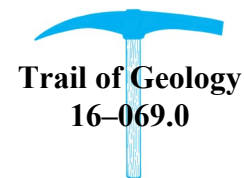


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

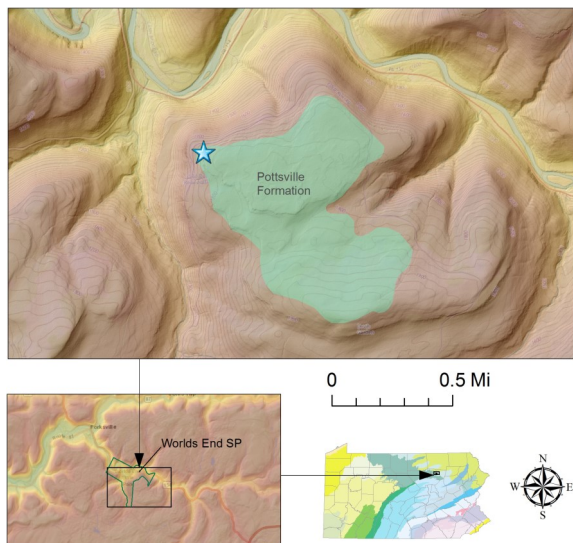
ROCK GARDEN, SULLIVAN COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County, Forks Twp., lat: 41.46206, lon: -76.57426; Eagles Mere 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

Rock Garden, also known as the labyrinth, is just to the south and up the slope from [Canyon Vista](#). Here, large blocks of the Pottsville Formation (Pennsylvanian age) form a “garden” of rocks. The blocks are bounded by weathered vertical joints that make an intricate series of deep, narrow passageways. The openings range from 1 to 3 feet wide, are between 10 and 20 feet deep, and generally intersect at right angles.

The rocks started as pebbles and sand deposited by near-sea-level streams and rivers during the Pennsylvanian Period, about 310 million years ago. At that time, Pennsylvania was situated near the equator, and streams were flowing off highlands into rivers and shallow seas. Crossbed patterns were created as the streams and rivers dropped sand and pebbles on the sides of migrating sand bars on the channel floors. The Pottsville Formation at Rock Garden provides excellent examples of crossbedding, and because crossbeds dip in the direction of water flow, they are an indication of the ancient current direction.

Recommended Reading

Royer, D. W., 1980, Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County—Geologic features of interest: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-012.0](#), 6 p.

[Worlds End State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

Right: The trail to Rock Garden.

Below: One of the trails through the labyrinth. Note the blocky nature of the Pottsville Formation sandstone and conglomerate.



Above: Quartz pebbles of the Pottsville Formation.

