

Gouldsboro State Park

Gouldsboro State Park, in Monroe and Wayne counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, contains 2,800 acres of land, including the 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake.

Directions

The park entrance is one-half mile south of the village of Gouldsboro on PA 507. PA 507 intersects with I-380 at Exit 13 two miles south of the park entrance, and with I-84, 13 miles north of the park entrance.

GPS DD: Lat. 41.22934 Long. -75.46340



Jay Gould

The name Gouldsboro comes from the village north of the park that was named for Jay Gould (1836-1892). A native of New York, Gould acquired a very large fortune that by 1892 included ownership of ten percent of all railroad track in the country. One of the railroads he owned was the Erie-Lackawanna. This rail line parallels the eastern boundary of the park and is now a part of the Steamtown National Historic Site railroad excursion route between Scranton and Pocono Summit.

Gould was a co-owner of a leather tannery at Thornhurst, a small village 9.5 miles west of Gouldsboro. Raw hides shipped from Australia and the western United States came to Gouldsboro by railroad, then taken in two-ton loads by horse-drawn wagons over a plank road to Thornhurst for tanning.

In an Emergency

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

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Geisinger Community Medical Center
1800 Mulberry Street
Scranton, PA 18510
570-969-8000

Reservations

Make online reservations at 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.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, 800-POCONOS. www.800poconos.com

Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are in the famous Pocono Mountain resort area. Nearby attractions include: Lake Wallenpaupack, one of the largest man-made lakes in Pennsylvania; state game lands 127 and 312; Big Pocono State Park at the top of Camelback Mountain, which features a view of three states and a ski area; and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

History

The landscape of the area is broad, flat and swampy mixed with low hills covered with a northern hardwood forest. Common tree species are beech, birch and maple. This landscape affected the settlement and industries of the area.



Ken Barber

ICE INDUSTRY: From about 1900 to 1936, Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro lakes were the site of active ice industries. The ice was cut from the lakes during the winter and stored in large barn-like structures. During the rest of the year, the

Recreational Opportunities at both parks

SWIMMING: The sand beach at each park is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please follow posted rules.



FISHING: Common fish in Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro lakes are bass, pickerel, yellow perch, catfish and sunfish. Tobyhanna Lake also has stocked brook and brown trout. Gouldsboro Lake has walleye and crappie. An ADA accessible fishing pier is available at each park.

ICE FISHING: Both lakes are popular ice fishing spots. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

ICE SKATING: Ice skating is available as natural conditions permit. Tobyhanna State Park has a 1.2-acre area near Lot 3. Gouldsboro State Park has a 1-acre area near Lot 4.

Ice thickness is not monitored. Be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Most of Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, black bear, squirrel and turkey. Furbearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, fox, coyote and raccoon. Hunting is also permitted in nearby state game lands 127 and 312.

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.

Trails: 19 Miles of Trails



The rugged terrain of Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks makes for challenging but rewarding hiking. All trails are blazed. Double blazes indicate a change of direction or a junction of two trails.

Follow these rules for a safe hike:

- An adult should accompany children.
- Be sure to wear hiking boots.
- Motor vehicles are not permitted on the trails, except snowmobiles are permitted on Lakeside Trail at Tobyhanna.

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.

BOATING: electric motors only

The 170-acre **Tobyhanna Lake** has 60 overnight mooring spaces. These seasonal spaces require a mooring permit. A boat rental has rowboats, kayaks, paddle boats, canoes and electric motor boats and is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day, except in inclement weather.

The 250-acre **Gouldsboro Lake** has overnight mooring at 50 seasonal mooring spaces, which requires a state park mooring permit, available at most state park offices. A boat rental has rowboats, kayaks, paddle boats, canoes and electric motor boats and is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day, except in inclement weather.

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks that are available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

PICNICKING:

Tobyhanna State Park provides four picnic areas with about 150 picnic tables. Three areas are wooded and one is in an open, grassy area. Picnicking is permitted throughout the year. A small playground is near Lot 4 and a playground can be found near the swimming beach. Located in Lot 1, an ADA accessible picnic pavilion with electricity may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. If unreserved, the picnic pavilion is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

TRAILS AT GOULDSBORO

PROSPECT ROCK TRAIL: 5.8 miles, more difficult hiking

This large, loop trail begins in the day use area. Some sections follow the Old Entrance Road and Old Route 611, which are suitable for bicycling and cross-country skiing, but there are several very rocky sections.

