

Greenwood Furnace



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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GREENWOOD FURNACE STATE PARK

The park is on the western edge of the Seven Mountains in northeastern Huntingdon County, an area of rugged beauty, abundant wildlife, breathtaking vistas, and peaceful solitude. Greenwood Furnace State Park covers 423 acres, including a six-acre lake, campground, hiking trails, and a historic district. The park provides access to backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and fishing in the surrounding 80,000-acre Rothrock State Forest.

A walk through historic Greenwood Furnace evokes images of the community that flourished here from 1834 to 1904. Greenwood Furnace was a busy industrial

complex, with all the noise and dirt of a 19th century ironmaking community. The village throbbed with life: the roaring of furnace stacks, the shouts of the workmen, the hissing of the steam engine, the creaking of wagons loaded with charcoal, and the cast house whistle signaling another pour of molten iron. The furnaces were hot (3,000 degrees Fahrenheit) and cast clouds of smoke and cinders into the air, which rained down on grass, people, livestock, and buildings, rendering everything sooty and gray. At night, the fire's red glow lit the sky, probably allowing residents to walk about without lanterns. Greenwood Furnace was a village built around an inferno.

The park office is open 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday year round, and daily during the summer.

Directions

Greenwood Furnace State Park is along PA 305, about 5 miles west of Belleville and only 20 miles from Lewistown, Huntingdon, and State College.

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.

HISTORY



The land of Greenwood Furnace State Park was once the home of the People of the Standing Stone. The name comes from a tall stone obelisk that once stood in Huntingdon. By the time of William Penn, the Iroquois Confederation claimed the Juniata Valley and allowed groups of Shawnee and Tuscarora Indians to resettle there.

In the late 1700s, the area was settled by many groups, including Scots-Irish and the German-speaking Amish and Mennonite. Most of the early settlers were farmers. By the 1820s, there was a traveler's inn and sawmill, and several families living in the area of the present park.

Greenwood Works 1834 - 1904

After purchasing the Freedom Iron Works in nearby Burnham in 1833, Norris, Rawle and Co. needed a steady supply of iron. A suitable location with iron ore, limestone, water, and trees was found here so they built Greenwood Furnace, which went into blast on June 5, 1834. The charcoal-fueled furnace produced about four tons of pig iron ingots per day with an annual output of around 1,200 tons. The iron was hauled by wagons over Stone Mountain to Freedom Iron Works to be turned into wrought iron.

To make its superior iron, charcoal was used to fuel the Greenwood Furnaces, and was made by colliers who skillfully burned wood on hearths to make charcoal. Around 330 acres per year were cut to supply charcoal. The hearths can still be found as large, flat circles, and have little vegetation on them due to soil contamination.

A small village grew up to support the furnace, including about 20 houses, a company store, office, blacksmith shop, and stables. Local ores were used, and in 1839, a large, rich deposit was discovered three miles from the furnace. The high quality ores made a superior grade of iron. By 1842, a gristmill was added and the lake was built to supply water to power the mill. Due to a depression in the iron industry in 1847, the Freedom Iron Works and Greenwood Works

were sold at sheriff sale to John A. Wright & Company. John Armstrong Wright (1820 – 1891) was a civil engineer who helped found the Pennsylvania Railroad and the city of Altoona, its new rail center.

In 1856, the Freedom Iron Company began producing superior quality locomotive tires, railroad car wheels, and axles for the booming railroad industry, utilizing iron produced at the Greenwood Works. To fill the demand, the company expanded to four furnaces, including an additional stack here in 1864. Greenwood Furnace was the only known charcoal ironworks in the state to operate two or more stacks side-by-side.

Greenwood Furnace No. 2 had a capacity of about five tons per day, with an annual output of 1,800 gross tons. Instead of waterpower, this stack utilized steam power, which used the hot gasses from the furnace to fuel the boiler. The older furnace was converted to steam power at this time. By the early 1880s, iron production topped 3,000 tons annually, making this site one of the largest charcoal furnace operations in the state.

At the height of operation in the early 1880s, the community consisted of two furnaces, ironmaster's mansion, company store, blacksmith and wagon shop, church, school, seventeen stables, ninety tenant houses, and a gristmill. About 300 employees and their families lived and worked here. Greenwood Furnace had a baseball team, the Energetics, and a 15-piece brass band.

