

Explore the Outdoors

Near Bedford, PA

- **Laurel Ridge State Park** – Get out on the 70-mile Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, and spend the night in a recently-restored Adirondack Shelter in this park which stretches along Laurel Mountain from the Youghiogheny River at Ohiopyle, to the Conemaugh Gorge near Johnstown.
- **Forbes State Forest** - Bordering Linn Run State Park, this forest offers 50,000 acres of land for outdoor recreation, including skiing the North Woods Trail, trout fishing on Indian Creek, and visiting the Mt. Davis Natural Area, the highest point in PA. Stop by the Shafer Run Warming Hut for a break while skiing!
- **Shawnee State Park** - Enjoy picnicking, swimming, fishing and boating at Shawnee Lake, or spend the night in a cabin, cottage or yurt.
- **Blue Knob State Park** - Named for its dome-shaped mountain, Blue Knob is the second highest mountain in Pennsylvania. Try downhill or cross-country skiing, snowmobiling in winter, or hit the pool on a hot summer day.
- **Warriors Path State Park** - Float the Juniata from this 349-acre peninsula, fish the Raystown Branch for smallmouth bass, muskellunge or walleye, or take a hike.
- **Buchanan State Forest** - Pick up the Mid State or Tuscarora Trails, part of the extensive 157 mile shared-use trail system in this sprawling forest area spanning nearly 70,000 acres in Franklin, Fulton and Bedford counties.
- **Trough Creek State Park** - Explore a scenic gorge formed when Great Trough Creek cut through Terrace Mountain. Rugged hiking trails lead to wonders like Balanced Rock and Rainbow Falls.
- **Canoe Creek State Park** -View migrating birds and other wildlife at the park's lake, wetlands, old fields and mature forests, which provide critical habitat many species. Try winter activities including iceboating, sledding, ice skating and more!
- **Prince Gallitzin State Park** – Visitors enjoy boating on Glendale Lake, enjoy views of the lake's 26 miles of shoreline from scenic vistas, or try your hand at disc golf and orienteering.
- **Yellow Creek State Park** – If you're interested in sailing, Yellow Creek State Park partners with local clubs for instruction on the water. Or take in serene lake views from a yurt or campsite along the shore.
- **Linn Run State Park** - A scenic place for picnicking, hiking and cabin rentals, Grove and Rock runs join to make Linn Run, an excellent trout stream, and the lovely Adams Falls.
- **Laurel Mountain State Park** - Enjoy downhill skiing and snowboarding and beautiful views of the rolling countryside of the Ligonier Valley.
- **Laurel Hill State Park** – Fifteen miles of mountain biking trails make this mountainous park a go-to spot for a bike ride!

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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

Local Friends Groups

- Friends of Shawnee State Park
- Friends of Yellow Creek State Park
- Friends of Linn Run State Park & Forbes State Forest
- Friends of Prince Gallitzin State Park
- Friends of Laurel Hill State Park
- Friends of Canoe Creek State Park
- Laurel Mountain Volunteer Group

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>