Pymatuning State Park

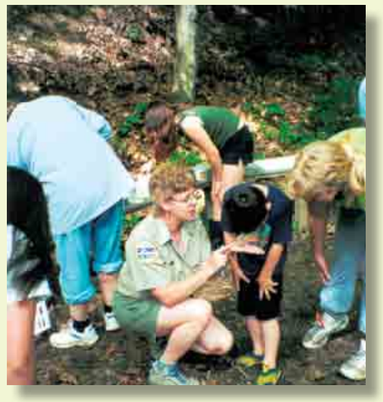
Almost everything about Pymatuning State Park is huge. At 21,122 acres, it is one of the largest state parks in the Commonwealth. The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir is the largest lake in the Commonwealth. In its three campgrounds, Pymatuning has the most campsites in the Pennsylvania state park system. More people visit Pymatuning than almost any other state park in Pennsylvania. But the biggest thing about Pymatuning is the fun you can have boating, fishing, swimming, camping and enjoying other recreational opportunities. In addition to the state park facilities, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission operate a fish hatchery and visitor center, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission has wildlife viewing areas and a learning center.

Directions

The south shore of the park, including Jamestown Campground, boat launch, beach, cabins, picnic areas, group tenting and the park office, can be reached from US 322. The north shore of the park, including Linesville Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launch, marina and cabins can be reached from US 6. The east shore of the park, Tuttle Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launch and Espyville Marina can be reached from PA 285.

Reservations

Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.



Environmental Education and Interpretation

Pymatuning State 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 available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office. Programs are offered year-round. For more information contact the park office.

Spend the Day

BOATING: maximum 20 hp motors permitted

The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir has many boat launches along the shores, including an ADA accessible launch in the Jamestown Marina and Manning Boat Launch. The three Pennsylvania boat marinas have boat mooring and rent pontoon boats, motorboats, rowboats, canoes and kayaks, and have a store that has bait, tackle and snacks.

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: Picnic tables are available in many areas. Jamestown and Linesville beaches have ADA accessible picnic sites complete with grill and table. There are 11 picnic pavilions that may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pets in day use areas must be kept on a leash or safely restrained and are prohibited in swimming areas and some overnight areas.

SIGHTSEEING: Anywhere along the lake, beautiful vistas of this large body of water can be enjoyed. Some of the more unique sights include the dam, the Linesville "spillway," the fish hatchery, the two causeways across the lake and the Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Learning Center. The spillway is perhaps one of the best known locations because the fish are so plentiful that the "ducks walk on the fishes' backs" to compete for the food fed by the visitors.

Also, Pymatuning is the only known place in Pennsylvania where bald eagles have nested continuously, even throughout the years of their population decline. Today, park visitors get thrills from spotting eagles in the park.

Charlene Reinhart

FISHING: The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir is a warm-water fishery. Common species are walleye, muskellunge, carp, crappie, perch, bluegill and largemouth and smallmouth bass. Ice fishing during the winter months is also popular. When fishing by boat, fishing licenses issued by either Ohio or Pennsylvania are honored anywhere on the lake. When fishing from the shore, only Ohio licensed fishermen can fish from the Ohio shore and Pennsylvania

licensed fishermen from the Pennsylvania shore. There is ADA accessible fishing access in the Jamestown Day Use Area and an ADA accessible fishing pier at the Espyville and Linesville marinas and the Shenango River.

SWIMMING: Four public beaches, Linesville, Tuttle, Jamestown One and Two, and the beach for campers in Jamestown Campground are open the weekend before Memorial Day through Labor Day, weather and conditions permitting. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 10,300 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel and waterfowl. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Management Area has controlled shooting during the annual waterfowl season. Special areas are also established for duck hunting. Public hunting is available in many areas surrounding the controlled shooting section. A propagation area comprising 2,500 acres of water provides a protected location for migratory waterfowl during their flights north and south.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day to 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. The only exception is that law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* may carry said firearm concealed on their person while they are within the park.

HIKING: 7 miles

There are trails near Tuttle and Jamestown campgrounds, and the abandoned railroad grade on the spillway is a flat, wide trail.

History

EARLY INHABITANTS

In the distant past, the great swamp that became Pymatuning Reservoir was occupied by the "Mound Builders." These farmers buried their important dead in large mounds and had an impressive trade network involving goods from all over North America. There are no recorded records of the "Mound Builders," but archeological studies have revealed their presence in the area. It is not known what happened to these mysterious people.

The Erie Nation are the first recorded inhabitants of the Pymatuning area. They were ruled by a queen noted for her cunning strategy and crooked dealings.

The Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy conquered the Erie and used the large swamp for hunting grounds. The name "Pymatuning" is derived from the Iroquois, probably from the Seneca, and means "the Crooked-mouthed Man's Dwelling Place."

HISTORY OF PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

"All human accomplishments begin with a dream." The Honorable Gifford Pinchot, then governor of Pennsylvania, delivered these stirring words as part of his address at the dedication of Pymatuning Dam on August 17, 1934. Pinchot was fulfilling a Pennsylvania dream that began in 1868 when the General Assembly provided a survey and an estimate of the cost to drain the Pymatuning swamp to create farmlands. The swamp was not drained because it would cripple the industries downstream in the Beaver and Shenango Valleys.

A severe flood in 1913 spurred the legislature to action. The Pymatuning Act, signed the same year, appropriated $100,000 to initiate building a dam. The Pymatuning Act states that the primary purpose of the Pymatuning Reservoir shall be for the conservation of waters entering the Pymatuning Swamp and for regulating the flow of water in the Shenango and Beaver Rivers. A secondary purpose is to use the dam and lake as a reservoir to impound flood water during periods of excessive runoff from the 158 square miles of drainage area above the dam.

In the next 18 years, public and private organizations raised the $3,717,739 needed to build the dam. On October 6, 1931, 7,000 men began work, turning the dream into reality, and three years later Governor Pinchot gave his inspiring words at the dedication of the 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir.

Stay the Night

CAMPING: modern restrooms with showers

There are two camping areas that are generally open from mid-April through mid-October. Contact the park for specific dates. All campgrounds are near swimming, boating, fishing and hiking and have a sanitary dump station. The maximum stay in all camping areas is fourteen days during the summer season and 21 days during the off-season. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

In the northern part of the park, Linesville Campground has modern facilities, including showers, flush toilets and ADA accessible campsites. About half of the campsites have electricity.

Across the reservoir from Linesville Campground, Tuttle Campground has modern facilities, including showers and flush toilets. About half of the campsites have electricity. Pets are permitted on selected sites. There is a boat launch, playground, camp store and an amphitheater. The Walking Trail is a loop that begins near the camp store.

On the south shore of Pymatuning Reservoir, Jamestown Campground has modern facilities, including showers and flush toilets. About half of the campsites have electricity. There is a boat launch, beach, amphitheater and a playground. Pets are permitted on selected sites.

CABINS: Twenty modern rental cabins by the Jamestown Day Use Area are available for year-round use. Five ADA accessible, modern rental cabins by the Linesville Campground are open from mid-April to late-October. Cabins have a furnished living area, kitchen/dining area, toilet/shower room and two or three bedrooms. Occupants must bring linens, towels, cookware and tableware.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: This rustic area can serve groups up to 400 people and is in the Jamestown area.

Natural Areas

Natural areas have unique scenic, geologic or ecological value and are set aside for scientific observation and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty. Pymatuning has two natural areas in the northern part of the lake. The 725-acre Blackjack Swamp has unique natural communities, in addition to Clark Island which has 161 acres of mature hardwood and white pine forest. Visitors are welcome to explore these undeveloped natural areas.

Enjoy the Winter

ICE FISHING: Walleye, perch and crappie are the fish most often caught through the ice of the 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir.

ICEBOATING: Iceboating is permitted everywhere on the lake.

SNOWMOBILING: Fries Road Trail by Tuttle Campground and the abandoned railroad grade by the spillway provide five miles of trails for snowmobiles. In the Jamestown area, there are additional trails and open fields.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Most open areas of the park are open to cross-country skiing.

SLEDDING: The slopes of the dam are good for sledding.

Nearby Attractions

For more information on nearby attractions contact: Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-332-2338, www.visitcrawford.org or Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-637-2370, www.mercercountypa.org.

For more information about Ohio State Parks contact: Pymatuning State Park, 440-293-6030.

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 park you plan to visit.

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 HOSPITALS:

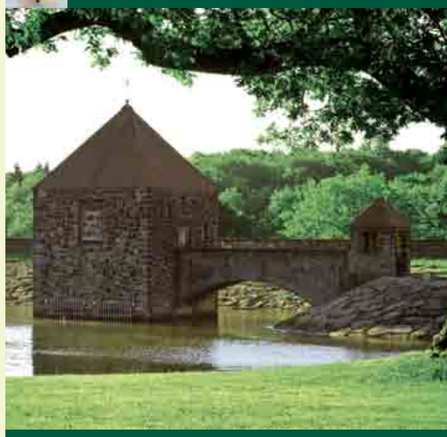
To the South:
UPMC Horizon: Greenville
110 North Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-2100

To the West:
St. Joseph Emergency and Diagnostic Center
476 South Main Street
Andover, OH 44003
440-293-6111

To the East:
Meadville Medical Center
751 Liberty Street
Meadville, PA 16335
814-333-5000

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Pymatuning State Park



pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

For More Information Contact:
Pymatuning State Park
2660 Williamsfield Road
Jamestown, PA 16134
724-932-3142
e-mail: pymatuningsp@state.pa.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations
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Cover photograph by Charlene Reinhart

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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 is your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Your pets are welcome in many areas but are prohibited in swimming areas and most overnight areas. Pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained.
- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Prevent forest fires by properly disposing of hot coals and having a fire in proper facilities. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles, or take it home with you.