



Monarch on Common Milkweed

Access for Persons with Disabilities - Portions of the Kingston Trail along the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park towpath are accessible for persons with disabilities; please contact the park office for further information. Text telephone users, please call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800)852-7899.

Hours of Operation - Visitors can enjoy the park from Sunrise to Sunset.

Keep Your Park Clean - Through the Carry In/ Carry Out program you can help us keep your park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash. Remember to recycle! Thank you for your cooperation.

Pets - Pets are permitted and must be on leash no longer than six feet in length and under the immediate control of the owner at all times. Please cleanup after your pet.

Alcoholic Beverages are not permitted in the park.

Unauthorized Vehicles are not permitted .

Biking is not permitted in the Cook Natural Area.

This brochure was funded by the NJDEP and the FHWA Recreational Trails Program

Directions:
D&R Canal State Park Office:

Route 1, South Brunswick Township: Exit Route 1 via College Road West, turn right onto Seminary Drive and continue straight through the next traffic light to 145 Mapleton Road.

Heathcote Meadows Preserve: Route 1, South Brunswick Township: Exit Route 1 via Raymond Road, turn left onto Cleveland Land, take 2nd left onto Monroe Lane. Parking area located at end of Monroe Lane.

For More Information:

Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

Cook Natural Area

145 Mapleton Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 924-5705

Heathcote Meadow Preserve

Middlesex County Office of Parks and Recreation

PO Box 661
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
(732) 745-3900

Mapleton Preserve & Heathcote Park

South Brunswick Department of Parks and Recreation

PO Box 190
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
(732) 329-4000

In Case of Emergency Call:
911 or 1-877-WARN- DEP (1-877-927-6337)

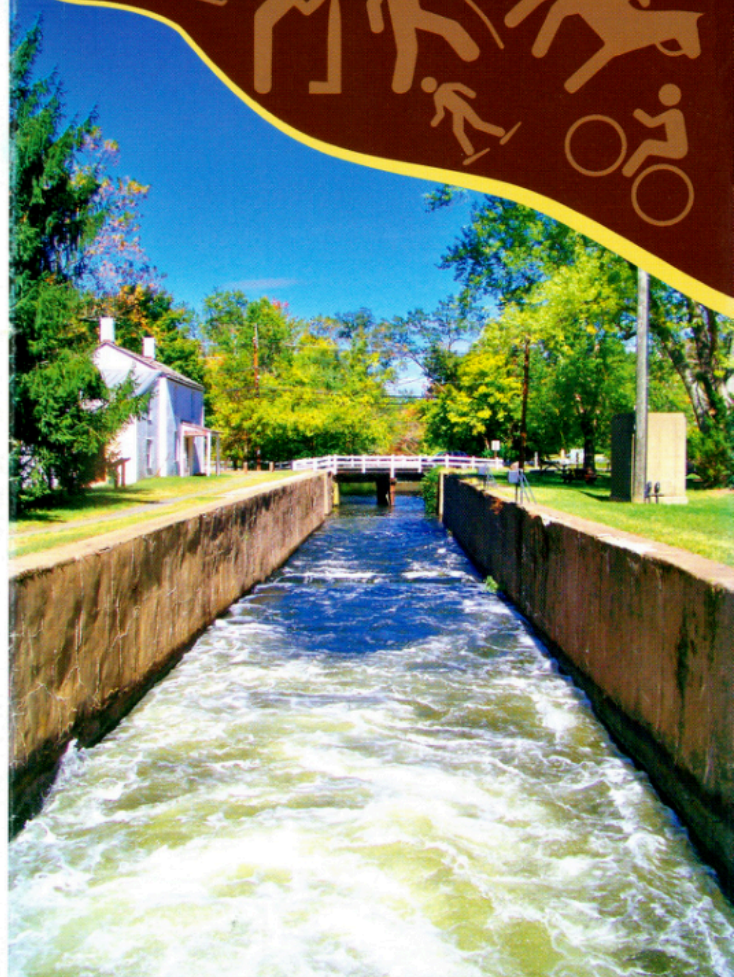
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Cover photo provided by Vicki Chirco

