

Morris Canal Greenway



The goal of the Morris Canal Greenway project is to promote public education and open space recreation by working with communities across New Jersey to create a statewide Morris Canal Greenway corridor. Its route will stretch for 102 miles across New Jersey from New York Harbor at Jersey City to Phillipsburg on the Delaware River, passing through six counties and 43 municipalities. To date 44 miles of the route of the canal has been made accessible to the public. The work is a partnership between the Canal Society of New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation and Planning Authority and dozens of communities and organizations. Among them is the Town of Boonton.

There are many places to visit along the Morris Canal Greenway. However, the Greenway is a work in progress and not all locations are as ready for visitors as others. Here in Boonton a kiosk has been installed this year at the trailhead in Grace Lord Park, to be followed by interpretive panels at each of the tour locations. The Arch Bridge will eventually be restored and spur trails added. In the meantime enjoy your walk through Boonton Gorge past the remains of the canal and ironworks. Come back often and watch as the story of Boonton's historic past comes back to life as a more complete story is told.

Morris Canal Greenway Locations in Other Counties

The route of the Morris Canal passes through six North Jersey counties on its 102 mile-long route from the Delaware River to New York harbor. Listed below are a few of the many other Greenway location that you can visit.

BERGEN COUNTY

- JERSEY CITY**
 – Hudson River Canal Basin
 – Berry Lane Park

ESSEX COUNTY

Five mile long Greenway trail with wayfinder signs, interpretive panels and Greenway trail app.

BLOOMFIELD

- Wrights Field Canal Park
 – Oak Tree Lane Canal Park

PASSAIC COUNTY

Eight miles of Greenway trail with wayfinder signs and interpretive panels stretching from Clifton to Little Falls.

CLIFTON

- Clifton Canal Park & Jack W. Kuepfer, Sr. Nature Preserve

LITTLE FALLS

- Little Falls Morris Canal Park

PATERSON

- Paterson Morris Canal Park

WAYNE

- Passaic County Pompton Aquatic Park

WOODLAND PARK

- Woodland Park Morris Canal Park

SUSSEX COUNTY

Waterloo Valley Greenway Trail with connections to hiking trail in Allamuchy Mountain State Park offers walkers a wide variety of adventures.

WATERLOO VILLAGE

- Restored canal town with intact streetscape and canal features. Canal Museum, walking tour and exhibit on Saturdays during the summer.

WARREN COUNTY

Over ten miles trails, six county Greenway parks as well as many other Greenway locations.

GREENWAY PARKS

BREAD LOCK PARK

- Site of Lock 7 West, Canal Museum and full size canal boat replica.

FLORANCE KUIPERS PARK

- Greenway walking trail.

LOCK STREET PARK

- Greenway walking trail.

MOUNT RASCAL PARK

- Greenway walking trail.

PORT MURRAY PRESERVE

- Site of Plane 6 West and Greenway walking trail.

PORT WARREN HERITAGE AREA

- Plane 9 West, one of the best preserved plan sites, Jim & Mary Lee Museum, restored section of canal prism and Greenway walking trail all centered around the tiny village of Port Warren.

OTHER GREENWAY LOCATIONS

JAMES CAMPBELL

- The home of African American canal boat captain James Campbell.

PORT COLDEN

- Village walking tour.

PORT DELAWARE ARCH

- Massive stone arch at the Delaware River entrance to the Morris Canal

PLANE 10 WEST

- Site of Plane 10 West

EXPLORE THE



For additional Greenway information

Canal Society of New Jersey
 PO Box 737, Morristown, NJ 07963

web site: www.canalsocietynj.org

e-mail: canals@canalsocietynj.org

Passaic County:

passaiccountynj.org/passaic_county_park_system/parks/morris_canal_greenway.php

Warren County:

warrenparks.com/morris-canal-greenway/

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CANAL SOCIETY of NEW JERSEY



THE MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY IN MORRIS COUNTY

Morris Canal Story 1831 – 1924

Chartered in 1824, the Morris Canal & Banking Company built a canal that would carry coal, mined in Pennsylvania, to developing markets along the Eastern Seaboard. The canal would also pass through the heart of New Jersey's iron district and provide the long-needed transportation system that would create new commercial activity and enable rustic settlements along its route to grow into thriving industrial towns.

When completed in 1831, the canal extended 102 miles across the rugged Highlands of New Jersey, from Phillipsburg on the Delaware River, uphill to its summit level at Lake Hopatcong, and then down to New York Harbor at Jersey City. To accomplish this, a system of 23 lift locks and 23 inclined planes was built to overcome the impressive elevation change of 1,674 feet. The canal's famous water-powered inclined planes were an engineering marvel that enabled canal boats to be raised or lowered up to 100 feet at a time. Several of these inclined sites can be visited today.

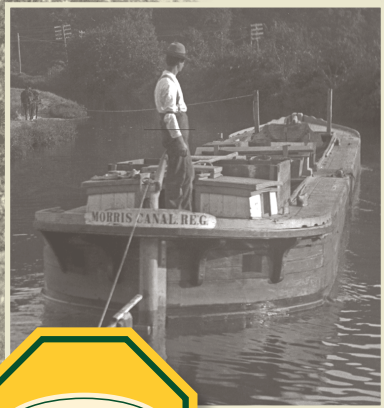
Mule-drawn canal boats, transporting up to 70 tons of cargo, took five days to cross the state. A tow line extending from the boat to the towpath allowed a mule team to pull a boat at a steady three miles per hour. In



This water-filled section of the Morris Canal extending from the bottom of Inclined Plane 1 West at Stanhope to Continental Drive in Mt. Olive Township is one of the most picturesque Greenway walking experiences.

the heyday of the canal, hundreds of boats carried everything from coal and iron ore to agricultural products. Like today's interstate highways, the canal promoted commerce by lowering transportation costs. An inexpensive and reliable supply of anthracite coal turned coastal towns into great industrial cities and shaped the future economic development of the northern part of New Jersey.

By the early 1900s, the canal had become obsolete. However, it took until 1924 to adopt a plan to close and dismantle the canal. As part of this plan, ownership of the canal's vast water resources, including Lake Hopatcong, Lake Musconetcong, and Greenwood Lake, passed to the State of New Jersey.



This historic view of Lock 2 East, taken in the early 1900s, shows the massive wing walls at the lower end of the lock. The bridge that crossed the end of the lock gave the lock tender a place to stand while he cranked the miter gates open and closed. Today, the lock has been restored to its original appearance. The lock tender's house on the left is now in ruins but will be restored as well.



Exploring the Morris Canal Greenway

The route of the Morris Canal stretches for 30 miles across the heart of Morris County with many Greenway sites for you to visit. In addition, the map below includes a few nearby locations in Sussex and Warren Counties that shouldn't be missed. Many Morris County towns like Boonton, Rockaway and Wharton are also linked to the story of the canal as well as mining districts and iron mine railroads that reached up into hilly areas where the canal couldn't go. Each of these locations has something interesting to offer.

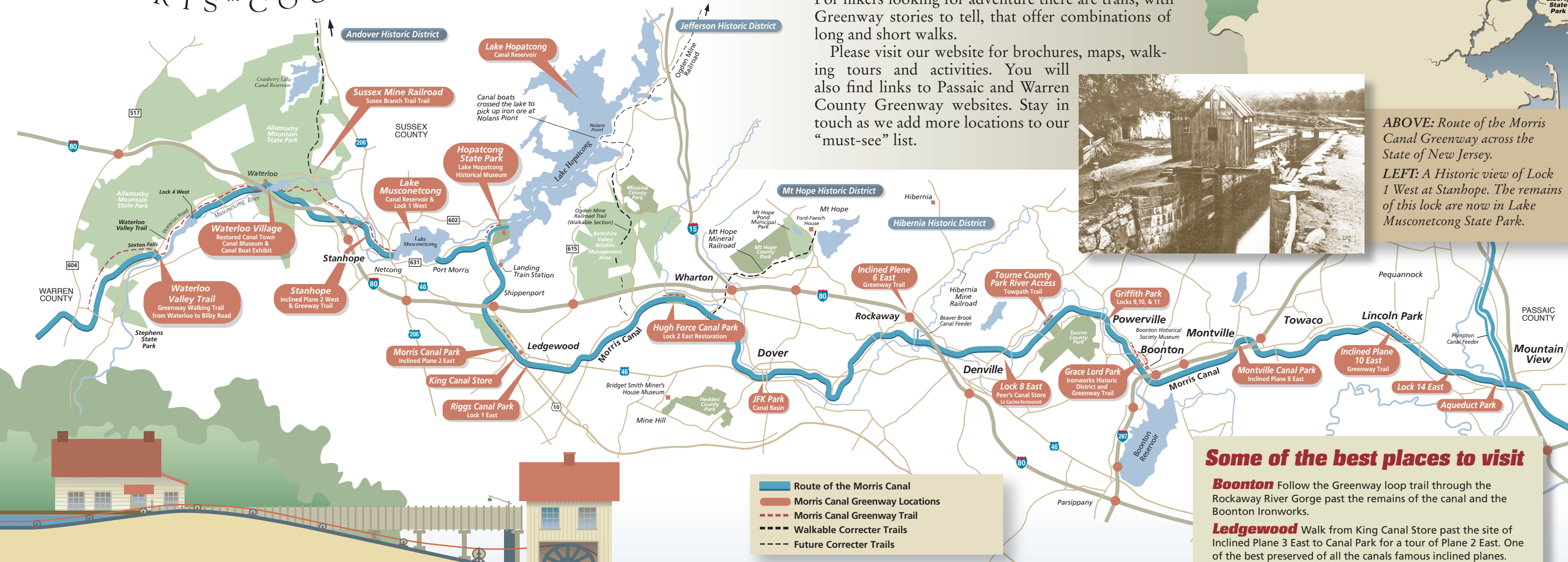
However, please remember that the greenway is a work in progress and many locations are not as ready for visitors as we would like them to be. In the meantime we have listed, in the box below, a few destinations we know you will enjoy. Boonton, Ledgewood and Wharton are drive-to destinations that are easy to find and have lots of great things to see. Waterloo Village, a restored canal town, can be a whole day activity with historic buildings, Canal Museum, Boat Exhibit and Canal Boat Rides provided by the Canal Society of New Jersey. For hikers looking for adventure there are trails, with Greenway stories to tell, that offer combinations of long and short walks.

Please visit our website for brochures, maps, walking tours and activities. You will also find links to Passaic and Warren County Greenway websites. Stay in touch as we add more locations to our "must-see" list.



ABOVE: Route of the Morris Canal Greenway across the State of New Jersey.

LEFT: A Historic view of Lock 1 West at Stanhope. The remains of this lock are now in Lake Musconetcong State Park.



Some of the best places to visit

Boonton Follow the Greenway loop trail through the Rockaway River Gorge past the remains of the canal and the Boonton Ironworks.

Ledgewood Walk from King Canal Store past the site of Inclined Plane 3 East to Canal Park for a tour of Plane 2 East. One of the best preserved of all the canal's famous inclined planes.

Wharton Walk the towpath along a water-filled section of canal to the site of Lock 2 East. The lock and lock tender's house are now being restored. Along the way interpretive panels will tell about life on the canal and canal engineering.

Waterloo Visit a restored canal town with a water-filled section of canal and the preserved homes and businesses of the Smith family. The grounds are open every day. On Saturdays during the summer, the Canal Society of New Jersey's Canal Museum, Canal Boat Exhibit and canal boat ride are open to the public. Check the CSNJ website for a schedule of events.

Inclined Planes

ABOVE: The Morris Canal's inclined planes were huge water powered machines that could raise and lower canal boats with 70 tons of cargo as much 100 feet at a time.

LEFT: Historic view of Rockaway Borough's Plane 6 East.



CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Website: canalsocietynj.org

For additional information, brochures, walking maps, a schedule of event and Greenway news visit us on line at:

canalsocietynj.org