By 1885, the older furnace was dismantled. The second stack was remodeled and enlarged in 1889 and 1902. However, changing economics, newer and more efficient fuels and processes, and the shifting of industry to larger urban-centered complexes coupled with the depletion of local natural resources led to the closing of Greenwood Furnace in December of 1904. The village and the way of life it represented became a mere curiosity, a fading memory of a time when charcoal iron reigned

supreme. Greenwood Furnace soon became a ghost town. The workers moved away as the village and furnace were torn down.

Greenwood Forest Tree Nursery 1906 - 1993

In 1906, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the former ironworks land and established the Greenwood Forest Tree Nursery to reclaim the depleted forests. The area around Greenwood Furnace, having been enriched by years of charcoal dust and fly ash, was found to be well-suited for growing trees. The first seedlings taken from these beds were used to fill in bare spots in the surrounding area. By 1909, seedlings were shipped to distances far away from the nursery.

During its peak years in the 1970s and 1980s, the nursery produced an average of three million seedlings a year. Nursery operations ceased in 1993.

Greenwood Furnace State Park, 1925 - Present

The furnace was not forgotten. Former residents began to return to the now public land for recreation. By 1921, they organized an annual reunion called "Old Home Day." Three years later, this reunion was a factor in the creation of the Greenwood Public Camp, forerunner of the current state park. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the young men from Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-59-PA constructed facilities and made improvements in the park and surrounding state forest.

In 1936, Furnace Stack #2 was restored as a monument to the heritage of our state forest lands coming from old industrial concerns. Six original buildings and the cemetery remain, including the mansion, church, and blacksmith and wagon shop. In 1976, archeological work began to uncover the hidden remains of the community. In 1989, the National Park Service established the Greenwood Furnace Historic District. In 1995, Greenwood Furnace was designated a Historic Landmark by ASM International (formerly the American Society for Metals), the 95th site in the world to be so honored. This distinction recognizes the superior quality of Greenwood Iron that was used in the westward expansion of America's railroads.

Help preserve the remnants of this historic site by not climbing or walking on exposed foundations. These are fragile and can easily be destroyed forever. Leave any artifacts where found and report their location to any park employee. With your help, this 19th century community will remain for future generations to enjoy.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day

FISHING: The six-acre Greenwood Lake is regularly stocked with trout. Ice fishing is permitted. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

BOATING: Non-motorized canoes and kayaks may be used on Greenwood Lake except on the opening weekend of trout season. Vessels can be launched by hand from a small access next to the ADA ramp at the beach.

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.

SWIMMING: A 300-foot sand beach is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Swim at your own risk. Please read and follow posted rules. A modern shower house, dressing area, and snack bar are nearby.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 320 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, and grouse. Special state park hunting regulations and laws apply. Most of the adjacent Rothrock State Forest lands are open to hunting.

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.



PICNICKING: Picnic tables, eight reservable picnic pavilions, and modern restrooms are in a spruce and pine grove close to the beach. Unreserved pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. A playground, snack bar, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, and a ball field make this area popular for picnics and reunions.

SNACK BAR: A food and refreshment concession near the beach is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend.

HIKING: Hiking information is on the other side of this brochure.

Stay the Night

CAMPING: modern restrooms, electric hook-ups

Forty-nine (49) tent and trailer campsites and two walk-in sites are open from the second Friday in April until mid-November.

Forty-four (44) campsites have either 30 or 50-amp electric hook-ups. A shower house has flush toilets, warm showers, and

sinks for dishwashing. Pets are permitted at designated campsites for a fee.

Trailers and motorhomes may use a convenient, sanitary dump station at the campground entrance. The maximum stay is 14 days during the summer season and 21 days during the off season. Campers must vacate the park for 48 hours between stays.

Enjoy the Winter

Greenwood Furnace provides parking, picnicking facilities, heated restrooms, and a warming hut with a woodstove in Pavilion 3. Ice and snow depths are on the park's website. www.visitPAparks.com

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Tramway, Dogtown, Viantown, and Brush Ridge trails are recommended for cross-country skiing, as are the grassy areas of the day use area. Park trails connect to the Brush Ridge Multi-use Trail system in Rothrock State Forest.

