



## Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



## 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](http://www.pawilds.com)



## BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

The 5,900-acre Bald Eagle State Park is in the broad Bald Eagle Valley of northcentral Pennsylvania. The 1,730-acre reservoir at the foot of Bald Eagle Mountain is surrounded by forests, fields, and wetlands. With two campgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, the Nature Inn, and diverse habitats that are excellent for wildlife watching, Bald Eagle State Park is a spectacular destination in the heart of Pennsylvania.

Recreational facilities are the result of a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Bureau of State Parks.

### Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.03464 Long. -77.65112

Located in Centre County, Bald Eagle State Park is along PA 150 between Milesburg and Lock Haven.

From I-80 west, take exit 158 to PA 150 north for about 10 miles.

From I-80 east, take exit 178 to US 220 north, to PA 150 south for about 13 miles.

From I-99, take exit 61 to Port Matilda, then US 220-ALT, continue onto 150 north to park.

### Reservations

Make online reservations at [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks](http://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



### Foster Joseph (F. J.) Sayers Reservoir

The eight-mile-long, 1,730-acre reservoir is the focal point for water-based recreation in the park and includes 23 miles of shoreline.

Because of its role in flood damage reduction and downstream water quality, the operation of the dam is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Water levels vary throughout the year. Beginning in November, the USACE begins a five-foot reservoir drawdown to prepare for winter waters. Between mid-February and early March, the water level is lowered an additional 15 feet to maximum flood protection pool. Depending on weather conditions, the reservoir usually reaches the summer recreational pool by mid-May.

### Spend the Day

#### BOATING: unlimited horsepower motors

The speed limit on the 1,730-acre reservoir is 45 mph. Boaters must follow a counterclockwise traffic pattern.

Boats equipped with inboard engines with over-the-transom or straight-stack type exhausts are prohibited.

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.

**MARINA AND BOAT CONCESSION:** More than 350 marina boat slips can be rented on a seasonal basis. Transient slips are rented on a daily basis. Boat and trailer storage is available for the summer and winter seasons. Contact the park office for additional information. When available, the boating concession at the marina rents boats and sells gasoline. The concession is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends during the months of September and October, weather permitting. Contact the park office for additional information.

**BOAT LAUNCHES:** There are seven boat launches open to the public; Hunter Run West, Hunter Run East, Winter, Bald Eagle, Lower Greens Run, Upper Greens Run, and Bullit Run. All boat launches have 24-hour access. Most boat launches have picnic tables, grills, and restrooms. Winter Launch is open year round; all other launches are open mid-May to late October. Winter Launch is usable at reduced water levels and has an ADA accessible fishing pier. Lower Greens Run Launch has a fishing pier that is popular for fishing and birding. Bullit Run Launch is a non-powered boat launch only.

**FISHING:** The 1,730-acre F. J. Sayers Reservoir and its 23 miles of shoreline offer excellent warmwater fishing. Common species are crappie, yellow perch, channel catfish, and largemouth and smallmouth basses. The reservoir is a panfish enhancement waterway, and special regulations apply. An ADA accessible fishing pier is at the Winter Launch in the Main Park Area.

**PICNICKING:** All picnic areas around the reservoir have picnic tables, grills, and nearby restrooms. Picnic areas open at sunrise and close at sunset. 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. Most boat launches also have picnic tables, grills, and restrooms.

**Schencks Grove Area** on the ridge on the south side of Marina Cove, has two play fields and a volleyball net.

**Point Area** on the point of the peninsula overlooking the beach and marina, has pavilions 3 and 4 and a volleyball net.

**Beach Day Use Area** has pavilions 1, 2, 6, and 7. The swimming beach and food concession are also in this area.

**Skyline Drive Area** is on a ridge overlooking Frog Pond, the reservoir, and Bald Eagle Mountain. This area has Pavilion 5.

**Winter Launch Area** has Pavilion 8 and an ADA accessible fishing pier.

**Bald Eagle Launch** has Pavilion 9.

**HIKING:** See HIKING section on reverse side.

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 4,910 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, turkey, waterfowl, and rabbit. Hunting is also available on nearby State Game Lands 92 and 252.

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:** The 1,200-foot-long sand and turf beach has a children's playground, food concession, modern restrooms, and ADA accessible swimming area. Swim at your own risk. The hours are sunrise to sunset, Memorial Day to Labor Day, unless otherwise posted. Please follow posted rules for swimming. Pets are prohibited in the beach area.

## HABITATS OF BALD EAGLE STATE PARK

### Introduction

Bald Eagle State Park's geographic location and diversity of habitats attract a large variety of birds. The Allegheny Front to the west of the park is a major flyway for migrating birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Birds using the flyway stop at Bald Eagle to rest and feed before continuing their migration.

The park is in the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province of Pennsylvania, which is characterized by wide valleys surrounded by mountains. This feature is mirrored at the park which slopes from Bald Eagle Mountain down to the valley bottom.

This varied geology leads to many different habitats in the park, which creates more places for birds and animals to find homes and places to eat.

### Park Office

The area by the park office is composed of fields slowly reverting to forest, which is called succession. Unmowed grassy areas slowly bristle with shrubs, becoming great habitat for birds that hide and forage hidden in the thick vegetation. In winter, **northern shrikes** (1) visit the park from their breeding grounds in Northern Canada. The shrike thrives in the shrubby areas that also provide habitat for its winter food: mice, shrews, and **voles** (2). In some cases, shrikes will even store food on the thorns of **hawthorn trees** (3). **Northern mockingbirds** (4) are often confused with shrikes due to their gray color. Dead and dried **Joe-pye weed** (5), **teasel** (6), **goldenrod** (7), and **Queen Anne's lace** (8), are perching spots and seed repositories for year-round birds like **song sparrows** (9).

This shrubby area has many tasty plants for cottontail **rabbits** (10), which use the thick underbrush to hide from **bobcats** (11).

The trails in this area have a maze-like quality as they pass through tall shrubs and grasses. Walking quietly can create close encounters with birds that think they are hidden. Their camouflage makes them hard to see even though they are easily heard.

### Skyline Drive

An amazing aspect of the Skyline Drive area is that you can park your car, take a few steps and feel like you are in the middle of a forest.

**Mayapples** (12) bloom in late spring, although the small, tree-covered hill has little undergrowth, giving it an open feel. Mature trees, like **white oaks** (13), blanket the hill, making good habitat for resident and migrating warblers. Walking on the top of the Skyline Drive provides views into the upper layers of trees where these warblers live, making them easier to see. Skyline Drive is a great place for beginner birders.

**Red-eyed vireos** (14) prefer the tops of trees where they hunt for insects. **Scarlet tanagers** (15), one of the most vibrant birds in the forest, prefer the middle of the tree. **Ovenbirds** (16) hunt and nest on the ground. Its "teacher, teacher" call is commonly heard from spring through early summer.

Next to Skyline Drive is Frog Pond, a great place to see beautiful **wood ducks** (17). **Cattails** (18) line the pond, creating hiding places for **green herons** that lurk in the shallows hunting small aquatic creatures. The hungry heron passes by **red-spotted newts** (20) because they taste terrible. The lily pad-like leaves of **spatterdock** (21) line the pool, making hiding and sunning locations for **green frogs** (22) that twang their rubber band call in early summer. **American woodcocks** (23) use their long bill to probe the soft soil by the pond for earthworms.

Fields near the pond are home to **eastern bluebirds** (24), which perch on their houses or on the **redbud** (25) tree before flying out and snatching flying insects. Please don't disturb the bluebird nest boxes.

**Milkweed** (26), the host plant for **monarch butterflies** (27), flourishes in the fields.

### Reservoir and Shoreline

F. J. Sayers Reservoir and the lands around it, teem with a variety of animals and plants. Many of these species are only found in areas near the water, also known as riparian areas. **Great blue herons** (28) wade in the shallows hunting small fish and crayfish. In among the **sedges** and **rushes** (29), **greater yellowlegs** (30) work the shore and shallowest water looking for any small creatures, sometimes joined by **killdeer** (31). In the open water, **ring-necked ducks** (32) feed on aquatic plants and insects. **Green darners dragonflies** (33) hunt for insects above the water. During spring and fall migration, flotillas of ducks rest and refuel at the reservoir.

Under the water is a hidden world sometimes glimpsed on the hook of a fishing rod. **Largemouth bass** (34) engulf anything they can in their huge mouth. **Muskellunge** (35) patrol the reservoir hunting small fish. **Black crappies** (36) and **yellow perch** (37) hunt aquatic insects while hiding from the bigger fish. **Snapping turtles** (38) lurk on the bottom eating whatever wanders too close.

Above the reservoir, ring-billed gulls, terns, and double-crested cormorants fly the length of the reservoir. **Bald eagles** (39) dive for small fish. **Fish crows** (40) eat anything they can, stealing food when possible.

### Bald Eagle Mountain

On Bald Eagle Mountain, tall trees looming high overhead in this rocky, remote forest can often make visitors feel small. In the fall, the tree leaves blaze in yellows, oranges, reds, and browns. Acorns and hickory nuts provide food for many animals, including **black bears** (41), **gray squirrels** (42), **wild turkeys** (43), and **ruffed grouse** (44). The evergreens, like **white pines** (45), add green color year round and are a favored nesting place for **bald eagles** (46). **Hairy woodpeckers** (47) and **red-breasted nuthatches** (48) feast on insects in or under the bark of the trees. At night, **great horned owls** (49) patrol the forest for small prey animals, while **porcupines** (50) climb to eat the inner bark of trees.



HIKING: 17.6 miles



A network of hiking trails guides hikers through a variety of habitats that offer scenic views and wildlife watching opportunities. Additional unnamed extension trails lead to recreational facilities like boat launches, the modern campground, and fishing access areas. Some trails wind through areas open to hunting. Hikers should wear fluorescent orange clothing during hunting seasons. Trails are open year round from sunrise to sunset.

**Butterfly Trail**  
**1.87 miles | Most difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended  
**Trailhead amenities:** picnic tables, benches

This mowed trail from the beach day use area to the Frog Pond is a family favorite for viewing insects, birds, and other wildlife. Butterfly Trail loops around Frog Pond and through a mix of grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and young trees that are host and nectar plants for butterflies throughout their lifecycle. An educational area provides additional butterfly information. In September, migrating monarchs are often seen drinking nectar on the abundant goldenrod. This trail is a popular family hike.

**Fireline Trail**  
**1.5 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This rocky, mountainside trail, was built and used as an actual fireline to protect the mountain from runaway campfires. This trail travels through a mixed hardwood and hemlock forest where deer can be seen foraging on the low vegetation.

**Hunter Run East Trail**  
**2.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, snowshoeing recommended

Near the northwest border of the park toward Hunter Run West Launch, Hunter Run East Trail winds beneath a mixed forest and through open shrubby areas providing favorite habitat for chickadees, towhees, and catbirds. Hikers encounter an intermittent mountain stream which is home to various salamanders and aquatic insects. Some sections of the trail are wet or steep; wear appropriate footwear.

**Hunter Run West Trail**  
**2.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, snowshoeing recommended

Sloping through a mix of forested areas and field habitats, this mowed path guides hikers through natural forest succession. In the summer, songs of common yellowthroats and song sparrows may be heard as hikers pass through the open shrubby areas. Northern pearly-eye and wood nymph butterflies may be spotted hiding in the shaded areas. Signs of old fencerows along the way are evidence of the area's farming heritage.

**Lakeside Trail**  
**5.6 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking  
**Trailhead amenities:** non-flush restrooms, benches

Beginning and ending at Bald Eagle Launch, this rocky trail runs along the base of the mountain passing through two railroad tunnels. In the shade of the towering oaks, maples, and hickories, this trail provides glimpses of the reservoir below. Along the trail, look for signs of wildlife and old charcoal hearths, where timber was burned in large earth-covered mounds to create charcoal for iron furnaces in the 1800s. Mountain streams are not bridged.

**Shrike Trail**  
**0.2 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This short trail cuts through a dense thicket that is ideal habitat for our elusive winter visitor, the northern shrike. The trail can be accessed from the campground or West Launch Road and provides a direct path to the Hunter Run East and West trailheads.

**Skyline Trail**  
**1.16 miles | Moderate hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, snowshoeing recommended  
**Trailhead amenities:** non-flush restrooms, picnic tables

This trail begins on Skyline Drive and meanders through a small, forested ridge of mixed hardwoods to Warbler Way. Most of the trail is forested, but portions contain dense shrubbery reminiscent of earlier ecological succession. This area is favorite habitat for eastern chipmunks, great horned owls, white-tailed deer, black-throated green warblers, and other woodland warblers. For a longer hike, use connector trails to access Butterfly Trail.

**Swamp Oak Trail**  
**0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, snowshoeing recommended  
**Trailhead amenities:** non-flush restrooms, picnic tables

This trail can be accessed from the amphitheater in the modern campground or from the top of Skyline Trail. The largest tree in the park, a swamp white oak, is along the trail near the amphitheater. It is "A Champion Tree of PA" according to PA Forestry Association at more than 18 feet in circumference. A portion of the trail follows the old farm road to what was the Day Farm.

**Woapalanne Trail**  
**1.75 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended  
**Trailhead amenities:** modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables

The relatively flat trail meanders through a kiosk near Pavilion 6 and the eastern terminus of F. J. Sayers Road. The path follows the shoreline and is sometimes flooded during high water events. It is a great trail to see waterfowl, eagles, and wildlife that like riparian areas. If you look closely, you can see old stone wells, tree lines, and other historic remnants from the valley's past.

**Woodcock Trail**  
**0.5 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This trail winds through a brushy habitat between the marina and the Environmental Learning Center. During spring, keep your ears and eyes peeled for American Woodcocks who frequently call and perform their characteristic aerial mating dances.

HISTORY OF BALD EAGLE

The valley, creek, mountain, and state park are named for the Munsee Lenni Lenape chief Woapalanne [wopo lonnie], whose name translates to "Bald Eagle." In the mid-1700s, the chief briefly dwelled at Bald Eagles Nest, near Milesburg. The village was along the Bald Eagle Creek Path, a portion of a warriors path from New York to the Carolinas, which now is PA 150.

Bald Eagle Creek, one of the few navigable tributaries of the West Branch Susquehanna River, became a branch of the Pennsylvania Canal in the mid-1800s. When flooding destroyed the short-lived canal system, the newly developed railroads replaced the canal.

These transportation systems and abundant local resources led to the building of the nearby Curtin Ironworks. Loggers cut trees from steep-sided Bald Eagle Mountain and colliers made charcoal from the wood to feed the hungry furnace. When the demand for wood products soared in the 1800s, the plentiful pines, chestnuts, oaks, and hickories were cleared from the valley and plateaus. Farmland replaced the forest and the fertile valley continues to be cultivated. Although the forests of Bald Eagle Mountain have regenerated.

To reduce flood damage downstream, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the 100-foot-high and 1.3-mile-long F. J. Sayers Dam in 1969. Bald Eagle State Park opened to the public July 4, 1971.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The Conservation Volunteer Program encourages individuals, groups, and/or corporations to help the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources carry out its mission of stewardship in state parks and state forestlands. Contact the park office for more information about volunteer opportunities at Bald Eagle State Park.

**Foster Joseph Sayers**

The dam and reservoir were named in honor of Foster Joseph Sayers, a private 1st class in World War II. Nineteen-year-old Sayers, a resident of Centre County, lost his life while displaying gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in combat on November 12, 1944, near Thionville, France.

During an attack on hostile forces entrenched on a hill, Sayers ran up the steep approach and set up his machine gun 20 yards from the enemy. Realizing it was necessary to attract the full attention of the dug-in Germans while his company crossed an open area and flanked the enemy, he picked up his gun, charged through withering gunfire to the very edge of the German encampment and killed 12 German soldiers with devastating close-range fire. He then engaged the enemy from the flank in a heroic attempt to distract attention from his comrades as they reached the crest of the hill. He was killed by a very heavy concentration of return fire, but his fearless assault enabled his company to sweep the hill with minimum casualties, killing or capturing every enemy soldier. Sayers received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

**Bald Eagle State Park**  
149 Main Park Road  
Howard, PA 16841  
814-625-2775  
BaldEagleSP@pa.gov  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Make online reservations at [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks](http://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.

**@BaldEagleSP**

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station**  
A 2-plug, electric vehicle charging station is available for public use near the Nature Inn. Two 2-plug, electric vehicle charging stations are available for public use in the Environmental Learning Center parking area near park office. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.



Monarch butterfly

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from: Happy Valley Adventure Bureau. 800-358-5466. <https://happyvalley.com>

Clinton County Visitors Bureau. 888-388-6991. [www.clintoncountyinfo.com](http://www.clintoncountyinfo.com)

**Black Moshannon State Park** covers 3,394 acres of forests and wetlands and conserves unique, natural environments. More than 43,000 acres of Moshannon State Forest surround the park and help create a remote and wild setting that provides recreational opportunities in all seasons. 814-342-5960

The 2,158-acre **Little Pine State Park** is surrounded by a beautiful, mountainous section of Tiadaghton State Forest in the PA Wilds. The 45-acre Little Pine Lake, hiking trails, campground, and nesting bald eagles are prime attractions. 570-753-6000

**Cozy Poe Valley State Park** is nestled in a rugged mountain valley in Centre County. Seemingly endless forests surround the 25-acre Poe Lake and modern campground. The 620-acre state park is surrounded by the 198,000-acre Bald Eagle State Forest. 814-349-2460

**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.

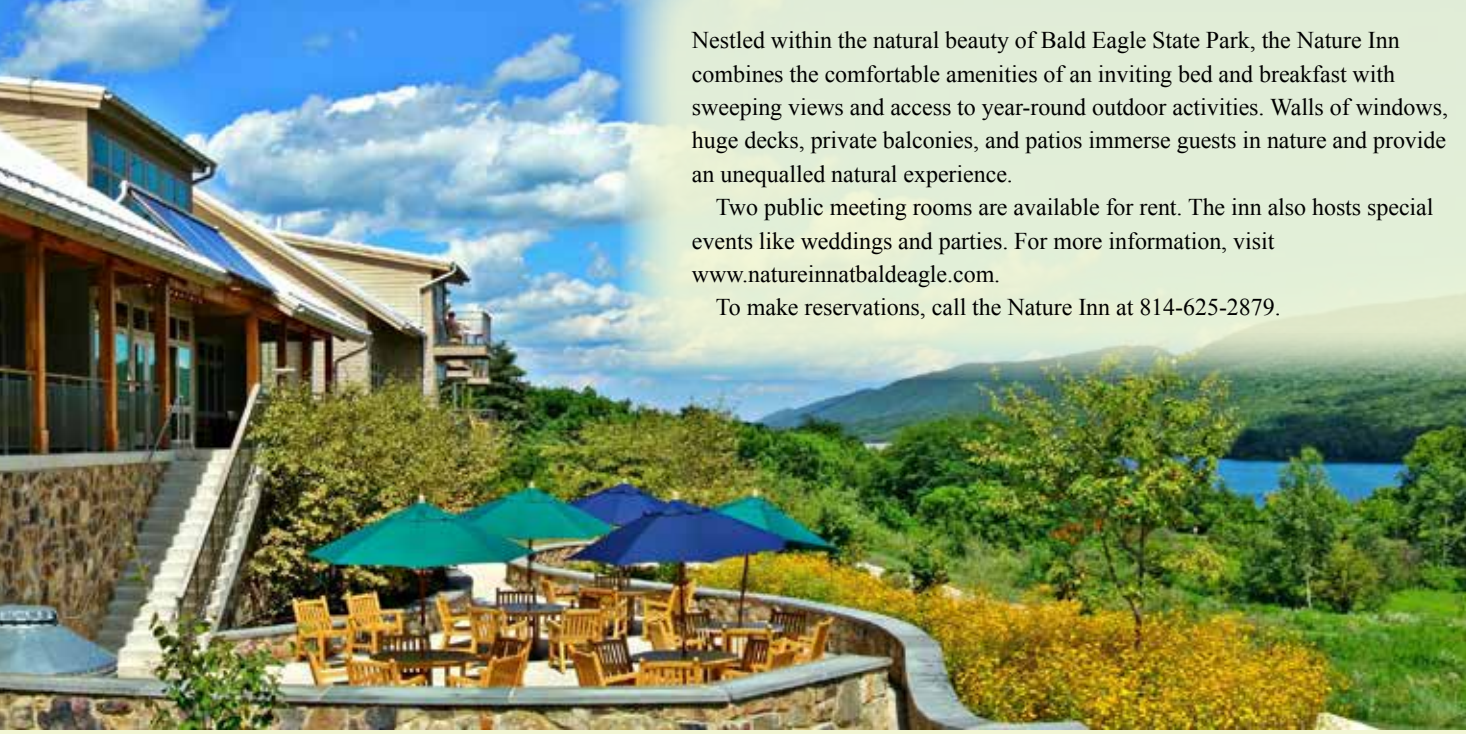
If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

**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 HOSPITALS**  
UMPC Lock Haven      Mount Nittany Medical Center  
24 Cree Drive      1800 E Park Avenue  
Lock Haven, PA 17745      State College, PA 16803  
570-893-5000      814-231-7000

THE NATURE INN AT BALD EAGLE



Nestled within the natural beauty of Bald Eagle State Park, the Nature Inn combines the comfortable amenities of an inviting bed and breakfast with sweeping views and access to year-round outdoor activities. Walls of windows, huge decks, private balconies, and patios immerse guests in nature and provide an unequalled natural experience.

Two public meeting rooms are available for rent. The inn also hosts special events like weddings and parties. For more information, visit [www.natureinnatbaldagle.com](http://www.natureinnatbaldagle.com).

To make reservations, call the Nature Inn at 814-625-2879.

