Poe Valley State Park

Cozy Poe Valley State Park is nestled in a rugged mountain valley in Centre County. Seemingly endless forests encircle the 25-acre Poe Lake. The 620-acre state park is surrounded by the 193,000-acre Bald Eagle State Forest.

Directions to Poe Valley

GPS DD: Lat. 40.82107 Long. -77.47592

Only gravel roads surround the park. Access to Poe Valley in the winter months might be limited.

From US 322 east, take the Sand Mountain Road Exit then turn right onto Sandcrest Road. After passing over the highway, turn right onto Old Rte 322, then turn left onto Sand Mountain Road and follow signs for ten miles to the park.

From US 322 west, take the Sand Mountain Road Exit, turn right onto Sand Mountain Road, then follow signs for ten miles to the park.

From Millheim, go west on PA 45 for 1.5 miles then turn left on Paradise Road and follow signs for 12 miles to the park.

Reservations

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

Recreational Opportunities

CAMPING: flush toilets, showers, electricity
The campground opens in early April and closes in early December. All campsites are in a wooded area and are within walking distance to all other park facilities. There are 45 campsites which accommodate tents, trailers, and motor homes. 27 sites have 50-amp electric hookups. The campground has a sanitary dump station, showers, flush toilets, and drinking water. Trash and recycling containers are at the campground entrance. Alcoholic beverages and unlicensed motor vehicles are prohibited.

CAMPING COTTAGES: The three camping cottages in the campground comfortably sleep five people (three twin mattresses and one full size mattress). Each cottage has a table with benches, electric lights and receptacles, electric heat, and a porch with a table. There is a fire ring and picnic table at each site. The cottages are available during the camping season from early April to early December. There is no water in the cottages, but water is available at the nearby shower house.

DELUXE COTTAGE: Located in the campground, the deluxe cottage has two rooms. The bedroom sleeps five people in bunk beds (three twin mattresses and one full size mattress). The kitchen and dining area contains a stove, microwave oven, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, and electric heat and outlets.

There is no water in the cottage, but water is available at the nearby shower house. Outside, there is a picnic table on the porch and a nearby fire ring. The campground opens in early April and closes in early December.

FISHING: The 25-acre Poe Lake is popular for warm- and coldwater fishing, especially at the beginning of trout season in mid-April. Common game species include brown and rainbow trout, catfish, pickerel, sunfish, and perch. The lake is stocked with trout several times per season. Many enjoy the winter ice fishing season. For stream fishing, the famous Penns Creek and Big Poe Creek are within a short distance of the park.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

BOATING: electric motors only; slow, no-wake speed
There is one launch area and 12 seasonal (April 1 to October 31) reservable mooring spaces on the 25-acre lake. Campers can moor their boats by the dam during their stay.

The boat rental near the swimming beach offers paddleboats, kayaks, and canoes. The boat rental is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

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.

Life jackets must be worn in accordance with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws.



SWIMMING: The swimming beach at Poe Lake is open from late May to early September unless otherwise posted. Swimming hours are from 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. The maximum water depth of the swimming area is five feet.

The food and refreshment concession near the swimming beach offers hot foods, snacks and ice cream, as well as ice and some camping and picnic supplies. It is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

ATVS: ATVs are prohibited on state park roads and trails.

PICNICKING: The shaded picnic area by Poe Lake has drinking water, playground areas, charcoal grills, charcoal disposal containers, and ADA-accessible picnic tables. Pavilion 1 may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 450 acres of the park are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. The lake is closed to hunting and trapping. Common game species are white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, black bear, 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.



Pink lady slipper

Hiking: 1.5 miles

Deep Low Place Trail

0.25 mile in the park, 0.5 mile total | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms

Starting at the boat launch in the park, this steep, 0.5-mile trail leads up to the ridge of Big Poe Mountain and connects to Tower Trail and other Bald Eagle State Forest trails.

Hunters Path

0.25 mile in the park, 0.5 mile total | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes

From the south side of the park, this steep trail leads up to the ridge of Little Poe Mountain, connecting to the Mid State Trail and other smaller trail systems in Bald Eagle State Forest.

Nature Trail

1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water

This loop trail makes for a scenic trip along Big Poe Creek and past dense thickets of mountain laurel. Several vernal pools can be spotted along the trail in the spring.



Winter Activities

Access to Poe Valley during the winter months may be limited. Winter maintenance is not performed on park roads or state forest roads that access Poe Valley. Caution must be used when traveling to Poe Valley during the winter season.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: No specific trails are designated for cross-country skiing, but most skiers use local roads since only minimal snow plowing is done. Skiers should be cautious since snowmobiles and four-wheel drive vehicles also use many of these roads.

ICE FISHING: Ice fishing is popular on the 25-acre Poe Lake. **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: Registered snowmobiles may use Poe Valley Road in the park and surrounding state forest roads daily after the end of the rifle deer season in December. Most roads are joint-use roads shared by snowmobiles and motor vehicles. Please snowmobile safely.

Poe Paddy State Park

Poe Paddy State Park is at the confluence of Big Poe Creek and Penns Creek, a trout angler's paradise featuring the nationally-recognized green drake mayfly hatch in late spring. Hikers enjoy the Mid State Trail through the 250-foot-long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel.

Please contact Poe Valley or Reeds Gap state parks for more information on Poe Paddy State Park.

Directions to Poe Paddy

GPS DD: Lat. 40.83379 Long. -77.4176

Only gravel roads surround the park.

Access to Poe Paddy during the winter months may be limited. Winter maintenance is not performed on park roads or state forest roads that access Poe Paddy. Caution must be used when traveling to Poe Paddy during the winter season, especially since roads are joint-use with snowmobiles.

After following the directions to Poe Valley State Park, continue past Poe Valley State Park for three miles to Poe Paddy State Park.

From Millheim, go west on PA 45 for 1.5 miles then turn left on Paradise Road and follow signs for 15 miles to the park.

Recreational Opportunities

CAMPING: non-flush restrooms and some electric hookups
Five small Adirondack-style lean-tos and 32 tent and trailer campsites are open from early April until mid-December.

The Poe Paddy Campground has non-flush restrooms and drinking water. Campers can use the sanitary dump station at nearby Poe Valley State Park. For a fee, campers can use the showers at Poe Valley State Park.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult and youth groups can rent the group tenting area, which is open from early April to mid-December. The area holds up to 20 people and has picnic tables, water, and non-flush restrooms. Advance reservations are recommended.

FISHING: Excellent trout fishing is available in Big Poe Creek, which flows through the Poe Paddy Campground. Fantastic fly hatches emerge from Penns Creek. The nationally-known Green Drake Hatch usually occurs in late May or early June.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

PICNICKING: Two first-come, first-served picnic pavilions with four picnic tables each are available for year-round use.

SNOWMOBILING: Marked gravel roads in the area are open for registered snowmobiles after deer season in December. Please remember, roads also are used by motor vehicles. ATVs are prohibited on state park and state forest roads.

Trails: 0.25 mile

John and Ann Snyder Trail

0.25 mile in the park, 1 mile total | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms

Traveling along Penns Creek, the 1-mile trail offers opportunities for diverse plant and wildlife viewing and offers a walkable path to the Poe Paddy Tunnel.

Penns Creek Rail Trail

3.0 miles outside the park | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, biking

From Tunnel Spur Road which begins in the park, this easy rail-trail journeys through the Poe Paddy Tunnel, a former railroad tunnel converted for hiking and biking purposes, then continues on for 3 miles of flat, easy traveling.

Park Information Available at Both Locations

History

Poe Valley State Park was named for Big Poe Creek, which flows through the valley.

Poe Paddy's unusual name comes from Poe Mountain to the west and Paddy Mountain to the east.

Poe Paddy lies on the site of Poe Mills, a prosperous but short-lived, lumbering town of the 1880s and 1890s. Poe Mills had a population of over three hundred in 1890. Built in 1879, the main railroad line ran very near Poe Mills and a spur track ran to the Poe Paddy area. Many small, temporary timber railroads were built through most of the mountain valleys. Big Poe Creek was dammed to provide water to the steam-powered sawmill. In the early 1900s, a scenic excursion train ran a loop from Milroy to Poe Paddy and back.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built camp S-63-PA a few miles west of Poe Valley. This camp housed 200 young men who created the park and built many of the roads and trails. In 1937, the men completed the dam creating the 25-acre Poe Lake. At Poe Paddy, the men built the pavilions and two Adirondack shelters. A wooden sign marks the site of the camp, whose remaining structures are now used as private hunting camps.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau. www.centralpacvb.org

The surrounding 193,000 acres of **Bald Eagle State Forest** have hiking, hunting, fishing, scenic overlooks, natural areas, and other outdoor recreational opportunities. For information, maps, and wood permits, please contact Bald Eagle State Forest.
570-922-3344

Mid State Trail

0.8 mile in the park, 327 miles total | Easiest hiking in the park | Point-to-point trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, backpacking
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, potable water

The 327-mile Mid State Trail offers a hiking path across the state of Pennsylvania. A small section of the Mid State Trail passes through Poe Valley and Poe Paddy and allows hikers and backpackers an opportunity to rest as they continue on. To hike through the 250-foot-long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel, follow the Mid State Trail upstream along Penns Creek, then cross the pedestrian bridge to the tunnel.

Learn, Experience, Connect

The park educator offers a wide variety of programs from 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.

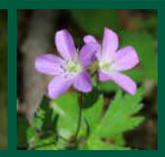
For more information on programs and other learning experiences, contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events.
https://events.dcnr.pa.gov

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Poe Valley and Poe Paddy State Parks









Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Poe Valley and Poe Paddy State Parks
c/o Reeds Gap State Park
1405 New Lancaster Valley Road
Milroy, PA 17063-9735
814-349-2460. If no answer 717-667-3622
ReedsGapSP@pa.gov

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

www.pa.gov/state-parks

PAStateParks

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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 to summon medical, fire, or safety professionals.

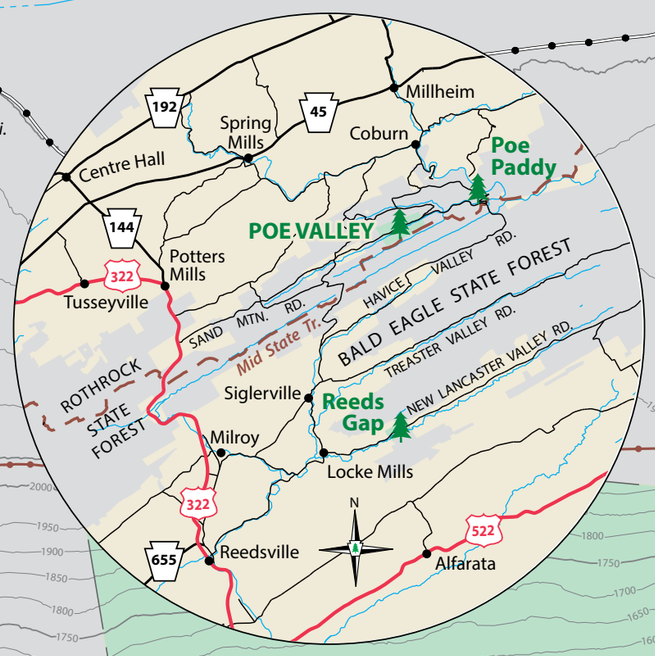
Call or text 988 to contact a crisis center counselor during a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Poe Valley State Park Office.

Nearest Hospitals
Mount Nittany Medical Center
1800 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
814-231-7000

Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital
400 Highland Avenue
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-5411

POE VALLEY STATE PARK



To PA 45, 5.6 Mi.
To Millheim, 7.2 Mi.

Pine Swamp Road

Kerstetter Trail

Pine Swamp Run

BALD EAGLE STATE FOREST

Tower Trail

Place Trail

Low Deep Trail

Loggers Path

100 0 100 200 300 METERS

400 0 400 800 1200 FEET

BIG POE MOUNTAIN

Pine Swamp Road

To Poe Paddy State Park, 2.9 Mi.

Poe Valley Road

Big Poe Creek

BIG POE VALLEY

POE LAKE

Poe Valley Road

To US 322, 8.2 Mi.

Big Poe Creek

Nature Trail

BIG POE VALLEY

Nature Trail

Second Car Parking

Hunters Path

Mid State Trail (Thorpe Trail Section)

To Poe Valley Road, 1.5 Mi.

LITTLE POE MOUNTAIN

Little Poe Trail

Little Poe Creek

Mid State Trail
(Orange Rectangular Blazes)

Hunters Path

Little Poe Road
No Maintenance

BALD EAGLE STATE FOREST

To Panther Run Road, 0.6 Mi.
To Havice Valley Road, 1.8 Mi.

Rev. 1/28/2026

- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Emergency Phone
- Restrooms - Modern
- Restrooms - Non-flush
- Water
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Pavilion
- Food Concession
- Beach
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch & Mooring
- Hand-carry Boat Launch
- Amphitheater
- Playground
- Recycling/Trash
- Backpacking Shelter
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Camping
- Organized Group Tenting
- Camping Cottage
- Deluxe Camping Cottage
- Trail - Hiking
- Trail - Multi-use: Hiking, Biking, Horseback Riding
- Mid State Trail
- Cross-country Skiing Recommended
- Joint-use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- Road - Unpaved
- Road - Paved
- Parking - ADA Accessible
- Parking - Paved
- Parking - Unpaved
- State Park - No Hunting
- State Park - Hunting
- State Park - Boundary
- State Forest Land

POE PADDY STATE PARK

To Poe Tunnel Parking 0.4 Mi., Penns Creek Trail, 0.4 Mi. (Road dead ends, 0.5 Mi.)

Tunnel Spur Road

Railroad Bed Historical Marker

Mid State Trail

John and Ann Snyder Trail

Boat Launch Parking

Penns Creek

Caution: Unmaintained Drivable Trail

Poe Paddy Drive

Big Poe Creek

To Poe Valley State Park entrance, 3.2 Mi.

Poe Valley Rd.

Mid State Trail

Poe Paddy Dr.

#155 #153 #154

Reeds Gap Spur of Mid State Trail

Havice Valley Road

#126 #128

BALD EAGLE STATE FOREST

To Milroy, 16 Mi.

25 0 25 50 75 100 125 METERS

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 FEET

Rev. 1/28/2026

