



## 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.



2023



## 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 historic district. The park provides access to backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and fishing in the surrounding 96,975-acre Rothrock State Forest.

The park office is open Monday through Friday year round, and daily during the summer. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. A gift shop in the park office sells a variety of items, including apparel, field guides, and souvenirs. Proceeds benefit Pennsylvania State Parks.

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 throbbd 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°F) and cast clouds of smoke into the air. Cinders rained down on grass, people, livestock, and buildings, rendering everything sooty and gray. At night, the fire's red glow lit the sky, likely allowing residents to walk about without lanterns. Greenwood Furnace was a village built around an inferno.

### Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 40.65047 Long. - 77.75439

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.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Spend the Day



**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 food concession are nearby.

**PICNICKING:** Picnic tables, eight picnic pavilions, and modern restrooms are in a spruce and pine grove close to the beach. A playground, food concession, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, and a ballfield make this area popular for picnics and reunions. Pavilions may be reserved in advance for a fee. Unreserved pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

**BOATING:** Non-motorized canoes and kayaks may be used on Greenwood Lake except on the opening weekend of trout season. Launch vessels 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

### Stay the Night



### Enjoy the Winter

Greenwood Furnace provides parking, picnicking facilities, heated restrooms, and a warming hut. From November through March, Pavilion 3 (Beach View) is enclosed and converted into a winter warming hut, complete with a woodstove. When not rented, the hut is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

View the Winter Report, including current ice and snow depths, on the park's website. [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks)

**ICE SAFETY:** 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.

**ICE FISHING:** Ice fishing is permitted on Greenwood Lake, which is stocked with trout in the winter. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

## LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

Greenwood Furnace offers a wide variety of programs year round. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs. Archaeological work and extensive research have done much to uncover the hidden remains of the ironmaking community.

The visitor center at the park office features displays on the former ironmaking community and taxidermy of wildlife that live in the park.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are offered for teachers.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

**BLACKSMITH SHOP AND EDUCATION CENTER:** This furnace-era building houses additional displays on the ironworks and serves as a base for some of the park's educational programs. Please contact the park office for hours.

## WILDLIFE WATCHING

Wildlife is abundant in the area. The alert observer may see white-tailed deer, black bears, wild turkeys, woodcocks, and many species of small animals. Ducks, great blue herons, and occasionally osprey visit the lake. At dusk in late May and June, eastern whip-poor-wills sing their unique call.

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

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

**HUNTING AND FIREARMS:** About 320 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, grouse, and turkey. 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 vehicle or enclosed trailer. 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.

**HIKING:** See reverse side.

**CAMPING:** modern shower house, some electric hookups

48 tent and trailer campsites and two walk-to sites are open from the early April until mid-December. Most campsites have either 30- or 50-amp electric hookups. A shower house has flush toilets, warm showers, and sinks for dishwashing. Firewood and ice are for sale in the campground. Trailers and RVs may use a convenient, sanitary dump station at the campground entrance. Pets are permitted at designated campsites for a fee.

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.

**ICE SKATING:** Ice skating is popular on the natural ice of the beach area of Greenwood Lake.

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

**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 Trail system in Rothrock State Forest.

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

**GREENWOOD HISTORIC WALKING TOUR:** Greenwood Furnace was once a thriving ironmaking 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.



Blacksmith shop

Feeding wild animals including bears, raccoons, ducks, geese, and skunks is prohibited. When wildlife loses its fear of people, these animals become pests and dangerous situations can result. Help maintain healthy wildlife populations by not feeding the animals.

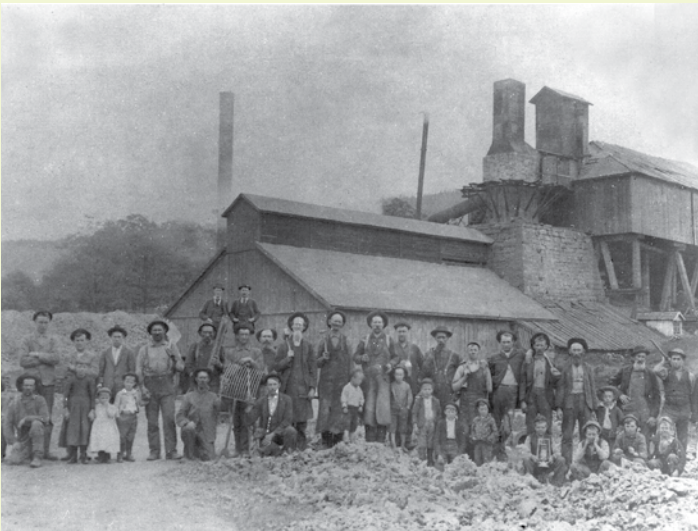
## HISTORY

The land of Greenwood Furnace State Park was once the hunting grounds of the Juniatas, 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 Houdenosaunsee claimed the Juniata Valley and allowed groups of Shawnee and Tuscarora 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 European settlers were farmers. By the 1820s, there was an inn and sawmill, and several families living in the area of the present park.

### Greenwood Works

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.



*In this fascinating historic photo, the furnace stack is almost hidden by the other furnace buildings.*

Charcoal fueled the furnace. Colliers harvested about 330 acres of trees a year and skillfully burned the wood on hearths to make charcoal. In the park and on surrounding hillsides, hundreds of the hearths can still be found. Look for large, flat circles with little vegetation due to soil sterility.

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 locomotive tires, railroad car wheels, and axles for the booming railroad industry. High demand for the superior grade of Greenwood Furnace iron led the Freedom Iron Company to expand 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.

