

TRAILS OF WHARTON STATE FOREST

Wharton State Forest has more than 145 miles of hiking, biking and paddling trails. Trails vary in length, difficulty and use. Located in the heart of the New Jersey Pinelands, Wharton State Forest is the largest tract of land in the New Jersey State Park system, with more than 124,000 acres. Roughly half of the 53-mile-long Batona hiking trail is located within its boundaries. The trails pass through dry upland and low wetland landscapes typical of the region. The terrain is relatively flat with some low hills; the soil is sandy and the climate varies from hot and humid in summer to below freezing in winter. Ticks, chiggers, biting flies and mosquitoes are common, so be prepared.

The fire-prone uplands of the region consist mostly of pine-oak and oak-pine forests often with a dense shrub layer. About one quarter of the New Jersey Pinelands is composed of wetlands. Atlantic white cedar and red maple swamps, wetland savannas and bogs occur along slow-moving, tannin-stained rivers and creeks. Wetlands provide habitat for most of the rare and endangered plants and animals of the pine barrens ecosystem.

Atsion Lake Red Trail

Red • 0.5 mile loop • Hiking, accessible
Easy • Smooth graded gravel trail

Trailhead: West end of the paved parking area of Atsion Recreation Area. **Atsion Lake Red Trail** follows along the south shore of the lake. Pitch pine lowlands surround this portion of the lake along with some Atlantic white cedar and highbush blueberries. This site of a former ice packing house is home to typical pine barrens amphibians.

Atsion Lake Blue Trail

Blue • 1 mile loop • Hiking, accessible
Easy • Smooth graded gravel trail

Trailhead: West end of the paved parking lot of Atsion Recreation Area. **Atsion Lake Blue Trail** follows along the south shore of the lake. Plants such as mountain laurel, sheep laurel, leatherleaf, pyxie and turkeybeard are found here.

Atsion Family Camp Trail

Orange • 2.2 miles • Hiking and mountain biking
Easy • Natural sandy soil trail

Trailhead: Atsion Family Campground bathroom parking lot. **Atsion Family Camp Trail** meanders along the north shore of Atsion Lake, offering rewarding views of the lake, Atlantic white cedar swamps and pine barrens pine-oak forest.

Mountain Biking in Wharton

Mountain biking is a popular activity in Wharton State Forest. There are five trails designed for mountain bike use. Walking and hiking on these trails is not advised. Riders should consider the following:

Ride Open Trails: Respect trail and road closures and obey trail use markings. Stay on existing trails and do not create new ones.

Leave No Trace: Be sensitive to the earth beneath you and environment around you. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

Control Your Bicycle: Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Ride within your limits.

Yield Appropriately: Let other trail users know you're coming with a friendly greeting or bell ring. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Mountain bikers should yield to other nonmotorized trail users.

Plan Ahead: Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding and prepare accordingly. Keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

The following trails are designated for mountain biking in Wharton State Forest:

Batsto Fire Trail

Green • 6.2 mile loop • Mountain biking
Easy • Natural soil single-track and unpaved road

Trailhead: Northwest corner of the parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Fire Trail** is an easy loop that consists of winding single-track and fire roads. This trail serves as an introduction for beginners new to the Wharton State Forest mountain bike trail system. The sand, gravel and clay-based trail generally packs down well.



Batona Trail

Pink • 28.2 miles (in Wharton) • Hiking
Moderate • Long distance hiking trail

Entry points (in Wharton): Apple Pie Hill, Burlington County Road 532, Batsto Village, Evans Bridge, Batona Campground and Quaker Bridge. **Batona Trail** is a 53-mile-long trail through the heart of the Pinelands. Short for BA-ck TO NA-ture, the Batona Trail passes through sections of Bass River State Forest, Wharton State Forest and Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.

Trailing Arbutus Trail

Blue • 0.8 miles • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil trail along Harrisville Lake

Trailhead: Harrisville Lake canoe launch parking lot. **Trailing Arbutus Trail** runs along Harrisville Lake before connecting to Batona Trail near mile marker 8.5. Trailing Arbutus Trail offers scenic views of Harrisville Lake and travels through lowland habitat where visitors can see the namesake plant species as well as evidence of beaver activity along the shore of Harrisville Lake.

