



The Vista

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To conserve, support and protect the park's resources by promoting education, recreation, and stewardship.

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...and on the web...

www.friendsofworldsendsp.org

“Wisdom comes with winters.”

Oscar Wilde

The Friends of Worlds End State Park looked ahead to 2025 at the annual meeting on November 19 —see starting on page 3. As we end the year, we thank our members, customers, local businesses and the surrounding community for their continued strong support! The current board of Directors and officers were all renominated and reelected—see the list at the left.

Before we enter the coming winter, we first take a look back at the autumn season just ending with a photo essay—starting on page 7.

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for a local hiking enthusiast – check out our latest hiking guide and map, **Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest** - see page 9.

Finally, we anticipate the coming season by looking at winter activities—hiking, cross country skiing, etc. — see starting on page 10.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2025!



The Annual Meeting— Looking Ahead to 2025



The Friends of Worlds State Park gathered on November 19 to review the accomplishments of the past year and make plans for 2025.

Highlights of 2024 include:

Supporting the park by purchasing equipment for park staff and for visitor facilities—see next page.

Continued strong sales of firewood and ice...thanks to our customers and members!

Over 190 students in the summer archery program!

Provided funding for summer amphitheater programs.

Four issues of THE VISTA —available on our website.

Continued strong viewership of our website: www.friendsofworldsendsp.org

Plans for 2025 include:

Continue funding for summer amphitheater programs and summer archery classes.

Trailblazers Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode continue work on their latest hiking guide and map project—focused on day-hikes in Sullivan County.

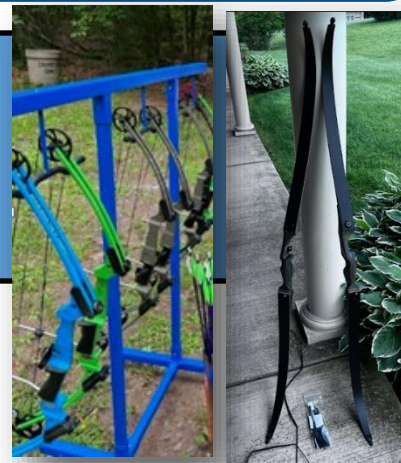
Possible return of Worlds End Day this summer—see future issues of THE VISTA for details.

Possible upgrades to the park's education and meeting room in the visitors center.

Look in future issues of THE VISTA throughout 2025 for further details!

In 2024, the generous contributions and patronage of our members and the public made these park enhancements possible!

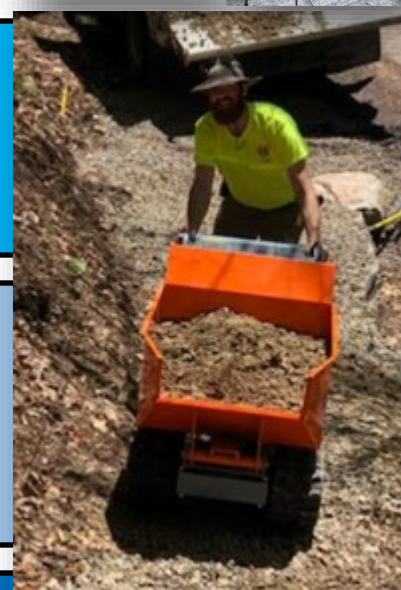
In addition to assisting with instructing participants in the park's summer archery program, the Friends purchased equipment, including bows and arrows. Look for upcoming editions of THE VISTA for information about the Summer 2025 program!



The Friends purchased a specially-crafted fire ring for the campground amphitheater.



To help the park's hard-working staff maintain the park's numerous (and challenging) trails the Friends purchased a motorized wheel-barrow.



An electronic bicycle (e-bike) purchased by the Friends makes it easier and faster for park rangers and staff to get around the park. The purchase included a rack and saddle bag so that equipment and first aid kits can be easily transported.



The Friends, along with the park and DCNR, purchased sand for the park's swimming area.



The Friends purchased a new swing-set for the park's campground playground area. The swing-set includes a handicap—accessible swing. This purchased also included the mulch for the playground and the border barrier.





Cabin Bridge Road Closing—Fall 2025



PARK CABINS TO BE UNAVAILABLE THIS COMING AUTUMN

The bridge spanning Loyalsock Creek, which provides access to the cabin colony at the park (pictured above) will be undergoing a full super-structure replacement. This work, originally scheduled for late 2024, has been delayed until the Autumn of 2025.

As a result, the park cabins and organized group tenting sites will be **CLOSED** from September 15, 2025 until November 14, 2025 and reservations during this period will not be accepted.

The park campground, located along Route 154, will not be impacted and will be open for its normal operating season dates.

The closure of Cabin Bridge Road will also result in the temporary rerouting of the Loyalsock Trail.

Monitor the park's social media and future issues of THE VISTA for updates on this project.

Check out the next issue of **THE VISTA**... the spring edition... for...

- Update on summer activities.
- Update on Cabin Bridge Road project.
- Exploring springtime waterfalls.
- Summer archery program dates.

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE THIS WINTER:

Firewood is available for sale in the cabin area this winter - \$8.00 per bundle. Look for the self-serve kiosk near the trash dumpsters on the right as you enter the cabin community on Cabin Bridge Road. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER:

If you are interested in volunteering at the park, we encourage you to register. Registering brings you insurance coverage and the ability to track your volunteer hours. See more on DCNR's website:

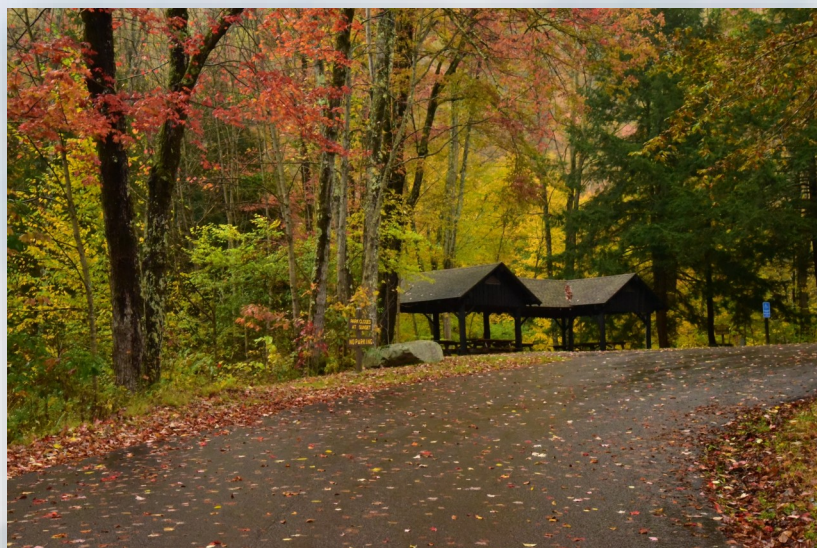
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx>



A Rainy Autumn Day at Worlds End!

Even during an autumn as dry as the one we had this year, a little rain must fall. But the autumn beauty of the park still shines through on a rainy day. All you have to do is find a raincoat and/or an umbrella – some waterproof footwear also helps! Here is the park on one such rainy day this past October.

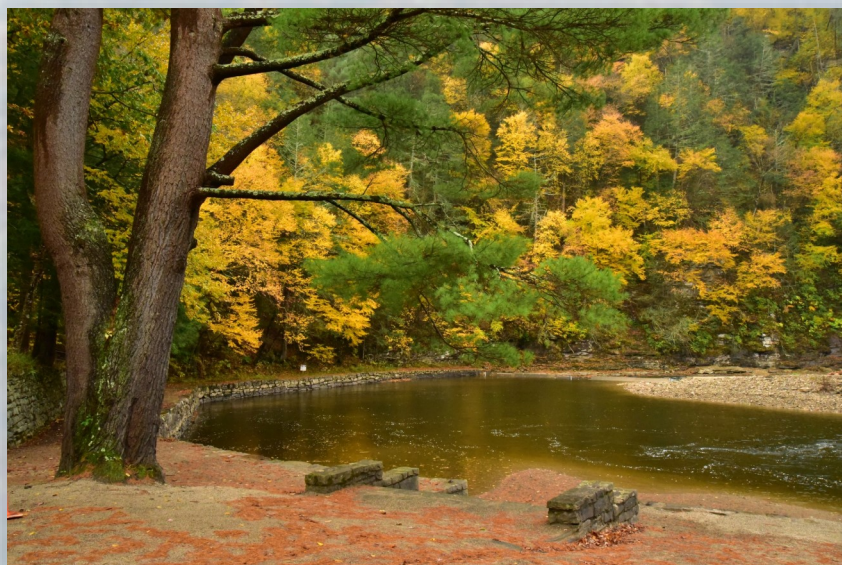


LEFT: The Playground Pavilion in the park's day-use area.

