

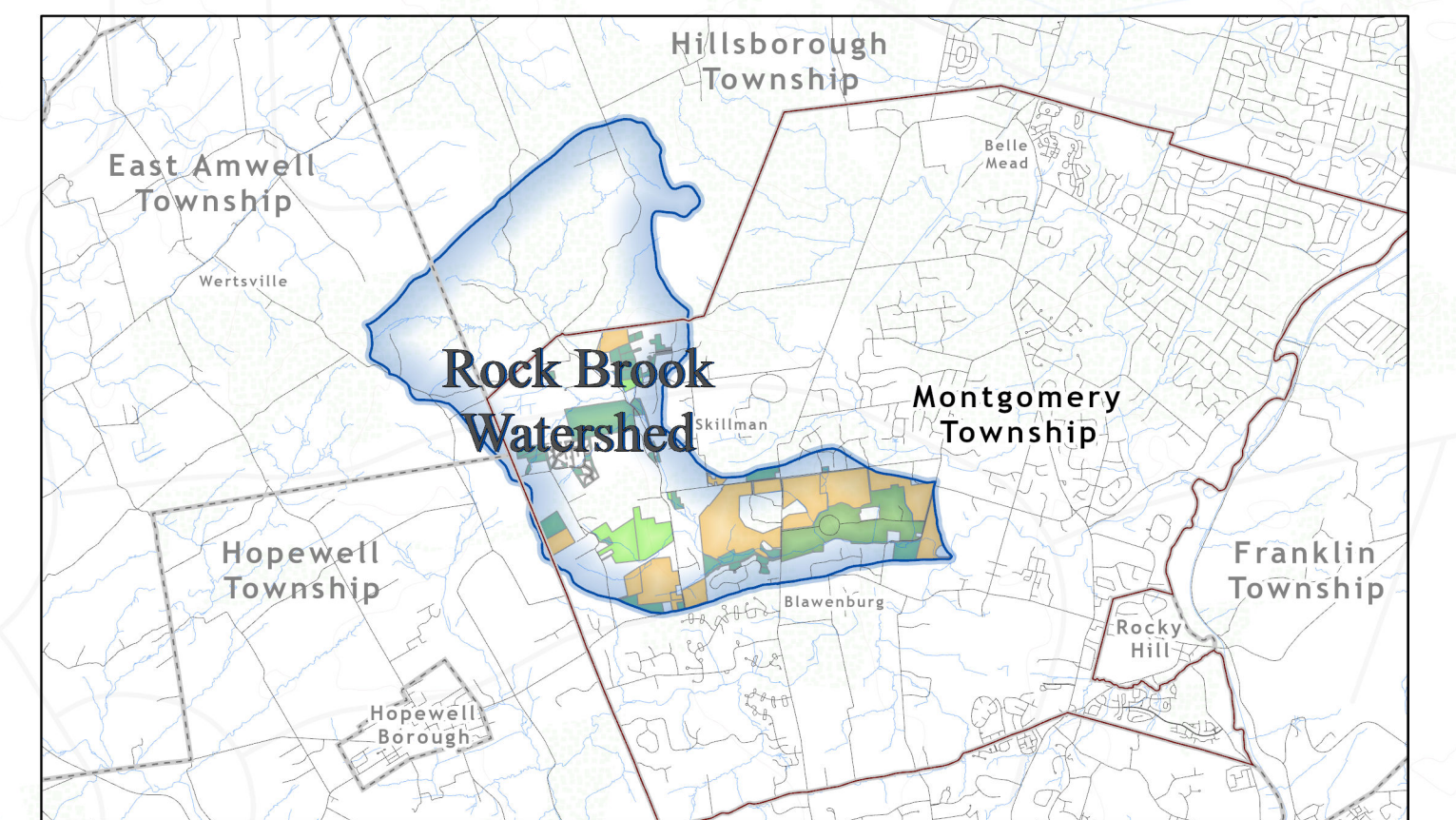
Rock Brook Watershed

Montgomery Township, New Jersey

The Rock Brook watershed is one of five watersheds in Montgomery Township. It covers a total of 6,100 acres, with 3,538 acres falling in Montgomery, draining 17% of township's surface. It is part of the greater Raritan River watershed, which drains much of central New Jersey.

Its main tributary is Rock Brook, which originates in Hillsborough Township, among the springs and wetlands atop Sourland Mountain. It flows for nearly 7 miles in a south then east direction, before it ends at its confluence with Bedens Brook, near Somerset County's Skillman Park.

The Rock Brook watershed is an important component of Montgomery's natural and historic resources. 1,437 acres of the watershed is preserved as open space, covering 41% of its total area in the township, including public preserves and parks, as well as agricultural and private easements. Important historic resources include villages, cemeteries, churches, architecture, and industrial sites.

