Shawnee State Park

Shawnee State Park is 3,983 acres of Pennsylvania's scenic Ridge and Valley Province. Ten miles west of the historic town of Bedford along US 30, Shawnee has modern recreational facilities that blend into the natural environment. A focal point of the park is the 451-acre Shawnee Lake.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.02632 Long. -78.63557

US 30 and PA 96 pass through Shawnee State Park.

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 451-acre Shawnee Lake has three boat launch areas. Dry boat mooring spaces can be rented at Colvin Boat Launch and at the Main Boat Launch at Picnic Area #2. The ADA accessible main boat dock and launch ramp are off of State Park Road. A boat concession rents paddleboats, canoes, kayaks, and rowboats during the summer.

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.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables, charcoal grills, water fountains, and restrooms are around the park. Five 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. Picnic Pavilion 3 is ADA accessible.

BICYCLING: 3.4 miles
Lake Shore Trail is easy biking for everyone. To make a full loop, riders must use a small section of shared road.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: 7.7 miles
Enjoy mountain biking on a looped trail system through wooded areas and along intermittent streams. Mountain bikes are permitted on all multi-use trails. Trails are generally wide and well maintained and on the northern side of the lake. For more challenging terrain and topography, riders should try Pigeon Hills, Tiday, and Field trails. E-bikes are permitted but must follow all e-bike guidelines. www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/EBikePolicy.aspx

DISC GOLFING: The 9-hole, par-three course is in the main day use area and has an up-and-over-the-hill challenge hole.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 3,000 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, pheasant, 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.

SWIMMING: The sand and turf beach has a modern shower house with flush toilets. Vending machines are available. The beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules.

FISHING: The 451-acre Shawnee Lake is stocked with warmwater game fish. Common game species are smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern pike, walleye, muskellunge, pickerel, catfishes, crappies, yellow perches, sunfishes, suckers, and carp. An ADA accessible fishing pier is by the Diehl Boat Launch. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

Stay the Night

CAMPING: modern facilities, some full-hookup sites
The 200 sites have picnic tables and fire rings, and accommodate tents or RVs from mid-April to early December. About half of the sites have electric hook-up. Some sites have full hook-up. Several campsites are ADA accessible. There are sanitary dump stations and centrally-located shower houses with flush toilets and dishwashing sinks.

GREAT GATHERING FRIENDS AND FAMILY CAMPSITES: Loop G of the campground includes two Great Gathering Friends and Family campsites which accommodate 15 people each. The site provides full hook-ups (50 amp electric/sewer/water) for two RVs, picnic tables, standard fire rings, and a large fire ring. These sites are designed to accommodate tents alongside RVs, have additional parking for up to three vehicles, and are pet-friendly (up to four pets per site).



CAMPING COTTAGES: The three cottages sleep five people in bunk beds and have wooden floors, windows, covered porch, picnic table, fire ring, electric heat, and outlets. Cottage 1 is ADA accessible.

YURT: This round, canvas and wood walled tent has a wooden deck and sleeps five people in bunk beds. The yurt has a cooking stove, microwave, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, fire ring, picnic table, electric heat, and outlets.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: On the secluded Kegg Run finger of the lake, the organized group tenting area offers campers easy access to fishing and canoe and kayak launching. Four campsites each have a capacity of 20 campers or a total capacity of 80. Each site has picnic tables and a fire ring. The camp has non-flush restrooms. Potable water is at the entrance to the area off of PA 96. Organized youth and adult groups can rent the area mid-April through mid-October. Advance reservations are required.

LAKESIDE LODGE: This two-story house in the middle of the park has lovely views of Shawnee Lake and is available year round. It sleeps eight people in four bedrooms with two double beds and four single beds. The lodge has heat, air conditioning, a small covered porch, and a modern kitchen, including dinnerware and cookware. A fire ring and picnic table are in the yard. Guests should bring their own linens and towels. A hand-carry boat launch for lodge guests is across State Park Road.

Enjoy the Winter

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING: Most trails are suitable for novice to experienced skiers and snowshoers. Lake Shore is the most popular trail.

SLEDDING: Conditions permitting, hills throughout the park are open to sledding.

SNOWMOBILING: Conditions permitting, registered snowmobiles are permitted on the 8-mile trail network in the eastern side of the park.

ICE SAFETY: Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single user and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

ICE FISHING: Common species caught through the ice are yellow perch, northern pike, walleye, and pickerel.

ICE SKATING: Skating is available on the natural ice of the lake when conditions permit.

Wildlife Watching

Shawnee State Park is a magnet for wildlife because of its location on an important migration route and because of its varied habitats. Situated on the Allegheny Front, one of the main migration routes in North America, Shawnee is an important stop for many migrating birds and waterfowl that often stop and rest here on their way north.

Shawnee Lake hosts over 30 species of waterfowl during spring migration, from February into April. Impressive numbers of tundra swans use the lake as a stopover site in February and March. Seeing 100–500 tundra swans is not uncommon and is a memorable event to witness. Stormy weather can bring hundreds of migrating buffleheads, ring-necked ducks, and common mergansers that mingle with less common species such as ruddy ducks, long-tailed ducks, and common goldeneyes. Rare species like the American white pelican, red-throated loon, and cackling goose have also been spotted at Shawnee Lake. Spring and summer, osprey are often seen soaring over the lake looking for fish, competing with bald eagles which are present throughout the year.

Just as the waterfowl migration winds down in late April, a wave of colorful warblers moves through Shawnee, this time primarily visiting the park's forests. Thirty-one species of warblers have been recorded at Shawnee State Park, including golden-winged warblers. While some stay for a short time to feed and rest enroute to forests farther north, many warblers stay to breed in the park, such as pine warblers, northern parulas, ovenbirds, and Louisiana waterthrushes.

April to mid-May, the white of serviceberry, the fuchsia of redbud, and the whites and pinks of apples flower around the lake. Many species of wildflowers bloom including spring beauty, golden ragwort, and several species of violets.

Summer gives the opportunity to see abundant animals throughout the park including white-tailed deer and their spotted fawns, black bear, fox, wild turkey, and many other species. Wetland plant species that line the lake, including pickerel weed, arrowhead, and swamp milkweed, are perches for dragonflies like slaty skimmers, pond hawks, and blue dashers that hunt flying insects over the lake and fields. Wildflowers such as blue vervains, butter-and-eggs, and bee wingstems provide nectar for hummingbird moths and many species of butterflies including monarch, red-spotted purple, and several species of swallowtails. Shawnee Lake and its shorelines provide truly beautiful sunsets this time of year.

In autumn, the deciduous trees often provide a spectacular showing of vibrant colors that are best viewed from the lake, lakeshore, or along Field Trail above the #2 parking area. Many birds migrate south along the Allegheny Front, but not in the concentrations seen in the spring.

Winter snow provides a great way to look for footprints of the animals that stay active all winter, like mice, squirrels, minks, bobcats, and white-tailed deer.

Hiking: 16 miles

The popular trails of the park follow streams, pass through forests and fields and have lovely views of the lake.

Colvin Trail
0.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, picnic tables

The loop trail beginning at Colvin Day Use Area travels through the woods and along Shawnee Branch. A portion of the trail follows Mill Road near the covered bridge. Be alert for vehicles when walking along Mill Road and across the bridge. To access the trail, park at the Colvin Day Use Area and use caution when crossing PA 96. Hikers should avoid this trail during high flood events due to its low elevation in proximity to surrounding streams and bodies of water.

Felton Trail
2.0 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Orange diamonds
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

From the parking lot on Felton Road, this multi-use trail briefly follows the road then runs along a valley and stream located on the northeastern side of the park. A portion of this trail is wide and easy, with some uphill grade. Hikers enjoy a nice forested setting along the path.

Field Trail
2.0 miles | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Orange diamonds
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, picnic tables, benches

This multi-use trail traverses the hillsides of Shawnee State Park. The main trailhead is across the road from the large parking lot by Pavilion 2. The trail crosses Park Road several times and connects to Felton Trail. The steep beginning of the trail is rewarded by several scenic views of the lake. Once at the crest, the trail levels out before crossing the park entrance road. Use caution when crossing roads.

Forbes Trail
3.0 miles | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | No blazes/ orange diamonds
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, and snowmobiling on a portion of the trail

Forbes Trail follows several segments of a historic road from the French and Indian War that bisected the park. The western section of the trail may be wet. Mountain biking and snowmobiling are permitted on the portion of the trail that connects to Pigeon Hills Trail.



Lake Shore Trail



Lake Shore Trail
3.4 miles | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, picnic tables, benches

Lake Shore Trail is a wide, gentle trail that showcases Shawnee State Park. This multi-use gravel path is an ideal path for families. On this trail, hikers can see the historic buildings of Shawnee State Park, walk across the dam, and have good birding opportunities over the water. Lake Shore Trail connects with Forbes, Field, Shawnee, and Tiday trails. A portion of the trail is on State Park Road and crosses two bridges. Please use caution while walking or biking along this section. Parking is available at picnic areas 1, 2, or 7.

Lost Antler Trail
0.8 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

From Loop B in the campground, this loop trail winds through young forest on a hillside. The trail has both uphill sections and level hiking. Parking is available at the extra car lot near the Loop B shower house or in the large parking lot near the entrance of the campground.

Pigeon Hills Trail
1.7 miles | Most difficult hiking | Connector trail | No blazes/orange diamonds
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

This multi-use trail follows the eastern boundary of the park. The grade varies throughout this trail, making it one of the more advanced trails in the park, suitable for skilled hikers. Use Felton, Forbes, or Tiday trails to access Pigeon Hills Trail.

