

The Battle of Monmouth

June 28, 1778

June 18, 1778 – The main British Army under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton abandoned Philadelphia and began marching to the city of New York. The next day, the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington left Valley Forge and moved on to harass the British. The morning of Sunday, June 28, 1778, found the British Army of 20,000 men camped along Dutch Lane and the Freehold-Mount Holly Road, while the main Continental Army of 8,500 men were camped at Manalapan Bridge, four miles west of Englishtown. In Englishtown, General Charles Lee and an advance force of 5,000 men had orders to attack the rear of the British Army.

As the British broke camp to continue their march, General Lee moved to encircle the British rear guard. Lee's men skirmished with the Queen's Rangers and the field artillery of both sides erupted in a thunderous cannonade. Barely in time, Lee realized that half of the British Army was returning to attack him. As Lee led a retreat across the Rhea Farm, Washington intercepted him and gave orders to begin a delaying action while the main Continental Army regrouped.

The battle resumed about 12:30 p.m. as the British Guards and Grenadiers pushed across the Dividing Brook. After brief, bloody clashes in a wood lot (1) and along the hedgerow (2), the Continentals under General Lee fell back across Spotswood Middle Brook. As the British charged the bridge, they found the Continental Army occupying a very strong position on the Perrine Farm hill (3) behind a line of ten guns. Exhausted by a forced march and cannonaded with grapeshot, the British soldiers faltered and the attack collapsed. British light infantry (4) attempted to outflank the Continental position, but withdrew when they found Lafayette waiting for them with the Continental reserves (5).

To silence the Continental artillery commanding the bridge, the British positioned ten cannon and howitzers in front of the hedgerow. For hours during the afternoon, the largest field artillery battle of the American Revolution raged. The Continental artillery won the duel when in the late afternoon, General Nathaniel Greene brought a brigade of Virginians and four guns to the top of Combs Hill (6).



"Washington at the Battle of Monmouth" by Emanuel Leutze, 1857

The American guns raked the hedgerow, forcing the British artillery to withdraw and their infantry to shift position.

As the British artillery fell silent, Washington cautiously counterattacked. First, two battalions of light infantry advanced along Spotswood North Brook to skirmish with the retreating Royal Highlanders (7). Then General Anthony Wayne led three small regiments across the bridge to attack the withdrawing British Grenadiers. After heavy, stubborn fighting, Wayne's men were forced back into the shelter of the parsonage buildings and orchard (8). Again raked by Continental artillery, the British pulled back across the Dividing Brook and made camp (9). General George Washington moved fresh troops forward to resume the battle at dawn, but around 11 p.m. the British forces resumed their march to New York City, thus ending the last major battle of the north.

The Battle of Monmouth was a political triumph for the Continental Army and General George Washington. The Continental Army had met the British in open field and forced them to retreat. British casualties were two to three times greater than those of the American troops.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

TRAILS
25 miles of old farm roads, footpaths, and field edges await the history buff, avid hiker or casual walker. The trails vary in length from a quarter mile to several miles and many interconnect. Visitors can wander the restored battlefield following the footsteps of Revolutionary War soldiers. Along the trails, wayside exhibits explain the battle. The Park's woods, fields, hills and swamps give hikers a chance to view diverse habitats with their many species of wildflowers. The lucky hiker may see deer, wild turkey, or red fox. The park is home to over one hundred species of birds including red-tailed hawks, kestrels, bluebirds, and great horned owls.

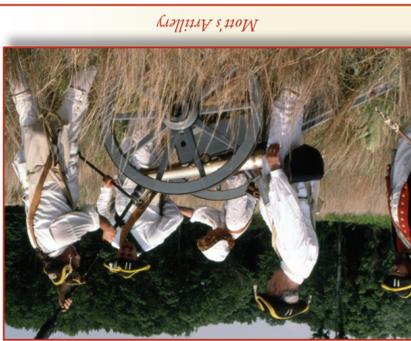
A Battlefield Trails map is on the reverse side.



Red-tailed Hawk: these year-round Park residents boldly follow farm equipment watching for frightened rabbits or mice.

Related Structures

In Englishtown, the Village Inn was General Lee's quarters. Old Tennent Church ("Tennent's Meeting House," 1751) was used as a field hospital by the Continental Army, and at Monmouth Courthouse (now Freehold Borough) some of the British wounded were cared for in St. Peter's Church (1771). Also in Freehold are the museum of the Monmouth County Historical Association, the Monmouth Battle Monument (1884), and the Covenhoven House (1752)—Headquarters for the British Commander, Sir Henry Clinton.



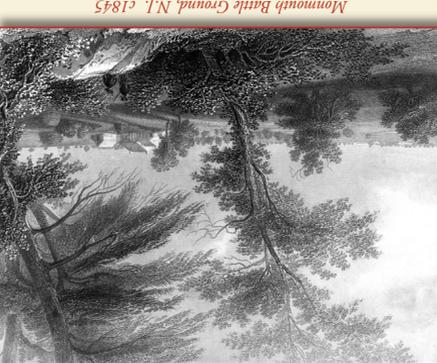
Monmouth Artillery. Courtesy of Dianna Hlava

"You girls should have been with me at the battle of Monmouth and learned how to load a cannon." Mary Hays McCauley to Susan Hackendon, c. 1830. The "Molly Pitcher" of myth was a water-carrier who took over firing a cannon when her husband was not killed, and she was only one member of a large group of women who served in various capacities during the war. The real "Molly" was huckster - her husband was killed. The real "Molly" was huckster - her husband was not killed, and she was only one member of a large group of women who served in various capacities during the war. The myth evolved from memories of Mary Hays and Margaret Corbin - the latter wounded defending Fort Mifflin in 1776 - and the hundreds of other women who served in various capacities during the war.



Molly Pitcher. Courtesy of G. Stone

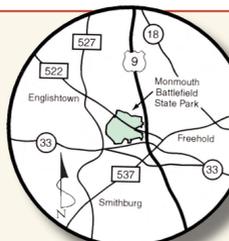
The 1800s and 1900s: During the 1800s, the last of the forces were cleared, marshes were drained, and roads were straightened. Freed African-American farm workers built a church nearby. Some enlisted in the Union Army. A Civil War training camp, Camp Vredenburgh, was constructed in a field next to the 1852 Freehold-Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad, where three New Jersey regiments were trained during 1862-63. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, traditional agriculture was replaced by orchards and truck farms. Builders purchased two battlefields farms. Fortunately, park land acquisition began in 1963 before the farms were developed. Funds for their preservation were provided through New Jersey's first Green Acres Bond referendum in 1961.



Monmouth Battle Ground, N.J., c1845

INTRODUCTION
Monmouth Battlefield State Park, a National Historic Landmark, is the site of one of the largest battles of the American Revolutionary War. The park also preserves a splendid rural landscape with miles of hiking and equestrian trails, picnic areas, a restored Revolutionary War farmhouse and a visitor center. The park is located in Manalapan and Freehold townships just west of Freehold Borough with the main entrance on Business Route 33.

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Directions:
Located approximately 12 miles east of exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike on business Route 33. From the Garden State Parkway, take exit 123 to Route 9 south for 15 miles to business Route 33 west. The park is located 1.5 miles on the right. From the southeast, take Bypass NJ Route 33 west to the Wemrock Road exit. Turn right 4 mile to business Route 33, then left .25 mile to the park entrance.

Open
Park - 365 days a year
Hours - Summer: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fall: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Winter: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Spring: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Visitor Center - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except some winter Sundays

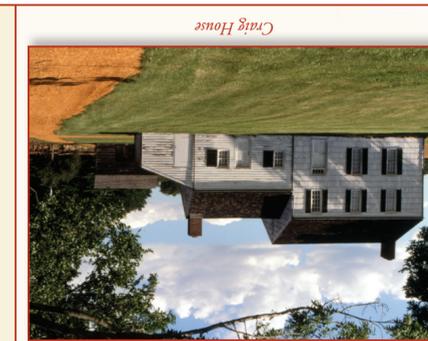
FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
The visitor center and recreational facilities at Monmouth Battlefield are partially accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the park office for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone users, please call the NJ Relay Services at (800) 852-7899.

The Carry In/Carry Out Program helps to eliminate trash by encouraging park visitors to be good park stewards by placing their trash in bags supplied at each site and taking it home for proper disposal.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park.

Partially funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Recreation Trails Program, through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

For Further Information:
Monmouth Battlefield State Park
347 Freehold-Englishtown Road
Manalapan, NJ 07726
Phone: (732) 462-9616
www.njparksandforests.org



Craig House. Courtesy of G. Stone

CRAIG FARM
John and Ann Craig's house is a restored and refurbished mid-18th century farmhouse consisting of two sections: a Dutch-framed kitchen and English-framed, 2-story dwelling that replaced the first house about 1770. The barn dates from the mid-19th century. Modern crops of corn, soybeans, and wheat grow in the fields around the house. Please inquire at the visitor center for schedule information.

