

# A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Ryerson Station State Park



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



**Ryerson Station State Park**  
361 Bristoria Road  
Wind Ridge, PA 15380  
724-428-4254  
RyersonStationSP@pa.gov

**Make online reservations at**  
**www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks** or call toll-free  
**888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to**  
**5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.**

**www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks**  **visitPAparks**

## Ryerson Station State Park

Ryerson Station State Park is in western Greene County Pennsylvania, near the West Virginia border. The 1,164-acre park provides a variety of year-round recreational opportunities. Visitors can enjoy camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting, and seasonal educational programs.

### Directions


GPS DD: Lat. 39.88614 Long. -80.44549

The park is along both sides of Bristoria Road, just off of PA 21, in Richhill Township three miles from the community of Wind Ridge. All campers should access Polly Hill Campground on McNay Ridge Road from PA 21.


### Reservations

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

### Recreational Opportunities

 **CAMPING: modern facilities, full-hookup, and electric**  
A 35-site campground for tents or trailers lies on a ridge within the park and is open year round. Reservations are required. The campground has modern restrooms, warm showers, sanitary dump station, coin-operated laundry, drinking water, and a playfield for kickball and other field sports. There are seven sites with full-hookups, 12 electric-only sites, and 16 tent-only sites. Several ADA sites are available. Pets are permitted on designated sites for a fee. A shower house and a sanitary dump station are provided for campers. Non-campers may also use these facilities for a fee.  
Site occupancy is limited to one family unit (persons living under one household) or five unrelated people, including one responsible individual 18 years of age or older.


**CAMPING COTTAGES:** Two camping cottages in the campground each sleep five people in single bunk beds or double/single bunk beds. Each cottage has a small table, love seat and chair, electric heat, lights, outlets, porch, picnic table, and fire ring. Camping cottages do not have running water but showers and restrooms are available within the campground. Parking for up to two vehicles is available at each cottage.

 **DELUXE CAMPING COTTAGES:** Three deluxe cottages in the campground each sleep five people in single bunk beds or double/single bunk beds. Each cottage has a microwave, stovetop, refrigerator, dining table, chairs, electric heat, lights, outlets, porch, picnic table, and fire ring. Deluxe Cottage A allows up to two dogs and is ADA accessible. Camping cottages do not have running water but showers and restrooms are available within the campground. Parking for up to two vehicles is available at each cottage.


**ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING:** A rustic camping area is available for organized adult or youth groups from April 1st through September 30th. The area can accommodate up to 75 people and provides non-flush toilets, drinking water, fire rings, picnic tables, and a pavilion. Reservations are required.

**FISHING:** North Fork Dunkard Fork flows through the park. Common fish include species of trout, bass, and panfish. In the spring, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks the creek throughout the park. A fishing

license, not available at the park office, is required for people ages 16 and older. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

 **SWIMMING:** Weather and staff availability permitting, a free swimming pool and splash pad are open daily from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day, unless posted otherwise. The pool complex is ADA accessible, including a lift for the pool.

**PICNICKING:** Picnic tables are available throughout the park, along with charcoal grills, drinking water, and restrooms. Modern restrooms at the park office are open year round and are ADA accessible. A small playground is in the main picnic area. The park has three picnic pavilions. Two 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.

 **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** Approximately 900 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrel, 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.  
**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.

**HIKING: 13 miles**  
Park trails allow visitors to explore the park on foot and on cross-country skis in winter. The trails traverse many habitats, including mature forests, wet valley bottoms, evergreen plantations, and fields in ecological succession. Most trails are wide, easily followed, and therefore, not color-blazed. A trail brochure is available at the park office and on the park’s webpage.

### Learn, Experience, Connect

Ryerson Station State Park offers a wide variety of programs during the summer season. 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 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.

