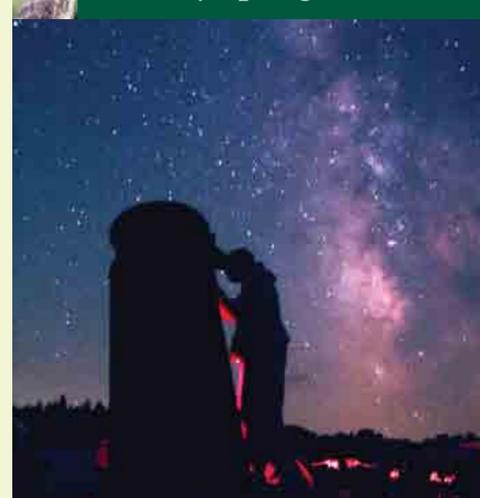


# Cherry Springs State Park



**For More Information Contact:**  
Cherry Springs State Park, Prouty Place State Park, Patterson State Park  
c/o Lyman Run State Park  
454 Lyman Run Road  
Galeton, PA 16922  
814-435-5010  
email: lymanrunsp@pa.gov  
GPS: Lat 41.66348 Long -77.82321  
An Equal Opportunity Employer  
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.



Eastern bluebird

## Explore Pennsylvania Wilds

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania. Within the twelve-county region are: 27 state parks, eight state forest districts (1.3 million acres), 50 state game lands and Allegheny National Forest (500,000 acres).

Highlights of the area are: elk watching, scenic Pennsylvania Route 6, Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon), the darkest skies in the east at Cherry Springs State Park, and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths and trout fishing streams.



Jack-in-the-pulpit

## Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Potter County Visitors Association, 888-POTTER-2. [www.visitpottercounty.com](http://www.visitpottercounty.com)  
Lyman Run State Park offers fishing, camping facilities ATV and hiking trailheads.  
The 262,000-acre Susquehannock State Forest offers hiking, snowmobile trails and a wilderness experience. 814-274-3600

## 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

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards.

## NEAREST HOSPITAL

Charles Cole Memorial Hospital  
1001 East Second Street  
Coudersport, PA 16915-9762  
814-274-93000



Red fox

## Cherry Springs State Park

Cherry Springs State Park is nearly as remote and wild today as it was two centuries ago. Its dark skies make it a haven for astronomers. Named for the large stands of black cherry trees in the park, the 82-acre state park is surrounded by the 262,000-acre Susquehannock State Forest. The Susquehanna Trail passes nearby and offers 85 miles of backpacking and hiking.

## Directions

Cherry Springs State Park is on PA 44 in Potter County. Use the following address for GPS devices:  
4639 Cherry Springs Road  
Coudersport, PA 16901  
GPS: Lat 41.66348 Long -77.82321

## 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.

## Recreational Opportunities

### CAMPING: rustic sites

There are 30 campsites and a sanitary dump station. All sites include a picnic table, lantern hanger and fire ring. Reservations are not accepted. The campground is open from the second Friday in April and closes in November.

### PICNICKING:

The picnic area is south of PA 44. A landmark in the area is the historic log pavilion built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939. This unusual pavilion features two large, covered dining areas with fireplaces, surrounded by log and chink walls. The areas are connected together by a covered breezeway that also contains picnic tables. Surrounding the pavilion are huge white pine and Norway spruce trees and an old apple orchard where picnic tables and charcoal grills are available.

### HIKING

#### Cherry Springs Working Forest Interpretive Trail: 1.0 mile, easiest hiking

Largely taken for granted, the forest is actually an essential part of our lives. From forest products we use every day to filtering water that we drink, the working forest provides many environmental, social and economic benefits. Walk the self-guided trail to learn more.

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

## Woodsmen's Show

In 1952, the first Woodsmen's Show at Cherry Springs State Park attracted a crowd of 4,000 people. Today, the annual Woodsmen's Show attracts thousands of spectators for the early August event. The show features lumberjack contests in tree-felling, log rolling, spring board chopping, standing block chop and chain-saw events.



## History

### Early Settlers

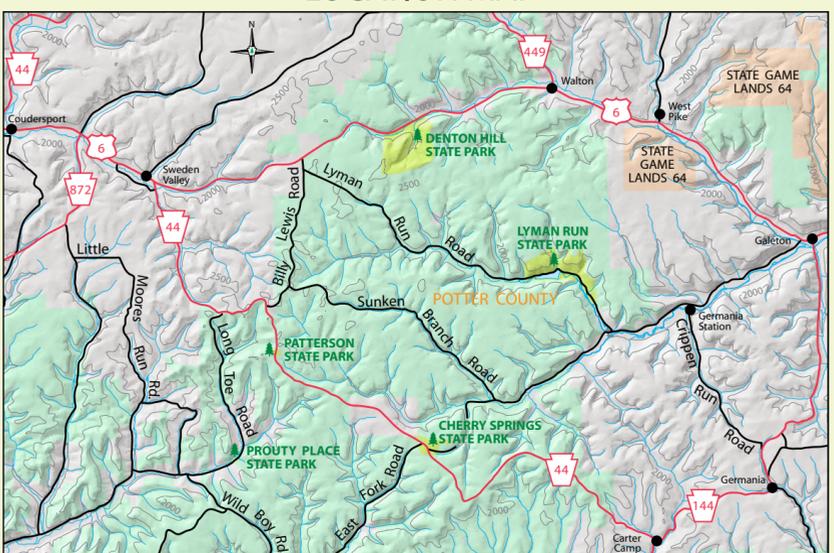
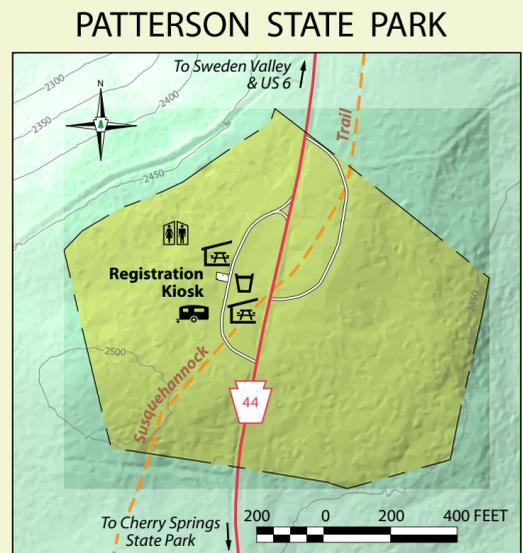
In 1818, Jonathan Edgcomb made his second try at settling in the wilderness of Potter County. Along the Jersey Shore Pike, Edgcomb constructed a log house that became known as the Cherry Springs Hotel. The hotel was in an extremely remote spot and for years the only visitors, other than travelers on the pike, were wandering American Indians. Over the years, the pine and hemlock in the Cherry Springs area was lumbered off and in their place grew hardwood trees like sugar maple and the park's namesake, black cherry.



Picnickers at Cherry Springs in 1939



## LOCATION MAP



## Patterson State Park

Patterson State Park is 6.5 miles south of Sweden Valley on PA 44. This ten-acre park has primitive camping and picnicking. Patterson is surrounded by Susquehannock State Forest and provides access to hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling on state forest trails.

## SUSQUEHANNOCK TRAIL SYSTEM:

Also known as the STS, this trail runs through Patterson State Park. The 85-mile loop trail travels through Susquehannock State Forest following old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) fire trails, abandoned railroad grades and old logging roads. The 1930s CCC fire trails make up 85% of the trail system.

## Prouty Place State Park

The STS was created in 1967 by the Susquehannock Trail Club, which still maintains the trail. The trail is marked by orange vertical blazes. Camping is permitted on the trail. Maps and trail information are available at the Lyman Run State Park office as well as the Bureau of Forestry District office at Denton Hill on US 6.

## Prouty Place State Park

The five-acre Prouty Place State Park is five miles southwest of PA 44 along Long Toe Road. This remote park offers access to hunting, fishing and hiking within the surrounding Susquehannock State Forest.



## Civilian Conservation Corps Era

The Cherry Springs Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp, S-136-PA (1933-37), was one of ten CCC camps constructed in the Susquehannock Forest District. A forester directed the work to be done at each camp, such as clearing underbrush, opening trails and constructing buildings and roads.

