A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Fort Washington State Park

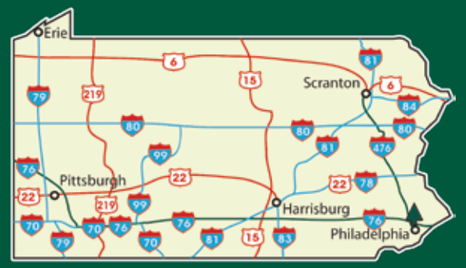








pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Fort Washinton State Park
500 South Bethlehem Pike
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-591-5250
FortWashingtonSP@pa.gov

Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks PAStateParks

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Fort Washington State Park

Rich in modern recreational facilities and historical significance, Fort Washington consists of 493 acres in eastern Montgomery County. The park takes its name from the temporary fort built by George Washington's troops in the fall of 1777, before heading to Valley Forge. Today, the park is popular for hiking, picnicking, and birdwatching. In the spring flowering dogwoods can been seen, while autumn's highlight is the raptor migration that passes over the Hawk Watch Observation Decks.

Directions

The park lies between the towns of Fort Washington and Flourtown along the Bethlehem Pike. It is about two miles from PA Turnpike exit 339.

Park Office:
GPS DD: Lat. 40.13027 Long. -75.21764 (500 South Bethlehem Pike)

Flourtown Day Use Area:
GPS DD: Lat. 40.10633 Long. -75.21805 (West Mill Road)

Militia Hill Day Use Area:
GPS DD: Lat. 40.12436 Long. -75.22290 (Militia Hill Road)
GPS DD: Lat. 40.11811 Long. -75.23606 (6250 Joshua Road)

Reservations

Make online reservations at www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

Trash Disposal and Recycling

Fort Washington State Park participates in a carry-in/carry out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the number of disposable items brought to the park and take all trash and recyclables home.

Recreational Opportunities

PICNICKING: Flourtown Day Use Area and Militia Hill Day Use Area feature over 300 picnic tables. Large playfields provide ample room for group or individual picnic activities. Three picnic pavilions are available for year-round use, weather conditions permitting. Pavilions are available for rent with advance reservations. If not reserved, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ADA accessible facilities include pavilions, a playground, and restrooms in the Militia Hill Day Use Area along with a pavilion and restroom in the Flourtown Day Use Area.

SPORTS FIELD: The softball field in the Flourtown Day Use Area is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: This rustic area is open year round for eligible organized groups and has a maximum capacity of 220 people. The site can be reserved 11 months in advance to two days before arrival by calling 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), Monday to Saturday, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, or visiting www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks.



FISHING: Wissahickon Creek flows through the park. It is popular for spring trout fishing and summer warmwater fishing. Warmwater species include carp, catfishes, panfishes, and suckers. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HAWK WATCH OBSERVATION DECKS: Every fall, raptors migrate along the east coast on their way southward. From September 1 through October 31, volunteers man the "Watch" daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to identify and count the raptors. The data collected is reported daily to The Hawk Migration Association of North America. This citizen science effort, running annually since 1988, helps us better understand raptor populations in North America.

The decks provide a scenic overlook year round, and lovely views of the butterfly garden. The lower deck is ADA accessible. For more information or to bring a group to the observation decks, call the park office at 215-591-5250.

HIKING: 4.2 miles
Moderately difficult trails wander through forest and open fields.

The Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail is a 2.5-mile multi-use trail that provides opportunities for biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing along Wissahickon Creek. It connects Militia Hill and Flourtown day use areas via Montgomery County park land. Plans are underway to extend the trail through local communities to the south and connect with Fairmount Park's Forbidden Drive in Chestnut Hill.

BIKING: 2 miles
Bicycling is permitted on park roads and the Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail from Militia Hill to Flourtown. E-bikes are permitted but must follow all e-bike guidelines. www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/EBikePolicy

DOG WALKING: Pets are permitted in Fort Washington State Park. All pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Be considerate when walking your dog and clean up after your pet.

DISC GOLF: The wooded, 18-hole course begins in Lot 2 in the Militia Hill Day Use Area. The course map is posted on a kiosk.

NO HUNTING: Hunting is prohibited in all areas of Fort Washington State Park.

Winter Activities

SLEDDING: A 400-foot slope for sledding is near Lot 5 in the Militia Hill Day Use Area.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Both beginner and experienced skiers can enjoy the 1.7-mile loop trail in the Militia Hill Day Use Area and the 2.5-mile Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail.

