William Penn's Treaty with the Indians by Pennsylvania-born artist,



district was named William Penn State Forest. conservationists—William Penn. In August, 2007, the forest State Forest District in honor of one of Pennsylvania's first forest district, the Bureau of Forestry renamed the Valley Forge public confusion over the name of the federal park and the state state forest kept the name for the next 31 years. To eliminate Forge until 1976, when the facility became a federal park. The district was headquartered at what had been a state park at Valley Formerly known as Valley Forge State Forest, this state forest

assistance of the Nature Conservancy.

the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens tract was purchased with the Tinicum Real Estate Holding Corporation. In December of 1982, November 1982, Little Tinicum Island was purchased from the It was almost 48 years before the next land purchase occurred. In

Photo courtesy of Pennsylvania State Archives



Fayetteville, Pa. Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum in eventual goal of rebuilding it at the since been taken down with the erected in 1923. The fire tower has the Cornwall fire tower, which was Cornwall Estate. The site contained County line were purchased from th Lancaster County near the Lebanoi in January, 1935. Ten acres in William Penn State Forest was The first purchase of land for

History

towering white pines, and paw-paw. will find mature red oak, American beech, sassafras, tulip-poplar, this property to protect its clean water and forest resources. Visitors in Wernersville. Through his guidance, the hospital later procured It was through his advocacy that the state hospital was constructed local mill and farm owner who lived at the bottom of the mountain. Wernersville State Hospital. Its namesake, George Wertz, was the Forest. This 400-acre property was formerly the watershed of the The Wertz tract is another 2015 addition to William Penn State George W. Wertz Tract

observe the spectacular vista of Berks County. it was once a planned subdivision, visitors can now hike this area and unimproved and unmarked trails crisscross these 234 acres. Although Lands Trust. Located northwest of the town of Birdsboro, abundant This tract was acquired in 2015 through a partnership with Natural Gibraltar Hill

species of songbirds. sumac. Observers may also find salamanders, frogs, and various is home to swamp white oak, pin oak, winterberry holly, and poison on both sides of Mexico Road. It is primarily a forested wetland and This 33-acre tract is located in Berks County south of Breezy Corners, Ruth Zimmerman Natural Area

area is known for its mature trees and beautiful mountain laurel and variety of trees more frequently found in northern Pennsylvania. The near New Hope in eastern Bucks County. Its rich soils grow a wide Named for its former owner, this 56-acre wooded tract is located David R. Johnson Natural Area

Primitive camping is permitted on the island. wakes from large passing vessels and constant tidal movement. from the New Jersey side is preferred but is susceptible to heavy difficult for most watercraft because of shallow mudflats. Entering structures for docking a boat. Entering from the Pennsylvania side is When visiting Little Tinicum Island, please be aware there are no

ducks; but watch for poison ivy. Remember, "Leaves of threehawks, great horned owls, and a variety of migrating species of and unique plants. Be sure to look for great blue herons, red-tailed Pennsylvania. The island is a good place to observe waterfowl wetland species of plants and animals not commonly found in tidal mud flats in Pennsylvania. This is also the home of several area in the Delaware River Estuary and is the site of one of the few Located near Essington, Little Tinicum Island is a 200-acre natural Little Tinicum Island Natural Area

aster, fame flower, butterflies, and serpentine bedrock outcrops. and threatened or endangered species. Be sure to look for the serpentine

the site. Hostile to many plants, the barrens are home to many unusual across the area. Serpentine soils greatly influence plant life growing on chromite and one can see many small quarries and filled mine shafts chromium and nickel. Goat Hill was once mined for magnesite and soils owing to high levels of magnesium and heavy metals, especially barrens are not a common geologic feature in Pennsylvania, their unique sanctuary, located in the southwest corner of Chester County. Serpentine The Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens is a 602-acre designated wild plant Goat Hill Public Wild Plant Sanctuary

> discover uncommon plants. Little Tinicum Island is a good place to observe waterfowl and



and to provide backcountry recreational opportunities generally extensive tracts managed to protect the forest's wild character and conserve outstanding examples of natural beauty. Wild areas are for scenic observation, protect special plant and animal communities, nature and direct human intervention is limited. They provide places the state's major forest communities. Natural areas are "managed" by scenic, and historical features; or to showcase outstanding examples of natural areas set aside to protect unique or unusual biologic, geologic, Pennsylvania's state forest system includes dozens of special wild and

Wild and Natural Areas

The American shad is the largest member of the herring family.



shad as far north as the Frances Walter Dam near White Haven, PA River also provides springtime fishing opportunities for American include striped bass, smallmouth bass, and walleye. The Delaware

Common game fish species Creek and Delaware River. found in both the Octoraro Warm water fishing can be Fishing

regulations apply. Commission seasons, rules, and hunting. All Pennsylvania Game Island is noted for its waterfowl hunting and Little Tinicum Barrens is notable for deer tracts. Goat Hill Serpentine William Penn tate Forest district game can be found at all Hunting for deer and small Hunting and Trapping

Boone Trails, which are part of French Creek State Park's 35-mile trail This great picnicking site is located at the intersection of the Ridge and

tower is staffed during high and extreme fire danger. Wardens Association for fire prevention and suppression duties. The fire The old stone cabin and fire tower are used by the District 17 Fire Built by the Civilian Conservation Corp, it represents an era long gone.

Hopewell Fire Tower, ground cabin, and district maintenance facility. of French Creek State Park. This small parcel is home to the historic The Hopewell Fire Tower and ground cabin are nestled in the middle

views of the city of Reading and eastern Berks County. traversing this steep hill. Once at the top, there are commanding Gibraltar Hill contains many unmarked trails that aid visitors in

Hiking is one of the largest recreational uses of state forests.



encompass the length and width of the barrens. trail is marked with yellow blazes and is currently being expanded to miles long and wanders through hilly, serpentine landscape. The The Rose Trail, named after conservator Rose Chase, is about three County, has the only dedicated trail in the William Penn State Forest. Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens, located in southwestern Chester

In Case of Emergency

search and rescue.

G1953 JUN2020

Call 911 for police, fire, ambulance and

Recreation

are here for you to use, enjoy, and explore. drives. These forests belong to the citizens of Pennsylvania and trails, awesome scenic vistas, flaming fall foliage, and picturesque opportunities. They are known for their extensive network of offer unparalleled scenic beauty and boundless recreational largest expanses of wildland in the eastern United States. They State forests are vast and remote, representing one of the

and comprise 13 percent of Pennsylvania's total forest land. state forests are located in 48 of the commonwealth's 67 counties Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. Twenty million-acre state forest system managed by the Department of

PA State Forest System

William Penn State Forest is part of Pennsylvania's 2.2

hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching. freshwater tidal areas. William Penn State Forest offers hiking, barrens, high conservation value forest, Important Bird Areas, and protects unique Pennsylvania ecosystems, including serpentine Pennsylvania's piedmont and coastal plain ecoregions. The forest contains 1993 acres in ten separate tracts across southeastern Named for the founder of Pennsylvania, William Penn State Forest



William Penn State Forest

PARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Bureau of Forestry–Conserving Penn's Woods



Management

Guided by the State Forest Resource Management Plan, the DCNR Bureau of Forestry manages state forests for their long-term health and productivity while conserving native wild plants. While maintaining their wild character, these forests are nanaged as "working forests" and provide a suite of uses and values to Pennsylvania citizens. Our state forests are managed for pure water, recreation, scenic beauty, plant and animal habitat, sustainable timber harvesting, and utilization of mineral resources.

forest." Bureau of Forestry staff carefully manages the forest for a variety of uses and values, while ensuring sustainability.

Ecosystem Management

The bureau has adopted "ecosystem management' as its principal strategy for managing state forests. This approach seeks to conserve natural patterns and processes while advancing longterm sustainability. Ecosystem

Visitors may encounter active timber harvests on state forest land. Harvesting trees provides sustainable wood products for society while enhancing habitat and overall forest health.

management promotes conservation of plant and animal communities and the landscapes and habitats that support them. It also accounts for needs and values of people and communities. This results in a holistic, integrated approach to managing forest resources.

Mountain Laurel, Pennsylvania's State Flower.

A Working Forest

As you travel throughout the state forest, you'll see examples of our forests "at

work." Some of these management practices are more noticeable than others, such as active timber harvests, deer exclosure fences, natural gas drilling sites, prescribed fires, and gypsy moth spraying. Others are subtle, such as the protection of a vernal pool, buffering a stream from timber harvesting, or designating a special area to conserve wild character or protect a rare plant community. Each of these management practices and activities play a vital role in the management and conservation of our state forests.



