



## Public Access Policy For Berks County Conservancy Owned Land

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The Berks County Conservancy is committed to good stewardship of the land that we own fee simple, while at the same time providing reasonable passive recreational and educational opportunities for our membership and the general public. The purpose of this Public Access Policy is to provide the Staff and Board of the Berks County Conservancy with guidelines to allow for fair, safe, and reasonable access to land that we own fee simple.

1. All land, with the exceptions listed under Section 2, that is owned fee simple by the Berks County Conservancy shall be open to the public for reasonable passive recreational and educational use including the following activities;
  - Hunting
  - Fishing
  - Hiking
  - Horseback Riding
  - Non-motorized Biking
  - Picnicking
  - Flora & Fauna Studies
  - Special Events *as approved by Berks County Conservancy staff*

Certain properties may be posted to restrict one or more of the activities listed above in cases of special plant populations, erosion problems, conflicting uses, or other environmental concerns that may arise.

2. Properties that are owned fee simple by the Berks County Conservancy and that have one or more of the following conditions may be exempt from this policy;
  - Contains a special plant and/or animal population as identified in the Berks County Natural Areas Inventory
  - Contains a special plant and/or animal population state or federally listed as endangered or threatened
  - Contains dangerous conditions such as, but not limited to, falling rock, an abandoned quarry site, or hazardous contaminants
3. The Berks County Conservancy will attempt to enroll all fee simple owned properties in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's *Cooperative Safety Zone*

*Program.* To become a cooperator in this program an agreement is executed by which the hunting rights to the property are made available to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The property, with the exception of the Safety Zone of 150 yards from any occupied dwelling or building and special posted restricted areas, will remain open to lawful public hunting. Enforcement of the Game and Wildlife Code and All Terrain Vehicle Use by Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Officers is a significant part of the cooperation.

4. Each property owned fee simple by the Berks County Conservancy will be posted according to use by one or more of the following types of signs;
  - Property Ownership
  - Hunting
  - Safety Zone
  - Restricted Area
  - Regulations (such as No Camping, No Fires)
  - Dangerous Conditions
  - Motorized Vehicle Use Prohibited
  - Nature Preserve

The Board of Directors of the Berks County Conservancy hereby adopts this Public Access Policy.

Done this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2001.

***ATTEST:***

***BERKS COUNTY CONSERVANCY***

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Fred Levering  
Secretary

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Gerard Johnson  
President