A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Poe Paddy State Park

# Poe Paddy State Park

Poe Paddy State Park is at the confluence of Big Poe Creek and Penns Creek, a trout angler’s paradise featuring the nationally recognized green drake mayfly hatch in late spring. Hikers enjoy the Mid State Trail through the 250-foot-long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel.

# Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.83379 Long. -77.4176

From US 322, near the top of Seven Mountains, follow signs for Poe Valley State Park. On Poe Valley Road, continue past Poe Valley State Park for three miles to Poe Paddy State Park.

From Millheim, go west on PA 45 for 1.5 miles, then follow signs south for 12 miles to the park.

**No paved roads lead to the park.**

Access to Poe Paddy during the winter months may be limited. Winter maintenance is not performed on park roads or state forest roads that access Poe Paddy. Caution must be used when traveling to Poe Paddy during the winter season, especially since roads are joint-use with snowmobiles.

# History

The park’s unusual name comes from Poe Mountain to the west and Paddy Mountain to the east.

Poe Paddy lies on the site of Poe Mills, a prosperous but short-lived, lumbering town of the 1880s and 1890s. Poe Mills had a population of over three hundred in 1890. Built in 1879, the main railroad line ran very near Poe Mills and a spur track ran to the Poe Paddy area. Many small, temporary timber railroads were built through most of the mountain valleys. Big Poe Creek was dammed to provide water to the steam-powered sawmill. In the early 1900s, a scenic excursion train ran a loop from Milroy to Poe Paddy and back.

In the mid-1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built camp S-63-PA in the valley. The men of the camp built Poe Paddy and Poe Valley state parks and many of the roads in the area.

# Recreational Opportunities

### CAMPING: non-flush toilets

Five small Adirondack-style lean-tos and 32 tent and trailer campsites are open from the second Friday in April until mid-December. Please contact Poe Valley or Reeds Gap state parks for information on the Poe Paddy Campground.

The Poe Paddy Campground has vault toilets and drinking water. Campers can use the sanitary dump station at nearby Poe Valley State Park. For a fee, campers can use the showers at Poe Valley State Park.

FISHING: Excellent trout fishing is available in Big Poe Creek, which flows through the Poe Paddy Campground. Fantastic fly hatches emerge from Penns Creek. The nationally known Green Drake Hatch usually occurs in late May or early June.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult and youth groups can rent the group tenting area, which is open from the second Friday in April to mid-December. The area holds up to 20 people and has picnic tables, water, and vault toilets. Advance reservations are recommended.

PICNICKING: Two first-come, first-served picnic pavilions with four picnic tables each are available for year-round use.

SNOWMOBILING: Marked gravel roads in the area

are open for registered snowmobiles after deer season in December. Please remember roads also are used by motor vehicles. ATVs are prohibited on state park or state forest roads.

HIKING: The Mid State Trail, blazed with orange rectangles, passes through Poe Paddy. To hike through the 250-foot-long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel, follow the Mid State Trail upstream along Penns Creek then cross the pedestrian bridge to the tunnel.

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

# Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-358-5466. www.visitpennstate.org

The surrounding 193,000 acres of Bald Eagle State Forest have many outdoor recreational opportunities. 570-922-3344

# Access 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.

**NEAREST HOSPITALS**

Mount Nittany Medical Center

1800 East Park Avenue

State College, PA 16803

814-231-7000

Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital

400 Highland Avenue

Lewistown, PA 17044

717-248-5411

# For More Information Contact:

Poe Paddy State Park

c/o Reeds Gap State Park

1405 New Lancaster Valley Road

Milroy, PA 17063-9735

814-349-2460 If no answer 717-667-3622

ReedsGapSP@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

Facebook: @visitPAparks

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Printed on recycled paper 2018