



Clear Creek State Park

Clear Creek State Park encompasses 1,901 acres of the Clear Creek Valley in Jefferson County. The park occupies a scenic portion along Clear Creek from PA 949 downstream to the Clarion River.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.322792 Long. -79.076797

From Exit 78 of I-80, follow PA 36 north to the town of Sigel. Turn right onto PA 949 north and continue four miles to the park entrance on the left.

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.



Stay the Night


Overnight accommodations are available from the second Friday in April to the third Friday in December.

CAMPING: electric and non-electric sites

There are 52 campsites each with a picnic table and fire ring. 42 campsites have electric hookups. Two campsites are ADA accessible. Pets are permitted at designated sites for a fee. Campground access is not guaranteed during severe weather.

Showers, flush toilets, and a sanitary dump station are available. A nine-hole disc golf course and a concrete basketball court are near the campground.

Two canoe/kayak camping sites are available at the south end of the campground. These sites are for paddlers traveling multiple days on the river. They are available for one night only. Cost is based per person with a maximum of 10 people per site. To reserve the Clear Creek canoe/kayak sites online, select Backpacking and River Camping, then under Cook Forest State Park select the River Camping Permit for Clear Creek State Park.

 **CABINS:** There are 22 rustic cabins, some located along the Clarion River. Cabins sleep four, six, or eight people. Extra cots are not available. Each cabin has beds, mattresses, refrigerator, stove, oven, microwave, gas heat, table with benches, fire ring, and picnic table. Occupants must provide their own bedding, cookware, tableware, and firewood. A shower house is nearby.

Frost-free water faucets are outside. A shower house is nearby. Up to two dogs are permitted at designated cabins for a fee. Two cabins are ADA accessible.

The cabins must be rented for one week in the summer peak season. In the non-peak season, cabins must be rented for at least two nights.

YURTS: Two round, canvas and wood walled tents are on a wooden deck and sleep four people in two bunk beds. Yurts have a stove, microwave, refrigerator, countertop, table with chairs, electric heat, outlets, fire ring, and picnic table. Occupants must provide their own bedding, cookware, tableware, and firewood. A shower house is nearby.

Yurts must be rented for one week in the summer peak season. In the non-peak season, yurts must be rented for at least two nights.

Hiking: 25 miles

Most trails begin in the scenic Clear Creek Valley and follow Clear Creek or one of its tributaries. Other trails wander across the surrounding hillsides to several scenic overlooks and along the Clarion River. Most trails follow old roads or logging skid paths through second-growth, mixed hardwood, and evergreen forests. Mountain laurel blooms in mid-June. Rhododendron blooms in early July.

Big Coon Trail: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking

This short but steep trail intersects Little Coon and Clear Creek trails and can be used to make a short loop.

Big Spring Trail: 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

This trail connects Phyllis Run Loop Trail and the park office. The trail is named for a spring by the park office. This rocky trail passes through CCC-planted spruce trees.

Boundary Trail: 0.7 mile, more difficult hiking

This short trail connects Hunter and Irish Rock trails, partially following the state park boundary. White dots and silver medallions marked “Pennsylvania State Park Boundary” signify the boundary between public and private land.

Clear Creek Trail: 1.7 miles, more difficult hiking

This popular trail traverses the length of the park from the campground to a parking lot on PA 949, which then connects to Beartown Rocks Trail in Clear Creek State Forest. The trail affords nice views of Clear Creek.

Frazier Trail: 0.9 mile, most difficult hiking

A connector between Ridge, Zerby, and Phyllis Run trails, Frazier Trail climbs to the top of the hill that towers over Clear Creek. Large red oak trees abound along this steep trail. The Frazier Family owned the Clear Creek Valley within the park, and after logging the land, sold the land to the commonwealth.

Hunter Trail: 1.2 miles, most difficult hiking

This trail connects the cabin loop and Boundary Trail and passes through a hardwood forest with mountain laurel. The steep, long hill on the west side is not for the faint of heart.

Irish Rock Trail: 0.9 mile, easiest hiking

Mostly an old road, this trail connects River and Boundary trails. Halfway along the trail on the riverbank is Irish Rock, which was a tie-up spot for lumber rafts.

Korb Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

Beginning and ending on Clear Creek Park Road, this easy hike hugs Clear Creek and provides an alternative route to the beach.

