

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center



For More Information Contact:

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS(888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday to Saturday, for state park information
and reservations.

Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center

Nolde Forest encompasses more than 665 acres of deciduous woodlands and coniferous plantations. A network of trails makes the center's streams, ponds and diverse habitats accessible to both students and visitors. Teaching stations offer places for students to work and benches for those who wish to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds associated with the natural world. ADA accessible trails are located by the mansion and sawmill.



The Nolde mansion houses offices for the center staff. A garden featuring native wildflowers is adjacent to the mansion. The C.H. McConnell Environmental Education Hall near the mansion is the indoor site for year-round programming.

Schools and groups should schedule learning experiences as far in advance as possible. A schedule of public programs is available at the center office. For more information on current public and school programs or to schedule activities, contact the center.

Directions

Nolde Forest is in Berks County, Pennsylvania, on PA 625, two miles south of PA 724 or three miles north of PA 568. The center office is located on Park Office Lane.

Environmental Education and Interpretation



The Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, is dedicated to helping people develop a sound environmental ethic. Since the early 1970s, the center has provided a wide variety of activity-oriented programs for students, teachers, adult groups and individuals.



Recreational Opportunities

The office and mansion parking lot are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. All other areas are open sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Park only in designated areas, not along roadways.

TRAILS: 10 miles of trails

The trails of Noland Forest wander throughout the park under tall trees and near creeks. Some trails are footpaths and others are remnants of gravel roads used by original owners of the mansion. Only trails with trail sign posts are maintained.

Tell us about your hike at:



PICNICKING: Two small picnic areas are located by the sawmill and mansion parking areas.

FISHING: The Angelica Creek supports a native trout population. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

WINTER ACTIVITIES: With adequate snow cover, trails are open for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

A normal school day brings several classes of students to participate in the center's discovery and problem-solving approach to environmental studies. Together, teachers and students explore different aspects of the environment and develop concepts and skills that help them become effective environmental decision-makers. The center, often in cooperation with the Berks County Intermediate Unit or nearby colleges and universities, sponsors teacher in-service training and college-level workshops on environmental education curricula and current environmental topics. And, as each season brings its own set of splendors, programs for the public are conducted by staff and guest resource people.

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History

When hosiery baron Jacob Nolde acquired this area in the early 1900s, a single white pine grew amid meadow vegetation. Inspired by this tree, the German-born Nolde hired an Austrian forester to create a coniferous forest. As the plantations grew, they formed a "luxury forest," a source of family pleasure and pride.

In 1926, Hans Nolde, a son of Jacob, initiated work on the Tudor-style mansion. When this year-round home was finished, it overlooked the sawmill pond and the lights of Reading.



The Noland Forest continues to provide outdoor opportunities for visitors. The Commonwealth purchased the property in the late 1960s with Project 70 funds. The Project 500 bond issues provided the funds necessary for the center's development. In 1970, federal program grants and the Berks County Intermediate Unit helped establish Noland Forest as the first environmental education center operated by the Bureau of State Parks. Since the center's conception, the Bureau has maintained an enduring commitment to environmental education and interpretation.

A Single White Pine, a book on the history of Noland Forest, may be purchased at the center.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Greater Reading Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-443-6610. www.gogreaterreading.com

You May Want To

Take time to get involved with life around you! Try some of these activities when you visit Noland Forest. Use them at other parks and at home, too.

SENSES STOP: Find a pleasant place. Sit for one minute with your eyes closed. How many things can you hear, smell and feel? Take Senses Stops at many places.

SLEUTHING: Be a woodland detective. Use your senses of smell, hearing, touch and sight to explore a small portion of the forest. Look for tracks, droppings, food leftovers, etc. and try to guess what animals live there.

SHARING: Share your experiences at Noland Forest with friends, family and center employees. If you have no further use for this brochure, please recycle it by returning it to the brochure rack or by giving it to a friend.

Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Enjoy plants and animals in their natural setting. Picking, digging and collecting plants and animals are prohibited. All wildlife should be left undisturbed.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.
- Please stay on trails to protect the life that borders the paths. Bicycles and motor vehicles are prohibited on all trails.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Reading Hospital and Medical Center
6th Avenue and Spruce Street
West Reading, PA 19611
484-628-8000