

**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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2013



White-tailed deer fawn

**TUSCARORA AND LOCUST LAKE STATE PARKS**


Locust Lake

**Tuscarora State Park**

When viewed from the lake or the day-use area, Locust Mountain seems to drop right into the southern side of Tuscarora Lake. The scenic picnic area plays host to many day trips and family reunions and the lake is a popular fishing spot. The 1,618-acre park is home to the park office and visitor center for Tuscarora and Locust Lake state parks. Visitors are welcome to gather information about the parks, the environmental education program and local attractions.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-80 northbound, take Exit 131A to PA 54 north and follow signs to the park.

From I-80 southbound, take Exit 131A, right turn to PA 54 north and follow signs to the park.

**Locust Lake State Park**

Known for its popular camping area, Locust Lake State Park nestles on the side of Locust Mountain. The 52-acre Locust Lake is located between two campgrounds and is surrounded by beautiful forests. Hiking and

fishing are popular activities in the 1,772-acre park.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-81 northbound, take Exit 131B, cross under the I-81 overpass and make an immediate left turn toward New Boston. Travel 1.1 miles to a left turn, follow signs. (Left turn is also signed.)

From I-81 southbound, take Exit 131A, left turn then travel 1.0 miles to a left turn, follow signs. (Left turn is also signed.)

**WILDLIFE WATCHING**


Red-tailed hawk

There are many opportunities to see wildlife, but please observe from a safe distance and do not feed wildlife.

Over 100 species of birds have been identified at Locust Lake, including 16 species of birds of prey. Because of its location in the Appalachian Mountain section of the Ridge and Valley Province, Locust Valley is positioned along the migration route used by many species of birds of prey, including red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, merlins and ospreys. Screech owls and great-horned owls are year-round residents.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Tuscarora and Locust Lake state parks offer a wide variety of environmental education, recreational and interpretive programs. Through hands-on activities, guided walks and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools

and youth groups. An environmental education specialist is available to develop EE curriculums and provide teacher workshops and additional teacher and community services. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office.

Programs are offered March to November. For more detailed information, contact the park office.



mistrust and even kidnapping of Tuscarora children for slaves finally escalated into the Tuscarora War from 1711 to 1713.

The Tuscarora were defeated and asked for help from their powerful New York relatives, the League of Five Nations. The League sent this message to Governor Robert Hunter of New York:

*Tuscarore Indians are come to shelter themselves among the five nations they were of us and went from us long ago and are now returned. . . we desire you to look upon the Tuscarores that are come to live among us as our Children who shall obey our commands & live peaceably and orderly.*

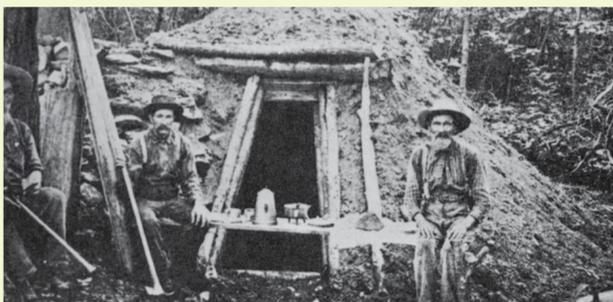
*O'Callaghan and Fernow (eds.), Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, V, 387.*

Beginning in 1714 and continuing for 90 years, bands of Tuscarora migrated from North Carolina to southern New York. Most of the families followed the Tuscarora Path up the valleys of the Susquehanna River to New York, but many also made their own paths. All along the routes, many mountains, streams, valleys and towns bear the name Tuscarora, evidence of this 500-mile migration.

Local tradition holds that sometime between 1715 and 1722 the Tuscarora briefly dwelled in the Locust Valley.

The League of Five Nations welcomed the Tuscarora and made them the sixth nation in the League. Although not equal with the other five tribes, the Tuscarora voiced their opinions through one of the other tribes.

Today, 700 Tuscarora Indians are still part of the League of Six Nations and now have equality with the other tribes. Tuscarora State Park was named to honor these transient residents of Pennsylvania.

**HISTORY**


Before European Settlers arrived in Pennsylvania, a deep forest of hemlock, white pine, ash, hickory, elm, oak, cherry and American chestnut covered the Locust Valley.

The Lenni Lenape claimed the land, then it was conquered by the Susquehannocks, and finally controlled by the New York Iroquois League of Five Nations.

When settlers discovered anthracite coal in Schuylkill County, immigrants swiftly arrived for the mining jobs reaching the Locust Valley in the mid-1800s. It was not economically feasible to mine the coal in the Locust Valley, but the area did not escape the American Industrial Revolution.

The forests fell to the logger's ax as sawmills turned the trees into lumber, shingles, tool handles and other wood products.

Tanneries crushed hemlock and white pine bark for tanning leather. Colliers burned chestnuts and oaks into charcoal. Strong timbers supported the roofs of mines. The forests were gone by the early 1900s, replaced by shrubby land prone to seasonal floods and forest fires. Some farmers tilled the cleared land.

Purchased by the Marshalonis Brothers, the Locust Lake area became a fishing spot and picnic grove. When digging a lake, the brothers found a dam, boards and the hub of a waterwheel under seven feet of leaves, silt and debris. The remains of an old logging mill and dam were buried under silt from flooding and runoff caused by the removal of all of the trees for lumber during the logging era.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the Marshalonis Brothers land in 1966. Locust Lake State Park officially opened on June 10, 1972.

Tuscarora State Park was purchased in the early 1960s. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania constructed the dam for flood control and recreation. Tuscarora State Park officially opened on June 26, 1971

**Tuscarora Indians**

The Tuscarora Tribe of American Indians dwelled in small villages along several major rivers in the coastal plains of North Carolina. After contact with European traders, the Tuscarora became avid fur traders. Land-hungry settlers dealt unfairly with the Tuscarora. Years of unequal trade,

**NATURAL RESOURCES**
**Locust Valley**

Tuscarora and Locust Lake state parks are six miles from each other in the Locust Valley. Locust Lake is in the western side of the valley near the headwaters of Locust Creek. After meandering east six miles along Locust Mountain, Locust Creek flows into Tuscarora Lake and eventually to the Schuylkill River. Surrounded by lands that were strip-mined for coal, Locust Valley is a green oasis of forests and wetlands abounding in wildlife.

**A Striking Difference**

In contrast to the strip-mined lands surrounding the Locust Valley, Tuscarora and Locust Lake state parks are lush forests, fields and wetlands.

Although extensively logged in the 1800s, the land is reforested with second and third growth timber. The mixed oak forest contains scattered patches of eastern hemlock and white pine, but is dominated by northern red oak, chestnut oak, white oak and other trees like sycamore, yellow birch, red maple, white ash and tulip poplar. The diversity of trees supplies food for squirrel, chipmunk, bear, deer, turkey and grouse, and provides nesting sites and cover for wildlife.

To slow soil erosion, over 110 acres of fields in Tuscarora State Park were planted with Austrian, eastern white, red and pitch pines, Japanese and European larches, Norway and white spruces, and eastern hemlocks. In 1966, about 50,000 trees of each species were planted. Look for areas where the trees are all in rows and are the same species to find these tree plantations.

A variety of smaller trees and shrubs grow under the large trees and provide food and shelter for wildlife. Ironwood and spicebush are good browse for deer. Black locust, flowering and silky dogwood, mountain laurel, rhododendron, blueberry and serviceberry have beautiful flowers and edible fruit and seeds for wildlife. Ferns, wildflowers, herbs and grasses on the forest floor provide shelter and runways for smaller animals like mice, chipmunks, snakes, salamanders and insects. Locust Lake State Park boasts 15 species of ferns and over 240 species of wildflowers.

Both state parks manage several fields for wildlife food and habitat. These meadows support a complex food web of plants, insects and animals. There are about 134 acres of open fields by the entrance of Tuscarora State Park. These old fields and upland meadows



Black Bear

contain natural herbaceous vegetation and are managed for plant diversity by periodic mowing. Small "islands" in each area are not mowed and allowed to grow. Also, permanent brush fields are maintained for wildlife. These 96 acres are planted with cover or food for wildlife. Some of the shrubs are blueberry, huckleberry and scrub oak.

Thirty-eight acres of Locust Lake by the dam are periodically mowed to prevent natural succession by trees. Wildflowers, tall grasses and other herbaceous plants provide roots, leaves, nectar and pollen for a host of meadow-dwelling creatures. Some species of wildlife inhabiting this area are shrews, moles, meadow voles, meadow mice, butterflies and moths, and hundreds of other insect species. These insects and small animals attract the carnivores that prey on them like hawks, owls and foxes.



Fox kits

The edges of Locust Creek and Tuscarora and Locust lakes are riparian areas, also called wetlands. The often-wet soil is inhospitable to many plants, but sphagnum moss, rushes, burreed, skunk cabbage and cattails can only

live in wetlands. This vegetation is important to the ecosystem of the lake. Plants provide food for fish and wildlife, hiding places for smaller organisms, spawning and nursery areas for fish, and contribute to the dissolved oxygen supply. Aquatic vegetation in the lakes like milfoil, coontail, cattail and curlyleaf pondweed are homes to insect larvae like dragonflies and mayflies.



Cattails

Many unique animals depend on wetlands. In and around water at Tuscarora and Locust Lake state parks, you can see pickerel frogs, bullfrogs, red-spotted newts, great blue herons, painted turtles, crayfish, water snakes and many fish and waterfowl.

Wetlands are not only important to plants and animals, but provide a great service to people. Wetlands slow floods and clean water and are one reason that the water in the Locust Valley is so clean.

**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 at Locust Lake / Tuscarora**

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

**Nearest Hospitals to Locust Lake**  
 Schuylkill Medical Center  
 420 South Jackson Street  
 Pottsville, PA 17901  
 570-621-5000  
 or  
 Schuylkill Medical Center  
 700 East Norwegian Street  
 Pottsville, PA 17901  
 570-621-4000

**Nearest Hospital to Tuscarora**

St. Luke's Hospital - Miners Campus  
 360 West Ruddle Street  
 Coaldale, PA 18218  
 570-645-2131


 **Information and Reservations**
**For More Information Contact**

Tuscarora State Park  
 687 Tuscarora Park Road  
 Bamesville, PA 18214-9715  
 GPS: Lat. 40.8092 Long. -76.02063  
 Office: 570-467-2404  
 Locust Lake Contact Station: 570-467-2772  
 email: tuscarorasp@pa.gov

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.

 **Pocket Ranger™ App by Parks by Nature**

**THE OFFICIAL PA STATE PARKS & FORESTS GUIDE**  
**POCKET RANGER**

**DOWNLOAD OUR APP**  
**GET ALL OF OUR MAPS!**  
 Help preserve DCNR's print resources by going mobile!



**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!

- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau. [www.schuylkill.org](http://www.schuylkill.org)

# TUSCARORA STATE PARK

## Recreational Opportunities

**CAMPING COTTAGES:** Six cottages sleep five people in bunk beds and have windows, porch, picnic table, fire ring and electric lights and outlets.

**YURTS:** These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep four or five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, microwave oven, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat and outlets, fire ring and two picnic tables.

**PICNICKING:** Over 250 picnic tables are available year-round. Two picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Modern restrooms are available April through October.



**BOAT MOORING:** There are 125 seasonal boat mooring spaces and 20 canoe racks at Tuscarora State Park. The season begins April 1 and ends October 31 annually. A state park mooring permit can be purchased at the park office.

### Hiking: 7.8 miles of trails

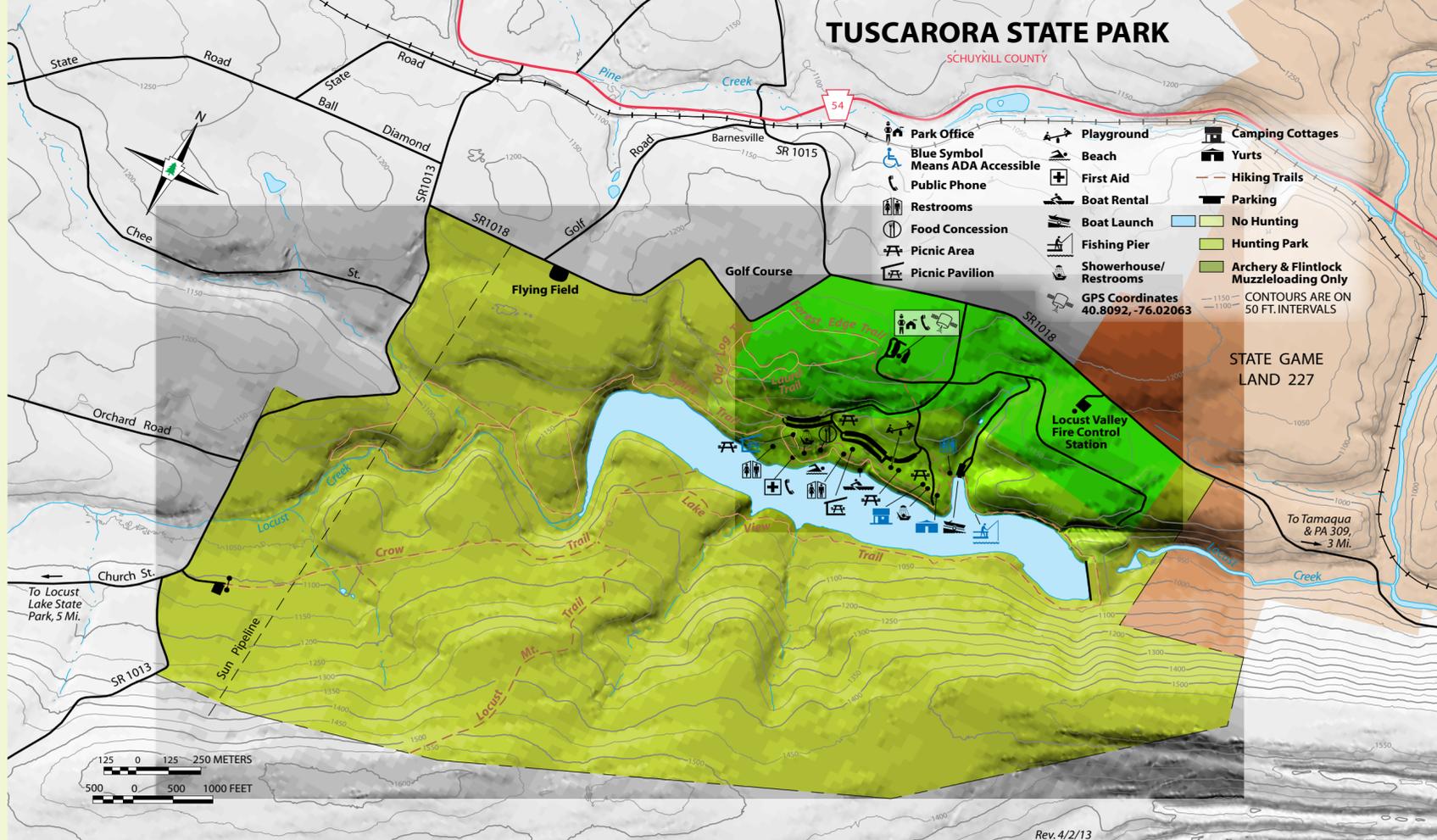
The trails wander through several habitats like mature deciduous forest, meadow and agricultural fields.

**CROW TRAIL:** 1.4 miles, easiest hiking, yellow blazes

This old dirt road passes through many habitats, including mature deciduous forest, pine and larch plantation, grass fields, and overgrown meadow. This trail ends at the southern shore of Tuscarora Lake.

**FOREST EDGE TRAIL:** 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

This grass covered trail winds along the edge of a mature forest and agricultural



fields. The trail provides access to Old Log Trail and the park office and visitor center.

**LAKE VIEW TRAIL:** 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

One end of Lake View Trail is in the day use area. The other end meets Crow Trail. Lake View Trail runs parallel to Tuscarora Lake, crosses two creeks, and passes through a large rhododendron stand and a hemlock forest. The trail crosses the dam, allowing for spectacular views of the lake.

A 5.5-mile loop around Tuscarora Lake can be made by hiking Lake View, Spirit of Tuscarora and Crow trails.

**LAUREL TRAIL:** 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

Accessed from Old Log or Forest Edge trails, this grassy road was used to cut trees that died from severe gypsy moth damage. This short loop provides views of mountain laurel and a mature forest.

**LOCUST MOUNTAIN TRAIL:** 0.4 mile, more difficult hiking

An old fire access road winding through a

mature deciduous forest on a fairly steep slope, this trail takes you from Crow Trail to the top of Locust Mountain.