Shawnee Trail
1.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

This trail connects Lake Shore Trail to Picnic Area 9 and the park office. Shawnee Trail climbs a series of hills to loop through a serene forest setting.

Tiday Trail
0.9 mile | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | No blazes/orange diamonds
Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

Connecting Lake Shore Trail and Pigeon Hills Trail, Tiday Trail follows a stream through forest.



Hummingbird moth pollinating pickerel weed

Learn, Experience, Connect

Shawnee State Park offers a wide variety of programs from April through October. The programs focus on the natural and historical resources of the park and surrounding landscape.

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

The park is named for the Shawnee people who migrated from the Potomac to the Ohio Country. In the early 1750s, a Shawnee village known as "Shawanese Cabbins" was located just south of Schellsburg.

During the French and Indian War, General Forbes camped his army within the boundaries of the park while building the Forbes Road in the campaign of 1758 against the French at Fort Duquesne, Pittsburgh. The rear guard of the army was commanded by Colonel George Washington, who slept here on October 15, 1758. One can still walk a portion of Forbes Road near Hickory Bottom.

In the center of the park are a white barn, buildings, and houses that once were part of Water Brooks Farm. Today, they are Lakeside Lodge and the State Park Region #3 Office. The farm was owned by John Bowman, who also designed the farm buildings. Bowman was the chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh from 1921 to 1945 and the driving force behind building the 42-story Cathedral of Learning.

Construction of the dam began in April of 1949 and was completed the next year. The park officially opened to the public in 1951.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Bedford County Visitors Bureau.
www.VisitBedfordCounty.com

For downhill skiers, **Blue Knob All-Season Resort, in Blue Knob State Park,** is 25 miles from Shawnee State Park. Cross-country skiers also enjoy a variety of interesting terrain for their sport.

Bedford County is home to 14 historic covered bridges. A driving tour brochure, produced by the Bedford County Visitors Bureau, is available online and at the park office. Colvin Covered Bridge borders the western boundary of the park along Mill Road.

US 30, **the Lincoln Highway,** roughly follows the original Forbes Road that was the main highway between Fort Bedford and Fort Ligonier in the 1700s. Original inns and other examples of a unique Bedford architectural style can be seen along the road and in small settlements like Schellsburg.

The **City of Bedford Historic District** includes the oldest courthouse in use in Pennsylvania and the Espy House where President George Washington headquartered in 1794 to review his troops on their way to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania. A walking tour of 51 buildings in the historic district is available in the Bedford County Travel Guide.

One mile south of Bedford is the **Bedford Springs Resort.** This luxurious destination, founded in 1796 to harness the purported "healing powers" of the many springs on the property, has hosted numerous dignitaries and even US presidents. The resort provides overnight accommodations, hiking trails, spa treatments, numerous restaurants, golf, and even public tours highlighting this storied landmark.

Old Bedford Village, on old US 220 just north of Bedford, is a complex of historical buildings which were collected from all over the county. Arranged in the manner of a typical colonial settlement, the buildings were reconstructed and contain demonstrations of the early American crafts which were found in colonial Bedford. Craftsmen clothed in authentic garb explain their craft.

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Shawnee State Park









pennsylvania DCNR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Shawnee State Park
132 State Park Road
Schellsburg, PA 15559-7300
814-733-4218
ShawneeSP@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

Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Two electric vehicle charging stations are available for public use in Picnic Area 2. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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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.

