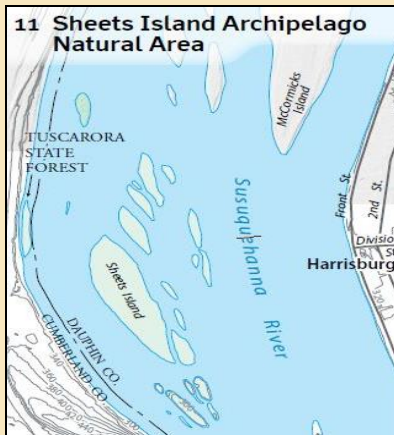


Sheets Island Archipelago Natural Area

Area Facts

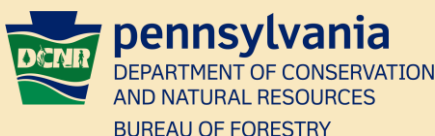


- The 70-acre area is a series of islands in the Susquehanna River.
- Tract is found west of Harrisburg.
- Area protects habitat for migratory and resident songbirds and waterfowl.
- Tract is part of Weiser State Forest and is located in Pennsylvania's Ridge and Valley ecoregion.

Weiser State Forest

For more information,
please contact:

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P.O. Box 315
Aristes, PA 17920
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Ecosystem/Terrain

- The islands are subjected to periodic flooding, greatly influencing the species that can grow there.
- Long, dry periods with low water also affects plant population abundance.



Shores of the islands comprising the archipelago show layers of vegetation with differing tolerances to inundation.

- Dominant deciduous species include silver maple, sycamore, boxelder, river birch, and black willow.
- Woody shrubs include smooth alder, silky dogwood, and buttonbush.
- Herbaceous plants include swamp rose mallow, cutleaf coneflower, and mud plantain.
- Islands are adversely affected by abundant invasive species.

Wildlife

- The natural area provides critical habitat for many avian species, including waterfowl and wading birds.



Great blue herons are often observed and nest in the natural area.

- The natural area is also home to several species of reptiles and amphibians, including map and snapping turtles, garter snakes, and green frogs.

Access

- The only way to access the islands is by watercraft.
- The Fort Hunter Boat Launch (PA Fish and Boat Commission) is found north of the archipelago.
- Overnight camping is permitted on the islands.



Green frogs are common on Sheets Island.

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