



Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

Location: Borough of Fox Chapel, Allegheny County, Pa.

Dates acquired: 1976 - 1986

Size: 131 acres



Notable features: Mature forest, open meadow, shrubland, pond, trails and nature center

Recreation activities (see below for details): Hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting by permit

Directions: Beechwood Farms is located on Dorseyville Road in the Borough of Fox Chapel. From Route 28, turn north onto Route 8 (toward Butler). At the first light, turn right onto Kittaning Road. Continue for 4.5 miles (Kittaning Road will become Dorseyville Road). Beechwood will be on the left.

Beechwood's address is 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1618

For directions using Google maps, click [Here](#)

Delorme Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer Map 57, D-6

Description: Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve is one of the largest private nature reserves in the Pittsburgh region. Managed by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania under an agreement with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the reserve offers visitors the chance to explore diverse natural communities along well-marked trails. These communities include varying stages of mixed deciduous forest, an old conifer plantation, cleared meadows, shrubland, and a small manmade pond surrounded by wetland vegetation. Associated Audubon Society facilities include educational classrooms, the Audubon Nature Store, a natural history library, an auditorium and a native plant center.

Hiking and wildlife watching: From the parking area off Dorseyville Road, five miles of trails traverse the varied natural communities located throughout the reserve. The trails are open from dawn to dusk every day. Please note that dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the hiking trails, and selected trails are closed during archery season. Wildlife that may be encountered include species adapted to upland forest, meadow, and areas in between, such as white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, red fox, striped skunk, raccoon and screech owl. Canada geese and mallards frequent the pond.

Hunting: Bow hunting for deer is allowed on this property with a permit issued by the Audubon Society. Permits are currently distributed to a limited number of selected hunters. Please be aware that certain trails are closed during archery season. Also, please exercise caution and wear blaze orange during hunting season.

Background: In 1903, State Sen. William Flynn acquired more than 350 acres on both sides of Dorseyville Road. He established himself as a gentleman farmer, and named the property Beechwood Farms. Some of this property was acquired by Rachel Mellon Walton in 1951. Beginning in the late 1970's, portions of Beechwood Farms were donated to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and in 1977, the property became headquarters for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. In 1979, a nature center was completed adjoining the original farmhouse. In 1989, the Conservancy conveyed a four-acre parcel containing the nature center and parking lot to the Audubon Society. At that time, the two organizations entered into a joint operating agreement for the remaining 126 acres still owned by the Conservancy. This agreement allows the Audubon Society to operate the property primarily as a nature reserve for public outdoor education.

For more information, please contact:

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
800 Waterfront Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
866-564-6972
info@paconserve.org
waterlandlife.org

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
614 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh PA 15238
(412) 963-6100 X 25
www.aswp.org