

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.



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2015

NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK



The 5,286-acre Nockamixon State Park is in the rolling hills of scenic Bucks County, close enough to Philadelphia for a day trip, but far enough away for a vacation. Tohickon Creek, Three Mile Run, and Haycock Run feed the 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon, which is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and a destination for boaters and anglers. Visitors can stay the night in a cabin or enjoy the many activities of the park for the day. Popular activities are picnicking, visiting the pool, hiking, biking, disc golf, hunting, swimming, fishing, and boating.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

Park visitors enjoy a variety of activities throughout the year. Most park areas are open sunrise to sunset. Fishing and boating are permitted 24 hours a day in designated areas. Other overnight activities are prohibited. Some park areas are closed to vehicles in the winter, but some picnicking areas, fishing areas, trails, and cabins are open year round.

BOATING: maximum 20 hp motors permitted

The 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon has six public launching areas. The marina and Tohickon launch ramps are popular with sailboat, catamaran, and windsurfing enthusiasts. Three Mile Run and Haycock launch facilities are favored for motorboats, kayaks, and inflatable watercraft. Launching facilities are open 24 hours a day. Sleeping on boats on the lake is prohibited.

In addition to having the largest launch ramp in the park, the marina has docking facilities for 648 boats up to 24 feet in length, a 120-space dry storage area for boats on trailers, and 12 trailer spaces. Because of the tremendous demand for marina space, a waiting list is maintained at the park office for seasonal slips and dry storage spaces. Marina slips may be rented on a short-term basis as available. Contact the marina office or park office for additional information and applicable rates.

A boat rental concession has canoes, motorboats, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, paddle boards, and pontoon boats during the summer season. Call the boat rental for applicable rates and regulations. 215-538-1340.

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. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

From November 1st through April 30th, anyone on a boat less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket).

WINDSURFING: Tohickon Boat Launch is popular for windsurfing. All boating regulations apply to wind surfboards, including the permits listed in above.

FISHING: The 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon is a warmwater fishery and

Stay the Night



CABINS: Located on the south side of Lake Nockamixon, ten modern cabins are available for rent year round. Each cabin contains a furnished living area, kitchen/dining area, and toilet/shower room. The kitchen has a refrigerator, stove, and microwave. Outdoors is a fire ring, grill, and picnic table. These electrically heated cabins have two bedrooms (sleeps six) or three bedrooms (sleeps 8). Cabin 6 is ADA accessible. Renters must provide their own bed linens, towels, cookware, tableware, and first aid kit. In the summer, cabins must be

classified a Big Bass Lake. Common species are walleye, muskellunge, pickerel, smallmouth and largemouth bass, striped bass hybrids, channel catfish, carp, and various types of panfish. There is a fishing pier at the midpoint of the lake in the Day Use Area and an ADA accessible fishing platform near the Haycock Boat Launch.

Volunteers, park employees, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission employees have installed fish habitat structures throughout the lake. A map showing the structures, water depths, and specific features of the lake is available at the park office, the marina office, and on the park website. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

Loaner fishing rods are available at the park office with valid photo identification.

Fishing is Prohibited in these Areas:

- From boat docks, launching or mooring areas, and within 100 feet of these areas
- Anywhere in the boat rental area and the marina out to the buoys
- From bridges
- Below the spillway to the silt dam
- Where posted "no fishing"

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 3,500 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit, and turkey. All of Nockamixon is included in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Special Regulations Area for southeastern Pennsylvania. Certain park areas are open to archery hunting only. Contact the park office for additional information. No live birds may be released for training.

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. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm

rented by the week. For the remainder of the year, the minimum stay is two nights. Cabins 1, 2, and 3 allow dogs.

Cabin address: 1969 Stover Mill Road, Perkasio, PA 18944
GPS: Lat. 40.44756 Long. -75.23415

HOSTEL: The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation operates the Weisel Hostel along the Tohickon Creek in the northwest corner of the park. The hostel provides excellent overnight accommodations for hikers and bicyclists. For membership or reservations, contact the house parents at: Weisel Hostel, 7347 Richlandtown Road, Quakertown, PA 18951, 215-536-8749.

