

**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.

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**PARKER DAM STATE PARK**

The 968-acre Parker Dam State Park offers old-fashioned charm and character. A scenic lake, rustic cabins, quaint campground and unbounded forest make Parker Dam an ideal spot for a relaxing vacation. For wilderness explorers, Parker Dam is a gateway to the vast expanses of Moshannon State Forest. You can walk through recovering tornado-ravaged woods, backpack into the 50,000-acre Quehanna Wilderness, mountain bike to your heart's content or enjoy quiet solitude searching for elusive Pennsylvania elk.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**Spend the Day**

Picnicking: Many picnic tables, with charcoal grills, restrooms and drinking fountains, are scattered through a mostly wooded area. Of the seven picnic pavilions, five have lights and electric outlets. Choose from modern, open pavilions or cozy, stone, CCC-built pavilions. Each picnic pavilion holds about 75 people. 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.

Swimming: The beautiful sand beach is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. The maximum water depth is five feet at the buoy line.

A food and refreshment concession and camp store are open daily, weather permitting, during the summer season, Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Boating: electric motors only

The 20-acre Parker Lake has courtesy mooring spaces available for overnight guests. A seasonal boat concession rents paddleboats, canoes and rowboats from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

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.

Fishing: The 20-acre Parker Lake and many trout streams are popular with anglers throughout the year. Brook trout are stocked in the spring, fall and winter. Anglers also can catch largemouth bass, bluegills and brown bullhead.

Geocaching, Geotours and Letterboxing: Geocaching is a high-tech scavenger hunt. Use a GPS unit to find historic places and big trees in the park. There are several geocaches and letterboxes in the park and surrounding state forest. Brochures are available at the park office. Contact the park office for more information. New caches must be approved by the park manager.

Hunting and Firearms: About 526 acres of the park are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, grouse, bear, rabbit and squirrel.

Hunting is also available on over 185,000 acres of surrounding Moshannon State Forest.

Directions

Parker Dam State Park is in northern Clearfield County. From I-80, take Exit 111 onto PA 153 North for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto Mud Run Road, and then drive 2.5 miles to the park.

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.

Organized Group Tenting: These open, grassy areas are in the northern end of the park at the intersection of Mud Run and Tyler roads. Two areas hold 20 people each and one area holds 60 people. The combined capacity of the three organized group tenting areas is 100 people.

These reservable, organized group tenting areas have no flush toilets, water hydrants, picnic tables and fire rings. For a fee, organized groups can use the campground showers.

Cabin Classroom: This unique, octagonal log building is for rent to organized groups. Featuring electric heat, ceiling fans, stove, refrigerator, tables, chairs and a large, central, stone fireplace, it is ideal for rustic indoor camping or as a classroom. About 20 people can sleep on the wooden floor. As a classroom, it holds 25-30 people. For reservations contact the park office.

Enjoy the Winter

Parker Dam State Park is a haven for winter activities. A heated restroom is open in the day use area.



Snowshoeing: Snowshoes can be used throughout the park.

Ice Skating: Conditions permitting, an ice skating area is maintained at the swimming area. Ice thickness is monitored for safety.

Sledding: A small sledding and toboggan run is near the boat rental area.

Ice Fishing: Trout are stocked during late fall for anglers. There is no winter stocking through the ice. Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

Snowmobiling: Unload your registered snowmobile in the park to gain access to the extensive trail system on the adjacent state forest land. Snowmobiling is permitted only on selected trails and joint-use roads. The snowmobile trails are open daily after the end of deer season in December until April 1, conditions permitting.

Cross-country Skiing: Conditions permitting, groomed ski trails are maintained on Beaver Dam, Souders and Skunk trails.

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 unsecured 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: See reverse side.

Stay the Night**Camping: modern restrooms with showers**

The camping area is on the eastern edge of the lake and has completely shaded sites to open grassy sites. It is open from the second Friday in April through mid-December and has a sanitary dump station. Electric hookups are available at most campsites. Pets are permitted on designated sites. A seasonal camp store has camping equipment and supplies. The maximum stay is 14 days during the summer season and 21 days during the off-season. Campers must vacate the park for 48 hours between stays.

Cabins: Surrounded by trees, the 16 rustic cabins can be rented year-round. The cabins sleep 4, 6 or 8 people. Each cabin has a nearby modern restroom with a sink, shower and flush toilet. Cabins are heated by gas and a fireplace. Each cabin has bunk beds, mattresses, gas cooking stove, refrigerator, tables and chairs. Renters must provide their own bedding, firewood, cookware and tableware. In the summer season, cabins only rent by the week. In the off-season, the minimum rental is two days. Advance reservations are required.

blowdown area in the evening. Watch for beaver on Mud Run, Abbot Run or on the campground side of the lake. Please do not feed wildlife and observe from a safe distance.

Pennsylvania Elk Herd: Elk (Wapiti) are about four times larger than white-tailed deer. Elk may weigh from 400 to 1,000 pounds and vary from 6 to 8.5 feet in length. Adult males carry very large antlers that can be six feet long and weigh 30 pounds. September and October is the best time to see elk. Big bulls bugle a high pitched whistle to attract cow elk. Never approach elk, especially during the autumn rutting season.

The heart of the elk range is only a 50-minute drive from Parker Dam State Park. An elk-viewing platform is in State Game Land 311 between Benezette and Grant. A second population of elk lies to the east in Sprout State Forest. The Pennsylvania elk herd is over 450 animals and is expanding its range into areas in or near Parker Dam State Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Parker Dam State Park offers year-round 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. A small-scale, interpretive maple-sugaring operation runs throughout March. Apple-cidering is demonstrated each October.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be

scheduled by calling the park office. Teacher workshops are available.

A small, environmental education center, attached to the park office, offers interpretive displays, games and children's books. The Lou and Helen Adams Civilian Conservation Corps Museum near the breast of the dam educates visitors about the life and times of the corps members. It is open Sunday afternoons during the summer season or upon request. Wayside exhibits interpreting the tornado are outside of the Cabin Classroom.

For more information on educational programs, contact the park office.

HISTORY

When European settlers arrived in Pennsylvania, the Iroquois Confederacy had claimed this land and invited the uprooted Lenni Lenape (Delaware) to occupy it. Eventually loggers and homesteaders moved in, forcing the American Indians to migrate west.



In 1794, Daniel Delany surveyed the impressive forests of white pine, hemlock and scattered hardwoods. Logging began slowly as small sawmills processed the wood. The light, strong wood of the white pine made it the jewel of early lumbering. Ship builders in Baltimore prized tall white pine logs for ship masts and paid premium prices. Loggers built white pine rafts and rode them down the Susquehanna River. When all went well, loggers arrived in Baltimore to sell their highly valued logs.

Logging accelerated in 1851 because of a log boom built across the West Branch of the Susquehanna River at Williamsport. The boom stopped floating logs for sorting and cutting by sawmills. Upriver, "woodchicks" felled trees, cut off their branches and marked each log with the seal of the lumber company that employed them. Most logging occurred in winter, when a thick layer of snow and ice made hauling easier. Woodchicks built wooden log slides on hillsides to easily move logs to temporary pools called splash dams. A reproduction log slide and early lumbering tools can be seen on the Log Slide Trail.



Splash dams were released each spring to float logs down Laurel Run to Bennetts Branch, then to Sinnemahoning Creek, and then into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River for their journey to the sawmills at Williamsport.



The park takes its name from William Parker, who leased lumbering rights from John Otto. Parker built a splash dam on Laurel Run at the site of the present lake. Full-scale lumbering in the area probably began around 1870. The forests were cut and recut, first for the white pine and later for hemlock and hardwoods.



In the early 1900s, the log boom at Williamsport became inefficient when geared locomotives moved the logs directly from the forests to the mills. By 1909, the log boom was dismantled and the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company built logging railroads and logged the land a final time. Crews loaded up to 45 railroad cars a day until logging ended in 1911. Look for old railroad grades still visible on Moose Grade Road, and Beaver Dam and Quehanna hiking trails. For nearly two decades after the last tree was felled, fires and floods plagued the area.

In 1930, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania began buying land from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company for \$3 an acre. Around the same time, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt started a conservation movement to help stem the Great Depression and restore the nation's natural resources. He called it the Civilian

Conservation Corps (CCC). It employed young men in conservation work and gave them hope.

In 1933, the CCC boys set up camp at the intersection of Tyler and Mud Run roads (Camp PA-S-73). The CCC planted trees, built roads and trails and constructed the current dam of native sandstone on the site of William Parker's splash dam. Their handiwork is seen in the stone pavilions and in the CCC Interpretive Center near the breast of the dam. Parker Dam was designated a recreational reserve in 1936. The CCC and the Works Progress Administration, continued improvements, until many CCCers were drafted in 1941 for World War II.



Since the days of the CCC, Parker Dam has changed very little. New facilities have been added and seedlings planted by the CCC have grown into trees. In May of 1985, many of the majestic trees in the park were lost to a tremendous tornado. But, through it all there is a constant—the beauty and serenity of Parker Dam State Park.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Parker Lake: The eastern shoreline of this 20-acre lake has a mix of maples, cherries, oaks and eastern hemlocks, which makes the fall foliage gorgeous. A pathway from the campground to the swimming area travels over the breast of the earthen dam.

Windstorm Preserve: The tornado of 1985 blew a swath of destruction across Parker Dam State Park. The forest to the west of Mud Run Road has been left in a natural state. Note the large, bare tree trunks still standing in testimony to the power of the storm. The Trail of New Giants runs through this area. On the east side of Mud Run Road fallen trees have been salvaged and removed. Explore the two areas to see if the forest is regrowing differently in the two areas.

Wildlife Watching: Parker Dam State Park and the surrounding Moshannon State Forest harbor deep forests where wildlife thrives in unbroken wilderness. In conifer forests look for black-throated green and Blackburnian warblers and ravens. The shy ovenbird and American redstart make the deciduous forest their home. Look for turkey in Abbot Hollow, and along Laurel Ridge and Mud Run roads.

Evenings are great for wildlife watching. White-tailed deer feed by the park office, ball field or near picnic pavilion seven. A drive on Tyler Road might yield a coyote or fox. Look for the elusive bobcat, free-ranging elk or porcupine in the tornado

EXPLORE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania. Within the twelve-county region are: 29 state parks, eight state forest districts (1.3 million acres), 50 state game lands and Allegheny National Forest (500,000 acres).

Highlights of the area are: elk watching, scenic PA 6, Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon), the darkest skies in the east at Cherry Springs State Park, and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths and trout fishing streams. For the more adventurous, whitewater rafting through Pine Creek Gorge and hang gliding at Hyner View State Park offer exciting challenges.



HIKING TRAILS



Many hiking trails begin or pass through Parker Dam State Park and continue into the surrounding Moshannon State Forest. Some trails travel through the tornado blowdown, while others follow along streams or through hardwood forests. Hike the Trail of New Giants and then Souder Trail to compare a young forest to a mature forest.

Logslide Trail: *0.5 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking*

By the trailhead is an authentic reproduction of a logslide, used in the 1870's to haul logs out of the forest. A display shows other logging tools. Look along the trail for places where the Civilian Conservation Corps cut stone in the 1930s to build Parker Dam. The trail connects with the Stumpfield Trail via a gas line and is part of the Quehanna Trail, which is blazed in orange and blue.

Skunk Trail: *1.4 miles, blue blazes, easiest hiking*

This trail winds through hardwood trees. It connects Souder Trail with Mud Run Road.

Snow Trail: *1.6 miles, orange diamonds, easiest hiking*

The trail starts on Beaver Dam Trail and connects with Moose Grade Road. Popular with snowmobilers, hunters and cross-country skiers, it offers a pleasant hike in the wilderness.

Souder Trail: *0.75 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking*

This scenic loop trail features Laurel Run, lush meadows and large hardwood and evergreen trees.

Spurline Trail: *3.5 miles, orange or blue blazes and blue diamonds, more difficult hiking*

Start beyond Montgomery Field on the Fairview Road and follow the old railroad spur used from 1910 to 1913 to log the area.

