

Gouldsboro State Park

Gouldsboro State Park, in Monroe and Wayne counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, contains 2,800 acres of land, including the 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake.

Directions

The park entrance is one-half mile south of the village of Gouldsboro on PA 507. PA 507 intersects with I-380 at Exit 13, two miles south of the park entrance, and with I-84, 13 miles north of the park entrance.



Jay Gould

The name Gouldsboro comes from the village north of the park that was named for Jay Gould (1836-1892). A native of New York, Gould acquired a very large fortune that by 1892 included ownership of ten percent of all railroad tracks in the country. One of the railroads he owned was the Erie-Lackawanna. This rail line parallels the eastern boundary of the park and is now a part of the Steamtown, USA railroad excursion route between Scranton and Pocono Summit.

Gould was a co-owner of a leather tannery at Thornhurst, a small village 9.5 miles west of Gouldsboro. Raw hides shipped from Australia and the western United States came to Gouldsboro by railroad and then were taken in two-ton loads by horse drawn wagons over a plank road to Thornhurst for tanning.

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Community Medical Center
1800 Mulberry Street
Scranton, PA 18510
570-969-8000

Reservations

Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Recreational Opportunities

SWIMMING: The sand beach at Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are open from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to mid-September, 8 a.m. to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please follow posted rules. The Tobyhanna bathhouse has flush toilets and changing areas. Showers are available for a fee. Gouldsboro has rustic restrooms.



FISHING: The common fish in the 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake and the 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake are bass, pickerel, yellow perch, catfish and sunfish. Tobyhanna Lake also has brook trout. Gouldsboro Lake also has muskellunge, walleye, crappie, sucker and fallfish. An ADA accessible fishing pier is available at each park.

ICE FISHING: 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake and the 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake are popular for ice fishing. Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

ICE SKATING: Ice skating is available as natural conditions permit. Tobyhanna State Park has a 1.2-acre area near Parking Area 3. Gouldsboro State Park has a 1 acre area near Parking Lot 4. Ice thickness is not monitored. Be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Most of Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, black bear, snowshoe hare, squirrel and turkey. Furbearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, fox, coyote and raccoon. Hunting is also permitted in nearby state game lands 127 and 312.

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 car, trailer or leased campsite. The only exception is that law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* may carry said firearm concealed on their person while they are within the park.

BOATING: electric motors only

The 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake has 60 overnight mooring spaces. The 250-acre Gouldsboro Lake has 50 overnight mooring spaces. A boat rental at each lake has rowboats and canoes and is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day, except in inclement weather.

A state park mooring permit is required for overnight mooring and is available at the Tobyhanna State Park office.

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state.

Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launching 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.



PICNICKING: Picnicking is permitted throughout the year.

Tobyhanna State Park provides four picnic areas with picnic tables and charcoal grills. Three of the areas are wooded and one is in an open, grassy area. A small playfield is near Parking Area 4. There is an ADA accessible picnic pavilion.

Gouldsboro State Park provides five wooded picnic areas with picnic tables and charcoal grills. There is an ADA accessible picnic pavilion with electricity.

Picnic pavilions can be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. If unreserved the picnic pavilion is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: In Gouldsboro State Park, Old 611 and Prospect Rock trails begin in the day use area. In Tobyhanna State Park, Lakeside Trail is an improved surface trail that circles the lake and borders the Black Bear and Bender Swamps Natural Area.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Tobyhanna has five rustic sites. Sites One to Four accommodate up to 20 people. Site Five accommodates up to 40 people. Or, all sites can be combined to accommodate up to 120 people. The area is adjacent to Parking Lot Four and is open year-round. It has vault toilets and running water.

SNOWMOBILING: Tobyhanna State Park provides a one-way snowmobile trail 5.5 miles in length that runs counterclockwise on Lakeside (Blue) Trail. The trail begins at Lot One, which has restrooms, parking and unloading space.

Conditions permitting, snowmobiles may be operated only on the designated, one-way trail from the day after the last deer season in December until April 1. Operators and passengers must follow the PA Snowmobile Law. Please remember to respect the environment and the rights of others. Snowmobiles are prohibited in Gouldsboro State Park.

CAMPING: flush toilets and hot showers

Tobyhanna's 140-site camping area opens the second Friday in April and closes the third Sunday in October. A playground is available for children. Trailers and motor homes may use a convenient, sanitary dump station at the campground entrance.

Due to the high elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, campers should be prepared for cool nighttime temperatures, even during the summer months. Pets are permitted at designated campsites for a fee.

History

The landscape of the area is of broad, flat, swampy areas intermixed with low hills covered with a northern hardwood forest. Common tree species are beech, birch and maple. This landscape affected the settlement and industries of the area.

