

PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARK AND STATE FOREST NATURAL AREAS NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS and WILD AREAS

Finding Joy (and Recreation) in Pennsylvania's Uncrowded Corners



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#LeapIn—Natural Areas * National Natural Landmarks * Wild Areas

Are you ready to enjoy time in some of Pennsylvania's perhaps lesser-known and more infrequently visited destinations? Then consider the Wild and Natural Areas and National Natural Landmarks dotted throughout the commonwealth.

According to DCNR, a "Natural Area" is an area within a state park of unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value which will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate usually without direct human intervention. These areas are set aside to:

- Provide locations for scientific observation of natural systems
- Protect examples of typical and unique plant and animal communities
- Protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty

Likewise, a "National Natural Landmark" is a nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, an area must be one of the best examples of a type of biological community or geological feature in a physiographic province.

Of the 22 state park natural areas, seven are National Natural Landmarks, and I won't promise that these will be "uncrowded." For example, Ricketts Glen State Park is one of the system's most visited parks—but the Glens Natural Area is well worth sharing with a few other people!

There are seven National Natural Landmarks in five of the state forests of Pennsylvania.

Visit DCNR's website at www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhereToGo/NaturalAreas for more information.







Left to Right: Bear Meadows Natural Area, Nottingham Serpentine Barrens, Hickory Run Boulder Field

"Wild Areas" are only found in state forests and are defined as "land where development or disturbance of permanent nature will be prohibited, thereby preserving the wild character of the area" and "an extensive area which the general public will be permitted to see, use and enjoy for such activities as hiking, hunting, fishing, and the pursuit of peace and solitude." They are generally extensive tracts managed to protect the forest's wild character and to provide backcountry recreational opportunities.

Here's hoping you find your favorite place among the wild and natural!

marci

Marci Mowery, President Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation For some insight into why *time in quiet places* is so important for human health and well-being, check out the latest video in our "Health & Economic Benefits of the Outdoors" video series on our YouTube channel.



NATURAL AREAS AND NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS*

State Parks

Black Moshannon State Park - Black Moshannon Bogs

The Black Moshannon Bogs at <u>Black Moshannon State Park</u> are wetlands adjacent to the southwest arm of the lake comprise the finest reconstructed bog in Pennsylvania. Includes many rare plants associated with sphagnum bogs.

Colton Point State Park and Leonard Harrison State Park - Pine Creek Gorge

Both <u>Colton Point State Park</u> and <u>Leonard Harrison State Park</u> are surrounding Pine Creek Gorge, a portion of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Park vistas on east and west rims overlook the scenic gorge that contains rare plants. Pine Creek Gorge is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

*Cook Forest State Park - Cook Forest and Swamp Forest

<u>Cook Forest State Park's</u> Cook Forest is a relic of the forest type that once covered northern Pennsylvania. The forest is predominately comprised of Eastern white pine along with Eastern hemlocks and mixed hardwood tree species. Many of the trees are over 300 years old. **Cook Forest is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**

Swamp Forest has a perched water table that gives rise to palustrine wetland of old growth eastern hemlocks and white pines at the headwaters of Brown's Run.



Cook Forest. Photo by PA Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau.

Delaware Canal State Park - Nockamixon Cliffs and River Islands

<u>Delaware Canal State Park's</u> Nockamixon Cliffs rise nearly 300 feet above the Delaware River and provides habitat for rare alpine species of concern.

The River Islands are 80 acres of seven different islands in the Delaware River containing natural plant communities and many rare plants.

French Creek State Park - Pine Swamp

Pine Swamp at <u>French Creek State Park</u> is 90 acres of acidic broadleaf swamp containing rare plant species. With characteristics such as vegetated sphagnum hummocks and mucky, water-filled channels.

*Hickory Run State Park - Boulder Field, Mud Run, and Mud Swamp

Boulder Field at Hickory Run State Park is a unique, geologically significant field of unsorted, loosely packed boulders resulting from periglacial conditions. The large size of the boulders and the low (I percent) gradient of the field make it nationally unique. Boulder Field is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

Mud Swamp is a remote emergent wetland containing rare plant species of concern. Mud Run is 1,335 acres with a remote mountain stream filled with a viable native trout population, lined with rhododendron and eastern hemlock, buffered by mature hardwood forest.

Laurel Hill State Park - Hemlock Trail

<u>Laurel Hill State Park's</u> Hemlock Trail is a scenic area of old growth eastern hemlock. This area includes a picture sque portion of Laurel Hill Creek which contains a viable native trout population.

*McConnell's Mill State Park

<u>McConnell's Mill State Park</u> is an outstanding geological example of land and watershed formation indirectly resulting from glacial diversion of a stream. An important secondary characteristic at this site is the surrounding old growth forest. **McConnells Mill State Park is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**

Moraine State Park - Slippery Rock Wetlands

Slippery Rock Wetlands at Moraine State Park is 92 acres of floodplain forest filled with northern hardwoods and adjacent palustrine and shrub-scrub wetlands containing diverse and rare plants.



Neshaminy Tidal Marsh. Photo by PA Natural Heritage Program.

Neshaminy State Park - Neshaminy Tidal Marsh

Neshaminy State Park's Neshaminy Tidal Marsh is 70 acres of freshwater intertidal zone along the shores of the Delaware River and Neshaminy Creek containing many rare plants.

*Ohiopyle State Park - Ferncliff Peninsula

Ferncliff Peninsula at Ohiopyle State Park is a peninsula formed by a bend in the Youghiogheny River. The area contains abundant wildflowers, old

growth hemlocks, mixed oak forests, and plant species of concern. Ferncliff Peninsula is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

*Presque Isle State Park

<u>Presque Isle State Park</u> is a peninsula, or "flying spit", formed by sands carried by the currents of Lake Erie. It is an impressive illustration of this type of formation and is the largest in the Great Lakes region.

The park has a large variety of habitats (bay, sand dune, heath, marsh, pond, etc.) which are critical for migrating shore birds and waterfowl. Provides habitats for many rare plants and animals. **Presque Isle is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**

Pymatuning State Park - Black Jack Swamp and Clark Island

Black Jack Swamp at <u>Pymatuning State Park</u> is a palustrine scrub-shrub and emergent wetlands adjacent to Pymatuning Lake. It provides habitat for plant and animal species of concern.

Clark Island is 161 acres of mature forest of hardwoods and white pines containing an inland, lake-fed pond. It provides habitat for plant species of concern.



Black Jack Swamp. Photo by Pymatuning State Park.

Raymond B. Winter State Park - Rapid Run

Raymond B. Winter State Park's Rapid Run is 39 acres of old growth forest of white pine and eastern hemlock containing areas of emergent wetlands, springs, and sphagnum bogs.

*Ricketts Glen State Park - Glen Natural Area Ricketts Glen State Park's Glens Natural Area is a relict eastern deciduous forest containing examples of stream erosion and spectacular waterfalls. The Glens Natural Area is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.

Salt Springs State Park - Fall Brook

<u>Salt Springs State Park's</u> Fall Brook is 34 acres containing many old-growth hemlocks and a steep gorge with a picturesque stream and several waterfalls.

Tobyhanna State Park - Black Bear and Bender Swamps

Tobyhanna State Park's Black Bear and Bender Swamps are acidic shrub swamps with openings containing sphagnum moss, rare plants, and animals.

State Forests

(Downloadable brochures available from the DCNR website on some individually-designated areas.)

Bald Eagle State Forest

Bear Run Natural Area

A small, 32-acre relic community of old growth hemlock, birch, yellow poplar, and ash, this natural area is located south of Woodward in eastern Centre County at the intersection of Bar Run Road and Cherry Run Road.

Joyce Kilmer Natural Area

Located on Paddy Mountain, 6 miles west of Hartleton in Union County, this 77-acre tract contains old growth white pine and hemlock.

^{*} National Natural Landmarks are denoted with an asterisk.

Halfway Run Natural Area

Comprised of 407 acres, this natural area is a rather unique tract of mixed oak and scattered conifers located in an area of pingo scars, which are small depressions with low ramparts left over from glacier activity. It is found in Union County, directly east of R.B. Winter State Park, between Sand Mountain Road and Boyer Gap Road.

The Hook Natural Area

Encompassing 5,119 acres, this tract is located on the North Branch of Buffalo Creek, 3 miles north of Hartleton in

Union County. Access is provided by a number of rugged foot trails. A complete watershed is preserved within this area.

Mt. Logan Natural Area

Located east of Castanea in Clinton County, this 512-acre tract contains old-growth hemlock and an outcrop of Tuscarora sandstone.

Rosencrans Bog Natural Area

Comprised of 152-acres of high mountain swamp, this area is located north of Loganton along Cranberry Trail in Clinton County. It contains cranberry, mountain holly, and high-bush blueberry.

*Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area

The Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area is an outstanding example of a relict forest composed predominantly of hemlock, birch, and pine, with scattered oaks. The Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.



Snyder-Middleswarth. Photo by Bill Sisson.

Tall Timbers Natural Area

Located just west of Snyder-Middleswarth Natural Area along Swift Run, this 660-acre tract is covered with a second-growth forest of oak, white pine, hemlock, and hard pine.

Mohn Mill Ponds Wild Plant Sanctuary

This 381-acre area of mixed oak forest with vernal ponds and springs is located along Mohn Mill Road at the tri-county boundary of Clinton, Lycoming, and Union counties.

The 2-mile long Merrill Lynn Trail circles through this plant sanctuary.

Buchanan State Forest

Sweet Root Natural Area

Sweet Root Natural Area covers 1,400 acres near Chaneysville, Bedford County.

A 69-acre stand of virgin hemlock and cove-hardwoods along Sweet Root Run can be reached from Martin Hill Road following the Tarkiln or Sweet Root trails. Most of the large hemlocks have succumbed to infestation by the hemlock woolly adelgid.

The balance of the natural area is composed of second growth oak and oak-hard pine stands.

See the <u>Sweet Root Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF)</u> for more information.

^{*} National Natural Landmarks are denoted with an asterisk.

Pine Ridge Natural Area

Pine Ridge Natural Area is a 568-acre tract located approximately one mile southeast of Chaneysville, Bedford County. It is part of an area called "Resettlement Lands" that were marginally productive farms purchased by the federal government during the depression to encourage the families to "resettle" on more productive farmland.

The abandoned pastures and fields have reforested through pine plantings and natural regeneration of Virginia pine. These pine stands are intermixed with the original oak-hickory forest type.

Horseback riding and hiking trails cross the area. Old foundations, granaries, cemeteries, and apple orchards are still evident.

See the Pine Ridge Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Cornplanter State Forest

Anders Run Natural Area

A true remnant of years gone by, this 96-acre tract located near Irvine in Warren County, contains white pine and hemlock that date back hundreds of years.

Intermixed among the conifer giants are a variety of hardwood trees common to northwestern Pennsylvania, including red and white oaks, sugar and red maples, black and yellow birches, and beech. Adding to the diversity is a wide spectrum of wildflowers including trilliums, violets, and trout lilies.

Of historical interest, a stone house dating to 1841 stands in a clearing near the southern boundary of the property.

See the Anders Run Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.



Anders Run Bridge. Photo by Tiffany Hrach.

Delaware State Forest

Bruce Lake Natural Area

This natural area covers 2,845 acres including two lakes - Bruce Lake and Egypt Meadow Lake.

Bruce Lake is a glacial formed lake and is completely spring-fed. Virgin stands of pine and hemlock were cut in the late 1800's, leaving the area vulnerable to fires that destroyed the rich humus soil layer.

Egypt Meadow Lake was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935.

See the Bruce Lake Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

Stillwater Natural Area

This natural area provided a sanctuary for Union Army deserters and young men evading conscription during the Civil War. Shacks were built on the islands of the swamp or in the dense growth.

This 1,931-acre tract contains a mix of conifers and hardwoods. About one mile of the Little Bushkill Creek offers "stillwaters" for canoeing.

Pennel Run Natural Area

Scrub oak, gray birch, aspen, and mixed oaks dominate the landscape of the Pennel Run Natural Area. This elevated area covers 936 acres.

A portion of Utts Swamp is located within this natural area. Reptiles and amphibians are protected by special regulations within Pennel Run Natural Area.

Buckhorn Natural Area

A high mountain swamp surrounded by mixed oaks is located within the 535-acre Buckhorn Natural Area. Reptiles and amphibians are also protected by special regulations within this natural area.

Pine Lake Natural Area

Located in this 67-acre site is a 10-acre glacial bog that exhibits plant zones ranging from open water to tree cover.

Various flora and fauna inhabit this truly fascinating tract.

Little Mud Pond Swamp Natural Area

This 182-acre natural area features a boreal swamp. Various emergent plants grow within the glacial bog, including species normally found at more northern latitudes like black spruce, tamarack, and pitcher plant.

Elk State Forest

Johnson Run Natural Area

This 216-acre wilderness features an old-growth hemlock-hardwood mix.



Lower Jerry Run. Photo by Nicholas Tonelli.

Lower Jerry Run Natural Area

This 892-acre natural area is noted for its old-growth pine and hemlock trees

Pine Tree Trail Natural Area

This 276-acre gem features an old-growth white pine plantation.

Bucktail State Park Natural Area

This is a 75-mile scenic drive from Emporium to Lock Haven, and contains views of some 16,433 acres in Elk and Sproul state forests.

All state-owned land visible from Route 120 (rim to rim along the

Susquehanna River and Sinnemahoning Creek) was legislated "state park" status in 1933 at a time when the Department of Forests and Waters did not have a state park system.

The "Bucktail" name is considered a memorial honoring Civil War volunteers who traveled this corridor to serve the Union. It was designated a state natural area in 1975.

M.K. Goddard/Wykoff Run Natural Area

This 1,215-acre tract is an excellent example of hydric hemlock and white birch forest types.

^{*} National Natural Landmarks are denoted with an asterisk.

Forbes State Forest

Roaring Run Natural Area

Located in southeastern Westmoreland County, this 3,500-acre area encompasses the major portion of the Roaring Run watershed on the west slope of Laurel Ridge. This natural area is an example of a complete forested mountain watershed.

Roaring Run is formed by numerous springs near the summit of Laurel Ridge and drops 1,220 feet in elevation over a length of five miles. Roaring Run is a tributary of Indian Creek, which empties into the Youghiogheny River.

Two high points of the ridge - known as Painter Rock Hill and Birch Rock Hill - are within the natural area.

When the area was acquired by the commonwealth in 1975, it contained old logging roads from past timbering operations. With some help from man, nature is restoring this area.

The area offers opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing by foot access only.

See the Roaring Run Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

Mt. Davis Natural Area

Found in southern Somerset County, the Mt. Davis Natural Area consists of 581 acres surrounding the summit of Mt. Davis.

At 3,213 feet above sea level, it is the highest point in Pennsylvania.

An observation tower is located at the high point, offering a 360-degree view of the highest point in the state.

Interpretive and informational signs are also located at the high point, which is accessible by vehicle.

The area offers many unique sites, such as trees deformed by strong winds and winter ice storms and small, concentric stone rings caused by localized frost heaving.

Drainage is to the southeast into Tub Mill Run, a tributary of Casselman River and part of the Mississippi River watershed.



High Point Overlook. Photo by Danny Doyle.

Weather is a very important factor in this area. Annual temperatures range from minus 30 degrees to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Frost has been observed at some time during every month of the year and snow depths can reach 4 feet by mid-winter.

It is common to see license plates from other states in the parking area, as many visitors aspire to visit the high points in all 50 states.

Hiking trails connect the Mt. Davis State Forest Picnic Area with the high point as well as to the lower elevations of the natural area. A picnic area is located about one mile from Mt. Davis along Mt. Davis Road. Motorized vehicles are not permitted in the area except on the road to the high point.

See the Mount Davis Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Gallitzin State Forest

Charles F. Lewis Natural Area

This 384-acre natural area is located at the western end of the Rager Mountain Forest Area near Cramer in Indiana County. A 2-mile foot trail, the Clark Run Trail, winds through the scenic Clark Run Gorge with its numerous, small waterfalls, and interesting geologic features.

See the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Loyalsock State Forest

Kettle Creek Gorge Natural Area

This secluded mountain valley is only accessible on foot. It is located in the southern portion of the Loyalsock State Forest.

This 774-acre tract was set aside in 1970 to permit scientific observation of natural systems, protect examples of typical or unique flora and fauna communities, and preserve areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The entire area will remain undeveloped for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Tamarack Run Natural Area

This unique natural area is located in the northeast portion of Loyalsock State Forest and is comprised of 234 acres near Sones Pond.

Named for the tamarack tree, this boreal conifer wetland provides protection for the plants, amphibians, and reptiles that call this natural area home.

Devil's Elbow Natural Area

This 404-acre gem is located at the headwaters of the North Branch of Rock Run in Eastern Lycoming County.



Kettle Creek Gorge. Photo by Nicholas Tonelli.

It is noted for its many emergent, shrub, and forested wetlands and is home to wetland carnivorous plants such as sundew and pitcher plant.

Michaux State Forest

Meeting of the Pines Natural Area

This 611-acre natural area is located adjacent to and north of Penn State University's Mont Alto Campus. It features five species of native pines - white, pitch, Virginia, table-mountain, and shortleaf - growing together. This does not occur anywhere else in Pennsylvania.

See the Meeting of the Pines Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Carbaugh Run Natural Area

This 780-acre area was established to protect several archeological sites. Early Native Americans quarried stone and produced spear points and arrowheads here. Carbaugh Run is also a designated Reptile and Amphibian Protection Area.

See the Carbaugh Run Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Mt. Cydonia Ponds Natural Area

This 183-acre area is located just west of Irishtown Road. It was established to protect the numerous vernal ponds scattered throughout the area. These ponds provide critical breeding habitats for certain reptiles and amphibians.

See the Mt. Cydonia Ponds Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Beartown Woods Natural Area

This 27-acre area is a relic northern hardwood forest more typical of northern Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. Species found in this forest type include sugar maple, yellow birch, American beech, and eastern hemlock.

Moshannon State Forest

Marion Brooks Natural Area

This natural area is located adjacent to the Quehanna Highway at the edge of the Quehanna Wild Area. The Marion Brooks Natural Area contains 975 acres - a portion of which is an almost pure stand of white birch. This area will be left to the forces of nature, free from human intervention.

See the Marion Brooks Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.



Marion Brooks. Photo by Larry Smails.

Pinchot State Forest

Spruce Swamp Natural Area

This 87-acre site located on the Thornhurst Tract is noted for its glacial bog where native spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack are found.

The area also is known to contain a few Pennsylvania Plant Species of Concern. Surrounding the bog and acting as a buffer is a typical hardwood forest interspersed with hemlock and assorted pines.

See the Spruce Swamp Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Rothrock State Forest

Alan Seeger Natural Area

The Alan Seeger Natural Area includes 390 acres north of Greenwood Furnace State Park.

A loop trail winds through rhododendron, under towering eastern hemlock, white pine, and yellow birch along Standing Stone Creek.

See the <u>Alan Seeger Natural Area Factsheet (PDF)</u> for more information.

*Bear Meadows Natural Area

The Bear Meadows Natural Area is located in Centre County, 4 miles south of Boalsburg.

This natural area contains 890 acres surrounding a fen wetland. Black spruce, red spruce, and balsam fir border large areas of highbush blueberry.

Good trails and an observation platform allow viewing of wildlife and songbirds while minimizing impact on the habitat. Bear Meadows is recognized as a **National Natural Landmark**.

See the Bear Meadows Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Big Flat Laurel Natural Area

The Big Flat Laurel Natural Area is in Huntingdon and Centre counties, 4 miles south of Boalsburg.

Adjacent to Bear Meadows Natural Area, these 184 acres include large stands of mountain laurel, Pennsylvania's state flower.

Detweiler Run Natural Area

The Detweiler Run Natural Area is in Huntingdon County, southeast of Boalsburg.

This 463-acre portion of Detweiler Hollow supports old growth white pine and eastern hemlock with a dense rhododendron understory.

Little Juniata Natural Area

Located at a water gap in Tussey Mountain west of Barree, Huntingdon County, this 624-acre natural area is of specific geologic interest for its talus slope of hard, white, Tuscarora sandstone and a horizontal thrust fault.

Rocky Ridge Natural Area

The Rocky Ridge Natural Area is in Huntingdon County, south of Martin Gap. These 150 acres of rich, mixed-oak woodland support numerous wildflowers among exposures of Oriskany sandstone and limestone.

Sproul State Forest

Cranberry Swamp Natural Area

Cranberry Swamp Natural Area is located in Clinton County, south of Renovo. It features a 144-acre mountain bog along the Chuck Keiper Trail in the headwaters of Cranberry Run.

See the Cranberry Swamp Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

East Branch Swamp Natural Area

East Branch Swamp Natural Area is located along Route 144, south of Renovo. Old growth eastern hemlocks shade the headwaters of the East Branch of Big Run in a 186-acre mix of plant communities resulting from turn-of-the-century logging, fires, and recent tornadoes.

*Tamarack Swamp Natural Area

Tamarack Swamp is located northeast of the town of Tamarack, Clinton County. This 267-acre tract supports eight wetland types including the tamarack and black spruce swamp, for which it is named. **Tamarack Swamp is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**

Bucktail State Park Natural Area

Bucktail State Park Natural Area commemorates the service of the Bucktail Regiment during the Civil War. State forest land is included along Route 120 from mountain rim to mountain rim, from Lock Haven to Emporium. (See Elk State Forest for more.

Susquehannock State Forest

Forrest H. Dutlinger Natural Area

This 1,521-acre tract is surrounded by the Hammersley Wild Area in northern Clinton County. Its main feature is a 158-acre stand of old growth timber, but it is also an important reptile and amphibian protection area.

See the Forrest H. Dutlinger Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Tiadaghton State Forest

Algerine Swamp Natural Area

This 84-acre gem straddles the Lycoming-Tioga county border and contains part of a glacial bog. The bog is prime habitat for black spruce, balsam fir, and other northern plant species.



Old Growth Hemlock, Dutlinger Natural Area. Photo by MyHikes.com.

Bark Cabin Natural Area

The Mid-State Trail passes through this scenic 7-acre tract of old growth hemlock trees.

Lebo Red Pine Natural Area

In Lycoming County, east of Lucullus, this 124-acre tract supports old-growth red pine, white birch, and oaks along the First Big Fork of Trout Run.

Miller Run Natural Area

This extensive tract consists of 4,992 acres of second-growth oak and northern hardwood forests. The roadless watersheds of three streams dissecting the plateau are protected in this area.

See the Miller Run Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF) for more information.

Torbert Island Natural Area

This 18-acre sample of river island habitat is located in Pine Creek - 2.5 miles north of the intersection of U.S. 220 and Route 44, northwest of Jersey Shore.

Tioga State Forest

Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area

Known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, this gem is 12,163 acres in size and occupies both sides of Pine Creek from just south of Ansonia to Blackwell, a distance of 18 miles. Pine Creek Gorge was designated in 1968 as a registered National Natural Landmark with a monument located at Leonard Harrison State Park.

Pine Creek Gorge is a rugged area with depths in excess of 1,000 feet from the rim to Pine Creek and widths in excess of a mile in some places. Vistas exist at various locations along the rim including Bradley Wales Picnic Area, Colton Point State Park, Leonard Harrison State Park and Barbour Rock Trail.

Rafting and canoeing are popular on Pine Creek during the spring. For the rest of the year, hiking, fishing and hunting are popular.

See the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

Black Ash Swamp Natural Area

This natural area is located within the Asaph Wild Area at the headwaters of the Roberts Branch of Right Asaph Run. The 308-acre tract has within it an old beaver dam that is now grass covered and an excellent example of second growth cherry and maple.

Reynolds Spring Natural Area

This natural area is located northwest of Cedar Run along the Reynolds Spring Road, just north of the Lycoming-Tioga County Line.

This 1,302-acre area exhibits a variety of vegetative types. For example there is an open pine swamp at the headwaters of Morris Run and several oak and aspen stands between Morris Run and Little Morris Run.

One small stand of northern hardwoods can be toured at the northwest corner of the natural area.

Tuscarora State Forest

*Hemlocks Natural Area

Located along Hemlock Road near Big Spring State Park, this area consists of 120 acres of virgin hemlock in a narrow ravine about one and one-half mile long. Three miles of trails traverse the area on each side of Patterson Run.

A picnic table is available for public use at the trailhead. Pamphlets are also available at the district office. Camping is not permitted. **Hemlocks is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**

*Hoverter and Sholl Box Huckleberry Natural Area

Located in Perry County near New Bloomfield, this isolated 10-acre tract contains a rare colony of box huckleberry, which is a single plant estimated to be 1,300 years old.

There is an interpretive trail at the site. Download the <u>Hoverter and Sholl Box</u>

<u>Huckleberry Natural Area Trail Guide (PDF)</u> to prepare for your visit. **Hoverter/Sholl Box Huckleberry is recognized as a National Natural Landmark.**



Box Huckleberry Trail. Photo by Gloria Benfer.

^{*} National Natural Landmarks are denoted with an asterisk.

Frank E. Masland, Jr. Natural Area

Surrounding a two-mile section of North Branch Laurel Run, this 1,270-acre tract is a good example of old, second-growth forest.

There are several access points along the outer fringe of the natural area that lead to a primitive trail system. This natural area has a special regulation that strictly prohibits the killing or taking of amphibians or reptiles.

See the Frank E. Masland, Jr. Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

Weiser State Forest

Sheets Island Archipelago Natural Area

This natural area is a series of islands located in the Susquehanna River in Dauphin County. This 70-acre group of islands supports many resident and migratory species of waterfowl and songbirds.

See the Sheets Island Archipelago Natural Area Factsheet (PDF) for more information.

Jakey Hollow Natural Area

This gem is located a few miles north of Bloomsburg in Columbia County. The 59-acre tract contains a mixed stand of old eastern white pine, hemlock, oak, and other hardwoods.

A few giant eastern hemlocks and white pines can be found here and serve as reminders of what the forest in this part of Pennsylvania must have been like in the past.

See the <u>lakey Hollow Natural Area Factsheet (PDF)</u> for more information.

William Penn State Forest

Little Tinicum Island Natural Area

Little Tinicum Island in the Delaware River is the site of one of the few tidal mud flats in Pennsylvania. This is also the site of several wetland species of plants and animals not commonly found in Pennsylvania. The island is a good place to observe waterfowl as well as some uncommon plants.

See the <u>Little Tinicum Island Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF)</u> for more information.



Beach on Little Tinicum. Photo by Marci Mowery.

David R. Johnson Natural Area

This 56-acre wooded tract is located near New Hope in eastern Bucks County. It is named after its former owner and its rich soils feature a wide variety of trees more frequently found in northern Pennsylvania than in the southeastern corner of the state.

See the <u>David R. Johnson Natural Area Fact Sheet (PDF)</u> for more information.

Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area

This 33-acre tract is located in Berks County south of Breezy Corners. It is primarily a forested wetland that features many pin oaks and various upland oak species.

WILD AREAS

Bald Eagle State Forest

Penns Creek Wild Area

Encompassing 6,000 acres, this tract is located on both sides of Penns Creek, which is well known for its nationally recognized trout stream of the highest quality.

The undeveloped nature of the area surrounding Penns Creek gives it the character of a true wilderness trout stream and makes this area remarkable due to the undisturbed scenic stream corridor, its riparian habitats, and its wild character.

Plenty of non-motorized trail systems exist in the Penns Creek Wild Area, including the very popular rail trail that connects the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission property at Cherry Run Parking Area and travels to Poe Paddy State Park.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Buchanan State Forest

Martin Hill Wild Area

Martin Hill Wild Area includes 11,500 acres of state forest land south of Martin Hill in southern Bedford County. This wild and rugged area connects Tussey Mountain with Evitts Mountain.

These forests have regenerated after harvesting in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Two small, natural ponds and several spring seeps make attractive watering areas for wildlife.

No motorized traffic is permitted within the boundaries of the wild area but numerous hiking trails provide access to the interior.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Delaware State Forest

Stairway Wild Area

This 2,882-acre wild area is historically significant as a bluestone quarry dating to the 1840's. It is also known for its wetlands, remoteness, and natural beauty.

Featuring Stairway Lake and a nearby vista overlooking the Delaware River, this area is a quiet getaway for shared-use recreation. Stairway Wild Area borders Buckhorn Natural Area to the northeast.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.



Stairway Wetland. Photo by Michael Mackey.

Elk State Forest Quehanna Wild Area

This area was once an industrial complex leased to the Curtis Wright Corporation for jet engine and nuclear research. It was returned to the commonwealth in 1966.

In the early 1990s, the elk herd expanded its range into this 50,000-acre tract.

The Quehanna Wild Area is jointly administered by Elk and Moshannon state forest districts. Snowmobiling, vehicular camping, and off-road vehicle use are prohibited to protect the wild character of the area.



Quehanna Bridge. Photo by Miranda Van Bramer.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Square Timber Wild Area

At approximately 8,461 acres (a portion of which is in the Bucktail State Park Natural Area), this area features deep narrow valleys and steep ridges.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Forbes State Forest Quebec Run Wild Area



Swimming hole. Photo by Rachel Christie.

With 7,441 acres to explore and miles of interconnecting trails, the Quebec Run Wild Area is a favorite of visitors to Forbes State Forest. It is located on the eastern slope of Chestnut Ridge in Fayette County.

Common recreational pursuits are hiking, hunting, fishing, and the enjoyment of peace and solitude.

Nearly all of the Quebec Run and Tebolt Run watersheds are encompassed by the wild area. Native brook trout can be found in the waters of Quebec Run.

Many old logging roads are still visible, along with dark brown sawdust piles that give mute testimony to the once active sawmills in the area.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Gallitzin State Forest Clear Shade Wild Area

The Clear Shade Wild Area is located south of the Babcock Picnic Area off of Route 56 in northern Somerset County.

Part of the John P. Saylor Trail and Clear Shade Creek wind their way through the 2,791 acres of cherry, maple, and beech forest.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Loyalsock State Forest



McIntyre Snow. Photo by PABucketList.com.

McIntyre Wild Area

This spectacular wild area is some 7,500 acres and holds the complete watersheds of four small streams that cascade in numerous waterfalls. It is located north and east of Ralston off of Route 14.

McIntyre was also the site of a 19th century mining town and contains the ruins of its buildings and facilities. The Band Rock Vista provides a spectacular view of the Lycoming Creek Valley.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Kettle Creek Wild Area

This 2,600-acre wilderness buffers the Kettle Creek Gorge Natural Area and is located in the southern portion of Loyalsock State Forest. It is home to an exceptional wilderness trout stream.

Primitive backpack camping is permitted within this wild area.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Moshannon State Forest Quehanna Wild Area

(See Elk State Forest listing above.)



Quehanna in Autumn. Photo by Rosemarie Rotenberger

Rothrock State Forest

Thickhead Mountain Wild Area

A short drive from State College, these 4,886 acres provide an extensive wilderness of mixed-oak forest. Thickhead Mountain Wild Area surrounds the Detweiler Run and Bear Meadows Natural areas.

Trough Creek Wild Area

Located on the slopes of Terrace Mountain above Raystown Lake, these 1,703 acres protect the aesthetics of this popular recreational area while providing additional opportunities for hiking and observing wildlife.

Sproul State Forest

Burns Run Wild Area

Burns Run, an exceptional value stream, empties into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, supporting a naturally reproducing population of wild trout.

The escarpment of Burns Run Wild Area is covered in a diverse forest of second growth hardwoods. Individual groves of large white pine trees from the nineteenth century persist.

Remnants of an old railroad grade used to haul timber during the logging boom of the late 1800s are evident, but there are no roads in Burns Run.

Russell P. Letterman Wild Area

This wild area encompasses 4,715 acres of steep mountains bordering Fish Dam Run, Clinton County. Fish Dam Run can be viewed from a vista along Route 144, south of State Camp.

The Russell P. Letterman Wild Area joins the Bucktail Natural Area to the north and Route 144 on the south. This is a rugged and remote area that can only be explored on foot.



Letterman Vista. Photo by Nicholas Tonelli.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

<u>Susquehannock State Forest</u> Hammersley Wild Area

This 30,253-acre tract is located in Potter and Clinton counties and is comprised of wooded valleys and plateaus. Traces of several logging camps and a logging railroad can be found here.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Tiadaghton State Forest

Algerine Wild Area

This 4,177-acre wild area north of Slate Run is traversed by a portion of the Black Forest Trail. It is truly a place to "get away from it all."

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Wolf Run Wild Area

This wild area contains some of the most remote reaches in Tiadaghton State Forest, and at 6,900 acres, is extensive. The Golden Eagle Trail provides access to the western portion of the wild area and to Wolf Run itself.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

Tioga State Forest Asaph Wild Area

This wild area is located in Shippen and Clymer Townships, Tioga County. This tract of rugged forest land is located 2.5 miles northwest of the village of Asaph and contains 2,070 acres.



Bob Weber Bench at Wolf Run Vista. Photo by Alex Momich.

