

Bear Run Nature Trail

Bear Run Trail traverses several forest type including northern hardwoods, oak forest, and conifer plantations. This diversity provides the opportunity to find many different plant species and forest conditions. The Bear Run Nature Trail provides an opportunity to investigate and learn about various forest habitats and the species found in them.

Bear Run Trail is accessible from the Barbour Rock Parking Area. It can be combined with the Barbour Rock and West Rim Trails to provide a loop hike about 3 miles long. Allow a couple of hours to enjoy the views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and the information available along the Bear Run Trail.

Parking

Parking is available at the Barbour Rock Parking Area. Located 3 miles south of Ansonia along the Colton Road. A pavilion is located next to the trail head. Please note the Colton Road is not maintained in the winter.

Trail Guide

1 Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobe A monarch of Penn's Woods. Generally reaches heights of 50'-90' but can reach heights of 150' or more. The only native pine tree in Pennsylvania with 5 needles per cluster.

2 Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga Canadensis The official state tree of Pennsylvania. A large, long-lived tree which provides cover for many species of wildlife. Currently threatened by Hemlock wooly adelgid, a forest insect.

3 American Beech

Fagus grandifolia Beechnuts provide an important food source for wildlife. Once a common, large tree in the area. Leaves are alternate, simple, 3"-4" long. They have a stiff leathery texture with a tapered tip and sharply toothed margins.

4 Northern Red Oak

Quercus rubra A dominant forest tree throughout Pennsylvania. It's acorns provide food for a variety of wildlife species. It's leaves are alternate, simple, 4"-9" long, to 6" wide, with 7-11 bristle-tipped lobes.

5 Tulip Tree

Liriodendron tulipifera Tulip Tree or "Yellow Poplar" is not very common in Tioga County. It tends to be a large tree with alternate leaves which are simple, 4"-6" in diameter, generally 4 lobed, bright green turning yellow in Autumn..

6 Sweet Birch

Betula lenta Note the raised roots on this Sweet Birch. This tree got it's start on an old log laying on the ground. It's roots drew it's nutrients from the decaying log until they were able to reach the ground. This young tree continues to survive long after the log has rotted away.

7 Quaking Aspen

Populus tremuloides This is a medium sized tree that is slightly more common in Tioga County than other areas in Pennsylvania. Leaves are alternate, simple, almost round 1"-3" in diameter, margins are finely toothed. Aspen tends to become established in disturbed areas and needs disturbance to continue to be common in an area.

8 Den tree – AmericanBeech

Note the hole in the right side of the tree approximately 9' high. Beech has a dense, heavy wood but it tends to have many cavities that can be used by birds and mammals.

9 White Ash

Fraxinus Americana This tends to be a large, straight tree, often up to 80' or more. The leaves are opposite, compound, about 10" long, with 5-9 leaflets each 3"-5" long. This tree is fairly common in northern Pennsylvania.

10 Basswood

Tilia Americana Tree to the left of post. A large, common tree in northern Pennsylvania. The leaves are heart-shaped, 4-6 inches long, 3-4 inches wide.

11 Yellow Birch

Betula alleghaniensis A common northern tree species, the leaves are alternate, simple, 3"-4" long, with doubly-toothed margins.

12 Black Cherry

Prunus serotina This tree grows throughout Pennsylvania but it's prime range is north-west Pennsylvania. It's leaves are alternate, 2"-5" long, narrow with tapering tip. Margins with short in-curved teeth distinguish it from other cherries.

13 White Oak

Quercus alba This is a dominant forest tree on dry to moist sites throughout the Commonwealth. The leaves are alternate, simple, 6"-9" long, and 4" wide, with 6-10 rounded lobes. The acorn is an important wildlife food.

14 Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum Although this tree is small, Sugar Maple can grow quite large and is important for wood and maple syrup production. It is also an important food source for wildlife. It's leaves are opposite, simple, 5-lobed with few large teeth, about 4" wide.

15 Hemlock stump

This decaying hemlock stump gives a hint of what the forest may have looked like over 100 years ago. The bark is a source of tannic acid and many hemlocks were harvested to supply tanneries.

For more information

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16 Beech Brush and Tree Seedlings

The American Beech sprouts prolifically from it's roots. Following a disturbance to a forest stand, beech sprouts may appear. Beech sprouts are not a preferred food of deer. Dense beech thickets can develop that shade out other tree seedlings.

17 Hayscented Fern

Dennstaedtia punctilobula Common fern in northern Pennsylvania. Lacy, light green triangular fronds. Able to withstand heavy deer browsing and can be very common in areas impacted by heavy deer browsing.

18 Red Maple

Acer rubrum A very common tree throughout Pennsylvania. A prolific seed producer. This tree continues to become more dominant in our state. The leaves are opposite, simple, with 3-5 lobes, coarsely toothed.

19 Sweet Birch

Betula lenta Sweet or Black Birch is common in disturbed areas. It's leaves are alternate, simple, about 3 1/2" long, unevenly saw toothed. The leaf base is usually heart-shaped. This tree provides lumber but it also has provided oil as a substitute for wintergreen and, of course, birch beer from it's sap.

20 Forest Opening

Notice the opening behind this post. A wind storm blew over a number of trees here. The trees were harvested. This opening should soon begin to fill in with tree seedlings and saplings. Keep an eye on it!

21 Beech scale — Nectria Damage

You may have noticed there are not that many large beech trees left in our forests. An insect named Beech Scale and a disease called Nectria Canker came through the area in the 1960s and 1970s. Notice the scars and decay on the trunk.

22 Red Pine

Pinus resinosa These Red Pine are actually a plantation. Planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression. The needles or the Red Pine are in clusters of 2 and are 4"-6" long.

23 Black Ash

Fraxinus nigra Sometimes called Swamp Ash. This tree is found in cool swamps, wet woods and bottom lands. Leaves are opposite, compound with 7-11 leaflets each 3"-5" long. Leaf margins are toothed.

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Tioga State Forest



Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres which is publicly owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. The purpose of the state forests by law is "to provide a continuous supply of timber, lumber wood, and other forest products; to protect watersheds, conserve water and regulate the flow of rivers and streams of the state; and to furnish opportunities for healthful recreation to the public."

Tioga State Forest comprises 162,000 acres in Tioga, Lycoming and Bradford counties. The Tioga State Forest has been under formal management since 1955 with the development of a Forest Management Plan. The Tioga State Forest Resources Plan provides detailed multiple-resources management plans for water, soils, minerals, fauna, flora, timber, and recreation. It will emphasize sustainability through an ecosystem management approach, striving to conserve the biological diversity while providing both recreational opportunities and forest products.



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