

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.



WELCOME



Top 10 Activities to do at Raccoon Creek

1. Take a hike! The park has 44 miles of trails to choose from.
2. Catch some sun at the beach and stop by the concession for ice cream!
3. Explore the 101-acre Raccoon Lake by kayak, canoe, row boat, or hydrobike.
4. Enjoy a stroll through the Wildflower Reserve.
5. Set up camp in the modern campground.
6. Learn something new by attending an environmental education program.
7. Go fish! Spend a day fishing for trout, panfish, bass, carp, or walleye in Raccoon Lake, Traverse Creek, Raccoon Creek, or the upper lake.
8. Explore the Frankfort Mineral Springs and discover the history of the "healing" waters.
9. Stay in comfort by renting a cabin or the Lakeside Lodge.
10. Take advantage of the almost 7,000 acres open to hunting for small game, deer, and turkey.

RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK

Raccoon Creek State Park is one of Pennsylvania's largest and most visited state parks. It began as a Recreational Demonstration Area operated by the National Park Service in the 1930s during the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era. The park encompasses 7,572 acres and features the beautiful 100-acre Raccoon Lake. Facilities are a mix of modern and rustic with group camps from the CCC era.

Directions

Raccoon Creek State Park is in southern Beaver County. Access the park from the east and west on US 30, or from the north and south on PA 18, which passes directly through the park.

Reservations

Make online reservations at 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

Spend the Day



PICNICING: About 200 picnic tables are available throughout the park. All picnic areas have grills, drinking water, and modern restrooms.

SWIMMING: The 500-foot, ADA accessible, sand/turf beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. Swim at your own risk. A bathroom and a concession stand are nearby.

FISHING: Raccoon Lake has bluegill, sunfish, bullhead and channel catfish, yellow perch, walleye, muskellunge, crappie, sauger, and largemouth and smallmouth bass. The lake is open to fishing year round. Coldwater fish like brown and rainbow trout are stocked and found both in the lake and in feeder streams. An ADA accessible fishing peninsula is located on Raccoon Lake near the beach. The twelve-acre Upper Lake provides catch and release fishing year round. A short stretch of Traverse Creek near the park office is regulated specifically for children under 12. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

Stay the Night



MODERN CAMPING: The 172 modern tent and trailer campsites have access to flush facilities, warm showers, and the option of electricity. E and F loops are open from the second Friday in April to mid-October. A, B, C, and D loops are open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. The wooded campground offers a selection of secluded or adjoining sites, a playground, five central washhouses, and a sanitary dump station. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. Sites B1, B2, B3, and F21 are ADA accessible. Pets are permitted in C and F loops.

RUSTIC CAMPING: no electric
Sioux Rustic Campground is open year round. Water and pit latrines are available. Access is not guaranteed during severe winter storms.

BACKPACKING: The Pioneer and Sioux backpacking areas both offer five Adirondack shelters and five tenting sites. These shelter and tent sites are for backpacking only and can be reserved through the park office or online under "Permits and Wilderness."

CABINS: The ten modern cabins contain a furnished living area, kitchen/dining area, full bathroom, two or three bedrooms, and

sleep six or eight people. The cabins have electric heat and are available for rent year round. Cabin 10 is ADA accessible. Cabin users must bring their own cooking and eating utensils and bed and bath linens. Pets are prohibited.

The summer season rental period begins the second Friday in June and ends the Friday after the third Thursday in August. During this time, all cabins must be rented for a one week period, beginning on a Friday. All other rental periods are considered off-season and cabins must be rented for a minimum of two nights, up to a maximum of 14 consecutive days.

LAKESIDE LODGE: The Lakeside Lodge is a three-bedroom cottage that sleeps ten people. The lodge has a full kitchen with cookware and table ware, dining room, one and one-half bathrooms, living room with a fireplace, laundry facilities, central heat, and air conditioning. It also has a large patio area with an outdoor gas grill. Renters must bring their own linens. Pets are prohibited.

The summer season rental period begins the second Friday in June and ends the Friday after the third Thursday in August. During this time, the lodge must be rented for a one week period, beginning on a Friday. All other rental periods are considered

off-season and the lodge must be rented for a minimum of two nights, up to a maximum of 14 consecutive days.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: There are six group tenting areas in the western side of the park. Sioux A and Sioux B are located within the Sioux Rustic Campground and accommodate 20 and 60 people respectively. Sioux is open year round and pets are permitted.

The more remote Pioneer area is divided into four group tenting sites: Apache, 60 people; Blackfoot, 20 people; Cherokee, 60 people; and Mohawk, 40 people. Pioneer areas are open from mid-April to the end of November and pets are prohibited.

