**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

For longer than many areas of the state, the Laurel Hill Basin has enjoyed the undisturbed buffalo她的 original forest. The forest canopy is a mixture of northern pinetrees, green maple, and yellow birch. The soil is rich in nutrients and minerals, providing a healthy environment for wildlife to thrive.

Boaters on the Youghiogheny River and bikers on the Great Allegheny Passage can enjoy the scenic views and natural beauty of the Laurel Hill Basin. The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages the river for both recreation and conservation purposes.

**HISTORY**

In 1956, the National Park Service took possession of the Laurel Hill Basin. The basin was designated as a National Recreation Demonstration Area in 1961. Since then, the basin has been managed for both recreation and environmental preservation.

The basin is home to a variety of wildlife, including mink, otter, and muskrat. These animals can be seen along the riverbanks, where they build their dens and lay their eggs.

**WILDLIFE WATCHING**

Laurel Hill Basin is a great place for wildlife watching. Throughout the year, visitors can see a variety of animals, including deer, black bears, and many species of birds. The basin is a popular spot for birdwatching, with a variety of species including raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Hiking and Mountain Biking:**
- The Basin Trail is open daily for registered snowmobiles after the regular season. Trail conditions can vary from day to day, so visitors are encouraged to call ahead for updates.
- The Basin Trail is located in the southwestern part of the basin, just north of the Allegheny National Forest.

**Boating:**
- The Basin Trail is open daily for registered snowmobiles after the regular season. Trail conditions can vary from day to day, so visitors are encouraged to call ahead for updates.
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**Fishing:**
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**Picnicking:**
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**Camping:**
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**Hunting and Fishing:**
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