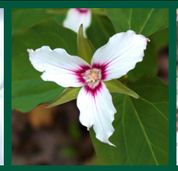
A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Cherry Springs State Park

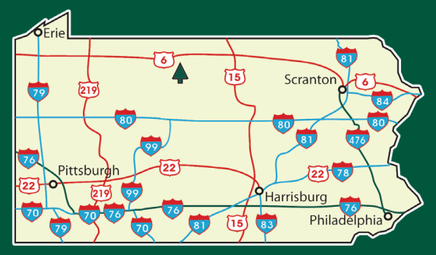








pennsylvania DCNR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Cherry Springs State Park
c/o Lyman Run State Park
454 Lyman Run Road
Galeton, PA 16922
814-435-1037
LymanRunSP@pa.gov

Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks PAStateParks

An Equal Opportunity Employer

2023

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.

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 DD: Lat 41.663874 Long -77.823236

Recreational Opportunities

PICNICKING: Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available near the Night Sky Public Viewing Area.

HIKING: Walk the 1-mile, self-guided trail to learn how the forest of Cherry Spring State Park is an essential part of our lives.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: On weekends in the summer, park staff or special guests may present educational programs during the afternoon or early evening. Virtual weekday programming may also be available. Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

WOODSMEN'S SHOW: Since 1952, the annual Woodsmen's Show attracts thousands of spectators for the early August event. The show features lumberjack contests and chainsaw events.

History

Early Settlement

In 1818, Jonathan Edgcomb constructed a log house along the Jersey Shore Pike in Potter County. It came to be known as the Cherry Springs Tavern.

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.

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. The men of the camp cleared underbrush, opened trails, and constructed 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. It is now the Night Sky Public Viewing Area.

Stargazing Opportunities

There are three distinct areas for stargazing at Cherry Springs State Park -- The Night Sky Public Viewing Area, Cherry Springs Rustic Campground, and the Overnight Astronomy Observation Field. Cherry Springs can be cold and damp, even in the summer. Wear proper footgear and dress warmly. Lawn chairs, a blanket, binoculars, telescope, or astro-photography equipment may enhance your experience. All flashlights need to have a red filter. **Pets are prohibited** in all three stargazing areas.



North American Nebula

Night Sky Public Viewing Area

On the northeast side of PA Route 44, the Night Sky Public Viewing Area accommodates casual stargazers and observers who only intend to observe for a few hours. This area is protected from light pollution using landscaping and natural plantings. Please arrive before sunset to familiarize yourself to the park. After parking in the visitor parking lot, follow the path past the information kiosk to the open viewing field.

Public stargazing programs are available on weekends late spring through early fall, weather permitting. Programs are presented by park staff or guest speakers near the amphitheater. Some programs may require registration. Cherry Springs program schedules are available on the Calendar of Events. https://events.dcnr.pa.gov

Cherry Springs Rustic Campground

Open early April to late October, the Cherry Springs Rustic Campground resides in a gently sloping meadow with very few trees adjacent to the Night Sky Public Viewing Area. Each of the 30 campsites include a picnic table and fire ring and use of the sanitary dump station. Visitors are welcome to campsites from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Quiet hours are from 10:00 PM to 9:00 AM.

The campground often fills up during peak viewing nights, such as those on either side of the new moon phase and on nights when meteor showers are peaking. Advance reservations are recommended. Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.



Rho Ophiuchi Cloud Complex

Overnight Astronomy Observation Field

On the southwest side of PA Route 44 is the Overnight Astronomy Observation Field. Serious observers with telescopes, astro-photography equipment, or astro-binoculars may use this area for the full night.

A nightly fee permit is required to set up on the Overnight Astronomy Observation Field. Fee envelopes are available at the Registration Kiosk. Please follow the written instructions, posted fee schedule, and list your location on the field. After sealing the registration envelope with required fees, remove the permit with permit conditions and deposit the registration envelope in the fee deposit tube.

Electricity for charging portable power banks, telescope mounts, small appliances, or laptops is available from electric pedestals on the field. Each pedestal has six 15-amp, 120-volt, ground fault protected, power outlets. When the field is in heavy use, outlets must be shared. RV/camper hookup is prohibited.

Visitors are welcome from 9:00 AM to midnight. Quiet hours are from midnight to 9:00 AM.

White lights, lasers, campfires, driving after sunset and cooking that causes excessive smoke, open flame or spattering are prohibited.

