



# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Carlisle, PA

- **Boyd Big Tree Preserve** –Hiking through a beech grove and large field, view many butterflies and birds.
- **Joseph E. Ibberson Conservation Area**- 350 acre-tract of land is excellent for hiking and wild-life watching.
- **Buchanan's Birthplace State Park** - Learn about the 15th president of the United States and the only one from Pennsylvania!
- **Caledonia State Park** - Great for the history buff! This park served as a field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg.
- **Mont Alto State Park** - In spring and summer, cast your line for trout in the West Branch of Antietam Creek; in winter, enjoy access to the public snowmobiling trails at Michaux State Forest.
- **Michaux State Forest** - Hiking, history, scenic vistas, mountain biking. Need I say more?
- **Pine Grove Furnace State Park** - Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is home to the old Pine Grove Iron Works, which dates back to 1764. Visit the Appalachian Trail Museum or the restored mansion.
- **Buchanan State Forest** - Explore rugged Martin Hill, hike the Mid-State Trail or visit the Sweet Root Natural Area.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Big Spring State Forest Picnic Area** – Pack a lunch to enjoy at this quaint picnic and hiking area. Check out the partially completed railroad tunnel, or connect with the Iron Horse Trail for day and overnight hiking.
- **Fowlers Hollow State Park** - Great trails for snowmobilers, equestrians, and hikers with its expansive trail system.
- **Colonel Denning State Park** - Families enjoy the lake and beach. Flat Rock hike is both exhilarating and beautiful.
- **Gifford Pinchot State Park** - The large lake is great for sail boating, kayaking, and fishing. Disc golf also available here.
- **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.
- **Codorus State Park** - The 1,275-acre Lake Marburg is popular for sailboats and motorboats. Anglers love the lake and can also fish Codorus Creek for trout. Picnicking, swimming in the pool and camping are popular activities.

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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 Caledonia State Park
- Friends of Colonel Denning State Park
- Friends of Gifford Pinchot State Park
- Friends of Kings Gap State Park
- Friends of Little Buffalo State Park
- Friends of Mont Alto State Park
- Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park

### 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>