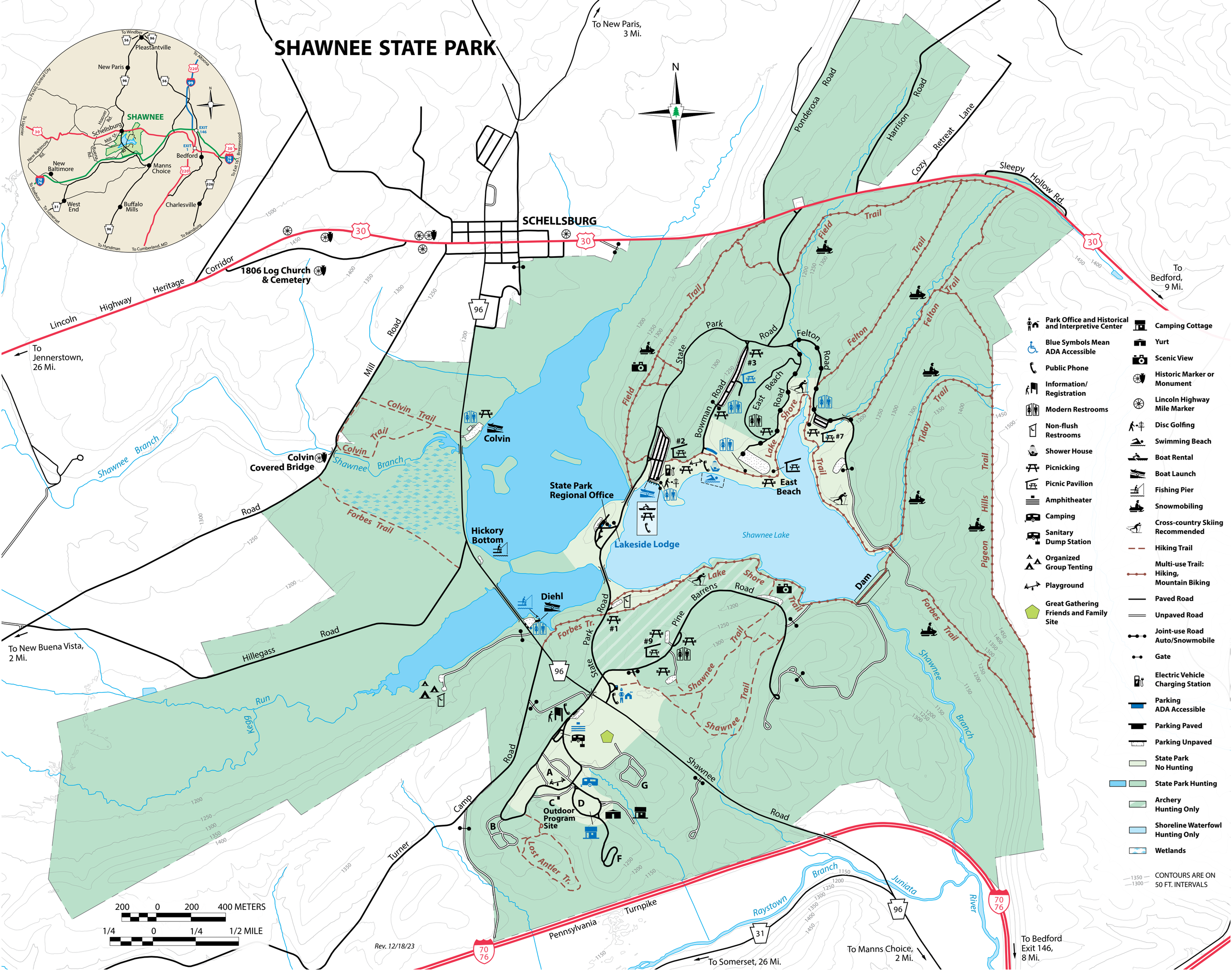
If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
UPMC Bedford Memorial Hospital
10455 Lincoln Highway
Everett, PA 15537
814-623-6161




SHAWNEE STATE PARK
To New Paris, 3 Mi.
N
SCHELLSBURG
1806 Log Church & Cemetery
Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor
To Jennerstown, 26 Mi.
To Bedford, 9 Mi.
Ponderosa Road
Harrison Road
Cozy Retreat Lane
Sleepy Hollow Rd.
Mill Road
Colvin Trail
Colvin
Colvin Covered Bridge
Shawnee Branch
Forbes Trail
Hickory Bottom
State Park Regional Office
Lakeside Lodge
Shawnee Lake
Dam
Diehl
Hillegass Road
To New Buena Vista, 2 Mi.
Kegg Run
Turner Camp Road
Outdoor Program Site
Lost Antler Tr.
Shawnee Road
Pennsylvania Turnpike
Raystown Branch
Juniata River
To Somerset, 26 Mi.
To Manns Choice, 2 Mi.
To Bedford Exit 146, 8 Mi.
Field Trail
Felton Trail
Tiday Trail
Pigeon Hills Trail
Lake Shore Trail
Shawnee Trail
Park Office and Historical and Interpretive Center
Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
Public Phone
Information/ Registration
Modern Restrooms
Non-flush Restrooms
Shower House
Picnicking
Picnic Pavilion
Amphitheater
Camping
Sanitary Dump Station
Organized Group Tenting
Playground
Great Gathering Friends and Family Site
Camping Cottage
Yurt
Scenic View
Historic Marker or Monument
Lincoln Highway Mile Marker
Disc Golfing
Swimming Beach
Boat Rental
Boat Launch
Fishing Pier
Snowmobiling
Cross-country Skiing Recommended
Hiking Trail
Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking
Paved Road
Unpaved Road
Joint-use Road Auto/Snowmobile
Gate
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Parking ADA Accessible
Parking Paved
Parking Unpaved
State Park No Hunting
State Park Hunting
Archery Hunting Only
Shoreline Waterfowl Hunting Only
Wetlands
CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS
200 0 200 400 METERS
1/4 0 1/4 1/2 MILE
Rev. 12/18/23