



Five
Walks
In
Readington

*Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board
June 2007
(interim revision March 2008)*

1. Lachenmayr Trail	3
2. Round Mountain Ramble.....	5
3. Dobozyński Farm Park to Raritan River	7
4. Bouman-Stickney Nature Trail	9
5. Vislocki Farm Walk.....	11



WARNING

Some Township and County properties are leased for hunting during the seasons from September through February. Sunday is one day that hunting is prohibited. When walking on Round Mountain during hunting season, it is advisable to wear blaze orange.

1. Lachenmayr Trail

This trail begins on Heath Road near Readington School, runs through Township open space behind the Heath Road Development, then along a Township-owned right of way along the edge of the Lachenmayr Farm, next behind the Swackhamer Rd development, then along the edge of Township-owned Holland Brook Preserve, terminating on Pine Bank Rd near the bridge across the Holland Brook.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to moderate; 1.3 miles in length (2.7 Miles Round trip).

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:

From the Municipal Building Take 523 South; at the light, turn left onto East Dreahook Rd. At the Readington Middle School, turn right on Roosevelt and left onto Heath Rd. The trail begins on the right (South) side, about 200 feet in from the beginning of Heath Rd, directly across from the driveway of the first home (#3 Heath Rd). Although there is no trail beginning marker, or markers on the trail, there is a noticeable break in the vegetation, and the pathway is obvious and easy to follow.

PARKING:

The preferred access to the trail is at the Northern trailhead as there is no parking area at the southern end on Pine Bank Rd. Park on Heath Rd., or if you prefer, at Readington School or the ballfields nearby on Roosevelt Rd and walk the short distance to the trailhead.

MAP: See page 5

WALK DESCRIPTION:

Heading South, the trail enters a short stretch of woods, passes behind a residence, back into the wooded area, and emerges into an overgrown field. About halfway thru the open area, you will see access back to the development on your left, but the trail turns right. Walk around the South (right) side of the large detention basin. At the end of the detention basin the trail veers off to the right, downhill and into a wooded area, crosses a small stream, a tributary of the Holland Brook, and up a fairly steep grade.

Next, the trail emerges into a large open field, part of the William Lachenmayr preserved farm. Turn right, stay on the edge of the field and walk South with the field on your left, along the edge of the woods. You are on a town-owned right-of way.

After a short while the woods on your right side give way to the open fields of the Kappas and Wallendjack preserved farms. Reenter the woods at the end of the field and continue walking south with the hedgerow on your right.

After passing along the rear of two residences on your left, the trail crosses a pair of deep gullies, stark examples of the damage that erosion can cause. Ironically they were caused by agricultural “drainage improvements” to the neighboring farm field.

The trail next passes through mature woods, and then emerges into a large open field, part of Readington’s Holland Brook Preserve. Called the “Round Field” because farmers used to plow in a circular pattern around the high point in the center of the field, it has yielded many stone arrowheads and spear points to farmers plowing, indicating the Round Field may have been a favorite spot for Native American encampments.

