Caledonia State Park

The 1,125-acre Caledonia State Park is in Adams and Franklin counties, midway between Chambersburg and Gettysburg along the Lincoln Highway US 30. The park is nestled within South Mountain, the northern terminus of the well-known Blue Ridge Mountains of Maryland and Virginia. Within South Mountain there are four state parks and 84,000 acres of state forest land waiting to be explored and enjoyed. The sides of either side of South Mountain are ideal for fruit production, proven by the abundance of orchards in the surrounding area.

**Directions**

Caledonia is at the intersection of US 30 and PA 253. From Chambersburg, follow US 30 east 11 miles to the park. From Gettysburg, follow US 30 west 15 miles to the park. From York County, follow I-77 to US 30, then 7.5 miles east on US 30.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

**Recreational Opportunities**

CAMPING: modern restrooms with showers

Fishing and tackle shops are available at the two campgrounds. The camping season opens the day before trout season in March and ends with the conclusion of deer season in December. Both campgrounds have drinking water, showers and flush toilets. A sanitary dump station is available in Hosack Run camping area.

Hiking:

South Mountain are ideal for fruit production, proven by the abundance of orchards in the surrounding area. The soils on either side of South Mountain are ideal for fruit production, proven by the abundance of orchards in the surrounding area.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A park educator offers programming during the summer season. The history and environment of the area are topics of interest to visitors of all ages. Guided walks and camps are programmed throughout the summer season. Programs are scheduled at the park office. Special requests are welcome and may be directed to the park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information about other attractions is available from the Franklin County Visitors Bureau, www.totempoleplayhouse.org or the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. www.gettysburg.nv.gov

**History**

Thaddeus Stevens 1792-1868

Called the Great Commodore, Thaddeus Stevens was an abolitionist, radical republican and was one of the most effective and powerful legislators of the Civil War era. Some historians consider Stevens the de facto leader of the United States during the presidency of Andrew Johnson. Stevens became the third person in American history to be given the privilege of lying in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, following Senator Henry Clay and President Lincoln.

Born in Caledonia County, Vermont, Stevens would make prejudices for having a club-foot. This and his birth to a poor family likely fostered a lifting drive to defeat the poor and persecuted. After graduation from Dartmouth in 1815, Stevens moved to York, Pa. to teach, but within a year moved to Gettysburg, Pa. to practice law, duty in real estate and in 1822, enter the real estate business with the opening of Martin Foundation.

Finding better iron ore in Franklin County, Stevens built a new charcoal iron works, which went into blast in 1857. The Caledonia Iron Works prior to include the charcoal iron furnace, forge, rolling mill, smelting, beamhouse, blacksmith shop, and tenant houses for the workers and their families.

Thaddeus Stevens served in the Pennsylvania General Assembly from 1833 to 1846, where he fought for free public education. In 1842, Stevens moved his law practice to Lancaster, Pa. where he could make a better living as a lawyer and support his iron business interests. Jumping into politics again, Stevens served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1849 to 1855 and again from 1859 to his death in 1868. During his terms in office, Stevens championed the passage of these amendments to the constitution, the 13th, abolition of slavery; the 14th, citizenship and due process; and the 15th, the right to vote. During his term Stevens illustrated his philosophy by choosing to be buried in a cemetery that accepted people of all races.

The Pennsylvanian T. Stevens fought for abolition in Washington DC. Caledonia Iron Works furnaces foreman William Hummitt was a conductor for the Underground Railroad. Hummitt would meet a conductor near Pool Bank and guide runaway slaves north to Greenwood, just west of the park, to meet the next conductor on the journey to freedom. For this, and Stevens’ lifelong fight for equal rights, Caledonia State Park is a Park of Freedom.

During the Gettysburg Campaign of the American Civil War, the confederate cavalry of General J.A. Early raided throughout southern Pennsylvania but followed a policy to destroy no private property or industry. The cavalry burned and pillaged Caledonia. Early explained his actions, “Mr. Stevens is an enemy of the South. He is in favor of confiscating their property and arming the Negroes. His property must be destroyed.”

The Confederate army marched through the ruins of Caledonia on their way to the Battle of Gettysburg. But retreated back the same way, followed by the Union army. With money from Stevens and the help of the Ald brothers, Cumberland County farmers, farmer and house John Swensay rebuilt the furnace and forge, which continued to operate at a reduced capacity until 1879. After a minimum war state battle over the Caledonia property, the Ald brothers of Lancaster County purchased the iron works in 1867 and operated it until 1903. Steels and other minerals. In 1903, the Caledonia Mining and Manufacturing Company, then owned by a New York investment group headed by telephone magnate Theodore Vail, sold most of the Caledonia Iron Works lands to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of the new Forest Reserve System. The trays of cavernous limestone were being set aside as a future supply of timber and to be “serving grounds for citizens.”

The Caledonia and Gettysburg Electric Company layed the area around the old furnace and blacksmith shop as a trout fishing area. The company turned the former blacksmith shop into a trotty lake and built an amusement ride and a dance pavilion.

In 1937, the PA, Atlantic Club, a local hiking group, reconstructed the old furnace stack as a mudslide scale model hill for the boys.

From 1934 to 1939, young men of camp SP-18 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were employed throughout Mitchell State Forest and recreational facilities at Caledonia State Park.

**Contact**

For more information contact:

Caledonia State Park

1833 Pennsylvania Avenue

Fayetteville, PA 17222

717-926-2362

email: caledoniasp@pa.gov

GPS: Lat. 39.0898 Long.-77.4733

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Information and Reservations

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**Protect and Preserve Our Parks**

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be neat and bring the proper equipment. All areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.

- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bring firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that firewood park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn it!

- Prevent forest fires by having a fire-free picnic plans and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, you must be controlled and attended at all times.

- For more information contact the park office or the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

- www.gettysburg.nv.gov

- MICHAEL S. STATE FOREST: This 84,000-acre forest features hunting, fishing and general outdoor recreation.

- GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK: This historic, military site is operated by the National Park Service and oversees the events that occurred on the Gettysburg Battlefield during the Civil War.

- FOR INFORMATION: www.nps.gov/gett

- 717-352-2211

- 717-267-3000

- Chambersburg, PA 17201

- 717-352-2211

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- Protect and Preserve Our Parks
**Fire Road Trail:** 1 mile, more difficult
This is a dirt road that serves as a fire break for the campground and access road for park vehicles.

**Midland Trail:** 6.7 miles, easiest
Starting at the trailhead, this trail passes through the park near the swimming pool, past the park office and ends at the old forestry museum building in the organized group tenting area. This uniquely beautiful walk is pleasant and level under a heavy canopy of white pine. This is also a great area to hear the “flute-like” song of the wood thrush on summer afternoons.

**Quarry Gap Road Trail:** 1 mile, most difficult
This is a dirt road that serves as a fire break for the campground and access road for park vehicles.

**Hike up Quarry Gap Road to the dead end, turn left through the gates to the Appalachian Trail.**

**Raccoon Run Trail:** 5 miles, most difficult
This is an old section of the Appalachian Trail that still connects to the main trail.

**Ramble Trail:** 2.2 miles, more difficult
This wide walking trail begins at the trailhead kiosk and passes through the scenic lowlands of the park then returns to the pool area. In its circular route, the trail follows the millrace, falls, furnace dam and header dam. Start at the old forestry museum building in the organized group tenting area.

**Whispering Pine Nature Trail:** 0.4 mile, easiest
Although short, this path is suitable for bicycles. This trail appears when the trail merges with the AT at the top of the incline. Retrace your steps or make a right onto the AT.

**Tell us about your hike at:** www.exploreparks.com

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**Caledonia State Park**

- **Park Office**
- **Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible**
- **Gate**
- **Public Phone**
- **Restrooms**
- **Food Concession**
- **Picnic Area**
- **Amphitheater**
- **Picnic Pavilion**
- **Playground**
- **Recycling/Trash**
- **Water**
- **First Aid (Summer Only)**
- **Swimming Pool**

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**Chambersburg Water Line:** 1.9 miles, easiest
This park “right-of-way” is perfect for the entire family. Level and graceful, the waterfront runs across the entire park and offers glimpses into the dock and beautiful forest of the park.

**Charcoal Hearth Trail:** 2.7 miles, most difficult
This is the longest and most rugged trail in the park. With its trailhead at the falls on Thaddeus Stevens Historic Trail, Charcoal Hearth climbs steeply for 10-15 minutes to its trailhead at the falls on Thaddeus Stevens Historic Trail. The old charcoal mill was once an old rolling mill and passes the rolling mill falls. The trail passes through the scenic lowlands of the park then returns to the park near the swimming pool, past the park office and ends at the old forestry museum building in the organized group tenting area.

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**Hiking: 10 miles of trails**

- **Chambersburg to the Caledonia Amusement Park.** The old blacksmith shop once served as the trolley station. CAUTION – for your safety, do not bicycle on US 30.

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**Whispering Pine Nature Trail:** 0.4 mile, easiest
This is a great place to see woodland birds.