

## SUPPORT OPEN SPACE IN PRINCETON

Please consider joining Friends of Princeton Open Space. Your tax deductible gift will be used for trail maintenance, forestry work, local advocacy and open space purchases.

Friend \$25    Family \$40    Patron \$100    \$250 Muir Circle    \$500 Thoreau Circle

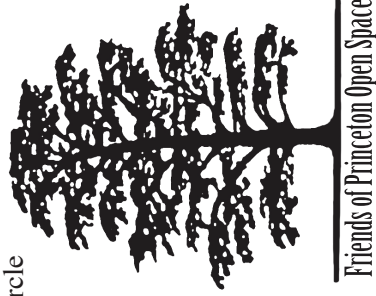
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to FOPOS and mail it to:

Friends of Princeton Open Space, P.O. Box 374, Princeton, NJ, 08542

Visit us at: [www.FOPOS.org](http://www.FOPOS.org)    I would like to volunteer



The Mountain Lakes Open Space Area features old growth forests, wooded boulder fields, rich wetlands, open fields, lakes and rocky streams. Part of the extensive landholdings of William Penn in the 17th century, portions of it were later owned by the family of Richard Stockton and by John Witherspoon, two signers of the Declaration of Independence. In the 19th century, and until the advent of mechanical refrigeration, a group of man-made lakes were the center of an ice farming operation.

The terrain is dotted with diabase boulders, created by a volcanic intrusion that also formed the Princeton Ridge and Sourland Mountains. The flatter rocks are red shale, which underlies all of the Hopewell Valley. The forests include diverse trees and understory plants, including maples, oaks, hickories, elms and black walnut, as well as wild raspberries, spicebush, witch hazel and poison ivy.

Each spring, the area comes alive with a chorus of spring peepers and the blooms of flowering dogwood, yellow trout lily and spring beauty, as well as skunk cabbage and Jack-in-the-pulpit. Through the seasons, many more plants and wildlife appear. Look for wild mints, milkweeds, cardinal flower and goldenrods; as well as great blue herons, kingfishers, six species of woodpeckers, bluebirds and basking Eastern painted turtles. The Mountain Lakes Open Space Area offers extensive beauty, hiking trails and places for quiet contemplation.

Friends of Princeton Open Space  
57 Mountain Avenue  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
[www.FOPOS.org](http://www.FOPOS.org)

## Friends of Princeton Open Space

Founded in 1969 to preserve open space and natural areas in the face of rapid development, Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) is a non-profit organization that has helped to establish over 1,000 acres of parkland and a network of interconnecting trails in the Princeton area. Through the contributions of hundreds of people in the community, as well as grants from government and private foundations, FOPOS has contributed nearly \$5 million in grants and private contributions for the purchase of land and the acquisition of conservation easements on properties that might otherwise have been developed. The properties shown in the accompanying map, as well as the lands of the Institute for Advanced Study, Turning Basin Park, Greenway Meadows Park, portions of Woodfield Reservation, and the Ricciardi and All Saints tracts are among the properties in Princeton preserved with the assistance of FOPOS.

FOPOS is also a leader in land stewardship, from creating and maintaining hiking trails (including boardwalks and footbridges), to removal of invasive species and replanting of native varieties. Under the leadership of its natural resources managers, FOPOS sponsors nature walks and workshops on native plants that are free and open to the public. It also works with schools and other local organizations to support environmental education and local clean-up projects.\*



\* The Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, Mountain Lakes North and John Witherspoon Woods are maintained largely by FOPOS. Pettoranello Gardens is maintained by the Princeton/Pettoranello Foundation.

Welcome to the

## MOUNTAIN LAKES OPEN SPACE AREA

The Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve

Mountain Lakes North

John Witherspoon Woods

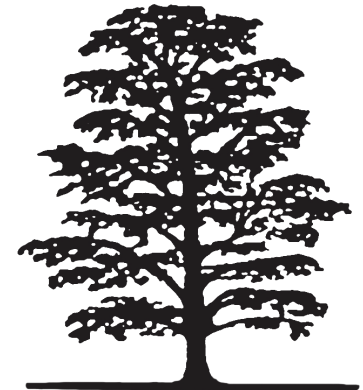
Community Park North and Pettoranello Gardens

Tusculum Estate Public Lands

The J. Seward Johnson, Sr. Trail and Boardwalk

Farmview Fields Park

Nine miles of hiking trails in 400 acres of protected open space and farmland.



Friends of Princeton Open Space

# Trail Guide

**Stuart-Coventry View Trail - 0.9 mile**

Begins at the west end of the main parking lot and runs NW along the Coventry Farm boundary. Offers a view of Coventry Farm and lakes.

**Stuart-Witherspoon Trail - 1.1 mile**

Begins at the small parking lot on Cherry Hill Road and runs SW to the Great Road, passing Devil's Cave.

**Pettoranello-Brookside Trail - 1.5 mile**

Begins at the east end of the main parking lot. Traverses woods, fields and many stream crossings.

**John Witherspoon Woods Trail - 0.7 mile**

Begins at the trailhead kiosk halfway down the driveway to Mountain Lakes House. The trail climbs through hardwood forest with scattered boulders.

