



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Historic
Smithville
Park Trails**
New Jersey



Historic Smithville Park Trails

New Jersey

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The village of Smithville, upon which the Historic Smithville Park (open 8 a.m.–30 minutes after sunset) sits, has a long and colorful past—and some important connections to the history of bicycles in America. Originally settled by the Lenni-Lenape tribe, the land was taken over by a Colonial settler in 1676. A dam, sawmill, and gristmill were built during the Colonial period, making it ideal for the Shreve brothers to establish a textile factory and workers' village when they bought the land in 1831. The factory eventually went bankrupt; in 1865, Hezekiah Bradley Smith bought the property and turned it into a modern industrial village to produce his woodworking machinery technology.

The manufacturing company produced the American Star Bicycle as the industry was taking off in the 1880s. The

Star bicycle featured a small front wheel and large back wheel—which overcame the problem of tipping forward that was common among high-wheel bicycles at the time. An iron sculpture of the Star can be seen on River Street, close to the start of the Ravine Nature Trail in the park.

Starting at the municipal lot on the corner of Smithville Road and East Railroad Avenue, head east on the red trail (the trails are marked with color-coded signage) as it enters the woods and leaves the sound of cars behind. The wooded trail passes through a brief section of open fields where a transmission line intersects above; interpretive signage emphasizes the importance of the vegetation in this area as pollinator habitats. About 0.3 mile from the start, you come to a parking lot and a trail intersection. If you turn right, the orange trail will take you across East Railroad Avenue and connect to the yellow trail. If you turn left, the orange trail will take you down to the Smith's Woods Area, which includes picnic pavilions and a butterfly garden, planted with species known to attract pollinators. Continue straight along the red trail as the path winds around the opposite side of these amenities, intersecting with a playground before reentering its forested surroundings.

The forested path offers the perfect setting for a diversity of trail users—on this section, you may encounter everything from families with children on a hike to friends walking their dogs together. About 0.45 mile from the start, the red trail veers left.

Continuing along the red trail, you will encounter a staircase with a smooth ramp for wheeled items like bicycles. Almost 0.7 mile from the start, there is another split in the trail; bear left to continue along the red trail, emerging from the forest to travel parallel to the Rancocas Creek as it winds toward Smithville Lake. The trail crosses busy Smithville Road and continues to wind its way through the park, crossing two bridges before ending at the boat launch on River Street.



Historic Smithville Park Trails

New Jersey

States: New Jersey

Counties: Burlington

Length: 3.9 miles

Trail end points: East Railroad Ave to
Smithville Park

Trail surfaces: Boardwalk, Dirt, Gravel, Sand,
Woodchips

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing, Horseback
Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

To reach the W. Railroad Ave. trailhead from I-295 N, take Exit 43 (from I-295 S, take Exit 43A). Head southeast on Creek Road, following signs for Rancocas Woods. Continue 1.3 miles, and turn left onto Marne Hwy. Continue another 1.6 miles, and turn right onto Lumberton Road. After 0.4 mile, turn left onto NJ 38 E. Head straight 3.9 miles before turning left onto Smithville Road. In 0.4 mile turn left onto W. Railroad Ave. In 0.2 mile, the parking lot will be visible on the right.

To reach the municipal lot on Smithville Road, follow the directions above to Smithville Road. Turn left onto Smithville, and go 0.45 mile; the parking lot will be on your right.

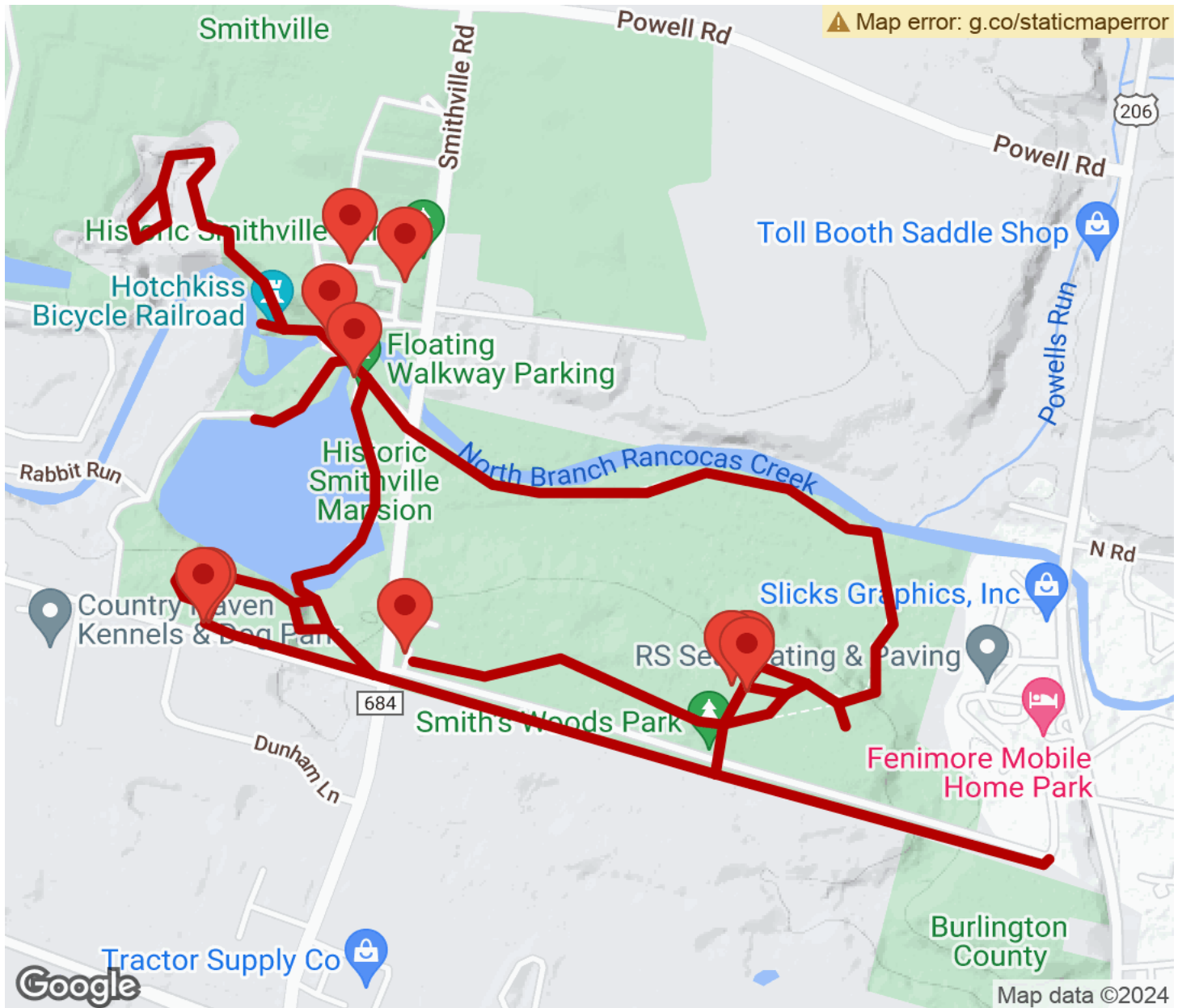
To reach the parking lots on Meade Lane near the mansion and farm complexes, follow the directions above to Smithville Road. Turn left onto Smithville, and go 0.8 mile. Turn left onto Meade Lane, and parking lots A and B will be visible.

To reach the Smith's Woods trailhead, follow the directions above to Smithville Road. Turn left onto Smithville, go 0.4 mile, and turn right onto E. Railroad Ave. Continue straight 0.4 mile. The entrance will be on your left.



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New Jersey



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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