



For More Information Contact:

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
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An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to
Saturday, for state park information and
reservations.

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

The 1,168-acre Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center offers programs for pre-schoolers through college students. Center staff also provide community programs on many subjects like natural and cultural history and outdoor recreation.

The famous Henry Rifle was once made here. The Jacobsburg National Historic District lies almost entirely within the center property and gives visitors insight into a colonial gun manufactory.

Visitors also enjoy Henrys Woods, an old growth forest surrounding Bushkill Creek and laced with hiking trails.

Jacobsburg is a partner in the Lehigh Valley Greenway, which seeks to engage state and local governments and non-profit conservation groups to promote land conservation and education.

Directions

At the foot of Blue Mountain in Northampton County, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center is reached from PA 33 at the Belfast Exit, near Nazareth, Pa.

Reservations

Make online reservations at: www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Environmental Education Program

Jacobsburg was dedicated as an environmental education center in October of 1985, and is one of four environmental education centers operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks. Through its environmental education programming at centers and state parks, the Department aims to help develop a citizenry that is aware of and concerned about the environment and its problems, and also has the knowledge, attitude, motivation, commitment and skills to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.

The Jacobsburg environmental education program consists of a variety of quality programs including: student field learning experiences, DiscoverE-Outdoor Programs for Young People, conservation leadership schools, the Bureau's Watershed Education program, and numerous in-service and pre-service teacher workshops. The center's program staff also offers community programs and supports ecological research.

Heritage Education Program

As a result of a close partnership effort with the Jacobsburg Historical Society, a wide range of exciting history programming is offered throughout the year by both center and historical society staff. Heritage programming includes displays and demonstrations of early gunmaking at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Heritage Museum, currently in the Henry Homestead. Living history programs include

Recreational Opportunities

The center office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center's main parking area on Belfast Road is open from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

TRAILS: 18.5 miles of trails

The network of trails makes the center's fields, woodlands and streams accessible to both students and the casual visitor. These facilities are for use by hikers, all-terrain bikers, horseback riders and cross-country skiers. Non-hunters should wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

PICNICKING: A small picnic area along Belfast Road is available for use by school groups and the general public.

FISHING: Bushkill Creek, which is regularly stocked by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, provides excellent trout fishing. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 937 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, pheasant, rabbit and squirrel.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day to March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the center office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Anyone wishing to participate in a learning experience at Jacobsburg should contact the center office for program scheduling and reservation information.



A gray catbird is one of many species that can be seen during a program.

mid-1840s rendezvous and period military encampments. Gunmaking and blacksmithing classes are offered and historic buildings are open for tours. Please contact the center office for a schedule and reservation information.

Use **extreme caution** with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's car, trailer or leased campsite. The only exception is that law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* may carry said firearm concealed on their person while they are in the park.

Watching Wildlife

The portion of the center's woodland known as Henrys Woods is perhaps the most beautiful natural resource in the Lehigh Valley. Visitors enjoy hiking its 1.9-mile trail loop in order to experience the sights, sounds and coolness of Bushkill Creek as it meanders past dramatic slate outcroppings and old growth stands of hemlock and white oak. Because of the wide variety of habitat found in and around Henrys Woods, many birds and wildflowers may be seen, especially during the spring months.

The Wildlife Watching Area, near the Henrys Forge Historic Area, has many opportunities for close-up viewing of the birds, butterflies and small mammals of the center.

Natural Resources



The warm season grass fields are maintained to increase the diversity of habitats.

On the northern edge of the Lehigh Valley, the rolling terrain of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center is near the foothills of the Pocono Plateau. The habitats range from fields in various stages of successional growth to mature forests dominated by oak trees. About 2.5 miles of the beautiful Bushkill Creek and its tributary, Sobers Run, wind through the center.

Jacobsburg's natural resources are not only an excellent outdoor laboratory for environmental education and interpretation, but are also important to many visitors from the surrounding area for healthy outdoor exercise and recreation. The natural open spaces provided by this public resource are becoming increasingly important in a continually expanding urban setting.

Jacobsburg National Historic District

The Jacobsburg National Historic District encompasses the eastern side of the center lands and lies almost entirely within the boundaries of Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. The district is on the National Register of Historic Places and its story is intertwined throughout the early development and growth of our nation. The history of Jacobsburg focuses on the Henry Family and their small

arms industry, which played a key role in the American Industrial Revolution.

The first of the Henry gunmakers, William Henry I, opened his gun factory in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1750. He became Armorer for the Braddock Campaign of 1755 and for the Forbes Expedition of 1758.

William Henry II established a small gunmaking shop in Christian Springs near Nazareth in 1778. In 1792, Henry II purchased land at Jacobsburg and built a gun manufactory. Henry II acquired the land from the heirs of Jacob Hubler, who in 1740 founded the community from which Jacobsburg draws its name.

Only foundations remain at the colonial village of Jacobsburg and at the Henry's Forge historic site.

Henry II erected a forge (bloomery) to supply the gun factory with iron to manufacture guns. In 1812, a larger manufactory was built in nearby Boulton in order to accommodate large government firearms contracts.

Three succeeding generations of Henrys produced small arms at Boulton until the late 1800s. Competition from arms companies using mass production techniques made the Henry's handcraft technology obsolete.

The Henrys not only produced firearms for all of our nation's major conflicts from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, but they also were the primary suppliers of rifles for the largest American business enterprise of the early 19th century, John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company. The Henry firearm became the most prominent weapon of the western frontier due to its durability, accuracy and relatively low cost.

BOULTON HISTORIC SITE

In the southern portion of the Jacobsburg Historic District is the Boulton Historic Site, which is administered by the Jacobsburg Historical Society.

Visitors can explore historic buildings and take a self-guiding trail that interprets the life of the Henry Family and the Boulton Gun Works. The Henry Homestead, which was built in 1812, houses the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum. The nearby John Joseph Henry House was built in 1832.

Contact the center office for a schedule of historical programs or for information on the historic district.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Contact a park employee or dial 911. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards or at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL

Easton Hospital
250 South 21st Street
Easton, PA 18042
610-250-4000