The mark of responsible forestry

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 the Forest Stewardship CouncilTM and Sustainable Forestry Initiative© standards. The FSC© is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically SUSTAINABLE viable management of the world's forests. SFI© certification focuses on protection of water quality, biodiversity, wildlife

INITIATIVE

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.

Forest Conservation

The bureau's role in forest conservation extends beyond stateowned lands. The agency is charged with protecting all of Pennsylvania's forests from wildfire and damaging insects and diseases, and conserving and managing the state's native, wild plant communities. As the state's lead forest conservation agency, the bureau promotes knowledge of forestry and forest stewardship to other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industries, and the general public

Help Conserve our Forests

As citizens, our actions help determine the future of our forests. To learn more about how you can help conserve Penn's Woods, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov.



When carefully planned and executed, prescribed fire is a management tool that can benefit forests and reduce the risk of wildfires.

Forest Fire Protection

William Penn State Forest is widely developed and interspersed with large areas of forest and farmland. The geographical point where wildland and residential areas meet is referred to as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), which are of great concern regarding wildfires. To prevent destructive wildfires in these areas, the William Penn State Forest staff and Volunteer Forest Fire Wardens are prepared to act. The Bureau of Forestry has jurisdiction over wildfires within the commonwealth and the responsibility to provide wildfire suppression training and investigation of reported wildfires.

Get Involved!

Pennsylvania's public lands need your help. Through participating in DCNR's Conservation Volunteer Program or joining the Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens, you can take an active role to improve William Penn State Forest.

You can help with:

Trails/Wildlife Habitat — Creating or clearing trails, improving wildlife habitat and cleaning and stabilizing stream banks **Maintenance** — Planting trees and flowers, repairing foot bridges, improving accessibility to recreational areas, installing signs and performing light maintenance work

Technical and Engineering — Designing general engineering projects, maintaining technical specifications and catalogs, and developing computer databases

Forest Fire Prevention and Protection — Assisting with Smokey Bear appearances and presenting fire prevention programs in schools **Research** — Researching and developing checklists of flora and fauna; and assisting with geological and topographic studies and field research

General — Performing tasks not covered above. Examples: general office work and public contact opportunities

Please contact the forest district office and ask how you can get involved.

Here to Help You

The Bureau of Forestry's Service Foresters

Approximately 70 percent of the commonwealth's forest land is privately owned. The Bureau of Forestry provides leadership and technical assistance in conserving and managing these important forest lands. We also assist in the coordination of planting and maintaining trees in cities and towns across the commonwealth. William Penn State Forest District has several service foresters ready to assist you with the following:

- Forest management technical assistance
- Cost-share assistance
- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Regional planning advice
- Forestry and water best management practices advice • Information and education programs
- Urban and community forestry management
- Tree planting • Riparian forest buffer restoration

For assistance with any of these, please contact the district office.

Nearby State Parks

Neshaminy State Park - located in Bucks County along the Delaware River and consisting of 339 acres. Tyler State Park - located in Bucks County and consisting of

1,711 acres. Delaware Canal State Park - a 60-mile towpath located in Bucks County.

consisting of 45 acres. French Creek State Park - located in Berks and Chester counties, encompassing 7,730 acres.

Ralph Stover State Park - located in eastern Bucks County and

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center - located in Berks County and consisting of 665 acres. Marsh Creek State Park - located in northcentral Chester County

and consisting of 1,705 acres. **Evansburg State Park** - a small park located in southcentral

Montgomery County. Fort Washington State Park - located in eastern Montgomery County and consisting of 493 acres.

Ridley Creek State Park - located in Delaware County and consisting of 2,606 acres.

Norristown Farm Park - located in Montgomery County and consisting of 690 acres. Benjamin Rush State Park - an undeveloped state park found in

Philadelphia County. White Clay Creek State Park - located in southern Chester County and consisting of 1,341 acres.

Nockamixon State Park - located in Bucks County and consisting of 5,283 acres. Washington Crossing Historic Park - located in Bucks County and the site where George Washington crossed the Delaware River in 1776.

