

Trail: Kelley's Pond

Distance: 1.5 miles

Walking Time: 40 – 70 minutes

Difficulty: **

Pet Friendly: Yes

Bike Friendly: Yes (except around pond)

Child Friendly: Yes

Parking: Milton Ave. School Parking Lot

Path Type: Hybrid

What to look for:

[Kelley's Pond](#) [Chipmunk](#) [Monarch Butterfly](#) [Milton Avenue School](#) [Mulch Area/Old shooting range](#) [Wild Turkey](#) [Eastern Gray Squirrel](#) [American Robin](#) [Bullfrog](#) [Dragonflies](#) [Eastern Garter Snake](#) [Woodchuck](#) [Raccoon](#) [Virginia Opossum](#) [Red Fox](#) [Downy Woodpecker](#) [Pileated Woodpecker](#)

History:

1. Milton Ave. School

Milton Avenue School was built in 1948. The grounds cover 6 acres and the original building cost \$457,000 and had a desired capacity of 325. An addition was built in 1952 to accommodate the post-World War II baby boom. It was most recently expanded to accommodate dramatic demographic changes to student growth in the 1990s and 2000s. [2]

2. Mulch Area (Old Police Shooting Range)

This area behind Milton Avenue School used to be the area of the Chatham police firing range. It was developed in 1964 by volunteers under the order of Police Chief Richard Rudow. For many years Police Officers came to the range to train and hold shooting contests before it was mandated to close in the late 1970s due to the construction of the new Route 24 Freeway. This led to the much needed mulch area being developed for the Borough that is still there today. [10]

3. Kelley's Pond

Named after Fire Chief Kelley, this area along with the mulch area used to be known as Brookside Grove which was designated for recreation and conservation. The artificial spring-fed pond is the site of the fire department's annual fishing derby for school children and used to be used as an ice skating rink in the winter. [2]

4. Triborough Bridge (Unreachable/Off Limits)

Across the stream and past the trees lies Triborough Rd., the bridge and road that was going to connect the Eisenhower Parkway to the town of Chatham at Brooklake Road and Main Street and provide an exit and entrance ramp for the new Route 24 Freeway. The project was abandoned due to its intrusion into wetland areas and the many local resident complaints which stopped the project from happening. Now the abandoned overpass/bridge is part of [Weird NJ](#) and known as "the bridge to nowhere."