

TRAILS OF RANCOCAS STATE PARK

There are 14 official trails within the park totaling more than 13 miles. The trails are clustered in two areas: within the forest and meadows near Rancocas Nature Center, and in the forested uplands between the north and south branches of Rancocas Creek.

Rancocas Nature Center Trails These trails are located near Rancocas Nature Center. See descriptions below for specific trailheads. Trails around Rancocas Nature Center are hiking only. This area is considered a school zone with children at play. Riders and pet-walkers, please use the other trails

Deer Run Trail

Blue • 0.7 miles • Hiking

Easy • Woods trail near the nature center

Trailhead Maple Leaf Trail. **Deer Run Trail** heads south through mixed meadow and marsh on 750 feet of boardwalk. After leaving the boardwalk, the landscape transitions to pine forest. This section of forest was once a white pine plantation and the uniform, straight tree rows are still evident. The trail then enters a mixed hardwood forest, continuing south to a small ridge above the floodplain of North Branch Rancocas Creek. Turkey Feather Trail begins here, while Deer Run Trail turns west and continues along the edge of the riparian area. Deer Run Trail begins to turn north and continues on a gravel footpath to return to the nature center.

Little Brook Trail

Green • 0.8 miles • Hiking

Easy • Creek-side trail

Trailhead Rancocas Trail west of parking area. **Little Brook Trail** departs from Rancocas Trail after a short distance from the parking area and continues to the west. The trail turns south and follows along a shallow creek ravine until it arrives at the edge of a large field. At its southernmost point, Little Brook Trail reaches North Branch Rancocas Creek and turns east (left) until it intersects with Rancocas Trail again.

Maple Leaf Trail

Yellow & green • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Short loop around the nature center

Trailhead Rancocas Nature Center parking area. **Maple Leaf Trail** heads east from the nature center for a short distance before turning south and along a field edge to join with Meadow View Trail. Maple Leaf Trail continues west and passes south of the parking area. West of the nature center, Maple Leaf Trail makes a short winding loop and returns to the start.

Meadow View Trail

Red • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Trail through open meadow

Trailhead South of Rancocas Nature Center parking area. **Meadow View Trail** travels east along a grass pathway through a wildlife meadow. The southern end of the meadow supports a seasonal vernal pool used by amphibians. The trail contours clockwise and passes through a zone where meadow habitat changes to white pine forest. The trail ends when it intersects with Deer Run Trail.

Rancocas Trail

White • 2.2 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Loop trail through forest west of nature center

Trailhead Parking area south of Rancocas Road and west of Irick Road. **Rancocas Trail** makes a large loop around the former Powhatan Indian Reservation. Bounded by small streams on the east and west and North Branch Rancocas Creek to the south, Rancocas Trail travels through a mix of upland forest and meadows on woods roads and single-track trail.

Squirrel Run Trail

*Brown • 0.5 miles • Multiuse
Easy • Forested creek-side trail*

Trailhead Whispering Woods Trail. **Squirrel Run Trail** heads north and west as it follows a small stream bed. The single-track footpath crosses many small rises and ends when it joins with Rancocas Trail.

Turkey Feather Trail

*Orange • 0.25 miles • Hiking
Easy • Trail to Rancocas Creek*

Trailhead Southeast corner of Deer Run Trail. **Turkey Feather Trail** descends a short, gentle slope into the riparian area. The trail travels southeast along the edge of the marsh. Look for waterfowl and listen for the chorus of frogs during wet months. Turkey Feather Trail meets with North Branch Rancocas Creek, then turns west and heads downstream to a scenic view.

Whispering Woods Trail

*Yellow • 1.5 miles • Multiuse
Easy • Trail through forested uplands along creek*

Trailhead Deer Run Trail. **Whispering Woods Trail** follows a strip of elevated land between North Branch Rancocas Creek and a smaller tributary stream to the north. At its westernmost point, Whispering Woods Trail turns east and travels along the creek and surrounding wetlands to complete its loop and return to the nature center.

Rancocas Creek Trails These trails are located between the North Branch and South Branch of Rancocas Creek.

Creekside Trail

*Blue • 3 miles • Multiuse
Easy • Follows both branches of Rancocas Creek*

Trailhead Parking area on Deacon Road. **Creekside Trail** is a loop trail along the north and south branches of Rancocas Creek. The trail is on sandy woodland roads and single-track through hardwood forest and open marsh. After joining Rancocas Road, Creekside Trail turns north and re-enters the forest, joining Virginia Pine Trail for a short distance before returning to the trailhead.

Great Horned Owl Trail

*Yellow • 0.65 miles • Multiuse
Easy • Short trail through marsh area*

Trailhead North side of gravel access road. **Great Horned Owl Trail** follows a sand and gravel path to the north. The trail turns west, running parallel to Mossy Bluff Trail before turning south and winding through forest to join Creekside Trail along South Branch Rancocas Creek.

Mossy Bluff Trail

*Green • 0.75 miles • Multiuse
Easy • Trail along small ridge*

Trailhead Creekside Trail north of parking area and sign kiosk at Rancocas Road. **Mossy Bluff Trail** heads west and follows sandy single-track along the edge of a short bluff. The landscape is generally flat with small dips and drops. Mossy Bluff Trail merges with Oak Ridge Trail and Great Horned Owl Trail at its western end.

Oak Ridge Trail

Red • 1 mile • Multiuse

Easy • Trail through middle of park

Trailhead Creekside Trail, 0.2 miles from parking area. **Oak Ridge Trail** heads west along a sandy woods road through forested terrain between the north and south branches of Rancocas Creek. Toward its western end, Oak Ridge Trail begins to turn south and joins Creekside Trail along the South Branch Rancocas Creek.

Red Fox Trail

Orange • 1.2 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Interconnected loops

Trailhead Creekside Trail south of gravel access road. **Red Fox Trail** is a series of loops in the flat forested terrain along the South Branch Rancocas Creek. These interconnected loops are a mix of single-track and woods roads through oak-pine forest.

Virginia Pine Trail

White • 0.5 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Semi-loop near trailhead

Trailhead South of Creekside Trail approximately 0.15 miles from parking area on Deacon Road. Virginia Pine Trail makes a half-loop through thick pine forest. The trail heads south on a wide sand path through a dense stand of oak and pine trees. The trail turns west and joins with Creekside Trail for a short length as the pine forest transitions into open hardwood. The trail makes a sharp turn to the north and ends as it joins Oak Ridge Trail.

TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Trail Markings: Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. For habitat protection and your safety, please stay on the trails and don't 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'll 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.

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

www.imba.com

Carry-in/Carry-out: Help keep the park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash.

Tick and Chigger 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: Bear sightings should be reported to the State Park Police (1-877-927-6337) or to the park office.

Park Office Phone: 609-261-2495

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

Rancocas State Park

794 Rancocas Road
Westampton, NJ 08060

Rancocas State Park is managed by Brendan T Byrne State Forest and administered by Burlington County Park System
Historic Smithville Park
803 Smithville Rd.
Eastampton, NJ 08060