A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Lackawanna State Park

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Lackawanna State Park
1839 Abington Road
North Abington Township, PA 18414
570-945-3239 (Main Office)
570-563-3101 (Campground Office)
LackawannaSP@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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Lackawanna State Park

The 1,445-acre Lackawanna State Park is in northeastern Pennsylvania, ten miles north of Scranton. The centerpiece of the park, 198-acre Lackawanna Lake, is surrounded by picnic areas and multi-use trails winding through forest. Boating, camping, fishing, mountain biking, and swimming are popular recreational activities.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.55887 Long. -75.70555

The park is easily reached from I-81. Visitors should take Exit 199 and travel three miles west on PA 524. Visitors coming via U.S. routes 6 and 11 should take PA 438 east about three miles to PA 407, then south to the park.

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.

Spend the Day

PICNICKING: Most of the main picnic area overlooks Lackawanna Lake. Charcoal grills and modern restrooms are throughout the area. Another small picnic area can be found at the South Shore Mooring Area on the southern tip of the lake.

Three picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. If not reserved, the pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

SWIMMING: The pool is open 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, unless posted otherwise. A shower house and snack bar are adjacent to the pool.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: More than 900 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkeys, rabbits, pheasants, and grouse. Additional areas in and around the campground are open for specific hunting seasons only. Contact the park office for details.

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.

HIKING: 18 miles of trails
A series of looping trails limited to foot traffic wander through the campground and day use areas of the park. Additional multi-use trails explore forests, fields, lakeshore areas, and woodland streams.

Tell us about your hike at: www.ExplorePAtrails.com

HORSEBACK RIDING: About 10 miles of multi-use trails can be ridden by horseback in the South Shore, Turkey Hill, and Lee Hill areas. Park in the South Shore parking lot or the designated lot along PA 438. Equestrian trails are highlighted in yellow on the map.

Caution: Many trail foot bridges are not built for equestrian crossing.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: About 20 miles of multi-use trails wind through the park, traversing hills, lakeshore, forests, and fields. A good beginner option is Turkey Hill Trail. Trailheads are at the South Shore Mooring Area and on Rowlands, Wallsville, and Austin roads.

FISHING: The 198-acre Lackawanna Lake has coldwater and warmwater fish. Common fish are trouts, tiger muskellunge, walleye, channel catfish, black crappie, chain pickerel, and largemouth bass. The 2.5-mile-long lake has more than 7.5 miles of shoreline. The fishing pier by the main boat launch is ADA accessible. The 3-acre Trostle Pond, in the northern end of the park, is open to youth fishing only (ages 12 and under) and hosts a variety of warmwater species. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

BOATING: electric motors only
The 198-acre Lackawanna Lake is popular for canoeing, kayaking, and rowing. There are three boat launches around the lake. A limited number of boat mooring spaces are available on a seasonal basis. A boat concession near the swimming pool area rents various types of boats.

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.

Stay the Night

CAMPING: modern facilities
The modern campground is within walking distance of the lake and swimming pool, and features forested campsites (electric, non-electric, pet-friendly, and walk-to), three camping cottages, and two yurts. The campground has modern shower houses, restrooms, and a sanitary dump station. Fox Run and Maple Lane loops allow pets. An ADA accessible electric campsite, camping cottage, and shower house are in Carpenter Town Loop.

The campground opens the second Friday in April and closes the third Sunday in October. The maximum camping period is 14 consecutive days in the summer peak season and 21 consecutive days in the non-peak season.

CAMPING COTTAGES: Three wooden cottages sleep five people in bunk beds. Each cottage has a porch, electric heat, lights, outlets, picnic table, and fire ring. Cottages do not have running water, but restrooms, showers, and potable water are nearby.

YURTS: These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep four or five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, refrigerator, microwave, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat and outlets, fire ring, and picnic table. Yurts do not have running water, but restrooms, showers, and potable water are nearby.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Three areas with a combined capacity of 160 people are open April through October to qualified, non-profit, organized adult and youth groups. This area has a modern shower house along with picnic tables, fire rings, and potable water. Advance reservations are required.

Enjoy the Winter

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: All trails are open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Skiing is recommended on Lakeshore, Snowflake, and most trails in the campground and picnic areas.

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: The gentle slopes by Hilltop Pavilion are recommended for sledding.

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. Always carry safety equipment.

Ice under the PA 407 bridge is UNSAFE all winter. Check the park website or call the park office for snow and ice conditions.

ICE FISHING: Most of Lackawanna Lake is open for ice fishing, except for the ice skating area, under the PA 407 bridge, and near the dam.

ICE SKATING: When conditions permit, park staff clear an area of ice near the fishing pier for skating. Always check the ice thickness before traveling on the ice.

History

Lacka-wanna is an indigenous word meaning "the meeting of two streams" and became the name of the valley.

An important indigenous trail linked the Lackawanna Valley to New York State. In the early 1800s, settlers followed this path and built farms in the valley. The trail became old PA 407.

In 1898, several area farmers organized the Maitland Fair and Driving Park Association. Annual fairs and horse races attracted large crowds for a dozen years. The racecourse was in what is currently the park campground near Woodland Ponds Trail.

In 1912, the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad purchased land to build a reservoir, but it was never built.

The land was then leased to farmers until 1946 when Robert Moffat, a prominent Scranton coal operator, purchased the land and rented it to his employees.

In 1968, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land, built the dam, and developed it into an outstanding recreation area whose primary attraction is Lackawanna Lake, the meeting place of many streams. The park was dedicated on June 10, 1972, and the campground was opened in 1975.

Learn, Experience, Connect

Lackawanna 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. Summertime programming includes youth programs and weekend 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 at 570-945-3239 or explore the online calendar of events, http://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau. www.visitnepa.org

Lackawanna State Park is in the **Lackawanna Heritage Valley.** www.lhva.org

The **Countryside Conservancy** owns lands adjoining Lackawanna State Park. Hiking, biking, and picnicking are permitted. www.countrysideconservancy.org

Archbald Pothole State Park, to the east, exhibits one of the world's largest glacial potholes, which was carved by glacial meltwater during the last ice age.

Salt Springs State Park, to the northwest, features waterfalls and towering old growth hemlocks. www.friendsofsaltspringspark.org

Prompton State Park, to the north, borders the 290-acre Prompton Lake. The lake is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Visitors can motorboat, fish, hunt, and explore the park on the 26 miles of multi-use trails.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

A two-plug, electric-vehicle charging station is available for public use in the amphitheater. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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
Geisinger Community Medical Center
1800 Mulberry Street
Scranton, PA 18510
570-703-8000

LACKAWANNA STATE PARK

LACKAWANNA COUNTY