

James Law

### Directions

The park is five minutes from I-79. Take Exit 130 (Sandy Lake-Greenville) and travel west on PA 358 (toward Greenville) for about 0.1 mile, then bear right onto Sheakleyville Road. At the first stop sign, turn right onto Lake Wilhelm Road, which goes directly to the park.

### Recreational Opportunities

**BIKING:** The twelve-mile, paved John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Loop Trail follows the shoreline. It can be accessed from boat launches 1, 2, and 4, the marina, the parking lot below the park office, the dam, and Dugan Run. The trail is open to two-way bicycle traffic, hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Stay to the right while bike riding. Park bicycles off of the trail to avoid obstructing traffic. Please read trail guidelines located at the trailheads.



Darl Black

**FISHING:** Lake Wilhelm is a warmwater fishery. Common species are largemouth bass, walleye, crappie, muskellunge, bluegill, catfish, perch, and sunfish. A bait and fishing tackle concession is at the marina. An area called the “Rounded Point,” near the marina parking lot, has an ADA accessible fishing pier. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**PICNICKING:** Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available throughout the park. Boat launches 1, 2, 3, 4, and the marina have restrooms and large picnic areas. Picnic pavilions can be reserved in advance for a fee online at [www.visitPAparks.com](http://www.visitPAparks.com) or by calling 888-PA-PARKS. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

LOCATION	SEATING	ELECTRICITY
Launch 1	40	No
Launch 2	40	No
Launch 3	100	Yes
Marina	100	Yes

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** Over 1,155 acres of Maurice K. Goddard State Park, plus Lake Wilhelm, are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, ring-necked pheasant, and waterfowl. State Game Lands 270 is adjacent to the park.

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 car 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.



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**BOATING: 20 hp motors permitted**  
The 1,680-acre Lake Wilhelm has a 241-slip marina and a 48-space dry land mooring area available from May 1 to October 31.

The marina has 250 car parking spaces, 121 car/trailer-parking spaces, a four-lane boat-launching ramp, a courtesy dock, a marina building, and fueling station.

A boat concession in the marina rents rowboats, motorboats, pontoon boats, kayaks, and canoes.

In addition to the marina, there are seven other boat launches around the lake. Four are within the state park and three are in the state game lands. Spaces on the kayak/canoe storage rack at Launch 3 can be reserved in advance for a fee. The 240-acre portion of the lake northwest of Interstate 79 is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission as part of State Game Lands 270, while the remaining 1440 acres is managed by Maurice K. Goddard State Park. Only electric-powered vessels are permitted in the Game Commission section of the lake.

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 that are available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

**HIKING: see other side.**

### Educational Programs

A wide variety of interpretive and educational programs are offered May through September. Through hands-on activities, guided walks, and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources. Visit the website or contact the park office for program schedules.

### 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.

### Enjoy the Winter

**SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING:** There is a one acre hill for sledding at the dam.

**SNOWMOBILING:** Approximately 6 miles of trail are open for snowmobiling. The trail can be accessed at Boat Launch 4 and the parking lot below the office. Be aware of hikers.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** There are approximately 6 miles of trails marked for cross-country skiing for beginner to expert skiers.



**Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single angler or skater, 7” thick for a small group, or 6” thick for iceboating. Always carry safety equipment.

**ICE FISHING:** Ice fishing accounts for many of the larger fish caught in Lake Wilhelm.

**ICE SKATING:** Launch 3 has an unmaintained ice skating area.

**ICEBOATING:** Iceboats must display a current state park launch permit.

### Friends of Goddard State Park (FrOG)

The volunteer organization supports the state park with funding, volunteer projects, and sponsoring events such as the Pioneer Frolic Festival in June and Music at the Marina in August. Contact the park office for volunteering opportunities.



Pioneer Frolic Festival

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-637-2370. [www.mercercountypa.org](http://www.mercercountypa.org)

The 2,027-acre **State Game Lands 270** is adjacent to the park. Its rolling terrain is open, with interspersed wooded areas. A 240-acre portion of Lake Wilhelm is part of this tract. The common game species include duck, rabbit, turkey, pheasant, squirrel, woodcock, grouse, deer, and dove.

