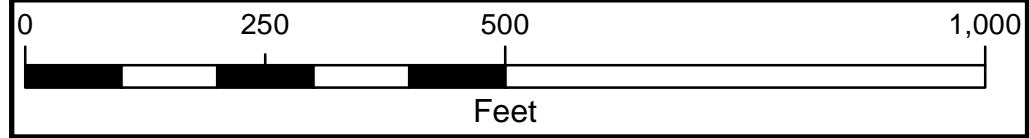
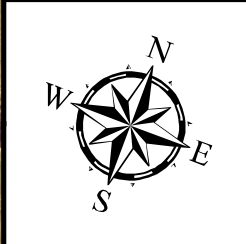
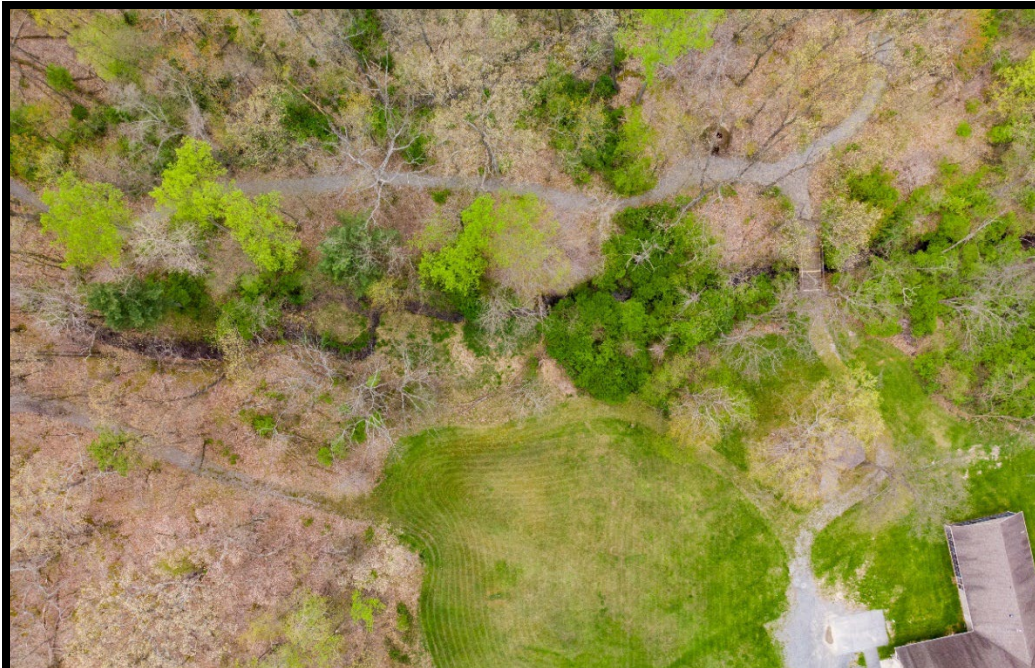


Fort Roberdeau Trail Map



| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Acorn Shop | Blue Bird Trail | 0.85 mi |
| Gazebo | Cross Field Trail | 0.15 mi |
| Bathroom | Foundation Trail | 0.05 mi |
| Handicap Parking | Boundary Trail | 0.19 mi |
| Parking Area | Creekside Loop | 0.41 mi |
| Picnic Area | Frontier Home Trail | 0.12 mi |
| Bench | Partridgeberry Trail | 0.10 mi |
| Bridge | Sinkhole Deck Trail | 0.01 mi |
| | Sidewalk | |
| | Park Boundary | |



Creekside Loop

The **Creekside Loop (red)** is found in the northwest section of the map and accessible near White Oak Hall located at the top of the hill. There is parking available at White Oak Hall if there are no other functions occurring at the time.

