

PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #3 Maurice K. Goddard State Park
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COUNTY(IES) Mercer

APPROX. SIZE 2,856 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (State)

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Supports significant populations of species or subspecies with specific habitat requirements
- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

DESCRIPTION

Located east of I-79 near New Vernon in Mercer County, the area is dominated by mixed woodlands, but includes a variety of wetland habitats as well as fallow and cultivated fields, grasslands, shrubby habitats, and deciduous and coniferous woodlands. It includes vernal ponds and seeps, as well as a 1,860-acre lake.

MAMMAL NOTES

The site is home to a diverse community, which includes northern river otters. Several buildings house maternity colonies of little brown myotis totaling 1000-1200 individuals. The Park offers approximately 40 programs/year on mammals, mostly on bats and beavers. The potential exists for developing a “watchable wildlife” site on role of beaver in wetland ecology.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The habitat is threatened by residential development and invasion of exotic species. Other species of interest include osprey and bald eagle. Because of the density and diversity of waterfowl, the area has also been designated an IBA (IBA #79).