

Photo by Justin DeRosa

Tyler State Park

Tyler State Park is located in the lower portion of historic Bucks County, in a suburban area 33 miles north of center city Philadelphia. Tyler is a 1,711-acre-area of pastoral and woodland beauty with many miles of trails, meadows, farm fields, natural springs, and the Neshaminy Creek to explore.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.23103 Long. -74.95315

The main entrance to the park is at the intersection of Swamp Road and PA 413 (Newtown Bypass). From I-295 take Exit 8, Newtown/Yardley, and follow PA 413 North. The park entrance is on the left. When using a GPS unit or online mapping service, use the park mailing address: 101 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940.

Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: Neshaminy Creek is home to many warmwater species including bluegill, black crappie, carp, smallmouth bass, and various other panfishes. Neshaminy Creek provides excellent catch-and-release fishing opportunities. Anglers may fish along the banks or from a canoe or kayak. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



BOATING: Neshaminy Creek offers calm, easy, non-powered boating upstream from the boat rental. The boat rental operates daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, weather permitting, and offers paddleboards, kayaks, and canoes.

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.

TRAILS: 26.8 miles
Park trails lead visitors through areas rich in historic and scenic interest, providing excellent views of the park and surrounding countryside. You can take a short walk or a long hike covering many miles. Some parking lots near the outer perimeter of the park allow access to remote areas and trails. Park trails provide a variety of opportunities for trail running and marathon training.

A large portion of the park is interconnected by paved hiking trails. Bicycles are permitted only on designated paved trails. They are prohibited on non-paved trails. Many trails permit multiple uses, so remember to share the trail. If you're riding a bicycle, slow down and use caution on hills and around curves. Please stay alert for horseback riders when hiking on equestrian trails.

Access to trails on the western side of the park is available from the picnic areas via Tyler Drive Trail and the pedestrian causeway across Neshaminy Creek. If you ever find yourself lost or disoriented, locate a paved trail intersection where you can find a QR code for the park map.

Detailed trail descriptions are available at the park office and on the park's website.
www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/TylerStatePark

Nature Trail: 2.0 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult
This hiking-only trail traverses Porter Run Creek and offers excellent views of geological features such as rock outcrops and large boulders. Discover large mature beech trees, old growth tulip poplars, and native mountain laurel. The trail starts and finishes at the western side of the causeway near the boathouse.



HORSEBACK RIDING: 14.5 miles
Hikers and riders enjoy many miles of non-paved trails on both sides of Neshaminy Creek. Please stay on established, blazed trails. Horseback riding is prohibited in the picnic areas and on paved trails with the exception of a few trail crossings.

Horse trailer parking and a mounting platform are available at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge Parking Lot off of Swamp Road. Additional horse trailer parking is also available in the large parking lot across from the Tyler Park Center for the Arts, near Number One Lane Trail, and in Fisherman's Parking Lot on PA 332, across from Spring Garden Mill.

Connector Trails: mileage varies, white blazes, difficulty varies
These short, unnamed spur trails connect larger trails together to make a variety of loops.

Cooper Trail: 3.0 miles; blue blazes, more difficult hiking
Access this trail from the horse trailer parking lot near the Tyler Park Center for the Arts. This trail takes you through stands of mature oak and tulip poplar trees.

Hay Barn Grass Trail: 4.5 miles, green blazes, easiest hiking
The trail starts and finishes at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge Parking Lot. It takes you through rolling agricultural fields, native warm-season grass fields, and past the original farmhouse and barns.

Neshaminy Creek Trail: 2.6 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking
The trail follows the creek, beginning at the Fisherman's Parking Lot and offers excellent views before ending at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge.

BICYCLING: 11.3 paved miles
Remember, nearly all trails on the west side of the creek are hilly. Slow down and use caution on hills and around curves. Bicycling is permitted only on designated paved surfaces.

Trails are named at each intersection. Most bicycle trails are over eight-feet wide, paved, and designed for easy, two-way travel. Paved trails are multiple-use trails. Be a courteous and safe bicycle rider.

Picnic tables and drinking water fountains are along the bicycle trails.



DISC GOLFING: One of the top ranked courses in the country, this 36-hole disc golf course begins at the Upper Plantation Picnic Area. Much like regular golf, but using a "Frisbee" or disc, the object is to complete each hole in as few strokes as possible. Course maps with rules and scorecards are available at the park office. The Bucks County Disc Golf Alliance maintains the course and offers tournaments, clinics, and leagues. Visit www.BCDGA.com for more information, maps, and digital scorecards.

Learn, Experience, Connect

Tyler State Park offers a wide variety of programs from September through May. 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.

