

Black Moshannon

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania State Parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



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2015



BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK

Black Moshannon State Park covers 3,394 acres of forests and wetlands and conserves unique, natural environments. More than 43,000 acres of the Moshannon State Forest surround the park and help create a remote and wild setting that provides recreational opportunities in all seasons.

According to local tradition, American Indians called this watershed "Moss-Hanne," meaning "moose stream," thus the origin of the park's name. Appropriately, the "black" in the park name describes the tea-colored waters. The 250-acre Black Moshannon Lake is fed by clear springs and small streams which flow through the bogs that stretch in most directions from its shores. As the clear water flows through sphagnum moss and other wetland plants, it becomes colored by plant tannins. In a sense, the bog vegetation acts like a giant teabag to color the water.

Directions

From Northeast: Take I-80 west to Milesburg Exit 158, then Alt. US 220 south for 6 miles. Turn right onto PA 504 west for 12 miles to the park.

From Northwest: Take I-80 east to Kylertown Exit 133. Turn left onto PA 53 for 0.8 mile (through traffic light). At the park sign, turn right onto Winburne Road then 9 miles to the park.

From Southeast: Take US 322 west to Exit 68 (Greys Woods/Waddle). On the ramp stay right toward Waddle, then continue 6 miles. Bear right onto the ramp for Alt. US 220 north and then travel for 1 mile. Cars and trucks without trailers can turn left onto Steele Hollow Road. RVs and vehicles towing trailers should proceed an additional 4 miles, then turn left at the park sign in village of Julian to take Beaver Road for 8 miles to the park.

Road for 8 miles to the park.

From Southwest: From Philipsburg, follow US 322 east. Turn left onto PA 504 and travel 8 miles to the park.

From South: Take I-99 north to Exit 61 at Port Matilda. Turn right at end of ramp. In 1/2 mile, turn left at traffic light, then 4 miles on Alt. US 220 (Eagle Valley Road). Cars and trucks without trailers can turn left onto Steele Hollow Road. RVs and vehicles towing trailers should proceed an additional 4 miles, then turn left at the park sign in village of Julian to take Beaver Road for 8 miles to the park.

Reservations

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

MOSS-HANNE HISTORY

EARLY SETTLEMENT: Human use of this area has always been reflected in the use of Black Moshannon's water. The Seneca Indians hunted, traded, and fished here when the present lake was a string of beaver ponds. By 1821, the Philadelphia-Erie Pike (now PA 504) opened and settlement began with the establishment of the Antes House, a tavern, near the present bridge. This substantial hotel hosted weary travelers, pioneers, and sheep and cattle drovers making their way across the steep Allegheny Front.

TIMBER! Towering white pines and hemlocks once covered the surrounding slopes and the dense foliage blocked out the sun, making it dark even on sunny days. Weathered stumps now mark where the Beaver Mill Lumber Company cut these trees about a century ago. Some beaver ponds disappeared when loggers constructed a splash dam near the site of the present dam. The water from the splash dam was used to flush logs downstream. Eventually the logs floated down the Susquehanna River to mills in Williamsport. In one year, the Beaver Mill Lumber Company floated over 11 million feet of logs, the largest amount put in by any single logger in

Pennsylvania. Some wood was processed at a shingle mill, located below the present beach.

By 1879, timber was cut at the steam powered Star Mill, once located at the north end of Star Mill Trail. The mill boasted 20 saws, a planer, and a shingle mill. It was supported by 150 teams of horses and mules and a second village called Beaver Mills located near Shirk's Run at the south end of the park. When Star Mill operated, the dam was changed again to a mill pond to store logs. Before the turn of the 20th century, Beaver Mills and Antes featured a large general store, a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, mills, stables, a hotel-tavern, a schoolhouse, and a 10-pin alley! The schoolhouse still stands near the food concession. The rugged people of the area helped meet the nation's growing need for timber for mining, railroads, and construction. Some thought the timber supply would never end.

It did end, for a while. As the supply of timber decreased, lumber companies moved. The denuded landscape fell prey to fires and erosion. The job market collapsed.

In an effort to restore the land, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania bought

thousands of acres of burnt and desolate land. Pennsylvania set a path to reforestation through the establishment of the state forest system, one that now includes Moshannon State Forest.

CCC CAMP: To relieve unemployment during the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. By May of that year, the Beaver Meadow CCC Camp (S-71-PA), located near the abandoned town of Beaver Mills, became one of the first to open. It put over 200 young men to work conserving timber, water, and soil. They built roads to aid forest fire fighting and planted trees to help reforest the land. Visitors today can travel CCC roads or hike among the rows of red pines the CCC boys planted.

The CCC boys built park facilities that visitors still enjoy, including log cabins, the food concession, picnic pavilions, and some trails. The use of Black Moshannon's water changed again. The CCC constructed a new dam to provide swimming, boating, and fishing.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

BOATING: electric motors permitted
The 250-acre Black Moshannon Lake has 90 mooring spaces and four boat launching/mooring areas. Boat rentals are available in the summer season. Boating Area 1 is ADA accessible. The use of gas powered motors is prohibited. Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch 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.

PICNICKING: There are 250 picnic tables provided in four picnic areas. Eight picnic pavilions, some with electricity, may be reserved for a fee, or when unreserved, may be used on a first-come, first-served basis at no charge. ADA accessible pavilions and tables are available.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: Sleepy Hollow and Star Mill trails offer convenient, short loops to bikers. Snowmobile Trail provides access to additional trails on state forest land for mountain bikes. State forest roads (unpaved) are also open to biking. Ski Slope Trail provides a challenge to mountain bikers. Biking is prohibited on all other park trails.

FISHING: The 250-acre Black Moshannon Lake provides habitat for warmwater fish. Below the lake, Black Moshannon Creek contains trout. Trout anglers can enjoy their sport in several nearby streams, especially Six Mile Run. A Delayed Harvest - Artificial Lures Only area is designated on 1.3 miles of Black Moshannon Creek from the state park boundary to 0.3-mile downstream of the Huckleberry Road bridge. An ADA accessible fishing pier is on the western shore of the lake. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 3,000 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, wild turkey, bear, grouse, and squirrel. Adjacent state forest land is also open for public 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 unsecured 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. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

SWIMMING: An ADA accessible sand beach is open from mid-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. GPS DD: Lat. 40.91622 Long. -78.05909

CONCESSIONS: A boat rental and an ADA accessible park store and refreshment stand are open seasonally.

Stay the Night

CAMPING: The 73 campsites each have a picnic table and a fire ring. Most sites can accommodate either a tent or a trailer. Many sites have electrical hookups. Some sites have full hook up, which includes sewer, water, and electricity. Pets are permitted on designated sites. Some campsites are ADA accessible.

The campground features washhouses with flush toilets, showers, and coin-operated laundry machines. A sanitary dump station is available. The camping season begins the second Friday in April and ends after deer season in mid-December. GPS DD: Lat. 40.91878 Long. -78.06863

CABINS: 13 rustic, 6 modern
From the day before trout season in April until the end of deer season in mid-December, the park rents 13 rustic cabins. Rustic cabin 14 is ADA accessible and available year round. The cabins have minimal furnishings; kitchen stove/oven, refrigerator, electric lights, a wood burning stove, and bunk beds.

Six modern cabins, complete with electric heat, bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, and bath, are available year round. Renters must supply their own bed linens, towels, dishes, pots, pans, and dinnerware. Cabins are available for weekly rental in summer and for a 2-night minimum during other seasons. Modern cabins 16 and 20 are ADA accessible. GPS: Lat. 40.91321 Long. -78.0662

DELUXE COTTAGES: Two deluxe cottages are available from the day before trout season in April until the end of deer season in mid-December. The deluxe cottages have minimal furnishings; kitchen stove top, refrigerator, microwave oven, electric heat,

lighting, and bunk beds. There is no running water in these deluxe cottages, however, there is a restroom and shower facility for shared use. Cranberry Cottage is ADA accessible.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Adult or youth groups of up to 60 people may reserve the rustic group tenting area, which has flush toilets, but no showers.

