



For More Information Contact:

Colonel Denning State Park
 1599 Doubling Gap Road
 Newville, PA 17241-9756
 717-776-5272
 e-mail: coloneldenningsp@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 (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
 Monday to Saturday, for state park information
 and reservations.

Colonel Denning State Park

Colonel Denning State Park, in north-central Cumberland County, has 273 acres of woodland and a 3.5-acre lake. The park serves as a gateway to the 96,000-acre Tuscarora State Forest, which is located adjacent to and northwest of the park. These scenic and historic public lands are located in Doubling Gap, so named by the “S” turn where Blue Mountain doubles back on itself.

Directions

The park is eight miles north of Newville and nine miles south of Landisburg, along PA 233.

Recreational Opportunities

HIKING: The park is the trailhead for the 2.5-mile **Flat Rock Trail** which leads to the top of Blue Mountain in Tuscarora State Forest. This steep and rocky trail is worth the effort; it culminates at Flat Rock, a natural rock outcrop that provides a beautiful scenic vista of the Cumberland Valley.

The one-mile **Doubling Gap Trail** is a self-guided nature trail on mostly level ground. Beginning and ending at Doubling Gap Lake, the trail has several interpretive waysides that explain the natural history found around a mountain stream.

Rocky in places, the one-mile **Rattlesnake Trail** winds through a mixed oak forest on the foothills of Blue Mountain.

Due to the park’s proximity to the Tuscarora State Forest, hikers will find several miles of additional trails, including the trailhead for the 105-mile **Tuscarora Trail**, which is the northern portion of a 220-mile bypass of the Appalachian Trail. For maps and detailed descriptions, consult the Hiking and Nature Trail Guide located at the park office.

Tell us about your hike at ExplorePATrails.com.



HORSEBACK RIDING: As a gateway to the Tuscarora State Forest, the park provides access to several horseback riding trails and parking lots for horse trailers. Follow Old Doubling Gap Road to gain access to the state forest from the park.



PICNICKING: Numerous picnic tables and charcoal grills scattered throughout the park provide easy access to playground equipment. Two picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee by calling 888-PA-PARKS. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

SWIMMING: The 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 for swimming. A food concession near the beach is open during the summer season.

BOATING: Non-motorized canoes and kayaks may be used on Doubling Gap Lake except for the period of time between the opening day of trout season until the Friday before Memorial Day. Boats must be carried in from the adjacent parking lots and launched in the designated area located at the west end of the beach.

ORIENTEERING: There are three courses to challenge your map and compass skills: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Courses begin near the amphitheater and trail maps are available at the park office or the Nature Center.

FISHING: The 3.5-acre Doubling Gap Lake has trout fishing. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission limits, seasons and regulations apply.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Many acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrel and turkey. Hunting is also permitted on the adjacent Tuscarora State Forest.

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 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 in the park.

CAMPING: The 52-site tent and trailer campground is open from the opening day of trout season to the day after deer season in December. Sites are near non-flush toilets and a sanitary dump station and each site has a picnic table and fire ring.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult and youth groups may reserve the organized group tenting area for overnight use. This space includes five tent pads, picnic tables, lantern holders and a large fire ring. The organized group campsite can accommodate a maximum size of twenty people.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: While there is no formal cross-country skiing trail system, skiing is permitted on existing roads and trails and in all areas of the park. Terrain is moderately hilly to mountainous.

ICE SKATING: When ice conditions permit, a one-acre area is maintained and monitored for ice skating on Doubling Gap Lake. Skating is permitted from 8 a.m. until sunset.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

During the summer season, an environmental interpreter offers natural history walks, youth programs, campfires, environmental education activities and audiovisual displays. A Nature Center exhibits plants, animals and minerals found in the park.

History

Although never a Colonel, William Denning (1737-1830) served as a Revolutionary War sergeant from March 1778 to April 1780 in Nathaniel Irish’s Company of Artillery Artificers in Benjamin Flower’s Regiment. Stationed just outside of Carlisle at Washingtonburg Forge (now Carlisle Barracks), Denning earned his place in history making wrought iron cannons for the Continental Army. Unfortunately, none of Denning’s cannons survive today.

After the Revolution, William Denning lived out his life near Newville and is interred with his only son and daughter in the Big Spring Presbyterian Church cemetery in Newville. His monument reads “Blacksmith and Forger of Wrought Iron Cannon.” It is not known when or who added the “Colonel” to Sergeant William Denning’s name.

Colonel Denning State Park became a state recreational area about 1930, under the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. It was developed formally in 1936 through the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-111 in Perry County.

Nearby Attractions

For more information on nearby attractions, contact Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, 888-513-5130. www.visitcumberlandvalley.com

TUSCARORA STATE FOREST: The 96,000 acres of state forest lands are adjacent to and northwest of the park. These lands are open to the public and offer many recreational opportunities like hiking, biking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, picnicking and sightseeing. Visitors can see old growth forest at the Hemlocks Natural Area or take in a spectacular view of Doubling Gap which can be reached by hiking or vehicle. 717-536-3191

STATE GAME LAND 169: Located between PA Routes 641 and 997, about five miles southwest of the park, several thousand acres are primarily managed for upland game animals and deer. 877-877-9107

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.
- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.
- 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 - Burn It!

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are ADA 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
 Carlisle Regional Medical Center
 361 Alexander Spring Road
 Carlisle, PA 17015
 717-249-1212