Stumpfield Trail: *0.5 mile, no blazes, easiest hiking*

Begin at the campground amphitheater and traverse a meadow that was once a

forest of pine and hemlock. Look for large stumps left from logging at the turn of the 20th century. Stunted trees and thick shrubs are evidence of repeated wildfires that destroyed topsoil and slowed forest regrowth. This trail connects with Logslide Trail via a gas line.

Sullivan Ridge Trail: *1.4 miles, blue blazes, more difficult hiking*

This trail follows logging roads along the top of Sullivan Mountain, offering scenic overlooks of Moose Run Valley. Sullivan Ridge Trail connects Snow Trail with Abbot Hollow Trail. This trail is not for cross-country skiing.

Tornado Alley Trail: *0.5 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking*

This logging road connects Sullivan Ridge Trail with the cabin area. It offers a panoramic view of the tornado damage in Abbot Hollow.

Trail of New Giants: *1 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking*

On May 31, 1985, one of Pennsylvania's largest and strongest tornadoes roared through the park and destroyed the towering forest of ash, oak, beech and sugar maple trees. The Trail of New Giants cuts through the blowdown and the 250-acre Windstorm Preserve. Walk the trail and see the forest regenerating. A spur trail leads to a beautiful vista of the park and surrounding forest.

Quehanna Trail: *73 miles, blue and/or orange blazes, most difficult hiking*

This trail travels from the park through the Quehanna Wild Area. The backpack trail loops range from one to seven days. Only experienced hikers should use these wilderness trails.

Backpacking: The park is the western trailhead of the Quehanna Trail System.

Through a series of loops and connecting trails, this system offers over 73 miles of hiking opportunities of one to six nights in duration. There is no backpack camping in the park. Trail maps are available at the park office. After registering at the park office, backpackers should park in the second car parking lot by the campground. This lot is closed in the winter.



Abbot Hollow Trail: *1.7 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking*

Explore a wilderness valley ravished by a tornado in 1985, then salvage-logged in 1986. The varying habitats caused by the blowdown, the logging roads, gas well sites and beaver dams give the hiker many opportunities to view wildlife.

Beaver Dam Trail: *2.3 miles, blue blazes, easiest hiking*

This trail along Mud Run traverses good beaver habitat. Be on the lookout for signs of this amazing creature. Cuttings, tracks, lodges and dams are clues to its presence.

Laurel Run Trail: *1 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking*

Long used by fishermen and more recently by loggers, this trail starts near the campground bridge, follows Laurel Run and winds through the tornado blowdown area.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Woody Owl Weekend: Each spring volunteers gather to do service projects like litter pick-up, painting, tree planting and trail maintenance. Volunteers receive free weekend camping.

Woodhick Weekend: Held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, visitors compete in five events for the coveted titles of Woodhick and Woodchick of the Year. Established in 1984 to celebrate the logging history of the park, visitors can roll logs, crosscut saw, or try other events to discover the lives and recreation of early loggers. Logging demonstrations are also held.

NEARBY STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

S.B. Elliott State Park: Just off PA 153, near I-80, the park has picnicking, hunting, hiking, camping, rustic cabins and winter activities.

Moshannon State Forest: This 180,000-acre state forest stretches across northcentral Pennsylvania. Beautiful scenery abounds in several wild and natural areas. For additional state forest information contact Moshannon State Forest, 814-765-0821.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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 Hospital

Clearfield Hospital
809 Turnpike Avenue
Clearfield PA, 16830
814-765-5341



Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact

Parker Dam State Park
28 Fairview Road
Penfield, PA 15849-9799
814-765-0630
e-mail: parkerdamp@state.pa.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.visitPAparks.com

Information and 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.

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.

Nearby Services

Services available in nearby towns: Penfield (5 miles) - convenience store, restaurant, coin-operated laundry, mechanics, gasoline stations, church and post office. Clearfield (17 miles south), DuBois (19 miles west) and St. Marys (20 northeast) offer shopping centers and hospitals.

For information on nearby attractions, contact the Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Agency.
www.visitClearfieldCounty.org