



### For More Information Contact:

**Keystone State Park**  
1150 Keystone Park Road  
Derry, PA 15627  
Park Office: 724-668-2939  
Visitor Center: 724-668-2566  
e-mail: [keystonesp@state.pa.us](mailto:keystonesp@state.pa.us)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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

### Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at: [www.visitPAparks.com](http://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.

- Uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors. Pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained.

- 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 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.

- Soliciting and posting signs is prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

### History

It is hard to imagine, but the steel mills of Pittsburgh led to the creation of Keystone State Park. The mills needed coke (partially burned coal) to make steel. To make coke, the coal companies needed to burn coal and quickly extinguish it, and so needed water, lots of water.

In 1909, the Keystone Coal and Coke Company purchased land at the meeting of McCune and Davis runs and built a lake to supply water for washing bituminous coal and to quench the coke from their coke ovens at Salem # 1 Mine. The water from Keystone Lake flowed, gravity fed, through two miles of wooden pipes to the coal washing facility. A similar pipe is on display in the James A. Kell Visitor Center.

Executives of the company used Keystone Lake for fishing, swimming and boating. Stories about about local residents who used the lake for recreation, too, although with a wary eye out for the authorities who might chase them away for trespassing.

The company built a stone lodge to be a meeting place for business, and as a hunting lodge. Executives were allotted the lodge for one week a year for family vacations. Now called the James A. Kell Visitor Center, the lodge houses mining artifacts and natural history exhibits.



In 1938, Keystone Coal and Coke Company began Salem # 2 Mine. The coal vein was between two and four feet thick, forcing the miners to work on their hands and knees. Because the mine plunged horizontally into a hillside, it was a drift mine. Salem # 2 Mine closed in 1953.

The sealed mine entrance is east of Picnic Pavilion Two and north of the cabin entrance road. The ground underneath Hillside Campground and the cabin colony is honeycombed with miles of tunnels. A fascinating map of these tunnels is on display in the visitor center.

In 1945, the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks acquired the lake, lodge and surrounding land, and later the land by Salem # 2 Mine, from Keystone Coal and Coke Company, which is reflected in the park's name. When visiting the tranquil forests, fields and lake, remember that Keystone State Park was born of the fires and noise of steel mills.

### Nearby Attractions

For information on the many attractions in this area, contact the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, 800-333-5661. [www.laurelhighlands.org](http://www.laurelhighlands.org)

**FORBES STATE FOREST:** Over 50,000 acres of land are open year-round for a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking and snowmobiling. 724-238-1200

### 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. The nearest emergency telephone is adjacent to the contact station at the entrance to the campground.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**  
Excelsa Latrobe Area Hospital  
121 West Second Avenue  
Latrobe, PA 15650  
724-537-1000

### Trails

The six miles of trails are open year-round for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. All trails are rated from easy to moderate with parking available at most of the trailheads. All trails are foot traffic only, except for Lakeside Trail, which is open to bikes.

**Davis Run Trail** (*easy hiking*) is a 2.5-mile trail that meanders through wetlands before reaching an upland forest of mixed conifers and mature hardwoods. Along part of the trail the conifers form a scenic tunnel.

**Lakeside Trail** (*easy hiking*) is a 2-mile loop around the lake on park roads and walkways. This scenic and fairly level path offers an excellent view of waterfowl and other aquatic life. Bikes are permitted.

**McCune Run Trail** (*easy hiking*) is a short trail that leads to an abandoned beaver pond and a wetland meadow. The trail crosses over the remnants of an old beaver dam and connects to Davis Run Trail.

**Pine Trail** (*easy hiking*) is a short loop trail through plantations of red, white and table-mountain pine trees. About halfway through the trail, hikers can view farm fields and large chestnut oak trees.

**Stone Lodge Trail** (*easy to moderate hiking*) is a 1.4-mile path that starts from the James A. Kell Visitor Center parking lot. This challenging walk starts with a fairly steep climb that winds through hardwoods to ridgetop conifers. Keen-eyed hikers can find remnants of an old springhouse and homestead, by large hemlock trees.



White Water Lily

### AMD Wetland Treatment System

Below the dam, across from the entrance road to the cabin colony, is the closed-up entrance to Salem # 2 Mine.

An orange liquid, called abandoned mine drainage (AMD), seeps from the mine, polluting McCune Run. Four agencies have worked together to put in an AMD Wetland Treatment System. The AMD flows through limestone lined pipes and through several ponds, which removes alkalinity, heavy metals and sediment, before releasing the cleaner water into McCune Run. A series of wayside exhibits explain the mine and the treatment system. The self-guiding tour begins in the parking lot across from Pavilion Two.



American Toad

### Wildlife Watching

There are many opportunities to see wildlife, but please observe from a safe distance and do not feed wildlife. Keystone State Park hosts a wide range of plant and animal life. These natural attractions offer an exciting adventure for visitors willing to sit, watch and listen for these hidden wonders. Stop at the visitor center for a bird checklist or to learn about the natural sites and wildlife of the area.



Hepatica

Keystone State Park has wildlife watching opportunities in every season.

In spring, wildflowers like hepatica, spring beauty, bloodroot, cutleaf toothwort, trout lily and rue anemone bloom before the trees leaf out. Warblers, kinglets, buffleheads, mergansers, herons, osprey and many other birds migrate through the park. Some birds only stop for a brief refueling visit, but others stay for the summer.

