

# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Clarion, PA



- **Chapman State Park** – Adjacent to the Allegheny National Forest and State Game Land 29, Chapman sits on the banks of the West Branch of Tionesta Creek. The park boasts a 68-acre lake with a swimming beach and fishing.
- **Clear Creek State Forest** – Enjoy a view of the Allegheny Plateau at Bear Town Rock, accessible by automobile or on foot. Take an auto tour, with informative stops that shows the history and ecology of the area.
- **Clear Creek State Park** – Set along the Clarion River, the park is a cozy getaway and a canoeist's paradise. Camping and rustic cabins are available for a perfect place to spend a secluded vacation.
- **Cook Forest State Park** – The park's Forest Cathedral stand of white pines and hemlocks is a national natural landmark. Hike the 30-mile trail network. The Clarion River is a popular draw for those looking to canoe.
- **Jennings Environmental Education Center** – The center offers a full range of educational programs. A unique attraction here is the rare relict prairie which is in full bloom in late July or early August. Come for hiking and picnicking.
- **Maurice K. Goddard State Park** – The 1,860-acre Lake Wilhelm is a year-round angler's paradise. Kayaking on the lake is a highlight of the park. A paved multi-purpose trail circles the lake for hiking and bicycling.
- **McConnell's Mill State Park** – Tour the restored gristmill or the covered bridge. There is also scenic hiking, white water rafting and two rock climbing and rappelling areas.
- **Moraine State Park** – This park is popular year round with 42 miles of scenic shoreline for sailing, kayaking, hiking, disc golf, birding and fishing. Bike the seven mile paved trail on the lake's north shore.
- **Moshannon State Forest** – There is an extensive 244-mile hiking trail system to enjoy. The Quehanna Trail is the longest and traverses the Moshannon State Forest for 75 miles.
- **Oil Creek State Park** – Travel through "the valley that changed the world" on the 9.7-mile paved multi-use trail on an excursion train or hike the 30-mile Girard Trail, with its attractive Adirondack shelters.
- **Parker Dam State Park** – This historic park offers old fashioned charm and character. A scenic lake, rustic cabins, quaint campground, and unbounded forest make this an ideal spot for relaxing, hiking, and biking.
- **Pymatuning State Park** – Stop by the spillway where the ducks walk on the fishes' backs or visit nearby centers to view wildlife exhibits. A 17,088-acre lake offers 20 horse power boating. Modern cabins and camping available.
- **S. B. Elliott State Park** – A quiet mountaintop recreational area with rustic log cabins and campsites; perfect for a getaway. Great place to spot elk and other wildlife.

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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

### North Western Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Cook Forest State Park
- Friends of M.K. Goddard State Park
- Friends of Parker Dam State Park
- Friends of Oil Creek State Park
- Friends of Pymatuning State Park

### 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>