Asaph State Forest Picnic Area is located on the southern edge of the tract. Backpack camping is permitted within the wild area.

<u>Tuscarora State Forest</u> James C. Nelson Wild Area

Located on the eastern end of Tuscarora Mountain, the James C. Nelson Wild Area consists of a single tract of 5,345 acres. The timber in this area was cut between 1902 and 1917. Felled timber was removed by a self-acting incline and logging railroad.

Later, minerals were quarried to make refractory brick. In 1964, the commonwealth purchased these lands from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company.

Except for the remains of the logging railroad and quarrying, there is little evidence of man-made disturbance. Primitive backpack camping is permitted.

Find out more in the DCNR-prepared flyer.

STATE FOREST WILD AREAS

STATE PARK NATURAL AREAS (and *Natural National Landmarks)

VISITOR CHECKLISTS

Bald Eagle State Forest	Rothrock State Forest
Penns Creek Wild Area	☐ Thickhead Mountain Wild Area
Buch and a State Farrest	☐ Trough Creek Wild Area
Buchanan State Forest	
☐ Martin Hill Wild Area	Sproul State Forest
Delaware State Forest	Burns Run Wild Area
Stairway Wild Area	☐ Russell P. Letterman Wild Area
	Susquehannock State Forest
Elk / Moshannon State Forests	☐ Hammersley Wild Area
☐ Quehanna Wild Area	I faithfiel sley wild Area
Square Timber Wild Area	Tiadaghton State Forest
	Algerine Wild Area
Forbes State Forest	☐ Wolf Run Wild Area
☐ Quebec Run Wild Area	
Call's to Costa Farmer	Tioga State Forest
Gallitzin State Forest	\square Asaph Wild Area
☐ Clear Shade Wild Area	T 60 / F
Loyalsock State Forest	Tuscarora State Forest
☐ McIntyre Wild Area	☐ James C. Nelson Wild Area
☐ Kettle Creek Wild Area	
Black Moshannon State Park	Moraine State Park
Black Moshannon Bogs Natural Area	Slippery Rock Wetlands Natural Area
Colton Point and	Neshaminy State Park
Leonard Harrison State Parks	Neshaminy State Park Neshaminy Tidal Marsh Natural Area
	☐ Neshaminy Tidal Marsh Natural Area
Leonard Harrison State Parks ☐ Pine Creek Gorge *	Neshaminy Tidal Marsh Natural AreaOhiopyle State Park
Leonard Harrison State Parks Pine Creek Gorge * Cook Forest State Park	☐ Neshaminy Tidal Marsh Natural Area
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STATE FOREST NATURAL AREAS (and *Natural National Landmarks)

Bald Eagle State Forest Bear Run Natural Area Joyce Kilmer Natural Area Halfway Run Natural Area The Hook Natural Area Mt. Logan Natural Area Sonyder-Middleswarth Natural Area Tall Timbers Natural Area Mohn Mill Ponds Wild Plant Sanctuary Buchanan State Forest Sweet Root Natural Area Pine Ridge Natural Area Cornplanter State Forest Anders Run Natural Area Delaware State Forest Stillwater Natural Area Pennel Run Natural Area Pennel Run Natural Area Delaware State Natural Area Little Mud Pond Swamp Natural Area Little Mud Pond Swamp Natural Area Elk State Forest Johnson Run Natural Area	Gallitzin State Forest Charles F. Lewis Natural Area Loyalsock State Forest Kettle Creek Gorge Natural Area Tamarack Run Natural Area Devil's Elbow Natural Area Michaux State Forest Meeting of the Pines Natural Area Carbaugh Run Natural Area Mt. Cydonia Ponds Natural Area Beartown Woods Natural Area Moshannon State Forest Marion Brooks Natural Area Pinchot State Forest Spruce Swamp Natural Area Rothrock State Forest Alan Seeger Natural Area Bear Meadows Natural Area Big Flat Laurel Natural Area Detweiler Run Natural Area Little Juniata Natural Area Rocky Ridge Natural Area Sproul State Forest Cranberry Swamp Natural Area	Tiadaghton State Forest Algerine Swamp Natural Area Bark Cabin Natural Area Lebo Red Pine Natural Area Miller Run Natural Area Torbert Island Natural Area Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area Black Ash Swamp Natural Area Reynolds Spring Natural Area Hemlocks Natural Area Hoverter and Sholl Box Huckleberry Natural Area Frank E. Masland, Jr. Natural Area Weiser State Forest Sheets Island Archipelago Nat. Area Jakey Hollow Natural Area William Penn State Forest Little Tinicum Island Natural Area Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area
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☐ Bucktail State Park Natural Area (also Sproul State Forest) Forbes State Forest	Susquehannock State Forest Forrest H. Dutlinger Natural Area	
☐ Roaring Run Natural Area		

☐ Mt. Davis Natural Area