In summer, many young birds and mammals are born and can be seen, but be sure not to handle the wild animals. Fireflies dance and display their lights in midsummer. Frogs and insects sing a nighttime chorus in the marsh area in the eastern end of the lake. Yarrow, joe pye weed, ironweed, boneset, fire pink, goldenrods and daisies peak in late summer, providing food for butterflies. The shortening days and cooler temperatures of autumn cause the deciduous trees to drop their leaves, but first the trees erupt with color. Birds migrate south to their winter homes. The temperature is usually perfect for hiking and exploring.

In winter, you can find animal tracks in the snow, and find bird's nests that are revealed after the leaves fall from the trees. Native birds like chickadees, cardinals, nuthatches and woodpeckers travel in groups hunting for seeds and insects.

### Environmental Education and Interpretation

An environmental education specialist offers programs year-round. In the summer months, interpretive nature programs are available to campers and the general public. In the spring, fall and winter there are environmental education programs for school students and scout groups, as well as interpretive programs for the general public. For a schedule of activities or to request a special program, call 724-668-2566.

The ADA accessible James A. Kell Visitor Center is in the overnight area of the park. This historic stone lodge has an introduction to the history, flora and fauna of the park, with a number of interactive displays, educational handouts and historic artifacts.



**RECYCLING:** Keystone State Park recycles all glass, aluminum, bimetallic cans, and plastics 1 and 2. Please deposit recyclables in labeled dumpsters throughout the park.

To keep this area clean and safe, no food, beverages or pets are allowed on the sand area of the beach.

A food concession is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day when the beach is open and offers hot and cold food and a variety of sundry items.

**PICNICKING:** Several picnic areas in the park offer picnic tables, parking, drinking water and restrooms. Two pavilions have charcoal grills, drinking water and electric outlets. Pavilion One is on the north side of the lake (closer to the beach) and Pavilion Two is below the breast of the dam. The picnic grove offers charcoal grills and drinking water and is adjacent to the boat concession. Picnic pavilions can be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved pavilions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please keep these areas clean and dispose of hot charcoal in proper receptacles.

**SWIMMING:** A sand beach is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please follow posted rules.

**WINTER ACTIVITIES:** Ice fishing, ice skating, sledding and cross-country skiing are popular when conditions permit. The day use area of the park and the cabins provide excellent opportunities for winter sports. The park is only 30 minutes from the snow country of the Laurel Highlands and Forbes State Forest.

Check the park Web site or contact the park office for ice and snow conditions in advance of any planned outing. Lake ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

### Stay the Night

#### CAMPING: modern restrooms with showers

About 100 tent and trailer sites are available from the first Friday in April to the third Sunday of October. Lakeside Campground is adjacent to the lake. Hillside Campground is in a more remote area of the park for those wishing more privacy. Both campgrounds have a modern bathroom. A sanitary dump station is available. Shower facilities may not be available after October 1. Pets are permitted on designated campsites.



**CAMPING COTTAGES:** The three camping cottages are in Lakeside Campground and have wooden walls and floors, windows, bunk beds, electric lights and outlets, and a porch. A cottage sleeps five people. One cottage is ADA accessible.

**MODERN CABINS:** The 11 modern cabins are available for rent year-round. These cabins are near the breast of the dam between the two campgrounds. The cabins sleep six people in two bedrooms, one with a double bed and another with two sets of bunk beds. Each cabin has a modern bathroom with shower, kitchen with stove, refrigerator and microwave, and outside is a picnic table and fire ring with grill. Visitors must bring their own kitchen, bath and bedding necessities. Cabin 11 is ADA accessible.



**YURTS:** Located in Lakeside Campground, the two Mongolian-style tents are round, on a wooden deck and have a cooking stove, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, bunk beds, electric heat and outlets, fire ring, picnic table and adjacent water pump. A yurt sleeps four people. One yurt is ADA accessible.

## Keystone State Park

The 1,200-acre Keystone State Park is great for day-trips and family vacations year-round. Camping, modern cabins, many trails and a lake are all within walking distance, providing an ideal setting for wildlife watching or outdoor adventures. The park is within easy driving distance from the Pittsburgh metropolitan area and its many attractions.

### Directions

The park is in Derry Township, Westmoreland County, three miles from the intersection of PA 981 and US 22. The park office is on SR 1018 (Keystone Park Road). The campground and cabins are on Stone Lodge Road and can be reached from Slag Road (T 860).

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### Recreational Opportunities

#### BOATING: electric motors only

The 78-acre Keystone Lake has a public boat launch and mooring area on the north shore by the breast of the dam. 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.

All watercraft must contain for each occupant a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) in serviceable condition. Children under 13 years of age and all non-swimmers must wear the approved PFD when boating.



**FISHING:** The 78-acre Keystone Lake has warm and cold water fishing, with trout stockings throughout the year. Warm-water fish are largemouth bass, tiger muskellunge, northern pike, black crappie, yellow perch, carp and brown bullhead catfish. A fishing area by the spillway is ADA accessible. Fishing is prohibited at the beach, boat launches and mooring areas. Abandoned mine drainage limits the fishing quality in the stream below the dam.

Keystone Lake is a Big Bass Lake and special regulations apply. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission rules and regulations apply. Fishing licenses are available at nearby issuing agents.

**BICYCLING:** Lakeside Trail is excellent for bikes of all types. This two-mile, level trail loops around the lake on park roads and walkways. Mountain bikes must stay on park roads or gravel walkways. All other trails are foot-traffic only.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About half of Keystone State Park is open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, squirrel, pheasant and grouse. Hunting on the lake and surrounding area is prohibited.

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.