A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Codorus State Park

# Codorus State Park

The 3,500-acre Codorus State Park is in the rolling hills of southern York County. The 1,275-acre Lake Marburg has 26 miles of shoreline and is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. The lake is popular for boating and fishing. Anglers enjoy warmwater lake fishing and fishing for trout in nearby Codorus Creek. Picnicking, swimming in the pool, disc golfing, and camping are popular activities.

## Reservations

Make online reservations at 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.

## Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 39.79066 Long. -76.91891

From I-83, take Exit 8. Go 18 miles west on PA 216 to the park.

From Hanover, follow PA 216 to the park.

# Recreational Opportunities

## Spend the Day

PICNICKING: There are three picnic areas in the park, each with modern restrooms and charcoal grills.

The Swimming Pool Day Use Area is near the pool. Many tables are in the shade of the forest. Two picnic pavilions each hold 70 people. Picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Marina Day Use Area overlooks Lake Marburg and features grassy areas for picnicking. This area is near the marina, boat rental, boat mooring, and disc golf. The Classroom Building is also in this area and may be reserved for a fee up to 11 months in advance by calling the park office.

The grassy Main Launch Day Use Area is near the bandshell, equestrian trails, and the Main Boat Launch. Picnic Pavilion 3 ♿ may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

### HORSEBACK RIDING: 10 miles

The equestrian trail system travels over rolling hills, through forests and fields, crosses streams, and passes near Lake Marburg. It has numbered trail intersections. There are many views of the lake, including an overlook which has benches and hitching posts.

A parking lot for up to 40 trailers is off the Main Launch Day Use Area entrance road.

SCUBA DIVING: Due to the volume of boat traffic on Lake Marburg, scuba diving is only permitted in Sinsheim Cove, in the east side of the park. Divers must register and show their certification at the park office before diving, then sign out at the park office after diving. Divers must use the buddy system and a diving flag for safety.

DISC GOLF: The site of the 2005 state championships and 2019 Amateur World Championships, Codorus Disc Golf Course is rated one of the most challenging courses in Pennsylvania. The course is just inside the entrance to the Marina Day Use Area and offers views of the lake. The 54 holes have paved tees and are spread through fields and forests. During the summer, golf discs can be purchased at the marina concession building.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: ♿About 2,800 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasant, rabbit, squirrel, and waterfowl.

Hunting is limited to the use of shotgun, muzzleloader, and bow during the appropriate hunting seasons. Waterfowl hunting is popular, and 15 duck blinds are awarded by lottery on the third Saturday in August. Hunting waterfowl is prohibited until the day after Labor Day.

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.

SWIMMING POOL: ♿The pool and sprayground sit on a bluff overlooking Lake Marburg. The pool has an ADA accessible ramp. The summer hours are 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Admission is charged. Swimmers arriving after 4:00 PM receive a discount. Season passes are available at the park office. The pool is very popular and reaches capacity on holidays and many weekends. Mid-week swimming is often less crowded.

A seasonal snack bar has hot and cold foods and beverages.

**Swimming in the lake is prohibited.** Due to the extreme water level fluctuations of Lake Marburg, it is impossible to maintain a swimming beach.

FISHING: ♿The 1,275-acre Lake Marburg is a warmwater fishery. Popular species are yellow perch, bluegill, northern pike, crappie, largemouth bass, catfish, muskellunge, and tiger muskellunge. Bow fishing is permitted in the shallow cove areas.

Lake Marburg is in the Big Bass Program. Large and smallmouth bass must be a minimum of 15 inches long to be harvested and the daily limit is four fish of either species, combined.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: 13.25 miles

The designated 195-acre Mountain Biking Area is on the northern shore of the park. The 7.5-mile outer loop trail crisscrosses forests and climbs short hills with numbered intersections. In this area, 5.75 miles of snowmobile trails are also open to mountain biking. Please respect other trail users. During hunting seasons, bikers should wear fluorescent orange for safety.

### **HIKING:** 22 miles

Although the park only has two hiking-only trails, many miles of equestrian and mountain biking trails can also be hiked. All trails are in hunting areas so visitors should wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons.

#### Mary Ann Furnace Trail: 3 miles, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking

From the trailhead along Black Rock Road, the trail begins on a boardwalk through the wetlands of Black Rock Flats, then climbs through a tall deciduous forest that borders old farm fields and comes to a Y. The left trail eventually follows the shoreline of the lake. The right trail climbs to the top of the hill and gives a view of the campground. Both trails interconnect and join to a spur that leads to the campground. A connector trail leads from additional parking at Rummel Farm.

