

General Trail Guidelines:

- Use only open trails. Please respect trail signs and closures.
- Stay on trails. Off trail usage can cause environmental damage in the form of erosion and vegetation destruction.
- Remember mud is nature's way of saying "Keep off." Please refrain from using trails after a hard rain or recent thaw as such usage can cause serious damage, which may result in trail closure.
- If you encounter a trail maintenance problem (such as downed limb, flooded trail bed, or the like) take personal action if possible and alert the authorities where necessary.
- Leave no Trace. Do not break branches or otherwise show disrespect for our natural environment. Pack out every thing you pack in.

Interactions with other trail users:

- Users should stay to the right of the trail.
- Plan ahead. Anticipate other users. Alert other users to your presence by a friendly greeting.
- Use extra caution in limited sight areas, especially around curves. This means slow down and keep to the right in single file.
- Use extra caution and control your speeds on downhill trails. All users must stay alert to and be aware of other users and make way for other users to safely pass. Groups must be especially alert to other users and make way for other users to safely pass. Groups must be especially alert to other users and may not block any trails.

Animal Encounters:

- All dogs must be under strict control. You must pick up after your dogs. Trash bins are provided at the entrance to Wilcox Park.
- Don't startle animals. Give animals extra room and clearance.

Off-Road Bicycling:

- Bikers must abide by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) Rules of the Trail.
- Helmets and bells, or other noise devices in good working order mounted on the bicycle, are required for all bikers.
- Observe and obey designated foot traffic only areas. These areas have been particularly specified as such for good reason and those reasons should be respected.
- Bikers must yield to all other users both human and animal. Yielding means slowing down, being prepared to stop, establishing communication, walking as appropriate and allowing safe passage or safely passing.
- Ride in small groups-insure that your use of the trails will not spoil the outdoor experiences of others We are all the caretakers of our trails. Wilcox Park is a highly utilized small park with multi-sue as well as foot-traffic-only trails. All users must be sensitive to each other, the land, flora and fauna. Please use common sense while on the trails and show respect for our natural environment as well as courtesy, respect and tolerance for all other users.

Mountain Lakes Trails Map & Guide



2018
Provided by the
Mountain Lakes Woodlands Committee



About our Trails & Parklands - Did You Know?

Mountain Lakes is located at the southern edge of the great Wisconsin Glacier which scoured the land as it advanced from the north. The 2000 foot thick glacier retreated about 15,000 years ago, depositing large amounts of rocky sediment known as terminal moraine. The 12' x 25' Elephant Rock (100 yards along the trail from the end of Rock Lane) and 54 ton Mouse Cradle Balancing Rock (top of Tourné) are large erratic glacial boulders the melting ice left behind.

In 1910, Lewis Van Duyne, a local engineer, conceived a design to develop this large tract of land consisting of rolling hills, woods, swamps and boulders. He contacted developer and entrepreneur, Herbert J. Hapgood and his landscape engineer, Arthur T. Holton, to plan a community where families could enjoy nature, recreation, the simple pleasures of family life, and be within commuting distance to New York City by railroad.

The chain of 9 Mountain Lakes was created from swampland. Mountain and Wildwood Lakes were developed as part of Hapgood & Holton's master plan. Sunset, Crystal and Birchwood Lakes were developed earlier (between in 1893 -1905) by the Fox Lakes Ice Company and the surrounding land (Richard Wilcox Park) was subsequently purchased by the boro.

Halsey Fredrick Park and Richard Wilcox Park are named after the mayors whose administrations acquired substantial tracks of borough parkland.

Richard Wilcox Park (at Birchwood Lake) provides trails to access to the following areas of interest: the three upper lakes, the Rattlesnake Valley, the Elephant Rock, the Mouse Cradle Balancing Rock, the Spring House, the old rifle range, the Tower Hill sled run and the Tourne. See www.mtnlakes.org for more information.

The Odgen Trail (the main trail between Birchwood Lake and Tourne) was originally constructed in 1909 as a trolley path between Denville and Boonton. A few months later, Herbert J. Hapgood induced the trolley company to abandon the Odgen trail and route the trolley along the Boulevard. The electrically powered trolley opened in 1910 and ran between Denville & Boonton along the Boulevard until 1928, when it was displaced by the automobile.

Much of the land located north of Richard Wilcox Park and now preserved as Tourne County Park, was inherited and acquired by Clarence Addington DeCamp (1859-1948). He built the two roads to the top of the Tourne using hand tools and levers and encouraged the local citizens to enjoy the forests and fields with him.

On a clear day, hikers who climb to the top of the Tourne are rewarded with a panoramic view of the New York City skyline at 897 feet above sea level. The name Tourne is derived from the Dutch word meaning lookout or mountain.

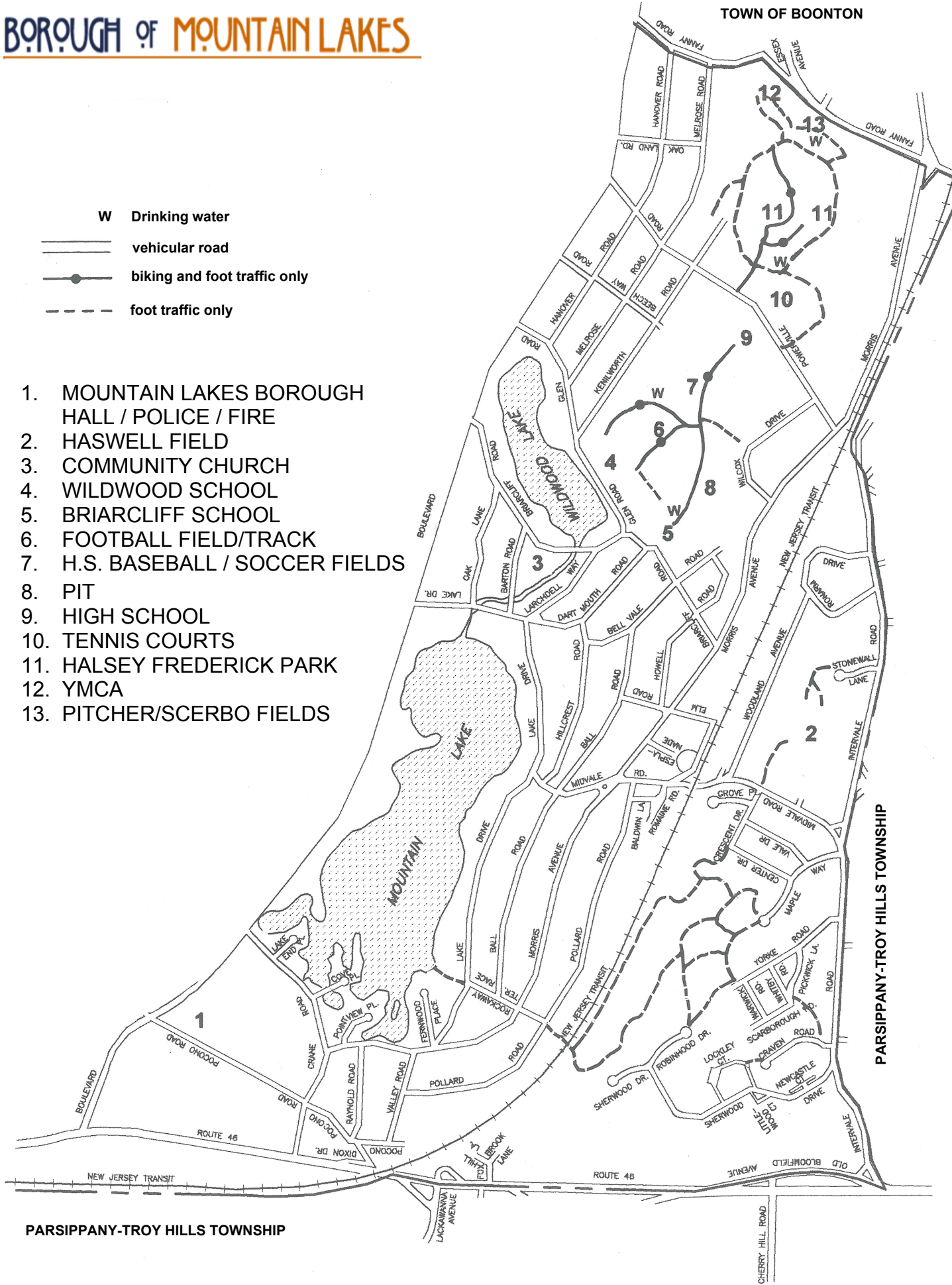
www.Mtnlakes.org provides information to help borough residents explore and enjoy the trails and parklands in and around Mountain Lakes.

- A map and historical walking tour of Mountain Lakes with 18 points of interest.
- A map and Eco tour of Halsey Fredrick Park (across from the High School.)
- A map of the Wildflower Trail in the Tourne (200+ wildflower varieties)
- Photos and descriptions of interesting things to see in the Tourne/Birchwood area:
- Information about trails in the surrounding areas.
- Please help to preserve our parklands for future generations. • Take only pictures. Leave only footprints.

BOROUGH of MOUNTAIN LAKES

- W Drinking water
- vehicular road
- biking and foot traffic only
- foot traffic only

1. MOUNTAIN LAKES BOROUGH HALL / POLICE / FIRE
2. HASWELL FIELD
3. COMMUNITY CHURCH
4. WILDWOOD SCHOOL
5. BRIARCLIFF SCHOOL
6. FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK
7. H.S. BASEBALL / SOCCER FIELDS
8. PIT
9. HIGH SCHOOL
10. TENNIS COURTS
11. HALSEY FREDERICK PARK
12. YMCA
13. PITCHER/SCERBO FIELDS



TRAIL BLAZE KEY

- Trail Begins
- Trail Continues
- Turn Right
- Turn Left
- Trail Ends

EMERGENCIES
Morris County Park Police (973) 326-7654

