


Sweet Root Natural Area

Area Facts



- This 1,526-acre area is in the Old Growth Forest Network.

- Tract is found west of Chaneyville in Bedford County.
- Area is located within the Ridge and Valley ecoregion.
- Area is known for its history of saltpeter mining dating to the Revolutionary War.
- Area protects the watershed of Sweet Root Run, a PFBC Wild Trout Water.

Buchanan State Forest

For more information, please contact:

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Ecosystem/Terrain

- The forest at Sweet Root is a mix of mature oak and other deciduous species.
- A population of old-growth hemlock remains in the natural area, despite the effects of the hemlock woolly adelgid.



Eastern hemlock, the state tree.

- Terrain is gently sloping in the northwest portion of the natural area and steeper to the southeast, ranging from around 1,700 to 2,400 feet in elevation.

Wildlife

- The natural area provides critical habitat for many species of birds, including several warbler species.
- Sweet Root Run holds a naturally-reproducing population of wild trout.



The red eft is a common salamander observed in the natural area.

- The natural area is an Amphibian and Reptile Protection Zone.
- Game species like deer, turkeys, and bears are common in the natural area and may be hunted during appropriate seasons.

Access

- Routes 26 and 326 are corridors that lead to the area.
- Sweet Root Road accesses the area from the east.
- Blankley Road accesses the natural area's entire western border.
- The Sweet Root Picnic Area is a popular point of access along Sweet Root Road.

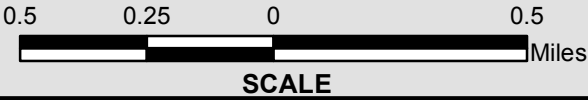


Trilliums are among many spring ephemeral wildflowers that bloom annually in the natural area.

SWEET ROOT NATURAL AREA

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LEGEND

- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Mid State Trail
- Hiking Trails
- Shared Use Trail
- Improved Dirt Road
- Drivable Trail
- Administrative Road
- State Highway
- Public Use Roads
- Streams
- Sweet Root Natural Area
- Martin Hill Wild Area
- Buchanan State Forest
- State Game Lands

