

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #11</b> <b>Yellow Creek State Park</b></p>
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**COUNTY(IES)**        Indiana

**APPROX. SIZE**      3,140 acres

**OWNERSHIP**         Public (State)

**REASON FOR SELECTION**

- Includes wild populations of mammals that can be viewed in their natural habitat
- Site is a natural area associated with an established educational program that interprets natural history of resident mammals

**DESCRIPTION**

Located along SR 422 in Indiana County, this site includes a lake surrounded by abandoned farmlands, rolling hills, and a steep-sided valley that encompass substantial habitat diversity. Dominated by deciduous, coniferous, and mixed woodlands, it includes old fields, mature forest, marsh, hemlock-rhododendron streamside vegetation, and some swampy areas.

**MAMMAL NOTES**

A variety of common mammals inhabit the Park, as well as some that are uncommon or with restricted distributions in the region (e.g. northern myotis, southern bog lemming, fox squirrel). Long-term studies of small mammals have been ongoing since 1984. Although the Park mammal list includes the Allegheny woodrat, this species has not been recorded and is unlikely to occur. The site is designated as an IMA for its educational programs on native mammals.

**CONSERVATION NOTES**

Park lands are managed to maintain some early successional habitats. Yellow Creek Lake is a major wintering area for migratory waterfowl and the Park has IBA designation (IBA #23). Among special concern bird species recorded are American bittern, osprey, great egret, and sedge wren. Although surrounded by a conservation zone that provides a buffer against

development adjoining Park boundaries, owners of mineral rights within this zone can challenge restrictions on mining.