

THE HISTORY OF THE PRESERVE

Thompson Woods Preserve was purchased in 2000 to protect one of the few remaining valley forests left within the developed area of the Centre Region. The land was slated for development when ClearWater Conservancy recognized its ecological value. ClearWater raised the necessary funding from the community to purchase the land, including a land acquisition grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, substantial contributions from College Township and State College Borough, and private donations from concerned citizens.

ClearWater then placed a conservation easement on the property, which limits certain types of activities on the land and ensures that it will forever be protected. Ownership was transferred to College Township and State College Borough, while the easement continues to ensure that the land will not be

used in ways that threaten its natural beauty. Centre Region Parks & Recreation is officially charged with managing the Preserve.



Hikers stroll along one of the wooded paths at Thompson Woods Preserve.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Thompson Woods Preserve provides open green space for the community to enjoy such activities as:

- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Bird watching
- ◆ Nature study
- ◆ Walking leashed pets
- ◆ Biking on designated trails



Thompson Woods Preserve in winter.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are prohibited, as they can damage the Preserve or endanger visitors:

- ◆ Use of motorized vehicles
- ◆ Littering and disposal of yard waste
- ◆ Setting fires; Smoking
- ◆ Camping; Hunting & trapping
- ◆ Possession or use of alcohol, drugs, firearms, explosives, or other weapons

Please enjoy Thompson Woods Preserve. If you observe inappropriate activity within the Preserve, please contact 911 or, for non-police matters, call the Preserve operator, Centre Region Parks & Recreation at (814) 231-3071.

For more information about Thompson Woods Preserve or other local outdoor activities and resources, please visit:

- ◆ www.clearwaterconservancy.org
- ◆ www.crpr.org (Centre Region Parks & Recreation)
- ◆ www.dcnr.state.pa.us

MESSAGE TO VISITORS

We hope you enjoy your time at Thompson Woods Preserve. As you take a walk in the woods, listen and watch for the wonderful array of birds and animals and reflect on the importance this area has on the quality of the watershed. Please remember to tread lightly and to keep the area clean for other visitors to the area and for future generations.

Thank you for visiting. Please come back to Thompson Woods Preserve and enjoy this natural resource that was protected for everyone in the community.

PROJECT DONORS

ClearWater Conservancy
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
College Township
State College Borough
Individual Donors

THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Centre Region Parks & Recreation
ClearWater Conservancy
College Township & State College Borough

*Brochure produced in 2007.
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THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE



A Community
Treasure



Thompson Woods Preserve

WHAT IS THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE?

Thompson Woods Preserve is a 44-acre stretch of varied terrain, covered by a mixed hardwood forest of 80-90-year old trees. The preserve is the largest contiguous tract of mature forest close to downtown State College.



The variety of wildlife and plants on the property of the Thompson Woods Preserve is impressive, given its urban surroundings. The dominant overstory species in this woodland are red, white, and black oak, white ash, hickory, black walnut, sugar maple, white pine, and black cherry. The understory species are primarily oak seedlings and flowering dogwood, along with the non-native honeysuckle, privet, and multiflora rose. These tree varieties provide food and cover for a variety of wildlife.

The Preserve provides habitat for species of wildlife including:

- ◆ great horned owl, red-eyed vireo, Cooper's hawk, pileated woodpecker, Baltimore oriole, and many other species of migratory songbirds
- ◆ spring salamanders, red-backed salamanders, and box turtles
- ◆ white-tailed deer, gray fox, and the occasional black bear

Thompson Meadow Spring, located next to the Preserve, is home to many plants and animals found in clear, pure springs, and has been identified by the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) as an area of high conservation significance. One of the animals in this spring identified by PNDI is the globally rare amphipod (*Stygobromus stellmackii*).

BENEFITS OF CONSERVING THE LAND

In addition to providing habitat for wildlife and open green space for local residents, Thompson Woods Preserve also:

- ◆ Links Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Walnut Springs Park, Slab Cabin Park, and Lederer Park, providing a low-impact corridor to the downtown area in a ribbon of green
- ◆ Protects Thompson Meadow Spring, which shelters an endangered species, Thompson Run, Walnut Run, and the Duck Pond by recharging groundwater and absorbing storm-water runoff



Pileated woodpecker



Red-spotted newt

Thompson Woods Preserve/ Walnut Springs Park Trail Map

Map provided by Centre Regional Planning Agency