CAMPING: Camping is prohibited in Nockamixon State Park. Camping is available at nearby private campgrounds. Information is available at the park office.

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.

Directions

Nockamixon State Park is along PA 563, just off PA 313, five miles east of Quakertown and nine miles north of Doylestown. The main entrances are along PA 563 and can be reached via PA 309 and PA 313, or from the north from PA 611 and PA 412.

concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

SWIMMING: The swimming pool complex includes a half acre main pool with two waterslides, a shallow end with fountains for children, dressing rooms, first aid station, and snack bar. Weather permitting, the summer hours are 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The pool operates on a weekend only schedule from memorial day weekend through the second weekend in June when it shifts to a daily schedule. The pool will resume weekend only operation from mid-August through Labor Day weekend. Check the advisories section on the park website for updates.

Pool admission fee is charged, with reduced rates after 5:45 PM. Seasonal passes and group tickets for non-profit organizations can be purchased at the park office. A valid Pennsylvania identification is needed for resident rates.

Swimming lessons are provided by the lifeguards. The pool is available for party rentals from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Swimming is prohibited in Lake Nockamixon.

DISC GOLF: An 18-hole course in the Day Use Area begins from Parking Lot 13 by the Children's Fishing Pond. Loaner discs are available at the park office with valid photo identification.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables and charcoal grills are in several areas of the park and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some picnic areas are closed in winter, but Haycock, Tohickon, the Marina, and Three Mile Run areas are open year round. Picnic pavilions by parking lots 1 and 5 may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pavilions do not have electricity. Modern restrooms are available nearby.

WHITEWATER RELEASES: Conditions permitting, water is released from the dam on the first full weekend of November and the third weekend in March. The release provides an opportunity for whitewater enthusiasts to experience a thrilling run down Tohickon Creek to the Delaware River. Class IV rapids are sometimes achieved. Check the advisories section of the park website for updates.

Enjoy the Winter

ICE SKATING AND ICE FISHING: These activities are permitted on the frozen lake surface when conditions are suitable.

Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, make sure ice is 4" thick for a single angler/skater and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment. Ice conditions can vary widely. Visitors are advised to use extreme caution when venturing onto the ice.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: The bicycle trail and roads in the closed day use area are open for cross-country skiing. There are also steeper hiking trails in the Sterner Mill Area. Cross-country ski trails are not groomed.

SLEDDING: The area above the marina is used for sledding and tobogganing. Park in Lot #13. Do not block gates.

WILDLIFE WATCHING



Bald eagle

BIRDING

Over 250 species of birds have been recorded at Nockamixon State Park. The numerous habitats of the park are havens for birds and wildlife. The park has grasslands, successional fields, pine plantations, second growth forests, wetlands, and the 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon.

The fishing pier in the Day Use Area is a great place to look for migrating waterfowl and raptors in the spring and fall. Over twenty species of waterfowl, including ducks, grebes, swans, geese, and loons have been recorded in the park.

The paved bike trail in the Day Use Area passes through forests, overgrown fields, and picnic groves. Finches and sparrows are year-round residents. Spring and summer visitors to the area include Baltimore orioles, blue-winged warblers, prairie warblers, and white-eyed vireos.

The forest by the pool in the Day

Use Area is a good place to see pileated woodpeckers, which have nested there. Phoebes and eastern wood-pewees are common summer residents of the park. Migratory warblers often visit to rest and refuel in the trees.

The lake by the marina is a great place to look for waterfowl, especially rafts of ducks during migration. In March and April, huge flocks of gulls pass through the area. Vultures roost by the marina year round. Nesting boxes in the grassy areas near the marina host eastern bluebirds and tree swallows. Please do not disturb nest boxes.



Great blue heron

The forest around the cabin area comes alive each spring with the songs of wood thrushes, veeries, and ovenbirds. Summer visitors to Mink Trail are prairie warblers, Baltimore orioles, eastern towhees, and white-eyed vireos.

The varied habitats by the dam support diverse bird species. The hemlock dominated forest is a year-round home to woodpeckers and a summer breeding grounds for thrushes, scarlet tanagers, and warblers. The spillway of the dam is a favorite spot for killdeer, sandpipers, herons,

great egrets, kingfishers, and osprey. The woodlot above the dam is home to wrens, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and blue-gray gnatcatchers.

Bald eagles and osprey have been spotted around the deep waters above the dam and can be seen anywhere around the lake especially in February, March, and September.

SCENIC VISTA

A pull off along South Park Road west of the bridge over Tohickon Creek provides a scenic view of the dam spillway. In the winter, the water freezes into a myriad of colors and shapes and creates one of the park's most spectacular sights.

SENTINEL ROCK

This unusual rock formation is downstream of the dam and upstream of South Park Road on the east side of the creek. It is accessible via the mountain bike trail.

NATIVE AND WARM-SEASON GRASS FIELDS

When the park was created in the 1960s, most of the land had been small farms. Since then, the fields have become overgrown with non-native species like autumn olive and multiflora rose. The park has reclaimed many of these fields and planted them with native warm-season grasses like indiangrass, big and little bluestem, and switchgrass. These grasslands provide a critical habitat which is rare in Pennsylvania. The fields benefit grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, and grasshopper sparrows, and wild turkey, rabbits, and small mammals.

HISTORY

The name Nockamixon comes from the Native American phrase "nocha-miska-ing" which is Lenni Lenape for "at the place of soft soil." Several American Indian sites from the Lenni Lenape Tribe are documented in the park area.

Secretary of the Department of Forests and Waters, Dr. Maurice K. Goddard, proposed the park in 1958. The park was developed as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan for the Delaware River Basin.

Originally known as Tohickon State Park after the principal stream flowing into Lake Nockamixon, it was renamed Nockamixon State Park by the State Geographic Board in 1965. The park officially opened in December of 1973.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Nockamixon State Park offers a wide variety of environmental education, interpretive, and recreational programs. Through guided walks, hands-on educational activities, children's programs, and evening programs, visitors gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Programs are offered late spring through fall. Teacher workshops and educational programs for schools are available. Please contact the park office for more information. The Environmental Education Center is only open for programs, check the DCNR calendar of events for a schedule of programs.

Pontoon boat tours of the lake board at the marina. These tours provide a history of the park and views of wildlife and beautiful scenery. Preregistration for the boat tours is required and starts in early April. Please contact the park office.

FRIENDS GROUPS & VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

FRIENDS OF NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK (FONSP): This group is a chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks Forests Foundation and qualifies as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the FONSP is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and recreational resources of Nockamixon State Park for present and future generations. www.friendsofnockamixonstatepark.org. doodlekit.com/home

NOCKAMIXON SAILING CLUB: This non-profit organization promotes recreational sailing on Lake Nockamixon. www.nockamixonsailclub.org

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS: This non-profit organization promotes mountain biking in the park. www.bikevmb.com

RIDENOX: This mountain bike trail maintenance group maintains the mountain

bike trails and provides information on mountain bike trail conditions. The group also hosts organized mountain biking events on the trails. www.ridenox.com

LEHIGH VALLEY DISC GOLF CLUB: This disc golf club maintains the 18-hole disc golf course and hosts tournaments and other disc golf events. www.lvdiscgolf.org

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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.

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.

Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact
Nockamixon State Park
1542 Mountain View Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951-5732
GPS: Lat. 40.46342 Long. -75.24179
email: nockamixonsp@pa.gov
Park Office: 215-529-7300
Marina Office: 610-847-8254
weekends only from Memorial Day through Labor Day
Boat Rental: 215-538-1340

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Grandview Hospital
700 Lawn Avenue
Sellersville, PA 18960
215-453-4000

Swimming Pool: 215-538-2680
Environmental Education Center: 215-529-7307
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.visitPAparks.com
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.

[facebook.com/NockamixonStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/NockamixonStatePark)

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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. 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 physically controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau. <http://visitbuckscounty.com>

STATE GAME LANDS 157:

Encompassing 2,010 acres, the game lands adjoins the northeast border of the park. Hunting, bouldering, and hiking are popular activities. Trails are not blazed.

DELAWARE CANAL STATE PARK:

Visitors enjoy biking, hiking, fishing, boating, and learning about the canal building era of American history.

RALPH STOVER STATE PARK:

Visitors enjoy seasonal whitewater boating, scenic overlooks, and rock climbing.

NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK

BUCKS COUNTY

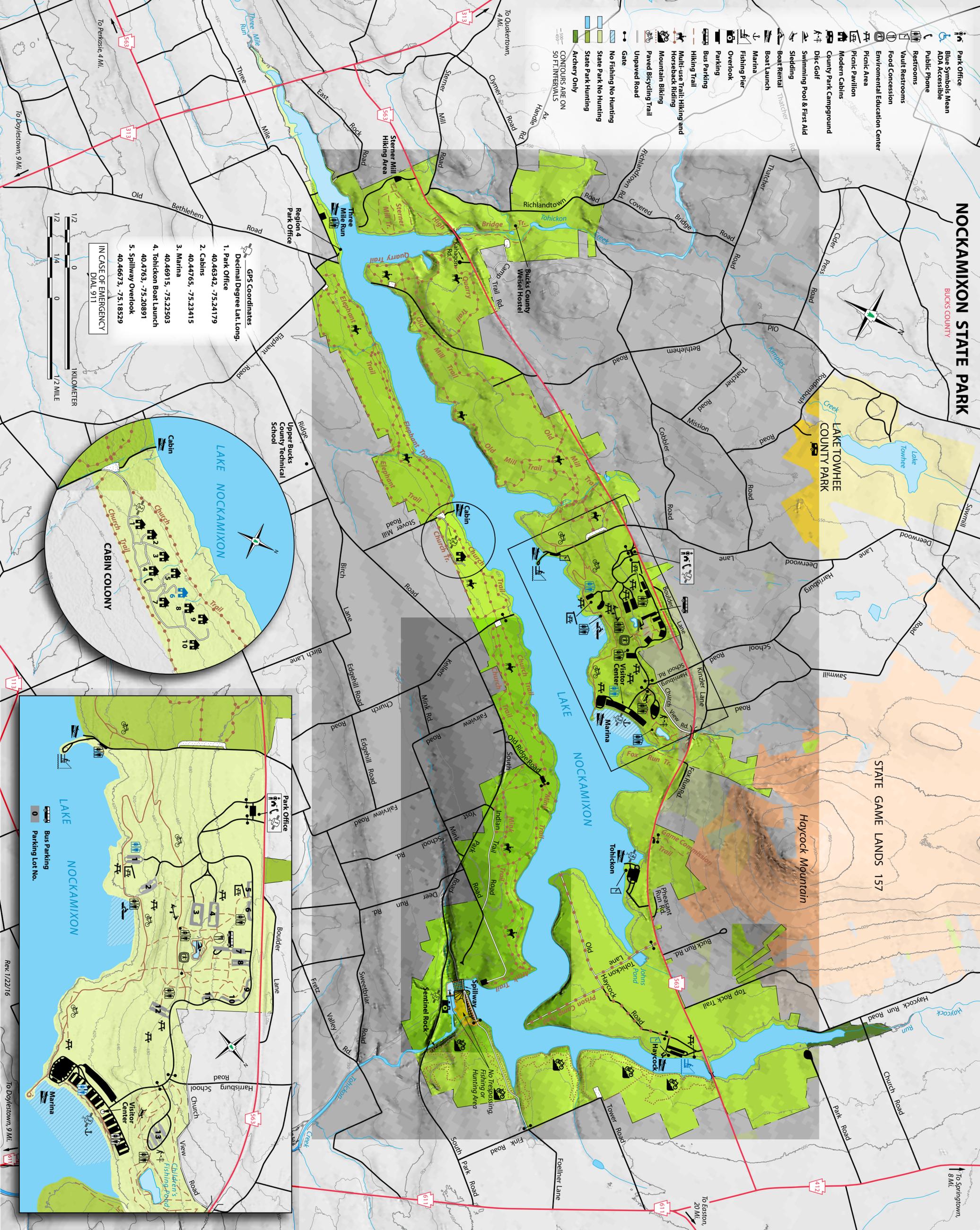


- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Public Phone
- Restrooms
- Vault Restrooms
- Food Concession
- Environmental Education Center
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Pavilion
- Modern Cabins
- County Park Campground
- Disc Golf
- Swimming Pool & First Aid
- Sledding
- Boat Rental
- Boat Launch
- Marina
- Fishing Pier
- Overlook
- Parking
- Bus Parking
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking and Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Paved Bicycling Trail
- Unpaved Road
- Gate
- No Fishing No Hunting
- State Park No Hunting
- Archery Only
- CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

LAKE TOWHEE COUNTY PARK

STATE GAME LANDS 157

Haycock Mountain



TRAILS

The hiking trails of the park explore forests, fields, and the edge of the lake. For the safety of all park users, dogs must be leashed and under physical control while in the park. Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

STERNER MILL HIKING AREA: 1.8 miles, more difficult hiking

The southwest corner of the park has several loop trails that pass near the lake. Hikers can see a small pond, rock outcroppings, lake views, and pass through hardwood forests and pine plantations. These trails are closed to horses.

HIGH BRIDGE TRAIL: 1.2 miles, more difficult hiking

This wooded hiking trail runs along both sides of Tohickon Creek from the Weisel Hostel to the High Bridge on PA 563 and Quarry Trail. This trail connects the Sterner Mill Hiking Area with the hostel.

QUARRY TRAIL: 2.65 miles, more difficult hiking

This trail winds through old foundations which are remnants of a summer camp. The trail provides a spectacular view of the lake and an overlook of the old quarry that provided building material for area structures. The trail can be accessed from the Kahagon Road Parking Lot off PA 563 or Old Bethlehem Road.

OLD MILL TRAIL: 5.6 miles, more difficult hiking

This trail crosses the stream at the old mill pond and passes across the top of the stone dam breast. Hikers pass through a mature woodland, pine plantations, and walk a loop that follows the lake shore. Access the trail from the western terminus of the Paved Bicycle Trail, from the gravel lot on Deerwood Lane, or from Old Bethlehem Road.

OLD HAYCOCK ROAD: 1.3 miles, easiest hiking

This hiking trail is an old road that reaches the lake. The trail begins behind the gate at the Haycock Boat Launch.

SOUTH SIDE OF THE LAKE TRAILS: 13.5 miles, easiest hiking

Established trails extend most of the way along the south shore of the lake. Park land on this side of the lake is narrow at spots but there still is a two-way "loop" of trails, including Elephant (4.6 miles), Church (5.1 miles), and Mink (3.8 miles) trails, and many parking lots for creating hikes of various lengths.

ExplorePAtrails.com
powered by you

PAVED BICYCLE TRAIL: 2 miles, easiest hiking

The popular paved bicycle trail winds through the Day Use Area and is ideal for bicycles, strollers, wheelchairs, and walkers. The eastern end of the trail begins at the Marina, which offers parking and great views of the lake. The western end of the trail features a waterfall and the Old Mill Pond. A spur off the main trail passes by the swimming pool and playground. Horses are prohibited.

Caution:

- This trail is not a loop
 - The trail has many curves
 - Please exercise caution and be considerate of other riders and walkers when using the trail
- MOUNTAIN BIKING:** A 10-mile trail system for mountain bikes is on the east side of Haycock Cove. Trailheads are located off of Tower and South Park roads, and PA 563. Parking is available at the Tower Road and the Haycock Boat Launch parking lots. Horses are prohibited on these trails. Detailed trail maps can be downloaded at www.nockamixon.com or picked up at the park office.