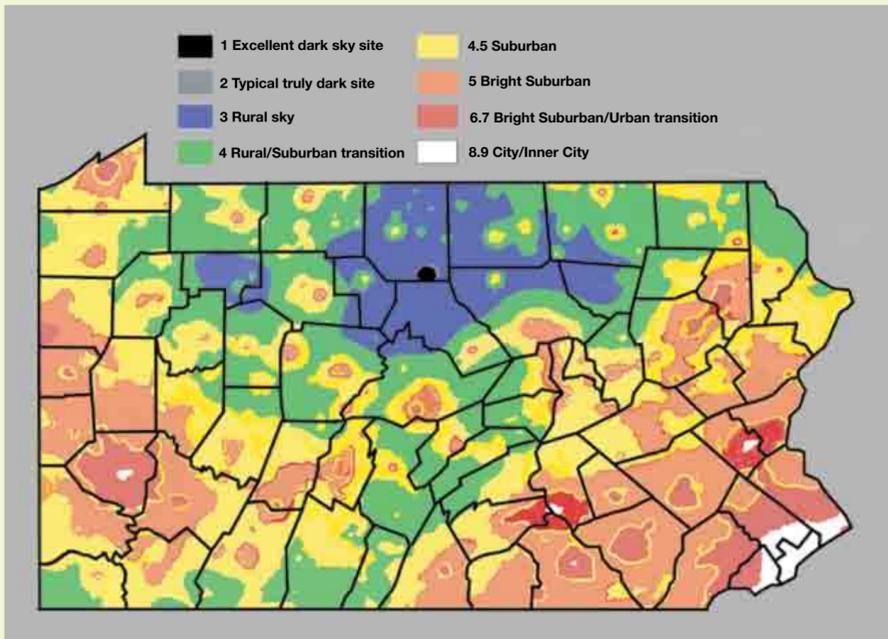
Additionally, Camp Elliott (named for District Forester Harry Elliott) was set up at Cherry Springs. This camp was not connected with the CCC camps, but was under the supervision of the former Department of Forests and Waters. Unemployed college boys stayed at this camp, and one of their accomplishments was the construction of the 40-acre airfield at Cherry Springs (under the former State Bureau of Aeronautics) during the summer of 1935.

# Stargazing at Cherry Springs State Park

Due to its exceptionally dark skies, Cherry Springs State Park is one of the best places in the eastern seaboard for stargazing and the science of astronomy, which is the study and observation of planets, nebulae, galaxies, stars and other heavenly bodies.

A dark night sky is a natural resource, just like plants, waterways and wildlife. Recognizing that this unique resource needed to be managed and protected, in 2000, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources declared Cherry Springs State Park the first Dark Sky Park.

Due to these and other efforts the park attained a Gold Level International Dark Sky Park certification from the International Dark Sky Association in 2008. Cherry Springs was, in fact, the second International Dark Sky Park in the world. The International Dark-Skies Association and its partners certify locations with exceptional nightscapes as International Dark Sky Parks (IDSP). These locations serve as reminders that with quality outdoor lighting, the extraordinary wonders of the nighttime sky and night environment are just as much a part of our lifestyle and history as are the daylight hours. In fact, without the inspiration and wonders of the nighttime environment, much of the world's history, art, culture, music, and literature might not have been created. [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)



This map shows light pollution in Pennsylvania. Cherry Springs State Park is the dark spot north of center.



## Astronomy Field Regulations

- White light sources are prohibited on the Astronomy Field unless it is 100% cloudy. Flashlights must be “red-light” only and you must turn off your vehicle headlights while driving on the field roads after dark. Light sources in campers, vehicles and computer screens must also be blocked or filtered.
- Green laser devices are prohibited.
- Open fires are prohibited on the field. Portable gas stoves and grills are permitted.
- Spotlighting for wildlife or any other reason is prohibited when the Astronomy Field is in use.
- The speed limit on the Astronomy Field is 5 mph.

## Astronomy Observatories

Cherry Springs rents four, small observatories. Each has a concrete floor, 120-volt ground fault protected power outlet and red lighting controlled by a dimmer switch. Telescopes are not provided. See the park web page for more information. 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.

## When To Go

Stargazing is a year-round activity at Cherry Springs State Park. Two factors will determine the best night to go: cloud cover and the current phase of the moon.

Cloudy or stormy skies will obstruct all views of the cosmos.

The moon is the brightest and most prominent object in the night sky. You can see more stars during a new moon phase, when the moon is not visible, than during the full moon, when the bright light obscures most of the stars.

The park web page has helpful resources to determine the best time to visit.



Whirlpool Galaxy

## Public Stargazing Programs

Weather permitting, a park educator or guest speaker presents public stargazing programs on the north side of the park at the night sky program area.

These free programs are available throughout the summer with support from the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund and park volunteers. Program schedules are published in the local paper and on the Cherry Springs State Park web site.

Cherry Springs can be cold and damp, even in the summer. Wear proper footwear and dress warmly. Lawn chairs, a blanket, binoculars or a telescope may enhance your experience. All flashlights must have a red filter. Plan to arrive about 15 minutes before the program begins. An alternate program might be presented if it is overcast or raining.

Please leave your pet at home if planning to attend a program.

## Star Parties

A star party is a gathering of amateur astronomers and stargazers. There are telescopes, guest lecturers, camaraderie, astronomy equipment vendors and an evening of public stargazing. Except for the public stargazing, you must be registered to attend the event.

The Cherry Springs Star Party is held each June and is sponsored by the Astronomical Society of Harrisburg. The Black Forest Star Party is held in the fall and is sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Observers of State College. Go to the Cherry Springs State Park Web site for the dates of star parties and for additional information.



## Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund

The fund is a way for people to donate money directly to Pennsylvania's first dark sky park.

Dark Sky Fund donations will be used to enhance the stargazing and astronomy experience at Cherry Springs State Park. Physical improvements to the park will help to eliminate any outside light pollution and remove overhead obstructions. Donations will also be used to educate local residents and visitors about the value of the night sky resource and why it needs to be preserved.

Fund donations have been used to plant light screening trees and shrubs, convert all park lighting to shielded, red-light fixtures, bury overhead electrical lines and install electrical pedestals on the Astronomy Field. The fund has also provided educational materials on astronomy and environmentally friendly lighting in the park and surrounding communities. Decisions on how the fund monies are spent are a collaborative effort of the park management and the Dark Sky Fund Advisory Council. The council is made up of astronomers from all over the country who regularly observe at Cherry Springs.

Donation forms and envelopes for the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund are at the registration kiosk and donations may be put in the fee tube. Please do not combine park fees and donation fees. Use the separate forms and envelope. Thanks for your support!



North American Nebula

## Star Hopping the Summer Sky

Learning to identify the brightest stars, and using groups of stars to point you from one group to the next, is the easiest way to navigate the night sky. As the sun sets, the stars with the greatest magnitude (brightest) are the first to appear overhead. The ‘star hopping’ suggested here is for the summer sky. Sky charts are also available for spring, fall and winter and there are many books that will help you to learn your way through the skies.

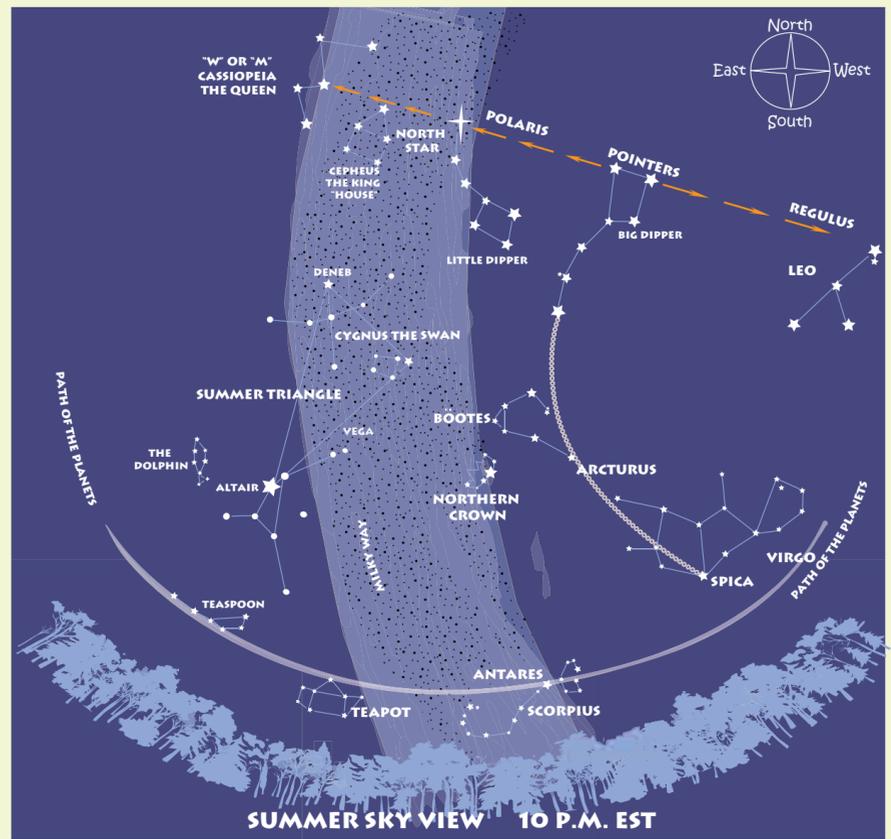
A few of the first stars to appear as night falls are in or near the constellation Cygnus the Swan, also known as the Northern Cross. Appearing almost directly overhead, the star Vega, in the constellation Lyra, is often the first star to be seen. Traveling north of Vega is the star Deneb, representing the tail of Cygnus.

Cygnus lies in the middle of what appears to be a streak of clouds running from north to south. In fact, this is one of the arms of our own galaxy, the Milky Way. As your eyes become accustomed to the darkness, and because the sky at Cherry Springs is very dark, you see that this streak of cloud is actually millions of stars.

Note the small, diamond-like shape of stars which will appear along the eastern border of the Milky Way and just slightly south of Cygnus. This is Delphinus, the Dolphin. Follow Deneb farther north until you see a group of stars in the shape of a “W” or “M.” This is the constellation

Cassiopeia, the Queen, thought to be sitting in her “chair.” Coming up on the western horizon will be Ursa Major, the Great Bear, commonly known as the Big Dipper. The two stars that make up the outside edge of the ‘dipper’ are the stars Merak (Mah-rak) and Dubhe (Doo-bee), also called the “pointer stars.” Draw an imaginary line from Merak to Dubhe, extend its length six times, and you will have reached Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is also the end star on the handle of Ursa Minor, the Little Dipper. Note that the Little Dipper looks like it is pouring something into the Big Dipper. Polaris is the only star in the sky that appears to be stationary. All other stars revolve around Polaris, because the Earth’s northern polar axis is pointed very close to it. Certain constellations that lie close to Polaris are visible all night long and do not seem to rise and set like the other stars and are called circumpolar stars.

Going back to the Big Dipper, follow the arc that the stars in the handle seem to make until you get the next bright star. Arcturus is the bottom star in the constellation Boötes (Boh-oo-tes), the herdsman, but it looks more like a baseball bat or ice cream cone. Continue your arc past Arcturus to the next brightest star, Spica, in the constellation Virgo, the Virgin. An easy way to remember this sequence is, “Arc to Arcturus then speed on to Spica.”



## Common Meteor Showers

Often called falling stars, meteors are specks of dust that burn up when they enter the Earth’s atmosphere. When the earth passes through cosmic dust, or debris from a comet, many meteors can be seen, which is called a meteor shower. During the Geminids Meteor Shower, over 100 meteors can be seen in an hour, although most showers produce far less. The chart below lists common meteor showers by name and date. The constellation appears to be the point of origin of the meteors. The peak viewing date varies each year so consult a current meteor shower guide for the best night to watch meteors.

Shower Name	Dates	Constellation	Avg./hr.
Quartrants	Jan. 1-4	Draco	30
Lyrids	Apr. 19-23	Lyra	10
May Aquarids	May 1-6	Aquarius	10
Delta Aquarids	July 26-31	Aquarius	15
Perseids	Aug. 10-14	Perseus	60
Orionids	Oct. 18-23	Orion	15
Taurids	Nov. 1-15	Taurus	10
Leonids	Nov. 14-18	Leo	10
Geminids	Dec. 10-16	Gemini	60
Ursids	Dec. 21-23	Ursa Major	15

