

Explore the Outdoors

Near Harrisburg, PA

- **Boyd Big Tree Preserve** - Just minutes from Harrisburg-hike the trails through large trees of numerous species.
- **Caledonia State Park** - Great for the history buff! This park served as a field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg.
- **Colonel Denning State Park** - Families enjoy the lake and beach. Flat Rock hike is both exhilarating and beautiful.
- **Fowlers Hollow State Park** - Great trails for snowmobilers, equestrians, and hikers with its expansive trail system.
- **Gifford Pinchot State Park** - The large lake is great for sail boating, kayaking, and fishing. Disc golf also available here.
- **Joseph Ibberson Conservation Area** - The 350 acre-tract of land is excellent for hiking and wildlife-watching.
- **Kings Gap State Park** - Provides a beautiful panoramic view of the Cumberland valley from the patio of a 38-room stone mansion. 18 miles of hiking trails weave through the park.
- **Little Buffalo State Park** - Shoaff's Grist Mill located within the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A large swimming area provides fun for the kids.
- **Memorial Lake State Park** - Easy access from I- 81. It provides a scenic spot for picnicking, hiking, and boating.
- **Michaux State Forest** - Hiking, history, scenic vistas, mountain biking. Need I say more?
- **Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center** - The center offers year-round educational programs. Plenty of hiking trails to explore.
- **Pine Grove Furnace State Park** - Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is home to the old Pine Grove Iron Works, which dates back to 1764. Visit the Appalachian Trail Museum or the restored mansion.
- **Rothrock State Forest** - Would you like to see an old growth forest? Visit the Alan Seeger Natural Area, one of many beautiful places in this state forest.
- **Samuel Lewis State Park** - Great view of the Susquehanna River and surrounding farmland. Excellent location for flying kites and picnicking.
- **Swatara State Park** - Children enjoy looking for fossils in the fossil pit. The Swatara Creek meanders through the park.
- **Tuscarora State Forest** - Visit the Hemlock Natural Area, Box Huckleberry Natural Area (where the plant is over 1300 years old!), and the Masland Natural Area.
- **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.

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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

Central Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Caledonia State Park
- Friends of Colonel Denning State Park
- Friends of Gifford Pinchot State Park
- Friends of Kings Gap State Park
- Friends of Little Buffalo State Park
- Friends of Michaux State Forest
- Friends of Nolde Forest
- Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
- Friends of Rothrock State 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 and <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx>