



*Try Before You Buy—*  
**PENNSYLVANIA'S  
 TACKLE LOANER  
 PROGRAM**



photo-Spring Gearhart

by *Jessica Aiello*

Fishing is a wonderful outdoor activity for people of all ages and abilities, but getting started requires an investment in some equipment unless you first give it a try for free. Many Pennsylvania state parks have fishing tackle that you can borrow for free. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have teamed up to supply fishing rods, reels and tackle boxes full of bobbers, lures and sinkers. All you need to provide is a willing spirit and maybe a few worms.

Thirty-eight state parks participate in the program. Visit [dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Fishing](https://dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Fishing). Give the park office a call to inquire about borrowing some gear for your next visit.

“With 101 state parks and all 20 state forests offering fishing opportunities, everyone can find a great place to try their hand at fishing,” said Marci Mowery, President of Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Some of the areas offer Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible areas, which are perfect for anglers in wheelchairs or with other mobility needs. You can find a map of ADA-accessible fishing docks, kayak/canoe launches and other amenities at [paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/outdoors-for-everyone](https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/outdoors-for-everyone).

The loaner gear is free, but anyone fishing who is 16 years or older is required to obtain a fishing license, even if you are just trying the sport for the first time. Buy a license online ([HuntFish.PA.gov](https://huntfish.pa.gov)) from the PFBC or at one of 700 locations across Pennsylvania. ☐

#EXPLOREPAWATERS



Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County

photo-Linda Stout

### Fishing Tackle Loaner program:



[fishandboat.com/About-Us/Affiliates/Loaner-Program/Pages/default.aspx](https://fishandboat.com/About-Us/Affiliates/Loaner-Program/Pages/default.aspx)

### ADA-accessible recreation facilities:



[paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/outdoors-for-everyone](https://paparksandforests.org/our-work/recreation/outdoors-for-everyone)

### Where to fish, boat and paddle:



[explorepawaters.com/find-a-waterway/](https://explorepawaters.com/find-a-waterway/)