

Evansburg State Park



For More Information Contact:

Evansburg State Park
 851 May Hall Road
 Collegeville, PA 19426-1202
 610-409-1150
 email: evansburgsp@pa.gov
 GPS DD: Lat. 40.20071 Long. -75.40374
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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

Evansburg State Park

Evansburg State Park is in southcentral Montgomery County between Norristown and Collegeville. Evansburg offers a significant area of green space and relative solitude in an urbanized area. Its main natural feature, Skippack Creek, has dissected the land into ridges and valleys that create feelings of enclosures and provide scenic views.

The first European settlers were Mennonite farmers who powered their industries with the water of the Skippack. Even now, mill remnants, mill buildings, and houses from the eighteenth and nineteenth century dot the park landscape and serve as reminders of early American life.

Today, the park is a quiltwork of cropland, meadows, old fields, and mature woodlands that attracts day use visitors from the Montgomery County and Philadelphia areas. People come to the open play fields, picnic areas, trails, golf course, and the relatively tranquil, natural environs.

Directions

From Collegeville, take the Germantown Pike east. Turn left onto Skippack Creek Road and continue to May Hall Road.

From Philadelphia, take the Germantown Pike west. Turn right onto Skippack Creek Road and continue to May Hall Road.

Recreational Opportunities

Park visitors may enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the year. Public use areas are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Park only in designated areas.

FISHING: Skippack Creek has spring trout fishing and warmwater fishing throughout the year. The creek is stocked with brown and rainbow trout from pre-season to Memorial Day. Warmwater fish are smallmouth bass, catfish, sucker, carp, panfish, and eel. An ADA accessible fishing pier is in the picnic area off Cedar Lane. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HIKING: 6 miles of trails

Most portions of the trails are easy walking with some sections of moderate difficulty.

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

MOUNTAIN BIKING: A five-mile mountain bike trail at the southern end of the park can be accessed at the trailhead on Fern Avenue. Bicycles are prohibited on all hiking and equestrian trails within the park. Bicycles are permitted on paved roads that are open to vehicle traffic. Remember that the rules of the road also apply to bicycles.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: The group tenting area is in a clearing in the forested Oaks Picnic Area and is open from April to mid-October. Up to five people may occupy each of the 18 sites. There are flush toilets, but no showers, picnic tables, and fire rings. Qualified adult and youth groups may use this area. Reservations are required. Call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS for reservations.

PICNICKING: Over 150 picnic tables, many charcoal grills, and modern restrooms are located throughout the park. The Oaks and Pines picnic areas are on May Hall Road. The Meadows Picnic Area is off Cedar Lane in the southern portion of the park. Visitors can enjoy a quiet setting

along the Skippack Creek, or engage in family games like badminton, horseshoes, and Frisbee.



PICNIC PAVILIONS: Pavilion A holds 60 people and Pavilion B holds 200. Both may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. If not reserved, the picnic pavilion are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-727-2757) for reservations.

BALL FIELDS: A regulation softball field is available on Skippack Creek Road.

HORSEBACK RIDING: 15 miles of trails

Riders can also use the right side berm of public roads. A trailhead parking lot for horse trailers is on Skippack Creek Road.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Most trails are open to cross-country skiing.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 1,000 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, rabbit, and squirrel.

Evansburg lies within a special regulation area for deer hunting. For information on the rules and regulations that apply to this area, refer to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's *Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations*.

Be alert for the 150-yard safety zone surrounding each of the many occupied buildings and for other signs posting areas closed 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.

GOLF: The picturesque, eighteen-hole, par 71, Skippack Golf Course includes a clubhouse and is open to the public. www.skippackgolfclub.com

Friedt Visitor Center

This historic farmhouse was built in the early 1700s and now interprets the lifestyles of the German Mennonite families who owned the home for 190 years. Outside, the root cellar, well, and herb and sensory gardens add to the eighteenth century atmosphere.

An exhibit room in the house is devoted to the natural history of the area, and the house also provides an area for visitors to watch songbirds and other wildlife.

Contact the park office to schedule a visit to the center.

Wildlife Watching

Evansburg State Park is forested by a combination of northern and southern hardwood species in various stages of growth. This is blending results in a remarkably wide variety of trees, wildflowers, habitats, and wildlife.

Early morning and evening hours are the best time to see deer, rabbits, and other wildlife. Please obey park regulations to protect park resources.

Poison Ivy



Poison ivy is common at Evansburg State Park. Every part of poison ivy can irritate your skin. The best prevention for getting poison ivy is to know what it looks like and avoid it.

Poison ivy occurs in three forms: vine, shrub, and creeping groundcover. The best way to identify poison ivy is that each leaf stem has three leaflets. "Leaves of three, let it be." The leaf can have a smooth or a ragged edge, may be light green or dark green, and is usually shiny.

Poison ivy has flower clusters and berry clusters that start out green then turn white when ripe. Poison ivy vine is difficult to identify when it is small, but when it is old it is covered in brown rootlets that look like hair.

Nearby Attractions

The area surrounding Evansburg State Park is rich in tourist attractions. A lucky traveler may happen upon a country auction or visit one of the many antique shops located in this rich, historic belt.

Nearby attractions include: downhill skiing at Spring Mount, the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, Valley Forge National Historic Park, and the quaint Skippack Village.

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau. www.valleyforge.org

Evansburg Point Park is a 35.6-acre lower providence township park that offers a lighted multipurpose game field, a multipurpose practice field, restrooms, and a nature area.

History

In 1684, when William Penn purchased the portion of his American Province that is now Evansburg State Park, the inhabitants were the Unami of the Lenni Lenape Nation. Shortly thereafter, the area was settled according to the plan of Penn's "Holy Experiment."

The area developed rapidly. By 1714, the Skippack Pike was constructed to provide access to the Philadelphia market. An eight-arch, stone bridge spanning the Skippack Creek on the Germantown Pike was constructed in 1792. It is the oldest bridge in continuous, heavy use in the nation.

The Skippack Valley remained an agrarian economy through the early part of the twentieth century. Following World War II, the pace of change quickened. Prior to acquisition of park lands, the rural charm of the area was in danger because much of the countryside was being threatened by urbanization.

Background studies were critical to planning for Evansburg State Park. The earliest of these was the Tri-State Commission Regional Open Space Plan which identified the site in 1933. In 1962, the State Planning Board identified Evansburg as an area to be acquired under the "Project 70" plan. In the late 1960s, the "Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act" provided the funding for acquisition of the 3,349 acres which is Evansburg State Park. In 1975, plans for the first phase of development were approved. Project 500 (Land and Water Conservation Fund) provided the monies necessary to develop the park's major recreation area that officially opened for public use on June 28, 1979.

Today, Evansburg State Park preserves a significant area of unspoiled, natural beauty in Montgomery County and serves as a buffer between highly developed areas. As the communities surrounding the park continue to grow and expand, it will continue to provide a place for outdoor recreation, education, and solitude.

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.

ADA accessible picnic tables, parking spaces, and sanitary facilities have been designated in the main day use area at May Hall Road.

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

Einstein Medical Center Montgomery
 559 West Germantown Pike
 East Norriton, PA 19403
 1-800-346-7834