

STOKES STATE FOREST

This forest of 12,495 acres, typical of the finest northern New Jersey country, is located along the Kittatinny Mountains north and west of Branchville in Sussex County. Joining High Point State Park on the north, it extends 12 miles southwest to Wall-Pack Center. Elevations above sea level range from 430 feet near the southern boundary to 1,655 feet on Sunrise Mountain. Highway U.S. 206 crosses the forest on the location of an old Indian trail through Culvers Gap. Visitors are welcome to explore, hike or drive over many miles of roads and trails which provide access to points of interest and help in the protection of the area.

Acquisition was started in 1907 and it is one of the State forests administered by the Department of Conservation and Economic Development for public recreation, timber, production, wildlife and conservation of water supplies.

Mountain laurel grows profusely on the forest and when in bloom, usually by the middle of June, it presents a spectacle that is unsurpassed for beauty. Dogwood, azaleas, rhododendron and many other flowering shrubs and plants will be found in blossom throughout the spring and summer months.

Every provision is being made for the prevention and control of forest fires, an ever-present menace to woods and wildlife. All visitors are urged to be careful with fire and smoking materials at all times.

Tillman Ravine

This is one of the few very interesting gorges in the State forests and parks. It is maintained as a natural area to be undisturbed by man, a laboratory where natural forces, rocks and soil as affected by climatic conditions and natural processes may be observed always. It is located in the southern portion of the forest and is composed with tall, graceful hemlocks and many other kinds of old growth trees—good specimens of their species. The steep banks of the ravine are faced with masses of native rhododendron. Tillman Brook slides down long water-worn channels and tumbles over huge boulders in fine cascades. Many interesting geologic features may be seen.

Parking space is provided at the entrance to the area which can be traversed only by foot trails. There is an appreciable fire hazard. No fires of any kind should be made and it is suggested that nobody smoke while in the Ravine. In order that the naturalness will not be marred, it is not used for picnics, camping, horseback riding and other similar uses.

Hiking

There are more than 75 miles of roads and well-defined trails so that visitors may explore all parts of the forest. Excellent views of the surrounding country can be obtained from various points, especially Sunrise Mountain, and from a number of places along the Appalachian Trail which runs along the ridge over the entire length of the forest and adjacent High Point Park.

Appalachian Trail shelters are available at Stokes State Forest and at High Point State Park.

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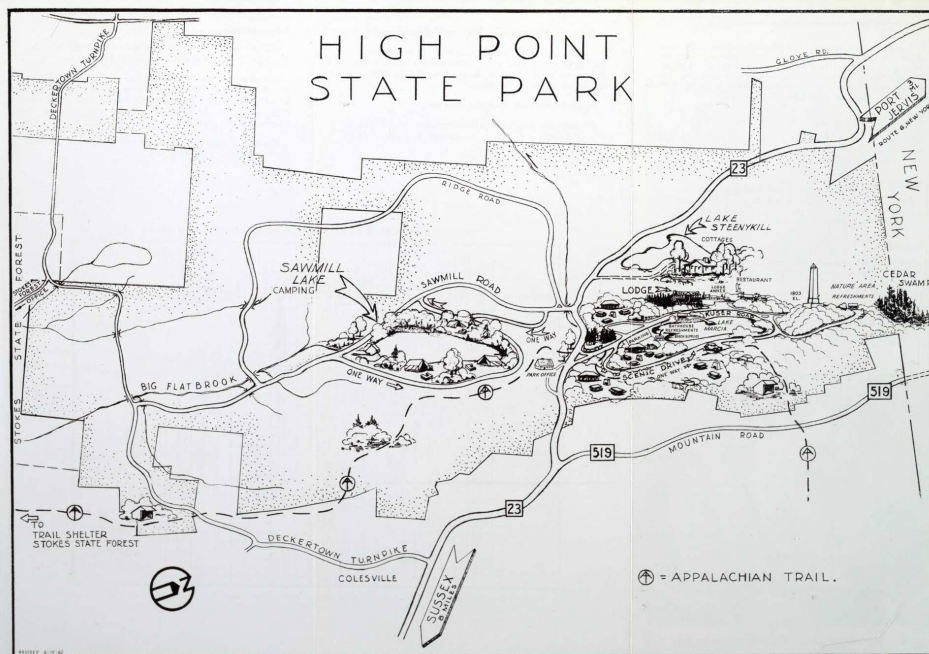
THE MONUMENT

Dominating the summit of the mountain and striding the greatest elevation in New Jersey is High Point Monument. Visible for many miles from vantage points in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, it is an outstanding landmark in Sussex County. Built through the generosity of the late Colonel and Mrs. Anthony R. Kuser, it is dedicated to the Glory and Honor and Eternal Memory of New Jersey's heroes by land, sea and air in all wars of our country. The 220-foot monument, which is 34 feet square at the platform, 1,803 feet above sea level and tapers to 17 feet at the base of the apex, was started in August, 1928, and was completed in June, 1930. It is faced with New Hampshire granite, with the inner courses of quartzite obtained locally. A nominal fee is charged for admission to the monument. There are steps within the shaft which give access to the top of the structure.

Westward across the valley of the Delaware lies an impressive view of Pennsylvania with the ridges of the Pocono Mountains towering in the distance miles away. Nestled in the valley 1,300 feet below lies Port Jervis, N. Y., with Tri-State Rock marking the common boundary of three states at the juncture of the Neversink and the Delaware rivers.

Looking to the northeast one can see the Catskill Mountains in the distance. To the southeast lies the valley of the Walkill River, checkerboarded with the farms and woodlands of Sussex County. Southwesterly along the Kittatinny Ridge forty miles away is the Delaware Water Gap. Sunrise Mountain in Stokes State Forest may be seen in the middle distance. Sawmill Lake, a center for camping on the park and Lake Rutherford, the source of the water supply for the Town of Sussex, also can be seen. In the near foreground are the crystal clear waters of Lake March with High Point Lodge, the former residence of Colonel and Mrs. Kuser, and the nearby Inn on an eminence above the lake. Just over the crest of this ridge lies 39-acre Stonykill Lake.

Panoramic view from the Monument



HIGH POINT STATE PARK

In the extreme northwest corner of New Jersey, along the crest of the Kittatinny Mountains in Sussex County, lies 11,061 acre High Point State Park. A gift to the people of New Jersey in 1923 by the late Colonel and Mrs. Anthony R. Kuser of Bernardsville, it is one of the State parks administered by the New Jersey Department of Conservation and Economic Development for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, for the protection of wild life and the conservation of water resources.

The park, extending from the New York State line, southwesterly along the mountain for a distance of eight miles where it joins Stokes State Forest, is located north and west of the Town of Sussex.

New Jersey State Highway Route 23 from Sussex toward Port Jervis, New York, crosses the park and makes this area readily accessible. Additional roads and trails provide access to points of interest for visitors and aid in the administration and protection of the area. Every provision is being made for the prevention and control of forest fires, the greatest enemy of the woods and wild life.

Hiking

Roads and trails are marked so that visitors may explore all parts of the park. Excellent views of the surrounding country can be obtained from many points, including the Monument, the Lodge near Lake March, the Scenic Drive and vistas along the famous Appalachian Trail. This 2,000-mile trail from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Mt. Springer in Georgia, enters the park near the New York State line and runs to the southerly boundary where it enters Stokes State Forest. At intervals along this trail are shelters where hikers may rest or stop overnight.

Nature Study Area

About one mile north of the Lodge, at an elevation of over 1,500 feet, is a swampy area of considerable interest to naturalists for its unusual association of plants. Southern white cedar, common to the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey, and black spruce, usually found growing farther to the north and at higher elevations, grow side by side in an unique combination that has but few counterparts anywhere in the East. This area is easily accessible by a road that encircles the swamp and is banked high with great masses of rhododendron, tall hemlock and sturdy pines. Moisture-loving plants grow in great variety and profusion.

Wildlife Sanctuary

The park has been dedicated as a wildlife sanctuary. Hunting, trapping and the carrying of firearms or bows and arrows are prohibited.

The Lodge and Inn

The Lodge, located more than 1,600 feet above sea level, is maintained by the Department for the convenience of visitors. Hotel sleeping accommodations are available from one night to two weeks. The view from the broad veranda which encircles the Lodge includes the winding Delaware and the ranges of the Kittatinny, Pocono and Catskills. Dining room service for all meals is available during the summer season at the Inn, a short distance from the Lodge. Refreshment stands, conveniently located, are open in season. These food services are operated by a concessionaire.

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