#### LaHo Trail: 1.75 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking

This trail follows the shoreline of Wildasin Flats. The wetlands make this an excellent area for birding year round. The trail is primarily a single-track path that hugs the hillside. A few trail sections ascend steep terrain and portions of the trail can be muddy. On a grassy knoll in the eastern part of the trail is the Manheim Union Burial Ground, which has a tombstone dated 1783.

### **BOATING:** up to 20 hp motors

The 1,275-acre Lake Marburg has seven boat launch ramps around the lake. All are open to the public, but the campground launch is only for the use of registered campers.

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.

MOORING: ♿ Mooring spaces may be rented from April 1 to October 31. Codorus State Park has the following boat storage facilities: canoe and kayak racks; sailboat racks; sailboat dry storage; small marina slips for boats up to 17 feet long; and large marina slips for boats up to 26 feet long.

BOAT RENTALS: The boat rental in the Marina Day Use Area offers pontoon boats, motorboats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats. It is open daily in the summer and on weekends in the spring and fall.

The Oar House boat rental in the Swimming Pool Day Use Area offers canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats on weekends in the summer.

## Stay the Night

CAMPING: ♿ Flush toilets and showers

The campground opens in mid-April and closes November 1. Nearly 200 campsites are suitable for tents or recreational vehicles up to 50 feet in length. About 30 campsites have full-hookups, and many others have electric hookups. Pets are permitted on designated sites for a fee. Six campsites are ADA accessible, four with full-hookup. Fifteen sites are available for tents only. Warm showers, flush toilets, a boat launch, shoreline mooring, and a sanitary dump station are available.

YURT: ♿ Located in the campground, the round, canvas and wood walled tent has a wooden deck and sleeps four or five people in bunk beds. The yurt has a cooking stove, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat, outlets, fire ring, and picnic table. It does not have running water, but restroom and shower facilities are nearby in the campground.

CAMPING COTTAGES: ♿ Located in the campground, the three cottages sleep five people in a single bunk bed and a double/single bunk bed, and have wooden floors, windows, electric heat, porch, picnic table, fire ring, electric lights, and outlets. They do not have running water, but restroom and shower facilities are nearby in the campground.

BLACK ROCK LODGE: ♿ Located on the western edge of the lake on Black Rock Road, this two-story historic house is available for rent year round. The lodge has a modern kitchen, dining/living room, two full bathrooms, four bedrooms that accommodate 12 guests, air conditioning, and central heat. Guests should bring all essentials like sheets, linens, and dishes.

## Enjoy the Winter

SNOWMOBILING: Registered snowmobiles may use 5.75 miles of trails with numbered intersections in the 195-acre Mountain Biking Area on Bankert Road. Snowmobiling is permitted only after antlered deer season in late December. Please wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: In the Mountain Biking Area, 5.75 miles of trails crisscross forests and climb short hills with numbered intersections. Use caution as these trails are also used by snowmobiles and mountain bikes.

Skiers may also use the fields near the marina, Main Launch, and the campground. Please wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons.

SLEDDING: A 500-foot sledding slope is at the upper end of Chapel Cove. The parking area is off of the mountain bike trails parking lot, at the top of the sledding hill. Ramps are prohibited on the steep slope.

Pigeon Hill in the Marina Day Use Area is a gentler slope. Park in the Pigeon Hills Monument lot and sled toward the lake.

ICE SAFETY: Use extreme caution when venturing onto the ice. **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. For iceboating, make sure ice is at least 6” thick. Always carry safety equipment.

ICE FISHING: Except for the ice skating area, all of Lake Marburg is open for ice fishing. Popular species caught through the ice are yellow perch, bluegill, northern pike, crappie, largemouth bass, catfish, muskellunge, and tiger muskellunge. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

ICEBOATING: Most of Lake Marburg is open for iceboating. A state park launch permit is required for iceboats.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

♿ Codorus State Park 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. Nature trails and bird viewing stations are great locations to view wildlife.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call 717-637-3454 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.

# Wildlife Watching

Codorus State Park has forests, fields, wetlands, and a large lake. The diverse habitats provide many opportunities to see wildlife.

The lake is a magnet for birds, especially migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. In the spring and fall, ruddy ducks, mergansers, and scaups often float in large flotillas in the middle of the lake. Near the edges of the lake are grebes, coots, and wigeons. Yellowlegs, dunlins, and sandpipers frequent the mudflats of the lake to rest and refuel.

The wetlands in the coves and flats of the lake are great places to see wildlife, especially wood ducks, herons, red-winged blackbirds, kingfishers, turtles, and muskrats.

Ospreys and bald eagles frequent the lake and can be seen diving into the water to catch fish. Active bald eagle and osprey nests can be viewed from the classroom building overlook.

Look for white-tailed deer, sparrows, swallows, and bluebirds in the fields of the park. Volunteers monitor about 100 bluebird boxes.

Thrushes and warblers inhabit the forests. These birds are often absent from the open land surrounding the park. Foxes, raccoons, opossum, and mink are often seen on the forest edges.

Feeding wildlife and spotlighting are prohibited in the park. Always view wildlife from a safe distance.

# History

The area of the park was originally inhabited by the Susquehannock people. They found ample hunting and fishing grounds along the Codorus Creek, whose name means “Rapid Waters”. Wars with nearby Indigenous groups and the push of European settlers led to the demise of the Susquehannocks.

The early European settlers were primarily farmers, but industry soon followed. Gristmills and sawmills began utilizing the local streams for power in the mid-1700s. With the abundance of streams, forests, and the discovery of iron ore near the Pigeon Hills in 1752, forges and furnaces quickly followed.

Mary Ann Furnace was built in 1762 by George Stevenson, George Ross, and William Thompson. This furnace is believed to be the first charcoal furnace built on the western side of the Susquehanna River. The furnace manufactured pans, kettles, utensils, and five-plate stoves. It also supplied cannon balls and grapeshot for the continental army. No structures remain of the ironworks. Artifacts, including an original five-plate stove, are on display at the park visitor center.

### The Up and Down Lake

A cooperative project between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Glatfelter Paper Company of Spring Grove resulted in the impounding of Codorus Creek. This undertaking was the first of its kind in the commonwealth. It was designed to serve the water supply needs of a private industry and the town of Spring Grove, and to provide a public recreation area.

Project 70 funding, an initiative to provide all Pennsylvania residents with access to green space, was used by the commonwealth to acquire 145 properties in 1965-1966, including the village of Marburg. The area was cleared of trees and buildings, although some bridges and roadways remain. The Glatfelter Paper Company began construction of the dam in 1965. The gates first closed, impounding the water, in December of 1966. Funding from the Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act, known as Project 500, was used to install the park infrastructure. Originally known as Codorus Creek State Park, the park opened on May 30, 1967. Lake Marburg is named for the small community of Marburg that the waters of the lake now cover.

The Glatfelter Paper Company was sold in 2018 to Pixelle Specialty Solutions, LLC, who is permitted to draw water from the lake for their needs. This means the lake water level can drop up to 22 feet in a summer, only to rise again with rainfall.

# Information and Reservations

**Codorus State Park**

2600 Smith Station Road

Hanover, PA 17331-8000

717-637-2816 (Park Office)

717-637-2418 (Seasonal Campground)

CodorusSP@pa.gov

An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks

**Make online reservations at** 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.

Facebook: @CodorusSP

## Electric Vehicle Charging Station

A two-plug, electric-vehicle charging station is available for public use in the parking lot near the marina. 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.

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**

UPMC Pinnacle Hanover

300 Highland Avenue

Hanover, PA 17331

800-673-2426

# Friends of Codorus State Park

Established in 2006, Friends of Codorus State Park provides volunteers the opportunity to contribute to the conservation and preservation of the park and its resources. The non-profit, volunteer group works to improve the park in order to provide recreational and educational opportunities for current and future generations. The friends group hosts several large annual events, including the Summer Blast and a Halloween event. http://friendsofcodorus.org

If interested in volunteering:

Email: [Contact@friendsofcodorus.org](mailto:Contact@friendsofcodorus.org)

Facebook: @FriendsOfCodorusStatePark

## 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 physically controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.

• Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.

## Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from:

York County Convention and Visitors Bureau. 888-858-YORK. www.yorkpa.org

Hanover Chamber of Commerce. 717-637-6130. www.hanoverchamber.com

Fly fishing is permitted on a two-mile section of Codorus Creek along Porters Road, below the Glatfelter Dam. It is designated as Trophy Trout Water by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and has a naturally reproducing population of brown trout.

# 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.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Facebook: @visitPAparks

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