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# Nockamixon State Park

The 5,286-acre Nockamixon State Park is in the rolling hills of scenic Bucks County, close enough to Philadelphia for a day trip, but far enough away for a vacation. Tohickon Creek, Three Mile Run and Haycock Run feed the 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon, which is a rest stop for migrating waterfowl and a destination for boaters and anglers. Visitors can stay the night in a cabin or enjoy the many activities of the park for the day. Popular activities are picnicking, visiting the pool, hiking, biking, fishing and boating.

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Park visitors enjoy a variety of activities throughout the year. Most park areas are open sunrise to sunset. Fishing and boating is permitted 24 hours a day in designated areas. Some park areas are closed to vehicles in the winter, but some picnicking areas, fishing areas, trails and cabins are open year-round.

**Picnicking:** Picnic tables and charcoal grills are in several areas of the park and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some picnic areas are closed in winter, but Haycock, Tohickon, the Marina and Three Mile Run areas are open year-round. Picnic pavilions by parking lots 1 and 5 may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Make a [reservation](#).**

**Swimming:** The swimming pool complex includes a one-half acre main pool with two waterslides, a shallow end with fountains for children, dressing rooms, first aid station and snack bar. Weather permitting, the summer hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The pool opens for the Memorial Day weekend then weekends only until the second weekend in June when it begins seven days a week operation. The pool is typically closed on weekdays beginning mid-August and open for weekends including Labor Day, which is the end of the pool season. Check the Park Advisories on the website for updates.

Swimming lessons and water aerobics classes are provided by the lifeguards. The pool is available for party rentals.

An admission fee is charged, with reduced rates after 5:45 p.m. Seasonal passes and group tickets for non-profit organizations can be purchased at the park office. [Swimming Pool Prices](#)

[Swimming Pool Brochure \(pdf\)](#) (731 kb, 4/13)

**Swimming is prohibited in Lake Nockamixon.**

**Boating: up to 20 hp motors permitted**

The 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon has six public launching areas. The Marina and Tohickon launch ramps are popular with sailboat, catamaran and windsurfing enthusiasts. Three Mile Run and Haycock launch facilities are favored for motorboats, kayaks and inflatable watercraft. Launching facilities are open 24 hours a day. Sleeping on boats on the lake is prohibited.

In addition to having the largest launch ramp in the park, the Marina has docking facilities for 648 boats up to 24 feet in length and a 120-space dry storage area for boats on trailers and 11 trailer spaces. Because of the tremendous demand for marina space, a waiting list is maintained at the park office for seasonal slips and dry storage spaces. Marina slips may be rented on a short-term basis as available. Contact the marina office or park office for additional information and applicable rates.

A boat rental concession has canoes, motorboats, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks and pontoon boats during the summer season. Call directly to the boat rental for applicable rates and regulations.

Explore the [marina map](#).

A [boat rental concession](#) has canoes, motorboats, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks and pontoon boats during the summer season. Call directly to the boat rental for applicable rates and regulations.

Motorboats must display a current boat registration. Non-powered boats must display one of the following: boat registration; launching permit or mooring permit from Pennsylvania State Parks, available at most state park offices; launching permit from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Complete information on boating rules and regulations in Pennsylvania is available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Web site](#).

Established in 1974, the Nockamixon Sailing Club organizes activities for sailing on Lake Nockamixon. The club serves both racing and cruising sailors with a full calendar of events from April to November each year. [www.nockamixonsailclub.org](http://www.nockamixonsailclub.org)

**Windsurfing:** Tohickon Boat Launch is popular for windsurfing. All boating regulations apply to wind surfboards, including the permits listed in above.

**Whitewater Releases:** Water is released from the dam on the first full weekend of November and the third weekend in March. The release provides an opportunity for whitewater enthusiasts to experience a thrilling run down Tohickon Creek to the Delaware River. Class IV rapids are sometimes achieved.

Explore the [Calendar of Events](#) for the exact dates of the releases.



**Fishing:** The 1,450-acre Lake Nockamixon is a warm-water fishery and classified a Big Bass Lake. Common species are walleye, muskellunge,

pickereel, smallmouth and largemouth bass, striped bass hybrids, channel catfish, carp and various types of panfish. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply. There is a fishing pier at the midpoint of the lake in the Day Use Area and an ADA accessible fishing platform near the Haycock Boat Launch.

Volunteers, park employees and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission employees have installed fish habitat structures throughout the lake. A map showing the structures, water depths and specific features of the lake is available at the park office, the marina office and on the park website. [Fish Habitat Structures Map](#)

[2013 Tiger Muskellunge and Walleye Surveys by PFBC](#) (.pdf, 124 kb)

Fishing is prohibited in these areas:

- From boat docks, launching or mooring areas and within 100 feet of these areas
- Anywhere in the boat rental area and the Marina out to the buoys
- From bridges
- Below the spillway to the silt dam
- Where posted "no fishing"

Complete information on fishing rules and regulations in Pennsylvania is available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Web site](#).



**Hunting and Firearms:** About 3,500 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game

species are deer, pheasant, rabbit and turkey. All of Nockamixon is included in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Special Regulations Area for Southeastern Pennsylvania. Certain park areas are open to archery hunting only. Contact the park office for additional information. Hunting is available in the adjacent State Game Land 157.

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 car, trailer or leased campsite. 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.

Complete information on hunting rules and regulations in Pennsylvania is available from the [Pennsylvania Game Commission Web site](#).