OLD ROUTE 611: 1.25 miles, easiest hiking

This flat, wide trail runs along the western side of Gouldsboro State Park, paralleling I-380. Part of the trail is Prospect Rock Trail. This trail is excellent for hiking, bicycling and cross-country skiing.

TRAILS AT TOBYHANNA

LAKESIDE TRAIL: 5.1 miles, easiest hiking

This improved trail has a hardened base for hiking and bicycling in summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter. Although not recommended for people with disabilities, wheelchair users have completed the trail. Allow at least 2.5 hours to complete the entire trail around Tobyhanna Lake.

RANGE TRAIL: 3.3 miles, more difficult hiking

It is a 6.6-mile walk from the trailhead on Lakeside Trail to PA 196 and back. Allow three hours for this trip. Range Trail

and in April of 1949, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania received title to most of the 26,000 acres, with the remaining area operated as the Tobyhanna Army Depot. Of the land acquired, about two-thirds of the area was made into Game Land 127, and the remaining one-third was used to create both Gouldsboro and Tobyhanna state parks.

Tobyhanna State Park opened to the public in 1949, complete with parking areas, swimming beach, boat rental and boat launching site, water supply and sanitary facilities. The camping area was added in 1959.

The former Department of Forests and Waters (DFW) subsequently acquired additional properties, and in 1956, the former Pennsylvania Fish Commission (PFC) purchased Gouldsboro Lake and land not included in the larger government tract.

In 1958, the DFW and the PFC agreed to combine the area owned by both agencies into a single recreational site. Gouldsboro State Park opened to the public in 1958. In 2004, the lake and land owned by the PA Fish and Boat Commission was transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Gouldsboro State Park provides five wooded picnic areas with about 150 picnic tables. Picnicking is permitted throughout the year. An ADA accessible picnic pavilion with electric is located in Lot 3 and may be reserved from 11 months in advance. If unreserved, the picnic pavilion is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: In Gouldsboro State Park, Old 611 and Prospect Rock trails begin in the day use area. In Tobyhanna State Park, Lakeside Trail is an improved surface trail that circles the lake and borders the Black Bear and Bender Swamps Natural Area.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Five sites are available. Sites One to Four accommodate up to 20 people. Site Five accommodates up to 40 people. All sites can be combined to accommodate up to 120 people. The area is adjacent to Parking Lot Four and is open year-round. It has vault toilets and a hand operated water pump.

SNOWMOBILING: Tobyhanna State Park provides a one-way snowmobile trail 5.1 miles in length that runs counterclockwise on Lakeside Trail. The trail begins at Lot 1, which has heated restrooms, parking and unloading space.

Conditions permitting, snowmobiles may be operated only on the designated, one-way trail from the day after the last day of deer regular firearm season in December until April 1. Operators and passengers must follow the PA Snowmobile Law. Please remember to respect the environment and the rights of others. Snowmobiles are prohibited in Gouldsboro State Park.

CAMPING: rustic sites

A 140-site camping area is open from the first weekend of trout season in April to mid-October. Flush toilets, showers and water spigots are provided in a central location. A playground is provided for children. Trailers and motor homes may use a sanitary dump station located between the park office and the campground entrance.

Due to the high elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, campers should be prepared for cool nighttime temperatures, even during the summer months. Pets are permitted at selected campsites for a fee.

is a very demanding hike and should not be attempted without the proper hiking footwear. An adult should accompany children and no one should hike the trail alone. Be prepared to 'rock hop' and cross a few, minorly wet areas. This trail follows the border of the Black Bear and Bender Swamps Natural Area, passing through several other wetlands and boulder fields created by the last glacial period.

