

INTRODUCTION

Washington Crossing State Park contains more than 3,500 acres in Mercer and Hunterdon counties along the Delaware River, just 8 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 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 between Pennsylvania and New Jersey was established here around 1700. At this location, a ferry was used for both commerce and transporting passengers across the Delaware River. General Washington chose this strategic location to cross the Delaware River as he believed it would allow his troops to cross without detection. After successfully landing in New Jersey, the Continental Army engaged Hessian and British troops in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton. These battles were the first turning points of the American Revolution.

Washington Crossing State Park was established in 1912. The original park contained 100 acres and included an overlook of the Delaware River near the place where the Continental Army landed in New Jersey.

During the 1930s, 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.



Johnson Ferry House - General George Washington and his staff occupied this house while the American Army regrouped after the successful Christmas 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 more information and group reservations, call 609-737-2515.



Nelson House - The Nelson House is located on the banks of the Delaware River. It is the surviving kitchen and ice house wing of the larger 19th century Alexander Nelson Hotel that was damaged in a train accident on the once existing Bel-Del Railroad.

The Nelson House is open seasonally on fair weather weekends. For more information call the visitor center museum.



Natural Area and Nature Center - The 140-acre natural area is located in the northern section of the park. This preserved area consists of a mosaic of mature hardwood 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 Wednesday through Sunday. Events are scheduled periodically and publicized in, *Nature's Grapevine*, available online at: njparksandforests.org/parks/docs/nature_grapevine.pdf. Nature programs for schools, scouts and other groups are available by arrangement. For more information call 609-737-0609.

Open Air Theater - The Washington Crossing State Park Open Air Theater is in 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. For more information visit www.njparksandforests.org/parks/washingtoncrossingstatepark.html.

Picnicking

The park has four picnic groves with tables and grills. Knox, Sullivan and Washington Groves are first-come, first-served. Knox Grove also has a playground, making it an ideal location for family and small group picnics. Group reservations are required for the Greene Grove Day Use Area. For more information or to make a reservation call, the visitor center museum.

Group Camping

Group campsites are located in the Phillips Farm area of the park. Advanced reservations can be made at any time at camping.nj.gov.

Fishing & Bow Hunting

Fishing is allowed in the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. 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. Bow hunting is permitted in designated areas on a seasonal basis. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply. For more information, call the visitor center museum.

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-county 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 area are available for mountain bike use. The New Jersey Cycling Conservation Club, through local cycling groups, has helped in the development of the trail at Washington Crossing State Park. This multiuse trail may 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 multiuse trail may be used by hikers.

Access For People With Disabilities

Washington Crossing State Park recreational facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the visitor center museum for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.

Be Bear Aware

Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the forest office. Visit the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at njfishandwildlife.com for additional information on bear safety.

Pets

Pets must always be on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets. **Pets are not permitted in overnight facilities.**



Keep It Clean and Green

Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

Check out the seasonal observation honeybee hive in the park's nature center!

NOT PERMITTED

Alcoholic beverages, ATVs, metal detecting, swimming, smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this park.



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.



WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK
Visitor Center Museum
355 Washington Crossing-
Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560
609-737-0623

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

www.njparksandforests.org
[FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTATEPARKS](https://www.facebook.com/newjerseystateparks)
[@NEWJERSEYSTATEPARKS](https://www.instagram.com/newjerseystateparks)



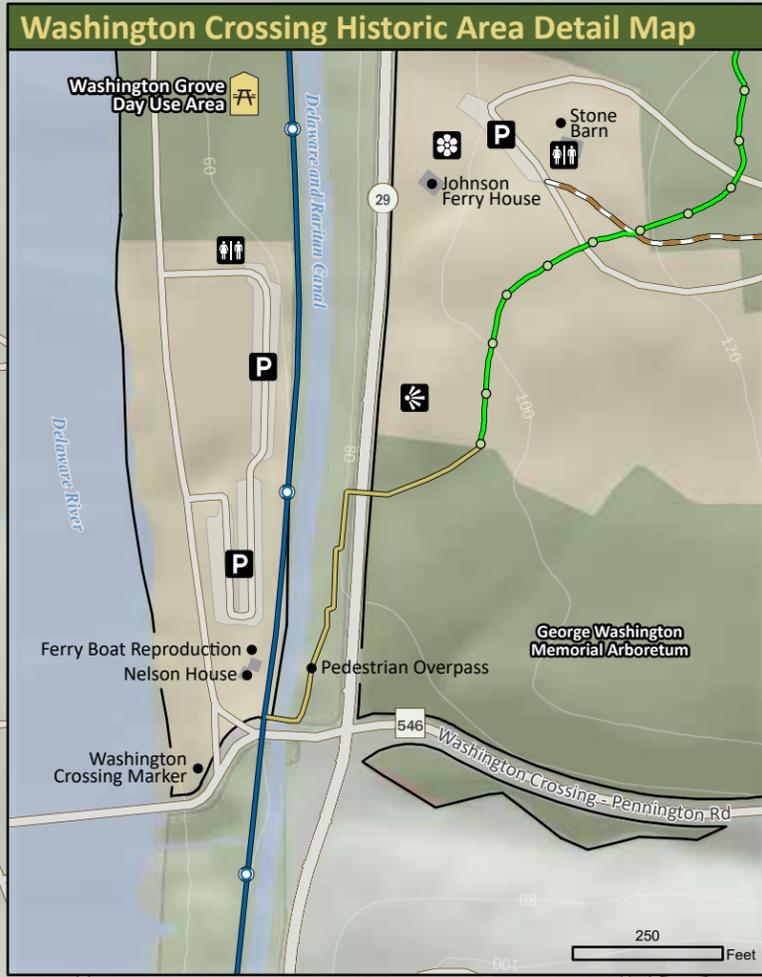
Washington Crossing State Park



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service

WASHINGTON CROSSING State Park

- Nature Center
- Picnic Area
- Knox Grove Day Use Area
- Visitor Center Museum
- Greene Grove Day Use Area
- Sullivan Grove Day Use Area
- Washington Grove Day Use Area
- Park Office



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|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Open Field or Grass | Bike Trail (2.0 mi) | D&R Canal Trail | Red Dot Trail (1.6 mi) | Accessible Facility | Historic Site | Parking (Pull Off) | Restrooms |
| Forest | Blue Dot Trail (2.7 mi) | Green Dot Trail (1 mi) | Red Trail (0.75 mi) | Bird Blind | Museum | Picnic Area | Scenic View |
| Developed Area | Blue Trail (0.25 mi) | Green Trail (0.2 mi) | White Trail (0.2 mi) | Drinking Water | Observatory | Picnic Shelter | Visitor Contact Station |
| Water | Continental Lane Trail (1.4 mi) | Horseback Riding Trail (2.2 mi) | Yellow Dot Trail (1 mi) | Garden | Open Air Theatre | Playground | |
| Wetland | Ewing Trail (0.2 mi) | Rachel Horne Trail (0.3 mi) | Trail Connector | Group Campground | Parking Lot | Reservation Required | |