

# A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Yellow Creek State Park



**Yellow Creek State Park**  
170 Route 259 Highway  
Penn Run, PA 15765-5941  
724-357-7913  
YellowCreekSP@pa.gov

**Make online reservations at:**  
[www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com) or call toll-free  
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM  
to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

[www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com)



## Yellow Creek State Park

The 2,981-acre Yellow Creek State Park is in Indiana County on the western edge of the Allegheny Mountains. The park is named for Yellow Creek and Little Yellow Creek that flow into the 720-acre lake. Both creeks contain yellow clay in their banks and stream bottoms.

The park and surrounding landscape contain old farm lands and northern hardwood forests, reflecting early settlement patterns in western Pennsylvania's rolling hills and valleys. Today, visitors enjoy the sand beach, picnicking, lodging, recreation, and education programs. Yellow Creek Lake is a destination for boaters and anglers. The lake and park provide an important rest stop for migrating birds.

### Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.578333 Long. -79.000583

Yellow Creek State Park is along PA 422 between the towns of Ebensburg and Indiana.

### Reservations

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### Recreational Opportunities

**HIKING: 5.4 miles, yellow blazes**

**Billy Goat Trail: 0.4 miles, more difficult hiking**

Beginning and ending on Damsite Trail Loop near Hoffman Road, this trail provides an opportunity to make a 0.8-mile loop through the young hardwood forest.

**Damsite Trail Loop: 2.5 miles, easiest hiking**

This relatively flat trail follows the western side of the lake to the Yellow Creek Dam overlook before looping back. To drive to this trailhead at the end of Hoffman Road, follow PA 259 south from the park office, turn right to follow PA 259 toward Brush Valley, and turn right onto Hoffman Road.

**Laurel Run Trail: 0.5 mile, easiest hiking**

This loop starts at the park office and meanders through beautiful wildflowers in the spring.

**Ridgetop Trail: 2 miles, most difficult hiking**

The challenging trail begins in the beach area, winding through a variety of habitats with some steep sections.

Tell us about your hike at:



**MULTI-USE TRAILS: 18 miles, red blazes**

Trails on the north and south shores are for hikers and mountain bikers. The trails are easiest hiking or riding with some challenging sections, which have alternate routes to bypass the obstacles. The trails meander through most of the park. Letters located at trail intersections and on the map help visitors navigate the trail network.

**ORIENTEERING:** A small orienteering course is on the north shore near the pavilions. The course includes a 1.2-mile beginner option and 2.4-mile intermediate option. Orienteering maps are available in the park office.

**FISHING:** The 720-acre Yellow Creek Lake is well stocked with most warmwater game fish and panfish. Common species are smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, northern pike, tiger muskellunge, yellow perch, bluegill, and catfishes. An ADA accessible fishing area is on the north shore. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission big bass regulations are in effect on Yellow Creek Lake.

Laurel Run, Yellow Creek, and Little Yellow Creek provide excellent trout fishing for stocked brown and brook trout.

The breast of Dragonfly Pond is accessible to many people with disabilities, and children 16 years and younger are permitted to fish here. Access ramps and benches are provided.

Fishing is prohibited in the swimming area, from boat launching docks, or in the boat mooring area. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**YURTS:** These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep four or five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, refrigerator, microwave, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat, outlets, fire ring, and picnic table. Yurts do not have running water, but restrooms, showers, and potable water are nearby.



**CAMPING COTTAGES:** Six cottages sleep five people in bunk beds, and have wooden floors, windows, electric heat, porch, picnic table, fire ring, electric lights, and outlets. They do not have running water, but restrooms, showers, and potable water are nearby.

**SWIMMING:** The 300-foot sand beach is open from late-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. An ADA accessible shower house with flush toilets, changing rooms, and snack bar is the centerpiece of the beach area. Pets are prohibited on the beach.

**BOATING: up to 20 hp motors permitted**

Yellow Creek Lake has boat launches on the north shore, the south shore, in the beach day use area, and a small launch in Grampaps Cove. Overnight mooring of boats is permitted in the park by special permit only.

