A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Presque Isle State Park

# Top 10 Activities

1. Swim or grab a snack at one of the eight guarded beaches.
2. Bicycle or hike on the Karl Boyes Multi-purpose National Recreation Tail.
3. Visit the Presque Isle Lighthouse and hike on the historic Sidewalk Trail.
4. Tour the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.
5. Explore the history at Perry Monument.
6. Fish Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay, and interior ponds for walleye, perch, and smallmouth bass.
7. Go birding at Gull Point Natural Area or Frys Landing.
8. Fly a kite at Sunset Point.
9. Take an educational boat tour or attend a park program.
10. Set sail on Presque Isle Bay or paddle the lagoons.

# Presque Isle State Park

Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie. As Pennsylvania’s only Great Lakes shoreline, Presque Isle offers its visitors spectacular views and many year-round recreational activities, including swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, bicycling, and wildlife watching.

The neck of the peninsula is attached to the mainland four miles west of downtown Erie. The peninsula creates Presque Isle Bay, a wide and deep harbor for the city of Erie. The bay attracts many pleasure boats and worldwide freighters, making Erie an important Great Lakes shipping port.

A National Natural Landmark, Presque Isle is a favorite spot for migrating birds. Because of the many unique habitats, Presque Isle contains a greater number of the state's endangered, threatened, and rare species than any other area of comparable size in Pennsylvania.

Whether you visit the park to enjoy the sandy beaches, study ecological diversity, or learn about the historical significance of the peninsula, there is something for everyone at Presque Isle State Park.

## Directions

GPS DD: Lat: 42.10964 Long: -80.15384

The road system within the park forms a loop about 13 miles in length. The park is reached by PA 832 or by boat. Public transportation to Presque Isle State Park is available from Erie Metro Transit Authority in summer months. https://ride-the-e.com

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.

# The Tom Ridge Environmental Center

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) is the gateway to Presque Isle State Park, and the gateway to discovery. This 65,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art, green-designed facility encourages visitors to experience the unique history and ever-changing, diverse ecosystems of Presque Isle State Park. Built to symbolize the peninsula in its architectural design, the TREC is a silver-rated LEED facility. This multi-functional building houses the park office, environmental research facilities, and serves as the Erie Visitor Center.

The orientation theater provides a multimedia experience that takes visitors through 12,000 years of history, breathtaking seasons, and spectacular sunsets of Presque Isle.

Interactive and educational exhibits allow visitors to simulate the forces of wind and water, illustrating their effects on the peninsula through time. The exhibits showcase Presque Isle’s history, ecosystems, wildlife, plants, unique sand formations, top bird migration stops, and more. The Discovery Center and an outdoor nature play space have hands-on activities for the young and young at heart.

The Big Green Screen, a 4-story-high, 45-foot-wide, large format theater, offers the best in science and entertainment films for people of all ages. For more information about current offerings, contact the Presque Isle State Park Office.

The 75-foot, glass-enclosed observation tower affords spectacular views of Lake Erie.

Presque Isle Gallery and Gifts sells the works of local artists, memorabilia, and books on the peninsula and the Lake Erie region.

The Sunset Café is a quiet spot to relax with refreshing beverages and great food. The café also provides fine cuisine for catered business meetings and evening events.

As part of the center’s overall educational mission, the TREC has classrooms and environmental research facilities for educational programming.

The AAUW pavilion located on the grounds of the TREC is utilized for school field trips, workshops, lectures, and special events. Native plant gardens throughout the grounds provide educational opportunities.

In addition to the park office, the TREC hosts the offices of national, state, and local agencies and groups with an environmental focus.

The TREC is home to the Regional Science Consortium, a group of colleges, universities, high schools, and conservation groups. The consortium collaborates on research and provides college-level course work using Presque Isle State Park’s resources for learning in unprecedented ways.

# Learn, Experience, Connect

Presque Isle State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. Gain a better understanding of the park’s natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

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 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.

