

Mt. Cydonia Ponds Natural Area

Area Facts



- 183-acre area
- Area was established to protect the many vernal ponds found there.
- Vernal ponds are seasonally flooded areas that are critical to many amphibians and reptiles.
- Located south of the town of Greenwood

Michaux State Forest

For more information,
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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Ecosystem/Terrain

- Terrain is mostly flat at roughly 1000' elevation
- Forest is comprised of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees.
- Common trees species include white pine, eastern hemlock, and mixed oaks.

Amphibians and Reptiles

- Seasonal inundation of the area provides excellent habitat for salamanders, frogs, and turtles.
- Examples include spotted salamander, wood turtle, and spring peeper.



Eastern American toads lay eggs in long strings in vernal ponds.

Mammals and Birds

- The natural area is home to a diverse mammal community consisting of deer, gray squirrels, and chipmunks, and many other native rodents.

- The natural area also provides an important nesting area and corridor for migratory birds.
- Bird species found in the natural area include common songbirds but may include seasonal visitors like wood ducks, American bitterns (PA-Endangered), and American woodcock.



American woodcocks use their long beaks to probe into mud for worms and other invertebrates.

Access

- US 30 and US 81 are major routes near the area.
- Route 997 passes the area to the west.
- Mount Cydonia Road accesses the area's eastern border.
- Muck Pond Trail and Little Mountain Tower Road are administrative roads that provide convenient foot access into the interior of the natural area. (see map on reverse)

