

Best Kept “Secret Places” to Visit in Snyder County, PA



Pictured: Snyder Middleswarth/Tall Timbers Park – A National Natural Landmark

When you travel in Snyder County, get off the busy highways and take a leisurely drive on our country roads. You’ll discover restful parks and picnic areas, playgrounds for the kids, boating and fishing lakes, pristine natural areas, and the magnificent Susquehanna River.

You’ll travel through picturesque towns and villages, go past modern, Amish, and Old Order Mennonite farms, find country stores and roadside stands selling fresh produce and flowers, and discover local butcher shops and lumber mills. Take the Covered Bridge Tour. Go to www.snydercounty.org and click on “Covered Bridge Tour” on the right hand side of the first page.

But please be careful when driving on our country roads. Keep an eye out for slow-moving buggies and bikers (especially at night). There could be someone right over the hill or around the bend. Give plenty of room when passing. **DO NOT BEEP** your horn. Although the carriage horses are pros when traveling about, a loud noise could startle even the most-seasoned steed. Out of respect for their privacy, take no photos or videos of a recognizable face, please.



Along Route 11/15:

McKees Half Falls, Port Trevorton, PA

“Site of the world’s greatest rest stop! A most relaxing place.”



These are the sentiments of a busy businessman who travels Route 11/15 to and from New York every week. And we agree. There are picnic tables and public rest rooms. Sturdy concrete stairs, with a hand rail, will take you right down to the river. You can take beautiful photographs of the tumbling water as it flows over two sets of rocks that span across the river. This is an ideal area for fishing from the bank. The rushing water is a challenge for kayakers who often make this spot the highlight of their travels on the Susquehanna River.



Directions: *Going north on 11/15*, after you cross into Snyder County, go 1.6 miles and look for the “Rest Stop” sign and turn right. *Going south on 11/15* travel past the Old Trail Road exit at Weaver’s Market, go approximately one mile and make a right hand turn at the next turnabout, travel across the highway and head north for .07 mile. Look for the “Rest Area” sign.

Isle of Que “River Walk,” Selinsgrove, PA

“The Susquehanna River is awesome!!! I take the 4-mile walk every morning.”



These are the comments of a regular walker who takes advantage of one of the only “River Walks” on the banks of the Susquehanna River from Maryland to the New York State line. Located on a peninsula, the Isle of Que is easy to reach. With plenty of old shade trees, it is the perfect spot to drive, walk, or bike by attractive homes with well kept lawns and gardens. If driving, please go slow and watch for walkers and bikers. Or park on a side street and enjoy the walk. As you travel to the end of the road, you’ll find farmlands on one side and the river bank on the other. There is a boat launch one mile from Pine Street where there is seating and a picnic table. Enjoy the view from the shore or

rent a kayak for an experience you will long remember. Visit downtown Selinsgrove shops and family-owned restaurants. To find out what’s happening in Selinsgrove, visit www.selinsgrove.org and click on “Chamber of Commerce” and “Community Links” located to the left of the page.



Directions: *Going north on 11/15* take the Selinsgrove exit, turn right at Market Street, and proceed to the 2nd stop light at Pine Street. Turn south on Pine Street, cross the iron bridge, and go two blocks to Front Street. Turn right on to Front Street. This is a dead end road, but you can park or turn around at the boat launch one mile south. *Going south on 11/15*, do not turn onto the 11/15 bypass, but continue into Selinsgrove to the light at Market and Pine Street. Turn left on to Pine Street and follow the directions above.



Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA

The campus has been rated as one of the most beautiful in the nation.



Susquehanna University is a four-year university located on University Avenue in Selinsgrove. Located on 306 scenic acres, it features Georgian architecture spanning nearly 150 years. The grounds contain many different species of trees, perennial flowers, and bushes. With more than 60 facilities, you will be interested in the new state-of-the-art science building, the Lore Degenstein Gallery with continually changing exhibits, and the Blough-Weis Library, which is open to the public. Stop by the Book Store in the basement of the Degenstein building for a Susquehanna University T-shirt or hat. There is a café where you can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. For more information: www.susqu.edu

Directions: *Going north on 11/15*, take the Selinsgrove exit, turn right at Market Street, and proceed to the 2nd stop light at Pine Street. Turn north on Pine Street (which becomes University Avenue) to 18th Street and turn left at 18th Street. There is parking in front of the Degenstein building. *Going south on 11/15*, do not turn onto the 11/15 bypass, but continue into Selinsgrove to the light at Market and Pine Street. Turn right on to Pine Street, follow the directions above. *Photographs are the property of Susquehanna University and cannot be used without the University's permission*



Kidsgrove, Selinsgrove, PA

“We hold our annual Kids Art Camp here and the facilities are excellent.”

Jane Hawn, Snyder County Arts Council.



Here's a place your kids can play and you can relax. There is a large play area with slides, swings and play areas, a kids' train station with child-sized picnic tables, and a mini town featuring replicas of Downtown Selinsgrove businesses. As the children wander through the town, they can measure themselves at the doctor's office and play songs at the music store. A covered picnic pavilion and rest rooms are located near the playground. Kidsgrove is maintained by a group of community members and funded by donations, grants, and fundraisers.

www.kidsgroveplayground.com



Directions: Going north on 11/15 take the Selinsgrove exit, turn right at Market Street, and proceed to Sassafras and Market Street (Gas station is on the North/West corner). Turn left on Sassafras Street, go three blocks, and turn left. **Going south on 11/15**, do not turn onto the 11/15 bypass, but continue into Selinsgrove to Sassafras and Market Streets and turn right and follow the directions above.

Pump House Park, Selinsgrove, PA

“A quiet place to relax and read a book. I attend all the music events.”



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A hidden gem located along Penns Creek, this peaceful spot has a beautiful gazebo, benches, and picnic tables. Across the road is a small playground. Sit by the river and enjoy a quiet respite from the busy highway. Bring a picnic lunch from one of the local restaurants. In the summertime, evening concerts are held at the gazebo on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments are available. There is some seating, but it is suggested you bring your own chair or blanket. For a schedule, go to: www.selinsgrove.org and click on Chamber of Commerce, then click Summertime Concert at the Gazebo.



Directions: *North on I/15* turn off at the Selinsgrove exit, turn right on to Market Street, and proceed to the 2nd light at Market and Pine Street. Turn south on Pine Street, go one block, and turn left on Water Street. Go two blocks and turn right on Snyder Street. Go one block and turn left. There is a small parking area next to the Pump House Community Building. *Going south on I/15*, do not turn onto the 11/15 bypass, but continue into Selinsgrove to Pine and Market Streets and turn left and follow the directions above.

Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam Park, Shamokin Dam, PA

“Go out on the jetty to get a good look at the world’s longest inflatable dam.”



This is a favorite spot for fishermen as well as anyone who would like an “up close” look at the Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam. Located near the Veterans’ Memorial Bridge to Sunbury, there is a picnic shelter, playground equipment, and woods to explore. Venture out on the jetty and you can get a close look at the fabridam. It is the world’s longest inflatable dam measuring 2,100 feet long. When raised in the summer, it creates the 3,000 acre Lake Augusta, which is used for recreation. There is access for kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. Care must be taken to stay down river and avoid the swift water of the dam, as drowning is a very high risk.



Directions: *North on 11/15*, as you turn off the bypass stay to the right and make a right turn at the first light on to Old Trail Road. (Sheetz Gas Station is on the corner.) Proceed on Old Trail Road for approximately 2.8 miles into the borough of Shamokin Dam to 7th Street. Look for the Fabridam Park sign on your right and turn right. Go down the unpaved road and you will find the picnic gazebo and parking. *Going south on 11/15*, turn left at 8th Street (3rd light from the junction of Routes 11 and 15). Go south for one block to Old Trail Road. Turn left, go one block, look for the Fabridam Park sign and turn right. Follow the directions above.

Along Route 522:

Charles Park, Middleburg, PA

“A shady spot to bring the kids for a picnic lunch and baseball game.”



Just one block off Route 522, the park features plenty of shade trees, a baseball field, playground equipment, and picnic tables.

You can park along the road. Across the street is the Middleburg Firemen's Field where various organizations hold events including dog shows and a yearly carnival. There is a small pond with benches where you can fish or feed the many ducks and Canada geese. On the west side of the park, just over the wooden bridge, is Veterans Memorial Park. A block away is the Middleswarth Potato Chip Factory where you can visit their company store.



Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Drive approximately 10 miles into Middleburg (Main Street). Cross over the bridge and continue to the traffic light at Main and Market Street. Turn left on to W. Market Street (Route 522 South), go one block, turn left on to Charles Street and go one and a half blocks. Charles Park is on your left; the Fireman's Park is on your right. *Going South on 11/15*, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. Right after you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow the directions above.

Faylor Lake, Beaver Springs, PA

“A cool day at Faylor Lake. A glorious morning and a great day to be alive.”



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A 140-acre impound, this lake is a quiet spot for fishermen, birders, photographers, and hikers. In the winter the lake freezes and there are as many as 40 to 50 ice fishermen on the lake. You'll find year-round birding opportunities if you are walking the trails or exploring the coves in a canoe or kayak. There are no picnic tables or rest rooms; however, you can spread a blanket under a tree for a tranquil picnic lunch. Only manually powered boats are allowed. The parking lot gives you a good view of the entire lake. A trail along the south shore begins at the parking lot and heads west to “sunken road bridge.”



Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 through Middleburg and Beavertown. Turn north (right) on to Route 235 North in Beaver Springs. At 0.25 mile, bear left on Mattern Road and follow the signs to Faylor Lake parking lot and ramp.

Going south on 11/15, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. Right after you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow the directions above.

Walker Lake, Troxelville, PA

“It’s so tranquil. I take a chair, sit under a tree and watch for wildlife.”



The Clarence F. Walker Lake is a 239-acre reservoir. A favorite fishing spot, fish species present include northern pike, largemouth bass, walleye, black crappie, and bluegill. Boating is limited to electric powered boats and un-powered boats. Also a favorite of bird watchers, hikers, and photographers, there are trails that will take you to the dam and spillway. A Wetlands Restoration area can be reached from Troxelville (see directions below). There are no picnic tables, but there is a large grass area to spread a blanket and plenty of trees for shade right next to the lake.



Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 through Middleburg and Beavertown. Turn north (right) on to Route 235 North in Beaver Springs. Go north on 235 to Troxelville. Turn off 235 onto Penns Creek Road and go one mile. Turn right onto Walker Lake Drive (farm on right-hand corner). Go approximately 0.75 miles to boat launch sign and turn right to parking lot and boat ramp. *Going South on*

11/15, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. Right after you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow the directions above.

Directions to Wetlands: In Troxelville, go south on Route 235 for 2 miles and turn left (east) on Black Mountain Road. Go 1.5 miles to the wetland area on the right.

Snyder Middleswarth/Tall Timbers Natural Area near Troxelville, PA

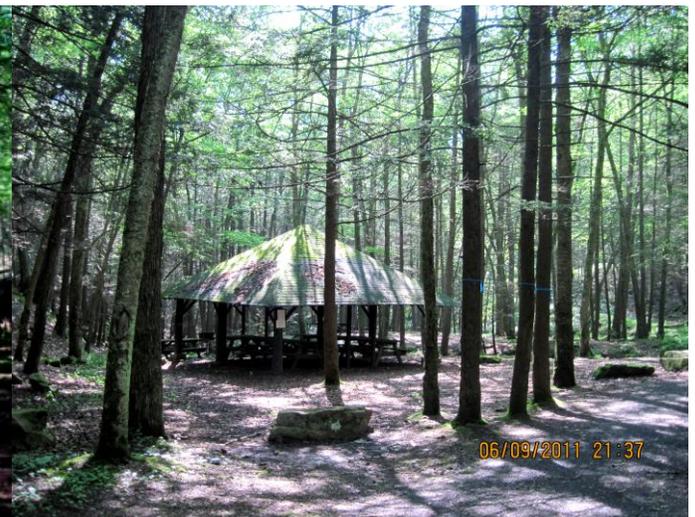
“When I hike these pristine woods, I feel like I’m in a land that time forgot.”



Snyder Middleswarth Natural Area is a 500-acre National Natural Landmark within Bald Eagle State Forest. The natural area is in the Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians. In the 19th and 20th centuries, almost all of Pennsylvania’s forests were clear cut with only a few isolated tracts of virgin forest surviving. This forest is thought to have survived, in part, due to its location and the difficulty of transporting the cut lumber from this area.

