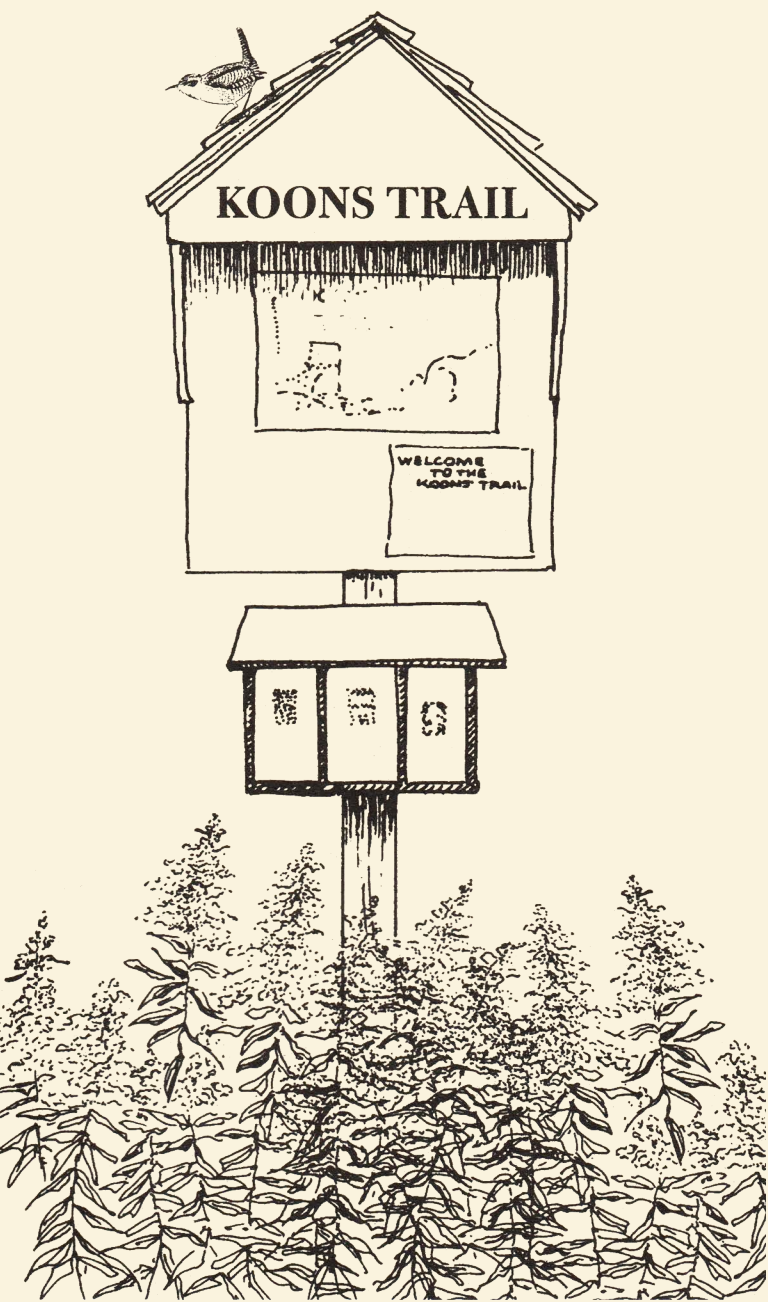
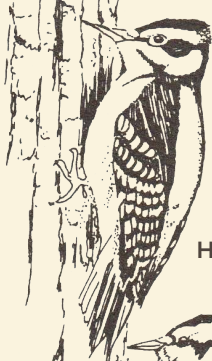


MERRILL W. LINN

LAND & WATERWAYS

CONSERVANCY

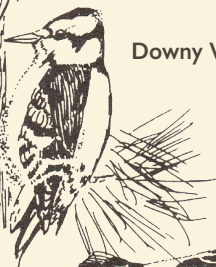




Hairy Woodpecker



House Wren



Downy Woodpecker



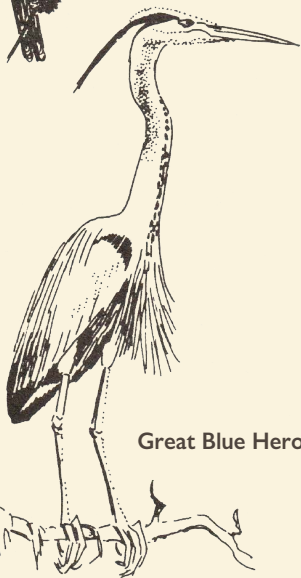
Common Flicker



Song Sparrow



Yellow Rumped Warbler



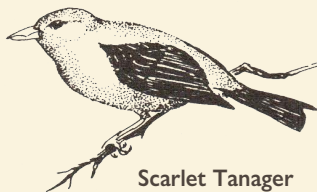
Great Blue Heron



Tufted Titmouse



Indigo Bunting



Scarlet Tanager

***Birds*** —  
seen along the trail

## *Welcome!*

You are now standing on fertile ground. Long before the Scots-Irish and German immigrants settled Buffalo Valley and long before the indigenous Lenni Lenape traced their foot paths in the surrounding Appalachian Mountains, this small creek, which we call "Buffalo," has steadfastly and continuously gone through its annual cycle. It is a cycle of unfailing regularity, with dynamic and wonderful consequences.

