

WASHINGTON CROSSING State Park



LEGEND

- Park Office
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Telephone
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Group Camping
- Handicapped Accessible
- Nature Center
- Designated Bicycle Use
- Designated Horseback Use
- Hiking Trail
- Natural Area
- Paved Roads
- Dirt & Gravel Roads

TRAIL LEGEND

- Red Dot Trail 1.6 mi.
- Green Dot Trail 1.1 mi.
- Blue Dot Trail 2.8 mi.
- Yellow Dot Trail 0.9 mi.
- Red Trail
- Blue Trail
- Green Trail
- Un-named Trail
- Multi-Use Trail
- White Trail

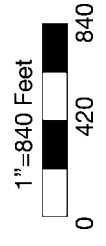
N.J.

PA.

Lambertville-6 Miles

Trenton-8 Miles

Pennington-3 miles



INTRODUCTION

Washington Crossing State Park is located along the Delaware River, just eight miles north of Trenton. The Continental Army, commanded by General George Washington, landed here after its historic crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776. The park contains more than 1,399 acres in Mercer County and is easily accessible on Routes 29 and 546. The cultural, historic, natural and recreational features of this park provide a unique blend of activities for visitors.

HISTORY

Earliest known records of the area indicate that a ferry crossing was established between Pennsylvania and New Jersey about 1700. At this river crossing location, a ferry was used both for commerce and to transport passengers across the Delaware River. General Washington chose to cross the Delaware River at this point because of its strategic location. This location allowed his troops to cross the river without probable detection. The ferry crossing also was central to his troops deployed from the New Hope area down to present-day Morristown. After landing in New Jersey, the Continental Army engaged Hessian and British troops in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. These battles were the turning point of the Revolution. Washington Crossing State Park was established in 1912. The original park contained 100 acres and included an overlook of the Delaware River and the place where the Continental Army landed in New Jersey. During the 1930's, major development of the park was accomplished through the Work Projects Administration (WPA), a federal work program established during the Great Depression. Roads, trails and picnic groves were built by the WPA work force.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Visitor Center Museum- The Washington Crossing State Park Visitor Center Museum was opened in 1976 in commemoration of our nation's Bicentennial Celebration. Its main theme is the interpretation of the Nation's "Ten Crucial Days," December 25, 1776 through January 3, 1777. The events of these 10 days included the Continental Army's crossing the Delaware River and the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. These battles were the first major victories for Washington's troops against the British forces. Swan Historical Foundation
Collection- The historical collections exhibited at the Visitor Center Museum consist principally of the Swan Historical Foundation Collection of the American Revolution, nearly 600 military artifacts representing items used by soldiers who fought on both sides in the American Revolution. The collection along with an interpretation program serves to remind visitors of the struggles that men and women endured during that era. The Visitor Center Museum is open seven days a week 9am to 4pm. Please call ahead to confirm. Group tours and lectures are available by reservation only. The Visitor Center Museum is accessible to persons with disabilities. For further information, call (609) 737-9303.



Johnson Ferry House- General George Washington and his staff occupied this house while the American Army regrouped after the successful night crossing of the Delaware River. Washington's staff used the shelter of this house to finalize strategy for the attack on Trenton. The 18th century house is furnished with colonial pieces and is interpreted as the ferry keeper's family farm residence. The Johnson Ferry House is open Wednesday through Sunday and features living history demonstrations and special events. Guided tours are available for groups. The first floor of the Johnson Ferry House is partially accessible to persons with disabilities. For further information and group reservations, call (609) 737-2515.

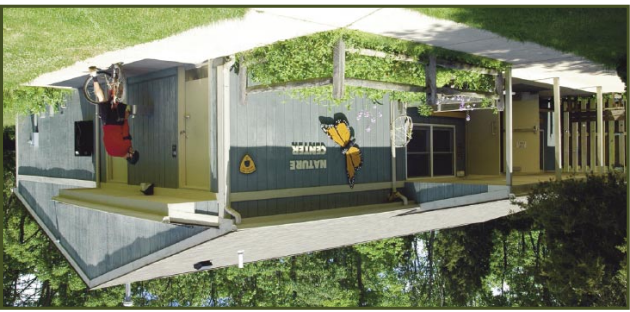
Nelson House- The Nelson House is located on the banks of the Delaware River and is the surviving kitchen and ice house wing of a larger 19th century structure, the Alexander Nelson Hotel, that was damaged in a train accident on the nearby Bel-Del Railroad. The Nelson house is open year-round on fair weather weekends. For further information, call (609) 737-1783.



Picnicking

The park has three major picnic areas with tables and grills. The facilities, which are suited in attractive settings, are ideal for family and small group picnics (20 or more need written permission) with playground equipment for children nearby. The picnic facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Group reservations at Greene Grove picnic area are required. This is the only reservable area. Please contact the park office for procedures.

