

STOKES State Forest

TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Trail Markings: Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. For your safety and habitat protection, please stay on the trails and do not alter trail markings or create new trails. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

Be Prepared: Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return.

Hunting: Stokes State Forest is open to hunting seasons year-round. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season. Contact the forest office for more information. For a current hunting map visit: dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/parksandforests/stokes_hunting_map.pdf

Pets: Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets and take the waste with you.

Keep It Clean and Green: Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

Tick Protection: Use insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower and launder clothes immediately.

Bear Aware: Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the park office. Visit the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife at dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears for additional information on bear safety.

Report Trail Issues: 1-973-948-3820

Emergency Numbers: 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages, drones, smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this park.



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

Steam Mill Campground

Lake Ocquittunk Campground

Haskins Group Campground

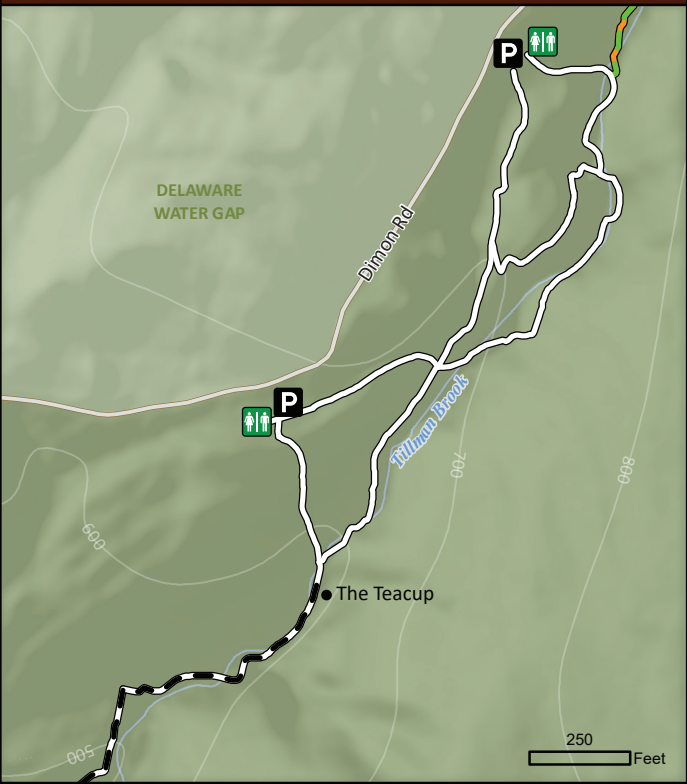
Kittle Field Day Use Area

Stony Lake Day Use Area

Shotwell Campground

Tillman Ravine Natural Area

Tillman Ravine Natural Area Detail Map



Open Field or Grass

Forest

Developed Area

Water

Wetlands

Appalachian Trail (12 mi)

Bear Cub Trail (5.8 mi)

Beaver Tail Trail (7 mi)

Bobcat Trail (8.5 mi)

Cemetery Trail (0.5 mi)

Coursen Trail (1.5 mi)

Criss Trail (2.2 mi)

Deep Root Trail (1.2 mi)

Geology Trail (1.0 mi)

Ladder Trail (0.5 mi)

Lead Mine Trail (0.7 mi)

Red Eft Trail (2.2 mi)

Red Maple Trail (6.9 mi)

Red Tailed Hawk Trail (1 mi)

Rock Oak Trail (1.5 mi)

Shay Trail (0.4 mi)

Silver Mine Trail (1.8 mi)

Steam Mill Trail (1.3 mi)

Steffen Trail (1.3 mi)

Stoll Trail (0.7 mi)

Stony Brook Trail (1.7 mi)

Stony Lake Trail (0.7 mi)

Swenson Trail (0.9 mi)

Tillman Ravine Trail (1.5 mi)

Tinsley Trail (0.9 mi)

Tower Trail (1.6 mi)

Accessible Facility

AT Camp Shelter

Boat Launch

Cabins

Campground

Concession

Canoeing

First Aid

Fishing

Group Campground

Lean-to

Park Office

Parking Lot

Picnic Area

Picnic Shelter

Playground

Restrooms

Restrooms (Primitive)

Scenic View

Shower

Swimming

04/26

TRAILS OF STOKES STATE FOREST
Stokes State Forest encompasses 16,447 acres of mountainous woodlands in the Kittatinny Mountains, from the southern boundary of High Point State Park to the eastern boundary of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Stokes offers 26 marked trails for a total of over 62 miles. Many of the trails are multiuse (for hiking, biking and horse-back riding), but some, including the 12-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, are hiking only. Permitted uses are indicated on trail signage.