BACKPACKING: The Allegheny Front Trail is a 40-mile loop trail that encircles the park in Moshannon State Forest. Several park trails are trailheads. Backpack camping is only permitted in the Moshannon State Forest sections of the trail.

Enjoy the Winter

SNOWMOBILING: Registered snowmobiles may use Benner Run Road, Shirks Road, Snowmobile Trail, the Food Concession Road, a small portion of the Sleepy Hollow Trail for access to cabin area, and designated trails in the state forest after the end of deer season in late December, conditions permitting.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: All trails are open to cross-country skiers. Recommended trails are marked with the cross-country skier symbol on the map.

ICE SKATING: When conditions allow, an area of the lake by Boating Area 1 is maintained for skating.

ICE FISHING: Except for the ice skating area, all of the 250-acre Black Moshannon Lake is open for ice fishing. Popular species caught through the ice are yellow perch, bluegill, pike, crappie, and largemouth bass.

ICEBOATING: Most of the lake is open for iceboating. A state park launch permit is required for iceboats.

ICE SAFETY: Use extreme caution when venturing onto the ice. Check online or with the park office to determine ice conditions in the skating area. Other areas of the lake are not monitored.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Families, individuals, schools, and special request groups participate in the park's environmental interpretive programs. Bog walks and stream studies build on understanding of aquatic ecosystems, wetlands, and human influences. Program schedules are available at the park office.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Discovering the Bog

In 1994, Pennsylvania gave additional protection to a 1,592-acre collection of unique and scenic bogs, marshes, swamps, and forests by designating it as the Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area. This special area is one of the best examples of a bog ecosystem in the Allegheny Plateau region. Its designation as a State Park Natural Area assures that its ecological values are preserved.



Pitcher plant

Bogs are freshwater wetlands with lots of sphagnum moss. Sphagnum moss absorbs water like a sponge. Dead sphagnum moss decomposes so slowly that layers build, forming peat moss under the living sphagnum.

Many bogs in Pennsylvania were formed as glaciers retreated, leaving behind poorly draining soil and huge blocks of ice that formed kettles. No glaciers ever covered Black Moshannon which sits high on the Allegheny Plateau. Here, sloping bedrock directs water from the surrounding hills into the bog area. The shallow groundwater table makes the soil wetter than usual.

The bog's sphagnum moss creates acidic and low nutrient conditions. When these factors combine with cool temperatures, only specialized plants can thrive. Seventeen species of orchids and all three carnivorous plants found in Pennsylvania grow in or near the bog. The bog also has a sea of sedges and leatherleaf shrubs, fuzzy tufts of arctic cotton

grass, multi-colored viburnums, cranberries, and blueberries. Those looking for wildlife may see amphibians, beavers, and uncommon birds.

A great way to explore these natural areas is to hike the Star Mill Trail or Bog Trail. Those who like boating can investigate the wilder, upper end of the lake by canoe. The more adventurous can hike the Moss-Hanne Trail.

Wildlife Watching

Black Moshannon State Park is high atop the Allegheny Front and enjoys cool summer days and cold winters due to the unique geology of the area. Two features chill the park: high elevation and a slight basin shape that traps cooler, heavier air. Because of this, many plants and animals like leatherleaf and Canada warblers that are normally only observed farther north can be seen in the park.

The wildlife you observe depends greatly on the habitat types you visit and your observation techniques. Look for wildlife in the wealth of different woodland and wetland types, along shorelines, and in edges where one habitat borders another. Mornings and evenings, when many animals are active, are great times for viewing many species. Be quiet and leave pets at home. Walking slowly along trails, like Star Mill and Sleepy Hollow, is best, especially to see songbirds. Relish luck and the unexpected. Reading wildlife signs, such as tracks and droppings, can add to your enjoyment. Take part in park environmental interpretive programs or use a wildlife watching book to enhance your understanding and skill.

The lake is a great place to see wildlife, especially the upper (southern) end. Explore by boat or walk Bog or Star Mill trails. Enjoy the flying stunts of barn and tree swallows from Lake Loop Trail, or look for mallards, Canada geese, beavers, muskrats, great blue herons, or secretive wood ducks. Spring and fall are great times to observe migrating loons, mergansers, scaups, buffleheads, grebes, tundra swans, and snow geese. Rafts of fragrant water lilies, watershield, and

spatterdock on the lake shelter tadpoles, sunfish, catfish, perch, pickerel, and bass in the waters below.

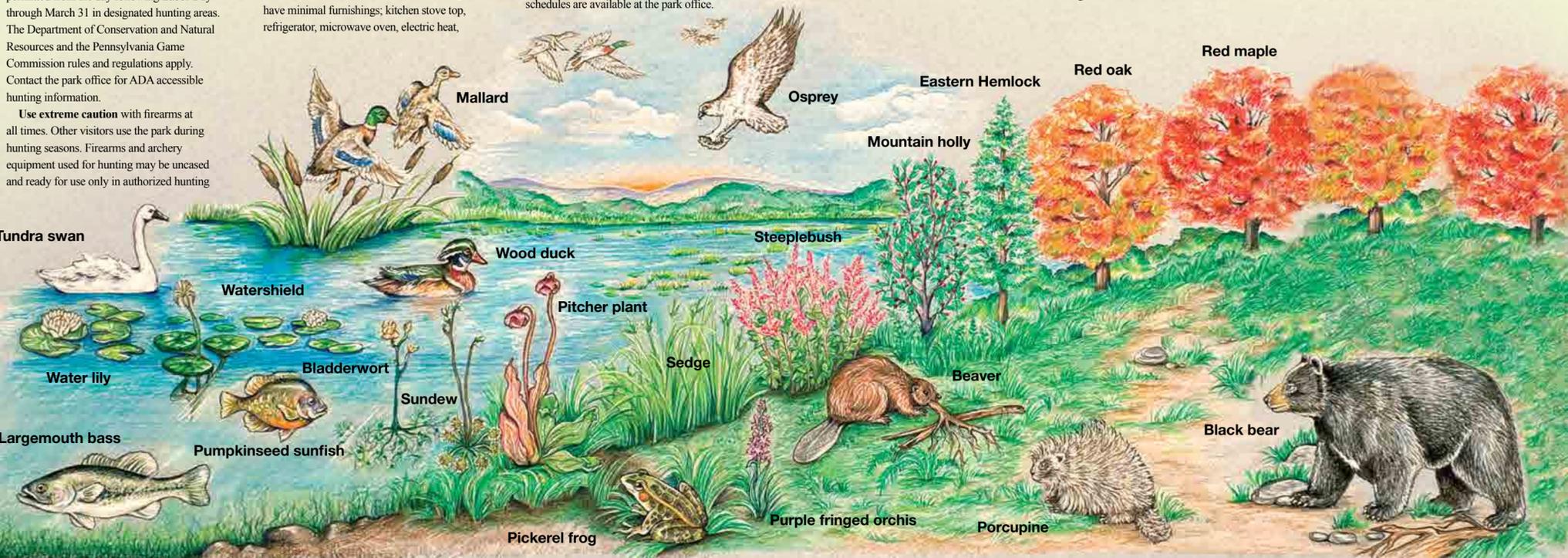
The park is known for spectacular bogs, marshes, and swamps. Discover wetlands by walking the Bog and Moss-Hanne trails. There is leatherleaf, steeplebush, blueberries, and sedges. Look for carnivorous plants, such as pitcher plant and sundew, other unusual wildflowers, and colorful damselflies and dragonflies. Sharp-eyed visitors may encounter frogs, salamanders, northern water snakes, or black bears. Many birds make their summer homes only in wetland habitats making the park a great place for birdwatching. The National Audubon Society designated the park as an Important Bird Area.

