



Pymatuning

Pymatuning
State Park



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.

visitPAparks

2022



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



1. Watch for eagles at Wilson Launch.
2. Catch a walleye or a crappie from one of the many developed shoreline fishing areas.
3. Take a kayak or canoe trip on the Shenango River Water Trail.
4. Feed the carp at the Linesville Spillway.
5. Rent a pontoon boat at Jamestown, Espyville, or Linesville marinas.
6. Explore the history of the dam and Gatehouse.
7. Spend a weekend at one of the campgrounds in the park.
8. Visit the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Linesville Fish Hatchery.
9. Watch the sunset from the Spillway Trail.
10. Stay in a modern cabin near the lake.

PYMATUNING STATE PARK



At 16,892 acres, Pymatuning State Park is one of the largest Pennsylvania state parks, while the 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir is the largest lake in the commonwealth. Pymatuning is among the most visited state parks in Pennsylvania. Many visitors enjoy boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and other recreational opportunities.

Reservations

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.

NATURAL AREAS

Pennsylvania State Park Natural Areas have unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value and are set aside for scientific observation and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty. Pymatuning has two natural areas in the northern part of the lake, Black Jack Swamp and Clark Island. Although there are no trails or facilities, visitors are welcome to explore the undeveloped natural areas.

Black Jack Swamp Natural Area encompasses 725 acres comprised of a mature forest of narrow, shrub-lined channels, hardwoods, eastern white pines, and secluded coves. Vast wetlands protected the area from settlement, leaving it mostly untouched. The natural area provides diverse habitats for a variety of plants and animals.

At 161 acres, Clark Island Natural Area is the largest of Pymatuning State

Directions

Park Office GPS DD:
Lat. 41.49937 Long. -80.46784

The south shore of the park, including Jamestown Campground, boat launch, beach, cabins, picnic areas, group tenting, and the park office, can be reached from US 322.

The north shore of the park, including Linesville Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launch, and Espyville Marina can be reached from US 6.

The east shore of the park, Tuttle Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launches, and Espyville Marina can be reached from PA 285.

Park's islands. With the construction of Pymatuning Reservoir in 1934, this hilltop was surrounded by water, isolating it from the adjacent land. As a result, the island is an outstanding example of an undisturbed plant community that features a mature forest of hardwoods and eastern white pines. Picturesque coves and a sheltered inland pond add to the beauty and serenity of the area.

SPILLWAY AREA

THE SPILLWAY

The Linesville Spillway has attracted visitors even before construction was completed. Carp in the Shenango River began gathering at the spillway to capture natural food that was being washed over the bowl. Over time, tourists began feeding bread to the carp and ducks that gathered there. Today, over 400,000 yearly visitors make this one of their vacation stops.

The tradition of feeding fish at the spillway is a unique exception to DCNR's "No Feeding Wildlife" policy. Wildlife, including geese, have been attracted to this spillway bowl since it was constructed in 1934. The flow of water over the bowl provides a smorgasbord of plant material, insect larvae, crayfish, and other invertebrates for waterfowl and fish to eat. In the 1930s, it was common to feed wildlife at parks, and the spillway was no exception. Roadside vendors began to provide bread to feed the fish. As word of this unique area spread, it quickly became a popular tourist attraction. DCNR allows fish-feeding at the spillway because of its cultural and historical value.

Feeding wildlife may provide a few minutes of entertainment, but it can lead to serious problems for both humans and wildlife.

Follow posted rules and regulations and remember these important principles:

- Do not feed wildlife anywhere in the park with the unique exception of fish-feeding at the spillway.
- When feeding fish at the spillway, use the traditional bread or pellets, which target fish instead of ducks and geese. Do not feed fish other foods such as chips, popcorn, or pastries.
- Keep areas clean of food and litter.

PA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION HATCHERY

Originally constructed in 1939, the Linesville Fish Culture Station (hatchery) is situated on 97 developed acres of land

managed by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The facility consists of earthen ponds, exterior concrete raceways, a hatchery building with interior stainless steel and concrete raceways, and jar and vertical flow through tray egg incubators. The hatchery building has a visitor center showing the operation of the hatchery and exploring the fish, reptiles, and amphibians of Pennsylvania, including a two-story aquarium featuring live Pymatuning Lake fish.



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day



SWIMMING: Three public beaches—Linesville, Beach 1, and Beach 2; and beaches for campers in Jamestown and Tuttle campgrounds are open the weekend before Memorial Day through Labor Day, weather and conditions permitting. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 10,300 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, and waterfowl. Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day

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.

Adjacent to the park, Pennsylvania Game Lands 214 has many hunting opportunities, as well as controlled hunting areas.

DISC GOLFING: An 18-hole, par 66, disc golf course is located in the Jamestown Day Use Area near the park office. Score cards are available at the park office. The course is set up in two loops (Front 9 and Back 9) starting and ending at Pavilion 4.

BOATING: maximum 20 hp motors The Pymatuning Reservoir is popular for a variety of powered and non-powered boating activities with many boat launches along the shores, including several ADA accessible launches.

The three Pennsylvania boat marinas have boat mooring and rent pontoon boats, motorboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks. Each marina has a store that has bait, tackle, fuel, and snacks.

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

Stay the Night



CAMPING: modern restrooms with showers Linesville Campground in the northern part of the park, Jamestown Campground on the southern side of the lake, and Tuttle Campground near Espyville are open from mid-April through mid-October. Contact the park for specific dates. Each campground has modern restrooms with flush toilets and showers, campsites with electricity, full-hookup sites, designated pet-friendly campsites, ADA accessible campsites, and a sanitary dump station. All campgrounds

are near swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking. Jamestown Campground also has a boat launch, beach, camp store, amphitheater, and playground.

The maximum stay in all camping areas is 14 days during the summer season and 21 days during the off-season. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

CABINS: Twenty modern cabins located near the Jamestown Campground are available for rent year round. Five ADA accessible, modern cabins by the Linesville Campground are open from



PICNICKING: Picnic tables are available in many areas. Jamestown and Linesville beaches have ADA accessible picnic sites complete with grills and tables. There are 12 picnic pavilions that may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pets must be kept on a leash and are prohibited in swimming areas and some overnight areas.

FISHING: The Pymatuning Reservoir is a warmwater fishery. Common species are walleye, muskellunge, carp, crappie, perch, bluegill, and largemouth and smallmouth bass. Ice fishing during the winter months is also popular. There are several ADA accessible fishing access areas and piers. When fishing by boat, fishing licenses issued by either Ohio or Pennsylvania are honored anywhere on the lake. When fishing on the shore, only Ohio licensed anglers can fish from the Ohio shore and Pennsylvania licensed anglers from the Pennsylvania shore. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY: Popular areas to photograph the sunsets are the spillway, causeway, Linesville Beach, and Beach 1. While the setting sun makes beautiful photographs, wait a few minutes after complete sunset to capture the afterglow where you will often have brilliant oranges and yellows to give you those postcard shots.

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 iceboating, make sure ice is at least 6" thick. Always carry safety equipment.

ICE FISHING: Walleyes, perch, and crappies are often caught through the ice of the Pymatuning Reservoir.

ICEBOATING: Iceboating is permitted everywhere on the lake.



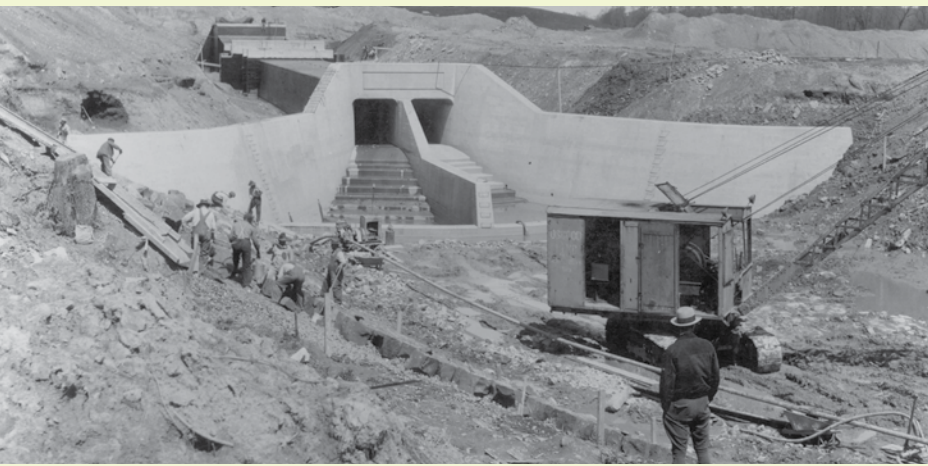
SLEDDING: The slopes of the dam are good for sledding.

