

In the spring of 2025, PA Parks & Forests Foundation conducted an online survey of "Your Favorite Trail to ...". Here are some resulting ideas for cross-country skiing.

All State Parks/Forests Mentioned

- Susquehannock State Forest
- Lehigh Gorge State Park
- Tiadaghton State Forest
- Black Moshannon State Park
- Denton Hill State Park
- Laurel Ridge State Park
- Pymatuning State Park
- Chapman State Park
- Clear Creek State Forest
- Moraine State Park
- Delaware Canal State Park
- Lackawanna State Park
- Ole Bull State Park
- Tioga State Forest
- Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area
- Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center

What Should I Wear?

It's a winter sport, so of course you need to be prepared to be out in the cold. However, don't overdress! Cross-country skiing is widely accepted in the field of exercise physiology as "the best cardiovascular exercise known." You WILL be warm! Some clothing essentials for cross-country skiing include...

- Gloves or mittens
- A hat
- Nordic ski pants and jacket
- Warm socks
- Comfortable base layer of clothes



"Cross county skiing is great if you live in a small country." - Steven Wright.

Pymatuning State Park. Photo by Mary Thall.

Types of Cross-Country Skiing

Both classic and skate skiing are permitted on trails in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests. Some parks and forests

What is Cross Country Skiing?

Also known as Nordic Skiing, cross-country skiing is a sport where skiers use skis and trekking poles to cross snow-covered terrain, typically on groomed trails.

offer groomed trails for both classic and skate skiing. The difference between skate and classic skiing is that in classic skiing, skis move parallel in pre-set tracks while skate skiing takes place on groomed trails and is faster and more intense.

Denton Hill State Park

County:

Potter County

Denton Hill Ski Trail

- System of interconnecting loops totaling approximately 29 miles
- Includes portions of the Susquehannock Trail System (7 miles) located in the Susquehannock State Forest, along with portions of the Billy Lewis Trails also located in the Susquehannock State Forest
- Trail is marked with 2x6 inch rectangles
- 6-12 inches of snow is recommended for the best cross-country skiing conditions for this specific trail

What Equipment Will I Need?

- Skis with bindings
- Ski boots
- Ski poles
- Daypack or ski pack
- Headlamp
- Head and eye gear (goggles are suggested)
- Water

Tiadaghton State Forest

County:

Located primarily in Lycoming County, extends into Tioga, Potter, Clinton, and Union counties

Lake Shore Trail

- Located within the Tiadaghton State Forest
- 5.5 mile loop trail that follows the lake
- Mostly level trail

Pine Bog Trail

- Easy 1.9-mile loop that traverses through dense coniferous trees

George B. Will Trail

- First cross-country trail built in the district
- Easy 5.6-mile loop named after former forest ranger

Ruth Will Trail

- 12.9-mile loop that passes a fire tower that was manned by George B. Will's wife, Ruth Will, for over 30 years

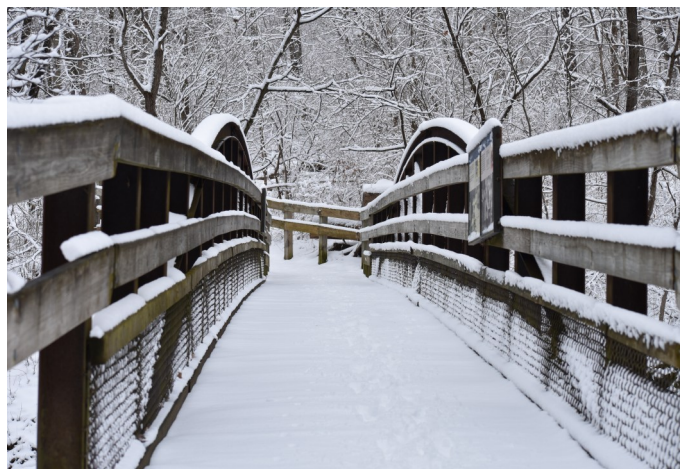


Photo Credit: Sherry Acevedo, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

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