

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for
Beltzville State Park



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Beltzville State Park
2950 Pohopoco Drive
Lehighton, PA 18235-8905
610-377-0045
BeltzvilleSP@pa.gov

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.

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks



Beltzville State Park

The 3,002-acre Beltzville State Park is in the southern foothills of the Poconos. Pohopoco Creek, an excellent trout stream, feeds the 949-acre Beltzville Lake. The lake is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and a destination for boaters and anglers. The sand beach and picnic pavilions are popular attractions.

Recreational facilities are a result of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.86468 Long. -75.629

Beltzville is five miles east of Lehighton, just off US 209. From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take exit 74 and follow signs to the park.

Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: Beltzville Lake is stocked with warmwater and coldwater game fish and panfish. Common species are rainbow trout, striped, largemouth, and smallmouth basses, walleye, muskellunge, and perch. Below the dam, Pohopoco Creek is stocked with rainbow trout. Much of the lake’s northern shoreline can be reached from Pohopoco Drive. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



HIKING: 16.6 miles of trails

The trails of Beltzville State Park follow wooded paths, old roads, and mowed walkways through forests, creek valleys, fields, and by the lake. The “Beltzville Trail Guide” contains descriptions for all park trails and is available at the park office. All trails are blazed yellow except Christman Trail which is blazed blue.

Bird Blind Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

Christman Trail: 2.0 miles, more difficult hiking

Cove Ridge Trail: 2.4 miles, more difficult hiking

Falls Trail: 1.0 mile, most difficult hiking

Ground Pine Trail: 1.0 mile, easiest hiking

Pine Run Cove Trail: 0.7 mile, easiest hiking

Preachers Camp Trail: 2.4 miles, more difficult hiking

Sawmill Run Trail: 2.0 miles, more difficult hiking

Tree ID Trail: 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

Trinity Gorge Trail: 4.1 miles, more difficult hiking

BOAT RENTAL: A boat rental concession, west of the swimming beach, is open daily during the summer season. It rents kayaks, paddleboats, rowboats, and pontoon boats.

BOATING: unlimited horsepower motors

Beltzville Lake has a maximum boating speed of 45 mph. Most types of recreational boats are permitted. Please check with the park office if there is a question as to the type of watercraft permitted. It is unlawful to operate a boat equipped with inboard engines with out-of-the-transom or straight-stack type exhausts, wet or dry. Sleeping overnight on watercraft is prohibited. Day use mooring is prohibited in the boat rental cove area. The lake east of Preachers Camp launch and Pine Run Cove are restricted to “no wake” speed and are excellent for non-powered boating.

Motorboats must display a current boat registration. Non-powered boats launched in the park 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.

LAUNCHING AND MOORING: A three-lane boat launching ramp, ADA accessible courtesy dock, wide gravel beaching area, and parking for cars and trailers are at Pine Run Boat Launch along the northern shore of the lake. A two-lane launch ramp and parking for cars and boat trailers are at Preacher’s Camp Boat Launch on the southern shore. Preacher’s Camp Boat Launch also features an ADA accessible kayak launch. Seasonal mooring of canoes and kayaks by permit is available at Preacher’s Camp.

WATER-SKIING: Skiing is permitted from sunrise to sunset in the zoned ski area along the south shore of the lake. All boats in this ski area shall operate in a counterclockwise direction. Boats not engaged in skiing must remain outside the ski area while skiing is in progress. A boat may not tow more than one water-ski device on weekends and holidays from the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Labor Day. Kite-skiing and parasailing are prohibited. Boats may not exceed 45 mph.

PICNICKING: Wooded and open picnic areas are in the day use area, which has modern restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and parking areas. Beltzville has four picnic pavilions that may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. 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. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served-basis. Picnic Pavilions 1, 2, and 4 are ADA accessible.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 1,707 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, rabbit, pheasant, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl.

The adjacent Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Beltzville Wildlife Management Project has 469 acres 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.

SWIMMING: A 525-foot sand beach is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. A bathhouse with showers is near the beach. Recreational scuba diving is prohibited. A beach wheelchair may be borrowed from the first aid station on a first-come, first-served basis.

CAMPING: Overnight lodging on watercraft, in self-contained campers, or in any other form is strictly prohibited. Information on local camping areas is available at the park office.



Covered Bridge

Built in 1841 by local craftsman Jacob Buck, the covered bridge spanned Pohopoco Creek and was first used by horse and buggy traffic and later by one-lane car traffic. At the suggestion of local residents, the bridge was relocated between the picnic areas and the beach for public use and enjoyment. It is now for pedestrian use only.

Enjoy The Winter

Ice and snow depths are online. www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

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. For iceboating, make sure ice is at least 6” thick. Always carry safety equipment.

ICE FISHING: Beltzville Lake is stocked with warmwater and coldwater game fish and panfish. Common species are rainbow trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, and perch.

ICEBOATING : Iceboats must display a state park launching permit.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Many open and rolling fields and several miles of trail are suitable for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Learn, Experience, Connect

The park’s Environmental Interpretive Center serves as the focal point for educational programs conducted at the park. The center is ADA accessible.

History

The first inhabitants of what is now Beltzville State Park were the Lenape who lived along the Pohopoco Creek. After the infamous “Walking Purchase” of 1737 reached its northern terminus a few miles northwest of the park, early European settlers came to the area and later formed the farming village of Big Creek Valley. In 1966, Big Creek Valley was vacated for the construction of a flood control dam, as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project. The construction of the dam began in 1970, and was completed in 1972. The park officially opened to the public on Memorial Day weekend of 1972.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. 800-POCONOS.
www.pocomountains.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.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

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

St. Luke’s Carbon Campus
500 St. Luke’s Drive
Lehighton, PA 18235

BELTZVILLE STATE PARK

CARBON COUNTY

WATER AUTHORITY RESERVATION

Wildcreek Trailhead

Christman Trailhead

Private Land

Preachers Camp Boat Launch

Canoe Rack Storage

State Police 9170 Interchange Rd. Lehighinton 18235

PA GAME COMMISSION WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA NO. 414

CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

Park Office & Day Use Area

Pine Run Boat Launch

Park Office & Day Use Area

BELTZVILLE

Rev. 12/20/21

- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Environmental Interpretive Center
- Modern Restrooms
- Shower House/Restrooms
- Food Concession
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Scenic View
- Swimming Beach

- First Aid
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch
- Hand-carry Boat Launch
- Hiking Trail
- Paved Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking
- Cross-country Skiing Recommended
- Unpaved Road

- Gate
- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Archery Hunting Only
- No Wake Zone

1/4 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/4 1 1/2 KILOMETERS

1/4 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 MILE

500 0 1000 FEET

