

Trail: Shepard Kollock to Minisink Trail

Distance: 3.4 miles

Walking Time: 70 – 100 minutes

Difficulty: ***

Parking: Shepard Kollock Park parking lot

Bike Friendly: No

Pet Friendly: Yes (bring doggy bags)

Child Friendly: Yes

Path Type: Hybrid

What Nature to Look For:

[Blue Jay](#) [Black-and-white Warbler](#) [Northern Cardinal](#) [American Robin](#)

[Mourning Dove](#) [Northern Water Snake](#) [Bullfrog](#) [Red Winged Blackbird](#)

[Song Sparrow](#) [American Goldfinch](#) [Eastern Painted Turtle](#) [Orchard Oriole](#)

[Baltimore Oriole](#) [Chipmunk](#) [Eastern Gray Squirrel](#) [Great Blue Heron](#)

[Downy Woodpecker](#) [Pileated Woodpecker](#) [Tree Swallow](#) [Mallard Duck](#)

[Common Snapping Turtle](#) [Red-backed Salamander](#)

What Else to Look For:

[Remnants of old trolley bridge](#) [Small Dam](#) [9/11 Memorial in Memorial Park](#)

[Kayak/Canoe Launch Ramp into Passaic River at Shepard Kollock Park](#)

History:

1. Shepard Kollock Park

Shepard Kollock: published the first copy of *The New – Jersey Journal* in Chatham on February 16, 1779, becoming a key part of the American Revolution. He served in the American Revolution as a Lieutenant, moving up in rank to a First Lieutenant, taking part in battles of Trenton and Monmouth and spent time at Valley Forge. To fight Loyalist printers such as James Rivington, of New York, George Washington suggested a “camp press”, and with the relief from active duty on January 3, 1779 by General Knox, Shepard Kollock started printing; becoming a crucial part of the American Revolution. ^[0, 5, 12]

Washington’s Hoax: To help George Washington deceive the British into thinking he was going to plan an attack on New York, Washington ordered a 65-foot long shed of brick ovens to be built in what is now Shepard Kollock Park that produced 3000 loaves of bread a day. On August 19, 1781, Washington sent three regiments to guard the high ground east of Chatham to prevent a surprise attack and to help the bakery staff. As the ovens baked bread in massive quantities, the locals, any spies and British General Henry Clinton all had to believe that a major troop buildup was in progress and that an attack on New York was about to erupt. (Continued Next)

2. The Jacob Morrell House (63 Main St.)

George Washington is said to have lodged at the c. 1740 Morrell homestead for two days on August 25, 1781 while his army, estimated at between two and three thousand men, assembled in the outlying fields. The general wrote 17 letters from his stay in this house in Chatham revealing his intention to deceive the British stationed in New York into believing his troops were preparing for an attack. Instead, he marched silently out of Chatham in the early morning hours of August 29, crossing the Delaware River before the British realized he had tricked them. Washington's army headed to Yorktown, Virginia along with French General Rochambeau's army, forcing General Cornwallis to surrender on October 18, 1781 after a short, but devastating siege. [3, 5]

3. The George T. Parrot House (47 Main St.)

Currently the Parrot Mill Inn; is a survivor of the gambrel-roofed Federal dwellings built in Chatham at the turn of the eighteenth century. Mr. Parrot owned the last mill in Chatham which was centered on the Passaic River, on Parrot's Mill pond (currently Shepard Kollock Park). The mill pond had a large island where canoes and row boats were available at a quarter for an hour, and Ice during the winter was cut for later use by guests at the local hotels and taverns. During the 1850s, four mills located in this area provided power for the production of flour, machinery, lumber, and textiles. [3, 6]

4. The Captain William Day House (70 Main St.)

Its Vernacular Georgian symmetry and simplicity, the William Day House, c. 1780, stands as one of the most significant of East Main Street's early houses. It includes an intact beehive oven and several "nine-over-six" façade windows. William Day served for three years in the Morris County militia during the Revolutionary War, advancing from private to captain. He married Nancy Bonnel, daughter of local miller Nathaniel Bonnel, who gave the young couple a fifty-acre tract of farmland, which remained a farm well into the 1910s, supplying the Chathamites with eggs, poultry, vegetables, and freshly baked bread. [3]

5. The Library of the Chathams

Formerly known as the Fairview House on Main Street, this hotel accommodated more than 150 guests, who came to enjoy the river and nine-hole golf course. The Fairview also provided dancing, bowling, distinguished cuisine and a large bar. The present library building opened on Main Street in 1924, and was strongly influenced by its first Librarian Lynda Phillips Lum, wife of Dr. Frederick H. Lum Jr. [4]

6. The Dusenberry House (186 Main St.)

This parsonage belonged to the beloved Reverend Joseph Meeker Ogden, who was pastor to Chatham's Presbyterian congregation for forty-five years, from 1828 to 1873. Presbyterians later named the Ogden Memorial Church in his honor. Built in 1848 following Ogden's marriage to Emeline Swayze, the house exhibits an exceptionally fine doorway, heavy window cornices, and gable returns as an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. It was purchased by Newark businessman Frederick Dusenberry in 1907 who added two west bays in 1912, and the house was then placed on the National Register of Historic Places following its exemplary restoration in the 1970s. Today it is used as a commercial enterprise structure. ^[3]