HISTORY
In the 1680s, Scottish and Dutch families began settling in the area. By the 1770s, seven well-established farms occupied the park site. The farmers and their slaves grew wheat, rye, Indian corn and oats. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs fed in pastures and fallow fields, and the men cut hay in the marshes along the brooks. Orchards provided fruit and cider. In the farmhouse and surrounding enclosures, the women gardened, made preserves, kept the dairy and poultry, and provided their families with meals and clothes.

Monmouth Battlefield State Park



"...you have been wishing some days past to come up with the British, you have been wanting to fight, - now you shall have fighting enough before night."

Captain, Rhode Island troops
June 28, 1778

Administered by
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service

Legend

Trails--North

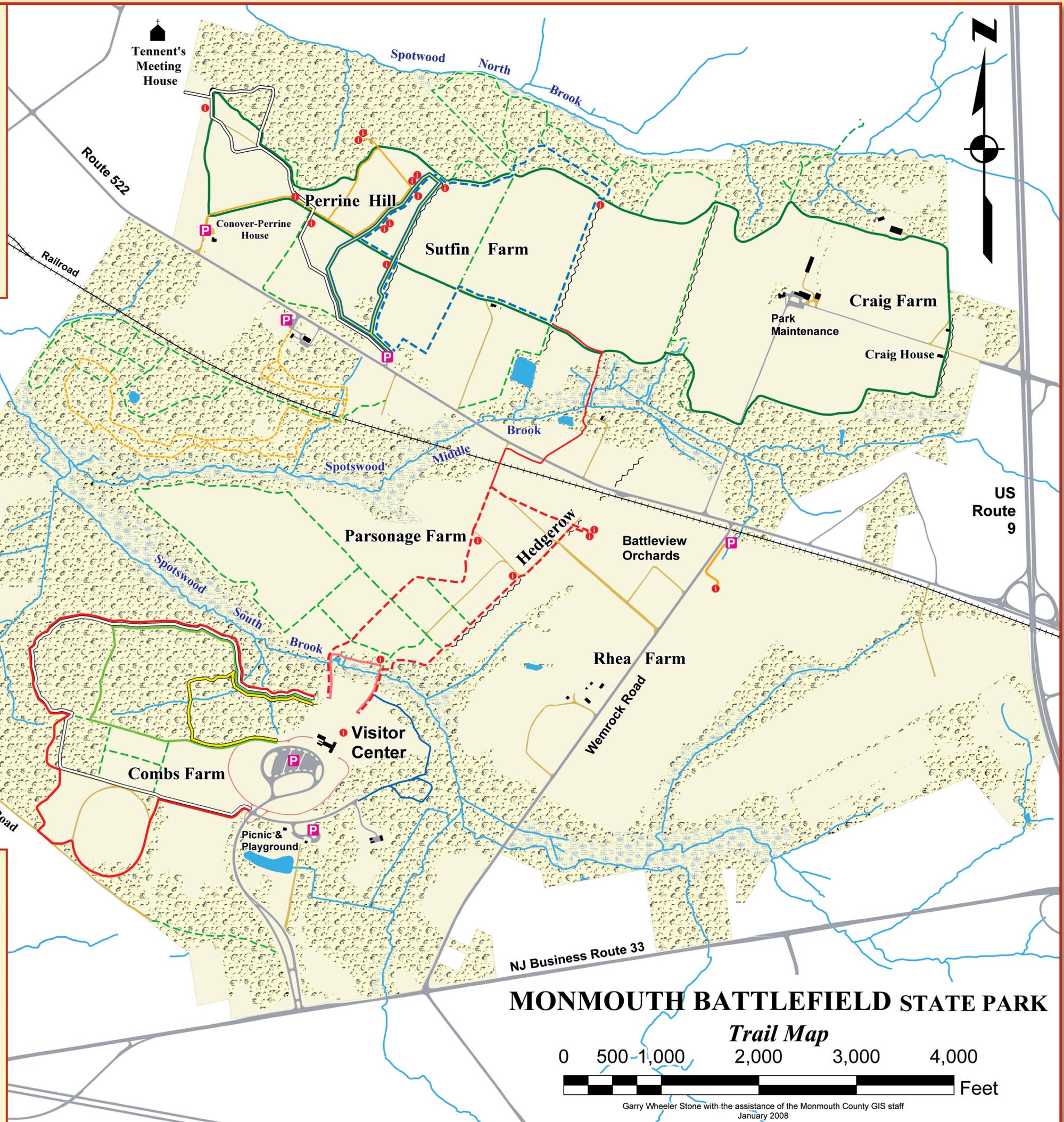
- Washington
- Lafayette
- Col. Cilley
- Connector
- Molly Hays
- Farms
- Horse Trails
- Unmarked Trails
- Wayside Exhibits
- Parking

