

## TRAILS OF WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK

There are 13 trails that allow the visitor to explore the park and its distinct areas. The terrain within the park is mostly flat to gently rolling forest and mixed meadow with short sections of elevation along the creeks.

### Bike Trail

*Brown • 2 miles • Multiuse*

*Easy • Single-track bike trail*

**Trailhead** Parking area at Phillips Farm. **Bike Trail** is a series of loops around the eastern portion of the park near Phillips Farm. The trail is mostly flat as it follows single-track through woodlands and meadow. Starting clockwise, head south from Phillips Farm along Route 579 until the trail turns west, then north to parallel Brickyard Road. After passing the group camping area, the trail begins to turn northeast and winds through the forest until returning to a large meadow and the Phillips Farm parking area. **Riders:** Follow the IMBA “Rules of the Trail” guidelines for trail etiquette and yield appropriately. Helmets are required by law for children under 17. Please stay on the marked trails east of Brickyard Road and do not follow wildlife paths or create your own routes or trails.

### Blue Dot Trail

*Blue circle on white • 2.7 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Longest trail in park*

**Trailhead** Northwest corner of Knox Grove day use area. **Blue Dot Trail**, the longest trail in the park, travels through the forest north of Steele Run. Along the way, it crosses the Open Air Theater parking lot, intersects Yellow Dot Trail and weaves across Red Dot Trail at three locations. Towards the center of the park, Blue Dot Trail turns to the northwest, crosses a stream, ascends sharply, and travels through dense eastern red cedar until intersecting with Horse Trail. Turning west, Blue Dot Trail shares the path with Horse Trail before continuing north and west, ending near Titusville Methodist Church cemetery on Church Road.

### Blue Trail

*Blue • 0.25 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Short creek-side trail*

**Trailhead** Red Trail. **Blue Trail** crosses to the north side of the north branch of Steele Run, then runs along the water's edge. Blue Trail continues downstream, crosses back to south side of the creek and returns to Red Trail.

### Continental Lane Trail

*Brown & white • 1.4 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Historic route through middle of park*

**Trailhead** Park office on the east side or Johnson Ferry House on west side. **Continental Lane Trail** travels east to west through the middle of the park connecting the park office with the Johnson Ferry House and Overlook. The trail follows the road Washington's army is believed to have used on its march to Trenton on December 26, 1776. Continental Lane Trail is two to four feet wide on gently rolling natural surfaces.

### D & R Feeder Canal Trail

*Blue • 1.1 miles • Multiuse & accessible*

*Easy • Flat towpath along canal*

**Trailhead** Washington Grove day use area, behind Nelson House. **D&R Feeder Canal Trail** runs northwest to southeast along the feeder canal that was used to supply water from the Delaware River to the

main Delaware and Raritan Canal. It follows the canal's former towpath and the old Belvidere and Delaware Railroad from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The trail's surface is cinder and crushed stone.

### **Green Dot Trail**

*Green circle on white • 1 mile • Hiking*

*Easy • Follows forested slope of Steele Run*

**Trailhead** Open Air Theater. **Green Dot Trail** travels across the southwest section of the park and connects to the pedestrian overpass. The trail begins as a grassy road and changes to single-track as it descends and crosses over Steele Run on a wooden bridge. Green Dot Trail ascends a series of steps up the south side of the creek ravine and on through Green Grove picnic area. The trail continues west through mature mixed hardwood forest. Leaving the stream ravine, Green Dot Trail turns south then west again through the former NJ Forest Tree Nursery plantation. The trail joins with Red Dot Trail for a short distance, continues to the park boundary, then turns south across Greene and Sullivan Drives and Continental Lane Trail to the scenic overlook and pedestrian overpass.

### **Green Trail**

*Green • 0.2 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Short creek-side trail*

**Trailhead** Red Trail. **Green Trail** crosses Steele Run's north branch on a wooden bridge and heads downstream. Green Trail continues along the creek edge until joining with Blue Trail, crosses back over the creek again on two wooden and rejoins Red Trail.

### **Horseback Riding Trail**

*Brown • 2.2 miles • Multiuse*

*Easy • Flat and wide forested trail*

**Trailhead** Parking area at Phillips Farm group area. **Horseback Riding Trail** is an out-and-back lollipop loop through the forest and meadows in the northern portion of the park. After traversing mature woodlots of mixed oak and American beech, the trail emerges onto Brickyard Road near the nature center driveway. It turns right, goes around a gate, then heads north on gravel-covered Brickyard Road. Following the road across a stone culvert and Steele Run ravine, Horse Trail turns left before reaching a second gate and Church Pond. The grassy two-track continues for 1,000 feet until the trail splits left (clockwise) or right (counterclockwise) to begin its loop. Horse Trail joins with Blue Dot Trail for a short distance before returning to complete the loop.

### **Red Dot Trail**

*Red circle on white • 1.6 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Connects nature center and visitor center*

**Trailhead** Continental Lane Trail immediately north of visitor center. **Red Dot Trail** heads west with Continental Lane Trail before turning north and descending the gentle slope to Steele Run. The trail crosses Steele Run on a wooden footbridge and meets with Yellow Dot Trail. Red Dot Trail turns east and follows the creek before turning north again and ascending out of the creek basin. Continuing north, Red Dot Trail crosses Blue Dot Trail in a thick stand of cedar trees. At the corner of a housing development, Red Dot Trail turns east, continues through upland forest then ends at the road leading to the nature center driveway.

### **Red Trail**

*Red • 0.75 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Loop trail near nature center*

**Trailhead** Nature center. **Red Trail** is a loop trail around the woods north and west of the nature center. Shortly after leaving the nature center, the trail travels along the edge of the creek bottom and provides access to White, Green, and Blue Trails.

### **Self-guided Trail**

*Orange • 0.4 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Short interpretive loop trail*

**Trailhead** Nature center. **Self-guided Trail** starts on a two-track road west of the nature center. From the nature center driveway, the trail follows a series of numbered interpretive markers. After 1,000 feet, the trail turns north, merges with Red Trail and returns to the nature center. A companion brochure for this trail is available upon request at the nature center.

### **White Trail**

*White • 0.2 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Short creek-side trail*

**Trailhead** Red Trail. **White Trail** departs Red Trail and immediately crosses a small wooden bridge to the north side of Steele Run's north branch creek. The trail then turns left and follows the creek downstream until joining with Green Trail and crossing the creek again to rejoin with Red Trail. White Trail provides access to the park's wildlife blind, which is located along the short spur trail to the north.

### **Yellow Dot Trail**

*Yellow circle on white • 1 mile • Hiking*

*Easy • Trail along Steele Run*

**Trailhead** Continental Lane Trail. **Yellow Dot Trail** crosses Greene Drive and travels through mixed hardwood forest along Steele Run. After passing the Open Air Theater, Yellow Dot Trail crosses Green Dot Trail and the stream. Winding its way through thick creek-side vegetation, the trail ascends a short rise out of the creek. Once on flat terrain, Red Dot Trail joins from the north and shares the path for 1,000 feet. Yellow Dot Trail turns north and joins with Blue Dot Trail for a short distance before turning west again, crossing open forest and creek, then ending at Route 29 by the Titusville Firehouse.

## **TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY**

**Trail Markings:** Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. On the map, "connector trails" are tan-colored lines. For your safety and habitat protection, 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. Check the weather before you go, dress appropriately, and tell someone where you intend to go and when you expect to 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.

**Visitor Center/Museum Phone:** (609) 737-0623.

**Nature Center Phone:** (609) 737-0609

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

## **Washington Crossing State Park**

355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road

Titusville, NJ 08560  
(609) 737-0617