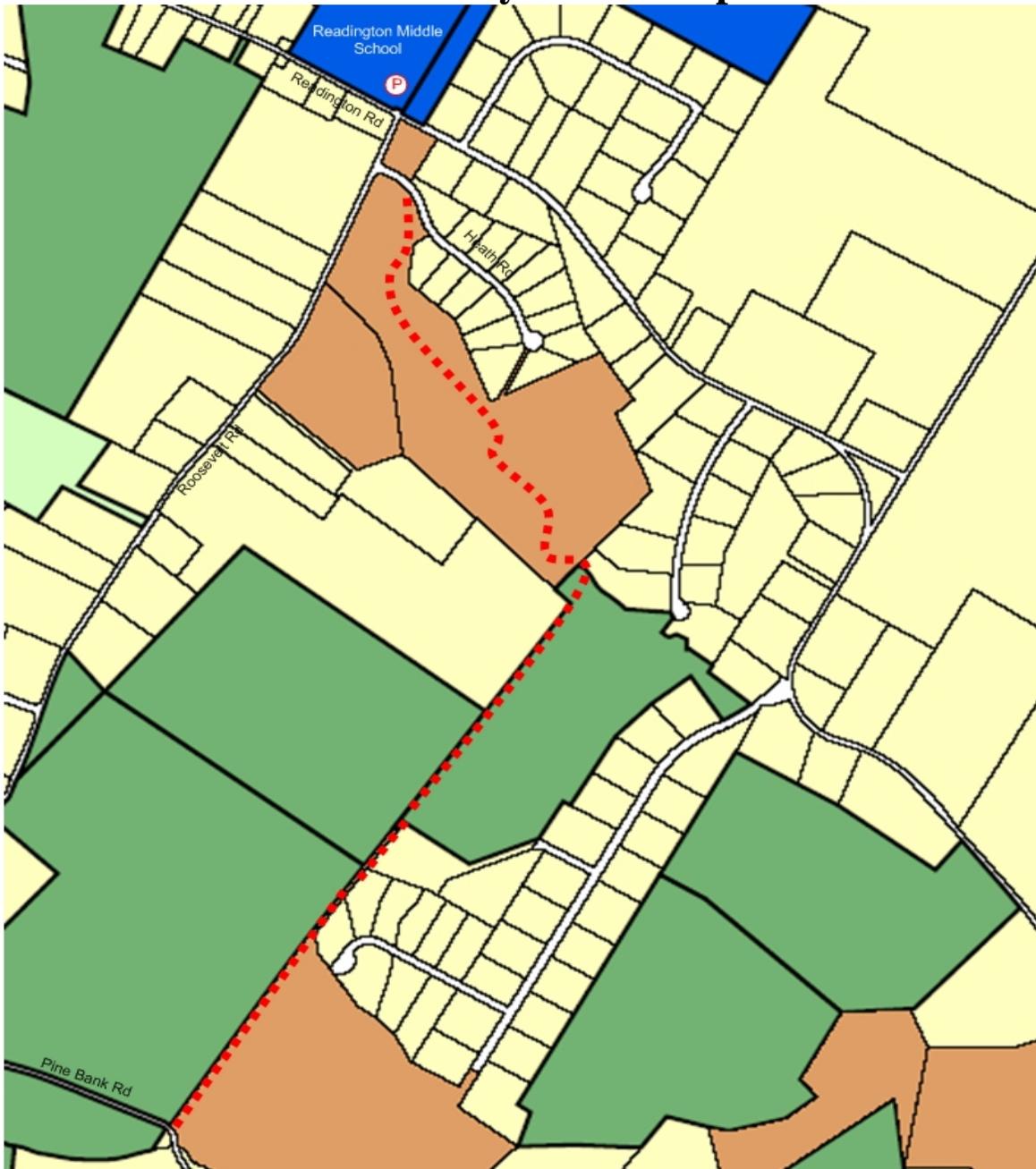
Although you are free to wander across the field, the trail continues South along the Hedgerow separating the Round Field from the Wallandjack farm. The trail then enters another area of mature woods, shortly emerging on Pine Bank Rd at the little bridge over the Holland Brook.

To return to your vehicle, you may retrace your steps or, alternatively, walk west along Pine Bank Rd approximately 1/4 mi to the next intersection, turn right on Roosevelt Rd and walk North 1.2 mi to the intersection of Heath Rd.

LINKS TO OTHER TRAILS:

Opposite the intersection of Roosevelt and Pine Bank Roads is a brown “Public Lands” sign where a trail leads into open space between the Smith Rd and Morningstar Rd developments.

Lachenmayr Trail Map



2. Round Mountain Ramble

The Round Mountain walk begins near the intersection of Stanton Rd. and Woodschurch Road and heads up Round Mountain

DIFFICULTY: Moderate. Approximately one mile in each direction. This trail varies from gently sloping to steep and rocky in spots.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD:

Take 523 to 620/Pleasant Run/Stanton Rd. Turn Right on 620 towards the village of Stanton. The trailhead is on the left, 400 feet past the intersection of Woodschurch Rd.

PARKING:

Park in the small gravel parking area in the field directly opposite the intersection of Woodschurch Rd and Stanton Rd. The entrance to the gravel parking area is marked with fencing and a land preservation sign. After parking, walk along the road about 400 feet towards the village of Stanton and cross the road to reach the trailhead.

MAP: See page 6.

