

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Ricketts Glen

Ricketts Glen State Park

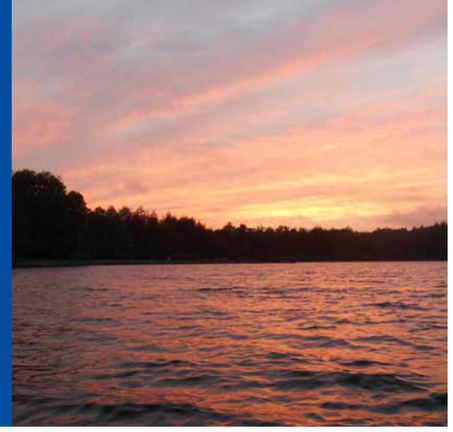
pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

visitPAparks

2022



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



1. Hike the Falls Trail System. Wear proper footwear. Sandals are prohibited.
2. Cool off on a hot summer day at the swimming beach on Lake Jean, and grab an ice cream at the concession.
3. Spend a winter weekend in one of the modern cabins.
4. Camp overnight in the campground. Scouts and other groups can try the rustic Organized Group Tenting Area.
5. Explore the waters of Lake Jean via boat. Boat rentals are available during the summer.
6. Enjoy fishing on Lake Jean through all seasons. Ice fishing is very popular from November through March, conditions permitting.
7. Have a picnic in a forested area overlooking Lake Jean near the beach.
8. Visit the park in winter to snowmobile, cross-country ski, and snowshoe.
9. Enjoy 10,287 acres of hunting within the state park and additional acres in the surrounding state game lands.
10. Enjoy the scenery from Laurel View Trail, especially in mid-June when the mountain laurel blooms.

RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK

Ricketts Glen State Park harbors the Glens Natural Area, a National Natural Landmark. Hike the Falls Trail System and explore the glens. The area boasts a series of wild, free-flowing waterfalls, each cascading through rock-strewn clefts in this ancient hillside. The 94-foot Ganoga Falls is the highest of 22 named waterfalls. Old growth timber and diverse wildlife add to the beauty. Ricketts Glen State Park is one of the most scenic areas in Pennsylvania. This large park is comprised of 13,193 acres in Luzerne, Sullivan, and Columbia counties.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.33517 Long. -76.30153

The park is 30 miles north of Bloomsburg on PA 487. The section of PA 487 from the town of Red Rock to the Lake Jean area of the park is very steep. Heavy trailer units should avoid this hill and enter the park by taking PA 487 south from Dushore.

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.



LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT



Ricketts Glen State Park offers a wide variety of programs from March through November. The park is known for its majestic geological formations, which helped produce 22 beautiful waterfalls. Natural wetlands and old growth forests also add to the park's natural character and make it an excellent location for outdoor studies. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, presentations, 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, check the bulletin boards, and explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

PICNICKING: Picnic facilities are located in the Lake Jean area. A limited number of charcoal grills and hot charcoal disposals are located in the picnic areas. Two picnic pavilions for 48 guests each may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.



SWIMMING: The 600-foot beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please follow posted rules and regulations. A food and refreshment concession, boat rental, restrooms, showers, and picnic facilities are nearly. **Swimming is permitted inside the designated area only.**

FISHING: The 245-acre Lake Jean has warmwater game fish and panfish. An ADA accessible fishing pier is at the boat launch near the park office. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply. Fishing is prohibited in the Glens Natural Area.

HORSEBACK RIDING and HIKING: see TRAILS section on reverse side



BOATING: electric motors only
The 245-acre Lake Jean has dry mooring and two boat launches. A boat rental concession operates during the summer season and offers rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards.

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.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 10,287 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, grouse, bear, coyote, pheasant, and squirrel. Common furbearers are raccoon, mink, muskrat, beaver, coyote, and bobcat. About 83,000 acres of state game lands lie to the west and north of the park.

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: Ricketts Glen is famous for its exceptional diversity of bird life, from 23 varieties of warblers to bald eagles. As a result, the park is part of the official Audubon Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail. This series of trails connects some of Pennsylvania's finest birding and wildlife viewing sites, as well as important historical and natural areas.

Enjoy the Winter

The park offers cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing on Lake Jean, snowmobiling, ice climbing, and winter camping. Visit the website for ice and snow depths. Please contact the park office for additional information on winter sports.



The Falls trail system is closed in the winter to all except experienced ice hikers and climbers who have the proper equipment and have signed in with the park office.

Stay the Night



Camping: flush toilets and showers
There are 137 tent and trailer campsites, some open year round. Select sites have electric-only or full-hookup accommodations. The campground features hot showers, flush toilets, shaded sites, gravel parking spurs, and a sanitary dump station. Six campsites are ADA accessible.

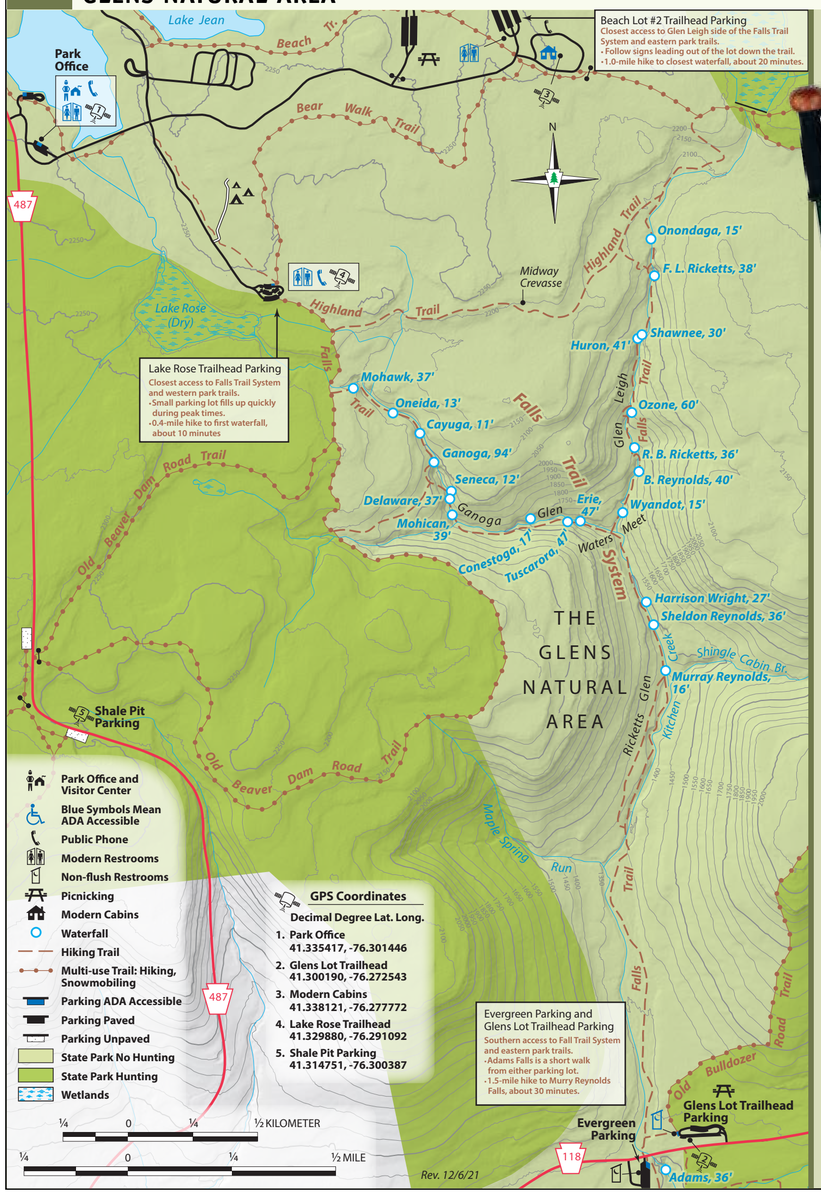
Deluxe Cottages: Five deluxe cottages are available from the second Friday in April until the third weekend in October. Deluxe cottages have minimal furnishings including a kitchen stove top, microwave oven, refrigerator, electric heat, lighting, and bunk beds. There is no running water in these deluxe cottages. However, there is a restroom and shower facility for shared use. All deluxe cottages are ADA accessible. Up to two dogs are permitted in three of the deluxe cottages.

Cabins: Ten modern rental cabins are available year round. Cabins are furnished and have a living area, kitchen/dining area, bathroom with shower, and two or three bedrooms. Linens and dishes are not provided. Cabins F and H are ADA accessible. Up to two dogs are permitted in cabins C, H, and I.



Organized Group Tenting: Qualified adult and youth groups may use this 240-person capacity area that is equipped with picnic tables, water, and flush toilets. The area is open from the third Monday in April to the third Monday in October. Advance reservations are recommended.

GLENS NATURAL AREA



Falls Trail System: 7.2 miles, most difficult hiking



The full loop of this trail system is 7.2 miles starting and ending at the parking areas along Route 118. The trails pass 21 beautiful waterfalls ranging in heights from 11 feet to 94 feet.

To see 18 of the waterfalls, a 3.2-mile loop can be taken by joining the Highland Trail and the Glen Leigh and Ganoga Glen sides of the Falls Trail. For this shorter hike, park near the Lake Jean area.

The scenery is well worth the effort, but be careful. The terrain is rocky and can be slippery. The Falls Trail System includes nearly 1000 feet in elevation changes. Hikers should take extra precautions with steep and slippery trail conditions, wear proper footwear, stay on the trail, and be in good physical condition.

The Falls Trail System is closed in the winter except for properly equipped ice climbers and hikers.

HIKE SAFELY:
Hikers using the Falls Trail System should be in good physical condition, wear sturdy boots, and use caution due to slippery/wet conditions and steep trail sections.

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience while at the park.

- Give yourself plenty of time to hike. Plan to be off the trails well before dark.
- Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return. Cell service is limited in the park.
- Always wear sturdy boots. Wearing sneakers, sandals, water shoes, and street shoes can lead to serious accidents when hiking.
- Be prepared. The weather changes quickly in the park. Have proper clothing and equipment (i.e. compass, map, matches, water, food, flashlight, etc.) available in case of an emergency. This is especially important when traveling remote trails or when hiking during non-summer seasons.
- Stay on the trail to prevent unnecessary damage to natural resources and dangerous situations.

How to Access the Waterfalls

Twenty-one waterfalls are along the Falls Trail System within the Glens Natural Area, while one (Adams) is only a few hundred feet from the Evergreen Parking Lot off PA 118.

There are three parking lots that provide access to the Falls Trail System:

Lake Rose Trailhead Parking
- Closest access to Falls Trail System and western park trails
- Small parking lot fills up quickly during peak times
- 0.4-mile hike to first waterfall, about 10 minutes

Beach Lot #2 Trailhead Parking
- Closest access to Glen Leigh side of Falls Trail System and eastern park trails
- Follow signs leading out of the lot and down the trail adjacent to the cabin road for 0.5 miles
- 1.0-mile hike to closest waterfall, about 20 minutes

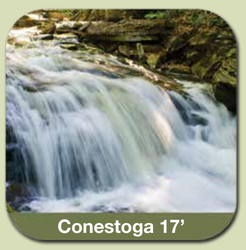
Evergreen Parking and Glens Lot Trailhead Parking
- Southern access to Fall Trail System and eastern park trails
- Adams Falls is a short walk from either parking lot
- 1.5-mile hike to Murray Reynolds Falls, about 30 minutes











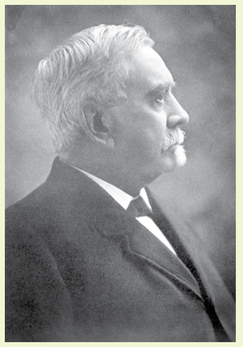






HISTORY OF RICKETTS GLEN

At the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Robert Bruce Ricketts enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army. Fighting for the Grand Army of the Potomac, Ricketts led Battery F during the Battle of Gettysburg. Ricketts swiftly moved up in the ranks. When the war ended, he was discharged a colonel.



Beginning in the late 1860s, Colonel Ricketts owned or managed over 66,000 acres of land in this area. His heirs, through the Central Penn Lumber Company, sold most of the land to the Pennsylvania Game Commission from 1920-1924. This left them with over 12,000 acres surrounding Ganoga Lake, Lake Jean, and the glens area.

Although the area was approved as a national park site in the 1930s, World War II brought an end to this plan for development. In 1942, the heirs sold 1,261 acres, the falls and glens area, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for a state park.

Additional purchases in 1943 and 1949 from Colonel Ricketts' son, William Ricketts, resulted in an approximately 10,600-acre park. Purchases from other individuals have brought the park to its present size.

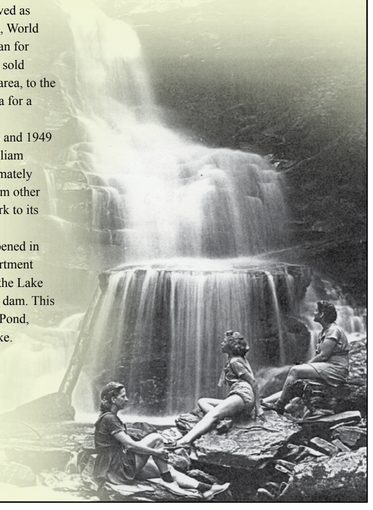
Recreational facilities first opened in 1944. In 1950, the former Department of Forests and Waters replaced the Lake Jean Dam with a larger, earthen dam. This combined Lake Jean with Mud Pond, creating the current 245-acre lake.

HISTORY OF THE GLENS NATURAL AREA: In 1868, Colonel R. Bruce Ricketts bought land in northeast Pennsylvania to timber it. Fishermen exploring the lower reaches of Kitchen Creek discovered waterfalls. Explorations revealed that two branches of Kitchen Creek cut through deep gorges in a series of waterfalls, then united at Waters Meet and flowed through a glen among giant pines, hemlocks, and oaks. Colonel Ricketts built trails to the area of the waterfalls, which came to be known as the Glens Natural Area.

A member of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, Colonel Ricketts named many of the waterfalls after Indigenous peoples in the north eastern United States. He also named waterfalls for his friends and family.

The lower glen came to be called Ricketts Glen. Many of the magnificent trees in this area are over 300 years old. Diameters of almost four feet are common and many trees tower to 100 feet in height. Southern and northern hardwood species meet here, creating an extensive variety of trees.

The Glens Natural Area became a registered National Natural Landmark in 1969. In 1993, it became a state park natural area, an area of unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value which will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention.



RICKETTS GLEN STATE PARK

STATE GAME LANDS 13

STATE GAME LANDS 57

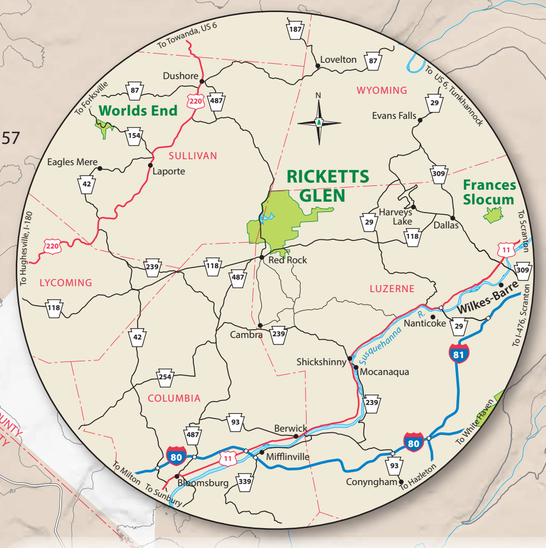
STATE GAME LANDS 57

STATE GAME LANDS 57

THE GLENS NATURAL AREA

SEE ENLARGEMENT OF FALLS TRAIL SYSTEM ON REVERSE SIDE

Pigeon Run
Fishing Creek
Fast Branch
Lead Run
Trout Run
Ganoga Lake
Private Road (No Public Access)
Big Run
No Winter Maintenance
Red Rock Job Corps Center (No Public Access)
SULLIVAN COUNTY
LUZERNE COUNTY
To US 220 & Dushore, 14 Mi.
Wild Fowl Pond
Cherry Ridge Run
Hayfield Parking
Park Office
Lake Jean
Beach Trail
Bear Walk Trail
Lake Rose (Dry)
Lake Rose Trailhead Parking
Beach Lot #2 Trailhead Parking
Cherry Run Tr.
WYOMING COUNTY
LUZERNE COUNTY
SULLIVAN COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY
Laurel View Tr.
Old Beaver Dam Road Trail
Fire Tower (No Public Access)
Shale Pit Parking
Falls Trail
Highland Trail
Midway Crevasse
Dam Breast
Lake Leigh (Dry)
Cherry Run Trail
"The Meadows"
Old Beaver Dam Road Trail
Glen Leigh Falls Trail
Waters Meet
Mountain Springs Trail
Little Cherry Run Tr.
Cherry Run
Ricketts Glen Creek
Kitchen Spring Run
Shingle Cabin Br.
South Branch Bowmans Creek
Mountain Springs Trail
Mtn. Springs Lake (Dry)
N. Branch Bowmans Creek
Ice Dam No. 1 (Dry)
Wolf Run
Bowmans Creek
Old Bulldozer Road Trail
Valley View Vista
Evergreen Parking
Glens Lot Trailhead Parking
Evergreen Trail
Boston Run
Crooked Creek
Beaver Pond
Tripp Road
Hynick Road
Old Tioga Tpk.
Mossville Road
RED ROCK
To I-80, 23.1 Mi. Bloomsburg, 25.5 Mi.
To Wilkes-Barre, 24.6 Mi.
Private Road No Public Access
Bethel Hill Road
Springs Road
Beach Lake
Mountain Road
Rev. 12/6/21



- Park Office and Visitor Center
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Emergency Phone
- Modern Restrooms
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Shower House/Modern Restrooms
- Food Concession
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Amphitheater
- Camping
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Modern Cabins
- Deluxe Camping Cottage
- Organized Group Tenting
- Scenic View
- Fire Tower
- Self-guiding Trail
- Fishing Pier
- Swimming Beach
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch & Mooring
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling
- Horseback Riding
- Unpaved Road
- Joint-use Road: Auto/Snowmobiling/Hiking
- Gate
- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Natural Area
- No Hunting Lake, Water
- Hunting Lake, Water
- PA Fish & Boat Commission Land
- Wetlands
- CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVALS

GPS Coordinates
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.

1. Park Office 41.335417, -76.301446
2. Glens Lot Trailhead 41.300190, -76.272543
3. Modern Cabins 41.338121, -76.277772
4. Lake Rose Trailhead 41.329880, -76.291092
5. Shale Pit Parking 41.314751, -76.300387
6. Camping Area 41.337369, -76.296508
7. Organized Group Tenting 41.332859, -76.293312

½ 0 ½ 1 1½ 2 2½ 3 KILOMETERS

½ 0 ½ 1 1½ 2 MILES

TRAILS: 28 miles



Hiking trails vary from fairly level to steep hills. More than 28 miles of trails are a prime attraction of the park.

Beach Trail: 0.8 mile, not blazed, easiest hiking
Campers in both camping areas can access the Lake Jean day-use and swimming areas without having to travel on a road.

Bear Walk Trail: 1 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
This short, forested trail meanders from the entrance of the cabin area to the Lake Rose Trailhead parking lot. Cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking is ideal on this fairly flat trail.

Cherry Run Trail: 4.6 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking
Access to Cherry Run Trail is near the Lake Leigh Dam. Hikers pass through groves of cherry trees and view evidence of the old logging railroads that passed through this area over 100 years ago. For a 13.5-mile loop, start at Beach Lot #2 Trailhead, follow Cherry Run Trail, walk 3.5 miles on Mountain Springs Road, then connect to Mountain Springs Trail to loop back to the trailhead.

Evergreen Trail: 1-mile loop, not blazed, easiest hiking
This self-guided trail takes visitors into an old growth forest, one of the few stands remaining in all of Pennsylvania. Waysides along this short trail tell about the surrounding ecosystem. Hikers can also see Adams Falls.

Falls Trail System: 7.2 miles, not blazed, most difficult hiking
See reverse side.

Highland Trail: 1.2 miles, not blazed, more difficult hiking
The trail cuts across the top of the Falls Trail System and crosses through Midway Crevasse, a narrow passageway between large blocks of Pocono sandstone conglomerates that were deposited throughout this area by glacial movements. Continental glaciers buried this land under hundreds of feet of ice at least three times in the last one million years. This trail makes an excellent area for geological study groups.

Laurel View Trail: 1.9-mile loop, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail takes hikers to the highest point on Red Rock Mountain at an elevation of 2,449 feet. This trail is a pleasant hike at any time of the year. In mid-June, blooming mountain laurel is particularly lovely. In mid-July, the high bush blueberries bear fruit. In the fall, awe-inspiring views of the fall foliage encompass the area.

Little Cherry Run Trail: 1 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This connector between Mountain Springs and Cherry Run trails travels along a small picturesque stream, making a great loop for day hiking.

Mountain Springs Trail: 4 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking
Heading off the beaten path, this trail takes hikers on a 4-mile hike past the old Lake Leigh Dam and down the south branch of Bowmans Creek to the former Mountain Springs Lake, which is now a dry lakebed. Hikers can take Mountain Springs Road to Cherry Run Trail to make a 13.5-mile loop. Access Mountain Springs Trail from Beach Lot #2 Trailhead.

Old Beaver Dam Road Trail: 4 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
Named for the old beaver dam once located just off the trail, this trail makes an excellent loop for hikers and cross-country skiers. Although the connector is easy to moderate hiking, use caution where it meets the Falls Trail System due to switchbacks and drop-offs. Access the trail from a small pull-off on PA 487 or from the Lake Rose Trailhead.

Old Bulldozer Road Trail: 2.9 miles, red blazes, most difficult hiking
This trail has quite an elevation change and was used by a bulldozer to get to the top of the mountain to build the park. Accessed from the parking lot on PA 118, this trail is used by hikers and snowmobilers to access Mountain Springs Trail. Although most of the trail is easy to moderate hiking, a short section climbs 700 feet in approximately 0.5 mile. A short segment of trail leads to Valley View Vista to see surrounding hills and valleys.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Equestrian riders may enjoy taking a 13.5-mile loop by riding the Cherry Run Trail, Mountain Springs Road, and Mountain Springs Trail. Sights to see include: old railroad grades, the dry lakebed of Mountain Springs Lake (formerly used to make ice), and an old concrete dam once used to hold back Lake Leigh, now a dry lake. Riders must bring their own mounts. Horses cannot be rented.



THE BEAR TRUTHS



Many Pennsylvania state parks have healthy forests that provide perfect habitat for black bears. Although they appear cute and cuddly, black bears are wild animals.

A black bear can scramble up a tree like a raccoon and sprint up to 35 mph. Bears use their claws to tear apart rotting logs to find food as well as open trash cans and coolers. Pennsylvania has some of the largest black bears in the United States.

Black bears have an excellent sense of smell, which makes up for poor eyesight and fair hearing. Aromatic scents coming from your food and toiletries can attract a curious and hungry bear from a great distance.

Keep your campsite clean. Clean up after meals, and store all food and scented items inside a locked vehicle. Do not hang garbage from the hook on the lantern pole provided at each site. These practices will prevent bears and other wildlife from visiting your campsite at night. Feeding bears is illegal.

Black bears normally avoid people, but bears dependent on eating human food can become aggressive when people get between them and food. Never approach a bear, and be especially wary of mother bears and cubs.

If you encounter a black bear, do not run. Back away slowly without making direct eye contact. If the bear does not leave the area, make a loud noise like blowing a whistle, honking a car horn, or banging a pot. Notify a park employee if you have difficulties with bears, and call 911 if it is an emergency.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Ricketts Glen State Park
695 State Route 487
Benton, PA 17814-8900
570-477-5675
RickettsGlenSP@pa.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

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.

@RickettsGlenStateParkDCNR

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
Bloomsburg Hospital
549 Fair Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
570-387-2100



CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Prevent tick bites by wearing clothing treated with tick repellent. Avoid areas with brush, leaf litter, or tall grass. Stay on the trail.

https://www.cdc.gov/ticks

Blacklegged tick (deer tick)



Actual size

Protect and Preserve our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, 800-769-8999. www.endlessmountains.org

Worlds End State Park offers diverse recreational opportunities to camp, hike, picnic, swim, hunt, boat, fish, and snowmobile. The rugged natural beauty throughout the park also provides many photographic possibilities, especially at designated vistas. 570-924-3287