

TRAIL DIFFICULTY: moderate

CARRY a walking stick. **WEAR** shoes with good tread and support. Expect wet feet, especially during spring and after rainy spells. You'll be walking through stream beds and over roots and rocks. Do not hike alone, and take your cell phone with you.

LOTTIE'S LOOP & METZGAR'S TRAIL

The names come from the Metzgar families, who owned the the farm--across Rt. 191 from the trail head--which Buck Hill bought in 1956. Lottie Metzgar's home was at the base of Metzgar's Mtn., and Earl Metzgar owned the farm which is now a Buck Hill picnic area.

SOAK IT UP



Metzgar's Trail might get your feet wet. Wildcat Hollow Trail requires your walking across Buck Hill Creek.

Precipitation that doesn't run into streams, evaporate, or become absorbed by plants slowly infiltrates through soil and rock to become GROUNDWATER.

Descending Metzgar's Trail, just before reaching Buck Hill Creek, your feet may slosh through a sandy spring. This water is exiting the AQUIFER as it makes its way to the Creek. It has filtered through sand, gravel, clay, and silt. The spring is a discharge

point where groundwater discharges to the surface. Pennsylvania streams get about two-thirds of their flow from groundwater. Soggy feet are souvenirs of precious groundwater cycling through Buck Hill's woods. During a one-inch rainstorm, a single acre of land covered with an impervious surface (roofs, sidewalks, driveways, parking lots) generates 27,000 gallons of surface runoff instead of groundwater recharge.

HAYSCENTED FERN

The widespread fern nearest the trailhead at Rt. 191 is a field of Hayscented Fern, an invasive species which has overtaken this area after its having been heavily logged. This fern inhibits the growth of saplings that could reforest the area.



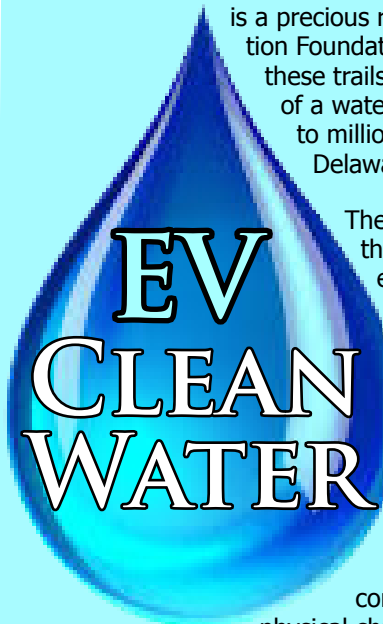
CHANGING COURSE

The 1955 flood changed the path of the Buck Hill Creek, to a course over 250 feet to the east of where Metzgar's Trail now meets it. The meandering of streams, creeks and rivers within a floodplain is a functional part of the ecosystem. The floodplain can accommodate any portion of the stream that is temporarily inundated with water during a high flow event.



BEARS

Keep an eye out for black bears, who love to feed on the low bush huckleberries and blueberries. You may find bear scat on the trail. Look on the trees for bear claw marks, and compare sizes to contrast adult from cub marks. And if you see the real thing, remain calm. Make noise by whistling or talking to give the bear a chance to move away. The bear will be frightened of you. But NEVER disturb a mother bear with her cubs! If a bear does not retreat, you should just back off, speak calmly and avoid making eye contact.



is a precious resource the Buck Hill Conservation Foundation works to protect. Walking these trails is a lesson in the importance of a watershed in providing clean water to millions of people. This land is in the Delaware River Watershed.

EV CLEAN WATER

The water from the headwaters of the Buck Hill Creek to the confluence with Griscom Run (at the wooden bridge on the Upper Glen Trail) bears the crown label of "Exceptional Value" (EV). The BHCf petitioned the PA Department of Environmental Protection for this coveted designation, which was awarded in 2000.

The EV moniker represent a combination of the extraordinary physical characteristic of the creek channel with the biological aquatic community that includes sensitive macroinvertebrates who require cold, clean water to live. As an EV stream, Buck Hill Creek is afforded the highest possible protection from water degradation.



MARGARET'S FALLS



WHO IS MARGARET?

Margaret's Falls is named for the wife of George Price who owned and operated a saw mill here along Buck Hill Creek. The Golf Clubhouse and Fairway Grille stand on the site of his former farmhouse. Buck Hill Falls Co. bought his land in 1904. Immediately upstream from Margaret's Falls, on the right, are stone wall remains of the dam George built as part of water-powered mill. Standing on the flat red shale, you are in the midst of George's aqueduct, which sent water to power his mill downstream.