Little Coon Trail: 0.3 mile, easiest hiking

Once an old logging skid path, this short but steep trail connects Coon Picnic Area to Clear Creek Trail.

North Ridge Trail: 0.5 mile, more difficult hiking

This old logging skid path travels uphill from Clear Creek Park Road, crosses Pipeline Trail, and intersects Hunter Trail.

Ox Shoe Trail: 1 mile, easiest hiking

Learn about the logging history of the park by walking this self-guided trail. A map showing the location of educational sign posts is available at the park office and at the Nature Museum trailhead. The trail begins at the Nature Museum, follows Clear Creek downstream, crosses the bridge, follows Clear Creek upstream, joins Clear Creek Trail, then loops back to the museum.

Phyllis Run Trail: 2.1 miles, most difficult hiking

The trail starts on Clear Creek Road, crosses the creek, climbs a steep grade while intersecting Clear Creek and Fazier trails, and ends at Zerby Trail on the park boundary. The trail passes through an oak forest and can be combined with many others trails to make loops.

Phyllis Run Loop Trail: 0.9 mile, more difficult hiking

The trail starts on Clear Creek Road and follows along both sides of the lovely Phyllis Run. The lower section of the trail is 0.4-mile long and has many moss-covered boulders. In the summer, the upper section of the trail is a good place to see and hear warblers and thrushes.

Pipeline Trail: 0.91 mile, easiest hiking

Beginning in the large cabin loop, this wide access trail has a very gentle grade. It is named for the system of springs which piped water to CCC Camp S-53.

Radcliffe Trail: 0.8 mile, easiest hiking

An alternative to walking on the road, Radcliffe Trail connects Shelter 4 and Phyllis Run Loop Trail. Winding through a hardwood and evergreen forest, this trail is named after the camp superintendent who directed the planting of the spruce tree plantation along the trail.

Ridge Trail: 1.9 miles, more difficult hiking

The trail connects Clear Creek and Frazier trails, and intersects Zerby Trail. Ridge Trail follows Truby Run and passes through a hardwood forest with a section of dense mountain laurels and rhododendrons.

River Trail: 0.9 mile, easiest hiking

This loop follows the Clarion River through hardwood, evergreen, and rhododendron forests, then loops back at a higher elevation.

Sawmill Trail: 0.6 mile, more difficult hiking

Beginning either at Clear Creek Trail or at the intersection of Truby and Tadler trails, Sawmill Trail is an old logging skid path with a moderate grade except near the intersection with Truby and Tadler trails. Sawmill is useful for making loops of varying lengths.

Tadler Run Trail: 4 miles, more difficult hiking

Traversing through northern hardwoods and mountain laurels, half of the trail is near the Clarion River and the other half is at a higher elevation. This trail offers two seasonal scenic overlooks in the fall and spring when the trees are bare. The trail winds through thick rhododendrons. A loop hike that begins and ends in the campground can be made using Truby Trail or Sawmill and Clear Creek trails.

Tobacco Trail: 8 miles, 2.6 miles in Clear Creek, more difficult hiking

This 8-mile hiking trail connects Cook Forest and Clear Creek state parks. The trail runs from PA 36 in Cook Forest State Park along the Clarion River to PA 899, before entering Clear Creek State Park and running with Tadler Run Trail near the Clarion River to the canoe/kayak camping area.

Truby Trail: 1 mile, easiest hiking

Once the main road into Clear Creek Valley, this wide trail gently traverses three-quarters of the way up the side of a steep hill and ends at the boundary, intersecting Tadler Run Trail.

Zerby Trail: 1.3 mile, easiest hiking

This trail connects Frazier and Phyllis Run trails and intersects Ridge Trail. This highland trail is a great place to look for signs of wild turkeys, black bears, and coyotes.

Tell us about your hike: ExplorePATrails.com



Enjoy the Winter

SNOWSHOEING AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Snowshoeing is permitted on all trails. Cross-country skiing is recommended on Clear Creek Trail, Korb Trail, Pipeline Trail, and portions of Truby Trail.

SLEDDING: A sledding slope is on the pipeline right-of-way near Pavilion 3.