Only electric-powered vessels are permitted on Lake Wilhelm, west of I-79. Entry upon posted wildlife refuges and propagation areas is prohibited. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on gated roads and trails; snowmobiles are permitted where designated and posted. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Northwest Division Headquarters.

Name for noted conservationist Ivan McKeever, **McKeever Environmental Learning Center** is a modern facility that provides environmental education programs for schools. Groups can also rent the center for retreats, workshops, and conferences. Overnight accommodations include three lodges and two retreat houses. A discovery building, auditorium, and hiking trails complement each other to make an ideal setting for an environmental education experience. For more information, contact McKeever Environmental Learning Center, 724-376-1000. [www.mckeever.org](http://www.mckeever.org)

### 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**  
UPMC Horizon, Greenville  
110 N. Main Street  
Greenville, PA 16125  
724-588-2100

### History

Sandy Creek, which traverses the park, was first noted in reports made by George Washington during his trip to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753. The creek’s history of flooding prompted the initial flood control study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1939. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service subsequently became committed to building a dam for flood control and conservation purposes. The recreational potential of the project became so apparent during the initial planning phase that state, county, township, and municipal authorities were drawn into an outstanding cooperative effort to

### Maurice K. Goddard

After receiving a M.S. Degree in forestry from the University of California at Berkley, Maurice K. Goddard served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1945 and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After serving as the director of the Mont Alto Forestry School, Goddard went on to head the Pennsylvania State University Forestry School. In 1955, Goddard was appointed Secretary of the Bureau of Forests and Waters. It was here he set a goal of having a state park within 25 miles of every resident of Pennsylvania. Goddard also quickly set out to improve the professionalism of the department by eliminating the political appointments and increasing the number of college educated employees.

In 1959, Maurice K. Goddard received an honorary doctorate of science from Waynesburg College and was thereafter called “Doe Goddard.”

In 1971, the Department of Forests and Waters was combined with

### John C. Oliver III



The legacy of John C. Oliver III’s service to conservation and the community is etched deeply into the story of Pennsylvania State Parks.

Mr. Oliver served as the first Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) from 1995-2002. During his tenure, the agency established its

### Wildlife Watching

The large lake, abundant wetlands, old fields, and mature forests provide a diversity of habitats that attracts wildlife in all seasons.

Once pushed to the edge of extinction, bald eagle and osprey populations are now rebounding. Both of these fish-eating raptors nest at Lake Wilhelm. The combination of old fields and mature forests are home to many birds including American woodcock, common snipe, common nighthawk, and many species of warblers.

In the spring and fall, thousands of waterfowl stop at the lake during migration for rest and food. Loon, teal, merganser, goldeneye, and bufflehead are some of the noteworthy waterfowl.

Winter is a good time to see several species of woodpeckers, including the pileated woodpecker.

In the summer, turtles, northern water snakes, and amphibians are abundant in the quiet waters by the marina. The wetland across Lake Wilhelm Road from the marina entrance has a waterfowl observation station and is a great place to see ospreys, eagles, and beavers.

construct the park and game lands. The land was acquired for the project in the late 1960s. The dam was completed in 1971 and recreational facilities were dedicated in 1972.

Lake Wilhelm is named in honor of Lawrence J. Wilhelm. As the Mercer County Commissioner and a Soil and Water Conservation District Director for Mercer County, Mr. Wilhelm provided leadership in the development of the park from its beginnings in 1959 to the time of his death in October of 1968.

several other state departments to create the Department of Environmental Resources. Although opposed to the combined department, Dr. Goddard was appointed the secretary of the department.



When Dr. Goddard retired in 1979, after an unprecedented 24 years as a cabinet officer to six governors, he had added 45 state parks and an additional 130,000 acres of state park land. He raised Pennsylvania’s parks and forestry bureau to national leaders, while not losing sight of the people and programs. Dr. Goddard received many awards in his career, including the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Special Achievement Award for his 50 years as an outspoken defender of natural resources. And despite his objections, the Sandy Creek State Park project was officially named Maurice K. Goddard State Park in 1969.