WALK DESCRIPTION:

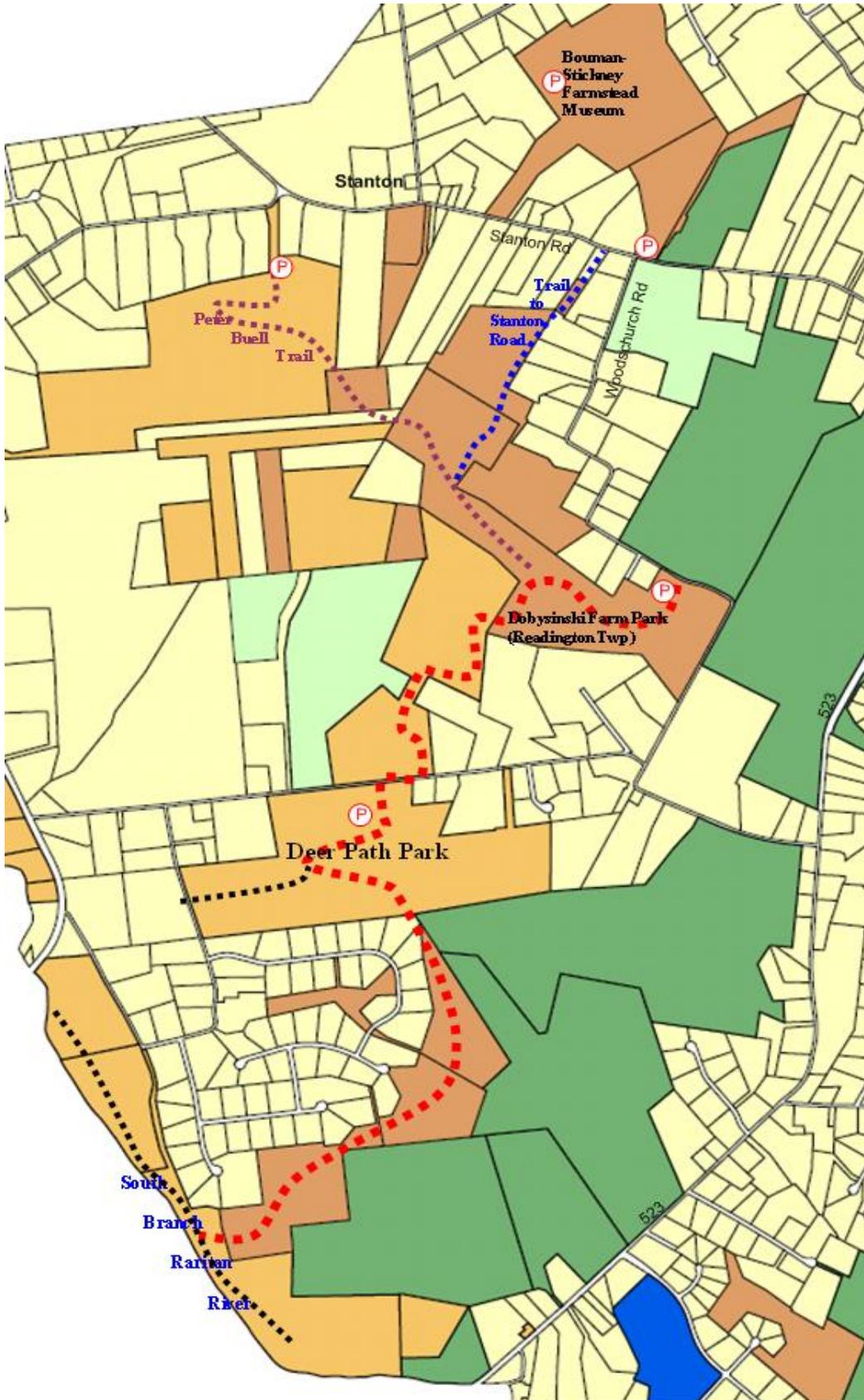
The walk begins as an old woods road about 400 feet west of the intersection of Stanton Rd. and Woodschurch Rd. There is a yellow Hunterdon County Parks sign nailed to a tree at the beginning of path. Follow this path up Round Mountain into the forest. When you come to the point where the path splits take the left fork heading in an easterly direction on a slightly downhill descent. (The right fork is a trail going to the west and up the mountain and leads to the Peter Buell Trail.) Shortly you will come to an open field. This field is also Township open space. Turn left (east) and go downhill along the side of the field. At the end of the fields (There is an opening to Woodschurch Road to the left), turn right and follow the tree line through the hedgerow to the next field. Turn left and follow the farm road to the bottom of the hill. Cross the footbridge over the creek and onto the Dobozyński farm. The former Dobozyński farmland was purchased by the town with State Green Acres funding. You may walk around the farmstead property. Feel free to examine the buildings and the pond at the bottom of the meadow. This old farmstead is located on Woodschurch Rd. behind the Readington River Buffalo Farm. If you wish, you can follow Woodschurch Rd. back to the intersection of Woodschurch and Stanton Road to return to your car.

