Mont Alto State Park is in Franklin County. It can be reached from Caledonia State Park on US 30, the Lincoln Highway, by traveling seven miles south on PA 233 or, from the south, travel north on PA 233, one mile from the town of Mont Alto.

Recreational Opportunities

FISHING: The West Branch of Antietam Creek flows through the park and offers excellent trout fishing.

HIKING: Local mountain roads offer interesting short hikes and a flora that attracts a diversity of wildlife, especially woodland birds.

PICNICKING: Two picnic areas contain grills, tables, and two picnic pavilions.

History

Mont Alto Park was once part of the Mont Alto Iron Works. Maryland iron furnace operators, Colonel Daniel Hughes and sons Daniel and Samuel, built Mont Alto Furnace in 1806-1807 on land given to Colonel Hughes’ father by Lord Baltimore. Colonel Hughes died in 1809. When Daniel died in 1824, ownership passed to Samuel, then to his son John Holker Hughes in 1855.

John Holker Hughes sold the ironworks in 1864 to George Weistling and associates. To improve efficiency of getting their iron products to market, Weistling and company built the Mont Alto Railroad in 1872. The railroad connected with the Cumberland Valley Railroad near Scotland, Pennsylvania. To help keep the railroad profitable the ironworks capitalized on city folks seeking rest and relaxation in beautiful natural settings by opening Mont Alto Park in 1875. Along with the natural beauty of the mountain valley, the park offered a dance pavilion, bowling alleys, quoit and croquet courts, shooting gallery, dining room, and a merry-go-round. Railroad profits soared as it brought visitors to the attractive mountain setting in the 1880s.

Weistling became the sole owner of the Mont Alto Iron Company in 1889 and died three years later. The ironwork began to fail and ceased operation by 1893. Dr. Joseph Rothrock began talks for the ironworks’ lands to be acquired by the Pennsylvania Forest Commission for the new forestry school. Old Mont Alto Park was still a popular forest retreat so on May 1, 1902, Mont Alto became the first state forest park.

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More Information

Mont Alto State Park
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Email: caledoniasp@pa.gov
GPS DD: Lat. 39.8392666 Long. -77.537794
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations
Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

facebook.com/visitPAparks
twitter.com/visitPAparks

Trash Disposal and Recycling
Mont Alto State Park participates in a carry-in/carry-out trash disposal program for small parks. There are no collection or recycling facilities. Visitors are asked to limit the amount of disposable items brought to the park and to take all trash, garbage, and recyclables home with them.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. 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

Call 911 and contact a park employee. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Chambersburg Hospital
112 North Seventh Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-267-3000