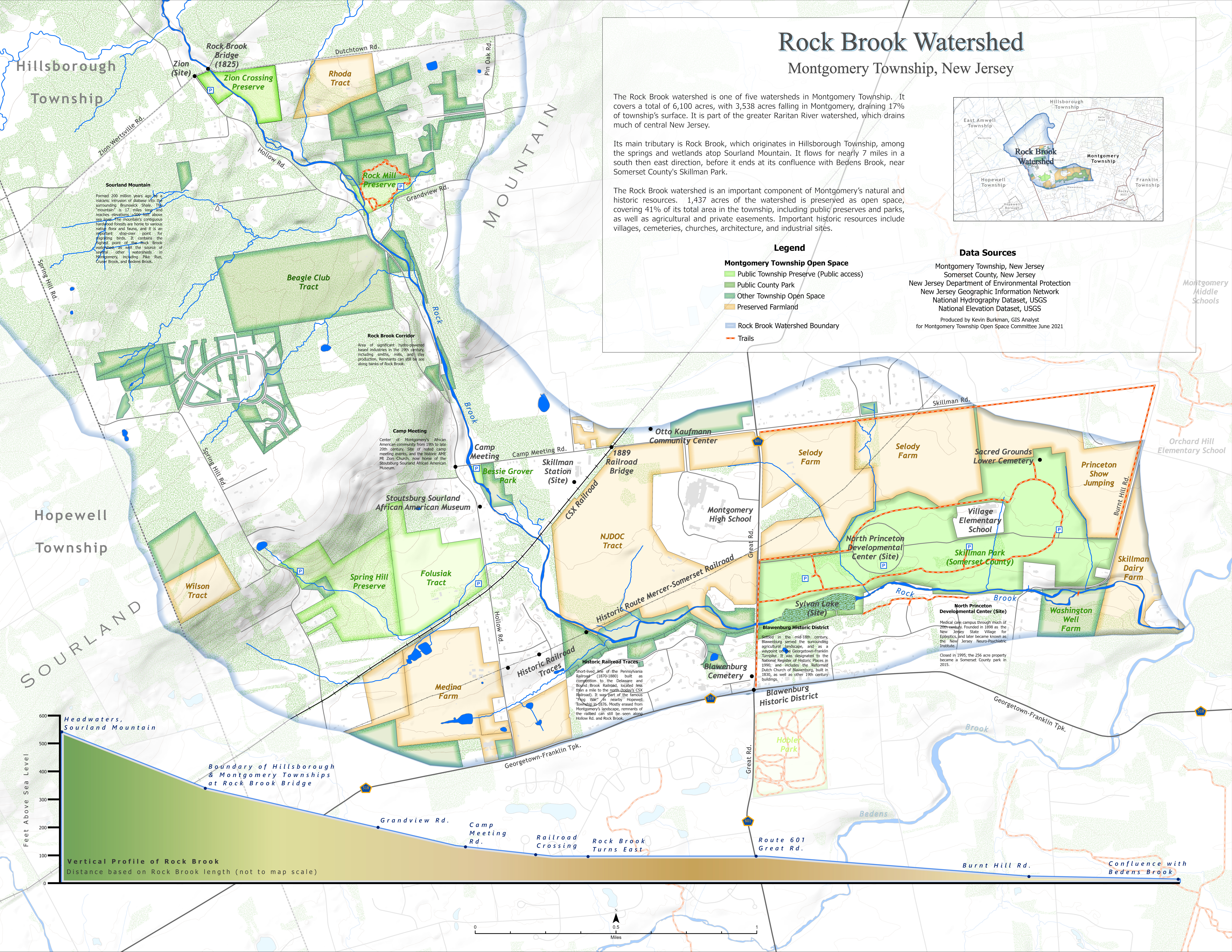


Legend

- Montgomery Township Open Space
 - Public Township Preserve (Public access)
 - Public County Park
 - Other Township Open Space
 - Preserved Farmland
- Rock Brook Watershed Boundary
- Trails

Data Sources

- Montgomery Township, New Jersey
- Somerset County, New Jersey
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Geographic Information Network
- National Hydrography Dataset, USGS
- National Elevation Dataset, USGS
- Produced by Kevin Burkman, GIS Analyst for Montgomery Township Open Space Committee June 2021



Sourland Mountain
 Formed 200 million years ago, the volcanic intrusion of diabase into the surrounding Brunswick Shale. The "mountain" is 17 miles long and reaches elevations 350 feet above sea level. The mountain's contiguous hardwood forests are home to various native flora and fauna, and it is an important stop-over point for migrating birds. It contains the highest point of the Rock Brook watershed, as well as the source of several other watersheds in Montgomery, including Pike Run, Cruser Brook, and Bedens Brook.

Rock Brook Corridor
 Area of significant hydro-powered based industries in the 18th century, including smiters, mills, and clay production. Remnants can still be seen along banks of Rock Brook.

Camp Meeting
 Center of Montgomery's African American community from 19th to late 20th century. Site of noted camp meeting events, and the historic AME Mt. Zion Church, now home of the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum.

Historic Railroad Traces
 Short-lived line of the Pennsylvania Railroad (1870-1880) built as competition to the Delaware and Raritan Brook Railroad, located less than a mile to the north (today's CSX Railroad). It was part of the famous "hog war" in nearby Hopewell Township in 1876. Mostly erased from Montgomery's landscape, remnants of the railroad can still be seen along Hollow Rd. and Rock Brook.

Blawenburg Historic District
 Settled in the mid-18th century, Blawenburg served the surrounding agricultural landscape, and as a waypoint on the Georgetown-Franklin Turnpike. It was designated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, and includes the Reformed Dutch Church of Blawenburg, built in 1830, as well as other 19th century buildings.

North Princeton Developmental Center (Site)
 Medical care campus through much of 20th century. Founded in 1898 as the New Jersey State Village for Epileptics, and later became known as the New Jersey Neuro-Psychiatric Institute. Closed in 1995; the 256 acre property became a Somerset County park in 2015.