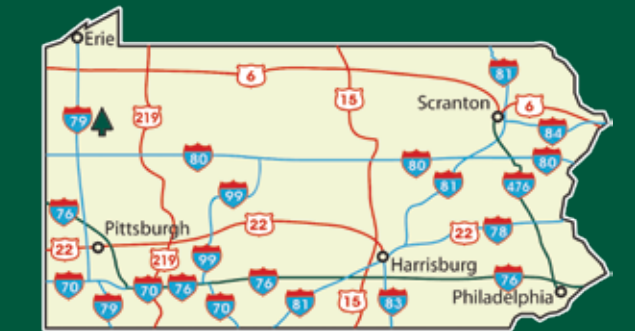
guiding principles of stewardship, partnership, and service, which continue to be the foundation of DCNR’s work. He was instrumental in establishing many programs that brought DCNR national acclaim, including achieving accreditation as the first independently certified state forest system in the United States; taking a lead role in the Pennsylvania Greenways Program; establishing a Rivers Registry and Conservation Areas program; overseeing the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks program; and initiating the DCNR Conservation Volunteer program. Under his leadership, DCNR developed a partnership with the newly formed Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, which increased volunteerism in state parks and forests through the establishment of friends groups throughout the commonwealth.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Oliver attained a bachelor’s degree in economics with a minor in ecology from Kenyon College in Ohio, and later a master’s degree in government and political science from American University in Washington, D.C. Serving as lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War from 1965-1966, Mr. Oliver was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross.

Mr. Oliver was instrumental in getting the 12.2-mile paved loop trail funded and built in 2003. In 2015, the trail was officially named the John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Loop Trail.



James Law



**For More Information Contact:**  
**Maurice K. Goddard State Park**  
684 Lake Wilhelm Road  
Sandy Lake, PA 16145  
724-253-4833  
email: [goddardsp@pa.gov](mailto:goddardsp@pa.gov)  
GPS DD: Lat. 41.4275 Long. -80.14522  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

### Information and Reservations

**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, for state park  
information and reservations.

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

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### 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 and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

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

- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.



Hiking: 16 miles of trails

**JOHN C. OLIVER MULTI-PURPOSE LOOP TRAIL:** 12 miles, more difficult hiking, paved trail and roadway Trail parking can be accessed along the trail at boat launches or the marina. The main trail parking area is on Lake Wilhelm Road between the bridge and the park office.

This scenic loop is composed of two trail sections. The north shore is open to hiking, biking, and snowmobiling. This section contains short, steep runs that may be difficult to climb for some bikers. The north shore has many vistas that overlook the lake.

The south shore section is open to hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. The south shore of the lake has areas of trail that share the road with motor vehicles. The trail runs from the dam to Lake Wilhelm Road.

To complete the loop, travel Lake Wilhelm Road to connect the south and north portions of the trail.

**GODDARD MCKEEVER HIKING TRAIL:** 2.84 miles within the park (3.14 miles total), yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

This trail connects Maurice K. Goddard State Park to McKeever Environmental Learning Center's trail system. A sealed coal mine shaft is near the top of Coal Hill.

**FALLING RUN NATURE TRAIL:** 0.7-mile loop, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

This self-guided nature trail follows old logging roads as it winds its way to the hemlock forested Falling Run Ravine.

Falling Run drops 90 feet in elevation in less than 1,000 feet, cascading over a small waterfall. Hikers can find signs of a pioneer settlement of the George Y. Stright family, including the spring house and mill pond near the trailhead. Signs of the log cabin, old gristmill, and sawmill have all but vanished.

Tell us about your hike at:



ExplorePAtrails.com  
powered by you



GUIDELINES FOR A SAFE HIKE

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience while at the park.

- Check the weather before you hike. It is not safe to hike in thunderstorms or when heavy snow is expected.
- Wear sturdy shoes to protect your feet.
- Carry the proper safety equipment like a poncho, first aid kit, and a whistle.
- Carry drinking water. DO NOT drink from streams, springs, or lakes without properly treating the water first!
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Do not try to get close to wild animals.

- Stay on the trail. If you hike off of the trail, you might get lost or cause damage to unique natural resources.
- Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.
- Have a general idea of your location at all times in the event of an emergency.
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike. Plan to be off the trails well before dark.
- Don't overestimate your abilities. Use a map to select the trail and distance.
- Keep in mind that the park is open to hunting. Wear orange when appropriate for your safety.

