



James Law

Maurice K. Goddard State Park

The 2,856-acre Maurice K. Goddard State Park features the 1,680-acre Lake Wilhelm, which is very popular with anglers and boaters. Many recreational activities attract visitors in all seasons. The large lake, abundant wetlands, old fields and mature forests provide a diversity of habitats for wildlife, and nature waterfowl, eagles and ospreys.

Directions

The park is five minutes from I-79. Take Exit 130 (Sandy Lake-Greenville) and travel west on PA 358 (toward Greenville) for about 0.1 mile, then bear right onto Sheakleyville Road. At the first stop sign, turn right onto Lake Wilhelm Road, which goes directly to the park.

Recreational Opportunities

BIKING: A twelve-mile paved bicycle trail follows the shoreline. It can be accessed from boat launches 1, 2 and 4, the marina, the parking lot below the park office, the dam and Dugan's Run. The trail is open to two-way bicycle traffic, hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Stay to the right while bike riding. Please park bicycles off of the trail to avoid obstructing traffic. Please read trail guidelines located at the trailheads.



Darl Black

FISHING: Lake Wilhelm is a warmwater fishery. Common species are largemouth bass, walleye, crappie, muskellunge, bluegill, catfish, perch and sunfish. A bait and fishing tackle concession is available at the marina. An area called the "Rounded Point," near the marina parking lot, has an ADA accessible fishing pier. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables and charcoal grills are available throughout the park. Boat launches 1, 2, 3, 4 and the marina have restrooms and large picnic areas. Picnic pavilions can be reserved in advance for a fee online at www.visitPAparks.com or by calling 888-PA-PARKS. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

LOCATION	SEATING	ELECTRICITY
Launch 1	40	No
Launch 2	40	No
Launch 3	100	Yes
Marina	100	Yes

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 1,155 acres of Maurice K. Goddard State Park, plus Lake Wilhelm, are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, ring-necked pheasant and waterfowl. State Game Land 270 is adjacent to the park.

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



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BOATING: 20 hp motors permitted

Lake Wilhelm has a 241-slip marina and a 48-space dry land mooring area available from May 1 to October 31.

The marina has 250 car parking spaces, 121 car/trailer-parking spaces, a four-lane boat-launching ramp, a courtesy dock, a marina building and fueling station.

A boat concession in the marina rents rowboats, pontoon boats, kayaks and canoes.

In addition to the marina, there are seven other boat launches around the lake. Four are within the state park and three are in the state game lands. Spaces on the kayak/canoe storage rack at Launch 3 can be reserved in advance for a fee.

The 240-acre portion of the lake northwest of interstate 79 is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission as part of State Game Land 270, while the remaining 1440 acres is managed by Maurice K. Goddard State Park. Only electric-powered vessels are permitted in the Game Commission section of the lake.

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.

HIKING: see other side.

Interpretive Programs

A wide variety of interpretive and educational programs are offered May through September. Through hands-on activities, guided walks and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources. Visit our website or contact the park office for program schedules.

History

Sandy Creek, which traverses the park, was first noted in reports made by George Washington during his trip to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753. Its history of flooding prompted the initial flood control study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1939. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service subsequently became committed to building a dam for flood control and conservation purposes. The recreational potential of the project became so apparent during the initial planning phase that state, county, township and municipal authorities were drawn into an outstanding cooperative effort to construct the park and game lands. The land was acquired for the project in the late 1960s. The dam was completed in 1971 and recreational facilities were dedicated in 1972.

Lake Wilhelm is named in honor of Lawrence J. Wilhelm. As the Mercer County Commissioner and a Soil and Water Conservation District Director for Mercer County, Mr. Wilhelm provided leadership in the development of the park from its beginnings in 1959 to the time of his death in October of 1968.

Enjoy the Winter

ICE FISHING: Ice fishing accounts for many of the larger fish caught in Lake Wilhelm. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, be sure the ice is four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

ICEBOATING: Iceboats must display a current state park launch permit.

ICE SKATING: Launch 3 has an unmaintained ice skating area.

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: There is a one-acre hill for sledding at the dam.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: There are approximately 6 miles of trails marked for cross-country skiing for beginner to expert skiers.

SNOWMOBILING: Approximately 6 miles of trail are open for snowmobiling. The trail can be accessed at Boat Launch 4 and the parking lot below the office.

Cavity-nesting Trail



Once a rare sight because of habitat loss, the eastern bluebird is again a common sight at Maurice K. Goddard State Park due to a highly successful, volunteer cavity-nesting trail program. The habitat in northern Mercer County is very suitable for this beautiful bird but lacked natural cavities for the birds to nest in. The trail program places nest boxes in appropriate habitat throughout the park.

For over 20 years, volunteers have maintained such nesting boxes in old fields, meadows, farm fields and recreation areas. Over time, the trail program has expanded to include additional cavity-nesting species. House wrens, tree swallows and chickadees also take advantage of the boxes. The larger nest boxes located near the lake are used by waterfowl, such as wood ducks and mergansers.

Near the marina and dam, racks of nesting gourds are utilized by purple martins, which are highly social birds. Similar to the plight of the eastern bluebird, purple martins are no longer as common as they once were due to lack of natural nesting cavities. However, the purple martin population is growing in the park. Visitors can still see this largest member of the swallow family thanks to the dedicated volunteers.