Appalachian Trail

*White • 12 miles (in Stokes)
Hiking • Moderate*

Trailheads: Culvers Gap parking lot, Sunrise Mountain parking lot, numerous trail intersections. **Appalachian Trail (AT)** is a historic national scenic trail extending from Maine to Georgia. It is well-marked and well-traveled, with numerous rocks, bridges, boardwalks and changes in elevation.

Bear Cub Trail

*Light blue & orange • 5.8 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailheads: Stony Lake or Kittle Field. **Bear Cub Trail** is a scenic loop that winds through mixed forest and rocky, uneven terrain, offering a steady loop hike with moderate elevation gain/loss. Bear Cub Trail can be combined with Beaver Tail Trail and/or Bobcat Trail to make a variety of continuous loops up to 17.3 miles.

Beaver Tail Trail

*Light blue & brown • 7 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailheads: Park office, Stony Lake or Kittle Field. **Beaver Tail Trail** is great choice for nature lovers looking for a moderately challenging trek with plenty of chances to spot diverse wildlife. The beavers’ stewardship of the landscape is apparent at various wetland habitats along this trail. These crepuscular creatures can best be observed at dawn and dusk where the trail passes Stony Lake, the Shotwell Campground, and east of the intersection with Coursen Road near the park office. Be alert for their dams and lodges at these locations. Beaver Tail Trail can be combined with Bear Cub Trail and/or Bobcat Trail to make a variety of continuous loops up to 17.3 miles.

Bobcat Trail

*Light blue & yellow • 8.5 miles
Difficult • Multiuse*

Trailheads: Sunrise Mountain, Crigger Road or Steam Mill Campground. **Bobcat Trail** offers a longer hike with both rocky sections, steeper scrambles, and ridgeline views on the east and a cool, tranquil stroll along the Big Flatbrook under the shade of tall hemlock trees to the west. The trail’s most challenging section takes you through a short, steep incline up exposed rock to the ridge just below the Appalachian Trail. Bobcat Trail can be combined with Bear Cub Trail and/or Beaver Tail Trail to make a variety of continuous loops up to 17.3 miles.

Cemetery Trail

*White & black• 0.5 miles
Hiking only • Easy*

Trailhead: Lower Tilman Ravine parking lot on Dimon Road. **Cemetery Trail** provides a short somber hike from Tilman Ravine to the historic Walpack Cemetery.

Coursen Trail

*Blue • 1.5 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: One mile from Route 206 on north side of Sunrise Mountain Road. **Coursen Trail** is a gently sloping route along a hillside that connects with Stony Brook Trail near Stony Lake, encountering wetlands and rocky terrain along the way.

Criss Trail

*Silver & light blue • 2.2 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailheads: Two entry points on north side of Grau Road. **Criss Trail** is moderately sloped, moving along a boulder strewn hillside. It follows an old road along a rocky stream bed. The trail loops from Grau Road near Cabin 12 to Grau Road near Forked Brook.

Deep Root Trail

*Red & yellow • 1.2 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Starts from Criss Trail. **Deep Root Trail** follows a creek then climbs moderate slopes in a boulder-strewn hardwood forest. The trail levels out along the ridge-top and meets with upper reach of DeGroat Road.

Geology Trail

*Blue & silver • 1 mile
Hiking & interpretive • Moderate*

Trailhead: This loop trail begins and ends from Tinsley Trail, downhill from Sunrise Mountain Road. **Geology Trail** is narrow and winds through an area of glacial landforms. Along the way, numbered posts correspond with an interpretive guide (available at the Stokes office) that explains the numerous points of geologic interest.

Ladder Trail

*Purple & silver • 0.5 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Red Maple Trail on Woods Road. **Ladder Trail** is a steep trail that runs up the side of the Kittatinny Ridge to connect with Appalachian Trail. It is located in the remote southern end of the forest where mixed hardwoods, mountain-laurel and blueberry are abundant.

Lead Mine Trail

*Orange & silver • 0.7 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: Coursen Road, 0.4 miles from Stokes office. **Lead Mine Trail** runs from Coursen Road to Blue Mountain Trail over generally level terrain.

Red Eft Trail

*Orange & green • 2.2 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Upper Tillman Ravine parking lot. **Red Eft Trail** weaves through the Tillman Ravine Natural Area habit under the shade of thick hemlock trees and continues on a forest service road up the ridge to Appalachian Trail. Red efts, also known as eastern red-spotted newts, can be found in abundance enjoying their terrestrial stage of life.