Natural Resources

Along with the National Wild and Scenic Clarion River, Clear Creek and its headwater tributaries meander through the forested valleys comprising the park. Aquatic habitats benefit from the nutrient influx and temperature control of the mixed evergreen and hardwood tree species. Eastern hemlocks and sycamores line the riparian areas along with wildflowers like cardinal flowers, square-stemmed monkey flowers, vervains, and white snakeroots. Spring blooms of wood sorrels and pink lady slippers give way to mountain laurels and rhododendrons beneath the canopy of oaks, cherries, birches, and pines.

This mix of habitats is home to mammals like black bears, river otters, fishers, white-tailed deer, and porcupines. In the forest, year-round bird species vary from black-capped chickadees to pileated woodpeckers, while summer nesters include woodland warblers, thrushes, cuckoos, and scarlet tanagers. Bald eagles, osprey, wood ducks, and red-breasted mergansers join green herons and belted kingfishers along the water. Northern watersnakes and ring-necked snakes are seen regularly as are a variety of salamanders and frogs. In June, snapping turtles visit the banks of the Clarion River to lay eggs.



Violet Learn

Learn, Experience, Connect

Clear Creek State Park offers a wide variety of programs spring through fall. Programs topics include aquatic life, forests, vernal ponds, local wildlife, and history. Open spring through fall, the Nature Museum has logging and nature exhibits. Educational signs posted along Ox Shoe Trail describe visible features of the lumbering and CCC history of the park.



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 or explore the online calendar of events, <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

History



Travel and commerce through the valleys of the Clarion River in the 1800s depended on water. The river and streams were travel ways for Seneca, explorers, European settlers, and eventually loggers. Once here, loggers cut the towering white pine and eastern hemlock trees, using teams of oxen, log slides, and a tram road to move them to the water. Bracket dams were built to raise the water level and float logs down Clear Creek to mill ponds. Stream water turned the turbines of the saws at the mill, cutting the logs into boards.

On the banks of the river near the current hand-carry boat launch, large river rafts were constructed and flipped into the water. Cut boards and hemlock bark were transported on these rafts to markets down river and to tanneries along the way. Signs of the lumbering era remain throughout the park.

Successful lumbermen, George and William Frazier, owned a large tract of land in the valley in the late 1800s. George and his family resided in the valley while William oversaw the lumber yard in Pittsburgh. Several features in the park bear the Frazier name. After lumbering ceased in the valley and the idea of farming among the rocks and eroded ground was abandoned, most of the land was sold to the commonwealth in 1919. The Phillips Tract, turned over to the park in 2006, was the last of the family holdings in the area.

As state forest lands, the first public campsites opened at Clear Creek in 1922. Eleven years later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Camp S-53 was established. A forest suppressed by gooseberry and chestnut blight received help at the hands of hundreds of men enlisted in the CCC. From 1933 to 1937, members of Company 353 built cabins, the swimming area, trails, bridges, roads, and picnic areas. The men planted numerous trees throughout the valley helping the forest to regenerate. In 1987, the Clear Creek cabin colony, picnic shelters, and other structures were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Other industries influenced the park. Several oil wells were drilled in the valley and the oil was piped along the creek and across the river. The wells produced only small amounts of “black gold.” Found more abundantly, natural gas was pumped through the park and a major natural gas pipeline bisects the park. Older lines can be found exposed along Sawmill Trail.

Originally part of Clear Creek State Forest, Clear Creek became a state park in 1964. Since then, additional picnic shelters, shower houses, yurts, and water systems have been constructed. Some of these projects received help through youth job development programs like the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps, the Youth Conservation Corps, and most recently, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps.

Do Not Feed Wildlife

Feeding wild animals is prohibited. When wildlife loses fear of people, these animals can become pests, and dangerous situations can result. Black bears are native to this area. All food should be put away after use and kept in a tight, secure container in the trunk of a car or in a camper.

