LOLETA RECREATION AREA

FINDING THE AREA – Loleta Recreation Area is located about six miles south of the village of Marienville via South Forest Street.

FACILITIES – Loleta offers 38 campsites. Campsites in the upper loop are recommended for tents and small RV’s or trailers. The lower loop campsites will accommodate tents, and RV’s or trailers up to 50’. Each campsite has a tent pad, picnic table, and fire ring. Many sites in the lower loop are close together and are suitable for multiple family use. These sites are shown on the map. Treated water and vault toilets are available in both camping loops. The bathhouse at the beach has flush toilets and hot showers. Reservations are available for selected sites.

Two group camping areas are available for groups up to 50 people. Treated water, vault toilets, picnic tables and fire rings are available at both sites. Group sites must be reserved.

The picnic area offers two picnic shelters, cooking grills, amphitheater, volleyball court, and swimming beaches. The bathhouse has changing rooms, flush toilets, and hot showers. Trout fishing is good in Millstone Creek. The picturesque Clarion River, about four miles south of the campground, offers excellent fishing and canoeing. A three-mile hiking trail, marked with gray diamonds, starts and ends at Loleta. The trail passes a scenic overlook of the Millstone valley.

All facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessible campsites are shown as on map.

RESERVATIONS – Loleta has individual sites and two group camping areas. Group size is limited to 50 people or less. Selected campsites are available for reservation by calling: 1-877-444-6777 – Toll Free • 1-518-885-3639 – International 1-877-833-6777 – TDD • www.Recreation.gov

Reservation payments can be made by VISA, MasterCard, Discover card, mailed personal check, or money order. A reservation fee will be charged for family units and for group units. For a three-day holiday weekend, you must reserve a site for at least two nights. Reservations for family sites can be made 5 to 240 days in advance; group sites may be reserved 3 to 360 days in advance. Group sites can be reserved 3 to 360 days in advance.

For campers not using the reservation system, payment at the sites can be reserved 3 to 360 days in advance. For campers not using the reservation system, payment at the sites can be reserved 3 to 360 days in advance.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS – Buzzard Swamp Wildlife Management Area, about five miles north of Loleta, is cooperatively managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Forest Service. Eleven miles of trails for hikers provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The Songbird Sojourn Interpretive Trail is 1.5 miles long. The self-guided trail brochure is at the Marienville Ranger Station.

HISTORY – Loleta Recreation Area was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on the site where, just 20 years earlier, a bustling logging town of 600 inhabitants had stood. Established in 1889, Loleta was a typical example of the boomtowns associated with the age of exploitation, when the hills of Pennsylvania were stripped of trees. The town hinged on large sawmills, shingle mills, broom handle factory, and a rail connection for shipping its products to Sheffield, PA. Once the timber supply was exhausted in 1913, the mills shut down and the town was dismantled and deserted.

The federal government purchased the site in 1926, adding it to the newly formed Allegheny National Forest. In the 1930s, the Forest Service reconstructed the old Loleta mill pond, using CCC labor, then added a bathhouse, swimming area, picnic shelters and landscaping. The distinctive quality of CCC workmanship is evident today in the dam stonework and the log construction of the old bathhouse. The camping loops were added in the 1960s.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about this and other recreation opportunities, contact:

Marienville Ranger District
131 Smokey Lane • Marienville, PA 16239 • 814-927-6628
http://fs.usda.gov/allegheny

NW Pennsylvania’s Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau
175 Main Street, Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-5197 • 800-348-9393 • www.visitpago.com

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION AREAS RULES

• Permissible length of stay is fourteen (14) days. Leaving your campsite unoccupied during the first night after equipment has been set up, or leaving equipment for more than 24 hours thereafter, is prohibited.

• Please be considerate of other campers. Quiet time is from 10:00 p.m. to 6 a.m.

• Check out time is 2:00 p.m. Camping fees must be paid within 30 minutes after arrival. Don’t forget to put your site number and your license plate number on your fee envelope.

• Campsites should not be used by more than eight persons. Each campsite contains a picnic table, fire ring or grill, and accommodates a tent and parking for two vehicles and a wheeled camping unit. Additional vehicles will be charged a fee and must park in public parking areas. Other recreation equipment associated with a campsite (boats, trailers, jet skis, motorcycles) are not charged. Park all vehicles on the campsite spur, not on the grass.

• Weapons, firearms, and fireworks must not be discharged in this area.

• Waste material from trailers must be deposited at a dump station. Please place trash in the provided receptacles.

• Please build fires only in designated fireplaces. Dead material, on the ground, may be used for fires, but living trees, shrubs, and plants must not be cut or damaged.

• Please don’t pound nails into trees, picnic tables, and other government property; they are unsightly, and may create a safety hazard. Heat from lanterns hung on trees can burn or damage trees. Pet leashes wrapped around tree trunks wear bark away and may eventually kill the tree.

• Pets must be kept on a leash, and are not allowed on beaches or in the water.

• No camping is allowed in picnic areas.

THIS NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION SITES WERE DEVELOPED FOR YOUR USE AND ENJOYMENT. PLEASE KEEP IT AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND IT. NEAT, CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE.

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Leave No Trace!

Leave No Trace is a National non-profit organization that unites public and private partners to teach minimum impact skills and ethics to all outdoor enthusiasts.

7 Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Principles
1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Land stewardship ethics courtesy of Leave No Trace (www.LNT.org)