

Nationwide "Public Value" State Park Rankings

Pennsylvania State Parks and Rankings*

Presque Isle (39th)

- Home to Pennsylvania's only surf beach
- Experience some of the best sunsets and bird watching in the Commonwealth
- Enjoy 13 miles along the Karl Boyes Multipurpose Trail to capture scenic views of Lake Erie, wetlands and wooded areas
- Visit in the winter to marvel at the unique ice dunes that form along the shore



Parker Dam (56th)

- Experience the park's legendary Winter Fest, or join them for a maple sugaring demonstration
- Backpack over 70 miles on the Quehanna Trail through the park and nearby forest lands
- Be on the lookout for elk, whose range is near the park
- Visit the PA Wilds and see what the local town has to offer



Cherry Springs (95th)

- Pennsylvania's only Dusk to Dawn park
- Known for its dark skies and stargazing opportunities
- Enjoy rustic camping and trail connections to the Susquehannock State Forest for year-round access to groomed snowmobiling trails
- A quick drive to nearby Leonard Harrison State Park to view the PA Grand Canyon



Worlds End (30th)

- Savor the stunning views from vistas throughout the park
- Swim in a unique stream beach
- Stay in a CCC-era cabin right on the Loyalsock and wake up to the calming sounds of the creek



Cook Forest (26th)

- Immerse yourself in the Forest Cathedral Natural Area and a true Old Growth Forest
- Paddle the Clarion River to connect to multiple boating overnight opportunities
- Climb the fire tower to experience a picturesque view of the Clarion River Valley



Bald Eagle (45th)

- FJ Sayers Lake, an unlimited horsepower lake, is renowned for bass fishing in the summer and ice fishing in the winter
- One of the best ice skating lakes in PA State Parks
- Explore river connections to paddle all the way from Bellefonte
- Immerse yourself and stay at the Nature Inn or travel to nearby State College



Black Moshannon (24th)

- Walk along the ADA-accessible Bog Trail to discover several species of carnivorous plants
- Escape the bustle of nearby State College and stay in a variety of overnight accommodations at the park
- Enjoy connectors to the surrounding Moshannon State Forest for extensive motorized and non-motorized recreation year-round



Caledonia (19th)

- Take a break from nearby Gettysburg to visit a different kind of history at a PA State Park
- Participate in demonstrations at a working blacksmith forge through the park's educational programming
- Hike the Appalachian Trail then cool off in the park's swimming pool



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1st

- Enjoy a variety of trail types and difficulties through unique and scenic environments, including hiking behind a waterfall
- Explore the water trails made for rafting
- Ride the Rail Trail and the Great Allegheny Passage



*Rankings based on HomeToGo's 2025 State Park Index: <https://bit.ly/StateParkIndex>



Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources