



For More Information Contact:

Marsh Creek State Park
 675 Park Road
 Downingtown, PA 19335-1898
 610-458-5119
 e-mail: marshcreeksp@state.pa.us
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
 888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to
 Saturday, for state park information and
 reservations.

Marsh Creek State Park

Marsh Creek State Park is in the rolling hills of northcentral Chester County. The 1,727-acre park contains the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake, which is great for fishing, sailing and is a reststop for migrating waterfowl.

Directions

The park is about two miles west of the village of Eagle on PA 100. Access to the park from the Downingtown Exit 312 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is via PA 100 north. At Eagle, signs direct you to the park.

Recreational Opportunities



BOATING: electric motors permitted

The 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake has two boat launch areas and 220 seasonal mooring slips. The lake is especially popular with sailboaters who take advantage of the combination of good natural terrain and prevailing winds. Approved sailboat races draw spectators who enjoy the water activity from the lakeshore.

A boat rental concession at the East Launch offers rowboats, canoes, kayaks, surfboards and sailboats throughout the summer and weather permitting, on weekends during the spring and autumn. Call 610-458-5040 or visit their Web site at www.marshcreeklake.com.

Motorboats must display a boat registration from any state. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration from any state; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks that are available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

HORSEBACK RIDING: The bridle trails are in the western side of the park and have loops of various distances. Use extreme caution when riding in hunting areas during hunting seasons.

With an emphasis on families and fun, Hope Springs Farm offers horseback riding lessons, boarding and trail riding. www.hopespringshorsefarm.com

SWIMMING: The ADA accessible "L" shaped swimming pool and sprayground attracts many visitors. The guarded pool is open 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day unless posted otherwise. A snack bar, sunning area and bathhouse are nearby.

PICNICKING: Two picnic areas containing over 150 picnic tables, restrooms and some charcoal grills are available year-round.



FISHING: The 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake is good to excellent fishing for warm-water species. Anglers have landed 40-inch long tiger muskies (hybrid cross between northern pike and native muskellunge). Other species include largemouth bass, channel catfish, black crappie, walleye and a variety of panfish. The lake is designated a big bass lake and specific regulations apply.

HIKING: The trails explore a variety of habitats including forest, field and wetlands. Use extreme caution when hiking in hunting areas during hunting seasons.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 900 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are rabbit, squirrel, pheasant, waterfowl and deer.

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 car, trailer or leased campsite. The only exception is that law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* may carry said firearm concealed on their person while they are within the park.

SNACK BARS: A snack bar at the pool is open in the summer season. A snack bar by the boat rental is open in the summer season and weekends in the spring and fall.

CAMPING: There is no overnight camping at Marsh Creek State Park. Within one mile of the park is a privately owned campground on PA 282. French Creek State Park is 20 miles to the north and has camping.

ICE SPORTS: Ice skating, iceboating and ice fishing are popular during the winter season. Iceboats must display a state park mooring or launching permit. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

BIRDING: Marsh Creek is a popular place for birding, especially during the spring and fall waterfowl migration.

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: About seven acres of slopes are by the picnic area in the East Launch.

History

Marsh Creek State Park was developed to help manage the water resources in the Brandywine Creek Watershed, which drains 330 square miles, most of which are in Chester County.

Frequent flooding, water shortages and lack of recreational opportunities for nearby population centers were problems in the watershed.

The sponsoring agencies all shared the construction costs of the dam and lake. They were: U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Chester County Water Resources Authority, Chester County Commissioners, Chester County Conservation District, the General State Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

The Chester County Water Resources Authority and Chester County Commissioners paid for utility and road relocations.

The Chester County Water Resources Authority also acquired the land rights for the project. The Department of Environmental Resources acquired the land around the lake for recreation from the Water Resources Authority for approximately \$1.1 million. Project 70 bond funds were used to acquire the land at this site.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania constructed and operates the recreational facilities.

Nearby Attractions

For information on nearby attractions and accommodations, please contact; the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, 800-228-9933, www.brandywinevalley.com or www.chesterspringssurrounds.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.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated. 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.

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

Access for People with Disabilities

 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible. 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

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITALS:

Chester County Hospital
 701 East Marshal Street
 West Chester, PA 19380
 610-431-5000
 or
 Brandywine Hospital
 201 Reeceville Road
 Coatesville, PA 19320
 610-383-8000