INTRODUCTION
At 1,093 acres, Hacklebarney State Park, is best known for its quiet, wooded beauty and is primarily comprised of a glacial valley along the Black River. The freshwater Black River briskly cuts its way around boulders in the rocky, hemlock-lined ravine. Two tributaries, Rhinehart and Trout Brooks, flow through this glacial valley feeding the Black River. Even in the heat of midsummer, the temperature of the Black River gorge remains cool. Hacklebarney’s Natural Area provides visitors with an opportunity to experience a unique diversity of habitats. Spanning three counties, Hacklebarney’s main entrance can be reached from Routes 206 and 513, three miles from the township of Chester in Morris County.

HISTORY
This unique park, originally identified as Hacklebarney Forest Park Reservation, was established in 1924 when Adolph E. Borie donated 32 acres of land to the State of New Jersey as a memorial to his mother, Susan P. Borie, and his niece, Susan Parker Ryerson Patterson. Design of the park in the late 1920s and early 1930s was the work of the Board of Conservation and Economic Development. The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), Company and his niece, Susan Parker Ryerson Patterson. Design of the park in the late 1920s and early 1930s was the work of the Board of Conservation and Economic Development. The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), Company

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES
Natural Area
A 465-acre portion of the park was designated to the Natural Area System in 1978 for the preservation of Hacklebarney's river ravine, northern hemlock/mixed hardwood forest and rare species habitat. Several trails provide visitors with routes through the hemlock forest and to the Black River at the base of the ravine.

Eastern hemlock, a majestic shallow-rooted coniferous tree, is uniquely adapted to the cool, shady slopes of the ravine. Hemlock is a dominant species in this ecosystem, forming a dense canopy beneath which is an amazing array of shade tolerant native shrubs, ferns and mosses. The population of hemlocks in the park is in decline. Hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect, feeds upon eastern hemlock trees. The trees have no natural resistance to this pest, which poses a serious threat to the health of hemlock forests across the state. Since it was first detected in the early 1980s, the hemlock woolly adelgid has caused a steady decline in the health of hemlock trees in central and northwestern New Jersey. The loss of hemlocks adversely affects fish, wildlife and plant habitat, water quality and forest diversity. For more information about forest health issues, please contact the NJ State Forest Service at www.forestry.nj.gov.

Wildlife
More than 100 bird species and numerous mammals live in the park, including black bear, white-tailed deer, groundhog and fox. The habitats of Hacklebarney are suitable to support several endangered and threatened nongame species, including wood turtle, Cooper's hawk and barred owl.

Hiking
Hiking trails in the northern portion of the 465-acre natural area offer breathtaking views of the Black River, which lies deep within a shaded hemlock ravine. Rhinehart and Trout Brooks empty into the Black River and several small waterfalls can be seen from the high trails. The diversity of upland and wetland habitats provide excellent birdwatching opportunities, especially during migration. Since the topography of the park is rather rugged, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Picnicking
Picnic tables and charcoal grills are placed in scenic locations along the ravine with a playground nearby on the hillside. Charcoal fires must be confined to the metal grills provided or to grills brought by the picnicker. Wood fires are prohibited.

Hunting and Fishing
Hunting and fishing are permitted and subject to NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife regulations. Hunting is permitted within 628 acres of designated land that is separate from the day-use area. For the current hunting map contact the Spruce Run Recreation Area Park Office. During the spring and fall, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife stocks the Black River with rainbow trout. The Black River provides excellent stream fishing opportunities, especially during migration. Since the topography of the park is rather rugged, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Hedge, Born, and his niece, Susan Parker Ryerson Patterson. Design of the park in the late 1920s and early 1930s was the work of the Board of Conservation and Economic Development. The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), Company

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