

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Nockamixon

Nockamixon State Park

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania state parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

visitPAparks

2022



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



1. View beautiful waterfalls from the spillway overlook.
2. Rent a kayak or paddleboard and explore the secluded coves in the lake.
3. Stay in a modern cabin in the forest.
4. Follow the lake shoreline while biking or hiking on the 2-mile paved Bike Trail.
5. Make a splash in the pool while swimming or watersliding.
6. Look for some of the many bird species residing in the park's forests, open areas, wetlands, and waters.
7. Take to the water! Spend the day sailing or boating on the lake.
8. Hike one of the many scenic trails in the park, like the Old Mill Trail.
9. Mountain bike on 10 miles of beginning-to-intermediate routes.
10. Fish for basses in Lake Nockamixon which is part of the Big Bass Program.

NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK



The 5,289-acre Nockamixon State Park is in the rolling hills of scenic Bucks County, close enough to Philadelphia for a day trip, but far enough away for a vacation. Visitors can stay the night in a cabin or enjoy the many activities of the park for the day. Popular activities are picnicking, visiting the pool, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and boating. Tohickon Creek, Three Mile Run, and Haycock Run feed the 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon, which is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and a destination for boaters and anglers.

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.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.46342 Long. -75.24179

Nockamixon State Park is along PA 563, just off PA 313, five miles east of Quakertown and nine miles north of Doylestown. The main entrances are along PA 563 and can be reached via PA 309 and PA 313, or from the north from PA 611 and PA 412.

HISTORY



The lands that now make up Nockamixon State Park were originally inhabited by the Lenape people. Place names such as Tohickon and Nockamixon are likely derived from the Lenape language. Tohickon roughly translates to "driftwood stream". The arrival of European settlers in the region between 1730-1740 displaced the Lenape from the area. The land was cleared for farming, and homes, churches, schools, and mills were constructed. Timber was a major local industry until the 19th century when the resource was depleted.

Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters, Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, proposed the park in 1958.

The commonwealth began purchasing land for the establishment of the park in 1961. An additional 660 acres were added to the park in 1965 with Project 70 funding. The park was developed as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan for the Delaware River Basin.

Originally known as Tohickon State Park after the principal stream flowing into Lake Nockamixon, it was renamed Nockamixon State Park by the State Geographic Board in 1965. The park officially opened in December of 1973.

WILDLIFE WATCHING



Dick Sweyers

Bald eagle

BIRDING

More than 250 species of birds have been recorded at Nockamixon State Park. The numerous habitats of the park are havens for birds and wildlife. The park has grasslands, successional fields, pine plantations, second growth forests, wetlands, and Lake Nockamixon.

The fishing area off Deerwood Lane is a great place to look for migrating waterfowl and raptors in the spring and fall. More than twenty species of waterfowl, including ducks, grebes, swans, geese, and loons have been recorded in the park.

The paved Bike Trail in the Day Use Area passes through forests, overgrown fields, and picnic groves. Finches and sparrows are year-round residents. In the spring and summer, Baltimore orioles, blue-winged warblers, prairie warblers, and white-eyed vireos visit the area.

Pileated woodpeckers have nested in the forested area by the swimming pool. Phoebes and eastern wood-peewees are common summer residents of the park. Migratory warblers often visit to rest and refuel in the trees.

At the lakeside near the marina, look for waterfowl, especially rafts of ducks during migration. In March and April, huge flocks of gulls pass through the area. Vultures roost by the marina year round. Nesting boxes in grassy areas host eastern bluebirds and tree swallows. Please do not disturb nest boxes.

The forest around the cabin area comes alive each spring with the songs of wood thrushes, veeries, and ovenbirds. Summer visitors to Mink Trail are prairie warblers, Baltimore orioles, eastern towhees, and white-eyed vireos.

Varied habitats near the dam support diverse bird species. The spillway of the dam is a favorite spot for killdeer, sandpipers, herons, great egrets, kingfishers, and osprey. The woodlot above the dam is home to wrens, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and blue-gray gnatcatchers.

