Double Trouble Village is a former company town with a once-thriving sawmill operation and cranberry farm. The natural environment of cedar forest and rapidly flowing streams provided both raw materials and water power for an extensive lumber industry from the mid-1700s through the early 1900s. As timber was cut, the cleared swampland created bog habitat ideal for growing cranberries. Cranberry culture began at Double Trouble Village in the 1860s. By the early 20th century, the Double Trouble Company was one of the largest cranberry operations in the state. Changes in the industry brought decreased profits, and the property was purchased by the State in 1969 in part to protect the Cedar Creek watershed. The abandoned village was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

There are conflicting stories about the naming of “Double Trouble.” Most of the common legends center around an earthen dam at a mill pond on Cedar Creek. Sawmill operator Thomas Potter may have coined the words “Double Trouble” in the 1770s after heavy rains twice damaged the dam, causing first trouble and then double trouble. A more colorful legend involves muskrats who were planning in growing at the dam, causing frequent leaks. Such leaks, when discovered, gave rise to the alarm, “Here’s trouble” upon which the workmen would rush to repair the leak. One day two breaks were discovered and one workman overheard the owner shout, “Here’s double trouble!”

TRAILS OF DOUBLE TROUBLE STATE PARK

Nature Trail
Green - 1.5 mile loop - Hiking - Easy
Trailhead Double Trouble Village at Cranberry Packing House - The Nature Trail has wide sandy signs and numbered posts that highlight the natural ecology of Double Trouble. Please check out the Nature Trail Guide in this brochure. The trail passes the old Gowyd Cabin and Twin Mill Cranberry Bogs, crosses a foot bridge over Cedar Creek, passes through a cedar forest, and follows a reservoir and tributary before crossing Cedar Creek at the White Bridge and returning to the village. Notice: No horses or bicycles are permitted on the cedar forest section of the Nature Trail between the Lower Hooper Bog and Sweetwater Reservoir.

Mill Pond Trail
Red - 1.3 mile loop - Hiking & Multi-use - Easy
Trailhead Double Trouble Village at converted pickers' cottage/public restroom - The original mill pond supplied water power to a series of sawmills that existed at this location since the colonial era. The pond then served as a reservoir to supply water for the cranberry industry. The Mill Pond Trail follows a service road from the village to the reservoir, then parallels the sluiceway to the sawmill and returns to the village.

Sweetwater Trail
Orange - 2.5 mile loop - Hiking & Multi-use - Easy
Trailhead Double Trouble Village parking area at entrance near mailboxes - The Sweetwater Trail parallels Pinevald Keswick Road and the Garden State Parkway until it reaches location of 20th century cranberry bogs. The trail then follows the Nature Trail along a reservoir and tributary before crossing Cedar Creek at the White Bridge and returning to the village.

Clear Brook Path
Purple - 0.3 mile out & back - Hiking & Multi-use - Easy
Trailhead Intersection south of White Bridge - Because of its pristine waters, Cedar Creek was alternately known as the Clear Brook during the colonial era. This 0.3-mile-long path follows an abandoned sand road that once serviced the now overgrown Mill Pond Cranberry Bog to a scenic overlook of Cedar Creek.

Swordens Pond Trail
Yellow - 1.5 mile semi (loop) loop - Hiking - Easy to Moderate
Trailhead South of Sweetwater Trail between reservoir ponds - Located south of the Double Trouble Historic District, this loop trail travels through more of a wilderness setting while passing this hidden pond. Sections of the trail are often wet and flooded after heavy rain or snow. (Note: This trail is outside the hunting safety zone.)

Dover Forge Trail
White - 0.3 mile out & back - Hiking & Multi-use - Easy
Trailhead Dover Road/CR 618 approximately 1.2 miles south of Pinevald Keswick Road - The site of a former bog iron forge and cranberry bogs, Dover Forge has a 1/3 mile walking trail to a scenic overview of Cedar Creek. (Note: This trail is outside the hunting safety zone.)

NATURE TRAIL GUIDE
1. Virginia pine, also known as scrub pine/Jersey pine, has short, twisted needles in clumps of two and numerous pine cones that are a winter food source for animals such as the red squirrel.
2. Goosey Cranberry Bog.
3. Gray birch is a short-lived tree (30 years) with triangular leaves and white bark that many people often mistake for white birch.
4. Pitch pine is the most common evergreen of the Pine Barrens with needles in clusters of three, cones with sharp spines, and thick bark.
5. Scrub oak prefers sunny locations and rarely reaches tree size, with acorn drops close to the ground providing food for white-tailed deer, squirrels, grous, quail and other wildlife.
6. Upper & Lower Hooper Cranberry Bogs.
7. There is competition for sunlight between maples and cedars.
8. Red maple, also known as swamp maple, has smooth gray bark and red autumn leaves.
9. Atlantic white cedar is a rot-resistant wood that was once milled in the village.
10. Abandoned bog. Once a cranberry bog, this moist, sandy area is now home to mosaics and moist-tolerant plants.
11. Endangered plants can grow in swamps.
12. Reservoir for cranberry bogs. Home to pickerel fish, painted turtles, snapping turtles, and water snakes.
13. Dead trees in reservoir provide nesting sites and stopovers for migratory waterfowl.
14. Sweet bay magnolia has white fragrant flowers in June and July.
15. Greenback/catheletter beeves provide a winter food supply to grosbeak, deer and rabbits.
16. Mountain laurel has white-pink flowers during late May and early June.
17. A tree canopy is formed by trees growing to gain the most sunlight.
18. Bald maples and Atlantic white cedar have overaken the abandoned 55 acre Mill Pond Bog.
19. Poison ivy has leaves of three, so let it be.
20. The sawmill was used for milling cedar.

TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY
Be prepared: Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Check the weather before you go, dress appropriately, and tell someone where you intend to hike and when you expect to finish.
Be alert! Be careful! Parks include natural hazards such as ticks and poison ivy. Stay on trails and avoid tall vegetation. Sections of this park (outside the historic district and cranberry bogs) are open for hunting. Visitors are encouraged to wear bright colors, especially during the fall/winter deer management season.
Prescribed Burning: Charred and blackened trees may be a sign that prescribed burning has occurred in the area. Prescribed burning is a technique used by the NJ Forest Fire Service to reduce flammable vegetation that could act as fuel in a wildfire. Prescribed burning is usually done in the winter, according to a plan, in a safe and controlled manner.

Report all emergencies to the NJ State Park Police 1.877.WARN.DEP (1.877.927.6337)
DOUBLE TROUBLE State Park

Trail Area Detail

- Dover Forge Trail (.4 mi)
- Dover Forge Canoe Access Trail (.15 mi)
- Ore Pond Canoe Access Trail (.8 mi)
- Clear Brook Trail (.65 mi)
- Sweetwater Trail (2.5 mi)
- Mill Pond Trail (1.3 mi)
- Nature Trail (1.9 mi)
- Swordens Pond Trail (1.3 mi)
- Historic Area
- Bridge
- Canoeing
- Historic Site
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Scenic View

Symbols:
- Straight
- Turn Left
- Turn Right