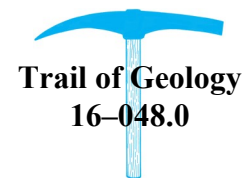


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

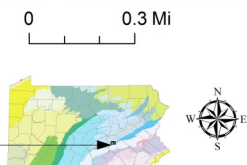
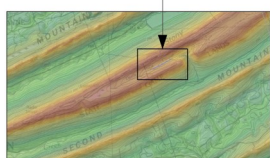
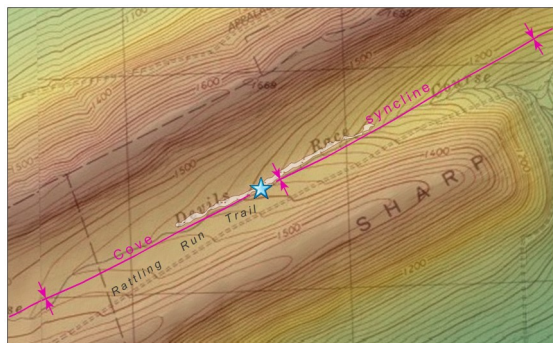
DEVILS RACE COURSE, DAUPHIN COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

State Game Lands 211, Dauphin County, East Hanover Twp.,
lat: 40.44383, lon: -76.73805; Grantville 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

The Devils Race Course is a very long and narrow upland boulder field in Dauphin County. The field sits on the axis of the Cove syncline (downfold) and is parallel to the adjacent ridges of Stony and Sharp Mountains to the northwest and southeast, respectively. These ridges are composed of Pottsville conglomerate and sandstone (Pennsylvanian age) and represent opposite sides of the syncline, the rocks dipping inwards toward the boulder field. Outcrops on these ridges were the source of the subangular boulders that today make up the boulder field. This feature is a relic of periglacial climate and probably formed in a manner similar to the [Hickory Run Boulder Field](#) in Carbon County—exposed blocks of bedrock from nearby ridges slowly moving downslope on thawed ground during the short summers associated with periglacial conditions. The rounded edges and corners of the boulders show evidence for jostling and erosion over their short journey (probably less than 1,000 feet).



View to the northeast. Boulders average about 4 feet in length. Devils Race Course is located on State Game Lands 211. The boulder field can be accessed from Rattling Run Trail (see the [Pennsylvania Game Commission Mapping Center](#) web page). Photograph by Kevin Tarbert, Pennsylvania Geological Survey intern.

Rattling Run Creek courses through this narrow upland valley to the northeast and has helped to remove any sediment in the boulder field. At times, the stream can be heard beneath the rocks. The contiguous, open-air part of the boulder field is narrow, typically less than 100 feet wide, but it extends about 3,330 feet. The rocky terrain is likely over a mile in length in the northeast-southwest direction, though much of the area is wooded. Based on lidar elevation data, the exposed field has a slope of about 2.4 degrees to the northeast and steepens at the eastern end to almost 4 degrees.