

# DAY-USE ACTIVITIES



## Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest



## ENJOY THE FOREST ON LAND OR WATER!

**Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest abounds with outdoor opportunities.** Enjoy a picnic, swim, boat, canoe, kayak, fish, use the motorized recreation trails and keep your eyes open for abundant wildlife. The Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest is sustainably managed for wildlife, water quality, forest health and wood products. You may encounter timber cutting operations within the forest.

### BOAT, CANOE AND KAYAK

Over 3,200 acres of water offer scenic boating access to the islands and backwaters of Peshtigo River Flowages.

- **16 boat landings** provide river and flowage access options.
- The **Peshtigo River** is considered one of the great paddling rivers of Wisconsin — the upper Peshtigo offering some of the most challenging whitewater rapids in the area. Rental kayaks and shuttle services are available from local outfitters. The Roaring Rapids (Farm Dam Landing to Boat Landing #12) are recommended for skilled paddlers only.
- **Johnson Falls Dam to Spring Rapids** contains class I and II rapids (has fast-moving water and straightforward rapids). Trout fishing is common in this section of the river. Parking is available on Wisconsin Public Service property near the Johnson Falls Dam and off the angler access roads on state forest property.
- Driftwood provides valuable fish and wildlife habitat and adds to the unique character of the flowages. It is rapidly disappearing through natural processes and illegal harvest. **Removal of driftwood is prohibited.**
- Boaters are advised to **use slow speeds** and/or use deeper channels for navigation as submerged rocks and snags are numerous in the river.
- Be cautious of **fluctuating water levels** on free-flowing river sections.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

### VEHICLE STICKER

A vehicle admission sticker is only required on motor vehicles at Old Veteran's Lake Campground.

### SWIMMING

There are two designated swimming beaches within the state forest: one at Old Veteran's Lake Campground (vehicle admission sticker required) and one at Boat Landing #9 (no vehicle admission sticker needed). Both swimming areas provide gradual slopes and sandy beach areas. For everyone's safety, **please do not swim in boat launch areas.** Swimming is also available at Woods Lake within Governor Thompson State Park.

### FOREST HEADQUARTERS

N10008 Paust Lane, Crivitz, WI 54114  
**715-757-3965**



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



## FISHING

The Peshtigo River and its flowages provide excellent fishing opportunities. Minimal shoreline development provides anglers and other recreationists with breathtaking views.

### CALDRON FALLS RESERVOIR

A Class A musky water with a maximum depth of 40 feet, this reservoir covers 1,018 acres. Fish species present are walleye, northern pike, panfish and large and smallmouth bass. Most of the bottom is either sand or muck and the water is slightly stained.



*Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR*

### HIGH FALLS RESERVOIR

This reservoir covers 1,498 acres with a maximum depth of 54 feet. Musky, northern pike, walleye, largemouth and smallmouth bass and panfish are present. Most of the bottom is sand or muck, and the water is slightly stained.

### JOHNSON FALLS FLOWAGE

A smaller flowage of 158 acres with a maximum depth of 37 feet, offers musky, walleye, trout, bass and panfish. About 70% of the bottom is sand, with the remaining comprised of 10% gravel, 10% boulders and lesser amounts of rubble and muck.

### BAGLEY FLOWAGE

Also known as "Potato Rapids," near the City of Peshtigo, this flowage is 281 acres with a maximum depth of 20 feet. Fish include musky, walleye, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass and panfish. The lake's water clarity is low.

### PESHTIGO RIVER FLY FISHING AREA

This area is located below Johnson Falls Dam to Spring Rapids. Only artificial lures may be used on this stretch of the river. This restriction applies to all species of fish. Consult the current *Trout Fishing Regulations and Guide* for current regulations. Located below the dam, this stretch is subject to large variations in water level. Use caution when fishing or wading this area.

### OTHER AREAS

- **Several unnamed lakes and streams** are located throughout the state forest and offer additional scenic fishing opportunities. Contact the state forest headquarters for details.
- **Walleye are managed** with a protected slot size restriction on all four flowages. Be sure to consult the current fishing regulations for size and bag limits.

## MOTORIZED RECREATION

The state forest has approximately 20 miles of snowmobile trails, which may also be used as winter ATV trails. Trails are managed in cooperation with Marinette County and local snowmobile clubs. ATV use is only permitted on the short stretch of the Woodland Trails ATV Club Trail that runs through the state forest or during winter months on snowmobile trails. These are the **only permitted** ATV riding options in the forest. Marinette County has an extensive network of ATV trails. Trail maps are available online or from the Marinette County Tourism Department.



*Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR*

## PICNIC AREAS

Picnic areas are available at Boat Landings #8 and #9 on Caldron Falls Flowage and at Boat Landing #5 on High Falls Flowage. Nearby Governor Thompson State Park also offers picnic areas at Woods Lake and Boat Landing #13.

## LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Ambulance: Dial 911 • Aurora Medical Center: 715-735-4200 • Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222 (or 911)  
Marinette County Sheriff's Department: 715-732-7600 (or 911) • Forest Headquarters: 715-757-3965



Come back soon! And be sure to visit Wisconsin's other northern state forests.

1 Governor Knowles State Forest.....	715-463-2898	5 Governor Earl Peshtigo River State Forest ...	715-757-3965
2 Brule River State Forest .....	715-372-5678	6 Black River State Forest .....	715-284-4103
3 Flambeau River State Forest.....	715-332-5271	7 Coulee Experimental State Forest .....	608-785-9007
4 Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.....	715-542-3923		

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) • Dial 911 for Emergencies

DNR Call Center (Toll-free 7 a.m.-10 p.m.) **1-888-936-7463** • Warden Tip Line: **1-800-847-9367**