

TRAILS OF BELLEPLAIN STATE FOREST

There are 24 official trails within Belleplain State Forest of which 12 (24 miles) are designated for non-motorized use and 12 (23 miles) are authorized for motorized use with street-legal vehicles. Trails vary in length and most are easy-moderate in difficulty because the terrain within Belleplain is generally flat.

Boundary Trail

Pink • 0.7 miles • Multi-use

Easy • Short trail along eastern boundary of forest

Trailhead At Dehirsch Avenue. **Boundary Trail** follows the Dennis Township Line and connects Meisle Road with Seashore Line Trail. The three- to five-foot-wide trail traverses pitch pine and oak forest and is slightly gullied due to its origins as a fire break.

Eagle Fitness Trail

Black • 0.3 miles • Hiking

Easy to moderate • Flat loop trail with fitness stations

Trailhead Parking area at south end of Camp Road. **Eagle Fitness Trail** is a designated fitness circuit, allowing participants to use eight different exercise stations.

East Creek Trail

White • 7 miles • Multi-use

Moderate • Long loop trail to East Creek Pond

Trailhead Lake Nummy parking area. **East Creek Trail** is the longest hiking trail within the forest as it circles the area drained by Savages Run. The trail width varies between two and four feet with a natural surface of sand, dirt and pine needles.

Goosekill Trail

Green • 0.5 miles • Multi-use

Easy • Trail around east side of Lake Nummy

Trailhead On Champion Road near North Shore Campground. **Goosekill Trail** links Meisle Trail with North Shore Trail and travels north to Northshore Campground.

Meisle Trail

Orange • 0.62 miles • Hiking

Easy • Trail along southern edge of Lake Nummy

Trailhead Across from Interpretive Center. **Meisle Trail** runs along the southern shore of Lake Nummy. The trail was named for the Meisle Bog that once existed where Lake Nummy is now located.

Mountain Bike Trail

Pink • 9.2 miles • Biking

Moderate • Windy single-track trail through pine forests

Trailhead Near athletic fields at Lake Nummy day use area. **Mountain Bike Trail** was designed to provide recreational opportunities for various levels of bike riders. The route begins and ends near the athletic field just past the Lake Nummy parking area.

Nature Trail 1

*White • 0.7 miles • Hiking
Easy • Short interpretive trail*

Trailhead From Lake Nummy day use area parking lot. **Nature Trail 1** is a self-guided loop trail along the northern edge of Lake Nummy with signed stations explaining relevant natural history of Belleplain.

Nature Trail 2

*Yellow • 0.5 miles • Hiking
Easy • Short interpretive trail*

Trailhead East of Nature Trail 1 along north shore of Lake Nummy. **Nature Trail 2** is linked to Nature Trail 1 with a footbridge and also follows a self-guided loop trail along the northeastern edge of Lake Nummy.

North Shore Trail

*Red • 0.7 miles • Multi-use
Easy • Connects forest office with Lake Nummy area*

Trailhead Forest office parking lot. **North Shore Trail** runs between the forest office and the North Shore camping area. A portion of the trail passes through a small cedar swamp.

Ponds Trail

*Blue • 2.2 miles • Multi-use
Easy • Trail links Pickle Factory and East Creek Ponds*

Trailhead From parking areas at Pickle Factory or East Creek Ponds. **Ponds Trail** traverses several fields and forest habitats as it connects Pickle Factory Pond with East Creek Pond.

Tarkiln Bogs Trail

*Green • 0.85 miles • Multi-use
Easy • Trail through old cranberry bogs*

Trailhead On Cinder Trail. **Tarkiln Bogs Trail** runs along the western edge of an abandoned cranberry bog before meeting with John's Run Trail.

Seashore Line Trail

*Yellow • 7.3 miles (total) • Multi-use (1.5 miles) • Motorized use & multi-use (5.8 miles) • Easy •
Follows old rail line*

Trailheads On Weatherby Road (Route 548), on Hunters Mill Road, and end of Dehirsch Road in Woodbine. **Seashore Line Trail** follows the abandoned Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line Railroad that once ran from Cape May to Manumuskin. Please take care when using this trail as motorized vehicle use is approved for most of Seashore Line Trail. No vehicles are permitted from Weatherby Road to Hunters Mill Road. The trail is not contiguous across Route 605. Vehicles cannot enter the northern portion of the trail from Route 605.

TRAILS for MOTORIZED USE

The use of road-legal motorized vehicles is permitted on the trails below. Please follow speed restrictions and be aware that walkers, cyclists and horseback riders also use these trails.

Champion Trail

Yellow • 0.9 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Wide forest road

Trailhead At Route 550 or Steelmantown Bog Road. **Champion Trail** is a graded gravel-sand road that runs from Steelmantown Road to Route 550, intersecting with Seashore Line Trail.

Cinder Trail

Green • 0.8 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Trail connects to Tarkiln Bogs

Trailhead On south side of Weatherby Road (Route 548) west of Route 605. **Cinder Trail** connects with Tarkiln Bogs Trail and meets Old Cape and Johns' Run Trails.

Duck Pond Trail

Blue • 1.8 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Trail to remote pond

Trailhead Approximately one mile southwest of the village of Belleplain on north side of Route 550. **Duck Pond Trail** follows winding six- to eight-foot-wide woods road and leads to a secluded pond which was a former cranberry bog fed by a cedar-lined stream.

Dundrea Trail

Red • 1.3 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Semi-loop trail from Steelmantown Road

Trailhead North side of Steelmantown Road. **Dundrea Trail** is a semi-circular route that begins and ends from Steelmantown Road. Dundrea Trail is six to eight feet wide and winds its way through pine-oak forest.

John's Run Trail

Blue • 1 mile • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Trail leads to footbridge over ponds

Trailhead Off Cinder or Old Cape Trail. **John's Run Trail** connects to Tarkiln Bogs Trail. The trail begins as a woods road and leads to a pond with a gate and pedestrian bridge at the end.

Kalker's Pond Trail

Orange • 1.7 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Trail through abandoned cranberry bogs

Trailhead On Joe Mason Road, west of Belleplain. **Kalker's Pond Trail** is a remote trail on a sand road, passing a stream and abandoned cranberry bog.

Narrows Road Trail

Pink • 1.4 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Sand road through north side of forest

Trailhead From Route 605, north of Belleplain. **Narrows Road Trail** is a 12- to 15-foot-wide sand and gravel road between Belleplain Road (Route 605) and Homestead Road.

Old Cape Trail

Blue • 4.5 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Trail follows old stagecoach route

Trailhead Weatherby Road (Route 548) east of Hunters Mill Road. **Old Cape Trail** is a sand and gravel road in the northern part of the forest. It follows along a utility right-of-way that once served as a stagecoach route.

Sally's Pond Trail

Yellow • 1.2 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Connector path through pine-oak forest

Trailhead Off Duck Pond or Seashore Line Trail. **Sally's Pond Trail** is approximately six feet wide and winds its way through pine-oak forest with cedars as it passes by a stream.

Tom Field Trail

Pink • 2 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Woods road through southern part of forest

Trailhead On Cedar Bridge Road. **Tom Field Trail** travels a wide sand and gravel woods road west of the Lake Nummy day use area.

Turtle Walk Trail

Green • 1.4 miles • Motorized use & multi-use

Easy • Motorized trail along East Creek drainage

Trailhead On Route 347 and Route 47. **Turtle Walk Trail** heads south from Route 347 on an eight-foot-wide road and crosses Ponds Trail and field areas before ending at Route 47.

TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Trail Markings Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. On the map, "connector trails" are tan-colored lines. For habitat protection and your safety, please stay on the trails and don't alter trail markings or create new trails.

Hunting Sections are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

Bicycle Riders Follow the IMBA "Rules of the Trail" guidelines for trail etiquette and yield appropriately. Helmets are required by law for children under 17 and highly recommended for all riders.

Pets All pets must be on a leash (maximum 6') and under the physical control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

Hours Visitors are welcome on the trails from dawn to dusk. Trail use is not permitted after sunset.

Carry-in/Carry-out Help keep the park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash.

Tick & Chigger Protection Bring insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower, and launder clothes immediately.

Forest Office Phone (609) 861-2404

Emergency Numbers 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

Belleplaine State Forest (mailing address)

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Belleplaine State Forest (physical address)

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