Mullica River Trail

Yellow • 9.4 miles • Hiking
Moderate • Natural sandy trail along river

Trailheads: North side of Burlington County Road 542, west of Batsto Village or Atsion Office. **Mullica River Trail** leads to Mullica River Campground from either Atsion or Batsto Village. Both were important industrial centers during the 1700s and 1800s particularly to produce iron from locally abundant ore. The trail travels through a variety of pine barrens forest types and wetlands along the Mullica River. The trail is linked to Batona Trail by Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail and Wilderness Camps Connector. Starting from the Atsion Office, a 9.4 mile out-and-back loop hike can be followed by taking Mullica River Trail to Wilderness Camps Connector, offering a view of Batsto River from Quaker Bridge, then turning



The portion of the trail that follows unpaved fire roads for a little over one and half miles can accumulate some rainwater runoff, which can be easily avoided. The winding narrow single-track that makes up most of the trail can provide a learning experience for riders used to wide multiuse style trails. This trail travels through dry upland pine and oak woodlands with a brief diversion of highbush blueberry located about halfway along the eastern side while crossing a freshwater wetland swamp.

Huckleberry Trail

Light blue • 5 miles • Mountain biking
Easy • Natural soil, single-track

Trailhead: Batsto Fire Trail. **Huckleberry Trail** is a loop trail that begins and ends from Batsto Fire Trail. On the eastern side, look for the blue blazes shortly after Batsto Fire Trail turns left. On the western side, look directly across the intersection with the unpaved fire road for the blue circle blazes. Both western and eastern ends of Huckleberry Trail share a little less than a mile of Penn Branch Trail. The trail then courses along the sides of low ridges for about three and a half miles until it merges with Penn Branch Trail once more. Huckleberry Trail offers riders a series of low elevation changes that can provide a great physical workout. When combined with Batsto Fire Trail, the trails form a 9.6-mile loop.



back via Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail. A 12-mile-long loop hike can be followed from Batsto by starting on either the Mullica River Trail or the Batona Trail and using Wilderness Camps Connector to link the two.

Sandy Ridge - Tulpehocken Trail

Blue • 18.2 miles • Hiking
Moderate • Sandy surfaces and gravel roads

Trailheads: Intersection of Goodwater Road and Batona Trail or summit of Apple Pie Hill. **Sandy Ridge – Tulpehocken Trail** follows quiet sand roads and offers picturesque views of waterways like the Penn Swamp, Shane, Tulpehocken, Ore Sprung, and Feathered Branches. The trail also passes by Hawkin Bridge Campground and the ghost town of Friendship. This trail is a great alternative to the Batona Trail between Batsto Village and Apple Pie Hill.

Batsto Red Trail

Red • 0.8 mile loop • Hiking, accessible
Easy • Smooth graded gravel

Trailhead: Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Red Trail** offers an introduction to several habitats typical of the New Jersey Pinelands. An upland habitat, featuring pine and oak with a lush growth of huckleberry, slopes down into a hardwood swamp with red maple, sour gum, sweet bay magnolia and highbush blueberry. In between, a lowland pine forest contains abundant pitch pine and shortleaf pine.

Batsto Blue Trail

Blue • 1.8 mile loop • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil

Trailhead: Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Blue Trail** begins with Batsto Red Trail and travels through typical pine barrens forests. The western portion of the trail is home to early spring wildflowers including trailing arbutus and pyxie moss and offers some scenic views of Batsto Lake.

Batsto White Trail

White • 4 mile loop • Hiking
Moderate • Natural sandy soil

Trailhead: Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto White Trail** continues farther north along the route of the Batona Trail through upland pine-oak forests then heads west, dropping in elevation to the Batsto River just north of Batsto Lake. Turning south, the trail travels along an Atlantic white cedar swamp. The uppermost portion of the lake can be seen from the trail.

Oak Hill Trail

White • 2.5 miles • Mountain biking
Easy • Natural soil, single-track

Trailhead: Batsto Fire or Huckleberry Trail. **Oak Hill Trail** interconnects with Batsto Fire Trail, Teaberry Trail and Huckleberry Trail. Running generally north to south in orientation, Oak Hill Trail offers a variety of optional routes for riders to take between the other mountain bike trails that leave Batsto Village. The trail travels through upland forest with gentle grades.

