A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Ole Bull State Park



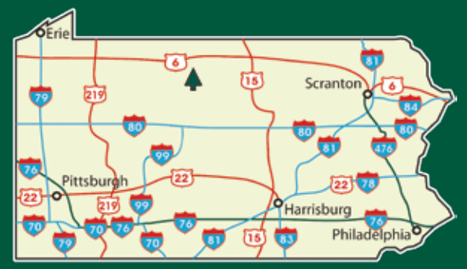






pennsylvania WILDS

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Ole Bull State Park
31 Valhalla Lane
Cross Fork, PA 17729-9701
814-435-5000
OleBullSP@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

Ole Bull State Park

Ole Bull State Park consists of 132 acres in the Kettle Creek Valley of Potter County. This area is called the Black Forest because of its once dense tree cover, mountainous terrain, and wilderness habitat.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.53712 Long. -77.71544

The park is along PA 144, 18 miles south of Galeton and 27 miles north of Renovo.

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

♿ **CAMPING: shower house**
Camping is permitted year round. Two campgrounds provide 79 sites, each with a picnic table, fire ring, and parking pad. Camping Area 1 is the non-pet area and has 32 electric and 15 non-electric sites. Open year-round, Camping Area 2 is the pet-friendly loop and has 24 electric and 8 non-electric sites. Both areas have modern shower houses and water hydrants. A sanitary dump station with potable water is located at the entrance to Camping Area 2.

OLE BULL LODGE: This one and one-half story log house can be rented year round. Rental information can be obtained at the park office. This unique house has a modern kitchen, two baths, and sleeps 12 people in three bedrooms. Pets are prohibited. Alcohol is permitted on the lodge grounds.

♿ **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 25 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, black bear, and gray and red squirrels. Hunting is permitted in the surrounding Susquehannock State Forest.

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.

WILDLIFE WATCHING: A variety of habitat types make the park a great birding location, especially during the spring migrations. Black bear and white-tailed deer are frequently seen. An active beaver dam provides a home for beavers, minks, and muskrats. Fishers, otters, and bobcats have all been observed in or around the park.

SWIMMING: The beach is in Camping Area 1 across from the day use area. The 150-foot sandy beach along Kettle Creek is open from late-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. Parking for the beach area is provided at the picnic area parking lot. Pets are prohibited in the beach area. All children ten years of age or younger must be accompanied by a person at least 14 years of age.

PICNICKING: The picnic area is along Kettle Creek and has picnic tables, fireplaces, drinking water, non-flush restrooms, playground equipment, and four picnic pavilions. 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. Pavilion 4 has electricity available when reserved.

♿ **FISHING:** The excellent water quality of Kettle Creek provides good fishing. Kettle Creek has fishing for brook, brown, and rainbow trout. A special regulation area for children and people with disabilities is located below the dam breast to the vehicle bridge. Fishing is prohibited in the swimming area and dam basin between the wires. Fishing licenses are required and are available nearby at several issuing agents. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HIKING: 4 miles

Beaver Haven Nature Trail
1.3 miles in the park, 1.8 miles total | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue and yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking

This trail travels along Kettle Creek, into Susquehannock State Forest, through a Civilian Conservation Corps pine plantation, along many riparian wetlands, and past a large beaver pond. The trail offers many options for shorter and longer loops and out-and-back hiking. It may be accessed in many locations throughout the park. Beaver Haven Extension is a 0.5-mile loop in Susquehannock State Forest.

Castle Vista Trail
1.0 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange and red blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

Accessed near the entrance to Camping Area 1, Castle Vista Trail is short but steep. It leads to an overlook of the southern portion of the park. The foundation of Ole Bull's attempted homestead is visible at the vista.

Daugherty Loop Trail
1.27 miles in the park, 2 miles total | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Red blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

From the shared trailhead near the entrance to Camping Area 1, Daugherty Loop shares the trail with the STS and Castle Vista Trail for a short length. This trail traverses the Ole Bull Run Valley including narrow sections and stairs.



Black bear cubs

Hemlock Swamp Trail
1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Blue and yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking

This multi-use trail is accessed near camper storage. It travels through the northern section of the park and showcases many riparian wetland areas that are home to our state tree, the Eastern hemlock.

Susquehannock State Forest Snowmobile Trail
0.6 mile in the park, 200+ miles total | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Red blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling, mountain biking, equestrian

From the parking lot in the day use area, this trail connects to over 200 miles of snowmobile trails within Susquehannock State Forest. Maps of the trail are available from Susquehannock State Forest and at the park office.

Susquehannock Trail System (STS)
0.34 mile in the park, 85 miles total | Most difficult hiking | Loop trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, backpacking

The Susquehannock Trail System is an 85-mile loop trail that has a trailhead in the park. Backpackers can park in the day use parking lot and must register for overnight parking on the clipboard outside of the park office. Please read posted regulations.

SNOWMOBILING: The park provides parking, non-flush restrooms, picnicking, and camping facilities throughout the winter.

A snowmobile trailhead provides access to many state forest trails. Snowmobiles are permitted on marked trails only. ATVs are prohibited. Contact the park office or Susquehannock State Forest District Office for trail maps.

Learn, Experience, Connect

Ole Bull 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

Ole Bull State Park is named for Ole Bornemann Bull, the famous Norwegian violinist who toured the United States in the mid to late 1800s. In 1852, Ole Bull purchased a large tract of land in Potter County and attempted to develop a series of Norwegian settlements.

He began construction of a "home" at what now is called Castle Vista. He never finished this cabin and all that remains is the foundation. After a year of severe hardships, the majority of the settlement disbanded and moved west into Michigan and Wisconsin. A complete history of Ole Bull is available at the park office.

The lumbering industry followed Ole Bull into the area. By the turn of the 20th century, two railroads, one on each side of Kettle Creek, were hauling logs to sawmills in the Cross Fork area. By 1920, the Commonwealth purchased vast tracts of land no longer useful to the lumber companies. In 1925, Ole Bull State Park was opened as a picnic area on a one-half acre tract of cleared land.

In the 1930s, young men from Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp S-87-PA built the original dam for the swimming area and constructed facilities like latrines, pavilions, and camping areas.

In 2002, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Ole Bull's colony, a monument was erected to honor Ole Bull. The monument was a gift from the citizens of Norway in recognition of Ole Bull's talent, foresight, and patriotism.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Potter Tioga Visitors Bureau. 888-846-4228. www.VisitPotterTioga.com

The 262,415-acre **Susquehannock State Forest** surrounds Ole Bull State Park and offers hiking, including the Susquehannock and Black Forest trail systems, and snowmobile trails. 814-274-3600

Along PA 44, 15 miles northwest, is **Cherry Springs State Park**, a great park for amateur astronomy. 814-435-1037

Kettle Creek State Park, 20 miles southwest, offers a 160-acre lake, fishing, swimming, camping, picnicking, and hiking. 570-923-6004

Lyman Run State Park, 25 miles northeast, offers fishing, camping facilities, and ATV and hiking trailheads. 814-435-5010

Nearby Services

A country store that has gas, some grocery items, and gift shop is along PA 144, seven miles south in Cross Fork.

Service garages, shopping areas, laundry facilities, and restaurants are along PA 144 north or south in Galeton or Renovo.

There is no cell phone reception in the park. There are public phones at the park office that require a calling card to use for long distance. Contact the park for the most up-to-date information on areas for obtaining cell coverage based on carrier.

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
UPMC Cole
1001 East Second Street
Coudersport, PA 16915-9762
814-274-9300

OLE BULL STATE PARK

SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE FOREST

SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE FOREST

- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Non-flush Restroom
- Shower house /Restrooms
- Water
- Ole Bull Lodge
- Amphitheater
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground
- Swimming Beach
- Camping
- Pet Friendly
- Organized Group Tenting
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking
- Susquehannock Trail System (STS)
- Snowmobiling
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Special Reg. Fishing Area (Children & People with Disabilities)
- Wetlands
- 1750 / 1700 CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

Connector Trail to Hungry Hollow Road

Susquehannock Trail System

Castle Vista Tr. (Orange Blaze)

2 Miles

Daugherty Loop Trail

Sand Volleyball Court

2nd Car Parking

Ole Bull Monument

Special Fishing Regulations Area

Fishing Prohibited

Ole Bull Run

Castle Vista Trail

Kettle Creek

Beaver Haven Nature Trail

Day Use, STS Overnight, Snowmobile Parking

Second Car and Shower House Parking

Beaver Haven Extention

Beaver Haven Nature Trail

Beaver Dam

To Renovo, 26 Mi.

144

Joerg Road

2nd Car Parking

Camper Storage

Service Road

Hemlock Swamp Trail

1 Mile

Kettle Creek

To Galeton, 18 Mi.
To Coudersport, 29 Mi.

(Orange Blaze)

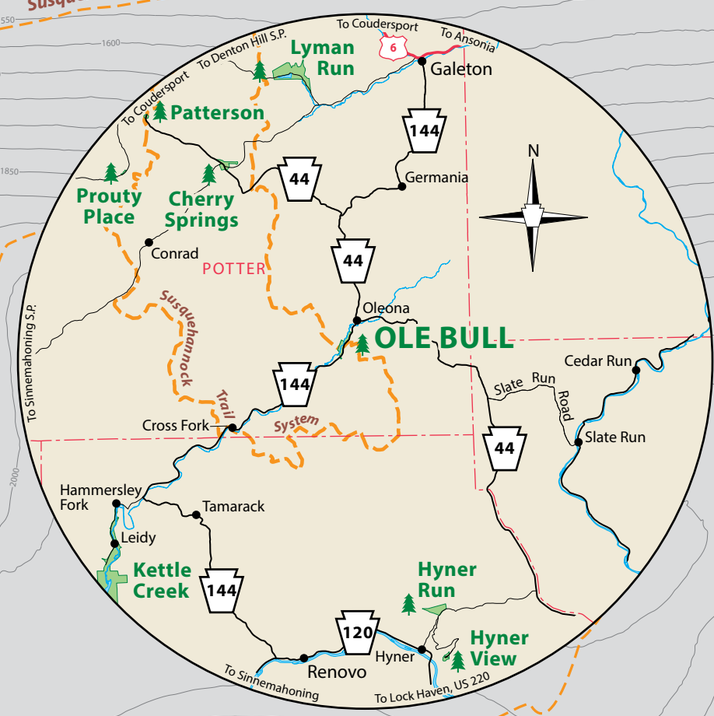
Susquehannock Trail System

(Orange Blaze)

Susquehannock Trail System

100 0 100 200 METERS

250 0 250 500 750 FEET



Rev. 12/18/23