SNOWMOBILING: The park features several orange-blazed snowmobile trails and serves as a trailhead to access 200 miles of roads and trails in the surrounding Rothrock State Forest. When conditions permit, snowmobiling begins after antlered deer season in December and ends April 1.

SLEDDING: A small sledding hill is behind the park office.

ICE FISHING: Ice fishing is permitted on Greenwood Lake, which is stocked by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single angler and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

ICE SKATING: Ice skating is popular on the natural ice of the beach area at Greenwood Lake. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single skater and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Greenwood Furnace offers educational and recreational programs year round. Archeological work and extensive research have done much to uncover the hidden remains of the community. Guided walks, living history, and evening programs interpret much of the natural and historic resources of the park.

Programs for school and civic groups are offered by appointment. School programs are custom-tailored to meet the teacher's educational needs. PA Act 48-credit teacher workshops are offered. Contact the park office for details.

Greenwood Historic Walking Tour: Greenwood Furnace was once a thriving iron-making village. Today, only a handful of its

original 127 buildings remain. This walking tour explores a portion of the historic district, and includes parts of the town, tramway, historic roads, and charcoal hearths. A free guide to the historic district is available at the park office.

Visitor Center and Gift Shop: In the park office, the visitor center is open Monday through Friday most of the year, and daily in the summer months. The visitor center has displays on the former ironmaking community.

The gift shop sells a variety of items, including T-shirts and sweatshirts, park memorabilia, historical and nature books, children's nature books, and a variety of field guides for the novice and serious wildlife

watcher. Proceeds benefit Pennsylvania State Parks.



Blacksmith Shop and Education

Center: This furnace-era building houses additional displays on the ironworks and serves as a base for many of the park's educational programs. It is open weekends and holidays in the summer months.

ANNUAL FESTIVALS

OLD HOME DAYS: This festival is held the first weekend in August in commemoration of the original "Old Home Day" reunion in 1921. It features events centered on life in the iron furnace community.

FOLK GATHERING: The Huntingdon County Arts Council organizes this summer event which includes concerts, jam sessions, and musician workshops.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Held the first Sunday in December, this event features kids crafts, carriage rides, and an antique toy display.

WINTERFEST: Held in mid-January, this festival focuses on outdoor recreation and features the Juniata Valley YMCA "plunge" fundraiser. Visitors also enjoy a trail run, ice skating, broomball, snowshoeing, a concession stand sponsored by the Friends of Greenwood Furnace, and a variety of educational programs.

WILDLIFE WATCHING



Wildlife is abundant in the area. The alert observer may see white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and many species of small animals. Duck, great blue heron, and occasionally osprey visit the lake. At dusk in late May and June, whip-poor-will sing their unique call.

Feeding wild animals such as bear, raccoon, duck, goose, and skunk is strongly discouraged. When wildlife loses its fear of people, these animals become pests and dangerous situations can result. Please help in maintaining healthy wildlife populations by not feeding the animals.

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. **Nearest Hospital**
Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital
400 Highland Avenue
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-248-5411

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

The hospital is 14 miles from the park, 0.25 mile off of the Electric Avenue Exit of US 322 east.



Information and Reservations

For More Information Contact

Greenwood Furnace State Park
15795 Greenwood Road
Huntingdon, PA 16652-5831
814-667-1800
email: greenwoodfurnacesp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 40.65047 Long. - 77.75439
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/greenwoodfurn](https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodfurn)

Pocket Ranger™ App by Parks by Nature



Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau, 888-RAYSTOWN, www.raystown.org, Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau, 717-248-6713, www.juniatarivervalley.org

Five miles over the mountains from Greenwood Furnace State Park is the beautiful Big Valley and the village of Belleville. The Amish and Mennonite residents of the valley tend small farms and travel using horse and buggy. One of the best times to visit is on a Wednesday, when the valley is a seven-mile-long flea market and livestock auction.

NEARBY STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

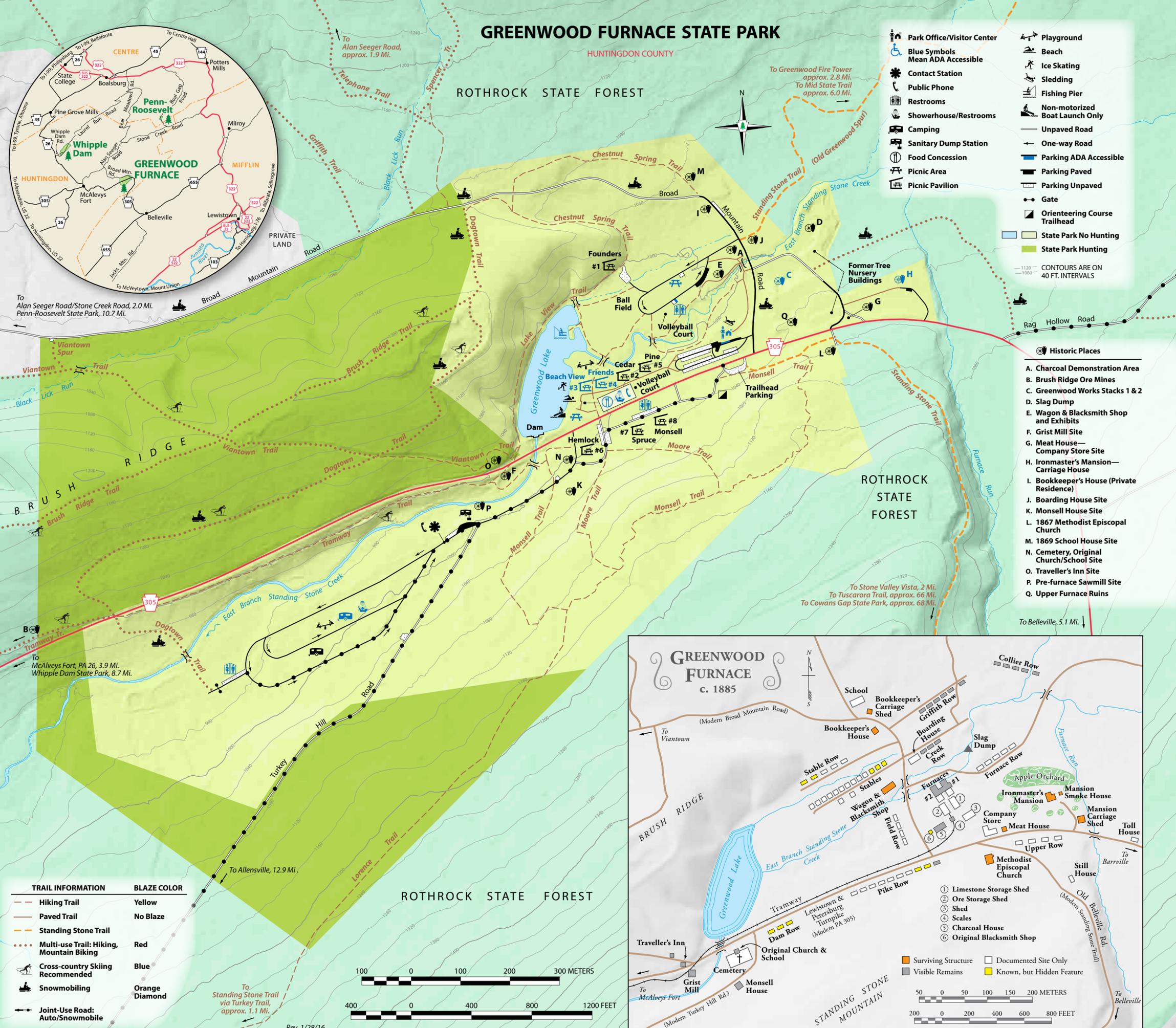
Whipple Dam State Park has swimming, boating, picnicking, and fishing in the summer. The 22-acre Whipple Lake has wetlands in the upper end that are best accessed by canoe. A variety of waterfowl and wildlife can be seen in the park.

Remote **Penn-Roosevelt State Park** is in the heart of the western section of the Seven Mountains. Ruins of the former African-American Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-62-PA can be explored in the park.

For more information on Whipple Dam and Penn-Roosevelt state parks, contact the Greenwood Furnace State Park office.

