

NEIGHBORS OF Andover

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Andover Borough and Township

JULY 2018



Lakeside Living,
Community Giving



Best Version Media

Photos by Todd Holtz Photography

Nature Next Door

By Linda Presto

Quietly concealed between Route 206 and Lake Iliff Road is the hidden gem of Andover -- Kittatinny Valley State Park (KVSP). Since 1994 residents and visitors have been able to enjoy the plethora of outdoor entertainment and activities at this state park facility.

This history of KVSP dates all the way back to the retreat of the Wisconsin Ice Sheet over 17,000 years ago, wherein the glacier's meltwaters filled in a chain of steep-sided kettle ponds in the Kittatinny Valley.

More recent history of the park includes the abandonment of Sussex County's railroads when automobile travel expanded. Progress also led to landowner Frederick Hussey III purchasing 350 acres and constructing an airstrip in 1957. The Hussey family owned Aeroflex Corporation which became named Lake Aeroflex that we know today. Lake Aeroflex is the deepest natural lake in New Jersey, measuring 110 feet deep. New Jersey State Law prohibits swimming in Lake Aeroflex, but fishing is allowed. The lake houses many trout and even salmon stocked by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Butterfly Garden

When Mr. Hussey and his wife died, the land and buildings were sold to Joseph LoRe, a prominent manufacturer. After his death, LoRe's wife had the property extensively logged for high quality wood. This subsequently left an expansive network of logging trails, which eventually provided the future hiking paths we enjoy today.

In 1994, the Green Acres program of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection purchased the 948 acres of land and created KVSP. The NJ Forest Fire Service took over the operation of Aeroflex Andover Airport. Today, KVSP encompasses the rights-of-way of three rail-trails (Paulinskill Valley Trail, Sussex Branch Trail, and Great Valley Rail-Trail), former Cedar Lake Horse Farm in Blairstown, three lime kilns in Hamburg, a Lenape rock shelter in Franklin, and the former Mt. Paul Monastery in Sparta, totalling almost 6,000 acres.



Visitor Center accessible from Goodale Road

KVSP's Natural Resource Interpretive Specialist, Lynn Groves, presents educational programs and the services and events of the park. Lynn was hired in 1999 but her career path began long ago when her parents bought her a birdfeeder and the Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds for her thirteenth

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birthday. The rest, she says, is history. Quoting Robert Frost's famous poem, Lynn says taking the road "less traveled by" has made all the difference. Lynn enjoys introducing visitors of all ages to the Great Outdoors and sharing in their nature discoveries. Lynn received her B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University and is a member of Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees and Trails Partnership Steering Committee, as well as the Co-chair of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee.

The Chamber is vital to KVSP's operations, securing and providing grants and materials. They produce maps and wayfinders and panels on the trails. Lynn not only loves her job, she realizes the importance of the park to our community: "I can see the benefits people receive from it." To her, it's "more than just a job." It's not difficult to see why KVSP was voted "Best Place to Hike in Sussex County" by the NJ.com readers. The park is "dedicated to excellence in the stewardship of the State's rich and diverse historic, cultural, recreational and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations." And their motto couldn't be more accurate: KVSP: Discover What You've Been Missing!

If you haven't been there, you truly are missing out on a host of activities and a piece of tranquility and history that's hard to find in our daily life. In recognition of all that KVSP provides to visitors from near and far, Kittatinny Valley State Park received



Kayakers on Lake Aeroftex

the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce "Quality in Living Award" at their annual gala this year. This award is given to "a non-profit health, educational, social service, or recreational organization or agency whose activities produce broad personal benefits for large numbers of Sussex County residents, thereby contributing significantly to the quality of living in Sussex County." There's no doubt that KVSP does just that, so come visit this beneficial gem, right here in your own backyard.

FIVE WAYS TO RULE THE LEADERBOARDS

1. Post great content

(at least once per day. Twice is best.)

2. Request citizenship with many people

(and they will often request it back). The more citizens you have in your Myopolis, the more exposure you will build. Exposure, interaction, comments etc. increase the likelihood that you will trend higher.

3. Interact with many posts.

Comment, share, pingworthy, agree etc. The more interactions you have the more you will increase interest in people becoming your citizens. The more citizens, the more exposure for you and your brand.



4. Invite people to Myopolis.

The more people you invite from other social media sites, or people who are new to social media, the larger your base. Remember, people don't need to leave their current social media communities (although once they experience Myopolis they may make that choice). At first, it's harder to take someone away than it is to get them to add Myopolis.

5. Build your own communities that matter.

Get four or five close friends, colleagues or clients to use Myopolis as their primary means of connecting. Even small groups begin to carry heavy influence and motivate people to remain active.

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