

# Discover NORTHEAST PA!

En español:



[fishandboat.com/About-Us/  
PFBC-by-Region/Northeast-PA/  
Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/About-Us/PFBC-by-Region/Northeast-PA/Pages/default.aspx)

by *Linda Stager*

**N**estled amid the picturesque landscapes of the Pocono Mountains, the 11 counties comprising the northeast region of Pennsylvania offer stunning scenery throughout every season and an unrivaled palette of autumn colors.

The tranquil lakes and pristine waterways provide an idyllic retreat for fishing enthusiasts, boating fans and everyone in the family. Breathe crisp mountain air as you hike through hills ablaze with fall foliage. Glide quietly along northeastern waterways in your kayak or canoe while experiencing quiet wooded settings.

Try some legendary pizza from Grotto Pizza. Visit the region's charming small towns, and catch a glimpse of its rich history. And, by all means, get on the water. Fishing and boating in the region is plentiful and fun.

Northeastern PA is a nature lover's playground. There's an adventure waiting for all activity levels—for little legs, experienced hikers and everything in between.

## Treasured trail

**Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor:** The 165-mile Delaware and Lehigh Trail is the backbone of this historic National Heritage Area, which conserves green space for public use.

The trail follows the route that anthracite coal took from mine to market. Its northern sections wind along the banks of the Lehigh and Delaware rivers, past the remnants of old canals and historic towns.

At its upper reaches, the Lackawaxen River, a tributary of the Upper Delaware River, is a popular destination for canoeing and fly fishing. It is reportedly where Zane Grey, an American author, first learned to fly fish. Take a tour of his home at Lackawaxen and learn to fly fish in the river, too.

To the south, the 26-mile rail trail section from White Haven to Jim Thorpe is known as the Lehigh Gorge Trail. The trail uses an abandoned railway. The overall change in elevation is minimal, which makes for gentle climbs and descents. The scenery is varied and engaging. Look for waterfalls cascading down trailside cliffs as you ride or walk, with the river carving a pathway along one side of the trail while dramatic towering rock walls and deep forests follow the trail's other side.

For whitewater fans, the Lehigh River in this section calls visitors from all over the country.

Traditional shuttle services are available for trail visitors, but a unique opportunity for bicyclists is the limited-schedule "Bike Train" offered by the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway. Board the train with your bicycle in Jim Thorpe, and ride to a trailhead alongside the Lehigh Gorge Trail. After your drop-off, ride your bike back to



Mount Pisgah State Park, Bradford County

photos-Linda Stager

Jim Thorpe using the trail. It's a special delight for bikers and hikers who are also train buffs. For more on this trail, visit [delawareandlehigh.org](http://delawareandlehigh.org).

## Popular waterways

### Lake Wallenpaupack:

This lake has over 5,700 acres of water for recreation. It's a haven for boaters of all kinds. Since there are no horsepower restrictions on this massive manmade



reservoir, pontoon cruises, jet skiing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, kayaking and canoeing are all popular. Bring your life jacket and fishing license and cast for Bluegills, Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Walleyes.

Several day-use areas are located on Lake Wallenpaupack. Other parks and campgrounds, including Promised Land State Park, Pike County, are nearby.

The lake and surrounding areas host several summer celebrations including Wally Lake Fest, Hawley Independence Day Celebration and Pocono Dragon Boat Race.



Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County



Nesting osprey at Lake Wallenpaupack, Pike and Wayne counties



*Endless Mountains, Bradford County*

*photos-Linda Stager*

**Fishing Creek:** This Columbia County tributary of the Susquehanna River is considered one of the best freestone trout streams in the state. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and a local fishing club stock it with trout. This 30-mile stretch of fun fishing is easily accessed from Route 487, which parallels much of the stream.

The stream can be fished all year long, though spring is a prime time because of the insect hatches on the water. Bring a 9-foot fly rod and an assortment of flies to enjoy a day of relaxing fishing.

**North Branch Susquehanna River:** This river is Pennsylvania's 2023 River of the Year. It flows 146 miles through several northern Pennsylvania counties.

