

# MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



Jacob Dingel

Located on the border of Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a mecca for wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts alike. It is owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the state's agency in charge of managing all wild birds and wild mammals.

The roughly 6,000 acre wildlife management area is home to hundreds of species of birds and mammals and is considered a globally recognized Important Bird Area. The area is particularly crucial for the hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese and swans that visit during their spring and fall migrations. While enjoying everything Middle Creek has to offer, please be aware of the closed and open areas on the property.

### PROPAGATION AREA

A 756-acre wildlife propagation area has been set aside as a sanctuary for nesting and migrating waterfowl and other animals. This area is closed to all activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and photography. Mounted yellow signs designate the propagation area. Drones are prohibited in all areas at Middle Creek



HUNTERS REPORTING BIG-GAME HARVESTS BY PHONE SHOULD CALL **1-800-838-4431**.  
[WWW.PGC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.PGC.PA.GOV)



CONTACT THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

**1-833-PGC-HUNT**  
(1-833-742-4868)

**1-833-PGC-WILD**

(1-833-742-9453)

BOTH NUMBERS CONNECT CALLERS IN PENNSYLVANIA WITH THE CENTRALIZED DISPATCH CENTER.

**[middlecreek@pa.gov](mailto:middlecreek@pa.gov)**

Email Address:

**717-733-1512**

**Kleinfeltersville PA 17039**

PO Box 110

Stevens, PA

100 Museum Road

GPS Address:

**Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area**



Joe Kosarok

**Visitors Center**  
The Visitors Center features a variety of wildlife and interactive displays on waterfowl and other wildlife that inhabit the area. There's also a viewing area that overlooks the lake and a songbird feeding station. The center also hosts numerous programs & activities throughout the year. Current information about programs can be found on the Pennsylvania Game Commission website or you can contact Middle Creek staff at [middlecreek@pa.gov](mailto:middlecreek@pa.gov).  
Peak viewing times for waterfowl coincide with the spring and fall migrations. For snow geese, February and March are generally the peak for viewing this amazing migration spectacle, when tens of thousands of them descend on Middle Creek. Middle Creek is considered a globally important bird area because of habitat that is offered here for waterfowl species.  
The Visitors Center is typically open from the day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day until Thanksgiving, Tuesday through Saturday, 8am to 4pm, and Sunday, noon to 5pm. Please check Middle Creek's website for Visitors Center closures as well as other closures and restrictions on the property throughout the year.

Make sure to check out Middle Creek's radio station! Tune into **1620 AM** for a more guided tour of the Wildlife Management Area!

### CONTROLLED AREA

Most of the wildlife management area north and west of the Wildlife Drive have been designated as a Controlled (hunting) Area and is closed to all entry with the exception of special regulated hunting and trapping opportunities that require a permit. Permits can be drawn through a lottery drawing.

Middle Creek's formation focuses mostly on habitat for waterfowl and therefore waterfowl hunting is a popular activity within the controlled area. Interested hunters can apply to hunt online through the HuntFishPA license system ahead of season or by applying at Middle Creek's website during the hunting season. The majority of hunting occurs from pit blinds located in fields or on water edges.

An annual archery and primitive deer hunt are also administered at Middle Creek. The goal is to balance the deer herd with their habitat and to allow for a quality hunting opportunity. These opportunities are also available to apply for online on the HuntFishPA license system.

Have questions about our permitted hunts? Please contact the visitors center or email us at [gooseblindmc@pa.gov](mailto:gooseblindmc@pa.gov).

### PUBLIC RECREATION AREA

The public recreation area includes the Visitors Center, a 40-acre fishing area within the main lake, picnic areas, and some hiking trails. Fishing within the controlled and propagation areas or from the dam breast is prohibited. Please note the Public Recreation Area is also open to regulated hunting with the exception of waterfowl hunting. It is lawfully required that hikers wear fluorescent orange on designated trails from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> in these areas.

Non-motorized boats are permitted on the main lake from May 15 through September 30. Boat access (Stop 6 on the Wildlife Drive) is located at the base of the Red Rock picnic area along Millstone Road. Overnight mooring is prohibited. Fishing from shore and ice fishing are permitted, but the Pennsylvania Game Commission does not monitor ice conditions, so ice fishing is at your own risk. Open fires are prohibited; self-contained stoves or charcoal grills are permitted unless otherwise designated by a manager. Pets must be leashed.

### PUBLIC HUNTING AREA (open access)

The remainder of Middle Creek (also known as state game lands 46) consists primarily of wooded habitat and is open for hunting opportunities during lawful seasons. All game laws and regulations apply. The majority of Middle Creek's hiking trails are also located within the public hunting area. Please note it is lawfully required that hikers wear fluorescent orange on designated trails from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup> in this area.



















### WILDLIFE DRIVE:

From March 1st until September 30th, vehicles are permitted on the interior or north part of the Wildlife Drive. One-way traffic regulations must be observed. A closed gate indicates the area is closed and entry is prohibited.

