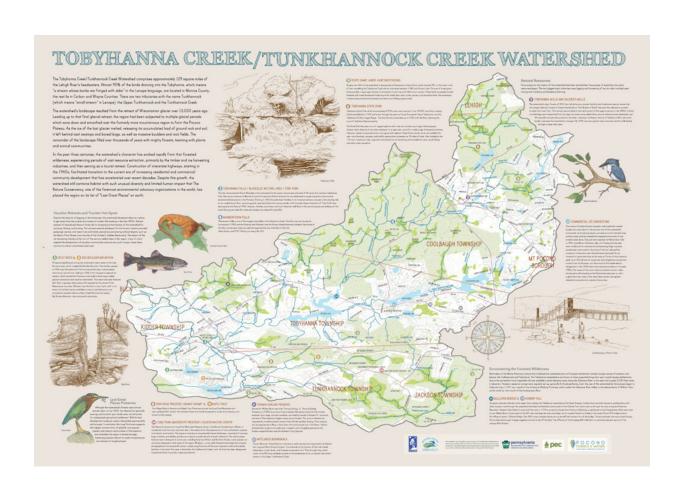


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## TOBYHANNA CREEK/TU

The Tobyhanna Creek / Tunkhannock Creek Watershed comprises approximately 129 square miles of the Lehigh River's headwaters. Almost 90% of the lands draining into the Tobytonna, which means "a stream whose banks are fringed with alder" in the Lonape language, are located in Monroe County the rest lie in Carbon and Wayne Counties. There are two tributories with the name Tunkhannock (which means "small stream" in Lenape): the Upper Tunkhannock and the Tunkhannock Creek.

The watershed's landecape resulted from the retreat of Wisconsinan glacter over 13,000 years ago. Leading up to that final glocial retreat, the region had been subjected to multiple glacial periods which were down and smoothed over the formerly more mountainous region to form the Pocona Plateau. As the ice of the last glacier melted, releasing its accumulated load of ground rock and soil. it left behind vast swamps and bareal bags, as well as massive boulders and rack fields. The remainder of the landscape filled over thousands of years with mighty forests, teeming with plants

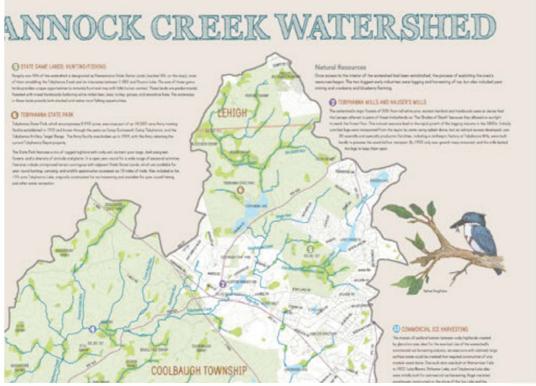
In the past three centuries, the watershed's character has evolved rapidly from that forested wilderness, experiencing periods of vost resource extraction, primarily by the timber and ice harvesting industries, and then serving as a tourist retreat. Construction of intenstate highways, starting in the 1960s, facilitated transition to the current era of increasing residential and commercial community development that has accelerated over secont decades. Despite this growth, the watershed still contains habitat with such unusual diversity and limited human impact that The Notice Conservancy, one of the foremost environmental advacacy organizations in the world, has placed the region on its list of "Last Great Places" on earth.

Vacation Betreats and Tourism Hot-Spots

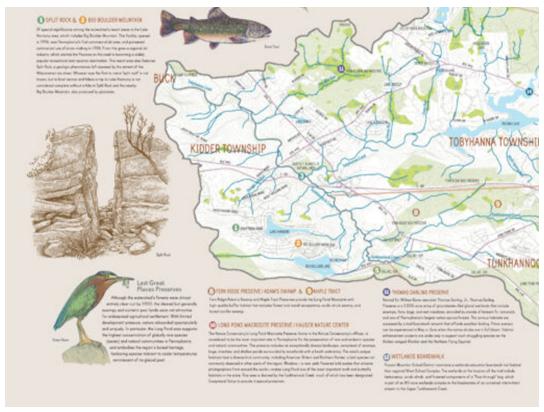


## TORNAMA YALLS / BLAKESLES AKTURAL KREK / 1081 TARK













There are two tributaries with the name Tunkhannock (which means "small stream" in Lenape): the Upper Tunkhannock and the Tunkhannock Creek.

The watershed's landscape resulted from the retreat of the Wisconsinan glacier over 13,000 years ago. Leading up to the final glacial retreat, this region had been subjected to multiple glacial periods that wore down and eroded the formerly more mountainous terrain to form the Pocono Plateau. As the ice of the last glacier melted, releasing its accumulated load of ground rock and soil, it left behind vast swamps and boreal bogs, as well as massive boulders and rock fields. The wetlands that the landscape has been filled with over thousands of years, with mighty forests, teeming with plants and animals.

Over the past three centuries, the watershed's character has undergone rapid evolution from a forested wilderness, experiencing periods of extensive resource extraction, primarily by the timber and ice harvesting industries, and subsequently serving as a tourist retreat. The construction of interstate highways, beginning in the 1960s, facilitated the transition to the current era of increasing residential and commercial community development, which has accelerated over recent decades. Despite this growth, the watershed remains a significant but threatened wildland and limited human impact that The Nature Conservancy, one of the foremost environmental advocacy organizations in the world, has placed the region on its list of "Last Great Places" on earth.

Vacation Retreats and Tourism Hot Spots

Since the impacts of logging on the landscape, the watershed also developed as a place to escape the crowds and confines of modern life, starting in the late 1800s. Pushed upward by industrial disorder, the wind-swept attractiveness of the watershed found appeal for recreation, fishing, and hunting. The railroad network developed for the lumber industry provided passenger service; however, water taxis and hotels were established around existing railroad depots, such as the Naomi Pines House (later the site of Dr. Schultz's Aldine Mansion). The advent of the automobile ultimately cut off the country's access to its lakes, many of which inspired the development of vacation communities and summer youth camps. These ideas continue to attract vacationers each year.

Big Boulder Mountain – Pennsylvania's first commercial ski resort (1947). Now part of Jack Frost/Big Boulder.

Bushkill Falls - "The Niagara of Pennsylvania," a set of eight waterfalls and hiking trails.

Tobyhanna State Park – 5,400 acres with a 170-acre lake, camping, boating, hiking, and swimming.

Austin T. Blakeslee Natural Area – 130-acre preserve with waterfalls, forest, and hiking trails.

Tobyhanna Mills and Audits Mills – Early grist and lumber mills powered by stream waters.

SPLIT ROCK & BIG BOULDER MOUNTAIN A special significance among the watershed's resort areas is the Lehigh Tannery area, which includes Big Boulder Mountain. This facility opened in 1946, near Pennsylvania's first constructed ski area, and pioneered the commercial use of snow-making in 1956. From this groundbreaking ski industry, which helped the Poconos become a widely recognized recreational and vacation destination, the resort area now features Split Rock, a sporting playground with increased ties to the tourism of the Allentown-Bethlehem area. Whenever the facility has been "built out" in one interest, back to hotel services and a lakeside lodge, to Lake Harmony, to golf, the



continuing attraction within a few to Split Rock and the nearby Big Boulder Mountain, also pioneered by snowmakers.

1 Sullivan Bridge & Hungry Hill Remains observed where the original timber trestles that Sullivan connected on the Great Swamp. Nearby, stone-cutting works are still visible today along the watershed trail routes, which include the Sullivan Trail community, where people foraged the area during the American Revolution. General Sullivan's troops that made their way in 1779 on route to New York passed by a campsite on the Longbottom lands near Austin Trestle and William Burr. Remnants include still-noted quarry and ice bridges with massive Tunkhannock features. The Sullivan Trail today still holds original sections that helped Sullivan's Army move through. The monument located nearby commemorates the many supplies and lives lost that were so difficult of traversing difficult northern ridges to repel the autumn pursuits of the enemy's British.

