

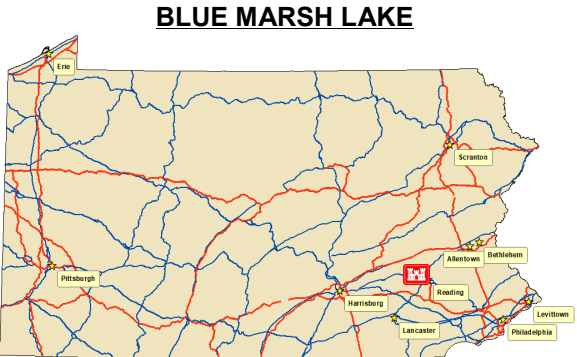
# BLUE MARSH LAKE Trail Map & Guide

## MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.  
Philadelphia District

Rev 01/2023



PHYSICAL ADDRESS.....1268 Palisades Drive  
Leesport, PA 19533  
HOURS OF OPERATION.....8 AM to Dusk  
PHONE NUMBER.....610-376-6337  
SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works/blue-marsh-lake/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bluemarshlake/>

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**  
BERKS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
(Non-Emergency Line).....610-655-4911

**NEAREST HOSPITAL**  
PENN STATE HEALTH ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER  
2500 Bernville Rd, Reading PA 19605  
(3.2 miles or 7 minutes)

**IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1**

## Welcome to *Blue Marsh Lake Recreation Area & Trail System*

Blue Marsh Lake was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, for the purposes of flood risk management, water supply, water quality, and recreation. The recreation area was officially dedicated in July 1979. The Blue Marsh Lake Project offers a system of multi-use and nature trails for your enjoyment. All trails are open for year-round activities, and offer different degrees of difficulty.

**Be aware that you may encounter downed trees or flooding conditions, as well as other possible hazards. Bridges and wood walkways may be slippery when wet, so please use caution.**

**If you notice any problems or hazards along the trails, please notify the Park Office at 610-376-6337. IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1**

### - RULES & REGULATIONS -

- ♦ Follow all posted rules and regulations.
- ♦ Operation of motorized vehicles off authorized roadways or on trails is prohibited.
- ♦ Camping activities and fires are prohibited.
- ♦ Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- ♦ Destruction, defacement, alteration, or removal of public property is prohibited.
- ♦ Carry In, Carry Out. No littering.
- ♦ Pets must be under control at all times. Pets must be on leash at all times within developed areas and on Nature Trails. Please clean up after your pets, and dispose of waste properly.

For a full list of rules and regulations, and frequently asked questions about Blue Marsh Lake visit [www.nap.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works/blue-marsh-lake/](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/missions/civil-works/blue-marsh-lake/)

### - GENERAL INFORMATION -

#### Trail Access

Trails can be accessed at a variety of locations around the lake. Please refer to the map for the closest parking area for your planned trail adventures. Be aware that some roadways to access areas are not maintained and may not be suitable for your vehicle type, such as Highland Road and Sheidy Road.

#### Safety

- ♦ Remember to secure your valuables & vehicle before heading out.
- ♦ Please stay on the trails.
- ♦ Wear helmets while biking and horseback riding.
- ♦ Bring plenty of water.
- ♦ Be aware of open hunting seasons. Wear bright colors, such as hunter/fluorescent orange.
- ♦ Horse bypass routes & stream crossings are provided. If bypass routes are not available, horses should be walked around the bridges, or walked on the bridges using extreme caution.

#### Restroom Facilities & Water

Restroom facilities are located throughout the park, but are primarily within the Dry Brooks Day Use Area and at Boat Ramps. Facilities with water are available May—September. Portable toilets are available during the off season and in some remote locations. The Visitor Center bathrooms are open and potable water is available year-round.

#### Trail courtesy is as follows:

- ▽ Bicycle riders yield to hikers.
- ▽ Bicycle riders and hikers yield to equestrians.
- ▽ When yielding, you should stand off to the side of the trail.
- ▽ Bicycle riders and equestrians should always ride at a safe & controlled speed, and be alert other trail users when overtaking.

### - TRAILS INFORMATION -

#### Nature & TRACK Trails

##### Eyes of the Eagle Sensory Trail & Garden

**Activities:** Hiking Only

**Length:** 0.25 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy, Universally Accessible

**Description:** The Eyes of the Eagle Sensory Trail & Garden is an inclusive trail that consists of an improved crushed stone path accompanied by a rope guideline, accommodating individuals with visual or physical impairments to enjoy the benefits of nature.

The trail offers a variety of interactive stops that introduce children to environmental education concepts while exploring the five senses. Additionally, within the trail is the Sensory Garden, managed by the Berks County Master Gardener Program.

TRACK Trails are family friendly and a great way to introduce children to environmental education concepts facilitated by a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Kids In Parks.

The trails offer various wildlife viewing opportunities and a variety of self guided activities. Register your hike or ride with the TRACK Trails Program to earn prizes while enjoying nature!

[www.kidsinparks.com](http://www.kidsinparks.com)

##### Great Oak Nature Trail

**Activities:** Hiking Only

**Length:** 1 mile

**Difficulty Level:** Easy, Some Hills

**Description:** The Great Oak Track Trail is a self-guided nature trail at the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. The trail is accessible from Parking Lot C or walking the connector trail from Dry Brooks Boat Launch. The trail is composed of unimproved dirt/grass single track.

##### Squirrel Run Nature Trail

**Activities:** Hiking Only

**Length:** 1 Mile

**Difficulty Level:** Easy, Some Hills

**Description:** The Squirrel Run Track Trail is a self-guided nature trail off of the Blue Marsh Lake Trail near State Hill Boat Launch. The trail is composed of unimproved dirt single track.

##### Blue Marsh MTB Skills Area

**Activities:** Mountain Biking Only

**Length:** 0.25 Mile

**Difficulty Level:** Beginner & Intermediate

**Description:** The Blue Marsh MTB Skills Area developed in partnership with USACE Blue Marsh Lake & Berks Area Mountain Biking Association consists of two one-way dirt tracks. The Skills Area is accessible from the Stilling Basin and Union Canal Connector Trail.

The trail offers beginner & intermediate riders to learn, practice, and develop their mountain biking skills.

#### Mountain Bike Optimized Trails

Mountain bike optimized trails are composed of dirt single track and are open to biking and hiking activities only.

Developed and made possible through a partnership with Berks Area Mountain Biking Association, the trails offer an enhanced experience for riders to maximize fun and efficiency of riding a bike with the inclusion of bike-specific features throughout the trail. This integrated trail network provides opportunities for visitors to create a custom loop experiences and can be travelled in different directions to change up the difficulty level.

##### Tully Flow Trail

**Length:** 2 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy, Some Hills

**Description:** The Tully Flow Trail connects to the Blue Marsh Lake Trail and is accessible from the Stilling Basin or Water Road Parking Areas.

##### Village Run Trail

**Length:** 0.29 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy, Some Hills

**Description:** The Village Run Trail connects to the Blue Marsh Lake Trail and offers an alternative linear route between the State Hill Boat Launch and Water Road Parking Areas.

##### State Hill Overlook Trail

**Length:** 1.08 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy to Moderate, Some Hills

**Description:** The State Hill Overlook Trail meanders up from the State Hill Boat Launch to the scenic overlook at the top of the hill. The trail is composed of dirt single track and can be split into smaller loop experiences as it cuts across an old roadway.

##### Keystone Run Trail

**Length:** 1.33 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy to Moderate, Some Hills

**Description:** The Keystone Run Trail treks through beautiful hardwood forest and ravines offering a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities.

##### Shale Ridge Trail

**Length:** 1.52 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy to Moderate, Some Hills

**Description:** The Shale Ridge Trail rides along a ridge overlooking the ravine below offering landscape and wildlife viewing opportunities.

##### Holls Loop Trail

**Length:** Holls East 1.23 Miles, Holls West 2.68 Miles

**Difficulty Level:** Easy to Moderate, Some Hills


**Description:** The Holls Loop Trail connects to the Blue Marsh Lake Trail and is accessible from the Holls Trail-head Access on Highland Road or State Hill Boat Launch. The trail is composed of dirt single track and split into two different tracts, East and West, and can be utilized separately or together.



**Blue Marsh Lake**  
**1268 Palisades Drive    Leesport, PA 19533    Office: 610-376-6337**  
 For map updates please visit [www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Blue-Marsh-Lake](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Blue-Marsh-Lake)



## MAP KEY

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> Mile Markers</li> <li><span style="color: red;">✠</span> Gates</li> <li><span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Corps Property</li> <li><span style="background-color: olive; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> State Game Lands 280</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Local Roadways</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px solid brown; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> No Motor Vehicles</li> <li><span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> No Wake Zone</li> <li><span style="background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> No Hunting Areas</li> </ul>
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## TRAILS

<p><span style="color: red;">.....</span> Connector Trail</p> <h3><u>Multi-Use</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">—</span> Blue Marsh Lake Trail</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">- - -</span> Tulpehocken Creek Loop</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">- - -</span> Foxtrot Hiking Loop</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">- - -</span> Skidders Loop</li> </ul> <h3><u>Hike &amp; Bike Only</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">.....</span> Union Canal Connector Trail</li> <li><span style="color: cyan;">—</span> Tully Flow Trail</li> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Village Run</li> </ul> <p><u>State Hill Loop</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">—</span> State Hill Overlook Trail</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">—</span> Keystone Run Trail</li> <li><span style="color: yellow;">—</span> Shale Ridge Trail</li> </ul> <p><u>Loren Holl's Loop</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: green;">—</span> Holls East Trail</li> <li><span style="color: magenta;">—</span> Holls West Trail</li> </ul>	<p><span style="color: brown;">.....</span> Horse Bypass</p> <h3><u>Nature Trails — Hike Only</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">- - -</span> Sensory Trail &amp; Garden</li> <li><span style="color: green;">- - -</span> Great Oak Nature Trail</li> <li><span style="color: darkgreen;">- - -</span> Squirrel Run Nature Trail</li> </ul>
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