



## Marsh Creek State Park

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

### Directions

The park is about two miles west of the village of Eagle, off of PA 100. Access to the park from the Downingtown Exit 312 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is via PA 100 north. In Eagle, signs direct you to the day-use (east) side of the park. The horse stable, most trails, and 24-hour boat launch access are located on the west side of the park at 800 North Reeds Road, Downingtown, PA.

### Recreational Opportunities



#### BOATING: electric motors permitted

The 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake has two boat launches and 244 seasonal mooring slips. The lake is especially popular with sailboaters who take advantage of the combination of good natural terrain and prevailing winds.

A boat rental concession at the East Launch offers rowboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, sailboats and lake tours throughout the summer. Weather permitting, rentals may be offered on weekends during the spring and autumn. For more information, call 610-458-5040 or visit their website at [www.marshcreeklake.com](http://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.

**SWIMMING:** The ADA accessible “L” shaped swimming pool and sprayground attract many visitors. The guarded pool is open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day unless posted otherwise. A snack bar, large grassy area and bathhouse are located at the swimming pool complex. A pavilion is available to rent. For more information, call 610-458-8535 or visit the pool website at [www.marshcreekparkpool.com](http://www.marshcreekparkpool.com).

**Swimming is prohibited in Marsh Creek Lake.**

**PICNICKING:** Several picnic areas containing over 150 picnic tables, restrooms and charcoal grills are available year-round. A children’s playground is near the pool complex and picnic area.

**HIKING:** The trails explore a variety of habitats including forest, field and wetlands. Most of the trails are accessible from the west launch parking area. Use extreme caution when hiking in hunting areas during hunting seasons.

Tell us about your hike at:



**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. 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.



**FISHING:** The 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake is an excellent lake to fish for warmwater species. Anglers have landed 40-inch-long tiger muskies. Other species include largemouth bass, channel catfish, black crappie and a variety of panfish. The lake is designated a big bass lake and specific regulations apply.

**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 campsites, cottages, yurts and modern cabins.



**HORSEBACK RIDING:** Bridle trails and horse trailer parking are on the west 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. For more information, call 610-321-1960, or visit their website at [www.hopespringshorsefarm.com](http://www.hopespringshorsefarm.com).

**ICE SPORTS:** Ice skating and ice fishing are popular during the winter season. **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 spring and fall waterfowl migration. A birding checklist is available at the park office.

**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. Frequent flooding, water shortages and lack of recreational opportunities were problems in the watershed.

The park was formerly a combination of rolling, wooded hills and small farms located on both sides of the Marsh Creek valley. The former village of Milford Mills is now under 30 to 50 feet of water. All of the buildings were removed; leaving only a few roads, foundations and the embankments to the Larkin’s Bridge under the lake.

The lake was created by the damming of Marsh Creek. Construction of the dam occurred between May 1970 and June 1973. The impoundment is a 90-foot-high, 990-foot-long earth and rock fill dam on Marsh Creek, a tributary of the East Branch of Brandywine Creek. On November 16, 1973 the gates of the dam were closed. The lake reached normal pool stage 218 days later on June 21, 1974.

At normal pool elevation of 359.5 feet above sea level, the impoundment covers an area of 535 acres plus a 25-acre wetland. The lake volume is 13,000 acre-feet (4.4 billion gallons) with a maximum depth of 80 feet at the dam.

The Marsh Creek watershed comprises 20 square miles of the Brandywine Creek watershed, which is part of the Delaware River Basin. The main tributaries in the watershed are Marsh Creek, Black Horse Creek, Indian Run and Jerry Run.

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, 800-228-9933. [www.brandywinevalley.com](http://www.brandywinevalley.com)

**FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK:** Located 30 minutes to the north, in Elverson, PA, the park offers a variety of overnight accommodations including organized group tenting, year-round cabins and camping. Seasonally, a swimming pool and education programs are available. 610-582-9680.

### 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.
- 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 are prohibited without approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

### 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**  
Chester County Hospital  
701 East Marshal Street  
West Chester, PA 19380  
610-431-5000

### For More Information Contact:

**Marsh Creek State Park**  
675 Park Road  
Downingtown, PA 19335-1898  
610-458-5119  
email: [marshcreeksp@pa.gov](mailto:marshcreeksp@pa.gov)  
GPS DD: Lat. 40.06805 Long. -75.71925  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

[www.visitPAParks.com](http://www.visitPAParks.com)

### Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:  
[www.visitPAParks.com](http://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.