

## **TRAILS OF ALLAMUCHY MOUNTAIN & STEPHENS STATE PARKS**

Allamuchy Mountain and Stephens State Parks contain 28 marked trails providing access to diverse landscapes for walking, hiking, biking, bird-watching, and more. There are over 70 miles of trails, from short loop trails to long-distance networks, and from gentle, flat rail trails to more difficult cross-country hikes.

### **Deer Park Trails**

#### **Allamuchy Pond Trail**

*Gray • 2.2 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Loop trail around Allamuchy Pond*

**Trailhead** Gravel parking lot south of road to Rutherford Hall. **Allamuchy Pond Trail** loops around the pond on a single track. The trail parallels wetlands south of the pond area and then turns north along Route 517 to return to the parking area.

#### **Barberry Trail**

*Red • 0.8 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Short trail on north side of Deer Park Pond*

**Trailhead** Deer Path or Lake View Trail. **Barberry Trail** is a short single-track trail along the north side of Deer Park Pond connecting Deer Path Trail with Lake View Trail.

#### **Birch Trail**

*Yellow • 0.7 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Single-track on west side of park*

**Trailhead** End of Deer Park Road. **Birch Trail** travels through a wooded landscape to connect Lake View Trail with Deer Path Trail.

#### **Deer Path Trail**

*White • 6.5 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Long single-track loop trail*

**Trailhead** First parking area on Deer Park Road. **Deer Path Trail** is a long loop trail through the forested landscape surrounding Deer Park Pond. This large elevated section of the park is bounded by Interstate 80, Waterloo Road, and Route 517.

#### **Lake View Trail**

*Blue • 2.3 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Single-track around southern edge of pond*

**Trailhead** End of Deer Park Road. **Lake View Trail** travels an eight-foot-wide gravel road around the south side of Deer Park Pond until reaching the spillway. The trail then narrows to 3 feet wide, turns north along the east side of the lake, and ends as it reaches Deer Path Trail.

#### **Waterloo North Trail**

*Orange • 0.8 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate to difficult • Moderate grade single-track trail*

**Trailhead** Deer Path Trail or Waterloo Road. **Waterloo North Trail** is a short trail connecting Deer Path Trail to Waterloo Road, half a mile west of the Interstate 80 overpass. The trail has a moderate grade along a narrow ravine.

### **Waterloo South Trail**

*Green • 0.5 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate to difficult • Moderate grade single-track trail*

**Trailhead** Deer Path Trail or Waterloo Road. **Waterloo South Trail** is a short trail connecting Deer Path Trail to Waterloo Road. The trail has a moderate grade along a drainage area.

## **Stephens State Park Trails**

### **Blue Trail**

*Blue • 0.8 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Spur trail on forested hillside*

**Trailhead** South side of White Trail. **Blue Trail** starts just over a mile from the beginning of White Trail on the south side of its loop. Blue Trail is a short section on a forested hillside that leaves from and returns to White Trail.

### **Green Trail**

*Green • 2 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Hilly forest road*

**Trailhead** End of Station Road. **Green Trail** follows a network of woods roads through the forest and along the power line corridor. Green Trail connects Fire Tower Trail and White Trail.

### **Orange Trail**

*Orange • 1.3 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Steep & rocky sections*

**Trailhead** Behind office at Stephens Day-Use Area. **Orange Trail** makes a wide loop around forested hillsides.

### **Maze Trail**

*Pink • 1.9 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Flat loop trail through lowlands*

**Trailhead** North side of White Trail. **Maze Trail** starts 1.75 miles from beginning of White Trail and makes a lollipop loop winding through relatively flat terrain with thick understory vegetation.

### **Fire Tower Trail**

*Purple • 0.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Short hilly loop trail to fire tower*

**Trailhead** End of Fire Tower Road. **Fire Tower Trail** is a short loop that leads up to the 95-mile lookout fire tower and a large clearing.

### **Red Trail**

*Red • 0.9 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy to moderate • Short loop trail near office*

**Trailhead** Stephens Day-Use Area parking lot. **Red Trail** follows the Musconetcong River before turning into the forest to loop back to the parking area.

### **Red & White Trail**

*Red & white • 0.9 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Winds among small ridges*

**Trailhead** Red Trail near group shelter and picnic area. **Red & White Trail** begins and ends from Red Trail and makes a loop as it crosses small forested ridges.

### **White Trail**

*White • 6.8 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Long loop trail through challenging terrain*

**Trailhead** Red & White Trail or Orange Trail. **White Trail** travels through the forested landscape south of the Musconetcong River. white Trail also provides connection to Maze Trail, Green Trail, and Blue Trail.

