



# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Erie, PA

- **Chapman State Park** – Adjacent to the Allegheny National Forest and State Game Land 29, Chapman sits on the banks of the West Branch of Tionesta Creek. Among its many recreational offerings, the park boasts a 68-acre lake with a swimming beach and warm and cold water fishing.
- **Cornplanter State Forest** – A 1,500-acre forest named in honor of Chief Cornplanter, a famous Native American chief of the Seneca tribe. Points of interest include the Hunter Run Forest Demonstration Area and Lashure Trail, an interpretive area with 1.5 miles of self-guided foot trails. Seven miles of cross country ski trails attract winter sports enthusiasts and serve as dual purpose hiking/mountain biking trails during the snow-free months.
- **Erie Bluffs State Park** – Erie Bluffs is located on the Lake Erie shoreline, just west of the Elk Creek Access Area in western Erie County. Elk Creek is a renowned steelhead trout fishery and the 90-foot bluffs provide beautiful sunset views. Currently, there are no rest facilities at the 540-acre park
- **Maurice K. Goddard State Park** – The 1,860-acre Lake Wilhelm is a year-round angler's paradise. In winter, ice fishing is popular and accounts for many of the larger fish caught. Kayaking on the lake is a highlight of the park. A paved multi-purpose trail circles the lake for hiking and bicycling. The observation blind is a great place to look for eagles, Osprey, and migrating waterfowl in the spring and fall.
- **Oil Creek State Park** – Near the site of the world's first commercial oil well, this park tells the story of the early petroleum industry by interpreting oil boomtowns and oil wells. Scenic deep hollows, steep hills, wetlands, and a meandering creek are found within the park. Travel through "the valley that changed the world" on the 9.7-mile paved multi-use trail, on an excursion train or hike the 30-mile Girard Trail, with its attractive Adirondack shelters.
- **Presque Isle State Park** – This recurring sand spit jutting out into Lake Erie is the only surf beach in the commonwealth. The park stands out for its geologic and biological diversity, as well as its historical significance. Experience amazing sunsets from the lake shore vistas and visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) at the park entrance, featuring interactive exhibits and a large-format theater.
- **Pymatuning State Park** – Stop by the spillway where the ducks walk on the fishes' backs or visit nearby centers to view wildlife exhibits. Two natural areas, the 725-acre Blackjack Swamp and the 161-acre Clark Islands (access by boat), provide habitat for unique natural communities. A 17,088-acre lake offers 20 horse power boating. Modern cabins and camping available.

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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

### North Western Pennsylvania Friends Groups

- Friends of Maurice K. Goddard State Park
- Friends of Oil Creek State Park
- Friends of Pymatuning 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>