



Justin DeRosa

Tyler State Park

Located 33 miles from Center City Philadelphia, Tyler State Park consists of 1,711 acres in Bucks County. Park roads, trails, and facilities are carefully nestled within the original farm and woodland setting. Neshaminy Creek meanders through the park, dividing the land into several interesting sections.

Directions

The main entrance to the park is at the intersection of Swamp Road and PA 413 (Newtown Bypass). Take Exit 49, Newtown/Yardley, of I-95 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

PICNICKING: Eight picnic areas provide plenty of picnic tables and charcoal grills. For more information, see **Picnic Areas and Groves** on back.

FISHING: Neshaminy Creek is stocked with trout and provides excellent fishing opportunities. Anglers may fish along the banks of Neshaminy Creek or from a canoe or kayak. Warmwater species include sunfish, black crappie, carp, smallmouth bass, and other panfish. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

BOATING: electric motors only

Neshaminy Creek offers calm, easy boating upstream from the boat rental. The boat rental operates daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, weather permitting.

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 that are available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.



Jim Cuddahy

TRAILS: 25 miles

Park trails lead visitors through areas rich in historic and scenic interest. The trails provide excellent views of the park and surrounding countryside. You can take a short walk or a long hike covering many miles. Several parking lots near the outer perimeter of the park allow access to remote areas and trails.

A large portion of the park is interconnected by paved hiking trails. Bicycle usage is permitted only on designated paved trails. Many trails permit multiple users, so please 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 the equestrian trails.

Gravel hiking trails east of Neshaminy Creek connect the picnic areas. Access to trails on the western side of the park is available via the causeway across Neshaminy Creek. Here you will find most of the park's bicycle and equestrian trails. Mountain bikes are prohibited on non-paved trails. If you ever find yourself lost or disoriented, locate a paved trail and follow the signs to the boathouse.

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

HIKING ONLY

Nature Trail: 1.0 mile, white 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 oak trees, old growth tulip poplar, and native mountain laurel. The trail starts and finishes at the western side of the causeway near the boathouse.



Jim Cuddahy

HORSEBACK RIDING: 10.5 miles

Riders enjoy many miles of non-paved trails on both sides of Neshaminy Creek. Please stay on established, blazed trails. Horseback riding is not permitted in the picnic areas.

Parking for horse trailers is near Number One Lane Trail in the large parking lot across from the arts center, in the Fisherman's lot on PA 332 across from Spring Garden Mill, and at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge parking lot off of Swamp Road. Hitching posts and a mounting platform are provided at the covered bridge access area.

Cooper Trail: 3.0 miles; blue blazes, easiest

Access this trail from the equine 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: 4.0 miles, green blazes, more difficult

The trail starts and finishes at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge access area. It takes you through rolling agricultural fields, native warm-season grass fields, and past the original farmhouse and barns.

Neshaminy Creek Trail: 2.5 miles, red blazes, more difficult

The trail follows along the creek, beginning at the Fisherman's Lot and offers excellent views before ending at the Schofield Ford Covered Bridge.

BICYCLE: 10.5 miles

If you're riding a bicycle, remember nearly all of the trails on the west side of the creek are hilly. Slow down and use caution on hills and around curves. Bicycle use is permitted only on designated, paved surfaces.

Trails are named at each intersection. Most of the 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 are along the bicycle trails for rest stops.



DISC GOLF COURSE: One of the top ranked courses in the country, this 36-hole 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 and at the Upper Plantation Picnic Area parking lot. The Bucks County Disc Golf Alliance offers tournaments, clinics, and leagues.

Enjoy the Winter

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: Slopes below the Upper Plantation Picnic Area parking lot and west of the covered bridge are great for sledding and tobogganing when conditions permit.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Cross-country skiers may use the edge of fields and non-paved hiking trails when snow cover permits.

Environmental Education and Interpretation

The park offers a wide variety of environmental education, recreation, and interpretive programs. Through hands-on activities, guided walks, history hikes, and workshops, participants gain appreciation, understanding and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available for schools and youth groups. Teacher workshops are also available. Group programs must be arranged in advance and may be scheduled by calling the park office.

Programs are available from September through May. For more information, contact the park office.

Langhorne Players Theater

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 oak, elm, maple, beech, ash, and walnut. They are great habitat for forest birds like warblers, tanagers, thrushes, and vireos. Native dogwood, spicebush, witch hazel, and viburnum 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, bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, and meadowlarks.

The native gardens, wildflower meadow, and landscaping by the park office are maintained by volunteers and are a popular location for photographers and native plant interpretation.



Jim Cuddahy

The richest and most diverse habitats of the park are the wetlands that border Neshaminy Creek. These areas have unique plants, such as skunk cabbage, ferns, and waterwort, which can survive in the perpetually moist soil. Neshaminy Creek is also home to large snapping turtles, eels, frogs, water snakes, and muskrats. While the stream north of the Spring Garden Mill Dam is a popular spot for turtles and wood ducks.

History

The area that is now Tyler State Park was originally inhabited by the Lenni Lanape. Colonists purchased some of the land from William Penn in 1682.

Early in the 18th century, people farmed the land and families like the Coopers, Blakers, and Twinings built mills, houses, and barns. Neshaminy Creek supplied power for several mills, including the Cooper Mill and the Spring Garden Mill. The paved trails in Tyler State Park were once farm roads. Many of the trail names indicate the farm routes they once were; Mill Dairy Trail connected Spring Garden Mill and the Thompson Dairy, whereas Stable Mill Trail went to the Tyler Stables.

The original stone homes in the park are fine examples of early rural Pennsylvania farm dwellings. Ten farmhouses date from the 18th and 19th centuries and are currently being 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.

The Spring Garden Mill still stands in the park near where route 332 crosses Neshaminy Creek. Although it now houses a community theater, the structure reflects its original purpose. From the outside, visitors can see where wagons pulled up



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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

Tyler Park Center for the Arts



Toni Kerschner McGovern

The Tyler Park Center for the Arts occupies a building that was once an equestrian and hay barn. The arts center converted the barn and surrounding buildings into artist dwellings, workshops, and studios. They offer classes and workshops. The annual Crafts in the Meadow Fall Invitational Craft Show helps support the 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 breathtaking pastoral landscape.

to the mill and grains were hoisted by pulley, the waterwheel housing, and the ventilation cupola.

Before becoming a park, the Tyler Estate, also known as Neshaminy Farms consisted of 18 farms over 2,000 acres of land. The Tyler Estate was owned by George F. and Stella Elkins Tyler who purchased the land 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. On weekends, Mr. Tyler would host the Huntington Valley Hunt Club for riding and fox hunting.

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.



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.

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.

Nearby Attractions

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

Access for People with Disabilities

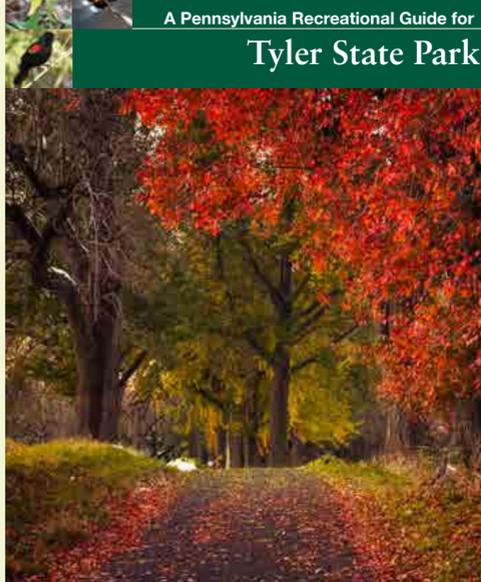
 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

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
St. Mary Hospital
Langhorne-Newtown Road
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-750-2000



For More Information Contact:

Tyler State Park
101 Swamp Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-2021
email: tylersp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 40.23103 Long. -74.95315
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Information and Reservations

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,
for state park information and reservations.

www.visitPAparks.com    

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2015

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.

- Uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten other visitors. Pets must be physically controlled and attended at all times. Pets must be on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

