

# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Pittsburgh, PA

- **Allegheny Islands State Park**— Located in the Allegheny River, these islands are only accessible by boat.
- **Clear Creek State Forest** – Take a scenic drive and stop by the Beartown Rocks vista overlooking the Allegheny Plateau.
- **Forbes State Forest** – Offers roads and trails open for horseback riding, mountain biking, and snowmobiling.
- **Gallitzin State Forest** – Open to hunting, fishing, biking, horseback riding, and camping.
- **Hillman State Park** – Visit the remote-controlled model airplane field.
- **Jennings Environmental Education Center** – The center holds community programs to educate families about stewardship in the outdoors, and also has hiking and picnicking areas.
- **Keystone State Park** – Featuring a sand beach, this park is great for swimming, biking, and camping.
- **Kooser State Park** – The CCC established the lake and day use areas of the park, open today for picnics, fishing, and camping. In the winter, the trails are great for cross-country skiing.
- **Laurel Hill State Park** – Follow the Pumphouse Trail 1.6 miles to the Jones Mill Run Dam, or visit the Hemlock Trail Natural Area.
- **Laurel Ridge State Park** – Go overnight backpacking along the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.
- **Laurel Summit State Park** – This small park is primarily a picnic area. Follow the Bog Trail to the Spruce Flats Bog.
- **Linn Run State Park** – Go trout fishing in Linn Run, then eat lunch near Adams Falls.
- **Maurice K. Goddard State Park** – Popular for the 1,680-acre Lake Wilhelm, the park is open year round for fishing and boating.
- **McConnell's Mill State Park** – Visit the old working gristmill, or go white water boating in the streams created by glacial runoff.
- **Moraine State Park** – This park is popular year round, offering a variety of activities in every season.
- **Ohiopyle State Park** – Ohiopyle has beautiful vistas, great white water rafting, rock climbing, and biking opportunities.
- **Point State Park** – Located in the heart of Pittsburgh, visit the Fort Pitt Museum and Fort Pitt Blockhouse.
- **Raccoon Creek State Park** – The 101-acre Raccoon Lake boasts a sandy beach, boat rental, and camping.
- **Ryerson Station State Park** – Do some rustic camping, or attend an educational program in the amphitheater.
- **Yellow Creek State Park** – Educational and recreational programs are held during the summer. Stop by the wind turbine to learn about the effectiveness of wind energy.

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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 attend stewardship days in parks and forests, 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

### Western Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Laurel Hill State Park
- Friends of M.K. Goddard State Park
- Friends of Ohio State Park
- Friends of Ryerson Station State Park
- Friends of Yellow Creek State Park

Learn more at <https://paparksandforests.org/friends-groups/>

### Conservation Volunteers

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

Learn more at <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx>