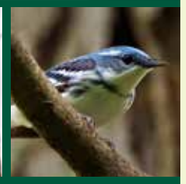
A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Kettle Creek State Park









pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Kettle Creek State Park
97 Kettle Creek Park Lane
Renovo, PA 17764-9708
570-923-6004
KettleCreekSP@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

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2023

Kettle Creek State Park

Surrounded by mountainous terrain and wilderness in northwestern Clinton County, the 1,793-acre Kettle Creek State Park provides modern facilities along a creek and 167-acre lake. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers operates the Alvin R. Bush Dam which creates 4.5 miles of natural, scenic shoreline along the Kettle Creek Reservoir.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.37517 Long. -77.93277

The park is along SR 4001, seven miles north from PA 120 at Westport and six miles south from PA 144 at Hammersley Fork.

Reservations

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.

Recreational Opportunities

BOATING: electric motors only; slow, no-wake speed
The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is an ideal place to kayak and canoe. A boat launch and boat mooring for 60 watercraft are at the northern end of the lake. An overnight mooring permit is required. Sailboards and sailboats are permitted. Overnight mooring for park campers is also available, free of charge.

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, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILHEAD: A 22-mile equestrian trail system starts at Beaverdam Run and travels through Sproul State Forest before returning to the trailhead. Contact the park office for information.

PICNICKING: The picnic area is below the park office along Bearfield Run and Kettle Creek Reservoir. Many picnic tables with charcoal grills, hot coals disposal, and water hydrants are scattered throughout this area. Sunny and shaded picnic sites are available. Restrooms are near the parking lot and at the park office.

In addition to several playgrounds, there is a volleyball court, disc golf course, and large, open fields.

Near the park office is Britts Pavilion, a large memorial picnic pavilion with electricity. It is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Near the lake is Pine Grove Picnic Area, a reservable picnic grove.

FISHING: The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is noted for its trout and bass fishing. Also found in the lake are brown bullheads, suckers, and many species of panfish.

Kettle Creek is noted for its excellent water quality that supports a healthy aquatic population and is routinely stocked with trout. Abandoned mine drainage limits the fishing quality below Lower Campground.

Many excellent native trout streams surround the park. Additional information on fishing is available at the park office.



Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply. Fishing licenses are available nearby at several issuing agents.

♿ **CAMPING: modern and rustic campsites, some with electric**
The park has two camping areas with sunny or shady sites that accommodate tents or trailers. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. Water spigots are scattered throughout the campgrounds.

Along Kettle Creek, Lower Campground has modern electric campsites. The campground has a nature center, playgrounds, ADA accessible fishing pier, sanitary dump station, and restrooms with warm showers.

Overlooking the scenic reservoir, Upper Campground has pet-friendly, rustic campsites (electric, non-electric, and tent only). Upper Campground has a playground, nature trail, and non-flush restrooms with no showers. Showers are available in the Lower Campground for an additional fee.

Both campgrounds open in early April. Upper Campground closes in mid-October. Lower Campground closes in mid-December.

HIKING: 2 miles
Park trails connect to longer trails in Sproul State Forest giving hikers options for short strolls up to overnight backpacking trips. With a trailhead in the parking lot across from Lower Campground, backpackers can access the 53-mile Donut Hole Trail. This trail connects onto several other trail systems. Trail maps are available at the park office.

♿ **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** Most of the park is open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, black bear, elk, wild turkey, and squirrels.

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 uncased 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 vehicle or enclosed trailer. 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.

Winter Activities

The park is open throughout the winter. The day use area provides access to all trails and activities.

ICE FISHING: The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is stocked with trout for the winter season. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single angler and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

SNOWMOBILING: Snowmobiles must stay on designated trails and have a current registration. Park trails connect to many miles of trails in the surrounding Sproul State Forest.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skiing is permitted throughout the park.

SLEDDING: The gentle slopes below the park office make for excellent sledding.

Wildlife Watching



Bobcat

The remote nature of the park makes it a wonderful place to see wildlife. Black bears, white-tailed deer, and wild turkeys are common residents. Elusive residents are elk, river otters, bobcats, and fishers. Kettle Creek Reservoir is a beacon for waterfowl and wading birds, especially during spring and fall migrations. Habitats like wetlands, grassy areas, fields, edges between habitats, and a variety of forest types serve as home and breeding grounds for a multitude of songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, and mammals. Bald eagles and osprey are often seen along the lake and stream.

Learn, Experience, Connect

Kettle Creek State Park offers a wide variety of programs April through October. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are offered for teachers.

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.

History

Kettle Creek State Park is named after the popular trout stream that flows through the area.

From their camp in what is now Lower Campground, the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp S-122-PA developed the original park in the 1930s.

In 1962, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the Alvin R. Bush Dam for flood protection for the lower Susquehanna River watershed. The area above the dam was developed for recreation and is administered by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Clinton County Economic Partnership Tourist Agency. www.clintoncountyinfo.com/Tourism.htm

The 278,000-acre **Sproul State Forest** surrounds Kettle Creek State Park and offers hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, backpacking, snowmobiling, pleasure driving, and ATV riding. All areas of Sproul State Forest are open to hunting and fishing. Camping permits are required before setting up camp on state forest lands. Three miles west of the park, **Kettle Creek Vista**, provides a breathtaking view of the Kettle Creek Valley. 570-923-6011

The **Pennsylvania Flaming Foliage Festival** in Renovo, Pa., is the second full weekend in October.

Nearby Services

A gas station, coin-operated laundry, grocery store, restaurants, vehicle repair shops, and a hospital are in Renovo, 16 miles southeast of the park along PA 120. Currently, a nearby cell tower provides cell service within the park and surrounding area to Verizon users. Cell service by other providers is available in Renovo.

Explore Pennsylvania Wilds

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting, and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Highlights of the area are elk watching, scenic PA 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. 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 and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Bucktail Medical Center
1001 Pine Street
South Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-1000

KETTLE CREEK STATE PARK

SPROUL STATE FOREST

HAMMERSLEY WILD AREA

KETTLE CREEK RESERVOIR

WHISKEY SPRINGS ATV AREA

Kettle Creek Vista

UPPER Nature Trail

Courtesy Docks

Hunting & Fishing Permitted
Walk in Only

Leidy Bridge

SR 4001

Alvin R. Bush Dam

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Trail Head Parking

CCC Dam

LOWER

To Westport, 5 Mi.

To Whiskey Springs ATV Area Trail Head, 3 Mi. & Westport, 6 Mi.

To PA 144

To Susquehannock Trail System (STS), (Orange Blazes)

Rev. 1/12/23

Park Features

- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Means ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Modern Restrooms
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Scenic View
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Picnic Grove
- Water
- Playground
- Disc Golfing
- Boat Launch
- Boat Mooring
- Camping
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Snowmobile and Equestrian Parking
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- Gate
- First Aid
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Driveable Trail
- Joint-use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- US Army Corps of Engineers No Hunting

CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVALS

500 0 500 1000 METERS

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 MILES

Trail Information

- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding, and as Designated
- Snowmobiling
- All-Terrain Vehicle Trail

