

## RAIL TRAILS

### SUSSEX BRANCH TRAIL

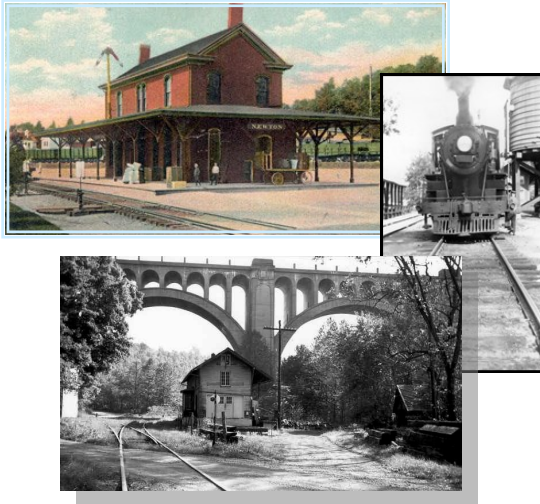
The Sussex Branch Trail follows the Sussex Branch section of the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad. Constructed in 1848, the Sussex Branch originally transported high-grade iron ore from the Andover Mines to the Morris Canal, and eventually expanded to include farm products, freight, and passengers. Popular attractions along the right-of-way included Cranberry Lake, a popular resort for city-folk looking to escape to the countryside. The DL&W ceased operations in 1966. The state acquired the property in two sections in 1979 and 1982, converting it into a rail-trail.



New Wawayanda Lake  
(Lake Aeroflex)

Kittatinny Valley State Park and the Paulinskill Valley Trail Committee offer year-round hikes and interpretive programs highlighting the natural and historic resources of the park and its environs.

Encompassing 5,656 acres, KVSP provides a multitude of recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, biking, geocaching, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.



### PAULINSKILL VALLEY TRAIL

The Paulinskill Valley Trail was once part of the right-of-way of the New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad. The "Susie-Q" transported agricultural products, Pennsylvania coal, Portland cement, and passengers along the banks of the Paulins Kill, a tributary of the Delaware River. The NYS&W ran from 1886 until 1962. The Green Acres Program purchased the property for non-motorized recreational use in 1992.



Limecrest Rd. entrance, c. 1940

**Kittatinny Valley State Park**  
 199 Goodale Rd.,  
 Newton, NJ 07860

Phone: (973) 786-6445  
 Fax: (973) 786-6874

[www.njparksandforests.org/parks/kittval.html](http://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/kittval.html)

2015

## THE HISTORY OF KITTATINNY VALLEY STATE PARK



2013



YMCA Camp Wawayanda, c. 1940s

# KITTATINNY VALLEY STATE PARK



## HILL-HUSSEY STONE HOUSE

In 1817, John Stickle and his wife Effey sold three lots in Newton Township to Sarah Hill, who built a house on the property in 1825, using the area's native limestone in its construction. Look for the diamond-shaped date stone inscribed with the initials "S.H." under the western roof peak. In 1836, Sarah conveyed the land and premises to William Drake.

Albert and Nancy Puder bought the stone dwelling in 1851, and lived there while running two successful creameries. Most of the Puders' farm outbuildings still remain. After Albert's death, his widow sold their property in 1906 to Frederick Hussey, who added the large east wing and portico.

Mr. Hussey made his fortune in the whaling industry and New York City real estate. In 1957, his son Frederick Hussey II, owner of the Aeroflex Corporation, built the airport facilities and runway now operated by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Joseph and Barbara LoRe of Rubicon Arabian Stables purchased the Hussey property in 1985. Eight years later, the property was in foreclosure and owned by the Ramapo Bank.

On September 9, 1994, the NJ Green Acres program purchased the 948-acre property to create Kittatinny Valley State Park. The old farmhouse opened as the KVSP Visitor Center in 2003, and now accommodates the State Park Service-Northern Region staff as well.

## SLATER HOUSE

Joseph P. Scoville of New York may have been the first man to try to set up an exclusive fishing preserve in Sussex County in the 1850s. His land surrounded the outlet of Andover Long Pond, renamed Strubles Pond after Simmons Struble took ownership in 1860.

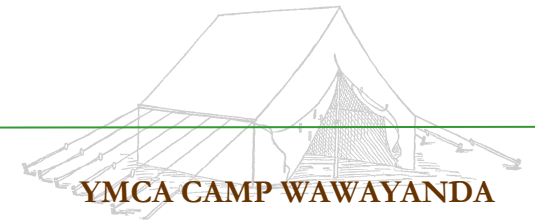
In 1871, Charles K. Slater, of Newark, purchased the property and built his picturesque residence there in 1874. The YMCA purchased the property from his heirs in 1919, naming the house Ayer Hall and using it as an administration building, summer school, guest house, and tea room.



The Frederick Hussey Realty Corporation purchased the property from the YMCA in 1954 to use as headquarters for the Aeroflex Corporation.



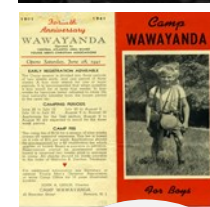
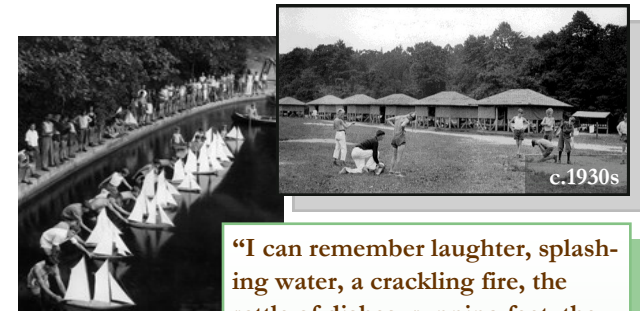
Utilized as the KVSP administrative office from 1994 to 2003, the Slater House currently serves as the District 3 Headquarters of the New Jersey State Park Police.



## YMCA CAMP WAWAYANDA

The YMCA established the Jersey Boys' Camp Wawayanda on the shores of Slater Lake (now Lake Aeroflex) in the summer of 1919. Camp activities featured athletic competitions, Indian lore, archery, and woodcraft. Facilities included tent cabins, a boathouse, the Hird Swimming Dock with diving platforms and slides, Kilborne Chapel (an outdoors stage with bleacher seats for religious services), an open-air amphitheater, and a rifle range.

In 1954, the camp moved to Johnsonburg, NJ and later, to Frost Valley, NY. Camp vestiges are still visible along park trails, such as the great stone fireplace from the Outpost Memorial Lodge, built in 1947 to commemorate former campers who served in World War II.



"I can remember laughter, splashing water, a crackling fire, the rattle of dishes, running feet, the crack of a bat against a ball, bugle calls...chopping wood, cleaning lanterns, peeling potatoes and freezing ice cream, overnight parties to Haunted Cabin Point, dark dramatics and mock trials, airplane and model boat building, chapel programs and campfires of pure delight..."

-Charles R. Scott: New Jersey Boys Work Secretary; Camp Director

