



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



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2021



WORLDS END STATE PARK

Worlds End State Park is situated in a narrow S-shaped valley of the Loyalsock Creek, just south of Forksville in Sullivan County.

Surrounded by Loyalsock State Forest, the 780-acre park offers visitors diverse recreational opportunities within an expanse of public land. The rugged natural beauty of the Endless Mountains provides many locations and scenic vistas ideal for photography.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.471667 Long. -76.581389

The park is along PA 154 and is easily reached from:

NORTH AND EAST: PA US 220 to PA 87 from Dushore.

WEST: I-180 to PA 87 from Williamsport.

SOUTH: I-80 to I-180 to PA US 220 to PA 42.

Reservations

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

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

PICNICKING: The main picnic area is along Loyalsock Creek, just upstream of the swimming area. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnickers are asked to dispose of hot charcoal in the facilities provided. A food concession, restrooms, pavilions, playground, and recycling station are in the picnic area.

PICNIC PAVILIONS: Five large 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. The LT and Playground pavilions are ADA accessible.

SIGHTSEEING: Loyalsock Canyon Vista and nearby High Knob Overlook provide outstanding views of the Endless Mountains landscape. Scenery is particularly unforgettable during the June mountain laurel bloom and the fall foliage period in October. The Loyalsock Canyon Vista is ADA accessible and can be reached via Mineral Spring and Cold Run roads.

SWIMMING: A small dam on Loyalsock Creek forms a swimming area that is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, 8:00 AM to sunset. The mountain stream water is always cold and exhilarating. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming.

HIKING: The hiking trails at Worlds End State Park are mostly rocky with steep sections that climb the surrounding mountains, providing scenic views and good exercise. Hikers should wear proper footwear, and be extra cautious in the winter and spring when trail surfaces can be frozen or icy.

See reverse side for trail information.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About half of Worlds End State Park is open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, grouse, squirrel, bear, and turkey. 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 unsecured 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.

FISHING: Loyalsock Creek is stocked with trout by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The cold mountain water provides good fishing opportunities most of the year. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

WHITEWATER BOATING: Whitewater boaters may use Loyalsock Creek at any time of the year, although the area by the swimming beach is closed during the summer.



The best water levels exist March to May. Due to rapid fluctuations in water level, kayakers should inquire about conditions before coming to the park. The stream is NOT suitable for open canoes.

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.

December. It has modern campsites (electric, non-electric, walk-to, and pet-friendly) with a sanitary dump station, playground, amphitheater, and modern restrooms with warm showers. Pets are permitted at designated sites for a fee.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified, nonprofit, organized groups can camp in the group tenting area year round. The three sites each hold 30 people or combine to hold 90 people. The organized group tent camping area does not have showers. There are picnic tables, fire rings, non-flush toilets, and drinking water. Advance reservations are required.

SNOWMOBILING: Several miles of park roads are used as joint-use snowmobile trails. Additionally, many trails on nearby state forest land also permit snowmobiling.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Several park areas are suitable for skiing and snowshoeing. A 20-mile trail network is close by on state forest land.

Stay the Night



Cabins sleep four or eight people in bunk beds. They have electricity and are equipped with a refrigerator, range, table and chairs, and a wood burning stove for heat. Guests are responsible for their own firewood.

Rustic cabins do not have running water, but three shower houses are in the cabin area. Dogs are permitted in cabins 9 and 19. Cabins 9 and 15 are ADA accessible. Guests should bring their own linens, bedding, cookware, dishes, utensils, toiletries, dishpans, and sundries.

CAMPING: modern facilities

A 70-site tent and trailer camping area along PA 154 is one mile east of the park office. The campground opens in mid-April and closes at the end of regular deer season in early

Enjoy the Winter



LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

Worlds End State Park offers a wide variety of programs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. 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.

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

Early European settlers to the area used two horse trails to cross the rugged highland from Muncy Creek to the forks of Loyalsock Creek at the town of Forksville. This treacherous road became obsolete in 1895 with the building of PA 154. Pioneer Road trail and Worlds End Road follow the path of the old horse trail. Worlds End Vista, at the junction of Pioneer Road trail and Worlds End Trail, possibly inspired the name of the park.

At the turn of the 20th century, logging became big business in the area. At least one sawmill operated within the park area. The loggers cut the trees and floated them down the creek. The hillsides were left covered in briars, stumps, and woody debris, making the area prone to forest fires and flooding. In 1929, the Department of Forests and Waters began purchasing the devastated land to create a state forest park. In 1932, \$50 was allotted to create the park facilities, which purchased little more than four picnic tables.

