



ABOUT OUR SITES



▶ **Abbott’s Mill Nature Center**

Abbott’s Mill Nature Center sits on 24 acres of land including a 17 acre, pristine pond and the Delaware Nature Society’s Cedar Bog Preserve. A variety of habitats and ecosystems are found here including swamp, pine forest, meadow, pond, and stream filled with abundant life. Trails wind their way along the stream and through woodlands to meadows where wildflowers and insect life flourish. The Cedar Bog Preserve features rare plants and flowers such as swamp pinks and ladies slippers, preserved forever in the cedar and tuliptree forest. Abbott’s Mill Nature Center is owned by Delaware’s Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs in a unique partnership with the Delaware Nature Society.



▶ **Ashland Nature Center**

Located near Hockessin, Delaware, Ashland Nature Center serves as the Delaware Nature Society headquarters and the hub for all activities of education and natural resource conservation. The facility is open to the public year round, features an overnight lodge for school and public groups, a seasonal butterfly house, picnic area and four self-guided trails through a variety of habitats. Programs

are offered for all ages as well as courses for teachers. The property includes over 242 acres and is owned by the Red Clay Reservation, a private land trust.



▶ **Coverdale Farm**

The Coverdale Farm complex at Burrows Run Preserve encompasses an 18th-century stone bank barn, farm yard, pastures and fields, idyllic ponds and woodlands and panoramic views of rolling countryside. Students will help feed livestock, try their hand at harvesting and see hatching chicks. While observing demonstration plots, they will learn about organic gardening, the value of composting, and the sources of food and fiber needed by people and animals. Programs are offered September-November and March-June.

▶ **Blair’s Pond**

Owned by the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife, Blair’s Pond is one of several mill ponds in the Milford area. 64 acres of woods adjoin the pond and the Tantrough Stream flows from it. A loop trail—part of the Mill Ponds Loop Trail system and a Millennium Trail—winds past the pond and joins with an old trail passing through the Savage and Pope Preserves, used by mail carriers in years gone by. The forest supports several ecosystems including lowland swamp forest and upland forest as well as pond and stream habitats.

▶ **Bucktoe Creek Preserve**

The Bucktoe Creek Tract is approximately 285 acres of forest, meadows and marsh in New Garden Township, Pennsylvania. Located just 5 miles northwest of the Ashland Nature Center, this property is the only site outside of Delaware that the Delaware Nature Society utilizes for school programs. Through the generosity of a private



landowner, the Bucktoe Creek Tract is available for schools to hold programs by request and is an excellent place to investigate and collect insects, view a variety of birds in multiple habitats, and explore the Bucktoe Creek through watershed and stream studies. Great for Pennsylvania schools and the only site that allows campouts for small groups.

► **Burrows Run Preserve**

Located five minutes from the Ashland Nature Center, our 352-acre Burrows Run Preserve features one of the finest quality streams in northern Delaware. The valley is known for its abundant bluebirds, wildflowers, and butterflies. Surveys have revealed 178 bird, 32 butterfly and 115 wildflower species with 13 rare plants. The site contains a pavilion with picnic tables and scientific field equipment.

► **Flint Woods Preserve**

In Centreville, (10 minutes from Ashland Nature Center), is the Delaware Nature Society's Flint Woods Preserve featuring the largest remaining old growth hardwood forest in Delaware. Flint Woods is a spectacular resource that provides habitat for Neotropical song birds and rare wildflowers among towering, mature trees and includes a colonial road. Flint Woods has long been designated as one of Delaware's premiere Natural Areas. Natural Areas on the state's inventory are recognized as the finest examples of habitats and contain unique features, which need to be preserved. In addition to owning and managing the 37-acre preserve, the Nature Society has access to an adjacent 155 acres of private land that extends our outdoor "classroom" to 192 acres. Facilities include a pavilion with picnic tables, fire place, and scientific field equipment.

► **Isaacs Preserve**

This 21-acre tract has a boardwalk and earthen trail through large old white cedars and abundant wetlands. Home to beaver and other wildlife, this property is best viewed by canoe at the headwaters of Abbott's Pond.

► **Lindale Tract Preserve**

Owned by the State of Delaware and managed by the Delaware Nature Society, the 27-acre Lindale Tract Preserve features agricultural land as well as a wooded area, embracing Abbott's Pond on the west side. This site is home to an oak-hickory forest that includes chestnut trees and a spectacular tuliptree. The trail in these woods is used for Native American studies. Visitors can easily visualize the life of Native Americans long ago at the longhouse replica.

► **Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve & Slaughter Beach**

Adjacent to Slaughter Beach is the 110-acre Marvel Saltmarsh Preserve, donated to the Delaware Nature Society through the generosity of the Harvey Marvel family of Milford, DE. Wildlife such as horseshoe crabs, fiddler crabs, diamondback terrapins, and shorebirds abound at this site. During beach ecology programs, students explore these sites and discover many interesting creatures that call the Delaware Bay home.

► **Pope Property Trail**

A short distance down Abbott's Pond Road, this 42-acre property has a loop trail that is part of the millponds loop trail system and features rare plants and flowers like the Stone Mint (*Dittany*). This wooded trail winds its way to the Tantrough Branch and Blair's Pond headwaters passing through the Savage and Blair's Preserve.

► **Mortenson Property** (new addition to site listing)

Seven acres located in Newark, Delaware. Owned by DNS, the Mortenson property includes a staff residence and a naturally managed pond and grounds. The site is used as a jumping off point to the trails for the bordering White Clay Creek State Park.