A boat rental in the beach day use area offers canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, pontoon boats, and paddleboards. The boat rental is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** Most of Yellow Creek State Park is open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, bear, turkey, and waterfowl.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

**PICNICKING:** The beach day use area on the south shore accommodates many visitors. Picnic tables, modern restrooms, and a limited number of charcoal grills are scattered throughout the area. There is also a small picnic area on the north shore near the boat launch.

Four picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own grills. Open ground fires are prohibited in the park. Pets are permitted in the day use areas and must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated.

### Enjoy the Winter

**ICE SAFETY: Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single user and 7" thick for a small group. For ice boating, make sure ice is at least 6" thick. Always carry safety equipment.

**ICE FISHING:** Sunfish, perch, and pike are frequently caught through the ice at Yellow Creek. Wooden devices for ice rescue are located around all ice use access areas. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**ICEBOATING:** Iceboating is permitted on the lake. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Iceboats are not available for rent.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING:** The park has many opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing for all experience levels on the hiking and multi-use trails.

### Friends of Yellow Creek

The Friends of Yellow Creek State Park is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enhancing Yellow Creek State Park. [www.foyc.org](http://www.foyc.org)

### Learn, Experience, Connect

Yellow Creek State Park offers a wide variety of programs from April through October. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs. The park also features the Environmental Learning Classroom near Dragonfly Pond.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

### History

The park, located near the Kittanning Path, was used by the Lenape and Shawnee as a trade route. This path was later travelled by European settlers moving into the Ohio River Valley and points further west. Settlers who stayed provided goods and services to those families continuing to the western territories. Many local families were dependent upon this western traffic for their existence as evidenced by the increasing number of tradesmen, craftsmen, and merchants during the mid-1800s.

Land was purchased during the early 1960s by the Department of Forests and Waters to create regional parks for reservoirs. Development of park facilities and additional land purchases were completed during the 1970s. The park was dedicated on July 3, 1976, in conjunction with the official opening of the beach area.

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Indiana County Tourist Bureau. [www.visitindianacountypa.org](http://www.visitindianacountypa.org)

**State Game Lands 273 and 248** provide areas for public hunting and general recreation.

### Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

### In an Emergency

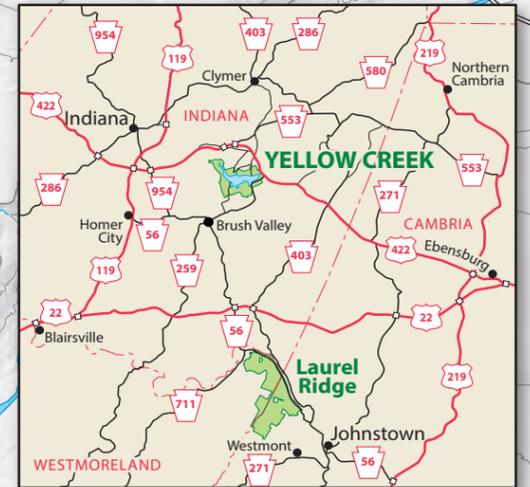
Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

### NEAREST HOSPITAL

Indiana Regional Medical Center  
835 Hospital Road  
Indiana, PA 15701  
724-357-7000

# YELLOW CREEK STATE PARK

INDIANA COUNTY



- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Environmental Learning Classroom
- Modern Restrooms
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Shower House/Restrooms
- Food Concession
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Camping Cottages
- Yurts
- Scenic View
- Playground
- Swimming Beach
- Fishing Pier/Area
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch
- Boat Mooring
- Waterfowl Viewing Blind
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking
- Trail Intersection
- Unpaved Road
- One-way Road
- Gate

- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Boy Scout Camp

CONTOURS ARE ON 40 FT. INTERVALS



- GPS Coordinates**  
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.
1. Park Office  
40.578333, -79.000583
  2. Environmental Learning Classroom  
40.02565, -79.008806
  3. Lodging Area  
40.581194, -79.03425
  4. Beach Area  
40.570194, -79.01875
  5. McFeaters Cove Boat Launch  
40.579972, -79.037306
  6. South Boat Launch  
40.573444, -79.012778



Rev. 1/6/21