BELOW: Cottonwood Falls along the Double Run Nature Trail.



BELOW: the beach / swimming area.





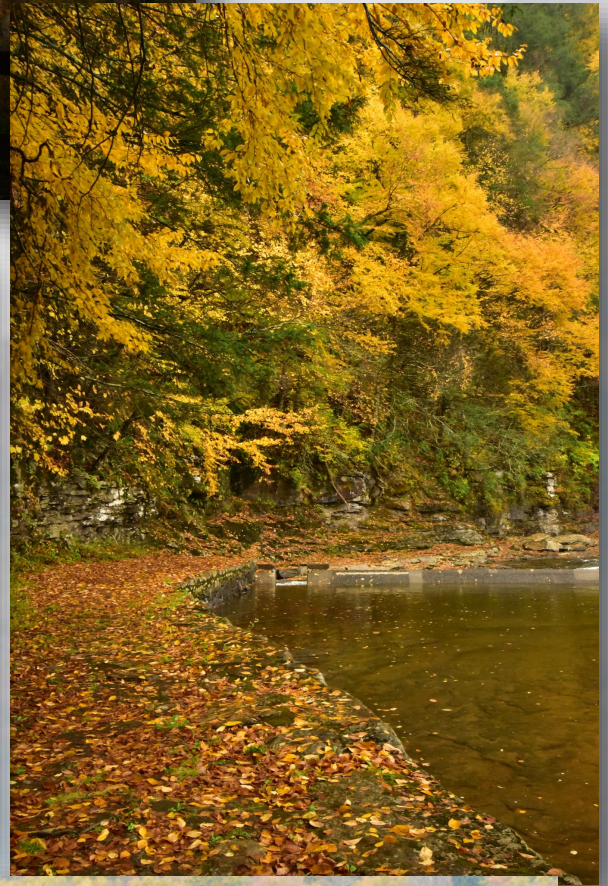
LEFT: Loyalsock Canyon Vista under stormy skies.

BELOW: Loyalsock Creek at the swimming area.

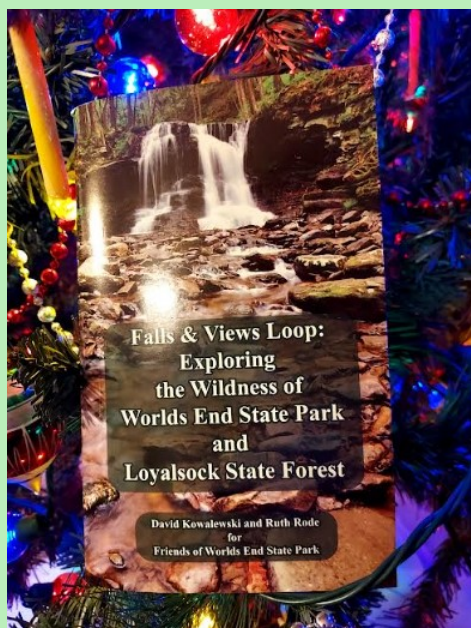


ABOVE: The Beach Pavilion in the park's picnic area.

RIGHT: Hillside above the park as viewed from Loyalsock Canyon Vista.



Need a gift for that hiker on your list?

