A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Memorial Lake State Park

# Memorial Lake State Park

Memorial Lake State Park’s 231 acres are located near the base of Blue Mountain in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. The park is surrounded by Fort Indiantown Gap, the headquarters for the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard.

# Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.42348 Long. -76.59842

Traveling southbound on I-81, take Exit 85. Traveling northbound on I-81, take Exit 85B. Go north on PA 934 / Fisher Avenue, then turn left onto Asher Miner Road and follow signs to the park.

# 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.

# Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: ♿ The 85-acre Memorial Lake supports warmwater fish species, especially bass and chain pickerel. A shoreline fishing access area is located along Hillside Trail. An ADA accessible fishing pier is in the Middle Road Day Use Area.

### BOATING: electric motors only

The 85-acre Memorial Lake has two boat launch ramps. Eight boat racks and 48 shoreline spaces for overnight mooring are reservable April through October.

A boat rental has canoes, paddleboats, rowboats, and kayaks, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

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, available at most state park offices; launch use permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

### HIKING: 2.0 miles of trails

Most trails are easy walking due to the flat and wide stone surface. The open nature of the park allows visitors to take casual walks through most of the park and near the lake.

#### Grassland Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

This open, sunny trail wanders through the Butterfly Field. It can be accessed from both Middle Road and Upper Road parking lots.

#### Hillside Trail: 0.25 mile, easiest hiking

Starting from the Overlook Parking Lot, this walk through the trees takes visitors to the Hillside Fishing Area.

#### Lakeside Trail: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking

This walk follows along the lake, leading to a grove of hemlocks. This trail also provides areas for picnicking and fishing. The trailhead is located off the Middle Road parking lot.

#### Overlook Trail: 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

Enjoy a view of the entire lake from the dam. This trail connects with Lakeside and Grassland trails. The overlook parking lot has access to fishing and picnic areas and is a great place for photography.

#### Scout Trail: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking

Nestled between the shoreline and woodlands, this trail connects the Lower Road Parking Lot and Memorial Lake Road. The trail allows walkers to avoid busy major roads while enjoying nature.

#### Woodland Trail: 0.6 mile, easiest hiking

Meandering along the lake and through woodlands, this trail crosses over Indiantown Run, the main feeder stream to the lake. The trail extends from the Middle Road Parking Lot to the Lower Road Parking Lot.

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

PICNICKING: ♿Picnic tables and charcoal grills are provided in shady groves, along the shoreline, and at areas that provide scenic views of the lake.

Memorial Lake has two picnic pavilions that may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee.

Reservations can be made at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis. Pavilions accommodate up to 70 people and have 4 charcoal grills, 15-amp electrical service, and trash/recycling cans. Middle Road Picnic Pavilion is ADA accessible.

# Winter Activities

The easy rolling terrain and open nature of the park create many opportunities for cross-country skiing. A one-acre area is available for ice skating in the Middle Road boat launch/mooring cove. The lake is open for ice fishing except for the ice skating area.

**Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4” thick for a single user and 7” thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment

# History

Fort Indiantown Gap derived its name from the many American Indian villages in the area and the gap in the Blue Mountain where the town was located. Artifacts found in the Lebanon and Swatara valleys indicate indigenous peoples were present as early as 2,500 B.C.

Established in 1931, Fort Indiantown Gap was built as a National Guard training center. During World War II, it was used as a training site for seven Army divisions and as a demobilization site once the war was over. Fort Indiantown Gap later trained large numbers of soldiers and officers during the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf.

Memorial Lake was established in 1945 in memory and honor of Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers who served in World War I and World War II.

In 1955, Memorial Lake was transferred to the Department of Forest and Waters, now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and became Memorial Lake State Park. It continues to provide recreational opportunities for military personnel as well as civilians.

# 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 HOSPITALS**

Good Samaritan Hospital

Fourth and Walnut Streets

Lebanon, PA 17042

717-270-7500

Penn State Hershey Medical Center

500 University Drive

Hershey, PA 17033

800-243-1455

# For More Information Contact:

Memorial Lake State Park

18 Boundary Road

Grantville, PA 17028-9682

717-865-6470

MemorialSP@pa.gov

# 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.

www.visitPAparks.com

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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