Forest visitors see chipmunks, songbirds, and in clearings at dusk, bats. The more observant may see deer, raccoons, opossums, porcupines, flying squirrels, woodpeckers, turkeys, grouse, and hawks. Occasionally, visitors come upon fox, weasels, bobcats, coyotes, and ravens. Creekside explorers on Shingle Mill Trail may see kingfishers, salamanders, crayfish, and trout.

Spring brings out woodland wildflowers. Mountain laurel blooms in mid to late June; look along the Ski Slope trail. In late September to early October, exploding fall colors paint Black Moshannon in autumn's glory.

Feeding Wildlife is prohibited. Feeding makes wild animals lose their natural fear of people and makes them more dependent on people. Therefore, potentially dangerous situations can arise.

PLEASE NOTE: Black bears are present at Black Moshannon and can cause injuries or damage to equipment. Canada geese create unpleasant and unsanitary conditions when they leave droppings in the same place each day. We ask your cooperation in managing the wildlife in the park. For safety, campers should store food in their trunk or camper, but not in a tent. Keep the wild in wildlife. Please don't feed wildlife.



BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK

CENTRE COUNTY

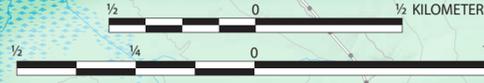
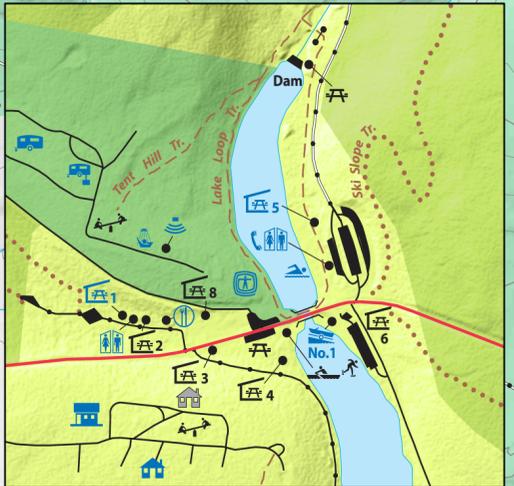
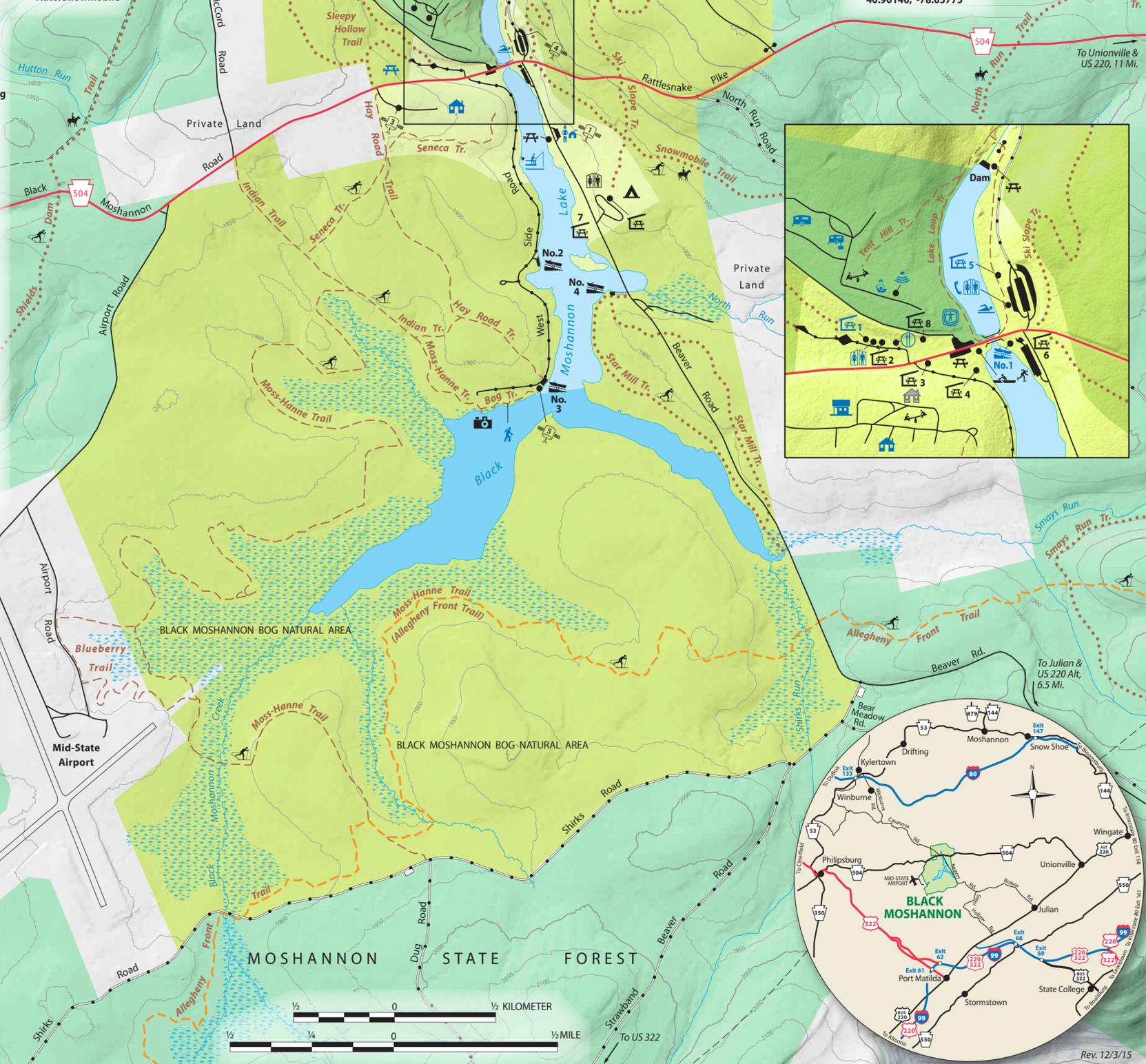
To I-80 & Kylertown, 8.5 Mi.

