

Little Pine State Park

The 2,158-acre Little Pine State Park is surrounded by a beautiful mountain section of Tiadaghton State Forest in PA Wilds. The 94-acre Little Pine Lake, hiking trails, the campground and nesting bald eagles are prime attractions to the park.

Directions

The park is in Lycoming County. From the south, take US 220 to the Pine Creek Exit near Jersey Shore. Take PA 44 north 11 miles to Waterville, then turn right onto SR 4001 and go four miles to the park.

From the northwest, take PA 120 south to the village of Hyner. Turn left onto Hyner Mountain Road. Take PA 44 south to Waterville and turn left onto SR 4001.

From the north and northeast, take US 6 to Wellsboro, then PA 287 south to English Center and SR 4001 to the park.

Reservations

Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Recreational Opportunities



CAMPING: modern sites, many with electric

The campground opens the first weekend in April and closes in mid-December. There are 99 campsites: 93 sites can accommodate trailer units up to 30 feet in length, six sites are for tents only. Open or shaded sites are available and some are along Little Pine Creek. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. The campground has a sanitary dump station, showers, flush toilets and many water outlets. Garbage and recycling receptacles, trailer storage and a second vehicle parking lot are at the campground entrance. Pets are permitted at designated campsites. Alcoholic beverages and unlicensed motor vehicles are prohibited.

CAMPING COTTAGES: The three cottages comfortably sleep five people. Each cottage has two sets of single bunks, a full-size bed, wooden floors, windows, electric heat, porch, picnic table, fire ring and electric lights and outlets.

YURTS: These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, refrigerator, microwave oven, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat and outlets, fire ring, picnic table and are adjacent to a water pump. A shower house is nearby.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Available to adult and youth groups, there are four sites: two sites hold 40 people and two sites hold 20 people, or combine to hold 120 people. A paved parking lot, showers, flush toilets, fire rings and picnic tables are provided. A garbage and recycling center is near the campground entrance.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 1,700 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrel, fox, bear, grouse and turkey. There is a rifle/pistol range in the park. The adjacent state forest land is open to hunting.

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. 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.



FISHING: The 94-acre Little Pine Lake has 3.3 miles of shoreline. 4.2 miles of Little Pine Creek flow through the park. These warm-water and cold-water fisheries have stocked and native trout (brook, rainbow and brown), smallmouth bass, pickerel, sunfish, catfish and perch. This diversity provides good fly, bank and boat fishing. There is a special regulation, artificial-lure only, fishing area along Little Pine Creek in the northeast section of the park. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

SWIMMING: A sand beach with grass turf is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. Pets, glass and breakable containers or utensils are prohibited in this area. All children ten years of age or younger must be accompanied by a person at least 14 years of age.

PICNICKING: Four picnic areas in both shaded and open locations contain four picnic pavilions, many picnic tables, a volleyball court and play equipment. 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.

The Lower Picnic Area is about one-half mile south of the campground. It is completely separated from the rest of the park. This six-acre area has picnic tables, grills, charcoal disposals, non-flush toilets, parking area, picnic pavilion, foot bridge and access to Little Pine Creek for anglers. River birch, white pine, sugar maple and black locust are common trees in the area.



BOATING: electric motors only

The 94-acre Little Pine Lake has one launch area and 25 seasonal (April 1 to November 1) mooring spaces. A boat rental concession is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Paddleboats, canoes and rowboats are available for rental on weekends.

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.

Enjoy the Winter

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: The five-mile Lake Shore Trail follows mostly level terrain and parallels the lake and headwaters and then returns to the starting location. Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited in this area.

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: In the main day use area, two acres of slopes extend across the lake. Ample parking is by the bathhouse.

Ice must be four inches thick before the run is opened.

ICE FISHING: Trout are stocked in the 94-acre Little Pine Lake for ice fishing. The **ice thickness is not monitored**. For your safety, be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

SNOWMOBILING: Ample parking is available throughout the park. There are more than 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the surrounding Tiadaghton State Forest. Snowmobiles may be operated on designated trails and roads from the day following the last deer season in December until April 1, weather permitting. Restrooms are available. Overnight accommodations, food, gasoline and groceries are available throughout the area.

Hiking: 14 miles of trails

BUTTON BALL TRAIL: **0.49 mile, easiest hiking**

This angler's trail gives access to lower Little Pine Creek.

CARSONTOWN TRAIL: **0.88 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail is recommended for families with small children. A wide variety of wildflowers may be found along this trail and deer are frequently seen.

LAKE SHORE TRAIL: **5.5 miles, more difficult hiking**

This is the flattest trail in the park and parallels the lake into the upper part of the park. A wide variety of birds and animals can be viewed if the trail is traveled quietly.

Sections of the following trails are very steep. These trails require a hiker to be in good physical condition.

PANTHER RUN TRAIL: **2.9 miles, most difficult hiking**

Beautiful vistas, rock outcroppings and a flagstone quarry can be seen along the trail. This is the most scenic trail in the park.

LOVE RUN TRAIL: **2.2 miles, most difficult hiking**

This trail connects Spikebuck Hollow Trail with Love Run Road and Panther Run Trail. Large hemlock trees by mountain springs can be seen along the trail.

SPIKEBUCK HOLLOW TRAIL: **2 miles, most difficult hiking**

Beautiful, picturesque vistas, outcroppings of rock, flagstone and a wide variety of trees and plants can be seen along the trail.

MID STATE TRAIL: This 250-mile backpacking trail, which goes from Juniata County to Tioga County, passes through the park. At places, the Mid State Trail and park trails run along the same path. This trail is steep and narrow in places, but well defined and marked. People backpacking along the Mid State Trail may leave a vehicle in the second car parking lot of the campground, providing they notify park personnel. Name, address, proposed route, and expected return date are requested.



PINE CREEK RAIL TRAIL: Located 4 miles from the park in Waterville, this multi-use trail is for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. It stretches 62 miles from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro Junction along Pine Creek. The upper portion of the trail is in the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. Access areas, benches and restrooms are at various places along the trail.

The scenery along the trail is magnificent. Trail users can view dramatic rock outcrops, waterfalls, and wildlife like eagle, osprey, coyote, deer, wild turkey, heron, river otter, black bear and many others. Diverse plant life, scattered old-growth timber, historic pine and spruce plantations, and several foundations from the Civilian Conservation Corps era can be found along the trail.

There are also many miles of trails in the adjacent Tiadaghton State Forest.

Tell us about your hike at: www.explorepatrials.com

Wildlife Watching

Viewing wildlife is a fun activity for all ages to enjoy. At this park, no matter what time of year, there are many opportunities to see all types of wildlife.

Since 2004, bald eagles have nested in the park. From the viewing area visitors can observe the eagles and eaglets without disturbing the birds.

In the summer, visitors can see deer and songbirds throughout the park, herons and otters in the lake and songbirds in many habitats. The fall season brings many migratory birds, such as loon, snow goose and many raptors. Visitors may see raccoons or mink along the lake, deer and foxes in the fields, or bear or turkeys in the woodlands. During the winter, many species of birds take advantage of the various feeding stations in the park.



Annual Autumn Festival

This annual event focuses on the outdoor recreational opportunities in northcentral Pennsylvania. Activities include: guided walks, crafts, presentations and informational displays by private and government conservation organizations. The festival is held on the Sunday of the second full weekend in October.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Environmental education and interpretive programs are offered on a seasonal basis.

Field learning experiences are available to schools during the spring and fall, and teachers' workshops are offered periodically. Programs are designed to meet the standards for Environment & Ecology, but also address other areas. Programs are also available on request to civic organizations and youth groups. Topics include astronomy, botany, entomology, folklore and zoology, among others.

Guided walks, evening programs, hands-on learning activities and craft programs are offered to park visitors in the summer season.

History

The Iroquoian and Algonquian nations used the area as hunting grounds. It is believed that there was a Shawnee village and cemetery near what is now the village of Carsontown, just north of the park.

In 1782, the first American settlers in the Little Pine Valley were brothers John and James English. These brothers built two sawmills along Little Pine Creek in 1809, one of which was at the southern end of the present park boundary.

The village of English Mills was established in 1816 and housed the families of the loggers, occupying what is now the park campground. The cemetery of English Mills is on a small knoll in the middle of the campground.

Another prominent name in local history is Robert Carson. He was the first of his line to settle in the Little Pine Valley, and his descendents, who made homes near his homestead, gave rise to the village of Carsontown. Robert Carson was one of the first farmers in the area, and also operated a sawmill. The Patterson Family was also involved in the logging business. This family owned several of the properties on which splash dams were built to create artificial floods designed to carry logs downstream. Little Pine Creek was used to transport both sawn lumber and logs to Williamsport, which came to be known as "the Lumber Capitol of the World." In 1909, the last log raft went down Little Pine Creek.



Stopping and controlling logs on the Susquehanna River was a major problem until the construction of a "log boom" at Williamsport in 1846. The boom consisted of a chain of logs that stretched across the river diagonally. At one time, the boom stretched for six miles from Williamsport to Linden, and supplied logs to over 30 mills.

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built Camp S-129 and a small picnic area along Little Pine Creek. In 1937, the camp was closed and the property turned over to the Bureau of State Parks.

When the park opened, it used many of the CCC buildings. In 1950, a dual-purpose flood control/recreation dam was constructed. The park remained a picnic area until the campground, beach and swimming area were constructed in 1958.

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes flooded and destroyed many park facilities, including all but a few remnants of the former CCC facilities. Hurricane Agnes was the only time water went over the spillway. In 1975-76, federal disaster aid helped build a new beach house, office, maintenance area, and a new campground with modern restrooms.

As part of the "Growing Greener" initiative, several major improvements began in 2002, including enlarging and modernizing the park office and putting showers in the campground.

Natural History

Little Pine Creek is a freestone cold-water stream that supports a wide variety of aquatic life. Cold-water fishes, mollusks, crustaceans, insects and amphibians can be found both above and below the lake. When the dam was built in 1949-1950, it altered the ecology of that part of the stream. The lake acts as a sediment trap, creating a mud bottom. This allows different species of fish, insects and plant life to thrive. The extensive shallows at the upper end of the lake are prime breeding and hunting habitat for aquatic and shoreline animals such as muskrat, mink and herons. Snapping turtles and painted turtles are often seen in this part of the lake. The lake has a slightly warmer temperature than the stream, allowing warm-water fishes like sunfish, pickerel, sucker and catfish to survive.



Mink

Geology

Little Pine State Park is in the Appalachian High Plateaus Province of Pennsylvania, in the Deep Valleys Section. The bedrock was laid down about 300 million years ago. Plant fossils from this time can be found in the cliffs near the top of the dam spillway.

During the Illinoian Glacial Advance, about 150,000 years ago, the glacier dammed the northern flow of Pine Creek, creating glacial lakes in the Wellsboro-Mansfield area. These lakes existed for long enough time for shellfish to thrive in the cold water lakes. When the glacier melted and retreated, the lakes flooded and drained to the south, reversing the flow of Pine Creek and carving valleys, including Little Pine Valley. The fossilized shellfish from the outflow of the glacial lakes can be found along Little Pine Creek, well above the present stream level. Fossil collecting is prohibited in Little Pine State Park.

Upper Pine Bottom State Park

This small day use area along PA 44 west of Waterville is maintained by Little Pine State Park as a parking area for hunters and anglers.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Lycoming County Visitor's Bureau, 800-358-9900. www.vacationpa.com

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. The nearest emergency telephone is adjacent to the contact station at the entrance to the campground.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

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

DIRECTIONS: Follow SR 4001 south to Waterville. Turn left onto PA 44 south. Merge onto PA 220 north. Exit on the Thomas Street Exit (the first exit). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right and follow the signs to the hospital.

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.



White pine



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



For More Information Contact:

Little Pine State Park
4205 Little Pine Creek Road
Waterville, PA 17776
570-753-6000

email: littlepinesp@pa.gov
GPS: Lat. 41.36335 Long. -77.35729
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www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday to Saturday, for state park information
and reservations.

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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 are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

- 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 having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

- 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. Bum It!