

A Recreational Guide for  
**Ravensburg, McCalls Dam  
and Sand Bridge State**



Department of Conservation  
& Natural Resources

**For More Information Contact:**

Ravensburg, Sand Bridge and McCalls  
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**Information and Reservations**

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

**Ravensburg State Park**

The park lies in a cozy, steep-walled gorge carved by Rauchtown Run through the side of Nippenose Mountain. A northern hardwood forest blankets the bottomland along this spring-fed stream. Talus (rock) covered slopes and interesting rock formations are interspersed among a stunted oak forest growing on the steep mountainsides and ridges. This pretty valley is especially beautiful when the mountain laurel blooms in late June and during the fall foliage of early October.

The 215,000-acre Tiadaghton State Forest nearly surrounds Ravensburg State Park's 78 acres. The state forest has hunting, fishing and wildlife watching. A short drive away is Bald Eagle State Forest and the Mt. Logan and Rosecrans Bog natural areas.

**Directions**

Ravensburg State Park is in central Pennsylvania, Clinton County, on PA 880, eight miles southeast of Jersey Shore, or four miles north of Carroll, Exit 192 (old Exit 28) on I-80.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**Camping: tents-only, rustic campsites**

The forested campground is open from the first Friday in May through the last Sunday in September. Each of the 21 sites has a picnic table and a fire ring.

**Picnicking:** Within the three picnic areas are picnic tables, picnic pavilions, charcoal grills, a playfield, a playground and horseshoe pits. Most picnic tables are shaded. Four 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. Call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS for reservations.

**Hunting:** Because of its small size, hunting is prohibited at Ravensburg State Park. Hunting is permitted on surrounding Tiadaghton State Forest land.

**Fishing:** Rauchtown Run and its tributaries provide excellent cold water fishing for native brown and brook trout. Warm water fishing is within easy driving distance and includes the west branch of the Susquehanna River, Bald Eagle Creek and Blanchard Lake.



**Hiking: 1 mile of trails**

Raven Trail nearly runs the length of the park, parallel to Rauchtown Run. Several other trails provide steep access to rocky outcrops or access to longer hiking trails on state forest land, including the 261-mile Mid State backpacking trail. Proper attire and good physical conditioning are recommended for your comfort and safety.

**History**

The park was named for ravens that once roosted on the rock ledges at the southern end of the park. Ravens are still seen around the park and can be distinguished from crows because ravens are larger than crows and make a deeper, groan-like call.

The forest of Ravensburg State Park has undergone little change in the last 100 years. It is unlikely that extensive logging ever occurred in the area due to the steep, rocky terrain and the isolation of the area. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed Ravensburg State Park on state forest land. CCC Camp S-127 built picnic pavilions, latrines, waterlines, fountains, bridges, trails and a dam on Rauchtown Run.

Ravensburg State Park still has a pleasing rustic character due to the rugged land and the CCC era structures of native stone, rough-sawn logs and stained wood.

**Geologic Formations**

The most outstanding geologic feature in the park is Castle Rocks. Tall erosional spires of sandstone are silhouetted against the sky, like the towers of an ancient castle. You can see Castle Rocks from Mid State Trail in the southern end of the park. Primarily frost action has caused the sandstone blocks to break away at weak places in the sandstone, leaving behind isolated pillars. Additional information on the geological features are found in the "Trail of Geology Guide" available at the park office.

**Local Services**

Food, picnicking supplies and gasoline can be found at several stores in Oval and Antes Fort, about five miles north of the park. A public pay phone is at the park office.

**In an Emergency**

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

**Nearest Hospital to Ravensburg State Park:**

Jersey Shore Hospital  
1020 Thompson Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-0100

**McCalls Dam State Park**

The sound of White Deer Creek pervades the quiet, remote McCalls Dam Park. Majestic pines, hemlocks, maples and oaks reach for the sky around the small picnic area. Bald Eagle State Forest surrounds the 8-acre McCalls Dam State Park.

**Directions**

McCalls Dam State Park is in the extreme east end of Centre County. It can be reached by traveling McCalls Dam state forest road, which links PA 192 at R. B. Winter State Park and PA 880 at Eastville.



**Recreational Opportunities**

McCalls Dam State Park participates in a carry-in/carry-out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the amount of disposable items brought to the park and to take all trash, garbage, and recyclables home.

**Picnicking:** The small picnic area next to White Deer Creek has tables, a few charcoal grills and a rustic restroom.

**History**

In 1850, an early settler built a dam on White Deer Creek to provide power to his large sawmill and shingle mill. Sixteen years later the dam was repaired and used as the second of a series of splash dams, used to float white pine logs to the Susquehanna River and the extensive sawmills at Watson-town. Although the dam is gone, Johnny McCall and his dam will always be remembered because of McCalls Dam State Park.

**Access for People with Disabilities**

 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible. 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 Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks:  
888-PA-PARKS (voice)  
711 (AT&T Relay Services)

**Sand Bridge State Park**

Rapid Run's lovely murmur and the sounds of birds fill this lovely picnic spot. The three rustic picnic pavilions hug the side of Seven Notch Mountain, conveniently along PA 192.

**Directions**

Sand Bridge is in Union County on PA 192, 14 miles west of Lewisburg.

**Recreational Opportunities**

Sand Bridge State Park participates in a carry-in/carry-out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the amount of disposable items brought to the park and to take all trash, garbage, and recyclables home.

**Picnicking:** Sand Bridge is a convenient picnic spot with picnic tables, charcoal grills, water and rustic restrooms. Three picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Fishing:** Rapid Run is an excellent cold-water fishery. It is stocked annually with brook and brown trout.



**History**

No one knows how the area became known as Sand Bridge.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land in 1905 and it became a part of White Deer State Forest District. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built the pavilions and restrooms. In 1978, the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks took over administration of Sand Bridge State Park.

**In an Emergency Dial 911**

**Nearest Hospital to McCalls Dam and Sand Bridge State Parks:**

Evangelical Community Hospital  
One Hospital Drive  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-522-2000