


To chart the course and provide resources needed to enhance the natural and recreational assets throughout the Minsi Lake area.

Friends of Minsi Lake
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Minsi Lake Corridor Conservation Efforts

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - In partnership with Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County Parks & Recreation is taking steps to protect migrating amphibians by closing the eastern half of Institute Drive through the County's Totts Gap Conservation Area from March 11 to April 14th, 2022.

The woodlands on either side of Institute Drive are home to the largest concentration of natural seasonal pools and associated species of amphibians anywhere in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Some of these species are listed as threatened and endangered by the PA Fish & Boat Commission, which oversees the Commonwealth's fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

"The county and the township have worked on many projects together and we always will when the goal is to provide responsible recreation to the community," stated Ed Nelson, Township Manger for Upper Mount Bethel Township.

Beginning Friday March 11, 2022 motorists can expect part of Institute Drive to be closed in the Totts Gap Conservation Area for the next several weeks to protect breeding amphibians. The closure will extend from Totts Gap Road west on Institute Drive for about one-half mile to allow for amphibian migrations to breeding pools without the risk of being crushed by vehicle tires.

The trigger for the crossing will be a forecast calling for evening rain with mild temperatures. Since amphibians (frogs, salamanders, and toads) are mostly active at night you can observe their treks until dawn.

"Recommendations from the County's Minsi Lake Corridor Greenway & Stewardship plan highlight the need for protection of critical landscapes. This temporary closure is a major step in the on-going efforts of provide sustainable conservation practices," said Bryan Cope, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation with Northampton County.

For more information on the natural phenomenon of springtime amphibian migrations, and how motorists can help protect them in their travels, log onto <https://www.shaverscreek.org/2016/04/18/amphibians-on-the-move/>.

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