



Kooser State Park
943 Glades Pike
Somerset, PA 15501-8509
814-445-8673
KooserSP@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



Kooser State Park

In the heart of the Laurel Highlands at an altitude of 2,600 feet, Kooser State Park attracts visitors year round to its 250 acres of forest and the beautiful trout stream that flows the length of the park.

The park's original design character was stamped by the Civilian Conservation Corps projects of the 1930s that established the existing lake and most of its recreational areas and its architecture. The park's basic appeal lies in its intimate areas which are best suited for family outings and small groups. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, and rustic cabins are the major park uses.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.05983 Long. -79.22842

Kooser State Park is on PA 31 midway between the Donegal and Somerset turnpike exits, in the eastern foothills of Laurel Mountain Summit. Kooser State Park is a one-hour drive from Johnstown or Pittsburgh.

Reservations

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Recreational Opportunities

CAMPING: modern sites, some with electric

The campground opens in April and closes in December. Most sites give visitors the ability to pull through with their camping equipment. There are six non-electric sites, 28 sites with electric hookups, and four sites with full-hookup. ADA accessible sites and a sanitary dump station are available. The entire campground is open to pets. Please follow all pet camping rules.



CABINS: There are nine rustic cabins available for rent year-round, with summer rentals on a weekly basis. The smallest cabin sleeps four and the largest sleeps eight. A modern shower house is available in the cabin colony. Each cabin has a refrigerator, microwave, stove, and sink with hot water. Renters should bring all cooking and bedding. The primary source of heat is a wood burning stove. Cabin 23 is ADA accessible. Cabins 21 and 22 are dog friendly.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: The park's elevation and heavy snowfall creates prime conditions for cross-country skiing. When conditions permit, park staff set track on 1.5 miles of ski trail, which is marked with blue diamonds. The trail is classified as "easiest" and is popular with skiers of all experience levels.

HIKING: 1.5 miles

Kincora Trail: 1.0 mile, more difficult hiking

Named after a former church camp located here, this rugged trail provides challenging terrain and solitude for the day hiker.

Tree Army Trail: 0.5 mile, easiest hiking

This trail meanders along Kooser Run and provides great access for fishing. The trail is named after the Civilian Conservation Corps who were also known as Roosevelt's Tree Army.

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



PICNICKING: Many picnic tables and the Mighty Oak Picnic Pavilion are available for year-round picnics. There is also a small stone shelter in the picnic area that is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

HUNTING: Due to the park's small size, hunting is prohibited in the park. Hunters frequently camp in the park and walk to the adjacent Forbes State Forest lands. Common game species are deer, turkey, and black bear.

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.

FISHING: Kooser Run and 4-acre Kooser Lake are stocked trout waters. The lake also has largemouth and smallmouth bass and panfish. Night fishing and ice fishing are prohibited on Kooser Lake. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



Mountain laurel



History

Kooser State Park is named for John Kooser and his descendants who settled in the western end of the park near Kooser Spring in 1827. This original 920-acre tract was sold to the United Lumber Company in 1913. After the lumber company declared bankruptcy, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased 2,730 acres, which included 720 acres of the original Kooser tract, for use as a forest reserve. In 1920, this area became part of Forbes State Forest. With the advent of affordable automobiles and the growing popularity of auto camping, the Kooser Public Camp was developed at the Van Dyke Spring in 1925. The camp was popular with travelers along PA 31 and included an open front lean-to, restrooms, tables and benches, fireplace, and garbage container.

In 1933, an area west of the Kooser Public Camp was selected as a site for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-99. From 1934 until 1940, the CCC boys built a wooden and earthen dam creating a 4-acre lake, beach with shower house, a road around the lake, nine log cabins, trails, picnic areas, shelters, pavilions, park office, tree nursery and arboretum, as well as made improvements to Kooser and Van Dyke springs.

A tornado in 1945 caused severe damage to the CCC facilities. From 1952 until 1954, the remaining CCC buildings were leased to a church group for use as a camp known as Camp Kincora.

Major redevelopment of the park took place from 1955 through 1957 and in 1962 the Bureau of State Parks took over the operation of the park.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from GO Laurel Highlands, www.GOLaurelHighlands.com, and the Somerset Chamber of Commerce, www.SomersetCountyChamber.com.

The 58,000-acre **Forbes State Forest** provides hunting, fishing, hiking, general recreation, and the highest point in Pennsylvania, Mount Davis, at 3,213 feet. 724-238-1200

Stretching from Ohio State Park in the south to the Conemaugh River in the north, the **Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail** is a 70-mile backpacking and hiking trail.

The PA 31 parking area is near Kooser State Park. For more information, contact Laurel Ridge State Park. 724-455-3744

Laurel Hill State Park is a gateway to thousands of acres of public lands and features a 63-acre lake, camping, hiking, and fishing. 814-445-7725

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.
- 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. Use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn It!
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- 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.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

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

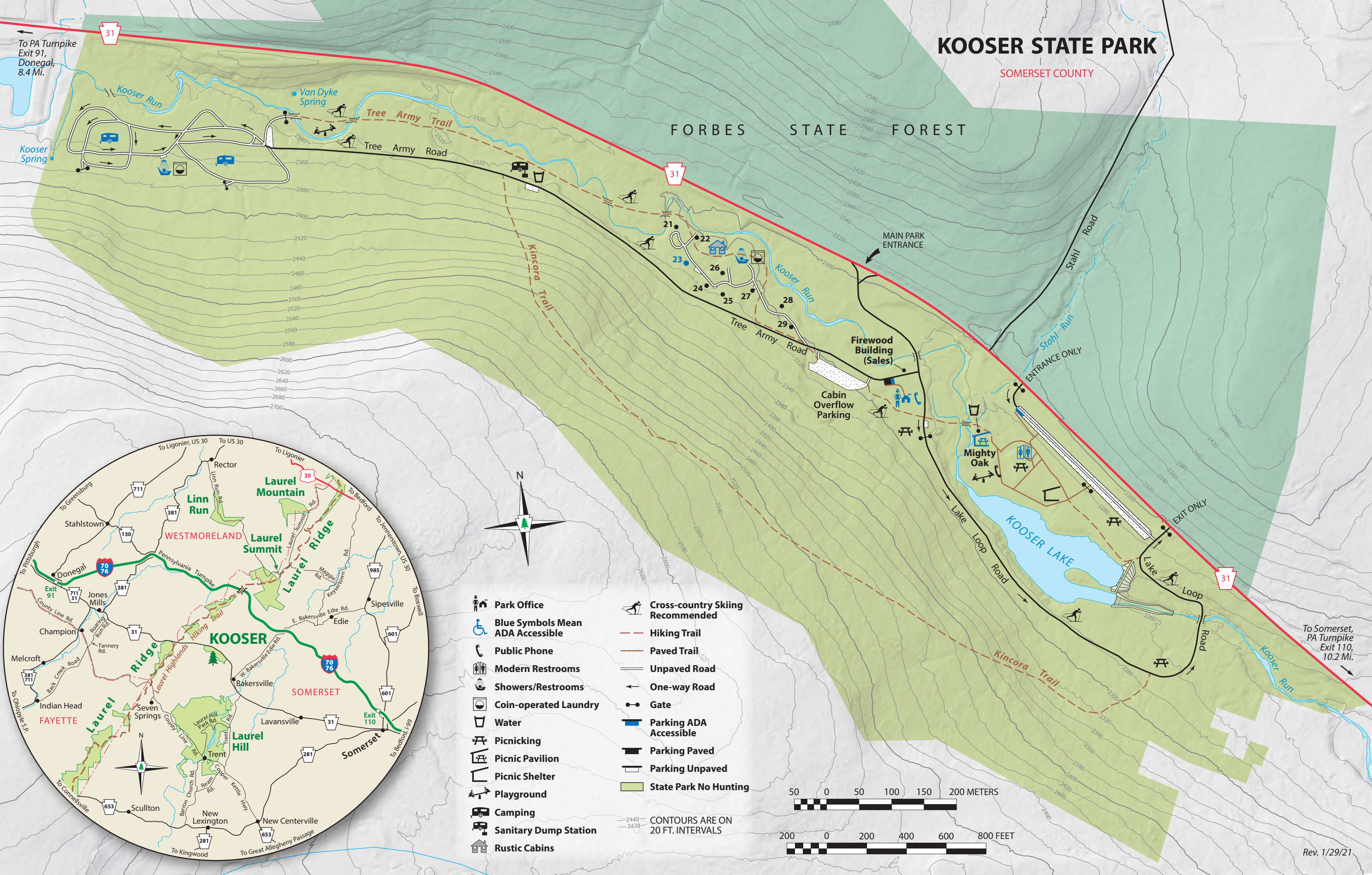
Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Somerset Hospital
225 South Center Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
814-443-5000

KOOSER STATE PARK

SOMERSET COUNTY

FORBES STATE FOREST



To PA Turnpike
Exit 91,
Donegal,
8.4 Mi.

To Somerset,
PA Turnpike
Exit 110,
10.2 Mi.



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|--|---|--|---|
| | Park Office | | Cross-country Skiing Recommended |
| | Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible | | Hiking Trail |
| | Public Phone | | Paved Trail |
| | Modern Restrooms | | Unpaved Road |
| | Showers/Restrooms | | One-way Road |
| | Coin-operated Laundry | | Gate |
| | Water | | Parking ADA Accessible |
| | Picnicking | | Parking Paved |
| | Picnic Pavilion | | Parking Unpaved |
| | Picnic Shelter | | State Park No Hunting |
| | Playground | | |
| | Camping | | |
| | Sanitary Dump Station | | |
| | Rustic Cabins | | |

