

INTRODUCTION

Some of northern New Jersey's most rugged terrain greets the visitor in the rustic beauty of Worthington State Forest. This area is located along the Kittatinny Mountain ridge adjacent to the Delaware River and is just north of the scenic Delaware Water Gap in Warren County. Except for some fields along the Delaware River, Worthington is completely covered in lush woodland and is an ideal place for many forest recreational activities. There is boating and fishing on the Delaware River, hiking and camping in the forest, undisturbed natural areas and other scenic attractions for the nature enthusiast or interested visitor.

HISTORY

The entire Upper Delaware Valley is rich in Native American lore and artifacts. The Lenni-Lenape established their villages alongside the river and hunted on the forested mountains long before the first Europeans appeared in the region.

Old Mine Road that passes through the forest along the Delaware River is one of the earliest roads in the region. It is believed that Old Mine Road was developed from a well-defined Native American trail, which was located along the Delaware River. This trail was used by fur traders and later by settlers from the Hudson Valley during the late 1690s and early 1700s. There is evidence that the Worthington camping area road is a portion of the original Old Mine Road. This would place the original road west of the present Old Mine Road.

According to legend, the first European settlers in the area were Dutch prospectors from the Hudson Valley in New York who arrived in the mid-1600s to work the copper deposits in the Kittatinny Ridge. In addition to the Dutch, settlers included German, English, Scottish and Irish nationalities. European settlement in the Delaware Water Gap-Worthington area continued through the mid-1700s. During this time, there were continual conflicts between the Lenni-Lenape and settlers.



Fearing that the Lenni-Lenape would join forces with the British during the American Revolution, General George Washington ordered troops to eliminate the Native Americans from the Upper Delaware Region.

During the mid-1800s, the recreation/resort industry flourished in the Delaware Water Gap area. Large hotels and boarding houses were constructed along the river, mostly in Pennsylvania. The railroad was also extended to the Delaware Water Gap. The village of Brotzmanville existed in what is today the Worthington camping area. This village included a post office, several residences, a sawmill, gristmill, school, lime kiln and limestone quarries.

In the 1890s, industrialist Charles Worthington began purchasing large tracts of land in the area, which included the village. By the turn of the century, Worthington's estate, called "Buckwood" consisted of 8,000 acres and included a private game preserve, farm, woodlands and residence. In his preserve, Worthington introduced the Virginia white-tailed deer and raised pheasants in addition to breeding pedigree cattle. During the early part of the 1900s, New Jersey's deer populations were at their all time low due to land manipulation and excessive hunting. Deer from the Worthington preserve, as well as deer imported from Michigan, were used to reestablish deer herds in New Jersey.

In 1953 the State made the initial purchase of 6,200 acres of land for conservation purposes and for the preservation of its scenic, natural and historic features. This land became Worthington State Forest in 1954.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Dunnfield Creek Natural Area - (1,085 acres) Dunnfield Creek Natural Area surrounds the clear, rock-strewn creek that falls more than 1,000 feet from the Kittatinny ridge to the Delaware River. Lined with hemlock, maple and birch trees, Dunnfield is also the habitat of native brook trout. Dunnfield Creek Trail departs from the Appalachian Trail above the river, follows the creek for two-thirds of its



Sunrise over the Kittatinny Ridge.

length, then climbs a ravine to again join the Appalachian Trail, making a fascinating route for the nature enthusiast. Mountain laurel, rhododendron and dogwood grow abundantly in the forest and when in bloom, present a spectacle of beauty.

Sunfish Pond Natural Area (258 acres) - Entered into the National Registry of Historic Landmarks in 1970, Sunfish Pond has become one of the most popular spots in Worthington State Forest. This 41 acre pond, located at the crest of the Kittatinny Ridge, was named one of the seven Natural Wonders of New Jersey in 1978. Millions of years in the making, the pond was carved out by glacial forces during the last Ice Age and is one of fourteen such rock basin ponds between the Delaware Water Gap and the end of the Kittatinny Ridge. Because of the chemical and geological composition of the pond, it is highly acidic in content and is able to host only a few hardy species of fish, including pumpkinseed sunfish, chain pickerel, yellow perch and brown bullheads. A 1.5-mile-long trail circles the pond and provides many beautiful scenic overlooks.



Boating

A public boat launch is available behind the forest office. As conditions permit, canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are available for rent for self-guided interpretive tours. Contact the forest office for more information.



Hiking

Ten blazed trails, covering 27 miles including the Appalachian Trail, are located in Worthington State Forest. The Appalachian Trail crosses the Delaware River from Pennsylvania just above the Delaware Water Gap and ascends through the mountain ridge in Worthington State Forest to the forest's upper boundary. From this point the trail continues on National Park Service land to Stokes State Forest and High Point State Park. This trail is restricted to hiking only for its entire length from Maine to Georgia. White blazes mark this narrow and sometimes very rocky trail.

In addition to the Appalachian Trail, there are several miles of trails, some involve strenuous climbs but offer breathtaking panoramic views. Others pursue old roads and are more suitable to casual hikers. A trails brochure is available at the forest office.



Hunting and Fishing

The forest is open to hunting and provides favorable habitat for deer, turkey and grouse. Please check with the forest office for the exact area and regulations. Dunnfield Creek has been designated a "Wild Trout Stream" because of its natural brook trout fishery. Wild Trout Stream regulations apply. The Delaware River is noted for spring shad run as well as for panfish and bass fishing. Fishing the Delaware River may be accomplished from the shore, by wading or from a boat. A ramp for launching small boats is located near the forest office. Fishing and hunting are subject to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife regulations. Visit njfishandwildlife.com for more information.



Camping

Campsites are available along two miles of river frontage from April 1 through December 31. Seventy-five campsites provide a fire ring, picnic table and space for tents, trailers or motor homes. Campsites 1 - 23 are tent sites only. Showers, modern toilet facilities and drinking water are available, however there are no water, electric or sewer connections for the trailers.

There are three group campsites with a capacity for 35 campers each. Facilities include water, modern restrooms but no showers. Campers may purchase firewood at the forest office. Reservations can be made online at camping.nj.gov.



Access For People With Disabilities

Worthington State Forest is partially accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the forest office for further information regarding disability access. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.



Be Bear Aware

Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the forest office. Visit New Jersey Fish and Wildlife at njfishandwildlife.com for additional information on bear safety.



Pets

Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.



Keep It Clean and Green

Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages and smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this forest.



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.



WORTHINGTON STATE FOREST
2 Old Mine Road
Columbia, NJ 07832
908-841-9575

Directions: Take exit 1 off Route 80 west, to Old Mine Road. The forest office is three miles north of Route 80.



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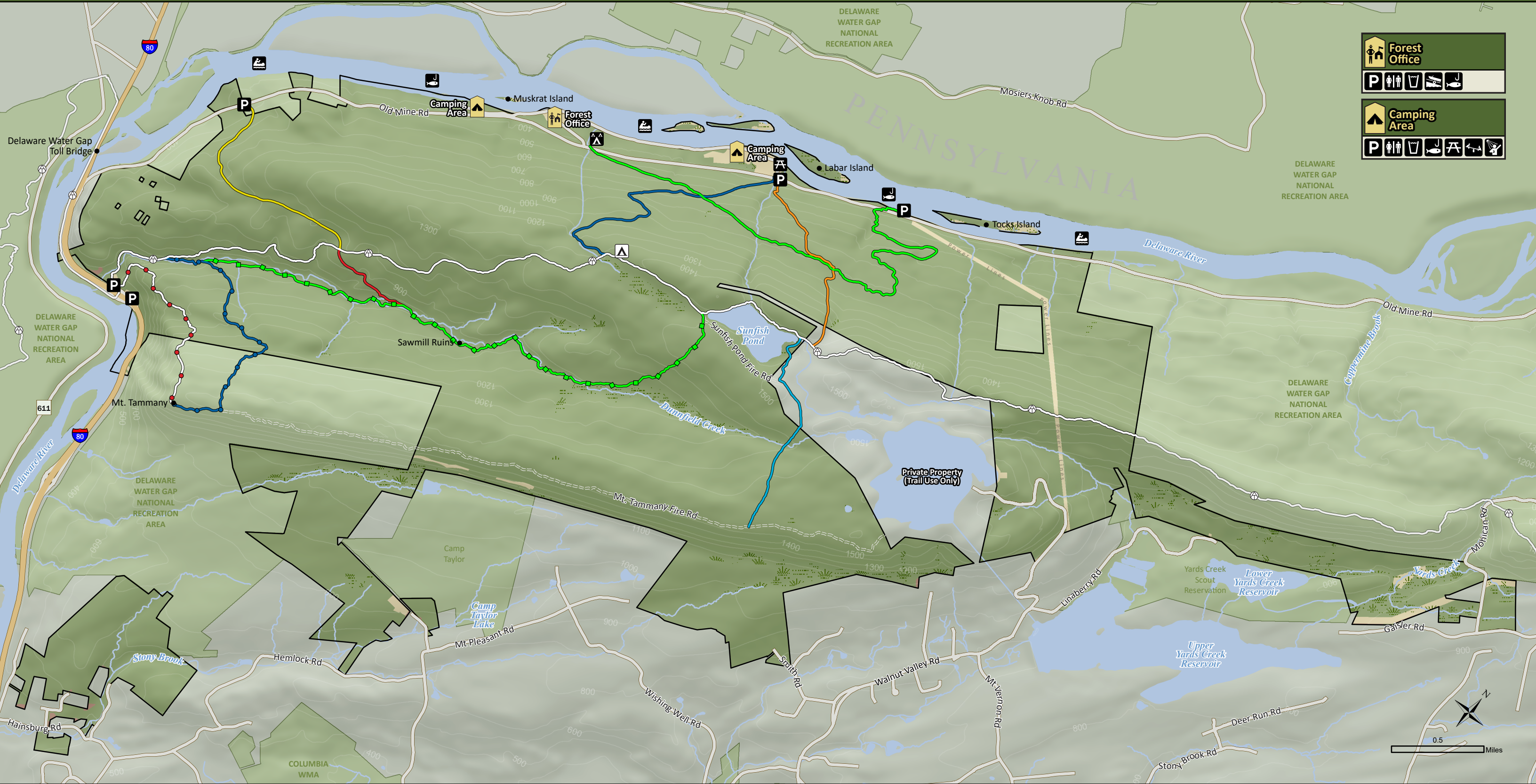
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Worthington State Forest



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service

WORTHINGTON State Forest



Forest Office

Camping Area

Open Field or Grass	Water	Appalachian Trail (6.6 mi)	Farview Trail (1.3 mi)	Pahaquarry Trail (1.4 mi)	AT Campsite	Fishing	Playground
Forest	Wetland	Buckwood Trail (1.3 mi)	Garvey Springs Trail (1.2 mi)	Rockcores Trail (3.3 mi)	Boat Launch	Group Campground	Restrooms
Developed Area		Douglas Trail (1.7 mi)	Holly Springs Trail (0.5 mi)	Mount Tammany Trail (1.5 mi)	Canoeing	Parking	Scenic View
		Dunnfield Creek Trail (3.4 mi)			Drinking Water	Picnic Area	Shower