Red Maple Trail

*Red & white • 6.9 miles
Multiuse • Moderate to difficult*

Trailhead: Parking lot off Struble Road for Lake Ashroe. **Red Maple Trail** is a lollipop shaped trail that passes beside Lake Ashroe and includes both long stretches of wide, level old forest roads, undulating single-track and moderate elevation change. Diverse plant life and ecosystems support wildlife in this beautiful, southern section of Stokes.

Red-tailed Hawk Trail

*Blue & red • 1 mile
Hiking • Difficult*

Trailhead: On south side of Route 206 across from Culver Lake. **Red-tailed Hawk Trail** is the steepest trail within Stokes with a continuous climb to the top of the Kittatinny Ridge. The top offers views of nearby Culver Lake, the Pocono Plateau and the fall hawk migration.

Rock Oak Trail

*Blue & yellow • 1.5 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: West side of Deckertown Turnpike, one mile from Crigger Road. **Rock Oak Trail** traverses a small ridge and passes an old logging deck. The trail highlights forest land in various stages of succession.

This brochure was funded by Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Shay Trail

*Yellow & brown • 0.4 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: South side of Dimon Road just past the Cook 4-H Camp. **Shay Trail** served as a fire control route in July 1966 when a major forest fire burned through 2,000 acres at the southern end of Stokes. The trail is moderately steep and rocky. Shay Trail connects to Red Maple Trail.

Silver Mine Trail

*Orange • 1.8 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Kittle Field. **Silver Mine Trail** starts at Kittle Field and follows Bear Cub and Beaver Tail Trails to a waterfall where it breaks off to the right. A short spur trail off the main Silver Mine Trail climbs a gently sloping hill then descends back into the creek to an old silver mine shaft used by the previous property owner, John Snook, in the late 1800s. The main trail continues along gentle terrain but becomes quite rocky near the end, just before intersecting with Bear Cub Trail at the other end.

Steam Mill Trail

*Yellow & black• 1.3 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailheads: Crigger Road or Steam Mill Campground. **Steam Mill Trail** is a short gentle loop through a peaceful mossy section of the forest. The eastern half follows an old forest road before connecting back to Crigger Road.

Steffen Trail

*Black & gray • 1.3 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: Parking lot on right, after turning onto Struble Road. **Steffen Trail** is moderately sloped throughout its length along a low forested ridge. The trail passes through distinct sections of coniferous and deciduous forest landscapes before connecting with Red Maple Trail.

Stoll Trail

*Yellow & green • 0.7 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: South side of Dimon Road just past the Cook 4-H Camp. **Stoll Trail** is a short and level trail with rhododendron thickets and large trees like beech, hemlock, white pine and oak.

Stony Brook Trail

*Purple • 1.7 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Stony Lake parking lot. **Stony Brook Trail** is moderately steep with a gradual climb that follows the rambling brook. The trail offers another option for hikers looking to connect from Stony Lake to Appalachian Trail.

Stony Lake Trail

*Blue & brown • 0.7 miles
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: Kiosks beside Stony Lake. **Stony Lake Trail** offers a short, interpretive hike around Stony Lake with interpretive

signage throughout highlighting various native plants. The beaver’s handiwork can be appreciated at every turn on this trail, with multi-tiered dams and an impressive lodge. You may also find great blue herons and kingfishers catching fish. Take your time observing and learning along the way.

Swenson Trail

*Red • 0.9 mile
Multiuse • Easy*

Trailhead: Small parking lot accessible seasonally, West side of Crigger Rd. **Swenson Trail** is a narrow trail connecting Crigger Road to Bobcat Trail through a mature forest of oak and other hardwood trees.

Tillman Ravine Trail

*White • 1.5 miles
Hiking only • Moderate*

Trailheads: Upper & lower parking lots on Dimon Road. **Tillman Ravine Trail** is a looped trail between ridges and a ravine along Tillman Brook in the Tillman Ravine Natural Area. The ravine is a narrow red shale and sandstone gorge set among tall hemlock trees.

Tinsley Trail

*Yellow • 0.9 miles
Multiuse • Moderate*

Trailhead: Sunrise Mountain Road. **Tinsley Trail** follows along the path of the Wisconsinan glacial moraine. It also leads to Geology Trail and connects Sunrise Mountain Road to Bobcat and Bear Cub Trails.

Tower Trail

*Green • 1.6 miles
Multiuse • Difficult*

Trailhead: Stony Lake parking lot. **Tower Trail** leads uphill to Appalachian Trail and includes one brief but particularly steep, scrambling section. The trail ends below a NJ Forest Fire Service observation tower and offers an excellent view of rural Sussex County.

Naismith’s Rule: Allow one hour for every three miles length, plus an hour for every 2,000 feet of elevation changes. When walking in groups, calculate for the speed of the slowest person.



STOKES
STATE FOREST
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