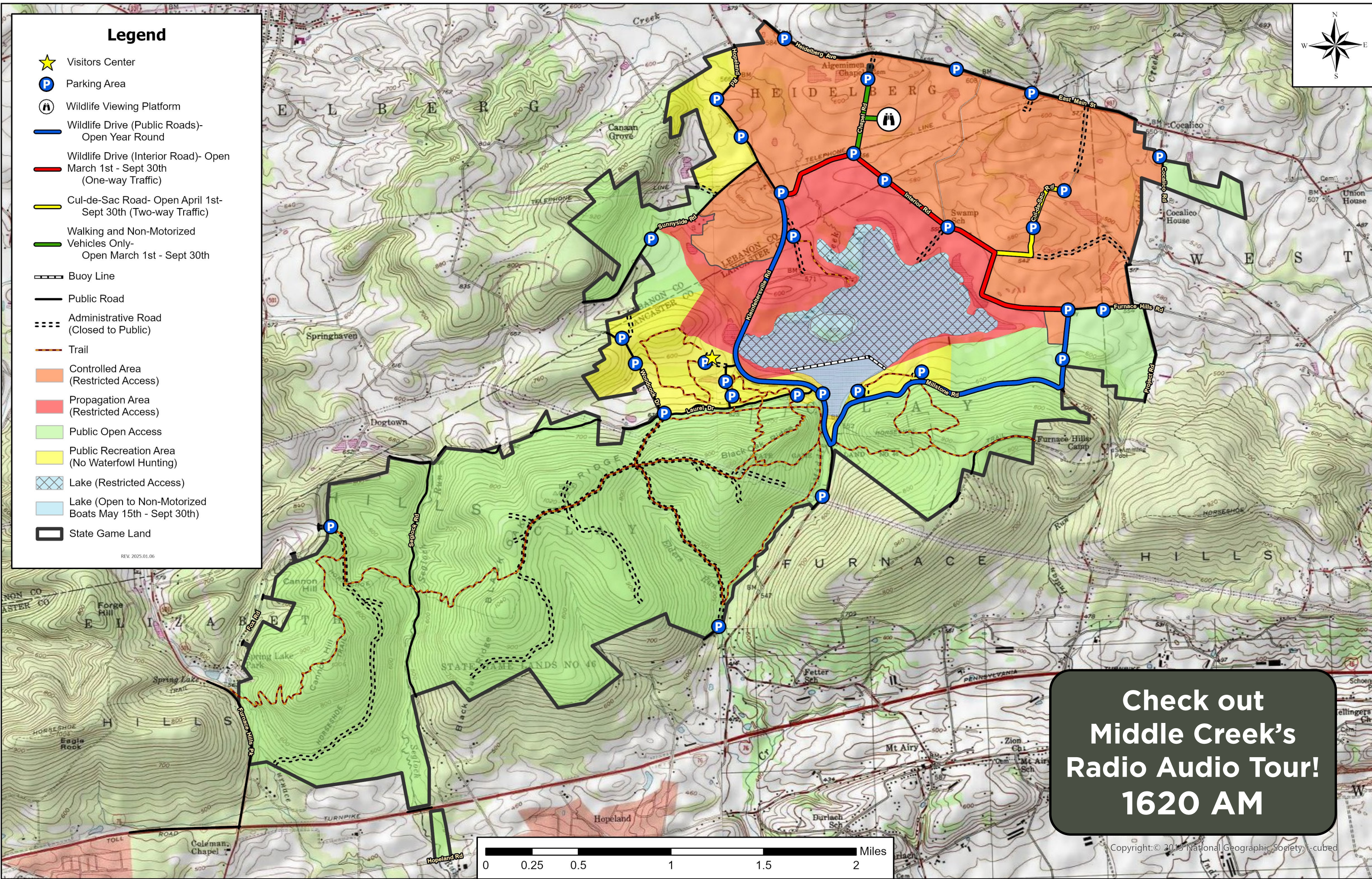
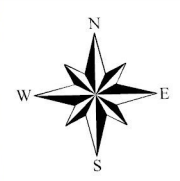


Tracy Graziano

# Legend

-  Visitors Center
-  Parking Area
-  Wildlife Viewing Platform
-  Wildlife Drive (Public Roads)- Open Year Round
-  Wildlife Drive (Interior Road)- Open March 1st - Sept 30th (One-way Traffic)
-  Cul-de-Sac Road- Open April 1st- Sept 30th (Two-way Traffic)
-  Walking and Non-Motorized Vehicles Only- Open March 1st - Sept 30th
-  Buoy Line
-  Public Road
-  Administrative Road (Closed to Public)
-  Trail
-  Controlled Area (Restricted Access)
-  Propagation Area (Restricted Access)
-  Public Open Access
-  Public Recreation Area (No Waterfowl Hunting)
-  Lake (Restricted Access)
-  Lake (Open to Non-Motorized Boats May 15th - Sept 30th)
-  State Game Land

REV. 2025.01.06



**Check out Middle Creek's Radio Audio Tour! 1620 AM**