

PARVIN State Park

Parvin Grove Day Use Area

Jaggers Point Camping Area

Thundergust Lake Day Use Area

Parvin Grove Detail

Almond Rd 540

Parvin Lake

250 Feet

0.25 Miles

Open Field or Grass	Water	Black Oak Trail (2.8 mi)	Knoll Trail (1.8 mi)	Parvin Lake Trail (3 mi)	Trail Connector	Canoe Rental	First Aid	Interpretive Center	Picnic Area	Scenic View
Forest	Wetland	Danna Farm Trail (1 mi)	Long Trail (2 mi)	Thundergust Lake Trail (1 mi)	Boat Launch	Canoeing	Fishing	Laundry	Picnic Shelter	Shower
Developed Area	Restricted Area	Danna Shortcut Trail (0.2 mi)	Lost Trail (0.7 mi)		Bridge	Concession	Group Campground	Parking Lot	Playground	Swimming
		Forest Road Trail (3.4 mi)			Cabins	Drinking Water	Hunting	Park Office	Restrooms	Sanitary Station

INTRODUCTION

Parvin State Park is situated in the eastern part of Salem County, within Pittsgrove Township, along Route 540 between Vineland and Centerton. Spanning 1,952 acres, the park features lush forests, scenic lakes, and camping facilities. Parvin offers visitors opportunities for water recreation and overnight stays in diverse camping accommodations. With its natural beauty and numerous activities, Parvin State Park remains a hidden gem among New Jersey’s state parks.

HISTORY

Prior to its purchase in 1930 for use as a state park, Parvin was the setting for several chapters of New Jersey history. Evidence of ancient Native American encampments, both temporary and permanent, have been found in five different locations within the park.

The first landowner in the area was John Estaugh, husband of Elizabeth Haddon, who settled at what is now known as Haddonfield. Estaugh was granted title to 2,928 acres on March 31, 1742, by the Proprietors of West Jersey. In 1796, Lemuel Parvin purchased the property. Parvin wanted to use the water on the land to run a sawmill. Parvin Lake was formed by damming Muddy Run, the stream that flows through the park and eventually into the Maurice River. An earthen dam with wooden sluice gates controlled the level of the lake and provided water to power the mill. The sawmill was disassembled and moved when the state park was established.

In 1930, the State of New Jersey acquired 918 acres of forest and a 108-acre lake in the recreation area formerly known as Parvin Grove. In October 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps established a camp at Parvin to make improvements to the park's facilities. The CCC was created by Franklin D. Roosevelt during the depression as one of his New Deal programs. Men between 16 and 21 years old, whose families were financially in need, could enlist in the CCC and live and work on camps throughout the United States while learning a trade. From October 1933 to April 1941, the CCC established at Parvin State Park built the main beach complex, extended the beach and created a parking lot. They built campsites at Jagers Point Campground and constructed 18 cabins on Thundergust Lake, which was created by damming a swamp.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was disbanded in 1941 and the camp at Parvin was officially closed in April, 1941. The members of the CCC were later drafted into the armed forces to fight in World War II or worked in the factories to support the United States in the war effort. Many of the facilities originallyconstructed by the CCC are still in use today.

In 1943, Charles Seabrook of Seabrook Farms needed labor for food production and processing. He approached the War Relocation Authority, which was responsible for removing Japanese Americans from their homes and placing them in internment camps, to request workers. As a result, some Japanese Americans were moved into this area to work on farms and processing plants. During the next few years, some of Parvin's facilities were used as a summer day camp program for the children of these workers.

In January 1944, German prisoners from Fort Dix, the first prisoner-of-war camp in New Jersey, were relocated to Parvin. The POWs had been a part of German Field Marshall Erwin Rommell's infamous Afrika Corps. While at Parvin, these prisoners worked on local farms and in local food processing plants.

