

Memorial Lake State Park

Memorial Lake State Park's 231 acres are located near the base of Blue Mountain in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. The park is surrounded by Fort Indiantown Gap, the headquarters for the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.42348 Long. -76.59842

Traveling southbound on I-81, take Exit 85. Traveling northbound on I-81, take Exit 85B. Go north on PA 934 / Fisher Avenue, then turn left onto Asher Miner Road. At the stop sign turn left onto Boundary Road. To reach the south side of the lake and dam, immediately turn left onto Memorial Lake Road. Otherwise, continue on Boundary Road to reach the main day use areas on Upper, Middle, and Lower roads.

An **electric vehicle charging station** is available in Middle Road Parking Lot. There is a 4-hour time limit. Overnight charging is prohibited.

Wildlife Watching



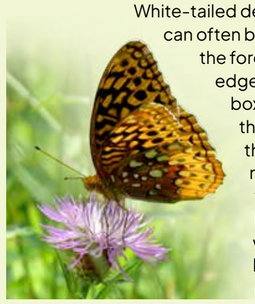
Horned grebe

Throughout the park, there are many opportunities to observe wildlife from a safe distance. Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

Memorial Lake provides habitat for diverse animals, including green herons, blue herons, and warmwater fish. Shoreline wetlands are home to wood ducks and painted turtles. Bald eagles and ospreys are often seen fishing.

Many waterfowl use the lake as a rest stop during migration, including mergansers, buffleheads, teals, common loons, and other ducks which can be seen swimming, diving, and dabbling for vegetation, insects, and small fish.

The native grasslands on the north part of the park are home to butterflies, moths, and field birds like meadowlarks. White-tailed deer and warblers can often be seen near the forest and field edges. Cavity nest boxes scattered throughout the park are monitored by volunteers. Please enjoy watching the birds, but do not disturb



Learn, Experience, Connect

Memorial Lake State Park offers a wide variety of programs April through October. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are offered for teachers.

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



History

Fort Indiantown Gap derived its name from the many American Indian villages in the area and the gap in the Blue Mountain where the town was located. Artifacts found in the Lebanon and Swatara valleys indicate Indigenous peoples were present as early as 2,500 B.C.E.

Established in 1931, Fort Indiantown Gap was built as a National Guard training center. During World War II, it was used as a training site for seven Army divisions and as a demobilization site once the war was over. Fort Indiantown Gap later trained large numbers of soldiers and officers during the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

Memorial Lake was established in 1945 in memory and honor of Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers who served in World War I and World War II.

In 1955, Memorial Lake was transferred to the Department of Forest and Waters, now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and became Memorial Lake State Park. It continues to provide recreational opportunities for military personnel and civilians.



Winter Activities

The easy, rolling terrain and open nature of the park create many opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. A one-acre area is available for ice skating in the Middle Road boat launch/mooring cove. The lake is open for ice fishing except within the ice-skating area.

ICE SAFETY: Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single user and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: The 85-acre Memorial Lake supports warmwater fish species, especially bass and chain pickerel. A shoreline fishing access area is located along Hillside Trail. An ADA-accessible fishing pier is in Middle Road Day Use Area. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission seasons and limits apply.



BOATING: electric motors only; slow, no-wake speed

The 85-acre Memorial Lake has two boat launch ramps in Middle Road and Lower Road day use areas. Boat racks and shoreline spaces for overnight mooring are reservable, April through October.

Cocoa Kayak Rentals in the Middle Road Day Use Area, offers a wide variety of watercraft, including canoes, paddleboards, paddleboats, rowboats, and kayaks from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. www.cocoakayak.com

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launch permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Life jackets must be worn in accordance with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables and charcoal grills are provided in shady groves, along the shoreline, and in areas that provide scenic views of the lake.

Memorial Lake has two picnic pavilions that accommodate up to 70 people and have 4 charcoal grills, 15-amp electrical service, and trash/recycling cans. Middle Road Picnic Pavilion is ADA accessible. The pavilions can be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Make online reservations 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

HIKING: 3 miles

The open nature of the park allows visitors to take casual walks through the park and near the lake. Most trails are easiest walking due to the flat and wide stone surface. A popular 3-mile loop around the lake uses most of the trails in the park and a 0.65-mile section of Memorial Lake Road.

Fishermans Path

0.2 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, boat launch

This partly shaded trail connects Woodland Trail to Scout Trail and parallels the lake.

Grassland Trail

0.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables

This open, sunny trail wanders through grasslands and can be accessed from both Middle Road and Upper Road parking lots. An ongoing project with Pheasants Forever is removing invasive vegetation and planting native species which should boost populations of grassland species such as butterflies, ring-necked pheasants, and meadowlarks.

Hillside Trail

0.7 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: picnic tables, benches

Traveling around the southern side of the lake, this short trail connects a fishing access point to the Overlook Parking Lot and a scenic view of the lake.

Lakeside Trail

0.3 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: potable water, picnic tables, benches

Starting at the Middle Road parking lot trailhead, this short trail travels alongside Memorial Lake, leading to a grove of hemlocks. Lakeside Trail has a wide and flat gravel surface and provides areas for picnicking and fishing.

Overlook Trail

0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: picnic tables, benches

Enjoy a view of the entire lake from the dam. This trail connects with Lakeside and Grassland trails. The Overlook Parking Lot has access to fishing and picnic areas and is a great place for photography.

Scout Trail

0.2 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: potable water, benches

This marshy trail is nestled between the lake shoreline and woodlands. Scout Trail connects the Lower Road parking lot and Memorial Lake Road, allowing walkers to avoid busy roadways while enjoying nature.

Spillway Trail

0.3 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: picnic tables



This trail starts at the small gravel parking lot off Memorial Lake Road and continues to the bottom of the spillway. The trail is mixed surface and contains wooden plank stairs.

Woodland Trail

0.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

Meandering along the lake and through woodlands, this trail crosses over Indiantown Run, the main feeder stream to the lake. The trail extends from the Middle Road parking lot to the Lower Road parking lot.

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Memorial Lake State Park









Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Memorial Lake State Park
18 Boundary Road
Grantville, PA 17028-9682
717-865-6470
MemorialSP@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.

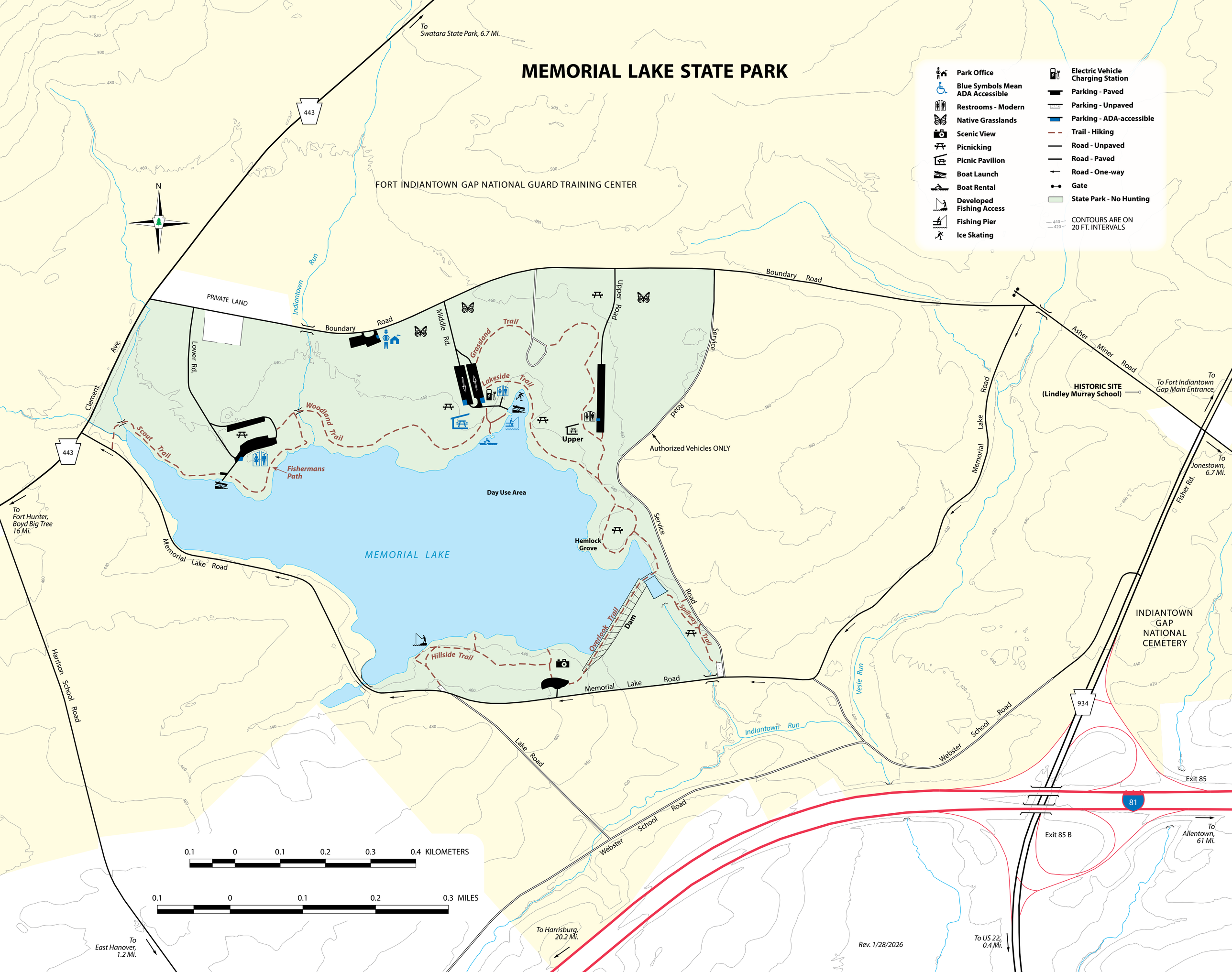
Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Good Samaritan Hospital
Fourth and Walnut Streets
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-270-7500

Penn State Hershey Medical Center
500 University Drive
Hershey, PA 17033
800-243-1455

MEMORIAL LAKE STATE PARK



- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Restrooms - Modern
- Native Grasslands
- Scenic View
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Boat Launch
- Boat Rental
- Developed Fishing Access
- Fishing Pier
- Ice Skating
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Parking - Paved
- Parking - Unpaved
- Parking - ADA-accessible
- Trail - Hiking
- Road - Unpaved
- Road - Paved
- Road - One-way
- Gate
- State Park - No Hunting

CONTOURS ARE ON 20 FT. INTERVALS