

HIKING: 17.6 miles



A network of hiking trails guides hikers through a variety of habitats that offer scenic views and wildlife watching opportunities. Additional unnamed extension trails lead to recreational facilities like boat launches, the modern campground, and fishing access areas. Some trails wind through areas open to hunting. Hikers should wear fluorescent orange clothing during hunting seasons. Trails are open year round from sunrise to sunset.

Butterfly Trail
1.87 miles | Most difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: picnic tables, benches

This mowed trail from the beach day use area to the Frog Pond is a family favorite for viewing insects, birds, and other wildlife. Butterfly Trail loops around Frog Pond and through a mix of grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and young trees that are host and nectar plants for butterflies throughout their lifecycle. An educational area provides additional butterfly information. In September, migrating monarchs are often seen drinking nectar on the abundant goldenrod. This trail is a popular family hike.

Fireline Trail
1.5 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This rocky, mountainside trail, was built and used as an actual fireline to protect the mountain from runaway campfires. This trail travels through a mixed hardwood and hemlock forest where deer can be seen foraging on the low vegetation.

Hunter Run East Trail
2.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowshoeing recommended

Near the northwest border of the park toward Hunter Run West Launch, Hunter Run East Trail winds beneath a mixed forest and through open shrubby areas providing favorite habitat for chickadees, towhees, and catbirds. Hikers encounter an intermittent mountain stream which is home to various salamanders and aquatic insects. Some sections of the trail are wet or steep; wear appropriate footwear.

Hunter Run West Trail
2.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowshoeing recommended

Sloping through a mix of forested areas and field habitats, this mowed path guides hikers through natural forest succession. In the summer, songs of common yellowthroats and song sparrows may be heard as hikers pass through the open shrubby areas. Northern pearly-eye and wood nymph butterflies may be spotted hiding in the shaded areas. Signs of old fencerows along the way are evidence of the area's farming heritage.

Lakeside Trail
5.6 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, benches

Beginning and ending at Bald Eagle Launch, this rocky trail runs along the base of the mountain passing through two railroad tunnels. In the shade of the towering oaks, maples, and hickories, this trail provides glimpses of the reservoir below. Along the trail, look for signs of wildlife and old charcoal hearths, where timber was burned in large earth-covered mounds to create charcoal for iron furnaces in the 1800s. Mountain streams are not bridged.

Shrike Trail
0.2 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This short trail cuts through a dense thicket that is ideal habitat for our elusive winter visitor, the northern shrike. The trail can be accessed from the campground or West Launch Road and provides a direct path to the Hunter Run East and West trailheads.

Skyline Trail
1.16 miles | Moderate hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, picnic tables

This trail begins on Skyline Drive and meanders through a small, forested ridge of mixed hardwoods to Warbler Way. Most of the trail is forested, but portions contain dense shrubbery reminiscent of earlier ecological succession. This area is favorite habitat for eastern chipmunks, great horned owls, white-tailed deer, black-throated green warblers, and other woodland warblers. For a longer hike, use connector trails to access Butterfly Trail.

Swamp Oak Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, picnic tables

This trail can be accessed from the amphitheater in the modern campground or from the top of Skyline Trail. The largest tree in the park, a swamp white oak, is along the trail near the amphitheater. It is "A Champion Tree of PA" according to PA Forestry Association at more than 18 feet in circumference. A portion of the trail follows the old farm road to what was the Day Farm.

Woapalanne Trail
1.75 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables

The relatively flat trail meanders through a kiosk near Pavilion 6 and the eastern terminus of F. J. Sayers Road. The path follows the shoreline and is sometimes flooded during high water events. It is a great trail to see waterfowl, eagles, and wildlife that like riparian areas. If you look closely, you can see old stone wells, tree lines, and other historic remnants from the valley's past.

Woodcock Trail
0.5 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail winds through a brushy habitat between the marina and the Environmental Learning Center. During spring, keep your ears and eyes peeled for American Woodcocks who frequently call and perform their characteristic aerial mating dances.

HISTORY OF BALD EAGLE

The valley, creek, mountain, and state park are named for the Munsee Lenni Lenape chief Woapalanne [wopo lonnie], whose name translates to "Bald Eagle." In the mid-1700s, the chief briefly dwelled at Bald Eagles Nest, near Milesburg. The village was along the Bald Eagle Creek Path, a portion of a warriors path from New York to the Carolinas, which now is PA 150.

Bald Eagle Creek, one of the few navigable tributaries of the West Branch Susquehanna River, became a branch of the Pennsylvania Canal in the mid-1800s. When flooding destroyed the short-lived canal system, the newly developed railroads replaced the canal.

These transportation systems and abundant local resources led to the building of the nearby Curtin Ironworks. Loggers cut trees from steep-sided Bald Eagle Mountain and colliers made charcoal from the wood to feed the hungry furnace. When the demand for wood products soared in the 1800s, the plentiful pines, chestnuts, oaks, and hickories were cleared from the valley and plateaus. Farmland replaced the forest and the fertile valley continues to be cultivated. Although the forests of Bald Eagle Mountain have regenerated.

To reduce flood damage downstream, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the 100-foot-high and 1.3-mile-long F. J. Sayers Dam in 1969. Bald Eagle State Park opened to the public July 4, 1971.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The Conservation Volunteer Program encourages individuals, groups, and/or corporations to help the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources carry out its mission of stewardship in state parks and state forestlands. Contact the park office for more information about volunteer opportunities at Bald Eagle State Park.