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.

Langhorne Players Theater Company

Home to the Langhorne Players, Inc., the Spring Garden Mill was once a grain and feed mill. The Langhorne Players are a volunteer community theater company that has converted the mill into a small theater for the production of unusual, thought-provoking plays and cultural events.
www.langhorneplayers.org

Natural Resources & Wildlife Watching

Three main habitats dominate Tyler State Park: forests, fields, and wetlands. The mixed hardwood forests are composed of oaks, elms, maples, beeches, and walnuts. This provides great habitat for forest birds like warblers, tanagers, thrushes, and vireos. Species such as native dogwoods, witch hazel, spicebush, and viburnums make for a colorful understory.

Besides the many mowed and agricultural fields, the park manages fields planted with native, warm-season grasses. These grasses provide habitat for many animals, including field birds like red-wing blackbirds, eastern bluebirds, and tree swallows.



Photo by Jim Cuddahy

The native gardens, pollinator meadows, and landscaping by the park office are maintained by volunteers and are a popular location for photographers.

The richest and most diverse habitats of the park are the wetlands that border Neshaminy Creek. These areas have unique plants which can survive in the perpetually moist soil, such as skunk cabbage, ferns, and waterworts.

Neshaminy Creek is also home to large snapping turtles, soft shell turtles, eels, frogs, watersnakes, and muskrats. The spring-fed wetland north of the Spring Garden Mill Dam is a popular spot for turtles and wood ducks.



Snapping turtle

History

For thousands of years, the land that is now Tyler State Park was occupied by the Lenape. The Lenape lived in small villages along the Neshaminy Creek, foraging the abundant resources and raising crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They depended on the waters of the Neshaminy for fishing and drinking water. The name Neshaminy translates to "where we drink twice," possibly referring to the two branches of the creek that converge north of Tyler State Park. From the surrounding countryside, the Lenape harvested wild foods like deer, turkeys, and beavers; building materials like elm bark and cattails to cover their wigwams and longhouses; and tulip poplar trees to make dugout canoes.

Visible from Tyler State Park, Council Rock overlooks Neshaminy Creek and is the source of many local folk tales as it was likely a common meeting place because of its dramatic geologic features. Council Rock is accessible from the adjacent grounds of Bucks County Community College.

Tradition states that during the Treaty of Shackamaxon, possibly in 1682, William Penn began formal relations with the Lenape and afterward, land transfers to European colonists.

Early in the 18th century, European colonists farmed the land. Families including the Coopers, Blakers, and Twinings built mills, houses, and barns. Neshaminy Creek supplied power for several mills, including Cooper Mill and Spring Garden Mill. The paved trails in Tyler State Park were once farm roads. Mill Dairy Trail connected Spring Garden Mill and the Thompson Dairy, and Stable Mill Trail went to the Tyler Stables.

The original stone homes in the park are fine examples of early rural Pennsylvania farm dwellings. The farmhouses date from the 18th and 19th centuries and are leased as private residences.

The Buckman Barn, located near the intersection of routes 332 and 413, is one of four barns in the park. It is a bank barn, which is built into a slope to provide easy wagon access to both levels. The Buckman Barn wasn't built until the late 19th century, but sits on land purchased directly from William Penn in 1682.



Near where PA 332 crosses Neshaminy Creek, Spring Garden Mill is now a community theater, but the exterior reflects its original purpose. From the outside, visitors can see the waterwheel housing, the ventilation cupola, and where the wagons pulled up to the mill to hoist grains by pulley.

Before becoming a park, the Tyler Estate, also known as Neshaminy Farms, consisted of 18 farms covering 2,000 acres of land. The Tyler Estate was owned by George F. and Stella Elkins Tyler who purchased the land in parcels between 1919 and 1929. Their first purchase was the Solly Farm, at the north end of the park. The Solly House served as the Tyler's country home until the mansion was constructed. The Tyler mansion, now part of Bucks County Community College, was designed in the French Norman style and consisted of 45 main rooms, two dozen fireplaces, a Dutch Room, and an English Pub.

Tyler Stables, built in the 1920s, is a massive Colonial Revival barn and building that now houses Tyler Park Center for the Arts. It was built by Mr. Tyler to house his workers and horse groomers and board 25 horses. In addition, they raised poultry, sheep, and pigs.

The land that is now Tyler State Park was acquired through Project 70 funding and has been developed using funds from Project 500, the Pennsylvania "Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act." The park officially opened on May 25, 1974.



Photo by Justin DeRosa

SCHOFIELD FORD COVERED BRIDGE
Between 1869 and 1871, the citizens of Newtown and Northampton Townships petitioned the Bucks County Commissioners to build a bridge connecting their two communities. By 1873, the bridge was completed and for the next 118 years it played an important and changing role in the social and economic life of Bucks County.

