

# William Penn State Forest at a Glance

## District Office



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## District Facts

- Named for the founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn
- Consists of over 1,500 acres of state forest land
- Protects high-conservation value forest and important bird habitat
- Found in Berks, Bucks, Chester, and Delaware counties
- Dominated by a mix of hardwood and oak species.

## Hiking



*Rose Trail*

- The Rose Trail winds for approximately three miles through Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens in Chester County.
- Gibraltar Hill's parallel and circular trails are accessed from nearby Ridgeway Road and Seyfert Drive.
- Tincum Trail on Little Tincum Island is accessed via boat on the Delaware River.
- Maps are available at district office and online.

## Camping

- Primitive backpack camping (at undeveloped sites) is permitted throughout the state forest.
- A permit is required to stay more than one night at one location.
- A primitive campsite is found on Little Tincum Island.
- Campsites exist at Gibraltar Hill and the newly acquired Buck Hollow site.



*Buck Hollow campsite*

## Sightseeing

- A hike up Gibraltar Hill reveals a great vista overlooking Berks County.
- Little Tincum Island Natural Area includes a Wildlife Viewing Area, a known heron rookery.
- Oak and other hardwoods produce a wonderful palette of colors for the fall foliage enthusiast to enjoy.



*Little Tincum Island*

## Hunting

- Game opportunities include deer, squirrels, rabbits, and grouse.
- Little Tincum Island is noted for good waterfowl hunting.
- Hunting is permitted throughout state forest except in posted safety zones; please obey all regulations.



## Fishing

- Octoraro Creek is a warm-water fishery that holds bass and panfish.
- The Delaware River is a renowned fishery featuring the anadromous American shad and striped bass.
- Pa. Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.



*American shad*

## Wild and Natural Areas



*Great spangled fritillary butterfly at Goat Hill*

- The 602-acre Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens is a unique ecosystem and a designated Wild Plant Sanctuary.
- The 56-acre David R. Johnson Natural Area is known for its rich soils and diverse hardwood tree species.
- The Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area is a 33-acre forested wetland in Berks County.
- Little Tincum Island Natural Area is a tidal mud flat, rich in estuarial species rare to Pa.

## Other Tracts

- The 400-acre Wertz Tract, southwest of Wernersville, features mature hardwoods and hilly and rocky terrain.
- The Hopewell Tract contains the district office and is also home to the Hopewell Fire Tower, a premier picnicking location that also features a CCC-era cabin.
- The recently-acquired, 81-acre Buck Hollow Tract is found near Gibraltar Hill.



*Cabin at Hopewell*

## Other Recreation

- Horseback riding is permitted on the Horse-Shoe Trail in the Buck Hollow Tract.
- Improved trails on the Gibraltar Tract offer mountain biking and cross-country skiing.
- Snowshoeing is permitted on established trails and throughout the district forest.



## More Information

For more information on William Penn State Forest, please contact:

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