

Locust Lake State Park

Barnesville

BACKGROUND: Before European settlers arrived in Pennsylvania, the Locust Valley was occupied by several tribes of American Indians. When Europeans moved into Schuylkill County, Locust Valley's natural resources were used for lumber and other wood products, leather tanning products, and charcoal. The beautiful forests of the area were gone by the early 1900s. In the 1920s, the area became a fishing spot and picnic grove. The Commonwealth purchased the land in 1966 and Locust Lake State Park opened on June 10, 1972. The park encompasses 1,144 acres including a 52-acre lake. With the exception of the dam, the entire park area is forested.



INFORMATION: There are three trails in the park ranging in difficulty from easy to difficult. The Oak/Ridge Trail is an easy, 3/4 mile, interpretive trail along a woodland creek and through a mature forest. This is a good trail for strollers and wheelchairs. The Oak/Hemlock Trail (2 miles) and Oak Loop Trail (4 miles) are more difficult and pass through mature deciduous forest and unique geological formations. Pets are welcome on the trails but must be leashed. Restrooms are located along the Oak/Ridge Trail. There are various camp sites available in the park with swimming and fishing available at the lake.



CONTACT: Call Locust Lake State Park at 570-467-2404 or go to www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/locustlake for more information.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: Locust Lake State Park is close to the towns of Pottsville and Tamaqua with access to various stores, restaurants, and gas stations. The park is known for its popular camping area. The park also adjoins 600 acres of Weiser State Forest which offers scenic state forest roads, foot trails, snowmobile trails, and scenic overlooks.

GPS COORDINATES:

Lat 40°47'05.50" N Lon 76°07'06.66" W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Depending on the trail, comfortable walking shoes or sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Non-motorized or electric motor boats only on the lake. PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.