Poe Paddy State Park

Poe Paddy State Park is at the confluence of Big Poe Creek and Penns Creek, a trout angler’s paradise featuring the nationally recognized green drake mayfly hatch in late spring. Hikers enjoy the Mid State Trail through the 250-foot long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel.

Directions

From US 322, near the top of Seven Mountains, follow signs for Poe Valley State Park. On Poe Valley Road, continue past Poe Valley State Park for three miles to Poe Paddy State Park.

From Millheim, go west on PA 45 for 1.5 miles, then follow signs south for 12 miles to the park.

No paved roads lead to the park.

Access to Poe Paddy during the winter months may be limited. Winter maintenance is not performed on park roads or state forest roads that access Poe Paddy. Caution must be used when traveling to Poe Paddy during the winter season, especially since roads are joint-use with snowmobiles.

History

Poe Paddy lies on the site of Poe Mills, a prosperous but short-lived, lumbering town of the 1880s and 1890s. Poe Mills had a population of over three hundred in 1890. Built in 1879, the main railroad line ran very near Poe Mills and a spur track ran to the Poe Paddy area. Many small, temporary timber railroads were built through most of the mountain valleys. Poe Creek was dammed to provide water to the steam-powered sawmill. In the early 1900s, a scenic excursion train ran a loop from Milroy to Poe Paddy and back.

In the mid-1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps built camp S-63-PA in the valley. The men of the camp built Poe Paddy and Poe Valley state parks and many of the roads in the area.

The park’s unusual name comes from Poe Mountain to the west and Paddy Mountain to the east.

Access 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.

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Mount Nittany Medical Center
1800 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
814-231-7000

Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital
400 Highland Avenue
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-5411

Nearby Attractions

The surrounding 193,000 acres of Bald Eagle State Forest have many outdoor recreational opportunities. 570-922-3344

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau.

CAMPING: vault toilets
Two small Adirondack-style lean-tos and 34 tent and trailer campsites are open from the second Friday in April until mid-December. Please contact or stop at Poe Valley State Park for information on the Poe Paddy Campground.

The Poe Paddy Campground has vault toilets and drinking water. Campers can use the sanitary dump station at nearby Poe Valley State Park. For a fee, campers can use the showers at Poe Valley State Park.

FISHING: Excellent trout fishing is available in Poe Creek, which flows through the Poe Paddy Campground. Fantastic fly hatches emerge from Penns Creek. The nationally known Green Drake Hatch usually occurs in late May or early June.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult and youth groups can rent the group tenting area, which is open from the second Friday in April to mid-December. The area holds up to 20 people and has picnic tables, water and vault toilets. Advance reservations are recommended.

PICNICKING: Two picnic pavilions with four picnic tables each are available for year-round use.

SNOWMOBILING: Marked gravel roads in the area are open for registered snowmobiles after deer season in December. Please remember roads also are used by motor vehicles. ATV’s are prohibited on state park or state forest roads.

HIKING: The Mid State Trail, blazed with orange rectangles, passes through Poe Paddy. To hike through the 250-foot long Paddy Mountain Railroad Tunnel, follow the Mid State Trail upstream along Penns Creek then cross the pedestrian bridge to the tunnel.

Tell us about your hike at: ExplorePAtrails.com