In 1933, to ease the rampant unemployment of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Companies of 200 young, unemployed men or veterans, built camps as bases for performing forest reclamation and construction projects. They planted trees, built parks, fought and prevented forest fires, created roads and trails, and performed other conservation work.

Four CCC camps operated in Sullivan County. Camp S-95 in Laporte built many of the park facilities. The swimming area, dam, cabins, pavilions, hiking trails, and roads reflect the handiwork of the hardworking CCC enrollees.

What's the Name of this Park?

The name of the park has swirled with controversy. A map from 1872 called the area Worlds End. The excerpt below is from an article from July 20, 1935, by W.S. Swinger, Assistant District Forester of Wyoming State Forest, now Loyalsock State Forest.

"There was even a dispute as to the proper name of the area. Some people called it Worlds End, others Whirl's Glen, and still others Whirl's End. The first name arose from the topography of the place. Seven mountain ranges converge on the point and one does receive the sensation of being at the ultimate ends of the earth. The proponents of the second name base their claim upon the whirlpool in the Loyalsock Creek and the third name was probably a contraction of the other two. Since the whirlpool had largely disappeared, it was decided that the name Worlds End would be the most appropriate. Hence, the name Worlds End State Forest Park."

In 1936, a letter campaign caused the park name to be changed to Whirls End. Another letter campaign forced the matter to be brought to the former State Geographic Board, who supervised the official naming of places. The name was changed back to Worlds End in 1943.

NATURAL HISTORY

Wildlife Watching

The extensive forest cover, hemlock valleys, and mountainous terrain provide ideal habitat for "big woods" wildlife. White-tailed deer, black bears, and wild turkeys are regularly sighted.

Wildlife is best viewed by walking any of the hiking trails or slowly driving the extensive Loyalsock State Forest roads in and around the park. The patient observer may find bobcats, coyotes, and river otters. Over 200 species of birds have been recorded. Many species that one could expect to find nesting farther north are present, including northern goshawks, yellow-bellied flycatchers, and white-throated sparrows.

Do not feed wildlife. Keep food locked inside cabins or vehicles.



Geology

Worlds End State Park is in a picturesque corner of the Allegheny High Plateau known as the Sullivan Highlands, which is part of the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania. Millions of years of erosion by Loyalsock Creek created the stunning scenery and gorge.

About 350 million years ago, this part of Pennsylvania was on the coastline of a shallow sea that covered most of the interior of North America. High mountains to the east eroded, dumping vast amounts of clay, sand, and gravel on the coast, building up the sediment for about 100 million years. The great pressure of the sediments squeezed the sand, clay, and gravel into the shale, sandstone, and conglomerate rocks found in the park today.

Collisions with Europe and Africa folded and raised the rock of the park into a large, flat highland, which probably stood far higher than it does today. Millions of years of erosion have carved the highland into the ridges and valleys seen today. Softer rocks eroded first, creating the S-shaped valley. The erosion resistant sandstone and conglomerate rocks eroded very slowly creating the mountain tops. Loyalsock Creek has flowed through the area for an unknown length of time, creating the rugged, serpentine valley of Worlds End State Park.



ROCK GARDEN: Just upslope from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista is a blocky maze of lichen-encrusted boulders that have fascinated visitors for decades. The Rock Garden's erosion resistant boulders are composed of coarse-grained sandstone and conglomerate rock. Some boulders have crossbedding, when layers of sediment lie at an angle to the rest of the sediments.

FOSSILS: Fossils are the remains or traces of plants and animals that lived long ago. Dinosaur bones are well-known examples of a fossil. At Worlds End State Park, there are unique fossils from before the time of dinosaurs! About 350 million years ago, this area was a series of river deltas on the coast of a warm, shallow sea. Ancestors of the modern-day lungfish inhabited the rivers. During dry periods, the lungfish burrowed tail first into the mud and hibernated until the water returned. Sometimes these burrows were filled with different sediment than the mud in which the fish burrowed, creating a rod-shaped fossil composed of rock different from the surrounding rock. These fossils, nearly five inches in diameter and several feet long, have been found in areas near the park.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS



Worlds End State Park

82 Cabin Bridge Road
Forksville, PA 18616-0062

570-924-3287

WorldsEndSP@a.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Make online reservations at

www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM., Monday to Saturday.

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

Muncy Valley Hospital
215 East Water Street
Muncy, PA 17756
570-546-8282



Protect and Preserve our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

- Please camp only in designated areas and minimize your impact on the campsite.

- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!

Nearby Attractions

For information on nearby attractions, contact:

Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau,
800-769-8999. www.endlessmountains.org

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce,
570-482-4088. www.sullivanpachamber.com

Worlds End State Park is surrounded by the vast terrain of the **Loyalsock State Forest**. The state forest offers a variety of recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and primitive backpacking. 570-946-4049

HIKING: 26 miles

Bridle Trail: 50 miles (2.0 miles in the park), red blazes, more difficult hiking
This is the designated equestrian trail in Loyalsock State Forest. It consists of two 25-mile loops and is multi-use for hiking and mountain biking. For a detailed map of the Bridle Trail, contact Loyalsock State Forest, or visit the park office at Worlds End State Park.

Butternut Trail: 2.5-mile loop, orange blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail originates off Cabin Bridge Road, just east of the bridge. The trail splits and makes a loop through a northern hardwood forest. Lower Road travels parallel to and above Loyalsock Creek and crosses Butternut Run, an intermittent stream. Upper Road travels an old logging road. Butternut Vista offers a view of the Loyalsock Valley above and downstream of the park campground.

Canyon Vista Trail: 4-mile loop, blue blazes, more difficult hiking with steep sections
This trail explores the eastern half of the park and rewards hikers with a spectacular view of the Loyalsock Creek Gorge from its vista, at an elevation of 1750 feet. Be sure to explore the blocky maze of the Rock Garden adjacent to the vista.

Cold Run Trail: 1.5 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail is a 1.5-mile extension of Canyon Vista Trail. Highlights include Cold Run Vista, seasonal waterfalls along branches of Cold Run, a rock labyrinth, and boulder arch.

Double Run Nature Trail: 1.2-mile loop, green blazes, more difficult hiking with short, steep sections
This trail begins and ends on PA 154 next to the park chapel. It travels through rich, fertile

woodlands along the west branch of Double Run, which has waterfalls and pools.

East Branch Trail: 1.1 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail departs from Double Run Nature Trail, Loyalsock Trail, and Link Trail between the footbridges over both branches of Double Run. It ascends an old timber hauling road to meet Loyalsock Trail at milepost 41.54 near Mineral Spring.

Flynn Trail: 0.8 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
An old logging road, this trail connects Loyalsock Trail and Butternut Trail.

High Rock Trail: 1 mile, red blazes, most difficult hiking
This steep trail begins off the Cabin Bridge Road, just east of the bridge. Three hundred feet

of elevation is gained as the trail ascends over High Rock Run and climbs upward through a maze of lichen encrusted boulders to reach High Rock Vista. The trail descends steeply to PA 154 near the day use area. Please be safe and stay on the trail.

Link Trail: 7 miles, red x on a yellow circle blazes, more difficult hiking
Beginning behind the park office, the trail follows the Loyalsock Creek and cascading Double Run before ascending to Loyalsock Canyon Vista. The trail then makes its way through Loyalsock State Forest to intersect Loyalsock Trail (LT) east of the park at Rock Run Road (mile 55.33). When combined with the LT, it is possible to make a 16.2-mile loop.

Loyalsock Trail (LT): 59.21 miles (4.47 miles within park), yellow circle with red LT blaze, most difficult hiking
Beginning along PA 87 near Loyalsockville and ending at US 220 north of Laporte, the LT travels through Loyalsock State Forest, private property, and Worlds End State Park. The LT enters the park at milepost 42.77 and leaves the park at 47.24. Detailed maps are available for purchase at the park office, which is at mile post 45.9.

Pioneer Road: 2.5 miles, no blazes, more difficult hiking
This was the original horse trail that passed through Worlds End before the construction of PA 154 in 1895. Pioneer Road is now a hiking-only trail that extends from Worlds End Road (SR 3009) to Forksville. It can be accessed from the Worlds End Trail, Loyalsock Trail, or the Double Run Nature Trail.

Red Pine Trail: 0.42 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail ascends from Butternut Trail to Loyalsock Road where old logging roads and skid trails used to harvest Red Pines can be seen.

Worlds End Trail: 3.25 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail begins at the park office and ascends a steep mountainside to arrive at Worlds End Vista, overlooking the park beach. It then crosses Pioneer Road and ascends into the state forest to connect with Loyalsock Trail at mile 37.77, within Coal Mine Road Loop. When combined with LT, it is possible to make an 11.5-mile loop.

Tell us about your hike at:

