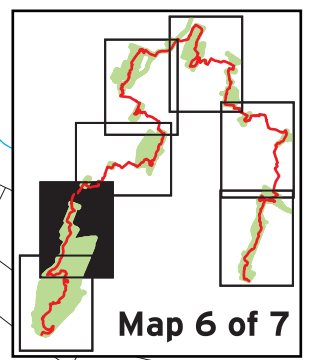
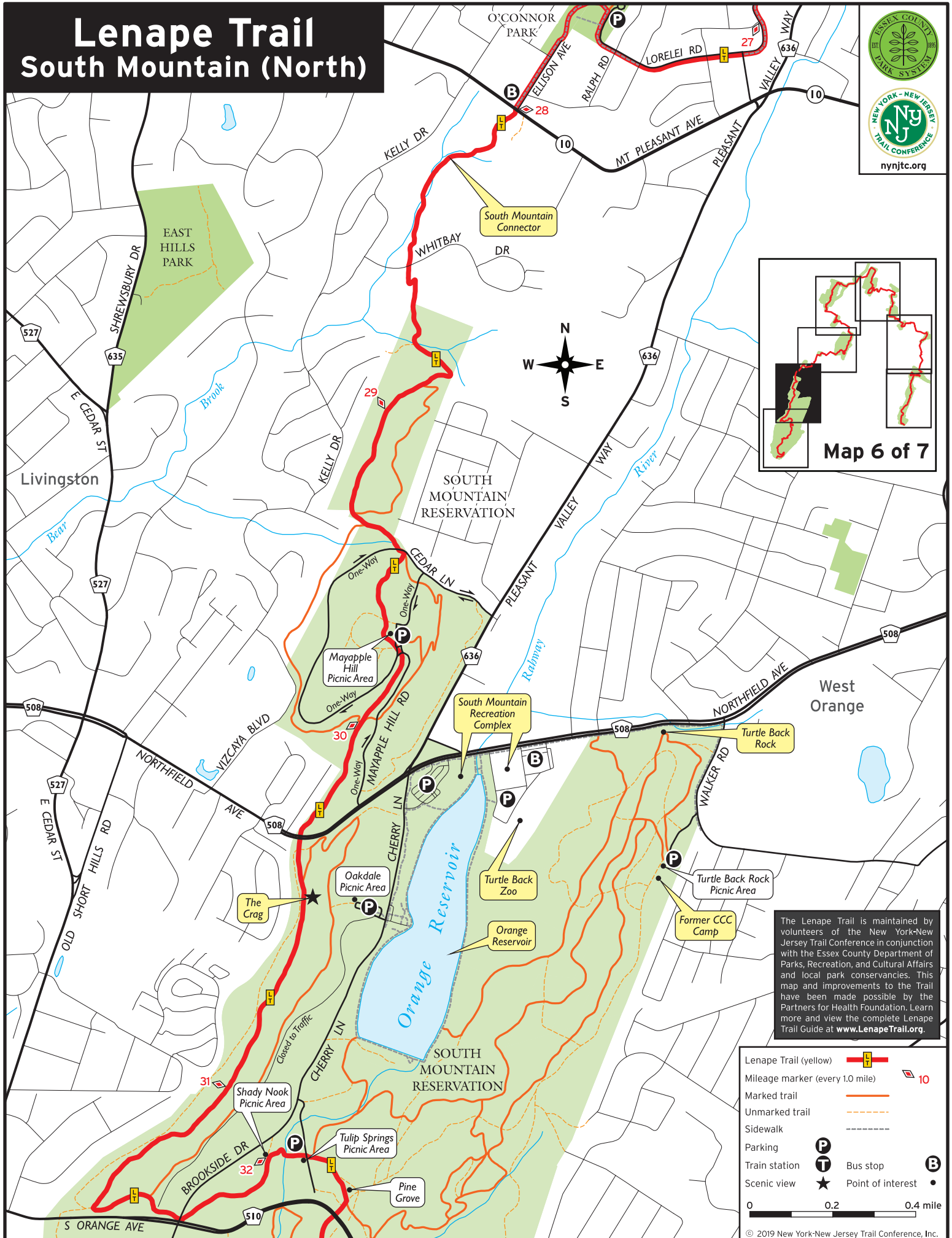


# Lenape Trail South Mountain (North)



The Lenape Trail is maintained by volunteers of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in conjunction with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs and local park conservancies. This map and improvements to the Trail have been made possible by the Partners for Health Foundation. Learn more and view the complete Lenape Trail Guide at [www.LenapeTrail.org](http://www.LenapeTrail.org).

