Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center encompasses 1,168 acres of forests, fields, and creeks which provide a wealth of recreational and educational opportunities. A visitor center with educational exhibits is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Year-round opportunities for exploring the park include hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

Center educators offer programs for students from preschool through college, as well as community programs focusing on outdoor recreation and the natural and cultural history of the area.

The Jacobsburg National Historic District lies almost entirely within the park property and gives visitors insight into colonial gun manufacturing. The famous Henry Longrifle was once crafted here.

Jacobsburg EEC is a partner in the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape, which is comprised of state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit conservation groups. The partnership promotes land conservation, recreation, environmental education, and green infrastructure. For more information, visit https://LVgreenways.org

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.78401 Long. -75.29358

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center is in Northampton County and can be reached from PA 33 at the Belfast Exit, near Nazareth, Pa.

Learn, Experience, Connect



Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center offers a variety of programs year-round. Gain a better understanding of the center's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

A visitor center with educational exhibits is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and loans equipment for recreational activities.

Standards-based environmental education programs are available to schools. Call the visitor center to schedule a school program. A variety of professional development workshops are offered for teachers.

For more information on programs and other learning experiences, contact the visitor center or explore the online calendar of events. https://events.dcnr.pa.gov

Heritage Education Program

The Jacobsburg Historical Society offers a wide range of exciting historical programs throughout the year. Programs include displays and demonstrations of early gun making at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, located within the Henry Homestead. Historic buildings are open for tours periodically and by appointment.

Living history programs include mid-1840s rendezvous, period encampments, and early American crafts.

Contact the historical society for program and building tour information. 610-759-9029. www.jacobsburghistory.com

Recreational Opportunities

The park is open seven days a week, year-round, from sunrise to sunset.

♿ **PICNICKING:** A picnic area along Belfast Road near Henrys Woods has picnic tables, grills, and modern restrooms.

A pavilion in the Henrys Forge Historic Area accommodates up to 65 people and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. It can be reserved by contacting the center office.

FISHING: Bushkill Creek is stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and provides excellent trout fishing. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

♿ **HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 937 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer and squirrels.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park/center office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.



HIKING: 19 miles

The network of trails access the center's fields, woodlands, and streams. Trail intersections have posts with letters and numbers to aid hikers in navigating the trail system. Visitors are encouraged to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

Restroom facilities are available at the Jacobsburg Visitor Center and the Henrys Woods, Boulton, and Equestrian parking lots.



Bushkill Township Trail

0.36 mile in the park, 2.0 miles total | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

Bushkill Township Trail briefly connects with Jacobsburg EE Center and runs north from Belfast Road to PA 512 in Wind Gap. This section is part of the larger Lehigh Valley Trail Network called THE LINK.

Henrys Woods Trail

1.9 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Orange blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking

This is the most popular trail at Jacobsburg, and often the busiest. The trail winds through remnant old growth forest and along Bushkill Creek. The lower half of the loop is easy and wide starting from the restrooms, and has three water access points. This portion is family and stroller friendly. The second half of the loop is narrow along a steep slope with many exposed roots and brings hikers above Bushkill Creek. This is portion is not stroller friendly.

Homestead Trail

4.77 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Blue blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing recommended

Homestead Trail is a series of interconnected loops accessible from several trailhead/parking locations. The trail is primarily wide with rolling hills and is highlighted by warm season grass and wildflower fields. Restrooms and drinking water available at the visitor center trailhead.

Jacobsburg Trail

3.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Red blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing recommended

This trail of interconnected loops brings visitors through secondary forest and connects Henrys Woods to the remains of the village of Jacobsburg off of State Park Road. Trailheads are at State Park Road, the Main parking lot on Belfast Rd, and at the Boulton parking lot on Henry Road.

JSR Connector Trail

0.92 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding

JSR Connector Trail connects the Jacobsburg Trail to the Sobers Run section of the park. It can be accessed from the State Park Road parking lot and the parking lot on Jacobsburg Road. The trail features some steep rugged slopes and a vernal pool which is the ideal spot to listen to frogs in early spring.



Sobers Run Loop Trails

3.81 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Green blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

This series of interconnected loop trails can be accessed from multiple trailheads. A one-mile portion of this trail system runs along an old rail bed and is flat and easy. Another portion of the trail runs along Sobers Run and features a water crossing for horses connecting to Sobers Run Trail. A non-flush restroom is available at the equestrian parking area off of Belfast Road.



Sobers Run Trail

2.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | White blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding

Sobers Run Trail is a single track that runs along the east side of Sobers Run. A portion of the trail can serve as a short loop or be part of a larger loop by connecting to Sobers Run Loop Trail. The trail is popular with mountain bikers and horseback riders. Stroller use is not recommended.

Teaching Footpaths

0.8 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | No blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended

This is a network of wide, relatively level trails with a few small hills. It provides access to the picnic pavilion, wildlife watching area, native plant garden, and Bushkill Creek. The paths are frequently used by Jacobsburg education staff as a teaching area for field trips, especially during weekdays in the spring and autumn.

Wildlife Watching



The diverse habitats found in the park are home to over 80 species of butterflies, 23 species of mammals, 27 species of reptiles and amphibians, and over 160 species of birds. The best birdwatching opportunities occur during spring and fall migrations.

The center's native gardens and wildlife viewing areas provide the chance to observe birds, butterflies, and small mammals up close. Visit the center office butterfly garden or venture across the road to the native garden and wildlife watching area.

HENRYS WOODS

The portion of the park's woodlands known as Henrys Woods is one of the most beautiful natural resources in the Lehigh Valley and part of the Old Growth Forest Network. Visitors hiking its 1.9-mile trail loop experience the sights, sounds, and coolness of Bushkill Creek as it meanders past dramatic slate outcroppings and old growth stands of hemlock and white oak.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from Discover Lehigh Valley. www.discoverlehighvalley.com

The Henry Family and the Pennsylvania Longrifle

The first of the Henry gun makers, William Henry I, opened his Lancaster, Pennsylvania, gun shop in 1750. He was the armorer for the Braddock Campaign of 1755 and the Forbes Expedition of 1758.

His son, William Henry II joined a small gun-making shop in Christian Springs near Nazareth in 1776, becoming its master gunsmith in 1777. He moved to Jacobsburg to open his own manufactory, followed by his descendants.

The Henrys produced firearms for all of the nation's major conflicts from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. They also were the primary suppliers of rifles for the largest American business enterprise of the early 19th century, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. The Henry firearm became the most prominent weapon of the western frontier due to its durability, accuracy, and relatively low cost. The family continued to produce small arms at Boulton until the late 1800s when competition from companies using mass production techniques made the Henrys' handcrafted technology obsolete.

Jacobsburg National Historic District

The historic district is on the eastern side of the center lands and is composed of three areas. More information on the historic district, including a schedule of programs, is available from the Jacobsburg Historical Society. 610-759-9029. www.jacobsburghistory.com

Village of Jacobsburg

Jacob Hubler, the namesake of Jacobsburg, settled here in 1740. The village grew to have a forge, tannery, gristmill, hotel, iron furnace, and sawmill, in addition to many houses. Master gunsmith William Henry II purchased land in 1792 and opened a gun manufactory in 1798. Today, only foundations remain.

Henrys Forge Area

To support gun manufacturing, William Henry II developed an industrial area to the east of the village that eventually had a gristmill, sawmill, foundry, farms, and residences. Today, several stone buildings and foundations remain.

Boulton

In 1812, William Henry II built a grander gun manufactory in Boulton to accommodate large government firearms contracts. Henry II and his son, John Joseph Henry, built their own residences and multiple structures here.

Today, visitors can explore historic buildings including the 1812 Henry Homestead, which houses the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. The nearby John Joseph Henry House was built in 1832.



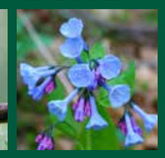
Benade House built in the early 1800s

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center









Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
400 Belfast Road
Nazareth, PA 18064
610-746-2801
JacobsburgSP@pa.gov

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

www.pa.gov/state-parks

PAStateParks

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2025

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 to summon medical, fire, or safety professionals.

Call or text 988 to contact a crisis center counselor during a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

Nearest Hospital

Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hecktown Oaks
3780 Hecktown Road
Easton, PA 18045
610-333-8888

JACOBSBURG ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Pets are required to be on leash and controlled at all times.

Help keep the park and the Bushkill Creek clean by picking up after your pets.

Please use stream access points to get to the stream. Don't make your own path.

To Wind Gap, 4.3 Mi.

To Stroudsburg, 19.4 Mi.

To PA 512, Wind Gap

To Nazareth, 3.8 Mi.

To Easton, 13.4 Mi.

Bushkill Township Trail

Keller Road

Gold Mill Road

Renaldi Road

Park Estates Road

Jacobsburg Road

Sexton Road

State Park Road

Belfast Road

Maintenance Facility

Stream Access

Henrys Woods Trail

Henry Road

Schoeneck Ave.

Filetown Road

Fehr Road

Barlieb Road

E. Douglasville Road

Lahr Road

Bushkill Center Rd.

Muschlitz Road

Horse Trailer Parking Only

Teaching Footpaths

BOULTON HISTORIC SITE

Bushkill Creek

Englers Run

Sobers Run

Jacobsburg Trail

SJR Connector Trail (Yellow Blazed)

Sobers Run Trail (White Blazed)

Sobers Run Loop Trail (Green Blazed)

Homestead Trail (Blue Blazed)

Trail (Red Blazed)

Trail (Orange Blazed)

Trail (Blue Blazed)

Park Office and Visitor Center

Blue Symbol Means ADA Accessible

Restrooms - Modern

Restrooms - Non-flush

Water

Picnicking

Picnic Pavilion

Amphitheater

Wildlife Watching Area

Native Plant Garden

Historic Site

Road - Unpaved

Road - Paved

Bridge

Parking - Paved

Parking - Unpaved

Parking - ADA-accessible

A1 Gate and Number

State Park - No Hunting

State Park - Hunting

State Park - Boundary

600 / 500 CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVALS

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail - Multi-use: Hiking, Mountain Biking, Snowshoeing, Horseback Riding

Trail - Hiking Only

G5 Hiking Intersection

JACOBSBURG NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT SITES

1 Site of the Village of Jacobsburg

2 Henrys Forge Area

3 Henry Homestead/ PA Longrifle Museum

4 John Joseph Henry House (HQ. Jacobsburg Historical Society)

Rev. 11/28/2026