

# 1 The Woodcock Trail



## Welcome to the Woodcock Trail.

A mix of low-lying forests, farms, and moist bottomlands, this valley historically hosted a thriving population of woodcock.

This site has long served as a renowned woodcock study area.

In the 1940s, methods were developed to monitor woodcock populations—methods still used by biologists today. From the 1950s to 1970s, the PA Game Commission and Penn State studied woodcock behavior and habitat use.

However, during the 1980s and 1990s, trees on the site matured and nonnative invasive plants outcompeted native shrubs. Woodcock populations declined. In response, managers reestablished woodcock habitat by felling trees and controlling invasive species. They also created the Woodcock Trail to showcase the American woodcock and their habitats.

With time, forest growth continued, nonnative plants invaded, and woodcock populations once again declined.

In 2012, just one singing male woodcock was recorded here. Managers responded by actively reestablishing high-quality woodcock habitat. The Woodcock Trail has also been updated, showcasing woodcock habitat and the wildlife that depend on it.

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