History

Fort Washington State Park and the community of Fort Washington take their name from the temporary fort built here by soldiers of the American Revolution in the fall of 1777. Formerly known as Whitemarsh, 12,000 soldiers of the Continental Army encamped here from November 2 until December 11, 1777.

Following the unsuccessful battle of Germantown, General Washington chose the heights of the Whitemarsh Valley as an easily defendable position. From here, he pondered the possibility of launching an attack against General Howe's British Army in Philadelphia.

Although Washington decided against an attack, the British marched out from Philadelphia on December 5 in order to engage the Americans in battle. Because of Washington's strong position, only local skirmishes took place. After much marching back and forth, Howe led his army back to Philadelphia on December 8.

Knowing his poorly-clad men needed better quarters, and also to protect the iron forges and foundries in the Schuylkill Valley, Washington left Whitemarsh on December 11, 1777, and marched the Continental Army to Valley Forge.

Although Fort Washington State Park is beyond the boundaries of Philadelphia, the city's famous Fairmount Park Commission began acquiring land here in the early 1920s. The commission, with the assistance of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, administered the park until 1953 when an act by the state legislature turned the park over to the former Department of Forests and Waters, now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

FORT HILL: This hill was the western end of the Continental troop position and was the site of the fort. Though no remnants of the original fort remain, a small reconstructed redoubt exists.

MILITIA HILL: Under the command of generals Armstrong, Cadwalader, and Irvine, the Pennsylvania Militia held positions along this ridge.



CLIFTON HOUSE: Built in 1801, Clifton House lies just north of Fort Hill on Bethlehem Pike. Formerly the Sandy Run Tavern, it now houses a valuable library and museum of local importance. It is operated by the Fort Washington Historical Society and is periodically open to the public. http://historicalsocietyfw.wixsite.com/fwhistory. 215-646-6065

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau. 610-834-1550. www.valleyforge.org

Just south of Fort Hill is **Hope Lodge**, a fine example of early Georgian Colonial Architecture. Built circa 1750, Hope Lodge is managed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is periodically open to the public. 215-646-1595

Valley Forge National Historical Park interprets the significance of the 1777-78 winter encampment of the Continental Army. 610-783-1099. www.nps.gov/vafo



Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.
- Share the road. Drive slowly and watch for bicyclists, children, and wildlife.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

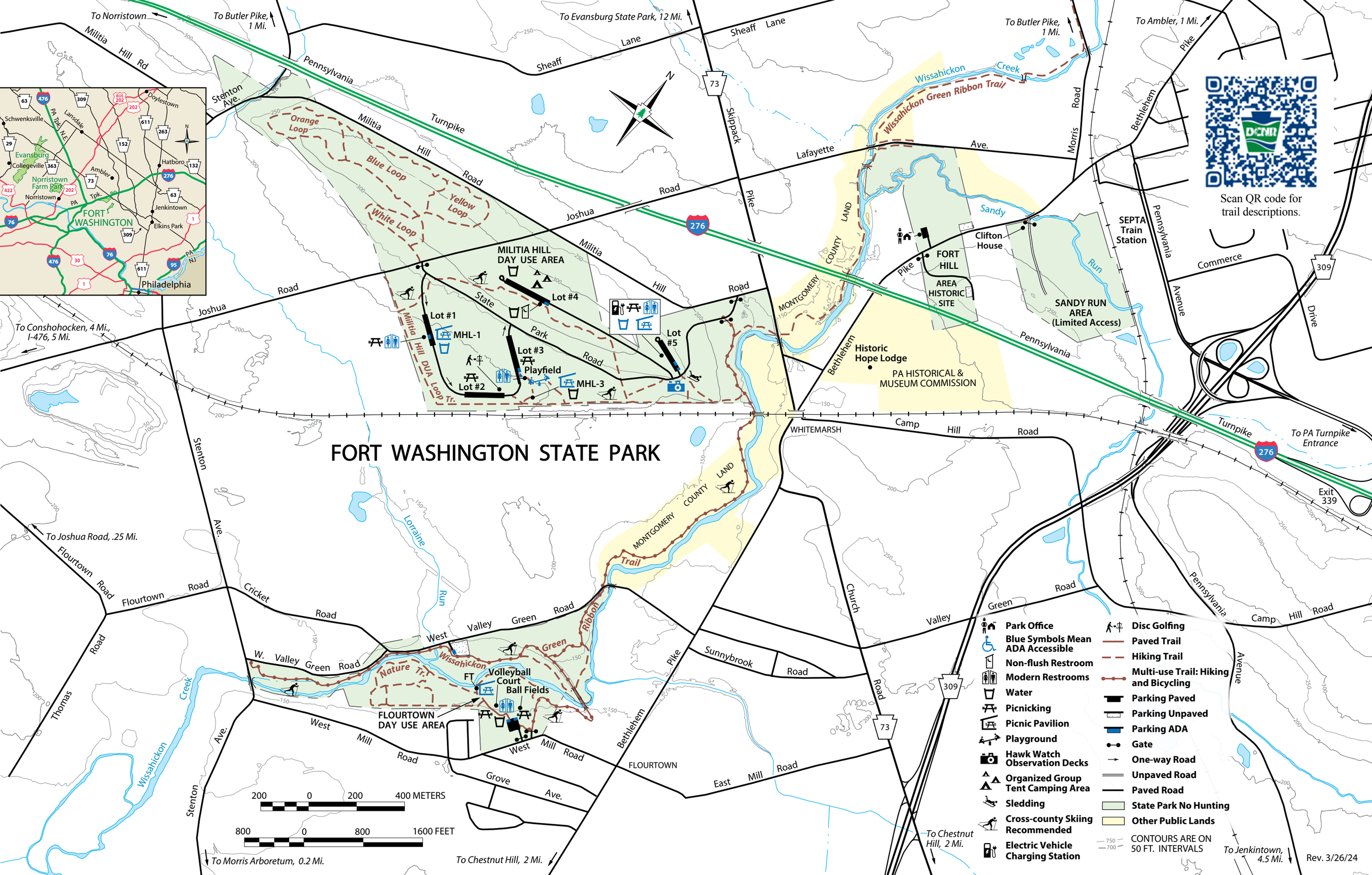
If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Chestnut Hill Hospital
8835 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-248-8200