A beautiful spot, it’s an outstanding example of a relict forest composed predominantly of

hemlock, birch, and pine, with a few oaks. Some of these trees are over 150 feet high and over 40 inches in diameter at shoulder height. One downed tree had 347 rings. Bordering the Snyder Middleswarth area is Tall Timbers, an old second-growth forest. Both are favorite spots for hikers and bird watchers. The park is also known for its thick blankets of rhododendron and mountain laurel. The cascading stream that runs through the park is a favorite destination. There are two picnic areas and many hiking trails. Over 175 avian species have been recorded. As you enter the park, there is Rock Springs Picnic Area with a pavilion and rest rooms. Travel into the park and to the SnyderMiddleswarth Picnic Area for additional picnic tables, a pavilion, and several hiking trails.



Snyder Middleswarth/Tall Timbers (Continued)



Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 through Middleburg and Beavertown. Turn north (right) on to Route 235 in Beaver Springs. Go north on 235 to the Troxelville. As you round the bend, look for the Tall Timbers sign on the left hand sign. (First road before the church.) Turn left and follow the road for 4.8 miles to the Snyder Middleswarth picnic area. **Going south on 11/15**, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. After you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow directions above.

Interesting facts for kids about Snyder Middleswarth/Tall Timbers:



Snyder Middleswarth is a virgin forest. That means you will walk under trees that were growing when only Native American Indians lived and traveled in Snyder County.



Trees sweat. One large tree can drink up to 100 gallons of water from the ground and sweat it in the air each day. Put a plastic bag over leaves and a branch – in a few hours water drops will form.



A canopy is the top layer of trees in a forest. Birds build their nests in these trees. The leaves and pine needles hide them from predators.



Over 175 species of birds have been recorded as living in Snyder Middleswarth Park. As you walk, listen and look for all the different kinds of birds. You will also find chipmunks, frogs, squirrels, and deer.



Did you know trees breathe? Take a deep breath! A tree breathes in carbon dioxide and gives off oxygen. One full grown tree can supply all the oxygen needed by just two people.



A tree absorbs energy. A tree sucks in more of the sun's energy than any other living thing on earth. They're big solar batteries.

Haines Park, Beaver Springs, PA

“A hidden retreat that offers a shady spot to sit and read a really good book.”



Hidden off Route 522, this quiet spot offers shade trees, comfortable benches, and a gazebo... all in an area that would fit in less than a city quarter block. In the summer band concerts, gospel singing and other activities are held. The School Bell Tower, shown below, was erected in 2007. The bell is from the Beaver Springs Public School that was built in 1884 and used until 1956. Donated to Beaver Springs by the owner of the building, it was dedicated as a memorial to the many students who attend the school. Just west of the park is the Klinepeter Covered Bridge. Take the Snyder County Covered Bridge tour at www.snydercounty.org. Click on Covered Bridge Tour (right side of the page). Visit the Beaver Community Fair in September: www.beaverfair.org.



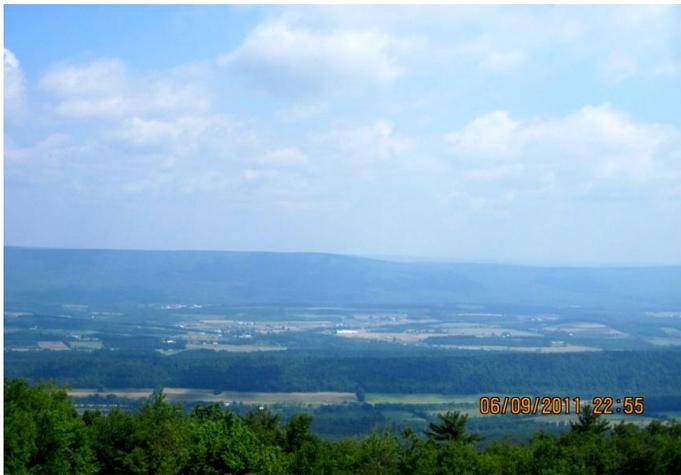
Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 to Beaver Springs. At the junction of Route 522 and Route 235, go south on Route 522 for 0.01 mile to Spring Street. Turn left on Spring Street for 0.1 mile to Railroad Street. The park is on your left. The bridge is a block to your right. *Going south on 11/15*, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. After you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow directions above.

Shade Mountain and Saint Pisgah Altar, Beaver Springs, PA

“The scenic overlook offers spectacular views of the valley to the north.”



The Saint Pisgah Altar was built and is maintained for community use and special sunrise services by Robert Cryan. The site, known for its magnificent view, has hosted over 600 weddings and can be reserved for religious services. This beautiful stone altar is located on the top of the Shade Mountain range which is listed as one of the most prominent peaks in the United States. Part of the Bald Eagle State Park, the mountain runs through the center of Snyder County and is a popular spot for hikers, birders, hunters, and photographers. A 15-mile road runs from Route 235 to Route 104 across the top of the mountain.



.Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 to Beaver Springs, go south on Route 522 to Route 235 South. Turn left onto 235 and go for approx. 4 miles. Turn left at Shade Mtn. Road sign and travel .06 miles to the “No Trespassing – Dusk to Dawn” sign. Turn left and travel on this road until you reach the parking lot for the altar. *Going south on 11/15*, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. After you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow directions above.

Station Park, McClure, PA

“A quiet town with a delightful park where kids can play and adults relax.”



A pretty little town located off the busy highway, McClure has kept its

hometown image. In the center of town is a lovely park with plenty of trees, benches, a picnic pavilion, and playground. You can park along the street and spend time in the park or take a walk along the tree-lined streets. There is also a small library loaded with books as well as Internet, fax, and computer access. McClure is also the site of the McClure Bean Soup Festival and Fair held every September. The festival is a memorial to all veterans of all wars. The celebration was first open to the public in 1891. www.mcclurebeansoup.com



Directions: *North on 11/15*, turn off at the Selinsgrove exit and turn right on to Market Street. Go through Selinsgrove and turn on to Route 522 South at the CVS. Follow Route 522 to McClure. Veer left onto Specht Street at the bottom of the hill to Brown Street, turn left, and go 3 blocks to Walker Street. The park is between Walker and Railroad Streets. *Going south on 11/15*, do not get on the bypass but continue into Selinsgrove. After you cross over the iron bridge, turn right onto Route 522 South. Follow directions above.

T&D Cats of the World, Penns Creek, PA

“Our trip on Saturday was amazing! We plan to visit much more.”

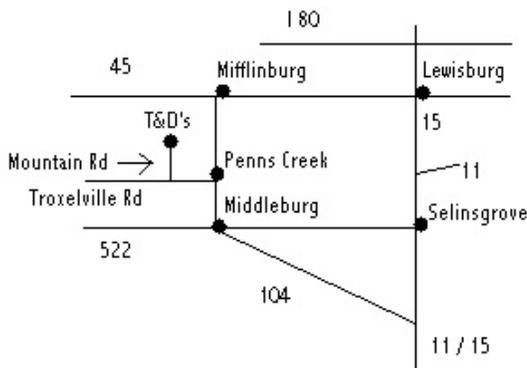


Named #1 “**Must See Attractions**” in the valley by the Susquehanna River

Valley Visitors Bureau, T&D’s Cats of the World is a large animal refuge facility dedicated to providing a safe haven for exotic and wild animals. This refuge offers a fascinating look at over 200 animals including 60 felines (lions, tigers, cougars, leopards and bobcats, servals, and other jungle cats). Other wild animals including bear, fox, lemurs, parrots, and other small creatures have found their way to this caring sanctuary.

