A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Kettle Creek State Park

# Kettle Creek State Park

Kettle Creek State Park consists of 1,793 acres along Kettle Creek in western Clinton County. The park is in a valley surrounded by mountainous terrain and wilderness.

# Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.37517 Long. -77.93277

The park is along SR 4001, seven miles north of PA 120 at Westport and three miles west of PA 144.

# 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

BOATING: electric motors only

The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is an ideal place to kayak and canoe. A boat launch and boat mooring for 60 vessels are at the northern end of the lake. An overnight mooring permit is required. Sailboards and sailboats are permitted. Overnight mooring for park campers is also available, free of charge.

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.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILHEAD: An equestrian trail, 22 miles in length, starts at Beaverdam Run and travels through Sproul State Forest before returning to the trailhead. Overnight camping at the trailhead is by permit only. Contact the park office for information. Trail maps are available at the park office.

PICNICKING: The picnic area is below the park office along Bearfield Run and Kettle Creek Reservoir. Many picnic tables with charcoal grills, hot coal disposal, and water hydrants are scattered throughout this area. Sunny and shaded picnic sites are available. Restrooms are near the parking area and at the park office.

Softball and volleyball areas are provided along with playgrounds at several locations. Large, open fields provide excellent play areas for groups of all sizes.

The Pine Grove Picnic Area is available for reservations. A large memorial picnic pavilion with electric hook-up, near park office, is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

FISHING: The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is noted for its trout and bass fishing. Also found in the lake are brown bullhead, sucker, and many species of panfish.

Lower Campground is beside the seven-acre Kettle Creek Lake, a very popular fishing area. Kettle Creek is noted for its excellent water quality that supports a healthy aquatic population. Abandoned mine drainage limits the fishing quality below the Lower Campground.

Many excellent native trout streams surround the park. Additional information on fishing is available at the park office.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply. Fishing licenses are available nearby at several issuing agents.

CAMPING: modern and rustic campsites, some with electric

The park has two camping areas with level sunny or shady sites that accommodate tents or trailers. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. Water spigots are scattered throughout the campgrounds.

Lower Campground is along Kettle Creek and has 41 sites with electricity and also modern restrooms with showers. Lower Campground is open from early April to mid-December. Pets prohibited.

Upper Campground overlooks the Alvin R. Bush Dam and Kettle Creek Reservoir and has 27 sites, 12 with electric hookups and vault toilets. Pets are permitted on all sites. Upper Campground is open from early April to early November.

Equestrian camping is available in the trailhead field and is by permit only. Contact the park office for information.

HIKING: 2 miles of trails

Novice and experienced hikers will find several trails in the park area. Short walks as well as longer day hikes are possible. Backpackers can enjoy the 53-mile Donut Hole Trail with an access parking lot across from Lower Campground. This trail connects onto several other trail systems. Trail maps are available at the park office.

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

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: ♿ Most of the park is open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, grouse, squirrel, bear, and turkey.

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.

# Winter Activities

The park is open throughout the winter. The day use area provides access to all trails and activities.

ICE FISHING: The 167-acre Kettle Creek Reservoir is stocked with trout for the winter season. **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: Snowmobiles must stay on designated trails and have a current registration. Park trails connect to many miles of trails in the surrounding Sproul State Forest.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skiing is permitted throughout the park.

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: The gentle slopes below the park office make for excellent sledding.

# Wildlife Watching

The remote nature of the park makes it a wonderful place to see wildlife. Black bear, white-tailed deer, and wild turkey are common residents. Elk, river otter, bobcat, and fisher are elusive animals that can be found here. Kettle Creek Reservoir is a beacon for waterfowl and wading birds, especially in the spring and fall migrations. Habitats like wetlands, grassy areas, fields, edges, and a variety of forest types serve as home and breeding grounds for a multitude of songbirds, woodpeckers, and raptors. Bald eagles and osprey are often seen along the lake and stream.

# Environmental Education and Interpretation

During the summer months, Kettle Creek State Park shares an environmental educator with Ole Bull State Park. The history and environment of the area are topics for educational programs for park visitors of all ages. Children’s programs, guided walks, and campfire programs are scheduled throughout the week. Program schedules are available at the park office. Special requests are welcome and may be directed to the park office.

# History

Kettle Creek State Park is named after the popular trout stream that flows through the area. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) developed the original park in what is now Lower Campground.

In 1962, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dedicated the Alvin R. Bush Dam for flood protection for the lower Susquehanna watershed. The area above the dam was developed for recreation and administered by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

# Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Clinton County Economic Partnership Tourist Agency. www.clintoncountyinfo.com/Tourism.htm

The 278,000-acre **Sproul State Forest** surrounds Kettle Creek State Park and offers hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling, pleasure driving, and horseback, ATV, and mountain bike riding. All areas of Sproul State Forest are open to hunting and fishing. Camping permits are required before setting up camp on state forest lands. Three miles west of the park, **Kettle Creek Vista**, provides a breathtaking view of the Kettle Creek Valley. 570-923-6011

The **Alvin R. Bush** flood control dam is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and creates 4.5 miles of natural, scenic shoreline. This is one of four dams in the flood control plan for the West Branch Basin of the Susquehanna River watershed.

The **Pennsylvania Flaming Foliage Festival** in Renovo, PA, is the second full weekend in October.

# Nearby Services

Services, including medical, are available at Renovo, 16 miles southeast along PA 120.

# Explore Pennsylvania Wilds

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting, and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Highlights of the area are elk watching, scenic PA 6, Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon), the darkest skies in the east at Cherry Springs State Park, and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths, and trout fishing streams. www.pawilds.com

# 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**

Bucktail Medical Center

1001 Pine Street

South Renovo, PA 17764

570-923-1000

# For More Information Contact:

Kettle Creek State Park

97 Kettle Creek Park Lane

Renovo, PA 17764-9708

570-923-6004

KettleCreekSP@pa.gov

# Information and 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.

www.visitPAparks.com

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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