



Summertime Delights at Pymatuning

photo-Marilyn Black

by Marilyn Black

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Pymatuning Reservoir on the Pennsylvania/Ohio border is teeming with outdoor activities and facilities geared to outdoor enthusiasts on the water and on land. It's no wonder that Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County, is Pennsylvania's second-most visited state park.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) campgrounds, private campgrounds/cottages and small motels offer seasonal lodging in communities around the 20-mile long, 17,088-acre lake. Pymatuning State Park facilities include three campgrounds, three public marinas, additional motorboat ramps, kayak launches and free public beaches. Watching birds including bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons, green herons, kingfishers and loons is popular. Within the Jamestown Day Use Area at the south end of Pymatuning Reservoir, there's even a free '18-pole-hole' disc golf course and an electric vehicle charging station.

Pymatuning State Park's campgrounds offer tent and trailer sites. Cabins are available at Jamestown and Linesville

campgrounds. Educational and participatory interpretive programs for campers and the public are conducted each Friday evening at Jamestown and Tuttle Point campgrounds. Park staff also provide guided hikes, nature programs and paddle tours. Beaches are open daily; swim at your own risk. All Pymatuning State Park campsites and cabins utilize the PA DCNR statewide reservation system. Visit pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com.

Amenities at the campgrounds include fish cleaning stations, boat launches, modern restrooms with warm showers, beaches, pet-friendly sites and coin-operated laundry facilities. In addition, Jamestown Campground has a camp store, playground and an amphitheater. A fishing pier and amphitheater are found at Tuttle Point Campground.

Maximum boat motor rating allowed on Pymatuning Reservoir is 20 horsepower. Sailboats and kayaks share the lake with motorized watercraft. From May through Labor Day, boat rentals and boat fuel are available every day of the week at the marina livery at Jamestown Day Use Area (south end), Espyville Marina (east end of the causeway mid-lake) and Linesville Marina (north end). In addition, Carried Away Outfitters offers bicycles, kayaks



and canoe rentals from their location on East Lake Road, Jamestown. For more information, call 724-343-1313.

Pymatuning Reservoir is popular among anglers pursuing Black Crappies, Bluegills, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Muskellunge, Pumpkinseeds, Smallmouth Bass, Walleyes, White Crappies, Yellow Perch and White Bass. Ohio and Pennsylvania agencies coordinate their regulations on this boundary water. Licensed anglers from either state may fish and harvest from a boat anywhere on the main lake. Shoreline anglers must possess the appropriate state fishing license.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission operates Linesville State Fish Hatchery on Hartstown Road, just south of Linesville. This large warmwater hatchery includes a Visitor Center with informative exhibits and a fascinating two-story 10,000-gallon viewing tank.

During visits to Pymatuning State Park, don't overlook a stop at the Pymatuning Spillway along Hartstown Road at a location known since the 1930s as where "the ducks walk on the fish." People pitch bread or fish pellets to thousands of carp and dozens of noisy ducks and gulls. Feeding fish at the Pymatuning State Park spillway is the only exception to the "No Feeding Wildlife" policy in any Pennsylvania state park.

Paved trail sections are gradually being added to the 3.25-mile Spillway Trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2022, this multiple-use trail was extended to the tip of South Chestnut Street on Linesville's east side, with the relocation of the Messerall Bridge (an 1876 metal truss bridge)

that now crosses Linesville Creek.

Unpaved trails within Pymatuning State Park provide easy hiking, such as the 1.9-mile Ackerman Trail and 1.1-mile Sugar Run Trail. ☐



photo-Daryl Black

Looking into the 10,000-gallon tank at Linesville State Fish Hatchery, Crawford County.



photo-Marilyn Black

A sailboat glides across Pymatuning Reservoir, Crawford County.

Free Summer 2025 Events

Event	Date
Fireworks at Pymatuning	July 5, 2025
Onion Festival, Linesville Beach	July 12, 2025
Kids Free Fishing Derby, Espyville Boat Launch	August 2-3, 2025
Star-Viewing Party, Tuttle Beach	August 16, 2025

For event updates, e-mail pymatuningpa.gov or connect with Pymatuning State Park on Facebook.



photo-Marilyn Black

Kayaks are available for rental at the south end of Pymatuning Reservoir and on-the-water liveries at state park marinas.