



Welcome!

The majority of trails at Merrill Creek Reservoir weave their way through the 290-acre Environmental Preserve that features a wide variety of habitats including woodlands, early successional fields, evergreen plantations and wetlands. The Preserve has been designed and managed specifically for low impact recreational uses. Hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, photography and wildlife observation are all encouraged.

For the more adventurous hiker, the 5.5 Perimeter Trail circles the reservoir and provides spectacular scenic views throughout the seasons.

A detailed land use/wildlife management plan has been prepared in order to balance various human activities with the needs of the native plants and animals.

Further information and a complete list of rules and regulations are available at the Visitor's Center, at www.merrillcreek.com or through our office at (908) 454-1213.

Hours:

Merrill Creek Reservoir is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week, year-round.

The Visitor's Center is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekends.



RULES:

In order to protect the natural beauty of Merrill Creek Reservoir and ensure that all visitors have a safe and enjoyable visit, the following rules have been established:

- Please stay on marked trails.
- Trails are open to foot travel only; horses, bicycles, and motor vehicles of any kind are prohibited.
- Pets must remain leashed at all times.
- All trash must be carried out.

PROHIBITED:

- Swimming, diving, or wading
- Shoreline fishing within the Environmental Preserve
- Photographing any building or dam structure
- Collecting, picking, or disturbing plants or wildlife
- Feeding of wildlife
- Fires of any kind
- Smoking
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances

- Sound producing devices, unless used with earphones
- Firearms, other weapons or fireworks
- Picnicking or camping
- Climbing on structures or trees

The **Merrill Creek Owners Group** reserves the right to deny access to the reservoir, the land, and the associated facilities at its discretion.

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ORCHARD TRAIL ★ ★ ★ (Green Markers)
0.4 miles.

From the Visitors Center, trail passes through an old apple orchard. Moderate grade with some rocky areas at the north end.

TIMBER TRAIL ☞ ☞ ☞ (Red Markers)
0.6 miles.

This short loop trail offers scenic views along the edge of the reservoir. Even-to-moderate grade.

CREEK TRAIL △ △ △ (Orange Markers)
1.0 mile.

This trail follows upper Merrill Creek through riparian habitat and then loops through stands of conifers. Some low, wet areas along the creek.

FARMSTEAD TRAIL ° ° ° (Yellow Markers)
1.6 miles.

This trail follows along an old farm road and then runs north through the Preserve. A short distance of the trail follows along upper Merrill Creek and returns up the hill. Even-to-moderate grade.

SHORELINE TRAIL ■ ■ ■ (Blue Markers)
2.0 miles.

Trail follows the reservoir shoreline throughout much of the Preserve and offers scenic views at several locations. Excellent trail for wildlife observation. Slight

grade with a few rocky areas along the north side of the Preserve.

PERIMETER TRAIL . . . (Black Markers)

5.5 miles

This trail provides access to the entire reservoir while offering many scenic views and passing through a variety of habitats. While most of the trail follows old woods areas and provides easy walking, hikers should note that there are a few rocky areas. Access to the Perimeter Trail is provided at the Visitors Center, Boat Ramp, Overlook Parking Lot, and Inlet/Outlet Tower.

Merrill Creek Reservoir

Trail Map



MERRILL CREEK RESERVOIR

34 Merrill Creek Road
Washington, NJ 07782
908-454-1213

www.merrillcreek.com

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE DURING OPERATION HOURS

609-865-9736