The Susquehanna River Water Trail - North Branch has several outstanding sections. The Great Bend section in Susquehanna County and the Endless Mountains portion in Bradford and Wyoming counties are known for their pristine forestlands, serenely isolated areas and extensive wildlife sightings. The Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail is centered here. Vosburg Neck State Park, Wyoming County, one of PA's newest state parks, is along this trail.

The water trail ends in Northumberland County after flowing through Columbia and Montour counties.

When the water trail flows through Tunkhannock and points south and east, visitors will find an array of river towns and fun things to experience. Pick your area to explore based on what your family likes to do.

Paddle and fish stretches of the river that are suitable for novices. Introduce little ones to fishing at small rivertown

parks. Or, get away from it all in the Endless Mountains. Find out more at [susquehannagreenway.org](http://susquehannagreenway.org).

## Best-loved adventures

- **Wyoming Valley:** This area includes the neighboring cities of Scranton (the setting for the television sitcom "The Office") and Wilkes-Barre. Historically, this area was known for its significant coal mining. Now, its diverse economy boasts cultural attractions and historic sites.
- **Scranton,** Lackawanna County: Visit Steamtown National Historic Site. Also, check out Everhart Museum.
- **Wilkes-Barre,** Luzerne County: Take in a show at Mohegan Sun Arena and enjoy the natural beauty of nearby Seven Tubs Recreation Area.



*Bloomsburg, Columbia County*



*Ricketts Glen State Park, Columbia, Luzerne and Sullivan counties*

*photos-Linda Stager*

## Points of interest

- Bushkill Falls, Little Bush Kill and Pond Run Creek, Lehman Township (Pocono Mountains), Pike County
- Columbia County PA Covered Bridges (23 covered bridges)
- Forksville Covered Bridge, Loyalsock Creek, Sullivan County (National Register of Historic Places)
- Harveys Lake, Luzerne County (Pennsylvania's largest natural lake by volume)
- Marie Antoinette Lookout and French Azilum Historic Site, Wyalusing, Bradford County
- Yuengling Brewery, Pottsville, Schuylkill County



- **Ricketts Glen State Park:** This state park extends across Columbia, Luzerne and Sullivan counties and is known for its stunning waterfalls. The park features 24 named waterfalls. Although the path to see the waterfalls is developed, it is strenuous, so caution is advised before hiking.
- **Tunkhannock Viaduct:** This structure is a massive stone concrete railroad bridge near Nicholson, Wyoming County. Completed in 1915, it was considered the largest concrete structure in the world at the time of its construction. The viaduct spans Tunkhannock Creek, known for its trout fishing. Fish from one of the public access spots along the creek.



The northeastern region of Pennsylvania is known for its scenic beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities. Add in small-town charm, events, festivals, historical significance and plenty of watersport opportunities, and it's somewhere the whole family should visit.



*Marie Antoinette Lookout, Bradford County*



*Forksville Covered Bridge, Sullivan County*

Check out the year-long educational fishing and boating events presented by PFBC throughout the year at [FishandBoat.com](http://FishandBoat.com).

Create your own adventure and make unforgettable memories in this nature lover's playground. ☒

## Countless ways to hit the water

Celebrate Pennsylvania's beautiful lakes, rivers and streams by casting a line, dipping your paddle or dropping an anchor.

### Where to fish:



[fishandboat.com/Fishing/Where-to-Fish/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Fishing/Where-to-Fish/Pages/default.aspx)

### Where to boat:



[fishandboat.com/Boating/Where-to-Boat/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Boating/Where-to-Boat/Pages/default.aspx)

## Prepare for launch

Don't forget to buy a launch permit or register your boat before taking it to the water.

### Powered boat:



[fishandboat.com/Boating/Register-Title-Boat/Pages/Powered-Boats.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Boating/Register-Title-Boat/Pages/Powered-Boats.aspx)

### Unpowered boat:



[fishandboat.com/Boating/Register-Title-Boat/Pages/Unpowered-Boats.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Boating/Register-Title-Boat/Pages/Unpowered-Boats.aspx)

## Gotta have a fishing license and gear

### Buy a license:



[fishandboat.com/Fishing/Buy-License/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Fishing/Buy-License/Pages/default.aspx)

