

BIRD MONITORING INFORMATION

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHARE YOUR MONITORING CHECKLISTS WITH THE eBird account: **cromvalpark**

“TRAVELING” COUNTS

Blue Trail

N39.414287° W76.549609°

A linear trail through scrub riparian woods and clearings along SE bank of Minebank Run. Couple with East/West Trail to loop back to Parking Lot through very different habitat.

Access/Start: Willow Grove Parking Lot
Walk downhill (SE) on East Entrance Road
Cross bridge to trailhead on R (W)
1-way direction: SW, parallel to Minebank Run on R (N)
1-way distances: 0.2 mile Intermittent stream culvert, old fence
0.5 mile End, Park Road from West Entrance

East/West Road

N39.414697° W76.551336°

Linear trail across largely human-maintained open fields and parklands with nearby scrub habitat edges. Couple with Blue Trail to loop back to Parking lot through very different habitat.

Access/Start: Willow Grove Parking Lot West end
Start W on paved Emergency Access Road
1-way direction: West/Southwest
1-way distances: 0.2 mile Hawkwatch station
0.3 mile Paved road to Park Office
0.5 mile Paved West Entrance Road
0.6 mile End at bridge on West Entrance Road

White/Blue Loop

N39.417597° W76.546117°

A monitoring loop that combines portions of two trails: White (Lime Kiln) and Blue (NW portion). The short, complete loop provides a cross-section of open field and riparian scrub habitats with a scattering of larger trees and numerous habitat edges. Note that continuation of the Blue Trail beyond the lime kilns currently is not part of the monitoring program.

Access/Start: Willow Grove Parking Lot
Walk uphill (NW)
Pass R (East) of Nature Education Center
Pass L (West) of Cider House
Find “Lime Kiln Trail” sign on front of Barn R
Start White Trail portion at fork in gravel lanes
Loop direction: Clockwise
Loop distances: 0.11 mile Trail crossing in field; lone walnut N
0.23 mile End White Trail portion
SW edge of lime kiln clearing
Begin Blue Trail portion
0.32 mile End Blue Trail portion at gate

Red Trail

N39.420469° W76.549473°

Big trees are the primary feature of this more challenging trail through woodland habitat along an abandoned farm lane. It begins with a climb through a small woodlot, then levels a bit across open meadow to play tag with the Yellow Trail, then finally climbs more steeply through a mature forest with some grand trees to end near an overgrown clearing at a height of land.

Access/Start: Parking Lot
Walk uphill as for White/Blue Loop
Bear L where gravel lanes fork
Look for red paint blaze on tree ahead
Pass tree; start at gate (water faucet)
1-way direction: Northwest
1-way distances: 0.08 mile Water hydrant
0.15 mile Yellow Trail forks off NE (R)
0.21 mile Green Trail forks off SW (L)
0.42 mile End at Red Trail Loop terminus

Red Trail Loop

N39.421727° W76.552514°

An OPTIONAL monitoring route *separate from* the Red Trail itself, this loop is for those who have survived the 250-ft uphill walk from the Parking lot to the end of the Red Trail – and want an easier walk for their effort. The reward is a pleasant stroll around the top of the ridge through additional forest habitat that is isolated from the field, scrub, and edge habitat types in the valley. Please be alert to follow the red paint blazes carefully. If you follow the loop clockwise, bear R at any confusing trail junctions and you cannot become lost. The loop is well-populated with dog walkers on weekends.

Access/Start: Far end of Red Trail at Loop terminus
Loop direction: Clockwise
Loop distances: 0.09 mile Mowed clearing
Trail continues on opposite side (W)
0.13 mile Sign; bear right
TRAIL WELL BLAZED BEYOND THIS POINT
0.29 mile Lime-green (Barren) Trail junction 1
0.40 mile Lime-green (Barren) Trail junction 2
0.43 mile Junction; overgrown clearing begins
0.64 mile Finish loop at Red Trail end

“STATIONARY” COUNTS

Hawkwatch Station

N39.416349° W76.549580°

Occupied most days during fall hawk migration, this hilltop location affords good views of the valley, nearby ridges, and the sky above. It is also surrounded on three sides by scrub-edge habitat which can provide good birding with minimal effort at any time of year.

Access: From Willow Grove Parking Lot walk 0.2 mile uphill (W) on paved Emergency Access Road

Willow Grove Nature Education Center

N39.417427° W76.547710°

This former farmhouse is situated in representative yard habitat replete with scattered big trees and open lawn areas typical of local residences. Bird feeders and nest boxes around the Center are included in this stationary count area.

Access: Uphill (N) from Willow Grove Parking Lot