



Keystone

Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Moosic Mountain

A Mountaintop Mosaic of Flora and Fauna

An amazing vista lies before those who reach the summit of Moosic Mountain—an ever-stretching view that is just part of the wonder this conserved landscape offers visitors.




Moosic Mountain encompasses 15,000-acres of forested Appalachian ridge top and an impressive array of heath barrens. The heath barrens are not desolate, as their name suggests, but are instead a healthy mosaic of pitch pine and oak forest dominated by huckleberry, blueberry, rhodora and other low-lying shrubs. The flora attracts a broad array of birds such as prairie and chestnut-sided warblers, and game species like white-tailed deer, black bear and turkey. A variety of butterflies and moths also dwell within the flourishing brush.

The property was once slated for commercial development, threatening both the wildlife habitat and water quality for surrounding residents.

In 2001, with the support of the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy acquired 1,200 acres of the mountain, protecting its unique natural attributes for all to enjoy.

In 2009, the Conservancy named the preserve after Dick and Nancy Eales, whose generosity, along with an additional Keystone Fund grant, enabled the Conservancy to expand and maintain the preserve, which today encompasses 2,250 acres.

Two-thirds of the 15,000-acre mountain is now protected through a combination of private and public investments, including efforts of DCNR's Bureau of Forestry and the Pennsylvania Game Commission and support through the Keystone Fund.

The Eales Preserve at Moosic Mountain attracts a variety of users, including bird watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts who relish the preserve's many miles of trails; the Conservancy works with a variety of partners to ensure that all visitors have a sense of ownership and responsibility while ensuring compatible recreational uses for the land. 

Project Spotlight

Keystone investment: \$2.2M

Total project cost: \$9.3M

Project leader:
The Nature Conservancy

Key local partners:
The Conservation Fund, Jessup Borough, Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Hubbard Bike Club

County: Lackawanna

Fun fact: The Preserve is home to the globally rare sawfly moth and barrens buckmoth.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org