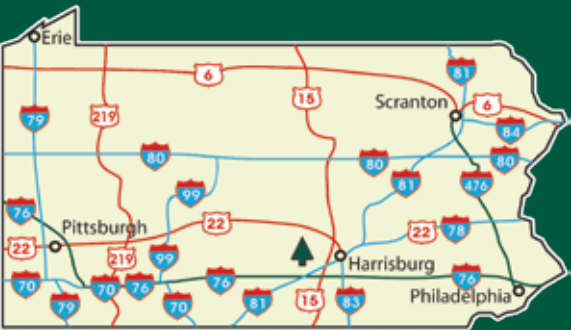




Colonel Denning State Park



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



For More Information Contact:
Colonel Denning State Park
1599 Doubling Gap Road
Newville, PA 17241-9756
717-776-5272
email: coloneldenningsp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 40.280743 Long. -77.418227
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to
5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park
information and reservations.

www.visitPAparks.com



visitPAparks

Colonel Denning State Park

Colonel Denning State Park, in north-central Cumberland County, has 273 acres of woodland and a 3.5-acre lake. The park serves as a gateway to the 96,000-acre Tuscarora State Forest, which surrounds the park. These scenic and historic public lands are located in Doubling Gap, so named by the “S” turn where Blue Mountain doubles back on itself.

Directions

The park is nine miles north of Newville and eight miles south of Landisburg, along PA 233.

Recreational Opportunities



HIKING: 18 miles of trails

The park is the trailhead for the 2.5-mile **Flat Rock Trail** which leads to the top of Blue Mountain in Tuscarora State Forest. This steep and rocky trail is worth the effort; it culminates at Flat Rock, a natural rock outcrop that provides a beautiful scenic vista of the Cumberland Valley.

The one-mile **Doubling Gap Nature Trail** is self-guided on mostly level ground. Beginning and ending at Doubling Gap Lake, the trail has several interpretive waysides to explain the natural history found around a mountain stream.

Rocky in places, the one-mile **Rattlesnake Trail** winds through a mixed oak forest on the foothills of Blue Mountain. Due to the park’s proximity to the Tuscarora State Forest, hikers will find several miles of additional trails, including access to the 105-mile **Tuscarora Trail**, which is the northern portion of a 220-mile bypass of the Appalachian Trail. For maps and detailed descriptions, consult the “Hiking and Nature Trail Guide” located at the park office.

Tell us about your hike at: www.explorepatriails.com

HORSEBACK RIDING: As a gateway to the Tuscarora State Forest, the park provides access to one horseback riding trail and a parking lot for horse trailers. Follow Old Doubling Gap Road to gain access to the state forest from the park.

PICNICKING: Numerous picnic tables and charcoal grills are scattered throughout the park and located near

playground equipment. Two picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee by calling 888-PA-PARKS. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.



SWIMMING: The sand beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. A food concession near the beach may be open during the summer season.

BOATING: Non-motorized canoes and kayaks may be used on Doubling Gap Lake except for the period of time between the opening day of trout season until the Friday before Memorial Day. Boats must be carried in from the nearby parking lot and launched in the designated area located at the west end of the beach.

Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks that are available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

ORIENTEERING: There are three courses to challenge your map and compass skills. Courses begin near Pavilion #1. Trail maps are available at the park office or the nature center.

FISHING: The 3.5-acre Doubling Gap Lake has trout fishing. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Many acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, squirrel, and turkey. Hunting is also permitted on the adjacent Tuscarora State Forest.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner’s vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

CAMPING: The 49-site tent and trailer campground is open from the opening day of trout season to the day after deer season in December. Sites are near a showerhouse with flush toilets and a sanitary dump station. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult and youth groups may reserve the organized group tenting area for overnight use. This space includes five tent pads, picnic tables, lantern holders, and a large fire ring. The organized group campsite can accommodate a maximum size of 20 people.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: While there is no formal cross-country skiing trail system, skiing is permitted on existing roads and trails and in all areas of the park. Terrain is moderately hilly to mountainous.