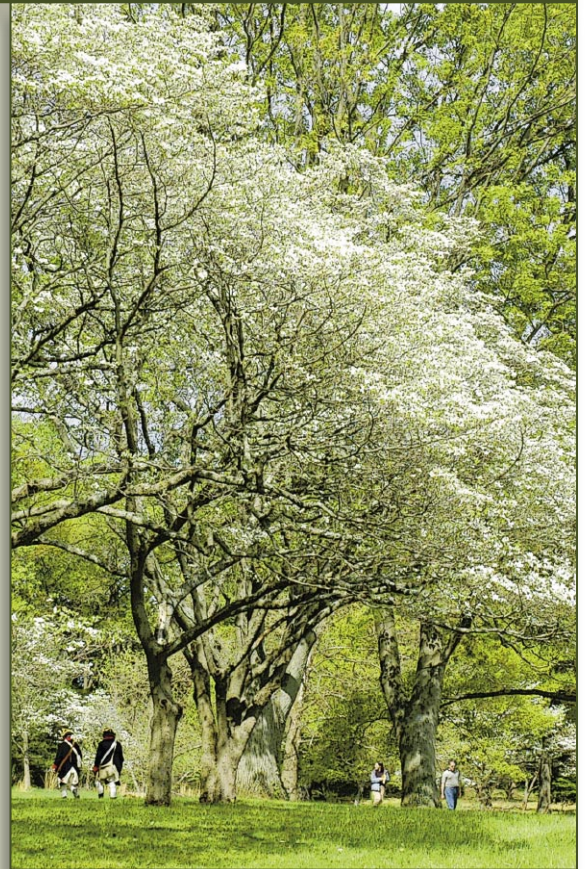
Open Air Theater- The Washington Crossing Open Air Theater is a unique and beautiful setting. A sloping hillside is terraced to seat 800 spectators. Concerts, theatrical and musical performances are on a large open stage. A background of native shrubs and trees on the gently sloping hill behind the stage assures excellent acoustics and greatly adds to the atmosphere. The Open Air Theater is partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Full details and a schedule of performances may be obtained by calling the Visitor Center Museum during performance season at (609) 737-9303.



Natural Area and Nature Center- The 140-acre Washington Crossing Natural Area is located in the remote northern section of the park. This preserved area consists of a mosaic of mature hardwood forests and young successional forests interspersed with fields and a variety of attractive trails. Located within the natural area is the Washington Crossing State Park Nature Center. The Nature Center contains interactive exhibits, live and preserved specimens and other nature collections, computer stations, nature books, field guides and periodicals. Visitors can participate in scheduled interpretive programs or simply enjoy the facility.

The Nature Center is open Wednesdays through Sundays year-round. Events are scheduled periodically and publicized in the free park newsletter, *Nature's Grapevine*, and in the local press. Nature programs for schools, scouts and other groups are available by arrangement. For further information, call (609) 737-0609.

Washington Crossing State Park



Directions:
From Interstate 95, take Route 29 north. Follow signs to the park.

The Carry-in/Carry-out Program helps to eliminate trash by encouraging park visitors to be good park stewards by placing their trash in bags provided throughout the park and taking it home for proper disposal.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park.
Pets are not permitted in overnight facilities.



Check out the seasonal observation honey beehive in the park Nature Center!



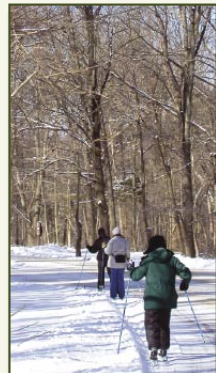
Group Camping

Group campsites are located in the Phillips Farm area of the park. Reservations are required for group camping. Please consult the park office for further details.



Fishing

Fishing is allowed in the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal subject to New Jersey's Fish and Wildlife laws. Various species of fish are found in the river including bass, shad, catfish and several different types of panfish. The Delaware and Raritan Canal is stocked with trout by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife during the spring months.



Hiking

The park has 13 miles of trails for hiking. Walking and jogging are very popular in the park throughout the year. During the winter months, when weather conditions are favorable, these trails are sometimes used for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Snowmobiles and other off-road vehicles are not permitted in the park. Bicycles and horses are not permitted on hiking trails.



Bicycling

Five miles of trails in the Phillips Farm Day Use Area are available for mountain bike use. The New Jersey Cycling Conservation Club through local cycling groups has helped in the development of this trail at Washington Crossing State Park. This is a multi-use trail that also can be used by hikers.



Horseback Riding

Two and a half miles of trails are available for equestrian use. The Phillips Farm parking area is designated for horse trailers. There are no horse rental facilities in the park. This is a multi-use trail that also can be used by hikers.



Facilities for People with Disabilities

Washington Crossing State Park recreational facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the park office at (609) 737-0623 for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY/TDD) users, please call the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899.



For Further Information:

Washington Crossing State Park
355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
Phone: (609) 737-0623
www.njparksandforests.org