Caution:

- The ten-mile bike trail can be hazardous and slippery
- Some slopes are steep with rough surfaces
- The trail is for riders equipped for off-road riding
- Bikers ride bike trails at their own risk
- Trails are closed during wet conditions

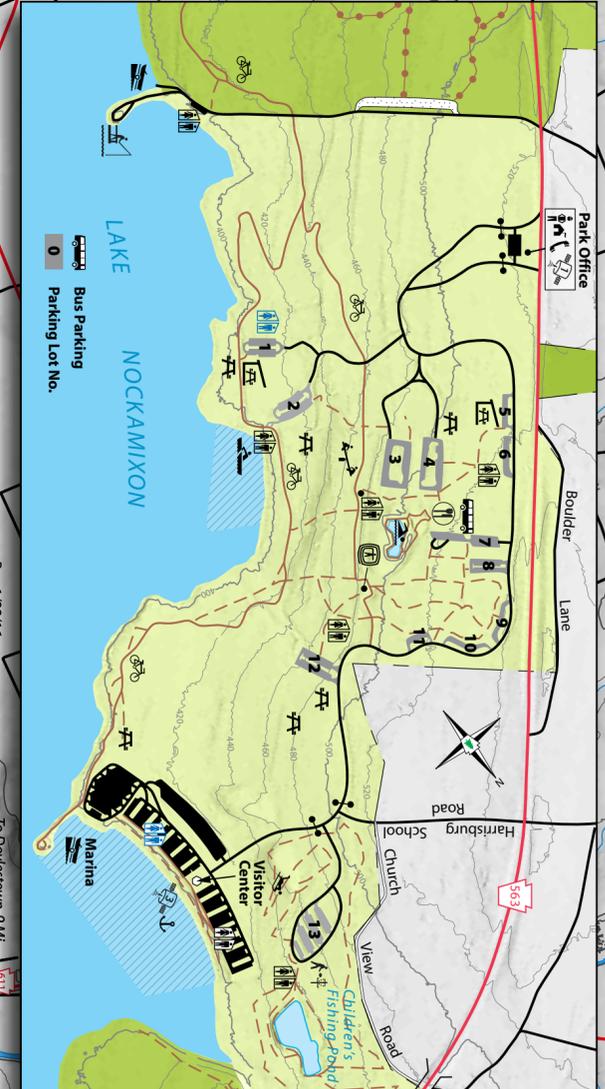
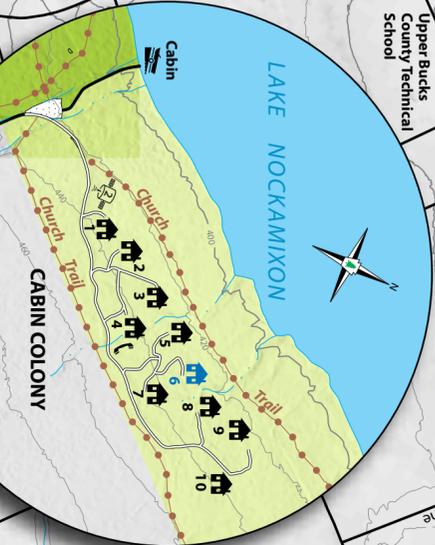
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: Horseback riding is permitted on roadsides throughout the park and on the following trails: Quarry, Old Mill, and the trails on the south side of the lake. Pedestrians should yield to horses. Horses may be rented at a private establishment near the park. Carriages and vehicles are prohibited on trails, except for approved ADA equipment.

- GPS Coordinates**
- 1. Park Office**
Decimal Degree Lat. Long.
40.46342, -75.24179
- 2. Cabins**
40.44765, -75.23415
- 3. Marina**
40.46915, -75.22503
- 4. Tohickon Boat Launch**
40.4753, -75.20891
- 5. Spillway Overlook**
40.46673, -75.18529

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
DIAL 911



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Rev. 1/22/16

To Doylestown, 9 MI.