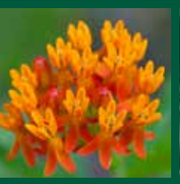
A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Penn-Roosevelt State Park



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Penn-Roosevelt State Park
c/o Greenwood Furnace State Park
15795 Greenwood Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652-5831
814-667-1800
GreenwoodFurnaceSP@pa.gov

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.

www.visitPAparks.com visitPAparks

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Penn-Roosevelt State Park

This 41-acre park is in an isolated area of the Seven Mountains region known as the Stone Creek Kettle. While this Centre County park is small in size, it is surrounded by an 80,000-acre section of Rothrock State Forest. Penn-Roosevelt is a good base for those seeking low-density recreation on this vast expanse of public land.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.72666 Long. -77.70044

The park is easily reached from US 322. One-half mile east of Potters Mills, turn south onto Crowfield Road and drive six miles to the park. Or 3.7 miles further east, turn south onto Stone Creek Road and drive six miles to the park.

Penn-Roosevelt can also be reached from Greenwood Furnace State Park. Turn onto Broad Mountain Road at the park office. Follow the Penn-Roosevelt signs 12 miles to the park.

For a wider map of the area, obtain a copy of the Rothrock State Forest Public Use Map from Greenwood Furnace State Park or the Rothrock State Forest office in Huntingdon.

The roads to the park are not plowed in the winter.

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

PICNICKING: The main picnic area is on the west side of the lake. Picnic tables and a reservable picnic pavilion are available on the eastern side of the lake.

HIKING: Many trails are on nearby state forest land. The Mid State Trail bisects the park and provides cross-country hiking in the Ridge and Valley Region of central Pennsylvania. Over 310 miles in length, the Mid State Trail stretches from the Maryland border in Buchanan State Forest and traverses the center of the state to the New York State line. This trail passes through diverse forested areas from newly regenerated stands to mature and old-growth timber areas. Scenic vistas dot the trail, which passes through Thickhead Wild Area, and Bear Meadows and Detweiler Run natural areas.

The Mid State Trail is marked with orange blazes—two inches by six inches. Trail registers are at a number of places along the trail. In state forests, overnight camping is permitted anywhere along the trail except in the natural areas or within 200 feet of any forest road. Hikers wishing to overnight at Penn-Roosevelt State Park must use the camping area and pay the nightly fee. Hikers overnighting on the trail who wish to leave their vehicle overnight at the park should register with the Greenwood Furnace State Park office.

A detailed trail guide, including maps, is available on the Mid State Trail website, http://hike-mst.org.

The **Broad Mountain West Loop** is a 4-mile loop that can be hiked using portions of the Mid State, Tar Pit, and Broad Mountain West Loop trails. See the inset map on the reverse side.

CAMPING: rustic sites, tents only
The 18 rustic campsites are for tents only. Some sites are walk-to for more privacy. Drinking water and non-flush toilets are available. Due to the isolated location, Penn-Roosevelt provides an excellent opportunity to get away from noise and electric lights. Please keep food and coolers in vehicles to protect them from wild animals.

Penn-Roosevelt State Park has first-come, first-serve camping, and does not accept reservations. Upon arrival, please use the honor entry process to register.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: This rustic area is on the south side of Thickhead Mountain Road/Trail, just up the hill from the day-use area. Up to forty people can pitch tents on the five, large tent pads. The site includes a large pavilion with a stone fireplace and charcoal grills, and a large fire ring near the tent pads. Campers use the non-flush restroom in the day use area.

The pavilion and tent pads were constructed with the help of the PA Outdoors Corps in 2020. The pavilion occupies the site of the former Forestry Staff Quarters of the CCC camp that constructed the dam and other park features in the 1930s.

NO HUNTING: Due to its small acreage, Penn-Roosevelt State Park is closed to hunting. However, the surrounding Rothrock State Forest is open to hunting. The camping area makes an excellent base for fall hunting trips.

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.

BIKING: Penn-Roosevelt State Park is a great base camp for exploring the surrounding Rothrock State Forest on two wheels. Rothrock offers about 200 miles of unpaved roads for gravel road riding enthusiasts, and the nearby Cooper Gap Area is a destination for mountain bikers.

HORSEBACK RIDING: On the western side of the park is Thickhead Mountain Road/Trail, part of which is closed to motor vehicles. Connecting with Detweiler Road makes an excellent trail ride. Horse rentals are not provided.

Enjoy the Winter

Cross-country skiing is permitted. Snowmobiling commences the day after the close of deer season in December. Many miles of surrounding state forest roads are open for joint-use by snowmobiles and licensed motor vehicles.

The roads to the park are not maintained in the winter months so access to the park may not be possible.

Wildlife Watching

Wildlife is abundant in the area. The alert observer may see white-tailed deer, black bears, wild turkeys, and many species of small game. Feeding wild animals is prohibited. When wildlife loses its fear of people, dangerous situations can result.

History

At the turn of the 20th century, large railroad logging operations were in progress in the Seven Mountains area with the hillsides and hollows receiving a "lumberman's shave" typical of the day. During the summer, Reichley Brothers and Company, a logging company, ran a 39-mile Sunday excursion train carrying up to 210 passengers, mostly from Lewistown. The trip began at Milroy, traveled to Poe Mills, to Thickhead Mountain, through the Stone Creek Kettle, and back to Milroy by way of Laurel Creek. One of the hardest climbs was at Stone Gap, just south of the main park area.

These logging company properties were later sold to the commonwealth in large tracts, forming the bulk of the Rothrock State Forest. Many of the railroad grades were later used as a base for the state forest roads. Observant visitors can still find some of the grades.

On June 5, 1933, members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 361 arrived to set up a work camp during the height of the Great Depression. The camp at Penn-Roosevelt was first known as Camp S-62, Stone Creek Kettle. The CCC of the 1930s was segregated and the Company 361 was one of 17 "colored" companies in Pennsylvania.

CCC boys of Company 361

Corps members lived at the camp and constructed recreational facilities, including a 195-foot log-crib dam that has since been stone-faced. They also built many of the surrounding forestry roads and trails. Two fireplaces, a unique stone bake oven, and other remains of the camp can still be found.

For many years, Penn-Roosevelt was a state forest picnic area. In 1983, it was officially designated as Penn-Roosevelt State Park.

Trash Disposal and Recycling

Penn-Roosevelt State Park participates in a carry-in/carry out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the number of disposable items brought to the park and take all trash and recyclables home. Campers may carefully burn any paper waste in their campfire, but burning foil, glass, cans, plastics, or food waste is prohibited.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau.
https://HappyValley.com

Greenwood Furnace State Park (12 miles south) has a full range of recreational activities including swimming, camping, historical educational programming, and gift shop.

Whipple Dam State Park (14 miles southwest) is a day use park with a swimming beach and summer boat rental.

Rothrock State Forest has over 96,975 acres of land open for various recreational activities and includes the following special areas.

The 390-acre **Alan Seeger Natural Area** (5 miles southwest) has magnificent old-growth eastern hemlocks and an almost impenetrable growth of rhododendrons that blooms in early July.

The 463-acre **Detweiler Run Natural Area** (5 miles west) is quite isolated and is characterized by old-growth white pines and hemlocks with heavy undergrowth of rhododendrons of exceptional size.

The 890-acre **Bear Meadows Natural Area** (10 miles west) consists largely of a swamp comparable to the glaciated areas found farther north. Tree and shrub species living here are found in very few locations in Pennsylvania.

The 184-acre **Big Flats Laurel Natural Area** (11 miles west) is on a high mountain plateau and features several acres of our state flower, the mountain laurel.

For more information contact Rothrock State Forest, 814-643-2340.

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

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.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Geisinger Lewistown Hospital
400 Highland Avenue Extension
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-5411

PENN-ROOSEVELT STATE PARK

CENTRE COUNTY

ROTHROCK STATE FOREST

To Thickhead Wild Area, approx. 0.8 Mi.

Mid State Trail (Orange Blazes)

To US 322, Tussseyville, 6.7 Mi.

Crowfield Road

Bake Oven Ruins

Sassafras Run

4-H Camp

To Thickhead Wild Area, 0.6 Mi.

Road Closed to Motor Vehicles

Thickhead Mountain Road/Trail

Standing Stone Creek

Walk-to Sites

CCC Camp Monument

Crowfield Road

Penn-Roosevelt Lake

Register for Camping Here

Walk-to Sites

To Mid State Trail, approx. 1.2 Mi.

Broad Mountain West Loop Trail (Blue Blazes)

ROTHROCK STATE FOREST

Camp Road

Crowfield Road

Standing Stone Creek

Mid State Trail (Orange Blazes)

STONE GAP

To Stone Creek Road, 0.7 Mi.; US 322, 4.1 Mi. To Greenwood Furnace S.P., 11.3 Mi.

To Poe Valley S.P., approx. 16 Mi.

- Non-flush Restrooms
- Water
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Tent Camping Only Non-electric Site
- Organized Group Tenting
- Hiking Trail
- Mid State Trail
- Unpaved Road
- Gate
- Joint-use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- State Park No Hunting
- CONTOURS ARE ON 20 FT. INTERVALS

50 0 50 100 150 200 250 300 METERS

200 0 200 400 600 800 1000 FEET

Broad Mountain Trail to Mid State Trail

PENN-ROOSEVELT STATE PARK

Mid State Trail

Broad Mountain West Loop Trail

Crowfield Rd.

Crowfield Road

ROTHROCK STATE FOREST

BROAD MOUNTAIN

Mid State Tr.

Tar Pit Tr.

400 0 400 800 1200 1600 FEET

CCC Camp S-62-PA Company 361

Milroy, 1933–1935

Quarters

Bake Oven

Mess Hall

Barracks

Motor Pool

Recreation Hall

Showers

Officer Quarters

Forestry Quarters

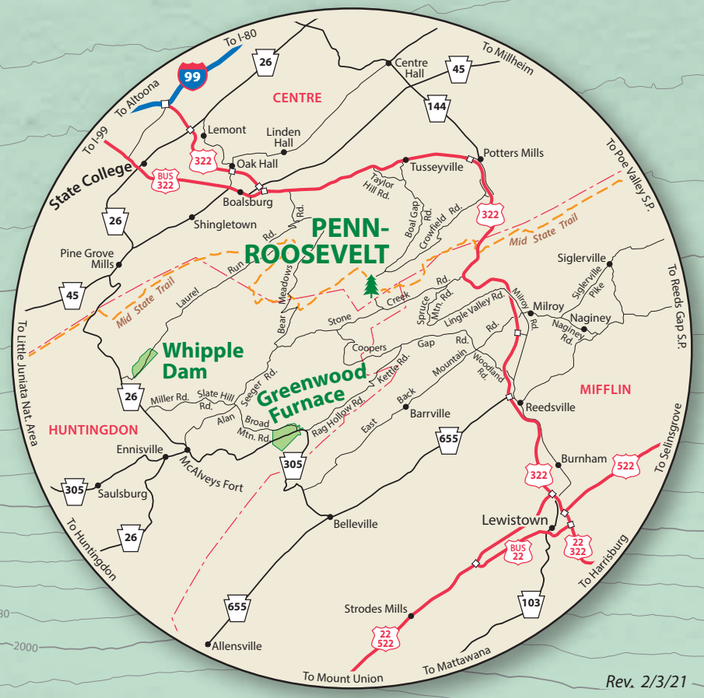
Blacksmith Shop/ Forestry Office

Entrance Way

Standing Stone Cr.

Lake

200 0 200 400 FEET



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