



Lodge and marina

Photo by Steve Shaluta

Description: Tygart Dam was built for flood control in 1938, creating a 10-mile-long lake. The 1,740-acre lake and surrounding state park are nestled in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. More than seven miles of hiking trails provide good access throughout the area. Accommodations managed by West Virginia State Parks include a 20-room lodge and 11 modern cottages. In addition, campers have access to 40 camping sites suitable for campers or tents. Pontoon and fishing boat rentals are available. Adjacent to the state park, Pleasant Creek Wildlife Management Area provides hunters and hikers another 3,030 acres to explore.

Viewing Information: Tygart Lake is a popular destination for many outdoor enthusiasts, so if you're looking for wildlife, get up early when wildlife is most active and humans aren't. The lake is exceptionally clear and is popular with snorkelers and scuba divers, especially around Henderson Rocks. Patient divers can catch a glimpse of bass, walleye, musky, crappie and perch. Schools of white bass can often be seen chasing minnows at the surface.

The lake's numerous inlet streams such as Doe Run and Flag Run provide a haven for great blue heron, and are also good for seeing several waterfowl species including black ducks, mallards and Canada goose. Look for wood duck in the quieter inlets and backwater areas. The steep, wooded mountainsides along Tygart Lake provide habitat for white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse and numerous reptiles and amphibians. In spring and summer, breeding neotropical migratory birds are common including American redstart, cerulean warbler, Baltimore oriole and wood thrush. Visitors can periodically see bald eagle and osprey.



Great Blue Heron

Directions:

From I-79, take U.S. Route 50 or U.S. Route 119 to Grafton. From Grafton, take U.S. Route 50 to South Grafton and follow signs to the park.

Closest town: Grafton

Ownership: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (304-265-6144); Lake – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (304-265-1760)

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