

Trail: Stanley Park

Distance: 1.6 miles

Walking Time: 45 – 75 minutes

Difficulty: **

Parking: Stanley Park Parking Lot

Path Type: Hybrid

Bike Friendly: No

Pet Friendly: Stanley Park only (trail dangerous for pets)

Child Friendly: Yes, but (use alternate **Blue** trail along River Road and hold children's hands – road has narrow shoulders and curves restrict sight distances; and be careful on steep slope next to bridge embankment)

What to Look For:

[Passaic River](#) [Black-crowned Night Heron](#) [Great Egret](#) [American Robin](#)
[Orchard Oriole](#) [Baltimore Oriole](#) [Canada Goose](#) [Blue Jay](#) [Northern Cardinal](#)
[Broad-winged Hawk](#) [Mallard Duck](#) [Common Snapping Turtle](#) [Bullfrog](#)
[Red-backed Salamander](#) [Red-tailed Hawk](#) [Red Fox](#) [Pileated Woodpecker](#)
[Stone Arch Train Bridge](#) [Remnants of old mill dam](#)

**** Warning! Check water level at following USGS website before you hike.**

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nj/nwis/uv/?site_no=01379500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060

Use **Blue** trail when water levels exceed 3.50 feet on Stanley Park River Gage, which corresponds to a flow of 50 cubic feet per second. Stepping stones under the bridge are below water when gage exceeds 3.50 feet, and water flow also becomes more dangerous. Rocks are slippery when wet at any time and may have shifted due to fast flows or debris during storms.

History:

1. Stanley Park

The park on the Passaic used to be home to the mills run by George Shepard Page decades ago. Mr. Page gave the industrial section of town the name "Stanley" in honor of his mother's family name. Also established was a post office/general store near the river for the Stanley section, but closed down in the 1920s after a serious fire. [9]

2. James Perrin (63 River Road)

Across from the 5-K Deli at 63 River Road, Raymond St. James Perrin lived in this vintage stucco house the later part of his life. Mr. Perrin owned what are now Perrin Street, Bonnell Street, and St. James Street in the early 1900s. In the early 1900s, Mr. Perrin ran a small varnish factory on Bridge Street, where his plan was to bring Italian immigrants from the city to Chatham to work in his factory (housing them off of these roads). In 1945, Perrin Street was zoned for two-family residential. [9]

3. James Perrin House (70 River Road)

Built in the late 1800s, was Raymond St. James Perrin's home when he died in 1915. Look for the beautiful chimney still standing. ^[9]

4. Perrin Street Stand-off (top of Perrin St.)

In autumn 1945, Perrin Street was the site of angry residents of River Road who formed a human chain across the end of Perrin Street, armed with sticks and rocks to fight against the garbage trucks that had been dumping their contents at the end of Perrin, upsetting Stanley residents. After an intense stand-off between the residents and garbage truck drivers, a scuffle broke out before the cops arrived and broke up the crowd. Eventually in December 1945, the Borough Council voted on an ordinance putting control measures on the disposal of garbage in town. Today the end section of Perrin Street is zoned for conservation, and may lead to the town's next area for a community garden. ^[9]

5. Nathaniel Bonnel Plantation Homestead (32 Watchung Ave)

Built prior to the Revolutionary War in 1750 by Nathaniel Bonnel, was the plantation homestead of direct descendants of the original settlers of Elizabethtown. They were major influencers of the development of Chatham and should be given much credit. ^[1]

6. The Wagner Family (34 Watchung Ave.)

The Wagners lived in the old Bonnell House at 34 Watchung Avenue, now the Pascarella Brothers Delicatessen, and owned greenhouses across the street, currently the Bottle King building. Julius Wagner served as a Trustee to the Village of Chatham, and another Wagner served as one of our earliest Council Members who carefully looked after the interests of residents and businesses of the Stanley section of Chatham. ^[9]

Note: Across the river from Stanley Park in Summit is a Union County park with added parking. A nice wooded trail starts across the street from this park and continues South (upstream) for a significant distance along the river on the Union County side. This trail is child and pet friendly, but does have some steep slopes, several of which have ropes to assist you.