## Vacation Retreats and Tourism

As logging declined, the Poconos evolved into a popular vacation and recreation region. By the late 1800s, railroads brought visitors for hunting, fishing, and fresh air. Boarding houses, grand resorts, and youth camps flourished, a legacy that continues to this day.

- 2. Split Rock & Big Boulder Mountain Big Boulder Mountain, opened in 1946, pioneered snowmaking in 1956, launching the Poconos as a premier ski destination. Resorts expanded around Split Rock and Lake Harmony, combining golf, hotels, and recreation.
- 3 Tobyhanna Falls / Blakeslee Natural Area / Tost Park The falls area downstream from Austin Trestle is the headwaters for the scenic natural areas and 130-acre park that contains Tobyhanna Falls. Serving as a classroom of Monroe County's former Forestry School, the area is dedicated to protecting lands for continuing recreational education in the Poconos. Starting in 1932, this area drew families for recreational enjoyment, offering safe woodland nature tours, sweeping picnic grounds, sporting fields, and scenic trails. Unfortunately, the ridgelines of "Toby Park" were devastated by the 1955 flood. However, families continue to visit Tobyhanna and enjoy the recreation and trails in the mature beauty and wildness of the area, where the sweet, flowing water near the rocks runs into a beautiful waterfall.
- 4 Harnerstown Falls Harnerstown Falls is one of the major waterfalls on the Tobyhanna Creek. The flood area was during the 1955 hurricane, and the flooding that followed became a lasting reminder. Harnerstown is the Dam across the area now, and this recreation area adds hikes to it. The State Game Land #127 flows just along the 115.
- 5 State Game Lands / Hunting & Fishing Nearly one-fifth of the watershed is designated as Pennsylvania State Game Lands (numbered 127), on the west/east of the stream straddling the Tobyhanna Creek and its reservoir landmarks: 2,400-acre Pocono Lake. The area of these game lands contains natural resources that support many forest communities, thereby fully protecting open spaces. These lands are part of the public domain, available for recreation, hunting, and fishing, and are accessible from Route 940 and Interstate 380. The waterways in these areas provide both excellent and native trout fishing communities.
- 6 Tobyhanna State Park Tobyhanna State Park, which encompasses 5,440 acres, was once one part of an 11,000-acre Army training facility, established in 1910 and known through the years as Camp Summerall, Camp Tobyhanna, and Tobyhanna Military Reservation / Tobyhanna Artillery Range. The Army finally turned the lands back in 1949, as the Army shrank the Pocono Military area's huge

property.

The State Park features a mix of rugged highlands and wetlands, wet meadows, open bogs, and evergreen forests. A man-made 170-acre lake provides opportunities for boating and fishing. Public amenities include a large beach, day-use picnic areas, a modern bathhouse, and seasonal boat rental. Over 10 miles of trails allow recreation in all seasons, with access to hunting and other outdoor activities.

Natural Resources Since access to the interior of the watershed had been restricted, the process of opening the area's resources began. The two primary early influences were logging and the harvesting of ice, as well as peat mining and cranberry farming.

7 Tobyhanna Mills and Naeder's Mills The watershed's major harvest of 300,000 board feet of virgin eastern hardwood and hemlock trees is so dense that it takes a day's travel to cross a tract of these timberlands. In "The Shades of Death" locations, they discovered multiple sawmills for their harvests. This sustained resource lasted for the rapid growth of the logging industry in the 1800s. Logging roads and community settlements were built to support the transportation of logs, but not without incurring dramatic losses to the forests and causing community hardship. Furthermore, in finding a watershed factory in Tobyhanna, PA, it was used to process natural resources. However, by 1906, only vast areas of growth were removed, and the state halted logging in these huge areas.

8 Commercial Ice Harvesting The process of creating secluded tension between rocky highlands, which was ideal for the creation and use of the watershed's commercial ice harvesting industry, involved the construction of numerous artificially large earthen areas from imported compartments of pre-formed wood dams. One such area, built at Stillwater Lake in 1902 (Lake Naomi), Tunkhannock Lake, and Tobyhanna Lake, was also initially constructed for commercial ice harvesting. Huge blocks, sometimes as much as two feet thick, of the Poconos ice industry were removed in the winter and were stacked between ground sawdust to insulate the masses of exported ice down to Florida. At the industry's peak, over 100,000 tons of ice per year were shipped during the summer months from the Poconos area to serve the major metropolitan areas. The introduction of the mechanical ice machine in the 1920s, as well as the widespread adoption of modern electric ice machines in the 1940s, ended a global business, but many of the old historic booms, having been adapted for recreation at outdoor lakes, have remained.

Last Great Places Preserves Although the watershed's forests were almost entirely clear-cut by 1930, the cleared but generally swampy and nutrient-poor lands were not attractive for widespread agricultural settlement. With limited development pressure, nature rebounded spontaneously and uniquely. In particular, the Long Pond area supports the highest concentration of globally rare species (xeric) and natural communities in Pennsylvania and embodies the region's broad heritage, harboring extensive tracts to cedar-treacherous remnant of its glacial past.

9 Tunkhannock Preserve / Adam's Swamp & 3 Maple Tract Two major Nature Conservancy Long Pond Preserves provide the Long Pond Watershed with high-value buffer habitat that includes forest and marsh communities, acidic shrub swamps, and boreal conifer swamps.

10 Long Pond Macrosite Preserve / Hauser Nature Center The Nature Conservancy's Long Pond Macrosite Preserve begins at the Nature Conservancy's offices in Newfoundland, the former hospital site in Pennsylvania. For the international class and students' academic and natural connections, the preserve features an extraordinarily diverse landscape comprising complex habitats that support a



diversity of rare species, including the world's largest population of bog copper butterflies, dozens of rare plants, and a wide range of unique natural communities. The nearly 12,000-acre Macrosite is one of the highest priorities in the state and the focal point of many of the Conservancy's protection strategies. The Hauser Nature Center serves as the headquarters and visitor center for the Conservancy's activities in the Pocono region. The area is drained by the Tunkhannock Creek, much of which has been designated Exceptional Value to conserve it against development.

Recreation Highlights 11 Thomas Darling Preserve Named for Wilkes-Barre naturalist Thomas Darling Jr., Thomas Darling Preserve is a 2,500-acre mix of populations that protect wetlands that include swamps, fens, bogs, and wetlands enriched by the limestone, ice, outwash, and one of Pennsylvania's largest spruce swamp forests. The conservation area contains beautiful boreal forests with miles of trails accessible for hiking. Public access may be experienced at State or Gate trips that showcase access to Kettle Run, Hidden Lake, and expansive boreal wetlands, supporting and shopping entrance to the subsequent designation of the Natural Living Institute.

12 Wetlands Boardwalk The Pocono Mountain School District maintains a wetlands interpretive boardwalk trail that is linked to the Deep Regional Park School Campus. The walk winds to the interior of the vast acidic bottomland, which is a component of a "fen-enriched" bog that protects a rich natural landscape, including the headwaters of an unnamed tributary stream to the Upper Tunkhannock Creek.

Encountering the Forested Wilderness Remnants of the Native American culture that inhabited the watershed prior to European settlement include Lenape names of streams and places, the Lackawanna and Tunkhannock. The Tobyhanna watershed is an archetype of these secluded, long-term, semi-nomadic Lenape settlements. The watershed, once hospitably diverse, was located a short distance away, along the Lackawanna River to the east, and was nearly 2,000 feet lower in elevation. Native resource conditions were regularly set, currently at Pond Pathway. The Lenape lived by the watershed. As the Lenape began to fade, starting in 1757, many of the watershed's Walking Pathways extended to the Delaware River Valley. The descendants of the Mohican Tribe are later found along the trails of the Lackawanna River.