LINKS TO OTHER TRAILS:

Peter Buell Trail: A Hunterdon County Parks trail which runs over the top of Round Mountain. On the Peter Buell trail you could go north to the county trailhead and parking area at Foothill Road, or South to Deer Path Park.

Dobozyński Farm Park to Raritan River Trail.

Map for Round Mountain Ramble and Dobozynski Farm Park to Raritan River Trail



3. Dobozyński Farm Park to Raritan River

This trail begins at the kiosk at the Township owned red barns on Woodschurch Rd, property that was acquired under the New Jersey Green Acres program. It consists of the red barn, outbuildings, and open fields that run up to the forest on Round Mountain. The route traverses fields and woods on Round Mountain before entering County parkland. Then it utilizes County trails to descend to Deer Path Park. Finally it again travels through Township open space behind the Rowlands Road development, terminating near the Raritan River in the County's Raritan River preserve.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

Involves hills and the crossing of some wet areas. Distance: approximately 3 miles in one direction.

DIRECTIONS:

Take Rt 523 to West Woodschurch Rd. Take West Woodschurch approximately ¼ mile to the sharp right turn, then continue straight on the unpaved Woodschurch Rd. until you arrive at the grouping of red farm buildings with the Green Acres sign in the driveway.

Alternate route: From Stanton Road, turn onto Woodschurch and go ½ mile to the red farm buildings.

PARKING :

Park in the gravel lot marked with the split rail fencing. If you plan to hike the entire route but wish to avoid the full round trip, you may want to park a second vehicle at Deer Path Park or on Deerpath Rd. at the trailhead for the Raritan River Preserve.

MAP: See page 6.

WALK DESCRIPTION:

From the kiosk, walk down the right side of the meadow, then across the footbridge over the stream and into the fields on the side of Round Mountain. Follow the trail along the sides of the fields up Round Mountain into the forested area. There the trail will link up with Hunterdon County's Peter Buell Trail. Turn left (south) on the Buell Trail and follow the orange trail markers until you reach West Woodschurch Rd.. Cross West Woodschurch Road and proceed into the main section of Deer Path Park. Follow the cut trail through the fields South to the main park facilities. On the south side of the parking lots near the dam at the pond, look for the entrance to a trail heading South marked with a short section of rail fencing. Follow this trail along the stream. You will have to cross the stream in at least two places using stepping stones. Some of the trail in this area can be very wet. The trail passes behind some residences. Follow the markers and stay on town property. The trail next follows the edges of some fields which are being kept in agriculture. The trail next takes a westerly direction, and ends at the

junction with a county trail in the Wings Section of the County's Raritan River Preserve. The county trail (orange markers) runs along the bank of the Raritan River North to Deerpath Rd and the Rt. 31 Bridge, or South to a dead end point near the Rt. 523 Bridge.

ALTERNATE RETURN: Follow the orange markers of the County's Wings Trail North (with the river on your left) to the double set of foot bridges, turn right at the trail intersection, exit the park onto Deerpath Rd. Turn right and walk up Deerpath Rd past the Rowlands Rd intersection. Watch for the county signs on your right and enter Deer Path Park. This would be a shorter route than retracing your walk through the township lands. From Deer Path Park retrace your route back to the red barns.

