was the result of a 1920s conference at the Hudson Guild Farm in Hopatcong. The original Appalachian Trail was to run through Hopatcong.

Much of the new Tri-Community Trail passes through the Hopatcong Natural Area Preserve, established in the mid 1990s as part of a green buffer around the Borough's most populated sections. The Preserve has recently been expanded through purchases using the Hopatcong and Sussex County Open Space Funds. Hopatcong was created as a summer community, and most residents came to experience life in the country. The Preserve saves a part of the Borough in its natural state. The Borough plans to mark the paths and dirt roads connecting many of its neighborhoods to the Preserve and to the Tri-Community Trail. The Borough hopes that you experience the joy, beauty and quiet that is a walk through the Hopatcong Natural Area Preserve.

STANHOPE BOROUGH'S TRAILS

Trail maps at www.stanhope.nj.gov.

Stanhope completed a Trails and Greenway Plan in December 2009. The Borough's trail system is a "work in progress." There are woodland trails with vistas and scenic outlooks on Lake Musconetcong, as well as trails along some of the best preserved remnants of the Morris Canal. There are also several well-traveled trails through other parts of the Borough, which are yet to be formalized. As detailed trail maps become available, they can be found at the Tri-Community Trail kiosk and Stanhope Borough Hall, 77 Main Street. Currently basic maps are available that outline a few trails connecting neighborhoods to the businesses on Route 183 and along Main Street and to the Salmon Memorial Park where the Musconetcong River and remnants of the Morris Canal can be seen.

THE HIGHLANDS TRAIL

Maps and info at www.highlands-trail.org.

The Highlands Trail is a rugged 150-mile foot trail running from the Hudson River in New York to the Delaware River in central New Jersey. The Trail celebrates the beauty and geology of the Congressionally-protected four-state Highlands Region, from southwest Connecticut through New Jersey and New York to central Pennsylvania. The Highlands Trail will ultimately span all four states and is currently being routed east of the Hudson River in New York and west into Pennsylvania. The Highlands Trail and the Tri-Community Trails co-align within the Hopatcong Natural Area Preserve and along Byram's Mansfield Bike Path.



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