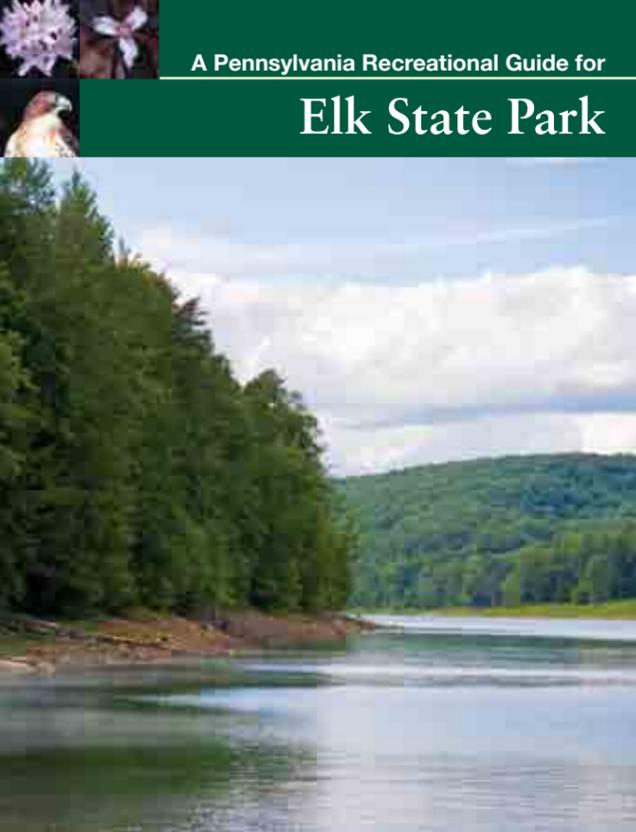


# Elk State Park



## Elk State Park

The 3,192-acre Elk State Park is in the rugged mountains of northern Pennsylvania. The 1,160-acre East Branch Lake is large enough for unlimited horsepower boating and is great for waterskiing. The lake and nearby streams are stocked with warm-water and cold-water fish.

### Directions

Elk State Park is about eight miles east of Wilcox on SR 1006 and about nine miles south of Clermont on SR 1001.

### Recreational Opportunities

#### BOATING: Unlimited hp motors permitted

The 1,160-acre East Branch Lake has one boat launch on Instanter Drive. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also provides a boat launch by 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 or launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.



**FISHING:** The 1,160-acre East Branch Lake is a cold-water fishery. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks muskellunge, walleye, smallmouth bass, brook, rainbow, brown, and lake trout in the lake. Five Mile, Seven Mile, Straight, Middle Fork and Crooked creeks are all stocked streams. Many smaller streams abound in native brook trout.



**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 3,151 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are black bear, deer and turkey. Hunting is also permitted on the adjacent Elk State Forest and State Game Land 25.

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.

**PICNICKING:** Picnic tables are available at the Instanter Drive Boat Launch. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has a picnic area and playground by the dam.

**SWIMMING:** Swimming is not permitted in the lake. A swimming pool is available at Bendigo State Park, about 13 miles away on PA 1004.

**CAMPING:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates a campground with facilities by the dam.

#### HIKING: Maple Trail, easiest, 0.5 mile

The Maple Trail begins at the Army Corps of Engineers parking area and travels along the southern end of East Branch Lake. Wildlife and waterfowl viewing is possible along this trail.



### Winter Activities

Do not venture onto ice that is less than four inches thick.

**ICE FISHING:** Common species are muskellunge, walleye, smallmouth bass, and brook, rainbow, brown and lake trout.

**ICEBOATING:** Iceboats must display a current state park launching permit.

### Environmental Education and Interpretation

The nearby Bendigo State Park offers year-round environmental education and interpretive programs. Hands-on activities, guided walks and historical talks are offered to park visitors

Participants will gain an appreciation and understanding of the natural world and develop a sense of stewardship for the park's natural resources. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office.

### History

In 1948, the United States Corps of Engineers started construction of the flood control dam and created East Branch Lake. The dam inundated the two settlements in the valley. The town of Instanter was a depot on the Johnsonburg & Clermont Railroad and also was the site of the Schultz and Hoyt Tannery. The second village was Straights, from which the nearby Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp 83 got its name. Development of Elk State Park was completed in 1963 and in 1970 the Bureau of Forestry turned 2,022 acres over to State Parks and increased its size to a total of 3,192 acres. Remnants of both Instanter and Straights can be seen during low pool levels.

### Nearby Attractions

For information on nearby attractions, please contact the Northwest Pennsylvania Great Outdoors, 800-348-9393. [www.pagreatoutdoors.com](http://www.pagreatoutdoors.com)

**BENDIGO STATE PARK:** Located 13 miles away on SR 1004, Bendigo State Park provides swimming, picnicking, fishing and playfields. 814-965-2646

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RECREATION AREA:** The East Branch Dam of the Clarion River was finished in 1952 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam provides flood protection and recreational opportunities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates a recreation area by the East Branch Dam that has camping, food concession, sanitary dump station and boat launch. 814-965-2065

**STATE GAME LAND 25:** This 24,523-acre wooded area consists of long narrow valleys and flat mountaintops. Visitors are welcome to hunt, fish, hike and bird-watch. A large stone marker at the entrance to State Game Land 25 in Glen Hazel commemorates the purchase of this land in 1920. State Game Land 25 was the first purchase by the Pennsylvania Game Commission from the proceeds of hunting license fees. John MacFarlane Philips, Game Commission member from 1905-1924, worked tirelessly to develop a statewide system of public hunting grounds and game refuges, and this land purchase was significant in those efforts. The marker was erected in 1948 by sportsmen and friends of Philips.

**ELK STATE FOREST:** The western section of this 195,911-acre forest is adjacent to Elk State Park. Hiking, birding, fishing, hunting and outdoor recreation is permitted on state forest land. 814-486-3353

### 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.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Your pets are welcome in many areas, but 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.



### Trash Disposal and Recycling

Elk State Park participates in a carry-in/carry-out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the amount of disposable items brought to the park and to take home all trash, garbage and recyclables.

### 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:

Elk Regional Health Center  
763 Johnsonburg Road  
St. Mary's, PA 15857  
814-788-8000

**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



### For More Information Contact:

Elk State Park  
c/o Bendigo State Park  
533 State Park Road  
Johnsonburg, PA 15845  
814-965-2646  
e-mail: [bendigosp@state.pa.us](mailto:bendigosp@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.