Each spring, snow melt and seasonal rains force creek waters to swell beyond their banks. As these creek waters besiege the surrounding flood plain, they deposit nutrient-rich silt onto the lowland. From this fertile soil bursts forth an abundance of wild flowers. In keeping with nature's rhythm, the flora of the flood plain invites a multitude of insect species, all eager to visit the blooms. The next display is of migratory birds, darting about the treetops and feasting on legions of insects. The floodwaters also replenish the vernal ponds. In these temporary pools, amphibians, reptiles, and a host of other fauna develop to perpetuate the cycle of life.

So as you stroll the pathways of the Koons Trail, be aware that the wild flowers, the turtles, the birds, and bugs are there because of the fertile ground on which you now stand, and because of the cycle of the life-giving creek that nourishes it.

The Koons Trail is located on a portion of a 17.6 acre conservation easement. The easement is held by the Merrill W. Linn Land and Waterways Conservancy. Members and friends volunteer their efforts to maintain the trail.

Tread lightly and enjoy our trail! Your suggestions for improving the trail are welcomed. Please contact the Conservancy by calling **524-8666**.

NORTH 8TH STREET

PARKING

HARRY HANLEY  
BALL PARK

Buffalo  
Creek

TRAIL KIOSK

1

NORTH 4TH STREET

TRAIL KIOSK

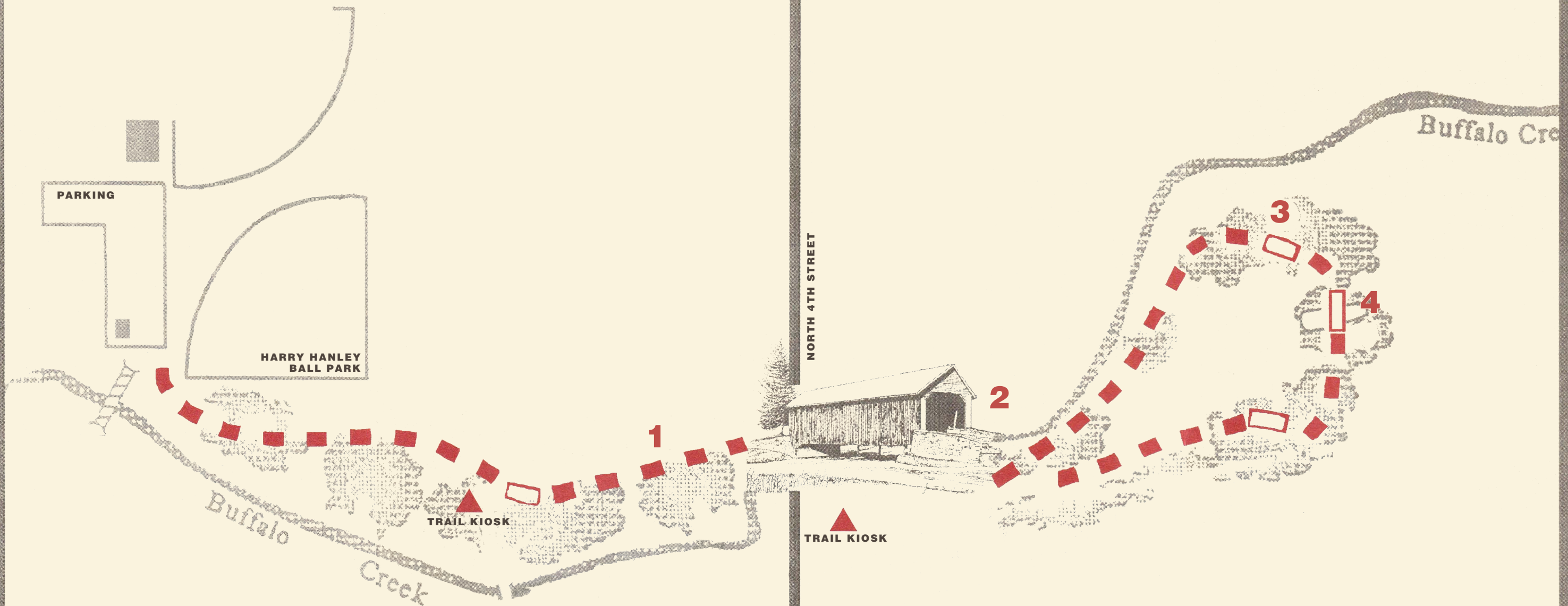
2

3

4

Buffalo Creek

NORTH 3RD STREET



**Trail Notes:** The Linn Conservancy has permission from the property owner to maintain this walking trail for the public. The trail is designed for foot traffic only. We appreciate your cooperation.

