

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

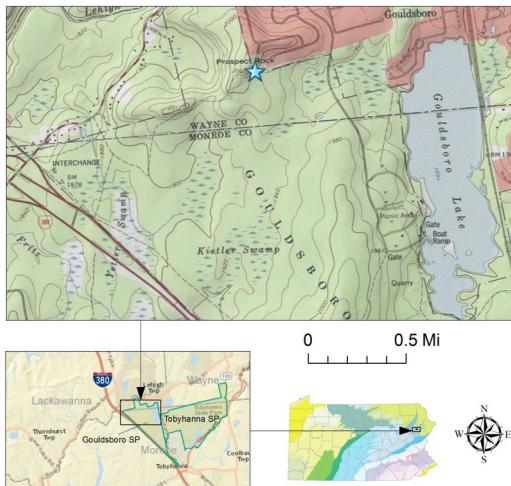
PROSPECT ROCK, WAYNE COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Gouldsboro State Park, Wayne Co., Lehigh Twp., lat: 41.2381, lon: -75.4743; Tobyhanna 7.5-minute quadrangle



Recommended Reading

Geyer, A. R., and Bolles, W. H., 1979, Outstanding scenic geological features of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Environmental Geology Report 7, pt. 1](#), 508 p.

Sevon, W. D., 1975, Geology and mineral resources of the Tobyhanna and Buck Hill Falls quadrangles, Monroe County, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Atlas 204ab](#), 2 pls., scale 1:24,000.

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

Right: Photograph of Prospect Rock from Geyer and Bolles (1979, p. 206).

Geology

Prospect Rock is a 20-foot vertical cliff of thinly layered sandstone from the Duncannon Member of the Catskill Formation. The outcrop is located on the Prospect Rock loop trail that runs for 5.8 miles in Gouldsboro State Park.

The Duncannon Member at this outcrop is gray sandstone. The nearly horizontal rocks show an internal crossbedding that developed in braided and meandering streams about 360 million years ago during the Late Devonian.

The rock face of Prospect Rock has developed along a vertical joint. This geologic unit typically does not crop out in the area, but when it does, it commonly displays a south-facing cliff with a gently dipping, north-facing slope.

The outcrop is located in the Glaciated Plateau section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province at an elevation of about 2,060 feet. The area was ice covered during the Wisconsinan glaciation and a stony ground moraine (an unsorted mix of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders) was deposited in the vicinity of Prospect Rock.

Glacial striations that are cut into the rock surface have been mapped at this site. The grooves show that the glaciers flowed slightly west of due south.