Heathcote Meadows courtesy of Middlesex County

KINGSTON TRAILS

Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

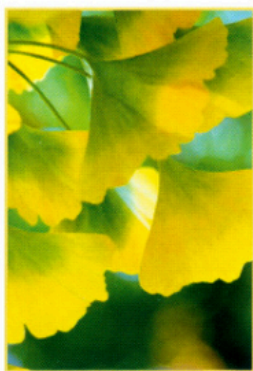


State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service
njparksandforests.org

KINGSTON TRAIL

Blue blaze • 4.5 miles • Hiking and biking • Easy

The Kingston Trail provides visitors a year round opportunity to explore the area's rich history and natural beauty. The trail traverses through state, county and township lands and is jointly maintained by their park departments.



Ginkgo

Visitors starting at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Office at the Mapleton Preserve will be greeted by a stately row of Princeton Sentry ginkgo trees (*Ginkgo biloba*), along with various other specialty trees that were grown at this site as part of the operations of Princeton Nurseries.

Princeton Nurseries, whose operations started at this site in 1913, encompassed over 1,200 acres and was world-renowned for its innovative practices in cultivating horticulture specimens including the Dutch elm disease resistant 'Princeton Elm'.

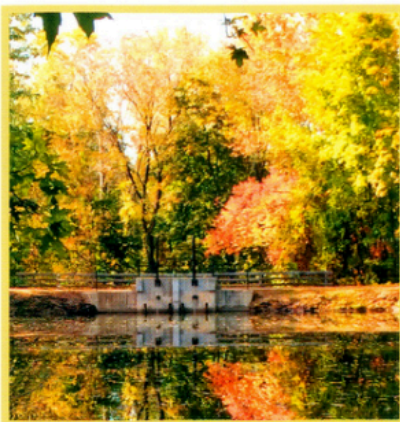
The trail follows along an old nursery road bordered by the Flemer Arboretum and a row of *Arborvitae* – locally called a 'windrow'. From here, the trail crosses over Mapleton Road. **PROCEED WITH CAUTION!**



Japanese Maple

Visitors are greeted by vast grasslands that were once used as the seed bed area for the Nurseries. Note the stunning row of Japanese maples that turn a magnificent shade of red during the autumn season.

The trail's next important historic area is a portion of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. Here visitors have views of the D&R Canal, Carnegie Lake and the Kingston Lock Tender's House.



Turning Basin in Kingston

The trail follows along the canal to the Kingston turning basin where canal boats could be loaded and unloaded or turn around. At this point visitors may either continue eastward on the Kingston Trail or join the main multiuse path of the D&R Canal.

As the Kingston Trail leads back to Mapleton Road, it runs between an old hedgerow of Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) trees and remnant row plantings of beech and dogwood from when the nursery was in operation.



Former Princeton Nurseries Propagation House

to preserve and interpret the historic Princeton Nurseries buildings are being developed.

After crossing Mapleton Road, the trail continues past the D&R Canal State Park office and alongside the former shipping office and large warehouses were once bustling with activity from the Princeton Nurseries operations. These buildings are managed by South Brunswick Township. Plans

Crossing Ridge Road brings visitors on the roadbed of a former branch line of the Camden & Amboy Railroad - the first railroad to operate in New Jersey. As they walk along the raised trail to South Brunswick Township's Heathcote Park, visitors will be greeted by the croaking frogs living within the wetlands near Heathcote Brook. This township park has basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball fields and playground amenities for public use.



Heathcote Meadows Preserve

The trail then opens into the Heathcote Meadows Preserve - preserved Middlesex County land. This 89-acre parcel of land provides a glimpse of the rich farming history of the area. Lush grasslands are managed by the county to provide valuable habitat for many plant and animal species.



Cook Natural Area

Visitors are led into mature forests of the Cook Natural Area (an officially-designated New Jersey State Natural Area) and to a crossing over a picturesque stone bridge. The trail then loops back to the rail trail leading back to the D&R Canal park office.

KINGSTON TRAILS of D&R Canal State Park



Open Field or Grass

Water

D&R Canal Trail

Nursery Trail (1.4 mi)

Canal Lock

Playground

Forest

Wetland

Kingston Trail (4.5 mi)

Trail Connector

Park Office

Restrooms (Primitive)

Developed Area

Parking Lot