Sizerville State Park

The 386-acre Sizerville State Park is nearly surrounded by Elk State Forest and is close to one of the largest blocks of state forest in the state. Sizerville has many recreational and natural opportunities and is a good base for exploring nearby public lands.

**Directions**

Sizerville State Park is six miles north of Emporium on PA 155 in Cameron and Potter counties.

**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, for state park information and reservations.

**Recreational Opportunities**

1. **CAMPING:** warm showers and flush toilets
   The 28-site campground opens the second Friday in April and closes in mid-December. Facilities include flush toilets, showers, sanitary dump station, and ADA accessible facilities. Eighteen campsites have electricity. Five walk-in sites offer a secluded streamside setting. The campground features a play area and outdoor amphitheater. The maximum stay in this camping area is fourteen days during the summer season and 21 days during the off season. Campers must vacate the park for 48 hours before setting up again. Pets are prohibited in overnight areas.
   - **GPS DS:** Lat. 41.60611 Long. -78.18681
2. **PICKNICKING:** Six picnic pavilions, rustic restrooms, and over 100 picnic tables are in the two picnic areas, shaded by white pine, hemlock, and hardwood trees. A playground is in a central location. ADA accessible parking and picnic tables are throughout the area.
   - **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. Horseback rides are nearby each pavilion. Pavilions 1 and 2 are ADA accessible.**
3. **SWIMMING:** The 105-foot-long concrete pool, with an adjacent wading pool, is open 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, unless otherwise posted. The maximum depth is five feet. There is a lift in the pool for people with disabilities.
4. **FISHING:** The east and west branches of Cowley Run contain brook and brown trout. Cowley Run is a high quality stream offering mountain freestone fishing at its best. It is not unusual to catch native brock trout in these waters. Nearby, the Portage and Driftwood branches of the Sinnemahoning Creek provide anglers with an opportunity to fish for smallmouth bass and trout. All streams receive spring stockings. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.
5. **HIKING:** 5 miles of trails
   The hiking trail system offers a series of six loop trails. The Buttonwoods, Campground, and North Slope trails take visitors through a variety of lowland habitats and are relatively easy to walk, making them ideal for hikers of any age. The NSS Trail begins from the campground in Elk State Forest, is a three-mile loop with a small elevation change, a scenic vista, and educational stopping points. Maps are available in the park office.
   - **NSS Trail:** 814-486-4841
   - **Sizerville State Park is a trailhead for the Bucktail Path, which is part of an extensive trail system throughout the northern tier region of central Pennsylvania.**
   - **Tell us about your hike at:** www.explorepauls.com
6. **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 200 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. The non-game species are deer, turkey, goose, bear, and squirrel. Hunting is permitted on the adjacent Elk State Forest.
   - **hunting seasons:**
     - **Elk State Forest:** 814-486-3353.
7. **HIKING SAFETY:** Hikers on Elk State Forest trails should have a state forest map. Hikers should leave their hiking itinerary with park staff before a long hike.
8. **PICTURE DOGS:** Picture dogs are allowed on state parks.
9. **SIZERVILLE SPARROW:** Song sparrows are abundant in the park. The pines were planted in the 1930s as a conservation measure to help disperse the red spruce to other locations. Sizerville was named for the Sizer family who were, according to local legend, the first settlers in the area.

**Wildlife Watching**

In the spring and summer, small woodland flowers, flowering trees, and mountain laurel blossom in profusion, adding their loveliness to the park and surrounding area. During the fall, the flaming foliage of the mixed hardwood forest provides a colorful backdrop for visitors to enjoy the park. The topography of the entire park is a plateau cut by narrow stream valleys.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

The 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. For more detailed information contact the park office.

The Environmental Education Building provides exhibits and information on what to do and see while in the area. The native plantings surrounding the building include a butterfly garden that attracts many species.

**Annual Autumn Festival**

Held the first Saturday of October, weather permitting, this festival is a celebration of old time skills and crafts. There are make-it and take-its, crafts, examples of old time crafts like quilting, tatting, bee keeping, wood carving, and candle making, and lots of good food. Contact the park office for more information.

**History**

Sizerville State Park opened for public use in 1924 with the first facilities built in 1927. The name “Sizerville” comes from a logging boomtown of the same name that flourished around the turn of the century. Sizerville itself was named for the Sizer family who were, according to local legend, the first settlers in the area.

Beautiful white pines and hemlocks grace the forests of the park. The pines were planted in the 1930s as a conservation effort by the young men of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp S-85. Several thousand acres in and around the park were planted to replace the extensive tracts of old growth timber logged at the turn of the 19th century. The East Branch of Cowley Run has historical significance in game management in Pennsylvania. In 1917, a pair of beavers was presented to the Pennsylvania Game Commission by the State of Wisconsin because beavers had disappeared from Pennsylvania. This first pair was released on East Branch Cowley Run, and beavers are still found in the area.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau, 814-849-5197. www.visitpago.com

Sinmenahoning State Park features the 142-acre Sinnemahoning State Park.

**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 responsibilities.
- **Alcohol hovers are prohibited.**
- **Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsites.**
- **Firewood Advisory:** Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten Pennsylvania’s native flora and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood - Burn It!

**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**

Dial 911 then contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards at the park office.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**

Charles Cole Memorial Hospital 1001 East Second Street Cranberry, PA 16395-0976 814-274-9300

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

For More Information Contact: Sizerville State Park State Forest
199 East Cowley Run Road Emporium, PA 15834-9608 814-486-5005
email: sizervillesp@pa.gov

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Information and Reservations

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www.visitPAParks.com

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