

Explore the Outdoors

Near Lebanon, PA



- **Boyd Big Tree Preserve** - Just minutes from Harrisburg-hike the trails through large trees of numerous species.
- **French Creek State Park** - The forests, lakes, wetlands, and fields are perfect for hiking, fishing, camping, and biking.
- **Gifford Pinchot State Park** - The large lake is great for sail boating, kayaking, and fishing. Disc golf is 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.
- **Locust Lake State Park** - where hiking, biking, and watersports meet excellent camping.
- **Memorial Lake State Park** - Easy access from I- 81. It provides a scenic spot for picnicking, hiking, and boating.
- **Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center** - The center offers year-round educational programs and plenty of hiking trails to explore.
- **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.
- **William Penn State Forest**—This 2000-acre forest district includes five separate tracts across southeastern PA. Take in the view of Berks County after hiking up Gibraltar Hill at the Gibraltar Tract or enjoy wetland bird watching at Ruth Zimmerman Tract.

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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 King's Gap State Park
- Friends of Pinchot State Park
- Friends of Little Buffalo State Park
- Friends of Nolde Forest
- Friends of Weiser State Forest
- Friends of Tuscarora and Locust Lake

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>