

# Canoe Creek State Park



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



## For More Information Contact:

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## Information and Reservations

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

## Canoe Creek State Park

The 935-acre Canoe Creek State Park is in scenic Canoe Creek Valley, 12 miles east of Altoona. This beautiful park features a 155-acre lake, wetlands, old fields, mature forests and the historic Blair Limestone Kiln remnants.

### Directions

To reach Canoe Creek State Park, travel on US 22 to the small village of Canoe Creek (seven miles east of Hollidaysburg), turn north onto Turkey Valley Road for one half-mile to Canoe Creek State Park, on the right.

### Recreational Opportunities

**MODERN CABINS:** Eight modern cabins overlook the lake and are available for rent year-round. Each cabin sleeps six people and is equipped with two bedrooms, living room/dining room, bathroom, kitchen, electric heat and modern conveniences throughout. Cabins include an outside fire ring and picnic table.

The cabins are within walking distance of the swimming area and the Terry Wentz Education Center. The rental period during summer is one week. Throughout the remainder of the year, a two-night minimum stay is required.

**FISHING:** The beautiful 155-acre Canoe Lake is stocked with walleye, muskellunge and trout. Other species include bass, chain pickerel, catfish, and a variety of panfish. Canoe Lake is in the Big Bass Program, to promote young bass to grow to a larger size. With this program, the lake has special regulations. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

**SWIMMING:** The swimming beach is open from late May to early September unless otherwise posted. Swimming hours are from 8 a.m. to sunset. Please follow posted rules for swimming. Swim at your own risk.

The bathhouse includes showers and dressing booths. A food concession stand at the swimming beach offers a variety of snack food and drink items.

**PICNICING:** Scenic, shaded areas on the east and west sides of the lake provide many options for picnics and gatherings. There are picnic tables, charcoal grills and charcoal disposal units adjacent to the beach area.

In addition, three picnic pavilions are available for rent. These pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a rental fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free and may be used on a first-come, first-served basis.

**DISC GOLF:** A disc golf course is available in the day-use area. Players should yield to other park visitors in the area. For more information and maps, please visit the park office or check the disc golf bulletin board between parking areas three and four.

**BIKING:** A one-mile bike trail begins at US22 and leads into the day-use area in the park. Bikes are prohibited on hiking and equestrian trails.

Cyclists can also enjoy rail-trail biking along the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River on the 16.5-mile Lower Trail. Trailhead access is within a mile of the park.



**HORSEBACK RIDING:** Equestrian trails loop through the northern section of the park. Mattern, Hartman, and parts of Moore's Hill trails can be reached from the parking lot at the end of Mattern Road. Horse rentals are not available in the area. Horseback riding is permitted only on designated trails.

### HIKING: 8 miles of trails

The trails of Canoe Creek State Park allow hikers to explore forests, fields, wetlands, shrubby areas, historic sites and the lakeshore. Vistas atop Sugarloaf and Moore's hills provide scenic views of the park and surrounding area. Visitors can even catch a glimpse of Blue Knob State Park, over 20 miles away. Information on trails, wildlife and geocaching can be obtained at the education center or the park office.

Hikers should be prepared for trail conditions and weather. Please wear fluorescent orange when hiking during hunting seasons.

Tell us about your hike at [ExplorePATrails.com](http://ExplorePATrails.com).

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 550 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant and rabbit.

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 in the park.

### BOATING: electric motors only

The 155-acre Canoe Lake has boat launches on both sides of the lake. Shoreline boat mooring is available for a fee at the East Shore Day Use Area. A boat rental, adjacent to the swimming area, rents rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks and canoes.

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.

### History

The Blair Limestone Company Kiln remnants at Canoe Creek State Park showcase the operation of processing limestone during the early 1900s. Limestone was an important raw material for the iron and steel industry that was booming in Pennsylvania at the time. This company was a subsidiary of Jones and Laughlin Steel Company of Pittsburgh. These remnants are the focus of historical and interpretive programs and displays. The Hartman Kilns site is another old calcining plant found in the park. The park has several old quarries as well.

Canoe Creek State Park is a modern park facility developed during the Project 70 expansion era of state parks and was dedicated in 1979. Today, the park offers modern cabins for lodging.

### Wildlife Watching

Canoe Creek State Park provides excellent habitat for over 200 species of birds and mammals. Located along Marsh Trail is a small observation blind ideal for birding and observing lake wildlife.

**BIRDING:** The park is a resting and feeding stopover for migrating birds and serves as summer nesting grounds for many breeding birds. Canoe Lake is a great place to see migrating waterfowl. Eastern bluebird, indigo bunting, cedar waxwing, oriole, red-winged blackbird and brown thrasher frequent the wetlands along Mary Ann's Creek. A cavity-nesting trail, consisting of 100 nest boxes, is monitored and maintained throughout the park. Osprey and bald eagle are noteworthy spring and fall migrants.

Because of Canoe Creek State Park's biodiversity and habitats, the park has been designated as part of an Important Bird Area, IBA #76, by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society and is included on the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail. The park has also been identified as a Pennsylvania Important Mammal Area by the Important Mammal Area Project (IMAP).

Wildlife checklists and geocaching brochures can be obtained at the education center or the park office.



**BAT VIEWING:** The Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary is a large nursery colony of little brown bats. On warm summer evenings, visitors attend bat programs and watch the emergence of scores of bats. A gated limestone mine serves as a hibernation site for six species of bats, including the federally endangered Indiana bat.

### Environmental Education and Interpretation

Environmental education and interpretive programs explore a wide variety of ecological and environmental topics. Through activity-oriented programs utilizing the park's resources, participants gain a better understanding of our fragile natural ecosystems.

School group programming for all grade levels and teacher workshops are available. Scout, church, civic and private groups can also arrange for special programs. Advanced scheduling for group programming is required.

The Terry Wentz Education Center is open year-round and provides exhibits and information on the park history and wildlife as well as the park's environmental education programs.

### Enjoy the Winter

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** All hiking, equestrian and biking trails are available for skiing.

**ICE FISHING:** Ice fishing is a popular winter activity during the extended trout season. Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

**ICE SKATING:** Ice skating is permitted on the lake and on the two ponds at the East Shore Day Use Area. However, ice thickness is not monitored.

**ICEBOATING:** Iceboats must have a launch permit.

### Nearby Attractions

For information on nearby attractions, contact: Allegheny Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-842-5866. [www.alleghenymountains.com](http://www.alleghenymountains.com)

Within an hour's drive of the park are the world famous Horseshoe Curve, Blue Knob Ski Area, Pennsylvania State University, Railroaders Memorial Museum, Lower Rail Trail, State Game Land 166, and Rothrock and Gallitzin state forests.

### Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are ADA accessible. If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit. With prior approval, service roads can be used for loading and unloading.

### In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**  
Altoona Regional Health System  
Altoona Hospital Campus  
620 Howard Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-889-2011