### **Yellow Trail**

*Yellow • 0.5 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Short loop trail*

**Trailhead** Stephens Day-Use Area. **Yellow Trail** makes a small loop within the forested interior of Red Trail.

## **Mountain Biking in Allamuchy**

Mountain biking is a popular activity in Allamuchy Mountain State Park. Consider the following:

- 1. Ride Open Trails** Respect trail and road closures and obey trail use markings. Stay on existing trails and do not create new ones.
- 2. Leave No Trace** Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you and environment around you. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.
- 3. Control Your Bicycle** Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk. Ride within your limits.
- 4. 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 non-motorized trail users.
- 5. 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.

## **Allamuchy North Trails**

The following trails are open to multi-use and popular for mountain biking.

### **Byram Trail**

*Gray • 1.5 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Gentle woods road*

**Trailhead** Sussex Branch Trail. **Byram Trail** leaves Sussex Branch Trail, travels along Jefferson Lake Road, then through forest to connect with Drexel Drive on the west side of the park.

### **Ditch / Cardiac Trail**

*Purple • 2 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate to difficult • Single-track loop trail across oak covered hilltop*

**Trailhead** Switchback Trail or Waterloo / 517 Trail. **Ditch / Cardiac Trail** ascends a series of switchbacks in the first mile. The trail crests a ridge-top among scrub oak forest and descends on the southeast side to join Waterloo / 517 Trail.

### **Iron Mine Trail**

*Blue • 1.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Rocky loop trail*

**Trailhead** Sussex Branch Trail about 1 mile from parking area. **Iron Mine Trail** is a short loop trail along a mix of single-track and double-track forest paths.

**Pebble Trail**

*Yellow • 3 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Rocky and hilly trail along ridgeline*

**Trailhead** Waterloo/517 Trail about 0.3 miles from the Sussex Branch Trail. **Pebble Trail** is a scenic forested loop that travels along a ridgeline above the Musconetcong River. The trail overlaps with Waterloo / 517 Trail. Along the ridgetop, visitors will encounter the “Pebble”, a glacial deposit boulder.

**Ranger Trail**

*Red • 2.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Challenging trail across hilly terrain*

**Trailhead** Sussex Branch Trail, 0.4 miles from parking area. **Ranger Trail** ascends hillsides in either direction to gain a hilltop. The single-track trail travels through hardwood forest with many log and rock crossings.

**Switchback Trail**

*Orange • 2 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Flat trail along forest adjacent to road*

**Trailhead** Parking area on Stuyvesant Road. **Switchback Trail** contours along a hillside staying near Allamuchy Road. The terrain is relatively flat except for a short climb on south side.

**Waterloo / 517 Trail**

*White • 5.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Single-track trail across varied terrain*

**Trailhead** Sussex Branch Trail or Stuyvesant Road. **Waterloo / 517 Trail** crosses a large section of the interior of Allamuchy Mountain State Park across forested hillsides and ravines. The trail varies in width with many short sections of moderate elevation change.

**Waving Willie Trail**

*Green • 3.4 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Rocky single-track route*

**Trailhead** Cranberry Ledge Road. **Waving Willie Trail** starts from a residential road on the north side of Cranberry Lake and connects with Waterloo Trail and Sussex Branch Trail along rocky single-track.

**Regional Trails**

**Highlands Trail**

*Teal • 10 miles (in Allamuchy) • Hiking*

*Moderate • Long distance, regional trail*

**Trailhead** Drexel Drive (east side) or Stephens Day-Use Area (west side). **Highlands Trail** is a 150-mile-long, long-distance trail. Within Allamuchy, the trail travels through sections of forested and rocky highlands, and along the Musconetcong River. The trail also offers multiple scenic views on the north side of the river.

**Sussex Branch Trail**

*Red • 3 miles (in Allamuchy) • Multi-use*

*Easy • Flat, wide rail trail*

**Trailhead** Parking area on north side of Waterloo Road. This 3-mile-long section of the **Sussex Branch Trail** starts at Waterloo Road and goes northwest to Cranberry Lake along an old railroad bed.

### **Towpath Trail**

*Green & yellow • 7.3 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Flat, wide rail trail*

**Trailhead** Route 665, Waterloo Village or parking pull-off on Continental Drive. **Towpath Trail** is a portion of the Morris Canal Greenway that traces a section of the historic canal along the Musconetcong River to Waterloo Village. A shorter segment continues along the canal east of Continental Drive.

### **TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY**

**Trail Markings** Official trails are marked with colored blazes on posts and trees. For habitat protection and your safety, please stay on the trails and do not alter trail markings or create new trails.

**Preparations** Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you will return.

**Pets** All pets must be on a leash (maximum 6') and under the physical control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

**Carry In/Carry Out** Help keep the park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash.

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

**Bear Aware** Bears are active in this area. Don't approach them. Bear sightings should be reported to the State Park Police (1-877-927-6337) or to the Park office.

**Park Office Phone** (908) 852-3790

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

### **Stephens / Allamuchy Mountain State Park**

800 Willow Grove St.

Hackettstown, NJ 07840

(908) 852-3790