

Location: Medix Run, Benezetette Township, Elk Co., PA

Size: 24 acres

Date acquired: 2012

Notable features: Floodplain forest, creek access

Recreational activities (see inside for details): Fishing, hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, horseback riding, biking

Directions: From I-80 Exit 101, take PA-255 North 16.2 miles. Turn right onto Rt. 555 East and travel 6.9 miles. Property is on the right. Look for a small gravel parking area.

Please note: The parking area is not suitable for horse trailers. Also, the parking area is not maintained in the winter and may be closed during extremely wet, icy, or snowy conditions.

Description: The Blakeslee Recreation Area provides important access to the Bennett Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek, which is now recovering after decades of being polluted due to acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines.



For more information, please contact:

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Ridgway, PA 15853

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or

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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DR. COLSON E. BLAKESLEE MEMORIAL RECREATION AREA



Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



January 2017



Recreational activities: The small parking area provides easy access to a former railroad embankment available for **hiking, biking, and equestrian use**. A spur trail off the embankment (the Anglers Path) is open for **foot-traffic** only, and leads a short distance to the Bennett Branch. Visitors have a good chance of spotting **elk**, but should remember to give those large animals plenty of room.

Natural communities: The Recreation Area features a mature **forested floodplain**. Small, isolated pools of water and woody debris on the forest floor provide important habitat for amphibians.

Hunting and fishing are permitted in accordance with state regulations. Please exercise caution and wear blaze orange during hunting season. Trapping is not permitted, and hunting is not permitted on Sundays.



Named in memory of a Western Pennsylvania Conservancy board member and local **physician from DuBois, PA., "Doc" Blakeslee** was a tireless supporter of conservation and environmental efforts, and championed the need for restoring the Bennett Branch and providing recreational access to the stream. Until his death in **2011, Blakeslee treasured our region's** beauty, and advocated for the protection of our natural resources.

When visiting the Recreation Area, please remember:

- Horses and bicycles are permitted only in the designated area.
- Camping and campfires are prohibited.
- If you carry it in, carry it out.
- Dogs must be on a leash or otherwise kept under control at all times.
- Collecting (animals, plants, rocks, etc.) without permission is prohibited.