# Park History and Landmarks

## Cultural History

The Indigenous people inhabiting the southern shores of Lake Erie hunted and fished the peninsula prior to European settlement. When the French explorers came to the area looking for a trade route for furs and supplies, they made alliances with the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy). This alliance united against Britain in the French and Indian War. However, when the British were victorious, it caused the French and Haudenosaunee to flee northward from the Presque Isle area into Canada. Britain held this territory until withdrawing from America after the American Revolution. Under control by the newly formed United States, the peninsula was used to build a fleet of ships, later used in the War of 1812.

## Misery Bay and Perry Monument

During the War of 1812's Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813, Commodore Perry and his men defeated the British at Put-in-Bay near Sandusky, Ohio. Perry’s first flagship, the Lawrence, was heavily damaged during the battle, requiring him to transfer his flag to the brig Niagara. He then continued fighting and defeated the British fleet using the Niagara as his flagship.

After the battle, Perry and his men returned to Little Bay to repair their fleet and seek medical treatment for the wounded. During the winter of 1813-1814, many of Perry’s crew suffered from poor living conditions and the harsh winter. In remembrance of their winter hardships, Little Bay was renamed Misery Bay by the surviving sailors.

Perry’s vessels were sunk in Misery Bay to preserve and protect them. The Lawrence was raised in 1875 but was destroyed by fire in Philadelphia during the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. The Niagara was raised in 1912 and rebuilt in 1913 for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie. A replica of the Niagara sails from its dock at the Erie Maritime Museum.

The Perry Monument on Crystal Point, built in 1926, commemorates this significant battle during the War of 1812 and the valor of the sailors in Perry’s Command. A picnic pavilion and educational boat tour concession are in this area.

## North Pier Light

Guiding ships into Erie Harbor since 1858, this square, metal pierhead light is located at the end of the North Pier. Visitors can walk out to the light and watch boat traffic in the harbor channel.

Presque Isle Lighthouse

Built in 1872, the Presque Isle Lighthouse remains one of the most popular and historic landmarks on the peninsula. The lighthouse was first lit on July 12, 1873. It originally stood 40 feet tall, but in 1896, an additional 17 feet were added to the tower to signal ships from further away. In 1898, a steel oil shed was built on the northeast end of the property to store kerosene that would be used to power the lighthouse. In 1899, the bricks of the tower were painted white to serve as a navigational guide visible to travelers on the lake in daylight.

The lighthouse is still maintained and operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. Although the lighthouse is currently powered by electricity, the oil shed is still well maintained and stands on the Presque Isle grounds today, as it did many years ago. The Fresnel lens inside the lighthouse is powered with only 60 watts of electricity and can shine up to 15 miles.

In 2014, The Presque Isle Light Station opened to public visitors for the first time. In 2017, the property was modified and improved with the installation of sidewalks, a flagpole, a tight board fence, and outdoor lighting.

## Waterworks Park

In search of a cleaner water source for the city of Erie, work began in 1908 to develop this area of the park. Two settling ponds were created to help clean the water to be pumped to Erie residents. In 1917, the pumphouse was built to further aid cleaning Erie’s water supply. The first developed recreation area in the park was the waterworks, which included bath houses, pavilions, a ferry slip, and picnic shelters. It soon became a popular destination. The Erie Water Works Authority turned the property over to the state park in 1957. Currently, the pumphouse is the location of a surrey and bike rental concession, and the Rotary pavilion is a popular site for events.

# The Nature of Presque Isle

## Ecologically Diverse

There are six distinct ecological zones on Presque Isle, each with a specialized plant and animal community. The record of geological succession can be traced through each of these zones. The zones include: Lake Erie, the bay and shoreline; sand plain and new ponds; dunes and ridges; old ponds and marshes; thicket and sub-climax forest; and climax forest.

Due to the diversity of ecological zones, many different plant and wildlife species inhabit the park from the shoreline to the climax forest. The peninsula’s location and natural habitats make Presque Isle State Park a haven for bird life. Migrating birds rest, feed, and nest here. More than 339 species of birds have been recorded on Presque Isle, including 47 species of special concern.

## Gull Point: A Fragile Ecosystem

The most ecologically dynamic area on Presque Isle, Gull Point, harbors some of the best examples of ecological succession in the park. However, this dynamic area is also the most fragile. Many of Gull Point’s plant species are threatened or endangered in Pennsylvania.

Jutting out into Lake Erie, Gull Point offers a safe haven and resting spot for migrating and nesting birds. Shorebirds migrate annually from beyond the Arctic Circle to the southern reaches of South America and back again.

To preserve the resources, the easternmost portion of Gull Point has been set aside as a State Park Natural Area for rare and migratory shorebirds to rest, feed, and possibly nest. This natural area and shoreline is closed to all public use except hiking on designated trails from April 1 through October 31. Visitors can view this area from an observation platform reached via the Gull Point Hiking Trail. Due to the ecological sensitivity of this area, stay on the designated trail.

## A Migrating Peninsula

Geologists believe that 12,000 years ago Erie was under a giant sheet of ice called a continental glacier. As the glacier melted and retreated north, rocks, pebbles, and sand fell off, creating a ridge called a “moraine.” So much ice melted that the valley to the north of Erie became a lake. The waves of newly created Lake Erie deposited sand on the moraine and created Presque Isle.

Presque Isle is a great location to see longshore drift in action. Wave by wave, eastward-moving wind pushes water and sediments. The accompanying forces of erosion and deposition continually shape Presque Isle’s migrating coast. This movement greatly impacts beaches and interior lands. When Presque Isle first formed, it was approximately three miles to the west.

The French name Presque Isle means “almost an island.” The park area has been a real island several times. Storm waves have broken through the neck to isolate the main section of the spit at least four times since 1819.

Shoreline management techniques dating to the 1800s have been used to compensate for the loss of beach sand and serve to protect the park. Since 1819, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has attempted to control erosion at Presque Isle and has successfully closed a number of breaches in the neck of the peninsula caused by storms.

Efforts to control beach erosion now consist of a combined thrust of 58 breakwaters and beach nourishment. Breakwaters slow erosion by partially blocking the waves, reducing wave energy. Weakened waves drop sand, which results in less sand carried along the shoreline and a “building out” of the beaches. The breakwaters have reduced the volume of sand required to replenish the beaches.

# Swimming

The sandy beaches, washed by the clear waters of Lake Erie, provide visitors with the only surf swimming within Pennsylvania. Beaches are open daily from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Swimming is permitted at swimming areas listed below unless otherwise posted. The regular hours are noon to 7:30 PM.

* Swimming is only permitted on guarded beaches during times when guards are on duty.
* For your safety, climbing on break walls is prohibited.
* Inflatable or buoyant coast guard approved swim aids are allowed only with direct adult supervision. Body boards with tethers are permitted on guarded beaches.
* Diving of any kind at beach areas is prohibited.

BEACH 1: This long stretch of sand is located near the park entrance and has modern restrooms and a reservable pavilion.

BEACH 3 (Barracks Beach): Near Beach 1, this beach has modern restrooms and three first-come, first-served picnic pavilions.

BEACH 6 (Lyons Beach): This large beach has sand volleyball courts, modern restrooms with changing areas, and a food and beverage concession.

BEACH 7 (Waterworks Beach): This beach is adjacent to picnic areas, modern restrooms with changing areas, playground equipment, the Rotary Pavilion, and other reservable picnic shelters.

♿ BEACH 8 (Pettinato Beach): This beach has a food and beverage concession and modern restrooms with changing areas. A ramp provides ADA access to the water’s edge.

BEACH 9 (Pine Tree): This beach has picnic facilities, a reservable picnic pavilion, and a modern restroom with changing areas.