**OLD LOG TRAIL:** 0.3 mile, easiest hiking

This old logging road winds through a mature deciduous forest. It has a slight grade and connects to Laurel and Forest Edge trails and the west end parking area.

**SPIRIT OF TUSCARORA TRAIL:** 4.5 miles, more difficult hiking; red, white and yellow blazes

This is a trail of varying terrain and land features. The trail meanders along Tuscarora Lake and Locust Creek and through mature deciduous forest, a mature eastern hemlock stand, a late successional field, a rhododendron thicket and a wetland meadow. Highlights include year-round seasonal wildflowers, large milkweed patch for monarch butterflies, freshwater mussels, abundant neo-tropical songbirds and the "Spirit Tree" for which the trail is named.



## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT BOTH PARKS

### BOATING: electric motors only

The 96-acre Tuscarora Lake has a boat launch and boat mooring. The 52-acre Locust Lake has a boat launch. Rowboats, canoes, kayaks and pedal boats are available through a boat rental concession at each park.

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.



**SWIMMING:** A sand beach at each park is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. Swimming areas are marked with buoys and have a maximum depth of 5.5 feet.

Tuscarora State Park has a food concession by the swimming area that serves hot food, ice cream and snacks. Swimmers at Locust Lake State Park can buy food and snacks at the camp store/boat rental.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 1,100 acres of Tuscarora State Park and about 1,728 acres of Locust Lake State Park are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, grouse and dove.

Special regulations areas allowing only bow and arrow and flintlock muzzleloader hunting are located by the park entrance of Tuscarora and at several areas of Locust Lake.

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. 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.

**ENJOY THE WINTER:** Special winter season activities in the parks include ice skating, ice fishing and sledding. It is recommended that you contact the park office to determine ice and snow conditions at the parks. The ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment. Ice fishing is permitted during the winter season with trout and panfish being the primary species caught at both lakes.



**FISHING:** The 96-acre Tuscarora Lake is a warm-water fishery. Popular species are bass, muskellunge, pickerel, catfish,



yellow perch and sunfish. Night fishing is permitted. There is an ADA accessible fishing pier at the boat launch.

The 52-acre Locust Lake is a warm-water fishery and receives several stockings of brown and brook trout annually. Pickerel, bass (largemouth and smallmouth) and panfish give anglers action in all seasons.

Fishermen who are not camping are required to use the fishermen's parking area near the park entrance. There is an ADA accessible fishing pier by the program pavilion on the north side of the lake.

### 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.

Tell us about your hike at:



## LOCUST LAKE STATE PARK

### Recreational Opportunities

**CAMPING:** modern restrooms, warm showers

GPS: Lat. 40.78499 Long -76.11921

The 282 campsites are divided into tent or trailer sites that encircle the lake. Tenting is permitted on the north side of the lake and in the trailer facilities are on the south side of the lake. All areas are within easy access to swimming, boating, fishing and hiking.

All campsites are in a wooded area and have a parking pad, picnic table, fire ring and a cleared area for camping equipment. There are also a number of walk-in sites. Campground conveniences include

modern restrooms and washhouses with shower facilities. A sanitary dump station is on the trailer side of the lake. Trash/recycling areas are on the north and south sides of the lake.

A campstore/boat rental is near the fishermen's launching area on the western side of the lake and has basic food and camping supplies like wood and bait, boat rentals and a public phone.

**PLAYGROUNDS:** There are three play areas within the campgrounds. Two playgrounds are in the trailer loops and one is on the tent side of the lake. Playground equipment is designed for a variety of age groups.



**BIKING:** A paved, 1.3-mile bike trail circles the lake and gives an excellent view of the lake.

### Hiking: 4.75 miles of trails



**OAK/RIDGE TRAIL:** 0.75 mile, easiest hiking, white/blue blazes  
This interpretive trail winds along a woodland creek, through a mature forest and

through young woodland areas. Along the entire loop of this self-guiding trail, species of trees and other vegetation are marked and posted with educational signs.

**OAK/HEMLOCK TRAIL:** 2 miles, more difficult hiking, white/yellow blazes  
This trail is blazed through a mature hemlock stand through which flows a woodland stream. The trail also passes by a unique geological outcropping.

**OAK LOOP TRAIL:** 4 miles, most difficult hiking, white blazes  
The longest of the loop trails, it encircles a ridge covered by a mature deciduous forest.

