

**Pennsylvania State Parks Mission**

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Printed on recycled paper

2014



**WORLDS END STATE PARK**

Worlds End State Park is situated in a narrow S-shaped valley of the Loyalsock Creek, just south of Forksville, Sullivan County.

Surrounded by the Loyalsock State Forest, the 780-acre park offers visitors diverse recreational opportunities within a pristine environment. The rugged natural beauty coursing through the heart of the Endless Mountains landscape provides many photographic possibilities.

**Directions**

The park is along PA 154 and is easily reached from:

- **NORTH AND EAST:** PA US 220 to PA 87 from Dushore
- **WEST:** I-180 to PA 87 from Williamsport
- **SOUTH:** I-80 to I-180 to PA US 220 to PA 42

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at [www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**Spend the Day**

**PICNICKING:** The main picnic area is along Loyalsock Creek, just upstream of the swimming area. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnickers are asked to dispose of hot charcoal in the facilities provided. A food concession, playground and recycling station are found within the picnic grounds.

**PICNIC PAVILIONS:** Three large picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served-basis. One pavilion is ADA accessible.

**SIGHTSEEING:** ADA accessible Loyalsock Canyon Vista, reached via Mineral Spring and Cold Run roads, and nearby High Knob Vista, provide outstanding views of the Endless Mountains region. Scenery is particularly unforgettable during the June mountain laurel bloom and the fall foliage period in October.

**SWIMMING:** A small dam on Loyalsock Creek forms a swimming area that is open from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, sunrise to sunset. The mountain stream water is always cold and exhilarating. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About half of Worlds End State Park is open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, grouse, squirrel, bear and turkey.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use **extreme caution** with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's car, trailer or leased campsite. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

**FISHING:** Loyalsock Creek is stocked with trout by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The cold mountain water provides good fishing most of the year. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission rules and regulations apply.



**WHITEWATER BOATING:** Whitewater boaters may use Loyalsock Creek at any time of the year, although the area by the swimming beach is closed during the summer. The best water is March to May. Due to rapid fluctuations in water level, kayakers should inquire about conditions before coming to the park.

The stream is NOT suitable for open canoes.

**HISTORY**

Early settlers to the area used two horse trails to cross the rugged highland from Muncy Creek to the forks of Loyalsock Creek at the town of Forksville. This treacherous road became obsolete in 1895 with the building of PA 154. Pioneer Road Trail and Worlds End Road follow the path of the old horse trail. Worlds End Vista, at the junction of Pioneer Road Trail and Worlds End Trail, is the view that possibly inspired the name of the park.

At the turn of the 20th century, logging became big business in the area. At least one sawmill operated within the park area. The loggers cut the trees and floated them away on the creek, leaving behind hillsides covered in briars, stumps and tree refuse that were prone to forest fires and flooding. In 1929, the former Department of Forests and Waters began purchasing the devastated land to create a state forest park. In 1932, \$50 was allotted to create the park facilities, which purchased little more than four picnic tables.

In 1933, to ease the rampant unemployment of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Companies of 200 young, unemployed men or veterans, built camps as bases for performing reclamation and construction projects such as planting trees, building parks, firefighting and prevention, creating roads and trails and other conservation work. Four CCC camps operated in Sullivan County. Camp S-95 in Laporte built many of the park facilities. The swimming area and dam, cabins, pavilions, hiking trails and roads reflect the handiwork of the hardworking CCC enrollees.

**What's the Name of this Place?**

The name of the park has swirled with controversy. A map from 1872 called the area Worlds End. The excerpt below is from an article from July 20, 1935, by W.S. Swingler, Assistant District Forester of Wyoming State Forest, now Loyalsock State Forest.

*"There was even a dispute as to the proper name of the area. Some people called it Worlds End, others Whirl's Glen, and still others Whirls End. The first name arose from the topography of the place. Seven mountain ranges converge on the point and one does receive the sensation of being at the ultimate ends of the earth. The proponents of the second name base their claim upon the whirlpool in the Loyalsock Creek and the third name was probably a contraction of the other two. Since the whirlpool had largely disappeared, it was decided that the name Worlds End would be the most appropriate. Hence, the name Worlds End State Forest Park."*

In 1936, a letter campaign caused the park name to be changed to Whirls End. Another letter campaign forced the matter to be brought to the former State Geographic Board, who supervised the official naming of places. The name was changed back to Worlds End in 1943.

**NATURAL HISTORY**

**Wildlife Watching**

The extensive forest cover, hemlock valleys and mountainous terrain provide ideal habitat for "big woods" wildlife. White-tailed deer, black bear and wild turkey are regularly sighted.

The patient observer may find bobcat, coyote and river otter. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded. Many breeding species that one could expect to find further north are present, including northern goshawk, yellow-bellied flycatcher and white-throated sparrow.

Do not feed wildlife. Keep food locked inside cabins or vehicles. Wildlife is best viewed by walking any of the hiking trails or slowly driving the extensive Loyalsock State Forest roads in and around the park.



**Geology**

Worlds End State Park is in a picturesque corner of the Allegheny High Plateau known as the Sullivan Highlands, which is part of the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania. Millions of years of erosion by Loyalsock Creek created the stunning scenery and gorge.

About 350 million years ago, this part of Pennsylvania was on the coastline of a shallow sea that covered most of the interior of North America. High mountains to the east eroded, dumping vast amounts of clays, sands and gravels on the coast, building up the sediment for about 100 million years. The great pressure of the sediments squeezed the sands, clays and gravels into the shale, sandstone and conglomerate rocks found in the park today.

Collisions with Europe and Africa folded and raised the rock of the park into a large, flat highland, which probably stood far higher than it does today. Millions of years of erosion have carved the highland into the ridges and valleys of today. Where you see a ridge, you will find hard rock. The valleys once held softer rock. Loyalsock Creek has flowed through the area for an unknown length of time, creating the rugged, serpentine valley of Worlds End State Park.

**Fossils**



A fossil is any evidence of previous life. Dinosaur bones are a well-known example of a fossil. At Worlds End State Park, there are unique fossils from before the time of dinosaurs! About 350 million years ago, this area was a series of river deltas on the coast of a warm, shallow sea. Ancestors of the modern-day lungfish inhabited the rivers. During dry periods, the lungfish burrowed tail first into the mud and hibernated until the water returned. Sometimes these burrows were filled with different sediment than the mud in which the fish burrowed, creating a rod shaped fossil composed of rock different from the surrounding rock. Nearly five inches in diameter and several feet long, the lungfish burrow fossils have been found in the red siltstones.

**Stay the Night**



**CABINS:** The 19 rustic cabins are available for rent year-round. Rentals are for one-week periods during the summer, and two-night minimum stays in the off-season. Information is available at the park office. Cabins are equipped with a refrigerator, range, fireplace insert, table, chairs and beds. Three shower buildings are available and a recycling center is at the entrance to the cabin area. Guests should bring their own linens, dishes and sundries. Guests are responsible for their own firewood.

**CAMPING: showers and flush toilets**  
A 70-site tent and trailer campground is located along PA 154, one mile east of the park office. Half of the campsites have

electric hookups. Water and shower houses are within a short distance of all sites. A sanitary dumping station is available for emptying travel trailer holding tanks. Pets are permitted at designated sites. The campground is closed in the winter.

**ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING:** This rustic area has three sites that hold 30 people each, or combine to hold 90 people. Adult and youth groups may apply. Advance reservations are required.

