

Otters, Outings, and Open Trails this Winter



Get ready for a winter adventure in Clarion County that pairs peaceful trails with playful wildlife. In Cook Forest State Park, our winter trails — like Fire Tower Road, Toms Run Road, and part of Forest Drive — welcome snowshoers and cross-country skiers. Drive or stroll along the Wild & Scenic Clarion River: this is when river otters are most active, and their glossy coats really stand out against snow and ice.

If you'd rather go with a guide, keep an eye on the events calendar for the DCNR's "Otter Watch" tours — the park organizes interpretive drives during the season so you can explore prime viewing spots safely and quietly.

While you're out, tune in to the forest around you — bird calls, deer tracks, and even signs of otter dens can make the outing as enriching as the big moments. Paired with the fun of snowshoeing or skiing, it's a season-defining way to connect with nature here in Clarion County.

Featured Article: ["A Guide to Winter Shopping & Outdoor Trails"](#)

Community Events & Activities

[5th Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Parade](#)

December 6th, 2025

Come to Main Street Clarion for a celebration of the upcoming holiday with your ugliest Christmas sweater and a visit from Santa Claus.

[Annual First Day Hike](#)

January 1st, 2026

Join the Friends of Cook Forest on the Longfellow Trail. As the year resets, take this time to pause, reflect, and walk peacefully amongst the old-growth trees of the Forest Cathedral. Dogs on leashes are welcome to join.

Festive Concerts & Performances

[Keridwyn: Celtic Music Performance](#)

Redbank Valley Historical Society, New Bethlehem

December 5th, 2025

Returning from their nationwide tour, C Street Brass returns to Lincoln Hall for a collection of Christmas music to set the tone for the holiday.

[TAKE3 Christmas Concert](#)

[Classical Flair with Rockstar Charisma](#)

Allegheny Riverstone Center for the Arts, Foxburg

December 14th, 2025

Experience this genre-bending trio mixing pop, classic, and rock together to celebrate Christmas with knock-your-socks-off violin, piano, and cello music that defies expectations.

[C Street Brass Christmas Concert, "Let The Trumpets Sound"](#)

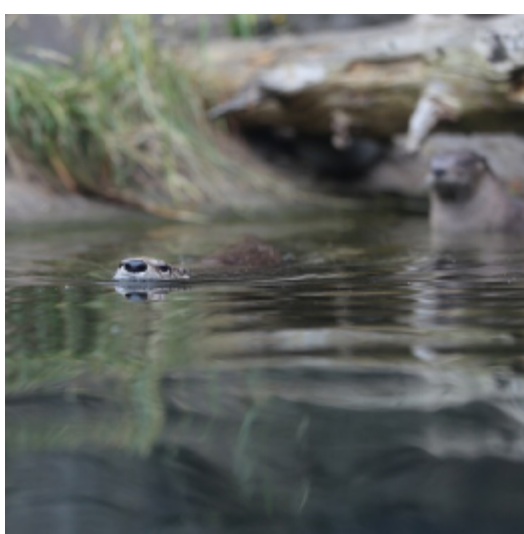
Allegheny Riverstone Center for the Arts, Foxburg

December 21st, 2025

Returning from their nationwide tour, C Street Brass returns to Lincoln Hall for a collection of Christmas music to set the tone for the holiday.

[Click here to access the full calendar of events](#)

Start Planning: Curated Winter Reads to Inspire Your Trip



[Spotting Otters on the Clarion River: A Hidden Joy of Cook Forest](#)

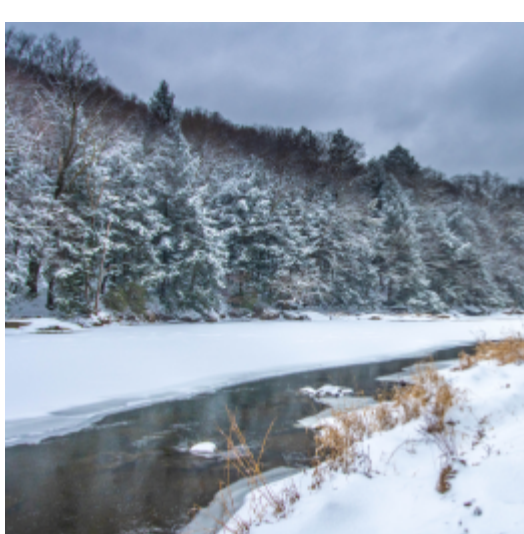
There's something quietly thrilling about seeing a river otter — that sleek, playful silhouette drifting through the water, nose breaking the mirror surface just long enough to notice you. In the forests and waterways around Clarion County, that moment is possible.



[Spotting Snow Buntings & Other Seasonal Fowl: Winter Birding in Clarion County](#)

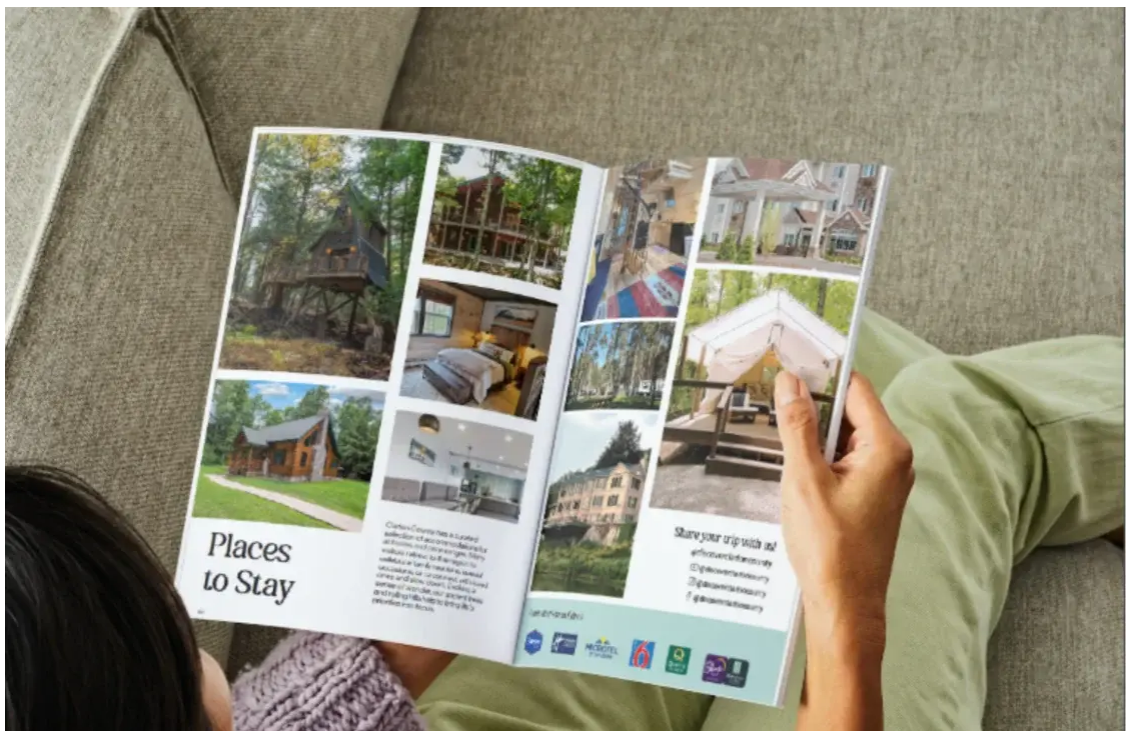
Birding in the winter months around Clarion County is quite different than during the migration and summer seasons. On a day with clear skies and roads, plan for a day outdoors surrounded by an array of diverse and beautiful wildlife.

Photo Source: Steve Gosser



[Wintry Getaway Along the Clarion River](#)

As temperatures cool and snow falls, serene countryside and old-growth forest are echoes of prehistoric peace. Cozy up in a cabin, cross-country ski, or skate wild ice. This winter, create your calm in Clarion County.



Getaway Guide 2025/2026

At 60 pages, our curated spreads feature plenty of ideas and listings to inspire your next trip to Clarion County.

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