

**Location:** Plain Grove Township, Lawrence County

**Size:** 394 acres

**Date acquired:** 1987

**Notable features:** Mature hardwood forest, vernal pools, old fields, Taylor Run

**Recreational activities (see inside for details):** Hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing

**Directions:** From the Slippery Rock exit off I -79, go west on Rt. 108 for 1 mile. Turn right onto Plain Grove Rd., and follow for 1 mile. Turn left onto Reese Rd., travel for 1.7 miles, and turn right onto Gerber Rd. Travel for 0.4 mile to the parking area on the right.

**Please note:** Access into the agricultural fields is possible only with special permission from the farmer.

**Description:** Plain Grove Fens Natural Area features mature hardwood forest, reverting fields, the meandering Taylor Run, and active agricultural fields.



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## PLAIN GROVE FENS NATURAL AREA

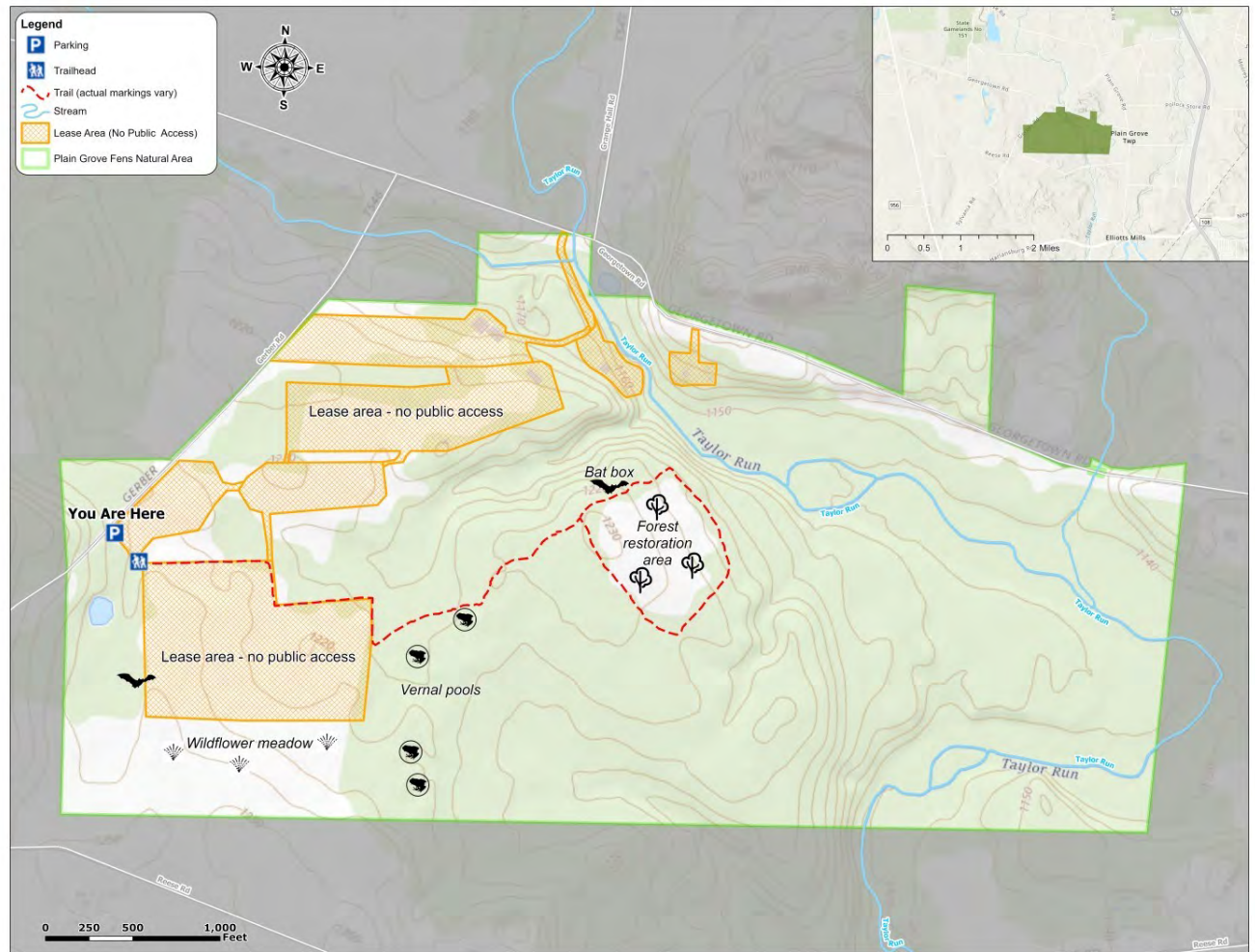






**Recreational activities:** Plain Grove Fens Natural Area offers **1.8 miles of hiking trail** (round-trip, includes a loop). Starting from the parking area, the trail follows the edge of fenced agricultural fields before turning to enter a mature forest. The trail then circles an old field being actively restored to forest. The trail is **easy to moderate**, and suitable for families with children. Portions of the trail may be wet, depending on the season and weather conditions.

The mixture of floodplain and upland forests, as well as old fields and transitional “edge” areas, provide habitat for a variety of **wildlife**. Several small, isolated pools of water that dry up in the summer (vernal wetlands) provide critical breeding habitat for amphibians. **Hunting and fishing** are permitted, though all hunting is prohibited on Sundays. Hunters should use extra caution in the vicinity of livestock, and all visitors should wear blaze orange during hunting season. Trapping is not permitted on WPC preserves.



The actual fens within Plain Grove Fens Natural Area consist of a complex of alkaline or calcareous (high pH) wetlands associated with seepages along Taylor Run. Most of the water that feeds these wetlands percolates through glacial till and soils containing substantial amounts of limestone. These conditions have led to the development of unique natural communities that support more than 20 rare plant species.

When visiting Plain Grove Fens Natural Area, please remember:

- Only foot-traffic is permitted.
- 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.