In 1952, Parvin Camp was used as transition housing for the Kalmycks who fled their home lands in Eastern Europe. They stayed in Parvin for only a short period before moving to their new homes in Philadelphia, PA and Howell Township, NJ.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

Natural Area

Four hundred forested acres of the park havebeen designated as a natural area. The woodland, which surrounds the lakes, is made up of pine barrens fringe oak-pine forest and a swamp hardwood forest. Forty known types of trees growin Parvin, as well as 61 different woody shrubs and 17 ferns and club mosses. In the spring, dogwood, laurel, holly, magnolia, wild azalea and more than 200 kinds of herbaceous flowering plants burst into bloom in a bright palette of color and fragrance.

Birds are abundant in the area, especially during migration. The songs of at least 172 species can be heard when they are in season, and many of them breed in the surrounding trees and shrubbery. Other wildlife, including deer, white-footed mice and river otters can be spotted by the quiet observer. Frogs, salamanders, toads, turtles and non-venomous snakes also make their homes within the natural area. Several miles of foot trails through the cedar swamps, holly groves, pine forests and laurel thickets provide a perfect opportunity to observe all the natural beauty of this protected area.



Swimming

Swimming is permitted, while lifeguards are on duty, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. The beach is located at Parvin Grove Day Use Area and includes changing rooms, restrooms, showers, a first-aid station and a concession building where food and beach supplies may be purchased. Inner tubes, rafts and other flotation devices are not permitted in the swimming area. Only U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices, (PFD) are permitted.



Picnicking

Parvin State Park features family and group style picnic areas. Parvin Grove Day Use Area has 76 picnic tables and charcoal grills located on the northern banks of Parvin Lake. Playground equipment and restrooms are also available. Thundergust Lake Day Use Area has two reservable pavilions that can accommodate up to 75 people per pavilion. Playground equipment, ball fields, grills and restrooms are also available. For reservations, please contact the park office at 856-358-8616.



Boating

A public boat ramp is available at Fisherman’s Landing. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, boat launch permit is required. Permits can be purchased at the park office. Kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and electric-powered boats are permitted in both Parvin and Thundergust Lake. A boat rental concessionaire is available at the Parvin Grove Day Use area. A U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD is required for each person onboard a watercraft.



Hiking and Walking

Fifteen miles of trails throughout the park are open year-round. If you areinterested in volunteering to assist in the maintenance of these trails, contact the park office. A trail brochure is available online or at the park office.



Fishing

Fishing is excellent in Parvin Lake, Thundergust Lake and Muddy Run. Bass, pickerel, catfish, yellow perch and sunfish are the main catch. Fishing is subject to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife regulations dep.nj.gov/njfw/.



Hunting

Approximately 330 acres of Parvin State Park are open to hunting. Hunting is not permitted in New Jersey state parks and forests on Sundays. Hunting is subject to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife regulations dep.nj.gov/njfw/. Contact the park office for more information.



Camping

Jagers Point Family Campground offers 56 camp sites for tent and trailer camping. Each site includes a picnic table, fire ring, trash hook and parking for two vehicles. A bathhouse facility is available with toilets and showers. Pet friendly sites are also available. Island Point Group Campground offers four campsites that can accommodate up to 25 people per site. A pavilion shelter and water is available directly at the campground and bathroom facilities are only a short walk away. All supplies must be carried to the group sites. Online reservations can be made 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and 11 months in advance at camping.nj.gov. To make reservations via phone, please contact Parvin’s main office at 856-358-8616.



Cabins

Parvin State Park offers 18 lakeside cabins along the west shore of Thundergust Lake, available for rent from April 1 to October 31. Each cabin includes a refrigerator, stove, hot and cold running water, a shower, toilet facilities, and electric lighting. Cabins 1-5, 7-15, 17, and 18 accommodate up to four people, while Cabins 6 and 16 are wheelchair accessible and designed for guests with disabilities, accommodating up to six people. Please note that dishes, cooking utensils and bedding are not provided. Pets are not permitted in the cabins.



Access For People With Disabilities

Parvin State Park facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the park office 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.



Pets

Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets and take it with you. Pets are not permitted on the beach year-round. Please consult the park office for more information.



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!

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages, drones, 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.



PARVIN STATE PARK
701 Almond Road
Pittsgrove, New Jersey 08318
856-358-8616

Directions: From Route 55 north or south, take exit 35 and follow signs to the park. The park is located between Centerton and Vineland on Route 540 (Almond Road).



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