BEACH 10 (Budny Beach): Equipped with a food and beverage concession and modern restrooms with changing areas, this beach lies between Sunset Point and Gull Point.

BEACH 11 (Kohler Beach): This sheltered beach features shallow water, a large sandy beach, modern restrooms with changing areas, and a food and beverage concession. It is adjacent to picnic areas, a nature play space, and a picnic pavilion.

SWIMMING AREA PET GUIDLINES: Inside designated guarded zones, leashed dogs are permitted in the tree line area only.

Outside of designated guarded zones, leashed dogs are permitted on the sand and in the water. Swimming is prohibited outside designated guarded zones. However, wading up to the knee, no more than 10 feet from the shore is permitted. Dogs must never be left unattended, and their owners are responsible for cleaning up after them.

# Hiking: 24.5 miles

Bicycling and in-line skating are only permitted on Karl Boyes Multi-purpose National Recreation Trail. Cross-country skiing is permitted on hiking trails, but trails are not groomed. Due to fluctuating lake levels, portions of trails may be seasonally flooded and impassable without appropriate footwear. Trails are not blazed.

A-TRAIL: **0.2 mile, easiest hiking**

This short trail connects Pine Tree Picnic Area to Dead Pond Trail and passes by a vernal pond. When the vernal pond fills with water in the spring, the trail is wet.

B-TRAIL: **0.25 mile, easiest hiking**

This short trail connects Pine Tree Road to Dead Pond Trail and passes through a stand of pines.

CANOE PORTAGE TRAIL: **0.25 mile, easiest hiking**

This short walk between sand dunes and forest connects Beach 8 (Pettinato) to Marina Lake.

DEAD POND TRAIL: **2 miles, easiest hiking**

This trail leads over several former dunes and through several distinct ecological zones. Hikers will pass through oak-maple forest, pine stands, and sand plains.

DUCK POND TRAIL: **0.5 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail begins at Duck Pond, intersects the Canoe Portage Trail, and connects with the Old Gas Well Trail.

FOX TRAIL: **0.5 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail winds through wooded swamps and oak-maple forests.

GRAVEYARD POND TRAIL: **0.75 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows the shoreline along Graveyard Pond, which legend says was the final resting place for many of Perry’s men during the winter of 1813-1814. Two boat landings along the trail offer scenic views of the lagoons and Big Pond.

GULL POINT TRAIL: **1.5 miles, easiest hiking**

This trail begins at the kiosk at the east end of the Beach 10 (Budny) parking lot and winds its way through the Gull Point Natural Area (GPNA). In this constantly evolving area, hikers usually see all phases of natural succession in the park and experience ever-changing trail conditions.

Much of the trail is sandy, but at times the trail can be muddy or wet due to changing lake elevations. Before hiking Gull Point Trail, visitors are encouraged to stop at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center for information about current trail conditions.

Visitors are reminded that during the closed period from April 1 through October 31, visitor access to GPNA is only permitted on the trail surface to and from the observation platform.

♿ KARL BOYES MULTI-PURPOSE NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL: **13.5-mile loop, easiest hiking**

This paved trail is designated as a National Recreation Trail. The trail is ADA accessible and is popular with bicyclists, in-line skaters, and joggers. During the winter, the trail is plowed from the park entrance to the Public Safety Building for hikers. For cross-country skiers, the trail is left snow covered from the Public Safety Building to Perry Monument. The trail was renamed in 2003 for the late State Representative, Karl Boyes.

LONG POND TRAIL: **1 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows the shoreline of Long Pond, one of the ponds within the lagoon. About halfway along this trail is a boat landing, which is a popular fishing spot and offers a scenic view of the lagoon.

MARSH TRAIL: **0.25 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail bisects Cranberry Pond, one of the many ponds on Presque Isle. The pond formed as water was trapped between two ridges.

NORTH PIER TRAIL: **0.7 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows the shoreline between North Pier and Beach 11, along one of the sand ridges. An old firing range used for training during World War II can be seen along this trail.

OLD GAS WELL TRAIL: **0.5 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows a ridge between Beach 7 and the Marina. The trail passes a gas well that produces gas used at Presque Isle State Park.

PINE TREE TRAIL: **0.7 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows the edge of a sand plain community and a stand of pines. Along this trail are the remains of the biology field lab that was used by Dr. O.E. Jennings to study plant succession on Presque Isle.

RIDGE TRAIL: **0.5 mile, easiest hiking**

This trail follows the edge of Cranberry Pond along a portion of ridge that was a beach dune 300 years ago.

SIDEWALK TRAIL: **1.25 miles, easiest hiking**

This historic trail was constructed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service as a path from the Presque Isle Lighthouse to the U.S. Lighthouse Service boathouse in Misery Bay. The trail was once a wooden boardwalk and was resurfaced with concrete in 1925.

# Recreational Activities

Presque Isle is a day use park that provides year-round recreational opportunities. Overnight accommodations are not located in the park. Privately owned accommodations are available nearby.

BICYCLING: Biking is permitted on the Karl Boyes Multi-purpose National Recreation Trail and park roadways. Following the Lake Erie shoreline, the PA Seaway Trail is a Pennsylvania Scenic Byway with more biking opportunities. Bicyclists utilizing roadways must follow vehicle rules of the road.

HIKING and SWIMMING: See other side.

BOATING: Both non-powered watercrafts and registered motorboats are permitted. Internal combustion engines are prohibited in the interior lagoons, which are defined as the continuous body of water between Misery Bay and Marina Lake, excluding Graveyard Pond. A boat rental concession in the Graveyard Pond area provides a variety of powered and non-powered watercrafts. Beaching of boats along the Presque Isle shoreline is permitted 100 feet outside of designated guarded zones. A slow minimum height swell speed must be observed within all park waters, which includes all waters within 500 feet of the shoreline.

**CAUTION: Water conditions can change dramatically in a very short period of time.** Please heed all weather notices. Listen to marine channel 16, the Coast Guard Emergency Channel on a VHF radio, or NOAA Weather Radio 162.400 MHZ, for current boating conditions.

Launching areas are available to accommodate various sizes of crafts. Vista Launch is only recommended for small watercrafts and personal watercrafts (jet skis). Niagara Launch has two ramps and can accommodate small to medium-sized crafts. West Pier Launch is the largest facility with four launching lanes and is recommended for larger watercrafts. The Lagoon Launch area can accommodate small to medium-sized crafts. Fluctuations in lake levels may impact launching procedures.

Open May 1 through October 31, the marina has nearly 500 slips that can accommodate watercrafts up to 42 feet in length. Individuals wishing to moor their boat on a permanent or temporary basis need to contact the marina office or park office to determine slip availability because there are waiting lists for permanent assignments.

A park concession in the marina has gasoline and diesel fuel, a sewage pump-out station, and limited boating suppies.

For more information, call the marina office (seasonal) at 814-833-0176 or the Presque Isle State Park office at 814-833-7424.

WATER SKIING: Water skiing is permitted in Presque Isle Bay and Lake Erie. Water skiing is prohibited within 500 feet of the shore except for the purpose of takeoff or approach.

RECREATIONAL SCUBA DIVING: Recreational scuba diving is permitted in designated waters of Presque Isle State Park. Divers must be certified and must register at the Public Safety Building to receive information on waters open for diving. Snorkeling is prohibited in Presque Isle State Park waters.

SURFING: Surfing is permitted at the following designated locations: Beach 1 (100 feet west of the westernmost swimming area), Beach 10 (100 feet east of the swimming area), and North Pierhead Light (100 feet north of the North Pier and extends to 100 feet south of Beach 11 swimming area). Wearing of a US Coast Guard approved PFD is not required in these designated areas.

♿ FISHING: Common species are perch, bass, walleye, trout, and steelhead in Lake Erie, and panfish, perch, bass, muskellunge, walleye, northern pike, crappies, smelt, and steelhead in Presque Isle Bay. Popular shore fishing locations are Waterworks, the Ferry Dock, Perry Monument, lagoons, all boat landings, and East, North, and West piers.

Bowfishing is permitted, except in Horseshoe Pond and 50 yards around any structure in the Presque Isle Marina.

♿ PICNICKING: Picnic facilities with tables, grills, and charcoal disposals are available throughout the park. Refer to the map for locations.

A number of picnic pavilions are available for rent, accommodating from 30 to 200 people. Pavilions that are not reserved are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are three enclosed day use picnic shelters in the Waterworks Area. Shelters include electricity, water, picnic tables, and a fireplace. Advance reservations are required.

KITE FLYING: Many colorful kites can be seen on windy summer days at Sunset Point. Kite flying is permitted on all beaches, except for designated swim beach areas.

BIRDING: Presque Isle State Park is designated as a Pennsylvania Important Bird Area. Presque Isle’s location on the Atlantic Flyway makes it an important spot for birds to stop to feed and rest on their migration across Lake Erie. Due to habitat diversity and the Atlantic Flyway, Presque Isle is popular for birding year round. More than 300 species of birds have been identified on the peninsula, including many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds which migrate annually. Federally endangered piping plovers and common terns have historically nested on the beaches at Presque Isle. Several purple martin nesting communities are in the park and city. An important purple martin staging area is in the city of Erie and can be viewed from the park. Bird research and restoration projects are ongoing.

### SUNSET VIEWING: Presque Isle is an ideal place to watch the sunset. All lakeside beaches are beautiful spots to enjoy the sun dipping down into Lake Erie and the view of a brilliantly colored sky year round. If you are lucky you can spot the “green flash”, an optical phenomenon which can sometimes be seen as the sun dips below the watery horizon.

HUNTING: Hunting is prohibited in the park except for controlled waterfowl and deer hunting in season. Waterfowl hunting is restricted to designated and authorized blinds only. Deer hunting is restricted to archery and flintlock muzzleloader seasons. Regulated wildlife management hunts may be conducted if needed. Please contact the park office for information on regulated wildlife management hunts.

**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.

## Enjoy the Winter

Experience the natural wonders of Presque Isle during the winter months. A walk along the beach often reveals animal footprints in the snow. Look for the impressive ice dunes, formed by the combination of lake ice, waves, and freezing spray. For visitor safety, climbing on ice dunes is prohibited.

ICE SPORTS: Popular ice activities include ice fishing, iceboating, and ice skating, which occur on Presque Isle Bay, Misery Bay, and in the Marina area.

**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.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING and SNOWSHOEING: Visitors may cross-country ski and snowshoe on the park trails. The park website has winter ice and snow conditions.

A cross-country ski and snowshoe rental is at Shelter #3 in the Waterworks Day Use Area and operates during the winter, conditions permitting. Equipment rental is available when the concession is open.

# Information and Reservations

Presque Isle State Park

301 Peninsula Drive, Suite 1

Erie, PA 16505

814-833-7424

PresqueIsleSP@pa.gov

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www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

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## 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**

UPMC Hamot

201 State Street

Erie, PA 16550

814-877-6000

AHN Saint Vincent

232 W 25th Street

Erie, PA 16544

814-452-5000

## Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Electric-vehicle charging stations are available for public use at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Beach 8, and the Marina. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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 including ticks. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

• Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

• 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 or bury hot coals in the sand.

• 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.

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

• Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

• Soliciting and posting signs are prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

## Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from VisitErie. www.visiteriepa.com

Erie Bluffs State Park, a 587-acre park along the Lake Erie shoreline, offers scenic views from the 90-foot bluff and hiking, picnicking, fishing, and hunting opportunities. 814-833-7424

# 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.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Facebook: @visitPAparks

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