Penn Branch Trail

Orange • 19.3 mile loop • Mountain biking
Moderate • Natural soil, single-track

Trailhead: Northwest corner of the parking area at Batsto Village. **Penn Branch Trail** is a moderately difficult trail stretching more than 19 miles, making it the longest mountain bike trail in Wharton State Forest. The forest's mountain bike trails provide an opportunity for easy-paced adventure in the New Jersey Pinelands region. Average riders should allow about 3 to 5 hours for this often tightly winding, single-track trail. The sand and gravel based cross-country trails can prove challenging for all levels of experience, and wearing a bicycle helmet is strongly recommended. Many miles of the trail typically pack down quite firmly with only short lengths becoming loose particularly during a drought. Bring plenty of water for this ride on warm days. Riders experience New Jersey Pinelands upland forests punctuated on the west side by a brief view of Penn Branch Creek. The creek flows through a regionally significant Atlantic white cedar swamp and along the eastern side of the route is the historic town known as Mount. No buildings remain.

Teaberry Trail

Red • 0.8 miles • Mountain biking
Easy • Natural soil, single-track

Trailhead: Oak Hill or Huckleberry Trail. **Teaberry Trail** connects with Oak Hill Trail and Huckleberry Trail just north of Batsto Fire Trail to create another extension option. Running generally northeast to southwest in orientation, Teaberry Trail offers a variety of optional routes for riders to take between the other mountain bike trails that leave Batsto Village. The trail traverses upland forest with gentle grades.

Tom's Pond Trail

Orange • 1.7 mile loop • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil

Trailhead: North side of Burlington County Road 542 west of Batsto Village. **Tom's Pond Trail** begins in a dry pine-oak forest with a lush growth of huckleberry and other upland shrubs typical of the pine barrens. The trail gradually descends along the Mullica River. After crossing to the west side of the river, the trail is generally dry with abundant pitch pine and shortleaf pine. This portion of the trail travels through dry pine woods with huckleberry, lowbush blueberry and particularly abundant growths of teaberry and lichen. The scrubby pitch pine borders Atlantic white cedar growing along a small creek. Beneath the cedar, carnivorous plants and other typical bog plants thrive.



Sand and Water Trail

Orange • 0.87 miles • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil, wooden foot bridges

Trailhead: East side of Batsto Road, east of Batsto Village. Park in the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Sand and Water Trail** winds along a sandy forest road and into a dense Atlantic white cedar swamp. Following a series of wooden foot bridges, the trail connects hikers to the 1808 Trail and Batona Trail allowing for a variety of hiking options. Hikers may complete this trail as an "out and back," or incorporate it with Batona Trail north to loop back to Batsto Village.

Wharton State Forest
Visiting Vehicle Use Map

The Wharton State Forest Visiting Vehicle Use Map clearly shows legal roads for driving registered and insured vehicles by licensed drivers within Wharton State Forest. Designated roads on the map support State Park Police patrols, the ability to conduct maintenance and improve access for emergency response personnel. It also helps ensure the protection of wildlife habitat and rare plant species found within the forest.

The map is available as a georeferenced PDF allowing drivers to use their mobile device to determine their location on the map in real time, including in areas with limited or no cellular service, using Avenza or a similar application. **Scan the QR code to access the PDF.**



Hunting Access

Additional roads designated for hunting access can be used by hunters during the hunting season with a free Hunter Access Pass available at the Batsto Visitor Center. Hunters must be actively taking part in hunting activities and have a valid New Jersey hunting license along with appropriate seasonal hunting permits. Hunters should be prepared for difficult road conditions.

Roads in Wharton State Forest travel through sandy and frequently unimproved conditions. Visitors are encouraged to approach roads with caution and discuss conditions with New Jersey State Parks staff in the forest office.



1808 Trail

Green • 1.6 miles • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil, wooden foot bridges

Trailheads: Buttonwood Hill Campground or from Sand and Water Trail. **1808 Trail** follows an old logging road that connected Crowletown—part of which is now known as Buttonwood Hill Campground—and Batsto Village. The more than 200-year-old path runs through Mordecai Swamp, allowing for up close and personal views of the incredible Atlantic white cedars that call it home.

Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail

Purple • 1.8 miles • Hiking
Easy • Trail to Lower Forge Campground

Trailheads: Mullica River Trail or Quaker Bridge on Batona Trail. **Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail** links Mullica River Trail to Batona Trail through pine-oak woodlands. The trail provides access to Lower Forge Campground from Atsion and a great view of the largest beaver pond along the Mullica River in Wharton State Forest.



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

Wilderness Camps Connector

Light green • 0.75 miles • Hiking
Easy • Short trail

Trailheads: Mullica River Trail or Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail. **Wilderness Camps Connector** creates a route between the Mullica River and Lower Forge Campgrounds. It passes through pine-oak uplands linking Mullica River Trail to Batona Trail.

Buttonwood Camp Connector

Light blue • 1.2 miles • Hiking
Easy • Sandy forest road

Trailhead: Buttonwood Hill Campground. **Buttonwood Camp Connector** is a spur trail of Batona Trail that leads from the trail to Buttonwood Hill Campground. Across Burlington County Road 542 from Buttonwood Hill Campground is Crowley's Landing picnic area on the Mullica River.

Atlantic White Cedar Trail

White • 1.7 mile loop • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil

Trailhead: Parking is available at the junction of Burlington County Road 532 and Patty Bowker Rd. in Tabernacle. Starting from the parking area, **Atlantic White Cedar Trail** creates a loop through a beautiful Atlantic white cedar swamp and up through a pitch pine and oak forest. The far end of the loop runs parallel with a section of the 3.9 mile Whispering Pines Trail and winds back through the forest to the parking area.

Whispering Pines Trail

Blue • 3.9 mile loop • Hiking
Easy • Natural sandy soil, roads

Trailhead: Parking is available at the junction of Burlington County Road 532 and Patty Bowker Rd. in Tabernacle. **Whispering Pines Trail** can be reached via Atlantic White Cedar Trail or by walking along Irick's Causeway Rd. from the parking area. Whispering Pines Trail passes through serene Atlantic white cedar swamps and abandoned cranberry bogs nestled among the pines.

Explore Trail Tracker
The Interactive Trails
Map of NJ State Parks

TRAIL
tracker
spstrailtracker.nj.gov

TRAILS

WHARTON
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.

Riders: Follow the International Mountain Bike Association "Rules of the Trail" guidelines for trail etiquette and yield appropriately. Helmets are required by law for children under 17 and recommended for all riders.

Hunting: Sections of the forest are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

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 & Chigger 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 forest office. Visit the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife at dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears for additional information on bear safety.

