

# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Center Valley, PA

- **Beltzville State Park** – Beltzville Lake features fishing, swimming, water sports, and boating. Hike Wild Creek Trail to waterfalls. The Sawmill Trail wanders through forests and by a lovely creek.
- **Big Pocono State Park** – Scenic hiking and panoramic vistas abound. 1.4 mile scenic drive encircles the mountaintop.
- **Delaware Canal State Park** – A walk along the Delaware Canal is a stroll into American History.
- **Evansburg State Park** – a haven for hikers, equestrians, and folks who want to picnic and relax.
- **Fort Washington State Park** – Popular with hikers, picnickers, and birders. Climb to the top of the observation deck
- **French Creek State Park** – The park holds two lakes, extensive forests, and almost 40 miles of hiking trails.
- **Hickory Run State Park** – This large park has more than 40 miles of hiking trails, 3 natural areas, and miles of trout streams. Boulder Field is a national natural landmark.
- **Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center**- The 350 acre-tract of land is excellent for hiking and watching wildlife. 20 miles of trails are available for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.
- **Lehigh Gorge State Park** – Visitors who enjoy adventure will love whitewater rafting, hiking, and biking along the river
- **Locust Lake State Park** – Biking and hiking trails, easy to challenging, wind through the park. Popular for camping.
- **Marsh Creek State Park** – Marsh Creek Lake is popular for sailing and windsurfing. Nature lovers enjoy hiking.
- **Nockamixon State Park** – The lake holds a variety of game fish and boats can be rented. Explore the trails on foot, horseback, and bike.
- **Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center** - The center offers year-round educational programs. Plenty of hiking trails to explore, crossing streams, ponds, and diverse habitats.
- **Norristown Farm Park** – Paved hiking and biking trails, ball fields, and picnic pavilions. Fishing in Stony Creek.
- **Ralph Stover State Park** – High Rocks is a favored rock climbing area for expert climbers. Picnicking is also popular.
- **Tuscarora State Park** – The scenic picnic area hosts many day trips and reunions. The lake popular for fishing, swimming, and kayaking.
- **Weiser State Forest** - Watch hang gliders soar over the valley or take your horse for a stroll on one of many trails. Visit the river islands in the Susquehanna, part of the Susquehanna River Trail Middle Section.
- **William Penn State Forest** - 901 acres in five separate tracts, the forest protects and conserves unique Pennsylvania ecosystems, including the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens and Little Tincum Island on the Delaware River.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer

Volunteers - they're the lifeblood of our parks and forests. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation offers a wide variety of opportunities to put a volunteer's special skills to work. Whether you're a trail-builder, a wildlife expert, an event organizer or one of those special people who always say, "Just put me to work wherever you need me," Pennsylvania's state parks and forests have a role for you.

### Foundation Volunteers

Volunteers are welcome to assist with mailings, events, photography, videography, media editing, and more.

### Volunteer in State Parks and Forests with Friends Groups

Friends Groups are local groups who volunteer their time, services and support to enhance our state park and forest systems.

### What Do Friends Groups Do?

They work in partnership with the park to:

- Raise money for park playgrounds, equipment, and material
- Organize annual park cleanups and regular trail work days
- Plan and execute special events including craft shows, concerts and festivals
- Construct park and forest amenities like trails, visitor centers and gift shops
- Serve as campground hosts, visitor center hosts, and docents
- Create awareness about the value of their state park or forest

### Eastern Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Beltzville State Park
- Friends of Big Pocono State Park
- Friends of Nockamixon State Park
- Friends of Nolde Forest
- Friends of Weiser State Forest

### Conservation Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities in state parks and forests are also available through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Learn more at [www.paparksandforests.org](http://www.paparksandforests.org) and <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx>