

Thomas Darling Preserve at Two-Mile Run Blakeslee, Pennsylvania



Photo by Dick Ludwig

*This groundwater-fed
glacial wetland has one of
the largest and healthiest
spruce forests in
Pennsylvania.*

Emerging from underground springs and seeps, Two-Mile Run feeds into Tobyhanna Creek, and eventually feeds the Lehigh River. Along the way, it traverses the 2,500-acre Thomas Darling Preserve at Two-Mile Run, a place where visitors can witness an extensive mosaic of glacial wetlands via a two-mile trail and boardwalk system.

Named for Wilkes-Barre naturalist Thomas Darling, Jr., the preserve attracts interest in every season. In spring, large sweet viburnum shrubs decorate the preserve with white, flat-topped flowers releasing a musty odor that earns them the nickname of "sheepberry." During the summer, sheep laurel and bog laurel thrive in the preserve's acidic soils. Fall reveals blueberries and a vivid palette of wildflowers. Year-round, spongy sphagnum moss blankets an array of swamps, fens, bogs and wet meadows encircled by stands of balsam fir, tamarack and one of Pennsylvania's largest native spruce forests. The area also teems with wildlife typical of the Pocono Plateau, including black bears, river otters, and snowshoe hares, and hosts state rare plant species including bog sedge and creeping snowberry. For more than twenty years, The Nature Conservancy has managed this largely wooded and undeveloped landscape. Together with partners, Wildlands Conservancy and Tobyhanna Township, The Nature Conservancy continues to protect the natural legacy of this region.

Visiting the Preserve

This preserve is open to the public. A well-marked 2.2-mile loop trail, including two boardwalks, is accessible from the parking area on Burger Road. Visitors should be confident navigating rocky, uneven terrain, and should budget at least 2 hours for their hike. The Preserve is open to public hunting, managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Hunters must follow all Pennsylvania State Gameland rules. During hunting season, both hunters and visitors should wear blaze orange.

Directions

From the intersection of Routes 940 and 115 in Blakeslee, PA, follow Route 115 north for one mile and turn right onto Burger Road. Continue on Burger Road to the large turnaround at the end of the paved road. Parking, informational kiosks, and trail access are available here.

For more information on the Thomas Darling Preserve, call The Nature Conservancy's Northeastern Pennsylvania Program at 570-643-7922.

Thomas Darling Preserve

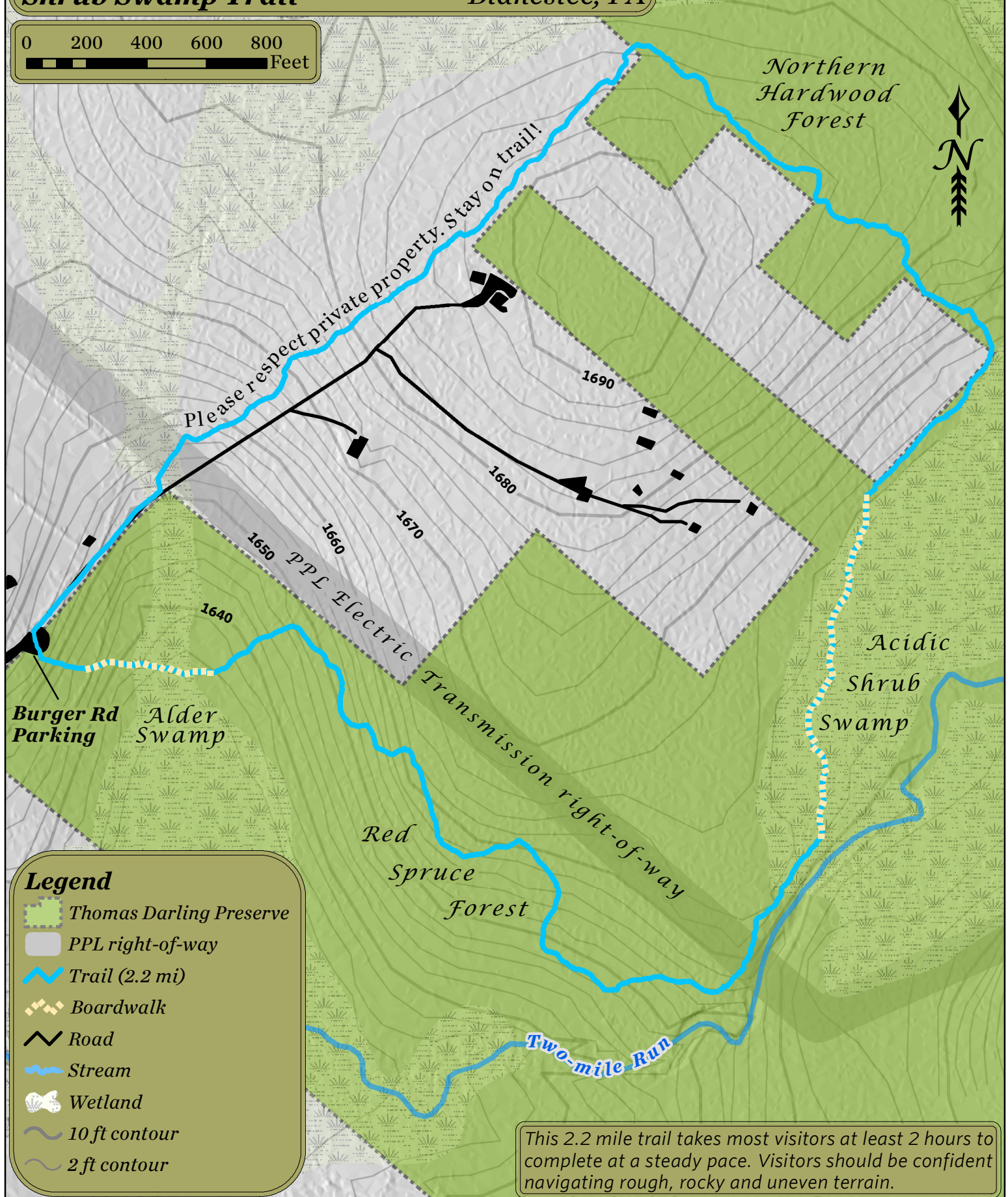
- at Two-mile Run -

Shrub Swamp Trail

Blakeslee, PA



0 200 400 600 800 Feet



Legend

- Thomas Darling Preserve
- PPL right-of-way
- Trail (2.2 mi)
- Boardwalk
- Road
- Stream
- Wetland
- 10 ft contour
- 2 ft contour

This 2.2 mile trail takes most visitors at least 2 hours to complete at a steady pace. Visitors should be confident navigating rough, rocky and uneven terrain.