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

WHARTON
STATE FOREST

31 Batsto Road, Hammonont, NJ 08037
609-561-0024

ATSION RECREATION AREA
Route 206, Shamong, NJ 08088
609-268-0444

BATSTO VILLAGE HISTORIC SITE
31 Batsto Road, Hammonont, NJ 08037
609-561-0025

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites
New Jersey State Parks

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NEW JERSEY STATE PARKS



WHARTON State Forest

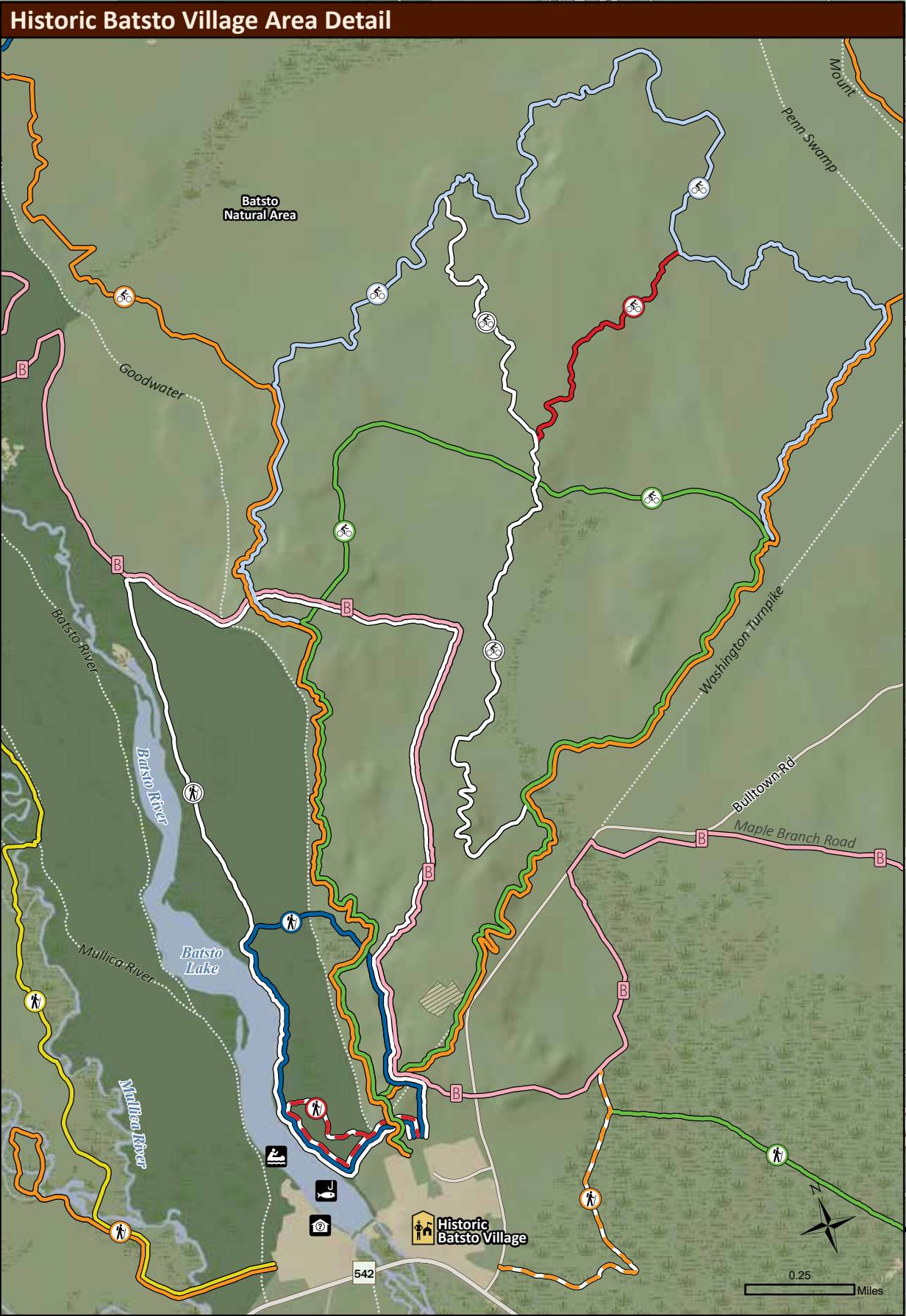
NOT PERMITTED

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

*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

Atsion Recreation Area

Historic Batsto Village



Open Field or Grass

Forest

Water

Wetland

Natural Area

Municipal/County/Highway Road

Unimproved Road

Motorized Hunting Access (for in season, licensed hunters only)

Atlantic White Cedar Trail (1.7 mi)

Whispering Pines Trail (3.9 mi)

Atsion Lake Red Trail (0.5 mi)

Atsion Lake Blue Trail (1 mi)

Atsion Family Camp Trail (2.2 mi)

Batona Trail (28.2 mi)

Mullica River Trail (9.4 mi)

Sandy Ridge - Tulpehocken Trail (18.2 mi)

Batsto Red Trail (0.8 mi)

Batsto Blue Trail (1.8 mi)

Batsto White Trail (4 mi)

Tom's Pond Trail (1.7 mi)

Sand and Water Trail (0.87 mi)

1808 Trail (1.6 mi)

Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail (1.8 mi)

Wilderness Camps Connector (0.75 mi)

Buttonwood Camp Connector (1.2 mi)

Trailing Arbutus Trail (0.8 mi)

Batsto Fire Trail (6.2 mi)

Huckleberry Trail (5 mi)

Oak Hill Trail (2.5 mi)

Penn Branch Trail (19.3 mi)

Teaberry Trail (0.8 mi)

Accessible Facility

Boat Launch

Cabins

Campground

Canoeing

Concession

Drinking Water

First Aid

Fishing

Forest Office

Historic Site

Nature Center

Museum

Parking Lot

Picnic Area

Playground

Restrooms

Shop

Shower

Swimming

Tours

04/26