Unrivaled geologic features, extreme topographic variation, and unique geographic location sculpt a region both biologically interesting and rich in biodiversity.
There are ten different types of habitats at Bear Mountain.

- Appalachian Oak-Hickory Forest
- Chestnut Oak Forest
- Developed Areas
- Hemlock-North Hardwood Forest
- Oak-Tulip Tree Forest
- Pitch Pine-Oak Summit Forest
- Red Maple Hardwood Swamp
- Lakes
- Rocky Summit Grassland
- Wetlands

We focused on the Four that the A.T. Runs Through.
Chestnut Oak Forests found in well-drained, glaciated areas of the Appalachian Mountains, predominately dominating most of the ridge tops and slopes of the higher elevation.

**Canopy Trees:**
- Chestnut Oak
- Red Oak

**Subcanopy:**
- Black Huckleberry
- Mountain Laurel
- Blueberry
Pitch-Pine-Oak Summit Forest and Rocky Summit Grassland communities can be found at high elevations with thin soils. These communities are drought tolerant and adapted for the warm, dry conditions that occur at higher regions with exposed bedrock.

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**Canopy:**
- Pitch Pine
- Oak

**Subcanopy:**
- Scrub Oak,
- Blueberry
- Common Hairgrass
- Cow-Wheat
Oak-Tulip Forests are located in the lower elevations with deep, rich organic soil.

**ECOLOGY**

**Canopy:**
- Oaks
- Tulip Tree
- Beech
- Black Birch
- Red Maple

**Subcanopy:**
- Small Trees such as Dogwood
- Shrubs such as Witchazel
Flora Fulfills Several Purposes

- Stabilizes the soil against erosion
- Provides habitat
- Makes up the base of the food chain.
Fauna on the Mountain

Because of the unique topography of Bear Mountain State Park, some slopes give way to crevices. Streams carve through the landscape, and valleys entrap large bodies of water. These areas create an abundance of microclimates.
• Formed within the microclimates are habitats, which are home to many interesting and potentially threatened flora and fauna.

Examples of the Rich Biodiversity of Bear Mountain

Forty species of mammals

Twenty-five species of reptiles and amphibians

Ninety species of birds

http://kenrushphotography.com/toc.htm

Exploring the A.T. at Bear Mountain

Mike Coraggio
James Morren
Olivier Giron
ECOLOGY

PROBLEMS

*Human Impact

*Habitat Erosion

*Invasive Plant Species

- Japanese Stiltgrass
- Japanese Barberry
- Honeysuckle
- Tree of Heaven
- Empress Tree
- Black Locust
- Purple Loosestrife

Exploring the A.T. at Bear Mountain
Recommendations

Invasive Species distributions should be mapped, monitored, and managed.

Habitat sensitivity varies and should be considered in trail placement.