TRAILS AT TOBYHANNA AND GOULDSBORO

FRANK GANTZ TRAIL: 3.2 miles, most difficult hiking

Frank Gantz Trail connects to Tobyhanna at Lakeside Trail and to Gouldsboro in the south day use parking lot. Children should not hike this trail without adult supervision. Special care is needed to cross PA 4013 (Tobyhanna Road). This is a very demanding trail with many areas where 'rock hopping' is necessary. Good hiking boots are essential for a pleasant and safe hike. Allow at least three hours for a round trip.

Tell us about your hike at:



Wildlife Watching

Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are in the Pocono Plateau, a rugged highland with rocky soil, nutrient-poor bogs, dark evergreen forests and a diversity of animals and plants.

About 20,000 years ago, a giant sheet of ice at least one mile thick covered the area. Evidence of the glacier is the very rocky soil that is called glacial till and the abundance of bogs.

Much of the park is characterized by sphagnum moss bogs, evergreen trees and thin, moist, rocky soil. Blackburnian warbler, red-breasted nuthatch and northern waterthrush are common to this habitat. In the spring, spotted and Jefferson salamanders and wood frogs flock to the bogs to breed. Interesting plants like the carnivorous pitcher plant, cotton grass and many sedges inhabit the bogs. Yellow bladderwort is a carnivorous plant that lives in some of the bogs and in Tobyhanna Lake. Sacks on the underwater portion of the plant trap tiny aquatic animals.

Due to logging, large portions of the forest have regrown with a mix of deciduous trees like American beech, many

Tobyhanna State Park

Tobyhanna State Park is in scenic Monroe and Wayne counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. The 5,440-acre park includes the 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake. Tobyhanna is derived from an American Indian word meaning "a stream whose banks are fringed with alder."



Directions

The park entrance is 2.1 miles north of the community of Tobyhanna on PA 423. PA 423 intersects with I-380, 2.5 miles south of the park entrance. The park can also be reached from I-84 via PA 507, PA 191 and PA 423, a total distance of 11.4 miles.

GPS DD: Lat. 41.20736 Long. -75.39643

Caution: Please Read

Visitors using more remote and undeveloped areas of Tobyhanna State Park should be aware that they could encounter old, unexploded artillery shells. Three types of shells have been found in the park. The largest projectile is 18 to 24 inches in length and about 6 inches in diameter. The medium projectile is 2.5 inches in diameter and from 10 to 14 inches in length. The smallest projectile is 3 inches long and 1.25 inches in diameter. Shells are found in severely rusted condition without any recognizable markings or imprints. Their overall appearance is that of a pointed cylinder of rusted steel. Visitors encountering such items should not touch, attempt to move or otherwise disturb the items, and should call the park office and report the location to insure proper disposal.

State Park Natural Area

The Black Bear and Bender Swamps Natural Area is made up of acidic shrub swamps totaling 1,600 acres. Openings through the trees contain sphagnum moss and rare plants and animals. Black Bear and Bender Swamps will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention.

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

Pocono Medical Center
206 East Brown Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
570-421-4000

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.

species of oak and red maple trees. American redstart, red-eyed vireo and Louisiana waterthrush are birds common to these forests.

In early May, before any trees have leaves, the serviceberry trees flower. In mid-June, the plentiful mountain laurel blooms, followed in late-June to early-July by the rhododendron. In mid-July, the highbush blueberries bear fruit, providing a feast for bears and birds.

Black bear are common in the park. This omnivore eats plants, grasses, berries and occasionally meat. Unfortunately, bear find human food to be nearly irresistible. Keep your food in the trunk of a car or in a camper. Please observe wildlife from a safe distance.

Black bear normally avoid people, but bear dependent on eating human food can become aggressive when people get between them and food. If this situation occurs, make loud noises like yelling, honking a car horn or banging a pot. Notify a park employee if you have difficulties with a bear. Never approach a bear and be especially wary of mother bears and cubs.



For More Information Contact:
Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro State Parks
114 Campground Road
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-0387
570-894-8336
email: tobyhannasp@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations
Make online reservations at:
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.

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.

Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Feeding raccoons, squirrels or chipmunks may expose you to the threat of rabies. Feeding Canada geese at the swimming areas results in large quantities of fecal droppings, which is offensive to park visitors.