Lenape Trail (yellow)	
Mileage marker (every 1.0 mile)	
Marked trail	
Unmarked trail	
Sidewalk	
Parking	
Train station	
Scenic view	
Bus stop	
Point of interest	



## Map 6

### South Mountain Reservation (North)

From Mount Pleasant Avenue, the Lenape Trail follows footpaths to reach South Mountain Reservation, and the yellow blazes should be followed carefully to avoid turning onto other trails. It crosses Northfield Avenue on a pedestrian bridge and continues along footpaths to the pedestrian bridge crossing of South Orange Avenue.

#### Points of Interest:

**South Mountain Connector:** The completion of the South Mountain Connector in 2017 resulted in the full route of the Lenape Trail as we know it today. This stretch of trail between Mount Pleasant Avenue and Whitbay Drive finally connected the South Mountain portion of the Lenape Trail to the rest of the route, giving the trail its distinctive “horseshoe” shape. The trail project was spearheaded and carried out by volunteers of the South Mountain Conservancy with support from the Trail Conference.

**Essex County South Mountain Recreation Complex:** The complex features a variety of recreation opportunities including the Turtle Back Zoo, the Codey Arena for ice skating, MiniGolf Safari, the Berson Education Center, and the Treetop Adventure Course. The Waterfront area of the complex along the Orange Reservoir features the children’s Regatta Playground, paddleboat rental, a 1.7-mile-long walkway, the Clipper Pavilion picnic shelter, and opportunities for fishing.

**Orange Reservoir:** The West Branch of the Rahway River begins in West Orange and flows south through South Mountain Reservation, feeding the Orange Reservoir. The river has played an important role for the communities that surround South Mountain by powering watermills and providing drinking water. The 115-acre body of water was originally created to provide drinking water for the City of Orange. In the 1890s, the Essex County Park Commission incorporated the reservoir as an integral part of the surrounding park. Today, through a lease agreement with Orange, it provides a range of outdoor activities including fishing and boating, as well as serving as a wetlands habitat and a buffer for heavy rainfall, helping preserve the natural environment of the Rahway River Watershed.

**Turtle Back Zoo:** Turtle Back Zoo, a facility of the Essex County Parks Department, opened in 1963 with a collection of 140 animals of 40 species to promote wildlife education and conservation. Situated on 20 acres, the zoo was originally a showcase for animals indigenous to the local area. Today, it houses approximately 1,400 animals from every continent except Antarctica.

**Turtle Back Rock:** Named Turtle Back Rock by the Lenape Indians, the markings on the top of this rock formation resemble the back of an enormous turtle. The rock has straight sides and angular fractures which create the distinct markings. Dating back 200 million years, it formed when lava cooled and cracked to create huge columns of igneous rock. Because this type of cooled lava rock, called “trap rock”, is resistant to corrosion, stress, and frost, it was quarried throughout the Watchung Mountains for the construction of roads and railroad beds that supported the rapid growth of the region.

**Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Turtle Back Rock:** During the Great Depression in the 1930s, the government created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in response to the nation's need to provide work for hundreds of thousands of unemployed young men, aged 16 to 28. They were put to work to restore decimated woodland areas where resources to fund maintenance and labor were hard to find. The young men at this camp constructed picnic shelters, foot trails, and eight bridges, and they laid miles of timber guardrails, sewer lines, storm drains, and water pipes. In addition to improving the reservation’s scenic vistas by the selective cutting of trees, they furnished hundreds of cords of firewood to the poor throughout the county.

**The Crag:** Located on the edge of the Second Mountain, this site offers a lookout point with views of the Orange Reservoir and the South Mountain Recreation Complex. There is a rock outcrop with a very sharp drop-off and an open-sided shelter with benches and a patio area. The shelter is the last of seven stone shelters built in the park by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the late 1930s.