**Enjoy the Winter**



**SNOWMOBILING:** Several miles of park roads are used as joint-use snowmobile trails. Additionally, many trails have been designated on nearby state forest land. A trailhead is along Worlds End Road to Eagles Mere, a short distance south of the park.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** Several park areas are suitable for Nordic skiing. A 20-mile trail network is close by on state forest land.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Worlds End State Park offers a wide variety of environmental education and interpretive programs. Through guided walks, hands-on activities and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and a sense of stewardship toward the natural and historical resources. Curriculum-based outdoor investigations and hands-on environmental activities are available to public schools, youth and community organizations and homeschool associations. Group programs must be scheduled in advance through the park office.



**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Access for People with Disabilities**

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication

text is available in alternative formats. If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**

Muncy Valley Hospital  
215 East Water Street  
Muncy, PA 17756  
570-546-8282



**Information and Reservations**

**For More Information Contact:**  
Worlds End State Park  
82 Cabin Bridge Road  
Forksville, PA 18616-0062  
570-924-3287  
email: [worldsendsp@pa.gov](mailto:worldsendsp@pa.gov)  
GPS DD: Lat. 41.471667 Long. -76.581389  
An Equal Opportunity Employer  
[www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com)

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**Protect and Preserve our Parks**

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.
- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!

**Nearby Attractions**

For information on nearby attractions, contact Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, 800-769-8999. [www.endlessmountains.org](http://www.endlessmountains.org)  
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, 570-482-4088. [www.sullivanpachamber.com](http://www.sullivanpachamber.com)  
Worlds End State Park is surrounded by the vast terrain of the Loyalsock State Forest. The state forest offers a variety of recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, fishing and primitive backpacking. 570-946-4049

# HIKING: 20 MILES OF TRAILS

The hiking trails at Worlds End State Park are mostly rocky with steep sections that climb the surrounding mountains and provide scenic views and good exercise. Hikers should wear proper footwear and be extra cautious in the winter and spring when trail surfaces can be frozen or icy.

**BUTTERNUT TRAIL: 2.5-mile loop, more difficult hiking, orange blazes**  
This uneven, rocky trail originates at the east side of the Cabin Bridge and makes a circuitous loop through a northern hardwood forest. Lower Road

travels parallel to and above Loyalsock Creek and crosses Butternut Run, an intermittent stream. Upper Road travels an old logging road. Butternut Vista offers a view of the Loyalsock Valley above and downstream of the park campground.

**CANYON VISTA TRAIL: 4-mile loop, more difficult hiking with steep sections, blue blazes**  
This trail explores the eastern half of the park and rewards the hiker with a spectacular view of the Loyalsock Creek gorge from its vista, which is an elevation of 1750 feet. Many wildflowers

grow beneath the canopy of maturing ash, sugar maple and black cherry trees. Be sure to explore the blocky maze of the Rock Garden adjacent to the vista. A second rock labyrinth is found in the easternmost section of the trail where it runs parallel to Cold Run Road.

**DOUBLE RUN NATURE TRAIL: 1.2-mile loop, more difficult hiking with short, steep sections, green blazes**  
This trail begins and ends on PA 154 next to the park chapel. It travels through rich, fertile woodlands along the west branch of Double Run.

Solomon seal, wild ginger, jack-in-the-pulpit and other spring, ephemeral wildflowers grow abundantly along this trail, which has waterfalls and pools.

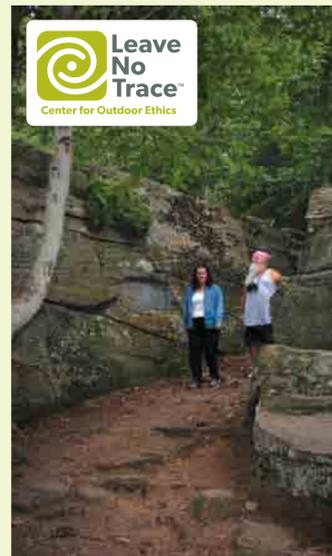
**HIGH ROCK TRAIL: 1 mile, most difficult hiking, red blazes**  
This steep trail begins at the east side of the Cabin Bridge. An elevation gain of several hundred feet is made as the trail crosses the intermittent High Rock Run and climbs upward through a maze of lichen-encrusted rocks and boulders to reach High Rock Vista. The trail descends through mountain