The finished bridge, built entirely of hemlock and oak, was supported by two stone abutments and a center pier. It stretched 166 feet across the creek, making it the longest covered bridge in Bucks County, as well as the only double-span bridge. The post and beam construction method, typical for the time, easily bore the weight of horses, wagons, and carriages traversing the old Holland Pike for business and pleasure.

When the covered bridge was constructed in the 1870s, it received no formal name from the county commissioners, but took on the names of the farming families adjacent to it. Near the end of the 19th century, the Solly family owned the land and the bridge became known as the Solly Bridge. In 1917, George Tyler purchased the Solly land, and a 1931 map of the Tyler property refers to the bridge area as Schofield Ford, the name which was adopted when the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the land from the Tyler Estate in 1964.

In 1991, this county landmark was destroyed by fire. Using authentic materials and methods, a group of concerned citizens from various parts of the county undertook a united effort to rebuild this historic bridge. After five and a half years of planning and fund-raising, the Schofield Ford Bridge Committee organized a coalition to rebuild the bridge in the summer of 1997.

On September 6, 1997, the bridge was dedicated to the volunteers and contributors who made the reconstruction possible.

Tyler Park Center for the Arts



Photo by Toni Kerschner McGovern

The Tyler Park Center for the Arts occupies a building that was once a horse stable. The barn and surrounding buildings have been converted into artist dwellings, workshops, and studios. The arts center offers classes and workshops. The annual Crafts in the Meadow Fall Craft Show helps support the non-profit arts center. www.tylerparkarts.org

Agricultural Leases

Farming has been a tradition at the park for more than 300 years. About one quarter of the park is still under cultivation using modern conservation practices. With the changing of the seasons, field crops like winter wheat, grains, corn, soybeans, and hay provide a scenic pastoral landscape.

Nearby Attractions

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

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.

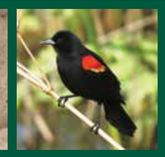
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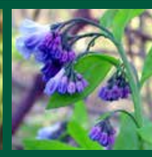
A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Tyler State Park









pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Tyler State Park
101 Swamp Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-2021
TylerSP@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 visitPAparks

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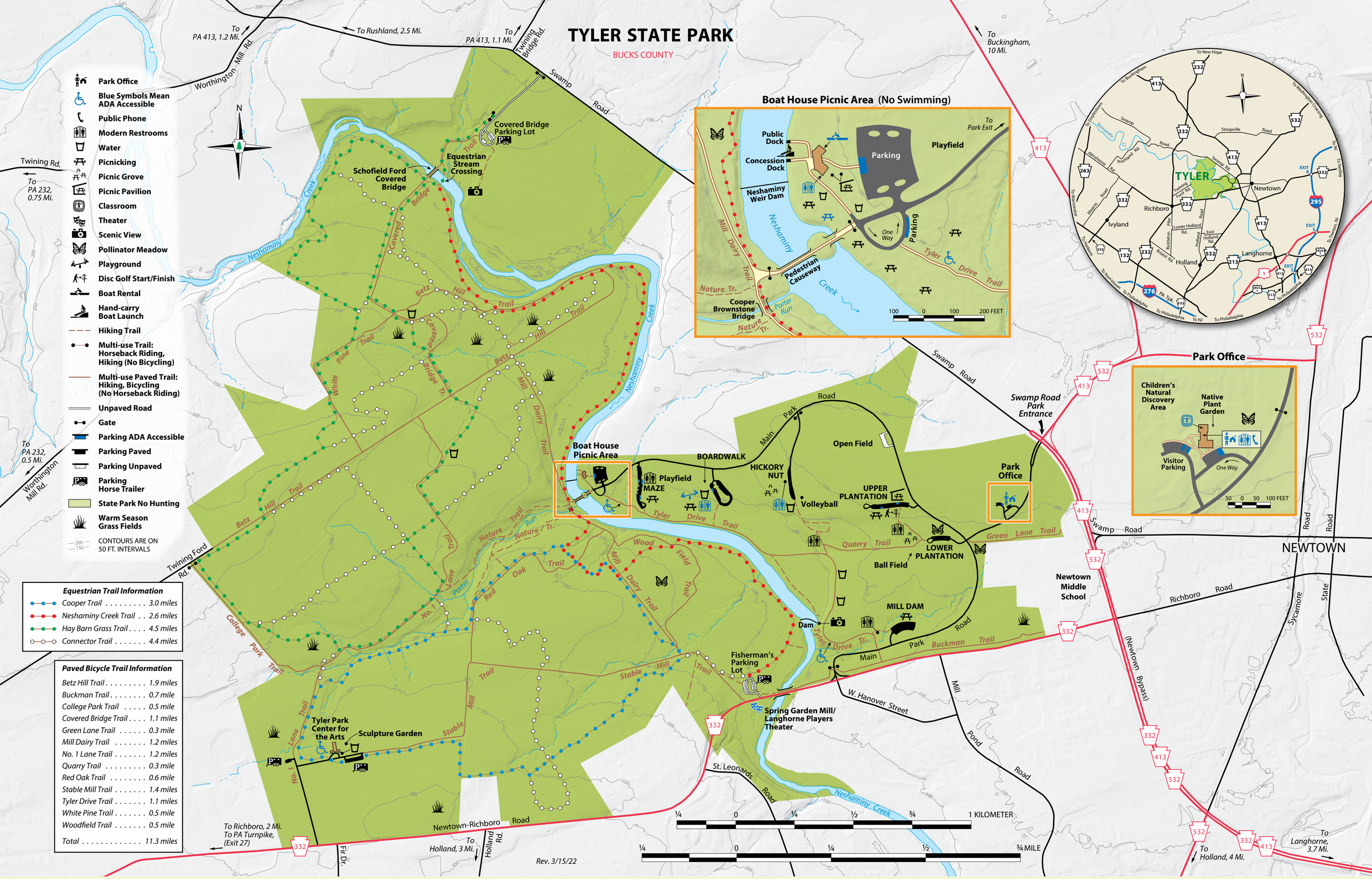
Protect and Preserve Our Parks

