Yellow Creek State Park

The 2,981-acre Yellow Creek State Park is in Indiana County along one of the three “highways” in the state, the Kintzing Path. This trail was used by the Delaware and Shawnee nations and by early settlers. Today, visitors enjoy the sand beach, picnicking and educational and recreational programs. The 720-acre Yellow Creek Lake is a destination for boaters and anglers. The lake and park are an important rest stop for migrating birds.

The park is named for Yellow and Little Yellow creeks, which flow into the lake. Both creeks contain yellow clay in their banks and bottoms.

Directions

Yellow Creek State Park is along PA 422 between the towns of Ebensburg and Indiana.

Reservations

Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Recreational Opportunities

HIKING: 5 miles of trails

Laural Run Trail is a 0.5 mile loop which starts at the park office. This easy hike is especially beautiful in the spring when wildflowers abound.

Ridgetop Trail is a challenging 2-mile trail. It begins in the beach/day-use area and winds through a variety of habitats.

Damsite Trail is a 2.5-mile trail that offers a view of the Yellow Creek Dam. To drive to this trailhead, follow PA 259 south from the park office. After taking a right turn on PA 259 toward Brush Valley, turn onto Hoffman Road, the second road on the right. This road ends at a small parking area where Damsite Trail begins.

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

MOUNTAIN BIKING: 18 miles of trails

The mountain bike trails on the north and south shores are for hikers and bikers. The trails are easy riding with some challenging sections, which have alternate routes to bypass the obstacles. The trail loops around the park, with intersections marked with letters.

FISHING: The 720-acre Yellow Creek Lake is well stocked with most warm-water game fish and panfish. These include smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, northern pike, tiger muskellunge, yellow perch, bluegill and catfish. There is an ADA accessible fishing pier on the north shore. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission big bass regulations are in effect on Yellow Creek Lake.

Laurel Run, Yellow Creek and Little Yellow Creek are stocked with brown and brook trout and provide excellent most fishing.

The breast of Dragonfly Pond is usable by many people with disabilities, and is also for children 12 years and under.

SWIMMING: The 800-foot beach is open from late-May to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. A large, modern bathhouse and a snack bar are in the beach area. Pets are prohibited on the beach.

ORIENTEERING: A small orienteering course is on the north shore near the camping cottages.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Most of Yellow Creek State Park is open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, bear, turkey and waterfowl.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Hunting dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, bear, turkey and waterfowl.

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SLEDDING AND TOBoggANING: An area for sledding and tobogganing is maintained opposite the south shore boat launch. If you decide that another hill looks more inviting or challenging, please be alert for old fences that may still be in the area.

ICE FISHING: Sunfish, perch and pike are caught most frequently through the ice at Yellow Creek. Wooden devices for ice rescue are located around all ice use access areas.

ICE SKATING: The lake near the boat rental building in the beach/day use area is available for ice skating. There are facilities here for a warming fire and winter picnics.

For More Information Contact:
Yellow Creek State Park
170 Route 259 Highway
Elkton, PA 15536-9941
724-357-7913
e-mail: yellowcreeksp@pa.gov
GPS: Lat. 40.57822 Long. -79.00006

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www.visitPAparks.com

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Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply. Fishing is not permitted in the swimming area, from boat launching docks or in the boating area.

YURTS: These round, canvas and wood walled tents have a wooden floor and sleep five people in bunk beds. Yurts have a cooking stove, refrigerator, microwave oven, counter top, table, chairs, electric heat and outlets, fire ring and picnic table. Restrooms are nearby.

PETS are prohibited in the cottage/yard area.

CAMPING COTTAGES: Six 13’ by 15’ cottages are along the lakeshore near 5 Fishers Cove. Each cottage sleeps five people in bunk beds. The cottages have wooden floors, windows, porch, picnic table, fire ring, and electric lights and outlets. Restrooms are nearby.

BOATING: up to 20 hp motors permitted

The 720-acre Yellow Creek Lake has boat launching ramps on the north shore, the south shore, in the beach/day-use area and also a small launch in Grandpaps Cove. A boat rental in the beach/day use area offers motors, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, pontoon boats and paddleboards. The boat rental is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Overnight mooring of boats is permitted in the park by special permit only. For your safety, please be certain that required U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices are on board for all passengers.

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

PICNICKING: The beach/day use area has parking for over 4,000 people. Picnic tables, modern bathrooms and a limited number of charcoal grills are scattered throughout the area. Visitors are encouraged to provide their own grills. Open ground fires are not permitted in the park. Pets are permitted in the beach/day use area and must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained. Three 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.

The park offers a variety of environmental, recreational and interpretive programs from April 1st to October 31st. Through hands-on activities, guided walks and evening programs, participants gain appreciation and understanding of the park’s natural resources. A schedule of activities is available at the park office. The Environmental Learning Classroom is near Dragonfly Pond.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are available. Group programs must be arranged in advance.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Indiana County Tourist Bureau.

www.visitindianacounty.org

State game lands 273 and 248 provide areas for public hunting and general recreation.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are 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

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Indiana Regional Medical Center
835 Hospital Road
Indiana, PA 15701
724-357-7000

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