Poison ivy is common along the trail. This plant can be identified by the characteristic "three-leaved clusters" found all over the plant. In the fall and winter poison ivy has loose bunches of whitish berries. It often takes the form of a hairy vine climbing the trunk of a tree. This plant, although harmful to humans, is known to feed fifty-six species of birds with its white berries!



- 1** Hikers will not want to miss the majestic old Shagbark hickory found west of the covered bridge. The fruit of this tree, the hickory nut, has twice as many calories as acorns and is quickly gathered up by squirrels.

Near the old hickory, travelers can find many species of spring wild flowers. May apple, dogtooth violet and spring beauty are common. May apple is easily identified by its umbrella-like leaves which hide a single greenish-white flower. Dogtooth violet has mottled leaves and displays a nodding yellow bloom. Aptly named, spring beauty is a delicate five petaled white flower with pink to purple venation through each petal.



Along the west trail are remnants of locust-post fencing. Once commonly used as fencing, the posts provided ideal homes for cavity nesting birds such as the Eastern bluebird. With the advent of metal fencing, the locust post was abandoned. This change contributed to the decline of bluebird populations. Fortunately they are making a comeback, thanks to thousands of volunteers who have built and maintained successful bluebird boxes.



May Apple

**2** The Hassenplug Bridge is an example of a Burr truss bridge. It was built in 1825, and was rebuilt in 1925. Take note of the message on the outside gable ends. The bridge crosses at Buffalo Creek.

The headwaters of Buffalo Creek rise eighteen miles west of the Koons Trail in the mountains NW of Laurelton. The creek empties into the Susquehanna River at Lewisburg, ten miles to the east. It is a world in and of itself, representative of a typical Pennsylvania waterway. It supports abundant life, is fragile, and needs our protection.



TRAIL KIOSK

1

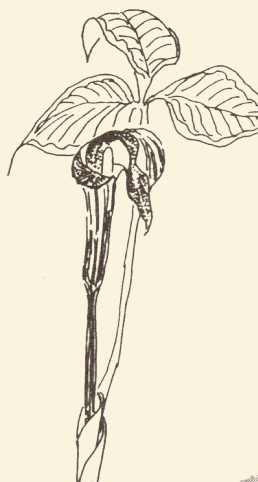
Shagbark Hickory

Golden Rod

**3** At this boardwalk hikers may notice the purple spike of skunk cabbage poking through the snow as early as late February. This unique plant is capable of producing heat up to seventy-two degrees to survive the cold, thereby melting the surrounding soil and snow. Through spring and summer skunk cabbage is a hearty large leafed plant with no stems.

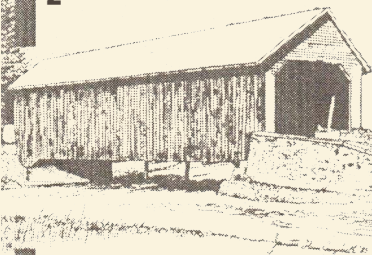


Skunk Cabbage



Jack-in-the-Pulpit

NORTH 4TH STREET

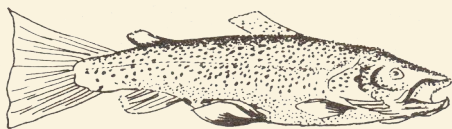


**2**

  
TRAIL KIOSK



American Woodcock

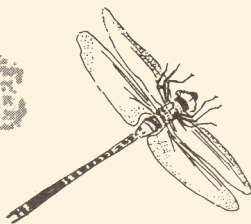


Brown Trout

Buffalo Creek



Fairy Shrimp



Dragon Fly



May Fly

**4** This boardwalk traverses a vernal pond. In the early season, keen eyed observers may discover an abundance of minute aquatic creatures like fairy shrimp or amphibian egg masses. By summer's end the pond is dry.

While the Koons Property harbors numerous resident and migratory birds, the American woodcock is the most noteworthy. This plump, long-billed bird is occasionally flushed from ground cover. It is known for its dramatic early evening and morning courtship flights, occurring from mid-March until the end of May.



## *Who we are*

The Linn Conservancy was founded in 1988 to honor the memory of Merrill W. Linn, a local attorney and outdoorsman who spent much of his life exploring the woods, streams, fields, and byways surrounding his native Lewisburg, and sharing that experience and knowledge with others. In keeping with the tradition started by Merrill Linn, the Linn Conservancy seeks to protect and preserve significant ecological sites in the Union County and upper Northumberland County region for present and future generations.

## *What we do*

Identify, evaluate, and protect land using conservation easements, land gifts, and purchases;

Work cooperatively with other conservation organizations, government agencies, attorneys, estate planners, developers, and private citizens to guide the use and protection of the area's natural resources;

Provide non-destructive public access when appropriate to protected lands for education and recreation purposes;

Provide stewardship of protected lands and established trails;

Present tours, events, and public education programs to foster understanding of our natural resources.



MERRILL W. LINN  
LAND & WATERWAYS  
CONSERVANCY  
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