

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for
Fort Washington State Park



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Fort Washinton State Park

500 South Bethlehem Pike

Fort Washington, PA 19034

215-591-5250

email: fortwashingtonsp@pa.gov

GPS DD: Lat. 40.13027 Long. -75.21764

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.

www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks



Fort Washington State Park

Rich in modern recreational facilities and historical significance, Fort Washington blossoms with flowering dogwood in the spring. The park takes its name from the temporary fort built by George Washington’s troops in the fall of 1777, before heading to Valley Forge. The park is popular with hikers and picnickers. Birders enjoy the seasonal migration of raptors from the Observation Deck.

Directions

Fort Washington State Park consists of 493 acres in eastern Montgomery County. The park lies between the towns of Fort Washington and Flourtown along the Bethlehem Pike. It is about two miles from PA Turnpike Exit 339.

Flourtown Day Use Area:

44 West Mill Road, Flourtown, PA 19031

Militia Hill Day Use Area:

447 Militia Hill Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034

6036 Joshua Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034

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



PICNICKING: Flourtown Day Use Area and Militia Hill Day Use Area provide over 300 picnic tables. Three picnic pavilions are available for year-round use, weather conditions permitting. The pavilions are available for rental with advance reservations. If not reserved, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Large playfields offer ample room for group or individual picnic activities.

The entire park is a carry-in/carry-out trash disposal area. There are no trash collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the amount of disposable items brought to the park and to take all trash, garbage, and recyclables home to be disposed of properly.

ADA accessible picnic tables and parking spaces have been designated throughout the park. Militia Hill Day Use Area has two ADA accessible picnic pavilions, a mini-pavilion, a playground, and restrooms. The Flourtown Day Use Area Pavilion and restroom are also ADA accessible.

SOFTBALL FIELD: The softball field in the Flourtown Day Use Area is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: This rustic area is open year round and has a maximum capacity of 220 people. Groups must call the reservation system to reserve a site.

NO HUNTING: Hunting is prohibited in all areas of Fort Washington State Park.

FISHING: Wissahickon Creek passes through the park offering trout fishing in the spring. During the summer, it offers warmwater fishing for carp, catfish, panfish, and suckers. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.



HAWK WATCH OBSERVATION DECKS: The lower deck is ADA accessible.

All 16 species of raptors that migrate on the east coast can be seen here. The “Watch” begins on September 1 and lasts through October 31. Volunteer compilers are on duty every day, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, counting raptors that migrate past the deck.

For more information, or to bring a group to the observation deck, call the park office at 215-591-5250. The deck provides a scenic overlook year round, and also great views of the butterfly garden.

HIKING: 4.2 miles of trails

Moderate difficulty trails wander through forest and open fields.

Green Ribbon Trail: This 2.5-mile multi-use trail provides opportunities for biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing along Wissahickon Creek. It connects the Militia Hill and Flourtown day use areas via Montgomery County park land. Plans are underway to extend the trail through local communities to the south and connect with Fairmount Park’s Forbidden Drive in Chestnut Hill.

DOG WALKING: Pets are permitted in Fort Washington State Park. All pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash or otherwise safely restrained. Be considerate when walking your dog and carry a container to clean up after your pet. Also, please stay outside playfields, ball fields, picnic areas, and the organized group tenting area.

DISC GOLF: The wooded, 9-hole course begins in Lot 2 in the Militia Hill Day Use Area at a kiosk with a map of the course.

Winter Activities

SLEDDING AND TOBOGGANING: Near Lot 5 in the Militia Hill Day Use Area is a 400-foot slope for sledding.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Both beginner and expert skiers can enjoy the 1.7-mile loop trail in the Militia Hill Day Use Area and the 2.5-mile Green Ribbon Trail.

History

Fort Washington State Park and the community of Fort Washington take their name from the temporary fort built here by soldiers of the American Revolution in the fall of 1777. Formerly known as Whitemarsh, the area saw the encampment of 12,000 soldiers of General Washington’s army from November 2 until December 11, 1777.

Following the unsuccessful battle of Germantown, Washington chose the heights of the Whitemarsh Valley as an easily defensible position. From here he pondered the possibility of launching an attack against General Howe’s British army in Philadelphia.

Although Washington decided against an attack, the British marched out from Philadelphia on December 5 in order to engage the Americans in battle. Because of Washington’s strong position, only local skirmishes took place. After much marching back and forth, Howe led his army back to Philadelphia on December 8.

Knowing his poorly clad men needed better quarters, and also to protect the iron forges and foundries in the Schuylkill Valley, Washington left Whitemarsh on December 11, 1777, and marched the Continental Army to Valley Forge. There the American spirit had its first rendezvous with destiny.

Although Fort Washington State Park is beyond the boundaries of Philadelphia, the city’s famous Fairmount Park Commission began acquiring land here in the early 1920s. The commission, with the assistance of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, administered the park until 1953 when an act by the state legislature turned the park over to the former Department of Forests and Waters, now the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

FORT HILL: This hill was the western end of the Continental troop positions and was the site of the fort. All traces of the original fort have been lost.

MILITIA HILL: The Pennsylvania Militia, under the command of generals Armstrong, Cadwalader, and Irvine, held positions along this ridge.



CLIFTON HOUSE: Built in 1801, Clifton House lies just north of Fort Hill on Bethlehem Pike. Formerly the Sandy Run Tavern, it now houses a valuable library and museum of local importance. It is operated by the Fort Washington Historical Society and is periodically open to the public. For more information regarding the Clifton House contact: Fort Washington Historical Society, 473 Bethlehem Pike, Fort Washington, PA 19034, 215-646-6065. <http://historicalsocietyfw.wixsite.com/fwhistory>

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, 610-834-1550. www.valleyforge.org

Just south of Fort Hill on Bethlehem Pike is **Hope Lodge**, a fine example of early Georgian Colonial Architecture. Built circa 1750, Hope Lodge is managed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is periodically open to the public. 215-646-1595

Valley Forge National Historical Park is 15 miles to the south and provides the visitor with an understanding of the winter encampment of General Washington’s forces. 610-783-1099. <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

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. You are responsible for your and your family’s safety.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

- Park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.

- Share the road. Drive slowly and watch for walkers, bicyclists, and children.

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.

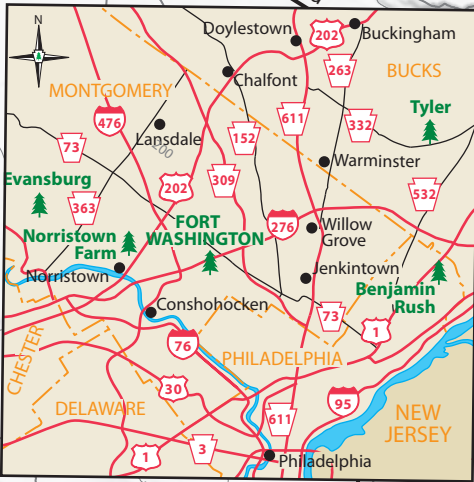
NEAREST HOSPITAL

Chestnut Hill Hospital

8835 Germantown Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19118

215-248-8200



FORT WASHINGTON STATE PARK

MONTGOMERY COUNTY



- Park Office
- Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
- Modern Restrooms
- Water
- Picnicking
- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground
- Hawk Watching Deck
- Organized Group Tent Camping Area
- Sledding
- Biking
- Cross-country Skiing Recommended
- Hiking Trail
- Multi-use Trail: Hiking and as Designated
- Parking
- Parking Unpaved
- Parking ADA
- Gate
- Unpaved Road
- State Park No Hunting
- County Land

CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS