



LEFT TRAIL

1. **Young Forest:** Look around. Notice the young trees. Once this was an open field. Over time, shrubs & trees moved in, changing the area into a forest. This is called succession.
2. **Acorn Tree:** This oak tree is an important food source for many forest animals. It grows rapidly & may grow more than 70 feet tall & have a diameter of more than 3 feet.
3. **Grape Vines:** These grape vines are struggling to reach the sun. As they grow, their weight pulls down branches & kills the tree which provides support for the vines.
4. **Light & Dark:** When the leaves of tall trees shade the earth below, only plants which like shady areas thrive. Look and see what kinds of plants live in these shady areas.
5. **Forest Skeleton:** This dead tree is important to the forest community. As it decays, insects live in the rotting wood, providing food for birds and other animals.
6. **Trail Management:** Notice the water bars as you walk down the slope. These steps channel water off the trail & help prevent erosion.



7. **Water Journey:** Flowing water carved this ravine. This water will one day flow into the Mississippi & eventually to the Gulf of Mexico
8. **The Spring:** Like the water in the ravine, the water from this spring will flow into Woodcock Lake. From the lake, this water will flow down Woodcock Creek, into French Creek then to the Allegheny River.
9. **Woodcock Dam:** Woodcock Dam was authorized for flood control, water quality improvement & recreation. The dam is 90 feet high, 4650 feet long & completed in 1973.
10. **Animal Life:** What sort of animal life have you seen today? Consider all animal life for your list. Don't forget insects, spiders, birds, snakes, & snails are all animals.
11. **More Than Trees:** The forest is made of more than trees. It's a community similar to the one you live in. Each living thing has a role in the community. Many plants provide food. Some animals are garbage collectors. Can you think of other jobs?



BOSSARD NATURE TRAILS



WOODCOCK CREEK LAKE



RIGHT TRAIL

1. **Bossard Trail:** is really two trails. The trail to the right is 1 mile & paved for the first 1/8 mile. The left trail is 1/2 mile & has a gentler terrain. The trails are a place for people to learn about natural environments.
2. **Observation Pond:** This small pond is home to many different kinds of organisms. Such and turtles and frogs. What different organisms can you find living here?
3. **Eastern Hemlock:** Pennsylvania's state tree reaches heights of 70'. Pioneers used hemlock to make tea & as dye for leather.
4. **Tulip Tree:** The yellow poplar is the tallest tree in the Eastern Hardwood forest. The leaves are shaped like tulips.
5. **Woodland Battle Field:** Years ago, several trees were removed from this area, forming a small clearing. Now early succession plants such as ferns & grapevines battle to claim the opening.
6. **Ancient Plants:** Ferns are among the oldest forms of life. Fern fossils have been found which are more than 400 million years old.



7. **Grape Arbor:** Grape vines use trees for support. As they get heavier, they pull the supporting tree down, eventually killing it.
8. **Ash Tree:** This medium sized tree reaches 40' to 50' throughout Pennsylvania. Baskets can be woven from slats produced by this tree.
9. **Trail Management:** Notice the "steps" as you walk down this slope. These steps channel water off the trail & prevent erosion.
10. **Microclimate:** Notice the change in temperature. This hemlock stand changes the climate here by decreasing airflow & light, & by holding moisture.
11. **Spring Run:** This spring provides habitat for salamanders & other moisture loving plants & animals.
12. **Bossard Run:** The spring flows into Bossard Run. Bossard Run is one of many small streams flowing into Woodcock Creek Lake.
13. **Creek Bottom:** Notice how the rock bottom of the creek is formed in layers. Rock like is called sedimentary. This means it was formed by layers of mud piling up, with the weight forming the mud into rock.



14. **Old Bossard:** The depression in the valley floor represents an earlier path of Bossard Run. Over time streams change their path. Usually after a flood.
15. **Soil Creep:** The curved lower portion of the tree trunks growing on the steep valley wall indicates that gravity is slowly pulling the soil down hill.
16. **Human Erosion:** As you climb this hill, you will climb steps. These do two things: aid your climb up the hill, & prevent erosion of the trail by hikers.

