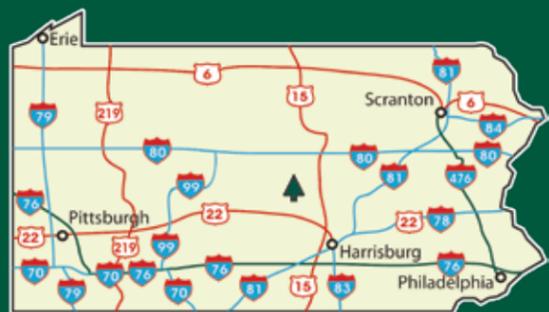


# Reeds Gap State Park



## For More Information Contact:

**Reeds Gap State Park**  
1405 New Lancaster Valley Road  
Milroy, PA 17063  
717-667-3622  
email: reedsgaps@pa.gov  
GPS DD: Lat. 40.7232 Long. - 77.47504  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

## Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:  
[www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com) or call toll-free  
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to  
5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park  
information and reservations.

[www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com)     [visitPAParks](http://visitPAParks.com)

## Reeds Gap State Park

Reeds Gap State Park is 220 acres of wilderness in the New Lancaster Valley of Mifflin County. Large hemlocks and white pines cast cool shadows over Honey Creek, which flows through the park.

### Directions

From PA 322 take the Milroy Exit. Turn east toward Milroy. At the traffic light, turn left onto Old US Hwy 322. Continue straight onto Hill Street then make a right onto Sigler Street. At the stop sign continue onto South Main Street. In 0.3 mile, keep right to stay on South Main Street. Continue onto Naginey Road. At the next stop sign, continue straight onto Honey Creek Road. Honey Creek Road turns left and becomes Locke Mills Road. From Locke Mills Road, turn right onto New Lancaster Valley Road and follow it for 3 miles to Reeds Gap State Park.

### Reservations

Make online reservations at: [www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

### Recreational Opportunities

**FISHING:** Native and stocked trout are found in Honey Creek. Mountain streams like Reeds Gap Run hide small populations of native trout. Hiking trails offer access to Honey Creek. The spring months offer the best angling. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**CAMPING: tents only, pets permitted on all sites**  
The 14-site campground is for tents only and opens the second Friday in April and closes the third Sunday in October. Water is by Site 6. The shower house is by Parking Lot B across State Park Road.



**PICNICKING:** Mostly wooded picnic areas are available year-round. There is ample parking, tables, and one small, non-reservable shelter. Modern flush toilets and running water are available during the warmer months.

Three 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.

### HIKING: 3 miles of trails

The trails loop throughout the park in forests and along Honey Creek.

Reeds Gap Spur Trail of the Mid State Trail starts near the intersection of State Park Road and New Lancaster Valley Road. The trail climbs along scenic Reeds Gap Run to Knob Ridge Road, which leads to Poe Paddy State Park 18 miles away. This very beautiful and rugged trail has interesting large rocks along the upper section. Once many logs were brought down the trail to a sawmill that stood by the park office.

Tell us about your hike at: [www.explorepatrails.com](http://www.explorepatrails.com)

**ATVS:** ATVs are prohibited on state park roads and trails.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** Skiers can enjoy the trails, service roads, and open areas. About five miles of ungroomed trails are available with proper snow conditions.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** Over 100 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, bear, and squirrel. Hunting is also permitted on the adjacent Bald Eagle State Forest.

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.

### Environmental Education and Interpretation

A park educator offers programs during the late spring and summer months. Organized groups and schools can request special programs by contacting the park office.

The annual Reeds Gap Fall Festival is held the second Saturday in October and features many children's activities.

### History

Reeds Gap is a natural water gap in Hightop, also called Thick Mountain. American Indians from the village of Ohesson, today's Lewistown, used this valley as hunting grounds. When European settlers arrived, they homesteaded and named the area the New Lancaster Valley.

During the late 1700s, Reeds Gap became a popular bush meeting ground. People packed lunches and traveled in horse-drawn wagons to the area to hear a circuit preacher and enjoy neighborhood fellowship. These bush meetings, also known as homecomings, were held through the 1920s.

In the mid-1800s, the park's namesakes, Edward and Nancy Reed, set up a water-powered sawmill along Honey Creek just inside of the western boundary of the present park.

Part of the historic water-storage dam is still visible near Honey Creek in the southeastern corner of the park. Edward Reed's son, George Wilbur Reed, was a sawyer at the mill. Another son, John, later moved the watermill to Virginia by horses.

Around 1900, a steam-powered sawmill operated by the park's maintenance building. After decades of logging, the forests were gone. On January 15, 1905, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the depleted land from William Witmer and Sons Lumber Company. Eventually parts of this land became Reeds Gap and Poe Valley state parks.

Around 1930, people sold five-cent bottles of soda pop cooled in Reeds Gap Run to attract picnickers and to improve the local economy during the Great Depression.

In 1933, a national work program called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built a residential camp five miles east of Reeds Gap in the upper end of New Lancaster Valley. The former Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters ran Camp S-113 and the U.S. Army directed the 200 young men. A goal of the camp was to change the "jungle" around Reeds Gap into an attractive recreational facility. By the late 1930s, the park offered stone fireplaces, tables, picnic pavilions, play equipment, pit toilets, and running water.

Reeds Gap State Park officially opened in 1938. On summer Sunday afternoons, local bands entertained from a bandstand and swimmers enjoyed a small lake formed by a CCC-built dam in Honey Creek.

World War II ended the CCC. Most of the wooden CCC structures were removed as they deteriorated, but part of the old CCC camp is now a Bureau of Forestry field office.

Electrical power came to the valley in mid-1940s.

In 1965, a major developmental phase replaced the old dam with swimming pools. A new water system, flush toilets, a modern bathhouse, snack bar, maintenance building, and parking lots were constructed. In 2009, the aging swimming pools were removed.

### Natural History

The dominant habitat in and around the park is of towering white pines, hemlocks, and oaks. Maple, ash, tulip poplar, black gum, hickory, dogwood, mountain laurel, and rhododendron add to the year-round scenic beauty.

### Nearby Attractions

Many fine attractions are in Mifflin County. Amish live to the south, especially near Belleville. Information on nearby attractions is available from the Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau, 717-248-6713. [www.juniatarivervalley.org](http://www.juniatarivervalley.org)

The 200,000-acre **Bald Eagle State Forest**, adjacent to the park, is managed for timber, water, wildlife, and recreation. The gravel Locust Ridge Road at the east end of New Lancaster Valley features a scenic view of the valley, and leads to the large old-growth timber at Snyder-Middleswarth State Forest Picnic Area. The Big Valley Vista on the gravel Siglerville-Millheim Pike is also spectacular. 570-922-3344

The Siglerville-Millheim Pike leads to **Poe Valley** and **Poe Paddy** state parks. Poe Valley offers modern camping and a 25-acre lake. Poe Paddy has popular rustic campsites along Penns Creek. 717-667-3622



### 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!
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

### Access for People with Disabilities

Some picnic tables, the restroom in Parking Lot B, and the park office are ADA accessible. Service roads may be used to provide 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**  
Geisinger - Lewistown Hospital  
400 Highland Avenue  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
717-248-5411