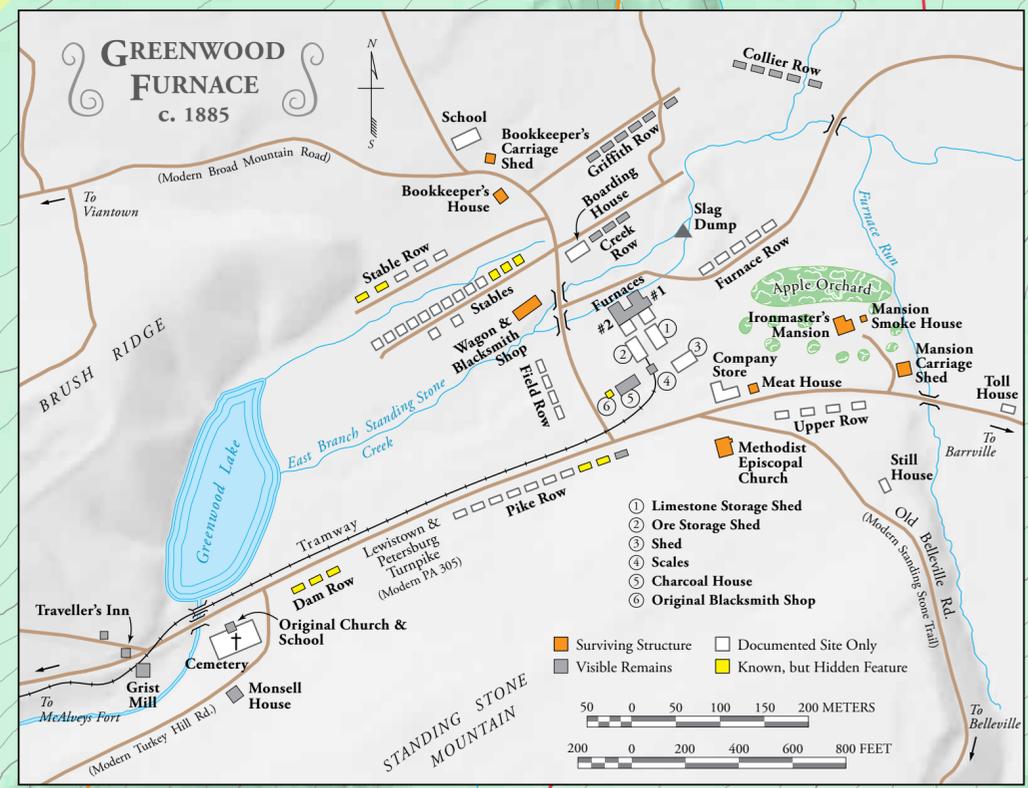
All three state parks access the 80,000-acre **Rothrock State Forest**, which has hiking, fishing, and hunting. 814-643-2340

GREENWOOD FURNACE STATE PARK

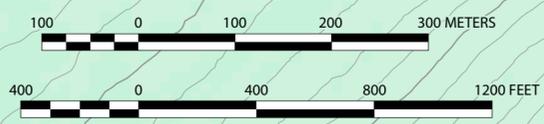


- Park Office/Visitor Center
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Contact Station
- Public Phone
- Restrooms
- Showerhouse/Restrooms
- Camping
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Food Concession
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground
- Beach
- Ice Skating
- Sledding
- Fishing Pier
- Non-motorized Boat Launch Only
- Unpaved Road
- One-way Road
- Parking ADA Accessible
- Parking Paved
- Parking Unpaved
- Gate
- Orienteering Course Trailhead
- CONTOURS ARE ON 40 FT. INTERVALS

- Historic Places**
- A. Charcoal Demonstration Area
 - B. Brush Ridge Ore Mines
 - C. Greenwood Works Stacks 1 & 2
 - D. Slag Dump
 - E. Wagon & Blacksmith Shop and Exhibits
 - F. Grist Mill Site
 - G. Meat House—Company Store Site
 - H. Ironmaster's Mansion—Carriage House
 - I. Bookkeeper's House (Private Residence)
 - J. Boarding House Site
 - K. Monsell House Site
 - L. 1867 Methodist Episcopal Church
 - M. 1869 School House Site
 - N. Cemetery, Original Church/School Site
 - O. Traveller's Inn Site
 - P. Pre-furnace Sawmill Site
 - Q. Upper Furnace Ruins

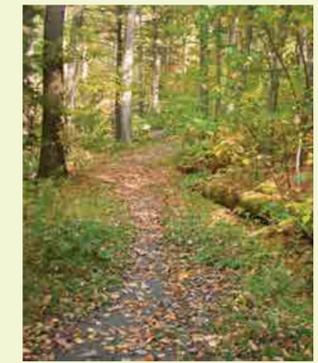


- TRAIL INFORMATION**
- Hiking Trail
 - Paved Trail
 - Standing Stone Trail
 - Multi-use Trail: Hiking, Mountain Biking
 - Cross-country Skiing Recommended
 - Snowmobiling
 - Joint-Use Road: Auto/Snowmobile
- BLAZE COLOR**
- Yellow
 - No Blaze
 - Red
 - Blue
 - Orange Diamond



Rev. 1/28/16

HIKING



LORENCE TRAIL: 1.2 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
From Monsell Trail, Lorence Trail steadily climbs to intersect Turkey Trail in Rothrock State Forest.

MONSELL TRAIL: 1 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
Beginning at the trail parking area across PA 305 from the park office, hikers should follow Standing Stone Trail for a short distance. Monsell Trail then climbs the hill past the church, through the remnants of an old pine plantation and past charcoal hearths. The trail returns to the day use area along the campground road and a gravel service road through the day use area, returning to the parking lot.

MOORE TRAIL: 0.5 mile, green blazes, easiest hiking
This loop begins at Picnic Pavilion #6 and meanders up and down the bottom of a mountain. Hikers can enjoy a wide variety of trees, ferns, and wildflowers. At the top of the hill, the trail shares the path with Monsell Trail before dropping back to its beginning.

STANDING STONE TRAIL: 79 miles (1 mile in the park), orange blazes, most difficult hiking
Part of the Great Eastern Trail System, this trail offers a challenging experience for seasoned hikers. Standing Stone Trail connects in the north to the Mid State Trail. In the south, the trail connects to Cowans Gap State Park, the Tuscarora Trail, and the Appalachian Trail.

BRUSH RIDGE TRAIL: 2.75 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail begins along Broad Mountain Road or from the connector trail from Chestnut Spring Trail. The trail provides a ridge top perspective of the surrounding forest. Hikers can use Dixon Trail and Tramway Trail to form a loop, which returns to the park. *

CHESTNUT SPRING TRAIL: 0.5 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
Beginning by Picnic Pavilion #1, the trail follows a small stream that ambles among large rocks and fern-lined banks to its source at a spring house. The trail crosses Broad Mountain Road and winds back down the hill passing a charcoal hearth. To return to Picnic Pavilion #1, follow Broad Mountain Road to the first park road.

DOG TOWN TRAIL: 1 mile, red blazes, easiest hiking
Beginning at the parking lot on the west end of the campground, the trail enters the forest. The trail descends to and crosses a creek, intersects with Tramway Trail then crosses PA 305. On the mountainside, the trail parallels PA 305 east, crosses Viantown Trail, then climbs Brush Ridge to join Brush Ridge Trail to a connector trail to Chestnut Spring Trail and finally ends on Broad Mountain Road.

VIA TOWN TRAIL: 2.75 miles, blue blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail was an old wagon road that linked Greenwood Furnace to Viantown. The trail begins on the far side of the dam and passes the site of the Travellers Inn as it crosses Brush Ridge to Broad Mountain Road.

LAKE VIEW TRAIL: 0.25 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This short trail is a nice walk around the lake with some great photo opportunities. Beginning on the west side of the lake dam breast, the trail climbs along the side of Brush Ridge under a closed canopy of trees with window openings offering views of the lake. At the upper end of the lake, a flat, gravel walking trail returns to the day use area at the beach.

Tell us about your hike at:
ExplorePATrails.com
powered by you

FRIENDS OF GREENWOOD FURNACE

The Friends of Greenwood Furnace is a local chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. They advocate for PA State Parks and for community involvement. They promote outdoor recreation opportunities, heritage conservation, and environmental quality in our state parks, state forests, and surrounding community. This group helps support Greenwood Furnace, Whipple Dam, and Penn-Roosevelt state parks. For more information, contact the park office or visit [http:// friendsofgreenwoodparks.org](http://friendsofgreenwoodparks.org)