A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Chapman State Park

# Chapman State Park

The 862-acre Chapman State Park includes the 68-acre Chapman Lake on the West Branch of Tionesta Creek. Adjacent to state game lands and Allegheny National Forest, Chapman is an oasis of recreational facilities in a vast area of wilderness.

# Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.75761 Long. -79.17106

The park is off US 6, in Warren County, near the town of Clarendon. From US 6, turn onto Railroad Street, which becomes Chapman Dam Road. Follow Chapman Dam Road for about five miles to the park.

# Reservations

Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

# Recreational Opportunities

PICNICKING: ♿The main picnic area is by the beach and overlooks the lake. Five 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. Pavilions 1-4 are ADA accessible.

CAMPING: ♿**modern sites, most with electricity**

The beautiful, woodland campground has 80 campsites, modern restrooms, water at convenient hydrants, and a sanitary dump station with potable fill water. Pets are permitted at designated campsites. ADA accessible sites are available. The campground is open from early April to mid-December. Winter access cannot be guaranteed and can be checked by contacting the park office.

CAMPING COTTAGES: ♿Three cottages sleep five people in bunk beds, and have wooden floors, windows, table and chairs, electric heat, electric light, electrical outlets, porch, fire ring, picnic table, and are adjacent to a water hydrant. Cottages 1 and 3 are ADA accessible. Dogs are permitted in Cottage 1.

YURTS: ♿These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden deck and sleep six people in two bunk beds and a double bed. Yurts have a stove top, microwave oven, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat, electric light, electrical outlets, fire ring, picnic table, and are adjacent to a water hydrant. Yurt 1 is ADA accessible.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: This rustic area is available for rent to adult and youth groups, year round. The area has fire rings, picnic tables, and non-flush restrooms nearby. Advanced reservations are required.

SWIMMING: A sand beach on the lake is open from late-May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset, conditions permitting. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules.

During the summer season, a snack bar is available at the beach, conditions permitting. Call the park office for the current snack bar schedule.

### HIKING AND BACKPACKING: 9 miles of trails

Park trails explore many habitats and connect to trails on other public lands. Chapman is the trailhead for backpacking trails on adjoining public lands. Maps and trail information are available at the park office. Free parking is available at the park for those who would rather not leave their vehicles along public roadways.

**If you plan to leave your vehicle in the park, please notify the park office.**

Chapman State Park is in the midst of about 514,000 acres of Allegheny National Forest and state game lands. When going on a hike, always take a map and compass and know how to use them. Leave word with a family member, friend, or the park office concerning the trails you will take, destination, and expected return time. Have a safe hike.

FISHING: ♿The 68-acre Chapman Lake has fishing for coldwater and warmwater fish species, including brook and brown trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, yellow perch, and sucker. ADA accessible fishing piers are on the eastern and western shorelines of Chapman Lake.

West Branch Tionesta Creek and Farnsworth Run on adjacent public lands have trout fishing opportunities.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: Although most hiking trails are closed to bicycles, roads in the park and in the adjacent state game lands and Allegheny National Forest are open to bicycles. E-bikes are permitted but must follow all e-bike guidelines. www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/EBikePolicy.aspx

BOATING: **electric motors only; slow, no-wake speed**

The 68-acre Chapman Lake has a boat launch and, 52 seasonal mooring spaces on the western side, and mooring for registered campers on the eastern shoreline.

During the summer, a boat rental is available in the day use area, conditions permitting. Call the park office for the current boat rental schedule.

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.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: ♿ Over 700 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, and small game. Special Canada goose hunting regulations are in place. Contact the park office for more information.

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

WARMING HUT: On the western side of the park near the sledding hill is a warming hut with a wood burning stove and benches. Chapman also provides parking and heated non-flush restrooms.

SNOWMOBILING: The park is a trailhead to over 300 miles of trails in Allegheny National Forest. The trails are open after the end of deer season in late December, conditions permitting.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Recommended trails and groomed trails are indicated on the map. About 4.4 miles of trails are groomed, conditions permitting. Many of Chapman’s trails connect to additional cross-country ski trails in Allegheny National Forest and State Game Lands 29.

SLEDDING: Conditions permitting, a seven-acre slope on the western side of the park is available for sledding. When conditions are good, lights extend the sledding time into the evening.

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 SKATING: Skating is permitted on the natural ice of the lake.

ICE FISHING: The 68-acre Chapman Lake is popular for ice fishing for perch and trout.

# History

The park name honors Dr. Leroy E. Chapman (1881-1967) of Warren. Dr. Chapman was a state senator from 1929 to 1963 and was active in civic affairs.

Many community groups were instrumental in creating this popular state park. The first land for the park was acquired in 1949. A dam was constructed near the old earthen dam of the Bucher Mill Log Pond, which dates back to Bucher’s Mill that was built about 1849. Chapman State Park opened in 1951.

# Learn, Experience, Connect

Chapman State Park offers a wide variety of programs in the summer season, including guided walks, stream studies, children’s programs, and occasional guest speakers. Special request programming available upon request.

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.

# Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Warren County Visitors Bureau. 814-726-1222. www.wcvb.net

The 514,000-acre **Allegheny National Forest** has numerous recreational opportunities. 814-723-5150. www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny

The 9,800-acre **State Game Lands 29** is open to hunting, fishing, hiking, birding, and nature study. 814-432-3187

# 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

# 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.

# 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**

Warren General Hospital

2 Crescent Park West

Warren, PA 16365

814-723-3300

# For More Information

Chapman State Park

4790 Chapman Dam Road

Clarendon, PA 16313-2830

814-723-0250

ChapmanSP@pa.gov

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www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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