GREEN LANE PARK

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Green Lane Park, in northwestern Montgomery County, offers outdoor recreation in a setting rich in history. This scenic park, with its many amenities, offers something for everyone. With over 3,400 acres of open space, three bodies of water, 20-plus miles of trails, the park provides year-round recreational and educational opportunities.

HISTORY

Green Lane Park is the result of the collaborative efforts of Montgomery County and the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company over 40 years ago. Its earliest roots, however, began in 1939 when the Montgomery County Commissioners dedicated 425 acres as Upper Perkiomen Valley Park. Philadelphia Suburban Water Company began planning Green Lane Reservoir in 1929 with the goal of providing a reliable water supply for the region. The actual construction of the dam across the Perkiomen Creek began in 1954 and was completed in 1957. In 1959 Philadelphia Suburban Water Company opened Green Lane Reservoir to the public for recreation activities with limited shoreline fishing and boating. In 1983 Green Lane Reservoir Park was established when Montgomery County took control through an agreement that turned over recreational easement rights from Philadelphia Suburban Water Company. From 1983 to 1998 Green Lane Park was operated as two different parks—Green Lane Reservoir Park and Upper Perkiomen Valley Park. In 1998 Montgomery County merged the two parks into one, now called Green Lane Park.

Early History of the Area
As with most of southeastern Pennsylvania, the area within the park was originally inhabited by the Lenni-Lenape Indians (Delaware Indians) or "true people." The Lenni-Lenape were among the first Native Americans to come in contact with the European settlers (Dutch, English, and Swedish) in the early 1600s. The name Green Lane is believed to have been given to the early iron works located in the borough of Green Lane because of the abundance of evergreens covering the rocky hills surrounding the valley and the narrow road or lane that led from the "highway" to the furnace. The name of the borough is derived from the furnace name. The Perkiomen Railroad was extended through Green Lane and Perkiomenville in 1872. A train station in Green Lane made the community more accessible to the outside world. This encouraged growth of the borough, increasing the population and the expanding industry. By the turn of the 20th century, Green Lane was home to many businesses, including banking, carriage works, mercantile, cigar factories, ice manufacturing, and clothing mills.

RECREATION

Boating
Green Lane Park contains three lakes that are open to public boating, with restrictions. All Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply on the three lakes. All boats must be electric or nonpowered. The largest lake is the 814-acre Green Lane Reservoir. The reservoir is owned by Aqua PA, which through an agreement with Montgomery County, allows visitors to use the lake for certain activities. Deep Creek Lake (38 acres) is open to nonpowered boats and electric motors only. Knight Lake (18 acres) is only open to carry-in boats.

Boating Requirements
All boats using Green Lane Reservoir are required to be quarantined on-site for a minimum of 10 days. This requirement, established by Aqua PA, is to safeguard against the spreading of Zebra Mussels—an aquatic non-native, invasive species. Dry boat storage racks are available for seasonal rental. Private boats may be used on Deep Creek Lake and Knight Lake, free of charge.

Boat Rentals
Boat Rentals are available at the Hill Road Day Use Area. ALL BOAT RENTALS ARE OPERATED/MANAGED BY A PRIVATE, OUTSIDE RENTAL COMPANY. PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT 215.234.4863. For more information, go to http://greenlaneboats.com/

Fishing
The park has many locations to enjoy fishing. Green Lane Reservoir has Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Carp, and several species of Panfish. Deep Creek Lake offers Largemouth Bass, Crappie, and Channel Catfish and is stocked with Trout in the spring and fall. Knight Lake offers fishing for Crappie, Perch, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, and Carp.

In addition, the park also stocks a small stretch of the Perkiomen Creek, north of the reservoir, with Trout for delayed harvest-fly fishing only.

Camping
The park offers 30 primitive camp sites in the Deep Creek Area for family camping as well as an Organized Group Tent Camping Area—fees apply. A unique Equestrian Campground is also available for visitors looking to do some horseback riding. This campground, located just off Hill Road, is primitive but can accommodate horse trailers and provides water for horses. All campgrounds are open from April 1 to October 31. All camping is by reservation only. Please call 215.234.4528 for reservations.

Picnicking
The park offers many picnic tables and grills as well as two covered pavilions that can accommodate up to 50 people each. The pavilions may be rented by reservation only—fees apply. Please call 215.234.4528 for reservations.

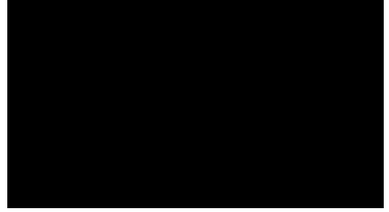
Trails
Park visitors can enjoy approximately 20 miles of multiuse trails, including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Most trails are easy walking, but a few sections are rated as difficult. Green Lane Park also is home to the northern section of the popular Perkiomen Trail. This 20-mile multiuse trail takes visitors south, along the Perkiomen Creek, through the heart of Montgomery County, where it links directly into the Schuylkill River Trail. Please call the park office before your visit to check on current trail conditions and which trails may be appropriate for your visit.

Playgrounds
Two playgrounds are available on both sides of Deep Creek Lake. Both playgrounds are appropriate for children 5 to 12 years old.

Wildlife Viewing
Green Lane Park is home to a variety of wildlife species. Visitors may catch a view of deer, fox, squirrels, beaver, and a variety of birds. The park is listed as one of Pennsylvania's Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society. The Church Road Bird Sanctuary is very popular with birders scanning the upper lake for migrants, and the reservoir is home to a pair of nesting Bald Eagles. In addition to the bird sanctuary, the park has a variety of meadows, forests, and wetland areas to discover and explore.

Environmental Education
Interpretive programs are offered throughout the year on a variety of natural, cultural and historical topics. Public family programs are offered on weekends, and small, organized groups may contact the Park's Environmental Educator to schedule EE programs, at 215.234.4528. For a full list of public programs, check out the Calendar of Events at www.montcopa.org/pths.

Winter Activities
Winter is one of the best seasons to enjoy Green Lane Park. When the temps drop and the snow falls, visitors can enjoy a small, family ice skating area, miles of trails for cross-country skiing and a sledding hill. Ice fishing on Deep Creek Lake is permitted when the ice depth reaches a minimum of 5 inches. Please call the park office at 215.234.4528 for current ice conditions.



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