A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Whipple Dam State Park

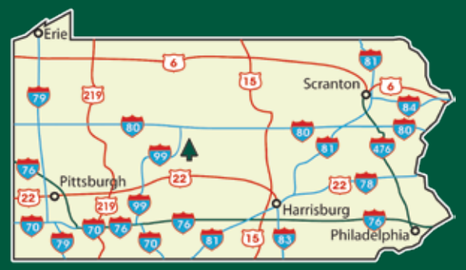








pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Whipple Dam State Park
c/o Greenwood Furnace State Park
15795 Greenwood Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652-5831
814-667-1800
GreenWoodFurnaceSP@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 PAStateParks

An Equal Opportunity Employer

2023

Whipple Dam State Park

Nestled at the base of Greenlee Mountain, Whipple Dam State Park is a beautiful spot for a picnic at a historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilion, a dip in the lake at the swimming beach, or a relaxing paddle in a kayak. A hike on Whipple Lake Trail travels through forests and scenic wetlands near Laurel Run and provides abundant wildlife viewing opportunities.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.6823 Long. -77.86436

Whipple Dam State Park is in the northeastern corner of Huntingdon County, 12 miles south of State College. The park is 0.9 mile from PA 26. At the Whipple Dam State Park sign, turn onto Whipple Dam Road, then a right turn onto Laurel Run Road, then turn left at the park entrance sign.

Spend the Day

BOATING: electric motors only; slow, no-wake speed
The 17-acre Whipple Lake is great for canoeing, kayaking, and electric-powered motorboating.

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.

BOAT RENTAL: In the summer season, a boat rental offers canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and paddleboats.



FISHING: The 17-acre Whipple Lake and Laurel Run are stocked with trout by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in the spring and winter months. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

ICE FISHING: Ice fishing is permitted on the natural ice of the lake. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single angler and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

PICNICKING: Three large picnic pavilions and many picnic tables are in a forest-covered area close to the beach and lake. Drinking fountains, charcoal grills, and non-flush restrooms are throughout the park. Pavilion 1 is ADA accessible. The three 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. 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.



SWIMMING: The 300-foot sand beach is open from late-May to mid-September, sunrise to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. A dressing room, beach volleyball court, and seasonal boat rental are at the beach.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: A portion of the park is open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, squirrels, black bear, wild turkey, and waterfowl.

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.

Hiking

Whipple Lake Trail
2.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended
With trailheads near Pavilion 1 and at the northern tip of the Beach Road Parking Lot, Whipple Lake Trail follows Laurel Run and a highland. Several boardwalks traverse wetland areas and provide opportunities to see wildlife like wood ducks. Walking on park roads and hiking the beach area make a 2.3-mile loop.

History

The park area was originally purchased from the Haudenosaunee by the Proprietary Government of Pennsylvania on July 6, 1754. The land eventually became part of the Monroe Iron Works. Charcoal was produced in the area for use in the iron furnace, and there is some evidence of iron ore mining. In 1868, Osgood M. Whipple purchased a large block of land and constructed a dam and sawmill near the current park dam. The purpose of the dam was to supply a source of water for the operation of an "up and down" sawmill. Whipple left the lumber business in 1897, but the dam remained for many years and was known locally as "Whipple's Dam."

In 1927, the Department of Forests and Waters was considering a recreation site in the area. They constructed a new dam upstream of the old log-crib dam. It was completed in the spring of 1928, providing a shallow pool for recreation. By the early 1930s, Whipple Dam was listed as a State Forest Public Camp. In 1928, a camp for Boy and Girl scouts opened on the north side of the lake. The camp closed in 1941.

Between 1933 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) had a work camp at Owls Gap (S-60-PA), east of the park. The corps members built pavilions, roads, restrooms, and the beach during this period. In 1935, the CCC dismantled the old dam and constructed the existing dam and bridge. In 1987, the 32-acre park day use area was designated the Whipple Dam National Historic District. This entry on the National Register of Historic Places recognizes, protects, and preserves the work site of one of the Depression-Era's most important relief programs, the CCC.

The CCC work was performed to guidelines embraced by the National Park Service. The use of native materials and the rustic look exemplify the idea that parks should harmonize with the natural setting and not be glaring intrusions onto the landscape. Today, all construction and repair work is done to complement the original character of the CCC architecture and construction methods.

Events

The Friends of Greenwood Furnace Complex sponsor the "Whipple Dam Summer Concert Series," which includes live music from local performers on the third Saturday of June, July, and August. For details and show times, visit the Calendar of Events or the Greenwood Furnace Facebook page.

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

Wildlife Watching

Wildlife is abundant in the area. An alert observer may see white-tailed deer, black bears, wild turkeys, waterfowl, and many other species of wildlife. Osprey, great blue herons, and Canada geese visit the lake. On quiet evenings, muskrats and beavers may be seen on the water.

Nearby State Parks and Forests

Nine miles to the southeast, **Greenwood Furnace State Park** has a full range of recreational activities including swimming, camping, and educational programs.

Penn-Roosevelt State Park is 14 miles to the northeast and has hiking, picnicking, and a rustic camping area.

All three state parks serve as a base for exploring an 80,000-acre block of **Rothrock State Forest.** Hiking trails crisscross the state forest, which also has many outdoor recreational opportunities. State forest public use maps are available at the Greenwood Furnace State Park office and the Rothrock State Forest district office. 814-643-2340

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the: Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau. www.raystown.org

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.
- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn it!
- 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. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

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.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Mount Nittany Medical Center
1800 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
814-231-7000



Mountain laurel

WHIPPLE DAM STATE PARK

