



# Susquehanna State Park

## A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide

9/2015



This 20-acre riverfront recreational area is in the city of Williamsport. The Williamsport Chamber of Commerce operates this park in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

### Directions

From US 220, take the Reach Road Exit. Turn right onto Reach Road. Turn right onto Arch Street. The park entrance is on the right side of the north side of the Arch Street Bridge.

### Recreational Opportunities

**BOATING: unlimited hp motors permitted**  
A boat launch provides access to the West Branch Susquehanna River and the 652-acre Hepburn Street Dam that provides water for motorboating and water-skiing.

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.

**FISHING:** The Susquehanna River has warmwater and coldwater fishing. Common species are smallmouth bass, panfish, and catfish. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**PICNICKING:** Riverside picnic tables are scattered throughout the park. A picnic pavilion may be reserved by calling 570-326-2500. If unreserved, the picnic pavilion is available for free on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Riverboat Tours

The modern paddlewheeler, Hiawatha, offers river excursions May through October. Call 570-326-2500 for information and tickets. [www.ridehiawatha.com](http://www.ridehiawatha.com)

**SOUVENIRS:** The Hiawatha House has river excursion tickets, souvenirs, and a variety of snacks, sandwiches, and beverages during the operational season of the Hiawatha Paddlewheeler.

### History

The West Branch Susquehanna River was a travel route for settlers to the interior of Pennsylvania. In 1833, the West Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal opened from Northumberland to Lock Haven, passing

through the current state park. By the late 1800s, logging became the main industry of the area. At this time, it was not uncommon in the spring to find the river jammed bank-to-bank with timber floating to mills downstream.

The initial land for the park was purchased for flood control. Susquehanna State Park was created through the joint efforts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the city of Williamsport. The park occupies the floodplain between the river and the flood control levy. The park is the only "riverfront recreational area" constructed by the former Department of Forests and Waters, a precursor to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The park opened to the public in 1961.

### Watching Wildlife

The rich soil of the floodplain supports a diversity of vegetation, dominated by silver maple and black cherry trees. Although primarily forested, there are areas of wetlands and open grassy areas. Waterfowl migrate through the park in the spring and fall. Songbirds use the island as a rest stop during migrations.

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Lycoming County Visitor's Bureau, 800-358-9900. [www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com) and the Susquehanna River Valley Visitor's Bureau, 800-525-7320. [www.visitcentralpa.org](http://www.visitcentralpa.org)

Williamsport hosts the Little League World Series every August.



### Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

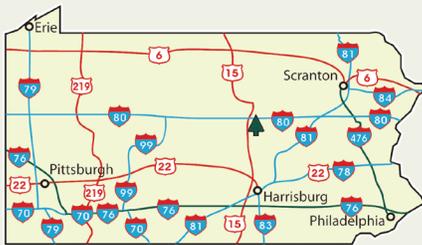


### In an Emergency

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

### NEAREST HOSPITAL

Williamsport Regional Medical Center  
700 High Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-321-1000



## More Information

Susquehanna State Park  
c/o Shikellamy State Park  
Bridge Avenue  
Sunbury, PA 17801-1005  
GPS DD: Lat. 41.22743 Long. -77.04582  
570-988-5557  
email: [shikellamysp@pa.gov](mailto:shikellamysp@pa.gov)

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### Information

[www.visitPAparks.com](http://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.



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