SNOWMOBILING: Snowmobile, Ackerman, Spillway, and Sugar Run trails provide more than 10 miles of snowmobiling opportunities.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Most trails and open areas of the park are open to cross-country skiing. Trails are not groomed.



HISTORY



GLACIAL HISTORY

Beneath the Pymatuning Reservoir lie the remains of the Great Pymatuning Swamp. The swamp is a result of the glaciers that moved and melted in this area during the last ice advance as glacial lakes filled in with sediments and became swamps. The Shenango River originates from this ancient swamp, supplying water for the Pymatuning Reservoir. The region's glacial history can be seen in its long rounded ridges, broad upland areas, and linear valleys that are often filled with natural lakes and wetlands. Black Jack Swamp Natural Area is a remnant of what was once the Great Pymatuning Swamp.

EARLY INHABITANTS

Archaeological evidence shows that the Pymatuning region was used by early inhabitants through the Paleo Period as well as the Archaic periods. Tools from the Adena Culture during the Early Woodland period have been found in the region. The mounds found here are believed to be from the Hopewell Culture in the Middle Woodland Period, and earthen forts are from the McFate People, a culture similar to the Monongahela, in the Late Woodland periods.

During the 1700s, the area was controlled by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) which permitted several Lenape settlements along the western border of Pennsylvania. The settlement known as Pymatuning Town was located south of the present day reservoir along the bank of the upper Shenango River, known at the time as Pematuning Creek, near the mouth of Crooked Creek and is first shown on maps as Pematuning in 1761. The name Pymatuning translates to "crooked mouth man's dwelling place." The settlement was abandoned in 1778 when the Lenape moved to the interior of the present day state of Ohio.

SETTLEMENT

The vast and formidable swamp discouraged overland travel and settlement. Two important events opened settlement opportunities. The first event was the Land

Act passed by Pennsylvania legislature in 1792. The act opened all unsettled lands in northwestern Pennsylvania for sale to pay off its debt from the Revolutionary War. The second event was the signing of the 1795 treaty at Fallen Timbers between General Anthony Wayne and the Haudenosaunee. After these events, European settlers began to arrive in the area.

Several land companies purchased the land and provided surveyors, roads, and bridges. Most of the land in the Pymatuning area was purchased by the Pennsylvania Population Company who sold the land as 100-acre and 200-acre tracts. As a condition of purchase, settlers were required to erect a cabin within one year and clear at least ten acres within two years. Establishing a homestead was difficult due to swampy areas, poor soils, and on-going land disputes, making settlement slow.

PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

"Every human accomplishment has its beginning in a dream." Gifford Pinchot, then governor of Pennsylvania, delivered these stirring words as part of his address at the Pymatuning Reservoir ground breaking in 1931. Pinchot was fulfilling a Pennsylvania dream that began in 1868 when the General Assembly provided a survey and an estimate of the cost to drain the Pymatuning swamp to create farmlands. However, the swamp was not drained because it would cripple the industries

downstream in the Beaver and Shenango valleys.

A severe flood in 1913 spurred the legislature to action. The Pymatuning Act, signed the same year, appropriated \$100,000 to initiate building a dam. The Pymatuning Act states that the primary purpose of the Pymatuning Reservoir shall be for the conservation of waters entering the Pymatuning Swamp and for regulating the flow of water in the Shenango and Beaver rivers. A secondary purpose is to use the dam and lake as a reservoir to impound flood water during periods of excessive runoff from the 158 square miles of drainage area above the dam. Construction of the concrete "spillway bowl" allowed independent regulation of the 2,500-acre upper reservoir, Sanctuary Lake, to provide optimal wildlife habitat.

It took 18 years for public and private organizations to raise the funds needed to build the dam. Work began in the fall of 1931. It took three years and almost 7,000 men to turn the dream into a reality.

GATEHOUSE

This historic structure, constructed from 1931 to 1933, was guarded during World War II. Water enters the gatehouse through a 20-foot-wide diversion channel and travels 280 feet to the outflow conduits. The picturesque Gatehouse is a castle-like stone structure which allows water to flow through the dam. Today, the site hosts many weddings during the summer months.

PYMATUNING DAM

Constructed at a point where the hills converged to form a narrow valley, the earthen dam extends 2,400 feet across the valley with a maximum height of 50 feet where it crosses the old Shenango River channel. The core of the dam is made of fine-grained clay, with a row of interlocking steel pilings in the center. The pilings were driven 12 to 53 feet into the bedrock. Heavy sandstone, ranging from 18 to 36 inches thick and hauled in by train, protects the dam from pounding waves.



INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Pymatuning State Park

2660 Williamsfield Road
Jamestown, PA 16134
724-932-3142

PymatuningSP@pa.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

[@PymatuningStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/PymatuningStatePark)

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 HOSPITALS

To the South:
UPMC Horizon: Greenville
110 North Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-2100

To the East:
Meadville Medical Center
751 Liberty Street
Meadville, PA 16335
814-333-5000



Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from:

The Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-332-2338.
www.visitcrawford.org

Visit Mercer County PA, 724-346-3771.
www.visitmercercountypa.com

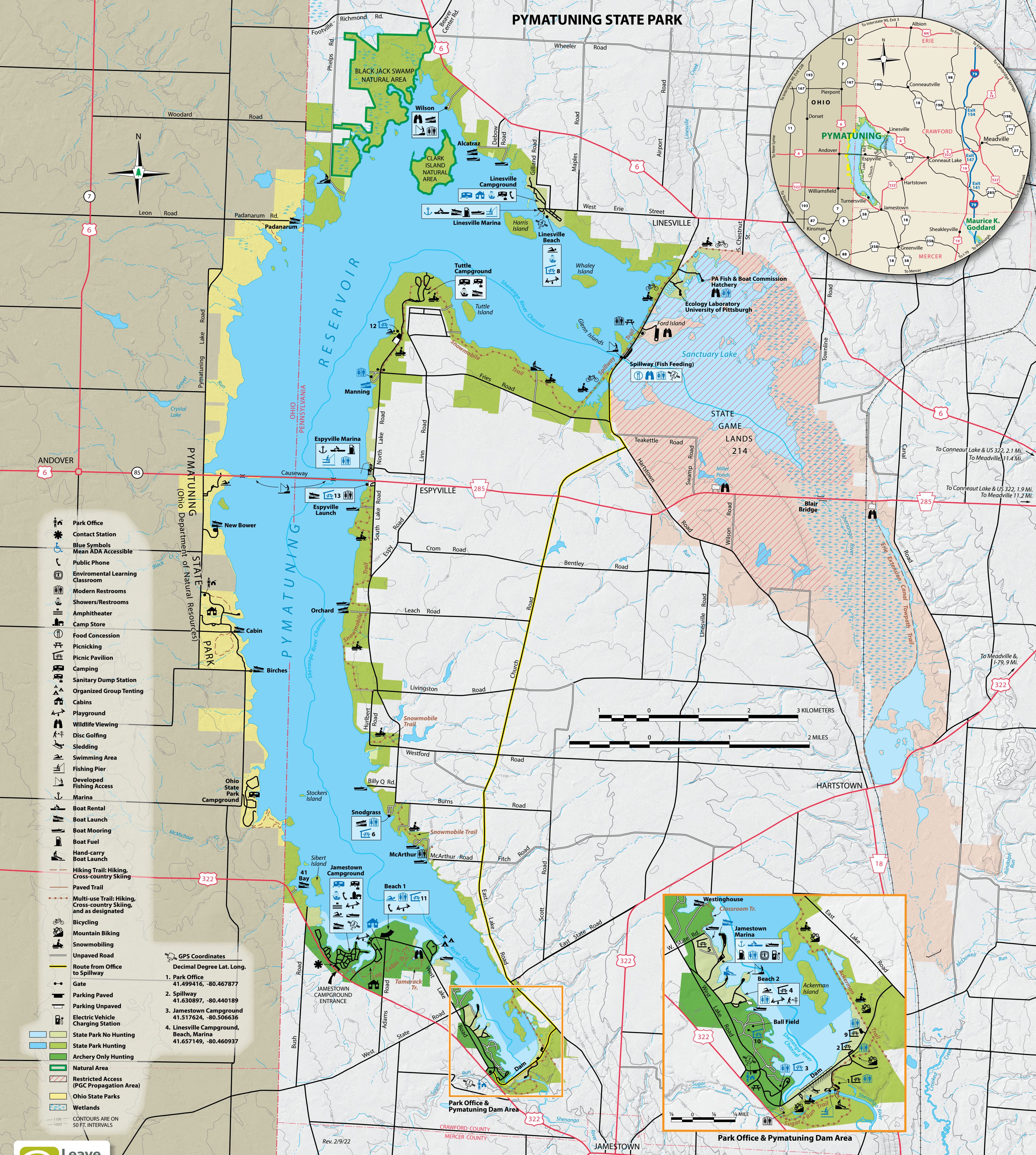
The 2,856-acre **Maurice K. Goddard State Park** features the 1,680-acre Lake Wilhelm, which is very popular with anglers and boaters. Many recreational activities, including a paved 12-mile multi-use trail, attract visitors in all seasons. 724-253-4833

The **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Hatchery** at Linesville is the largest in the state with educational opportunities, a visitor center, and wildlife viewing areas. 814-683-4451

Adjacent to Pymatuning Reservoir, **State Game Lands No. 214** consists of 9,661 acres, including a wildlife propagation area. Hunting in this area is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission with special permits. Various wildlife watching opportunities are available. 814-432-3187

Conneaut Lake is of glacial origin and the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania. Opportunities include boating, fishing, and swimming. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission maintains a public launch on the north side of the lake off PA 618. 814-382-7749

The 3,511 acre **Pymatuning State Park (Ohio State Parks)** has opportunities for camping, lodging, fishing, boating, hiking, and swimming on the western side of Pymatuning Reservoir. 440-293-6030



- Plan ahead and prepare
 - Find out about the park you're visiting before you arrive
 - Plan for a safe trip, but be ready for anything
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
 - Use existing paths to travel between campsites, picnic areas, shower houses, etc.
 - Park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations
- Dispose of waste properly
 - Do not burn food and trash in campfires
 - Place trash bags in large dumpsters
 - PLEASE RECYCLE
- Leave what you find
 - Observe, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts
 - Leave picnic tables where you find them
 - Avoid introducing/transporting non-native plant species
 - Leave wildflowers in place for all to enjoy
- Minimize campfire impacts
 - Use a gas-fueled stove for cooking, it's easier to cook on and clean up afterwards
 - Build fires only in designated campfire rings or grills
 - Extinguish all fires and charcoal completely before leaving a campsite
- Respect wildlife
 - DO NOT approach wild animals; observe from a distance
 - Never feed wild animals, including ducks and geese
 - Keep wildlife wild by allowing them to forage for food on their own
 - Store food and trash securely
- Be considerate of other visitors
 - Keep noise down when using the park
 - Where pets are allowed, keep them on a leash and clean up and dispose of pet waste properly
 - Be courteous when using trails, yield to other hikers
 - Always leave the area cleaner than when you found it

HIKING: 18.5 MILES



ACKERMAN TRAIL: 1.9 miles, no blazes, easiest hiking
Accessed from a small parking area on East Lake Road or by parking near Pavilions 2 or 9, this trail follows the old railroad bed along Ackerman Bay and through a pine forest past the old Carrington Bay.

CLASSROOM TRAIL: 0.25 mile, white blazes, easiest hiking
Connecting Turnersville Bay to Westinghouse Bay, this trail passes through a forested area and meanders around a small peninsula along the lakeshore. To return a different route, trail users can follow Westinghouse Road back to Jamestown Marina.

LOG CABIN TRAIL: 1.3 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
To access this trail, use the Tamarack Trailhead along West Lake Road and proceed right at the Y-intersection of Tamarack Trail. Watch for trail blazes on the trees. After crossing Adams Road, the trail continues past the cabins. At the intersection with West Lake Road, turn left and follow the road approximately 100 feet before crossing toward the Jamestown Campground.

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL: 9.75 miles in the park, orange blazes, easiest hiking
Within the park, there are four trail segments that connect to roads and other snowmobile trails in the area. Hiking is permitted, but maintenance is limited outside of winter months.

SPILLWAY TRAIL: 3.25 miles, no blazes, easiest hiking
The linear Spillway Trail can be accessed at either Fries Road (Linesville) or at the spillway parking lot. This former railroad bed is now a paved, multi-use trail that is great for walking, biking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing. In summer months, find yellow warblers darting along the path. Spring brings in migrating waterfowl including tundra swans, and many species of ducks and grebes. The sunsets along the trail are some of the best in the park.

SUGAR RUN TRAIL: 1 mile, blue blazes, easiest hiking
The trailhead begins below the dam at Shelter 1. Follow the trail across the Shenango River. This multi-use trail runs along the beautiful tree-lined Sugar Run. Stop and listen for songbirds, relax by the small rapids, and check out the large sandstone rocks lining the stream bottom and banks.

TAMARACK TRAIL: 1.2 miles, red blazes, easiest hiking
Located along West Lake Road just past the Century Club, Tamarack Trail is named for the deciduous conifer trees that grow in the area. The trail passes through a mixed deciduous forest of black cherry, maple, and tamarack trees. As the trail winds along the edge of Beaver Dam Pond, hikers may catch a glimpse of great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, or warblers.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

Pymatuning State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. 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. Program topics include history, wildlife, plants, ecology, and outdoor recreation. Paddling along the shores gives the visitor a close-up view of songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and glacial geology. 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.

WILDLIFE WATCHING



WINTER: Winter can be difficult on wildlife as food may be scarce and there are fewer hours of daylight available to forage or hunt. With the leaves gone from the trees, birds are easier to find. Fresh snow can be a great place to look for tracks and signs left by animals. Waterfowl may be easier to spot as they gather in open water on the frozen lake. Owls, eagles, and woodpeckers begin courtship and nest-building during the winter months.

SPRING: As the trees begin to leaf out, the warmer, longer days bring life to the world of nature. Bird, frog, and toad songs can be heard throughout the day and night. Spring is the perfect time to catch glimpses of migrating birds in peak breeding plumage. Wild animals become more active while caring for their newborn young. While it is tempting to get up-close and personal with young wildlife or assume that young animals alone have been "abandoned," people should not interfere. Watching wildlife from a distance helps keep both people and wildlife safe.

SUMMER: With the added hours of daylight, there is ample time to explore the trails and shoreline of the park. Since many wildlife species take a break during the heat of the day, the best hours for wildlife observation are nearest sunrise and sunset. This is also the best time for photography. Visit the wetlands to watch dragonflies and damselflies darting through the air or glimpse a turtle basking on a log. Hummingbirds and butterflies take advantage of nectar-filled native wildflowers at the plant garden located at the Environmental Learning Classroom. Check out the bat condo near the Jamestown cabins to watch the bats and their acrobatic flights as they chase night-flying insects.

FALL: A plant that produces fruit, seeds, or nuts is a great place to watch for feeding animals. As the days grow shorter and the food supply changes, the local wildlife also changes. Some birds arrive while others leave on migration. Year-round residents prepare for the arrival of winter. Late fall marks the mating season for white-tailed deer, so their activity and movement increases. A brisk walk on the trails in the crisp fall air showcases the color explosion of autumn foliage and is wonderful exercise.

EAGLE WATCHING: Pymatuning is the only known place in Pennsylvania where bald eagles have nested continuously, even through their population decline in the mid-1900s. Today, park visitors can spot eagles nesting and soaring over the lake throughout the year. During winter months, eagles can often be seen sitting on the ice, while in the summer months they tend to favor the northern area of the lake.

