

Table 9: Forest Cover of the Passaic County Park System

Area Name	Area
Apshawa Preserve	503.7 acres
Friendship Park	34.3 acres
Garret Mountain Reservation	222.7 acres
Goffle Brook Park	22.2 acres
Peckman Preserve	11.4 acres
Pompton Aquatic Park	21.8 acres
Preakness Valley Park	97.2 acres
Rifle Camp Park	145.8 acres
San Cap Park	183.7 acres
Tranquility Ridge Park	1,917.9 acres
Weasel Brook Park	0.0 acres

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat

The Passaic County Park System is biodiverse, and contains extensive areas that are suitable habitat for a range of threatened, endangered and other important species. The Landscape Project of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Endangered and Non-game Species Program, which has been discussed in Chapter 6, indicates that areas of the system contain suitable habitat for bobcat, timber rattlesnake, wood turtle, red-shouldered hawk, marbled salamander, barred owl, northern goshawk, and bald eagle.

It is also important to note that while the United States Fish and Wildlife Service does not list Passaic County as a county that contains Indiana bat, neighboring Orange and Sussex counties do. With similar habitat areas, it is possible that Indiana bat could, indeed, be found in Passaic County. Indiana bats are an endangered species that live along rivers and lakes.

Figure 20 provides an overview of the location of suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species within the Passaic County Park System. Appendix E provides additional information on the presence of threatened and endangered species habitat within the Passaic County Park System.

Important Bird Areas

Several areas of the Passaic County Park System are located within Important Bird Areas of the National Audubon Society. These include: Tranquility Ridge in the Wanaque Watershed; San Cap Park, Apshawa Preserve, and Friendship Park, which are located within the Pequannock Watershed Important Bird Area; and, Garret Mountain Reservation and Rifle Camp Park, which are located in the Garret Mountain Important Bird Area.

Important Bird Areas are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds. The National Audubon Society designates the Pequannock Watershed Important Bird Area as globally significant due to the fact that it provides habitat for breeding Cerulean Warblers, which are rapidly declining migratory songbirds. The National Audubon Society designates the Garret Mountain Important Bird Area as state-significant due to the fact that

it serves as a migratory stopover site for various types of warblers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows, flycatchers, swallows and wrens during spring and fall migration. The Garret Mountain Important Bird Area also occasionally supports breeding pairs of Barred Owls, Kentucky Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats.