

WHERE PARADISE BEGINS

In the heart of Kurmes Nature Preserve, Tank Creek and Yankee Run – both high-quality coldwater creeks – join to form Paradise Creek. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has designated Paradise Creek an “Exceptional Value” stream, with water clean and cold enough to support wild trout.



Vernal pool at Kurmes Preserve

Bob Hare photo

VERNAL POOL

Kurmes Nature Preserve features a vernal pool just ¼ mile from the trailhead, providing a delight for springtime hikers and an essential habitat for breeding amphibians such as frogs and salamanders. The pool typically fills with melted snow and rain each spring and dries up by summer, creating an environment that is free from fish that would eat the amphibians’ eggs.

Depending on the weather, sometime between February and April, the deafening chorus of male wood frogs signals the start of spring. The frogs can be heard from the parking lot; simply follow the sound to reach the vernal pool.

HABITAT FOR SONGBIRDS

Kurmes Nature Preserve is almost entirely forested. Combined with nearby state game lands and other protected lands in the area, the large forest attracts both breeding and migratory birds. More than 100 species of birds, including 13 warbler and four owl species, have been recorded at Kurmes.



Blackburnian warbler

iStock photo



Pocono Heritage Land Trust

1539 Cherry Lane Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
www.phlt.org; 570-424-1514

Founded in 1984, Pocono Heritage Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural heritage of the Pocono Mountains region by conserving land and inspiring people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world.



Kurmes Nature Preserve



Ray Roper photo

Paradise Creek in Kurmes Nature Preserve

THINGS TO DO HERE

Hiking, birdwatching, fishing, hunting*

**with restrictions*

This brochure made possible by a generous grant from 1 for Nature: 1forNature.org

Kurmes Nature Preserve

DEVILS HOLE ROAD ACCESS

335 Devils Hole Road
Cresco, PA 18326

The White Trail, accessed from the Devils Hole Road parking lot, is a 2.2-mile loop that begins along the railroad tracks at the parking lot. The trail heads away from the parking lot, winding through a small wetland before arriving at Tank Creek.

The trail then travels along Tank Creek and through a thicket of rhododendron and mountain laurel. The trail makes a sharp turn to the left, heading uphill through dry oak forest, and arrives back at the parking lot.

The Orange Trail is a small loop, only a third of a mile, that circles the vernal pool. This trail climbs above the vernal pool, providing a nice overlook.

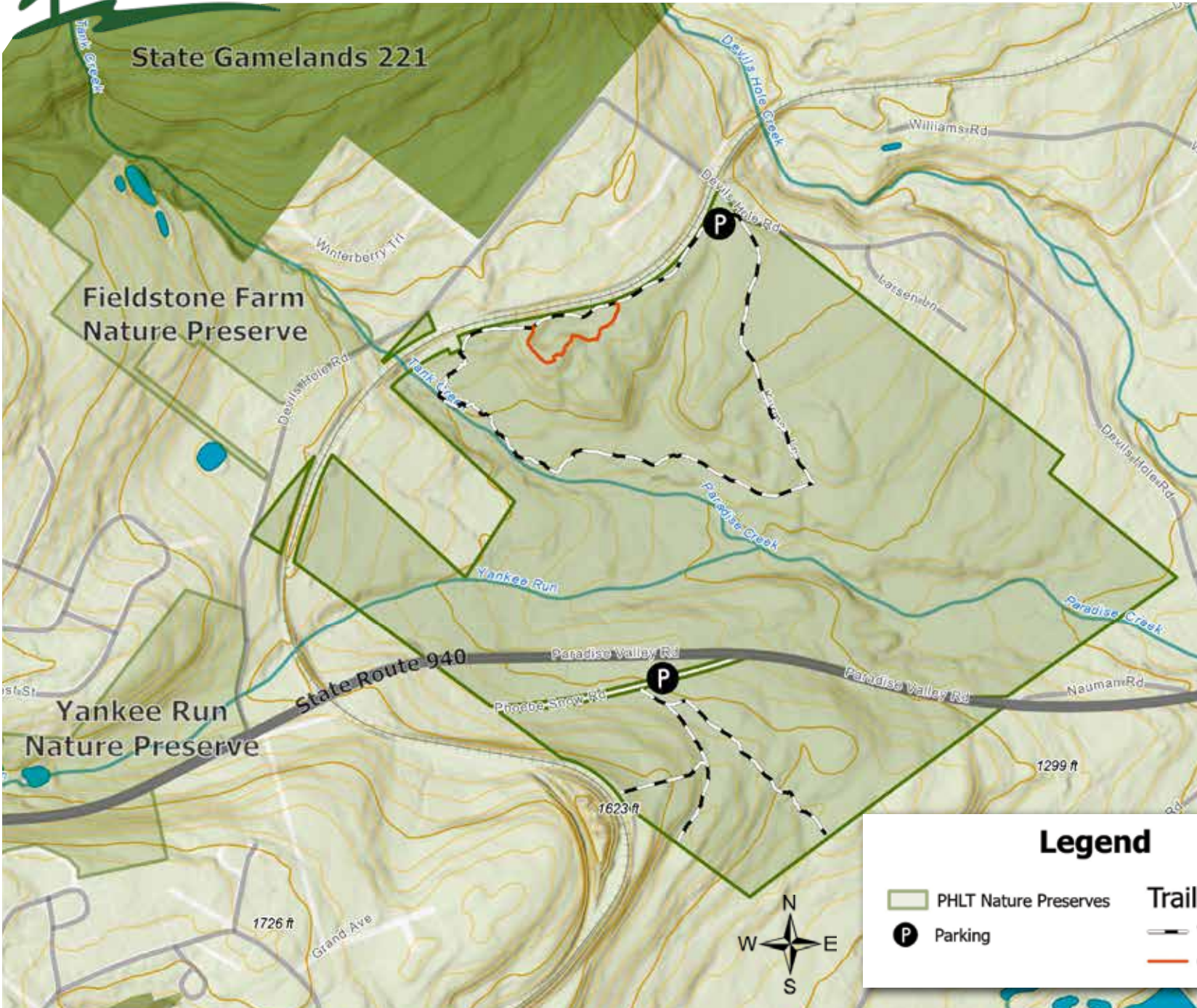
PHOEBE SNOW ACCESS

289 Phoebe Snow Road
Mount Pocono, PA 18344

There are three short, rocky, out-and-back trails (one-third of a mile each) from the gate opposite the Phoebe Snow parking area. A highlight of these trails are the abundant blossoms of trailing arbutus in the early spring.



Scan for online updates:
phlt.org/np-kurmes-paradise-creek.html



Legend

PHLT Nature Preserves	Trails
Parking	White
	Orange

*Hunting during the two-week rifle deer season is NOT open to the public. All other Pennsylvania hunting seasons are open to public hunting, subject to PA Game Commission regulations. Kurmes Nature Preserve is enrolled in the PA Hunter Access Program. For information, see pgc.pa.gov or call Pocono Heritage Land Trust's office at 570-424-1514.