A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Mount Pisgah State Park

# Mount Pisgah State Park

Mount Pisgah State Park is in the scenic Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania’s Northern Tier. Midway between Troy and Towanda in Bradford County, the 1,302-acre park is along Mill Creek, at the base of Mount Pisgah. The park is only two miles north of US 6, the major route through the northern tier. Secondary roads passing through the villages of East Troy and West Burlington travel over rolling farmland to the park.

A dam on Mill Creek forms Stephen Foster Lake, named after the famous composer and former local resident. The 75-acre lake provides fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Adjacent to the park are Mount Pisgah County Park and State Game Lands 289.

# Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.80598 Long. -76.6688

Mount Pisgah is on Pisgah State Park Road (SR 4015), two miles north of US 6.

# Spend the Day

Youth must be supervised by parents and/or designated adults while enjoying the swimming pool, playground, hiking trails, and other facilities. Please observe posted pool rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

BOATING: electric motors only

The 75-acre Stephen Foster Lake has a boat launch, courtesy dock, restroom, picnic area, and parking on the northern shore. Mooring spaces can be rented on a seasonal basis. Adjacent to the causeway, boat rentals are available during the summer season from a concessionaire.

From November 1 through April 30, boaters are required to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

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.

HIKING: 10 miles

A series of hiking trails are suitable for everyone from the casual walker to the experienced hiker. The trails travel around the lake, through wooded areas, old fields, open farmland, and rugged terrain.

**Avery Crossover: 0.12 mile, no blazes, easiest hiking**

This short trail links Mill Stream Trail with Ridge Trail.

**Goshawk Trail: 0.67 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

Starting south of the Stephen Foster Lake Dam, this trail meets Maple Ridge Trail before ending at Steam Hollow Road.

**Haymaker Trail: 0.88 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

Beginning at Wallace Road, this trail joins with Marsh Hawk Trail and ends at Steam Hollow Road.

**Hicks Hollow Trail: 0.71 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

The trailhead is located at the parking area on Hicks Road at Pisgah View Drive. The trail connects to Ridge Trail, which continues to Pisgah State Park Road (east) or Mount Pisgah County Park (west).

**Hutchinson Trail: 0.29 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

This trail splits off Oh! Susanna Trail along the southeast side of the lake and ends at Steam Hollow Road.

**Maple Ridge Trail: 0.83 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

This trail links Goshawk Trail with Steam Hollow Trail.

**Marsh Hawk Trail: 0.93 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

Starting south of the Ridge Trail off Pisgah State Park Road, the trail joins with Haymaker Trail and ends at Steam Hollow Road.

**Mill Stream Trail: 1.13 miles, white blazes, easiest hiking**

This loop trail starts and ends at Pisgah State Park Road.

**Oh! Susanna Trail**: **2.55 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking**

This trail circles the 75-acre, Stephen Foster Lake. There are multiple places to park and start this hike: the main fishing area parking lot, Poolside Pavilion parking lot, Hilltop Pavilion/Environmental Learning Center parking lot, and the public boat launch parking lot.

**Ridge Trail: 1.92 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking**

The trail begins south of the main fishing area parking lot on Pisgah State Park Road and ends at Mt. Pisgah County Park.

**Steam Hollow Trail: 0.51 mile, orange blazes, easiest hiking**

This trail splits off Oh! Susanna Trail on the east side of the lake and ends at Steam Hollow Road.

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

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: ♿ About 1,100 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkeys, rabbits, grouse, pheasants, and squirrels. Hunting is permitted on adjacent State Game Lands 289.

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 swimming pool is open weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to mid-June, daily from mid-June to mid-August, and weekends from mid-August through Labor Day. Pool hours are 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, weather permitting.

The pool is ADA accessible and depths ranges from eight inches to five feet. The pool complex contains dressing rooms, showers, restrooms, and a lifeguard and first aid station. A food concession offers snacks and beverages.

Swimming is prohibited in the lake.

PARENTS-You are responsible for the safety of your children. Please supervise their activities while enjoying the swimming pool, playground, hiking trails and other facilities. Please observe posted pool rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit

PICNICKING: ♿ The main picnic area is adjacent to the pool complex and overlooks the lake. The pleasant, wooded area gives a choice of open or shaded tables. Visitors of all ages can enjoy the sand volleyball court, playground, swings, and sandbox.

Four 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. 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.

ICE SPORTS:Ice skating, ice fishing, and iceboating are popular during the winter season. **Ice thickness is not monitored**. For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single user, 7” thick for a small group, and at least 6” thick for iceboating. Always carry safety equipment**.**

SNOWMOBILING: Registered snowmobiles may be operated on the ten miles of designated trails from the day following the last day of deer season in December until April 1, weather permitting.

# Learn, Experience, Connect

Mount Pisgah State Park offers a wide variety of programs from May through September. Visitors can enjoy guided nature walks, night hikes, and programs on various topics, including bears, snakes, and owls.

Visitors can learn about local wildlife and the park’s history at the environmental learning center. A walk through the butterfly garden enables the visitor to catch a close glimpse of the area’s “flying flowers.”

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.

# Volunteers

Volunteering your time and skills to enhance the park can be a rewarding experience. Volunteers may present environmental education programs, maintain the garden, help with park maintenance, or assist in a variety of other areas. Past volunteers have built, installed, and monitored bluebird boxes. Thanks to their efforts, hundreds of bluebirds have fledged from the park. If you would like to offer your skills and talents, please contact the park office.

# History

The land that became Mount Pisgah State Park was first cleared for farmland in the early 1800s. Many of the early American settlers came from New England and their descendants still reside in the area. These hearty pioneers cleared the old growth pine and hardwood trees and stacked the stumps in fence rows, which still border the old fields. The environmental learning center is dedicated to those early settlers.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania obtained the land in 1969 with funds from Project 70, a state bond issue. Facilities were developed through Project 500, another state bond issue, and a grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Stephen Foster Dam was completed in 1977. Mount Pisgah State Park was dedicated in 1979.

# Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, 800-769-8999. www.endlessmountains.org

**Mount Pisgah County Park** features picnicking, hiking, hunting, camping, and scenic vistas.

The **Old Methodist Church** and cemetery is along Steam Hollow Road two miles from the park. The church was built in the early 1800s and is one of the oldest churches in the area.

This area is rich in the history of Indigenous peoples. Excellent lore and exhibits can be found at the **Bradford County Museum** in Towanda and the **Tioga Point Museum** in Athens. Both museums feature a wealth of local history.

Located in Troy, on PA 14 north, the **Bradford County Farm Museum’s** numerous and varied exhibits keep alive the traditions of country life at the turn of the 20th century. Over a thousand artifacts educate younger visitors and spark recollections for the older guests.

**State Game Lands 289** has 1,550 acres open for public hunting, hiking, birding, and nature study. Please respect posted rules and regulations.

# 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.

# 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**

Guthrie Troy Community Hospital

275 Guthrie Drive

Troy, PA 16947

570-297-2121

# For More Information Contact:

Mount Pisgah State Park

28 Entrance Road

Troy, PA 16947-9448

570-297-2734

MtPisgahSP@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

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