

## **TRAILS OF SIX MILE RUN**

Nestled in central New Jersey, Six Mile Run Reservoir Site, named for the stream that travels through the region, provides vital open space for people to enjoy the splendor of nature. The 3,037 acres of preserved land, once slated to be part of a reservoir, offers 13.5 miles on four marked trails that accommodate hiking, biking, birdwatching and horseback riding. Six Mile Run Reservoir Site has remained an oasis of farm fields and forests in an otherwise suburban landscape. Each trail has its own charm, allowing the visitor a chance to see an array of forest types, vast farm fields and beautiful views of Six Mile Run. We encourage you to take the opportunity to experience the beauty of this unique area, but please be aware that the soil here is easily eroded; please do not use the trails in muddy conditions. Park at any of these locations for access to the trails: 625 Canal Road in Somerset, Jacques Lane (small lot) or 2186 Route 27 in North Brunswick (*shared with the NJ Knights Soccer Club*)

### **Blackwells Trail**

*Blue • 4.9 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Windy single-track trail with obstacles*

**Trailhead** 625 Canal Road. **Blackwells Trail** meanders through fields full of goldenrod and milkweed, providing an excellent area to view grassland birds and butterflies. The trail then winds through the upland forest where mayapples, shagbark hickory and spicebush are abundant. Near the end, the trail crosses a marsh on a 150' elevated wooden boardwalk, and then runs alongside the Six Mile Run creek before crossing over the stream on a metal bridge and joining the Creek Trail.

### **Cedar Trail**

*White • 1.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Short trail with narrow path*

**Trailhead** Jacques Lane parking lot, 0.6 miles from Canal Road. **Cedar Trail** leaves the east side of the parking area on single track and winds through red cedar forested flats. About half-way, the trail turns back into the trees and descends to cross a small tributary stream with a bridge across the creek. The trail ends at Creek Trail. Trail users looking for a short loop can head west along Creek Trail back to the Jacques Lane Parking Area. Trail users looking for a longer trip can continue east along Creek Trail.

### **Creek Trail**

*Red • 4.6 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Windy single-track trail with obstacles*

**Trailhead** Route 27, between Cortelyous Lane and Skillman Lane at the Jersey Knights Soccer Field. **Creek Trail**, with its steep slopes and intermittent stream crossings, is the most rugged and hikerfriendly of all the trails in Six Mile Run Reservoir Site. Trail users will pass dense successional cedar forests, mature hardwood forests and beautiful vistas of Six Mile Run creek. Creek Trail connects with Blackwells, Cedar and Twisty trails. **Visitors are reminded to use EXTREME CAUTION when crossing South Middlebush Road.**

### **Twisty Trail**

*Orange • 2.4 miles • Multi-use*

*Moderate • Tight single-track through cedar trees*

**Trailhead** Route 27, between Cortelyous Lane and Skillman Lane at the Jersey Knights Soccer Field. **Twisty Trail**, located off Creek Trail, has been hailed as one of the best mountain biking trails in Central New Jersey. This forested trail is full of twists, turns and berms providing a challenging and fun ride. Hikers and horseback riders are also welcome on this trail but should be prepared for a twisty adventure.

**Volunteer Opportunities** The Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association (JORBA) is a nonprofit organization that works with park managers to maintain this trail system. Founded in 1999, JORBA's focus is to build and maintain sustainable multi-use trails, organize and encourage volunteerism and responsible trail use, and advocate and foster mountain biking as a healthy, environmentally sound and sustainable activity. If you are interested in helping to maintain these trails, please visit [www.JORBA.org](http://www.JORBA.org).

**History** Six Mile Run Reservoir Site provides visitors with a glimpse of the region's rich cultural history. The area was listed in 1995 on the National Historic Register and is the largest agricultural district in New Jersey. Today, you can still find 18th century farmhouses, Dutch-framed granaries and barns that tell the story of the first settlers who inhabited the area in the 1700s. Colonists first acquired land here in the early 17th century. Descendants of some of these families still reside and farm in the area. In the late 1950s and early 1960s it was determined that additional water supply resources were needed for the state of New Jersey. The area around the Six Mile Run creek was identified as a possible location for such a site. In a process that took several years, properties at Six Mile Run were acquired by the State and by 1970 the area was put under the jurisdiction of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Water Resources, with the intent that it be developed as a reservoir site. In 1993 alternative water supply sources were discovered and administration of the property was transferred to the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry. Park users can enjoy the open vistas, undeveloped land and catch glimpses of the rural life that once predominated the area for several hundred years.

#### **TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY**

**Hunting** Deer and turkey hunting (bow seasons) is permitted in sections of Six Mile Run. Hunting boundary maps are available at the D&R Canal State Park office. Please refer to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Digest or website ([nj.gov/dep/fgw/](http://nj.gov/dep/fgw/)) for season dates.

**Pets** are permitted, but must be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the immediate control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

**Carry-in/Carry-out** The park does not provide any trash disposal facilities for the public. Please take any trash items with you when you leave and do not litter.

**Hours** Visitors are welcome between dawn and dusk. Trail use is not permitted after sunset.

**Riders Note** Bikes must be equipped with a bell or audible device; helmets are required by law for children under the age of 17 and are highly recommended for all riders.

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

**Six Mile Run Reservoir Site** (Administered by the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park)

625 Canal Road

Somerset, NJ 08873

Phone: (609) 924-5705