The Boardwalk & the Lakes

This walk will introduce you to the broad swath of open space sometimes known as Princeton’s Central Park. You’ll enter it via a boardwalk over the wetlands at the edge of Coventry Farm, a historic farm preserved in 2002. This large expanse of open space also includes the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, the John Witherspoon Woods, and Community Park North. There are more than 400 acres and 8 miles of trails to enjoy.
The Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve, Princeton, NJ

From Princeton, take the Great Road north and look for the “Farm View Fields” sign on your left. Turn left into the parking lot.

THINGS TO KNOW: This walk is jog-stroller friendly and suitable for all ages.

2.7 miles  50 min

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
Walking Directions

From the Farm View Fields parking lot, take the paved path that winds through the baseball diamonds and past the soccer fields. When you come to the Great Road, use the crosswalk to cross the street and turn right on the sidewalk on the opposite side.

Directly across from the entrance to North Road you will see an opening in the fence—turn left and go through the entrance. You will see a sign marking the J. Seward Johnson Sr. Trail, which runs across the bottom of the preserved fields of Coventry Farm. Follow the grass path to access the boardwalk and enjoy the beautiful view as you continue across. When the boardwalk ends, bear left, then bear right, following the blue trail markers. Continue until you come to a crossroads. Turn left and shortly you will see the picturesque lake. Turn right and walk along the base of the lake until the trail dead-ends at a stream. Turn right, then take a left and cross over the stream. Once you are across the bridge, turn left. When the path splits, bear left along the water.

(Cont. on next page)
Follow the trail along the lake until you come to the lawn of Mountain Lakes House. Go straight across the grass past the dam and go left over the old stone bridge. Follow the gravel path until it ends, then turn left. Follow the path until you come to and cross a wooden bridge. When the path ends at the base of a set of rough steps, turn left. This path leads down the opposite side of the lake back to the connection to the boardwalk, which is indicated by a marker with a brown bicycle on it and a blue trail marker. Turn right and follow the arrows back to the boardwalk, across the Great Road, and up the path through Farm View Fields back to the parking lot.