ICE INDUSTRY: From about 1900 to 1936, Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro lakes were the site of active ice industries. The ice was cut from the lakes during the winter and stored in large barn-like structures. During the rest of the year, the ice was added to railroad boxcars hauling fresh produce and meats destined for East Coast cities. Boxcar loads of ice were also shipped to cities for use in family iceboxes (early refrigerators). During the summer when ice usage peaked, up to 150 boxcar loads per day shipped out of the Tobyhanna, Gouldsboro and Klondike (near Gouldsboro) plants. Some ice was even shipped to Florida for use in hospitals.

LAND ACQUISITION: In 1912, the federal government acquired the land that became the Tobyhanna Military Reservation. In World War I, (1914-1918), the Army used the reservation as a tank and ambulance corps training center and the National Guard used it as an artillery-training center. From 1918 to 1931, the reservation was used for artillery training.

In the early 1930s, the reservation housed Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees. From 1937 to 1941, the reservation served as an artillery training center for West Point cadets. During World War II, the reservation housed German prisoners-of-war. From 1946 to 1948, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used the reservation. In 1948, the War Assets Administration took control of the property and in April of 1949, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania received title to most of the 26,000 acres, with the remaining area operated as the Tobyhanna Army Depot. Of the land acquired, about two-thirds of the area was made into Game Land 127, and the remaining one-third was used to create both Gouldsboro and Tobyhanna state parks.

Tobyhanna State Park opened to the public in 1949, complete with parking areas, swimming beach, boat rental and boat launching site, water supply and sanitary facilities. The camping area was added in 1959.

The former Department of Forests and Waters (DFW) subsequently acquired additional properties, and in 1956, the former Pennsylvania Fish Commission (PFC) purchased Gouldsboro Lake and land not included in the larger government tract.

In 1958, the DFW and the PFC agreed to combine the area owned by both agencies into a single recreational site. Gouldsboro State Park opened to the public in 1958. In 2004, the lake and land owned by the PA Fish and Boat Commission was transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Wildlife Watching

Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are in the Pocono Plateau, a rugged highland with rocky soil, nutrient-poor bogs, dark evergreen forests and a diversity of animals and plants.

About 20,000 years ago, a giant sheet of ice at least one mile thick covered the area. Evidence of the glacier is the very rocky soil that is called glacial till and the abundance of bogs.

Much of the park is characterized by sphagnum moss bogs, evergreen trees and thin, moist, rocky soil. Blackburnian warbler, red-breasted nuthatch and northern waterthrush are common to this habitat. In the spring, spotted and Jefferson salamanders and wood frogs flock to the bogs to breed. Interesting plants like the carnivorous pitcher plant, cotton grass and many sedges inhabit the bogs. The carnivorous plant yellow bladderwort lives in some of the bogs and in Tobyhanna Lake. In the underwater portion of the plant, small sacks trap tiny aquatic animals.

Due to the logging of the forests, large portions have regrown with a mix of deciduous trees like American beech, many species of oak and red maple trees. American redstart, red-eyed vireo and Louisiana waterthrush are common to these forests.

In early May, before any trees have leaves, serviceberry trees flower. In mid-June, the plentiful mountain laurel blooms, followed in late-June to early-July by rhododendron. In mid-July, highbush blueberries bear fruit, providing a feast for bears and birds.



Black bear are common in the park. This omnivore eats plants, grasses, berries and occasionally meat. Unfortunately, bear find human food to be nearly irresistible. Please observe wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed wildlife.

Keep your food in the trunk of a car or in a camper. Black bear normally avoid people, but bear dependent on eating human food can become slightly aggressive when people get between them and food. If you come in contact with a black bear, try chasing it away by making loud noises like yelling, honking a car horn or banging a pot. Notify a park employee if you have difficulties with a bear. Never approach a bear and be especially wary of mother bears and cubs.

Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Feeding raccoons, squirrels or chipmunks may expose you to the threat of rabies. Feeding Canada geese at the swimming areas results in large quantities of fecal droppings, which is offensive to park visitors.

Trails: 19 Miles of Trails

The rugged terrain of Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks makes for challenging but rewarding hiking. All trails are blazed. Double blazes indicate a change of direction or a junction of two trails.

Follow these rules for a safe hike:

- An adult should accompany children.
- Be sure to wear hiking boots.
- Motor vehicles are not permitted on the trails, except snowmobiles are permitted on designated trails.



TRAILS AT GOULDSBORO

PROSPECT ROCK TRAIL: 5.8 miles, blue blaze, difficult hiking

This large, loop trail begins in the day use area. Some sections follow the old entrance road and Old Route 611, which are suitable for bicycling and cross-country skiing, but there are several very rocky sections.

OLD ROUTE 611: 1.25 miles, blue blaze, easy hiking

This flat, wide trail runs along the western side of Gouldsboro State Park, paralleling I-380. Part of the trail is Prospect Rock Trail. This trail is excellent for hiking, bicycling and cross-country skiing.

TRAILS AT TOBYHANNA

LAKESIDE TRAIL: 5.1 miles, blue blaze, easy hiking This improved trail has a hardened base for hiking and bicycling in summer and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in winter. Although not recommended for people with disabilities, wheelchair users have completed the trail. Part of the trail is on the paved road. Allow at least 2.5 hours to complete the entire trail around Tobyhanna Lake.

YELLOW TRAIL: 3.3 miles, yellow blaze, difficult hiking

It is a 6.6-mile walk from the trailhead on Lakeside Trail to PA 196 and back. Allow three hours for this trip. Yellow Trail is a very demanding hike and should not be attempted without the proper hiking footwear. An adult should accompany children and no one should hike the trail alone. Be prepared to 'rock hop' and cross a few minor wet areas. This trail follows the border of the Black Bear and Bender Swamps Natural Area and passes through several other wetlands and boulder fields created by the last glacial period.

TRAILS AT TOBYHANNA AND GOULDSBORO
FRANK GANTZ TRAIL: 3.2 miles, red blaze, difficult hiking

Frank Gantz Trail connects to Tobyhanna at Lakeside Trail and to Gouldsboro in the south day use parking lot. Children should not hike this trail without adult supervision. Special care is needed to cross PA 4013 (Tobyhanna Road). This is a very demanding trail with many areas where 'rock hopping' is necessary. Good hiking boots are essential for a pleasant and safe hike. Allow at least three hours for a round trip.

Nearby Attractions

Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro state parks are in the famous Pocono Mountains resort area. Nearby attractions include: Lake Wallenpaupack, one of the largest man-made lakes in Pennsylvania; state game lands 127 and 312; Big Pocono State Park at the top of Camelback Mountain, which features a view of three states and a ski area; and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

For more information about the many attractions and accommodations, please contact: Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, 800-POCONOS. www.800poconos.com

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible. 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.

Tobyhanna State Park

Tobyhanna State Park is in scenic Monroe and Wayne counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. The 5,440-acre park includes the 170-acre Tobyhanna Lake. Tobyhanna is derived from an American Indian word meaning "a stream whose banks are fringed with alder."



Directions

The park entrance is 2.1 miles north of the community of Tobyhanna on PA 423. PA 423 intersects with I-380, 2.5 miles south of the park entrance. The park can also be reached from Interstate 84 via PA 507, PA 191 and PA 423, a total distance of 11.4 miles.

Caution: Please Read

Visitors using more remote and undeveloped areas of Tobyhanna State Park should be aware that they could encounter old, unexploded artillery shells. Three types of shells have been found in the park. The largest projectile is 18 to 24 inches in length and about 6 inches in diameter. The medium projectile is 2.5 inches in diameter and from 10 to 14 inches in length. The smallest projectile is 3 inches long and 1.25 inches in diameter. Shells are found in severely rusted condition without any recognizable markings or imprints. Their overall appearance is that of a pointed cylinder of rusted steel. Visitors encountering such items should not touch, attempt to move or otherwise disturb the items, and should call the park office and report the location to insure proper disposal.

State Park Natural Area

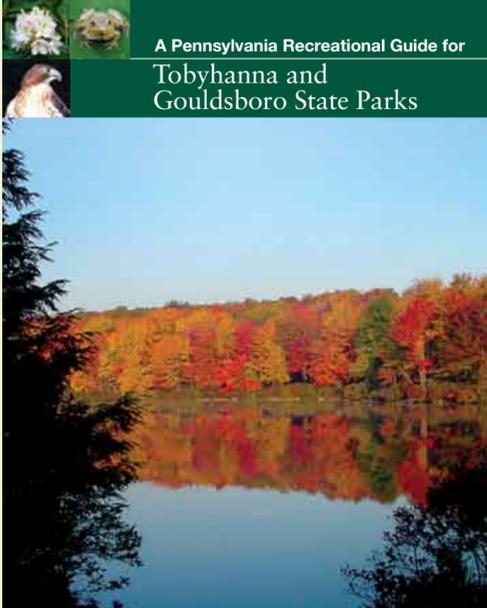
The 1,600-acre Bender/Black Bear Swamps contains acidic shrub swamps. Openings through the trees contain sphagnum moss and rare plants and animals. Bender/Black Bear Swamps will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention.

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Pocono Medical Center
206 East Brown Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
570-421-4000



A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Tobyhanna and
Gouldsboro State Parks

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



For More Information Contact:
Tobyhanna and Gouldsboro State Parks
P. O. Box 387
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-0387
570-894-8336
e-mail: tobyhannasp@state.pa.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to
Saturday, for state park information and
reservations.

2009

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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.

- Uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors. Pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles, or take it home with you.

- Soliciting and posting signs is prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.