### Borrow gear:



[pfbcm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eea001d1a15b49b9ae8375136b8c97ae](http://pfbcm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eea001d1a15b49b9ae8375136b8c97ae)

## Common hand signals for watersports

<b>SPEED OK</b> 	<b>CUT MOTOR</b> 	<b>MAKE ANOTHER LOOP</b> 
<b>SPEED UP</b> 	<b>STOP</b> 	<b>RETURN TO LAUNCH</b> 
<b>SLOW DOWN</b> 	<b>SKIER OK</b> 	<b>SKIER IN WATER</b> 
<b>GO RIGHT, GO LEFT</b> 		



## CONSERVATION AT WORK

Check out our latest projects to protect PA's waterways and wildlife:



[fishandboat.com/Conservation/Pages/Conservation-At-Work.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Conservation/Pages/Conservation-At-Work.aspx)

*Gear Up for Adventure*

**Don't Forget to Wear Your Life Jacket!**



**WEAR IT**  
National Safe Boating Council  
Pennsylvania  
**¡Póntelo!**

## Popular waterways

### Northeast Region:

- Beltzville Lake
- Delaware River
- Fishing Creek
- Harveys Lake
- Lackawanna Lake
- Lake Wallenpaupack
- Lake Winola
- McMichael Creek
- North Branch Susquehanna River
- South Branch Tunkhannock Creek



## Pennsylvania state parks

### Northeast Region:

- **Archbald Pothole State Park**, Lackawanna Co.
- **Beltzville State Park**, Carbon Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Big Pocono State Park**, Monroe Co.
- **Frances Slocum State Park**, Luzerne Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Gouldsboro State Park**, Monroe and Wayne counties (fishing and boating)
- **Hickory Run State Park**, Carbon Co. (fishing)
- **Lackawanna State Park**, Lackawanna Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Lehigh Gorge State Park**, Carbon and Luzerne counties (fishing and whitewater)
- **Mount Pisgah State Park**, Bradford Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Nescopeck State Park**, Luzerne Co. (fishing)
- **Promised Land State Park**, Pike Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Prompton State Park**, Wayne Co. (fishing and boating)
- **Ricketts Glen State Park**, Columbia, Luzerne and Sullivan counties (fishing and boating)
- **Salt Springs State Park**, Susquehanna Co. (fishing)
- **Tobyhanna State Park**, Monroe and Wayne counties (fishing and boating)
- **Varden Conservation Area**, Wayne Co. (fishing)
- **Vosburg Neck State Park**, Wyoming Co.
- **Worlds End State Park**, Sullivan Co. (fishing and whitewater)

### Key:

fishing=fishing, no boating of any type

fishing and boating=fishing and powered and unpowered boating

paddling=unpowered boating

whitewater=whitewater paddling



Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County

Regional designations are based on Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Law Enforcement regions.

artwork-Michael Kensinger

## Popular State Game Lands

- **State Game Lands (SGL) 180**, Pike County: Made up of 12,500 acres, except for steep slopes located near Shohola Gorge, topography mainly consists of rounded hills and broad to narrow valleys. Swamps, peat bogs and wetlands are widespread. At approximately 900 acres, Shohola Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is a popular spot for anglers and hunters. Hunting includes deer, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, squirrels and turkeys. Go geocaching, hiking, sightseeing, fishing and boating. The Shohola Creek is a Stocked Trout Water.
- **State Game Lands 127**, Monroe County: At just under 26,190 acres, recreational shooting opportunities abound including a rifle range. Hunt for deer, grouse, bears, hares and turkeys. Snowshoe hares are of growing interest to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) due to evidence of statewide population decline. Snowshoe hares are different from cottontail rabbits in many ways. One difference, of course, is the snowshoe hare's huge, furry hind feet that help it travel over deep snow.



Snowshoe hare

- **State Game Lands 13 and 57**, Columbia, Luzerne, Sullivan and Wyoming counties: Combined for nearly 100,000 acres and easily accessible, this is the largest expanse of SGL in Pennsylvania. These two SGL together offer big and small game hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, biking and horseback riding. SGL 57 is also a site of the annual SGL driving tour. During the self-guided tour, participants pass habitat improvement projects completed by PGC and partners. Staff from PGC and conservation organizations are on hand to explain the projects and answer questions.