ORGANIZED GROUP CAMPS: These three camps are rented from mid-April (earliest) to mid-October (latest), for a nominal fee to nonprofit, organized, adult and youth groups like scout, YMCA, school, church, or other organizations. The camps contain rustic lodges, dining halls, cabins, and utility buildings. Camp #1 holds 30 campers. Camp #2 holds 130 campers. Camp #3 holds 80 campers. Reservations are made at the park office for long or short rental periods. Seasonal availability varies.

WILDFLOWER RESERVE

The Wildflower Reserve is the focal point for environmental education and public programming at Raccoon Creek State Park. Programs on a wide range of topics are presented to the public, schools, and organized groups.

The 314-acre tract, originally purchased in 1962 by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, contains one of the most biodiverse and unique stands of wildflowers in Pennsylvania. Over 700 species of plants can be found along the five miles of trails, which lead the visitor through a variety of habitats from oak-hickory forest to pine plantations and from meadows to

floodplain forest.

A record of the species documented in the reserve can be found at the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center. Wildflowers can be found throughout the growing season with peak blooms in late April through early May and again in August through early September.

Hungerford Cabin is accessed via Jennings Trail and was the get-away for famous political cartoonist Cy Hungerford. He worked for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 1927-1977.



For the future use and protection of this unique area, follow these rules:

- Picking or collecting of plants is prohibited.
- Trails are for hiking only. Bicycles, horses, or motor vehicles are prohibited.
- Pets are prohibited on the trails or in the interpretive center.
- Smoking on the trails or in the center is prohibited.

Wildflower Reserve Trails

Art Witt Trail: 0.26 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking

This short fern-lined trail meanders through a pine forest at the entrance of the Wildflower Reserve. This trail is named in honor of Art Witt, who was a dedicated volunteer and the first to earn 10,000 volunteer hours in Pennsylvania state parks.

Audubon Trail: 0.44 mile, white blazes, more difficult hiking

Audubon Trail is elevated high above the flowing waters of Raccoon Creek, with many spots to stop and admire the valley below. During spring, this is a good trail for birding and in autumn it is great for fall foliage. As the trail ends, it meets with Max Henri, Jennings, and Old Field trails.

Beaver Trail: 0.22 mile, purple blazes, easiest hiking

Beaver Trail passes through an American sycamore forest along the banks of Raccoon Creek. There are several nice spots to view wildlife.

Esther Allen Trail: 0.12 mile, green blazes, easiest hiking

This short trail connects Old Wagon Road with Jennings Trail. It is named in honor of Esther Allen, who volunteered her time

Max Henri Trail: 0.51 mile, red blazes, more difficult hiking

This trail allows hikers to explore a forested valley section of the reserve highlighted

educating park visitors about the botanical treasures of the Wildflower Reserve.

Hickory Trail: 0.16 mile, pink blazes, easiest hiking

Much of this trail follows along the bank of Raccoon Creek. There is a very short trail spur that leads to a scenic spot along the creek. This trail is named in honor of the Hickory Club, an outdoor association, which preserved a large section of the present day Wildflower Reserve.

Jennings Trail: 1.54 miles, blue blazes, more difficult hiking

The longest in the reserve, this trail offers a little bit of everything. It travels past the historic Hungerford Cabin, scenic views by vernal pools, the forested banks of Raccoon Creek, spectacular wildflowers, excellent fall foliage, and many great spots for wildlife observation and birding. The trail allows hikers to access many of the shorter trails within the reserve. It is named in honor of botanist O. E. Jennings for his many contributions to the Wildflower Reserve.

