

Pymatuning State Park

Almost everything about Pymatuning State Park is huge. At 21,122 acres, it is the largest state park in the Commonwealth. The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir is the largest lake in the Commonwealth. In its three campgrounds, Pymatuning has the most campsites in the PA state park system. More people visit Pymatuning than almost any other PA state park. But the biggest thing about Pymatuning is the fun you can have boating, fishing, swimming, camping and enjoying other recreational opportunities. In addition to the state park facilities, the PA Fish and Boat Commission operates a fish hatchery and the PA Game Commission has wildlife viewing areas.

Directions

The south shore of the park, including Jamestown Campground, boat launch, beach, cabins, picnic areas, group tenting and the park office, can be reached from US 322. The north shore of the park, including Linesville Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launch, marina and cabins can be reached from US 6. Tuttle Campground, beach, picnic areas, boat launch and Espyville Marina can be reached from PA 285.

Reservations

Call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, Mon. to Sat. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to make reservations up to eleven months in advance. Campsites can be reserved up to noon of the day of arrival. Cabins, organized group tenting areas and picnic pavilions can be reserved up to two days in advance.

Drop-in photo of ranger here

Environmental Education and Interpretation

Pymatuning State Park offers a wide variety of environmental education and interpretive programs. Through hands-on activities, guided walks and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office. Programs are offered year-round. For more information contact the park office.

History

Early Inhabitants

In the distant past, beyond the period of legend and history, the great swamp that became Pymatuning Reservoir was occupied by the “Mound Builders.” These farmers buried their important dead in large mounds and had an impressive trade network involving goods from all over North America. It is not known what happened to these mysterious people.

The Erie Nation are the first recorded inhabitants of the Pymatuning area. They were ruled by a queen noted for her cunning strategy and crooked dealings.

The Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy conquered the Erie and used the large swamp for hunting grounds. The

Recreational Opportunities

Drop-in photo of boat here


F. P. O.

Boating: 10 hp motors permitted

The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir has many boat launches along the shores, including an ADA accessible launch in the Jamestown Marina and many boat launches. The three Pennsylvania boat marinas have boat mooring and rent pontoon boats, motorboats, rowboats, canoes and motors, and have a store that has bait, tackle and snacks.

A minimal motor hp increase is under consideration. Check with the park office for updates.

Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launching permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Motorboats must display a current boat registration.


 **Picnicking:** Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available in many areas. Jamestown and Linesville beaches have ADA accessible picnic sites complete with grill and table.

There are ten picnic pavilions that may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pets in day use areas must be kept on a leash or safely restrained and are prohibited in swimming areas and some overnight areas.

Sight-seeing: Anywhere along the lake, beautiful vistas of this large body of water can be enjoyed. Some of the more unique sights include the dam, the Linesville “spillway,” the fish hatchery, the two causeways across the lake and the PA Game Commission Wildlife Learning Center. The spillway is perhaps one of the best known locations because the fish being fed are so crowded that the “ducks walk on the fishes’ backs” to compete for the food fed by the visitors.

Drop-in photo of carp here

F. P. O.

 **Fishing:** The 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir is a warm-water fishery. Common


name “Pymatuning” is derived from the Iroquois, probably from the Seneca, and means “the Crooked-mouthed Man’s Dwelling Place,” with “crooked-mouthed” referring to deceit rather than facial disfigurement.

In 1784, the second Treaty of Fort Stanwix secured the area north of the Ohio River to Pennsylvania from the Iroquois and Wyandot Indians. Many settlers from Connecticut and New York moved into the area. These early farmers found the swamp to be a harsh neighbor because it swallowed stray cattle and housed dangerous animals like bear, mountain lion and millions of mosquitoes.

History of Pymatuning Reservoir


“All human accomplishments begin with a dream.” The Honorable Gifford Pinchot, then

species are walleye, muskellunge, carp, crappie, perch, bluegill, and largemouth and smallmouth bass. Ice fishing during the winter months is also popular. Fishing licenses issued by either Ohio or Pennsylvania are honored anywhere on the lake, but only Ohio licensed fishermen can fish from the Ohio shore and Pennsylvania licensed fishermen from the Pennsylvania shore. There is accessible fishing access in the Jamestown Day Use Area and, an accessible fishing pier at the Espyville and Linesville marinas and the Shenango River.

 **Swimming:** The Linesville and Tuttle, and Jamestown One and Two beaches are open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. The beaches have bathhouses with restrooms. Jamestown beach has an ADA ramp.

Drop-in photo of beach here

F. P. O.

 **Hunting and Firearms:** About 10,300 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, rabbit, squirrel and waterfowl. Contact the park office for accessible hunting information.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Wildlife Management Area has controlled shooting during the annual waterfowl season. Special areas are also established for duck hunting. Public hunting is available in many areas surrounding the controlled shooting section. A propagation area comprising 2,500 acres of water provides a protected location for migratory waterfowl during their flights north and south.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day to March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment 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 must be kept in the owner’s car, trailer or camp.

Hiking: 7 miles

There are trails near Tuttle and Jamestown campgrounds, and the abandoned railroad grade on the Spillway is a flat, wide trail.

governor of Pennsylvania, delivered these stirring words as part of his address at the dedication of Pymatuning Dam on August 17, 1934.

Pinchot was fulfilling a Pennsylvania dream that began in 1868 when the General Assembly provided a survey and an estimate of the cost to drain the Pymatuning swamp to create farmlands. The swamp was not drained because it would cripple the industries downstream in the Beaver and Shenango valleys.

A severe flood in 1913 spurred the legislature to action. The Pymatuning Act, signed the same year, appropriated \$100,000 to initiate building a dam. The Pymatuning Act states that the primary purpose of the Pymatuning Reservoir shall be for the

Stay the Night

Camping: modern restrooms with showers

There are three camping areas that are generally open from mid-April through October. Contact the park for specific dates. All campgrounds are near swimming, boating, fishing and hiking and have a sanitary dump station. The maximum stay in all camping areas is fourteen days during the summer season and 21 days during the off-season. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in overnight areas.

In the northern part of the park, **Linesville Campground** has modern facilities, including showers, flush toilets and ADA accessible campsites. About half of the campsites have electricity.


On the shores of the middle of Pymatuning Reservoir, **Tuttle Campground** has modern facilities, including showers, flush toilets and accessible campsites. About half of the campsites have electricity. Pets are permitted on selected sites. There is a boat launch, playground, camp store and an amphitheater. The Walking Trail is a loop that begins near the camp store.

On the south shore of Pymatuning Reservoir, **Jamestown Campground** has modern

Drop-in photo of camping here

F. P. O.

facilities, including showers and flush toilets. About half of the campsites have electricity. There is a boat launch, beach, playground and an amphitheater.

 **Cabins:** Twenty modern rental cabins by the Jamestown Day Use Area are available for year-round use. Five ADA accessible, modern rental cabins by the Linesville Campground are open from mid-April to late-October.

Cabins have a furnished living area, kitchen/dining area, toilet/shower room and two or three bedrooms. Occupants must bring linens, towels, cookware and tableware. **Organized Group Tenting:** This rustic area can serve groups up to 400 people and is in the Jamestown area.

Winter Activities

Ice Fishing: Walleye, perch and crappie are the fish most often caught through the ice of the 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir.


Iceboating: Iceboating is permitted everywhere on the lake.

Snowmobiling: Fries Road Trail by Tuttle Campground and the abandoned railroad grade by the spillway provide five miles of trails for snowmobiles. In the Jamestown area, there are additional trails and open fields.

Cross-country Skiing: Most open areas of the park are open to cross-country skiing.

Sledding: The slopes of the Spillway are good for sledding.

Access for People with Disabilities

 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible. 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 Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks: 888-PA-PARKS (voice) 888-537-7294 (TTY) 711 (AT&T Relay Services)

Nearby Attractions

For more information on nearby attractions contact: Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-332-2338, www.visitcrawford.org or Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-637-2370, www.mercercountypa.org.

For more information about Ohio State Parks contact: Pymatuning State Park, 440-293-6030.

conservation of waters entering the Pymatuning Swamp and for regulating the flow of water in the Shenango and Beaver rivers. A secondary purpose is to use the dam and lake as a reservoir to impound flood water during periods of excessive runoff from the 158 square miles of drainage area above the dam.

In the next 18 years, public and private organizations raised the \$3,717,739 needed to build the dam. On October 6, 1931, 7,000 men began work, turning the dream into reality, and three years later Governor Pinchot gave his inspiring words at the dedication of the 17,088-acre Pymatuning Reservoir.

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. You are responsible for yourself and your family’s safety.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Your pets are welcome in many areas but are prohibited in swimming areas and most overnight areas. Pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained.

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

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

- Prevent forest fires by properly disposing of hot coals and having a fire in proper facilities. Do not leave a fire unattended.

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

Natural Areas

Natural areas have unique scenic, geologic or ecological value and are set aside for scientific observation and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty. Pymatuning has two natural areas. The 725-acre Blackjack Swamp has unique natural communities. In the northern part of the lake is Clark Island which has 161 acres of mature hardwood and white pine forest. Visitors are welcome to explore these undeveloped natural areas.

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911.

For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

Nearest Hospitals:

To the South:
UPMC Horizon
110 North Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
724-588-2100

To the West:
St. Joseph Emergency and Diagnostic Center
476 South Main Street
Andover, OH 44003
440-293-6111

To the East:
Meadville Medical Center
751 Liberty Street
Meadville, PA 16335
814-333-5000

A Recreational Guide for

Pymatuning State Park

Drop-in cover photo of fall trees here

F. P. O.

Department of Conservation
& Natural Resources
Michael DiBerardinis, *Secretary*
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Edward G. Rendell, *Governor*

Drop-in DCNR
Logo F. P. O.

Drop-in pymatuning map here

F. P. O.

For More Information Contact:

Pymatuning State Park
2660 Williamasfield Road
Jamestown, PA 16134
724-932-3141
e-mail: pymatuningsp@state.pa.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: state parks

Information and Reservations

For general state park information or to reserve a picnic pavilion, cabin, campsite or other overnight facility, call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, Mon. to Sat. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

6000-mp-dcnr1/220 5/05

Printed on recycled paper

Drop-in photo of lake here

F. P. O.