To Philipsburg & US 322, 8 Mi.

CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

- TRAIL INFORMATION**
- Hiking Trail
 - .-.- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Biking, Snowmobiling
 - - - Cross-country Skiing Recommended
 - - - Horseback Riding
 - - - Allegheny Front Trail: Backpacking
 - - - Joint-use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- Park Office
 - Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
 - Public Phone
 - Restrooms
 - Environmental Learning Center
 - Amphitheater
 - Food Concession
 - Picnic Area
 - Picnic Pavilion
 - Scenic View
 - Showerhouse
 - Camping
 - Organized Group Tenting
 - Modern Cabin
 - Rustic Cabin
 - Deluxe Cottage
 - Sanitary Dump Station
 - Beach
 - Playground
 - Fishing Pier
 - Boat Launch & Mooring
 - Boat Rental
 - Ice Skating
 - Unpaved Road
 - Gate
 - Natural Gas Line
 - Parking Paved
 - Parking Unpaved
 - State Park No Hunting
 - State Park Hunting
 - State Park Hunting Late Muzzleloader/Archery Only
 - Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only

- GPS Coordinates**
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.
1. Park Office
40.91220, -78.05688
 2. Campground
40.91878, -78.06863
 3. Cabin Area
40.91321, -78.06620
 4. Beach
40.91622, -78.05909
 5. Bog Trail
40.90140, -78.05775



HIKING TRAILS: 20 Miles of Trails



The trails pass through all of the varied habitats of the park. Seneca, Indian, Bog, and Hay Road trails and a short section of the Moss-Hanne Trail are connected, making them suitable for loop hikes.

Blueberry Trail: 1-mile loop, easiest hiking
Get a taste of the Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area on this short loop. Parking is available at the Mid-State Airport. The trail is abundant with many berries which also attracts a variety of wildlife and bird species.

Bog Trail: 0.3 mile, 0.5 mile full loop, easiest hiking
Take the boardwalk to explore a wetland dominated by sphagnum moss and leatherleaf, and accented by sedges, rushes, carnivorous plants, and lilies. Observe waterfowl and other wildlife along the trail. Wayside panels tell the surprising story of bogs and other park wetlands. Access for people with disabilities is at Boating Area 3.
GPS DD: Lat. 40.9014 Long. -78.05775

Hay Road Trail: 1.1 miles, easiest hiking
This grassy old road eases through a mature mixed-oak forest with a black cherry understory and once was used by farmers who harvested marsh grasses.

Indian Trail: 1 mile, more difficult hiking
This trail leads travelers through changing scenery of open oak woods, pines, clearings, and an unusual grove of hawthorns.

Lake Loop Trail: 0.7 mile, easiest hiking
This flat loop connects two bridges for an easy walk along the lake's lower shoreline. The trail offers a visit to the beach and the dam. Please walk pets to the back of the beach house.

Moss-Hanne Trail: 7.7 miles, more difficult hiking
On its way through the Black Moshannon Bog Natural Area, this trail travels through pine plantations, hemlock bottomlands, wetland edges, hardwood forests, grassy openings, blueberry patches, and beaver ponds. Waterproof footwear is recommended since some sections are often wet. Two boardwalk sections allow exploration of a big marsh and an alder swamp. The best blueberries are found near this trail from mid-June to mid-August.

Seneca Trail: 0.8 mile, easiest hiking
This trail weaves through a typical second growth forest of oak and cherry, which shades stumps of pine that were logged out over a century ago.

Shingle Mill Trail: 3.67 miles (2 miles within the park), more difficult hiking
This path ventures from the parking area near the dam and follows beautiful Black Moshannon Creek. The trail continues north of the Huckleberry Road bridge and connects to the Allegheny Front Trail.

Ski Slope Trail: 2 miles, most difficult hiking
Begin at the beach parking lot for a trek up Rattlesnake Mountain. Enjoy the views from the highest point in the park, including an old ski slope. At the PA 504 crossing, try to decipher the old Philadelphia-Erie Turnpike mile marker.

Sleepy Hollow Trail: 1.2-mile loop, more difficult hiking
Explore a hemlock-birch forest and woodlands of cherry and oak. This trail is recommended

for spring wildflowers. Look for evidence of a 1984 selective timber cut. Harvested trees were killed by years of gypsy moth defoliation. New growth provides good food and cover for turkey, deer, and songbirds. The trail starts near Pavilion 1.

Snowmobile Trail: 1.1 miles, easiest hiking
This trail connects to gravel roads and trails open to snowmobiles, horses, and mountain bikes on surrounding state forest land. Use the Beach Parking Lot which is plowed in winter. This grassy old road provides a trip through an oak woods with an open understory.

Star Mill Trail: 2.1-mile loop, easiest hiking
With fine views of the lake and opportunities to see wildlife, this trail travels through pines, a climax forest of beech and hemlock, and an uncommon stand of balsam fir. Look for evidence of Star Mill, a sawmill built in 1879.

Tent Hill Trail: 0.2 mile, more difficult hiking
Begin near Campsite 22. This trail drops down to the lake shoreline and connects the campground with Lake Loop Trail.

Allegheny Front Trail: 40 miles, most difficult hiking
This trail encircles the park, traversing 40 miles of the Allegheny Plateau, some rocky and rugged, on the way to five mountain trout streams and eleven vistas in Moshannon State Forest. AFT is ideal for backpacking or a day hike on any segment.

Tell us about your hike at:
 ExplorePAtrails.com
powered by you



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

From the park office, follow Beaver Road 8 miles. Turn right onto Alt. US 220 south, then right onto PA 322 east to Exit 73 to Mount Nittany Medical Center.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Mount Nittany Medical Center
1800 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
814-231-7000



Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact
Black Moshannon State Park
4216 Beaver Road
Philipsburg, PA 16866-9519
814-342-5960
email: blackmoshannonsp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 40.91220 Long. -78.05688
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), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

facebook.com/BlackMoshannonStatePark

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!

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-358-5466. www.centralpacvb.org