Meadow Trail: 0.36 mile, light green blazes, easiest hiking

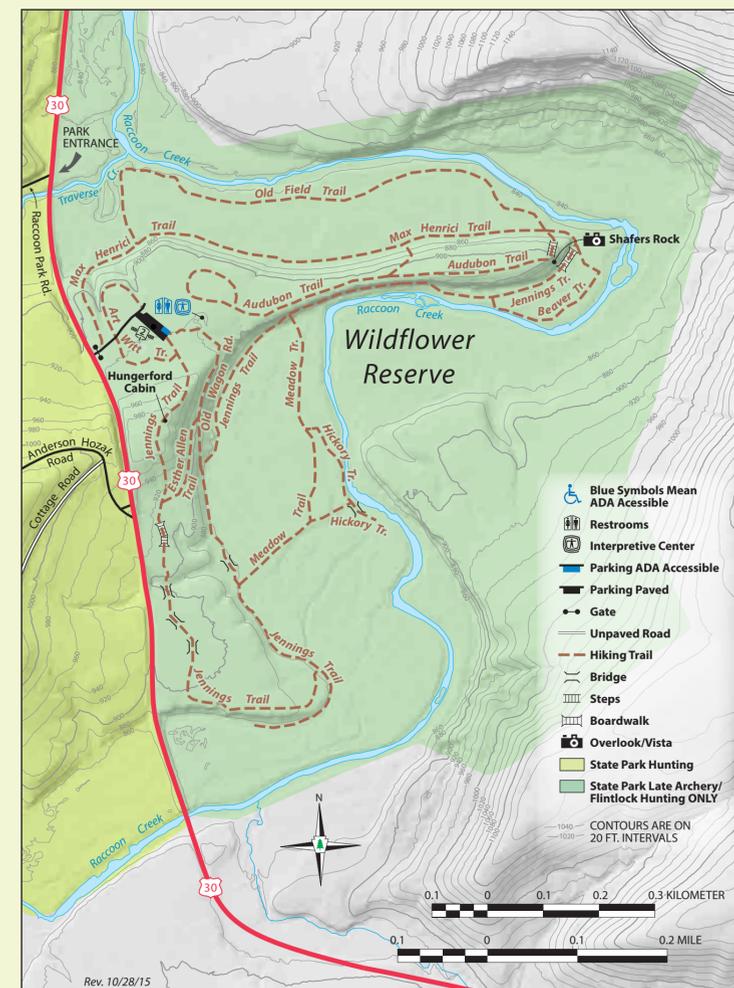
This trail begins and ends in a hardwood forest with a large meadow in the middle. In August and September, the meadow is filled with late summer wildflowers. It is also a great spot for watching butterflies and hummingbird mths.

Old Field Trail: 0.65 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking

This trail traverses an old field going through forest succession and has several sections that follow the banks of Raccoon Creek. Old Field Trail connects with Max Henri Trail on both ends.

Old Wagon Road: 0.19 mile, light blue blazes, more difficult hiking

This short elevated trail descends to the floodplain along Raccoon Creek from the interpretive center. It connects to Esther Allen Trail and ends at Jennings Trail. It features great fall foliage and spring wildflowers.



PARK DEVELOPMENT

The creation and development of Raccoon Creek State Park is directly linked to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal plan to stimulate the economy in the 1930s and to start the nation on a sound conservation program.

Raccoon Creek was chosen as one of five Recreational Demonstration Areas (RDA) in Pennsylvania developed under the federal Emergency Conservation Work act. RDA sites were developed on primarily deforested, non-sustainable, and over-used agricultural lands with the goal of reclaiming the area to a natural state. Another goal was to provide outdoor recreation for large urban populations. Only 25 miles from Pittsburgh, the area that is now Raccoon Creek State Park was an ideal choice.

Land acquisitions began in 1934 and by 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) along with local men under the Works Progress Administration began developing the area for the National Park Service. Projects included three organized group camps, picnic areas, roads, trails, the dam for the upper lake, the establishment of nurseries for reforestation, and the quarrying of stone for bridges and culverts.

Between 1935 and 1941, over 700 men from the CCC worked at Raccoon Creek. The men were housed in two camps, SP-6 and SP-16. Local experienced men, commonly referred to as LEMs, provided day labor and training in trades such as carpentry and masonry for the younger men.

The park remained with the National Park Service until September 1945, when it was transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The history of this RDA is appreciated today in the forests, group camps, stone work, roads, and stories of the men who built Raccoon Creek State Park.



PIONEER HISTORY

Before the footsteps of early settlers, herds of elk, white-tailed deer, and even woodland bison roamed the forests and meadows. Streams teemed with fish and fur-bearing animals, such as mink, fox, and beaver. In the rock crevices, cougars and wolves made their dens and hunted beneath old growth stands of hemlock, white pine, and oak.

In the early to mid-1700s, the Shawnee inhabited villages along the banks of the Ohio River. The Delaware, also known as Lenape, moved into western Pennsylvania after being pushed westward by settlers in the expanding east. An American Indian trail became today's PA 168 following the western boundary of the park.

During exploration of the Ohio Valley, the French contended that the explorer of a river was entitled to all lands watered by its tributaries. They defended their claim to the Ohio River region by their discovery of the Mississippi River in the late 1680s. The English insisted that the various independent American Indian nations owned the lands. The English had strong alliances with the American Indians and these tribes and lands were under the protection of the British Crown. The rivalry between the two countries eventually sparked the French and Indian War from 1754-1763.

With defeat of the French and later defeat of the American Indians during Pontiac's Rebellion of 1763, the lands south of the

Ohio River became relatively free of conflict. Settlers began homesteading in this area in the early 1770s. Levi Dungan became the first settler in what became Beaver County. He claimed 1,000 acres within present day Raccoon Creek State Park and established his homestead at the head of Kings Creek in 1772.

Hostilities between the American Indians and the settlers led to many tragedies in the region. Most attacks occurred at the settlements of Levi Dungan and Matthew Dillow, located in modern-day Hillman State Park.

KING'S CREEK CEMETERY

The cemetery on the park's southwestern boundary, off of PA 168, is the final resting place of many of the first settlers of the area. There are 142 tombstones. The first tombstone is that of James Leeper, who

died in 1810, and the last is that of James Cameron, who died in 1906. Some of the men buried in this cemetery served in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Some common pioneer

family names include: Cameron, Gibson, Harper, Leeper, Martin, Miller, Ralston, Ramsey, and Standish.

FRANKFORT MINERAL SPRINGS

The springs are located at the upper end of a wooded ravine with a U-shaped shale and sandstone grotto. The stream carved the small grotto from solid rock over thousands of years, forming a picturesque waterfall spilling over the rim of the ravine. The springs are located opposite the falls, emerging directly from the shale and sandstone. The water in the stream originates

from surface drainage, while the spring water comes from an underground reservoir. The stream water may dry completely, whereas the spring water flows year round.

In 1827, land including the springs was sold to Edward McGinnis. He found the mineral waters "healing to his ailments" which led to the development of a health spa and resort.

The nearby small village of Frankfort saw rapid growth after development of the springs and adopted the name Frankfort Springs. The springs later became known as the Frankfort Mineral Springs.

Hike the short Mineral Springs Trail from the parking lot on PA 18 or from the park office. A detailed brochure is available at 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

Heritage Valley Beaver
1000 Dutch Ridge Road
Beaver, PA 15009
724-728-7000

Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact

Raccoon Creek State Park
3000 State Route 18
Hookstown, PA 15050-9416
724-899-2200
Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center
724-899-3611
email: raccooncreeksp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 40.503385
Long. -80.424596
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), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

[facebook.com/RaccoonCreekStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/RaccoonCreekStatePark)



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.
- 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. Pets are prohibited in park buildings, swimming areas, cabins, and the Lakeside Lodge.

Nearby Attractions
Information on nearby attractions is available from the Beaver County Recreation and Tourism Department, 800-342-8192. www.visitbeavercounty.com
Hillman State Park provides hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, as well as, hunting and a radio-controlled model airplane field. Contact Raccoon Creek State Park office for more information. 724-899-2200

State game lands 189 and 117 provide hunting and general recreation. Contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission Southwest Regional Office for more information. 724-238-9523

Linsly Outdoor Center is affiliated with the Linsly School and offers organized summer camps for adults and children. 724-899-2100

Pocket Ranger™ App by Parks by Nature

HIKING ONLY TRAILS



Beach Trail: 0.3 mile, orange blazes, most difficult hiking

This trail connects the D loop in the campground with the swimming area on Raccoon Lake. A spur trail from Beach Trail connects to the F loop in the campground.

Camp Trail: 1.4 miles, white blazes, more difficult hiking

Camp Trail provides access to the south shore of the Upper Lake, a favorite area for wildlife and waterfowl viewing. Modern cabin users can access Camp Trail via Connector Trail 1 (blue blazes), located behind Cabins 5 and 6.

Cross-country Skiing Trail: 2.1 miles, white blazes, easiest hiking

Accessed from the pavilion area, the trail follows an old roadbed, crosses the main park road to meet Heritage Trail then follows Heritage Trail through pine forest and small meadows. The trail loops away

from Heritage along a hilltop and crosses over Heritage Trail into a pine plantation. The trail crosses the main park road to return to the trailhead.

Forest Trail: 6.2 miles, white blazes, more difficult hiking

Forest Trail transects several stream valleys that feed Raccoon Lake. After the leaves drop, the high ridges offer scenic views of the lake. Spring wildflowers are spectacular along many sections of the trail. The trail passes through an old stone quarry site and crosses PA 18 near the park office, continuing through forested stream valleys to Nichol Road. Connector Trail 6 leads to the overnight backpacking campsites.

Heritage Trail: 9.5 miles, blue blazes, most difficult hiking

The longest trail in the park passes through land inhabited by Beaver County's first settlers and follows some of the first wagon roads in the early 1800s. In addition to the main trailhead, Heritage Trail can be accessed by connector trails at the boat trailer parking lot (C7), campground (C8), Camp Trail trailhead parking (C9), Buckskin Trail (C10), and at two points along the main park road near the roadside picnic areas. A variety of options exist for loop hikes using these access points and connecting trails.

Heron Trail: 0.5 mile, orange blazes, more difficult hiking

This short trail connects Wetlands Trail to Nichol Road and Palomino Trail near the Sioux Rustic Campground.

Lake Trail: 1.9 miles, blue blazes, more difficult hiking

The trail follows an old road along Traverse Creek, leading to the northwest shore of Raccoon Lake. Several pioneer homesteads

and gristmills were located in the Traverse Valley in the 1800s. The remains of an 1846, two-story, stone springhouse exists near the western end of the trail. Biking is permitted from the park office to the lake only.

Mineral Springs Loop: 1.2 miles, white blazes, easiest hiking

This trail passes through one of the park's historic areas, once known for the "healing qualities of the mineral water." The remnants of the 1800s Frankfort Mineral Springs Resort are located above the springs.

Upland Trail: 0.6 mile, red blazes, more difficult hiking

This short trail begins across from the park office and connects to Mineral Springs Loop Trail.

Valley Trail: 1.1 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking

Cut in along a steep section of Traverse Valley, the trail passes through an open hardwood forest joining with Beach Trail above the swimming area.

Wetlands Trail: 1.2 miles, green blazes, more difficult hiking

Wetlands Trail follows the north shore of the Upper Lake and continues up Traverse Valley to Nichol Road. A section of this trail cuts up the ridge and parallels the wetland valley. This wetland habitat is one of the best areas in the park to observe wildlife like beaver, muskrat, turtle, waterfowl, songbirds, and deer.

Tell us about your hike:



MULTI-USE TRAILS



Appaloosa Trail: 3 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

This main equestrian trail can be accessed via the equestrian parking lot off of PA 168 and the connecting Appaloosa Spur Trail. The trail winds along rolling forested hills of maples, oaks, hickory, and cherry. The trail passes an old homestead and spring house. Connector Trail 4 (hiking only) leads to the Pioneer backpacking campsites, Connector Trail 5 (multi-use) leads to the Pioneer Group Tenting areas and Pioneer Road.

Nichol Road: 3.5 miles, more difficult hiking

This road serves as the gateway to most of the trails in the western section of the park. Several loop hikes of varying lengths can be created using Nichol Road and connecting trails. Snowmobiling is permitted weather dependent.

Appaloosa Spur: 0.7 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking

This trail connects the Equestrian Trailhead parking lot on PA 168 to the Appaloosa Trail.

Buckskin Trail: 1 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

The Buckskin Trailhead on Nichol Road provides access to Camp Trail, Pinto Loop Trail, and Heritage Trail. The trail passes through a steep, densely forested stream valley.

Pinto Loop: 1.7 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking

Pinto Loop Trail has very little elevation change. The wide path passes through a mix of forest meadows. These features make it an excellent cross-country skiing trail.

Pioneer Camp Road: 0.7 mile, easiest hiking

Pioneer Road connects Nichol Road to the Pioneer Group Tenting Sites. Rider's Ridge picnic area is near the intersection of Pioneer and Nichol roads.



DOAK FIELD

The area near the western edge of the park is named for Robert Doak who was born in Ireland in 1750 and immigrated to eastern Pennsylvania with his brothers in 1767. In 1772, he arrived here and began homesteading until enlisting in the Colonial Army during the Revolutionary War in 1776. After the war, he left the army and

met and married Sarah McKibben. Their 800-acre homestead was soon busy with ten children helping with the many chores.

The farm was handed down to Robert and Sarah's descendants. The last Doak to live on the farm was Emma, who married Victor Nickles. The farm house, barn, and other buildings are gone. However, the

current building stands on the original barn foundation from the early 1800s.

Today, Doak Field is the site of many park programs on outdoor recreation and local history. For more information, call the Wildlife Reserve Interpretive Center at 724-899-3611.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

The park offers a wide variety of environmental education and interpretive programs. Through hands-on activities, guided walks, and evening programs participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are also available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center. Programs are offered

year round. The center has exhibits and brochures on natural history and historic areas of the park. For more information, contact the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center at 724-899-3611.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Many opportunities exist at Raccoon Creek State Park to see a variety of wildlife. When observing wildlife, remember to maintain a safe distance and never feed wild animals. For birders the Audubon Trail in the Wildflower Reserve is great for warblers. Waterfowl are abundant around Raccoon Lake and Wetland Trail. In winter it is common to see large flocks of turkeys near the campground and roadside picnic areas. Deer and raccoon are common throughout the park. Most of the larger stream valleys have active beaver, muskrat, and mink. In the more remote western side of the park, you may encounter the elusive red fox, skunk, and opossum.

