



Bittersweet becomes noticeable in November while many shrubs maintain their green well beyond that of the trees.

A number of bird species are permanent residents of the park system. Great blue herons can be spotted year-round. Downy woodpeckers are particularly busy all year long. Ducks are creek and pond denizens during all months but tend to spend more time in the creek in the winter eagerly eyeing for hikers with breadcrumbs. The kingfisher noisily announces his presence. Visiting Canada geese, juncos, and hawks are just some of the winter species that add to the delight of walkers and joggers.

The Wyomissing Creek is home to brown trout, painted turtles and a host of fresh water invertebrates.

Why walk on a mechanical treadmill when you can receive the same health benefits and more, enjoying our beautiful nature reserve?

Come visit your park.

**Old Wyomissing Road . . .
A walk through the park with history.**

Old Wyomissing Road from the Old Mill to the present soccer fields was once part of the main road running from Reading to Lancaster. Travelling this road today, one enters into the atmosphere of a by-gone era – a stretch of natural beauty and tranquility – virtually untouched by the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Starting at the Old Mill:

- The ditch running to the right of the road carried the waters of the mill’s head race .
- To the left, the first red barn, deeded by the sons of William Penn in 1735.
- Down the road and across the creek, a large tract deeded to Jacob Hill in 1817 remained farmland until its northern portions were sold to the Reading Suburban Real Estate Company in 1898.
- Ruth’s Bridge, built in 1910 provided horses and their wagons safer passage across the Wyomissing Creek.
- The park’s first headquarters were in the nearby spring house – one of several along the creek.
- Beyond the bridge stands the Huyett House, named for the inscription near its peak. The Park Barn immediately to its south is equally as old, deeded by Penn proprietaries in the 1730’s.
- A short distance to the right are the Hildebrand barn and another fine old stone house, both now property of the Highlands.
- Near Lancaster Avenue, a former limestone quarry serves as home to the soccer fields, while across the creek was originally a cement factory.

Mr. Ferdinand Thun purchased the land and structures on both sides of the creek in 1929. They were preserved and transferred to the Borough in the 1970s for use as parkland.

**Set a course for
trails unknown or
discover a variety
of nature’s gifts.**



...A trail guide to The Parklands of Wyomissing

Wyomissing is a special place. One feature that makes it special is the open space embedded in its residential area. Land planners who are concerned about urban sprawl have only to visit our park system. Our parks offer openness and beauty that reach deep within the human soul.

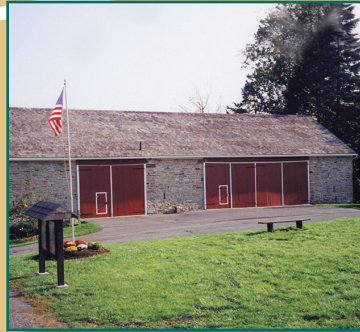
The Wyomissing Park System is easily accessible. There are numerous parking areas for those who arrive by auto.

The trails are extensive and designed for either short or long rambles. One can traverse the Borough by starting near the Reading Museum and ending at The Highlands, just short of Lincoln Park. A relatively level set of trails follow the picturesque Wyomissing Creek. Steeper footpaths lead to the sitting bench with its panoramic view across the borough to Slate Hill and to the west. Other trails offer the cool greenness of the piney woods, or the intimacy of walking the path and footbridge to Old Man Echo.

There is plant growth at almost all times of the year. Hikers will spot snowdrops in early February. Skunk cabbage emerges in late winter, often melting the snow around it. Also during winter, green mosses and watercress may be found in warm springs. Later on, wildflowers and blossoms punctuate the array of spring growth. The meadows and forested areas remain lush and verdant from late spring to early fall. The cool evenings of fall signal the colorful leaf changes and bare trees come.

TRAIL LEGEND

- Grass Trail
- Paved or Stone Trail



Park Barn



Old Man Echo



Duck Pond



Stone House