

# MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY



## WATERLOO VALLEY TRAIL

The Waterloo Valley Trail follows the route of the historic Morris Canal for approximately five miles from Bilby Road in Hackettstown along the Musconetcong River to Waterloo Village, with many points of interest along the way. Much of the route passes through Allamuchy State Mountain Park, with several trail intersections that offer walkers an extensive range of hiking options.

Between Bilby Road and Saxton Falls, the trail follows an uninterrupted 1.6-mile route along the canal towpath with the remains of a lime kiln and a former canal store to be seen along the way. At Saxton Falls the Musconetcong River was dammed to form a slack-water navigation. At the dam, Guard Lock 5 West allowed canal boats to pass from the canal into the river. From here, the trail follows the river towpath for .85 miles to Guard Lock 4 West where the boats were brought from the river back into the canal. Although there are no visible remains of the lock, the wood-frame lock tender's house is still standing. For many years the old house was known as Elsie's Tavern.

The trail now continues for 1.05 miles first along Waterloo Road, then crosses to follow the old road alignment along the hillside before re-crossing the modern road at the site of a hamlet with a lime kiln, sawmill, and house foundations. The final 1.35 miles past through the site of the small industrial village called Starport, once owned by James Frenche, then under Interstate 80 and into historic Waterloo Village.

At Waterloo, the Musconetcong River was dammed to allow boats to cross between the village and the bottom of Inclined Plane 4 West. Visit the village today to see the lock, Smith's Canal Store and a beautiful water-filled section of canal.



**Lime Kiln, Sawmill & House Ruins**  
3.50 Miles

**Lock 4 West Trail Head**  
2.45 Miles

**Saxton Falls Trail Head**  
1.60 Miles

**Former Canal Store**

**Lock 5 West**

The timber railroad trestle seen below once carried Bilby Road across the DL&W Railroad tracks and the Morris Canal before being damaged by fire and replaced.



At Saxton Falls, the Musconetcong River was dammed to form a slack-water navigation now called Saxton Lake. Locks 4 & 5 West were guard locks that allowed boats to pass between the canal and the river. The historic picture below shows Lock 5 West and a mule barn on the left.

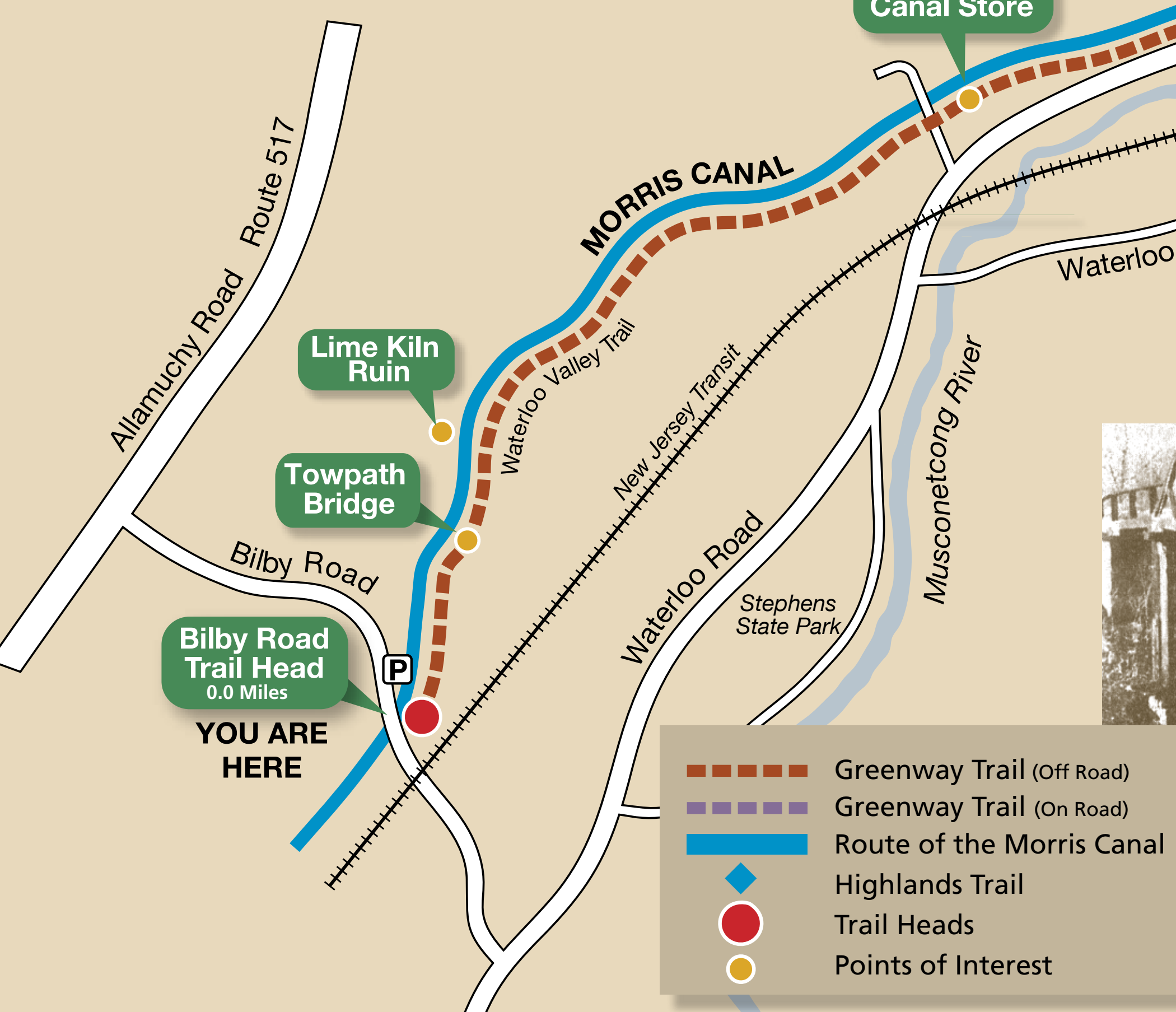


At Guinea Hollow, Guard Lock 4 West, seen below, allowed boats on the Musconetcong River slack-water navigation to lock back into the canal.



The Morris Canal is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and is part of the Morris Canal Greenway. For more information, please visit our websites at:

- [www.morriscanal.org](http://www.morriscanal.org)
- [www.warrenparks.com](http://www.warrenparks.com)
- [www.canalsocietynj.org](http://www.canalsocietynj.org)
- [warrenparksfoundation.com](http://warrenparksfoundation.com)



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