Bald eagles and osprey have been spotted around the deep waters above the dam and can be seen anywhere around the lake especially in February, March, and September.

NATIVE AND WARM-SEASON GRASS FIELDS

When the park was created in the 1960s, most of the land had been small farms. Since then, the fields have become overgrown with non-native species like autumn olive, mile-a-minute, and multiflora rose. The park has reclaimed many of these fields and planted them with native warm-season grasses like Indian grass, big and little bluestem, and switchgrass. These grasslands provide a critical habitat which is rare in Pennsylvania. The fields benefit grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, and grasshopper sparrows, as well as wild turkey, rabbits, and small mammals.

SIGHTSEEING



SCENIC VISTA

A pull-off along South Park Road west of the bridge over Tohickon Creek provides a scenic view of the dam spillway. In winter, the water freezes into various colors and shapes, creating a spectacular sight.

SENTINEL ROCK

Sentinel Rock is a 25-foot-tall pinnacle of Brunswick red shale and siltstone located downstream of the dam and upstream of South Park Road on the east side of the creek. It is accessible via the mountain bike trail. This striking feature was formed by weathering and frost wedging, which wore away surrounding rocks, and left Sentinel Rock and other nearby ramparts to stand out as erosional remnants.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day



Park visitors enjoy a variety of activities throughout the year. Most areas are open sunrise to sunset. Fishing and boating are permitted 24 hours a day in designated areas. Other overnight activities are prohibited. Some park areas are closed to vehicles in the winter, but some picnicking areas, fishing areas, trails, and cabins are open year round.

BOATING: maximum 20 hp motors permitted

The 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon has five public launching areas. The Marina and Tohickon launch ramps are popular with sailboat, catamaran, and windsurfing enthusiasts. Three Mile Run and Haycock launch facilities are favored for motorboats, kayaks, and USCG approved inflatable watercraft. Inner tubes, rafts, or other inflatable items are prohibited. Launching facilities are open 24 hours a day. Sleeping on boats on the lake is prohibited. An ADA accessible dock is located at the Tohickon launch.



The marina has the largest boat launch ramp in the park, docking facilities for 648 boats up to 24 feet in length, a 120-space dry storage area for boats on trailers, and 12 trailer spaces. Due to the tremendous demand for marina space, a waiting list is maintained at the park office for seasonal slips and dry storage spaces. Marina slips may be rented on a short-term basis as available. Contact the park office for additional information and applicable rates.

A boat rental concession has canoes, motorboats, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, paddleboards, and pontoon boats during the summer season. Call the boat rental for applicable rates and regulations. 215-538-1340

Nockamixon Sailing Club promotes recreational sailing on Lake Nockamixon. www.nockamixonsailclub.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.

From November 1 through April 30, anyone on a boat less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket.



FISHING: Lake Nockamixon is a warmwater fishery and classified as a Big Bass Lake. Common species are walleye, muskellunge, pickerel, smallmouth and largemouth bass, striped bass hybrids, channel catfish, carp, and various types of panfish. There are two fishing areas in the Day Use Area. The Children's Fishing Pond is also open to fishing and has warmwater fish species.

A map showing fish habitat structures, water depths, and specific features of the lake is available at the park office and on the park website. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

Fishing is Prohibited in these Areas:

- From or within 100 feet of a boat dock, boat launch, or mooring area
- Anywhere in the boat rental area and the marina out to the buoys
- From bridges
- From the dam, spillway, or silt dam and in between these areas
- Where posted "no fishing"

HUNTING AND FIREARMS:

About 3,500 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, and turkey. All of Nockamixon is included in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Special Regulations Area for southeastern Pennsylvania. Certain park areas are open to archery hunting only. Most of the park is in Wildlife Management Unit 5C, with a portion of the park south of South Park Road in unit 5D. No live birds may be released for training without a park and Pennsylvania Game Commission permit. Contact the park office for additional information.

