

History and Land Use

Also known as Redbud Valley, the Kerper Tract is a 514 acre parcel located 7 miles south of McConnellsburg, in the ridge and valley region of the Allegheny Mountains. The Kerper Tract was originally the property of Ohio-born lawyer and amateur naturalist Edmund Kerper who purchased the property in 1934 and built a frame house with native materials. The foundation and spring house still remain.

Most of the bottom land was under cultivation when Kerper arrived but one of his goals was to create a sanctuary for song birds, and each spring he hired temporary workers to plant trees, flowers, and flowering shrubs, creating a kind of botanical garden and arboretum. Kerper's dream came partially true for today the area probably boasts more species of song birds than any other spot in Fulton County. The once beautiful, well-manicured gardens, however, have become wild jungle-like havens for many species of wildlife.

During the 1970's youth groups, including the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Neighborhood Youth Corps, and other groups constructed foot trails, stream crossings, a swinging bridge, stream improvement devices, parking areas and outdoor learning stations. More recently, a state-of-the-art footbridge was installed over Cove Creek and many trails were improved.



Recreational Opportunities

The Kerper Tract is a perfect location for birdwatchers and wildflower lovers to visit. Fishermen can explore Cove Creek, and sportsmen wishing to harvest deer, turkey and even small game can wander the eastern side of the tract. There are several trails available for hiking through the mixed oak and sycamore forest.

Dickey's Mountain Trail:

This trail is a 1.4 mile loop trail that traverses the eastern part of the tract through the wooded ridge. It varies in degree of difficulty from easy to most difficult. *

Deshong Trail:

This trail is a 0.8 mile loop trail that is situated on the western portion of the property and takes you on a tour of the bottomlands and Cove Creek. The trail is designated as an easy trail throughout. *

*Trails are signed with trail difficulty signs.

Trail Tips

Help to keep the trails clean. Dispose of any trash you may have and kindly pick up any that you may see along the trail. Keep the trails clean for yourself and other users!

Help protect the beauty of the trail by following *Leave No Trace* practices—leave nothing on the trail but footprints, and take nothing from the trail but memories.

You can expect to see a wide variety of wildlife when you are out on the trails. Please remember that you are visitor in their home.

Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don't damage trees and other plants.

Directions to Kerper Tract

From Route 30/McConnellsburg: Turn south onto Route 522 for about 7 miles. Then turn south onto route 928 and travel 0.2 miles to access the parking areas.

From I-70: Turn north onto Route 522 travel for about 14.7 miles. Then turn south onto route 928 and travel 0.2 miles to access the parking areas.

GPS Coordinates:

39° 50' 11.4" N, 78° 2' 56.7" W

Dual Certified Forest

Pennsylvania's 2.2-million-acre state forest system is one of the largest dual certified forests in North America. The forest is certified under Forest Stewardship Council™ and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® standards. The FSC® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. SFI® certification focuses on protection of water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Dual certification ensures that Pennsylvania's state forests are managed to the highest third-party standards.



The mark of responsible forestry



Kerper Tract

Buchanan State Forest

Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants.

Buchanan State Forest comprises 71,638 acres in Bedford, Fulton and Franklin counties. The Kerper Tract is a 514 acre special use area in Buchanan State Forest that is located along PA Route 928 just south of Big Cove Tannery in Fulton County.

For more information

Buchanan State Forest
Forest District #2
25185 Great Cove Road
McConnellsburg, PA 17233
(717) 485-3148
FD02@pa.gov
www.dcnr.pa.gov

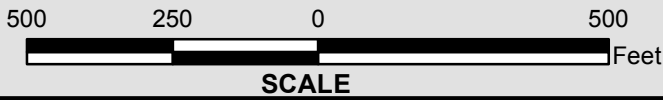


pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



KERPER TRACT BUCHANAN STATE FOREST

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF FORESTRY



LEGEND

- Trail Bridge
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Hiking Trails
- Shared Use Trail
- State Highway
- Public Use Roads
- Streams
- Rivers
- Buchanan State Forest

