

BLUE MARSH LAKE Trails Guide

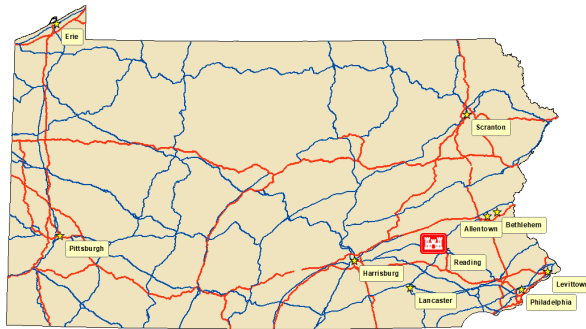
MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Philadelphia District

Rev 3-2022

BLUE MARSH LAKE



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.

- 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/

- 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.

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.

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.

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 -

Blue Marsh Lake Trail

Activities: Multi-Use

Length: 30 Miles

Difficulty Level: Easy to Difficult

Trail Markers: Brown Markers

Description: The Blue Marsh Lake Trail is a linear trail that encompasses the lake composed of various trail surfaces such as old roadways, unimproved dirt/grass single track, and gravel.

The trail offers many scenic views of the lake and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Union Canal Connector Trail

Activities: Hiking & Biking Only

Length: 1.8 Miles

Difficulty Level: Easy

Description: The Connector Trail joins Blue Marsh Lake Trails to Berks County's Union Canal Bicycle & Walking Trail. Also, the trail is part of the Schuylkill River Trail System. The trail is an improved surface composed of compacted gravel.

The trail offers an easy hiking or biking trip for families with children and views of the Tulpehocken Creek.

Tulpehocken Creek Loop

Activities: Multi-Use

Length: 2 Mile

Difficulty Level: Easy, Some Hills

Trail Markers: Blue Markings

Description: The Tulpehocken Creek Loop Trail connects to the Blue Marsh Lake Trail and is accessible from the Stilling Basin or Water Road Parking Areas. The trail is composed of unimproved dirt/grass single track, gravel, & old roadways.

The trail offers views of the dam, lake, Tulpehocken Creek, and various wildlife viewing opportunities.

Foxtrot Hiking Loop

Activities: Multi-Use

Length: 1.5 Miles

Difficulty Level: Easy to Difficult

Trail Markers: Orange Markings

Description: The Foxtrot Hiking Trail is a loop trail that connects with the Main Multi-Use Trail next to the Dry Brooks Day Use Area. The trail is composed of unimproved dirt/grass single track and old roadways.

The trail offers many scenic views of the lake and wildlife viewing opportunities

Skinner's Loop

Activities: Multi-Use

Length: 1.5 Miles or 2 Miles

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Trail Markers: Purple Markings

Description: The Skinner's Trail is a loop trail that connects with the Main Multi-Use Trail. The trail is composed of unimproved dirt/grass single track. The trail loop consists of two different sections which could be done as a shorter 1.5 mile option or a longer 2 mile option.

The trail offers many scenic views of the lake and wildlife viewing opportunities.

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 Gardeners Program.

TRACK Trails

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!

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 composed of unimproved dirt 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 miles

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

Mountain Bike Optimized Trails

Mountain bike optimized trails are open to biking and hiking activities only. 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.

Tulpy Flow Trail

Activities: Hiking & Biking Only

Length: 2 Mile

Difficulty Level: Easy, Some Hills

Description: The Tulpy Flow Trail connects to the Blue Marsh Lake Trail and is accessible from the Stilling Basin or Water Road Parking Areas. The trail is composed of dirt single track.

Holls Loop Trail

Activities: Hiking & Biking Only








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 State Hill Boat Launch or Highland Road. The trail is composed of dirt single track and split into two different tracts, East and West, and can be utilized separately or together.



Map Key

-  Corps Property
-  State Game Lands 280
-  No Hunting Areas
-  No Wake Zone
-  Gates
-  Local Roadways
-  No Motor Vehicles

Trails

-  Blue Marsh Lake Trail
-  Tulpehocken Creek Loop
-  Foxtrot Hiking Loop
-  Skinners Loop
-  Holls East Trail
-  Holls West Trail
-  Tulpy Flow Trail
-  Sensory Trail
-  Great Oak Track Trail
-  Squirrel Run Track Trail
-  Union Canal Connector Trail
-  Connector Trail
-  Horse Bypass

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