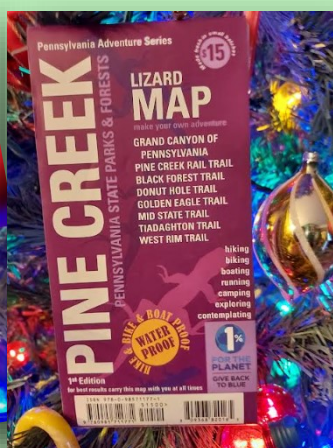


A great gift for local hiking enthusiasts is our newest and most comprehensive hiking guide that features Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest.***

This is a 70-page guide with 3 maps detailing over 77 miles of trails. The ***Falls & Views Loop*** passes more than 90 seasonal falls and 40 views. The first 18 pages provide general reference information concerning the park and forest – followed by over 50 pages of detailed turn-by-turn directions highlighting waterfalls, views, geological features, trail registers, water sources, and alternate routes. Shorter loop options are also provided for those unable to complete the entire trail in one outing – including day-hike and 2-day hiking options – or even an afternoon! Local history is also highlighted – learn about the history of coal mining, railroading and the Civilian Conservation Corps here in Sullivan County among many other things. Also available is the smaller ***Trails in and Around Worlds End State Park*** that features shorter hikes centered on the park and the forest immediately surrounding the park. These maps and guides are available from:

- *The Worlds End State Park Office*
- *The Sullivan Review* (<https://thesullivanreview.com/maps/>)
- *Otto's Bookstore in Williamsport.*
- *Keystone Trails Association* (<https://www.kta-hike.org/>)
- *Otto's Bookstore in Williamsport.*

The Friends also sells, at the park office, Purple Lizard maps of the *Loyalsock State Forest*, the *Pine Creek Valley*, and *Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation*. Also for sale is the newest 2024 edition of the *Guide to the Loyalsock Trail*.



Winter Activities!

To help you plan your winter outings, there is a lot of information online, starting with the Pennsylvania state parks Winter Report. This report allows winter outdoor recreation enthusiasts to monitor snow and ice conditions in state parks. The Winter Report is updated weekly (at a minimum) by state parks during the winter season. The report lists the ice thickness and what ice activities are available at that park. Sometimes a park can have ice, but if it is not thick enough, then the activities are not available. The report also lists the snow thickness and what snow activities are available at that park. The report is searchable by park and by recreation activity:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/WinterReport/Pages/default.aspx>



Check out winter activities and conditions at :

<http://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/storymaps/winteractivities/#overview>

Cross-country skiing information can also be found:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/>

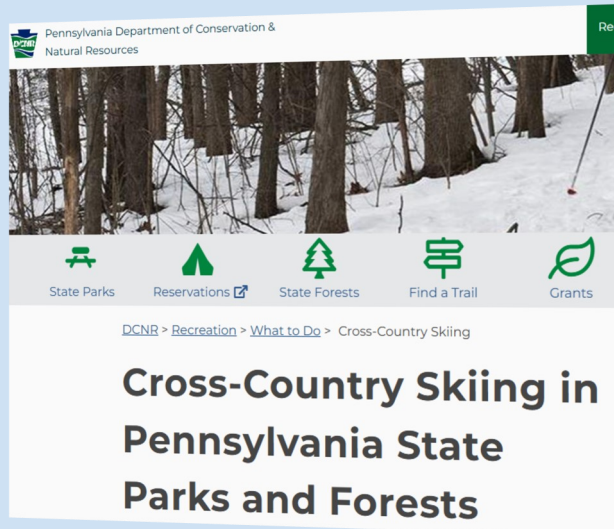
[Cross-CountrySkiing/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Cross-CountrySkiing/Pages/default.aspx)

Information on the Double Run Ski Trail:

[elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=2858643&DocName=DoubleRun Ski Trail - Forestry Trail Guide 8-5x14 Portrait.pdf](http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=2858643&DocName=DoubleRunSkiTrail-ForestryTrailGuide8-5x14Portrait.pdf)

...the Old Loggers Path Trail and nearby Ski Trails...

http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1741648&DocName=sf-OldLoggersPathTrail_f20.pdf



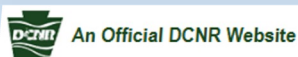
Loyalsock State Forest & Worlds End State Park

Snowmobile Trails:

<https://trails.dcnr.pa.gov/trails/trail/trailview?trailkey=678>

...and to book a cozy cabin at the park...

<https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>



Home

Pennsylvania has more than 12,000 miles of trails most of which remain accessible during this period. Please check with the trail owner before you go. [Guidance on Spending Time Outdoors \(PDF\)](#).

