

Location: Borough of Fox Chapel, Allegheny County,

Size: 131 acres

Dates acquired: 1976-1986

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

Recreational activities (see inside for details): Hiking, wildlife watching, bow-hunting for deer (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

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.



BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE



For more information, please contact:

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

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
614 Dorseyville Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-963-6100 x25
www.aswp.org

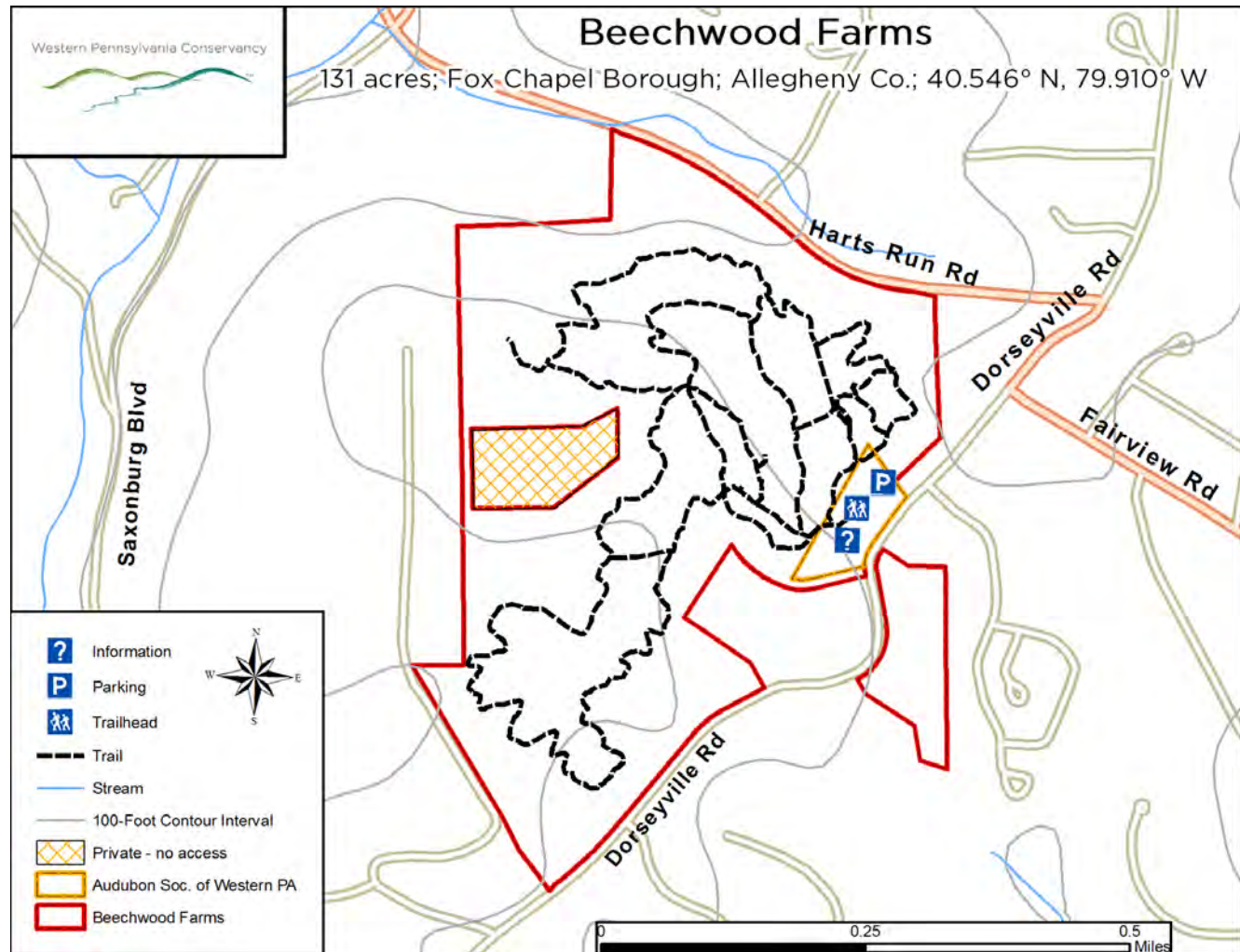




Recreational activities: From the parking area off Dorseyville Road, **five miles of trails** traverse the varied natural communities located throughout the reserve. **Wildlife** that may be encountered include species adapted to upland forest, meadow, and areas in-between, such as white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, and red fox. Canada geese and mallards frequent a pond. An observation deck (pictured above) gives visitors a birds'-eye view of the forest.

Bow-hunting for deer is allowed 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, and named the property Beechwood Farms. Some of this property was acquired by Rachel Mellon Walton in 1951. Beginning in the 1970s, portions were donated to Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and in 1977 the property became headquarters for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.



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.

When visiting Beechwood Farms, please remember:

- The hiking trails are open from dawn to dusk every day.
- Dogs and bicycles are not permitted on the trails
- Camping and campfires are prohibited.
- If you carry it in, carry it out.
- Collecting (animals, plants, rocks, etc.) without permission is prohibited.