FORT WASHINGTON STATE PARK
Scan QR code for trail descriptions.
To Norristown
To Butler Pike, 1 Mi.
To Evansburg State Park, 12 Mi.
To Butler Pike, 1 Mi.
To Ambler, 1 Mi.
Militia Hill Rd
Pennsylvania Turnpike
Sheaff Lane
Stenton Ave.
Orange Loop
Blue Loop
Yellow Loop
White Loop
Militia Hill Road
Joshua Road
Lafayette Ave.
Skippack Pike
Wissahickon Creek
Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail
Morris Road
Bethlehem Pike
Sandy Run
Clifton House
FORT HILL
AREA HISTORIC SITE
SANDY RUN AREA (Limited Access)
SEPTA Train Station
Commerce Drive
Pennsylvania Avenue
MILITIA HILL DAY USE AREA
Lot #1
Lot #2
Lot #3
Lot #4
Lot #5
MHL-1
MHL-3
Playfield
State Park Road
Militia Hill DUA Loop Tr.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND
Historic Hope Lodge
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION
WHITEMARSH
Camp Hill Road
To PA Turnpike Entrance
Exit 339
To Conshohocken, 4 Mi., I-476, 5 Mi.
To Joshua Road, .25 Mi.
Flourtown Road
Cricket Road
West Valley Green Road
W. Valley Green Road
Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail
Nature Tr.
Lorraine Run
FT
Volleyball Court
Ball Fields
FLOURTOWN DAY USE AREA
West Mill Road
Grove Ave.
Sunnybrook Road
Church Road
Valley Green Road
FLOURTOWN
East Mill Road
Thomas Road
Stenton Ave.
Wissahickon Creek
To Morris Arboretum, 0.2 Mi.
To Chestnut Hill, 2 Mi.
To Chestnut Hill, 2 Mi.
To Jenkintown, 4.5 Mi.
200 0 200 400 METERS
800 0 800 1600 FEET
Park Office
Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
Non-flush Restroom
Modern Restrooms
Water
Picnicking
Picnic Pavilion
Playground
Hawk Watch Observation Decks
Organized Group Tent Camping Area
Sledding
Cross-county Skiing Recommended
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Disc Golfing
Paved Trail
Hiking Trail
Multi-use Trail: Hiking and Bicycling
Parking Paved
Parking Unpaved
Parking ADA
Gate
One-way Road
Unpaved Road
Paved Road
State Park No Hunting
Other Public Lands
CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS
Rev. 3/26/24
Schwenksville
Doylestown
Lansdale
Evansburg
Collegeville
Norristown Farm Park
Norristown
Ambler
Hatboro
Jenkintown
Elkins Park
FORT WASHINGTON
Philadelphia