



## **Dutch Hill Forest**

**Location:** Heath Township, Jefferson County, Pa.

**Dates acquired:** 1996-1998

**Size:** 486 acres



**Notable features:** Steep forested slopes, mountain laurel and rhododendron thickets, hemlock wetland forest, rock outcrops and Clarion River frontage

**Recreation activities (see below for details):** Hiking, hunting and wildlife watching

**Directions:** Take Interstate 79 to Interstate 80, and head east. Continue on I-80 through Clarion to the exit for Route 949. Exit there, and follow Rt. 949 north, towards the town of Sigel. Continue on Route 949 through Sigel and into Clear Creek State Park/State Forest. Pass the Heath Pump Station on the right. Once past the pump station, continue 1.3 miles to an area called Dutch Hill and turn left onto Hidinger Road (labeled Church Rd. on some maps; T308). Continue down Hidinger Road to the end of the maintained section. The property is on the right, with parking along the road.

For directions using Google maps, click [Here](#)

Delorme Pennsylvania Atlas and Gazetteer Map 45, B-7

**Description:** Dutch Hill Forest supports a diverse forest community and varying topography within the scenic Clarion River valley. The property consists of a gently sloping plateau in the southern and central portions, then dropping steeply east and north towards the river. Extensive thickets of rhododendron and mountain laurel are located along these slopes, as well as large boulders and interesting rock outcrops. A unique hemlock wetland forest close to the southern border forms the headwaters of two small streams that drain the property, one flowing east and one flowing north.

**Hiking and wildlife watching:** There are no maintained hiking trails on this property, so please plan your trip accordingly. Numerous old logging trails, a gas well access road, and unauthorized off-road vehicle trails traverse the uplands and some of the steeper slopes.

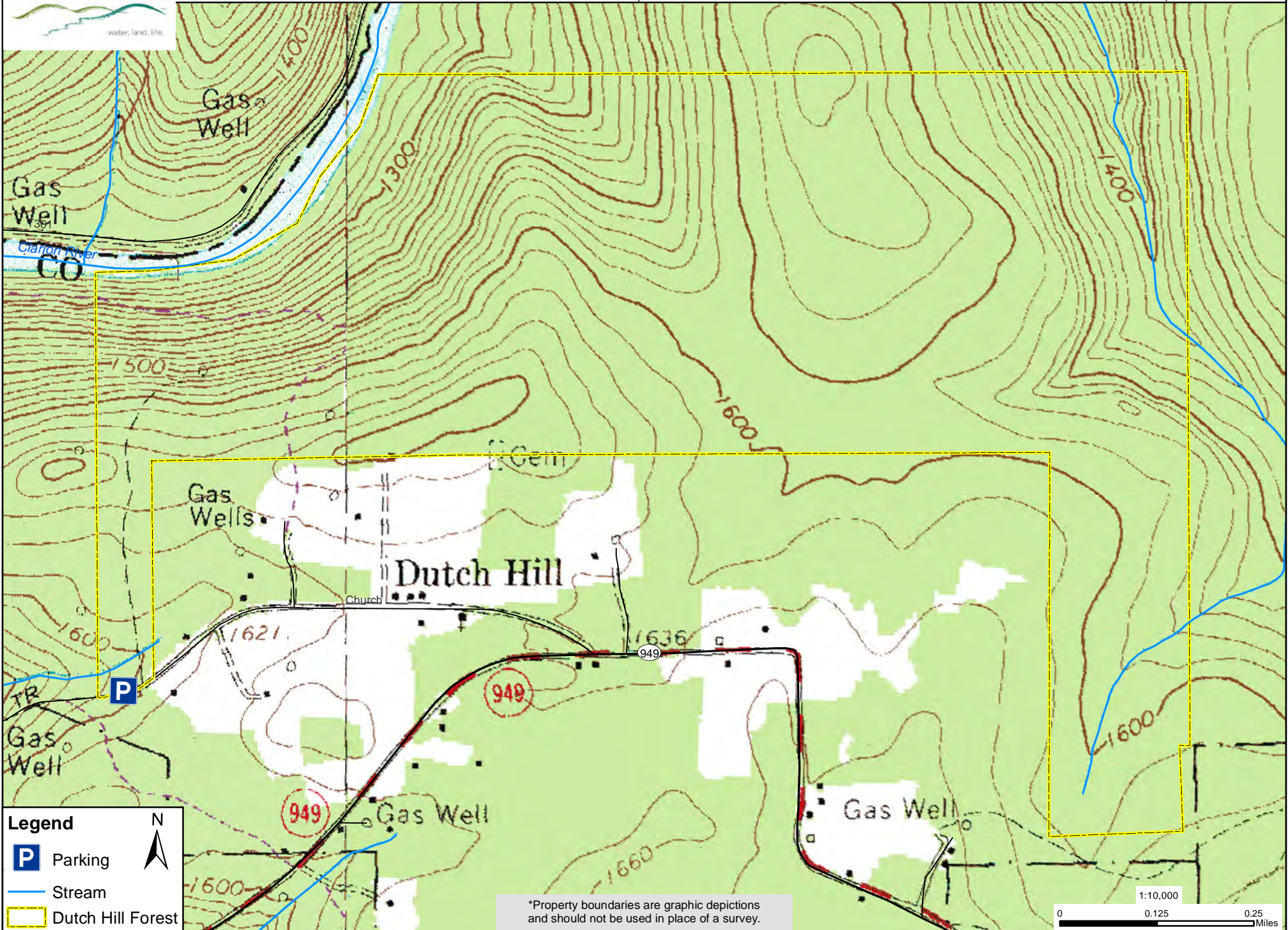
White-tailed deer and wild turkeys are commonly seen on this property, and bear sign is often observed. Another species that may be encountered is the porcupine. Look for them high in the treetops, and for their "latrines" at the base of hollow trees and rock crevices.

**Hunting:** Deer hunting is encouraged on this property as a tool to improve forest diversity. Only portable tree stands are permitted, which must be removed at the end of the season. Please exercise caution and wear blaze orange during the hunting season.

**Background:** Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's acquisition of Dutch Hill Forest is part of a long history of land conservation along the Clarion River. Since 1977, the Conservancy has protected over 12,276 acres in the region, leading in part to the development of state game lands, Clear Creek and Cook Forest state parks, and Allegheny National Forest. In 1996, 51.7 miles of the Clarion were designated a component of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
800 Waterfront Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
866-564-6972  
info@paconserve.org  
waterlandlife.org**



**Legend**

- Parking
- Stream
- Dutch Hill Forest

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\*Property boundaries are graphic depictions and should not be used in place of a survey.

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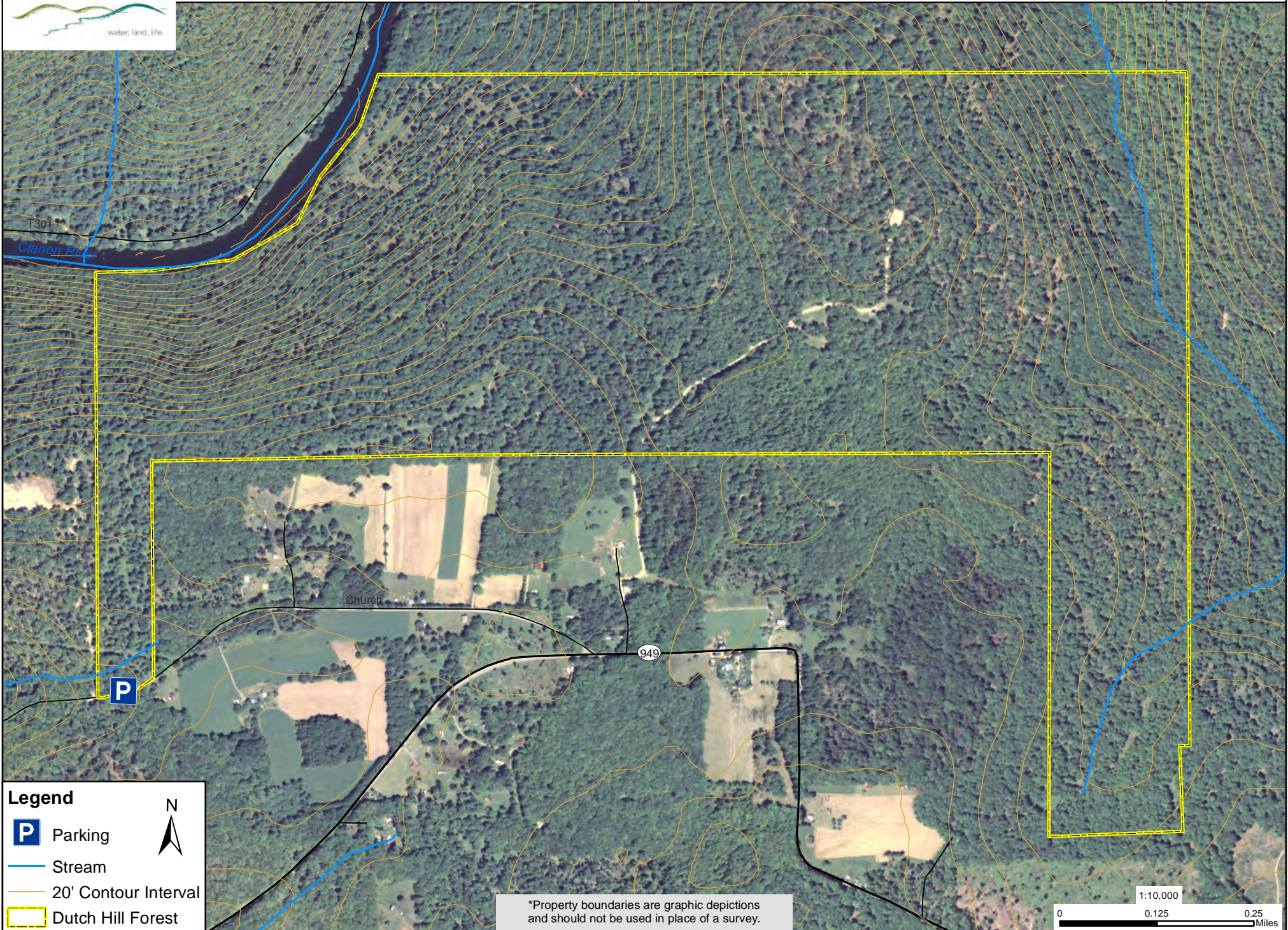
0 0.125 0.25 Miles



# Dutch Hill Forest

41.351492,-79.005175

map created Oct. 2011



**Legend**

- Parking
- Stream
- 20' Contour Interval
- Dutch Hill Forest

\*Property boundaries are graphic depictions and should not be used in place of a survey.

