A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Simon B. Elliott State Park









pennsylvania WILDS

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Simon B. Elliott State Park
c/o Parker Dam State Park
28 Fairview Road
Penfield, PA 15849-9799
814-765-0630
ParkerDamSP@pa.gov

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

www.visitPAparks.com

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Simon B. Elliott State Park

The 318-acre Simon B. Elliott State Park is in the heart of Moshannon State Forest. This entirely wooded park offers picturesque areas of swamp meadows and a forest of typical second growth mixed hardwood and oak timber.

Directions

GPS: Lat. 41.11276 Long. -78.52594

Simon B. Elliott State Park is in Clearfield County off PA 153 just north of Exit 111 of I-80 and ten miles north of the community of Clearfield.

Reservations

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

Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: The small mountain streams surrounding the park offers fishing for those who like to walk along and fish in uncrowded streams for native trout. A small pond with bass and panfish is located in Moshannon State Forest and can be accessed via the Old Horse Trail from the campground. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HIKING: 2.5 miles of trails
Hiking trails in the park and surrounding Moshannon State Forest explore the mountaintop. Old Horse Trail can be hiked as a loop utilizing part of Crystal Springs Road and is a moderate 2.75-mile hike. Other trails can be accessed from the park and proceed into the surrounding Moshannon State Forest.

Tell us about your hike at: www.ExplorePAtrails.com

PICNICKING: Picnic amidst towering pine and oak trees. The park offers ample parking, tables, three reservable picnic pavilions, drinking water, and non-flush restrooms.

Trash Disposal and Recycling
Simon B. Elliott State Park participates in a carry-in/carry out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the number of disposable items brought to the park and take all trash and recyclables home. Campers may carefully burn any paper waste in their campfire, but burning foil, glass, cans, plastics, or food waste is prohibited.

CAMPING: The small camping area is partially shaded with some mature trees. All campsites are pet-friendly, non-electric sites. In the campground, there is a sanitary dump station, water spigots, pavilions, and an ADA accessible modern restroom (no showers). Site 7 is ADA accessible.

The campground is open from mid-May through October. The maximum stay in this area is 14 days during the summer season and 21 days outside of the summer season. Campers must vacate the park for 48 hours between stays.

CABINS: Six rustic, Civilian Conservation Corps-era cabins are available for rent. Minimal furnishings include: single bunk beds, table and benches, a gas stove, refrigerator, gas heat, electric lights, and fireplace.

The cabins are open year round. Cabin occupants have access to a modern shower house in the cabin colony. Cabin 6 is ADA accessible.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 234 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are bears, deer, turkeys, rabbits, grouse, and squirrels. Thousands of acres of surrounding Moshannon State Forest are open for hunting.

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.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skiing is recommended on Old Horse Trail east of Old PA 153 and nearby forestry trails.

SNOWMOBILING: During the winter months, the main parking lot is plowed to allow registered snowmobiles to unload and operate on the roads and trails in Moshannon State Forest. Conditions permitting, the designated trails and roads, which are on both state park and state forest lands, open the day after the last day of Pennsylvania's regular or extended rifle deer season and close April 1. A map of the roads and trails open to snowmobiling is available at the Parker Dam State Park office.

History

This mountaintop was once covered in giant white pine and hemlock trees. At the turn of the century, the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company and the Goodyear Lumber Company built railroads and roads to harvest the timber. This logging devastated the area, entirely wiping out the magnificent stands of pine and hemlock. The swift departure of the logging companies allowed the barren forests to regrow. This devastated land was eventually sold to the commonwealth, usually at tax sales, and later became Moshannon State Forest.

Now, over a century later, many of the logging roads and railroad grades can be seen in the maturing stands of oak and maple.

The Honorable Simon B. Elliott was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature and a member of the State Forestry Reservation Commission, a precursor to the Department of Forestry. This early conservationist promoted the idea of creating a nursery to raise trees for planting in the surrounding area.

In 1911, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established the Clearfield Forest Tree Nursery in a mountain pasture atop Penfield Mountain. This nursery was later renamed for District Forester William F. Dague who was in charge of its operation from its start in 1911 until 1947. The Dague Nursery closed in 1978, but its buildings and facilities are still in use as the Moshannon State Forest maintenance headquarters, and the seed orchards still supply seeds for the other state nurseries.

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established Camp S-116 on land along Crystal Springs Road and built the cabins, pavilions, roads, trails, and many of the other buildings that exist today.

In that same year, the former Department of Forests and Waters erected a plaque dedicating Simon B. Elliott State Park. The plaque is on a stone in the pines along the northern edge of the park.

ELK REINTRODUCTION: In 1912, talks began between the Pennsylvania Game Commissionersand agency Executive Secretary Joseph Kalbfus about re-introducing elk in Pennsylvania. Kalbfus wrote in his annual report, "It now appears that the herds of elk found upon the public domain of the far West are annually subjected to severe suffering and death by starvation because of the limitation and taking for agricultural purposes of their winter feeding grounds, and that ... the national government is anxious to reduce the western herds by placing numbers of these animals elsewhere to their benefit, the cost to those receiving such animals being only the expense incurred in their capture and transportation..."

Of the first 50 elk reintroduced in Pennsylvania, only 25 were released in this area. On January 27, 1913, five bulls and 20 cows, arrived in Clearfield by train. Three days later, the elk were transported nine miles by wagons to the Kennedy Game Refuge and placed in a 2-acre corral. The Kennedy Game Refuge included what is now Simon B. Elliott State Park and a portion of Moshannon State Forest. Almost three months later, the elk were released from the corral and made themselves at home in the mountains of central Pennsylvania.

Nearby Attractions

The following services are available eight miles north in Penfield: convenience stores, restaurants, mechanics, gasoline stations, and post office. Ten miles south, Clearfield offers the same services as Penfield as well as shopping centers and a hospital. The town of DuBois, 15 miles west, offers larger shopping centers, restaurants, and a hospital.

Information on nearby attractions is available from:

Northwest Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau, 814-849-5197. www.visitpago.com

Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority, 866-GO WILDS (469-4537). www.visitclearfieldcounty.org

A 7.5-mile drive north will take visitors to nearby **Parker Dam State Park.** The park offers beach swimming, modern camping, year-round rustic cabins, educational programs, boating, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and many other activities.

Comprised of more than 190,000 acres, the surrounding **Moshannon State Forest** offers visitors a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, and hiking. 814-765-0821

The Elk Country Visitor Center is a 25-mile drive away and features interactive displays and great elk viewing opportunities. 814-787-5167

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.

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.
- 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.
- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

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.

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Penn Highlands Clearfield
809 Turnpike Avenue
Clearfield PA, 16830
814-765-5341

Penn Highlands DuBois
100 Hospital Avenue
DuBois, PA 15801
814-371-2200

SIMON B. ELLIOTT STATE PARK

CLEARFIELD COUNTY

To Exit 101 & DuBois, 8.5 Mi.

To Penfield & Parker Dam State Park, 7 Mi.

Moshannon State Forest Headquarters (No Public Restroom)

Private Land

MOSHANNON STATE FOREST

MOSHANNON STATE FOREST

Simon B. Elliott Monument

Snowmobile Parking

Exit 111

To US 322 & Clearfield, 8 Mi.

To Exit 120 & Clearfield, 9.2 Mi.

Rev. 1/26/21

250 0 250 METERS

1000 0 1000 FEET

- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Rustic Cabins
- Rustic Camping
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Cross-country Skiing Recommended
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Snowmobiling
- Joint-use Road Auto/Snowmobile
- Road Paved
- Road Unpaved
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting

2220 2240 CONTOURS ARE ON 20 FT. INTERVALS