Kooser State Park

In the heart of the Laurel Highlands at an altitude of 2,600 feet, Kooser State Park attracts visitors year-round to its 235 acres of forest and the beautiful trout stream that flows the full length of the park.

The park’s original design character was stamped by the Civilian Conservation Corps projects of the 1930s that established the existing lake and most of its use areas, its architecture and site details. The park’s basic appeal lies in its intimate areas which are best suited for family outings and small groups. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, camping, cross-country skiing and family cabins are the major park uses.

Directions
Kooser State Park is on PA 31 midway between the Donegal and Somerset turnpike exits, at the eastern foothills of Laurel Mountain Summit. Kooser State Park is a one-hour drive from Johnstown or Pittsburgh.

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

5. CAMPING: modern sites, some with electric

The campground has been renovated to 35 sites, which is open from mid-April through the third Sunday in October. Most sites give visitors the ability to pull through with their camping equipment. There are 28 sites with electric hookups and seven non-electric sites. Four sites offer full hookups. ADA accessible sites and a sanitary dump station are available. This entire campground area is open to pets. Please follow all pet camping rules.

6. CABINS: There are nine nontent cabins available for year-round rental, with summer rentals on a weekly basis. The smallest sleeps four with the largest sleeping eight. A modern shower house is available in the cabin colony. Each cabin has mattresses on the beds as well as a refrigerator, microwave oven, stove and sink with hot water. Renters bring all cooking and sleeping supplies. The primary source of heat is provided by a wood burning stove. Cabin 23 is ADA accessible. Cabins 21 and 22 are dog friendly.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: The park’s elevation and heavy snowfall creates prime conditions for cross-country skiing. Park staff set track on 1.5 miles of ski trail, which is marked with blue diamonds. The trail is classified as “easiest” and is popular with beginners to experienced skiers.

PICNICKING: Many picnic tables and the Mighty Oak Picnic Pavilion are available for year-round picnics. There is also a small stone pavilion centered in the picnic area that is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

HIKING: Kincora Trail: 1.0 mile, more difficult hiking Named after a former church camp located here, this rugged trail provides challenging terrain and solitude for the day hiker.

Tree Army Trail: 0.5 mile, easiest hiking This trail meanders along Kooser Run. In the summer, there is great access for stream fishing and you can enjoy the scenic beauty in the winter while cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. The trail is named after the Civilian Conservation Corps who were also known as Roosevelt’s Tree Army.

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

HUNTING: Due to the park’s small size, hunting is prohibited in the park. Hunters frequently camp in the park and walk to the Forbes State Forest lands that are adjacent to the park. Common game species are deer, turkey and black bear.

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 car, trailer or leased campsite. 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.

FISHING: The 4-acre Kooser Lake and Kooser Run are Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply. Night and ice fishing are prohibited on Kooser Lake. For more information, contact Laurel Ridge State Park, 1117 Jim Mountain Road, Rockwood, PA 15557. 724-455-3744

PICNICKING:

The 4-acre Kooser Lake and Kooser Run are Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply. Night and ice fishing are prohibited on Kooser Lake. Kooser Run is stocked with trout. Night and ice fishing are prohibited on Kooser Lake. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

LAUREL HILLS HIKING TRAIL: This 7-mile backpacking trail goes from Ohiopyle State Park to the Conemaugh River. The PA 31 parking and shelter area are near Kooser State Park. For more information, contact Laurel Ridge State Park, 1117 Jim Mountain Road, Rockwood, PA 15557. 724-455-3744

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