

# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Indiana, PA

- **Allegheny Islands State Park**— Located in the Allegheny River, these islands are only accessible by boat.
- **Blue Knob State Park** – Blue Knob has PA’s second highest peak, offering views as far as 42 miles. Enjoy trails for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. Bob’s Creek is great for trout fishing.
- **Canoe Creek State Park** – Explore the trails to enjoy scenic views and abundant wildlife.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Ohiopyle State Park** – Ohiopyle has beautiful vistas, great white water rafting, rock climbing, and biking opportunities.
- **Prince Gallitzin State Park** – The vivid landscape draws visitor year round to enjoy fishing, boating, hiking, and biking.
- **Shawnee State Park** – Visitors enjoy the lake for swimming and fishing. Hiking, biking, and hunting are also popular.
- **Yellow Creek State Park** – Easy walking trails for all ages. Private picnic spots with views of the lake. 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 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 Canoe Creek State Park
- Friends of Cook Forest
- Friends of Laurel Hill State Park
- Friends of Oil Creek State Park
- Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park
- Friends of Shawnee & Blue Knob State Parks
- Friends of Yellow Creek State Park
- Laurel Mountain Volunteers

### 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>