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

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from:

Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau, 814-849-5197. visitpago.com

Cook Forest Vacation Bureau, 412-353-9620. www.cookforest.org

The 11,636-acre **Cook Forest State Park and Clarion River Lands** are known for their stands of old growth forest. Cook Forest’s “Forest Cathedral” of towering white pines and eastern hemlocks is a National Natural Landmark. The Clarion River connects Clear Creek State Park to Cook Forest State Park along a scenic 10-mile stretch of river popular for canoeing and kayaking. 814-744-8407


Adjacent to Clear Creek State Park, the 14,431-acre **Clear Creek State Forest** provides hunting, fishing, hiking, and outdoor recreation. Much of the state forest is along the Clarion and Allegheny rivers. 814-226-1901

Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania’s only national forest, is approximately 517,000 acres and includes land in Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren counties. 814-728-6100



Mountain laurel

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

Penn Highlands Brookville
100 Hospital Road
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-2312



A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Clear Creek State Park







Clear Creek State Park
38 Clear Creek State Park Road
Sigel, PA 15860-9502
814-752-2368
ClearCreekSP@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](http://visitPAparks.com)**

Cover photograph by Kyle Yates

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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.

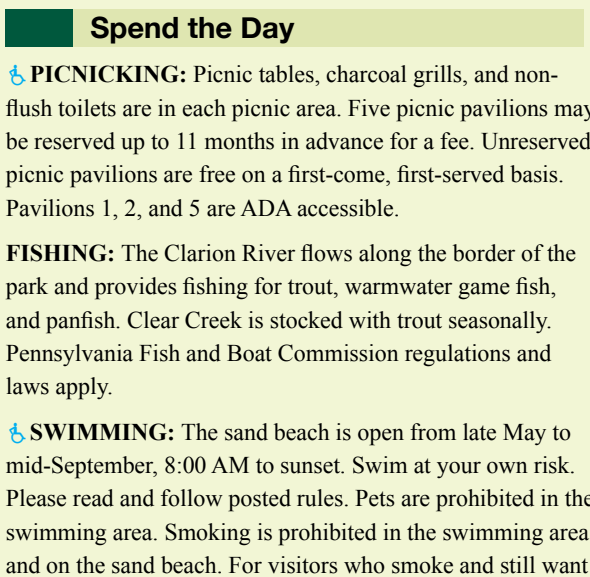
- Please camp only in designated areas and minimize your impact on the campsite.

- 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. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.



PICNICKING: Picnic tables, charcoal grills, and non-flush toilets are in each picnic area. 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, 2, and 5 are ADA accessible.

FISHING: The Clarion River flows along the border of the park and provides fishing for trout, warmwater game fish, and panfish. Clear Creek is stocked with trout seasonally. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

SWIMMING: The sand beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. Pets are prohibited in the swimming area. Smoking is prohibited in the swimming area and on the sand beach. For visitors who smoke and still want

to use the beach, designated smoking areas adjacent to the beach are provided.

BOATING: The Clarion River provides approximately 120 miles of paddling opportunities with Clear Creek State Park at river miles 59-63. Located within the federally designated Wild and Scenic River section, the park offers access to the river with a hand-carry public launch (mile 61) and parking area.

A popular half-day paddling trip is from Belltown (mile 65) to Clear Creek, with a longer trip being from Clear Creek to Cook Forest State Park, Cooksburg Launch (mile 50). If floating the river in inner tubes or inflatable rafts without paddles, the Millstone Launch (mile 64) to Clear Creek State Park is a leisurely outing. Carrying inner tubes up river on park trails is also an option. Canoes, kayaks, and tubes are available for rent from privately-owned livery companies.

Overnight parking is available with a no cost permit

obtained at the park office. For paddlers traveling overnight on the river, there are two canoe/kayak camp sites reservable for one night only. See the **Camping** section for additional information. To plan a float on the Clarion River and to review paddling safety tips and regulations, see the Clarion River Water Trail map at the park office or at <https://pfbc.pa.gov/WaterTrail.htm>.

The Clarion River is a Class 1 river, a beginner's waterway with slower moving water and a few faster riffles and waves. As the water level rises from weather events, the difficulty of navigating the river and velocity of the water changes. When USGS river gauges at Ridgway and Cooksburg read six feet, the park closes its launch. River level can be checked at the park office or on the United States Geological Survey website <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis>

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

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 1,000 acres of Clear Creek are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrels, bears, and turkeys. Over 10,000 acres of adjacent state forests and over 500,000 acres of Allegheny National Forest are also 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 unsecured 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.

SCENIC VIEWS: Two seasonal, scenic overlooks are along Tadler Run Trail. Beartown Rocks is a popular overlook in nearby Clear Creek State Forest.

