

## Little Pine State Park

The 2,158-acre Little Pine State Park is surrounded by a beautiful, mountainous section of Tiadaghton State Forest in the PA Wilds. The 45-acre Little Pine Lake, hiking trails, campground, and nesting bald eagles are prime attractions.

### Directions

GPS DD: Lat 41.36354 Long. -77.35740

The park is in Lycoming County. From the south, take US 220 to the Pine Creek Exit near Jersey Shore. Take PA 44 north 11 miles to Waterville, then turn right onto SR 4001 and go four miles to the park.

From the northwest, take PA 120 south to the village of Hyner. Turn left onto Hyner Mountain Road. Take PA 44 south to Waterville and turn left onto SR 4001.

From the north and northeast, take US 6 to Wellsboro, then PA 287 south to English Center and SR 4001 to the park.

### 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.


### Recreational Opportunities





#### **CAMPING: modern sites, many with electric hookup**

The campground opens in early April and closes in mid-December. There are 99 campsites; 84 sites can accommodate trailer units up to 40 feet in length and seven sites are for tents only. Open or shaded sites are available, and some are along Little Pine Creek. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. The campground has a sanitary dump station, showers, flush toilets, and access to potable water. Garbage and recycling receptacles, trailer storage, and a second vehicle parking lot are at the campground entrance. Pets are permitted at designated campsites for a fee. Alcoholic beverages and unlicensed motor vehicles are prohibited.

**CAMPING COTTAGES:** Three cottages each comfortably sleep five people. Each cottage has two sets of single bunk beds, a full-size bed, wooden floors, windows, electric heat, porch, picnic table, fire ring, and electric lights and outlets. A shower house is nearby.

 **YURTS:** These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, refrigerator, microwave oven, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat and outlets, fire ring, picnic table, and have outdoor water access. A shower house is nearby.

 **ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING:** Available to adult and youth groups, there are four sites; two sites hold 40 people and two sites hold 20 people. A paved parking lot, showers, flush toilets, fire rings, and picnic tables are provided. A garbage and recycling area is near the campground entrance.

 **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 1,700 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrels, foxes, bears, grouse, and turkeys. There is a rifle/pistol shooting range in the park. The adjacent state forest land is open to hunting.

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 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.

**SHOOTING RANGE:** Open daily from 8:00 AM until sunset, the pistol and rifle shooting range has targets at 10, 15, 25, 50, and 100 yards. The rifle range has covered shooting benches and the pistol range has various uncovered firing stations.

Individuals and groups interested in using the shooting range facilities must purchase a range permit. Range permits are required for individuals 16 years of age or older. Permits may be purchased at the park office or through self-registration at the range. This fee helps offset the cost of maintaining the range in a sustainable manner.

Be sure to follow the Shooting Range Safety Guidelines and pick up your brass after you are done shooting.

**SWIMMING:** A sand beach with grass turf is open from late-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. Pets are prohibited on the beach and in the swimming area. All children ten years of age or younger must be accompanied by a person at least 14 years of age.

 **PICNICKING:** Four picnic areas in both shaded and open locations contain many picnic tables, four picnic pavilions, a volleyball court, and play equipment. 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 Lower Picnic Area is about one-half mile south of the campground. It is completely separated from the rest of the park. This six-acre area has picnic tables, grills, charcoal disposals, non-flush toilets, a picnic pavilion, and access to Little Pine Creek for anglers. River birch, white pine, sugar maple, and black locust are common trees in the Lower Picnic Area.



**FISHING:** The 45-acre Little Pine Lake has 3.3 miles of shoreline. Little Pine Creek flows 4.2 miles through the park. These warmwater and coldwater fisheries have stocked trouts (rainbow and brown), native brook trout, smallmouth bass, pickerel, sunfishes, catfishes, and perch. This diversity provides opportunities for fly, bank, and boat fishing. A special regulation, artificial lure only, fishing area is along Little Pine Creek in the northeast section of the park. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

**BOATING: electric motors only**  
The 45-acre Little Pine Lake has one launch area and 25 seasonal (April 1 to November 1) mooring spaces. A boat rental concession is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Kayaks, canoes, and rowboats are available for rental on weekends.

From November 1 through April 30, boaters are required to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

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

### Enjoy the Winter

**ICE FISHING:** Trout are stocked in Little Pine Lake for ice fishing. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single angler and 7” thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

**SNOWMOBILING:** Parking is available to access the more than 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the surrounding Tiadaghton State Forest. Conditions permitting, designated trails and roads are open the day after the last day of Pennsylvania’s regular or extended rifle deer season and close April 1. Restrooms are available. Overnight accommodations, food, gasoline, and groceries are available in nearby towns.

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:** The five-mile Lake Shore Trail follows mostly level terrain and parallels the lake and headwaters and then returns to the starting location. Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited in this area.

**SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING:** In the main day use area, two acres of slopes extend across the lake. Ample parking is by the restrooms.

**Ice must be four inches thick before the run is opened.**



### Hiking: 14 miles

**BUTTON BALL TRAIL: 0.49 mile, easiest hiking**  
This angler’s trail gives access to lower Little Pine Creek.

**CARSONTOWN TRAIL: 0.88 mile, easiest hiking**  
This trail is recommended for families with small children. A wide variety of wildflowers may be found along this trail and deer are frequently seen.

**LAKE SHORE TRAIL: 5.5 miles, more difficult hiking**  
This is the flattest trail in the park and parallels the lake into the upper part of the park. A variety of birds and animals can be viewed if the trail is traveled quietly. This trail is a multi-use trail used for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

**Sections of the following trails are very steep. These trails require a hiker to be in good physical condition.**

**MID STATE TRAIL: 327 miles (1.7 in the park), orange blazes, most difficult hiking**  
This backpacking trail, which goes from Juniata County to Tioga County, passes through the park. In places, the Mid State Trail and park trails run along the same path. This trail is steep and narrow in sections, but well defined and marked. With prior notification to park staff, people backpacking along the Mid State Trail may leave a vehicle in the second car parking lot of the campground. Name, address, proposed route, and expected return date are requested. The Mid State Trail also connects with other park and forest trails to create shorter day hikes.

There are many miles of trails in the adjacent Tiadaghton State Forest.

**PANTHER RUN TRAIL: 2.9 miles, most difficult hiking**  
Beautiful vistas, rock outcroppings, and a flagstone quarry can be seen along the trail. Many consider this to be the most scenic trail in the park.

**SPIKEBUCK HOLLOW TRAIL: 1 mile, most difficult hiking**  
Outcroppings of rock, flagstone, and a wide variety of trees and plants can be seen along the trail.

Tell us about your hike at:



### Wildlife Watching

Viewing wildlife is a fun activity for all. Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities to see many species of wildlife. Visitors may see raccoons or mink along the lake, deer and foxes in the fields, or bears and turkeys in the woodlands.

Since 2004, bald eagles have nested in the park. From the eagle watch viewing area, visitors can observe the eagles without disturbing them.

In the summer, deer and songbirds forage throughout the park and herons and otters fish in the lake. The fall season brings migratory birds, such as loons, snow geese, and raptors.



Bald eagle

### Learn, Experience, Connect

Little Pine State Park offers a wide variety of programs from April to October. 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

The Iroquoian Confederacy and Algonquian speaking peoples used the area as hunting grounds. It is believed that there was a Shawnee village and cemetery near what is now the village of Carlsontown, just north of the park.

In 1782, the first American settlers in the Little Pine Valley were brothers, John and James English. They built two sawmills along Little Pine Creek in 1809, one of which was at the southern end of the present park boundary.

The village of English Mills was established in 1816 and housed the families of the loggers, occupying what is now the park campground. The cemetery of English Mills is on a small knoll in the middle of the campground.

Another prominent name in local history is Robert Carson. He was the first of his line to settle in the Little Pine Valley. His descendants built homes near his homestead, giving rise to the village of Carlsontown. Robert Carson was one of the first farmers in the area and operated a sawmill. The Patterson family was also involved in the logging business. They owned several of the properties on which splash dams were built to create artificial floods designed to carry logs downstream.

Little Pine Creek was used to transport both sawn lumber and logs to Williamsport, which came to be known as “the Lumber Capitol of the World.” In 1909, the last log raft went down Little Pine Creek.

In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built Camp S-129 and a small picnic area along Little Pine Creek. In 1937, the camp closed, and the property turned over to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



When the park opened, it used many of the CCC buildings. In 1950, a dual-purpose flood control/recreation dam was constructed. The park remained a picnic area until the campground, beach, and swimming area were constructed in 1958.

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes flooded and destroyed many park facilities, including all but a few remnants of the former CCC facilities. Hurricane Agnes was the only time water went over the spillway. In 1975-76, federal disaster aid helped build a new beach house, office, maintenance area, and a campground with modern restrooms.

As part of the “Growing Greener” initiative, several major improvements began in 2002, including enlarging and modernizing the park office and putting showers in the campground.

### Geology

Little Pine State Park is in the Appalachian Plateaus Province of Pennsylvania, in the Deep Valleys Section. The bedrock was laid down about 300 million years ago. Plant fossils from this time can be seen in the cliffs near the top of the dam spillway.

During the Illinoian Glacial Advance, about 150,000 years ago, the glacier dammed the northern flow of Pine Creek, creating glacial lakes in the Wellsboro-Mansfield area. These lakes existed long enough for shellfish to thrive in the cold water. When the glacier melted and retreated, the lakes flooded and drained to the south, reversing the flow of Pine Creek and carving valleys, including Little Pine Valley. The fossilized shellfish from the outflow of the glacial lakes can be found along Little Pine Creek, well above the present stream level. Fossil collecting is prohibited.

### Natural History

Little Pine Creek is a freestone coldwater stream that supports a diversity of aquatic life. Coldwater fishes, mollusks, crustaceans, insects, and amphibians can be found both upstream and downstream of the lake. When the dam was built in 1949-1950, it altered the ecology of that part of the stream. The lake acts as a sediment trap, creating a mud bottom. This allows certain species of fish, insects, and plant life to thrive. The extensive shallows at the northern end of the lake are prime breeding and feeding habitat for aquatic and shoreline animals such as muskrats, mink, and herons. Snapping turtles and painted turtles are often seen in this part of the lake.

The lake has a slightly warmer temperature than the stream, allowing warmwater fishes like sunfish, pickerel, sucker, and catfish to survive.



Mink

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, 800-358-9900. [www.vacationpa.com](http://www.vacationpa.com)

**Upper Pine Bottom State Park** is a small day use area along PA 44 west of Waterville maintained by Little Pine State Park as a parking area for hunters and anglers.

Located 4 miles from the park in Waterville, the **Pine Creek Rail Trail** is a multi-use trail used for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. It stretches 62 miles from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro Junction along Pine Creek. The upper portion of the trail is in the Pine Creek Gorge. Access areas, benches, and restrooms are at various places along the trail.

The scenery along the trail is magnificent. Trail users can view dramatic rock outcrops, waterfalls, and wildlife like eagles, osprey, coyotes, deer, wild turkeys, herons, river otters, black bears, and many others. Diverse plant life, scattered old-growth timber, historic pine and spruce plantations, and several foundations from the Civilian Conservation Corps era can be found along the trail.


### 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.

Emergency telephones are located adjacent to the contact station at the entrance to the campground and at the beach house in the day use area.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**  
Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital  
1020 Thompson Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-0100

### 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.



White pine

## A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Little Pine State Park







**Little Pine State Park**  
4205 Little Pine Creek Road  
Waterville, PA 17776  
570-753-6000  
[LittlePineSP@pa.gov](mailto:LittlePineSP@pa.gov)

**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.

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer  
Printed on recycled paper

2021

### 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.

- 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 recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

- 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. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!

LITTLE PINE STATE PARK

LYCOMING COUNTY



- Park Office/Visitor Center
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Modern Restrooms
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Swimming Beach
- Boat Launch
- Boat Mooring
- Boat Rental
- Ice Skating
- Cross-country Skiing Recommended
- Sledding Area
- Playground
- Amphitheater
- Eagle Watch
- Camping/Yurts/Camping Cottages
- Organized Group Tenting
- Shower House/Restrooms
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Recycling/Trash
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- Snowmobile Parking
- Unpaved Road
- Joint Use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Mountain Biking, Hiking
- Mid State Trail
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Wetlands
- Delayed Harvest, Artificial Lure Only

CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVALS

