Welcome to a new County Park!

Detweiler Park is the largest of eight public parks owned and managed by the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department.

Explore

Visitors are encouraged to explore more than 7 miles of trails winding through varied habitats. Gardens, fields, meadows, evergreen plantations, and mature deciduous forests are some of the ecosystems in this biologically diverse park. Deer are seen frequently as well as a wide variety of birds, including turkey, hawks, woodpeckers, and bluebirds.

Park Hours and Information

◆ Trails are open dawn to dusk.
◆ Parking is courtesy of the Dauphin County Conservation District office at 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA 17018.
◆ Restrooms are not available on the property at this time.

Guidelines for Visitors

◆ Detweiler Park has a carry-in, carry-out policy for trash — please take your trash with you.
◆ Respect Park boundaries and adjacent private property.
◆ Pets must be leashed and their waste must be bagged and removed from the park.
◆ Buildings are closed.
◆ Trails are for foot traffic only.
◆ There are no restroom facilities or trash cans in the park, so plan ahead. Bring sufficient water and a bag to carry out all trash.
◆ Keep Detweiler Park natural and beautiful.

Detweiler Park Prohibits:

◆ Hunting and trapping
◆ Campfires
◆ Removing plants or animals
◆ Alcohol use

About the Detweilers

These 400 acres have been enjoyed by four generations of the Detweiler/Stackpole family.

The original home on the property was purchased by Gen. Edward J. Stackpole Jr. eight decades ago as a residence and is no longer a part of the park property. General Stackpole was president of the Telegraph Press and a co-founder with his brother, Albert, of Stackpole Sons, which later became Stackpole Books. “The General” (as he was fondly dubbed by his family and friends) planted all the pines behind the main house and along the trails. He also provided a home in the 1950s for the Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists on family property along Clark’s Creek.

In 1943, his daughter, Mary Frances “Frankie” Stackpole, married Meade D. Detweiler III and they built a modest home on land adjacent to her mother and father’s home. Meade’s business interests continued the family tradition in media through WHP radio and television, Commonwealth Communications and Stackpole Books. Over the years, Meade and Frankie made various additions to their home and land to accommodate their family’s love of the outdoors. An avid conservationist, Meade worked diligently to improve tree health, attract wildlife, create a sustainable ecosystem and maintain walking trails on the property that the family enjoyed on a daily basis. In that same spirit, the family later donated land for the Dauphin County Conservation District’s offices.

A 1993 letter found in Meade’s files states simply his vision for the future of this land: “The property should be an area where habitats are preserved and managed in perpetuity for wildlife based on sound ecological principles that demonstrate a strong land ethic...”

On December 30, 2016, his heirs — Susan Detweiler, wife of the late M. David Detweiler IV; Frances Detweiler Granatino; and Esme Detweiler Freedman — achieved these goals through a combination donation and sale of the property to Dauphin County.
Parking Entrance at Dauphin County Conservation District Parking Lot

- Mead's Mountain Loop, 1.6 miles
- Route 225 to Halifax, 7.5 miles
- Stackpole Trail, 0.3 mile
- Entrance to Dauphin County Conservation District Parking Lot

Detweiler Park Map with trails:
- Airstrip Loop, 1.5 miles
- Mead's Mountain Loop, 1.6 miles
- Dogleg Loop, 0.6 mile
- Frankie's Dogleg Loop, 0.6 mile