

# TRAILS

## Wharton State Forest



### TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

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

**Be Prepared:** Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

**Riders:** Follow the International Mountain Bike Association "Rules of the Trail" guidelines for trail etiquette and yield appropriately. Helmets are required by law for children under 17 and recommended for all riders.

**Hunting:** Sections of the forest are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

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

**Keep It Clean and Green:** Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

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

**Forest Office Phone:** 609-561-0024 or 609-268-0444

**Bear Aware:** Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the forest office. Visit New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife at [njfishandwildlife.com/bears](http://njfishandwildlife.com/bears) for additional information on bear safety.

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

**WHARTON STATE FOREST**  
31 Batsto Road  
Hammononton, NJ 08037  
609-561-0024

**ATSION RECREATION AREA**  
Route 206, Shamong, NJ 08088  
609-268-0444

NJPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTATEPARKS

@NEWJERSEYSTATEPARKS

### Atsion Family Camp Trail

*Orange • 2.2 miles • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Natural sand soil trail*

**Trailhead:** Atsion Family Campground bathhouse

parking lot. **Atsion Family Camp Trail** meanders along the north shore of Atsion Lake, offering rewarding views of the lake, Atlantic white cedar swamps, and Pine Barrens pine-oak forest.



### Batona Trail

*Pink • 28.2 miles (in Wharton) • Hiking only*  
*Moderate • Long distance hiking trail*

**Trailheads (in Wharton):** Apple Pie Hill in the north, or Evans Bridge in the south. **Batona Trail** is a 53-mile-long trail through the heart of the Pinelands. Short for Back To Nature, Batona Trail traverses sections of Bass River State Forest, Wharton State Forest and Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. There are 28 miles of Batona Trail within Wharton Forest. There are 28 miles of Batona Trail within Wharton Forest. There are 28 miles of Batona Trail within Wharton Forest.

### Mullica River Trail

*Yellow • 9.4 miles • Hiking only*  
*Moderate • Natural sandy trail along river*

**Trailhead:** North side of Route 542 west of Batsto Village or Atsion Forest Office. **Mullica River Trail** leads to Mullica River Wilderness Camp from either Atsion or Batsto Village. **Batsto Red Trail** offers an introduction to several habitats typical of the New Jersey Pinelands.

**Trailhead:** Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Red Trail** offers an introduction to several habitats typical of the New Jersey Pinelands.

An upland, featuring pine and oak with a just growth of huckleberry, slopes down into a hardwood swamp with red maple, sour gum, sweet bay magnolia and highbush blueberry. In between, a lowland pine forest contains abundant pitch pine and shortleaf pine.

### Batsto Blue Trail

*Blue • 1.8 mile loop • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Natural sandy soil*

**Trailhead:** Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Blue Trail** begins with Batsto Red Trail and travels through typical pine barrens forests. This section of the trail follows a north-south oriented ridge and reaches an elevation of 70 feet above sea level. The south end of the ridge terminates at Batsto Village. The western portion of the trail is home to early spring wildflowers including trailing arbutus, and pyxie as well as some scenic views of Batsto Lake from an elevated vantage about 10 feet above the lake.

### Batsto Red Trail

*Red • 0.8 mile loop • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Accessible • Smooth graded gravel*

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### Sandy Ridge - Tulpehocken Trail

*Moderate • Sandy surfaces and gravel roads*  
*Blue • 18.2 miles • Hiking only*

**Trailhead:** Intersection of Goodwater Road and Batona Trail or summit of Apple Pie Hill. **Sandy Ridge - Tulpehocken Trail** follows quiet sand roads and offers picturesque views of waterways like the Penn Swamp, Shane, Tulpehocken, Ore Spring and Feathered Branches. The trail also passes by Hawkins Bridge Campground and the ghost town of Fritchship. This pathway is a great alternative to the Batona Trail between Batsto and Apple Pie Hill.

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### Batsto White Trail

*Moderate • Natural sandy soil*  
*White • 4 mile loop • Hiking only*

**Trailhead:** Northeast corner of the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto White Trail** continues farther north along the route of the Batona Trail through upland pine-oak forests then heads west, dropping in elevation to the Batsto River just north of Batsto Lake. Turning south, the trail skirts an Atlantic white cedar swamp. Pine barrens treefrogs can be heard in this area, and signs of beaver activity can also be found here. A view of the uppermost portion of the lake can be seen from the trail.

### Atlantic White Cedar Trail

*White • 1.7 mile loop • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Natural sandy soil*

**Trailhead:** Parking is available at the junction of Route 532 and Patty Bowker Rd. in Tabernacle. Starting from the parking area. **Atlantic White Cedar Trail** creates a loop through a beautiful Atlantic white cedar swamp and up through a pitch pine and oak forest. The far end of the loop runs parallel with a section of the 3.9 mile Whispering Pines Trail and winds back through the forest to the parking area.



### Whispering Pines Trail

*Blue • 3.9 mile loop • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Natural sandy soil, roads*

**Trailhead:** Parking is available at the junction of Route 532 and Patty Bowker Rd. in Tabernacle. **Whispering Pines Trail** can be reached via Atlantic White Cedar Trail or by walking along Irick's Causeway Rd. from the parking area. Whispering Pines trail passes through serene Atlantic White Cedar swamps and abandoned cranberry bogs nestled among the pines.

### Penn Branch Trail

*Orange • 19.3 mile loop • Mountain biking only*  
*Moderate • Natural soil, single-track*

**Trailhead:** Northwest corner of the parking area at Batsto Village. **Penn Branch Trail** is a moderately difficult trail stretching more than 19 miles, making it the longest mountain bike trail in Wharton State Forest. The forest's mountain bike trails provide an opportunity for easy-paced adventure in the New Jersey Pinelands region. Average riders should allow about 3 to 5 hours for this often tightly winding, single-track trail. The sand and gravel based cross-country trails can prove challenging for all levels of experience, and wearing a bicycle helmet is strongly recommended. Many miles of the trail typically pack down quite firmly with only short lengths becoming loose particularly during a drought. Bring plenty of water for this ride on warm days. Riders experience New Jersey Pinelands upland forests punctuated on the west side by a brief view of Penn Branch Creek. The creek flows through a regionally significant Atlantic white cedar swamp and along the eastern side of the route is the historic town known as Mount. No buildings remain.

### Teaberry Trail

*Red • 0.8 miles • Mountain biking only*  
*Easy • Natural soil, single-track*

**Trailhead:** Oak Hill or Huckleberry Trail. **Teaberry Trail** connects with Oak Hill Trail and Huckleberry Trail just north of Batsto Fire Trail to create another extension option. Running generally northeast to southwest in orientation, Teaberry Trail offers a variety of optional routes for riders to take between the other mountain bike trails that leave Batsto Village. The trail traverses upland forest with gentle grades.



### Sand and Water Trail

*Easy • Natural sandy soil, wooden foot bridges*  
*Orange • 0.87 miles • Hiking only*

**Trailhead:** East side of Batsto Rd. east of Batsto Village. Enter from the paved parking area at Batsto Village. **Sand and Water Trail** winds along a sandy forest road and into a dense Atlantic white cedar swamp. Following a series of wooden foot bridges, the trail connects bikers to 1808 Trail and the Batona Trail allowing for a variety of biking options. Hikers may complete this trail as an "out and back," or incorporate it with the Batona Trail north for a short loop back to Batsto.

### Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail

*Purple • 1.8 miles • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Access trail to Wilderness Camp*

**Trailhead:** Mullica River Trail or Quaker Bridge on Batona River Trail to Batona Trail through pine-oak woodlands. The trail provides access to Lower Forge Wilderness Camp along the Mullica River in Wharton State Forest.

### Wilderness Camps Connector Trail

*Light green • 0.75 miles • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Short trail*

**Trailhead:** Mullica River Trail or Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail. **Wilderness Camps Connector Trail** creates a route between the Mullica River and Lower Forge Campsites. It passes through wooded pine-oak uplands linking Mullica River Trail to Batona Trail.

### Buttonwood Camp Connector

*Light blue • 1.2 miles • Hiking only*  
*Easy • Sandy forest road*

**Trailhead:** Buttonwood Campground. **Buttonwood Camp Connector** is a spur trail of the Batona Trail that leads from the trail to Buttonwood Campground. Across the highway (Route 542) from Buttonwood Camp is Crowley's Landing picnic area on the Mullica River.

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### Huckleberry Trail

*Light blue • 5 miles • Mountain biking only*  
*Easy • Natural soil, single-track*

**Trailhead:** Batsto Fire Trail. **Huckleberry Trail** is a loop trail that begins and ends from Batsto Fire Trail. On the eastern side, look for the blue blazes shortly after Batsto Fire Trail turns left. On the western side, look directly across the intersection with the unpaved fire road for the blue circle blazes. Both western and eastern ends of Huckleberry Trail share a little less than a mile of Penn Branch Trail. The trail then courses along the sides of low ridges for about three and a half miles until it merges with Penn Branch Trail once more. Huckleberry Trail offers riders a series of low elevation changes that can provide a great physical workout. When combined with Batsto Fire Tower Trail, the trails form a 9.6-mile loop.

### Oak Hill Trail

*White • 2.5 miles • Mountain biking only*  
*Easy • Natural soil, single-track*

**Trailhead:** Batsto Fire or Huckleberry Trail. **Oak Hill Trail** interconnects with Batsto Fire Trail, Teaberry Trail and Huckleberry Trail. Running generally north to south in orientation, Oak Hill Trail offers a variety of optional routes for riders to take between the other mountain bike trails that leave Batsto Village. The trail traverses upland forest with gentle grades.



*The following trails are designated for mountain biking in Wharton State Forest:*

### Batsto Fire Trail

*Green • 6.2 mile loop • Mountain biking only*  
*Easy • Natural soil single-track and unpaved road*

**Trailhead:** Northwest corner of the parking area at Batsto Village. **Batsto Fire Trail** is an easy loop that consists of winding single-track and fire roads. This trail serves as an introduction for beginners new to the Wharton State Forest mountain bike trail system. The sand, gravel and clay-based trail follows unpaved fire roads for a little over one and half miles can accumulate some rainwater runoff, which can be easily avoided. The winding narrow single-track that makes up most of the trail can provide a learning experience for riders used to wide multi-use style trails. This trail guides the rider through dry upland pine and oak woodlands with a brief diversion of highbush blueberry located about halfway along the eastern side while crossing a freshwater wetland swamp.

The fire-prone uplands of the region consist mostly of pine-oak and oak-pine forests often with a dense shrub layer. About one quarter of the New Jersey Pinelands is composed of wetlands. Atlantic white cedar and red maple swamps, wetland savannas and bogs occur along slow-moving, tannin-stained rivers and creeks. Wetlands provide habitat for the majority of the rare and endangered plants and animals of the pine barrens ecosystem.