**Boardwalk-Tusculum Trail - 1.0 mile**

A raised boardwalk and paths connect Great Road to Cherry Hill Road. The trail can be accessed from the trailhead kiosk.

**James Sayen Trail - 1.2 mile**

Wooded trail encircling the lakes. Accessible from the Stuart-Coventry View Trail, the Boardwalk-Tusculum Trail and from Mountain Lakes House.

**Community Park North Trail - 0.3 mile**

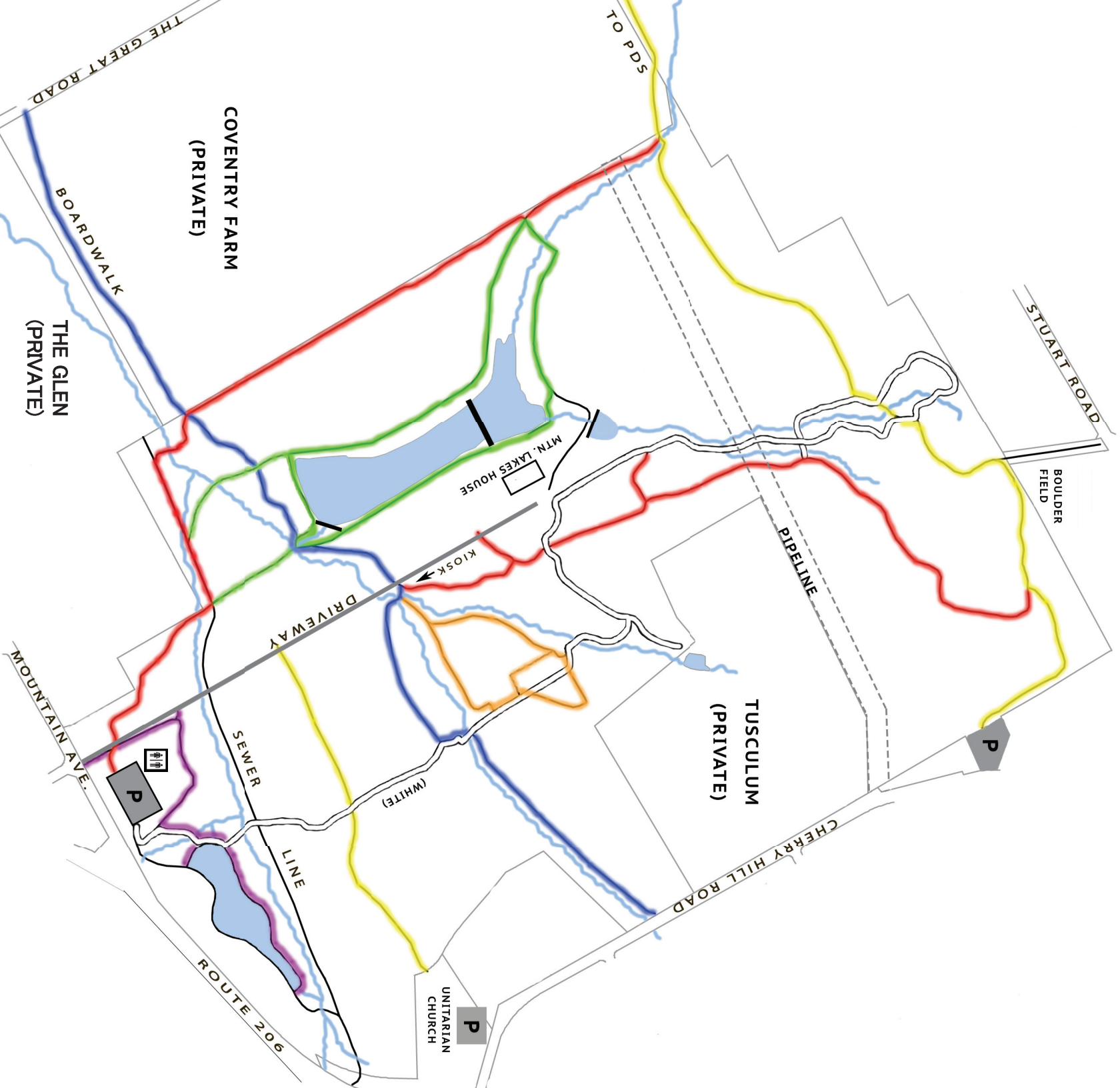
Short trail through pine woods, accessible from the Unitarian Church parking lot and main driveway.

**West Field Loop - 0.5 mile**

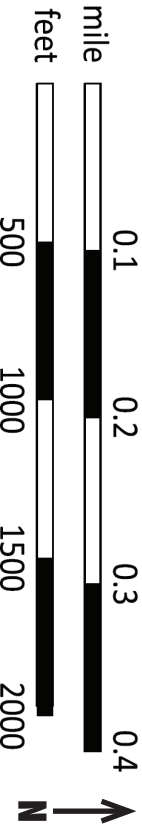
Views of open fields surrounding Tusculum. Can be accessed from the trailhead kiosk.

**Nature Trails - 0.5 mile**

Trails go around the pond and the main parking lot.



## Mountain Lakes Open Space Area Trail Map



Prepared by: Friends of Princeton Open Space  
Sources: NJ01T, OGIS, NJDEP