Maurice K. Goddard



After receiving a M.S. Degree in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley, Maurice K. Goddard served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1945 and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After serving as the director of the Mont Alto Forestry School, Goddard went on to head the Pennsylvania State University Forestry School. In 1955, Goddard was appointed Secretary of the Bureau of Forests and Waters. It was here he set a goal of having a state park within 25 miles of every resident of Pennsylvania. Goddard also quickly set to work to improve the professionalism of the department by eliminating the political appointments and increasing the number of college educated employees.

In 1959, Maurice K. Goddard received an honorary doctorate of science from Waynesburg College and was thereafter called "Doc Goddard."

Wildlife Watching

The large lake, abundant wetlands, old fields and mature forests provide a diversity of habitats that attracts wildlife in all seasons.

Once pushed to the edge of extinction, bald eagle and osprey populations are now rebounding. Both of these fish-eating raptors nest at Lake Wilhelm. The combination of old fields and mature forests are home to many birds including American woodcock, common snipe, common nighthawk and many species of warblers.

In the spring and fall, thousands of waterfowl stop at the lake during migration for rest and food. Loon, teal, merganser, goldeneye and bufflehead are some of the noteworthy waterfowl.

Winter is a good time to see several species of woodpeckers, including the pileated woodpecker.

In the summer, turtles, northern water snakes and amphibians are abundant in the quiet waters by the marina. The wetland across Lake Wilhelm Road from the marina entrance has a waterfowl observation station and is a great place to see ospreys, eagles and beavers.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-637-2370. www.mercercountypa.org

The 2,027-acre **STATE GAME LAND 270** is adjacent to the park. Its rolling terrain is open, with interspersed wooded areas. A 240-acre portion of Lake Wilhelm is part of this tract. The common game species include duck, rabbit, turkey, pheasant, squirrel, woodcock, grouse, deer and dove.

Only electric-powered vessels are permitted on Lake Wilhelm, west of I-79. Entry upon posted wildlife refuges and propagation areas is prohibited. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on gated roads and trails; snowmobiles are permitted where designated and posted. For more

Friends of Goddard State Park (FrOG)



Pioneer Frolic Festival

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 1971, the Department of Forests and Waters was combined with several other state departments to create the Department of Environmental Resources. Although opposed to the combined department, Dr. Goddard was appointed its secretary of the department.



When Dr. Goddard retired in 1979, after an unprecedented 24 years as a cabinet officer to six governors, he had added 45 state parks and an additional 130,000 acres of state park land. He raised Pennsylvania's parks and forestry bureau to national leaders, while not losing sight of the people and programs. Dr. Goddard received many awards in his career, including the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Special Achievement Award for his 50 years as an outspoken defender of natural resources. And despite his objections, the Sandy Creek State Park project was officially named Maurice K. Goddard State Park in 1969.



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For More Information Contact:

Maurice K. Goddard State Park
 684 Lake Wilhelm Road
 Sandy Lake, PA 16145
 724-253-4833

email: goddardsp@pa.gov
 GPS DD: Lat. 41.4275 Long. -80.14522
 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 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

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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 controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated.

- 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.

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

UPMC Horizon, Greenville
 110 N. Main Street
 Greenville, PA 16125
 724-588-2100

Hiking: 14 miles of trails



MULTI-USE TRAIL: 12-mile loop, more difficult hiking, paved trail and roadway

Trail parking can be accessed along the trail at boat launches or the marina. The main trail parking area is on Lake Wilhelm Road between the bridge and the park office.

This scenic loop is composed of two trails. Along the north shore is the Wilhelm Trail, which is open to hiking, biking and snowmobiling. This section contains short, steep runs that may be difficult to climb for some bikers. The north shore has many vistas that overlook the lake.

The South Shore Trail is open to hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. The south shore of the lake has areas of trail

that share the road with motor vehicles. The trail runs from the dam to Lake Wilhelm Road.

To complete the loop, hike Lake Wilhelm Road to connect the south and north portions of the trail.

GODDARD MCKEEVER HIKING TRAIL: 0.75 mile within the park (1.25 miles total), yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

This trail connects Maurice K. Goddard State Park to McKeever Environmental Learning Center's trail system. As you climb Coal Hill, note the sealed coal mine shaft going into the hillside just before you break over the crest.

FALLING RUN NATURE TRAIL: 0.7-mile loop, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

This self-guided nature trail follows some of the old logging roads as it winds its way to the hemlock forested Falling Run Ravine.

Falling Run drops 90 feet in elevation in less than 1,000 feet, cascading over a small waterfall. Hikers will find signs of a pioneer settlement of the George Y. Stright family, including the spring house and mill pond near the trailhead. Signs of the log cabin, old gristmill and sawmill have all but vanished.

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

GUIDELINES FOR A SAFE HIKE

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience while at the park.

- Check the weather before you hike. It is not safe to hike in thunderstorms or when heavy snow is expected. Wear sturdy shoes to protect your feet.
- Carry the proper safety equipment like a poncho, first aid kit and a whistle.
- Carry drinking water. DO NOT drink from streams, springs or lakes without properly treating the water first!
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Do not try to get close to wild animals.

- Stay on the trail. If you hike off of the trail, you might get lost or cause damage to unique natural resources.
- Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.
- Have a general idea of your location at all times in the event of an emergency.
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike. Plan to be off the trails well before dark.
- Don't overestimate your abilities. Use a map to select the trail and distance.
- Keep in mind that the park is open to hunting. Wear orange when appropriate for your safety.

