WELCOME TO: McCarthy Hill State Forest

Which is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and adjoins Pinnacle State Park. This 794-acre state forest is managed for watershed protection, production of timber and for recreation and kindred purposes as specified in the State Reforestation Law of 1929.

In 1999, the skiing and hiking trail system was upgraded as part of a timber sale by a logging contractor. In addition, DEC state forest personnel constructed and placed the signs, kiosk and gate. There are currently more than seven miles of trails on McCarthy Hill State Forest. These trails are available for hiking and mountain biking when snow is scarce. A trail for motorized access by those with disabilities was also constructed. A permit to use motorized access is required; contact the Bath DEC office for an application.

These ski trails vary in their difficulty, and there is a trail for every ability. As with any winter sport, we urge you to bring a map, food and drinks with you. This is especially important if you are planning an outing to the east end of the state forest. The Otter Slide and Bear trails are recommended for experts only. The terrain on these can be very uneven and steep in places.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF STATE LAND

Respect the rules and regulations which apply to the use of public lands, and always seek permission before crossing private lands.

• Don't litter! If you carry it in, carry it out! Keep camping, trail and parking areas clean. Leave them as you would like to find them.

- Camping is free. Groups of 10 or more must obtain a camping permit from the forest ranger.
 Anyone staying more than three nights must obtain a camping permit from the forest ranger. Quiet must be observed from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- Fires are allowed. Do not leave fires unattended. Extinguish fires completely before you leave. Use only dead and down wood. Do not cut, chop or damage living or standing trees. Be careful with fire and cigarettes in the forest.
- Park trailers and vehicles in spaces provided.
 Do not block roadways and trail entrances.
- Human waste: In the forest, dig a trench and cover completely.
- Registered snowmobiles and mountain bicycles are allowed. ATVs are prohibited (except when permission is obtained) on state forest land, trails and roads.
- Horses must have negative Coggins Test. Do not tether horses to live trees.
- Stay on designated trails. Do not cause unnecessary damage by trampling trailside vegetation.
- Respect other trail users. Do not force others off the trail! Dismount and walk your horse or mountain bike when encountering hikers or entering someone else's camp.
- Hunting is allowed during the legally open season. Permanent tree stands are prohibited. It is illegal to damage trees in any manner, including by the use of screws, nails, staples or wire wrapped around the tree.
- Rabies is possible in all warm-blooded animals. Please do not feed or harass any wildlife while visiting public land.



McCarthy Hill State Forest



NORDIC SKI TRAILS

www.dec.ny.gov

Enjoy your visit. It is your public forest land.

