



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Thomas F.
Hampton
Trail
(Crossley
Preserve
Trail)**

New Jersey



Thomas F. Hampton Trail (Crossley Preserve Trail)

New Jersey

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The 1.5-mile Thomas F. Hampton Trail was named for a past executive director of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust. Now an interpretive nature hike, the trail occupies the former rail bed of part of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In the 1800s, Crossley was once a town where clay was mined for pottery and bricks. The "donkey" railroad hauled the clay from the mining pits to points beyond.

Today Crossley is an important nature preserve with cultural significance. Tree frogs of the Jersey Pine Barrens breed in the old mining pits, now ponds, and habitats of upland and lowland pine, shrub oak, Atlantic white cedar and laurel thrive among the clay works' ruins. A few important species of flora and fauna also live here: corn snakes, pine snakes, Pickering's morning glory and Knieskern's beaked rush.



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Thomas F. Hampton Trail (Crossley Preserve Trail)

New Jersey

States: New Jersey

Counties: Ocean

Length: 1.5miles

Trail end points: Crossley Preserve (Berkeley Township) to Crossley Preserve (Manchester Township)

Trail surfaces: Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Walking

Parking & Trail Access

Access the Thomas F. Hampton Trail at Crossley Preserve from Crossley Road, a dirt road that intersects Pinewald-Keswick Road (Route 530) about 1.5 miles east of Robert J. Miller AirPark. Crossley fronts Route 530 but there is limited roadside parking.



Thomas F. Hampton Trail (Crossley Preserve Trail)

New Jersey



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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