Loyalsock State Forest & Worlds End State Park Snowmobile Trails



Also Known As: Loyalsock State Forest, Worlds End State Park

Difficulty: Unknown

Length: 134.76 Miles

County: Lycoming, Sullivan

Trail Description

Nearly 130 miles of joint-use state forest roads and 16 miles of trails are open to snowmobiles when conditions permit. The district staff keeps the snowmobile trail and packed to give riders an enjoyable experience. Parking is somewhat limited but several lots have recently been developed or improved. The trailhead along W Road provides ample parking and direct access to many points of interest including High Knob Overlook and Loyalsock Canyon Vista. Most state forest roads

Winter Wisdom

The winter days are not only cooler – but also shorter. Make sure you plan your outings so that you are out of the woods well before the early sunsets.



The air temperature in the park and the mountains can be significantly colder and windier than in the towns and valleys. Check the local weather forecast before you head outside.

There is little if any cell service in the park nor in most of the surrounding forest. Make sure someone knows where you are and when you expect to return.



Dress in layers. As you move around and get warmer, you can always remove a layer – or add additional layers as needed. And wear a hat!



Warm, sturdy footwear and socks are essential if you are hiking.



Winter air can not only be cold – but also very dry. Stay hydrated!

Know the trails you are hiking – have a map (available at the park office) and/or a GPS device—keeping in mind that using your cell phone to navigate may not be possible. Maps are also available online:

elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1737190&DocName=WOEN_ParkMap.pdf

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/FindAForest/Loyalsock/Pages/Maps.aspx>



Before venturing out on ice on a creek or pond, make sure you know how thick the ice is and whether it can support your weight. Thickness of ice on creeks can vary widely from spot to spot.

Trails on the north side of mountains or in deep hollows can be snowier and icier than other trails. On snow and ice, boot spikes or crampons may be necessary. Hiking/trekking poles or ice axes can also help in such conditions. **However, sometimes such trails are impassable even with special equipment and need to be avoided.** Check with the park or forest office about trail conditions.





DON'T GET STRANDED! When setting out on your winter adventures, take some thought about how you are going to get to your destination and road conditions. Monitor local weather forecasts to ensure you do not end up driving in bad weather. You can check road and traffic conditions on www.511pa.com.

Also, many state forest and game land roads are not maintained in the winter – meaning that they are not plowed, salted or treated. These roads can be impassable in snow and ice conditions, even for trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles. Many of these roads are also used by snowmobiles – which can pack any snow so solid that other vehicles may not be able to safely use the road. In recent years, a number of vehicles have been stranded on such roads. Many towing operators will not take their tow trucks on these roads, out of fear of being stuck. As a result, your vehicle could be stranded until the next thaw! Also be aware that some vehicle navigation/GPS systems will sometimes direct you to use these roads, not knowing that they are unfit for travel. For the condition of state forest roads, contact the office for the state forest you plan on visiting. The Loyalsock State Forest office can be called at 570-946-4049 during their office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY ARE HUNTING MONTHS!

If you are planning any outings in the forests, keep in mind that December and January are rifle and archery hunting months—including the Christmas and New Years holiday weeks. Hikers and bikers should wear at least one piece of orange clothing that is visible from all directions, such as a hat, jacket, or vest. Also, consider covering your backpack with orange.

Don't forget your pets! Dogs should wear blaze orange or another highly visible colored vest, leash, collar, harness, or bandana. Horseback riders should also wear a blaze orange vest or hat and use an orange vest or rump sheet on your horse.

On the right: Friends of Worlds End State Park Board member Dave Kowalewski and Tuck model the appropriate hiking



Join the Friends of Worlds End State Park *for* **FREE!**

All we need is your email address so that we can email you the THE VISTA four times a year!

To get on our email list, see our website:

<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/mailling-list>

Of course we always welcome contributions! To contribute, see our website: <https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/donate>

If you prefer to donate by mail, please make checks payable to the PPFF and include Friends of Worlds End on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Michelene Scott, Treasurer
Friends of Worlds End State Park
PO Box 62
Forksville, PA 18616



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