**Hiking:** The hiking trails of the park explore forests, fields and the edge of the lake. For the safety of all park users please keep dogs leashed and under physical control while in the park.



**Sterner Mill Hiking Area:** In the southwest corner of the park, this area has several loop trails which pass near the lake. Hikers can see a small pond, rock outcroppings, lake views and pass through hardwood forests and pine plantations. All trails in this area are easiest hiking. These trails are closed to horses.

**High Bridge Trail:** This wooded hiking trail runs along both sides of Tohickon Creek from the Weisel Hostel to the High Bridge on PA 563 and Quarry Trail. This trail connects the Sterner Mill Hiking Area with the hostel.

**Quarry Trail:** This trail winds through old foundations which are remnants of a summer camp. The trail provides a spectacular view of the lake and an overlook of the old quarry that provided building material for area structures. The trail can be accessed from the Kahagon Road Parking Lot off PA 563 or Old Bethlehem Road. This trail is more difficult hiking.

**Old Mill Trail:** This trail crosses the stream at the old mill pond and passes across the top of the stone dam breast. Hikers pass through a mature woodlot, pine plantations and hike a loop that follows the lake shore. Access the trail at the western terminus of the Paved Bicycle Trail, from the gravel lot on Deerwood Lane or from Old Bethlehem Road. This trail is more difficult hiking.

**Old Haycock Road:** This hiking trail is an old road that reaches the lake. The trail begins behind the gate in the Haycock Boat Launch.

**Southside of the Lake Trails:** Established trails extend most of the way along the south shore of the lake. Park land on this side of the lake is narrow at spots but there still is a two-way "loop" of trails, including Elephant, Church and Mink trails, and many parking lots for creating hikes of various lengths.

#### **Biking: 2 miles of trail**

The popular paved bicycle trail winds through the Day Use Area and is ideal for bicycles, strollers, wheelchairs and walkers. The eastern end of the trail begins at the Marina, which offers parking and great views of the lake. At the western end of the trail are a waterfall and the Old Mill Pond. A spur off the main trail passes two workout stations on the way to the swimming pool and playground.

#### **Caution:**

- This trail is not a loop
- The trail has many curves
- Please exercise caution and be considerate of other riders and walkers when using the trail

#### **Mountain Biking: 10 miles of trails**

A 10-mile trail system for mountain bikes is on the east side of Haycock Cove. Trailheads are located off of Tower and South Park roads, and PA 563. Parking is available at the Tower Road and the Haycock Boat Launch parking lots. Horses are prohibited on these trails.

#### **Caution:**

- The ten-mile trail bike trail can be hazardous
- Some slopes are steep and there are rough surfaces and slippery areas
- The trail is for riders equipped for off-road riding
- Bikers ride bike trails at their own risk

**Horseback Riding:** Horseback riding is permitted on designated trails and roadsides throughout the park. Pedestrians should yield to horses. Horses may be rented at a private establishment near the park.

**Disc Golfing:** An 18-hole course in the Day Use Area begins from Parking Lot 13 by the Children's Fishing Pond.

### **Stay the Night**



a furnished living area,  
kitchen/dining area  
and toilet/shower room. Outdoors is a fire ring, grill and picnic table. These electrically heated cabins are two-bedroom (sleeps six) or three-bedroom (sleeps 8). Cabin 6 is ADA accessible. Renters must provide their own bed linens, towels, cookware, tableware and first aid kit. In the summer, cabins must be rented by the week. For the remainder of the year, the minimum stay is two nights.  
GPS: Lat. 40.44756 Long. -75.23415

Explore the [cabin map](#).

Explore [cabins](#) for more information.



**Modern Cabins:** Located on the south side of Lake Nockamixon, ten modern cabins are available for rent year-round. Each cabin contains



**Make a [reservation](#).**

**Hostel:** The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation operates the Weisel Hostel along the Tohickon Creek in the northwest corner of the park. The hostel provides excellent overnight accommodations for hikers and bicyclists. For membership or reservations, contact the house parents at: Weisel Hostel, 7347 Richlandtown Road, Quakertown, PA 18951, 215-536-8749. [www.buckscounty.org](http://www.buckscounty.org)

### **Winter Activities**

Explore the [Winter Report](#) for the current snow and ice depths.

**Cross-country Skiing:** The bicycle trail and the roads in the closed day use area are open for cross-country skiing. There are also steeper hiking trails in the Sterner Mill Area.

**Sledding:** The area above the Marina is used for sledding and tobogganing.

**Ice Fishing:** Fishing is permitted on the frozen lake surface when conditions are suitable. Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

**Ice Skating:** Skating is permitted on the frozen lake surface when conditions are suitable. Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, be sure the ice is at least four inches thick and carry safety equipment.

### Environmental Education and Interpretation

Nockamixon State Park offers a wide variety of environmental education, interpretive and recreational programs. Through guided walks, hands-on educational activities, children's programs and evening programs, visitors gain appreciation, understanding and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources.

Programs are offered during the school year. Teacher workshops and educational programs for schools are available. Please contact the park office for more information.

Pontoon boat tours of the lake board at the Marina. These tours provide a history of the park and views of wildlife and beautiful scenery. Preregistration is required for the boat tours; please contact the park office.

Explore the [Calendar of Events](#) for a listing of events from today forward.

Explore [environmental education and interpretation](#) for more information.

### Access for People with Disabilities



If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.