LINKS TO OTHER TRAILS

Peter Buell Trail (to Foothill Road parking area, or to Round Mountain Trail to Stanton Road)

BE TRAIL-WISE

**Ticks that can cause LIME DISEASE
(and other tick-borne diseases)
Are found in Hunterdon County**

To protect yourself when walking in wooded or grassy areas

- **Wear pants tucked into socks**
- **Walk in the middle of paths**
- **Consider using tick repellent**
- **Check yourself often for ticks**
- **Remove attached ticks with tweezers**

4. Bouman-Stickney Nature Trail

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Musuem contains a 1741 Dutch Colonial farmhouse and late Eighteenth Century New World Dutch barn, part of the Readington Museums, on 95 acres of woodland and hay fields. This nature trail has 30 markers which relate to a printed trail guide explaining the natural aspects along the trail. Pick up copy of the nature trail map and guide at the porch of the farmhouse. Most of the trail is along the perimeter of the hay fields and it is kept mowed by the township for easy hiking.

DIFFICULTY: Easy. Approximately 1.5 mile loop.

There is a slight grade and there are small streams that can be crossed easily on stepping stones. This trail also offers many cutbacks to the starting point by following the perimeter of the fields.

DIRECTIONS:

From Rt. 523, take Stanton Road to the Village of Stanton. At the Stanton Store turn right onto Stanton Mountain Rd, then right onto Dreahook Rd. Take Dreahook for less than a mile, and at #114 turn into the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Museum. Drive down the lane to the 1741 Dutch Farmhouse.

PARKING:

Park in the parking lot above the old stone farmhouse. There are Portable restroom facilities at the parking area. Do not cross the bridge with your vehicle.

MAP: See page 10.

WALK DESCRIPTION:

The nature trail will take you along the perimeter of the open fields that are kept in hay by a hired local farmer. The markers and guide will point out various types of trees and plants. Due to the continuing agriculture on this property there are beautiful broad vistas of the surrounding area. When you get to marker #7, take time to enjoy the view of Round Mountain to your south. The 600 foot mountain was formed by volcanic activity. It was once a favorite site for logging as it was too rugged for farming. To the right of the base of the mountain you can see the church spire of the Stanton Reformed Church.

LINKS TO OTHER TRAILS:

Round Mountain Ramble Trail: When you reach marker #10, the natural spring, turn to the wooded area to the south. Follow the trail out to Stanton Rd. and turn to your left. A short walk of approximately 300 feet will bring you to the Round Mountain Ramble trailhead across Stanton Rd. which can be used for extended hikes to the Dobozyński Farms Park (1mi.), the Buell trail, Deer Path Park (2mi.) or the Raritan River at the Wings section of the South Branch Reservation (3 mi.).

5. Vislocki Farm Walk

This walk begins at Pickel Park off of Mountain Road and heads across fields and up Cushtunk Mountain.

DIFFICULTY: Eastern portion - easy. The perimeter of this portion is about 2 miles. Western portion – difficult, with steep, rocky, heavily wooded grade and no formal trail. Only experienced hikers should use this portion of the property.

DIRECTIONS:

Pickel Park is directly behind the Municipal building.

PARKING:

Parking is available at the Pickel Park parking lot off of Mountain Rd.

MAP: see page 13

WALK DESCRIPTION:

Walk south from the parking lot, past the gazebo, and follow the path between the two baseball fields. Approximately 100 feet past the ball fields you will encounter an opening to a field. The entrance to this field has a sign stating that this land was purchased with state of New Jersey funding.

As you walk onto the property proceed in a south direction. To your left (east) is a horse paddock, foundation from a barn, and a house. This is private land and was at one time the farmstead.

The public property extends to the south approximately 200 yards and to the west up the side of the mountain to the county owned land of Cushtunk Preserve. The distance to the base of the mountain is approximately one mile.

The flat portion of the property consists of six fields. An old farm road divides the property in half. The fields run parallel to the road; three fields on each side of the road. Each field is approximately the size of a football field and is kept mowed by the township. The fields are separated from each other by rows of trees and brush.

It is your choice how to walk this property. You can use the tree covered farm lane that runs up the center of the property, walk along the perimeters of the fields, or walk straight across the fields. The walk on the field section is easy, dry and you have a great view of Cushtunk Mountain. On the far side of the mountain is Round Valley Reservoir and State Park

The wooded area near to the mountain is more difficult to walk. The trails are rocky with many wet areas. When you reach the power lines you are at the base of the mountain.

WARNING

Along the southern boundary of this property is an old road. This is private property.

VISLOCKI FARM

