

NATURE

**PENNSYLVANIA
DELAWARE**

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Happy summer, nature lovers! I'm excited to share a few staff recommendations of local favorite places to get outside and explore this summer. The next two pages include a list of sites in Pennsylvania and Delaware that are worth visiting this summer—and, hopefully, we've uncovered new gems awaiting your discovery.

When the weather is nice, I enjoy kayaking with my family and exploring our two states via the water. One of my personal favorites is the Assawoman Canal in Delaware. The water is calm, the surroundings peaceful, and you float through a beautiful tree canopy. In Pennsylvania, a new favorite is the Schuylkill Canal at Fitzwater Station. We've enjoyed lunch at the Station, followed by a calm canal trip where you're bound to see plenty of turtles along the way. I hope to see you on the water!

—Lori Brennan, Executive Director

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Delaware River Trail © Melisa Soysal

Get Outdoors and Explore—Our Staff Favorites

Ringing Rocks County Park

“One of my family’s favorite places is Ringing Rocks County Park in Bucks county. It is a great little park for any adventurer, but especially for families with little kids because there is a huge boulder field that acts like a large natural playground, along with a short and easy loop trail to a nice waterfall. Don’t forget to bring a hammer. If you hit the rocks with a hammer, they sound like a bell—hence the name “ringing rocks.”

—Chris Arnott, Freshwater

Delaware River Trail

“My favorite walk or ride to do on a nice day in Philly is the Delaware River Trail. The South Philly portion is my favorite. It’s tucked away from the city on the far east side along the water. It feels surprisingly far removed from the city, even though you can see the skyline over the trees. I even discovered a “secret” garden back by the piers where I’ve seen beaver, and if you go right at dusk, you might even see some bats.”

—Melisa Soysal, Development

Jack A. Markell Trail

“The Jack A. Markell Trail that runs from Wilmington to New Castle is a great place to go on a weekend for a bike ride. You can ride all the way to Historic New Castle, and it’s a somewhat easy trail so older kids can join. Great way to see parts of Wilmington that you don’t see from the road. You can have lunch in New Castle, then ride back. The trail is enjoyed by lots of people, walking or riding either part of the trail or all of the trail.”

—Laura de Ramel, Philanthropy

Brandywine Creek State Park

“Brandywine Creek State Park in Delaware is fantastic. Just a few miles north of downtown Wilmington, it’s a lush gem in close proximity to a suburban area of northern Delaware.”

—Julie Ulrich, Urban Conservation



Top: Sunset over Rehoboth Bay © Diane Querey; Bottom: A hiking trail on the West Branch Forest Preserve. © Nicholas Tonelli; Right: Beaver Creek in the Brandywine Valley unit of First State National Historical Park. © John Hinkson

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Lock 12 Recreational Area © Brian Campbell

Lock 12 Recreational Area

“On the Mason-Dixon Trail in York County, Pennsylvania, one of my family’s favorite places to visit is Lock 12 Recreational Area. There’s the historic canal and kiln, one of the area’s few waterfalls (Mill Creek Falls), and—on a dry day—you can probably rock-hop across the Susquehanna River to Lancaster County.”

—**Brian Campbell, Regenerative Ag**

First State National Historical Park

“My vote is for the Brandywine Valley unit of First State National Historical Park. This is one of my favorite places to explore in the summer. To me, this site—while not truly being “off the beaten path” as it is only five miles north of downtown Wilmington—FEELS like you are off the beaten path once you get onto one of the park’s trails. With eight miles of trails, many along the beautiful and historic Brandywine River, you can see forests, meadows and wetlands that support a diversity of wildlife, and catch glimpses of the valley’s cultural traditions of agriculture and horseback riding.”

—**Kim Hachadoorian, Stream Stewards**

Loyalsock State Forest

“I recommend Loyalsock State Forest in Sullivan County, PA. Great vistas, camping, forests, streams for fishing for trout, hiking along the 57-mile Loyalsock Trail, and the Old Loggers Path, plus lounging in the River at the Haystacks. There’s also a fantastic little place called the Forksville General Store. Best Philly Cheesesteak outside of Philly (they win awards).”

—**Jon Niles, Wetland Restoration**

Get Outdoors and Explore, Continued

Sproul State Forest

“Route 144 between Snow Shoe and Renovo goes through some of the most remote parts of Pennsylvania. Throughout these extensively forested areas are a mix of forest age classes and forest types, which provides great wildlife diversity. If you’re lucky you might also spot a Pennsylvania elk!”

—**Kevin Yoder, Conservation Forester**

West Branch Forest Nature Preserve

“My favorite TNC preserve is West Branch Forest, located in Clinton County. There are over 12 miles of trails on the 3,000-acre property, with several spectacular views of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Dozens of species of warblers migrate through in spring, and some nest in the forests at West Branch. There is a chestnut orchard, and lots of wildlife, including deer, black bears, ruffed grouse, timber rattlesnakes, bobcat. Several small streams contain native brook trout.”

—**George Gress, Fire Specialist**

Delaware Seashore State Park

“Vacationers love to catch a sunrise over the Atlantic ocean, but I honestly think the sunsets over Rehoboth Bay are even better. The Bayside Tower Road parking lot at Delaware Seashore State Park just south of Dewey Beach is a cute spot to enjoy a dinner picnic on the beach while soaking up the last of the day’s sun rays. Or you can take an evening paddle and be rewarded with the colorful colors of sunset from the water.”

—**John Hinkson, Marketing**