

History and Features

The Hammond Hill State Forest encompasses 3,618 acres and is located in the towns of Caroline and Dryden in eastern Tompkins County. The forest was established between 1935 and 1950 to reduce soil erosion, produce forest products, help stabilize the tax base, and provide recreational opportunities. Nearly half of the forest was acquired from the federal government. Most of the landscape was cleared of trees for agriculture during the mid to late 19th century by European settlers. Between 1935 and 1940 approximately 708,000 pine, spruce, larch, sugar maple, white ash, and red oak were planted by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-125 based in Slaterville Springs, New York. Today, the forest provides a diverse group of ecological, economic, and recreational services.

Ecosystem Management

DEC foresters manage forest ecosystems to enhance and maintain a diverse and healthy forest ecosystem for society and wildlife. As such, forest

management is strategically employed to develop a balanced mix of young, middle-aged, and old (late successional) forest types.

Recreation

Hammond Hill State Forest is a popular area for recreational activities such as hunting, hiking, fishing, bird watching, camping, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, trapping, and snowshoeing.

Trails

The Hammond Hill State Forest Multiple Use Trail System has been designed to offer family-based recreation for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. The 19-mile Hammond Hill trail system is a cooperative effort between the Cayuga Nordic Ski Club, the Friends of Hammond Hill, the Dryden-Caroline Drifters Snowmobile Club, the Town of Dryden, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, and the DEC. The trails are classified by user ability. Beginner trails have very gentle slopes and are fairly short in length. Intermediate trails have

gentle to somewhat steep slopes and are moderate in length. Advanced trails have gentle to steep slopes. Hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing are allowed on the yellow, blue, red, and green trails.

Yellow Trails - 5.6 miles in length.

Trail 1 - intermediate trail 1.9 miles long.

Trail 2 - beginner trail .6 miles long.

Trail 3 - intermediate trail .6 miles long.

Trail 4 - intermediate trail 1.0 miles long.

Trail 4B - intermediate trail .1 miles long.

Trail 5 - advanced trail 1.3 miles long.

Trail 6 - beginner trail .2 miles long.

Blue trail - intermediate trail 1.4 miles long.

Red Trails -1.7 miles in length.

Trail 1 - advanced trail .6 miles long.

Trail 2 - advanced trail 1.1 miles long.

Green Trails are 1.7 miles in length.

Trail 1 - advanced trail .8 miles long.

Trail 2 - intermediate trail .7 miles long.

Trail 3 -advanced trail .2 miles long.

Orange snowmobile trail - 5.6 miles in length. Orange trails are a corridor snowmobile trail. However, other recreational activities allowed are hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and some cross-country skiing.

Fingers lakes hiking trail - 3.2 miles in length. This trail is marked with white blazes. Hiking is the primary use but skiing and snowshoeing is allowed during the winter.

Trail Use Guidelines

- Pass only in flat areas. A faster trail user should vocally indicate the desire to pass; the slower trail user should yield by moving to the right where possible.
- Try not to pass on a downhill.
- Downhill skiers have the right-of-way.
- If you fall, move off the trail immediately.
- Do not hike or bike in the ski tracks.
- Don't hike, bike or ski alone.
- Carry warm clothing, map and compass, water, and quick energy foods.

General Regulations

For your safety and protection of the resource the following regulations are in place:

- Unauthorized cutting of live trees or building of new trails is prohibited.
- Mountain bikers and horseback riders must stay on DEC marked trails. The trails have been located on soils that support intense use. These trails should be serviceable for many years with minimum maintenance.
- We request that horseback riding and mountain bike use be curtailed during wet conditions.
- Camping is not permitted within 150 feet of open water, roads, or trails. A camping permit is required from the DEC Forest

Ranger for groups of 10 persons or more or for stays of longer than 3 successive nights.

- Cooking is more efficient with a camping stove. If you must use an open fire, use only dead wood which has fallen down.
- Extinguish all fires with water and stir the coals until they are cold to the touch.
- Please help keep this area as natural as possible. If you pack it in, pack it out.
- Streams and springs are our water supply. Don't put anything in them you wouldn't drink.
- Nature will take care of human waste. Dig a shallow hole in the forest floor 4-6" deep at least 150 feet from water, trails, and campsites. Cover with leaf litter and dirt.
- In consideration of others, please keep your pets under control. Restrain them on a leash when others approach. Bury droppings away from trails, camping areas and water. Keep your pet away from drinking water sources.
- Treat all other users with respect. Mountain bikes and hikers should yield to horses
- Unauthorized off road motorized vehicle use is prohibited. This includes cars, trucks, ATV's, and motorcycles.**

Contact Information

Emergency - Dial 911

Non-emergency - Cortland
DEC Lands and Forests Office,
(607) 753-3095 ext. 217.

New York State



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

HAMMOND HILL STATE FOREST