WHITE PINES

As you leave Margaret's Falls and walk towards the Golf Club, look for several huge Eastern White Pine trees, which are about 200 years old. In William Penn's era, Eastern White Pines once reached 150' and more! Today, they typically reach 50'-90'. The White Pine is one of the most valuable timber trees. CLUE!: The Eastern White Pine is the only native pine with five needles per cluster.



WILDCAT HOLLOW

Look off to the sides of Wildcat Hollow Trail to encounter wildlife treasure chests: Vernal Ponds. These magical life-sources typically "disappear" in the summer as they dry up. Hike Wildcat in the Spring for the greatest wildlife shows. Vernal ponds seasonally fill up from spring snowmelt and precipitation. They are seasonal breeding and feeding grounds for amphibians, insects, reptiles, birds, and mammals.



VERNAL PONDS

WATCH! For salamanders, frogs, toads, and newts scampering here to breed—and for jellylike masses and strings of eggs in the water and on the pond vegetation, where salamanders and frogs have left them behind. The absence of fish in Vernal Ponds enables amphibians and invertebrates to breed and develop.

LOOKS LIKE JELLY: On rainy nights from mid-January to early March here in Buck Hill, Jefferson salamanders emerge from underground burrows to reach a vernal pond, where they mate and lay a long string of beadlike eggs on vegetation in the pond. American toads, spotted salamanders, marbled salamanders, gray tree frogs and green frogs all come to breed in Vernal Ponds. Look for their jelly-like egg clusters.

DO YOU HEAR DUCKS? A loud quacking is the sound of male wood frogs trying to attract mates!

LOUD MOUTHS: The spring peeper may be Pennsylvania's smallest frog, but it makes up for its size with its sound! Their high-pitched, birdlike peeps sound like sleigh bells from a distance.

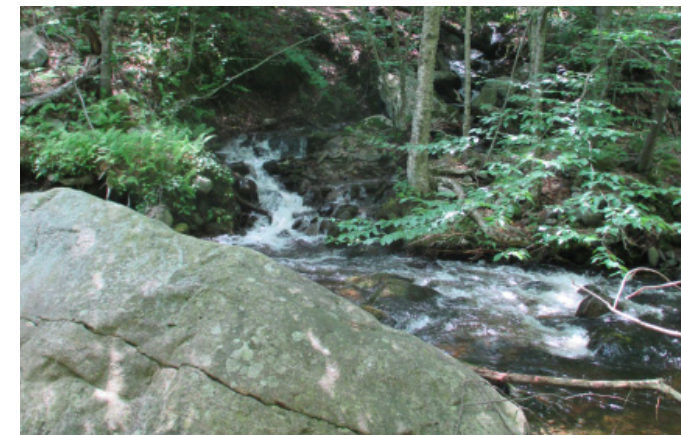
FAIRY SHRIMP? What are the enchanting creatures swimming under the surface of ice-encrusted Vernal Ponds? Look up "Fairy Shrimp" and be amazed.

Reference: Penn State Extension www.extension.psu.edu/natural-resources



A lone marker at the end of Tree Top Trail commemorates the path of the Gravity Railroad, built in the mid-1800s. The railroad once ran along this section of Buck Hill property to transport tree bark. You can still see the traces of the railroad bed as it ran from the Pocono Heights area on the Buck Hill Creek down to White's Tannery, once located in Mountainhome, behind what is now Pocono Bible Church. You can still see remains of the tannery dam at that site. Mules then towed the railroad cars back up the mountain for the next awaiting loads.

Margaret's Falls Wildcat Hollow Metzgar's Farm Nature Trails



THE BUCK HILL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

BUCK HILL FALLS, PA

Mission: "To preserve and protect land in and around Buck Hill Falls, to promote the health of the local forest and watershed, and to foster appreciation of the area's natural beauty."

Support the Buck Hill Conservation Foundation
www.buckhillconservation.org

November 2015

Margaret's Falls Wildcat Hollow Metzgar's Farm Nature Trails

Note: Wildcat Hollow Trail requires hikers to cross the creek in two places where there are no bridges.

This stream gaging station is no longer in use. The first stream gaging stations were erected in the western United States in the 1880s. Stream gages provide valuable long-term, unbiased information on the flow of the stream channel. This stream gage may provide valuable information about seasonal water resources, water quality conditions, as well as providing important information for flood management. Current and archival stream flow data is available on the USGS website (www.waterdata.usgs.gov).

The trails on this map are located on Buck Hill Falls Company property and are open for the private enjoyment of the residents and their guests.

Legend

- X Distance from Buck Hill Road
- Bridge
- P Parking

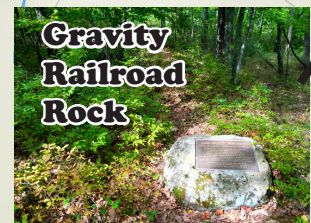
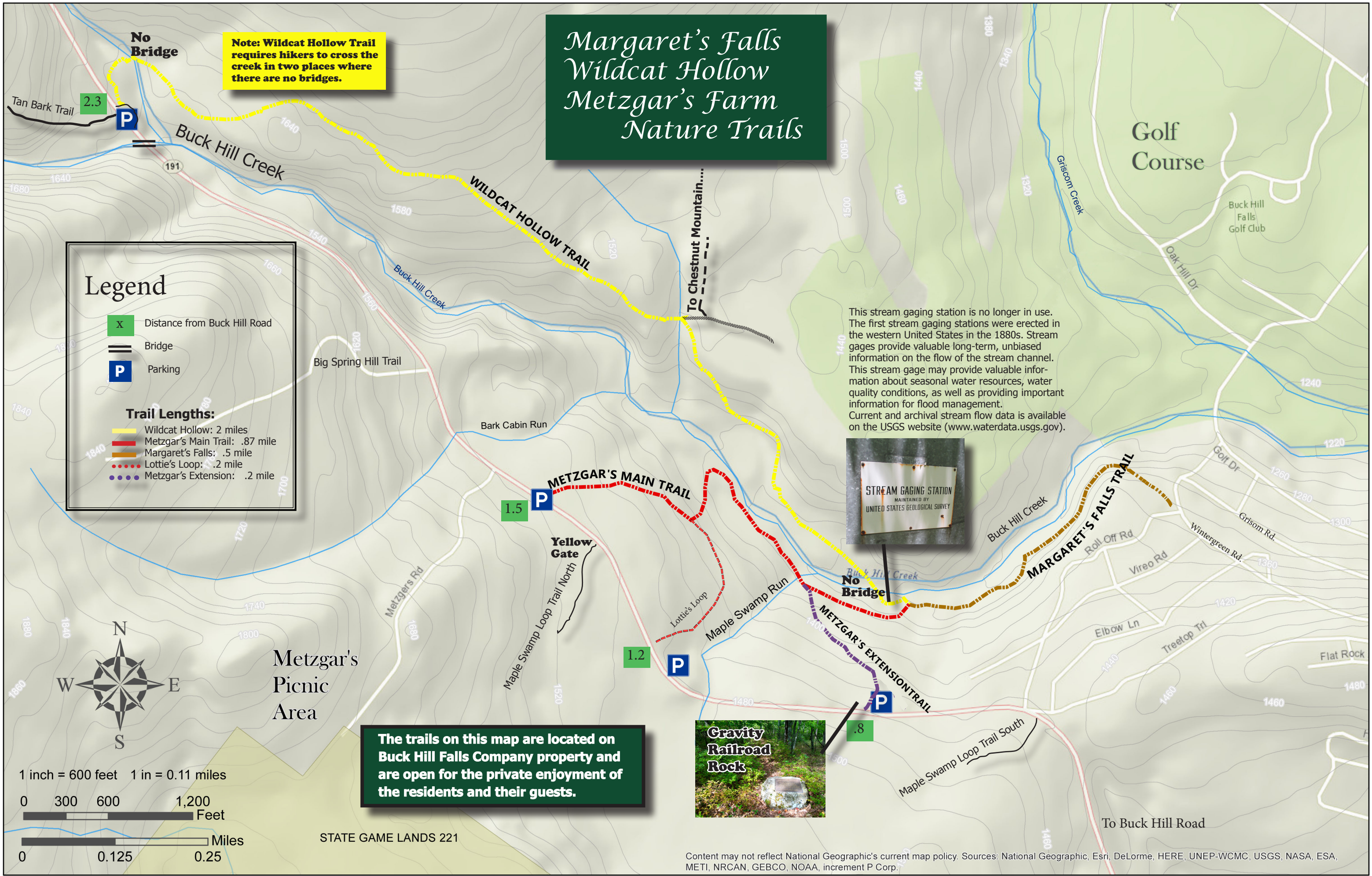
Trail Lengths:

- Wildcat Hollow: 2 miles
- Metzgar's Main Trail: .87 mile
- Margaret's Falls: .5 mile
- Lottie's Loop: .2 mile
- Metzgar's Extension: .2 mile

1 inch = 600 feet 1 in = 0.11 miles

0 300 600 1,200
Feet

0 0.125 0.25
Miles



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