A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Ralph Stover State Park









pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Ralph Stover State Park
c/o Delaware Canal State Park
11 Lodi Hill Road
Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
610-982-5560
DelawareCanalSP@pa.gov

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

www.visitPAparks.com

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Ralph Stover State Park

Nestled in a secluded valley along a bend in the Tohickon Creek, the 45-acre Ralph Stover State Park provides a scenic picnic area. The nearby High Rocks vista of the park features a majestic overlook of Tohickon Creek Gorge.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.43547 Long. -75.10066

Ralph Stover State Park is two miles north of Point Pleasant on State Park Road and Stump Road, in eastern Bucks County.

Address: 6011 State Park Road, Pipersville, PA 18947

Recreational Opportunities

HUNTING: All portions of the park are closed to hunting.

SWIMMING: There is no swimming at Ralph Stover State Park. However, swimming pools are available nearby at Nockamixon State Park, about 14 miles away, and at Tohickon Valley County Park, about four miles away.

HIKING: 1 mile of trails

Easy walking trails pass through many habitats near the millrace, and along the Tohickon Creek, historic Means Ford Bridge, and Federal Works Progress Administration era structures.

In the High Rocks Vista area, a short 0.2 mile section of High Rocks Trail parallels the cliffs above the Tohickon Creek and has numerous scenic vistas with views of the creek, cliff faces, rock outcrops, and valley. High Rocks Trail connects on either side to Bucks County park trails, and hikers can continue on these trails for several miles through Tohickon Valley Park. High Rocks Trail can be accessed on foot from the Island Picnic Grove and main parking area of Ralph Stover via the Means Ford bridge, Stover Park Road, and county park trails. It is a 0.7 mile hike from the bridge to the first vista.

Tohickon Valley Park trails which surround the High Rocks Vista are heavily used by cyclists. Be aware of bicycle traffic on the High Rocks Trail.

Tell us about your hike at: www.ExplorePATrails.com



FISHING: Warmwater species found in Tohickon Creek include smallmouth bass, sunfish, carp, and catfish. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stocks trout, a coldwater fish.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



WHITEWATER BOATING: When high water conditions exist, Tohickon Creek offers a challenging whitewater course with Class III and IV technical rapids. Whitewater boats may be launched in the park. Park only in designated areas; blocking parking areas and roadways is prohibited.

There are two planned whitewater releases from Lake Nockamixon into the Tohickon Creek each year during the third weekend in March and the first weekend in November. For information, call Delaware Canal State Park at 610-982-5560.

Tohickon Creek's multiple drops, obstructions, and strainers can be very dangerous, especially downstream of the High Rocks cliffs.

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.

SCENIC VISTAS: The High Rocks section of the park features multiple outstanding views of the cliffs above a horseshoe bend in Tohickon Creek and the surrounding forested hills and valleys.

ROCK CLIMBING: Experienced rock climbers use the 150-foot sheer rock face. Climbing safety equipment is required in the High Rocks Climbing Area. Your safety is your responsibility. The park does not maintain fixed anchors and hardware, cliff faces, or climbing routes for climber safety. The cliffs are dangerous. Stay behind the safety rail for your own protection.

PICNICKING: The park has a beautiful wooded picnic area along the scenic Tohickon Creek with picnic tables, grills, reservable picnic pavilions, and non-flush toilets. There is one large pavilion and two smaller stone pavilions with fireplaces. Picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

TRASH DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING: Ralph Stover 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.

History

Early inhabitants of the area, the Lenape, named the creek "To-Hick-Hanne" meaning "Deer-Bone-Creek," leading to the modern name Tohickon Creek.

Early industry depended on the Tohickon Creek. Ralph Stover State Park marks the site of a late 18th century water-powered gristmill. The park takes its name from Ralph Stover who owned and operated the mill. Remnants of the mill dam and the millrace, which diverted the water from the creek to power the mill, are still visible.

The Means Ford Bridge is the longest of the seven remaining boxed "Howe" pony truss bridges in North America. It was built in 1869 to serve the Stover family and surrounding communities. Today, the bridge is only open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic crossing the Tohickon Creek in the park.

In 1931, the Stover heirs gave this property to the commonwealth for use as a state park. Recreational facilities were first opened in 1935 after development by the Federal Works Progress Administration.

The property known as the High Rocks was donated to the park in 1959 by James A. Michener, a noted author.

This area is popular for its spectacular views and geological features. It is used extensively as a rock-climbing site. The 150-foot sheer rock face offers a unique challenge to the experienced climber.



Learn, Experience, Connect

Ralph Stover State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. 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, such as Watershed Education, are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the Delaware Canal State Park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau, 800-836-BUCKS. www.visitbuckscounty.com

Nockamixon State Park has cabins, a lake for boating and fishing, and trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. 215-529-7300

Delaware Canal State Park contains a 60-mile long multi-use canal towpath and areas for water-based recreation. 610-982-5560

Tohickon Valley County Park has cabins, tent campsites, a swimming pool, and trails for hiking and biking which connect to High Rocks Trail. 215-297-0754

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.

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.
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- 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.

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 Dial 911

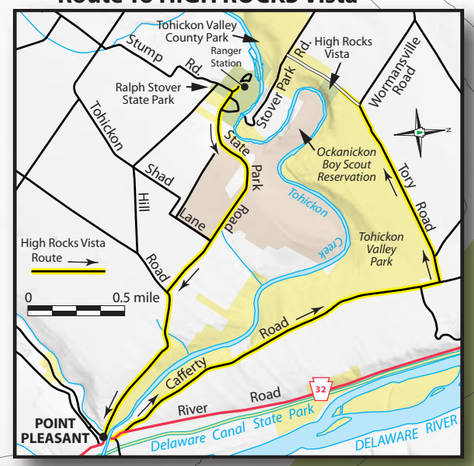
Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Doylestown Hospital
595 West State Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-2200

RALPH STOVER STATE PARK

BUCKS COUNTY

Route To HIGH ROCKS Vista





To PA 413, PA 611 & Plumsteadville, 4 Mi.

Stump Road

To Dark Hollow Road, 0.4 Mi.

Trail Loop

TOHICKON VALLEY PARK (BUCKS COUNTY)

High Rocks Trail

Tory Road

To Cafferty Road, Camping & Swimming at Tohickon Valley Park. (Turn Right on Cafferty Rd.)

Tohickon Creek

Stover Park Road

Mill Dam Remnants

Race

Mill Island Picnic Grove

Climbing Area

HIGH ROCKS VISTA

Private Land

Means Ford Bridge CLOSED to Motor Vehicles

0.7 mi.To High Rocks Vista

OCKANICKON BOY SCOUT RESERVATION

Private Land

TOHICKON VALLEY PARK (BUCKS COUNTY)

State Park Road

Private Land

To Point Pleasant, 2.3 Mi.

GPS Coordinates

Decimal Degree Lat. Long.

1. **Ralph Stover Ranger Station Parking Areas**
   40.435028, -75.10053
2. **High Rocks Parking Areas**
   40.44089, -75.10067

50 0 50 100 METERS

200 0 200 400 FEET

- **Ranger Station**
- **Information Kiosk**
- **Public Phone**
- **Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible**
- **Non-flush Restroom**
- **Picnicking**
- **Picnic Pavilion**
- **Playground**
- **Scenic View**
- **Historic Site**
- **Hand-carry Boat Launch**
- **Climbing Area**
- **Hiking Trail**
- **Paved Trail**
- **Parking Unpaved**
- **Gate**
- **Unpaved Road**
- **State Park No Hunting**
- **Tohickon Valley Park (Bucks County)**
- **Ockanickon Boy Scout Reservation**
- CONTOURS ARE ON 20 FT. INTERVALS

Rev. 1/14/21