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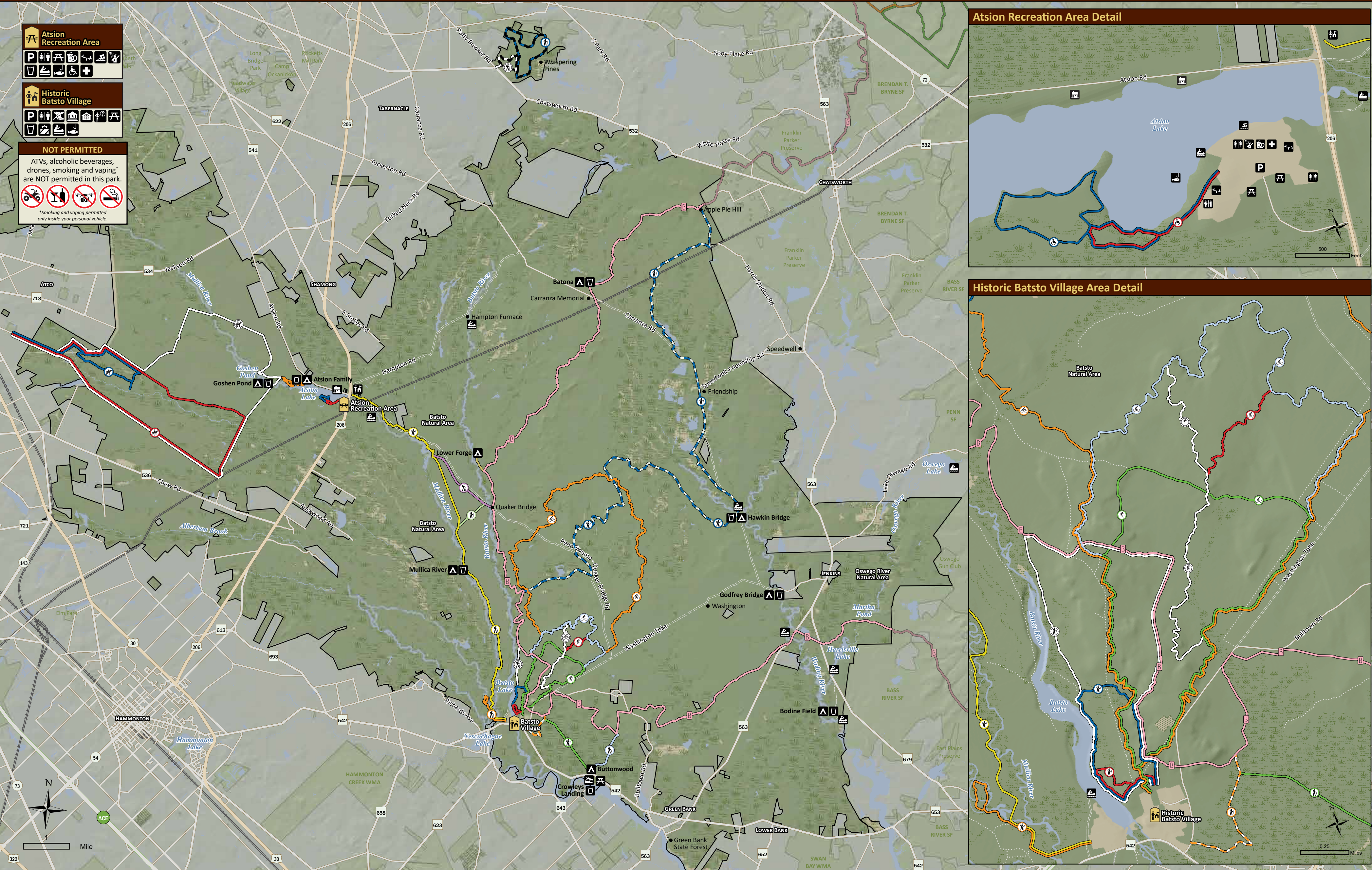
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# WHARTON State Forest



**Atsion Recreation Area**

**Historic Batsto Village**

**NOT PERMITTED**

ATVs, alcoholic beverages, drones, smoking and vaping\* are NOT permitted in this park.

\*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

- |  |  |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open Field or Grass</li><li>Forest</li><li>Water</li><li>Wetland</li><li>Improved Road</li><li>Unimproved Road</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atsion Lake Red Trail (0.5 mi)</li><li>Atsion Lake Blue Trail (1 mi)</li><li>Atsion Family Camp Trail (2.2 mi)</li><li>Batona Trail (28.2 mi)</li><li>Mullica River Trail (9.4 mi)</li><li>Sandy Ridge - Tulpehocken Trail (18.2 mi)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Batsto Red Trail (0.8 mi)</li><li>Batsto Blue Trail (1.8 mi)</li><li>Batsto White Trail (4 mi)</li><li>Tom's Pond Trail (1.7 mi)</li><li>Sand and Water Trail (0.87 mi)</li><li>1808 Trail (1.6 mi)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beaver Pond-Quaker Bridge Trail (1.8 mi)</li><li>Wilderness Camps Connector (0.75 mi)</li><li>Buttonwood Camp Connector (1.2 mi)</li><li>Batsto Fire Trail (6.2 mi)</li><li>Huckleberry Trail (5 mi)</li><li>Oak Hill Trail (2.5 mi)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Penn Branch Trail (19.3 mi)</li><li>Teaberry Trail (0.8 mi)</li><li>Atlantic White Cedar Trail (1.7 mi)</li><li>Whispering Pines Trail (3.9 mi)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Burnt Mill Trail (12 mi)</li><li>Goshen Pond Trail (15.5 mi)</li><li>Sleeper Creek Trail (5.4 mi)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Accessible Facility</li><li>Boat Launch</li><li>Cabins</li><li>Campground</li><li>Canoeing</li><li>Concession</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drinking Water</li><li>First Aid</li><li>Fishing</li><li>Forest Office</li><li>Historic Site</li><li>Interpretive Center</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Museum</li><li>Parking Lot</li><li>Picnic Area</li><li>Playground</li><li>Restrooms</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shop</li><li>Shower</li><li>Swimming</li><li>Tours</li></ul> |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|