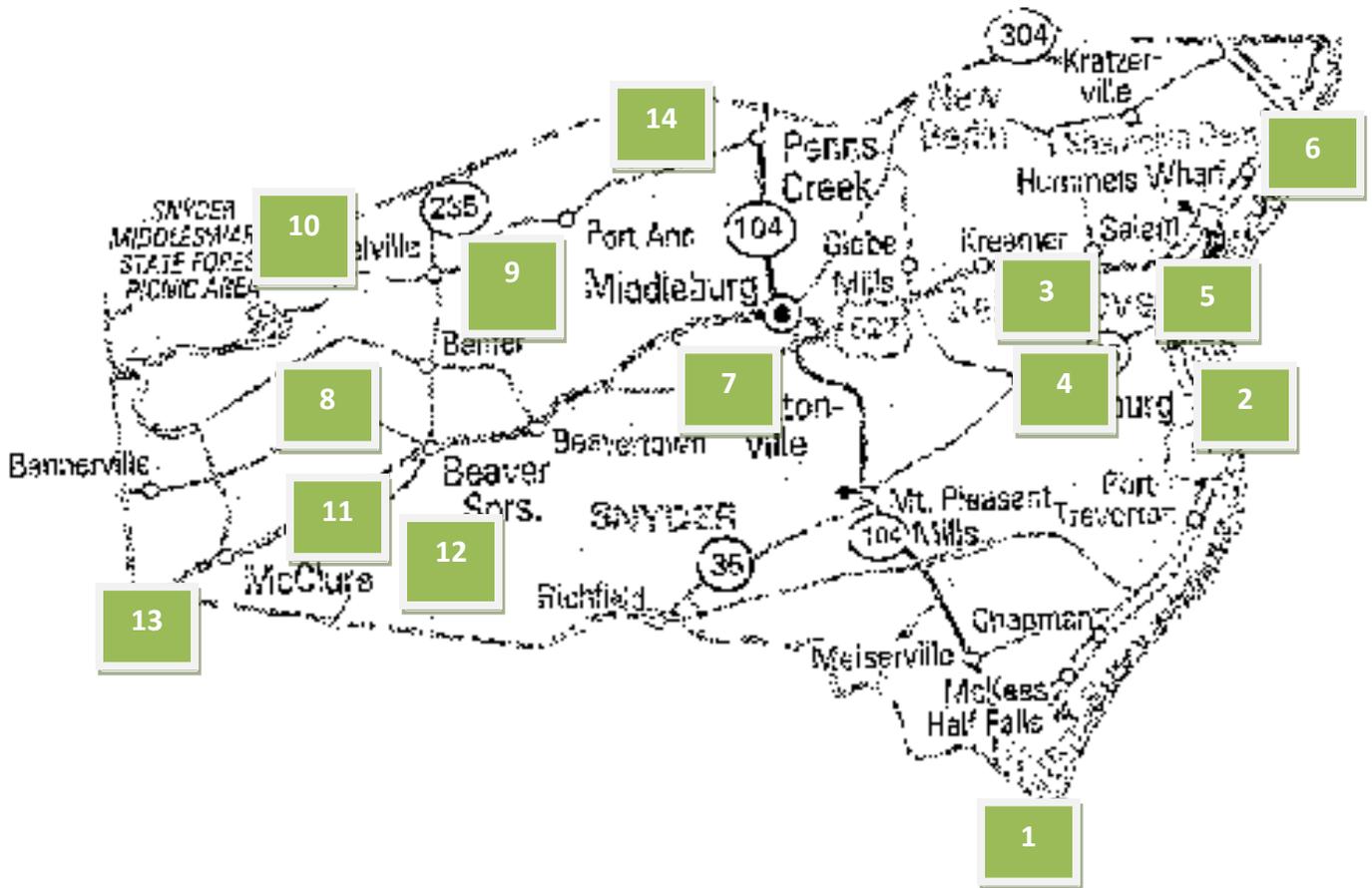


T&D’s is not funded by the government. The care of animals is made possible by private contributions. The owners do not breed, buy, or sell exotic animals. Their belief is that animals should not be exploited; therefore, the facility is only opened approximately 40 days a year. The refuge offers not only a fascinating look at these beautiful animals, but it also teaches the importance of caring for and understanding these wild creatures. **Phone: 570-837-3377; www.tdscats.com**



Hours: Open May through September on Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 6 pm (no one admitted after 5:00). Admission is \$5.00 (ages 3-12); \$10 (ages 13 and older). In June, July and August, they have one hour guided tours during the week at 10 am and 2 pm only. You **MUST** go on a tour during the week. Cash and checks are accepted.
Directions: From Selinsgrove, take Route 522 South to Middleburg. At light take Route 104 North to Troxelville Road (right before Penns Creek). Turn left on Troxelville Road, go 1 mile, turn right at sign.

Photographs are the property of T&D’s Cats of the World and cannot be used without their permission



1. McKees Half Falls off Route 11/15 North

2. Isle of Que “River Walk” - Selinsgrove

3. Susquehanna University - Selinsgrove

4. Kidsgrove Park - Selinsgrove

5. Pump House Park - Selinsgrove

6. Adam T. Bower Memorial Dam Park - Shamokin Dam

7. Charles Park – Middleburg

8. Faylor Lake – Beaver Springs

9. Clarence F. Walker Lake - Troxelville

10. Snyder Middleswarth/Tall Timbers Natural Area, Near Troxelville

11. Haines Park – Beaver Springs

12. Shade Mountain and Mt. Pisgah Altar – Off of Route 235

13. Station Park - McClure

14. T&D’s Cats of the World – Penns Creek