Trails--South

- Hedgerow & Parsonage
- Washington meets Lee

Combs' Farm Trails

- Red
- White
- Green
- Yellow
- Blue
- Pink
- Red Gravel Path



Battlefield Trails—North
 The history hikes north of the Middle Brook are best accessed from a small parking lot on the Sutfin Farm. They also can be reached from the Conover-Perrine House parking lot and by foot from the Visitor Center.

Washington (Yellow & Blue) Trail (0.86 mi.)
 This trail leads to the main Continental Army position. Back-and-forth along this hill, Washington rode, encouraging his men and organizing a counter-attack as the British began withdrawing.

Lafayette (White) Trail (1.51 mi.)
 Lafayette commanded the reserves behind the ridge. When British troops appeared north of Spotswood North Brook, Lafayette led the reserves west hoping to ambush the British. This trail parallels Lafayette's route towards the 1751 Presbyterian meeting house.

Col. Cilley (Dashed Blue) Trail (1.62 mi.)
 The blue trail crosses the swale where two battalions of "picked men" (temporary light infantry) were positioned. It then parallels the route that they took when Washington sent them to attack the withdrawing British.

Connector (Red) to Southern Trails (0.54 mi.)
 When the Col. Ciley (dashed blue) trail turns west to return to the Sutfin parking lot, visitors can turn east then south to reach the southern trails and the Visitor Center. This trail parallels the route that the Royal Highlanders followed as they were pursued by the Continentals.

Molly Hays (Orange) Trail (1.07 mi.)
 The Molly Hays trail begins at the Perrine-Conover House parking lot, joins the Washington trail, and then swings west to overlook the spring that provided water to Washington's army. The first segment of this trail can be used to link the Conover-Perrine House parking lot to the other marked trails.

Farms (Green) Trail (3.98 mi.)
 The Farms trail loops through and around the fields of the Perrine, Sutfin, and Craig farms. Visitor can use segments of the Farms Trail, the other marked trails, and unmarked trails to create their own battlefield hike.

Sutfin Woods (Dashed Orange) Horse Trails (1.97 mi.)
 These woodland trails originate at the parking lot west of the Cobb House.

Battlefield Trails—South
 Most of the southern trails are reached from the Visitor Center or Picnic Grove parking lots. Most are moderate in difficulty as they descend and climb 60-foot hills. The red gravel path that circles the Visitor Center parking lot is level and completely accessible.

Hedgerow and Parsonage (Dashed Red) Hike (1.43 mi.)
 This trail crosses Spotswood South Brook to loop through the most fought-over portions of the battlefield. The knoll at the north end of the Parsonage Hill provides splendid views.

Washington meets Lee (Orange) Trail (0.22 mi.)
 This short trail leads from a Wemrock Road parking lot to a monument and wayside commemorating the dramatic meeting of Generals George Washington and Charles Lee.

Combs' Farm Recreational Trails
 Four trails of differing lengths (**Red**: 1.71 mi., **White**: 1.34, **Green**: 1.05, **Yellow**: 0.57) start half-way down the hill in front of the Visitor Center and circle through the woods to the left. All have a 50-foot change in elevation from the Spotswood South Brook terrace to the upland. Visitors can create level hikes by using those portions of the trails that circle the upland fields.

North of the Visitor Center, the **Pink Trail** (0.29 mi.) plunges downhill to connect the two boardwalks across the brook. Between the boardwalks, the trail follows the edge of the flood plain.

To the northeast of the Visitor Center, the **Blue Trail** (0.51 mi.) circles through young woods.

Be alert, be careful - Parks include natural hazards such as ticks and poison ivy. Stay on the trails, avoid tall vegetation.

MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Trail Map

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

Garry Wheeler Stone with the assistance of the Monmouth County GIS staff
 January 2008