## ANNUAL FESTIVALS

**FOLK GATHERING:** The Huntingdon County Arts Council organizes this mid-September music event which includes concerts, jam sessions, and musician workshops. <https://huntingdoncountyyarts.com/>

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:** Held the first Sunday in December, this event features kids' crafts, acoustic holiday music, and an antique toy display.

## INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

### Greenwood Furnace State Park

15795 Greenwood Road  
Huntingdon, PA 16652-5831  
814-667-1800  
[GreenwoodFurnaceSP@pa.gov](mailto:GreenwoodFurnaceSP@pa.gov)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Make online reservations at [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks) or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

**@GreenwoodFurnaceSP**

### Electric Vehicle Charging Station

A 2-plug, electric vehicle charging station is available for public use at the far end of the park office parking lot. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**  
Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital  
400 Highland Avenue Extension  
Lewistown, PA 17044  
717-248-5411



Greenwood Furnace # 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. Greenwood Furnace # 1 was converted to steam power. 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, Greenwood Furnace # 1 was dismantled. To keep up with changing economics, and newer and more efficient fuels and processes, Greenwood Furnace # 2 was remodeled and enlarged in 1889 and 1901. But the shifting of industry to larger urban-centered complexes and 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

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, the nursery began shipping seedlings across the state.

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

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," which was a factor in the creation of the Greenwood Public Camp in 1924, the forerunner of the state park. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, young men from Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-59-PA constructed facilities and made improvements in the park and surrounding state forest. In 1966, Greenwood Furnace officially was recognized as a Pennsylvania State Park.

In 1936, Greenwood Furnace # 2 was restored as a monument to the heritage of our state forest lands coming from old industrial concerns. Of the iron works village, 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. Do not climb or walk 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.**

**SNOWFEST:** 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.

### Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from: The Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau. 888-RAYSTOWN. <https://raystown.org>

The Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau. 717-248-6713. <https://jrvvisitors.com>

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. The 18-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.

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

All three state parks access the 96,975-acre **Rothrock State Forest**, which has hiking, fishing, and hunting. 814-643-2340



Mountain laurel



HIKING: 13.5 miles

The trails of Greenwood Furnace explore historic places, pass through diverse habitats like forest and ridgetop, and connect to trails in the surrounding state forest. Please refer to the Rothrock State Forest Public Use Map for all trails that are on state forest lands.

**Brush Ridge Trail: 0.8 mile in the park, 2.75 miles total | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Red blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing recommended

This trail follows the ridgetop, continues onto forestry property, passes a scenic view, and ends at Weiler Road. Within Rothrock State Forest, hikers can use Dixon Trail and Tramway Trail to form a 3.7-mile loop, which returns to the park.

**Chestnut Spring Trail: 0.7 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

**Trailhead amenities:** picnic tables, modern restrooms, potable water  
Traveling uphill along a small stream, this trail then crosses Broad Mountain Road before passing a springhouse and the site of an old school.

**Dogtown Trail: 1.2 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing recommended  
**Trailhead amenities:** modern restrooms, potable water

Beginning at the campground, this trail crosses Tramway Trail, PA 305, Viantown Trail, Brush Ridge Trail, and a connector trail to Chestnut Spring Trail, ending at Broad Mountain Road. There are many opportunities for making loops of various distances using other trails and roads.

**Lake View Trail: 0.3 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | White blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

**Trailhead amenities:** modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

This short trail provides easy access to an ADA fishing pier and wetland plants and animals. The trail continues around Greenwood Lake, becoming more difficult before ending at the historic dam.

**Lorence Trail: 0.5 mile in the park, 1.1 miles total | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

From Monsell Trail, Lorence Trail steadily climbs 1.1 miles to intersect Turkey Trail in Rothrock State Forest.

**Monsell Trail: 1.0 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

The trail starts across from the park office, passes charcoal hearths, and ends at the campground road near the historic cemetery.

**Moore Trail: 0.6 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This short loop travels uphill to join with Monsell Trail for a while before returning back down to its beginning.

**Spencer Trail: 0.04 mile in the park, 2.4 miles total | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking

This 2.4-mile gravel trail begins in the park and continues into Rothrock State Forest, where it connects with Rag Hollow Road and shares a small section with the Standing Stone Trail.

**Standing Stone Trail: 0.4 mile in the park, 80 miles total | Most difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail | Orange blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, backpacking

Passing briefly through the park, Standing Stone Trail is part of the Great Eastern Trail System and offers a challenging experience for seasoned hikers. Standing Stone Trail traverses approximately 80 miles from its southern terminus at Cowans Gap State Park, through Greenwood Furnace at about mile 73, and ends at its junction with the Mid State Trail just north of Alan Seeger Natural Area in Rothrock State Forest.

**Tramway Trail: 0.8 mile in the park, 3.3 miles total | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing recommended

Tramway Trail was once a mule-drawn railroad used to haul iron ore to the furnace. This 3.3-mile trail starts near the historic cemetery, passes the site of the old grist mill, and continues into Rothrock State Forest. On forestry property, it can be used to make a loop hike using Dixon and Brush Ridge trails.

**Viantown Spur: 0.04 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Viantown Spur connects Viantown Trail with Broad Mountain Road.

**Viantown Trail: 1.0 mile | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes**

**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing recommended

This old wagon trail once connected Greenwood Furnace to Viantown. The trail starts near the west side of the dam, proceeds past Dogtown and Brush Ridge trails, and ends at Broad Mountain Road.

FRIENDS GROUP

Friends of Greenwood Furnace

The Friends of Greenwood Furnace is a local chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. They advocate for Pennsylvania 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.

@FriendsOfGreenwoodFurnace