The Creekside Loop features a walk in a forest habitat with trees and a tributary creek within the Sinking Valley drainage. Sinking Valley is an accurate name for the valley because the valley's limestone bedrock can be dissolved over time due to persistent running water. As the water dissolves the bedrock underground stream systems, sinkholes and caves are created, all of these features can be found throughout the valley.

Creekside Loop meanders through trees which provide shade and a cooler habitat in the heat of the summer. An Eagle Scout project provided two benches along the trail to sit and relax while taking a break from your walk.

The featured wildlife on this part of the Fort's grounds are White-Tailed Deer and Pileated Woodpeckers. The prominent plant species in this area are the massive White Oaks.

Creekside Loop comes back to White Oak Hall near the Gazebo, however you may continue onto the **Boundary Trial (green)** for a longer hike down to the **Frontier Home Trail (yellow)**. Here you can visit our Sink Hole Deck to experience both a sink hole and sinking stream along the hiking trail.



Fort Roberdeau: The Lead Mine Fort

Fort Roberdeau Historic Site and Natural Area is a 230 acres county park located in Blair County Pennsylvania.

Fort Roberdeau was built to protect a lead mining and smelting operation on the Pennsylvania frontier during the American Revolution. The Fort provided a safe haven for soldiers and settlers throughout the region.

In 1778 it was decided, because of a scarcity of lead, General Daniel Roberdeau would lead an expedition to direct the building of a lead mine in Sinking Valley. The lead procured would be shipped back for the use of the Continental Army.

Fort Roberdeau, although open for only a couple of years, is a wonderful example of the hardships that America faced during its struggle for independence.

This Revolutionary War Fort is a place of honor as some of the rangers and soldiers who served here became pensioned veterans of the Revolutionary War in part because of their service at Fort Roberdeau. These veterans were some of the first to be recognized and receive pensions from a grateful new nation.

The aerial photo provides a view of the fort outline. Bastions, the diamond shaped corners, were common on the early frontier forts. This design provided a view of the entire surrounding area by placing two sentries in each bastion, one in each corner. It took just eight soldiers to keep watch and prevent surprise attacks. This was a much needed feature in the sparsely populated frontier and unsure numbers of soldiers at the fort.

The buildings inside on the bottom left to right include an officer quarters, supply cabin and soldier barracks. Along the top left to right, smelter, blacksmith shop (red roof) and a lead miner cabin. The fort buildings are only an interpretation not an accurate representation.



Conservation Area

The Conservation Area located in the southeast corner of the map serves as a natural area and green space. There are about 30 acres of maintained grasslands in the Conservation Area.

The conservation grasslands require a mowing plan with a yearly cut in early August after the primary nesting season (April 1 – July 31) especially for ground nesting birds. Each field plot requires that 1/3 of the field be mowed each year. There is a three-year plan to rotate the mowing to keep the field in grassland by reducing the invasion of woody vegetation. Thanks to a Sinking Valley Farming Co-op, the Fort maintains this grasslands habitat.

The Conservation Area features the **Blue Bird Trail (blue)** with nesting boxes strategically placed throughout the fields. The trail itself is a mowed path along the field edge. This trail provides a wonderful nature walk with plenty of chances to observe wildlife. Naturally, Blue Birds serve as the main attraction along with the American Kestrel.

Besides the birds, the diversity of wildlife is great in this habitat. Common sightings include: Deer, rabbits, squirrels, foxes and opossums to name a few mammals. Eastern Gartersnakes & Black Rat Snakes are the most common reptiles. While Eastern American Toads, Northern Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs represent the common amphibians in the wet areas and during migration periods. These are the more common vertebrate animals, but there are plenty of creatures without backbones to observe. Butterflies spread their wings in the conservation area as plants flower. These and other pollinators grace the fields especially mid to late summer.

It is important to keep your dog on a leash at all times while on the grounds, especially in the Conservation Area. Not only to respect other visitors but to protect nests, young wildlife, and your dog from the occasional skunk, raccoon, porcupine, or coyote that frequent the grounds.