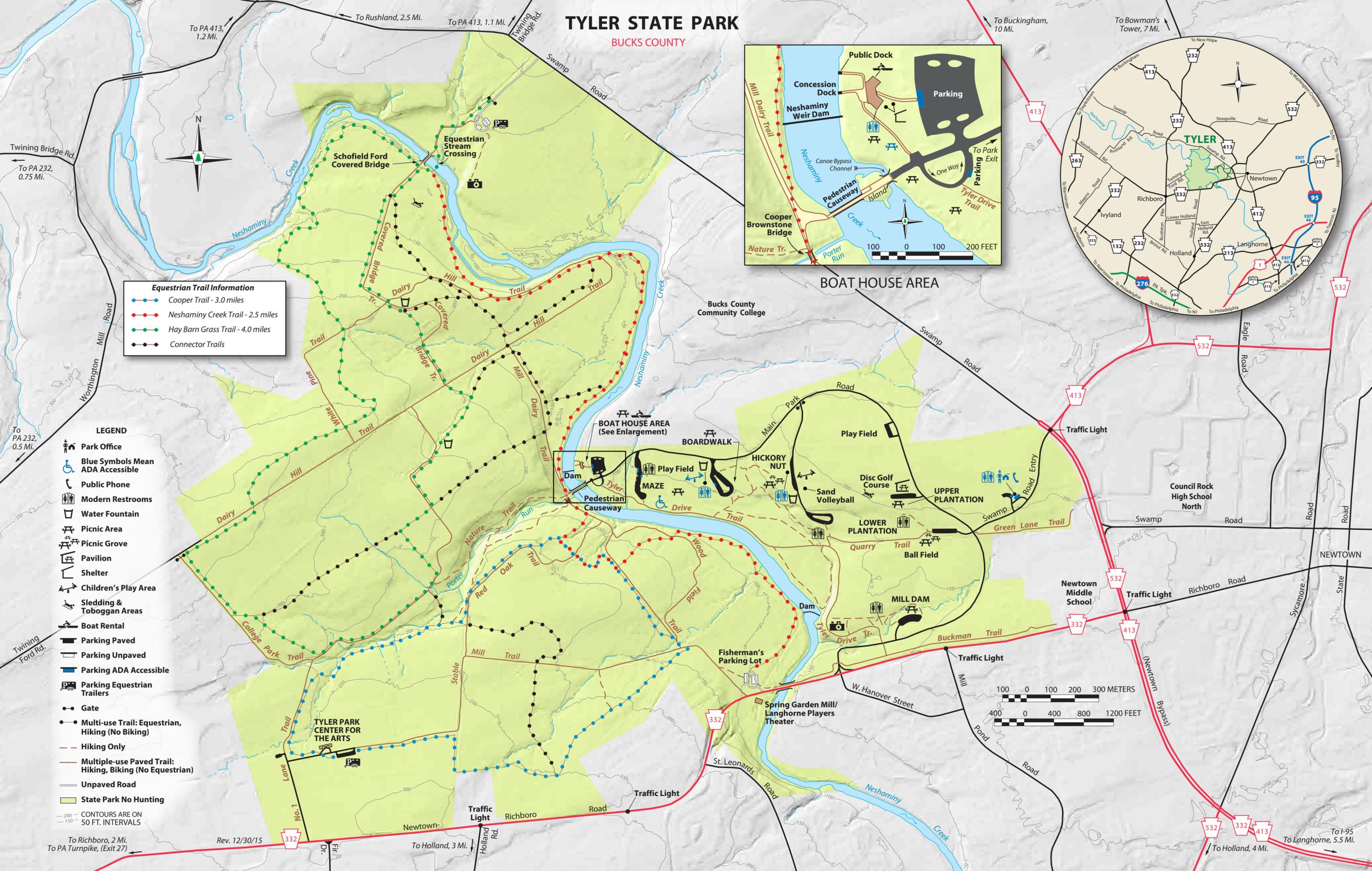
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

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

- 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.

- Soliciting and posting signs is prohibited without approval.



Picnic Areas and Groves

Welcome! All picnic areas have picnic tables, modern restrooms, and drinking water and are surrounded by mowed, grassy areas for recreating or relaxing. Please Remember:

- Picnic areas are open from sunrise to sunset, 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 and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.
- Please clean up dog waste.

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

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.

- Picnic pavilion and two shelters
- Play field
- Adjacent to boat rental (open summer season)
- Hooded fire ring warming area

Hickory Nut Picnic Grove: reservable
This is a great area for large family events and picnics.

- Sand volleyball court
- Children's play area
- 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

Maze Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This area has easy access to a variety of hiking trails that connect the picnic areas.

- Large play field

Mill Dam Picnic Area: first-come, first-served
This area is adjacent to a beautiful, shaded trail which overlooks Neshaminy Creek.

- Grass fields
- Bicycle and hiking trails

Upper Plantation Picnic Area: reservable

- Starting point for disc golf
- Pavilion
- Shaded picnic area

Reservations
Call 888-PA-PARKS or go online at www.visitPAparks.com for information, pricing, and reservations.