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. You are responsible for you and your family's safety.
- 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.
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended. Fireworks are prohibited.
- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles, or take it home with you.
- The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) or unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), all commonly referred to as "drones," are prohibited.

TYLER STATE PARK

BUCKS COUNTY



Equestrian Trail Information

Cooper Trail	3.0 miles
Neshaminy Creek Trail	2.6 miles
Hay Barn Grass Trail	4.5 miles
Connector Trail	4.4 miles

Paved Bicycle Trail Information

Betz Hill Trail	1.9 miles
Buckman Trail	0.7 mile
College Park Trail	0.5 mile
Covered Bridge Trail	1.1 miles
Green Lane Trail	0.3 mile
Mill Dairy Trail	1.2 miles
No. 1 Lane Trail	1.2 miles
Quarry Trail	0.3 mile
Red Oak Trail	0.6 mile
Stable Mill Trail	1.4 miles
Tyler Drive Trail	1.1 miles
White Pine Trail	0.5 mile
Woodfield Trail	0.5 mile
Total	11.3 miles



Picnic Areas and Groves

All picnic areas have picnic tables, modern restrooms, and drinking water and are surrounded by mowed, grassy areas for recreating or relaxing. Picnic areas and groves are listed in the order they appear along Main Park Road.

Please Remember:

- Picnic areas are open from 8:00 AM to sunset.
- Unless reserved, all picnic groves and pavilions are on a first-come, first served basis.
- Park only in designated areas.
- 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.
- Clean up dog waste.

Mill Dam Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This area is adjacent to Tyler Drive Trail, a beautiful, shaded trail which overlooks Neshaminy Creek.
- Grass fields
- Bicycle and hiking trails

Lower Plantation Picnic Grove: reservable
This easy-to-find area is often used by people who stop in for a quick, relaxing lunch and is ideal for smaller groups.
- Ball field
- Bicycle and hiking trails
- Access to disc golf course

Upper Plantation Picnic Pavilion: reservable
This shaded area is perfect for smaller group gatherings and has the only reservable picnic pavilion in the park.
- Starting point for disc golf course
- ADA restroom is accessible from Lower Plantation Picnic Area

Hickory Nut Picnic Grove: reservable
This is a great area for large family events and picnics.
- Volleyball court
- Bicycle and hiking trails
- Large open field
- Access to disc golf course

Boardwalk Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This area has easy access to a variety of hiking trails that connect the picnic areas and is especially popular with families with young children.
- Children's playground
- Adjacent to soccer field
- Abundant parking

Maze Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This area has easy access to a variety of trails that connect the picnic areas.
- Large play field
- Easy walking distance to Boat House via Tyler Drive Trail
- Bicycle and hiking trails

Boat House Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This centrally located area is the best place to access the west side of the park and all of its biking and equestrian trails. Facilities in this area are non-reservable. Swimming in Neshaminy Creek is prohibited.
- Shelter with hooded fire ring and warming area
- Two small picnic pavilions
- Play field
- Adjacent to boat rental (open summer season)