ICE SKATING: When ice conditions permit, an area of the lake is available for ice skating on Doubling Gap Lake. Skating is permitted from 8:00 AM until sunset.

Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single skater and 7” thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

During the summer season, the park naturalist offers natural history walks, youth, and campfire programs. A nature center exhibits plants, animals, and minerals found in the park.

History

Although never a colonel, William Denning (1737-1830) served as a Revolutionary War sergeant from March 1778 to April 1780 in Nathaniel Irish’s Company of Artillery Artificers in Benjamin Flower’s Regiment. Stationed just outside of Carlisle at Washingtonburg Forge (now Carlisle Barracks), Denning earned his place in history making wrought iron cannons for the Continental Army. Unfortunately, none of Denning’s cannons survive today. After the Revolution, William Denning lived out his life near Newville and is interred with his only son and daughter in the Big Spring Presbyterian Church cemetery in Newville. His monument reads “The patriotic blacksmith and forger of wrought iron cannon during the Revolutionary War.” It is not known when or who added the “Colonel” to Sergeant William Denning’s name.

Colonel Denning State Park became a state recreational area around 1930, under the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. It was developed formally in 1936 through the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-111 in Perry County.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, 888-513-5130. www.visitcumberlandvalley.com

The park is surrounded by 96,000 acres of **Tuscarora State Forest**. These lands are open to the public and offer many recreational opportunities like hiking, biking, camping, hunting, horseback riding, picnicking, and sightseeing. 717-536-3191

Located between PA Routes 641 and 997, about 10 miles southwest of the park, several thousand acres of **State Game Lands 169** are primarily managed for upland game animals and deer. 877-877-9107

Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.


- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.

- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood - Burn It!

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

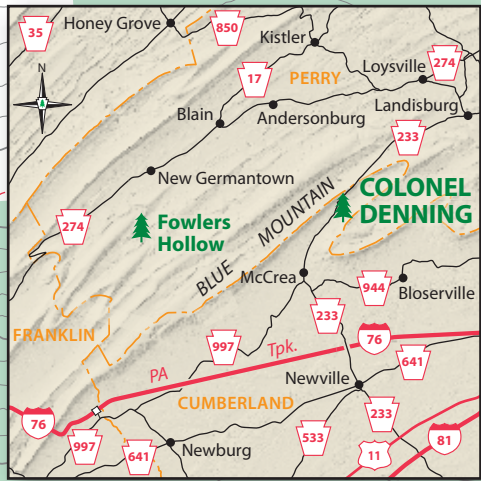
Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Carlisle Regional Medical Center
361 Alexander Spring Road
Carlisle, PA 17015
717-249-1212



Indian pipes



COLONEL DENNING STATE PARK

TUSCARORA STATE FOREST

PERRY COUNTY
CUMBERLAND COUNTY

BLUE MOUNTAIN

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Park Office | Organized Group Tenting | Self-guiding Trail | Parking ADA Accessible |
| Blue Symbol Means ADA Accessible | Sanitary Dump Station | Cross-country Skiing Recommended | Parking Paved |
| Public Phone | Playground | Snowmobiling | Parking Unpaved |
| Nature Center | Swimming Area | Unpaved Road | State Park No Hunting |
| Modern Restrooms | Ice Skating | One-way Road | State Park Hunting |
| Rustic Restrooms | Fishing Pier | Joint Use Road: Auto/Horseback Riding/Mountain Biking/Hiking | |
| Water | Non-powered Boat Launch | Gate | |
| Amphitheater | Orienteering | Parking Equestrian Trailers | |
| Food Concession | Paved Trail | | |
| Picnic Area | Hiking Trail | | |
| Picnic Pavilion | Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding | | |
| Vista | | | |
| Camping | | | |

CONTOURS ARE ON 40 FT. INTERVALS



Trail to Flat Rock