There is no rifle or shooting range at the park or in nearby game lands. The range was closed prior to 2008.

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 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.



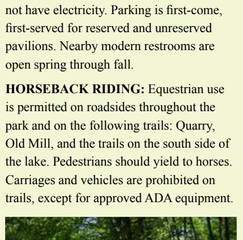
WINDSURFING: Tohickon Boat Launch Area is popular for windsurfing. All boating regulations apply to wind surfboards, including the permits listed in the boating section.

SWIMMING POOL: The swimming pool complex includes a half acre main pool with two waterslides, a shallow end with play features for children, dressing rooms, and snack bar. The pool is open during the summer season, weather and staff dependent. Check the advisories section on the park website for updates on pool closures or events.

Swimming is PROHIBITED in Lake Nockamixon.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables and charcoal grills are in several areas of the park and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Only the Haycock, Tohickon, Marina, and Three Mile Run picnic areas are open year round. The gate to the Marina area may be closed at times due to road conditions or heavy snow. Non-flush restrooms at Fishing Pier, Haycock and Tohickon areas are open year round.



Picnic pavilions by parking lots 1 and 5 may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pavilions do not have electricity. Parking is first-come, first-served for reserved and unreserved pavilions. Nearby modern restrooms are open spring through fall.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Equestrian use is permitted on roadsides throughout the park and on the following trails: Quarry, Old Mill, and the trails on the south side of the lake. Pedestrians should yield to horses. Carriages and vehicles are prohibited on trails, except for approved ADA equipment.



Stay the Night



MODERN CABINS: Located on the south side of Lake Nockamixon, ten modern cabins are available for rent year round. Each cabin contains a furnished living area, kitchen/dining area, modern bathroom with shower, and electric heat. The kitchen has a refrigerator, sink, stove, and microwave. The outdoor area includes a fire ring, grill, and picnic table. These cabins have two bedrooms (sleep 6) or three bedrooms (sleep 8). Renters must provide their own bed linens, towels, cookware, tableware, fans, and first aid kit. Air conditioning is not provided. In the summer, cabins must be rented by the week. For the remainder of the year, the minimum stay is two nights. Cabins 1, 2, 3, and 6 allow up to 2 dogs. Cabin 6 is ADA accessible.

Cabin area address: 1969 Stover Mill Road, Perkasie, PA 18944

GPS: Lat. 40.44756 Long. -75.23415

CAMPING: Camping is prohibited in Nockamixon State Park. Camping is available at nearby private campgrounds. Information and brochures are available at the park office.

Enjoy the Winter

ICE SKATING AND ICE FISHING: Ice skating and fishing are permitted on the frozen lake surface when conditions are suitable. Ice conditions can vary widely. Visitors are advised to use extreme caution when venturing onto the ice.

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

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING: The Bike Trail is recommended for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. There are also steeper hiking trails in the Sterner Mill Area. Trails are not groomed.

SLEDDING: The area above the marina is used for sledding. Park in Lot 13; do not block gates or park on the sides of the road.



WHITEWATER RELEASES: Conditions permitting, water is released from the dam on the first full weekend of November and the third weekend in March. The release provides an opportunity for whitewater enthusiasts to experience a thrilling run down Tohickon Creek from Ralph Stover State Park to the Delaware River. Class IV rapids are sometimes achieved. Check the advisories section of the park website for updates.



HIKING: see reverse side.



MOUNTAIN BIKING: A 10-mile trail system for mountain bikes is on the east side of Haycock Cove. Trailheads are located off Tower and South Park roads, and PA 563. Parking is available at the Tower Road and the Haycock Boat Launch parking lots. Mountain bikers are prohibited from parking along Rte 563. Horses are prohibited on these trails.