Foster Joseph Sayers

The dam and reservoir were named in honor of Foster Joseph Sayers, a private 1st class in World War II. Nineteen-year-old Sayers, a resident of Centre County, lost his life while displaying gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in combat on November 12, 1944, near Thionville, France.

During an attack on hostile forces entrenched on a hill, Sayers ran up the steep approach and set up his machine gun 20 yards from the enemy. Realizing it was necessary to attract the full attention of the dug-in Germans while his company crossed an open area and flanked the enemy, he picked up his gun, charged through withering gunfire to the very edge of the German encampment and killed 12 German soldiers with devastating close-range fire. He then engaged the enemy from the flank in a heroic attempt to distract attention from his comrades as they reached the crest of the hill. He was killed by a very heavy concentration of return fire, but his fearless assault enabled his company to sweep the hill with minimum casualties, killing or capturing every enemy soldier. Sayers received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Bald Eagle State Park
149 Main Park Road
Howard, PA 16841
814-625-2775
BaldEagleSP@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

@BaldEagleSP

Electric Vehicle Charging Station
A 2-plug, electric vehicle charging station is available for public use near the Nature Inn. Two 2-plug, electric vehicle charging stations are available for public use in the Environmental Learning Center parking area near park office. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.



Monarch butterfly

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

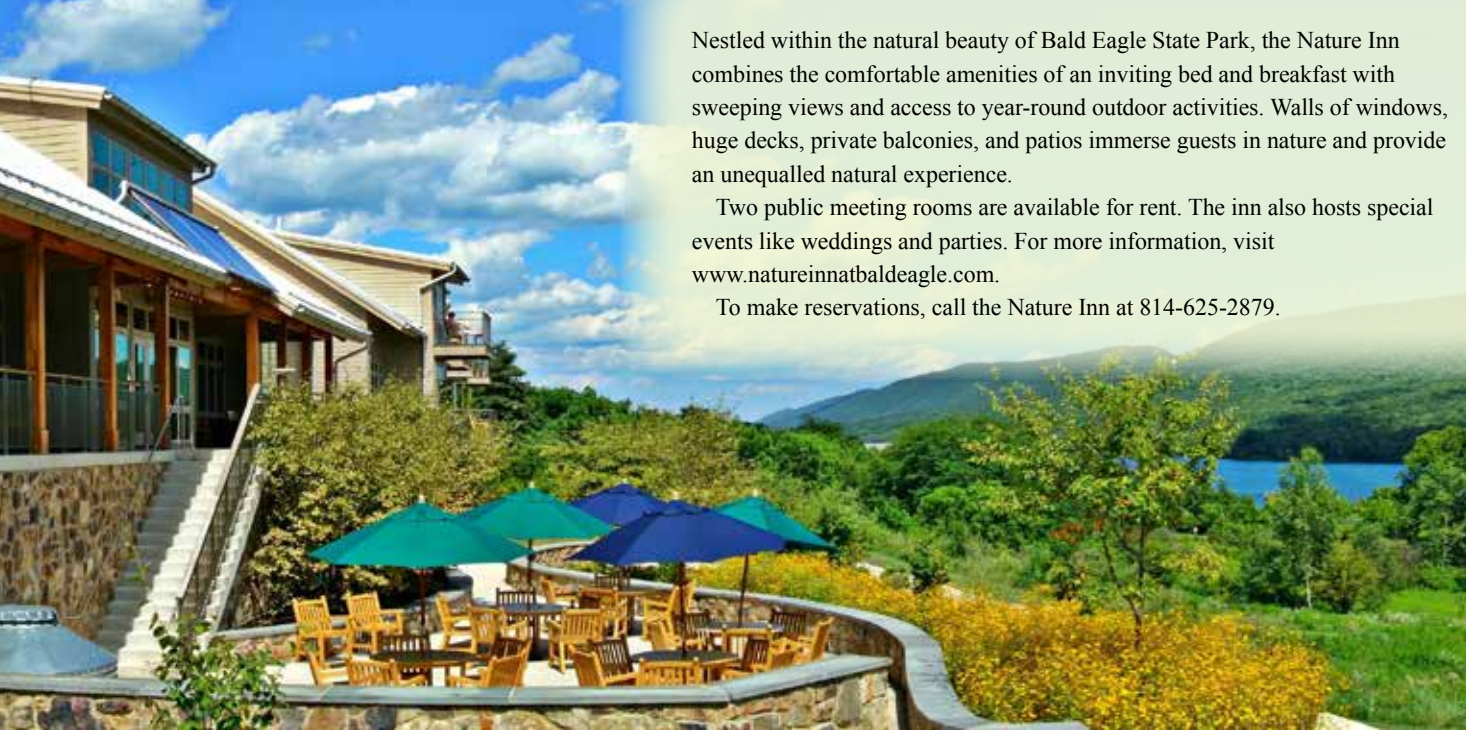
If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

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

NEAREST HOSPITALS
UMPC Lock Haven Mount Nittany Medical Center
24 Cree Drive 1800 E Park Avenue
Lock Haven, PA 17745 State College, PA 16803
570-893-5000 814-231-7000

THE NATURE INN AT BALD EAGLE



Nestled within the natural beauty of Bald Eagle State Park, the Nature Inn combines the comfortable amenities of an inviting bed and breakfast with sweeping views and access to year-round outdoor activities. Walls of windows, huge decks, private balconies, and patios immerse guests in nature and provide an unequalled natural experience.

Two public meeting rooms are available for rent. The inn also hosts special events like weddings and parties. For more information, visit www.natureinnatbaldagle.com.

To make reservations, call the Nature Inn at 814-625-2879.

