

Each time a hunter buys a hunting license, the money he spends goes toward many facets of wildlife management. Since 1920, close to a million and a half aces of State Game Lands have been acquired with these funds. Each year nearly \$7,000,000 is spent to improve wildlife habitat. Habitat improvements enhance living conditions for non-game birds and mammals as well as those species which are hunted. Pennsylvania hunters willingly share these lands with the non-hunting public, and with few exceptions, State Game Lands are open for general use year round. Surveys indicate that hunting accounts for only thirty-five percent of game land usage. The remaining sixtyfive percent is used by the general public for nonhunting purposes.

"Working Together for Wildlife" is a Game Commission program providing everyone an opportunity to help support wildlife management in the areas for endangered and non-game animals. Monies derived from the "Working Together for Wildlife" Program are being used in Pennsylvania to re-introduce the osprey, river otter, bald eagle, peregrine falcon and provide habitat for other birds and mammals indigenous to the Commonwealth. Construction placement of blue bird houses on State Game Lands provides needed homes for this beautiful songbird. Islands in the Susquehanna River have been set aside as propagations areas for nongame shore birds. Numerous other projects are planned on State Game Lands and other public

SPORTSMEN'S RECREATION MAP



STATE GAME LANDS No. 203 **ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

State Game Land (SGL) 203 is located in Franklin and Marshall Townships, Allegheny County, in wildlife management unit 2B (WMU 2B) and currently has 1,245.8 acres.

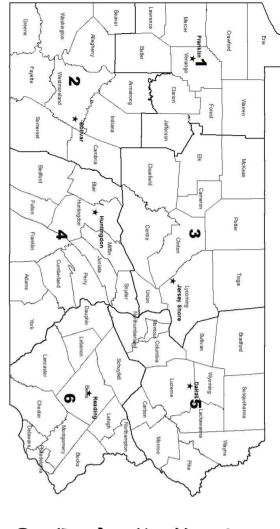
This game land has four (4) public parking areas, most located along State Game Lands Road. The farthest point on SGL 203 by foot from a parking area or public road is approximately 0.7 mile. There are also two public shooting ranges. The game land can be accessed from State Game Land Road, and Markman Park Road.

The terrain of SGL 203 is made up of steep hills that drain into tributaries of Sewickley Creek. Elevations range from 910 feet along the stream valleys to multiple hilltops at or above 1,200 feet. It is a small, forested game land surrounded by privately held parcels of forested river hills with housing developments and small farms dotting the landscape. SGL 203 is 94% forested with a lesser amount of herbaceous openings and shrubland present. The forest is dominated by mixed oak and mixed Mesophytic forest types but also includes other eastern deciduous types. All water flows into the Ohio River Basin via the Sewickley River drainage.

Hunting and furtaking opportunities include white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and grey squirrel. Opportunities for pheasant hunting is provided using stocked birds in several herbaceous openings. Furtaking opportunities include raccoon, coyote, red fox, gray fox, mink, and muskrat. Hunting opportunities are impacted by the easily accessible nature of this SGL and its proximity to densely populated areas.

Although a relatively small game land, SGL 203 is of sufficient size to accommodate horseback riding, mountain biking and contains many designated routes for these activities. It does, however, contain multiple gated administrative roads and trails of which some were previously used for management activities and the operation of five oil wells. These gated roads and Rights-of-Way's provide very nice avenues for hiking, bird watching, and other similar forms of outdoor activities.

This game land contains one of the states largest and most heavily used firearm ranges. Close to 20,000 people a year visit this 50 position rifle and pistol range with 10, 25, 50 & 100 yard stations.



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