### Enjoy the Winter

**SLEDDING:** Several small hills throughout the park are suitable for sledding.

**SNOWMOBILING:** Approximately 2.5 miles of snowmobile trails are available for use by registered snowmobiles from the day following the last day of deer season in December until April 1, weather permitting. Please contact the park office for trail conditions and current trail access.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** Cross-country skiing is permitted on hiking trails and open areas throughout the park. Trails are not groomed.

**SNOWSHOEING:** All trails are open to snowshoeing.

### History

Some of the earliest documented inhabitants of western Pennsylvania were peoples belonging to the Adena Culture (500 BCE to 100 CE). They established villages and buried their dead in large burial mounds, usually with funerary objects such as bracelets. The next documented inhabitants of the region were the Monongahela Culture (until 1630 CE). They built villages that were surrounded with wooden stockades and grew maize. This culture disappeared before Europeans established a presence in the area, possibly due to droughts and disease. As European colonists moved further west, the Lenape, Shawnee, Seneca, and Seneca-Cayuga moved into the lands left empty by the disappearance of the Monongahela Culture.  
The British purchased land from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Iroquois Confederacy) in 1768 at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, but the Shawnee and Lenape were not a part of the treaty and still claimed lands in western Pennsylvania. They attempted to defend their land by raiding European colonists and burning their homes. In response, the colonists built small fortifications called “stations” or “block houses” for protection. Ryerson’s Station, named after landowner Thomas Ryerson, was built by 1774 and used until at least 1784. The station was among many used by Virginia state militia companies. Ryerson’s Station would have been constructed of log palisades, or fences, placed around a log cabin to create a secure place for colonists to seek shelter. It was built at the confluence of the north and south forks of Dunkard Fork near present day Route 21.

The town of Wind Ridge was chartered in 1849 and once contained numerous stores and an inn for mine workers. Forests were cleared for farming. In 1866, the Richhill Agriculture, Horticulture, and Mechanical Society was formed and held the first Jacktown Fair. The fair remains one of Pennsylvania’s longest operating fairs, celebrating the agricultural traditions of the area. Coal was mined from outcroppings early on. Oil and gas drilling first occurred in western Greene County in the late 1800s. By the start of the 1900s, both mining and drilling were an important industry in the county that continues to this day.

**The Park**  
As part of its plan to establish a state park within 25 miles of every resident of the commonwealth, the former Department of Forests and Waters began acquiring land for a park in 1958. Dedicated on May 23, 1968, the completed park featured a 62-acre lake, family campground,

picnic areas, a swimming pool, and administrative and maintenance facilities. Duke Lake, named after former park superintendent Ronald J. Duke, was the focal point of the park for 45 years. In 2005, the lake was drawn down for safety reasons. With input from the public, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is working to redesign park facilities to provide new and enhanced recreational opportunities for park visitors.


### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from Greene County Tourist Promotion Agency. 877-280-TOUR.  
[www.visitgreene.org](http://www.visitgreene.org)

### 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 try to 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!
  - Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

### 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**  
Washington Health System (WHS) Greene  
350 Bonar Avenue  
Waynesburg, PA 15370  
724-627-3101



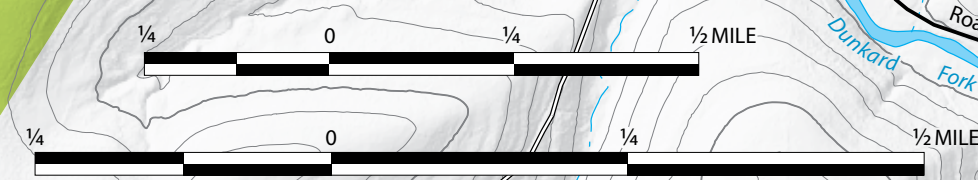
# RYERSON STATION STATE PARK

GREENE COUNTY



- Park Office/Classroom
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Modern Restrooms
- Shower House/Restrooms
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Amphitheater
- Playground
- Swimming Pool
- First Aid
- Camping
- Organized Group Tenting
- Camping Cottages
- Deluxe Camping Cottages
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Snowmobiling
- Unpaved Road
- Gate
- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Wetlands

CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS



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