

# Explore the Outdoors

## Near Smethport, PA

- **Bendigo State Park**- Peace and tranquility envelop the visitor of this small park, with its streamside picnic area.
- **Chapman State Park**- Among its many recreational offerings, the park boasts a 68 acre lake with swimming, boating, fishing, as well as hiking and biking.
- **Cherry Springs State Park** - Bring a telescope for an evening of unparalleled views of the night sky.
- **Colton Point State Park** – Rugged overlooks offer great views of the Grand Canyon of PA.
- **Cornplanter State Forest** -Highlights include 1.5 miles of self-guided foot trails and 7 miles of cross country ski, hiking and biking trails,
- **Denton Hill State Park** -In winter there is great downhill skiing. Summers bring a variety of outdoor events.
- **Elk State Forest**- hiking for all levels, with exceptional wildlife watching.
- **Elk State Park**- the main attraction is the 1,160 acre lake for boating and fishing.
- **Hills Creek State Park** -Camping, cabins, swimming, boating, and hiking make this an ideal spot for family vacations.
- **Kettle Creek State Park**- Many recreational activities and opportunities for viewing wildlife.
- **Kinzua Bridge State Park**-beautiful views from the pedestrian walkway where visitors can stroll into the Kinzua Gorge.
- **Leonard Harrison State Park** – Enjoy great bicycling on the 62 mile Pine Creek Rail Trail, offering fabulous views.
- **Lyman Run State Park** – Lyman Lake offers water recreation with shady picnicking and hiking.
- **Ole Bull State Park** – A premier trout fishing spot, with swimming, hiking, biking, and camping along the Kettle Creek.
- **Patterson State Park**-A 15 mile mountain bike path connecting Denton Hill and Cherry Springs state parks passes through this remotely located park. Visitors enjoy the two rustic picnic pavilions.
- **Sinnemahoning State Park**- 1,910 acres of beautiful scenery and outstanding wildlife habitat.
- **Sizerville State Park**- Popular for its 5 miles of hiking trails, as well as the trailhead for Bucktail Trail.
- **Susquehannock State Forest**- Sixteen vistas provide magnificent views of the forest for hikers to enjoy.
- **Tioga State Forest** –The forest is home to the Pine Creek Gorge, also known as the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania." Great spots for picnicking, hiking and biking.

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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

- Cherry Springs Dark Sky Association
- Friends of Lyman Run 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>