laurel and hardwoods to PA 154 north of the park entrance. Please be safe and stay on the trail.  
**LINK TRAIL: 7 miles, more difficult hiking, yellow circle with red X blazes**  
Beginning behind the park office and visitors center, the trail runs adjacent to Loyalsock Creek and then meanders through the rich and fertile woodland alongside the cascading Double Run. After a steep ascent to Loyalsock Canyon Vista, the trail makes its way through Loyalsock State Forest to intersect Loyalsock Trail at Rock Run Road mile 55.33. When combined with the LT, it

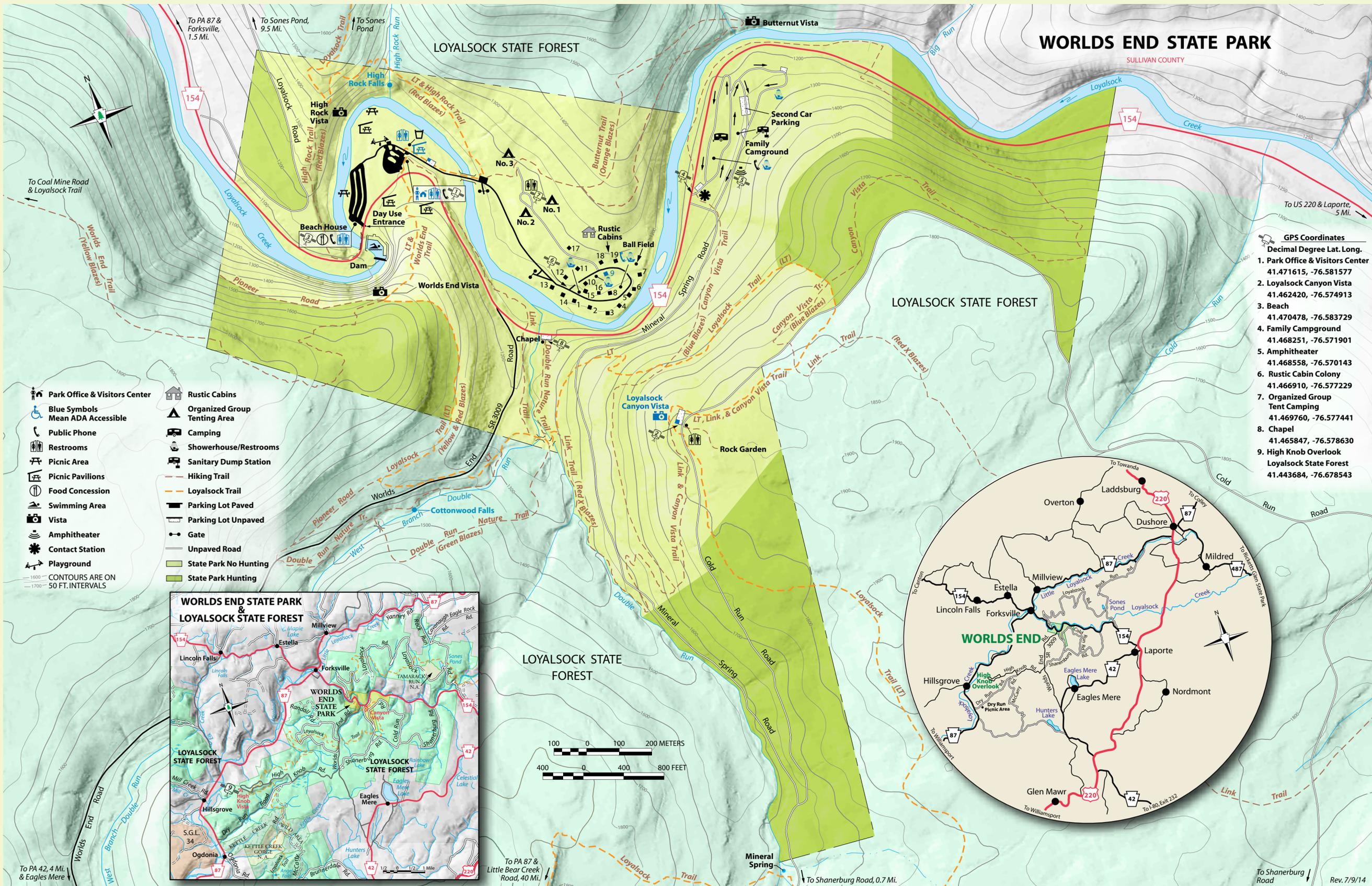
is possible to make a 16.2-mile loop.  
**LOYALSOCK TRAIL (LT): 59.21 miles, most difficult hiking, yellow circle with red LT blaze**  
This trail follows the mountain ridges and streams of the Loyalsock watershed. This rugged trail runs from PA 87 near Loyalsockville to US 220 north of Laporte. It passes through the park as it travels through Loyalsock State Forest on footpaths, old logging roads and abandoned railroad grades. Detailed maps are available for purchase at the park office, which is at mile post 45.9 of the LT. Further information may be

obtained from: the Alpine Club of Williamsport, PO Box 501, Williamsport, PA 17703. <http://lycoming.org/alpine>  
**WORLDS END TRAIL: 3.25 miles, more difficult hiking, yellow blazes**  
This trail begins at the park office. Hemlock and hardwood trees line the trail as it ascends a steep mountainside to arrive at Worlds End Vista, overlooking the park beach. Then the trail crosses Pioneer Road, where travelers over a century ago possibly gave the area its name 'Worlds End' when they saw the precipitous drop to the river

below. The trail ascends into the state forest and ends at Loyalsock Trail at mile 37.77, within Coal Mine Road Loop. When combined with LT, it is possible to make an 11.5-mile loop.  
Tell us about your hike at:  
[ExplorePAtrails.com](http://ExplorePAtrails.com)  
powered by you



- Plan ahead and prepare
  - Find out about the park you're visiting before you arrive.
  - Plan for a safe trip, but be ready for anything.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
  - Use existing paths to travel between campsites, picnic areas, shower houses, etc.
  - Park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.
- Dispose of waste properly
  - Do not burn food and trash in campfires.
  - Place trash in dumpsters, not laundry areas.
  - Please Recycle.
- Leave what you find
  - Observe, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
  - Leave picnic tables where you find them.
  - Avoid introducing/transporting non-native plant species. Leave wildflowers in place for all to enjoy.
- Minimize campfire impacts
  - Use a gas-fueled stove for cooking, it's easier to cook on and clean up afterwards.
  - Build fires only in designated campfire rings or grills.
  - Extinguish all fires and charcoal completely before leaving a campsite.
- Respect Wildlife
  - DO NOT approach wild animals; observe from a distance.
  - Never feed wild animals, including ducks and geese.
  - Keep wildlife wild by allowing them to forage for food on their own.
  - Store food and trash securely.
- Be considerate of other visitors
  - Keep noise down when in the park.
  - Where pets are allowed, keep them on a leash and clean up and dispose of pet waste properly.
  - Be courteous when using trails, yield to other hikers.
  - Always leave the area cleaner than when you found it.



**GPS Coordinates**  
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.

- Park Office & Visitors Center  
41.471615, -76.581577
- Loyalsock Canyon Vista  
41.462420, -76.574913
- Beach  
41.470478, -76.583729
- Family Campground  
41.468251, -76.571901
- Amphitheater  
41.468558, -76.570143
- Rustic Cabin Colony  
41.466910, -76.577229
- Organized Group Tent Camping  
41.469760, -76.577441
- Chapel  
41.465847, -76.578630
- High Knob Overlook  
Loyalsock State Forest  
41.443684, -76.678543