RideNox is a trail maintenance group that maintains the park trails for mountain biking, hosts mountain biking events, monitors trail conditions, and provides trail maps at www.ridenox.com. Detailed trail maps are also available at the park office. Valley Mountain Bikers promote mountain biking in the park. www.bikevmb.com

Caution:

- The trail system can be hazardous and slippery
- Some slopes are steep with rough surfaces
- These trails are for riders equipped for off-road riding
- Bikers ride bike trails at their own risk
- Trails are closed during wet conditions; signs are posted at the trailheads during these times

Closure postings are also available on the Nockamixon and Ridenox Facebook pages and the advisory section of the park's website.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

Nockamixon State Park offers a wide variety of programs spring through fall. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided walks, hands-on educational activities, children's programs, and evening 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.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences. The Environmental Education Center is only open during programs.



FRIENDS OF NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK (FONSP)



This group is a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation and qualifies as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the FONSP is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and recreational resources of Nockamixon State Park for present and future generations. To become a member or learn about volunteer opportunities, please visit the Friends of Nockamixon State Park website. www.friendsofnockamixonstatepark.org

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Nockamixon State Park
1542 Mountain View Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951-5732
NockamixonSP@pa.gov
Park Office: 215-529-7300
Boat Rental: 215-538-1340

An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

@NockamixonStatePark

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.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station
A 2-plug electric charging station is available for public use in the Marina Parking Lot. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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
Grandview Hospital
700 Lawn Avenue
Sellersville, PA 18960
215-453-4000

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. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau. www.visitbuckscounty.com

State Game Lands 157 encompasses 2,010 acres, adjoining the northeast border of the park. Hunting, bouldering, and hiking are popular activities. Trails are not blazed. 610-926-3136

At **Delaware Canal State Park,** visitors enjoy biking, hiking, fishing, boating, and learning about the canal building era of American history. 610-982-5560

Ralph Stover State Park offers seasonal whitewater boating, scenic overlooks, rock climbing opportunities, and a forested picnic grove along the Tohickon Creek. 610-982-5560

Lake Towhee County Park, four miles away from Nockamixon State Park, has tent and RV campsites, a small lake, and picnic areas. 215-757-0571

Tohickon Valley County Park abuts the High Rocks area of Ralph Stover State Park. It offers a swimming pool, tent and RV campsites, rental cabins, picnic areas, and opportunities for rugged hikes to scenic overlooks along the Tohickon Creek Gorge. 215-757-0571

HIKING: 39 miles



Bike Trail

The park trails explore forests, fields, and the lakeside. All blazed trails are red. Some trails allow equestrian use. The 10-mile Mountain Bike Trail system is also open for hiking. Be courteous of other trail users. For the safety of all park users, dogs must be leashed and under physical control while in the park. Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. Waste disposal bags are available at some trailheads.

Bike Trail: 2 miles, easiest hiking
This popular paved trail winds through the Day Use Area and is ideal for walking, bicycling, strollers, and wheelchairs. The eastern end of the trail begins at the marina, which offers parking and great views of the lake. The western end of the trail features a waterfall and an old mill pond. A spur off the main trail passes by the swimming pool and playground. Horses are prohibited.

Caution:
- This trail is not a loop
- The trail has many curves
- Please exercise caution and be considerate of other bike riders and walkers

Church Trail: 5.1 miles, easiest hiking
On the south shore of Lake Nockamixon, this hiking and horseback riding trail connects Elephant and Mink trails through fairly flat woodlands.

Elephant Trail: 4.8 miles, easiest hiking
Following the shoreline and looping inland, this trail network is great for hikers and horseback riders. For a longer adventure, continue on Church Trail.

Highlands Trail: 10 miles in the park, more difficult hiking
In Pennsylvania, the Highlands Trail connects 13 counties from the Delaware River in Bucks County to the Appalachian Trail in Franklin County. Within the park, the trail follows many park trails with some connecting trails in between.

High Bridge Trail: 1.2 miles, more difficult hiking
This wooded hiking trail runs along both sides of Tohickon Creek and near an old barn. Be careful when fording the creek. This trail connects the Sterner Mill Hiking Area with the Quarry Trail.

Mink Trail: 3.8 miles, easiest hiking
Accessed from either the parking lot off Old Ridge Road or from the parking lot on Mink Road, this hiking and equestrian trail loops along the south shore east of Church Trail through forested areas and warm season grass fields.

Old Haycock Road Trail: 1.3 miles, easiest hiking
Following an old road, this trail extends from behind the gate at the Haycock Boat Launch and passes through wooded and open brushy habitat, ending at the lake.

Old Mill Trail: 5.6 miles, more difficult hiking
This hiking and equestrian trail crosses a stream at the old mill pond and passes across the top of the stone dam breast. Hikers pass through a mature woodlot, pine plantations, and walk a loop that follows the lake shore. Access the trail from the western terminus of the Bike Trail, the gravel lot at the top of Deerwood Lane, or Old Bethlehem Road. Bicycles are prohibited.

Prison Camp Trail: 0.5 mile, easiest hiking
Stretching from Old Haycock Road Trail to the Lake Nockamixon, this trail passes by warm season grass fields and an osprey nesting platform.

Quarry Trail: 2.5 miles, more difficult hiking
A loop trail for hikers and horseback riders with a number of intersections, this trail winds through old foundations–the remnants of a summer camp. The trail provides a scenic view of the lake and an overlook of the old quarry that provided building material for area structures. The trail can be accessed from the Kahagon Road Parking Lot off PA 563 or Old Bethlehem Road.

Sterner Mill Trail: 1.8 miles, more difficult hiking
On the southwest corner of the park, this loop trail passes near the lake. Hikers can see a small pond, lake views, and pass through hardwood forests and pine plantations. Horses and bicycles are prohibited.

Tohickon Lane Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking
Perpendicular to Old Haycock Road Trail, this trail passes Johns Pond and warm season grass fields.



Old Mill Trail

NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK

- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Emergency Phone
- Modern Restrooms
- Non-flush Restrooms
- Showers/Restrooms
- Food Concession
- Enviromental Education Center
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Modern Cabins
- County Park Campground
- Scenic View
- Playground
- Swimming Pool
- Sledding
- Windsurfing/ Catamaran Area
- Developed Fishing Access
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch
- Hand-carry Boat Launch
- Marina

- Hiking Trail
- Paved Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Bicycling, Cross-Country Skiing
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking and as Designated
- Highlands Trail Route
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Waterfall
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Unpaved Road
- One-way Road
- Gate
- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- Parking Lot Number
- Bus Parking
- Horse Trailer Parking
- No Fishing, No Hunting
- State Park No Hunting
- State Park Hunting
- Archery Only
- No Trespassing, Fishing, or Hunting
- CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

GPS Coordinates
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.

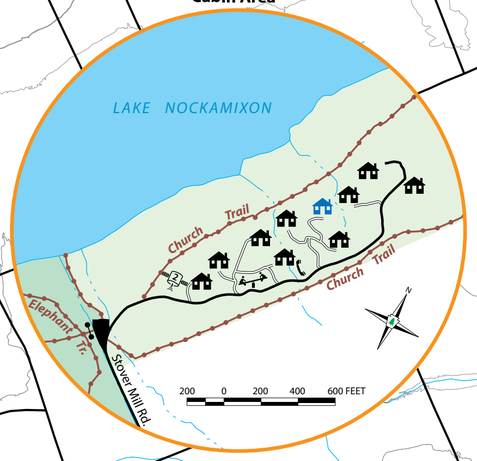
1. Park Office 40.46342, -75.24179
2. Modern Cabins 40.44765, -75.23415
3. Marina 40.46915, -75.22503
4. Tohickon Boat Launch 40.4763, -75.20891
5. Spillway Overlook 40.46673, -75.18529
6. Haycock Boat Launch 40.48689, -75.19147
7. Three Mile Run Boat Lauch 40.42511, -75.26014

½ 0 ½ 1 1½ 2 KILOMETERS

½ 0 ½ 1 1½ MILES

Rev. 5/6/2023

Cabin Area



Day Use Area