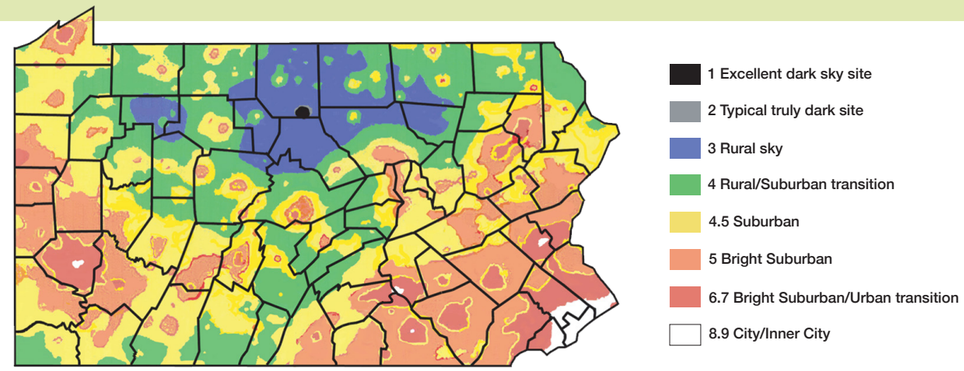
Permit Conditions

Dark Skies

Dark Skies

Amateur astronomers realized Cherry Springs State Park had one of the darkest skies in the northeast and began stargazing in the park. Recognizing 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 facts and other efforts, Cherry Springs became the second International Dark Sky Park in the world by attaining a Gold Level International Dark Sky Park certification from the International Dark Sky Association in 2008.



Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter Tioga, 888-846-4228. www.visitpottertioga.com.

Lyman Run State Park offers fishing, camping facilities and ATV and hiking trailheads. 814-435-5010

The 262,000-acre **Susquehannock State Forest** offers hiking, biking, snowmobile, and ATV trails. 814-274-3600

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting, and exploration in north-central Pennsylvania. www.pawilds.com

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.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
UPMC Cole
1001 East Second Street
Coudersport, PA 16915
814-274-9300

CHERRY SPRINGS STATE PARK

SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE FOREST

N

To Sweden Valley & US 6, 10.8 Mi. Coudersport, 14.8 Mi.

44

Cherry Springs Working Forest Interpretive Trail

Visitor Parking (Turf)

4 3 2 1

Information Kiosk

MAIN ENTRANCE

Night Sky Public Viewing Area

Begin one-way road

Campground

27 29 30 28 26 24 23 22 21 20 25

Rustic

10 11 12 13 14 15 19 18 17 16 9 7 8 6 4 2 1 3 5

Fee Required

Fence

Registration Kiosk

Historic Cherry Springs Tavern

Milky Way Blvd.

Orion Ave.

Cygnus Ave.

Galaxy Ave.

Pavilion Ave.

Star Ave.

Nova Ave.

Historic CCC Pavilion

Overnight Astronomy Observation Field

West Branch Road

To Carter Camp, 7.5 Mi.

To Conrad, 5.2 Mi. & Wharton, 15.2 Mi.

FOREST

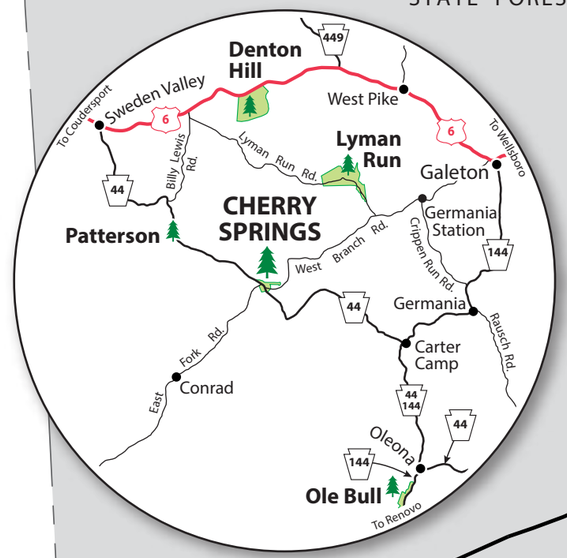
East Fork Road

STATE

SUSQUEHANNOCK

Cherry Springs Working Forest Interpretive Trail

SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE FOREST



- Camper Check-In
- ADA Accessible
- Emergency Phone
- Water
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Trash
- Wayside Exhibit
- Amphitheater
- Picnic Area
- Non-electric Campsite
- Walk-to Campsite
- Pull-thru Site
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Tenting Only
- Light Shielding Berms
- Path or Hiking Trail
- Unpaved Walkway (Seasonally Lit)
- Unpaved Road
- Paved Road
- One-way Road
- Gate
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Stargazing Area

GPS DD:
Lat. 41.663874
Long. -77.823236

To Galeton & US 6, 11.4 Mi. Wellsboro, 31.8 Mi.

West Branch Road

50 0 50 100 METERS

200 0 200 400 FEET

Park Office
c/o Lyman Run State Park
454 Lyman Run Road
Galeton, PA 16922
814-435-1037

911 Address
4639 Cherry Springs Road
Coudersport, PA 16915

Rev. 9/13/23